



MNHG Newsletter

Spring 2018

Our Mission: *The Monarch Neihart Historical Group was established to promote and preserve the rich history of the settlers, miners, loggers, ranchers, and the railroad industry that served them well.*

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Finally, winter is over and folks in Montana can start enjoying the outdoors after a long, cold, snowy winter.

News Alert! It is with a great deal of excitement that MNHG has been asked by the Town of Neihart to construct a replica of the Neihart fire bell tower. The fire bell was manufactured by the Meneely Bell Company in West Troy, NY in 1894. The fire tower was constructed the same year near Belt Creek in south Neihart where the original fire hose house was located. The tower appears to be about 30 feet tall with a belfry on top. The bell was placed in storage when the tower was removed in 1945 due to rot on the lower legs. The 450 pound bell will be supported by a tower designed by MNHG's architect/engineer, **Gene Davidson**, who is currently working on the design based on photographs. MNHG hopes to begin construction this summer if funds are raised. Anyone interested in making a

donation for this project, mark your check with 'Fire Tower' and mail to P.O. Box 924, Monarch, MT 59463.

Great Northern Depot Restoration. Restoration on Monarch's 1902 Depot will begin very soon by MNHG's contractor, **Dick Olson Constructors**. Construction of the ticket window, adding the exterior dado board, and adding interior window trim will be done this summer. It is hoped the exterior can be painted prior to the Monarch Rocks! Festival. When restoration is completed, the Depot will serve as an interpretive center for the towns of Monarch, Neihart and areas between the two towns.

New additions to the artifact collection. An enlarged copy of an 1899 photo of Neihart with some buildings identified as been donated for the Neihart history exhibit. A donor in Great Falls has offered an ore wagon that appears to be a rare survivor from early 20th Century mining. Operation of the wagon was provided by one teamster near the controls for the operation of the hopper located in the back of the wagon. Time and weather have taken their toll. The front oak axle is broken and the wheels have rotted. It will be on display pending restoration.

Wanted! Anyone having **old pictures** of Monarch, Hughesville, Barker, Carpenter Creek, or Neihart and are willing to share, MNHG is requesting scans of the photos. Photos can be of people, building, scenery, wildlife, or whatever. If you are unable to do the scans yourself, they can be made during the Monarch Rocks! Festival, August 11.

Monarch Rocks! Festival. The fifth annual Monarch Rocks! Festival will take place August 11th, 2018, in Monarch. Vendors have already signed up for space to sell their crafts including a few new people. A 1913 Ford belonging to Rev. Snow who preached in Monarch from 1914 – 1927, will be on display, Skunk Wagon Classic car display, tours of the Great Northern Depot and Drover Car Caboose, history exhibits of the area are some activities. Join us for a day of fun in the mountain air with great views.

Testimonial:

MNHG has done a great job raising additional funds, working with historic preservation experts to determine what and how work needs to be done, and bringing their community together to accomplish the restoration work.

Montana History Foundation, 2016

Award: *2014 Historic Preservation Award for Preservation of the Area's History & Cultural Resources.*
Great Falls–Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission.

Please visit our updated website for photos of all MNHG projects. www.mnhg.org

This newsletter costs \$.28 per copy for paper, printing, and postage, written by volunteers.

Please join us for our meetings. Email MNHG to find meeting locations and time. Email address: mnhg@3rivers.net.

MNHG has vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you like history and want some fun, you can apply to the MNHG Board of Directors by contacting mnhg@3rivers.net.

Restoration projects are funded by grants and your donations. Your tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated and your dollars are well managed. Please feel free to use the form below for your donation. Tax ID 46-1853767. All donations are used for the restoration of the Monarch GN Depot unless otherwise noted for the Bell Tower. **THANK YOU!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State Zip _____

Mail to MNHG, P.O. Box 924, Monarch, MT 59463.

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| Monarch Neihart Historical Group P.O. Box 924 Monarch, MT 59463 |
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