



MNHG Newsletter

Spring 2022

Member of the Great Northern Railway
Historical Society since 2014

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.*

“The dedicated efforts of the Monarch Neihart Historical Group allow the Monarch Depot to once again welcome people to the town of Monarch.” 2021 Montana Historic Preservation Award Ceremony.

Board of Directors

Janet Enloe
Director/Secretary

Hugh Enloe
Director/Treasurer

Bob Majerus
Director/Vice
Treasurer

Alyson Stober
Director

Jonathan Stober
Director

2022 Legacy Award. MNHG received a Non-Profit Legacy Award from the Cascade County Historical Society/History Museum for the Depot restoration and for promoting history in the Monarch/Neihart area. A reception was held April 9th when the awards were given. Others receiving an award were Mary Sheehy Moe, Calumet Montana Refinery LLC, and Showdown Montana.

Depot hardwood flooring. Thanks to the fall donations, enough funds were raised to purchase 900 square feet of hickory flooring. In early April, the MNHG board of directors laid the flooring in the freight room and depot agent’s living quarters. This was the last large project for Depot restoration.

Depot Hours. With the major restoration of the Depot completed, it will be open for visitors this summer on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 from Memorial weekend to Labor Day weekend. It will be open on Mondays Memorial, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekends. Enter the Depot and step back in time. Check out the telegraph broadcasting in Morse code and relics from long ago

Neihart and Monarch. The Drover Car Caboose will also be open. Admission is free, donations welcome. Private and group tours are available by calling 406-236-5377 for an appointment.

School Tour. The K-12 Geysers school district toured the Depot and Drover Car May 5th. It was fun having the students who received a history lesson of mining and railroad in Monarch and Neihart in the early 20th Century. After exploring the Depot Historic District, they devoured their sack lunches on the boarding platform. After lunch, they were bused up Dry Fork Creek to the Hughesville area where they collected water samples for their environmental studies.

Grant Received. MNHG applied for and received a grant from the **Big Sky Country National Heritage Area** for \$1000 for the construction of the **Neihart Fire Alarm Bell Tower**. Construction of the tower has begun and the completed structure will be placed this summer. The tower is coated steel which is expected to last many years and the coating will prevent rust. The tower will be 28 feet tall with the bell residing at 20 feet. The Town of Neihart purchased the bell in 1895 after it was determined the bell in use was inadequate. A wooden tower was built which stood until 1945 when it was razed due to rot at the bottom. The bell has been in storage except for a brief time in the 1960s when it was displayed on a short tower. The steel tower design is based on an 1895 photo of the original tower.

Save the date! Monarch Rocks! Festival. Join MNHG **August 13th** for our annual street fair fundraiser. The Monarch Depot Historic District will be open. Crafters will be selling their handmade items at the Monarch Market and much more. MNHG t-shirts and coffee mugs will be available. If you have crafts you would like to sell, email mnhg@3rivers.net. See you in August!

From the Neihart Herald, January 21, 1893: “We should never overlook even in one small particular (sic) the great supremacy of this town over others in the county. We have here a prize fighter, who can lick any man of 175 pounds weight in or around this county. He lately thumped the best man White Sulphur Springs could put up and didn’t know he had been in a fight. We do not say this boastfully but will back it up with collateral evidence if necessary.” *The Neihart Herald. [volume] (Neihart, Mont.), 21 January 1893. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.*

New addition to museum collection. A generous donor gifted MNHG with a bed for the Depot agent's living quarters. In addition to the bed, MNHG received a hand crocheted bedspread and table cloth produced by the donor's grandmother. Thanks to the Whitaker family for the donations.

AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE MONARCH NEIHART HISTORICAL GROUP

2014 Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission Award

2019 Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission Award for Outstanding Restoration of the Monarch Montana Central Railway Depot.

2021 Montana Historic Preservation Award for dedicated efforts and work toward the Monarch Depot Restoration Project.

2022 Cascade County Historical Society/The History Museum Legacy Award for outstanding service in shaping, preserving, and protecting history.

MNHG supports the Great Northern Railway Historical Society and the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area.

The Monarch Neihart Historical Group wants you to know how much we appreciate your support. We have accomplished a good deal in the last six years and it couldn't have happened without you. THANK YOU!

Please feel free to use the form below for your donation. 501(c)(3)Tax ID 46-1853767

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State Zip _____

Email _____ Donation Amount: _____

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

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