

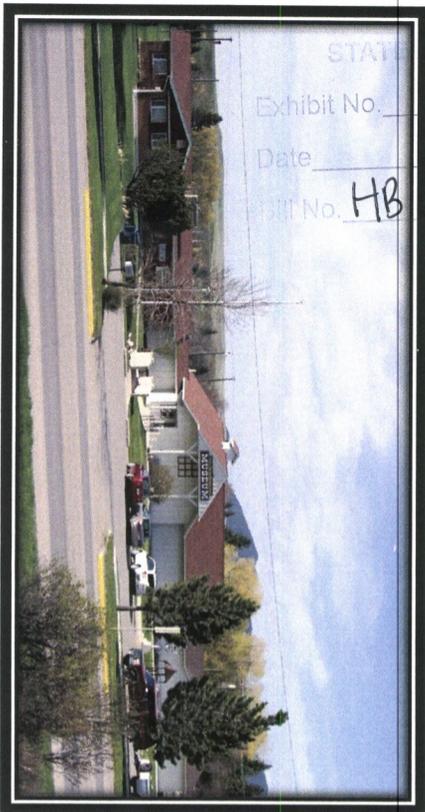
WELCOME TO THE

CENTRAL MONTANA MUSEUM

408 Northeast Main

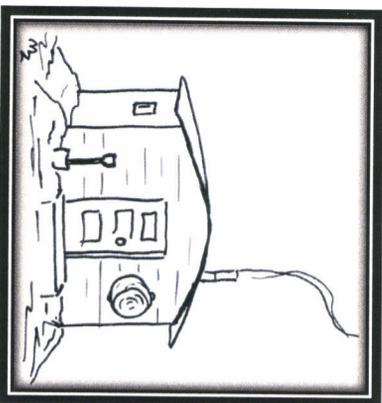
Lewistown, Montana 59457

406/535-3642



STATE ADMINISTRATION
 Exhibit No. 5
 Date 3-20-2013
 Bill No. HB 411

We're so glad that you've stopped in to visit us! In the heart of Montana amidst the Belt, Highwood, Judith, Moccasins and Snowy Mountains, lies our home in a valley known as the Judith Basin. This area, which we proudly refer to as "Central Montana," stretches westward to Arrow Creek, north to the Missouri River, and south/east toward the Musselshell River.



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act of 1862 signed by President Lincoln. This act and the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 greatly affected the settlement of Montana. The latter act expanded the amount of homestead land permitted to 320 acres. During this time, many

settlers from all walks of life came to Montana and filed on homesteads. In less than two decades, the immense grassland of central and eastern Montana was divided up into 320-acre

tracts. Homesteading exhibits and many photos depicting life during this era are on display during the 2012 season.



One of our most recent displays is really the oldest! It is a full-scale replica of the skull of a Torosaurus dinosaur that was found in the Valentine area in eastern Fergus County. Displays of more recent history, beginning in the 1870's when the area was largely unsettled and buffalo roamed the open prairies, also reside at the museum.

We hope that you'll find our exhibits and interpretation enjoyable and informative in their portrayal of Central Montana's chronological progression up through the years.

Other displays include: ¾-scale old-fashioned city street; Native Americans, Fort Sherman, Carroll Trail; Reed and Bowles Trading Post; Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce; Fort Maginnis; Reedsfort; Janeau's Stockade; Metis; stockmen (horses, cattle and sheep); mining (gold, sapphires, coal) and production of oil and gypsum; Teigen School; Croatian stonemasons; Central Montana communities; military; freighters; stage coaches; Fergus, Judith Basin and Petroleum Counties; railroads; and the depression, dust storms and the dirty Thirties.



At the appropriate time intervals, we've included exhibits of some of the area's most notorious characters including:

- Rattlesnake Jake Owens (outlaw)
- Charles M. Russell (cowboy/famous artist)
- Granville Stuart (cattleman/Vigilante leader)

- Bertie Brown (moonshine entrepreneur/rancher)
- Ed McGivern (fastest gun in the world)
- Charlie Cooley (businessman/civic leader)
- Jimmy Kaaro (circus performer/trick roper/animal trainer/lawman)
- Jane Burnett Smith (bronc rider/stunt rider/author)

The museum houses a variety of collections including: dolls; toys; wedding dresses; fire arms; forts; fossils; historic replicas and dioramas; Indian artifacts; mounted wildlife trophies; Alex LaFountain wax sculptures; military; photos; musical instruments; cameras; hats; and many others. In addition, replicas of a music room, parlor, kitchen, creamery, telephone operator's office and a newspaper printing shop from years past are on display. Other items of interest are: a wagon



and trunk owned by James Fergus, the founder of Fergus County; a replica of a red river cart used by the Metis; and a Norden Bombsite.

The following educational electronic media are available for viewing, too. Please ask the Museum Attendant for assistance if you'd like to watch them.

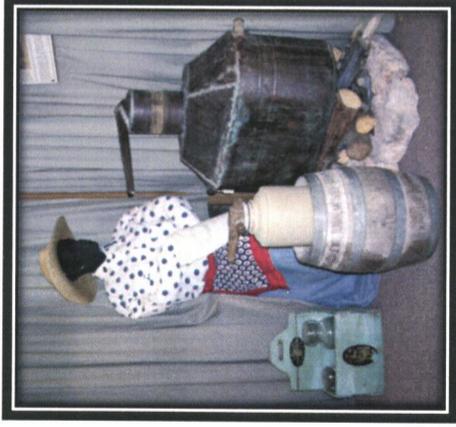
- A DVD demonstrating the quarrying and cutting of local stone used to construct many beautiful buildings in Lewistown by the talented and creative stonemasons who immigrated here from Bribir, Croatia. It was from their hard toiling and handwork that Lewistown was molded and holds the proud distinction of being called the "City of Stone."

- A very interesting video of the coal mining industry entitled "Against the Darkness."
- A DVD, professionally taped during 2010, featuring interviews with ancestors of some of the area's most prominent people as well as accounts of the Rattlesnake Jake shootout; a history of local schools; the Torosaurus dinosaur; and an interview with the author of two Central Montana tour guides.

We continually strive to improve the museum for the enjoyment of all who visit.

Our store, located near the museum entrance, carries a variety of books, memorabilia, musical CDs, videos and locally made products. Surely, you'll want to take time to browse and pick up a keepsake or a gift for someone special.

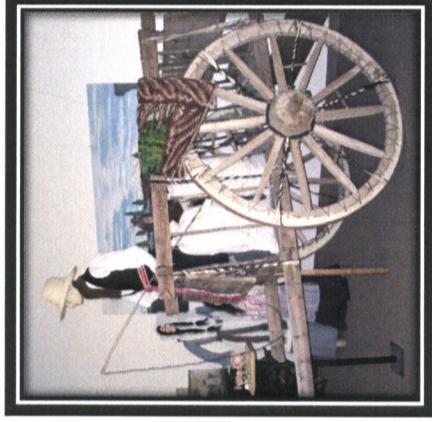
Enjoy your stay and feel free to direct any questions to the Museum Attendant.



The museum is operated as a nonprofit institution. Your donations are greatly appreciated to ensure its continued operation for the benefit of all who visit.

If you're in the mood for further sightseeing, you may wish to visit some of the nearby historic points and/or ghost towns in the area. Two of our historic

trading posts, Reed and Bowles Trading Post (one of the few original structures remaining on the historic Nez Perce Trail) and Reedsfort, are located here at Lewistown while Fort Maginnis and many of the area's ghost towns are only a short drive away. Our Museum Attendant is available to provide information on these and other points of interest and directions.

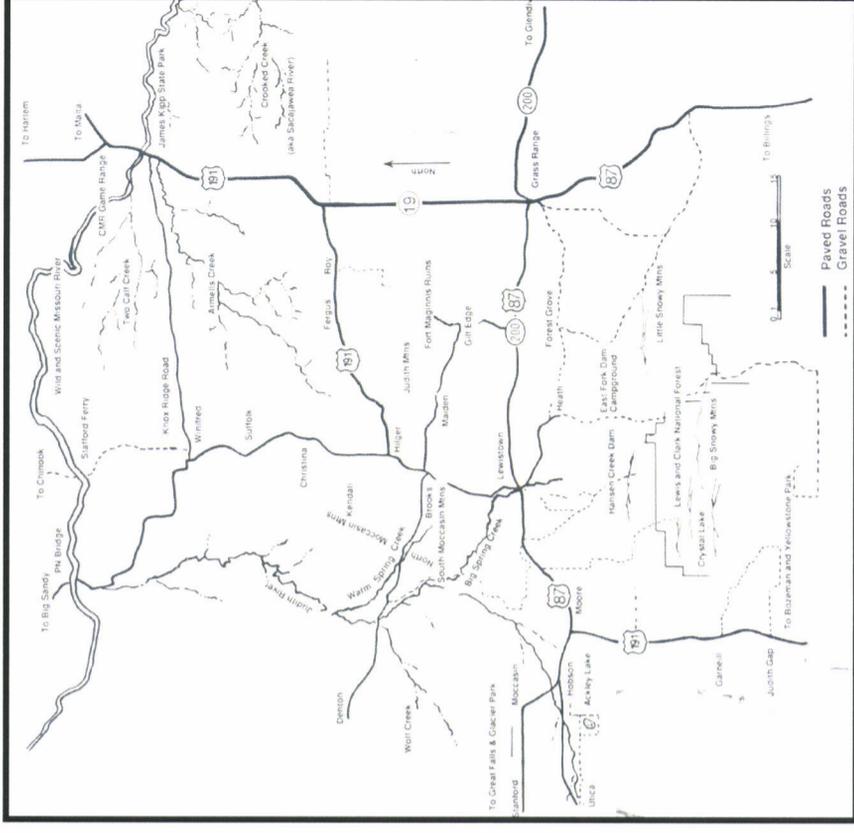


We hope that you'll stop and visit again; our displays are ever-changing as we strive to make each visit unique and memorable. Please encourage your friends and acquaintances to visit our facility as well. The museum is open each year from Memorial weekend through Labor Day. The hours are 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Special tours can be arranged during the off season by contacting Shirley Barrick at 406-535-9289; she will gladly return your call and schedule a time that is convenient for you to tour our facility.

Your opinion is important to us. Please take time to fill out a Comment Card to let us know the things that you liked and any changes that could be made to make our facility more enjoyable and interesting.

Thanks for stopping by and please come again.

Happy Trails to You!
The Central Montana Historical Association



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March 20, 2013

To: the Senate State Administration Committee Members,

From: the Central Montana Museum

Re: House Bill 411

The Central Montana Museum Board Members support House Bill 411 with the following changes: The Central Montana Museum in Lewistown is the official repository of the Ed McGivern Collection. Please replace all references to the Ed McGivern Museum within this bill to read the Central Montana Museum in Lewistown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shirley Barrick, President