To:

Friends of Musselshell School, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Musselshell, MT  59059

2015—Vol. XII Num.1

IT’S A NEW YEAR!

Show your Support with a membership and/or donation

Check your address label to ensure your membership is up to date! Your address label (above) includes a series of numbers under your name. The first number is the year (or last year) of paid membership.

—$5.00 individual yearly membership

Membership ($5.00 per person)
Total memberships______________________ $______________________

For other donations please specify: (circle preferences)

General Donation (or) Window Donation

$______________________ in memory of ____________________________________________

Donation of $______________________ in memory of ____________________________________________

in honor of ____________________________________________

Send acknowledgement to:(Name, address, city, state and zip)

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Plan To Attend the Annual Meeting of Friends of Musselshell School, Inc.

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
7 p.m. @ Musselshell School

Memorial Weekend Pig-nic Sunday and Monday, May 24 & 25, 2015
Serving begins at noon both days

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Make checks payable to:

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Volume XII Number 1  P.O. Box 14, Musselshell, MT 59059   February 2015

Friends of Musselshell School, Inc. will hold their annual meeting of the corporation, Wednesday evening, February 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Musselshell School.

General business, 2014 financial statement, and fundraising ideas for 2015 will be discussed. An election for three positions on the Board of Directors will also be held. Anyone wishing to run for a position on the Board of Directors may contact Adair at 947-5141 or any board member.

Membership of the corporation is not required to participate in the activities of the school but is required to hold a position on the board, and to vote for board members at the annual meeting. If your membership is not paid for 2015, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Memberships will be taken prior to the meeting but payment in advance is appreciated.

Attendance to the meeting reflects your support of operating, maintaining and preserving the Musselshell School as a vital part of the community.

Coffee and cookies will be served following the meeting.

SECOND- STORY WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT:
ON THE MARK, GET READY, GET SET, GO!!!

After receiving three additional grant awards in September and October from NorthWestern Energy ($2,000), PPL Montana ($10,000), and Signal Peak ($10,908), Friends of Musselshell was holding 82.5 % of the necessary funds to complete the second—story window replacement project. The impressive dollar figure was a combination of private donations, grant awards, and funding appropriation from FoMS’s fundraising efforts. At the regular monthly meeting of the board, it was decided that even if additional funding did not come into the project fund, FoMS had reserves to cover the remaining cost to complete the project and still keep the reserve healthy. It was time to make a move! Bret DiPasquale, owner of Construction By Design, was brought in to show and review the chosen window designs one more time. Construction By Design had the ability to store the 36 window units and 36 transoms until they could be installed. A motion was made and passed to purchase the windows before the end of the year. The windows have been purchased and are in storage. Construction By Design’s target date to begin installation is the 1st of April. If weather permits the project can be completed in a month. Since purchasing the windows, an additional amount of $845 have been donated toward the windows, and a Letter of Inquiry has been sent to The Steele- Reese Foundation requesting $10,908.
PPL Montana present Friends of Musselshell School with $10,000 check

In the past ten years, PPL Montana has donated 3.5 million dollars to schools and non-profits throughout Montana. 2.8 million dollars of the money has been through their Community Fund. At the end of 2014 PPL Montana sold their hydro assets to Northwestern Energy. As a result of the downsizing of the company, PPL Montana will no longer be offering the Community Fund as it is currently structured. It is expected there will be corporate funding available, but that at this time it has not yet been determined how that will be structured.

There was a huge building restoration project looming over Musselshell School in June of 2003 when FoMS took ownership; namely a leaking roof. The first grant from PPL Montana paid to tear down and reconstruct the huge, old chimney and to move the electrical service from overhead to underground. Both the tasks needed to be addressed before the new roof could be installed. With that grant our first renovation project was off to a good start! The service from overhead to underground. Both the tasks needed to be addressed before the new roof could be installed. With that grant our first renovation project was off to a good start!

On October 13, 2014, Lisa Perry, Community Affairs Manager for PPL, came to Musselshell to present FoMS with a “big” check for $10,000. It would be the last grant award from PPL. The small gathering of residents battered Perry with questions of PPL’s future in Montana, and since the end of 2014 PPL Montana has gifted $30,000 toward our window replacement project. If awarded, PPL Montana has gifted $30,000 toward our window replacement project.

At the start of the year, FoMS present Friends of Musselshell School, Inc. is honored by your memorial gift. On behalf of the board of FoMS and the entire Musselshell community, we send our condolences and prayers to the families and friends of those remembered below.

**MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

A formal acknowledgement that a gift has been given in the name of a loved one.

**September 26, 2014 through January 23, 2015**

Friends of Musselshell School, Inc. is honored by your memorial gift. On behalf of the board of FoMS and the entire Musselshell community, we send our condolences and prayers to the families and friends of those remembered below.

In Memory of…

- **Dwight Burton**
  - Jennie Burton
  - Conetta Picchielli
  - Jay & Adair Rademacher

- **Chester Rogers**
  - Jay & Adair Rademacher

- **Bonnie [Grebe] McCaffree**
  - Jim & Patty Wilson

- **Earlin Weeks**
  - McKeary Ranch

- **Life in Musselshell**
  - Excerpt from January 17, 1935
    - The Melstone girls’ first team, who have suffered only one defeat this year, it being from the hands of the Musselshell girls, vowed revenge Friday night by winning the third game of the evening by a decisive margin. Pearl Miller, Wilma Timberman, Dorothy Dawson, Helen Korenko, Hazel Belzer, Ethel Sturdevant, and Susie Korenko played with the Musselshell Team. The Musselshell Boys’ first team was a close match for their rivals. They led at the half, 7 to 6, but yielded to the last minute rally to lose 12 to 17. Glenn Roberts, George Rogers, Keith Timberman, Elton Roberts, Aubry Burton, and Johnny Badovinitz played with the Musselshell team.

- **In Memory of…**
  - Luther Burton & Family
  - Owen Burton
  - Bill & Diane Dunbar
  - George Dunbar
  - John Turley
  - Jack & Cindy Meredith
  - Luther Burton & Family

- **January 1935**
  - Luther Burton & Family
  - Owen Burton
  - Bill & Diane Dunbar
  - George Dunbar
  - John Turley
  - Jack & Cindy Meredith
  - Luther Burton & Family

- **Musselshell School Notes**
  - January 1935
    - Effect on the primary grade attendance during January which dropped to 86.97%. Earl Plum, Mavis Crawford, and Ethel Sturdevant were the only ones in the primary room with a perfect attendance record.

    The students of the Star Mine School had an average daily attendance of 98.12% for the school month of January with 12 of the 16 students enrolled neither absent nor tardy. Those with perfect attendance are Opal, Roy, and Roberta Cartwright, Helen Pravitz, Annie, Rosie, and Ruby Badovinitz, Duane Compton, Clyde and Dan McCaffree.


    Wilma Timberman leads the typing class with a net of 36 words per minute in a five minute test. Hester Moore is next with 34, Anola Rogers with 28, and Ethel Sturdevant with 27 words per minute.
2010—You Can't Beat the House By crawling through the window Merle & Howie (Ken Eickhoff & Lynn Rettig), two minor league burglars, plan to loot an upscale home. Before the two can "beat it" the entire house has more people coming and going then a revolving door. While the cops are looking for two "suspicious characters." Merle & Howie play up the haunted house theory by resorting to some ghoulish antics to save themselves from jail time. Cast members taking the stage were Kim Zimmerman, Kay Rosin as Madame Zemobia the swindling soothsayer, Lynn Rettig, Ken Eickhoff, Joanie Rettig, Dalen Keeney, Liz Cedar, Annie Shirley, Larry Zaharko and Sherie Milburn.

2011—Where There’s a Will, There’s a Murder The thought of performing a murder mystery left the cast kept the audience in suspense right up until Agatha Crispie (Kay Rosin) solved the "who done it" mystery. Performers were: Lynn Rettig, Lura Moore, Annie Shirley, Ed Raastad, Ken Eickhoff, Kim Zimmerman, Dalen Keeney, Liz Cedar, Joanie Rettig, Kay Rosin and the naive spinster Penelope Prim, played by Sherie Milburn.

2012—Girl of the Frozen North With the snow blowing and the winter wind howling, (sound effects engineered by Harry & Dalen Keeney) the audience knew of the treacherous living conditions of the Yukon Territory and they soon learned about the evil that men do. Even with the Dashiel H. Golforth, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to render aid there were times that all seemed bleak. But Hyacinth (Annie Shirley) finally came to her senses and saved the day. The "players" were Kim Zimmerman, Annie Shirley, Joanie Rettig, Sherie Milburn, Dean Carpenter, Nan Rademacher, Lynn Rettig, Ken Eickhoff, and Dalen Keeney.

2013—The Perfumed Badge had every young girl wanting to be a sheriff like Willie Lovelace (Kim Zimmerman) who was in love with the hero, Harry Heartstone (Ken Eickhoff). Guests had no idea just how many "sorted" characters could stroll through the lobby of the Roaring Gulch Hotel owned by the evil proprietor, Widow Black (Annie Shirley). Characters on stage were Lynn Rettig with her rabbit in his hat, Kim Zimmerman, Annie Shirley, Ken Eickhoff, Ralph Goffena, Sherie Milburn, Joanie Rettig, Nan Rademacher and Dalen Keeney.

2014—Under the Big Top showed that even a large group of misfits, and two clowns, could save the Marlow Little Big Top Circus if they worked together. The impressive cast was: Sara Allen, Dalen Keeney, Nan Rademacher, Ed Raastad, Sherie Milburn, Dean Carpenter, Carolee Hagstrom, Annie Shirley, Jason Hagstrom, Colton Allen as the bearded lady, Ken Eickhoff, Ronda Seder, Joanie Rettig, Lura Moore, Karen Shelhamer, Mike Turley, Kay Rosin, and Lynn Rettig as Wrinkles the clown and Ralph Goffena as Crinkle the clown.

The Annual Dinner Theatre is the most popular fundraiser for Friends of Musselshell School. Every year after the play is over the audience says, “That was the best play you have ever had!” Which one is your favorite?
2004–2014 Theatre Productions  The People’s Choice for Entertainment

The Musselshell School Community Center survives through monetary donations, grant monies, and an extremely ambitious core of volunteers that facilitate regular fundraising events each year. One such fundraiser is the fall dinner theatre. The yearly dinner theatre and matinee have entertained audiences with comedies, melodramas, or murder mysteries since 2004. It is the most entertaining and requested event; therefore it has become Friends of Musselshell School, Inc.’ principal fundraiser. Local volunteers make up the cast of characters, directors, set managers, and back stage hands. The group periodically changes faces but every year they become a close-knit group. The troupe was tagged with the name of “The Illustrious Musselshell Players” the first year on stage. If you have never had the opportunity to attend a production here is a synopsis of all the productions. If you have attended one or more productions, which one is most memorable?

2004-Hit’s Tough to be Rich
Anne Gordon had graced the Musselshell School stage many times while attending school here. In 2004 she made another debut when she played Aunt Bertha, the long lost aunt of the Ross Family who was suffering from delusions of grandeur—she thought she was rich. Other characters were, Carrie Giesel, Stacy Cooke, Maria Benson, Katie & Dalen Keeney, Joanie Rettig, Georgia Haynes, Anne Gordon, Addar Rademacher, Lynn Rettig and the ex-convict Slug McDonagill, played by Ken Eickhoff.

2005-Have a Heart
Ted Watson’s (Wendall Vanatter) life is on the brink of disaster when his boss is coming to meet his wife who happens to be out of town. For the evening he hires a fill-in wife, a butler, and a cook (the substitute cook who is never seen was played by Kay Rosin.) His neighbor (Jackie Sealey) tries to help but everything looks grim when a show girl (Cindy Eppich) arrives to play the part of the fill-in wife, and a night club bouncer (Travis Cammer) comes to be the butler. Things go from grim to goofy when the boss (Jay Rademacher) arrives and he happens to be the neighbors old boyfriend! Then _______the real Mrs. Watson (Daphne Kuhlman) comes home!

2006-Desperate Ambrose
When the mild mannered Ambrose Groves (Jon Goffena) and his friend Bert Miller (John Bohlman) arrive in town they are mistaken for the West’s most fearless cowpunchers, Homer the Kid and his pal, Gun Smoke Carter. Desperate, Ambrose will do anything to save his hide from the sheriff and his mean and nasty sidekicks. The 13-member cast consisted of Lynn Rettig, Joanie Rettig, John Bohlman, Annie Shirley, Dean Carpenter, Cindy Eppich, Tam Thompson, Ken Eickhoff, Lynn Rettig, Alisha Nichols, Ed Raastad, Dalen Keeney, Jon Goffena, Esther Nichols.

2007-Fool’s Gold
In the production of Fool’s Gold the audience soon learned just how far men will go to get their hands on this precious metal. Not only did the villainous Wiley Silterhs (Lynn Rettig) and his sidekick Dr. What (Ken Eickhoff) dress in a very large pair of pants and shirt to become one very big man; they also went out on a limb to disguise themselves as women in the small hick town. Pictured to the right is Wiley Silterhs in the red hat, and the three neighborhood busybodies, each looking for a “man to meet their expectations,” (Kay Rosin, Jericho Biggs, and Silvia Metzger). Others that graced the stage in this hilarious comedy were Annie Shirley, Dalen Keeney, Jon Goffena, Dean Carpenter, Cindy Eppich, Joanie Rettig, Ed Raastad, Larry Zaharko, as well as quite a few members of the audience!

2009-Dating Predicaments
There is nothing like a mobster, overbearing parents, and a wild, hysterical Frenchman waving an oversized wooden spoon to bring a stage to life. The scheme was devised by two parents interfering in their children’s lives in hopes of finding them a life mate. Their plans collide with a cute little French man’s desire to open his very own restaurant. Liz Cedar played the part of Claudine McDermitt, and Annie Shirley played her daughter, Molly. Ken Eickhoff and Dalen Keeney played Earnest and Matt Donski. Larry & Pam Zaharko, and Joanie Rettig performed as best friends, Tom, Janelle, and Marge. Ed Raastad was the voice on the computer. Salvador the New York Mobster was played by Jon Goffena. Lynn Rettig played Pierre, the wild Frenchman. And last but not least, the memorable Shene Milburn, as the bum living in the garbage can

Turn the page for more