

Our Contributors

Jon Axline is the historian and interpretive markers coordinator at the Montana Department of Transportation. His work has taken him to all corners of the Treasure State in search of historic sites adjacent to the state's highways. Jon is the author of many articles on the state's history on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from dinosaurs to railroads, Montana jerks, and flying saucers. He is the author of *Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges* and the editor of the recently published *Montana's Historical Highway Markers*. He lives in Helena with his wife, Lisa, daughters, Kate and Kira, four cats, and two Corgis.

Matthew Basso is the Director of the American West Center and jointly appointed in History and Gender Studies at the University of Utah. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota's Program in American Studies in 2001 and his MA in history from The University of Montana in 1996. He has taught in various roles at both those universities as well as in the U.S. Army while serving in Germany during the Gulf War. Prior to his stint in uniform he spent four glorious years at Vassar College where his keen interest in gendered relations of power was born.

He is currently working on a book project on

Montana's World War II home front that will be published by the University of Chicago Press. In 2001 Routledge published his co-edited volume, *Across the Great Divide: Cultures of Manhood in the U.S. West*. He spent the 2003-2004 academic year in New Zealand as a Senior Fulbright Scholar beginning work on his next project: a comparative transnational exploration of racial and gender formations among Pacific settler societies (New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the U.S.). At the American West Center—www.awc.utah.edu—he oversees a number of public history projects including: the Utah American Indian Digital Archive, the Utah Indian Curriculum Project, the Digital Pacific Archive Project, and the Westerns of the World Film Festival.

Ellen Bauml received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in English, Classics, and History and has been the interpretive historian at the Montana Historical Society since 1992. She has authored dozens of articles and several books, among them *Beyond Spirit Tailings*, honored with an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Ellen is also the editor of *Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan*, a 2004 Finalist Award winner of the Willa Literary Awards. Her most recent book, *Dark Spaces: Montana's Historic Penitentiary at Deer Lodge*, is an illustrated documentary featuring the contemporary work of photographer J. M. Cooper.

Joeann Daley, founder of the Copper Village Art Center in Anaconda, is currently resident artist at Dominican High School, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, where she has her etching studio, Studio San Domenico. She has been a practicing printmaker for over thirty years and has exhibited in the United States, eastern and western Europe, and South America. She has done artist residencies in New York, Montana, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Italy. She has taught grade through college and adult classes. A past member of the Montana Arts Council, Joeann has had experience as an arts administrator and a speaker at local, regional and national conferences of art and religion. Years of European travel and studying and living in Italy have enriched her life experience as well as her art.

Patty Dean received her A.B. in history from Carroll College and an M.A. in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program/State University of New York. In the early 1980s, she was Curator of Collections at the Montana Historical Society and later founding curator of the Arkansas Arts Center Decorative Arts Museum in Little Rock. Patty worked at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul for sixteen years, first as Museum Collections Manager and later as Supervisory Curator.

As an independent public historian in Helena,

Montana, from 2005–2008, she was adjunct faculty for the history and music departments at Carroll College and a historian for the Montana Historical Society’s “Identifying African-Americans in Montana Heritage Resources” project.

Since December 2008, she has been the Curator of History for the Montana Historical Society. Patty has served as a board/commission member for the Montana Preservation Alliance, Drumlummon Institute, Helena/Lewis & Clark County Historic Preservation Commission, and the Montana Heritage Commission.

Butte native **Edwin Dobb** is a fourth-generation descendant of Cornish tin miners and Irish copper miners. A former magazine editor, Dobb has been an independent writer for almost twenty years. National publications he’s written for include *The New York Times Magazine* and *Harper’s*, where he’s been a contributor since 1996. Dobb is the co-writer and co-producer of *Butte, America*, a feature-length documentary film produced by Bozeman-based Rattlesnake Productions. Since 2000, Dobb has been a periodic visiting lecturer at the U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, where he teaches creative nonfiction. He divides his time between his home in East Walkerville and various elsewhere.

Ron Fischer was raised in Anaconda. His dad worked for the Anaconda Mining Company, and his mom worked at the State Hospital in Warm Springs. He earned a teaching degree from Western Montana and started teaching high school in Butte. The University of Montana would send out writers like Bill Kittredge and Rick DeMarinis to do summer workshops. They liked Ron's writing, thought he showed promise, and urged him to get into the MFA program at The University of Montana while Dick Hugo was still teaching there. He did. In grad school, he received a \$5,000 award for a short story, "Borders and Anaconda Streets." His play *A Dance on Crumbling Earth*, a musical about a miners strike in 1930s Butte, won a centennial playwriting contest and was performed in Butte. His collection of short stories called *Journeys Into Open Country* won the Montana Arts Council's First Book award in 1992. Ron went on to get his doctorate at Idaho State University. He is now Associate Professor of English at Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota.

Kate Hampton joined the staff of the Montana Preservation Alliance in July 2008 to head up the Montana's Most Endangered Places program. Kate has a master's degree in western U.S. history from The University of Montana and a bachelor's degree in history from Towson State University. Prior to coming

to MPA, Kate was the National Register of Historic Places Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office within the Montana Historical Society for eight years. She was also an intern and, later, full-time employee at Historical Research Associates in Missoula, where she worked on historical research and cultural resource management projects throughout the United States. She assisted in and managed the inventory and evaluation of properties for eligibility in the National Register, including field survey and photographic documentation. Kate also conducted research and authored reports on projects related to historical/legal issues between Native American tribes, state governments, and the federal government.

Mary S. Hoffschwelle teaches American history at Middle Tennessee State University. Her interest in the Aesthetic and Arts and Crafts movements began when she was Curator of the Original Governor's Mansion for the Montana Historical Society in 1981–1985. More recently her research on the material culture of reform has focused on the rural South and African American schools, including *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South* (University Press of Florida, 2006).

Chere Justo is Executive Director of the Montana Preservation Alliance, Montana's statewide nonprofit

group dedicated to preservation of Montana's historic places, heritage, and culture. Based in Helena, MPA conducts outreach on community preservation, threatened sites, heritage education, and places of cultural significance. Chere came to MPA by way of the Montana Historical Society where she was Curator of History with the museum and later served as the National Register coordinator and community preservation historian with the State Historic Preservation Office. Throughout her career, she has worked with members of Montana's urban, rural, and tribal communities to preserve Montana's traditional heritage and cultural landscapes.

Chere's publications include *Montana Mainstreets, Vol. 4: A Guide to Historic Hamilton* and *The Heart of Helena: A Historical Overview*. She is also a ceramic artist and co-author of *A Ceramic Continuum: Fifty Years of the Archie Bray Influence* (University of Washington Press/Holter Museum of Art, 2001).

Dale Martin teaches history at Montana State University at Bozeman. He grew up in the Seattle area, attended Washington State University, spent years in field work in archaeology and history, and currently pursues interests in the history and technology of railways, metals and mining, and the First World War.

Christopher W. Merritt received a B.A. in Anthropology from The University of Montana, and a M.S. in Industrial Archaeology from Michigan Technological University. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Cultural Heritage Studies at The University of Montana. Chris' dissertation research is focused on understanding the role that the Chinese played in Montana history by combining archaeology and history. He has already led archaeological investigations of Chinese sites around the state including Big Timber's Chinatown and Cedar Creek Mining District near Superior and is currently partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to produce a synthesis of that agency's Chinese cultural resources in Montana and Idaho.

John Mihelich is an associate professor at the University of Idaho, where he teaches anthropology, sociology, and American studies. Dr. Mihelich's research focuses on American culture and explores questions about the intersections of community, class, and religion. Along with ongoing research on the mining community of Butte, Montana, Mihelich's research areas include young adults and religion, material and popular culture, labor and economic ideology, and critical theory.

Mary Murphy is the Michael P. Malone Professor of History at Montana State University, Bozeman.

She is the author of *Mining Cultures: Men, Women and Leisure in Butte, 1914-41* and *Hope in Hard Times: New Deal Photographs of Montana* as well as numerous articles on the history of women in the American West.

Fredric Quivik is a consulting historian of technology, currently living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He often works as an expert witness in Superfund and related environmental litigation. During the years 1977–1990, he and his wife, Melinda, lived in Butte, where he was an active member of the Butte Historical Society (BHS). As a volunteer with the BHS, he helped organize the Historic American Engineering Record project in 1979 that led to creation of the Urban Revitalization Agency; he helped Bill Walker establish the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives; he organized the survey of historic buildings and structures in the Butte National Historic Landmark; and with Mark Fiege and Dennis Glick he wrote the Butte-Anaconda Historical Park System Master Plan. The Clark Fork Superfund case, embracing Butte and Anaconda, was the first Superfund case on which he worked as an expert.

Dennice Scanlon was born and grew up in Butte on the East Side. Her family moved to Butte's West Side when the Berkeley Pit expanded and swallowed

up the old neighborhoods. She moved to Anaconda in 1972 where she taught school—both high school and elementary. In 1984, she received her MFA from The University of Montana. Dennice retired from teaching in 2007 after thirty-five years. Her poem, “The Difference in Effects of Temperature Depending on Geographical Location East or West of the Continental Divide: A Letter” (reprinted here) has also appeared in *The Last Best Place: A Montana Anthology* and *Circle of Women: An Anthology of Contemporary Western Women Writers*.

Brian Shovers has been a Reference Historian and is currently the Library Manager at the Montana Historical Society Research Center, where he has worked since 1993. Shovers lived in Butte during the 1980s, allowing him the opportunity to work on the 1984 architectural inventory of the Landmark District; to complete his Masters thesis on the influence of technology on working conditions in the Butte underground; and to edit a journal of Butte history entitled *The Speculator*. He is president of the Montana chapter of the Society for Industrial Archaeology and spends his free time watching birds and touring abandoned mines and smelters.

In 2002, **Benjamin Trigona-Harany** graduated with a B.Sc. from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver,

British Columbia. He has just completed his M.A. in Ottoman history at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, having written on the newspapers published by Syriac Christians in the Ottoman Empire prior to World War I. Currently he is preparing his thesis for publication and working on translations of the early Syriac publications in the Ottoman Empire and the United States.

Nicholas Peterson Vrooman has been working as a cultural specialist since the 1970s. He was the first State Folklorist of North Dakota, the Dakota Field Representative for ArtsMidwest (a regional consortium of state arts agencies), second State Folklorist for Montana, Nevada State Folklorist for Indian Traditional Arts, Program Director of Educational Talent Search in Indian Country for the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, visiting professor of Native American Studies at The University of Montana, and proprietor of Northern Plains Folklife Resources. Vrooman created the Indian Traditional Arts Residency and Master/Apprenticeship Programs for the North Dakota Council on the Arts and the Montana Arts Council. Through the 1980s and 1990s, he was intimately involved in the development of the Northern Plains Indian Art Market.

Nicholas has served as consultant to the

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Festival of American Folklife on the Mall, the Métis National Council of Canada, and the National Folk Festival. He's worked with tribal peoples throughout the American and Canadian West to produce sound recordings, documentary films, performances, publications, conferences, ceremonies, and festivals highlighting Aboriginal culture.

Photographer **Lisa Wareham** can be seen lurking in the alleys and abandoned buildings of Butte, Montana. But you probably won't see her walking. Instead you'll see her standing on the nearest dumpster or squatting low to the ground for the best angle for her next daily photo. Lisa has been capturing images of Butte every day since April of 2008 for her online project www.ButteDailyPhoto.com. Her images emphasize exaggerated angles and tiny details of the historic city. Besides photographing Butte, she spends long hours in her studio creating advertising images and photographing people. Those images can be viewed at lisawareham.com.

Lisa graduated from the University of Idaho in 2007 with a degree in Public Relations. While at college she worked for her school newspaper for three years as a photographer and reporter. It was there she fell in love with photography. After graduation she realized she wanted to pursue her passion of

photography. She applied to the Rocky Mountain School of Photography's summer and digital intensive programs and completed them in 2007. Her technical education is the basis for her photos, but her creative vision is what brings her work to life.

Carroll Van West is a professor of history and director of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University and of the National Park Service's Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. He worked on the Montana State Historic Preservation Plan in 1984–1985 and has written *A Traveler's Companion of Montana History* (1986) and *Capitalism on the Frontier: The Transformation of Billings and the Yellowstone Valley in the 19th Century* (1993).

Trained as a painter and sculptor, **Roger Whitacre** began working full-time as a photographer in 1970. His first major account was a series of public relations photographs for the Colorado National Bank, which led to doing photographs for the Denver Symphony Orchestra for nearly ten years. In the early years of his career, most of Roger's work entailed photographing commercial real estate for publications & brochures.

At the same time, he began taking photographs for Historic Denver, Inc., which evolved into a focus on historic buildings, including HABS & HAER

documentation photography. His prints have been published in sixteen books over the past thirty years and his works have been exhibited at the Colorado State Capitol, Colorado National Bank, Denver National Bank, and *Buildings Reborn*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition. Roger makes his home in Denver, Colorado.

Pat Williams is Montana's former Congressman, having served nine terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1979 to 1997. Pat, a native of Butte, has been a classroom teacher beginning in Butte and Helena where he taught sixth graders, a guest lecturer in colleges throughout the nation, and currently teaches graduate studies at The University of Montana. Pat is also a columnist for newspapers in the West and provides a regular commentary on Montana Public Radio.