

## Looking Backward and Forward

### Students, Local Guests and World Travelers Highlight 2012!

The Bair Museum greeted almost 5,000 visitors this past season. We welcomed students from four counties, Montanans from across the state, visitors from every state in the union except Delaware (*let's see you this summer, Delaware!*), and international travelers from nineteen countries. We closed the year out with the first ever **Upstairs**

### Downstairs Day

on November 25, 2012. More than eighty Montanans and their holiday guests braved the wintery weather to tour the Bair Family Home including the family's private quarters upstairs. Following their tour they warmed up with hot chocolate, coffee and treats in the Bair Barn.

*Mark your calendar for November 24, 2013 — our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Upstairs Downstairs Day. It's a great way to kick-off the holidays!*

### From the Museum's Archives...

We discovered this photograph of the always hard-working Charlie Bair taking a break and enjoying one of his favorite activities — fishing. While we are not sure of the location of this image, it is known that Charlie loved fishing in Yellowstone National Park. We have several of Charlie's fishing rods on display in the Bair Barn. Joseph Henry Sharp memorialized his friend's favorite past time by painting his cherished fishing hole on Pryor Creek (in the collection and on view in the Red Gallery).

### School Programs Start May 1— Schools Are Already Booking!

The museum opens on weekdays for schools on May 1, 2013. We have many experienced and knowledgeable docents



Docent Don Amundson discusses Native American artifacts from the Bair collection with a student tour.

ready to help you plan an educational and fun day at the museum for your students. Among the subjects your class may explore: Native American history and art, Western history, European and Western art, historic

photography and interior design. The Bair home offers an eclectic array of objects and furniture in several periods and styles. The art museum provides a unique close-up look at the Bair family's Native American collection and a user-friendly touch screen allows everyone to explore the collection's objects.

**There is no charge for schools. Reserve your date SOON, call 406.657.3314 or email [info@bairfamilymuseum.org](mailto:info@bairfamilymuseum.org).**



**We Open in May!**

In May 2013, The Bair Museum will be open to everyone on Saturdays and Sundays, 10AM–5PM. Starting Memorial Day, May 31, we will be open 7 days a week through Labor Day.

# In our Galleries...

## **Crow and Gros Ventre Indian Ledger Art Open on Weekends in May; Daily June 1–August 11**

This summer The Bair Museum will host work from the **Charles H. Barstow Collection of Crow and Gros Ventre Indian Ledger Art** from Montana State University–Billings Library's Collection of works on paper. The American Indian tribes of the Northern Plains were confined to reservations in the last part of the nineteenth century. Many turned to creating pictorial art as a means to preserve and pass on their history and heritage. They used manufactured materials on hand, including pencils and ink and paper torn from ledger books, school notebooks and office forms. Curator and artist Gordon McConnell wrote in 2002, "There are direct links between the warrior artist who made ledger drawings and the first generation of academically trained American Indian artists. Today countless American Indian artists—Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Kevin Red Star, Arthur



*Drawing of Crow War Dancers by Barney; 1897; pencil, colored pencil and crayon on paper; 7 5/8 x 9 3/8 inches; Charles H. Barstow Collection, Special Collections, Montana State University–Billings Library*

Amiotte, Francis Yellow and Colleen Cutschall among them — revere ledger art as a vital link to their rich heritage." *Check our April newsletter for more information about this upcoming exhibit!*

## **From our Native American Collection**



Hand-spun wool rug, ca. 1897–1912; Navajo; Old Crystal Trading Post style; Bair Collection 793.2.80

See this handsome Navajo weaving and many other beautiful rugs from the Bair Collection on display this summer at the museum. We're open daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Bring a picnic and lunch by the Musselshell River.

## **The Bair Museum Collection Catalog**

The beautiful **130-page full color catalogue of The Bair Museum Permanent Collection** includes essays by art historian and C.M. Russell expert Peter Hassrick, and Native American historian Barbara Loeb. It is on sale for \$20 plus \$5 shipping. Mail your check to *The Bair Museum, 2751 MT Hwy 294, Martinsdale, MT 59053*. Or if you prefer to use a credit card, call 406.572.3314. Our Gift Shop also carries color note cards featuring paintings in the collection, available individually or in boxes sets at a discount — unique Montana-made gifts!

## **Become a Member of The Bair Museum**

Purchasing a **membership to The Bair Museum** for yourself, your family or your business supports our educational and outreach programs and special exhibitions and events. Please help us expand our programs to reach an ever-increasing and diverse group of students and life-long learners. For details, go to our website at [www.bairfamilymuseum.org](http://www.bairfamilymuseum.org).

# BAIR MUSEUM

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