

Thanks to gifts from the Charles & Joanne McIlwaine Foundation and Bill, Donna and Mike Ard, two of the Museum's featured core exhibits received renovations. These renovations include the addition of exhibit wide improved artifact labels and graphical interpretation and well as the inclusion of additional artifacts telling community stories from our local history.

These artifacts include:

--- In the "Spirit of Wichita" exhibition (local history 1912 - 1939):

**A 1938 Monark Silver King bicycle** - *The Monark Silver King bicycle is widely considered a prime example of sleek Art Deco design reflected in functional, everyday objects. Its stylized identification plate and frame's distinctive wing designs suggest swiftness and speed; described in Monark advertising as being "Built like a streamlined train, engineered like a fast motor car, styled like a transport plane!"*

*The Silver King's designer, George Strong Lewis moved from Wichita to Chicago in 1893 and eventually joined forces with fellow Wichita native, James L. "Bunnie" Mead, President of the Mead Cycle Company and son of legendary pioneer James R. Mead,. In 1932, Lewis designed a revolutionary aluminum bicycle.*

*Lewis brought his revolutionary design to lawyers to apply for a patent. Impressed, the lawyers informed the Monark Battery Company, also a client, seeking to expand. A meeting was set, and as Lewis described it, "I showed them the aluminum bicycle and they were much interested. The next day found me packing up tools, experimental bikes and drawings, moving to the Battery Company." They decided to call the new bicycle division of the company Monark Silver King, Inc.*

**A 1932 Rickenbacher electric Hawaiian guitar** – *as used by Wichita bandleader Gage Brewer who introduced the world first electric guitar concerts from Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas.*

**A 1923 Magnavox Telemegaphone** public address system.

**A USS Wichita (Heavy Cruiser) Sailors hat** from the WWII era

--- In the "Wichita, the Magic City" exhibition (local history 1865-1911):

**A silver ceremonial Fireman's trumpet** (megaphone), circa 1890

**A wooden water main** installed by The Wichita Water Works, 1883

**An 1888 Kodak** owner operated camera and photographs.

**A bicycle produced by the M.H. Burt Cycle Manufacturing Company** of Wichita, circa 1897