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A look backwards at Sheridan County

By Joe Nistler

Because of its Communist and Socialist leanings in the 1920s and 1930s, Sheridan County has a history unique among Montana’s 56 counties.

The intrigue, the violence and the long-term effects of that era in Sheridan County are detailed in a new book. Written by Outlook native (and 1983 PHS graduate) Verlaine Stoner McDonald, it is entitled The Red Corner: The Rise and Fall of Communism In Northeastern Montana.

McDonald’s book includes capsule comments of a wide variety of Sheridan County’s most legendary characters: Charles “Red Flag” Taylor, Rodney Salisbury, Rig Collins, William Hass, A.C. Erickson and the ill-fated Janis Salisbury. It was her death in 1932 that triggered the only openly Communist-style funeral known to have occurred in Montana.

In her book, Verlaine McDonald details the various economic, political and social realities of Sheridan County. Those realities culminated in The Producers News rolling the dice for total Communist control of this county. The time was 1932. The event was the November general election. And the stakes were total control of county government.

Three factors combined to end the Communist dreams of 1932 in this county—the public backlash following a public Communist funeral, the ability of Republicans and Democrats to work together to oppose the Communist candidates, as well as the overwhelming election of Democrat Franklin Roosevelt as the new U.S. president.

Whether this political intrigue of eight decades appeals to you, the photos in McDonald’s book help to show how that explosive era of egos and anger played out.

Celebrated Montana author Ivan Doig wrote of Verlaine McDonald’s book—“This extraordinary chapter of Montana history, little known at best and often deliberately obscured, has at last found its clear true voice.” Her book is published by the Montana Historical Society Press.
News and Notes of Interest

SIDNEY—Richland County commissioners say they will do "whatever it takes" to protect oil and gas revenue coming into the county.

During the legislative interim, talk of adjusting the percentages of taxes going to oil and gas producing counties has turned from rumors to major concerns.

According to Commissioner Don Steppler, "Energy production is pretty much what Montana has left going for it. That's where the income will be."

He added, "If we don't have enough money to repair our roads, it's going to affect everybody in the county. If too much of the money is taken away (by the Montana Legislature), our infrastructure improvement projects could virtually disappear."

CROSBY—Any county resident who wants to pay $250 this summer can get an application of dust retardant sprayed on 800 feet of county or township road in front of their farmstead.

The county will pick up the rest of the cost," said Divide County Commission Chairman Gerald Brady.

A dust control pilot project conducted last year convinced commissioners the treatments are worthwhile, so they're expanding the program this year.

GREAT FALLS—Chicago-based Inenergy Wind Development LLC, the owner of Montana's second-largest wind farm, is planning to construct two additional wind facilities in the Great Falls region and has agreed to co-develop and co-finance a new transmission line needed to ship the power to market.

Inenergy's Mark Jacobson said the company has agreed to a "cooperation agreement" with Tonbridge Power Co. of Toronto, which is developing a transmission project called the Green Line between Great Falls and Townsend.

THANKS!

We greatly appreciate the assistance, time, donations, attendance, and support of the following groups and individuals which were key to creating a successful dinner/auction benefit for Pastor Barb Westoff's upcoming medical/travel expenses:

WESTBY LIONS CLUB
WESTBY SCHOOL AND STAFF
DANNY MOORE - AUCTIONEER
AL'S MEATS
YOUTH GROUP
VERLAINE STONER MCDONALD

THE RED CORNER

THE RISE AND FALL OF COMMUNISM IN NORTHEASTERN MONTANA
THE RED CORNER
THE RISE AND FALL OF COMMUNISM
IN NORTHEASTERN MONTANA

by Verlaine Stoner McDonald

"With local savvy and the detective skills of a first-rate scholar, Verlaine Stoner McDonald splendidly re-creates the "Red days" of radical politics in the Depression-hit farm country of northeasternmost Montana. This extraordinary chapter of Montana history, little-known at best and often deliberately obscured, at last has found its clear true voice."

—IVAN DOIG, author of Bucking the Sun

256 pages, $16.95 (paper); 100+ photographs, notes, bibliography, index; ISBN-13: 978-0-9759196-7-5
Dirty Thirsties. It happened during the prosperous 1920s and abated in the '30s.

This great read, which took many years to compile and document by a talented lady who is a direct descendant of an Outlook area family of that era, will soon be available at Service Drug in Scobey. It may also be ordered directly from the Montana Historical Society Museum Store. —MG

Milton Gunderson

Things, Ideas & People...

Just finished reading Verlaine Stoner McDonald's *The Red Corner* about the rise and fall of Communism in northeastern Montana. A reader definitely feels that this is an accurate account of that period, which began in the 1920s and ended in the '30s, as several pages at the back of the book documents the author's sources of information.

These sources include area newspapers of that time – Producers News and Plentywood Herald of Plentywood; Daniels County Leader, Antelope Independent and the Dagmar Record. Some of the quotes from those old-time editors are priceless.

The major factor in Sheridan County being recognized nationally as a Communist hot spot was Charles Taylor, editor of the Producers News. Although it was not made public, he had joined the Communist movement in 1920. He was a colorful "larger than life" individual with great leadership ability. A result of his successes in Montana included his name appearing in headlines in a New York paper and also in Moscow.

It seems that he would get his people into farmer/labor organizations and, without necessarily mentioning Communism, get members to act along the Red lines. This proved very successful in getting his candidates "of the people" elected to office.

This writer grew up hearing a number of stories about that era and thus found documentation of some accounts extra interesting. One of these detailed in the book was about the funeral of a teenage girl from Plentywood which was conducted in a hall with nothing Christian involved – just Russian Communist services. This was remembered by my family as the beginning of folks becoming seriously disenchanted with the Reds. That is exactly what was confirmed in this book.

Another was a mention of "Mother Bloor," a mesmerizing speaker for Communism who appeared in various communities, including at least Navajo and Peerless in Daniels County. Years later folks were still talking about her electric presence. Also the fact that early day editor Burley Bowler was one of Taylor's main detractors was of special personal interest.

One thing this book will clear up for many is that the big communist insurrection in Sheridan County did not come because of the Great Depression or the
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Doig,

How can I ever thank you enough for the wonderful words you wrote for the back cover of Verlaine's book, "The Red Corner", Mr. Doig? I am sure there is a correct name for that item in the literary world but I don't know what it is.

But what I do know is that all of Verlaine's extended family truly appreciate your goodness. Our gratitude would surely include my cousin Myrtle Waller of Plentywood, who you stopped to visit a few years back when you drove through town.

The book is selling like hot cake what with the enclosed article by Joe Nister of The Sheridan County News and the article by Milton Henderson included in the Daniel County Leader, which I have had a copy made for you.

Aaron Flint, who broadcasts a radio program out of Billings, Monday through Friday titled "Voices of Montana" had Verlaine as his guest "live" on Tuesday, April 28th from about 9:30 A.M. - 10. She was answering his questions right from the Alaska
College and it came in just "loud and clear" and she did a fine job.

I had called both KATQ, Plentywood and KGEM at Decker a couple days before to have it on their local news. And I hurriedly called the postmaster or mistresses of all of our smaller towns and read them a little news item to put on their bulletin boards. One can do that in our dear reveal Montana, so that in our dear reveal Montana, I knew I could call each one and tell them it ready to post up. That program you throughout Montana.

Could you do that in Seattle? But I bet you could back in Butte.

A professor, Gerald Zahavi, of the Albany College, NY (of history) and another person of your city, plan to come to Sheridan County, June 13th through the 20th. I forgot to ask Velma if she has heard the name of the individual who is from the University of Washington who will be along with Dr. Zahavi. They plan to do a documentary on our Communist Era.

Dr. Zahavi called me to see if I could have a list of names of individuals who could be interviewed about those days. I had to tell him we don't have one pioneer left in Sheridan County but only into the second generation of those in their 80's and 90's who could only relate what
They could remember if school parents may have talked about, even Myrtle, the youngest of the 4 children in her family and the last one living is now 94. But she is just as full of interest and enthusiasm as ever.

The summer will have many wonderful celebrations these months ahead with the birthdays of Medicine Lake, Antelope and Rutland. Yvonne will have a book signing at each.

Stony has an annual event called Pioneer Days the last Friday and Saturday of June, she will be there, too, as well as at our Sheridan County Library and at the Drug store, Plentywood for a book signing.

The MT Historical Society wants her in Sidney, also, for a special day that they (Sidney) have each year and want her to give a talk. The Historical Society I believe has asked her to speak as has our local librarian of Plentywood at a program they would sponsor just at the Juvenile Room of the Court House in Plentywood.

The only way that all of your summer could be any better it is if the 2 of you had been able to be with us. If your new book were out, I might even put the pressure on of all the dear friends sponsoring these activities to let you "get in a plug" for your own book.

If you change your mind about coming, let us know. I now have 2 postcards in frame from you, April 4, 2000. Thank you, once again.

Sincerely,
Dear Ivan and Carol,

What a treat and honor to not only meet the two of you, but to spend quality time with you at Kate & Jeep's Helena home and on our drive over to the Hether Museum. That was indeed a privilege for Jeffrey and me.

We would like to extend an invitation to make yourself at home here on our ranch on Cottonwood
Beneath the gaze of the Crazy Mountains. If you are ever this way doing research again. It is a very comfortable and private situation, as you would have your own cabin with small kitchen, porch and view of the Absaroka Mountains and Bridgers. The cabins were each graineries nearby that we moved & converted into simples but comfortable cabins. (Then dinners in the main Gathering area with large kitchen, fireplace dining...)

To order cards by Charlotte Caldwell please visit www.CharlotteCaldwell.com

Again, a pleasure meeting you both! Charlotte & Jeffrey.

Edward Johnson and Emelia Gabrielson of Westby were married in 1948. He retired from his job as cage operator with the Ameron Pipe Company in California and they now live in retirement in Gardena, CA.

Fred Johnson married Helen Johnson of St. Paul in 1946. Their daughter, Susan Marilyn, her husband, Michael Burns, and their 2 children, Jennifer and Jeffrey, live in Ventura, CA. Helen passed away in 1969. Fred's occupation was Head, Property Control, County of Los Angeles for many years. In 1975 he married May Phillips. Since his retirement, they have traveled extensively including 2 trips to Sweden and one to Hawaii. They now live in Camarillo, CA.

The boys graduated from PHS and served in WWII, Ed and Fred in the Army and Charles in the Navy.

Charles Johnson graduated from Concordia College and entered the field of education. In 1936 he and Erma Heinmeyer of Hebron, ND were married in Westby, where both were teachers. Their 3 children are Charles Loren, Steven Kent, and Marcia Ann. Charles L graduated from the U of Minnesota and the U of Minnesota Medical School. He began his medical practice, as a surgeon, in Sun City, AZ; moved for a while to Deer Lodge Montana, and is now a surgeon in Butte. He married to Virginia Hand of Helena and they have 2 children, Scott and Stacey. Steve attended the U of Washington and now lives and works in Helena, MT. Marcia graduated from MSU in Bozeman with an elementary teaching degree. She married Dr. Peter Sadowski of Chicago. They live in Eden Prairie, MN where he is a research scientist with Molecular Genetics, Inc., and she is a Senior Sales Director for Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc.

After 35 years of service in the field of education and 5 years as partsman and bookkeeper in a Ford garage, Charles retired, and he and Erma are now living in Helena. He was principal of Helena Senior HS and then principal of Capital HS in Helena, which was his position when he retired. During this time, he taught and coached in Antelope, Westby, Ingomar, Cut Bank, Ontario, Oregon, and 23 years in the Helena school system. For the past 30 summers, he has worked as a hail adjuster on farm crops. Since becoming senior citizens, Charles and Erma have been interested and involved in the activities of the Retired Teachers Assoc. and the American Assoc. of Retired Persons. Chuck also belongs to the Lions Club and is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Scottish Rite Bodies.

EDWIN S. JOHNSON

By Kermit Johnson

Edwin was born in Plentywood 4-14-43. Eddie (his nickname), was born on his grandfather's birthday, so received the name of Selmer as his middle name.

Eddie's dad, Kermit, was born on the Selmer Johnson homestead. His mother, Freida, was born on the Herman Heppner homestead. His brother, Cecil, was born 10-16-40 and lives in Billings. He is a mechanic for Frontier Air Lines.

Eddie went all 12 years to the Plentywood school system, never being tardy. At one time, there were 23 first cousins going to Plentywood School. One of Eddie's great interests was playing the bass horn. He graduated in 1961. That summer he joined the Navy and was sent to San Diego, CA, for basic training. He was in the small boat landing craft, the same job his dad had in WWII. Much of Eddie's Navy career was overseas in the Pacific Ocean. After he was discharged, Eddie went to work for Petty Geophysical Engineering Company, working around Bowman, ND.

On 10-30-64, Eddie married Ruth Dent in Baker, MT, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Dent of Sheridan, OR. While they were in Bowman, daughter, Wendy Sue, was born.

In the spring of 1965, they moved to Eugene, OR. Their son, Bryan, was born 10-17-67 in Junction City, OR, where they are now living.

Eddie works at the James River Paper Mill at Halsey, OR. Some of Eddie's hobbies are doing his own mechanic work and riding his dirt bikes or three wheelers on the sand dunes.

GAYLIN and ANNE (FALXA) JOHNSON

I, Mrs. Gaylin Johnson, formerly Anne L. Falxa, was born 1-1-16 at Plentywood to John and Mary Falxa, whose history you'll find on p.617 of Sheridan Daybreak. My sister, Jeanne Jacques, born in 1911, and I were raised by our Aunt Annie Connolly Ator, after the death of our parents. We attended the Jackson School, about 1½ miles from our home. Our transportation was riding our Shetland ponies or driving a horse and buggy. Attending this school were the Jackson children, Ator children, Ersness children, and the 2 Leonard brothers.

The school closed in 1931. I graduated from PHS in 1933.

Gaylin and I started farming in 1937. We lived on the home place for 2 years, then we moved to my half of the property that our parents had willed to us, later purchasing the Martin Christiansen homestead which bordered ours to the north. It had good pasture and springs so ideal for raising cattle and grain, but our main crop was hay. I worked at the Marshall Wells Store for 4 years. In 1954, we sold our property to Barney Simonson and moved to Kalispell.

Gaylin passed away on 8-16-65 at age 55. He had been an employee of the Flathead Road Dept. for 10 years. His parents were Lloyd and Hazel Johnson, who had moved from Iowa in 1912 and had settled near the Archie Mann ranch. Lloyd passed away in 1925. Mrs. Johnson and their 4 sons: Orval, Gaylin, Odell, and Rodney returned to Plentywood. Mrs. Johnson later married Swan Johnson. She passed away in 1956. Orval passed away in 1957.

We have 1 daughter, Arlette Gayle, born on 8-23-41, married to Kenneth Kinniburgh. They live in Kalispell.

After Gaylin's death, I continued with my position at the Flathead Health Dept. In 1971, I accepted a position with Circle K Corp. of Phoenix, AZ. After 6 months, I was promoted to manager of a store in Kalispell. Four years later, I went into partnership with another couple to open our own convenience store. I remained manager and partner until selling my interest in 1978.

My sister, Jeanne, and I make annual trips to Plentywood to visit our aunt, Annie Ator, age 97, who now resides at the Sheridan Mem. Nursing Home.

JOHN and EVA (TRAFELET) JOHNSON

I was born to Ole L. and Sophie Johnson 12-19-32 in Plentywood, MT. My parents were Norwegian immigrants. I have 1 brother, Andy, who lives west of Reserve and 1 sister, Sylvia, of Plentywood. My father died in 1938. I grew up 7 miles west of Reserve. When we attended Rose Valley School, my mother moved a chicken coop close to the school. It was fixed up to be a comfortable and cozy little home. As a child I enjoyed going to my Uncle Hans Tjomso's General Store in Reserve. On our few trips to Plentywood with Uncle Ole Tjomso, the trip was not complete until we made a visit to Johnson's (no relative) Junk Yard. We moved to Plentywood in 1947 when I started high school. I graduated in 1951, joined the Air Force in 1952 serving for 4 years in California, Mississippi, Wyoming, Idaho, N. Africa, and Okinawa. I enjoyed leave in London while stationed in Africa, and later, spent several days in Hawaii.

I started farming in 1957 on Uncle Hans Tjomso's farm 6 miles east of Reserve. I also attended MSC at Bozeman, graduating in 1964 with a BS degree. In 1964, I also started farming Uncle Ole Tjomso's place which I purchased after his death in 1972. I married Eva Trafelet of Dupuyer, MT in Billings on 6-16-64. That winter we vacationed in California. In June 1967, we took a trip to Norway with Uncle Ole and Sylvia to visit many relatives. Our son, Daryl, was 14 months old. For a
few years after our house was built, I worked as a carpenter during the winter.

I, Eva Mary, the youngest of 5 children and daughter of Albert and Zella Trafet of Dupuyer, was born 9-6-42 at Conrad, MT. In 1910 my father immigrated from Switzerland. My mother's heritage is Dutch and Irish and she came from Illinois. I lived in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains attending grade school there and at Dupuyer. I graduated from Valier in 1960. I took nurses training at MSC at Bozeman and Billings Deaconess Hosp. I became a RN in 1963 and graduated in 1964 with a BS degree in Nursing.

John and I have 3 children; Daryl Leslie born 4-8-66, Elaine Marie born 8-20-68, and Kelvin Ray born 1-17-74. All 3 were born in Plentywood and attend Plentywood schools.

We built the first house in Woodland Addition on East Third Avenue in 1965. The Riba house, an old landmark, was a beautiful view from our living room window. There were no paved streets and some were trails in this addition. It was difficult to get to our house in the spring of 1966. We parked the car about a block away on the grass. Then sinking in mud past our boots, we crossed the street which had new sewer and water lines. Many unsuspecting drivers sunk their cars to the axles and had to be towed. Paving was done in 1969. In a few years we were enclosed by other new homes.

I have been active in the Amer. Cancer Soc. for 17 years, the Red Cross, and as an election clerk for the Plentywood School Dist. With the assistance of others, I helped organize and maintain for several years a free woman's exercise group. I am a member of the Hospital Aux. and help beautify the hospital courtyard. I have been a private duty nurse at Sheridan Mem. Hosp. for 16 years. Currently I am employed as a nurse at the Sheridan Mem. Nursing Home, and I am a CPR instructor. Although Sheridan Co. has severe winters and cold, I have proved that hybrid tea roses can be grown here and have entered many roses along with other flowers and vegetables in the Sheridan Co. Fair.

Their address: 607 E. Third Ave., Plentywood 59254

JULIUS and PEARL (BOYD-OLSON) JOHNSON

Julius Oliver Johnson, born 5-1-1897, at St. James, MN, son of Hans and Ida Johnson, grew up in the St. James-Madella area and served in the Army during WWI. In 1925 he moved to Canada to farm and in 1935 moved to Plentywood, working for the Great Northern Railroad until serving in the Army during WWII. After his discharge, he owned a bar in Reserve and on 12-20-45, married Pearl Olson in Plentywood.

Later he returned to work for the railroad, and then worked for Bert Darvis on the farm and at the Spot Bar. Julius was retired for several years before his death on 11-16-78. He enjoyed fishing, spending many hours at the Box Elder Dam. He had 2 stepchildren, Mrs. Edward (Lila) Jensen and Milo Olson. Julius had 3 sisters: Mrs. Inga Knudson of Devils Lake, ND; Mrs. Alma Froehling of St. James, MN; and Mrs. Helga Sorbel of Madella, MN. Brothers Aron, Ole, and Alfred Johnson preceded him in death.

I, Pearl Elizabeth Boyd, was born at Carnduff, Sask., Canada, 5-2-05, daughter of John James and Mamie Boyd. (Sh. Daybreak I, p.605). I worked for several families in the Westby and Plentywood areas. One family was Sig and Minnie Nelson when H. Robert and Grace were small. I attended McKinley school, which was built on the corner of the John Boyd farm, through the 8th grade but couldn't continue because I had to work. Goldie Lynn, the teacher, married John Nelson. I worked for them when their children were born, also for Robert Smith, who was the milkman in Plentywood. I helped Mrs. Smith when Roy was born.

I married Andrew Olson of Minton, Sask. 10-3-31 in Plentywood. We had a daughter, Lila Adeline Phyllis, born 10-24-32, and a son, Milo Andrew James, born 4-16-36. When the crops were bad, my father and Andrew decided to go north to Lanagan, Sask. Andrew died in March 1937. I moved back to Plentywood as soon as I could. I worked as an aid at the hospital and also at the Canyon Club.

On 12-20-45, I married Julius Oliver Johnson. In 1950, I started to work for Len Peterson in Peterson's Hardware and later for Don. I continued working there until the spring of 1970. A few years later I worked at the Dairy Lunch for 3 years until Julius became ill.

Lila married Edward Jensen, 8-28-49. She graduated from Scobey HS after she was married. They live on a farm south of Scobey. They have 4 children: Sharon Lee, born 2-24-52; Deborah Ann, born 7-16-53; Mark Edward, born 10-12-57; and Pamela JoAnn, born 9-15-63. Milo married Cheryl Wankel on 10-3-64 (see separate story) at Plentywood. He has 2 children by a previous marriage, Jeffrey James and Wendy Sue.

KERMIT and FRIEDA (HEPPNER) JOHNSON

By Kermitt Johnson

Kermitt was born on the Seimer Johnson homestead between Outlook and Plentywood 7-2-15. Kermitt's dad was born in Scarville, IA 4-14-1887, died 3-7-54. His mother, Alice, was born in Hickson, ND 2-22-1892, died 9-14-59. He has 1 sister, Alma, born 6-3-18, lives in Plentywood and 2 brothers: Roy, born 6-14-21, lives in Greeley, CO and Stanley, born 1-9-23, lives in Lebanon, OR. Kermitt started school at the LaGrange school, 4 miles west of Raymond.

During a very bad blizzard, about 10 children were in a boxlike bus on a bobsled going to school. When they came to the Sis Line railroad crossing, the horses stopped. When the back door was opened, they saw the train go by. Kermitt can still see that black steam engine go by in front of the horses. He has always had a lot of respect for horses.

In 1923, the Johnson family moved to the Bob Smith dairy farm and attended the Plentywood and Hendrickson schools. He helped with farming and delivering milk. In the early '30s milk sold for 8c a quart. He worked in the tunnels at Ft. Peck Dam, on farms at Cando, ND and Fargo, ND. He cut railroad ties and firewood near Bemidji, MN. Pay was board and room and 50¢ a day. He went to N.Y.A. trade school at Laurel and Miles City in summer of 1939.

Kermitt married Frieda Heppner 9-17-39 in Plentywood. Frieda was
the enclosed copy at the library.

Eva remembered you being a senior when she was a freshman at the Valier high school and had nothing but good things to say about you being a nice young fellow. She asked me to tell you that her brother, Maurice, your friend from high school days, passed away of a heart attack this past July, she said he was 67 and that you may have known if you take the newspaper of that date. Dequay or Valier? She said she had sent the news of his death to the paper but now I am not sure of which town.

The Johnson story enclosed is taken from our second county history book, "Sheridan Daybreak of 1909", our first Sheridan Daybreak of 1970. This book being the generations, you, yourselves of John, Myrtle and myself, as well as the residents who came to Sheridan County after 1920.

Now the 2005 Daybreak includes our grandchildren and even great grandchildren.

Eva's address is 607 E. 3rd Ave. Plantagen 59254, and her phone no. 406-765-1132.

Sincerely,

Trudy Stoner
T. S. W. M. 1.3.

Wow!!! I finished the book!!! It was absolutely wonderful!! Your best one yet, in my opinion!! How in the wide world do you get the tremendous story ideas to put into such marvelous words and clever phrases?

I really thought early on in the book that there would be something "fishy" that would come to a surprising finish, and the ending surely was a surprise to me — not what I was thinking at all. Fantastic!!!

Thanks for a tremendous book and a story that held my interest every minute of the few hours it took to read. I was only sorry that it had to end.

Myrtle Waller asked me to tell you hello. She is anxious to read your book, too. I expect her son, Gayler, who you met at one of your book signing deals, will be sending her a copy, as well as buying one for himself.

Yesterday morning I visited with Eva Trapelet Johnson on the phone, asking her permission to send her family story to you from our Shakerica Daybreak II of 1984. I went to Pflugwood in the afternoon and made
Now I am going to figure about dinner and get into Chapter 3.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Volurum on the ground so line could hold the peace, fear would deteriorate and probably spoil where there can take outside in pile much better. The men rode in the big pile with hay tare (the big round ones) standing one end to make a coral for the wheat, hay sold as did the outside wheat, before the snow fell.

Veraeine has her book on commine in Sheridan County at the University of Utah. She had had it at Arizona University. I believe it was, but it wasn’t accepted without research and Veraeine writing included in Arizona, as well. Veraeine really didn’t want to enter that into the book so really didn’t want to enter that into the University press, she in waiting to hear what the University of Utah says, I have told her if the Montana Historical Society would print it I would surely give the cost and live on the selling end myself.

I lost Vernon in November, 2002 and we lost his 98 year old dad in January 2005. It was really sad for him that he had lost his 2 sons; Dr. Harold Sloan, our pleasant doctor, at 86 and his 65 who had been the doctor in town from 1956 till he was unable to continue in 1973 and died in 1996. His disease was called cerebellum ataxia which would compare to the Fine Steing Disease, Vernon died at 74 at home of cancer and attacked his lungs, palate and cheeks too.

I have remained in our home here on the farm for there is no place on earth I would rather be, living between Raymond, Outlook, Redstone and Plentwood, the dear relatives and friends keep me busy. Just last Saturday I had 3 occasions: lunch with visiting friends from Kalispell, a baby shower at one of the homes I have, Kalamay, and a 90th birthday party at the Civic Center in Plentwood. But I do have my name at the Pioneeer Manor for one wants to be on list if need be.

I feel so fortunate for Gordon and his wife, Bonnie are at the helm now and I
time our Sheridan County had 76 school districts with
some of those districts having as many as 3 or 4 one-
room schools in session at any given time. But also,
over the years if the children in one of the schools
reached the teen years and there were no younger ones to
attend, the school would be moved to another part of
the district where there were elementary school children.
That may account for in some cases, a district showing
on the records several schools, but really the same building
just being moved to various locations in the particular district.

Now we have only 3 schools left in Sheridan
County; Plentzwood, Medicine Lake and Wesley and
Westly is getting mighty short on students and the
other is declining in numbers.

The first and the graduate of the Outlook school was
in May, 1918 and once again there was only 1 graduate
in May, 2005 and the school closed. The few
children in the Outlook community are bussed to
Plentzwood now.

Verbae was now the Department Chair in Communications
at the Berea College in Kentucky. She and Andrew
adopted a little girl from China at 8 months and
she is now 4. They named her Carlyn Xian. The "Car"
is for Vernon and my little girl, Carlyn, who died on
August 24, 1955 at 3 years 7 months following heart
surgery at the Heart Hospital in Minneapolis and the "Xian"
meaning "free" for Andrew's sister, Lynne. The "Xian" means "free"
for Andrew's sister, Lynne. The "Xian" means "free"
for Andrew's sister, Lynne. They have the paper work in through
the adoption agency for another little girl, hopefully
going to China by July for her.

Our crops were not good this year running
anywhere from 12 to 20 bushels on acres on the
durum fields and about 24 average of bushels of
peas and lentil per acre. Last year the peas
were as high as 50 bushels per acres and
durum averaged about 35 acres. We had
peas running out over acres with bines
overflowing to the point of having 50,000 bushels of
Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Ave. N.W.
Seattle WA 98177
John Maatta
PO Box 302
Chester MT 59522
A Decline in Foreign Students Is Reversed

More Are Coming to U.S.; More Americans Are Going Abroad

By KAREN W. ARENSON

The number of new foreign students coming to the United States grew this school year, after several years of weakness that followed the terrorist attacks of 2001, according to a survey to be released today by the Institute of International Education.

The institute, in a separate report, also found that the number of American students studying abroad hit a record 205,983 in 2004-5, an 8 percent increase over the previous year and more than double the number in the 1994-5 school year.

According to the survey, conducted by the institute and other education groups, the number of new international students at American colleges and universities increased 8 percent this fall over last year, to 143,923.

Another sign of a turnaround was a sharp upturn in student visas, said Allan E. Goodman, president of the institute. Dr. Goodman said the State Department issued a record 581,059 student and exchange visas in the 12 months ending in September, a 14 percent increase over the previous year and 6 percent more than in the year leading up to the 2001 attacks.

More than half of the approximately 1,300 campuses that participated in the survey said they had seen increases in the number of foreign students this fall.

Dr. Goodman attributed the increase to the easing of visa restrictions imposed after the terrorist attacks and to greater efforts by colleges to attract foreign students.

“We’ve been worried for three years that there would be a slow and steady decline in the number of international students studying here,” Dr. Goodman said. “But it looks like the decline is ending.”

Educators have long argued that being able to attract the best students from around the world is mutually beneficial to universities and students, and helps strengthen American research programs.

Dr. Goodman said the reason for the decline after the 2001 attacks was the heightened competition from universities in other countries, like Britain and Australia.

“Before, our approach was, ‘We built it and they will come,’” he said. “But the post-9/11 period has changed all that. We have to be proactive now.”

Catharine R. Stimpson, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University, said N.Y.U. was reaching out more than it had.

“With the rise of global competition, which is really acute,” Dr. Stimpson said, “we can no longer assume that we are the primary destination for international students.

She added that this year the graduate school sent a vice dean to a recruitment fair in Shanghai.

“In my eight years as graduate dean at N.Y.U.,” she said, “this was the first time we have sent a graduate school official outside of the United States and its territories explicitly for recruiting.”

Officials at the institute, which has conducted college recruitment fairs overseas for more than 25 years, many of them in partnership with the State Department, reported big increases in interest in the past year, from American colleges and from potential foreign students. The institute also reported record attendance at college fairs in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in Vietnam, and conducted its first community-college fair in Ho Chi Minh City this year.

Today, the institute will also release its annual report on international student enrollment and on Americans studying abroad. The report, called Open Doors 2006, reflects the slowdown in international enrollment in the years before this one. The total number of foreign students in American colleges last year was 564,766, it says, or 273 students fewer than in the previous year. That followed two years of larger declines.

The number of American students studying abroad is smaller than the number of foreign students who come to the United States but has been rising. Some universities, like Harvard and Yale, which have not promoted foreign study, have begun to encourage it. Other universities that have previously encouraged foreign study have expanded their offerings.

Michigan State University, for example, which offers more than 230 programs in 62 countries, has added a program in Ireland to study disability services. It has also added direct enrollment for its students who want to attend universities in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and summer seminars for incoming freshmen before they go abroad. During the 2004-5 academic year, 2,385 Michigan State students studied abroad.

Western Europe remained the top destination for American students, with the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France leading the list, the institute said. But countries outside Western Europe became increasingly popular.

China, for example, drew 3,688 students, a 35 percent increase from the previous year, making it the eighth most popular destination for American students studying abroad. Argentina, Brazil and India also saw large gains that pushed them into the 20 most popular destinations.

For the fifth consecutive year, the University of Southern California led the United States in attracting international students, enrolling 6,881 in 2005-6. More than 140 campuses reported having at least 1,000 foreign students. Columbia, Purdue, N.Y.U. and the University of Texas at Austin were the other leaders.

India continued to send the most students to the United States, though its number declined by 5 percent, to 78,363. China remained second, with 62,582 students studying in the United States last year. Korea, Japan and Canada were also in the top five, although Japan registered a decline of 8 percent. Countries showing strong growth included Korea, Mexico, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Enrollment After 9/11

The number of international students enrolled in American colleges and universities fell for three consecutive years, through 2005-6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-5</td>
<td>143,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-6</td>
<td>150,435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As Sonics Pack to Leave Town, Seattle Shrugs

Continued From Page A1

chance to build a “multipurpose” arena suitable for basketball, hockey and conventions.

“I’m not saying it’s the most important thing or the only thing, but I think professional sports are an important component to the overall economy and quality of life in any marketplace,” Mr. Bennett said. “It’s about flying the flag of the city nationally and globally.”

The vote last week guarantees that the Sonics will leave their current home, KeyArena, in 2010, he said. The team may move to the Seattle suburbs and plans to talk to the State Legislature about that in coming weeks, but most people here think Mr. Bennett and his partners will move the team to Oklahoma City.

Even without the Sonics, Seattle would still have professional baseball and football teams, the Mariners and the Seahawks.

Anti-stadium sentiment was also reflected in Sacramento, where voters rejected a sales tax increase to pay for a new arena for the Kings, the basketball team there.

Residents and elected officials here have been bucking and forth on financing for sports facilities. In 1996, voters narrowly rejected a sales tax to finance a baseball stadium for the Mariners. But after the team had a record season, the Legislature decided that the public would pay for most of a new stadium, Safeco Field.

Chris Van Dyk of Seattle campaigned against giving public money to sports teams.

A feeling that a professional team is no longer crucial to a community.

To many Sonics fans, the rejection of sports financing that proved to an end, laid-back Seattle has been crushed by elitist Pricus-driving do-gooders.

To say there is no cultural value in the Sonics is “ludicrous,” said Paul Merrill, a 34-year-old stand-up comedian who was 7 when the Sonics won the championship. Yet even Mr. Merrill, who helps run Supersoni-
New Senator, Fresh Off The Farm In Montana

Continued From Page A1

deregulation had done to small farmers and businesses in Montana.

"You think of the Senate as a millionaire's club — well, I'm going to be the blue-collar guy who brings an old-fashioned, Jeffersonian ideal about being tied to the land," said Steve Doherty, a friend of Mr. Tester's for 20 years. "He's a small farmer from the homestead. That's absolutely who he is. That place defines him."

Mr. Tester used to ride his motorcycle down from the farm to Great Falls to play softball with Mr. Doherty. He played third base, not an easy position for a man with a height of five feet, nine inches. They were colleagues later in the State Senate, of which Mr. Tester was the president this year. It is a part-time job, with the Legislature holding regular sessions of 90 days only every other year.

Congress has done little to improve the lives of people living in the dying towns across rural America, Mr. Doherty said.

"When Jon talks about the cafe that's trying to hold on, the hardware store that just closed, the third generation that can't make a living on the farm, he is living that life," Mr. Doherty said.

Still, there was never a master plan, Mr. Tester said, for the arc that took him from soil conservation district leader to state senator to one of the victors who gave Democrats control of the Senate.

"I'm kind of a fatalist," he said, breaking into a smile. "The good Lord gives you opportunities."

And Mr. Tester learned quickly how to exploit those opportunities, running a bare-knuckle campaign against Mr. Burns, with a barrage of name-calling and negative advertisements making hay of the senator's ties to Jack Abramoff, the disgraced former Washington lobbyist.

Republicans complained that Mr. Tester's campaign was relentless and went overboard. Montana is a big state with a small population, where politicians are known on a first-name basis. The ferocity of such attacks seemed out of place, some here said.

Also, they said Mr. Tester favored measures while in the State Senate that had the effect of raising taxes on many of the small businesses that he promotes. They called him "Tater Tester" for much of election year.

But with his trademark flat-top refreshed every three weeks for $8 at the Riverview barber shop here in Great Falls — Mr. Tester was a tough target for Republicans to stereotype as "just another Washington insider," as one radio attack ad put it.

Republicans have kept their hold on the intermountain West in part by promoting issues known as the three G's: gays, guns and God.

On gays, Mr. Tester says the "sacred document" of the Constitution should not be amended to outlaw same-sex marriage, though he favored a state ban that voters passed in 2004. On guns, Mr. Tester is quite proficient in their use, and says anyone — Republican or Democrat — who tries to take his away will run into trouble. On God, Mr. Tester says simply that he is a churchgoer, and notes that he met his wife when he spotted her in a pew.

The fact is, I'm just a regular Montanan," he said. "Those issues are important, but what I heard from people is concern about health care, fiscal responsibility and how we're throwing so much money into a war."

Mr. Tester and his wife of 28 years, Shari, grow organic lentils, barley, peas and gluten-free grain in a county with 1.5 people per square mile. It is all earth and sky on the Tester family ground. A hundred years ago, a region with so few people was considered frontier.

Mr. Tester is very much in the mode of his longtime friend Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat who can be more prickly than Mr. Tester. The governor recalled a favorite moment with Mr. Tester from the last legislative session.

"We're sitting there in this room where governors and powerful people used to drink whiskey and smoke cigars, me and Jon, and both of us had a bag of sunflower seeds — Russian peanuts we call them — trying to spit the shells into a cup," Mr. Schweitzer said. "We looked at each other and laughed, like, What are we doing here?"

Republicans said that Mr. Tester was a favorite of "extreme liberal bloggers" and that the down-home persona masked an agenda out of step with much of America.

And indeed, the liberal Web site Daily Kos took up Mr. Tester's cause early. When he announced he was running for the Senate, he was an underdog to a better-financed and better-known Democrat who was being promoted by the party establishment.

After Mr. Tester won the primary by a huge margin, Daily Kos posted a picture of him on its site, with the caption, "Say hello to the next senator from the great state of Montana." Mr. Tester is also a favorite of the band Pearl Jam, which promotes many liberal causes. But his tie is personal. The area around the town of Big Sandy, population 688 and falling, produced not only Mr. Tester, but also Jeff Ament, the bassist for Pearl Jam. The band did a concert in Missoula this year for Mr. Tester.

On the campaign trail, Mr. Tester spoke often of how "regular folks" just "haven't been given much of a shake." He is distrustful of global trade agreements that have hurt farmers, and big drug companies and health maintenance organizations that he says have put medical costs out of reach for many people.

Asked why he became a Democrat in a region that has been overwhelmingly Republican for the last generation, Mr. Tester said: "It started with my parents, who always said the Democrats work for the middle class. And in agriculture, Franklin Roosevelt did a lot of good things."

Friends say not to worry about Mr. Tester going native in Washington. He said he planned to return home to the farm several times a month. He promised his barber, Bill Graves, that he would continue to come back to get his hair cut in the same wheat-field bristle.

"I haven't noticed a change yet," Mr. Graves said. "He's the same man. Got a real dry sense of humor. We talk about everything. And then he says, 'See you next time.'"
“He's a small farmer from the homestead,” a friend says of Jon Tester. “That's absolutely who he is.”

Fresh Off the Farm in Montana, a Senator-to-Be

By TIMOTHY EGAN

GREAT FALLS, Mont., Nov. 9 — When he joins the United States Senate in January, big Jon Tester — who is just under 300 pounds in his boots — will most likely be the only person in the world's most exclusive club who knows how to butcher a cow or grease a combine.

All his life, Mr. Tester, 50, has lived no more than two hours from his farm, an infinity of flat on the wind-swept expanse of north-central Montana, hard by the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation.

For all the talk about the new Democrats swept into office on Tues-

day, the senator-elect from Montana truly is your grandfather's Demo-

crat — a pro-gun, anti-big-business prairie pragmatist whose life is de-

fined by the treeless patch of hard Montana dirt that has been in the

family since 1916.

It is a place with 105-degree sum-

mer days and winter chills of 30 be-

low zero, where his grandparents are

buried, where his two children

learned to grow crops in a dry land

totally dependent on rainfall, and

where, he says, he earned barely

$20,000 a year farming over the last

decade.

“It's always been tight, trying to

make a living on that farm,” said Mr.

Tester, still looking dazed and blood-

shot-eyed after defeating Senator

Conrad Burns, a three-term incumbent, by fewer than 3,000 votes.

Chouteau County, where Mr. Test-

er lives on a homestead of 1,800

acres, lost 8.5 percent of its pop-

ulation in the last five years — typi-

cal of much of rural America that

has been in decline since the Dust

Bowl.

To make extra money, Mr. Tester

taught music to schoolchildren, and

still plays a decent trumpet despite

having only seven fingers (he lost the

rest to a meat grinder as a child). He

got into politics just eight years ago

in a sustained rage over what utility

Continued on Page A20
Men already practice polygamy openly, taking advantage of a stark imbalance of men and women due to Tajikistan's civil war, which killed as many as 100,000 people in the 1990s, an overwhelming majority of them men. This year, after several years of decline that followed the terrorist attacks of 2001, according to a survey to be released by the Institute of International Education.
Always Having to Say He’s Sorry

If there were a trapdoor that was somehow rigged to open beneath the U.S. senators we really don’t need, Conrad Burns of Montana would surely fall right through it.

Mr. Burns is a racially insensitive Republican whose re-election bid this year has been jeopardized by his dealings with the G.O.P. superlobbyist Jack Abramoff. Mr. Abramoff has pleaded guilty to charges of fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy to bribe public officials. Among other things, he’s admitted to bilking American Indians out of millions of dollars, and he’s said to be singing louder than the fat lady to federal investigators.

Mr. Burns is reported to have received more money in the form of campaign contributions from Mr. Abramoff and his favor-strewing friends than any other member of Congress. This has delighted his political opponents, who have tried to show that Mr. Burns and Mr. Abramoff were as close as a pair of prisoners sharing a single set of handcuffs.

When The Times asked whether he or members of his staff might get caught up in the federal investigation, Mr. Burns said he didn’t know. As he put it, “You can’t say yes and you can’t say no.”

The Abramoff scandal is just the latest issue to raise questions about Senator Burns’s fitness to hold high public office. You’ve heard of accidents waiting to happen? He’s an accident that happens again and again and again.

Back in 1994, while campaigning for a second term, Senator Burns dropped by a local newspaper, The Bozeman Daily Chronicle, and told an editor an anecdote about one of his constituents, a rancher who wanted to know what life was like in Washington.

Mr. Burns said the rancher asked him, “Conrad, how can you live back there with all those niggers?”

The appalling Senator Burns.

Senator Burns said he told the rancher it was “a hell of a challenge.”

The anecdote was published, and Senator Burns apologized. When he was asked why he hadn’t expressed any disapproval when the rancher used the word nigger, the senator said: “I don’t know. I never gave it much thought.”

Maybe he didn’t express any disapproval because he didn’t particularly disapprove. On another occasion Senator Burns had to apologize after giving a speech in Billings about America’s dependence on foreign sources of oil. In the speech, he referred to Arabs as “ragheads.”

“I regret the use of such an inappropriate term,” he said. “I hope I did not overshadow the serious substance of my remarks.”

Mr. Burns’s apologies have always been undermined by the serial nature of his offensive remarks. Last fall he upset a pair of female flight attendants after one of them, a mother with two children, asked him about outsourcing and the economy. She wondered what she would do if she lost her job. The senator reportedly replied that she could stay home and take care of her children.

A third flight attendant, after hearing the story, wrote an angry letter to Mr. Burns, saying, “Before you sit in judgment and make such ignorant statements, you really should stop and remember that we don’t all live in a ‘Leave It to Beaver’ world.”

It has always been this way with Conrad Burns. Back in 1991, immediately after a civil rights bill had been passed, he invited a group of lobbyists, some of them white and some of them black, to accompany him to an auction.

When asked what was being auctioned, he replied, “Slaves.”

The Washington Post quoted one of the lobbyists as saying: “We were floored. We couldn’t believe it.” Senator Burns later said he was talking about a charitable auction in which the services of individuals are sold.

When you consider that clowns like Conrad Burns can inhabit some of the highest offices in the land, it’s no longer such a mystery why the United States of America seems to be barreling down the wrong track at truly hair-raising speeds.

As we’ve found with the war in Iraq and so many other important issues, leadership matters. And serious leaders in the U.S. have been in dangerously short supply.

In response to questions about the Abramoff scandal, Mr. Burns has denied that he’s done anything wrong. And he dismisses concerns about the amount of money he received. “What’s the difference between one dollar and one thousand?” he said. “It’s all dollars. Just like you rob a bank down here. If you get a thousand you go to jail, and if you get a million you go to jail.”
650 GO to the nearest Sprint or Nextel Store
and at Nextel or Sprint retailers.

$99.99 purchase price is available to corporate-liable customers only. Additional Fees: $150 Sprint PCS early termination fee. $36 activation fee. A deposit pays from date of purchase and received by 4/18/06. Allow 8-10 weeks for receipt of rebate. For details, go to www.palm.com/sprintrebate. Palm is not responsible for sale. Service credits applied on customer invoice. Not available on lines/units that received service credits or instant savings associated with renewal or activation. "Every business" claim based on an independent survey of corporate-liable users. ©2006 Sprint Nextel. SPRINT, the "Going Forward" logo and other trademarks are used by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc., and any use of such marks is under license. All other product or service names are property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.
Dear Mr Doig,

I read in the Bainbridge Review that you’d be on the island reading from your new book about a school teacher in Helena in 1924 who taught privileged children. I had to come and get a copy. If the book were non-fiction, my mother could have been one of those children.

Her name was Gloria Braid Cook, (b: 1916) daughter of A. B. and Mary Cook. He, so it is said, raised the greatest purebred Hereford herd ever. (Cuba & Panama lines) The home ranch, called the Bedford Ranch, was in the valley now under water due to the building of the Canyon Ferry dam. A.B. and Mary both died when my mother was 11 and her guardian was Wellington Rankin. And THAT is a story. (the crook)

Her step-brother was Hervey Cook, murdered by three drunk indians (’scuse….native Americans) in the early 70’s. What happened to his estate is also interesting. Involves a few of the ‘good old boy’ attorneys from Helena, a boarding school back east, Sothebys Auction House, paintings by Rembrandt and van Dyke, a flawless 15 carat diamond that my mother called “the yellow bird,” yada yada. Truly, this is a saga even Danielle Steele would have trouble creating.

My mother moved to Hawaii before the war, (1038) met my father, married him in Honolulu the day after the blitz and had me a year later. She never returned to Helena to live although she occasionally visited. There is a piece of my heart that has always been in those Big Belts although I have not lived there either.

This last fall I took a few of her ashes to Montana and scattered them hither and yon, in places I thought she’d enjoy the view. I even scattered a few on the graves of two of her favorite Montana Club drinking buddies who I knew would howl with laughter shouting, “Ooohh, look who’s arrived!” (toast, toast) “Champagne all around….waiter, bring us another bottle.” I can hear the echoes of their voices now. And the clanking of silver dollars.

It would be fun to share her story with you. She used to say to me, “you should write a book about it all someday.” But alas, I have neither the talent nor the focus. Do call if you want to hear a doozie.

The best wishes for success with your new book. Your books have brought me many hours of happy reading. “Little Gloria”, as they called my mother, shared my enjoyment.

Sincerely, with Montana in my heart,
Carol Austin

(206) 842-1137
mcaustin22@aol.com (but I prefer the phone)

PS: I have a photo of her in a play at her Helena school. All the girls are lined up in sort of a chorus line in costume. I tried to find it to bring tonight but, alas, it is not at my fingertips. Would be fun to send you a copy when I find it. The real thing..................
Jo-Ann Swanson  
UGF Program Coordinator  
Associate Professor  

University of Great Falls  
1301 20th Street South  
Great Falls, Montana 59405  
(406) 756-8042  
(800) 303-3822  
fax (406) 756-3815  
jswanson@ugf.edu  

@Flathead Valley Community  
777 Grandview Drive  
Kalispell, Montana 59901
P.S. Just heard of Jim Welch's death today. What a shock!

Hi, Ivan.

Just a quick note. I received an e-mail that said 'Book REVIEW' on its subject line, and Kaput! our server died!

So I have no idea whether it was from the Western Historical Society or not. Do you by any chance have an e-mail or mailing address for the group? If they don't want me, Fine, but if they do, I'd hate to be considered rude — she doesn't even answer her e-mails. Since I know little about its address etc. I can't even find it on-line.

This summer has been HOT! Hot! Hot! I think it's going to start cooling in time for your return.

Hi to Cord. SASE enclosed! Ann

Aug 7/03
rodeo source if barrel-racing bgnd is needed for Lexa:

Jody Rempel, KRTV receptionist in Ft. Falls, whose husband Gary is professional pickup man @ big rodeos.

--summer phone #: (406)467-2174 (PO Box 459; Black Eagle MT 59414)

--winter(?) phone #: in Seattle: (206)286-5365

When I did the KRTV interview for Bucking the Sun on July 1, '96, Jody said they'd be glad to have us as their guests @ one of the big rodeos; at that point of the year, she listed the Omak Stampede, Ellensburg, & Pendleton. (E'burg might be the handiest and most logical for us? It's always Labor Day weekend. Invite the Nelsons?)
source: fellow guests (honeymooners abt to hike into the Bob Marshall) @ Ann & Walt Arnsmeyer’s Choteau b-&-b in June ’96 were:

Michael Downey of MT Dept. of Natural Resources
Ann (different last name), an environmental lobbyist

--Michael in particular expressed yearning to live in a small town like Choteau, eventually drawing a rather tight response from Ann Arnsmeyer about the difficulty, the lack of a living--Walt has been a UPS pilot based in Louisville KY, getting home to MT something like 6 days a month, for qtr century.
veterinarian Robert J. Brophy on changes in Bitterroot: (406) 363-2381

2 cdfs of notes of his good details transferred to "Keeping the Days" Details filebox (category "The Two Country," perhaps to be changed to "Twin Sulphur Springs")
Dr. Robert J. Brophy, Bitterroot Valley vet' n
"Domestic Animals as Indicator Species of Cultural Change"--'95 Missoula "Workable Future" conference

Brophy-
- 7500 to 0% of animals in 1970, in B't vet practice
- 25% of 0% of 20 yrs ago, no substitute farms left
- 10 dairy, elk from 50
- livestock auction as social event, 7: 30 AM
- " companion animals " x " pocket pets" (gerbils
  fish, hamsters, min. horses - 6 weeks pets)
- noted pop in 7 ranch migration, formerly
  navajos: no motion in 1 block long work x time needed
  on substitute farms
- mini VN mse 1750 sp. people 6'89-90 ($5,000/-now per)
- could live weighed 250 @ age 2.
- houses in exact middle of 20-a. lot, on gravel lawn
- blue man let's go away in flyover @ m
- people move in 8 cut alt egly fast
- " 6 or more ago "-- new way of telling years
- akin to abandoned hotels: but immedly re-occupied
- Road names have gone from San Bais to cut sides.
  - Bonanza hands... all them. Can't be to both Joe have
  - Kailite Trail & fences
  - Parallel lanes along property lines because people can't share a road
- My Lane: Rocky Rd, Gravel Rd etc.
- Place names unrecognizd; until Drumminin & El Rancho Costalotta; Pain-a-Dice

- Bustle bands now made up & not registered
- No trespassing signs up nobody'd want to go
  - Orange tape & gates
- People + demand's - instant once, unable to trust,
  - Experience not trusted; hearing curves ignored
- Opt for sprinted up my nose, unbroken; dreamt not results
- newcomers do not wanted water rights
  ("Whiskey" for drinking, water's for fighting)
- used to carry customers all up until calves sold.
- no sitting down, ag permitted for a meal
- squash/2 story
- "He do" neighbor w/ us "wants. Not's is dry's out.
- win store: had 0 barrels, only dealer w/ strange hat
  "truck driver" story (braille copy tennis shoes)
- dice bet w/ cowboy & nephew
- $300 to get along, but not to get out.
- 1/2 days: 12 m.
Belly River trail recommended by Ralph Waldt, Pine Butte Conservancy env't'l ed
guy: within last mile *I* nearing the Alberta border (on MT side), on W side of
road. (We saw it on our way into Canada)
MONTANANS, NEW AND OLD
AND THE SEARCH FOR A WORKABLE FUTURE

A Conference

SEPTEMBER 14-15, 1995

MONTANA THEATRE
PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Co-sponsored by
the Center for the Rocky Mountain West
and the Montana Committee for the Humanities
MONTANANS, NEW AND OLD, AND THE SEARCH FOR A WORKABLE FUTURE
Conference Schedule

All programs will be held in the Montana Theatre, unless indicated, and are free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00 am  Welcome and Introduction
William E. Farr, Director, Center for the Rocky Mountain West
Montana as Paradise – Lost and Found
John Taliaferro, biographer of C.M. Russell

9:45  BREAK

10:00  MONTANANS NEW AND OLD: INDIVIDUALS IN TRANSITION
Domestic Animals as Indicator Species of Cultural Change
Dr. Robert J. Brophy, veterinarian
Why Western Montana? Why Not?
Dr. James H. Oury, cardiac surgeon
Returning to Montana: An Issue of Trust
Raymon Thompson, founder and CEO, Semitool, Inc.

11:30  LUNCH (see attached form)

1:15  Welcome
George M. Dennison, President, The University of Montana
The West at Risk
Richard D. Lamm, Former Governor of Colorado

2:30  BREAK

2:45  CONNECTING THE PAST TO THE FUTURE: COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION
Post-Industrial Anaconda
Laurie Mercier, WSU-Vancouver/Center for Columbia River History
Butte: Making a Future Out of the Past
Donald R. Peoples, President/CEO, MSE, Inc.
Libby: A Timber Community in Transition
John C. Russell, Impact Assessment, Inc.
One Old Place in the Middle of Change
Ralph Beer, author and fifth-generation Montana rancher

5:00  Reception, Montana Theatre Lobby, Performing Arts Building

8:00 pm  Things of Intrinsic Worth
Wally McRae, poet and third-generation Montana rancher
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:00 am  TOWARD A WORKABLE FUTURE
An Economy In Transition:
James R. Scott, President
and Larry Swanson, CEO
Why Can't Montanans Make a Living?
Tom Kotynski, associate director
Beyond the Pretty Picture:
Jim Fleischmann, Executive Director

9:15  Mixture Development

10:30  BREAK

10:45  Conserving Our Heritage Today
Janet Cornish, community activist
Montana, Defined by Image
Dana Boussard, celebrant

11:45  TV Interview - 11:45

12:00  LUNCH (see attached form)

1:15  NEW LEADERSHIP IN OUR STATE
THE CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN
The Increased Role of Women in Montana
Rhonda Swaney, Vice Chair
Kootenai Tribes
The Tribal Community College
Margaret Perez, President
Initiating Cultural Changes
Marlene Bear Walter, Billings

2:45  BREAK

3:00  GOVERNING THE TRANSITION
Introduction
Jamie Doggett, Chair, Montana Community Access Committee
The Future of Montana: a Shadow
Governor Marc Racicot
Bringing It All Back Home
Mayor Daniel Kemmis

5:00  CONCLUSION

THE 1995 GOVERNOR'S HUMANITIES AWARD
THE MONTANA COMMUNITY ACCESS COMMITTEE SPONSORED

8:00 pm  Governor's Humanities Award recipient of the Award will be announced

9:30  Champagne Reception, Please make advance reservations

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS:

Marlene Bear Walter, Browning, MT
Ralph Beer, Clancy, MT
Dana Boussard, Arlee, MT
Robert J. Brophy, D.V.M., Hamilton, MT
Janet Cornish, Butte, MT
James R. Fleischmann, Missoula, MT
Mayor Daniel Kemmis, Missoula, MT
Tom Kotynski, Great Falls, MT
Governor Richard D. Lamm, Denver, CO
Wally McRae, Colstrip, MT
Laurie Mercier, Vancouver, WA
James H. Oury, M.D., Hamilton, MT
Donald R. Peoples, Butte, MT
Margaret Perez, Harlem, MT
Governor Marc Racicot, Helena, MT
John C. Russell, Placerville, CA
James R. Scott, Billings, MT
Rhonda Swaney, St. Ignatius, MT
Larry D. Swanson, Missoula, MT
John Taliaferro, Pray, MT
Raymon Thompson, Kalispell, MT

CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

Center for the
Rocky Mountain West

Montana Committee for the Humanities
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00 am  TOWARD A WORKABLE FUTURE: ECONOMIC ELEMENTS IN THE MOSAIC
An Economy In Transition: A Regional Perspective
James R. Scott, President, First Interstate BancSystem Foundation,
and Larry Swanson, Center for the Rocky Mountain West, UM
Why Can't Montanans Make it Here? Why Must They Leave?
Tom Kotynski, associate editor and journalist, Great Falls Tribune
Beyond the Pretty Picture: The Other Montana
Jim Fleischmann, Executive Director, Montana People's Action

10:30  BREAK

10:45  Conserving Our Heritage Through Tourism
Janet Cornish, community development specialist
Montana, Defined by Images
Dana Boussard, celebrated Montana artist

11:45  LUNCH (see attached form)

1:15  NEW LEADERSHIP IN OLD PLACES:
THE CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN RESERVATION COMMUNITIES
The Increased Role of Women in Tribal Politics
Rhonda Swaney, Vice Chairwoman, Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes
The Tribal Community College as Agent for Change
Margaret Perez, President, Fort Belknap College
Initiating Cultural Changes Among the Blackfoot Confederacy
Marlene Bear Walter, Business Councilwoman, Blackfeet Nation

2:45  BREAK

3:00  GOVERNING THE TRANSITION: A SUMMATION
Introduction
Jamie Doggett, Chair, Montana Committee for the Humanities
The Future of Montana: a State Perspective
Governor Marc Racicot
Bringing It All Back Home
Mayor Daniel Kemmis, Missoula, Montana

5:00  CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE

THE 1995 GOVERNOR'S HUMANITIES AWARDS
SPONSORED BY
THE MONTANA COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES

8:00 pm  Governor's Humanities Awards, with a reading by Ivan Doig,
recipient of the Award for Scholarship, Montana Theatre, UM

9:30  Champagne Reception, Presidents Room, Brantly Hall, UM
advance reservations required (see attached form)
Conference meal registrations must be received by September 12, 1995.

Name

Address

Daytime phone

Please make checks payable to: MCH.
Mail your check and registration form to:
MCH, P.O. Box 8036, Missoula, MT 59807.

Costs per person:

Optional Thursday lunch $8.50
Optional Friday lunch $8.50
Optional Governor's Humanities Awards
Champagne Reception $10.00

Please accept my tax deductible contribution to the conference sponsors to help offset the cost of this conference...

TOTAL ENCLOSED
Connecting Joseph Kinsey Howard, Ivan Doig, and Willa Cather to Local Folklore
Gibbon/Lamar; Conference Center

Tim Schaff
Montana Heritage Project; Roundup High School

High School Level

Bring together Joseph Kinsey Howard, Ivan Doig, and Willa Cather so students can connect literature and academic disciplines within the school while they forge new connections with community members outside the school.

Humans Embedded in Place: Interrogating Social and Physical Space in Science Fiction and Fantasy
Theodore Roosevelt Amphitheater; Conference Center

Diana Pharaoh Francis, Susan Pelle, and David Carlson
Western Montana College; Miami University; University of California

High School - College Level

Researchers will participate in a discussion of the relationship of humans to their physical and social spaces in fantastic literature employing theories of transcendentalism, post-colonialism, and feminism. The three papers selected for this panel will explore a range of issues, looking closely at social and physical place and placement.

Concurrent Sessions Sunday 9:15 - 11:15

Newsworthy Characters: Writing and Sculpting Historical Conversations
Cheyenne North/South; Huntley Lodge

Toni Gies and Dale Alger
Roundup High School; Montana Heritage Project

Middle School - High School Level

Participants will utilize photographs and newspapers as springboards for writing conversational essays and for sculpting clay characters. All supplies provided and no previous sculpting experience necessary. The program promises politically incorrect historical materials and creative interpretations as classroom teachers and teacher educators write an essay about place using historical conversations and then create a set of conversants in clay.

Concurrent Sessions Sunday 9:45 - 10:45

Learning and Serving Through “The Cabin Project”
Obsidian; Conference Center

Pat Ingraham and Joan Traylor
Ophir School, Montana

Middle School Level

In this session, students, teachers, and administrators will share the importance of “sense of place” through a presentation of this Learn & Serve project in this small rural Montana school. Participants will learn how middle school students study the history and environmental features of their community in the middle of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and how they develop products to share this information with the wider community.
Concurrent Sessions  

Sunday 8:00 - 9:00

Creating Classroom Environments That Invite Students to Explore Their Responses to Literature  
**Beverly Ann Chin**  
University of Montana  
Middle School - High School

Learn strategies that help students grow more competent and confident in discussing literature. Examples of reader response questions and activities for young adult literature will be presented.

From Home to the World: Enhancing a Sense of Place in Children’s Picture Books  
**Paul Gregorio**  
Portland State University  
Elementary Level

This program will provide an examination of recent fiction and nonfiction picture books for elementary school students that connect readers from their homes to children in other countries.

Pass the Poetry: Experiencing Place in the High School Classroom  
**Tamara Van Wybe and Lucille Rosbach**  
Kenny Lake School, Alaska  
Idalia High School, Colorado  
High School Level

Regular reading, writing, and online discussion of poetry leads to a provocative examination of students’ understanding of place and develops community that defies traditional boundaries.

Concurrent Sessions  

Sunday 8:00 - 9:30

The Richard Hugo, CyberLinks, Millennial Express  
**Greg Lenihan, Robin Hamilton, and Harry Gadbow**  
Hellgate High School, Montana  
Middle School - High School Level

Students of the consummate observer and recorder of Montana places, Richard Hugo, will discuss their debt to the poet as writer, mentor, and performer.
You are Invited on a Brief Tour of Our Town

FORT BENTON

The Birthplace of Montana

Lewis & Clark Memorial

FORT BENTON is the county seat of Chouteau County, a primarily agricultural county, and one of the biggest wheat-producing counties in the nation. The original Chouteau County, organized in February 1865, included all the territory from Malta to the Continental Divide, and from Lewistown north to the Canadian border.

Fort Benton was founded in 1846 as an American Fur Trading Post by Major Alexander Culbertson. Originally named Fort Lewis, it was renamed in 1850 in honor of Senator Thomas H. Benton of Missouri. Fort Benton was the eastern terminus of the famed Mullan Trail, surveyed in 1835 and completed in 1839, for the purpose of connecting the head of navigation on the Missouri River, at Fort Benton, with the head of navigation on the Columbia River, at Walla Walla, Washington. We were the western end of an overland emigration route from Fort Snelling, Minnesota, opened in 1826 by Captain James L. Fisk. From 1870 to 1880 Fort Benton was the southern staging point of the legendary Whoop-Up Trail leading to Fort Macleod, Alberta, Canada. For years the flow of goods, ranging from “Indian whiskey” to supplies for the Mountains fighting the illicit whiskey trade, made the settlement of western Canada truly an international affair.

The town tour starts here at the museum and the first five points of interest can be seen within easy walking distance of the museum.

1. Fort Benton Museum - Located in the Old Fort Park, the museum is open from mid-May to mid-September, and at other times by appointment. Work on the museum was started in 1957 as a community enterprise using volunteer workers and maintained by the Community Improvement Association. The displays depict the early history of the Fort Benton area. It is also a regional museum as Fort Benton’s role as a trade and transportation center involved much of the history of Montana, northwest U.S., and western Canada from the 1840’s until 1887. A display in the museum also calls attention to five of Fort Benton’s high-ranking military men, two generals and three admirals: Brig. General Karl K. Loutcher who enlisted in Marines in 1825, came up from the ranks to retire in 1946; Major General Raymond W. Curtis (USNA ’27), retired in 1941; Rear Admiral Louis Dent Sharp (USNA ’24), retired in 1954; Vice Admiral George C. Towner (USNA ’24), retired in 1960; and Admiral U.S. Grant Sharp, Jr. (USNA ’27), who was Commander-in-Chief U.S. Forces Pacific before his retirement in 1962.

Today the longest, essentially unspoiled segment of the once-mighty Missouri River lies between Fort Benton and the Fred Robinson Bridge (Highway US 191) some 150 river miles downstream. This area has been included in the federal government’s designation as a Wild and Scenic River. The rapidly-growing interest in the conservation of wild and scenic areas is best seen to be Fort Benton’s tourist business. Once again we are a principal departure point for Missouri River traffic, consisting of a stream of boating and canoeing parties, many outfitted and guided by local concerns, and hued by the fabulous White Cliffs and splendid solitude of the Missouri Breaks.

2. World War I Memorial - The monument was dedicated on November 11, 1923 and carries the names of the 71 men from Chouteau County who died in the service of their country. This was the first monument of the “Doughboy” dedicated in Montana.

3. Lewis and Clark State Memorial - The Lewis and Clark statue at the Lewis & Clark Memorial is the official State of Montana memorial to the expedition of 1804-1806. First commissioned in 1929 by the Montana legislature, the project was dropped due to lack of funding. In 1972 a group of Montana residents renewed efforts for the memorial resulting in the bronze statue by Bob Scriven, Browning, with dedication held June 13, 1976 as part of Fort Benton’s Bicentennial celebration. Costs for the project (about $175,000) were met by sale of replica bronzes, with no cost to the state or federal governments.

4. Keelboat Mandan - On the levee one block south of the museum stands a replica of the keelboat Mandan. It was originally built for the filming of the movie “The Big Sky” and was moved to Fort Benton in the spring of 1964 by NBC for Ted Yates’ filming of the “Lewis and Clark Story” for television.

5. Ruins of Old Fort Benton - Back of the museum in the park are the remains of the old fort built in 1847. There are signs on the sites of the buildings of the fort. It was enclosed by a fourteen-foot high wall and had two bastions on opposite corners. One of these bastions remains but is stuccoed to preserve it from the weather. Originally the fort was of log but over a ten-year-period the log was replaced by adobe blocks. Later it was occupied by the 21st Infantry, U.S. Army, and also served as the Blackfoot Indian Agency. It finally was abandoned in the 1870’s and served its last days as homes for private citizens.

6. and 7. Swimming Pool and Tennis Courts - Both of these recreational facilities were built in the 1950’s and are for public use.

8. Parking - Next to the park, swimming pool and restroom facilities is a place for overnight camper parking, but there are no hookups.

9. Sunrise Ruff Estates - This 80-unit retirement home was a major project of the Fort Benton Community Improvement Association and was begun with a $140,000 bequest from the estates of Homer and Minnie Shepherd, early-day residents of this county. It is located near the lower portion of the old Fort Benton steamboat levee which has been designated a National Historic Landmark. Work was begun in June 1976 after approval of a long-term loan by HUD.

10. Shep - The story of Shep, originally written by Ed Shields, a conductor on a train going through Fort Benton, is that of a faithful dog. Shep’s story began in August 1936 when his master’s body was put aboard a train at the depot for shipment back East for burial. He spent the next 5½ years meeting every train, waiting for the master to return. Shep met his death on January 12, 1942, when he was run over by one of the trains he had been so faithfully meeting. He is buried on a hill overlooking the depot, and the Great Northern employees erected a profile monument and concrete marker over his grave.

11. Signal Point Golf Course - On the hill beyond Shep’s grave is a modern nine-hole course with grass greens which is also for the enjoyment of our visitors.

12. Old Catholic Church - The church was built in 1908, replacing a frame structure which burned. However, Fathers DeSmet and Point celebrated masses in the area as early as September 1846. Father Point wintered at the fort and had both a chapel and classroom. He insisted on the validation of marriages between white men and Indian women.

13. C.E. Conrad Home - This home was built in 1880 by one of the Conrad brothers who operated the I.G. Baker Company. Conrad later moved to the Kalispell area and built a mansion there that is now a National Historic Site.
14. St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Recently restored, St. Paul's is one of the oldest churches in Montana. Nearly $3000 was subscribed for a church building in January 1880, and the building was begun on about August 1, 1880. Before it was completed, services had been held in an abandoned saloon, later in which was called "The Frontier Room," and later in the Court House. It is now open; stop in for a visit.

15. Chouteau County Court House - This building was completed in 1884 by Gus Senieur, the third oldest in the state. The adjacent jail was built in 1881 and cost an early county sheriff his job; voters at the next election considered the cost too high ($15,000) and prisoners coddled while worthier residents couldn't find housing.

16. Landmark Cafe Building - On the corner of Front Street and 13th, the structure was built in 1880 by Murphy, Neel and Company and was the largest single business house in Montana. Bricks for the building were from the Fort Benton brickyard. Merchandise included iron roofing, liquor, Singer sewing machines, barbed wire, farm reapers and groceries. W.M. Davis and Sons bought the building in 1905 for the operation of a grocery store; at the death of the father, the business was carried on as Davis Bros. Grocery, changing to a cafe in 1963.

17. Chouteau County Memorial Bridge - One of the few Montana bridges built with county and federal money, the bridge was dedicated July 4, 1963. It cost approximately $336,298 or roughly ten times the cost of the 15th Street Bridge.

18. Grand Union Hotel - The Grand Union Hotel, designated as a National Historic Landmark, is one of the oldest hotels in Montana, opening for business in 1882 by Steven Spitzley and Company. Since it was right on the river and also a stage stop, the $50,000 building was a luxury stop for river and overland travelers, where they could see and enjoy some of the finest elements of eastern civilization. Some of the original lobby furniture is still in use.

19. Signs and Lever - From the front of the Grand Union Hotel to the Old Fort extended the steamboat levee which in early days was piled high with freight during the spring and summer months. Freight was then hauled by ox and mule teams to all points in the Northwest. Also along this stretch are signs to help tell the early story of Fort Benton when it was a booming trade center.

20. Old Firehouse - The brick structure near the old bridge was built in 1883 as a fire engine house at a cost of $710. That year citizens also bought a new steam-powered engine and hook-and-ladder outfit, and two hose carts in the East which were shipped by steamboat.

21. Old Steel Bridge - This structure marks the official head of navigation on the Missouri River as fixed by the U.S. Army engineers. This was as far as the small, so-called "mountain steamboats" could come, bringing as much as four hundred tons of cargo up the twisting, shallow Missouri River to land that freight on the levee at Fort Benton - a "trip to the mountains" for St. Louis rivermen. From here the freight was shipped hundreds of miles overland, playing a vital role in the settling of the West. The 748-foot long bridge was built by the Benton Bridge Company, formed in 1886, at an estimated cost of $40,000; later the Chamber of Commerce boosted the estimate to $60,000. In June 1896 Chouteau County bought the bridge for $9999.50. A big draw span went down in the flood of June 1908. It required permission of the government engineers to replace it with a permanent span which would impede navigation. There was not much to impede. The arrival of the railroad in 1887 had sounded the death knell of the river traffic. In 1878 sixty steamboats had come up the river. In 1888 only four made the trip, the last load of river-borne freight arrived in 1890.

22. Chouteau County Library - A Carnegie library, it was built in 1896 and serves the people of the county and you, too, the visitor.

23. Old Benton Record Building - This structure housed Fort Benton's first newspaper. It was built in 1879 and had a third story with a mansard roof.

24. I.G. Baker House - Built in 1867 the I.G. Baker house, one of two adobe houses in Fort Benton, is next door to the Chouteau House and has been restored. It is now open to the public. Pioneer businessman I.G. Baker and a number of early-day families lived here. It was built by Baker whose daughter was born here. Brother Van Orsdal, pioneer Methodist minister, was a frequent guest in this home, which was also used as a residence for the military officers. It has been said that General Meagher, one of Montana's territorial governors, ate his last dinner in the Baker home before his death in 1867.

25. Chouteau House - There are several key locations in Fort Benton's history and the Chouteau House is one of these. First conducted during the 1860's by a Mrs. Thwing, it was known as The Thwing House. This was the original deluxe establishment of its kind, with silver gracing the tables and other frills for the most part unknown in frontier towns.

There are an impressive number of other business houses along Front Street that date back to the steamboat days of the 1880's when Fort Benton was the third largest municipality in Montana, and freighting and stage line hub. You may also want to drive our city's streets to view some of the many lovely homes, both old and new, we have to offer the sightseer.
Jo-Ann Swanson, during our June '03 MT trip:

newly moved to Flathead Lake area, she misses the plains (Gt Falls etc.) sense of community, which she attributes to homesteading, vs. the Flathead area's sometimes selfish individualism.

--in light of her interest in Scottish roots of writers, she's been studying Sorley Maclean.

--and she's spending the summer bartending, list time since college.

--she's Canadian, from I think northern Manitoba, where there's diamond mining.
Siege Trail

Big Hole National Battlefield

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR
Touring the Battlefield

The battle of The Little Bighorn has fascinated people around the world for more than a century. For many, it has come to illustrate a part of what Americans know as their western heritage. Heroism and tragedy, brainwash and humiliation, victory and defeat—these are things people come here to ponder.

The battlefield tour begins at the Reno-Benteen site, 7 kilometers (4.5 miles) from the park visitor center. (Wayside exhibits are best understood if viewed in sequence on the return trip.) We suggest you stop at the visitor center before starting your tour. Park rangers are on duty to answer questions and help you plan your day. After the tour, a second stop at the visitor center, which has museum displays and literature about the battle, will make your visit complete.

The following brief descriptions of the tour stops are keyed by number to the map below.

1. Reno-Benteen Battlefield Major Reno, leading three companies of Custer's divided command, met the first attack of Indian warriors on the afternoon of June 25th. Forced to retreat, his men took positions on these bluffs and were soon joined by Captain Benteen's men. Until the Indians left the next day, Reno and Benteen were held to defensive action in the vicinity of the 7th Cavalry Memorial. Interpretive markers show Indian and cavalry movements.

2. Weir Point Hoping to locate Custer, Captain Weir moved forward to this high hill. By the time he reached here, however, the firing had stopped. Another Indian attack forced Weir off the hill.

3. Calhoun Ridge Interpretive signs along the crest of this ridge identify groups of markers where the men of Company L fell in the battle. Marble markers between Calhoun Ridge and Custer Hill indicate where the men of Companies F and I perished.

4. Custer Hill From here you can see most of the battlefield and the valley in which the Indian village was located. On the west side of the hill just below the monument, a cluster of 52 markers shows as nearly as possible where the remnants of Custer's battalion gathered for the 'last stand.' Custer, his brothers Tom and Boston, and his nephew 'Aute' Reed were all found in this group. The markers indicating where C and E Companies were overwhelmed can be seen west of the monument on a knoll between the hill and the river.

The first graves of Custer and his men were dug in great haste over the entire battlefield in the places where the soldiers had fallen. Then, in 1881, as many graves as could be found were reopened and the bodies reinterred in a common grave around the base of the memorial shaft bearing the names of all the dead. The bodies of 11 officers and two civilians already had been exhumed for burial elsewhere at the request of relatives. Custer's remains were reburied at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., on October 10, 1877.

5. National Cemetery Within walking distance of the visitor center is Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, a relatively small burial ground contained within the boundaries of the larger battlefield. Of those killed in the battle, only a few unidentified remains and the body of Lt. John C. Crittenberger are in the cemetery. Soldiers killed in other Indian engagements on the Northern Plains are also buried here, along with servicemen of World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Originally the battlefield was maintained as a national cemetery under the jurisdiction of the War Department. The brown stone lodge, built in 1894, served for many years as quarters for the superintendents, who were known to the Indians as the 'Ghost Herdies.'

For Safety's Sake Remember, you are in rattlesnake country. Please stay on the pathways while walking the battlefield. Rangers will offer prompt assistance in case of accidents, but you can prevent them from happening by being watchful and careful.
A Clash of Cultures
Custer Battlefield National Monument memorializes one of the last armed conflicts of the Northern Plains Indians to preserve their ancestral way of life. Here in the valley of the Little Bighorn River, on June 25, 1876, more than 260 soldiers and attached personnel of the U.S. Army met defeat and death at the hands of several thousand Sioux and Cheyenne warriors. Among the dead were Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and every member of his immediate command. Although the Indians won the battle, they subsequently lost the war against the white man's efforts to end their independent, nomadic way of life.

The Battle of the Little Bighorn was but the latest encounter in a centuries-long conflict that began with the arrival of the first Europeans in North America. That conflict between Indian and white cultures had continued relentlessly—sometimes around the campfire, sometimes at treaty grounds, but more often on the battlefield. It reached its peak in the decade following the Civil War, when settlers resoundingly westward movement. These western emigrants, possessing little or no understanding of the Indian way of life, showed scant regard for the sanctity of hunting grounds or the terms of former treaties. The Indians' resistance to these encroachments on their domain only served to intensify hostilities.

In 1868, believing it “cheaper to feed than to fight the Indians,” representatives of the U.S. Government signed a treaty at Fort Laramie, Wyo., with the Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes of the Great Plains, by which a large area in eastern Wyoming was designated a permanent Indian reservation. The government promised to protect the Indians against the commission of all depredations by people of the United States.

Peacemaking, however, was not to last. In 1874 gold was discovered in the Black Hills, the heart of the new Indian reservation. News of the strike spread quickly, and soon thousands of eager gold seekers swarmed into the region in violation of the Fort Laramie treaty. The army tried to keep them out, but to no avail. Efforts to buy the Black Hills from the Indians, and thus avoid another confrontation, proved unsuccessful.

In growing defiance, the Sioux and Cheyenne left the reservation and resumed raids on settlements and travelers along the fringes of Indian domain. In December 1875, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs ordered the tribes to return before January 31, 1876, or be treated as hostiles by the military force. When the Indians did not comply, the army was called in to enforce the order.

The Campaign of 1876
The army's campaign against the Sioux and Cheyenne was carried out by three separate expeditions—one under Gen. George Crook from Fort Fetterman in Wyoming Territory; another under Col. John Gibbon from Fort Ellis in Montana Territory; and the third under Gen. Alfred H. Terry from Fort Abraham Lincoln in Dakota Territory. These columns were to converge on the main body of the Indians concentrated in southeastern Montana under the leadership of Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and other war chiefs.

Crook's troopers were knocked out of the campaign in mid-June when they clashed with a large Sioux-Cheyenne force along the Rosebud River and were forced to withdraw. The Indians, full of confidence, had thrown back one of the army's columns, moved west toward the Little Bighorn River. Meanwhile, Terry and Gibbon met on the Yellowstone River near the mouth of the Rosebud. Hoping to find the Indians in the Little Bighorn Valley, Terry ordered Custer and the 7th Cavalry up the Rosebud to approach the Little Bighorn from the south. Terry himself would accompany Gibbon's force back up the Yellowstone and Bighorn Rivers to approach from the north.

The 7th Cavalry, numbering about 600 men, located the Indian camp at dawn on June 25. Custer, probably underestimating the size and fighting power of the Sioux and Cheyenne forces, divided his regiment into three battalions. He retained five companies under his immediate command and assigned three companies each to Maj. Marcus A. Reno and Capt. Frederick W. Benteen. A twelfth was assigned to guard the slow-moving pack train.

Benteen was ordered to scout the bluffs to the south, while Custer and Reno headed toward the Indian village in the valley of the Little Bighorn. When near the river, Custer turned north toward the lower end of the encampment.

Reno, ordered to cross the river and attack, advanced down the valley to strike the upper end of the camp. As he neared the present site of Gardnerville, a large force of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors rode out from the southern edge of the Indian village to intercept him. Forming his men into a line of battle, Reno attempted to make a stand, but there were just too many Indians. Outflanked, he was soon forced to retreat in disorder to the river and take defensive positions on the bluffs beyond. Here he was joined by Benteen, who had hurried forward under written orders from Custer to "Come on; Big village, be quick, bring packs."

No one knew precisely where Custer and his command had gone, but heavy gunfire to the north indicated that he too had come under attack. As soon as ammunition could be distributed, Reno and Benteen put their troops in motion northward. An advance company under Capt. Thomas B. Warren marched about a mile downstream to a high hill (afterwards named War Point), from which the area now known as the Custer battlefield was visible. By now the firing had stopped and nothing could be seen of Custer and his men. When the rest of the soldiers arrived on the hill, they were attacked by a large force of Indians, and Reno ordered a withdrawal to the original position on the bluffs overlooking the Little Bighorn. Here these seven companies entrenched and held their defenses throughout that day and most of the next, returning the Indians' fire and successfully discouraging attempts to storm their position. This siege ended when the Indians withdrew upon the approach of the columns under Terry and Gibbon.

Meantime, Custer had ridden into history and legend. His precise movements after separating from Reno have never been determined, but vivid accounts of the battle by Indians who participated in it tell how his command was surrounded and destroyed in fierce fighting. Northern Cheyenne Chief Two Moons recalled that "the shooting was quick, quick. Pop-pop-pop very fast. Some of the soldiers were down on their knees, some standing... The smoke was like a great cloud, and everywhere the Sioux went the dust rose like smoke. We circled all around him—swirling like water around a stone. We shot, we rode fast, we shot again. Soldiers drop, and horses fall on them."

In the battle, the 7th Cavalry lost the five companies (C, E, F, I, and L) under Custer, about 250 men. Of the other companies of the regiment, under Reno and Benteen, 47 men were killed and 52 wounded. The Indians lost no more than 100 killed. They removed most of their dead from the battlefield when the large village broke up. The tribes and families scattered, some going north, some going south. Most of them returned to the reservations and surrendered in the next few years.
SYMBOLS of MONTANA

By Rex C. Myers and Norma B. Ashby
Booklet details origins of state’s official symbols

By RICHARD ECKE
Tribune Staff Writer
Montana’s schoolchildren have had a big say about the state’s official symbols, according to a new book published by the Montana Historical Society Foundation.
Schoolchildren have selected the official state bird, tree and animal, and also played a role in the selection of official state ballad and the official state fossil, according to a booklet by Norma Ashby of Great Falls and Rex C. Myers of South Dakota.
The full-color, 33-page booklet details the origins of the state’s 12 symbols.
In 1908, for instance, Helena schoolchildren held a referendum and decided that the ponderosa pine, rather than the fir, larch or cottonwood, should be the state tree.
In 1930, Montana school kids selected the Western meadowlark as the official state bird.
And, in 1982, children in 425 schools decided by a 2-1 margin that the grizzly bear, rather than the elk, should be the official state animal.
Legislators could hardly say no, and in each case agreed with the youths’ decisions. The official tree took the longest to gain approval, however, as legislators acted 41 years after the children had voted.
The bird and animal votes in the Legislature came in the year following the voting in schools.
Various groups helped choose other symbols. Montana’s Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs helped pick the official state gemstones, the sapphire and agate. The Women’s Christian Temperance Union in Montana chose the Bitterroot as state flower in 1891, a decision affirmed in a subsequent vote by the public, and action by the Legislature in 1895.
In 1983, state legislators took flak when they considered a plan to replace the state song, “Montana,” with a new one called “Montana Melody.” As a compromise, legislators labeled “Montana Melody,” by LeGrande and Carleen Harvey, as the official state ballad, and retained “Montana” as the state song.
According to the booklet, the song “Montana” was written “literally overnight in September of 1910.” The wife of a prominent Butte businessman was attending a play produced by Joseph E. Howard, and in a party afterward chided Howard for including the song “Illinois” in his show. She then turned to Charles C. Cohan, city editor for the Butte Miner, and suggested he help Howard write a theme song for Montana.
Cohan and Howard retired to a nearby music room, and came up with a basic melody and lyrics in a half-hour. They finished the song overnight, and the new song became the state’s official tune in 1945.
Most people know “Montana” for its oft-sung chorus, but the booklet prints the words of the song in full, including the obscure first and second verses.
Most unusual of the 12 symbols is the state fossil, honoring fossils of the duck-billed dinosaur, discovered in the Choteau area in recent years.
School students in Livingston helped push for the designation.
Copies of the booklet have been mailed free to all public-school libraries in Montana by the Office of Public Instruction; to all non-public school libraries by the Association of Non-Public Schools in Montana; and to all special, institutional, academic and public libraries in the state by the Montana State Library.
Published by the Montana Historical Society Foundation, the booklet was funded by grants from the Burlington Northern Foundation, the Office of Public Instruction, Bill Sherman of Portland, Ore., and Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, Alpha Mu State, Montana.
Myers, booklet co-author, wrote the original about the state’s symbols in 1976 when he was reference librarian at the Montana Historical Society. He later taught at Western Montana College at Dillon, and currently is dean of arts and science at South Dakota State University.
Myers two years ago contacted Ashby to see if she was interested in helping put out an updated version of the booklet. Ashby did research and wrote about the four additional symbols approved since 1976. Ashby, was hostess and producer of the “Today in Montana” television program for 22½ years.
The booklet is designed for use by teachers, students, historians, researchers and the general public.
Additional copies may be obtained from the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59620. The cost is $3.50 each. Postage is $1 for up to three booklets, and 50 cents for each additional copy. All proceeds go to the Montana Historical Society Foundation.
2/7/70

Dear Evan,

It was good to talk to both you & Carol today. I’m excited about “Ride With Me Maria Montana” & can hardly wait to get a copy. Thanks for including Great Falls on your book promotional tour this fall. The Cascade County Historical Society would love to sponsor a meeting for you & will work with Kathy Whidden at Hastings in promoting your book. Please keep posted on your schedule.

1989 was a great year for both Montana & Wash. (V N & S. D.) & now it’s Idaho & Wyoming’s turn to celebrate 100 years.

My advance congratulations on the 3rd book in your Montana Trilogy!

Warm Wishes,

Norma

We have the first professional chapter of WICI in MT now & in 80 yrs. ago it started at the U of MT as Carol knows it started at the U of WA. (as Theta Sigma Phi, honorary for women in journalism).
INCREASED FUNDS REQUESTED FOR WE THE PEOPLE

Earlier this spring, President George W. Bush and the National Endowment for the Humanities requested a significant increase in funding to support the agency’s We the People special initiative on American history, culture, and civics. A major commitment of $25 million was requested for the first year (FY 2004) of this multi-year initiative, which would enable the Endowment to establish and implement an ambitious program for the American people focused on the nation’s history, culture, ideals, and principles. At a White House Forum May 1st, the President increased his request to $100 million, covering the 2005 and 2006 fiscal years as well. Information about the program can be found at www.wethepeople.gov.

The FY 2004 request builds upon and greatly expands the initiative NEH first outlined in February, 2002, in its FY 2003 appropriations request to Congress. The funding the Endowment requests for We the People will support significant projects and programs throughout the United States. We the People will consist of special projects sponsored directly by NEH as well as special emphases and grant opportunities supported through the agency’s core program categories. The initiative’s key programming components will include:

- Major expansion of the NEH Seminars and Institutes program to provide humanities teachers with additional opportunities to study significant texts on American history and culture under the guidance of distinguished scholars and educators in the field.
- Support for model curriculum projects to help schools establish or improve course offerings in American history, culture, and civics. Exemplary curricula will help students learn about the people and events that built our nation.
- A new category of grants in support of intensive two-week summer academies for school principals centered on American history, culture, and institutions. Principals participating in the academies would study key texts, documents, and historical and cultural events of our nation. Participants also would learn how to evaluate curricula and programs in American history and civics and to develop strategies for improving student interest and proficiency in the study of our country.
- A pilot project—“Landmarks of American History”—in support of summer enrichment programs for teachers at important historical sites around the nation, such as presidential homes, battlefields, and archaeological sites.
- Support for local and statewide projects on American history, culture, and civics sponsored by the 56 state humanities councils, essential NEH partners who will help to ensure that the We the People initiative reaches throughout every state and territory.
- Funding to inaugurate an annual National History Bee focused on We the People themes. Educational and cultural organizations, including the state humanities councils, would be invited to organize and participate in the Bee.
- Enhanced support for American Editions and Reference Works, fundamental scholarly resources for understanding who we are as a nation. Over the years, hundreds of these works have been produced and printed with support from NEH. Special We the People funding competitions will support the digitization and mounting on the World Wide Web of these incomparably rich materials, thus making them widely accessible to students, educators, scholars, and anyone with Internet access.
- A major effort to convert microfilms of historical newspapers from every state in the nation into digital files and to mount them on a national database that would be accessible to all Americans free via the Internet. This searchable textbase would serve as a permanent resource for the American people and for education, research, and public programming related to We the People themes.
- Special exhibitions in museums and historical organizations and reading and lecture programs in libraries for out-of-school audiences keyed to We the People themes.
- Major grant solicitation in all NEH programs in support of projects that focus on the teaching, study, and understanding of American history, culture, and civics

“MCH enthusiastically supports increased funding for NEH, and especially the ‘We the People’ initiative,” said MCH executive director Mark Sherouse. “We urge our constituencies to let Congress, and especially members of Montana’s delegation, know of the need for and importance of the ‘We the People’ initiative.”
MCH Welcomes New Committee Members

This February the Montana Committee for the Humanities welcomed five new members. Elected last November, they will serve through 2006.

Bill Bickle (Miles City) is a senior vice president and chief financial officer of Stockman Financial Corporation and Stockman Bank of Montana, which he joined in 1987 as an internal auditor. A bibliophile, he is a trustee of the Miles City Public Library and a past board member or officer with Miles Community College, the Custer County Local Government Study Commission, the Southeastern Montana Livestock Association, and the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Danell Jones (Billings) is special projects editor for the Advanced Placement Program of the College Board. Her previous appointments in teaching and administration have been at the University of Denver, Columbia University, Rocky Mountain College, Montana State University-Billings, and elsewhere. A poet, she holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, San Diego, and advanced degrees, including her doctorate, in English and comparative literature, from Columbia University.

Henrietta Mann (Bozeman) is a full-blood Cheyenne enrolled with the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. She holds the endowed chair in Native American Studies at Montana State University–Bozeman. She taught at The University of Montana–Missoula, for twenty-eight years where she was a professor of Native American Studies. She also has taught at the University of California, Berkeley, Harvard University, and Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Among her other positions have been director of the Office of Indian Education Programs and deputy to the assistant secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She also was the national coordinator of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Coalition for the Association of American Indian Affairs. In 2000, she was awarded a Montana Governor’s Humanities Award.

Deirdre Shaw (West Glacier) is museum curator for Glacier National Park. She has worked previously in museum and interpretive services at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site and at Death Valley National Park. In Montana she has served as member and vice chair of the Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee (Montana Cultural Trust), as president of the Museums Association of Montana, and as board member of the Hockaday Center for the Arts. She holds a bachelor’s degree in history from The University of Montana.

William Thackeray (Havre) is professor of humanities and social sciences at Montana State University-Northern. He holds a doctorate from Idaho State University and an undergraduate degree from Northern Montana College. He is a former Newberry Library Fellow and specialist in Native American studies.

MCH Holds Meetings in Helena, Missoula

The Committee held its winter meeting in conjunction with the Governor’s Humanities Awards in Helena, February 6th–8th. Getting down to business after a well-attended awards ceremony in the Rotunda of the State Capitol and an evening banquet honoring this year’s award winners (see photos, pages 12 and 13), the Committee provided an orientation for its five new members, considered grants, and received a presentation on planned giving from a representative of the Montana Community Foundation. Friday evening the Committee gathered to discuss A New Religious America, with author (and Governor’s Humanities Award recipient) Diana Eck.

The Committee met again, April 11th–13th, in Missoula to consider media letters of intent and grant applications, and to attend portions of the conference Central Asia: Its Geopolitical Significance and its Future Impact on The University of Montana campus. MCH was a sponsor of the conference.

The Committee will next meet in Lewistown, September 5th–7th in order to attend Barn Again! events there, and later in Pray on November 14th–16th.

The schedule of MCH quarterly meetings and all meeting agendas are posted on our website, www.humanities-mt.org. All MCH meetings are open to the public.
Horse Sense

By Charles S. Johnson - 09/16/07

Galt played key role in politics

Jack Galt was a shrewd poker player, who told friends he put himself through Montana State University on his winnings.

He earned the reputation as a savvy cattle trader.

Galt was a skilled manager and later co-owner of one of Montana’s largest ranching empires. He was foreman of the Wellington Rankin Ranch, based in Martinsdale, and a few years after the death of Rankin, the legendary Montana lawyer and Jeannette Rankin’s older brother, Galt married Rankin’s widow, Louise.

When it came time to castrate the calves each spring, Galt wore a white, western-style dress shirt. “He would do all the cutting and he never had a drop of blood on his shirt,” recalled one temporary ranch hand, Joe Roberts, later elected to the Legislature.

All of these skills prepared Galt for a career in politics where he was a pillar in the Montana Republican Party establishment for more than three decades.

Galt, who died Sept. 8, never shed that poker face and rarely tipped his hand in his 18 years in the Montana Legislature.

You won’t find Galt mentioned in a lot of news stories. He said little publicly. Galt wasn’t much for speeches and grumbled when others talked at length. He thought a legislator should be able to make his point in a sentence or two at most.

Galt was a key force in shaping state policy on agricultural, livestock, water and related issues. That mostly meant protecting the status quo. He defended the rights of ranchers and landowners and resisted many of the changes proposed when the environmental movement surfaced in Montana in the 1970s.

The rancher did his best work behind the scenes and behind closed doors, along with the other top Senate Republicans of the day — most of whom went on to get elected to higher offices. They included future Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Turnage of Polson, Gov. Stan Stephens of Havre, Lt. Gov. Allen Kolstad of Chester and others such as Bill Mathers of Miles City and Pat Goodover of Great Falls.

These senators were the barons of the Republican Party and often helped choose their party’s slate of candidates.

You could always tell which candidates the Republican Party establishment supported by reading the alphabetized campaign finance reports. When you saw a page or two filled with donors named Galt — Jack and Louise and the Galt children and their spouses — you knew that candidate had the blessing of the mainstream Republicans. And the Galts usually maxed out in their donations.

Galt and most of these Republican senators were early backers of Ronald Reagan for president. They
began working on Reagan’s behalf in 1968, when Richard Nixon won the Republican nomination and the presidency, 12 years before Reagan eventually won.

He and others also toiled hard for Reagan in his losing challenge of sitting Republican President Gerald R. Ford in 1976. They regarded those who first supported Reagan in 1980 as Johnny-come-latelies, and remembered it when divvying up the federal appointments after Reagan’s election.

Galt never ran for higher office. He was content running the massive ranch and serving as a part-time legislator.

He was an intimidating figure until you got to know him. Before legislative sessions began each day, the bald Galt sat at his desk on the Senate floor earnestly occupied. As I recall, he chain-smoked Pall Mall cigarettes, drank his coffee black and rapidly completed every crossword puzzle he could find in the morning newspapers.

You hated to interrupt his reverie, but sometimes it was necessary. Once Galt got to know a reporter, he was happy to answer a question or two, always briefly of course. Then he would make a wisecrack and break out in a big grin. Then it was on to the next crossword puzzle.

Galt had the fastest gavel in Montana. Senate leaders usually had Galt preside over potentially long, contentious debates because he could move things along rapidly.

He played a similar role for the Montana Republican Party, where Galt served several terms as its national committeeman. When Galt presided over a state platform convention, you knew Republicans would breeze through it in an hour at the most. His quick gavel and authoritative manner discouraged amendments and lengthy debates.

Galt could be a kind man. In 1984, I was covering the Republican National Convention in Dallas for the Great Falls Tribune, and Galt was a delegate. The temperatures were suffocating, over 100 degrees, with high humidity.

At the convention, reporters had to wait in long lines to get a 20-minute pass to go on the floor to interview delegates. Then they had to stand in line again for the next pass. It was a hassle.

The final day, Galt called me to his hotel room. He’d been in Dallas for a couple of weeks serving on various committees. He decided to watch Reagan give his acceptance speech on television from his air-conditioned hotel room instead of going to the convention.

He gave me his floor pass for the night. I’ve always appreciated his generosity.

Chuck Johnson is chief of the Lee Newspapers State Bureau in Helena. He can be reached at (800) 525-4920 or (406) 443-4920. His e-mail address is chuck.johnson@lee.net.
Jack E. Galt

Martinsdale rancher Jack E. Galt, 84, died of natural causes Saturday in a Great Falls hospital.

His funeral is 2 p.m. Friday at the Lenneip church. Private family burial will follow on the 71 Ranch, Martinsdale. Twichel Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Louise Replogle Rankin Galt of Martinsdale; and seven children, Mary Ann (Don) Hill of Thayne, Wyo., Bill (Jill) Galt of White Sulphur Springs, Jackie (Dan) Rice of Great Falls, Errol (Sharrin) Galt of Martinsdale; Ben (Erica) Galt of White Sulphur Springs; Kathy Galt of Great Falls, and John (Kelly) Galt of Helena; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Patsy Gustafson of Conrad and Fay I. Taylor of Shelby.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, Harry Raymond Galt; his brother, William Wylie Galt; and two sisters, Gwen Rispauld and Sister Mary Eleanor (Edna Ann) Galt.

Jack was born in Geyser on April 18, 1923, the fifth child of Errol and Florence (Johnson) Galt. He attended schools in Geyser and Great Falls, graduating from the Ursuline Academy. He graduated from Montana State College, now MSU, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

His college years were interrupted when he enlisted in the Army during World War II. He was decorated for his service in the European Theater as a medic in the 101st Airborne Division where he saw action in the Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne and Holland.

He completed college after the war and began his career as a cattle buyer and ranch manager for Wertheimer Cattle Co. of South St. Paul, Minn. He worked for them until the late 1960s.


He was a stalwart in Montana’s GOP politics, serving in the state House of Representatives in 1973 and 1974, then in the state Senate from 1975 to 1989. He was Senate president during the 1989 legislative session.

During his 18-year legislative career he played a major role in agriculture, water and land issues.

He served several terms as a Republican national committeeman for Montana and was on the executive board of Montana’s GOP.

Jack’s first love was cattle ranching. He enjoyed gardening, his family and traveling.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mountainview Medical Center, 16 W. Main in White Sulphur Springs.

Express condolences at www.legacy.com/HelenaIR/.

Published in the Helena Independent Record on 9/19/2007.

Guest Book • Flowers • Gift Shop • Charities
I am writing my Christmas letter on November 19th and, because of a dry fall with little moisture and no snow, Gordon is working today in the field putting down a herbicide called Sonolan, in preparation for the seeding of peas and lentils in the spring. We started combining this summer on July 23rd and finished on September 11th. With early spring rains, we had abundant moisture but July turned hot and dry. We had a good crop; the early seeding, with the fine rains produced much better than the later-seeded acres. And how grateful we are for the good prices. But, of course, the downside is the expense of fuel, fertilizer, spray, repairs and even groceries.

It was a very busy time all summer and Gordon and the hired help, Bill, Tom and neighbor Howard worked very, very hard and long hours. Bonnie was right in there pitching, too, rolling the fields of peas and lentils after they were seeded and at harvest she was combining with the best of them. Sarah was home in August and she and Kayla took turns driving the tractor pulling the grain cart. Meagan worked as a nurse’s aide at Sheridan Memorial over the summer.

On December 20th, Gordon, Bonnie and the girls will fly to London to spend Christmas with Ryan and Emily. In July, they were sent by their respective Chicago offices, where Ryan is a computer programmer and Emily is an insurance actuary, to work in London for a year. And I plan to toddle along with Gordon and Bonnie as far as Minneapolis and hop the next plane to Berea, KY to spend Christmas with Andrew, Verlaine and Carlyn, returning on January 1st, catching up with Gordon and Bonnie’s family in Minneapolis and heading for Minot and home.

So now it is time to say once again a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you, dear ones.

With Christmas love,
Helen

Sarah graduated from Brown University in Providence and will enter their medical school in the fall.

Verlaine is a freshman at Seattle Pacific where Gordon graduated in 1973 and Verlaine in 1983. Kayla is a senior in the Plattsburgh High School.

I lost Dumen in Nov. 2003 and Gordon is at the helm now.
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Doig,

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you both.

I just had to write a couple of sentences to you from my letter which I have sent as my greetings to family and friends. But of course, there are many names and news of the community that surely would not be of interest for you folks. But I thought you would like this part.

I had written:

"Verlaine and Carlyn came home July 11th. The three of us drove to Helena, as Verlaine had a meeting with the editor of the Montana State Historical Press to discuss the possibility of..."
Publishing her book manuscript on the Sheridan County communist era.

Verclaire said the meeting went very well and we all are very hopeful. Verclaire hopes to hear in the near future of the decision.

I also wrote, 'It has been 18 months since they applied to adopt another daughter from China; the process is very slow right now for all applicants to the Chinese government's adoption bureau.'

Carlyn was 5 in August and anxious for a baby sister. Verclaire is Chairperson of her department at the Berea College in Kentucky. I believe your would say it is the 'English Department including the speech and theatre, also.'

I cut off a bit of my Christmas letter to enclose to you. Can you imagine selling some bushels of durum at 7:00 this fall, holding off selling next at 7:00; waiting selling at 10:00, then 13:00; held off for selling at 17:00 and the next day a bushel went to 18:00. Then it dropped to 12.50, held back 10.00 to see if it hits 20.
In all of the universe,
In all of eternity,
there is no greater love
than the love of Jesus.
May Jesus Christ, Who is love and Who taught us to love, be the joy of your heart and the light of your world forever.

We have a Happy Christmas,

[Signature]

(Verlain's mom)
Mr. and Mrs. Doig

17277 15th Ave N.W.

Seattle WA 98177
Dear Glenn Rudolph--

I really appreciate being thought of for the intro to your Milwaukee book, but I'm just not in the running for that kind of assignment any more. As you know, I'm no kid--turned 75 this summer--and I'm still working full-tilt at my own writing, with a year-end deadline looming on my next novel. So, for various reasons I have to say no to a lot of good things, such as your book. I would think Carlos, whom I know and prize as a historian, might be your guy for an intro full of perspective.

More than by the way, thanks for passing along that highly unChristmassy Christmas letter which finally explains the Sixteen incident that I've heard bits and pieces of from folks at book events the past few years. As a novelist, I always have to be aware truth is oftentimes stranger than fiction. Anyway, all good luck with your retrospective of the Milwaukee, it sounds like you have the project on the rails, so to speak.

Sincerely,
Dear Ivan Doig,

I met you in Seattle at the Chinook Building dedication in 2007. I am a photographer and I took the photographs that were etched in black granite on the north and south side exterior. I just found your card! I had promised you a photograph of Bill and Helen McDonald of Sixteen, Montana. Bill sadly was killed in an altercation in 2010. I am including a letter that was part of a Christmas letter sent to me at that time by friend from Toston.

Between 1986 and 1991 I pursued a long project documenting what was left of the Milwaukee Road. An exhibition of those photographs at the Cliff Michel Gallery in Seattle followed in 1991. A BN engineer who was part of the scrapping operation saw the show and called me to express his dismay.

In 2011, a Seattle Art Museum show included 12 of the Milwaukee Road photographs in an exhibit entitled *Reclaimed: Nature and Place Through Contemporary Eyes.*

I remember hearing the news of the Milwaukee's bankruptcy while working at the Pier 86 grain elevator. I was sampling falling-apart and very rusty Milwaukee boxcars used for shipping grain. When the longshoremen jerked the doors open, every now and then the doors would fall off. Grain spilled from rusted-through holes as the cars were moved about.

I thought nothing of it until I went over the railroad grade crossing at Smyrna, Washington in 1981. Getting ready for the jolt over the tracks...nothing happened. The tracks were gone! I had figured another railroad would have logically taken over the route.

In 1984 I was driving to New York to visit friends, take photographs and show prints to the museums. Driving over Snoqualmie Pass was a real eye-opener as the clear cutting along the Milwaukee grade revealed the high steel trestles I never knew existed. I had to see them closer so I managed to get up under Hansen Creek Trestle. Scrawled on the steel was, "Bring back the Milwaukee Road." I did not get too far east on my first day.

I was thinking this might be good worthwhile project? I even tried to talk myself out of it and to interest a fellow photographer in documenting the trestles. This
was not officially authorized subject matter approved by local art curators, but I got hooked anyway.

Folks were asking me why don't I do a book, but I slipped on to another project...and just kept going on to more projects. I still keep moving, occasionally exhibiting, and telling everyone I am retired. Now I am looking back at nearly 50 years of work and seeing books. I have most of the Milwaukee negatives and prints scattered about in an accessible spot. There are boxes of negatives I never got around to printing.

I have been talking to folks about my project, including Gerry Costanzo, who runs the Carnegie Mellon Press. Everyone says to find someone to write an introduction. I suggested you.

I also am contacting Carlos Schwantes in the hope that he will agree to provide historical background for my book. He is the St. Louis Mercantile Library Professor of Transportation and the West, at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He saw my Milwaukee Road work just after his book “Rail Signatures Across the Pacific Northwest” had gone to press.

So if you are interested in writing an introduction, I would be delighted. I am starting to do a mock-up of the book. Enclosed are a PDF and few prints. If you would like to see more of my work, take a look at my website glennrudolph.com.

Thanks,

Glenn Rudolph

(206) 633-2255
grudolph@drizzle.com
Dear Pat-

Hope this finds you doing well!
Sixteen country winter is a challenge this year - lots of snow + wind. We've been snowed in twice already - waiting for the plow Mon. 12/13.

Much to tell you - do you have email?

Ours for now is this -
It's a friends address he set up.

Here is the condensed version. On 9-25-10 a Sat., Bill McDonald walked into our house with his bowie knife held in his hand + without saying a word pointed at me. Mike tried to get him out the door + Bill stabbed Mike twice in the back + hit him on the back of the head with butt of the knife. I was hiding in the bedroom. Tracie was trying to get Bill to stop. Mike called me to get a gun - they are in the bedroom. I came out, pulled trigger + gun didn't work. Mike was able to get shotgun from behind kitchen door + shot + killed Bill. Then I
Drove Mike to WSS to hospital. He was taken by helicopter to Belling for trauma surgeon. The knife went in 6-8 inches & missed his aorta by less than 1 inch!!

It’s a long story - Erica got involved with Bill early summer. It has taken a terrible toll on everyone. Mike’s wounds have healed mentally is improving each day, but we have far to go. We are in the cabin - Erica lives in White Sulphur Springs since Aug 2010.

I am going to St. Paul for Christmas. Andrea & Adam are coming up too. Andrea & Adam flew into Belling when this happened too. Mike will hold down the fort with the dog.

Hope your life has been much calmer!

Have you been to Montana lately? How is David? The girls? Please let us know how you are.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday -

Love

Ingird & Mike
A Thank you for Mr. Ivan Doig.
I hope you will trust me that it is no less sincere.
This past winter I quoted you in a TEDx talk I gave in Whitefish, MT. I spoke about the community and how the people of rural Montana are formed by both the glory and the harshness of the landscape. You may get a kick out of viewing the talk.

My time in White Sulphur has been just what I bargained for. It has not been easy, but it has sure strengthened my character.

I have tickets to your Bozeman event Sept 15th and very much hope to shake your hand.

Thank you, not just for the stories but for all the goodness you put forth into this fine world. Sarah

September 1, 2014

Dear Ivan,

It's funny the way lives happen, directions are chosen, paths are forged. I've always felt that books come into our lives when the time is right. As was the case with “This House of Sky,” and the timing of when it fell into my hands and thus inspired me to move to White Sulphur Springs.

This was not your typical move for a young entrepreneur, but I wanted genuine Montana and I sure got it!

I wanted to thank you so very much for your kind letter and the copy of “The Bartender's Tale.” This appreciation comes in an embarrassingly belated fashion, and
Hey Ladies...

Given up trying to find workpants that fit?

red ants pants™

Finally... workwear for women
Red Ants Pants, White Sulphur Springs, MT

www.redantspants.com

Front: Mari working on her Montana ranch.
The Red Ants Pants Foundation Mission:

* To develop and expand leadership roles for women.
* To preserve and support working family farms and ranches.
* To enrich and promote rural communities.

{The Red Ants Pants Foundation projects include an annual community grant cycle and an educational workshop series emphasizing traditional work skills.}

A portion of the profits from the Red Ants Pants Music Festival goes to the Red Ants Pants Foundation.

To find out more about the Red Ants Pants Foundation, please visit: RedAntsPantsFoundation.org
Dear Mr. Doe -

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me when I phoned earlier this week.

I regret that we won't have an opportunity to meet you on this visit to Seattle — we are truly great fans of your work!

I hope we have a chance to host you for dinner here in Bozeman or perhaps, on our next trip out your direction. Thank you for your continued support.

Patricia Danielson