FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. 21

P.O. Box 399
13 7th Street
Fairfield, Montana 59436
Fax (406) 467-2554

High School
467-2528

Elementary (K-8)
467-2425

February 24, 2011

Mr. Ivan Doig
17277 15 Ave NW
Shoreline WA 98177-3846

Dear Mr. Doig:

I am an English teacher in Fairfield, Montana, and a great admirer of your work. I like to give my students the opportunity to appreciate it as well and have found ways to incorporate it into our discussions of the writing process. I thought you might enjoy seeing how I use it.

One of my objectives is to make my students better observers of their surroundings. Toward that end, I give them this quotation from Lord Chesterfield as a writing prompt: "We read everyday, with astonishment, things we see everyday without surprise." Here are two of my favorite responses: "Nobody notices the wind rustling leaves. However, when words combine to make imaginary wind blow through ink-and-paper trees, it's magic," and, "As we read stories set in schools, for instance, we wish that our school could be that exciting, but we forget about events that happen here, like Tommy biting Mr. Tacke or the tree in front of the school falling down."

After discussing their responses, I read them your passage from Dancing at the Rascal Fair:

> "…we were simply absorbed in the sights of the land. A geography of motion, of endless ridges and knob hills and swales the wagon track threaded through. And instead of mountains equally all around as in Helena, here tiers of them were stacked colossally on a single horizon, the western. Palisades of rock, constant canyons. Peaks with winter still on them. As far ahead north as we could see, the crags and cliffs formed that vast tumbled wall."

I then ask them to identify the setting. Before long, they get their bearings straight and begin to realize that you are describing the same stretch of the Rocky Mountains that they, here in Fairfield, see everyday. The meaning of Chesterfield's words becomes clear as they scrutinize with your words what they have skimmed over with their eyes.

We then take a bus trip through the area, to Simms or Power or Augusta or Choteau, just to see. The students write down anything worth a second look and bring that raw material back to class to create details like these:

"In the distance stood mountains with jagged tops like the decaying teeth of a starving child."

"A hawk sat on a fencepost staring at him, beak open, as if the wind had stolen his screech."

"Wind ravaged the valley, its hands grasping and strangling the last few summer-seasoned flowers."

"The mountain looked like a weathered elk ivory."

"August, the alchemist, has turned the prairie to gold, bronze, copper, and brass, and has inlaid it with snarls of thistles turned to emeralds and amethysts."

From there, I explain that a writer does not have to pull everything out of his imagination when developing a plot. Life, I tell them, is nothing but a bunch of stories; fiction offers the opportunity to improve upon them. Natalie Goldberg calls it "living twice," and it is well illustrated in the attached *Calvin and Hobbes* cartoon.

Your work serves my purposes once again when I have the students read the following article from the *Great Falls Tribune* and compare it to the section from Dancing at the Rascal Fair where Rob and Scorpion drown in the reservoir.

Malta rancher drowns riding horse in pond

By KIM SKORNOGOSKI
Tribune Staff Writer

A 42-year-old Malta rancher drowned in a stock pond Saturday afternoon helping a neighbor round up cattle.

Greg Nelson was riding a horse and cut through the murky pond to circle around cows. But the pond suddenly dropped off on the other end, sinking more than 10 feet deep, Phillips County Sheriff Tom Miller said Sunday.

The horse sank beneath Nelson, who fell off and couldn't swim. Another rancher on an ATV was nearby, but also couldn't swim.

By the time other ranchers and emergency personnel arrived at the pond, it was too late to save Nelson.

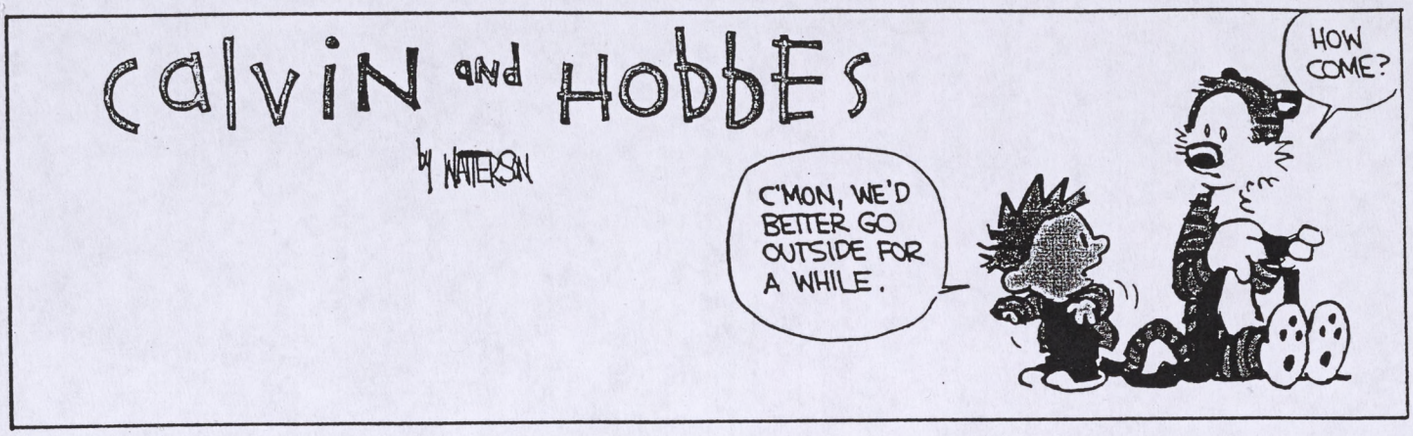
Searchers from the fire department waded into the murky water and recovered his body within an hour.

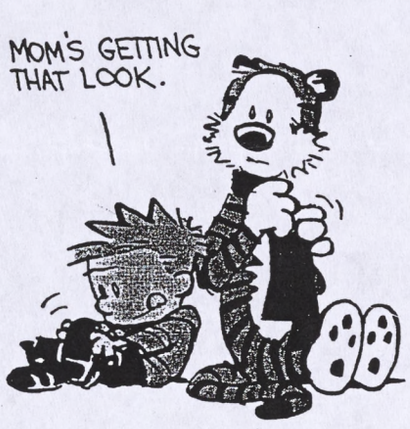
The 80-by-200-foot stock pond was on private property roughly 12 miles south of Malta. Miller didn't know who owned the property.

"You don't expect those things to be that deep," Miller said. "The water was murky. The horse went down and came back up, but he (Nelson) didn't. It happened very suddenly."

Calvin and Hobbes

by Watterson

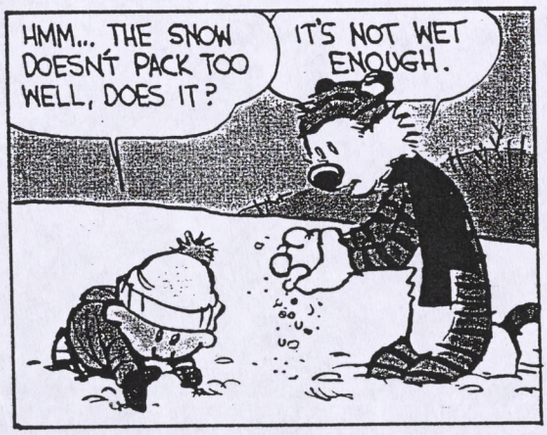


















Although, in this case, life imitated art since you wrote your story before this incident occurred, the students see very clearly how they can use reality to frame a story. Thanks for your help.

In addition to thanking you for providing such perfect examples to illustrate my points, I wanted to say how distraught I was when I saw that you had spoken about writing to students in Great Falls some time ago. I couldn't believe they had had that opportunity and that we had missed it. Sooooo, I was thinking that if you are homesick for those east slope winds, I would love to start looking for some grant money to bring you home. I know the Boone and Crockett Ranch in Dupuyer would be willing to let us borrow their setting as inspiration. Fall would be a beautiful time to visit, but we could make accommodations whenever you are available. I know this might not be possible for you, but I'd always kick myself for it if I didn't try.

Sincerely,

Kari Patterson
Fairfield High School
P.O. Box 399
Fairfield MT 59436

dontgotnoenglish@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Doig,

I am writing under the assumption that you have received my proposal. In addition to the grant from U of M, I have been given the go-ahead to make a request from two other sources. I look forward to hearing from you. Lani Patten

The University of Montana

Wilderness Institute
College of Forestry and Conservation
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

Phone: (406) 243-5361
FAX: (406) 243-4845
Email: wi@cfc.umt.edu
www.cfc.umt.edu/wi

March 28, 2011

Dear Kari Patterson,

The Matthew Hansen Endowment Review Committee is very interested in funding your project proposal to have Ivan Doig speak at the Boone and Crocket Ranch. We are willing to provide the $1,000 requested if you are able to secure a commitment from Ivan Doig by June 1st. You will need to get back in touch with us via e-mail or phone to let us know by this date.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Shannon Söderlund
Program Associate

ZZZZZ The Buzz

*****

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you agree with the judge's decision to allow Bernard Madoff to remain free on bail?
Story on 2A

Vote online ✓

To comment, go to www.gftribune.com/forums and click on Daily Question Buzz.

Vote by phone ✓

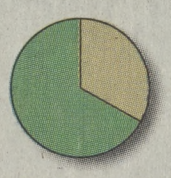
Yes 771-9824 No 771-9825

Note: Other Tribune phone numbers will not record your vote.

*****

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Should the use of cell phones be illegal for all drivers in the United States?



Yes 67% **No** 33%
Total votes cast: 582
Results are not scientific

Comments

Responses selected from recorded messages and The Buzz online forum at www.greatfallstribune.com/forums

"

Yes. The situation is out of hand and has gone way too far.
— Mark, Great Falls

Yes. There are a few people who can talk and drive at the same time, but many can't even chew gum and walk at the same time. I think it should be banned for everyone.
— Butch, Great Falls

No. The law concerning cell phones should be a state law and not a federal law, and that's the basis for our rights.
— R.J., Great Falls

Yes. Cell phone usage should be treated the same way as DUIs.
— J., Great Falls

No. We have enough laws. What ever happened to common sense?
— Richard, Great Falls

Yes, until they come up with a device on the engine that will shut a cell phone off if the engine is running.
— Marjorie, Great Falls

Yes. Let's make them illegal. It's a no-brainer.
— D., Great Falls

"

Forest Service proposes prescribed burn

➤ 'The emphasis here is wildlife habitat'

By KARL PUCKETT
Tribune Staff Writer

A proposed prescribed fire plan in the Lewis and Clark National Forest southwest of Sapphire Village will provide more food for elk and less fuel for wildfire, the U.S. Forest Service says.

"The emphasis here is wildlife habitat," said Matt Plagenz, assistant fire management officer for Lewis and Clark National Forest's Judith District.

The Middle Fork Prescribed Fire project proposes low-intensity prescribed burning and the cutting of small diameter, non-commercial trees on 2,512 acres in the Woodchopper Ridge area, on the edge of the Middle Fork Wilderness Study area.

The work would proceed over a few years' time, possibly beginning later this year.

About 1,000 elk use the area as winter range and as a travel corridor between the forest and the Judith River Game Range, which is managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Plagenz said. "It's a migration route for elk that leave the forest," Plagenz said.

The prescribed fire and slashing would limit encroachment of dense forest on the grassland used by the elk and also prompt new growth of shrubs and grasses, according to the Forest Service.

The Forest Service has sought input from hunters because the area is a popular place to rifle hunt, and FWP, which manages the nearby state-managed game range, Plagenz said.

From what he has seen of the plan, the project has the opportunity "to do some good things for elk habitat," said Adam Grove, area wildlife biologist for FWP.

Elk move through the area late in fall and spring and also utilize it for foraging in the winter depending on snow depth, he said.

Besides aiding elk, the thinning project should reduce the severity of future wildfires by eliminating fuels, the agency said.

A decision is expected by this summer. Implementation of the plan would continue for several years, with weather and funding determining exact burn dates, according to the Forest Service.

Reach Tribune Staff Writer Karl Puckett at 791-1471, 800-438-6600 or kpuckett@greatfallstribune.com.

To comment

Public comments may be e-mailed until Feb. 20 to: comments-northern-lewisclark-judith@fs.fed.us. Type Middle Fork Project in the subject line. Comments also may be mailed to Judith Ranger District, Attention Matt Plagenz, Middle Fork Project, P.O. Box 484, Standford, MT 59479.



Také Uda/Tribune



TRIBUNE PHOTO/KRISTEN CATES

Christian Meredith and some of her classmates at Lincoln Elementary School practice some of their yoga moves.

Students learn importance of healthy living

By KRISTEN CATES
Tribune Staff Writer

There are plenty of reasons to stay healthy, but for Christian Meredith it really only comes down to one reason.

"You get to live longer," she said.

Meredith was one of several Lincoln Elementary third-grade students who got a hands-on lesson in healthy living with yoga instruction, book reading, hand washing and a whole wheat seminar Monday morning at the Action for Healthy Kids organization's kickoff to its "book nooks" program.

Action for Healthy Kids received a $15,000 grant from General Mills recently to promote its agenda for healthy living and eating for kids. The nonprofit organization decided the best way to spend that money was to donate it to the elementary schools in Great Falls Public Schools so they could build up a better collection of health-related books in their libraries.

Coordinator Joan Trost said Action for Healthy Kids worked with the librarians to find the best materials. The goal is to increase students' awareness of healthy living and hopefully, she said, increase their parents' awareness.

"We're taking a bite out of the elephant one bite at a time," she said.

In Lincoln Elementary's library, two shelves are filled with books ranging in discussion from body health to breads.

Suzette Bruggeman, another member of Action for Healthy Kids, said the organization will be traveling to all of the schools throughout the district to promote their "book nooks" program by offering short workshops.

Students got the opportunity to try out a "warrior" pose in yoga class, read about having a healthy body, learn the importance of hand washing by sudsing up and eat some whole wheat bread.

Christian said volleyball, soccer and basketball keep her active, but yoga might not be her forte.

"It makes you go to sleep," she said.

Reach Tribune Staff Writer Kristen Cates at 791-1463 or kcates@greatfallstribune.com.

Havre teacher bringing students to witness history



Around the Region
—
Kim Skornogoski

HAVRE — Havre High history teacher John Ita and six high school students are leaving the books behind to see history in the making this month when Barack Obama is inaugurated our country's first black president.

Montana's Senate delegation gave the students and two adults up-close seats for the historic swearing-in ceremonies on the Capitol steps, but an estimated 4 million people are expected to converge on Washington, D.C., for the inaugural parade and other activities.

Watching the hotly contested primary race last April, Ita realized that no matter who won, the country was going to elect a first — woman, African American or Vietnam veteran.

"I was paying a lot of attention to the primaries because that's what nerdy government teachers do," Ita said. "And I thought, 'This is going to be huge. This is going to be historical.'"

The students will fly out to Washington on Sunday and return Wednesday. Their trip includes tours of the Smithsonian museums, meeting Montana's congressional delegation, seeing the Capitol and the monuments on the Mall and even attending an inaugural ball for high school students.

Ita said the students, except for one, have never seen the

See REGION, 2M

District hires five new speech pathologists

By KRISTEN CATES
Tribune Staff Writer

Great Falls Public Schools is in the process of eliminating six speech therapy assistant positions after having hired five new speech pathologists in the past year.

Great Falls Public Schools has long been short on speech pathologists and has been advertising aggressively for new hires as speech therapy is a requirement for school districts to provide, specifically for students with disabilities and language delay problems.

For a few years, the district has skirted the problem by hiring

See DISTRICT, 2M

Airport escalators to get upgrades

By Tribune Staff

A major reconstruction project on the escalators at the Great Falls International Airport starts next Tuesday, Airport Director Cynthia Schultz said Monday.

The $595,000 project will take a four-person crew from Kone Inc. about 12 to 15 weeks to complete, or until late April or mid-May.

The existing escalators were installed in the terminal in 1975 and have served beyond their useful life, Schultz said.

The escalators will not be completely replaced. Instead, Kone workers will retain the existing support trusses and sides. The modernization will provide new motors, stairs and safety devices.

The waterfall that flows between the escalators will be kept, but drained and left empty during the construction.

Only one escalator will be worked on at a time during construction. The other, functioning elevator will be kept working in the position to take airport users up, Schultz said.

More visible signs will be posted to direct patrons to a new elevator for access to the second floor. That elevator is across from the airline counters.

"We appreciate the public's patience during the project," Schultz said.

ACROSS *the* BIG SKY

Bynum asks for water source funds

BYNUM — City officials here are saying they have run out of money in their quest to find a public water source.

Officials with the Bynum/Teton County Water and Sewer District board sent an eight-page letter last month to county, state and federal representatives and agencies detailing the challenges ahead if they do not get additional funding, the Choteau Acantha reported.

"We will have people getting ill from water contamination issues if we don't fix the problem. By all estimates, our water contamination issue is one of the worst in the state ... We are doing our very best to find the most cost-effective solution ... The health of those in our community can't wait another two years for the next funding cycle. They need your help now," the letter said.

Bynum, an unincorporated hamlet located 12 miles north of Choteau, has been trying to find a public water source for its 89 residents for the last half decade.

Bynum residents rely on well water from a shallow aquifer that is vulnerable to septic system inflow and contaminants from the surface.

"We need to provide our residents with safe water now. We can't afford to wait for the results of our more wide-reaching tests," the board said.



Compiled from staff and wire reports and regional newspapers

Look for breaking news and state news updates throughout the day at www.greatfallstribune.com

Woman claims $5,002 lotto prize

HELENA — A woman from **Paradise** who has been unemployed for almost three months has claimed a $5,002 prize from Saturday's Wild Card drawing.

Lee Anne Overman bought her ticket at the Town Pump in Plains.

Overman had worked at the Paradise Bar until it recently burned down. She says the money couldn't have come at a better time.

Lewistown eyes former mill site

LEWISTOWN — Berg Lumber Mill bankruptcy trustees will give **Lewistown** city officials the 31-acre mill site in return for a nominal payment.

Lewistown city officials told the Lewistown-News Argus that a $1,000 price tag for the property has been discussed. Attorneys for the trustees say they want to transfer the property soon.

City officials are set to clean up containments at the Berg site from federal and state funding. Officials say they have asked for $500,000 in grants, which they say would be enough to clean the site. No city tax funds would be used. City officials have previously said they would like the site to become a commercial or recreational property.

District

FROM 1M

several assistants supervised by a licensed speech language pathologist at one time, according to student services and special education director Sharon Lindstrom.

"We've been able to serve students of Great Falls with that model," she said.

The district hired three new speech pathologists this month and one in the fall, and another was hired last year. In order to be fully in compliance, 10-12 full-time pathologists are needed, according to Lindstrom, and there are only five right now, up from four the previous year.

> "I'm very pleased (with) the choices these five individuals have made."
>
> — *Sharon Lindstrom, special education director*

"I'm very excited, it's a very positive thing," she said. "I'm very pleased (with) the choices these five individuals have made."

That said, she added it was a difficult decision to make.

The six positions eliminated were in a "category three" job title, meaning the assistants didn't have the required bachelor's and master's degrees and had received on-the-job training and experience. To be a licensed speech pathologist you must hold a master's degree in the subject.

"When we looked at how we remedy the situation, we saw a way of eliminating a category," Lindstrom said.

Those whose positions will be eliminated effective next week have been encouraged to apply for other positions within the district, Lindstrom said, and will receive the same pay through the remainder of the school year if they do take a position.

"We see them as very valuable employees," she said.

Region

FROM 1M

nation's Capitol. Joining Ita are his daughter Abigail Ita, Jessica Howland, Trevor Staples, brother and sister Ryan and Courtney Kenholt. Big Sandy mother and daughter Lis and Michelle Maxwell also signed up.

The trip also provided the students a surprise lesson in supply and demand economics.

With the school board's approval, Ita began researching travel packages to the inauguration and began recruiting students, hoping to have a group of 15 to 20.

Just five students signed up at first and Ita then extended the invitation to the community, giving them an Election Day deadline to lock in the $1,800 package price.

On Jan. 5 — the day after the election — more than 30 people called Ita hoping to join the student group. By then, booking a ticket was more than 10 times what the students locked in.

Ita admitted Monday that as excited as the students are, he's equally nervous to try to navigate and track the group considering the crowds flooding Washington.

"I almost want to put GPS tracking devices on them to keep track of them in that crowd," he said.

Fa la la "Faust"

CHOTEAU — After years of studying music, Beth Hartman, a 1997 Choteau High grad, will make her debut with the Minnesota Opera next week performing in Charles Gounod's "Faust."

After graduating from Choteau, Hartman earned a bachelor's degree in music from the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University before going on to get a master's in music from the University of Minnesota.

In addition to performing with the Minnesota Opera, she also is free-lancing as a professional singer in the Twin Cities area.

Founded in 1963, the Minnesota Opera is the 15th largest opera company in the country.

The classic opera tells the tale of an aging philosopher who makes a deal with the devil to regain his youth and win the affection of a young village girl. "Faust" is known for its melodies and for its villain Mephistopheles.

Hartman had just graduated from high school the last time the Minnesota Opera staged a production of "Faust."

The five performances will take place on Jan. 24, 27, 29 and 31 and on Feb. 1.

Hartman is the daughter of Jane and Dave Hartman, who live in Choteau.

Reach Tribune Staff Writer Kim Skornogoski at 791-6574, 800-438-6600 or kskornogoski@greatfallstribune.com.

11-year-old boy charged with cruelty to animals

By Tribune Staff

An 11-year-old boy with a history of mental illness is accused of drowning his family's dog in a bathtub.

The Great Falls boy was arrested and charged with cruelty to animals, according to Great Falls Police spokesman Sgt. Jeff Newton.

The charge is a misdemeanor.

The boy was ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment at Shodair Children's Hospital in Helena, Newton said.

It was not immediately clear what breed the dog was, or what motivation there might have been for the reported attack.

GFH senior wins first place in category in photo contest

By Tribune Staff

Cody Tyler, a senior at Great Falls High School, won first place in his category in a national photo contest.

Tyler's photo taken at a Bison football game of a little girl standing among the football players during the national anthem secured him a first-place prize in the teen features category of the Canon "Why I Love Football" photo competition.

He will receive a new camera, printer and a $500 gift certificate to the Football Hall of Fame, according to his journalism adviser Linda Ballew.

And perhaps more importantly, his photo will be used in Canon's advertising campaigns.

"We were very excited for him," she said.

Tyler is the photo editor for the Great Falls High "Iniwa" newspaper and plans to study photojournalism at the University of Montana.

Dispute may disrupt Fox programming

By Tribune Staff

KLMN-TV, the Fox affiliate in Great Falls, continued to broadcast Fox network programs this week despite a financial dispute between the Retro Television Network and Equity Media Holdings cited in recent news reports.

The Fox network carries such popular programs as "24," "American Idol" and "House."

TV Newsday reported Equity pulled RTN programming from its satellite feeds Jan. 4, forcing RTN to scramble to continue broadcasting.

The dispute did not affect the Fox network's primetime offerings on KLMN, Channel 22 and 26 in Great Falls. However, it prompted some uncertainty over the station's offerings at other times during the day. Some Tribune TV listings for KLMN this week indicated programming is to be announced.

Station officials could not be reached for comment, and it's unclear whether the tiff will have any long-term effects on the station.

RECORDS

Statistics

BIRTHS

BRINKMAN — Daughter born Jan. 4 to Jillian and Treve Brinkman of Great Falls.

CADY — Son born Monday to Jennifer and Terry Cady of Great Falls.

COOK — Son born Monday to Sasha and Brian Cook of Great Falls.

Lottery

To check current winning numbers in Montana Lottery games, call 406-444-1278. For past numbers, call 406-444-5825, or go online to **www.montanalottery.com**.

Impounded animals

Picked up and taken to the Animal Shelter at 1010 25th Ave. N.E. were:

Wirehair pointer. Black/white adult neutered male found on 15th Street and 6th Avenue South.

Adopted: 1 puppy, 1 kitten.

Redeemed: 1 dog.

Shelter hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday with kennel viewings and adoptions beginning at noon. For information, call 454-2276.

Courts

JUSTICE COURT

Arnautovic, Dimitrije, 51, Nepean, Ontario, fined $285 for violation of 70-hour rule.

Arnold, Kelcey M., 19, 1701 20th St. S. No. 10A, fined $258 for driving with no insurance.

Bargeron, Donald H., 49, Euless, Texas, forfeited $135 bond for failure to follow conditions of special permit.

Burridge, Sean M., 34, 4600 4th Ave. N. No. 35, fined $285 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but two days house arrest suspended, for driving with suspended license.

Butler, Robert J., 39, Simms, fined $490 and sentenced to 10 days in jail, all suspended, for speeding, no insurance, second offense, and no seat belt.

Chrisman, Dustin L., 30, 1218 8th Ave. S. No. 7, fined $285 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but two days in prerelease suspended, for driving with suspended license.

Davidson, Cody A., 21, 1608 A Oasis Court, fined $1,540 and sentenced to 190 days in jail, all but one day in prerelease suspended, for DUI, no insurance, criminal possession of dangerous drugs and criminal possession of drug paraphernalia.

Davis, Allan E., 24, Ulm, fined $135 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, for driving with no license.

Fish, Raylonda B., 29, 1711 13th Ave. S., fined $335 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but 30 days suspended, for assault.

Fulton, Adam S., 42, Calgary, Alberta, forfeited $135 bond for failure to follow conditions of special permit.

Johnson, Heather C., 25, 93 Brandywine Lane, fined $335 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, for cruelty to animals.

Lind, Josh A., 29, 511 14th St. N., forfeited $220 bond for hunting without landowner permission and driving off established road.

Loague, Brandy A., 20, 1321 13th St. S. No. 2, fined $395, sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and ordered to pay $100 restitution, for two counts of issuing a bad check and contempt, failure to appear.

Loney, Travis C., 27, 1701 20th St. S. No. 13B, fined $535 for unlawful disposition of dead animal.

Mah, Amanda L., 22, 1257 6th Ave. N.W., fined $285 for driving with no insurance.

Massengill, Michael J., 28, 710 9th St. N., fined $385 for driving with no insurance, second offense.

Nelson, Dale Q., 35, Salem, Ore., forfeited $135 bond for no logbook.

Osterman, Clint R., 38, Belt, fined $585 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but 10 days suspended, with credit for three days served, for assault.

Parsons, Steve G., 49, 717 7th Ave. S., forfeited $135 bond for hunting without landowner permission.

Pfleger, Brandon M., 20, 2405 4th Ave. N.W., fined $325 for speeding, no insurance and no seat belt.

Robin, Albert I., 37, 1002 Elderberry Court, forfeited $135 bond for hunting without landowner permission.

Rodarte, Francine L., 18, 122 12th St. N., fined $535 for driving with suspended license.

Saksa, Courtney M., 21, 1523 4th Ave. S., fined $285 for driving with no insurance.

Sharp, Jackie A., 37, Browning, fined $390 for driving with no insurance, no seat belt and unrestrained child.

Slicker, Paulette J., 39, 2611 Upper River Road No. 15, fined $335 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but 30 days suspended, for resisting arrest.

Smith, Eddie S., 45, Richlands, N.C., forfeited $235 bond for failure to weigh.

Stephens, Mark W., 25, Kalispell, fined $370 for possession of an open alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle, no seat belt and contempt, failure to appear.

Twedt, William G., 54, 5460 Lower River Road, fined $585 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but three days suspended, for DUI.

Wilcox, Thomas C., 68, Vaughn, fined $920 and sentenced to 190 days in jail, all but four days suspended, for driving with suspended license and no insurance, second offense.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Aaron, John B. III, 32, fined $755 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but two days suspended, for driving with suspended license, careless driving and no insurance.

Abbott, Rachel S., 21, fined $770 and sentenced to 190 days in jail, all but two days suspended, for driving with suspended license and no insurance, second offense.

Adams, Christopher M., 18, fined $285 for driving with no insurance.

Adams, Ellen M., 50, fined $535 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, for driving with no insurance, third or subsequent offense.

After Buffalo, Justin R., 20, fined $605 for failure to yield, no insurance, second offense, and no license.

Allen, Kimberly L., 39, fined $385 and sentenced to 10 days in jail, all suspended, for driving with no insurance, second offense.

Allison, Cole H., 19, fined $385 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but two days suspended, for assault.

Allison, Jesse E., 21, fined $285 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, for criminal mischief.

Allred, Larry J., 57, fined $335 for reckless driving.

Altenburg-Frieline, Jasmine, 16, fined $285 for MIP-alcohol.

Balsdon, Matthew J., 25, fined $285 for driving with no insurance.

Bennett, Karlee R., 29, fined $955 and sentenced to 363 days in jail, all but five days suspended, for driving with suspended license, wrong plates, no insurance, third or subsequent offense, and contempt, failure to pay fines.

Bird, Skylynn R., 29, fined $585 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, for theft, second offense.

Black, Roy E. J., 45, fined $670 and sentenced to 10 days in jail, all suspended, for DUI, per se, and no insurance.

Blackwell, Susan D., 38, fined $285 for stop sign violation and no insurance.

Boyle, Cory M., 20, fined $685 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but seven days suspended, for DUI, second offense.

Brown, Makenzie K., 16, fined $385 for MIP-alcohol, second offense.

Brown, Ronald L., 49, fined $130 for vehicle parked over 72 hours.

Bullock, Jena M., 22, forfeited $235 bond for speeding in a school zone.

Burkett, Charlie G., 29, fined $670 and sentenced to 10 days in jail, all suspended, for DUI, per se, and obstructing a peace officer.

Burshia, Justin J., 26, fined $385 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but two days suspended, for driving with suspended license.

Bylington, Brian A., 24, fined $470 and sentenced to 10 days in jail, all suspended, for improper turn and no insurance, second offense.

Cabarett, Joshua, 18, fined $585 and sentenced to four years and six months in jail, all but 56 days suspended, for partner/family member assault, criminal mischief, eluding a peace officer, reckless driving, careless driving, shattered windshield, no insurance, third or subsequent offense, three counts of driving with suspended license and contempt, failure to pay fines.

Camphouse, Jeremiah L., 18, fined $285 for speeding and no insurance.

Chambers, Curtis L., 18, fined $135 for speeding.

Chaon, Brian J., 44, fined $420 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but two days suspended, for driving with suspended license and careless driving.

Chappel, Devin M., 26, fined $235 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, for theft.

OBITUARIES

Opal Geraldine 'Gerry' Groseclose Wolfe

CHESTER — Opal Geraldine "Gerry" (Grubb) Groseclose Wolfe, commonly known as Gerry Wolfe, 78, a retired farmwife who enjoyed gardening, cooking, canning, and dancing, died of natural causes Saturday at her Chester home.



Wolfe

Her memorial service is 2 p.m. Friday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester, with reception to follow at the church. Burial will take place in Erickson Cemetery south of Chester. Cremation and arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

Gerry is survived by children, Ron Groseclose of Hingham, Sharon Gomke of Kremlin and Linda Dill of Arlington, Tenn.; four grandsons and two great-grandsons.

She was preceded in death by her husbands Malcolm Groseclose in 1961 and Delmar Wolfe in 2003; and a grandson.

Nicholas Pete Maroudas

HAVRE — Nicholas Pete Maroudas, 83, of Havre, a retired Burlington Northern Railroad worker and Safeway employee who enjoyed hunting, gardening and spending time with family and friends, died of natural causes Tuesday at a Havre care center.

Cremation has taken place, and his memorial service is 2 p.m. Sunday at Holland & Bonine Funeral Home. A fellowship luncheon will follow at the St. Jude Parish Center.

Survivors include his wife Georgia Maroudas of Havre; his son Antonio Maroudas of Vancouver, Wash.; daughters Maria Spinler, Peggy Fialkosky and Jan Siderakis of Havre; a brother Spiros Maroudas of Zakynthos, Greece; 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Shirley Ann Bronec

GERALDINE — Shirley Ann (Ficken) Bronec, 86, a homemaker, died of natural causes Sunday at a Great Falls hospital.



Bronec

Vigil is 7 p.m. Wednesday at St. Margaret's Catholic Church. Funeral Mass is 1 p.m. Thursday. Burial will follow in Geraldine Cemetery. Benton Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Survivors include daughters, Susan L Bronec and Sharleen A. Thompson of Geraldine; a son, Steven Frank Bronec of Geraldine; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Stephen Bronec.

Morton N. Ogden

Morton N. Ogden, 80, of Great Falls, died of natural causes Sunday at a local care center.

Arrangements are pending through Croxford Funeral Home and Crematory.

Christa Denning

Christa (Sedlacek) Denning, 67, of Great Falls, a retired service worker who formerly worked for local hospitals, died of natural causes Sunday at her home.



Denning

Her funeral is 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Hillcrest Lawn Chapel, with visitation at the chapel one hour prior to the service. Schnider Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include a son, Christian Denning of Helena; daughters Andrea Walker of Dallas and Michelle Denning of Big Sky; her mother, Hedwig Dueser of Great Falls; a brother, Bernd Sedlacek of Great Falls; and two grandchildren.

Thomas H. Chadwick

DUPUYER — Thomas H. Chadwick, 73, an auto repairman, died of natural causes Sunday at a Great Falls medical facility.

His funeral is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Dupuyer Community Center, with burial in the Dupuyer cemetery. Pondera Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by numerous Salois and Raemaker cousins.

Obituaries on the Web
www.greatfallstribune.com/obituaries

Mildred Harbolt

CHINOOK — Mildred (Chesarek) Harbolt, 90, died of complications from congestive heart disease and diabetes Friday at her home.



Harbolt

Rosary is 7 p.m. Thursday, and requiem Mass is 11 a.m. Friday at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church in Chinook. Arrangements are by Edwards Funeral Home of Chinook.

Mildred, the youngest of nine children, was born at the family home May 5, 1918, in Bearcreek, Mont., to John and Frances (Hodnik) Chesarek. Her parents emigrated from Slovenia and met in the U.S. Her father owned and operated the "First and Last Chance Saloon" which served as a local gathering place for church and other social events in the mining town of Bearcreek. Mildred has always been proud of her Slovenian heritage. The John Chesarek clan was a very tight knit family that thrived on celebrations, polkas, good conversation and a hearty laugh. Mildred's father died when she was 2-years-old. Her mother insisted all of her children receive a college education; no small feat for the 1920s and 1930s in America.



Harbolt in the 1930s

Mildred attended school in Bearcreek and played girls' basketball. In 1936 she graduated from Bearcreek High School then furthered her education in Great Falls at the Columbus School of Nursing, completing her degree in 1939. She was employed at the Harlem Hospital until her marriage to William C. Harbolt at St. Agnes Church in Red Lodge on Dec. 30, 1939.

Mildred and Bill had six children: Connie (Jim) Oliver of Covington, Va., Francie (John) McMahon of Missoula, Carol Jo (Sonny) Lubick of Fort Collins, Colo.; Bill Jr. (Kathy) Harbolt of Chinook, Maggie (John) Moffatt of Lewistown, and Beth (Rick) Cottingham of Helena.

Mildred's priorities in life were her devotions to family, church, and community. She enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and fostered a loving and close relationship with each of them. Mildred crocheted unique afghans for each of her children and grandchildren. She has been a faithful member of St. Gabriel's Catholic Church. She served on the Alter Society, the parish council and the funeral luncheon committee. In living her faith all were graciously welcomed into her home. Mildred belonged to the American Red Cross and devoted many years in helping with the Red Cross blood drawing. Mildred was well known for administering nursing care to her neighborhood and community.

Industrious and self sufficient describes Mildred's way of life. Her self-discipline, healthy lifestyle, and daily walks made her a true pioneer in dealing with the challenges of diabetes. She recycled, reused, and was "green" long before it became a necessity. She was an independent thinker as well as an avid reader. Mildred will always be remembered for her graciousness and kindness to all who knew her.

Survivors include her loving husband of 69 years, William C. Harbolt of Chinook, her six children and their spouses, 17 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, five brothers and three sisters.

Memorials may be sent to the Montana Diabetic Association, St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, Ramstrong Cancer Foundation, Poudre Valley Hospital, 2315 E. Harmony Road Suite 200; Fort Collins, CO 80528.

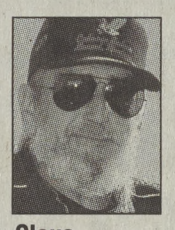
Condolences may be posted online at **www.gftribune.com/obituaries.**

SIGN ONLINE GUESTBOOKS
Visit www.greatfallstribune.com to read tributes and share your thoughts about the deceased.

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Michael Allen Claus

Vietnam Army veteran Michael Allen Claus, 59, of Great Falls, a construction worker, died of natural causes Friday at his home.



Claus

His memorial service is 2 p.m. Wednesday at Hillcrest Lawn Chapel, with a reception to follow at Spoons One Way. Schnider Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Michael Allen Claus was born Sept. 12, 1949, in Lewistown, Mont., and raised in Montana and South Dakota. He went to school in South Dakota and Montana and attended college in Leavenworth, Kan. He joined the Army and completed a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Michael worked for Ed Boland Construction for the past 17 years. Prior work experience included truck driving and working in the oil fields of Montana and Wyoming.

He was a member of the VFW and loved riding his Harleys, fishing, hunting and spending time with friends and family.

Survivors include a daughter, Cristyl (Rodney) Green of Kalispell; sisters Barbara (Tommie) Crook of Power, and Mary (Steve) Carlson and Susan (Alan LaRocque) O'Meara of Great Falls; a brother, Joe (Laura) O'Meara of Teigen; three grandchildren, two great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Helen and David Downing; his father, Leo Claus; a brother, Patrick Claus; and his grandparents, Mary and Joseph Rellick.

Condolences may be posted online at **www.schniderfuneralhome.com** and/or **www.gftribune.com/obituaries.**

OBITUARY POLICY

The Tribune publishes news obituaries of residents from Great Falls and north-central Montana. There is no charge for the news item, which is written by Tribune news staff and includes: name, age, address, occupation, a photo, cause of death, funeral arrangements, visitation times and other services, as well as surviving spouse, parents, siblings, children and the number of grandchildren.

Tribune staffers work with funeral homes and family members to gather the information. Flags are included in the obituaries of veterans.

Additional details about an individual's life, interests and family may be added for a fee to the news obituary. The added information may be written by the family, funeral home or, if preferred, the Tribune. Paid obituaries can be billed through a funeral home or paid for in advance by families.

Obituary forms and paid information guidelines are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Tribune, 205 River Drive S. To pick up a form on weekends or after business hours, or to have a form mailed to you, call 791-1460 or 800-438-6600. The e-mail address to send obituary information or to request a form is tribobits@greatfallstribune.com; the fax number is 791-1431.

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Thomas Harold Chadwick

October 6, 1935 – January 11, 2009

Opening Prayer

Hymn - Amazing Grace

Eulogy

Time of Sharing

Message from Scripture

Hymn - Jesus Loves Me

About 40 of Tommy's cousins and friends met today. It was a cold (25°) cloudy Dupuyer winter day. Thankfully, no wind.

him, that he
nuked those that
he was much
he little children
for of such is the
Whosoever shall
not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:13-16

Thomas Harold Chadwick

October 6, 1935 – January 11, 2009

Opening Prayer

Hymn - Amazing Grace

Eulogy

Time of Sharing

Message from Scripture

Hymn - Jesus Loves Me

Closing Prayer

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:13-16

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

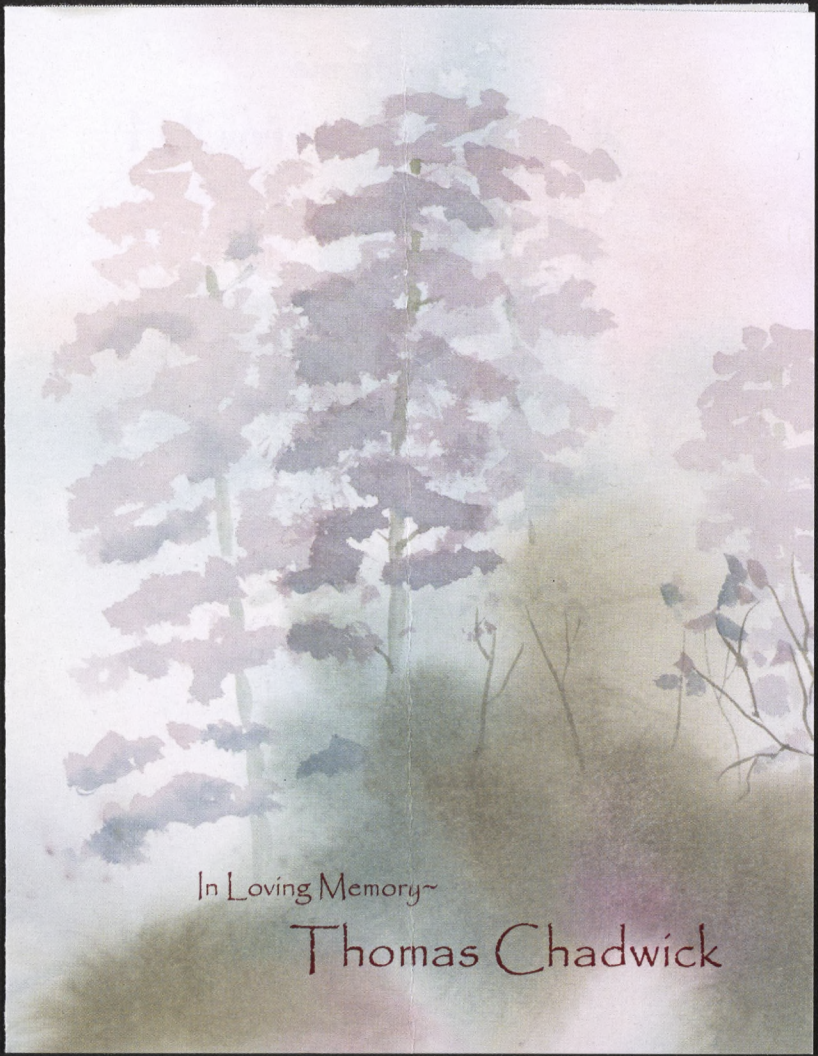
JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
they are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
let His little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.


In Loving Memory~
Thomas Chadwick

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.
Did you wonder I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! But Jesus's love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.
And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still:
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's will.
There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth-
You shall rest in Jesus's land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home:
Oh, the joy to see you come!

In Loving Remembrance

THOMAS CHADWICK

October 6, 1935 - *January 11, 2009*
Conrad, Montana *Great Falls, Montana*
73 Years, 3 Months, 5 Days

FUNERAL SERVICES
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
1:30pm
Dupuyer Community Center
Dupuyer, Montana
Pastor Kevin Bryant, Officiating

MUSICIANS
Kasia Salois, Dene' Salois,
& Aydan Salois

CASKETBEARERS

Gene Salois	Bob Raemaker
Kevin Bryant	Merlin Thomas
Wayne Agee	Jonathan Bryant

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS

Raymond Salois	Don Dodge

INTERMENT
Dupuyer Cemetery

The funeral is the way our society provides for the death of one of its members. It is an occasion for showing affection and respect for the deceased, for expressing our sympathy and concern and for participating in the experience of mutual sorrow.

Your presence at the funeral, in the company of other friends and neighbors, contributes to a fellowship of support extended to the family and relatives. They appreciate your personal attendance however inadequate their words may seem. By being here you have communicated that you care. This gesture is of immeasurable value, and speaks significantly about the impact of the life we commemorate.

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Choteau / Teton Public Library

March 31, 2008

Ivan Doig
17277 15th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig:

I am writing in anticipation of your new novel, "The Eleventh Man" to be released early this fall. Mary Tonkovich has alerted me to this coming release and with this letter, I am hoping to convince you to share your novel and participate in a discussion with our "Open Book" reading group.

We have between 25 and 30 regular participants in our reading group and meet approximately every six weeks. In fact, our first book for discussion this past year was your "This House of Sky" – very much enjoyed by all. Needless-to-say, we are all looking forward to your new novel.

We here at the library and those in the reading group, would love to have you join us any time following the release of "The Eleventh Man". Our calendar is open and we usually meet at noon and enjoy lunch followed by a discussion of the book. We also invite you to spend the afternoon signing and selling your book or books as you prefer. I know the residents of Choteau and Teton County would love to have the opportunity to meet with you.

I'm sure you probably don't remember, but you visited with Charlie and me when we had The Foothills Menswear. You needed information on tuxedo rental for one of your novels and we were very fortunate to be able to share what we knew on the subject. We both are certainly looking forward to the possibility of renewing your acquaintance.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Marsha J. Hinch
Library Director

5 April '08

Dear Marsha--

When Mary Tonkovich got in touch and put Choteau on our minds, my wife and I had the same thought out loud, that we both missed The Foothills as one of our favorite places to buy clothes.

And Mary mentioned that you're now the library director and a moving force behind the reading group. I certainly appreciate all the interest the group is giving my books.

As to getting together with the group to talk about *The Eleventh Man*, I have to say it's iffy. On most of the previous books, I might have been able to carve out the time during a bookstore tour. But I'm frankly doing a lot fewer bookstore appearances and staying home and working on the next books instead. I'm already writing the one after *Eleventh Man*, and as it's a sort of sequel to *The Whistling Season*--Morrie, the teacher in that book, makes his return to Montana--the publisher is eager to have the done version and I'm eager to get it done. I'll keep your invitation in mind if Carol and I do end up in Montana this fall (another chance is that the movie guys who want to film *Whistling Season* would actually get underway, but that's another longshot), but the schedule doesn't look too promising. Besides, Marsha, I always tell people that if a writer is any good, the best part of him is in the book anyway.

Hey, thanks for being in touch and thinking of Carol and me. From all our days of visiting Bud and Carol Guthrie and researching old *Acantha*s in the library and tuxedoes at The Foothills, it's the kind of grace we'd expect of Choteau.

All best wishes,

Get ready for a wonderful gathering and community celebration!

The Valier High School All School Reunion will be June 30th - July 2nd, 2006 in Valier, Montana!

Mark your calendars so that you can enjoy the weekend with your classmates and everyone else you know from Valier!

Let's show some school spirit and remember those high school days by visiting and reuniting with our old friends!

For more information please contact the following people:

Sue and **Bob Kovatch**,406-279-3408

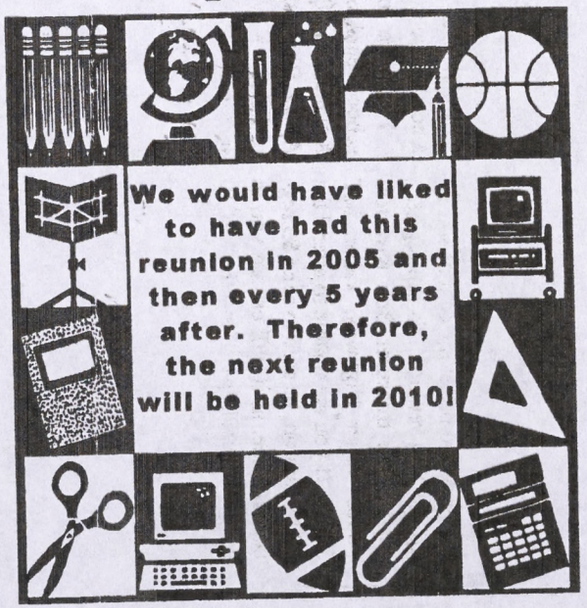
Matt and **Alicia Brophy** Ries, 509-484-0340

Celeste and **Kory Kovatch**, 406-279-3648

Kip and **Wendy Curry** Judisch,

406-278-5910

V H S



Valier All School Reunion

June 30th, July 1st, July 2nd, 2006

Friday, June 30th

- Registration in the Town Park (corner of Montana Street and Highway 44) , 12:00-6:30 p.m.
- "Good Times at Valier High" (Slide Show), School Gym, 7:00 p.m. Admission $4 for adults, $2 for children

Saturday, July 1st

- Registration continued, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Parade of classes, 11:00 a.m.
- Valier High School Memory Walk/Open House, 12:00-6:00 p.m.
- BBQ dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- Dance at Pavilion with live band, 9:00 p.m., adults only

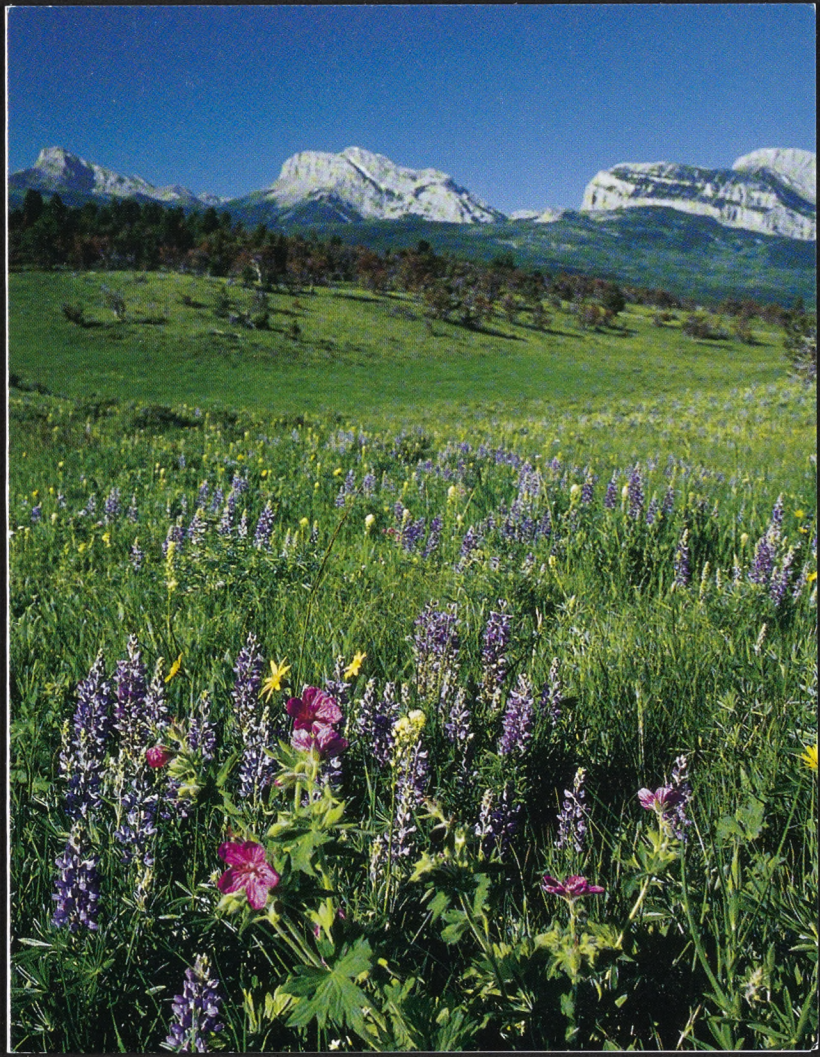
Sunday, July 2nd

- Individual class picnics or BBQ's if desired. (Please contact your class representative to see if anything is being organized for your class.)



Things you can do:

- **Contact your friends from high school to see if they are going to attend.**
- **Think of some fun and easy ideas to represent your class in the parade (banners, signs, floats, etc.) Contact some class members and be creative!**
- **Consider serving on the committee for the next reunion in 2010.**



9/13/06

Dear Juan,

I just wanted to let you know that Bill Rappold passed away last week after a long lingering illness.

Bill was laid to rest at the very top of "Boot Hill" with a spectacular view of the Front, on a fine clear September day.

Hope you all are well. I've been reading great reviews of your new book. Congratulations! I can't wait to read it.

Sincerely,

Dave Carr

The Nature Conservancy

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Rocky Mountain Front

Montana's Rocky Mountain Front is a magnificent sweep of grasslands, forests and peaks that provides rich habitat for an amazing diversity of plants and animals. One-third of all plant species in Montana occur here, offering profusions of spring and summer blooms. Shown here, in the shadow of Walling Reef, is a ranch owned by Karl and Terri Rappold protected through a Conservancy conservation easement.

Just north of Scoffin Creek.

Recycled Paper | *Photo © Jim Steinberg*

John W. 'Bill' Rappold

DUPUYER — Former Pondera County Commissioner John W. "Bill" Rappold, 65, a lifelong rancher who was active in the Dupuyer community, died Tuesday at a Conrad nursing home. He had been in poor health for some time.



Rappold

Visitation is 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Pondera Funeral Home in Conrad. His funeral is 11 a.m. Monday at Dupuyer Community Hall, with burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

He is survived by his mother, Pansie Rappold; a brother, Karl (Teri) Rappold of Dupuyer; a sister, Karen (Darryl) Burditt of Conrad; nieces and nephews John (Becky) Rappold of Dupuyer; D.J. Burditt of Conrad, Julie (Brian) Armstrong of Lakeland, Fla., Debbie (Jon) Hildahl of Spokane, Wash., Hadi (Jim) Sale and Kellen Johnson of Bend, Ore., and Emily Johnson of Portland, Ore.

Bill was born to John and Pansie Rappold on Nov. 9, 1940. He was of German descent; his grandfather, Karl, immigrated to the United States from Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1876. Karl arrived in the Dupuyer area in 1882 to file a homestead claim. It was this homestead that later became Bill's life-long home.

Bill graduated with honors from Valier High School with the graduating class of 1957. He was a self-motivated learner and valued education, as he completed his education two years early. Music, carpentry, animals, collecting antiques and art, as well as gardening, were some of Bill's passions in life.

Bill was a rancher by trade, working on the family ranch throughout his life. He had a great devotion to public service. As Pondera County Commissioner Bill served on the Executive Board of MACO, where he held the office of 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, and then became chairman of MACO in 1997-98.

He served as the chairman of District No. 4 and 5 of county commissioners for one term, served on the Department of Agriculture and Trust Insurance Board for MACO and the State of Montana Juvenile Justice Detention Board.

Bill was a member of the Valier School Board of Trustees for more than 15 years, Pondera County Hospital Commission, served on the Golden Triangle Mental Health Board, TLC, Council on Aging and the Pondera County Park Board. After 12 years as Pondera County Commissioner, Bill enjoyed the remaining years of his life at home on the family ranch.

He loved to share his music and fond memories with his family and friends. Spending time with his nieces and nephews was a cherished time for Bill. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his father, John, in 1986.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be given in his name to the Pondera Medical Center, 805 Sunset Blvd., Conrad, MT 59425 (where he served on the Hospital Commission for 12 years); or to the Peace Hospice of Pondera County, 300 N Virginia, No. 308, Conrad, MT 59425.

Condolences may be sent online to **greatfallstribune.com/obituaries.**



2-21-08

Hello Ivan!

This is Mary Dayne Jonkovich writing - oldest child of Jack & Harriet, now living in Choteau.

This past winter my sister and brother-in-law (Ali and Robert Newkirk) made cork boards framed with wood from the old Benson English house. We thought you might enjoy one of these Dupuyer mementos, so one is enclosed.

We read that there is work on a movie of Whistling Season. Congratulations! It's a great work! Did you know that the 2007 National Rural Teacher of the Year is former Dupuyer girl, Susan Gauthier Luinstra? Her mother's birth name is Marie Billoro.

Here in Montana we continue to read and enjoy Doig books. The Choteau Public Library book club will next meet on Thursday, March 11th. Lunch is served at noon followed by discussion of this month's selection, Bucking the Sun.

Wishing you well. Hope you enjoy the cork board.

Sincerely,

Mary Jonkovich



A friend once noticed a piece of black cloth caught on the branch of a tall tree, waving in the wind. Upon closer scrutiny he discovered the cloth was actually a raven dangling contentedly by it's beak. I filed this tale as strange, and the raven as an oddity, only to learn later that this is a known behavior researchers call "hanging." While you might not find a raven hanging out with your laundry, keep an eye on the treetops for shiny black socks!

Station of the Raven IX: Hanging Out

Hand colored linocut, 9.5" x 13.25"

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For information about original works write us at:
Evon Zerbetz Graphics ◆ P.O. Box 8943 ◆ Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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24 Feb. '08

Dear Mary--

What a fine thoughtful gift! The cork board is immediately going on a wall next to a painting of a one-room school inspired by The Whistling Season. Please share my thanks with Ali and Robert, and tell them the Sawdust Factory sounds like the most going Dupuyer enterprise since Gertie ran the Home Cafe and Harold ran the gas station. It really does feel quite meaningful to have this bit of Ben English's existence. From the time I started on that book, there was something compelling about Ben and his past--it came through to me in talking with his daughter Mary, and of course there was the abiding presence of your folks there on the place--and it was my wife Carol's inspiration to go all the way and title the book English Creek. I've always been glad I did.

You heard right, a movie of The Whistling Season is in the works, although early in the process. The movie guys just now have renewed their one-year option on filming the story, and I've approved the script, which is highly respectful of the book. Now, however, the guys have to go out and coax millions of dollars in financing--not for me, alas, but to actually shoot the movie--and as I'm not involved in any of that, I really don't know if they can get that part of the job done. The scriptwriter, the only one I'm in touch with, has laid out to me a theoretical schedule by which they would be making the movie somewhere in Montana--the guy claims [redacted] the state film commission is hot to have it happen--by sometime this summer. The project so far has not moved ahead anywhere near that fast, so we'll see. Carol and I constantly say we are not holding our breath until all this happens; as best we can tell, movie-making is so chancy it makes sheep ranching look easy.

In any case, feel free to share this with your library book club, and the bunch of you might be interested to know my next book is coming out early this fall. I'm enclosing a copy of the publishing house's catalogue description; the "eleventh man," Ben Reinking, is from Gros Ventre, which as you know is kind of my version of Choteau (and touches from other towns) superimposed on Dupuyer's site. So the big cottonwoods will star again, indeed in the novel's first sentence:

"Never much of a town for showing off, Gros Ventre waited around one last bend in the road, suppertime lights coming on here and there beneath its roof of trees."

Thanks immensely, Mary, for your good note and for sending the cork board. The Hayne clan always did well by me--how much time I spent elbow to elbow with your father in Gertie's cafe when I was a teenager and he was a young rancher with a sky-blue pickup--and you're carrying on the tradiation. All best wishes.

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TONKOVICH
PO BOX 145
CHOTEAU MT 59422-0145

CHOTEAU
NTHA

❒ CHS spikers 0-2 at State Class B tournament last week ..... PAGE 7

MBER 14, 2007 75 CENTS



antha photos by Don LaBaugh

during a program of music
d above, fifth-graders sing
sign. Behind her, from left,
Shannon Shook.



National rural educators name Bynum teacher best in nation

By Melody Martinsen
Acantha editor

Susan Luinstra, the veteran teacher at Bynum Elementary School in Teton County, has been named the National Rural Education Association's 2007 Teacher of the Year.

Luinstra departed on Friday from the Great Falls International Airport to fly to Oklahoma City, Okla., where she attended the NREA Research Symposium and Centennial Convention, Nov. 9-14.



LUINSTRA

The Montana Association of County School Superintendents last February named Luinstra Montana's Rural Teacher of the Year and sponsored her trip to the NREA convention.

She competed with other state rural teachers of the year for top honors in the national competition, judged by a committee of 12 educators including Robert Newhouse, the NREA immediate past president and chairman of College of Education at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Other members of the selection committee were Chairman Steve Breckon, liaison Dwayne James and Seth Adams, Patricia Cruzeiro, Reggie Fryar, Moni Hourt, Dick Moreau, Phil Simon, Paula Stephenson, Don Stevens and Delores Thorne.

The NREA, a private nonprofit entity, is the oldest established national organization of its kind in the United States. Formerly known as the REA, the association was originally founded in 1907 as the Department of Rural Education. Its membership includes rural school administrators, teachers, board members, regional service agency personnel, researchers, business and industry representatives and others interested in supporting the future of rural schools.

Luinstra was honored at the convention on Nov. 13 during the NREA Teacher of the Year recognition banquet, sponsored by Deere and Co. of Moline, Ill.

Luinstra was not the only Montanan honored at the convention, Helena resident Claudette Morton of the Montana Small School Alliance was the recipient of the NREA Exemplary Practices Award. Morton is also a Democratic candidate for the Montana superintendent for public instruc-

■ See WINNER, page 12

lighted nightly from 5 p.m. to 11

■ WINNER

from page 1

tion.

Teton County Superintendent of Schools Diane Inbody of Choteau, who also attended the NREA convention, spearheaded the process of nominating Luinstra for the Montana award. The in-depth nomination packet included letters of support from parents, community members, former students and co-workers along with Luinstra's extensive resume and her essay-form answers to a series of questions.

In nominating Luinstra, Inbody said, "Not until I had the opportunity to see for myself what happens in her classroom was I able to see the lifelong impact she makes on her students. She is in a class of her own when it comes to master educators and is well deserving of this award."

Inbody said the national competition was judged based on the information contained in the state applications. She also said that the decision to select Luinstra as the national award winner was nearly unanimous.

The MACSS awarded Luinstra with the 2007 Rural School Teacher of the Year award, a commemorative clock, a $500 check, and the expenses-paid trip to Oklahoma City. The Montana Unified School Trust, which writes health insurance for schools, partnered with MACSS and awarded Luinstra $250 and presented Bynum School with a matching check for $250.

Luinstra, who now lives in Choteau, grew up in Dupuyer and earned her bachelor's degree from Montana State University in 1974. She said she was influenced to become a teacher by two former teachers who played important roles in her life. She remembers her second-grade teacher, whose many acts of kindness touched her. "She was magical," Luinstra said. "She made everyone in her class feel special."

Later, her stepmother, a former teacher, encouraged her to pursue teaching as a major in college. "I just always loved children," Luinstra said."

Her first teaching job was at Bynum Elementary School, the heart of a stand-alone elementary district located in the farm and ranch country around the tiny town of Bynum.

She was hired to teach first through fifth grades while longtime Bynum teacher Ira Perkins taught the sixth through eighth grades. Perkins had already been teaching at Bynum for 41 consecutive years. He had built an elementary education program that emphasized mathematics, reading, writing and literature. All children at the rural school learned ballroom dancing, floor gymnastics, instrumental and vocal music.

Luinstra, answering questions in the nominating petition and in a Power Point presentation "The Gift of a Rural School" for the MACSS, said Perkins shaped not only her educational methods, but also her values and beliefs.

"He showed me by example how to meld high standards with understanding and fun," she wrote. "He taught me to teach intuitively, to worry less about the clock and more about getting to the core of what one was teaching, to push hard for excellence in yourself and your students, but to be aware of that moment when you'd all had enough. Then it was time to push back the desks and dance the Virginia Reel."

Luinstra taught alongside Perkins for most of his last 12 years at the school, taking some time off to get married and raise her two children. For a year she taught at Pendroy Elementary School and was the teacher for Trinity Lutheran Preschool in Choteau for a year and a half. Then she returned to Bynum, where she has now taught for 26 of her 28 years as a teacher. When Perkins retired in 1986, she remained, taking the position of "upper grades" teacher and committing her energy and talent to maintaining the traditions that made Bynum more than just any old school.

"These traditions form a foundation for the sense of respect that lies at the heart of our school community," she says.

During Luinstra's years at the school, she has seen enrollment boomerang from a high of 56 — with four teachers — to a low of just five students and herself as the only teacher. Enrollment at Bynum is presently 12 students and the school also employs a full-time aide.

She says her philosophy of teaching is to focus on the whole child, keeping in mind that academics are only part of what a child needs to succeed in life.

"Bynum School is a simple place with a simple focus: the children," she said.

Children at Bynum receive a rich, diverse education that includes such hands-on learning experiences as field trips to the T.R. Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, visits from Star Lab, Internet-based science collaborations, field trips to the Great Falls Symphony and the ballet, and a steady stream of guest lecturers who speak on music, art, science, history and nature.

"Every child has the opportunity to experience things that are at times difficult for rural families to provide," Luinstra says.

Luinstra says she has enjoyed her experience as rural elementary teacher immensely. "Though some may feel that teaching in a rural school is 'the end of the line,' I've always believed it to be one of the most powerful settings for education," she said. "Each day I am grateful to have found 'home' in my very first teaching assignment."

Through the years, Luinstra said, she has received great support from the parents of children who send their kids to school there, and from the school board members who have volunteered their time and talents to build shelves, repair the school boiler, fix desks and much more.

Luinstra recalled her board's support several years ago for a special community service project that students started. They learned that one of their guest lecturers had developed cancer. They also knew that the grandmother of one of their classmates made flannel rag quilts for chemotherapy patients. The children asked their teacher if Syndi Gebhart could come in and teach them to sew a quilt. She said yes, and the children made their first quilt. Soon thereafter, Luinstra asked the board to approve purchasing several sewing machines for the school. Now quilt-making is an annual project.

"I have a passion for rural schools and their power to affect the life of a child," Luinstra said. "Each day brings unexpected challenges for a rural teacher, but it also carries great rewards."

Growth policy committee forges ahead

■ Next meeting Nov. 19 at 5:15 p.m. at city hall

By Melody Martinsen

"We had a great meeting; we're moving forward," Martin said.

In mid-October the committee met with Tim Davis, director of the Montana Smart Growth Coalition and a member of the Sonoran Institute, for an overview of the Growth Coalition and the Montana Association of Realtors to create a road map for good growth policy planning and zoning.

Looking around the state, the best growth policies are not ones that hinge so much on what has urban-wildlands interface.

He said the Choteau Growth Policy committee members need to ask themselves questions such as "What are your visions for Choteau?" "Do you want to have a vibrant downtown that's more

18 Sept. '06

Dear Karl and Teri--

Dave Carr of the Nature Conservancy kindly let me know about Bill. Carol and I extend our sympathy, and I particularly feel his loss--we went back so far together, all those days on the schoolbus to Valier, occasional hitchhiking home, always a good fit of friendship between us.

It's a bit over fifty years since I alit into Dupuyer as a wet-eared high school kid staying with the Chadwicks, and I want you to know what a privilege it has been to have the Rappolds somewhere in my life--your dad, Bill, the two of you there on the ranch. I'm very glad of the couple of times we managed to get together with you and Bill in recent years. Here's hoping our paths will continue to cross.

All best wishes,


© 1999

The Choteau book club had 22 for the lively library discussion of Bucking the Sun. The members are looking forward to The Eleventh Man. In fact, I believe our enthusiastic librarian, Marsha Hinch, is hoping you might come to Choteau for a book signing/reading. The Jayne clan would certainly second that

March 29, 2008

Hello Ivan!

I promise I'm not trying to become a pen pal, but your reference to cottonwoods did prompt one more note.

Recently the Tribune ran the enclosed article regarding "Two Lane to Dupuyer." Of course, we wish more was happening in the town so we could use this honor to some advantage.

invitation.

Tomorrow is sheep shearing at the Hayne ranch and the first night of the annual community play (two one-acts this year).

Happy spring!

Mary Jonkovich

©2004 American Library Association.
Illustration by Charlotte Staub Thomas, ©1999
All proceeds benefit the programs of the American Library Association.



"Two Lane to Dupuyer" by Ron Ukrainetz

Ukrainetz painting chosen to represent Montana in contest

By Tribune Staff

Great Falls native Ron Ukrainetz's painting, "Two Lane to Dupuyer," was selected as one of the two paintings chosen to represent Montana in Paint America's Top 100 Competition.

Paint America is a nonprofit organization formed to support visual art and provide a top-notch national venue. The organization also provides scholarships for young artists and supports programs for the Paint America Association.

Paint America chooses works meant to illustrate American life. The organization sponsors two divisions of competition, the full-scale, Top 100 Division where two pieces from each state are selected, and a Top 50 Mini Division where one piece from every state is selected.

Great Falls Tribune
2/19/08

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Mary Tonkovich
P.O. Box 145
Choteau MT 59422

GREAT FALLS MT 594
PM
28 MAR
2008



Ivan Doig
17277 - 15th Av. N.W.
Seattle
WA 98177-3846

18 Sept. '06

Dear Dave--

Really appreciated your letting me know about Bill Rappold. What an awful and unforeseen fate. He was the youngest in our high school class, skipping grades in the one-room school out there, and seemed strong as a horse; I always noticed when I was around him, these past years, that everything about Bill was about twice the size of the same thing on me--hands, arms, head, etc. The Rappolds, the Rappolds, what a story. I'll be dropping a line to Karl and Teri, thanks to you.

All is well with Carol and me. As you divined, the latest book turns out to be a hot one, so we're happy campers, sitting around in its glow. Will be a while before we get back to the Front country probably, as I'm tooth and nail into the next book, a WWII novel centered on East Base, the predecessor to Malmstrom in Great Falls. So it goes.

Hope you're thriving meanwhile; see you one of these times.

All best,

Valier High School All School Reunion planned for summer of 2006

By Trina Jo Bradley
For The Valierian

Valier High School held its first graduation commencement in 1915. Since then, 89 classes have walked in and out of the hallways at VHS, leaving their mark on teachers, friends, classmates, and the community.

Next summer, these graduates will have an opportunity to "come home" and revisit high school memories and friends during an All School Reunion scheduled for June 30 through July 2, 2006.

According to Sue Kovatch, committee member, the weekend will begin Friday with registration in the Center Park from noon to 6:30 p.m., followed by a History Show in the Valier High School gym at 7 p.m.

Saturday the festivities will begin with a parade of classes at 11 a.m., followed by a Valier High School Memory Walk/Open House from noon to 6 p.m. A barbecue dinner will be served by the Valier Volunteer Fire Department at 6 p.m., followed by a dance at the Lake Frances pavilion at 9 p.m.

Sunday, individual classes will have the opportunity to hold class picnics, barbecues, or a class activity of their choice.

"It will be a wonderful time for family and friends," Alicia Ries, committee member, said.

Graduates of VHS are urged by the reunion committee to pre-register for the event, to offset the cost of setting up the first reunion. To pre-register, send $5 to treasurer Bob Kovatch, 16085 Valier Highway, Valier, MT 59486. If you are unable to attend the 2006 reunion, be sure to send $5 registration fee, as it will ensure you to receive mailings for the 2010 reunion.

To make the task of contacting 90 classes easier, the committee chose a representative from each class to send out reunion brochures to the members of their class. "If you haven't received one by Oct. 1, contact a committee person," Wendy Judisch, committee member, said. "The next mailing will be sent by Jan. 1, to all known addresses of graduates."

The reunion committee, which is made up of Bob (1971) and Sue Kovatch, Matt and Alicia (Brophy - 1994) Ries, Kory (1993) and Celeste Kovatch, and Kip and Wendy (Curry - 1990) Judisch, has set the following guidelines for future all school reunion committee members:

- Four members of the eight-member committee must be graduates of Valier High School.
- The all class reunion will be held every five years, with the next reunion in 2010. (Originally, the first All School Reunion was planned for 2005.)
- The all school reunion will be held the first weekend of July. In 2010 this will be July 2, 3, and 4.

According to Kovatch, the committee chose the first weekend of July so reunion attendees could take advantage of the long Fourth of July weekend to travel home.

"If you would like to volunteer to be on a committee we would be more than happy to have you," Kovatch said. "They'll assign you to a committee that needs help."

For more information on the all school reunion, contact Bob or Sue Kovatch at 406-279-3408, Matt or Alicia Ries at 509-484-0340, Kory or Celeste Kovatch at 406-279-3648, or Kip or Wendy Judisch at 406-278-5910.

Dear Joan,

As you can see we are planning an all school reunion and hope you can come!

Here is the writeup from the Valierian.

Arlene (Jacobson) Anderson

Ms. Arlene Anderson
PO Box 844
Choteau MT 59422

GREAT FALLS, MT 594
PM
23 AUG
2005



Dear Dad
17277 15th N.W
Seattle, Wash
98177

9 May '06

Dear Jake--

Good to hear from you; hope you're thriving. Have been thinking about the Choteau country lately, as one of the fictional characters in my next book is just now (in my head) riding a bus home (to the invented town I've put on the site of Dupuyer) from the Great Falls airbase in World War II.

Sorry to say, I'm not going to be able to do as well as him, when class reunion weekend comes. I have a new book being published on June 1, and the publisher is sending me on a coast-to-coast author's tour, including a chunk of Canada, too, most of June and July. The schedule starts bringing me to Montana bookstores on July 11, commencing in Missoula, but there's no way I can make it to the reunion, a week earlier. If any of our classmates in your area are curious enough to come and gawk, tell 'em I'll be signing books at Waldenbooks (Holiday Village) in Great Falls, 2-3 p.m. and again 6-7 p.m., July 13.

Meanwhile, would you do me a whopping favor? Take the enclosed money with you to the July 2 shindig, wherever it ends up, and buy our class of '57 a round of drinks, on me. They were good folks, good to me; somewhere that evening I'll hoist a glass in the direction of all of you and say, "here's looking at you."

Regards to everybody,

9 May '06

Dear Jake--

Good to hear from you; hope you're thriving. Have been thinking about the Choteau country lately, as one of the fictional characters in my next book is just now (in my head) riding a bus home (to the invented town I've put on the site of Dupuyer) from the Great Falls airbase in World War II.

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Regards to everybody,

Plans being finalized for July 2 all-school reunion, up to 1,000 may attend

By Trina Jo Bradley
For The Valierian

As summer draws near, plans for the first Valier High School All-School "Coming Home" Reunion are being finalized.

The reunion, set for Friday, June 30 to Sunday, July 2, will be a celebration for classes from 1932 to 2005 that attended Valier High School.

According to Bob Kovatch, [illegible]rer of the reunion committee, [illegible]ast mailing sent out for the reunion went out to over 1,100 addresses.

"The response has been tremendous," Kovatch said. "We could have as many as 1,000 people in town."

The committee is still asking for registrations from former students at VHS, and a registration will be held at the Main Street Park Friday, June 30 and will continue throughout Saturday, July 1.

"The goal has been to provide a vehicle for the community to gather alumni, friends, and family for a couple of days to renew old acquaintances, visit and enjoy each other's company and see the changes that have occurred over the years," Kovatch said. "As a bonus, we hope it will provide an economic boost to the community, organizations and businesses in the area."

The weekend will begin Friday with registration in the park, where the Valier High School FCCLA will serve light refreshments throughout the afternoon. Kovatch said a message board will also be set up for classmates to communicate with each other and set up special get-togethers.

At 7 p.m. Friday, a history/slide show will be presented in the high school gym. Anyone who wishes to submit photos or other memorabilia for the show are asked to contact Kory and Celeste Kovatch at 279-3648.

Saturday, July 1 the reunion will continue with a "parade of classes" at 11 a.m. The parade will end at the high school, where classes can gather to have their photos taken.

"It's important for classes to participate in the parade so we can take as many class pictures as possible," Kovatch said. "We encourage all classes to submit an entry of any kind in the parade."

Immediately following the parade the high school and elementary school will hold an open house and memory walk. According to Kovatch, all class pictures will be displayed, as well as trophies, old uniforms and other memorabilia. Refreshments, pastries and other goodies will be available. If anyone has anything they would like to put on display for the memory walk, contact Kovatch at 279-3798. Dupuyer Elementary School will also hold an open house Saturday afternoon for those students that transferred from Dupuyer to attend high school in Valier.

A barbecue hosted by the Valier Volunteer Fire Department will be held on the football field at 5 p.m. In the case of inclement weather, the dinner will be moved inside to the multi-purpose room.

A dance with music by the Billings band "Cimarron" will be held at 9

See All-Class Reunion, Page 6

All-Class Reunion .

From Page 1

p.m. at the Lake Frances pavilion. A cover charge of $5 per person will be charged at the door, and a full bar will be offered.

Sunday, July 2, no specific activities have been planned for the reunion in order to give individual classes the opportunity to hold their own activities, Kovatch said. It will also give classmates the opportunity to plan for the next all-school reunion, which will be held in 2010.

There are many accommodations around Valier and Dupuyer for those coming to town for the weekend, such as the Lake Frances Inn, Stone School Inn, Inn Dupuyer, Lake Frances campground, and other various spots around town. Reservations cannot be made at any of the camping areas, and they are all on a first come, first serve basis, so get here early to ensure a spot.

Don't miss the first Valier High School All-School "Coming Home" Reunion June 30 through July 2!

Hi Ivan,

It has been suggested we join the class of '56 for dinner at the East Glacier Hotel or some place similar on Sunday July 2, 2006. Maybe you would prefer just our class? Let me know your suggestions so we can make reservations.

Hope you can come to the reunion. Will be wonderful to see all of you again — For this part of the letter, send remittance to:

Arlene Anderson
Box 844
Choteau Mont 59422

Arlene Anderson
P.O. Box 844
Choteau, MT 59422-0844

GREAT FALLS, MT 59401
1 PM
4 MAY
2006



Mr & Mrs. Duane Doig
17277 15th N.W
Seattle, Wash
98177

98177#3846

Get ready for the Valier All School Reunion!

Friday, June 30th - registration and a history/slide show in the gym, 7:00 p.m., Adults, $4, children $2

Saturday, July 1st - continued registration, parade at 11:00 a.m., Fireman's BBQ at 6:00 (cost TBD), Dance at the Pavilion, 9:00 p.m., Adults only (cost TBD)

Sunday, July 2nd - activities such as BBQ's, social hours, etc. organized by your class. Contact your classmates to see if they are coming and what they would like to do!

Please register by sending $5 to:

Bob Kovatch, Treasurer
16085 Valier Highway
Valier, MT 59486

This helps to cover the cost of printing and mailing and registers your information for the next reunion in 2010!

GREAT FALLS MT 594
23 FEB
2006



VALIER ALL SCHOOL REUNION
16085 Valier Highway
Valier, MT 59486

Ivan Doig
17277 15th St. NW
Seattle, WA 98177



Valier High School

All-School Reunion

June 30 - July 1, 2, 2006

Join your classmates and lots of other VHS graduates for a great weekend in Valier, Montana!

Mark your calendars now!

Ivan Doig

17277 15th Avenue N.W., Seattle, Washington 98177
(206) 542-6658

12 March '06

Bob, hi--

Sorry to say, but I can't make it to the school reunion; I have a new book coming out in June and I'm going to be on a national tour for it that won't bring me to Montana until mid-July. But I'd like to kick in a bit of support; hence, the enclosed $25 check for you to put to use on the reunion. Good luck with the event.

Regards,

Ivan Doig

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

▼ ▼ ▼ RASMUSON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER ▼ ▼ ▼

Lisa B. Flowers (@ home: 406-466-2078)

Conservation Education Program Director

P.O. Box 234
Dupuyer, MT 59432
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Fax 406.472-3313
www.boone-crockett.org

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The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

The Nature Conservancy of Montana
32 South Ewing Street
Helena, Montana 59601

tel (406) 443.0303
fax (406) 443.8311

nature.org

February 27, 2006

Ivan and Carol Doig
17277 15th Avenue N.W.
Seattle, WA 98177-3846

Dear Ivan and Carol,

Greetings in the New Year! If 2005 is any indication, 2006 holds great promise as another blockbuster year for achieving landscape-scale conservation in Montana. As you know, last summer brought approval of a 170,000-acre U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) conservation easement program for the Rocky Mountain Front, on which we had worked for five years; another great fundraising year for the Blackfoot Community Project brought us to 54,106 acres toward our 88,000-acre land-protection goal; closer community ties in the Glaciated Plains that, from our Matador Ranch, launched a rancher-led initiative for conservation over a three-million-acre area; and on the Yellowstone River, an impressive federal and state institutional commitment to riparian improvements for imperiled warm-water fish survival in the Yellowstone River. It was a monumental year for the Montana Chapter because of the extraordinary talent and commitment of our staff and volunteer board, our dedicated donors, and, of course, the phenomenal landscapes we are privileged to protect.

I want to devote the majority of this update to our Southwest Montana program because of compelling successes and opportunities that have recently arisen. But before traveling southward, a brief meander is in order to touch on highlights and upcoming priorities for our major focus areas.

Rocky Mountain Front

For lovers of the Rocky Mountain Front, the recently approved FWS conservation easement program received an initial federal appropriation of $1 million last fall, setting the stage for a $5-$10 million appropriation this year. To take advantage of this new opportunity as well as an increased commitment on our part to private fundraising for the Front, we will get more aggressive in securing key land projects before land prices outdistance us. To this end, the LaSalle Adams Fund has generously given us a two-year grant to help our Rocky Mountain Front director Dave Carr hire a new land-protection position to accelerate our critical conservation work. At the same time, we will be paying close attention to some controversial public land issues on the Front that could affect our ability to do business. To this end, Dave has been instrumental in helping the local Teton County Development Corporation engage the Sonoran Institute to develop a community vision and plan that we feel will provide the best platform for creating conservation strategies having broad community acceptance.

Blackfoot Community Project

Community acceptance has been the hallmark of our Blackfoot Community Project, conducted in close partnership with the local Blackfoot Challenge. This is yet again a critical year for the project toward which we've raised more than $6.2 million of our $10 million *private* fundraising goal and helped the Blackfoot Challenge secure more than $34 million in *public* funds to date. Our immediate priority this year will be to sell Plum Creek land we now own worth more than $16 million to the U.S. Forest Service over the next six months, for which the funds have been appropriated. We also have been working vigorously to secure at least $6 million in public funds for purchasing conservation easements on Plum Creek lands we will sell privately. The exercise of our next option, to acquire 13,970 acres south of the Blackfoot River on upper Chamberlain Mountain and Douglas Creek in December 2006, will depend on our ability to secure several key private out-sales, at least $6 million in federal funds for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquisitions, and at least another $2 million in private funds. The truly outstanding news here is that in the final hours of 2005, we secured the Blackfoot in the President's budget for BLM land acquisition, which will give our congressional delegation the ability to secure a decent appropriation for the project this next year. Now, we must sprint toward completing our private $10 million fundraising campaign for the Blackfoot, which has been so instrumental to leveraging much greater public funding.

Northern Great Plains / Matador Ranch

Looking ahead, the Conservancy's 2015 Goal, challenging us to effectively conserve at least 10% of every habitat type on earth with partners, has special relevancy for conservation of grasslands in the Northern Great Plains. Since temperate grasslands are the *least protected* terrestrial habitat on the globe, the leverage of land stewardship and permanent protection outward from the Conservancy's 60,000-acre Matador Ranch has taken on even greater urgency. Our staff and board are working together with local community partners in refining our strategic vision for the project, with special attention to securing permanent protection of key private lands and optimizing our ability to complement conservation work by other NGOs. The good news is that the community is now taking on the conservation challenge, forming a non-profit organization to address economic issues that help conserve the prairies. And the Matador Ranch acquisition fundraising got a boost as well – $450,000 will arrive shortly from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, whose 2:1 fundraising challenge we met this past year.

Southwest Montana / Centennial Valley

Perhaps recent scenes from the Olympics bring to mind how our community-based programs function as a relay team, each passing the baton to best promulgate conservation outcomes. The Southwest Montana program currently holds the baton because of a series of recent events that have propelled Program Manager Tim Swanson and Southwest Montana Land Steward Nathan Korb toward the next plateau of conservation success. Having built a seven-year history of local partnerships, we and our conservation partners have protected over 31,500 acres of private land in the Centennial Valley conservation area and are now poised to considerably increase that number.

Last fall, our work in the Centennial Valley received substantial invigoration from a new donor with a $281,000 commitment that helped us complete the 3,346-acre Schuett project, protecting sagebrush/grassland habitat that supports wolves, antelope, elk, sage grouse, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. (The other $200,000 needed for this project came from a $1.5 million Doris Duke Charitable Foundation grant discussed later in this update.)

The new donor, however, did not stop with the Schuett project but asked us to put together a blueprint of what it would take to *finish* the remaining private land protection in the project area, giving consideration to critical biological priorities, threats, timing, and funding. The process of meeting this request fine-tuned our long-term strategy and won an initial commitment to work with us on strategic implementation with the understanding that we will need to secure critical matching funds. To that end, we are negotiating a second land purchase that could significantly enhance federal landownership around the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and diminish the threat of subdivision in this near pristine valley.



National Park Service

While the Centennial has intrinsic habitat value, it is also viewed as the *best conservation opportunity* to link habitat for wide-ranging carnivores and ungulates migrating from Yellowstone National Park with habitat in Idaho and beyond into Canada. The Centennial, along with the Upper Madison to the east and the Upper Big Hole to the west, forms a wildlife corridor of protected public and private land connecting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) with the Selway-Bitterroot Ecosystem and beyond.

In recognition of our work within the GYE, we were awarded a $1.5 million grant by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in 2004. The purpose of the grant was to involve several partner organizations in protecting, through acquisition or conservation easements, at least 10,000 acres of important wildlife habitat; leverage at least $10 million in matching funds; establish an easement defense fund for all land trusts in the region, and support regional collaborative planning and public education.

We far exceeded several of the expectations put forth in our proposal: The multi-faceted, 14-organization partnership funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, in fact, helped us protect over 24,000 acres in six key focal areas in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho and leverage Doris Duke capital funds by over 45:1 and securing $11,123,550 in cash and $34,052,400 in land and easement donations in matching funds. The grant also helped develop broader public support for conservation and, in the aftermath of this collaborative project, the groups involved have moved beyond the "singular entity" approach to conservation in the GYE. These signature projects showcase the fantastic progress that has been made over the last year in Southwest Montana and promote an abiding future for its human and wildlife residents.

Recent Changes

I want to fill you in on some other recent changes that will truly benefit our ability to deliver conservation results. After much consideration and exploration, we found a better administrative fit for the Montana Natural Heritage Program at the University of Montana. As you may know, the Natural Heritage Program houses extensive natural resource data and mapping, beneficial to both the public and private sectors. Through Sue Crispin's leadership, the support for this transfer was secured from all the key state and federal agencies served by the program. The transfer should take place in the spring of 2006, after a 20-year history of program development with support from The Nature Conservancy.

I also wanted to let you know that, after 14 years with the Conservancy (eight as the Montana State Director), I have embarked on a five-month leave from which I will return in July. Florence and I have long wanted to dig our toes into the sand with our kids before the outside world lures them away. Family camping trips were the most indelible experiences I had as a child, serving as a foundation for my deep appreciation for the natural world. Discussions with the Board confirmed that this was the best window for my brief absence, not only because of my personal goals, but because I have never felt better about the program. To this end, we are exceptionally lucky to have added Associate State Director Ben Pierce to our team last year, who will be running the program while I'm away. He started his Conservancy career with the Montana program more than 20 years ago and then went on to found and direct the Wyoming Chapter of The Nature Conservancy for 11 years, leading it to some of the greatest successes in Conservancy history.

Conclusion

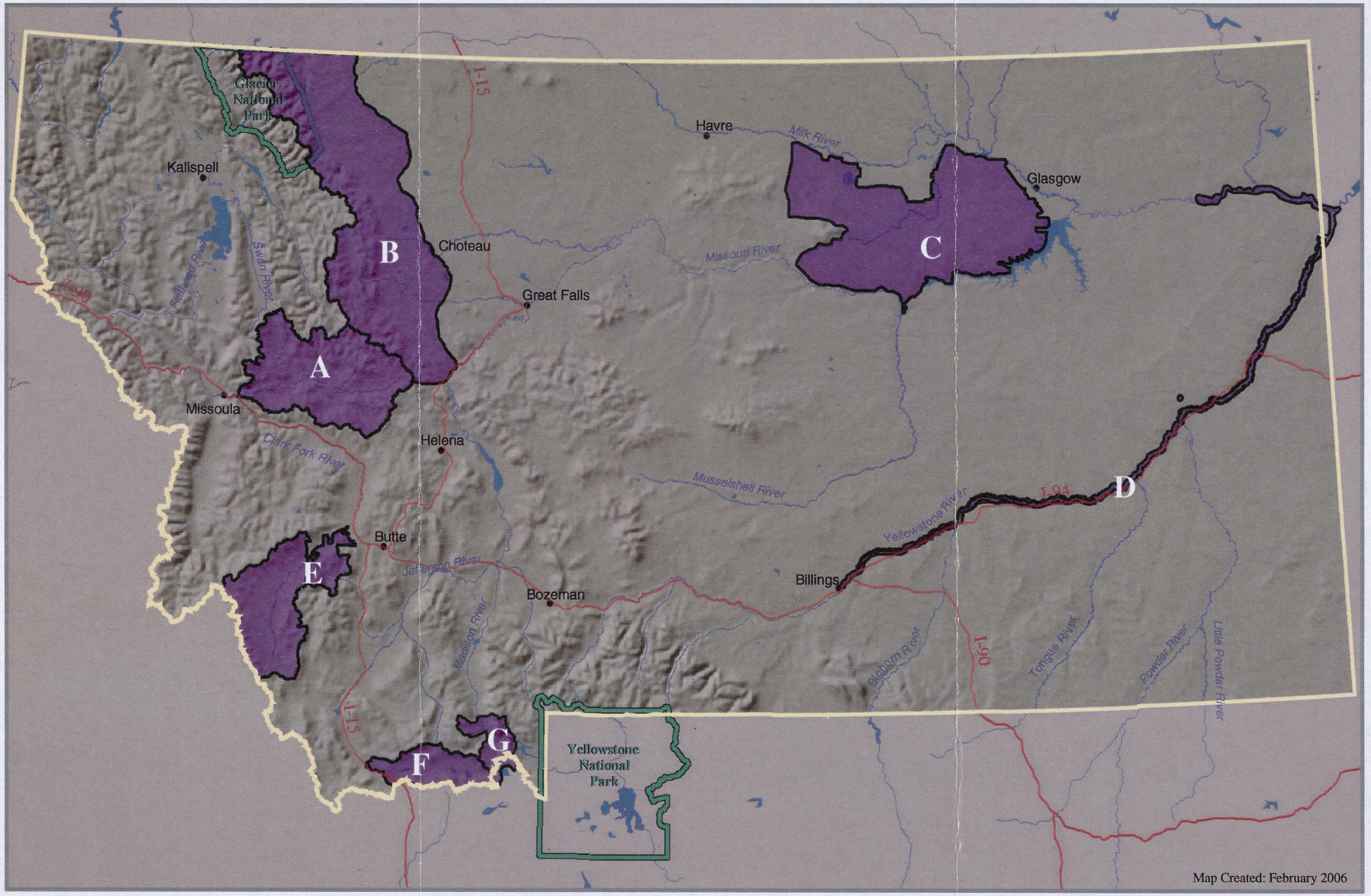
Linked by an invigorating sense of purpose, we have all been responsible for lasting outcomes in key Montana landscapes over the last year. Because of a keen dedication to wildlife and its habitat, we will still have the opportunity to show our children and grandchildren ground on which the grizzly bear walks, or bend to plants that exist nowhere else on the globe but in an isolated wetland or hummocky sand hill in Montana. We will still be uplifted by the curlew's cry. You are an integral part of this success. Thank you.

Best regards,

Jamie Williams
State Director

Enclosure: Map

Montana's Major Focus Areas for Program Update



The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Crown of Continent

A. Blackfoot River
B. Rocky Mountain Front

Northern Prairie

C. Montana Glaciated Plains
D. Lower Yellowstone River

Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

E. Big Hole River
F. Centennial Valley
G. Upper Madison River



chapter she finishes.

As I mentioned in the TNC card at Thanksgiving, Bill Rappold is struggling with something almost akin to dementia. I talk to Karl on a weekly basis and its hard for him to deal with. Bill was in a period of no medical insurance, so they can't afford much in-home care and yet Karl's still got the responsibilities of running the ranch. Fortunetly he's one tough hombre.

Thanks again for your support. Hope you both are well and that I get to see you in the new year.

Dave Carr

Dear Joan and Carol, 1/11/06

Thank you for your recent (and increased!) renewal with The Nature Conservancy. And thank you for all you do for the Front.

I'm reminded of that again, as my 19 year old daughter Maggie, who is on break from U. of M., has devoured English Creek and Dancing at the Rascal Fair while laying on her mothers couch in the shadows of Ear Mountain. The feelings she has for the Front continue to grow with each



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

nature.org/mt

"Cold Sun"
12x16 original oil on canvas – Julie T. Chapman© 2003

Julie T. Chapman is an internationally acclaimed wildlife artist. Her paintings are represented in galleries across the West and in numerous private and museum collections. She works from her own material gathered on countless adventures in the wild, and she has been donating to The Nature Conservancy for years from the proceeds of her art sales.

www.JulieTChapman.com – julie@JulieTChapman.com – 406.626.4586

8 Sept. '05: called Boone & Crockett center, talked w/ Adele: she said it's OK to look around outside when we're there w/ Dave & Marcella on Sunday the 18th; it's her day off and while she offered to come to the center, I told her not to bother.

--She gave me Lisa Flowers' home # (406) 466-2078 & and when I gave Lisa a courtesy call, she said to tell the Walters the center is there for them, too, avbl for meetings etc.
--Lisa was working at home, on her dissertation topic--improving environmental education--for Forestry School at UMont.

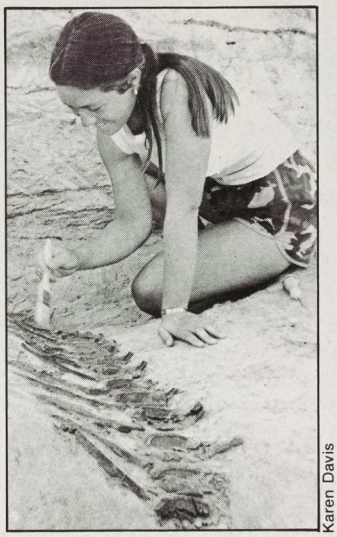
warm-blooded predator," Makela pointed out.

Egg Mountain is from the Cretaceous period, a geological age characterized by the advent and demise of the dinosaur, a period lasting 140 million years and ending 65 million years ago. In other words, it's hard to imagine that dinosaurs could have dominated this planet for millions of years if they were functionally vulnerable to the capriciousness of the sun.

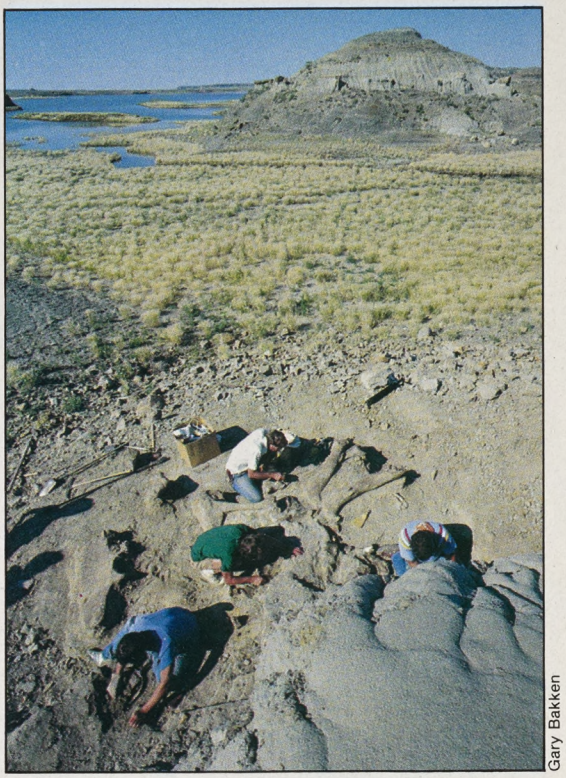
Such speculation makes paleontology a lot like reading a mystery that has every third chapter missing) and a few of the others written in another language. "You have to go with some assumptions," Makela volunteered. "You fill in the gaps, and you try to do it as quickly as possible. It's a balance, to try to come up with good information, and to try to do it with reasonable speed." Ask either one of them a question — Did dinosaurs do that? Did they do it this way? — and both will laugh, shrug, and say, "Well, they do now."

Finding the nesting grounds on Egg Mountain, plus the evidence of a herd leads to the speculation that dinosaurs were social, gregarious animals. It appears that they nested in extensive colonies, Horner maintains, like birds and crocodiles. Some shorebirds for instance, build in rookeries, spacing their nests a wingspan apart; these dinosaur nests appear to be spaced as far apart as an adult duckbilled dinosaur. The newly-hatched duckbills were about a foot long and weighed about 24 ounces, hatching from an egg a little larger than a goose egg. The nests were about six feet wide, containing some 20 eggs. With parents 30 feet long and weighing three tons, Horner speculates that the eggs were incubated with rotting vegetation and not by the adult dinosaurs. Two different kinds of eggs have been discovered, and Horner and Makela don't know which egg belongs to which animal and still haven't found complete eggs from the duckbills. One kind of egg was laid two-by-two in rows, and the other kind was laid in clutches of concentric circles. "We think those clutches are the eggs of a previously undiscovered dinosaur," Makela explained. The site also has yielded fossil remains of the varanid lizard, a kind of "monster lizard" still living in contemporary times. It was then and still is an egg-eater.

The importance of the discovery of a herd of dinosaurs — apart from the fact that it's the first such find anywhere on earth — is that this gives paleontologists a chance to determine growth rates and changes and species variations. Scientists can



Karen Davis

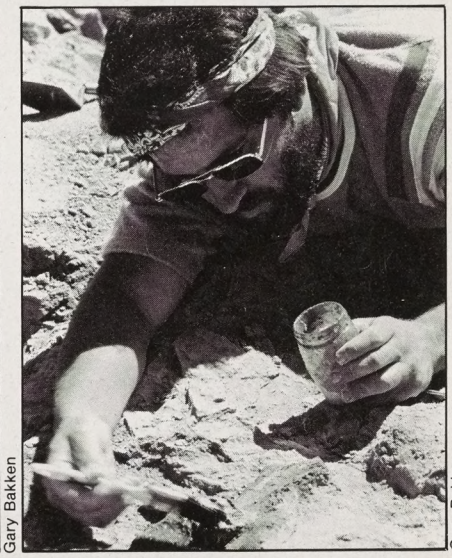


Gary Bakken

Discovering and preserving dinosaur remains is mostly hot, dusty, painstaking labor for workers near Choteau, Rudyard and Jordan. Bottom: Clutch of eggs and plaster cast of baby duckbill. Makela is indicating size of eggs.



Gary Bakken



Gary Bakken



Karen Davis

finally study year-by-year growth patterns by assuming that the largest animals were full grown, and each descending size represented an animal that was a year younger.

It is estimated that Choteau was home base for a herd of 1,000 duckbills. Horner says this estimate of herd strength "could be rather conservative." This past summer he and Makela dug test pits to determine the boundaries of the area where the herd is buried; the test pits contained the same deep concentration of bones as the two sites which the crew spent the summer excavating. Those sites appear to contain about 26 dinosaurs. The bones are fossilized in a volcanic slurry two to four feet deep, with a bone layer two to three feet thick. It all seems to extend for a mile, Horner says — one reason a herd estimate of 1,000 might be conservative. On the other hand, Makela points out that the terrain could have handled only so many animals, and the herd may have had an upper limit. The north-south perimeters of this fossilized herd haven't been mapped out yet.

These excavations come hard. It's slow work, requiring that each site be mapped out and studied before the eggs and skeletons are totally



Researchers live in tents all summer, reading 80-million-year-old clues about the most mysterious and exotic animals ever to inhabit Montana



removed. It's also painstaking work, necessitating everything from jackhammers and ice picks to camel hair brushes — and abundant patience. For two years this crew has been working on one site that has yielded the bones of 12 dinosaurs. That site is about half a mile away from the excavation site started last sumer, where 15 duckbills were excavated. Horner guesses that the second pit may eventually yield around 60 animals. No dinosaurs of a certain size have been found yet, causing the speculation that the animals migrated to another area when they were a certain age. "We don't find babies in the Jordan area," explains Makela, "and that makes us wonder if they nested in one area and migrated out at a certain time, maybe for a better food source."

They've also found fossils of the hypsilophodont, an eight-foot-long dinosaur that's been discovered in other parts of the world. This genus also seems to have nested in colonies, but it appears that the hypsilophodont didn't give the amount of parenting that the duckbills did. It's also thought that they were meat-eaters and preyed on the young duckbills.

Horner is the first curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman. He was hired by Montana State University to research, collect and prepare fossils for exhibits in the new paleontology museum, the first such exhibits in this state. (Makela and Horner have received the nod from the World Book Encyclopedia, which has added a recent chapter on their work in Montana.)

It will be years before Egg Mountain is totally excavated and these exhibits prepared, but Horner, Makela and a handful of diehard volunteers will be back on Egg Mountain in June, living in tents and reading 90-million-year-old clues about the most mysterious and exotic animals ever to inhabit Montana — creatures that will finally be able to "come home to roost" in their own special museum. **M**

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young, which is most uncharacteristic of reptiles. (See Karen Davis' article in this issue.) Modern reptiles have been programmed to leave their young more or less immediately, because they otherwise confuse them with food, being rather stupid.

Stupidity is not limited to modern reptiles of course, and we all remember from the eighth grade that dinosaurs had brains the size of walnuts. Mental giants they weren't.

Still, toward the close of the dinosaur era, there were some meat-eating predatory species of dinosaurs that had not only relatively large brains for the time, but "hands" with opposable thumbs, and forward-directed binocular vision. Given a little time for evolution, a creature like this could turn into Alexander Haig.

But the dinosaur's time for evolution ran out about 63 million years ago, give or take a few million. After 130 million years of rather profound success, the dinosaurs disappeared. Nobody knows whether this disappearance took one day or three million years. Theories about their demise abound. (See Dave Alt's geology column in this issue.) Some say a tidal wave, perhaps caused by the moon, being pulled out of the Pacific ocean, others support a collision with a comet, volcanic eruption, second thoughts by God, and so on. The disappearance took not only the dinosaurs large and small, but every large land animal of any kind and many smaller species, some of them deep in the seas.

With the passing of the dinosaurs, the world was left more or less empty. There are some species left that haven't changed much since then. These include ducks, terns, loons, herons, turtles, tortoises, sturgeon, flamingo, and oppossum. Some of the trees would look familiar too. Some dinosaurs were fond of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir.

These were some of the materials that evolution had to work with as it set about repopulating the world. The birds were first out of the gate and looked good for a while, some of them reaching up to 13 feet tall. But then a dark horse appeared. These were our ancestors the mammals. Actually, mammals began their existence about the same time as dinosaurs did, but there wasn't any room for them. After 100 million years of hiding by day and foraging by night, no mammals bigger than a house cat existed during the days of the dinosaurs.

Once cut loose, however, our ancestors made up for lost time, and quickly evolved teeming species to fill all the offices that had been held for



If dinosaurs were cold-blooded reptiles, the ostrich-like dinosaurs could do only about 2 m.p.h. As one writer said, this would be like equipping the Concorde with Sopwith motors.



so long by the dinosaurs and their relatives. The culmination of this, so far, is us, as we sit here pondering it all.

Most of the pondering goes on in places like California and New York, which is where dinosaur discoveries tend to migrate when they leave Montana. Over the years Montanans have felt some disgruntlement about this, with the feeling that fossils were just one more commodity dug up in Montana and taken to other places for other people.

More recently, however, there have been hopeful signs that this is ending. Most of the out-of-state researchers working in Montana are sensitive to the possibility of being considered rip-off artists, and will readily make casts available for display in the state. This produces some unlikely results.

For example, in a tin shed in Jordan, there is the assembled skeleton, actually a cast, of a triceratops, gathering dust among other dinosaur relics and old fire trucks. The casts were made from fossils found nearby by researchers from the University of California. Someday soon, if the local promoters can swing it, there will be a county museum where local kids and tourists can go to learn that Jordan is not one of those places where nothing ever happened.

In Ekalaka, the skull of a triceratops and a full skeleton of an Anatosaurus have long been the major



Stupidity is not limited to modern reptiles of course, and we all remember from the eighth grade that dinosaurs had brains the size of walnuts. Mental giants they weren't.



attractions in the Carter County Museum. A full Mosasaurus also is being prepared for a unique county museum whose carekeeper, a former high school teacher, is recognized nationally for his field work.

Montana's biggest dinosaur display is at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, which has an extra-large triceratops skull, a duck-billed dinosaur skeleton still partially embedded in stone, and baby dinosaur fossils. One of the world's five tyrannosaurus skulls will be on permanent display there within a few months.

Museum displays are impressive of course, but it may be that modern dinosaurs are all around us. Yes, you probably ate one recently. As one commentator put it, "Except for their powers of flight, birds may be regarded as little dinosaurs." Feathers, we are told, are merely modified scales. People who spend their professional lives examining dinosaur bones are said to be reminded of their work when they sit down for a chicken dinner, because the framework of a bird is virtually identical to that of some classical dinosaurs. Somewhere in the age of dinosaurs, birds branched off as one type, and are with us today.

Very well, you say, given all this, why would anyone want to study dinosaurs if there's no money in it. For one thing, it's fun, once you get past the excavating part. For another . . . there's a certain amount of food for thought there.

Consider, for example, that us mammals peaked out about 60,000 years ago and have been in decline ever since. More than half the world's genera of mammals have disappeared forever, and the surviving predator species have been reduced in size as a reflection of hard times.

At present, whales, large fish species, wild cats, and dogs of every size are disappearing. The few remaining herds of wild plant eaters are coralled in preserves and wilderness areas, where they obviously await early oblivion. Perhaps soon there'll be just us sapiens to represent the type.

This die-off is strikingly like what happened to the dinosaurs. We might be wondering what sort of dark horse will rise to replace us. Insects are a popular choice here, especially roaches, which are said to be immune to most poisonous pollutants.

As the kids and tourists in Jordan and Ekalaka look at those outmoded bones on display, they might wonder whether some day a race of smart roaches will look at fossils of our bones and catalog them under "God's mistakes." **M**

DAY OF THE DINOSAUR

Digging for Duckbills

by Karen Davis

Montana
March/April '83

There is a little knoll west of Choteau affectionately named "Egg Mountain." This small hill of shale and limestone in the central part of the state is just a couple of acres, but it's making scientists around the world rethink everything ever believed about dinosaurs.

Egg Mountain: It's an 80 million-year-old dinosaur nesting ground destroyed and preserved by a sudden volcanic mudslide eons ago, a cataclysmic event similar to the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption. It's also one of the most important dinosaur digs in the world, yielding an impressive list of scientific "firsts," including the first discoveries in the world of a dinosaur nesting ground and a dinosaur herd. Egg Mountain also has been the site of the first dinosaur egg and dinosaur baby discovered in the western hemisphere. Those were the second such discoveries in the world; the first were found in 1922 in Mongolia and are exhibited in the Museum of Natural History in New York City. (And in 1978, the first summer Egg Mountain was worked, a new genus of duck-billed dinosaur was discovered, named Maiasaura peeblesorum in honor of the landowners.)

Fate takes strange turns at times, and that's certainly the case here where a college friendship, a string of coincidences and being in the right place at the right time has thrown two Montana men into the international scientific spotlight. It started back in the 1960s when Bob Makela and Jack Horner met as science undergrads at the University of Montana in Missoula. Sharing a love "of beer and dinosaurs," they kept in touch after Makela got a job in the north central part of the state teaching high school science in Rudyard, and Horner went to New Jersey to work for the Princeton University Natural History Museum.

Makela remembers Horner telling him to "go to Rudyard and find a dinosaur." He and Horner spent every summer north of Makela's home prospecting for fossils in the area between Rudyard and the Canadian border. In 1978 after 10 summers of collecting dinosaur remains, they made a side trip to Bynum, north of Choteau 14 miles, to have a look at a dinosaur skeleton displayed in a local shop.

The rest is history. The rock shop was owned by Marion Brandvold and David and Laurie Trexler. That spring, those three people had found some small bones that they didn't recognize, and asked Makela and Horner to ID them if possible.

Horner describes his reaction in the August 1982 issue of Montana Outdoors: "I turned to Bob and said, 'You're not going to believe this, but I think these are the pieces of a baby duckbilled dinosaur.' Although Bob was very skeptical — and rightfully so, since neither of us had seen a baby dinosaur in 10 years of collecting — he too became convinced after we examined the other pieces." They spent the few remaining weeks of summer digging on that site, and removed 15 babies from what appeared to be the fossilized remains of a nest. "The odds are against even one single individual (dinosaur) being preserved," Makela said. "The odds are a million to one that you'll ever have a find. It's a lucky chance — and then we find an entire herd. It was real stupid luck, but combined with enough study so we were able to recognize it and pick up on it."

Dinosaur is Greek for "terrible lizard." The question has been how to classify this animal that looks like a lizard, lays an egg like a bird — and dominated the planet for 140 million years before mysteriously disappearing. Makela and Horner have been uncovering evidence for the past five summers that can be boiled down to two interlocking premises: that dinosaurs were not reptiles, rather, they were warm-blooded animals along with birds and mammals; and that dinosaur life was a family affair, with baby and juvenile dinosaurs being taken care of by mom and dad for quite a while.

—This dig has yielded nests containing young up to five feet in length, suggesting that the parents cared for them for several months after they were hatched, including bringing food to the nest. This type of behavior is distinctly non-reptilian, and is a major factor in the premise that dinosaurs were not reptiles. Among modern reptiles, only crocodiles take care of their young — and then only for about a month, Makela says, "which is a long time for a reptile."

—A cross-section analysis of baby dinosaur bones suggests the growth pattern of a warm-blooded animal, the growth being more rapid than it would be with a cold-blooded animal's metabolism.

—The dinosaur eggs discovered have the shell composition of a bird egg, not a reptile egg.

—The sheer mass of the dinosaurs would almost preclude their being cold-blooded. "If you have a three-ton animal that can't function until the sun warms him up, then what you have is a three-ton meal for some

Karen Davis is a reporter with the Bear Paw Sentinel in Havre.



Egg Mountain near Choteau has dealt a double-whammy to previously held theories about the majestic and long-extinct dinosaurs.

DAY OF THE DINOSAUR

The Meteor Extinction Theory

by Dave Alt

Dave Alt is a professor in the geology department at the University of Montana. He has authored several books, including Roadside Geology of the Northern Rockies.

They were here, and then they were gone, and no one knows why they vanished. So far as can be told, dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago, at the same time everywhere. Although rocks are poor recorders of short time spans, they do convey the distinct impression that the dinosaurs did not linger, but disappeared much too suddenly to leave any geologic record of the time of their passing. What happened?

More theories have come and gone than I can possibly review in this short space. Most have proposed that some more or less gradual and perfectly normal process finally made it impossible for the dinosaurs to survive. For example, some theories have the climate becoming too harsh for dinosaurs, others the evolution of new kinds of plants depriving them of their food supply, and so on. However, none of those theories can explain why all the different kinds of dinosaurs, with all their various lifestyles in all parts of the earth, disappeared at essentially the same time everywhere. Neither can any of those theories explain why many other kinds of animals disappeared at the same time.

While the dinosaurs dominated the land, the oceans swarmed with ammonites, relatives of the modern octopus and squid. Sedimentary rocks that accumulated in sea water during that period are full of their shells, most of which look superficially like big snail shells. The ammonites disappeared with the dinosaurs — simultaneously, so far as can be told. So did many species of minute animals that drifted in the sunlit surface waters of the ocean. While the dinosaurs lived, those little animals thrived in such abundance that their shells accumulated to form distinctive chalky limestones. After they vanished, such limestones no longer formed, and the very character of the rocks changed.

It is extremely difficult to imagine how any normal change could possibly cause the apparently simultaneous disappearance of the dinosaurs, the ammonites, and much of the microscopic animal life in the oceans. Something catastrophic must have happened, something extremely dangerous to all kinds of animal life everywhere.



If a very large meteorite, perhaps the size of Yellowstone County, did hit the earth, the ensuing explosion would fill the air with a dense cloud of dust that might hang in the sky for weeks, possibly for months.



There is no shortage of catastrophic theories. Several suggest that the dinosaurs and other animals died of radiation emitted from explosion of a nearby star, or perhaps through unusual activity of the sun. Although some of those ideas seem plausible, they are scientific blind alleys because we cannot find evidence to pursue them. Rocks seem to retain no trace of such events, at least not in a form that we can now recognize. However, there is one catastrophic theory that we can pursue, perhaps nowhere better than in Montana.

The problem of measuring how fast layered sedimentary rocks accumulate has nagged geologists ever since there were geologists. Does an inch thickness of rock represent one year, 10 years, or perhaps a century? Several years ago, a small group of geologists thought of a new way of tackling that problem by measuring the concentration of platinum and related metals in the rock. Those metals are so rare they hardly exist at all in most areas. In fact, it seems that the platinum context of most ordinary sedimentary rocks consists almost entirely of material that rains from the sky in microscopic meteorites, cosmic dust our planet sweeps up as it passes through space. You can find it in the bottom of a rain barrel. The earth seems to collect that stuff at a relatively constant rate, so the amount of platinum in sedimentary rocks should reflect the amount that fell while they formed, and therefore their rate of formation. Rocks that accumulate quickly should contain very little platinum; rocks that formed slowly should contain more.

One of the first things those geologists tried with their new method was to measure the time interval in which the dinosaurs disappeared. At several widely separated places in Europe, they found a thin layer of dark brown rock, hardly thicker than this magazine, that seemed to mark the point at which the ammonites and microscopic marine animals disappeared. The platinum content of that layer was incredibly high, many times higher than the cosmic rain of miscroscopic meteorites could account for at any reasonable rate of accumulation. Only an enormous meteorite could have brought so much platinum to the earth's surface.

Large meteorites do not burn up in the atmosphere. Instead, they punch right through to the earth's surface, and then explode as their energy of motion converts into heat. Because they travel so fast, large meteorites contain more energy on a pound-for-pound basis than a hydrogen bomb, and they explode with great violence, blasting a crater in the earth's surface. Many geologists now suspect that such an event may have exterminated the dinosaurs, and the other animals that died with them.

If a very large meteorite, perhaps the size of Yellowstone County, did hit the earth, the ensuing explosion would fill the air with a dense cloud of dust that might hang in the sky for weeks, possibly for months. Such a dust cloud could blot out the sunshine, stopping growth of green plants, thus cutting off the dinosaur food chain at its first link. If the air did not clear for several weeks, all the dinosaurs would starve; first those that ate plants, then those that ate the plant eaters, finally the carrion eaters that scavenged dead flesh. Similarly, the floating green algae that live in the sunlit surface waters of the ocean would also die, and the animals that depend upon them for food would then starve.

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There is no better place to search for proof of a giant meteorite than in central and eastern Montana.



The only forms of life that could survive such a catastrophe would be the seeds and spors of plants, animals that could live on them, and animals that eat decaying vegetation and corpses. Insects, birds and small mammals did survive the catastrophe that killed so many kinds of animals, as did most kinds of plants. That is just the list of survivors one might expect if a large meteorite did indeed cause the earth to be shrouded in a thick pall of dust, but that does not prove the theory. There are problems.

The most obvious problem is the lack of a large explosion crater of the right age. If one that size did exist, we would surely have found it long ago. However, it is true that the floor of the Pacific Ocean has been sinking beneath the western margins of North and South America, and beneath the eastern margin of Asia since long before the dinosaurs disappeared. So it is possible that the crater might have been in a part of the Pacific Ocean floor that has since vanished. Therefore, the missing crater does not disprove the theory. However, we cannot consider it proven without more evidence.

If a giant meteorite did indeed fill the entire atmosphere with an opaque blanket of dust, then we should expect to find a layer of that dust wherever sedimentary rocks of exactly the right age exist. If the thin layer of dark brown rock rich in platinum in the European outcrops is in fact that dust, then a similar layer should have settled all over the world. There is no better place to look for it than central and eastern Montana.

The Fort Union Formation, a thick section of sandstone, mudstone and shale which covers much of central Montana and most of eastern Montana, was forming when the dinosaurs disappeared. It consists mostly of sediments deposited on dry land, in places where animals lived and might leave their bones to be buried and preserved as fossils when they died. The lower part of the Fort Union Formation accumulated during late Cretaceous time when the dinosaurs still thrived in great number and variety. Those rocks contain plenty of dinosaur bones. The upper part of the Fort Union Formation accumulated during early Tertiary time after the dinosaurs had vanished. Those rocks contain no dinosaur bones, only small mammals which presumably include our distant ancestors. However, except for their fossil content, the rocks in the upper and lower parts of the Fort Union Formation look just alike. That similarity gives us every reason to suspect that deposition must have continued without interruption while the dinosaurs vanished. If a world-wide blanket of light-blocking dust did indeed exterminate much of the animal life on earth at the end of Cretaceous time, then a thin layer of that dust should exist in the Fort Union Formation. If it is there, we can recognize it through its high concentration of platinum. The problem is in finding it.

Central and eastern Montana are vast, and the Fort Union Formation is thick and rather poorly exposed. Looking for a thin layer of muddy sediment in all that expanse of space and volume of rock is no easy task. But it will be worth doing because the Fort Union Formation may well hold the entire story of what happened on land and at sea.

Well into late Cretaceous time, until the Fort Union Formation began to accumulate, most of Montana east of the Rocky Mountain Front was slightly below sea level, and shallowly flooded with sea water. A great inland sea then flooded much of interior North America, leaving behind marine sedimentary rocks full of ammonites. Then the western high plains began to rise as the crustal disturbances that created the Rocky Mountains wound down, and the interior sea began to drain away. By the time the dinosaurs vanished, the coastline was in eastern Montana — land to the west, a shallow tropical sea to the east. Many of the eastern Montana coal seams are in the Fort Union Formation. They formed in tidewater swamps along that old shoreline. Therefore, the marine part of the Fort Union Formation in easternmost Montana and North Dakota should contain a record of the extinction of sea life parallel to the record of land extinction that should exist farther west in the same formation.

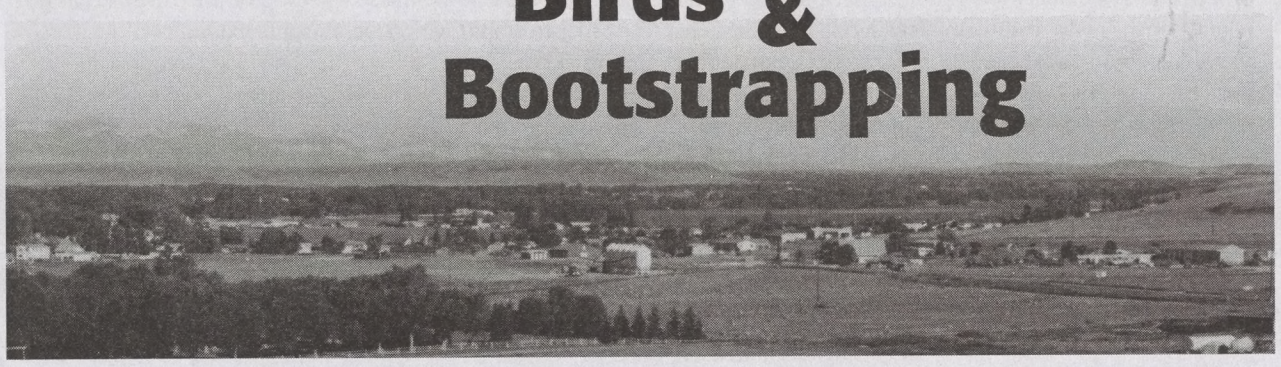
Until about two years ago, I thought the endless tan and gray sandstones and mudstones of the Fort Union Formation were the least interesting rocks in Montana. Now that we have this new theory to explain the disappearance of the dinosaurs, they may be among the most interesting rocks in the state.

M

May '02

Choteau

Dinosaurs, Birds & Bootstrapping



When we think about small rural communities, which is what most of Montana's towns are, it's easy to slip into nostalgia. Even if we grew up in faraway cities we're pretty sure we know what life in such towns must have been, must still be, like.

To be sure, across Montana there are towns that have resisted the dislocating changes of downturns in agriculture or mining, towns close to big tourist draws, college towns. But other towns haven't fared so well. They've suffered depopulation, sometimes dramatically, and all that comes with it. Should the people who live in such a town resign themselves to their community's decay and collapse?

Thanks to an MSU alum, an MSU-sponsored program, and a lot of hard work and creative thinking, the people of one small Montana town need no longer even consider this question, and what worked for them has become a model for other small towns across the state and indeed the nation.

A few years ago Choteau, the seat of Teton County in north-central Montana, was hurting.

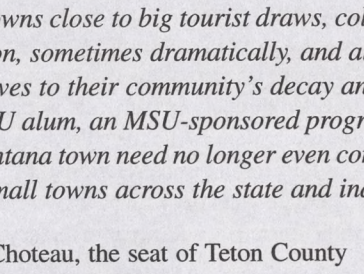
Choteau's population is just under 1,800—a figure it's been "just about forever," according to Daniel Clark, MSU Extension agent for Teton County and recently elected mayor. Choteau straddles U.S. Highway 89 west of Interstate 15 up against the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountain Front. The largest nearby city, Great Falls, lies about 50 miles to the southeast.

After its founding in the late nineteenth century, the town rode high, or high enough, on the seas of agriculture—cattle and sheep ranching, barley and wheat. In the Teton River Valley the agriculture year still turns through its ancient cycles—calving and lambing, haying, seeding and harvesting—but dominates the local calendar less than it used to.

Montana's persistent drought, which hit this arid region hard, has hurt local agriculture. Then too, just over a quarter of the county's arable land is in the federal Conservation Reserve Program, and a good deal more is tied up in conservation easements. Fewer acres under cultivation means fewer orders for implements and fertilizer, fuel and tires, and thus fewer dollars in local circulation.

In the early 1990s many townspeople in Choteau realized that if something weren't done, their town was doomed.

Jay Dunckel, '61 SecEd, a now-retired insurance man, and other Choteau leaders volunteered the town as the pilot in the Community Tourism Assessment Program, which the Forest Service, the Western Rural Development Center, MSU Extension, and other state agencies were developing. The point of the pilot was to see whether and how a town like Choteau might better its economic prospects by increasing tourism in ways of its own choosing—might bootstrap its way out of stagnation and decline.



Jay Dunckel (left) and Dan Clark

Dave Sharpe, MSU Extension specialist in community development, led the effort. He and Extension colleagues from California, Nevada, Wyoming, and Guam helped the townspeople assess their community's strengths and weaknesses, think about the good and bad things increased tourism might bring to the town, and consider the future.

Some two dozen residents formed a committee and went to work. With help from Sharpe and from the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, the committee helped residents identify and articulate their concerns and set goals. Dunckel and his colleagues surveyed their fellow townspeoples' attitudes about the benefits and costs of tourism. They helped identify ways tourism might help the town achieve those goals. The people of Choteau looked at the local economy and considered what part tourism already played, and at what might enhance that part. They inventoried obvious and not-so-obvious local and nearby tourist attractions and facilities.

Thanks to these meetings the people of Choteau came to recognize that their town boasted a number of strong attractions, each of which might be marketed and built upon. One was skiing; the Teton Pass ski area is just eight miles away. Other draws were less obvious. Among them:

- *Wildlife viewing* Choteau provides easy access to viewing wildlife in neighboring Lewis and Clark National Forest and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and in the nearby Blackleaf and Sun River Wildlife Reserves. The latter is winter range for the second-largest migrating elk herd in the world (after Yellowstone's). To capitalize on these assets, an extensive signage program directing visitors to viewsheds, trails and lookouts was begun.
- *Birding* Freezeout Lake, about ten miles south of Choteau, is the twice-a-year staging area for tens of thousands of snow geese. People, and not just birders, come from all over to see them.
- *Paleontology* A nearby hill now dubbed Egg Mountain is where Museum of the Rockies paleontologist Jack Horner discovered the fossilized nesting sites of at least three dinosaur species. The site, which can be toured, is used for paleontology workshops.

The town wasn't without resources for tourists.

Right downtown is the Old Trail Museum, which now has more to do with dinosaurs than with pioneer memorabilia. A few years back the museum was about to be put on the market. Dunckel and other residents raised funds to purchase the museum for the community. Now flourishing, it's the site of a tourist information center, a grizzly bear exhibit, an ice cream parlor. Restrooms were installed nearby; previously, the town had had no public facilities. Highway 89 was straightened and widened to permit easier access to the information center.



The townspeople had set as one of their chief goals the attraction of a "name brand" motel. Choteau already had several motels, but research indicated that these lacked the amenities some visitors, many of them skiers, wanted and expected. Three local business people built a sufficiently upscale new motel, now called the Stage Stop Inn. The motel gives the townspeople a place for catered special events, and its indoor pool is available for their use.

Dunckel says that his and the town's interest in tourism was a consequence of the decline in Teton County's agriculture business, and a desire to expand Choteau's economic base.

"We came up with three short-term projects," he says—the purchase of the museum, the establishment of the tourism information center, and a program of enhanced signage to direct visitors to nearby sightseeing attractions. "We accomplished them all. We've created new jobs, and our economy is now dynamic and vital."

Mary Martinsen, editor of the weekly Choteau Acantha, agrees that tourism has helped Choteau, but says she doesn't know by just how much.

"We were hurting," she said recently. "Cattle went down first, then grain, then both together—and now we've got a drought. But thanks to tourism, we're holding our own."

Mayor Clark agrees that tourism has helped the town.

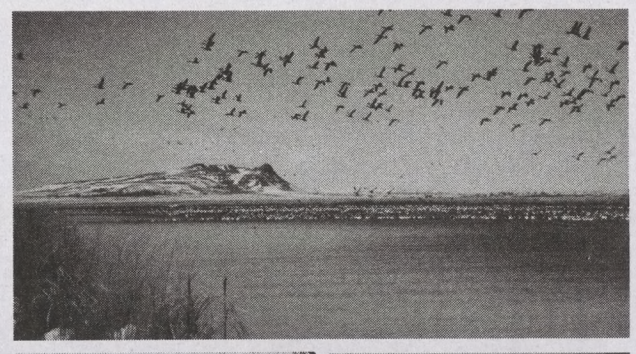
"It has for sure," he says. "And now some people are trying to give Choteau a 'destination' flavor, not just a place to stop en route to Glacier or Yellowstone. There are many resources visitors can check out while they're here." Clark says that one group in town is trying to start a real destination event—a summer marathon—and another is talking about starting an annual birders' festival.

In rural Montana these days, for a small town to hold its own is no small accomplishment. Putting Choteau on tourists' maps took foresight, planning and hard work on the part of a lot of people, among them Dunckel, Sharpe, Clark, and other members of the MSU community.

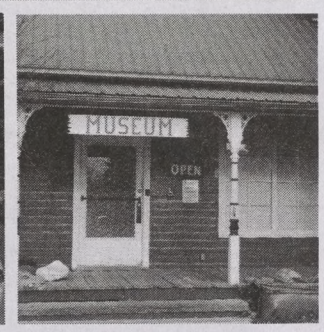
The successful Choteau pilot has been the model for 25 other Montana communities, including Indian reservations. Their efforts have added almost $1 million in infrastructure to the state. MSU Extension brings three communities a year into the Tourism Assessment Program; this year residents of Kalispell, Malta, and White Sulphur Springs are working to assess their strengths, appraise their attractions and facilities, and begin their bootstrapping.

Learn more about MSU Extension's extensive community development programs by visiting
www.montana.edu/wwwcommd/

—Scott Freutel
MSU Communications Services







Top of the page: Looking over Choteau from the east toward the Rocky Mountain Front (photo by Dave Wedum).

Above, clockwise from top: Snow geese over Freezeout Lake. The Old Trail Museum. Maiasaurus replica at the museum (photos by Dave Wedum).

Left: Ear Mountain (photo © 2002 by Ralph C. Thornton, www.earmountain.com. All rights reserved.).

U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame Inducts Patrick Hughes

The kid from Manhattan, Mont., makes good, again. Lt. Gen. **Patrick Hughes**, U.S. Army, Retired, '68 Bus, '99 HonDoc, Arlington, Va., was recently inducted into the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame. This honor is bestowed on only a few members of the military intelligence corps who have risen to key positions or whose contributions to the nation's security have been noteworthy.



Patrick and Karlene Hughes

This latest recognition follows a long list of accomplishments over a 37-year military career which began as an Army private in 1962 and concluded as the three-star director of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

"When I was growing up I was a kid with a limited horizon," Hughes said. "Most people who knew me would not have thought this would have been in the realm of possibility."

Hughes received his commission in the regular Army infantry in 1968 from the Army ROTC program at Montana State College (MSC) and was soon sent to Vietnam. He had an inauspicious start into the field of military intelligence.

"I had spent five months as an officer serving in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam and I was tired of being shot at," he said. So he opted for training in military intelligence, "And what did they do? They sent me back to Vietnam as a MI officer to get shot at more often." Ultimately Hughes ended up on the Vietcong assassination list.

His Montana upbringing held center stage during his career. "I was taught to speak your mind so that everyone understands," he said. "I followed that even though it would get me in trouble at times, some people didn't like the direct and straightforward approach."

Hughes served as an enlisted combat medic, infantry officer, and as a military intelligence officer, including battalion, brigade and agency command during his career. His major assignments as a senior officer were Commanding General of the U.S. Army Intelligence Agency, Director of Intelligence for U.S. Central Command and Director of Intelligence for the Joint Chiefs of Staff before ending his active uniformed service as DIA director.

General Hughes has many stories to tell but is fond of the following true tale: He first entered Montana State College in September of 1960 after graduating from Manhattan High School. ROTC was mandatory, so he chose the Air Force and was assigned to a squadron commanded by an Air Force ROTC cadet named **Philip Nuber**, EE '62, Kent, Wash. Hughes claims to have enjoyed the lifestyle of the college but admits he failed miserably when it came to studying and applying himself. One of the few classes he passed was ROTC.

Flash forward to 1962. After leaving Brigham Young University for the Army, Private Hughes marries his high school sweetheart, Karlene Nuber, the sister of his first commanding officer. Flash forward to 1969 in Vietnam. Hughes is a Second Lieutenant leading a platoon in combat in the Mekong Delta. Captain Nuber is flying air support missions. Flash forward once again to 1996. Hughes becomes a three-star general and Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Since his retirement in 1999, Hughes has become a consultant in the fields of intelligence, security and international relations. "I wasn't ready to retire. I knew I still had an opportunity to give something back to the country. Besides, I'm addicted to the work."

For years he has advocated the rebuilding and reenergizing of human intelligence capabilities.

"In order to be inside the loop of a terrorist event in order to stop it, you have, to some extent, become a terrorist," he said. "So we have to use terrorists in our efforts, and that's a troubling concept."

But Hughes thinks such an idea is similar to what already exists in law enforcement, such as when police infiltrate organized crime organizations with informants.

"We shouldn't become criminals, but we have to be on the edge," he said. "The human element of intelligence has been restricted in the years since Vietnam when technology took center stage. The limits of technical capabilities have now been amply demonstrated, and we must reenergize the human dimension."

Hughes has traveled throughout the Middle East, especially during the end of Desert Storm and the post-conflict period of the early 1990s while serving as the Director of Intelligence for U.S. Central Command, the command responsible for the Middle East, the Central Asian Republics and most of East Africa.

From 1996 until his retirement in 1999 he and Karlene traveled throughout the world as part of their responsibility for the Defense Attaché System and for nation-to-nation military intelligence relationships.

Hughes and his wife have two children. They celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary in April.

Cats rule at no. 1 engineering firm

If you're going "cat" hunting, you can't find a better place than the Helena civil engineering firm of Robert Peccia & Associates. Out of 47 staffers, 22 are graduates of Montana State University, and that includes the firm's founder, **Robert Peccia**, '65 CE.

In addition to being "king of the cats," the firm has been named the "Best Civil Engineering Firm to Work For" by CE News.

What does it take to be the best? According to CE News they were looking for firms that were truly special, those which prioritize employee retention and provide reasons for their staff members to stay.

"These reasons, in our view, naturally include excellent compensation and benefit packages. But they also include less tangible perks such as clear, open communication between personnel and managers, opportunities for all staff members to advance, and positive, flexible working environments," noted the magazine.

Keeping good people has always been one of Peccia's goals. "You have to find opportunities for your talented people."

Much of what the company is today began to gel in 1988 when decisions about the overall direction of the company needed to be made. Peccia and his staff were considering options such as selling to a large company, maintaining the firm as it was, expanding rapidly, or converting into an employee-owned firm.

This was when one of the firm's most innovative ideas was born, a firm-funded planning retreat to an exotic location for the entire staff.

"What I wanted to do was to give everyone a sense of the business aspects of the company," he said. "I showed where the revenue came from and where the expenditures are. This eliminates any suspicion about how the company's money is used."

Peccia said the retreats, now in their 14th year, created the opportunity for fresh ideas, an opening of minds. "It's a time when you don't feel constrained or restricted in your thinking."

From the input of that original retreat, the company decided to pursue employee ownership. Through their Employee Stock Option Plan/Profit Sharing Plan, annual contributions amounting to 25 percent of total compensation are made to each employee.

The employees annually elect a seven-member employee board of directors. This board, comprised of the CEO and employees, is responsible for all of the major policy decisions for the company. Peccia is still the majority stockholder of the company and chairman of the board. He serves as the company's CEO.

"It can be a little traumatic when you're accustomed to making all the decisions and having them stick, and now you've put in place a system where your decisions can be challenged," Peccia said.

Employees don't have the luxury at the firm to sit back and complain about their work life. "We're working toward 100 percent employee ownership here," said engineer **Tom Cavanaugh**, '92 ME. "When you own the building, the furniture, you have to plan on being active."

"When people actually have ownership in the company there is much more interest in what the company is doing," Peccia said. "There's not much eight to five attitude."

"We've invented the atmosphere here as we've gone along. It's been trial and error," he said. "But my philosophy is that everyone in the company is important and everyone contributes to the success of the company. When people have the opportunity to participate in the company, they have more control over their own job."

The company is constantly evolving thanks to annual employee surveys that rate the company. "It helps the company react to employee preferences and needs. There could be as many as 30 items to rate," said **Robert Morton**, '82 ES, '88 M, head of the firm's natural resources division.



MSU alums at Robert Peccia & Assoc. from left to right: (First row) Nick Ladas, '82 Art, Bob Abelin, '98 CE, Robert Peccia, '65 CE, Kurt Marcoux, '96 CE, Holly Voermans, '01 CE, Christy Austin, '94 Acctg, Robert Morton, '82 CE, '88 M. (Second row) Tom Cavanaugh, '92 ME, Cody Voermans, '01 CE, Gordon Larson, '64 CE, Jeff Key, '93 CE, Brian Wacker, '90 CE, Jeremy Perlinski, '99 CE, Dan Norderud, '78 ES, Brad Thompson, '98 CE, Ryan Mitchell, '99 CE, Gary Swanson, '76 MicroBio, '82 M, '83 CE, Kelly Quinn, '88 Ed, MSU Billings. (Not pictured) April Gerth, '93 CET, Bill Burkland, '97 CE, Matt King, '93 CET, Rick Donaldson, '89 CE.

The atmosphere at the firm is one of comfort. From Peccia on down, not a necktie can be found, and there's an easy sense of camaraderie from the streams of friendly greetings exchanged down the rows of open doors.

"If you have your door closed here, you'd better have a good reason," Cavanaugh said. "We enjoy each other's company."

"When we went on the retreat this year I didn't know **Cody Voermans**, '01 CE," Cavanaugh said. "But at the retreat I got to spend a whole day fishing with him on a boat."

Voermans, an engineering designer, points out that the team building aspect of the retreats make the relationships better in the office.

The atmosphere of family pervades at Peccia from the inclusion of spouses on the planning retreats to the work-at-home accommodations made for a new mother. **Christy (Cheney) Austin**, '94 Acctg, is the accountant at Peccia and has worked for the company since leaving MSU. "They've been flexible for me as a mom." During her first pregnancy the company hooked a computer up so she could work from home, and she was also able to take 12 weeks of maternity leave when the industry standard is six.

The MSU ties are strong at the company. It is a fixture at the civil engineering department's recruitment events and it has fulfilled a $10,000 endowment scholarship commitment. Also, Austin prepares blue and gold football themed sugar cookies every year for the office alums who watch the Cat-Griz football game.

"We have tremendously talented people from MSU," Morton said. "You can rely on them to do the job. They all have pride and ownership. I think that's a Montana ethic."

Robert Peccia & Associates offers comprehensive services in civil, transportation and environmental engineering including airport design, drainage, environmental studies, highways, natural resources, site development, surveying, transportation, wastewater management and water supply.

—Brenda McDonald
MSU Communications Services

Joe Moll –

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left message 6/11

Bill Rappold has a bit part in the movie War Party



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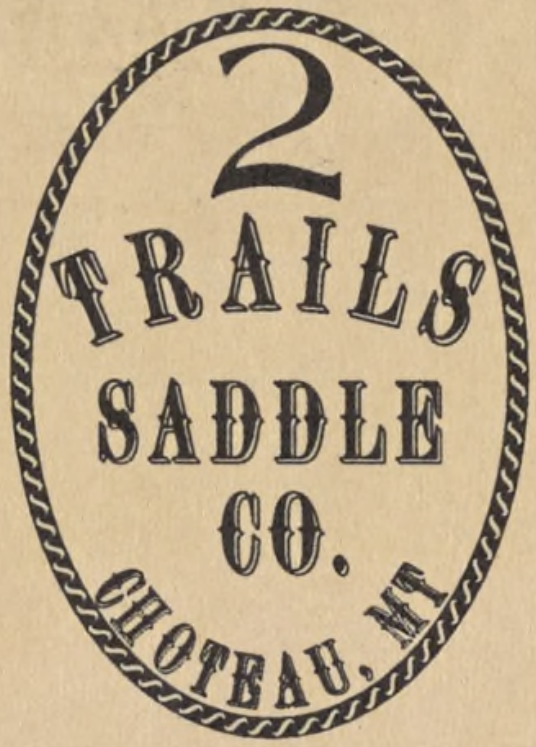
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September 8, 2004

Dear Ivan,

This letter is very, very late, and my apologies for that. I wanted to thank you for letting us use a quote from "This House of Sky" in our newsletter, and I thought you might like to have a couple copies of the newsletter.

We put your quote on the back page…as you will see, it was just the right thing, just the perfect words and images, for the message we wanted to portray there.

Thanks again. If you're ever back in Helena, of course please stop to see us.

All best,

Lex Hames
Communications Director

Gas drillers poised along Rocky Mountain Front

IN THE NORTHWEST

JOEL CONNELLY



CHOTEAU, Mont. – We began our walk up Blackleaf Canyon amidst groves of golden aspens, with walls of the Rocky Mountain Front rising half a vertical mile above us and the Great Plains stretching beyond the horizon to the East.

A sow grizzly bear and her cub scampered up a hillside to the south, and a golden eagle lazed in the air currents scouring the terrain. On this afternoon, the eagle had red-tailed hawks, prairie falcons and northern harriers as competition for prey.

Just north of the canyon, on a bench far above us, the Calgary-based Startech Energy Corp. wants to drill a natural gas well on federal land officially classified an "Outstanding Natural Area."

The Bush administration recently ordered federal land managers to start removing restrictions to natural gas and oil development in five Rocky Mountain states.

The most sensitive drilling targets for oil lie here, in the sparsely populated big-scale country southeast of Glacier National Park.

The Rocky Mountain Front is where horizontal grasslands of the plains collide with what writer Ivan Doig called "a steel-blue army of mountains." The eastern face of the Rockies is notable for a line of sharp, barren peaks, long serrated ridges and deep canyons.

National attention has focused on Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Equally, however, "the Front" represents a major test of whether the petroleum and mining industries have the political clout to drill, dig and build anywhere they want.

But a lot of Montanans, at the base of North America's greatest mountain range, are restless.

"They're trying to make a political statement here. Why, then, are they going into the No. 1 wildlife habitat in the 'lower 48' when lots of places have more gas?" asked Karl Rappold, who runs a ranch founded by his grandfather in 1882.

Bill Cunningham, a guide-outfitter whose family has been in Montana since the 1880s, noted America's ongoing celebration of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. Once pristine, their route now stretches from a channeled Missouri River, run for barge operators, to a reservoirized Columbia River.

"This is the last 5 percent of the Lewis and Clark route that they would still recognize today," Cunningham said.

Dr. Charles Jonkel, a retired University of Montana professor, is one of the world's ranking bear experts. He lives west of the Continental Divide, but believes the state's heart – and the soul of the West – lies where mountains meet range.

"I love the Front," said Jonkel. "I live on the dark side.

"But this place has 10 times the stars, the brightest moonlight. It has nice people, nice scenery, nice animals – the whole damned stretch of these canyons is of national park caliber."

By dint of its remoteness and harsh climate – temperatures reach 50-below in winter, and Chinook winds have blown freight cars off their tracks – "the Front" has escaped depredations visited on other parts of the West.

Show-offy rich folk have built gated communities in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, and multimillion-dollar homes with heated outdoor porches in Jackson, Wyo., and Aspen, Colo.

Not along "the Front." Its one part-time celebrity resident is a very private David Letterman, whose big spread up Deep Creek is treated with a taste often absent in "Late Show" monologues.

The local county seat, Choteau, is mercifully free of Bozeman's yuppie boutiques, or the kitsch one finds at the entrance to national parks. Colorado-style suburbs don't sprawl toward the mountains

As well, the oil industry has not visited the land with pipelines, branch pipelines, haul roads, compressor units, pumping stations and noisy plants to "sweeten" natural gas.

Vice President Dick Cheney loves to talk about the "tiny footprint" his former industry leaves on the land.

"Our overall objective is to ensure the timely development of these critical energy resources in an environmentally sound manner," in the words of U.S. Bureau of Land Management Director Kathleen Clark. The proposed lease above Blackleaf Canyon lies on BLM land.

Just north in Canada, one sees a very different picture. Shell runs a big, noisy yellow-green sweetening plant in Pincer Creek – just outside Waterton Lakes National Park – with gravel roads headed up nearly every canyon.

R.L. "Stoney" Burk is a country lawyer who has practiced for 21 years in Choteau. A decorated former fighter pilot, Burk is conservative to the core in his suspicions of federal power and the exercise thereof from Ruby Ridge, Idaho, to Waco, Texas.

When it comes to oil and gas leasing on "the Front," he sounds like John Muir.

"They'll road it, contaminate it, leave it and step on our faces on their way out," Burk said. "They've done it again and again in Montana."

Fighting words, but there is much to fight for.

Mary Sexton, a Teton County commissioner, lives just outside one of the canyons. In the summer, wildlife tend to the high country of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. During the winter, well, let Sexton describe what comes down out of the mountains . . .

"The mule deer congregate right around here. They like the juniper. We have a pretty healthy elk population. We have mountain lions, lynx, bobcats, bighorn sheep, wolves, wolverines and grizzly bears.

"Oh yes, about a month ago I was walking one evening just east of here. Whoops, there was a bear about 100 yards away."

Lowland grizzly spottings are no big thing in Teton County. They are a very big deal in the heritage of the West.

"The grizzly bear was a creature indigenous to the plains: We drove them into the mountains," said Randy Gray, mayor of Great Falls, the nearest sizable population center.

"Wildlife of the West has been forced into smaller and smaller pockets, with populations isolated from each other. Bears migrating out of the Bob Marshall, this is the last remnant population of the 'plains grizzly.'

"And this is exactly where they want to put in their gas wells."

Monday: The political battle over whether to drill for natural gas along the Rocky Mountain Front.

P-I columnist Joel Connelly can be reached at 206-448-8160 or joelconnelly@seattlepi.com

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2003

Schwarzenegger wins



School

As drills rev, all's not quiet on this Western Front

IN THE NORTHWEST

JOEL CONNELLY



EAST GLACIER, Mont. – An awesome, remote corner of the Rocky Mountains, headwaters to two rivers and land sacred to the Blackfeet Indians, the Badger-Two Medicine Roadless Area is an unusual place to prove out Yogi Berra's greatest maxim.

"It ain't over 'til it's over."

The petroleum industry has repeatedly sought to drill gas wells in the 133,000-acre tract of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, adjacent to Glacier National Park.

Chevron and Fina moved on the area in the 1980s, with seismographic testing. Helicopters buzzed through the wild country and violated airspace of the nearby park.

"All they got to was the exploratory stage. We kept winning appeals," said Lou Bruno, a local teacher who fought the drilling. Eventually, the two big oil companies sold their leases to smaller operators.

The battle seemed done in 1997. Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor Gloria Flora declared the Rocky Mountain Front – where mountains meet the plains – off-limits to oil and gas drilling.

Six years later, the would-be drillers are back.

The Bush administration has ordered federal managers to remove regulatory obstacles to oil and gas development along the Rocky Mountain Front. It acted with no public consultation or examination of competing land use values.

The Lewis and Clark National Forest is examining an application to drill an exploratory well in the "Badger-Two Med." Several leases are grandfathered in that they predate Flora's 1997 decision.

"I can't tell you how tiring it is, what a violation it is, to go through this again," said Bruno. "The drillers keep coming back. We can only lose once."

Oil and gas men are basking in a more favorable political climate in Washington, D.C. Out on the edge of the Rockies, however, hostile winds are blowing.

Over the past 50 years, face-offs at wilderness hearings in the West have been predictable.

Conservationists, often based in nearby population centers, have taken the pro-preservation side. Rural towns, adjoining lands under contention, have come out for development – epitomized by county commissioners reading industry-written statements promising jobs.

The Rocky Mountain Front presents a different picture.

The Front is "the soul of Montana," the Missoulian once editorialized. Even if lots of natural gas is found, wrote the newspaper, Montanans would burn their furniture before turning the wildlife-rich wilderness over to development.

State polls have found that, by a 2-1 ratio, Montanans oppose developing "the Front." Even in rural Montana, where one expects a wellspring of sentiment favoring gas wells, skepticism is heard.

"We had an early 1980s gas boomlet, but in the long term it's negligible for our economy," said Teton County Commissioner Mary Sexton.

Sexton noted a pipeline corridor cut down a hillside at nearby Muddy Creek as illustrative of how the industry did business. "They've had a mixed-to-negative history," she added, "and this relates to their negative image. . . . It was a blunt, in-the-face way of doing things."

After crunching the numbers herself, Sexton predicts income from gas production would barely offset the increased demand for county services. If the wells come up dry, the county would lose money.

Up a nearby canyon of the Teton River, Chuck and Sharon Blixrud run the 7 Lazy-p and Deep Canyon guest ranches. They have been taking horse parties into the Rockies for 44 years.

Chuck Blixrud doubts that drilling will create many local jobs.

"The companies are going to bring their own people here," he said, "There'll be kids to be educated and roads to maintain. Financially, it's a wash."

As well, many fear a threat to the human ecology along the Rocky Mountain Front.

"Money is not the driving force here. It is lifestyle," said R.L. "Stoney" Burk, a country lawyer in Choteau, the seat of Teton County.

The Rocky Mountain Front epitomizes a lot of what the United States has lost over the past half-century.

Not a single fast-food franchise can be found in the 115-mile drive from Great Falls to Browning. Restaurants have names such as Mel's and the Outpost. A Roxy Theatre survives on the main street. Locals converse at the 97-year-old county courthouse, decorated with a Charles Russell painting of buffalo.

Nobody knows what gas lies beneath the Rocky Mountain Front.

A federal report early this year indicated 8.6 trillion cubic feet of gas is to be found along what is called the Montana Thrust Belt. Four other areas in the Rockies were found to have substantially higher reserves.

As a comparison, the United States in 2002 burned 22.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Montana's usually cautious Democratic Sen. Max Baucus has proposed to declare two key places – the Badger-Two Med and Blackleaf areas – temporarily off-limits to drilling. Provision would be made for the federal government to trade or buy out existing leases.

The fate of the Front has put Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., on the spot. The petroleum industry has no more faithful strumpet in Congress.

But drilling is controversial among rural, conservative voters who are Burns' political base.

Republican negotiators of a pending House-Senate energy bill have proposed a buyout provision but without Baucus' proposed moratorium on development.

The GOP plan would pay off or credit leaseholders not only for development expenses, but the entire estimated value of any natural gas that would be taken off the land.

Conservationists see just one way to permanently protect the Badger-Two Med – formal designation by Congress as a wilderness area.

Kendall Flint, a family doctor in Browning, lives in a log house just below the fought-over national forest.

"The federal government represents the energy industry," he said, "but a national forest is public land. The Rocky Mountain Front absolutely belongs to everybody – myself, the people of this country, the Blackfeet tribe along with the grizzly bears and wolves and moose."

P-I columnist Joel Connelly can be reached at 206-448-8160 or joelconnelly@seattlepi.com

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2003

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Immigrants' safety net unravels

Suicide

There is a place where grizzlies, humans co-exist

IN THE NORTHWEST

JOEL CONNELLY



DUPUYER, Mont. – He spent eight seasons riding bulls in rodeos, but Karl Rappold has devoted most of his 51 years to challenges of running a 7,000-acre cattle ranch at the base of the Rocky Mountains pioneered by his grandfather 121 years ago.

During 27 of those years, the Rappold Ranch has played part-time home to a male grizzly bear that has grown to more than 1,000 pounds and leaves behind a footprint measured at 9¼ inches.

"We've learned to respect him. After all, it is we who are the trespassers on his land," said Rappold. His ranch has not seen one of its animals killed by a grizz since the 1960s.

Ursus horribilis has received some horrible publicity of late.

A Malibu, Calif., man, who made a career of getting up close to Alaska brown bears – the grizz' giant kinfolk – and even called them "party animals," was killed and eaten, along with his female companion, last week in Katmai National Park.

Robert Treadwell had written a book and filmed himself with the giant bruins and gone on TV talk shows to talk about how he "knew" them.

In the Bitterroot Mountains on the Idaho-Montana border, Interior Secretary Gale Norton put the kibosh on reintroduction of grizzly bears – a project seven years in the planning that had U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval.

Luckily, at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains – the one spot where grizzlies still come down to the Plains – rationality seems to be winning out over misguided affection and misplaced fear.

A low-key attitude to live-and-let live – while minimizing human-bear interactions – has slowly taken hold.

"The ranchers have a lot of respect for grizzlies. The bears come down on the big ranches and feed. They are seen quite frequently and appreciated," said R.L. "Stoney" Burk, a country lawyer in Choteau, the local county seat.

Signs along the Rocky Mountain Front tell hunters how protected grizzlies, with their distinctive humps, differ from black bears. The Nature Conservancy has bought or secured easements to large tracts of ranchland and grizzly habitat at the base of the Rockies.

In one notable innovation, the Boone and Crockett Club has bought up a 6,000-acre ranch – named for its founder Theodore Roosevelt – to demonstrate integrated livestock and wildlife management. It is run by Karl Rappold's son.

Karl Rappold does not seek out bears, get up close or camp along their migration routes.

In the spring, when grizzlies come out of hibernation, he keeps calves away from the upper ranch, which borders the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. A biologist collects dead animals and livestock, and scatters carcasses in the highlands.

"It gives them food and keeps them there," he explained. As many as 15 sub-adult grizzlies have been counted feeding in the spring on the upper Rappold Ranch.

Charles Jonkel, a renowned now-retired University of Montana bear expert, detects changes in public attitude. "People are more accommodating to bears. It used to be that one grizzly would come out of the mountains and people would go nuts," Jonkel said.

A few miles north, in East Glacier, a biologist named Dan ("the Bear Man") Carney works with Indians on the Blackfeet Reservation and other neighbors of the grizzly. He is man on the spot when grizzlies misbehave.

A half-dozen times a year, Carney is called to inspect the remains of a cow or calf, usually just the bones. "I just determine whether a bear killed it. I then call Defenders of Wildlife, they call the rancher, and they dicker about the price," he said.

Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation group, has helped assure survival of the wolf in the lower 48 states by developing a compensation program for ranchers. It is doing likewise with grizzlies that live along the Rocky Mountain Front.

An adult grizzly bear needs a lot of space. Females range more than 100 square miles in the northern Rockies. Big male grizzlies can roam over 400 square miles in their lifetimes.

Ursus horribilis' reputation as a carnivore is overstated. "On the whole, most of their diet is vegetation, on the order of 90 percent," said Carney.

Agencies are currently conducting a count on the northern Rockies' grizzly population. The region includes 1.5 million protected acres in three contiguous national forest wilderness areas, as well as the million-acre Glacier National Park.

In Carney's opinion, the grizz population is growing. He believes researchers will find 700 to 800 bears. About 20 of the bears are killed each year. They are hit by trains or cars, mistaken for black bears and shot or are killed because they pose a threat to humans.

The picture is not entirely pretty. "A lot has been done that could get undone," Jonkel observed.

The Bush administration wants to expedite drilling of natural gas wells in two of the most sensitive grizzly habitat areas at the edge of the Rockies. With the wells would come access roads and pipelines.

As well, the U.S. Forest Service has proposed allowing off-road and all-terrain vehicles access to much of the unspoiled (but unprotected) 133,000-acre Badger-Two Medicine region of the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Roy Jacobs, a taxidermist in Choteau, has hunted over much of North America. His shop shows off the skins of such rare creatures as a wolverine (the gift of a friend).

"This mountain front is probably the most diverse place for wildlife that I've ever seen, except for East Africa," Jacobs reflected. "The more roads we get, the less game we'll have – and the shorter the hunting season. When you've got easy access, nothing gets left."

Rappold agrees, and takes fierce pride in the fierce creatures that live on his ranch.

Another thousand-pound grizzly has been spotted on the Rappold Ranch. A breeding pair of wolverines recently spent the winter living under an old cabin.

Asked if there's any prospect his spread will ever get subdivided, Rappold replied: "I have a son and grandson waiting to take over this ranch. We're happy right here."

P-I columnist Joel Connelly can be reached at 206-448-8160 or joelconnelly@seattlepi.com

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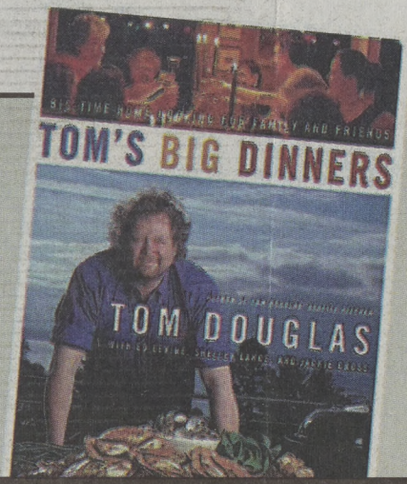
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Thursday in Northwest Weekend
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KAREN NICHOLS / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of snow geese *fill the air near Choteau, Mont. Choteau sits at the foot of the Rocky Mountain Front, a wall of mountains rising from the prairie in northern Montana.*

MONTANA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT ADDS LIFT TO BIG SKY STATE

BY JEREMY SCHMIDT
Universal Press Syndicate

In northern Montana, an ocean pounds a rugged coastline. There is no saltwater in this ocean. It is a sea of wheat and native grass rolling like ocean swells. Here the prairies of Big Sky Country run smack into the eastern rampart of the Rockies.

They call it the Rocky Mountain Front, referring to the abrupt wall of peaks that stretches 150 miles from near the state capital, Helena, to the Canadian border and several hundred miles beyond. The narrow belt of land where horizontal and vertical meet is a sort of tidal zone, neither prairie nor peak.

Driving the dusty back roads feels a bit like sailing a yacht along the edge of a continent. Winds blow unhindered. The views are long. Instead of gulls there are meadowlarks; instead of dolphins, antelope.

Visitors can choose between open land and sheltered valley. Activities range from hiking and horseback riding to boating, fishing, wildlife viewing and wide-eyed mountain gazing.

Those who seek the true nature of wilderness find it here. The mountain wall is the eastern edge of the biggest, most intact expanse of wild country in the lower 48 states — 1.5 million acres in three designated wilderness areas plus buffering national forest lands, and to top it off, Glacier National Park immediately to the north.

Straddling the Continental Divide, the region offers a panoply of snowcapped summits, glittering lakes, alpine flower meadows and deep forest. It's big country, home to every wildlife species that walked here 150 years ago except wild buffalo. The list includes grizzly bears, mountain lions, gray wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, eagles, osprey and so many more.

Ecologically, the prairie fringe is as important as the alpine core. It provides winter range and a complex mixture of habitats favored by numerous animals. For the traveler, it offers a chance to sample a landscape that has virtually disappeared elsewhere.

People enjoy living on the edge of spectacular mountains. Salt Lake City sprawls at the base of the Wasatch. Denver looks up at the Colorado Front Range. Reno and Tucson are other glittering examples. Montana's answers to those cities are the friendly and very unglittery mini-opolises of Choteau, Dupuyer and Augusta — great views and a combined population of about 3,000.

Although much of the land is strictly protected, the Front is potentially rich in oil and gas. Conservationists worry about pressures to open the area to development and praise the attitudes of private landowners like Karl and Teri Rappold.

Grizzlies at the salt lick

Third-generation ranchers, the Rappolds raise cattle for a living, but they put high value on the wild ani-

PLEASE SEE ***Montana*** ON M 2

A landscape that has disappeared elsewhere

MONTANA

CONTINUED FROM M 1

mals that share space with their Herefords. These include grizzlies. The Front is the last place in America where the great bears still roam the plains.

The Rappolds take particular pride in three resident grizzlies — enormous males whose rear footpads leave tracks 14 inches long. The claw tips touch the ground 5 inches ahead of the toes, for a total of 19 inches.

Bears and cattle are often thought to be incompatible, yet Rappold says that in 40 years, he has lost only one calf to a bear, and that was more an accident than an intentional killing. He's seen grizzlies sharing a salt lick with his cattle.

"I figure they were here first," he says. "If I can't make a living and leave enough grass for the wildlife, then I should pick up and leave."

That's not a likely event. The Rappolds recently traded a conservation easement on a large piece of their land for title to an adjoining ranch also bound by a conservation easement. This was done in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, which has worked similar deals with other longtime ranchers in the area. Rappold explains that the easement is no sacrifice for a rancher looking for the long term.

"I care about this place as it is. I want there to be a Rappold ranch here in 300 years," he says.

Three hundred years seems not so long in this big and enduring landscape. Blackfeet Indians made their home here for centuries (they still do) before Lewis and Clark caught a glimpse of the Front on their westbound journey in 1805. On the way back, Lewis and several men came this way hoping to determine the northern limit of the Missouri River watershed. Having spent a hard, hungry winter on the Pacific slope, they rejoiced to be back on the bountiful plains east of the Continental Divide.

One evening, Lewis estimated 10,000 buffalo within two miles of his camp, writing, "The bulls keep a tremendous roaring ... we could hear them for many miles and there are such numbers of them that there is one continual roar."

Out of 'Lonesome Dove'

By the 1880s, cattlemen began arriving. The most famous was fictional. Captain Call and the Hat Creek Outfit (of Larry McMurtry's novel and miniseries "Lonesome Dove") ended their long cattle drive along the Milk River in what is now the Blackfeet Reservation.

A few miles from the Rappold ranch lies the Boone and Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. Established as a demonstration and research project to find ways of allowing wildlife and livestock to coexist, the ranch also conducts educational programs for school groups.

A quick education can be had by hiking the Watchable Wildlife trail. The trail runs along the flank of a hill overlooking a glorious vista of wild mountains and fenced hayfields — a lesson in how human development and nature can rest easy together.

It takes a keen eye to follow the Old North Trail, an ancient system of pathways used by native travelers along the Front. According to some researchers, it follows the Rockies from the Arctic all the way to Mexico and was used for hundreds, maybe thousands, of years.

A section of the trail is visible at the Ear Mountain Outstanding Natural Area adjacent to the Pine Butte Swamp Preserve, a property of The Nature Conservancy. Tonya Chilton, a bear biologist and naturalist at the Conservancy's Pine Butte Guest Ranch, describes how travois — cargo haulers made of two poles pulled by a person or an animal — affected the choice of route.

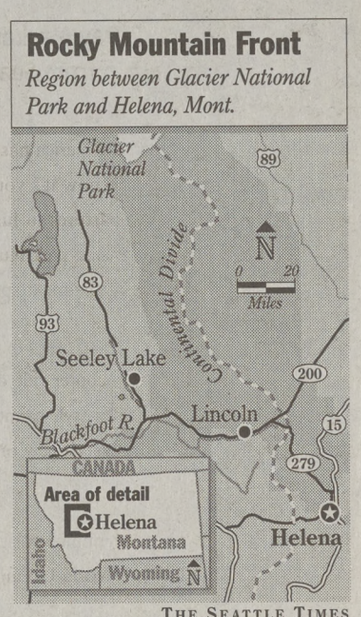
"Travois handled poorly on side hills," she says, "so they had to be muscled straight up the slopes and straight down the other side. It's not the way you'd normally walk."

Chilton directs visitors to a shallow depression cutting through a grove of limber pine. It looks like a faded road leading over a low ridge. A cairn marks the summit. The stones, covered with lichens, indicate that many years, maybe centuries, have passed since they were piled there.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mother grizzly *and her cubs walk through a meadow at Glacier National Park, Mont. The Front is the last place in America where the great bears still roam the plains, often coexisting with cattle.*



THE SEATTLE TIMES

One quiet September evening, Chilton and a group of ranch guests hiked up the A.B. Guthrie Memorial Trail to a point overlooking the Pine Butte Swamp, a spring-fed wetland and rich wildlife habitat. As the sun dropped behind the mountains, a bull moose high-stepped through the fen. A coyote yowled in the distance.

But the main hope was to see a grizzly. Binoculars swung in the direction of a dark speck that turned out to be, on closer inspection, merely a Black Angus cow.

Dinosaur diggings

Far larger animals are the interest of Todd Crowell, director of paleontology at the Old North Trail Museum in Choteau. The museum features historical exhibits, restored pioneer buildings and a small but good dinosaur display. During the summer, it offers educational programs and tours of dinosaur diggings.

Crowell leads the dino-curious to Egg Mountain, an important paleontological landmark. Here in 1978, Dr. Jack Horner of Montana's Museum of the Rockies uncovered the first dinosaur eggs found in North America and, later, the first dinosaur embryos found anywhere.

Visitors see behemoth bones jutting from the badlands, a dish-shaped nest the size of a hot tub, and bits of fossil eggshells scattered like pebbles over the ground. It's hard to imagine that the dinosaurs lived here before the Rockies were pushed upward some 60 million years ago. Dark and thrusting in the afternoon, bright and cloud-strewn at sunrise, the mountains command your attention and draw you in.

The Front is broken by canyons where rivers — the Sun, the Dearborne and the Teton — spill out of the mountains. Forest roads provide access to campgrounds, reservoirs, streamside picnic areas and trailheads.

Among popular trails is a 3.5-mile jaunt from the South Fork Teton trailhead to Our Lake, an alpine gem set amid wildflowers just above tree line. From the same trailhead, wilderness travelers climb to Headquarters Pass and on into backcountry where they can walk or ride for weeks without taking the same trail twice.

One of the best places to understand this landscape is the rough and rarely traveled road along the Pishkun Canal, a winding diversion of the Sun River southwest of Choteau. On a sweet summer evening, you might see sandhill cranes, pronghorn, mule deer, Canada geese and bunches of cattle, including a few Texas longhorns like those brought north by the Hat Creek Outfit.

Since the 1880s, cowboys fictional and real have camped on the open prairie looking at sunsets just like the ones we see today. Native travelers on the Old North Trail saw the same sight 1,000 years ago.

Modern ranchers and visitors see it still. The land has endured for ages, and might survive ages more if given the chance.

Jeremy Schmidt writes frequently about natural areas in the northern Rockies. His most recent book on the region is "The Saga of Lewis and Clark: Into the Uncharted West" (DK Publishing).

If you go

- **Travel Montana** is useful for general trip planning, 800-548-3390 or *http://travel.state.mt.us*.
- **Lewis and Clark National Forest,** Rocky Mountain Ranger District in Choteau, 406-466-5341 or, in Augusta, 406-562-3247. A forest travel map is an indispensable aid to visitors.
- **Choteau Chamber of Commerce** lists lodging, guest ranches and other services, 800-823-3866 or *www.choteaumontana.com*.
- **An excellent overview** of area offerings can be had from the Visitor's Guide at *www.choteau acantha.com*.
- **The Sierra Club** offers an outline of conservation issues at *www.sierraclub.org/lewisandclark/report00/rocky.asp*.

Information on specific sites:

- **A.B. Guthrie Memorial Trail** on Pine Butte Swamp Preserve, west of Choteau on the Teton River Road, 406-466-5526.
- **Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch,** west of Dupuyer, 406-472-3380.
- **Pine Butte Guest Ranch,** west of Choteau, the Nature Conservancy, 406-466-2158.
- **Ear Mountain Outstanding Natural Area,** west of Choteau, Bureau of Land Management, 406-538-1905.
- **Bob Marshall Wilderness,** Lewis and Clark National Forest, 406-466-5341.
- **Freezout Wildlife Management Area,** U.S. Highway 89 north of Fairfield, 406-467-2646.
- **Blackleaf Wildlife Management Area,** northwest of Choteau, 406-454-5840 or 406-278-7754.

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road into Jensen ranch from S of Pendroy, which was anonymous, marked w/ stack of red/white/blue barrels, now is called Halverson Road

9-26-03

Ivan & Carol,

It was good to see you both the other day in Great Falls. I am anxious to read your new book. You mentioned that you had stayed at the Hutterite teacherage when working on English Creek and am wondering if you would need a place to stay while researching information on your next book about the Valier area. If you do need a place I would welcome you to stay at our house in Dupuyer anytime you are in that area. I only get there occasionally and "it" would be glad to have company.

My phone here in Helena is (406)449-6465 (h) or 443-6464 (w). Dupuyer phone is 472-3265. Address is Box 4327, Helena, 59604. E-mail is BigSkyTed@aol.com.



Vicki

Vicki Beck
~~Vicki Beck, D.M.D.~~
227 WEST LYNDALE
P.O. BOX 4327
HELENA, MONTANA 59604

Ivan & Carol Doig

Dusty & Danelle Crary: their ranch is on N side along first fenceline east of Pine Butte; metalwork name on gate.

From: Ramon Diaz
To: Carol Heepke
Date: 4/25/03 8:43AM
Subject: Fwd: Ivan Doig

>>> "Choteau/Teton Public Library" <chotlibr@montanavision.net> 04/24 2:36 PM >>>
How fortunate you are to have Ivan Doig speaking in your library. He is certainly a favorite in this area!

I am sending this email in hopes he will share his mailing address with us. Marge Cannon of Choteau is researching the original name of "Ear" Mountain (Eyre), and would like to contact Mr. Doig concerning his knowledge about this. He is very familiar with the Choteau area and I think would be happy to contribute to this effort.

If Mr. Doig would rather not give out his address, please let me know if there is another way he can be contacted.

Thank you,
Marsha Hinch
Library Director

30 April '03

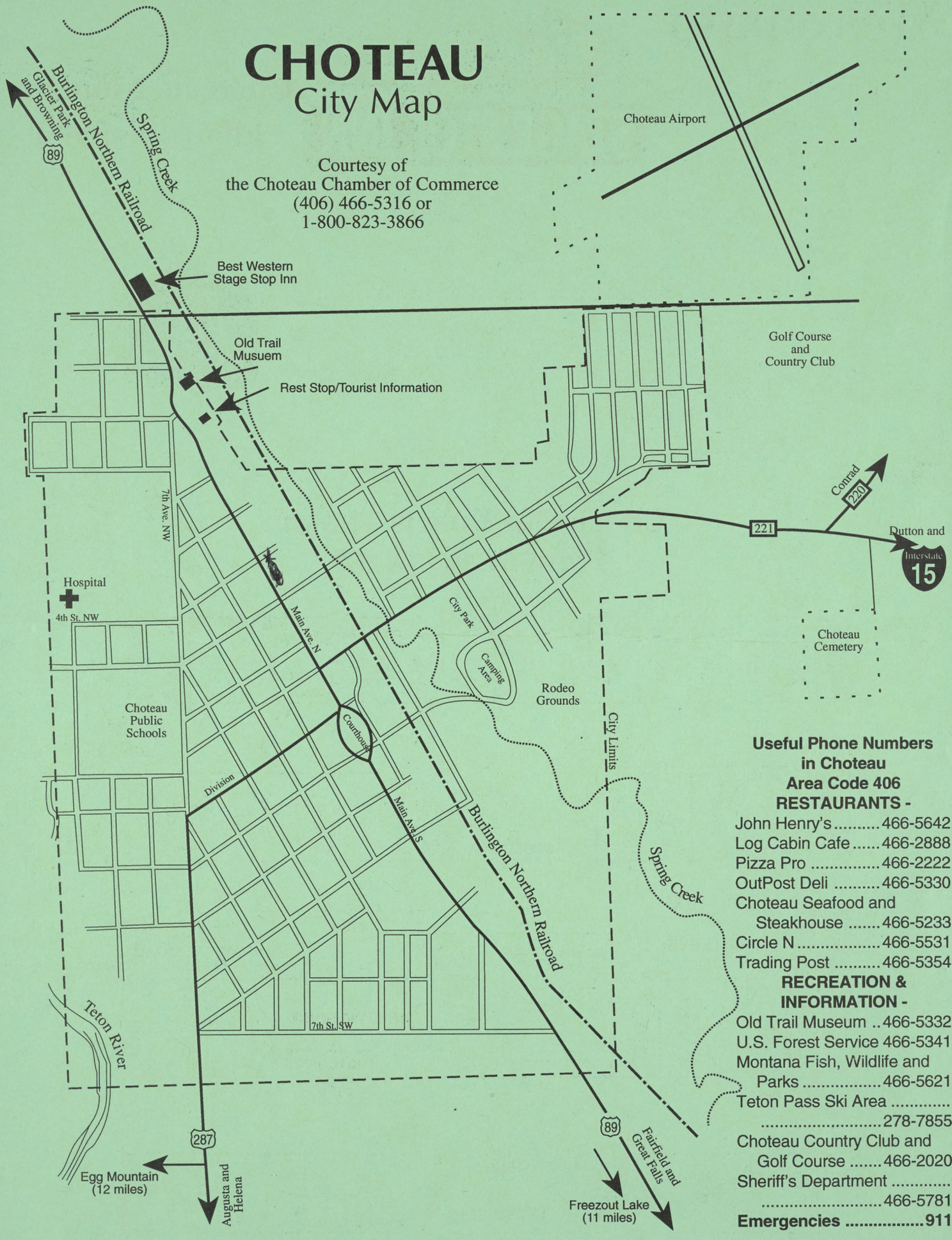
Dear Marsha--

Hi there, it's been a while since we crossed paths. The library folks in Boulder, Colorado, passed along the Ear/Eyre Mtn. request, but I'm sorry to say I don't have anything in my research that sheds light on those origins. Suppose Bud Guthrie's papers--did they end up at the U. of Montana?--might have something?

Carol and I are going to zip through Choteau at some point this summer. May be by the library to say hellofthen. Meanwhile, best wishes.

CHOTEAU
City Map

Courtesy of
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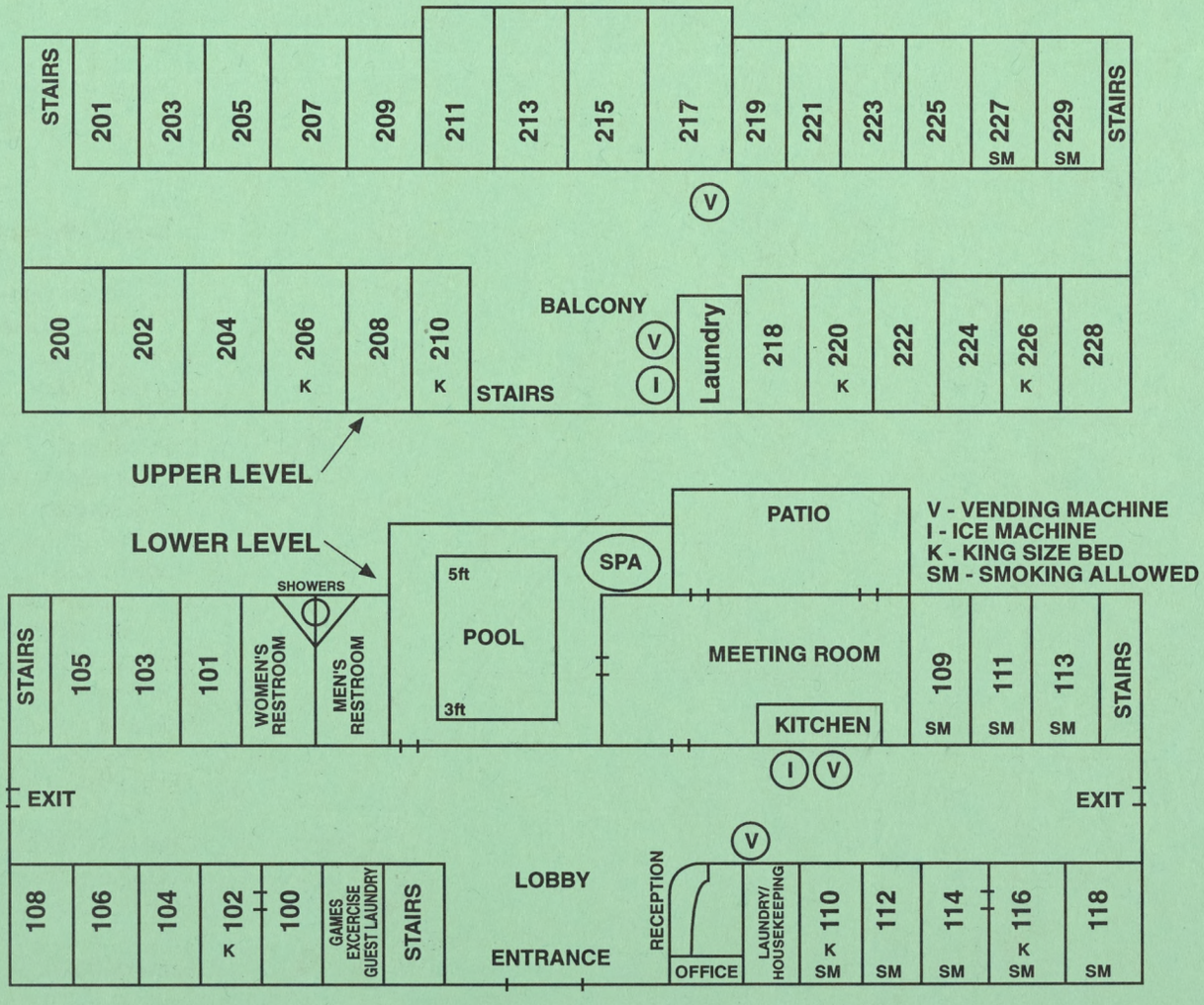


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WILD MONTANA

SPRING 2004 | Newsletter of the Montana Wilderness Association | Keeping it wild since 1958



Rick & Susie Graetz

ENDANGERED: THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT IS MUCH IN THE NEWS TODAY, as it should be. This magnificent landscape is in danger. The Front faces a perfect storm of converging, menacing trends.

The first threat is "motorization." The Front extends from the southern tip of Glacier Park to Highway 200. The greatest part of this forest land is in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The Forest Service has proposed a Travel Plan that would allow motorized recreation on two-thirds of the Forest. Pristine landscapes would be opened to the noise and destructive qualities of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other off-road vehicles. The result would be erosion, the introduction of noxious weeds, and the disruption of wildlife.

The future of the Front as wilderness could be lost. Crossed and scarred by ragged ATV tracks, it would be much more difficult to designate this once-quiet land as wilderness.

The second threat is the push by the Bush Administration for accelerated energy development on the Front. Development of natural gas would bring roads, drill rigs, pipelines, sprawling "sweetening plants," and the clamor of industrial machinery into wild country. Together these trends endanger a wildlife haven nature has been eons in the making.

The rocks that make up the mountains of the Front are hundreds of millions of years old. They weren't originally mountains at all, but were the lakebeds of vast, ancient seas. They were compressed by the weight of overlying materials into limestone, siltstone and shale. Then, beginning 70 million years ago, tectonic plates collided—one plate riding over the other, driving the rocks into the sky—and they became the mountains of the Front, the bold skyline that now presents itself to the prairie.

The hydrocarbons so coveted today were formed 300 million to 50 million years ago—animal and vegetative matter was cooked under great pressure, and transformed into natural gas. The majority of the energy reserves of the Front were created before the mountains of the Front existed.

In modern geologic times, from 50,000 to 10,000 years ago, vast ice sheets descended from the north and carved the mountains of the Front into fantastic shapes. Long, winding ribbons of rock were left gazing down at the plains, like loose ends of the earth tying up a mythic landscape.

In the latest chapter of this dynamic story, humans appeared on the Front. The first Native Americans tracked mammoths and giant bison at the close of the final ice age. In our era, the Blackfeet claimed this land, hunted it, held their vision quests on the mountaintops, laid their ancestors to rest in this sacred place.

In the early 1800s, trappers from the eastern U.S. ventured onto the Front after beaver pelts. In the second half of the century, commercial buffalo hunters put an end to the vast herds and came within a hairbreadth of exterminating the species.

continued on page 3...



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GREAT FALLS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's *your* backyard

by Gerry Jennings
President, Montana
Wilderness Association



I recently read an e-mail from a resident of the Bitterroot—he was lamenting excessive growth in the valley. He said we must do something about rapid, unchecked development before the splendor of these areas "exists only as memories." I realized this is exactly what MWA is about—saving our roadless public lands before they vanish into the mist of memory.

Let's ask a question. In what kinds of communities do we want to live? Montana is "backyard" to every one of us, and Montana—your backyard—needs protection. My husband, Chuck, and I have hiked in spectacular areas around the world, but for beauty and splendor nothing matches the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Cabinet, Selway-Bitterroot, Anaconda-Pintler, Absaroka-Beartooth, Mission Mountains—wilderness areas here in Montana.

Here we have solitude. In other parts of the world, they have throngs of people and long strings of porters competing for trails. Here we have forests with understory; there they have tree plantations with swept-up forest floors. Here we have herds of elk and mountain goats and grizzly bear families; there they have an occasional deer.

I suspect that Montana's wilderness riches will be here for me and perhaps for my children, but beyond that—who knows? Well, I want to know. I want to be sure that my thirteen grandchildren can enjoy the same wilderness experience that I have been privileged to take for granted. I want them to relish the serenity of roadless areas without the whine of motorized vehicles, the clamor of oil and gas drilling, the smell of sulfur deposits, the buzzing of chain saws. I want them to anticipate a grizzly bear around the bend, hear the bugle of an elk and know that the tiny critters of the forest are being well-fed by deadfall.

What are we—the people of Montana—going to do to protect our natural heritage? It starts with us—the members of MWA. We must change the politics of wilderness. The challenge is to educate Montanans in how valuable a commodity wilderness is to each of us. Too little attention has been paid to the value of wilderness as the cornerstone of a high quality of life and the provider of treasured recreational pursuits.

Will our clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife and solitude—values we all hold dear—exist only as a memory, or will we find the courage and inspiration to protect them for all time? All of us must work together to defend Montana's natural heritage—and it must happen today.

AN EXPERT SPEAKS

WILDLIFE & ATVS

Oil and Wild Things Don't Mix

By Dr. Barrie K. Gilbert

The chill of winter is not the only chill along the Rocky Mountain Front these days. Off-road vehicle use is a threat to wildlife and wilderness in one of the nation's most ecologically important landscapes.

This is not the first time the Front has been threatened. At the turn of the century, wildlife along the Front was decimated by commercial killing and changing land use patterns. But over the years a mix of interests came together to restore wildlife populations, using the tools of wilderness, game ranges, and conservation easements. Because of these investments the Front is ranked among the top 1% of wildlife habitat in the nation.

Now there is again a need for public land managers to respond to changes in land use. In forests across the nation, a tidal wave of off-road vehicle use is bringing serious impacts. While traditional foot and horseback use hasn't been displaced in most of the Front, the trend to motorized use is clear. This trend is a recipe for disaster. Wildlife and wild places cannot tolerate heavy motorization.



This past summer I completed a scientific report on Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) effects on big game and carnivores in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. I was astonished at the unique wildlife heritage of the Front. Lynx, wolves, grizzly and black bears, wolverines and all the large game species occur at levels close to pre-European settlement. They live in a hundred-mile zone between high mountain wilderness and private ranchland to the east.

> IF WE WANT TO PRESERVE FOR OUR CHILDREN ALL THE RECREATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE FRONT NOW PROVIDES, THE FOREST SERVICE AND ELECTED OFFICIALS MUST HEAR OUR VOICES ONCE AGAIN.

The Front is a treasure for scientists seeking to understand how dynamic wild systems work. If protected, this landscape can continue as a biological factory sustaining the nation and local communities. But it could be lost quickly, if we fail to recognize the long-term costs from unrestricted vehicle access. Impacts on wildlife from ORVs are not a mystery—we know from studies the negative affect ORVs have on wild animals. Elk, deer and bears abandon key habitats when security declines from the intrusion of roads, especially during hunting season. In my opinion there is a real risk of herd decline and species loss on the Front if managers adopt a Travel Plan that would "motorize" as much as two-thirds of the Front.

How can the US Forest Service permit an invasion of vehicles without a scientific environmental analysis? As a Travel Plan is developed for the Lewis and Clark National Forest, there must be an alternative for NO summer off-road travel, and motor-free areas where wildlife will be protected from vehicle traffic in the winter. Prudent wildlife management on the Front demands a moratorium on motorized recreation and industrial activity.

Large game animals almost vanished on the Front a century ago because of greed, neglect, and abuse. History could repeat itself if we allow the Front's wildlife habitat to be steadily degraded. Harassment and displacement from recreational vehicles, combined with compressor stations, power lines and wastewater ponds from energy development, will drive wildlife further into the mountains or into extinction.

Wildlife management means protection for wildlife and their habitats. If we hope to sustain the world-class wildlands we enjoy today, we must prevent them from becoming dusty motorized arenas. To pass on our wildlife legacy, we must keep the Front as it is today—a place for traditional foot and horse use, free of the sound of motors whether they come from ATVs or drill rigs. Free from industrial abuse and motorized intrusion, the Rocky Mountain Front can continue to be enjoyed by those who love it and want to share it with future generations.

Barrie K. Gilbert has a Ph.D. in Zoology/Wildlife Behavior, and is a Professor at the Department of Forestry, Range and Wildlife Sciences at Utah State University.

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The Montana Wilderness Association educates the public and works at the local, state, and national levels to protect Montana's wilderness and traditional recreation opportunities for everyone.

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WILD MONTANA

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ENDANGERED *continued from page 1*

In the 1870s and 1880s ranching families began to move in, claiming land and creating homesteads.

But the mountains of the Front remained as they were—wild—and this public land was held in trust for everyone. And the private ranches, in the shadow of the great mountains, were virtually as wild as the public lands above. A tradition of stewardship and conservation began on many of the ranches and continues today.

And always, there was wildlife. A spectacular profusion of wildlife from prairie songbirds to grizzlies ten feet tall. Elk, and mountain goats, and bighorn sheep, and lynx and wolves and mule deer and whitetails and golden eagles and cutthroat trout in the streams—they were all here.

And they are here today. No other place in the lower 48 states teems with such abundant, unperturbed wildlife. This is the only place on the Lewis and Clark Trail where all of the major species that the explorers encountered (except bison) still exist in a wild state. This is the only spot in America where grizzlies—once a prairie species—still roam the prairie.

The magic of this place could be lost from motorized recreation and reckless energy development. Its wild uniqueness could end in our lifetime. But if we choose to protect it, the song of this landscape will continue forever—for generations of Montanans and Americans to come. How do we protect it? With the strongest, most lasting designation available: with Wilderness. This edition of *Wild Montana* addresses that challenge and that hope.

Lex Hames, Editor

PEOPLE OF MWA

CANDI RIDES IN

A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZER FOR THE FRONT



Growing up in Great Falls, Candi Zion had special ties to the Rocky Mountain Front. Her grandparents homesteaded at Rattlesnake Butte outside of Choteau. Candi enjoyed weekends on the Front, fishing, hiking—and riding horses. "When I was a kid," she recalls, "there were loose horses everywhere. I liked catching horses from the Forest Service strings that roamed the Front. They didn't know it, of course!"

Candi kept her interest in riding. Between barrel racing and training horses, she gained a Bachelor's in History from Arizona State University and a Master's in Public History/Historic Preservation.

Her concern for the Front led to becoming a letter-writing member of the Montana Wilderness Association. When the Lewis and Clark Forest suspended gas leases in 1997, Candi thought she could hang up her pen. "I figured we had it made with the moratorium."

But with a new administration in Washington came a new push for energy development on the Front. And Candi discovered MWA was looking for a grassroots organizer. "I was sitting at Western Livestock in Great Falls, when I picked up the Tribune. My eyes riveted on the ad. I couldn't believe the luck, me looking for a job and a job that fit. Then I thought to myself, 'I can do some good here.' "

Candi set up an MWA office in Choteau where she bases her grassroots effort. She explains: "Wilderness for the Front is going to come from people working together. People from all walks of life—people who live on the Front and people who don't. It's going to take a lot of people pulling together, from across Montana and across the nation. That's how it will happen. But it WILL happen."

It's a big job with responsibilities that don't end at five o'clock. But Candi brightens at the thought. "This is exciting to me. I get an incredible feeling from hearing people with such different backgrounds agree, yeah, wilderness—it's the only way to protect the Front. It makes you realize there's real power in a common belief."

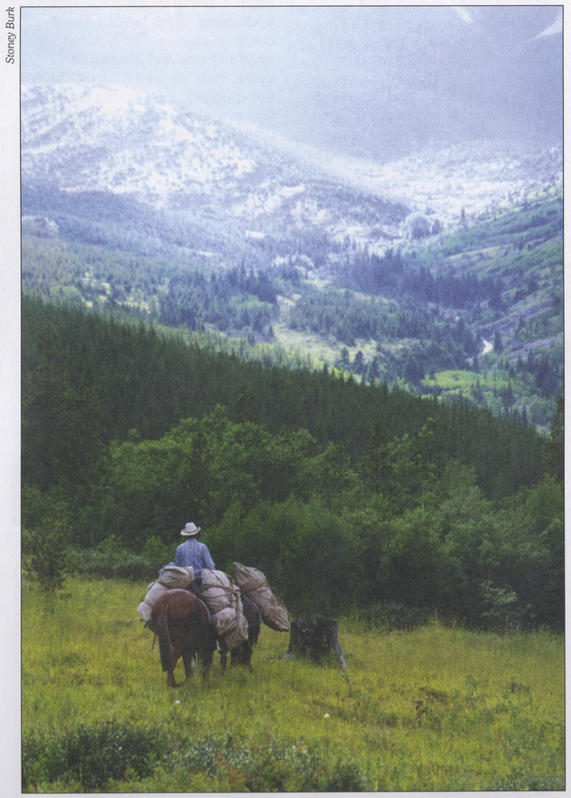
NATURE INC.

THE GOOD ECONOMICS OF WILDERNESS

by Randy Gray

I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU A RECENT, MAGICAL DAY I spent on the Rocky Mountain Front. Perhaps it will help us to think about what is most important, and what is the real basis for economics and "growth" today in the West.

On a sunny morning in April this year, my wife, son and I left our house in Great Falls about 7 AM to climb Castle Reef on the north side of the Sun River Canyon, on the Front. On the road from Augusta we passed herds of pronghorn and mule deer. We spotted raptors and the first scouts of the annual northbound bird migrations. Under Sawtooth Mountain, on the wildlife refuge, elk herds were bunched up as they prepared to migrate up the Sun River into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. We counted 800 elk spread out over several miles. We continued to Hannan Gulch, where we parked and bushwhacked up the back side of Castle Reef. Gaining over 3,000 feet (and barely keeping up with my teenage son) took three hours. We were rewarded at the top with a stunning easterly view onto the Great Plains and the island ranges of Central Montana. A thousand feet below us, under the uplifted face of Castle Reef, 80 bighorn sheep were grazing. We sat in awe as we silently ate our sandwiches and counted our blessings to be in this place at this time. On the way back to our vehicle we noted that we had not seen one other person during the entire time on Castle Reef. I made it back to Great Falls just in time to shower, don a coat and tie and make it to the Heritage Inn, where I performed the Mayoral duty of welcoming 300 guests from around the country to the annual convention of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. I told that assembled group the story, or the moral, actually, I'm relating to you—that this landscape still holds scenes similar to what the Corps of Discovery glimpsed almost two centuries ago, less than two hours from downtown Great Falls.



Stoney Burk

Outfitting is a major source of revenue for communities on the Front.

AN AMERICAN SERENGETI

Let's look at the facts of the Front. The Front is like a heightened collection of all that's wild, pristine and worth preserving in Montana. The Front ranks in the top 1% of wildlife habitat in the U.S.—it has the most diverse collection of large mammals in the continental United States. The Front and contiguous Crown of the Continent comprise only 8% of Montana's land mass but have 62% of Montana's bird species. On a six-mile transect conducted recently by The Nature Conservancy from Ear Mountain to the prairie, biologists Dave Hannah and Peter Lesica found 700 different plant species—two-thirds of all plant species in Montana.

The Front, in short, is the American Serengeti. It is mired now in the issue of whether to allow natural gas exploration and production. Let's put aside for a moment the beauty, fun, and wonder of the Front—all the aesthetic stuff. Let's talk—economics. Let's do some cost/benefit analysis of this development route.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Startech, a Canadian company, holds drilling rights to 2,500 subsurface acres in the Blackleaf area, northwest of Choteau. A representative of Startech recently explained their development plans to the BLM Central Montana Resource Advisory Council, of which I am a member. They propose three wells on a six-acre drill site, using slant drilling technology and (they claim) a low noise profile. They will have to enlarge existing roads to get the truckloads of pipe and equipment to the drill pads. The Startech rep acknowledged the company's past history of environmental controversy, but said the company is well-bonded. Projections of finding recoverable hydrocarbons range from 10% to 33%. If Startech finds recoverable gas, pipelines would need to be constructed, crossing both public land and private ranchlands. They expect to employ nine workers at most, and will try to hire locally. Employment tapers off after the wells start producing. Wages are in the $20 an hour range. The life of the field would be twenty to thirty years. Teton County Commissioner Mary Sexton has projected that an upper end production level would increase local tax revenues by $60,000 annually with one-third going to the county and two-thirds to the schools. An upper end production level would provide only a few weeks of our nation's natural gas needs.

On the benefit side, if production is successful, are a few years of a few additional jobs, a few thousand dollars per year of additional county and school tax revenue and some profit for a Canadian company. Montana would receive severance taxes and the federal government would receive royalties, in amounts determined by actual production.

There are numerous entries on the cost side. The county is faced with maintenance from additional roads and wear from heavy truck traffic. Roads bring noxious weeds, more OHV access and more law enforcement costs. Roads and pipelines contribute to the relentless process of fragmenting the landscape into smaller and smaller parcels which deprive wildlife of security and seclusion. And the costs go on long after the revenues stop. Federal agencies tend to be lax in monitoring erosion, water quality and other environmental problems that continue after production ends and the energy companies have departed.

But the biggest cost/benefit tradeoff of gas development on the Front is the opportunity cost. If the cost of opportunities lost is greater than your gain, you have a bad deal. That's the case for energy development on the Front.

Contrary to industry claims, we cannot have it all. Extraction development is a one-time event that will irrevocably diminish or destroy the alternative and non-consumptive values of the Front. Those values include the current and future attraction of this American Serengeti to people who live on or near it, as well as tourists who want to visit it. Businesses that depend on outdoor recreation, wildlife, open spaces and beautiful scenery will inevitably suffer as energy development degrades their most vital resource. It should be noted again that natural gas production is a short-term activity at best, while businesses that promote Nature and outdoor recreation can go on forever—if the resource is protected.



Donnie Sexton

The tourism and recreation industry can last indefinitely if wild resources are preserved.

IT'S THE QUALITY OF LIFE, STUPID

The key ingredient to economic development is a qualified labor pool. I was recently visiting with Chris and Bruce Nelson of Zoot Technologies of Bozeman. This high tech company thrives where it is, at least in part, because the Bozeman area offers wonderful outdoor amenities that in turn attract and retain a qualified labor pool.

The Front is no less an amenity for Great Falls. Great Falls' proximity to the Front, Glacier Park, the Missouri Breaks National Monument, the fishing resources of the Smith and Missouri and other world class recreational features make our town a great place to live and visit. And these wild attractions bring in money. A recent study reported 120,000 fishermen per year in the Craig area with one-third coming from out of state. Those 40,000 fishermen per year, spending three days each at $100/day, results in a $12 million per year tourism industry to hotels, restaurants, guides, and shops. Projections of up to four million additional visitors per year to Montana from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial are proving to be true as we approach the Montana Signature Events of this great national celebration. America loves its history. And America loves its natural wonders. There are few natural wonders left greater than the Rocky Mountain Front.

NATURE INC.

If the Front's meager portion of our nation's natural gas were the only place that gas could be found, or if there were no other alternatives to natural gas, maybe developing the Front would be a rational choice. But there are many other pools of natural gas. My son is in the Peace Corps in Gamba, Gabon, Africa. Shell Oil has a major oil production field in the area. Shell ships only the oil—it burns the gas into the air. So much natural gas is flared that the night for miles around never gets dark. With our excellent liquid natural gas technology, this now flared (wasted) natural gas could be easily captured and shipped to terminals in the Gulf Coast. Additionally, there are huge reserves of recoverable hydrocarbons in the tar sands of northern Alberta, in the oil shales of Colorado, in Russia, under the ocean floor off Africa and Brazil, and in other places that aren't subject to the volatility of Middle Eastern politics.

Making more efficient use of the energy we do generate and cutting down on the amount of energy we need are vital to the future of the world. There are significant alternatives to hydrocarbons which accomplish these worthy goals. These include conservation technology, hydrogen sources for fuel cells and remarkable new technologies involving silicon carbide. The latter creates the equivalent light of a 100 watt bulb from a chip the size of a poppy seed with a fraction of the electricity. The Montana University System has a vital role to play in developing these new sources and technologies.

The point of these comments is that our federal agencies and our current economy suffer from the Paul Bunyan Syndrome. We will cut down the last tree before we look to other options. Our collective investment horizon seems to be about six months. There are better ways to do business. Why flush the future of the Front for a one-time extraction of a few weeks of fuel? The Good Lord isn't making any more of these acres of habitat. The Front is principally Forest Service and BLM. All Americans, present and future, own a share of it. Let us supply a voice for this corner of creation.

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE WILD?

Maybe it's time for a new relation with the land. Maybe our ethno-centric domination of nature should be replaced by a "trust relationship" which gives highest value to Nature itself and secondary value to man's benefit from Nature. Some innovative thinking was done forty years ago by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas on the concept of the environment as having rights. Maybe we can be a voice for championing that cause. Coincidentally, man's long-term interests would be served by this approach. Humans would be better served if we all served Nature better.

The law requires that potential parties to court cases have standing to be involved in the case. Basically this means they must have a dog in the fight. Maybe Justice Douglas was right. Nature should have standing to speak for itself. Fictitious legal parties such as corporations have standing to protect their interests. There is even a legal concept of commercial free speech. If free speech rights of fictitious persons are important, maybe it's time to recognize the much more important and inherent rights of Nature. How about a new entity—NATURE, Incorporated?? We are all her shareholders. Who will be her Board of Directors?

Randy Gray is mayor of Great Falls, Montana. This article is adapted from a speech to the Montana Wilderness Association Convention in Bozeman, Montana, December 5, 2003.



Stoney Burk

The Front has the most diverse collection of large mammals in the contiguous United States.

MONTANA'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

Wilderness in waiting

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WRECK
Tectonic plates collide from Idaho to Choteau! The eastern plate dives under the western plate, driving ancient rock into the sky: the Rocky Mountain Front is born. Hydrocarbons are trapped beneath.

70 Million to 50 Million Years Ago

SCULPTURE ON A GRAND SCALE
Glaciers scrape over the mountains, sculpting the Front as we know it today. Wooly mammoths, saber-tooth tigers, cave bears and giant bison populate "Montana." As the glaciers recede 10,000 years ago, ice age megafauna are succeeded by "modern" wildlife – grizzly bear and elk and bison – deer and lynx and wolf.

50,000 Years to 10,000 Years Ago



TIME OF THE HUNTER
Native Americans prosper in the land the Blackfeet call "The Backbone of the World." The land is full of buffalo and game.

1700s

CHANGING TIMES
Lewis and Clark cross Montana, and cross back. A new era of exploration and resource development begins.



1805 and 1806

THE CONSERVATION LEGACY OF THE FRONT

THE SUN RISES
The Sun River Game Preserve is established on USFS land west of Augusta.



1913

A TREASURE PRESERVED
The Wilderness Act is passed by Congress. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Area is created. National resolve, Montana result.

1964

AND ANOTHER
The Great Bear Wilderness is designated. In the wild landscape between Lincoln and Glacier Park, between Choteau and the Swan Range, only "The Front" remains unprotected.

1972

EXTRACTION BEGINS
Leases for natural gas are sold by the federal government in the Badger-Two Medicine and in Blackleaf Canyon. Resource extraction competes with wilderness.

1978

VICTORY IN HAND...
A Montana wilderness bill, including portions of the Rocky Mountain Front, passes Congress, supported by Montana's congressional delegation. President Reagan vetoes the Bill.

1979

MORE PROTECTION FOR THE FRONT
The Department of the Interior removes the Front from eligibility for hard rock mining claims.

1980s and 1990s

NO WAY TO TRAVEL
The Lewis and Clark National Forest proposes a Travel Plan that would "motorize" two-thirds of the forest on the Rocky Mountain Front, opening the landscape to ATV and ORV use.



August 2002

RAISING THE ANTE...
The BLM announces natural gas leases in Blackleaf Canyon are valid and starts the environmental review.

September 2003

THE GROUND UP
MWA establishes a grassroots organizer on the Front. Local ranchers travel to Washington D.C. to lobby for the Front. The movement to protect the Front continues to gain strength.

October 2003



2003–2004

MONTANANS PROTECT THEIR WILD BACKYARD
The Sun River Wildlife Management Area is established through state and local cooperation.

1947

A SECOND JEWEL
The Scapegoat Wilderness Area is designated, the nation's first "citizen's wilderness area."



1972

PRIVATE INITIATIVES FOR PROTECTION
The Nature Conservancy establishes the Pine Butte Swamp Preserve on the Teton River, west of Choteau.

1979

MORE PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION
The Boone and Crockett Club protects wild lands by establishing the Teddy Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, southwest of Dupuyer.

1986



A MORATORIUM
The Lewis and Clark National Forest withdraws national forest lands on the Front from new oil and gas leases.

1988

A BACKWARDS STEP
The Bush Administration proposes to accelerate development and exploitation of the landscape. Energy development will be the "dominant use" of public lands in the West – including the Front.

1997

THE PUBLIC IS OPPOSED
Public comment period closes for the Lewis and Clark Forest Travel Plan. Over 7,000 responses come in from Montana and across the nation. 98% urge protection of the Front and oppose ATV use! In 2004 The Blackfeet Tribal Council affirms its opposition to motorized recreation in the Badger-Two Medicine.

1999

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT
A report on the Front appears on NBC Tom Brokaw News. Articles on the Front appear in *Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post* and *Christian Science Monitor.* The Front gains national prominence and supporters.

2001

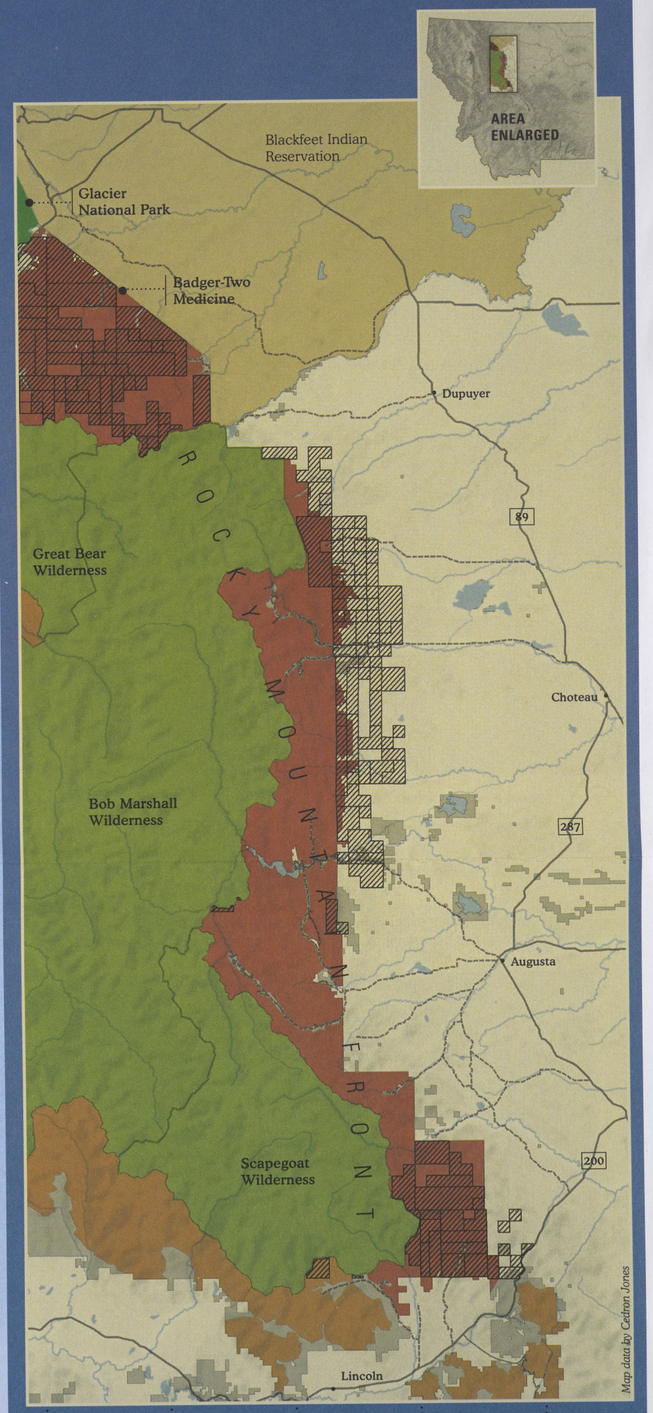
THE FUTURE: WILDERNESS DESIGNATION
The pristine lands of the Front are preserved as wilderness. Grizzly bear, elk, wolf, bighorns and mountain goats roam as wild creatures in a wild land. The Front remains a magical place for future generations of Montanans.

Timeline by Lex Hames and Merlyn Huso. Mr. Huso is an MWA member and a National Director of Back Country Horsemen of Montana



John Lambing

Inset photos: Elk, Stoney Burk; Grizzly, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Sweetening plant, file photo; Teton River, Stoney Burk; ATV, file photo; Tipi, Dannie Sexton; Statue, Donnie Sexton; Front sunrise, Stoney Burk



ROADLESS PUBLIC LANDS ON THE FRONT: FUTURE HOME OF WILDERNESS

OTHER ROADLESS PUBLIC LANDS

SECTIONS WITH LEASE SITES

DESIGNATED WILDERNESS

OTHER FEDERAL LANDS

THE THREAT: LEASES

THE BIG PUSH FOR VERY LITTLE ENERGY

by Lex Hames

YOU WOULDN'T THINK A "LEASE" COULD CAUSE SUCH TROUBLE. But when a lease grants the right to pull up energy from the ground, its affects can be far-reaching. Leases could determine whether the Rocky Mountain Front remains wild and free, or becomes an abused, industrialized landscape.

The Rocky Mountain Front may have recoverable reserves of natural gas, much of it lying under public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and national forest lands in the Lewis and Clark Forest. If that gas is developed it will be under "leases" granted by the federal government to gas producers.

The "sub-surface rights" to minerals, oil and gas on National Forest and BLM lands are public property. This should be reassuring, but it's not. The agencies that should be holding our timeless assets in trust are giving them away to large corporations—some of them not even American. The Bush Administration has decided that energy development will be the "dominant use" of public lands in the West. That includes the Front.

LITTLE GAS TO GRASP?

The sad thing about the proposal to grant leases for gas development on the Rocky Mountain Front is that it is about so little, and yet about so much. We could lose this magnificent landscape for a quantity of energy that, in the national picture, is hardly more than the puff of a match in the wind.

Natural gas development diminishes traditional recreation opportunities.



Jeff Van Tine

The Front is in a region called the Overthrust Belt, so named because giant tectonic plates began "thrusting over" one another 70 million years ago. The eastern plate dove beneath the western plate, driving the western plate into the sky. And thus the mountains of the Front were born. This continuing process created row after row of stark, wild mountains across what is now the Bob Marshal and the Scapegoat and the Great Bear—and the Front.

Even further back, when these were just flat, shallow seas, the decomposition of dead animals and vegetation began the process of creating natural gas.

How large are the gas deposits on the Front? At most, there could be one month of the nation's demand. We're willing to risk the destruction of a national jewel, for a month of gas?

WE DIDN'T SAY IT WAS PRETTY

Natural gas development in wild, virgin country like the Front is an ugly and destructive process.

The first step in exploration is usually seismic testing. Explosive charges are set off to locate gas deposits. Shock waves from the charges indicate if natural gas is there. Blasts go off day and night. The process is enormously disruptive to wildlife, particularly to denning bears and wild mothers with young.

Trucks haul in huge amounts of industrial equipment—drill bits, pipe, derricks, fuel tanks, generators. As many as 100 semi-truck loads of equipment may go to a single drill site! Farmers and ranchers encounter industrial traffic on once quiet rural lanes.

Gas is flared as drill bits are sunk in the earth. Industrial liquids foul the groundwater and may pollute local streams. Escaping gas can send a rotten stink over the landscape.

In some respects production is worse. The gas has to be delivered. Pipelines cross forestlands and private property. Compressor stations boost the gas along—more noise. Pumper units and compressor stations require electricity. Power lines are brought in, slicing through public and private holdings.

Finally, "sweetening" plants. Natural gas contains hydrogen sulfide, a toxic substance, which has to be removed—the gas is "sweetened." Huge piles of sulfur are left as the residue—yellow dust blows into the wind. If drilling goes forward as the Bush Administration proposes, at least one sweetening plant will be required on the Front, a sprawling, alien artifact posed against a wild landscape.

A LESSON FROM A NEIGHBOR

One need only cross the border to Alberta to see what happens to a pristine place when natural gas development goes forward in a major way. A spiderwork of roads lacerates the landscape. Pipelines carve up grasslands. And wildlife vanishes.

Southern Alberta once boasted a population of grizzlies comparable to Montana's. That population has essentially vanished—no more than four breeding sows may remain in southern Alberta. The intrusion of gigantic industrial facilities into their breeding, hibernating, and foraging areas has been a prime factor in the grizzlies' demise. Energy development has destroyed the grizzlies' habitat. Practically speaking, Alberta's grizzlies have vanished because they can't tolerate massive human encroachment. But one wonders if the bears didn't just take a look at their former beautiful home, now filled with roads and chain link fences and industrial machinery, and die of a broken heart.

It can happen on the Front. Grizzlies are sensitive animals socially. They demand a great deal of untrammeled space. Their instinct tells them their young should be raised in seclusion, away from chaos and confusion. They embrace an ethic of quiet and respect that many of us (humans) would endorse for ourselves.

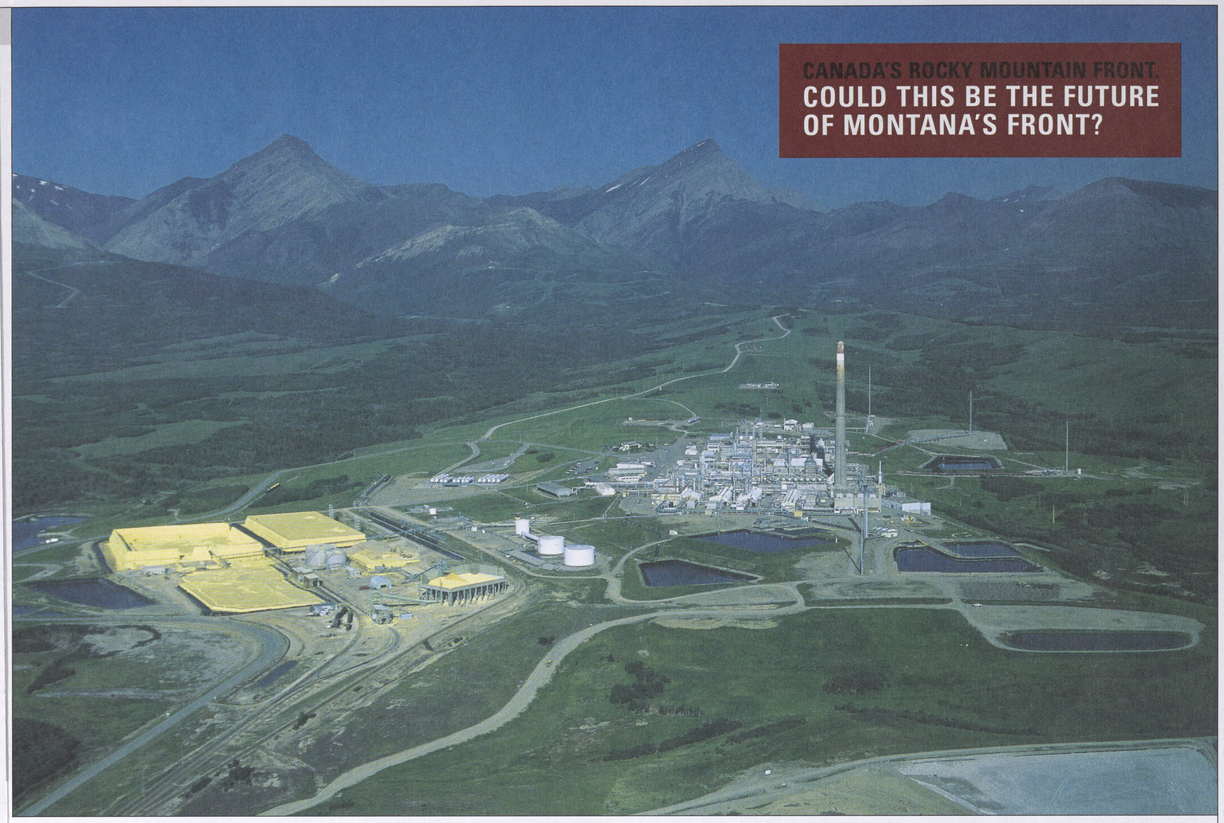
WILD ON THE PRAIRIE

To say we can have grizzlies "and" development is nonsense. Faced with the racket of drill rigs and compressors, the bears will move elsewhere, or die. We should remember that grizzlies were once a prairie species. They ranged—free and wild—from the Arctic to Texas. We should cherish the fact that in all the U.S. the Front is the only place where this proud, ancient icon of the prairie….is still on the prairie. The Plains Indians honored the grizzly, calling him Grandfather, giving him the traits of strength, wisdom, and insight. How sad it would be if this Grandfather vanished from the prairie because we were so selfish as to sacrifice his home for 30 days of gas.

DATES NOT TO BE PROUD OF

In 1982 forty-seven leases were granted in the Hall Creek area of the Badger-Two Medicine—the north end of the Front that is held sacred by the Blackfeet. The Badger-Two Medicine has been the site of vision quests and rituals since the earliest history of the tribe. Through the 70s and 80s, other leases were issued in the Blackleaf area northwest of Choteau. All leases are in prime grizzly habitat.

The leases were granted on dubious grounds, without proper public input. All of the leases are now held by new owners, acquired through buyouts and trades. The U.S. government considers the leases to be viable, even with a tangled string of ownership. Once the leases were granted, they became a "property right." As with any other property, they could be sold. The leases hold, under new owners.



Peter Aengst/Lighthawk

Pincher Creek in southern Alberta

A MORATORIUM FOR ALL TIME...NOT

In 1997, the Lewis and Clark National Forest prohibited all new gas leases on federal lands on the Front. The moratorium was expected to last for 10 years or longer.

The Bush Administration, however, eager to develop energy in the West, has encouraged the Forest Service and the BLM to "facilitate" the activation of pre-existing leases.

The BLM, the management agency for leasing, announced in October 2003 that the Blackleaf leases were valid, and began the process of producing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Blackleaf unit. The BLM initiated a public comment period for Blackleaf on April 15, 2004. Letters on environmental impacts and the wisdom of development were invited, and public meetings were held during a 45-day "scoping period." Following the assessment of data and public comments, the agency will complete the EIS. If the EIS is favorable to the leaseholders, they may be allowed to move forward with development. Drilling activities could commence, disturbing the landscape, the wildlife, and the soul of the Front.

Once gas leases are granted, it's difficult to revoke or deny them. They may be delayed or mitigated; drill sites may be moved incrementally due to impacts on wildlife habitat and riparian areas. But these "property rights" have a momentum of their own–the sad result of the flawed decision to grant the leases in previous decades.

A VISITOR FROM THE NORTH

In March of 2004 two of the leaseholders on the Blackleaf, Rutter Inc. and Grizzly Development, opted not to actively pursue their leases—for the time being. They still have three years in which to start their leases again. That left Startech Energy, a Canadian company and owner of a lease on Blindhorse Canyon, as the only active leaseholder.

It isn't Startech's job to protect the environment. Their job is to get the raw materials out of the earth, make a profit for a few years, and get out. It's OUR job to protect this landscape. And we must do it.

ONE SOLUTION

There is a way to rescue the Front from existing gas leases. The answer is to buy out the leaseholders, or "trade out" the leases for federal leases away from the Front. This would require an act of Congress and the support of Montana's congressional delegation.

Once existing leases have been traded or purchased, the next step is to suspend the granting of new leases on the Front–and to move towards wilderness status for this magical landscape.

With wilderness designation, the Front can't be invaded by motorized or industrial processes—whether drill rigs, bulldozers or ATVs. Wilderness gives the Front the protection is requires and deserves. Only wilderness can protect this wild jewel in the heart of the Montana Rockies.

STOP THE DRILLS

Drill sites on the Blackleaf would damage grizzly bear habitat and would deprive elk, bighorns, mule deer and whitetails of critical winter range. Drilling activities would mar the wild beauty of the Front. But this is just the first wedge in a dangerous door.

If gas exploration moves towards "full-field development," drill rigs, pumping stations, noise and destruction could become the norm across the Front.

The map on page 7 shows existing or proposed lease sites on the Front. The potential for drilling activity splashes onto public lands and private ranches alike. Every section marked has a potential drill site.

If the Bush Administration has its way, this landscape may no longer be a wild terrain. It's essential to stop the leases in the Blackleaf and the Badger-Two Medicine, and to move towards protecting the Front in the only way possible—with wilderness.

Lex Hames is Communications Director for the Montana Wilderness Association



Donald Jones

Natural gas development displaces wildlife and damages their habitat.

THE THREAT: WHEELS

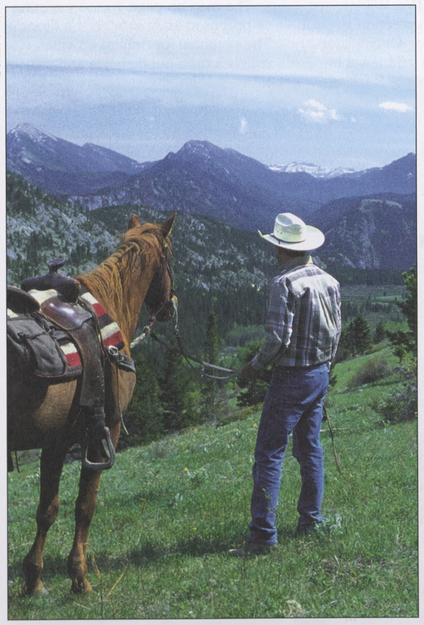
A DISASTROUS TRAVEL PLAN COULD MOTORIZE THE FRONT

by Kate Sako

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT IS HOME to amazingly rich wildlife, spectacular native vegetation, and people who want to enjoy the wonders of a truly wild place. The majority of people visiting the Front enjoy it in a traditional way—hiking or horseback riding—hunting or fishing. They get there the traditional way—by foot and by horse. These thoughtful users have little or no impact on the wilderness.

But that could change. ATV (all-terrain vehicle) use is growing by leaps and bounds across the country, and Montana is no exception. ATV technology has changed dramatically, and we now see four-wheelers high in the backcountry, in areas that weren't imaginable ten years ago. The Front faces an invasion by this new generation of powerful, land-hungry ATVs capable of going almost anywhere. And the U.S. Forest Service, the guardian of our public lands, is going along with it. The Forest Service is about to unleash a tidal wave of ATV, off-road use in the Front. At least, that was the plan proposed last fall.

Where ATVs and snowmobiles invade, wildlife habitats are disrupted, plant life is damaged, and watersheds are destroyed. Off-road vehicles (ORVs) spread noxious weeds and disrupt traditional uses. Unlike hikers and horseback riders, a few ORVs can cause a significant amount of damage to the wilderness. Irreparable damage by off-road vehicles is one of the main threats to the preservation of the Rocky Mountain Front.



Donnie Sexton

Motorized use displaces traditional travel on the Front.

The danger lies in the Forest Service's own "Travel Plan." In 2002, the Lewis and Clark National Forest proposed a Travel Plan that describes where and how off-road vehicles can be used in the Rocky Mountain Front. The plan would turn a vast swath of the Front into a motorized arena. The proposed plan allows motorized travel in two-thirds of the Front. Luckily, the process doesn't end there. Public input is required by law. Last winter the Forest Service requested comments on the proposed plan. Montana Wilderness Association and other organizations got the word out and thousands of responses were sent in. Volunteers from MWA's Island Range Chapter spent hundreds of hours analyzing the comments.

THE PEOPLE SPEAK FOR THE FRONT

In a tremendous outpouring, Montanans and Americans spoke in a single voice, urging the agency to scrap the proposed Travel Plan. A compelling majority, over 98% of respondents nation-wide and over 90% of Montanans, implored the Forest Service to start over with a conservation-based plan that would allow no new motorized travel in the area. The response was the largest ever received by the Lewis and Clark National Forest—over 7,600 comments, with over 1,300 coming from Montanans (many more Montanans responded, but they happen to be living somewhere else right now!).

The responses were heartfelt and thoughtful. Throughout the letters, common themes emerged:

- The Front is an essential and important wildlife habitat.
- The Front is made up of culturally and personally significant lands.
- We must maintain the last remaining quiet, meditative places for future generations.
- It is likely that other commercial incursions into the Rocky Mountain Front, such as energy development, will follow the establishment of recreational roads.
- The Rocky Mountain Front cannot be rehabilitated once ORV damage has occurred.

Many letters reminded the Forest Service that a long-term plan must consider likely changes in how the Front will be used in the future. The plan must take into account the current and future nature of off-road technology. ORV sales in the United States tripled over the past decade. The Forest Service must consider the result of opening up the Front to a mode of travel that is as wide ranging, damaging and uncontrollable as the ORV.

The results of the data analysis were presented to the local, regional and national press in November. MWA, with the Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front, sponsored a news conference in Choteau giving the media an opportunity to meet residents of the Front and hear their views on the Travel Plan. The participants in the news conference were Chris and Amy Bechtold (Choteau), Roy Jacobs (Choteau), Karl Rappold (Dupuyer) and Jim Brogger (Augusta). The participants spoke about their experiences and hopes for the Front, then answered questions on a broad range of issues related to the Front. Lead news stories appeared on the three Great Falls television channels, and the story was front page in virtually every newspaper on or near the Front—the *Choteau Acantha*, the *Great Falls Tribune*, the *Havre Daily News*, the *Glacier Reporter* and the *Shelby Promoter*.

THE AGENCY CONSIDERS

The Forest Service analyzed the comments and adopted a "modified" plan, against which it is now performing an EIS (Environmental Impact Study). The agency has created five alternatives, one of which purportedly eliminates new motorized roads and trails. The Forest Service says it will release the alternatives and the EIS for public comment in the summer of 2004. A final plan will not be complete until late 2005 or early 2006. It will be imperative to apply public pressure to ensure that Forest Service offers a Travel Plan that is "non-motorized" and that preserves the wilderness qualities of the Front.

The Blackfeet Tribe has been actively working with the Forest Service on the Badger-Two Medicine portion of the Travel Plan. The Tribe and Forest Service are identifying potential boundaries for a Blackfeet Cultural District. The Tribe has asked for co-management responsibilities in the area and has requested that the area remain roadless.

As the Travel Plan process continues, there will be new opportunities for public participation. MWA will ensure that Montanans continue to have a voice in the future of this vital landscape.

A VOICE FROM THE HEART

It's clear that people care deeply about the Rocky Mountain Front and are willing to spend their lives working to protect it. People recounted childhood memories of days spent on the Front, their dreams for their children and grandchildren, and their deep concern that we not fritter away this beautiful and peaceful place. Many stated they are not against ATV riders—there are places to ride ATVs that are safe and reasonable. But the Front isn't one of them. ATVs would shatter the Front's delicate balance of man and nature.

One of the writers, J.L. Ashmore of Seeley Lake, Montana, said, "You should know that I had a snowmobile, and I still have an ATV and a Harley, and I love to ride them all. But that doesn't mean that riders like me have the need or the right to ride everywhere. One of the places we don't need to be riding is the Rocky Mountain Front."

Kate Sako lives in East Glacier, Montana, and is an ardent supporter of the Front.

A Man and a Place

A RANCHER'S JOURNEY TO WILDERNESS

By Ron Selden



Ron Selden

Karl Rappold's eyes light up and his voice quickens when he talks about his beloved Rocky Mountain Front.

"If people don't wake up, their children and their grandchildren will never see what it was like here," says the 52-year-old rancher, whose place pushes up hard against the ragged edge of the mountains west of Dupuyer. "I'd do anything I have to, to protect it from outside development. Not every ounce of land should be producing a dollar. Some of it should be left alone as it always has been."

The raw-boned Rappold is no tree-hugging liberal. He's a lifelong Republican and a third-generation cattleman who says what he thinks and means what he says. Once wary of those preaching the glories of wilderness, he now sees himself as a steward of this unvarnished land, and he's devoted his life to protecting it, no matter the consequences. He's come to the conclusion that the only way to preserve this landscape, and his way of life as a rancher, is to give wilderness status to the public lands on the Front.

"The reason I talk so much for the Front is because it's the last place left," he explains on a crystalline—and unusually windless—winter day on the rolling land his grandfather homesteaded in 1882. "To me, you can't put a price on riding out there at daylight and hearing bull elk screaming in the aspen grove. We've got 1,000-pound grizzlies on this place. There's not too many people who see a 1,000-pound grizzly. Up close, they're an awesome animal."

Rappold's grandfather, a German immigrant, "snuck on a boat when he was twelve," and ended up on Ellis Island in New York City. He worked his way west and landed in Helena in 1876, more than a decade before the hardscrabble Montana Territory was declared a state.

"He got a grubstake together and came up here," Rappold says. "He spent the first two winters under a wagon while he was hauling cabin logs off the Front."

But the elder Rappold soon tired of the solitary life, and "he and a buddy picked up Norwegian brides over in Idaho," Karl recalls. His grandfather's first wife died giving birth in 1885. Rappold's grandfather married another Norwegian woman in 1896. A year later, Rappold's father was born on the home place.

The original Rappold homestead was 160 acres, plus another 320 acres of "desert claim" dryland. Over the years the ranch was expanded to 7,000 deeded acres. Rappold leases another 6,000 acres of state and private land, some of it going up and over the first "reefs" of the Front—the winding ribbons of rock where the mountains collide with the prairie. Altogether it's a wildlife paradise, and one of the most pristine landscapes left in the United States.

Rappold says some producers would try to run thousands of cattle on a ranch this size, but he keeps his stock numbers low to give the area's wildlife more feed and elbow room. In past years he's had up to 4,000 head of mule deer winter over. Elk, 600 to 800 of them, call the place home during parts of the year. Last spring, 15 adult grizzlies were seen on the ranch in a single air survey.

Like a lot of Montana cowboys, Rappold took his turn as a professional rodeo rider, riding saddlebroncs and the meanest critters of all, brahma bulls. But eventually he gave it up to become a full-time rancher again. "I decided human beings weren't meant to ride bulls," he says. He doesn't seem to miss the rodeo life much. He'd much rather be out on the ranch, watching a giant grizzly move across a ridgeline as he gathers his cows.

Rappold now works closely with federal officials to help them monitor and manage the Front's grizzly population. The Rappold Ranch also sustains some of the largest trophy bucks and bull elk in the region, and hunting is strictly controlled to keep herd sizes up and the genetics robust.

"We run the whole ranch as conservation-minded as we can," he explains. "We always try to make sure we leave plenty of grass for wildlife when we leave a field. That also helps keep the snow on in the winter. The wildlife are an integral part of the life here. I don't know of any place where so many species—predator and prey—are gathered in such a small area." Rappold sits on The Nature Conservancy's advisory board, and his family have conservation easements on much of their property. They also work closely with federal agencies to protect other fragile lands along the Front through purchases and swaps.

"As far as I'm concerned I'm just a caretaker of what was given to me right now," he says. "Until you have these ties to the land, it's hard to understand that."

Rappold says if he had his way, he'd prohibit all oil and gas development on the west side of U.S. Highway 89, which runs through Dupuyer as it winds its way to the Canadian border. He canceled all the energy leases on his place after he took over the ranch in the 1980s. And he sent the energy developers scampering.

"For one hundred twenty-one years this ranch has been run on cattle, and we don't need oil and gas to contend with," he says. "I told them to get the hell off and not come back."

Luckily, the Rappold family retained the mineral rights to the land when the property was homesteaded. Other landowners along the Front aren't so fortunate. The federal government holds the subsurface rights and can offer leases without the rancher's permission. And energy companies can start drilling without a landowner's approval.

"I think the only way to completely stop these people is when the remaining public land is placed in wilderness."

"Right now, my mineral rights tie them up," Rappold explains. "The only way they can do it is if the state or federal governments condemn it." He adds that several drilling operations proposed in the area would be visible from his house. Drilling rigs and gas sweetening plants would mar his view of the mountains—a view his family has enjoyed for more than a century. Rappold says he'll fight to the end to keep that from happening.

"I don't think there's any place for it on the Front," he says of oil and gas extraction. "They'll be tearing up native sod for roads and pads. They'll never reclaim it to what it was, and once it's gone it can never be reclaimed for future generations to see how it was." Once again this conservative Republican comes back to the idea that wilderness is the only ticket for saving the land and the lifestyle he loves. "I think the only way to completely stop these people is when the remaining public land is placed in wilderness. That's the only way I see it getting protected enough."

Rappold has an enduring belief that if anyone would come here and open their eyes, they'd feel the same way about the landscape that he does. He's convinced that if he had time with the officials calling the shots on energy development on the Front, they'd change their tune.

"If they spent a day with me on the ranch they could see what they're making a decision about," he says. "If they could see this country firsthand and what they're about to destroy, it would make a lot more impression on them than a photograph."

Rappold says he knows that getting a Rocky Mountain Front wilderness bill through Congress and signed by President George W. Bush will be a monumental task, but that doesn't mean he isn't going to give it his best shot.

"It all boils down to the fact that everybody has to see a chunk of money out of the Front," he says. "They just can't stand seeing it sit there. But I don't think George Bush would drill a well at the White House. If this little pocket of energy here on the Front is going to save the nation, we're in a world of hurt. We're going to destroy this place for that?"

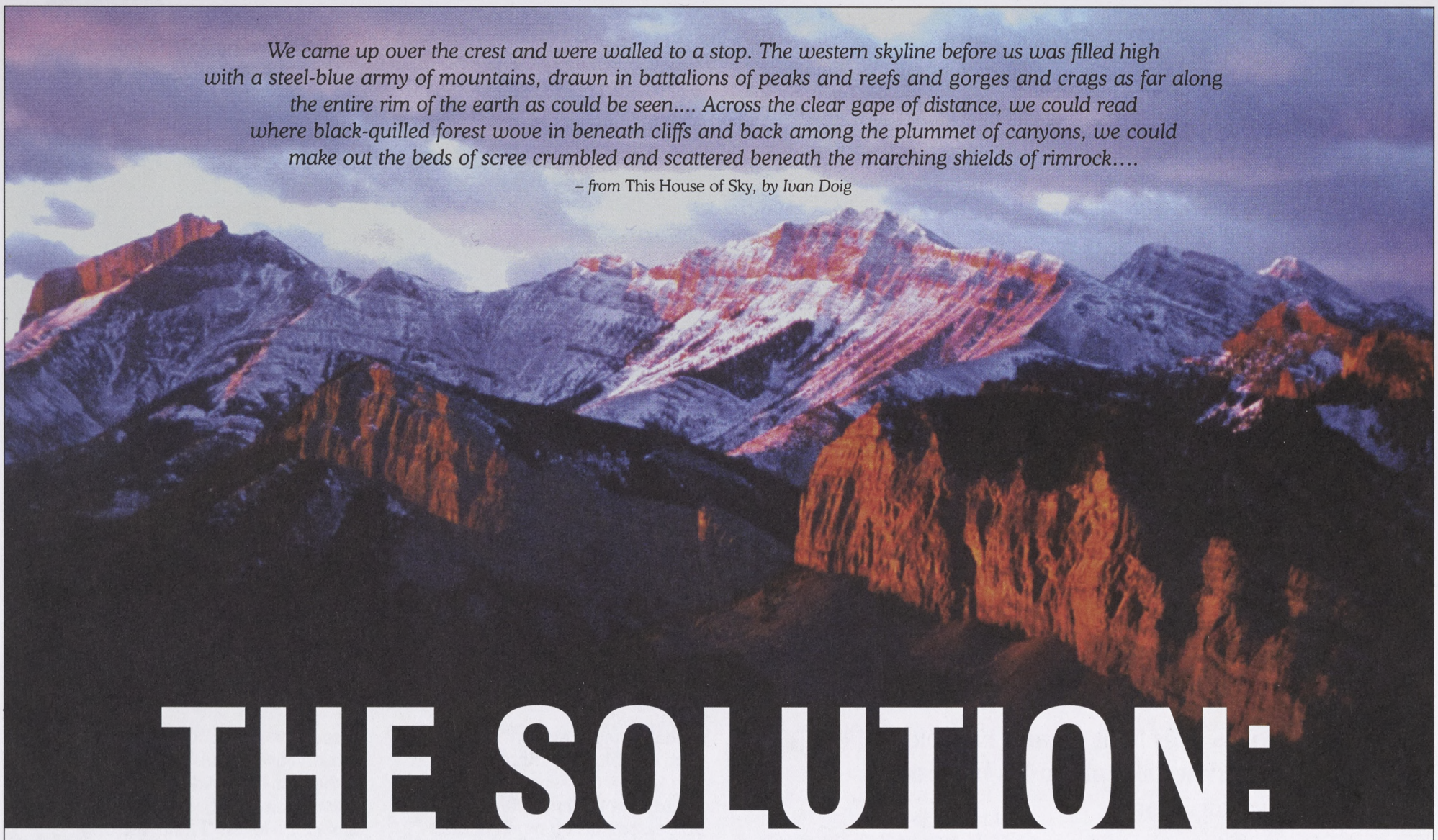
Rappold still rides a horse on many of his ranch rounds. He wants to pass down his conservation legacy to his children—the fourth generation—when he and his wife hang up their reins for the last time. And he doesn't plan on having a bunch of oil tanks and derricks cluttering up the landscape.

"It ain't going to happen as far as I'm concerned," he says adamantly. "I'm going to take it clear to the end."

Ron Selden is a Helena-based writer and photographer.

We came up over the crest and were walled to a stop. The western skyline before us was filled high with a steel-blue army of mountains, drawn in battalions of peaks and reefs and gorges and crags as far along the entire rim of the earth as could be seen.... Across the clear gape of distance, we could read where black-quilled forest wove in beneath cliffs and back among the plummet of canyons, we could make out the beds of scree crumbled and scattered beneath the marching shields of rimrock....

– *from* This House of Sky, *by Ivan Doig*



Stoney Burk

THE SOLUTION:
WILDERNESS

WHAT IS THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT?



The Front is one of America's great wild glories. The last home of the prairie grizzly. A repository of the best of Montana tradition, history, and pride. A special place where the plains dive under the bedrock and lift the mountains into the sky.

WHY IS IT SPECIAL?



The Front is one of those last, rare places that catches the mystery of humankind's long journey. We go there not just to experience beauty and to know wildlife, but to know ourselves. Call the Front a church without dimensions, a cathedral as wide as the sky: a place to contemplate your existence, to know creation. To feel the wild cry of being, with all its force and majesty, coming up from the grass, descending from the open sky, whispering to you of your wild past.

WHERE IS IT?

The Front runs 100 miles from U.S. Highway 200, north to Glacier National Park, along the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains. On a map, that's where you will find it.

But the Front is a mythic landscape where the wonders of 10,000 years can still dance in your mind. To go there is to travel backwards in the map of time, to a moment when the song on the wind was a wild cry without mechanical interruption or human dilution. Here we may listen to our own first song, witness the birth of our own consciousness.

The Front is part of a vast region encompassing the Bob Marshall, the Scapegoat, and the Great Bear—in nature's terms, this is one landscape. What distinguishes the Front is that it is one of the few unprotected parts of this wild ecosystem. The Front deserves—but does not yet have—wilderness status.



WHAT ARE THE THREATS?

The first is degradation from ATVs. ATVs spread noxious weeds into the backcountry—weeds that destroy grazing lands for elk, deer and bighorn sheep. ATV tracks erode the landscape, scarring hillsides, creating muddy runoff, polluting streams.

The second is degradation from natural gas development. Drill roads and pipelines fragment the landscape and scatter wildlife. Runoff from drill sites pollutes groundwater and streams. Drill rigs and compressors shatter the serenity of this wild place.



WHAT COULD WE LOSE?

If the Front is degraded we lose abundant wildlife and incomparable beauty. We lose a sense of joy and wonder. We lose a claim to uniqueness for our ourselves and for the landscape.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

WE are lost, if wild places vanish. Wilderness is our first home, where we nourish our deepest character and most ancient instincts. Our understanding of ourselves comes from knowing this first, wild heart that is source of all life.

THERE IS A SOLUTION:

Wilderness for the public lands on the Front. This singular place, protected for all time. A dynamic, living landscape,embedded in the rhythms of nature, preserving the seedbed of life–offering us the seedbed of hope. Wilderness for the Front.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN FOR WILDERNESS FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT, CONTACT THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION AT MWA@WILDMONTANA.ORG OR AT 406-443-7350.

Photo credits: Front in fall, Lex Hames; Ram, Jim Mepham; Grizzly, U.S. Fish & Wildlife; Reefs, Jeff Van Tine

DON'T ALLOW THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT TO BE ROBBED OF ITS FUTURE AS WILDERNESS.



Rick & Susie Graetz

STOP NATURAL GAS DRILLING ON THE FRONT

The Bureau of Land Management has started a review that will decide if drilling takes place in Blindhorse Canyon in the heart of the Rocky Mountain Front. Drilling will damage the Front's wildlife, recreation, and scenic values.

ALL MONTANANS WILL FEEL THE LOSS

Montanans for generations have worked to protect the Rocky Mountain Front. It would be foolish to destroy this heritage for a few days of natural gas.

TAKE ACTION NOW TO PROTECT THE FRONT.

PLEASE WRITE THE BLM BY JUNE 1

Urge them not to permit drilling on the Front. Send written comments to:

Blackleaf Project EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office
P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457
mt_blackleaf_eis@blm.gov

TELL OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Write our senators and congressman and tell them to support a bill that would purchase or "trade out" all gas leases on the Front. Tell them you want wilderness for public lands on the Front.

Senator Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510-2602
Phone: 202-224-2651
Fax: 202-224-4700
max@baucus.senate.gov

Senator Conrad Burns
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510-2603
Phone: 202-224-2644
Fax: 202-228-2034
conrad_burns@burns.senate.gov

Rep. Dennis Rehberg
516 Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515-2601
Phone: 202-225-3211
Fax: 202-225-5687
denny.rehberg@mail.house.gov

KEEP THE FRONT'S FUTURE AS WILDERNESS ALIVE.

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

WHITE HOUSE CALLS FOR BAN ON MINING IN ROCKIES HABITAT

CONSERVING PUBLIC LAND

Agency Proposal Typifies New Approach to Management of the Nation's Forests

By JOHN H. CUSHMAN Jr.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 — Determined to emphasize conservation over development on public lands, the Clinton Administration called today for a mining ban in a vast section of Federal land in Montana.

The move would significantly expand protections along the Rocky Mountain Front, at the edge of one of the richest wilderness zones in the lower 48 states.

Mostly undeveloped, the front has become a tempting zone for exploration by minerals companies. In 1997, the Forest Service moved to restrict oil and gas leasing there, and today the agency moved to prohibit mining for metals and ores like gold, silver, copper and lead as well.

In a speech tonight in Missoula, Mike Dombeck, the chief of the Forest Service, said he had petitioned Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to impose a moratorium immediately on new mining claims in 400,000 acres of the Lewis and Clark National Forest and on 29,000 acres of the adjacent Helena National Forest.

Mr. Dombeck's speech comes at a time when plans for 65 percent of the national forests are under revision, bringing changes to Federal management of more than 150 million acres of land, and when the agency is about to issue new scientific guidelines for forestry and to develop a new policy on building logging roads in the remotest parts of the forests.

Forest Service officials said Mr. Dombeck's proposal for the Rockies typified his new approach for managing the national forests. It is the latest round in a long fight between the Administration and the mining industry. The Administration has sought for years to get the nation's mining law rewritten, raising the price industry would pay for access to minerals on public land, and to toughen mining regulations administratively, but has been blocked in Congress. The Admini[illegible]on foiled plans for a gold mine on the edge of Yellowstone National Park, buying the land last year. And to limit coal mining it set aside millions of acres in Utah as a national monument.

The Rocky Mountain Front is a rugged cascade of limestone and shale that tilts eastward to the plains, home to elk, mountain goat and grizzly bear and is the doorstep to millions of acres of mountain wil-

Continued on Page A16

Israel Cuts Sentences Of 5 Who Attacked Arabs



President Ezer Weizman commuted the sentences of five Jews serving long prison terms for murder or attempted murder of Arabs, an aide said. The move was criticized by Palestinian officials and lawmakers from the Israeli opposition, who accused the Government of a double standard. A7

Albright and Arafat Meet

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, met in Washington to discuss Israeli security concerns. Mr. Arafat said Palestinians were still discussing whether to declare statehood on May 4. A6

U.S. Military Plans for Kosovo

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen told a Senate committee that President Clinton did not need Congressional approval to send troops as peacekeepers to Kosovo, and General Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the joint chiefs, said preliminary Pentagon plans called for a force of 2,000 to 4,000 troops. A8

The negotiators who will direct the talks between the Serbs and the ethnic Albanians believe a settlement will have to be imposed quickly. A8

Americans to Leave Iraq

The United Nations ordered its two remaining American staff members in Iraq to leave after Baghdad warned that it could not guarantee their safety. A6

Russians to Test Space Mirror

A Russian test aboard the space station Mir will attempt to reflect a thin but very bright beam of sunlight onto dark parts of North America, Europe and Asia, provided clouds don't get in the way. Astronomers are protesting the experiment, saying that such developments threaten to produce new kinds of light pollution that could blind telescopes exploring the night sky. A3

Party Defections in Brazil

A raft of newly elected members of Congress in Brazil switched political parties just before taking office, a move that appeared to signal a more fractious second term for President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. A10

U.S. Official Meets Taliban

A senior American official met in Pakistan with leaders of the Taliban, the armed religious group that rules most of Afghanistan and shelters Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted terrorist suspect. The official told the Taliban's deputy foreign minister that Mr. bin Laden must be "expelled from Afghanistan and brought to justice," a State Department spokesman said. A12

India Accepts Pakistani Offer

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India accepted a warmly worded invitation from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan to ride the first bus to roll from India to Pakistan in half a century and to search for a breakthrough to peace between

White House Pushes to Ban Mining in Rockies Habitat

Continued From Page A1

derness. Although it bears no physical resemblance to the savannahs of Africa, conservationists sometimes call it America's Serengeti because of its spectacular wildlife habitat. The region is full of trout streams like the Blackfoot River made famous in Norman MacLean's book "A River Runs Through It." Runoff from the cyanide used in mining can endanger these streams.

The Forest Service proposal begins a long process of public comment and hearings that is to result in a final decision in two years, the move means there will be no mining meanwhile. The larger Administration goal appears to be to block mining in the area for at least the next 20 years. In effect, the move means all the public land along the Rocky Mountain Front, from the Glacier National Park on the Canadian border south for 100 miles through the wilderness areas and the national forests will be off-limits to mining.

Even if pro-mining forces in Congress try to reverse the proposal, it would be difficult to block the moratorium because Senator Max Baucus of Montana, a Democrat, strongly favors the plan.

There is little or no mining along the Rockies Front now, and the Administration's decision was not intended to head off any major projects. But in recent years clusters of mining claims have been staked under the 19th-century law that lets prospectors move onto public lands.

This threat alarmed conservationists, who lobbied the Administration to withdraw the land from eligibility for mining. "This is the only place in the lower 48 where grizzlies roam out on the plain," said Bob Ekey of the Wilderness Society's Bozeman office. "It is largely intact right now, and we would like to keep it that way."

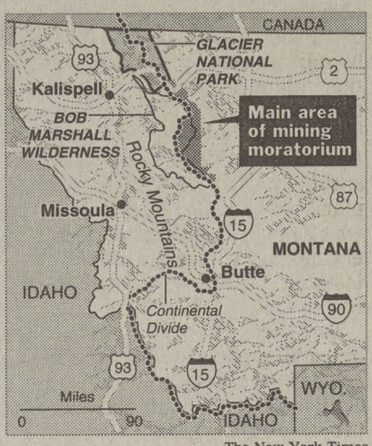
But John Grasser of the National Mining Association said that "this is of great concern to us," especially coming on the heels of other measures to restrict development on public lands. "They are apparently marching in a particular direction," he said.

Indeed, the move to protect the front was just the boldest announcement in a wide-ranging speech that Mr. Dombeck's aides described as a comprehensive explanation of the Forest Service's new vision of its mission. He discussed several important shifts in how the agency intends to balance national forests' many uses: logging, mining, grazing, recreation, and conservation.

"Multiple use does not mean we should do everything on every acre simply because we can," Mr. Dombeck said. "Many areas are simply not appropriate for certain activities, such as hard-rock mining."

He suggested that this approach also extends to logging.

"It is my expectation that, in the future, we will rarely build new roads into roadless areas," Mr. Dombeck said, "and if we do, it will be in order to accomplish broader ecological objectives."



The New York Times

The ban on mining metals would cover 429,000 acres of forest.

Instead, he said the emphasis would be on maintaining existing roads or, in many cases, obliterating them. The agency, he said, has a road maintenance backlog of $8.5 billion and a budget for that purpose of less than $600 million a year. Only 18 percent of its roads are maintained up to existing standards.

"This is unacceptable," he said.

Mr. Dombeck appeared to be signaling a thorough overhaul of the Forest Service's priorities. "Consider, we are spending about $2 billion per year managing 191 million acres of forest, yet contributing only about $200 million toward the 500 million acres of state-managed and privately-owned forests," he said.

Giving priority to conservation over development on public lands.

Among the policies he endorsed was a new definition of "salvage" timber sales, in which dead and dying trees are cut in an effort to improve a forest's health. He said the new definition should "reduce if not eliminate" the practice of cutting healthy trees on the same tracts. And for the second year, he said, the Administration will try to end the practice of having timber sales help pay for local roads and schools, finding other sources of money instead.

"Why should the richest country in the world finance the education of rural schoolchildren on the back of a controversial Federal timber program?" he asked.

Instead of measuring the Forest Service's success, and determining its budget, based on how much timber it sells, Mr. Dombeck called for new measures that would evaluate water quality and wildlife habitat.

2

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(202) 224-2651

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-800-332-6106

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

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max@baucus.senate.gov
http://www.senate.gov/~baucus

October 14, 1997

Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue NW
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Ivan:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Rocky Mountain Front. The Front is especially near and dear to my heart, and I am delighted that you have expressed your views to Mr. Dombeck.

As you probably know, the Forest Service recently announced their decision to prohibit any new oil and gas leasing in the Rocky Mountain Front. This is a major victory for Montana -- preserving an area that characterizes the beauty and uniqueness of Montana's natural heritage.

I have worked diligently for quite some time to reach this point. Over the years, I have introduced numerous bills to protect the Front. Often, these pieces of legislation have served as the basis for Administration decisions to block oil and gas drilling. Such areas as the Blackleaf Unit and the Badger Two-Medicine are much too valuable to risk for short-sighted and short-term gain. Without a doubt, oil and gas exploration would have resulted in irreversible damage to this pristine area.

However, the people of Montana deserve the credit for the Forest Service decision. The Front was protected due to the efforts of many Montanans committed to preserving the "Last Best Place." Strong public participation sent a clear message that Montanans would not tolerate the destruction of the Front.

Unfortunately, our work is not finished. The Front is still vulnerable to mineral extraction. Rest assured, I will continue fighting to ensure that this extraordinary area is protected for future generations.

Thanks again for getting in touch. Please don't hesitate to contact me again on this issue or any other of importance to you.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Max Baucus

MSB/za

BILLINGS (406) 657-6790 | BOZEMAN (406) 586-6104 | BUTTE (406) 782-8700 | GREAT FALLS (406) 761-1574 | HELENA (406) 449-5480 | KALISPELL (406) 756-1150 | MISSOULA (406) 329-3123

Ivan Doig

17021 Tenth Avenue N.W., Seattle, Washington 98177
(206) 542-6658

28 Aug. 1997

Mike Dombeck
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dombeck:

I'm writing to you from a feeling of considerable kinship with the Forest Service and its people, beginning back when my father and mother herded sheep on forest allotments in Montana and extending on into my work as a writer, which has included the history of the Pacific Northwest Experiment Station and a trilogy about a family with roots in the Forest Service--*Dancing at the Rascal Fair; English Creek*; and *Ride With Me, Mariah Montana*. With the help of several rangers of different generations, I was able to write of that crown country of the continent along lines such as these, from my narrator of *English Creek:*

"...There the first summits of the Rockies sat on the horizon like stupendous sharp boulders. Only when our first hour or so of riding carried us above that west edge of the coulee would we see the mountains in total, their broad bases of timber and rockfall gripping into the foothills. And the reefs...I suppose they get their name because they stand as outcroppings do at the edge of an ocean, steady level ridges of stone, as if to give a calm example to the waves beyond them. Except that in this case the blue-gray billow up there is not waves but the Continental Divide against the sky."

That actual setting is, or course, the Rocky Mountain Front in northern Montana, and my words cannot do it justice as a centerpiece of America. You doubtless know, from others who have been in touch with your agency and from the Lewis and Clark National Forest's background work on the issue, that the Rocky Mountain Front stands as the remarkably intact ecosystem it is only because of a now-intricate quilt of decisions by federal agencies and private groups that are friends of the land; together, these have stitched such vital areas as the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Reserve, the Boone and Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt game ranch, and the Scapegoat Wilderness onto the protected mountainline that begins in the north with Glacier National Park. To put it mildly, mining claims and oil and gas leases along the edge of the Front would be equivalent to scissor attacks on this most magnificent tapestry of nature and administrative nurture. I believe one of the Forest Service's finest aspects has been its continual soul-searching in trying to define the greatest good for the greatest number on the land it is entrusted with; I urge you to extend that tradition by finding for the intrinsic ecological value of the Rocky Mountain Front as it stands, and against the erosive inroads of mineral entry.

Sincerely,

Ivan Doig

Evan, Art Wolf told me you already know about this. A note from you would mean a lot. We'd be glad to meet you, next time you're in our neighborhood. Thanks for all you do!

FRIENDS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT
PO BOX 763 (406) 466-2750
CHOTEAU, MONTANA 59422
friends@3rivers.net

Gene

February 1999

To: All Friends of the Rocky Mountain Front

From: Gene Sentz

Subject: THANKS to USFS Chief Mike Dombeck

Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck has announced a two-year moratorium on mining claim-staking in 429,000 acres of Montana's magnificent Rocky Mountain Front, while an environmental study is done to determine whether to withdraw "the Front" from mineral entry for twenty years, the maximum time administratively allowable.

Please take time to write a THANK-YOU note to Chief Dombeck. His proactive step toward a withdrawal is the very action we have urged for two decades. It deserves genuine gratitude. If possible, also send copies of your note to others listed, and consider writing a letter-to-the-editor of your newspaper.

Chief Mike Dombeck
US Forest Service
PO Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Dept of Interior
1849 C St NW (Mail Stop 621B)
Washington, DC 20240

Sen. Max Baucus
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2602

Sen. Conrad Burns
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2603

Rep. Rick Hill
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

Gov. Marc Racicot
Capitol Station, Rm 204
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Regnl Forester Dale Bosworth
US Forest Service
PO Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Supervisor Rick Prausa
Lewis & Clark National Forest
PO Box 869
Great Falls, MT 59403

Ask the Chief to send your letter on down to the Forest Supervisor in Great Falls, in support of a 20-year withdrawal. Ask that your letter be made part of the Public record in the Lewis + Clark N.F. E.I.S.

FRIENDS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT
PO BOX 763 (406) 466-2750
CHOTEAU, MONTANA 59422
friends@3rivers.net

February 1999

Chief Mike Dombeck
U.S. Forest Service
PO Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Dear Mr. Dombeck:

The unsurpassed wild quality of Montana's Rocky Mountain Front speaks for itself, as you know from personal experience.

We are deeply grateful for your action of placing a two-year moratorium on hardrock mining claim-staking along "the Front".

There is broad support in Montana and across the nation to protect "the East Front of the Bob Marshall" from industrial development. Your courageous proactive step is certain to receive as favorable a public response as Gloria Flora's 1997 decision to defer oil & gas leasing in this very special place.

A broad network of organizations, tribal members, business & professional people, writers & artists, and countless others already have endorsed your action, and we will continue to strongly support your agency on this issue during the EIS process.

It was a pleasure to see you in Missoula, and an honor to be able to personally thank you for following up on the will of the people with your bold step to keep intact the superb wild character of the Rocky Mountain Front - Bob Marshall ecosystem.

Thank you.

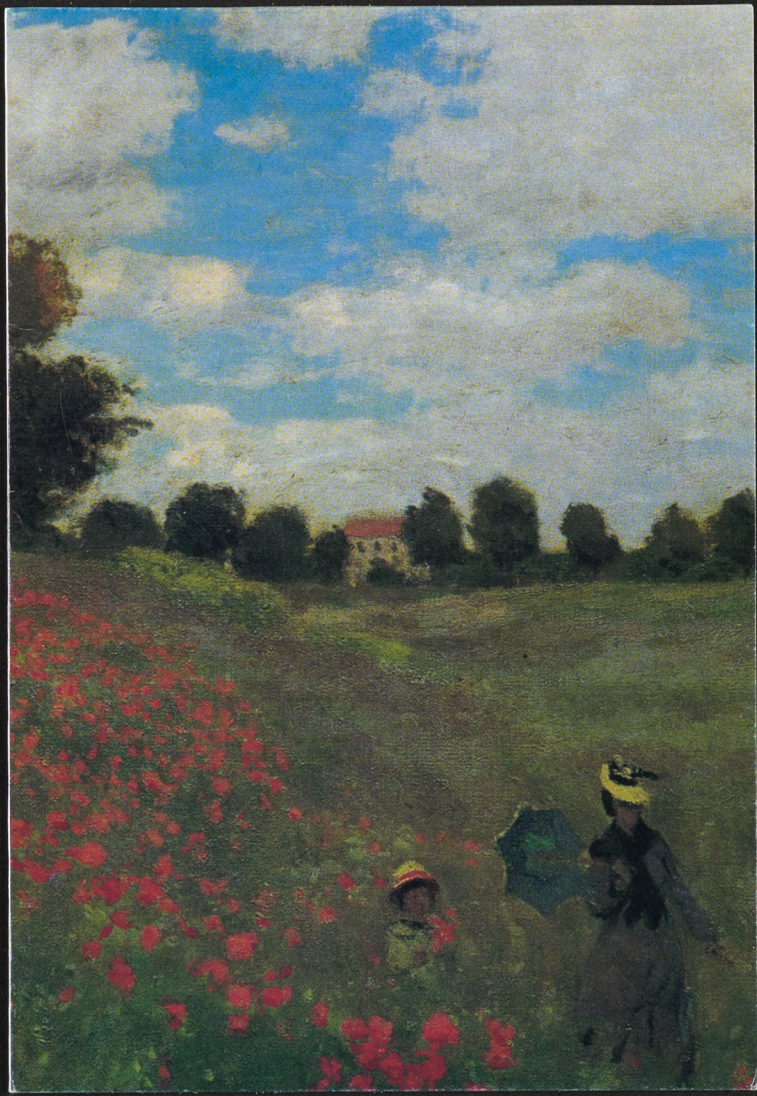
Respectfully,

Gene Sentz

Gene Sentz

cc:

Sen. Max Baucus, Sen. Conrad Burns, Rep. Rick Hill, Gov. Marc Racicot
Interior Sec. Bruce Babbitt, Regional Forester Dale Bosworth,
Lewis & Clark National Forest Supervisor Rick Prausa, and others



Best of luck with the performances.

Mary Zonkovich

2-22-12

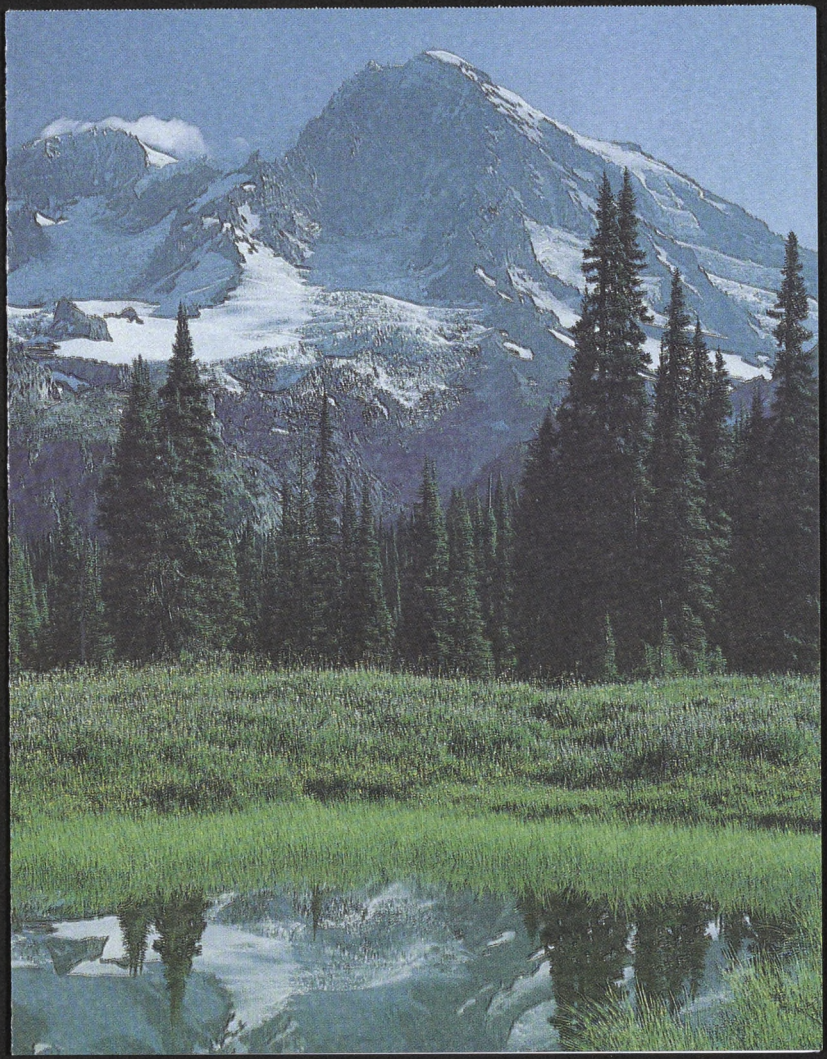
Hurrah for Prairie Nocturne! Sister Ali will be attending on the 29th and our cousin Jo from Bainbridge is going this week.

We lost mom last week — Dad's doing pretty well.



Poppies at Argenteuil 1872 by Claude Monet

© Robert Frederick Ltd. 2000





To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew; and a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Eccl. 3: 1-8

In Loving Memory Of

Harriet Ann Danielsen Hayne

Date of Birth
September 11, 1922 ~ Puget Island, Washington

Entered Into Rest
February 13, 2012 ~ Conrad, Montana

Memorial Service
Monday, February 20, 2012 at 2:00 pm
Dupuyer Community Hall

Clergy
Pastor Fred Grundmann, Jr.

Music
"How Great Thou Art"
"Old Rugged Cross"
"Amazing Grace"
Vocalist: Karla Kaleva

Interment
Dupuyer Cemetery
At A Later Date

Harriet Ann Danielsen Hayne, 89, of Dupuyer, MT, died Monday, Feb. 13, 2012, at the Pondera Medical Center in Conrad following a period of declining health. A memorial service will be held on Monday, Feb. 20, at 2:00 PM at the Dupuyer Community Hall with lunch to follow. . Harriet was born at home on September 11, 1922, on Puget Island, Washington. She was the 7th child born to Angeline and Albert Danielsen. After graduation from Wahkiakum County High School, she moved to San Francisco and attended Heald College. In 1943 she enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps - Women's Reserve and was part of the second boot camp trained at Hunter College in New York City. Stationed back in San Francisco, she met an officer in the U.S. Navy, Jack Hayne. They were married in New Orleans, LA, when their service ended in April, 1946.Harriet and Jack attended Washington State College on the G.I. bill and worked in the grocery business in Seattle and Longview, Washington. In 1953 the young family moved to the ranch in Dupuyer. Harriet led a busy, productive life as a ranch wife and mother of four children. For 58 years Harriet served as an active member of her community and state. She worked for the Republican party and represented her district in the Montana House of Representatives for 20 years, often assigned to chair number one in the chamber. Through the years she led and participated in the Dupuyer Women's and Community Clubs, the Dupuyer community plays, Girl Scouts, 4-H, American Legion Auxiliary, Cowbelles, and Montana Agriculture in the Schools. Harriet was a Girls State counselor for 12 years. She sang in the choir of the Valier Lutheran Church and provided music for many weddings and funerals, often accompanied by her friend and neighbor, Jeanne Anderson. Harriet had unlimited enthusiasm and gave total effort to every project she undertook. Although 100% Norwegian, two of Harriet's best dishes were Swedish rye bread and Swedish meatballs. She was a master of pies and Toll House cookies. From coats to crazy shirts, Harriet and her excellent sewing skills kept the whole family clothed for years. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Jack McVicar Hayne of the family home, daughter Mary (David) Tonkovich of Choteau, MT, and their daughter Alexa Tonkovich of Juneau, AK; son, John (Leanne) Hayne of Dupuyer, MT, and their children Carrie (Kip) Harris of Boulder, MT, Andria (Gary) Christensen of Issaquah, WA, Joleen (Marvin) Markuson of Missoula, MT, Megan Hayne of New York City, NY, and Erica Hayne of Missoula; daughter Ali (Robert) Newkirk of Dupuyer, MT; and daughter Nancy (Dennis) Williams of San Marcos, CA, and their children, Wyatt Williams of San Marcos, CA, and Harleigh Williams of Portland, OR; her sister-in-law, Suzi (Jim) Vander Stoep of Chehalis, WA, as well as many nieces, nephews, great-grandchildren and friends. Harriet's parents and her siblings Ben, Dan, Elmer, Adine, Inga and Palmer preceded her in death.

Printed in U.S.A.

Tonkovich
PO Box 145
Choteau, MT 59422





USPS

Joan Doig
17277 - 15th Ave. NW
Shoreline
WA 98177-3846


T
Tonkovich
PO Box 145
Choteau, MT 59422

Dupuyer, July 7, '77

Dear J&J--

Shades of our London days. I'm at a point in our trip where I can usefully set down some meanderings about what we've been doing, and the Rodens make a good excuse and target for me to do so.

We're about to close out a gala three weeks here in northern Montana--intending to pull south for White Sulphur in the morning. Both of us hate to go, because this north country is more intriguing and likable than the White Sulphur area, for reasons I'll try get into later. But we've put some pretty memorable days on our string, the most recent of them the five-day hike in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I banged out a descriptive article about it yesterday for the Chicago Tribune, so that'll eventually give you a day-by-day account. Suffice to say it was a testing and exhilarating trip, featuring five fordings of creeks, at least one of which likely wouldn't have been possible except for the drought year's low water; frost on and in our tent on the morn of the 4th of July; crossing and re-crossing the Continental Divide, then going up for a full hour more of wicked climb across a 7100' ridgeline; wind which sometimes stopped or staggered us on the trail; and tenting next to a fishing-camp teepee which had muddy paw prints where a bear had investigated and slashes where he had let himself in. Also, in the entire five days, we did not see one other living soul.

This hike was not the one we had originally intended--the long loop in to the Chinese Wall from behind Choteau. Instead, after talking with people hereabouts and seeing afresh the colossal mountain scenery right in this area, we went in from Swift Reservoir, twenty miles west of Dupuyer. The trail is mainly used by autumn hunting parties; also, there isn't much back-packing done here. The local folk wouldn't dream of such a thing--any of them who have been back in there have gone on horseback--and I think we're a bit talked about for having done the 40 miles on foot. Also, we're perhaps credited with a bit of judgment, or more likely luck: we came out day before yesterday, in blustery weather, and yesterday there was a howling wind out of those mountains and some snow back in them.

One last item about the backpacking trip: on Strawberry Creek, our farthest point back in, I caught fish like a pro (or maybe at least a semi-pro) and fed us for three meals on cutthroat trout. Not as easy as it sounds on paper, though; I calculate--John is always asking me what my time is worth--that for the entire trip, I caught about one trout per hour of fishing. I don't really consider fishing a relaxation--just a different kind of work.

One of the best of several pleasant surprises for me on this trip has been how comfortably we've fit into this household where we're staying, the Chadwicks. This is the family I stayed with while in high school. Gertie, the mother, died about three years ago. Harold and his son Tom continue to run their Conoco service station, and batch it here at the house. While they remind you a bit of a pair of old gray badgers in their living style, they fend incredibly well, and we've been fending right along. Each morning about 6:40, Harold shambles out of his bedroom, I look up from the pull-out couch, and we mutter "Mornin'" to each other. Then he goes wordlessly to the kitchen and begins banging frying pans onto the stove. I quickly dress, go in the kitchen, wordlessly set the table and make toast while he paws things together at the stove. Carol is dressed by now, and Tom has emerged from his bedroom, so Harold and I begin slewing breakfast onto the table. It is always the same--two fried eggs apiece, bacon and toast--and it is always delicious as hell.

Then maybe some talking will begin, but maybe it won't, either; in any event, Harold gets up from the table a few minutes before 7, puts on a greasy cap and goes down to open up the station; Tom looks sleepily around for about 5 minutes, gets up and heads for the station too.

Both these guys are automotive geniuses, doing things in the mechanical innards which the two of us, with our five college degrees, can't begin to grasp. After supper last night, Harold triumphantly announced: "Learned today you can use the valves of a '61 Ford in a '57 Chevy, by the God! Just got to shave 'em down a 64th, is all." I went down to the garage this morning, and there he was, grinding 1/64th off each valve and fitting it in with offhand precision, all right.

I'm truly thankful that we're seeing Harold just now, because he seems to be at a particularly rich point in his life. He is 67, not yet being beset by old age--still works a 7-to-6 day, usually 7 days a week--by now is over his wife's death, and knows he has made something of himself and his life (he's the one who was a ferocious quart-a-day drunk until he took the Keeley Cure 30 years ago and has been a substantial citizen ever since). Also, the memories are beginning to come out in him, and he has some dandies. Told us the other night, as we had him help map our hiking trip, of his first hunting trip into that part of the mountains, 50 years ago. On that hunt, he said, was an 83-year-old veteran of the Riel Rebellion against the Canadian government in the 1880's--old Toussaint Salois, a blood-Cree hunched in his great buffalo coat, oblivious to the snow and wind and able to ride all day even though he could hardly walk any more.

This town of Dupuyer is peculiarly rich in personality. The total of the place is 3 gas station/garages, two saloons, one cafe, two stores, and an odd art gallery/museum run by a guy who is a godawful painter but a not-bad sculptor. Population is about 140-150, I guess. The place has a steadiness, a kind of deep keel of character, which, say, White Sulphur lacks. I've just begun to figure out that part of it may be the lack of really big ranches in this area; instead, with all the creeks fingering down out of the Rockies, many small and medium ranches have been established, and lasted, along given stretches of water right. It's somehow a much more equable area; Carol is constantly amazed by the lack of ostentation among the ranches here. Everybody's house looks pretty much the same--and pretty plain--even if the site is just begging to have a grand place aimed straight out at one of the most colossal mountain skylines anywhere.

The only mis-stroke of luck so far is that we've come too early for Dupuyer's centennial celebration, which is a week from Saturday; it would wipe out at least a weekend to come back from White Sulphur for it, and we're not sure we're up to it. But there's going to be grand doings: a frontier breakfast, a parade--$50 first prize for best float!--a barbecued beef, greased pig competition, and a street dance. Also, Carol saw an Olympia beer truck unloading a colossal supply at one of the stores yesterday. (John, you've followed the Oly saga; in driving around up here, we've noted that a prelude to any of these community-wide shindigs is for an Oly truck, sometimes two, to come rolling into town.) And the organizers--the town has a few take-charge ladies who would put the Seattle city council to shame--have assembled a 400-page book about the town's people and past, which I much look forward to seeing.

We have been here for an interesting small saga, however--the reopening of the town's sole cafe (the only eatery this side of Valier, 22 miles away). Harold of course owns the cafe; it shares his garage building. When I lived here with them, he and Gertie ran those twin enterprises 364½ days a year--half a day off for Christmas. Harold told us the other night that in those days--20, 25 years ago--Gertie sometimes would take in $80-$100 a day, the equivalent of at least $300 now, I suppose. Since he did about the same in the station, you can see how they began to build a poke during those years of hard work--I leave the exact figuring to John. When Gertie's heart went bad, they began leasing the cafe, and Harold has had countless itinerant cooks and would-bes in there. We arrived just as the last operators, real flopperoos,