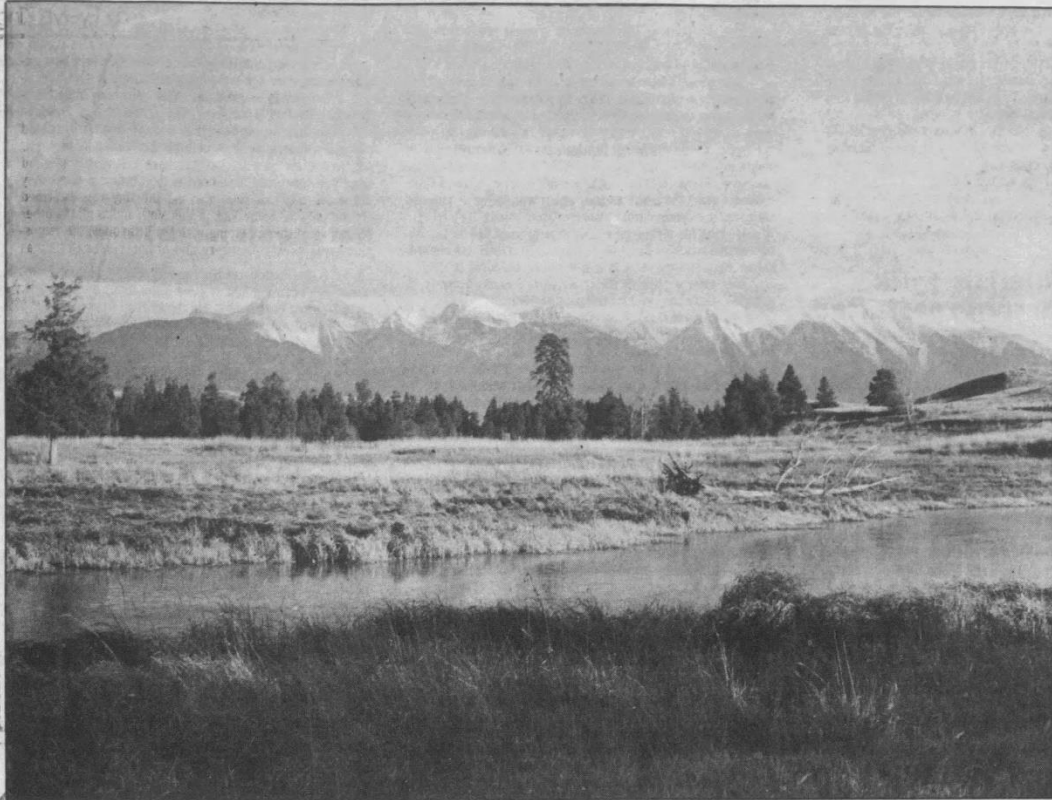


# Western Montana



## **Snow's last stand**

The high peaks of the Mission Mountains are among the few areas glistening with snow in western Montana as unseasonably

warm temperatures continue. In the foreground is a slough at the National Bison Range, west of St. Ignatius.

January 2, 1981 The Missoulian

## **“Facts Clarified**

Perhaps a few facts need to be clarified from Lee Boyd’s “Natural Selections” column of Jan. 8 concerning the transplanting of mountain goats from the Bison Range to the Franklin Bridge site in the Rattlesnake.

Tax dollars are not being used. The environmental assessment was a volunteer effort, the goats are surplus animals from the Bison Range, trapping will be done by highly-qualified volunteers, and state sportsmen’s license fees are paying for the helicopter transportation.

We can never be sure what transplanted animals will do. However, the cliffs above the Franklin Bridge were the wintering area for nannies and kids until 1968 or 1969 when goats were last seen there.

In other studies of mountain goats we have learned that whatever cliffs nannies and kids occupy during the winter are key ranges, and after the last animals disappeared from these ranges the

area has not been repopulated. By introducing these animals during the winter it is likely that they will remain and continue to use this site.

There is no assurance the goats from the Mosquito Peak area will repopulate the Franklin Ridge site. Goats usually do not move long distances through timber, although they will occasionally move through timber to visit cliff areas that they have previously frequented. Since goats have not been observed in recent years at the Franklin Bridge site, these kinds of movements apparently are not occurring. - Cathy Ream, 4217 Timberlane, Missoula.” January 23, 1981 The Missoulian



### “Goats get their goat by Sherry Devlin Staff Writer

It’s not easy to fool mountain goats – even when you have a helicopter, nets and screaming university students on your side.

After nearly two hours of coaxing and terrorizing Thursday, 17 would-be trappers couldn’t lure even one goat into their nets at the National Bison Range near Moiese.

“It’s goats 2, wildlife 0,” said one disgruntled University of Montana graduate student

And it’s back to the drawing board,” said Jim McLucas, trapper for the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The idea was to catch six mountain goats by early afternoon and then truck them to the Rattlesnake Wilderness north of Missoula. There the goats would repopulate the cliffs above Franklin Ridge, where a group of 15 once roamed.

At 8:30 a.m., while his crew sipped coffee outside Bison Range headquarters, UM biologist Bart O’Gara feared only the heavy fog.

“We’ve got two kids for every goat here,” he said. “If we can see through the fog, we can grab ’em.”

On hand for the trapping and transplanting were 12 UM graduate students, O’Gara, two bison range foremen, McLucas and a state game warden.

Even the 2 ½ hour trek across mountains and pastures didn’t subdue the group’s humor. “This isn’t a road,” said state game warden Dennis Hagenston, after his second stop for snow chains. “this is a wagon trail.”

Led by range foreman Babe May, the trucks slid into the ridge above the goat’s winter range about 11:30 a.m. The student workhorses wasted no time in stringing a long net from one end of the ledge to another.

“We’re going to bring the helicopter up the ridge,” O’Gara said, “and run the goats into the net. They’ll get tangled up and we can grab them. We’ve never run goats like this before, though, so we’ve got to be ready for anything.”

The nearly 400 mountain goats transplanted by state fish and wildlife trappers since the early 1940s were usually trapped in a more conventional drop-gate cage, explained McLucas. A salt lick lured the goats to the cage and an automatic switch tripped the gate once a goat ventured inside.

Still, O’Gara was optimistic. “We’ve had great success running antelope and deer into nets,” he said. “it’s a predator thing. The helicopter is like an eagle and really terrorizes the animals.”

“My only fear,” O’Gara added, is that the goats will seek shelter under those trees. I’ve had goats run into caves on me. Then we would have to go in there and run them out.”

Minutes later, O’Gara saw his fears unfold. With students positioned across the ridge on either side of the net, the helicopter moved up the valley.

“There are the goats, a big group,” radioed student Dan Pond, who rode in the chopper with pilot Bob Schellinger. “Get ready.”

O’Gara and his crew crouched behind rocks and trees. There was only the noise of the helicopter, louder by the second. Then one of the students pointed. Six shaggy, white-faced mountain goats were at the net.

Notebooks flew in the air, mittens scattered everywhere and nine would-be goat catchers charged up the hill. “Get the rubbers hoses,” yelled one. “we’ve got to put them over the horns.”

But no sooner did the goats see the charge than they did an about face and headed down the ridge. Did you see that?” said O’Gara. B “That goat butted the net, realized that he couldn’t get past it and turned around.”

The chopper zoomed back overhead. “Look,” another student whispered. “There’s a big goat all alone way up at the end of the fence.”

Again, the goat wasn’t about to be fooled. One look at the net and it turned back down the ridge, running within several inches of one student.

“I could have touched that goat,” the student said later. “I thought about grabbing him, but those horns looked pretty scary.”

Then there were five goats heading up the ridge. But they took cover under a tree and weren’t about to budge. “That chopper is right on their heads,” O’Gara said. “Antelope or deer would be in a panic. But those goats know they’re safe under the tree. They’ve caught on to our game.”

The crouching and waiting continued another 30 minutes, with the goats always heading for shelter under trees. “Send some people across the ridge to scare the goats out into the open,” ordered Pond. Five students dashed down the steep slope, waving hands and screaming at the goats

“That little goat just walked right past me going the wrong way,” shrieked one student. “They sure get smart quick. It’s like they could are less what we want them to do.”

At 1:40 p.m., the crew pulled out the proverbial white flag. “We give,” yelled one. “you’ve got us. You win.”

“You win round one,” corrected O’Gara. “We’ll just have to go back to the old way – put a corral around a salt lick and lure the goats into traps. We’ll win that one, even though it means postponing the transplant for a while longer.”

“You know,” O’Gara said, “you can sit behind a desk and predict how animals will behave all you want. But you’ll never know until you try. You’ll just never know.” February 6, 1981 The Missoulian

“Five Valleys Audubon Society meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Western Federal Savings and Loan across from Tremper’s on Brooks Street. Joe Quiroz will present a talk and slide show on the game management program at the National Bison Range. Open to the public.” February 8, 1981 The Missoulian





February 11, 1981 The Missoulian

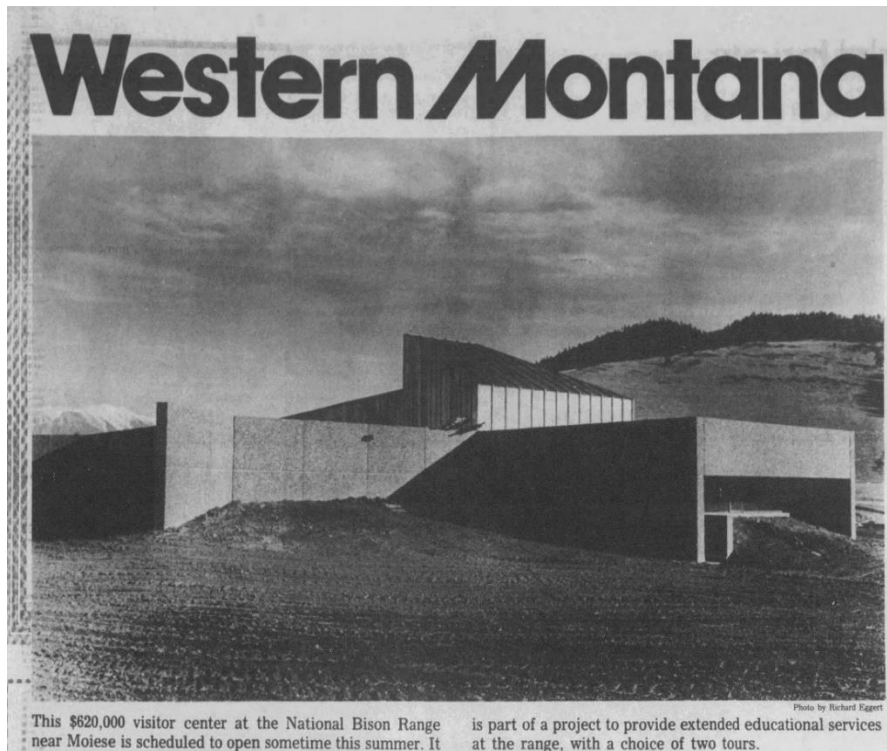
## “Refuge areas to close to fishing

Several areas of the Ninepipe and Pablo national wildlife refuges will be closed to public fishing starting March 1 – in an attempt to give numerous species of birds the necessary peace and quiet for successful nesting and raising of young.

Canada geese, mallards, pintails, redheads, ruddy ducks and coots are among the many species using the Ninepipe and Pablo refuges. Fishing closures to protect the birds will continue through July 15.

Sections of Ninepipe remaining open for anglers are areas around the dike and north of Allentown Bridge. Open on the Pablo refuge will be the area bordering Pablo and Middle dikes.

Exact locations of both open and closed areas are available at each refuge or at the National Bison Range in Moiese. Call 644-2354 for information.” February 25, 1981 The Missoulian



“Opening of Moiese center delayed by Richard Eggert Correspondent

Moiese – A new visitor center at the National Bison Range at Moiese, which was to have opened last year, probably won’t be completed until this summer according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife service officials.

The sweeping granite-block and glass structure will house exhibits and information displays. It was begun in August 1979 and was to have been completed by last spring.

The prime contractor for the building is Northwest Erection of Missoula. The total cost of the structure is about \$620,000, according to Tryl Broom of the contracting office. In addition range staff member Joe Quiroz said about \$100,000 in exhibits are planned.

Bud Cheff, president of Northwest Erection, explained that construction delays were caused by design changes ordered by the wildlife service. Also, ground conditions re delaying work on an access road to the building.

Quiroz said the building is nearly finished and needs only paint and detail work. However, he added, the new center probably will not be open until late summer.

Broom confirmed that the building would not be open until mid-summer. She said that moisture-saturated ground conditions would probably prevent the paving contractor from completing the road work until the end of May.

Quiroz said the new visitor center would be the hub of a project to provide extended educational services at the range and a choice of two range tours.

The 19-mile circular tour of the range would be retained, Quiroz said, and would probably be called the Red Sleep Tour after the highest peak on the range. It could open in May, depending on road conditions

A shorter tour through the Buffalo Prairie section would require about 20 minutes to drive and would provide visitors with an exposure to prairie buffalo ecology. Visitors would see bison, antelope and other prairie animals in the large pen.

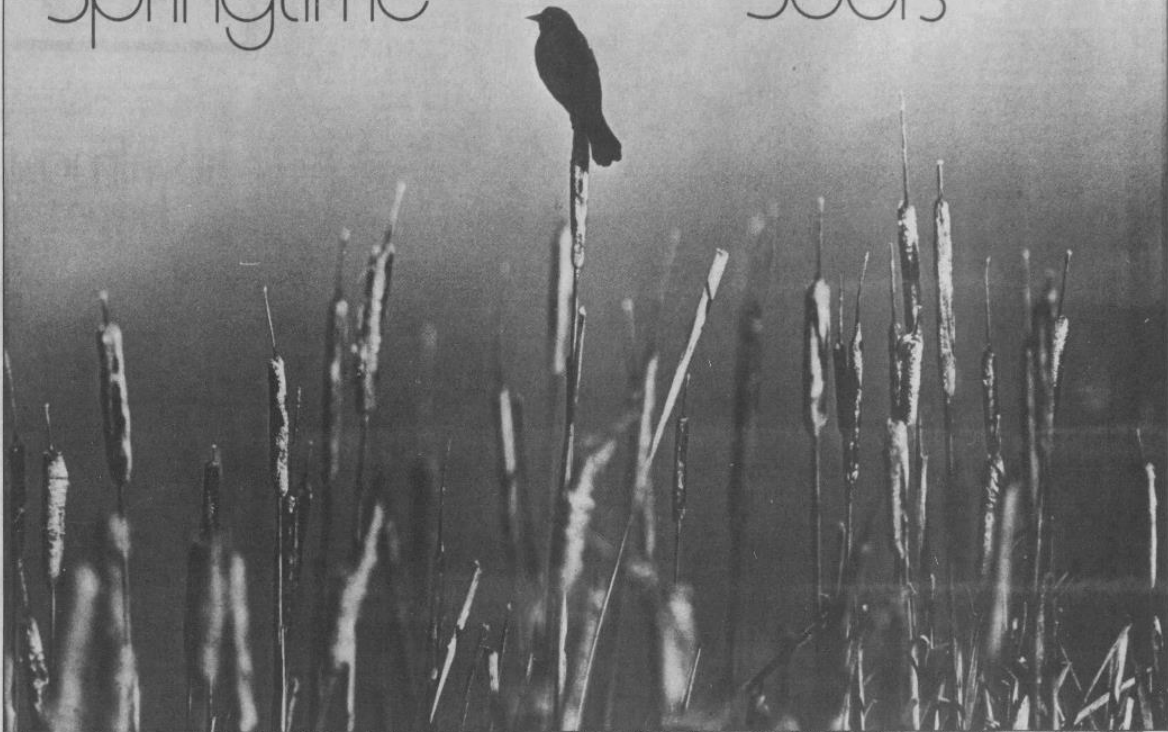
Under the plan, current range headquarters could be converted into a learning center, Quiroz said. It would provide educational materials and study plants for classes and groups interested in scientific and historical study of the range. He said the learning center would require support of teachers in the area.

Quiroz said the visitor center exhibits would be centered on a full-mounted bison to be displayed in the center building.” March 5, 1981 The Missoulian

# Outdoors

Springtime

Seers



Far across the refuge, a red-winged blackbird perches in a cattail marsh — an easy mark for the 40 or so enthusiastic birdwatchers of the Five Valley Audubon Society.

## 8,700 species of birds are out there somewhere. Undaunted, the 40 members of the Five Valleys Audubon Society are off to a flying start.

The make-shift caravan of sedans and station wagons lurches to a halt along the dirt road that slices the cattail marsh into nearly equal halves.

The birders tumble out, stretching and yawning after an early morning drive from Missoula.

Then someone points across the marsh. A chorus of "where's" and "how far's" resounds back like an echo.

A sharp-eyed birder has spotted two brilliant white heads across the marsh.

Even at 200 yards with the naked eye, America's symbol is unmistakable. The birders raise binoculars. Two bald eagles peer back at them from their deep, washbasin-sized nest atop a dead pine.

The birders line up anxiously for a closer look through the stubby gray telescopes some of them have already bolted on top of tripods and set up along the shoulder of the road. The eagles are a good omen. The weather is warm. The sky is clear. This last Saturday in February will be a good day for the 11 birdwatchers who have come to the Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge for a late winter outing.

by DAVID ROACH  
photos by TOM DODGE  
of the Missoulian

The birders are among 40 or so members of the Missoula-based Five Valleys Audubon Society. They are birdwatchers — participants in one of the nation's fastest growing outdoor recreations.

The hoary stereotype of a birdwatcher as a "little old lady in tennis shoes" no longer holds, if it ever did, said club member Ron Hazelwood.

Nowadays, Americans have more leisure time and a heightened concern for nature. This has brought legions of new converts to birdwatching, as well as to more common pursuits of hiking and backpacking. One birding magazine recently estimated that a half-million people participate.

The attraction of birdwatching comes as no surprise to members of the western Montana group.

"Just getting out and enjoying everything from the weather to the trees and flowers is a large part of it," said Willis Heron, one of the club's most ardent watchers.

"And learning to identify what you see adds a lot of fun," added Heron, a nurseryman for the state Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Bird identification was a major goal of the trip last Saturday to the Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge (formerly Ravalli Wildlife Refuge) — a 2,700-acre federal preserve bordering the Bitterroot River north of Stevensville.

The hodge-podge of vehicles bumped along the refuge's dusty back roads, stopping occasionally for impromptu lessons on the riverbank or near backwater marshes.

The spindly legged tripods with telescopes on top were hauled out again and again and set up on the side of the road.

Spotters peered through the telescopes and reported:

"We've got a redhead bay duck over here if you've never seen one."

"Here's a hooded merganser down here."

"Gadwalls and widgeons in this one."

The ducks — nearly a hundred — ignored the attention. They bobbed and dived unperturbed.

Throughout the day, the birders spotted great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, kingfishers, nuthatches, chickadees and song sparrows.

At one bend in the road, the caravan sent a startled great horned owl to flight, its five-foot span of wings stretched wide. Later, another owl was spotted at home in an osprey nest that had been abandoned by its original owner.

The varieties sighted comprised only a tiny number of the rich bird life drawn to the valleys, waterways and mountains of western Montana, according to Phil Wright, a retired University of Montana ornithologist.

The region's meadows and mountain passes lie beneath major flyways for many species, including geese, ducks and warblers, Wright said.

Area birders counted 130 different varieties at Bitterroot Valley sites during the National Audubon Society's 1980 spring count, an annual dawn-to-dusk tabulation that occurs each year across the nation.

Some varieties this year are migrating north unusually early, said Bob Twist, Metcalf Refuge manager.

Several whistling swans and western gulls arrived at the refuge just after mid-February, several weeks ahead of schedule, Twist said.

While some birds, such as the sharp-tailed grouse, have been pushed out of the Bitterroot Valley by residential development, others are thriving in area wildlife refuges.

Canada geese and osprey, for example, have raised increasingly larger broods at Metcalf during the past eight years, Twist said.

While not all members of the Five Valleys Audubon Society are politically active, the club itself often advocates proposals it considers vital, said its president, Joe Kippbut.

Education about bird and wildlife habitat is one of them.

"Birds are usually the first to disappear when the environment begins to become degraded," said Kippbut, a forestry technician for the Lolo National Forest.

The local club lobbied unsuccessfully at the Legislature this year for a checkoff on state income-tax forms that residents could use to contribute funds for nongame wildlife education and research.

Six states have similar systems, and the club will try again for the nongame wildlife checkoff during the 1983 Legislature, Kippbut said.

Founded in 1977 by students of Dr. Wright's UM ornithology classes, the Five Valleys club last year supported wilderness and recreation designations for parts of the Rattlesnake Range.

Ornithologist Wright speaks hopefully of American society's "tremendous progress" in understanding the critical role many birds play in the environment — insect control, for example.

"We've finally gotten the idea across that you don't go out and shoot eagles or hawks for the fun of it," says Wright.

Last Saturday, two flocks of Canada geese sailed overhead and, with beating wings and a cacophony of baritone honks, splashed down in front of the birders.

With the blue and white Bitterroot Mountains large on the horizon, their flight transfixed the club members momentarily.

"Well, we've seen eagles and geese," club member Lee Ballard said finally. "Now let's see some swans."

"That's the way it is. You always want to see something more."



Joe Kippbut uses a spy glass, Willis Heron binoculars, to spy out birds.

## Doers

Do the boundaries of your birdwatching merely span from robins to crows?

Then you've been missing about 8,700 other bird species that populate the earth.

To expand your birdwatching horizons, all you need are an inexpensive pair of binoculars and a birdwatching field guide.

You couldn't pick a better time or place to do it than western Montana in spring. Some species are just beginning their spring migrations; others, including the brilliantly hued warblers, will arrive in May.

Area parks, streambanks, forest clearings and public fishing access sites often are fine birdwatching stations.

And two nearby national wildlife refuges offer some of the region's most spectacular birdwatching.

### METCALF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

This 2,700 acres provides home or habitat for a wide array of bird life — hawks, owls, osprey, heron, ducks and several bald eagles. The refuge also is home for muskrats, red foxes, porcupine and deer. From Missoula, drive south on U.S. 93 to Florence, turn left on the East Side Highway toward Stevensville. Turn right at Waterfowl Lane and the refuge sign. Follow the lane to the refuge's south border.

### NATIONAL BISON RANGE:

Once an island surrounded by a prehistoric lake, the 18,542-acre Bison Range at Moise is now home for golden eagles, Bohemian waxwings, Lewis' woodpeckers, prairie falcons and bluebirds and many others. Wildlife species include pronghorn antelope, coyote, elk, badger, mink, bighorn sheep and, of course, bison. From Missoula, follow Highway 93 north to Ravalli, then take Route 200 west. Turn right at the Moise turn-off to the Bison Range. Open in May, depending on road conditions.

The Five Valleys Audubon Society usually sponsors two field trips a month during spring migrations. The public is invited to accompany the club on trips and to attend meetings. The group meets at 7:30 p.m., the second Monday of each month. Call Alice Austin for field trip and meeting locations: 542-2591.



Birders often spot Great Blue Heron at the Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge.

# Western Montana

## Water war waged with backhoe, injunction

By Richard Eggert  
Correspondent

ST. IGNATIUS — A new kind of Western water war with a different ripple began this week on the normally quiet banks of Post Creek, north of St. Ignatius.

This time the adversaries were not rifle-toting ranchers facing off across a ditch. There were no shots fired and the only weapons were a mechanized backhoe and a court injunction.

It began Thursday morning when a Lake County road crew began digging out, with a backhoe, a drainage ditch along a county road that bordered the land of fish farmer Dave Harriman. The final round ended Thursday evening when Harriman's attorney handed the Lake County commissioners a restraining order blocking the project.

According to Sam Robertson, the Lake County commissioners' administrative assistant, the ditch along the west boundary of Harriman's property had to be cleared in order to drain a buildup of water along the roadbed.

Robertson said the county roadbed was threatened by water in the ditch and the county was therefore compelled to protect the road by clearing out the borrow pit right of way.

Harriman, however, claimed that the project would drain a marsh on the south end of his land. He said the marsh not only serves as a waterfowl reproduction area but also constitutes a reservoir of spring water which he uses in his trout-raising operation.

The dispute, according to Harriman and confirmed by Robertson, began in 1979 when the county opened a portion of the ditch. Water from the marsh drained into the cut but was not able to flow through the borrow pit to drain into Post Creek at the northern end of Harriman's property.

According to county bridge foreman Les Schafer, a six-man county crew showed up at the Harriman place Thursday at 8 a.m. to complete the ditch project.

Schafer said he was met by Harriman who told him a District Court restraining order had been signed prohibiting the project. Schafer and his crew then left, long enough to contact the county commissioners in Polson.

"As soon as I left I called and they said no order had been served and we were to 'dig,'" Schafer said.

Harriman later explained that the order was to have been filed early Thursday morning but a mixup delayed the process.

Harriman and his wife Peg went to Roman to confer with their attorney at about 9 a.m. Schafer said that about 10 a.m. he and his crew returned to the ditch and began digging dirt out of the borrow pit easement.

Harriman's daughter, Cynthia, said she was feeding cows when she heard the backhoe. She went up to the road and stood in front of the machine for about 15 minutes in an attempt to stop it from moving down the ditch. She said she told the back-

hoe operator and the road crew that an injunction would be forthcoming and asked them to wait.

Schafer said later that he couldn't wait. "Our orders were to dig and that is what we did," he said.

About 10:30 Harriman returned and asked his daughter to step away from the backhoe. "We wanted to keep this thing on completely legal grounds," he said.

For the remainder of the day the Harrimans watched as the backhoe gnawed its way down the ditch toward Post Creek. The crew left a 6-foot-wide dike between the standing water in the old ditch and the pit they had carved. At about 3:30 p.m., the crew had completed the new ditch and laid a culvert into an access road to the Harriman farm.

County road crew chief Rich Borden said that because the restraining order had not been served, the dike was to be opened. At about 4 p.m., the backhoe dug out the top of the dike allowing the standing water to run down the new ditch, down the borrow pit and into Post Creek.

Schafer said the dike was only opened partially Thursday to prevent a heavy flow of water from overflowing the ditch and flooding Harriman's land.

The temporary restraining order was served to the commissioners about 5 p.m., according to Robertson.

Alan Harriman, a partner in the Harriman Trout Farm, said Friday the partial opening in the dike had caused a 6-inch drop in the level of the marsh. He said he and his father had placed a stake in the marsh so they could determine the amount of water lost.

Alan Harriman said that if the dike were completely cleared, the water level in the marsh would drop to the level of the new ditch, which would drain about 3 feet of water from the marsh.

Harriman said Thursday that the marsh, which constitutes about 24 acres, has been placed under a U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Water Bank Project. He said the purpose of the project is marshland conservation to promote waterfowl and shorebird propagation. He said the federal marsh easement contract won't expire for about another eight years.

Harriman said the marsh is fed by several small springs in and near the area. He said it also acts as a sump for irrigation return flow waters providing a natural septic field to settle and clean them before they percolate into Post Creek.

However, Harriman said the principal argument against the project is the effect draining the water from the marsh will have on his fisheries business. He said the spring and runoff water captured in the marsh impoundment would have supplied water for expansion of his fish ponds. "We were counting on that water," he said.

Robertson noted, however, that the county "cannot allow our road to be used as a levy." He said that Harriman's marsh is dammed by the

age through the roadbed was creating a problem.

Robertson pointed out the county does have an easement along the road to maintain a ditch.

Robertson also said the county had offered to ditch the water into Harriman's property as an alternative to maintaining its borrow pit.

Harriman said he rejected the offer on the grounds that the rerouted water would only inflate his current ditch system and "still preclude using it for future expansion of our pond system."

Harriman said he offered to go along with the maintenance of the borrow pit if the county would pile the fill along the east side of the ditch to create a new levy for the marsh.

Friday, County Commissioner Harold Fitzner confirmed the county had rejected Harriman's alternative but would not comment on the reason.

Fitzner is responsible for road maintenance in the St. Ignatius area.

"I didn't think it would actually come to this until this morning," Harriman said Thursday. "We are just now recovering from flood damage (caused by flooding in Post Creek last spring) and now we have to go through this. You would think a local government could compromise with residents, especially when it involves an area which has as much public value as a marshland wildlife habitat," Harriman said.

Bob Schumacher, head fisheries biologist for the District 1 office of the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, agreed. He said Harriman's marshland was "the best wildlife habitat" the county had contracted under the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service program.

Schumacher said he had written the county commissioners requesting that some kind of compromise be reached "which would preserve their (the county's) roadbed and Harriman's marsh." He said the letter offered several alternatives including ditching the water back into the marsh, installing a guardrail along the stretch of road and replacing the bed of the road with material which would not absorb water.

Schumacher said a project review of the Harriman marsh indicated it was "ideal winter habitat for geese, pheasants and ducks" and provided needed nesting grounds for these and other birds in the spring.

Schumacher said it is the policy of the department to promote wetland habitat in both public and private land but "we don't have a legal handle on this thing, there is no law we can use to force the preservation of this place."

"If I were Harriman I would have them (the county commissioners) in court if that were my property," said Schumacher.

Harriman's attorney, Rich Gerhardt, said that is exactly where the case is going. He said Thursday's restraining order would only hold off further draining of the marsh for 10 days. Next Wednesday, he and Harri-

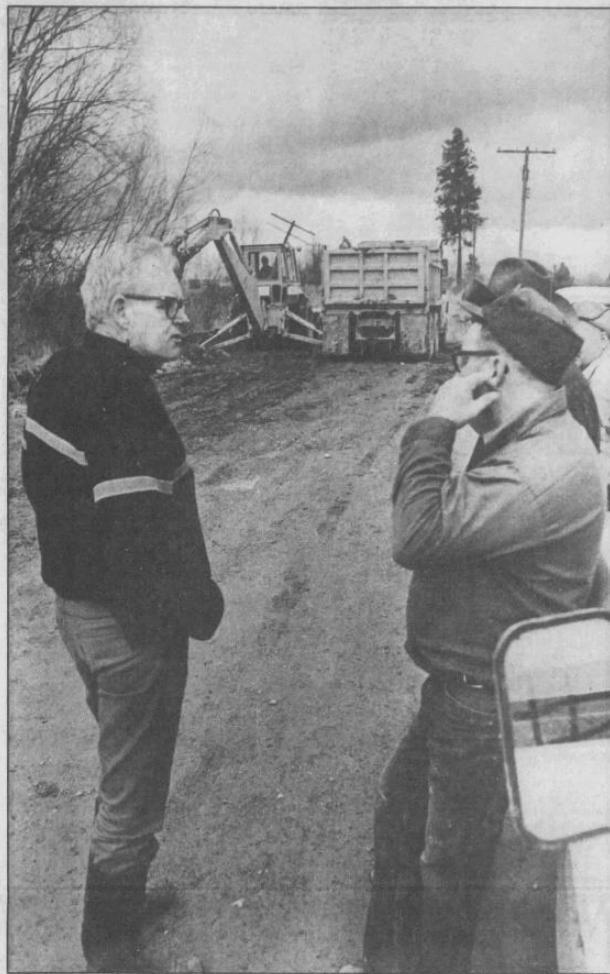


Photo by Richard Eggert

Still awaiting a restraining order, Dave Harriman, left, talks with Lake County bridge foreman Les Schafer and other county workers while a backhoe continues its work.

tend the restraint into a permanent injunction.

Gebhardt said the legal basis behind the restraining order was the principal of "inverse condemnation" which is the taking of property without due process of law.

Gebhardt said the dike could not be repaired under the temporary restraining order but that damages

through the dike could possibly found the basis of a lawsuit later.

The value of the marsh was also praised by National Bison Range Superintendent Bob Brown. Brown said he had not seen the marsh but had understood it had value as a bird propagating area and "here we are going around buying wetlands and trying to protect them while the

"We are losing wetlands all over and here we have a chance to save one. I just think there are other ways that road could be protected without draining that marsh," said Brown.

County Commissioner Fitzner would not comment Friday on the reasons for the project. Fitzner did, however, say that the county would not lower the dike any further until

## “Bison range tour road to open

Moiese -The 19-mile Self-tour Road through the National Bison Range at Moiese will open for the season on Saturday. Gates will be open at 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily. Persons taking the two-hour drive can see newly born buffalo calves as well as big horn sheep, deer, antelope, elk and mountain goats.” May 8, 1981 The Missoulian

## “Adventure Field Trip For Kids

Field trips to: Bison Range, Garnet Ghost Town, local dairy farms and picnic adventure trip through 8-Mile Canyon and much more. For details call 251-2456.” June 27, 1981 The Missoulian

## Jon Malcolm replaces Bob Brown as Bison Range Manager

## “Bison Range offers one circuit

During the remainder of the 1981 summer season, tourists at the National Bison Range near Moiese will only be able to use a 19-mile scenic drive through the range.

A 3-mile route is under construction but no date has been set for its completion. The new route, when opened, will provide an opportunity for visitors to view bison in a natural setting.

The range is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.” July 22, 1981 The Missoulian

## “Teachers workshop planned at National Bison Range

The National Bison Range near Moiese will be hosting an outdoor-education workshop for area teachers Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The workshop is open to all teachers, from all grade levels. Its purpose is to introduce new ideas and methods of using the outdoors in teaching and to acquaint teachers with people involved in environmental education.

No fee will be charged for the workshop, although one unit of university credit is being offered through the University of Montana at a cost of about \$25.

Registration forms are available in all local school offices or may be obtained by writing or calling Donna Briggs, Hillcrest Drive, Polson (883-5595).

Volunteer teachers from area schools will present seminars at the workshop. Sessions will cover such topics as wetlands, grasslands, art and sensory awareness.

Newcomers and teachers who have participated in past workshops are welcome to attend. Some repeats of past sessions will be included in the program, along with some new and different topics.

Lesson plans may be checked out by teachers from a library of material collected by the Bison Range. A catalog of available material will be given to workshop participants.” August 27, 1981 The Missoulian

### “New Bison range tour open

The Buffalo Prairie Scenic Drive, a new 3 mile auto tour, is now open at the National Bison Range. This new tour provides visitors with an opportunity to view bison, and other big game, in a natural setting without taking the longer, 19-mile Red Sleep Mountain Scenic Drive.

Both auto tours are open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Trailers are permitted on the new short tour, but are still prohibited elsewhere.” August 30, 1981 The Missoulian

### “Workshop set at Bison Range

A University of Montana workshop on environmental education will be offered for one graduate credit at the National Bison Range in Moiese on Saturday. The course will last from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. plus follow-up field testing.

Teachers of any subject and from any grade level will be introduced to ideas on using the outdoor classroom in their teaching programs. Participants will meet person already involved in environmental education programs in the area and will learn about the sources of materials that are available.

Cost of the workshop is \$30 and interested persons should contact Donna Briggs, Hillcrest Drive, Polson, 59860 or call 883-5595.

Registration for credit will be completed at the workshop.” September 16, 1981 The Missoulian

### “The Flathead

Ronan – Most extracurricular pursuits on the Flathead Indian Reservation north of Missoula are of the outdoors variety – trout fishing in streams and lakes, bass fishing at Ninepipe Refuge and hiking in the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe’s Mission Wilderness area.

All of these pursuits require an \$8-a-year tribal recreational permit, which is perhaps the best recreational bargain in the area.



However, these are some interesting, exciting and diverse pursuits on the Flathead Reservation for adventurous students, and they do not require permits.

Every Friday and Saturday night, for instance, many local stompers and refugees from Missoula gather at the Buffalo Bar in Ravalli, 40 miles north of Missoula, to dance and carry on. The live bands are local and some range in quality from tolerable to pretty good, but by midnight the crowd and the mood are so thick that it's kind of hard to tell.

The Buffalo Bar gets its name from the adjacent National Bison Range which has to be one of the best cheap dates in North America. The range is home to 400 bison, along with mountain goats, bighorn sheep, antelope, elk and deer. They can be viewed on the range's 19-mile drive.

The National Bison Range is 50 miles from Missoula. You get there by turning west on Highway 200 off of Highway 93 at Ravalli. Then you turn north at Dixon and take Highway 211 to Moiese.

If you are a wildlife fancier, there is a national wildlife refuge at Ninepipe, located between St. Ignatius and Ronan on Highway 93. The refuge includes thousands of acres of federal and state lands and the area abounds with waterfowl, pheasants, shorebirds and predatory birds. The Missoulian." September 22, 1981 The Missoulian

## "Roundup goes public

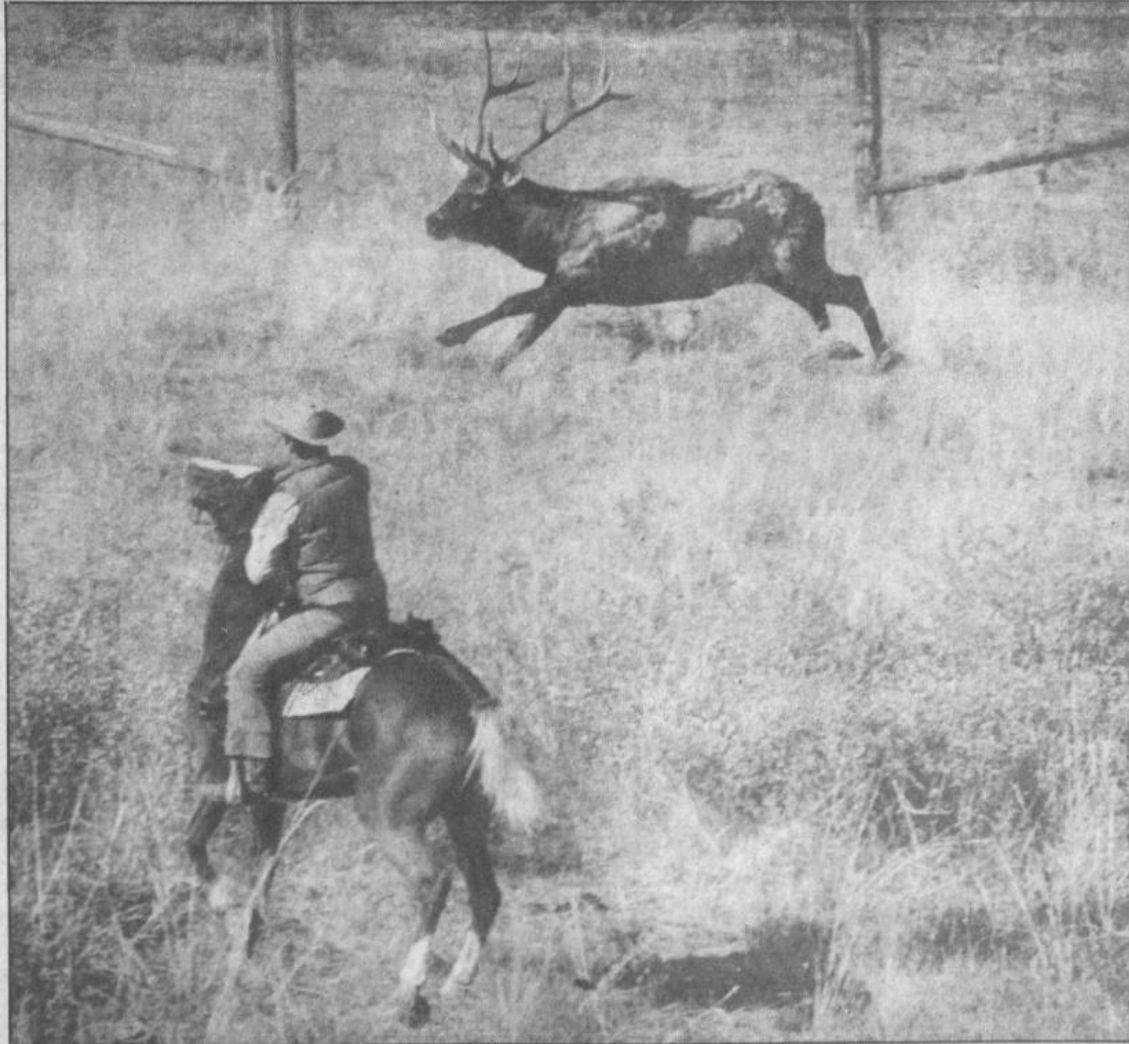
Moiese – The annual roundup of buffalo at the National Bison Range is set for Oct. 5-7.

Refuge Manager Jon Malcolm said the bison herd will be worked through the corrals those three days when surplus sale animals will be sorted, calves branded and a portion of the herd vaccinated. Surplus animals will be loaded out by the buyers the mornings of Oct. 7-9.

The roundup operation is public. A slide program will be presented hourly to explain the Bison Range management program and roundup operation. The same program will be given on the half hour for visiting school groups. Schools planning to visit should contact the Range prior to roundup to schedule a time. Lunch will be served by the Charlo PTA Oct. 5-7.

In the recent bid opening for surplus buffalo, top price offered was \$2,005 for a mature bull over 10 years old. There were 47 bids on the 66 surplus animals, 30 of which were successful.

Malcolm said the roundup operation will require closing the 19-mile tour from Sept. 29 through Oct. 7, but the 10-mile short tour along the north side of the range will be open." September 26, 1981 The Missoulian



Staff photo by Raymond Gehman

### **Longhorn?**

Bison weren't the only animals the wranglers had to herd Monday and Tuesday at the Moiese National Bison Range northwest of Missoula. A

seven-point bull elk that got in with the herded buffalo had to be cut away from them and turned back out to its home on the range.

October 8, 1981 The Missoulian

## **Bison range road closed**

Moiese – The Red Sleep Mountain 19-mile scenic drive has been closed for the season.

An alternate 10-mile drive will be available for the public use. Hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The shorter drive will remain open as long as weather and road conditions permit.” October 27, 1981 The Missoulian

## “Danny On photographs displayed at park center

West Glacier – Eight color photographs by the late Danny On are on display at the Apgar Visitor Center in Glacier National Park.

The photos include wildlife and scenic shots by the former Flathead National Forest silviculturist and photographer, who was killed in a 1979 skiing accident.

They are from a collection of some 18,000 slides, negatives and prints that were donated to the Glacier Natural History Association by On's family.

On had been a board member of the association. A non-profit organization that works to broaden public understanding of the plant and animal life, geology and history of the park, Flathead National Forest and the National Bison Range.

Prints of some of On's work are available for sale through the association.

The visitor center is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 12, and then from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends only.” November 4, 1981 The Missoulian

## “Bison range visitor center opening set

Moiese – The National Bison Range at Moiese will officially open its new, \$700,000 Visitors Center in mid-June, according to Range Manager Jon Malcolm.

Malcolm said the grand opening of the granite slab buttressed and copper-domed building would correspond to the spring opening of the bison range tour.

The building was completed last month and awaits only the installation of exhibits and displays, Malcolm said.

Offices for the 10 range employees, a general purpose education room and the large exhibit area will comprise the building.

Ed Merritt, Biological Technician, said the displays will include a full mounted bull buffalo by Smithsonian taxidermist Neil Deaton, and dioramas and exhibits explaining the history of the range and management of its animals.

Dioramas involve carefully painted backdrops depicting natural habitats for the mounted animals, lending depth-of-field and realistic quality to the setting.

Also among the displays will be a six foot square computer-cut topographical map of the range, which is being assembled by Design Fabricators of Midland, Mich.

Merritt said the education general purpose room will offer a variety of visual tapes and slide shows on aspects of the range. The service would be available to schools and groups interested in the natural history of the range.

The range's 19-mile self-guided tour would be re-routed around the new building, and tour season will extend as long as road conditions permit. He said the road was open from mid-May to Oct. 25 this year.

The new building was begun in 1979." November 19, 1981 The Missoulian

### "Moiese - Written by Richard Eggert and photographed by Tom Dodge of the Missoulian

Moiese – Every year close to 100,000 people drive miles out of their way to see this town's most distinctive feature; yet most don't seem to notice the town itself or the people in it.

This strikes folks here as odd. Their town spreads over 2 ½ square miles, has a population of well over 1,000 and boasts two schools, albeit abandoned.

Some say the identity problem for the western Lake County hamlet of Moiese is it's almost as hard to find as it is to pronounce (say Mow-ease). Tucked away unobtrusively on Highway 211 between Dixon and Charlo, most of its vast area is absorbed in miles and miles of rolling farm and grazing lands along the Flathead River.

Others say the 30 families which buy their groceries and pick up their mail at Moiese Merc. are just plain overshadowed by the balance of the town's population – which neither votes or spends money locally. These celebrated citizens are the animals living on the 18, 510- acre National Bison Range.

According to range manager Jon Malcom, 85,000 people visited the national wildlife refuge this year, most from other states and nations.

Summer visitors are attracted to Moiese to see what is called one of the best zoos in the world. Some 830(?) bison, 120 elk, 250 white-tailed deer, 250 mule deer, 60 bighorn sheep and 25 mountain goats join antelope and other animals sharing a timely managed ecological mob(?).

Most of the range's visitors take the 19-mile self-guided tour which leads them through the heart of the park. Although the bison are moved from one pasture to another during the year to prevent overgrazing, the odds of seeing the giant wooly mammals are excellent. May and June are particularly good months when the cows are calving.

But perhaps the most spectacular time for the bison is August, when the bulls began their territorial sparring just prior to mating season.

The ground trembles and trees, shrubs and fur explode when the nearly one-ton bulls collide. Usually, when the dust settles, egos turn out to be the only casualties.

In spite of the occasional fury on the range most citizens of Moiese go through the seasons quietly minding their own business and fields. Crops and grazing are the main industries, not counting the Bison Range. But Jennie Largent, who minds the town's only store and who has been in Moiese since 1936, says things weren't always so pastoral.

Largent said she can remember a large grain elevator near the railroad tracks which still divide Moiese farm lands from the Bison Range. Golden grain from rich river bottom lands of what is now called the Moiese Valley was stored there awaiting shipment to markets to the east and west.

The Moiese Valley was also once a major western Montana sugar beet area and Largent recalled large bunks across from the store where the sweet stalks dried while awaiting the next train.

Although Moiese is still marked as a stop on the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks, few of the Missoula-to-Polson local freights pause here anymore. Last year, during the ash fallout from Mount St. Helens, a track-clearing train halted to deposit a dusty crew for a lunch break at the Moiese Merc.

"Any port in a storm," one of the crew members explained.

The town's two schools have also been returned to the land, or, at least, have been given up by the generations of Moiese young. The old South School still stands like a beacon on a hill west of the Merc., and only calves frolic in the playground as ruminating mothers watch from the pasture which surrounds the stucco building.

The gymnasium at North School further down the valley is still used by the community, but students from the hamlet have traveled to the Charlo School 10 miles north for the past decade.

About 30 years go the tranquility of the valley was shattered when an oil drilling rig erupted suddenly on the landscape. Although the prospect of an oil boom in the area had some appeal, many folks around Moiese will confess they were relieved when the wildcatter's money played out before he hit a gusher.

The town got its name from the Pend d'Oreille Indian Chief Moses, or Moiese. It could have been worse, resident's say Moiese's Indian name translate as "Grizzly Bear at Door."

Chief Moiese was a member of a delegation of Pend d'Oreille, Salish and Kootenai chiefs who met with representatives of the United States in a treaty council in 1855. He was the only chief who did not sign the resulting Hellgate Treaty, for he didn't view land as chattel that could be exchanged.

The treaty ultimately led to the formation of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

It was also a Pend d'Oreille Indian, Walking Coyote, who some historians believe salvaged the seed of the bison herd at the range.

Walking Coyote brought four head over from the tribe's hunting grounds east of the Rockies in 1872. A decade later the buffalo were totally exterminated from the plains and only small herds on the Flathead reservation and in Canada remained. The Bison Range was carved out of the Flathead Reservation by Congressional act in 1908 as one of the first moves by the U.S. to salvage an endangered species.

That spirit of conservation emerged a few years ago in Moiese residents who mustered to protect another endangered resource: the fertile farm lands of the Flathead bottoms. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was examining the possibility of building dams at Moiese and at Buffalo Rapids further up the river.

The Moiese Grange voted to oppose the dam at Moiese and ranchers Carl Moss and Everett Foust led successful community fight to kill Congressional funding for dam studies.

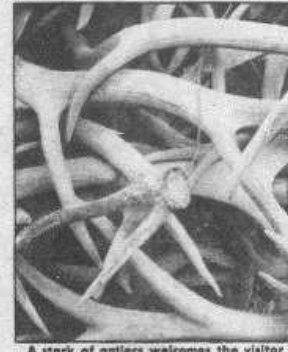
But that was a few years back. Now, with winter coming on and spring crops of winter wheat already sown, most Moiese farmers will settle down to spend with long talks at the Grange north of town. They'll talk about crop, cows and politics, worry a little about next year's irrigation water supply and share the warmth of a community that knows where it has been and where it is going.

Out on the range, the bison, deer and antelope will wait for another tourist season." Western Montana, Missoulian, Sunday, November 22, 1981, page 29.

Photographs that accompanied the above article.



These residents of Moiese neither vote nor pay taxes, but they attract plenty of summer visitors.



A stack of antlers welcomes the visitor to the headquarters of the range.



The National Bison Range is home to this mule deer, one of 250. The range also supports bison, white-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, antelope and mountain goats.



“What we don’t want is for this place to become a zoo. A place where the dependency and conditioning of the animals becomes oriented toward humans. We haven’t reached that point of visitor impact yet but there is a strong suspicion that a certain times of the year we are getting close to it.” Jon Malcolm, Bison Range Manager

## “Profile

You can sink your teeth into this job by Richard Eggert Correspondent

“Moiese – Word has it new employees of the National Bison Range at Moiese are baptized in buffalo milk by way of initiation.

Jon Malcolm has been on the range four months now and still hasn’t wrestled one of the half-ton bison cows for the consecrating bucket of milk. Nor will he have to, probably.

He is the boss.

Malcolm, an 18-year veteran of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service game and bird refuges, became manager of the Bison Range in August. He and former manager Bob Brown swapped jobs, Brown going to Billings to take over Malcolm’s old job as traveling biologist for refuges in Montana and Wyoming.

When the opportunity to take over the 18,500-acre range in Moiese came up, Malcolm “jumped at it,” he said, “because I wanted to get back into the field.”



Malcolm's two-year stint in the Billings Area Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service was his first desk job. "One thing I learned in Billings is that I like being in the field on the refuges a lot better than at a desk," he explained.

Another reason Malcolm grabbed the reins of the Bison Range so enthusiastically was the opportunity to work with mammals. "most refuges in the system are for birds. This is one of the few that is concerned mainly with large mammals and I kind of wanted a crack at that," he said.

The Bison Range comprises a natural community where 300 to 350 bison and some 500, deer, antelope, elk, sheep and mountain goats graze and browse on native plants. Predators and scavengers such as coyotes and eagles scour the range by preying on the dead, dying and weak animals thus maintaining a stable ecological landscape.

If managing the range was just a matter of letting nature take its course, it wouldn't be much of a problem for Malcolm and his five regular and four seasonal employees.

However, it isn't quite that easy, according to the South Dakota native.

The 8-foot-high woven wire fence that surrounds the range is designed to protect the subtle and delicate relationships within from the fast-lane world outside. But the barrier is neither high enough nor strong enough to hold out the modern world.

About 90,000 tourists visit the range every year. Malcolm believes the animals have adjusted to the stress of up to 1,000 visitors a day, but suspects their tolerance for disturbance is about saturated.

Malcolm considers his first obligation as range manager is to maintain stability for the animal and plant populations.

"What we don't want is for this place to become a zoo," he said. "A place where the dependency and conditioning of the animals becomes oriented toward humans. We haven't reached that point of visitor impact yet but there is a strong suspicion that at certain times of the year we are getting close to it."

The animals' breeding and birthing seasons are especially traumatic. For some, these seasons correspond to periods of highest visitor use. Malcolm believes this could lead to visitor restrictions.

Several options are being considered, including charging a visitor fee, limiting the number of cars allowed on the 19-mile circuit tour, or eliminating car traffic to replace it with buses.

Currently, Malcolm said, the only constraint is reducing national publicity about the range. "We are no longer going out of our way to attract visitors."

Visitors are not the only outside influence on the range. Twenty years ago Montana Power Co. built a 230-kilovolt powerline across the Flathead Reservation. The line cut the northern boundary of the range, leaving what Malcolm called an unsightly blight.

Worse, he said, the transmission lines form a utility corridor which could attract more power lines.

Also, the corridor is being considered as a route for the Northern Tier Pipeline, which is scheduled to cross the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Malcolm said he has not yet been asked to comment on the routing of the 42-inch-diameter buried oil and gas pipeline. But “I will strongly urge that they move it outside the range if at all possible,” he noted.

During his two years at the Billings Area Office of the Fish and Wildlife service, Malcolm worked on a study of impact of high-voltage powerlines on waterfowl. A 500-kilovolt line near Billings was found to have taken a massive toll; on ducks, geese and other birds.

Malcolm said that in areas where the transmission lines ran through wetlands, thousands of birds were killed by running into the lines. Then the decomposed bodies created a toxic algae which produced a botulism – a poisonous residue – that killed thousands more birds, according to Malcolm.

However, he does not believe the power line on the Bison Range constitutes this kind of threat. “I certainly don’t want to see anything bigger come through here,” he added.

Weeds are another threat to the range and nearby refuges near Ninepipe and Pablo. During the 1930s, a combination of drought and overgrazing of the range scalded the land and depleted the native grasses. A variety of weeds, including thistle, spotted knapweed and whitetop took over and have plagued the range management ever since

Malcolm said crews are trying to control weeds to protect native grasses but also to cooperate with the state weed control program. The most successful tool is rotating pastures: The range is divided into eight large sections, Malcolm explained, and every year the two herds of about 150 bison each are moved around six sections, leaving two fallow so the native grasses can grow and seed.

Malcolm also fights weeds with herbicides, the main one being 2,4-D, a chemical relative of 2,4,5-T which was banned by the federal Environmental Protection Agency because of a possible link with birth defects.

Malcolm said herbicides are supplemented with biological controls, such as a parasite which attacks thistle flowers. Said the range has about 15 years and is starting experiments with another parasite for knapweed.

The overgrazing of the 1930s made another point: That wild animals protected within a confined environment will expand beyond the means of the land to support them.

“They can’t get through the fence to control population densities, so we have to provide the population control for them,” Malcolm said. Every year the condition of the range is evaluated, and the size of the bison herds is adjusted to fit the graze. The surplus animals are sold during the annual fall roundup.

This year’s roundup was Malcolm’s first. The experience of trying to convince a ton of wool and muscle to consent to being poked, prodded and manipulated gave new meaning to the term buffaloed, he said. And three rules became obvious to him:

“Rule No. 1 is they are bigger and stronger than you and your horse, which means there is no way of making them do anything they are not inclined to do.

“Rule two is that you can herd buffalo any place they want to go.

“And rule three is that any strategy you use only works 5 percent of the time.”

Controlling the populations of other range animals presents different problems. Malcolm said there is usually no problem finding new homes for surplus bighorn sheep, elk and antelope. Those animals are usually captured and given a one-way bus tickets to areas managed by other federal or state agencies.

But deer present a painful dilemma. “It is hard to find anybody willing too go through the cost or trouble to transport our deer and the only other alternative is to destroy them.” Malcolm said.

Surplus deer are shot by range personnel and the meat id donated to public agencies. Malcolm said that about 5 mule and whitetail deer have been targeted this year and another 35 will probably be killed next year.

Last month the range offices were moved from the ancient frame headquarters that had been around for most of the 70-year history of the range to a new granite-slab visitor center and office complex. Exhibits on the ecology and history of the range and biology of the bison will be et up in the new building during the winter for a grand opening in June.

Along with the headquarters switch will be shifts in bison and elk exhibit pastures, so the range crews will be busy through much of the winter modifying the fence.

Malcom does not foresee any policy changes for the Bison Range or any federal wildlife refuge by U.S. Interior Secretary James Watt.

Watt has said he would curb investments in new park lands under the Interior Department and would promote resource development on existing lands. However, Malcolm said, as far as he knows, the integrity of the refuge system is not threatened. In fact, the department is still considering expending the wetlands system.

Malcolm added that he did not anticipate any budget cutbacks for the range in 1982. His first-quarter budget, from October to December, is about the same as last year.

That worry shelved for the moment, Malcolm said he is ready toenjoy “The kind of experience any wildlife biologist would love to get his teeth into.”

December 28, 1981 The Missoulian

**In 1982 a New Visitor Center with displays was opened to the public.**

<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/NBR.HistOutline.pdf>

**“Tribes don’t control buffalo range one year after putting in request**

**Moiese – Last year. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council sought a contract to administer the National Bison Range at Moiese.**

**But so far the 18,000-acre national wildlife refuge is still operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bison Range Manager John Malcolm said all he has heard about the request is what he “read in the paper.”**

The Tribal council took action last fall to seek an Indian Self-Determination Act contract to assume administration of the range. According to a tribal source, this would mean that the lands, which were taken out of the Flathead Reservation by Congress in 1904, would remain federal refuge land.

But the tribes would manage the range under a contract with the U. S. Department of Interior.

Tribal Community Relations Director Claire Krebsbach said that as far as he knows, the action was not being pursued. "It's just sitting there. It is not on anybody's front burner," Krebsbach said.

Malcolm said he has not been contacted by the tribe's, nor has he heard anything about a transfer of administration.

"I would assume the secretary of interior would uphold his duty to administer the Bison Range under the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge system," Malcolm said.

"I know of no precedent that would permit something like this to occur," he added." January 18, 1982 The Missoulian

## "Around Missoula

Lecture titled "Wildlife Management on the National Bison Range," by Jon Malcolm, director of the Bison Range, Tuesday, 7 p. m., in University of Montana's Social Sciences Building, Room 352, sponsored by the UM Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society." February 22, 1982 The Missoulian

## He's got a babe by the horns

By DENNIS JONES  
Correspondent

CHARLO — Sam Bartell's "Babe" is not much for cuddling, nor is she a welcome indoor pet. The closest the 700-pound animal has gotten to the house is when she raised Bartell's mother's eyebrows by ambling through the family garden a few months ago.

The 18-month-old cow buffalo became 18-year-old Bartell's pet after he submitted a high bid of \$250 to his bosses at the National Bison Range.

When he bid on her, Babe was a three-week-old, 50-pound orphan, apparently rejected by her mother at the range. Attempts to have other cows adopt the calf failed — Babe was almost killed by one.

At home on the Bartell 80-acre ranch adjacent to Nine Pipe Reservoir, the bottle-fed calf struck up a friendship with a juvenile golden Jersey cow that shared the inner-barnyard pen. At the same time Bartell and Babe began to develop a cautious relationship and in the last year and a half Bartell has learned a lot about buffalo.

Even when Babe was small there was no question about who was in charge. "She used to knock me down and do a tap dance on me," Bartell recalled.

He had found out the hard way his buffalo didn't like to be cornered. Likewise, Babe has an aversion for ropes. Once, Bartell re-



Sam Bartell gets nose-to-nose with "Babe," his 18-month-old cow buffalo.

DENNIS JONES, Correspondent

called, he tried to rope her and she wound up taking him on a ride through three fences.

Babe remained a bit fickle, and is still even standoffish with Bartell at times, although her attitude toward him almost qualifies her as a one-

man pet.

Now the big and still-growing buffalo has pretty much the run of the ranch. Unlike cattle, Babe can easily vault the fences.

So far it has not become a problem and Babe has not bothered the

neighbors, Bartell said.

Bartell is unsure of how Babe will get along when he leaves the ranch to go to mechanics school after he graduates this spring. But, he affirmed, Babe will not end up in the butcher shop.

May 5, 1982 The Missoulian



Tidbits/Kim Williams

## Molly, the marmot

"Goodbye, Molly," we said. "You're free. Find a mate, make a home, enjoy your freedom."

Molly is the yellow-bellied marmot that has been living at the Humane Society animal shelter since last fall when she was found out on the 93 Strip wandering around between a tire shop and a pizza parlor.

Molly was taken to the animal shelter and lived there in a cage until last Tuesday. That was the day Robin Thompson, manager of the animal shelter, took Molly to her new home, the National Bison Range.

I went along to help say goodbye and to see what was going on this time of year at the Bison Range.

Calving — that's what was going on at the Bison Range. The bison were having babies.

The new visitors' center is in full operation, with a mounted bison front and center, also smaller animals in panoramic scenes.

There is no charge and you can drive your car on a self-guided 19-mile loop.

We drove only a little way up the mountainside because we had a mission to accomplish. But even so, we saw 12 antelope, two pheasants and a Gray (Hungarian) Partridge. The slopes were covered with yellow arrowleaf balsamroot in full bloom. Other flowers in bloom were starflower, death camas, larkspur, lupine and a pinkish-purple astragalus.

Robin had Molly in a wire cage and we carried the cage up a mountainside to a talus slope where a Bison Range naturalist told us there was a colony of marmots.

The marmots had to be the same kind Molly was — yellow-bellied. The kind that live in Glacier Park are hoary marmots. Both hoary and yellow-bellied are some-

times called groundhogs but that term is generally attached to the eastern woodchuck. In the Rockies the term rockchuck is common for the yellow-bellied marmot and whistler is common for the hoary marmot. The yellow-bellied marmot is *Marmota flaviventris*; hoary marmot is *M. caligata*, and woodchuck is *M. monax*.

Marmots hibernate during the winter and come out in early spring. Groundhog Day of course is famous back East. The woodchuck is supposed to come out on Feb. 2, look over the weather situation and then decide whether to go back to sleep or stay out.

I don't know if we can depend on Montana marmots to perform that chore or not. But Molly should find plenty of company by now on the Bison Range. The other marmots should be out eating, playing, exploring.

There seemed to be plenty of food around the talus slope. Marmots eat green plants, flowers, seeds.

At the animal shelter Molly ate "lab blocks" (prepared dry food for small animals), and also carrots, apples and spinach. This wouldn't be too big a change for her diet-wise. Of course at the shelter her food was handed to her on a platter. "You'll have to forage now, Molly," we said, "but you can do it."

"She will," Robin said. "Look at the way she's sniffing the air."

We left Molly on her pile of rocks and climbed back down the mountain. Molly didn't follow.

(Kim Williams is a Missoula naturalist, writer and radio commentator whose column appears every Sunday on this page.)

May 23, 1982 The Missoulian

"Opening of new interpretive visitors' center at the National Bison Range, Saturday. A brief program, open to the public, will be conducted in front of the new building at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the picnic area from 9a.m. to 5 p.m." June 13, 1982 The Missoulian

## Bison Range hosts open house

The National Bison Range in Moiese held an open house June 19 for its new visitors' center. The center features exhibits, including a life-sized stuffed

(as in "taxidermied", not as in "toy" buffalo, and a theatre.

The \$726,000 effort (building, displays and roads) was funded through

the Bicentennial Land Heritage Programs, with money appropriated in 1976 by Congress.

Open officially for the season, the center's hours are 9 to 5 weekdays.



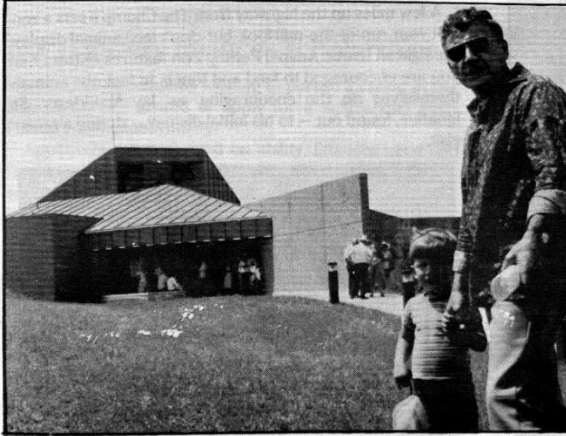
**Speaking dignitaries included Tom Pablo, Tribal Chairman, whose great-grandfather Michel Pablo is remembered for his part in the big buffalo roundup. (We'll put Pablo's speech in the next issue)...**



**... and Orville Lewis, director of Montana's Department of Fish and Wildlife ... and**



**... Robert Jantzen, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who related the Range's history and did the ribbon-cutting honors (below).**



**Pablo and his grandson pose in front of the modern design visitors' center.**



## “Audubon conference set

Bird-watchers and conservationists from throughout the West will meet at the University of Montana Biological Station on Flathead Lake Aug. 16-22 for a regional National Audubon conference.

In addition, tours will be scheduled for Flathead Lake, Glacier National Park, The National Bison Range and the Bob Marshall Wilderness area.

The theme for the conference is “Protecting Our Natural Heritage.” The program will include addresses by the society’s staff officers, discussion groups and workshops, all concentrating on air, water, public lands and wildlife issues.

Registration fee is \$10 for the entire program or \$3 per day. Registration forms and information can be obtained from the National Audubon Society, Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, Colo. 80303; (303) 499-0219.” August 9, 1982 The Missoulian

## “Bison Range to sell 83 buffalo

Moiese – The National Bison Range in Moiese is offering 83 head of buffalo for sale by sealed, competitive bid.

The sale is held annually to remove excess animals and maintain the herd within carrying capacity of the range forage resource. About half of the buffalo for sale are long yearlings, and the remainder are older animals of various ages.

Bids may be submitted until Sept.13, and successful bidders will be required to pick up their animals Oct. 6 to 8, following the annual roundup at the range. Bid sheets and more information may be obtained from the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. 59824, 644-2211.” September 6, 1982 The Missoulian

## Around Missoula

• **Weekly Singles United schedule:** Tuesday — Sun-fun, 7 p.m., Spartan Park, Bancroft and Pattee Creek. Coffee to follow at Don's Restaurant, 1502 Dearborn. Call 251-2980. Wednesday — Bridge, 7:30 p.m., 1007 McDonald. Intermediate players only. Call 728-2425. Thursday — Sun-fun, 7 p.m., Bonner Park, corner of Evans and Beverly; meet by tennis courts. Coffee later at Don's Restaurant. Call 549-3837. Friday — Potluck dinner, 6:30 p.m., 523 Dixon. Bring food, utensils and beverage. Dancing later. Call 549-3279. Saturday — Dancing, 9 p.m., at the Golden Goose in Lolo. Call 549-3837. Sunday — Bison Range tour, 1 p.m. Meet at the Western Montana Clinic east side parking lot, 515 W. Front, for car pool. Bring potluck lunch. Call 549-8387.

September 6, 1982 The Missoulian



# THE NAMES REMAIN

## UM preserves memories of important people by naming buildings after them.

By VIRGINIA VICKERS BRAIN  
Office of University Relations  
University of Montana

At the University of Montana, one of the first things you learn is not to confuse Brantly with Elrod, Miller with Dunning or Jones with Aber. Confuse Elliot with Corbin, and you may find out your date for Saturday night is married.

It's not as important to know who these people are as it is to know where because at UM all dormitories are named after people.

Aide from the dorms, relatively few other buildings have been named in honor of prominent faculty, administrators, alumni or students. But, although the names remain familiar, most students today know little about these people.

### Dornblaser Field

The oldest, and perhaps most familiar, name on campus belongs not to a building but to a site. In 1919 the Missoula Rotary Club suggested UM rename Montana Field, which was then located about where the University Center now stands, in honor of a student athlete killed in World War I. Paul Logan Dornblaser.

Dornblaser was born in Center County, Pa., the son of a German Lutheran minister. He grew up in Illinois and since he always wanted to attend college in the West, came to Missoula in 1919 to join a cousin, Mrs. J. Wilson Moore. Another cousin, I.B. "Be" Harper, also lived in Missoula.

He was the mainstay of the UM varsity football team for four years, alternating as tackle and fullback, and was captain in his junior and senior years, 1923-24.

Of Dornblaser it was said, "Anyone who knows Dorn knows that failure is impossible for the husky bear."

Dornblaser was killed in France by a sniper's bullet on Oct. 7, 1918, as he crawled from a dugout. He was 31.

In 1925 a new Dornblaser Field was created at a cost of \$25,000 on the present site of the Mansfield library and parking lot. It had bleachers on the east and west sides to seat 1,500 people. In 1969 Dornblaser Field was relocated to its present site on South Higgins Avenue.

### Craig Hall

In 1911 Women's Hall, which was built in 1902 as a women's dormitory, was renamed Craig Hall in honor of the university's first president, Oscar J. Craig. Craig Hall served as a dorm for 24 years until Corbin Hall was opened in 1927. Old Craig, which housed 80 women, is now known as the Math Building, and a men's dormitory built in 1953 opposite the Alumni Center is now Craig Hall.

Craig was not the first man to be offered the UM presidency. The State Board of Education first selected Webster Merrillfield of North Dakota, but he turned down the job. On June 3, 1895, Craig, a professor of history and political science at Purdue University, was appointed at a salary of \$2,500, which included travel expenses.

He had a Ph.D. from Wooster College in Ohio and taught in several fields, namely history and philosophy, psychology and literature, and political science.

Craig worked hard to upgrade the level of education in the public schools to prepare students to enter college. He set up a Preparatory School at the university, and, until about 1905, prep students outnumbered the college students. The prep school was dissolved in 1908 by order of the State Board of Education. Craig retired in 1908 due to ill health.

### Corbin Hall

Corbin Hall was named for Frances Corbin, born Jan. 27, 1867, in New York and died Dec. 24, 1971, in Mira Loma, Calif. She was brought to the campus by President Craig from Butte where she was principal of Butte High School from 1885 to 1900 and taught literature.

The first English teacher at UM, she was head of the department and taught English literature for 26 years.

Corbin graduated from the New York State Normal School in 1888. She attended Vassar College in 1890-92 and received a bachelor of literature degree from Ohio College in 1892. According to H.G. Merriam, she was a "gentlewoman of personal charm and dignity."

Corbin Hall was built in 1926 and opened winter quarter 1927. Belle B. Turner, for whom Turner Hall was named, had been the housemother at Craig Hall for many years. She moved into Corbin when Craig Hall was remodeled into a classroom building.

Originally intended to house upperclass women, Corbin served as a women's dorm until the fall of 1939, when it was turned over to upperclass men and New Hall (Turner) opened. Corbin then earned the reputation as the "home of peeping Toms" whose telephones were said to be trained on

Brantly's windows. The population of Corbin included many fraternity men who often serenaded the females of Turner.

### Cook and Simpkins halls

Two other early UM buildings were named after World War I veterans. Cook Hall and Simpkins Hall were both built in 1918 as barracks for the Student Army Training Corps, a forerunner of ROTC.

The former was named after Marcus Cook, a sophomore from Hamilton who was the first UM student to lose his life in the war. The latter was named for James Claude Simpkins, the first UM graduate to lose his life.

Located behind the Forestry Building, Cook Hall was once known as the Journalism Block and was burned down in 1965. Simpkins, which was located between Cook and Main Hall, housed the nursery school, the Little Theater, and the first University radio station. It was torn down in 1960.

### Harry Adams Field House

More than 25 years passed before another building was named in honor of a person — this time for a living person. In 1952 the field house was built and named after Harry P. Adams, a professor of health and physical education and coach of track and field events for 44 years. During his long tenure at UM, he coached hundreds of athletes and turned out many Montana All-Americans.

Adams came to UM in 1915 as a student. He was a three-sport man, playing four years of football, two years of track and one year of basketball for the Grizzlies. He was a member of the renowned football team that tied Syracuse in 1915 and was star football player his senior year.

Adams took time out to go to war and returned to UM and graduated in 1920. He coached UM teams from 1921 until his retirement, except for one year spent at DePaul University and during World War II.

In 1961 he was named to the Helms Athletic Foundation Track and Field Hall of Fame along with only 12 other nationally known track coaches and athletes. He retired in 1966 at age 79 and was named professor emeritus. He died Nov. 26, 1977.

### Dahlberg Arena

In 1970 the field house was renovated, and the newly remodeled arena named for G.P. "Jiggs" Dahlberg, a basketball and line coach for football for 18 years.

Dahlberg began his football career at UM in 1920 playing tackle on the freshman team. One of the lightest members on the line, he never weighed over 150 pounds but was university lineman from 1921 to 1923.

During his senior year, he was captain of the Gray basketball team. Dahlberg earned a B.A. in business administration from UM in 1925. He taught and coached at various high schools throughout Montana and Washington for 12 years after graduation before returning to UM.

He was a football line coach and head basketball coach at UM from 1937 until 1958 and served as athletic director from 1954 until 1961. He taught physical education until his retirement in 1970.

Since his retirement, he has compiled a history of all sports activities at UM from 1887 until 1980. A copy of the book is in the office of the sports information director in the field house.

Dahlberg and his wife, Freda, live at 517 University Ave. in Missoula.

### Scheuch Planetarium

Few people, perhaps, realize there even is such a building on campus. Originally built in 1907 as the Fine Arts Women's Club Building, it now serves as the Alumni Center. But, in the '30s, when the fine-arts department moved into the old student union building, the building was remodeled into a planetarium and named in honor of Frederick C. Scheuch, prominent sky and rhyme with boy.

The dome, which is still visible on the roof, used to extend down inside the building. Once students could sit inside the dome and look at the stars.

Scheuch had the longest teaching career of any of the original UM faculty members. He served as professor of modern languages and secretary of the faculty for 41 years. He attended public schools in Spain and was a graduate of the Gymnasium in Frankfurt, Germany. He received a B.S.E. degree in 1893 and an A.C. degree in 1894 from Purdue University.

Scheuch was acting president of the university three times: in 1915-17, 1919-20 and 1925-26. He retired from teaching in 1936 and went to live in Battle Creek, Mich. In 1937, he was named president emeritus of the university by the

state Board of Regents.

A portrait of him that hangs in Main Hall was a gift to the university from the class of 1917.

### Brantly Hall

Starting in 1955, a number of dormitories were renamed in honor of UM personnel and faculty. North Hall, the freshman women's dorm built in 1923, was renamed for Mrs. Theodore Brantly, the wife of Judge Theodore Brantly, chief justice of the Montana Supreme Court. She served as "social director" or housemother at North Hall for 18 years.

Brantly originally housed 112 women. The rooms were completely furnished except for towels and curtains. Board was \$25 per month, room \$30 per quarter. The women who lived at North were apparently a close group. They formed a North Hall club and held exchange dinners with the residents of South Hall (Elrod) and frequent teas.

### Elrod Hall

South Hall, which is practically a duplicate of North

Brantly, was also renamed in 1955. Rechristened Elrod Hall, it was named for Morton J. Elrod, who joined the UM teaching staff in 1897 and taught for 28 years. Elrod established the Department of Biology and the university's Biological Station at Flathead Lake in 1899.

He was born in 1863 and started his teaching career in Iowa at age 17. Elrod was described as a "naturalist, a restless man of great energy, alert intelligence and high vision." He is credited with bringing about the establishment of Glacier National Park through his lectures and writings and was chief naturalist of the park for eight years during the 1890s. He wrote the park's official guidebook, "Elrod's Guide."

A director of the American Bison Society, he was asked in 1907 to locate a suitable preserve for bison. Based on Elrod's horseback surveys and recommendations, a bill was introduced in Congress by Sen. J.M. Dixon establishing the bison range outside Moscow.

Elrod also was an accomplished photographer. His extensive collection of historical and natural photographs, many of Missoula and the university campus, is housed in the UM archive.

(Turn to page A-3)

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# BPA lines through Jocko find opposition

By RICHARD EGGERT  
Correspondent

ARLEE — One out of 23 people at a hearing Wednesday in Arlee favored routing twin 500-kilovolt powerlines through the Jocko area. He was Vic Matt, who had helped build a 230-kilovolt line for Montana Power along the same corridor.

"I don't see how it hurt anything," he said. But others disagreed, and held out against Bonneville Power Administration's plan to route its high-power lines from Colstrip to the northwest power grid via the Jocko east of Arlee.

Steve Gary, who owns property along the proposed corridor, said that the view of the upper Jocko area is already obstructed by the smaller line. He added that if BPA mounts the 175-foot double-circuit towers along the route, "It would totally obscure everything that has any meaning to me."

Jay Sumner, Arlee wildlife biologist and teacher, said he conducted studies in 1977 on a powerline corridor near Thompson Falls, and found birds fewer there.

Jon Malcomb, superintendent of the National Bison Range at Moiese, said the planned towers would obstruct the view from the bison range, and "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the federal agency that operates the bison range) is on record as opposing this line through the refuge."

Malcomb added that studies indicate high powerlines are a hazard to waterfowl. He said his agency is concerned about ducks and geese in areas such as the Flathead.

Wednesday's public meeting was conducted by the State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation which is examining the Jocko route along with three alternatives identified by BPA.

Bob Robinson, administrator of the energy division of DNRC, explained the agency is looking into the routes to find the least socially and environmentally disruptive.

He said that a March ruling by a U.S. federal district court gave the state the authority to impose requirements of its Major Facilities Siting Act on the federally financed powerlines.

Robinson explained that although the state would have a say in where the lines would be located, "there doesn't seem to be much question that the powerlines will go someplace."

Doug Baty, Dixon, who said he was representing the 80-member Flathead Resource Organization, said that the group not only opposed siting of the lines on the Jocko route but also any of the other three options. "We object to BPA building these lines for a private company at public expense. We don't feel that the lines should be built anywhere in western Montana as a subsidy to Montana Power Company," Baty said.

Two officials of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, John McClure, a tribal councilman, and Dan Decker, a tribal attorney, testified that tribal opposition to the Jocko route was based on the sacred nature of the south fork of the Jocko tribal member recreation area.

Both said that the tribes would not consider granting an easement for another powerline into the area.

Robinson said that the information and comments gleaned from Wednesday's meeting would form the basis of a report the department would submit to the State Board of Natural Resources by mid-February.

“Elk moved to the Yaak area

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks took advantage of the mild weather last Wednesday and transferred 38 elk from the National Bison Range to the Kootenai National Forest land along the lower Yaak River in Lincoln County.

The roundup costs were split by the two wildlife agencies, and the transportation costs for the relocation were picked up by the Libby Rod and Gun Club and the Libby Archery Club.

This elk plant has been on the northwest Montana elk management program since 1980.” January 20, 1983 The Missoulian

“Bison Range sends 38 Elk to Yaak area

Moiese – The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks took advantage of the mild weather last Wednesday and transferred 38 Elk from the National Bison Range to the Kootenai National Forest land along the lower Yaak River in Lincoln County.

The roundup costs were split by the two wildlife agencies, and the transportation costs for the relocation were picked up by the Libby Rod and Gun Club and the Libby Archery Club.” Mission Valley News (St. Ignatius), January 26, 1983

“Two bald eagles killed, mutilated

Moiese – two bald eagles have been found mutilated and dead in southwestern lake County, the apparent victims of poaching.

The eagles were discovered within the last 10 days, according to a U. S. Fish and wildlife Service official.

John Malcolm, manager of the National Bison Range, said the eagles may have been among roughly a score of the birds that winter along the lower Flathead River and Mission Creek.

One of the eagles was found on a private farm west of the Bison Range, and the other was found a few miles north, at Crow Reservoir.

The claws had been removed from both eagles. One also was missing its head and some wing and tail feathers.

Cause of the eagles’ death was not immediately apparent, he said.

“The carcasses have been sent in to our lab in Wisconsin,” for analysis, he said.

Neither bore wing markings that would indicate they were tagged by researchers.

The poaching is under investigation, he said.

Bald eagles are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species act, and the Fish and wildlife Service offers a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the act.

It is also illegal to possess any parts of a bald eagle.

Anyone with any information about the Lake County eagle-poaching should contact the Bison Range headquarters, 644-2211.” February 5, 1983 The Missoulian

## “Regional briefs

Bison Range Visitor Center at Moiese readies for June 19

Moiese – Although the new National Bison Range Visitor Center does not officially open until June 19, most of the historical, biological and range management exhibits have been installed.

The centerpiece of the exhibit area is a full life mount of a bull bison which arrived earlier this month. The bull glares at the main entrance doors from an exhibit which includes preserved range grass and flowers.

According to Range Manager Jon Malcolm, the bison was mounted by Neil Deaton, Newton, Iowa, who is a former Smithsonian Institute taxidermist. He said the mount cost \$10,000

Another former Smithsonian employee, Dan Rhymer, made two dioramas depicting summer and winter life on the range.

Most of the exhibits, which include a history of the buffalo and the bison range, an explanation of how the range is managed and how the bison and other animals on the 18,500 acres of pasture and forest, were made by Design Craftsmen of Midland, Mich.

Included in the exhibits are a film lecture on range biology, a computer game on range management and film show on the annual bison roundup produced by the University of Montana radio and television school.

Malcolm said the entire center, the building, the office portion and exhibits in the visitor section, was funded by the Bicentennial Heritage Program through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The total cost was \$750,000.

Malcolm said the 18-mile self-guided tour of the range would open this spring as soon as road conditions permit. In the meantime, he said, the road is open for the five-mile tour along the north side of the range.” May 3, 1983 The Missoulian

## “Regional briefs

### Bison range begins full operation today

Moiese – The National Bison Range will expand facilities open to the public and extend hours of operation.

Beginning Saturday, the 19-mile auto tour and visitor center will be open daily including weekends and holidays. The tour route will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., while hours at the visitor center are 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. weekdays, and 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. weekends and holidays.

The 19-mile scenic drive should be open through the spring season. However, changing weather conditions could result in a temporary closure. Call 644-2211 for current information.”

May 14, 1983 The Missoulian

## “Elmer L. Torkelson

Hungry Horse – Elmer L. Torkelson, 77 of Hungry Horse, died at his home Wednesday morning of natural causes.

He was born Dec. 30, 1905, at Cylon, Wis., to Albert and Inga Torkelson. In 1910 he moved with his family to Montana, and was raised and educated in Turner. He later farmed near Loring.

In 1935 he married Martha Kuntz at Chinook. The couple moved to the Bitterroot Valley in 1937 where Mr. Torkelson worked as a farmer.

He worked for the state Fish and Game Department near Seeley Lake and then at the National Bison Range at Moiese as a maintenance man.

He and his wife lived near Bigfork from 1955 until moving to Hungry Horse in the summer of 1979.

He was a member of the Hungry Horse Chapel.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and a brother.

Survivors include his wife, Martha Torkelson, Hungry Horse; a son, Dale Torkelson, address unknown; a daughter, Donna Adams, Portland, Ore.; a brother, Henry Torkelson, Merrill, Wis.; three sisters, Esther Sprasky, Stella Schoerner and Mabel Omen, all of Merrill, Wis.; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, 2 p. m. at the Hungry Horse Chapel with the Rev. George Moore officiating. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. Van Leuven Funeral Home of Columbia Falls is in charge of funeral arrangements." June 2, 1983 The Missoulian

## "Around Missoula

Bison Range Edible Wild Plants weekend course by Kim Williams, June 24-26. Fee required. Call 543-8598 or 243-2900." June 15, 1983 The Missoulian

20—Missoulian, Thursday, June 16, 1983

# Land where the buffalo roamed is rich in history

Imagine we are bison, grazing at a pace measured by the greening of spring range and moving northwest 10 miles or so a day.

Numerous carnivores lurk around our herd. We are headed for Judith Gap, between the Big Snowy and the Little Belt mountains, near the center of the Land of Shining Mountains Ecozone. Northward is good grass far into Canada.

We follow the lead of old bulls, calves attending, an animal society on the move according to the sun and the wind and rain. We have traveled from tall-grass prairie to the south and east, up here to mixed-grass plains.

Ahead looms the familiar first range of mountains, the Black Hills that are the southeastern gateway to the ecozone where our mighty herds will summer in the Land of Shining Mountains.

Beyond is short-grass steppe, old glacial bed broken up by many more mountain ranges still aglow with snow in the morning sun. Some ranges are small; some are large: all are volcanically-formed "island" ranges on the high plains. Most of the ecozone will come to be known as "the montana," and then, through the politicking of James Ashley of the U.S. Committee on Territories, Montana proper.

Past the many island mountain ranges, running roughly north and south, is the largest mountain range, the Northern Rocky Mountains, so tall and long that it divides the continental waters east and west to different oceans.

We now approach the southern slopes of the Black Hills of the Dakota. Harney Peak, a pink granite mass at 7,000-plus feet above sea level, equals the altitude of many of the Rocky Mountains.

More enemies converge. Eventually, our herds, 60 million strong, will be decimated, reduced to small bands preserved by the coming government. One of our remaining bands will thrive near the Mission Range of the Rocky Mountains, by a place named Moiese, near Missoula in western Montana.

Imagine we are Blackfoot Indians. We are waiting for the return of buffalo to the territory for which we long have fought. Our scouts are posted on the Square Butte east of the Highwood Mountains, northwest of Judith Gap, in oft-contested land among the warring tribes.

After recent winters, more white people have been arriving with the buffalo. Our ancient way of life is threatened — probably coming to an end.

Imagine we are trappers, cattle herders and pioneers. We have heard of a land rich with grass, wildlife, gold, timber for our homes, coal for heat and the new steam power, drinking water for our stock — a place to plant seeds and put down roots. It is a maze of mountains and prairies. It has wild weather. All of it will significantly shape who we are as human beings. It will influence our diets, bend our behavior this way and that, temper our codes and values.

We moderns inherited a wealth of minerals, timber, farmland, range for cattle, petroleum, coal and, perhaps, most important of all, plain old water in the Land of Shining Mountains.

This is export country. When our raw materials are in demand outside our ecozone, there are more jobs for their removal and in the services that support those jobs. When there are more jobs there is more money and when there is more money there is prosperity. By the same token, when national appetites for our raw materials decline, times get tough here. Sometimes weather causes cycles of hardship.

But, fortunately, the mobility of American society and the natural appeal of Montana's landscapes affect an economically stabilizing power in tourism.



Natural selections  
Lee Boyd

Like most Montanans in the westerly half of the state, I used to think that, excepting the Black Hills of South Dakota, all land east of Lewistown and Billings was an unrelenting flatland clear to the Mississippi River. Then, "sight unseen" as far as Ekalaka went, in Great Falls I signed a contract to teach English and French in Carter County High School, away out in the southeastern corner of the state.

I'll never forget my surprise when my old '33 Ford topped the hill just north of Ekalaka, in August of '63. Just southeast of that cottonwood-studded town are the rambling Ekalaka Hills, nicely green with ponderosa pine, and beyond those hills the deep green long pines stretch north and south among a dozen other picturesque prominences on the prairies. I discovered there is enough timber in the area to support a sawmill and even for the forest to have a porcupine problem. By next spring, I would take on a second job as a tree planter for the Forest Service.

After a trip to the Black Hills, I had followed to its eastern limits the main volcanic activity that marks the beginning of the Shining Mountains Ecozone.

What is the out-of-doors like out there?

It's quiet. In fact, the silence is stunning. Summers

get hot and dry to reputation, but there is catfishing in the Little Missouri River and in many reservoirs. Deer and wild turkey hunting are good. Winters are often vicious — snowdrifts to 100 feet deep have been measured officially. Spring and autumn are the fairest times; a hiker can find dinosaur bones and gizzard stones and wild plums and arrowheads where Indian ponies loved the salt grass.

This gateway to the Shining Mountains, the Black Hills area, is moist enough to support spruce trees, paper birch, pipsissewa, and Venus' slipper, the only pink, single-flowered wild orchid in the region.

Before bison, in a moister era, dinosaurs roamed the long-gone swamps in eastern Montana. In fact, paleontology (the study of ancient forms of life) is a principal attraction of the area. One can find fossil evidence of saber-toothed tigers, three-toed horses and ancient armored fishes. All the bones of a trachodont, formerly an 8-foot-tall, 30-foot-long dinosaur, are assembled and standing in the Carter County Museum in Ekalaka, 40 miles away from the nearest town. A view of that huge skeleton alone is worth a visit to this Montana town with the quaint name of a Sioux woman, "Who Runs Swiftly."

Two "indicator plants" that show we have reached the Shining Mountains homeland are redosier dogwood and lodgepole pine. Francis Parkman, writing "The Oregon Trail," records that Sioux Indians went into the Black Hills for red willow bark for pipe tobacco, and for lodgepole pine framework for their tipis. And Black Elk, the Sioux wise man, related in "Black Elk Speaks" that his people knew about the yellow metal (gold) that soon would draw a flood of more than a half-million people of European descent into the Pacific Northwest. One century later, there are still considerably fewer than 1 million Montana residents. Exporting can support only a limited number of laborers.

According to at least one history, that of Sitting Bull, who with his people was hiding out near formerly volcanic Wood Mountain and the Cypress Hills (just inside Canada, and the northern boundary of the Shining Mountains Ecozone), the buffalo did not return in the spring of 1879. But the area of the gateway to the Shining Mountains is well worth the tour for all Montana outdoors enthusiasts.

(Lee Boyd is a Missoula elementary school teacher and outdoor writer whose column appears every Thursday in the Missoulian's Outdoors section.)

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# Cold, cowboys and Copenhagen

Wrestlers will be taking home memorable images of Montana

By ANTHONY BROWN  
of the Missoulian

Four Japanese wrestlers, a Belgian, three Americans and a Bulgarian athletic official had just visited the National Bison Range near St. Ignace. It was after they had seen buffalo, antelope and bighorn sheep that Kathy Molloy's trouble began: They wanted to discuss international economics.

"It was very difficult," said Molloy, of Missoula, who was an interpreter on the trip. "They wanted to talk about GNP, different kinds of agriculture. It was hard to keep up."

Molloy is a member of the World Schoolboy Wrestling Festival's interpreting corps. With several hundred wrestlers and coaches in Missoula from 11 countries, hers have been among the many agreeable adjustments and accommodations required of people in and around the tournament this week.

Some glimpses of the week follow:

\*\*\*

David Swift, 13, a wrestler from Hardin, has used his free time befriending members of the Japanese team. They are not, he said, entirely like his friends back home.

For instance, Swift said he's found that you don't just waltz into their rooms at the University of Montana's Jesse Hall, where all the wrestlers are billeted. He's learned to ask permission. Same goes for plopping down on their beds. But once those formalities are out of the way, Swift said, things couldn't have been merrier.

"They really like American jokes," he said. "They all know that word — joke."

He said his new Japanese friends are particularly fond of one of the old "gotcha" routines. He puts his hand at the top of their chest and, when they look down, he lifts it, gently tapping their chin — "gotcha."

\*\*\*

At least one of the Italian wrestlers bought a Dallas Cowboys football helmet as a souvenir of his stay....

The mystery of the tournament so far has been the whereabouts of the Swedish team. They have neither arrived nor sent word of their plans. Officials think their registration might have been less formal than first thought....

One interpreter reports that an Australian, without a full briefing on the proper disposal of snuff, had a dizzying first experience with some Copenhagen.

Mary Rodgers, an interpreter for the Italian team, said she's spent a fair amount of time fielding wrestlers' requests to translate introductions to girls....

A tale of two countries: The Japanese team ended its workouts this week with five minutes of silent reflection. On the next mat over, the Americans wound up their workout by running in a large circle, shouting each other encouragement.

\*\*\*

The tournament's security is low-key, but it's there. The Missoula Police Department, which has been planning for this week since January, has around-the-clock shifts at the wrestlers' dormitory and another on duty in Harry Adams Field House during the competition.

According to the department, all officers' vacation and leaves have been canceled for this week, something that hasn't happened in at least 20 years. And, because of the festival's international implications,

the department has made arrangements with the federal Department of Immigration and Naturalization in Helena, which has been in touch with the State Department in Washington.

\*\*\*

Like many of the visiting wrestlers, 14-year-old Humberto Batista of Panama mentions Montana's size as the most striking memory he'll take home. The state is larger than many of the wrestlers' countries.

Also like many of the wrestlers, Batista has been trading everything conceivably tradable. One day this week he wore an "Oklahoma Sooners" jersey while watching his teammates compete. In Jesse Hall, the writing on an athlete's T-shirt is rarely an accurate indication of his home country.

But unlike many of the wrestlers, Batista didn't think this week's 90-degree temperatures were warm enough.

"Too cold," said the Panamanian, through an interpreter.

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Pressure? How about making chop suey for the Japanese and lasagna for the Italians? As the University Center's Executive Chef, Tom Siegel has been feeding people from 11 countries all week.

"We don't know the word 'pressure' around here," Siegel said. "They seemed to like everything pretty well. Actually, the Italians were more interested in the game hen."

The UC's standard menu has been altered, of course. At coaches' requests, Siegel has been offering foods with as little fat as possible. Baking has replaced almost all frying; the salad bar has been broadened; and yogurt has taken ice cream's place. Because the Indian team prefers its milk warm, the service line now includes a bowl of hot water into which their cold glasses are immersed.

But in interviews this week, many of the wrestlers said they had been losing weight for competition, thus eschewing much of what Siegel has prepared.

"That's really been the hardest thing," Siegel said. "One day they'll be on a diet and take almost nothing. The next day they'll want twice what you'd think they'd want. We're never sure how much to make."

As wrestlers' competition ends, so do their diets. Siegel said Friday that the athletes' eating has increased by about 75 percent since the beginning of the week.

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With American Western movies prominent among the nation's exports, many of the festival's visitors arrived in Montana with certain Hollywood-bred expectations and interests. To hear the wrestlers talk, no visit will be complete if they don't see the region's most famous indigenous character — the cowboy.

"It's what everyone expects," said 15-year-old Pascal LeFevre of Belgium. "The movies are shown all over Europe."

Then he added, "John Wayne speaks French."

But some of the visitors also know that Hollywood is, after all, Hollywood. Giichi Ishii, the Japanese team leader, expressed an interest in seeing the fabled horsemen, but at the same time wanted to be certain he could distinguish between a "tourist cowboy" and the real thing.

A Montanan suggested that a bogus cowboy's jeans will be clean. After the interpreter's translation, Ishii was quoted as saying, "Thanks, that will help."

## Scientists visit Glacier Park by Tribune Correspondent

West Glacier – Recreational specialists and scientists from more than a score of nations will attend the annual summer Glacier National Park alumni and friends picnic Sunday.

The 2 p.m. picnic will take place on the front lawn of park superintendent Robert C. Haraden's home.

The international visitors are to be in Glacier for four days attending part of the Seventeenth International Seminar on National Parks and Equivalent Reserves.

Haraden said the seminar is being attended by 40 people responsible for establishing and developing park and wildlife conservation systems and tourist's programs throughout the world.

The month-long seminar started July 31 in Edmonton, Alberta. The group went to Canada's Elk Island National Park and to the Parks Canada training center at Jasper. From Jasper, they visited Dinosaur Provincial Park near Brooks before going to Waterton on Tuesday.

After four days of lectures, tours and hikes in Glacier Park, the group of scientists will continue on to the National Bison Range on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the group will fly to Hawaii, returning to the mainland and Grand Canyon National Park on Aug. 24.

While in Glacier, the group will attend a series of technical sessions on resource management and restoration of natural ecosystems." August 12, 1983 Great Falls Tribune

## “Two Eagle River School holds registration

Dixon – The Two Eagle River School will open Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Registration will be in the morning, with a family potluck picnic scheduled at noon at the National Bison range at Moiese.

Bus routes will run from 15 to 30 minutes earlier than last year. New students may call the school at 246-3598 for bus pick-up times.

Again this year, the school will offer a hot lunch program. Students from low-income families are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and free milk. In certain cases, foster children also are eligible for these benefits.

Application forms for the meal program will be sent home with students at registration. Interested households should complete the form and return it to the school. The information provided on the form is confidential and will be used only to determine eligibility.” September 1, 1983 The Missoulian

## Abner Francis Lott

Moiese – Abner Francis Lott, 80, of Moiese, died Wednesday of natural causes at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

He was born Dec. 22, 1902, in Armourdale, Kan., to Thomas and Orphie Lott. He came with his family to Moiese in 1912, and at the age of 18 began carrying mail to the Moiese area by horseback. He carried mail to Moiese for about three years and then went back to work for the post office in Los Angeles.

He later moved back to Moiese for a short time and then worked in construction throughout the Pacific Northwest. He returned to Montana and worked at the National Bison Range at Moiese from 1931 to 1933 and then again in 1938-39. From 1935 to 1936 he worked at Glacier National Park.

During World War II he worked in construction, and in 1943 he moved back to the family farm in Moiese and had lived there since that time.

On Sept. 3, 1932, he married Joyce B. Norton in Polson.

After his retirement Mr. Lott traveled extensively in Mexico, the Orient, Alaska, Africa, Australia, the South Pacific and other parts of the world.

He was a member of the Charlo Senior Citizens and was active in the Democratic Party.



He was preceded in death by his wife on Oct. 7, 1967, and two brothers, Vivian Lott in 1972 and Harvey Lott in 1981.

Survivors include son, Dale Lott, Davis, Calif.; a stepson, Robert Campbell, Spokane; a sister, Mazie Herman, Spokane; a grandson, Terrance Lott, Davis, Calif.

Funeral services will be Saturday, 2 p. m., in the Shrider Mortuary Chapel in Ronan. Burial will be in the family plot in Mountain View Cemetery in Ronan. The family has suggested memorials to the Lake County Home Health Care Program.” October 14, 1983 The Missoulian

### “Bison Range shortens hours as tourist season ends

Moiese – Shorter days and frosty nights mark the end of tourist season, and the National Bison Range has adjusted its hours accordingly.

The 19-mile drive is now closed for the season. A shorter drive is available through spring as weather and road conditions permit.

When planning visits to the range during the off-season, call 644-2211 for information.” October 26, 1983 The Missoulian

### “Bison Range has hides for sale

The National Bison Range is offering 50 deer hides and 19 whitetail deer tails for sale by sealed competitive bid.

Bids will be opened Feb. 13 at 11 a. m. Anyone interested in bidding should contact the National Bison Range, Moiese, 59824, phone 644-2211.” January 14, 1984 The Missoulian

## “Moiese elk transplanted to upper Yaak River Valley

Yaak (AP) – Twenty head of elk – five bulls, seven cows and eight calves – recently were trucked from the National Bison Range near Moiese to the upper Yaak River Valley as part of an effort to fill a partially occupied range in northwestern Montana.

The state Department of Fish, wildlife and Parks said the animals were rounded up from the range south of Moiese and hauled in a livestock truck. Horns were clipped from the bulls to protect the other animals from injury during the trip, officials said.

One calf was hurt anyway and had to be killed, said information officer Mike Aderhold of the Kalispell regional office.

Officials also have set up an elk trap near Thompson Falls, where herds have increased to the point farmers are having serious problems with them eating haystacks.

Aderhold said the main reason for transplanting elk is to lessen crop damage, not to fill available ranges.

Statewide, elk numbers are at their highest level in more than 10 years, he said.

Any elk captured near Thompson Falls will be released either in the upper Yaak or in the Stryker Lake-Olney area, Aderhold said. A similar plan with surplus Bison Range elk was made a year ago.

Available elk habitat in the Yaak may not be supporting as many elk as it could, he said. Clearcutting of the forest may have improved habitat in some areas by opening it up, although continued road building is leaving fewer and fewer secure places where elk can avoid man.”

February 1, 1984 The Missoulian

# Elk settle in new pasture

By **DON SCHWENNESEN**  
of the Missoulian

**MOIESE** — Fifteen elk scrambled out of a stock truck Friday and loped off into a new home on the Flathead Indian Reservation, just a few miles across the Flathead River from the place where they were born and raised.

The elk were among 35 rounded up as surplus on the National Bison Range and donated to the state of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

The first 20 elk were released in the Yaak Valley last week, although one calf was injured in transit and had to be destroyed.

The second group, including three bulls, seven cows and five calves, was set free in the Ferry Basin area of the reservation near the Jim Nelson Ranch.

The relocation came off without a hitch, although one balky bull delayed the loading operation at the bison range when he decided he'd rather not leave.

The bull, shorn of his horns, eventually was pushed and pulled into the waiting truck.

Frank Acevedo, chief of wildlife and enforcement for the tribes, said the elk will augment a herd of at least 30 already ranging the area.

The relocation should hasten the buildup of elk in the area and "make for better hunting in the future."

However, for now the area will be closed to hunting. The closure will be in effect on tribal lands roughly bounded by Perma, Dixon, Sloan Bridge and Camas Prairie.

Acevedo said the closure will remain in effect at least until September, when it will be reviewed by the Tribal Council.

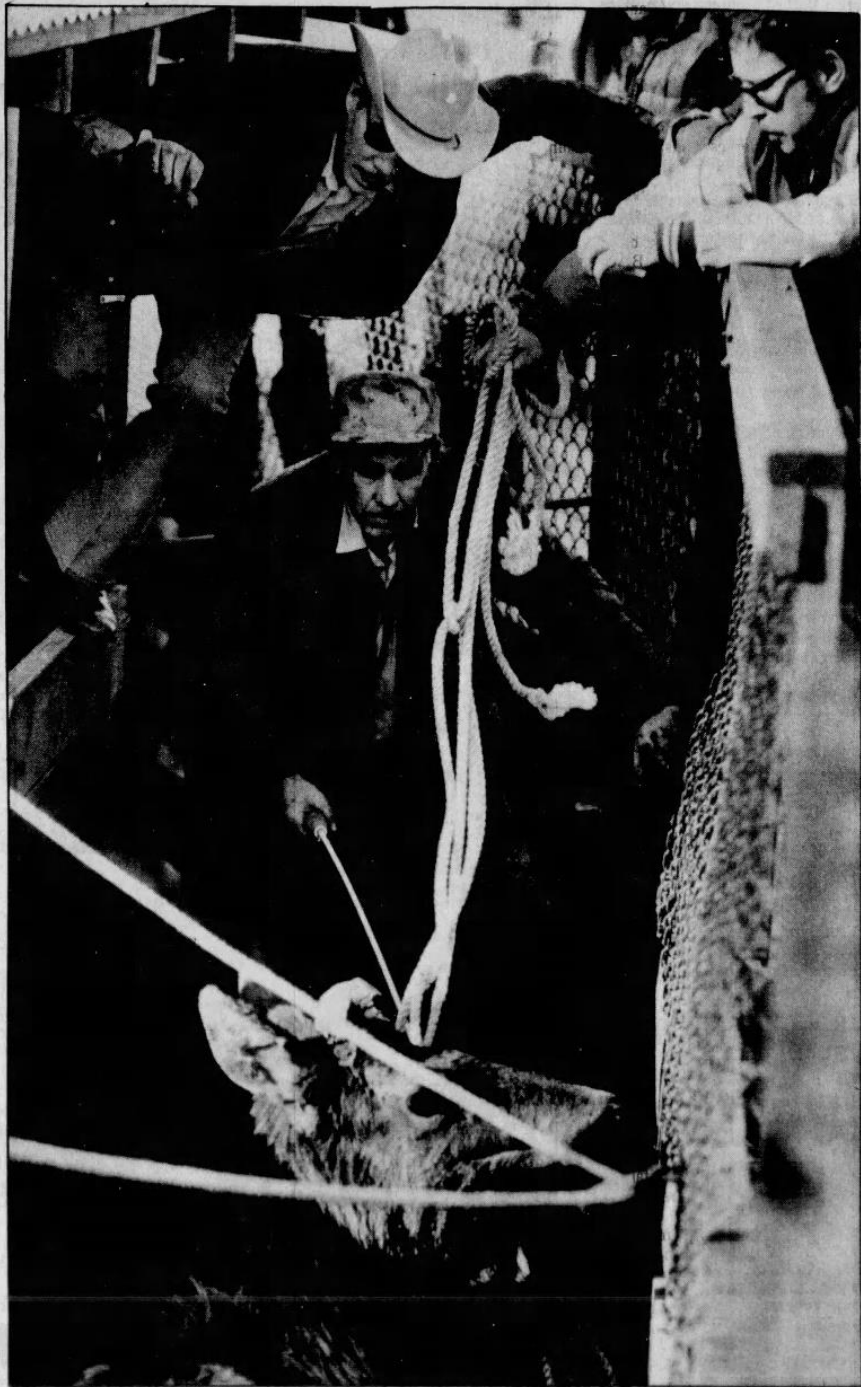
"I'd like to urge people to stay out of this area," he said, at least until the elk settle into their new home.

All of the animals were marked with blue neck collars and/or eartags. Four were equipped with radio collars.

They will be tracked so tribal managers can learn more about their range needs and feeding habits.

Jon Malcolm, manager of the National Bison Range, said the elk herd on the bison range numbers about 130.

He said the bison range should be able to produce about 20 excess elk per year, as long as reproduction remains healthy.



DAN ROOT/Missoulian

Jon Malcolm, left, Ed Krantz, center, both of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jim Claar, Bureau of Indian Affairs wildlife biologist, work the last of 15 surplus elk from the National Bison Range into a stock truck.

## “Conservation Day talks planned in Lake County by Don Schwennesen of the Missoulian

Polson – Lake County’s agricultural community will observe Conservation Day Tuesday with an all-day program at the Riverside Supper Club in Polson.

The annual event honors Ralph R. Tower, a Lake County pioneer farmer and one-time state senator who was a champion of soil conservation. He died in 1975 at age of 94.

Tuesday’s program will feature talks on such diverse topics as oil and gas leasing, county planning and the future of the Flathead Irrigation and Power Project.

The program begins at 10 a.m., with introductory and welcoming remarks by Polson Mayor John Dowdall and supervisors of the county conservation district.

A session on parasites is scheduled at 10:45 a.m.

Jon Malcolm, manager of the National Bison Range at Moiese, will review the management of the range at 11 a.m.

Polson lawyer Don Peterson will discuss oil and gas leasing at 11:20 a.m.

A noon luncheon is sponsored by the Polson Chamber of Commerce and the Polson Rotary Club.

The Farmer of the Year award will be presented at 1 p. m., and a program on plant materials by Larry Holzworth will follow at 1:15 p.m.

The past and future of the Flathead Irrigation and Power Project will be discussed at 1:45 p.m.

Mike Aderhold of the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will review weed control and other management issues on the Ninepipes Wildlife Management area at 2:05 p.m.

An update of county planning efforts will be given at 2:20 p. m. by planner Jerry Sorenson of the county Land Services Department.” February 7, 1984 The Missoulian

“The goats are back

It's welcome news that the mountain goats have been reintroduced to the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness.

Goats were there for many years before poaching and general human impacts wiped them out. The new goats, half a dozen of them, were brought in from the National Bison Range, which seems to grow more hoofed wildlife of every species than it can accommodate.

Here's hoping the goats take a firm foothold in their new home.” February 16, 1984 The Missoulian

# Outdoors

Missoulian, Thursday, February 23, 1984

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Pronghorn antelope and elk are among the big game species found at the National Bison Range.



Benton Lake was created for waterfowl.



Encompassing 89 million acres, 418 national wildlife refuges form the only federal land system set up primarily for wildlife.

## Protection with a footnote



Ninepipe, foreground, and the National Bison Range, upper right, are two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges located in the Mission valley.

Written by GORDON GREGORY  
Correspondent  
photographed by CARL DAVAZ and  
DAN ROOT of the Missoulian

National wildlife refuges are not inviolate sanctuaries. They provide some protection for some species — including at least 68 that are threatened or endangered — but they are not havens. Nor, for the most part, are they pristine.

Much of the 34,500-acre Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in northern Alabama has been poisoned by a DDT factory that for years discharged the insecticide into waters that fed the wetlands reserve.

The manager of the refuge said DDT deposits have cut resident populations of all wading birds 90 percent, and many species haven't been seen there for 25 years.

The Tincum refuge, 17 percent of which lies within the Philadelphia city limits, contains both the last freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania and a 31-acre toxic-waste dump, closed since 1977 but feared to be leaking unknown chemicals.

The Kenai refuge in Alaska has, in addition to its famed moose herds, 45 working oil wells, a natural-gas complex and a pipeline within its borders.

And three-quarters of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge near Las Vegas is one of the U.S. Air Force's most used bombing and strafing ranges. The 1.4 million-acre preserve was established mainly to protect desert bighorn sheep.

The 418 refuges in the country form the only federal land system set up primarily for wildlife protection. Each has a goal.

Some refuges were created to revive select populations of animals reduced by slaughter or habitat losses. For example, the 18,500-acre National Bison Range, west of St. Ignatius, was created in 1908 to preserve a remnant herd of American bison.

The Red Rock Lakes Wilderness refuge in the Centennial Valley in southern Montana was established in 1935 to save the trumpeter swan whose numbers in the lower 48 states had dwindled to less than 100 at the time.

Many refuges were established as islands of habitat for migratory birds threatened by agricultural and urban development.

The Benton Lake, Bowdoin, Medicine Lake Wilderness and Metcalf refuges in Montana were created primarily for the protection of waterfowl — both game and non-game species.

Montana has 20 national wildlife refuges encompassing about 1,085,000 acres. Twelve are satellites of the eight main refuges.

There are 89 million acres of refuges nationwide, and the system is about 15 percent larger than the national park system. Every state — except West Virginia — and each U.S. territory has some refuge land. Alaska's 78 million acres of refuges make it by far the largest shareholder.

The system is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Six hundred of the country's 800 species of birds can be found on refuge land. And most indigenous mammal and reptile species also inhabit the system, which contains every major habitat type in the country.

Teddy Roosevelt created the first 50 refuges by executive order. He intended to create safeports for wildlife.

Thirty years after his distant cousin created the first refuge on Florida's Pelican Island, Franklin Roosevelt established what became the million-acre

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge northeast of Lewistown.

His executive order stated that the area be managed primarily for the pronghorn antelope, sharp-tailed grouse and a balanced variety of other native species.

Yet for decades cattle have annually consumed about two-thirds of the forage. Assistant Manager Larry Malone said recent peak populations of grouse are less than a fifth the number early range surveys thought appropriate. And an environmental impact statement completed in 1980 states that "pronghorns occur sparingly within CMR since there is little suitable year-round habitat."

Malone said the impact statement concluded that "in order to improve the wildlife habitat, we have to reduce the grazing."

But attempts to cut the number of cattle on the refuge were blocked in 1980 when ranchers went to court.

In early 1981, James Battin, U.S. District Court judge in Billings, decided that the refuge was not a franchise for wildlife and that cattle had equal right to forage.

Battin's ruling countered the theme of the refuge, according to Malone. "Refuges are set up for certain objectives. Grazing is not one of those objectives."

The Justice Department appealed the District Court decision and last October the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overruled Battin saying that CMR was created primarily for the benefit of wildlife, not the cattle industry.

This doesn't mean grazing will be reduced, Malone said. The impact statement, completed in 1980, is being revised and should be out by spring or early summer. Public comment will be accepted, and then the Fish and Wildlife Service will decide about the grazing.

Malone said the preferred option identified by the impact statement is to reduce the number of cattle an average of 33 percent, but that decision now lies in Washington.

"All the court did was decide that wildlife had priority," he said. "That leaves open the question: What is priority for wildlife?"

Questions about refuge management are often subject to political answers, something the chief of the refuge system sees as inevitable and in some ways, advantageous.

Jim Gillett, who has headed the Fish and Wildlife Service's refuge division for 18 months, said a common criticism of the system is that it lacks legislation fixing the principles of refuge management policy.

He explained that refuges are somewhere in the middle of a management spectrum represented by the largely hands-off approach of the wilderness system and the multiple-use philosophy of the Forest Service.

That is, while each refuge has a set of goals, how those goals are reached and what non-wildlife activities and practices are allowed are decided case by case.

The criterion all management practices must meet, Gillett said, is the "compatibility standard." This refers to a 1966 law that says the Secretary of Interior may allow any activity on a refuge if he believes the activity is compatible with the primary purpose of the refuge.

That thinking forbids hiking and camping at the National Bison Range, where visitors are restricted to a few roads through the area. However, CMR not

## Montana's refuges

Most of the refuges in Montana, as throughout the country, were established principally for the protection and propagation of waterfowl.

The million-acre Charles M. Russell refuge near Fort Peck Lake is an exception. It was created for dry-land animals such as the pronghorn antelope and sharp-tailed grouse.

The 18,500-acre National Bison Range, west of St. Ignatius, is the domain of about 400 head of American bison.

The six other main Montana refuges are devoted primarily to waterfowl. The refuges are:

- The 12,400-acre Benton Lake refuge 15 miles north of Great Falls.

- The Red Rock Lakes Wilderness refuge, whose 40,000 acres lie in the Centennial Valley in southern Montana.

- The 2,700-acre Lee Metcalf refuge just north of Stevensville.

- The 15,500-acre Bowdoin refuge seven miles east of Malta.

- The Medicine Lake Wilderness refuge, whose 31,500 acres are tucked into the northeast corner of the state 25 miles south of Plentywood.

- The 1,500-acre Swan River refuge at the south end of Swan Lake, which is managed in conjunction with the 4,300-acre Northwest Montana Wetland District near Kalispell.

only allows grazing, but hunting, fishing and even a substantial amount of seismic exploration within its borders.

This open-ended management makes refuges "basically products of our political system," Gillett said. "And we're never going to get away from that pressure."

Gillett believes the pressure, while "making management more difficult," reduces the tendency for snap judgments or poorly thought-out policies.

"It keeps us on our toes," he said.

Wildlife management is a complex science and refuges have been great laboratories. Much of what is known about the dramatic and the often more critical subtle play of animals and their surroundings has come from refuges.

Some of the knowledge is a result of active research, but much has come from trial and error.

Errors have hurt the Bowdoin and Benton Lake refuges, which may lose important waters because of management practices begun decades ago.

Before 1929, when the Benton Lake refuge was established north of Great Falls, insufficient water

existed to support waterfowl four out of five years.

So the lake was plugged and water was pumped, piped and channeled. A 8,000-acre lake was created and waterfowl production shot up.

But the waters gradually became more salty as evaporation left behind salts and other solids.

As the lake became saltier, a chain of events began that, decades later, led to the poisoning of tens of thousands of birds.

As the water became richer, algae and other tiny aquatic plants became abundant. Today, Benton Lake carries several inches of a greenish algae mat for a part of most summers.

When this pea soup of algae dies, the decomposition of all that vegetation can use so much of the water's oxygen that small aquatic animals suffocate. The bodies of these small animals are ideal mediums for botulism which can then infect the birds.

A multiplying effect begins when a few birds die. Their carcasses become infected with maggots, some of which are deadly. When a bird feeds on an infected carcass it dies and its body becomes both a haven for more maggots and a poisonous food source for other birds.

This cycle of death has been called western duck sickness or alkali sickness and has claimed as many as 20,000 birds a year at Benton Lake, according to manager Robert Pearson.

The cycle can be broken if dead birds are picked up promptly. Pearson said this reduces the yearly kill at the refuge to a few hundred.

Dry Lake and Bowdoin Lake, on the Bowdoin refuge near Malta, have similar problems, also caused by the diversions that closed the lakes decades ago.

The lakes have become so alkaline much of the freshwater vegetation has been replaced by salt-tolerant species and "the refuge has become less attractive for nesting waterfowl," Gene Sipe, Bowdoin's manager, said.

Sipe said the annual duck population has declined 50 percent and will continue to drop unless a solution is found. That solution, he believes, will be to sacrifice Dry Lake, making it a sump for water flushed from the larger Bowdoin Lake. The flushing will accelerate the alkalization of Dry Lake, but it will slow the process on Bowdoin.

"We've learned a lesson," Sipe said. "More water isn't necessarily good."

Refuges cannot exist as separate entities. They are affected by goes on around their borders, and what's good news for neighboring property owners may be bad news for refuges.

For example, an irrigation project northeast of Stevensville may reduce water supplies to the Metcalf Refuge which borders the Bitterroot River.

The \$2.8 million project will convert the flood irrigation practices used by many area ranchers to a gravity-fed sprinkler system.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation estimates the new system will save about a third of the water now used for irrigation in the area. But that savings, said Metcalf manager Bob Twist, is the refuge's loss.

Twist said flood irrigation charges the soil with water which flows underground into the refuge during the late fall and winter. That water is needed because the refuge's main above-ground water supply comes from an irrigation ditch that is shut off by mid-fall.

Twist believes the reduced ground water could affect 125 acres of refuge marsh. "I'm sure at some time the water level will be very low," he said.

“Fishing areas restricted at Ninepipe, Pablo refuges

Moiese – To prevent disturbances to nesting Canada geese and other waterfowl, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has closed portions of Ninepipe and Pablo Refuges to fishing, through July 15.

At Ninepipe, fishing will be permitted only on the west and north shorelines from the picnic area to Allentown bridge, except the central portion of the north shore (nine-tenths of a mile) as posted.

Fishing is permitted on the Pablo Refuge only along the north and east shorelines from the inlet canal to the south end of the dam.

Fishing regulations and maps are available at Ninepipe and Pablo, and all closed areas are posted. All closures will be strictly enforced. For more information, contact the National Bison Range at 644-2211.” March 8, 1984 The Missoulian

### “Teachers to learn how to use outdoors

The National Bison Range will hold its seventh annual Outdoor Education Workshop for area teachers on Saturday, April 28.

Each spring this workshop helps teachers find ways of using the outdoors in their regular teaching programs. It also helps new teachers get to know others who are involved in outdoor education.

Copies of the information sheet and application forms will be mailed to all area school offices on March 19. The workshop is open to all people involved in education. There are 11 separate hands-on learning seminars with activities to be used with students of all ages (K-12).” March 9, 1984 The Missoulian

### “Gladys C. Young

Gladys C. Young, 75, of 701 39<sup>th</sup> St., Missoula, died of natural causes April 5 in a Mesa, Ariz., hospital.

Mrs. Young was born Oct. 11, 1908, in St. Paul, Minn., to Eugene T. and Ida Gillis. She was raised and attended schools in St. Paul and Minneapolis and worked for the Street Railway Co.

In September 1934 she married Clarence G. Young in Minneapolis. The couple moved to Montana and eventually to Moiese, where she was employed as a clerk at the National Bison Range. She and her husband moved to Missoula in 1968 following her retirement. Her husband died in April 1978. For the past several years she had spent the winter months in Arizona.

She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Missoula.

Survivors include a son, Ron, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; three brothers, Harry Gillis, Oakland, Calif.; Eugene Gillis, Seattle; and Richard Gillis, Miami; a sister, Margaret Schambach, Vienna, Va.; and three grandchildren.

Rosary service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Squire Simmons & Carr Funeral Home. Mass of the Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Holy Family Catholic Church, 4616 Gharrett St. with the Rev. Emmett Kelly as celebrant. Burial will follow in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Rod Wamsley, David Young, Daniel Young, Harry Gillis, Eugene Gillis and Richard Gillis.

The family suggests memorials to Missoula County Heart Association, 3317 W. Central Ave., Missoula 59801.” April 11, 1984 The Missoulian

### “Regional briefs

Walk against hunger scheduled for May 5.

Dixon – A walk to help fight hunger will be May 5 \in the Mission Valley area, with proceeds going to Mission Valley Food Pantry and the Missoula Poverello Center.

The walk will begin at the National Bison Range picnic area and will cover miles through Moiese Valley, ending back at the picnic area.

Starting time will be 8 a.m., and checkpoints will be set up to monitor the walk

A potluck lunch will follow the walk.

Children may join if hey have written parental permission.

Sponsor sheets are available from area stores and through the walk’s organizer, Sandra McDonald, Star Route, Dixon. McDonald said the event can use more volunteer organizers.”  
April 17, 1984 The Missoulian

### “Montana briefs

Bison range gears up for summer schedule

Moiese – As wildflowers, buffalo calves and warmer days mark the beginning of visitor season, National Bison Range hours are adjusting accordingly. Beginning May 12, all facilities will be open daily.

Visitor center hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends and holidays. The 19-mile scenic drive will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., weather and road conditions permitting. As day length increases, hours of operation will be extended.

For more information, contact the range at 644-2211.” April 29, 1984 The Missoulian

### “Dorothy Victoria Cramer

Kalispell – Dorothy Victoria Cramer, 78, of Kalispell, died Sunday evening of natural causes in the Bigfork Convalescent Center.

She was born Aug. 19, 1905, in Lewistown, to Frederick and Laura Shafer.



On Jan. 6, 1928, she married Oscar E. Cramer in Winnett. The couple lived in Joplin for a time before moving to the Moiese Bison Range. They moved to Kalispell in 1922.

Mrs. Cramer was employed with the Wilson café and White Star Café in Kalispell. She later worked as a clerk at J. C. Penney, Singer Sewing Center, Coast to Coast and the Kalispell Mercantile. During World War II she had worked as a draftsman in a shipyard in Kirkland, Wash.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church, where she was active in the vacation bible school, Ladies Aide Circle and the Worldwide Guild. She also helped in the construction of the church by doing perfoliating and painting.

She was preceded in death by a daughter and a brother, both in infancy, and another brother, Albert, in 1977.

Survivors include her husband, Oscar, Kalispell; three daughters, Hazel Jean Hill, Longview, Wash.; Shirley Mae Sutton, Kirkland, Wash.; and Rosa Lee Wood, Kalispell; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. William Reid officiating. Burial will be in Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery under the direction of the Johnson Mortuary in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorials to the Cancer Fund or Flathead Hospice.” June 14, 1984 The Missoulian

## Business briefing



**Jeff Cole  
of the Missoulian**

### Montana/Northwest

**Phones and a photograph** found common ground last month in the Wall Street Journal — and there's a western Montana connection.

Emblazoned with the heading "Bring on the Competition," the Journal featured a full-page phone-company ad with a huge reprint of a National Bison Range photo by regional shooter Harley Hettick.

The picture, taken near Moiese in 1972, is a powerful shot of two buffalo bulls in a head-to-head duel.

Since Hettick, 42, is something of an anti-establishment type — and since U.S. West is the major corporation that owns what used to be the western end of AT&T — the circumstance with the photo is more than a little ironic.

"It's kind of wierd, isn't it?" remarks Hettick, who has no phone.

Hettick relies on phones at friends' houses to receive messages, which apparently slowed efforts to reach him by the phone company's ad agency, Fallon McElligott Rice of Minneapolis.

The agency finally left a message at the Dixon Post Office and Hettick negotiated a contract that gives the agency one year of rights to the photo for display in business publications like the Journal, Barron's and Fortune. (Hettick won't say how much he got, but he smiles when asked about the amount.)

He's already selling prints of the bison to Eastern business people (at \$450 a print) who have seen the advertisement and that was the idea in keeping his name with picture.

It might be courtesy of the capitalist machine, but, Hettick says, "That's the kind of publicity I always needed to get that print off the ground. I know it's a good print."

Bring on the  
competition.



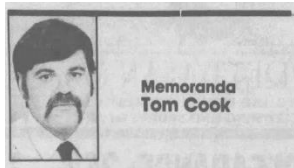
USWEST

## “Combat photographer

The June 28 issue of the Wal Street Journal featured a full-page advertisement sponsored by page sponsored by several regional telephone companies and illustrated by two battling buffalo bulls and “Challenging “Bring on the competition.”

The photo was taken at the National Bison Range at Moiese, Mont., by Harley Hettick, who grew up in Bismarck and worked for The Missoulain in Montana before becoming a free-lance lensman.

Although the original hangs in the Bismarck real estate office of Hettick’s father, Fred, who subscribes to The Wall Street Journal, it was a fellow church member who spotted the credit line on the photo and pointed it out to Fred.” July 18, 1984 The Bismarck Tribune (North Dakota)



## “Even the governor couldn’t fix these traffic tickets

Helena – Gov. Ted Schwinden failed in a recent attempt to put the fix for two traffic tickets received by a couple of California motorcyclists.

Seems the governor was wandering among the crowd at the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America rally July 13 in Missoula when he overheard a couple of bikers rumbling about being ticketed while touring the National Bison Range in Moiese.

The bikers complained that the promotional packet they were given as part of the rally told them to be sure and see the range without mentioning that motorcycles are illegal there.

Overhearing the plight of the visitors to his state, Schwinden identified himself and told them he would try to do something about it.

Calls to the refuge manager and his superior in Iowa failed to get the issue resolved.

So the governor finally finally sent a \$50 personal check to Frank and Linda Boyle of Culver City, Calif., to cover the coast of the tickets and included his personal apology.

Sometimes you just can’t fight city hall, no matter who your friends are.” August 5, 1984 The Missoulain

## “Number of visitors down at bison range

Moiese – The U. S. Fish Wildlife Service has reported that visitor numbers at the National Bison Range this July decreased 42 percent from

July 1983.

Range manager Jon Malcolm said traffic counters revealed an estimated 24,500 visitors to the Bison Range this July compared to 42,300 for the same month a year ago.

Total visitors for the year to date have been 60,500, down 2 percent from the 84,400 logged at this point last year.” August 15, 1984 The Missoulian



August 11, 1984 The Missoulian

“Weeds will be focus of refuge, range tour

A tour through the Ninepipe Wildlife Refuge and National Bison Range Monday evening isn't designed to show off the beauties of wildlife

It's to show off weeds.

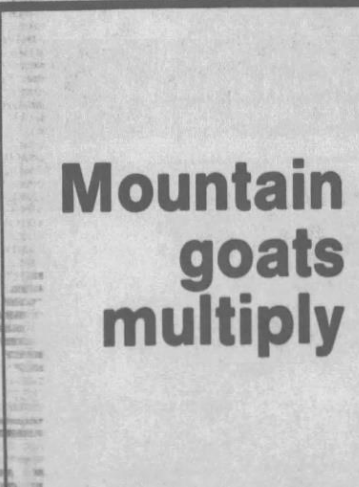
Those interested in the tour, organized by three county extension offices, can meet at 5 p.m. at Ruby's Café, four miles south of Ronan on Highway 93. From there the tour will wend through the refuge, where Don Shepard of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will discuss cooperative weed management in Lake County.

Next is the National Bison Range near Moiese, with goatweed and daimation toadflax taking center stage in a discussion of noxious weeds and grazing management.

The tour wraps up at 7:30 p.m. at a covered shelter in the bison picnic area, where a free picnic supper will be provided along with time to visit with extension agents and other speakers.

The public is invited; no advance registration is necessary.

For more information, people may call Roxa French at the Missoula County Extension Office, 721-5700.” August 20, 1984 The Missoulian



## Mountain goats multiply

By STEVE WOODRUFF  
of the Missoulian

A decade-long effort to re-establish a population of mountain goats along Rattlesnake Creek north of Missoula appears to be working.

A small band of goats released in the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area is thriving in its new home, Bill Thomas of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks said Monday.

Six goats — two nannies, three kids and one billy — were captured in the National Bison Range near Moiese, and released in the Rattlesnake area Feb. 5.

The two nannies gave birth to three kids this spring, increasing the total number of goats to nine, Thomas said.

Biologists placed collars containing radio transmitters on the two nannies, allowing wildlife managers to track the animals. Biologists check the location of the goats each month. The animals are spending the summer in the rugged country between Pilcher and High Falls creeks, Thomas said.

The cliffs along Rattlesnake Creek were once home for 50 or more mountain goats. But a road built along the creek in the early 1960s provided easy access to the area, and the goat population was eliminated through poaching and over-hunting.

The Forest Service closed the road along Rattlesnake Creek to motorized vehicles last year, and no mountain goat hunting is allowed in the drainage.

State and federal agencies had made several attempts to reintroduce goats to the Rattlesnake, but last winter's release was the first success.

The goat-stocking project is a cooperative effort involving Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Forest Service, National Bison Range, and the University of Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

August 21, 1984 The Missoulian



MAGGIE PLUMMER/Correspondent

Visitors fan out across the National Bison Range near Moiese Monday evening as part of a tour of weeds.

## Weed inspection 100 people tour valley to coordinate efforts

By MAGGIE PLUMMER  
Correspondent

MOIESE — A caravan of about 35 vehicles wound its way through the Ninepipe Wildlife Refuge and the National Bison Range Monday evening, but not in search of wildlife.

Weeds were the big draw on a tour sponsored by the Western Area Weed Council.

According to Lake County Extension Agent Ed Bratton, who coordinated and led the tour, more than 100 people participated in the event, and they represented "a real good cross-section of people."

"The purpose of this tour is to get people who are in positions of managing land to get a cooperative weed control program going," Bratton said. "We all have to work together."

Tour participants included Rep. Ray Jensen, R-St. Ignatius, and Lake County Commissioner Harold Fitzner.

Speakers during the tour included Bratton, Ninepipe Manager Don Shepard, and Bison Range Assistant Manager Hugh Null.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council member Mickey Pablo attended the

tour, and said the most important thing is to make people aware that there is a problem, and getting people to work together.

"The tribal council has been shown the weeds, and I think we're moving in the right direction," he said.

At one of the tour stops in Ninepipe, Bratton described the state land as looking "the best I've seen it for twenty years, and better than that."

He said that Canadian Thistle used to grow "up to your shoulders," but now the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department is "doing a beautiful job out here."

During the last few years, the department has begun to once again lease out refuge land at Ninepipe to area farmers. According to Bratton, the policy shift has made "a terrific difference out here."

In Ninepipe, the main problem weeds have been Canadian thistle and whitetop, and in the National Bison Range, the problem is goatweed.

As the weed tour group traveled through the bison range to the East Basin area, reddish brown streaks of goatweed on the hillsides drew the tour's attention.

Null described the bison range weed control program as long-term, due to strong infestation of goatweed.

"This didn't develop overnight, and it won't be dealt with overnight," he said. "It's gotten much worse during the last two years, and our biological control program just hasn't worked for the long haul."

According to Bison Range Manager John Malcolm, the biological program has been to bring in chrysolina beetles, which eat goatweed.

"In some climates it works real well, but here the beetles don't survive as well," he said Tuesday. "They've never been effective enough here to really provide good control."

Malcolm added that while the Bison Range staff is "trying to get funding for more studies and more experimentation with different methods of weed control, we feel we're going to have to do a certain amount of spraying here."

Monday evening's tour was followed by a free picnic supper sponsored by Dow Chemical Company and Cornbelt Chemical Company.

# Duck, goose hunting looks promising

By **DON SCHWENNESEN**  
of the Missoulian

**MOIESE** — Duck and goose hunters will find slightly larger numbers of waterfowl in western Montana Saturday when the migratory waterfowl hunting season gets under way one-half hour before sunrise.

But that's no guarantee the area's hunters will have good luck. In past years, waterfowl often have taken to wing with the first hunter salvos and flown to sanctuary in area wildlife refuges closed to hunting.

More than 3,600 Canada geese are scattered throughout the Flathead, Mission and lower Clark Fork valleys, according to Hugh Null of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who took part in census flights this week.

"It's looking real good this year," said Null, assistant manager of the National Bison Range. "For this time of year, it looks a little high."

He said numbers usually peak around mid-October, although there is no clear pattern in the records.

Mike Aderhold of the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Kalispell added that the counts show migrating birds are already moving into the area to swell the resident waterfowl population.

"This weather has pushed some waterfowl into this area," he said, while declining to speculate about whether an early winter may follow

the birds.

Null said ducks and geese seem well distributed this year. He said 955 Canada geese and seven snow geese were counted on the Ninepipe refuge, along with 12,000 mallard ducks, 10,000 redheads and 10,000 ducks representing eight other species.

At the Pablo refuge, 947 Canada geese were spotted, along with 4,200 mallards, 4,300 wigeons, one tundra swan and some 5,500 other assorted ducks.

At the Flathead waterfowl production area along the northern end of Flathead Lake, 922 Canada geese were counted. Another 30 were along the lake's west shore, while 315 were in the Polson Bay area.

About 115 geese were at Mud Lake near Creston, 180 were on McWinnegar Slough east of Kalispell, and 57 were at Smith Lake west of Kalispell. Another 35 were at the Swan Lake wildlife refuge, and a dozen more were along Swan Lake or the lower Swan River.

Null said only 10 geese were seen along the lower Flathead River between Moiese and Dixon, but 144 were observed between Plains and Thompson Falls, and another 22 were between Thompson Falls and Noxon.

The lowly coot was the most abundant waterfowl in the area. Null said there were 8,700 coots along the north end of Flathead Lake, 18,000 on Pablo refuge and 24,000 on the Ninepipe refuge.

## “Roundup begins today at Bison Range

Moiese – The annual bison roundup gets under way Monday at the National Bison Range.

The entire herd of more than 400 bison and calves has already been moved into pastures near the range headquarters.

Monday and Tuesday the buffalo will be moved through range corrals, where calves will be branded, heifer calves will be vaccinated against brucellosis, and other animals will be tested to ensure the herd is free from the disease.

The roundup is open to the public. It has drawn as many as 5,000 visitors in past years, according to Susan McCollom, refuge assistant.

This year 68 animals will be cut out of the herd for buyers who purchased them by sealed bid. Each year surplus buffalo are sold, to keep the herd size in balance with the forage available on the 19,000-acre refuge.

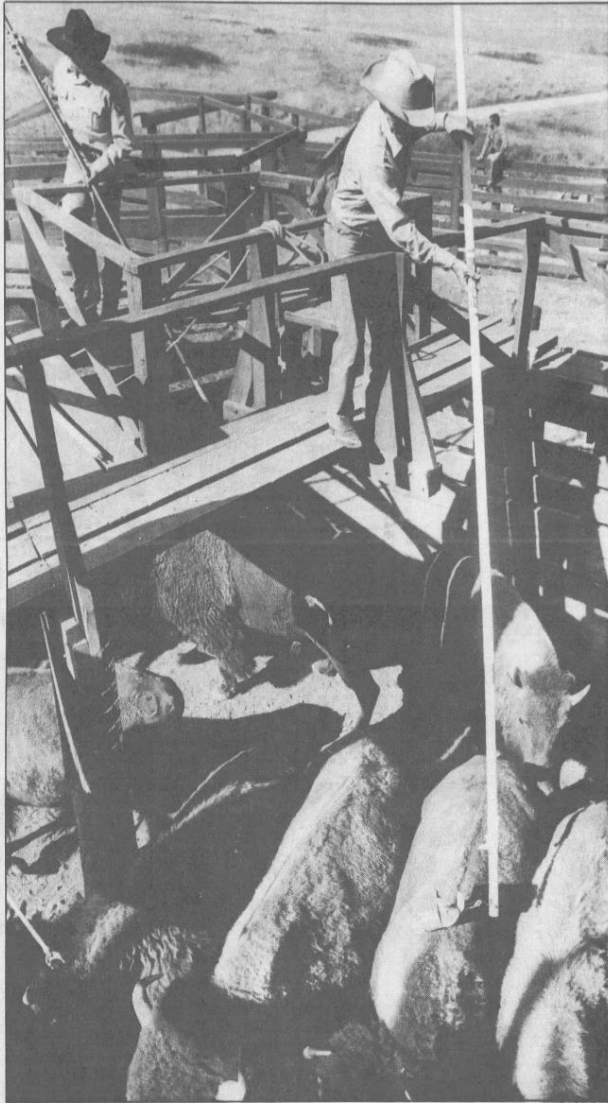
Buyers paid an average of \$589.95 each for the animals in sealed bids opened Sept. 10. The bison are sold by age class and sex, with animals going to the top bidders in each class.

A seven-year old bull brought this year's highest bid of \$1,035 while a yearling heifer was the best bargain at \$431. She was one of 13 yearling heifers that brought an average of \$500.55 each. The highest bid for a yearling was \$751.76.

Some buyers will butcher their bison for specialty meat, while other will add their animals to private herds.

Roundup activities are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.” October 1, 1984 The Missoulian





DAN ROOT/Missoulian

Ernie Kraft, right, and Darren Thomas, both from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, use long poles with crushed cans attached as noise makers to herd individual bison into a chute, where they are vaccinated and sorted.

## 'Being a little crazy helps'

Crew members master bison during annual roundup

By MAGGIE PLUMMER  
Correspondent

MOIESE — Dust billowed Tuesday afternoon as groups of bison thundered across the hills and into corrals for inspection, inoculation, and branding during the annual roundup at the National Bison Range here.

Gruff cries of "Hee-yaw, get around there!" filled the air as the 25-member crew of range employees and volunteers poked and prodded the huge creatures through the process.

Deep-throated bellows and loud thuds rose from the corrals where some of the powerful animals protested violently against their annual ordeal.

One bull simply climbed his way over a fence into a different pasture after he was released. "I guess he knew where he wanted to go!" exclaimed an excited observer.

Cars, pickup trucks, and school buses raised their share of dust as visitors streamed up to the range corrals to watch the wild animals put through their paces on the clear fall afternoon.

Bison Range Assistant Manager Ed Merritt guessed this year's visitor total for the roundup was about 3,000. "It's been as high as 5,000 other years," he said, speculating that the early cool temperatures this autumn could have discouraged the

curious.

The heaviest animal weighed in this year was a 1,925-pound 12-year-old bull, Merritt said.

During the roundup, all of the bison are vaccinated for leptospirosis and are treated for grubs and lice. All of the calves are branded, and heifer calves are vaccinated for brucellosis as well.

Surplus bison that have been sold by bid are singled out and corralled separately. This year's highest bid was \$1,035, and last year's was \$930.

Veteran bison-herder Grant Hogge said that in his 31 years of riding in the roundup, this year's operation was one of the best. "The weather was real cooperative and the animals were good," he said. "Everything seemed to go a little smoother this year."

Hogge, a full-time U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee, has had two horses "hooked out" from under him during other roundups. "We just didn't get out of the road fast enough," he explained. "I got off and ran — you bet your life I got out of there."

He describes the bison as "just wild animals" that will fight if they get cornered or tired. Asked why he keeps performing the most dangerous task on the bison range, he said "being a little crazy helps."

## “Bison Range hours of operation altered

Moiese – Hours of operation at the National Bison Range here are going through their seasonal changes, with the 19-mile scenic drive closing at noon Oct. 20.

According to Boson Range Manager Jon Malcolm, the Visitor Center, the Buffalo Prairie Drive, picnic area, nature trail, and bison display pasture remain open as long as weather and road conditions permit.

Visitor Center hours are now 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays only. The center is closed on all holidays and weekends.” October 14, 1984 The Missoulian

## “Montana briefs

Bison Range sells elk and deer antlers

The National Bison Range sold 870 pounds of elk and deer antlers Friday.

The sale through sealed bids raised \$3, 247.50. According to refuge manager Jon Malcolm.

Malcolm said that one very nice pair of elk antlers sold for \$125. Buyers included horn dealers, as well as artists. Malcolm said, adding about 15 people participated in the bidding.

The antlers were collected from the range, and proceeds from the sale go to the National Wildlife Refuge Fund.” February 6, 1985 The Missoulian

## “Community briefs

Outdoor education workshop scheduled

The 10<sup>th</sup> semiannual Outdoor Education Workshop for teachers is scheduled Saturday, April 20 at the National Bison Range in Moiese.

Participants will meet at the warehouse inside the main gates at 8 a.m. The workshop will end about 6 p.m.

The workshop will give teachers of all subjects and grade levels ideas on using the outdoors as a classroom. People involved in outdoor educational programs will share skills and materials they have used successively.

The workshop will take place at the bison range and at the Pablo and Ninepipe Wildlife Refuges. Participants may choose one of the following options:

Project Wild/Nature Trail activities. Maximum: 20 teachers (kindergarten-sixth).

## Visitors confused? This guide will keep 'em that way

With summer here, many of you will have friends and relatives from around the country visiting and asking questions about the names and backgrounds of various western Montana points of interest. Here's a brief rundown so you won't have to fumble for the right information.

● **Missoula:** Interpreted in many ways since the city was founded in 1926, the Indian word "Missoula" is thought by knowledgeable historians to mean "place of many automobiles, few parking spaces and numerous muttering motorists." Because of the complexity of its traffic jams — as well as the ever-increasing sound of rock music, sonic booms, screeching tires and ambulance and police sirens — Missoula also is known as "The Hubhub of the Five Great Valleys."

● **Clark Fork River:** Named after the explorer Clark Fork, who, on behalf of President Jimmy Carter, spent the latter part of the 1970s daringly opening up the vast territory between the Happy Bungalow and Fred's Lounge. Fork's wife, Louisiana, and daughter, Sacajawea, spent several days exploring the Southgate Mall in a costly expedition that came to be known as the Louisiana Purchase.

● **93 Strip, including Malfunxion Junction:** Designed and built by freshman engineering students at California Polytechnic Institute in 1964, the 93 Strip was rolled up and trucked to Missoula in one piece the following year. It was named the eighth wonder of the world in 1971 and continues to confound traffic planners, who each year paint more yellow lines and build new concrete islands and dividers in a futile attempt to keep traffic moving. The only place in the Western Hemisphere where

three major thoroughfares converge, Malfunxion Junction will be the subject of a September TV segment on "Believe It or Not."

● **Mount Sentinel:** Built as an earth-fill dam by President Franklin Roosevelt and the Works Progress Administration in 1934, Mount Sentinel was scheduled to be removed in the 1960s after outliving its usefulness. However, area children protested vehemently and managed to have Congress designate the "mountain" a recreation area. Many joyous youngsters visit it each summer to play with matches and start roaring grass fires.

Sentinel's huge "M" stands for money, which is what University of Montana officials and local business people hope students will bring with them each fall.

● **Mount Jumbo:** Local residents made this mountain out of a molehill sometime around the turn of the century. Seeking to make more mountains out of molehills, modern-day Missoula residents have pro-

tested swim-suit billboards, passed bear-wrestling ordinances, become hysterical over a gay get-together, banned dogs from the Rattlesnake recreation area and tried to keep seaplanes off of Seely Lake.

Mount Jumbo was scheduled to be shipped to Kobe, Japan, for harbor fill, but Missoula's influential Roman Catholic community interceded with the argument that there'd be no other place to put the giant white "L" that stands for a local parochial high school.

● **Frenchtown Pond:** A popular swimming hole 20 miles west of Missoula, Frenchtown Pond's claims to fame are the two 9-foot crocodiles — one male, one female — discovered last summer near the picnic beach. Reptile experts still are pondering the phenomenon and trying to estimate the pond's current crocodile population.

● **Glacier National Park:** Built by Walt Disney Productions in the late 1800s, northwest Montana's Glacier Park has been a must for millions of tourists ever since. The park is characterized by incredibly realistic papier-mache mountains rising to elevations of 37,000 feet above sea level. Mock styrofoam "glaciers" and intricately detailed mechanical bears, mountain sheep, deer and moose add to the excitement and fun.

The park's famed "Weeping Wall" and "Bird Woman" waterfalls are operated every hour on the hour through a space-age system of valves and hoses operated by a computer in nearby West Glacier. Call the Glacier Park Co., 226-9311, for information about tickets and tours.

● **Bob Marshall Wilderness Area:** Like Disney, entrepreneur Howard Hughes was a visionary genius — a fact testified to when he set aside his Spruce Goose airplane project and committed millions of dollars and his organization's finest minds to the building of what he called "a truly great American wilderness." Hughes' chief engineer, Robert C. "Bob" Marshall, worked himself to death designing the area and overseeing its construction. Before he, himself, died, Hughes called "the Bob" his "greatest legacy to America."

Write Bob Marshall Enterprises, 1919 Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, Calif., for tour reservations.


● **Flathead Lake:** Built by the U.S. Navy's SeaBees just after World War II, Flathead Lake today is a vital base for guided-missile submarines of America's Seventh Fleet.

Adm. Hyman Rickover, in surveying the site in the early 1940s, said prospects for concealing subs in the lake were "absolutely primo" because of its relative remoteness and its cleverly nurtured reputation as a recreation area. The wily Rickover knew whereof he spoke, for nobody to this day has spotted so much as a conning tower.

● **Whitefish:** Probably the loveliest of Canada's nine provinces, what with its famed ski run and surrounding mountains.

● **National Bison Range:** Birth place and burial place of "Buffalo Bill." Attraction's mascot is Bill Buffalo, an albino bull so named by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a counterpart to the Forest Service's Smokey the Bear.

(Steve Smith is a Missoulian reporter whose column appears on Saturdays.)



**Steve Smith**  
of the *Missoulian*

July 6, 1985 The Missoulian

### “High fire danger spark’s change in range’s hour

Moiese – Due to the extreme fire danger, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has changed tour hours on the National Bison Range. The 19-mile Red Sleep Mountain drive will be open only from 6:30 to 11 a.m.

If conditions do not improve, tours may end for the summer. At the Buffalo Prairie drive, hours remain the same, from 6:30. a.m. until dark. No smoking is allowed on any of those routes.

If conditions improve, the range will return to regular summer hours of 6:30 a.m. until dark on all of the tour roads.

The visitors center is open daily from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. For more information, call 644-2211.” July 16, 1985 The Missoulian

“State file

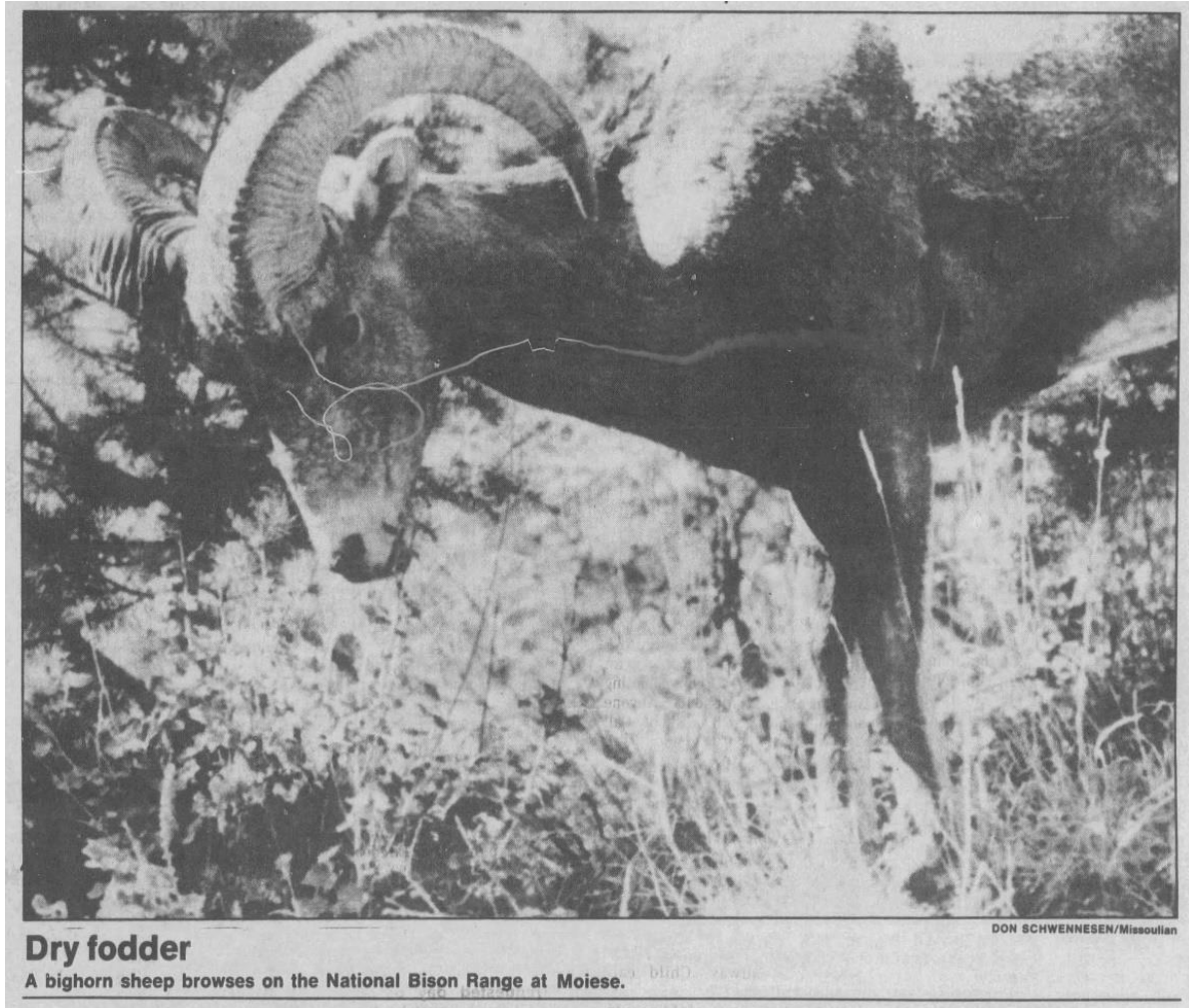
Live bison offered in annual sale

Moiese (AP) – The National Bison Range will offer 66 live bison at its annual sale in September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service said.

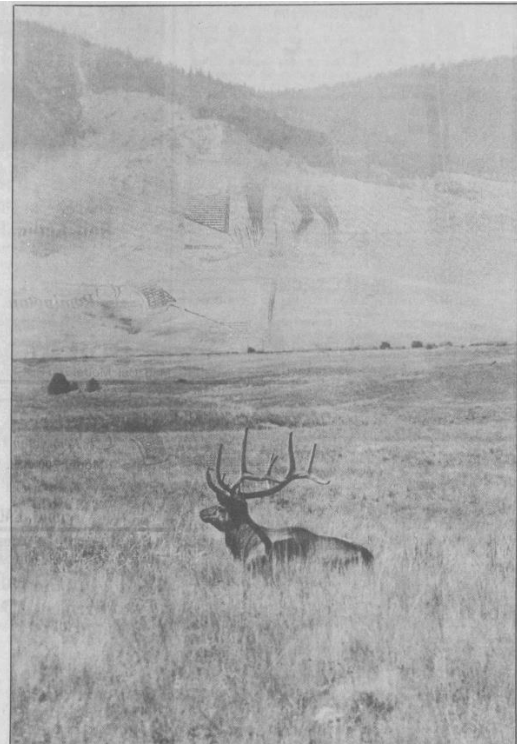
The refuge annually sells off excess animals to prevent overgrazing of the refuge southwest of St. Ignatius.

Available for sale will be animals ranging from yearlings to bison more than 10 years old  
than 10 years old, refuge officials said. Additional information and bid  
sheets can be obtained from the National Bison Range at Moiese.

August 9, 1985 The Montana Standard (Butte, Montana) and August 12, 1985 The Missoulian



August 27, 1985 The Missoulian



DENNIS JONES/Correspondent

### His august majesty

A bull elk rears his majestic head above the grasslands he wandered recently inside the National Bison Range near Moiese on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

September 6, 1985 The Missoulian



DENNIS JONES/Correspondent

### A lunch of grass

Bighorn sheep chow down in anticipation of the coming win-

ter months. These rams were caught at the National Bison Range near Moiese on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

September 8, 1985 The Missoulian

# Chinese seek tips on timber in Western tour

BY STEVE WOODRUFF  
of the Missoulian

Advances in U.S. forestry research and practices could help improve wood production half a world away, said the leader of a Chinese delegation touring several Western states.

Peng Baideng, minister of forestry for China's rural, timbered Guizhou province, said Monday that his country hopes to learn from scientific research and forest management practices at work in places like Montana and Idaho.

Speaking through an interpreter, Peng said he is "most impressed" with results American foresters are obtaining through modern forest management practices.

Peng is leading a five-member delegation of Guizhou foresters, engineers and economists on a

fact-finding tour of U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Research facilities in Montana, Idaho and Utah.

Peng said it is difficult to compare forestry in the United States with that in China. While much of the timberland in the American West is administered by the federal government, for example, 90 percent of the mostly-pine forests in Guizhou are controlled by collectives.

Guizhou forests are used for lumber, pulp and paper and particle board, he said. About 20 percent of the province's wood is used for mine timbers.

Peng also noted that "multiple use" is a fledgling management philosophy in China.

"We are beginning to have a lot of experts and technicians work on these kind of problems, just as you do," he said through



DAN ROOT/Missoulian

**Peng Baideng, foreground, the Minister of the Department of Forestry in the Guizhou Province of China, and four other Guizhou foresters were in Missoula this week as part of a tour of Forest Service research facilities.**

the interpreter. "We are just beginning to do this where you have been doing it."

Finding new ways to provide incentives for the collectives to improve timber production and utilization is a major thrust of his government's forestry work, according to Michael W. Prouty, the Forest Service spokesman accompanying the delegation.

On their tour, the delegation is

reviewing research projects involving forest genetics, road construction, silviculture and diseases.

In addition to time spent focusing on forestry, the Chinese officials have taken a few occasions to sample American life.

Over the weekend, the group bowled a few lines at a Missoula bowling alley and toured the National Bison Range.

September 12, 1985 The Missoulian



## University of Montana

### CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

This schedule includes course offerings of the Extension Division and professional development and health programs of the Health and Human Services Division.

**EXTENSION DIVISION**  
(U-Undergraduate; G-Graduate; Cr-Credits)

Continuing education courses in Missoula and out of town are offered by the Center for Continuing Education and Summer Programs, 125 Main Hall, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. Phone: 243-4626 or 243-2900. **Pre-registration and full payment of fees are required for all extension courses.** If a course is cancelled, all fees paid will be refunded. Fees are \$35 per credit, unless otherwise indicated. Pre-register on the coupon below by the deadlines indicated. You may enroll at the first class meeting on a space-available basis.

## MOIESE — NATIONAL BISON RANGE Education 495

(UG) OUTDOOR EDUCATION WORKSHOP  
III. 1 Cr. Meets Saturday, Sept. 28, from  
7:45 a.m.-6 p.m. at the National Bison  
Range. Instructor: Doris Simonis. A post-  
course assignment and meeting (to be ar-  
ranged) will be required. Enrollment is  
limited; pre-register by contacting Marcy  
Bishop at the Bison Range, Moiese, MT  
59824 (phone: 644-2211). In addition to the  
\$35.00 credit fee, there will be a \$10.00  
non-refundable fee to cover the cost of  
handouts, transportation and refresh-  
ments.

September 15, 1985 The Missoulian

## “Handicapped outdoor program Saturday

Polson – An outdoor program for the handicapped will be Saturday, Sept. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the National Bison Range at Moiese.

The program is one of a series that will be presented by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The topic of Saturday’s program will be plant and animal environmental adaptation. The program will be moved indoors if the weather is bad. Personal care attendants will be provided if needed.

Another program, Oct. 29, will deal with attracting winter birds.

These programs are designed for persons in wheelchairs, and will be held at a newly constructed section of accessible nature trail at the Bison Range Visitor Center.

The sessions will have a break for a brown bag lunch during the three-hour period.

Handicapped persons who wish to participate can call Marcy Bishop at the range at 644-2211; Joyce Kalmes of Summit at 728-1630; or Larry Watson of Mountain Dog at 543-7545.

Persons interested in being volunteer attendants for the workshops can contact program officials.” September 19, 1985 The Missoulian

## “Workshops scheduled at Bison Range

Polson – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will for the 11<sup>th</sup> year offer environmental education teacher workshops at the National Bison Range in Moiese on Sept. 28 from 8 a.m. to 6 pm.

The workshops will introduce teachers of all subjects and grade levels to the concept of using the outdoors as a classroom as well as to familiarize them with the resources, materials and facilities available to them at the Bison Range and the Pablo and Ninepipe national wildlife refuges.

Teachers can register for one of the three sessions:

Section 1, Wetland Ecology and Project Wild. This section will be held for one-half day each. The wetlands section will be held for one-half day each. The wetlands section will be conducted at Ninepipe and will also deal with birds of the wetlands and bird migration.



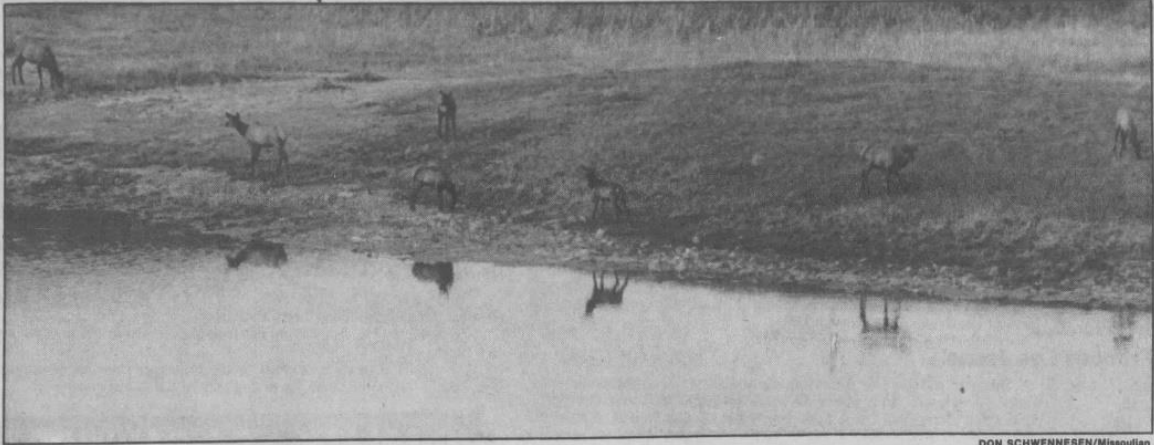
Section 2, Mammal Characteristics and Behavior, will be taught in a full-day seminar that will be a hands-on study of the physical characteristics and adaptations of mammals.

Section 3, Plant Adaptations and Identification, will be a full-day seminar.

The workshop can be taken for university credit. A written description of an outdoor classroom activity, field tested with the teacher's students, is required to receive credit. Registration materials are available at all area schools.

Additional information is available by contacting Marcy Bishop at the Bison Range, 644-2211." September 24, 1985 The Missoulian

**Western Montana** Missoulian, Friday, September 27, 1985



DON SCHWENNESEN/Missoulian

Cow elk graze on the National Bison Range near Moiese. Authorities claim that poachers killed an elk over the weekend.

## Poachers claim bull elk at National Bison Range

By DENNIS JONES  
Correspondent

POLSON — Federal game refuge officials are offering a \$500 reward for information that leads to the arrest of whoever who killed a six-point bull elk at the National Bison Range.

Public use coordinator Marcy Bishop said the elk's carcass was found Wednesday on the north-west side of the refuge near Moiese. The head and antlers had been taken. "It was killed strictly for the trophy rack, not for meat," Bishop said.

Officials believe the animal was killed during the night hours last weekend.


The bull, believed to be about 8 years old, had grazed in the West Loop Scenic Drive area near the visitor's center for much of the late summer. The antlers were distinct, Bishop said, because of two extra points on the brow tines on the lower part of the rack.

Because no wounds were found in the body, officials believe the animal was shot in the head.

Killing an animal on a federal wildlife refuge can bring a maximum fine of \$1,000 and six months in jail with revocation of hunting privileges for two or more years.

In October 1974, two men were arrested and charged with killing a bull and cow elk inside the refuge on Ravalli Hill near Highway 93. They were fined \$500 each, given suspended jail sentences and lost hunting and fishing privileges for 16 months.

Three years ago a bighorn ram sheep was killed on the range in the late summer, but no arrests were ever made in that case.



Missoulian

This is the elk that was killed over the weekend. The poachers took only the head, and left the carcass behind.

September 27, 1985 The Missoulian



## “Bull elk killed ‘strictly for rack’

Moiese (AP) – A \$500 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest of whomever killed a six-point bull elk found dead Wednesday at the National Bison Range here, federal officials say.

Marcy Bishop, the public-use coordinator for the range, said the elk’s carcass was found on the northwest side of the refuge near Moiese, and that its head and antlers were gone.

“It was killed strictly for the trophy rack, not for meat,” she said.

Officials say they think the animal was killed during the night hours last weekend.

The bull, believed to be about 8 years old, had grazed in the West Loop Scenic Drive area near the visitor’s center for much of the late summer. The antlers were distinct, Bishop said, because of two extra points on the brow tines on the lower part of the rack.

Because no wounds were found in the body, officials believe the animal was shot in the head, she said.

Killing an animal on a federal wildlife refuge can bring a maximum fine of \$1,000 and six months in jail, with revocation of hunting privileges for two or more years.

In October v1974, two men were arrested and charged with killing a bull and cow elk inside the refuge on Ravalli Hill near Highway 93. They were fined \$500 each, given suspended jail sentences and lost hunting and fishing privileges for 16 months.

Three years ago a big horn ram sheep was killed on the range in the late summer, but no arrests were ever made in that case.” September 29, 1985 The Montana Standard (Butte, Montana)



“Buffalo round-up is next week. There are two things that prove summer is over for good every year, the appearance of yellow school buses and the Moiese Bison Range’s annual buffalo round-up.” October 3, 1985 Char-Koosta News, page 7.

## “Montana briefs

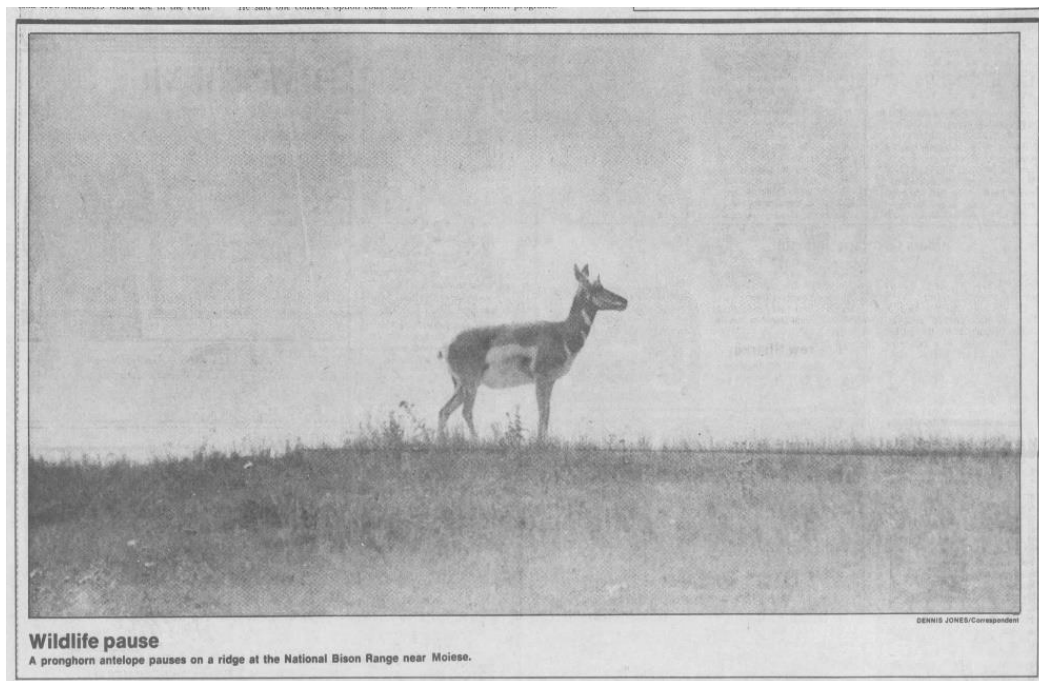
### Authorities increase reward for poachers

Moiese (AP) – The reward for information leading to the arrest of whomever killed a six-point bull elk last week on the National Bison Range here has been increased from \$500 to a possible \$10,000.

Susan McCollum, refuge spokesman, said Wednesday the elk was taken in violation of a federal law, which provides a maximum \$10,000 reward in this instance. She said the federally authorized reward is separate from the \$500 reward already posted.

Refuge officials have said the elk was killed at night sometime during the Sept. 21-22 weekend. The meat was left, but the trophy rack was taken.

Killing an animal on a federal wildlife refuge can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail, plus revocation of hunting privileges for at least two years.” October 3, 1985 The Missoulian



October 15, 1985 The Missoulian

“Five Valleys Audubon Society, Monday, 7:30 p.m., Southgate Mall Branch of Western Federal Savings and Loan, 261 Garfield St. Jon Malcolm, manager of the National Bison Range, will discuss current management programs.” December 7, 1985 The Missoulian

## “Around Missoula

Rotary Club, Wednesday. 12:15 p.m. Village Red Lion. 100 Madison St. Speaker: Marci Bishop, educator, National Bison Range.” January 15, 1986 The Missoulian

## “Elk transplanted from Bison Range

Moiese (AP) – Seventeen elk have been transplanted from the National Bison Range here into the extreme northwestern corner of Montana.

Officials said the transplant into the upper Yaak River Valley involved seven bull calves, one spike bull and five yearling or older cows.

The move late last month was the third release in a five-year state-federal program aimed at rebuilding the elk herd in Lincoln County. The project involves releases in five different areas.

Thirty-eight elk were released in January 1983 and 19 more in January 1984.

The latest elk to be moved were rounded up Jan. 28 by workers at the National Bison Range with the help of Kruger Helicopter Service of Lakeside.

After being allowed to settle down for several days, the elk were tagged and neckbands were put on the cows before they were moved and released.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the bison range, paid for the roundup, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation paid for the transportation costs.” February 11, 1986 The Independent-Record, Helena, Montana

“Five Valleys Audubon Society, Monday, 7:30 p.m., Southgate Mall branch of western Federal Savings, 2601 Garfield St. Speaker: Jack Hogg, post doctoral student, University of Montana, will discuss social and mating behavior of bighorn sheep living in the National Bison Range.”

March 7, 1986 The Missoulian

## Buffalo's wandering ways prove fatal

By DONNA CLARK  
Correspondent

LIBBY — Jeff Schikora was washing his car Saturday afternoon in front of his home when he turned around and saw a buffalo standing in his driveway.

Schikora, 19, said the bison, which was standing 20 feet away, turned toward him and looked like it was going to charge.

And although this is Montana, where the buffalo roam, Schikora's home, six miles east of Libby, is not exactly out on the range.

“It kind of scared me a little bit,” he said Tuesday. “I thought it was going to come after me at first.”

Skirting around the bison, Schikora said he

reached his house and called the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office where he reported that the ungulate was acting funny.

“I just dropped the hose and ran around the car,” he said.

By the time he got to the phone, the bison was running up and down a little hill in his yard, chasing two dogs.

David Edwards, the bison's owner, showed up shortly afterward and assured Schikora that although the 20-month-old, 800-pound female had escaped his brother's corral, she was not mean.

Edwards, however, said that even with the help of several people, he couldn't fence the critter in. This incident was the third time in two days that the bison had jumped a 4½-foot fence.

When the bison kept dodging people and started heading down Libby Creek, Edwards said he had to shoot the animal.

Edwards said he didn't want to kill her, but he couldn't afford to take the chance that she might damage someone's property.

Edwards said he bought the bison last September for \$400 at an auction on the Moiese Bison Range with plans to raise a herd.

In fact, Edwards said, he still plans to raise bison after he first builds a fence strong and high enough to hold them.

Edwards' sister-in-law, Tracy Edwards, said it got so the bison left “whenever she wanted to, and headed into the boonies.”

“It was probably a good case of spring fever,” she said.

March 12, 1986 The Missoulian

## “Around Missoula

Rotary Club, Wednesday, noon, Village Red Lion, 100 Madison St. Speaker; Jon Malcolm, refuge manager, National Bison Range.”

March 26, 1986 The Missoulian

tion Project during drought years.

### Water rights commission takes tour of reservation

By **DON SCHWENNESEN**  
of the Missoulian

POLSON — Members of the state Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, which is trying to negotiate water rights agreements with federal and tribal officials, made a tour of the Flathead Indian Reservation last week.

Commissioners met Monday with the Joint Board of Control representing farm and ranch water users served by the Flathead Irrigation Project.

Tuesday they toured the National Bison Range and heard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service water rights concerns, and Wednesday they toured the reservation with Flathead tribal leaders.

Commission Chairman Gordon McOmber said the tour was strictly to view reservation water resources and irrigation facilities and learn more about water issues on the reservation.

Commission staff attorney Marcia Rundle said the commission hopes to work out a negotiated settlement similar to the first settlement reached with a state Indian tribe, concluded last year on the Fort Peck Reservation.

But she emphasized that the commission's authority is limited to negotiating and quantifying water rights with federal agencies and tribes within the state, and the negotiation process is voluntary.

“If we can do it peacefully over the negotiating table, they

don't have to go to court,” McOmber said.

He added that the job seems endless, because “we're dealing with two-thirds of the water that arises in Montana” on 10 national forests, six wildlife refuges, two national parks, seven Indian reservations and an eighth North Dakota reservation with land in Montana.

If a party decides to terminate negotiations, it can file suit within six months to contest water rights. Otherwise, negotiations can continue as long as the Legislature continues to fund the \$225,000-a-year commission.

Helena lawyer Jim Goetz, who has represented the Flathead tribes, noted that they withdrew from the process in 1981 but came back to the bargaining table later.

Rundle said the commission can negotiate only with the tribes and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the reservation, although the Bureau of Indian Affairs “as trustee for the tribes has a role to play.”

Technically, the commission can't negotiate with the Joint Board of Control, she said, although board members and other reservation residents “have status as interested citizens who will be affected by the outcome.”

She said the commission is trying to listen to concerns of all reservation residents, because any water agreement that is reached must be ratified by the state Legislature.

May 26, 1986 The Missoulian

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 ■ Week in review / PAGE A-7

# TERRITORY

A-1

## gracious randeur



Touring Kalispell's Conrad Mansion is a step back to days of servants and sleigh beds

Written by MEA ANDREWS  
 photographed by MICHAEL GALLACHER  
 of The Missoulian

Eleven years ago the city of Kalispell wasn't sure it wanted the old Conrad Mansion. The grounds were miserably overgrown. The house seemed in bad shape. Schoolchildren crept past what had become known as the Haunted House.

An argument erupted between those who said public dollars should be spent on sewers and streets and those who could brush aside the overgrowth to see an architectural treasure.

The latter group won, and now the Conrad Mansion attracts upwards of 15,000 visitors each summer as it opens its doors to show off the lifestyle of one of Kalispell's founding families.

A tour of the house takes about an hour and is a relaxing sideslip while traveling to or from Glacier National Park — or a nice day trip from Missoula.

Try a picnic on the lawn of the estate. The gazebo is an exact replica of the one that once graced the grounds. The original had disappeared by 1975, when the Conrad Mansion directors took over the house. The board had a new one built.

Charles Conrad grew up in the gracious lap of a southern plantation. The Civil War came and went, and his parents' lifestyle ended.

The two Conrad boys — Charles and William, two years the elder — left home for New York, then set out by steamboat to Fort Benton, Montana Territory.

The brothers worked for, and eventually bought, a mercantile business that owned steamships and freight wagons. They sold supplies to trappers and settlers, and became bankers, too. When Fort Benton was passed over as regional transportation center and business came to a halt, the Conrads sold out and Charles headed west.

He was bound for Spokane but stopped in the Flathead Valley to visit.

He and his wife, Alicia "Lettie" Stanford Conrad, decided to stay. He helped plat the land for the new townsite of Kalispell, and made a bundle off land sales. He opened a bank, the Conrad National Bank, in about 1892. (Its name was changed in 1981 to the First Interstate Bank of Kalispell.)

His holdings at his death in 1902 included more than 3,000 acres of land in Flathead County alone and more land in eastern Montana, Idaho and Canada; more than 3,000 head of cattle in Canada; more than \$1 million in stock in various cattle and sheep companies; mining interests; other banking and investment interests; and a herd of 46 buffalo.

Ten years later, buffalo from the Conrad herd would become the nucleus of the National Bison Range in Moiese.

He was, says one historian, an honest, hard-working and clever man. He was not ruthless, a trait that drove other rich men of his time.

"I don't think there was a dark side to him, other than being completely immersed in his business," said Kalispell lawyer James Murphy, author of a book about the Conrad family called "Half Interest in a Silver Dollar: The Saga of Charles E. Conrad."

The Conrads were wealthy when they moved into their new mansion just before Thanksgiving in 1895. The architect, Kirkland K. Catter of Spokane, designed the house and the landscaping. His contributions include some of the most beautiful homes in Spokane, along with the Davenport Hotel and the Spokane Club.

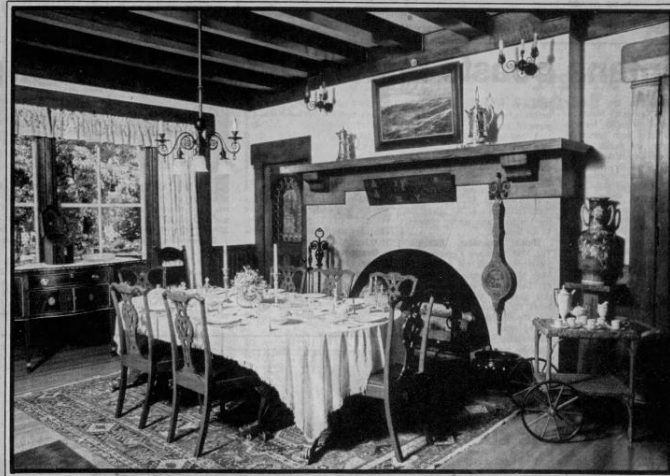
The house has three stories and a basement — 22 rooms in all. Catter imported workmen from Germany for some of the finishing work.

The house was originally lit by gas but wired for electricity. The well-traveled Conrads could see ahead, even though electricity had not yet arrived in Kalispell.

Stained glass was commissioned from Tiffany's in New York and still shimmers inside the house.

The design included a formal dining room, large pantry, kitchen complete with early day intercom for orders from the lady of the house and a servants' call box, a music room, a billiard room, and library — most of which have beautifully crafted woodwork that needed nothing but a good cleaning when the city took over the house.

The entry way — the "Great Hall" — was the center of many happy times for the family. Each Christmas the Conrads would erect a three-story-high evergreen in the hall and deco-



Entertaining was part of the Conrad lifestyle. Among their best-known guests: Charlie Russell, Jim Hill and Teddy Roosevelt.



From the library, above, Charles Conrad could gaze out onto his estate, which once covered 72 wooded acres. Lettie Conrad loved Christmas and included a Yuletide wreath in the design of stained glass commissioned from Tiffany's.



"The roof leaked. The plaster was off in the bedrooms. The floors were buckled. The overgrowth in the yards — you couldn't see the house."

— James Murphy, historian

rate it. Poor children from the community would come for a children-only party. The Conrads loved to dance, and the hall often was the stage for balls and orchestras.

At one time, four Charlie Russell paintings hung in the Great Hall. Russell was a family friend and visited the house on occasion. History has it that as Charles Conrad was dying, Russell came for a final visit and stopped for a moment to gaze at one of his portraits of an Indian princess. But he wasn't silent this time, as was his custom.

"Goodbye, old girl," Russell said to the painting as he left.

Charles Conrad had four children — a son by a former marriage, and two daughters and a son with his second wife, Lettie. Their youngest daughter, Alicia Conrad Campbell, was the heir who gave the house to Kalispell.

Alicia Conrad Campbell took to wearing a dark dress and to draping her head in a dark scarf in her later years, giving her a sinister appearance. But she was quite daring in her day,

going skinny dipping, riding horses wildly, having her hair bobbed early and even being the first woman in Kalispell to ride a motorcycle, said her daughter, Alicia Vick of Missoula.

"I like to think of it not so much as eccentric as adventurous," Vick said. "She was a character."

When the campaign to acquire the house began, the mansion had been boarded up for a decade. Alicia Conrad had outlived her brothers and sisters by some 40 years, all the while clinging on to the house. It became a burden. She could not keep it up, and eventually she moved into a trailer beside the house.

"There was a mystique about that house for her," said Vick. "Her parents were extremely important to her. The house remained a focus of her whole life. All her fond memories, emotional ties, her loyalties, were wrapped up in that house."

Alicia Vick's son, Chris, helped lead the campaign to give the house to the city. He worked many months sifting through decades of family memorabilia, unburying the inside of a mansion that had become just a warehouse.

"The roof leaked. The plaster was off in the

bedrooms. The floors were buckled. The overgrowth in the yards — you couldn't see the house because of the shrubs, maples, and old cottonwoods; the underbrush," remembers historian Murphy.

"It didn't look like it had much potential except that it was structurally sound and it was one of the only old mansions that I know of that was always occupied as a home by the same family."

But restoration work turned out to be less troublesome than expected, said Lorraine Lidstrom, tour director for the home. Some of the wallpaper and walls had to be repaired, but the house was very sound and the woodwork so well-kept "it just had to be dusted off."

The house is open from May 15 to Oct. 15 for public tours, seven days a week. Cost is \$4 for adults, \$1 for children under 12.

After the last tour in October, the mansion opens up again for "Christmas in October," where artists and craftspeople decorate the home and sell ornaments, art work and other handmade Christmas gifts. This year, the Christmas event is Friday night, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17-19.

For more on the family, house and history of Kalispell, read "Half Interest in a Silver Dollar: The Saga of Charles E. Conrad," by James Murphy (Mountain Press Publishing Co., \$15.95), or Murphy's "The Story of the Conrad Mansion," available at the mansion for \$2.

■ Montana's chock-full of homes with history. Page A-2

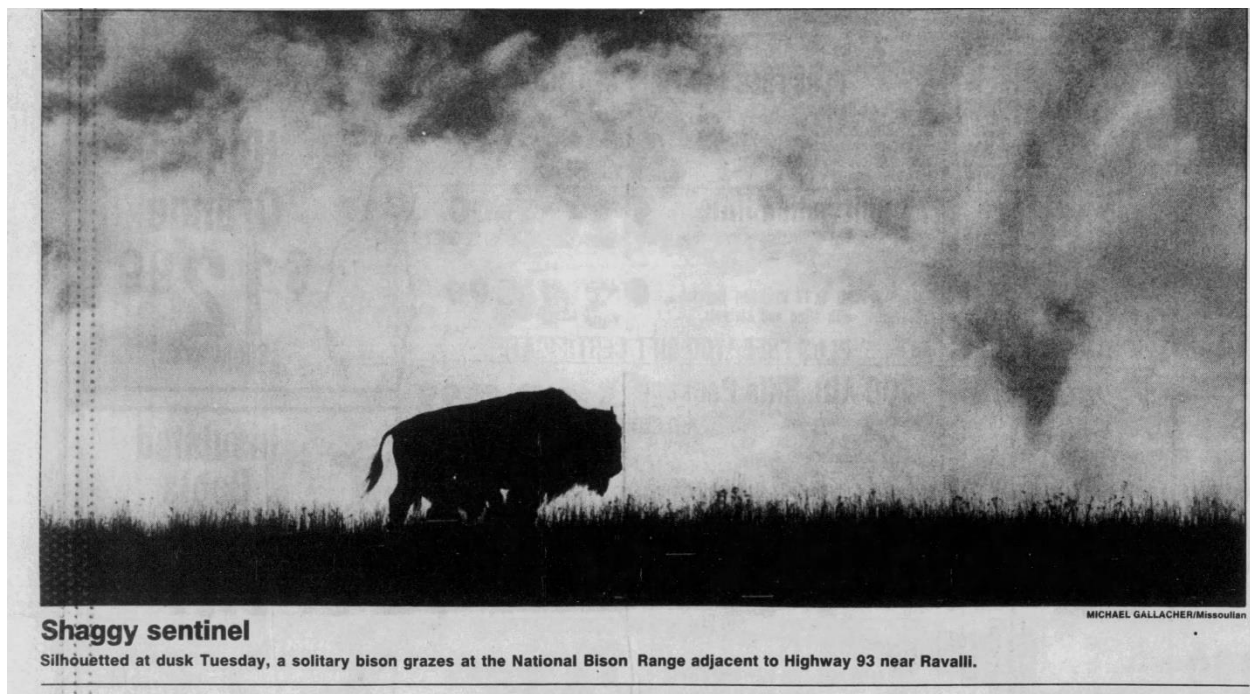
## “Moiese range holds annual buffalo sale

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be offering 80 live buffalo for sale at the National Bison Range in Moiese. The sale will be by sealed bid, due Sept. 9.

The sale is offered each year to keep the bison population within range capacity.

Interested parties may bid on one or more animals from yearlings to mature buffalo over 10 years. Successful bidders will be required to pick up their animals on Oct. 8-10 following the annual roundup.

Copies of the bid form and complete sale information may be obtained by writing to the National Bison Range, Moiese, 59824.” August 24, 1986 Montana Standard, Butte, Montana



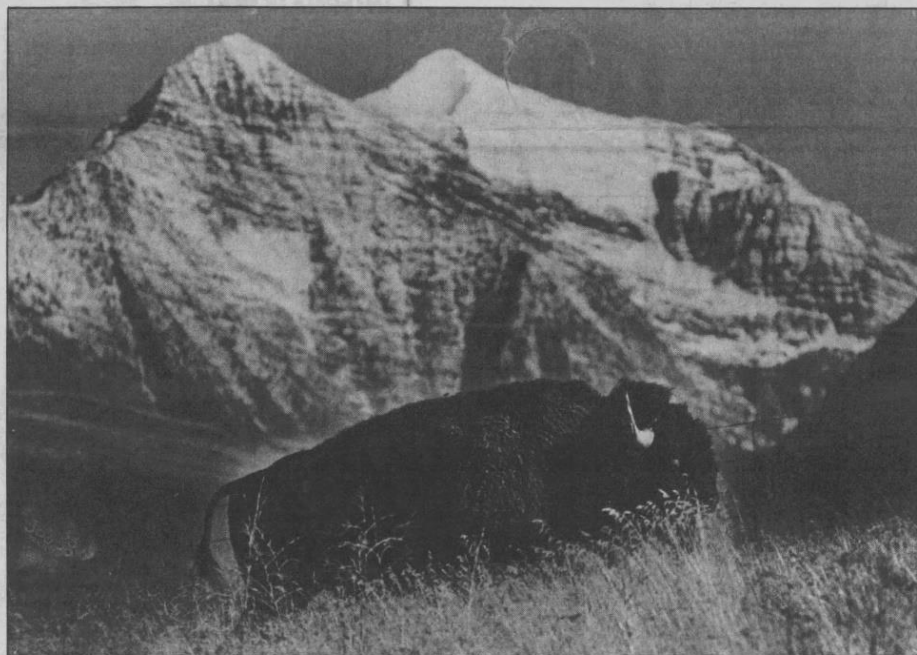
September 17, 1986 The Missoulian

National Bison Range bus tour, Oct. 6, leaves from Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.”

September 30, 1986 The Missoulian

“Bus tour to St. Ignatius and the bison roundup at the National Bison Range, Oct. 6, sponsored by the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. The day will include a trip to the annual bison roundup at Moiese, lunch at Allentown in the Ninepipes Wildlife Refuge, then a tour of historic sites in St. Ignatius. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 6-16, which includes lunch. The bus will leave the museum by 8 a.m. and return by 6 p.m. Cal 728-347 for reservations or information.” October 3, 1986 The Missoulian





Temporarily separated from the herd, a lone bison wanders the fence line. More photographs on page 7.

DWAN FEARY/Missoulian

## Bringin' in the buffalo

Annual roundup at Moiese draws a herd of spectators

By JAMES E. LARCOMBE  
Correspondent

**M**OIESE — It's like a scene from one of those old westerns. Bison, pushed hard by yelping riders wearing Stetsons, rumble down the long slope toward the corrals: tons of hooves, hide and fury hurtling toward awestruck spectators.

It is a scene that will be replayed dozens of times this week as the National Bison Range stages its annual roundup at the 19,000-acre refuge west of Charlo.

Range workers, some horseback, others manning the labyrinth of gates and pens, work the 400-head herd. After storming into the corrals, the bison are branded, vaccinated and sorted into new herds.

About 80 of the powerful creatures will be hauled off by buyers at an average price of about \$730. Some are destined for a life of leisurely breeding, but for others, it's the freezer.

The roundup, perennially conducted the first week of October, offers the public a close-range view of the bison.

"It could run up to 4,000 people in three days," said Grant Hogge, a 34-year veteran of the fall roundup.

Aside from being a good show in a theater of snow-capped peaks, grassy hills and brilliant Indian summer sun, the roundup is first-rate display of animal husbandry.

The object of the roundup is to maintain the

(Turn to **BISON**, page 2)

## Bison

(continued)

health of the animals and keep the ages and sex ratio of the herd as close to natural as possible.

Once in the corrals, the buffalo are goaded into squeeze chutes for vaccination and blood tests for brucellosis and leptospirosis.

Animals selected for sale are chased into holding pens; the others are released into two large, stoutly-fenced pastures.

The whole process is handled by about 20 workers. Most are employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the rest volunteers. Working the bison, which can grow to over 2,000 pounds, is sweaty, sometimes dangerous work.

"I think the most dangerous part is when they go up there and

make the cut," said one worker, pointing to the hillside above the corrals. "You know the old adage: 'You can herd a buffalo anywhere they want to go.'"

Hugh Null, assistant manager of the preserve, said the stickiest part of the operation is forcing the unpredictable, iron-willed beasts to give up grazing for the roundup.

"The trickiest thing is getting them in off the range," Null said, noting the bison possess surprising endurance. "They will wear out a horse in this terrain."

Still, bison-caused injuries have been few since the roundups began in the 1920s.

A veteran crew makes the task easier. Jack Lampshire, who retired years ago from the range crew, still can't pass up running the scales at the fall gathering.

"I can't leave the roundup

go," said Lampshire. "That's more fun than anything."

For Craig Hoppe, of St. Ignatius, the roundup is a vacation from his job at the Flathead Power Project.

"I just like the enjoyment of working with the animals," he said.

Like most good things, the roundup has drawn considerable attention. The parking lot, which is pasture most of the year, sported license plates from all over the Northwest and a few from east of the Mississippi.

More than 1,000 people, most toting cameras, jammed the platforms overlooking the corrals. Some had lined the fences since early morning.

Range managers, fearing overcrowding, talked quietly of parking problems and maybe blocking the road, limiting the number of

visitors.

Null, the assistant range manager, said recent articles on the roundup in *Sunset* magazine and *Modern Maturity* magazine are probably partially responsible for the influx of visitors.

"There's been quite a bit more publicity through those two magazines than we normally get," said Null. "It gets awful crowded on those catwalks."

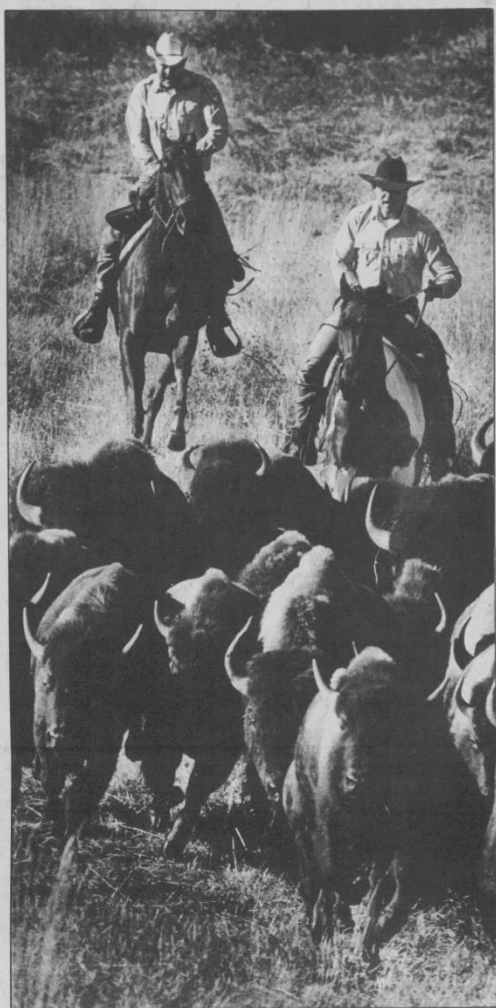
Workers, worried that a wayward spectator might cross the path of an irritated bison, kept a close eye on the crowd. But the concern didn't prevent this light exchange between a good-natured worker and a pint-sized observer.

Kid: "Are they wild?"

Worker: "You bet!"

Kid: "How do yet get them down here?"

Worker, with a big grin: "BIG horses."



### Roundup time

The annual fall roundup at the National Bison Range near Moles brings out the cowboy in lots of people. At top, park rangers Ed Krantz, left, and Darren Thomas direct the herd into a holding corral. At right, a bison gets twisted around in the squeeze chute, while awaiting shots and tagged ears. At bottom, Kevin Myers of Ronan was one of hundreds watching the vaccinations and brandings from the catwalk. Myers was with his grandparents, the Peels from Pablo, while his father was taking photos of the roundup.

DWAN PEARY/Missoulian





# SUNDAY



The annual fall roundup at the National Bison Range near Moise brings out the cowboy in lots of people. Park rangers Ed Krantz, left, and Darren Thomas turn a herd into a holding corral.

## Roundup!

'You can herd the buffalo  
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By JAMES LARCOMBE  
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(More on HERD, page 2C)

# Herd

(Continued from page 1C)

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October 12, 1986 The Independent-Record, Helena, Montana

## Bison buffs swamp range

MOIESE (AP) — A record-breaking number of spectators from around the United States viewed this year's National Bison Range Roundup, according to range officials.

The crowd last week was double the size of past gatherings of roundup visitors, and the throngs created worries about safety, officials said.

The increasingly popular event west of St. Ignatius was not officially publicized this year, but was the subject of articles in such magazines as Sunset and Modern Maturity.

"It gets to be kind of a safety hazard more than anything," said Bison Range Manager John Malcolm.

October 14, 1986 The Missoulian

## Simmental group's tour covers western Montana

HUSON — The recent three-day Montana Simmental Tour featured Simmental cattle viewing interspersed with good food, interesting speakers and recreational activities.

Cool weather and threatening skies failed to dampen the spirits of the 125 participants on the ninth annual tour, hosted by the Western Montana Simmental Association. Many Canadians attended, as well as guests from England, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

The activities began at Meadows Ranch in Huson. Highlights of the stop included a cattle display by Don and Patti Taylor of Helmsville and a Showcase Art Exhibit featuring original oils, watercolors, ceramics and sculptures by western Montana artists.

The tour then moved west to Richard and Shirley Hollenback's ranch, Superior Simmentals, near Superior. A Hollenback steer topped the Montana Simmental Futurity carcass test last spring.

Phil and Nancy Donally, Sunrise Simmentals, hosted lunch, and guests saw a display of progeny from the Donallys' top cow lines.

After a tour of the Forest Service Smokejumper Base in Missoula, the tour headed down the Bitterroot Valley to Marvin and Mary Costello's Ranch near Stevensville. The Costellos have a linear measurement program they use to select and cull cattle. After supper, Adult Serious and Comedy Showmanship contest were held, judged by Cliff Trexler of Victor and Sheila Guenzler of Ronan. The first-place winner in Adult Serious Showmanship was Bud Nuss of Gallatin Gateway Barry Williams of Arbon, Idaho, took second place. Jo Darko of Belt was declared winner in Comedy Showmanship. Later Dave and Dolores Hurtt of Florence hosted round and square dancing under the direction of Ray Granger at the Fort Owen Inn, Stevensville.

On Friday morning the group gathered at Seiman's Simmentals in St. Ignatius for a champagne breakfast. After a tour of the St. Ignatius Mission, the buses moved on to Joan and Frank Pope's ranch. The Popes have raised Simmentals since 1970, and have sold club calf steers throughout western Montana.

Lunch was served at the National Bison Range in Moiese, with elk, buffalo, deer and antelope were grazing in the wildlife refuge.

Jaye and Linda Johnson's historic Crow Creek at Charlo offered viewings of cattle featured in a recent national magazine, and the next ranch, Stipe Simmentals, owned by Dave, Dick and Agnes Stipe, has been in the family since 1910.

Russ and Joan Sherman's Boothill Simmentals was the site for wine-and-cheese sampling as well as cattle viewing. Also displaying animals were George, Sharon and Paul Guenzler's Big Sky Simmentals. The Guenzlers have used several fullbloods imported from Canada in recent years to upgrade their herd.

A festive atmosphere greeted visitors at Chip and Karen Vergeront's ranch northwest of Polson, where guests dined to the music of local musicians. A carnival featuring a cowchip-throwing contest, bale rolling, chicken chasing and sack races was the order of the evening. Homesteaded in 1910, Vergeronts have a diversified farm that raises small grains, hay and cattle.

The final tour day began with breakfast served outside the historic Conrad Mansion in Kalispell and moved on to the town's Vo-Ag facilities. Later the tour stopped at Stillwater Simmentals, owned by Gene, Dorothy and Duane Frehse in Whitefish.

The Far West cruise ship took everyone for a cruise on beautiful Flathead Lake.

A Rate of Gain Calcutta, similar to that sponsored by the MSA for cattle, was held on several ranchers participating in the tour. Barry Emmons of Olive was declared winner after he was found to have gained 20-plus pounds during the three-day tour. Jim Fisher of Lewistown placed second.

The final stop on the tour was the Little Bitterroot Ranch owned by Frank and Marilyn Carr of Hot Springs, who have award-winning Elite cattle. Through production-testing and upgrading their cattle, the Carrs have added 180 pounds to the 205 adjusted weights.

Doug Gray, Montana State University professor in meats identification, spoke about branded meats, consumer demands and the cattle industry's place.

The 10th Annual MSA Tour will be held next September in the Dillon, Deer Lodge and Butte areas.

—Bill Meadows  
Western Montana Simmental Association

## 'That Montana piccolo player' and other sobriquets

**T**here is often an interesting story that lies behind the nickname or a phrase given to a team or to a particular player. The applications, which provided identity and color, came from various sources — the press, students, or from fans taking part in a name-calling contest.

Down through the years in Missoula, some unusual sobriquets emerged and both oldtimers and newcomers should know about them. Here are a few of the unforgettable titles and how they came about.

In the late '20s and early '30s, Missoula County High School teams were called "Sugarbeaters" by Butte sportswriters. That came from the sugarbeet factory located west of town. In 1934, a contest at the school brought out the name "Spartans" and was submitted by Sam Nicolet, a former clothing salesman at the Mercantile and Yandts.

Veteran sports scribe, Ray Rocene, of the Missoulian, used a lot of superlatives in classifying sports stars, but he got cranked up on phrases when a Grizzly athlete from Kankakee, Ill., showed up in the mid-'30s. Jack Emigh ran the 100-yard

**JOHN T. CAMPBELL**



**INSTANT RECALL**

dash in 9.6 seconds and became known as the "Kankakee Komet." Otherwise, his colleagues knew him as "Pinhead."

When Missoula joined the professional Pioneer Baseball League in 1936, a contest was held to find

a suitable name for the team. Winning title came from the late Don Weston, a KGOV radio newsmen, who turned in the word "Timberjacks."

Hi Beary, who was Missoula High principal for about 20 years starting in 1945, was a basketball referee during the '30s. After working a Washington game, the Seattle paper the next morning chided his profuse whistle and called him "that Montana piccolo player."

In 1967, the Bobcat football team featured a fullback, Dan Haas, of Glendive, who was practically unstoppable with strong leg power and low center of gravity. His given name? "The Iron Tumbleweed."

In 1935, Great Falls put a football team on the field that actually outweighed the Grizzlies. Writers coined the Bison beeftrust as "the moving mountain." It gave up only one touchdown all season, that a pass from Missoula's Guy Rogers to Jack Chidley, and yet lost the state title game, 2-0, to Butte.

The "Gold Dust Twins" appellation was tacked on two sets of Grizzly athletes in years gone by. The first ones were Roy Poden, Miles City, and

Ken Fuff, Butte, fleet 1935 sprinters, and the second referred to basketball stars of 1940-41, Willie DeGroot, Billings, and Bill Jones, Livingston.

Cosch Bob Luoma's 1972-73 Sentinel High basketball team, while en route to a state AA championship, was once described as being "a gang of four Frenchmen and a furriner." The four were Steve and Benny DeMers, Kirk Rocheleau and Joe DeMarois. The "foreigner" was Brian Flaig, a German, now a bank employee in Missoula, and one of the finest athletes in the school's history.

For stealing enemy football passes in 1961, and for doing the same stunt in 1969, Grizzly Hall of Famers Bobby O'Billovich and Karl Stein earned the deserved recognition as the "Thief of Bagdad."

Quickly, what sports personalities are associated with these titles: (1) The Hat; (2) The Judge; (3) Spider; (4) Shrimp; (5) Fuzz.

Answers: (1) Ray Rocene; (2) Ex-Griz griddler Ben Tyvand; (3) Ex-boxer James McCallum; (4) Ex-Griz coach (1926-30) — and U.S. Army General Frank Mulburn; (5) Druggist Ed Fine, ex-Griz via Kalispell.

February 15, 1987 The Missoulian

**"Arlee men accused of elk slaughter by Don Schwennesen of the Missoulian**

Pablo — Two Arlee men have been charged with 11 counts of poaching in connection with a reported elk slaughter late last month on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

The two, both tribal members, were arrested by tribal wardens after a landowner reported the incident, which occurred Feb. 25 in the Ferry Basin area northwest of the National Bison Range, according to tribal Fish and Game Chief Frank Acevedo.

Acevedo said three animals were shot and removed, and another three including a cow, calf and seven point bull elk were killed and left unclaimed.

"He was a beautiful animal," Acevedo said of the bull. "Too bad he had to go to waste like that."

Evidence at the scene suggested two or three more animals had been shot, but snow and terrain prevented wardens from tracing and finding them, Acevedo said.

"There were blood trails going everywhere up there", he said.

Investigating wardens recovered three animals at a local meat-processing business, he said.

The meat and other evidence led to the arrests, on charges of hunting in a closed area, wasting game and taking cow elk in a closed season.

Tribal Judge Donny Dupuis said the two men arrested were Art Shepard, who faces six charges, and James Adams, who face five.

They pleaded innocent to the charges during initial hearings and asked for a trial, which is set for March 26. Both were released on their own recognizance.

The judge said since the tribal court cannot jail non-members charged with fish and game offenses, he could not justify holding tribal members on similar charges." March 10, 1987 The Missoulian

## “Authorities looking for armed robbers’

Polson – Authorities say they have no suspects in Thursday’s armed robbery of the Moiese Mercantile, a small roadside store near the entrance of the National Bison Range southwest of Charlo.

Authorities said two young men, claiming they needed gasoline, got the store owner, Jim Largent, to open the door of his house about 10 p.m. Thursday.

Largent said the men, brandishing guns, cuffed and forced him into a bathroom and then went into the store, which is attached to the house.

About \$500 in cash was taken along with two revolvers – a .357 Magnum Smith & Wesson and a .22-caliber Magnum Ruger. They also took a Toshiba VCR and three cases of beer.

Largent said one of the men had collar-length, straight blond hair, was slender in build and about 6 feet tall. He wore a white headband, blue windbreaker and blue jeans. The other man wore a nylon stocking over his face, was over 6 feet tall and a stocky build. Both were Caucasian.

A Crimestoppers reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered.” March 24, 1987 The Missoulian

### **GETAWAYS**

(family adventures close to home)

■ **NEWBORN BUFFALO** calves are expected “any day” now at the National Bison Range near Moise. ■ The buffalo herd can often be observed at this time of year from the short, bottomland road loop, which is now open to the public. ■ Waterfowl, turtles and other wildlife also can be seen in the spring around the picnic area and on the nature trail. A longer drive through the middle of the Bison Range will not be open until May 16. Antelope, bighorn sheep and a profusion of wild flowers are highlights of that car tour. ■ The visitor’s center is open now from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will be open daily, from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., beginning May 16. There is no charge for touring the area.

April 16, 1987 The Missoulian

## “Workshop set for bison range

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold its annual spring Outdoor Education Workshop for teachers at the National Bison Range May 2.

The workshop is intended to introduce teachers to the concept the outdoors as a classroom and to train them about resources available at the bison range and at Pablo and Ninepipe Wildlife Refuges.

The registration fee is \$10, with an addition \$35 fee for teachers who wish to participate for one university credit. Pre-registration is required and must be received at the National Bison Range as soon as possible. Registration forms have been mailed to area schools and forms are also available from Marcy Bishop, National Bison Range, Moiese, Mt. 59824. For more information, call Bishop at 644-2211.” April 20, 1987 The Missoulian

## “Stockmen group to meet in Plains

The Western Montana Stockmen’s Association will hold its annual spring meeting May 2 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Plains. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will include a presentation about bankruptcy law. A dinner at 6:30 p.m. will feature a presentation about the National Bison Range. The association has about 550 members in Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders counties.” April 22, 1987 The Missoulian

## DARYL GADBOW



### Knapp instills conservation ethic in youth

**D**NA molecules. Genes. Mutation and adaptation. The class discussion had the potential to send a 15-year-old's flighty brain into suspended animation.

This particular group of sophomore high school biology students, however, was anything but bored. That was because our teacher was anything but bored with his subject.

As he lectured, he paced intensely before us in his typical fashion, occasionally rapping a yardstick smartly on the floor to punctuate a sentence. In later years, he reminded me of George C. Scott in movie portrayal of General George Patton.

He commanded your attention. Daydreaming, common in other classes, was out of the question. His intensity and enthusiasm were too overpowering.

Gradually, he steered the discussion away from the dry scientific theory to his personal observations of its application in nature. This time the example was the various ways mule deer have adapted to survive in their environment. Their peculiar, large ears, he told us, enable them to hear a predator — or a hunter — roll a rock a mile away.

And as he did so often, Harold Knapp had us in the palm of his hand. Especially those of us who hunted and fished and generally loved the outdoors.

Knapp constantly used his experience as an ardent and knowledgeable sportsman as a reference point and inspiration for his teaching. The effect was dramatic: A lot of kids were turned on to biology and the outdoors.

By no means was it just the boys who had grown up hunting and fishing. The spring curriculum in his class included a field bird identification project, a contest actually, to see who could identify the most birds. Some of the girls in the class turned out to be the most avid and competitive, scouring the countryside in pursuit of rare birds.

The first time I heard the terms environment and ecology was in Knapp's classroom. And they have had strong meanings for me ever since.

Knapp taught high school biology in Kalispell from 1957-1962. Then he taught biology at Missoula County High School from 1962-1969. Since then, he has been an instructor of forestry and environmental education at MCHS.

This year, he plans to retire from teaching. But he has left a lasting legacy — both in the students he inspired and the conservation projects of his forestry classes.

One of those projects has been the construction, installation and maintenance of goose nesting platforms in the Flathead Valley. That long-term undertaking has helped produce a dramatic increase in the area's local goose population, according to Hugh Null, superintendent of the National Bison Range in Moiese.

Knapp and his students also have worked with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks on various projects, including pheasant census studies on public land around Nine Pipe Reservoir.

Another of Knapp's class activities has been assisting with the annual big game counts on the Bison Range.

For his efforts in conservation at the Bison Range, Null said, the Department of Interior honored Knapp with a Service Citizen's Award last year. It was just one of many honors he has earned over the years, both in the areas of conservation and education.

Some of the others include: Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year Award in 1969; Montana Conservation Teacher of the Year Award in 1975; Conservation Educator of the Year Award from the Montana Wildlife Association in 1986, and The Don Aldrich Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Award from Montana Power Company in 1986.

"In addition to instilling a conservation ethic in his kids," Null said, "he has provided a real service to us. And of course, many of his students have gone on to natural resource careers."

"I think it's really great what he's done," Null added. "As far as I'm concerned, he's done more for the natural resources up here (in the Flathead), for a private citizen, than anyone I know of. He's just tops."

Indeed he is. Good luck in your retirement, Harold.



## Buffalo meat, farm-bred fish marketed here

By DON BATY  
for the Missoulian

With plenty of fish and game in their own backyards, Montanans generally are reluctant to stroll into the supermarket and buy commercial game. But western Montana shoppers can find farm-bred buffalo, catfish and trout for purchase.

White's Wholesale Meats Inc. in Ronan has a United States Department of Agriculture buffalo stamp that allows the firm to sell buffalo meat commercially, according to Bob White, one of two partners.

White said the company buys its buffalo throughout the Northwest, drawing the animals from sources as diverse as Bernard Hakes of Ronan, Bob Schall of Arlee and the National Bison Range in Moise.

The bison range sells 60 to 80 surplus buffalo yearly in a sealed-bid process. Some of those animals usually end up at slaughter.

Hakes has a herd of 20 buffalo and primarily sells calves for breeding purposes, but said he also sells about four dry cows a year to White's for slaughter.

Schall has been raising buffalo for about 40 years and has had herds as large as 150 animals, but is now down to 50. He said he sells 20 to 30 buffalo a year for slaughter, and he touted their meat as healthful because it's low in cholesterol.

Buffalo graze on the range just as cattle do, he said, but "they don't respect a fence as good as a cow does."

After White buys the animals, he feeds them on corn for a couple of months before slaughtering, which he said is supervised by a USDA inspector who checks for disease and cleanliness.

Because of the limited supply, White said he supplies only two western Montana retailers with buffalo meat on a regular basis. They are Farm & Ranch Foods in Lolo and Missoula and M & S Meats & Sausage in Rollins on the west shore of Flathead Lake.

Steve Tallent at Farm & Ranch Foods said this week he had ground buffalo, roasts, steaks and salami available. M & S Meats & Sausage had ground buffalo, roasts, steaks, ribs, sausage, jerky and salami on hand, according to Sylvia Oberg.

White said he occasionally sells fresh buffalo carcasses to other area meat markets, but noted that he hasn't slaughtered any buffalo for two months.



BRYAN STEUBS/Missoulian

Bison share the fields with cattle on Bob Schall's ranch near Arlee. Schall sells 20 to 30 buffalo a year for slaughter.

White's also has a wild game stamp allowing the commercial sale of deer and elk meat, but White said little of either is on the market. Some elk ranches exist in Montana, he said, but most elk from those ranches are sold in Canada for breeding purposes.

Another kind of game meat entirely — farm-bred catfish — is available in western Montana from Cabin Creek Distributors in Ovando.

The company's owner, Louisiana native Danny Ezell, returns to Louisiana every two weeks to buy quick-frozen catfish filets from a friend's farm. Ezell said he is still building his distributing business and that Farm & Ranch

Foods is his only retail outlet in western Montana.

Meanwhile, poor market conditions have hurt trout farms in Montana, according to Marie Deter, who raises the fish in St. Ignatius.

Deter, who managed a trout processing plant in Arlee for the Western Montana Trout Growers Association until it closed in the early 1980s, said she is unaware of any stores in this area that sell Montana-raised trout. She sells trout from her farm at the Farmers Market in Missoula, which runs from June through September.

Doug Mahlum at Great Northwest Seafood & Pasta Co. in Missoula said he doesn't carry trout

because "the people that come in would rather go out and catch their own." Farm-bred trout "comes in soft," he added, because the trout aren't working in streams; the wild trout have a "nuttier" taste.

But farm-bred trout from Idaho is available in some western Montana supermarkets.

Rosauer's has fresh trout on occasion, according to meat department manager Robert Poe, and Albertson's has fresh trout every week, according to its meat department manager, Terry Birdeau. Birdeau said he sells 20-40 pounds of trout a week during the winter and 10-20 pounds during the summer.

April 29, 1987 The Missoulian

## Montana reads

### Billings photographer traces bison's past and present

*Bison: Symbol of the American West*, by publisher and professional photographer Michael Sample, is soon to be released by Falcon Press of Billings and Helena.

This is the story of a majestic creature who was caught in a massive tug-of-war between the forces of nature and mankind.

This book tells of the history of the bison — their epic journey through geologic time, their survival of the ice ages, and their survival of the mass slaughter of the 19th century. The book includes outstanding photography from where the buffalo roam — Yellowstone National Park, Wind Cave National Park, the National Bison Range, Badlands National Park, Theodore Roosevelt National Park and other

homes on the range.

This book takes a look at each of the 10 major public herds in North America and the dedicated men and women who fought to bring the bison back from the brink of extinction. Included are:

- Unique, full-color photos, including a minute-old calf with its mother, a bull "tending" a cow, bison herds, a round-up, clashes between bulls.

- Little-known facts about the most widely recognized symbol of the American West. For instance, the book points out that a grizzly usually will not attack a healthy adult bison, and that a bison cannot lie down for longer than 15 minutes without risking pneumonia from fluid in the lungs.

- Historical information and quotes from Charles Russell, Francis de Coronado, Ernest Thompson Seton, American Bison Society, and Gen. Philip Sheridan.

Michael Sample moved to Billings with his family in 1953. He began work as professional outdoor photographer in 1970. His work has appeared in *National Geographic*, *Outdoor Life*, *Montana Magazine*, *Sports Afield*, *Time* and *Sierra*.

In 1973 he began publishing the *Montana Calendar*, which is in its 15th edition. His other publications include *Mike Mansfield's Montana* and *The Angler's Guide to Montana*. In 1979, Sample and Bill Schneider formed Falcon Press Publishing Co. which publishes several calendars and books each year.

May 10, 1987 The Montana Standard (Butte, Montana)



# MAGGOTFEST MAKING IT BIG



Members of the Missoula All-Maggots Rugby Club (black jerseys) wrestle during a scrum with Penticton, British Columbia, players

for control of the ball during their match Sunday afternoon in the Maggotfest.

KURT WILSON/Missoulian

## Rugby brouhaha draws teams from around the continent

By RENATA BIRKENBUEL  
of the Missoulian

**M**aggotfest fever has spread, thanks to guys like Jake Kreilick. A graduate student in environmental studies at the University of Montana, Kreilick was responsible for getting the Washington, D.C. Sud Americano rugby team to come to Missoula's 11th annual Maggotfest last weekend.

"It's all Jake who brought us here," said John Mahaffie, Sud prop and freelance writer, as he snapped photos of the scenery from the sidelines at Playfair Park.

"He's a heck of a motivator," Mahaffie added. "This is a lot of fun for us."

Kreilick is an intern for the National Wildlife Federation. He also plays a mean inside-outside center for Sud.

If it weren't for his coaxing, his foreign and eastern teammates would never have seen the striking mountains of Montana.

"Just coming out to see Montana — that's been

nice for these guys," said Kreilick, a burly, blonde prototype rugger. "There's been a lot of real involvement, like with the environment."

Shortly after Sud arrived Thursday, the Maggots — gracious hosts that they are — took the city boys sightseeing to the National Bison Range and white-water rafting down the Clark Fork. Later, they treated them to a buffalo barbecue.

Those were new experiences for Sud Americano, which has its own practice field and clubhouse called The Bottom Line in Washington. It is one of about 50 teams in the competitive Division I Potomac Rugby Union.

Sud placed fifth at Rugby Nationals last year and is comprised of players from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Nigeria and the United States.

"It's a bit of a paradox, because we have just two players from South America (or Sud Americano)," Kreilick said. "We've got the whole spectrum, a diverse people. It gives us a bit of international flavor."

Meantime, favored Sud Americano suffered its first Maggotfest loss, a 13-0 shutout by the Snake

River (Idaho) Snakes on Sunday. Sud had swept all three of its earlier opponents during the fest.

The Vancouver Kats, another pre-fest favorite, scalped Flathead 10-4 in another Sunday feature game.

The Missoula Maggots fared better on closing day, blanking Penticton, B.C., 12-0.

The UM Jesters, a club that is undefeated in regular-season Montana Rugby Union play, dumped the Calgary Saracens 10-3 to post a 2-1 win-loss mark in the fest.

In other Sunday games, Portneuf of Pocatello, Idaho, stopped the Ogres 10-4; Western Washington blasted Ocotoks, Alberta 30-10; Red Deer, Alberta, toppled Grey Mountain of Moscow, Idaho, 36-0; and Lewis and Clark of Portland bombed LA Crude of Leduc, Alberta, 30-4.

Penticton won the "most honored" award for its sportsmanlike behavior on and off the field, while Moose Jaw, Sask., was the runner-up.

Snake River was awarded the "best play on the field" and Portneuf came in second.

May 11, 1987 The Missoulian

WHAT'S HOT	
Here are the most visited summer tourist spots in Montana, based on tourist counts made January through October 1986:	
1. Yellowstone Park, 2,280,000 visitors	260,000
2. Glacier National Park, 1,481,000	5. Libby Dam, 111,000
3. Bighorn Recreation Area, 389,000	6. Moiese Bison Range, 97,000
4. Custer Battlefield, 25,500	7. Lewis & Clark Caverns, 48,000
	8. Bighole Battle Field, 36,000
	9. Towe Antique Ford Collection, 36,000
	10. Grant Kohrs Ranch, 25,500

May 12, 1987 The Missoulian

## Tracking translators

# Babble threatens festival's harmony

By MEA ANDREWS  
of the Missoulian

Music and song are international languages, but the most harmonious plans for a choir festival could go flat if Aubrey Dunkum's list is too short.

Dunkum is searching for translators to help welcome nine foreign choirs, whose members will converge on Missoula in July. He is rounding up area residents who speak Russian, French, Italian, Polish, German and Latvian.

Dunkum's list already has about 30 interpreters, at least two for each language. One native of Latvia who eventually settled in Missoula stopped by Dunkum's house to offer his help; other interpreters were found by word of mouth and referrals.

But there are still weak spots: Only two people who speak Hungarian have been found, and more people comfortable with Italian would be nice. Three Italian choirs are participating in the festival.

And then there are 75 youngsters from a children's choir in Nancy, France. They pose a special dilemma because so many French-speaking chaperones are needed.

"I'm sure there will be different levels of ability. Anybody who seems willing to tackle it, we're will willing to take," he said.

The event is the International Choral Festival, sponsored by the

Mendelssohn Club of Missoula. Dunkum and other organizers are beginning the critical countdown to the July 8-12 festival, which will attract about 500 people who didn't grow up speaking English.

Interpreters are crucial for day-to-day survival, and to allow the visitors to get the most from their stay in Montana. But an around-the-clock bank of interpreters also is needed for other reasons.

"What if a fellow breaks his leg and has to go to the hospital?" Dunkum said. "Emergencies — that's why we need interpreters for the adults."

"Another problem is specialized vocabulary. How are we going to take 75 French kids to the bison range? The vocabulary gets very specialized when you start talking about animals and native grasses."

Dunkum said he is most anxious about having enough Hungarian translators.

"The chance that a Hungarian will speak English is much less than others (arriving for the festival.) Their second language is German mostly, maybe Russian," he said.

So far, Dunkum has found only Missoula's Joe Horvath and his son, who will be exhausted if no other Hungarian translators turn up. Horvath, a Hungarian, is known in Montana as the man who developed Eko-Kompost.

People interested in serving as translators can contact Dunkum at 543-5360.

May 28, 1987 The Missoulian

## "Record squawfish

A new state squawfish record was set May 7, when Loyal Herreid of Polson hauled in a 7-pound, 4 ounce specimen out of the Lower Flathead River neat the National Bison Range.

The lunker was caught on a smelt bait and weighed on a certified scale at the B&B store in Polson.

The old record was a 7.09-pound squawfish caught in 1985 by Jim Conlin of Thompson Falls out of the Lower Clark Fork River." June 4, 1987 The Missoulian

## “Bison range may charge sightseers

Moiese – Entrance fees may be charged for the first time at the National Bison Range near Moiese under new rules proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The fee would be \$1 per individual and \$2 per vehicle for a three-day visit. The Bison Range in western Montana is one of 19 National Wildlife Refuges targeted for the entrance fees by the federal government. Entrance fees were prohibited until last year, when a new law authorized collection fees to raise money for operation of wildlife refuges and creation of new refuges. In announcing the fee plans, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle said the fees would bolster the agency's primary account for the acquisition of wetland habitat.” June 6, 1987 The Missoulian

## Montana reads

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June 7, 1987 The Missoulian



**Boy Scout Troop 56**

of Charlo, in connection with the National Bison Range, will be selling by sealed bid approx. 1800 lbs. of deer and elk antlers. There will be several trophy pairs and 5 buffalo skulls.

For information contact  
Howard Haslam,  
2042 Moiese Valley, Rd.,  
Ronan, 59864, 1-676-8033.

June 10, 1987 The Missoulian

“Nesting isles planned for Ninepipe by Don Schwennesen of the Missoulian

Pablo – Ducks Unlimited, the waterfowl conservation group, has applied for a permit to create two nesting islands in the Ninepipe Reservoir and National Wildlife Refuge south of Ronan.

The project will create nearly 11 acres of island habitat secure from predators, and it may net a slight increase in the reservoir’s water storage capacity, according to Lloyd Jackson of the tribal Shoreline Protection Office.

Plans call for a small peninsula midway along the northeastern shore of the reservoir to be cut off by a channel 100 yards wide and nearly a quarter mile long, creating a 6.3-acre island.

Fill from the channel will help create a second offshore island of 4.6 acres, separated by from the first island by a channel 300 feet wide.

The island habitat should eventually support some 200 nests and produce more than 800 young ducks annually.

The project has the support of Jon Malcolm, who manages both the refuge and the National Bison Range for the U. s. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The work will require 83,000 cubic yards of excavation and fill. Work would be done between mid-August and December, when the reservoir is drawn down and the work site is dry.

The islands would form in spring when the reservoir fills and ducks are nesting.

According to an environmental assessment prepared by Malcolm’s office, the added nesting habitat would help at a time when duck numbers are declining.

A 1986 nesting study at Ninepipe found that nesting success for all ducks averaged only 21 percent, a marginal rate for maintaining healthy populations.

The biggest problem was predation of nests, according to the report, Skunks were the main predator, although mink, raccoon, coyote and domestic dogs also caused some damage.

The new islands would be the largest in the refuge, where 68 islands have been created over the years, ranging in size from 10 feet in diameter to a quarter-acre.” June 14, 1987 The Missoulian

# 'Tres bien'

Montana strikes a happy chord in French singers

By THERESA JOHNSON  
of the Missoulian

Montana's countryside is "belle." Americans are "sympathique" and Missoula-area croissants are "tres bon."

Or so think the children of Nancy, France.

Fifty French singers, ages 10 to 13, arrived from Nancy this week with their choirmaster and a 40-piece orchestra to participate in Missoula's International Choral Festival.

■ Related stories,  
page 21.

They will give their first official festival performance Wednesday night at Bonner Park. But they managed one French folksong — "Voici le mois de mai" — during a picnic at the National Bison Range in Moiese on Tuesday.

The clear, sweet harmony was offered as a note of thanks to Missoula's Mendelssohn Club for a lunch of sandwiches, pop, apples and cookies.

On their bus ride to the bison range, children said they marvel at Montana's mountains and wildlife. There are certainly no bison in France, except in zoos, 10-year-old Chloe Camerling noted. And her classmate, Jasmine Jacq, said Montanans seem to respect wildlife more than French people do.

The choir members attend the Didon-Raugraff School in Nancy. Choir director and school principal Claude Miller described Montana as "extraordinaire" and said the festival marks the group's first trip outside Europe.

The singers have only been in the United States two days, but have noticed several differences between French and American culture. Children accustomed to fresh baguettes (sans butter) in the morning said they had a little trouble stomaching pancakes with syrup for breakfast. They said American cars are huge.

(Turn to FRENCH, page 2)



RORY WILSON/MISSOULIAN

Anne-Catherine Picca, 11, aims her camera during a tour of the National Bison Range. Picca is part of a French choir here for the International Choral Festival.

## French

(continued)

American buildings are "tres moderne" and American-style pizza is "tres bien."

Many said they plan to buy cowboy hats as souvenirs. Several have already bought Montana T-shirts.

None of the children speak much, if any, English, and most are staying in Missoula homes where no French is spoken. But the language barrier has not caused any serious problems so far.

"After awhile you kind of understand what they're saying," said 12-year-old Jim Polakow of Missoula, whose family is housing two French girls. "You can just guess."

The French and American children on the bison range trip communicated admirably using gestures and frequent nosedives into French-English dictionaries. But Missoula's Jenna Johnson, 13, said, "Sometimes it gets frustrating trying to look things up in the book."

Francis Gilbert, a French stu-

dent at the University of Montana, served as the group's interpreter at the information center, where the French children wanted to know what bison eat, how many live in Montana, how long they live and how much they weigh.

He also translated when Ron Theriault, a history professor at the Salish-Kootenai College, talked to the children about life on the Flathead Indian reservation.

The children giggled at the name "Flathead." One child asked Theriault if Indians still hunt with bows and arrows.

He responded: "No, usually a .30-aught six."

Another pupil wanted to know if all Indians ride horses.

"No, Subarus," Theriault said. "I like horses, but I like them with a lot of salt."

Theriault told the children that most of the "Indians" they've seen in old movies are actually Italians who fit Hollywood's image of Native Americans. But he said Native Americans and French folks have traditionally gotten along quite well.

"Of all the countries that came (to America) we got along best with the French," he said.

# Money for music

Family gives \$7,500 to aid Polish choir

By MEA ANDREWS  
and THERESA JOHNSON  
of the Missoulian

**L**ocal sponsors of the International Choral Festival are certain to enjoy their foreign guests with more gusto because of a generous donor.

In the last few days, an out-of-state family with connections to Missoula has given \$7,500 to help the Wroclaw Technical University Choir from Poland with its cross-America journey.

The Polish group became a concern because its members could not arrange or pay for transportation from New York to Missoula — a trip that adds an unexpected \$10,000 to the cost of the festival.

The \$7,500 check, however, relieves some tension among the Missoula sponsors. The big donation, along with smaller ones, will just about cover the costs, said Don Carey, director of the Missoula Mendelssohn Club, which is sponsoring the choral festival.

## Festival notebook

"It really saved the day for the Poles," he said. "We would have found a way (to pay the bill), but it would have taken a long time. This was a windfall."

The donor asked to remain anonymous, Carey said.

### And the Poles did arrive.

They rolled in at about 4:15 p.m. Tuesday at the Village Red Lion Motor Inn, where the command post for the choral festival is set up.

They were hot and very tired of traveling.

They began their trip with a 10-hour delay in Poland. The problem was unspecified but involved some "breakdown" of work at the airport, one choir member said.

Their bus left Kennedy Airport in New York for a three-day cross-country trip with overnight or dinner stops in Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Billings.

Three members of the group came ahead by plane and arrived on Saturday. The trio — Lila Maria Sobok, a music teacher at the school; Mirka Jura, who is in her final year of music studies; and choir president Andrzej Kuklinski, also a student — met their fellow chorale members dressed in their Montana T-shirts. They had memorized our state song, but did not have time to perform it before the host families whisked their foreign guests home.



DWAN FEARY/Missoulian

After riding across the country in a chartered bus, Marzena Mroz from Wroclaw, Poland, introduces herself on Tuesday to 7-year-old Katie Murphy. Mroz will live with Katie and her parents, Jerry and Valerie Murphy, during the International Choral Festival.

The International Choral Festival has given Russell School music students a chance to meet their French pen pals face-to-face.

Last March, Russell School Choir Director Gina Adoff had her pupils send letters to schoolchildren in Nancy, France. Her 35 pupils wrote to members of the Children's Choir of the Didion-Raugraff School, one of the groups in Missoula this week for the festival.

The pupils wrote back and forth during the spring. Missoula high-school French teachers translated the French letters into English, Adoff said.

"I was surprised at the lovely response of the French children," she said.

Adoff said some of her pupils are housing their French pen pals this week and said she expects all

of her pupils to turn out for their pen pals' Missoula concerts.

"I hope to see all of them there," she said.

Erin Lambert, 11, met her penpal, Sophie Magnette, on Monday. The two were together when the French singers visited the National Bison Range in Moiese.

"C'est bien," Magnette said about their friendship.

**Score a few points** for French bread over its American counterpart.

Ten-year-old Marie Lesourd of Nancy had this to say about the sliced bread she had for lunch Tuesday: "Ce n'est pas tres bon, mais c'est mangeable," which means: "It's not very good, but it's edible."

## INTERNATIONAL choral festival



MISSOULA, MONTANA  
July 8-12, 1987

Here's Wednesday's schedule of events for the International Choral Festival.

**Noon:** Coro Alpi Cozie, Susa, Italy, Walter Mori, director, will appear at Caras Park.

**8 p.m.:** The Children's Choir from Nancy, France, Claude Miller, director, will perform with the Missoula City Band at Bonner Park.

“Robert ‘Bob’ H. Schall Sr.

Arlee – Robert ‘Bob’ H. Schall Sr., 69, of Arlee, died Wednesday, July 15, at Mission Valley Hospital in St. Ignatius. Cause of death is believed to have been a pulmonary embolism.

He was born June 30, 1918, in St. Ignatius, to Ruben H. and Eva Nichols Schall. He lived his entire life on the family ranch north of Arlee and was educated in the Arlee school system.

During the early stages of his ranch life, he changed from sheep to a cattle operation. Utilizing a government stallion from Wyoming, he raised and provided horses for the government remount station in Perma. During this time, he also enlarged his ranch and built his cattle herd. In 1948, he purchased a starter herd of buffalo from the National Bison Range at Moiese.

He and Roy King entered the rodeo stock contracting business in 1954.

He and his wife, Marjorie, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary May 29.

Among many other activities, he served on the Arlee School board for nine years.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, of Arlee, five daughters: Joanna M. Crawford, Stevensville; Judith N. Myllymaki, Betsy J. Johnson and Marjorie J. Schall, all of Arlee; and Mary Jane Heindel, Kalispell; a son, Robert H. Schall, Jr., Arlee; and numerous cousins.

Visitation will be at the Fearon Chapel in St. Ignatius from 1-4 p.m. Sunday and 9–11:30 a.m. Monday.

Funeral services will be Monday at 2 p.m., at the Arlee High School gymnasium with the Rev. Kent W. Kinney officiating.

Interment will follow at Pleasant View Cemetery in St. Ignatius.

Pallbearers will be: Bill Gardner, Paul Corbin, Mort Lytle, John Steigler, Leroy Morin, Sam Kisson, Walt Vermedahl and Bill Couture.

Honorary pallbearers will be: Delos Robbins, Pete Rovero, Tom Tucker, Fred Whitworth, Cleve Loney, Bill Kirkaldie, George Feucht, Denny Dreyer, Dr. Earl Pruyn, Ralph McCollum, Ken Piedalue, Leonard Lytle, Ben Kropius, Dr. R. D. Reed, A.C. Brooks, Dwain Rennaker, Todd Sanders, Kenny Phillips and Bill Phillips.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Fearon Chapel in St. Ignatius.” July 19, 1987 The Missoulian



## MONTANA

# Flatheads balk at swap

By DON SCHWENNESEN  
of the Missoulian

**PABLO** — A plan to adjust federal wildlife refuge boundaries around Pablo Reservoir was rejected Friday by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council.

Tribal members affected by the boundary shifts objected to the proposal, which called for the tribes to grant new easements for about 85 acres that would have extended the refuge to a county road on the west side of the reservoir.

In exchange, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have relinquished easements on about 115 acres of tribal land south, east and northwest of the refuge.

The exchange was intended to correct longstanding encroachment problems around the refuge, according to Jon Malcolm, who manages both the National Bison Range at Moiese and the national waterfowl refuges around Ninepipe and Pablo reservoirs.

Malcolm said the present irregular refuge boundaries at Pablo were created to roughly parallel the shoreline. But they are con-

fusing to hunters, who are supposed to stay outside the refuge.

More seriously, he said, misplaced fences actually are inside refuge boundaries and have left some refuge lands outside.

The tribes have leased some of those lands to Polson Outdoors Inc., a sportsmen's group. The lands are open to public hunting, and goose-hunting pits built along the misplaced fences are illegally on the refuge, Malcolm said.

A four-wheel-drive course on the east side of the reservoir also is inside the refuge boundary, Malcolm said.

Tribal members now hunt along the west side of the reservoir, the area where the FWS had hoped to add refuge lands.

Even if the lands were added, Malcolm told the council, the area could remain open to hunting by tribal members only, in deference to their established use.

He said the easements proposed for trade were comparable in value, so taxpayers would not lose any of their investment in the refuge. The easement swap would legalize established boundary uses without diminishing the refuge, he said.

But tribal members at Friday's

meeting told the council they prefer the status quo. Tribal farmers also objected to proposed new fences, which would have intersected leased farmland currently under tillage around the refuge.

Malcolm told the council that if the boundary problems couldn't be resolved, FWS would have to evict hunters from established areas this fall and erect fences along the actual boundaries.

Some people at Friday's meeting said they believed the existing fences were properly placed and reflected a past boundary adjustment now lost in the records.

Asked why the FWS couldn't legitimize the existing boundary hunting if it was willing to accept tribal hunting on the western edge of the refuge, Malcolm said that idea had been proposed but was rejected by the agency's Denver office.

"I guess you understand we have no choice but to move those hunters outside the refuge boundary," Malcolm told the council after it had rejected the easement swap.

"I resent this whole process," said Councilman Jim Steele, after the vote.

He asked that tribal attorneys

be directed to research the legal history of the refuge and prepare a written opinion on who should have jurisdiction over hunting around the refuge.

"I don't like being treated like that, especially when we own the land in the first place," Steele said.

"We've done nothing but give — 14 or 15 million acres we gave" when the reservation was created, Councilman Ron Theriault said. "When it came around to allotments (opening the reservation to homesteading by non-Indians), we gave. I'm tired of giving."

Council Chairman Michael Pablo said the FWS may have authority to manage the refuge, but regulatory matters should rest with the tribes.

One tribal staffer suggested that if the boundary lands haven't been managed as part of the refuge for 50 years, the easement may no longer be valid.

Chuck Dixon of Polson Outdoors said his group will try to rally other sportsmen and take the issue to Congress if the FWS tries to evict hunters from hunting lands they now lease from the tribes.

August 15, 1987 The Missoulian

Missoulian, Sunday, August 30, 1987—13

## Antelope score: 1 dead, 1 caught, 5 escaped

By DON SCHWENNESEN  
of the Missoulian

**ST. IGNATIUS** — The first attempt to capture and relocate several antelope that escaped from the National Bison Range last spring ended in frustration and the loss of one animal.

The attempt last Saturday netted two of the seven animals, but the rest spooked prematurely and scattered before the helicopter used for the trapping could drive them into the wing-shaped capture net.

The two captured animals were quickly removed from the net by

personnel hiding on the ground nearby, according to Bureau of Indian Affairs biologist Jim Claar.

They were tranquilized, tagged and prepared for relocation, but one of them subsequently went into deep shock and died.

"Some animals are particularly susceptible to stress, and this was one," Claar said Friday.

A second attempt to herd the antelope also failed, he said, because the wary animals had already figured out that they couldn't get through the soft, large-mesh cotton net without getting snared.

With only one antelope to

show for the exercise, the trapping was called off and the lone captured critter was freed.

"Since these animals are social animals ... we just turned it loose on site" rather than move it to a place with no companionship, Claar said.

Claar said BIA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Salish and Kootenai tribal officials took part in the trapping, assisted by Bart O'Gara, head of the University of Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and an expert on antelope.

The antelope escaped last spring through a hole under the

big fence that surrounds the bison range, and they had been ranging just outside the fence along a ridge southwest of St. Ignatus.

The tribes had planned to start their own herd on the reservation when the opportunity arose, and they got permission to capture the antelope and move all but one of them to tribal land in the Ferry Basin area a few miles west.

Claar said there may be another attempt to catch the antelope later this fall, but a different trapping method will be used.

The tribes also have been promised seven surplus antelope from the bison range, he said.

August 30, 1987 The Missoulian



# Eleven named senior citizens of the year

## Missoulian

Eleven men and women — including three men from western Montana — were named as Senior Citizens of the Year at the 1987 Governor's Conference on Aging.

Among the winners are Max Harris of St. Ignatius, Fred Pritchett of Kalispell and Willis Hill of Missoula.

The conference was held this week in Missoula.

Pritchett, 72, moved to Kalispell after retiring from his meat business in Lewistown. He recently earned his 500-hour pin for volunteer work at the Kalispell Regional Hospital, where he's been a tour guide, run the Volunteer program and worked as a messenger.

He also has been a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program for six years, a Retired Senior Volunteer Program board member, president of the Council on Aging, and is president-elect of the Kalispell Regional Hospital Volunteer Association.

Hill, 85, retired five years ago as a carpenter, but continues to be active as a Meals on Wheels driver; serves at the Food Bank seven times a month; builds shelves or tables for such places as the RSVP offices, Food Bank and delicatessen at the Missoula County Courthouse; builds ramps and rails for elderly wheelchair users; and visits local nursing homes every Sunday afternoon.

Harris was president of the St. Ignatius Saddle Club for three terms, is a past presi-

dent of the PTA, and belonged to the volunteer fire department for several years. He and his wife, Ruby, are active in teaching round dance and continue to be avid square dancers.

Harris, who moved to St. Ignatius from Canada in 1928, arranged the first saddle ride through the National Bison Range — an annual affair that attracts 500 riders now, compared with that first year's 37. He is active in the Senior Citizens Center and was its president for three years.

Other winners are Katharine Turnquist, Wibaux; Lloyd Johnson, Lewistown; Tom Staff, Chinook; Bernice McGee, Livingston; Mary Tallman, Pony; Harry Little Bird Sr., Lame Deer; Aili Nevala, Belt; and Charlotte Jarvis, Havre.

September 12, 1987 The Missoulian

# Bison buffs gather to talk buffalo

by ROB CHANEY  
for the Missoulian

Homes where the buffalo roam have spread from Alberta to Alabama. But the bison business still has a long way to go before it begins to budge the basic bovine buyer.

Which is why about 200 public and private buffalo herders gathered at the Missoula Sheraton for a four-day conference to compare notes on bison breeding and marketing.

"We don't advocate buffalo as a 'get rich quick' scheme," said Judi Hebbring, coordinator of the National Bison Association. "But the number (of animals) in the private sector has quadrupled in the last 25 years."

Unlike cattle, bison still are wild animals, and ranchers require a different set of rules for

raising them.

"He (a bison rancher) is going to have to forget everything they know about cows," Hebbring said. "If you're going into raising buffalo like a pet cow, you're done before you start."

One of the biggest differences between bison and cattle is size — bison bulls average one ton in weight compared to about 1,500 pounds for bovine bulls. The extra weight requires tougher fences, corrals and pens.

Which brings up another problem. Bison don't particularly take to herding, or domestication in general. Fortunately, they're pretty good at looking after themselves.

Hebbring said a healthy herd with plenty of space will stay that way with little help from the rancher. When free to roam, bison are highly resistant to dis-

ease. They calve easily (which is good since Hebbring said a bison cow probably wouldn't allow any help anyway). And they aren't as finicky as cattle in their choice of range grasses.

Wray Dawson, a bison rancher from Chantilly, Va., said the bison's self-sufficiency helped reduce labor costs. When Dawson had 150 head of cattle, he said, he had to hire six cowboys twice a year to deal with immunizations and roundups. Now he says he can handle 80 head of bison alone.

Bison cost about the same or less to raise than cattle. But the bison raiser has almost complete control of his market. Since only 10,000 bison a year are slaughtered for market, there is little opportunity for a feed lot or middleman to cut in on the deal.

Thus, ranchers usually sell to

specialty markets where prices have climbed as high as \$10 per pound for fresh steak. Dawson said a more average price would be about \$6 per pound for steak and \$3 per pound for chopped meat.

The catch is finding an available bison. Even with the growing popularity of bison production in the United States, any attempt to herd the lot together would fall short of 75,000 animals, Hebbring said.

And those owners who have herds tend to hold onto them. Hebbring said that a tuberculosis outbreak a few years ago scared many breeders into hoarding their stock. The result was fewer bison going on the market, even as national demand for the animals was growing.

September 30, 1987 The Missoulian

## “People roam on buffaloes’ home

Moiese – More than 5,000 spectators crowded the National Bison Range on Sunday to witness the annual roundup of about 71 bison designated for slaughter. Because of the crowd, range riders were assigned literally “ride herd” on people as well as the buffalo. Forty-seven people bid on the animals, but only seven bidders took home any of the “surplus” bison, paying \$756 to \$1,311 per animal. To conserve range resources, surplus animals are sold each year after the roundup to maintain the herd at 350.” Sanders County Ledger, Thompson Falls, 10/8/87.” October 10, 1987 The Missoulian

## “Bison roundup gets national attention

Moiese – (AP) – One of western Montana’s best autumn shows won rave review in Esquire magazine.

An article titled “The Buffalo Chase” occupies center stage in the publication’s January issue. The two-page story, singing the praises of cowboys and the annual bison roundup held at the National Bison Range here, was written by renowned Western author Louis L’Amour.

“Black against the sunlit yellow grass a handful of buffalo grazed where once they walked in uncounted millions,” reads “Amour’s opening paragraph. “No longer were disturbed by the booming guns of hide-hunters nor stampeded over cliffs by charging Indians, but when the old bull lifted his head he glimpsed the riders and memory stirred.”

The article is accompanied by six color photographs taken by William Albert Allard.” December 22, 1987 The Missoulian



“Thundering of Hooves, yips of riders mark the annual roundup at the National Bison Range each fall. Thousands of visitors take the self-guided tour through the range each summer for close up look at the buffalo and other wildlife.” Paul Fugleburg photo. Courier, Pioneer, Mission Valley News Vacation Guide 1988, page 24.

## “Man charged with theft of antlers

Moiese – A Missoula man has been charged with theft of elk antlers from the National Bison Range. David M. Ferguson is charged with the March 7 theft in upper Elk Creek, where range managers discovered a bull elk carcass with the antlers sawed off. Range Manager Jon Malcolm said the elk was an older bull that apparently had died after getting caught in a fence. He said such deaths are rare. Ferguson was charged April 7 and posted bond, pending an appearance before federal magistrate. Maximum penalty for illegal antler collecting is a \$500 fine and six months in jail. Elk antlers from the refuge are collected after they shed in spring. Rea Boy Scouts do the collecting, under a six-week special permit. The antlers are then sold by sealed bid to dealers and craftsmen. Proceeds go to the scouts, the bison range and Glacier Natural History Association.” April 14, 1988 The Missoulian

# Photo foray led to bison attack

By DON BATY  
of the Missoulian

Edith Noel figures that the next time she wants a photo of a bison, she'll buy a postcard.

The Spokane woman had walked away from her vehicle to photograph a bull bison at the National Bison Range in Moiese Friday evening, when the animal suddenly lifted its head and charged her at full speed. It caught Noel on the right side of her lower back with its horn and threw her over its back.

"We weren't provoking him or nothing," Noel, 51, said from her bed at St. Patrick Hospital Saturday evening.

(Authorities had earlier said that Noel was gored through a wire fence by a penned bison.)

Besides the back wound, she suffered a chipped a bone in her left foot. Hospital officials said she was in stable condition Saturday.

Noel had left Spokane at 1 p.m. Friday to begin a week-long vacation in Glacier National Park with her fiancé, Roger Slee, 59. They saw the sign for the bison range on their way by and decided to take a short tour before finding a place to camp in their fifth-wheel trailer.

They had walked a short way from their vehicle to photograph a bison at the end of the driving tour, less than half a mile from range headquarters, when the mature bull suddenly charged.

"It happened so fast," Noel said. "He had his head down eating, then he just shot right at us like a bullet."

"Edith was running full bore," Slee added, "but she just didn't stand a chance. That bull is a good six feet tall, and she was above him when I saw her. Then she landed on her shoulders and back."

In addition to the hole in her back and the chipped foot, Noel said, she "ached from head to toe."

Slee took the injured Noel to range manager Jon Malcolm's home, adjacent to range headquarters. Malcolm called in the Life Flight helicopter, which transported Noel to St. Pat's.

Slee was understandably shaken after watching his fiancée get gored and tossed by the bison, so Malcolm drove him into Missoula in the couple's vehicle and stayed with them at the hospital until early Saturday morning.

Malcolm said Noel's goring was the first to occur since the bison range was established in 1908.

He said the bison range staff had identified a "prime suspect" in the goring. Using four-wheel-drive vehicles, they herded the animal into a pasture away from the tour roads Saturday morning. No further action is planned against the bison.

"Folks that come in here and



KAREN NICHOLS/Missoulian

**EDITH NOEL RECUPERATES** at St. Patrick Hospital after being gored in the back by a mature bull bison Friday evening at the National Bison Range. Noel and her fiancé Roger Slee (background) were visiting the range en route from Spokane to Glacier National Park.

want to see the bison need to recognize how unpredictable and powerful these critters are," Malcolm said. He urged people

to obey range regulations and never leave the roadway. Malcolm added that breeding season is just starting and the

bulls are more ready to charge people. He said if there are bison close to the road, people should stay in their cars.

## EVELYN KING



### PATCHES

## Race walking is no stroll about campus

**C**olorful balloons flying from a canopy on the university campus last Sunday aroused my curiosity as I headed for a dip in the Grizzly Pool.

The shelter was headquarters for the first annual "Healthful Harvest Walk" sponsored by the YMCA. Several staff members bustled about preparing packets for entrants and setting up refreshment tables.

Starting time for the activity was 1:30 p.m. Although advance registration had been encouraged, I was invited to participate. The time was a few minutes after noon. If I hustled, I decided, it would be possible.

I sailed through my daily half-mile in the water like a catamaran, dashed home still damp, grabbed money for my entry fee and sped back.

I'd had no problem finding a parking place the first time, but now everyone in town apparently had decided to attend the gun and antique show in the Field House. At 1:26 p.m., the only parking spot available was near the Madison Street Bridge.

I dashed the two blocks to the entry table and got there just in time to pay, receive my number and T-shirt and trot to the end of the Field House moments before the starting gun. Juanita Putzker of Alberton was also a latecomer, so we signed in together.

There were three categories: a 5-K health walk and race walk and a mile health walk. I signed up for the 5-K without considering that distance is more than 3 miles. Since the outing also was billed as a "healthful walk" I thought it would be a stroll about the campus and university area to observe the flora and fauna.

Wrong. When the starting gun sounded, folks took off as though being chased by a horde of angry hornets. I had expected such action from the race walkers, but thought the rest of us would be more leisurely.

If it hadn't sprinkled the night before, I'd have been left in the dust. Juanita was kind enough to stay with me. We hadn't seen each

other for several months, so had a lot of visiting to do, between huffing and puffing. (She also explained to me that the event was competitive and was timed.)

A puzzlement: I seemed to be moving twice as fast as other walkers, but remained behind. Then I remembered. My strides are about a half or a third as long. Even my grandchildren walk faster than I do. So I lengthened my stride. (Much to my hip joints' regret the next day.)

Maybe I should learn race walking. That might get the old bod in better shape. The technique reminds me of robots gone berserk. Racers jerk down the course with arms akimbo, hips swinging and painful expressions on faces, as though they have rocks in their sox.

Several times I considered taking shortcuts through alleys or across the campus, but then stubbornly decided to cross the finish line even if I had to crawl — which I almost did. I was surprised to receive a ribbon for winning fourth place in my age category. (How that was determined is a mystery, since I had written only "over 21" on the entry form. Maybe they thought I meant "over the hill".)

A total of 66 people, ages 8 to 80, participated in the three categories. Crisp, rosy apples of the week to the YMCA for an invigorating, fun event! I hope to stretch my stride and enter again next year.

**REMEMBER THOSE RASCALLY** raccoons? Adorable in appearance, the woodland bandits are also carriers of a new, lethal parasite.

The information was sent both to me and Dorothy Barmeyer by Jim Norguard, naturalist with the National Bison Range at Moiese. He writes:

"Please make available to your readers the information enclosed regarding a parasite commonly carried by raccoons which can easily be transmitted to humans and can be fatal.

"I love introducing adults and children to wildlife and, whenever possible, employ a 'hands on' approach. There are however, some instances where we should be informed and take special precautions, and living in close contact with raccoons is apparently one of those."

The article, which appeared in a taxidermy news letter, is by a John Rinehart. He states that by "skinning a raccoon, taxidermists are coming in contact with a parasite proving to be lethal to humans. The eggs of the parasite are hatched in the raccoon's intestinal tract and are spread with the feces. Thousands of these eggs can also become attached to the raccoon's fur.

"The parasite is a roundworm called Baylisascaris procyonis. Studies in Illinois and Indiana of more than 700 raccoons revealed that 70 percent of adult animals and 90 percent of young ones carried the parasite.

"Two deaths have been directly connected to this parasite. One death in Illinois involved a 1½-year-old boy who by chewing on wood chips ingested thousands of the parasite eggs. The second confirmed death occurred in Pennsylvania when a child became infected by crawling around a fireplace hearth. The chimney was being used by the raccoons as their den."

So, beware the raccoons. They may appear lovable, but they are also lethal.

Thanks for the information, Jim.

# Invading loosestrife threatens wildlife habitat

By DONNA SYVERTSON  
of the Missoulian

MOIESE — Purple loosestrife is the newest problem plant to invade western Montana, but unlike knapweed and leafy spurge, this tall, colorful European import threatens wildlife habitat instead of farmland.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managers are hoping to nip it in the bud. But, judging from experiences in other states, they won't have an easy time.

It's not officially a weed in Montana. In fact, some gardeners prize its long purple-flowered stalks, vivid fall foliage and herbal properties as an astringent and styptic. Some beekeepers value it for nectar and pollen.

But with each blossom yielding about 90 tiny seeds, a single mature plant can produce around 2.7 million seeds.

At that rate, even the 98 percent "sterile" hybrid varieties sold to gardeners can prove remarkably fecund. Garden escapees from Ronan to Spring Creek are considered a likely source of the current outbreak.

Loosestrife invades shorelines and marshy areas, encroaching on shallow channels and displacing cattails, bullrushes and other native plants used by waterfowl and furbearers for food, cover and nesting habitat.

"I've never been anywhere where we had a problem that scared me as much as loosestrife," says Bill West,

**'I've never been anywhere where we had a problem that scared me as much as loosestrife.'**

— Bill West, assistant refuge manager,  
National Bison Range

assistant refuge manager at the National Bison Range in Moiese, whose responsibilities include the waterfowl refuges and nesting areas in the Mission Valley.

"We feel like it's threatening the wetlands we're supposed to be taking care of," he said.

So far, fewer than 100 acres are affected in 40 scattered locations, most in Lake County

but a half-dozen in southern Flathead County near Flathead Lake.

The biggest stand is a two-mile-long swath along Dublin Gulch north of Charlo.

Recent dry years have accelerated its spread by exposing banks and mudflats where seedlings have gained ground.

West has enlisted local help to

create a Lake County loosestrife control district, and he is drafting a loosestrife control plan due early next month.

Control is expected to cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 next year, and West plans to seek state assistance with the funding.

Options being studied include hand-pulling where possible, spot spraying or wick application of Rodeo (a glyphosate herbicide similar to Roundup but approved for use over water), and helicopter spraying of 2,4-D.

Joining the control effort are groups as diverse as the Flathead Resource Organization, Flathead Audubon chapter, Salish-Kootenai Tribes, Lake County Weed Control Board and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

But sportsmen and farmers have been less interested, so far, despite the discovery of loosestrife in at least one irrigation ditch. West believes farmers may become more concerned if the plant begins to colonize reservoirs and irrigation canals.

Volunteers from the Flathead Resource Organization spent 76 hours last summer clearing about 1,000 plants from a pond, canal and marsh area near Ninepipe, and they are working with Salish Kootenai College to help set up local loosestrife research.

But FRO is opposing any use of 2,4-D because of its longer life in the environment, potential toxicity to fish and the precedent that might be set by its use over water.

November 6, 1988 The Missoulian



"Buffalo Chase — Scene at annual Bison Range Roundup might resemble hunt scene. Rather, range riders annually corral bison for sorting and vaccinations."

## "Bison have long history on reservation

Open season on buffalo? Perhaps we need an open season on buffalo, for recently a small herd of the shaggy beasts held up traffic on Highway 93.

Away back in 1962, Alaska declared an open season on buffalo, which animals of the state-owned herd persisted in sleeping on the black-topped highway rather than the frozen tundra.

The Flathead Indians asked the agent, Major Peter Ronan, to allow them to go on a buffalo hunt to replenish their robes and tepee coverings. When they returned without seeing a buffalo herd, they felt that open season on buffalo had been the practice of the white men or a long time.



During the Nez Perce' rebellion of 1877, crops of the Flatheads failed and Chief Charlo concluded that they must undertake a major fall buffalo hunt to forestall famine. But the Indian Department banned the sale of guns or ammunition to Indians.

Major Ronan objected. "These confederated Flathead Indians have procured their ammunition and guns without restraint. They have stood to o protect the whites, and now instead of praise and encouragement, they are to be prohibited from supporting their families," said Ronan. He had to supply the Indians with food from his own pay.

The next year, a large buffalo herd appeared on the plains, and again the chieftains petitioned for a massive buffalo hunt. This time, permission was granted, but with a military escort. The Tribe obtained little meat and blamed this on the military escort.

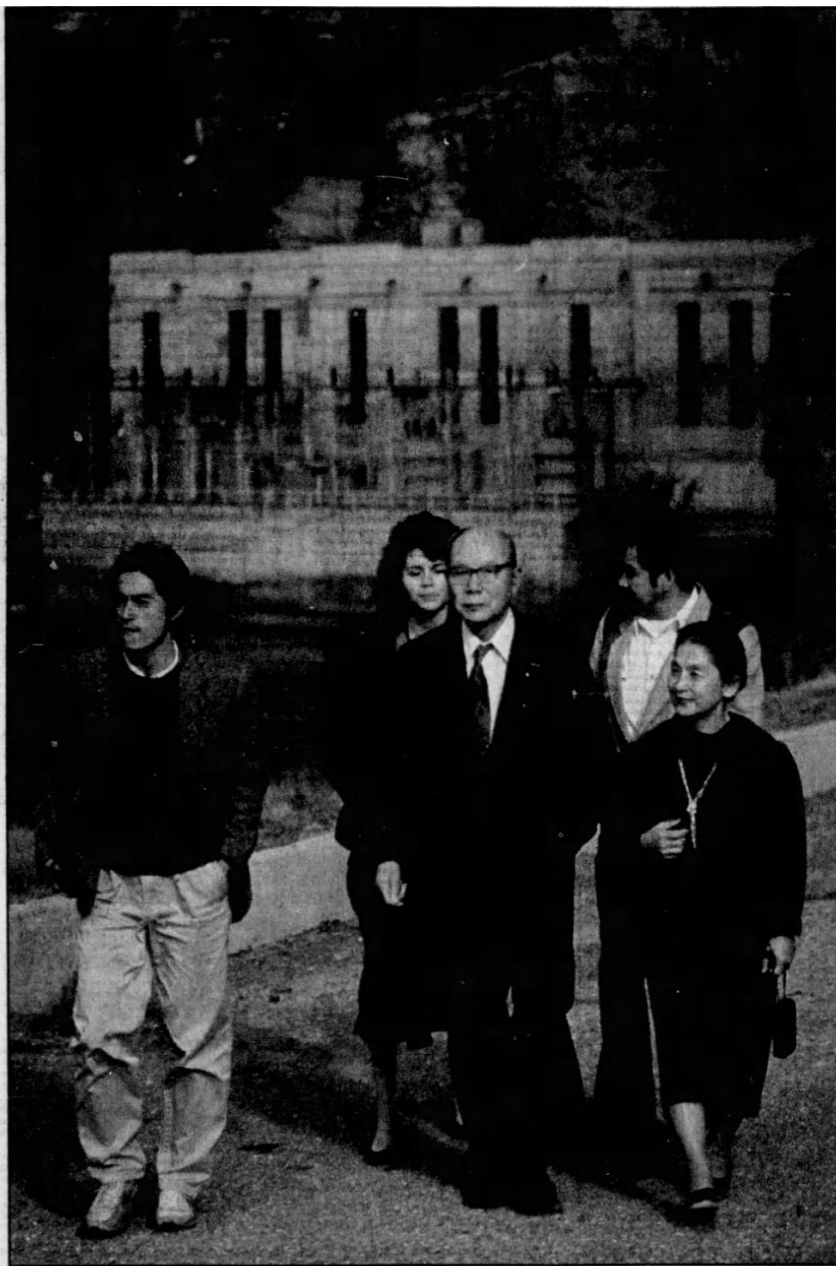
In the fall of 1879, buffalo herds again appeared. Blind, 70-year-old Big Canoe commanded his last buffalo chase. The Flathead hunters succeeded, although white settlers declared that Indians butchered cattle along with buffalo. General Terry reported numerous white hunters were slaughtering buffalo with better guns than the Indians.

Meanwhile, Samuel Coyote-Who-Walks Alone brought back to the Reservation three buffalo calves, one bull and two cows. Soon his herd had increased to thirteen. This was too much of a burden but he would sell them, as buffalo west of the Rocky Mountains were scarce.

Charles Allard, a cattleman with his ranch on mud Creek, saw the possibility of a profitable investment. Allard and his friend, Michel Pablo, bought ten of these practically-extinct animals as a speculation, paying Walking Coyote \$2,000 in gold.

This probably saved the buffalo from extinction, as the herd increased rapidly until it became the largest buffalo herd in the world.

Among the descendants of this herd are the present stock of the National Bison Range at Moiese, the Yellowstone National Park herd, and the Canadian herds at Banff and Jasper National Parks. Also related was the Alaskan herd that liked to sleep on the blacktop and the small herd that roamed down Highway 93 this week." February 2, 1989 The Mission Valley News



JOHN ASHLEY/Missoulian

**JAPAN REAL ESTATE Federation President Uichi Noda (center) and Kinue Nishimura (right) visit Kerr Dam near Polson with representatives of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes on Friday.**

# East meets West

Japanese group  
tours reservation

By **RON SELDEN**  
for the Missoulian

PABLO — Although no formal business agreements were negotiated, a hand of friendship was extended Friday between Salish and Kootenai tribal leaders and a group of Japanese dignitaries visiting the Flathead Reservation.

"I am moved by the hospitality of the people here," said Junsei Terasawa, a prominent Buddhist leader from Tokyo. "I am impressed by the eagerness of the people here to improve themselves."

Terasawa was joined by Uichi Noda, president of the Japan Real Estate Federation and a senior government adviser; Kinue Nishimura, secretary general of the American Indian Friendship Association of Japan; and Yanagi Tokoro, whose husband is chairman of a large poultry and egg company.

The delegation's visit was organized by tribal officials and Dennis Banks, a longtime American Indian Movement leader and businessman from South Dakota.

"This is an official state visit," Banks said. "They'll go back to Japan and have a meeting with the government next week to discuss how to proceed."

The delegation is in the middle of weeklong tour of three U.S. Indian reservations.

While on the Flathead Reservation the group got a glimpse of the National Bison Range, took a quick trip to Kerr Dam on the Flathead River near Pol-

(See **JAPANESE**, Page A-8)

## Japanese

(continued)

son, and met informally with tribal leaders.

The delegation also was treated to a traditional Indian meal, dancing and drumming, and fellowship among dozens of invited guests and tribal elders.

In the course of discussions, a variety of social issues, economic questions, and cultural inquiries were raised. While much of the dialogue had to be translated, English prevailed at times.

"This relationship is very important for the future," Terasawa told Tribal Councilmen Floyd Nicolai, Robert McCrea and Lloyd Irvine and Salish Kootenai College President Joe McDonald. "I come to the United States to find out ways to improve the economic conditions of the Native Americans here."

"There's no difference between Japanese and Native Americans as far as their abilities," Noda told the group. "We respect the Native American people very much. We would like to improve your situation on the reservation."

While no details were worked out on any aspect of economic development, the visitors seemed especially interested in natural-resource issues.



## “Bison roads open for summer

Polson – National Bison Range tour roads are open to the public at 7 a.m., seven days a week through August. The entrance to the 19-mile Red Sleep Drive will close two hours before dark to allow visitors to complete the trip. The shorter Buffalo Prairie Drive will close at dark. The visitor’s center is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. A \$2 per-car tour fee is being charged through August. There is no charge for use of the picnic area, nature trails or visits to the display pasture near the range headquarters. Golden Eagle and Golden Access passes are accepted for admission to the range and are available at the visitor’s center. The Golden Age and Access passes are available at the visitor’s center without charge to people 62 years or older and to those who are handicapped. The annual Golden Eagle pass is \$25. The federal waterfowl stamp, also sold at the center, admits holders to the Bison Range and other national wildlife refuges. Educational groups will be admitted free. There are special rates for commercial tour buses. For additional information, call 644-2211.” July 2, 1989 The Missoulian

## “FYI

### Friendship Force

#### Berliners head for Missoula

Missoula will be visited by 41 Germans from West Berlin later this week as part of the Friendship Force exchange program.

The visitors will arrive July 27 and leave Aug. 4, after completing a schedule that includes sightseeing in Helena, a tour of the National Bison Range, visits to fairs, shopping centers and the Bitterroot Valley.

They will live with host families in Missoula during their stay and families will plan activities for free days. The Germans range in age from 9 to 76, with a “mean” age of 50, according to Bonnie Faust of the Missoula Friendship Force organization.

Friendship Force is a non-profit international citizens exchange organization founded in 1977. It sends Americans abroad to live with foreign families and brings foreign families here to foster international peace and understand.” July 26, 1989 The Missoulian

# FYI

## BISON RANGE

### Winter hours now in force

**M**OIESE — The buffalo are still home on the National Bison Range, but they're keeping shorter business hours from now until spring.


The visitor center at the bison range is open only on weekdays — from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — for the winter. The 19-mile tour over Red Sleep Mountain is closed.

However, the 10-mile Winter Drive is open every day from daylight to dusk, as is the shorter Buffalo Prairie Drive. Elk, deer and pronghorn roam along the Winter Drive; some bison are kept in an exhibition pasture throughout the winter.

Sightseers or school groups interested in scheduling trips to the bison range this winter, should call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1-644-2211.

— Sherry Devlin

October 18, 1989 The Missoulian



**international  
wildlife  
film festival**

### FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Tuesday, April 3

**2-5 p.m.**  
**Field trips**

Craighead Wildlife-Wildlands Institute  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Visitor's center

**7-11 p.m.**  
**Screenings of assorted winners**

Meet at Holiday Inn-Parkside  
\$8/person

Wilma Theatre  
\$4/Admission

**COMING TOMORROW**

National Bison Range field trip  
Screenings of winners  
Wildlife Song & Music Celebration

April 3, 1990 The Missoulian

## MONTANA

# Hunter guilty of illegal elk killing

By **RON SELDEN**  
for the Missoulian

**PABLO** — A Flathead Reservation man has been found guilty of illegally hunting elk on the National Bison Range.

St. Ignatius resident Robert C. Matt, 20, was found guilty of the charge last week by U.S. Magistrate John W. Larson of Missoula, according to court documents.

## Bison-range shooting draws stiff penalty

Matt, a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and a non-Indian companion, Kenneth G. Ahlborn, 24, shot four elk inside the Bison Range fence on Jan. 17. The incident occurred near the north side of the Jocko River near Highway 200 between Ravalli and Dixon.

According to court documents, Matt admitted to climbing over a 7-foot fence marking the game

preserve boundary while he and Ahlborn pursued the animals.

After shooting the elk, the two men hid from law enforcement officials and were not tracked down for questioning until the following day.

In late January, Ahlborn pleaded guilty to charges of illegal hunting and abandoning the carcass of a game animal in the field.

He was given a year in jail, with six months suspended; fined

\$1,020; ordered to pay restitution and had his hunting privileges suspended for two years.

Along with the federal charge, Matt also faces an upcoming ruling from Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court Judge Don Dupuis on six other charges stemming from the elk shooting.

On the federal charge, Matt could be fined up to \$500 and receive up to six months in prison. Sentencing in U.S. District Court is scheduled for Friday.

July 25, 1990 The Missoulian

## Cordia J. Henry

**RONAN** — Former Charlo resident Cordia J. Henry, 84, of Ronan, died of natural causes Tuesday, Aug. 7, at St. Luke Extended Care Facility in Ronan.

He was born April 15, 1906, in Bremerton, Wash., to Cordia and Barbara Henry, and was raised and educated in Seattle. He attended Washington State University and Michigan State University in Lansing.

On Sept. 12, 1932, he married Thelma Payne in Battle Creek, Mich.

While finishing his education, he did research on birds at Lower Souris, now known as the Jay Clark Saller Wildlife Refuge, until transferring to the Seney Refuge in Michigan.

In 1958 he transferred to Montana, where he lived in Charlo and worked as wildlife and range manager at the bison range until retiring in 1965 and moving to Ronan. He was the first administrator of St. Luke Community Hospital in Ronan.

Mr. Henry was a World War II veteran, serving as a photographer during his duty in the U.S. Navy. He continued to take photos as a hobby after the war and was accomplished in that field.

Surviving is his wife, Thelma, Ronan.

Cremation is under the direction of Shrider's Mortuary of Ronan. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Charlo Methodist Church, with the Rev. Dick Marine and the Rev. George Sanders officiating.

The family suggests memorials to Charlo Methodist Church.

August 9, 1990 The Missoulian

Birth-order study proves ...

## Nature's firstborn get the breaks

By SHERRY DEVLIN  
of the Missoulian

A researcher at the National Bison Range in Moiese has shown, for the first time in a natural setting, the effect of birth order on personality in mammals.

John Byers, who divides his time between the bison range and the University of Idaho, said his 10-year study of pronghorn antelopes makes him wonder what early experiences are responsible for lifetime personality traits in other mammals — including humans.

Antelopes, according to Byers' research, are most influenced by their birth order. Early-born fawns become dominant adults. Late-born fawns become submissive and often solitary adults, pushed out of the group by dominant animals.

The personality traits are most striking in female pronghorns, said Byers, an associate professor of zoology at Idaho.

"Pronghorns have a very formal social structure," he said. "One female can make another move away from a spot where she is feeding or make another move aside simply by staring at her. They work on each other all the time."

Does at the top of the dominance order can displace any other doe. Does at the bottom can displace no other. The dominant status is set by an animal's birthdate.

Byers, who ear-tagged and observed his first newborn antelopes in 1981, said fawns are born at the bison range over a four-week period each spring. They weigh about 8 pounds at birth, then gain about a half pound a day. (Antelopes are among the fastest-growing hoofed animals.)

Fawns born early in the spring are, there-



Missoulian

**A Bison Range study found that antelope fawns develop dominant or submissive behaviors according to their birth order, and that these personality traits last a lifetime.**

fore, considerably larger than their cousins born four weeks later. When, after about three weeks in hiding, the newborns are introduced to a larger group of females and fawns, the early-born fawns immediately butt the late-born, Byers said.

"The bigger fawns win all their encounters. The little fawns lose all their encounters. They butt heads. They push each other away

from feeding sites. They immediately start testing their dominant status," Byers said.

The personality effects last a lifetime, he said. As yearlings, the self-assured first-born fawns become dominant over late-born 3-year-olds. "They don't break out. Their birthdate determines their dominant status for the rest of their lives," Byers said.

Subordinate female pronghorns often are found alone or on the edge of groups, Byers said. "They get pushed and pushed until they're separated or on the edge of a group," he said.

The social order serves no real purpose for pronghorns on the bison range, where there are no natural predators for adults, Byers said. Instead, it is a behavior left from the Pleistocene and Pliocene epochs, when pronghorns on the periphery of the group were easy pickings for North American cheetahs.

Researchers previously have documented the effects of birth order and early experience on laboratory mice and monkeys. Byers' is the first such research in the wild.

The question now, of course, is what early experiences have lifetime effects on other mammals, including humans, Byers said. Pronghorns were relatively easy to track. Their lifespan averages nine or 10 years. A similar study on humans would take 70 years.

Byers will track the pronghorns through October, completing his 10th season at the bison range. Next year, he'll start a new study — this of pronghorn mating.

In watching the animals, Byers said he discovered that female pronghorns actively choose their mates — a first in the animal world. Each year, before the rut, female pronghorns visit all the males on the bison range, then select one as a mate. Byers wants to know how and why the females make their choice.

August 26, 1990 The Missoulian

### "Bison bring big bucks

Moiese — Bidders paid more than \$100,000 sight-unseen for 92 bison sold this year by the National Bison Range at Moiese.

Jon Malcolm, range manager, said 14 bidders offered an average of \$1,170 each for 34 bulls and 58 cows in sealed bids opened Tuesday.

The animals sold will be selected and culled from the herd during the annual bison roundup scheduled Oct. 1 and 2.

After they are removed, about 370 bison will remain in the herd that roams the 19,000-acre U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge. The range can support between 300 and 500 animals.

Most animals will go to private herds for breeding stock, Malcolm said, but some are butchered and a few are sold to buyers with large ranches who release them on their property and then sell hunts to hunters who want to shoot a bison.

Large bulls weigh up to a ton, he said, and mature cows weigh around 1,000 pounds. Don Schwennesen" September 14, 1990 The Missoulian

## Transplanting bighorns

# Sportsmen knock surplus-sheep plan

By DON SCHWENNESEN  
of the Missoulian

**KALISPELL** — A few Flathead Valley sportsmen objected this week to state plans to move some surplus bighorn sheep to the Flathead Indian Reservation and to Oregon.

They told a Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks meeting on Monday night that surplus sheep shouldn't go to the reservation as long as it is closed to hunting by non-Indians, and they shouldn't go out of state while Montana hunters have to wait years for a special permit to hunt them.

The objections came despite the fact that a 1979 Flathead reservation plant of 15 sheep, just across the Flathead River from the one planned this year, has grown to at least 190 head and expanded off the reservation.

Monday's meeting was to gather comments on one phase of a statewide plan to move some 250 to 290 surplus sheep this winter from four large established herds, and start new herds or bolster existing ones in eight other locations.

About 70 to 75 of the surplus sheep would come from Wild Horse Island. About 35 of those would go to the Rocky Mountain Front.

Another 10 would help rejuvenate the 40-sheep herd at the National Bison Range, where aging ewes and coyote predation have cut lamb production. Range managers would like to see

a herd of 75.

The Flathead Indian Reservation would get the remaining 30 to 35 Wild Horse Island sheep, which would go into the Seepay Creek drainage south of Perma, near the southwest corner of the reservation.

Wildlife manager Jim Cross said Monday night that the Seepay sheep should multiply in the next five years and expand west off the reservation into the Siegel Creek area, near the confluence of the Flathead and Clark Fork rivers.

The herd should provide future bighorn hunting both on and off the reservation, he said.

The Lolo National Forest burned some 1,600 acres in lower Siegel Creek in 1989 to enhance sheep winter range, and the tribes also did similar enhancement in the Seepay Creek drainage.

Sheep taken from Wild Horse in 1979 were used to start new herds on two sides of the Flathead-Clark Fork confluence. Those herds have grown to number nearly 300 but have not crossed the rivers to colonize the third side. The Seepay plant would do that.

One of the 1979 plants was made just north of Seepay across the Flathead River in the Little Money Creek drainage. That herd, protected by the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes, has now grown to 190 head and has expanded off the reservation.

The other 1979 sheep plant, at Fourteen-mile Creek across the Clark Fork west of the Seepay-Siegel area, has grown to 100 sheep and yields 10 per year to hunters.

Tribal biologist Dale Becker said reservation sheep-hunting has been forbidden, to give the Little Money herd time to grow, but a co-operative management plan is now being developed to allow limited hunting of that herd on both sides of the reservation boundary.

Only about 15 persons attended Monday's hearing, half of them managers.

But four sportsmen who spoke thought the Wild Horse sheep should go into the Siegel Creek area, which is mostly roadless, to populate off-reservation lands first.

"There's a lot of bitterness between sportsmen and the tribes," said one. "There's a lot of mistrust."

Another told Becker the tribes could generate income by selling reservation sheep-hunting permits to the highest bidders.

About 30 sheep from elsewhere in Montana would go to Oregon, but one hunter argued that all sheep should stay in Montana as long as some hunters still wait 15 years or more for their names to be drawn for a sheep hunt.

Greg Barcus, state fish and game commissioner from Kalispell, said the commissioners had requested a hearing on the sheep transplant program and will act on the program at their January meeting.



**EVELYN  
KING**

Park Service just quietly culled the herd instead of inviting eager marksmen to prove their shooting prowess on broad, browsing targets, the fracas might have been avoided.

It was the widely publicized photo of a hunter, proudly perched over the head of a fallen buffalo, that seemed to enraged animal activists. To Westerners, the picture was rather ridiculous since there is about as much sport to shooting a grazing buffalo as there is to pulling the trigger on a cow in a pasture.

At last television news has finally secured a few new pictures of the Yellowstone beasts. The picture of that same raggedy, scrawny bull grazing by a snow bank had been shown so often I thought he was under contract to one of the networks. Maybe next year he'll be up for an Emmy.

The current dispute has reminded me of the last buffalo roundup on the Flathead. It was years before my time, but I can remember my dad telling about it.

Like many of you folks, I have always been fascinated by these shaggy denizens that once roamed the Plains by the millions. Although I've traveled by the National Bison Range hundreds of times, I still look for the buffalo and am always thrilled to catch a glimpse of the mighty creatures.

Several accounts have been written about the roundup. The following information appeared in a booklet written by Velma R. Kvale and published by the Mission Valley News in 1976.

A condensed version of the account:

The story begins with Walking Coyote, a Pend d'Oreille Indian, who once lived on the Milk River near the Canadian border. When he moved to the Flathead in 1875, he was followed by four orphaned buffalo calves. After about 10 years,

were healthy and were also a great nuisance to homesteaders. When the reservation was opened to settlement, Pablo knew he had to do something with the herd.

He first offered it to the U.S. Government. President Teddy Roosevelt was interested, but Congress was slow about reaching a decision. So Pablo turned to Canada, making a deal to sell the animals at \$200 a head and deliver them in Alberta.

The roundup, which sounded simple, was a monumental task. It took three years and the work of 75 experienced cowboys. The wild buffalo were crafty and quick. Despite their bulk, they eluded their captors time after time. When tired of being chased, the ferocious bulls sometimes turned on the cowboys and chased them.

Before the work was finished, 100 horses were "ruined" by hard riding and 50 buffalo were killed. The animals finally were captured in wing corrals on the Flathead River, where they were crated and hauled to corrals in Ravalli. From there the 700 buffalo traveled 1,200 miles by special trains to Alberta.

And thus ends the saga of the last buffalo roundup in Montana.

Until now.

■ Still speaking of the Mission Valley, I read where the tribes have finally succeeded in having the name Mount Harding changed. That magnificent peak in the Mission Range will be officially known as "Calowahcan" which in English means "Beaverhead." (I don't think there's much resemblance between that lofty landmark and a beaver.)

The main objection to the old name was that President Warren Harding was said to be a womanizer who frequented brothels. Now I don't recall seeing that in history. To me, "Mount Harding" seemed to be a descriptive name for the soaring, sawtoothed, eternal granite peak.

If folks wanted a local name, why not Walking Coyote? Or Allard? Or Pablo? And who knows about this Calowahcan, who reportedly lived at the base of the mountain? Was his reputation spotless?

April 14, 1991 The Missoulian

## "On Campus

University of Montana – Public Lands Law Conference, field trip to Flathead Reservation and tour of the National Bison Range. Call 243-6568." April 27, 1991 The Missoulian

## “Bison Range ride May 19

Moiese – A sing-along around a campfire, free camping along the Jocko River, horseback ride through the National Bison Range is on tap for the weekend of May 18-19.

Reservations are now being taken for the annual Bison Range ride sponsored by the Mission Saddle Club in St. Ignatius. The \$10 includes lunch. Number of participants is limited to 300. Applications can be obtained from the club at P.O. Box 180, St. Ignatius, Mont., 59865. Participants can make it an overnight outing, or can arrive just for the trail ride on Sunday. Clark Fork Valley Press (Plains).

4/24/91” April 28, 1991 The Missoulian

## “Teachers to learn about outdoors

Missoula – School teachers will go to school on Saturday at the National Bison Range in Moiese, learning about grassland, high-country, pond and stream habitats.

Sponsored by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the annual outdoor education workshop will give teachers an introduction to plants, soil and wildlife of the bison range.

Teachers will learn hands-on activities and will find new ways to teach their students about the out-of-doors. Information will not be limited to use on the bison range and can be readily adapted to other study sites.

Pre-registration is required. There is a \$10 registration fee. The course also offers one graduate or undergraduate credit through the University of Montana for an extra \$40, payable the day of the workshop.

Teachers may pick from one of four full-day workshops and classes:

Grasslands and their importance to pronghorns, bison, grassland birds and range plant life.


High country habitat and its stresses, ice, forests and fire ecology.

The importance of the wetlands – ponds and marshes – to plant and animal life.

Flowing streams and their wooded surroundings.

To register, contact Marcy Bishop, National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Mont. 59824; telephone 1-644-2211. Sherry Devlin Missoulain.” April 30, 1991 The Missoulian





**Range opens ...** The National Bison Range opens its 19-mile-long Red Sleep Mountain drive for the summer season on Saturday.

The drive will be open from 6:30 a.m. until dark. It takes about two hours. The shorter Buffalo Prairie drives will be open the same hours; they take about 30 minutes.

Visitors should stop by the bison range visitors' center for last-minute information and a refuge map. The center will be open daily, starting Saturday. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays and from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays through May.

After June 1, the visitors' center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

The National Bison Range is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information or to schedule a school field trip, contact the range at 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Mont., 59824; telephone 1-644-2211.

— Sherry Devlin, *Missoulian*

May 7, 1991 The Missoulian

## “National Bison Range, Moiese

Pack a lunch and take the 19-mile, self-guided tour of the park. But don't eat long the way — save the meal for a spot outside the bison range.

Buffalo, elk, deer, mountain sheep, antelope and deer can be seen on the road through the park. Visitor center is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 1 to Labor Day.

Stop at the St. Ignatius mission the way up or back. Both the mission and the bison range are free.

Information: bison range, 644-2211.” May 11, 1991 The Missoulian



## “Family hurt in Bison Range wreck

Moiese – A family of five sustained minor injuries Sunday when their camper tipped over at the National Bison Range, manager Jon Malcolm said Monday.

Malcolm said Glenn Lambert of Auburn, Wash., was driving down the steep backside of Red Sleep Mountain Road when his pickup’s brakes apparently overheated and failed. Malcolm said Lambert kept the vehicle under control by keeping two tires in the inside ditch of the road. At the last curve, however, the rig tipped over.

Malcolm said Lambert, his wife, and three children who were riding in the back of the camper were hurt in the accident, which occurred about 4 p.m. The family was taken by ambulance to St. Luke Community Hospital in Ronan, where they were treated and later released, Malcolm said.” Ron Selden, Missoulian July 23, 1991 The Missoulian

## Insight in the works

City youths labor and learn on reservation



RON SELDEN

Members of the Visions International youth group help tear down an old fence at the Salish and Kootenai Tribal Complex in Pablo.

By RON SELDEN  
for the Missoulian

**P**ABLO — Community service, personal growth and a lively cross-cultural experience spell out the goals of Visions International, an unusual youth group spending a month on the Flathead Reservation.

Formed as an outgrowth of the Long Acre Farm, a Pennsylvania summer camp where urban visitors learn more about themselves while working in a rural setting, the Visions program allows youths to take their talents on the road, said coordinator Kevin Hortens.

The non-profit group, which expanded its activities into Montana for the first time this

year, also sends teen-agers to Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Hungary to work, have fun and learn about local customs.

Hortens said program leaders seek out interesting areas with special needs and offer free labor and materials toward specific projects. The youths, who live in urban, middle-class areas around the United States, pay a tuition fee to work in month-long stints, he said.

On the Flathead Reservation, a group of about two dozen teen-agers is working with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to clear trails in the Mission Mountains, spruce up tribal campgrounds and prepare land in Pablo for a new office building.

The group also is constructing a teen center at the Ronan Methodist Church and has built a number of community baseball dugouts.

During their stay in the Pablo area, which was arranged with the help of Salish Kootenai College President Joe McDonald, the youths have gone whitewater rafting, attended two powwows, learned the basics of Indian drumming, visited the National Bison Range and Glacier National Park and tried rock climbing and horseback riding.

Another Visions group is now working under the direction of Hortens' wife, Joanne Pinare, on the Crow Reservation, and a second round of recruits will work on the Flathead Reservation in August, Hortens said.

"We come into a community and say we've got free labor and free money and ask what we can do," Hortens said.

(See INSIGHT, Page B-2)

## Insight

(continued)

"Everyone's reaction to our program is, 'What's the catch?'"

According to Hortens, Visions International is what it appears to be: an outlet for teens to learn about themselves by helping others in a healthy environment.

"One of the things that comes out a lot in this is that you get out of it what you put in," he said. "What's different about us is that our kids are allowed to branch out emotionally and physically."

Hortens said that while younger people are eligible, the program usually takes in youths in the 14-17 age range. No drugs or alcohol are allowed, and rules concerning sex and other activities are firmly enforced. Group leaders do not consider the program to be religious, however.

For more information call 675-8770 or 717-567-7313.

## Ranchers take on Turner: Bison beliefs are off base

BOZEMAN (AP) — Media mogul Ted Turner says he knows bison and streambanks, and some experts say he may be right.

But it's just as easy to find ranchers and range experts who say Turner is off base in claiming that cattle inherently cause more damage to streambeds than bison do.

Turner said recently he was replacing cattle with bison on his Gallatin Gateway ranch because "buffalo don't hammer riparian zones like cattle." Turner, an avid fly fisherman, was speaking at an American Fisheries Society meeting in Bozeman.

Some say bison are easier on streambanks because they usually graze for shorter times before moving on to greener pastures. Others say if cattle are managed the same way as free-ranging buffalo, the cows won't be any harder on streambanks than bison are.

Jon Malcom, manager of the National Bison Range in Moiese, said when bison have plenty of room to roam, they will graze "on higher elevations and on steeper

slopes than cattle will."

Bison also haven't ruined streambanks along Yellowstone National Park rivers and streams, said park Resource Manager Stu Coleman.

"Cows like riparian areas because they eat the grasses that grow there," Coleman said. Bison will eat sedges and other plants beside grass, he said.

But ranchers who follow practices outlined by the Center for Holistic Resource Management say it's simply a matter of how one manages the animals.

Bill MacKay, an Absarokee rancher and a founder of the Billings-based center, says he restricts the movement of cattle with the aid of solar-powered, electric fences. The method allows the animals to graze in small areas before moving them to another enclosed area to feed, he said.

Rancher Jack Heyneman of Fishtail said the key factor to preserving streambanks is giving plants time to recover from grazing — not which animal is feeding on them.

August 8, 1991 The Missoulian

### GETAWAY

FAMILY ADVENTURES CLOSE TO HOME

#### NATIONAL BISON RANGE

At the National Bison Range, from 300 to 500 bison can be found on the nearly 19,000 acres of range land. In addition, other animals on the range include elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorns, Rocky Mountain goats and herds of whitetail and mule deer. Other animals include badgers, mink, beaver, muskrats and weasels, and bobcats and coyotes are present in limited number, and marmots, ground squirrels and cottontail rabbits are plentiful.

Start your tour at the range's visitor center where interpretive exhibits portray the saga of the American bison and the natural history of the area. Maps showing the self-guided auto-tour routes are also available at the center. A two-hour drive to Red Sleep Mountain is the highlight of the visit; a shorter tour follows Buffalo Prairie Drive. Both drives begin and end at the visitor center. It's recommended that you check with refuge personnel regarding hours of operation.

The range also has picnic sites and a nature trail in its Day Use Area, and public fishing is permitted along Mission Creek as posted and on the Jocko River three miles west of Ravalli on Highway 200.

The map shows the location of the National Bison Range. An 'ENTRANCE' is marked near Moiese. Highway 200 runs north-south, passing through Dixon. Highway 96 runs east-west, and Highway 93 runs north-south. The Flathead Indian Reservation is shown to the east of the range. Missoula is located further south. A north arrow is present in the bottom left corner of the map area.

August 29, 1991 The Missoulian

## “Workshop date changed

Missoula — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold its annual fall outdoor workshop for teachers at the National Bison Range on Saturday, Oct. 26.

This is a date change from the initial mailers that were sent out, which showed the workshop date as Sept. 28.

Persons who have already registered for the September date will be contacted by phone and will not have to re-register. Teachers are asked to watch for the new forms and to use them if possible.

This workshop will emphasize using the outdoors as a classroom through hands-on activities. Teachers attending will be able to select one of four course offerings, featuring Project Wild activities geared to either elementary or secondary levels, the Project Learning Tree program, or a course on natural materials as teaching aids and on planning productive field trips.

There is a \$10 registration fee and pre-registration is required. University credit is available for an additional fee of \$40 and submission of an outdoor education lesson plan. Teachers attend these workshops from all over western Montana, so early registration is advised.

For information contact Marcy Bishop, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, 59824 or call 644-2211.” September 23, 1991 The Missoulian



- Movies
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# OUTDOORS

Missoulian **C**  
September 26, 1991



Illustration by DREW VAN FOSSEN/Missoulian

## Fowl Play

Hunters can look forward to geese aplenty, but duck numbers are down

By DARYL GADBOW  
of the Missoulian

Goose hunting season opens this Saturday and western Montana hunters can expect to see plenty of honkers again this year, according to state and federal wildlife managers.

Duck hunting season opens a week later, and as in the past few years, the picture looks a little bleaker.

"It looks like the prospects for geese are pretty good," said Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area manager John Grant of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

"There's quite a few around. It looks real good, actually."

Local Canada goose populations have been expanding in the Flathead and Bitterroot valleys in recent years, and another successful nesting spring this year has bolstered the numbers further.

At the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge in Stevensville, refuge operations specialist Sharon Browder said numbers of both ducks and geese on the refuge have increased in recent weeks.

A waterfowl count at Metcalf two weeks ago turned up 200 geese and 600 ducks, including 320 mallards.

"That's more than a few weeks ago," Browder said. "They're starting to move through. The migration's started."

Duck hunting season opens one week after the goose season, on Saturday, Oct. 5. This year in the Pacific Flyway, the duck hunting season will be split into three time periods — from Oct. 5 through Oct. 20, from Nov. 5 through Dec. 1 and from Dec. 14 through Dec. 29.

The time periods are designed to allow hunting opportunities during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, while still protecting duck populations that have declined drastically in the past decade because of severe drought conditions in the nesting areas of Canada.

While total numbers of ducks have

declined, western Montana hunters have benefitted from relatively good local production of ducks the past couple of years. Unfortunately, duck nesting success was dealt a setback by an unusual source last spring.

"It wasn't a real good nesting season," Grant said. "There wasn't a lot of cover early in the spring and then the wet, cold weather we had in June also hurt nesting success."

"You remember the high population of voles we had last fall and winter?" Grant added. "Well, the reason we had no cover was they ate all the cover. Their population finally crashed and they started dying in February. They were maintaining a high population of



More waterfowl facts on page C2.

predators, particularly coyotes, weasels, birds like ravens and magpies and house cats. When the voles disappeared, the predators had to switch to something else. So they ate a lot of duck eggs."

The poor nesting success of local ducks in the Flathead may not translate into decreased hunter opportunities this season compared to last year, however. The prospects just aren't as favorable as they might have been.

"Even though production was down, we had a higher breeding population," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife manager Jon Malcolm of the National Bison Range in Moiese. "The production we had this spring was high enough to keep the population at a stable level, comparable to last year."

The weather this summer could have more of an adverse impact on hunting

than the duck production, Malcolm said. The extremely dry July and August dried up many of the area's potholes, he explained. Potholes usually are favorite resting places for ducks that otherwise may use larger bodies of water that make them inaccessible to hunters.

Malcolm also is concerned that the dry potholes could be lost as nesting sites next spring.

"Hopefully we'll get some moisture so we'll be squared away by next year," he said.

Goose nesting success this past spring was as good or better than last year, Malcolm noted.

### Hunting reminders:

■ Steel shot ammunition must be used for all waterfowl hunting in Montana.

■ Hunters need both a 1991 state waterfowl stamp as well as a federal waterfowl stamp.

■ Shotguns must be plugged to hold no more than three shells.

■ Shooting hours for waterfowl start at one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset each day, EXCEPT on the Flathead Indian Reservation, where shooting hours are sunrise to sunset daily.

■ A joint State/Tribal conservation permit and bird hunting stamp are required to hunt ducks or upland birds on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

■ Duck limit in the Pacific Flyway is four ducks daily, which may include three mallards with only one hen mallard in the bag, one pintail, two redheads or two canvasbacks, or one redhead and one canvasback.

■ Goose limit in the Pacific Flyway west of the Continental Divide is two Canada geese and three white geese. East of the Divide, it's three Canada geese and three white geese.

■ Goose season runs through Dec. 29.

■ A complete set of waterfowl regulations, seasons and bag limits is available at area license dealers or the FWP headquarters at 3201 Spurgin Road in Missoula.

## “New boundaries at Pablo Refuge

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is advising area hunters tat an ongoing review of the boundaries at the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge surrounding Pablo Reservoir northwest of Pablo has revealed inaccuracies in posting at several locations around the edge of the refuge.

Posting has been changed along several sections of the boundary, and sportsmen are advised that no hunting will be allowed inside the reposted boundary. Hunters are asked to look carefully for the “Blue Goose” signs marking the boundary of the National Wildlife Refuge and to hunt only outside the reposted line. Maps of the National Bison Range or from wildlife officers in the area.” October 3, 1991 The Missoulian

## “Ted Turner: Moiese bison mogul

Moiese – Media mogul Ted Turner was the big buyer at the buffalo sale on the National Bison Range for the third consecutive year.

Turner bought 36 animals this year, 16 yearling heifers for \$1,150 each and 20 yearling bulls for \$930 each, said Marcy Bishop of the bison range staff.

Last year, Turner bought 21 yearling cows and the year before purchased 16 yearling cows to stock his Montana ranch.

About 3,200 spectators attended the week’s roundup. Turner was one eight successful bidders for the 102 bison sold.

Revenues of \$107,624 go to the federal treasury.” Hungry Horse News (Columbia Falls),

10/10/91. October 20, 1991 The Missoulian

## “Newslines

### Winter viewing

The winter months promise prime wildlife viewing at the National Bison range near Moiese. One of the biggest bison herds will graze along Mission Creek in view of the range’s 10-mile Winter Drive; the drive also traverses grasslands frequented by pronghorn, deer and elk.

A second bison herd will be on the southeastern part of the range and may at times be seen from Montana Highway 200 near Ravalli or from Ravalli Hill on U. S. Highway 93. The winter Drive and shorter Buffalo Prairie Drive will be open daily from dawn to dark throughout the winter, weather permitting. The upper portion of the longer Red Sleep Mountain Drive will be closed for the season on Oct. 25. The bison range visitor’s center will be open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. throughout the fall and winter.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials – who manage the bison range – suggest that wintertime visitors call ahead for road and weather conditions at 44-2211.” October 22, 1991 The Missoulian

## “Wildlife advisory board to meet

Moiese – The public is invited to attend the December meeting of the Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday at the National Bison Range Visitor Center near Moiese.

Tentative agenda topics include discussions on Flathead Lake charter fishing, state habitat projects and acquisition, fish and wildlife improvement projects and upland bird management, said chairman Ralph Goode.

The board, comprised of tribal, state and federal appointees, was created last year as part of a joint-management agreement between the Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. For more information, call 676-3755. Ron Selden, for the Missoulian” December 11, 1991 The Missoulian

## OPINION/LETTERS

### YELLOWSTONE BISON

# Brucellosis threatens health of humans, cattle, economy

By J. GAIL PATTON

**T**he press and television news have done a sloppy job of researching the impact of brucellosis on bison, cattle and humans. The problem with brucellosis is that it can be transmitted to humans as a debilitating disease called undulant fever. As a result, there has been a very long, expensive and difficult program to eradicate brucellosis in the United States. Measures include vaccination, quarantine of cattle herds, blood testing and liquidation of infected cows and cattle herds. Montana has been “brucellosis free” since the elimination of a serious outbreak in the Frenchtown and Flathead areas in the 1970s.

In the cattle business, there are a number of diseases that cause the abortion of calves. We have vaccines to prevent brucellosis, five strains of leptosporosis, vibrio, rednose and virus diarrhea. There has been a vaccine for brucellosis (bangs disease) for about 50 years.

The real problem concerning the Yellowstone bison is not only that they may infect cattle outside the park but that they have a chance of infecting people with undulant fever through contamination of water and campsites from aborted fetuses and other discharges. Since the eradication of brucellosis in most U.S. cattle herds, undulant fever has been

**The real problem concerning the Yellowstone bison is not only that they may infect cattle outside the park but that they have a chance of infecting people with undulant fever ...**

relatively rare and not easily identified by doctors. A local ranch wife lived with the disease for four years before being properly diagnosed. When cases of undulant fever show up in the future, who is liable? The U.S. Park Service, Cleveland Amory or the Defenders of Wildlife?

It is reported that grizzly bears and coyotes in the park are found to have brucellosis antibodies in their blood. Could it be the Yellowstone grizzly populations are being weakened by undulant fever-like infections? If the Yellowstone Park bison were a private herd, they would be quarantined.

The argument that bison cannot infect other species (cattle) with brucellosis is absurd. Recently there was an Idaho cattle herd infected that ranged next to the park border. It was reported that the owner is trying to collect damages. In the

Frenchtown Valley, a privately owned bison herd was infected in the 1970s' brucellosis outbreak. A controlled experiment in Texas has proved transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle.

The grasslands of Yellowstone Park are being overgrazed by a continuously increasing buffalo herd. A decision has to be made about the size of the herd, for it cannot continue to increase until it returns to its pre-1820s grandeur, covering most of the United States. The National Bison Range at Moiese, with its managed bison numbers and healthy, abundant grass, is a real contrast to the non-managed Yellowstone Park.

Agriculture is Montana's largest industry, and the sale of cattle and calves makes up almost half of the total farm sales. Loss of our “brucellosis-free” status would have serious adverse effects when selling Montana's breeding cattle in interstate and international trade. Money from cattle sales turns over many times in our state economy. Part of this money shows up as tax dollars for state government, the university system and news media advertising. Brucellosis in the Yellowstone bison herd should be a concern to all thinking Montanans.

*J. Gail Patton is a rancher in the Little Bitterroot Valley who has served as president of the Western Montana Stockgrowers, president of the Big Meadows Grazing Association and director of the Montana Stockgrowers.*

## “State plans transfer of elk

Kalispell – If all goes well, the Department of Fish, wildlife and Parks will move about 30 elk Monday from the National Bison Range at Moiese to a new home near Ashley Lake northwest of Kalispell.

Jim Cross, wildlife manager for FWP’s Kalispell office, said the elk will supplement a similar relocation made about 14 months ago in the Ashley Lake area.

He said 29 were released in the last effort and seem to be prospering. Residents in the area have reported seeing up to 22 at a time.

“They haven’t seen that many elk in recent years, he said.” Don Schwennesen, Missoulian  
February 29, 1992 The Missoulian

## “Newsline

Elk moved ... Thirty-one elk from the National Bison Range near Moiese were relocated this week to the hills above Ashley Lake west of Kalispell.

Jon Malcolm, the range manager, said the elk were provided as part of the annual program to maintain the herd at levels compatible with available range forage.

The 11 bulls, 10 cows and 10 calves were released in the same general area as 29 others from the range in December 1990.

The elk plants are in an area where there have been no elk for decades.

About three-dozen volunteers – including members of the Ashley Lake Property Owners Association, Flathead Wildlife Inc., Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and others – assisted in the elk relocation.

The animals were tested at the bison range for tuberculosis, marked and loaded into four horse trailers.” March 4, 1992 The Missoulian

## “Bison Range sets workshop for educators

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present its spring Outdoor Education Workshop for Teachers at the National Bison Range on Saturday, May 2.

The 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. program will feature four course offerings:

Native American Cultural Uses of Natural Resources, looking at the Salish and Kootenai cultures, their preparation of natural foods and their languages and music.

Endangered Species, using Project Wild activities to present the needs of endangered wildlife.

Report Cards for Streams, helping teachers judge the quality of a stream by its banks and the aquatic organisms that live in it.

Birds in Classroom and Field, exploring both the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge and the bison range for birdlife.

Registration fee is \$10; pre-registration is required. The course offers one graduate or undergraduate credit through the University of Montana, for an extra \$40 fee.

This will be the last one-day discovery workshop at the bison range, because of UM's changeover to a semester system. Future teacher workshops will be longer to accommodate the semester requirements.

For more information, contact Marcy Bishop, National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Mont. 59824; telephone 1-644-2211." April 12, 1992 The Missoulian

## "Bison Range opens for season

Moiese - The National Bison Range is open for its summer schedule.

The 19-mile, two-hour Red Sleep Mountain Drive is open from 6:30 a.m. until dark. The entrance to the drive is closed about two hours before dark to allow those travelling the road to finish by nightfall.

The shorter Buffalo Prairie Drive also will be open from 6:30 a.m. until dark. These half-hour drives offer views of bison and elk.

Visitors are asked to stop by the Bison Range visitor center or for updated information and a refuge map. The center is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays through May.

After June 1, the center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week through the summer season.

The Bison Range is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is located at Moiese, in the Mission Valley." May 21, 1992 The Missoulian

## "Best Place for a Cheap Date

Little in this world is as beautiful as democracy in action. Case in point: The Entertainer's Fourth Annual Best of Missoula vote. Over the course of a few exciting weeks, thousands – well maybe not thousands – of ballots poured in to our Best of Missoula offices, where a staff of hundreds – well, maybe not hundreds – tabulated the votes. Along the way, our vote counters became privy to what's on the collective mind of Missoula. Where is the best happy hour? We asked. Where is the best public restroom? What is the best dry fly?

These, and 48 other questions were asked and answered in a survey so scientific that there is no margin of error. The results you are about to read are simple fact. Unless, of course, we're wrong.



Yes, democracy is a beautiful thing, and in this case the process was pure. Sure, some folks voted more than once. And so what if we offered a cash prize for voting? Congress has surely done worse, with results that are considerably less entertaining.

Here, then, are the results:

A dangerous category, to be sure. For those of you who were disqualified this year, remember. Best Place for a Cheap Date is not the same as Best Cheap Date. Voters offered many options in this category, but perennial favorite the Roxy Theater outpaced locales including the Rhinelander restaurant, the National Bison Range, Costco's food sampling stations and a voter's front yard to win the honors. By the way, if you're interested, there's someone out there who'll romance you at the library. Shhh!" May 22, 1992 The Missoulian

## Thomas N. Marlowe

Missoula – Thomas Nelson Marlowe, 83 of Missoula, died Tuesday evening, Aug. 4, at St. Patrick Hospital of natural causes.

He was born in Missoula on July 23, 1909, to Thomas N. Marlowe Sr. and Nelle Victoria McMurray Marlowe. His family also included a sister two years younger than he, Elinor Kathryn Marlowe, who preceded him in death. Reared in Missoula, he attended Missoula elementary and high schools.

On May 3, 1941, he married Emma L. Magini. They were the parents of a son, Thomas N. Marlowe, Jr.

Mr. Marlowe was variously employed by the First National Bank and by the Montana Fish & Game Department during the 1930s. In June, 1942 after completing a special defense course in radio material at the University of Montana, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

He attended Navy electronics schools in Stillwater, Okla., at Oklahoma A&M and at Treasure Island Navy Radio Material School. He served as a radio technician in the Navy on island-based naval communication centers in the South Pacific throughout the war.

Following the war he was with the Bureau of Public Roads in western Montana locations and also with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the National Bison Range. He transferred to the U. S. Conservation service in May 1948, and served as a conservation engineering technician until his retirement in June 1972. During his career he was very active in the snow survey and water forecasting program of the Soil Conservation Service in western Montana.

After the war he became active in the American Legion and the Society of Forty and Eight. He served as commander of Hellgate Post No. 27 of the American Legion in 1967 and as Chef de Care of Salish Voiture of the Forty and Eight, and subsequently as Grand Chef de Care Du Montana of the Montana Grand Voiture in 1976.

Tom, was throughout his life, an ardent believer of wildlife and resources conservation, as was his father before him. Tom was very active in hunting, fishing and sportsmanship; his son, Tom Jr., has followed in his footsteps in this respect.

Survivors include his wife, Emma, Missoula; and a son, Tom Jr., also of Missoula.

Visitation will be held from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Squire, Simmons & Carr Funeral Home.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Military graveside services will be conducted by the Missoula veterans organizations at Missoula City Cemetery.” August 6, 1992 The Missoulian

## “Around Missoula

### Coming Soon

Singles United, Bison Range tour, Sunday, Aug. 9. Meet, 11 a.m., north side of I-90 on reserve Street. Bring lunch. Call 549-6760.” August 8, 1992 The Missoulian

**VISITORS AT A GLANCE**

Here are some facts and figures about tourism in Montana:

- **Percentage increase** in numbers of tourists visiting Montana, from 1991 to 1992: 7 percent
- **Visitors to Montana's 14** major attractions, thus far in 1992: 3.6 million
- **Visitors to Glacier National Park** so far this year: 1.1 million, up 11 percent from 1991.
- **Visitors to the National Bison Range** in Moiese so far this year: 91,880, up 22 percent from 1991.

August 16, 1992 The Missoulian

**Annual bison roundup scheduled**

■ **MOIESE** — The annual fall roundup at the National Bison Range near Moiese is scheduled Oct. 5-6.

The entire herd of about 500 will be rounded up, and 97 will be culled for sale. The animals are sold by sealed bid to buyers who maintain bison herds or who butcher them for their meat.

Buyers pick up the bison at the range.

The range tries to maintain a “representative” herd, containing all age groups and both sexes of animals, a staff person said.

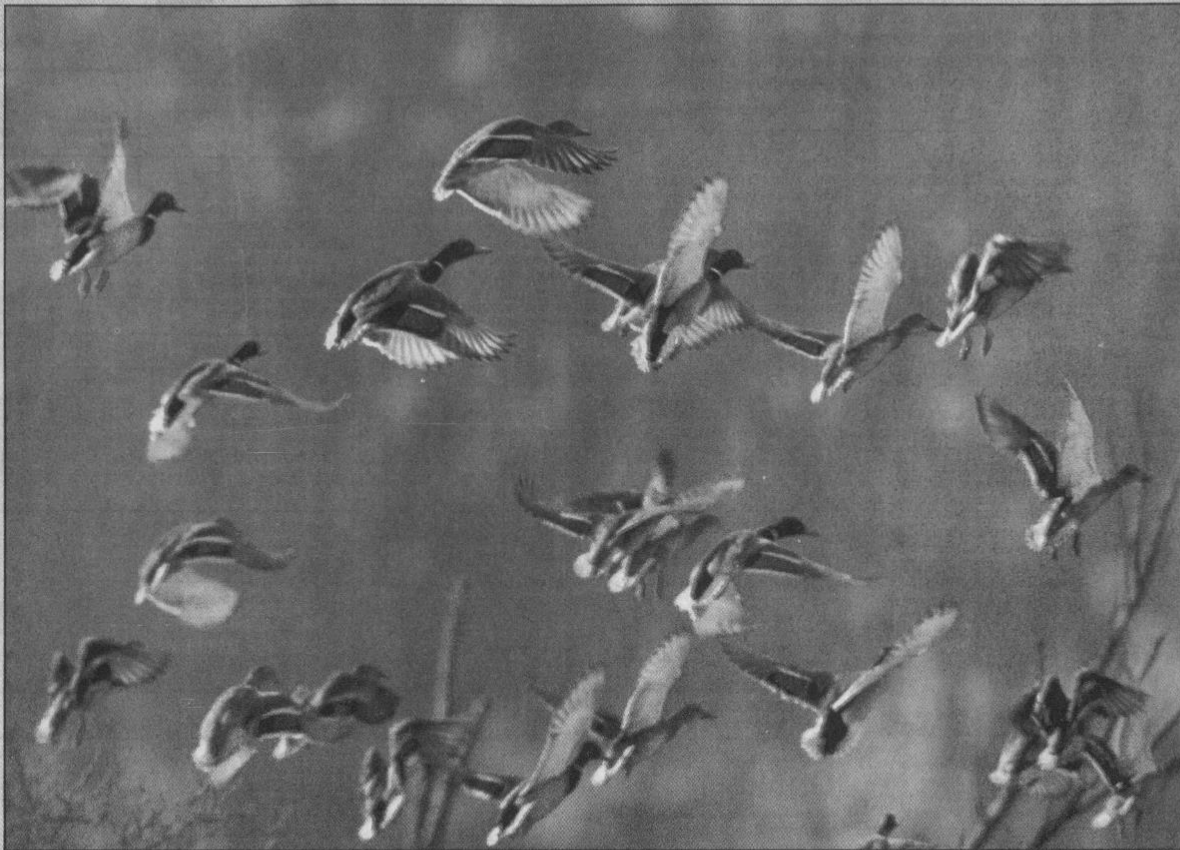
*Associated Press*

September 26, 1992 The Missoulian

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# OUTDOORS

Missoulian  
October 1, 1992 **C**



MICHAEL GALLACHER/Missoulian

Because of predator-control and habitat-protection efforts in the Flathead Valley, duck and geese populations have grown since last year.

## Lucky Ducks

With a bit of help from wildlife managers, Flathead fowl populations are growing

By DARYL GADBOW  
of the Missoulian

Waterfowl hunters in the Mission Valley may be less likely to get skunked this weekend when the duck and goose hunting seasons open in western Montana.

The cause for optimism lies in part with skunks — or the relative lack of them in the area this year.

As part of a predator control program to improve waterfowl production, researchers from the University of Montana have been trapping skunks in the Mission Valley for the past five years. And their efforts apparently have paid off this year.

"Production of local ducks was real good this year," said Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area manager John Grant of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. "Researchers from the university counted twice as many successful nests this spring as they

have in the past. That's probably partly due to the skunk removal project. They (UM researchers) also have done some predator habitat modification work, like putting screens on culverts. It basically makes it so predators don't have man-made den sites."

Local ducks also benefitted from a warm, mild spring and excellent cover conditions, Grant said.

The season opener, which begins Saturday, "looks good, if we get the right kind of weather," Grant added, noting the warm sunny weather earlier this week didn't portend ideal conditions for hunting.

Local Canada geese populations, which have been rising steadily throughout western Montana in recent years, are "good, every bit as good as last year," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife manager Jon Malcolm of the National Bison Range in Moiese. "In general, duck populations in the Flathead Valley are up."

Both Grant and Malcolm said the

lack of significant snowpack in the area last winter has caused many potholes to dry up, which could mean the loss of some favored hunting spots.

"In terms of the potholes, we're in a little worse shape this year than last," Malcolm said.

Although local duck production has been fairly good in the Flathead Valley the past few years, the national outlook for ducks remains grim. Continuing drought conditions in the Canadian provinces, where most North American duck nesting takes place, has resulted in declining numbers of birds. While production this past spring was up from last year, it still was the sixth lowest on record.

Drawings for blinds at Ninepipe will be held at 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Hunters wishing to hunt in the blinds must register at the checking station prior to the drawing.

Besides a federal waterfowl stamp, hunters on the Flathead Indian

(See DUCKS, Page C-2)

## FROM PAGE C-1

### Ducks

(continued)

Reservation will be required to have a Salish and Kootenai Tribal bird hunting stamp. A Montana waterfowl stamp and bird hunting license is also required for hunting outside the reservation.

Hunting at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge in Stevensville should be better for geese than ducks on the opening weekend, according to refuge operations specialist Sharon Browder.

"There's not many birds here," she explained. "It's been so nice, we haven't had any weather fronts to push the ducks down (from Canada). We don't have a lot of local duck production here. And it gets lower every year because of development and predation. These subdivisions make duck production go down every year."

#### FOWL REGS

"But the geese did pretty well," Browder added. "We've got a lot of locals and hunting is usually good at least on the first weekend."

A drawing for the 25 blinds at the Metcalf refuge will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Mary's Family Center, 333 Charlo St., in Stevensville. The drawing will be for use of the pits Saturday and Sunday. After that, the pits will be assigned on a first-come,

first-serve basis.

Hunters are reminded that shooting hours for waterfowl are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except on the Flathead Indian Reservation, where shooting hours are sunrise to sunset. Steel shot is required for all waterfowl hunting in Montana.

The duck hunting season in western Montana will be split into three periods — from Oct. 3 through Oct. 18; from Nov. 3

through Nov. 29, and from Dec. 19 through Jan. 3, 1993. The goose season extends from Oct. 3 through Jan. 3.

West of the Continental Divide, the goose limit is two Canada geese and three white geese daily. The duck limit is four ducks, which may include three mallards but only one hen mallard.

Complete waterfowl regulations are available at area license dealers or offices of the FWP.

## HUNTING ON YOUR MIND?



You need the Montana Hunting Almanac!

There's never been a publication like the

October 1, 1992 The Missoulian

### Bison boys

WRANGLERS run bison into a pen at the National Bison Range at Moiese Monday as the annual roundup got under way. After the two-day corralling operation, 370 of the vaccinated herd will be put back on the range; another 97 have already been sold.

THOMAS BAUER/  
Missoulian

October 6, 1992 The Missoulian

## “Poacher on bison range sought

Moiese - Officials at the National Bison Range are looking for information into a poaching case.

Bill West, assistant manager of the range, said Monday that at large mule deer had been taken at a spot on Highway 93 just north of Ravalli. It's one of the few places where the range is within shooting distance of the highway, West said, and it appears that whoever shot the deer shot it from the road.

The poacher took the deer's head and rack and left the rest of the body, West said.

Officials are looking for information that would help finger the poacher, but also need help pinpointing the time when the deer was taken. A passerby called range officials about the deer at about 11 a.m. Monday, and so officials believe the deer could have been taken Sunday night or early Monday.

If you have information about the case, you can call either the range at 644-2211 or the state of Montana poaching hotline, 1-800-TIP-MONT.

It's illegal to take animals off the range, West said. In a recent poaching case on the range, he said, both defendants wound up serving jail time. Missoulian” November 17, 1992 The Missoulian

In 1993 a record number of visitors in a year was set – 217,200.

<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/NBR.HistOutline.pdf>

## “Newsline

### Wildlife Workshop

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will offer a winter outdoor education workshop for teachers at the National Bison Range on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 6 and 7.

The workshop will give teachers the skills they need to help students discover how wildlife survive winter - which animals migrate and which stay and how those that stay find food and shelter in the cold.

There is a \$10 registration fee; pre-registration is required. The course offers one semester graduate or undergraduate credit through the University of Montana for an additional \$70. Participation is limited.

For more information, write to Workshop, National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Mont. 59824 or call Marcy Bishop at 644-2211.” January 26, 1993 The Missoulian

## “Outdoor workshop set for May 1-2

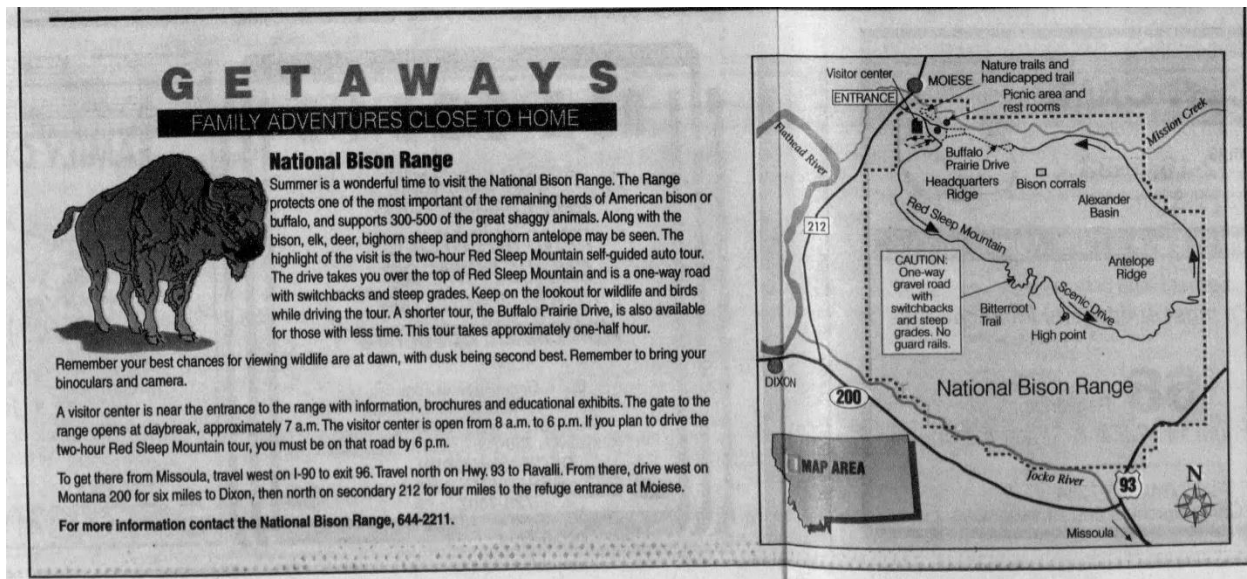
Missoula – The National Bison Range’s spring outdoor education workshop for teachers will be Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2.

Teachers will choose from two different courses each day of the workshop. Saturday’s choices will be “Mammals of the Western Mountains and Prairies” and “Life at the Water’s Edge.” On Sunday, the options will be “Geology and Soils of the Flathead” and “Take-home Experiences,” a journal-keeping course.

A special program on mountain lion and bear safety will be presented for all participants.

Pre-registration is required; graduate and undergraduate credit may be earned through the University of Montana. All classes will begin at the National Bison Range visitor center in Moiese.

For more information or to register contact Marcy Bishop at 644-2211.” Sherry Devlin, Missoulian April 25, 1993 The Missoulian



May 8, 1993 The Missoulian

## “Max C. Harris

Lolo – Max C. Harris, 79, of Lolo died of natural causes Wednesday, May 26, at Community Hospital Center.

He was born Jan 31, 1914, in Pandora, Alberta, to “Dode” and Kate Harris. He attended elementary school in Pandora. Max and his family moved to St. Ignatius when he was 14, where he attended and graduated from St. Ignatius High School.

On June 14, 1939, Max married Ruby Schliep in Missoula. He worked in carpentry as a general contractor in the valley until he was employed for several years as general manager of the St. Ignatius Telephone Co., retiring from that capacity in 1976.

He also served as building inspector for the town of St. Ignatius. Max and Ruby moved to Lolo in 1989.

Active in civil affairs, he served two terms as president of the St. Ignatius PTA, was a member of the St. Ignatius Volunteer Fire Department, and the American Legion McCarthy Post, No. 106. He was also a member of the Lions Club, the Mission Rangers Saddle Club, where he was instrumental in forming the annual Bison Range Ride.

He was very active in Promenadors, a local square dancers club, both as a participant and caller. He and Ruby also taught round dancing for 20 years. Max served many years as secretary for the local bowling league of which he was a member for 15 years. He also served as president of the St. Ignatius Senior Citizens for three terms and was selected as Senior Citizen of the year, not only locally, but also of Area Six in western Montana in 1987.

An avid outdoorsman and sports fan, Max enjoyed fishing and hunting, and was a supporter of the Mission School sports programs. He enjoyed his garden and always had some woodworking project that he was involved in.

Survivors include his wife, Ruby, Lolo; two daughters, Andrea Matt, Northglenn, Colo.; and Darlene Cook, Lolo; a brother, Verne Harris, St. Ignatius; four sisters, Madeline Nelson, Polson; Joyce Brass, Lonepine; Gladys Kephart, Caldwell, Idaho; and Betty Pissot, Ogden, Utah; five grandchildren, two great-grand-daughters, and numerous nieces and nephews.

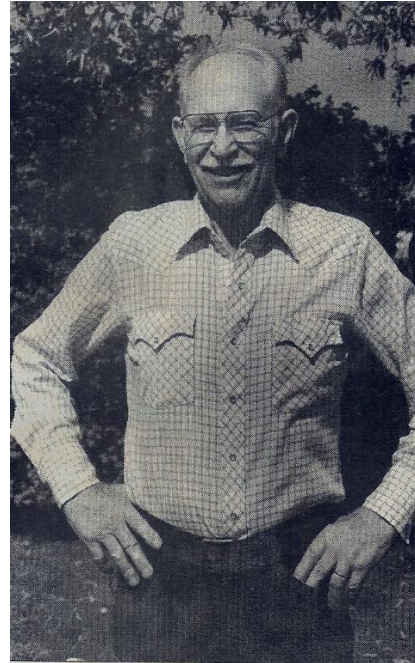
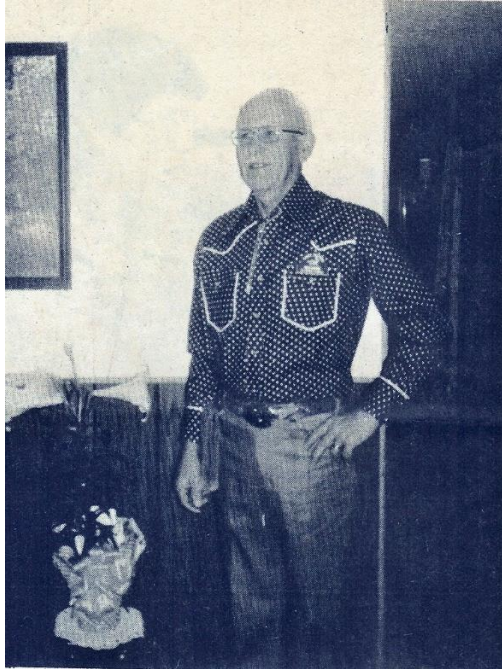
Visitation will begin Friday afternoon at the Riddle Family Funeral Chapel in St. Ignatius.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the chapel with Pastor Don Oberg officiating. Burial with military honors by the American Legion McCarthy Post No. 106 will follow at the Pleasant View Cemetery in St. Ignatius.

Pallbearers will be Tom Cook, Ron Matt, Gary Matt, Kevin Haley, Bob Blush Sr., and Robert Schliep. Honorary pallbearers will be Verne Harris, a much loved brother of Max, his 19 dear nephews, and his many treasured friends.

The family suggests memorials to the St. Ignatius Senior Citizens, P.O. Box 516, St. Ignatius 59865.” May 28, 1993 The Missoulian





Max Harris, who tangled with a grizzly in 1952  
Ignatius, a town in which he has lived since 1928. Photo by Dwight Tracy

Lake County Senior Citizen of the Year is Max Harris, elected from St.

Mission Valley News August 26, 1976, page 6

Mission Valley News April 29, 1987

### *Injured Hunter Unloaded From Air 'Ambulance'*



Missoulian-Sentinel Photo

Max C. Harris, 38-year-old elk hunter from St. Ignatius who was badly mauled by an enraged grizzly bear he encountered on a woods trail, is lifted from a Johnson Flying Service plane which brought him to Missoula Sunday afternoon. After Harris was hurt in the remote Marshall wilderness area of the Flathead River's South Fork country, he was brought to hospital aid by varied conveyance, horseback, helicopter, airplane and ambulance.



## Grizzly-Mauled Hunter Flown Here for Treatment

(Continued from Page One)  
with the Johnson Flying Service here.

Robert R. Johnson, president of the firm, immediately dispatched a helicopter piloted by Elwood (Swede) Nelson to fly Dr. Clyde H. Fredrickson to the scene.

They left late Saturday afternoon but there was no clearing in the area big enough to land the 'copter.

They landed at the Big Prairie strip, and at daybreak Sunday eight Forest Service smoke jumpers dropped in to the timber from a Johnson Ford trimotor piloted by Johnson.

The jumpers, equipped with axes and power saws, quickly cleared a 'copter landing space. Nelson said later, "it looked like they were using a lawn mower, not saws. They

really knocked down some timber."

Dr. Fredrickson treated the man, working swiftly over the patient as Nelson and the jumpers prepared the 'copter to carry Harris out.

The helicopter moved Harris, riding beside the pilot, to the Big Prairie field. It went back for Dr. Fredrickson and the trimotor then brought the doctor and his patient to Missoula. Lucy's Hayes mortuary had an ambulance at Hale Field here when the plane landed and Harris was rushed to the hospital. The helicopter and smoke jumpers came out later. Jumpers who volunteered their services for the mission were Fred Brauer (jumper in charge), Richard Carpenter, Hugh Fowler, Lee Gorsuch, Al Hammond, Leonard Kraut, Bernard Sutliff and Bill Wood. Foreman Robert

Manchester was in charge of dropping the equipment.

On hand at Hale Field when the injured man arrived was Arnold Schliep, brother-in-law of Harris, who had left his work at St. Ignatius and flown to Missoula in a flying club plane when he heard of the members of the family came trouble. Mrs. Harris and other here by car. Mrs. Harris said that the hunting party had left St. Ignatius Tuesday. The vicinity where the men were hunting is accessible only by foot or horseback and is at least 10 miles from the nearest road.

Average college tuition rates increased from \$299 in 1948 to \$312 in 1949, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

TWICE-A-DAY CLASS ADS WIN

## Harris Showing Improvement

Showing "marked" improvement, Max E. Harris of St. Ignatius, victim of a grizzly bear, thinks that remembering to play dead saved his life, he said from his hospital bed Tuesday.

He had been stalking an elk on a wilderness trail 70 miles north-east of Missoula and about 30 miles from the nearest road. Whether he was so intent on the elk or the bear was waiting for him to come into range, Harris said he will never know.

The grizzly was about 10 feet from him when first seen. At that range, Harris said he did not have a chance to fire his rifle in defense. The animal knocked him about 12 feet down the moderate slope. Harris got up and made for his gun.

He picked up the gun but had it torn from his hands by the bear, and it landed about 10 feet away. It was then that the grizzly went to work on him.

Because he remembered reading it "a long time ago," Harris pretended to be dead and the bear clawed his left shoulder, chewed on his right one, gave him a seven and a half inch scalp wound and broke a bone in his left hand. The scalp wound starts about a quarter inch above the right eye and continues toward the back of Harris' head.

The doctor, Harris said, figured that the bear was old or had one upper fang missing for there was but one tooth hole in the right front shoulder. "I figure from that the bear might have been an old one and may have been out for what he could get," said the injured man.

### 3 Card of Thanks

I WISH to thank all who assisted in my rescue from the South Fork area and the jumpers who volunteer their services, for the kind people who sent cards, good wishes and gifts, also the blood donors for the donations that came from many towns and to all the many visitors that helped make my stay in the hospital pass so quickly.

MAX C. HARRIS  
ST. IGNATIUS

October 6, 1952 The Missoulian

October 8, 1952 The Missoulian Oct. 23, 1952

## "Bear's Victim in Good Condition

Max E. Harris, victim of a grizzly bear so large his head "looked as big as a washtub," is in good condition in a hospital here, one of the attending physicians said Monday night.

Harris, of St. Ignatius, was quoted by the doctor as saying the bear was the largest one he had ever seen, with a head that looked as big as a washtub.

Harris escaped what he thought would be sure death by letting his body go limp while he was in the powerful grasp of the grizzly, the most ferocious of all bears and the largest next to the Kodiak.

He was attacked Saturday on a wilderness trail 70 miles northeast of Missoula and about 30 miles from the nearest road. After

the bear let him go, his companions gave first aid and then set off a rescue operation which involved parachutist fire fighters, a helicopter and air delivery of power saws to clear a landing place for the 'copter.

The doctor said Harris must have lost quite a large quantity of blood but indicated that "good" first aid by Harris' two hunting companions, Sidney Allard, and Ralph Coulter, held down the

loss of blood. The two used pressure bandages on the wounds the bear left in Harris shoulders and head.

The doctor reported that the injuries are not as severe as was indicated on preliminary examination. He has extensive lacerations of the scalp, penetrating wounds on both shoulders and a tear on his right hand, probably all caused by the bear's claws except possibly the wounds on the right shoulder, which may have been made by the bear's teeth.

A grizzly bear is easily capable of killing a man, and the bear that attacked Harris is believed to be the mother of the cub which had been wounded a few days previously by other hunters.

Local sportsmen were mystified at the bear's failure to go ahead with his attack, which began with a lightning rush that caught Harris by surprise. Harris was given credit for great personal bravery and presence of mind in his strategy of playing dead.

The work of Elwood Nelson, Johnson Flying Service helicopter pilot who flew Harris out of the woods Sunday, was called "brilliant" by the doctor."      October 7, 1952   The Missoulian

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



KURT WILSON/Missoulian

**JOSEPH RICE** credits his father with instilling in him the importance of safe gun-handling. Rice has since helped pass on that knowledge to about 10,000 youngsters.

# Hunter's aim: to save lives

By **DONNA SYVERTSON**  
of the Missoulian

**J**oseph Rice didn't just enroll his children in hunter's safety classes in 1968. He signed up, too — as an instructor.

For almost 25 years, Rice has volunteered to teach firearms safety to youngsters ages 12-18. He also was a Boy Scout leader, he volunteers at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and has taught, along with his wife, baton twirling.

When the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks needs someone to help, he volunteers there, too.

Back in 1968, when Rice took his two sons in to sign up for the hunting classes, it was really busy. When he asked if they wanted some help, the noisy crowd quieted. Rice ended up taking and passing a test and teaching a class that night.

That first year, Rice taught six classes. He's been teaching ever since. About 10 years ago, he became the program's chief instructor.

"I've personally taught over 2,000 kids and been in on teaching more than 10,000," he said.

Rice's father taught him (and his four brothers) to hunt when he was 4 or 5 years old. "Dad was a real stickler for safety," he recalled. "One mistake and you wouldn't touch a gun for a week."

Rice tries to instill that message in his own students.

After classroom training, the students are taken on a simulated hunting trip to test their skills and knowledge. They must ask the landowner for permission to hunt on his land and find out what's allowed on the property. They are tested on their ability to pass through fences safely, and are taught how to carry a gun safely in steep terrain.

With his duties as chief instructor, Rice has been encouraged to give up the teaching.

"I got in this thing because I wanted to teach it," he countered, but he has cut back his teaching time.

Rice taught Boy Scouts for 18 years, from 1952 to 1970 in Maryland, California and Montana. He got out of it, he said, when he had

## PROFILE

**Name:** Joseph Rice

**Age:** 66

**Years in community:** 1963-1965, back to Missoula in 1967

**Hobbies:** Shooting, hot air balloons, hats

**Contribution to community:** Teaches safe firearms practices

**Quote:** Hunter safety is "one of those things that takes something out but gives something back, too. I'm doing something I believe in. You'll never know how many lives you have saved by doing it."

to leave Montana one winter and those who promised to keep it going let it slide.

In the late '60s, he and his wife, Jean (who died in 1986), also taught baton twirling. Well, actually, his wife taught it. He simply illustrated, in slow motion, how to do the moves.

"Our daughter was an outstanding baton twirler," he said.

Today, in addition to the hunter safety work, he volunteers at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the FWP.

"The work they're doing, it's hard to understand why they didn't do it 30 years ago," Rice said of the Elk Foundation. "The winter range is a pretty special thing."

He's helped FWP with its Bitterroot Conservation Day, with videotape trips to the National Bison Range in Moiese and has rotated FWP vehicles among Montana cities.

"It's funny how you can put in 40 hours a week," Rice mused.

He saved some time by not putting in a garden this year. The deer have been eating it the last two or three years, he said.

They're in no danger from his guns, though. In fact, he watched a fawn that was born in a nearby field last year. Another two does, with their fawns, stretched out under one of his trees last year.

"As a hunter, you don't hunt animals you know personally," he said, smiling.



“

## “Newsline

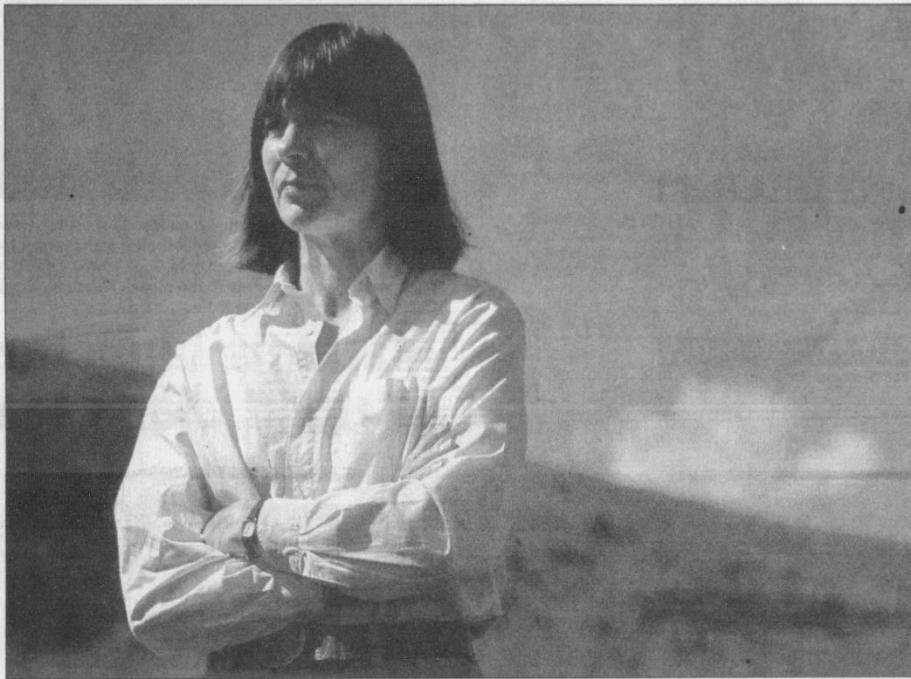
The National Bison Range in Moiese is now on its winter schedule, with good wildlife watching reported.

The 10-mile round-trip winter drive follows Mission Creek, with elk, deer and bison often nearby, and traverses the Alexander Basin grassland frequented by pronghorn.

There also are several shorter Buffalo Prairie drives. All tour roads will be open from daylight until dark during the winter. Visitor center hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays only. The center won't be open on weekends or holidays until May.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the bison range, suggests calling ahead during the colder months for road conditions and wildlife information. School groups also may arrange tours by calling 644-2211.” November 2, 1993 The Missoulian

“The best wildlife watching area near Missoula is the National Bison Range near Ravalli. Two driving loops are offered. Bring binoculars for close-up views of big game animals and birds. A visitor center is open daily. Admission is free (406) 644-2211.” April 10, 1994 The Spokesman-Review



KURT WILSON/Missoulian

**AFTER TOURING the area, Mollie Beattie, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says she wants her agency to work more closely with the Forest Service and Plum Creek Timber Co. to protect grizzly migration routes in the Swan Valley.**

## Tribes seek formal role at refuges

By SHERRY DEVLIN  
of the Missoulian

MOIESE — Worried that their management of natural resources will be "severely undermined," the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on Tuesday asked for a formal memorandum of understanding defining the tribes' role at Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge and the National Bison Range.

Tribal vice chairwoman Rhonda Swaney hand-delivered the request to Mollie Beattie, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, during a

morning car tour of the Mission Valley refuges.

"We want to recognize and formalize the role we are playing on the reservation," Swaney said during a stopover at the Bison Range.

Beattie, named to the Fish and Wildlife Service's top job last September, replied in an interview with the Missoulian. "I am very much interested in working with the tribes. This is something we are really looking forward to exploring."

"Tribes," Beattie said, "are some of the best natural resource managers in the country. We

certainly don't want to be tripping over each other on the reservation, duplicating each other's efforts."

Beattie was at the Bison Range as part of a tour of Montana and the Dakotas. She began her travels in the Blackfoot Valley, looking at habitat improvement projects along the river, then toured the Mission Valley refuges, then grizzly bear habitat in the Mission and Swan ranges.

At the refuge, Swaney told Beattie the tribe is worried that the Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing land and conservation easement purchases with little or

no coordination or consultation with the tribes.

Said the letter, signed by tribal chairman Mickey Pablo, "We are very concerned that, without this coordination and consultation, the tribes' ability to manage the natural resources of the reservation will be severely undermined."

The letter laid out for Beattie the history of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and actions, "undertaken by the United States government against

(See TRIBES, Page A-10)

(continued)

the tribes' wishes," that stripped considerable acreage on the reservation from tribal members.

"The result of these actions has been a constant, ongoing struggle on the part of the tribes to regain and maintain control of the quality and use of the reservation's natural resources," Pablo wrote. At the same time, he added, the rapid pace of development on rural lands on the reservation is destroying wetland habitat.

Pablo in his letter and Swaney in her conversation with Beattie suggested a formal memorandum of understanding to outline processes for achieving wetland habitat conservation, management responsibilities and authority on conservation project lands, coordination between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the tribes, and recognition of the federal government's trust responsibility to the tribes.

Beattie said she did not have time to read the tribe's written request during Tuesday morning's tour, but will respond when she returns to Washington, D.C.

She will also, upon returning to the Capitol, pay a visit on Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas. The topic: Beattie's concern for grizzly bear recovery in the Mission Mountains and Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Beattie said she wants her agency to work more closely with the Forest Service and with Plum Creek Timber Co. — the two biggest landowners in the Swan Valley — to protect grizzly migration routes from the Missions to the Bob Marshall.

Development and logging are increasingly cutting off the Mission Mountain grizzly population from the Bob Marshall ecosystem.

"I want to talk with Jack Ward Thomas about this issue," Beattie said. "We have a good relationship, particularly since I am responsible for endangered species and my training is in timber and Jack's training is in wildlife and he is chief of the Forest Service."

She also will return with heightened appreciation for the good deeds that can be accomplished by cooperative landowners. For proof, Beattie said, she'll offer the fish and wildlife restoration accomplished by the Blackfoot Challenge, a group of landowners, state and federal agencies and industry dedicated to restoration of the Blackfoot River.

"When you sit in Washington,

D.C., every day and see the endangered species list grow longer and longer, you get discouraged," Beattie said. "The Blackfoot Challenge renewed my hope. Things you might have written off as impossible have become possible. It's really very exciting."

Beattie said her agency will increasingly look at fish and wildlife as indicators of the health of entire ecosystems — of which humans are a part. "When I hear people say that this or that species is unimportant, I realize that we haven't done enough to educate them about what these species mean for us all," she said.

"We are all," she said, "tied to a common fate."

## “Park, bison range fires monitored

Kalispell – Crews Friday tried to control a lightning-caused fire on the National Bison Range as officials at Glacier National Park kept watch on a small fire there.

Forty Bureau of Indian Affairs firefighters worked on the fire that scorched 10 acres in the southern end of the bison range, near Elk Creek, after a lightning storm late Wednesday.

Lightning started a small fire on the western edge of Glacier, about half a mile east of the Logging Creek Ranger Station, said Cade White, a park spokesman. The fire was discovered Thursday night and had burned less than one acre by midday Friday.

Officials had not decided whether to let the fire burn, or try to control it.

The fire was monitored from the air and on the ground.” June 5, 1994 The Great Falls Tribune

### Heading outside? Call first

Restrictions are stiff  
on sun-baked lands

By PATRICIA SULLIVAN  
of the Missoulian

Before you head out for a day trip to public lands in western Montana, better make a few phone calls.

The National Bison Range has curtailed its services and hours. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have closed most of its recreational lands. The Department of State Lands imposed restrictions on what can be done on state and private forests. It's not a bad idea to call the ranger district or forest headquarters if you plan to use National Forest Service lands.

The Department of State Lands has jurisdiction over state and private forests in Missoula, Powell, Granite, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Mineral, Lincoln, Flathead, Lake and Sanders counties.

On those lands, loggers must shut down their operations by 1 p.m., chain saws can't be used in areas with a significant accumulation of dead or downed materials, and no smoking or campfires are allowed.

Motorized vehicle use is prohibited off developed roads without a permit, according to department Steve Jorgenson. Welding and blasting is banned without a permit.

The Plum Creek Timber Company has stopped firewood cutting on its lands west of the Continental Divide, Jorgenson said.

said.

The tribes will close all of its lands, except those along the shores of Flathead Lake above Kerr Dam, as of Friday at 5 p.m. But even on those lands, no campfires, no open barbecues and no smoking outside of enclosed vehicles will be permitted.

"The summer of 1994 will be remembered as one of the worst fire years ever for the Flathead Indian Reservation," said tribal chairman Mickey Pablo in a press release.

Holders of nonirrigated range units and pasture leases must contact the tribal land office for special access permits.

Lightning has sparked two fires on the National Bison Range near Moiese, and though both were quickly extinguished, outdoor recreation planner Marcy Bishop said the fire danger is extreme.

"This is the first time it's been this bad," she said. "We closed several years ago, in 1988, for a day but then it rained the next day."

The Bison Range's long drive has been closed and vehicles are required to stay on the paved road, which only takes them to the display and picnic area. That's open from 8 a.m. to dark. The visitor center is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The wildlife is doing fine, Bishop reported.

"They've got lots of foliage if we don't burn it up," she said.

### Give 'em a ring ...

Check with the appropriate agency before you use public lands during this fire season. Fire danger is still rated very high in most forests in western Montana.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Management: 675-2700.

National Bison Range: 644-2211.

Bitterroot National Forest: 363-7156.

Flathead National Forest: 755-5401.

Kootenai National Forest: 293-6211.

Lolo National Forest: 329-3750.

Department of State Lands: 329-3859.

## “Man pleads innocent to poaching

Butte – A Butte man has pleaded not guilty to three felony counts and a misdemeanor that allege he illegally killed a mule deer buck two years ago on the National Bison Range near Moiese, warden Sgt. Jeff Darra said Thursday.

Tony Rebich, 48, was charged in Federal District Court with felony counts of stealing property from the U.S. government (the deer), concealing stolen property and committing depredation against the property of the U. S. government.

The misdemeanor count is trespassing on the Bison Range.

If convicted, Rebich could be fined up to \$25,000 and spend a maximum of 10 years in prison for each felony, and receive up to a \$5,000 fine and up to six months in jail for the misdemeanor.

His trial is set for Jan. 9 in Federal District Court in Helena. *Montana Standard*” November 18, 1994  
The Missoulian

## Tribes ask to ride herd on Bison Range

KALISPELL (AP) — The Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes are asking the federal government to give them control of the federal bison range near Moiese.

The National Bison Range, founded near the turn of the century, now is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. But Mickey Pablo, Salish-Kootenai tribal chairman, said a recently passed federal law gives the tribes the opportunity to take over.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is looking for federal lands that could be turned over to tribes for management under the 1992 Tribal Self-Government Act.

“We are very, very confident we could handle something like that,” said Pablo.

Earlier this month, the council voted unanimously to write a proposal for the bison range. The tribes also must show they have the ability and tradition to manage the range.

“It’s not a big power move. It’s not a rush to take over,” said Pablo. “There is a lot of history and tradition that we don’t want to see lost.”

Pablo said a compact would have benefits for both the federal government and the tribes. With localized management, overhead costs would be trimmed, he said.

At the same time, the tribes could protect traditional and spiritual values of the area, Pablo said.

For centuries, Salish people traveled far to hunt bison, and the animal was a pillar of their culture, Pablo said. Before the Flathead Reservation was opened for homesteading, the federal government took the bison range property, over the tribes’ objections, Pablo said.

He said that generations ago, tribal members, including his great-great-grandfather, raised bison that later became part of the Conrad herd in Kalispell and were the nucleus for future herds at the range and elsewhere.

If the tribes take over the bison range, few things would change for visitors or management of marshlands, Pablo said.

### More About...

#### NATIONAL BISON RANGE

- Covers 18,500 acres
- Has a herd of nearly 500 bison.
- Has visible herds of bighorn sheep, mule and white-tailed deer and elk.
- Attracts some 200,000 visitors a year.
- Serves as the headquarters for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managers for 15,000 acres of wetlands in the Mission Valley and at the north shore of Flathead Lake and on the Swan River.

November 30, 1994 The Missoulian

# Bison range

## We taxpayers aren't obliged to the tribes

By KATHERINE MITCHELL

One would think in that reading the award-winning Missoulian, one would be reading carefully researched, truthful articles. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Your editorial on the National Bison Range is a classic example. One would infer from reading the editorial that the U.S. government stole the land that the Bison Range now occupies, when the truth is the land was set aside by Congress as a preserve and then purchased by the U.S. government. Congress appropriated \$40,000 to purchase the land which comprises the National Bison Range from the Flatheads.

One would infer from reading your editorial that part of the original bison herd used to populate the National Bison Range was corralled and spoon fed by Indians, who gazed longingly on them, as they represented a former way of life, when in fact, none of the original 41 bison, which constituted the foundation herd, was from the Mission Valley or raised by Indians. Thirty-seven bison were purchased from the Charles Conrad estate (whose foundation stock of 30 head came from the Charles Allard estate some 12 years earlier. Theoretically, it is possible that some of these were raised by Indians, but doubtful). Of the remaining seven, two came from Montana, two from Texas and three from New Hampshire. These bison were purchased by the American Bison Society for over \$10,000.

There were no bison on the Flathead Reservation. In 1874, an Indian and his wife brought two bulls and two heifers to the Flathead Reservation as a peace offering because a few years earlier, this same Indian shot and killed his first wife. The tribe forgave him and in 10 years his herd of four grew to a herd of 13. Shortly thereafter, Charles Allard and Michel Pablo bought these bison for \$3,000.

Allard/Pablo bought more bison and by 1896 the herd numbered 300. Allard died in this year and the herd was divided — 150 to the Allard estate and 150 to Michel Pablo. In 1906, Pablo sold his entire herd of bison, which by then numbered over 600, to the Canadian government for \$200,000. Quite a lot of money in 1906.

This short history lesson is an illustration of how the Missoulian has, once again, been loose with the truth. They continually fall prey to one of the less attractive characteristics of Americans, the pleasure they derive from groveling in guilt.

Indians are not truly "native." When they crossed the Bering Strait on an ancient land bridge, they headed south and displaced the non-Mongoloid culture in exactly the same way that cultures have been displacing other cultures since the beginning of time.

Indians have been paid over and over and over for this land and frankly, I'm tired of continuing to pay.

I didn't appropriate anyone's land. My parents didn't take anyone's land. My grandparents didn't steal anyone's land and my great-grandparents certainly didn't shoot and kill anyone for their land. We did however, pay for the National Bison Range, and since we paid for it, we expect to manage it.

I don't expect much from the Missoulian — just the truth. I have a difficult time with people running around the country promoting misconceptions, half truths or deliberate lies because of the Gospel according to the Missoulian.

Katherine Mitchell writes from St. Ignatius.

## Preserve is already paid for in full

By WILLIAM L. SLACK

The National Bison Range rightfully belongs to the taxpayers.

A proposal from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to coerce tribal control over the Bison Range at Moiese doesn't deserve serious consideration. It's an outrageous idea.

Shifting jurisdiction over the wildlife preserve from our government to a tribal government that portrays itself as "sovereign" is far from what Congress envisioned with passage of the Tribal Self-Government Act of 1992. Our government policy is to encourage tribal governments to assume greater responsibility for themselves. That policy is being stretched to shift authority over our federal heritage lands from public control to tribal authorities.

Settlers, with the full backing of the U.S. government, purchased land from American Indians. Here in western Montana, the president of the United States reserved land for members of the Kootenai and Confederated Salish Tribes to receive home allotments. He bought from them their holdings in the Bitterroot Valley, and caused a capital base to be set up for them by selling the surplus lands in the reserve. The Bison Range is part of that surplus for which the tribes were paid. The federal government did not confiscate it, or any of the other land. The tribes have accepted payment for all of it. Bison were purchased to stock it. Indians sold one of the last great herds of bison to roam free on the federal domain. Taxpayers have paid to preserve the Bison Range and its herd for some 80 years.

Given all this, the least the federal government should do is honor its commitment to its taxpayers to keep this great national heritage for them. It's theirs.

There is no question the tribal government wants to take over the Bison Range and all the other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands owned by American taxpayers. They're "working" agencies and business groups and newspapers on and off the reservation. The taxpaying public shouldn't have to buy it again, in entrance fees and permits.

William L. Slack writes from St. Ignatius

## Land is for ALL Americans

By MICHAEL UMPHREY

The National Bison Range is too important to be tossed into the changing world of tribal politics. Your morality tale about Indians vs. whites makes a simple story — too simple to hold the history of this place.

When tribal rolls were done in 1905, only 43 percent of the Indians were full bloods. There was only minority opposition to allotment. Today, only 20 percent of reservation residents are members of the tribe, and the only descendants here of some white settlers are the "Indians."

Tribal Council Chairman Mickey Pablo's family provides a good illustration. In 1906, Missoula County tried to collect property taxes from his great-great-grandfather, Michel Pablo,

Preservation of our wild heritage depends on keeping our common resources out of reach of local profiteers.

who was one of the wealthiest ranchers on the Flathead Reservation. The commissioners wanted a test case to see if they had authority to tax non-Indian residents of the reservation.

Though he avoided the taxes, Pablo couldn't stop the allotment and his loss of open rangeland, so in May 1907 he sold about 600 bison to the Canadian government for \$200,000. In November 1910, the state stopped Pablo's plan to

have friends from Canada come down to shoot, at \$250 a head, buffalo that had evaded the roundups.

Pablo's sale of the buffalo dismayed American conservationists, who called for bison to be preserved in a federal herd. Preservation of our wild heritage depends on keeping our common resources out of reach of local profiteers.

On the Flathead Reservation, "Indian" is more a political label than a racial one. My own family includes tribal members whose full siblings are not members. As the races merge biologically, political tensions will increase and no one knows where it will lead.

The National Bison Range is a national treasure, held in trust for all Americans. That's a moral thing to do.

Michael Umphrey writes from St. Ignatius.



## “Winter route offers glimpses of wildlife

Are you a back-seat wildlife watcher? The National Bison Range’s Winter Drive offers nice views along Mission Creek and in Alexander Basin for deer, elk and pronghorn antelope.

Bison also are visible from time to time along highways 200 and 212 on the south and west sides of the range. There are always bison in the pasture near the headquarters.

Drives are open daily from 7 a.m. to dark. The Winter Drive takes about 45 minutes to an hour to complete. For the winter, the visitor center is open weekdays only from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.”

December 22, 1994 The Missoulian

David “Dave” Wiseman replaced the retiring Jon Malcolm as National Bison Range manager in 1994.

# Who took what?

By THOMPSON R. SMITH

I would like to congratulate the Missoulian on the courageous editorial supporting the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in their bid to assume management of the National Bison Range at Moiese. Unfortunately, in the edition of Dec. 19, three letters from non-Indian residents of St. Ignace challenged that stance with rambling statements based on inaccurate accounts of the reservation's history. Their letters were shaped primarily by an obvious resentment at the tribes for daring to exert power within their own reservation.

I would like to offer some clarification of the history. The letters from Katherine Mitchell, William Slack and Michael Umphrey argued that the tribes have no right to "take over" the Bison Range. It should be noted, first of all, that the tribes are merely applying to assume management of the Bison Range. To the visiting public, this means little more than tribal preference in hiring. No one would be "locked out" of the range. It would remain open, as it is today, for tourists.

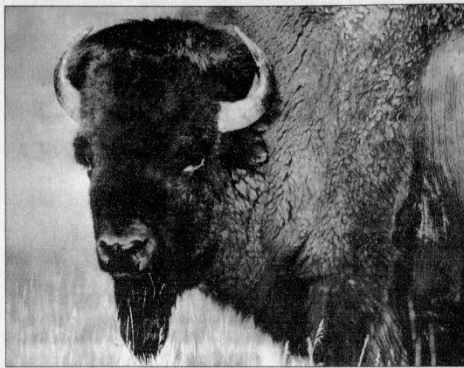
Let's provide some perspective. Before non-Indians arrived in the region, the bison herds were by all accounts enormous. Total bison population on the Great Plains before 1750 has been estimated at anywhere from 50 to 100 million. The bison were the heart of many tribes' cultures. Many Indian people, including the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille, have always held a deep spiritual relationship with these animals.

The bison populations began to decline gradually in the 19th century as the fur trade made inroads into the region, and as various tribes acquired the more lethal hunting tools of guns and horses. The far more dramatic decline in numbers, however, occurred after 1870, by which time railroads permitted the shipping of hides to the East in mass quantities. The invention of an industrial hide-tanning process in Philadelphia played a critical role in the decimation of the herds. The astonishing waste and the pace of this slaughter are a well-known story. The essential point is this: bison thrived when the West was ordered by the traditional cultural ecologies of Indian people, but they faded very differently once non-Indians began to incorporate them as commodities within an international market economy.

According to the great oral historian Blind Mose Chouteau (1899-1986), a Kalispel or "Pend d'Oreille" man named Latati brought a few bison calves back from the Great Plains to the Flathead Reservation in the 1870s. The bison were kept near the home of Latati's mother, Sapin Mali (Mary Sahline). When Latati's father, Altice or Hawk Blanket (who himself had tried to bring bison back some years earlier) passed away, Sapin Mali remarried a man named Samwell or Xwist Snichle (Walking Coyote). In the meantime, the herd increased, perhaps to 30 bison. While Latati was visiting among the Kootenai, Samwell met with Charles Allard and Michel Pablo and, unbeknownst to Latati, sold the herd. This was around 1883. For those readers who require non-Indian confirmation of this history, most of the oral accounts are fully corroborated by other sources, including U.S. Government records.

Allard died in 1886 and Pablo took over the herd by himself. The bison continued to multiply, numbering in the hundreds and ranging freely in the unceded lands in the vicinity of the Flathead River.

In 1904, Rep. Joseph Dixon pushed a bill through Congress to open the Flathead Reservation to white settlement. The bill called for the elimination of tribal, communal ownership of lands within the reservation. Indians would be "allotted"



The bison were the heart of many tribes' cultures. Many Indian people, including the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille, have always held a deep spiritual relationship with these animals.

individual plots of land on the reservation; most of what was left over would be declared "surplus land" and thrown open to whites under terms similar to the Homestead Act of 1862. Contrary to Michael Umphrey's claim, the vast majority of tribal members virulently opposed this bill. Though most of them had almost no money, they scraped together enough to send delegations of their traditional leaders to Washington in a desperate attempt to stop what they considered an outrageous abrogation of the 1855 treaty.

Professor Burton Smith has written of Dixon's concern over this opposition until he discovered an obscure clause in the treaty that could be manipulated to obviate the need for tribal approval. Though the clause could not possibly have been translated into Salish or Kootenai in comprehensible terms in 1855, Dixon seized upon it to pass the measure unilaterally. Dixon at the time wrote that "the discovery (of the clause) ... was like a message from heaven."

In preparation for the opening of the reservation, the Indian Agents began enclosing the free range on the reservation. This was why Pablo began to seek buyers for his herd — contrary to Umphrey and Mitchell's implication that he was simply a slick profiteer who held no value in the bison. With the U.S. government brazenly expropriating tribal lands, he had no choice but to sell. Apparently, Umphrey and Mitchell consider it objectionable that Pablo did not then give the bison away for free, but instead sold them in May 1907 for their real worth to the government of Canada, where they were placed in a protected park. Some of the bison could not be caught, and white settlers on the reservation began poaching them. Pablo tried to arrange for a paid hunt so he could at least get some return on the killing of his livestock. When this was blocked by the U.S. government, he allowed poor tribal members to hunt and eat the bison for free. Pablo was known within the tribes for his generosity.

Thus, the U.S. government offered no protection to the successful bison operation of this tribal member and forced the sale of his herd; however, the government and the American Bison Society thought it a fine idea to take the tribal land and raise the bison under government control. So, in 1909, a bill was passed expropriating lands from the tribes for the establishment of a National Bison Range.

Having exterminated the bison and confined all tribal peoples to reservations, then forced the sale of a reservation-

based herd that originated in the efforts of a tribal member to save the buffalo, the government now decided it wanted to protect the bison and seized part of an Indian reservation for this purpose. Clearly, this was easier to do politically than to take land for a bison range in a non-reservation area already populated by white settlers. Government records indicate that several Indian allotments were originally located within the Bison Range, and the Indian allottees were forced to relocate after 1909. The government then reacquired portions of the Pablo herd and brought them back to the Bison Range, carved out of the reservation's tribal lands. Given their mountainous nature, it is unlikely that the unallotted lands within the Bison Range would have ever been homesteaded by whites; like most other hilly and forested sections of the reservation, this land would have probably reverted to tribal ownership when the allotment act was canceled with passage of the Wheeler-Howard Bill in 1934.

Blind Mose Chouteau, who was 20 years old in 1909, recalled that when "the Bison Range was taken from us, we, the Indians, were not asked for permission. Some Indians said, 'Hoy ge kwelt' — they took our range from us."

Chouteau recalled the government promised that Indians would be permitted to hunt bison within the range, but that nevertheless, "All the people did not want to sell the land. The Indians and the officials got together at a meeting and the Indians said, 'No, because it is our place for getting our food, hunting mule deer, blue grouse, prairie chicken, ground hog.' ... The tribes were informed by Agent Fred Morgan that they had no choice in the matter, and 'The Indians surrendered for fear in speaking their minds.' Chouteau recalled that "We never did get fed any buffalo meat. ... The only thing we could do was get leftovers, like tripe ... and marrow gut, buffalo feet and buffalo head."

Both Mitchell and Slack suggest, nonsensically, that since the Tribes were paid by the U.S. government for the land comprising the Bison Range, they fully agreed to the deal and have no basis for their objections. However, the "sale" was imposed upon the tribes without their consent. The U.S. paid the money into accounts in the Treasury Department, from which it was spent by the reservation's U.S. Indian Agents for what they deemed the "benefit" of tribal members. A good deal of this money was used for the administrative and surveying costs involved in opening the reservation to white settlement.

Mitchell complains that "Indians have been paid over and over for this land and frankly, I'm tired of continuing to pay." I'm not sure what she's referring to, except for one payment made to the tribes by the U.S. Indian Claims Commission in the late 1960s for the illegal taking of Bitterroot Valley lands from the Salish. In any case, at the Helgate Treaty in 1855, the main "payment" promised by the United States to the tribes was the solemn guarantee of tribal sovereignty over the unceded lands comprising the Reservation. The United States promised this in exchange for the tribes' cession of some 22 million acres — well over 90 percent of their territory — which we now refer to as western Montana. The United States withdrew on this "payment" from the start in a variety of ways: Agents who allowed rampant cattle and timber trespass on the reservation throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the whole debacle over removal of the Salish from the Bitterroot Valley, the taking of a right-of-way for the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1882, over strenuous objections from the chiefs; the opening of the reservation to whites in 1910; the building of the Flathead Irrigation Project, partially with tribal money, which seriously harmed reservation fisheries and from the start primarily served non-Indian farmers; and the construction and control of Kerr Dam by the Montana Power and Anaconda companies during the 1920s.

What the three St. Ignace writers really object to is that the tribes are still here and still asserting their cultural and political independence. The writers dream of a United States in which the great richness of our cultural diversity is replaced by a monoculture based, of course, on their own narrow notions of what it means to be "American."

Mitchell even manages to raise the old red herring about the supposed origin of Indians from Asia via the Bering Straits land bridge during the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago. This is always trumpeted by people who want to suggest that there can be no moral objection to the invasion and expropriation of the lands of Indian people. We rightly apply this standard of international law — the principal that invasion is wrong, and that treaties are binding — to the Germans or the Japanese in World War II, and to the Iraqis in 1990. Indians must also apply these same standards of human rights and justice to our own country.

Thompson R. Smith of Charlo is a consultant for the Flathead Culture Committee.

## Tribes can't claim Bison Range

The Missoulian editorial of Dec. 12 notwithstanding, the National Bison Range does not and should not belong to the tribes. And the editors should stop trying to rewrite history in the name of their personal brand of social justice.

This property was ceded to the United States of America by the tribes as part of the Hellgate Treaty of 1855 to which the tribes agreed in order to prevent their annihilation by the United States Army. The reservation was created to protect the Indians, and the mechanism that Congress chose was to place these government lands in a trust until such time as they could be "allotted" to individual Indians. When Congress abstracted these government lands from trust status to create the National Bison Range in 1908, they paid the tribes (and the tribes accepted) the appraised value for those lands (even though they were the property of the United States) as mitigation for removing them from trust status.

In view of these few simple facts it is clear that the Missoulian is way off the mark to claim that these lands "rightfully belong to the tribes." And their claim that these lands were "confiscated" by white settlers is an irresponsible lie which is an insult to the Missoulian's constituency and Montanans everywhere.

Insofar as management of the Bison Range is concerned, I make one observation and ask one question. To wit:

It is my clear understanding that the tribes still claim to be a sovereign nation which is separate and distinct from the United States of America and is therefore not subject to its jurisdiction.

Question: Why should the Department of the Interior turn the management of a national landmark over to a foreign country which would impose its own laws and regulations on the citizens of other countries (including the USA) that might visit that facility?

— Jack H. Rupe  
4500 Moiese Valley Road, Moiese

January 12, 1995 The Missoulian

## Butte poacher convicted

By DARLA NELSON  
Montana Standard

A Butte man was convicted Friday of illegally killing a buck deer on the National Bison Range near Moiese two years ago.

Tony Rebich, 48, was convicted by a jury in U.S. District Court in Helena.

He was convicted on felony charges of stealing property (the deer) of the U.S. government, concealing stolen property from the U.S. government, and committing degradation against property of the U.S. government; and a misdemeanor charge of trespassing on the bison range.

Rebich will be sentenced after a pre-sentencing investigation. The trial began Wednesday. The jury deliberated about three hours Friday before making its decision.

Prosecutors alleged Rebich killed a trophy buck on the bison range during the 1992 hunting season. It is a crime to kill animals on any land set aside by the federal government as a park.

Local authorities said they obtained a warrant to search Rebich's house after Frank Rasmussen, 51, of the 3600 block of Gaylord, gave officials information on the case as an eye-witness.

The deer's antlers were found during the search.

In October, Rasmussen was charged with felony sale of unlawfully taken wildlife and felony criminal mischief, as well as six misdemeanors, for allegedly poaching at least four black bears over the summer in Jefferson County. That case is still pending.

Rebich could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$25,000 for each of the three felonies; and up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 for the misdemeanor conviction.

February 25, 1995 The Missoulian

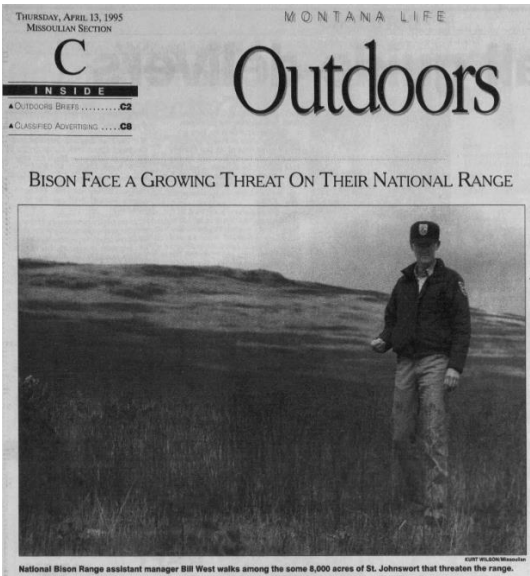
## ■ A HERD OF TURTLES



KURT WILSON/Missoulian

Several turtles crowd onto an island seeking the sunshine that broke over western Montana this week. The turtles live in a pond on the National Bison Range near Moiese.

April 1, 1995 The Missoulian



# Weeds, Be Gone

**How the range became a home where buffalo roam**

The National Bison Range had its beginnings, albeit unknowingly, when Walking Coyote – a Pend d'Oreille Indian – returned from a hunting trip on the plains followed by five orphaned bison calves.

When he had 13 bison, Walking Coyote sold them to ranchers Michael Pablo and Charles Allard. At that time, fewer than 100 bison remained in the wild. There had once been 30 million to 70 million bison on the plains.

The Pablo/Allard herd quickly became the largest in existence; Allard's heirs eventually sold his animals to Charles Conrad of Kalispell and those animals formed the nucleus of the Bison Range stock.

As the Flathead Valley was settled, Pablo realized that his large herd of free-roaming buffalo would not be welcome and tried to sell them to the U.S. government. When he received no response, he sold the herd to Canada.

The sale of that last, large herd out of the country produced a huge public outcry, which led to the formation of the American Bison Society. That group, in turn, worked with the Smithsonian Institution and President Theodore Roosevelt to persuade Congress to establish reserves for the preservation of the American Bison.

Three reserves were established, the National Bison Range near Moiese in 1908. From 350 to 500 bison now roam the bison range, which is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

And with more than 140,000 in North America, bison are no longer in danger of extinction.

By SHERRY DEVLIN  
of the Missoulian

**M**OIESE – The refuge that saved the American bison is now in danger of losing the native Palouse prairie that sustains the shaggy-maned creature.

As many as 8,000 acres on the 18,500-acre National Bison Range are infected with St. Johnswort, a waist-high rust-colored weed that overwhelms prairie grasses.

"Our native plants are sick," said Bill West, assistant manager at the Bison Range. The year just past was the worst ever for weeds on the Mission Valley preserve; thus, West's crusade.

The Bison Range has the nation's largest, most comprehensive biocontrol program. Nineteen imported insects are at work boring out weed stems and chewing up new growth.

Range managers have sprayed herbicides on the worst of the outbreaks since the 1940s, often spending as much as a month each summer on horseback, hunting for and spraying weeds.

But West is losing the war. St. Johnswort, often called goatweed, stains many of the previously honey-colored hillsides and blankets others.

Bison – which number 350 to 500 at the refuge – won't eat St. Johnswort. And it is toxic to light-skinned animals, causing a hypersensitivity to sunlight.

If the weed cannot be stopped, the size of the bison herd may have to be reduced, West said.

There cannot be more bison than habitat; the size of the herd is based on the carrying capacity of the prairie grassland.

And it's not just goatweed. There are a dozen exotics eating up ground previously held by native rough fescue, Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass.

The villainous list: purple loosestrife, common mullein, hounds tongue, teasel, bull thistle, Canada thistle, sulfur cinquefoil, musk thistle, field bindweed, yellow and dalmatian toadflax, Russian knapweed and spotted knapweed.

Still, West said he cannot convince policymakers that exotic plants are a problem on public land. "I couldn't fill a phone booth in Washington, D.C., for a weed meeting," he said.

None of the 505 national wildlife refuges – including the Bison Range – have line-item allocations for weed control. The \$23,000 West spends each year on herbicides, insects, equipment and manpower must come from his discretionary budget.

Another range manager might decide to use the money otherwise – or another regional director might order the money used otherwise. It's also not enough, especially when other agencies are similarly short of resources.

Most of the research has been on agricultural weeds, not on the goatweed or teasel that are mining West's native prairie.

"We have a biological wildfire and nobody in the federal government wants to be the fire boss," West

lamented. Were this an actual fire – not an outbreak of weeds – the response would be considerably more spendy.

West learned that lesson last summer, when a 5 a.m. lightning strike ignited the McDonald Peak fire on the Bison Range boundary. By dawn, flames had jumped the Flathead River. By 10 a.m., slurry bombers were dumping retardant.

Two-hundred firefighters were on the scene within a day, as was an overhead team from New Mexico. No expense was spared.

"I watched that effort unfold and come to its conclusion and then returned to this effort," West said. "Here I am a manager with a problem that I have neither the tools nor the expertise to deal with. And no one cares."

West cannot, in fact, even say how or if the weeds already on the Bison Range can be contained. And he fears that the worst may yet be to come: sulfur cinquefoil. That yellow-flowering weed is just catching hold on the refuge.

He needs research, he said, to back up his weed control program. He needs money for insects and spot spraying of herbicides. He needs the public and politicians to understand the magnitude of the problem.

Instead, he is left with trial and error – and virtually no resources. A few years back, a "desk jockey" in Denver suggested that West spread molasses on St. Johnswort in hopes of making it palatable to bison. It was not.

But West has learned that areas traveled by the big beasts don't have as thick infestations. His theory: St. Johnswort originated in the Mediterranean, where there were no hooved animals. So the plant may be particularly susceptible to trampling.

"Maybe," he said. But he cannot be sure, without research. Nor does he know what effect the weed is having on other prairie grassland creatures, including songbirds, pronghorns, Columbian ground squirrels, coyotes, mule and white-tailed deer, and yellow-bellied marmots.

And what about the effect of the more than 200,000 visitors who drive into and through the Bison Range each year, potentially carrying seeds from weeds in their homestates and countries? And what about the buffalo wallows, which harbor seeds?

Weeds, by definition, are exotic plants carried to this country from other continents, sometimes as ballast on ships, sometimes as contaminants in feeds and in other cases as ornamental plants.

"I just want someone to tell me what works," West said. "What if we followed a good insect year with a year where we aggressively burned some of these areas? Would that be enough?"

There have been years when West thought he had the upper hand. In 1986, beetles reduced the St. Johnswort to 125 acres. But the insects starved the next year, when there were not enough plants to provide for their sustenance – and then the plant came back. To 8,000 acres.

"We don't cut hay for these bison. They roam and graze," West said. "We have a responsibility. We saved these animals. Now we've got to save their grasslands."



## “This grass wasn’t made for grazing

I was interested to read Sherry Devlin’s article in the April 13 Missoulian concerning the weed problem at the National Bison Range near Moiese.

The problem is unlikely to be solved as long as considerable numbers of bison are on the range. The reason? Their habitat was the short-grass prairie of eastern Montana and adjacent states and provinces. As pointed out by Professor Black of Washington State University in Pullman in “Natural History” some years ago, cattle and bison are ecologically equivalent in their ready adaptation to the short-grass species which co-evolved with the bison in that environment. Such grass species readily tolerate concentrated trampling.

On the other hand, the bunch grass prairie of the intermountain valleys, mainly west of the Divide, are intolerant of such trampling, but can tolerate use by deer and elk with which the bunch-grass species have co-evolved.

It might be advisable, then to, to move our bison to ranges established in short-grass prairie and to convert our bison range to a wildlife refuge for adapted species. Eventually, the vegetation would return to its pre-bison-range condition, although we might have to help the process along.”

– M. Chessin, 400 University Ave., Missoula April 26, 1995 The Missoulian

## “Bison Range offers high-tech study

Studying nature via computer or the relationship of predators and their prey are options available for teachers at the National Bison Range’s annual Spring Discovery Workshop.

Teachers can choose one of the two sessions, which will be held concurrently, on Saturday, May 6.

The computer option will guide teachers through a variety of user-friendly programs designed for the classroom. A bank of computers will be available to try out programs on birds, maps, plants, and other natural science subjects.

The predator-prey workshop will explore the physical structures and behaviors that maintain a predator-prey balance. Real wildlife will be presented in the field in their natural habitats. The workshop also includes a hands-on examination of skulls, skins and mounts to demonstrate adaptations of animals to their environment.

Workshops will start and finish at the National Bison Range visitor center. Classes begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around 3:30 p.m. Coffee and refreshments will be served, but teachers should bring a sack lunch.

Pre-registration is required; forms have been mailed to area. April 27, 1995 The Missoulian

“Terry and Carole Toppins will lead a birdathon to the National Bison Range on Saturday, May 20. Meet at the university of Montana field house at 8 a.m. Bring lunch. Donations are appreciated.” May 4, 1995 The Missoulian

“Foes of trial plan schedule Saturday rally at Bison Range by Ron Selden for the Missoulian

Moiese – Opponents of a Salish and Kootenai tribal proposal to manage the National Bison Range are slated to gather at the range Saturday to discuss the issue.

According to organizer, Lisa Morris, a rally is slated for 10:30 a.m. at the main picnic grounds. A potluck lunch will follow.

The tribes are seeking to manage the bison range, and Ninepipe and Pablo national wildlife refuges under provisions of the 1994 Tribal Self-Governance Act. The act allows tribes to contract management of a wide variety of federal programs, especially if the program sites are culturally or historically significant to American Indians.

The Bison range and other federal holdings within the Flathead Reservation are now managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Detractors of the tribal proposal allege the tribes are rewriting Bison Range history to fit their application.

They also contend proposed Indian-preference hiring will result in current federal employees losing their jobs.

Morris said Saturday’s speakers will include Lake County commissioners Barry Baker, Dave Stipe and Mike Hutchins; Amy Fisher, an aide to U. S. Sen. Conrad Burns, R. Mont; retired Bison Range manager Jon Malcolm; and others.

For more information, call 644-2403.” May 12, 1995 The Missoulian

# Bison plan opens split over range

By PATRICIA SULLIVAN  
of the Missoulian

MOIESE — This is not a case of white hats versus black hats, nor is this issue about whites versus Indians, Jocko and Mission Valley neighbors said Saturday.

But those who supported leaving the National Bison Range in the hands of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were the ones who mostly wore western hats or baseball caps while those who spoke up for turning management over to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were bare-headed, and their voices clustered at the end of the rally.

About 100 people gathered at the picnic grounds to protest U.S. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt's request that the government study whether to turn the management over to the tribes. Organizer Lisa Morris said more than 3,000 names have been collected on petitions opposing the transfer.

The tribes are seeking management of the range and of the Pablo and Ninepipes Wildlife Refuge under the 1994 Tribal Self Governance Act.

Opponents of the transfer said, in speeches and in cowboy poetry, don't fix what isn't broken. State Reps. Rick Jore and Dick Green opposed the transfer in person, and the Missoula representative for U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns said the senator wants the decision about management of the range to be made by local people, not by federal officials.

"There may be a little more at stake here than the National Bison Range," said Jon Malcolm, the refuge manager for 13 years who retired last year. Malcolm said the tribes two years ago sought detailed information on all of the Fish and Wildlife Service's responsibilities in western Montana. He said the bison range is one of the best-managed wildlife refuges in the country, even while visitor use doubled to about 200,000 in the past 10 years.

Malcolm also made reference to a previous attempt by the tribes to start a bison herd and the herd's subsequent sale. "If the tribes are really serious about wanting a bison range, they have plenty of land and lots of potential," he said.

Malcolm repeated a suggestion made earlier in the rally by Lake

## Bison

Continued

County Commissioner Dave Stipe, who suggested that local whites work with the tribes to have federal policy changed so that "more bison could be donated" for the tribes to operate their own bison herd.

"How 'bout if they buy 'em?" a woman called out.

Supporters of the tribe stepped up to the microphone as Stipe was ending the rally.

"The tribes aren't trying to take away anyone's rights. If they didn't think they could do a better job, they wouldn't even ask," said Janet Camel, a tribal employee whose comment was met with laughter.

"This land is in the middle of a reservation. They didn't even have a say in how it was set up," she

continued, and people in the crowd who had listened quietly to opponents of the transfer, began to answer back. "That's all I have to say," she concluded, and someone called out "Good!"

"I never thought I'd be at a gathering of this crowd, good conservative ranchers, and hear you say the federal government could do a better job of managing than local control," said a bare-headed Paul Coats.

"We have no vote, we have no say," a man in a western hat responded.

"We don't have a vote in tribal government," added hatted Randy Doty. "They're a sovereign nation. They don't have to listen to anybody."

"The tribal constitution says they'll abide by the federal constitution," answered Joe Dowdall, as the wind ruffled his locks. "What I don't like is prejudice because people don't know what they're talking about. You need to study up."

*"The tribes  
aren't*

*trying to take away*

*anyone's rights. If*

*they didn't think they*

*could do a better job,*

*they wouldn't even*

*ask."*

Tribal employee Janet Camel

It was a heated end to a rally where speakers had said the issue was not race, but whether the tribes could manage the range better than it's been run for the last 86 years.

Rhonda Swaney, the tribal council vice chair who did not attend the rally, said the tribes are "interested in the same thing those folks are, good management... I'd like to take people at their word at what their intentions are, but their actions speak louder than words."

"In the federal government, particularly at the field level, things have suffered the past few years because of lack of funding. We feel we'd be able to make our case to Congress to get more money. Additionally, you can't discount our (historic) connection with the bison range," she said.

## “Bison range kicks off its summer schedule

Summer hours are in effect at the National Bison Range. The Red Sleep Mountain Drive is open, as is the visitor center.

Scenic drives at the range are open from 6:30 a.m. until dark. The Red Sleep drive covers 19 miles and takes two hours. The shorter West Loop and Prairie drives also offer views of bison, elk, deer and pronghorn. Mornings provide the best wildlife watching on all drives.

Visitor center hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 daily. A \$4 per car entrance fee is charged for admission to the bison range. For more

information, call 644-2211.” May 18, 1995 The Missoulian

## “Coming Soon

Five Valley Audubon Society, Birdathon led by Terry and Carole Toppins, Saturday, May 20, National Bison Range, Meet, 8 a.m., University of Montana Field House. Bring lunch. Donations accepted. Call 549-6027.” May 19, 1995 The Missoulian

## Students call for racial tolerance at Bison Range rally

By RON SELDEN  
for the Missoulian

ST. IGNATIUS — Racism and intolerance must be dug out by the roots and transformed through education and understanding, speakers at a rally told area residents gathered Wednesday on the edge of the National Bison Range near St. Ignatius.

“The best thing to do is to improve ourselves ... show a good

example that you can live without racism,” said Shandin Pete, student body president at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo.

“Our time here is too short to be hateful,” added fellow student Leslie Caye. “We need to teach by action, as well as by words.”

The rally was organized by SKC students in response to ever-present racial uneasiness between many Indians and non-Indians on the Flathead Reservation and

beyond. Ongoing jurisdictional disputes about Bison Range management, control of environmental programs, and other reservation issues that involve questions of governmental authority often bring out racism, speakers said.

The problem, said student John Bigcrane, cuts across all cultures, and is not just limited to Indians or whites. Racism and intolerance must be confronted,

wherever they are encountered, he said.

When he was young and first experienced discrimination because of the color of his skin, Bigcrane said he told his mother that he wished all the whites on the reservation would go away. He said his mother told him that was wrong, that people must learn to live together, as well as learn from and cherish their differences.

“For Native Americans and

other minorities, you have to learn to live in two worlds,” he said. “You have to learn to live in both worlds, as well as know where you came from.”

Teaching tolerance, respect, and appreciation are the keys to drive away racism, said Caye.

“It starts with understanding and respect,” Caye said. “A smile

rather than a frown, a helping hand to fellow man ...”

Speakers also urged the group to get involved in an upcoming Unity Day celebration in St. Ignatius, as well as a public workshop on healing racism, slated June 9-11 at the Blue Bay Healing Center on Flathead Lake’s east shore.

May 25, 1995 The Missoulian



# Tribes, feds will discuss bison range deal

By RON SELDEN  
for the Missoulian

Federal officials and Salish and Kootenai tribal leaders plan to meet within the next two weeks to discuss the scope of potential management agreements for the National Bison Range.

The tribes are seeking to manage the range, as well as other federal holdings in and around Ninepipe and Pablo national wildlife refuges, under provisions of the 1994 Tribal Self-Governance Act. The areas currently are run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In a recent letter to Tribal Chairman Mickey Pablo, acting regional Fish and Wildlife Service Director Terry Terrell said the agency is "very interested in exploring ways to collaborate and contract ... with the tribes in a variety of activities and programs."

In a written statement, agency officials this week said a meeting to discuss the tribes' requests will be slated on or before June 15.

In her letter to Pablo, Terrell noted, however, that differences exist between tribal and agency interpretations of the Self-Governance Act, and that the agency believes the act "precludes, based on constitutional limitations, a compact covering management of the refuge in its entirety."

Terrell also wrote that the National Wildlife Refuge

System Administration Act of 1966 requires the system be administered by the U.S. Department of Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Officials acknowledged this week in their statement that "there has been considerable misunderstanding and confusion" regarding what types of federal programs are eligible for tribal contracting, and how such agreements would work.

In her letter, Terrell explained that the self-governance law is a new law and Interior officials are striving to assure it's applied as Congress intended.

"What we really need is some patience and understanding on everybody's part until we can undertake meaningful negotiations and arrive at fair and equitable solutions," Terrell wrote, adding that the agency was not a sponsor of a May 13 rally at the Montana range that largely featured speakers opposed to the tribal proposals.

Salish and Kootenai Vice Chairwoman Rhonda Swaney said Wednesday that she was "heartened" by Terrell's statement. "We look forward to meeting with them," she said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., in a May 30 letter, asked Mollie Beattie, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, whether it's appropriate, in light of huge budget deficits, for the federal government to continue running its bison refuges in Montana, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

June 1, 1995 The Missoulian

"National Bison Range. Located at Moiese in the Flathead Valley. Established in 1908, the 19,000-acre big-game range features about 400 bison, many species of birds and herds of white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorns, elk and more in a 19-mile self-guiding tour. Fee is \$4 per car; all Golden passes are accepted. Call 644-2211 for information." June 11, 1995 The Missoulian

## "Williams has bison question

Kalispell – Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont. Wants to know if federal government needs three bison ranges at a time when budgets are tight and bison are spilling out of Yellowstone National Park.

Williams wrote to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie about the demand for bison, the genetic integrity of the herd on the National Bison Range at Moiese and the range budget.

The Montana bison range is to home is about 400 bison, and draws about 20,000 visitors a year. Oklahoma and Nebraska also have national bison rangers.

The Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes Tribes have proposed taking over management of the range, but Williams said the very existence of the range should be questioned. Associated Press"

June 12, 1995 The Missoulian

“Tribes and feds hashing out possible bison range plans by Ron Selden of the Missoulian.

Moiese - Tribal and federal officials are continuing efforts to define tribal management options at the National Bison Range.

“Right now, it’s basically just people reviewing documents and figuring out what’s going on,” Bison Range Manager David Wiseman said Monday.

“Discussions are on going and no final determination has been made at this point,” Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Chairman Mickey Pablo said in a separate interview.

Wiseman said the tribes recently submitted an updated notice of intent to seek management of the range and other federal holdings on the Flathead Reservation now managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Agency officials, however, announced in a statement that last month that it was their opinion that overall management of national refuge land is inherently a federal function, and therefore not eligible for contracting or compacting under the 1994 Tribal Self-Governance Act.

At issue, officials say, are other, potentially conflicting, federal laws which govern refuge management. Potentially still to be resolved is the issue of which laws take precedence.

During meetings with Tribal representatives earlier this month, Wiseman said the agency discussed the types of information the tribes would be seeking about Bison Range budgets, how they are formed, wildlife management plans, and its organizational structures of the agency, among other issues.

Other meetings are expected in coming months, Wiseman said.” June 29, 1995 The Missoulian

# Rage on the range Whites on reservation protest plan to turn Bison Range over to Indians

By RON SELDEN  
of the Missoulian

**POLSON** - Proponents and opponents of a Salish and Kootenai tribal proposal to manage the National Bison Range aired their views in an often contentious hearing Monday in Polson.

The overflow meeting at the Lake County Courthouse was organized by U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., and hosted by Dan Ashe, a deputy director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency that now manages the federal refuge on the Flathead Reservation.

The tribes are in the midst of negotiations with the agency to determine how they might manage the range under provisions of the 1994 Tribal Self-Governance Act.

Many reservation non-Indians, however, are against the plan and contend that the federal government has done a good job on the range and that the tribes can't be trusted with the responsibility. Numerous speakers at the meeting told of alleged tribal-member atrocities concerning fish and game. Others attacked the tribes for their perceived mismanagement of past business ventures.

During more than three hours of sometimes rude and racist comments, many of the participants also directed their ire toward Ashe and the government in general.

"We don't trust the federal government and we have good reason not to," said Lake County Commissioner Barry Baker, adding that he believes a final decision on the range issue has already been determined.

Ashe repeatedly explained, however, that his agency has a legal obligation to negotiate with the tribes and the government is not about to abandon its guardianship of the refuge. Another issue, Ashe said, is budget constraints. With federal allocations decreasing, "we're searching for a stronger relationship" with tribes, and "a new way of doing business."

Several speakers, however, said they didn't believe money would



be saved by contracting range management to the tribes.

"Why give something away that is working well?" asked Stan Ryan, a persistent tribal critic. "Why don't they build a bison range of their own," added area farmer Ralph Solomon.

While details are still being worked out, Ashe said general functions such as setting refuge policies and fees, and interpreting wildlife-protection laws, are "inherent" federal functions and will remain in federal hands. Other functions, such as operating the range visitor center, some aspects of planning, fire management, and perhaps some limited aspects of law enforcement could possibly be contracted by the tribes, Ashe said.

Tribal officials, however,

reiterated Monday that they want to fully operate and manage the range and hope to complete talks by Oct. 1. At the meeting, several speakers angrily argued that the government is "selling out" non-Indian taxpayers in favor of Indians, whom they allege don't fully contribute to society.

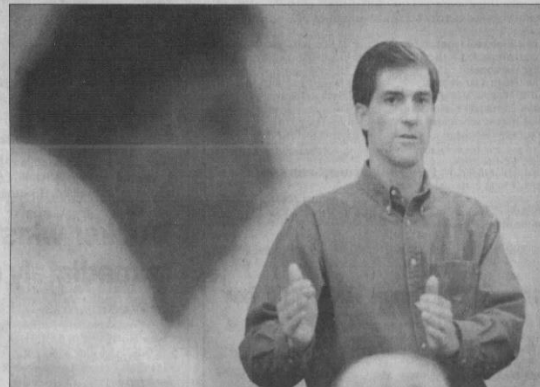
"I think they're mercenary," said Angie Read. "They want all of us to leave the reservation."

▲ Tribal hunting permit issue will go to court.

- Page B4

See **BISON RANGE**, Page B-4

The mood of the crowd at Monday's meeting in Polson on the future of the National Bison Range was predominantly anti-tribal management. Dan Ashe, photo at right, a deputy director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, answered questions from the often hostile crowd.



MICHAEL GALLACHER/Missoulian

Read, among others, also alleged that federal employees who now work at the refuge will be fired so Indians can have their jobs. Read also alleged that Indians are lazy, and it would take "10 others" to see that the job was done if an Indian was hired at the range.

Still others argued that the Flathead Reservation doesn't exist. The tribes "are not a sovereign government like they claim," according to Big Arm resident Charles Funk.

*While a handful of speakers voiced support for tribal management, others demanded that the government make public all negotiations and potential terms of any pending agreement.*

While a handful of speakers voiced support for tribal management, others demanded that the government make public all negotiations and potential terms of any pending agreement.

"Ain't the Bison Range owned by the people?" one man shouted from the crowd. "What happened to the people who own the damn thing?"

To scattered catcalls and snickering, Ashe explained that the talks are proceeding, in part, because the tribes have cultural, religious, and historical ties to the range and the creatures that reside there. He added that once talks conclude, any management proposals will go to Congress for a 90-day review.

Moiese-area resident Lisa Morris, an opposition organizer, said she doesn't want American Indian religion or culture imparted to the public at the range. She

added that doing so would be a violation of federal law. "I'm not interested in the cultural spirituality," Morris said.

Tribal Vice Chairwoman Rhonda Swaney, who attended the meeting, asked the crowd for understanding and tolerance. "Contrary to what you may believe, tribal members are human beings," Swaney said, saying she was sorry so many participants were so bitter.

## “Comments invited on refuge plans

A new environmental assessment is out covering the management of upland portions of the Ninepipe, Pablo and Swan River national wildlife refuges and other wetlands managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lake and Flathead counties.

Copies are available for public comment. Drafts already have been mailed to many interested parties.

To receive a copy of the assessment, write the National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Mont. 59824 or call 406-644-2211.

Comments on the draft will be taken through Sept. 25. Sherry Devlin, Missoulian” September 10, 1995 The Missoulian



September 14, The Missoulian

## “Panel will explore 1996-97 fishing season




Moiese – Permit and license regulations and the 1996-97 fishing season will be discussed Oct 26 during a public meeting of the Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board.

The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. at the National Bison Range Visitor Center in Moiese. For more information, call 675-2700.” October 19, 1995 The Missoulian


## “Bison range remains open in wild watching

The National Bison Range near Moiese is open for winter wildlife viewing. The 10-mile winter drive offers views of critters – deer, elk and pronghorn - along Mission Creek and in Alexander Basin. Bison are always in the “display pasture” in the headquarters area.

The drive is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It takes about an hour to complete. The shorter west loop drive takes about 15 minutes. The bison range visitor center and offices are open weekdays only from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.” November 9, 1995 The Missoulian

# THE BISON RANGE. A TEXTBOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN POWER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT.



**THE ST. JOHNSWORT PROBLEM**  
Earlier this year, the Missoulian reported on the rampant infestations of St. Johnswort and other weeds on the Bison Range. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been powerless to deal with these weeds due to inadequate funding, but unless they are dealt with quickly, thousands of acres of private land may be threatened. Tribal management, by avoiding the costs and restrictions of the federal bureaucracy, could bring new resources to bear on the problem.


**T**HERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK LATELY ABOUT TRANSFERRING POWER OVER LOCAL MATTERS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BACK TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

THE TRIBAL COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL TO MANAGE THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE FITS WELL WITH THAT PHILOSOPHY. SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1910, THE BISON RANGE HAS SUFFERED FROM A DISTANT FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY WITH OTHER THINGS ON ITS MIND AND LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS THE RANGE FACES.

CRITICS OF THE PROPOSAL HAVE ERRONEOUSLY ASSUMED THAT THE TRIBES WOULD TAKE TITLE TO THE RANGE, PERHAPS EXCLUDING NON-TRIBAL MEMBERS FROM ENJOYING IT. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. UNDER THE TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1992, THE TRIBE WOULD MANAGE IT, BUT IT WOULD STILL BE THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE.



HOW WOULD ALL THIS AFFECT THE PEOPLE WHO USE AND ENJOY THE RANGE? IT WOULD GIVE THEM A BETTER BISON RANGE WITH HEALTHIER NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS. AND IT WOULD GIVE ALL OF US A LESSON IN THE BENEFITS OF LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL ISSUES.

**A HISTORY OF RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT**  
The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have been successfully managing fish and wildlife on the Reservation for many years. In fact, earlier this century, tribal members helped save the Buffalo herd from extinction. Since then, special elk, sheep and Grizzly bear habitats have also been set aside. A Tribal Wilderness Area has been designated. And non-tribal sportspeople have always been welcome to fish and hunt on the Reservation, with tribal use fees going back into maintenance and enhancement of these resources.



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES  
Committed to the Land and All Its People.

*We want to keep a dialog going with all interested Montanans. If you'd like to receive more information on tribal issues, write to:*  
The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes,  
Box 278, Pablo, Montana 59855, or call  
406/675-2700.

## Don't believe tribes' media blitz

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have launched a media campaign to win public support for their management takeover of the National Bison Range.

The ads claim the tribes are a "local government." According to past assertions, they are a sovereign nation. The range is a United States treasure. "Local government" for the range would be the Lake County Courthouse. Remember, Congress allocated money for purchase of this land, and the buffalo were bought from a Kalispell man with the donations of children across America.

Michael Pablo, tribal member, died wealthy after selling his buffalo to Canada.

The bison range has not "suffered from a distant federal bureaucracy." Such rhetoric is offensive. The men and women (mostly local people, including tribal members) working the bison range over the years have done an excellent job. The ads are also misleading about the tribes' "history of responsible management." They don't mention their attempt to manage donated bison in the early 1980s. Due to admitted mismanagement, they sold that herd to the Missoula Livestock Exchange in 1982.

The ads intimate that the tribes are concerned with all people. But their record blatantly discriminates against people of other races and Indians of other tribes.

Of their assertion that they can financially manage the weeds and range better: Tribal Vice Chair Rhonda Swaney was quoted in the May 14 Missoulian bison range article saying, "We feel we'd be able to make our case to Congress to get more money."

Privatization should not mean having an entity outside of the U.S. government run an office with use of taxpayer dollars, but should mean a private entity obtaining private funding outside of U.S. tax dollars.

Giving the tribes total management of the bison range is not, as claimed, a "lesson in the benefits of local control over local issues." It's an example of what it would be like for Canada to decide to run Glacier National Park, using its U.S. budget.

—Lisa Morris,  
10207 Wheatland Road, Moiese

December 12, 1995 The Missoulian

summer, visitors can camp if they desire, he said.

## Retreat centers

### Unique facilities let you feel at home away from home

By RON SELDEN  
of the Missoulian

Groups or individuals looking for diversions — or just plain peace and quiet — have two retreat options on the Flathead Reservation.

At the Yellow Raven center, perched on nine acres adjacent to the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness Area east of St. Ignatius, visitors can use the spacious setting to get married, have a seminar, teach a class, entertain guests, or have a family reunion.

The two-story facility, the former home of owners Ron and Ginny

■ *A sampling of the region's B&Bs — and their owners.*

— Page F-2

Therriault of Missoula, has a deck, neatly groomed grounds, a roomy kitchen, and can easily accommodate up to 20 visitors.

A classroom area is setup downstairs, and privacy is a prime feature, both on the outside — where the giant peaks of the southern Mission Mountains loom a short distance away — and inside, where

guests have a variety of options for eating, sleeping and lounging.

Visitors to Yellow Raven, a name given years ago to Ron Therriault, a former chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, might see a cougar or an eagle out one of the center's windows, yet can be in downtown Missoula within an hour. The National Bison Range is a few short miles away, as well numerous other local destinations.

"The idea," said Therriault, "was to create a place where people could get away and create an atmosphere for themselves. To date, everyone who has used the place has been happy with it."

Therriault serves as caretaker of the 3,200-square-foot building and will make presentations on tribal history, culture and federal Indian policy if visitors so desire. Ginny spends much of her time teaching at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, as well as doing marketing work for the center, which is available for rental throughout the year.

Visitors to Yellow Raven can do their own cooking, or have their event catered. Most everything else is provided. Weekly and daily rates, are available, and the classroom area can be rented on a day

See **RETREATS**, Page F-2

# Retreats

Continued from Page F-1

and half-day basis.

For more details about the Yellow Raven facility, call 543-7946.

**On the other end** of the reservation, along the west shore of Flathead Lake, Polson native Gene Johnson this summer opened the Dreamcatcher retreat center.

Each of the building's three main floors span about 2,000 square feet, leaving lots of room for a wide variety of possibilities. The garage is designed for use as an art studio for large-scale projects, and plans are being developed to install a photographic studio, he said.

While the Dreamcatcher building is available for group rentals, classes, meetings, weddings and the like, Johnson, a former professor at the University of Alaska, and Toni Marcus, a concert violinist from Los Angeles who serves as the center's artist-in-residence – have organized an eclectic array of cultural presentations in recent months.

Through offerings such as African dance classes, meditation seminars, guest lecturers, coffeehouses, and formal concerts, the center is designed to be a place where people from all walks of life can relax, pickup a new skill, polish an old one, or expand the reaches of their mind in a variety of ways.

The Dreamcatcher name was coined partly from the traditional weblike hoop that some American Indians believe can trap their dreams if hung near their beds at night. The name, Johnson said, also suggests that visitors wanting to use the center can feel free to use their imaginations when booking events.

"The door is open," said Marcus.

The center sits atop a forested hill overlooking a huge sweep of the lake, as well as a long swath of the Mission Mountains as they march north toward Bigfork. The building was constructed on part of the largest parcel of undeveloped land left in the area, land that his family has owned for decades.

When he was a child, Johnson

said his mother often spoke of developing a "peace castle" at the site, apparently a place where people could come to learn how to better get along with each other. Johnson said his interpretation of his mother's dream is to offer a place where joy and community-based thinking can thrive, as well as a place where the arts can be celebrated.

Johnson said the retreat "is not a bed and breakfast, because people who want to stay sleep on the floor, and we don't cook breakfast." Visitors, however, are welcome to bring their own food (each floor has separate kitchen facilities), or have it brought in by caterers.

Like the Yellow Raven center, fees are as flexible as the services offered. The Dreamcatcher can easily handle 70-80 people at a time, depending on the event, and in the summer, visitors can camp if they desire, he said.

For more information about the Dreamcatcher center, Johnson can be reached at 883-3354.

AS  
ON TV

December 17, 1995 The Missoulian

## Cut tribes some slack

Will you guys in the Charlo-Moiese area lighten up about the tribes' wanting to take control of the National Bison Range? What are you afraid of, anyway? That they might make a few dollars, or what?

Here are some facts you should know:

All the ponds and wetlands around Charlo and Moiese are full of cow poop.

The pheasant that Del Palmer shot on his land this year was hatched on the railroad right of way, which, by the way, is tribal land.

And that is another story we hear about year after year that I, for one, could live without – even if Delbert and his friends are shooting pheasants standing on their heads.

– James E. Westerman Sr.,  
3064 Crow Road, Ronan

December 24, 1995 The Missoulian