

Seeley Swan PATHFINDER



Vol. 1, No. 1

677-2022

"VOICE OF THE VALLEY"

754-2365

May 22, 1986

Consultant Choice Nears For Community Survey

The survey committee met May 20 to begin selection of a consultant for the upcoming Attitude Survey for the communities of Sunset Hills, Seeley Lake, Swan Valley and Condon. The field was narrowed to two finalists and the final choice is expected to be made within a few days.

The survey committee was organized in January by members of the Swan Valley and Seeley Lake communities. Impetus for the survey committee began several years ago when the county commissioners were drawing up a Comprehensive Development Plan for Missoula County.

Pat Harbin, Condon, attended several of the meetings. "We finally just got mad one night and walked out (of the county commissioner's meeting)," he said. "We told them we were going home to write our own plan."

Community members Pat Harbin, Jeff Macon, Dan Mizner, Roger Johnson and others were involved in the Comprehensive Plan and initiated the formation of the Survey Committee. They realized that they needed opinions from all residents of Swan Valley and Seeley Lake to identify the highest priority needs in the communities, and to look at options to address those needs.

According to Dan Mizner, Survey Committee Coordinator, "citizens can inform government leaders what level of services they want, and very importantly, how much they want to pay for those services." Mizner, a longtime resident of Lake Inez, was State Director of the League of Cities and Towns for 14 years. Mizner is impressed by the "talented people in our communities." "We really have so many good thinkers," he said. "These people can be a good resource to the community in dealing with some of our shared problems and concerns."

Some of the shared problems and concerns identified by the committee are balanced development of timber and recreation, fire protection, the water system in Seeley Lake, and health services and refuse disposal needs.

Pat Harbin, not on the committee but instrumental in starting the group, sees a need for some type of "development to support the tax base, or our taxes will continue to go up and up."

School, fire and refuse boards, and hospital and water districts have elected or appointed officials who can ask for special tax levies. The survey committee has representatives from eight such local boards: Marge Smith, Seeley-Ovando-Swan Health District (SOS); Roger Marshall, Seeley Lake Elementary School District; Sue Holmes, Missoula County High School District; Billie McDonald, Swan Valley Elementary District; Dennis Nemmers, Seeley Water District; Leonard Sorenson, Seeley Fire District; and Jerry Ding, Seeley Refuse Disposal District. The Sunset Hills School Board will also appoint a representative from their board. Ann Mary Dussault is the Missoula County representative and Robb McCracken, from the Montana Department of Commerce, is the state's technical advisor.

A town meeting will be held in Seeley Lake May 27 at the Community Hall to allow citizens to discuss the upcoming survey and to submit questions that they would like to see included in the survey. A Swan Valley public meeting is scheduled for June 19.

The consultant will begin work in June on the survey. The survey will be conducted in August, according to the tentative timetable. Preliminary results should be available in September. Final results will be announced in October.



Gary and Mona Stanton of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho take a break at the Summit. The 16th annual tour of the Swan River Valley was held last weekend.

Who We Are.....

Pathfinder Press is a new business in the Seeley-Swan area and has been established in response to the community's need for a weekly newspaper with comprehensive news coverage. Partners in the venture are Dick & Michele Potter of Seeley Lake and Suzanne & Sheldon Vernon of Swan Valley. Both couples have lived in the area for about five years.

The Vernons are both native Montanans and were raised and schooled here. Suzanne holds a degree in Journalism from UM and has extensive newspaper experience. Sheldon provides wide-ranging technical assistance. Michele Potter is a home economist and, among other duties, will be writing a Food column. Dick Potter is a chemical engineer-turned-writer and has an extensive business background. Both Dick and

Michele have previous newspaper experience.

The initial response to the *Seeley-Swan Pathfinder* by the community has been very gratifying and both couples wish to extend their sincere thanks for the encouragement and support which have been shown.

Pathfinder has a drop-off located at the Tall Timber building in Seeley Lake, where Helene, Kent and Laurie Hane will be available to help you with classified ads and subscriptions.

Pathfinder will be published every Thursday, 52 weeks per year. Mail subscriptions are available, for a limited time, at an introductory "charter" rate of \$7.50 per year. Newsstand price is 25¢. Boxholders in the area are being mailed complimentary copies for just the first few issues, so be sure to subscribe soon!

OPINION

The *Pathfinder* is a new name in the community. For those of us here at the *Pathfinder*, our name has a special significance — and we would like to share that significance with you. We believe that this newspaper is making its first appearance at a time when the community has arrived at an important crossroads. We are all aware of the growth which has been taking place over the past year, particularly in Seeley Lake: a new bank, new supermarket, a host of other new enterprises, and an influx of new residents sufficient to require a larger post office.

Like it or not, change is upon us. How we choose to deal with this change is up to everyone in the community. The headline story in this issue deals with what is perhaps our best opportunity to manage our future: the Seeley-Swan Community Survey. We plan to follow this story closely for you.

Many complex issues lurk within the dynamics of our community's growth. There is the *ying* of the logging industry, representing one of the economic pillars of the community, and the opposing *yang* of the tourism business, which has a natural inclination toward the preservation of our forests. The question of adequate water supply and sewage disposal looms large. What is the best plan for resolving this dilemma and how can it be financed? The development plans for our highways, prepared by state and federal agencies and frequently without general community awareness, represents another important issue. Budget cutbacks for all levels of government are upon us. How will we be affected? - These are just a few of the issues which presently confront all of us.

If we are at a crossroads, then the question arises as to how to find the best path to travel. We at the *Pathfinder* do not presume that our name alone bestows some special ability to navigate through this thicket of issues and problems. Only the community as a whole can chart its proper path, through the democratic processes of communication, debate and, ultimately, consensus.

The community's newspaper has an important role in this process, in two ways.

First, we will do our best to present the facts surrounding all sides of an issue. Disputes often (and needlessly) arise because of incomplete or erroneous information. Our news pages are intended to provide a broadly available source of reliable information to the whole community. Secondly, we will provide a forum for opinion. Opinions will be confined to this page of the newspaper. We, of course, will indulge in expressing some of our views and concerns, and we expect that our readers will do likewise, through the medium of Letters to the Editor.

In short, one of the important functions of the *Pathfinder* will be as a forum for both the presentation and discussion of issues. Bear in mind, we are a community newspaper — which means that this is your newspaper. So, let's start finding those paths. Natty Bumppo himself couldn't say it any plainer.

— Dick Potter

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

Seeley-Swan *Pathfinder* is published every Thursday by Pathfinder Press, P. O. Box 702, Seeley Lake, MT 59868 (telephone 406/677-2022 or 754-2365). Area served is Clearwater Junction north to Salmon Prairie and Potomac east to Ovando. Distribution is by mail subscription and newsstand sales. Ad deadline is close of business on Friday prior to publication. News deadline is noon Monday prior to publication.

Suzanne M. Vernon.....News Editor
Richard C. Potter.....Business Manager
Michele S. Potter.....Advertising Editor
Sheldon J. Vernon.....Technical Editor

News items, classified ads, and subscription orders may be dropped off at Tall Timber (next to the Post Office) in Seeley Lake.

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Seeley Lake Praised

To The People of Seeley Lake,

I have to wonder if some of the folks in Seeley Lake realize what incredible people they are surrounded by. I was the Race Director for the Governor's Cup 500 Mile Sled Dog Race and decided to take it upon myself to let some of you know about the generosity and kindness that were demonstrated by so many of your neighbors during the Governor's Cup Race.

You could have hardly missed the camp that was set up by the Wilderness Sportsmen's Club. The tents and gear were donated by Double Arrow Outfitters, the space by Barney's Bar and Cafe, lumber by Pyramid Lumber, phone service by Blackfoot Telephone and electricity by the Missoula Electric Co-op. But what was inside those tents was the incredible part...endless people from your community donated not only hours and hours of their time to man the checkpoint, but went to the extra effort to provide a real Montana welcome to each and every race participant. It was a heartwarming sight.

But the generosity demonstrated goes on. Innumerable local businesses and individuals donated food for the race entrants and their handlers. Was that ever a welcome and appreciated surprise!

And how could you miss the helicopter buzzing the camp during the race? Your good neighbor, Bruce Vorhauer, donated numerous hours of flying time in his helicopter, including his own time to take the local media

and an NBC film crew over the race course. That film footage was something that every dog sled race in the lower 48 states has only dreamed about...Bruce made it possible for us in our first year! -

When I was asking Ron Ogden, who I should thank for contributions to the race, he replied, "Well, you could just print the Seeley Lake phone book." That says a lot about your community! Short of doing that, there are a few more folks that I know I need to mention with the realization that there are undoubtedly more people than I have listed: Dan Cainen, the Rendezvous, the Wilderness Gateway Inn, Valley Market, Rovero's, J&L Market, Gas Haus, Seeley Lake Drug, Seeley Lake Merc, Hide and Horn Wildlife Studio, Duck Inn, Rich Real Estate, Double Arrow Ranch, Elk Horn Cafe, Pro-Performance, and the Drifters.

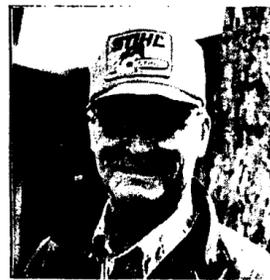
Seeley Lake, you have a community to be proud of!
Sincerely,
Sheryl Mott
Race Director

1st Valley Bank Gets Favorable Rating

1st Valley Bank of Seeley Lake was recently awarded an "A" rating by Sheshunoff & Co, making 1st Valley one of the best-rated banks in the country for safety and soundness. Sheshunoff, based in Austin, Texas, is widely regarded as the leading bank analysis firm.

Business of the Week

WILLY BILL SPORTS



Bill Gehrke of Willy Bill Sports was recently awarded a trip to Virginia, all expenses paid by Stihl Saws, Inc.

"It was Ardyce's first plane ride," Gehrke said. "She took pictures out the windows. She really had a ball."

Gehrke, known as "Willy Bill" to most area residents, was the second

highest in his category for sales of chainsaws for 1985.

Gehrke laughs about his nickname. "Some people think that's my real name. I was bartending at the 7-up Ranch at Lincoln and a packer called me that 'Willy Bill.' It kind of hung onto me, I guess."

In addition to Stihl Saws, Gehrke now sells six other brand-name saws.



1st Valley Bank

Seeley Lake, Montana 677-2464

OPINION

Outfitters Defended

(Editor's Note: The following letter appeared in the *Missoulian* on April 13, 1986. It is reprinted here with permission from the author.)

The Montana Outfitters and Guides Association is deeply concerned over the recent adverse publicity and the lawsuits which could have an undesirable effect on one of the oldest occupations in Montana.

Why us? What have we done to the citizens of Montana, other than bring between \$40 and \$50 million a year into the Montana economy? We employ about 1900 people, of which over 90 percent are Montanans. At least 90 percent of the money we generate is spent within the state.

We spend thousands of dollars of our own money bringing in clean tourist dollars through our private advertising programs. These folks we bring in not only spend money with outfitters, but with about every local business in the community they visit.

In most cases, these out-of-state clients arrive here by commercial airlines, which makes them totally dependent on the Montana economy while they are here. They use our motels, hotels, restaurants, doctors, hospitals, drugstores, gift shops, clothing stores, liquor stores, bars, sporting goods stores, taxidermists, etc.

Who takes them to these local places of business? The outfitter does. The same outfitter who buys the groceries to feed these people, his horse feed, saddles and other tack, gasoline, sleeping bags, tents, gas cans, clothing, camp supplies, vehicle repairs, fertilizer, fencing, just to name a few of the items and not to mention the taxes he pays on his land, investments and the amount of insurance he is required to have to stay in business.

This is the same outfitter who not only takes about one-third of the non-residents who come here each fall hunting, but he is the same guy who takes them on a float trip down some scenic river, fishing for a brookie or cutthroat, a pack trip across our wilderness areas or into our national forests, a cross-country ski trip, snowmobile trip, hayride, sleigh ride, cattle drive or branding.

He also runs summer camps for our youths, guide schools, teaching them horsemanship, packing, cooking, wilderness survival, good sportsmanship and above all, how to get along with others. We not only provide a needed service to out-of-state people, but to Montana sportsmen also. We are the goodwill ambassadors of Montana to our non-resident friends all over the world.

Some of us belong to just about any civic organization you can mention and we participate in some way in about every outdoor organization in the state.

We have an ongoing voluntary research assistance program within our organization to participate in any research program with our national forest complex, including wilderness. We solicit funds from out of state to support our underfunded trail program in wilderness and support that program with our services.

We participate in Montana tourist promotion projects and work together with the stockgrowers, woolgrowers, retailers, bow hunters, rod and gun clubs, sportsmen's organizations, wilderness groups, and the Fish and Game department. We are very much involved in landowner-sportsman relation problems and participate in about every committee working on the problem.

Contrary to what you have heard or read, here are the facts about outfitter numbers in Montana:

--Total number of licensed outfitters in 1982 -- 613.

--Total number of licensed outfitters in 1985 -- 588, a reduction of 25.

--Total number of licensed guides in 1982 -- 1,018.

--Total number of licensed guides in 1985 -- 1,276

Guides are not outfitters. They must work for an outfitter and that outfitter must sign his license, giving the dates he employed such guide. Guides are not permitted by state law to take clients hunting or fishing for compensation unless they are actively employed by a licensed outfitter.

Only about 350 of the 588 licensed outfitters in Montana are involved in taking clients hunting. The balance are fishing and floating outfitters or some other form of recreation that requires state licensing.

Outfitters cannot be licensed by state law unless they have a minimum of \$300,000 liability insurance. The state examination given by the state department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for outfitter licensing is quite extensive and only about 55 percent of those who take the exam pass.

The exam for the general outfitter consists of a 420-question written test, plus the applicant is subject to a practical test in the field. He is tested on his knowledge of general outdoor information, state geography, survival, riding and packstock care, first aid, boating, camping, hunting, fishing, state and federal laws, etc.

Outfitters are required by law to furnish the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the end of the year the names and addresses of all hunting and fishing clients, the number of days they were outfitted, the size, number and sex of each animal taken and the location of the hunting area as well as the number of fish and from what stream or river they were taken. This same type of information is required on birds and waterfowl. Outfitters are not relicensed until this information is furnished on the proper form.

The 5,600 non-resident combination licenses that were "set aside" by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for those non-residents who chose to hunt with an outfitter, were very close to the number actually used by outfitters as an average of the last four years, and did not allow for growth of the outfitting industry in years to come.

This "set-aside" recently was challenged by the Montana Wildlife Federation but was upheld by the Montana court. Why the Montana Wildlife Federation feels this is discriminatory, we are really not sure.

Montana outfitters feel that the economy of Montana is first in the hearts and minds of Montanans and we are interested in keeping our communities alive and prosperous so that we can raise our families in a healthy and enjoyable environment.

We spend much of our time, efforts and money doing what we can to protect and preserve Montana's recreational resources so we can ensure they will be available for our children and our children's children. The outfitting industry in Montana only utilizes Montana's renewable resources, and as long as we protect and preserve these renewable resources, they will be there in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and, maybe now, you have some insight on what the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association is concerned about and what the Montana outfitters contribute to Montana and its citizens.

Jack Wemple, Director,
Montana Outfitters & Guides
Association, Region II, Victor, MT

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SOS Hires New Secretary

Billie McDonald, Condon, was hired last week as the new secretary for the SOS Health Center.

In other business last week, Reuben Kauffman was re-elected as chairman at the May 12 meeting. Carole Schaeffer was re-elected as vice-chairman.

The Board also authorized repairs to the Seeley Lake ambulance. Kim Haines will obtain estimates prior to authorizing the work.

Members of the QRU were present to discuss the possibility of a new ambulance. All agreed that the present vehicle is in dire need of replacement. However, funds are not available to purchase another one. Two years ago, the board looked into buying a new ambulance and prices quoted were in the \$40,000 range, according to Carole Schaeffer.

It was suggested that QRU members try to find other sources of monetary support, in addition to funds allocated from the hospital district.

Water Problems Blamed on Spring Runoff

The Seeley Lake Water District found high turbidity levels in the public water system during April, according to secretary Doreen Culver. The State Department of Health requires notification of water users when the particulate count exceeds 1.0 units. The average for April in the Water District was 1.5 units. This compares with .5 to .7 during the rest of the year.

The high turbidity is blamed on spring runoff. This has been a seasonal problem. High turbidity was also found during May 1985.

"Seeley Lake, most of the year, does not exceed turbidity levels," according to Rick Rosa, State Water Quality Bureau. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. High turbidity is conducive to bacterial growth, which interferes with the disinfection process, according to Rosa.

The Water Quality Bureau has issued a treatment advisory, but does not require any water treatment, such as boiling, by district water users who live more than two miles from the pump station.

However, users within two miles of the pump station were warned several months ago to treat their water or boil it.

Reasons for this distinction can be confusing.

Rick Rosa explained in a telephone conversation last week that "chlorine plus time" will kill giardia and other contaminants. For the people who live within two miles of the pump station, "The chlorine just isn't in the line long enough" to guarantee disinfection, according to Rosa.

Chlorine is one method of disinfecting a water supply, filtration is another. Seeley Lake does not have a filtration system and relies on chlorine for disinfection.

According to Culver, the residents who live within two miles of the pump station have been notified in writing and "they know who they are."

State regulations assume that all surface water systems, such as the one at Seeley Lake, are subject to contamination.

In 1985 the Water District began treating the water system with more chlorine than it had in the past because of State regulations pertaining to surface water systems.

Before this spring, no biological contamination had been found in the water system.

Bud Anderson, Seeley Lake Water District manager, tests the water daily for chlorine and suspended particles (turbidity), and tests once every four months for bacterial contaminants.

Earlier this spring when Anderson conducted a routine test for bacterial contaminants, four giardia cysts were found in 700 gallons of water.

The bacteriological test for contaminants is expensive and is not required by the State because the state assumes the surface water system is already subject to contamination. Hence, the regulations which required the water district to increase chlorination in 1985.

The Water District is already adding enough chlorine to the system and adequately protects users who live more than two miles from the pump station, according to Rosa.

Bud Anderson will be conducting another test for biological contaminants later this spring.

Inquest Looks into 1983 Boating Accident

A coroner's jury decided earlier this month that Gwendolyn C. Sager of Anaconda was operating a boat on Seeley Lake in a negligent manner when the boat struck and fatally injured Kristen M. Richards of Great Falls on July 17, 1983.

The jury arrived at the verdict after considering seven possibilities, one of which would have been that Sager had acted in a "grossly reckless and culpable manner," which would have resulted in a negligent homicide charge.

The inquest was finally held at the request of Richards' parents, whose earlier civil lawsuit had been settled out of court. The Richards felt that the earlier suit left unresolved questions, according to Missoula County Attorney Dusty Deschamps.

An inquest was not held earlier because of widely differing statements collected by witnesses. Deschamps conceded that it may have been a mistake not to have held an inquest in 1983.

Sager will not face criminal charges. The negligence ruling is considered a misdemeanor. The statute of limitations for misdemeanors expires after one year.

Witness testimony at the inquest indicated several factors that may have contributed to the accident.

Kristen Richards had never been waterskiing before. The fatal accident happened on "her first time out" according to witness Kenneth Price from Great Falls.

"It was an avoidable accident," said Price, who testified that Sager's boat, which was also pulling a water skier, came dangerously close to shore at the same time as the boat pulling Richards was just starting to pull away from shore.

"They could have made another loop around," Price said, referring to the Sager boat.

Instead, both boats came nearly parallel to each other and the shore. Price testified that the Sager boat attempted to head closer to shore while the boat pulling Richards which, he said was slightly ahead of the Sager boat, attempted to stay away from the shore. Richards fell and was struck by the Sager boat.

Harry Hanson, witness from Missoula, testified that July 17, 1983 was a "very busy day" on the lake and that the water was rough and choppy.

Local Girls Injured in ATV Accident

Joy Mills and Karla Gehrke were injured in an off-road accident Saturday, May 10 near Kozy Korner.

Mills was driving the three-wheel all terrain vehicle which both girls were riding when it struck a tree. Neither girl was wearing a helmet.

Mills, 17, was flown to a Missoula hospital by Life Flight helicopter. She broke her jaw in two places and has a broken leg, in addition to numerous bruises. Mills, a junior at Seeley Lake High School, was released from St. Patrick Hospital on Wednesday, May 14.

Gehrke, 18, a senior at Seeley Swan High School, received numerous bruises, but was not taken to the hospital as was previously reported.

Recent county and state regulations stipulate that "three-wheeled" and "four-wheeled" vehicles must be licensed to be legally operated on public roads.

Operators must have a valid state driver's license with motorcycle endorsement, headlight must be "on" and minors (under age 19) must wear a helmet.

The regulations do not apply to operation of these off-road vehicles on private property.

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Problem Solvers Advance to International Competition

Four Seeley Lake seventh grade students won first place in the Team Written Composition event at the State Problem Solving Bowl held May 16 and 17 in Butte. The students are Tom Leonard, Brian Morin, Janet Williams, and Jack Shoupe.

The team now advances to International Competition which will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan on June 1 through 4.

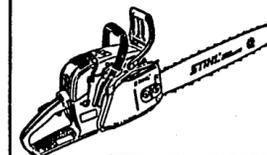
"Last year Seeley Lake went into the competition and said, 'Wow!'; this year the Seeley Lake students walked in and everybody else said 'Wow!'," according to Mary Ann Morin, who was quoting the keynote speaker at the Bowl Awards Ceremony.

The students need to raise about \$1,600.00 by June 1 to fund the trip to Ann Arbor. The Seeley Lake PTA will hold a bake sale this Saturday, 9:00 a.m., at the Valley Market and the students will have a car wash at the Gas Haus on Saturday.

Grade School Play Friday Night

Seeley Lake seventh grade will present *Treasure of Black Gold Island* Friday night, 7:30 p.m., Seeley Lake Elementary School gym.

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School Board Notes

The Seeley Lake Elementary School Board met for a special meeting May 12 to discuss an employee's request for an extension of sick leave.

Debbie Ash, second grade teacher, was not granted an extension of her sick leave because the board felt that the action might set a precedent and that the issue should be discussed next winter during teacher negotiations.

The board did grant Ash leave without pay for medical reasons. She will continue to teach class in the mornings, but a substitute will be hired for afternoons.

Earlier this month the board voted to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in the dugout area or on the playing field in the ballpark.

This vote came after members of the community's softball and fastpitch leagues presented their feelings about a former ruling which attempted to prohibit consumption of alcohol within the entire park complex. Members of the various leagues have indicated a willingness to police themselves outside of the playing field area. The board's ruling is subject to a one-year trial period.

Eighth grade graduation will be May 29 in the grade school gym.



Playday Held May 14

The annual "Play Day" track meet was held May 14 at the Seeley Lake Elementary school.

Elementary students from Seeley Lake, Swan Valley, Salmon Prairie, Sunset Hills and Potomac participated in events such as running, hurdles and long jump.

Clockwise from top: Dana Sonju is congratulated by a friend after winning 400-meter run. Mike Childs & Sarah Cox enjoy the races. Jenny Klebenow & Shannon Combs; Scott Gehrke about to win the 400-meter run.

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OBITUARY

Ludvig G. Browman

Ludvig "Bud" Browman, age 82, died May 12 after a long bout with cancer.

Browman and his family have spent many years as summer residents of the Swan Valley. They lease a cabin on Holland Lake.

Browman was a zoology professor at the University of Montana for 35 years.

He was also active in community affairs and had become a community leader because of his dedication to public service.

Browman served as County Commissioner from 1972 until 1978.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

He will be long remembered in the Swan Valley by people who knew him and enjoyed his endless passion for life and his love of the personal and natural history of the area.

Edith L. McCarty

Edith L. McCarty, 81, of Missoula, died April 17 in a Missoula hospital of natural causes.

She was born December 17, 1904, in Sac County, Iowa, a daughter of John and Harriet Thorp. She moved to Seeley Lake in 1936. She was a great outdoors woman and loved horses. She took several trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness area as a cook. She worked at the Diamond L Bar Ranch on Lindbergh Lake for several years.

She was also well-known in Plains, where she worked in the Hospitality House Restaurant for 13 years. She retired at age 75. She has lived in Missoula for the past three years.

She is survived by two daughters: Olive Lenz, Missoula, and Opal Nelson, Potomac; two sons: Bob Christensen, Stevensville, and John Christensen, Missoula; two brothers; three sisters; 19 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Cremation was under the direction of Squire Simmons & Carr Funeral Home. Her ashes were scattered over an area of the Swan Valley that she particularly loved.



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WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Mortons Receive Award

Paul and Pearl Morton of Condon have received one of the first National Community Service Awards from the American Association of Retired Persons.

The board of directors for the Swan Valley Community chapter of AARP voted unanimously to nominate the Mortons for their outstanding contributions to the community.

The Mortons have lived in the valley for twelve years. They were instrumental in the establishment and construction of the Swan Valley Community Library and have volunteered many hours toward other community oriented projects.

The Mortons moved to the Swan from Kalispell where they managed Equity Supply. They operated the Swan Centre Store in Condon for several years after they first moved to Condon.

Pearl was one of the founders of the Swan Valley chapter of AARP which was started in 1974.

"Three old school teachers organized it," she said. "And you don't have to print their names!"

Pearl is a retired teacher and is still active in many school activities.

The Mortons are looking forward to taking a little vacation this winter. Paul said he didn't know where they were going to travel to, "but it's going to be South."

The Mortons will continue to spend summers in the Swan Valley.



Gun Show Draws 600

The Wilderness Sportsman's Club raised more than \$2000 at the Outdoor Sports and Gun Show held May 3 and 4 at the Seeley Lake Elementary gym.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the establishment of a rifle and archery range, part of which may be completed by this fall, according to club president Ron Ogden.

The club is trying to buy 30 or 40 acres and is presently looking at three possible sites.

The range is planned to include several covered firing stations for sighting-in rifles, a pistol range, trap range, clubhouse and "walk-through" area for archers, Ogden said.

Approximately 600 people attended the gun show. Exhibitors displayed their gun collections and sporting goods on more than three dozen tables.

The \$2 admission let visitors see everything from a Spanish shotgun made in the early fifties to a 28-pound camp stove which folds up for easy packing on backcountry hunting and fishing trips.

Monte Cassidy, a local resident and avid gun collector, displayed an original Mannlicher Schönauer 6.5 x 54 rifle. It was adorned with hand-engraved European edelweiss flowers.

This type of rifle was used by ivory poachers. The surprisingly small cartridge can kill an elephant with a well-placed shot behind the ear, according to Cassidy.

Ken Wolfe, Swan Valley, displayed handcarved antler jewelry and crafts.

Bill and Gwen Gamradt from Missoula displayed knives decorated with scrimshaw on micarta (simulated ivory). The knife handles are shaped "like a Colt pistol butt," according to Gwen Gamradt. They also displayed original fine art and prints.

Ken Grant, Seeley Lake, informed visitors about the Ducks Unlimited organization being formed in Seeley Lake.

Jack Beckstrom from Kalispell handed out free samples of Iams dog and cat food. He was displaying sled dog equipment and provided information about next year's sled dog races. Iams will be contributing a substantial sum of money toward the purse of at least one of the long-distance races.

Some of the other exhibitors were Jenny Todd, hand sewn leather apparel; Wayne Herron, taxidermy and antler crafts; Seeley Search & Rescue; Willy Bill Sports; and The Rendezvous.

Several gun traders displayed a variety of pistols, rifles, shotguns, knives, bullets and reloading equipment. Some of the exhibitors are licensed gun dealers, others are simply collectors who enjoy the art of "gun trading."

Winners of the raffle were: Jim Blackburn, Seeley Lake, Yamaha four-wheeler; Vicki Burns, Seeley Lake, \$250 gift certificate from Hide and Horn Wildlife Studio; Laura Tinsley, Seeley Lake, wilderness fishing trip; Lew Mitchell, Seeley Lake, Smith and Wesson .44 Magnum; Betty Cromwell, Seeley Lake, 12 gauge shotgun; Clara Buckelew, Wildlife Print; and Joy Clemens, elk tooth neck-lace from Moose Feathers Studio.



Ron Ogden and Gary Overman discuss the fine points of gun trading at the Outdoor Sports & Gun Show this spring.

JOURNAL

Fishing is a popular topic around town these days. Rumor has it that the big ones are biting on salmon eggs and marshmallows.

The hummingbirds arrived on May 5 -- about the same time the lilacs leafed out.

The glacier lilies can still be seen blooming at the higher elevations. Smokey morels, named because they grow in recently burned areas, can still be found in the wetter drainages of the valley.

Skip and Jess Stratton saw two Trumpeter Swans this spring on Pierce Lake. They have also recently seen Canadian geese in the area.

One young snow goose, probably a juvenile, stopped over to rest at Holland Lake Lodge the first part of April before the ice went off the lake. He visited on the lawn for a while before leaving.

April 8 was the official date that the ice went off Holland Lake, according to Loris Uhl.

Fish Plants Scheduled

Russ and Fran lakes will be planted this year with four to six inch rainbow trout. These lakes have been planted annually because of heavy fishing pressure and the fact that the lakes provide little chance for natural reproduction.

Shay Lake will also be stocked this year with similar size fish. It was planted in 1985 with four to six inch rainbow.

Metcalf Lake was not planted in 1985 because studies indicated that the fish were "kind of small" according to Domrose. He added that all lakes are evaluated every two or three years to make sure the fish are growing well.

There are some marked fish in Metcalf Lake, he said. MDFWP is experimenting with Arlee hatchery rainbows and Eagle Lake rainbow trout in an attempt to find out which species grows faster.

Van Lake was planted with Eagle Lake rainbow in the fall of 1985. The Eagle Lake trout are fish-eating fish, according to Domrose. He indicated that the tremendous number of red-side shiners in Van Lake and increased pressure on the food base have probably affected the rainbow population.

Pierce Lake was planted last fall with cutthroat.

Domrose indicated that only lakes which are considered "closed systems" are planted with rainbow trout. Others are planted with cutthroat to maintain genetic integrity in the West Slope cutthroat populations.

See next week's Pathfinder for a review of lakes in the Clearwater drainage.

Scenic 83: Flags of the Future?

The Seeley Lake Ranger District and the Missoula Electric Cooperative have recently completed marking trees along Highway 83 with blue (Forest Service) and pink (MEC) flagging material.

The trees now marked for cutting represent a compromise decision on the part of the Highway department, the Forest Service and the Missoula Electric Cooperative. The Seeley Lake Ranger Station hopes to issue their final Decision Notice this week.

Bid notices for cutting of trees on Forest Service land will probably be prepared early in June, according to Dennis Johnson, Ranger at Seeley Lake.

Johnson said that the highway department has made plans to begin their overlay project later this summer.

The MEC will also begin replacing electric lines from Seeley Lake north to Grey's Mill this summer after the trees are cut.

According to Tim Gregori of MEC, the existing lines will be "laid over" and the new lines put up in their place.

MEC is upgrading the line, which will eventually be replaced north to the Summit, to improve service to Swan Valley residents.

Harpers Lake Restocked

One thousand 9-12 inch rainbow trout (592 pounds) found a new home in Harpers Lake earlier this month. The trout were planted by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist Daryl Hodges from the Arlee hatchery. Hodges was assisted by Dan Cainan and Mark Jones of Seeley Lake.

At the time of planting the water temperature of Harpers Lake was 53 degrees Fahrenheit. Lake water was pumped into the holding tank on the MDFWP truck (water temperature 49 degrees) to gradually raise the tank temperature. This tempering helps hatchery fish survive transplanting and adapt easier to new water.

The hatchery fish, which are

usually fed pelletized food, were not fed for 24 hours before transplanting. Hodges commented that most of the fish would start feeding within 48 hours. However, two lucky fishermen who were camped at Harpers Lake at the time started catching the planters immediately.

Cottonwood Lake in the Clearwater drainage was also planted with rainbow that average 11 inches in length.

Harpers Lake was planted in September 1985 with "retired brood stock" from the Arlee hatchery, according to Hodges.

Several lakes in the Swan Valley are scheduled for planting this year, according to Bob Domrose, Fisheries Biologist from Kalispell.

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Favorable Impression Sells Your Product

Businessmen and women will eat better and feel better if their public relations are good, according to Ron Proul, Travel Host magazine. Proul was a guest speaker at the 4th Annual Conference on Tourism held April 16 at the Holland Lake Lodge near Condon.

Proul's message was clear: a favorable impression is what sells your product. He outlined several methods that business people might use to gain favorable publicity for their services or products. Press releases for newspapers and magazines must include a sense of urgency, he said. Use words such as "For Immediate Release" and "Press Release" under your business letterhead. Include a name and phone number for further information. Always double space your article and never split paragraphs from page to page.

"I prefer people stories over everything," Proul said. People stories are good publicity according to Proul. An outfitter might write about one of his employees who is especially good at entertaining visitors.

Proul emphasized that business people should start with simple things and use local newspapers and regional magazines whenever possible. "Keep your facts in order of importance," he advised. List your thoughts, create a story outline, and stick to short paragraphs which contain only one thought. "Use your five serving men: what, when, where, why and how," he advised, "or else your story is incomplete."



Greenough Notes

Tom and Lydia Kallis are moving to Missoula the end of this month.

Winner of the Roundup Bar fishing contest for April was Dale Thompson of Missoula with a 27-inch, 13 pound bull trout.



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Classifieds... Pathfinder!

History Students Visit Old School Sites

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Art and Martha Anderson, Bob and Gyda Newman and teacher Dianne Wiesner guided the tour.

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The Smith Creek school is the only log school still intact in its original location. The original Wineglass school was moved to the present Swan Valley elementary school complex, according to Bob Newman. The Pine Ridge School was moved to the Warren Lundberg property.

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Don Householder, Republican, House District 65.
Householder did not attend either the Seeley Lake or the Condon meetings.

Justice of the Peace

The two top "vote-getters" in the primary will run off in the general.

Norm Laughlin, Missoula has considerable volunteer experience for the Veteran's Administration, the Red Cross and Big Brothers and Sisters, among others. He is semi-retired.

He favors a people's court and supports a person's right to a fair hearing. He states that "good, down to earth common sense" is what is needed by a justice of the peace.

He supports the idea of having a justice of the peace available on weekends.

Dean Hoffman, Missoula, is a rancher and a businessman. His campaign platform is based on the idea that the justice of the peace should be available on weekends.

Candidates David Clark and Marci Watson did not attend either meeting.

Jack Weidenfeller is a Democrat running for county commissioner. He has "survived in business in Missoula for 35 years" and feels that says a lot about his qualifications for county commissioner.

He is a real estate broker, land developer, and past store manager for Super Save markets.

He supports the people's right to decide their own planning rules and regulations within their own communities.

Janet Stevens is the incumbent Democrat for county commissioner.

Stevens served as justice of the peace for seven years and held court several years in Seeley Lake on the Fourth of July holiday.

She supports economic programs which would bring businesses into the community and also stated that she believes in "putting county government into your own hands."

Thaddeus Mayer is a Republican candidate for county commissioner. He served in the Army for 22 years. His platform is based on his desire to see improved economic conditions in Missoula county.

The seven candidates for sheriff will be reviewed in next week's Pathfinder.

QRU Seeks Donations

The Condon/Swan Valley Quick Response Unit is currently faced with an auto liability insurance bill of \$650, and is several hundred dollars short of meeting this obligation according to Ellie Greenough, QRU spokesperson.

The Condon/Swan Valley QRU serves the area from the Summit north to the Lake County line. They also "cover" for Swan Lake QRU and Seeley Lake QRU when those units aren't available, Greenough said.

Donations are appreciated and may be sent to Condon/Swan Valley QRU, P.O. Box 1156, Condon, MT. 59826.

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The two top "vote-getters" in the primary will run off in the general.

Norm Laughlin, Missoula has considerable volunteer experience for the Veteran's Administration, the Red Cross and Big Brothers and Sisters, among others. He is semi-retired.

He favors a people's court and supports a person's right to a fair hearing. He states that "good, down to earth common sense" is what is needed by a justice of the peace.

He supports the idea of having a justice of the peace available on weekends.

Dean Hoffman, Missoula, is a rancher and a businessman. His campaign platform is based on the idea that the justice of the peace should be available on weekends.

Candidates David Clark and Marci Watson did not attend either meeting.

Jack Weidenfeller is a Democrat running for county commissioner. He has "survived in business in Missoula for 35 years" and feels that says a lot about his qualifications for county commissioner.

He is a real estate broker, land developer, and past store manager for Super Save markets.

He supports the people's right to decide their own planning rules and regulations within their own communities.

Janet Stevens is the incumbent Democrat for county commissioner.

Stevens served as justice of the peace for seven years and held court several years in Seeley Lake on the Fourth of July holiday.

She supports economic programs which would bring businesses into the community and also stated that she believes in "putting county government into your own hands."

Thaddeus Mayer is a Republican candidate for county commissioner. He served in the Army for 22 years. His platform is based on his desire to see improved economic conditions in Missoula county.

The seven candidates for sheriff will be reviewed in next week's *Pathfinder*.

QRU Seeks Donations

The Condon/Swan Valley Quick Response Unit is currently faced with an auto liability insurance bill of \$650, and is several hundred dollars short of meeting this obligation according to Ellie Greenough, QRU spokesperson.

The Condon/Swan Valley QRU serves the area from the Summit north to the Lake County line. They also "cover" for Swan Lake QRU and Seeley Lake QRU when those units aren't available, Greenough said.

Donations are appreciated and may be sent to Condon/Swan Valley QRU, P.O. Box 1156, Condon, MT. 59826.

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PASSAGES

Rev. Jim Patterson, Swan Valley Baptist Church

We salute the beginning of a new newspaper, *The Pathfinder*. As I thought about the first "Passages" column, I thought about a book I had recently read, "The Rebirth of America." As one reflects upon the beginnings of our great nation, we are impressed again with the importance of the Bible, God's Holy Word. There are many evidences that our nation was founded on a commitment to God and the principles of His Word.

Benjamin Franklin said as he addressed the writers of the Constitution, "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?" I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, Prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning."

Thus the Bible became the basis of United States government and law. Our very government was formed upon the Word of God. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were influenced by it. Our judicial system and our laws were structured upon Judeo-Christian values. Our forefathers believed in the Creator and that man is a fallen creature and hence, cannot be his own lawgiver and judge.

Noah Webster said, "The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

I was challenged by two passages of scripture in Isaiah 5:8-23. The six "woes" upon Israel which fit the scope of America today, and a little verse in Lamentation 3:40, "Let us search and try our ways and turn again to the Lord." Or, the 139th Psalm we turn to so often, verses 23 and 24, "Search me O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thought; and see if there be any wicked way in me."

Hoover Relocating

Pastor Paul Hoover, his wife Cindy and daughters Aimee and Alisa will be moving to Milwaukee, Wisconsin early this summer to start a new church in that city. Pastor Hoover has been with the Fundamental Baptist Church in Seeley Lake for the past year. The Hoovers moved here from Waukesha, Wisconsin.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Condon Community Church
Sunday School 9:30 - 10:30
Sunday Worship Service 10:45-11:45
Wed. Eve. Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Condon Comm. Hall
Pastor Jeff Crippen

Blackfoot Presbyterian Church
Pastor Christopher Williams 677-2649
Sunday Service Seeley Lake 11:30
Bible Study Mon. 7 p.m.
Potomac Worship 8:30
Bible Study Tues. 7:30
Ovando Worship 10:00

Fundamental Baptist Church
Sun. School 9:45 am
Sun. Services 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
Wed. Eve. Bible Study 7:30pm
677-2268

Swan Valley Baptist Church
Salmon Prairie Road
Pastor Jim Patterson 754-2509
Sunday Service 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
Sunday School 9:45 am
Bible Study and Prayer Wed. 7:30 pm
Community Bible Church
Seeley Lake, Pastor Rob Morris 677-2837
Sunday School 10:00
Sunday Worship 11:00
Fellowship Sun. 6:30 pm
Bible Study Sun. 7:00

Swan Valley Catholic Community
Father D. A. Okorn 754-2429
Sunday Mass 8:45 am
(Faith Lutheran, Condon)

Faith Chapel - A Spirit Filled Fellowship
Pastor Roger Combs 677-2220
Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11:00 am & 6:30 pm
Bible Study Wed. 7:00 pm

Living Water Catholic Community
Father D.A. Okorn 754-2429
Sunday Mass 11:30 am
(Holy Cross Lutheran, Seeley Lake)
Daily Mass 5:00 pm
Sycamore Tree, Piper Creek
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Mark Meissner 677-2575
Sunday School 11:45 am
Sunday Service 10:00 am

Faith Lutheran Church - Condon
Pastor Herbert Schiefelbein
Sunday Service 2:30 pm 677-2281
Sunday School 1:30

Holy Cross Lutheran - Seeley
Pastor Herbert Schiefelbein
Sunday School 10:15 am 677-2281
Sunday Worship 4:30 pm

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New Pastor at Blackfoot

Christopher Williams is the new pastor at the Blackfoot Church in Seeley Lake. Williams arrived here March 15 from Angoon, Alaska where he pastored a church in an Indian village. Williams and his wife Robin, and their two children, Katy, age two, and Daniel, age eight months, are living in Seeley Lake. Williams also serves churches in Potomac and Ovando.

Local Delegates Attend State PTA Convention

The Montana State PTA has voted to support raising the legal drinking age to 21. This issue will be put before the voters in November.

Delegates to the annual state convention held April 18-19 in Billings also passed resolutions supporting statewide adoption of policies on communicable diseases and standardization of laws dealing with child abuse.

Mary Ann Morin and Jeanne Moon represented the Seeley Lake PTA. Susie Cox was the representative from Swan Valley PTA, along with Billie McDonald of Condon who served as State Cultural Arts Chairman for 1985. McDonald was elected state treasurer for 1986-87.

Local delegates also discussed the possibility of cooperative projects between Seeley Lake and Swan Valley PTA groups.

Delegates also agreed that speakers at the convention reinforced the importance of PTA involvement with the Montana legislature.

This year's convention theme was "Kids Are Counting On You."

Thanks, Hazel

Hazel Foley has been teaching watercolor classes in Seeley Lake and the Swan Valley for the past six weeks. She has spent thousands of hours painting and exploring the backcountry that surrounds us.

One afternoon during our adult painting class the friendly conversation turned to children.

"Of course children like to be outside," she said. "Freedom is out there. Inside there are walls."

Thanks, Hazel. Your delight in creation has widened my view and helped me see this valley in a new light.

Sue Vernon
Condon, MT

Home Start Seeking Applications

Applications are now being taken for the Home Start program for the 1986-87 school year, according to Dianna Plum, area coordinator.

Home Start is a component of Head Start and is based on the same philosophy, especially that parents are the primary teachers of their children. Unlike Head Start, which serves larger communities with a day care center or classroom setting, Home Start is designed for rural areas where a teacher can make weekly visits to the child's home to work with the parent in teaching the child.

For more information contact Dianna Plum 677-2663.

Swan Valley

The Swan Valley elementary school board has held several meetings this past month, during which they have worked on budget and hiring new teachers to fill four positions vacated by Shirley Webb, Kari Gunderson, Cindy Goodman and Susan Stone.

Board members have been juggling figures in an attempt to cut costs, hire a principal, a counselor, a librarian and a physical education instructor.

One person could conceivably fill two or more of these positions, and the board is presently interviewing candidates and negotiating contracts.

Swan Valley PTA School Picnic will be Monday, June 9 at the Swan Valley Elementary School. Don't forget 8th grade graduation June 6.

Sunset Hills

Sunset Hills elementary school board met May 12 to discuss the preliminary budget and the hiring of two teachers for the 1986-87 school year.

Linda Pilsworth and Kathy Kahnly resigned their positions earlier this spring, creating two openings for 1986-87.

The school board is now interviewing candidates for those positions.

Since the school had 19 students this year, they qualify for State funding. If they had less than 17 students, funding would come from District money.

Voters also passed a three-mill levy this spring for additional funding.

Eighth grade graduation will be held June 2. The school picnic will be June 6 at Lubrecht Forest.

The Sunset Hills school board meets the second Monday of the month. Chairman of the board is Tom Vannoy.

CORNUCOPIA



by Michele Potter

Eggs - an appropriate topic for the "beginning" of this *Cornucopia* Foods column. Besides, I'm still savoring the spicy Mexican Souffle I had at Barney's at the May Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting. I can eat Mexican food at any meal, but a spicy breakfast wakes up my taste buds and opens my eyes!

The recipe that follows comes from about as close to the Mexican border as one can get - Texas (Department of Agriculture): Mexican Eggs. Try this recipe for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

MEXICAN EGGS

6-8 corn tortillas	1 or 2 green chilies, chopped
1/2 medium onion, chopped	1 (8 oz) can tomatoes, chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed	6 eggs
	1 cup grated cheese

Cut tortillas into strips and fry in small amount of vegetable oil until just limp. Drain. Saute onion and crushed garlic. Remove excess oil. Add tortillas, tomatoes and chopped chilies. Cook one minute. Add slightly beaten eggs and cook until set. Top with grated cheese. Serves 6.

Q/A: Sometimes hard-cooked eggs have a greenish coating around the yolks. Why? The eggs have been cooked at too high a temperature, or for too long a time, or they have not been cooled rapidly following cooking. Sulphur and iron compounds in the egg produce the greenish color, but the egg is still edible and the flavor is unaffected.

HINTS: (1) Some egg shells will crack during cooking; a small hole punched through the large end of the egg shell will prevent cracking. (2) If you haven't tried the "small hole" trick and an egg cracks during hard-cooking, add a little vinegar to the water and it will help seal the egg.

It seems everyone has a favorite recipe. Allowing room for one or two recipes a week, send me your favorite recipes for publication. And, I'll try to answer your questions and respond to your comments about foods and nutrition, too, along with providing some helpful hints.

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June 1st Deadline for Permits

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks reminds sportsmen that applications for entering the state's annual big game special license and permit drawings must be postmarked by June 1 to be considered in the drawings.

Because June 1 falls on a Sunday this year, all applications should be mailed by Saturday, May 31, at the latest.

The Department further reminds sportsmen that this year, due to a reinterpretation of state law, licenses can be purchased only by the person named on the license. In the past, residents were permitted to purchase licenses for members of their immediate families.

Elk hunters might note some of the following dates:

Area 150 (Bob Marshall Wilder - ness) will open September 15 - 30 for antlered bulls only. October 1 - 15 it will be open for either sex. October 16 through November 30 will be antlered bulls only.

Area 130 (Swan Valley) will open October 26 through November 2 for either sex; November 3 through November 30, antlered bulls only.

Area 283-01 (West side of Highway 83 from Summit south to boundary) will open October 26 through November 30 for antlered bulls only, with 100 permits to be drawn for antlerless elk.

Area 285 (East side of Highway 83 from Summit south to boundary) October 26 through November 30 for antlered bulls only, with 300 permits to be drawn for antlerless elk.

Sportsman's Club Sponsoring Photo Contest

The Seeley Lake Wilderness Sportsman's Club is sponsoring its First Annual Outdoor Photography Contest, according to Ron Ogden, president.

Categories for the contest are Wildlife, Water Sports, Scenic and General Recreation.

All photos entered must have been taken in the Seeley-Swan Valley.

Winners of the various categories will be chosen at the Fall Outdoor Sports and Gun Show to be held in October in Seeley Lake.

Specific prizes have not been selected at this time, but they will probably be "nice photography equipment" according to Debbie Ogden, club member.

The closing date for all entries will be August 31, 1986.

Entry forms are available from Wilderness Sportsman's Club, Box 98, Seeley Lake, MT 59868.

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LOST: 2 Black Scottish Terriers. If seen, please call 677-2100.

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REFUSE SITE SUMMER HOURS (May 1 through September 30) Wednesday/Saturday/Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Seeley Lake Refuse Disposal District

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Schoonover Posted to Philipsburg

Jim Schoonover has recently been appointed as Postmaster at Philipsburg, Montana. This is a promotion for him from a Level 11 position at Condon to a Level 15 at Philipsburg.

Jim has been the Postmaster at Condon since 1981. He and his wife Tasha moved here from Kalispell.

They plan to move to Philipsburg the end of this month.

THE FINDER

Classifieds...
Pathfinder!

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Citizen of the Year: **Dan Cainan**

by Addrien Marx

The first annual Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Dan Cainan at the Seeley-Condon Chamber of Commerce Banquet last month. Though sponsored by the Chamber, the nomination and selection of the recipient is made by a cross-section of Valley residents. The Citizen of the Year Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the general quality of life in the Seeley Swan Valley.

Dan Cainan's love affair with the area sprang up during his days of "settin' chokers" for Anaconda at Camp #7 on Big Sky Lake (then called Fish Lake). After service during World War II, Dan owned and operated Dan's Food Market in Missoula for eleven years. Still finding himself drawn to the beautiful Seeley Swan area, Dan sold his store in Missoula and bought the Freshour store (now the J&L) and moved to Seeley Lake.

"Oh, they all thought I was goin' crazy then. You see, I bought Freshour's after the season was over - in September. I was facing the dead of winter and they all knew I was gonna go broke. That was back in 1961."

That marked the beginning of a period of extraordinary public service for the community. During the past twenty-five years that Dan Cainan has been in business in Seeley Lake (now at Dan's Discount, which he opened in 1975), he has worked, promoted and helped mold

the direction in which Seeley Lake has grown.

Dan Cainan has served the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department as Secretary for the past fifteen years. He was a charter member of the Seeley Lake Businessmen's Association and served on its board for fifteen years. A Charter member of the Seeley Lake Water District and instrumental in arranging financial backing from FHA, Dan Cainan worked hard and persistently in helping the needed infrastructure fall into place. Dan also helped to form the Seeley Lake Refuse Disposal District and serves as Secretary of that board today.

The list is even longer: Dan is a charter member of the Lions Club in Seeley Lake and a charter member of the Seeley Lake Community Hall board. He originated the Fourth of July fireworks and parade and has helped with Logger Days and the famous Barney's Buffalo Feed. Serving as a charter member of the Montana Snowmobile Association, Dan managed to obtain a trail groomer for our area.

"I always tried to sit in the background and crack the whip and that's what I still like to do today," reflected Cainan. "I don't want anyone to think I did it all myself - I didn't. And for the part I did do - well, I couldn't have done it without Daisy! I really don't want people to think I did it all, though maybe I was the sparkplug."



Photo by Grant Lindemer

Winston & Ruth Baer

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