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# Seeley Swan PATHFINDER



Vol. I, No. 12

677-2022

"VOICE OF THE VALLEY"

754-2365

August 7, 1986

## Water Shortage In Seeley Lake

Bill and Mary Adams have been "out of water" during the evening hours for the past several days. "It isn't just low pressure," Mary said. "I turn on the faucet and there's no water."

The Adams live on Phase II of the Double Arrow, at the south end of the Seeley Lake Water District's waterline. Adams said that the problem has occurred recently between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. each evening.

Other Seeley Lake residents have experienced low water pressures during the evening hours.

Bud Anderson, Seeley Lake Water District Manager, agrees that low pressure is a problem during hot weather. "Every small-town water system is taxed on particularly warm days," he said. There is extremely heavy usage during hot weather, Anderson said, adding that the present water system was not designed to serve the number of people presently connected. Anderson said that a solution to the problem would be a new storage tank, and equipment which would provide more pumping capacity.

Watering restrictions have been posted by the Water District for the past several weeks. Seeley Lake residents connected to the community water system are permitted to water from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Residents on the west side of Highway 83 may water on even-numbered days; residents on the east side, on odd-numbered days.

Doreen Culver, secretary for the Water District, thinks that "neighbors should remind neighbors" to abide by the restrictions, to help alleviate water pressure problems.

The low water pressure could cause problems for firefighters in Seeley Lake. "There's no question that it's going to affect our fire protection," Colin Moon, fire chief, pointed out on Tuesday. Moon said that, in the event of a fire, the amount of water available from fire

hydrants would depend on the location of the hydrant. "Some lines are looped. It would depend on which line the hydrant was on," he said.

Moon explained that the firefighting equipment is capable of "sucking" water through the lines, so pressure is not as much of a problem as the volume of water available. He pointed out that if firefighters hook up to a six inch "port" on a hydrant to fight a fire, water would drain from residential users "on the street" because the water would tend to flow into the larger port, rather than into the smaller residential lines.

## Fire Danger High

Officials at both the Seeley Lake Ranger District and the Condon Work Center, Swan Lake District have issued notices of HIGH fire danger. The recent hot, dry weather along with afternoon winds have caused fire management officials to post the HIGH fire danger notices.

Fires may be reported to the Seeley Lake Ranger Station, north of Seeley Lake, or to the Condon Work Center, Swan Valley during regular office hours, or called in to 911 emergency services (Seeley Lake number) or 1-728-0911 (for Condon and Clearwater Junction residents).

## New Students Urged To Register

The Seeley Lake Elementary School encourages parents to register kindergarten and new students as soon as possible. Parents may stop in the school office and pick up necessary forms, or should call the office at 677-2265. Elementary school begins September 2, 1986.



Summer pack trips into the Bob Marshall are popular this month. Lloyd Hahn and "Ole" Bill Anderson, Sun River Outfitters, head for the hills.

## Shakespeare - In Seeley Lake!!

Shakespeare in the Parks will perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Saturday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Wapiti Lodge (just behind the Elk Horn Cafe).

Shakespeare in the Parks is a theatrical touring group formed by the Montana State University Department of Theatre Arts in Bozeman and is celebrating its 14th season. The group has performed in 40 Montana communities, as well as Sheridan, Wyoming, and Medicine Hat, Alberta, according to a recent news release.

The intricate plot of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* involves three sets of characters. They include members of the Athenian court, the faeries of the spirit world and a hilarious amateur acting troupe. The play centers around the love of Hermia and Helena for Lysander and Demetrius. Into their affairs come the King and Queen of the spirit world, Oberon and Titania, and the mischievous faerie, Puck. This mixture results in

a riot of mistaken identity and merry confusion.

In the happy ending, all the turmoil is sorted out, the lovers are happily wed, and the audience is treated to the famous *Pyramus and Thisby* play performed by the amateur actors.

There are 10 professional actors in the group selected from national auditions each spring, in addition to directors and other technical assistants.

The company was formed to bring quality, live theatre to Montanans. Shakespeare in the Parks is being sponsored by Pepsi, Wapiti, Santino's, Rainier and Eddy's.

## WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday-Saturday: Warm and dry with a few isolated afternoon thunderstorms. Highs ranging from 80 to 95. Lows from 45 to 60.

# OPINION

## The Community Semi-Survey...

is the phrase that comes to mind after having peeked at a draft of the questionnaires. This is not to be construed as a derogatory observation but, rather, a pragmatic assessment. Many of us had assumed that the survey would serve as a panacea for all of the community's problems. Shame on us for being so naive.

The fact is that the board representatives on the survey committee have done a credible job of addressing their boards' parochial interests, but have not gone much further. In so doing, the questionnaires are already lengthy. If they were much longer, the quality of survey responses would probably suffer.

There are many "gut" issues that have not been included, such as law enforcement, environmental degradation, and tourism. Maybe that's a good thing. These are matters that are not necessarily within the committee's expertise. In fact, the myriad issues confronting us, taken as a whole, would exceed any small group's expertise.

As mentioned here last week, matters such as tourism have been taken up by an *ad hoc* group of local businesspeople. In the case of tourism, this is surely the right issue in the right forum - and, just as surely, it falls outside the purview of the presently constituted survey committee. (Reminder: the *ad hoc* group meets at 6:00 p.m. August 7 at Leisure Lodge.) There are various groups in the community which are probably well-qualified to take up

the "orphan" issues. For instance, the issue of law enforcement might be addressed by the homeowners associations. Collectively, these associations represent a large slice of the Valley's population and, individually, they deal with security matters as a regular part of their duties.

The present survey can achieve a great deal by shedding light on some very important questions. However, we should all regard it as just a beginning, albeit an important one. The members of the survey committee don't wear red capes and don't have an "S" emblazoned on their tunics. It will be up to other organizations in the community to finish what has been started.

- Dick Potter

## Sign Stolen

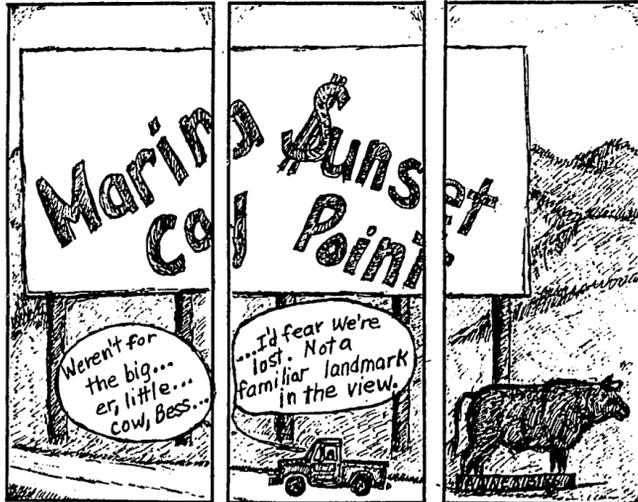
Somebody pulled a real juvenile trick last week and stole the "WIN \$200" sign from the Big Mamma display at Dan's Discount in Seeley Lake. Dan donated his own time and money for that display and it was inconsiderate, to say the least, for somebody to steal the sign.

The Big Mamma contest is an inspired event, aimed at raising enough money for a community fireworks display next summer on the Fourth of July. The "WIN \$200" sign drew a lot of attention to the contest.

Whoever stole the sign must have a pretty childish sense of humor. The least they can do is return the sign in the same anonymous manner in which it disappeared.

-Suzanne Vernon

Natty Bumpo



## More Unhappiness with the Water District

To the Editor:

Our family has lived in this community for ten years. We were happy to be able to purchase a lot on Phase II of the Double Arrow. One of the main attractions of this property was the availability of "city water."

Initially, there was concern by the water board over the water pressure we would receive to our home. Happily, the system has provided a consistent 32 psi. Suddenly, though, approximately between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., we have no water to our new home.

This is not only an inconvenience, but truly a fire hazard as well.

To this date, we have paid the Water District:

- \$992.89 for hookup fees
- 67.11 for a meter
- 12.17 monthly for SID charge
- 15.00 monthly charge

We feel as though we have lived up to our end of the bargain by paying our bills promptly. All we ask in return is what we are paying for - city water.

Bill & Mary Adams  
Seeley Lake

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## Business of the Week SEELEY LAKE MOTEL



Don and Jane Beaver have operated the Seeley Lake Motel for almost five years. They have ten complete RV hookups and eight motel units, including kitchenettes. The spacious rooms can accommodate up to six people. The year-round facility has over 285 feet of lakeshore on the property and Don and Jane see many repeat customers, especially families who gather for summer vacations.

Jane said they love the area and have spent the past 22 summers here. She often recommends other local motels to visitors when their units are full. "We never put out our 'No Vacancy' sign," Jane said.

The Beavers have four children, and when the youngest, Ty, graduates from high school, they plan to move to Seeley Lake permanently.



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## Ties That Bind Us Swan Valley Fire Protection

Crews at the Condon Work Center provide fire protection for Forest Service lands in the Swan Valley south of Goat Creek to Beaver Creek, according to Don Bennett, assistant Fire Management Officer at Swan Lake Ranger District, Bigfork.

The Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, has centralized dispatch on fires in their districts, including the Swan Valley. Fire crews out of the Condon Work Center work on tree thinning, timber projects and field work, except in periods of high fire danger when they patrol the district with two engines - one 55-gallon, the other a 200-gallon (water capacity) four-wheel drive unit.

Burl Kratzer has been the dispatcher in the past, but this month he is working at Cooney Lookout, in addition to his regular job at the station.

Cooney Lookout is the only manned lookout in the Swan Valley. The State sometimes mans Napa Peak during periods of high fire danger.

Air patrols scan the area after lightning storms and during high fire danger.

Eight smokejumpers are currently stationed at the Condon Work Center. They work on projects around the District when they aren't "jumping a fire," according to assistant Fire Management Officer, Boyd Kessler, Condon.

The smokejumpers were sent on a man-caused fire in the Bob Marshall last week. The Condon Work Center has a small airstrip across the road and smokejumpers can be dispatched quickly from there.

So far this year the Swan Lake District, including Condon Work Center, has responded to seven fires, three of which were in the Condon area.

## Swan Elementary Approves Budget

The Swan Valley Elementary School trustees approved a budget of \$232,783 last week for the 1986-87 school year. The 1985-86 budget was \$222,546. There were 59 students enrolled last spring.

There is no voted levy for the Swan Elementary District, and budget money comes from the state foundations program, a state-authorized (permissive) levy and special education funding.

In other business, new principal Dan White has now moved to the Swan Valley and is working at the school several hours every week, until school starts in September.



The Seeley Lake Dental Clinic will host an Open House August 14. The Clinic recently moved to the former Eldridge residence in Seeley Lake.

## Open House At Dental Clinic

The Seeley Lake Dental Clinic will host an open house August 14, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Doug Hadnot has invited local residents to "stop in and look around" and suggested that the open house would be a good opportunity for children to see a dental office.

The Seeley Lake Dental Clinic moved to the former Eldridge residence on the shores of Seeley Lake last month. Dr. Hadnot has been busy remodeling the home to fit the needs of his practice. The office now has two fully-equipped treatment rooms. Dr. Hadnot offers general dentistry, in addition to cosmetic dentistry and bond-ing.

Dr. Hadnot chuckles about his new location. "We probably have the most accessible office in the area. You can walk, come by boat, car, or ride a horse," he said, adding that a hitching rail would be installed soon.

Hadnot has been offering dental services in Seeley Lake for about five years and has had a practice in Missoula for the past 13 years. He has seen more growth here than in Missoula over the past few years, and feels that he is ready to expand his services to meet the increasing needs of the community, "if the demand is here," he said.

The Seeley Lake Dental Clinic is open every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Hadnot encourages people to make appointments and added that calls to the Clinic are forwarded to the receptionist during the week, so appointments may be made in advance.

In Missoula, he and his partner, Dr. Jackie Jones, are located in the Southgate Mall and are open six days a week, including evening hours, Monday through Friday.



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And he has a little more cushin'  
when he goes to sit.

He says the stove has some ashes,  
but burns like twenty-nine.

This causes eyes to roll -  
But, he's fifty, let's be kind.

His personality has blossomed,  
his wisdom is divine.  
To be this wise and knowing,  
takes a lot of time.

So stop in and see Merle  
or call 677-2424.

Wish him Happy Birthday and  
many, many more.

As I'm younger, quiet and shy,  
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**DO NUCLEAR WEAPONS MAKE US SAFE?**  
20 years ago there were 25,000 nuclear bombs in the world. Today there are 50,000 - twice as many. Do you feel safer as a result? Or half as safe? Everyone is worried because of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union. But don't let that scare you. The Soviet Union will do as a result of the accident that occurred there that plant. The nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. The 50,000 nuclear bombs today are 20 times as powerful.

**DO NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROVIDE JOBS?**  
Do you want to spend your money for military hardware and a few highly skilled technical jobs - lots of engineers and college graduates. A little money in military spending creates only 26,000 jobs. But the same dollar spent for construction and social services would create 26,000 jobs. Studies are being done to see how many jobs would be created for society after the war.

**DO NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROTECT THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE?**  
Last summer you, like all Americans don't have enough to eat. Lots of people are starving in the world. Farmers are being paid less. Fish are not being caught. All people have to get by with the things of the world. The nuclear bomb is not the answer. It is the answer to the problems of the world. The nuclear bomb is not the answer to the problems of the world. The nuclear bomb is not the answer to the problems of the world.

**DO WE HAVE ALTERNATIVES?**  
Do we have to take some risks. The same risk is a risk to us in the future. There are some things that President Reagan would do. He would stop all nuclear tests. He would agree to a nuclear freeze with the Soviet Union. He would agree to a nuclear freeze with the Soviet Union. He would agree to a nuclear freeze with the Soviet Union.

Arne Murphy  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
721-5600 #228  
A WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE  
222 Lakeside Drive, P.O. Box 1002  
Seeley Lake, Montana 59714



The Gas Haus has recently received a "face lift." Owners Steve and Cheryl Thompson are remodeling the building this summer.

## Bigfork Sign Is Legal

There have been some rumors in the Seeley Swan communities that the new billboard sign near Clearwater Junction may not be legal. However, Bob Lajoie, Montana Department of Highways in Missoula, said, "It is a permitted sign location."

If Highway 83 had been designated a Scenic Highway, as a proposed bill (which failed) in the last session of the legislature attempted to do, then the sign would not have been permitted, according to Lajoie.

As the law now reads, the sign is located within 600 feet of an existing business and is therefore legal. Epcor Sign Company, Great Falls, owns the billboard, which is located on property owned by Lake Realty, Missoula.

Landowners must first grant permission for a sign to be erected before the highway department will issue a permit, according to Lajoie. Sign dimensions are also regulated by the State. A sign may not be more than 60 feet wide or 40 feet tall, and the actual sign cannot be larger than 1200 square feet, according to Lajoie.

Several Montana communities have designated highways as "scenic." For example, the area from the Dew Drop

Inn to West Glacier in Western Montana has been designated as a Scenic Highway. The highway department may not issue permits for signs other than those placed on the same property as the business being advertised, Lajoie said. Other communities, such as Missoula, have enacted local ordinances which regulate sign placement and size, according to Helen Bresler, Missoula City/County Planning Office. These regulations override state regulations in the communities where they are enacted.

## SWAN SONG

Charles Erling Lawrence

Charles Erling "Spec" Lawrence, 59, of Swan Lake, died in the Kalispell Regional Hospital on August 1, following a heart attack.

He was born October 13, 1926 in Kila, a son of William and Lena Lawrence. He entered the U.S. Navy and served overseas during World War II. Following his honorable discharge, he worked on a fishing boat in Alaska for a time. He then returned to Montana where he has worked as a logger, outfitter and trapper for a number of years. He was an avid sportsman.

In 1961 he married Alvera Samuelson in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and is now survived by her at their home in Swan Lake. He is also survived by three daughters: Gayle Lawrence, Swan Lake, Karen Bielenberg, Bozeman, and Paullette Prinzing, Helena; a son, Daniel Bielenberg, Bigfork; two brothers, Lester Lawrence, Kalispell, and Vern Lawrence, Swan Lake; a sister, Gladys McGovern, Bigfork; two grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Arnold Lawrence; and a daughter, Laurie Lawrence.

Funeral services were held at John-son Mortuary Chapel, Kalispell. Rev. Ron Pierce, pastor of the Swan Chapel, officiated. Burial was in the Conrad Memorial Cemetery, Kalispell.

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# Country Journal

by Suzanne Vernon

The young osprey are learning to fly. We saw four birds on one of the Salmon Lake islands. Must have been mom and dad and the kids. The "kids" didn't look too brave as they tested their wings below their treetop home. They flew between two or three large trees close to the nest and kept looking toward home for encouragement.

Other young birds are spreading their wings, too. The young chickadees are learning about food and we have seen them floundering in the grass looking for seeds. Now is the time to make sure your favorite cat has a bell on his collar, or the winter birds won't stay around this fall.

One bear story this week. A friend stopped by the other morning and mentioned that he saw a beautiful cinnamon bear - a light tan, almost rosy color - rambling across one of the meadows near the Holland Lake road. He guessed the bruin to be about three years old.

The transparent apples are ripe, and the raspberries continue to ripen in this heat. Everything seems to really need the water now. My cauliflower is ready to eat - that is, all of it that the bugs didn't get! It is later this year for some reason. Last year's notes show the cauliflower ripened in mid-July.

The huckleberries are a little more plentiful this week than last. Look in the high basin areas for ground berries. Serviceberries are going fast, but there are still plenty for making jam.

## Poster Contest Announced

The Forest Service recently announced that the Woody Owl-Smokey Bear environmental poster contest is open to all age groups and is sponsored by the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and State Foresters.

Participants may use any medium of art to display an environmental theme on their posters. It is not necessary to use Smokey, who was created in 1944 as the symbol for fire prevention, or Woody, a fantasy character dedicated to environmental improvement. Entries will be judged equally on originality, design, slogan, artwork, and effectiveness of message. Posters should be no larger than 12 by 18 inches. The artist's name; grade or age, school (if applicable), town, zip code, and sponsoring garden club (if any), should be printed in the lower right corner on the back of the poster.

Divisions for the contest are Kindergarten-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, 9th-12th grades, adult, and special.

Entries must be in the mail to the State Poster Contest Chairman no later than February 13, 1987. Mail entries to Mrs. Dorothy Lechner, Box 51, Winifred, Montana 59489.

## Canning Tips

"Putting up" the harvest is a tradition deeply rooted in our American heritage. Canning is a reliable method of food preservation and the basics are easy to learn. However, it is extremely important to have the correct time and temperature/pressure for our altitude here in Western Montana.

Foods are divided into two categories for the purpose of canning: acid and low acid. Acid foods include fruits and tomatoes (add 1 tablespoon lemon juice per pint) and may be processed in a boiling water bath. Low acid foods include all vegetables and meats, fish and poultry. These foods must be processed in a pressure cooker at 12 to 15 pounds pressure.

The Extension Service has information on all aspects of food preservation. Pressure cooker gauges are tested free. This should be done each year.

Videotape lessons on food preservation are also offered. The next scheduled showing is "Drying Foods" at noon on Tuesday, August 12 at 126 West Spruce in Missoula. Call 721-4095 for more information.

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# CORNUCOPIA by Michele Potter

With the kids home for the summer, I've had a few requests for helpful kitchen hints and recipes especially for kids. So, Moms and Dads, with the help of a pamphlet entitled "Kitchen Know-How for Kids" from the Reynolds Metals Company, Consumer Products Division, here are some useful notes and a Tuna Pocket Sandwich recipe. The Pizza Popcorn and Root Beer Float recipes were provided courtesy of the American Dairy Association.

Kids in the Kitchen - Safety First: (1) always use dry hot pads when removing hot pans from oven; (2) remember to turn gas burners, electric surface units and ovens off when you're finished; (3) handle sharp knives with care; (4) don't let cords from electric mixers dangle across sinks, gas burners or electric surface units; (5) turn pot handles away from stove front, being careful not to turn handles over another hot burner; (6) when plugging or unplugging an electrical appliance make sure your hands are dry and the control is in the "off" position; (7) wipe up spills as they happen; this prevents falls and makes clean-up easier; (8) never wear loose, flowing clothes in the kitchen or long sleeves that hang down.

Tuna Pocket Sandwiches	
1 can (9-1/4 oz) tuna, drained	1/3 cup mayonnaise
1 large apple, cored and chopped	3-4 large pocket or pita breads
1/2 cup raisins	4 cups shredded lettuce
1/3 cup sweet pickle relish	3 carrots, thinly sliced in rounds

In a large bowl, combine tuna, apple, raisins, pickle relish and mayonnaise. Cut each pocket bread in half. Fill each half with lettuce, tuna salad and sliced carrots. Makes 6 to 8 sandwiches.

**Pizza Popcorn**  
Melt 1/3 cup butter and add 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese along with 1/2 teaspoon each of garlic salt, crushed oregano, crushed basil and 1/4 teaspoon onion powder. Stir this mixture into 10 cups of freshly popped popcorn in a large cake pan. Heat it for about 15 minutes at 300 degrees F.

Root Beer Float	
6 ounces chilled root beer	3 small scoops vanilla ice cream (about 3/4 cup)
club soda	

Fill a 14-ounce glass 1/3 full with root beer. Add 1 scoop ice cream. Pour in about 1/4 cup more root beer. Add 2 more scoops of ice cream. Pour in enough root beer to fill glass. Add club soda for more carbonation, if desired.

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The Shakespeare in the Parks 1986 company assembles for the presentation of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, in Seelye Lake at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday August 9. Members of the company include (seated, left to right) A. Drew Taylor, K.M. Harris, Rhonda Smith, David Gilles, (standing) Henry Dardenne, Thomas Q. Morris, Douglas Leigh, Beth Gilles, Christian Lebano and Gordon Carpenter.

**Refuse Board Finalizes Fee Schedule**

The Seelye Lake Refuse Disposal District board members reviewed their final proposed fee schedule for businesses at the August 4 meeting and voted to publish that schedule next week. After publication of the schedule, public hearings will be held locally regarding the fees before the proposal will be submitted to the Missoula County Commissioners for final approval.

The refuse board has determined that there are 1123 units (\$28 per unit) being charged in the district, which extends from about the middle of Salmon Lake north to the Clearwater/Swan divide (same as school district #34). Of the 1123 units, 865 are residential. Businesses make up the balance of the units being charged.

Last year, the charge per unit was \$42. The fee was lowered because of better information gathered by the board in their fee revision process.

**Water District Issues Notice**

The Seelye Lake Water District recently issued a notice explaining the proper public use of fire hydrants and curb valves as follows:

Fire hydrants are for the sole purpose of fire protection. Any other use must first have the permission of the Water District Manager, Bud Anderson.

Curb valves are the sole property of the Seelye Lake Water District. All new service connections or alterations to the user's system requiring use of the curb valve key will require a permit.

- Service connections are:
- a curb valve and curb box connecting the service main with a residence or business.
  - an account established with the district secretary for regular monthly payments.
  - multi-resident will qualify as a single service connection with each occupant classed as a single account.
  - trailer parks will have a single service connection with a separate shut-off. The park owner or operator will be responsible for payment of all spaces. District Manager will have access to the park to disconnect any service.
  - business service connections shall be determined by the Manager in regard to the size and type.

**Cooney Lookout Firewatch For The Swan**

Pete Klein came to the Swan Valley in 1961 to take a job at the Cooney Lookout tower watching for fires during the summer. Twenty years later, after the hot fire season of 1981, he quit his seasonal position with the Forest Service.

"I had done what I had waited 20 years to do," he said, adding that he wasn't going to wait 20 years for another incredible fire season. Typically, he said, there are five or six fires in the Swan Valley each season. 1981 was a hot one - with a rash of lightning-caused fires in August which, in turn, started dozens of fires in the Swan Valley.

"Wait for fires, that's what you do (on a lookout)," Klein said. Once he was familiar with the routine of scanning the valley for smoke, the job provided "a fantastic opportunity for reading books," Pete reminisced.

Over the years there have been several lookout towers in the valley, including one on the peak north of Holland Creek, one on Sunset Ridge (Summit) and Napa Peak at the North end of the Swan Valley. Napa Peak is still manned during periods of high fire danger. The others have either fallen down, burned, or been torn down because they were no longer safe.

During the sixties, the manned towers in the Swan Valley included Cooney, Elbow (near Lindbergh), and Jim Lakes. Elbow and Jim Lakes towers were torn down in the seventies. The original Cooney Lookout, which was built in 1932 by David Halme and Tauno Strom, was replaced several years ago with a new structure which is now the only manned lookout in the Swan Valley.

From Cooney you can see the north end of the Lolo National Forest (Richmond Ridge and West Fork areas), and the drainages on the west side of the Swan Valley, including Lindbergh, Elk Creek, Cold Creeks, Jim Lakes and north to Goat Creek.

When Pete Klein first came to the Swan Valley, there were "about three lights" visible at night from the lookout: Buckhorn Camp (now Mission Mountains Mercantile), Strom's store, and Kopra's (now Nelson's store).

There was no electricity to the lookout then, but they did have a crank-type telephone, Motorola radios, an icebox and wood cookstove, Klein said. Ice for the icebox was "cut from the lake" (probably Holland) in the winter, packed in sawdust and stored in an icehouse for use in the summer. Pete

remembered that one block of ice would last two or three days at the lookout.

The road to the Cooney Lookout was built in the early sixties, and water from Rumble Creek was hauled to the lookout in milk cans. Other lookouts weren't as fortunate and didn't have a close water supply. The trail to Jim Lakes tower was about a mile and a half, and water had to be packed in by mules. Klein remembers that people there, and at Elbow and Holland some-times had to go without water for up to two days. The old tower on the peak just north of Holland Creek was especially hard to reach. The trail was steep and rocky.

Thunderstorms were "exciting and fun" according to Pete Klein. Lookouts sat in a "hot seat" to protect them if the tower was struck by lightning. Klein remembers lightning striking Cooney once or twice a year. Elbow wasn't as fortunate. "Elbow got clobbered all the time," he said. Storms would move from the Grey Wolf Peak area in a northeast direction across the valley. The Elbow-Lindbergh area was always hit by the worst part of the storms.

Everything metal in a tower is grounded, according to Klein, including metal beds, stoves, and radios. The "hot seat" was a wooden stool with glass insulators on the legs. Pete chuckled when he talked about only one hot seat in the lookout. Many lookouts worked in teams. Dana Klein worked several years with Pete, before he became dispatcher during the summers at the Condon Ranger Station.

Klein remembers seeing a lot of wildlife from the tower. Elk were "always in the meadow" near the Gulden place. Sometimes at night the elk would walk underneath the towers and scratch their backs on the support cables. They made the whole tower shake and, looking back, Klein laughs about the experience. He also saw "lots of black bears," but no grizzlies, except their tracks, which he photographed because



Cooney Lookout.

they were so large. He remembers watching goats on the rocks of the Swan Range.

Boredom set in during the slow fire seasons. Lookouts often played tricks on one another. One time, they went up to Jim tower and started a small fire beneath the 60-foot structure, knowing that the lookout would probably never spot them or the fire directly beneath the tower. The lookout didn't spot it, but somebody in the valley reported it to the Jim Lakes Lookout. Pete had a good laugh over that incident.

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The Week

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**E.B.,**  
**I'm older**  
**than you,**  
**but now**  
**you're**  
**50,**  
**too!**  
**Happy Birthday,**  
**M.G.**

### Grizzly Killed In Gravelly Range

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks reported last week that the agency has destroyed an adult male grizzly bear that had been captured in the Gravelly Mountains.

According to Arnold Olsen, the agency's Wildlife Division Administrator, the grizzly bear was trapped by a Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control trapper on July 28 in an area where losses of domestic sheep had been reported. The bear had a history of killing sheep. It had been captured in the same area in 1983 and 1984 following similar losses of sheep. Following the previous captures, the bear had been relocated to Yellowstone National Park, but returned to the Gravelly Range.

The decision to destroy the bear was made by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks on Tuesday morning after consultation with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and Animal Damage Control.

### Grizzly Quota Explained

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has accepted comments (through August 6) about the fall grizzly hunting season, according to a recent news release. That news release also indicated that the area west of the continental divide has already been closed to hunting because the quota for female bears has been reached in that area.

Connie Mills, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, explained the quota system in a telephone interview last week.

A total of 14 bears (male and female) may be killed or removed from the areas which are being considered for hunting this fall. Additionally, there is a subquota of three females in the East Front area, two females west of the continental divide, and one female in the Scapegoat ecosystem.

Two 2-3 year-old females were killed on the Flathead Reservation last spring. The fall grizzly season will not open in that area.

One female was illegally killed on the East Front and one female removed (placed in a Detroit zoo). Since the quota is three females, that area may be opened this fall pending decisions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, provided that no other female grizzly is killed or removed from that ecosystem, according to Mills.

The Scapegoat area is still being considered for a fall grizzly season.

A male grizzly which died while being tranquilized in the East Front area has brought the total number of bears killed to five. A male grizzly killed in the Gravelly Mountains last week will not be added into the hunting quotas because that ecosystem is not being considered for fall grizzly hunting, Mills explained.

Grizzly permits are not available at this time because the MDFWP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must review public comments and make a final decision about the season, tentatively set for October 1 to Novem-

ber 30, 1986. If the season is approved, the MDFWP will make a public announcement and notify interested persons who have contacted them about the grizzly season. Permits would then be issued.

Officials can close the season when the subquota or general quotas are reached, and unsuccessful hunters who have purchased their licenses will not receive a refund. "That's the risk they take," Mills said.

### Fish and Game Commission Meets This Week

The Fish and Game Commission will meet this week in Helena to determine final quotas for special deer, elk and antelope permits, tentative waterfowl regulations and final fur trapping regulations for this fall and winter.

### Trapper Rendezvous Set

The Montana Trappers Association announced its Annual Trapper Rendezvous in Lewistown, Montana at the fairgrounds September 12-14. Trapping and fur-handling demonstrations, trap setting contests and games will highlight the weekend.

The events begin Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. with all interested trappers bringing one trap and going together to a local ranch to each make a coyote trap set. Everyone enjoys this, as it provides an opportunity for spectators and participants to observe other trappers when they make their best set to catch a coyote. Saturday is filled with activities, including a smorgasbord and awards banquet Saturday evening. Following the banquet is the Trapper's Auction and Mountain Man Dance.

Sunday morning is the general business meeting and election of M.T.A. officers. During the Rendezvous, numerous companies and individuals will display trapping supplies and related items offered for sale to the general public.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact the Rendezvous Chairman for the Montana Trappers Association, Judy Swick, Box 683, Lewistown, MT 59457, phone (406) 538-9383.

## SPORTS

### Local Teacher Computerizes Track Meets

Art Sikkink, science teacher at Seeley Swan High School, has designed computer programs for use in high school and TAC track meets at local, state and national levels.

He attended the TAC National Youth Meet in Chicago where he used programs to tally final results of heats for five age groups of competitors, about 1700-1800 kids.

Contestants used to be selected for heats by a "roll of the dice" to determine what lane and heat they would run. Sikkink's computer program randomly selects names automatically. "It takes out some of the tedious work," he said.

There's a lot less confusion with computerized results, Sikkink pointed out. Results of heats are printed, (not handwritten), posted and, with the computer, corrections have been made prior to posting. The computer sheets are easier to read than the "heat sheets."

Computers can help save time because names of contestants are usually only typed in once, and corrections can be made with less confusion. "It saves time... simplifies it. You don't have to sit there doing it by hand," Sikkink said.

He designed the track programs for local high school meets. He had seen programs for scoring meets and tallying heat results, but there were some problems. He designed a program that allows both scoring and printing of heat results, so names are only typed into one program. He also provided an easier method of correcting errors, such as misspelled names, in the program.

This is the first year Sikkink's programs have been used for the TAC meets, but he has been using computers for high school meets "for about three years."



Melissa Abrea and Mistie Dillree have been painting picnic tables in the Seeley Lake campgrounds. Melissa is a YCC employee, and Mistie is employed under the Human Resources program at the Seeley Lake Ranger District. Rancy Martindale, not pictured, is also employed under the YCC program at the Ranger Station this summer.

### Slow Pitch Softball

#### Tuesday July 29

Swan Valley.....13	Swan Valley.....14
Express.....3	Five & Five.....5
Naturals.....10	Express.....7
Five & Five.....2	Chicken Hawks.....3
Filling Station.....5	
Chicken Hawks.....3	

#### Thursday July 31

Naturals.....15	Win	Loss	Team
Filling Station.....5	10	0	Naturals
	6	4	Express
	6	4	Swan Valley
	5	5	Filling Station
	3	7	Five and Five
	0	10	Chicken Hawks

### Frye, Haines Return From Nationals

Shauna Haines scored a "personal best" when she put the shot 30 feet at the National Junior Olympic Competition in Lincoln, Nebraska two weeks ago. Haines competed in the heptathlon and placed 11th in a field of 25 contestants. Haines scored below her point total for Regional Junior Olympics, but still gave a good performance.

Teresa Frye, Salmon Prairie, competed in the hurdles and missed qualifying for the semifinals by a half-second. In her triple-jump competition, she jumped 33 feet. In national competition, the sandpit begins at 30 feet because many of the national competitors are able to jump 40 feet. In Regional competition the sandpit begins at 25 feet, so the longer runway was something new for Teresa.

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# PASSAGES

Pastor Jeff Crippen  
Condon Community Church

If one person calls you a donkey, ignore him.  
If two people call you a donkey, check for hoofprints.  
If three people call you a donkey, get a saddle!  
How open are you to criticism? Most of us aren't very responsive to it at all because it is a blow to our pride to acknowledge the possibility that we are not perfect. As Dr. J. Grant Howard notes in his book *The Trauma of Transparency*,  
It is pleasant to be commended.  
It is painful to be corrected.

There will be times when the truth hurts.  
Old King Solomon had quite a few wise words to say about responding correctly to criticism. For instance:  
Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid. (Proverbs 12:1)  
- or -  
He who listens to a lifegiving rebuke will be at home among the wise. (Proverbs 15:31)  
- and -  
He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding. (Proverbs 15:32)

In other words, it is foolish to ego-tistically ignore criticism. A really wise person listens and grows wiser still. Any employer will certainly agree that the basic difference between a good and bad employee is not talent but, rather, their openness to reproof - their willingness or refusal to accept direction and advice.  
The Bible has many words of criticism about you and me. Jesus Christ's "good news" of salvation from sin begins with the "bad news" that all of us are sinners - that there is something very wrong with us that only He can repair. For example:

There is no one righteous, not even one;  
there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.  
All have turned away, they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good, not even one.  
(Romans 3:10-12)

How willing are you to accept God's evaluation of you? That, you see, is what faith is all about; trusting that what God says is true. And, without faith, no one can be saved from the penalty of sin.

If God calls you a donkey, get a saddle.

# 4-H News

## Mount Ovando

The 10th meeting of the Mount Ovando 4-H Club was called to order by president Marcy Smith on July 7, 1986 at 7:00 at Fly's. There were reports given on the campout, the tour to Missoula, Livestock Judging Day, and Demonstration Day.

Our next meeting will be August 4 at 5:00 p.m. Before the meeting, we will paint the sign on Highway 200 when entering the Blackfoot Valley. We will also have a potluck.

DeAnna Dreyer, Reporter

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will begin at the Community Bible Church in Seeley Lake on August 11 and continue through August 15, according to Ruth Morris, Seeley Lake.

Children ages three and up are invited to attend the Bible School from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each morning. Activities will include Bible lessons and missionary stories, crafts and recreation time. This year's theme is "Jesus, I Love You."

For more information contact Ruth Morris at 677-2837.

## CHURCH SCHEDULE

<p>Condon Community Church Pastor Jeff Crippen Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 am Sunday Worship Service, 10:45-11:45 am Wed. Eve. Prayer Meeting, 6:30 pm Wed. Bible Study, 7 pm Condon Community Hall Blackfoot Presbyterian Church Pastor Christopher Williams, 677-2649 Sunday Service, Seeley Lake 11:30 Bible Study, Mon. 8:00 pm Potomac Worship 8:30 am Bible Study, Tues. 8:00 pm Ovando Worship 10:00 am Fundamental Baptist Church 677-2268 Sun. School, 9:45 am Sun. Services, 11:00 am &amp; 7:30 pm Wed. Eve. Bible Study, 7:30pm Swan Valley Baptist Church Salmon Prairie Road Pastor Jim Patterson, 754-2509 Sunday Service, 11:00 am &amp; 7:30 pm Sunday School, 9:45 am Bible Study &amp; Prayer, Wed. 7:30 pm Community Bible Church, Seeley Pastor Rob Morris, 677-2837 Sunday School, 10:00 am Sunday Worship, 11:00 am Swan Valley Catholic Community Father D. A. Okorn, 754-2429 Sunday Mass, 8:45 am (Faith Lutheran, Condon)</p>	<p>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 Rev. Herb Schiefelbein, Pastor 677-2281 Sunday Family Worship, 11:15 am Holy Cross Lutheran - Seeley Rev. Herb Schiefelbein, Pastor 677-2281 Sunday Family Worship, 8:30 am Faith Chapel - A Spirit Filled Fellowship Pastor Roger Combs, 677-2220 Sunday School, 9:45 am Worship, 11:00 am &amp; 6:30 pm Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 pm St. Joseph's Church Legendary Lodge, Salmon Lake 677-2211 Saturday Mass, 4:30 pm (Memorial Day through Labor Day) Outdoor Worship Services Pastor Rod Kvamme, 677-2017 Saturday Evening Service, 7:00 pm Big Larch Campground, Seeley Lake</p>
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# YELLOW ROSE ENTERPRISES

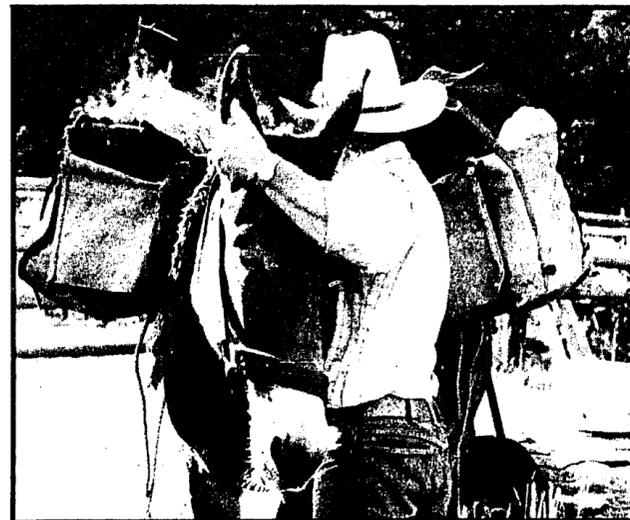
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## Roping Clinic This Week

Jerry Hansen, well-known North-west roper, will sponsor a team roping clinic this week at the arena behind Mission Mountains Mercantile in Condon. The training clinic will begin Friday, August 8, at 3:00 p.m. and will continue all day Saturday and Sunday.

The clinic is designed to help beginning through advanced ropers, and horses will be available. Silver buckles will be awarded on Sunday to the High Point ropers.

For more information contact Dawn Kennedy, Swan Valley, at 754-2444, evenings.

## Harvest Projections Up

Montana farmers are expected to harvest more than nine million acres of grains, row crops and hay this year, about 29 percent more than during last year's drought, according to a recent news release from the Montana State University Agricultural and Extension Office.

Statistics and estimates showed the major increases were in winter wheat (600,000 acres) and hard spring wheat (390,000 more acres), despite smaller plantings; barley (800,000 added acres), and alfalfa hay (350,000 more acres).

## Ranchers May Donate Hay

Ranchers who wish to donate hay to drought-stricken farmers in the Southeast should notify their county Extension agent, according to a recent news release. Agents will then relay the information to the Extension Service in Bozeman.

Rancher-donors are responsible for getting the hay to the Port of Butte near Silver Bow, where it will be shipped to North Carolina on August 15 and 16, says LeRoy Luft, associate director of the Montana Cooperative Extension Service at Montana State University.

The donated hay will be shipped to the Southeast in five box cars, donated by the Union Pacific Railroad. North Carolina county Extension agents will distribute the hay throughout their state.

"We realize that Montana farmers and ranchers - like those in the Southeast - are under considerable financial stress because of the drought of the past few years. But we want to help make the opportunity available to those willing to help," says Luft.

County Extension offices are serving as clearinghouses for the "hay aid" project.

# Livestock Report

Last Thursday's livestock report from the Missoula livestock auction is as follows:

**Cattle:** Cows & bulls steady to \$1 lower. Heiferettes, 38.00 to 48.00; Utility & Commercial Cows, 33.00 to 37.00; Canner & Cutter Cows, 31.00 to 35.00; Bulls 42.00 to 50.00.

**Feeders & Stockers:** All classes feeder cattle \$1 - \$2 higher. Good to choice steers, 55.00 to 65.00; Medium to Good Steers, 50.00 to 57.00; Good to Choice Heifers, 54.00 to 60.00; Medium to Good Heifers, 45.00 to 55.00; Good to Choice Steer Cfs, 64.00 to 72.00; Common & Med. Steer Cfs, 58.00 to 65.00; Good to Choice Heifer Calves, 55.00 to 62.00; Common to Med. Heifer Cfs, 52.00 to 58.00; Stock Cows, 48.5 to 61.0 BTP; Holstein Steers, 40.00 to 52.00; Dairy Type Calves, 25.00 to 75.00 BTH.

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Saturday, August 9

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## Recreation Guide

### Camping

Campers can save money at Forest Service Campgrounds by purchasing "Camp Stamps" at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station. Camp Stamp users save 15% on fee campgrounds, senior citizens may save 50% by purchasing camp stamps.

Seeley Lake Campground has flush toilets, water, and phone. \$7.00 per night.

River Point: 27 units, picnic area, water play area. \$6.00 per night.

Big Larch: 50 units, boat launch, picnic area, beach, water. \$6.00 per night.

Lake Inez: undeveloped site. Boat launch. No charge for camping.

Lake Alva: concrete boat launch, water play area, water, trash containers, vault toilets. 43 units. \$6.00 per night.

Rainy Lake: undeveloped site. No charge for camping.

Lindbergh Lake: undeveloped site in the Swan Valley. Boat Launch, picnic area. No charge for camping.

Holland Lake: Developed site in the Swan Valley. RV dump station nearby. \$6.00 per night.

Swan Lake: Developed campground at the north end of the Swan Valley. \$6.00 per night.

### Fishing Report

Lake fishing has been slow this week because of the heat and the windy weather. The river and creek fishing are still good, though. Try fishing the river with a fly rod. Some folks have had luck with a spinning rod and flies - float them for a minute over those holes right beside the bank to tease the bigger brookies and cutthroat.

Bait fishing is popular in the creeks. The pan-sized trout are easy to catch, but stay away from the heavily traveled roads and trails where the holes may already be "fished out" this season.

What do you do with those brookies when you do catch a creel full? Try barbecuing them right on the grill with a sprinkling of lemon pepper. Bake a foil-wrapped potato in the coals and roast a marshmallow for dessert. You won't have to wash a single pan!

### Information

Seeley Lake is located in the scenic Clearwater drainage. From this recreational community visitors have access to dozens of mountain lakes, the Clearwater and Blackfoot rivers, numerous hiking areas, and, of course, the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Mission Mountains wilderness areas.

The Clearwater and Swan drainages are separated by the "Summit" approximately 15 miles north of Seeley Lake. South of this line, visitors are in the Lolo National Forest. Visitors north of the Summit will be in the Flathead National Forest.

For more information about these areas visitors are encouraged to talk to local merchants familiar with the areas, or contact:

The Seeley Condon Chamber of Commerce, Seeley Lake, open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone 677-2880.

The Seeley Lake Ranger Station, north of Seeley Lake, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone 677-2233.

Many local businesses, the Chamber and Forest Service have a variety of maps available. Topo maps are available at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station.

### State Campgrounds

Salmon Lake: Developed campground. \$5.00 per night. 20 units.

Placid Lake: Developed site. \$5.00 per night. 42 units.

Harper's Lake: Undeveloped site near Clearwater Junction.

### Fishing Access Sites

There are numerous fishing access sites on the Big Blackfoot River and the Clearwater River south of Seeley Lake, including the following:

Clearwater Crossing, west of Clearwater Junction off Highway 200; Russ Gates Memorial Park, near Sperry Grade on the Blackfoot River; Scotty Brown Bridge, Blackfoot River; Johnsrud Park, Blackfoot River.



A visitor enjoys the summer sun on Seeley Lake.

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Montana

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Lolo National Forest

### Seeley, Condon Weather Summary

The Seeley Lake weather summary for July showed .83 inches of precipitation compared to a twenty-year low in July 1985, when there was no precipitation during the whole month. Highest precipitation was recorded in July 1970, at 2.34 inches.

Maximum temperature was 90 degrees Fahrenheit on July 24; minimum was 30 degrees Fahrenheit on July 18 and 31.

At the Condon Work Center, precipitation for July totaled 1.80 inches compared to a low of .03 in July 1967. Maximum temperature was 90 degrees on July 23, and minimum was 34 degrees on July 30 and 31.

**WEDNESDAY NITE IS RIB NITE! HUNGRY BEAR**

## Community Calendar

Community members are invited to submit dates, times and locations of meetings and other local events. Submission deadline is Friday at 5:00 pm.

### Events

August 6-9, Softball Tourney.

August 7-10, Blackfoot Bible Camp, Owl Creek, south of Seeley Lake.

August 9, Shakespeare in the Parks, 6:30 pm, Wapiti Lodge, north of Seeley Lake.

August 9-10, Team Roping Clinic, Condon.

August 12-17, Northwestern MT Fair, Kalispell.

August 16-17, Antique, Classic and Collector Car Show, Seeley Lake.

August 16-17, Annual Horse-show Tournament, Seeley Lake.

August 20-24, Western MT Fair, Missoula.

Bingo, 2nd & 4th Thurs each month, 7 pm. Open to the public. Seeley Lake Comm. Hall.

### Public Meetings

August 6, Community Survey Mtg., 7 pm, REA building, Seeley Lake.

August 7, Ad Hoc Business-person's Group, 7 pm, Leisure Lodge, Seeley Lake.

August 11, Seeley Lake Elementary School Board Special Mtg., Review appts. for teacher's aid, 7:30 pm, Elementary School, Seeley Lake.

August 11-15, Community Bible Church Vacation Bible School, 9-11 am.

August 18, Seeley Lake Refuse Disposal District Special Mtg., Discuss business fees, 7:30 pm, REA building, Seeley Lake.

September 8, Seeley Lake Refuse Disposal District Board Mtg., 7:30 pm, REA Building, Seeley Lake.

Condon QRU, 1st & 3rd Mon each month.

Seeley Lake QRU, 1st and 3rd Fri each month, 7:30 pm, REA Building, Seeley Lake.

Rural Fire District, 1st Tues, Regular Firefighters Mtg. (business) Plum Creek, 7 pm; 2nd Tues, training Mtg., Plum Creek, 7 pm; 3rd Tues, Board of Trustees Mtg., 7:30 pm, place to be determined.

Seeley Lake Elementary School Board Mtg., 3rd Thurs each month.

SOS Trustees Mtg., 2nd Mon each month.

Swan School Board Mtg., 2nd Tues each month.

Water District, 2nd Tues each month.

### Clubs & Organizations

AARP, 1st Mon each month, Swan Valley Comm. Hall, Condon.

SeLa SenCi, 3rd Wed every month, potluck and mtg., Seeley Lake Comm. Hall.

Senior Nutrition Program, Mon-Tues-Wed at noon. Open to the public. Seeley Lake Comm. Hall.

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# Made in Montana

## Rustics - Renowned for Log Homes

Rustics of Lindbergh Lake, Inc., Swan Valley, has become internationally known over the past few years for their quality, handcrafted log homes constructed in the log yard near Condon.

Rustics recently shipped a log home to Japan - the second building constructed here to travel overseas. Owner and president, Bob Ford, supports the Made In Montana program, and has worked with like-minded folks around the state to promote the sale of Montana-made products and services.

According to Paul Swinson, who works in marketing and sales for Rustics, the biggest task in selling a home overseas "is getting it shipped over there." Rustics utilizes the services of a Butte shipping and transport company to send log homes overseas.

Rustics' major market for log homes is out of state, according to Swinson. The corporation, like other businesses in the wood-products industry, is affected by the health of the nationwide housing industry and the ups and downs of the general economy.

Bob Ford, who became owner of Rustics in 1979, was a successful dealer for the log homes in Lincoln, Nebraska before he moved to Montana. He bought Rustics from Jim Busch, who started the company in 1970. Ford piloted the business through the economic recessions of 1979 and 1981, as well as more recent economic good times.

Paul Swinson believes there are several reasons why Rustics has been successful in the competitive housing markets. The FHA-VA approved homes are entirely handcrafted. These pre-assembled log structures are built "in the yard" according to Swinson, to insure a good fit when they are moved to building sites. Swinson believes that Rustics homes are superior to machine-milled "kit" log homes because of the consistent construction quality. "A Rustics home in Tennessee will be built with the same quality and techniques as a Rustics home in Montana," Swinson said.

Each log is hand peeled, scribed and fitted by experienced builders. The "trough notch" or V-notch cut lengthwise in the logs, makes the walls fit tight. These troughs are then insulated with fiberglass and the outside walls caulked. Full-length logs are used for the walls. This increases the stability of the structure. In earthquake-prone areas, like Japan and California, this has been a popular feature.

Rollie Matthew, of Matthew Brothers Construction, area dealer for Rustics for the past six years, is impressed with the quality of the Rustics log homes. "Rustics is a well-established company," Matthew said, adding that the log homes are registered with the international building code book, and the company has "contributed a lot to the testing of log homes" with respect to engineering standards and building code requirements.

In addition to Matthew Brothers Construction, there are about 50 distributors nationwide, according to Swinson. These dealers, who also handle on-site construction and finish work of the log buildings, will soon be able to use a new video presentation, recently filmed at Rustics, as a marketing tool to sell the log homes.

Swinson is optimistic about the commercial potential of the video, which will also be available through Rustics' direct sales program, through mail order or for people who stop in at the office near Condon.

The video follows the construction process from the cutting of the trees through notching of the logs to a tour of a finished log home.

The most popular home sold by Rustics and dealers is "about 1800 square feet," according to Swinson. Rustics also builds small structures, such as garages and small offices and, of course, larger lodges and residences.

The Vorhauer residence on Sourdough Island, Salmon Lake, is a Rustics home. The First Valley Bank, Seeley Lake, is another structure built at the Rustics yard and finished at Seeley Lake.

There are several Rustics homes in the Seeley Swan area. A few are "model homes" which dealers may show to interested clients.



Jim Webb notches a log at Rustics.

Rustics has had a substantial impact on the local economy and, as a year-round average, employs "about 35 people," according to Swinson. (This does not include people employed by the local Rustics dealer). Mike Manzitto was recently elected vice president of the corporation and oversees day-to-day business of the company, according to Swinson. Marty Kux is the controller, and Doug Kochenderfer is in

charge of direct sales. Additionally, Rustics offers custom floor plans to customers. Bill Shoup drafts these plans.

Swinson is optimistic about the future for Rustics log homes. Several projects are "in the works" and Swinson believes that the current housing situation will improve because of favorable interest rates and increasing popularity of log homes in the western United States.



### TREASURES, park to park

*Treasure State, Last of the Big-Time Splendors, Crown of the Continent, Naturally Inviting -- all are descriptions of Montana. MONTANA TREASURES, Park to Park, will focus on places in Montana that have inspired such descriptions.*

#### SKALKAHO PASS

The best way to the Bitterroot, if you like adventure, is to travel over the Sapphire Mountains by way of Skalkaho Pass (Hwy. 38) from Philipsburg to Hamilton in the Bitterroot Valley.

Philipsburg, an old silver mining town, hugs the foot of the Flint Creek Range (east of the Sapphire Mountains) in an open valley about 5000 feet in elevation. The climb from the Philipsburg Valley, on unpaved road, to the top of the pass at 7,260 feet is gradual and follows the West Fork of Rock Creek through forests of Douglas Fir.

Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine (phone 859-3530) is open for rock hounds and gem hunters throughout the summer about halfway between

Philipsburg and the top of the pass.

Going down is the thrilling part. The drop, on the western slope into the Bitterroot Valley, (elev. 3,500) is more severe. The road traverses the steep sides of the Skalkaho Creek Canyon and passes Skalkaho Falls where the creek takes the direct route to the bottom. A wide spot in the road allows safe parking for photographers.

Skalkaho is a Flathead Indian word which means "muddy hole" or "beaver hole" and must refer to the character of the stream near the bottom of the canyon.

A side trip: just before reaching Hamilton, drive up Sleeping Child Creek, to Sleeping Child Hot Springs (phone 363-6250) for a swim and celebrate the journey.

#### MONTANA INFO • Tourist Information Service

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