

PATRIOT

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Vol. 1, No. 33

677-2022

"VOICE OF THE VALLEY"

754-2365

December 31, 1986

Montana Outfitters and Guides Convention

Jack Rich to represent area

At the recent annual Montana Outfitter and Guides Convention, held at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Jack Rich, of Double Arrow Outfitters in Seeley Lake, was elected to the Board of Directors representing that portion of the state known as Fish and Game District No. 2.

The North American Outfitter Association Board of Directors meeting was also held in conjunction with the Montana Outfitter and Guides annual meeting in Great Falls on December 19. C.B. Rich, also of Double Arrow Outfitters, was re-elected for a third term as president. North American Outfitters is an organization combining the state outfitter organizations of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Utah, New Mexico, California and Alaska.

Eastern Montanans back Seeley 200 Race

Thanks to generous donations from Eastern Montana businesses, the Wilder-ness Sportsman's Club is now only \$1500 away from its \$6,000 purse goal for the Seeley Lake 200 Sled Dog Race set for January 29 through February 1.

Ray Corcoran Trucking and Ed Corcoran Trucking, Billings, donated a combined total of \$750 toward the race purse last week, according to race committee member, Elinor Williamson.

"We really appreciate the support from these businessmen," Williamson said, adding that Seeley Lake residents have continued to support the race. "The Seeley Lake Women's Club recently donated \$100, too," she pointed out.

The race purse now totals \$4,500. Other substantial donations (\$500 or more) have come from a Swan Valley resident, the Missoula Electric Cooperative, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, and Missoula General Hospital.

Legislators convene next week

The 1987 session of the Montana legislature will begin January 5 in Helena. Most representatives and senators from around the state will be moving to their temporary Helena homes this weekend and begin preparing for the 90-day session.

The State budget will be the most important problem that legislators will address. "The important issues will include, as always, the state budget and revenue for that budget," according to Jack Haffey, Anaconda, District 33 senator. District 33 includes Seeley Lake and the southern half of the Swan Valley.

Haffey indicated that taxation issues will be important, along with proposals to revamp portions of the Montana education system. "The proposals to consolidate small, rural schools may or may not prove to be efficient. . . but we need to review them," Haffey explained, adding that legislators need to find ways to raise money to finance services in

Montana. Haffey also acknowledged that legislators will be forced this year to take another hard look at the state's university system. "We're seeing proposals to change some universities to community colleges or to close some completely."

Janet Moore, House District 65 representative from Condon, agrees that this will be a tough session, especially in light of the "budget crunch" and current revenue fallout that the state is experiencing.

Earlier this fall, committees were chosen for the upcoming session, and Moore remained on the fish and game committee and the state administration committee. Moore met with area outfitters and sportsmen earlier this month to discuss proposals aimed at the fish and game committee. (See related story.)

WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday-Friday: Periods of snow showers, mainly in the mountains. Highs 25-35. Lows 15-25.



An aerial view of the Boyd Ranch as it looked in the 1920's. Today, only the large barn (lower center photo), two small sheds and the original bunkhouse are still standing. The white ranch house was moved to Ovando several years ago. The large home now

used by fish and game personnel on the Boyd Ranch was built where the original house used to be. See story and more photos on page 10.

OPINION

The New Year . . .

is upon us and we at the *Pathfinder* would like to take a moment to thank all of you for the support you have shown for our fledgling venture. Thank you subscribers, thank you advertisers, thank you contributors - and, special thanks for all the fan mail and the many kind remarks.

For our part, we aim to make *Pathfinder* one of the best community newspapers in Montana. Your support is the key ingredient in bringing that goal to fruition. We will do our best to continue to earn that support in the years ahead.

Having said that, it may seem duplicitous to announce in this issue an increase in subscription rates. Our new rates, though, are still well below the norm in Montana (and may still be the lowest in the state). We confess that in this, our first year, we initially set our rates very low in order to entice you into subscribing. A word of reassurance to our advertisers: no increases in advertising rates are contemplated.

We wish all of you a year of fulfillment and happiness.

- Dick Potter

Give us a break, Dick! (#1)

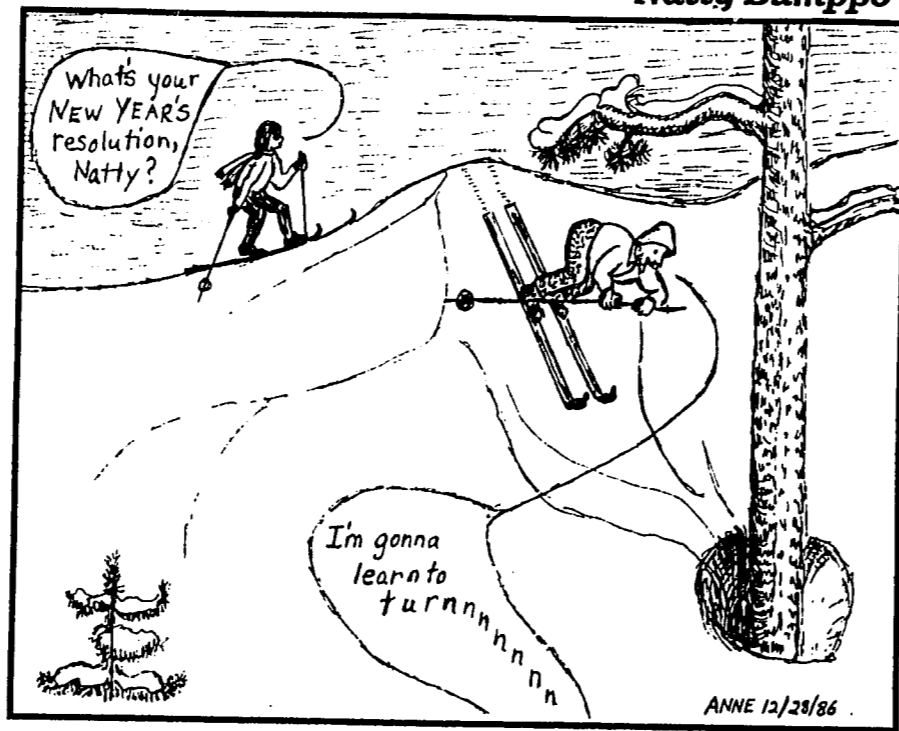
To the Editor:

In a recent issue, *The Pathfinder* took a couple of shots at the Chamber and the Survey Committee. Admittedly, both groups move slowly sometimes but each has made significant strides in the past year and paved the way for better things for our area in the coming year.

Regarding tourism, the "Two-Nation Vacation" idea and "environmentally sensitive tourism" are state-of-the-art concepts and we need to pursue them aggressively. The next meeting of the "Two-Nation Vacation" group is scheduled for January 24th and you can be sure the Chamber will be well-represented there.

At this point, I find no evidence that the Flathead Chambers have cinched Highway 93 as the "Trail of the Big Bear." Highway 83 has the scenic and wildlife qualities for this program, but if we want them to come our way, we must provide facilities to handle tourists by the busload!

Jeff Macon
Seeley Lake



Natty Bumppo

Give us a break, Dick! (#2)

To the Editor:

The recent editorial, "The Valley of Lost Opportunities," raised the question - "Where are you, Chamber of Commerce?" - as if the little log building in town packed its bags and headed south for the winter. But the Chamber is not an IT. The Chamber is PEOPLE. So, where are they?

Well, there are some of us who spend a great deal of time trying to promote tourism, economic development, and improved quality of life for the residents of the Valley. But our numbers are small, our time is limited and, with the exception of a part-time Executive Secretary, we are unpaid volunteers. Many of us have our own small businesses and families which require a lot of our time and energy. We cannot do it all.

Our Valley was tailor-made for tourism. We invite people in, they come, they love it, they spend their money, they go home. We couldn't agree more that a comprehensive plan for the promotion of tourism is desperately needed. Yesterday. All we need to get it going is one person who has the time, energy, commitment and expertise to head up such a project. This special person must: (1) pull the community together and convince it to get excited about tourism; (2) raise the money necessary to fund the project; (3) be willing to travel far and frequently to promote the Valley; (4) be at least semi-skilled in speaking, marketing and promotion, and politics; and (5) be willing to work for nothing but the satisfaction of a job well done, since the Chamber cannot afford to pay for any of this. We would welcome this Knight in Shining Armor with open arms, and would assist him or her as much as possible.

The sad part is that we know we have that Knight in Shining Armor within our membership - not necessarily in the form of one special person, but in the diverse talents, imaginations, and energies of us all. The Chamber, like a chain, is only as strong as its weakest link, and we have plenty of weak links. They know who they are. They're the ones who complain because the Chamber "doesn't do anything for them." They're the ones who won't join project committees because they don't like going to meetings. They're the ones who don't pay their membership dues or

buy ads in the Chamber brochure or support Chamber fundraisers.

We are a small group of humans in the Chamber - we need everybody doing something in order to succeed. So keep prodding, *Pathfinder*! Keep pointing out that our neighbors to the west and north are going to grow fat and sassy from their diet of tourism dollars. And, when people begin to wonder what the haze is drifting eastward with the wind over the Missions, you can tell them it's the dust from the trails of the tourists heading up highway 93.

As for us, we'll keep doing the best we can.

Toni Hale
Grace LeFebvre
Seeley Lake

Business of the Week THE FILLING STATION



Don and Barbara Larson of The Filling Station offer the largest selection of imported beer and wine in the Valley. Every Wednesday night is import night, with special prices for wine "by the glass" and imported beer.

Don Larson, who was born and raised in Thompson Falls, Montana, bought The Filling Station (formerly The Seeley Lake Inn) eight years ago and has continued to expand on the "filling station" theme.

They now offer hamburgers, chicken and tacos, and will soon be serving food until 2 a.m. In addition to expanding their food-service hours, they are also adding more items to their hamburger menu.

The Filling Station now sponsors nineball pool and cribbage tournaments every Tuesday and Thursday night, and live music and live poker every weekend. During the summer, Don and Barbara participate in area horseshoe pitching events and often sponsor horseshoe tournaments in Seeley Lake.



FDIC

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Give us a break, Dick! (#3)

To the Editor:

What prompted your sudden attitude change? The Valley of Lost Opportunities? Where are you, Chamber? I cannot help but recall your last plea to Valley residents concerning your lack of Letters to the Editor. Apathy is a tough one to deal with, isn't it? Well, one way to create Letters to the Editor is to stir up a controversy.

Your editorial of December 18th was not unheeded, and its content has been researched and discussed. Questions have been asked and answers are forthcoming. But, I would like to address you - a member of the Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

You know exactly where the Chamber is. Surely you meant - "Where are you, Chamber MEMBERS?" We consider this amended question daily. We regrettably understand your vision of "Lost Opportunities" - but it is very SAD to defeat those dedicated members who do take their valuable time (away from business and family) and who do make a valuable contribution to the accomplishments of the Chamber. Since there is only a limited number of such members (usually the same ones), why not make suggestions more POSITIVE? Instead of shrugging off a beautiful 4-color brochure and being marginally grateful, why not hearty applause and a helping hand on the next project? Ideas are a dime a dozen, workers are invaluable.

Are you suggesting that you feel the Trail of the Big Bear and the Visitors Association are worthy enough for hours of your valuable time? Or, perhaps, you and your business would help fund a paid professional staff which will do the work for us because we are all too busy? If both answers are "no," then you understand our inherent problems. If "yes" to either one - where have you been? We've been looking for you!

From long observation - the only real "Lost Opportunities" are those directed to others for accomplishment, while those who "directed" or "talked" turned and retreated into their own private lives.

Addrien Marx
Seeley Lake



Need a photo from the Pathfinder?

Just give us a call at
754-2365
3 x 5 Prints: \$2.00
5 x 7 Prints: \$3.00

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 1-STOP, Monday-Sunday, next to 1st Valley Bank in Seeley Lake.

Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Seeley Lake, MT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Pathfinder, P.O. Box 702, Seeley lake, MT 59868.

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| Rovero's | Go In For Broke Motel |
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| Fred's Lounge, Missoula | Seeley Lake Auto Parts |
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| Wood & Things | Double Front Chicken, Missoula |
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| Zip Beverage, Missoula | Billie Shiner |
| Artistic Expressions | Bill Shoupe |
| Timberline Building Materials | Ann Sanders |
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| Stoney's 4-G's, Greenough | Verne & Mary Jean Paxton |
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| Good Times General Store | Dorothy Crosby |

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January 1, 2, 3 & 4

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community members are invited to submit dates, times and locations of events, meetings and other happenings. Submission deadline: Friday, 4 pm; call 677-2022 or 754-2365.

Events

Jan 9, Vietnam Night, 8pm, Driftriders Snowmobile Club
Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
Jan 16, 17, 18, YAMAFEST, Seelye Lake.
Bingo, 2nd & 4th Thurs every month, open to public, 7pm, Comm Hall, Seelye Lake.

Public Meetings

Jan 8, Seelye Lake Area Chamber of Commerce gen mtg, 7pm, Seelye Swan High School cafeteria, Seelye Lake.
Jan 13, Missoula County High School Board mtg, 7:30pm, Big Sky High School, Missoula.
Jan 20, Seelye Lake Refuse Disposal District Board mtg, 7:30pm, Double Arrow Ranch Landowners office, Seelye Lake.
QRU (Condon), 1st & 3rd Mon every month.
QRU (Seelye Lake), 1st and 3rd Fri every month, 7:30pm, REA bldg, Seelye Lake.
Rural Fire District, 1st Tues, Regular Firefighters bus mtg, Plum Creek, 7pm; 2nd Tues, training mtg, Plum Creek, 7pm; 3rd Tues, Trustees mtg, 7:30pm, Seelye Lake.
SOS Trustees mtg, 2nd Mon every month.
Water District, 2nd Tues every month, 8pm, REA bldg, Seelye Lake.

Other

Jan 5, Seelye Swan High School/Elementary Schools, school classes in session.
Jan 7 (Weds), Bookmobile, Potomac School, 10am-12pm; Sunset School, 12:30-1:30pm; Clearwater Junction, 2-3pm; Seelye Lake town, 3:30-5:30pm.
Jan 8 (Thurs), Bookmobile, Seelye Lake Elem School, 9am-12pm; Seelye Lake town, 12:30-2:30pm.
Adult Volleyball, Weds, 7-9:15pm, Elem School Gym, Seelye Lake.
Men's Basketball League, Mon, 7-9pm, Elem School Gym, Seelye Lake.
Refuse Disposal Site, Winter Hours (October 1 thru April 30): Wed & Sat, 10am-4pm.
Swan Valley Community Library, Weds, 10am-6pm; Sat, 10am-3pm, Condon.
EMERGENCY: 911 (Seelye Lake or Condon); 1-728-0911 (Greenough or Ovando).

Clubs & Organizations

Jan 5, OSCR mtg, 7pm, Lew Mitchell residence, Seelye Lake.
Jan 8, Wilderness Sportsmans Club gen mtg, 7:30pm, Leisure Lodge, Seelye Lake.
AARP, 1st Mon every month, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
Atanon, Mon, 7pm, Lutheran Church, Seelye Lake.
Alcoholics Anonymous (Condon), Thurs, 7:30pm, Swan Valley Elem School, Condon.
Alcoholics Anonymous (Seelye Lake), Sun, 7pm, Mill basement, Seelye Lake; Weds, 7pm, REA Bldg, Seelye Lake.

Happy New Year

PYRAMID MOUNTAIN LUMBER INC. Seelye Lake, Montana
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Bob Baier remains in critical condition

Bob Baier, 25, Seelye Lake, remains in critical, but stable, condition at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula following a three-vehicle collision near Potomac last Tuesday night. The wreck involved a logging truck, a small van and the Baier vehicle. The driver of the van was treated at a Missoula hospital and released last Wednesday.

Baier sustained serious head injuries in the collision and has been unconscious since the accident. According to Bob's father, Norm Baier of Seelye Lake, Bob is "holding his own" and is able to move around somewhat, which doctors see as a hopeful sign.

Norm expressed appreciation for all the concern shown by Seelye Lake residents during the past week, but added that hospital staff members are restricting Bob's visitors to family members only until he regains consciousness.

Refuse board still has four openings

The Missoula County Commissioners hope to appoint four people to the Seelye Lake Refuse Disposal District board by late January, according to commissioner Ann Mary Dussault. As of January 1, terms expire for Dan Cainan, Don Doucett and George Hart, and summer resident Dan Mizner is resigning.

Dussault explained that it is customary for board members to continue to serve until they are reappointed or a successor is chosen.

There are eight people on the refuse board, including one alternate. Four members must be present at meetings in order for the board to conduct any business. The refuse board did not hold a meeting in November, and the December meeting was not held due to lack of a quorum. The next meeting is set for January 20.

For more information about applying to the refuse board, contact the Missoula County Commission at 721-5700 or Kent Brown, refuse board chairman, 793-5595.

Davis sentenced & Pike changes plea to guilty

Roger Neil Davis, 20, Seelye Lake, was sentenced on December 18 by district court Judge Greene to 10 years in prison on each of four counts of burglary and one count of felony theft to run concurrent with each other, with sentence suspended, on the condition that, upon loss of employment, he spend 120 days in the Missoula County jail, with credit for four days already spent. Davis was also ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$1506.24.

In October, Davis pled guilty to burglaries which occurred on the Double Arrow Ranch in June 1986 and to theft of cash from a vehicle parked at River Bend Campground.

Dennis Vincent Pike, 21, Seelye Lake, was also charged with four counts of burglary and one count of felony theft in the same incident, and pled guilty to those charges on December 2 before district court Judge Hensen. Sentencing for Pike has been set for January 20.

Part of Davis' sentence required that he not associate with Pike.

OSCR meeting January 5

Area residents interested in helping with the February 7 OSCR 50-kilometer ski race should attend the next organizational meeting set for January 5, 7 p.m., at the Lew Mitchell residence in Seelye Lake.

For information about entering the race or participating in related events such as the cross-country ski clinic or the 10-kilometer ski race also scheduled for February 7, contact the Seelye Lake Area Chamber of Commerce at 677-2880, or write OSCR, Box 516, Seelye Lake, MT 59868.

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YAMAFEST interviews will air January 10

YAMAFEST promoters Betty Tingley of Missoula and Grace LeFebvre, Seelye Lake, will soon be discussing the upcoming snowmobile festival on Kalispell-area radio and television stations. Those interviews will air on January 10.

Jim Ludwig of television station KCFW, channel 6, will conduct an interview that will air between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday Magazine Show on January 10.

Mark Armstrong of radio station KJJR AM will conduct the interview that will air January 10 at 8:30 a.m.

Betty and Mike Tingley, who own Mike Tingley Yamaha in Missoula have been actively organizing this year's YAMAFEST, set for January 16, 17 and 18, and Betty will be discussing the festival during the interviews.

Grace LeFebvre will discuss the YAMAFEST Calendar of Events on behalf of the Seelye Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

YAMAFEST organizers expect a large number of participants this year in the various snowmobile events, including a radar run, snoedo (for children), poker run and scenic trail rides.

Snowmobile clubs from Seelye Lake, Missoula, Ronan, Hamilton and Kalispell will be participating in the festival.

YAMAFEST is sponsored by Yamaha dealers in Missoula, Hamilton, Ronan and Columbia Falls; the Seelye Lake Area Chamber of Commerce; and the Yamaha Motor Corporation.

For more information about YAMAFEST, contact the Seelye Lake Area Chamber of Commerce at 677-2880.

Business Briefs

Saloon has new owners

Ron and Cindy Sanguins, Seelye Lake, recently purchased The Saloon. They are hosting a party on New Year's Eve to celebrate their new venture and to say "farewell" to Rocky Zavarelli and former owner, June Savage.

Ron and Cindy moved to Seelye Lake from Missoula. Cindy worked at the Elbow Room for several years. Ron is currently the service manager for Interstate Diesel Products in Missoula.

"Seelye Lake has been my second home for twenty-five years," Cindy said, adding that she enjoys her work and looks forward to some minor remodeling of The Saloon building. Ron and Cindy do not plan to change the name of the business, but will be expanding the business hours.

HOLLAND LAKE LODGE MAKES A CHANGE

Howard and Lorin Uhl recently became the sole owners of Holland Lake Lodge after negotiating with their former partners Dick and Carole Schaeffer.

Lodge services will continue as they have in the past, with no major changes proposed.

Holland Lake Lodge now offers fine dining with meals served in "The Lake Room" daily.

The Lodge also accommodates visitors, and last week opened their ice skating rink. During the summer months, the Lodge offers boat rentals, horseback rides and guided trips into the backcountry.

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Bob & Janet Sanderson

LIVE MUSIC
Saturday, January 3

Montana Music Machine

Bar Hours: Noon - 2:00 am
(Happy Hour: 5-7 every evening)
Cafe Opens 10:00 am



CORNUCOPIA by Michele Potter

Sara Macon (Seelye Lake) grew up in Georgia. She says she doesn't know how it started, but it's tradition on New Year's in the South to eat black-eyed peas. Legend has it, "the peas will bring health, wealth and good luck for the coming year, and people ate them whether they believed that or not!" Sara remarked. Someone once asked Ellen Allen (formerly from Dallas-Forth Worth and now an Ovando resident) if eating them has brought her any luck. If she hadn't eaten them, she replied, she didn't want to think of the kind of luck she might have had! Although Sara prefers fresh peas, the recipe she has provided is for dried, packaged black-eyed peas. Serve peas as a vegetable side dish.

The makers of V8 Vegetable Juice have come up with a refreshingly crisp and light (only 40 calories per serving) non-alcoholic drink called the Sloe 8 Fizz - enjoy it New Year's Eve or any other time for a quick pick-me-up.

1987 "GOOD LUCK" BLACK-EYED PEAS
by Sara Macon

1 cup black-eyed peas	1 to 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
12 cups cold water	1 tablespoon celery, chopped
1/2 pound slab bacon or ham hock	1 clove garlic, finely minced
1 small onion, finely minced	

Soak black-eyed peas in 6 cups cold water overnight. Drain off water. Simmer slab bacon or ham hock in 6 cups water for about 20 minutes; add peas, onion, parsley, celery and garlic. Simmer until peas are very tender. *Sara's suggested cooking time is about 2-1/2 hours and she says you can add more water if necessary to cook peas to the very tender stage. 4 servings.

SLOE 8 FIZZ

5-3/4 cups V8 Vegetable Juice, chilled (46 ounces)	2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 bottle (10 ounces) club soda, chilled	Lemon slices

In 2-quart pitcher, mix well V8 juice, club soda and lemon juice. Serve over ice cubes in 10-ounce glasses. Garnish with lemon slices. Makes 7 cups.

For more V8 beverage recipes, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Drink Well-Feel Great, Box 1232, Adams Avenue, Bensalem, PA 19020.

Oftentimes we experience a letdown after the holidays, including the sugar "blues." Try some new and different winter recipes to please the eye and excite the palate. Sheila Devins (Seelye Lake) has experimented with tofu (in fact, she wants to write a recipe book of all her tofu recipes). Sourdough ebokery is not new to Misty Sarvis (Seelye Lake) - she could write a book, too. After the holidays, Sheila and Misty will be sharing some of their ideas and recipes. Have some "food" ideas to beat the blahs? Please share them with us - send to Cornucopia, Box 702, Seelye Lake 59868 or call 677-2022.

VALLEY MARKET FOOD & FARM
677-2121 or 677-2122

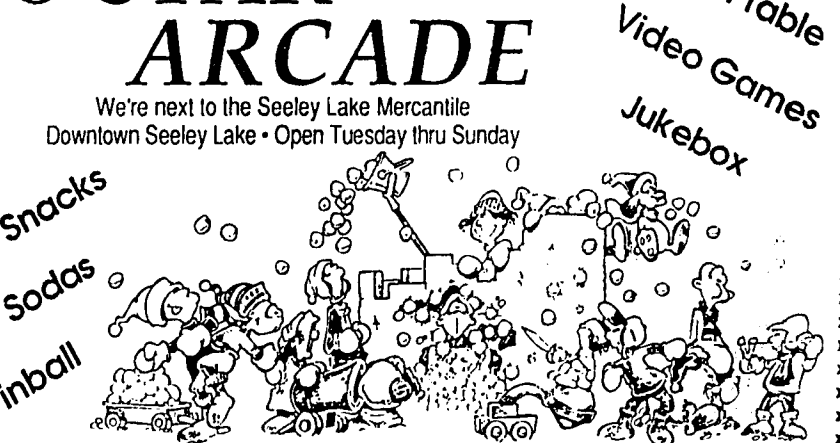
Happy New Year

5 STAR for Kids ARCADE

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We're next to the Seelye Lake Mercantile
Downtown Seelye Lake • Open Tuesday thru Sunday

Snacks
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This ad worth 25¢

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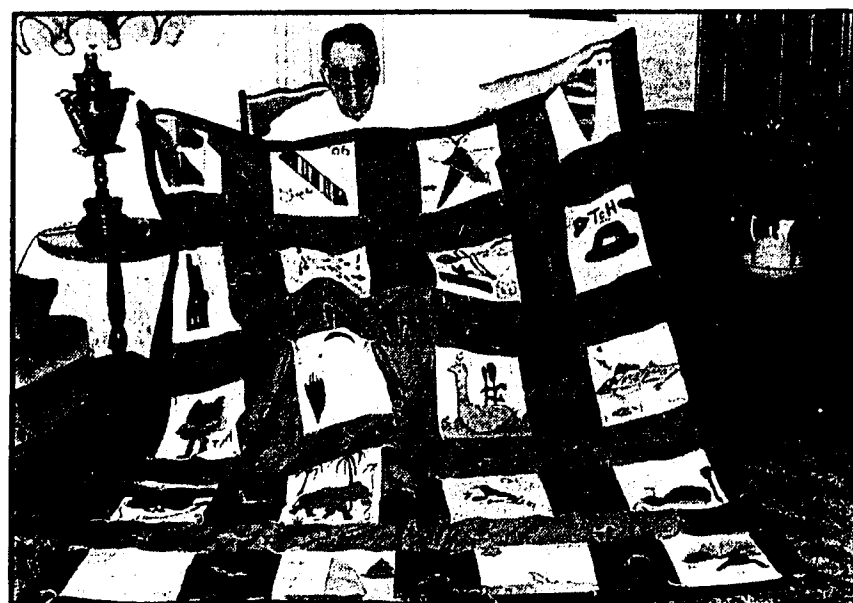
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ROVERO'S
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Mel Mohler, Swan Valley, recently won the Salmon Prairie School Quilt. Nineteen Salmon Prairie Elementary students made the "blocks" and local resident, Nancy Kraft, assembled the finished product. Two of Mohler's grandsons, Randy and Allen Seelye, contributed blocks for the quilt.

TODD'S (JR)
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Tips for a safe holiday

Celebrating a happy holiday season ends quickly if tragedy strikes in the form of a fire, car accident or food or other poisoning.

The numerous types of accidents that can suddenly halt joyous occasions are increased greatly by parties, guests and even the preparation for and enjoyment of Christmas and New Year's festivities.

Precautions need not diminish the enjoyment of a holiday party but may ensure a happy ending, especially where alcoholic beverages are served. Hosts should avoid tempting guests with too-frequent refills, or with an abundance of rich, fatty, salty foods.

The host should arrange safe transportation home for guests who do overindulge, advises the Montana Highway Traffic Safety Division. Use of seat belts and child safety seats is encouraged, as all holiday travel with winter road conditions can be dangerous.

Roy Linn, Extension Service safety specialist at Montana State University, advises advance preparations if party guests include small children. All medicines, poisons or other hazardous materials, including holly berries and household cleaning items, should be put where children can't get them.

Salmon Prairie News

by Suzanne Vernon

Mel Mohler, Swan Valley, won the Salmon Prairie Quilt which was raffled at the annual school Christmas program held December 19. The school quilt is a tradition started about three years ago. Salmon Prairie Elementary students each design quilt blocks which are incorporated into the quilt.

This year, 19 students worked on the quilt. Nancy Kraft put the blocks together. Mothers and students tied the quilt.

The raffle raised more than \$200, which will go into a special fund for field trips and other special projects.

The annual Christmas play was also a huge success. The small school was packed with parents and friends of the gradeschool kids who performed A Christmas Carol.

Students sent Christmas cards to the Swan River Youth Camp as another Christmas project.

A Salmon Prairie Cookbook is also in the works, and Elementary students will soon begin working on that project.

Salmon Prairie teachers Cece Jasper and Alice Ponce have little trouble persuading students to study this time of year. "If they don't get their math done, they can't go sledding," Mrs. Jasper said recently. Students are also allowed to enjoy cross-country skiing during recess. Now, how many schools offer that sort of incentive?!

In other news, last Monday night Bob and Renee Anderson led a large crew of carolers who traveled via a "five-wheeler" and serenaded Salmon Prairie residents during the evening hours.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WILLY-BILL SPORTS
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Pastor Christopher Williams
The Blackfoot Parish
Ovando, Potomac, Seeley Lake

ANOTHER YEAR: How that phrase strikes us depends on whether we are looking back or looking ahead. 1987 can be twelve months of the same old thing or it can be 365 days of new opportunity. Tragically, most people want to "get wasted" as they enter the new year. Probably, because the stroke of midnight tonight simply means another tick of the clock, another year gone, another year hauntingly closer to death.

To beat the post-Christmas blues and meet the New Year's challenge, let the baby whose birthday was celebrated December 25th grow up and follow Him. Allow Christ into your life this new year; the opportunity may not present itself again.

If we were to think of our lifespan as a single day, say from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. - then, if you're 25, it's almost past lunchtime. If you're 35, it's mid-afternoon. If you're 50, it's already past dinner and moving on into the evening. If you're 65, the ten o'clock

news is about to come on. Life is too short and too precious to waste. To borrow the Navy recruiter's slogan, "Live the adventure!" It is never too late to start living.

Life is a journey. live it trustingly. . . . "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me." (Psalm 23:4)

Life is a task. live it obediently. . . . "If you love Me you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15)

Life is a mission. live it helpfully. . . . "Be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another just as God in Christ gladly has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

Life is a contest. live it earnestly. . . . "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like mature people, be strong; let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16: 13,14)

Life is a battle. live it courageously. . . . "Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid for the Lord God is with thee." (Joshua 1:9)

Life is a promise. live it hopefully. . . . "I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

How will next year be different for you; what difference will you make in 1987? Live the Adventure: Come follow Jesus the Christ.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

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
Pastor D. Paul Hickman
677-2268
Sun. School, 9:45 am
Sun. Services, 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7:30pm
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 & Prayer, Wed. 7:30 pm

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

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 & 6:30 pm
Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 pm

Community Bible Church, Seeley
Pastor Rob Morris, 677-2837
Sunday School, 10:00 am
Sunday Worship, 11:00 am

Mass to be held New Year's Day

The Seeley Swan Catholic Communities will be celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on Thursday, New Year's Day.

The Swan Valley Catholic Community will hold mass at 8:45 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church near Condon.

The Living Water Catholic Community in Seeley Lake will hold mass at 11:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran in Seeley Lake.

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Mon-Sat 9 am - 9 pm

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<p>SEELEY SWAN REALTY Box 501 Seeley Lake, MT 59868 406/677-2828 Your Full-Service Office</p>	<p>5 WOODED ACRES near airport, mountain views, horses okay. \$15,500 with easy terms. Seeley Swan Realty, 677-2828.</p> <p>3-BEDROOM HOUSE SOUTH OF SEELEY LAKE - comfortable, cozy, woodstove, garage. \$25,500 low down - trade for anything. Seeley Swan Realty, 677-2828.</p> <p>DELUX 28 X 60 MOBILE HOME w/large garage/shop on 6.5 ac. Close to Seeley Lake. \$79,900.00 Joan Cowan Realty, 677-2355.</p> <p>NEWER SPLIT LEVEL 3 bedroom home on 9+ acres, overlooking a pond. Just out of Seeley Lake. \$61,900.00 Joan Cowan Realty, 677-2355.</p> <p>RECREATIONAL LAND. 2 to 10 acres. Great selection - mountain views, creek or river frontage, secluded or close to town. END OF YEAR SPECIAL: Two bedroom log home with large deck, city water and close to town. \$64,000.00 - Double Arrow Realty 677-2204 or 1-800-821-3709.</p>	<p>1983 WOODLAKE 2 bdrm mobile home on Seeley Lake Homesite lot. Close to town/schools. Easy terms for complete package, w/25% down. Rich Real Estate, 677-2467.</p> <p>SEELEY LAKE HOMESITE LOT w/city water, septic tank & drainfield. Hook-up for mobile home. Rich Real Estate, 677-2467.</p> <p>5-ACRE PARCELS. Level ground with trees and meadow. \$10,000.00 to \$18,000.00 - Call Cindy or Cheryl. Seeley Condon Realty, 677-2484.</p> <p>CHALET-STYLE CABIN on 8 acres, bordering Forest Service property. Call Bud. Seeley Condon Realty, 677-2484.</p> <p>2 BDRM LOG HOME on two plus acres. New oak kitchen, new bath, attached garage, large deck, spectacular views. \$55,000 terms. Seeley Swan Realty, 754-2233.</p> <p>10 ACRES. Views of both Mission & Swan, county road, utilities nearby. \$25,000 terms. Seeley Swan Realty, 754-2233.</p>	<p>RICH REAL ESTATE Box 505 Seeley Lake, MT 59868 406/677-2467 Your Oldest Real Estate Firm</p>
<p>JOAN COWAN REALTY Box 369 Seeley Lake, MT 59868 406/677-2355 The Professional Realtor</p>	<p>DOUBLE ARROW REALTY Drawer E Seeley Lake, MT 59868 406/677-2204 or 1-800/821-3709 Prime Recreational Property</p>	<p>SEELEY CONDON REALTY Box 417 Seeley Lake, MT 59868 406/677-2484 Six Salespeople to Serve You</p>	<p>SEELEY SWAN REALTY Box 1111 Condon, MT 59826 406/754-2233 Specializing in Swan Valley</p>

OUTDOORS

Outfitters propose new licensing

Montana outfitters see some hard times ahead for people in their industry if existing nonresident hunting laws remain in effect. In an attempt to solve some of the licensing problems, the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA) is proposing that up to half of all nonresident hunting licenses be set aside for outfitters who have booked clients, and that the other half of the licenses be set aside for friends and relatives of Montana residents.

"The survival of the industry could be at stake here," explained Jack Rich of Double Arrow Outfitters, Seeley Lake.

According to Rich, these proposals protect the Montana outfitter industry and allow Montanans to have first priority for licensing nonresidents, whether it is an outfitter licensing his clients, a landowner licensing his lessees, or a resident licensing nonresident friends or family members.

Additionally, the proposal sets a 30-day limitation on the time allowed for the purchase of these set-aside licenses. Any licenses left over after the 30-day period would be sold to nonresident hunters on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is not an ironclad set-aside, Rich pointed out, explaining that the 17,000 licenses (the number currently available) may not sell out in 30 days, leaving nonresident licenses still available to other applicants.

In 1986, 5,600, or roughly one-third of the nonresident licenses sold in Montana were set aside for outfitters who had booked clients. None were set aside for friends or relatives of residents. The Fish and Game Commission has approved these same regulations for 1987. (See related article.)

MOGA information states that there are now 454 licensed big game outfitters in Montana. The present 5,600 set-aside number works out to roughly 12 hunters for each outfitter. According to Rich, some good outfitters are being forced out of business in Montana because nonresident hunters make up a very high percentage of outfitted clients.

Other proposals drawn up by members of the outfitters association include:

-raise the nonresident fees for combination licenses to \$450.

-establish a game fund with money from fee increases. Monies collected would be set aside to pay for conservation easements, habitat improvement, and leasing or purchasing elk winter range on both private and public lands.

-sell an additional 3,000 deer "A" tags in Eastern Montana.

These proposals may face tough opposition during fish and game committee hearings in the upcoming legislative session. The Wildlife Federation is proposing a totally drawing-based allocation for nonresident hunting licenses, based on their belief that a drawing is the fairest alternative to the present system, and that it would provide an equal opportunity for all nonresidents.

Rich indicated that Montana outfitters are more concerned about economic stability in Montana than with providing equal opportunity to people who live outside of Montana.

"We would go to the wire opposing a full-fledged drawing. We see that as the kiss of death for the outfitting industry in Montana," he said.

Getting fat is good: for big game!

by Harley Yeager, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

When is putting on weight every year the acceptable thing to do?

The answer—when you're one of Montana's big game animals.

Wildlife biologists have known for years that those members of the bear family that eat well and put on the thickest layer of fat before entering their dens in late fall stand the best chance of surviving the cold days and nights of winter.

Yet, it also has been determined that other big game animals, such as deer, elk and pronghorn antelope, must likewise enter winter with a buildup of body fat if they are to survive the rigors of the season.

Males of big game species, in particular, very often enter winter in a less than prime condition, having exhausted a great deal of energy during the recently concluded breeding season. During the "rut," for example, a bull elk may well lose up to 20 percent of his total body weight. The more active a male is as a breeder, the less time he spends feeding and the more body weight he loses.

Winters with extremely cold temperatures and deep snows place stress on wildlife and, particularly, those animals that are in the poorest condition. It takes all the energy an animal can muster to dig through deep or crusted snow to find food. Cold temperatures aggravate the problem because the animal must eat increased amounts of forage to maintain its internal body heat. If enough forage is not available, the energy needed to maintain that heat is obtained through absorption of body fat. If enough fat has not been stored in an animal's tissues, the animal will die.



Dear Friends,

Thank you, each and every one of you, for your encouragement and support during 1986.

We at Pathfinder are grateful for your support and look forward to your suggestions as we welcome 1987.

Best wishes for a prosperous and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Dick and Michele Potter
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December Newsletter

by Mary Wessels

- January 8: General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Leisure Lodge, Guest Speaker: Kurt Alt, Area Biologist of Missoula.
- January 22: General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Leisure Lodge.
- January 23, 24, 25: Glacier View Race (150 miles)
- January 23 & 28: KGEZ (Kalispell) Broadcast, 11:07 am, Voice of the Valley with Mike Hart, Interview with Ron and Debbie Ogden and Elinor Williamson.
- January 28: Auction of the Mushers (ask WSC members for details), 7:30 pm, Filling Station, with Colonel Joe Clements of Lincoln, Montana.
- January 28, 29, 30, 31 & February 1: Seeley Lake 200 Sled Dog Race

Watch for regular monthly Wilderness Sportsmans Club (WSC) Newsletters in the Pathfinder! Included in the newsletter will be a calendar for you to clip out and save to remember meeting dates and events (this will surely make it impossible for you to forget or be uninformed!). Have an idea for the WSC Newsletter? Please call.

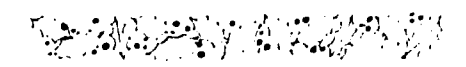
December 18 Meeting Summary - Can't thank the businesses and townspeople enough for their support and donations for the sled dog races. Keep those pledged donations coming in!

The highlight of the meeting was having a very special guest speaker, our local legislator Janet Moore from Condon. Thanks to Janet for taking time from her busy schedule to share her views and ideas and the special rundown of the history of the Fish and Game Department (as far back as the 1800's). Janet emphasized the importance of organizations such as the WSC. We have a "voice" in Montana to protect our way of life and the wildlife in this state.

The WSC presented proposals to Janet to take to the 1987 legislative sessions: (1) one grizzly bear kill per person in their lifetime; (2) change the procedure for buying the first waterfowl stamps of Montana so that collectors and non-hunters can buy the waterfowl stamp without buying a bird license (if these stamps can be sold without serial numbers on them, the money for these stamps would be a profit for the waterfowl programs of Montana); (3) only resident hunters with elk permits should be able to draw for cow elk permits and, then, the hunter should be required to surrender his bull tag (for area biological reasons); (4) license fee increase (Merle Gunsch presented his research findings - call 677-2316 for more details).

We're hoping to see more faces at our meetings and have more committed members to help share the responsibilities associated with activities of the WSC. We need your continued support. Bring a friend, too.

This & That - Elinor Williamson has been corresponding with Ted Schwinden. He's asked her for permission to borrow a quote from one of her recent letters to be used in his State of the State speech to be given the first of the year. Governor Schwinden is "mushing for Montana!" ... A proposal was made by WSC members to sponsor Brad Pozarnski, a musher from North Dakota, in the Seeley Lake 200. ... ADOPT-A-GATE - Want to know more? Well, you have to attend the next meeting to find out what this is all about. ... The General Membership Drive is coming up real soon. We're taking a survey of current members to determine how many are also National Rifle Association (NRA) members. We're striving to increase NRA membership in the WSC, since it is a necessity in order to acquire the lowest rates for liability insurance for the new shooting range. ... I've had more fun putting this WSC Newsletter together. Thanks to those members who provided generous support and assistance. See you at the next general meeting.



HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



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DOWN MEMORY LANE

The Boyd Ranch-Revisited

by Suzanne Vernon

Wandering through memories is a bit like strolling through a meadow, searching the tall grass for pheasants, walking the creek banks and drinking in the pungent swamp grass smells. Though the terrain is familiar, you're never quite sure what you'll find.

I recently spent an afternoon with Joe Atkinson, Greenough, and his cousin, Bill Boyd, Jr., Missoula. Both men grew up in the Blackfoot Valley. Joe is 80 and Bill is 79 years old. We "strolled" through some Blackfoot memories, digging up treasures from their youth spent together on the "Boyd Ranch," a sprawling cattle and sheep operation created by Bill Boyd, Sr. during the early 1900's.

The Boyd Ranch ran nearly 5,000 sheep, hundreds of cattle, and dozens of horses (including registered workhorses that each weighed nearly a ton). During the summer, perhaps fifty men worked to put up hay and repair fences on the ranch. Several hired hands worked on the ranch year 'round, according to Joe Atkinson, who spent 10 years living and working on his uncle's ranch.

The elder Bill Boyd came to Montana in the late 1800's. He was a logger, "a river-driver," and worked in the woods near Butte and Philipsburg before he moved to Ovando. He met his future wife, Minnie Atkinson at an Ovando community dance. Together they worked to build their 12,000 acre ranch (which, along with thousands of acres of adjoining leases, later became the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range).

During the ranching years of their marriage (about the turn of the century), Minnie raised their family and worked on the ranch while Bill Sr. kept busy logging for the Anaconda Company near Woodworth, Placid Lake and in the Blackfoot Valley. Slowly they were able to build up their herd of cattle. Bill Sr. was also an experienced butcher and operated a slaughterhouse which supplied beef to the ACM logging camps.

Theirs was a self-sufficient life-style. "Mether hauled water from the creek for seven years," Bill Jr. explained, adding that they finally acquired a light plant in 1918, which provided some electricity.

"We all worked like hell, seven days a week. I remember breakfast at ten after six until that place was sold," Bill Jr. said.

Winter ranch chores included cutting 100-pound blocks of ice from Salmon and other nearby lakes, and hauling them by sled to the ranch's ice-house to pack their precious cargo in sawdust for summer.

Securing firewood was another monumental job. It took from 90-100 logs, cut, split and stacked, to see the ranch through the winter.

Why so much wood? By the middle 1920's, there were no less than two dozen buildings, several of which had to be heated, at the main ranch site: the family house, two bunkhouses, the blacksmith shop, the slaughterhouse, several barns, the stud barn, and many sheep sheds.

Along with other chores, each spring 200 or more bum lambs had to be cared for. Minnie took on that responsibility, and Bill Jr. recalls that feeding times were a fiasco. Minnie finally designed a wooden barrier to hold the milk bottles. Holes were drilled in strategic locations so the milk-fed orphans could "nurse" from the bottles without trampling everything in sight, including Minnie.

Butchering hogs was another important job. Lard was rendered in a large, cast-iron pot suspended from poles over a fire. "You didn't want to burn the cracklin's," Bill Jr. chuckled. "Dad did that himself, until he got too old, then he delegated that job to me."

Some of the lard was mixed with cooked cornmeal for dog food. Bill Boyd, Sr. raised greyhounds and the fleet-footed animals killed coyotes and protected the large bands of sheep from predators. Roscoe, Rambler, Rex and Reno were the names of his favorite dogs.

Bill Jr., or "young Bill," as his family used to call him, was born on the ranch in 1907. He remembers being "home schooled" during much of his youth when the snow piled too deep to keep the nearby country school open. Since the teacher was hired for an entire year, she boarded at the Boyd Ranch, and continued to teach the Boyd family youngsters at home throughout the winter.

Even with a teacher living at the ranch, there were only a few hours each day dedicated to formal education. Classes began after the morning chores were completed, and "school" let out early in the afternoon, when Bill and his brothers would leave to hunt muskrats and trap mink near Cottonwood Creek.

Morning chores included milking about six "wild" milk cows. "Every year we'd have to break new cows," Bill laughed. The boys would have to rope the animals, make halters, and tie their feet to keep them from kicking. "I swore up and down, when I got old enough I'd buy some tame milk cows!" Bill said.

Joe Atkinson began working on the Boyd Ranch when he was a teenager and settled in with his uncle's family for several years.

When Bill and Joe recently sat and sorted through old photos, they came across a small black and white picture of a hen turkey being followed by five mallard ducklings, and they chuckled at the sight.

"That crazy Joe," Bill Jr. laughed, "he found some mallard duck eggs in underneath that hen. She hatched them out!" The family had raised turkeys on the ranch, and this particular hen had escaped the annual fall butchering.

"Come spring, she took to setting," Bill recalls. Since there were no tom turkeys on the ranch, young Joe decided that fertile, wild duck eggs might satisfy the hen's maternal instincts.

Five ducklings were soon hatched from the nest and, every morning, the hen turkey would diligently lead her youngsters 300 yards from the turkey house to Cottonwood Creek. "She would sit on the bank and watch them swim. How she knew to take them to water, I'll never know," Bill said, shaking his head.

Bill and Joe grew up in an era when nearly everything was built by hand. The sleighs used to skid logs in the winter were handewn, as were the logs which formed the main buildings and the gates that enclosed the dozen or so corrals.

"We had every kind of gate and door-latch you could imagine. Some of them were very unique," Bill Jr. explained, complimenting his father and others on their blacksmithing skills.



An historical study: Bill Monahan, William "Bill" Boyd, Sr., and E. R. Kilburn in front of the Ovando Mercantile, date unknown.

In addition to the large sheep and cattle herd, the Boyd Ranch was a haven for elk. "They loved those haystacks," Bill remembers. The elk came out of the South Fork of the Flathead to winter in the Blackfoot Valley. "I remember one Thanksgiving morning, there were 150-200 elk on the meadow," he said.

The elk did more than just "winter" in the valley. They loved the convenient stacks of hay. "They would paw it all to pieces," Bill said, indicating that the critters were not too popular among area ranchers. They frequently raised havoc. One time, Bill recalls, a stack tipped over and killed an elk, illustrating the zeal with which the animals went after the food.

The State of Montana, Department of Fish and Game, purchased the Boyd Ranch in 1948 and created the 50,000-acre Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range (which includes the original deeded land and about 38,000 acres of land leased from Champion Timberlands and the State of Montana). Bill Jr. feels it was a good thing that the state bought the land and is now protecting the wildlife resources there.

Driving through the ranch now, one can only imagine the scenes that remain so vivid in the memories of Bill Boyd, Jr. and Joe Atkinson. Very few of the original ranch buildings remain. The original ranch house was moved several years ago and now rests next to the Blackfoot Valley General Store in Ovando. The large old barn and two of the bunkhouses still remain, along with a couple of the smaller sheds.

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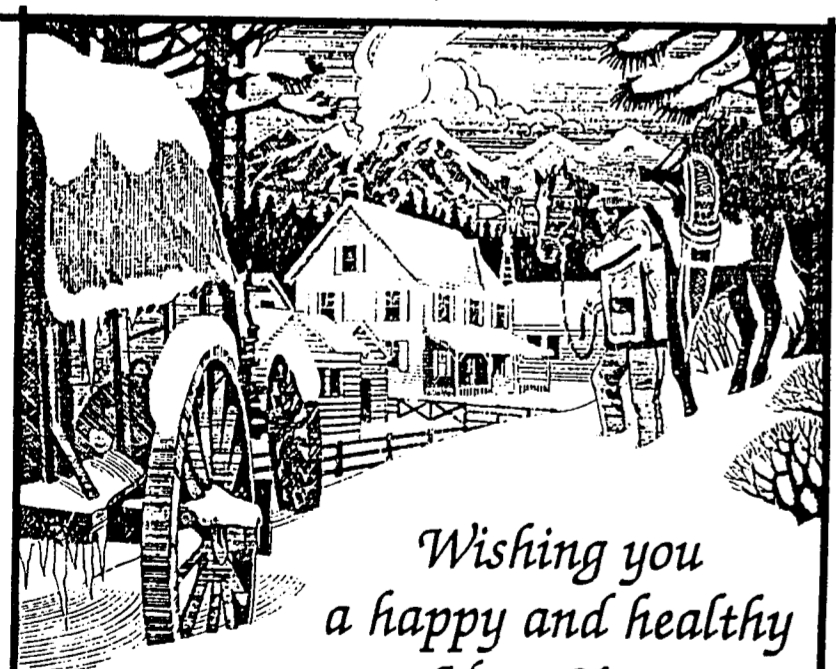
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Joe Atkinson in front of the old bunkhouse on the Boyd Ranch. The 32-volt light plant first used for electricity on the ranch was housed in the lean-to on the end of the bunkhouse.

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- FRIDAY JANUARY 30 POKER TOURNAMENT

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Swan Peak as seen from Highway 83.

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Happy New Year!

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OUTDOORS

Bird counts bring some surprises

Bird numbers are lower this year than average, according to observers who participated in bird counts last week in the Flathead and Missoula valleys and, also, near the Ninepipes Wildlife Refuge.

Observers near Bigfork tramped through the river bottom and woods from dawn to dusk in a fifteen-mile area surrounding the community on December 20. Some of the ponds were frozen, but the larger lakes and streams were open.

The 28 counters recorded 71 species of birds, 18 muskrats, three beavers, snowshoe and cottontail rabbits, red squirrels and one river otter (spotted by two folks who counted birds via canoe).

Noticeably missing were Bohemian waxwings, redpolls, and various finches.

Other birds counted only in very low numbers were the evening grosbeaks and red- and white-winged crossbills.

Some surprises: three red-breasted mergansers were seen, along with one grey catbird and an American robin. Individual robins sometimes winter in the Flathead, but are rarely seen in the count area. "We do have a robin every month of the year somewhere in the Flathead Valley," according to Jean Robocker, who recently compiled data from the day's observations.

Almost all species were down in number, Robocker said, except the Canada goose and mallard ducks.

11-year old hummingbird survives another migration

Hummingbirds are a popular topic in the Swan Valley during the summer months. Birdwatchers compare notes, including early arrivals and migration dates. In 1983, '84 and '85, a University of Arizona ecologist, Dr. William Calder banded many of the small birds here as part of his extensive research of the species. Dr. Calder has been banding and studying the birds in North America for 17 years.

In August of this year, one of Dr. Calder's banded birds, little X-18025, arrived at a Gothic, Colorado feeder and now claims the title of the oldest known hummingbird in North America.

Dr. Calder indicated in an article in *Atlanta Journal* in September that the "grand old lady" was at least a year old when she was tagged June 21, 1976.

Hummingbirds usually survive about four or five years according to the article. Little X-18025 greatly exceeded longevity expectations for her species.

At eleven years old, X-18025 has survived ten winter migration trips to Mexico, where hummingbirds gather each winter to feed on ample supplies of nectar and small insects.

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In the Missoula area, observers who scouted the hills surrounding the city found a total of 4,925 birds, representing 68 species. Thirty-five observers found high numbers of black-capped and mountain chickadees, and Harris sparrows.

Willis Heron, vice president of the Missoula area Audubon group, pointed out low numbers of Bohemian waxwings, and a complete absence of cedar waxwings, and red- and white-winged crossbills.

Overall, though, the count compares "pretty well" with past years, Heron said. The high count over the past two decades has been 74 species.

On the Ninepipes Wildlife Refuge, 56 species were counted on December 21. Twelve observers found 2,613 individual birds, including a peregrine falcon (which was seen catching a hen mallard) and a Caffin's finch.

Canada goose numbers were somewhat mediocre at 81. Counts have been as high as 500 in past years. Mallard duck numbers were down to 489, compared to 8,000 counted in past years.

Record high numbers of raptors were seen, including rough-legged and red-tailed hawks. The exploding meadow vole population perhaps accounts for the high numbers of hawks, according to Heron.

One gyrfalcon was seen but not confirmed, although a local falconer had earlier identified the bird in the area.

Cattle egret found near Eureka

A 19-inch long all-white heron was first seen in mid-October on the Sam Mocko Ranch about three miles outside of Eureka.

On November 7, after a winter snowstorm, the bird seemed to stop feeding and looked disoriented. Mocko picked up the bird and called Eureka game warden Jim Roberts.

Roberts delivered the bird to Ian Jeffcock, a Eureka area resident who is a Fish and Wildlife Certified Rehabilitator in Region One. Ian had the bird a couple of days before it died.

The bird was sent to Kalispell, measured and identified as an immature cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). It has been frozen and will be taken to the University of Montana Zoological Museum.

The cattle egret is an immigrant species from the Old World. It is native to Africa and believed to have spread on its own to South America in the late 1800s.

The species was first sighted in the United States in 1941 in southern Florida and has spread rapidly along the Atlantic Coast and Gulf Coast states. The first nesting records in Wisconsin and Minnesota occurred in 1971. It was first seen in Idaho in 1971.

The 1985 edition of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution* lists 13 records of cattle egrets in Montana. This Eureka bird is the first record of a cattle egret in Lincoln County.

Country Journal

by Suzanne Vernon

Traditionally, winters in Western Montana offer many hours for contemplation. From the looks of last week's mail, there's plenty to contemplate next month!

The first of the 1987 garden seed catalogs have arrived. As I thumbed through *Johnny's Selected Seeds*, *Burpee's* and *Mellinger's*, one nagging question just wouldn't leave my mind.

Are you going to build a greenhouse this year, or are you going to tough it out again with cold frames?

The question shouldn't raise so much emotion, except that I love pickles. Store-bought varieties are okay, I guess, but they just can't compare to homemade German dills or "Ma Cluck's" hot pickles.

The problem with cucumbers, here in the Swan Valley, is that there's no chance of growing a quantity of picklers without a greenhouse. Our brief 60-day growing season just includes too many frosty mornings for the likes of tender cukes.

I have tried to put up pickles with cukes from the Missoula Farmer's Market, but veteran picklers tell me I'll never get a good crunchy dill that way. Cukes have to be picked early in the morning, packed in icewater and pickled immediately—no room for a two-hour trip from town.

Well, I have about a month to worry over the cucumber question, and to decide which sort of tomato we should pamper next spring and summer. Best to wait and compare the rest of the seed-house prices before we start sending off any orders!

On the wildlife front, the deer are shedding their antlers and the elk soon will be, if some haven't already started.

We recently read that the Nature Conservancy has purchased several thousand acres near Augusta to protect grizzly habitat and to allow for organized excavation of the dinosaur digs on the Peebles Ranch. I am impressed by the efficiency with which the Nature Conservancy seems to operate. They don't seem to spend much time lobbying with lawmakers. They have found a better way to persuade folks to protect wildlife - and the economics make sense!

A Flathead Audubon member mentioned last week that the low numbers of birds this year are possibly due to poor berry crops in the area. Maybe that explains why the grouse here are eating snowberries already. Birds will eat the white berries only as a last resort; they prefer more palatable fruits.

Nonresident licenses on sale February 24

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has announced procedures for the sale of its nonresident big game combination licenses for 1987.

These licenses, which will go on sale February 24, 1987, will permit holders to hunt elk, deer, black bear and upland game birds and to fish in Montana during the 1987 seasons. The cost of these licenses will be \$350. Nonresidents should send their requests for a license application to: Special Licensing, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620; or phone (406) 444-2950.

According to Department Director, Jim Flynn, the procedures in effect for the 1987 license year include the following:

1. The 17,000 available licenses will be divided into two groups, with 5,600 licenses available to applicants who have booked their hunts with licensed outfitters and 11,400 licenses available for applicants who have not hired a licensed outfitter.

2. Nonresident combination licenses will go on sale February 24, 1987. All completed applications received by the Department before February 24 will be treated as if they were received on that date.

3. Application requests will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service on a staggered schedule to accommodate, as much as possible, differentials in mail delivery times within the United States.

4. Only applications received through the U.S. mail or through private mail-delivery services will be accepted.

5. Only applications signed by the hunter seeking the license will be honored. No powers-of-attorney will be accepted.

6. Party applications will be honored. Nonresidents who wish to apply as a party should include all their applications in the same envelope with a note requesting that all the applicants receive licenses or that none do.

The Department, by law, can sell up to 17,000 nonresident combination licenses per year. In the past several years, the Department has received more applications for these licenses than it could legally fill under the statutory limit.

Flynn said the Department requested public comments on the proposed procedures this fall and formally adopted the procedures following a review of the comments received.

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Fishing Report

Ice fishing is fair to good at most area lakes. Use caution on all lakes now, due to thin ice at inlet and outlet areas and near springs, and fluctuating afternoon temperatures.

A few people have been catching the large rainbow trout recently planted in Seeley Lake. Others have been satisfied fishing for "smoker size" cutthroat and rainbow in the smaller lakes of the Valley.

Snow Report

Skiing and snowmobiling conditions are fair to good at the higher elevations. There is a well-packed base with an inch of two of powder. Trails will not be groomed again until after the next snowstorm.

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NOTICES

SEELEY LAKE FIRE BOARD will have two three-year elected positions open. Anyone interested in applying may pick up an application January 2nd or thereafter at Timberline Building Materials in Seeley Lake. The deadline for filing applications is January 22, 1987.

SUMMIT SHARPENING SERVICE is closed for the winter! Thanks for your patronage. S. Vernon

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THE SEELEY LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE thanks the following people for their great help and participation in the Arkansas Gems basketball fundraiser on December 14:

Seeley Lake All-Stars - Steve Niles, Jack Greenwood, Matt Doucett, Steve Johnson, Jim Jaimes, Curtis Friede, Bill Peña, John Miller, Wayne Cahoon and Dominic Casano.

Referees - Becky Gehrke and Jerry Miller

Scorekeepers - Dennis Nemmers and Terry Williams

The high school staff who were involved, the cheerleaders, and anyone else who helped make this event a success.



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Ice safety important

With the advent of colder weather and the ice cover growing on many of the state's waterways, now is the time for outdoor recreationists in Montana to begin thinking about ice safety, says Tim Pool, educational programs coordinator for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Helena.

"Especially just after the first cold snaps of the season," he said, "the temptation to get on the ice for fishing, snowmobiling and other pursuits is strong. But this is also the time when the need for taking safety precautions is critical."

From early December through mid-January, Pool continued, ice is just becoming firm and may melt for short periods of time when temperatures fluctuate. Because of this, he said, ice that may have been safe yesterday may be a death-trap tomorrow.

Pool said that, in all cases, it's best to test the condition of the ice before venturing onto it. "Don't trust your eyes or the color of the ice when it comes to determining whether it's safe," he warned. Because the thickness of the ice on a body of water depends on a number of factors including currents, inflows from streams, the depth of the body of water, the presence of nearby springs and the presence of stumps and other features protruding through the ice, slight changes in any of these factors can lead to rapid changes in ice conditions.

Pool recommends that recreationists carry an ice spud at all times to test the thickness and condition of the ice and that they always test the ice before calling it safe.

Bighorn sheep may be transplanted to Blackfoot

The Montana fish and game has tentatively approved plans to transplant bighorn sheep to an area north of the Blackfoot River between Bonner and Twin Creek. The rocky crags above Ranch Creek, a tributary of Rock Creek east of Missoula and the Boulder River, south of Big Timber are also being considered for sheep transplants.

The Ranch Creek site, east of Rock Creek, is the Department's top priority for a bighorn sheep transplant. The area is situated between two well-established sheep herds and has characteristics similar to the upper and lower Rock Creek sheep ranges. The site is thought to be capable of supporting a population of 150 bighorn sheep.

The second priority, if enough sheep can be trapped and then transplanted, is along the Boulder River in the Gallatin National Forest. State wildlife officials believe the new site has the potential to sustain a herd of 150 to 200 sheep.

The third priority is the site north of the Blackfoot River between Bonner and Twin Creek. Because the Bonner site is similar to established sheep ranges in western Montana, biologists expect that bighorns would do well enough there to develop a population of 100 animals.

Copies of the plan are available for review from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620. Written comments should be sent to the same address by January 14, 1987.

Seeley Swan PATHFINDER

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Burning scrap lumber can be hazardous

The scrap lumber you might be burning is probably cheap, but is it safe? The question was asked by Bruce A. McCallum, Flathead County Extension Agent.

Lumber, poles, and plywood treated for outdoor use with preservatives containing chromated copper arsenate (CCA) produce extremely poisonous ashes when burned. The accumulation of high levels of copper, chromium and arsenic in the ash can cause respiratory

problems, muscle cramps, dermatitis, blackouts and seizures, nose bleeds, ear infections and stomach disturbances. These symptoms and their relationship to the ashes of CCA-treated wood that had been burned in a home wood heater were reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The wood-treating industry is well aware of the hazards of burning CCA-treated wood, McCallum said, and cautions against its use as fuel.



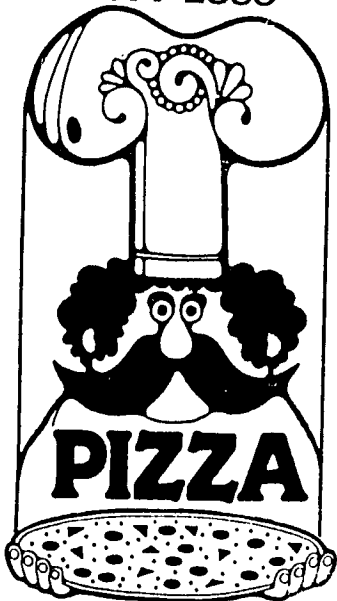
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Montana Outdoors

Hunting season wrap-up

by Tom Palmer
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

It was a hot and cold season for big game hunters this year. The results were hot and cold and so was the weather.

With information drawn from Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks check stations in Region 1, Kalispell-based wildlife manager Jim Cross saw a general trend of about five percent more hunters and about five percent fewer harvest elk.

Cross said the deer harvest was up slightly in the Swan Valley and in the Thompson Falls area, but the deer harvest dropped a bit in the Libby area.

"The weather was the biggest factor," Cross said. "We had the real cold weather for a short time, and then the chinooks came through and the elk never had to move down." He said the numbers might seem disappointing compared to 1985, but they compare favorably to hunter success ratios compiled in 1983 and 1984.

With check stations at Bonner, Darby and Anaconda, Region 2 officials in Missoula documented a total of

22,668 big game hunters, a five-percent increase in the number of hunters afield there compared to 1985.

Overall, 745 elk were harvested by these hunters, six percent more than were taken last season, while the mule deer harvest dropped slightly. However, a dramatic 26 percent increase in the white-tailed deer harvest was recorded this season, with a total of 586 whitetails being checked through the three stations.

This fall, some 6,231 hunters hunted seven districts in the Gravelly-Snowcrest area, a popular Region 3 elk hunting area primarily regulated by branch-antlered bull restrictions. The hunters were checked at the Blacktail, Ennis and Ruby check stations.

Harvest statistics from branch-antlered bull regulated Hunting Districts 322, 323, 324, 326 and 327 show that 13 percent of the antlered bulls taken were yearlings; 68 percent were 2 1/2-year-olds; 13 percent were 3 1/2-year-olds; five percent were 4 1/2-year-olds and one was 6 1/2 years-old.

In non-restricted Hunting Districts 325 and 327, 66 percent of the elk harvested were yearlings. When compared to the branch-antlered bull regulated districts, the evidence of heavy hunting pressure on yearling bull elk tends to confirm Department biologists' contention that the branch-antlered bull restriction puts most of the hunting

pressure on 2 1/2-year-old bulls and allows yearlings to survive another year. A total of 510 mule deer and 104 white-tailed deer also were checked at the three Gravelly-Snowcrest game stations.

A spot check of six Region 4 hunting districts at the Augusta game check station showed that 6,744 hunters managed to harvest 519 elk, 701 mule deer and 299 whitetails.

Also from Region 4, 2,013 hunters, 124 fewer than last season, harvested 96 elk, 77 mule deer and 33 white-tailed deer from the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area, 30 miles north of Helena.

The big success stories in Eastern Montana, according to Walcheck, were being told in antelope hunters' campgrounds. "It was simply an excellent antelope season, with a number of trophy animals harvested," he said.

The deer season, however, wasn't as generous. "I think the deer numbers hit bottom this year, so it wasn't easy hunting," Walcheck offered. "But we found hunters had no difficulty bagging a nice buck if they were willing to get out and walk for it. You just weren't going to find nice bucks from your pickup truck."

Nevertheless, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is not planning any special late-season hunts to extend the general hunting season beyond those already scheduled in the 1986 regulations.

1987



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