

Montana Land Reliance adds
more Swan Valley acreage
into conservation easement



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PATHFINDER

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Vol XVII, No. 36

"Voices from the Valley"

Thursday, January 2, 2003

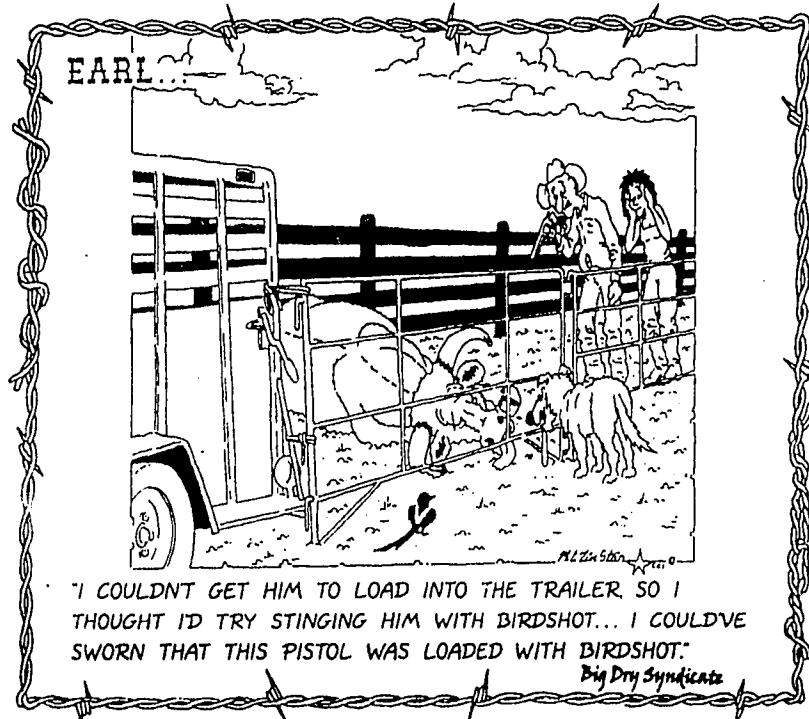
<http://www.seeleyswanpathfinder.com>

*Heading
into a
New Year!*

Happy New Year 2003

G. Noland photo

email: pathfinder@montana.com



GARY NOLAND, EDITOR

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

MILLIE NOLAND, ADVERTISING

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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, 5 p.m.; call 677-2022

PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.L. Cemetery Bd., 1st Thur, 7pm, fire hall
AARP, 1st Mon, noon, Condon Comm. Hall
Salmon Prairie/Swan Lake Eiem Bd., 1st Tues
S.L. Fire Dept., 1st Tues, 7pm, fire hall
DARLOA, 2nd Wed., 4pm, Sr. Cit. Ctr.
Swan Lands Comm. mtg., 2nd Wed., 7pm, Swan Ecosystem Ctr.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous: (help for those with a suspected drinking problem)
-Condon: Faith Lutheran Church, every Sunday, 3pm
-Seeley Lake: Every Wed, 7pm, Living Water Catholic Church, on SOS Rd. For info: 677-3271 or 677-2892.

*Potomac: 406-244-5204

Alateen: (help for teenagers of alcoholic families) Hotline 677-2753

Overeaters Anonymous:

every Thursday, 7pm, Faith Lutheran Church, Condon, 754-2371

Missoula County Commissioners Public Mtg,

every Wed, Courthouse Annex, Room 201, Missoula, 1:30 pm.

T.O.P.S. Mtg, every Thurs,

Mission Bible Fellowship bldg., Seeley Lake, 10am.

Ladies Double Arrow

Golf League, Tuesdays, 10 am, \$10 dues

MONTHLY EVENTS

FAIM Outreach Specialist, 1st & 3rd Thur, 9:30-3, Seeley-Swan Med. Ctr.

Pinochle, every 1st & 3rd

Sat., Senior Citizens Center, 7 pm

DUMPSTER TRANSFER SITE: Winter hours

(Oct-Apr) - Wed & Sat, 10am-4pm, 677-3809

STEP Crisis Help Line:

677-3177. Domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, community outreach & education

Food Bank: Tues, 12-4 pm, next to Multi-purpose Room, S.L. Elementary, 677-5025

Loving Hearts Thrift

Store: Open Wed, 11:00-4:00, Sat, 11-3, 677-5683 (emergency 677-2110)

Seeley Lake Community

Hall: For hall rental, call Cheri Thompson, 677-2454

LIBRARIES:

Seeley Lake Public Library (Seeley-Swan High School) Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm (closed 11am-noon); Wed, 3-8 pm; Sat, 10am-3pm; Story Time-Sat, 11 am, 677-2224 ext. 5741

Swan Valley Library

(Condon) Tues, 11am-4pm; Wed, 11am-7pm; Fri, 11am-4pm

Family History Ctr.-LDS

Church: Open Wed, 11am-3pm. Call 677-2642 or 677-2575.

EMERGENCY: Dial 911

if you live in Seeley Lake, Condon, Greenough or Ovando.

Swan Lake Residents:

886-2324 (Fire, QRU or Search & Rescue) or 1-406-752-6161 for Sheriff, Highway Patrol.

Editorial Comment

Chips . . . bits & pieces

As we celebrate and head into the New Year, be grateful for small things and good health.

A benefit fund has been established to help Rick and Julianne McCracken (Seeley Lake) offset medical and incidental costs associated with a vehicle accident on December 15th. Julianne, Ashley, Kymberlyn, and Brynlee are now safely out of the hospital suffering minor to major injuries. Currently, Alexander McCracken is recovering at the Harborview Hospital in Seattle, Washington. Alexander suffered a partially collapsed lung, 3 broken ribs and a broken back. He is doing well but his recovery time will be a lengthy one. A benefit account has been set up at First Valley Bank in Seeley Lake. If you would like to make a donation to assist Rick and Julianne and their kids, please make a check out to First Valley Bank (The McCracken Benefit Fund). You can either drop the donation off at the bank or mail it to: PO Box 720, Seeley Lake, MT, 59868. Rick works for Blackfoot Telephone. They have 6 children (4 of which were in the accident with Julianne).

—Gary Noland

Seeley Lake artist carves state bird for White House Tree

Jon West, Seeley Lake artist well known for his fine wood carvings of birds, carved a Western Meadowlark, the state bird of Montana, which was one of hundreds of ornaments that decorated the White House Christmas Tree this season.

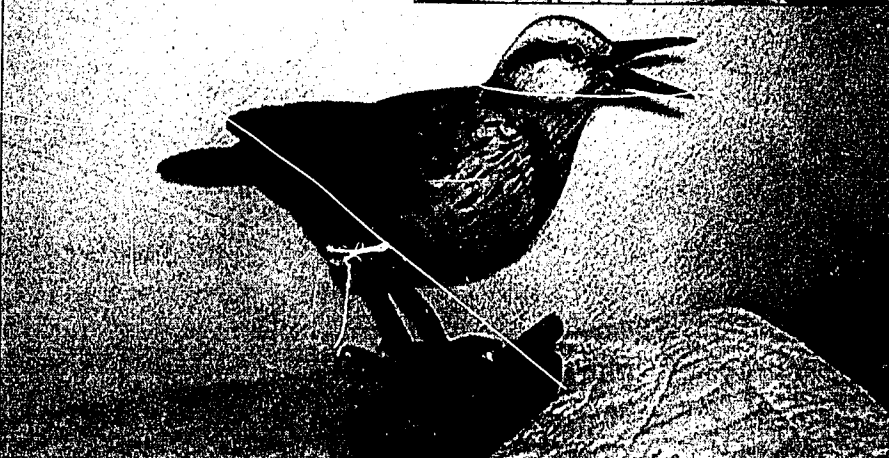
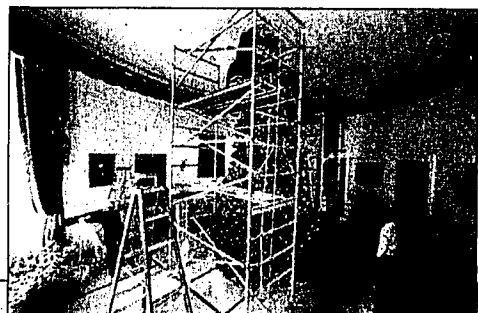
This year First Lady Laura Bush chose the theme, "All Creatures Great and Small," and artists from all the states were chosen to submit ornamental birds for the White House Christmas Tree.

Montana Governor Judy Martz informed West earlier this year of his selection by the Montana Arts Council to create a bird ornament in the likeness of the state bird.

The artists were all invited to a recep-

tion with First Lady Laura Bush in early December when the tree was decorated.

Below is a photo of the ornament carved by West. Inset shows the scaffolding required to decorate the large White House Christmas Tree (this photo from White House web site).

\$10,000
REWARD

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties responsible for the murder of Cliff Nelson in 1996.



You may call the Missoula County Sheriff's Office 406-523-4810 ex. 3330 for Lt. Rich Maricelli.

Summary of town meeting with infrastructure groups: Part 2

(As mentioned in last week's Pathfinder article, the fall Seeley Lake Town Meeting on infrastructure was so productive that the whole report on it could not be contained in one news article. Here's the rest of what came out of that meeting...)

by Ron Cox,
Comm. Council secretary

The Seeley Lake Ranger District reported improvements in the Forest Service campgrounds; in particular, several vault toilets were replaced to insure that our water is not being contaminating. Work in Lake Alva Campground and the road to Clearwater Lake have improved recreation opportunities north of Seeley Lake. The District Ranger has endorsed the concept of developing a community trail completely encircling Seeley Lake.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation report was given by Steve Wallace. He lamented the fact that the current budget crisis in state government will affect services provided in this area. However, one change which should be beneficial to both parties is that the state dispatcher and initial attack fire crew will be moved to downtown Seeley Lake. They will share facilities with the local fire department, which will help expedite the process of determining jurisdiction when 911 forest fire calls come in.

Wallace pointed out that management of the State School Trust Lands will be somewhat less affected by the budget deficit and emphasized the prime purpose of those lands is to make money. DNRC is continuing the beetle salvage logging in the area. One of the next sections to be logged is between Airport and Cottonwoods Lake roads, west of the airport. They also have available a Good Neighbor Grant to treat lands near the property boundary of state lands for fire prevention purposes.

Bruce Friede, representing The Montana Department of Transportation, emphasized one of their main priorities for this year is control of knapweed along Highway 83, in cooperation with the Missoula County Weed District. Friede reckoned it would be at least a year from now before wheels would be turning on the proposed Clearwater North Highway Project.

Tony Gallegos, principal of Seeley Swan High School, reviewed some of the many recent changes. The student body is now 168 strong, with 59 students qualifying for the free or reduced lunch program. The school has four new staff members, including Pat Swan Smith as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor. Capital improvements have included major expenditures of funds for the computer system, paving the parking areas, a new phone and PA system, new library, new welders, lots of paint, and removal of hazardous material from the gym floor. A grant from the US Professional Golf Association will allow golfing as a school activity. The fuel mitigation project on the school land is costing about \$1000 per acre, but sale of logs being removed is reducing the cost to almost \$200 per acre. Students are observing the operation to learn about forest and ecosystem management. The logger has also located a nursery to remove the deep wood chips which were placed on the property years ago to prevent growth of knapweed and to cover the raw construction ground.

Seeley Lake Water District has made many improvements to the municipal water system within the past two years. New, more accurate, meters have been installed — to the pleasure of some and consternation of others. Manager, Vince Chappell, stated that water loss has been reduced from 80% to "only" 30%, so they still have a way to go in the leak detection and correction department. The Water District has tended the fire hydrants so they are now all functional.

The Seeley Swan Medical Center is one of the bright spots in the St. Patrick's medical center system. They recognize it as one of the best run facilities, and one of the few operating in the black. A new doctor and a new nurse have recently been added to the staff. The hospital district is aspiring to add new services such as eye care, a treadmill, visiting specialists, and imagery/radiology. They hope to

provide out-services like immunization, school physicals, critical incident training and other educational programs. They are considering a health fair. And dreaming of an assisted living health care facility.

Sheriff, Mike McMeeken, reports that Deputy Keith Hanson will be serving our area pending the recuperation of Scott Newell and the return from extended military duty of Bob Parcells. In response to the chronic complaint of speeding in our local neighborhoods, the sheriff said it is okay to call 911 to report the speeders. He asks that people be alert to any patterns of the behavior (time of day, day of week, etc.). Report a name if the culprit is known. To be effective, license plate information needs to be accompanied by a vehicle description. McMeeken also reports that e911 and a toll free number to the Missoula Sheriff's Office is close to being a reality.

The Seeley Lake Sewer District is now pleased to have the services of Ralph Kloser as its administrator. Kloser stated that the Board recently passed a resolution to acquire a Preliminary Engineering Report. The report is essential to make any decision regarding a community sewer system — even a decision to NOT have a sewer. The report will provide options and other information pertaining to the need for sewage disposal.

Addrien Marx was "volunteered" to give an impromptu report on the status of the Museum and Visitor Center on behalf of the Historical Society. She said that after several years of not being able to see any light at the end of the tunnel, a \$35,000 grant from Ft. Missoula has made it possible to see a glimmer.

Racene Friede teased the audience by announcing that Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative will have some exciting new things to offer. The only particular she offered was that the coop will be doubling in size through the

acquisition of Clark Fork Telecommunications. She asked residents to stay tuned for further details and attend their informational meetings.

Jack Hunt, manager of Missoula Electric Coop, took advantage of the meeting to get more involved in the local communities. Hunt confirmed they will be erecting a new building in Seeley Lake on their property between the existing building and Little Lake Missoula. Presently all power in the valley comes from Northwest Energy at Ovando through 45 miles of wire subject to an outage caused by any tree limb falling. Hunt announced a new substation will be constructed near Placid Lake to improve reliability of service to all points north. Next year special attention will be given to removing hazard trees near the powerline corridor to reduce the potential for both fire and contact shock hazards.

The Seeley Lake Lions Club contributes to the community in many ways. Their on-going mission is providing sight and hearing assistance. Some of their community service projects include distributing food baskets to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas, organizing an Easter Egg Hunt, developing and maintaining an area park, assisting with the high school All-Night Party, and other good deeds.

Marcy Zietz, still learning the ropes as executive director of the Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, got indoctrinated with the big Fourth of July event. The Chamber has been involved in downtown beautification by adding flower beds and banners to the new "luminaries." They are seeking assistance from businesses to donate to the banner fund. The Chamber hopes that the business

community can alleviate the need (or at least greatly reduce the cost) for assessing a fee to residential owners of land within the district for the Report.

Seeley Lake Community Hall secretary, Cheri Thompson, believes the Community Hall is becoming more of a "community" hall, with 7 annual renters and 3 weekly renters. Improvements have been made (windows, rear exit, painting) and the next project is to make the restrooms accessible to the disabled.

The Seeley Lake Senior Citizens group, known to some as Sela-Senci, has over 100 members. Joan Burt said they have been asked by RSVP for Missoula Aging Services to conduct a survey of elderly and other residents who may need special assistance during emergencies or natural disasters. The Sela-Senci group has successfully acquired a grant and the required matching funds to purchase a van to provide transportation for senior, disabled, and other people in the Seeley Lake and Condon areas.

And our final report from the infrastructure meeting... Elinor Williamson wagged the tail end of the meeting and reported for the Paws Up Safe Home for dogs and cats. Several pets are available for adoption. Paws Up also spearheaded a very successful food bank drive, encouraging people to "pay" for shots with a canned food donation.

As the length and diversity of these reports strung out over two Pathfinder news articles indicates, the fall Seeley Lake Community Council meeting provided attendees with an increased understanding and appreciation of the many ways in which diverse groups cooperate to provide essential and needed services to our community.

Fire District Trustee
seats open in May

Two Seeley Lake Rural Fire District Trustee seats will be open for the May 6, 2003 Election. The seats are for 3-year terms. Trustees meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the Seeley Lake Fire Hall. The filing forms must be returned to the Elections Office in the Missoula County Courthouse at 200 West Broadway by the deadline date of February 20, 2003. You may pick up the forms at the Seeley Lake Fire Hall or at the Elections Office in the Missoula County Courthouse at 200 West Broadway.

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New Year is Exciting for Wildlife Managers

by Mike Thompson

New Year's is a good time to lift one's eyes toward the proverbial horizon and resolve to do better. When we think of wildlife management in the Seeley Lake area, what things do we really need to do better?

First on my list is securing wildlife habitat. And, the habitat in greatest jeopardy is the thousands of acres of Plum Creek timberlands.

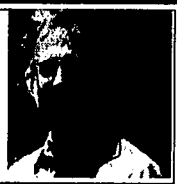
It's not because Plum Creek owns the lands. It's because Plum Creek might not own the lands in the future. Now is our opportunity to work with a potentially willing seller to ensure that the best habitat and hunting areas in Plum Creek ownership remain undeveloped and accessible to the

public, before they might be sold, divided, and locked up.

One piece of the larger puzzle is the Phase 3 and Phase 4 lands within the heart of the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range. Discussions have been underway since the 50th Anniversary Project began in 1998 to transfer these 3,880 acres from Plum Creek to FWP or a cooperating owner. Unlike Phases 1 and 2, which were completed—for the most part—last fall or earlier, Phases 3 and 4 have not progressed into solid proposals. One personal objective for 2003 will be to help gather support for one clear strategy toward completion of these Phases, and of the 50th Anniversary Project.

After all, we just passed the 54th Anniversary (of the original Game

Game Range Ramblings

by Mike Thompson, Wildlife Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Range acquisition!)

On another front, we need to make some tangible progress in the recovery and management of grizzly bears. It can be argued that we're doing very well in both arenas. On the subject of recovery, we have the sense that there are more grizzlies than there have been for a long time. On the subject of management, FWP has recently added a lot of expertise and effort in the persons of Jamie Jonkel year-round, and Bob Wiesner, numerous interns, volunteers and cooperators seasonally. But, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and cooperating agencies have not been successful in verifying grizzly bear numbers or documenting trends.

This year, preparations are being made in anticipation of a grizzly bear census in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area and surrounding habitats, including the Seeley Lake area. The technique will be generally the same as that used by Kate Kendall in Glacier National Park a couple of years ago. Bear hair will be recovered from natural rub trees and hair grabbing devices. Then DNA analysis will be used to determine how many different bears were sampled in the study. If the project is federally funded and successful, we will all benefit from having the first valid estimate of grizzly bear abundance for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem.

Next, we will need to know

whether the population is increasing or decreasing, and unprecedented progress is also being made on this topic. FWP Region 1, and research biologist Rick Mace, are developing a monitoring protocol that would make better use of existing and future radio-collared bears to assess population trend. This information would allow the documentation of population recovery, and the potential for a corresponding increase in management flexibility, if warranted.

FWP Region 2 also hopes to take advantage of the great bear hair-snare effort to obtain the first bona-fide estimate of black bear numbers in the Seeley Lake area. Blacks as well as grizzlies will be attracted to the hair-snagging traps. All that would be required is for FWP to provide the funding to determine how many individual black bears are represented in the sample of black bear hairs. (Otherwise, the black bear hairs will be ignored in the DNA analysis of the grizzly bear hairs.) However, DNA analysis is spendy, so funding for the additional black bear work is not a foregone conclusion.

Finally, for this column at least, is the need to learn how we might manage and improve elk calf survival in coming years. FWP dares not increase cow permits in the Seeley Lake area, nor allow a short-term decline in adult cow numbers, because of the lowered calf survival we have docu-

mented annually since the mid-1990s. Numbers of cows are growing ever so gradually from a low in 1998, after the hard winter of 1997, despite conservative and restrictive opportunities for hunters to harvest cow elk. In a world that will surely include a naturally established wolf pack before long (How have the wolves avoided making love near the Game Range before now?), it gives us pause to consider how we will cope if calf survival doesn't improve.

Jared Raithe's first year of studying 27 newborn elk calves in the Garnet Range, just south of the Game Range, has been extremely enlightening. In a couple of weeks, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will consider the possibility of funding a second year of study. FWP and the Bureau of Land Management are already committed to funding a second year of work in 2003. Assuming that at least another 25 calves are captured and followed in 2003, and maybe more, we should begin to see some patterns by the end of the year that could guide management.

We have a lot to work on in 2003, most of which is left to be discussed later. In the meantime, I hope you're off to a good start on your New Year so far, and that you will be able to look back in twelve months and agree that we've made good progress on these few major projects I've outlined today.

Marching Courageously Onward Into the New Year

Saint Paul writes to the Hebrews and says, "...be content with what you have, because God has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" It is inevitable, Herman Gockel, one of the teachers of our Church, says that in our weaker moments we scan the horizons of the future with apprehension and fear. There is no doubt that the year which we have just entered will have its share of anxious hours: hours of sickness, perhaps death; sleepless nights; friendless, lonely hours; moments when that lump within our throat begins to swell and that teardrop in our eye refuses to be concealed; when the threat of war reminds us of death and destruction; when our enemies seem closer than our Savior.

But as the redeemed of Christ, we can place our hand into the hand of God and march courageously onward. For if your faith remains firmly grounded in His Word, then when days of sickness come to us in the year that lies ahead, we shall hear His voice whispering to us the comforting assurance: "I am the Lord that healeth thee." If the wings of the angel of death can be heard about our home before we close this year,

Passages

by Rev. Robert Lee Benson,
Holy Cross & Faith
Lutheran Churches

we shall hear the voice of Him who sent that angel still proclaiming: "I am the Resurrection and the Life, he that believes in Me shall never die." When that friendless, lonely hour will come to us in the year that stretches our before us, we shall feel His loving arm about us and His cheering voice: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." "Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the world." In every hour of trial we will be fortified by the eternal promise: "The eternal God is your Refuge, and underneath are

the everlasting arms."

Are these merely the sentimental phrases of a commercial New Year's card? By no means. Each promise is taken directly from the inspired and inerrant Word of God. What God promises God performs. Therefore we can rest secure in Jesus Christ, Who has come to be our Savior; to take upon Himself all our sins; to suffer all of God's judgment against us; to pronounce us forgiven, that is, justified by His grace: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." - from Ephesians 2:8-9. And that is very good news indeed, for you, for a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Tracy Ann Robinett graduates from UofM

Seven hundred fifty-four students are candidates for degrees autumn semester 2002. The total includes nine certificates, 41 associate's, 517 bachelor's, 168 master's, three education specialists's, three juris doctor and 29 doctoral degrees. Sixteen students earned two degrees each.

Tracy Ann Robinett, Seeley Lake, was a University of Montana degree candidate at the end of autumn semester.

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Montana Land Reliance adds 2 more conservation easements in Swan Valley

Lundberg and Owen Easements Benefit Swan Valley Ecosystem by Protecting 760 Acres of Critical Wildlife Habitat

by Candace Durran
Montana Land Reliance

The Swan Valley ecosystem is one of the most biologically diverse regions in Montana. Connecting the Bob Marshall and Mission Mountain wilderness areas, the "Swan" is a primary corridor for wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified four grizzly bear linkage corridors in this valley. Grizzly bears and other mammals use the Swan River and its tributaries to traverse the valley floor. Since the grizzly bear is an indicator species of ecosystem vitality, keeping these corridors and associated wildlife habitat intact will ensure the overall health of the ecosystem and thus, the survival of many species.

The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) has played an active role in the Swan Valley since completing its first conservation easement

in 1993, and continues to work with private landowners in completing 22 additional conservation easements protecting roughly 2,000 acres in the valley. These easements have provided secure habitat for numerous species and have increased the ecological viability of the corridors. Two new conservation easements are an integral part of this wildlife corridor protection.

Lundbergs Secure Future of Historic Homestead

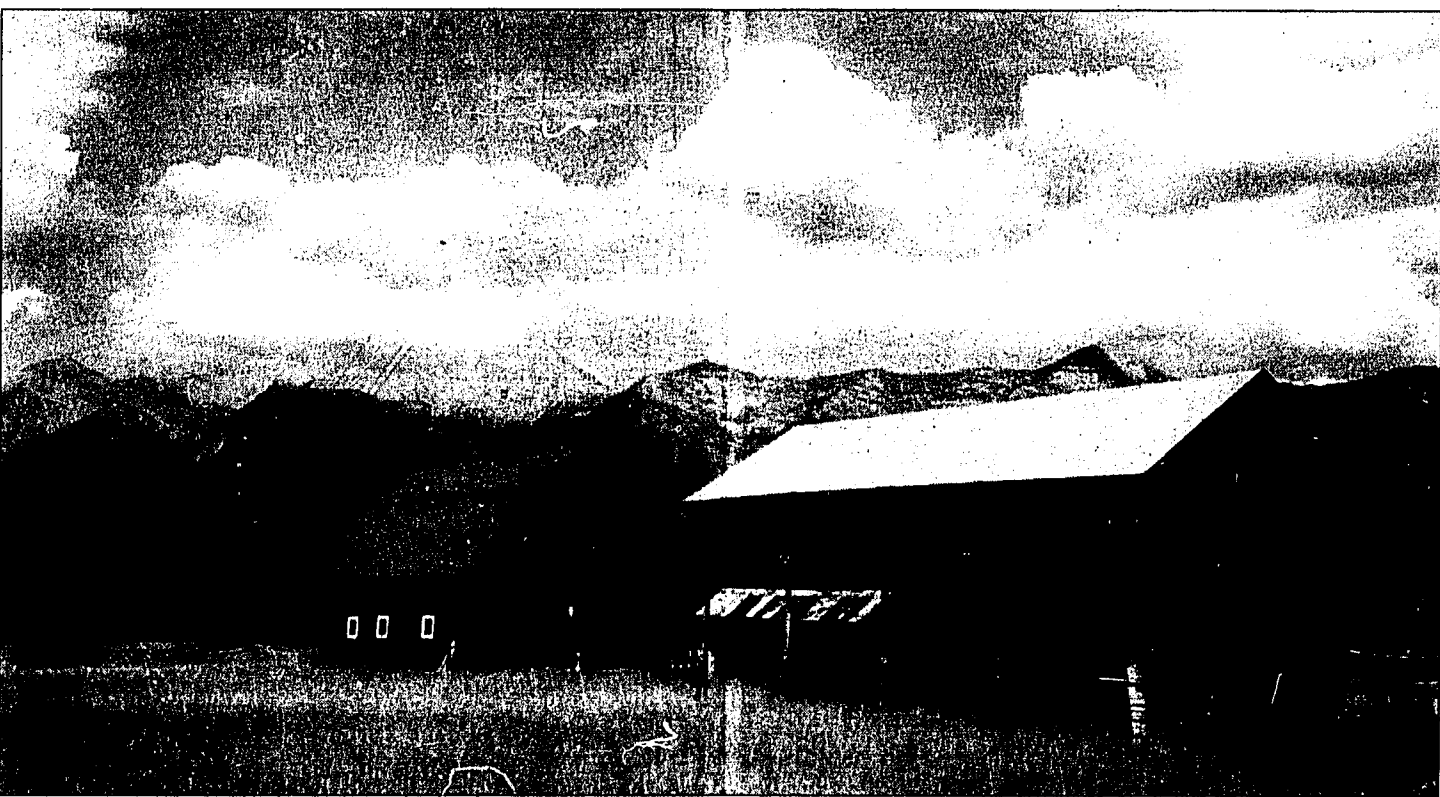
The Lundberg homestead buildings stand solid against the rugged peaks of the Mission Mountains. Built in the 1920s, the log structures are reminiscent of the time when it took three days to ride a buggy from Missoula to the Swan Valley, and when the Salish Indians had summer and fall encampments along the spring creek where the Lundbergs settled. Now this culturally and environmentally significant landmark is assured protection with a conservation easement with MLR.

A deep love and commitment

bind Warner and Margaret Lundberg to their land. This love is anchored in the Warner family's presence in the valley for nearly 100 years, and his own gentle stewardship for much of his 83 years. Married 54 years, Warner and Margaret's goal is to continue their legacy of stewardship of the wildlife, timber and water resources encompassed by the ranch.

The ranch is home to a herd of elk, white-tailed deer, black and grizzly bear and an array of birds. Nine resident otters feed on the Westslope Cutthroat and Rainbow trout that populate the pond. Recently, a yearling black bear came walking down their road on its hind legs, waving its arms like an arriving guest. The Lundbergs welcomed him with respect and enthusiasm.

Warner was counseled by his mother not to split up the ranch. With the completion of their conservation easement, he is honoring that counsel. "The ranch is a real landmark conservation project in the Swan Valley," observed Amy Eaton, the Glacier/Flathead regional director. "At 600 acres, it



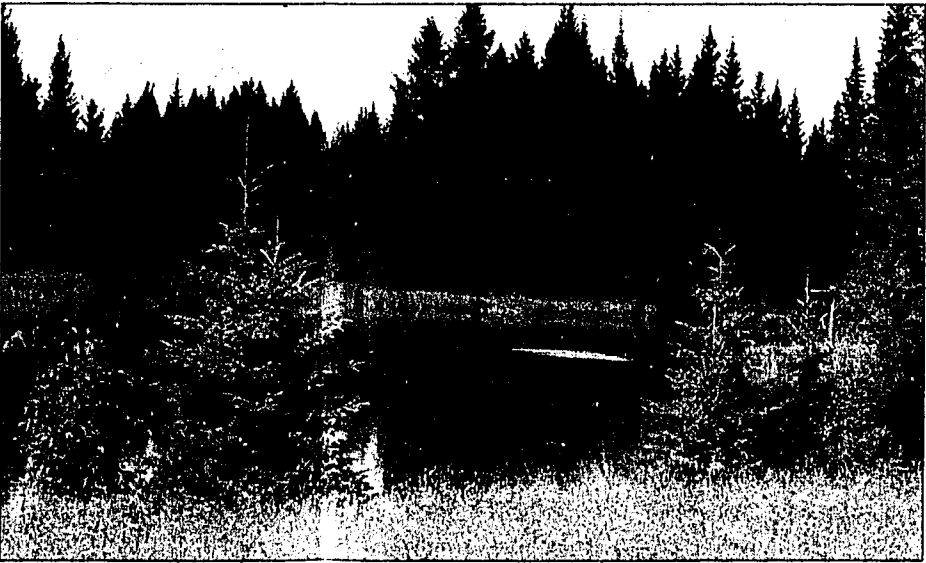
Lundberg homestead buildings against the Mission Mountains backdrop. Below a peaceful pond, The 600-acre conservation easement is the largest MLR easement in Swan Valley.

is the largest MLR easement in the Swan, encompassing over a mile of Swan River frontage and cultural and conservation values that will benefit all denizens of the Swan community for generations."

Owens Demonstrate their Commitment to the Land with Conservation Easements

Landowners in the Swan for 33 years, Dave and Kay Owen of Kalispell spend time from spring through fall tending their forest and exploring the seasonal changes of their land. This includes sustainable harvesting of timber on their two adjacent 80-acre parcels. Their objective is to maintain the wildlife, water and timber values on their land, and their means of achieving this objective are the conservation easements they have initiated. The first easement was completed in 1996, and a second easement on the remaining 80 acres will be completed in 2003. They are hopeful their activities

will encourage others to practice good land stewardship. The Owens collect seed and propagate seedlings of shade-tolerant species such as larch, grand fir and Douglas-fir, which historically dominated the valley. The existing Lodgepole pine monoculture resulted from a forest fire 100 years ago. Now aging and diseased, the Lodgepole will be replaced by the seedlings: Enhanced species diversity creates an inviting and productive environment



for wildlife and plant species. The Owens' vision extends far beyond the Swan Valley. They would like to see schools teaching a land stewardship ethic and alternative use of resources by involving students in hands-on outdoor learning activities on a national scale. "If enough people understand why a land stewardship ethic is necessary, it will happen," says Dave. The educational process began years ago with their children

who are now grown and settled across the country. Committed to keeping the land intact, their children are supportive of their parents' choice to place conservation easements on both parcels. The Swan Valley ecosystem is more secure with these conservation easements in place. We are grateful to the Lundbergs and the Owens for their vision and generosity.

Chronic Wasting Disease Meeting

Wilderness Sportsman's Club invites the public to a FREE informative presentation on "Chronic Wasting Disease" and "Rancher/Land Owner Proposal to Privatize Big Game Hunting". The program will be presented by the Montana Wildlife Federation at 6:00 p.m. Friday January 10, 2003 at the Seeley Community Hall. If you have an interest in wildlife and hunting in Montana, you will find this very interesting and informative. Please mark your calendars now for January 10th at 6pm.

Flathead Audubon field trip Jan. 4

Flathead Audubon invites the public on a birding and skiing field trip in Glacier National Park on Saturday, January 4. Trip leaders Jim and Sue Swab will meet at the Apgar Visitor Center at 10 a.m. and will ski (or hike, if there is no snow) along lower McDonald Creek in search of waterfowl. The group will then head toward the Apgar Mountain Lookout trailhead. The ski trip will be approximately six miles. Please bring lunch, binoculars and appropriate gear for skiing. For more information and to sign up, please contact Jim at 387-4299 or at suejim@bigsky.net



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At left is Amy Eaton Royer, Montana Land Reliance regional director, and Warren and Margaret Lundberg.

Swan Song

Monty S. Cassidy

Monty S. Cassidy was born June 6, 1936. He was born again in Jesus at the age of 14 and returned as a prodigal son in 1977.

Monty went to live with the Lord after having sudden difficulty with his heart Sunday, Dec. 22,

2002.

God blessed Monty with an awesome family that he loved dearly. This wonderful man loved the great outdoors, was a hunter, fisherman, bird watcher and an excellent horseman. Monty was gifted in lifting up others and was able to walk among many from different places in life. Monty truly loved the Seeley Valley and the

people were in his prayers. Monty was always available to help others; we could count many he touched with his kindness.

A working man, he was a provider and giver. Monty was a boilermaker by trade and he enjoyed his work for 33 years, along with his co-workers.

Monty's greatest love was the Lord Jesus Christ. He loved reading the Bible, God's word. He would lift hands in praise and worship to the Most High God and his eyes would then shine with the glory of the Lord. Monty knew the peace and assurance that only

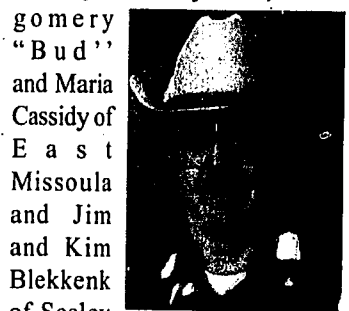
comes with believing in God and trusting in Yeshua (Jesus).

It seems somehow appropriate that his eternal soul transfers to the heavenly realm during the Christmas season. His friends and family grieve his loss here with us, but rejoice knowing that he dwells now with the Lord. Peace Monty knew on this earth, greater peace he now experiences.

Monty's cherished wife Ruth of 47 years so loved Monty and will miss him. She will see Monty and her son, Terry, again in the sweet bye and bye.

Monty's children and their

spouses are Laurie and Larry Jones of Cape Coral, Fla., Dan and Cheri Cassidy of Seeley Lake, Mont-



Monty Cassidy

Terry, Monty and Ruthie's son, preceded him to the Lord in 2000.

Monty also loved his grandchildren Ryan, Lorenzo, Erin, Adam, Amy, Kristie, Eric, Katja, Heide and Hannah.

Monty was the third of four siblings. His brothers are Don of Phoenix and Mickey of Napa, Calif. His sister is Pat of Quebec. There are numerous uncles, aunts and cousins who were dear to him. Monty loved his family very much.

The family requests any donations in Monty's memory be given to the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, phone (312) 641-7200.

A memorial service was held at 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at the Faith Chapel in Seeley Lake.

Livingston, Malletta and Geraghty Funeral Home in Missoula assisted the family with arrangements.

Condon Area Senior Lunch

The Hungry Bear Steak House is serving lunch to Condon area seniors (60 and older) on Mondays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Please call the Hungry Bear at 754-2240 for reservations prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before. This program is sponsored by Swan Valley Senior Services.

Thursday, January 2
Orange Juice, Cranberry Chicken, Rice, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Apple Pie.

Monday, January 6
Pineapple Juice, Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Roll, Peas, Cake.

Thursday, January 9
Orange Juice, Roast Beef, Baked Potato, Peas, Peaches, Cake.

Fire District Trustee seats open in May

Two Seeley Lake Rural Fire District Trustee seats will be open for the May 6, 2003 Election. The seats are for 3-year terms. Trustees meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the Seeley Lake Fire Hall. The filing forms must be returned to the Elections Office in the Missoula County Courthouse at 200 West Broadway by the deadline date of February 20, 2003. You may pick up the forms at the Seeley Lake Fire Hall or at the Elections Office in the Missoula County Courthouse at 200 West Broadway.

Attend the Church of Your Choice!

Seeley Lake Church Directory

Faith Chapel (Pentecostal Church of God)
Worship—10:30 a.m. Sunday School—9:30 a.m.
Hwy 83 North Phone—677-2220
Pastor—Gary Wayne

Seeley Lake Baptist Church
Worship—11:00 a.m. ~Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
~Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m. ~Wed. Bible Study & Prayer 6:30 p.m.
3116 Hwy 83 South Phone—677-2268 (Founded 1953)
Pastor—Bill Bogardus

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.
Pastor ~ Rev. Robert Benson ~ 1655 Airport Rd.
Phone—677-2281 or 677-7677

Living Water Catholic Church
Worship Mass: Sunday—2:00 p.m.
152 SOS Road
Ph: 677-2688 or 793-5697
Pastor—Father Jozef Perehubka

Mountain Lakes Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Worship—10:00 a.m.
3292 Hwy 83 North Phone—677-3575
Pastor—Scott Anthony

Spirit of Christ Episcopal Fellowship
Worship—2nd Saturday of each month
at the Senior Center—5:00 p.m.
Phone—677-2905

Mission Bible Fellowship (Non-Denominational)
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Paws Up

to a special young lady, Ashley, and her parents Kevin and Wendy Wetherell, for the wonderful donation and memorial to a special little dog, Bronco, who is at The Rainbow Bridge playing in the sun.

Paws Up

to Mrs. Leone Oxford, the Hughes and the Weavers, and thank you for your support of words and donations. Leone is 98 and will be attending her 80th high school reunion in May in Nebraska. That's pretty hard to top, isn't it? That Ovando area has a lot of great people that makes up a great community!

Paws Up

to Donna and Karen Erickson of the Holland Lake area for your donation and nice note.

Update on McKinsey!

McKinsey drove with his new Mom to Oregon to visit Deanna's mom and aunt in a senior care facility. Deanna was surprised when she was invited to bring McKinsey in to the facility. All the learned seniors were so glad to see and pet McKinsey, and McKinsey was such a good dog and enjoyed all the pets and attention. Once again, I say to all, "These throw-away dogs are so special." Please adopt from a shelter.

Sadly

and again, there are signs going up, "Free Puppies," "Free Kittens." In the dead of winter these little animals are being born and most will have no home to go to. Perhaps the owners are not aware that spaying and neutering would prevent such. Perhaps the owners are not aware of our up to 70% spay and neuter clinic, depending on need. If not, please someone out there, inform them there is help! For those who allow your pets to be bred due to irresponsibility, think of this. When you give this little animal away, who are you giving it to and what will its fate really be? Tied up to a tree after the fun of a puppy or kitten is over. Abused or left to run only to die a terrible death. Placed in a shelter where animals are sometimes taken only to sell them to an animal experiment facility. For every puppy or kitten born out of human irresponsibility, a dog sitting in the shelter (Oh yes, a free puppy once) will be put to death. SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS. THERE IS NO EXCUSE NOT TO DO SO!

Great News

We have our federal ID number. It is 11016 and our non-profit number is 368168. Keep those for your records!

We at Paws Up Safe Home deeply appreciate and are very thankful to Attorney Alayne Marker of the Rolling Dog Ranch in Ovando for all her help. We also thank deeply Geanette Cebulski for all her help. Geanette is the owner of Professional Bookkeeping.

'Minimum' fee for dogs recovered at Paws Up Safe Home - \$25.00

Elmer Williamson,
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PO Box 522
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
Non-profit #368168

Paws Up Safe Home
Renée Stawie
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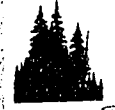
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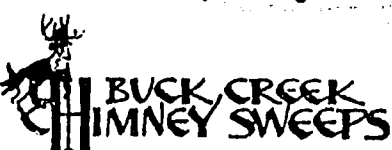
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Jan. 25~ Free Paper Piecing Clinic
Jan. 27 & 31~ Pineapple Splash with Rene
Jan. 28~ Fleece Vest with Patti
Jan. 30~ Stitching with Pam (1:30 p.m.)**Your Log Cabin Quilt Store on '83****Energy Partners****Happy
New Year**from
Energy Partners**CHARLIE HAHN**
Branch Manager
Propane Installation & Service

Hwy 83 North • Seeley Lake, Montana 59868

Office (406) 677-3656 • Cell (406) 677-4185 • Fax (406) 677-3657

WOLD'S VALLEY MARKET

**Locally owned
& operated**

One Mile South of Seeley Lake
on Scenic 83

A member of Associated Food Stores, Inc.

SEELEY LAKE, MONTANA



Open 7 Days A Week!

Sunday thru Thursday — 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday — 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

406/677-2121

WE ARE MEMBERS OF



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Effective January 1, 2002 - January 7, 2003 • POSTAGE STAMPS • ATM MACHINE

The ESPRESSO BOOTH

Easy Access from Whitetail Drive
NOTE HOURS

New Winter Booth hours Starting Jan. 5

Sunday & Saturday 7 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Booth will be closing every day at 1 p.m.
during New Year's week



Lunch is Ready ...

*No soup will be served
New Year's weekbut*

Mon - 1/6 - "Cousin Polly's" Cream of Broccoli Soup
Tues. - 1/7 - "Tremendous Tato Tuesday"

~ 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 12 oz. bowl with roll - \$2.50
Baked Potatoes \$2.00

*Weight Watcher points available for soups and coffee drinks in the booth!

YMCA News Update on Activities

Adult Fitness Class: Walk Fit classes have begun. Terry Bartlett is instructing morning walk fit classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. Classes are held in the Multipurpose Room at Seeley Lake Elementary School. The registration fee is \$15.00 per month.

Evening Step Class has begun. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the Multipurpose room at Seeley Lake Elementary School. The registration fee is \$25.00 per month.

If you have any questions please call the Seeley-Swan YMCA Outreach office at 677-3330.

Special of the Week

"Heaven can wait Latte"

Freshly steamed milk & espresso is added to thick & creamy White Chocolate & Praline syrup for a taste delicious enough to ring in the New Year!

Save .25 cents on any size this week!

"FYI"

Weight watcher points for most soups & coffee drinks available in the booth...

From all of us at Wold's
Valley Market — We would
like to wish you a happy &
safe NEW
YEAR. We
sincerely
appreciate
your busi-
ness & look
forward to
serving you
in the New
Year...



12 pk. 12 oz. Cans
**Pepsi
Products**

2 for \$7.00