

Shaffer Family

Thanks Community

Dear Members of Our Columbia Falls Family,

In August 1971 our family Carla, Mike, Karey, Kathy and myself moved to the Columbia Falls area from Salt Lake City. We came to the state of my birth to allow our precious children the privilege to live and play in this rural community. As we settled here we made a few friends quickly but having been raised in close knit families of five children and 15 children respectively, Carla and I did not "socialize" much. We felt you, the community, ac-

ceptors protecting their interest, and ministers who didn't want any further liquor outlets.

Baeth called to report that HB-122 the massive, controversial bill to revise Montana's local government was killed on third reading. It had passed 53-46 after four hours of debate. The bill had been amended 430 times while in the House Local Government Committee.

Baeth saw some good points in HB 122 but voted against it Monday.

The Hungry Horse News is unaware of what the legislature has accomplished to avoid having future study commissions.

Canyon Mountaineers 4-H Club had a good trip to Helena and the legislature, reports Mrs. Kate Richter, leader.

There were 18 young people from the West Glacier to Hungry Horse area on the outing. They saw the Legislature in action, met with Lt. Governor Ted Schwinden. He answered a question by Clay Thornton: "It costs \$197,000 a year to heat and light the Montana capitol complex."

Stops included the Montana Historical Society and Russell Gallery, the Montana Department of Highways building, talking to Jack Beckert, administrator for engineering who mentioned there was delay in U.S. 2 reconstruction because of condemnation. In the design section, Mr. Swenson and Dela Hunt showed the 4-H members sections of highway design.

Other stops included Frank Murray, secretary of state, who gave them an interesting talk; they laughed. The club had lunch with members of the Flathead delegation.

We hope the young people write something of their experiences for the Hungry Horse News.

Idaho statesman at Boise had a story on student teachers in Boise schools, and featured Cathy Gilk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gilk, Columbia Falls.

Cathy was student teaching in music education at Capital High for nine weeks.

She'll be with her folks this weekend for spring break, and will return to the University of Idaho at Moscow to finish her senior year. She's an honor student.

cepted us as a family and we set our roots deep here giving birth to Khrixy, Monte, and little Kandie.

Our life was happy and secure when the tragic events of March 1 fell on us. Ironically it was a friend, neighbor and fellow teacher who located me to hand the initial blow (Allen Jacobson). Of all things that could occur to us the worst would be the loss of one of our precious children.

Our entire lives are built around our family, recreation always including all from little Kandie to Mike. But there we were lost in the confusion, smells, and sounds. Our minds were deadened by the pump engines, men yelling, mothers crying.

In the midst of all this terror the hand of our larger family, you the Columbia Falls Community, reached down and grasped us by our shoulders and lifted us up to keep us from floundering in despair and turmoil. The Fire Departments fought to find and save our babies (Kandie and Warren Peterson), failing but trying with all their might. Our neighbors and friends held us tight, comforting us with physical support, spiritual support and temporal support.

We were not the only ones who mourn the death of our babies but we know that you also lost them.

Our brothers, sisters and parents arrived on March 2 to give us a lift. They did, and to their surprise our spirits had already begun healing, painfully, with the assistance of you our larger family including the members of the LDS Church.

We desire to express our sincere thanks to Mel Ruder for his accurate account of the events of that day. The truth helps to heal.

Our special thanks from the depths of our broken hearts to you, our large family, for your support during the trauma of the past week. Even though it is not over for our needs are great but you should know that our roots have not been torn out by this tragedy but have sunk deeper in this our Columbia Falls community by your nourishing hand.

Our Father-in-Heaven knows how much we love and appreciate you all. Thank you for your strengthening words of peace, financial assistance, and for your strong arms helping us. Our people may fight over trivial affairs as brothers and sisters do but when the important things come we pull together as a team for one purpose. May God bless you for your greatness of Spirit. May he help us all to keep our priorities straight and please let's raise our children with our time and love while we can. One day they may not be here.

God bless you, thank you.

David R., Carla, Michael, Karey, Kathryn, Kristine, Monte and Kandie Marie Shaffer