

# Comments and Controversy

## Let's Stop Tax On Montana Widows

The Hungry Horse News endorses some part of the proposal by Rep. Ora J. Halvorson, D-Kalispell, that would raise Montana inheritance tax exemptions to \$150,000 with an annual inflation escalator clause of 3 per cent.

The present inheritance law with its \$25,000 exemption is in effect a widow's tax.

Mrs. Halvorson points out the inheritance tax as a revenue source for Montana is no longer valid when Montana is enjoying a treasury surplus.

When the state inheritance tax was imposed the nation was in depression and the revenue was to be collected from the wealthy.

Now, Mrs. Halvorson points out the inheritance tax reaches into the pockets of the widow with a modest estate, and is devastating to small businesses and farmers who propose to have sons inherit.

Meanwhile the new federal tax exemption for spouses was raised to \$250,000. Mrs. Halvorson feels until complex changes in the federal tax revisions have been clarified,

Montana shouldn't change its present tax laws even though they need revision. On this point we don't agree. Working with tax experts something positive can be done.

However she feels the \$25,000 exemption now allowed in Montana is unrealistic with inflation making a two-bedroom home worth more than \$28,000 in many areas. She proposes exemptions for minor children of \$120,000 and for adult children \$100,000 each. We question that adult children should get that much tax free.

The escalator clause of 3 per cent annually provides automatically for inflation instead of depending on revisions by the legislature which can be long coming.

The Flathead legislator notes her bill would cut revenues to the inheritance tax division, but the question remains: "Does Montana need all this tax revenue from this source when the fiscal situation of the state is good, and inheritance taxes remain a problem which everyone will eventually face?"



**TRAPPER IS BUSY THESE DAYS.** She has a litter of 11 three-week old pups at the Doug Coverdells in Columbia Falls. Trapper is a registered Black and Tan. She met a Pit Bull at the wrong time, so



some of the pups have a bull dog face. The Coverdells who live at 528 Second Avenue East, will be selling the pups for \$5 each "in the hope we can find good homes for them." This is Trapper's last litter.

weekends the Appar Visitor Center near West Glacier is open, and during February and March ranger-naturalists lead guided ski tours on weekends."

Next comment tells of flourishing cross-country skiing, and the author continues: "Some of these people hang out at a delightful hostelry called the Isak Walton Inn in Essex."

He tells of the drive up the Middle Fork with views of park peaks "standing around like wise + kings in white fur capes."

And there's more on the Walton Inn. "The Inn is a Tudoresque railroad hotel which now caters to Nordic skiers and other wilderness fanatics. It offers inexpensive and simple lodging, country cooking, a blazing hearth, a bar crowded with Nordic types, cross-country ski rental, marked ski trails—and guided ski tours in the park."

Montana gets a fine send-off in California's AAA Motorland, November-December issue."

## Bystander

by Mel Ruder

### Accidents Claim

### Visitor Lives In Park Areas

DENVER—Nineteen visitors died of accidental causes last year in National Park areas of the six-state Rocky Mountain Region, the National Park Service reported.

Nine died by drowning, five from injuries received in falls and four in motor vehicle accidents. The other victim died in a critically bear attack in a Glacier National Park campground.

Some 25 million persons visit the 42 National Park Service areas of the Rocky Mountain Region last year. The region includes the States of North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and two park areas of northern Arizona.

During 1976, the region experienced 25 visitor deaths. Nationally, 152 park visitors died of accidental causes last year. That was an increase of four from the previous year.

Park by park, here is the regional breakdown for 1976: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Arizona-Utah—Six persons drowned, including a 25-year-old man who drove his auto off a boat launching ramp at high speed during the early morning hours. The other victims ranged in age from 3 to 21.

Glacier National Park—Four persons died, including two from injuries received in falls and one who fell from a boat and drowned. Mary Patricia Mahoney, 22, of Homewood, Illinois, was killed by a grizzly bear that dragged her from her tent on Sept. 23.

Actually Glacier shows seven fatalities for 1976. Samuel Rader, 27, of Wadsworth, Ohio fell to his death off Mt. Clements July 3. David Row, 17, of New Hampshire, was killed in a July 15 fall off Mt. St. Helens. Donald William Ash, 29, of Whitefish, tripped or slipped to his death Aug. 1 when he left his car on the Garden Wall.

Drowned in Lake McDonald June 18 was James Kirk, 37, of Columbia Falls. Mary Patricia Mahoney, 22, of Homewood, Ill., was killed by a grizzly bear at Many Glacier Campground Sept. 23.

Also included in Glacier's

There's more than just action in Robert Paul of Coram being selected for Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges.

Her listing last week showed it as Robert Paul, Jr., who is 21.

Instead it is Robert Paul, Sr., 50, a 23rd year Navy veteran and electrician at the Anaconda plant, who is also president of the Montana Federation of America Association.

Bob Paul, Sr., has been attending Flathead Valley Community College full-time some months along with holding down his job at Anaconda, and he earned a scholarship last year.

Bob Paul, Jr., formerly attended FVCC, and is now enrolled at the University of Montana.

Peggy McLaughlin has succeeded the late Merrill W. [Brit] England as administrative assistant to Senator Lee Metcalf.

Peggy, a Roundup native where her mother, Mrs. Mayme McLaughlin still resides, at

tended Montana State University. In 1949 she joined the staff of Mary Gordon Cordon, state superintendent of public instruction until 1951 when she went to the Philippines as secretary to R. R. Boone, former MSU president and U.S. Chief of Mission AID.

Miss McLaughlin returned to Montana in 1953, worked in Helena in the office of Attorney General Arnold Olsen, then moved to Bozeman to become secretary to the president of MSU, and in 1960 came to Washington, first to work for Senator James E. Murray and for the past 15 years for Senator Metcalf. She's been his personal secretary.

Senator Metcalf writes: "In short, I am delighted that she is willing to assume new responsibilities — and to work even harder than ever — and am certain that all Montanans will find her eager to be of assistance."

The Hungry Horse News has found Peggy anxious to help, and she succeeds quite a man in Brit England who died unexpectedly last November.

Wednesday's Daily Missoulian had a story about contributions made to Governor Tom Judge and a party for Judge and Fletcher's Governor Askew last August.

The Hungry Horse News editor stopped at the party briefly, took a picture of Governor and Mrs. Judge and Mrs. Askew which was published on the back page of the Aug. 26 Hungry Horse News along with a brief interview with Governor Askew.

That was the ethical purpose of this newsman's stop and we know nothing illegal or particularly unusual about it. August gathering, except for the Missoulian having its knife out for Judge.

Incidentally the Missoulian last summer showed no interest in the interview or picture which was available to them for the asking. It was a good photograph, too.

Last week's Hungry Horse News featured a picture story of the Flathead legislative delegation in Helena.

The Hungry Horse News report on Helena also referred to Governor Thomas Judge recognizing the political climate and veering to the right, and there was this further comment among others: "Meanwhile Governor Judge continues to be cozy with organized labor that in contrast to environmentalists want more jobs in Montana, and he's getting good marks from business interests."

That some Republicans have been supporting Judge hasn't been any secret.

Mark and Meg Schneider, Camarillo, Calif. liked the article "The Grizzly: Is He Villain or Victim?" in January issue of Outdoors published by the Montana Department of Fish and Game.

Back to winter is the Byrd family who vacationed on Hawa's Kona coast.

Vern Byrd, Spokane reader, had use of a condominium. On

the cutting went his wife, along with Dr. and Mrs. LeRoy Byrd, Spokane, his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Greg (Claudio) Wiek, Enterprise, Ore.; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Byrd with Mr. and Mrs. Chris Byrd, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rink with Cecilia, all of the Flathead.

Jim Byrd and staff were minding Byrd's Food Mart, Martin City, and Marie Byrd, UMI senior, carried the mail from Essex through Canyon Owens and Columbia Falls to Kalispell.

An attractive young lady from the Flathead, Patsy Schmidt-Perez, formerly of Columbia Falls, is at the desk at the Holiday Motel, Helena.

Thanks to good neighbor, Lincoln France, for snow clearing the Highway 40-Lower Nucleus junction.

Cars were getting stuck.

Attorney David Hart, San Francisco, former Glacier National Park, sent an article from California State Automobile magazine which has mention of local attractions and features.

Big Mountain is described as small as western resorts go with accommodations for about 400 people in three lodges at the base of four lifts. Slopes are described as spacious with 20 miles of runs and trails for just about any kind of skier. Big Mountain is popular with skiers from places like Spokane, Calgary and Edmonton.

Big Mountain is also referred to as a "friendly informal place where skiers holding down the slopes in jeans, cowboy hats and down vests."

Author Lynn Ferrin told of "along Going to the Sun Road in Glacier National Park. (Give a read a provocative name, and I'll follow it anywhere.)"

Most of the park, which preserves some of the most spectacular and rugged reaches of the Rockies, is closed in winter except to those traveling on skis and snowshoes. But you can drive 11 miles along the shores of Lake McDonald. On

The Cody (Wyo.) Enterprise tells of the first baby born in Cody in 1877 being a Cody.

He's a fourth generation born in Cody who has been named William Kevin Cody, son of Kit and Linda Cody.

The baby was born Jan. 4 at West Park County Hospital at 11:59 p.m. just in time for his grandfather's birthday. His paternal grandfather, Bill Cody was born on Jan. 4. The child's great-grandfather was the famed Buffalo Bill Cody which the town of Cody was named.

Buffalo Bill also has another descendant born New Year's Eve at Laramie, Wyo. Schmidt, also a great great grandson of Buffalo Bill.

El Toro has been purchased for the Browning High School Rodeo Club by the club's advisory board at a cost of \$2,395. The purchase was made possible through a loan from the Montana Bank of Browning reports the Glacier Reporter. The loan will be repaid by making El Toro available to the public for a riding fee.

El Toro, manufactured in New Mexico, simulates the riding action of a barrel, saddle horse, and bull rider and is used for rodeo practice. It's powered by a two horsepower electric motor and provides variable speeds from 400 miles to 80 times a minute, and a variable spin which is billed "from too damn fast to too damn slow."

Stephen Studebaker and Loren Fromme, the NPS sponsored backpackers reached the Mexican border in Big Bend National Park Aug. 23. They started their outing June 18 at the Canadian border in Glacier.

The men are returning this week to cover about 400 miles in Colorado that they missed because of snow conditions, and they believe they are the first men to have walked the Rocky Mountain crest border to border.

Purpose of the outing is to promote environmental awareness which includes a photographic survey of the NPS areas along the way. They'd spent last summer walking through Montana and Wyoming, and then had to bypass Colorado because of unstable conditions caused by heavy snows.

## Scientific Conferences Coming to Kalispell

The most significant days in the history of natural science studies in Montana likely will be Feb. 17-25.

The state has become accustomed to think in terms of scientific achievement coming from Bozeman or Missoula. This time the stage is in Kalispell.

The Fourth International Conference on Bear Research and Outlaw Inn Feb. 20-24, and there will be three other associated meetings.

The bear conference will see more than 200 attending, and reservations have come from Norway, Sweden, Germany, Italy and Japan.

More than 70 papers are to be presented, and this week there was information that a Mayo Clinic scientist was coming to present information on the use of bears in medical research. The topics will cover a wide range of bear behavior and management involving all the world's species.

The man best informed on the

conference is Clifford J. Martinka, Glacier National Park's research biologist, who is in charge of arrangements.

Opening event for "natural science in the Flathead" will be the Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society which will hold their annual meeting Feb. 17-18. Last year's session was in Yakima.

Then on Feb. 19 the First International Mountain Goat Symposium will take place with Warren Ballard of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, chairman. Doug Chadwick, Polebridge, is in charge of local arrangements.

Following the bear conference there will be a Boone and Crockett workshop assembling information on bears. Possible result will be another book in the Boone and Crockett Workshop series. Their volume on wild sheep is impressive.

It's good thinking for the Flathead to recognize that important scientific conferences are taking place here next month.

## Park Notes

Glacier National Park travel is "hurting" because weather conditions haven't been encouraging cross-country skiing and sightseeing from Sun Road along Lake McDonald.

The week ending Jan. 16 had 538 park visits compared to 2,092 for the comparative week a year ago. Travel for the year through Jan. 16 totaled 3,599 down 12.84 per cent from 3,765 a year ago, according to Lee Foreman, resource management clerk.

He noted there were 200 skiers in Glacier last week, mostly on the weekend, as follows: west entrance 65, Autumn Creek 40, Two Medicine 25, Summit 21, Polebridge 20, Fiedling 17, Walton 7, Cut Bank 3.

Aggar Information Center is open Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mrs. Peggy Reyes has been named part-time librarian at Glacier National Park headquarters succeeding Mrs. Marge Fawell who will be moving to Pennsylvania.

Chief Naturalist Ed Rothfuss said, "We had seven outstanding applicants. I wish there were seven jobs." He noted that during the winter and spring it's a 16 hour work week, and having someone living in the West Glacier community worked out better because they could work parts of some days.

Mrs. Reyes is a Hot Springs, S. Dak. native, who attended Nebraska State College at Chadron, worked for Neo Data

at Boulder, Colo. and the school system there and for Hewlett Packard at Loveland.

She and Supv. Ranger Bob Reyes, now acting West Lakes district ranger, were married in 1958.

Dick Munro, Glacier's management assistant, is now in Room 423 West Lakes, Columbus Hospital, Great Falls, "doing nicely."

Mrs. Munro was back at park headquarters this week, and she expressed Dick's appreciation and her own "for the many nice cards we've received."

Mr. and Mrs. Munro were injured in a collision between Cut Bank and Browning on icy U.S. 2, Dec. 26.

Supt. Phillip R. Iversen was in San Francisco this week in connection with collective bargaining training.

Ranger and Mrs. Elmer Troutlock will be arriving in Big Bend National Park, Texas.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Troutlock, Billings, and Montana raised. He'll be succeeding Jack Fawell as West Lakes district ranger.

1977 Northwest Telephone Systems 1977 directories will be circulated April 1 instead of in January as in the past. Reason for the delay is the number changes for 752 and 756 patrons in Kalispell, comment of John Guimerson, customer services manager.

### Rules on Duncan Case

## Park Announces Bose Purchase

WEST GLACIER—As reported in last week's Hungry Horse News, Glacier National Park has completed purchase of the Inwood Cabin and Gift Shop owned by Mr. and Mrs. James H. Bose.

A Wednesday Glacier National Park news release quoted Robert B. Langer, land acquisition officer for Glacier and Grand Teton, who said the Boses have reserved use of the property and will continue to operate their business for several more years.

Langer also advised Kent J. Wintch, Glacier's acting superintendent, that word had been received from the U.S. Attorney's office in Billings that the appeal by Mr. and Mrs. James P. Duncan in their condemnation

case has been dismissed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In 1975 the National Park Service condemned property in Glacier owned by James and Lucretia Duncan at the head of Lake McDonald. Federal Judge Russell Smith in Missoula originally dismissed the case and indicated the United States government didn't have authority to condemn the property.

Judge Smith subsequently reversed himself in this matter. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan took the case to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and their appeal was dismissed, which in effect confirms the National Park Service's right to condemn property in Glacier National Park.

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