

# Bystander

by Mel Ruder

## About Indians

Just published is Dorothy M. Johnson's newest book, "Buffalo Woman" by Dodd, Mead and Company. It sells for \$6.95.

We read the 247 pages last weekend and keep recalling passages we've read.

Author Johnson starts her latest book in the year 1820 at the lodge of Eagle Walks, 36 head of an Oglala Sioux family that includes Many Bones Woman, 25, his wife; Grey Bull, 16, half brother of Eagle Walks; Antelope Woman, 25, widowed sister of Eagle Walks; Running Wolf, 10, nephew of Many Bones Woman, and Earth Medicine Woman, aged mother of Eagle Walks.

She tells of the birth of

Whirlwind Girl, later to become a Buffalo Woman, finally named Saved Her Cub.

This book offers much in telling of Indian home and family life, contacts with the whites, and finally destruction of buffalo herds and the Battle of Little Big Horn, and the end of nomadic Indian life on the prairie.

There's much appreciation of the Indian way, and sympathy for the values of their culture.

This deeply moving novel chronicles the frightful disasters in the dangerous world of the plains Indians, as well as the peaceful daily life — routine hunting, courting for the men; constant packing, moving and

daily chores of the women. For all of them, there was the yearly climax and renewal of the Sun-gazing Dance.

Miss Johnson, Iowa born, grew up in Whitefish, and now lives in Missoula.

She's honorary police chief of Whitefish, an adoptive member of the Blackfeet Tribe, named "Kills Both Places" and received an honorary degree from her alma mater, University of Montana.

In New York City she had edited The Woman, missed the mountains and returned to Montana in the early 1950s. After working briefly on the Whitefish Pilot she became secretary-manager of the Montana Press Association and an assistant professor of journalism at UM. She's retired from both those positions but continues a busy lady writing magazine articles and books.

Three motion pictures are based on her works: A Man Called Horse, The Hanging Tree and The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance.

Buffalo Woman is her 15th book, and it's outstanding.

## Reader Opinions

### Allison Writes

To the editor:

I believe Mr. McMaster's letters to the editor and my own have served a useful purpose in giving people a chance to read some "give and take" of existing or non-existing problems, as the case might have been.

Now it is time to rest our case. Let the public decide who has the experience, the background and has worked for the betterment of the city for 5 years and hopes to continue.

VOTE APRIL 5th FOR: 1. City. 2. County. 3. School.

Colleen Allison  
Columbia Falls

### Negotiations

### For Employees

To the editor:

Glacier Park Local 3700 met with park management Thursday for the purpose of discussing park policy which concerns the employment and welfare of its employees.

High on the agenda was the park's increasing policy of contracting out work in the park; work the union argues could and should be done by the park's employees. The union holds that not only can this work, for the most part, be done more economically by park employees but the quality of the work is generally much greater when done by these employees.

This issue is of particular concern to local seasonal employees, many of whom gain their

## BN Plans Major Improvements

BILLINGS — Burlington Northern will spend more than \$18 million during 1977 for track and plant improvements in Montana, western North Dakota and northern Wyoming.

J. O. Davies, Billings regional vice president for BN said: "The increasing importance of coal movements in this area requires heavy expenditures for track and associated improvements in our basic transportation plant. These improvements, of course, will benefit every user of Burlington Northern railroad service.

The 1977 expenditures follow an intensive program last year which cost more than \$19

## Praises Jr. High

To the editor:

We should like to use your paper, if we may, as a public means of expressing our thanks and appreciation. This past