



THERE'S STILL SOME DEEP SNOW on Horse Ridge.



LOOKING FOR ELK were Dick Weckwerth, regional game manager for the Montana Department

of Fish and Game and Mountain West Helicopters pilot Ted Parod.

Grass Blazes Keep Firemen Busy

Between them, the Columbia Falls and Bad Rock Volunteer Fire Departments have answered over 30 fire calls since the beginning of April, most of them grass fires.

Firemen have been called back to the same place twice and have responded to as many as four calls in a 24 hour period.

Columbia Falls Fire Chief Don Anderson said persons who set fires for burning rubbish,

and fields are responsible for controlling the blaze and should have the means available for control before a fire is ever started.

Not all of the fires started intentionally, Anderson said it was obvious several blazes were caused by a lighted cigarette butt being tipped out of a car.

Anderson advised anyone burning to have a hose, shovel,

water and other people at the fire to help control it. Small burns should be made around large fields before they are started all at once.

Anderson said he expects the number of fire calls to drop after the first of May when open burning restrictions are again put into effect.

Search Finds Two Men

KALISPELL — Some 40 members of the North Valley and Flathead Search and Rescue units and a search plane

Coal Policy Hearing

BILLINGS — The U.S. Department of Interior has scheduled a hearing in Billings, May 4, to obtain public comment on the department's proposed adoption of Montana's coal mine reclamation laws.

The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in the Petro West Room of the Student Union Building at Eastern Montana College. Persons wishing to present testimony at the hearing should contact the Chief, Office of Public Affairs, Bureau of Land Management (406) 657-6561.

located two men missing on the Flathead River within minutes after the plane was airborne Wednesday afternoon. Search was ordered after the two men did not return to their car 28 hours after they came into the water near Columbia Falls.

The men were identified as Ted Hammond, Missoula and Mark Huelst, Kalispell. Flathead County Sheriff's Deputy Chuck Rhodes said the men had intended to stay overnight on the river, and that they had been briefed by search officials on the importance of keeping persons informed about their location.

Holt Appears In Court

Gary Holt, 31, Martin City, has made his initial appearance on three counts of felony negligent homicide.

Justice of the Peace George Shay set May 6 at 10 a.m. for Holt to return to court for a preliminary hearing.

During the initial appearance, Ted Lympus was appointed public defender for Holt. Holt was then released on his own recognizance.

Holt was the driver of a sports car involved in the March 25 traffic accident which claimed the life of Edwin Lenz, Jennifer Heinzen and Bruce McManis.

Preliminary hearing will determine if the case should be bound over to District court for trial.

Laying Hocks in Montana produced 45 million eggs during the Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 period, 5 per cent above last quarter but down 8 per cent from the same period a year ago.

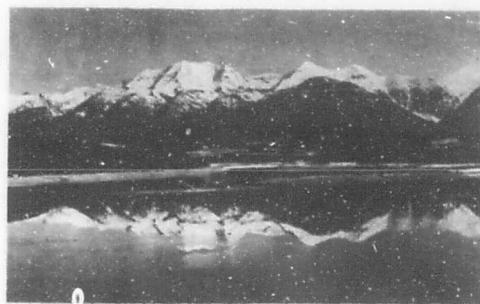
Melton New FVCC Chairman

KALISPELL — Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees elected Perry Melton board chairman during their reorganizational meeting Tuesday evening.

Melton, a FVCC trustee since the college was founded 10 years ago and chairman from 1974 to 1976, replaces former chairman Robert Lepp who was defeated last week in his bid for re-election.

Winner of that race, G. George Ostrom, was officially seated during the meeting.

Board members voting for Melton were Dr. Chet Ross, Ostrom, Melton and Leona Hileman. Voting for Jean Robacker, also nominated for the chairmanship, were Donald Schrock and Louise Kehoe. Robacker abstained from voting.



GREAT NORTHERN MOUNTAIN elevation 8,705 rises 5,145 feet above Hungry Horse Reservoir when full. Big lake is now down 65 feet from full mark compared to 60.5 feet a year ago.

Up the North Fork

by H. Frank Evans
POLTERIDGE — The deer are in splendid shape since the winter was so kind to them. They are sleek and fat for this time of year. But, alas, they are few in number. I wonder when we can close the season for a few years and allow them respite to replenish their numbers?

The elk have been visible in good numbers in the park meadows and the bulls are fast dropping their antlers. And I see by the smoke from her cabin that Mary McFarland is back on the prairie.

How good it is to have old Sol

back for the season. It's light by 5:30 and the sun climbs in my front window shortly after six. And I could still see to swing across Doug and Karen's foot bridge after 8 last night. Pandora refuses to negotiate those swaying legs in spite of her four legs to my two. She prefers to brave the water.

I put in a few hours work before breakfast and was sitting on a log in the front yard eating a bowl of cereal while waiting for Ben Ringo, the mail man. The sun was warm, the sky was blue and full of swallows and I was feeling sorry for the poor rich people.

I'd brought the horse across the road for some better feed. Query came over to see what I was doing. He's a curious horse. He'd make a good scientist if he walked on two legs instead of four. He was so persistent that I tried to give him the last bite

of course, while this scene was being enacted, Pandora, seated on my left and leaning hard against my leg, was muttering jealous discontent. What a dog.

The road has been a frightful mess through the Home Ranch Bottoms where they reconstructed it last fall. I presume they'll smooth it out sometime this week.

The garden is mostly free of snow and it's the first time I've seen it so without those curly, yellow sprouts of rhubarb showing. To me, it just isn't quite spring until the bluebird shows and the rhubarb grows.

It won't be long before there'll be garden to spare — and so many other things to do. When I find time to start training Query? And I suppose I'll have to put off building those cabinets and straightening up the cabin. I rationalize and say that I pity those whose houses are in order. After all, when everything is put away, you forget what all you have "cause 'out of sight is out of mind."

Al Schmaus sent a picture from the Examiner of rows and rows of houses along the San Francisco shoreline. His comment was, "Didn't the Neanderthal man live better than this?"

friendly folks under that roof



VICKI RICE, proof operator

Vicki found her husband at Montana State University. She has worked at the bank for more than two years, first as a teller, now as the proof

operator. She likes to sew and cook, go camping with her husband and enjoys most outdoor summer activities.

friendly services too . . .

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