

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

As the fall air brings a chill, thoughts turn toward the inevitable snowstorms that are soon to follow. Although three months remain of 2004, it's a good time to suggest ideas for making tax deductible year-end gifts

to Soaring Eagle. How about a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity?

A \$5,000 (or larger) Soaring Eagle annuity would provide an impressive

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Would you like to see what a Soaring Eagle gift annuity would do for you? Contact Mary Fox at Soaring Eagle. (406) 256-8500. She'll provide you with a free, no-obligation proposal showing you your personal rate of return (based on your age – one or two annuitants allowed on each annuity). Just let her



(Above left) Elders make beautiful star quilts during hobby time. (Above) Our bright and cheerful dining room offers nutritious meals where no one has to eat alone.

know the amount you're considering (\$5,000 minimum) and your birth date. She'll send a personal proposal for you to review in the comfort of your own home.

"I want to make a gift to Soaring Eagle but I'm not feeling too cashy.. What can I do?"

Compared to a Certificate of Deposit that pays a paltry 3%, a Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity beats it by a mile!

Not only would you receive quarterly payments on your investment, your personal

A donor friend mentioned this concern in a phone call recently. She contributes regularly but would like to do something special. Here's a way! Go to the benefits officer (continued inside back cover)

A Brother's Legacy By Renee Sansom Flood



Rather Emmett's July 27th birthday party at the Heritage Living Center included entertainment provided by the Walking Horse drum group and

Roger Knows His Gun

a performance by country western singer Roger Knows His Gun, one of the resident elders.

Roger was born June 5, 1937, in a tent on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation at Kirby, Montana. Harsh economic times during the Great Depression had resulted in widespread unemployment and hunger among many Indian families, but Roger's family was luckier than most. His dad, Hector Knows His Gun, was half Crow and his mom, Francis Two Birds, was the daughter of respected Cheyenne rancher Peter Two Birds.

Grandpa Two Birds lived on his allotment in a frame house and presided over a large extended family. Roger remembers a steady stream of neighbors and relatives camping on his grandpa's ranch. The old man never turned anybody away.

"A lot of people came to our place. My grandfather always had something to eat for people who came hungry," Roger explains. As a kid, he helped in his grandfather's big community garden. The rancher irrigated his gardens and all the relatives and neighbors benefited from his hard work and generosity.

"People knew how to do things back in those days," Roger says. "The women dried corn and berries and they went into the hills to dig turnips. The kids climbed ash trees after a rainstorm to pick mushrooms. We gathered plums, grapes and currents, chokecherries and buffalo berries. The women cooked the corn outdoors in a big old caldron." Roger remembers watching as women stood for hours stirring the corn.

Although many people still drank water from Rosebud Creek, Roger's grandpa had a good well. Besides a thin slice of beef once in awhile, favorite foods included deer, prairie dog and porcupine. Roger didn't hunt much but when he was 11-years old he took up riding bulls and bucking horses.

"Those horses were pretty tall for me," he recalls. "Grandpa had on average 20 to 30 horses. My job was to bring the horses in from the hills and open range to the pastures."

Two Birds went out in his wagon and gathered wood, cut logs and stockpiled them for the winter months. By the 1930s, most Cheyenne women didn't carry wood anymore. Sometimes they gathered small sticks but it was up to the men to gather and cut wood in August and September.

"People were slim back then," Roger remembers. "You never saw a man with a pot belly. They had good teeth all their lives. Old man Wolf Road died with all his teeth. White people were amazed. They asked him, 'Do you have false teeth?""

In pre-reservation days the Cheyennes were much healthier, had strong teeth and lived longer because they ate traditional foods instead of candy and cake. People had never heard of diabetes. They rode horseback or walked wherever they went, rain or shine. After moving to their reservation they were given insufficient amounts of beef and government rations that contained flour and salt. From then on, their health declined.

Roger's maternal grandmother, Nora Arapaho Chief Two Birds, told stories of the days before ration lines and honking cars but one of her most interesting childhood experiences always captured an audience. When the 7th Cavalry attacked the Indian camps along the Bighorn River in the summer of 1876, Nora was just 4-years-old. The women fled to high ridges to watch the battle and to keep their children out of harm's way. Fascinated, Nora stood on the ridge and saw Cheyenne warriors defend their women and children. After the first charge, the 7th never had a chance. As Nora watched the battle, "She was like a cheerleader!" Roger says with a twinkle in his eye.

Sixty years later, Roger accompanied his grandmother and parents to Pow Wows and dances. His older brother Gordon was good on the guitar and he sang both cowboy and traditional Cheyenne songs. Roger watched him take part in the Sundance. At home in the evenings Gordon taught Roger to play guitar chords. Tragically, Gordon died of TB at the young age of 19, leaving a gaping hole in his little brother's heart.

After Grandpa Two Birds went blind, the family moved from the ranch allotment to Lame Deer. Roger attended school at Busby in the 1950s. He liked school but they lacked the subjects he wanted to take. He remembers participating in high school rodeos riding broncs and bulls. Then he went to Haskell in Lawrence, Kansas and graduated in 1959. He learned brick-laying and masonry but he wanted to join the army. "My two brothers went into the service, but when I tried to join, they told me I was flat-footed. I never knew I had flat feet!"

For years, Roger worked on area ranches to put up hay and mend fences. Off season he earned money playing the guitar and singing in nightclubs and bars, at weddings, parties and school. He sang country western but he also liked rock and roll. At one time he tried acting in a play called "Big Sky Blues." The troop decided to go on a 17-city tour but Roger was leery about going. He didn't have to worry long because the trip was cancelled.

After the loss of his brother, his military service denied and failed marriages, Roger's life spiraled downward into partying and drinking, but with help from God and a well-known 12-step sobriety program, he reclaimed his life and stopped drinking. He survived the difficult days with the support and encouragement of others battling the same disease.

Roger graduated from the University of Utah to become a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor. After 30 years of work for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Roger had to retire in 1999 after suffering a heart attack and a stroke that weakened his right side. Faced with the possibility of never walking again, he began physical therapy in earnest. "It was hard but I didn't want to be in a wheelchair," Roger remembers. "I did my best to hang in there!"

Today, Roger has recovered and is back singing and playing the guitar. He doesn't need the wheelchair. "I like living at the Heritage Living Center," he says. "It's good to see young tribal people working here. My grandchildren like to visit and play on the grass. They say: 'I want to go to grandpa's playground!" For that reason Roger picked a first floor apartment with a view of the pine-covered hills, the park lawns and in the distance, a traditional Northern Cheyenne sweatlodge.

"I give God the credit for my sobriety. Without God I would be nothing. I appreciate each day. I can sit up and walk. I can still sing and play my guitar. I have 23 years of sobriety. That's a lot to be thankful for."

Everyone at the Heritage Living Center benefits from the legacy of an older brother who died too young. Roger remembers his brother every time he picks up his guitar.

From Sitting Bull's Tribe

by Renee Sansom Flood

ne of the oldest residents living in the Heritage Living Center looks more like the youngest! If he had a dime for every time somebody asked his secret for looking young, he'd be a rich man. Ninety-one year-old Carl Braine has seen a lifetime of changes in Indian country and he expects to see many more.

Hokshila Waste (Good Boy in the Sioux Language) was born in South Dakota on the Standing Rock Reservation, once the home of famed Hunkpapa Sioux leader Sitting Bull. In those days woman still carried their babies in shawls on their backs and from that high, snug place Carl watched his Teton Lakota grandmother stir big kettles of corn soup on an outdoor fire. When it rained or the wind blew, Carl's mother covered him completely and he bobbed along against his mother's warm back.

Throughout his childhood Carl lived on his grandparents ranch. "We just tried to survive," Carl remembers of his younger years. "We may not have had much money but we had enough to eat." The land allotment was located in an isolated area many miles from the agency, so far in fact that he doesn't remember ever leaving the ranch.

By 1928, the country boy was tired of horse wrangling and ready for new horizons. He attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas and graduated after 2 years. Haskell was a trade school then. Indian students took regular courses half a day and worked half a day. Carl recalls that he had outstanding teachers. "I studied auto mechanics and I tried to stay there for the rest of my life!"

Carl didn't want to leave because he'd fallen in love with classmate Christine Cain, a pretty Assiniboine girl from northern Montana. Carl and Christine, or "Sis" as he called her, got married and struck out on their own. They moved to Lame Deer, Montana on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 1933. At that time, Lame Deer seemed like "the end of the world" compared to life in Kansas. Nobody in town had electricity or running water. "Before the government assigned allotments, the Cheyennes felt like Indian Prisoners of War," he recalls. It had only been 67 years since the Cheyenne and Sioux victory over Custer and his 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Raising children wasn't easy during the Depression because jobs were rare, but Carl found work with the CCC, or Civilian Conservation

Soaring Eagle Societies

Soaring Eagle has established societies to give proper recognition for outstanding gifts that have been given for the construction of the Heritage Living Center. Each society shows the level of donors and our gratitude for their generosity.

American Eagle Society \$25,000 & up

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Soaring Eagle Societies

Donors who contributed \$100 or more between January 1, 2004 and September 30, 2004 were enrolled in the Dawn of Hope Society. They received a beautiful personalized certificate suitable for framing. **Thank you for your generous and caring gifts.**

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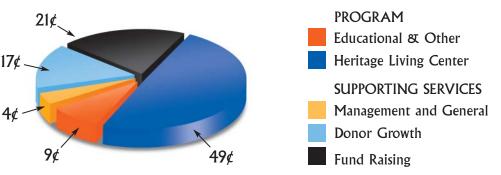
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These one-time or cumulative contributions were received between January 1, 2004 – September 30, 2004. Contributions received after September 30, 2004 will be listed in the next Soaring Eagle *Signals* newsletter. See our website at www.soaringeagle.org.

Soaring Eagle Fund Raising Operation

Where the dollar was spent for the year ended June 30, 2004



From Sitting Bull's Tribe (continued)

Corps. The CCC crew accomplished many good works for the Cheyenne people. "We built fences, fire towers and we put in the first telephone line to the agency," Carl recalls. When the CCC program ended, Carl graded roads for the Road Department until 1943. Then he moved his growing family (4 boys) to the west coast and later to

Idaho, where he helped build the Farragut Naval Station.

When World War II broke out, Carl was drafted. He went into the Army Corps of Engineers and was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington. It wasn't long before his unit shipped out for Ieshima, one of 40 small Pacific Islands across the bay from Okinawa.

Ernie Pyle, "America's most widely read war correspondent" visited Ieshima soon after winning a Pulitzer Prize. Throughout the war, Pyle had covered routine reconnaissance missions and

wrote about the struggles and heartbreak of ordinary soldiers. On April 18, 1945, Pyle accompanied troops on his last dangerous mission. "Ernie Pyle was killed by a Japanese machine gun sniper," Carl remembers. "They buried him on the island." The nation mourned the death of a good man.

Nightly air raids were commonplace but the unit prepared for the invasion of Japan by building a hospital. As luck had it, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a peace treaty with Japan before it was completed. On the night the Japanese surrendered, every ship in the bay (some say thousands) let loose with whatever they had. It sounded like a huge air raid. Carl and his unit were glad to be going home.

Meanwhile, to support the war effort, Sis had been working in the Seattle shipyards. When Carl joined her back to the states, he bought a brand new Army truck. In 1946, they moved home to Lame Deer, where Carl's truck was the only truck on the reservation. He went into the trucking business and eventually bought a semi-truck to haul hay and cattle.

Rough, dirt roads were hard on truck tires. Ten years passed before the Northern Cheyenne got their first paved road in 1956. Area ranchers were Carl's best clients. They rounded up their cattle, herded them into his truck and he hauled them away to market. "In those days a handshake meant something," he says. "We had no problems with prejudice because everybody was struggling to make a living. Color was nothing. There's more prejudice today than there was in those days."

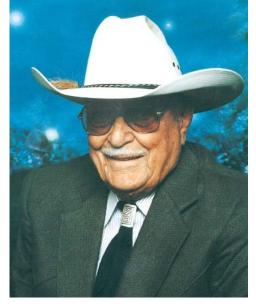
Carl's trucking business lasted 20 years and then he went to work for the Lame Deer School.

On one memorable day in 1973, Carl was at work when A.I.M. (The American Indian Movement) came to Lame Deer to recruit members on their way to Washington, DC., where they eventually took over and destroyed a government building. "I was about to put up the American flag outside the school when an A.I.M. guy grabbed the flag out of my hands," Carl remembers. "He wrapped it around himself and walked out." After seeing patriotic men die in war, Carl was not impressed with anyone who man-handled the United States flag.

One of Carl's most exciting experiences was working with a Hollywood movie company as they filmed "Little Big Man" on the reservation. Carl rented the horses used in the film and met famed Indian actor, Chief Dan George, (He was nominated for Best Supporting Actor.) and lead actor Dustin Hoffmann. Both men were fun to be around. To get the raspy voice of his 120 year-old film character, Hoffmann sat in his dressing room and screamed at the top of his lungs for an hour.

Carl and Sis retired and left Lame Deer in 1979. They moved to Apache Junction, Arizona. Carl and Sis loved to travel and see the sights. They had many happy adventures together, but life took a sad turn in 1990 when Sis died after 47 years of marriage.

For a long time, Carl's home just wasn't the same without Sis, but today he has reclaimed his life and enjoys each and every moment. "I have about a hundred grandchildren," he quips. "Just kidding! I have 12 grandchildren." Carl doesn't have a recipe for looking 20 years younger than he really is, but he says that he "quit smoking and drinking 30 years ago," and he's sure that helped. The Heritage Living Center is home now. With a twinkle in his eye Carl adds: "I know everybody who works and lives here and I love it!"



Carl Braine

(continued from front cover)

where you work and ask to take a look at your pension and/or life insurance benefits policy. Did you know you could designate a percentage of your policy to go to Soaring Eagle? All you have to do is name Soaring Eagle, a Public Charity as a beneficiary of 5%, 10% or 25% (or whatever percentage you deem appropriate). Upon your death, that gift percentage would not have to go through probate. It would not be taxed. Soaring Eagle would receive the benefit of your generosity without any interference from Uncle Sam. Your heirs will not have to hassle with estate tax on this gift. Not only is it a beautiful way to help the Native American elders at the Heritage Living Center, it's smart planned giving.

If you have already named Soaring Eagle, A Public Charity in your Will, THANK YOU! We don't yet have an endowment to rely on, so your bequest will be a special commitment we can count on for the future care of Native elders.

Your Beggar Friend,

Kather Cmmett Haffmann

Fr. Emmett Hoffmann

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7.3%	Rate of Return	1.88%
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\$545/yr	Taxable Income	\$376/yr
\$1,460/yr	Gross Annual Income	\$376/yr
\$1,311/yr	Net Income (after taxes)	\$273
\$6,090	Charitable Deduction (Yr. 1)	\$0
\$1,825	Income Tax Savings (Yr. 1)	\$0

*Based on a 70 year-old individual in a 27% Federal tax bracket, making a \$20,000 investment. Soaring Eagle Annuity contracts are irrevocable, resulting in the large contribution deduction. The Certificate of Deposit is a 2-year rate.



Your Gift Lives On

Please use one of the following sample forms of bequest:

A. (Whatever is left after other bequests have been granted) "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, I bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana."

B. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, _____% of my estate."

C. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, the sum of \$...

D. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at 745 Indian Trail, P.O. Drawer 879 in Billings, Montana, 59103, the sum of \$ ______ for the Wall of Living Memories Fund, to care for Cheyenne elders, the principal of which shall remain in perpetuity."

These are sample forms only. Consult your attorney when preparing any legal document.

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Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne The Life and Work of The Life and Work of

The Life and Work of Father Emmett Hoffmann 1926–



Father Emmett's humanitarian achievement on behalf of the Northern Cheyenne was unequaled in the history of the Catholic Church in the 20th century American West. But success came with a terrible price. His remarkable accomplishments finally overcame the moral violence leveled against him by religious brethren, but not before it nearly cost him his life.

"Who the hell are you working for, Father Emmett or me?"

"Father's always been here to help the children and the elders. He is just like one of us. He is a chief." John Russell Ir. (White Black Blia) Chief of the Northern Cheyenne Council of 44

"You know how you feel safe around your parents? That's how I felt about Father Emmett. I trusted my soul with him." Rubie Sookiis, Chief Dull Knife descendant





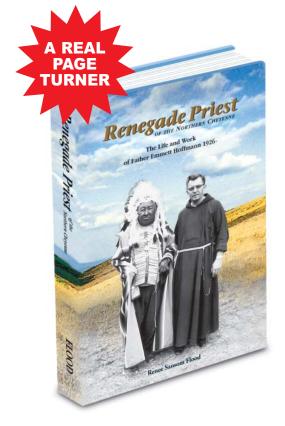


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Father Emmett's Biography, Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

> Order Form on Back

Soaring Eagle

Important Days We Want to Remember in Our Prayers

You are in our prayers each day and we want to remember your loved ones on their special days as well. Please print the name(s) you want remembered and return in the envelope provided.

Birthday	Deceased
Date of Birthday	Date of Death
Birthday	Deceased
Date of Birthday	Date of Death