



Clockwise, starting above:

1. Puzzles are a favorite pastime with the ladies.

2. Teasing each other in the dining room.

3. Bisco enjoying his morning coffee.

4. Father Emmett leads a prayer circle.

5. A First Aid class.

6. Fr. Emmett visiting the children at lunch.





Residents warm up in exercise class

A Note From Father Emmett

Dear Friends,

As I watch the outpouring of American generosity toward the victims of Hurricane Katrina, I am inspired by the caring hearts of my fellow citizens. It's amazing to see the response to the images we see on television. When you see people sitting on their roofs, waving for rescue, all of their worldly belongings washed away or underwater, it makes you want to help.

The elders and I watch the daily news and pray for those people who've lost the world they knew. The elders know how it feels to be displaced, refugees of a sort, banished to reservations where they couldn't sustain themselves. I wonder if television had existed in the late 1800s, would Native Americans have turned into forgotten refugees? I don't think so. I don't think Americans are any more compassionate than in the past. It's just that most people didn't know what was happening way off in the distant Wild West. No one would have believed that



our fellow citizens in the "land of plenty" would suffer from malnourishment and disease, ignored, even hunted down and killed by the military.

I'm still a beggar on behalf of Native Americans. You have heard my pleas and have responded with kindness. Now with the many natural disasters taking place in the world, it has become very difficult to care for the elders. They have again become the forgotten Americans. The elders join me in praying for you every day, asking "Maheo" to bless you for all you have done for them. He calls us all to help the needy and I trust you will continue to remember the needs of the elders. Thank you for you caring. You help lift a burden that is generations old, and we carry it together.

Your grateful beggar friend,

Father Emmett Hoffmann
Father Emmett Hoffmann



Herb Bear Chum's biography

...continued from the last edition of *Signals*

In the first installment of Herb Bear Chum's story, readers will recall that Herb grew up an orphan on the Northern Cheyenne

Reservation. His Grandma Nancy, a medicine woman, taught him traditional ways and she made sure that when World War II broke out, Herb went to college instead of to war. But when he got to college his job was given to a rich man's son. Discouraged, he dropped out of school.

But Herb wasn't going to let prejudice and humiliation get him down. He hitchhiked to Billings where he found work sacking beans in burlap bags. His hands bruised and bloodied, he knew he could get a better job. From then on his career went straight uphill. He became Clerk of Courts for his tribe and then moved to the BIA where his college transcripts came in handy. He was promoted to engineering (cartographic) draftsman and finally to a Civil Engineer. Later, he became a Highway Department Draftsman for the MRBI, the Missouri River Basin Investigations.

During these hard-working years, he met and married Marie Ann Fighting Bear in the traditional Indian way. He was 38-years-old. Through the years, Marie and Herb had 5 children, Libby, Byron, Herbert Jr., Tyrone and Herberta. Herb also served on the tribal council for 8 years and graduated from Dull Knife Memorial College.

Again, opportunity knocked when the Birney reservation community selected Herb as Master of Ceremonies for a party. Although he'd never done it before, he agreed to be their MC. Herb found that he had no fear of getting up in front of an audience and was soon in demand for pow wows: "I was known for my encouraging cheer. When a drum group had a good song going, I cheered them on. It made them sing louder and it was more fun!"

Because Herb's coworkers and friends saw a fun-loving guy with loads of energy, they nicknamed him "Happy Herb." But although he was holding down two jobs, Herb was anything but happy. His home life had deteriorated until finally, he and Marie broke up and went their separate ways.

In the late 1960s, the movie "Little Big Man" starring Dustin Hoffmann and Faye Dunaway

was filmed in part on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Herb and many of his friends were hired as extras. The film crew brought in a trailer and each Indian went in to be "made up" as an Indian!

I had my horse, a palomino named Silver City. They put a tight buckskin breechcloth on me, a wig and Hollywood war paint. I walked out to get my horse and he didn't recognize me! He shied away when I jumped on his back. My breechcloth was so tight! I couldn't spread my legs to ride bareback. I wasn't used to getting pinched up like that. He kept turning to look back at me because my legs were pinching him, too. I cut the breechcloth with a knife.

By the 1970s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs had allowed big coal companies to lease Northern Cheyenne land. Herb was called in to help tribal members investigate the validity of the coal leases. Geologists, hydrologists and draftsmen worked together to see if the BIA had masterminding a sellout of tribal lands to the coal companies. They found out that 8 coal companies had 32 lease violations. After reporting their findings to the Secretary of the Interior, he voided the coal leases. Coal companies were ordered to give 3 million dollars back to the tribe.

Herb's career as Master of Ceremonies nearly came to a tragic end in 1991, when he lost his hearing. He tried hearing aids but they didn't work. It seemed like he was living in a glass of water. Realizing that his MC career was over and that he might lose his job, Herb felt useless. He became deeply depressed and decided to sit down and write a suicide note: "Suddenly, I felt my Grandma Nancy in the room," he recalls. "I quit writing the note, opened the door and told the bad spirits to get out of my house. I asked the good spirits to come in. Grandma Nancy was with me."

When Herb's son Tyrone found out what had happened, he moved in with his dad. Tyrone liked to play the radio real loud and it didn't matter because Herb couldn't hear a thing. But one night, Teddy Wooden Thigh, Tyrone and Herb were playing cards when all of a sudden, Herb heard the radio. "It's too loud!" he told his son. "Turn it down!" Teddy laughed: "You were more fun deaf!" Herb had gotten his hearing back.

(To be continued in the next issue of *Signals*)

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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.

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Donors who contributed \$100 or more between January 1, 2005 and Sept. 15, 2005 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.*



Top:
Praying for all of our friends and benefactors.

Left:
A morning Montessori class.

Above:
Rose tries to outsmart Father Emmett in
a card game.



Edna looks at the beautiful park view.

HURRICANE KATRINA FOILED BY DIRECT DEPOSIT AUTOMATIC GIFT ANNUITY PAYMENT

I never dreamed our new automatic, direct deposit payments to annuitants would provide anything more than a convenience to our donor friends, but last month, they became a necessity for one couple in Metairie, Louisiana.

Metairie is located just west of New Orleans. Metairie was hit hard by the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, including widespread flooding from Lake Pontchartrain caused by the breaches and overflowing of lake levees. Our friends, who also happen to be annuitants, had to evacuate for Katrina. For several days, even postal service was suspended in the area. Offices were closed. The town of Metairie was hit hard.

In spite of the devastation, our friends could count on an automatic deposit from our annuity account to their checking account. The transfer was successfully completed. Even though everything else in their world seemed to turn upside down, at least one thing was reliable: their Soaring Eagle gift annuity payment.

The elders join Father Emmett in prayer for those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Several of our donor friends are experiencing significant hardship. Still we are deeply grateful for our dedicated friends, who continue to help assure that Native elders will not be forgotten. We are grateful that our Metairie friends are going to be all right.

If you like the idea of a reliable source of income that pays you now, but provides for Soaring Eagle's future, why not consider a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity? Our rate of return is better than many similar forms of investment. Call Mary Jo Fox at (406) 256-8500 to receive a free, no-obligation proposal based on an amount you specify (minimum \$5,000) and your date of birth. Annuities may be written for up to two beneficiaries.

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*Based on a 92 year-old individual in a 27% Federal tax bracket, making a \$10,000 investment. Soaring Eagle Annuity contracts are irrevocable, resulting in the large contribution deduction. The Certificate of Deposit is a 2-year rate.



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

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YES, I’m interested in a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity. The better rate of return, tax deduction and eventual charitable contribution to Soaring Eagle sounds like a WIN WIN WIN opportunity.

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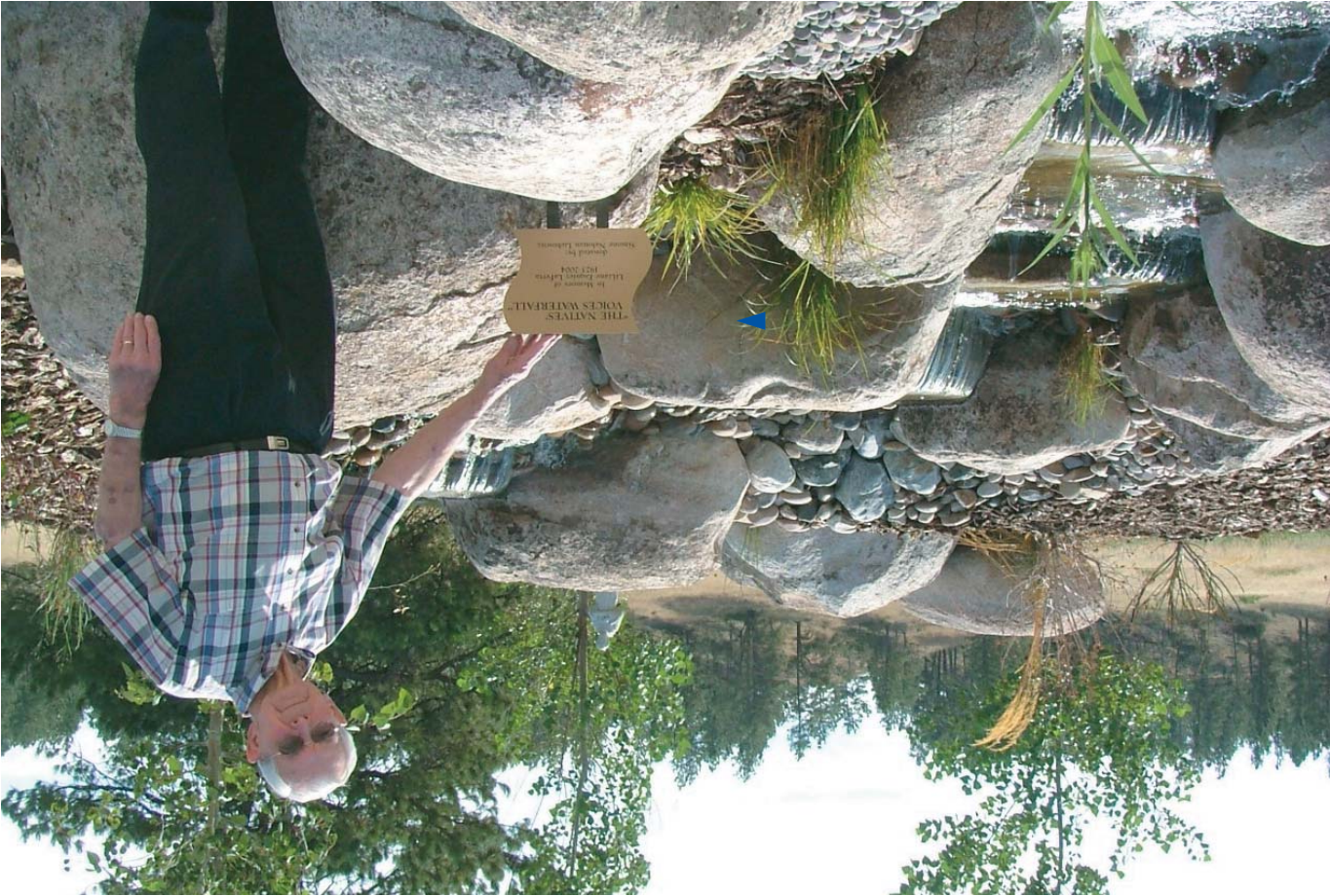
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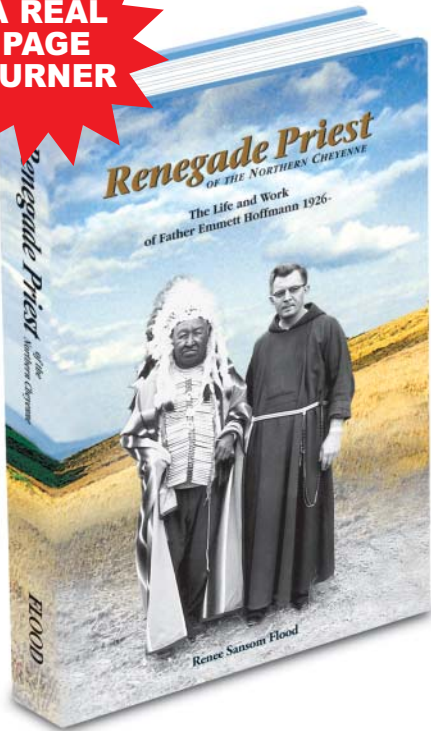
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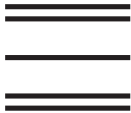


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Soaring Eagle

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.

Name_____	Deceased_____
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