



Five hundred thousand meals! That's half a million plates of protein-filled, healthy food you have provided for the Cheyenne elders during the last 12 years at the Heritage Living Center. Father Emmett would be so proud of you for carrying on his dream and the vision of the old Cheyenne chiefs who were his mentors. Nothing would have pleased him more.

Winter arrived early this year in Montana. The traditional Cheyenne believe that when the geese fly low on their way south for the winter, it means a hard winter ahead. Sure enough, the geese flew low and the predicted sub-zero temperatures arrived before we knew it. We empathize with you if you are also experiencing harsh, record-breaking snowfall and high wind-chills.

I've lived in Montana for many years but one particularly hard winter in 1974 stands out above the rest. As a student at Montana State in Bozeman, I loved winter sports but being cooped up in my dorm room because of bad weather gave me a

Greetings From Mike

serious case of cabin fever. I looked out at the parking lot and not one car would start in the brutal cold. The temperatures hadn't gotten above ten below zero for three weeks. At that time, I drove a 1966



Al Ghost Bull Lester visits with one of Santa's helpers on Christmas morning.

continued, page 2 >

continued from cover >

Volkswagen and there sat my bug in the frozen, snow-packed lot. I just had to get out of that dorm! An idea came to me, crazy now that I remember it, but at that time it seemed like a stroke of genius. I walked downtown and bought a small



Edna Seminole and Mike visit at HLC.

camping grill and a bag of charcoal. Then I slid under the car, directly under the oil pan and lit a small fire in the grill with two charcoal bricks. It took a long time on my back in the brutal weather but they finally turned white around the edges and started to smolder. I waited. I tried to start the car. Nothing happened. Back under the car, the snow covered ground was unbelievably cold, but giving up was not in my nature.

By this time a small crowd of my friends were urging me on. My bug, with its simple, air-cooled engine was pretty much like a lawn mower. Almost two hours later, adding one charcoal brick at a time, and many trips under the car, I decided to try once again. Wow! It worked! The engine groaned and started. A bunch of us piled in the car and off we went.

Today, I wouldn't recommend my oil pan technique to anyone, but it got the job done.

This was our first Christmas morning without Father Emmett. The elders were solemn at first and misty-eyed. They remembered his almost childlike love of Christmas carols, shining decorations and special Christmas blessings. He filled every nook and cranny at the Center with twinkling lights and a glorious tree with his special manger in front. Your generosity provided a warm room, the big tree, the Christmas gifts for the elders, as well as the peanut butter cookies. As a special treat, several great grandchildren came to sing Christmas carols.

Soon, the melancholy disappeared and the spirit of good cheer prevailed. The elders began to enjoy themselves and we had a joyous holiday with a big feast of turkey, ham, deer meat soup and pumpkin pie. During the meal the elders reminded their families and our staff that all of this was of your doing. Despite your own busy schedule and family celebration, you had not forgotten them.

Watching the celebration, I noticed one of our residents standing in back of the others with a big grin on her face. This sweet lady was raised in a tent with her siblings in winter weather that often dropped to 40 below zero. Her family suffered, especially the babies and young children. Fortunately, she survived but her mother was still a young

woman when she died of tuberculosis. Despite bittersweet memories of past misfortunes, our Cheyenne resident elders seemed happy and content. Your generosity made Christmas a joyful season at the Heritage Living Center.

Winter in Montana is a dangerous time of extremes and unpredictable weather. It can be 50 degrees one day and zero degrees the next. Add to that 40-50 mph winds that cause power outages, drifting snow and deadly black ice. But underneath the blanket of snow and ice, the earth is resting and preparing for new life, new hope and a renewal of the spirit in the spring.

I look forward to a challenging and rewarding new year with the confidence that you will not forget us, nor Father Emmett's enduring legacy of love and compassion for the Cheyenne people. We are up to the tasks and we have the determination and the ingenuity to do what it takes to care for the elders at the Heritage Living Center.

My staff and I are working hard to care for the descendants of the Cheyenne warriors in Great Plains History. Without your help, their lives and good health would be in jeopardy. I deeply appreciate all that you do.

With a grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Skaggs". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Skaggs

Hubert Black Wolf – Teaching Cheyenne Ways



Hubert Black Wolf jokes with everybody but he takes his job as Resident Attendant at the Heritage Living Center seriously. As the son of James Black Wolf Sr., once the Keeper of the Sacred Buffalo Hat Bundle and his mother, Sarah Round Stone, he learned traditional Northern Cheyenne ways.

In his big family, his mother taught the girls and his dad taught the boys. As he got older, Hubert watched as his dad helped people by listening and counseling them when they had problems or praying for them when they were sick.

In the 1990s Hubert's dad worked with tribal and government officials to return the remains of 18 Cheyenne victims of the Fort Robinson Outbreak of 1879. Scientists at Eastern museums had kept the bones for over 100 years. Black Wolf was saddened but led the burial procession after eight pine boxes were delivered to the tribe.

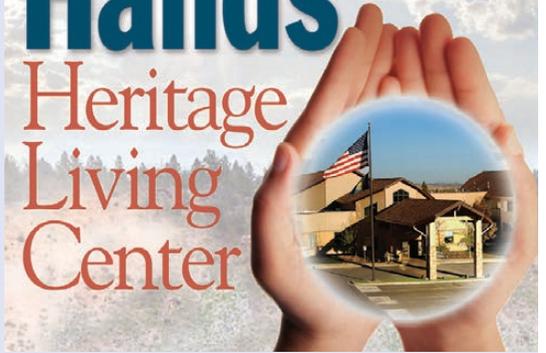
Leaders of the Cheyenne military societies were present as well as the Chief's Society. One box contained the skull of a 2 year old girl with a bullet hole through her forehead. "It was terrible," Hubert remembers. "They broke down and

cried." In a solemn ceremony with many tribal members paying their last respects, the Cheyenne victims killed at Fort Robinson were buried in sacred land.

Growing up in a traditional full blood family meant that conflict was discouraged. Hubert and his brother went to school in Lame Deer to start 6th grade, where the coach and principal were non-Indians. Both boys wanted to participate in sports and the principal said they could, but only under one condition - they had to cut off their long braids! The boys were shocked. They knew these men had no respect for them or their culture, yet they wanted to participate in sports. Humiliated, the 6th graders allowed school employees to chop off their braids. It was a choice Hubert would not forget. But he did forgive. When he was 19, Hubert became a Sundancer. He fasted and Sundanced 4 times and completed his vows. He searched and found himself in his Cheyenne religion, making his parents proud.

A hard-working man, Hubert is a role model for his family. He and his wife, Delberta (Eagle Man) are loving parents to their 6 children;

Helping Hands Heritage Living Center



Jeremy, Omnique, Christian, Keleah, Daniel and Mariah. They are active kids who love to dance at powwows and attend sweat lodge ceremonies.

Hubert likes his job as Resident Attendant at the Heritage Living Center. He also teaches Sign Language classes in area schools. As a descendant of Chiefs Dull Knife and Little Wolf on both sides, he is respected by the residents. They love to hear him sing Cheyenne songs. In turn, he likes hearing them tell the old stories in his native language or in sign language. "They're open with me," Hubert says. "They get lonely sometimes and when I see that, I go in and listen to them."

Hubert carries on his customs and we are proud to have him working at the Heritage Living Center.

Second Generation Elders Living at the Heritage Living Center

You have helped to fulfill the dream of the old Northern Cheyenne Chiefs. They desperately needed “a . . . home for our elders,” so that older people would not be sent more than a hundred miles away to die alone in a nursing home long before their time. The chiefs had never heard the term “assisted living” but they knew they wanted a safe place nearby that would remain open for generations to come. After 12 years of proven excellence in Assisted Living Care, the Heritage Living Center (HLC) is proud to introduce our Second Generation residents, Lazona Harris, daughter of Chief Bisco Spotted Wolf and JoAnn Elliott, daughter of Carl Braine. They have followed in their fathers’ footsteps to spend their golden years with people who care about their health and well-being.

First Generation – Chief Clarence “Bisco” Spotted Wolf

Father Emmett Hoffmann, Director of St. Labre Mission, surprised Bisco Spotted Wolf, Chief of the Northern Cheyenne Council of 44, when he showed up at his front door in 1954. “I want you to come to the Mission and work for me,” Father told him. Then he



Chief Clarence "Bisco"
Spotted Wolf

handed Bisco a heavy ring of keys and winked. “If I find a better man, I’ll come and take the keys back.” That day never came. For the next 55 years, Bisco worked tirelessly with Father and proved that he was indeed, the best man for the job.

When Father decided to build the Heritage Living Center, Bisco helped keep an eye on workers and supplies. When HLC opened in 2002, Bisco was one of the first tribal members to move in. He was proud when asked to serve on the Soaring Eagle Board of Directors.

Bisco’s grandfather, Old Chief Frank Spotted Wolf, lost an eye and the use of one arm in hand-to-hand



Lazona Harris, Bisco Spotted Wolf's daughter

fighting during the Battle of the Little Bighorn, where Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and approximately 250 men of the 7th U. S. Cavalry lost their lives. A year after Bisco moved to the Center an interesting, unlikely footnote in history took place. Kenneth Custer, a descendant of

George A. Custer's family, came to meet the old chief. The two men, born of cultures that had fought each other without mercy on the western plains, formed a bond of true friendship. In 2011, Ken was one of the last people to reach out to comfort Bisco in his final hours before he passed over to the next camp to join his father and grandfather before him.

Second Generation – Lazona Harris

One year after her Father passed away, Bisco's oldest daughter, Lazona Harris, became the second generation in her family to live at HLC. After a long professional career, she had some health issues and retired to come home. Looking years younger than her age, Lazona loves the Center.

Her mother, Florence Matilda Harris, and Bisco were teenage sweethearts, but they parted ways and each married others; Bisco to Adeline Yellow and Florence to James Soldier Wolf. Lazona was raised by her grandparents, cattle ranchers Bill and Maggie Harris on Muddy Creek. She went off to Chilocco Boarding School in Oklahoma because she wanted, "to broaden my view of the world." But after two years, she had to return home to care for her dying grandmother. She graduated from St. Labre Indian School and worked in the Guild Arts and Crafts factory.

Father Emmett co-signed a loan for the 18 year old to buy her first car. She worked hard and paid the Ford off, quite a feat for a young girl in those days.

After graduation, Lazona married her friend since 2nd grade, the love of her life, Cleveland Hiwalker. When she became Miss Trail Queen in 1976, she won a college scholarship, but her husband didn't want her to go. As fate would have it, she was at home with her baby girl, Ronette, when Cleveland was killed. Grief-stricken, it took Lazona years to recover and the murderer was never apprehended.

Lonely years passed before she married Bob Bailey. The couple moved to Minneapolis where Bob earned his Master's Degree. A second daughter, Robin, joined the family but the marriage ended. Lazona went on to earn a degree in sociology, made possible by a 4-year educational stipend from St. Labre Indian School.

Father Emmett followed Lazona's career and advised her, "You can't control somebody else's life but you can control your own. Make sure your girls get a good education." She worked for 15 years as a social worker for the state of Washington. She also served as Health Careers Director for the Indian Health Board, recruiting 800 students for careers in medicine, including Tim Wilson MD, one of the first Cheyenne physicians. Great

job Lazona!

First Generation – Carl Braine

Carl Braine was 95 years old when he left HLC for his last ride into the hills. Hokshila Waste (Good Boy in the Lakota Sioux language) was born on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota, once the home of the great Hunkpapa leader Sitting Bull.

Carl grew up on his grandfather's ranch. When remembering that time in his life he said, "We just tried to survive." By 1928, he grew tired of horse wrangling and left the ranch to attend Haskell Institute in Kansas. He liked the school and graduated at the top of his class. He didn't want to leave Haskell because he'd fallen in love with Christine Cain, a pretty Assiniboine girl from northern Montana. She finally agreed to marry him and they moved to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

When World War II broke out, Carl went into the U. S. Army. After the Japanese surrendered, Carl came home to Christine and started a successful trucking business that lasted many years.

One of Carl's most exciting memories was meeting film actors Chief Dan George and Dustin Hoffman when they filmed, "Little Big Man," on the reservation. Carl rented his horses for the film and he noticed that Hoffman sat in his dressing

Veterans Day



The HLC flag is folded military-style and retired. It is ceremoniously replaced each Veterans Day with a new Stars and Stripes.



Clinton Bird Hat blesses the new flag with sage before it is raised above the Heritage Living Center.



Left: Head Cook, Kimmie Olson, shares a tray of Christmas cookies as Peter John Wilson opens a gift on Christmas morning.

Below: Santa, Wayne Tallbull, and his "elves" deliver gifts to the elders.



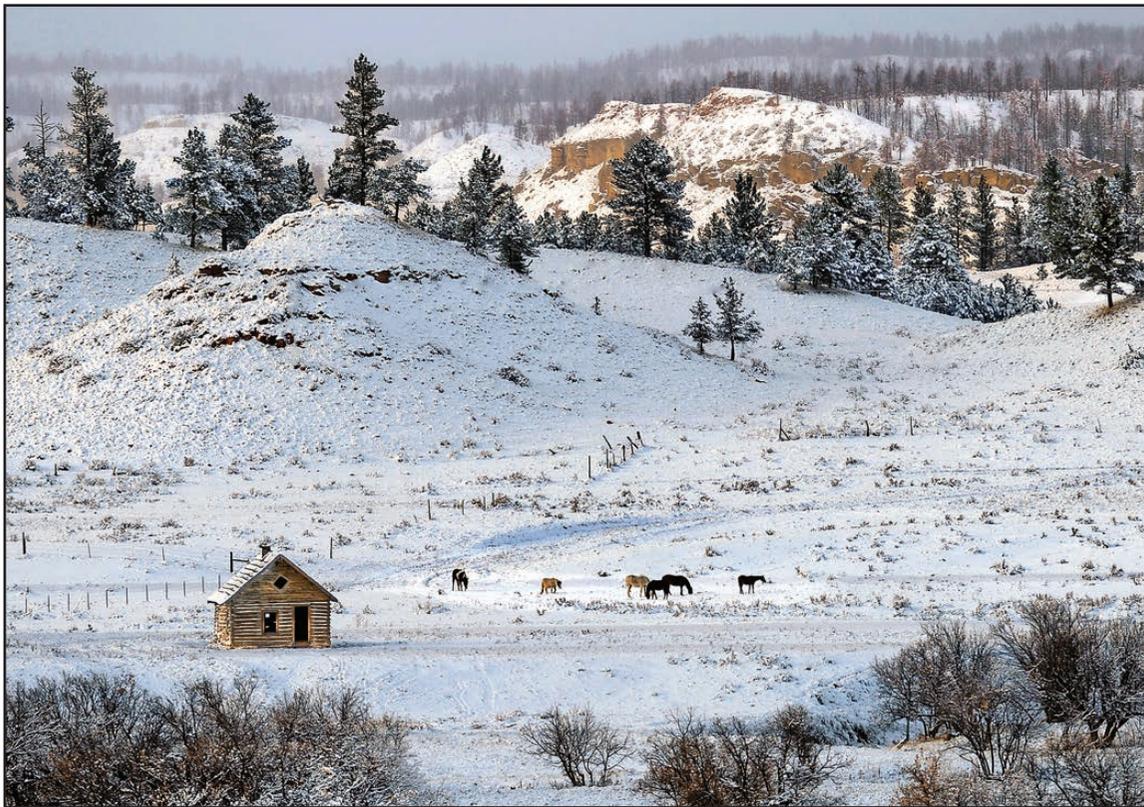
Christmas

Do you want to return our unused, stamped envelopes?

If so please remember we need to have the whole envelope with the stamps attached – not just the stamps – to receive credit from the post office. If you want to return envelopes to us, place up to 4 folded stamped envelopes in one stamped envelope and mail it back to us.

Thank You!

Horses move together while searching for grass beneath the frozen landscape of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in eastern Montana. Temperatures plummeted to well under -20 degrees for several days in December.



DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

room and screamed at the top of his lungs for an hour to create the raspy voice of his character.

Christine passed away in 1990 and Carl eventually moved to HLC where he told relatives: "I know everybody who works and lives here and I love it." Carl lived a long and productive life and we honor him for his wartime service.



Carl & Christine Braine

Second Generation – JoAnn Elliott

Carl Braine's Daughter, JoAnn Elliott (Estatoto – Blue Eyes) is an enrolled Hunkpapa. Her great grandmother, Old Rock, was "bought" by Jacob Wirth, a young military scout in the territory that is now Montana, in 1868. It is doubtful that Old Rock had any say in the matter. They had three girls, Harriet, Susan and Christine. The girls were close to their mother, but Mr. Wirth decided they were to be sent away to boarding school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania while they were still young. Old Rock protested but her pleading made no difference. The children were pulled from their mother's arms and sent away. Years later, they came home but Old Rock had long since "thrown away" her German immigrant husband.

JoAnn Elliott was born and grew up in Lame Deer, Montana. She

married a Cheyenne, "Sarge" Elliott and they became parents to two sons and a daughter, Randy, Bobbie Jo and Calvin Wade. She earned her college degree in Elementary Education at Eastern Montana College and began working in the Head Start Program for the tribe. "It was fun. I loved it," she says. She was Head Start Director for 12 years but worked for the program a total of 25 years. They started with 60 children and when she retired they were working with 160 kids.

The premise of Head Start was to have little 3 and 4 year old children learn to take care of themselves and to feel proud about doing it. They loved to read but some had never had a meal at the table. They learned to eat their food, take their dishes to a cart, scrape the dishes off, clean up around them and to wash their faces and hands before and after eating

or using the lavatory. Many were poverty stricken and suffering from Iron Deficiency Anemia. JoAnn gave the kids toothpicks with small pieces of cooked liver covered in ketchup. They thrived.

After she left Head Start, JoAnn went to Kodiak, Alaska to manage the Aleut Infant Learning Program for Special Needs Infants and Toddlers. She ended her long career in Arizona working for the Pima Tribe for 14 years. JoAnn devoted many decades of her life to help thousands of Native children who were provided the basic survival skills they needed to excel in school, to take care of their own children and to further their education. Hats off JoAnn

for your dedication!

By their presence, our Second Generation residents, Lazona and JoAnn, have given the Heritage Living Center our greatest compliment – they liked how we cared for their fathers. They always knew their dads were warm and well fed in a safe, respectful atmosphere, with friends and relatives surrounding them. That sense of well being now extends to them and to their descendants in the generations to come.



JoAnn Elliott, Carl Braine's daughter

Give and Receive with a Gift Annuity

There is a popular television commercial for a cell phone company where a man sits at a table with four young children and asks them a question. It's like the feature "Kids Say the Darndest Things!" in Art Linkletter's television show *House Party* from 1952 to 1970. The children's responses are sometimes hilarious.

What if the man asked the youngsters, "Is it better to give a gift or receive a gift?" One of those cute kids might blurt out, "Both!"

"Both" is the correct answer. A Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity can make giving and receiving a pretty good deal.

What is a Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a way for Soaring Eagle's donors to make an important gift and enjoy income and tax benefits today and in the years ahead. After giving cash or readily marketable property (usually securities), you or a loved one you select receives fixed income payments for life. When the gift annuity is funded, the payment rate is fixed. The rate never changes and the payments continue as long as the recipient lives. It's a reliable income that you can't outlive.

Tax Savings

Based on sound financial calculations and estimates accepted



Evelyn Bear Ground on Christmas morning at HLC.

by the IRS, part of a gift annuity is expected to be used for charitable purposes. Because of that expectation, the donor is able to take federal, and possibly state, income tax deductions in the year of the gift. If the charitable deduction is too great to use in the first year subject to tax rules, any unused portion can be used in the next five tax years. Additionally, part of each annuity payment may be free of income tax for a period of years. If the annuity is funded with capital gains property, then the capital gains tax can be spread over a period of years. The

amount funding an annuity may also be free of state and federal gift and estate taxes.

The Two-Life Annuity

Two persons can establish a two-life gift annuity. The rates are usually lower as the annuity payments are made over the lifetimes of both annuitants. Most two-life annuities are set up for spouses. Both enjoy the fixed income that continues until the last spouse dies.

Although spouses are the most common donors and recipients of two-life annuities, being married is not a requirement. The two persons

can be siblings, parent and child, or even two unrelated neighbors.

An Annuity for Someone Else

A gift annuity can be a useful tool for providing a fixed income for a loved one and make a charitable gift at the same time. An adult child might consider funding an annuity for a parent to receive the payment for the remainder of his or her life. Or, a parent could fund an annuity for a disabled, adult child they are concerned for in his or her future years when the parent is no longer alive.

Enhancing Retirement Income

A special gift annuity called a Deferred Income Gift Annuity can be a useful retirement planning tool. A donor may be at a stage in life where she wants to make a meaningful gift, but she is still working and is a few years away from retirement. She would like the asset she uses for her gift to provide her with a retirement income. By choosing to delay the start of annuity payments, the donor can make her gift today and begin enjoying the payments to enhance her income when she is ready to retire. She can use

the charitable deduction in the year of her gift and wait to receive the annuity payments after the deferral period ends. Deferred gift annuity rates are usually higher than current gift annuities.

Giving and Receiving are two good ideas that come together in a gift annuity. To learn more about a Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity and how one could work for you, please call or write to us and request our free booklet, "Giving Through Gift Annuities" at: Mike Skaggs, CEO, Soaring Eagle, P.O. Box 879, Billings, Montana 59103, 406-256-8500.

The information in this newsletter is presented to Soaring Eagle's donors and friends to provide general information and encourage charitable giving. Soaring Eagle is a public charity incorporated in the state of Montana and does not engage in rendering legal, tax, financial, or any other professional advice. Consult your own professional advisors as it pertains to your individual situation. Consult an attorney if your plans require the creation of or revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on numerous factors including personal financial circumstances, tax codes, and applicable federal discount rates, which can change each month. Charitable gift annuities may not be available in all states.



Herb Bear Chum makes his way to the HLC dining room.



I receive high fixed payments from my Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity!

“I learned that I could receive a good return with a gift annuity. I asked Soaring Eagle to send me information illustrating the benefits of the gift annuity. It was free and with no obligation. It was straight forward and simple to complete, so I sent \$10,000 for a 7.2% annuity. Now, I can count on my payments for the rest of my life and help care for Cheyenne elders at the Heritage Living Center. I received a tax deduction when I set up my annuity. Best of all, part of each payment is tax-free.”

To learn more about the benefits of a Soaring Eagle gift annuity, please use the coupon in this newsletter or call or write Mike Skaggs at 406-256-8500, Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 59103.

Soaring Eagle Annuity Rates One-Life Annuity

Age	% Rate	Age	% Rate
65	4.7	78	6.4
66	4.8	79	6.6
67	4.8	80	6.8
68	4.9	81	7.0
69	5.0	82	7.2
70	5.1	83	7.4
71	5.3	84	7.6
72	5.4	85	7.8
73	5.5	86	8.0
74	5.7	87	8.2
75	5.8	88	8.4
76	6.0	89	8.7
77	6.2	90+	9.0

*Lower two-life rates are available.
Please contact us for information.*



Your Will Keeps on Giving

Please use one of the following sample forms of bequest when preparing your Will:

- A. Giving a Specific Amount – “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 \$ _____.”
- B. Giving a Specific Property - “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, (identify specific property, example: 500 shares of XYZ stock).”
- C. Giving a Percentage – “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.”
- D. Giving the Residue - “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.”
- E. Giving a Contingent Bequest – “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 my bequest to (name of intended recipient) should he/she not be living or be able to accept my bequest.”

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

To learn more about giving to Soaring Eagle through your will, request our free booklet “Giving Through Your Will” by writing or calling: Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 59103 406-256-8500.

Reminisce with Father Emmett

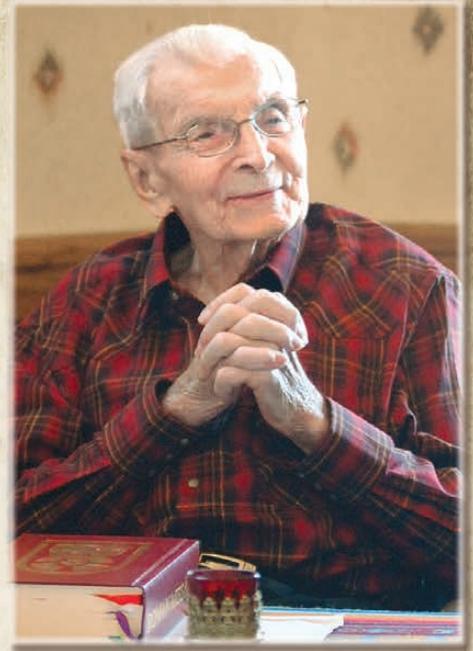
On Thanksgiving Day, 2002, Melvin Wooden Thigh accepted Father Emmett's invitation to eat with friends and relatives at the Heritage Living Center. Melvin had been sick and Father encouraged him to move up from his dilapidated house along the Tongue River to the Heritage Living Center. Not long afterward, Melvin had a massive heart attack and died at home, alone. On February 3, 2003 Father Emmett wrote:

With a sense of sorrow in my heart, I regret that Melvin Wooden Thigh never made it back to the Heritage Living Center. I keep asking myself what we could have done to help him move into the home. I also know that Melvin was not the type of person who could be rushed into things. Moving to a home with hot running water, indoor plumbing and no wood burning stove would have drastically changed his life. Perhaps it was taking him some time to adjust to the culture shock of living in a much more comfortable, yet different world.

The chinook winds are blowing today, melting some of the snow that fell the past few days,

but on the western horizon I see gathering clouds as another winter storm moves in. The residents no longer worry about carrying wood or walking to the store to buy groceries in a blizzard. Nor do they have to worry about frozen water pipes.

Each day in our small but cozy chapel, the elders join me in praising Maheo our Creator God, as we thank Him for your love, comfort and gifts. We pray that you are blessed in many ways for all the sacrifice you have made for the Cheyenne elders.



Eleven Years Ago...



On Thanksgiving Day 2002, Melvin Wooden Thigh visited Father Emmett and his friends at the Heritage Living Center.



0074820

THANKS
FOR
USING
YOUR
STAMP

SOARING EAGLE
745 INDIAN TRAIL
PO BOX 879
BILLINGS MT 59103-0879



**Father Emmett's Biography,
Renegade Priest of the
Northern Cheyenne
by Renee Sansom Flood**

**ORDER FORM
ON BACK**

❧ **SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY** ❧

**YES, I'm interested in a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity.
Please send me more information.**

Name _____

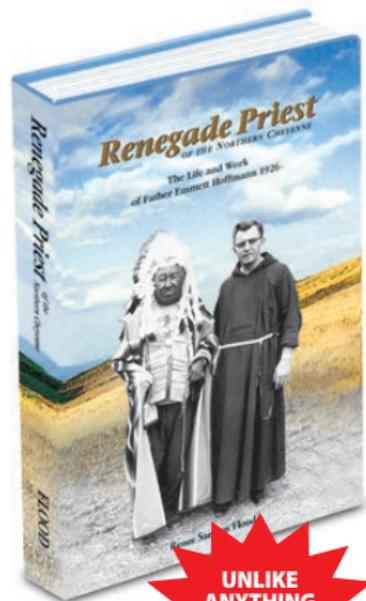
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth date(s) of annuitant _____ E-mail _____

Annuity Amount \$ _____ *Minimum annuity amount \$5000
(up to 2 names/birth dates allowed per annuity.)*

This is a non-binding proposal. Upon receipt of actual payment for an annuity,
a formal contract will be mailed. For more information call (406) 256-8500.



Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

The Life and Work of
Father Emmett Hoffmann
1926-2013

Father Emmett's remarkable story of success is unequalled in the history of the 20th century Catholic Church in the American West.

UNLIKE
ANYTHING
YOU HAVE
EVER READ

4th Edition

Order your copy of
Father Emmett's biography today.

Renegade Priest Book Order Form

Softbound # of copies _____ @ \$16 + \$6 S&H = \$ _____

Hardbound # of copies _____ @ \$25 + \$6 S&H = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Father Emmett's Biography. *Book purchases are not tax deductible.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____