

Dear friends,

Our summer months at the Heritage Living Center were filled with many events that kept the elders busy as they took part in various events. The summer vacation season began with graduations at various schools, especially at St. Labre Indian School, where so many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren attend.

We were delighted with the number of visitors who made reservations to stay at the Heritage Living Center while on vacation in Montana. Donors really enjoyed visiting and dining with the elders and spending the night in our picturesque location overlooking the Tongue River Valley. Some were on hand when we planted 12 young blue spruce trees in Eagle Ridge Park. The trees were donated by a benefactor and they will grow 30 feet high.

The Annual July 4th Powwow is always one of the major events of the summer. Native people come from almost every state to put up tipis, dance and take part in the celebration. The elders love the powwow because they get to visit with friends they've known for years. This festive gathering is also a time when non-Indians join in with visitors who come from distant states and even from Europe.

In mid-August, tourists and tribal people from across America came to take part and to witness the Annual Crow Fair. Besides the parades and intertribal dancing, the spectacular sight of the Indian camp with nearly 1,000 tipis and hundreds

of horses is most impressive. Crow Agency is called the Tipi Capital of the world.

During the summer months Montana also had more forest fires than in the previous 45 years! Hundreds of thousands of forest acres were destroyed and beautiful ranch homes burnt to the ground. Many deer, antelope and elk perished in the flames. For more than two weeks smoke filled the sky and at times nearly blocked the sun in a dazzling orange haze. Fires on the reservation consumed more than a thousand acres of timber, grass land and several Cheyenne homes.

On a personal note, I was greatly saddened by the death of my sister Rita on August 21st, the day before her 72nd birthday. Cancer took her life but she put up a tremendous battle while she prepared her family for her passing. Her husband was the Office Manager at St. Labre before they moved to the Tri-Cities in Washington. Their only son married a Crow Indian girl and her oldest daughter married a Northern Cheyenne. Rita loved Montana and her favorite spot was Bunker Hill overlooking the school grounds. My sister's last request was to have her ashes strewn on Bunker Hill. May she rest in peace!

A special word of thanks to our generous donors who made personal sacrifices to help us provide for the elders with extra gifts during the lean summer months; your help is most appreciated.

Your beggar friend,

Father Emmett Hoffmann



A Picnic in Eagle Ridge Park



Elders enjoying the Powwow



Aftermath of fire near Ashland



In June, the Medicine Horse Learning Program brought their miniature horses to visit the residents in the Heritage Living Center and the children in the Montessori School. The tiny horses brightened up the day for our former cowboys and the kids had a great time petting and playing with Cody, the little colt, and his mother, Cappuccino.

The horses are used as part of the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association's treatment for at-risk children and families in Rosebud and Powder River counties of Montana.



Rose Eagle Feathers with her granddaughter and Fergie



Herb, Marie and grandchildren



Ken Custer, 1st cousin, 3rd removed of George Custer on the anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.





They Ignored Me ...continued

however, did not leave. They lived among the Cheyenne for nearly 50 years.

A few shipments of food and clothing were occasionally dumped on the ground and the Indians swarmed the molding food and odd pieces of clothing. The shoes didn't match but women told their children to wear whatever shoes and mildewed clothing they could find.

By 1890, Indian girls were learning to read and write at the mission school. Older women found work washing clothes for ranch families, but their men had few jobs. Husbands and brothers lost self-esteem during decades of forced idleness, especially when a harsh government ruling called for nearly 20 thousand Cheyenne horses to be shot to make way for a cattle program.

Miraculously, throughout these difficult years the Cheyenne kept their sense of humor, the best survival mechanism. In later years, Josephine Limpy, a well-respected woman in her tribe, enjoyed telling how she got her husband to carry water:

Everyday I told my husband, "Run down to the creek and get some water. We don't have any water in the house." When he came back with the water he told me, 'I'm kinda losing weight since I've been carrying water!' When I told him to get water, he always grabbed the smallest bucket in the house! He'd complain, 'I'm getting all humped over from carrying heavy pails of water!'"

Josie's story demonstrates her wonderful sense of humor and the new position of Cheyenne women at the turn of the century.

In 1901, President William McKinley was assassinated. One of his last signed orders allowed regular food and clothing rations to be distributed to the Northern Cheyenne people. But the same poor quality of food arrived. One little boy remembered watching as his mother accepted rations: "A white man dipped out some beans from a big burlap bag and when he poured the beans into our sack, the mice jumped out and ran around. When we got home, my mother boiled the mouse droppings and body parts out of the beans and we ate."

Teachers encouraged Indian women to "bob" their hair and to cut off their husband's braids in the 1920s. School photos show young women in shorter dresses standing next to log cabins and wall tents, where they lived through winters with wind chill temperatures of 50 degrees below zero. Most cabins had dirt floors. Mothers sprinkled the earth with water to keep the dust from getting into the food and bedding. People slept in the crowded, unventilated log cabins on damp floors. Epidemics of cholera, diphtheria, typhoid and tuberculosis devastated the Cheyenne.

Each Cheyenne tribal member received a land allotment by 1932. One of Mrs. Strange Owl's male relatives received his allotment and he got her 160 acres as well! She was furious, but held back her anger for years because she couldn't speak English. "They ignored me!" she said.

"Later on, my brother, not me, inherited my land! Now I live the white man's life and I have nothing!"

Cheyenne women suffered when a disreputable Indian agent retaliated against an old man and punished the whole tribe by closing the Indian hospital. Nine infants, some unborn, died before it was opened again. In 1928, the Meriam Report, a federal investigation of living conditions on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, found severe malnutrition and "murderous neglect."

The traditional role of Cheyenne women changed as they adapted to new experiences, but it wasn't easy. The first time they saw a backfiring, noisy automobile coming down a dirt road, frightened women and children jumped off wagons in case the horses ran away. Women stood back in quiet groups and observed the machine that would someday change their lives. At first, if a car was parked in front of a building, the ladies wouldn't pass by "the beast." Many years later, when elder women wanted to go to town they'd remark, "I'll go in a car, but not in a wagon!"

Despite new ways of living, older Cheyenne women suffered long after the so-called "Indian wars" were over. "Some of the women sang old songs and then they cried," remembered Mary Bear Comes Out. "It would come to their minds. They would remember their husbands, babies and grandmas killed by soldiers...When they were running away from the soldiers there was so much wear and tear on them, always moving from place to place, body aches and pains...All of a sudden they would sing. Maybe the women sang to get rid of the pain in their hearts." 🐾

*"...when we got home,
my mother boiled the mouse
droppings and body parts out
of the beans we ate."*

The Value of Mass Stipends

Many times I have been asked what it costs to have a Mass said for a deceased spouse, sick friend, the Poor Souls or intentions. Giving offerings to the priest for the Celebration of Mass is a traditional practice in the Catholic Church. It began with the ancient custom of the faithful providing the necessary gifts for the celebration, as well as other gifts meant to sustain the priest and to feed those in need.

Offerings were closely related to the Eucharistic Celebration. Even today, the gifts are made for having a Mass offered as a contribution on behalf of a public charity, an offering in honor of God or to help the needy. Christ's faithful make the offerings so that Masses can be celebrated for their intentions. This contributes to the good of the Church and its work for charity.

Many years ago, the ordinary offering was \$1.00 — a day's wages. Gradually it increased from \$2.00 to \$5.00 in the 1970s. In recent years, the Bishops of Region XII in the Northwest suggested that the ordinary offering should be \$10.00, which is less than an hour's wage for most people.



April works in the kitchen and bakes fresh bread for the elders



Ammie Braine, our receptionist, busy answering the telephone



Susie Cain, an elder, loves to help with cooking for the elders when a regular kitchen helper is excused because of illness or family needs.



Arleda Cox and baby Annisa and her sister Sentori



Dancers at the 4th of July Powwow

Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuities

For the last two or three years I have been downsizing, discarding things I may never use again and labeling mementos to be given to relatives and friends after my death. But there's always things I need to take care of on a monthly basis, such as my utilities, house payment (which also serves as the Soaring Eagle Billings office), and car payments. Even though I do not drive anymore, transportation is essential for doctor visits and handling business details for our Billings office.

It was easy for me to understand a donor named Charlie, who recently asked for advice. "Father Emmett, please tell me about Soaring Eagle's charitable gift annuities. I am tired of paying enormous federal, state, and city taxes. I have been getting rid of things I no longer need, but it doesn't help my financial condition. I own some property, a few houses, and an apartment building. What happens if the housing market suddenly drops? I may be stuck with useless, but taxable property. Just when I may need income to take care of my necessities. I also have some securities and worry that they could depreciate in value. I need a way to secure my future, but simple gifts to charities will not secure my future. I can deduct my gifts to save taxes, but that doesn't really take care of my retirement needs."

When Charlie finally paused to take a breath, I said, "Charlie I have good news for you! You can forget about your worries by making a charitable annuity gift, that gives you a generous tax deduction; and your quarterly annuity payments are mostly tax free. That is a big difference! You are making a gift to Soaring Eagle that guarantees you income for life, in return for your contribution."

With a charitable gift annuity you get immediate payments or if you wish, you can defer the payments to a later date. The amount of the payment is based on your age. Charlie is 82 years old; he will receive a bigger payment than a person much younger, let's say 65 years of age.

Each annuity is based on what you hope to accomplish for your future income, while you make a gift to help us care for the Cheyenne elders living at the Heritage Living Center. It is really important to remember a portion of your charitable annuity gift could be free from capital gains taxes.

Charlie still has questions and we will visit about what is best for his personal needs and goals. At his age of 82 even a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity has many benefits, an annuity rate of 8.5%, an immediate charitable deduction of \$5,326, as well as a tax-free portion of \$564 on his yearly \$850 annuity payments for more than 8 years.

If you are thinking about making a charitable annuity gift, we will be pleased to send a proposal. Simply fill out the form on the next page and mail it today for your annuity projections.

If you are interested in making a monthly contribution through a direct deduction from your bank account it is possible to do so.

We will be pleased to send a form for you to complete and set up the direct deduction method of payment. Please call (406) 256-8500 and Kim Flagen will provide more information.

GUIDELINES TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU'RE PREPARING YOUR WILL

YOUR WILL says directly and very clearly what your wishes, dreams and purposes are. An up-to-date Will is more than a legal document – it is truly a sign of your stewardship and concern for others.

YOUR WILL is also a symbol of your wise and responsible stewardship. When you prepare your Will, you are not confining your resources to your own generation. You free yourself up to live in God's world which is far bigger than any one person's life history.

YOUR WILL can also be a symbol of your concern for others and a way of seeing that Soaring Eagle's Heritage Living Center and other worthy organizations are able to continue functioning and care for those who lack sufficient resources of their own.

A SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY OUT-PERFORMS A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT. LET'S COMPARE...*

Soaring Eagle Annuity		Certificate of Deposit
\$10,000	Contract Amount	\$10,000
8.5%	Rate of Return	4.75%
\$5,326	Charitable Deduction (Yr. 1)	\$0
\$286/yr	Taxable Income	\$475/yr
\$850/yr	Gross Annual Income	\$475/yr

*Illustration is based on a person 82 years old. Soaring Eagle Annuity Contracts are irrevocable resulting in a large contribution which can greatly reduce income taxes. The CD is based upon a current two 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.

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Birth date(s) of annuitant _____

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.

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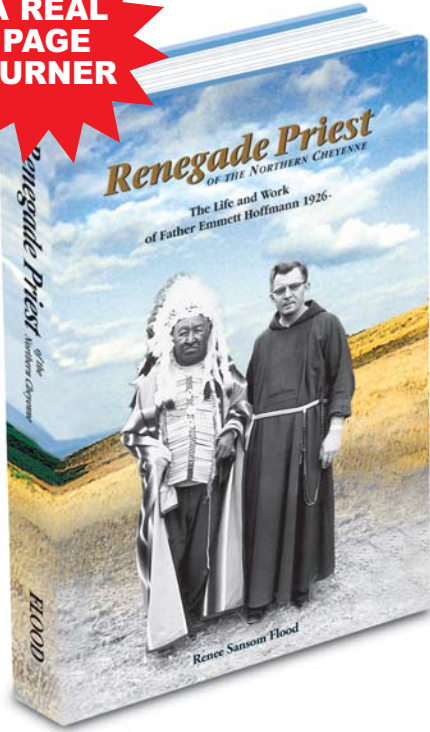
Pumpkins from the Montessori Garden preparing for Halloween



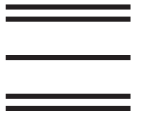
Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

The Life and Work of
Father Emmett Hoffmann 1926-

Father Emmett's remarkable story
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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 _____

Date of Birthday _____

Name _____

Date of Birthday _____

Deceased _____

Date of Death _____

Deceased _____

Date of Death _____