

Dear Friend,

Spring officially arrived on March 21st but winter weather lingered on in Montana until after Easter. Here in Southeastern Montana we experienced our worse snow storm of the year on the last day of March and into early April. Within a period of 24 hours we got 36 inches of heavy, wet snow. But the snow didn't stop. It snowed every day for another week. The road over the divide to Lame Deer was closed for several days as well as sections of Interstate Highway (I-90).

I can't tell you how grateful I am that we begged for your help during the construction of the Heritage Living Center. When we installed a power generator, the local electric company assured me that we would never have power outages for more than an hour or two. But after 50 winters in Montana, I knew that Mother Nature can bring snowstorms, forest fires, hailstorms and floods that are beyond the power company's control. Thank God, with your help and by cutting back we were able to install a large, diesel-powered generator.

The heavy snow and blowing winds caused power outages as the storm wors-

ened. After ten or twelve outages, a pipe in the standby fire emergency system ruptured and flooded more than 300 gallons of glycol on the second floor and down to the library below, damaging ceilings, walls and books. Three long days passed before our regular power was restored, while we operated on standby power.

The Heritage Living Center opened its doors to stranded families during the storm, while the residents of Ashland went nearly three days without electricity. Every available space at the Center was filled with families who would have otherwise have had to endure severe cold in unheated homes.

Cattle ranchers also suffered great losses in the storm, which occurred in the middle of calving season. Many

calves died in the deep snow and ranch trails turned to mud, which made it impossible to haul in large bails of hay for the cattle.

But the snow gradually melted and green grass was the first sign that spring had finally arrived. I wish you could visit our Eagle Ridge Park as it comes alive with birds and animals. First, the robins arrived and then we heard the



A Montana spring snow storm



Juneberrries in bloom promise a good harvest

melodious songs of the meadowlarks and yellow finches playing near the ponds. The elders love the wildflowers and they are always intrigued with the wild park mothers, deer and antelope, showing off their little fawns. “Maheo” the Creator, has truly made Eagle Ridge Park a paradise for nature lovers.

If you are traveling through Montana this summer, we invite all of our friends and benefactors to visit the Heritage Living Center. Rapid City, South Dakota, near Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills, is just 200 miles from us on Highway 212. This is also the shortest route to Yellowstone National Park or Glacier Park. While you are at the Heritage Living Center you are invited to stay overnight in our guest room and have dinner with the elders. Please call 406-784-2840 and ask Ammie to reserve a room for you. We look forward to seeing you!

Each day we pray that God will bless you for your love and the care you provide our Northern Cheyenne elders.

Your beggar friend,

Father Emmett Hoffmann

Father Emmett Hoffmann



Greetings from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation!

by Calvin Wilson

This is my first article for the newsletter so I want to start out by saying that I feel that I am a lucky man because I'd rather be living here than anywhere else in the world.

I was born only 68 years after the Cheyenne moved to this reservation. When my mother, Barbara Marie Beirdneau, was a baby, her grandmother carried her in a shawl on her back. Mom grew up to become Miss Rodeo Montana and later, the first Northern Cheyenne registered nurse. She married my dad, Willard Wilson, a white rancher, and together they raised five healthy children.



Barbara Marie Wilson

My first memory was of my dad getting up in the middle of the night to check on his heifers and sheep.

I was 3 years-old. “Take me with you!” I’d beg. It was just me, my dad and the animals.

I’d fall asleep in his lap going home in the pickup.

I’m so fortunate that both my parents are still living.



Willard Wilson and son Calvin

When I was a kid, Cheyenne children were taught to respect and help their elders. To show you how we learned that important lesson, I’ll tell you a story. A blind Cheyenne grandmother lived in a log cabin out in the country. One day a man and his nephew were riding by and they decided to stop to water their horses. Just then, the cabin door opened. “Watch this!” the man told his nephew.

The grandma, bent over with age, came out of her cabin holding the hand of a boy about 4 years-old. With her other hand she grabbed a rag string that she had made by tying rags end to end. The rags ran from the front door, clear out to the outhouse in the timber.

The two of them walked slowly along. At each step the boy said, “Grandma, don’t fall down!” or, “Grandma, watch out, there’s a hole!” The lady held on to the rags and followed the little boy’s directions.

Finally, they made it to the outhouse and she went in. He waited patiently for her to come out and just as slowly, he led her back to the cabin.

The man on the horse told his nephew: “Don’t ever forget what you saw here.” Then they rode home. That boy grew up chopping wood for his grandparents. When they needed water, he hauled it in buckets from the river. At night he listened to their advice and their stories.

Cheyenne elders teach by telling stories and demonstrating our traditional customs. Father Emmett understands how important our elders are to us if we are to maintain our heritage. That’s one of the main reasons he built the Heritage Living Center, with help from generous donors. I am honored to work with him. Right now our goal is to pay off the mortgage. Down the line, a vision for the future includes a nursing home wing to provide residents with the security of knowing they’ll be taken care of for the rest of their lives.

In this issue of “Signals,” I’m including some family photos. The story I told you about the blind grandma and the little boy really happened. I won’t tell you the name of the boy. I think I’ll just let you guess who he was.

*Calvin “Ve’kese hema’evo” Wilson
(Bird Nose)*

Mother's Day Tea



Montessori School's Mother's Day Tea Party

The Heritage Living Center Montessori School and Day Care Center children honored their mothers and all grandmothers at the Center with a special tea on the Friday before Mother's Day. The children carefully poured tea for their guests and served cookies before sitting down to visit with their guests.

Fergie is Recovering!

On April 17th my little dog Fergie had surgery to repair a torn ligament in her left leg. The surgery was painful and the recovery time will be lengthy. During the first ten days, she wore a cast and wasn't even allowed to walk. We had to carry her outside to take care of her doggie business.

Fergie will have to be on a short leash for the next two months. She'll be allowed only

short walks, but she can't run, climb stairs or jump. For a lively little Westie this is the most difficult part of her recovery.



Fergie was in a cast for ten days

Spiritual Journey to Fort Robinson

Our Northern Cheyenne elders at the Heritage Living Center are planning their annual trip to Fort Robinson State Park near Crawford, Nebraska June 8-10. They will take part in an Intertribal celebration to honor Chief Dull Knife and his courageous band of Cheyenne who were attacked by the U.S. Cavalry when they tried to escape from the fort barracks to return to their homeland in Montana.

The soldiers had locked the Cheyenne in without food, water or heat in January 1879. Many of the prisoners who fled the barracks were elderly people, pregnant women and children.

After nearly a week of cruel



Chief Dull Knife

and inhumane conditions, they fled. Most of them were killed within minutes, but soldiers followed children who had hidden in a hole in the ground. They called to the little children to come out and they would be safe. When the children showed themselves, they were slaughtered.

Miraculously, Chief Dull Knife and a few others survived.



The persistent cactus

Persistence...

*“Nothing in the world
can take the place of persistence.
Talent will not; nothing is more
common than unsuccessful men with talent.
Genius will not;
unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.
Education will not;
the world is full of educated derelicts.
Persistence and determination
alone are omnipotent.”*

CALVIN COOLIDGE

How you can benefit with a Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity

Five years ago, Lorraine, age 90, made a \$5,000 Charitable Gift Annuity to Soaring Eagle. Over time she has enjoyed a steady interest income each year, plus in her heart knowing her gift annuity went to one of her favorite charities.

So far, Lorraine has received \$2,868 in annuity payments. Together with her initial charitable tax deduction of \$2,787, she has earned \$655 more than she originally gifted.

Today, if you are 90 years young and you give a Charitable Gift Annuity of \$5,000 to Soaring Eagle at 11.3%, you'll receive \$565 every year and your charitable tax deduction will be \$2,904.

A Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity beats other financial alternatives many times over. You win on retirement income and you win for Soaring Eagle.

If you'd like to see what a Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity can do for you, we'll provide you with a free, no-obligation proposal showing your personal rate of return based on your age.

Just let us know the amount you're considering (\$5,000 minimum) and your birth date.

For more information, please call Kim Flagen at 406-256-8500, or fax: 406-254-2160 or email: kflagen@msn.com.

Special opportunity for tax-free rollover IRA rollover benefits

If you are blessed with IRA funds which require a yearly taxable withdrawal, this new rule may apply to you.

Last year Congress changed the tax law so that it now provides for an annual, tax-free rollover from your IRA directly to the charity of your choice. So if you are 70½ or older with a qualifying IRA account, you may now transfer the distributions from your IRA directly to SOARING EAGLE, without paying any tax on the distribution.

This distribution may be of any amount up to ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) per year, and is not taxable. However, the distribution must be made directly from the trustee of the IRA to Soaring Eagle. Your gift to Soaring Eagle may be made in addition to any other charitable giving you've already done.

Your gift to SOARING EAGLE, a public charity, is a non-profit organization exempt from income taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is not a private foundation under Section 509(a), your donation qualifies as a charitable contribution under section 170.

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

Soaring Eagle Annuity		Certificate of Deposit
\$5,000	Contract Amount	\$5,000
11.3%	Rate of Return	4.75%
\$2,904	Charitable Deduction (Yr. 1)	\$0
\$137/yr	Taxable Income	\$238/yr
\$565/yr	Gross Annual Income	\$238/yr

*Illustration is based on a person 90 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

SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY

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

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.

745 Indian Trail, P.O. Drawer 879, Billings, Montana 59103-0879

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Wildflowers decorate the hillsides.

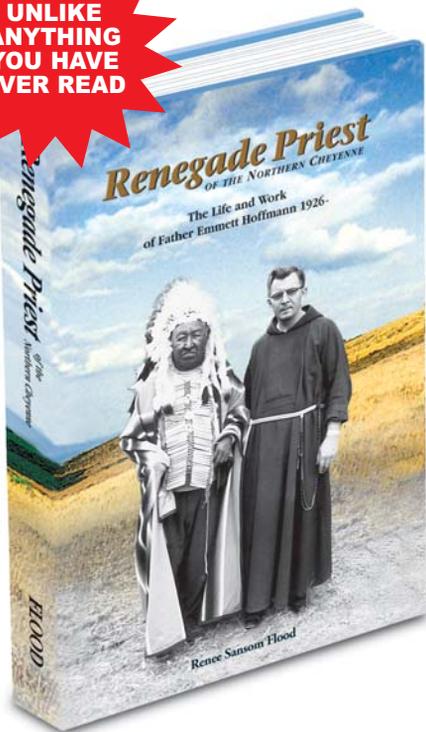


Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

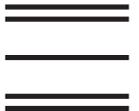
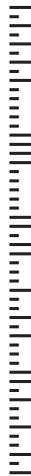
The Life and Work of
Father Emmett Hoffmann 1926-

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

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EVER READ**



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Northern Cheyenne**

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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 _____