



Spring 2003

Dear Benefactors and Friends,

Meadowlarks around the Heritage Living Center have announced the coming of spring. My bird feeder is crowded with grosbeaks and a colorful array of finches. An occasional bald eagle circles gracefully overhead, carried by the wind as he scans the earth for mice and prairie dogs.



*Fr. Emmett's feathered friends stop by and trade songs for snacks.*

The Heritage Living Center is truly "the miracle on the hill above Ashland" We are blessed with the beauty of the surrounding red shale hills, now adorned with blooming desert plants and the first green grass since the drought began over four years ago. At last, the drought that has plagued the western states is over.

Each afternoon my little dog Fergie, a Westie with jet black eyes, begs for her walk in the hills. When I pick up her leash, she grabs the end of it in her mouth and leads me out the door. Wait a minute! Who is in charge here? On one of our recent walks, we trespassed on a neighbor's land – an open field lush with wildflowers and to Fergie's delight, the smells of deer, antelope, rabbits, moles and gophers. With Fergie still leading the way, I discovered a variety of yucca, pasque, desert lilies, sage and many other plants making their appearance through crested wheat grass. Ponderosa pines, choke cherry bushes and wild plum trees covered the gullies.

Since moving into the Heritage Living Center, I have been bothered by the fact that the elders have no place to walk except in the parking lot. The Cheyenne love to be outdoors. They enjoy picking wild turnips, watching deer and antelope and checking the chokecherry and plum trees as fruit ripens. During my walks I've often thought of building a nature park for the elders to enjoy as they travel on established paths by foot or in wheelchairs. The Day Care and Montessori School children could benefit from educational trips to study animal and plant life and visitors might enjoy a picnic with elders and grandchildren. Somehow, I want to find the means to purchase land to develop a park for the residents and children at the Heritage Living Center.



*Pasque flowers reach for the sun after a welcome spring rain.*

As the earth came to life after a long and hard winter, sadness touched many families. A good friend of mine, Johnny Russell Jr., one of the traditional chiefs, died at the age of 58, due to black lung disease. His death brought sorrow to the whole reservation.

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Johnny's obituary appears in our newsletter, but I just wanted to say a few words about him. Johnny Russell was always willing to help his people. After the death of his father he became a hereditary chief noted for his peaceful outlook on life. He often reached out to settle differences. He was most supportive of the "old chief's" dream of building a home for the



Johnny Russell's Wake Tipi

elders. At the ground-breaking ceremony, he was one of the point men carrying the yellow flag of the west, as the prayer leader blessed the ground in preparation for the construction of the Heritage Living Center. At the dedication of the building he took part in the blessings. We were all so shocked to hear of his death at such a young age. Although it was a blustery cold and rainy day when his body was returned to Mother Earth, elders from the Heritage Living Center attended the traditional burial service. We will all miss Johnny's kindness and counsel.

On another note: the elders are looking forward to their participation in the dedication of the "Cheyenne Outbreak Barracks" Memorial on June 7, 2003, in Crawford, Nebraska. In 1878-79, Chief Dull Knife and his band were imprisoned in the original log barracks, for refusing to walk to

Oklahoma Territory during January, in temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. The Cheyenne prisoners were locked in the barracks without heat, food and water for nine days. Men, elder women, pregnant ladies and children were killed by soldiers when they made a break for freedom, hoping to return to their homelands in Montana. The few survivors, including Chief Dull Knife, eventually made it back to Montana many years later. Our elders will visit the new Memorial, which will tell their story and help heal sorrowful memories.

Another historic event that touched the lives of Indian people in Montana was the journey of Lewis and Clark (1803-1806). As the Bicentennial Celebration begins this year, many visitors are expected to visit historic sites along the Yellowstone River.

If your vacation brings you to Montana, you are cordially invited to tour the Heritage Living Center. A sign in Ashland will point to "the miracle on the hill." Come and meet the descendants of the warriors who fought in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Enjoy a cup of coffee or a cool drink, and visit our gift shop, where you will find Indian made quilts, jewelry and art. Your visit to the Heritage Living Center in Cheyenne Country can be one of the highlights of your summer vacation. Remember that the Northern Cheyenne Powwow is over the 4th of July weekend and the Crow Fair is slated for August 15-17th.

Thank you for your continued support of our work for the Cheyenne elders. Each morning the elders ask "Maheo" our Creator to keep you in His love and bless you for caring. During my evening prayers, I again ask God to bless you always.

Your beggar friend,

*Father Emmett Hoffmann*

Father Emmett Hoffmann

# Jimmie D. Little Coyote – A Tribute

By Renee Sansom Flood

The first time that Father Emmett met Jimmie Little Coyote was in a line-up. According to Jimmie, when he was a young boy he had used his sling shot to break out a stained glass window in the old chapel at St. Labre Mission. Jimmie and several other likely “culprits” were called into Father’s office and each denied having committed the misdeed. The boys had already decided they wouldn’t “rat” on one another.



Henry Little Coyote and his wife

Many years later, as Jimmie lay dying of complications from diabetes, he jokingly admitted his “crime.” By then, Father Emmett referred to Jimmie as “my little brother.” Over the years, the two had become good friends, working together to create the St. Labre Indian Museum, where Jimmie and his wife Juanita made magnificent exhibits of beaded clothing, shields, headdresses, jewelry, tipi paintings and drums. Jimmie, a Chief of the Council of 44, was the last eagle war bonnet maker of his tribe. His artwork exists in many private collections all over the world.

Jimmie came from a long line of chiefs. His grandfather Henry, a Sun Dance Chief and Kit Fox Society Member, was also Keeper of the Sacred Hat Bundle from 1959 to 1965.

Eugene Little Coyote, Jimmie’s father, was a former Tribal Chairman. Eugene and Henry were featured in Rev. Peter J. Powell’s classic two-volume work, *Sweet Medicine, the Continuing Role of the Sacred Arrows, the Sun Dance, and the Sacred Buffalo Hat in Northern Cheyenne History*.



Chief Jimmie D. Little Coyote with daughter Dewanda and grandsons Shawn and Cordell James

Jimmie’s devoted daughter, Dewanda, and her sons, Cordell James (“C. J.”) and Shawn, cared for Jimmie during his last illness. In 1995, as he lay dying, more than 500 people came for Jimmie’s blessing and to say goodbye. This poignant tribute demonstrated the character of the man Fr. Emmett called “one of the finest men I have ever known.”

A week before his death on October 20, 1995, Jimmie joked as he reflected on his relationship with Father Emmett:

*Father Emmett baptized me, he spanked me, confirmed me, he educated me, he signed my high school diploma, he hired me and he’ll probably bury me! Father Emmett is my heart.*

At Jimmie’s gravesite, his grandson Cordell James, with tears streaming down his face, became the youngest chief in the history of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Dewanda Little Coyote was museum manager at the St. Labre Cheyenne Indian Museum for 12 years. She is now the Director of Admissions and Activities at the Heritage Living Center.



# Johnny Russell Jr., Passes On

Chief John Russell Jr. a member of the Northern Cheyenne Council of 44, quietly passed by us on his way to the next camp on May 10, 2003. His tragic loss at the age of 57 leaves a shocked and grieving tribe.

He'heenoohvoKomaestse (White Black Bird) was born February 21, 1946, the son of John Russell Sr. and Alice Rising Sun. He grew up in the Busby area and graduated from Busy High School in 1964.



*Johnny Russell's viewing in the Wake Tipi*

John graduated from Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kansas, where he received an AA degree in auto mechanics. Later he served his country in Vietnam in the U.S. Army during the fierce fighting of what came to be known as the Tet offensive.

He married Glenda Brady and was later divorced. On May 16, 1991, John married Thomasine Woodenlegs and the couple made their home in Lame Deer.

John worked for the Busby School and served as a member and former school board chairman. He was director of the Northern Cheyenne EMT and at the time of his passing, John was the food distribution director for the tribe. He also served on the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council as the Busby District Representative for several years.

John was a traditional Cheyenne who served as a spiritual leader, a member of the Hereditary Chiefs Society, Native American Church, Northern Cheyenne Honor Guard and Sweat Lodge ceremonies. He also participated in numerous Sundances and followed the powwow circuit with the drum group, C & A Singers. Because of his traditional values, he was given the honor of having several young men named after him.

His parents, sister Agnes Russell, brothers Charles, Eugene and Clifford Russell Sr., and adopted brother Norman Brady, preceded John in death.

Survivors include his wife, Thomasine, his daughter, Alicejean Russell-Salazar, four sons; Lance, Merle (Christy), Charles and John Russell III, three stepsons; Brandon, Tyrone and Kenny Woodenlegs; his three sisters; Margie, Elva and Elsie Russell, numerous grandchildren and a host of devoted in-laws, adopted brothers and sisters.

John enthusiastically supported the building of the Heritage Living Center and took part in the Dedication Ceremony and in the Grand Opening in 2002. He was asked for a chief's song that represented a life of service to others and Johnny responded with a song that sums up the end of a good man's journey through life:

*Creator God, I am with Him.  
Creator God, I am with Him.  
Creator God, I am with Him.*

John was placed in eternal rest in the Russell Family Cemetery with traditional Cheyenne and military rites on May 16, 2003. Friends and family from across the United States will remember his many talents and kind deeds.

# Special Needs

The Heritage Living Center will celebrate its first birthday on August 31, 2003. We have been blessed in so many ways, but the first year has not been easy.



1.) We have a critical need for a **Medical Van** to transport elders to local clinics, frequent trips to doctors in Billings (125 miles one way). A 2002, 14-passenger, fully equipped, diesel-powered van with dual heaters, and a front loading wheelchair lift has been located for \$43,000. Current year vans are higher priced.



*The arrival of spring also brought the awareness of new needs at the Heritage Living Center.*

2.) We also need a lattice fence to enclose the **vegetable-flower garden** so the deer and rabbits won't eat everything. The garden will provide the Day Care and Montessori children with a productive and educational hobby and the elders will enjoy the flowers and give planting advice. The garden will have elevated plant boxes so the handicapped can enjoy working with plants. Materials for a 40' X 80' garden will cost about \$5,000. The staff will do the construction work.

3.) The Montessori and Day Care children need an **enclosed playground** to meet Montana State safety regulations. The redwood fence, a six-inch layer of gravel and a durable swing set will all meet these standards. The cost - \$4,500.

*Special gifts to make these items possible will be deeply appreciated.*

## A Cautious Thank You

Every gift you send to Soaring Eagle for the care of Cheyenne Elders is deeply appreciated. Your continued generosity provides for their daily needs. Soaring Eagle does not have an endowment fund to draw on in times of need, when bills are due. Each day we depend upon generous friends like you to provide for the needs of the elders.

Often I get letters from friends saying that they can't send a donation but ask if they can send clothing instead. I try to explain that we receive many boxes of clothing – more than we need. When I see boxes that

cost \$25.00 and even more than \$40.00 to ship, I realize that donors often on a fixed income are making a great sacrifice to help.

You can save the costly shipping charges by giving these items to your local charities such as the Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Rescue Missions, the American Red Cross and many others. A telephone call will save you shipping charges because they will arrange to pick up the items at your doorstep. We appreciate the clothing we have already received and the elders are grateful.

# Soaring Eagle Societies

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

Donors who contributed \$100 or more between January 1 and April 30, 2003 were enrolled in the Dawn of Hope Society. They received a beautiful personalized certificate suitable for framing. During this period 1,471 were enrolled. Thank you for your generous and caring gifts.

## *American Eagle Society*

**\$25,000 & up**

Mr Paul Morigi  
Sr Mary Jo Yutt

## *Spirit Coming Home Society*

**\$10,000 to \$24,999**

Mrs Gertrude Just  
Mr S E Rule

## *Journey of Life Society*

**\$5,000 to \$9,999**

Miss Ethel Bruning  
Mr & Mrs Frank Curtis  
Mrs Mary Duffy  
The Saint Francis Foundation  
of Michigan  
Rev Emmett G Hoffmann  
Mr Rudolph F Valois

## *Light of Life Society*

**\$1,000 to \$4,999**

Mrs Thomas Ahern  
Dwight Arnold  
Mrs William Ball  
Ms Gloria Barr  
Ms Lois Berlage  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Bertoncini  
Mr & Mrs William E Boger  
Mr & Mrs James J Boock  
Mrs Madelyn Chafin  
Mrs James H Countryman  
Dock Curtis  
Mr & Mrs Marvin Deschepper  
Mrs Mathilde Easley  
Mrs Gerta M & Karin Ellison  
Mrs Betty Mae Erb  
Mrs Celeste Farr  
Mrs Lilia M. Gardner  
Mrs E W Garrott

Mr & Mrs Wayne Griep  
Ms P E Hadlick  
Mrs Dorothy Harvey  
Mrs. Walter J Hodgson  
Ms G Huisking  
Ms Mary Hummeler  
Ms Sophie Kaleta  
Dolores A Leander  
Mr & Mrs Donald Lesch  
Mr & Mrs John A Malecha  
Mr James Maney  
Andrew J Markey  
Ms Esther W Mc Graw  
Mr. Charles T. Mc Kinnie  
Judge & Mrs Fred J Moore  
Mrs Carol Morris  
Anna Belle Nimmo  
Mrs Carroll O'Connor  
Miss Veronica Olde  
Ms Rust Pappathanasi  
Ms Arlene Putt  
John G Raffensperger MD  
Mr Michael S Reis  
Mr Richard Renkun Sr  
Mr Gordon Rennie  
Ms Isabelle T Reynolds  
Mrs Barbara A Roddy  
Mr & Mrs Thomas E Rohr  
Mr & Mrs David & M  
Patricia Russell  
Carl J Schwerin  
Theresa Serafini  
Mrs Barbara R Smart  
David W. & Leota Snyder  
Ms Marion A Southard  
Mr Fred Suazo  
Ms. Andrea Sununu  
Mrs Irene Symons  
Mr Bert J Theriault  
Ms Bessie Thomason  
Mrs Jack Threeth  
Dr. Olga P. Weber  
June T Weston

## *Gift of Life Society*

**\$500 to \$999**

Mrs George Allison  
Patricia Ballweg  
Mr & Mrs N Baniassadi  
Mr & Mrs Joseph Barovelli  
Ms. Elsie Bleimiller  
Mr & Mrs David G Bonino  
Mrs Margaret Bowers  
Margaret Brown-Heald  
Mrs V W Bunker  
Irene H Chayes  
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Mr James Cummings  
Ms Elizabeth Devins  
Lynn Diamond  
Mr & Mrs Wynston E Erickson  
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Ms. Mary W Geeslin  
Mr Charles Genaux  
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Albert Henry Jr  
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Mrs Mary Beth Konecsni  
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Margaret La Massa  
Ms Mary Lowe  
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Mr Emil N Maresz  
Mr & Mrs Edwin P Marshick  
Betty Martin

Ms Johanne Martin  
Mr & Mrs William F  
Mc Carthey  
Father Michael Mertens  
Dr & Mrs J Thomas Miller  
Mrs Alice Morrison  
Mr & Mrs Lewis B Morrow Jr  
Julia Duncan Munney  
Catherine G O'Camb  
Col & Mrs William M O'Niell  
Ms Margaret Onions  
Mr Phillip Poneck  
Mr. Anthony Ponik  
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Mrs Helen Rock  
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Harold Schippert  
Ms Carolyn Jane Scott  
Cora E Sevilles  
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Mr George B Thomas  
Augustine J Traiber  
Mr and Mrs Alban F. Varnado  
Mr & Mrs Roldan Vigil  
Ms Esther Ward

These one-time or cumulative contributions were received between January 1, 2003 & April 30, 2003.  
Contributions received after April 30, 2003 will be listed in the next Soaring Eagle Signals newsletter.

## Concerned about your Future?

A *Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity* is unaffected by market trends or interest rates that fluctuate!

### A SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY OUT-PERFORMS A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT.

#### LET'S COMPARE...\*

Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity		Certificate of Deposit
\$10,000	Contract Amount	\$10,000
7.9%	Rate of Return	3%
\$538	Tax Free Income	\$0
\$252	Taxable Income	\$300
\$790	Gross Annual Income	\$300
\$714	Net Income (after Taxes)	\$210
\$3,331	Charitable Deduction	\$0
\$999	Income Tax Savings	\$0

\*Based on a 75 year-old individual in a 30% 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 5-year rate.

#### Help care for the elders by funding a *Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity* and enjoy:

- A guaranteed rate of return for life
- Interest rates up to 12%
- Immediate and future tax benefits
- Annuity options to suit your needs

Send in the attached form for a *Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity* packet with personalized details just for you.



## Let Your Name Live On

*Soaring Eagle* has been operating from day-to-day through the contributions of our friends. The time has come to be more concerned about our future. Please remember us in your will? Any help in the form of cash, stocks, life insurance policies or real estate, will help assure the future of *Soaring Eagle*.

Need Help? Write to us or call our office at 406-256-8500.

Please use one of the following sample forms of bequest:



DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

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, 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.*





NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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*Rose Eagle Feather received her Honorary Degree from Dr. Littlebear at Dull Knife Memorial College. Other Heritage Living Center residents receiving honorary degrees are Clarence "Bisco" Spotted Wolf and Edna Foote.*







THANKS  
FOR  
USING  
YOUR  
STAMP

Please send me "Guidelines—A path to follow when preparing your Will."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Joint Annuity with:

Dear Father Emmett,

I am sending the following information to help you calculate my Gift Annuity benefits. This proposal will be sent to me without cost or obligation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Sex/ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of the annuity gift being considered \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$2,500)

I prefer this schedule of payment

- Annual
- Semi-annual
- Quarterly (\$5,000 minimum)
- Monthly (\$10,000 minimum)

Turn over for Joint Annuitant Information.



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



# 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_____
Birthday_____	Deceased_____
Date of Birthday_____	Date of Death_____

Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_