



# An Outbreak of Spirit

*Heritage Living Center residents await the arrival of jubilant Cheyenne runners in Ashland near the end of their 400-mile relay during the 14th Annual Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run.*



The busload of Northern Cheyenne youths unloaded just outside of Ashland in the cold night air to run as a group through the small town bordering their reservation. They were on the verge of completing a five-day, 400-mile relay run from northwestern Nebraska to home. The excitement and noise filled the always-quiet town on this January weekday night.

Residents of The Heritage Living Center stood along the road after riding down the hill in the center's transportation bus to watch and cheer them on. Some residents have a personal investment of the heart tied into Fort Robinson—they have been successful in erecting a beautiful memorial made with giant slabs of pipestone rising out of the prairie on the grounds of the fort.

The youths were completing the 14th annual Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run commemorating their ancestors' heroic flight from captivity after they were rounded up in the years following the annihilation of Gen. George Armstrong Custer and his command at The Little Bighorn.

In one of the most famous and tragic of

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)



# A Note From Father Emmett

Last month, the devastating earthquake that destroyed the capital of Haiti shocked all of us at the Heritage Living Center. The Cheyenne elders watched the growing tragedy on TV as thousands of bodies lay in the streets and medical help was not available to those suffering terrible injuries without water, food or shelter.

Sad to say, the elders recalled their childhood miseries of having to ask for help to bury their dead relatives. During the highly contagious Spanish Influenza, wagons were lined up for blocks to the cemetery and bodies had to be quickly buried, some without coffins. The feeling of not being able to give their loved ones a proper burial struck a chord with them as they watched the tragedy in Haiti unfold.

Like the Haitian people, they suffered from hunger and disease without medical help. When they were young, a small wound often turned to blood poisoning or measles created a high fever that ended in death. They helplessly watched as their grandparents and siblings died. It's no wonder the disaster in Haiti brought back so many sad memories.

Looking back to the 1950s and 60s on the reservation, I saw people actually

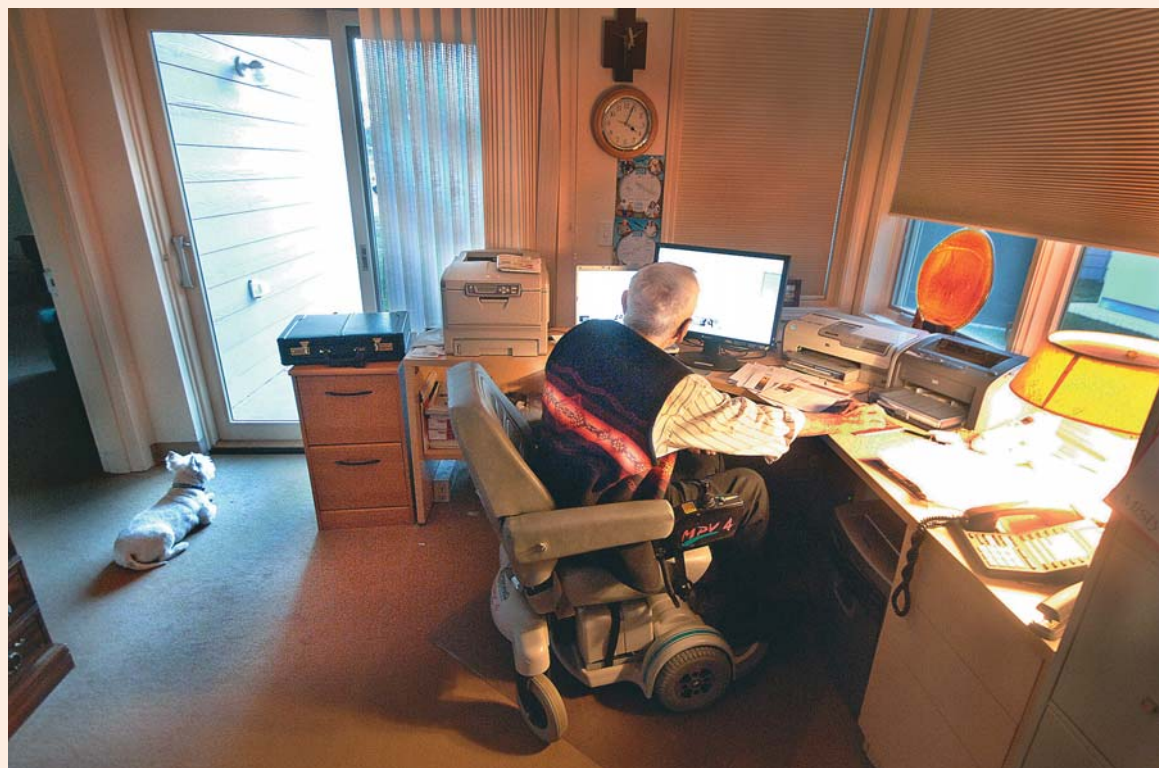
starving, many with TB, diphtheria and other rampant diseases. In those days, the future of the Cheyenne looked hopeless due to government neglect. There were no relief efforts to help the Cheyenne people and no teams of doctors and nurses to come to their aid or to air lift medical and food supplies.

Today, the Heritage Living Center is home to Cheyenne elders who somehow survived the tragic effects of extreme poverty. The "old chiefs" who befriended me long ago continue to touch my life even now as the elders and I enjoy living in the Heritage Living Center. It was the chiefs' vision that tribal elders should be cared for instead of suffering alone through cold winters, hungry and alone.

When I look at our beautiful home and see the elders living free from the constant worry of finding food and medical help, I stop what I'm doing and take a moment to thank God for the help you have given to make the "Miracle on the Hill" a reality.

Your beggar friend,

  
Father Emmett Hoffmann



The everyday scene of Fergie and Father Emmett at work in the office.

all Indian episodes to survive in great detail, about 130 imprisoned Northern Cheyennes broke out from their guarded barracks at Fort Robinson Nebraska Jan 9, 1879 in a desperate escape attempt to return to their homeland.

Many were shot, many died from the brutal cold, and many were women and children. Yet many did make it back.

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***“All we ask is to be allowed to live, and live in peace...We bowed to the Great Father and went south. There we found a Cheyenne cannot live. So we came home. Better it was, we thought, to die fighting than to perish in sickness...You may kill me here; but you cannot make me go back.”***

— CHIEF DULL KNIFE

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The story is epic—too much so to detail here—but in the aftermath the Cheyenne were granted their request to be able to live on their present-day land.

It was from the Fort Robinson outbreak that the Cheyenne's began the lives they lead today on their beautiful parcel of land, and they want to pass their gratitude on to younger generations.

“We are all descendants of Fort Robinson...I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them,” said Heritage Living Center resident Edna Seminole.

While imprisoned at Fort Robinson, Chief Dull Knife was confronted by government officials with the possibility of being sent clear back to Oklahoma—where they had already been held. The chief, already thinking of leaving Fort Robinson in the night to go north and to home, told them he would not go.

Today there is feeling of accomplishment and toughness when the story is told about the Fort Robinson break-out and the odyssey that followed. The feeling seems to span from the youngest to the oldest generations across the reservation. “Yeah, we did that too,” they remark about their heritage.



# New Cameras Ensure Safety



*A detail shot of the new security system monitor displaying live video throughout the Heritage Living Center.*

*After a resident fell in one of the stairwells at the center, security cameras became a top priority to closely monitor the facility.*

*DeWanda Little Coyote and LaDonna Eagle visit with residents at the front desk where the new security camera monitor is located.*

The installation of a new high-tech security camera system has brought peace-of-mind to staff along with additional safety for residents at the Heritage Living Center.

After a resident fell in one of the stairwells at the center, security cameras became a top priority to closely monitor the facility. Generous donors responded to Father Emmett's appeal for funding.

Up to 24 closed-circuit television cameras positioned throughout the complex cycle through the system in 60 sec-

onds, said Jamie Olson, Heritage Living Center Administrator. The monitors at the front desk and in Olson's office show "live" video from all corners of the building 24-7.

"Now we've got the stairwells covered," Olson said with a look of relief.

The security system was put to the test recently by Father Emmett. His dog Fergie likes to visit the elders and when she couldn't be found, Father assumed Fergie had gone up to the second floor. The person at the front desk watching the moni-

tor saw Father get out of his electric wheelchair and walk halfway up the stairs. Staff members came running. "I just went looking for Fergie," Father Emmett told them.

For Father Emmett the surveillance system is a blessing that cannot be understated. "We were lucky someone came along," he said, referring to the resident who fell and laid in the stairwell. "Oh gosh yeah!" he added when asked if the residents feel more secure.



# Spotted Hawk's Ordeal

1897–1901

BY RENEE SANSOM FLOOD



*Spotted Hawk, a U.S. Army Scout, holds an octagon barreled 45-70 buffalo gun.  
Ft. Keogh, Montana. PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BARTHELMESS 1889*

“Hohtaheaenoh,” the Spotted Hawk, was too young to fight with the Northern Cheyennes against Custer in 1876, but the 9 year-old and his mother watched the Bighorn Battle from a safe place across the river. After many struggles and several more years of fighting for their homelands, the Cheyennes settled on their present reservation in 1883, in what is now southeastern Montana. In return, the government promised the tribe regular food rations, homes and clothing, but government promises blew away like leaves in the wind.

Every year, the Cheyennes died from starvation and disease. Without medical help, adequate food, shelter and forbidden to practice traditional customs, they lost hope and spiraled into discouragement and despair.

Hearing of their plight, Catholic missionaries moved to the reservation. One of the first priests was Father Aloysius Van der Velden, S.J., called by the Cheyennes, “The One Who Limp.” Spotted Hawk’s family welcomed the new Dutch priest and the Ursuline Sisters.

By the summer of 1897, 30 year-old Hugh Spotted Hawk was regularly attending church services in the newly built mission chapel. Despite a drought, he was also busy preparing for the fall harvest. A quiet family man, Hugh worked as a plow foreman, a position that earned him a decent wage.

A few months earlier, Hugh heard that a white sheepherder had been murdered by an Indian named David Stanley. The agent asked Spotted Hawk and others to capture and bring the man in to face prosecution. Hugh took time off from work to bring the culprit in to the agency jail and didn’t think much about it afterward.

**Ranchers  
rumors that  
warriors  
to attack  
that 500  
stood ready  
“Indian**



On July 20th, Hugh, a former U.S. Army Scout under General Nelson A. Miles, was working in the hay fields when tribal policemen arrested and took him to the Agent, Capt. George W. H. Stouch. Spotted Hawk was stunned to find that his brother, Little Whirlwind, was also in jail. Although David Stanley had originally admitted he alone murdered the sheepherder, he had suddenly changed his story, implicating Spotted Hawk and Little Whirlwind as his accomplices. The brothers sent word to Fr. Van der Velden, who came at once to pray with them.

Meanwhile, the murder of the young white man was causing an uproar in the ranching communities. Casting suspicion

**circulated  
t Cheyenne  
were ready  
ck and  
vigilantes  
dy for the  
uprising.”**

on Indians was a familiar fear tactic aimed at driving them from their reservation. Ranchers circulated rumors that Cheyenne warriors were ready to attack and that 500 vigilantes stood ready for the “Indian uprising.”

Sheriff John Gibb from Miles City, rode to the agency with 25 half drunk cowboys looking for blood. The agent refused their demand to hand over the prisoners, knowing that to do so would have created mob violence. Agent Stouch, anticipating trouble, had already called for Capt. Robert D. Read, and the Tenth Cavalry. The soldiers arrived in time to escort the sheriff and his neck tie party off the reservation.

During the scare, Fr. Van der Velden further angered ranchmen by again visiting the jailed prisoners. Antagonism against the missionaries had been evident for 15 years, much of it aimed at the priest who vowed to educate Indians. Fr. Van der Velden’s life had been threatened, once with a gun to his stomach, but he was determined to stay, despite ill health.

Just as rumors of war increased and the



*Little Whirlwind, one of Lt. Ed Casey’s famous Cheyenne Scouts, stands tall at the moment of his arrest. Sheriff John Gibb in background. PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BARTHELMESS 1897*

priest realized he could not help Spotted Hawk, Rev. Van der Velden came down with typhoid fever and was in a coma for two weeks. When he didn’t fully recover, Bishop Brondel recalled him. From his hospital bed, Father wrote to his brother in Holland telling him why he was leaving after 12 years with the tribe, “The whites were after my life; my death was resolved upon.”

When Spotted Hawk heard that Father had left for good and that Agent Stouch had been transferred, he and his brother broke out of jail and walked back to the reservation. They just wanted to see their wives and children one last time.

The brief and joyous visit came to an end when the innocent men were recaptured.

George Bird Grinnell, naturalist and close friend of Herbert Welsh and Theodore Roosevelt, soon to be elected President of the United States, had spent many years on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. He knew Spotted Hawk and when he found out that his friend had been charged with First Degree Murder and was sentenced to hang, Grinnell took immediate action. After notifying his powerful friends in Washington and New York, funds poured in for Spotted Hawk and his brother’s defense.

*(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)*



Working against them were Montana Governor Robert B. Smith and Senator Thomas H. Carter, close friends of the presiding Judge Charles H. Loud. All three men were well known advocates for cattlemen. Judge Loud overturned a court ruling that would have given the Cheyennes a new trial while their families struggled to survive.

Within a year, accused murderer David Stanley died of tuberculosis in jail but not before he admitted to authorities that he had lied about Spotted Hawk and Little Whirlwind. They were not guilty of murder. Despite his confession, the Cheyenne brothers remained in jail.

Grinnell and his supporters hired the best lawyers and quietly backed by Teddy Roosevelt, Spotted Hawk was finally released. Little Whirlwind was to stay in jail for 4 years until 1901. By then, the government had removed ranchers from the borders of the reservation and they were finally forced to acknowledge the legality of permanent reservation lines. In fairness to the ranchers, legal boundaries should have been made long before cattlemen settled in the area. Ten years before, they already had 150,000 cattle and horses and 30,000 sheep grazing on reservation land.

After their release from jail, the Cheyenne brothers returned to their homes. Before long, Spotted Hawk's land

was entirely cultivated. A reservation land survey found Hugh "a very active farmer," with a large vegetable garden and many acres of wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, alfalfa and hay. He also raised cattle, horses and pigs. After his wife died, Hugh's daughter moved into his log cabin to care for him until he passed away at the age of 62.

If the agony of wrongful imprisonment and the fear of the hang man's rope made him a bitter man, Hugh did not show it. After he died, Spotted Hawk's name was given to his nephew, Chief Clarence, "Bisco" Spotted Wolf. In 2009, Bisco in turn handed the name down to his relative, Joseph, a young scholar with a Master's Degree from the University of Maryland.

Spotted Hawk distinguished himself as a U. S. Army Scout but most important of all, he was a good father, a loving husband and a hard worker whose name will live forever in Northern Cheyenne history.

Sources:

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*The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, 1877- 1900*, Orlan J. Svingen

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Spotted Hawk's Death Warrant, Records of the Clerk of Court, District Court, Seventh Judicial District, Miles City, Custer County, Montana

State v. Little Whirlwind 22 Mont. 425 (1899); State v. Spotted Hawk 22 Mont. 1899



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

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."

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



*A porcupine walks across the cold Montana prairie at sunset.*



# Tony Bennett Fan Becomes Charitable Gift Annuitant

It doesn't seem possible that world famous singer Tony Bennett will be 84 years old on August 3, 2010. Marge Cappulo can hardly believe it, either.

Marge's late husband, Thomas, remembered Tony, or "Joe" as the singer liked to be called, as a fellow U.S. Army infantryman in the European Theatre during World War II.

Thomas and "Joe" fought in freezing weather, as German 88 mm guns fired round after round on their positions. As the army unit crossed the Rhine, they were ordered to go house-to-house in an effort to capture German soldiers. After the war ended the men helped to liberate a Nazi concentration camp. Bennett later called the fighting, "A front row seat in hell."

Thomas returned home after the war to his father's furniture business in Brooklyn and Tony "Joe" Bennett was discovered by Bob Hope and Pearl Bailey. The rest is history. For many years, the Cappulos followed "Joe's" career,

seeing his live concert performance of "I left My Heart in San Francisco" in 1963.

Marge Cappulo is still a Tony Bennett fan. When her husband passed away, Marge became a Soaring Eagle Annuitant after a friend gave her a copy of Father Emmett's biography, *Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne*.

Marge, age 83, recently set up a \$10,000 Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity, with a 7.7% annuity rate, which gave her an immediate tax deduction of \$5,381 and \$770 of annual interest income. Marge is also considering an outright gift of stock. By doing so, she will minimize capital gains tax with her gift of an appreciated asset that is deductible at full market value. Marge says she is sending one of Father Emmett's books to Tony Bennett.

***If you are interested in a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity, please call Kim Flagen at 406-256-8500 or email her at kflagen@msn.com. She will be happy to send you an informative, no-obligation proposal.***

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\*Illustration is based on a person 76 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.

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*Fergie and new Christmas friend.*



*Santa and an Elf pose with “Happy Herb” Bearchum, the dining staff serves up a traditional Thanksgiving meal, and a lively game of cards in the recreation room all are part of having a good time during the Winter.*





Father Emmett's Biography,  
Renegade Priest of the  
Northern Cheyenne

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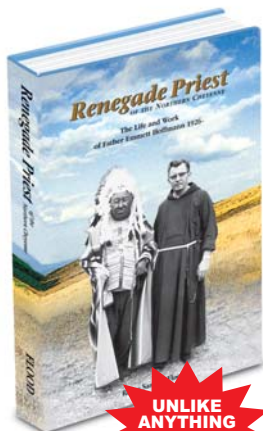
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