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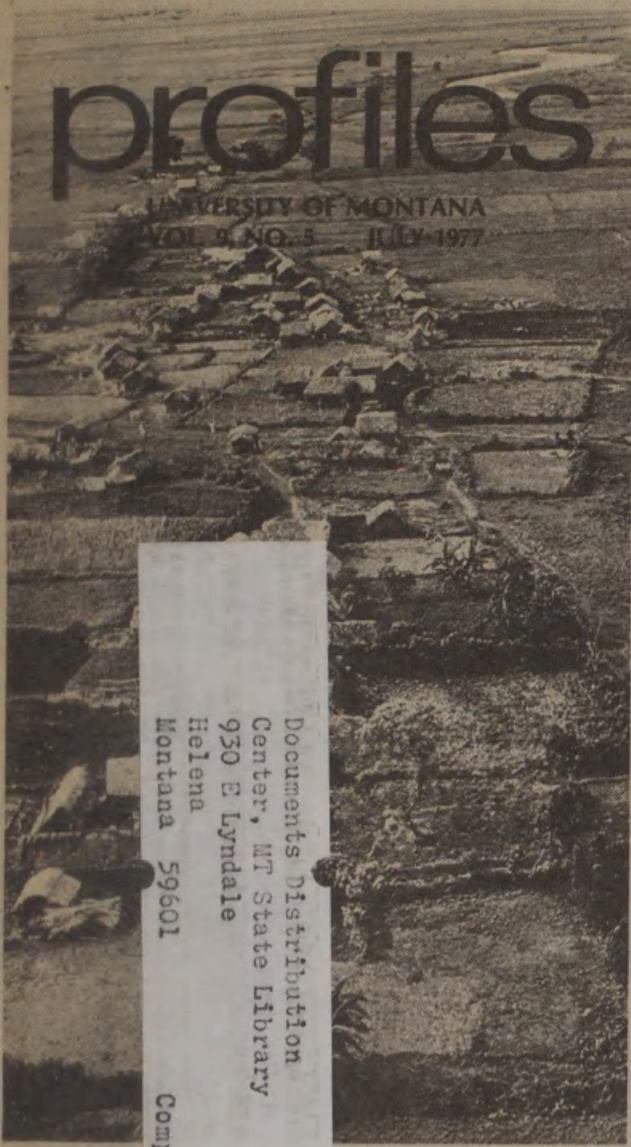
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A section of 500-mile sliver of land in Nepal, where thousands of Asian buffalo once lived.

The near demise of the Nepali buffalo

by Ron Righter

The Nepalis call it Terai; a sliver of land wedged between the mountains and vast flatness of northern India. Only thirty years ago it was a sea of grass, jungle and forest for all of its 500-mile length. Thousands of Asian wild buffalo foraged in the forests and wallowed in the ooze of river and swamp.

But today villages and croplands cover the Terai, and fewer than a hundred wild buffalo survive in all of Nepal. They wander across the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, a 60 square-mile forest and grassland woven among the braided channels of the Sapta-Koshi River. And even this tattered remnant of the buffalo population may not survive much longer.

Every April the monsoon storms cross the Terai, and the curtain of rain turns the dry river bed into a swirl of muddy water. The wild buffalo scramble for safety. Some move off the Reserve, but Nepali farmers quickly chase them back. Their only refuge is the tiny islands of forest and grassland which rise like bumps above the water.

Each year, the muddy torrent kills a few more wild buffalo. Occasionally, the toll is much higher, as in 1968, when over half the buffalo at Koshi Tappu drowned. At least one authority fears the consequences of another such flood.

"Just one year with severe flooding," said Tom Dahmer, UM graduate student in wildlife biology, "could easily wipe out the entire population."

The year 1950 is the turning point in the story of Nepal's wild buffalo. Until then, only Tharu tribesmen lived on the Terai. They were immune to the malaria which infested the lowland, allowing them to live where no one else could. They cultivated rice and wheat, and their cattle and domestic buffalo moved over the grasslands and through the dense forest.

Then, in 1950, the Rana family fell from power after a century of rule, and the decade of unrest that followed brought many changes to Nepal—changes which disrupted the Terai and would ultimately drive the wild buffalo to the confines of Koshi Tappu.

Nepal opened her borders to foreigners for the first time in years. Countries from both sides of the Iron Curtain, attracted by Nepal's strategic location between India and China, swamped the Nepalis with offers of foreign aid, and encouraged the Nepali government to develop the Terai.

Lush vegetation covered the wedge of land. Its forest produced valuable timber, and the tropical climate ensured a continued supply of moisture. But one obstacle stood in the way of the development. Malaria still hung like a curtain over the Terai. Without some means of controlling the disease, the progressive plans were useless.

In 1951, the U.S. began to blanket the Terai with DDT. Although it took 15 years to reduce the malaria rate to one per cent, people began to migrate to the newly opened land immediately. Nepali hill people, eager to farm flat land rather than steep mountainsides, swept out of the hills. Indians swarmed across the border from the south, bringing with them the poverty and overcrowding they were fleeing.

This flood of human immigrants overwhelmed the government planners. They'd wanted the settlement to be orderly, based on their reasoned assessment of the land's potential. Scientists were to conduct timber and soil surveys, and the Nepali government itself was to distribute the land. But the Terai's new residents didn't know of these elaborate plans. Ignoring the legalities of settlement, most simply took what ground they wanted without waiting for government approval.

They hacked at the forest to make room for their fields of wheat and rice. Their cattle and domestic buffalo wandered through the tangled forests and lush grasslands, devouring huge quantities of forage. Industrious businessmen bought tracts of forest and cut great swaths of timber.

Stripped of its protective covering of grass, shrubs and trees, the earth baked in the sun. And the ceaseless plodding of cattle and domestic buffalo compacted the soil, making the ground ever drier.

Ten years passed before Nepal's government focused its energies on the catastrophe sweeping its southern border. But by then it was too late. The delicate fabric of soil, animal and plant that had been the Terai was a tattered cloth, and the Asian wild buffalo, unable to contend with the new conditions, were in jeopardy.

During the last 15 years the population has grown and spread even further across the Terai. Biologist Dahmer estimates that four million Nepalis are packed onto this wedge of land. They've turned it into

a tight mosaic of cultivated fields, spattered by the dull brown of an occasional forest. There's little room for wild buffalo here. Today, they can survive only at the Koshi Tappu Reserve.

Even the Reserve hasn't escaped the corrosive effects of human growth. Several thousand settlers live and grow crops just inside its western boundary. Their cattle and domestic buffalo wander freely over the ostensible wildlife refuge, feeding on the vegetation and wallowing in the river's cooling currents. The farmers cut down trees and gather brush for firewood and fenceposts; they slash into the stands of khar-patar grass to provide thatching for their huts, and they lop branches off trees to provide fodder for their livestock.

Until recently, no one knew how this activity by men and animals affected the wild buffalo. Few people cared. But attitudes toward wildlife change—even in a country as poor as Nepal. At the request of the Nepali government, the Smithsonian Peace Corps sent UM graduate Tom Dahmer to Koshi Tappu. He spent 16 months at the Reserve, unraveling the intricate relationships between man and wild buffalo.

Every day he traveled across the Reserve searching for sign of the wild buffalo. He couldn't afford motorized vehicles, so he walked through the tangles of scrub and brush, and across the dried river channels. When rising waters made the channels impassable, he slipped among the islands in a dugout canoe; and occasionally he rode an elephant. After a few months he could locate nearly all of the 63 wild buffalo (this was Dahmer's count as of July 1976) on his daily excursions. He mapped their daily movements, and their seasonal migrations across the reserve. The nature of the country at Koshi Tappu—predominantly flat open land—allowed Dahmer to observe the wild herds from a distance so as not to disturb them.

However, when the wild herds disappeared into the tangled forests or the thick stands of khar-patar grass scattered across the Reserve, Dahmer chose not to follow. Following wild buffalo into this type of vegetation, where the visibility is poor, was too dangerous—something he had learned firsthand in the winter of 1976.

He had entered a thicket of khar-patar grass then, expecting to find only a herd of common buffalo—an animal which is gentle and unaggressive to man. Crouching low, he moved only a few feet at a time, pausing to listen for any sounds that would indicate buffalo feeding or moving through the tall grass.

He heard a ripping sound, and moved further along the trail toward a sharp bend, when he heard the sound again. It sounded like an animal pulling vines from a tree. But he knew that domestic buffalo don't feed on vines; only wild buffalo do.

He suspected that he was approaching a herd of wild buffalo. He crept forward and peered around the curve in the trail. Only 15 feet ahead, dark and massive, stood a female wild buffalo and her calf.

Before Dahmer could move out of sight, the cow's head swung up and the coal-black eyes caught him. All he could do was rely on his camouflage suit and hope that his scent would go undetected. After what seemed like hours, the cow's black head turned in another direction.

Dahmer was afraid that the cow wanted to bring her calf along the trail, so he quickly slipped behind a small tree three feet to one side.

He waited, and soon heard the grass rustling, and the sound of hooves cutting into the flinty soil. The slate gray flank of the cow approached, and her calf followed close behind. Then, no more than five feet away, she stopped. Her head lifted, and the black nostrils quivered, searching for Dahmer's scent.

The long horns, curved and pointed like scimitars, thrashed the grass. Then suddenly, the black slits of eyes focused on Dahmer. She pivoted, lowered her head and charged. The boss of horns slammed into Dahmer's lower right leg with a dull thunk. A second later, the buffalo and its calf were gone, mowing a path through the tall grass.

Eight days later Dahmer was in surgery. His leg bone was bruised and infected. But after several days in the hospital, he was ready to return to work.

Dahmer's encounter with the enraged cow was a rarity. The wild buffalo at Koshi Tappu are wary of man and will charge only when the feel threatened. They also avoid the herds of domestic buffalo and cattle—sometimes numbering in the hundreds—which move through the Reserve like small armies. Dahmer often saw a wild herd abandon a wallow or a stand of khar-patar grass, merely at the approach of a domestic herd.

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The photographer was at a safe distance from the Asian wild buffalo in this photo, which has been greatly enlarged.

Earl Lory professor turned lawmaker

by John Dench

After teaching chemistry for 27 years, UM professor Earl Lory picked a decidedly unusual way to spend his retirement years. He ran for the Montana legislature and got elected. Since then he's served two terms as a representative in the Montana house. Looking back, he's not quite sure how it all got started.

"In 1974 Tom Collins (director of the UM Foundation) talked to me about running for the legislature," Lory said. "I thought at the time it was the craziest suggestion I'd ever heard. And I wasn't interested."

But the more he thought about it, the more the idea began to gain appeal. "Basically" Lory said, "it occurred to me that if I ran and won, I could help the University. I could represent the University in Helena and explain or improve its image a little."

In 1974 Lory got his chance. He was elected and immediately applied for the appropriations committee, thinking it would be the place where he could do the University the most good.

"Of course, I didn't get appointed," Lory said. "And the reasons were fairly obvious. Probably it's just as well, because it would have been suspected that I'd be partial to the University—and I obviously would be."

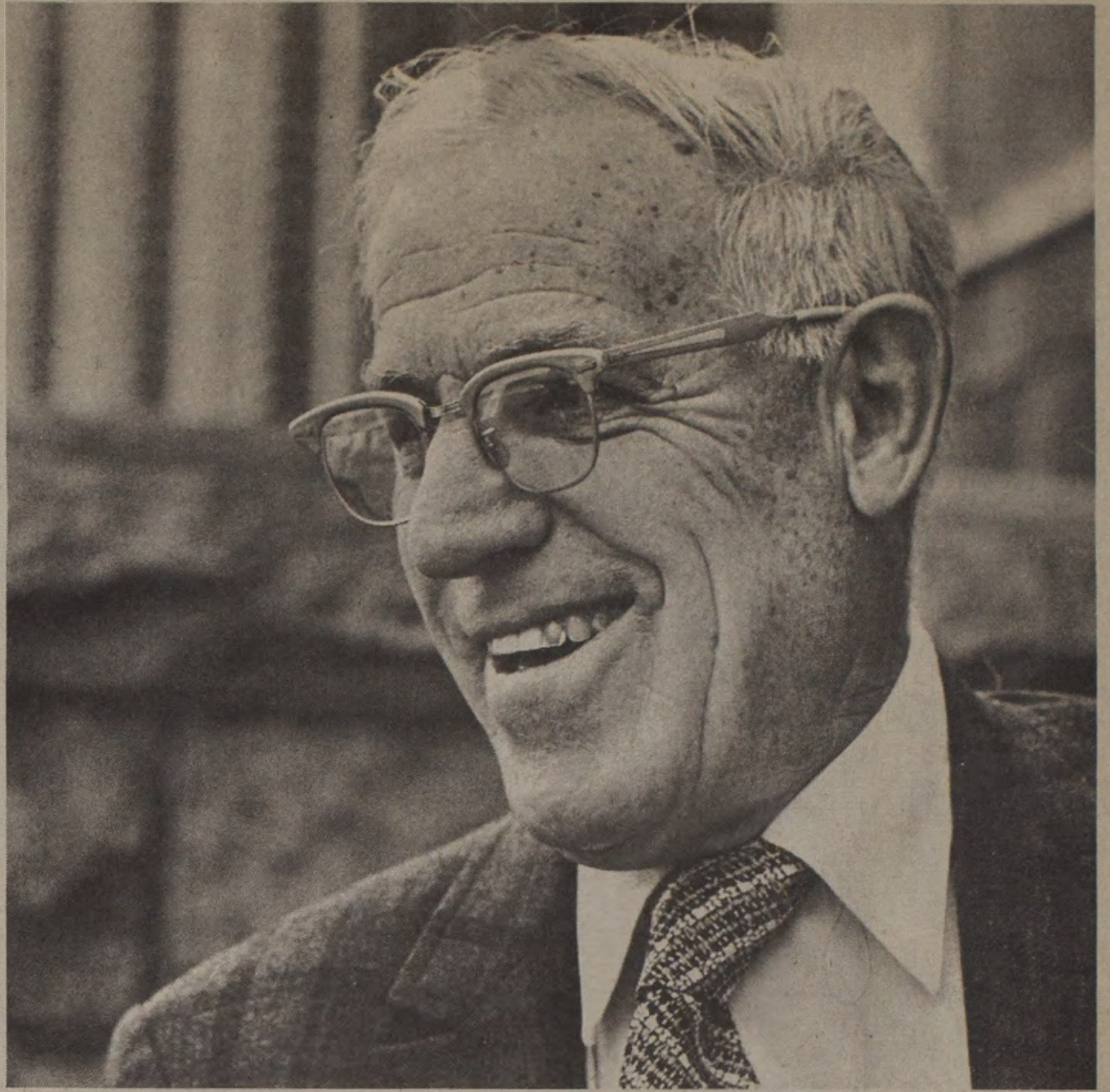
With the appropriation committee out of the question, Lory soon discovered that there wasn't much he could do to help the school. "After all," he said, "it's very difficult for a member of the legislature to increase appropriations if he's not a member of the committee. You can give your support, but that's about all you can do."

He also discovered that his previous negative opinions of legislators were unfounded. "Legislators are pretty dedicated people," he said. "Sometimes they let their feelings run away with them, but generally they try hard to do what's best for the state."

Few of the legislators are there to grind an ax, Lory said. "But it's pretty hard, if you're a cattleman and they have a bill up to lower the cattle tax, not to vote for it. You'd be crazy if you didn't."

A lot of university-related bills are killed, he said, not because of animosity by the legislators, but because of a crass and simple lack of money. "If we passed every appropriation that was asked for," Lory said, "the state would be \$167 million in the red. We have to cut out something, and in the process a lot of good bills fall by the wayside; just on a pure money basis."

A recent example of the money crunch conflict was a proposed bill that would have given the Montana Historical Society enough funds to start an historical



Earl Lory

records network in the university system. The bill, according to Lory, was a good one; one that Montana needs to maintain its historical documents. But the price was too high and the proposal was killed.

Another example: A bill was introduced that would give the University a cut of the taxes levied on coal-mining operations in Montana. The bill's promoters said the money should be spent on much-needed university buildings—since building costs are rising at 10 per cent a year, while coal tax money increases at only seven per cent.

The bill passed the House, but the Senate amended it so that only the interest on the fund could be used. The House balked at this, and the bill was promptly called back to the Senate, where it was killed.

If it had passed, UM would have received an additional \$1 million for construction of a new science building. "It's unfortunate we didn't get that extra million," Lory said. "We could have built a very impressive building."

With all that cutting of University funds, student

reaction to the legislature is none too good. "I guess it's natural for students to feel the legislators are against them," Lory said. "Actually I don't think we're against them at all. The animosity doesn't exist, as it did, say, in the 60s."

Even so, Lory would like to see the state hold the University in higher regard. "We've got to convince the state of the quality of education we're giving," he said.

The best shortcut to that goal, in Lory's opinion, is some public relations work on the part of the students. "If students don't support the University when they go back home," he said, "no one is ever going to sell a good view of the school to the state."

Now, in his 70th year, Lory chuckles when asked if he'll run again in 1978. "Well, they say in the House that anyone who announces his candidacy before the legislature has been out 90 days must be a psychotic. So I'll leave that decision to the future. It depends on a lot of things. As long as I feel I'm effective, I'll run again. But the voters may have something to say about that too. They have the final voice, you know."

Nepali buffalo

continued from page one

When Dahmer left Koshi Tappu in July of 1976 over 3,800 people and more than 2,500 cattle and domestic buffalo lived on the Reserve. Clearly, the 60 or 70 wild buffalo at Koshi Tappu have little peace.

During the two or three months of high water, the harassment by humans and domestic animals becomes more than a nuisance. Many farmers move their herds onto the 30-foot high earthen embankments, which mark the Reserve's eastern and western boundaries. But some of the settlers leave their domestic animals behind to huddle on the isolated points of high ground scattered across the Reserve.

The wild buffalo, which lie in the river's currents during the day, clamber onto these tiny islands of scrub and grass to feed and rest overnight. They may avoid islands occupied by a domestic herd; and when they find an unoccupied island they may be chased off by newly arrived domestic animals. The months of high water, then are the most critical for the wild herds.

The spring floods themselves are another example of man's harassment of nature. Of course, the Saptakoshi has always flooded—as long as there have been monsoons to empty themselves onto the land. But 20 years ago men aggravated the situation. It was then, in 1957, that the Indian government finished construction on the Koshi Barrage, a mile-long string of flood control gates stretching across the Koshi River at the Nepali border. (The barrage is also the southern boundary of the Reserve.) The barrage prevents the flooding of several million acres of northern Indian croplands, but in the process the floodwater spreads across the Reserve, sometimes reaching a depth of 10 feet.

More than just high water threatens the wild buffalo. Two diseases which have ravaged wild buffalo

in other parts of their range—rinderpest and hoof and mouth—are on the upswing among the domestic buffalo in eastern Nepal. Both diseases are easily transmitted to the wild strain, and Dahmer is afraid that an outbreak at Koshi Tappu could cripple, if not wipe out, the entire population.

At Dahmer's recommendation, Nepal's Department of Forests plans to transplant several wild buffalo from Koshi Tappu to Chitawan National Park on the central Terai. These animals will be the core of a second population of wild buffalo, and will reduce the chances that an outbreak of disease, or any other natural catastrophe, could eliminate all of Nepal's wild buffalo.

This project is only one of several indications that the government's attitude toward the wild buffalo is changing. Less than a year ago the government designated Koshi Tappu as an official Wildlife Reserve. Within two days a detachment of soldiers arrived and began patrolling the Reserve's boundaries. Nepal has used the military to guard national parks and forest reserves against timber thieves, poachers and other trespassers, and they have been effective.

Dahmer believes that the most important duty of the military at Koshi Tappu is its eviction of illegal settlers. He estimates that when he left the Nepal in July 1976 more than two thirds of the Reserve's inhabitants were illegals. These squatters own the largest herds of domestic buffalo and cattle, and usually leave them on the Reserve during flooding. Relocating the illegals and removing their livestock would take a great deal of pressure off the wild buffalo.

But Dahmer left Nepal just two days after the army arrived. They hadn't evicted the squatters when he left, and he's been unable to determine if they have since. None of his ex-colleagues from the Smithsonian Peace Corps work at Koshi Tappu now, and he doubts that the Nepali government would admit openly that

illegal settlers had ever been on the Reserve. To do so, would be to admit that the government hadn't been doing its job.

However, the government kept at least one of its commitments when it recently expanded the Reserve by 3,000 acres. Eventually, the Nepali Dept. of Forests will buy out all the legal settlers within the Reserve and hopefully, the native vegetation, freed from the pressure of man and domestic animals for the first time in over a quarter century, will begin to recover. And with luck, the wild buffalo population at Koshi Tappu will increase in number.

Dahmer believes that the Nepalis' motives for protecting the Asian wild buffalo and establishing Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve are more economic than ecological. Nepal is straining to support its 12 million inhabitants; it has no significant natural resources, and its currency is almost worthless on the international market. Anything which attracts foreign money is considered a precious commodity. And Nepal's scenery and wildlife draws tens of thousands of tourists every year.

Whatever its motives, the Nepali government intends to keep the Asian wild buffalo in circulation. The Terai may never be the tangle of grass and forest it was 25 years ago, but at least at Koshi Tappu the wild buffalo have a chance to survive in relative safety.

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Homecoming 1977

The classes of 1927, 1942, 1952 and 1967 will reunite at Homecoming Oct. 7 and 8 on campus.

The Golden, 35-year, Silver and 10-year anniversary classes will be honored at a dinner Friday, Oct. 7, at the Edgewater restaurant, where the Golden Grizzly Awards and the Distinguished Alumnus Award will be presented.

"Western Books" is the theme for the Homecoming parade, which will start at 10 Saturday morning at the train depot. Dorothy M. Johnson, well-known western author and former UM professor and student, will be the parade marshal.

Kickoff for the football game against Boise State University will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Dornblaser Field. Reserved tickets, which are \$6, can be obtained by writing to the Field House Ticket Office at the University.

Following the game will be open houses at residence halls, sororities and fraternities.

Nominations sought for new award

The Alumni Association still is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award, which has replaced the Distinguished Service Award. The change of name and direction makes it possible to give the award for service, achievement or both.

The award will be given at Homecoming to UM alumni of local, national or international fame who have distinguished themselves in their fields or given great quantities of their time to the University.

Also, two of the awards each year will be given to alumni 35 years old or younger. Nominations should be sent to the Alumni Center, University of Montana, Missoula 59812.

More museum memories . . .

Editor's note: The following is a reply by Dorothy M. Johnson to an article in the Profiles May issue on the University's now defunct museum. The original article was written by Gordon Browder, director of Sponsored Programs Administration. Miss Johnson is a well-known western author and a former teacher at the University.

by Dorothy M. Johnson

My recollections of the University museum don't match Gordon Browder's in some respects. For years it was on the top floor of the Journalism building (I worked on the second); then it moved to the Fine Arts building, and the late Robert T. Turner (history) became director. One of the things he inherited was a large piece of rock bearing an official museum label inscribed "Large piece of rock. Donor unknown." This he bestowed, with a suitably dignified letter, on Nathan Blumberg, the dean of journalism, in gratitude for housing the collection, and so didn't have to move it across the campus.

Among the great treasures in the museum was Marcus Daly's opulent bedroom furniture. I wonder where that went when the collection was arbitrarily scattered?

The stuffed buffalo were a great burden to everybody. They came, I believe, from the Smithsonian, and there were six of them, including a calf, which I suggested would be cute in my front yard. Other faculty members suggested a habitat group on Mount Sentinel. But Dr. Turner said no; these were state property, and he had to defend them from the weather. For a while they were in the Field House, until the ROTC protested vigorously that they were in



Dorothy M. Johnson

the way of marching men. Two went to the museum where Dr. Turner conscientiously sprayed them with moth repellent, and he unloaded some on the museum at Bozeman.

Dr. Turner had some volunteer assistants, one of whom had a key. In the museum was an old window dummy, female, with red hair, from the Missoula Mercantile. A group of the director's friends (I had nothing to do with this!) one night smuggled the dummy to his front porch on the corner of Central and Maurice and left it sitting on a chair there, without a stitch on. He usually slept late. Next morning he wandered out in his pajamas, without his glasses, to get the paper, and encountered this shocker. He grabbed the dummy around the middle, dragged her into the living room, and dropped her in a heap. Then he stood worrying: How many students had observed his guest on their way to eight o'clock and nine o'clock classes?

He was still thinking when the doorbell rang. "It was an evangelist," Dr. Turner told me, "who said he wanted to talk about God. But he glanced past me, saw this naked red-head on the floor—and ran."

Getting her back into the museum, he said, was much harder than getting her out had been.

Nine Montana high schoolers win alumni scholarships

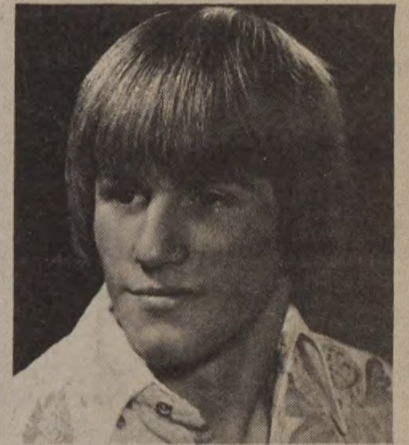
Nine Montana high school seniors have been awarded scholarships by the Alumni Association to attend the University.

The students will receive the awards, which are given for creativity, leadership, achievement and need, each year they attend the University and maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 (B). The students were chosen by a selection committee of UM alumni.

The awardees are: Ronald Trippet, Flathead High

School in Kalispell; Hal Gronfein, Butte High School; Janelle Byrne, C. M. Russell High School in Great Falls; Tom Cullen, Great Falls High School; Bill Toner, Helena High School; Nancy Blom, Billings West High School; Vicki Fred, Helena Capitol High School; Kim Pancich, Butte High School, and Lori Strah, Butte High School.

University students already receiving the scholarship are Bonnie Briggs, sophomore, and Dennis Unsworth, senior.



Ron Trippet



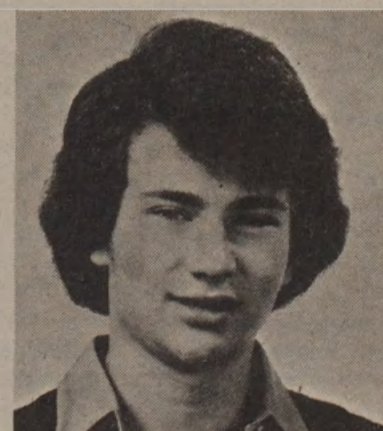
Janelle Byrne



Bill Toner



Bonnie Briggs



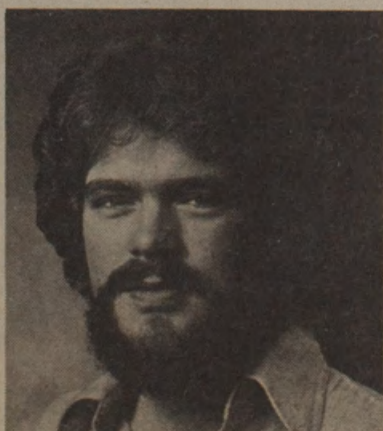
Hal Gronfein



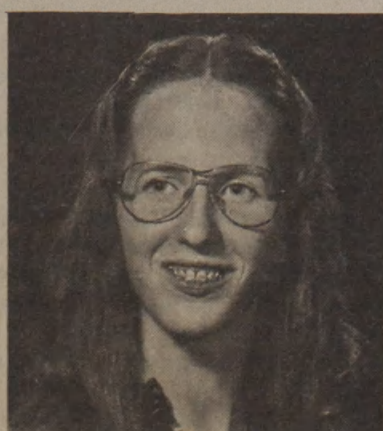
Lori Strah



Vicki Fred



Dennis Unsworth



Nancy Blom



Tom Cullen



Kim Pancich



The Tawneys: Phil, Land and Robin

The Tawneys and keeping Montana Montana

by Judy Hensel

When Robin and Phil Tawney finished their degrees at the University of Montana and moved to Helena in 1973 they knew they were taking on a formidable task.

They were leaving their home and security for the dubious rewards of being lobbyists for the land. They wanted to show Montana lawmakers how legislation might harm the state's natural beauty and to suggest bills that would, instead, protect the land, air and water.

They were in their early 20s at the time, and they knew, as family and friends often reminded them, that their goal was going to be difficult to meet. But, even so, and although they had dealt with the legislature previously, they weren't quite prepared for the reception they received in Helena.

Their initiation into Montana legislative politics had come two years earlier, when Phil was chosen by the UM political science department to be a student intern. Robin, a student in journalism, went along to the Capitol to help with secretarial duties. They studied environmental politics while in Helena, met most of the representatives and senators and made many friends.

They returned in 1973 as genuine, registered—unpaid—lobbyists for the land. Many lawmakers were surprised at the young couple's seriousness, and before long, more than a few grew angry at the Tawneys' doggedness.

"It was comical," Robin recalled, "because in 1971 we were fairly well-liked by everyone, but in 1973 was came back with a burr under our saddle, and some people got hostile."

The resentment grew in following years because the lawmakers weren't used to their constituents invading the Capitol's halls. The Tawneys were encouraging "unregistered lobbyists" to come to Helena to testify and crowd hearing rooms.

But Phil and Robin believe it is important that Montanans know what is happening in the legislature and that everyone has the opportunity to be heard. With that thought in mind, and because they realized they needed support, the Tawneys helped establish a citizen-powered environmental research lobby—the Environmental Information Center, or EIC, as it's commonly called.

Until the EIC was begun, Robin, Phil and fellow-founder and lobbyist Don Aldrich had been trying to serve all environmental needs in Montana. They soon realized that the state needed a year-round group to research environmental issues, prepare legislation

and keep people informed. Therefore, in November 1973, the EIC began business with very little money and 25 volunteers.

Today the EIC is a powerful organization with about 860 members across the state. The efforts of two of its founders haven't been forgotten. Last year the American Motors Corp. awarded Robin and Phil its most prestigious conservation award, which includes \$500 and a gold medallion. The award citation noted that "although the Tawneys are barely past their mid-twenties, this exceptional husband and wife team has already been an inspirational force in Montana's conservation movement."

Few people will disagree with that statement, but many people disagree with the Tawneys. Because Robin and Phil have been outspoken, they've picked up a few opponents. Only a few months ago, Phil charged several senators with having a conflict of interest. During the past legislative session the senators Phil named were trying to change Montana's subdivision laws. But Phil believed they had no right to work on the bill, since they were realtors or owned parts of the land to be subdivided.

Many lawmakers don't appreciate Phil's frankness, especially because he often is quoted in the newspapers. "One time a senator vowed he'd 'get' me wherever I went," he smiled. "Quite a few people dislike me. Sometimes issues become so prominent, personalities enter in. I leave alone those who disagree."

But sometimes those who disagree don't leave him alone. Before the 1974 general election, Phil endorsed, under the auspices of the EIC, several candidates whose backgrounds he had researched and who he believed would vote for environmental bills. The opponent of one candidate Phil had endorsed filed a law suit against Phil in 1975—more than a year after the election.

The disgruntled candidate who had not been endorsed accused Phil of corrupt practices and of misusing the EIC's nonprofit status. The judge who heard the charges didn't hesitate to dismiss the case. But other grudges against the Tawneys haven't been as easily squashed. Recently a rumor falsely charged that Phil's father is a wealthy landowner.

Despite the opposition, many legislators admire the Tawneys' work and respect their honesty and determination. Rep. Herb Huennekens (D-Billings) worked with Robin and Phil in writing and promoting a bill calling for a moratorium on rural subdivisions.

"You know, lobbyists are funny," he said. "They believe it is necessary to put on pressure. Robin seemed to sense that reason and sincerity are more important, and Phil caught on more rapidly to an effective style of lobbying than anyone his age."

"The Tawneys are tremendous organizers. They spent full days working with me—8 a.m. to 9, 10, 11 p.m. every day. They are always well-informed and beautifully prepared."

And Huennekens believes it is only the "hard-core, reactionary conservatives" in the Senate who object to the Tawneys. But even if the Tawneys had a thousand foes who ganged together and somehow banned Robin and Phil from the Capitol, the Tawneys' influence on Montana couldn't be squelched.

They plan to stay in Montana with their two-year-old son Land and to always remain active in the state's environmental issues. They'd like to help the EIC continue to grow and become a permanent fixture in the state. And, if all goes well, Phil someday may be one of the candidates the EIC endorses.

For the present, Robin is using her writing skills and has published environmental articles in the *Denver Post*, *Living Wilderness* (Wilderness Society magazine) and *High Country News*. And together they have begun work on a new interest that would help young Montanans who cannot afford to farm because of notoriously high real estate, cattle and grain prices.

The Tawneys would like to see a private, nonprofit land bank set up—much like one in Saskatchewan, which buys large stretches of countryside and leases parcels back to young farmers at low rates.

"Our present land-use programs don't work," Phil said. "Real estate costs are escalating, and if young people don't get their share, we'll lose it all to realtors."

"A land bank is needed now," he said, "but the government won't touch it; it's too controversial and has been called socialistic. But a private organization could do it. Several people are working on the concept now. Within five years I can almost guarantee we'll see something like this."

In five years the Tawneys may be realizing a few of their other goals. They would like to own land outside the city and spend weekends and vacations in the country. They'd be as self-sustaining as possible, have a cow and large garden and heat their home totally with wood and solar energy. All in hopes of individually doing what they'd like to see other Montanans do: live as lightly on the land as possible and support one of the EIC's goals: to keep Montana Montana.

A bus system for Missoula? Yes!

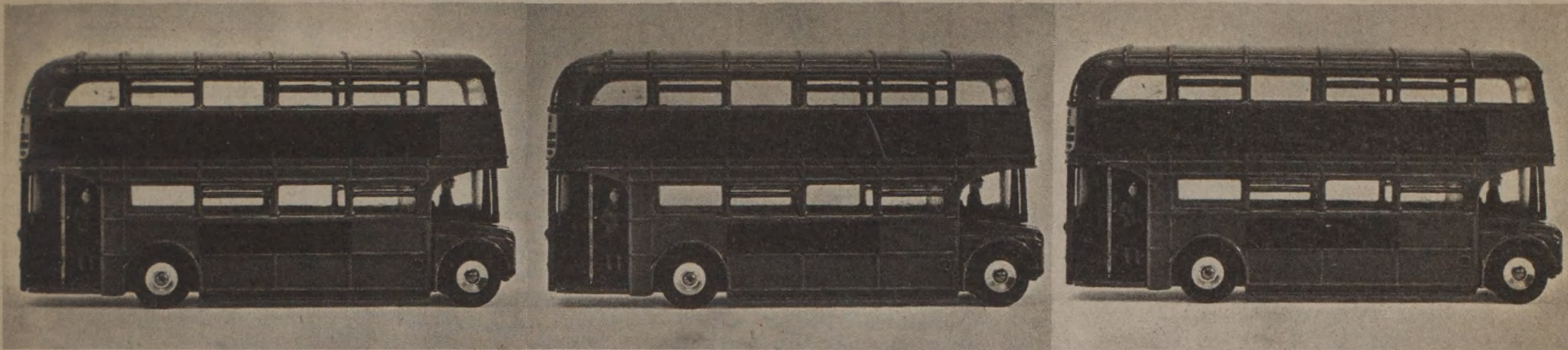
by Judy Hensel

Twenty years ago Missoula was a small town with a university in a thinly populated state. An equally small bus system served roughly 25,000 Missoulians, and you could sit on a faded wooden bench on South Higgins and wait for a bus to squeal to a stop and take you downtown.

The buses quit running one day, and no one seemed to mind. But during the years Missoula was without public transit, the compact community burst into a sprawling mini-metropolis of about 60,000. More and more people drove to town from their homes in the outskirts, tying up the city's antiquated road system. And with the price of insurance, gas and licensing, some citizens began to wonder if the expense of maintaining two or more cars was worth it.

continued on page five





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In fact, many people became disgusted enough with high fuel prices and traffic headaches to consider starting another bus system. Missoula alderman Richard Smith was one of them. He helped organize a citizens committee—with 17 members appointed by the mayor—to look into mass transit for Missoula. But the group soon found it knew very little about costs, legal problems, routes and efficiency.

The task seemed impossible to accomplish without hiring an expensive consulting firm. Luckily, Smith is friends with Robert McKelvey, UM math professor, who was eager to get University personnel involved in community projects and who knew that UM statisticians, psychologists and business professors could staff 20 consulting firms.

Of course professional consultants and university professors aren't synonymous. UM personnel had never before studied public transit. Coordinating the efforts of several University researchers wouldn't be easy; professors rarely leave their individual studies to work collectively with other departments. Funding would be necessary for computer time and supplies, although none of the faculty would be paid. And money for a project that involves many departments and people is difficult to find. But McKelvey and several other UM personnel thought a Missoula bus system and the opportunity to help the city were worth the effort.

And they found that what they'd expected to hamper the study was, instead, beneficial. Because the University people had no experience in designing bus systems, they brought no prejudices to their study. Their approach was fresh and their methods were unique. And they used a computer to test their results—something few consulting firms can do.

The first thing to consider was what kind of bus system would be the most efficient and cost the least. "Dial-a-ride"—somewhat like a fleet of taxis that goes door to door—initially seemed the best idea. But it would be too expensive, they decided, to pay drivers for each of the many buses "dial-a-ride" would need.

Finally the group of professors and staff members decided that a fixed-route system—the traditional way of organizing mass transit—would serve Missoula best. And because buses that run on the same route every day at the same time have been used in thousands of other American cities, comparison could be made in cost and usage. Close study of transit systems in cities similar to Missoula in size and character helped answer questions about how fixed-route would work in Missoula.

But the researchers needed more information about rider attitudes: who would use the buses,

would riders live in any particular section of town, and for what purposes would they take a bus? How much would they be willing to pay in fares?

With the help of statisticians Don Loftsgaarden and Rudy Gideon, who are math professors, a survey was designed to reach a cross section of Missoulians. Using a computer, 600 names were drawn for a sample that included all ages, economic groups and social strata. Also interviewed were 1,000 high school and vocational-technical school students, 1,000 University students and 100 Missoula employers and 3,000 of their employees.

About 50 interviewers were recruited and supervised by Prudence Smith, then administrative assistant in the Bureau of Quantitative Studies. Some were students, some were senior citizens; some were paid, most were not. Few had done survey work before, and because the questionnaire was long and involved, they needed to be trained.

Therefore the reins were handed to Jim Walsh, psychology professor, who taught the survey crews detailed interviewing techniques in four-hour sessions. In October 1975 the survey began, and its results were to surprise everyone: public transit is popular in Missoula, and more so than expected.

Almost 60 per cent of the people interviewed at home rated public transit "very favorable" (the highest rating). Only about 11 per cent were unfavorable or indifferent. And, surprisingly, the proportion for and against was the same for all ages and family income and for both sexes.

Also, Missoulians said that if buses came frequently to nearby areas, they would ride the bus for 33 per cent of all trips they now take by car. They'd ride the bus for 45 per cent of their travels to work and for 51 per cent to school or University. Sixty per cent said they'd walk three or more blocks to a bus, and at most, only 10 per cent objected to a fare of 20 to 25 cents.

McKelvey and his cohorts were encouraged. Although they realized the survey had faults—people's expectations seldom are the same as their actions—conclusions could be drawn. For instance, since a smaller study was done in 1972, people have become more interested in riding buses. People with limited access to transportation need public transit. And all groups of people in Missoula said they are willing to ride the buses.

And they learned interesting details on travel patterns. About three-fourths of all workers (80 per cent of male workers) drive to work alone. Almost one fourth live at least five miles from their employment. One bus trip in eight would be a student's trip to or from high school, vo-tech school or the University.

The most important product of the survey was fodder for the computer. The University's computer was fed the mountain of information on travel patterns and rider attitudes and calculated the most efficient route system. No other computer has been given as much detail on a public transit study.

Computation was so massive that the University computer could not handle any other business at the same time. That meant math professors Hien Nguyen

and Dale Muller, who refined the computer model, had to do their survey computing at 2 and 3 a.m.

They spent those early morning hours trying to simulate the outcome of the bus system. Given 15 buses, which is about the maximum Missoula can afford and use, they needed to design a system of routes that is the most convenient. The beauty of such a model is that the computer can test the system theoretically, and if it fails, no money has been wasted.

And, Nguyen explained, consulting firms—which don't use computer tabulation methods—cannot write in such a guarantee that their suggestions will work.

The computer was fed the survey data on what auto trips people would be willing to convert to bus trips in an ideal system. Then it was given information to include leeway for unacceptable delays, inconvenient scheduling and excessive distances to walk. From the two sets of information, the computer figured efficiency and ridership. In a six-route system—which was computed to be the most efficient—with 12 buses and a 15-cent fare, 3,764 people would ride the buses each day.

Later an expanded 15-bus system was proposed to include lumber and pulp mills outside of town. It would serve most residential neighborhoods on the half hour (hourly in low-density areas), the mills at shift changes and downtown and other commercial areas every 10 or 15 minutes.

Still more needed to be done. The survey information and computer projections had determined what sort of bus system would work in Missoula, but someone needed to figure what the costs would be.

Howard Puckett, then a business professor who is now at Boise State University, and Richard Smith began a detailed study of operating expenses that included everything from the cost of gas and insurance to secretarial salaries and retirement monies. They found that the total budget for the proposed public transit system would be less than what it costs to run the city's school buses.

But two major obstacles still remained before Missoula buses could start running: legislative and voter approval. Management professors Jack Morton and Roger Barber drew up a bill asking the Montana legislature to set up a mass transit district in Missoula. After the lawmakers approved the district, 20 per cent of the area citizens needed to sign a petition to put the issue on the ballot. Within a month after the documents were placed around town, more than 12,000 people signed. One man telephoned Prudence Smith—who also was in charge of collecting signatures—and said that was the first time he'd had to stand in line to sign a petition. Needless to say, when the vote was taken in June 1976, the mass transit district was approved, two-to-one.

All that remains is to get federal government approval and to buy the buses, which may take another year. In the meantime, many Missoulians are looking forward to phasing out second cars, being relieved of teen-age ferrying duties and saving time, money and energy.

alumnnotes

20s

OSSIAN MAC KENZIE '28 retired June 30 as chairman of the business and economics department at Rutgers University, Camden, N.J. He and his wife are living at State College, Penn.

30s

MONTANA GRADY '31, M.E. '42 retired in 1974 after teaching 30 years at Solano Community College in Suisun City, Calif.

CHARLES GRANDEY J.D. '31 retired after serving on the Federal Trade Commission for 34 years. He is living in Laguna Hills, Calif.

EDWIN MERTZ '31, professor emeritus of biochemistry and co-discoverer of high-lysine corn, received in May an honorary doctor of agriculture degree from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

40s

ADRIEN HESS M.A. '41 was chosen Outstanding Educator for 1976 by the Bozeman chapter of Phi Delta Kappa.

ORVAL ERWIN '42 retired in 1972 from the Soil Conservation Service and is living in Shelby.

GARVIN SHALLENBERGER '42 was elected president of the State Bar of California. He lives in Santa Ana.

RAY STROM '43 is the new president of the Oregon Mobilehome Park Assn. He owns Country Manor Mobile Home Park in Springfield, Ore.

PHILIP YOVIETICH '43, regional land use grant specialist for the Forest Service Northern Region Headquarters, retired after 33 years of federal service. He and his wife live in Missoula.

WILLIAM BARBOUR '48 was elected to the board of directors of Business Publications Audit of Circulation, Inc., New York, N.Y. He is president and chief executive of Chilton Co., an international publishing and marketing services firm.

ERNEST CORRICK '48 was appointed vice president and general manager of Champion Timberlands' Rocky Mountain Operation. He lives in Missoula.

GEORGE JACOBSON '49 has completed 28 years commissioned service as a lieutenant colonel in the United

Lost alums

Bruce Allen '65
Susan Benson '69
Elbert Borden Jr. '62
Robert K. Brown x'19
Robert L. Brown '55
Julia Kerr Buker, summer student
Dennis Burton '66
Donald Calhoun '54
Lyle Crawford Jr. '71
Richard Crawford '73
Georgiene Warren D'Angelo '50
Jack Daniels '55
Muriel Griffin Daniels '55
Keith Dickman '39
Dorothy Duval '31
Jean Halladay Eaton x'39
George Engstrom '49
Robert Escarcega '71
Ralph Evans '48
Josephine Farrelly '61
Thomas Fairbanks J.D. '54
Larry Fairman '66
Myles Feader '65
Ann Maria Ferguson '71
Col. Max Findell x'45
Barbara Fisher '70
Victor Fisher M.S. '63
Ralph Fitzpatrick '63
Frederick Floyd '68
Mae Ford '44
John Fought M.A. '59
Richard Fretheim '56
Robert Fullerton '49
Gary Funk '68
Donald Gibert '70
George Graham '26
Herbert Graybeal x'27
Margaret Rutherford Graybeal '36
E. E. Gruhn x'39
Shelley Grunstead '72

Jere Hightower '68
Kathleen Duggins Holden M.A. '69
Barry Hood '73
Carl Hopperstad '58
Arlene Howard '61
Deanna Hubbard '75
Irma Mengon Hughes '73
Patricia Roberts Johnson '55
Roger A. Johnson J.D. '53
Earl Keeley '62
Richard Kendall '65
Marvel Koski '69
Frank Kurtz '48
Waine Laine '38
Donald Lamey '65
John Landsrud x'42
LeRoy Lantz '61
Thomas Larson '62, M.M.E. '75

Roger L. Miller '67
Jeff Minckler M.D. '37
Anton Moe J.D. '31
Jean Paul Mohler '61, M.S. '69
Theodore Molthen x'58
Mary Ashford Morall M.S. '64
James Murphy M.A. '66
Robert Murtha '74
Jack Muzzana '66
Michale A. Nelson '75
Rodney Newhouse '53
Judith Nickol '68
Neil O'Donnell '49
Helen Olson '47
James Orr '58
Otto Ost '53
Herbert Pfeffer '50
Bruce Prowell '70

The Alumni Association asks your help in locating "lost" alumni and alumnae. If you know the whereabouts of any of the following alums, please drop a line to the Alumni Center, University of Montana, Missoula, Mont. 59812.

Charles Lavoie M.B.A. '73
Gerald Lobsack '65
Sara Mosher Livingston '54
Morgan Long x'61
Mildred McCann '50
James McCrea x'45
Donald MacLean '67
Edwin Mahlum '73
Mary Stewart Malone '33
Patrick Manley '70
James Manley '73
Robert Manley '47
Raymond Marriage '49
John Maupin '72
James May M.A. '63
Judith Mazur M.S. '65
Thomas Meagher '69
Edward Mendel '66
Isaac Merkovitz '38

William Rapp '69
John Reagan '47
Steven Richter M.B.A. '73
Ray Rieder x'45
Byard Rife '53
Wayne Riley '65
Gene Running Wolf '69
Jerry Salois '66
Lawrence Sbonek '51
H. J. Schnell M.B.A. '68
Daniel Schroedel '59
Catherine Bones Schuster x'40
Victor Scott '53
Lowell Self '64
John Sept '50
Terry Shaffer '69
Cynthia Wood Shelton '66
A. H. Sommerfeldt '66
Leonard Vance '34

States Air Force Reserves. He is a sporting goods importer and exporter and lives in Houston, Tex.

50s

ROBERT REHFELD '50 was named forest supervisor for the Superior National Forest in Duluth, Minn. He had been assistant regional forester in Alaska.

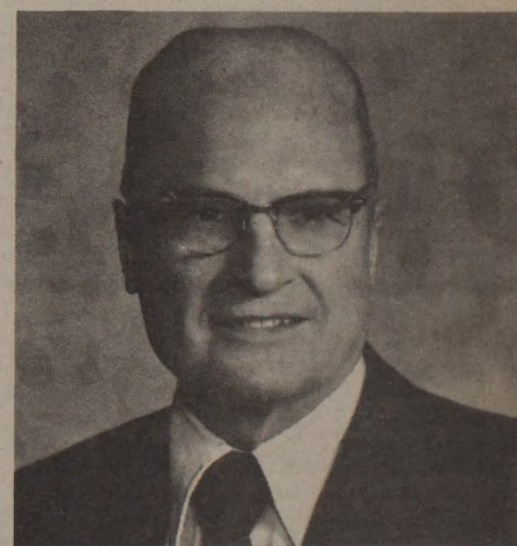
SISTER MARY KARLETA (PHYLLIS WRIGHT) '50 is secretary of the Dominican convent in Spokane, Wash.

BYRON LARSON '51 is a pharmacist at Crescent Drug in Kennewick, Wash. He lives in Pasco, Wash.

CHARLES LOVELL '52, J.D. '59, general counsel for Great Falls Savings and Loan Assn. in Great Falls, was appointed to the 1977 Attorneys Committee of the U.S. League of Savings Associations.

DONALD '53, Ed.D. '63 and PATRICIA REND ORLICH M.A. '61 have written a manual on "The Art of Writing Successful R & D Proposals." Donald is a professor of education and science instruction at Washington State University, Pullman. Patricia is an assistant professor of home economics at WSU.

Col. THOMAS VAN METER '55 is director of procurement and deputy chief-of-staff for procurement and manufacturing at Andrews AFB, Md.



ROBERT STONE '38, president of First Federal Savings and Loan Assn. of Billings, was selected director of the Federal Loan Bank of Seattle, Wash.

alumni reflections

Dear fellow alums:

There are many loyal basketball fans on our campus, in our community and throughout Montana who are interested in what the direction of the basketball program will be. I feel very strongly that we owe you loyal fans some words of encouragement. We will be continuing our commitment to basketball at the University of Montana.

The University will continue to maintain a basketball team that will be competitive in the Big Sky Conference. The Lee Johnson affair is over. The case is closed. It is very important that we now move on, looking to a bright future in basketball, one that we can all respect.

There is no way the Department of Athletics can justify, rationalize or condone some of the activities cited in the Johnson report, but it is important to note that there is no clear, hard evidence that warrants dismissal or excessively severe penalties against Basketball Coach Jim Brandenburg. The NCAA and Big Sky infractions disclosed in the report were not willful, nor of the type that will incite an official investigation by the NCAA. If the infractions cited were willful or commonly practiced, stronger action would be warranted by the administration. The committee, after exhausting every avenue available, has not been able to find any hard evidence that Mr. Brandenburg violated NCAA legislation or was directly involved in the Santa Clara credits.

The real error made by Mr. Brandenburg, as unrealistic as it may seem, was recruiting a very good basketball player who was an academic risk.

Mr. Brandenburg is an excellent basketball coach. He can, and will, direct an excellent program. His abilities are well documented and were witnessed by us all last year. That team had one of the University's finest records and was most competitive in very difficult circumstances.

I feel it is very important to maintain intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of our educational program. I believe each athlete is an integral part of the student body. We have initiated processes with cooperation of the financial aids committee to ensure that our athletes are treated no differently than any other students. We have taken positive steps in recruiting quality student athletes and are now taking positive steps to prevent further problems. Developing a program of excellence will take time, and we are working to achieve that goal in the near future. We do not want to be continually held accountable for problems of prior years. We want to make significant, positive improvements to our program and to the University.

Sincerely,
Harley Lewis '64
Men's Athletic Director

GILBERT BREMICKER JR. '56 is the first city administrator of Cherokee, Iowa. He lives in Cherokee with his wife, KATHRYN LINDERMAN BREMICKER '56.

PAUL CAINE '56 was elected to the board of directors of the North Island Federal Credit Union in San Diego, Calif. He and his wife, NANCY SCHILLING CAINE '56, and children live in Bonita, Calif.

LARRY GAUGHAN J.D. '57 was appointed chairman of a task force on national health insurance for the National Council on Family Relations. He is professor of law at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.

RAY ROM '57, who teaches band and orchestra at Mark Twain and Robert Frost schools in Silverton, Ore., was the featured musician at the Salem Stage Band Festival.

LESLEY MORTIMER '58 received a master of science degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University. She is now working as a family nurse practitioner in Alamosa, Colo., for the United States Public Health Service.

ROBERT RUBY '59 resigned from the staff of WWL Radio in New Orleans, La., to own and operate a steak house in Houston, Tex.

ALFRED STIPE is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force and commands the 81st Tactical Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

60s

Lt. Col. CLIFTON CLARK '60 has assumed command of the 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Holloman AFB, N.M.

Lt. Col. JAMES MARTIN '60 is commander of the 563rd Tactical Fighter Training Squadron at George AFB, Calif.

ELIZABETH MORTIMER '60 is working for British Airways at London's Heathrow Airport.

LOU SULLIVAN '62, director of field sales for the Johnson & Johnson Baby Products Co., was named "Region Manager of the Year" for his sales accomplishments during 1976.



JOHN EMERSON '51 was named supervisor of the 2.3 million-acre Flathead National Forest of Western Montana. He had been supervisor of the Salmon (Idaho) National Forest since 1970.

RONALD WALLACE '62 is a purchasing agent for Boeing Aerospace Co. in Seattle.

LARRY RILEY B.A. '63, J.D. '66, a Missoula attorney, ran 20 miles non-stop in the March of Dimes Walkathon in Missoula in May. He received pledges of about \$2,000.

JOHN SISCO '63 is the manager of the central maintenance division of Simpson in Shelton, Wash. He lives in Olympia.

Maj. CHARLES STONE '64 was a member of the Air Force team which received the 1976 Robert J. Collier trophy for successfully producing and demonstrating the B-1 bomber. He is an aircraft maintenance officer at Edwards AFB, Calif.

HOWARD ZANKNER '65, M.A. '67 is personnel manager for Billings Deaconess Hospital. He is married to JEAN OLSON ZANKNER '64.

LARRY ALLEN '66 was appointed principal of the Fairfield Public Schools.

RAYMOND COSMAN '66 is national sales manager of Merriell, Lynch, Fenner & Smith economics company in New York City, N.Y.

STANLEY EASTLICK '66 is sales manager at Gus and Jack Tire Co. in Billings.

DOUGLAS BALL '67 received his master of science degree in administration of justice from California Lutheran College. He is a special agent for the F.B.I. in Los Angeles, Calif.

ROBERT SEMROD '67 is an inspector and supervisor for the Kingbrook Rural Water System in Arlington, S.D.

JAMES KASTELITZ '68 was appointed sales manager of Tri-Jack Manufacturing Co. in Billings.

The Rev. IRA ROBISON '68 was appointed pastor of Rohren Memorial United Methodist Church in Big Sandy.

WILLIAM LIDDICOAT '69 was named vice president and cashier of the Benton County Bank in Corvallis.

ROGER POWALISZ '69, an English and literature teacher at Park Senior High School in Livingston, was selected to participate in the National Humanity Faculty's two-year master teachers humanities program.

ELIZABETH SCANLIN '69, J.D. '77 is a law clerk with the Montana Supreme Court. She began her duties under Associate Justice Daniel Shea in July.

70s

TED '70 and BRENDA MAAS SCHYE '72 live in Glasgow, where Ted is farming and Brenda works for Mountain Bell.

REX STRATTON J.D. '70 has become a partner in the law firm of Schweppe, Doolittle, Krug, Tausend and Breezer in Seattle, Wash.

STEVE MUNSON '71 is living in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he is a staff planner with the Kootenai County Planning Commission.

JOHN PATERSON '71 is assistant administrator of the High Prairie Regional Office of the Alberta Social Services and Community Health Department. High Prairie is 238 miles northwest of Edmonton, Alberta.

ROBERT REITZ M.S. '71 received his D.D.S. degree from Loyola University of Chicago's School of Dentistry in Maywood, Ill. He plans to enter a private dental practice.

TOM BUTORAC '72 is a mortgage loan officer for Security Bank in Billings.

JACK CLOHERTY '72 addressed the journalism school's 20th Dean Stone Night dinner in April. He is an investigative reporter and columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Capt. KIRBY FETZER '72 is a missile combat crew commander at Minot AFB, N.D.

BARBARA HABEDANK '72 is an ensign in the U.S. Navy. She was the first female to graduate from aviation officer candidate school and is in Navy pilot training.

JOE FRANK PURCELL '72 is assistant advertising manager of Couristan, Inc. in New York City, N.Y.

PATRICK SCHRUTH '72 was named manager of Midlands Claims Service's branch office in Bozeman.

BRAIN STEINWAND '72 was named by Church World Service to direct a program in the Dominican Republic that will establish fisheries in inland areas.

JULANE WILSON '72 is teaching third grade in Billings and working on her master's degree in reading.

Mansfield named ambassador to Japan

MIKE MANSFIELD '33, M.A. '34, J.D. '56, who retired as Senate Majority Leader at the end of 1976, was appointed U.S. ambassador to Japan. He served as leader of the Democrats in the Senate from 1961 to 1976. Since his retirement he visited Vietnam as a member of the special commission seeking information about Americans missing in action there. He also is a professor of history and political science on leave at the University of Montana.

DAVID CLARK '73, graduate student at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., was awarded the David Ross Fellowship Research grant of \$4,200 for continuing study.

BETH FRISBEE '73, '75 is editor of the Montana Motorist, a publication of the American Automobile Assn. and is living in Helena.

JOHN LUBBERS '73 is working as Clean Oils Blender/Terminal Planning for Hess Oil Virgin Island Cooperation and is living in the Virgin Islands.

TIM CALLAHAN '74 is a staff forester with the Oregon State Forestry Department in Elkton, Ore.

GENE MEAD Ph.D. '74 is staff medical microbiologist and head of the microbiology department at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

CHARLES NOZISKA '74 was promoted to the position of Black Oils/Terminal Planning for Hess Oil Virgin Island Cooperation and is living in the Virgin Islands.

RANDAL MORGER '74 earned the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal as a first lieutenant and information officer at Scott AFB, Ill.

DONALD PETERSON J.D. '74 joined the law firm of Christian, McCurdy, Ingraham and Wold in Polson.

Capt. LARRY ROWLAND M.B.A. '74 is a missile launch officer at Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

MICHELE VAN WORMER '74 is an account executive for a New York City advertising agency.

2nd Lt. MICHAEL COCHRANE '75 is a deputy missile combat crew commander at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., and recently was cited for meritorious service.

Capt. THOMAS GIOCONDA M.B.A. '75 is stationed at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Capt. JAMES MEAGHER M.B.A. '75 is an aeronautical engineer at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.



MAXINE ANDERSON BEVERIDGE '51 was selected as Panhellenic advisor for the six sororities on campus.

Capt. ROY ROBERTSON M.B.A. '75 is a computer systems analyst at Offutt AFB, Neb., and recently was cited for meritorious service.

GEORGE BAILEY '76 is teaching desert technique as a history and geography teacher at Dimbaala Memorial High School at Dimbaala, Australia.

JAMES KEEF Ed.D. '76 was hired as superintendent of the Choteau Public Schools.

ROBERT MALCHOW '76 is in management training at First Security Bank in Missoula.

GARRY SOUTH '76 was appointed Midwest Regional Finance Director for the Democratic National Committee.

births

Aimee Joanne to Trudy and THOMAS AGER '72.
Emily Ann to John and SUE LARSON KIRKMAN '70.

Anna Sirina to RONALD '71, M.S. '72 and CHARLENE BROWER LOGE '72.

Danielle Lia to GARY M.B.A. '69 and LOU NOTTI '71.

April Anne to BILL '75 and SUE O'NEILL SCHOTTELKORB '75.

Amy Nicole to DUANE '71 and CYNTHIA STILL SPETHMAN '72.

marriages

CHERYL BURKE '75 and Michael Henrich.
ANITA PAMENTER '70 and THOMAS GIOCONDA M.B.A. '75.

Joanne Highley and MICHAEL GRESH '72.
JANE MAC DUFFIE '70 and Kurt Goerwitz.

Sandra Manzer and ROY MC CLURE '70.
MELANIE MARCHILDON '72 and David Tondreau.

SUSAN NYCKLEMOE '75 and James Guest.
Carol Sylling and DAVID ONDOV '76.

Anne Joughin and CHRISTOPHER PERSON M.A. '72.
Jennifer Radley and DAVID MANOVICH '75.

JACQUELIN GALT '76 and DANIEL RICE J.D. '76.
Phyllis Sager and JOSEPH REBER '62, J.D. '65.

KRISTINE PINAIRE '72 and STEVEN RUNDLE '70.
Katherine Exner and CLAYTON SCHENCK '71.

Eileen Gray and PATRICK SCHRUTH '72.

deaths

RALPH BELL '23 died April 25 in Oakland, Calif., at the age of 78. He was assistant city editor and sports editor of the Oakland Tribune, and in 1952 was named special representative for the California Public Utilities Commission, a position he held until his retirement.

WILLIAM COGSWELL '23 died June 8 in Missoula at the age of 77. He worked on the reportorial staff of several newspapers and later joined the staff of the Hilo Tribune-Herald in Hawaii. He also directed the Pan-Pacific Press Bureau, owned a commercial moving picture company, was a civilian employe of the War Department, worked for several steamship companies, was chief executive of the Hawaii Visitors Bureau and was public relations director for Aloha Airlines. He retired in the late 1960s.

WINIFRED BRENNAN DWYER '26 died April 9 in Mexico, Mo. She was 72.

GERALDINE ROACH HESTER x'42 died March 30 in Butte at the age of 57.

RAY HUGOS '41 died April 26 in Washington, D.C. He had been manager of the western division of the Felmont Petroleum Corp. of Midland, Tex.

MARJORIE STEWART KEETON '31 died April 9 in Billings. She was chairman of the School Board of District No. 7 in Bozeman.

GLENN KIMBALL '30 died April 10 in a highway accident near Hysham. He farmed and taught school in the Hysham area and had been superintendent in Florence and Nashua.

GERALDINE PARKER KNIGHT x'32, a market research specialist, died in January in Los Angeles.

SVERRE KNUDSEN '38, M.E. '49 died March 31 in Missoula. He retired in 1972 after more than 30 years as a teacher, coach and administrator for School District 1.

FREDERICK LAWRENCE '22, M.A. '24 died June 18, 1976, in Reno, Nev. He had been retired for 16 years as chief chemist and metallurgist for Kennecott Copper Co. in McGill, Nev.

ALICE LAROM LORY '55, M.A. '61 died in a car accident June 2 near Hazelton, Pa. She was an assistant professor of applied writing at Ithaca College and directed the summer faculty seminar on the teaching of applied writing there for two summers. She was also active in providing assistance to Chilean refugees living in the Ithaca area.

GEORGE MAXEY '39 died Feb. 6 in Reno, Nev. He was director of the Center for Water Resources Research at the Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada, and an internationally known hydrologist.

ROBERT NELSON '31 died Feb. 28 in Weaverville, N.C. He retired as executive director of the United Charities of Chicago in 1970.

FRANCES WALKER PAUL '33 died March 28 in Milwaukee, Wis. A revolving student loan fund has been set up in her memory by the University Foundation.

ALPHA MARIE PIERSON x'20 died Feb. 12 in Santa Barbara, Calif.

FAE LOGAN POWELL '33 died Feb. 8 in Terre Haute, Ind.

DONALD PRIMMER '71 died April 3 in Great Falls. He was 28.

HARRY SAGER J.D. '27 died April 20 in Puyallup, Wash. He retired from a Tacoma law firm in 1965.

Meet the nation's oldest smokejumper

by William Phippen

They had been saying it all spring: it was going to be a dry summer. Very dry. Snap-crackle-pop dry. The kind in which walking on forest leaves is like walking on cornflakes.

George Cross looked out his office window toward Blue Mountain, southwest of Missoula, and squinted in the bright sunlight.

"Yes, it could be a good year for us," he said. "A lot of fires mean a lot of work. But it could all change if it rains."

Cross, an associate professor in the health, physical education and recreation department at the University of Montana, is a summer employe of the U.S. Forest Service and a smokejumper. At 52, he is the oldest smokejumper in the country.

"It's a strange paradox," he said. "It's not that we like forest fires, but we've got to have them to make any money." He turned back toward the room and settled himself into the chair behind his desk. "And we all like to jump as much as possible anyhow," he continued. "It's very exciting and definitely the best part of being a smokejumper."

Because he likes to jump so much, Cross regrets that he was not allowed to become a smokejumper until three years ago. Until 1973, the Forest Service's age limit for smokejumpers was 27, and when he first applied for the job in 1961, he was already nine years too old.

So he spent the summer of 1961 at the smokejumper center at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot checking jumping equipment and working as an assistant spotter and cargo dropper.

"But I felt my talent was being wasted," he said. "I was a paratrooper in the military, and I was, and still am, very active physically. I felt that because of my abilities, I could qualify as a smokejumper regardless of my age."

Certainly George Cross' fitness defies his age. His teaching position, and especially his work in gymnastics, has allowed him to stay fit and very agile.

In his physical education classes, many of his students have a hard time keeping up with him.

At the end of that first summer, in a report to his superintendent, Cross added a note emphasizing his talents, but again he was told that the age limit was firm and that no exceptions could be made. But he was offered a position as a "squad boss" on a newly formed interregional fire crew, and he gladly accepted.

In the summer of 1962 he was stationed at the Nine Mile Ranger Station west of Missoula with the first interregional crew. While commuting from Missoula to the station each morning, he would stop for an hour at the smokejumper center to give physical training to the new trainees before continuing on to Nine Mile and giving his crew its training. Cross continued training recruits and working with the interregional crew until 1973.

Then finally, the Forest Service dropped the smokejumper age limit. After waiting 12 years, Cross was finally able to apply.

"Of course, I wanted to apply right away," Cross said, "But, unfortunately, I broke my ankle playing soccer that spring and had to wait until the next year." So in 1974, at the age of 49, Cross sent in his application and was accepted for smokejumper training.

"After all those years of waiting," he said, "I was glad to finally get a chance. Luckily, I was in good enough shape to take the training. It's quite demanding."

He recalls that his training session was during two of the hottest weeks of the summer and that the conditioning was just about all he could take.

"The hardest part was wearing those heavy jump suits," he said. "They're insulated for the heat with about a half-inch of material, and padded on the shoulders and back in case you end up in a tree. But they're like wearing an oven."

He wasn't about to give up, however. "I know I wasn't the only one who suffered from the heat, and

besides, after waiting 13 years, I was determined to last out the training."

About one third of Cross' fellow trainees didn't survive the rigorous conditioning, but Cross emphasized that they weren't failed by the instructor.

"They failed because they weren't prepared physically or mentally," he said. "You've got to be ready to jump psychologically as well as physically to make it. You also need a lot of self-control to take the punishment of physical conditioning."

Cross stressed that anyone interested in becoming a member of the smokejumpers should realize that it is anything but fun and games.

"It's just plain hard work," he said. "Even though most of the trainees are in pretty good shape when they get to the sessions, the first three weeks are still extremely hard for everyone."

Trainees go through a round of sit-ups and push-ups in the morning and sometimes a second round in the afternoon after classroom training. And they work off the tower, a platform used to simulate jump conditions; all the trainees must become proficient on the tower before any airplane jumps are allowed.

"The training is rough but it has to be," Cross continued. "Smokejumpers must be in good shape continually, because you never know when you will be called out to a fire."

Strength is essential not in actually fighting the fire but for packing out after it's out or when the shift is over. "Packing out 10 to 12 miles after being on a fire for two or three days . . . that's where being in shape comes in. Those packs weigh 110 to 120 pounds each and contain everything that was dropped in to you—cargo shoots, saws, tools and any unused supplies. When you're carrying that thing, all you want to do is lie down."

"Being in shape also helps when it comes time to consider your application," Cross said. "Some past fire fighting experience helps a lot, too. Everybody wants to get in, but only a few can make it."

George Cross did make it, and he completed his unit training with approximately the same scores as the rest of the men. From then on, the training sessions were actual jumps from airplanes.

His first training jumps from a plane were uneventful, he said, but on the fourth jump, in the Howard Creek drainage just west of Lolo, he misjudged a creek bank and broke his ankle.

"I caught the upper lip of the bank with my left foot," he recalled, "and fell backward into the creek. I felt more embarrassed than hurt." He was also afraid the Forest Service's regional office would say that he was too old and shouldn't be jumping. But, it was only a minor break and the cast was removed in four weeks, at which time he completed his training jumps and became an active smokejumper.

Cross is proud to be a member of the smokejumpers, not only because they are the best fire-fighting unit he has ever seen, but also because of their spirit and attitude.

He explained that on the first jump after recovering from his broken ankle, the fire's location required a pack-out of seven miles and that the men who stayed behind with him as he limped out never complained about his holding them up.

Cross also feels plain lucky to be in the smokejumpers. Only 25 of 1,000 smokejumper applications were accepted last year, and there are even more applications this year.

"Everybody wants to be a smokejumper because it is the elite organization of all the fire fighting units," he said. "It's like the paratroopers or the Marines in the service. There's just something special about being a smokejumper. The guys stick together and usually are shunned by other fire fighters. We're like a highly skilled attack force."

Cross grinned and leaned back in the chair. He brushed a tanned hand through his dark but slightly graying hair. "And we also get to jump out of planes. That's the best part of it." It sure beats being on one of the other crews, which are dropped off on a road and have to hike in. That's the way it was for me on the interregional crew." He smiles. "The 'ground-pounders' we call them."

When the smokejumpers aren't jumping onto fires, their job is just like any other eight-hour-a-day job. "But you're always on call, although the chances of being called when your name is on the bottom of the jump list aren't very good." Cross explained that the names of all the smokejumpers are placed on a rotating list so that everyone will get an equal number of jumps.

"You really don't want to miss your call," he said, "because then your name will go to the bottom of the list."

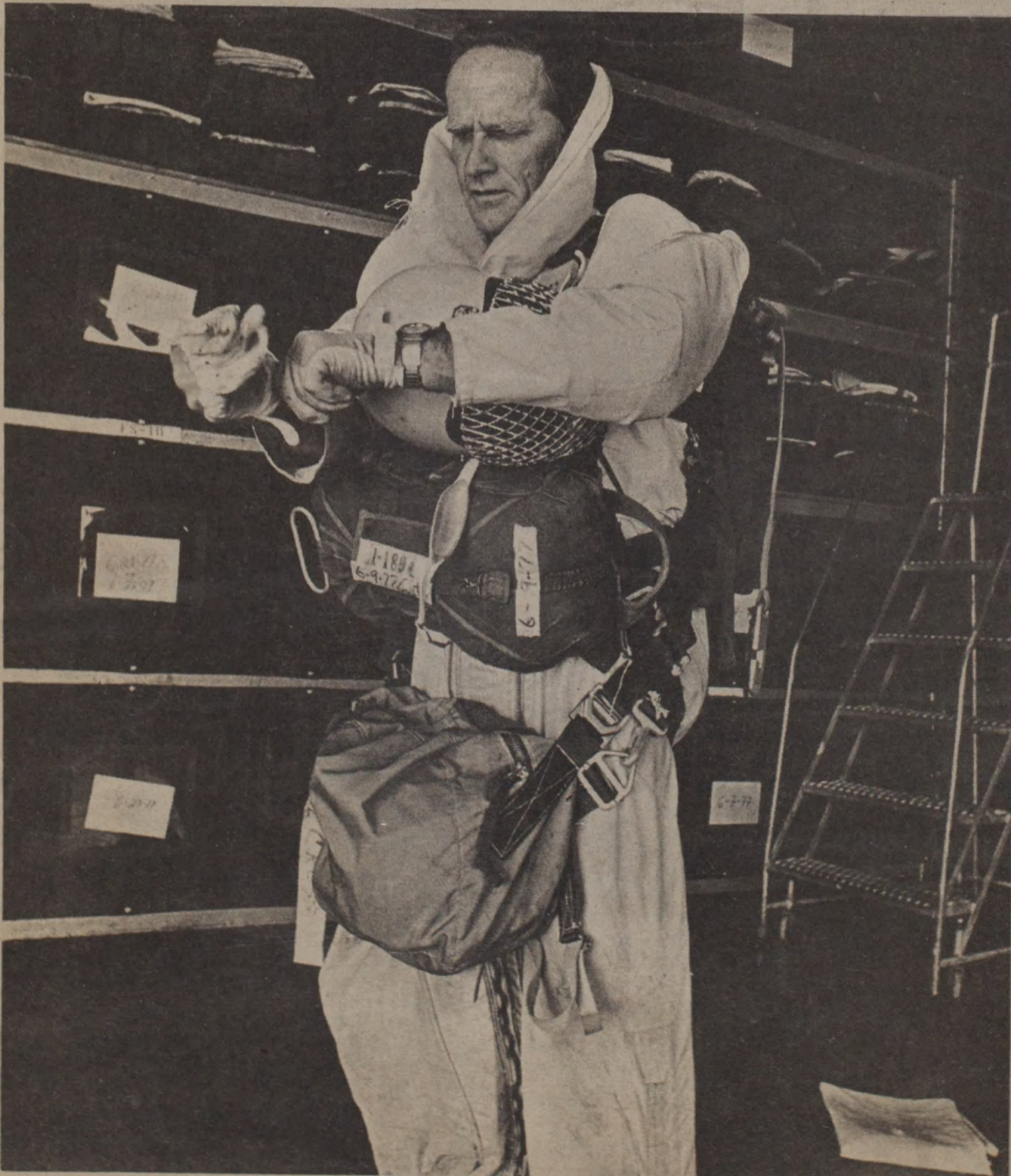
Certainly George Cross will miss very few chances to jump this summer if he has his way, and he'll continue to do so for many more summers.

He got up from the chair, stretched to remove a slight stiffness from the morning's volleyball session, and gazed out the window.

"I plan to keep jumping as long as I'm in good enough shape to be able to," he said. "I hope that's a long time."

He paused for a moment.

"But I'm not getting any younger."



Smokejumper George Cross pulls on his snug leather gloves as the last step in suiting up to fight a fire. His

suit is fire resistant and padded at all joints and, with all gear attached, weighs 60 pounds.