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April 29, 1994

"MONTANA THIS MORNING" PROGRAMS CONTINUE IN MAY

MISSOULA --

From cowboy poetry to presidential perspective, a wide range of Montana viewpoints will be offered during May as the University of Montana-based Montana Committee for the Humanities continues its statewide series of morning television interviews.

"Montana This Morning," a series of three-minute programs on Montana public affairs and cultural issues, is featured on CBS stations and affiliates throughout the state from 7:07 to 7:10 a.m. weekdays.

Renowned cowboy poet and Forsyth rancher Wally McRae will be the month's first guest, May 2-6. The Friends of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library recently gave McRae the H.G. Merriam Award, which honors writers who make a significant contribution to Montana literature.

From May 9-13, the featured guest will be art historian Ginger Renner, an expert on the work of Charles M. Russell. Renner recently received an honorary doctorate from UM in recognition of her work as author, gallery owner and art historian.

Lynn Merrick, a filmmaker, media critic and educator from Belgrade, will be interviewed May 16-20. Merrick directs the Media Arts Education Program at Montana State University.

Greg Keeler, an MSU professor, poet and dramatist, will be featured May 23-27. Keeler has written a book of poetry, "Epiphany at Goofy's Gas," and several plays that have been produced by the Bozeman-based Vigilante Players.

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UM President George Dennison will be the series' last May guest in conversations airing May 30-June 3. Dennison, a UM alumnus who grew up in Kalispell, became the University's 16th President in August 1990.

Produced and hosted by Glenda Wallace, "Montana This Morning" is a cooperative project between the Montana Committee for the Humanities and KPAX-TV of Missoula, part of the Montana Television Network. MCH Acting Executive Director Gerald Fetz is executive producer for the series, which began last June and will continue through 1994. The series is partially supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by ASARCO Inc.

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