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NEWS RELEASE

May 15, 2003

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'BACKROADS OF MONTANA' TRAVELS ACROSS STATE

MISSOULA—

Family history, steam engines, invention and chocolate highlight the stories in the next episode of "Backroads of Montana."

The episode, "Alder Gulch to Plentywood," premieres at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, on Montana PBS -- KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman and Bresnan Communications cable across the state. The program will repeat at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 24.

"Family is important to us in Montana," said program host William Marcus. "We're glad to highlight a couple Montana families and how they're keeping the heritage alive."

This 19th episode in the "Backroads" series features a family reunion at an **Alder Gulch** gold mill, a ride on a historic steam engine between **Nevada City** and **Virginia City**, a family-run confectionery on Last Chance Gulch in **Helena**, the annual snow geese migration along the Rocky Mountain Front near **Choteau** and a **Plentywood** man who combines art with invention. Throughout the program Marcus takes viewers on a tour of the historic Northern Pacific railroad depot in **Livingston**.

"Backroads of Montana" highlights interesting people, places and events from around the Treasure State. "Montana has so many great people," Marcus said. "We're happy to be able to tell their stories to the rest of the state."

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The program is produced by Marcus, Gus Chambers, Ray Ekness and John Twiggs of The University of Montana-Missoula Broadcast Media Center and KUFM-TV.

“Backroads” has won five E.B. Craney Program of the Year awards from the Montana Broadcasters Association and a national Award of Distinction from the Communicator Awards. “Backroads” was nominated for an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Seattle Chapter in 2001 and 2003.

The program is funded by grants from the Greater Montana Foundation, Travel Montana and UM. It also is shown around the world as part of PBS HeartlandUSA international broadcasts and is available on the American Field Guide Web site at www.pbs.org.

Montana PBS is a service of UM and Montana State University-Bozeman.

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