

# OLD KIRBY PLACE

on the Madison River



## NEWSLETTER

*from Walter...*

This is the third year and the sixth issue of the Old Kirby Place Newsletter. I remember the spring of 1990 when we first started taking in guests at the Old Kirby Place like it was yesterday. Did you know that many of you who visited back in the early '90s will be here with us again this year? Thank you all. I look forward to seeing you.

Let me say that over seventy-eight percent of this year's reservations are our wonderful repeat customers. As always, Hernan and I will do everything we can to make your stay a comfortable and enjoyable one.

I will open the Old Kirby Place on Friday, April 25 this year. After a good cleaning and stocking of the pantry, we are off and running.

Let me give you the "moisture report". You may know that early this winter the Upper Madison Valley had very little snow and rain, but since February 3, the

surrounding mountains have been getting large amounts of snow. As of this printing, the Madison River area can boast of a snow pack of over 110%. I predict the Madison River will reign supreme, as it did last year — "the best trout fishing river in the state of Montana!"

Now, between you and me, I've heard rumors of a large bald eagle that has been visiting the nest next to the lodge...

### Montana Facts

Nickname: "Treasure State"

Motto: "Oro y Plata" "Gold & Silver"

Flower: Bitterroot

Bird: Western Meadowlark

Tree: Ponderosa Pine



The only one of the eagles distinctly American is the bald eagle — the American symbol of freedom — which is distinguished by its gleaming white head and white tail.

### Did You Know?

■ Montana is the fourth largest state in the Union. In area it is exceeded only by Texas, California and Alaska.

■ The name "Montana" is a Latin word meaning "mountainous regions."

■ Within Montana's mountains is the Continental Divide. Rivers rising east of it flow into the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico; those to the west flow into the Pacific.

■ Among the first white men to set foot within its borders, Lewis and Clark reached the mouth of the Yellowstone River on April 26, 1805 and left Montana through Lolo Pass on September 11.

■ Rich gold deposits were discovered in Alder Gulch near Virginia City in 1863. Two years later, Virginia City became Montana's territorial capital and the first public school opened there in 1866.

■ By 1875 gold and copper had been discovered in Helena and the capital moved to its present site.

■ One year later, Colonel George A. Custer and his troops were killed by the Sioux in the battle of Little Bighorn — June 25, 1876.

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EMAIL : KOKIE@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

The Old Kirby Place  
on the Madison  
Hutchins Bridge, Cameron MT 59720



## Society of Rocky Rituals, established too long ago

Dear Walter, Now that the secret is out, the world will never be the same. Fly fishermen from all over the planet will annually gather in honor of the dedicated local gentry and guests who had the fortitude, perseverance and presence of mind to plan and execute the digging, removal, pushing, shoving and disposing of a very large rock under the guidance and direction of the \*proprietor into the river thereby displacing an undisclosed cubic feet of fresh water. To those of us who are deaf, dumb and blind, but still

### The Wisdom of Will Rogers (cowboy philosopher)

Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.

There are two theories to arguing with a woman — neither works.

If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

There are three kinds of men: the ones that learn by reading; the few who learn from observation; the rest of them have to put their finger in an electric socket.

Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier then puttin' it back.

If you're riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

have the faith and trust of the unknown and still believe that the rock will provide a hidee-hole for 'ol Finney Tail the scaly dinosaur of the deep, let us sharpen our hooks in anticipation of the unforgettable lifetime experience of the "Hook Up". The cries of the brethren shall sally forth with "How big is he?", followed by the universal response of any intellectual under such dire straits: "I don't know, I haven't lost him yet!" Well now, would you believe the rock — without jumping out of the water — took the fly? The trouble with rocks is that they are too heavy to net or drag up on the bank without breaking your rod. In fact rocks are obstinate, unreasonable and stubborn without reservation or comparison to the likes of legal beagles.

So, in memory of our wonderful horse "Federal", may he rest in peace, knowing his rock will catch more hooks than all the other rocks of the same size in the famous river of many rocks — all the wrong size.

*\*Note: The name of the proprietor has been deliberately withheld pending publication in "Who's Who".*

Your steadfast, hooked-up, rocky friend,

*Hap Fraser*

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