

OLD KIRBY PLACE

on the Madison River



NEWSLETTER

from Walter...

November 2000 seems like a very short time ago. It was then I took the horses to their winter pasture, drained the water system, turned off the electricity and closed the OKP for the year 2000. Now like a robin in springtime I have returned to find my nest still here. After a good cleaning I was off to Ennis to restock the pantry.

Gary and Jill Evans of **Madison River Guides** met Hernan and Marta at the Salt Lake City airport April 18th and on the 22nd our early birds Dick and Camille Bevington of Lyons, Colorado had to cancel their private plane's flight plan into Ennis' Big Sky because of a 10" snowstorm!

Michael Messick of Lambertville, New Jersey was our first official guest of the season. Arriving on the 25th, Michael fished for three days with Guide Gary Evans. They caught 20-25 fish per day, mostly rainbows, 16"-20" long.

Where? On the Madison River between Hebgen and Earth Quake Lake! This early fishing before the run-off is something else!

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT ME ON THE WEB AT : OLDKIRBYPLACE.COM

What's New?

■ Two new mountain trail bikes are waiting for you this year! Did you know our elevation on the Madison is approximately 6,000 feet? Bikers can reach the 10,000' Gravelly Range Road and return in 6 to 8 hours. Montana Tourist Department calls the Gravelly Range Road "the most scenic road in North America." The Beaverhead National forest is alive with exciting wildlife, wildflowers and panoramic scenery.

■ After ten years, our Kiowa teepee has disintegrated. A new cover of authentic Native American design will be complete this summer.

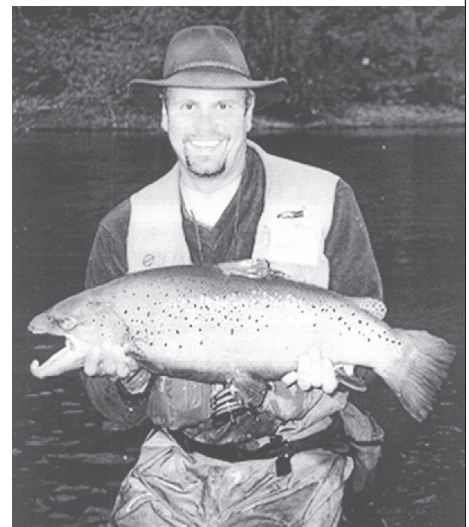
■ United Airlines has joined Northwest, Delta and Horizon Airlines in providing flights in and out of Bozeman! United gives us good access through Denver for flights from the south and the east for the New York metropolitan fishermen. Check out Delta's flight #2099 leaving Newark at 7AM and arriving in Bozeman at 12:18PM via Salt Lake City.

■ Don Fleischut and Mark Tanner of Gloversville, NY have been OKP guests since 1990. Don writes, "I have finally sold my business and retired (finally at

the ripe old age of 56). I have started a small boat building business." Don will be building wooden sailboats and canoes under Mark's watchful eye and attending "Wooden Boat School" this June. You can contact him at cookidon@superior.net or call (518) 725-3389.

■ Trout season opened from the Quake Lake outlet to McAtee Bridge on the third Saturday of May (the 19th this year) and will close at the end of February 2002. From Quake Lake to Varney Bridge it's "catch & release." From Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake you can keep five brown trout — one over 18 inches. Rainbows are "catch & release."

FACT OR FICTION?

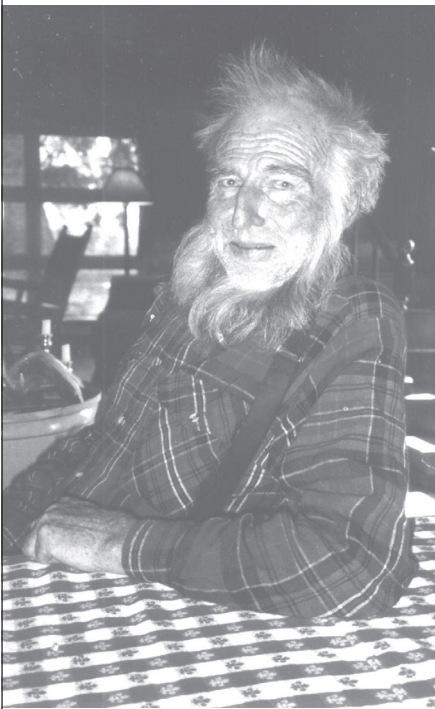


OKP GUEST CHRIS BAMFORD

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



GARNET OLLIFFE 1922 — 2000



Many-a-guest was fortunate enough to meet and dine with Garnet. He was the first rancher I met when I first visited Cameron in 1972. We were friends for 28 years. Some of you may remember mounting your horses to roundup his cattle every year.

The one-room schoolhouse in Cliff Lake was where Garnet did his learning right up until the sixth grade. He loved to read.

Through Garnet's eyes I acquired a better insight to Montana living; its wildlife, farm animals, weather and people. My eldest grandson is named Garnet. Miss you, my friend.

FYI

For those who know what the OKP is like in the summer, read the article which appears in the July issue of *Sporting Classics Magazine* to find out what it's like at 11 degrees below zero. "First Light" is written by editor Mike Gaddis. One experiences a cold OKP through the eyes of a warm and wonderful writer.

Keep a watch out this summer for magazine articles on the OKP from editors Jerry Gibbs of *Outdoor Life*, David Foster of *Grays Sporting Journal*, Greg Thomas of *Fly Fisherman* and Chris Dorsey of *Sports Afield*.

"THE QUITTER" EXCERPT BY ROBERT W. SERVICE

"You're sick of the game!" Well, now, that's a shame.
You're young and you're brave and you're bright.
"You've had a raw deal!" I know — but don't squeal,
Buck up, do your damndest, and fight.
It's the plugging away that will win you the day,
So don't be a piker, old pard!
Just draw on your grit; it's so easy to quit;
It's the keeping-your-chin-up that's hard.

It's easy to cry that you're beaten — and die;
It's easy to crawfish and crawl;
But to fight and to fight when hope's out of sight —
Why, that's the best game of them all!
And though you come out of each gruelling bout,
All broken and beaten and scarred,
Just have one more try — it's dead easy to die,
It's the keeping-on-living that's hard.

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