

# Golden Roundup

October 2011

## Flying South

See page 6

Published monthly by

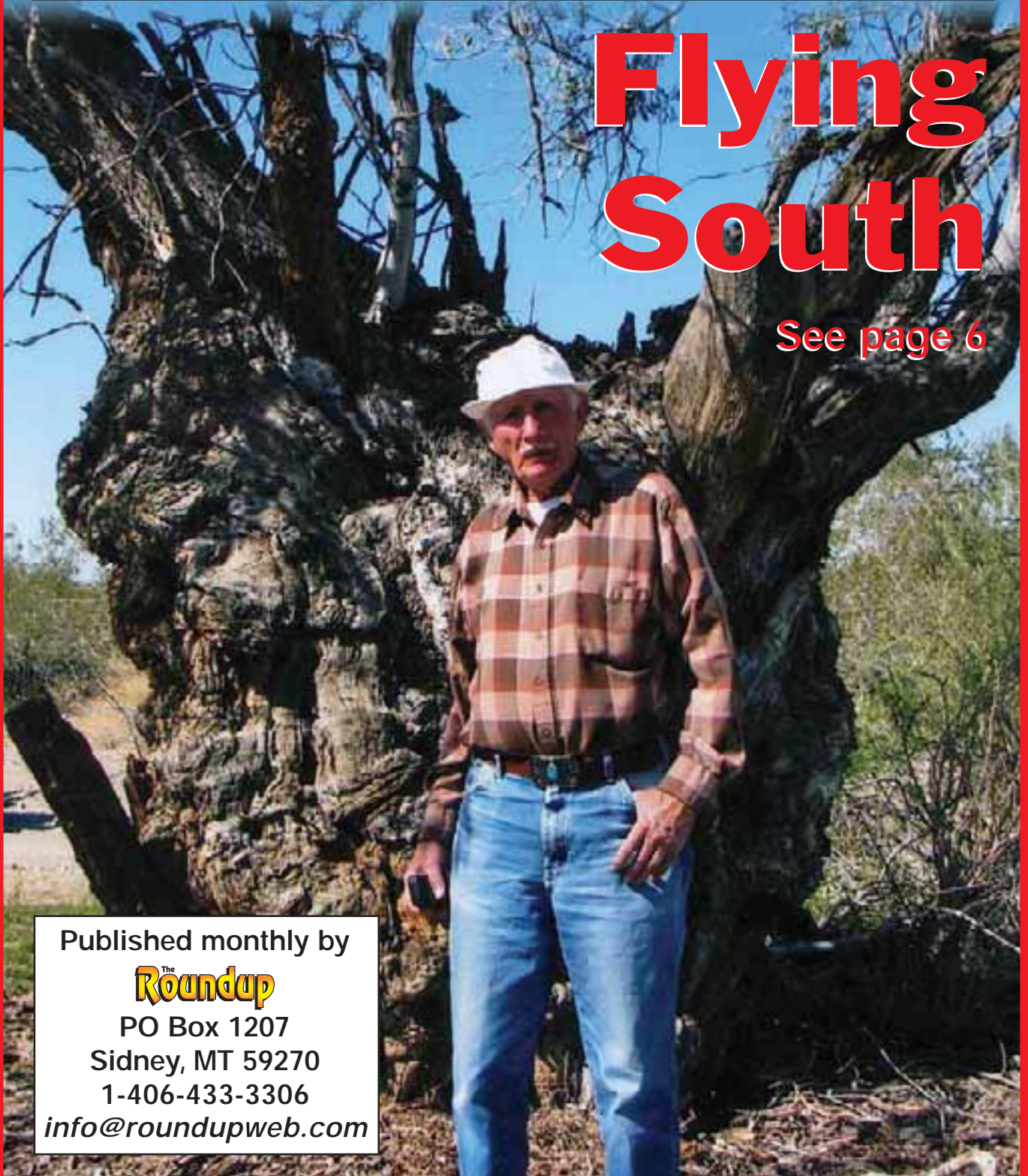
**The Roundup**

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# Observations On The Aging Process From A Front Line Participant

# Has She Ever Aged!



Lois Kerr

By Lois Kerr

While rushing around town the other day, hurrying so I could get out of the crowded mess and disarray of what used to be a peaceful little burg, I bumped into an acquaintance I haven't seen for several years. When she said 'hello' to me, I looked at her, realized in short order who she was, and the first thought that entered my head was 'my goodness, has she ever aged'. My next thought, following a nano-second after my initial shocked disbelief at seeing the gray hair and other signs of age in my acquaintance was, 'good grief, I bet her first thought when she saw me was, my goodness she's aged'.

It's amazing how much a person can change in looks in just a short time. Poor health, of course, ages a person rapidly, but the appearance of a sickly person isn't the same as the looks of a healthy person just going through the normal aging process. The surprise at seeing how much someone has aged since I've last laid eyes on them always makes me wonder what that same person thinks when she sees me again after the passage of time. I know I've aged, I can see it in the mirror, but somehow we never expect others to age and it comes as a shock to see what time has done to our fellow human beings.

Of course, some people never seem to age at all. I have a friend who never changes whatsoever, she looks as fabulous now as she did when I first met her ten years ago. Nothing about her ever seems to age, her hair remains nice, her skin doesn't wrinkle too much, she doesn't put on weight, and in general she looks like I expect her to look when I see her after the passage of some time. I envy people like that, and I hope that I can begin to age from here on out just as gracefully as she has aged over the course of the past decade.

I also think of Sean Connery, the movie actor. He was a relatively handsome man as a youth, but wow, has he ever aged well. I figure he was better looking at 65 than he ever

was at 30 years of age.

I've decided that the feature that usually gives us the biggest surprise when seeing someone again after a few years is the change in the hair color and amount. Something about that steel gray hair or the snowy white locks shout "look at me, have I ever aged!" in loud, strident tones. Older people who dye their hair that strange shade of purple in a vain attempt to disguise the fact that they're a tad elderly also announce in no uncertain terms how much they've aged. And, of course, those with no hair or thinning hair can't pretend for one second that they look the same now as they did back in the good old days. Toupees generally make the situation worse, as I've seen very few toupees that don't look like dead tarantulas or discarded door mats sitting atop unsuspecting heads.

Fortunately, we usually acclimatize quickly and get used to the changed appearance. If we see the person frequently, we don't think again about the aging process and that we all are showing our years in one way or another. That is, until we see someone else we haven't seen for awhile, and think in astonishment, 'my goodness, has he ever aged'.

## October Puzzle Answers

**Alphabet Soup:** taken, domino, catalyst, embark, request, fudge, convocation, reject, winsome, endured, spout, maximum, zooming, impress, magical, shark, misspent, richly, kumquat, boast, vixen, brooch, carat, moron, idyll, stack

**Make-a-word:** calculate, ornaments, buttercup, analgesic, senescent, winterize, available, hand-cuffs, versatile

**Anagram:** tangerine, kumquat, orange, banana, cantaloupe, muskmelon, quince, apricot, loquat, currant, mulberry



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# What Kind Of Legacy

## Will You Leave?



Staci Miller

Submitted by Staci Miller

Foundation for Community Care

We all want to leave a lasting and significant impression on those people that are most dear to us. Planning for the future and considering the legacy you will leave is one of the most effective ways to ensure a lasting impact on the world in which you live.

For many people considering their legacy, ensuring that their family members will be sufficiently cared for is of paramount importance. Making a charitable bequest is one of the easiest ways to guarantee that your legacy endures and that your loved ones will be well cared for in the future.

### What Is a Charitable Bequest?

A charitable bequest is a written statement in your will or trust directing a gift be made to a qualified charity as part of the disposition of your estate. A charitable bequest is one of the most flexible estate planning tools because it can be changed at any time. This ability to remain in complete control of your property during life also makes a charitable bequest one of the most popular methods of giving available.

### Charitable Bequests & Estate Taxes

A charitable bequest may save estate taxes. Provided that the charitable bequest is properly drafted and is given to a qualified organization, there is an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction. The additional tax advantage of a charitable bequest is that there are no percentage limitations similar to those affecting the income tax charitable deduction.

### What Type of Bequest Should You Consider?

Though making a charitable bequest is a flexible and easy way to ensure the impact of your legacy, there are some important things to consider before incorporating a charitable bequest into your estate plan. The property passing by bequest through your will is subject to probate. Also, the amount of your bequest and the type of your bequest will depend on the value of your estate and the specific assets in your estate.

There are several types of charitable bequests. Depending on your needs and objectives, one type may

be better suited for your estate plan than another.

Gift of a specific dollar amount

Gift of a percentage of your estate

Gift of a specific asset

Gift of the residue of your estate (the assets that remain in your estate after other bequests, tax and administrative costs have been satisfied)

### Property Passing Outside Your Will

Certain types of assets are not subject to the probate process and pass outside the will by beneficiary designation. Non-probate assets are excellent candidates for charitable bequests and may save income and estate taxes. Some common non-probate assets include:

A life insurance policy

An IRA or other retirement account

It is possible to bequeath this type of asset, but you will need to do so by completing a beneficiary designation form. A provision in your will is not sufficient to alter the disposition of those assets at your death.

### The Legacy You Leave Behind

The search for significance and the desire to plan for your family's future may lead you to consider a charitable bequest. This type of gift can help shape the legacy you leave for your loved ones for many years to come.

The professionals that work at the Foundation for Community Care can help you determine the type of charitable bequest that suits your objectives. They will provide you with confidential information that will ensure you get the maximum tax benefits as you shape your legacy for future generations. What kind of legacy will you leave?

For more information on how you can save money on your taxes and leave a legacy in our community, stop by our office at 221 2nd St. NW in Sidney, send us an email at [smiller@foundationforcommunitycare.org](mailto:smiller@foundationforcommunitycare.org) or call 406-488-2273. We will be happy to visit with you and provide a confidential, personalized illustration with no obligation. You should always consult your own financial professionals and advisors.



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# Flying South

By Lois Kerr

The calling of cranes and the honking of geese high overhead reminds us in no uncertain terms that summer has fled, fall has arrived, and the birds have packed their bags and started their annual migrations south to warmer climates. The cawing of blackbirds as they flock up by the hundreds preparing to take flight out of this region reinforces the truth that winter will arrive sooner than we care to admit.

Many bird populations travel long distances twice a year along flyways that generally follow mountain ranges, coastlines or rivers. Birds fly north in spring to nest and then return in the fall to warmer climates to feed and rest for the winter.

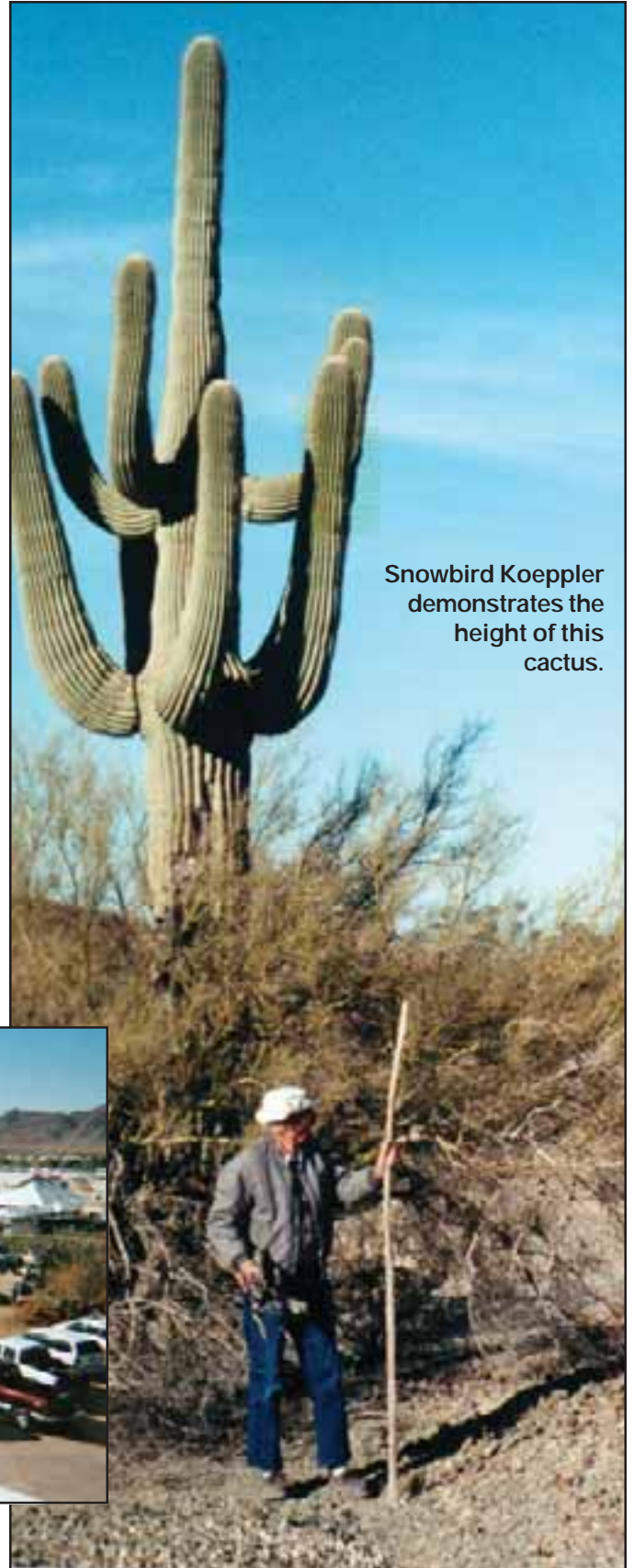
Although scientists cannot fully explain migrations, how birds navigate, and the reasons they do so each year, food of course plays a big role in why birds travel such long distances in spring and again in fall. Experiments have shown that some species of birds, including the tiny hummingbird, will not migrate south if supplied with a food source all winter long. Flying north to breed also seems to lead to larger clutches of eggs that produce more offspring.

Migrations, however, present birds with a lot of stress, exertion, and predatory risks. Some species of falcon will prey on smaller migrating birds, and high concentrations of birds in a small area lead to disease and parasite problems.

Most birds migrate in flocks which helps individuals of the flock conserve energy. Scientists estimate that the V formation that geese use conserves between 12-20% of the energy a single goose would require flying alone.

Non-flying birds also migrate. Penguins swim from location to location, sometimes covering hundreds of miles in the process. Australian emus have migrated long distances on foot to escape drought conditions.

Birds aren't the only creatures that decide to leave cold



Snowbird Koepler demonstrates the height of this cactus.



Quartzsite fills up each winter with nearly a million snowbirds. RVs fill the entire valley.



winter lands behind for a few months. Many human 'snow birds', usually retired folks, also fly south every winter, seeking warmth and sunshine over snow and ice. One local snow bird, 87-year-old Robert Koepler, Crane, has packed his van and made tracks to the heat of Arizona every winter for the past 30 years. Koepler spends six months in Arizona and returns to Montana each spring.

Koepler began his annual trek south because of a silver show. "I lived in Michigan at the time, and I had just started working with silver," Koepler says. "A friend told me about a large silver show at Quartzsite in Arizona, so in 1972 I went down for the show. It was amazing; the entire valley filled up with RVs. I was overwhelmed with all the people."

He adds, "Nearly a million snow birds arrive at Quartzsite each year and 90% of them stay all winter long."

Unlike many of us who cringe at the thought of so many



**Blackbirds flock by the hundreds, signifying that fall has arrived and that birds once again will start the trek south for the winter months.**

people crammed together, Koepler loved the crowds. "I liked all the people and the idea that all of us were there to enjoy the warmth and the silver show," Koepler says. "I liked the atmosphere, and I liked the silver show. I sold everything I'd made."

This taste of flying south addicted Koepler. He continued to journey to Arizona each winter to attend the silver show, sell the items he produced during the summer months, visit with the many friends he made through the years, and to enjoy the sunshine and heat of the southern state.

Koepler moved to Crane in 1995, partly because of agate hunting on the Yellowstone, but he continued his habit of migrating south for the winter. "I moved to Crane in 1995 because I love being on the river and I love it here in the summer," he remarks. "However, I still enjoy going to Quartzsite each fall, although it is a long trip."

Like the migrating birds that adhere to a travelling schedule, Koepler leaves Crane each Oct. 15, travels on his own to Arizona, spends the winter at Quartzsite, and then rolls back into Crane sometime in mid March. "It takes about a week to make the trip," Koepler concludes. "I enjoy the scenery along the way, and I take time to enjoy the trip."



**Koepler in Arizona, standing in front of an ironwood tree.**

# The Core Facts



Judy Johnson

## About Apples

By Judy Johnson

October is National Apple Month and even though Montana is not an apple producing state I know I am enjoying the apples off of my backyard tree and the new apple crop in the grocery stores.

About 2,500 varieties of apples are grown throughout the United States. The top 10 apple varieties are: Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Fuji, Granny Smith, Rome, McIntosh, York, Idared and Jonathan. In 2008, the average U.S. consumer ate an estimated 49.8 pounds of fresh and processed apples.

The old expression, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away", still has merit. A medium sized apple, the size of a tennis ball, has 80 calories, helps reduce the risk of cancer because it contains no fat, helps reduce the risk of high blood pressure because it contains no sodium and helps reduce cholesterol because it is an excellent source of fiber.

The freshest apples are available from September through November, although most varieties are available year-round. Purchase well-colored apples that are firm, with a fresh fragrance and smooth skin. If you notice dry, tan or brown-colored areas on the skin, this is known as scald and usually has no effect on the flavor of the apple. For best quality, store apples in the refrigerator in a plastic bag, with air holes, at 30-32°.

I encourage you to try different varieties of apples as there are some really tasty ones out there. I recently tried a "jazz" apple which was won-



Apple Coleslaw

derful.

You can lower the fat in a baked product by substituting up to half of the fat with applesauce. The baked product should be one that is moist to begin with; a crispy chocolate chip cookie will not turn out well. I would start by substituting 1/4-1/3 of the fat with applesauce to see if you like it.

### Apple Coleslaw

- 2 c. shredded cabbage
- 2 medium unpeeled apples, cored & diced
- 1 can (16 oz.) crushed pineapple, drained
- ½ c. fat-free mayonnaise

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate at least one hour. Serves 6.

Source: U.S. Apple Organization

### Baked Pork Chops with Apple Dressing

2 slices light whole-wheat bread, torn into bite-size pieces

- 1 medium cooking apple, peeled & finely chopped
- 1 medium rib of celery, finely chopped
- 4 medium green onions (green and white parts), thinly sliced
- ¼ c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. dried sage
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 4 boneless pork loin chops, trimmed of fat



Baked Pork Chops with Apple Dressing

Stir dressing ingredients together until bread is moistened. Spoon half the dressing into an 8" square baking pan, smoothing the surface. Place the chops in



a single layer on the dressing. Spread remaining dressing over the chops. Bake at 375° covered for 30 minutes and uncovered for 10-15 minutes or until chops register at least 145°.

Source: American Heart Association

**Quick Apple Cake**

2 c. diced apples (can be chopped in food processor with peeling on)

1 ½ c. all-purpose flour

1 c. sugar

½ c. vegetable oil

1 egg, beaten

1 tsp. baking soda

½ tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. salt

Nuts & raisins optional

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease an 8" round cake pan.

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl; stir until lightly mixed. Pour into a lightly greased and floured 8" cake pan. Bake at 350° until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool 15 minutes; remove from cake pan and cool completely. Sprinkle top with powdered sugar if desired.

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# Exercise Your Brain

By Lois Kerr

**ALPHABET SOUP:** Insert a different letter of the alphabet into each of the 26 empty boxes to form words of five or more letters reading across. The letter you insert may be at the beginning, middle or end of the word. Each letter of the alphabet will be used only once, so cross off each letter as you use it.

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

R	E	S	T	A	K	E		P	E	L	L	E	D	S
Q	U	I	N	D	O	M		N	O	R	K	E	L	T
D	O	C	A	T	A	L		S	T	E	N	I	N	G
S	E	M	B	L	E	M		A	R	K	F	U	L	L
D	I	S	C	A	R	E		U	E	S	T	S	I	T
S	Q	U	A	R	I	P		U	D	G	E	M	A	N
P	E	R	I	C	O	N		O	C	A	T	I	O	N
H	A	R	R	A	R	E		E	C	T	M	I	S	H
I	N	J	E	C	T	I		I	N	S	O	M	E	R
C	H	A	R	M	E	N		U	R	E	D	I	N	G
H	A	S	P	E	R	S		O	U	T	R	I	D	E
B	A	K	E	R	M	A		I	M	U	M	F	U	L
C	O	S	H	A	I	G		O	O	M	I	N	G	S
W	H	Y	A	S	H	I		P	R	E	S	S	H	Y
F	L	O	W	E	M	A		I	C	A	L	M	O	N
F	L	I	S	H	A	R		M	I	S	S	A	L	L
M	O	R	N	M	I	S		P	E	N	T	R	I	C
C	O	M	P	R	I	C		L	Y	S	H	E	R	Y
S	P	I	K	E	K	K		M	Q	U	A	T	T	O
N	E	I	G	H	B	O		S	T	R	E	W	K	Y
S	C	O	N	V	I	X		N	S	W	E	R	E	D
W	R	O	B	I	B	R		O	C	H	A	R	I	T
M	I	S	T	R	I	P		A	R	A	T	T	A	S
T	O	M	O	R	M	O		O	N	C	R	E	T	E
K	A	T	I	D	Y	L		L	A	M	P	I	N	G
C	O	N	V	I	N	S		A	C	K	W	I	N	G

**Anagram Groups:**

Rearrange the following groups of letters to form related words

**Fruit**

*ex: cherry*

GENERATIN

QUAMTUK

ANGORE

NABAAN

COUNTLEAPA

MONKSMULE

CINQUE

PARTICO

QUALOT

TRANCUR

RYLUMBER

**MAKE-A-WORD:** Place the 3 letter groups into the empty squares before and after the given letters to complete 9 letter words. Words read across only.

- ANA      HAN
- ATE      ILE
- AVA      IZE
- BLE      NTS
- BUT      ORN
- CAL      SEN
- CUP      SIC
- ENT      VER
- FFS      WIN

			C	U	L			
			A	M	E			
			T	E	R			
			L	G	E			
			E	S	C			
			T	E	R			
			I	L	A			
			D	C	U			
			S	A	T			

See answers on page 2.



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# Change

A change we all appreciate comes with the fall foliage, as leaves turn from green to shades of reds, yellows and browns.



By Lois Kerr

Change happens all the time; nothing lasts forever or remains static for very long. Some change we regard as good and embrace with open arms, while we dread and anticipate the worst case scenario when other events cause change to occur in our lives. Our outlook depends on circumstances and experience.

Supposedly older people have more problems adapting to change, but I don't believe that. Regardless of how old we are, circumstances can bring much wanted and appreciated changes which we delight in and that give us a fresh lease on life. However, many times change means difficulties and a reorientation of a lifestyle, and this can occur at any stage of a person's life. The one constant fact about an individual existence is that it will experience change every step of the way throughout life.

The changes we dread or resent the most are those beyond our control, such as illness, loss of a job, or drastic alterations within a community or a lifestyle. Change can split families or communities in half, and change by its very nature makes us unable to return to what we had last month or last year.

Take Crane for example. This used to be a quiet, sleepy town where neighbors willingly helped neighbors without any thought of remuneration. We enjoyed peaceful lives, secure homes and neighbors we could count upon for help. Unfortunately, change has arrived in Crane. Several landowners have set up or are in the process of setting up RV parks,

and although only a small percentage of RVers have moved in so far, the potential exists for a quadrupling of people moving in to squat on a small parcel of ground, and already the influx has changed this village for the worst. Traffic roars up and down the streets at all hours of the day and night, a whole host of unknown people in unfamiliar vehicles cruise up and down the streets, gawking at whatever catches their eye, noise has increased a thousand fold, and Crane continues to deteriorate as a nice place to live. I now feel obliged to lock my doors, an unheard of situation in Crane a mere six months ago.

Neighbors have forgotten how to behave. I heard an ugly rumor that a neighbor came upon a car in a ditch and demanded a \$100 payment to pull the unfortunate person's vehicle from the mud. Crane used to be a place where neighbors held out a helping hand; now apparently they hold out a hand and expect it to be covered with 30 pieces of silver before they lift a hand to assist someone in need.

What a sad commentary on a neighborhood. What a sad commentary on what our life is becoming, and what a heartbreaking thought that boom times bring out the greedy selfish monster in many people.

Unfortunately, this unleashed monster that brings out true colors hasn't struck only Crane. Horror stories abound about grasping rapacious landlords tripling and quadrupling rent on hapless renters, business people feeling justified in doubling and tripling prices on goods and services, residents feeling justified in demanding payment for something



they would have done as a neighborly gesture a year ago, and the skyrocketing of costs everywhere. Eastern Montanans used to pride themselves on being neighborly, friendly, honest and always willing to help out. This flattering, self-congratulatory picture we liked to paint about ourselves as being generous folks has flown the coop with the advent of the oil boom, and now the primary goal seems to be how much can we charge someone else for whatever it is we decide to do for them.

People do have a choice in some cases, but too often people can't see the results of their choices until it's too late to take a different path. Once we lose a way of life, it never comes back. I've seen this happen before, and the thought that the MonDak is well on its way to repeating the mistakes others have made in the past makes me want to gnash my teeth in despair.

I grew up in a small town surrounded by lush farmland.

Over time, the farmland vanished field by field by field, and today that fertile land lies buried under concrete driveways and housing developments. Hundreds of houses blot the landscape, and no longer can the land grow wheat, corn, support livestock, or do anything at all except become more and more polluted with overpopulation. The small town is still a small town with not much to offer anyone; it's just completely crowded, rank and unappealing. I never go back to my home town, as my home town no longer exists as I remember it, and I certainly don't care at all for what it has become. It's now just a little hole on the highway best forgotten and best left behind forever.

I'm afraid we'll see the same thing in the MonDak. Oil companies and big energy businesses continue to destroy farmland with buildings, scoria, rail heads and concrete. Trucks sit in droves on land that used to support crops, scores of rail storage areas are springing up all over, pump jacks and storage tanks dot the landscape, and instead of wild and free we have overcrowding and dirt, and a population hell bent and determined to make as much money as possible from their fellows for as long as they possibly can get away with it. Towns such as Williston and Sidney already are the places to move away from, and the small outlying villages and hamlets will follow suit if this trend continues, and it probably will, at least for a few more years. It breaks my heart.

Remember to think carefully about what we ask for, because we just might get it, and the results might not be quite what we originally expected. Once something changes, it changes forever, and we can never go back.



Some changes that aren't necessarily for the better include the transformation of a perfectly good field into an RV camp.

Some change comes slowly, like switching a population from outdoor plumbing to indoor plumbing. Other change comes on a faster basis, like the changing colors of fall.



# The Language Of Flowers

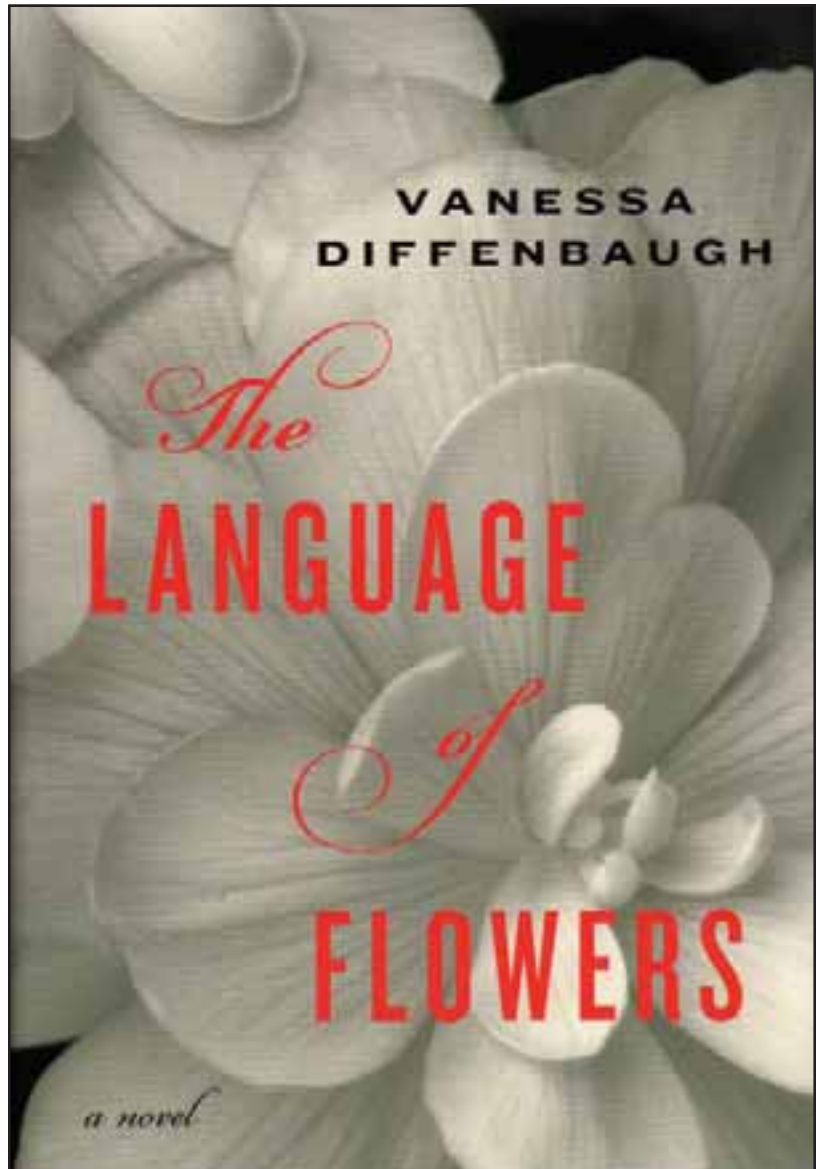
## Book Review by Lois Kerr

I just completed the book *The Language of Flowers* written by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, and I thoroughly enjoyed this read. The story kept me engrossed throughout the entire book, not only because of the great prose and the plot, but also because of the different world it opened for me.

The story revolves around a lonely young woman who has encased her heart in cast iron because of her life experiences. Abandoned as an infant and growing up in foster homes and group homes, her childhood experiences of being unloved, unwanted and mistreated scarred her and formed her. Her experiences with one fantastic foster mother provided her with the means to cope, taught her the language of flowers along with the language of love, until an unforgettable night tore them apart.

I learned through this book that each flower has its own meaning, a fact well-known in Victorian times, when young people communicated through the sending of flowers, expressing their sentiments by the choice of flowers they sent to the recipient. Victoria Jones, the main character in the book, has learned the language of flowers through her own studies as well as through the teachings of one foster mother. Throughout her childhood she presented others with flowers, sending messages that with few exceptions, only she could understand. She used flowers to express emotions, including her grief (aloe), mistrust (lavender), and solitude (heath.)

I found myself mesmerized by the story, which shifts back and forth from the present to her childhood experiences, all the while weaving a fantastic tale full of despair, sorrow, and hope. When Victoria would make a bouquet or give someone a flower, I found myself checking the glossary of flower



names and meanings listed at the end of the book to determine the meaning in her message.

This excellent book explores mother/daughter relationships, finding one's way back home even after misbehaving badly, learning to trust again, and the power of love in our lives. As Victoria notes at the end of the book, "If it was true that moss did not have roots, and maternal love could grow spontaneously, as if from nothing, perhaps I had been wrong to believe myself unfit to raise my daughter. Perhaps the unattached, the unwanted, the unloved, could grow to give love as lushly as anyone else."

I recommend this book highly. It kept my attention throughout, and gave me a glimpse into the world of those who feel themselves unloved and unworthy, and it provides the hope that we all can move forward and find ourselves if we care to take that journey.

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# Fairview Memories

The Fairview News

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1973

AN INDEPENDENT NEWS PAPER

## F.H.A. Family of the Year

The Will L. "Lee" Niles, Jr. family, beet farmers and beef ranchers of Richland County Mont., has been selected as one of the five finalists in the National Farmers Home Administration "Farm Family of the Year" competition for 1972.

The Verl M. Buxton family of Cache County, Utah, has been named the winner of the competition.

Mr. Niles, his wife, Doris, and their three children were placed in the top five after a year-long competition conducted by the Farmers Home Administration, the rural credit service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Chosen from hundreds of farm families all across the country as Montana's representative, the Niles family joined 37 other state winners in contention for the title.

Will L. Niles, Jr., started out sharecropping, but he and his family had dreams as well as plans for a better future. He got an operating loan from the Farmers Home Administration in 1961, and decided to start farming for himself the next year. He had some assets, but he also had a lot of debts which left him with a net worth of only \$4,000. In 1972, his assets and his debts had increased tremendously, however, his net worth had grown to \$116,000. That's nearly 30 times as much as he started with 12 years ago. The farm the Niles

family bought 12 years ago was in bad shape and it was a poor producer. The neighbors thought Niles would be doomed to failure from the start. But good management, thorough planning and lots of hard work have made the Niles ranch one of the most prosperous in the state.

A panel of seven nationally prominent judges made the national selection. The judges were: Millard F. Daily, chairman, Federal Farm Credit Board; Russell E. Hibbard, president, National Association of Farm Broadcasters; Pat Dubois, Chairman Agricultural-Rural America Committee, Independent Bankers Association of America; Claudette N. Simoneaux, past president, National Association of Vocational Home Economics Teachers; Thomas R. Smith, Chairman, Agricultural and Community Bankers Division, American Bankers Association and Alan T. Busby, a retired professor of Animal Husbandry, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO.

State winning farm families receive a plaque, and the national winner an expense-paid trip to Washington D. C., from the New Holland Division of Sperry Rand, the farm equipment manufacturer.

Will Niles farmed for two years on a share crop basis. He liked farming but he realized that for it to be worthwhile, he would have to be on his own. Like many other beginning farmers, he was hard pressed for the

cash to run his farm. Also like many other farmers, he turned to the Farmers Home Administration for a loan to cover his operating costs in shares with his brother.

That was the last year he farmed for shares. The next year he got a farm ownership loan from Farmers Home and bought his own farm, including a good farm house. The farm was run down and many of his neighbors thought it was sure to be a failure. But the entire Niles family pitched in and through good management of available resources, have made their farm one of the best irrigated farms in the Yellowstone Valley, and perhaps in the state of Montana.

Success did not come easy to Will Niles and his family. It took hard work, perseverance, and a tight plan. Will knew that to get maximum production from his farm he would have to develop it fully. His wife, Doris, grew up on a farm, and attended Business college. Together they laid out a plan, organized the work, budgeted the money, and set goals for their farm.

The master plan called for leveling of the land, to make it easier to work and also more productive. They started in 1962 leveling 30 acres, in 63 it was 34 acres in 64 it was 36 acres in 65 it was 35 acres, in 66 it was 38 acres leveled, finishing the job in 1967 by leveling 34 acres--a total of 200 acres, developed at a cost to Niles of \$18,000.

It was a long, difficult, and expensive undertaking, but it has paid off well for the Niles family. The leveling has resulted in better water use and lower labor requirements.

Niles now irrigate the entire farm in seven days with two heads of water, which moves from one end to the other in six to eight hours. Since the plan was completed, the Niles family has not had to hire any outside help, except for a truck driver during beet harvest.

Through the years, Mr. Niles has suffered injuries that prevent his doing all the work on the farm, but he is still "the man with the plan." It now calls for him to farm for another ten years but to gradually turn the operation over to his sons.

Since Farmers Home Administration is organized to help farmers who cannot qualify for commercial credit, the objective of the farm family program is not to find the biggest or the richest - but to identify the family which has done the most with its resources, family life and the contribution of family members to community life are carefully considered in judging.

Selection as one of the top five families is evidence that the Niles family has used its resources well.

*Reprinted as published in Fairview News July 26, 1973*

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