

FOR THE RECORD

Reeder's

Continued from Page 4A

and the red light fringe, young girls were cautioned not to tarry on their way to and from school. Indeed, Reeder's Alley lore includes murders, suicides and shootings. One tale that bears threads of truth has to do with George Mitchell, the last resident of the Butts cabin whose death in 1938, according to the IR of June 7, 1953, was "shrouded in mystery." Mitchell raised chickens, sold eggs and poultry and ran a coal and wood business at the rear of the cabin from 1903 until he died in the mid-1930s. Mitchell, who had no family, left all his earnings in dollar bills and loose change lying on shelves, on the cabin floor, and stuffed in socks, tobacco cans and paper bags. Just before public auction of the cabin in 1939, a group of local women formed the Last Chance Gulch Restoration Association and arranged its purchase for \$450. The Pioneer Cabin became one of the first preservation projects in the West.

GEORGE DUCHESNEY OWNED REEDER'S ALLEY by 1920, and its small apartments and dwellings were home to 32 single male tenants including a stock herder, a sheep herder, a cemetery caretaker, two fruit store proprietors and a hotel cook. Duchesney and his wife, Laura, lived at 200 West Cutler St., which was the front apartment of the present-day Stonehouse Restaurant. Duchesney, a groundman for the electric company, advertised "cabins for rent" in the 1920s city directories. Laura Duchesney was well-known as a breeder of canaries and "bird doctor." She filled the small apartment with the little birds and their songs. An advertisement in the 1927 Polk city directory for Laura's canaries promised "excellent singers." When Laura died in 1933, the viewing was held at the Duchesneys' West Cutler apartment. George remained at Reeder's Alley until his death a decade later.

By the 1950s, Reeder's Alley was home to a number of pensioners. Owners Reed Matthews and Godfrey Sullivan supplied a need for low-rent housing for older folks on a small fixed income. But city planners had slated the "seedy" area, along with all nearby reminders of Chinese

occupation and red-light activities, for demolition as part of urban renewal. Reeder's Alley would be gone today but for the efforts of three Helena matrons who became its saviors in 1961.

Jane Tobin, Patricia Beodecker and Eileen Harper envisioned Reeder's Alley as an artists' colony and set about to clean it up. The three stone buildings at the top of the hill were their first purchase. They removed the four interior partitions in the largest structure, cleaned, painted, and connected the buildings. Sullivan offered to sell them the rest of Reeder's Alley, but it was home to 23 residents who could not afford to move. Sullivan spent months relocating every tenant. Only after everyone had found a new home did he finalize the sale to the women. The seeds of their vision are still viable as a variety of businesses have occupied the buildings.

AND THE TALES ABOUT REEDER'S ALLEY LIVE ON. A few years ago, author Dick Pace wrote an unpublished article about Reeder's Alley in which he recounted the story of a world-renowned musician out for an evening stroll after a performance. As the visiting master passed through Reeder's Alley, he heard a resident playing for a few neighbors. The visitor borrowed the instrument (perhaps a violin) and gave the pensioners a courtyard concert that other Helenans had paid to hear. For several hours, music caught the night breeze and drifted along the gulch.

Hurdy gurdies, songbirds and violins have long enriched the lure of Reeder's Alley. Music there can still entertain the visitor who stops to listen as the wind ruffles through the now-mature trees, playing its own tune. The picturesque neighborhood, tucked into its niche along the slope and softened by time, is a magical window to yesterday.

ELLEN BAUMLER coordinates Montana's National Register of Historic Places sign program at the State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society.

Vitals

Births

Pamela and Brenden Cooper of Gold Creek, a boy on June 12.
Jennifer and Joshua McKay of Helena, a boy on June 13.
Amy and Christopher Rolfe of Clancy, a boy on June 12.
Tracy Smith and Edward Allen of Helena, a boy on June 14.

Police, sheriff report

■ A beige purse was stolen from a car parked in the KMart parking lot, 1300 block of Cedar, on June 15.

■ A multi-purpose knife was stolen from a car parked on the 700 block of Breckenridge on June 15.

■ A compact disc player and several compact discs were taken from a car parked on the 1300 block of Walnut on June 14.

■ Eight windows were broken out of a trailer parked at the intersection of Empire Creek and Lost Horse Creek roads. The trailer owner discovered the damage on June 15.

■ A man living in Quartz Court chased down a group of teenagers he saw lurking in his backyard early Tuesday after went to investigate a noise at about 5:30 a.m. According to Det. Ray Potter, the resident caught up with one of the youths and discovered the boy's backpack was filled with bottles of alcohol the group allegedly stole from a neighbor's trailer. The case has been referred to juvenile probation.

■ The owner of a home located on the 1800 block of Flowerree reported that someone broke into his residence on June 13 and stole 150 compact discs and a portable, double cassette player. The burglar got into the house by breaking a window in a door. To add insult to injury, the burglar used the homeowner's toilet while inside the residence and forgot to flush.

■ A woman from Wolf Creek reported June 13 that someone put glue in the ignition system of her swather.

■ Four tires and wheels were removed from a vehicle parked in Augusta waiting to be repaired between June 11 and 14. In addition, the thieves damaged the car's dashboard when they removed the stereo.

DEATHS

Janice V. (Hill) Morgan

Janice was born on Jan. 9, 1932, in Miles City, to Quimby and Ruby Hill. She passed away in



Janice V. (Hill) Morgan

Glendale, Ariz., after a short illness on Jan. 22, 1999. A memorial and cremation has taken place in Glendale.

She was a long-time Montana resident, last living in Helena from 1967 to 1975. She

worked for many years at the Federal Reserve Bank. She and her husband, John Morgan also owned and operated Western Trailer Town.

She married John A. Morgan in Miles City in 1951. They lived in many cities throughout Montana before moving to Helena. They had a daughter, Marla and sons, John (Jack) and Robert.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Quimby and Ruby Hill; her son, Robert; and her husband, John A. Morgan.

She is survived by a cousin, Bill Brown of Lawton, Okla. Her surviving children include, daughter, Marla and son-in-law, Robert Lind of Glendale; son Jack and daughter-in-law, Flavia Morgan of Helena. The joy of her life was her grandsons, Dan, Andy, Michael and Jared Lind, John (Jhaxke) and Tom Morgan.

The family would like all her friends to join them on Saturday, June 19, at 2 p.m., to pay their last respects. Interment will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Samuel Hughes of Calvary Baptist Church will be officiating.

FUNERAL SERVICES

THURSDAY

MOREY, Harriet R., age 82, formerly of Helena. Funeral services will be conducted from Hagler-Anderson Chapel at 2 p.m. today, interment will be in Sunset Memorial Gardens. Family prefers memorials to the Florence Crittendon Home, 901 N. Harris, Helena, MT 59601

LeTELLIER, Edward D., age 21 of Helena. Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. today in Hagler-Anderson Chapel. Interment will be in Forestvale Cemetery.

Hagler-Anderson Mortuary 442-8520.

Memorial Service for **JOE G. BRUNETT** Will be held Friday, June 18 1:00 PM • Community Hall Lincoln, MT Lunch will be served

Edward Dane LeTellier

Edward Dane LeTellier, age 21, of Helena, passed away Friday evening at his home.

He was born Sunday, Feb. 12, 1978, in Helena to Thomas E. and Nancy J. LeTellier. He received his education here in Helena and had worked as a laborer and cook.

He is survived by his father, Thomas E. LeTellier of Helena; mother, Nancy J. Hanley of Donnellson, Iowa; brothers, Jacob and D.J. Freiburg, both of Helena; sisters, Nanook LeTellier of Ft. Madison, Iowa, Jessie Freiburg of Helena and Jacalyn LeTellier of Boulder.

Funeral services will be conducted from Hagler-Anderson Chapel today at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Stephen Brehe, Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church officiating. Cremation has taken place and interment of cremains will be in Forestvale Cemetery.

STATE DEATHS

Arlee — Emory McKnight. **Billings** — Samuel Wickman, 82; Helen Whalen; Anne Howland.

Broadus — John Denson, 72. **Fromberg** — Sylvia Black. **Great Falls** — John Ferda, 91; Sharon L. Olivery, 56; Janice A. Redditt, 52.

Harlowton — Waldya Wirth, 91.

Kalispell — Esthyre Beckner, 71; Douglas Caton, 78.

Lame Deer — James Selage Jr. **Laurel** — Gordon Smith, 56.

Lewistown — Donald E. Pegg, 67.

Miles City — Lucy Kurtz, 82.

Missoula — Mary Smith, 67; Ronald R. Rennick, 42; Richard F. Westland, 21; Jack Amaya, 82;

Sally L. Tyler, 76.

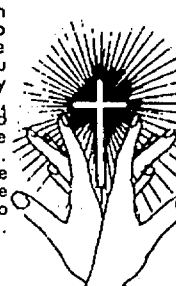
Ronan — Marshall McClure, 22.

Stevensville — Frank P. Thrasher, 82.

Twin Bridges — Bonnie Evans.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle & Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracle, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to who God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glories for nine consecutive days. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. Barb



WEEKEND PICKS

Sunday, June 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. — "Salute to Dad" at the Montana Historical Society is offering its popular Father's Day Open House. Admission is free.

Friday, June 18, noon-3 p.m. — Montana Historical Society's "Summer at the Society," on the front lawn of the society's building.

Saturday, June 19, 8 p.m. — Robert Turgeon will perform *Native American Flute* at the Myrna Loy Center. Tickets are \$9 at the door and \$7 for students and seniors.

Saturday, June 19, 9:30 a.m. — Lewis and Clark Humane Society's 10th Annual Dog Walk-A-Thon. One or three mile route through historical downtown. Anyone can participate, you don't need a dog to walk. Pledge money based on total miles walked. Sponsor sheets available at the Shelter, 1712 E. Custer.

TODAY IN HELENA

10 a.m. — A Tree Dedication to honor Tim and Betty Babcock will be held on the west side of the Capitol with a reception following at the Montana Historical Society.

12:05 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. — Fifth Annual Conservation Lunch Box Series at Anchor Park next to the library "Peas, Peas, Peas" Alternative Cropping in the Helena Valley with Mark Mackin.

7 p.m. — Climbing and Traveling in Patagonia, a slide presentation. Join traveler Mike Rotar as he climbs the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere, travels through the lake district of Chile and Argentina and visits penguins in Tierra Del Fuego. Admission is a \$4 donation, at the Lewis and Clark Library. Call Colleen Murphy at 443-8831.

GOVERNMENT

7 p.m. — Helena Housing Authority is ready to begin construction on the 14-unit HOPE VI Apartment complex at corner of Enterprise Drive and National Avenue. Interested persons are invited to an information meeting at the American Legion meeting room, 3095 Villard.

8 p.m. — East Helena Improvement Association meets at the Winner's Circle in East Helena. Call Sharon at 227-8073.

7 p.m. — Land Conservation and Development Advisory Commission meeting in room 326 of the City/County Bldg.

HEALTH, FITNESS, WELL-BEING

The Montana Wellness Cooperative holds free classes during the noon hour at the Lewis and Clark Health Dept., 1930 Ninth Ave. Missy Jacob "Personal Training for a Better You!" Call Randi at 933-8828 or Mary Beth 443-2584.

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Thank you St. Paul's United Methodist Church For your help in making the Intermountain Children's Home 90th Anniversary Kick-Off a success.

Church staff and volunteers held a Celebration dinner and program in honor of the Home's history on Saturday, June 5.

Additional thanks to: Smith's Food and Drug Centers State Nursery and Seed Co. Jorgenson's Restaurant Park Plaza Hotel Montana Historical Society

To all of the special individuals who helped make this event a success, thank you.

Intermountain Children's Home

500 S. Lamborn • Helena, Montana 59601 • (406) 442-7920