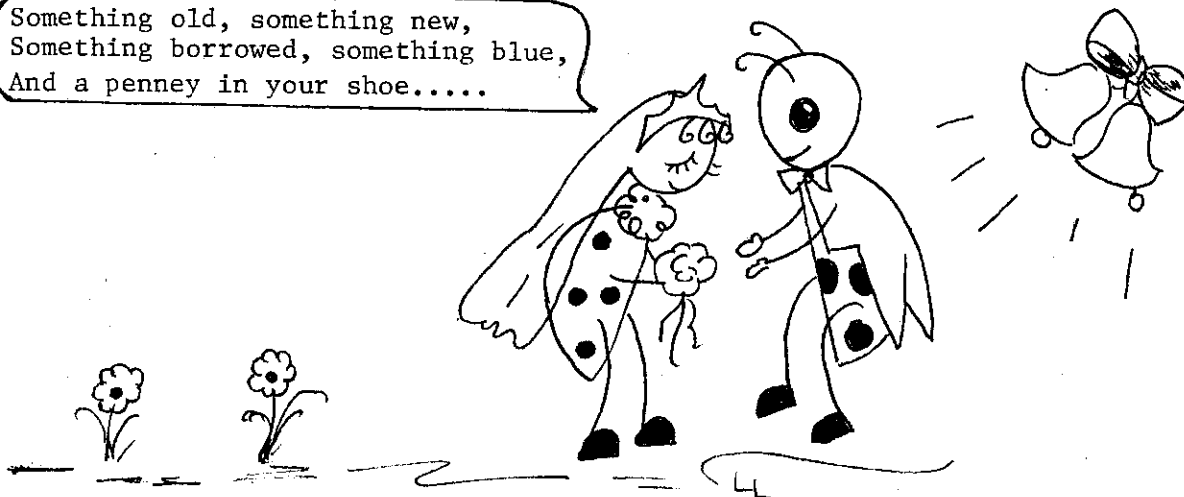


Something old, something new,
Something borrowed, something blue,
And a penny in your shoe.....



NEWSLETTER FOR THE YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM BILLINGS, MONTANA JULY 2003

MAY ELECTION

Two new officers were elected at our Annual Meeting, May 27th. They were Ann Ferguson, President, and Anita Smith, Corresponding Secretary. Continuing on are: Secretary - Verba Valentine
Treasurer - JoAnne Miller

The remaining positions are appointed by the president and are being worked on so will be published in our next newsletter. Hopefully, the slate will be in place in time for a Board Meeting on August 11, 2003.

The work of the officers for YGF is very important. The membership appreciates their effort and guidance. It is hoped each member will contribute some time and talent to help YGF have a most successful year.

MT STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY REPORT by Verba Valentine, 1st Vice President

The State Board Meeting was held July 12 in Helena and I am pleased to report that Havre has formed a society and have become members of the State Society. They have been working very hard on the State Conference and we are all very pleased that they have become official members.

There are positions open on the State Board if anyone is interested in serving. The 1930 Census is coming along very well and should be completed within a year. The First Families and Early Settlers second edition is scheduled to be ready to print by April 2004. If you need forms for your family members who qualify or have ques-

tions or need further information on any of the above contact me at 656-9840 or e-mail blgsmarket@aol.com.

MONTANA STATE CONFERENCE

Everything is about ready for the State Conference to be held September 26th and 27th, 2003 in Havre. The main speaker will be Christine Rose, who is very adept at "Courthouse Research" and "Military Record Problem Solving". She will also be doing programs on "Federal Land Records" and "Using Little Known & Neglected Sources". Christine is a National Lecturer and full time professional with many years of experience. Sylvia Murray, an Accredited Genealogist, will give a program on "Women of the West" and "Immigrant Trains". Joyce Kops conducts a Creative Memories business and will discuss preservation of photographs and scrapbooks. Brochures and reservation forms are being mailed and I urge you to take a minute to fill yours in and mail it. The conference will not only be educational but also there are a lot of fun things planned. We really need to support these small towns that are willing to go to the effort of planning and implementing a state conference. Everyone supported us last year and we need to do the same.

YOU are a genealogist when you go on vacation and beg to drive 80 miles out of the way so you can look for your great grandpa's grave in 120 degree heat!

---borrowed from Kindred Spirits

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Hi YGF Relative Searchers:

Welcome to another YGF year which begins with the August meeting. I hope to see all members. Invite and bring individuals interested in genealogy. We are planning a learning and sharing year.

As we continue searching for relatives - past and present - we can share our successes and stumbling blocks with fellow YGF members. We can do this by attending YGF meetings, state conferences, volunteering in the Genealogy Room at Parmly Billings Library, Forum seminars, Summer Fair, reading genealogy journals and recapping an article at YGF meetings, subscribing to local newsletters, Joining Heritage societies, researching at local Family History libraries (2 in Billings), researching at Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and even participating in national genealogic conferences.

Before the YGF Board (whose meeting date is 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm and open to all) develops some yearly goals, feedback is needed from YOU. At the August 26th meeting a survey will be distributed for YOUR responses and YOUR ideas. Remember this is YOUR society! Responses will help with book and resource purchases, meeting programs, Genealogy Room use and what YOU want from YGF.

Hopefully, we can continue past-President Suzanne's projects of having a presence in the community, attendance at Parmly Library Board meetings, remodeling the Genealogy Room and increasing membership (tell others about the benefits of belonging to YGF.)

See YOU at August 26 meeting at 7:00 pm 6th St. West and Ave. D. Share YOUR comments, ideas, suggestions and any criticism with us. I can be reached at 406-248-4082.

Ann Ferguson
President

**YGF DUES ARE DUE
MEMBERSHIP REPORT**
by Shawna Valentine

I would like to thank all members who have already renewed their membership for another year and remind those who haven't

that dues were due on July 1st. Please look at the first line of the mailing label of this issue to verify when your membership expires. Renewal is only \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family. Donations of any amount may also be made to the YGF Book Fund to purchase extra books and periodicals for the Gen-Room, to the Library Fund to cover all other needs of a Gen-Room, and /or to the Stern-NARA Gift Fund which makes more National Archive documents available to genealogists. Checks should be made payable to YGF and mailed to Shawna Valentine, YGF Membership, 3420 Granger So. #20, Billings, MT 59102. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

It has come to my attention that attbi.com customers had to change internet providers in the last few weeks. The following 2 members were kind enough to notify me of their new addresses. I am assuming that others with the attbi.com extension now have bresnan.net after their user name. PLEASE let me know of changes in e-mail addresses, phone numbers, or physical addresses so that my records are up to date. Drop a note in with your renewal, or e-mail me anytime at smv2222@aol.com or phone 652-5866.

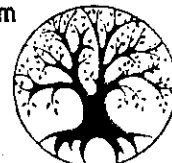
E-mail Additions or Notifications of New E-mail addresses:

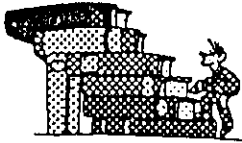
Herman, Jason jason.herman@bresnan.net
McPherson, Suzanne searchandresearch@bresnan.net
Wagner, Pam wagnerrp@wtp.net

I am happy to report that the following have joined our group since the last issue.
Delger, Sue C., 2212 Hoover, Billings, MT 59102, 252-6226, randsdelg@aol.com
Jones, Vergil, 3427 King Ave. E, Billings, MT 59101, 259-1918, claudjn5@aol.com
Reed, Heide, 725 Pebble Beach Rd., Billings, MT 59105 256-0577

We are also happy to welcome back several former members:

Henrie, Pat, 333 Clark Ave., Billings, MT 59101, 252-9733 tisherself2000@hotmail.com
Hotchkiss, Del & Patricia, 2127 Rosewyn Ln., Billings, MT 59102-2145, 656-4654
Sullivan, Bobbe, 1144 Ponderosa Dr., Billings, MT 59102-2455, 259-7366, bobbel020@aol.com





LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS
by Ellen Cushing

1. Donated: Yearbook of the Society of Indiana Pioneers, 2002-2003
2. From the Foothills to the Plains: History of Southeastern Fergus County
3. Norske i Montana, 3 vol.

This 3 vol. set (1000+ pages) "provides a locator index for approximately 75,000 persons of Norwegian birth or descent who settled, even temporarily, in Montana Territory or State before 1920 (about 75-80% of the total). It also identifies Norwegian families who first settled in Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas or other areas of the United States, as their descendants continued their westward journeys.

Entries were compiled from the 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 Federal Censuses population schedules; from records of 48 Norwegian Lutheran Churches; and from 70 country histories."

LATEST PERIODICALS FOR THE GEN-ROOM

by Athna May Porter

April 2003 - July 2003

If you have unwanted periodicals that you would like to donate or would like to donate a subscription to a periodical, call Athna May Porter 259-2552 or e-mail porter@imt.net

1. Family Chronicle -May/June 2003; Jul/Aug 2003
2. New England Historical & Gen. Register - Apr 2003 Vol 157 #626
3. Family Tree Magazine - June 2003; August 2003
4. Genealogy Bulletin - April 2003
5. Germans from Russia Historical Society Heritage Review March 2003; June 2003
6. GRHS Newsletter - Dec 2002; June 2003
7. Heritage Quest - Mar/Apr 2003; May/June 2003
8. History Magazine - Feb/Mar 2003; Apr/May 2003; June/July 2003
9. Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Winter 2002 Clues 2002 Edition; Summer 2003
10. American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Newsletter Spring 2003
11. NGS Newsmagazine - Mar/Apr 2003; May/June 2003

12. National Genealogical Society Quarterly - Mar 2003; Jun 2003
13. New England Ancestors - Spring 2003; Summer 2003
14. Forum - FGS Society Quarterly - Spring 2003
15. Daughters of the American Revolution - Owned by Parnly
Three family newsletters that we receive regularly
Bunnell/Bonnell Newsletter
Gest - Guest Quarterly
The Chandler Family Association Newsletter

TRIP TO SLC

On May 18, 2003, twelve genealogy researchers headed for the Carlton Hotel in Salt Lake City for a Reunion of friends and a week of Researching our families. And who were these people? Dolly Ziegler came from Baltimore, MD; Sue Picard from Eau Claire, WI; June Trees from Fishtail, MT; Florence Carlson of Columbus, MT and her sister, Helen Gilstrap of Rohnert Park, CA; Billie Glover of Story, WY; Lorraine Martin of Roundup, MT; and Anita Smith, June Wittman, Delores McMullen, Louise LaRue and Sharon Kennedy all from Billings. For Helen and Sharon it was their first experience of fathoming into the large genealogical library and they had successes enough to love it!

There was a Monday night Get-acquainted Party where both June Trees and Florence Carlson showed and told us about their cemetery books they've each published. The next day these books were presented to the LDS Library.

Learning to use the new plastic cards to pay for copies, seeing more filing cabinets, new computers with adjustable keyboards, new office type chairs many with arm rests wowed us! Researching took us many places--Sue Picard solved a murder but most of us were happy with the "magic" of pulling out 1930 censuses via AOL and such. We recommend that everyone should try a research library trip occasionally. It was a great week!

by Coordinator, Louise LaRue

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum

President: Ann Furguson (406) 248-4082

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtygf/>

Our Webmaster: Cleve Kimmel

OUR WEDDING THEME

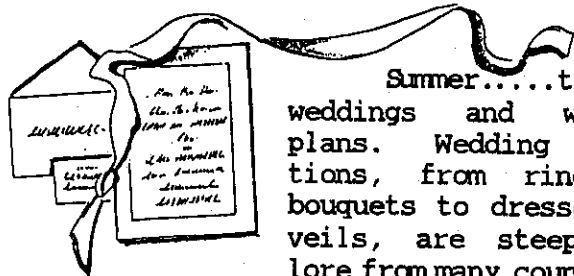
The May 25, 2003 Sunday Billings Gazette carried an article telling of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of our member, Lyle Jones and wife, Doris. They were married in Glendive on May 22, 1943 and have made their home in Laurel since 1950. Congratulations to you both!

Upon reading about their anniversary the idea for a "theme" for the summer Gen-Bug jumped out. It is hoped you'll read and smile about some of the customs that member, Donna McKamy, has written about. And just in case you need an anniversary gift, check the following list.

1st Year - Paper	13th - Lace
2nd - Cotton	14th - Ivory
3rd - Leather	15th - Crystal
4th - Books	20th - China
5th - Wood or Clocks	25th - Silver
6th - Iron	30th - Pearl
7th - Copper, Brass	35th - Coral, Jade
8th - Elec. Appliances	40th - Ruby
9th - Pottery	45th - Sapphire
10th - Tin, Aluminum	50th - Gold
11th - Steel	55th - Emerald
12th - Silk or Linen	60th - Diamond
	75th - Diamond

WEDDINGS - TRADITION OR SUPERSTITION?

by Donna McKamy



Summer....time for weddings and wedding plans. Wedding traditions, from rings to bouquets to dresses and veils, are steeped in lore from many countries.

It has been a rich experience doing research for this short article that can only cover a few of the fun, serious and curious aspects of wedding traditions and superstitions. I have left out some of the familiar ones.

The first marriages were by capture. Our primitive ancestors came together for protection and survival rather than meaningful relationships. The groom would kidnap the woman and take her away from her tribe with the help of a warrior friend, his Best Man, who would help him fight off other men who wanted this woman. The first "ushers" and best men" were more like a

small army, fighting off the brides's angry relatives as the groom rode away with her.

As time went on, marriage by purchase was preferred as the bride was bartered for land, social status, or political alliances, or exchanged for cash. The Anglo-Saxon word "wedd" meant that the groom would vow to marry the woman, but it also meant the money or barter the groom paid to the bride's father. The word "wedding" comes from a root word meaning "to gamble or wager".

As the world became more civilized, the prospective groom proposed to the prospective bride. He sent his friends to present his interests to the family. Depending on what they saw on their visit, the marriage might be doomed. A blind man, a monk or pregnant woman were bad omens. On the other hand, if they saw nanny goats, pigeons or wolves the marriage would have good fortune. During Medieval times in Brittany the man simply left a hawthorn branch at the door of his love on the first of May. If she left it there, she had accepted. If she replaced it with a cauliflower--no wedding! But...woe to the couple if the woman's and man's surnames began with the same letter. "To change the name and not the letter is to change for the worst and not the better" summarized the sentiment.

The month in which to wed had to be chosen and then the day. Both were extremely important in superstition. Fridays and Saturdays were particularly unlucky as were February, March and May. I think the poets had their day as the rhymes appeared that ruled our superstitious ancestors. Marry in the month of May and you'll surely rule the day.. If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry. When December snows fall fast, marry and true love will last, to quote a few. June is the luckiest being named after Juno, the Roman goddess of love and marriage. Any summer month was considered good marrying times in part because of the sun's association with fertility.

Bridal showers may have originated in Holland, where it was customary to shower the bride with gifts if she had no dowry.

Wedding dresses and veils are found in many styles and many colors, which have
(continued to the next page)



special meanings in the country they are in. A bride used to just wear her "best dress" to be married in. When do you think the white gown appeared? One source says in the 16th Century by Queen Victoria who chose white instead of the royal silver color. Another source says Anne of Brittany in 1499 made the white wedding dress popular.

Other colors and styles of wedding dresses are a silk red gown in Armenia with a headdress of wings and feathers. In China red is worn as it symbolizes joy, love and prosperity. (In China weddings occur on the 1/2 hour because the clock hands go optimistically UP instead of DOWN.) In India brides wear pink and red saris with lots of jewelry. In Japan tradition has the bride paint her entire body white and wear a white kimono and ornamental headpiece, but at the reception she changes into a red kimono. Turkish women wear a silk dress with a red velvet cape. Greek brides wear yellow-red symbolizing fire which protects from evil spirits and demons.

In Spain a bride probably hasn't heard the "rhyme" which says, "married in black, you will wish yourself back" because her dress may be black silk with a black lace veil. The Irish wear a blue dress for luck which must take heed of the rhyme "married in blue, your love will always be true." There is a rhyme for each color. Like "married in green, ashamed to be seen" as green indicated promiscuity, the green staining being due to rolling in grassy fields.

The bride's veil has traditionally been worn to ward off evil spirits and provide protection. It is said to have originated in Rome to outwit the evil spirits. In the 1800's, it became popular in Britain and now is associated with modesty and chastity. Gloves were part of a brides' costume in Early American days and represented modesty and romance; leaving "g" off the word gives you a pair of "loves".

Rings go back to ancient Egypt where the circle was the hieroglyph that indicat-

ed endless eternity and were symbols of the ideal marriage and gold rings became popular in the 16th century although it is reported that the Scots used gold wedding rings as early as 1500. In Italy, diamonds were used as early as 1400 because of the belief that they were created by the flames of love.

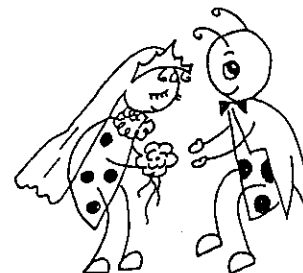


Flowers, bouquets and garters are subjects in themselves and have been part of tradition it seems forever. There are superstitions around flowers however because of belief around their symbolic meaning, which is different in many regions. Here are a few: Peonies represent shame; azaleas mean temperance, snowdrops equal hope; red and white flowers stand for blood and bandages; for some lilies symbolize majesty and for others death.

The groom chooses a flower for his buttonhole from the bride's bouquet from a vestige of the time when a Knight would wear his lady's colors to display his love.

A wedding cake has long symbolized fertility and has been associated with weddings throughout history. Romans shared a cake during the ceremony. In Scotland, oat cakes were thrown over the bride in a way similar to confetti today. The shape of the modern three-tiered iced cake is believed to have been inspired by the spire of Saint Bride's Church in the City of London. It was sugar and icing that produced an identifiable wedding cake. In the 1880's, this kind became popular only with the very rich.

A honeymoon is thought to have originated from the times a bride was captured. After the wedding, the couple went into hiding again for a cycle of the moon and during this time they drank honey wine.



DIGITAL BABY ALBUM

U.S. News & World Report, June 16, 2003, carried an interesting article telling about using an Internet-based service called My Publisher. It prints photo albums on long-lasting, acid-free paper. The results are a sharp-looking photo book in a linen-wrapped hard cover for \$30 (plus \$6 shipping and \$10 off for extra copies.) That buys 10 pages holding up to 40 pictures; extra pages run \$3 each. Two programs can help you layout an album: Adobe Photoshop Album for Windows (\$50) or i-Photo, which is free for Mac OS X users. It took the author a couple of hours to produce his first book with Photoshop Album. IPhoto is a bit easier to use. My Publisher promises its Web site (www.mypublisher.com) will soon have a program that can be downloaded free. The concept is new (and impressive) enough that friends were anxious to see the results.

MISSING BILLINGS CITY DIRECTORIES

The library does not have Billings City directories for the following years: 1904, 06,07,08,09, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 36, 38, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, and 48.

Keep an eye open at garage sales, flea markets and such and if you see such, please purchase and donate it to the collection! Thanks.

CIVIL WAR PHOTOS

The U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA 17013-5008, has been collecting photos of Civil War soldiers for several years. You might write first and see if they already have a photo of your ancestor, either Union or Confederate. If not, they request a photo which they will copy and return your photo, a negative and an 8 X 10 copy at no cost. You might check to see if this offer is still in effect. What a great way to honor your Civil War soldier and help complete their collection!

READ EXCHANGE QUARTERLIES

Most of us don't take time to read some of the "Exchange" quarterlies that come to the Gen-Room. Many contain fine articles. "The Heritage" from Greater

Miami, Florida, is one we've received for a number of years. In the July-October, 2002 issue there were many web-sites given and I think a number might be worth trying.

Censuses <http://www.censusdiggins.com>

Find hundreds of links at the New Worldwide Top Genealogy Sites: <http://www.worldwide-topsites.com/php/in.php?id=tracers>

1870 census indexes. One you've been waiting for.

<http://www.qksrv.net/click-564172-9726275>

Old Lost Family Bibles at E-Bay

http://www.ancestorhunt.com/ebay_family_bibles.htm

Ancestor Hunt Genealogy Search Engines:

<http://www.ancestorhunt.com>

Ellis Island Search Engine and Photo Gallery:

http://www.ancestorhunt.com/ellis_island_records_search.html

Irish Surnames and Clans:

http://www.imagin.net/~tracers/irish_surnames.htm

Find more genealogy laughs at The Genealogy Funny Papers:

http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~tracers/the_funny.htm

A directory of links to free census records on the web:

<http://www.imagin.net/~tracers/census1.htm>

Happy Searching

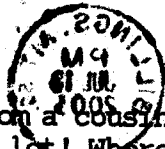
From your Gen-Bug Editor:



Louise LaRue
1917 Ave. C
Billings, MT 59102
Ph. (406) 252-1070

Editor since 1982

HOW I SOLVED IT



Recently I received an e-mail from a cousin in Florida, who wrote "Thanks a lot! Where in the world did you find all of these old pictures of our family? It's wonderful that they are still in the family."

Another example comes from a family reunion in Ohio last year where I gave another cousin a photo of her father. She screamed with excitement when she saw it and said, "My father never liked having his picture taken and I have only seen one other when he was older." I got excited when she came back a few minutes later and gave me a very nice picture of my great grandfather (her grandfather) who I had not seen before.

So what is the "secret of my success" as a dealer in ancient family photos? It all started with the pictures in scrapbooks of my parents which I received about four years ago. My objective from the start was to identify everyone in the pictures, and I knew this was not difficult since I was part of their lives and their friends. I also knew a lot about the other families in our tree and the children. I already knew I had some of them in my pictures too.

E-mailing was a perfect next step for me. I started connecting with cousins all over the country who had pictures from their own family and were curious about other families. I found that amateur-photographer cousins are by nature gregarious folks. We started trading photos over the internet using the JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group file format). Gosh, we were really trading family photos like they were baseball cards.

Recently, I've been taking my family picture trading to a new height. I have known for some time that digital technology made image editing a subject of awe and wonder. Some people call digital imaging "magic" but it is not something to be feared. It is simply a new tool to help us to communicate.

Computer technology is offering new ways of expressing ourselves through our photographs, which contain our memories and our legacy. Computers and photographs both connect us to our family and friends. No matter how tattered or faded a photograph becomes, it still helps us remember and learn about the past. With the addition of one component to this mixture, Adobe Photo-

shop software, you can make the faded colors rich again, repair the damage, remove scratches, clean up mold, and finally make the images as clear and crisp as the day they were taken.

So, here is what I am doing. I'm enhancing a copy of the family photo that I traded with my cousins using advanced digital imaging techniques. Maybe you should try this idea too. My cousins are thrilled when they see their old photograph and the word is getting around. I may be a long time yet from becoming an expert but I'm gaining experience, going to classes, and building a nice sized reference library.

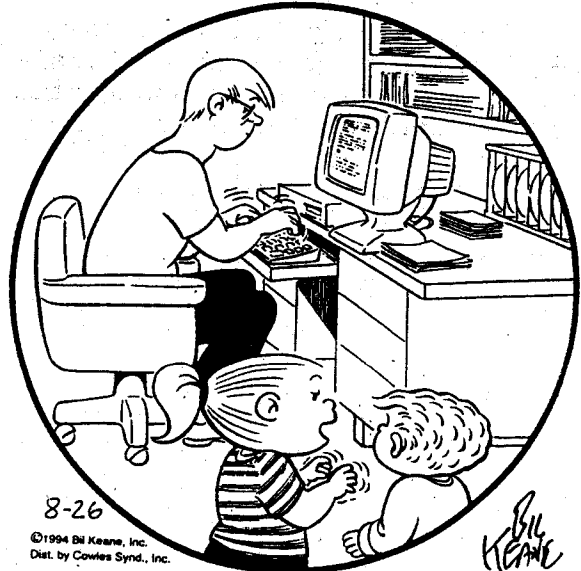
Rick Hutchinson

"Out of monuments, names, words, proverbs, traditions, private records and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of books and the like, we do save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."

---Bacon

Don't worry if your job seems small
And your rewards seem all to few
Just remember that a mighty oak
Was once a nut like you.

FAMILY CIRCUS



8-26

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Bill Keane

"Your fingers hafta be real smart to use a computer."

GEN-BUG NEWS

Coming Events

July 22, 2003 **FAMILY PICNIC**, 6 pm North Park, Shelter House # 1. YGF members are encouraged to bring family and friends. Bring potluck food and your own table service. YGF will provide ham. Come join the fellowship!

August 12, 2003 **YGF BOARD MEETING**, 7 pm at Ann Ferguson's, 312 Lewis Ave.

August 26, 2003 6:30 pm Social, 7:00 pm Regular YGF meeting at LDS Church, 6th St. West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall: Program: "HOW TO PREPARE TO GO TO THE SALT LAKE CITY LIBRARY" led by panel. (Many ideas would be similar at other libraries.)

September 20, 2003 **Montana Big Sky PAF User's Group** meets 10:00 am to 12:00, at Wicks Church, 1000 Wicks Lane. Program: Continuing "FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS USING POWERPOINT AND PAF and Sound Recordings". Summer homework: Bring in your short Powerpoint Slide Show. Guests welcome.

September 23, 2003 6:30 pm Social, 7:00 Regular YGF meeting at LDS Church, 6th St. West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall. Program: "DEATH CERTIFICATES" by Dottie Lowman.