

779TH RADAR SQUADRON (ADC)



OPHEIM AIR FORCE STATION

MONTANA

59250

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

779TH RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE) (ADC)

OPHEIM AIR FORCE STATION

OPHEIM, MONTANA 59250



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CC

SUBJECT: Welcoming Letter

TO: All Personnel

As the Commander, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Opheim Air Force Station. Although this is one of the smaller units within the Aerospace Defense Command, I doubt if you will find a more dedicated group of professionals in the Air Force. We work closely together and take great pride in the mission we perform, which is the detection of possible hostile aircraft approaching our border. I am sure your tour of duty with the 779th will be a meaningful one.

Commander

INTRODUCTION TO THE 779TH RADAR SQUADRON

The 779th Radar Squadron is one of the oldest active organizations of its kind, originally activated on 9 March 1951. Over the years the station has undergone many changes, but its mission has remained basically the same — to be the eyes of the Aerospace Defense Command and to furnish needed information to those who use it in the defense of our country. This is done by the transmission of height and search data either through a SAGE/BUIC complex or manually.

We currently are an integral part of the 24th Air/NORAD Division, whose overall responsibility stretches from western Montana to middle North Dakota, and from far into Canada down to Northern Idaho. The 24th Air/NORAD Division headquarters are at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Our logistic support, basically, comes from Malmstrom AFB also, but more of that later.

This fine station sits on the rolling plain of northeastern Montana, high up in Valley County. We are located approximately four miles west of the town of Opheim, or fifty miles north of the intersection of US Highway 2 and Montana Highway 247. Canada is fourteen miles north of the station.



YOU AND THE 779TH RADAR SQUADRON

Let me begin this section with a brief comment. The 779th Radar Squadron is virtually isolated from other DOD elements and as such must be a self-supporting entity. I am sure you have been told that every man is important at other installations, but here this is a vital truth. Many sections are only authorized one or a few men, and those that are authorized more are frequently poorly manned. Everybody here, including you, when you get here, is irreplaceable.

FINDING OPHEIM AFS

There is only one way to get to Opheim AFS by automobile, and that is to take Montana 247 north to the town of Opheim and make a left turn at the first street directly after the railroad tracks at the south end of town. You can reach the town of Glasgow, Montana, by either air or train and be picked up there by someone from the station. The telephone number from Glasgow is 228-9385.

DUTY HOURS

Normal duty hours are 0730 - 1600 with a half hour for lunch, Monday through Friday. A bus provides transportation to and from the station for those personnel who live at Glasgow Base and work the day shift. Details are available from the transportation office (345 is the extension).

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation of personnel effects of assigned personnel is handled through Malmstrom AFB. Carriers in the nearby community of Glasgow generally do the actual transporting. An individual from supply monitors moves at this level, and it is a good idea to contact this office in this regard as soon as you arrive.

SIGNING IN

If you arrive during regular duty hours, 0730-1600, you will be able to sign in at the Personnel Office located in the headquarters building. Otherwise, you can contact MCC, ext 231, or the operator, "O". If arriving by train or plane in Glasgow and transportation is needed, call 228-9385.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Due to the extreme variation in temperature here, the tan uniform and summer blues are usually authorized between 15 April and 15 October, with winter combinations authorized the rest of the year. Fatigues are not authorized for wear off station except during travel to and from work. Arctic gear is provided for active duty personnel, but not for dependents.

HOUSING

Personnel stationed here reside in three places: on-base, in Opheim, or at Glasgow AFB. The on-base residences for single or unaccompanied personnel consist of a BOQ for officers, a BNCOQ for personnel in the grades of E-5 and above, a BNCOQ for personnel in the grade of E-4 and a BAQ for personnel below the grade of E-4. Except under highly unusual circumstances, there is no doubling up in rooms. All rooms have oak furniture and many have refrigerators. There are twenty-seven on-base family housing units consisting of: kitchen with stove and refrigerator (and some washers and dryers), garbage disposal, and exhaust fan; attaches garage; utility room; dinning room; living room; entrance foyer; three bedrooms (four in the commander's quarters); one bathroom (two in the commander's quarters, the extra on attached to the master bedroom); electric hot water and oil heat. Furniture is extremely limited and none is expected to be available for issue after the end of fiscal year 1973. The station also supports a sixteen lot trailer court. In Opheim, housing is extremely limited. The rental is usually reasonable, but utility costs are high and personnel should not depend on getting housing here. Many accompanied personnel who do not live on station live at Glasgow AFB, some forty miles to the south. Housing there is varied: The type one receives depends upon grade. There are two, Three and four bedroom houses there with basements. Stoves and refigerators are furnished there also.



BOQ

Base Housing





Trailer Court

TRANSIENT FACILITIES

We are proud of the excellent transient facilities at this station. There are two suites available, all at nominal fees, for families with up to several children. Refrigerators, carpeting, and television are furnished. Dining facilities on station include the NCO Open Mess, which serves meals several evenings a week, and the dining hall which serves breakfast, dinner, supper and a midnight meal. Kitchen utensils, cots, air mattresses, towels and linens and a limited number of other items are available through Family Services for personnel in a transient status. There are transient facilities in Opheim, but these are limited in scope and quantity. There are also washing facilities available in Opheim.

FINANCE

Our servicing pay center is at Minot AFB, North Dakota, while many of the routine pay matters are handled through Malmstrom AFB, Montana. You should either handcarry your pay records or get indorsed travel orders from your losing finance section.

RECREATION

The Special Services Section, in conjunction with the Unit Welfare Council, has established an extensive recreation program. On base there are: an auto hobby shop, a fully equipped photo hobby shop, a small gymnasium, a 2,000+ volume library, a recreation hall with ping pong and pool table, a taping center, and equipment to support all popular team and individual sports (including snowmobiles, rifles, shotguns, boats, outboard motors and camping trailers). In addition, there is an NCO Open Mess that sponsors many events such as bingo, dances, and potluck suppers; a base theater in which three different movies a week are shown; and a cable television system.



Library and Theater

Recreation Hall



CHURCHES

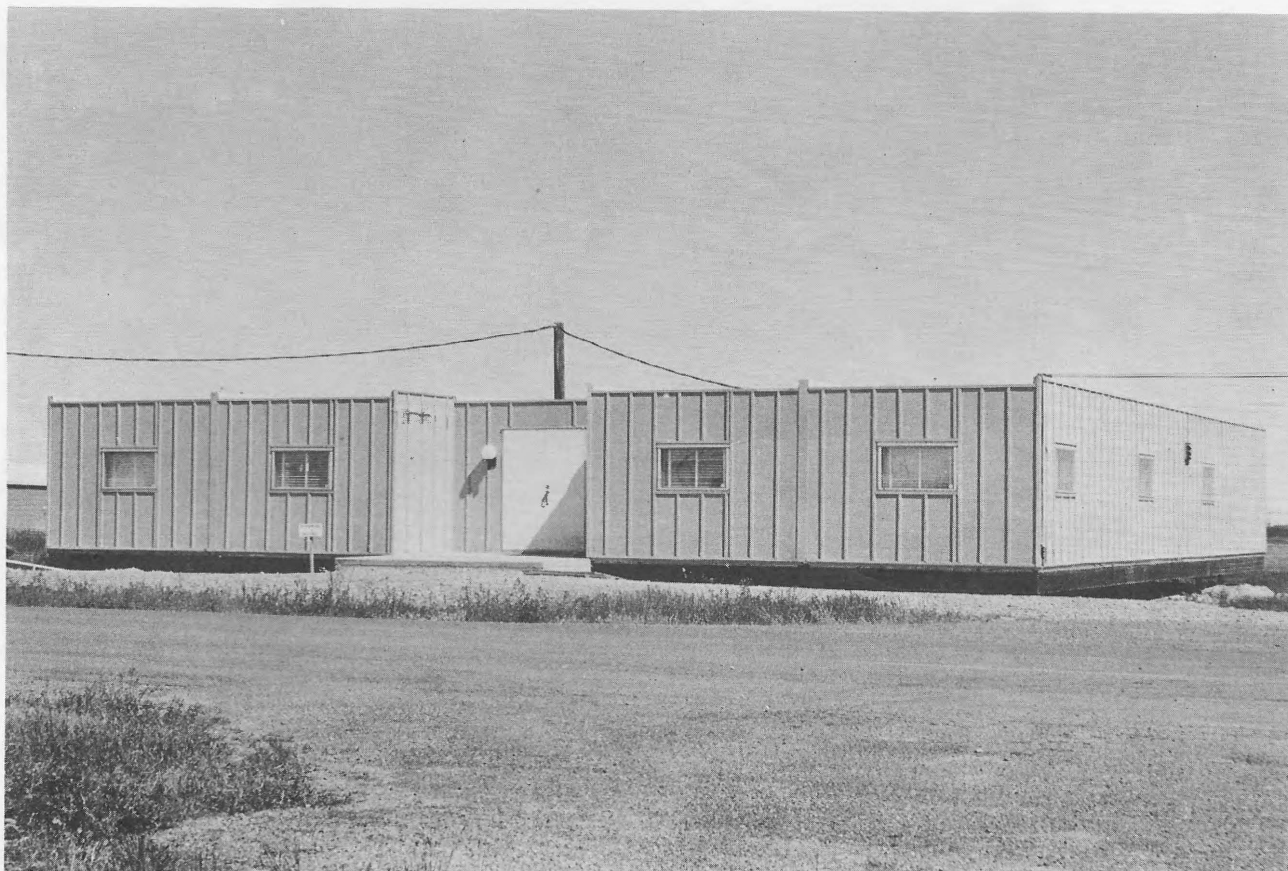
There is a chaplain that visits the site once a month. Catholic services are held on site every Saturday. Regular church services and Sunday school are available in Opheim at the Methodist, Lutheran, and Baptist Churches, respectively.

WEATHER

The area is free from smog and has a distinctly continental weather type with abundant sunshine, low relative humidity, very high wind movement. The pronounced wind chill factors do necessitate precautions in the winter. Average temperatures are plus 70 degrees in summer and 10 degrees in winter. Precipitation is light; the annual average is 13.26 inches of which 70% normally occurs during the 6 months period beginning 1 April and ending 30 September. Average annual snowfall is 36.2 inches. The greatest monthly average of 7.6 inches during January. For, which may occur during any of the colder months of the year, is usually of short duration.

NCO CLUB

The squadron has recently opened a brand new NCO CLUB. It is a modular unit consisting of a bar and dance area separated from the kitchen and dining room. Meals are served most nights of the week and monthly Pot Luck Dinners are held here. The club is open seven nights a week and membership is open to all.



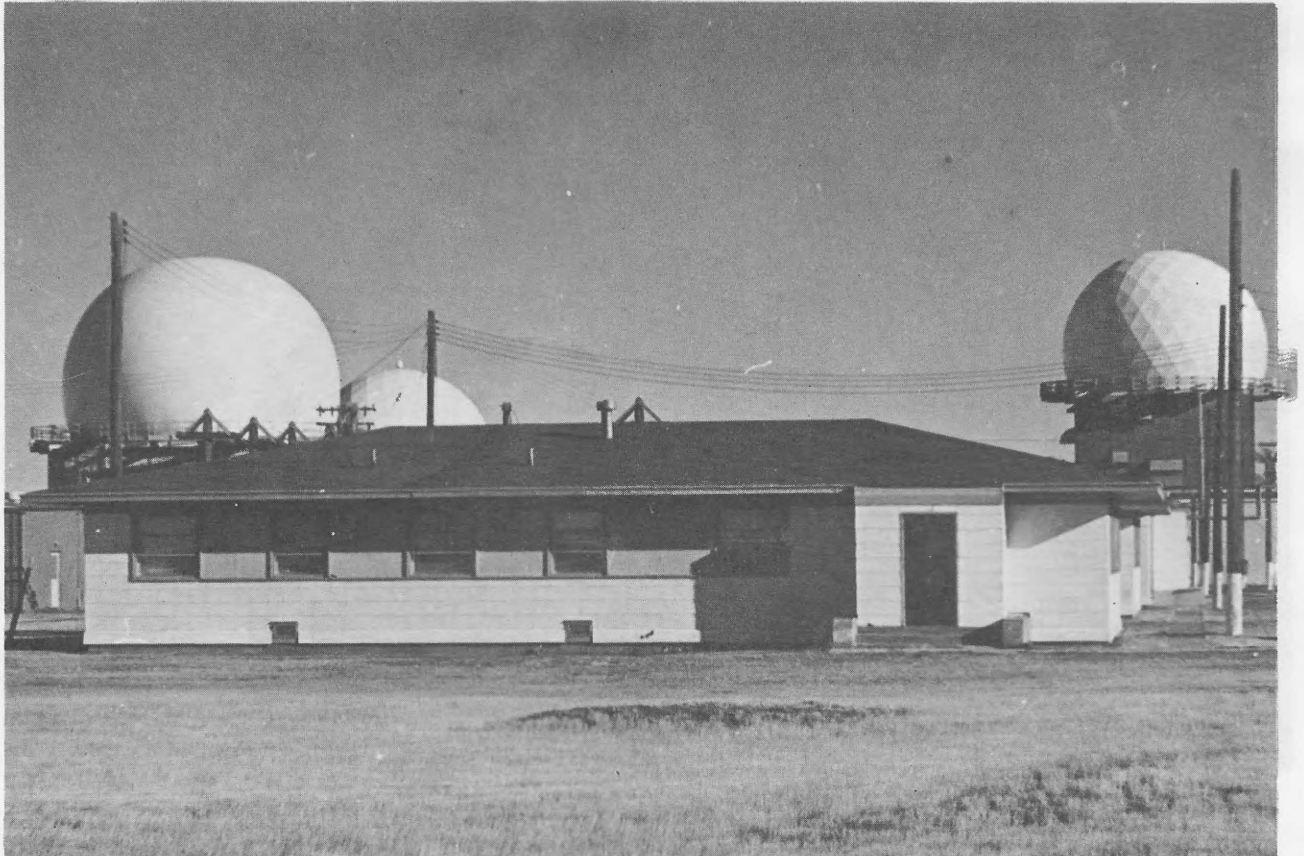
NCO Club

ORDERLY ROOM

The orderly room is located in the Headquarters building. All administrative work not handled directly by a specific section is done here. Personnel and administration are also housed in the Headquarters building. Some of the duties handled by these two sections are allotments, military pay orders, TDY orders, assignment control, personnel records, postal services, maintenance of the publications, weekly bulletin, and forms management.

DISPENSARY

The dispensary is located in building 13. The dispensary consists of a waiting room, treatment room, pharmacy, medical office, and a dental operating room. It is staffed with two competent medical technicians to attend to your medical requirements. We have a contract physician located in Glasgow, MT, which is located 55 miles south of the station. Patients who require care beyond the capabilities of the medical technicians are referred to this physician. We have a mobile dental team who visit the station twice every quarter and stay for a two week period to attend the needs of our military. Dental care for dependents is on a space available basis.



Dispensary

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Although this is a small and isolated organization, every possible support function is represented.

STATION EXCHANGE

As you walk through our small store, you will notice we are very well stocked with all sorts of items. We can fill almost every need you have, from light housekeeping items to stereo components to vacuum sweepers. We also have a great variety of drugs and cosmetics. We carry barbecue equipment, fishing gear, and hunting equipment for the outdoorsman. If you don't see what you need chances are that we can special order the item.



STATION EXCHANGE SERVICE STATION

This organization has one of the only site service stations in the Air Force. Besides gasoline, we carry a full line of retail items; and anything you need that is not in our inventory can be special ordered if it is available through the exchange system.



STATION COMMISSARY

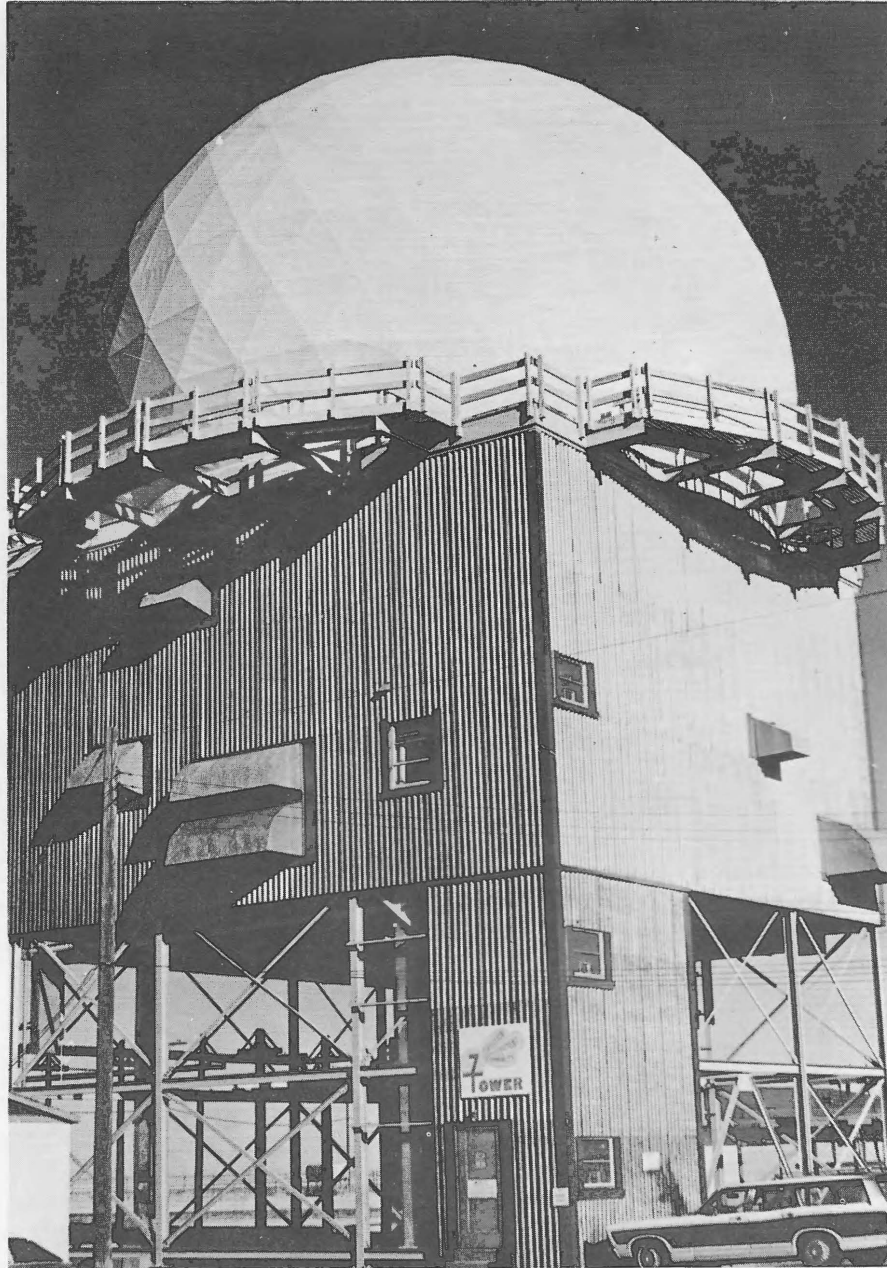
Although our commissary is small by base standards, it is well stocked and will meet most of your needs. It has an inventory of some \$26,000.00 and a monthly sales average of \$15,000.00. Additional items may be obtained if available from our servicing commissary at Minot AFB.



COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE

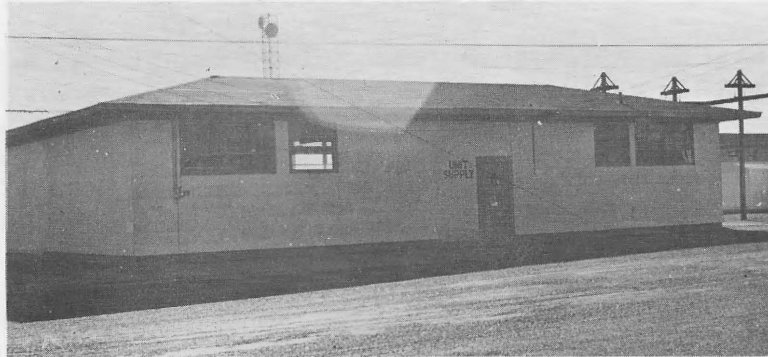
The primary function of the Communications and Electronic Section is to maintain installed Communications and Electronic equipment to provide Air Surveillance, Height Determination Data, and Ground to Air Communications within our area of coverage to the 24th NORAD Region Control Center, located at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

To accomplish this function, the maintenance organization includes the GATR, Search, Height and Computer production workcenters. In addition to the production workcenters, Quality Control and Maintenance Control workcenters provide the required management and support functions. The Maintenance Control Workcenter operates the station telephone switchboard and performs Squadron Duty NCO functions during other than normal duty hours.



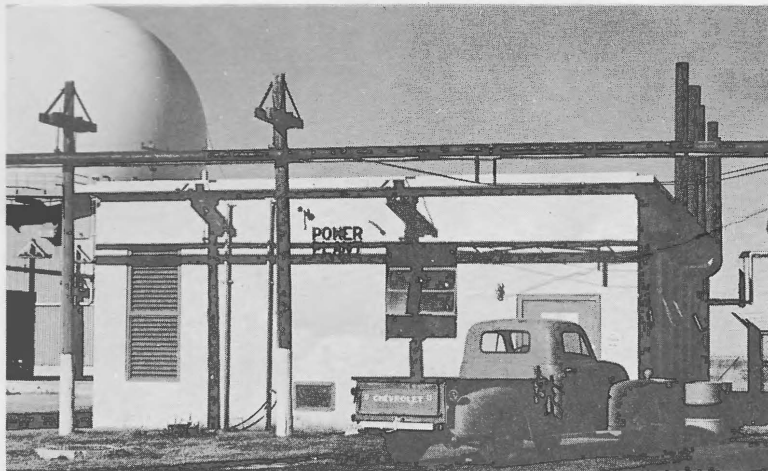
STATION SUPPORT SUPPLY

Station Support Supply procures, stores, issues, and returns all items of supply needed for the support of our mission. We provide individual housekeeping and office supplies to all functions on station. We also provide individual equipment and tool issue support to all personnel assigned. We make arrangements for pickup of household goods and delivery of hold baggage to our support base for subsequent shipment to its destination. We also operate Housing Supply and process housing assignments and terminations.



CIVIL ENGINEERING

Civil Engineering is in direct support of the welfare and well being of each individual living at Opheim Air Force Station. They supply the heat that keeps you warm in sub-zero temperatures. They supply the air conditioner that keeps you cool during the searing heat of the summer. They provide the electricity to protect you from the hours of darkness. They provide the cool clear, pure springs water that is available from your faucets. They provide sanitary sewer service to each building and garbage pickup service. They provide you with snow removal enabling you to travel under winter conditions. They provide maintenance on all buildings such as broken windows, plugged and leaking plumbing and squeaky doors. They provide all contract requirements such as painting and upgrading facilities to Air Force standards. They provide, through constant programming, such new facilities as the NCO Club, Bowling Alley and Swimming Pool. They provide proper monitorization for the protection of your personal property and responsibilities while you are assigned to this installation. All of these services and more are available to you free. There is no deduction made from your wages for this, and they are accomplished for you with a friendly smile and attitude which exceeds all Air Force standards.



FOOD SERVICE

The dining hall has replaced the Mess Hall at our station. Although it still procures, stores, and prepares wholesome and nutritious food in essentially the same manner, the atmosphere has changed. The panelled, carpeted, draperied dining hall is the showcase of this organization. Four meals a day are served and a box-lunch service is offered. Dependents of assigned personnel are permitted to eat in the dining hall while they are in a transient status and on special occasions The Officers and NCO's enjoy the privacy of a separate dining area.



Dining Hall



EDUCATION

There are many ways available at this station to further your education. You have USAFI, ECI, and GED available, plus the opportunity to participate in a full time resident high school program at Opheim High School. College courses are held throughout the year on station. For further information on any of these programs, see the Education Consultant.

FAMILY SERVICES

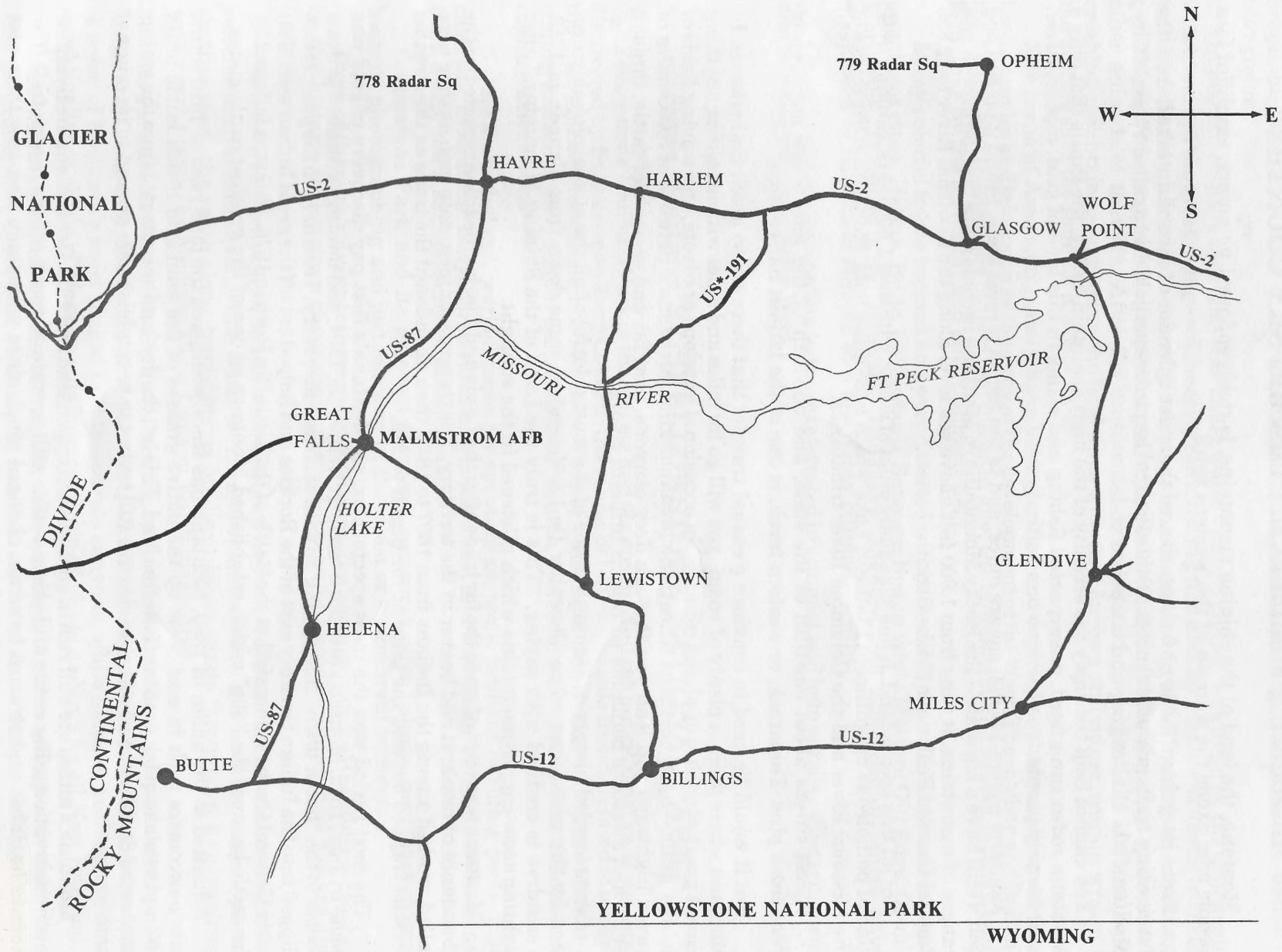
Family Services is set up primarily to help newly assigned personnel and their dependents to get settled in this community. The Family Services Officer maintains a list of currently available brochures on other bases and stations for personnel. A wide variety of household items can be made available to those who are awaiting shipment of household goods. Every effort will be made to make dependents feel secure and comfortable. The Family Services office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in building 12.

OPHEIM MONTANA

The nearest town is Opheim, which is only 4 miles from the station. Opheim has a population of approximately 300. There are churches of many denominations to serve you: Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, and Baptist. The hub of activities for a 50-mile radius is the school, teaching from the first through the twelfth grades with approximately 400 students. It has a fine new gymnasium that is also used for many functions. Several service and fraternal organizations are active, the American Legion, Masonic Lodge, and Community Club. There are three bars, one general store, one beauty parlor, a post office, three gas stations, a volunteer fire department, one cafe, two hotels, but NO banking facilities. The people are independent in their frontier spirit. You've never met a friendlier group of people in your life. We are included in all their socials. The highlights are the spring rodeo, barn dances, potluck lunches, street dances, etc.

GLASGOW MONTANA

Glasgow, located 55 miles away, has a population of about 7,400. Glasgow can provide for almost all your needs. The Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital is in Glasgow with a competent staff of doctors and nurses. There is a large Federal Post Office, a full time radio station (KLTZ), a community newspaper (The Glasgow Courier), and a well-stocked Library which serves all of Valley County. Glasgow is well situated near transportation routes, being located on the Burlington Northern (AMTRACK) railroad line and U.S. Highway 2. Passenger trains arrive and depart Glasgow each day. There is also one eastbound and one westbound bus each day. Frontier Airlines is operating its feeder service through Glasgow. There is also a modern car rental service. Stores available are J. C. Penneys, several locally owned dress shops, men's shops, sport shop, a florist, and a bakery. -Also there are three supermarkets, a few hardware stores, furniture stores, drug stores, and also Sears and Montgomery Ward catalog stores, barber shops, and Woolworths.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

WYOMING

Introducing Montana "THE BIG SKY COUNTRY"

Montana, the land of the shining mountains, is richly endowed by nature, amplified by a people who exude the warmth of the western spirit.

From its golden fields of balsam root to the quiet splendor of mountain lakes, from the fascinating badlands of Makoshika State Park to the pictureque gold camp called Virginia City, Montana is a challenging and unspoiled state.

You cannot help but enjoy the serenity of the high mountain valley, the thrills that only a Montana rodeo can afford, unsurpassed fishing and skiing in this land of gold, copper, silver, and friendly people.

Montana covers 147,000 square miles, and is the fourth largest state. Stand it on end and you'd still have a big state—the Rocky Mountains in Montana include more than 50 groups and ranges of mountains. It runs from 1,800 feet above sea level along the Kootenai River to 12,850 feet on Granite Peak near Cooke City.

Not all this area is land. It has 822 square miles of water, with over 1,500 lakes, ranging from glacial potholes to magnificent Flathead Lake which is 38 miles long. Montana is the source of the Missouri River and the Columbia River tributaries.

Forest covers about one-fifth of the state, and one-fifth of the forests are made up of Ponderosa pine. Tamarack, or western larch, is one of the largest native trees.

But it would be hard to convince a casual traveler that there are so much timberlands. In Montana where there is plenty of room, you will go for miles and miles without seeing anything except great stretches of plains country, an occasional antelope or coyote, and waving fields of golden grain—hard northern wheat, the premium kind. Montana's network of 5,000 miles of paved highways will lead you through deep canyons, past fat and sassy beef cattle, through weird and awesome badlands with their brilliant colors.

The recorded history of Montana is one of the most colorful of all the states, probably first seen by the white man when Chevalier De La Verendrye came down from Canada in 1743. Verendrye is credited with saying, "This is truly the Land of the Shining Mountains," after sighting snow-capped mountains which glistened in the sunlight.

Montana was opened up to the fur trade after the Lewis and Clark expedition reported on the abundance of muskrat and beaver in the territory. The trappers, or mountain men as they were called, worked among the Indians from 1807 to 1843, then abandoned the trade as the streams became trapped out and the price of fur began to fall.

The next period was the most spectacular, as Montana's first pay discovery of gold was made in July, 1862. Montana became a territory in May 26, 1864, and mining continued to draw people to the "boom town" that sprang up with each new discovery. Then in 1875 the prospectors slipped into the Indian territory east of the Rockies and helped set off the great Indian wars that led to General Custer's downfall at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. This was followed by the cattle boom of the "80s" which established Montana as one of the greatest cattle states.

Admitted to the union in 1889, Montana has since weathered the land rush of 1910 which saw newcomers rush in and plow up the native grasses of the semi-arid bench lands in an attempt to make quick profits off the free land. This left the dry land unprotected from the spring winds and State and Federal agencies are still trying to re-establish this ground to its original state.

Montana's mines are still rich in gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Her Indians are living on seven reservations. Big cattle and sheep outfits still operate, through off the beaten trail. The mountains, lakes and streams have not changed much since white men first saw them and primitive areas have been preserved where no roads have been allowed. Montana people are

hospitable and they offer their recreational areas to visitors and guests as the nation's playground.

In prehistoric days Montana was under water—later a portion was lifted by the upheavals which marked the great changes of the early eons. During this time Montana was a semi-tropical area and dinosaurs lived in the marshy swamps along the shore line. The mountain building period followed along with a climate change, bringing about extinction of the great reptiles and other animals of that era. After the continental ice sheet slid down from the Hudson Bay, crushing mountains and ripping the landscape with new furrows and ridges, erosion wrought the surface into the form as it exists today.

Few areas of American history have been glorified and depicted so thoroughly by stories, books, movies and television as the story of the development of the West. The cowboy and Indian, the hunter and trapper, the outlaw and the good guy, the buffalo and the beaver, have all been kept alive by the historical and entertainment field.

Many colorful towns boomed and were deserted within months; others lived on and became prominent cities. Helena, Butte, Philipsburg, Bozemen live on while Maiden, Gilt Edge, Gould, Marysville, Diamond City, Bannack, Landusky, Elkhorn and hundreds of others have disappeared or have been reduced to a few hardy citizens.

Ghost towns are fascinating to those interested in our past and help us relive the excitement and adventures of our early West.

Scenic Montana "YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK"

Yellowstone National Park is the largest and the oldest of all the national parks. It was first discovered by frontiersman John Colter in the winter of 1807-08, but his friends refused to believe the tales of the fantastic land he had seen. Twenty years later, Jim Bridger, a rugged Montana trapper and scout, gave similar descriptions of the area, and eventually explored the Yellowstone country extensively.

Nature's wonderland, world-famous for spouting geysters, brilliant bubbling pools, mud caldrons, mountains, canyons, streams and lakes, forest and waterfalls, Yellowstone National Park comprises 2,221,000 acres of scenic beauty.

Yellowstone Park and its adjacent Montana entrances offer fishing, horseback riding, boating, photographing and just relaxing in the midst of magnificent scenery.

Three of the park's five entrances are in Montana. The north entrance at Gardiner is reached by the historic Yellowstone River route through beautiful Paradise Valley and Yankee Jim Canyon.

The scenic highways lead to the west entrance at West Yellowstone, Montana. Along the picturesque Gallatin River, white water foams and sparkles below the towering canyon peaks. Farther west, the route along trout-famous Madison River winds through an awe-inspiring valley and passes the Madison River Canyon Earthquake Area.

The spectacular Beartooth Highway leading to the Park's northeast entrance between Red Lodge and Cooke City, Montana, climbs to nearly 11,000 feet in the Beartooth Mountains. Here is some of Montana's most rugged beauty—purple canyons, white glaciers, rushing streams, sparkling lakes, fields of glorious wildflowers, views of vistas as large as all New England.

Park wildlife includes buffalo, moose, elk, deer, antelope, Big Horn sheep and—favorite of all—the grizzly and black bear. Fishing is excellent in the park waters (no fishing license is required).

Congress established Yellowstone National Park on March 1, 1872, after the Washburn-Doane Expedition, headed by H.D. Washburn, surveyor-General of Montana.

At the Montana entrances, accommodations are available all year; accommodations are available in the park from about May 1 to Oct 31.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

The history of Glacier National Park begins with the Indians. The Blackfeet lived under the spell of the mountains; and although they regarded the mountain vastness with awe, even dread, they did enter this abode of spirits to fast and to cross to the Flat-head country to the west.

The park lies in a rugged section of the Montana Rockies and is named, not from the 60-odd glaciers of today, but because huge Ice Age glaciers carved its rugged scenery. Here two hundred glacial lakes in peacock blues and emerald greens stud the valleys or are set like jewels in rocky cirques, and many of these streams of crystal clear water offer good fishing (no fishing license is required). Fields of brilliant mountain wildflowers, cascading waterfalls, sheer cliffs, dense forests, inquisitive bears, friendly marmots and proud mountain goats make up its changing panorama.

Going-to-the-Sun Road, a spectacular 50-mile drive running east and west through the park, crosses the Continental Divide at Logan Pass and traverses the towering Garden Wall. Much of the park is accessible by auto and more than a thousand miles of horseback and foot trails lead deep into untouched wilderness. Some of the glaciers can be visited readily. Saddle horses are available; riding experience is unnecessary.

Warm sunny days and cool, starry nights are the rule throughout the summer. Early season visitors find waterfalls at their most glorious and mountain peaks still covered with winter snows. In the fall, deciduous trees display brilliant colors, high peaks glisten with their first white crusting of snow and skies deepen to a startling blue.

Going-to-the-Sun Road, open about the first week in June, remains open well into October. Year-around accommodations are conveniently located on the park's fringes. Accommodations in the park are available from about June 15 to September 10.

On May 11, 1910, this million-acre alpine wonderland was established by Congress as a national park and is the United States section of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

MONTANA OUTDOORS

A tour of duty at Opheim Air Force Station can be a memorable experience if you are an outdoor enthusiast.

Whether you thrill to the whirr of a ruffled grouse breaking from a willow clump, the bugling of a bull elk, or a tussle with a tacklebusting rainbow, Montana has something to offer. With a variety of fish and game that is tops, the sportsman can find almost anything that his heart desires.

But there is more than wildlife alone to attract the outdoorsman. Scenery is unequalled for breathtaking beauty, streams are clear and pure, and from the vast prairies of eastern Montana to the rugged peaks of the Western section, one can enjoy lots of elbow room.

This state has an area of 147,138 square miles. The far eastern portion is prairie and badlands and some rolling pine hills, and here are found antelope, deer, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, pheasants and turkeys, and warm water fish. This is also an area of fossil deposits, and the picturesque badlands from an interesting background for the hunter, fisherman, and photographer.

In western Montana, rugged, snow-capped peaks, rolling hills and broad valleys are the homes for elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, mountain goats and sheep, black and grizzly bear, rainbow trout, and other coldwater fish.

Elk hunting is confined to the mountainous part of the state and the Missouri River Breaks country. Elk are typically scattered in small bands which make up quite a good population overall, considering the large area involved. Hunting this heavily forested and often steep area often requires close range stalking and may involve considerable physical exertion. Early morning and late evening searches of open parks, slides, burned, logged, and blown-down places is a good system of hunting. Logging roads traverse much of the timber country, but snows can choke many of them off early in the year. Much of the rough country is accessible only by foot or horse.

Also, in the southwest and east slope area of Montana, elk band together in larger herds as they are driven from summer ranges by severe weather. In some spots, a high hunter success is quite dependent upon weather moving elk from highlands into lower, more successful foothills.

For the deer hunter who knows his business, most of the state offers excellent hunting opportunity. The range of the white-tailed deer east of the divide is the large river bottoms and mountains near Lewistown and the Longpine hills near Ekalaka. The best white-tail hunting is found throughout the northwestern portion of the state, particularly in Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Mineral and Powell counties. The white-tails are, of course, more difficult to hunt than mule deer.

Most of the foothill and slope areas along the mountains offer good mule deer hunting. As the mountains are topped and one moves west, the domain of the mule deer gives way to white-tail ranges. High mountain and back country hunting is also available, primarily by pack-in.

Forming almost a continuous mountain chain to the east of the Continental Divide are the Little Belt Mountains with accesses from Stanford, Harlowton and Neihart.

Black bear and its color phases (brown and cinnamon) may be hunted in Montana from spring through fall, according to current year's regulations. There are a good number of black bears throughout mountainous Montana, and their numbers are barely scratched by hunters. This species is a trophy animal and its meat does not have to be used.

Dogs are not permitted for use in hunting bears. This makes bruin a real challenge to hunters, for he is a wary and crafty prey. Bears are timber dwellers, although an occasional wanderer will drift into the open areas and even into towns in search of food.

Known as the "white bear" to the Indians, the silver tip or grizzly is called *Ursus horribilis* by the scientific gents.

Hunting of this species is restricted to regular fall seasons, except in areas where there is an early elk season. In such cases, the grizzly season coincides with that set for elk, but closes at an earlier date, usually mid-November.

Not many grizzly are killed because of their wary nature, but their big ham-shaped tracks can be found over much of the state's wilderness area.

Grizzlies are a true wilderness species and completely shun the activities of man and civilization. They live and thrive in the remote back country. Only Alaska, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho have any significant number of grizzlies.

Most bear hunting is, of course, in western mountainous areas. Nearly all of Montana west of the Continental Divide and the eastern slopes of the main divide offer black bear hunting. Some of the areas of higher concentration are the Swan Valley, South and Middle Forks of the Flathead, the Whitefish Range, the St. Regis River, Thompson Falls West, and the country around Libby. Side drainages of these areas are best because they cut through steep topography and afford hunters a good view of side hills. Hides are usually prime and suitable for trophies from early spring until mid-June, and from about mid-August until the bears hibernate.

Grizzly bear areas are more confined since they require a remote, wilderness type of home range. Practically all of the grizzly ranges lie within the Swan drainage of the Mission Range, South and Middle Forks of the Flathead, Sun River area, Upper Blackfoot, and the Cabinet mountains. An occasional grizzly is taken from the Absaroga country in south-central Montana. Grizzly seasons run concurrently with deer and elk seasons in the corresponding hunting districts.

Hunting for mountain goats is open in several areas. In one area there is no limit on numbers of goat licenses to be issued. Under law, nonresidents are limited to no more than 10 percent of the total goat licenses issued for limited areas.

Since goats habitually live in more precipitous terrain, the goat hunter should expect to do some climbing during his hunt and should take stock of his physical capabilities before heading out.

A nice goat cape makes an attractive and quite unique hunting trophy. Current regulations will describe all open areas.

Many hunters consider the Rocky Mountain Bighorn as tops among game animals, both as a trophy and as excellent eating.

Several areas are annually open to mountain sheep hunting. One or two large, rugged areas are open to an unlimited number of license holders. It is, incidentally, a difficult area to hunt, sheep are scattered, and hunter success has consequently been quite low.

Hunting is usually limited to taking rams with 3/4 curl horn. The number of sheep licenses which may be issued to nonresidents in any season is limited to 10 percent of the total number of licenses allotted.

Good physical condition and proper field gear are probably more important for hunters after sheep and goats than those after game animals.

There are a great number of good antelope areas in Montana, and competition for permits is keen over a large part of the state. The real antelope country takes in a large chunk of southeastern and east-central Montana. Because of the relatively sparse human population in southeastern Montana, and the large number of antelope, this area is the best to apply for, so far as chances of getting a license is concerned. The antelope are there too. This is, however, a long way from elk country and poses a travel problem for hunters wishing to hunt mountain country and to join the antelope hunt also. Thirty-five dollar nonresident's licenses are available only in the event licenses are left over after the general drawings in August. Each year licenses are available in several areas of Montana for moose. Most of the moose population is found in southwestern and northwestern counties. This majestic animal, largest of the deer family, has been a challenge to big game hunters all over the world.

Some of the best duck hunting is to be found in the north-central part of the state. Good duck hunting may also be found in the water areas in the mountainous portion of western Montana.

Among the puddle ducks, the hunter will find mallards to be the most abundant species in the state. Early in the season, canvasbacks, redheads and baldpates make up the bulk of the diving ducks found in Montana.

Canada geese or honkers predominate in Montana's wild geese population, and the beautiful snow goose is often found in large numbers through central Montana during the fall hunting season. Freezout Lake near Fairfield, Montana, is an exceptionally good area for snow geese. The white fronted goose can be found in huntible numbers in one area of Montana only. This is the northeast corner of the state near Plentywood.

Hunting seasons for both prairie and mountain grouse are usually opened concurrently. Seasons are usually in September.

Best sharp-tailed grouse hunting is found in the dryland wheat fields in southeastern Montana, in the breaks along the Missouri and in the rolling foothills of Judith Basin County.

Mountain grouse hunting is found in most mountainous country. Most hunters will avail themselves to roads to the higher ridges and then work out likely stream bottoms and ridges.

Specific information on seasons, dates and bag limits may be obtained after August 15 each year by writing the Montana Fish and Game Department at Helena.

Blue grouse are birds of the high-timbered mountains. They usually move into lowlands during the spring where they mate, nest, and rear their young. Autumn finds them again moving into highlands to high alpine parks and meadows and to the dark fir forests where they spend a great deal of time. The blue grouse is one of Montana's finest game birds and offers the sportsman a chance to get into the mountains during Montana's beautiful and delightful Indian Summer or early Fall.

Franklin's grouse is associated with spruce and lodgepole forests and is usually found near water. Only in portions of our northwestern counties and in some of the primitive areas can it be considered at all common. Its gullible nature has given it the name of "Fool Hen".

The ruffed grouse is a bird of the tangled alder and willow thickets that grow along most small stream courses in the western half of Montana's land area. Though it has learned the lesson of wariness from contact with civilization, it offers probably the best sport of any of the mountain birds. The flush is always noisy, and if possible, the bird will put some obstacles between himself and the hunter.

The sage grouse is the largest representative of the prairie game birds, with cocks averaging five and one-half pounds in weight. They were formally abundant in 15 states. At present they are found in 11 states and are hunted in eight. These are Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

The sharp-tailed grouse is the common species of the eastern Montana prairies and grasslands. They are plump birds, weighing up to two and one-half pounds.

These feathered missiles get away quickly, and during flight give themselves away by cackling. Like the sage grouse, they have their population ups-and-downs, but since they occupy a much larger range, they can and do stand greater hunting pressure.

The ring-necked pheasant supplies more hunting than any other Montana upland game bird. The species was introduced into our state as early as 1895, but it was not until the late 1930's that they came into their own.

In general, the pheasant is found in greater numbers along the stream bottoms and throughout irrigated valleys and benchlands below 4,500 foot altitude. Here the combination of long growing seasons, diversified farming, ditch banks, and marshy cattail bottoms provides the essential roosting, hiding and nesting cover as well as an abundant food supply.

The pheasant season generally is open on a state-wide basis during late October and early November for about a 20 to 30 day period. The better pheasant areas are the lower Flathead Valley between Polson and St. Ignatius, the Sun River Irrigation Project, particularly in the vicinity of Fairfield, the irrigated croplands in the vicinity of Conrad and Valier along the lower Yellowstone River Valley, the Milk and Musselshell Rivers and in other irrigated valleys in both eastern and western Montana.

Montana has two species of partridge—the Hungarian and the Chukar. The Hun has been hunted for many years, but it was not until 1959 Legislative Session that the Chukar was defined as an upland game bird. Hunting is allowed on Chukars, and they are found in limited areas.

There is no dove season in Montana.

In January of 1955, five tom turkeys and thirteen hens received from Wyoming were released in the Longpines area of Carter County, Montana. Through a trapping and transplanting program, a few imported turkeys have been expanded into several turkey flocks and their success has allowed the opening of several areas to hunting. Additional turkey hunting areas are opened as new flocks become established. Excellent turkey hunting can be found in the Missouri and Judith Breaks.

Montana's vast and beautiful outdoors provide fishing in abundance, not only in numbers but also in variety of fish.

With 20,000 miles of streams and rivers, six or seven thousand lakes and perhaps 75,000 ranch ponds and reservoirs, much fishing potential is provided.

A few of the nationally famous rivers include the Yellowstone, Big Hole, Madison, Missouri and Flathead.

Brook, brown, rainbow, cutthroat, mackinaw (Lake), Dolly Varden (Bull trout) and grayling are all found in the crystal clear waters. Northern pike fishing is fabulous in Fort Peck Reservoir while bass are taken in War Horse Reservoir.

Fort Peck Dam and Reservoir, located 18 miles southeast of Glasgow, provides recreation opportunities such as boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing and fossil hunting. The dam is the largest earth-fill dam in the world, rising 250 feet above the river bed, measuring 21,026 feet in length and 4900 feet in breadth.

The rock hound and fossil hunter will find plenty of opportunities in the Big Sky State. The Yellowstone River area from Miles City to the North Dakota line has produced tons of Montana agate. The dry wash coolies and tributaries, as well as exposed gravel bars of the Yellowstone, are the best agate hunting areas. Some agate hunters float the river scouting the prized stone in areas not readily accessible by car or foot.

Sapphires are found at the Eldorado Bar near Helena, the Ruby River near Sheridan and upper Rock Creek near Philipsburg. The famous "Corn Flower" sapphires were taken from the Yogo Mine near Utica. Millions of dollars worth of the precious stones were taken by placer mining, one of the few such operations for sapphires in the world.

Gold can still be found in many areas throughout the State. The gold rushes of the past are colorful pages of Montana History, however, a rush of people from all of the U.S. are finding their way to Montana bedrock to pan or sluice for the heavy metal. A nugget can be a fine remembrance of a vacation spent along one of the famous gulches.

Famous gold areas such as Helena, Bannack, Virginia City, and Diamond City have worked and reworked. However, enough dust and nuggets still remain to keep the modern-day prospector awake at night.

Garnets can be found in the Ruby Valley near Ruby Reservoir. This area also produces star sapphires. Opals can be mined at a commercial mine on the Idaho-Montana border. Favorite fossil sites are along the limestone bluffs in the Belt Canyon near Monarch.

The Teton and Marias Rivers upstream between Loma and Conrad are excellent fossil hunting areas.

The eastern part of the state from Fort Peck Reservoir to Glendive produces the ancient bones of prehistoric animals from dinosaurs on down.

Many Indian campsites and buffalo jumps make the Great Falls area an artifact collector's paradise.

Windblown ridges above the Missouri River often reveal artifacts left by ancient buffalo hunters.

Surface hunting for arrowheads, scrapers and tools is best in the spring before the vegetation begins to grow.