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# CUSTER COUNTRY

M O N T A N A

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Quarterly E-Newsletter April 2010

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Sample the wonders of Custer Country. Plan your dream vacation. Please visit our website at [www.CusterCountry.com](http://www.CusterCountry.com)



## CUSTER COUNTRY IN FOCUS

1

This month, I want to focus on Custer Country's most iconic location: the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Lt. Colonel George Custer is, of course, our region's namesake. While nothing matches the feeling of standing on "Last-Stand Hill" on a hot, muggy June day, you can still see in your mind's eye what was happening on June 25, 1876, as Custer's troops realized that they were out-numbered and out-maneuvered and that their situation was hopeless. Native American warriors had delayed the arrival of reinforcements and had U.S. Cavalry troops pinned down. You'll be able to look over the terrain and get a better idea of just what happened that day.

There are few places on Earth where you can experience history in such a way as you can there. The area known to the Crow as "Greasy Grass" is very much unchanged from the way it was 134 years ago. If you've never visited the Battlefield, this is a good time. It's uncrowded, there are Park Rangers who can fill you in on the events of that day, and you can visit the museum to view the many artifacts from the battle.

**THE TYPE RIDER**  
Review & Trip Planner

The TypeRider website is up and running! We hope you make TypeRider your go-to site for planning the perfect trip to Montana and Wyoming. This website is about real people – couples, families, and friends – who've had unique experiences on the roads and in the cities, on the water and in the saddle as they spent 2-5 days in this amazing area of the country. Bookmark this website, watch for what's new, and let us hear from you. Please visit our website at [www.thetyperider.com](http://www.thetyperider.com)





## GETAWAY

# 2

One of my vices is my love of dessert. My dad used to joke that dessert was “desert without the sand.” Don’t worry if the humor in that escapes you. It doesn’t always click. Nonetheless, I have had lots of chances to taste test some of the great desserts and sweet treats in Custer Country.

You can get great home-made pies at the Busy Bee Café or enjoy a frosty mug of root beer at the A&W, both in Roundup ( The Roundup A&W is one of the few places where they still mix their root beer on-premises, using A&W syrup, sugar and other ingredients.)

Ice cream is everybody’s favorite, isn’t it? Why not stop in at the Badlands Café and Scoop Shoppe in Terry? Their desserts are some of the best you’ll find anywhere. The Dizzy Diner in Terry is another great place to have some great home-made treats like cakes, cookies and pies.

The Discovery Pond in Miles City not only makes one of the best Reuben sandwiches in Montana (with locally-made secret dressing), they also feature about 20 different flavors of Montana-made ice cream.

I have personally undertaken a quest to discover the source of the best desserts in Forsyth. So far, I can’t decide on a winner. Fitzgerald’s, the Speedway Café and Top That Eatery all offer great treats to satisfy the

History is something that needs to be experienced, and a visit to the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is one you should put on your “to do” list. To learn more, visit their website at <http://www.nps.gov/libi/index.htm> or call 406-638-2321.



## DIRECTOR’S PICK

# 3

I recently spoke to a woman who has lived in Billings her whole life and admitted that it was only a few years ago that she finally visited the historic Moss Mansion, [www.MossMansion.com](http://www.MossMansion.com), even though she lived across the street from this one-of-a-kind residence that offers an impressive look into Billings’ and Montana’s early history. Everything from the original woodwork to the carpeting, drapes and bed clothes are period-correct. Standing in the elegant dining room gives you a feel of what it must have been like to be entertained by Preston Boyd Moss himself. Bone china, lead crystal and ornate silverware adorn the table as hired servants pour your drinks, serve your food and make sure your meal is absolutely perfect.

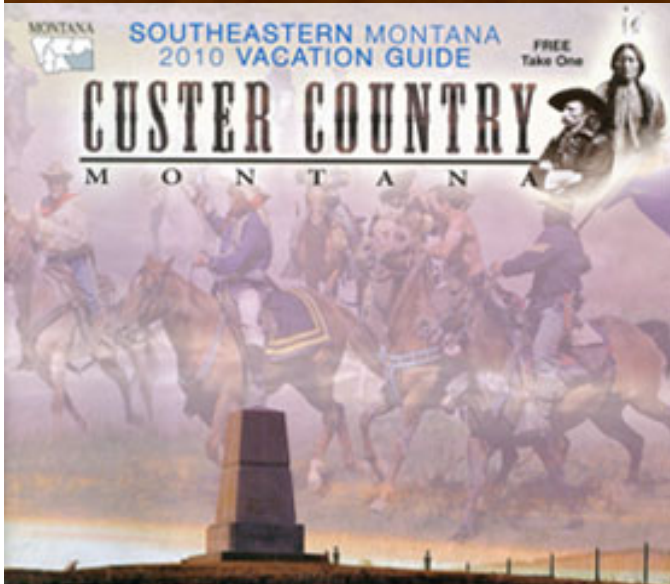
It really doesn’t matter what town you live in. I’m sure many of you have often passed by your local museum and thought, “I wonder what kind of things they have in there?” Meantime, folks from other parts of the country and even foreign countries are enjoying these facilities and learning more about our region’s history. Many of these museums have abbreviated hours during this time of year, but with a little effort, I’ve found it’s easy to get one of the volunteers to set up a personalized tour. Why not give it a try?



sweetest of teeth.

The Purple Cow in Hardin offers home-made soups and pies and you'll find it difficult to make your choice.

So get out and treat yourself to some feel-good food at one of Custer Country's great cafés and restaurants. You can always walk it off later as you shop the stores in some of the region's great towns, big and small. Watch for me. I'll be the guy with the triple-decker cone.



## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# 5

*Follow Your Dream Trails* is the theme of the free 2010 Custer Country Vacation Guide. As quoted in the guide on page 11, "If you want to trek across the terrain, across the rivers, feel the wind, and sift through the dust of some of the world's most renowned history and prehistory," then pick up this guide. The guide has laid out the network for you to follow your dream trail of Lewis & Clark to the crossfire of the Cavalry and Indian battles to Birding trails and Dinosaur trails. The trails lead you to wonderful farming/ranching communities for your grassroots living or to 'the Big City' for the largest performing arts theater between Minneapolis and Spokane. Highway 212 from Crow Agency to Belle Fourche, SD has been officially designated as the Warrior Trail."

As you are using the handy map of Custer



## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# 4

April means spring is here and Easter is upon us. Marshmallow chicks, jelly beans and colored eggs will soon be in evidence. Many communities will be sponsoring Easter egg hunts and other activities to commemorate the season.

Also on tap for April is the excitement of PBR Professional bull riding at MetraPark in Billings. The event takes place from the 23rd to 25th, and there is sure to be plenty of action and spills as 2000-pound snorting behemoths attempt to shake off 160-pound cowboys who are only hanging on by one hand and sheer will.

As always, there are more sedate activities in which to participate in April. There are quilt shows, symphonies, art exhibits and theatrical performances. To find out what's happening this month, check out the center calendar in the brand-new 2010 Custer Country Vacation Guide or go to our website, [http://www.custercountry.com/event\\_06.html](http://www.custercountry.com/event_06.html) to see the updated list.

This is no April Fool's prank; there's lots to do in Custer Country. Get out and enjoy some of them.

If you can't find a copy of our new guide, here are a couple of ways to get one. You can call 1-800-346-1876 or go to [www.CusterCountry.com](http://www.CusterCountry.com). Your copy will be on its way to you in no time.

Have a great Easter and a prosperous spring.

Country on page 4, take time to visit with local merchants. You will experience southeastern hospitality as stories are unfolding. Come and visit Southeastern Montana—the land where everyone waves and asks, “How are you?”

Renee Christiansen, Custer Country President.

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## Contact Information

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