

CB RICH INDUCTED INTO THE MONTANA COWBOY HALL OF FAME

C.B. Rich (1919-1996) was recently inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Class of 2015. See Seeley Swan Pathfinder story at <http://www.seeleylake.com/story/2016/02/11/news/honoring-cb-richs-story/529.html>

The Rich family extends their thanks to the Seeley Lake Historical Society for initiating the nomination.

NEW DISPLAY

A new display is being readied in the Seeley Lake Historical Museum. It is titled "Cabin Fever Cures -- Wintertime Pastimes."

Winters with deep snows and long nights in Seeley Lake have traditionally tended to cause restlessness from being in a confined area. Some get an unhappy and impatient feeling that comes from being indoors for too long. Others get extreme irritability and restlessness from living in isolation indoors for a prolonged time.

All these feelings are commonly known as Cabin Fever.

Over the past century winter residents have devised many ways to deal with this malady.

These days find people clad in snowsuits or lycra-wear while beeling or skiing to get exercise and vitamin D. Living rooms glow and blink from electronic games and television screens.

A half century ago Seeley Lakers had the same Cabin Fever maladies, but the cures were quite different. Family Puzzles and Games, Hand made brainteasers, woodworking, models, and all sorts of handiwork were the evening entertainment – often without benefit of electric lighting. Outdoor activities were blessed with plenty of snow and ice. Energy could be used pushing snow off the lake to create a skating area. Snowshoes and cross-country skis allowed exploration of the outback. Snow and gravity made sledding fun. Holes in the ice provided a pastime and an occasional meal. Families and friends talked.

Occasionally, something a bit quirky or unique would show up to help cure the Cabin Fever. One such cure was a combination ouija board, spin-the-bottle, and magic 8 ball. It was a “device that thinks” called a Mystiscope. It was touted to usually give unmistakably true and good answers to foretelling the future, and healing those mentally and physically ill. An answer book provided the answer for each number combination. An antique Mystiscope can be seen in the Seeley Lake Historical Museum.

The Seeley Lake Historical Museum now offers a display of several Cabin Fever Cures from yesteryear. Although the museum is only open by appointment from now until Memorial Day, a special showing of the display will be featured on Sunday, January 24 from noon until 5 pm. For more information, or appointment to visit the museum, email slhistory@blackfoot.net or phone 677-2990.