


EDUCATION NEWS

Bequest benefits Sneffels Foundation

OURAY — On Jan. 13, the Mt. Sneffels Education Association gratefully accepted a generous bequest from the estate of Herbert Francis Anderson, a longtime resident of Ouray County, who departed this earth on May 29, 2009.

Anderson was born in Pitkin, Colo., on Nov. 7, 1918, to Harry O. and Lillian V. Anderson. He attended schools in Santa Fe, N.M., and LaVeta and Antonito, Colo., and became a resident of Ouray in 1937 when his parents moved here.

Anderson never married and had no children. He was a decorated veteran of World War II and of the Korean conflict, having served for over 20 years in the Army Air Force and the United States Air Force.

He was a member of Ouray Elks Lodge No. 492, and, for many years, an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ouray and its choir. More recently he joined the choir at St. John's Episcopal Church, where he is remembered fondly for his booming bass voice.

"I knew Herb for over 30 years, and I think the bequest highly reflects the gentleness of the man," said MSEF board member Glynn Williams.

"He was a genuinely nice guy. I don't remember Herb ever saying a nasty thing about anything or anybody," Williams added. "We're still in shock about the generosity of the bequest, to be honest. But given the current (financial) situation with

schools, it couldn't have come at a better time."

In his will, Anderson asked that the foundation use his bequest "to further the educational opportunities of the students and graduates of Ouray County schools."

Attorney Robert Burns, the personal representative of Anderson's estate, said, "There were a lot of organizations he thought about, but he felt that making a donation to the MSEF educational endowment fund would be something that would go on and on. He was very close to the Tisdell family, and that in part helped him make a decision of which organization to make a contribution to."

Rich Tisdell, a Ouray attorney who served two terms (one as president) on the Ouray School Board in the 1980s and 1990s, became MFEF's founding incorporator in 1992, and served for several years on the foundation's founding board of directors along with fellow founding board members Tom Kenning, David Bachman, David Wood, Sheila Jaroff, Steve Arnold, Marlin Zwicky and Bob Conder. Tisdell passed away in 1999.

"It's a reflection of Herb's high regard for Rich Tisdell that he made this bequest," Williams stressed. "I know he was really really fond of both Rich and his wife Francie; honoring them was in the back of his mind."

MSEF's purpose is to improve the education of students in the public schools of Ouray School Districts R1 and R2, by involving the community in developing resources to enrich students' lives, broadening educational experiences, and helping to compen-

sate for the area's relative isolation.

Recent examples of ways in which MSEF has fulfilled its purpose include partial funding for the Ridgway High School Band's 18-day trip with Colorado Ambassadors of Music Europe Trip; "Bal-a-vis-x" physical application tools for learning (both Ridgway and Ouray schools); the Ouray School French Club's 10-day cultural trip to Paris; and the "Close-up" trip to Washington, D.C., by juniors and seniors of both high schools to learn about government and view historic places.

The foundation sponsors several fundraisers each year to raise the funds that are used to support these projects, including the upcoming MSEF/San Miguel Power Association Spelling Bee, which takes place Feb. 2 at the Ridgway Elementary School. Last October, the organization's annual live and silent auction raised more than \$40,000. Last December, the MSEF board granted more than \$27,000 in support of educational projects in Ridgway and Ouray.

"The foundation is especially grateful to our many friends who have chosen to support the children and educators of Ouray County with direct contributions and bequests such as Herb Anderson's," said board member Bill Stone. "With your help we will continue to fund programs that enhance the educational experience of our young people."

For information about MSEF, go to its website (mtsneffels.org) or call administrator Joan Chismire at 626-5726.

— Sun staff report