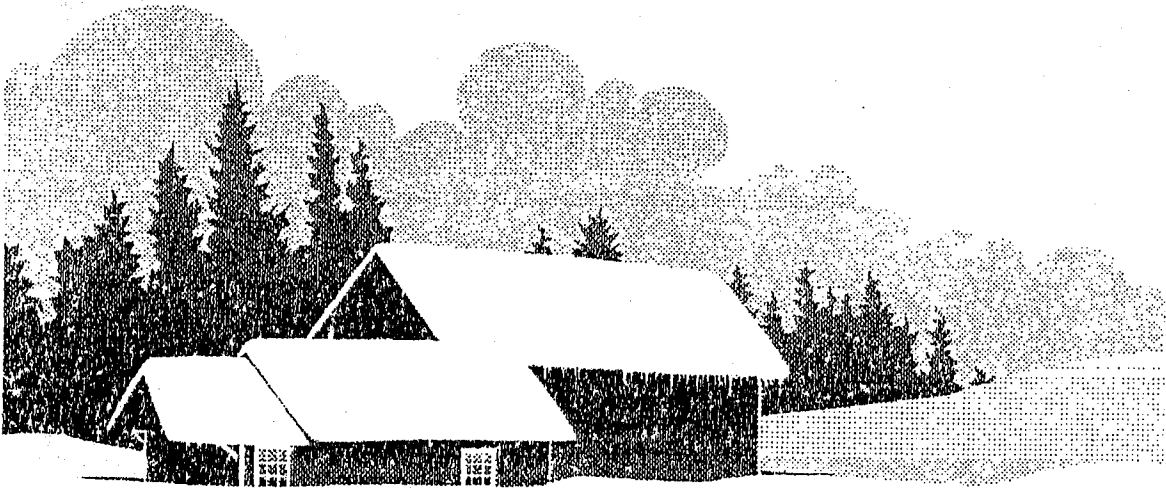


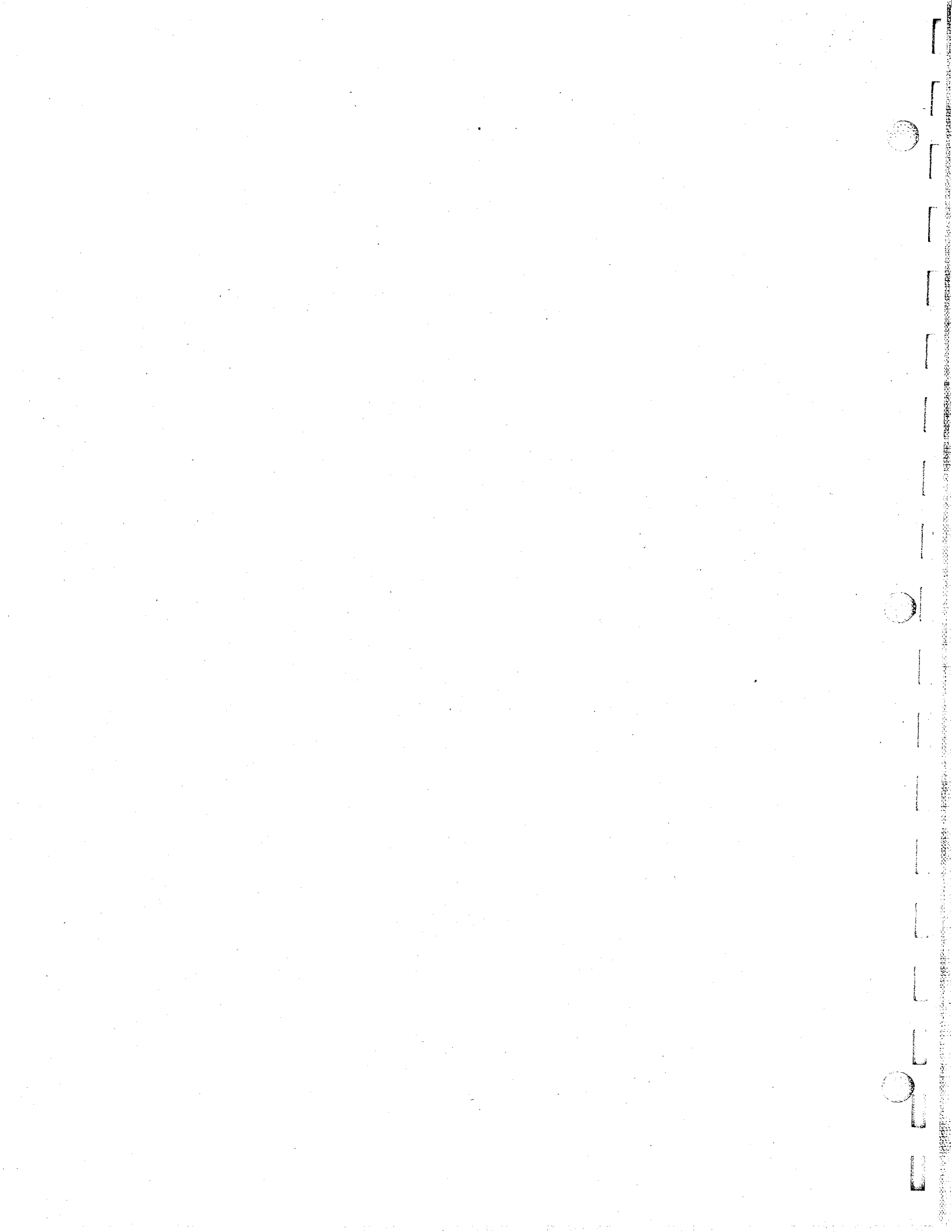
# THE CANYON PLAN

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FLATHEAD COUNTY MASTER PLAN



FLATHEAD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 1009A

ADOPTED MAY 17, 1994



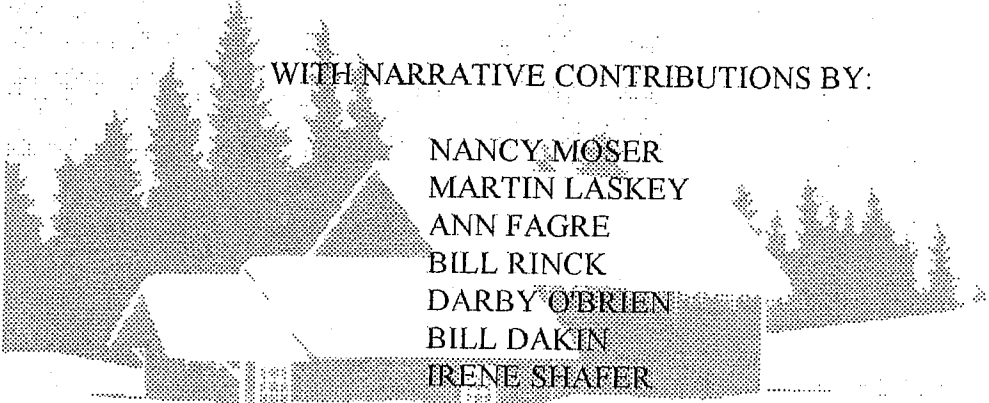
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PREPARED FOR:

THE CANYON CITIZEN INITIATED ZONING GROUP

WITH NARRATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

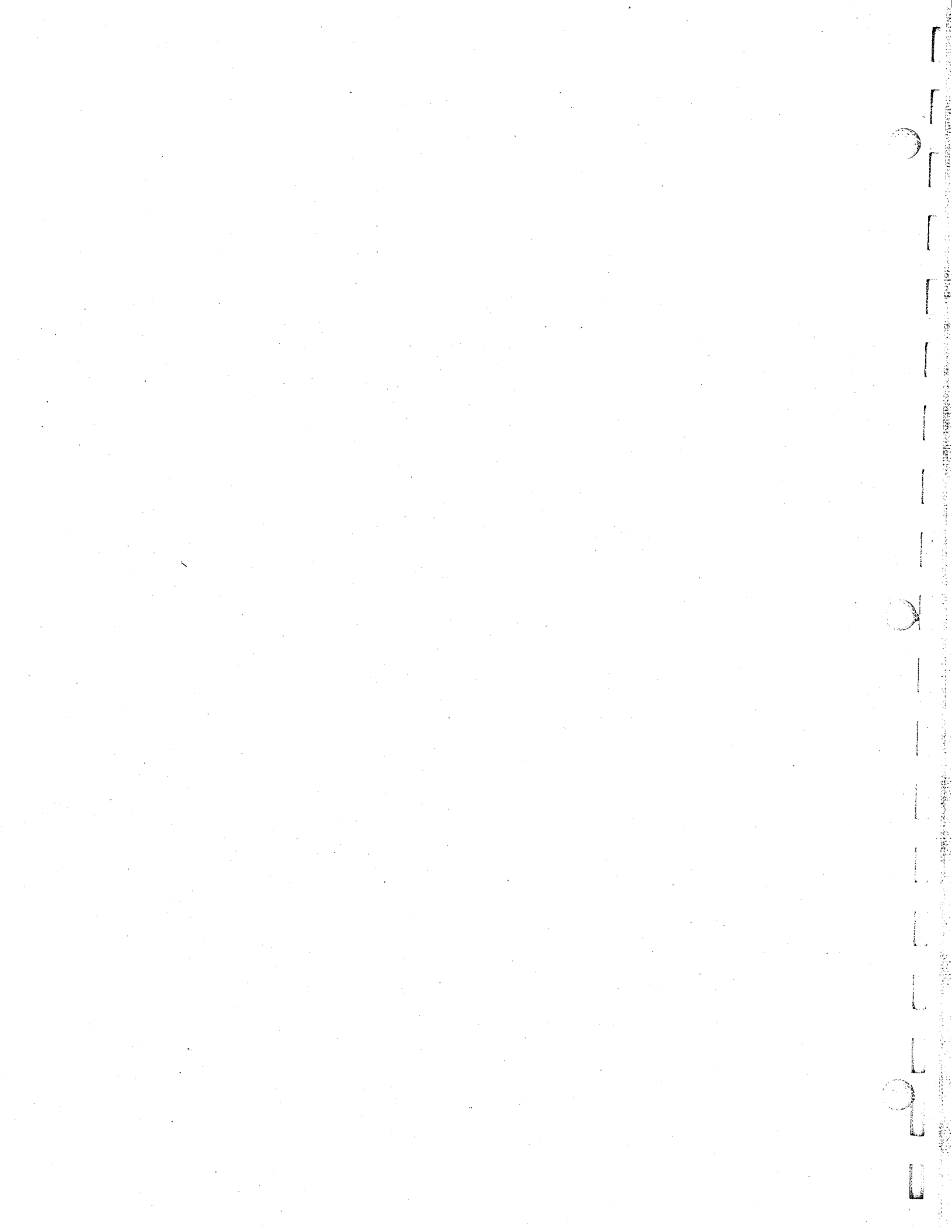


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*Preface*  
**THE CANYON PLAN**

---

TODAY I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU ON A ROAD TRIP--ABOUT 30 MILES "UP THE LINE" TO THE INFAMOUS CANYON AREA.

NOW SOME WHO ARE NEW TO THE VALLEY ARE PROBABLY QUESTIONING "WHY INFAMOUS -- THAT'S A LOVELY AREA?"

AND THERE ARE SOME WHO MAY SKEPTICIZE, SAYING "ONLY IF WE'RE GOING TO THE PARK."

AH.... BE A SPORT....COME ON UP....SEE WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT.

OH--WE HAVE HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES UP THERE TOO--LETS CLIMB INTO ONE OF THOSE, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO SPEED THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

WHEN MY FAMILY FIRST MOVED FROM "PHILA" TO THE OLD SILVER TIP RANCH IN MARTIN CITY IN '71, LIFE WAS MUCH DIFFERENT UP THE CANYON THAN TODAY. OF COURSE, THINGS HAVE CHANGED ALL OVER THE VALLEY, AS WELL, OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS.

COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE COUNTY, WHAT WE LACKED IN CITY GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATION, WE HAD IN LOCAL LIVING COLOR.

I REMEMBER ONE OF MY FIRST WELCOMING EXPERIENCES....IT WAS A LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON--DURING SPRING BREAK-UP WHEN THE LOGGERS AND OUTFITTERS WERE LITERALLY COMING OUT OF THE WOODS.

I WAS SITTING AT THE DEERLICK BAR IN MARTIN CITY--CLOSE TO THE DOOR- WATCHING EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. THE PLACE BECAME A VERITABLE TOWN HALL, WITH WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMING TO MEET THE MEN WHO HAD BEEN UPCOUNTRY FOR WEEKS ON END. THE CAFE BEGAN BRINGING OUT FOOD, AND COUNTRY MUSIC ROSE UP FROM A GROUP OF MUSICIANS OVER IN THE CORNER.

I WAS QUIETLY THINKING OF HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE TO GET TO KNOW SOME OF THESE LIVELY, REAL, WESTERN PEOPLE!!

WHEN JUST THEN, ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS RODE THOUGH THE FRONT DOOR ON HIS DAUGHTER'S HORSE, SHAWNEE, AND SAUNTERED UP TO THE BAR--RIGHT NEXT TO ME!!

**I WAS IMPRESSED!!**

THE BAR MAID NONCHALANTLY PLACED AN ICE CUBE TRAY FILLED WITH BEER ON THE BAR IN FRONT OF SHAWNEE, THEN AS SHE HANDED A GLASS OF THE SAME TO THE RIDER, CALMLY STATED "IF SHE....DEFECATES ON THE FLOOR, YOU CLEAN IT UP!"

MIND YOU, I HADN'T EXACTLY FELT AS THO I HAD DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN--BUT WHAT A PLACE TO LIVE!--TOTALLY UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAD EVER KNOWN, AFTER ALL,

I WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE, WASN'T I?

AND THE BEAUTY OF THE PEOPLE--NOT AT ALL PREOCCUPIED WITH THAT BUNK OF WHAT OTHERS MIGHT BE THINKING.

THESE ANECDOTAL MEMORIES OF THE PAST CAN HARDLY BE RELIVED, FOR TODAY WE ARE BEING FACED WITH A RAPIDLY CONSUMING INFLUX OF CHANGE.

BUT WE, THE CITIZENS OF THE CANYON, ARE TRYING TO PRESERVE WHAT LITTLE OF OUR PAST QUALITY OF LIFE IS LEFT.

PERHAPS THE NON-CONFORMING APPEARANCE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, AS WELL AS THE REPUTATION WHICH PRECEDES US, IS OUR ONLY SAVING GRACE.

IN JUNE OF '92, WE ORGANIZED OURSELVES AS THE CANYON CITIZEN INITIATED ZONING GROUP, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WRITING OUR OWN AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY MASTER PLAN, ON WHICH EVENTUAL ZONING WILL BE BASED. WE INCLUDED THE 70 MILES STRETCH FROM THE SOUTHFORK BRIDGE IN HUNGRY HORSE TO THE COUNTY LINE AT MARIAS PASS.

WE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY REALIZED OUR NEED FOR PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE IN NOT ONLY DEALING WITH COUNTY GOVERNMENT, BUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR FINISHED PRODUCT. WE SOUGHT AND OBTAINED FUNDING, AND IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR (1993) WE HIRED A PLANNER.

WE ARE ENGAGED IN A DESPERATE BATTLE OF PRESERVATION-- FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND OURSELVES.

SOME OF YOU MAY BE THINKING--GEE THAT CANYON REALLY IS A VALID COMMUNITY.

**I'LL LET YOU IN ON A SECRET--WE ALWAYS HAVE BEEN!!**

CCIZ PRESIDENT

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