

Exhibit No. 4Date 1-14-2011Bill No. SB 69

Legislative candidates sling roses, not mud

BY CHARLES S. JOHNSON
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA — Mudslinging and negative campaigning may have become the tactic of choice in American politics, but not in Harlem, Mont.

The two opponents for a House District 16 seat are practically tripping over each other to heap praise on the other.

Montana's longest-serving legislator, Rep. Francis Bardanouve, D-Harlem, left some observers slack-jawed at a political dinner in Havre earlier this month by encouraging people to vote for his opponent, Loren "Bum" Siffarm.

"I guess that's a first," the master of ceremonies, Rep. Ray Peck, D-Havre, was quoted as saying.

Since then, Siffarm and Bar-



Bardanouve



Siffarm

danouve have bought advertisements in weekly newspapers that go out of their way to praise each other, while still touting their own accomplishments.

The two men are seeking the Democratic nomination from the district, which covers Blaine County and part of Hill County along the line in northern Montana, east of

Havre. No Republican filed, so the Democratic winner will serve in the 1993 Legislature.

Bardanouve said he's run a few ads but has been preoccupied with ranching during the worst dry spell he's ever seen.

"I've been too busy trying to find water for my cows," he said in a telephone interview.

Siffarm said he's been running some ads and campaigning hard on the Fort Belknap Reservation and in Harlem.

Bardanouve, 74, a Harlem rancher who has served for 34 years in the House, where he has become a legend, seemed nonplussed over the fuss about his friendly campaign.

"I always say if you can't say something nice about an opponent, you shouldn't say anything," Bar-

danouve said.

Not that he's had to worry, Bardanouve, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said he hasn't had an election opponent from either political party in at least 14 years.

In a newspaper ad last week, Bardanouve discussed his own background but went on to tell voters they would have an "excellent alternative choice" in Siffarm, who has made an "outstanding contribution" to reservation education.

"I feel that he would be a credit to this district in the Legislature," Bardanouve's ad said.

Siffarm, 39, who is education director of the Fort Belknap Community Council and serves as president of the National Indian Education Association, had equal praise for

Bardanouve.

"He is a man of vast experience with an exceptional and distinguished record that is unparalleled not only in this state but probably in the country as well," Siffarm's ad said of Bardanouve. "No one should question his devotion and dedication to the state of Montana."

But Siffarm, an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre Tribe, went on to suggest that maybe the time had come for a change in legislators, given the state's fiscal problems.

Siffarm also seemed surprised at a reporter's inquiry about their campaigns.

"We've kept this pretty positive," he said. "I hope that it sets a tone for the rest of the state to follow. Maybe this would work for the rest of the state to improve communications efforts."

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5/3/11/12

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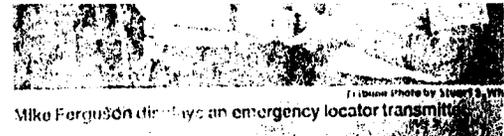
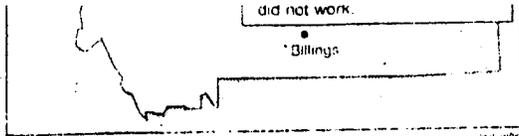
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A Gannett Newspaper

Tribune Staff Writer
When airplanes crash and lives hang in the balance, the emergency locator transmitters meant to lead searchers to the scene quickly often don't work.
"It is ludicrous," Mike Ferguson, longtime seaman for a Great Falls-based Aeronautics Division and veteran searcher, said in an interview last week. He's just finished nearly two weeks looking for two downed planes in western Montana where neither of the emergency locator transmitters worked.
Emergency locator transmitters, or ELTs, have an inertia switch that is supposed to be triggered by a jolt

such as a crash. Ideally, it then sends out a siren-like VHF radio signal, says Dave Rowland, an airplane mechanic at Holman Aviation in Great Falls who has installed many of the devices.
When ELTs work, searchers pick up the radio signal and home in on the crash site quickly.
"I've heard they work rather well," Rowland said, "unless they are damaged in the accident."
That, Ferguson says, is the problem. They don't survive crashes of

ten enough.
He cited a NASA study that shows emergency locator transmitters fail in three of every four plane crashes.
Of 3,467 crashes where aircraft with ELTs were destroyed between 1983 and 1988, the National Transportation Safety Board found that 1,631 ELTs did not work, 1,346 did



Mike Ferguson displays an emergency locator transmitter. Tribune Photo by Stewart B. Whit

Not just your average buffalo jump



Thurston Elfstrom sifts through dirt, rock and sediment at the Ulm Pishkun archaeological site for any remains of bones and artifacts left by Indians who used the site as a buffalo jump. Researchers now say the jump was among the largest pishkuns in existence, perhaps the biggest ever. Story on Montana, 1B.

Fire levels sawmill at Judith Gap
No damage estimate was available Saturday.
JD Lumber Inc. of Priest River, Idaho, purchased the mill last year after a previous owner went into bankruptcy. The mill opened in October following extensive remodeling and upgrading.
Just recently the mill expanded two shifts. All told, about 50 workers were employed in the mill, its woods and in log hauling.
Jeff Weymer, manager for Lumber here, said the company announce within a few days when it will rebuild.

Spotlight hits 'nice guy' campaign

By CHARLES S. JOHNSON
Tribune Capitol Bureau
HELENA — A story about two Montana legislative candidates slinging compliments — instead of mud — at each other has attracted national media attention, to their amazement.
The Associated Press distributed the Tribune's original story, run May 31, about the unusual campaign being waged for the House District 16 seat in northcentral Montana.
It told how Rep. Francis Bardanouve, D-Harlem, and his primary opponent, Loren "Bum" Stiffarm, took out newspaper ads praising each other while still touting their own accomplishments.
Bardanouve, 74, the state's longest-serving legislator, won by a vote of 915 to the 39-year-old Stiffarm's 606. Since no Republicans filed for office, Bardanouve will return to the Legislature for his 18th term.
Charles Osgood of CBS Radio devoted his daily program to the race Tuesday, Montana's election day.
As Bardanouve was heading out to do some ranch work Wednesday morning, the largest radio station in Los Angeles called to interview him for 10 minutes on a live talk show. The announcer told Bardanouve that "every once in awhile a story just jumps out at you."
Stiffarm, meanwhile, was interviewed by a radio reporter for the Mutual Broadcasting System.
"It kind of concerns me that some-

Ode to a clean political campaign:

Tribune Capitol Bureau
HELENA — Montana's "kinder, gentler" campaign for the House District 16 seat inspired Charles Osgood, CBS Radio's poet laureate, to compose some verse for his national radio show.
Osgood discussed the legislative race between Rep. Francis Bardanouve and Loren "Bum" Stiffarm on his program, "The Osgood File," broadcast Tuesday.
He speculated that maybe Bardanouve and Stiffarm are onto a new method of campaigning — praising each other, while still outlining their own accomplishments.
Osgood went on to poetically ponder the possibilities:
"Why you distinguished public servant you ... you really are the best.
"I want the folks to vote for me since you deserve a rest.
"Ah no, my worthy challenger ... although you'd do quite well.
"I do believe I really ought to stay here for a spell.
"I'm OK and you're OK ... We're both OK you see.
"I promise I will vote for you ... if you will vote for me."
Permission to quote the poem by Charles Osgood was granted by The Osgood File, CBS Radio Network. Copyrighted by CBS Inc. All rights reserved.

thing that is just what a person should do should receive so much attention," Bardanouve said. "It shows something about the level of politics in America."
Bardanouve said his philosophy has always been, "If you can't say something nice about an opponent, you shouldn't say anything at all."
Last month, shortly after the Los Angeles riots, Bardanouve, who is white, urged people at a Democratic dinner in Havre to consider voting for Stiffarm, who is an Indian.
"If you feel you can give 'Bum' a vote, it will make him feel we are not entirely pro-white," Bardanouve said. "America's minorities feel they are left out of the (political) process."
Stiffarm said Saturday he, too, was surprised by the attention and hopes the campaign will provide an example for others to follow.
Stiffarm is a Gros Ventre Indian who is education director at the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and president of the National Indian Education Association.
The positive news story about the campaign "made the Indian people feel good," he said.
Stiffarm said he had to leave for an out-of-state conference the day after the election, so he hasn't had time to congratulate Bardanouve yet. But Stiffarm said he looks forward to meeting with Bardanouve, pledging his support and talking about issues.
"I'm sure he'll do an excellent job as he always has," Stiffarm said. "But I may have to run against him again."

U.S. anchor holding back Earth Summit

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — It was to be the summit that would truly change the world, replace the Cold War with a Green against reckless exploitation of the world's natural resources.
Formal sessions of the United Nations Earth Summit were suspended for the weekend, giving negotiators their first opportunity to celebrate what they've accomplished so far.
Whether the summit will succeed depends in large part on United States, which has been criticized for playing what many see as the spoiler's role.
Sensitive to criticism from Republican Party's right wing, White House insists on increases without the agreement of its allies that environmental protection meddlesome regulation that cost jobs.
The United States has been willing to sign a treaty to protect world's threatened plant and animal species, and it has said it will sign a treaty to curb global warming after insisting that the agreement merely suggest — but not require — that nations reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.

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Legislating for a LIFETIME

Bardanouve reflects on career

By BOB ANEZ
Associated Press Writer

When Francis Bardanouve first walked into the Montana House of Representatives, Dwight Eisenhower was president, John F. Kennedy was just another senator and a 12-year-old boy named Bill Clinton was growing up in Arkansas.

Thirty-five years later, Eisenhower and Kennedy are dead, Clinton is about to lead the world's most powerful nation and Bardanouve is starting his 18th — and final — legislative session.

Reapportionment, the redrawing of legislative districts to reflect population changes every decade, is the reason Bardanouve won't be back.

His new House district has been reshaped to include the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation south of Harlem and the Rocky Boys Indian Reservation south of Havre. The resulting 59 percent Indian population of the district will ensure election of a tribal member to the next Legislature, he says.

Bardanouve, 75, is pragmatic about the end to his lawmaking career.

"People have rewarded me so well for so long, I can't ask for eternity," he says. "I can't ask for forever.

"I'm not leaving with any bitterness or anything."

BARDANOUE HAS BEEN A FIXTURE in the Montana House since his first session in 1959. His tenure has covered a third of Montana's history since statehood.

He is the second-longest-serving Montana legislator, after Dave Manning of Hysham, who died in 1990 after 53 years in the House and Senate.

A Harlem farmer, Bardanouve is shy talking about himself but bold when arguing against his greatest enemy — wasting taxpayer money.

He has been chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee for 10 sessions and can drop a shroud of silence over the House when he stands to speak.

Bardanouve admits some uncertainty about life after the Legislature, but at least he has a two-year term to adjust.

"I will have to think about it and get used to the idea," he says. "The Legislature has become a part of my life so completely. On the ranch I'll be out in the hills riding and I'll always be thinking about the government, the Legislature.

"It's a part of my system. I have always kept the Legislature foremost in my mind all the years I've been here."

Venus, his wife of more than 25 years, is more concerned about how he will cope, Bardanouve says. She has never known him except as a representative.

THE LEGISLATURE HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY in more than three decades. The first state general fund budget he worked on in 1959 totaled \$76 million. Today, it's \$1 billion.

Then, the Anaconda Co. controlled most of the Montana news media and environmentalists were unheard of. Government had no computers, women were seldom seen in positions of power and legislators had little staff. Determining the number of state employees was impossible.

"We did it all by paper, pencil and the seat of our pants," he says.

Although most of the 1993 Legislature are at least a generation younger than he, Bardanouve feels comfortable in his role as sen-



Rep. Francis Bardanouve will end his lengthy statesman tenure in the Montana Legislature, and not er legisla without a hint of regret. Ironically, the senior

ior statesman. What he enjoys is not sharing his wisdom, but learning from a different generation or two.

"They have a younger, fresher outlook and I can learn from them," he says. "Each generation has different moral values, different social values and if you don't associate with some of the newer generation, you kind of get old and your mind gets set

BARDANOUE HAS NO TROUBLE pinpointing the low point of his legislative years. It was the administration of Republican Donald Nutter in the early 1960s while Bardanouve was in his second term.

Nutter's views on state spending clashed with those of Bardanouve. "He was ultraconservative with radical ideas for cutting state agencies and the university system," Bardanouve says.

The high point of his tenure is equally easy to find: 1973-75 what Bardanouve refers to as the "renaissance in Montana." That was a time when the Legislature had plenty of money to spend on government, improving institutions and schools in the process.

"We felt that we were getting things done," Bardanouve says. He is reluctant to talk of his legacy, saying former legislators are never remembered very long.

But he has a simple wish for people reminiscing about him: "The only thing I hope that people say is that I tried to be here and I tried to do my job."

Francis Bardanouve: powerful paradox

By JEANNIE CROSS
Gazette State Bureau

HELENA — When not fishing for dollars to finance state government, Rep Francis Bardanouve enjoys fishing off the west coast of Mexico and prowling Central American Indian ruins.

If Bardanouve's image as a Mexican fisherman seems incongruous with his long-standing role as chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, it is only one of many paradoxes that mark the Harlem Democrat and rancher.

A fiscal conservative, Bardanouve nonetheless supports progressive legislation in institutional treatment, environmental affairs and human rights.

A history and archeology buff, he never went to college.

DEAN OF THE HOUSE and veteran Appropriations Committee chairman, he does not consider himself a politician.

The "favorite person" of many House colleagues, he has angered others by bypassing the House leadership to choose Appropriations Committee members himself.

Yet he tries to keep anger, partisanship and politicking to a minimum in committee deliberations. The product of this session's committee is a \$1.2 billion biennium budget proposal that has just begun its path to adoption.

Bardanouve is the descendant of a Prussian Army bandmaster on one side of his family and of a French villager on the other. Representing the third generation of the family ranch, he farms 4,000 of his 11,000 acres and runs cattle on the rest.

As he ambles through House halls in muted suits and narrow ties — catching little but an orange for lunch — he looks the rural rancher. "But don't think he's a country bumpkin," cautioned one long-time Legislature watcher. "He's sharp, and he can stab you in the back."

BARDANOUE'S HARSH SIDE has gotten him in hot water even with supporters. For example, Bardanouve was warned by junior committee member to cease personal attacks after he had told Coal Board chairman Jack Cohn in a public meeting that he hoped Cohn would have a rough confirmation battle in the Senate.

But Bardanouve's harsh comments often are tempered by humor — and the humor frequently is directed at himself.

"Seniority and senility run very close together," Bardanouve is fond of saying. A representative for 20 years from District 3, Bardanouve has been on the Appropriations Committee since his first term in 1959, was its chairman in the 1965 and 1967 sessions and has been back in that job since 1973.

But he may be nearing the end of his tenure.

"I don't want to remain here so long I'll become an object of pity. I really mean that," he says.

"It bothers me that people say I'm one of the most powerful people in the House. I hope when I leave here this committee will go on and not miss me," he adds.

YET AT THE SAME TIME Bardanouve has exercised his power by grooming Rep. Carroll South, D-Miles City, to be his successor. He describes South, the Appropriations Committee vice-chairman, as "probably more capable than I

am." Although Bardanouve overshadows even his Senate counterpart — Matt Himsi, R-Kalispell — there was a time when Bardanouve was an unknown and not favored to win even a House seat.

Bardanouve says he won his first political race in 1959 against an incumbent state representative by 89 "sympathy" votes.

"People voted for me because they figured 'Oh, he won't get any votes; I'll vote for him.'"

And he's won without involving himself in the state or local Democratic central committees.

"I've attended rallies and party platform meetings and so on, but I'm not a politician," Bardanouve says.

HE HAS CHAMPIONED SOME unpopular causes, causes which might have finished a lesser personality.

Among his unsuccessful fights is the establishment of annual sessions. A member of the 1963 subcommittee which recommended annual sessions, Bardanouve has been urging them since.

He admitted that annual sessions might be hard on legislators who run their own businesses or are teachers. But, he says, "If I can leave my ranch one winter, I can leave it two winters."

Nor have all his budget cuts-won applause. Bardanouve received a pair of gold-colored flak, boots to wear to the 1976 governor's inaugural ball after he had proposed abolishing it on the grounds that it would be a waste of time and fuel.

Still, Bardanouve has persevered — through run-ins with



Francis Bardanouve, D-Harlem, dean of the House and veteran Appropriations Committee chairman, he does not consider himself a politician

Gov. Thomas Judge over who had ultimate control of the state treasury, through run-ins with colleagues over penny-pinching, through run-ins with House leadership over his choices for the Appropriations Committee.

Yet Bardanouve downplays those actions. As a result, his reputation is one of a fiscal conservative who is nonetheless sympathetic to the need for social services and convinced of the need for environmental protections.

Senate wrestles annual sessions

HELENA (AP) — Opponents of annual legislative sessions tried everything in the book Saturday to stall or kill a measure in the Montana Senate, but the vote they needed proved elusive.

Motions to amend and, later, to reconsider the day's action on House Bill 174 each lost by one vote, and a motion to delay consideration for a few days failed on a tie.

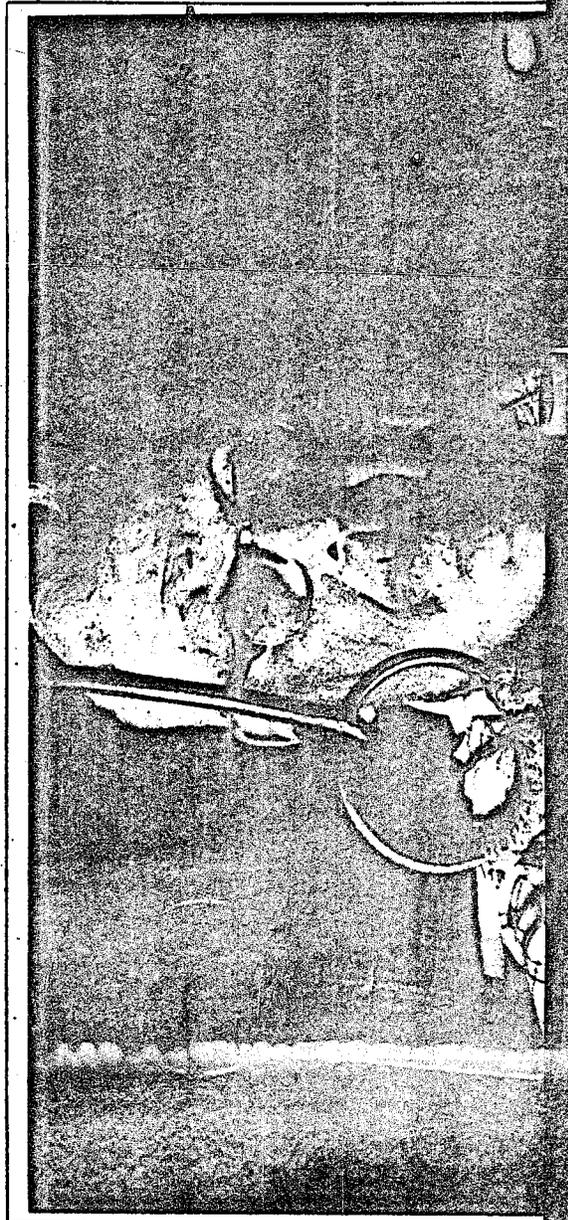
The motions came on preliminary consideration of the bill, which originally proposed a constitutional amendment providing for an annual 60-day session.

To get the constitutional amendment on the 1980 ballot, HB174 must receive a total of 100 votes in the Legislature. Backers said it received 59 in the House, so it needs 41 of the 50 Senate votes.

Sen. Pete Story, R-Emigrant, led the assault by moving to strike the committee amendments. Story declared frankly that he does not favor annual sessions and suggested that instead of amending the Constitution, legislative leaders could ask Gov. Thomas Judge to call a special off-year session as an experiment. If it works, he said, a constitutional amendment could then be considered.

Story's motion died, 22-23. Sen. Jean Turnage, R-Polsen, then tried to delay action on the bill until next week, which would give opponents more time to organize. The motion failed on a 25-23 tie.

Brown's motion to pass the bill was then approved, 23-22, in a meaningless show of strength — only the final Senate vote count.





MONTANA

Bardanouve was a one-of-a-kind lawmaker

By CHARLES S. JOHNSON
IR State Bureau

HELENA — If he hadn't spent the night at the Capitol, Rep. Francis Bardanouve usually showed up by at least 5 a.m. at the Legislative Fiscal Division's offices to begin poring over state budgets. The longtime chairman of the House Appropriations Committee also grabbed occasional catnaps, but he never was asleep at the switch when it came to guarding the state treasury.

"At one appropriations hearing years ago, Bardanouve appeared to have dozed off. An official from the School for the Deaf and the Blind in Great Falls, said the school needed money for a new snow plow. Bardanouve jerked awake and said, "We gave money for a snowplow four years ago. What's wrong with it?"

Bardanouve, who had served 36 years in the House, died Sunday after undergoing surgery for a colon growth. The Harlem Democrat was a true fiscal conservative but had a heart of gold for the underprivileged and the disabled. He championed efforts to improve Montana's neglected state institutions.

He was as kind, decent and smart a person as you could ever meet anywhere. I've covered dozens of legislators over the years, but Bardanouve stands out as my personal favorite. It had nothing to do with his politics, but every-



AP photo

Former Rep. Francis Bardanouve, D-Harlem, shown in this undated photo, a fiscal conservative who served as chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee for 10 legislative sessions, died at Northern Montana Hospital Sunday at age 84.

palate and underwent speech therapy and later married the woman who taught him how to speak better, his wife Venus, in one of Montana's great love stories.

Ironically, when Bardanouve gave a speech on the House floor, the chambers turned quiet so legislators could hear his every word, even if they didn't agree with him.

His legacies abound in Montana. In 1974, Bardanouve sponsored the bill that created the office of the Legislative Fiscal Division, which gave lawmakers for the first time a comprehensive, independent source of information on budgets and revenue instead of relying solely on governors' budgets. This office plays a

critical role protecting taxpayers and monitoring executive spending. Bardanouve also picked a promising freshman legislator to sit next to him in the front row of the Democratic side of the aisle in the House. All emerged wiser for the experience.

On the final day of one session, Bardanouve ferreted out an extra \$450,000 from the budget to buy some original Charlie Russell art he feared would be sold out of state. In an unprecedented move, he steered the appropriation through both chambers in a single day.

Bardanouve had encyclopedic knowledge of past state budgets that proved invaluable

Funeral set for Friday afternoon

IR State Bureau

HELENA — The funeral for former state Rep. Francis Bardanouve, D-Harlem, will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the Harlem High School gym.

Burial will follow in the Harlem cemetery. Bardanouve, 84, died Sunday after undergoing surgery on Friday for a growth on his colon.

Those wishing to send cards may send them to his widow, Venus Bardanouve, PO Box 367, Harlem, Mont. 59526. For those wishing to send a memorial gift, the family suggests the Memorial Fund for the benefit of Harlem and Fort Belknap, PO Box 367, Harlem, Mont. 59526.

able and he found ways to save the state hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Harry Fritz, an ex-Democratic legislator who teaches history at the University of Montana, said: "You'll never have that kind of influence again, thanks to term limits. Francis Bardanouve was the best argument against term limits there is. He was the institutional memory."

Pat Regan, a former Democratic lawmaker from Billings, recalled how she, like most freshmen, didn't really know what was going on the first few days of the session. She said she was being asked to vote on bills, but had no idea what they did. She asked some veteran legislators what she should do. "They leaned over and said, 'Watch Francis' (voting) button, and you can't go wrong,'" Regan said. She and many others did until they got the hang of the Legislature.

In 1992, Bardanouve had a primary opponent, Loren "Bum" Stiffarm, for the first time in years. People couldn't believe their ears at a Democratic dinner in Havre where he encouraged them to vote for Stiffarm. Then Bardanouve bought newspaper ads that went out of his way to praise Stiffarm, while still touting his own accomplishments. The race drew national attention because the candidates tossed praise instead of mud.

"I always say if you can't say something nice about an opponent, you shouldn't say anything," said Bardanouve, who, of course, went on to win.

Charles Johnson is chief of the IR State Bureau in Helena and has covered Montana government and politics for three decades. He welcomes tips, suggestions and comments. His telephone numbers are (406) 442-4920 or 800-525-4920, and his e-mail address is cjohnson@qwest.net.

No nursing violations found at prison infirmary

By BOB ANEZ
Associated Press Writer

HELENA — A state Board of Nursing investigation, prompted by a report critical of conditions at the Montana State Prison infirmary, has found no wrongdoing by

ing bureau, said corrections have addressed all but a few minor concerns of his office.

None of the findings in the bureau's report were unusual, and none were serious enough for the department to take action against the infirmary's license.

sometimes lengthy delays for inmates seeking medical care or their prescription medications.

One diabetic prisoner had seizures for an hour before being taken to the infirmary because the only nurse on duty was away taking med-

weeks before his broken foot was diagnosed the treated.

The report found licensed practical nurses on duty alone, in violation of requirements they be supervised by a registered nurse. The staffing schedule during the seven-month period showed

CommunityCalendar

- TODAY IN HELENA
- East Helena City Council meeting, 7 p.m. at East Helena City Hall.
- Hensels/Lewis & Clark Consolidated Planning Board public hearings, 7 p.m. in the
- ry lecture series presented by the Last Chance Audubon Society and the Lewis and Clark Public Library, 7 p.m.
- Call Paul Johnson at 449-7060 for ticket and membership information.

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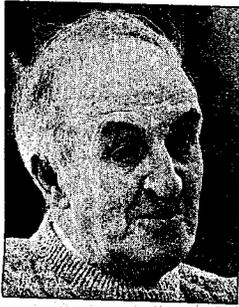
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Francis Bardanouve

'Stories' weave common thread through funeral

By JO DEE BLACK
Tribune Staff Writer

As some 400 family members, neighbors, friends and colleagues congregated Friday afternoon in the Harlem High School gym to bid farewell to Francis Bardanouve, it was apparent the life of the 84-year-old had been as broad as his endearing grin.

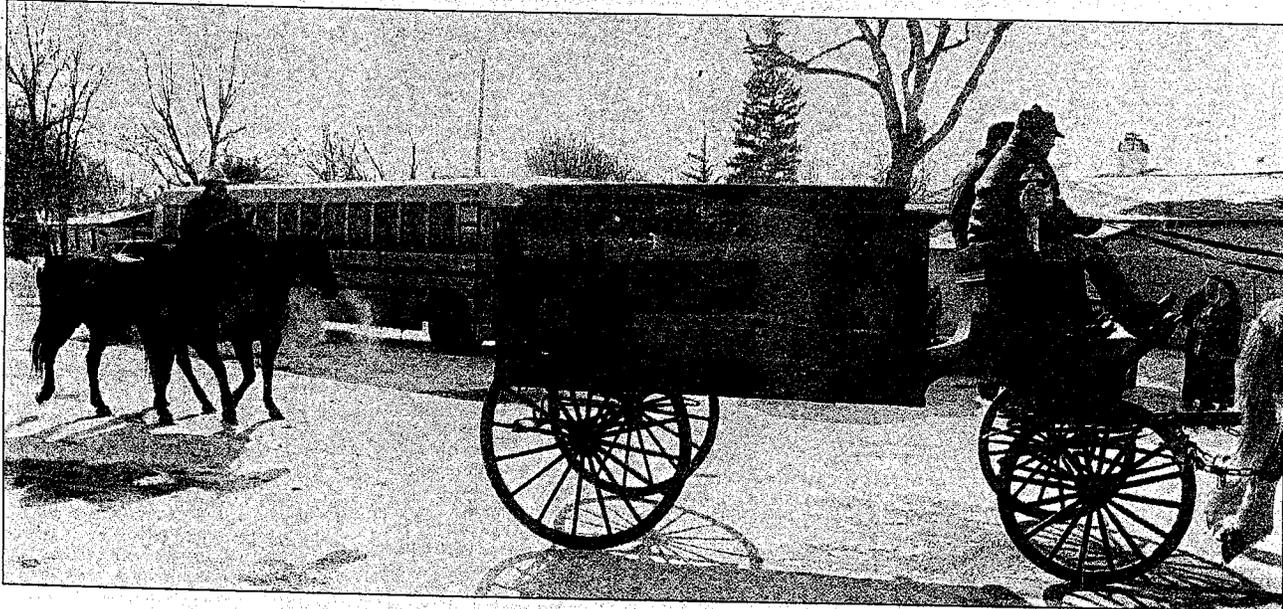
Mourners filed into orange bleachers and brown folding chairs in Wrangler jeans, silk cowboy neck scarves and Carhardt jackets, in suits and ties, in traditional Hutterite apparel and in white nylon jackets embroidered with symbols of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

Each had anecdotes to tell, their own "Francis" stories of experiences with the lifelong Blaine County resident who was raised on his parents' and grandparents' homestead north of Harlem.

Bardanouve died Sunday in a Havre hospital after colon surgery. The Democratic farmer and rancher, elected to the Montana House of Representatives in

See FUNERAL, 7A

Bardanouve honored by many



An antique, horse-drawn hearse carries the casket of former state Rep. Francis Bardanouve to the cemetery Friday in Harlem. Birm Strauser follows leading a symbolic riderless horse.

Tribune photos by Stuart S. White

Column
/7A

Bardanouve Post Office ready for Bush OK

By KATIE OYAN
Tribune Staff Writer

On the same day friends and family gathered in Harlem to mourn the loss of reform-minded Democrat Francis Bardanouve, the U.S. Senate made an official monument to his memory.

Thanks to a bill introduced last fall by Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., Harlem's post office is almost the Francis Bardanouve Post Office.

It will become official when President Bush signs the bill.

Bardanouve represented the Harlem area in the state House for 36 years, retiring in 1993. The post office is the only federal building in his hometown, population 900.

Representatives passed Rehberg's bill in October. It states that any reference to Harlem's post office in a "law, map, regulation,

document, paper or other record of the United States" shall call it the Francis Bardanouve Post Office.

"I had pleasure and the true honor of serving three sessions with Francis in the state Legislature, and I found my Democratic colleague to be a constant source of inspiration for new and old members alike," Rehberg said in a news release Friday. "I join all of Montana in praising the Senate's actions in honoring the true citizen legislator."

J.P. Donovan, a spokesman for Sen. Conrad Burns, said the congressman pushed Rehberg's bill through the Senate on a fast track this week. Members passed it by unanimous consent Friday afternoon.

"Francis was truly a great example of service to community and state," Burns said. "And I'm

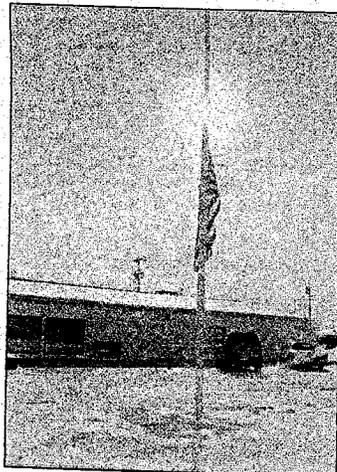
pleased to join my colleagues in both houses in honoring this great leader from Montana."

Sen. Max Baucus also supported the bill.

The Francis Bardanouve Post Office will serve as a constant reminder of the rancher and lawmaker's positive impact on Montana, he said.

Baucus described Bardanouve as a loving husband and father and a true example of the American dream. "He pulled himself up by his bootstraps and rose to one of the most powerful positions in the Montana Legislature as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

"I am honored to have known and worked with a man who gave so much to our state and never forgot his roots and always put Montana first," Baucus said in a release. "He will be missed by all."



The U.S. flag flies at half staff in front of the Harlem post office Friday, which is to be named after Bardanouve.



than just a legislator

stood Bardanouve and continued, year after year, to send him back to the House. "All of us owe you a tremendous debt of thanks," he told the Blaine County people in the crowd.

Another Blaine County legislator, Sen. Greg Jergeson, D-Chimook, recalled his first meeting with Bardanouve. It was 1958. Jergeson was seven years old, and Bardanouve was visiting Jergeson's parents during his first campaign.

"I didn't understand all of that (politics), but I did get a sense that this was someone important," Jergeson said. Later, Bardanouve encouraged Jergeson to run for the Montana Senate.

Bardanouve was elected after that first campaign and served his first term in the House alongside another freshman legislator, Ted Schwinden of Wolf Point, who later became governor. Schwinden was also best man at Bardanouve's wedding to Venus.

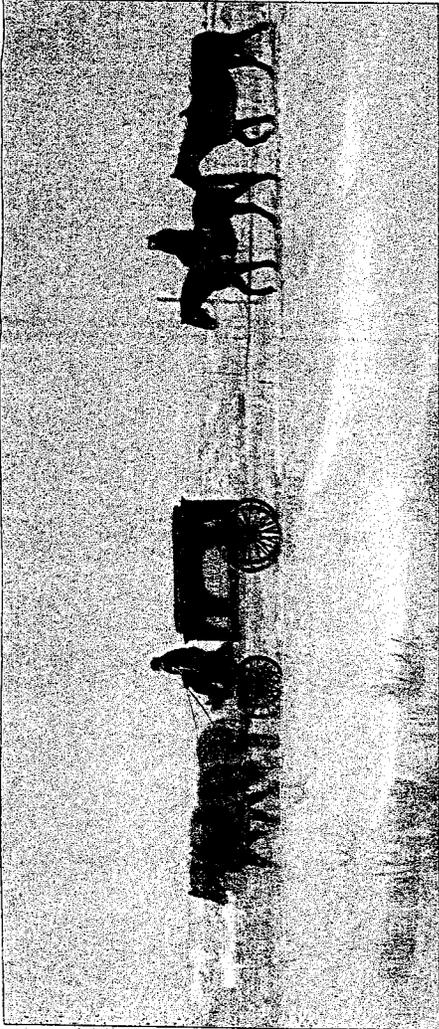
Schwinden sent a letter to be read at the ceremony, remembering Bardanouve as a great friend and the kind of man who could show up for an unannounced visit just before dinner and whose nearly new Ford could look like it had been rolled on a hill.

"If Francis had been the auditor reviewing Enron's books, there wouldn't have been a collapse," she said. Although he was best known for his work in the House, Bardanouve was more than a thoughtful and hard-working legislator, Cohea and others said.

He was "the most loyal, truest friend you could have," Cohea said, recalling his "sixth sense" for when a person needed encouragement or a stern word. State employees took handwritten notes from Bardanouve as "the highest praise they ever had," she said. Bardanouve was also the kind of man who braved fierce snowstorms during calving season, would stay up all night to help an animal stuck in the mud and "take you in his pickup and do wheelies in the field," Cohea said.

Another former legislative fiscal analyst, John LaFaver, said Bardanouve was often lonely during his time in the Legislature, wondering if anyone understood him. The care he took in spending taxpayers' money sometimes frustrated his fellow Democrats, and Republicans didn't appreciate his deep concern for the environment.

But, LaFaver said, the people of Blaine County under-



A horse-drawn hearse carries the casket of Francis Bardanouve into Harlem Cemetery after his funeral Friday in Harlem, while Bill Strausser follows leading a symbolic riderless horse to the grave site.

Montana remembers Bardanouve

The 84-year-old rancher served 36 years as a Democrat from Harlem, retiring in 1993 as the second-longest serving legislator in state history. He died March 17 after having surgery for a growth on his colon.

"On so many fronts, Francis made Montana a remarkable place with a remarkable, long-time former state legislator and 1992 Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dorothy Bradley,

who served with Bardanouve. "Montana is a more impressive place because of Francis Bardanouve — and also braver and more fun," Bradley said. Collages on display during the service showed Bardanouve as a child and young man on his family's Hi-Line ranch — often accompanied by horses, dogs and cats — and as an adult, with his wife Venus and their family. There were also dozens of photos of his years in the Legislature, including one framed color photograph of him napping on the steps at the front of the House floor, bearing the inscription "The Impossible Dream."

Bardanouve was known for his catnaps. The pastor of his church, Chuck Vanasse, recalled the first sermon he gave in Harlem and how he was dismayed to see Bardanouve sitting in the front row with his head down. After the sermon, Bardanouve asked a question that summed up the entire message.

"He was never asleep," Vanasse said. "He was always listening." Terry Cohea, a former legislative fiscal analyst, said Bardanouve was a great reader, interested in everything. The day of his surgery, she said, he had read two articles in Harper's Magazine he wanted to talk about. He was also a good businessman, she said, keenly aware of the intricacies of the state budget.

More BARDANOUE, page 10A

Longtime rep's former colleagues remember him as a kind, humble, principled servant

By ENICKA SCHENCK SMITH
IR State Bureau

HARLEM — Former state Rep. Francis Bardanouve was remembered Friday as a man of impeccable integrity, humility and kindness at his funeral in the Harlem High School gymnasium.

About 400 people attended Bardanouve's funeral, including dozens of current and former state officials, as well as a host of townspeople from Harlem and its surrounding communities.

Former Rep. JOHN MERCER served in the House of Representatives.

Former Rep. JOHN MERCER served in the House of Representatives.

On Bardanouve

"It is important that from time to time we honor individuals within the circles of our communities — those whose lives quietly reflect the best that all of us reach for. Francis Bardanouve is such a person.

"Public officials come and go, but, Francis, please know your deeds and service will remain forever engraved in the archives of our nation, the post office in your community, and the hearts of your family and friends."

— **Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont.,**
when he introduced a bill in Congress to name the post office in Harlem the Francis Bardanouve Post Office.

"He was an amazing man. Probably the most knowledgeable legislator in years.

"He drove an old pickup that had bits and pieces from various vehicles. He used to drive this old rattle trap ... with a hay bale and a pitch fork. How it made it from Harlem to the Capitol, I don't know

....

"(His death) is a huge loss."

— **Sen. B.F. "Chris" Christiaens,**
D-Great Falls

In 1991, when I first got to the Legislature, I only knew him by legend. I remember he was talking to a new group of legislators, and he told us, "You all be careful down here. This is a very seductive place. It does strange things to good people. Be true to your best instincts." It was one of the most valuable things I learned....

He was as common as a loaf of bread, the everything of life. It's what sustains us, what keeps civilizations alive, but it's the experience of every common man. That was Francis.

— **Sen. Eve Franklin, D-Great Falls**

Francis was a good man. He was tight fisted (as chairman of the Appropriations Committee). He was the consummate actor. He would act like the state was broke, and pound his head against the table.

He was a funny man, but he was very serious about keeping the state solvent.

— **Rep. Joe Tropila, D-Great Falls**

He was a man of great integrity. He had tremendous respect for education, and of course he was unparalleled in his ability to learn and digest numbers. ... He was a terrific Democrat right to the end.

— **Bob Ream, chairman of the Montana Democratic Party**

He made final decisions based on knowledge that he obtained based on all factors. ... I felt he reached across party lines and worked with all factions.

He used to sit on desk number one, right up front. They used to kid him about falling asleep (because he had his eyes closed. But then he'd catch you on something....

— **Dick Simpkins, former Republican representative from Great Falls**

Lawmaker honored for years of service

Bardanouve hailed for 34 years of work

BOB ANEZ
Associated Press Writer

Rep. Francis Bardanouve red his head and blushed Wednesday as he listened to a half-hour tribute from the Montana House commemorating his 34 years as a state lawmaker.

"It's almost overwhelming," he told legislators after hearing a tribute about his efforts during three decades in the House. "Whatever I have done is what I helped me do."

Bardanouve, a Harlem Democrat, was first elected to the legislature in 1958 and has served as chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee in 10 sessions.

He will not run for re-election next year because the newly drawn legislative districts prevent him from seeking his current seat.

Gov. Marc Racicot read a proclamation declaring Wednesday "Francis Bardanouve Day." The document lauded Bardanouve for faithfully and diligently serving the interests of the people in his district and the state. It calls Bardanouve a "living institution."

The House unanimously approved a resolution honoring Bardanouve's years of service and branding him "one of the treasure State's living treasures."

The measure cites his sense of fairness, willingness to listen and



Rep. Francis Bardanouve, D-Harlem, (at left) holds up a gift that was given to him, as former seat mate Rep. Bob Raney looks on. (Staff photo by Gene Fischer)

ability to make informed decisions.

"Francis Bardanouve has always faced the legislative challenge with energy, wisdom, keen wit and a dedication to the common good," the resolution says. "Francis Bardanouve has never sought personal distinction or reward, but has had his leadership

role cast upon him."

The resolution calls him a believer in equality, fairness and integrity, and adds, "The strong hands of Francis Bardanouve have played a major role in shaping the destiny of Montana."

Several former and present lawmakers who have sat next to Bardanouve over the years re-

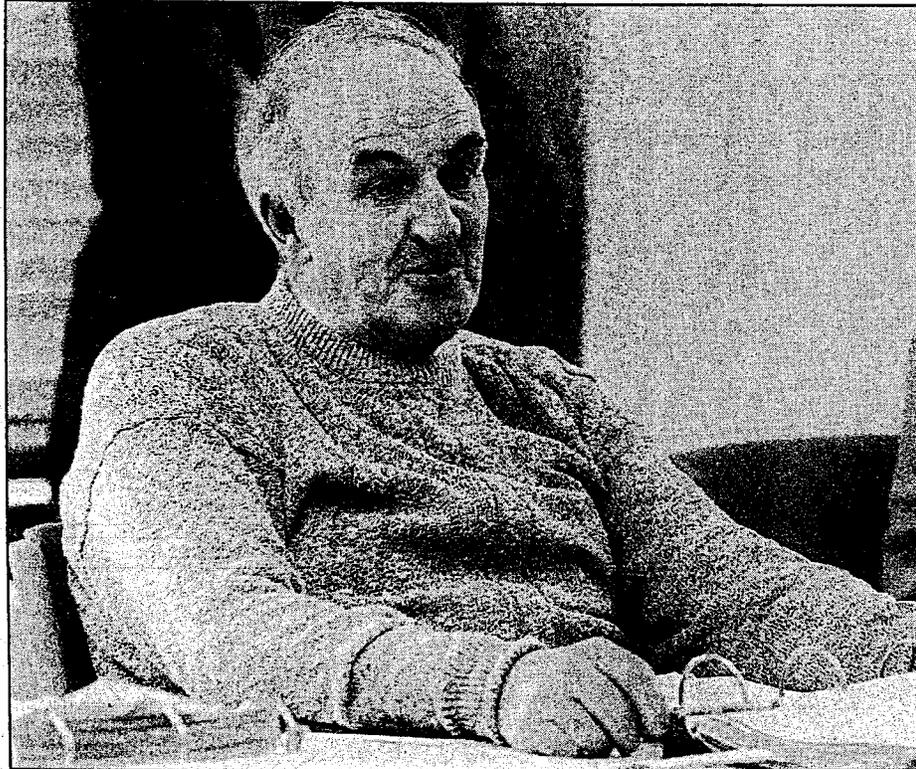
called their sessions with the Harlem farmer.

Speaker John Mercer, a Polish Republican who was 2 years old when Bardanouve first became legislator, advised him, "Take great pride in your accomplishments."

"This House will always belong to you Francis," he added.

LEGISLATURE

News tips? Call Tribune Capitol Bureau Chief Mike Dennison: office 442-9493, fax 442-9413 or at the



Tribune Photo

State Rep. Francis Bardanoue, D-Harlem, was honored Wednesday for his 34 years as a state lawmaker.

Legislature's 'living institution' honored for service to Montana

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"It's almost overwhelming," he told legislators after hearing praise about his efforts during three decades in the House.

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personal distinction or reward, but has had his leadership role cast upon him."

The resolution calls him a believer in equality, fairness and integrity, and adds, "The strong hands of Francis Bardanoue have played a major role in shaping the destiny of Montana."

Several former and present lawmakers who have sat next to Bardanoue over the years recalled their sessions with the Harlem farmer.

Speaker John Mercer, a Polson Republican who was 2 years old when Bardanoue first became a legislator, advised him, "Take great pride in your accomplishments."

"This House will always belong to you Francis," he added. "You're always welcome."

Bardanoue to retire

By BOB ANEZ
Associated Press Writer

Thirty-four years ago, Rep. Francis Bardanoue entered the Legislature with a Wolf Point farmer and fellow Democrat named Schwinden.

Bardanoue begins his final legislative session in January alongside another Wolf Point farmer, also named Schwinden.

In a tribute to his longtime personal and political friend, former Gov. Ted Schwinden, Bardanoue has asked that Schwinden's 36-year-old son Dore be his seat mate in the 1993 Legislature.

"It will be my last session," noted Bardanoue, 74. "I began my ca-

(More BARDANOUE, page 8A)



Bardanoue

Continued from Page 1A

rear with a Schwinden and I'll end it with a Schwinden."

Reapportionment will eliminate Bardanoue's House district in Blaine County after this term. But 167 miles east, Dore Schwinden has been elected to his first term just as his father was in 1958.

The younger Schwinden considers it an honor to sit next to Bardanoue. The longest-serving Montana lawmaker and 10-time chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Bardanoue is considered an expert on the state budget process.

"I can learn a lot from Francis," Schwinden said Wednesday. "I've known him since I was a kid. I can't think of any spot better to sit than next to Francis."

Bardanoue, a Harlem farmer-rancher, has fond memories of the elder Schwinden.

"He is probably my closest political friend," Bardanoue

said, recalling his 1967 wedding when Schwinden was best man. "We have had a relationship over the years that's been about as good as anything you could have."

In that first Legislature together, "I picked him out within a few weeks as a potential leader," Bardanoue said. "He had a natural ability to lead. He made good arguments on the floor; he was very knowledgeable. He had the ability to compromise and he was very honest."

Ted Schwinden, contacted at his winter home in Arizona, remembered equally well meeting Bardanoue in 1959. The men served in two sessions together.

"Francis and I hit it off right away," he said. "We were fellow Hi-Liners, fellow farmers."

"Here was a guy who brought the best in terms of ambition to the Legislature. He had no personal objectives," to climb the political ladder. "He wanted to be a conscientious legislator and a neighbor really close to the people who lived in Blaine Coun-

ty," Schwinden, who was governor from 1981-89, said his son is lucky to have Bardanoue take an interest in him. "He's very fortunate in being able to sit next to one of the best heads ever to serve in the Montana Legislature."

Great Falls Tribune
Sunday, February 17, 1991



"I want to be part of it and have an impact. I don't just want to be an elder statesman."



"I don't like deals. ...I feel like each piece of legislation should stand on its own merits."

prove other people's lives. One was Sister Providencia, a Great Falls nun who was always trying to better conditions for the poor and for Native Americans.

Then, there have been characters such as Turkey Joe. He was a state prison inmate who looked after the poultry at the prison farm and who, as he got older and senile, came to think of himself as a wealthy financier. When a bond issue for construction of new prison facilities failed in 1958, Turkey Joe told the warden: "Don't worry, I'll write you a check for it."

Despite his love for the people and the legislative process, Bardanouve said he realizes it is getting close to time to step down.

"I feel I can still do the job, but maybe I'm not doing it as well as I can," he said. "It feels like I'm nearing the end... I sometimes worry about it. I worry that maybe I should retire, that the others just tolerate me."

"I couldn't become just a figurehead," he added. "I want to be part of it and have an impact. I don't just want to be an elder statesman."

Bardanouve was disappointed prior to the session when he read a newspaper story that said some Democrats resisted his reappointment as chairman of the Appropriations Committee. The story, which didn't name his critics, said they were concerned that Bardanouve let meetings drag on longer than necessary.

Bardanouve later said he wished his critics had talked to him face-to-face rather than talking to the newspaper reporter.

Likewise, he now hopes other lawmakers will tell him when it is time to retire.

"If I have true friends, I think they will come and tell me it's time to fade into the sunset."



FATHER FIGURE — Rep. Francis Bardanoue, seated center, is literally and figuratively a father figure. He's the dean of the Legislature and currently is serving with four legislators whose fathers also were once his colleagues. From left to right, representatives Russell Fagg (son of Harrison Fagg), Chase Hibbard (Hank Hibbard), Dore Schwinden (Ted Schwinden), and Vernon Keller (Webster Keller). (Staff photo by Gene Fischer)

Dinner April 14 to honor dean of the Legislature

IR State Bureau

A dinner is planned in Helena on April 14 to honor Rep. Francis Bardanoue, D-Harlem, the dean of the Legislature who plans to retire after completing this term.

Bardanoue, a 75-year-old rancher, has served in the House since first being elected in 1958 and is completing his 17th straight two-year term. He served as chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee for nine terms.

The dinner, sponsored by the Legislative Alumni Association, is open to the public, according to one of the organizers, former Rep. Bob Marks, R-

Clancy.

The dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Colonial Inn, preceded by a no-host cocktail party beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 apiece. Marks said reservations must be made by Friday by calling Susan Ames in the House speaker's office at 444-4815 or Bobby Murphy in the Senate president's office at 444-4880.

Former Gov. Ted Schwinden, who began his legislative career the same year as Bardanoue did, will serve as master of ceremonies.

In addition, Marks said some current and former legislators from both political parties who served with Bardanoue will speak about the veteran lawmaker.

Journalists, politicians alike had admiration for Harlem legislator

Good morning, Great Falls! Journalists aren't supposed to admit they admire a politician. Our job is to keep them honest, not get too close. But I don't think anyone would be surprised to hear me say how much I admired retired state Rep. Francis Bardonou, D-Harlem, 84, who died last night after surgery to remove a colon tumor.

He was admired not only by this journalist, and most of those who covered him, but by politicians on both sides of the aisle.

"Francis," as he liked to be called, was an example of what a politician should be, a walking argument against term limits. His honesty was legendary, his instincts populist, his intelligence razor sharp.

He was a self-educated farmer/rancher with a speech impediment who rose to the most powerful position in the Legislature as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee which controls the money the state spends. He would talk about how he would ponder momentous state decisions by picking rocks in his field. There was always a standing invitation to join him.

Francis' days in the Legis-

lature were long and it was not unusual to find him very early at his desk munching on a doughnut after he had spent the night.

He squeezed that state dollar by making state agencies justify what they asked for and account for what they spent.

He liked to play "dumb" when quizzing bureaucrats and deflating them with razor sharp conclusions drawn from their own answers.

Along these lines his greatest legacy probably will be the creation of the office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in 1974, an office that acts as a counterbalance to the Governor's Budget Office. Until the office was created, the Legislature had no fulltime staff that could challenge the executive branch's spending practices. It effectively made our part-time citizen Legislature a co-equal branch.

But while he was a fiscal conservative he was a social liberal and championed the downtrodden, particularly those in state institutions. He traveled to all state institutions to familiarize himself with their operations.

Talk of the Town

Tom Kotynski

