

# Rural Montana

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*Ken Overcast,  
Montana writer, singer  
and storyteller wants  
to be a key player in  
preserving the her-  
itage of the old West.  
He is a trustee of the  
Montana Cowboy Hall  
of Fame & Heritage  
Center in Wolf Point.*

## Cowboy math

*(Montana + Cowboy = Heritage & Hall of Fame)*

**M**ontana trivia question: What's the difference between a horse and a horse blanket?

**Answer:** The horse's life.

Get it? Not if you were thinking of a saddle blanket, the square pad that goes between the horse and the saddle. A horse blanket warning, this story turns gruesome.

Moline is donating the items and more from his collection to the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center now underway in Wolf Point.

Moline is also a member of the board of directors of the



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ture of a horse  
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nket. Also a  
mitten.

They were a necessity for  
warmth when riding a buck-  
board in winter, according to  
Montana rancher Charles  
Moline of Brockway.

hall and center and an enthu-  
siastic promoter.

"Montana has a rich west-  
ern heritage," he said, "and  
this project will preserve it  
for future generations."

The 2003 Montana  
Legislature designated Wolf  
Point as home for the facility.  
Montanans from corner to  
corner, mostly ranchers and  
rodeo folk have come on  
board as directors, trustees,  
members and donors.

Ken Overcast, rancher,  
poet, songster, writer and sto-  
ryteller is a trustee from  
Chinook and a natural fit for  
the hall and center's mission.  
"I try to give people an  
appreciation for a way of life  
that made Montana what it  
is." His songs and stories

*Horse blanket, lined with wool and horsehide mittens that  
Charles Moline will donate to the hall and center.*

paint a vivid picture of that  
life. "If we don't preserve it,  
it will be lost."

The project will focus on  
Cowboys and cowgirls,  
rodeos, famous wild horses,  
Native American ceremonies  
and cultural life as well as  
the lives of early settlers,  
according to executive direc-  
tor Christy Stensland. "We  
have not visited with one per-  
son who said it could not be  
done," she said. "People want  
to know how they can help."

**Answer:** e-mail Stensland  
at [cowboys@nemont.net](mailto:cowboys@nemont.net) or  
call 406 653-3800.



Charles Moline