

BOZEMAN PASSAGE

Your Guide To Everything BOZEMAN!



The Evel Bringeth

By: Christopher J Thompson



Descending Homestake Pass into Butte Montana on a nearly cloudless summer day, Chris noticed a mist emanating from the abandoned mine shafts of Berkeley Pit. 'Evel is here to look over his hometown festival' Chris grinned, pulling into an open parking spot.

Walking through the crowds and the usual debauchery found at Butte Festivals, Chris also noticed many families bringing their small children to enjoy the various shows spread throughout Uptown Butte. These included Slam Dunk contests, BMX tricks and Extreme Trail Riding. Chris also discovered two staples had returned; the Wall of Death and the Sayers Production Freestyle Show.



The Wall of Death is, in essence, an enormous wooden barrel where spectators crowd the upper level to view bikes defying gravity by speeding around the side walls. Sayers Productions also disregard gravity by flying off a ramp twenty plus feet in the air,

all while performing elaborate tricks. Chris stepped past security, behind the gates, grabbing a prime spot for photography, between the ramps where the pinnacle performance was sure to occur.

The riders were announced and, first up was the Godson of Evel and owner of Sayers Productions, Kieth Sayers. As Chris listened a stunning blond approached and, surrounded by a film crew, leaned against the wall next to him. After the crew had departed, Chris smiled and introduced himself. 'I'm Christine' she smiled back. 'Great name! You're a pretty big deal. Why are the crews following you?' 'I am Evel's Granddaughter' she replied. 'OH! Another great name!' he grinned back. They talked a bit more before Chris excused himself to check out the rest of the festival.



At 7 that night, he headed to the Spanky Spangler performance Christine had recommended. Walking through the crowd to the fence, he stepped inside where six cars were painted white, standing on end in the center of the street. West of these was a ramp plastered with "SPANKY", between two men constructed the explosion. Chris sat on the curb to find the best shot of the coming excitement.

Suddenly, on the West end of the fenced area, a crowd gathered preparing something. Chris glanced down the street to see two individuals, covered in black suits and helmets, with their arms spread. It was announced this male and female would race the length of the block, on fire. Proclaiming this, torches lit the two and the race was on.

Just in front of Chris, both dropped to the ground and were extinguished, the woman winning the race. Just behind him a man burdened by thousand of dollars in rings called



the shots. 'Christine in 3...2...1' as Chris noticed Evel's Granddaughter walking up the ramp toward the American Flag, singing the Star Spangled Banner.

'O'er the land of the free, and the home, of the brave...' Christine carried the last line as two F-15 Air Force jets boomed over the crowds. Spanky warned up his car and when everything was in place he headed for the west end and aligned his car with the ramp. Crushing the accelerator, smoking tires propelled him toward his ascent.

At the end of the ramp his car was airborne and the explosion knocked Chris back. Quickly recovering, he watched as the car collided with the first car, sending the "Carminoes" toppling. Using a forklift to remove Spanky from his car, rescuers and press gathered around as Chris pondered the role of the "little person" standing next to him.

Two men assisted the momentarily debilitated Spanky up the ramp to speak, followed by a procession to honor Spanky and Evel, one member of the group being the individual Chris had been pondering. Each spoke, introducing themselves and giving props to Evel. Reaching the second to last person, the man introduced himself and explained he had gotten his start in stunts as Weeman from Jack-ass.

That night a fireworks show illuminated the debauchery, bringing another Evel Knievel Festival to a close. Plan your trip for next year now as spots fill quickly. Contact Butte Chamber of Commerce as you need to make the festival because you never know what 'The Evel' may bring.