

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at a Sentinel stories from 40 years ago

March 25, 1976

Wagon to start rolling to Valley Forge

The early morning sun rises. Seated high up in the front of his Conestoga wagon, buckskin fringe blowing in the breeze, Cottage Grove wagonmaster Dave Gastman calls out the order to begin another day on the trail.

"Eastward ho?" That is correct. Mr. Gastman, a Cottage Grove resident who has spent many months on a wagon seat, will soon be heading east with the Bicentennial Wagon Pilgrimage.

The bicentennial train is forming up right now in Ft. Laramie, Wyo. Mr. Gastman, with his American Heritage Wagon, will join the train before its April 1 departure date.

Plans call for the wagons to follow the Oregon Trail as far as St. Joseph, Mo., and then break up into smaller groups heading by various routes to Valley Forge, Penn.

July 4 is the target date. Once at Valley Forge, the wagons will be on display for two months.

"They figure around two and a half million people will see those wagons in the two months," Mr. Gastman says.

Those wagons will include an assortment of state wagons and MR. Gastman's, which has been recognized as the Lane County Wagon.

This week, Mr. Gastman loaded his wagon on a truck and headed for Sisters. He plans to look at some horses there and also hopes to shape his animals up for the planned trip.

"I've got one horse that is a

little too jumpy to go through towns yet," Mr. Gastman says.

When the animals are ready, Mr. Gastman will start for Ft. Laramie.

He will have to make about 50 miles a day to reach the rally point on time. So his plans call for riding the wagon during the day and then, when evening falls, carrying the wagon by truck the necessary distance to stay on schedule.

Mr. Gastman's wife, Lillian, a Cottage Grove elementary school teacher, will join him later in the trip after school is dismissed for the summer.

But two women, Debbie Davis of Lorane and Francis Milligan of Goshen, will accompany the 62-year-old wagonmaster. The two will help drive the wagon and operate the 28-foot support van that will be with the wagon throughout the trip.

"Both of the girls have given up good jobs to go on the trip," Mr. Gastman says. "But, then again, they'll never get this opportunity again in their lives."

Later on, the group will be joined by a Eugene couple, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Fergasun.

Mr. Gastman says everyone will share the work.

We're all going to be photographers and publicity men," the wagonmaster says. "We'll take long turns doing that."

Life on the trail will be like that experienced by the original pioneers, hardwork faces everyone.

"I'll have a camp outfit with the wagon and we'll camp out as

much as we can," Mr. Gastman says. We'll show pictures and go around and talk about the trip to schools and other places in the towns we visit.

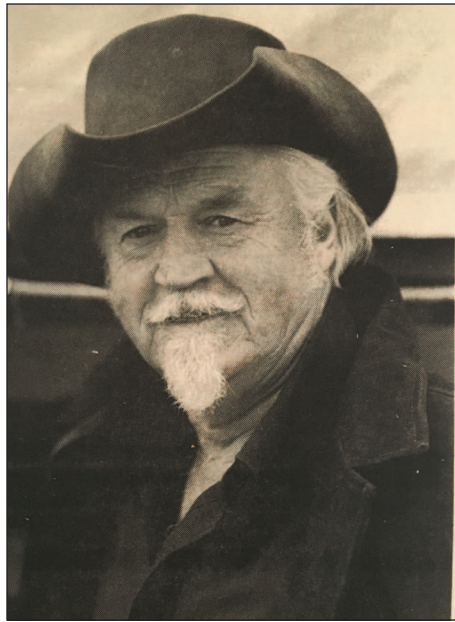
Also, members of the group will sell a special American Heritage calendar to raise money for the trip. The calendar shows a map of the wagon train's planned route and talks about the reasons for the trip.

Mr. Gastman also hopes to use this trip as a launching point for his plans to build an old-style ranch in this area. The planned ranch, to be called the American Heritage Ranch, is an old dream.

In the dream, Mr. Gastman sees the 200-acre ranch as a place where youngsters, handicapped persons and families could go to see how ranching used to be done.

The non-profit organization will feature a ranch, old-time town, fishing lake and other visitor facilities. But, most of all, Mr. Gastman says it will be a special place for handicapped youngsters to come and enjoy nature.

Mr. Gastman says money collected during the trip, as donations or from the sale of the \$2 calendars, will finance the trip. Funds in excess of the trip's costs will go into the planned



Dave Gastman

ranch. So far, Mr. Gastman is using his own money to finance the wagon trip. He says the trip will cost about \$1,500.

During the trip, Mr. Gastman and his party will entertain visitors to the wagon with stories of the trip. They will also show slides of Oregon, furnished by the state and Bohemia, Incorporated.

When the trip and display period is over, Mr. Gastman says he will truck the American Heritage Wagon back to Cottage Grove. The wagon will serve as a reminder of the planned ranch and as an inspiration to its owner.

"This wagon will be used on the ranch," Mr. Gastman promises.

CITY BEAT

From the City's Friday Update

Curb shopping, trash picking or street scavenging

The City said it has had a number of complaints regarding individuals rummaging through garbage cans on garbage days. Those rummaging remove garbage or throw out garbage from the can with no regard to the neighborhood in search for cans or bottles to be redeemed for deposit. Under state law, such trash picking is illegal. It is dangerous, typically results in trash in the yard or street and could also result in identity theft if other items are found in the trash. The City urges those who see anyone digging through any trash can or recycling bin to call the Police Department, even if it is not their trash can.

Scenic Bikeway Committee

City Manager Richard Meyers attended a meeting of the State Scenic Bikeway Committee in Madras last Wednesday and then on Thursday rode the Madras Mountain Views Scenic Bikeway. Meyers said the Committee rode the bikeway to determine any needs or issues associated with the Scenic Bikeway and to hear about successes the community has experienced as a result.

Meyers said that towns such as Madras, Metolius and Culver have experienced many of the same successes Cottage Grove has regarding the Bikeway and they are continuing to promote the Scenic Bikeway and enhance the tourism experience. The City Manager was appointed to the State Scenic Bikeway by the Oregon State Parks Department to represent cities from throughout the state on the committee.

Police Department training

Cottage Grove Police Department's newest officer Joshua Dumas will be attending the Department of Public Safety Standards Training Basic Police Academy one month earlier than originally planned. The CGPD was contacted this week by DPSST advising that there was an academy slot open in April. Dumas will attend April 18 through Aug. 12, 2016. He joins class No. 359.

Oregon drivers reminded to remove studded tires by Thursday, March 31

The Oregon Department of Transportation recently announced that it will not extend the 2015-16 studded tire season past March 31. Studded tires are allowed in Oregon from Nov. 1 through March 31 each year. The law allows ODOT to extend the studded tire season when necessary, but current weather forecasts do not support an extension this year.

ODOT is making this decision in cooperation with the Washington Department of Transportation, which is also announcing today it will not extend its studded tire season past March 31. (Both states have the same deadline.)

"Please don't wait until the deadline to remove your studded tires," said Luci Moore, ODOT Maintenance and Operations Engineer, "especially if you aren't driving in the mountain passes between now and then."

ODOT encourages drivers to consider other types of traction tires or chains to help minimize roadway damage caused by studded tires. A 2014 study concluded studded tires cause about \$8.5 million in damage each year to state highways.

Other types of traction tires are available. These traction tires meet the Rubber Manufacturers Association standards for use in severe snow conditions and carry an emblem on the tire sidewall of a three-peaked mountain with a snowflake in the center. Research shows these tires cause no more damage than standard all-weather radial tires, while providing better traction than studded tires on bare pavement.

Drivers with studded tires on their vehicles after the deadline can be charged with a Class C traffic violation.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

March 21

Suspicious Subject, Ash Ave.
A caller reported that two male transients were digging through garbage and recycle bins throughout the neighborhood and leaving trash and debris on the street. A second caller reported that the subjects were being verbally abusive to him down the road of the initial call. Officers contacted the subjects who were advised of the complaints and moved on.

Motor Vehicle Accident, N 14th St.
A caller reported that she just struck a bicyclist in her car; the rider was complaining of minor wrist pains. The officer contacted the involved parties where the cyclist declined medicals. A civil compromise was reached between the parties. The cyclist was advised that he failed to yield to the vehicle in the roadway and was riding on the sidewalk.

March 23

Intoxicated Subject, Main St.
A caller advised that a very mentally disturbed male was inside of a business throwing things around. The subject was last seen wearing a leather jacket and blue cap. The caller was unable to understand the subject.

Criminal Mischief, Row River Rd.
A complainant at the police department advised police that her vehicle was shot at yesterday afternoon (March 22) between 2:30 and 3 p.m. She told police that there is a bullet hole on the driver's side of her car above the front tire.

March 26

Suspicious Condition, Coiner Park
A caller advised police of a male subject wearing yellow pants was urinating in the direction of traffic. Officers

contacted the subject on 15th and Main St. and took him into custody for public urination; he was transported to the police department for processing.

March 27

Suspicious Subject, Gateway Blvd.
A patron of a business on Gateway Boulevard reported that a male subject was sitting outside the entrance sharpening a large hunting knife. The patron was concerned for her safety when exiting the business. Officers then contacted the subject, who was sitting outside to use the WiFi connection. Officers advised him of the complaint and is moving on.

Mental, Main St. Police Department
A man called 911 stating that he has found out that he is carrying a time capsule for the Illuminati and that he also talks to the president via images and can read people's minds. The caller also said that he has telepathy and his brain is carrying something he needs to pass down. The caller said he would be en route to the police department and was willing to go to the hospital for a blood test to prove that what he was saying was true. The caller never showed up and he never gave his exact location.

I would like to thank the doctors and staff for the excellent care I received at the Peacehealth Cottage Grove Community Hospital during my recent stay there.
Laurette Jones

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY March 31 44° 69° Sunny	FRIDAY April 1 43° 69° Sunny
SATURDAY April 2 43° 65° Poss. Showers	SUNDAY April 3 43° 63° Mostly Cloudy
MONDAY April 4 42° 57° Partly Cloudy	TUESDAY April 5 45° 59° Poss. Showers

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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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