

Sisters couple does New Zealand

By Rick Tobias
Columnist

Well, Beverly and I are recently back from a seven-month sojourn to New Zealand this past winter (their summer). Since Beverly is in a wheelchair she can't take the very long flight there so we went by cruise ship, departing Seattle last October. It was 5-1/2 weeks each way since the Holland America ship stopped at many Pacific Islands going and coming. The ship did the summer cruise season in the South Pacific, while we rented a house and car and stayed on New Zealand's South Island until time to catch the same ship home this past April.

Of course the cruise both ways was wonderful, they took such good care of us on the ship. We rented a house that was wheelchair accessible in the tiny village of Glenorchy (pop. 200) on Lake Wakatipu, surrounded by high, snow-capped

mountains all around. The people of New Zealand are so friendly and outgoing — and they love Americans. They were surprised and pleased that Beverly and I were there for the entire summer — right through Christmas and New Year's. Some scenes in "The Hobbit" film were shot in Glenorchy, where locals were asked to work as film extras.

Mac and Jan Hay of Black Butte Ranch came to visit for a few days on their see-it-all tour of the South Island. What fun to introduce our friends from Sisters to the local Kiwis, as the New Zealanders call themselves!

Beverly and I rented a car and drove to the famous Milford Sound fjord on the South Island's west coast, taking a boat tour of the sound where we saw fat seals taking in the sun on a big rock, and many stunning waterfalls. We also drove to Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak, at more than 12,300 feet, in their Southern



PHOTO PROVIDED
Pictured left to right: Rick Tobias, Jan Hay, Beverly Tobias and Mac Hay stop for a long black or flat white coffee at a Glenorchy cafe.

Alps.

Not only do the Kiwis drive "on the wrong side of the road" according to us Americans, but many of their highway bridges are one-lane, one-way bridges; you have to pay attention to the signs to know who goes first! And some of the bridges also accommodate a railroad track down the middle, not

to mention many cyclists and herds of sheep!

We arrived back in Sisters in early May, and we find it so good to be home, but we are still unpacking! Our poodle, Magalie, was excited to see us although she had been well cared-for by Rick's sister from Minnesota and by Ann Magnus and her son Samson of Sisters.

Quick action quells fire along Metolius

Quick-acting citizens quelled a fire at a cabin along the Metolius River before it got out of hand last weekend.

Dave Blann of Jefferson County Sheriff's Office reported that two fishermen and two hikers on the upper Metolius spotted a fire at a cabin in Tract C. No one was at the cabin, so the group acted quickly to extinguish the fire that had escaped a barbecue and gotten into a near by woodpile.

"The reluctant firefighters, all from Corvallis, told law enforcement that the wood pile was fully involved with flame lengths of six feet or better," Blann said. "They utilized buckets and a garden hose to put out the fire. With the extremely dry conditions we were very lucky these folks were around or the loss of property could have been much worse."

Along with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, a supervisor from the Sisters Camp Sherman Fire District and Sisters Ranger District personnel responded. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

Cloverdale firefighters have an active Rodeo

The last day of Rodeo this year was as full of action for the Cloverdale Fire Department as it was for the cowboys — and their ride lasted a lot longer than eight seconds.

Firefighters tackled a brush fire in the forest behind the rodeo grounds, a motor-vehicle collision that knocked

down a power pole, and a car fire on the detour route set up by responding agencies.

With the assistance of U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry units, the brush fire was contained to approximately a quarter of an acre of brush and kept out of the trees.

The crash knocked down a power pole near Paradise Alley on Highway 20, draping live power lines across the highway. The occupants of the vehicle involved in the crash denied having any injuries, so after traffic was rerouted around the scene firefighters at the collision returned to their station.

As firefighters were getting the equipment involved in these two incidents ready to respond again, they were dispatched to a car fire on Highway 126 at Cloverdale Road. This was along the detour route set up by law enforcement and Oregon Department of Transportation personnel in response to the collision on Highway 20. The fire resulted in the closure of Highway 126 for a short time.

After negotiating their

way through the backed-up traffic, firefighters quickly extinguished the fire in the Honda Passport. All of the occupants of the Honda were out of the vehicle when firefighters arrived. Even though the Honda was completely destroyed by the fire, firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to the surrounding vegetation.



PHOTO PROVIDED
A car fire was just part of the excitement for Cloverdale firefighters on the last day of Sisters Rodeo Weekend.

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