

## Museum collection resurrected

The eclectic items may be moved out of storage at OSU and into a new building

The Associated Press

CORVALLIS — A popular museum collection, which counts among its eclectic treasures one giant stuffed moose, may finally be moved out of the basement and back into the public eye.

More than 60,000 artifacts that make up the Horner Museum have been sealed in the Gill Coliseum basement since 1995, a casualty of tight budgets.

But Tuesday, Oregon State University and the Benton County Historical Society signed an agreement transferring management and eventually ownership of the collection over to the society.

"It's exciting to explore the history that has been locked away for the past three years," said Bill Lewis, director of the Benton County Historical Museum and History Center.

Organizers selected Aug. 4 for the signing because it's the birthday of John Horner, the collection's namesake. Born in 1856, Horner wrote about local history, taught classes at OSU and collected artifacts.

Over the years the collection grew into an eclectic assortment of more than 60,000 pieces.

The historical society plans to manage the collection and raise money for a new building to store the artifacts. Once the building is constructed, OSU will give the collection to the society for display at its museum.

Until the storehouse is built, people can view some of the Horner pieces during a special exhibition at the history center. Titled "Treasures of the Horner Collection," the exhibition will be on display through November.

The exhibition's curators selected a variety of artifacts to display, including textiles, fossils and items from the early Oregon settlement period and Native American culture.

## Killer bees moving farther into U.S.

Officials say the bees have doubled their California range during the past four months

The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Reacting to signs that so-called killer bees have spread to the doorstep of population centers in California and Nevada, Riverside County authorities met Wednesday to talk about defensive steps.

The agriculture commissioner in San Diego County, meanwhile, said Africanized honeybees had colonized as far west as Campo, a small town 40 miles east of the city of San Diego.

"There have been stinging incidents in other parts of California, Arizona and Texas," Commissioner Kathleen Thuner told residents via press release. "Eventually we will have the same problems."

Recent sightings confirm that Africanized honeybees have taken advantage of a wet spring and a profusion of pollen sources to surge north toward Las Vegas, to flank the greater Los Angeles basin with a push into the northern deserts and to cover all the desert areas of San Diego County.

In the past four months, the bees

have doubled their range in California and have now colonized at least 12,810 square miles, according to agricultural authorities. Hives may be found anywhere from eastern San Diego County to Henderson, Nev., and Barstow to Yuma, Ariz.

"There seems to be a lot more bee activity," said Cal Kaminskas, assistant agricultural commissioner for Riverside County, which stretches from the Colorado River to the eastern fringe of Los Angeles. "We figured it was time to get back to business."

The task force, similar to one in neighboring San Bernardino County, helps local agencies respond to killer bees, warns of imminent danger and ensures that county employees take precautions.

Spreading northward from Brazil in 1956 after they were introduced from Africa, the aggressive bees arrived in California in 1994. Deserts have confined them to a sparsely populated area from the Colorado near Blythe to El Centro and parts of the Coachella Valley.

Heavy rain and desert flowers helped them expand this spring.

Swarms so far have killed six people in Texas and Arizona.

## Chemicals contained after train derailment

The accident occurred in a remote area of Eastern Washington on Tuesday

The Associated Press

WASHTUCNA, Wash. — Work crews picked up debris Wednesday and began lifting 21 derailed Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train cars, including one that contained a hazardous chemical.

A train derailment Tuesday sent 21 of 94 cars barreling off the track near this Eastern Washington town.

No injuries resulted from the derailment, which left 15 freight cars on their sides while six others remained upright, Burlington Northern spokesman Gus Melonas said.

The track, which was closed late Tuesday, was expected to reopen late Thursday, Melonas said.

State hazardous chemical experts were on the scene Wednesday to supervise the cleanup of a car carrying 17,000 gallons of titanium tetrachloride, said Jani Gilbert, a spokeswoman with the state Department of Ecology.

There was no chemical leakage,

although some steel pipes were spilled and some of the sand, aluminum and plastic that the train was carrying might have escaped or been damaged, Melonas said.

The chemical was to be pumped from its original car and transferred to another container for disposal, Gilbert said.

Titanium tetrachloride, used to make titanium metal and paint, is a colorless to pale yellow liquid with a strong odor. The chemical is extremely irritating to skin, eyes and lungs.

Union Pacific Railroad, which owns the track, executed the cleanup.

No previous derailments had occurred at that location, said Union Pacific spokesman Mike Furtney.

The derailed train was one of several that Burlington Northern was running on Union Pacific-owned track while Burlington's own track was undergoing maintenance, Melonas said.

The train derailed in a remote, sparsely populated area along the Snake River.

The cause of the derailment was under investigation, Melonas said.

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