

# Wagon Train Rolls Into La Grande

## Ike Praises Nixon For His Conduct On Russian Visit

### ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF TENSIONS REDUCED

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Eisenhower said today Vice President Richard M. Nixon had acquitted himself splendidly on his tour of the Soviet Union but that only time will tell whether tensions will be reduced as a result of the visit.

Eisenhower said Nixon was not authorized to invite Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to visit this country. He ducked a question as to whether a Khrushchev visit could result from Nixon's trip.

Reporters accompanying Nixon on the trip have written that they considered it almost certain the

## Ike Okays Substitute Labor Bill

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Eisenhower today gave his qualified blessing to a substitute labor reform bill unveiled in the House this week.

He told a news conference that the measure, sponsored by Reps. Phil A. Landrum (D-Ga.) and Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), came much closer to his ideas for dealing with union corruption than the Senate bill and one approved by the House Labor Committee.

The President said he thought the new legislation went far toward correcting the evils exposed by the Senate rackets investigation. He said he had not studied all of the bill but had been advised it would come a long way closer to carrying out his recommendations than other measures.

The Landrum-Griffin bill carries sterner curbs on secondary boycotts and organizational picketing in line with administration recommendations.

**No Comment On Steel**  
On other topics which came up at his news conference, the President said:  
—He does not think that Russian missile superiority gives the Soviet Union an advantage at Geneva. He noted the U. S. fired an intercontinental missile Tuesday night and this nation also has other means and methods which fully counter-balance Soviet strength during the transition from conventional weapons to long range missiles.

—He would not comment on whether the record-breaking profit reported by the U. S. Steel Corporation Tuesday for the first half of 1959 should permit a wage increase without a price increase. He said he repeatedly had answered such questions by saying that he would not discuss subjects during negotiations lest he appear to be favoring one side or the other.

—He is gratified that some of the winners in the Hawaiian election are of Asian extraction and believes the result is a very fine example of democracy at work.

vice president would suggest a visit to the United States by Khrushchev when Nixon returns to Washington. There has been no official announcement of this however.

On other aspects of Soviet-American affairs, the President said he is not ready to say that the Geneva Foreign Ministers Conference should end because of a stalemate between the East and West. But he volunteered that there still has not been progress that would justify a summit conference.

**Russians Like Americans**  
Eisenhower made it clear he believes the Geneva conference should be recessed, if necessary, to permit Secretary of State Christian A. Herter to attend a meeting beginning Aug. 12 in Santiago, Chile, of the foreign ministers of this hemisphere.

The President said he believes all could agree that Nixon has acquitted himself splendidly on the Soviet trip. He said this is what you would expect from a man in such a high office of government.

One thing that is clear from the reception that Nixon has had so far, Eisenhower said, is that the Russian people continue to have a warm feeling for Americans.

As to the reports that a Khrushchev visit was being considered by the Nixon group in the Soviet Union, the President said that this was a subject that has been batted back and forth for a long time and will be talked about a lot in the future.

**Nixon Lacks Authority**  
Asked whether the vice president had been given authority to invite Khrushchev to the United States, the President said of course not. He said, however, that the vice president has the right to discuss the pros and cons of such a proposal.

The president said he had no particular feeling about the question of whether the congressionally inspired proclamation by the President naming last week as Captive Nations Week embarrassed Nixon because of its timing.

He cited his 1952 campaign statements that the U. S. would never believe that true peace could be established in the world

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## FORTUNE TELLER MIS-READ FACTS

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UPI) — Fortune teller Jack Richard Moss, 58, mis-read his crystal ball Tuesday. "You're an easy-going type," he told a customer.

The customer then identified himself as detective Bill Madison and arrested Moss for violation of an anti-fortune telling law.

## Russians Hold Debate With Nixon

SVERDLOVSK, U.S.S.R. (UPI) — Nixon flew into this industrial city of the Urals today after another of his rough and tumble debates with Russian hecklers.

His greeting here was warm and friendly, as it was on arrival and departure from the western Siberian city of Novosibirsk. But the warmth ran somewhat cold when Nixon was subjected to some tough give-and-take by three men in Novosibirsk before he left there this morning.

The three men identified themselves as workers, but their technique and questions reflected the well-indoctrinated Communist party adherent.

The first and most vigorous exchange came when Nixon visited the dam on the Ob River. There, he took on Grigori Fedorovich Belausov, 30, who identified himself as an electrician at the Novosibirsk hydro-electric station.

Belausov challenged American foreign policy, demanded to know why the United States had military bases in many countries outside its borders, at times shouted directly into Nixon's face, repeatedly interrupted the vice president, and spoke with such vigor that some of his colleagues had to calm him down.

**Nixon Speaks Saturday**  
Nixon gave as good as he took. He told Belausov that he had discussed the question of U. S. military bases with Premier Nikita Khrushchev last Sunday, challenged the Russian about Soviet domination of the East European satellites, and invited him to listen to a Nixon speech from Moscow Saturday as well as western broadcasts from abroad in order to get information from both sides on current cold war issues.

The vice president ran into a second questioner, this time a milder one named Antoli A. Chartov, a senior engineer, when he went inside the brick hydro-electric plant.

Chartov followed the same technique as Belausov, only rather sheepishly, in saying he wanted to ask several questions. Nixon invited him to do so.

When Chartov asked Nixon why the United States and Russia could not agree on ending nuclear tests, the vice president told him it took two to make a bargain and that the West wanted to be sure it was doing more than just signing another piece of paper. He said tests would cease when there was agreement on complete inspection.



## WAGONMASTER TAKES TIME OUT

Tex Serpa, wagonmaster for the Oregon Centennial Wagon Train talks with Observer reporter Neil Andersen at the Train's camp site at North Powder last night. The wagons moved in to La Grande today where they were greeted by local residents. (Observer Photo)

## Night With The Wagon Train Fulfills Dream Of Reporter

**Editor's Note: Observer reporter Neil Andersen spent last night with the Wagon Train at their north Powder camp site. The story below gives his impression of the Wagoners along with some of the tales of the Oregon Trail told by the modern day pioneers.**

By NEIL ANDERSEN  
Observer Staff Writer

Every boy dreams of a night with the wagon train.

That dream was fulfilled for this reporter last night. And the memory of exciting tales told by Oregon's modern day pioneers will not soon fade.

The pioneers who trudged across the plains more than 100 years ago were a hardy, determined lot. Their 20th Century counterparts are just as hardy and determined and real friendly.

Thyrza Pelling is a young woman making the trip with her two sons, Rodney and Trevor. With her black hair tied in a red bandanna and her blue eyes shining she'll tell you she just couldn't pass up the opportunity to ride with the wagons.

**Two Biggest Thrills**  
Her two biggest thrills on the trip were the night they slept on prairie grass that had not been touched since the original Oregon pioneers came through.

"The first time we ran across the ruts of the Oregon Trail was quite a thrill, too," she said.

A muleskinner from Medford tells an unusual story. George McUne drives the pair of big white mules that he drew before the train left Missouri.

His mother told him that the first thing he had ever ridden in was a wagon pulled by a team of white mules. George is pretty anxious to get the pair home.

One of the mules is 16, the other 20 years old. Last night the pair got frisky and walked off with part of the fence that surrounds the athletic field.

"Buffalo Bill" Dave Gastman, with his goatee and long white hair trailing over his shirt collar ready for scalping, always smiles and jokes with visitors.

Dave tells about the time he worked for a fellow on an Indian reservation. He claims he used to walk around the reservation and the squaws used to pinch him and say "Mighty fine boy."

Weaver Clark drives the Hillsboro wagon and is the oldest man (66) in the caravan. Stuck in the front of his wagon is a little cactus plant that he picked up in Wyoming.

"Pop" has a shotgun in his wagon that is just for display. His real weapon is a toy sawed-off shotgun that he used to warn Secretary of State Howell Appling about his hostile wagon.

Dick Carter, advance man for the caravan, told the crowd that gathered some of the incidents that have happened along the route. Stories of Indians who couldn't ride and ball point pens that melted in the heat drew loud laughs from the crowd.

Carter warned any would-be attackers that the wagoners had long ago run out of blank ammunition and all they had was 'live'.

Carter told the crowd that when the people of Oregon are prouder of being Oregonians they will make the state a better place to live.

Wagonmaster "Tex" Serpa said that everyone always says it's so nice to have you. It's nice to be here, he continued, it's just like

an old pair of slippers to be back in Oregon.

Walter Hilliard, who does the shoeing for the train, started with 800 pair of horseshoes in Independence. In addition to using these, it has been necessary to buy at least 200 more.

"Shorty" estimated that a pair of horseshoes will last between three and four days on a wagon horse and about a week on a saddle horse.

"Some of those shoes were worn so thin you could read a newspaper through them," he said.

The wagoners, most of them clad in buckskin or Levi's, are a well tanned crew. Long side burns, chin whiskers and full beards such as the multi-colored one sported by Rudy Roudebaugh, lend authenticity to the travelers.

Ben Griffith was hitching his mules to the mail wagon this morning and he started to think about what they have had to cope with on the trip.

"We have a lot of conveniences that the first pioneers didn't and a lot of inconveniences. We're geared to the jet age. Traffic, barb wire and paved roads have caused a lot of headaches he continued. We have had more problems with greater conveniences."

R. R. Roudebaugh says their biggest problem is going back. "When the first pioneers came through Oregon they were making progress. We have had to go back in history to duplicate this trip and this is our big problem."

Thursday morning when the teams lean into their harness it will be with determination. The same determination and pride of accomplishment will show in the travel weary faces of every wagoner as the wagons move—Westward.

## RESIDENTS LINE STREET TO WELCOME WAGONS

Harness creaked and rigging jingled as La Grande residents welcomed the Oregon Centennial Wagon Train today.

The wagons filed from circle this morning at North Powder and pulled out onto the highway — bound for La Grande.

Soon the clip clop of shod hooves rang through the chilly morning air and the 50'ers settled down for the 24 mile trip to Pioneer Park where they will spend the night.

Residents, city officials, eager youngsters and local pioneers lined Adams Avenue to welcome the modernized version of the first wagon train to Oregon.

The wagoners spent a cool night camped on the athletic field at Powder Valley high school. A sprinkler turning slowly in the morning light had a ring of ice under it and a faint trace of frost was visible on the ground.

It was a chilly 38 degrees as the wagon train left and the pioneers dug into their gear for jackets and coats.

Ki Roudebaugh and Jean Marshall were stomping their feet while preparing breakfast for the wagon train before it left North Powder. The wagoners posed with their plates for early bird photographers and joked with cooks as they stood in line.

One of the boys said: "I like everything but the shells." Some one else told them to hurry, he wanted breakfast before noon. The horses whinnied as they were harnessed and from across the camp a mule brayed.

**Air Is Frosty**  
The wagoner's breath was visible in the frosty air and steam rose from their coffee cups as they talked about the day's trip before getting underway.

The wagon from Independence was hit with shrinking wheels again Tuesday. The wooden wheels tend to dry out and the metal rims become loose, according to Roy Brabham, wagoner from Eugene.

Instead of soaking the wheels, Brabham broke out a hydraulic tire setter and "shrank" the tire to fit the dried-out wheel.

The wagon people were served lunch yesterday by the North Powder Ladies Aid. The dinner meal was a pot luck given by the Wolf Creek Grange. After the dinner the modern pioneers were introduced to the crowd of approximately 500 persons, including several from La Grande, who greeted the train.

Shortly after nine the lights went out and wagoners prepared to bed down for what proved to be a chilly night.

National Guard troops from La Grande, who had picked up the train just the other side of North Powder, stood guard throughout the night. Six men swapped shifts during the night. The first group arrived at 3:30 in the afternoon and stood guard until relieved at 10. The second shift served from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. The final shift served until the wagons departed.

The National Guard is providing an escort for the wagon train through Oregon. La Grande will provide the escort until the train reaches Pendleton. The train will be guarded to The Dalles where the wagons will be floated down the Columbia to the mouth of the Willamette.

**Many Events Tonight**  
Thirty-three members of the Independence, Ore., Chamber of Commerce flew into La Grande today to greet the wagon train as it arrived.

A full schedule of events is planned to entertain and feed the wagoners tonight. The Lions and the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a public dinner at the armory. Admission is \$1.25 for adults and 50 cents for children.

A square dance exhibition, water ballet and swimming races plus a western dance with music by Cliff Woodell will be featured in the night's program.

A special performance of the play "Doctor in Buckskin Clad" will be given at the college coliseum at 8.

Breakfast will be served by the Soroptomists at Riverside Park Thursday morning.

Centennial commissions from Union and Umatilla counties and the La Grande Chamber of Commerce are planning a ceremony for the opening of the new highway between Glover and Meacham to coincide with the passage of the Wagon Train.

Chief speakers will be W. C. Williams, State Highway Engineer and Charles Reynolds, former member of the State Highway Commission.

The ceremony is scheduled to take place near the Kamela interchange at 10 Thursday morning. The wagon train will make camp that night on Strickland flat near the interchange.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony.

## Pioneer Tells Of Driving Own Wagon

"I drove one of those wagons out to Oregon when I was only 11 years old," said C. A. Hill as he eyed the Oregon wagon train's encampment at North Powder.

Hill is a slight man with greying hair who has lived on his 995 acre farm near Telocaset for 56 years.

"My parents and I left Carson City, Nev., 78 years ago to come to Oregon, Hill said. We had two four horse wagons and one two horse hitch that I drove," he continued.

Hill told of the first time he came to North Powder.

"We parked our wagons just south of the flour mill and my brother and I went fishing. We got all the fish we could handle and tried them for breakfast," he said.

Hill recalled that the trip from Carson City took seven weeks to complete. The family moved into the Grande Ronde valley and after he got married he moved to his present farm in Telocaset.

Despite his 89 years Hill still moves around quite a bit. He still likes to hunt and fish although he claims he doesn't do as good as he would like.

"It isn't like it used to be," Hill said. "They have roads and all we had were trails."

## Reds, U. S. Agree To End Talks

GENEVA (UPI)—The United States and Russia agreed today to wind up the deadlocked Big Four Foreign Ministers Conference within a week. The decision came after the Soviets brought the talks to a near-breakdown by increasing their price for a Berlin truce.

American diplomats warned that they had little hope of any Berlin agreement before the scheduled wind-up.

The other western allies agreed to the Herter-Gromyko arrangement.

The end of the talks need not necessarily be a rupture or a break-up in anger, a U.S. spokesman indicated.

He said the United States hopes to resume the discussions on Berlin and Germany at a later date.

Assistant Secretary of State Andrew Berding, in making the announcement, added this caution: "Do not interpret this to mean that the conference will end with an agreement."

**Herter Returning Home**  
"The idea," he added, "is to have as many discussions as possible during the next week to see whether we can reach an agreement by next Wednesday."

But, in reply to questions, Berding admitted the U.S. delegation has little hope of any agreement here on Berlin.

Herter conferred with Russia's Andrei A. Gromyko at lunch today and it was during a post-lunch conversation in Herter's living room that the two agreed to end the conference next Wednesday.

After a detailed discussion of the western and Soviet papers on Berlin exchanged Tuesday, Herter told Gromyko he intended to leave for Washington a week from Thursday and that the conference would have to come to an end by that time.

Earlier, both East and West had rejected rival plans for a Berlin truce. The double rejection appeared to doom the Geneva talks to failure.

**TOOK BULL BY HORNS**

ATLANTA (UPI) — Lt. Col. Maynard P. Booth, stationed at Ft. McPherson, out-manned a gun-carrying squad of motorcycle police with only a rope and a jeep Monday. The Army officer, attracted by the curious activity of the policemen, learned a wild bull was loose. He had it roped and tied in five minutes, just the way he learned it, he said, in his South Dakota youth.



UP YA' GO, NARCISSA  
Play leads Les Edwards and Roberts Miller tour wagon train. (Observer Photo)



BRINGS BACK MEMORIES—C. A. Hill of Telocaset leans on a wagon at North Powder and talks of memories of his trip to Oregon. (Observer Photo)



CHIEF VISITS WAGONS  
Al Kaiser, author of "Dr. In Buckskin Clad," visited train in Indian costume. (Observer Photo)