

Orgain still riding high after all these years

By STEVE FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

At age 87, former Illinois Valley resident Del Orgain has fond memories of leading cattle drives in Southwestern Oregon during the "good old days."

"Some weeks we had two or three herds," he said of the cattle drives. "We used to bring them up from California, all the way to Grants Pass."



Although he retired from the cattle business five years ago, Orgain's cowboy days are far from over.

Orgain is the oldest man around still competing in cattle penning and gymkhana competitions at the Estremado family ranch in Gold Hill.

Orgain moved from Illinois Valley to the Medford area where he can "keep an eye" on his daughter, Loretta Heath, who lives in Central Point, in 1999 following the death of his wife, Faye.

During his 25 years of competition, Orgain has won several trophies and

ribbons, including a blue ribbon recently for a key-hole gymkhana event in Williams. He received a belt buckle from the Josephine County Fair, and he has been a frequent guest in the Illinois Valley Lions Club Labor Day Parade.

But one of his favorite items from his years of horseback riding is a pair of Josephine County Sheriff's Posse silver spurs that I.V.'s Roy Mowles Sr. willed to him.

At the urging of his father, Orgain starting riding horses when he was 3. He rode bareback until the age of 14 when a broken leg forced him to start using a saddle.

Orgain has no plans to stop horseback riding anytime soon.

"I'm going to be riding when I'm 90 years old," he said. "If I'm still able and still living, I'll still be riding."

Orgain is perfectly aware that his family and friends are worried about him riding horses at his age. However, his doctor urges him to keep it up despite having two heart attacks.

Should injuries while riding lead to death, Orgain said he won't have any regrets.

"I tell people, 'Just tell my friends that he was enjoying what he was doing.' That's the Gospel truth. I really enjoy it," he said.



Del Orgain and 'Diamond'

Blotter...

(Continued from page 5)

Mindy Sanchez, 26, was cited on a charge of failure to carry proof of insurance.

*On W. Stevenson Street a woman said her husband left for work in Brookings with a co-worker at 7:30 a.m. and had not returned by 1:30 a.m. Deputies contacted the man's workplace and discovered he made arrangements to stay overnight there.

*In the 1000 block of Pine Cone Lane a citizen found and turned over to police a paper bag full of marijuana leaves discovered on a gravel bar near the river.

*In the 600 block of Pine Cone Drive a woman wanted deputies to check on a woman she said was assaulted by her husband three days ago. Deputies were unable to locate the woman.

*A man asked deputies for assistance to "evict" some homeless people living at "Forks" State Park. He said he received reports that intoxicated people were harassing others at the park. Deputies said they would set up a time for the eviction.

*Dogs were barking too much on Lone Mountain Road, a neighbor said. Deputies referred him to Animal Control.

*At Shop Smart Food Warehouse a man said a \$100 bill received was counterfeit. The bill was actually a \$10 bill made to look like a \$100. Deputies said they will conduct "extensive" follow-up.

*In the 24000 block of Redwood Hwy. a woman said a neighbor sprayed rocks at her car with her car tires. Deputies contacted both about the continuing problem.

Saturday, Sept. 13

*A woman said two men pulled a vehicle over on the side of the road and may have been a traffic hazard near Holland Loop and Dick George roads.

*Robert James Myers, 33, was arrested on a charge of fourth-degree domestic assault in the 100 block of S. Redwood Hwy.

*On Lakeshore Drive deputies filed a report on the death of Dennis Wayne Burdick, 45, at 9:35 a.m.

*Somebody's grandmother was said to have been threatened in the 5000 block of Caves Hwy. by a water heater repairman after she had somebody else fix her water heater.

*At Pine Cone Drive

and Rockydale Drive deputies conducted a welfare check.

*Due to possible suspicious circumstances, deputies responded to a grass fire on N. Hussey Avenue.

*A citizen said a large dog was running through traffic on Hogue Drive near Redwood Hwy. When deputies arrived it was a case of 'doggone.'

*Robert Wilbourn, 23, was arrested on a warrant charging fourth-degree assault in the 29000 block of Redwood Hwy.

*In the 30000 block of Redwood Hwy. a citizen said a man was jumping in front of traffic while waving his hands and yelling for cars to stop. He was gone when deputies arrived.

*Deputies performed a consent search on a man in the 33000 block of Redwood Hwy. and found "nothing of interest."

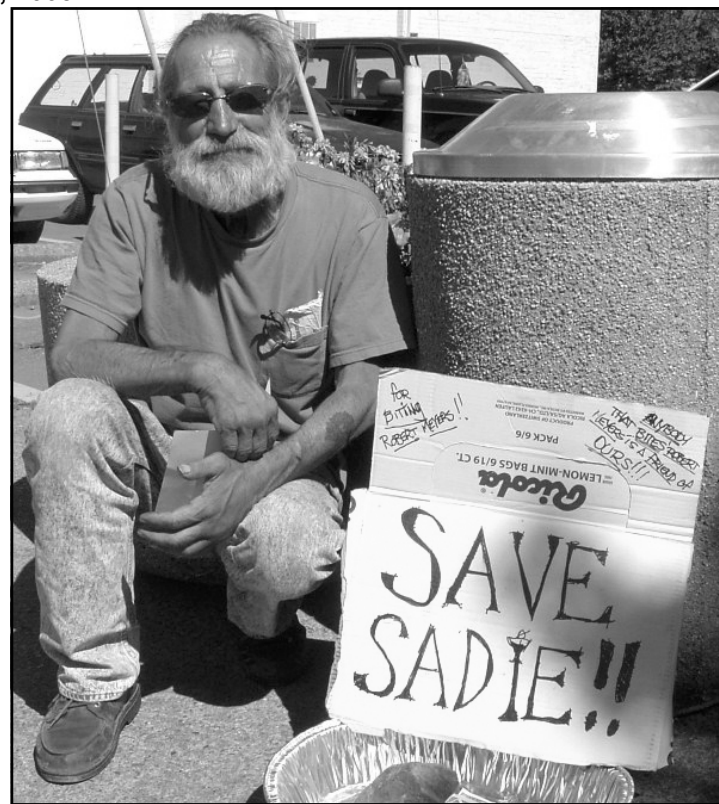
*Six men were walking around a vehicle that had just crashed in the wee hours in the 3600 block of Holland Loop Road. Four of the men refused medical help. One was cited for driving without an operator's permit and failure to carry proof of insurance.

*In the 100 block of N. Junction Ave. an anonymous complainant said a couple with warrants was planning to flee. Deputies said all was OK with two people wanted on misdemeanor warrants.

Sunday, Sept. 14

*Roy Edward McLaughlin, 45, was cited and released on a charge of second-degree theft in the 100 block of S. Redwood Hwy.

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MAN'S BEST FRIEND - Cave Junction 'man about town' Neal White worked last week to raise funds for his best friend, 'Sadie,' a hound of mixed background. The animal is under quarantine at White's residence after biting someone and needing medical care. White needed money for the veterinarian and a county dog license. He said that all the needed money was raised through donations, and that he is grateful.

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Sunday, Sept. 28 - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Living Word Fellowship
139 S. Caves Avenue

Luke 4:18: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind to set - and liberty them that are bruised ...

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*Friday, Sept. 26

Tim Wallace & Michelle LeConte

Guitar & soprano sax

Dinner Special:

Fresh from Oregon waters, ling cod & chips - \$7.95

*Friday, Oct. 3 - 'Imbus', Celtic Rock

*Friday, Oct. 10 Art Walk - 'Sequoia'

Serving beer & wine ESPRESSO Open for breakfast 6:30 a.m.

10 minutes

with...

Will return next week...

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- William Barclay

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- Epictitus -

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