

# History revisited with pack train at Oregon Caves Monument, Chateau

By LINDA COREY-WOODWARD  
For IVN

Imagine seeing an old-time mule train walking up Caves Hwy. to Oregon Caves National Monument, as if it simply stepped out of the misty past into the present.

It happened, and many dads were happy to celebrate Father's Day enjoying the Caves and this event.

On Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21, visitors and staff at the Caves and Chateau had a startling sight. As it was 100 years ago, pack mules came up to the Caves. This was once the only way to transport people and supplies to the site from Williams or Kerbyville.

Onlookers gazed in wonderment as the mule train, led by Diane Eek, arrived from Caves Creek Campground.

The pack train included expert wilderness packers, Dan & Betty Applebaker, aided by Diane Eek and her granddaughter, Amanda Crusos, all of Klamath Falls. They are members of Back

Country Horsemen of Oregon (BCHO).

The event was organized by BCHO, with the support of the National Park Service and the Chateau, to mark the 100th anniversary of Oregon Caves National Monument. Illinois Valley BCHO members Susie Wood, John Woodward, Sue Williams, Carol Crawford-Meyer, Terry Sullivan and others set up the corral and assisted the clinic presenters throughout the weekend.

Sullivan and Wood, dressed in period outfits, staffed a BCHO information booth near the Caves Chalet.

During the packing clinic, Eek and the Applebakers showed how the mules were loaded and were tied together with "break-way" ropes. Betty Applebaker said that one doesn't want a mule to fall and bring the rest down too, risking injury to all the animals.

They showed the different types of pack saddles — those used 100 years ago and more modern types. One

mule was loaded with hide-covered wooden boxes like those used 100 years ago.

Sunday afternoon, Dan Applebaker said, "About 150 people came to watch the five pack mule talks during the weekend."

They unloaded the mules and explained the various pieces of gear and supplies once carried to miners, government workers and the Oregon Caves. These included shovels, axes and other tools, plus a cook stove, water for a two-to-three-day trip, wall tents and food supplies.

Hunters and campers now use pack mules and horses to climb into rugged wilderness areas.

Today, packers use canvas bags and condense down their loads as small and as light in weight as possible. Betty explained that mules were bred for decades by the government to transport goods to workers in remote areas. Diane Eek said trained mules are sturdy, calm, smart and able to handle rough terrain, often better than a horse.

She also explained the concept of "leave no trace" camping in the wilderness. She said, "If you pack it in, you pack it out. Animal waste may be buried."

The mules attracted attention from fascinated visitors who asked pertinent questions at the clinic. The Applebakers and Eek answered them and showed how the two horses and eight mules were rigged. At the end of each day, the mules were repacked, the horse mounted and the pack train proceeded back through the parking lots.

They stopped at the Chateau to be thanked by Chateau and Caves officials, and then headed back to their camp 3-1/2 miles down the mountain.

It was a camera bug's ideal "photo op" as mules, horses, "mule-skinners" and gorgeous scenery kept cameras clicking. Even the rhododendrons and oxeys daisies still were in full bloom.

Cave tour guides were busy all weekend. There were hikers and Chateau guests in

the Monument from local towns and far away. BCHO members, park rangers and Chateau staff were busy with special events at the Caves and Chateau.

On Saturday and Sunday, BCHO conducted the pack train demonstrations and mule-packing clinics in the Chateau parking lot. Parking overflowed downhill from the main parking lot as guests, staff, officials and event presenters sought parking spots.

More special events are planned throughout the summer at the Caves, according to park rangers and IVCDO representatives. Check at I.V. Visitor Center or phone 592-4440 for information.

**(Editor's Note: A story on the same event in last week's issue was written by Sue Riegel Williams; not Linda Corey-Woodward.)**

## TRSD due \$1.6 million fed funds

The Dept. of Education has awarded more than \$93 million in Title I funding to Oregon schools as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, U.S. Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) announced Monday, June 29.

Under the legislation, Three Rivers School District will receive approximately \$1.6 million. Grants Pass School District 7 will receive \$1.1 million.

Title I funding is used to provide at-risk and low-achieving students with the resources and opportunities needed to improve academic performance and meet state standards in core subjects.

"With Oregon facing a budget shortfall in state education funding, this aid arrives right when it is needed most," Wyden said. "A solid education is the foundation of a skilled workforce, which is exactly what Oregon will need to improve its economy and continue to compete in the global marketplace."

# Celebrate Independence

Happy 4th of July!

Welcome Alumni...

Join us for a Cool Margarita

Full Lottery - Outside Patio  
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday;  
July 3rd, 4th, & 5th

120 N. Redwood Hwy.  
592-4553 for reservations

Have a Happy & Safe  
4th of July!  
from everyone at...

**Northwest Hairlines**  
202 Lister Street, Cave Junction  
Mondays through Saturdays, 8 to 5:30  
Special appointments by request. 592-3123

Our Fun Activities

**Friday, July 3**

- Texas Hold 'em Tournament - Banquet Room
- Registration 5 p.m. (\$50 buy in)
- Tournament 6 p.m. (fund-raiser for I.V. Wrestling Club)
- Live band - Lounge, Moon & the Lunatics, 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday, July 4**

- Cocktails - Lounge, 5 p.m.
- Alumni Dinner - Banquet Room, 6 p.m.
- Live Music - Lounge, Lee Nicholas, 8 p.m.

**Sunday, July 5 - Karaoke**

**Friday & Saturday, July 3 & 4**

Dinner Buffet - Restaurant, 4:30-9 p.m. - \$10<sup>99</sup>

- ~ Barbecue Ribs - Pork & Beef
- ~ Chicken Delights
- ~ Salad & Fruit Bar ~ Garlic Rolls

**Timber Room Lounge**  
**Junction Inn**  
**Restaurant**

Happy 4th of July

Welcome Alumni!

Have a good time but be safe.

**DILLON'S NURSERY**  
GARDEN AND CENTER  
Corner of Redwood Hwy. & Rockydale Road 592-5386

"Come Grow With Us!"  
Monday - Saturday, 9 to 5

**ART'S RED GARTER**

Welcome Alumni!

**Lavender Blue**  
appearing Friday & Saturday, July 3 & 4

Steaks - Chicken - Fish - Large Hamburgers  
Restaurant separate from lounge  
Now available every day...  
Prime Rib & Prime Rib Sandwiches

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Open 7-days-a-week, 5 - 9 p.m.  
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Happy 4th of July!

CLOSED  
Saturday & Sunday,  
July 4 & 5

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Out'n>About

# In-Tree-Pendence Day

**Saturday, July 4th**

- Bring your legal fireworks, set them off in the green at the Treehouses.
- Gate opens at 1 p.m. with a softball game.
- Music begins at 3 p.m. with Two Foot Daddy, S.O.B., State of Jefferson, and B'Wishes.
- Fireworks begin around dusk.

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\$10 per day entry 12 & younger \$5 Camping \$5  
[www.treehouses.com](http://www.treehouses.com) 592-2208