



GEORGE MILLER proudly displays his award from the International Association of Auxiliary Police for two years of distinguished service on the Sandy Auxiliary Police force in the early 1960's.



MR. MILLER even has personalized plates.



ECOLOGY ISN'T a fad for this Sandy resident. George Miller leaves his house on a typical morning this week to collect roadside waste. For him, the highway pick-up is a year round profession.

Sandy biker

George Miller picks up streets

Story/Photos by Paul Keller Staff Writer

The mileage count on his bike's one year-old speedometer reads 3,692 miles. It's a one speed two wheeler and he is a 60-year-old gentleman with Santa Claus eyes. George A. Miller has been depending on bicycles for transportation the last 20 years. He pedaled up these last 3,000 odd miles tracing the roads in and around the Sandy area looking for loot. Mr. Miller capitalizes on our throw-a-way society's bad

habit of littering roadside ditches.

"I pick up brass and copper and other stuff to make some extra money," he explains in shy tones. Once every two months or so he boards a bus into Portland with his stash of discarded valuables to trade for cash.

"You don't find stuff every day on the highway," reports the long time Sandyite. But, he's out nearly every morning anyway in baggy pants and cap, peddling with one eye turned to the ditch.

When George was 49 years-old he rode his bike home to Sandy from his mother's funeral in Marshall, Tex., near the Louisiana border.

The 2,000 mile-plus journey took over three months. Newspapers in towns he passed through assigned reporters to interview the interesting highway voyager.

George still shows the clippings and press photos he's saved with pride to those who visit his humble cottage two miles north of Sandy.

Would he want to take a trip like that again?

"Nope. I wouldn't want to do it again for anything," assures the little man. "I get tired out easily now—I'm pretty near 61 years old you know, I'm getting up there."

The man has had two heart attacks. "The doctors told me to take it easy," he says. But his bike's mileage count is a giveaway. George gets more

physical exercise than do most kids.

When he was young he never had a bike.

"We didn't have any bicycles then; my family was too poor," recalls the white-haired man.

Born in South Butler, N. Y., on March 13, 1915, George moved with his family to Ashland when he was one year old. The Millers lived there 16 years before moving to Portland. Eventually, George settled in Sandy. "I've got a sister, but nobody seems to know where she's at," claims George. Two dogs, two cats and two pet mice keep him company in his cozy abode where a wood burner warms the second-hand store-like atmosphere.

"I used to have a monkey, but he was too hard to take care of," George admits with a grin.

Even though he says he loves little children, he has never married. "Women just want a man with lots of money. But you can't take money with you when you leave this world," he remarks, warming wrinkled hands over the wood heater.

George claims that he if he had his life to lead over again he wouldn't change a thing.

"I'd love to have it all again."

In 1962 he served two years on the Sandy Auxiliary Police Force. A plaque on his kitchen wall from the International Association of Auxiliary Police acknowledges his distinguished service.

"I'd like to have a job now," says Miller, who isn't content to

sit back and live off a government disability check each month. (He has a vertebrae ailment in his back which prevented him from joining the armed services earlier in his life.)

"I repair my own shoes and can fix any kind of rubber heels and soles," he acknowledges.

This week George was wearing his lace-up rubber boots, old wool coat and stocking cap. "When it's muddy and wet on the highway it gets too dangerous. I don't like to go out." Besides road combing, he also chops wood up by Marmot when the weather permits.

How does the verteran cyclist feel about the new fangled ten speeds? "There all right I guess, if you're not gathering stuff up. They're only made for racing and trying to see how fast you can go."

George takes things a little easier on his one speed. He also makes sure he's abiding by the law.

"All bike riders should obey the laws of the road just like automobiles and ride just the way cars ride," he points out.

Has he ever had a bad experience while riding his bike on the public roadways? "Once in a great while people get smart—but I don't pay any attention to them."

Two weathered badminton rackets hang from his bedroom door. Does the avid cyclist also play badminton?

"I'd play if I had someone to

play with," he responds.

A couple of years ago George said he made out a will. "It's

fixed for the fire department to burn up everything I got—unless I can find a friend."



GEORGE MILLER and his two wheel vehicle are a familiar sight to Sandy area motorists.

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