

Hats top collection

BY MARGARET SHAUERS

GREAT BEND, KS — Twelve-year-old Jason Halling has a "head" start on most people. At least when it comes to hats. Jason has collected over 120 hats and new ones actually walk through the door all the time.

Jason's caps are on display in the lobby of the Welcome Inn, a motel his parents manage. Customers see the hats and donate more.

Jason says his grandfather donated most of the hats and helped him start his collection. "I was only six when he gave me a cap. I just liked wearing it then. Later, when I was in second grade, I got some more caps and decided to have a collection," explained Jason.

Jason's sister also helps him, bringing home hats that were left behind at the restaurant where she works. "Once I found a cap in a bumper car. The kid in front of me ran off and left it."

When he began collecting, Jason didn't know that some caps are valuable. He has two

of these collector's "treasures" now.

One rare cap is an impressive black Santa Fe railroad cap. It has gold lettering and scroll work on the brim. The scroll work reads scrambled eggs. "That's really what they call it," Jason said. Another valuable cap is a Hardee's Road Runner hat which was made for a special employee promotion.

Jason plans to keep collecting for a long time. "I want to get 365 caps," he said. "Then I'll have a different one to wear every day of the year."



Jason Halling

Freedoms found in winner's trip

BY JENNIFER COX, 13

LANGLOIS, OREGON — As a winner of the national essay contest "What the Constitution means to me and my country," I had a chance to go to Washington, D.C., and to meet the president. Many of the Constitution's ideas were reflected in my trip.

The Constitution's First Amendment, dealing with freedom of speech, allowed me to write my essay in the first place. I wouldn't have been able to express my opinion on a topic without freedom of speech.

Another important constitutional idea is freedom of the press. This freedom gives the press permission to share my ideas with others and for television, radio and newspapers to publicize my



Winners met Reagan (left) and Bennett.

Bored poet writes a winner

AUSTIN, TX — Christine Patton, 12, says she writes when she's bored. One of her poems has won third place in a national writing contest.

"Actually my poem was about being in this bathtub at sea. I don't even remember what I called it," Christine admits. She has been

writing since third grade. As a nine-year-old, she wrote a 50-page science fiction story called *Intergalactic Crybaby*.

Christine doesn't plan to become a professional writer, however. She wants to ride free-style bikes for a living.

award. If my trip hadn't been made known to others, such as my community, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Engel in Portland, and Jet America, I may not have had enough money to go. They all helped to send me and two other Oregon essay winners to Washington, D.C.

Freedom to assemble allowed

our group to visit buildings, such as the Capitol. There we passed rooms where important people were meeting. It is interesting to know that, in a sense, our nation's Capitol belongs to us.

Freedom to assemble, combined with the freedom of speech, allowed us to meet and listen to President Reagan. Since I live in a rural area, this trip was a chance to see new things and important people, such as the president, Secretary of Education William Bennett and to meet new friends. Washington, D.C., is something I will happily remember for a long time.



Jennifer Cox

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MONEY, MONEY

Sweet car deals turn sour

BY JIM FORNEY

Don't you just love the smell of a new car? Nearly everyone does. But would it smell as sweet if you knew that it had been driven by someone else for as many as 400 miles?

That was the embarrassing question asked of Chrysler Corporation recently. It seems that during the past few years over 60,000 used Chrysler cars and trucks were sold to customers who thought they were buying new vehicles.

How used were these vehicles? Most were only driven to and from work by Chrysler managers, supposedly to "test" the autos before delivery. A few, however, were driven up to 400 miles.

Worse yet, about 40 cars sold to unsuspecting customers were damaged in testing. For example, one Chrysler executive drove the borrowed car on a rain-slicked highway and flipped it over. Chrysler fixed the car up and sold it as new.

The federal government is not happy about these tactics. There is a legal case pending that carries a fine of \$120 million. Several disappointed owners have also filed separate suits against the company. There is the real possibility that some officers will go to jail.

Lee Iacocca, Chrysler's president,

often appears in company ads to sing the praises of the company. But this time he let lower level employees bring the bad news to the public. He later showed up to promise that everyone who bought one of the 60,000 vehicles would be given an extended warranty (a promise to repair or replace certain parts) with two additional years of coverage plus a free inspection. People with cars damaged in testing will be given new cars as replacements.

How did the giant car company get caught? Several Chrysler executives were caught speeding in Missouri. They asked the police officers not to give them tickets, claiming their cars didn't have their speedometers hooked up. They couldn't tell how fast they were driving!

Chrysler has since sent memos telling its managers not to use that as an excuse anymore. But Chrysler did not tell them to hook up their speedometers.

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