

# Motorlog Tour of Ranch Country Reveals Impressive Extremes

### Big Dwellings, Empty Shacks Prove Contrasts

The following is a condensation of a motorlog which appeared in the June 14 issue of the Northwest's Own Magazine. It is one of a series sponsored by The Oregonian-Oregon State Motor Association.

BY HELEN HOOVER  
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

A tour of eastern Oregon's ranch country is impressive in its extremes. Tall poplars, big house, corrals, outbuildings, windmill, electric plant, gas pump to fuel everything from tractor to jeep to Cadillac; the lot surrounded by seemingly endless expanses of land—these are fairly common denominators of the upper extreme which spells success in ranching.

At the other extreme are the stacks, unpainted houses or shacks, bare of sheltering trees and empty of tenants, which spell failure. Often the two are adjoining.

We made such a tour not long since, courtesy of The Oregonian and Oregon State Motor Association, east of La Grande, north to Lewiston, down through Hells Canyon, back through Baker, John Day, Burns and Lower Harney county; and up through Prineville to Portland.

Although the majority of the operations we visited involved cattle, including the great 430-acre Roaring Springs ranch in Harney county, which was sold while we were on the road, our trip began and ended with two exceptions: grass seed and potatoes.

H. L. Wagner and sons started a new thing, grass for seed, 15 years ago in the Grand Ronde valley of northeast Oregon and last year did a million dollars in business through their warehouse at Toebler.

From Baker we visited the "dairy parlor" of Roland George, whose 90 Holsteins furnish a quarter of the milk consumed in Baker.

"Ask a prospective hired man to milk cows and he runs," commented George, explaining the machine that milks six cows at a time while they munch feed chuted down from the loft above, and that sends their product through glass tubes into a refrigerated cooler.



Map of eastern Oregon tour



Old Williams ranch house on Canyon creek, with white Oregon State Motor association car parked in sideyard. Timbers for house, built in 1860s, were hand-hewn with dovetailed corners. Mammoth poplars and silver maples were brought in and swelled by pack horse. Today, they serve to shade entire dwelling.

Three new ranch-type homes and imposing array of outbuildings mark the LL ranch of Edward Sullivan and sons Donald and Duwayne, 30 miles west of Baker.

How many acres? "Oh, gosh," was Sullivan's reply. Thirty thousand, he added. 40,000 altogether, over which Hereford commercial cattle roam, between Dooley and Blue mountains.

Sullivan is president of Unity dam, community project which collects waters of the north, west, south and middle forks of Burnt river behind an earth barrier, for irrigation.

On a detour from highway 7 we encountered our only large herd of Aberdeen Angus. B. J. Keel, a Chicagoan, came to a nearby dude ranch some years ago, fell in love with the place and decided to go into business.

To inquiries of midwesterners as to what kind of cattle he should raise, he was told, "Black Angus." So, today, his 1080 acres of permanent pasture supports an average of 400 head of these nonconformists.

John Day valley to the west, whose trading center is Prairie City, is "recognized as probably the best livestock producing county in Oregon," declared Rancher Garland Meador, who runs 500 head of Herefords on 3000 acres.

For sheer beauty, nothing surpassed the Williams ranch, off highway 396 near Seneca, on Canyon creek. The Williams own 8000 acres, 300 in irrigation; and L. L. impressed us permanently by announcing the recent sale of one-half a Hereford bull for \$3000.

Julian Byrd, who joined the Burns Times-Herald staff in 1889 when Burns itself was officially only five years old, and is now the newspaper's editor and co-publisher, wonders if he is partly to blame for the ghost homesteads in his area, including Blitzen. "I did what I could to attract settlers, after the Lewis and Clark fair of 1905," he told us. "I really thought dry farming would pay."

All Harney county needs, he insisted, is water; the soil is there, far deeper than in central Oregon where irrigation has turned the desert green.

We stopped at the Diamond ranch, now operated by Dick Jenkins. We found Helen, Dick's wife, at home, and while we were there, their two youngsters, booted and spurred, arrived horseback from school.

Dick Jenkins and his brother Tom, who lives next door on Barton Lake ranch, a mere 14 miles distant, were named grassmen of the year for Harney county in 1951, for their good farming and conservation practices. They think nothing of having drained one lake, built another, and used the first lake bed for grain crops.

The welling spring that supported 100 men and their horses at Camp Curry at Silver creek in upper Harney county in early days attracted W. C. Cecil there as a rancher in 1871. His son, W. C. "Pat" Cecil, and Pat's son-in-law, Carl Mayo, operate the ranch today as partners.

Besides the spring, the Cecil's have Silver creek, which, with the aid of check dams, irrigates several hundred acres of wild hay that feeds the Herefords when they're not browsing in Ochoza forest or the OO bird refuge on Harney lake.

We halted our ranch visits near Powell butte, with the Jordans and the Weigands. H. J. Jordan, with 200 acres of Deschutes-irrigated pasture, supports the largest registered Brahma herd in the Pacific Northwest, selling the animals primarily for cross-breeding.

Potatoes—Deschutes russets—built the vast L-shaped home (three fireplaces) and outdoor swimming pool of the Norman Wiegands.

And here we are, back in Portland. Desk, typewriter, telephone, deadlines—say, does any rancher need a hired gal, main culinary accomplishment baked beans? Some rancher at least 175 miles from the nearest town?

# Picnics and Parties Popular Around Monument

By Millie Wilson

A Sunday School Picnic was at the H. A. Copper ranch July 19th. The whole community was invited. After the picnic lunch, games were enjoyed and then to make a perfect ending for a perfect day, swimming was enjoyed in the river.

On July 11 a lawn party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Capon, honoring Mrs. Janice Cork on her birthday. Cards formed the entertainment for the evening. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Harry Capon and children, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cork, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bleakman and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Musgrave and Mirinda, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Copper and children, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Leathers and children, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Kimmel and Peter.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cox and Archie Cox attended the wedding of their niece, Joanne Corley at Long Creek, 10 a. m. Sunday morning.

Ladies Aid met at the home of Ivy Barnard July 14. Those present were Ivy Barnard, Grace Stirrit, Lillian Holmes, Naomi Hooker, Mattie Stubblefield, Effie Wedgeworth, Doris Capon, Lois Hill, Onida Cork, Delsie Sweek, Ann Kimmel, Millie Wilson. The next meeting will be August 11 at the home of Doris Capon. Lovely refreshments of ice cream banana Sundae were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Barnard.

Mrs. Linnie Gilman received word Sunday morning that her brother, Albert Foss had passed away in Pendleton. Mr. and Mrs. Gilman left immediately to be with Mr. Foss' two daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wyss and children, Johnnie, Jimmie and Joanne from Phoenix, Arizona, are here to spend several weeks visiting Mrs. Wyss' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wedgeworth.

Lee Slocum has sold his home in Monument to Maynard Hamilton. It is understood that Mr. Slocum will make his home in The Dalles.

Mrs. Harold Cork accompanied her husband to Portland on Saturday where he took a load of cattle to market. Their children Keith and Sherry remained at home with Mrs. Lydia Capon.

Rev. Paul Kimmel Jr. drove to Long Creek Sunday morning to officiate at the wedding of Miss Joanne Corley and Dennis Tipton. It was a very beautiful wedding held on the lawn at the home of Mrs. Eva Shields. The bride was

given in marriage by her father, Elvin Corley. Her sister Verna Gerber was matron of honor and her little niece, Cathy Gerber, acted as flower girl. Her bridesmaids were Shirley McBride, Pat and Betty McGirr and Donna Stussle. The young couple have the best wishes from a host of friends in Monument.

Wayne Jones is here visiting his sister, Mrs. Choicy Vandetta and family.

Those leaving for Presbyterian Conference at Anthony Lake on August 1st are Hankie Copper, Sharon Hinton, and Theo Vandetta. Rev. Paul Kimmel will accompany them.

Mrs. Eunice Round brought Mrs. Goldie Round home last Saturday and returned to John Day on Sunday. Mrs. Grace Stirrit is caring for Mrs. Round's care and lawn while she is away, confined to the hospital in John Day.

Bill Elder of Ontario was in Monument this week. He bought some cattle from the Holmes Brothers and trucked them to Ontario. Other cattle buyers in town this week were Buck Wilson of Walla Walla and Clayton Butcher of Ontario. They bought some cattle and lambs from Hermon Thompson on Cottonwood. Harold Lippert trucked them to Ontario for them.

Earl Ring of John Day was attending to matters of business in Monument on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bowman and children were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Gienger last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Robinson and daughters of Los Angeles are guests of Mrs. Robinson's parents Mr. and Mrs. Rex Sweek. They also visited Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Capon. Mr. and Mrs. Ned Sweek came from Heppner to visit his sister and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Enright are moving from the Daisy Riley home into the Maynard Hamilton home.

Mr. and Mrs. Orval Wyland of Eagle Creek were visiting friends in Monument last Saturday. Sam and Art Martin of Dayville were business visitors in Monument last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Griffin and children of Olympia, spent two days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Page. They came to visit Mr. Griffin's mother who is confined to her bed with a broken hip.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brown of Hazelton, Idaho, visited his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Brown. While there Mr. Brown showed some slide pictures of Korea taken by their son while he was on observation.

Sunny Tipton from Canada, spent a week visiting Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Page. Miss Tipton came

by bus. Her mother, Russel Hurst and Bill Wilson brought a trailer load of Pages' furniture from Canada. They bought a bay saddle horse from Mr. Page and took him back to Canada with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuzzy Harrison spent the weekend at the home of Mrs. Harrison's brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Forrest. They enjoyed some coon hunting while there.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Piper of Heppner stopped to visit Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Brown last Sunday. They drove on to visit the Morgans.

Sheriff and Mrs. C. D. J. Bowman and son, Carl, of Heppner visited Mr. Bowman's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Brown July 12.

The friends and neighbors of Hugh Johnson will honor him with a potluck birthday dinner at his camp at Happy Jack next Sunday July 26. It is hoped that everyone will be able to be there. Hugh is salter on the cattle reserve.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Beardsley had as their guests last Tuesday until Thursday, Mr. Beardsley's brother, Jud and family from

Los Angeles. Mrs. Louise Scott of Top, has been enjoying a visit with her two sisters for the past week. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Round and children of Dayville, were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Stubblefield and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Vandetta.

Little Miss Susan Rhinehart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Rhinehart of Ukiah, is spending some time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Enright.

Cecil Rhinehart of Albee, spent last week with his sister, Mrs. Chrystie Enright.

Ed Rond was taken to the hospital in John Day last Wednesday. He was suffering from an infected toe.

## FAIR-MINDED

Cooking is one of the arts, and judging by the displays at the fair, it is definitely not a lost art. Enter in the Betty Crocker Clifton Cake Contest and take home one of their lovely gifts. The 4-H cooking exhibits show the care taken by the leaders in teaching the members how "to make the best better".

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### State Awards Program Studied by 4-H Expert

Oregon has been selected as one of the four states where 4-H club members will be quizzed about the incentive of the 4-H awards program, Burton Hutton, state 4-H leader, has reported.

Miss Mary Ruth Rapp of Chicago, representing the national committee on boys and girls work, has arrived at the state 4-H office to begin the five-week quiz period.

Some 50 or 60 4-H youngsters in Washington, Jackson and Wallowa counties will be asked about their own work in 4-H clubs by Miss Rapp. Tennessee, Indiana and Pennsylvania will be included in the final report.

Oregon was chosen by an advisory committee as one of the four states because awards have long been a part of the 4-H club program. Cooperating with the national committee are Harvard university and the 4-H department of USDA.

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