

# Ranch Offers Touch of Wild West

## Joaquin Miller Spread Near John Day Named for Famed Gold Rush Era Poet

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing in the Sunday Oregonian, one of an annual series sponsored jointly by The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor Assn. These travel articles describe vacation trips and destinations throughout the Northwest and are recommended for out-of-state visitors coming to Oregon during the Centennial Year observance.

By LEVERETT RICHARDS  
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

The old Wild West of song and story. That's what the dudes from the effete East want to see when they come West to share Old Man Oregon's 100th birthday cake next year.

They can find it (among other places) 100 feet off the main highway at the Joaquin Miller Guest ranch, 10 miles south of John Day on Highway 395, just 10 miles off Highway 26, one of America's main streets.

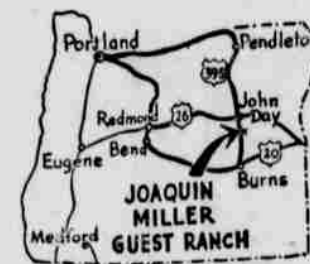
We set out on an Oregonian—Oregon State Motor Assn. motorlog in search of the Wild West to complete the education of Jaap Wertheim, the Dutch student who spent the year with us under the American Field Service program. Cowbodies are scarce in the Netherlands. So are mountains.

"We have just one. It is 300 feet high and all sand," Jaap used to say.

### Pine Trees Scarce

Pine trees are scarce, too, and the deer are not for hunting.

Joaquin Miller dude ranch, named for the routin', tootin' poet of gold rush days, looked like a frontier ranch should—a cluster of red buildings with false fronts that looked like the Red Dog saloon and the Dead-Eye Dance Hall, the country store and the blacksmith shop of a typical cowtown, all nes-



Joaquin Miller Guest Ranch is on Highway 395, 10 miles south of John Day. Map shows variety of routes to ranch.



At Niles Sproul's urging, Jaap Wertheim tries his hand with branding iron, holding it like a professional. Ranch is one of last using old "head and heel" handling of calves.

ted in a mountain meadow under redolent pines at the foot of Canyon Mountain.

Sure enough there is a saloon, now converted to tamer use; a blacksmith shop, and a real western dance hall. There is also a cook house where steaks, mashed potatoes, pie and cake are served family style in quantities.

There is also a comfortable swimming pool, 24 by 70 feet, fed by natural hot springs and open from dawn to near midnight. James E. (Jim) Sharp used to run the ranch as a public resort until he and Volney McHaley teamed up last year to establish it as a guest ranch and hunting headquarters, season June 1 to Oct. 30.

They have cabins for 18 guests on the banks of Canyon Creek under the murmuring pines, and apartments for a half dozen more in the main lodge building, which includes dance hall and lounge. They also have horses, dozens of them. And thereby hangs a tale.

### Horse Said Famous

Jaap, our Dutch student, had never seen a real, live saddle bronc close up, much less straddled one.

"Your horse is famous," the ranch hands had assured him, solemnly. "Widow-Maker, they call him, because he's killed so many riders."

"When I saw that horse, now, I was believing it, too," Jaap later confessed. "He was so much bigger and stronger than I."

But Jim and Deke and Frank McHaley, Deke's dad, who introduced bareback bucking to the Pendleton Round-Up—and a dozen dudes were waiting with wide grins. So the Dutch boy got up. He and "Widow-Maker"—whose calling name was really Tracy—were close friends in a few minutes, except when Tracy trotted. Jaap didn't trot when Tracy did.

"Tracy is always coming up when I am coming down. What's the matter with him? Jaap complained.

Nevertheless, the whole family rode ten miles that day, winding through the parklike woods, up steep hills and into the open reaches of the high

country, where Deke and Jim rode off through the chaparral to scare up a dozen deer.

This is the heart of the deer country. Dudes have seen as many as 150 in a day. In hunting season the open woods are ablaze with gunfire. But Sharp and McHaley take their parties in to a 6,000-acre private ranch near Izee where a hunter has only to sit and shoot. The ranch adjoins the Canyon Creek archery reserve where only bows and arrows may be used. Here Jim and Deke drive the deer slowly past the firing line for the hunters. Elk hunting is more rugged, but good.

More than 9,000 deer and more than 1,000 elk were killed in Grant County in 1956.

### Good Fishing Available

Fishing, too, is good on Canyon Creek, and irresistible on more inaccessible tributaries. The refrigerator was full of tender ten-inch Rainbow trout when we were there.

We couldn't get our gang out of the old swimming pool except for riding, eating and square dancing, however. The Mt. Vernon square dancers showed up in force and lured some of the dudes from the ranch into joining their squares.

There's something about the sweet scent of pine at high noon on a hot day that makes

a man want to sleep by the murmuring creek. But our hosts had to show us some more of the Old West—a calf-branding bee on the Niles Sproul ranch in nearby Bear Valley.

There a half dozen neighbor families converged around the big log corral on a sunny Sunday morning to help with the branding.

### Calves Healed, Heeled

No fancy mechanical squeeze boxes here. These cowmen "head and heel" their calves. One passes a loop around the rugged range calf, then leads the balky critter into the center of the corral where another mounted cowhand passes his loop over one or both of the calf's hind legs.

The well-trained horses then stretch the bawling calf out while he is branded, vaccinated, emasculated, his ears notched and his horn buds cauterized. This was almost too much for our Dutchman on his first dude ranch, until he saw the calves frisk away unharmed by their ordeal.

We were only sorry we could not stay for the potluck dinner which concludes these traditional branding bees.

But we each had a date with a horse. We didn't want to waste a minute of the magic of Joaquin Miller ranch.

day. The Helkers attended the Sea Fair, the boat races and many other points of interest there. They also visited at Whidley Island, Anacortes and Mercer Island.

Mr and Mrs Fredrick Martin and family returned home Sunday from British Columbia, Canada where they spent ten days. They stayed at Kamloops, Lucky Strike fishing camp and toured the central part of British Columbia.

### Dates To Remember:

August 17—Grange picnic at the city park with potluck dinner around noon.  
All grangers and their families and friends are welcome.

August 22—Three Links of Bunchgrass Rebekah lodge meeting.

Books added to lone library are: By Love Possessed, Cozens; The Northern Light, Cronin; Pemberton Ltd, Glyn; The Town Faulkner; The Time of Dragons, Ekert; Ella Gunning, Deasy; Victoria and Albert, Anthony; Ice Palace, Ferber.

Mr and Mrs Alfred Nelson and family are vacationing at Pend Oreille Lake in Idaho.

Mr and Mrs George Sora and children of Nampa, Idaho are visiting at the Ernest McCabe home.

Mrs Howard Crowell and Miss Patricia Steagall spent last week in Portland.

Mrs John Voorshes and daughters of Portland are visiting her parents, Mr and Mrs Wate Crawford.

Mrs Olive Engleman is ill at her home.  
Miss Shirlee McGreer is counselling at the Colton Youth Camp at Colton.

The lone public library board met Monday afternoon. Mrs Dixon Smith was elected president; Mrs Fannie Griffith was elected vice president, Mrs Victor Rietmann secretary-treasurer. Other members of the board are Mrs Verner Troedson and Mrs John Proudfoot. The board decided to have hook shelves made for the library and library week was discussed.

Mrs Noel Dobyns underwent surgery at the St Vincent's hospital in Portland Monday. She and Mr Dobyns went to Portland last week. They took Mrs Grace Ware to Morton, Wash to visit her son-in-law, Mr and Mrs G V Crumb.

Mr and Mrs Henry Gorgor of Pendleton are staying at the David Baker farm while the Bakers are in California.

Mrs Tony DeSpain of Cascade Locks visited at the home of her son and family, Mr and Mrs Robert DeSpain last week.

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## Monument News

By MARTHA MATTESON

Ray Glenger is in the John Day hospital with pneumonia.

Mr and Mrs Mead Gilman were in John Day Saturday on business. While there they called on several friends who were in the hospital.

Rev and Mrs Jack Chan and daughter returned home this week after spending six weeks visiting in Washington.

Mrs Oleta Farrans of the Monument post office and Lois Hill of Kimberly drove to Fossil Sat-

urday evening for post office meeting.

Mr and Mrs Roy Cork took a load of cattle to Madras for his brother Harold.

The Bob Leslie family of Bend were visiting her folks, the Roy Corks for a few days.

George Stirritt and Fred Mc-Willis were business callers in John Day Monday.

Cecil Rinehart has returned from his vacation and is at the home of his sister, Mrs Chrytle Enright. He drives the school bus from Top to town.

Mrs Lois Bleakman and two daughters and Mrs Carl Cox and daughter were in John Day on Tuesday.

Mrs Fred Page of Oceanlake, Oregon was here for a few days on business. She owns five houses here that are rented.

Mrs Arlet Flemings and two children and Jessie Jewel and two children went to Seattle last week to meet Arlet Flemings, who had been in Alaska this summer, fishing.

Mr and Mrs Wayne Leathers and two children left Wednesday for California to visit their daughter and family, the Abe Gates.

Mr and Mrs Charlie Roach

were called to Washington Friday evening by the illness of his mother.

Mr and Mrs Bert Howard of Mt Vernon were in Kimberly Saturday getting peaches and visiting. They used to run the Kimberly postoffice and store.

Mrs Harold Cork was in Seattle last week to attend the annual Alaskan picnic.

Dalton Wilhelm of Spray is now working at the State forestry office. He is taking the place of Aubrey Crum who broke some ribs while fighting one of the fires in July.

June Hutchison drove George Kirk to John Day Monday morning for medical care.

Mrs Boyd Hinton and Mrs Mattie Stubblefield were in John Day on business.

Mr and Mrs George Stubblefield and four children were in John Day Wednesday.

Gus Peterson was in John Day Wednesday on business for the power company.

Mr and Mrs Earl Sweek, who have been visiting their daughter and family, the Ray Bowers at Dayton, Washington, arrived here on Tuesday. They spent the night with their son,

(Continued on Page 10)

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## Ione Girl Breaks Leg Swimming

By ECHO PALMATEER

Marjorie O'Connor, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles T'Connor, fractured both bones in her left leg just above the ankle when she fell in the swimming pool at Hat Rock park Sunday. She was taken to Hermiston for treatment and then brought to the Pioneer Memorial hospital in Heppner where she will be a patient for a few days.

Mr and Mrs Ralph Crum and family visited relatives in The Dalles Sunday. Mrs Glenn Shuey, Mr Crum's sister, returned home with them.

Rev and Mrs Charles Wilkes and family are visiting relatives in Grangeville, Idaho. Recent guests at the Wilkes home were his mother, Mrs Wilkes, his sister, Margaret Wilkes and a niece, Judy Wilkes of Idaho.

Stephen Ring of Heppner is visiting his grandparents, Mr and Mrs Harvey Ring.

Those from here who attended a Nazarene Singfest in Irigon Friday evening of last week were Mrs Ralph Crum and children, Bonnie, Jack, Bobby and Monty; Ralph and John Akers, Judy Wilkes, Rev Charles Wilkes and Frank Wiley.

A social meeting was held after the regular Bunchgrass Rebekah Lodge meeting Thursday evening of last week. The hostesses were Mrs Omar Rietmann and Mrs Walter Roberts.

Henry Clark and son, Lowell, Harold Martin and Alecia Swales

of Hermiston were lone visitors Sunday. Henry Clark has purchased a home in Hermiston.

Mr and Mrs Roger Kincaid and daughter, Debbie, left last week on a vacation trip to San Diego, California.

Mrs David McLeod gave a birthday party Wednesday afternoon, August 6 at the city park in honor of her daughter, Deborah, who was four years old. Other children present were John and Stevie Wagenblast, Greg Jacobs, Terry and Cathy Cannon, Marlene and Anita Crawford, Melvin Gaarsland, Carol Hausler, John and Lisa McCabe, Ricky Barnett, Barbara and Ricky Boyce, Bradley Ramsey and Bill, Frances and David McLeod Jr. After the picnic swimming was enjoyed at the pool.

Mrs Norman Nelson gave a birthday party at her home Friday, August 8 in honor of her son, Charles' 8th birthday. The children enjoyed swimming at the pool in the afternoon and a barbeque party at the Nelson home in the evening. Children present were Jimmy McElligott, Kerry Peterson, Bobbie Ball, Floyd Wiley, Bill McLeod and Bradley Ramsey.

Mr and Mrs Ernest Heliker returned from a two weeks trip Sunday evening. They spent most of the time in Seattle where they visited their son-in-law and daughter, Mr and Mrs Jerry Bolman. The Bolmans brought them home and left for Seattle Mon-