

# My Search for Doctor McMurdo

By CARL McDANIEL

The first thing I want to say about the seven days I hunted for Doctor McMurdo, is that I thank God for giving me the courage and endurance to follow the dim and obliterated trail left by the Doctor. No man could have done what I did without HIS help.

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 4, I received word that Doctor McMurdo was lost on Saturday while hunting. I immediately went to where the searchers had their camp on Little Potamus Creek and offered my assistance. Ted McMurdo took me to where he had last seen the Doctor and he described the kind of shoes the Doctor was wearing. This gave me some kind of idea of what kind of tracks I was looking for. I found one footprint near where the Doctor had left the Jeep, that could have been his. Ted also told me the route that the Doctor was planning to go, up the draw. This was all the information I had. I went up the ridge to the top of the hill of the main ridge checking for tracks. There were tracks everywhere, but not the ones I was looking for. Knowing that the Doctor was right-handed, I was sure he would turn more to the right while travelling, so I turned right into Gilbert Creek. Man tracks were everywhere, but I did not find any of the Doctor's. However, just before I got to Gilbert Creek I saw one lone track, the one I was looking for. These tracks were one just ahead of the other not over 14 inches apart, the toes turned out. Now if the Doctor had been an average person, he would have panicked and I could have caught him in an hour, but Doctor wasn't an average person. He was a good woodsman; if he got tired he would rest and take care of himself. It was getting late when I tracked him to the mouth of Gilbert Creek and found where he had made a circle between Big Potamus and Gilbert Creek. Both sets of tracks led down Big Potamus. I followed these tracks down nearly to the Forest Boundary; it was getting so dark that I was unable to track. I went on down to Little Potamus thinking I might see some hunters but saw none. I started going up Little Potamus trying to make it back to the camp in the dark. I was five hours going one half mile up. At 1 a.m. I found a bare place by a big rock and stayed there out of the wind until morning. It had rained at 2 a.m. and blotted out all of the tracks.

I arrived at the camp the next morning, Monday, Oct. 5. Freddie Nelson gave me a cup of hot tea; this made a new man of me! I then went back to Big Potamus with Barton and Ned Clark. The three of us hunted down Big Potamus Creek. This was where we made some signs—with arrows pointing down—that were mistaken by others hunting in this area, for signs made by the Doctor. One sign read: NED, the N and E were close together and was thought to be an M. Orville Cutsforth picked us up. I checked hunters' shoes and footprints around their camps. When we got back to the main camp, we found that the bloodhound had not found anything.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, it was snowing. I rode with Officer Patrick and we checked a fire. No guns had been found. We decided there was not enough fire in one place to burn a body.

Wednesday, Oct. 7, I went out to Gilbert Creek Ridge with Harry O'Donnell and Dean Gilman. Dean and I then hunted Gilbert Creek and Big Potamus. We found one heel print in all day searching. This fit into the picture later. Harry picked us up at Little Potamus. Harry told us that the Boy Scouts had found a hat of the Doctor's. Several people have asked me how Doctor lost his hat. I'd say "When he walked up the hill from Little Potamus, he was hot and sweaty, he took off his wool Red Hat and rolled it up and put it in his hip pocket and it either worked out or caught on a bush and pulled out."

Thursday, Oct. 8, it was foggy and raining. I met the Grant County mounted posse, Reese Humphrey, L. D. Vinson, Don Boyer, Warren Constant, Elmer Kelby, Merle Swaggart and others, the best mountain men the West ever produced. We searched Little Potamus—no trace of the Doctor.

Friday, Oct. 9, I searched the rims of Gilbert Creek and found nothing. I went back to my cabin at Parkers Mill and got my grub box and sleeping bag.

Saturday, Oct. 10, I set up camp at a cabin on the River at the mouth of Big Potamus. I hunted Big Potamus Creek and I found three foot prints, the right, the left and the right. The last right was placed directly in front of the left with the toe turning just a little to the left. He was turning up country. This was the clue that led me to the body of the Doctor.

Sunday, Oct. 11, I left my camp early thinking that all I had to do was to walk to the place where the body was laying. However, cattle had blotted out all of the tracks the Doctor had left along the trails. The last mile or so he was along the creek most of the time. If there was any sand, he walked through it. He kept right on going, and I would say to myself, "what is holding that man up?" He had the endurance of a mule. Then, I was going along, and there was his red jacket—the body was in the creek with the head and shoulders propped against a rock. These tracks that I followed were eight days old with rain and snow on since they were made. I would say that the last act that Doctor did, was to put his body in the open so it could be found. The snow and rain had caused the water to rise in the creek. I was concerned more now about getting the body out. I planned to get a gentle horse from Warren or Elmer and come back early in the morning and carry it out. I knew just how to pack it with cushions from the cot in the cabin and blankets. I looked about the trail, it wasn't any "free-way." I took the body out of the creek and took care the best I could, then headed for camp—going down the trail, IT HIT ME—I went into shock. I was 5 to 6 hours going out, where I should have made it in an hour. When I got to my camp, there were two men there. I asked them if they were hunting, they said "yes". One fellow asked if I had been hunting, I replied, "Yes, for Doctor McMurdo". He said, "Why in Hell don't they get Carl McDaniel to hunt for that Doctor. If there is a man living that can find him, it is Carl." "Do you know Carl McDaniel?" I asked. "Yes", he answered, "He came over in the Pilot Rock Mts. and found a man that was gone a year".

"He used to be a firefighter in the Desolation country. One of the forest men took me with him out to a fire in the Putney Mountain Country one time, and when we got there Carl McDaniel was there and had the fire OUT!" I tried to put a name to this "map of Ireland" but was unable to! I also did not know the official search had been called off. Nor did I know that someone had discovered Doctor's body before I did. I didn't know there was a reward offered. I would not accept a reward. The story like this one is my reward.

Doctor McMurdo was a great Doctor and a kind man. To him I will say "Hasta Luego".  
—Carl McDaniel

## Farm Tax Course

The Blue Mountain Community College evening school will offer a special five week seminar for farmers entitled SPECIAL TAX PROBLEMS OF THE FARMER. The course will include discussions of the following topics: purchase and sale of farm property, incorporation—pro and con, methods of accounting, depreciation and cost basis, farm cooperatives, irrigation expenses, soil and water conservation expenses, social security, capital gains—breeding stock, record keeping requirements.

The firm of Green and Green will make the presentations with the class beginning at BMCC on Monday, Nov. 9 and will continue each Monday evening for five weeks. The cost of the course will be \$15 and interested persons may pre-register by calling Blue Mountain Community College at 276-1260.

## Soroptimists Hear Measure Reviews

District Attorney Herman Winter reviewed the 11 measures on the General Election ballot at the Soroptimist meeting Thursday noon at the Wagon Wheel. He gave what a yes vote and a no vote would mean. On some he gave his recommendations.

Mrs. Glenn Smith announced the board meeting would be held Oct. 29 at First National Bank conference room. Members are asked to bring a bit of lunch.

**Pendleton Community Television System Channel 9**  
Monday, Oct. 26, 1970  
7:30 P.M.  
**Cassius Clay—Jerry Quarry**  
Heavyweight Fight  
Televised Direct from Atlanta  
Not Carried in Heppner

## Senior Citizens Seek Craft Help

Senior citizens, both men and women, look forward to Thursday afternoon at the Neighborhood Center. Simple crafts are made some Thursdays. Bingo is played some Thursdays.

The Methodist women are serving as well as providing the refreshments for the Thursday parties during the month of October.

Mrs. Brindle is seeking a volunteer group to serve the refreshments during the month of November. Any group wishing to do this is asked to call the Center, 676-5873.

The state funds have been curtailed that provided a party leader for the crafts for the Thursday parties. The Neighborhood Center is seeking a volunteer who might take the crafts for a definite Thursday of each month.

Other items that the Center could use are: cottage cheese cartons, baby food jars, old jewelry, odds and ends of lace, rick-rack, braid, velvet, silk and satin.

## 'Show and Tell' At Rock Club

Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society meeting will be Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. in the McMurry building next to the Wagon Wheel Lounge and Cafe.

Mrs. George Miller, program chairman, has slides to be shown. They are the Stone Age Artifacts on the Columbia. Mrs. Walter Edger, president of the Rock Club says the theme for the evening is "Show and Tell." Mr. Edger asks that the members or non-members bring any artifacts they may have.

Refreshments and coffee will be served at the close of the program.

ins. For anticipated Christmas angels, the Center could use odds and ends of burlap and trims.

During the Magic Sale planned by the merchants, the Senior Citizens will have a "Magic Sale" table in Case Furniture.

## Alaskan Still Hunts At Lonerock

Toby Adams and a party of hunters are staying at his Hunting Lodge at Lonerock. Toby recently moved to Alaska where he purchased a Night Club but he still enjoys hunting in Oregon the best.

Hunters still flood the Lonerock area. Mr. and Mrs. E. Davis and Carroll had the following guests over the weekend: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Heaton and daughter and Mrs. Marie Phegley, from Portland.

A number of people will be leaving Lonerock to spend the winter elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Christensen have rented the Ed Morgan home in Condon and will spend the winter there. Mrs. Hattie Lee will spend the winter with friends in Walla Walla. Mrs. Edith Perry will soon leave for Winlock, Wash., where she will spend a few months with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Maidment and the Fred Bennetts at Centralia.

## 1970 District Fires Most Since 1954

The Heppner Ranger District has a new record for the number of lightning fires in this district during the past fire season. They had 58 lightning fires which is the highest number reported since records were first kept in 1954. The largest fire reported was 3 acres for a total of 17 acres.

The lookouts and aerial detection following every lightning storm afford early detection of fires. The district has planes under contract that are flown by District personnel.

There were 12 man-caused fires in the district. The largest of which was contained in 3 acres for a total burn of 7 1/4 acres.

The fire season was lifted on Oct. 21. All districts of the Umatilla-National Forest except Heppner had lifted the closure earlier. It was felt enough rain had fallen to ease the fire danger. Unattended fires are unlawful. No permit will be required to build a fire but rangers urge caution and suggest campers and hunters to continue carrying a shovel, bucket and axe.

MOORE Pocket Registers, Moore register forms, duplicate and triplicate, and register carbons, available at the Gazette.

## Did You?

If you voted for Al Ullman, learn how you voted for the seizure of your gun and ammunition and exempted convicted criminals. Send 50c to Congressional Facts Chairman George Rachau, Box 235, Elgin, Oregon 97827.  
(Pd. adv. by Carl Marquardt, Ralph Crum)

You helped make all this possible by voting for Tom McCall four years ago.

Thank you.

Here are just a few of the things Governor Tom McCall and his administration have accomplished over the past four years:

- made Oregon's air quality program the toughest in the country.
- established administrative districts to bring state government closer to the people and to give local governments a stronger voice.
- fought the nerve gas shipments coming into Oregon until the shipments were stopped.
- obtained research funds to eliminate by 1972 all polluting agricultural field burning and to provide alternatives to agricultural disease control and disposition of waste material.
- created the Office of Consumer Protection to keep the people of Oregon from being cheated.
- secured passage of legislation which preserves Oregon's beaches for all Oregonians—forever.
- stood up to the federal government on its new welfare bill, preventing economic disaster for Oregon.
- fought water pollution until Oregon had the cleanest water in the country.
- led a foreign trade mission to promote Oregon's agri-products which has resulted in the expansion of commerce with the Orient.
- created a Nuclear Development Coordinating Committee to protect environmental quality.
- obtained millions of dollars of federal funds to reduce the crime rate in Oregon.
- campaigned to encourage the federal government to take over 100 percent of welfare costs.
- worked toward improving day-care facilities so that mothers who are welfare recipients can be employed.
- established an Institute of Aging at Portland State University to provide services to senior citizens.
- secured a student loan program that now provides assistance to over 18,000 students seeking a higher education.
- established the Management 70s Task Force which when implemented will cut state expenditures \$20 million a year.
- cut budgets of state agencies to meet the rising cost of welfare resulting from federal regulations.
- introduced the Methadone program for treatment of drug addicts which has become a national model.
- initiated a proposal to join with the State of Washington in the development of mutual guidelines for the preservation of the Columbia Gorge.
- curtailed activities on the Oregon coast which threatened the natural ecology of the coast.

- launched a campaign to outlaw non-returnable bottles.
- established strict time tables to phase out open and wigwam waste burners.
- established a new state program to aid Oregon students attending private higher educational institutions.
- channeled an additional 133 million state dollars back into local governments for schools, roads and property tax relief.
- helped start a work release program which is reducing government costs by improving rehabilitation.
- encouraged the State Board of Higher Education to control campus disorders and to enforce faculty-student discipline codes.
- created a stronger narcotics treatment program by obtaining federal funds for a model training-treatment project.
- launched a program to make state officials available to answer local inquiries and solve local problems.
- provided over 1,000 senior citizens with transportation to doctors, clinics, markets, and stores.
- supported a fair distribution of state construction funds by initiating projects in all regions of the state.
- held the line against the federal government's proposal to terminate federal construction programs.
- created a Governor's Commission on Youth to improve youth job opportunities.
- organized a separate Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- initiated special treatment programs for the mentally ill.
- helped Portland State University obtain doctoral programs in urban studies, environmental science and systems science.
- secured an additional \$1.6 million in federal funds for the Willamette Greenway.
- established the Department of Transportation so that Oregon would avoid the mistakes of other states in relying too heavily on highways as the only form of land transportation.
- created a state park reservation system so Oregonians can now reserve camping sites.
- placed 3,000 hard-core unemployed in jobs.
- obtained tax incentives for factories to restrict air pollution.
- promoted new foreign markets for forest products.
- continued to work on the Nixon Administration to shift national policies that are detrimental to Oregon's economy.
- assisted in securing an investment of over \$84 million to improve and expand port and harbor facilities.
- obtained \$150 million in bonds for sewage treatment plants in Oregon communities.

- established a drug education program within the schools.
- helped Oregon State University become one of the three sea-grant colleges in the United States.
- backed legislation which relieves Oregon counties from financing welfare.
- created the Office of Ombudsman to represent the people.
- increased the number of sheltered workshops so that hundreds of mentally retarded are now earning enough money to help support themselves.
- secured university status for Portland State University.
- helped provide for additional financing of classrooms and special school building projects.
- straightened out the maze of overlapping state districts which has served as a model system for working with local governments.
- encouraged existing industries to invest \$250 million in plant expansions which has created 7,500 new manufacturing jobs for Oregonians.
- supported a \$750,000 program which improves undergraduate instruction in public schools.
- assisted in securing \$600,000 for improved Juvenile Court services.
- worked against freight and tax rate structures that are discriminatory to the forest products industry.
- attracted new industries into Oregon which have created 8,000 new jobs.
- supported legislation to ease the tax burden on the elderly.
- created a full-time Parole Board.
- placed 433 senior citizens in jobs to supplement their fixed retirement incomes.
- improved part-time youth job opportunities and established a job bank for youths.
- helped expand local community mental health clinics.
- developed policies on state-owned lands that allowed for better cutting practices and faster rotation of the forest, while protecting the environment.
- established employment program in North Portland to deal directly with the disadvantaged and hard-core unemployed.
- established a drug education unit within the Mental Health Division.

Keep Oregon, Oregon. Keep Tom McCall.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- OCTOBER  
22—The Boardman Extension unit will meet at the home of Mrs. Al Warnock, at 12:00 noon. Lesson to be presented is Seafood Cookery. Call Mrs. Mel Allyn for more information. All women in the community are welcome to the extension unit meeting.  
23—Women's Fellowship at Ione at the Fred Nelson home at 2:00 p.m.  
23—Homecoming!  
24—TOPS Area Recognition Day

- at Condon  
24—North Morrow 4-H Council members will spend the day at the 4-H building making needed repairs and cleaning the building. All interested people in the Boardman community are invited to come join the "clean up crew!"  
26—Chamber of Commerce meeting.  
26—Ione Lions Club meets.  
27—"Heppner Minimize" TOPS club meets at Neighborhood center at 8:00 p.m.