

County gives a royal welcome to Bicentennial wagon train



MORROW COUNTY Judge Paul Jones welcomes the crowd to Cecil.

An estimated 1,300 people gathered at Cecil last Tuesday to greet the Bicentennial Wagon Train after it entered Morrow County.

The 12 wagons in the train, including one from Morrow County driven by Everett Keithley, formed a large circle at Cecil, as in the early pioneer days.

Members of the train, after feeding their horses, mingled with the crowd to tell of their experiences since leaving Washington on their way to Pennsylvania.

Preparations had been made to feed 600 people: more than 1,000 people came from all parts of Morrow and adjoining counties to enjoy the Krebs pit barbecued beef. Extra food was brought from Arlington and Heppner to serve the unexpected crowd.

Dinner was served from the old Thomas Lowe building which has also served as a post office for more than 100 years. Several hundred more people gathered in a semi-circle in front of the old Cecil store that had been cleaned up for the festivities. They sat on planks and bales of hay, some on the ground, as they waited for the performance.

Morrow County Bicentennial leaders Mike Sweeney and Terry Hughes introduced Morrow County Judge Paul Jones, who welcomed the crowd.

When Dick Krebs was introduced he said his cousin and co-owner of Krebs Brothers Inc., Henry Krebs, was in Wyoming. He had talked with Henry Krebs by phone and had been instructed to "pull out all the stops" and make it

a good one at Cecil. He also promised, "No one has ever left a Krebs table hungry, and I hope no one leaves Cecil hungry."

Sweeney later presented a plaque to both Dick and Henry Krebs in appreciation of their outstanding efforts in making their ranch available and ready for the celebration.

Wagonmaster Earl Flick said, "This is the best Oregon crowd yet, and everything is just perfect. The last time I was in Morrow County they told me the population was a little over 5,000 people; with about one quarter of the people here in Cecil, that shows the hospitality of the people of the county."

The wagon train show featured the Transcontinental Bicentennial singing group from Penn State University.

They sang popular as well as western music. The Lone Grand Squares, with Darrell Wilson calling, presented three colorful square dances.

Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Queen Mickey Hoskins and her court extended an invitation to all to return Aug. 19-24 for the fair and rodeo.

Music was provided by the Depot II and Dick Gorham and his group of Heppner, and people danced in the street in front of the old store.

Bob Lowe, who came to Cecil from England as a youngster in 1913 when his father took over the store said, "This is the most people ever to congregate in Cecil."

Several Morrow County people and 4-H Club members spent the night with the train and escorted it to the Lindsay Ranch the following night.



DICK KREBS, left, accepts a plaque from Bicentennial Chairman Mike Sweeney.



MORROW COUNTY was well represented in the Bicentennial Wagon Train. Wagonmaster for Morrow County was Everett Keithley. His assistant in the wagon is his grandson, Todd Harrison. On the back of the wagon is Keithley's son-in-law, Bob Harrison, who not only supplied the wagon but helped rebuild it.

Visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Anderson over the past week were their daughters and granddaughters: Mrs. Adelia Martin and Suzanne, Portland; and Mrs. Nancy Parent, Lisa, Alison and Shelly, Milwaukie. Also visiting were Mrs. Anderson's niece, Eileen Pruitt, and her three children, her great-nephew, Scott Henderson, and Mrs. Pruitt's mother, Mrs. Zetta Jenkinson, all of Vancouver, WA.

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