



(Editor's note: The following journal is by Colin McElligott of Ione who describes his experiences on Cycle Oregon X, the cross-country bicycle tour.)

DAY 0: This day started out like most other days. But instead on this day my dad, my sister and I left for Nyssa. We ate at a Dairy Queen in Baker City and then proceeded to Nyssa. When we arrived there were not many people there, but still the little town was all a bustle. We found a parking space, got out our supplies and waited for the doors of the school to open so we could register. They opened about two to three hours after we arrived. When we registered the people had changed our rider numbers, so we had a number under 2500 and one above 2500. Within that time the buses from Portland and Boise, which were jammed with eager people, arrived. Most of the bikes of these people had not yet arrived because they were shipping on some trucks coming from Portland. The 12 bikes that were shipped UPS didn't make until day three.

After registration we set up our tent and got our bikes ready. Then I went and didn't enjoy a dinner of chicken parmesan, wild rice, spinach salad, rolls and butter and most of the brand name drinks made by Pepsi. I didn't eat much because I am a picky eater.

Then I walked around the town and bought a couple pins. After that I went to the rodeo grounds and watched some Aztec dancers. After they finished their performance we listened to Jonathan Nicholas, the president of Cycle Oregon, talk about the ride and the route we were going to take this year. After he finished talking we went to the tent and slept. Just a note: my sister Randi was a grouch every morning. It was a good day. The lines were short to dinner, registration and the blue rooms.

DAY 1: We woke up about 6 a.m. to get a good spot in line for breakfast. We got in line and read "Spin Cycle", formerly the "Cycle Oregonian". "Spin Cycle" is the paper for Cycle Oregon.

Breakfast was bacon, hash browns, french toast, oatmeal, cold cereal variety, bagel, sliced fresh fruit, soft drinks and canned juice. We left breakfast to take down the tent and leave Nyssa to reach Ironside. Before leaving on our westward trek we headed about one mile east to dip our rear tires in the Snake River. We went 31.9 miles till we ate lunch at Willow Creek. It consisted of roast beef/cheddar cheese sandwich, apple chips and monster cookie. We listened to a lady playing John Fogerty's "Centerfield" and some of Janis Joplin's songs.

We then left lunch to head to Ironside. There was a good climb on our way to Ironside. The heat knocked so many people down. When we hit Ironside we had to go down a two mile dirt road to get to the campsite. When we hit the campsite, we found camp and took a shower and got ready for dinner. Dinner was cheese tortellini, tossed green salad with dressing and garlic bread. While we ate we listened to some local talent, some people in the beer garden, and people buying coffee from Starbuck's.

After that we toured the sites. My sister panned for gold. I went to the Bike Gallery and bought some bike horns. Then the Trail Band was tonight's entertainment. In case you are not familiar with the Trail Band, they started up when the people acted out the Oregon Trail. They were boring if you would like to have my opinion on the matter of entertainment. I then went to bed.

DAY 2: I was forced to wake up at 6 a.m. again and get ready when the temperature had barely reached 40 degrees. I got out of the tent and noticed that there was a heavy dew on the bikes as well as the ground. So I set off for breakfast. We had for breakfast- ham, country hash browns, scrambled eggs with cheese, hot oatmeal, cold cereal variety, breakfast bread and sliced fresh fruit. I enjoyed the hot oatmeal and everything else except for the

eggs, because I don't like to eat eggs unless they are over easy and as you know they never served them that way.

So when I got done with my breakfast I headed over to the tent which was set on Cow Pie Lane. So when we got there we waited for my uncle and his friend to come over to the campsite and help take down the tents. When they arrived we took down the tents and loaded them up into the baggage truck. The line was long so I went up and filled the water bottles up while my family members stood in line to load the baggage up. Then we got our bikes and left the town of Ironside. When you arrived and left Ironside you had to go on two miles of gravel road.

Then I got onto the highway and said to myself that I had only three miles till I had to start the longest climb of the day. The climb was 2,700 ft. in 18 miles. At our first food stop the food line was actually longer than the blue room line. This is a very rare occasion. Then at 35.7 miles we ate lunch at Short Creek Guard Station. We hit lunch at the exceedingly disappointing time of 1 o'clock. We stopped at the side of the road and then walked up a dirt path with hornets. The path lasted for about what seemed like 700 yards. When I sat down off to the side of the path I had to worry about sitting on a hornet or two. I also had to defend my food from the wrath of the hornets. I finished my lunch real fast because my dad was pushing me so that we could reach the town of Seneca at a reasonable hour. Boy was my dad off, the reason for this being so is because we reached the town of Seneca at 5:30. We made it down the path and left for Seneca. Then we had to climb another seven miles. Then at mile number 62.7 we hit a false summit, and then again at number 64.1 we hit another false summit. Finally at mile 65.1 we hit the real summit and had downhill all the way into Seneca. The total miles of today's ride was 78.3 but with the 92 degree weather it seemed more like 178.3 miles.

So when we hit Seneca my dad was in a very mad/disappointed mood. The reason was because I was dogging it and did not get in the training I was supposed to get in. So I decided that it was best to stay as far away from my dad as I could. The reason for my dad being so mad was because he said very bluntly to me that I was not trying to draft off of him and that I was lagging behind. I of course did not believe anything that he said even though I knew some of it was true. So we found the place that our tent was set up on the Seneca golf course. But, as it happens, the part of the golf course that we were on was a patch of puncture vine. Now, sitting in a patch of puncture vine is not very comfortable. So I went over to the shower lines and took my shower. Then we came back to the tent and I got some money from my dad to go get a hot dog. The reason for this being is because I really didn't feel like eating a baked potato. So I got my hot dog which was good for me. Then when I had finished it I looked around for my dad and my sister. I found them and since they were headed to dinner I decided I might as well go to. But when I got my dinner I had some second thoughts about it. But I dug into the salad and watermelon. When I had finished I noticed that there was a pen set up close to the eating area. I went over to get a closer look. To my surprise I found that there were two llamas for sale over there. So I stood looking at the two llamas for a while and then left for the tent. When I got back to the tent the music for tonight had already started up. I knew that I must go to sleep now, so I did. I slept well that night.

(Continued)

## Ione homecoming court

By Nova Rietmann

The Ione High School homecoming court was announced during the half-time of the Ione vs. Condon game, October 17, at Ione.

The princesses were: Adrienne Swanson, freshman, Elizabeth Allen, sophomore, Jessica Krebs,

junior, and Kate Garrett, Brenda Burright, and Tiffani Jones, all seniors. Brenda Burright was crowned queen.

Princes were freshman Jeremiah McElligott, sophomore Jacob Neiffer, junior Ryan Benetto and seniors Marc Orem and Jake McElligott. Jake McElligott was crowned king.

## Christian group plans concert



The award-winning Christian music group, "Geoff Moore and the Distance," along with "Out of Eden" and "Smalltown Poets" will perform at Hermiston High School, Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m.

"Geoff Moore and the Distance" have received three consecutive Grammy nominations, numerous number one singles and

five hit albums.

A bus has been provided to take a group of high school students to and from the concert. Any students interested in traveling to the concert with this group may purchase tickets for \$10, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Greg or Teri Lynch, 676-5759.

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# Heppner Businesses

# Halloween

# FUN

## Spooky Story Contest

Heppner merchants will be sponsoring a creative writing contest for youth and a "Guess the Ghoul" contest for adults for Halloween on Friday, Oct. 31.

Youth (grades K-2nd, 3rd-4th, 5th-6th, 7th-8th, high school) will enter participating businesses and locate the "scavenger item" designated in the store. (Items may be Halloween or non-Halloween.) They will write down all the items, then write a story in 250 words or less that includes all the items. The story should be a Halloween story and will be judged 50% on creativity and interest, and 50% on correct grammar (depending on age).

Each age group will have a winner receiving a \$25 gift certificate redeemable in any participating business. The grand prize winner will have their story published in the Gazette-Times. All stories will be displayed by the businesses. Entries must be turned in by the following Friday, Nov. 7 by 6 p.m. at the following merchants: Gazette-Times, Shoe Box, Gardner's, Coast to Coast, NW Motel and Murray's Drug. Winners will be posted in the paper the following week.

## "Guess the Ghoul" Contest

For adults (ages 18 and up), participants match disguised faces with the business they are from. All correct answers will be pooled and a winner drawn, receiving a \$25 gift certificate. The faces will be published in the paper the week of Halloween with the same deadline date as above, at the same drop-off locations.

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