

Couple on Horseback Trip From Mexico to Canada Now in Oregon

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Frontier days of the Far West long since have passed, but Don and June Mulford, Castle Rock, Wash., ranchers, are sure proof that the pioneer spirit still prevails.

Since April 19 they have been traveling by horseback along the trails of the Pacific Crest System on a trek from the Mexican border to the Canadian line. Prompted by a love of the out-of-doors and a wish to see the West's "high country," the Mulfords also are impelled by the desire to pioneer by being the first to make this long packhorse journey.

Many a hiker's boot and many a horse's hoof have clamped along the paths of the system, but the Mulfords say they have learned of no one who has made this ambitious jaunt in a single trip on the Sierra-Nevada and Cascade Mountain trails between the two international boundaries.

By last Sunday the Castle Rock couple had completed an estimated 1560 miles in 3½ months of their anticipated 5½ months journey. Intercepted for an interview en route on Dead Indian rd., some 25 miles east of Ashland, the Mulfords said they had 820 miles to go before reaching the United States northern line. They reported themselves a bit ahead of schedule. Their target date for reaching Canada is Oct. 1.



HIGH TRAIL TRAVELERS—On a modern day pioneering venture are Don and June Mulford, above, Castle Rock ranchers. They are traveling by horseback along the Pacific Crest Trail system—along the high trails of the Sierra-Nevada and Cascade mountains from Mexican border to the Canadian line. The Mulfords believe they are the first to make this long trek in a single journey. They entered Oregon on Wednesday, July 29, stopped at the Zinn ranch Thursday and Friday and resumed their travels Saturday. They are following the Skyline trail in Oregon.

Snow also blocked the couple and their animals at Glen Pass and they had to go back off the John Muir trail and along Highway 395. Highest campsite was on Crabtree Meadows (10,333 feet) in the Mt. Whitney vicinity.

The Mulfords and their animals crossed the middle fork of the Feather River on a swinging bridge, going from 6,000 feet down to 2,000 and back up to 6,000.

Asked if the couple has ever been lost on the trip, Don replied that he and June were lost all the time because they did not know the country. He reported that they have been off in their directions but had never been off a trail without knowing it. Mulford told of his use of the sun and stars to tell direction and time. He said that he has a compass but does not trust it.

Mulford reported only two encounters with rattlesnakes. One refused to "give the trail" and created a "mix-up" among the horses until the riders, who do not carry a gun, killed the snake with rocks.

The couple started their trip with four horses, two of which have had to be replaced. Maverick and Steamboat have been with them all the way. Silky Sullivan and Traveler are their other present horses. The mule, Andy, was obtained at Lake Tahoe.

Worry About Horses

Biggest worry of their trek, the Mulfords said, is their animals. Pack laden horses and mule face the hazard of heat and sore backs. "We can suffer the heat much better than the horses," Mulford pointed out. Riding and packing duties are shifted about and, generally, each day there is one animal without a burden.

Enthusiasm of the pair for their horseback venture still seemed vibrant Sunday. They declared that the challenge and the desire to complete the journey is still strong. Never once, they said, have they discussed backing out. The two are looking forward particularly to a rendezvous with once skeptical relatives and friends, at White Pass along the Cascade Crest Trail in Washington.

They foresee the hazard of snow in late stages of their journey since snows are possible after Sept. 15 in Washington. Such snow may mean a week or so layover waiting for it to melt, Mulford stated.

The Mulfords, who have been ranchers 10 years and have raised registered polled shorthorns on the 185-acre Lucky Don Ranch midway between Chehalis and Kelso, sold their 85 head of cattle last year in anticipation of the border to border trek. They began planning the trip in June a year ago and made a few packhorse trips as test runs. The ranch was leased out.

Don said he and June might not go back to cattle raising. They'd like to travel about and take wildlife pictures. They are thinking of wintering in California after finishing the high trail jaunt, unless interest in their mountain venture beckons them to New York for television appearances.

Mt. Whitney Pass

Highest elevation on their travels was Mt. Whitney Pass (13,777 feet). They reached the summit of the pass on June 6 but could not go on over because of snow. The two believe they are the first to reach that summit on horseback that early in the season.

es to have it published.

Don reported that he developed his interest in high trails by working on them during his days in the former Civilian Conservation Corps and from hunting and fishing in Washington. His wife spoke of her lifelong love of the out-of-doors.

Mulford now 40, demonstrated his adventuresome nature at the age of 20. Deciding that he wanted to see the United States, he said, he started out with \$6 in his pocket and went "on the road," covering 18,000 miles in four months. Most of the travel, he reported, was by hitchhiking since he found freight trains too slow. He did some boxing for side money.

Criticism of the U. S. forest service for inadequate marking of trails was voiced by Mulford. He maintained that there would be a lot more use of the out-of-doors and a lot fewer people lost if the trails are kept open and marked. Mulford claimed that the forest service is closing trails which should be kept open for fire protection.

A Rogue River National forest official here said that the Mulfords should find the Skyline Trail well marked north from Lake of the Woods, where, for all intents and purposes, the Oregon Cascade route really begins. The official said that the trail from Highway 66 to Dead Indian rd., follows old abandoned roads and that most of the area is private land which it is almost impossible to mark.

Camera Better Than Gun

Mulford reported that the out-of-doors on this trip has come to mean more to him than just hunting. He said he is having more fun with a camera than he would with a gun. The two have not had time along the trails to fish.

The horsebacking ranchers expressed desire to acquaint people with the out of doors and want to see it maintained

Seven Crewmembers Rescued from Atlantic

Hampton, Va.—(AP)—A passing ship rescued seven crew members of an Air Force tanker plane which crashed into the Atlantic 400 miles south of Bermuda yesterday.

An eighth crew member is still missing and an intensive air and sea search is under way. The six-engine plane was on a routine flight from the Azores to Langley Air Force base in Virginia.

breakers over Waikiki Beach and halting boat traffic among the islands.

Heavy ground swells and high tides were forecast for the south sides of the island chain where damage to boat harbors was possible, the Weather Bureau said.

High winds and dense fog hindered traffic between Honolulu and the windward side of Oahu Tuesday night. Heavy rains were forecast for all the islands today.

The storm moved in Tuesday night, sending huge

so that it can be enjoyed. They said they feel that, if their trek is successful, others will want to make it.

Along with the scenery that they've viewed and the adventures that they've had, the Mulfords cherish the friendships that they've made. Names of these friends are inscribed in a valued "guest book" they've packed along the trail.

Hurricane to Miss Most of Hawaii

Honolulu—(AP)—The Weather Bureau said today that hurricane Dot would probably swing far enough south to miss most of the island chain of Hawaii.

The bureau said the storm was moving about 14 miles an hour and was picking up speed. It was expected to pass 180 miles south of Honolulu early today, and 100 miles south-southwest of Port Allen on Kauai tonight.

Full gale warnings were still in effect over much of the 50th state, although the intensity of the storm lessened slightly Tuesday.

South Point on Hawaii Island reported Tuesday night that it was getting winds of 35 miles an hour, with gusts up to 50 m.p.h. The weather observatory on Moana Loa recorded winds of 50 m.p.h. with gusts up to 70 m.p.h.

Hilo, the largest city on Hawaii, had only 20 miles an hour winds.

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Charities Benefit From Local Will

Two thousand dollars will be given to the American Cancer society from the estate of the late Harry Holmes, co-founder of Harry and David fruit packing firm, according to his will, now on file in the Jackson County recorder's office.

Holmes' will, which leaves the bulk of his estate in trust for his son, John H. Holmes, 19, has been filed for admission to probate. It also gives \$2,000 to the American Red Cross, \$1,000 to the Boy Scouts of America, and \$1,000 to the Medford YMCA.

Total amount of the estate is not revealed in the documents on file.

The will provides that the trust estate will be terminated when John Holmes reaches the age of 27, and that the estate and accumulated income will go to him at that time.

A codicil added to the will requests that sums be given to five local people. Of these \$1,000 is asked to be given to Mrs. Lila Thomas, former hostess and housekeeper; \$5,000 to Nat B. Bender; \$2,000 to G. A. Cottingham; \$2,000 to Lyle Kinney; and \$3,000 to Glenn Harrison, all officials of Bear Creek orchards.

The executors of the estate named in the will are Harrison, Cottingham, Bender, and Holmes' nephew, David H. Holmes. The bulk of the estate is left in trust to Cottingham, Bender and David Holmes.

The Holmes residence, furniture, and many personal items are left to John Holmes, with some specific items of personal use left to David Holmes and to Gloria Nanette Osgood, niece of the late Harry Holmes.

Some smaller bequests go to Margaret Morrison and Burt B. Lowry Sr., employees of Holmes during his lifetime.



CONFERRING OVER BERLIN'S concern about reported cuts in Western Powers' garrisons are Willy Brandt, left, U. S. Secretary of State Christian A. Herter and West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano in Geneva. Reports hint Western Powers may consider cut in West German garrisons in exchange for Soviet Russia guarantees West Berlin won't be blockaded, harassed.

Fair Talent Contest Deadline Aug. 10

Entrants for the Kiwanis Centennial Fair Talent contest must be mailed to the Fair Headquarters by midnight, Aug. 10, it was announced today.

The Talent contest, open to any individual or group in the area, will be held at the Jackson county armory, Aug. 20 through 23. The winner of the Jackson county event will be sponsored for appearance at the state fair at Salem. Last year's winners were "The Shadows." They also won top honors in competition at the state fair.

Entrants must give a three-minute routine of singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, dramatics, art display, or similar act. Entrants may be either amateur or professional.

Entry blanks may be found in the Sunday editions of the Medford Mail Tribune or at Fair Headquarters, 1221 Court St. Dick Lamont is Talent contest chairman.

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