

Cascade Wranglers Discover Magnificent Scenery Of High Country On Trail Rides



MARGARET LAKE provides a beautiful background for this picture. The rider is unidentified. All scenic pictures by Mrs. Byron Snyder.

By DEAN A. KRENZ
Some of Southern Oregon's most magnificent scenery can best be seen from a mobile vantage point—the back of a horse.

The Cascade Wranglers, only active adult riding organization of its type in the Klamath Falls area, know this is true because their main objective is trail riding.

Organized about a year ago, the Cascade Wranglers now number 14. Each member, of course, owns a horse and knows how to stay on its back while traveling the backwoods trails and climbing ridges to the clear-blue lakes of the Cascades.

Mrs. Byron Snyder, club secretary, points out that the club prefers to take these trail rides rather than participating in parades and rodeos which have taken up much of the time of other riding clubs. Membership is limited to adults, at least 18 or married, so the riders can have real companionship while enjoying the out-of-doors.

Fifteen miles or more traveled on horseback in one day can bring the rider to some really spectacular scenery such as that found along the Skyline Trail or on a trip to Heavenly Twins lakes.

Most club trips are of two or three-day duration with a camp-out as standard procedure. Mounts and riders are transported by truck to points where trail rides begin. From there on, the only possible means of travel is usually by foot or by horse.

Loaded with sleeping, cooking and fishing gear, the riders head for weekend wonders that gas-pedal pushers only dream about.

Pranks, raucous good-humor and savored hardships of camping out are all part of the adult companionship the riders find on these trips.

Even under the worst weather conditions, the riders manage to have a good time.

"Last September we camped out at Cold Spring for two nights," Mrs. Snyder said. "The first morning we awoke covered with snow. We rode on to Island Lake, but we couldn't start a fire and didn't even have a cup of hot coffee," she said.

Joe Jones, vice president of the club, is the subject of a well-remembered trail story involving pancake batter.

Like most amateurs at mixing batter, Jones got into the "too thick or too thin" dilemma and ended up with half a wash tub of pancake makings.

"We ate pancakes for two days after 'bat,'" Mrs. Snyder recalled.

Then there was the time Mrs. Snyder's brother, Jack, landed on the ground with the saddle and other gear on his chest when straps slipped. Another member once walked some seven miles carrying his sleeping bag after his horse decided to beat him home.

Some of the riders who are now members of the club participated in the Oregon Centennial Pony Express ride to Bend on July 4, 1950. The 138-mile trip was completed in nine hours and nine minutes with each rider traveling about three miles. The residents of Crescent went all out in welcoming the riders and provided a corral and use of the community hall.

One of the favorite events filed in the club's book of memories is a real western branding session held at the Joe Jones ranch on the highway to Weed. Club members took part in branding 20 head of cattle and attracted quite a crowd of spectators doing it.

As in most club activities, this event had its humorous highlights.

After branding a huge bull, the wranglers had a tough time getting the animal to its feet. Two men were sitting on the bull, when, unknown to them, another approached from the rear with a branding iron.

The bull reacted as expected. It jumped to its feet, tossing the two men into the air, and then ran out from under them. The surprised wranglers settled to the ground with quite a thud, but they took it in the good spirit of the club.

Officers of the club are David Jones, president; Joe Jones, vice president; Arlyn Jones, treasurer, and Mrs. Snyder, secretary.

Any persons interested in joining may obtain further details from Mrs. Snyder, TU 4-3066.



OFFICERS of the Cascade Wranglers were installed at a recent buffet supper at the AZ Ranch owned by Mr. and Mrs. Al Woody. Left to right are Mrs. Byron Snyder, secretary; Mrs. Joe Jones, treasurer; Joe Jones, vice president; and Dave Jones, president.



SOCIAL EVENTS are also a part of the riding club's program. Mrs. Al Woody, Byron Snyder, past president, and Al Woody enjoy the buffet supper which the Woodys hosted.

THE COVER
Nothing beats a horse in getting the sightseer to the most scenic spots of the Cascades. Mrs. Byron Snyder, secretary of the Cascade Wranglers, an adult riding club, poses with an equine traveling companion in this cover picture by Herald and News photographer Don Kettler.



MOUNT McLOUGHLIN towers in the background of this scenic picture taken at Seven-Mile Lake. In the foreground is Mrs. Byron Snyder on her horse, Sheba.