

Riding the *Chief Joseph Trail*



Riders cross part of the Walter Brennen Ranch with the Wallowa Mountains in the background.

History filled with the exploits of the Nez Perce Indians and their spotted horses came alive for riders who followed the first one-hundred miles of the Chief Joseph Trail . . . The Nez Perce War Trail. Riders recaptured the romance and heartbreak, the heroism and the tragedy of the Nez Perce War of 1877 as they mounted their Appaloosas at Lake Wallowa to follow the footprints which mark the pages of a stirring chapter in the history of the West.

And, although breathtaking scenery marked this hundred-mile trail ride, participants could not help but sense, with awe-inspiring impact, the difficulties which beset Chief Joseph and his warrior brother, Ollikut, as they led their band across canyons, rivers, mountains and plains for 1,350 miles, out-racing and out-fighting five armies as they sought a life free from the confining bonds of the reservation.

By George B. Hatley

Forty trail riders, arriving at Enterprise, Oregon, from nine states and Canada, visited the Wallowa Mountains Appaloosa Club Horse Show on Sunday, June 27, before making final preparations for the Chief Joseph Trail ride.

Riders gathered at Enterprise after traveling from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, California, Montana, and British Columbia, Canada. After putting their horses up for the night at Lee Manes' Wallowa Lake Corrals, riders picked up their envelopes which contained Nez Perce Indian tanned buckskin name tags, baggage tags, cloth emblems, and information brochures.

The official start of the trail ride was signaled by a six o'clock breakfast at the Wallowa Lake Lodge on Monday morning, with riders displaying a "wide awake" appetite for ham and scrambled eggs and towering stacks of genuine sourdough pancakes. Introductions followed, with riders meeting Dick Hammond, Trail Boss; Frank Kramer, Co-manager; Francis Haines, Historian for the Appaloosa Horse Club;

G. J. "Tuck" Tucker, local Historian; Dr. Homer Webb, Veterinarian; Dr. Galen A. Rogers, Medical Doctor; and Don Imboden, Appaloosa Horse Club President.

By eight o'clock all horses were saddled and all riders were ready to hit the trail. They were led to the top of the Glacial Moraine by Dick Hammond, reaching the top after a short pause called when a pack horse, "Old Blue," spooked and took temporary leave of the party. The pack horse, carrying the doctor's and veterinary's kits, abandoned the halter and galloped down the hill, coming to rest at a drift fence near the bottom. George Hatley, Executive Secretary of the Appaloosa Horse Club, who had been leading the "runaway" pack horse, had to grin and bear it when riders commented on the finer points of "pack horse management."

Riders enjoyed a spectacular view from the top of the moraine and learned from "Tuck" Tucker that the lake was 300 feet deep in one place and was one of the finest examples of a glacier formed lake in the United States. He also told the

group that the lake formerly contained silver salmon which were caught, smoked and dried by the Nez Perce Indians. The trail riders rode off the moraine and across the Wallowa Valley after Photographer Jim Mischel took pictures.

The fertile Wallowa Valley captured the attention of riders as they commented on the many acres of green grass which hosted grazing cattle. During this phase of the ride, it was noted that the horse ridden by the youngest boy in the group, Donn Johnson of Walla Walla, Washington, was favoring a foot. The boy rode double with his father, Don Johnson, until the noon lunch stop at the Al Strohm place, at which time a nail was pulled from the horse's foot and the mount was ready to go again.

The doctor treated his first patient, not a rider, while at the lunch stop. The patient was Bill Watson, a young man hauling equipment from one camp site to another, who received a deep scratch on his leg while unloading his pickup truck.

Mid-afternoon was marked by a rest stop and refreshments delivered to the riders in a pickup truck. After "the pause that refreshes," riders continued east to the head of Lightning Creek, flushing deer along the route. The rugged Lightning Creek Canyon, with the Seven Devils in the background, gave camera fans an ideal target.

The next point of interest was an old stage stop known as "Midway," a place which, in addition to serving as a rest stop for stage passengers and a horse team changing site, served early day ranchers traveling from the Imnaha area to Enterprise for supplies. A barn and hotel at Midway are still standing, with the square false front of the hotel giving the appearance of a scene in a Western movie.

From Midway it was only two miles to the first night's camp site, at the old Jack Tippet Ranch, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Tippet. Corrals were available for the horses and the cooks had prepared roast turkey, served to the riders at the evening campfire. Riders re-



Photographer Jim Mischel of Ephrata, Wash., recorded the beginning of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride at the Wallowa Lake Corrals. All pictures of the ride were taken by Mischel.



Dick Hammond, Trail Boss for the Chief Joseph Ride, poses within inches of the edge of a sheer drop off.



Riders are nearly lost from view in the vast, rugged country through which the Chief Joseph Trail carried them.

laxed after dinner, listening to Dr. Haines describe how the Nez Perces lived from the time they were a sedentary fishing tribe until they became semi-nomadic "horse" Indians.

As Tuesday's ride was shorter in distance than that of the first day, riders were able to enjoy an extra "bonus" of sleep before eating a breakfast of sausage, eggs and pancakes, and saddling up to hit the trail.

The ride at this point followed a route across a portion of the Walter Brennen Ranch, with the trail lined with wild flowers and the scent of blooming syringa and elderberry filling the canyon. The noon stop was made near the head of Trail Creek, with the group then continuing on through Camp Creek, Sheep Creek, the Imnaha, near the Village of Imnaha, to the camp site on the Duckett Ranch. This camp was in a green pasture among large trees, with horses provided with excellent barn and corral facilities at the Roberts ranch.

Dinner featured large rib steaks, and ice cream for desert. Dr. Haines told the group about a false Indian scare in 1874, which resulted when some Indian cattle were mixed with cattle owned by white men. The cavalry rode to the rescue when Indians separated their cattle from the herd, but when the troops arrived on the scene they

only found two Indian women who had been assigned to "cattle watching" duty by the tribe.

Mayor Ab Daisley, Joseph, Oregon, invited the riders to a dinner to be held for them by the Joseph Chamber of Commerce when the group returned to that community on Friday evening. Riders did not hesitate to accept the invitation from the mayor and Skip Wisdom, city marshal.

Evening "campfire" entertainment was provided for the group by Lloyd Doss, formerly with the Sons of the Pioneers, who sang a selection of Western songs. Also on the entertainment agenda were Wick Prout, who played a tape about the Nez Perces, and Sam Loftus of Imnaha, Oregon, who sang "The Sierry Petes." Artist George Phippen told the group about Gail Gardner, the writer of the



Riders enjoy the scenic view which greeted them along the first 100 miles of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride.

song, and described the area in which the song was written. George Phippen had painted a scene from the "Sierry Petes" which appeared on the cover of the January, 1961, issue of "Western Horseman."

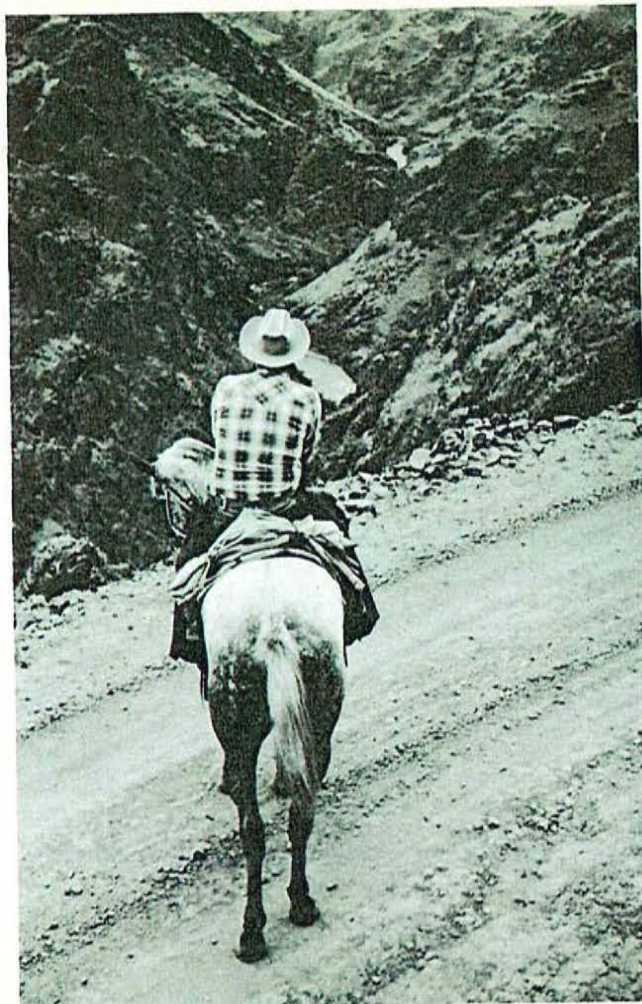
William Bourne, Appaloosa owner from Warrensburg, Illinois, visited the camp site for an evening, after making a 200-mile detour from his Western vacation route in order to see the ride. He had read about the trail ride in Appaloosa News and was well supplied with cameras and film when he met the group at the Camp Creek crossing.

Fishing was a popular pastime with the riders, with trout being featured on the breakfast menu every morning after the group arrived at Imnaha.

For Luree Tipton of Payette, Idaho, the ride retraced the route she followed in 1921. Formerly Luree Watson, she was raised in the Joseph Plains country between the Salmon and Snake rivers and, with her family, had ridden from Joseph Plains to the Snake River, crossing it at Dug Bar. The crossing was made in a rowboat with the horses swimming. The party rode from Joseph Plains to Enterprise in two days, attended the fair and rodeo, rode to Wallowa Lake, then returned to their home. There was no road below Imnaha at that time and pack horses were used to carry bedding and camping equipment.

The group of trail riders separated on Wednesday, with twenty-four riders taking a trail which wound through rugged, steep country and the balance riding over the road leading to the Thorn Creek Forest Guard Station. At the evening camp, Jalmer Nelson welcomed the riders, and he and his wife supplied refrigerator space for perishable food. Riders had ridden through a portion of the Nelson cow spread which, stocked with 1,250 head, has headquarters near Corral Creek. The ranch's vast holdings of choice winter grazing and lush summer range provided the answer to a cattleman's dream.

Jack McClaren described the method of running cattle in the



Appaloosa Horse Club President, Don Imboden, looks into the rugged canyon of the Imnaha.

Imnaha area, explaining that cattle were wintered near the river on the benches, with the steeper land used for spring and fall grazing, and high country used for summer range. He said the benches are vital, describing them as winter "haystacks." Mr. McClaren, who operates a cattle ranch with headquarters on Cow Creek, is president of the Cattlemen's Association.

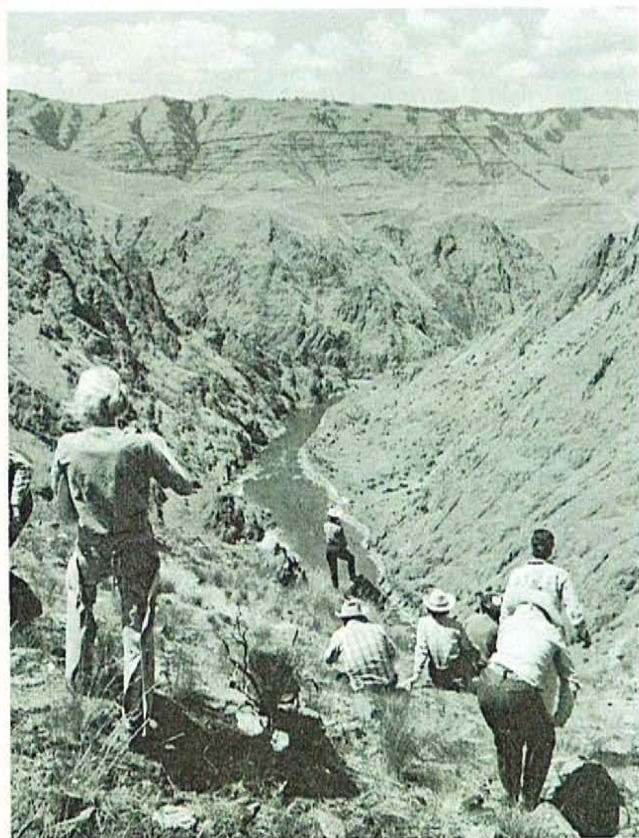
White men first started using the area in 1875, when a portion of the country was originally homesteaded. Larger cattle outfits, which later developed, took over the area, and for some years the range was overgrazed. However, the Forest Service Management, in cooperation with cattlemen, succeeded in restoring the range. McClaren pointed out that while the na-

tional average annual cost of running a cow is \$78 per head, the cost is only \$30 to \$40 per head in the Imnaha area, where the cattle graze the entire year with little or no winter feeding. He also told the group that construction of a dam, planned near the mouth of the Salmon, would result in much of the area being covered by water.

Mr. Tucker related the story about the Chinese Massacre, which occurred in 1887 at a point near Dug Bar. Of the seven men involved in the slaying of thirty-two Chinese gold miners, four were acquitted and three, charged with planning and executing the slaughter, were never found. The United States paid \$276,000 to the Chinese government to compensate the families of the slain



Dr. Francis Haines, Historian of the Appaloosa Horse Club; George Hatley, Executive Secretary; Dick Hammond, Trail Boss; and Don Imboden, Appaloosa Horse Club President, discuss how the Nez Perce forded their possessions and livestock.



Cameras clicked as riders made permanent film records of the rugged terrain.

miners. Gold in their possession was listed as the motive for the massacre.

The ride on Thursday took the group to the Cow Creek Bridge and on to Cow Creek. At the McClaren Ranch, the riders were invited to stop for lemonade and coffee, prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Jack McClaren. Riders had an opportunity to view the headquarters of a working cattle ranch, located in some of the most rugged ranching country in the world. Until a road was completed to the ranch in 1952, all supplies and equipment were transported to the ranch by pack horse.

After leaving the McClaren Ranch, the trail riders rode to Lone Pine Saddle, then over the top and to a look-out point which offered them a breathtaking view of the Snake River and the mouth of the Imnaha. Following lunch, the group followed the trail of the Nez Perces to Dug Bar, the camping ground of the Indians prior to their crossing of the Snake River. A historical marker is erected at the site.

At the evening campfire, after horses were put in corrals and lots at Doug Tippitt's Dug Bar Ranch, and riders had enjoyed a swim and boat rides in the Tippitt's power boat, Dr. Haines described how the Indians ferried their people and possessions across the flood-swollen Snake River. Possessions were wrapped in teepees and made into large buoyant bundles which were then towed across by young riders. Those Indians unable to ride hung onto the bundles while riders on horseback guided them safely across the river. It seems almost a miracle that not one human life was lost during the crossing by Joseph's entire band, although nearly 900 head of livestock, mostly young or weakened stock, were swept to their death by the swift moving water.

Dr. Haines told the group that next year's ride would begin at Tolo Lake where the Nez Perces were camped at the outbreak of war. The ride will visit the Whitebird Battlefield, cross the Camas Prairie, and visit the Clearwater Battlefield. All rid-

APPALOOSA NEWS



Lloyd Doss, formerly with the Sons of the Pioneers, entertains at an evening campfire.

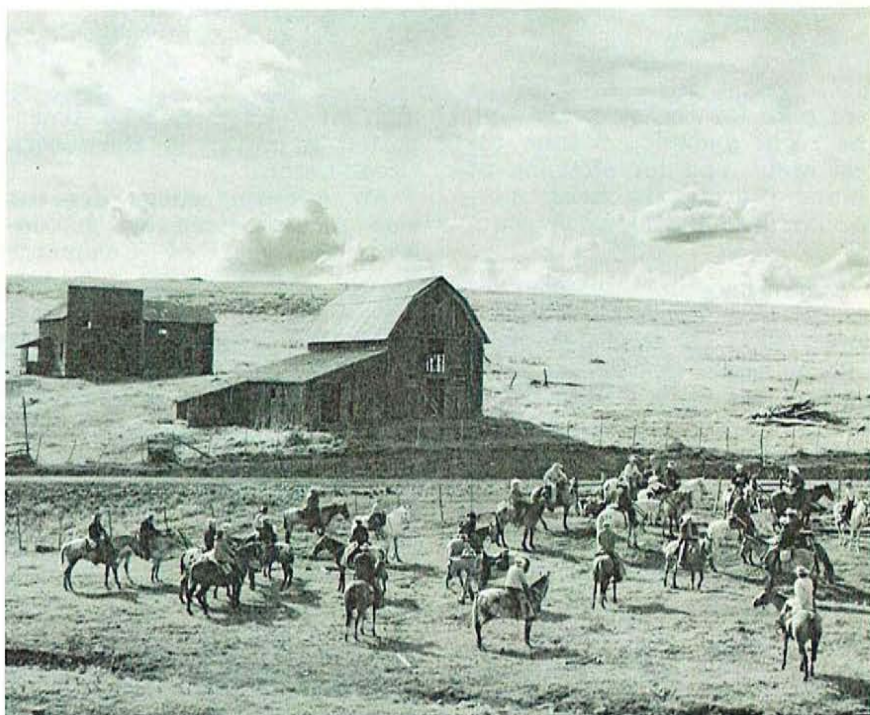


Riders climb the trail up Cactus Mountain toward Lone Pine Saddle.

ers expressed their approval and accepted Dr. Haines' invitation to attend the 1966 segment of the Chief Joseph Trail Ride.

Dave Bishop, District Forest Ranger for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, was credited with being instrumental in the success of the ride. He had installed three historical markers on the ride route, one at Imnaha which described the roundup of Indian stock prior to their going onto the reservation, one at the mouth of Cow Creek relating Bonneville's search for a fort site in the 1830's, and one at Dug Bar, which describes the Indians fording the Snake River with their horses and cattle in June of 1877, just prior to the Nez Perce War.

Mr. Bishop made the facilities of the Thorn Creek Guard Station available to riders, and was helpful in identifying the flowers and grasses that grow in that area. An advocate of the Forest Service policy of "Multiple Use" (recreation, timber, and grazing) for National Forest lands, Mr. Bishop stressed the importance of cooperation and good will among all three groups using the national forests. He said that the lumber industry had accomplished an effective job of teaching the public the value of producing



Former Forest Ranger, "Tuck" Tucker, tells the riders about the stage stop named "Midway." Midway was an overnight stop for people travelling between the Wallowa Valley and Imnaha in the early days.

lumber from trees grown in national forests, and that through grazing rights on national forests, cattlemen are able to raise beef cattle to supply the market with "choice beef steaks" at a reasonable price.

Mr. Bishop rode with the group on an Appaloosa owned

by the Walter Brennen Ranch.

On Friday morning, Trail Boss Dick Hammond led the riders on the trail from Dug Bar to the Cow Creek Bridge, passing through Lone Pine Saddle. Riders had developed a high regard for the trail boss, giving him credit for setting the cor-



Riders rest after climbing to the top of the Glacial Moraine overlooking Wallowa Lake and the Wallowa Valley.

rect pace for the ride, allowing the right amount of time for rest stops, and for stopping at points offering the most spectacular view of the scenic country.

Riders had lunch while waiting for trucks and school busses which were to transport them and the horses to Wallowa Lake. During this wait, George Phippen drew several sketches of incidents which had occurred during the ride, including one of the Secretary and his pack horse which slipped the halter and enjoyed a temporary recess, and one of the President of the ApHC going down a steep hill the day before the ride ended. Riders also viewed a stone pestle made by the Indians to grind dried camas bulbs into flour, an item found by Vance Orchard, a reporter for the Walla Walla Union Bulletin newspaper. Getting a pat on the back for a display of vocal talents, which entertained the riders at both Thorn Creek and Dug Bar, were Dorothy Schumacker of Kennewick, Washington, and Wilson Kerns of Walla Walla, Washington. Also contributing to the "fun sessions" were Marie Russell

and Mrs. Kramer, who transported a guitar to the Thorn Creek Camp.

An enjoyable climax for the ride was provided by the Joseph Chamber of Commerce

when they held a "all you can eat" smorgasbord for the riders at the Chief Joseph Hotel. Murph Blankenship, master of ceremonies, said he was pleased that the first Chief Joseph Trail Ride had been held in the Joseph, Oregon, area, and invited the riders to return for the "Chief Joseph Days" rodeo and for more trail rides. Don Imboden expressed his thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the trail riders to the dinner, and also to those persons in the Wallowa and Imnaha Valleys who contributed their time and facilities for the ride.

He summed up the feelings of the riders when he said, "Your country is not only decorated with breathtaking scenery, it is also populated with wholehearted Western hospitality."

George Phippen, of Skull Valley, Arizona, compared the Chief Joseph Trail Ride with the many well known trail rides he had taken and rated it tops in every respect. Many of the riders expressed their enjoyment with both the ride and the area's hospitality.

The riders themselves received compliments when A. L.



Wilson Kerns of Walla Walla, Washington, plays a guitar and Marcia Rau of Minneapolis, Minnesota, plays a uke at an evening song fest.



Riders water their horses at a stock water pond near the head of Lightning Creek. The Seven Devils Mountains in Idaho show up on the skyline.



Horses being loaded into stock trucks for their trip back to the starting point.



One of the historical markers placed on the trail route by the Forest Service.



Retired banker, Art Pace, carried the title "cook's helper." When he wasn't helping the cooks, he was either catching or frying trout.

Duckett commented on the clean camp site left at his ranch.

"If I hadn't been there, I would never have known that the riders had camped on my place," he said.

Dr. Homer Webb, of The Dalles, Oregon, said it was to the credit of both horses and riders that his business was poor during the ride. Serving as veterinarian for the ride, Dr. Webb said he treated only a few minor scratches and one bruise.

The air was filled with "goodbyes" and "see you next year" as riders loaded their horses and headed home. They left with, as one rider put it, "a bushel of pleasant memories and experiences."

They now knew why their Appaloosas were surefooted and untiring, having seen the country that produced and demanded such characteristics. They developed a keen appre-

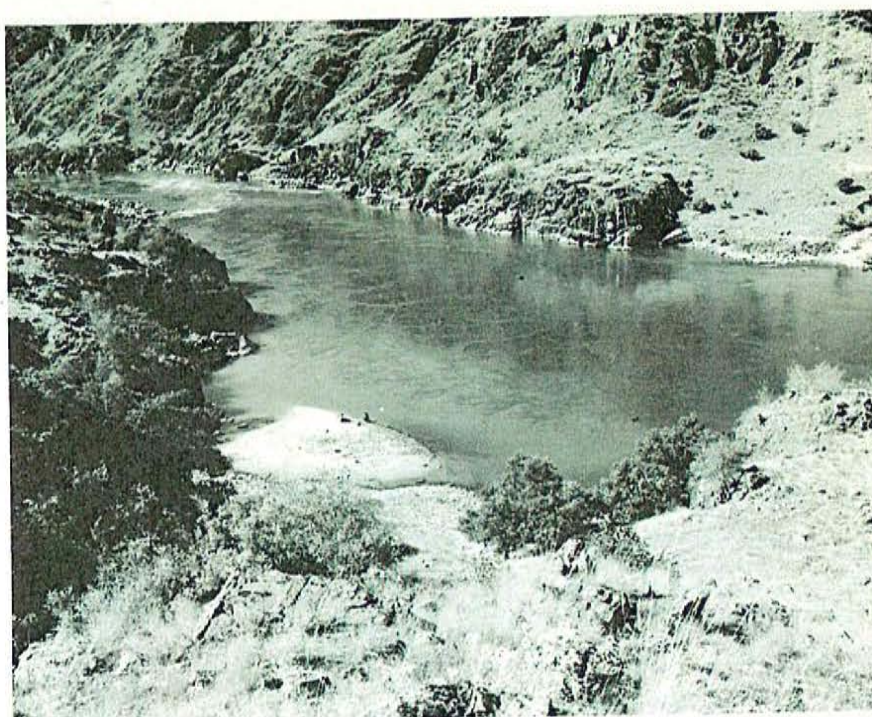
ciation of Joseph's love for the land which had belonged to him and his fathers before him, and, they had recaptured some of the romance, heroism, and tragedy of his Nez Perce War of 1877.

They had ridden his trail.

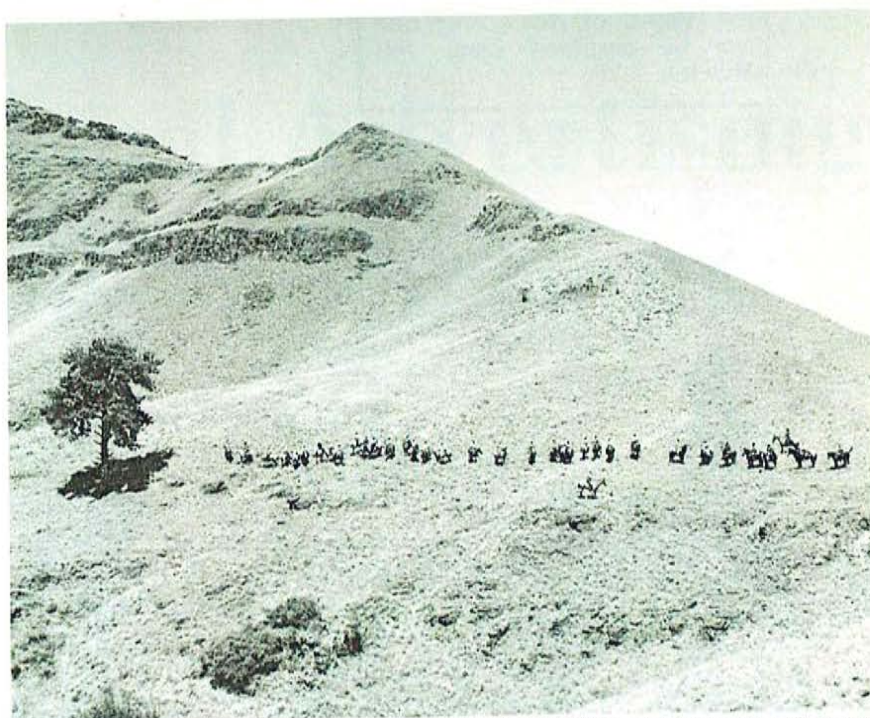
PEOPLE WHO RODE, HELPED WITH, AND HOSTED THE CHIEF JOSEPH TRAIL RIDE

*Riders

- *Dick Hammond, Enterprise, Oregon — Trail Boss and Co-Manager
- *Frank Kramer, Enterprise, Oregon—Co-Manager
- *David Bishop, Box 431, Enterprise, Oregon — District Forest Ranger
- Dr. Francis Haines, 415 Broad St., Monmouth, Oregon — Historian, ApHC
- Mrs. Francis Haines
- *G. J. "Tuck" Tucker, Imnaha, Oregon — Local History
- *Dr. Galen A. Rogers, 900 7th, Clarkston, Washington — Medical Doctor
- *Dr. Homer Webb, 1000 W. 6th St., The Dalles, Oregon — Veterinarian
- *Jim Mischel, Box 506, Ephrata, Washington — Photographer
- *Anne Mischel
- Betty Hammond, Enterprise, Oregon — Cook
- Inez Prout, Joseph, Oregon — Cook
- Mary Marks, Imnaha, Oregon — Cook
- Lucille Tucker, Imnaha, Oregon — Cook
- Arthur Pace, Enterprise, Oregon—Cooks' Helper
- Jess Earl, Imnaha, Oregon — Wagon Boss
- Jerry Goodman, Enterprise, Oregon — Grub Freighter
- Mrs. Frank Kramer, Enterprise, Oregon—Food Procuring
- Neil Parks, Enterprise, Oregon—Refreshments
- Terry Parks
- Bill Watson, Route No. 3, Walla Walla, Washington — Portable Outhouses
- *Don Johnson, 1128 W. Pine, Walla Walla, Washington — Grill & Fireplace
- *Donn Johnson
- *George Phippen, Lone Burro Ranch, Skull Valley, Arizona — Artist
- *Don Imboden, Box 33, Boulevard Station, Sioux City, Iowa — President, ApHC
- *George B. Hatley, Box 403, Moscow, Idaho — Executive Secretary, ApHC
- *Vance Orchard, Union Bulletin, Walla Walla, Washington—Newspaper Reporter
- *Ken Backhaus, Chambers Route, O'Neill, Nebraska
- *Pat Backhaus
- *Leo Bishop, Route No. 2, Box 74, Shelton, Washington
- *Mary Blom, Route No. 5, Box 202 W, Excelsior, Minnesota
- *Mrs. Claude O. Bruce, Route No. 1, Box 91 A, Payette, Idaho
- *Selwyn Cook, Route No. 1, Box 17, McCleary, Washington
- *Myrtle De Joris, Box 117, Cotai, California
- *Don Duvall, P. O. Box 26, The Dalles, Oregon
- *Iola Hawkins, W. W. Farm, Hamel, Minnesota
- *Mrs. Mel Jones, Sprague, Washington
- *J. J. Jones
- *Wilson Kerns, Route No. 4, Walla Walla, Washington
- *Bob Lindsey, Dixie, Washington
- *Pete Miles, 901 W. 9th St., The Dalles, Oregon
- *Alan Newby, Route No. 2, Kuna, Idaho
- *Mrs. A. J. Oliver, Flying A. Ranches, Wallowa, Oregon
- *Harry Peterson, 422 E. 2nd St., The Dalles, Oregon
- *Marcia M. Rau, 4418 Vera Cruz Ave. N., Minneapolis 22, Minnesota
- *Galen C. Rogers, 900 7th, Clarkston, Washington
- *Bert A. Russell, Route No. 1, Harrington, Idaho
- *Marie Russell
- *Wally Russell
- *Dorothy Schumacher, Route No. 1, Box 50-B, Kennewick, Washington
- *Wes Syness, Helena, Montana
- *Mrs. Luree Tipton, Route No. 1, Box 238 A, Payette, Idaho
- *Tanya Warren, 24297 Boundary Rd., R. R. No. 3, Langley, British Columbia, Canada



Deep Creek on the Snake River, site of the Chinese Massacre in 1887.



Trail Riders enjoying the view from Lone Pine Saddle. To the south they can look into the Imnaha Canyon and to the north into the Snake River Canyon.

Hosts
Wallowa Lake Corrals, Mr. and Mrs. Lee
Manes, Joseph, Oregon
Facilities for horses, June 27
Wallowa Lake Lodge, Joseph, Oregon
Parking space for trucks, cars, and
trailers
Al Strohm Ranch, Joseph, Oregon
Lunch stop, June 28

Jack Tippet Ranch, Mr. & Mr. Dick Tippet, Joseph, Oregon
Campsite, June 28
A. L. Duckett Ranch, Imnaha, Oregon
Campsite, June 29
Lloyd Doss, Imnaha, Oregon
Western Music, June 29
Wick Prout, Joseph, Oregon
Sound system and tape, June 29

Roberts Ranch
 Barns and corrals for horses, June 29
 U. S. Forest Service, Dave Bishop, District
 Ranger, Enterprise, Oregon
 Campsite, June 30
 Corral Creek Ranch, Mr. and Mr. Jalmer
 Nelson, Imnaha, Oregon
 Refrigeration for food supplies, June 30
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack McClaren, Imnaha, Ore.
 Refreshments at Cow Creek, July 1
 Dug Bar Ranch, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Tip-
 pett, Joseph, Oregon
 Campsite, July 1
 Joseph Chamber of Commerce, Joseph,
 Oregon
 Dinner for trail riders, July 2
 Bus drivers who hauled riders from Cow
 Creek Bridge to Wallowa Lake:
 Keith Moffit, Lostine, Oregon
 Bruce Moffit, Lostine, Oregon
 Ranchers driving their stock trucks that
 hauled the horses from Cow Creek
 Bridge to Wallowa Lake:
 Sam Loftus, Imnaha, Oregon
 Don Wallace, Enterprise, Oregon
 Bob Freels, Enterprise, Oregon
 Wayne Driskell, Enterprise, Oregon
 Bob Willis, Enterprise, Oregon

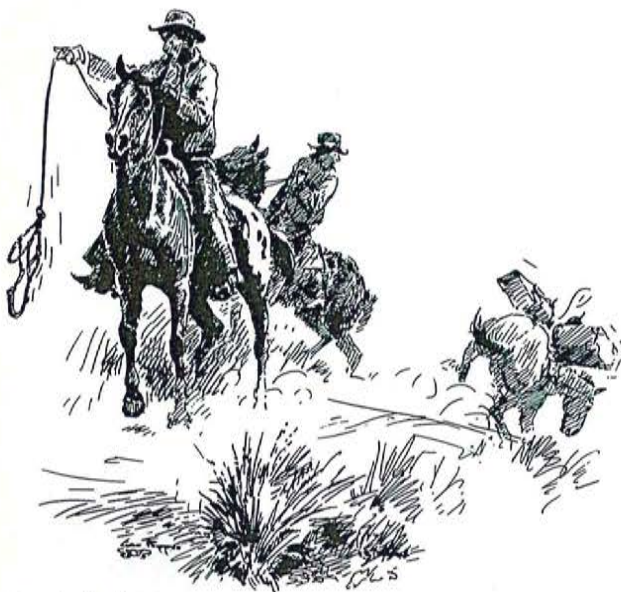


While the group waited to load their horses into stock trucks to be hauled back to Wallowa Lake, George Phippen sketched amusing incidents that occurred during the ride. The amused spectators are Mary Blom of Excelsior, Minn., and co-chairman of the ride, Frank Kramer of Enterprise, Oregon. The school busses that hauled the riders back to the lake can be seen in the background.

All photos with the story, "Riding The Chief Joseph Trail," were taken by Jim Mischel, Ephrata, Washington. Prints of this scenic ride can be obtained from Jim Mischel.



Heights bothered some of the riders.



Empty halter.



Oh! I'm taking this rock home.