

Food, Frivolity and Field Trips Fill Rally at Starkey's Store, La Grande



Gathering 'round the tables (above) for another fine meal. Sandwiched between Boyds is their granddaughter, Justine.

In the piney woods of eastern Oregon, Cascaders gathered under the trees for a rally that combined relaxing "free time" and election of officers with rich historical adventures, varied modes of travel and the usual great fellowship.

Hosts Loren and Rebecca Fleet and Jim and Sheryl Scolman were assisted by Baxters, Diers and Frys. The entire event carried an odd undercurrent of awareness caused by the pall of forest-fire smoke that came and went with the shifting winds. Of four major fires in eastern Oregon, one was as close as 40 miles away. But the rally was a grand success, in spite of fires. Thank you, hosts!

WHEN IT FINALLY ARRIVED in a cloud of dust (right), our tour bus launched a FULL day of field trip adventures... most of them were planned ahead of time!



First-time rally attendee, Leona Blodger dusted off her guitar and led us in sing-along fun two nights under the stars. Thanks, Leona.

Early arrivals relaxed and enjoyed side trips to a variety of venues described in the information packets prepared by the hosts. One favored spot was the hot springs just a few miles up the road.

Evening meals were a mixture of potluck and catered hamburger feeds put on by park owners. Sing-alongs under the stars (or the smoke, depending) added the finishing touches to the day.

Our major group outing was an all-day bus trip on Saturday. The tour bus driver had trouble finding the campground which delayed our departure for about an hour. However, once on the road, we relaxed and listened

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Rally Schedule 1996

DATES	LOCATION	SITE	HOSTS
October 11-12	Toppenish, WA	Yakima Nations RV Park	No Host rally
December	Cannon Beach, OR	(Watch for more information on Cannon Beach)	

Additional rallies scheduled for 1997; see future issues of the GMC Cascaders News.



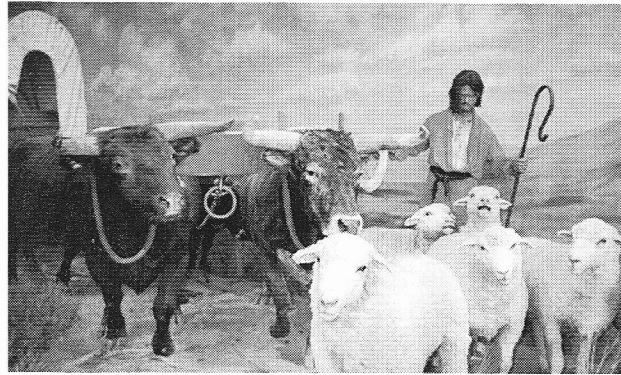
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to interesting notes about the area from both driver and Fleets. Cruising through La Grande and Baker City, we turned east to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

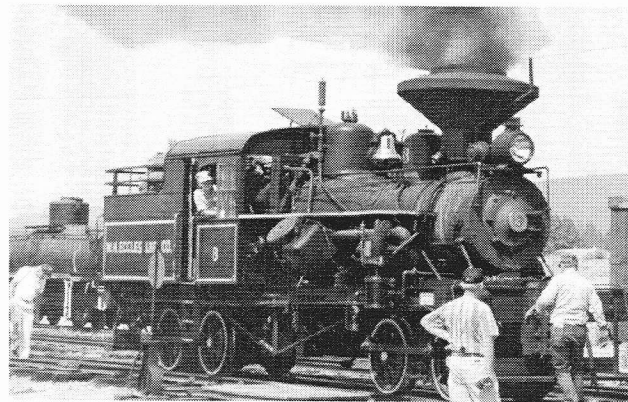
There, we learned of the trials of The Trail via multimedia and outstanding dioramas. Some of the travelers (*Del Preston for one*) carried camcorders as evidenced by the photo on the right!



Oregon Trail Interpretive Center dioramas are state-of-the-art; they surround visitors (left).

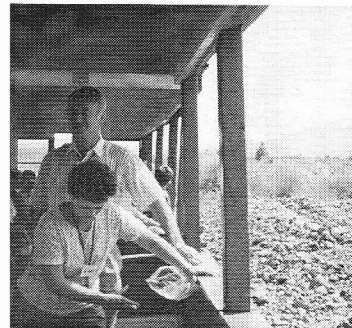


Munching lunch along the way, we went through Baker City and on west toward the gold rush town of Sumpter. A few miles out of Sumpter, we came upon the reconstructed, narrow-gauge railroad dating back to gold rush days. Piling into three old railroad cars, Cascaders joined other tourists for the trip to Sumpter. The terminus, in Sumpter, deposits passengers near the old dredge and tourist-oriented businesses. Volunteer track-



Operated by volunteer, steam train buffs, the feisty little steam engine follows 3+ miles of reconstructed track that lead into beautiful downtown Sumpter. (left)

repair persons, however, altered our plans. About 1/2 mile from town, the repair crew's gondola car, working in front of our train, had slipped down between the tracks, blocking our way.



Cascaders (left) clamber over feet and belongings as they make their way through the crowded, open train car. Heaps of tailings lined both sides of the tracks.

GMC CASCADERS NEWS

President Carol Baxter
PO Box 361
Vashon, WA 98070-0361
206-463-9045

1st Vice President/Historian
Terry Morris
1825 SW 170th St.
Seattle, WA 98166
206-243-7488

2nd Vice Presidents/Wagon Masters
Carl Hove
PO Box 274
Seahurst, WA 98062
206-241-9191

Walt Ovens
1508 Bigelow Avenue N
Seattle, WA 98109
206-286-9048

Secretary Liz Ovens
1508 Bigelow Avenue N
Seattle, WA 98109
206-286-9048

Treasurer Ruth Diers
6535 Seaview NW #601B
Seattle, WA 98117
206-782-2131

FMCA Representative
Ken Wilson
2202 Dublin Place
Anacortes, WA 98221
206-293-0283

FMCA Alternate
Ray Groth
8100 Maple Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98664
360-695-8046

Newsletter Editor
Pris Hardin
631 Waite St.
Eugene, OR 97402
541-688-7993

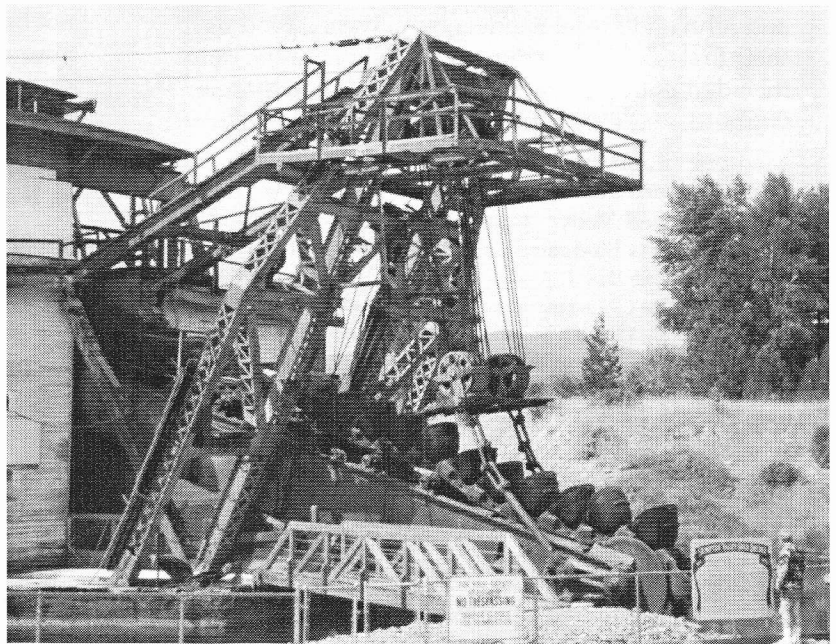
The GMC Cascader News is published six times annually. GMC coach owners interested in membership should contact any officer for information.



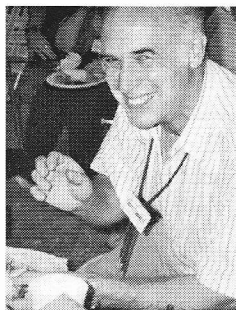


Morris's and Hardins just couldn't wait for that pie and headed up the tracks toward Sumpter before the rescue bus arrived! (above)

The old dredge towers over a Cascader as he reads the interpretive placard describing its history. Between 1935 and 1954, the dredge virtually destroyed the entire valley floor, in the search for gold. All that remained were mountains of rock and gravel tailings as a testimonial to gold mining frenzy. (right) It reportedly produced \$4.5 million in gold.



Carmen Wade selects a choice serving of lamb from the Greek barbecue prepared by a very savvy chef. (above)



Denny Allen finds the lamb and chicken barbecue acceptable. (right)

After considerable wait in the hot sun, our bus driver was alerted; he drove the bus out to meet the stranded train and took us on into town to see the dredge, order pie and ice cream, and continue on our bus ride.

Driving west over a high pass and into the pall of forest fire smoke, we visited the tiny mining town of Granite and then completed our loop back to Mt. Sound RV Park. We escaped the smoke just as we neared the camp where a marvelous Greek barbecue awaited us for dinner.

Cascaders Gather at the Western States Rally near Mount Hood

Following the La Grande rally, 41 Cascader coaches joined the Western States rally at Wemme, OR.

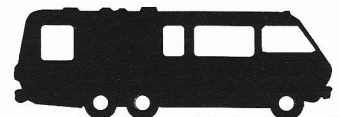
A special meeting, on Wednesday noon, allowed members of the Alaska trip to present a brass ship's clock to Dave and Linda Ireland for their outstanding hosting job. In addition, Al Bovee received a dumper banner for his Alaskan contribution to the illustrious lore of the GMC Cascader Dumpers. Ask Al for the story!

Roster updates...

Be sure to update your rosters with these addresses:

Al & Karen Birch, Jr.
2914 SE Baypoint Drive
Vancouver, WA 98683
ph: 360-260-3756

John & Virginia Lennartson
200 N 4th Ave. Ste. 195
Sandpoint, ID 83864
ph: 200-265-0479



MINUTES—8/23/96

Starkey Store, La Grande, Oregon

Meeting was called to order at 9 am, by President Carol Baxter. She extended "Thank You's" to rally hosts Loren and Becky Fleet, Jim and Sheryl Scolman and their assisting team:

George and Carol Baxter, Glenn and Ruth Diers, and Bob and Elaine Fry.

President Baxter then welcomed club members Knute and Leona Blodger, Harvey and Elaine Kragt and John and Hazel Sanders, who were attending their first GMC Cascaders rally. Visitors to the rally included guests of the Eberharts: Rockie & Margie Gutbrod, and the Boyd's granddaughter, Justine.

Members in attendance were:

Denny & Fran Allen	Bill & Pris Hardin
George & Carol Baxter	Helen & Carl Hove
Knute & Leona Blodger	Harvey & Elaine Kragt
Terry & Joanne Boyd	John & Virginia Lennartson
Gene & Millie Cochran	John & Lauree Miller
Glenn & Ruth Diers	Terry & Gloria Morris
Dolph & Barbara Eberhart	Walt & Liz Ovens
Eugene & Joan Eyre	Del & Vi Preston
Loren & Rebecca Fleet	John & Hazel Sanders
Bob & Elaine Fry	Joe & Yvonne Sawtell
Gordon & Carol Frydenlund	Jim & Sheryl Scolman
Ray & Bev Groth	Neil & Nancy Sutherland
Carl & Jean Gwynn	Milt & Carmen Wade

President Baxter thanked First Vice President, Terry Morris for standing in her stead at the business meeting on the Canadian rally.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the last newsletter. (M) by G. Baxter, (S) by G. Cochran and passed (P) unanimously. Secretary Liz Ovens thanked Pris Hardin for stepping in to record the minutes of the Canadian rally business meeting, in her absence.

The secretary also noted there were a few errors in the July 1, 1996 roster and noted a change of address for Al and Karen Birch.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Diers reported a treasury balance of \$2,543.36. She reported that the club now has 188 paid member coaches.

First Vice President's Report: Terry Morris announced that he had sent a "Thank You" letter to Denny and Fran Allen, in appreciation of their efforts in planning and leading the Canadian rally. Terry also noted that he sent a card to Yvonne Sawtell offering a get well message for her knee surgery, only to discover that she had postponed the event. The greeting was extended to her in person.

A "Thank You" card also was sent to Dave and Linda Ireland. Condolences were sent to members, SI and Nancy Johnson, Ken and Jean Wilson and Jerry and Pam Eerkes expressing sorrow at the loss of their respective children and grandchildren.

Second Vice President's (Wagonmaster's) Report:

Glenn Diers announced that the secretary will mail the updated Rally Guide with all Cascader renewal forms in early September. To date; October, 96 had not been finalized for a Cascader rally. Glenn announced that he will get notices out to the membership for a "No host" rally, October 11-12, to be held at the Yakima Indian Nation in Toppenish, WA. Also, February, is yet to be finalized for a rally.

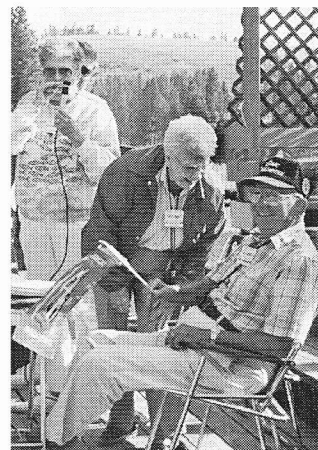
Old Business—

Nominating Committee Report: Elaine Fry gave the report for the 96-97 Board-nominating Committee (Elaine Fry, Helen Hove, Denny Allen). Elaine presented the slate of officers: President—Carol Baxter. First Vice President—Terry Morris. Second Vice President (Wagonmaster)—(Co-Officers) Walt Ovens and Carl Hove, Secretary—Liz Ovens, Treasurer—Ruth Diers, FMCA NW representatives—Ken Wilson and Ray Groth. Motion to accept the recommended slate of officers: (M) B. Hardin, (S) D. Preston, passed (P).

President Baxter called for a rousing group "Thank You," complete with kazoos in recognition of Glenn Diers' years as the club Wagonmaster.

New Business:

Dues—President Baxter addressed the following Executive Board recommendation: The need to raise annual member dues and new-member fees to cover the cost of the numerous (15) mailings to members each year. The original amount discussed was a dues fee of \$20.00 annually; the final recommendation was \$15.00, commencing with the new club year, October 1st. In discussion, President Baxter noted that the present annual \$10 dues have been in effect for many years and are no longer cost efficient. Motion to accept the Executive



Glenn Diers accepting all-Cascader kazoo salute!





Four of seven officers elected at La Grande. Left to right: Liz Ovens, Terry Morris, Ruth Diers and Carol Baxter. Not shown: Co-wagonmasters, Carl Hove and Walt Ovens and FMCA NW Rep. Ken Wilson and Alternate Rep. Ray Groth.

Board recommendation: (M) B. Fry, (S) B. Hardin, passed (P).

Rally Notices—Jean Gwynn requested that future rally notices contain the complete address and phone number of the campground facility.

Cascaders and the Web—Gene Cochran suggested the possible eventual elimination of rally notices by sending them out via E-mail. Discussion noted this as a future possibility; presently not enough members were on-line with computers to warrant a current change.

Pris Hardin commented that a future Cascaders web site on the internet is a possibility and will consult FMCA to consider a web site under their umbrella coverage.

George Baxter noted that E-mail had been extremely helpful during the Canadian and Alaska treks, via a laptop PC.

Rally Business—Vi Preston suggested that timers be purchased for the club's 55-cup coffee makers from one of various sources, ie: Radio Shack. (M) to purchase 2 auto. timers, D. Preston; (S) J. Lennartson. Passed (P).

Rally host Becky Fleet thanked Knute and Leona Blodger for furnishing the rally attendees with Idaho literature.

Roster Update—John and Ginnie Lennartson noted that they will have a new address after 9/4/96.

Motion to adjourn meeting, B. Hardin, (S) D. Preston, (P). Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

Greek B-B-Q Magic

Our mouthwatering lamb at the Starkey (La Grande) rally was prepared Greek style with marinade and lavish basting while on the spit. The lamb went swimming in the marinade in a garbage bag in the refrigerator for 2 days before going over the coals on the spit.

When asked about the marinade and basting material, our chef willingly responded with the following list of ingredients:

MARINADE

Salt & pepper	Paprika
Oregano	Fresh garlic
Mustard (dry)	Olive oil

BASTING:

Add fresh lemons with pulp to the remaining marinade and baste.

The magical part comes in with guessing what the quantities should be. The chef just said that he dumps these things together till it seems about right! So, if you're ready for an adventure, start cooking. If it all looks Greek to you, wait for some other Cascader chef to pass on a 'quantified' list.

Editor's Note: Better not experiment with a whole lamb; try a lamb chop or two for starters.

Email Address List Growing

If you are willing to add yourself to the list, send your email address for future publication to: Pris Hardin, Editor, *GMC Cascaders News*.

Baxter, Carol and George glbaxt@aol.com
 Bell, Andy abell@compumedia.com
 Childs, Gordon & Lora gchilds@orednet.org
 FMCA Offices 74473,1360@compuserve.com
 Hardin, Pris and Bill prisbill@proaxis.com
 Ireland, Linda and Dave direland@awinc.com
 Jones, Tim and Cass timjones@hevanet.com
 Kershaw, Chet & Karen ChetKaren@aol.com
 Madison, Ken and Deone ken@pioneer-net.com
 Mast, Doris and Jack DorisMast@aol.com
 Morris, Terry and Gloria Terry.Morris@boeing.com
 Ragsdale, Ken and Becky BKRags@aol.com
 Scolman, Jim Ragnar73@aol.com
 Scolman, Sheryl Poobah73@aol.com
 FYI, Cinnabar is on the net gmcmh@aol.com



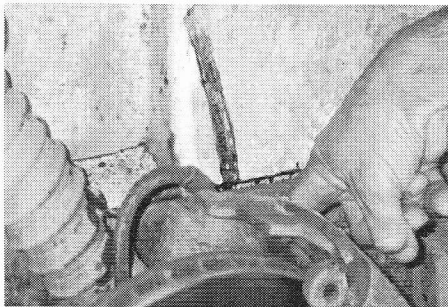
GMC Cascaders

Pris Hardin, Editor
531 Waite St.
Eugene, OR 97402

DISK BRAKE ALERT

During the course of the Alaska adventure, we identified a danger associated with the new disk brake package that several Cascaders have installed. The bolt holding the brake hose, located between the rear wheel and the wall of the coach, tends to gouge a slash in the fiberglass wall of the coach body. In at least one case the bolt unscrewed causing loss of brake fluid and failure of the brake system. If you have made this aftermarket installation, be sure to check your system to learn if it is doing damage to the coach body and remedy the situation.

George Baxter's coach shows the channel made by the loosening of the bolt. The technical seminar hand points to the location of the offending bolt.



News Idea for Future Rally Hosts

Just one of the clever features that made the La Grande rally a success was Rebecca Fleet's press release appearing in the local paper before the rally. She composed a simple, straightforward write up telling "who, what, when, where and why" followed by these sentences:

"The GMC coaches debuted in late 1972 and from the beginning adhered to automotive styling concepts. Exterior lines were sleek and the ride quality and fuel economy ratings were high. Owners of the coaches are proud to show their "homes on wheels" to anyone interested in seeing them. Information on the rally or the GMC Cascaders is available from Rebecca Fleet of Cove, or call 963-3609." (*La Grande Observer*, 8/20/96)

Thanks, Rebecca, for adding a new option to our rally promotion.

