

LOCALNEWS

West bound

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

Two Roseau men aren't heading through a desert on a horse with no name, but they are traversing northern Minnesota in a covered wagon.

While Clayton Skoien and Ernie Meyers may not make it quite as far as the iconic American Old West, the duo were in the middle of their journey Monday in horse-drawn covered wagons.

"It is something I've wanted to do for many years," Skoien said of the idea behind the trip.

After retiring from Polaris Industries in Roseau a few weeks ago, Skoien seized the opportunity to check the trip off his bucket list. This spring, he built the covered wagon he is traveling in, complete with a generator-operated refrigerator and microwave.

"Once the bugs weren't as bad, we took off," he told The Journal this week. "We've been on the road about a week and two days."

As of Monday, the wagon already had 150 miles on it, but Skoien said it'll be a shorter trek home.

"When we came up, we went through Littlefork," he said. "I know a lot of people over there so Friday when I came through we all got together and had a bonfire."

Skoien said he used to show horses at the Northern Minnesota District Fair in Littlefork, and is no stranger to the Borderland area.

"I did that for many



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

**Clayton Skoien, pulled by "Belle," and "Beauty," stops for a photo Monday along Highway 332. Accompanied by Ernie Meyers, pictured in the background, the men are taking a trip in the covered wagons from Roseau to International Falls and back.**

years," he said of showing horses. "That is how I know everybody up here."

Skoien said he approached longtime friend Meyers about accompanying him on the journey.

"We spend a lot of time together," Skoien said. "I'm really happy he is with me. It is better than doing this all alone."

Meyers said he agreed. "I'm having a great time," he said. "Plus, (Skoien) needed someone to haul all the feed."

The pair praised the weather, especially since the cooler temperatures are easier on the horses.

"We did hit some rain," Meyers said. "That wasn't too enjoyable."

Next year, Skoien says he hopes to extend the trip down toward the Bemidji area.

"This is something I hope to do every year," he said.

The pair kicks off their

daily trek around 6:30 a.m. with the goal to be on the road by 8 a.m.

"We go until about noon and then we take a two-hour break," Skoien said. "Then we go until about 6 p.m."

Of course, the trip wouldn't be possible without the help of four very important engines. Skoien rides behind "Belle" and "Beauty" and Meyers travels with "Louie" and "Lulu."

"It is definitely cheap on gas," Skoien laughs.

Both Skoien and Meyers agreed the people they have met along their journey tops the list as "the best part."

"Everyone waves," Meyers said of passing traffic.

"You get to visit with everybody," Skoien said. "People have been running out to the road and calling their friends and family before we get to places. It's been great."

Guild to host presentation

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

To celebrate more than 30 years of quilting together, the Northern Lights Quilt Guild will host a free community presentation at 1 p.m. Oct. 12 at the First Lutheran Church, 123 Wayside Lane.

Guild members, of which there are about 18 members, will showcase some of their best work through a bed turning presentation.

"We will have a bed set up and everyone will bring whatever quilts they want to show the community," said guild member Cheri Skurkis. "As each person's quilt comes up, they'll give a little story about the quilt and how it was made."

Skurkis, who has been with the guild for about 12 years, said there are some interesting stories behind the production of a quilt. Some are made for someone or a specific event and others are created while the quilter was going through a difficult period in her life.

"Quilting poses as a great therapy," she said. "And it just brings people together."

Also displayed will be challenge quilts, which combine work from each member in the guild, Skurkis added. In all, she expected about 50 quilts to be displayed.

"Some of the quilts might be chosen because the person who made it liked the pattern," she said with a laugh.

Skurkis said while the bed turning project is new to the group, it has been seen elsewhere by members who think it'll generate a positive response in Borderland.

"We want the community to come help us celebrate



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

**Members of the Northern Lights Quilt Guild Gale Govier, left, and Cheri Skurkis show one of the about 50 quilts that will be displayed at the group's community presentation at 1 p.m. Oct. 12 at the First Lutheran Church.**

(30 years)," said guild member Gale Govier. "There is quite a few quilters in town and we want to expose the guild to them."

The guild is always looking for more members and hopes the presentation will bring awareness of the group.

"We have quilters who have only made one quilt and members who have made hundreds," Skurkis said. "Everyone in the guild is very supportive of everybody else."

The guild itself is always trying to be active in the community and members say they've done projects for Friends Against Abuse, a halfway house and other charities both in and outside the community.

"We try to do stuff locally first, but we have expanded to outside the community, too," Skurkis said.

The members stressed

If you go

What: Northern Lights Quilt Guild presentation  
When: 1 p.m. Oct. 12  
Where: First Lutheran Church, 123 Wayside Lane  
Why: To view quilts and hear stories of production  
Cost: Free to the community

that quilting is more than sewing pieces of fabric together.

"It is quite a social event," Govier said. "I don't know what I'd do without quilting...Or this guild."

Skurkis added, "It can be very therapeutic, too."

Both women say they are excited for next week's presentation and look forward to sharing their hard work with the community.

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