

# Emmons County Record

## Man plans 2000 mile horse and wagon adventure

By Nicole Vander Vorst

Scott Schlepp of Ashley, is planning to make a horse and wagon ride he has been dreaming of doing for many years, a reality.

"I'm looking for an adventure and a challenge, and I really just want to see if I can do it," Schlepp said.

In August of 2018, Schlepp is planning to drive a team of black and white painted Belgian horses pulling a covered wagon, from Rolla to Brownsville, Texas. He has determined that this 2,000 mile adventure will take about five months and estimates the venture to cost around \$200,000.

"Sometimes, I lay in bed and think to myself, well, what if this happens or what if that goes wrong. But, I'm going to be as prepared as I can and roll with the punches," Schlepp said.

As he passes through small towns, Schlepp is going to give rides to children in grades two through four so that they will remember this historical event.

"I think that it's something the students are going to remember for a long time. I'm excited to see the look on their faces when they get to go on a horse and wagon ride," Schlepp said.

A camper, being driven by Schlepp's wife, Ermalene, will pull an enclosed trailer carrying hay, water tanks, beds, freezers and even an old washing machine. Ermalene will drive the camper 20 to 30 miles ahead of Scott each day and serve as the resting point.

"We are going to start at Highway 30 which then turns into 23 and then 47 and follow that route all the way down to Texas. Those highways aren't as busy as some of the other ones, and it's easier for horses to pull on highway than on gravel.

Schlepp plans to equip



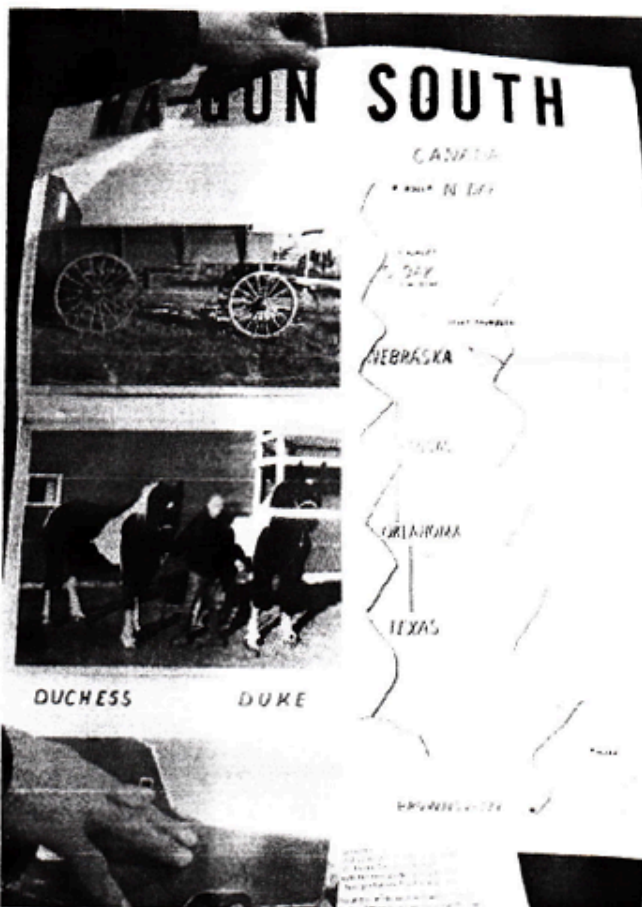
Schlepp said both N.D. and S.D. Historical Society's plan to record and register his journey.

himself with a Go-Pro video camera and setup a Facebook page, so that people can follow him on his journey.

"I really just hope to bring some good history to North Dakota. I've contacted both North and South Dakota governors, historical societies and Prairie Public Television. We want this trip to go down in the record books," Schlepp said.

For his fundraising efforts, Schlepp is selling vinyl decals with sponsor logos to place on the side of his enclosed trailer that will be pulled along the trip. He is donating 10 percent of the money he raises to the American Cancer Society, five percent to the Germans from Russia Tri-County Tourism Alliance, who donated cases of the book "Ready for School" to distribute on his trip. The remainder of money raised will go towards the funding of the project which includes transportation and meals.

Currently Schlepp has raised \$27,000 of his \$200,000 goal. If you would like to donate, you can contact Schlepp at (701)288-3759 or by email at schleppranch@hotmail.com.



This map shows the route Schlepp is planning to take with his wagon and team of horses from the Canadian border all the way to the Mexican border.



Scott Schlepp of Ashley stands with his two black and white painted Belgian horses, Duchess and Duke, who will make the 2,000 mile trip with him.