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John W Beard

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John W Beard : Saddles east;: Horseback over the Old Oregon Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saddles east;: Horseback over the Old Oregon Trail:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Oregon Trail in 1948By LCThis book is indeed a classic. Beard's conversational narratives and word pictures are a fast read with unparalleled clarity and excitement. A student of Western history, Beard adds numerous, historical accounts of other writers and conversations with locals met along the way that either lived or knew about the "old days." Hardship and triumph defined the Oregon Trail in the mid-19th century, and the Beards tasted both. Who better to appreciate these extremes than a Chaplain assigned to a U.S. Army unit in France during World War One and the long-time pastor of Mount Tabor Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon. Ride with the Beards through rivers, deserts, mountains and plains sprinkled with sunshine, rain, snow, sleet, wind and sand storms. The Beards were friends of three generations of my family. The last time I saw them was in 1947, the year before they took their saddles East. Readers will not be disappointed with this riveting, first-hand account of a trip first dreamed of when Chaplain Beard was a boy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Oregon Trail :Hallowed GroundBy Judith M. DavidsonIt has been a long while since I followed up on my childhood obsession with pioneer stories, but while reading this I was back in the covered wagon facing the hardships: massacres, thirst, insects, snakes, wayward and stubborn pack animals, terrain that seemed more like a blockade than a "trail." The Beards were an indomitable pair who travelled the route from their home on the West Coast (the end of the Oregon Trail) to its origin in Independence, MO. And they did it after 40 years of a marriage during which they had dreamed and planned for this near-pilgrimage. It isn't just the great descriptions of the land and people they

encountered along the way, but their awe and reverence. I don't think that "respect" is a bad way to put it: the reader here is in the presence of a mensch (if one can get away with calling a Presbyterian minister that). I saw every landmark filtered through the clear light of Beard's mind, philosophy and sensitivity.

A great many equestrian travelers could say they were inspired to take to the saddle because of the exploits of someone who rode before them. However John Beard is the only horseback traveler whose journey can be directly linked to the influence of the famous Buffalo Bill Cody. Beard determined as a child that he wanted to see the Wild West from the back of a horse after a visit to Cody's legendary Wild West show. Yet it was to be more than sixty years after seeing the flamboyant American showman before Beard, and his wife Lulu, finally mounted their dreams. Setting off on a matched pair of horses, Black Diamond and Black Fairy, the Beards left to discover the long cherished equestrian quest of the author's youth. Their mission in 1948 was to ride the length of the Old Oregon Trail. What followed was a 2,500 mile odyssey from Oregon to Missouri through a vast sea of weariness, thirst, hunger, hardship, and danger as the aged equestrians rode down the trail of their pioneer forefathers. Amply illustrated with photographs, "Saddles East" is more than a mere tale of adventure, it is the romantic story of two pilgrims of the sunrise riding back into the morning of their youth, hunting for America's yesterday with everything they own on the backs of their faithful horses.