

# Area anti-freeze producers disagree on rumored shortage

By Debbie Hemminger

Although an informal survey of Lincoln retailers indicates an adequate supply of anti-freeze, there is one producer who is warning of an anti-freeze shortage.

Bob Schlott, president of Warren Oil Co. in Omaha, an anti-freeze producer for an eight-state area, claims that his company can only obtain 75 percent of last year's anti-freeze supply. Schlott explained that three large refining plants are inoperable as a result of economics, fire, and technology.

However, the only other anti-freeze producer in the area, Southwest Grease and Oil Co., said that there is no anti-freeze shortage. According to the plant manager Howard McCollister, there is the same amount of anti-freeze available as last year. McCollister said that there simply is not an abundance of anti-freeze because all of the companies are not producing up to capacity.

Anti-freeze consists of 95 percent ethylene glycol, which is a crude element

and must be refined. There is a large supply of ethylene glycol, McCollister said.

However, according to Schlott, the cost of anti-freeze on the retail level has increased about \$1 per gallon in the past year, while the wholesale price has increased 75 cents per gallon. McCollister did not quote prices but agreed that the price of anti-freeze has increased as a result of the rising cost of petroleum products needed to refine ethylene glycol.

Schlott said earlier in news reports that the pinch would be felt as early as mid-September. Recently, he changed his mind and said that the pinch will not be felt until Oct. 1.

McCollister, commenting on the future situation of anti-freeze, said if there was a supply problem it would be temporary, as a result of a seasonal push. McCollister said that the only reason that he could imagine that there was rumor of an anti-freeze shortage was the announcement by some major producing companies of temporary shutdowns early in the season.



# UNL students earn credits while following pilgrims' trial

By Bill Hayes

Seven UNL students spent the summer trekking across northern Spain along a route followed by a million 12th-century pilgrims.

The journey began in France and ended 600 miles later at Santiago de Compostela, the gravesite of St. James the apostle.

Two UNL faculty members led the students, who studied history, culture and art for nine credit hours.

Among the travelers were two veterans of a 1974 University of Indiana trip: David Gitlitz, trip director and chairman of the UNL Modern Languages Department, and Linda Davidson, co-director and UNL Spanish instructor.

Accompanying them were students Mike Davis, Kathy Dodge, Suzy Hunter, Lauren McConnell, Briarf Wood, Mary Jane Dunn-Wood and Annette Sims.

Gitlitz said the group closely followed the pilgrim's lifestyle.

"We picked the year 1179 and basically became 12th century pilgrims," Gitlitz said. "We went walking off to see the bones of the only apostle buried in Europe, St. James the Greater."

"It was a very popular medieval pilgrimage. It was one of the big three, ranking in importance with Rome and Jerusalem," he said.

The group held classes daily, discussing literature, art and miscellaneous topics related to the pilgrimage, Gitlitz said.

"I was amazed at professor Gitlitz's knowledge," Dodge said. "He knew about every little lake, every little town."

"The trip appealed to me because of its historical aspects. I think travel is a good learning experience," she said.

The trip began May 20, at St. Jean Pied-de-port, France. Using footpaths, the

remains of old Roman and medieval roads, and farm paths, the group arrived in Santiago de Compostela on July 14.

The days were long. Everyone was up by 7 a.m. and went to bed around midnight, Gitlitz said.

"We would eat a light breakfast," Gitlitz said. "We would walk and then have a light lunch, water, sardines, bread and cheese."

"We would have a lesson on the road. Later, we would hit town and find a place to stay. We became fairly adept at bathing in a teacup. It takes very little water and a lot of good will," he said.

Sometimes the group faced danger along the road, Gitlitz said.

"We were chased across mountain tops for five kilometers by a herd of cows and bulls," Gitlitz said. "It was some time before we turned the herd around."

McConnell said the group had difficulty crossing a river.

"We were scared. It took about two hours for us to cross the river. We rested on the other side for 30 minutes, drying out," she said.

"That experience really pulled us together. Later that day we sang as we walked into Leon," she said.

Davis said walking the cobblestone roads was difficult.

"It was like walking on a tile floor that gave in all the time," he said. "The stones would roll with you."

The group also had times of peace, when they walked along old roads or explored an ancient town, Linda Davidson said.

The walkers reported to the bishop's office to receive a special certificate verifying the pilgrimage and allowing the group to enjoy the privileges of countless pilgrims before them.

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