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Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield (D. Montana) July 27, 1956

Ex-Wac Ends 2,300 Mile Horseback Journey

Mr. President, as I was looking over my latest copy of the Great Falls Tribune I came upon of the warmest human-interest stories that I have ever read. It is of particular interest to me because it concerns one of the fine communities in north-central Montana, the city of Malta.

Kathryn Elliot, an ex-Wac has arrived home in Malta after completing a 2,300 mile horseback ride, 26 months after it began in Fort Lee, Virginia.

As the newspaper story points out Kathryn would have arrived home many months sooner, except for Brenda, Kathryn's half-blind saddle mare. Kathryn first met Brenda at a Fort Lee riding academy and became so fond of her that she could not bear to leave the horse behind. At the end of her Wac career, Kathryn decided to return to Montana, only to discover that Brenda would not ride in a horse trailer, so she decided to ride Brenda all the way to Montana.

Kathryn and Brenda stopped off that first winter at Rhineland, Wisconsin to visit an old army buddy, Mary Silius, The second lap of the trip began last May with Kathryn riding Brenda and Mary driving a 1930 Model A Ford, behind which was hooked a small trailer containing their camp equipment.

The two ex-Wacs completed their cross-country trip last Saturday when they arrived at Saco, a small town near Malta. On Monday they were given a grand welcome by the people of Malta and the surrounding community, including Kathryn's

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Elliot, who have now sold their ranch and are living in the city.

Kathryn rode into town at the head of the parade with Mary bringing up the rear of the parade with the Model A. In addition to Brenda, the two girls brought four dogs with them, Coco, a Scotch collie, a black spaniel, a basset hound and a fox terrier.

In this day and age, when our newspapers are so full of crises and tragedies it is indeed refreshing to read about the arrival of Kathryn Elliot and her entourage in Malta, Montana.

I as unanimous consent that this article from the July 24, 1956 issue of the Great Falls, Tribune be printed at the conclusion of my remarks.