

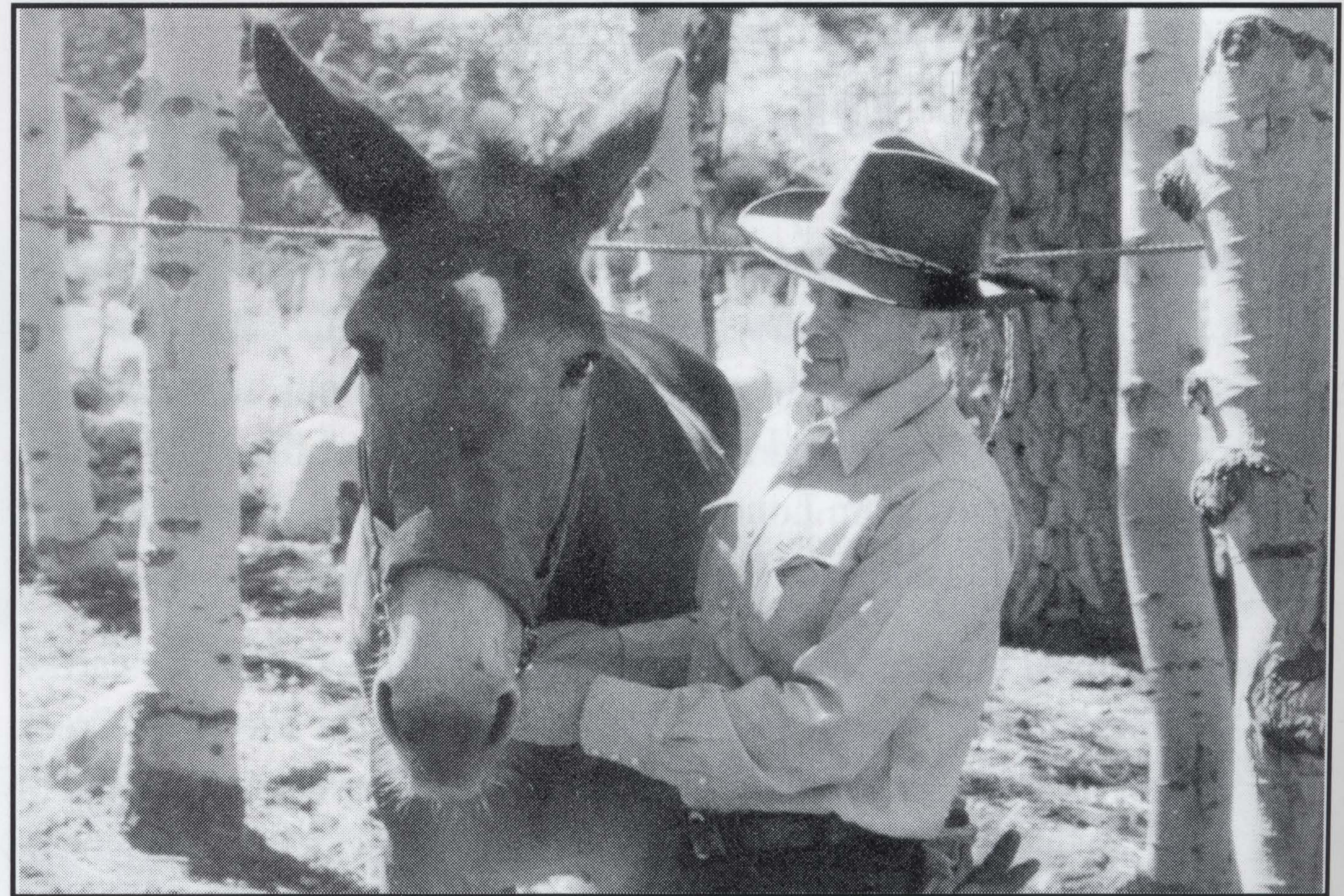
Best Friend of the Packers

Dr. Bill Carter

Dr. Bill Carter has lived in Bishop for the past 32 years and has valued and appreciated every minute he has spent in the Eastern Sierra backcountry wilderness. Bill packs for fun and has done trips for and out of Bob Tanner's Red's Meadows as well as Lee and Jennifer Roeser's McGee Creek Pack Station. Bill became involved with the Bishop Mule Days during the 1970s when he was approached by Carl Lind at a party and asked to volunteer his time helping out for the event. Bill says he's been Carl's "go boy" ever since!

Dr. Carter has been an Optometrist in Bishop for 32 years and has a practice called Family Eye Care with Dr. Eric Richman. Bill has been an avid runner, cyclist and enjoys hunting big game. He began packing when he was hunting elk. It has been a love for him ever since. He is a dedicated member of the Backcountry Horseman, Eastern Sierra Unit and does a significant amount of volunteer trail work. In addition he also helps out with the Pacific Crest Trail Association, volunteering on trail work as well as packing in their trail crews. Bill loves this work, as he says, "I get along better with mules, than I do people!" Not only does Dr. Carter volunteer his help with the non-profit groups, he is also a main maintenance resource for the commercial packers and the U.S. Forest Service. He truly enjoys his partnerships with the agencies and packers and finds the trail work "creative" as in most areas the wilderness requires primitive tools to get the job done.

Dr. Carter selling t-shirts, belt buckles and other souvenirs that families can take home with them as reminders of their fun weekend. He served on



Dr. Bill Carter with a friend.

the Show Committee for 20 years, and is now the Racing Chairman for Mule Days. Bill recalls some of his more memorable moments at Bishop Mule Days; being run over by two racing mules during a bedroll race! While thankfully nothing was broken, he did get knocked unconscious for a while.

That experience aside, he of course is a huge fan of horses and mules. Bill has five horses and a mule, "Tavia," who is a good friend of his. He trains all of his animals for trail maintenance because that's where he likes to spend his time, up in the mountains. Both of Bill's children are also active in horses. Daughter Carrie was involved in 4-H, was the Queen in the Inyo/Mono/Alpine contest and actually won a horse in high school as an award for an essay she wrote and she has been fan ever since. Son Billy, who is currently serving

Continued on page 11

Dr. Bill Carter

From page 10

in South Korea as an Army Dentist, is an excellent packer and loves to hunt. Bill's wife of 36 years, Marilyn is a schoolteacher in Bishop. As Bill says, "it's been a fun ride."

"Mule Days is all fun," according to Bill. "The teamsters and the pulling folks make it special; they're a good group of people and they are a pleasure to have in Bishop." Bill respects and credits the packers, "they do a good job; it's a difficult position to be in to make everybody happy." Dr. Carter appreciates the honor of being Best Friend of the Packers. "It's a pleasure to be a part of it all, and I hope I can continue to do that in the future." Bill, you are truly a best friend to the Packers, and always will be. You are honored and revered for all that you have done for us over the years, and we thank you.