

## **Henschel makes cross-country journey on foot**

By STEVIE ST. JOHN

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YERMO — When Detlev Henschel and Katrin Frommhold arrived in the rural desert, people got friendlier.

After starting a journey across America two weeks ago in Santa Monica, the pair — originally from Germany but now living in New Hampshire — found many people in the Los Angeles area wary of them. The reason? Henschel's mode of transportation. He's going across the county along historical roads and trails — on foot.

Frommhold, meanwhile, drives the route. She pulled that job when she lost a roll of the dice. She isn't just following, though. While Henschel collects information and snaps photos for a book about seeing America outside a car, she's filming footage to sell.

The reason for their voyage, Henschel said, is to see the real America, which to him has nothing to do with Washington, D.C., and international tension.

“We are only interested in good news about America,” he said.

They were interested in the man who drove them back to camp after they made the mistake of walking from the camp to Barstow, which turned out to be a six-hour trip, and the man who bandaged Frommhold's injured foot after she caught it on a wire.

They took interest in the murals painted on buildings in downtown Barstow. During a three-night stay at the KOA in Yermo, they took interest fellow campers who befriended the pair and invited them to share dinner.

“This is old beautiful America, which still exists,” Henschel said. “America has lots to give.”

The trip won't only take them across America but also into Canada; the journey ends in Newfoundland, Canada. They'll follow various historic roads along the way, but much of the trip up to the Midwest will follow Route 66. They departed Yermo on Sunday to head toward Daggett and Newberry Springs and onward through the desert.