

FREDDIE POPP

Rides in style

By Holly Roberts

IT'S A WAGON, IT'S A CAR, NO, IT'S A 'HUMMER'

DOGMOBILE. Longtime Ojai residents Margie and John Popp cruise the Ojai Valley Bike Trail rain or shine twice a day to walk Freddie, their special pooch. Freddie, a Lhasa Apso/Maltese mix, has the good life with the Pops. He rides shotgun in the custom-made enclosed yellow dog car that John designed and built from a photo of a Hummer he saw once in the paper.

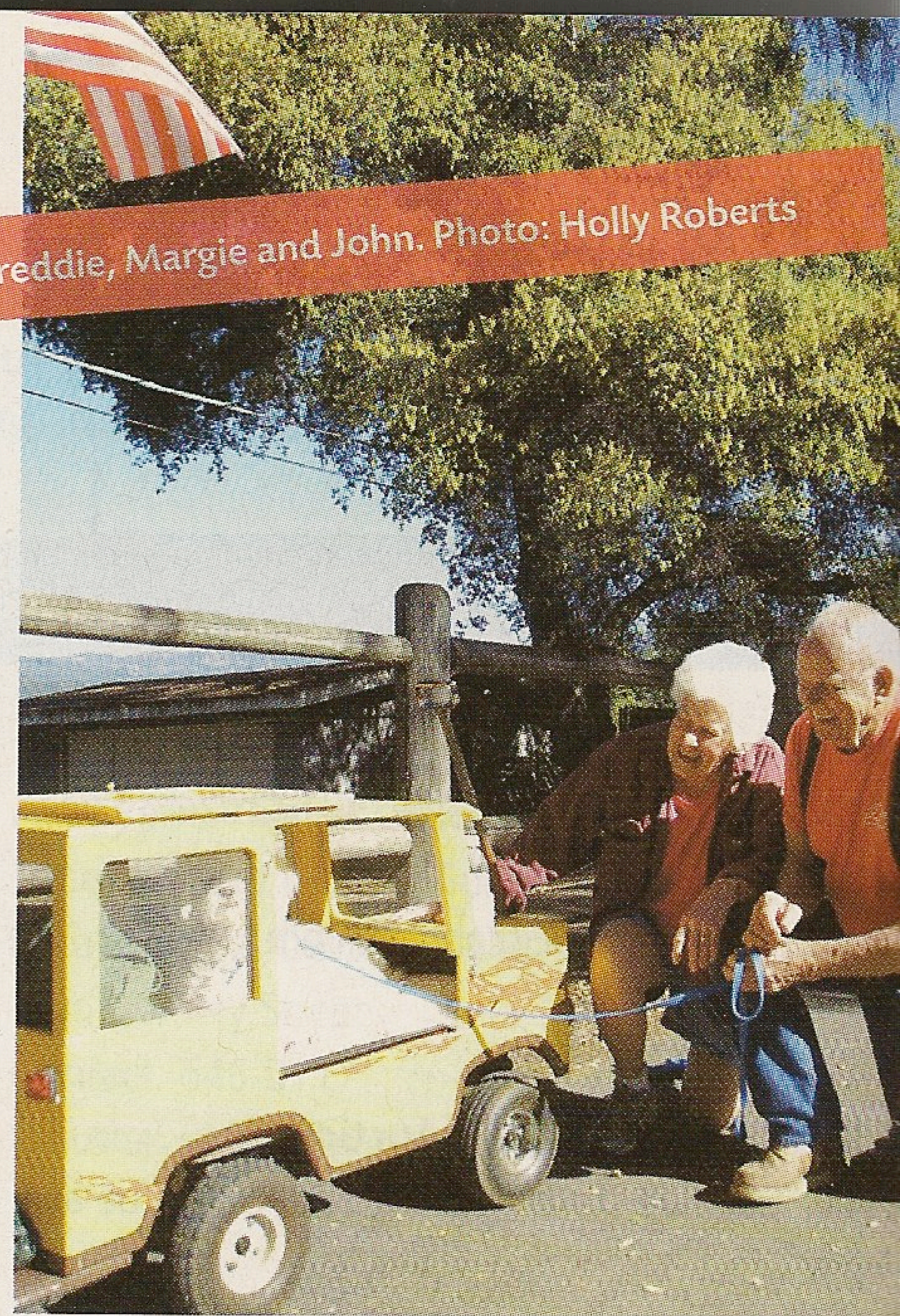
The Pops, married since 1953, raised five of their six children in Ojai and have lived in the Ojai Villa Mobile Estates since August 1995. The park's rules prohibit walking dogs within the grounds, so when the Pops

adopted 3-year-old mistreated Freddie from the Humane Society in 2004, John went to work to ensure that their pup could get out for walks without having to be carried. Thanks to John, who had a 34-year career as a builder in Los Angeles, it's no surprise that 10-year-old Freddie has the coolest ride around. Built around a standard radio flyer wagon, John agrees that Freddie's ride resembles a Hummer "to a certain extent, but it also leans toward a Model T!"

When Margie Popp retired from her career as a dietician in 1995, she soon felt the need to do more than watch the days go by. Although Margie helps her neighbors maintain their gardens and yards and John helps with home repairs, they realized that something was missing and started their search for a canine companion.

Margie explained that the connection between themselves and Freddie was immediate. "We went over there [to the Humane Society] to take a look at him and he just jumped right up on the bench with

Freddie, Margie and John. Photo: Holly Roberts



me and crawled into my lap," she said.

Passersby might see the Pops and Freddie cruising along the Ojai Valley Bike Trail on any given morning. Look for the yellow Hummer wagon with a towering American flag in the back, and don't be surprised if you see Margie jogging along a bit with Freddie, or John carrying an umbrella in the rain.

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THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOWL

Adventurous piano virtuoso headlines

By Rebecca Unruh

LAST YEAR, THE OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL INAUGURATED ITS NEW HOME IN THE REBUILT LIBBEY BOWL.

This year the festival will bust loose from those friendly confines with a special "Beyond the Bowl" event featuring the West Coast premiere of composer John Luther Adams's "Inuksuit." No admission will be charged for this opening day performance, which will be staged throughout the Libbey Park and feature forty-eight percussionists and six piccolo players. The audience will be invited to walk through the park and experience

each section of the piece and envision how music reacts and changes in respect to place.

"The Ojai Music Festival could only take place in Ojai — this town is filled with people who are curious, and open to new ideas," says Executive Director Jeff Haydon. The adventurous music-lovers who fill Libbey Bowl for this festival each year comprise "the most engaged, respected and admired audience for any cultural event in the entire world," Haydon adds.

The festival, which turns 66 this year, will run from June 7 to June 10 and feature Leif Ove Andsnes as music director. Other artists on the program include pianist Marc-André Hamelin; conductor and composer Reinbert de Leeuw; and for the first time

Leif Ove Andsnes



since 2008, actress Barbara Sukowa, who will join de Leeuw for "In the Merry Month of May," a cycle of 21 Schubert and Schumann songs reworked for a singing actress and ensemble.