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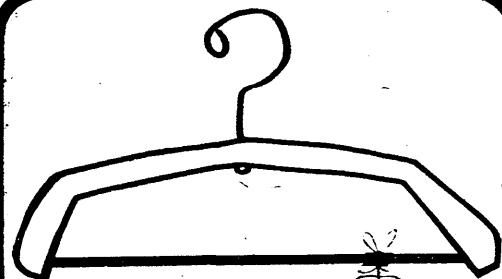
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## Planners expect a mob of tourists for next year

By JERRY KNIGHT  
Staff Writer

Imagine every man, woman and child living in the original 13 colonies in 1776 showed up to watch George Washington cross the Delaware.

That's how many tourists are expected at Washington Crossing next year — between 3.5 and 4 million people.

On busy days, the parking lots will look like every one of Washington's 2,400 troops drove to the embarkation point.

At worst, tourist officials say, they could have to park cars on the lawns where Washington launched his boats and put Porta-Potties on the shores where he landed.

But, to quote historian W.C. Fields, "Better here than Philadelphia."

PHILADELPHIA. The bicentennial planners say, will have 15 million people visiting its historic sites during 1976.

A crowd equivalent to the 3.5 million people who lived in colonial America will show up at Independence Hall during July alone. And almost as many will be there in August.

Already an information booth set up outside Independence Hall is getting 800 inquiries a day.

That's like all the Hessians captured in the Battle of Trenton stopping to ask directions to the Liberty Bell, every day.

The total influx of Bicentennial visitors into East Coast states next year will probably amount to 746 million tourists, according to a study for the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States.

The study says New Jersey should plan on 49 million Bicentennial visitors — about 11 million more than there would be without the Bicentennial.

Pennsylvania, generally regarded as one of the prime tourists draws of the bicentennial, was told to expect almost 120 million tourists instead of the usual 76 million.

AND NEW YORK'S tourist traffic likely will jump from the 98 million people who would normally come in 1976 to 125 million because of the Bicentennial.

Those figures include not only outsiders coming into the states next year, but also local residents taking pleasure trips of all kinds.

When out-of-state tourists alone are counted, New Jersey will have between 14 million and 17 million visitors next year, says Frank Wagner of the state Bicentennial Commission.

All these estimates of tourist traffic are at best imprecise, people

who are planning for the Bicentennial acknowledgment.

"How can you tell how many people will come?" says Richard Goldman, New Jersey's acting director of tourism.

Philadelphia is basing its estimates on a public opinion pollster's research. Projections based on tourist traffic in 1972 were used for the 13 original states study done by the Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies, a nonprofit research agency.

IF THE BICENTENNIAL realizes its full potential, that study predicts, it will bring three times as many visitors to the East Coast as came in 1972.

But the Bicentennial could be a bust, the study warns, with no more visitors than in 1972.

That could happen if the states fail to capitalize on Bicentennial tourist promotions, or the economy stays stagnant, or the price of gasoline gets so high it discourages travel.

With the energy and economic situation beyond their control, local Bicentennial planners are tackling the twin tasks of attracting as many tourists as possible and taking care of them once they're here.

New Jersey's Bicentennial promotions will focus on Washington's trip across the Delaware; Washington Crossing is expected to be the top historical attraction.

ON BICENTENNIAL billboards, the state will use the slogan "Go where he went" with a huge blow-up of the famous painting of Washington Crossing the Delaware.

Improvements planned at Washington Crossing for the Bicentennial include restoration of seven houses along Route 532 to their original appearance, an addition to the main building, further restoration of the old Ferry Inn, restoration of the grist mill and reconstruction of a new sawmill near Hitchcock Creek.

Permanent improvements to the roads and sewage system at Washington Crossing are also underway, Pennsylvania park spokesmen say.

They note, however, that it'll be impossible to provide enough parking, toilets and other facilities for peak visitor times — like July 4, 1976 — when all facilities will be strained beyond capacity.

That means parking on the grass at Washington Crossing will be unavoidable and Porta-Potties — self contained portable outhouses — are in the contingency plans not only for that park but for other Bucks County attractions.

BUCKS HEALTH officials also reportedly are concerned about the

sanitation problems that could result from the influx of tourists.

"We know we don't have enough rest rooms or other facilities for the largest crowds," said Mrs. Helen Hoffman of the Bucks County tourism agency.

There aren't enough restaurants in Bucks County to feed the peak crowds either, though tourism planners figure most of the visitors will be picnickers.

"Apparently there aren't any state or federal Bicentennial funds available for emergency services," Mrs. Hoffman said, and Bucks officials aren't sure how they'll be paid for the extra facilities.

On the New Jersey side of the river, the traffic and crowds next summer are expected to routinely match the scene at last spring's Trenton Kennel Club dog show.

New Jersey is hoping to lure tourists to the state with advertising in national publications like Better Homes and Gardens, American Home, airline magazines and travel industry publications.

AT LEAST TWO major Bicentennial tour promotions will pour visitors into New Jersey next year, and others are expected to be announced later.

Goldman said the state tourism agency has been working with United Airlines on a package aimed at encouraging midwesterners to fly East next year for vacations.

The United package, now being promoted to travel agents, will offer three places to visit — Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, Philadelphia and Wildwood, N.J.

Wildwood will give the tourists a family vacation break and some time to unwind after visiting all the historical spots, a spokesman said.

Amtrak will start its Bicentennial tour package this fall when it introduces a Colonial Corridor Circle ticket.

For \$40 tourists will be able to ride Amtrak trains round trip from Washington to Boston, with stopovers at New York and Philadelphia and one additional stop between each of the four major cities.

Trenton probably will be the most popular stopover between New York and Philadelphia, an Amtrak source said.

The Amtrak Colonial Corridor Circle tickets will go on sale Sept. 8 and can be used anytime until Dec. 31, 1976. The \$40 fare — half price for kids — is 30 percent less than the regular Boston to Washington round trip.

United hasn't announced fares for its Bicentennial promotion.

## Bicentennial seeds planted

The seeds for the Bicentennial greening of Trenton have been planted, but they're not scheduled to yield fruit, or for that matter flowers, for some time to come.

A community garden project, sponsored by The Times on a secluded city lot, has already begun. Twenty gardeners have worked their plots, which were fertilized and plowed only two weeks ago, and some are already boasting of small tomatoes.

The gardeners, who responded to a story in The Times in May, have also planted peppers, lettuce, a variety of greens, squash, corn and even watermelons. They've asked that the location of the plot be kept secret until

the crops have been harvested.

On other fronts, The Times is working with the Trenton Rotary Club to plant bulbs, flowering trees and evergreens at the Brunswick Circle. The circle planting is scheduled for fall, and, hopefully, the circle will be in full bloom by July 4, 1976.

The Zonta Club, a professional woman's organization, and The Times are jointly sponsoring a planting project along the canal. The site, which runs from Prospect Street to the Toddle House Restaurant, will be planted with a variety of flowering trees and shrubs, staggered to bloom throughout the season. Some planting is being done right now at this site, but the bulk of it will be done in the

fall, so the trees and shrubs will have their first flowering next spring.

In addition, Mrs. Helen Perlee-Solon, a Zonta member and chairman of the city's civic improvement committee, has been responsible for the planting of bulbs at several schools, the Old Barracks, the War Memorial building, several churches and various other sites in the city.

Plans for a mini-park in the downtown area are still being worked out, but funds have been set aside to make a vacant lot into a downtown garden spot. With luck, the project will get underway in the fall, and the park will be ready for the Bicentennial.

— TERRI GABRIEL

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**An oceanic Catch 22**

**The inlet at Barnegat Light**

The inlet at Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island is charming to behold, with its pretty red and white lighthouse and storm-worn docks. But that stretch of sea is filled with shoals and sand bars and is actually one of the toughest areas to navigate on the east coast. The townspeople say it's a God-given inlet and unless the Army Corps of Engineers takes measures to preserve it, the area is doomed. The Army Corps of Engineers says that if left alone, the inlet would seal itself off. Fixing it would cost millions and maybe not work. Staff writer Madeleine H. Blais has the story of this oceanic Catch 22 in Accent on Living, part of the Sunday Trenton Times.