

## Checking in Roughing it — with running water

By MADELEINE BLAIS  
Staff Writer

It was a friendly sight — about 20 covered wagons drawn into a circle, sturdy-legged work horses tethered nearby, some people even eating dinner out of tin cups, using their jeans as napkins.

It was almost enough to cause dormant pioneer spirits to rally, but the anachronistic idyll at Washington Crossing State Park was marred by the nearby cluster of Winnebagoes and similar lumbering contraptions, all part and parcel of the Wagon Train Pilgrimage.

People and horses from all 50 states set out as long ago as six months with one goal in mind: Valley Forge on July Fourth. President Ford will address the group, which is supposed to swell to 200 wagons and 10,000 horsemen.

Many were really roughing it last night, but others played at it in their vans with running water and color TV.

THEY ALL CAME together to enact history in reverse, in honor of the Bicentennial.

The public was invited last night, as it is tonight when the wagon train moves to the parking lot of Hightstown High School, to revel in the simulated ambience of the Old West.

There was something about the sight that stirs the collective unconscious, dredging up memories of things that may not have even happened to you directly. The tail-swating horses, bedrolls on the ground, clear skies above — it was a scene out of our national past, made murky by the odor of freeze-dried decaffeinated coffee, brewing on the propane-powered hotplates inside the wagons.

It was a little like tuning into a re-run of an old movie and seeing the cowboys decimate the Indians with M-16's. What other explanation is there for all these people in their teggallon hats, calling each other "partner," and then checking their Pulsar watches to see whether it's sundown yet?

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sponsored last night's spectacle. After Hightstown, the caravan will be at the Monmouth Battle Grounds on June 23, Lakehurst Naval Air Station on June 24, Batsto Village at Wharton State Forest on June 26-27, Medford on June 28, Mount Holly on June 29, and Camden County Park on June 30. They will spend the first day of



Tailgaters in Bicentennial style are the Henry Beaulieus of Rockfall, Conn., and granddaughter, Charleen. The nightly performances sum up the contrasts of the wagon train: the singers put on a slick, electronically amplified show, to rapt attention from an audience that had come to see something out of the past.

July in Philadelphia, and then move onto the final destination.

THE EASTERN contingent came down from Maine through New England to New York and New Jersey. The logistic highpoint was the crossing of the Tappan Zee Bridge, much to the frustrated dismay of some rush-hour motorists. Other segments of the train are following long-established wagon routes, including the Oregon and California trails, as well as the Mormon, Sante Fe, Old Spanish and Wilderness trails and the Lancaster Pike.

Every night at seven, a group of young people stage the Wagon Train Show, produced for the pilgrimage by the Theatre Arts Department at Penn State University.

The repertoire consists of a series

of inoffensive little ditties that had many children in the audience stomping their feet in rhythmic approval.

While the show goes on, many of the travellers were preparing to bed down for the night. The caravan was to leave at seven this morning to make its Hightstown commitment.

Walter Stevens, for instance, a 51-year-old farmer from Cortland, N.Y., had finished his dinner of canned stew and Pringles. The horses had been fed, and it was well-nigh time to stretch out on his narrow cot.

He planned for this trip for three and a half months, leaving on May 17. He left his wife at home, with his three sons tending the 150-acre farm, which specializes in cattle and saddle horses.



Staff photos by Warren Kruse

## Calendar

**TODAY**  
**MEETINGS:** Alcoholics Anonymous meets at First Presbyterian Church, 771 N. Penn. Ave., Morrisville, 9 p.m.; 32 N. Willow Street, 12:30 p.m.; Salvation Army, 436 Mulberry Street, 8 p.m.; Westminster House, First Presbyterian Church, N. Union Street, Lambertville, 9 p.m.; and Al-An Club 761 Cass Street, 9 p.m.  
Bordentown Senior Citizens Club, Community Room of Bank of Mid-Jersey, Route 130 Bordentown, noon.  
North Trenton American Legion Post No. 458 Senior Citizens Club and concert on post grounds at 7 p.m., Gina Mule Band.  
Lawrence Township Senior Citizens Club, American Legion Hall, 1 p.m.  
Broad St. Park Civic Association will meet at American Legion Post 313 Home, 540 Schiller Ave., at 8 p.m.  
**SPECIALS:** "Entrepreneurship for Women: Women in Small Business Management" Education Bldg., Room 134, Trenton State College, 7 p.m., public invited.  
Burlington County Bicen Week at State House, exhibits in Rotunda all week, W. State Street, Trenton.  
West Windsor Senior Citizens and Keen-Agers trip to Amish Farm Museum in Lancaster, 8:30 a.m. departure. For reservations call 799-2086.  
Get Away for a Day—summer bus service from Trenton to Washington Crossing State Park, six round trips daily, leave Trenton every hour on the hour from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Regular stops made at Trenton Railroad Station, State and Prospect Streets and at Pennington Circle. Round trip fare \$1, 50 cents for children under 12 when accompanied by adults. For information, call 396-9171.  
**CONCERTS:** At Robin Hood Dell, Phila., Evgeni Svetlanov, chief conductor of the USSR State Symphony Orchestra, and music director of Bolshoi Opera Orchestra, will conduct Philadelphia Orchestra, with Soviet composer Tikhon Khrennikov, and violinist Pavel Kogan.  
Soprano Susan Devaney Wyner appearing in Bristol Chapel, Westminster Choir College, 8 p.m.  
"Sing America, Sing" at La Salle Music Theatre, Phila., 8 p.m.  
**PLAYS:** "Fiddler on the Roof" at Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, 8:30 p.m. through July 4.  
"Zorba" starring Theodore Bikel at Playhouse in the Park, Phila., 8 p.m. through June 26.  
**FILMS:** "Crime and Punishment" at TLA Cinema, 334 South Street, Phila., 7:15.

Liberty and Newkirk Ave., 12:30 p.m.  
The Enterprise-Hamilton's Silver Threads will have their meeting in the Enterprise Firehouse, Klockner Ave., 1 p.m.  
Robbinsville Senior Citizens Club bus trip to White Beauty Resort in Poconos, will leave Municipal Building in Robbinsville at 9 a.m. sharp.  
Golden Nuggets, White Horse Senior Citizens Club meets at noon.  
Senior Citizens Club of Ewing Township, 11:30 a.m. at West Trenton Ballroom.  
**LECTURES:** ESP-Psychic Phenomena, Edgar Cayce, pyramids, discussion and demonstrations by Mental Horizons Society, Holiday Inn, Route 206 Bordentown, 8 p.m., \$2.  
**SPECIALS:** Flea market and fair, St. Joachim's Church, through

June 26, every evening at 6.  
How to freeze and can vegetables and fruits, demonstration by Home Economics Extension Service, at East Windsor Library, Dutch Neck Road, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
Orientation Workshop for displaced homemakers, "Getting it Together: Don't Apologize—Organize" sponsored by NOW, at Channel 52 Community Room, 1537 Parkside Ave., 8 p.m. public invited.  
**CONCERTS:** Tenor George Shirley in Bristol Chapel, Westminster Choir College, Princeton, 8 p.m.  
"Rompeleñstikín" at Valley Forge Music Fair, Devco, Pa., 11 a.m.  
"A Bicentennial Salute to American Dance," offered by Pennsylvania Ballet, Shubert Theatre, 250 South Broad Street Phila., today through July 3, 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**MEETINGS:** Alcoholics Anonymous meets at Al-An Club, 761 Cass Street, 12:30 p.m. and 51. Anthony Church, Route 32, Hightstown, 9 p.m.  
National Association of Retired Federated Employees, Trenton-Delaware Chapter No. 127, meets at the Hamilton Township Senior Citizens Center,

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