

Ancestor Of Wagon Train Scout Left Priceless Weapons

By NANCY ALEXANDER

He came striding down the Wilderness Road leading the Wagon Train. There was a dignity in his bearing, a sincerity in his approach, a reminiscent far-away light in his eyes and a dedication of purpose that led one to wonder about him.

Ivey Moore of North Wilkesboro, chief scout of the Wagon Train to Boone, paused for questioning. Carefully and tenderly he placed his long muzzle-loading rifle beside him while he talked. In his other hand he idly swung a golden tomahawk.

"The rifle? It's the one my ancestor Jessie Moore, who settled in the Globe, carried when he made his way through these Blue Ridge mountains. I'm a direct descendant of his."

On a brass plate on the handle of the gun is engraved, "Jessie Moore Rifle, Made by B. Gordon, Philadelphia, Penn. 1720. Brought to N. C. 1772, (used by Daniel Moore) Cowpens-Guilford Courthouse 1780, Globe, North Carolina, 1864."

He continued, "This is a throwing tomahawk. The powder horn I'm carrying belonged to Jessie's son, Jessie, Jr., was made in 1836, and put together with pegs.

"I'm walking all the way to Boone. I've walked 13 miles from Ferguson today. I made my coonskin hat and my skin pants. These are Indian beadwork garters about my legs.

"I've appeared on a number of television stations in connection with this Wagon Train event.

"I have four living children. I retired as a furniture salesman in '58; but didn't stay retired. I travel now occasionally.

"I'm just back last Saturday from my fifth fishing trip to the Artie Circle. Dr. T. L. White and Joe Whicker of North Wilkesboro and I all went, drove a car most of the way, and took a boat plane in to the rivers. We were above the 39th parallel. It was bush, tundra, and mesquite country. We caught plenty of brook trout up to 24 inches long. June 11th it snowed and sleeted on us. There was an inch of ice in our buckets when we woke up.

"I'm head of the Moore clan (also a family historical authority). We'll have our annual re-

union the third Sunday in August at the Globe."

Following a short distance behind Scout Moore was the long, rumbling Wagon Train, escorted by horseback riders. In one of the wagons which formed a circle in the wide green meadow surrounded by high green mountains was Rufus Estes, who lives near Union Grove Baptist Church in Caldwell County. A friendly, slender man, wearing a vivid shirt, he dismantled, unhitched his horses, and led them to an oat-filled trough.

"I've had by covered wagon about 20 years. I keep it in dry storage at my father's, Frank Estes, barn at Mulberry, just to use for outings, such as this.

"Mr. L. T. Barnett of Boone, who is my saw mill boss, has been driving my wagon. I've been saw milling for him for 18 years and working at night as night watchman at American-Elfird Mills at Whitel. First time in all these years I've got to boss him," he laughed.

Barnett spoke, "I've enjoyed this trip. Last night we sat up most of the night drinking coffee around the camp fire and talking with friends. Seems this day and time people don't visit like they used to. I've seen friends from Wilkes and other places I hadn't seen in years."

Estes added, "I've got a kick out of the whole trip, rain and all. Some Girl Scouts were

camped near us. I got up about four o'clock this morning to feed my horses and some of 'em 'way over on the hill and were so confused they wouldn't come back 'til I went over to lead 'em.

"I've got seven children. My wife and all of us work. Two of my boys, Lloyd and Harold, are riding two of my three ponies. I can remember my ponies' ages but not my boys."

"On my wagon here are relics I've collected: a very old saddle with wooden stirrups, animal traps, and lanterns, an old Spanish-American War sabre and a muzzle-loading rifle."

He rubbed his beard of several days' growth. "I'm not going to shave until the trip's over, but I'm going to jump in that river and take a bath in a little while.

"Back here just behind my wagon is a stagecoach I'd love to own. I offered the man \$300 for it. He told me he'd recently refused \$3,500 for it. Here's the owner, Claude Minton."

Minton, who is from North Wilkesboro, explained he not only owns the stagecoach, but an old hearse, a three-seated carriage, a buggy, and a covered wagon. The wagon, too, was in the train.

He pulled out pictures of his stagecoach parading down Constitution Avenue in Washington, where he takes it each year for



WAGON TRAIN CROSSES NEW RIVER

the Cherry Blossom Festival. It's been in numerous wagon trains in Tennessee, "where they really have them with 120 wagons or more." There was a picture of A. W. Drinkwater and Thad Eure riding in the vehicle in the Pirate Jamboree at Manteo two years ago. Drinkwater, who died this past year, was the man who telegraphed the first news of the Wright Brothers' first flight.

Camp fires were lit. Spencer Miller of Watauga's Wildcat community, a man who has 18 children, was busy stirring the

evening's stew in a big black pot. Fragments of age-old ballads floated over the meadow, children raced hither and yon, women hurried about in long calico dresses and bonnets performing wifely tasks. . . . The day was ending.

And there are those who have never tasted boiled peanuts.

The man with the loudest mouth often wins arguments among morons.

Our Mistake

Inadvertently the names of Mr. and Mrs. Aubyn Farthing's two sons were excluded from the outline which accompanied last week's Democrat picture of the elder Mr. Farthing, retiring postmaster at Valle Crucis. The sons are Ray Farthing of Vilas and Glenn Farthing of Greensboro.

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U. S. APPROVES POLIO DROPS

The Government has approved a new short cut oral polio vaccine designed to give quick simultaneous immunity against all three types of polio.

A license for the new vaccine was granted to Lederle Laboratories, a spokesman for the United States Surgeon General's Office said.

Lederle Laboratories said that supplies of the vaccine, which is called Trivalent Orimune, are already available.

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