

Covered Wagon Again Heads West For America's "Promised Land"

Ox-Team Caravan Leaves Ipswich, Mass., to Recreate the Historic Pilgrimage 150 Years Ago of the Pioneers Who Braved the Dangers and Hardships of the Wilderness Beyond the Alleghenies to Establish the First Settlements in the Old Northwest Territory.

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By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

HE covered wagons are on the march again and headed west! As a matter of fact, it's only one wagon—an authentic old Conestoga, drawn by a yoke of oxen—but it is symbolic of one of the most dramatic episodes in the annals of America. For it is recreating the historic pilgrimage of the pioneers who braved the dangers and hardships of the wilderness beyond the Alleghenies 150 years ago to seek homes in America's first "Promised Land" and to establish the first settlements in the old Northwest Territory.

On December 3 of this year this ox-drawn caravan will set out from Ipswich, Mass., and head west, as did a similar caravan on December 3, 1787. Walking beside the old Conestoga wagon will be men dressed in the costume of those far-off days—conskin cap, fringed buckskin or linen hunting shirt and leggings, long rifle and powder horn, knife and tomahawk. Across Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania they will guide their lumbering craft until they reach Sumerill's Ferry near West Newton, Pa.

There they will build boats from logs hewn in the forest and launch them on the Youghiogheny river. They will guide their crude craft down that stream and the Monongahela to its junction with the Allegheny at Pittsburgh where the two rivers form the "Beautiful Ohio." Then they will float down that historic waterway until they reach the city of Marietta, Ohio, with April 7 of next year as the official date for their arrival.

From Marietta the party will proceed by ox team throughout the six states of the Old Northwest. Each night, while the caravan is traveling, a pageant depicting eight of the critical episodes in our nation's history will be presented. Showing within easy driving distance of nearly half of the nation's population this "living picture" will thus bring to the public the dramatic story of the settlement of the Old Northwest.

Crisis at Newburgh.

In reality that story goes back to the year 1783 when George Washington's Continental Army lay in camp at Newburgh, N. Y., wearily awaiting the news that would send the soldiers home—and also send them out into an uncertain future.

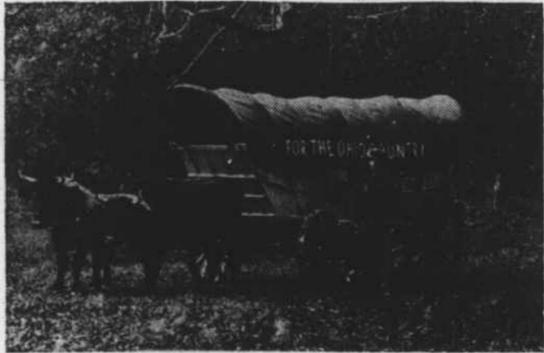
Their homes and farms had been neglected or wrecked by the ravages of war. The only money in circulation was the paper issued by the Continental Congress—and in those days "not worth a Continental" was more than a byword. It was a stark reality, as these men knew only too well.

To the soldiers who had richly earned a reward there remained but one thing—land—land beyond the mountains. With Timothy Pickens as their scribe, 283 officers and men prepared a petition providing for such land. Known to history as the "Pickering plan," or "Army plan," it embodied humanitarian principles unheard of in its day, and later became the nucleus for the great Ordinance of 1787. Four years elapsed, however, before the dreams and ideals of the soldiers at Newburgh were written into the law of the land. They were four years of delay and disagreement by Congress while the unsuccessful "Land Ordinance of 1785," and other measures were attempted.

Tired of the bickering in Congress and eager to settle in the land of untold richness beyond the Alleghenies, delegates from various counties in New England met at the Bunch of Grapes tavern in Boston on March 1, 1786. A committee consisting of Man-

asseh Cutler, Rufus Putnam, and others drafted a plan of association. Two days later the plan was complete and the "Ohio Company of Associates" was formed. Capitalized at a million dollars, the fund was to be devoted to the purchase of lands northwest of the Ohio river. Cutler was employed to act as agent and make a contract with Congress for a body of land in the "Great Western Territory of the Union."

A century and a half ago the great area north and west of the Ohio river, which came under the provisions of this ordinance, was a vast wilderness, overrun by hostile Indians, and a small, but growing number, of illegal American "squatters." Cutler, doing yeoman service for the Ohio company, contracted to purchase a million and a half acres at one dollar per acre. One-third was to be deducted from this for untillable lands and expenses of surveying. By making the purchase with public securities, worth only twelve cents on the dollar, the actual purchase price was approximately eight cents an acre! The tract was bounded on the east by the Seven Ranges, al-



The ox-team and Conestoga wagon which will take part in the recreation of the trek from Ipswich, Mass., to Marietta, Ohio.

ready surveyed and offered for sale by the Land Ordinance of 1785, on the south by the Ohio river, and on the west by the seven-teenth range.

A half million dollars was to be paid when the contract was signed and a like amount when the government had completed the survey of the boundary lines of the tract. On October 27, 1787, the contract was signed. Manasseh Cutler and Winthrop Sargent represented the Ohio company, Samuel Osgood and Arthur Lee signed for the Treasury board. Because the Ohio company could not pay the second installment when due the tract was reduced from a million and a half acres to 1,064,285 acres upon issuing the patent on May 20, 1792. By another reduction of 100,000 acres for donation lands, the final purchase was reduced to 964,285 acres.

On December 3, 1787, less than five months after passage of the ordinance, and only five weeks after their land purchase negotiations had been completed, the original party of 48 pioneers started their long and arduous march to their new homes in the "Ohio country." In the dead of a New England winter, facing 700 miles of tedious ox team travel, much of it through trackless forest, and with the snow-blocked

Alleghenies as a natural barrier, these hardy and determined men started on their brave, but dreary, trek.

A Hazardous Journey.

A journey through the mountain fastnesses at that time was hazardous at any season; in mid-winter it was termed by many as foolhardy. But the pioneers were going to a new land, there to carve homes from the vast, unbroken wilderness—their homes. They knew well that in order to survive during the next winter they must reach the new land in time to break ground and plant crops in the early spring.

Traveling by ox-drawn Conestoga wagon and on foot they plodded toward their goal. At Kit-tanning mountain the snow was so deep that Rufus Putnam records in his diary of the trip their abandonment of the wagons and the building of sleds, while the men tramped down the snow ahead of the oxen. Through howling mountain blizzards they groped their way, across frozen streams, the crunch of boot on snow sounding what must have seemed to them a drumbeat of farewell to civilization.

After a toilsome journey of eight weeks they reached Sumerill's Ferry (now West Newton), Pennsylvania, on January 23. Here they paused seven weeks while, under the direction of Ship-builder Jonathan Devol, they built boats to continue their journey by water, down the Youghiogheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers to the Muskingum. The largest boat was a galley built of heavy timber and covered with a deck roof. Named the "Ad-

There are several reasons why the Ohio company chose the hilly land along the Muskingum in preference to the more level tracts. In the first place southern Ohio was the only part to which the government could give clear title. Eastern states, particularly Connecticut and Virginia, still claimed large areas within the territorial boundaries. The site, at the mouth of the Muskingum, was assured the protection of Fort Harmar, a military outpost built three years before. Besides, Thomas Hutchins, geographer of the United States, who was intimately familiar with the territory, assured the Ohio company that the Muskingum valley was, in his opinion, "the best part of the whole of the western country."

Manasseh Cutler, the shrewd Yankee who had engineered this important real estate deal and thus obtained these desirable lands, was born at Killingsly, Conn., May 3, 1742. He was graduated from Yale at the age of twenty-three and for the next two years he worked in the whaling business and was a storekeeper at Edgarton on Martha's Vineyard. Finding this work distasteful, he studied law, and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1787. Finding this equally distasteful he studied theology and was ordained at Ipswich in 1771. He preached at Ipswich until the outbreak of the Revolution, when he joined the army as a chaplain.

Returning to his parish shortly before the close of the war he decided to study medicine, in due course received his M. D. degree, and for several years served a dual role as healer of both body and soul. Having mastered all of the so-called learned professions, he was, in addition, widely known for his scientific research, being an authority in astronomy, meteorology and botany.

Besides all of these traits he was affable and readily made



friends in any company. Little wonder then that the directors of the newly-formed "Ohio Company of Associates" chose this adroit lawyer, preacher, doctor, scientist, to plead their cause before Congress. Little wonder, either, that in four days he should completely reverse the course of Congress and attain his objective in the passage of the ordinance. Notwithstanding his other accomplishments, this latter one as lobbyist made him an important, although not widely publicized, figure in the development of this nation.

Our "First Colony."

In reality the Northwest Territory, made possible by the Ordinance of 1787, was America's "first colony." The provision that all territories, after having acquired a certain number of inhabitants, would become states, equal in every way to the mother states, was the birth of a colonial policy new and unknown in all the world. Probably no other factor has played so great a part in the rapid development of a unified nation. In addition, the ordinance differed from usual law, in that it was a mutual agreement which bound both the United States and the Northwest Territory to its terms. Its provisions could be repealed only by the consent of both parties.

These provisions, along with all the other humanitarian principles embodied, provided a yardstick by which to measure values with the seaboard states; a pattern to follow in the organization of the remaining states which followed. Abraham Lincoln in his famed debate with Douglas said: "The Ordinance of 1787 was constantly looked to whenever a new territory was to become a state. Congress always traced their course by that Ordinance."

A new land was open—a new land of promise, of rich soil, of verdant forests. Above all, it was the realization of a dream of a pioneer people in an incessant search for individual rights and liberties. Here, in the land beyond the River Ohio men and women were guaranteed for the first time the freedom which had been but a hope through a century and a half of tyrannical oppression, but a passion through eight tragic years of war. "Here the new nation, born of thirteen discordant and disputatious states, found, through its common child, the Northwest Territory, its formula to eminence among all the governments of mankind."

With the aid of soldiers stationed at Fort Harmar, on the downstream bank of Muskingum, their boats were beached. About noon that day they were towed back across the Muskingum where they immediately set out to clear land for crops and to survey the land for the city which was to be, and establish the first legal American settlement northwest of the Ohio river under the Ordinance of 1787.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY LESSON

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for December 5

CHRISTIAN REST

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT—Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—Matthew 11:28.

PRIMARY TOPIC—When We Are Tired. JUNIOR TOPIC—God's Great Invitation. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How Christ Gives Us Rest. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christian Rest.

"Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away," so sang Isaac Watts in 1719. One wonders what he might say today! The mad rush of modern life—its relentless drawing of us all into its terrific tempo—leaves us distraught, nervous, over-anxious. Nervous disorders are on a rapid increase, even among children. The condition prevails in the country as well as in the city, although it is aggravated in metropolitan centers.

Let us lay down the burdens of the universe for a bit and counsel quietly about that almost forgotten Christian virtue, rest. Nowhere can the troubled spirit find calm of soul as surely and as quickly as in God's Word—and in the One revealed there, for true rest is

I. Found in Christ (Matt. 11:28-30).

Rest for our souls is found not in the cessation of activity, but rather in joining with Christ as our yoke-fellow and in going on with him in meekness and lowliness of heart. Most of life's restlessness is the result of pride, of driving ambition to be somebody or to attain something. True humility removes all such disturbing factors.

But we do have a yoke and a burden to bear. Yes, it is true that not all is easy in the Christian life. But as someone has suggested, the burdens are like the burden of feathers on a bird. They may seem to be too heavy for his little body, but as a matter of fact they are the things he flies with! Such are the "burdens" of Christ.

II. Received by Faith (Heb. 4:3). Those who believe enter into rest. Faith in God through Jesus Christ brings a man into an abiding place that the storms of life may beat upon but can never move. Fair weather followers of Jesus who fall into a frenzy of fear and worry when sorrow or loss comes upon them need to learn to walk by faith. "Be not dismayed what'er betide, God will take care of you," is more than the pious expression of a hymn writer, it is a statement of fact.

III. Rejected by Unbelief (Heb. 4:1, 6-11).

"The worst thing in the world" is unbelief—because it effectually closes the door to God's blessing. Jesus could not do "many mighty works" in his home town of Nazareth "because of their unbelief" (Matt. 13:58). Unbelief will keep us from the rest that God has prepared for his people, for it not only hinders men from coming to the Saviour, but keeps them from resting in him after they are saved.

IV. Necessary to Useful Living (v. 11).

Only when the follower of Christ appropriates that rest of soul which results from turning from his own efforts and trusting himself fully to Christ will there be that absolute surrender of every detail and problem of life to him which will bring out in daily living the glorious beauty and power of a life at rest with God.

A poem by Fay Inchfawn which has blessed the writer's soul is here passed on, with the prayer that it may help you who read these notes:

"Well, I am done. My nerves were on the rack. I've laid them down today; I've laid the last straw broke the camel's back. I've laid that down today. No, I'll not fume, nor fuss, nor fight; I'll walk by faith a bit and not by sight. I think the universe will work all right. I've laid it down today.

"So, here and now, the overweight, the worry, I'll lay it down today; The all-too-anxious heart; the tearing hurry; I'll lay these down today. O eager hands, O feet so prone to run. I think that He who made the stars and sun Can mind the things you've had to leave undone. Do lay them down today."

How true it is that we are prone to bear all the burdens of the universe when God's Word has told us to cast all our care upon Him, for He careth for us (1 Pet. 5:7). It is a powerful testimony for Christ when distraught and worry-ridden non-Christians see God's children walking steady and true in the midst of disappointments, trials, and sorrows. And the opposite is also true, that failure to trust God is a practical denial of our professed faith.

A Good Patriot

To be a good patriot, a man must consider his countrymen as God's creatures, and himself as accountable for his acting towards them.—Bishop Berkeley.

Duty

Duty—the command of Heaven, the eldest voice of God.—Charles Kingsley.

Service

All service ranks the same with God.—Robert Browning.

STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

IT IS a toss up whether Madeleine Carroll or Loretta Young will be the most-exquisitely dressed screen star this winter. Miss Carroll writes from Paris that she is having the time of her life selecting costumes for "The River Is Blue" which she will start making for Walter Wanger when she returns to Hollywood.

Loretta Young was in New York recently buying fur coats, hats, and dresses by the score, just as if she hadn't had any new clothes in ages. Hollywood designers have just about run out of ideas for Loretta for in her last four pictures she has had altogether some 80 changes of costume, and each one was supposed to be a knockout. The more extreme and bizarre clothes are, the better she likes them—so she keeps designers working overtime.



Madeleine Carroll

You will be hearing a lot from now on about Iona Massey, who makes her American screen debut in M-G-M's "Rosalie." Officials of the company are so delighted with her performance in a minor role that they are going to give her the title role in "Pompador," one of the most alluring beauties in history or drama.

There is one popular radio player who will have to mend her ways if she ever goes into motion pictures—and most of them do sooner or later. Alice Frost of the "Big Sister" cast comes out of rehearsals with her forehead all smudged. She holds a pencil in her hand, and in a moment of dramatic tension invariably draws the point across her forehead.

The jinx that has dogged the footsteps of all Hollywood players who appeared on the Broadway stage this season has at last been knocked out. Frances Farmer broke the spell. She opened recently in "Golden Boy," a play about a prize fighter, and the critics went into rhapsodies over her deft playing of romantic scenes.

The battle of the two great glamorous stars of the screen, Garbo and Deitrich, turns out to be no battle at all when you see their new pictures, "Conquest" and "Angel." Garbo is so far in the lead that there is just no competition at all. "Conquest" is a lavishly-produced, historically-accurate romance of the time of Napoleon, and Garbo as the lovely Countess Walewska has never been more appealing. "Angel," on the other hand, is just an inconsequential modern triangle story.

Because of her good work in the new Fred Astaire picture, "Damsel in Distress," Joan Fontaine is going to get a strange reward. She is going to be starred in "Curtain Call," which Katherine Hepburn turned down. Don't think she minds taking this hand-me-down, though. It is a grand story.

Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy will be in the cast of a new comedy that will feature Irene Dunne and as a result she is the envy of all Hollywood as well as the public at large. Her outstanding success as a comedienne in "The Awful Truth" influenced Universal to postpone their biography of Madame Curie and instead of that story to cast her in a comedy. Thus she has established herself as a double threat actress, at home in heavy drama as well as light farce.



Charlie McCarthy

A Companion Choose an author as you choose a friend.—Dillon.

ODDS AND ENDS—Constance Bennett is the envy of all the pampered stars, because Alfalfa Sweizer of "Our Gang" comedies serenades her in his hilariously-uncertain tenor. . . Ken Murray and Edgar Bergen have evidently decided that they are in pictures to stay because they have both bought ranches out near Al Jolson's. . . Ann Sothern's sister, Bonnie Lake, has composed a song and sold it for "Girl of the Golden West" . . . Kate Smith is trying with the idea of trying motion pictures again. © Western Newspaper Union.

An Acre of Dirty Dishes

In 12 months the average woman washes an acre of dirty dishes, 3 miles of clothes, 1 mile of glass and 5 miles of floors, declared a home service director of a gas association in London.

Degree of Latitude, Longitude A degree of latitude is about 69 miles. A degree of longitude is about 69 miles at the Equator, but becomes less going north or south until it is no distance as the parallels meet at the poles.

Foxy Little Terrier For Tea Towels

Terry, the Terrier, will dry your dishes with the same "punch" he displays when rolling glasses and hurdling silver. It will make your dish-drying a joy just to see his jolly self on the towels you use. These motifs require so few



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Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

- Which are the three largest fresh-water lakes in the world?
- In what country did geometry originate?
- What is the minimum age for the office of President of the United States?
- In what country has a condemned criminal the choice of drinking cyanide or potassium or being hanged?
- In Roman mythology who was Lucina?

Answers

- Lakes Superior, Victoria (Africa), and Huron.
- The history of the science begins in Greece, but mensuration was developed to a considerable extent at an early period in Egypt, Babylonia and India.
- Thirty-five years.
- In Estonia the death penalty in murder cases gives the condemned this choice.
- Goddess of Light.

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ONCE TOO OFTEN

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A Companion Choose an author as you choose a friend.—Dillon.

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