Wagon Train Program Launched

With the arrival of a mule-drawn, western-vintage Conestoga Wagon at the State House December 1, South Carolina's Bicentennial Wagon Train program officially got underway. State Bicentennial Director John Hills presented the wagon to Governor James Edwards, who accepted the handcrafted Conestoga on behalf of the people of the state.

Thirty members of the Spirits of '76, a costumed Bicentennial group from Colleton County High Schools, attended the unveiling, and then accompanied the wagon in the Columbia Carillon Parade. The Conestoga's participation in this annual Christmas parade was the first of many appearances that will be scheduled around South Carolina.

Also present for the ceremony were Larry Hudson of Clemson, State Pilgrimage Horse Chairman, and Robert Hopkins and Howard Tunstall of Hopkins Transfer and Storage Company of Columbia. This firm, an agency of the Mayflower Transit Company, made final arrangements in transporting the Conestoga to the state from Arkansas. Hopkins and Tunstall presented a proclamation to Governor Edwards which expressed Mayflower's pride in their support of the program.

Through the National Wagon Train Program, 60 prairie schooners and conestogas will travel across the country to converge on historic Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1976. The program is sponsored by the state of Pennsylvania with the assistance of various businesses and industries.

On April 26, South Carolina's wagon will join three other Pennsylvania-bound vehicles that will have departed Atlanta, Georgia, two weeks earlier. One of the three wagons from Georgia will officially represent the Peach State. The other two will consist of a "chuck wagon" and a special Conestoga dubbed "The Pennsylvania Lead Wagon" that will be used to transport musical entertainers on the pilgrimage trail. From their entry point at North Augusta, the four wagons will strike a course through the South Carolina heartland. Accompanying the vehicle will be outriders whose prime function will be to visit residents living in communities off the pilgrimage trail in quest of scrolls of dedication. Those scrolls reaffirming the citizens' belief in the principles upon which this nation was founded will later be enshrined at Valley Forge.

Along the trail, cities and communities will be more than just visited; they'll also be entertained. Providing the entertainment will be seven Penn State University students traveling in the lead wagon. They'll present the wagon train show, a forty-five minute musical, combined with local community sing-alongs and hoedowns. On May 9, the wagoneers will reach Kings Mountain in North Carolina where a vehicle symbolizing that state will join the train. As other state lines are crossed, additional wagons representing those states will lengthen the caravan. On July 4, a little more than two months after the journey began, the South Carolina Conestoga and its companion wagons will be reined to a halt at Valley Forge along with all other wagons participating in the pilgrimage. There will be units (continued on page 8)
Library Sponsors Issues Program

The South Carolina State Library is sponsoring the American Issues Forum, a nine-month national Bicentennial program designed to review and discuss basic issues affecting the American way of life. Jointly sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, the Forum offers individuals and groups the opportunity to examine the fundamental issues and values of American life.

All public libraries in the State are distributing two "reading, viewing and listening" lists, one for adults and one for youth. Nearly 300 book titles, films, records and tapes of selected material have been compiled by the American Library Association for those who wish to participate. The lists are available free of charge to library patrons.

Each month features a special over-all topic, with sub-topics for each week within the month. Topics range from "Nation of Nations" which emphasizes that Americans are of many origins to "The Pursuit of Happiness." Many libraries have designed special programs around the individual topics of The Forum.

This Bicentennial program has not forgotten the blind and physically handicapped. Braille and recorded books will be available to them through the State Library's Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

For more information on the American Issues Forum, contact your local library.
More than 50,000 cheering, flag-waving South Carolinians turned out to enjoy a free Bicentennial rally that offered bands, fireworks and a host of nationally known entertainers. "We the People, A Bicentennial Salute to America" was staged October 20 at Columbia's Williams-Brice stadium, ringed with flags for the 200th birthday celebration. The enthusiastic crowd roared with approval at the monologues of Bob Hope and Minnie Pearl and silently stood waving small American flags during Anita Bryant's presentation of patriotic songs.

Governor James B. Edwards welcomed the audience to the event, which was sponsored by the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission, State Fair Association and Governor's Office. "I have been accused of being a flag waver for a long, long time. It does my heart good to see so many in this crowd. It's a beautiful sight!" said Edwards.

Metropolitan Opera singer Barrie Smith, a native of Greenville, led the audience in the national anthem, followed by an invocation by Charleston minister Omega Newman. Reverend Newman's invocation was taken from a prayer book found on the battlefield at Cowpens after that historic battle in 1781. Sixty-nine high school bands massed on the stadium field presented "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful."

Heading the list of honored guests was Bob Hope, perhaps the world's best-known and best-loved comedian. Serving with Hope as master of ceremonies was South Carolina native Frank Blair, formerly the news anchor man on NBC's Today Show. TV personalities Sam Jaffe and his wife Bettye Ackerman were on hand to read passages from an exchange of letters between John Adams and his wife Abigail. Bettye Ackerman is a native of Williston, S. C. A popular segment of the program was Minnie Pearl's appearance, which kicked off a spirited presentation by more than 600 square dancers.

Present to provide a variety of patriotic tunes were the Clemson and University of South Carolina bands, the Carolina Chorale and the Choraliers of Charleston. More than 5,000 high school chorus members joined together to sing a medley of selections under the direction of Arpad Daraz.

Other South Carolina groups which participated in the event were the Ocone Cloggers and The Tellers, a singing group based at the Baptist College in Charleston. The Second Regiment South Carolina Line, costumed in authentic reproductions of Revolutionary War period dress, served as escorts to dignitaries and program participants. Adding more historical color to the festivities was the U. S. Army's 3rd Infantry "Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps."

Rally Coordinator William Ballou of the Bicentennial Commission staff said, "It was a rare opportunity and great privilege to be involved in this event. 'We the People' will be long remembered by the people of this state."

Commemorative programs from the "We the People" event are still available from the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission. These 24-page booklets contain information about the rally and articles on such subjects as South Carolina's role in the American Revolution, major battles fought in the state and the history of various national and state symbols. Send $0.50 to:

Program, P. O. Box 1976, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.
South Carolina In

John Warner, Chief Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, was the featured speaker at the statewide Spirit of '76 Conference in Columbia, October 20. Warner was introduced by General William C. Westmoreland.

The conference, which drew some 500 South Carolinians, was sponsored by the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission to consider Bicentennial activities now underway throughout the state.

Participants to the gathering were welcomed by Mrs. James B. Edwards, who was introduced by Bicentennial commission member Arthur J. H. Clement, Jr. of Charleston. After Mrs. Edwards' remarks, commission Chairman P. Bradley Morrah of Greenville made a special report to the assembly. This morning session was presided over by commission member Senator Horace Smith of Spartanburg.

The luncheon meeting featured Warner, who was appointed Chief Bicentennial Administrator by President Gerald Ford in 1974. Commission Vice-Chairman Sam P. Manning of Spartanburg presided over this session, which included Bicentennial reports from various communities, and entertainment by the Charleston Dancers and the Carolina Chorale. Wilhelmina P. Johnson reported on ethnic Bicentennial plans in the Darlington area, and Hurley Badders of the Pendleton District Historical and Recreational Commission spoke on programs underway in the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens area.

South Carolina Arts Commission Director Rick George discussed programs that the Arts Commission makes available to groups on the local level. This conference adjourned to the "We the People" rally at Columbia's Williams-Brice Stadium. A third and final Spirit of '76 Conference will be held in June of 1976.

In Colleton County the School Food Service program has begun an interesting Bicentennial program highlighted by a Bicentennial Menu served in school cafeterias each month. When this special meal is served, patriotic napkins will be used and personnel will wear Bicentennial aprons. All seventeen schools in Colleton County have been designated official Child Nutrition Bicentennial Schools.

The Pilot Club of Bishopville's Bicentennial program includes displaying the United States flag, using a Bicentennial theme on their 1976 calendar, and arranging for showings of Bicentennial films in area schools. This club recently sent two Anchor Club members to the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

More than 40 Charleston area schools, civic clubs, businesses and governmental agencies have joined that city's "Green and Clean in '76" program. Sponsored by Charleston Pride, this Bicentennial program encourages citizens to improve the quality of life in Charleston County in honor of America's 200th birthday. Programs range from city block clean-ups by Scouts and 4-H groups to an extensive effort by the city's Parks Department. In April Charleston Pride will award prizes to the most innovative program, the project with the greatest people involvement, and the best youth program. According to program coordinator Mamie Williams, "Our ultimate goal is to stimulate in every Charleston County citizen an awareness of their community and a desire to improve the environment in which they live."
In the Spirit of '76

An Arbor Day (Dec. 4) ceremony at the State House kicked-off the Garden Club of South Carolina’s statewide beautification program, “Plant a Liberty Tree Along the Liberty Trail.” Governor James B. Edwards and State Bicentennial Chairman Bradley Morrah participated in the event, which featured the planting of two Palmetto trees.

Garden Clubs throughout the state are planting trees along the Liberty Trail, which consists of 30 Revolutionary War sites. This trail has been marked by the State Department of Archives and History.

Morrah, the featured speaker at the ceremony, outlined several incidents in the history of South Carolina which involved the state’s official tree, the Palmetto. For more information on the Liberty Tree program contact: Ms. Kay McCoy, S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, 1205 Pendleton St., Suite 113, Columbia, S.C. 29202.

Students in South Carolina are enthusiastically joining in the Spirit of '76! In Colleton County a group of high school students known as the Spirits of '76 have banded together in commemoration of the Nation’s 200th anniversary. Costumed in Revolutionary War period costumes, the “Spirits” participate in Bicentennial events in and around their county.

Students in Lexington County’s Northside High School recently celebrated a Bicentennial Christmas Week. The seven-day celebration was highlighted by a Bicentennial Lunch featuring an 18th century menu in the school’s cafeteria, an essay contest, and a Fine Arts Assembly. Works from the Abbey Rockefeller Early American Arts Collection were displayed during the assembly. A Colonial Christmas tree was decorated with ornaments made by students using only materials which were available 200 years ago.

More than 500 young Mormons commemorated the Nation’s Bicentennial by each planting a tree in Columbia’s Sesquicentennial State Park recently. The young people, who gathered in the Capital City for their annual statewide meeting, were recognized for their participation through the Achievement '76 program. Trees for the ceremony were furnished by the State Forestry Commission.

In Darlington County’s School System, the Bicentennial is being celebrated through a comprehensive program that includes employment of a “Bicentennial Hostess” to coordinate activity in the area’s 27 schools, a sound and slide presentation titled “Road to Freedom,” and a program to provide various curriculum resources to teachers.

More than 400 classrooms in the state have enrolled in the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission’s program, Achievement ‘76. Commitments vary from Colonial color guards to tree plantings. To involve a classroom or youth group in this program write: Achievement ‘76, P. O. Box 1976, Columbia, S. C. 29202.
To date, 71 Bicentennial community and campus applications have been approved by the South Carolina Bicentennial Commission. To obtain this national honor, applications must be submitted to the state commission before March 15, 1976. For more information contact: Hoyt Kiser, Charleston County Bicentennial Committee, P. O. Box 1776, Charleston, South Carolina 29402.

The Aircraft Carrier Yorktown was dedicated October 13, 1975, as the first attraction in the Patriot’s Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston, South Carolina. The Yorktown, the Fighting Lady of World War II Fame, will house displays and exhibits depicting naval and maritime history. The aircraft carrier is scheduled to be open to the public on January 3, 1976. Hours of operation will be from ten to five with an admission charge of $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for children under twelve. For more information contact: Hoyt Kiser, Charleston County Bicentennial Committee, P. O. Box 1776, Charleston, South Carolina 29402.

South Carolina Sunday at the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. will be held on George Washington’s birthday (February 22) in 1976. Governor James B. Edwards has been invited to participate in the morning service. Already, three busloads of South Carolinians have made plans to attend this service.

According to Richland County Bicentennial co-chairman Mrs. Edmund Taylor, plans are underway to present a special gift to the Cathedral from South Carolina. Contributions for this gift should be sent to: Mrs. George C. Hart, 2401 Wilmot Avenue, Columbia, S. C. 29205.

The State Bicentennial Commission has officially recognized the South Carolina State Museum as a significant project for the nation’s 200th birthday commemoration. Museum commissioners and staff are currently preparing final gallery plans and beginning to assemble the varied assortment of artifacts that will be required to adequately reflect the state’s rich history.

Interested citizens are urged to assist in locating objects that might appropriately be displayed in the museum. The era of the American Revolution, from 1775 to 1783, will be a major theme of the State Museum.

Georgetown’s Rice Museum has begun a new publication series in honor of the bicentennial. Historic Georgetown County Leaflets are being printed on a variety of subjects about the communities past and present. Number 1, “Theodosia Burr Alston,” and Number 2, “Joel Roberts Poinsett” are available for 10c from the Rice Museum, P. O. Box 902, Georgetown, S. C. 29440.

A series of weekly Bicentennial articles on Revolutionary War people, places and events has been announced by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. This statewide program, scheduled to begin in January of 1976 and run through July 4, 1976, is being sent to newspapers by the Associated Press as a Bicentennial project.

Staff members of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History will write the articles, which will be divided into two major segments. From January through March, Historical Services Division Personnel will write features on “People and Places of the American Revolution in South Carolina.” Brief histories of the four South Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence will be among the articles in this segment, written by Tray Stephenson, Helen Craig Carson, Ben F. Hornsby, Jr. and Joann Scheele. Mrs. Scheele, Public Information Specialist at the Department of Archives and History, will serve as editor for the entire series.

In April, the second segment, “200 Years Ago; Significant Events of the American Revolution in South Carolina” will begin. Terry W. Lipscomb, Editor of the Colonial Records of South Carolina will trace the state’s role in the American Revolution from 1773 to 1782. Information on various historic sites, pictures of these sites and directions to them, will be included in many of these stories.

The Department of Archives and History is the state agency that handles Heritage-oriented Bicentennial projects in conjunction with the South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

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Bicentennial Bookshelf

Although the University of South Carolina Press doesn't plan publication of a shelf full of Bicentennial books, the Press does offer several books that will be useful to persons wanting to read about or research the state's first 200 years.

"Joscelyn; A Tale of the Revolution" (hb $27.50) was recently published as the latest volume in the Centennial Edition of the Writings of William Gilmore Simms. "Joscelyn" originally appeared as a serial in a New York monthly in 1867. Its publication by the Press marks the first time the novel has been available in book form.

The historical romance, one of Simms' eight Revolutionary War novels, portrays the divisive forces at work in the South Carolina and Georgia back-country in 1780. The tale describes the Revolution in much of the South as a civil war, with colonists torn between the cause of independence and loyalty to England.

"The Partisan War: The South Carolina Campaign of 1780-1782" (pb $2.25) by Russell F. Weigley argues that American military successes resulted from the use of unconventional or guerrilla warfare.


Edited by Jack P. Greene, "The Nature of Colony Constitutions" (hb $14.95) spotlights the ambiguous relationship of the colonies to the Crown and the intense debate that preceded South Carolina's decision to join the American Revolution.

Two books available from the Press dealing with Charleston during the Revolutionary War are "The British Occupation of Charleston 1780-1782" (hb $14.95) by George Smith McCowen, Jr., and "Charleston's Sons of Liberty: A Study of the Artisans, 1763-1789" (pb $2.25) by Richard Walsh.

McCowen's study portrays a Revolutionary city under British military rule and suggests why royalists were fated to evacuate Charleston. Walsh's book establishes how the populous artisan class supported and advanced the cause of American liberty.

A book published by the Press covering the major issues and events of the American Revolution is "The American Revolution, 1763-1783: A Bicentennial Collection" (hb $9.95). Edited by distinguished historian Richard B. Morris, this well-chosen body of documents describes major Revolutionary War battles, and the economic and social changes wrought by the War for Independence.

The Newberry County Bicentennial Committee has recently published a booklet entitled, "Newberry County in the American Revolution." Authored by historian M. Foster Farley, this booklet is available for $3.30 (includes postage and handling). Write: M. Foster Farley, P. O. Box 364, Newberry, South Carolina 29108.

The Preservation Society of Charleston has announced the publication of Charleston Houses and Gardens. The 80 page all-color book features pictures of Charleston gardens and streetscapes, and interior and exterior shots of historic homes in and around the city. The photographs are the work of Colonial Williamsburg staff photographer N. Jane Iseley. Evangeline Davis authored the accompanying text. The soft cover edition is available for $4.95 and a hardbound edition for $8.95. Write: The Preservation Society of Charleston, P. O. Box 521, Charleston, S. C. 29402. (Prepaid mail orders add 50c each for handling charges.)
OPENING OF VISITOR CENTER, Charleston, (Jan. 1) — The opening of the visitor center at Fort Moultrie at 9 a.m. Free. Contact: Charleston County Bicentennial Committee, P. O. Box 1776, Charleston, S. C. 29402. Phone: 723-7641

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CARRIER YORKTOWN, Charleston, (Jan. 3) — The official opening of the Carrier YORKTOWN as the first ship of Patriots Point Naval Museum. Contact: Charleston County Bicentennial Committee, P. O. Box 1776, Charleston, S. C. 29402. Phone: 723-7641

UPCOUNTRY JUBILEE '76 Greenville (Jan 9-10) — Appalachian Council of Governments is sponsoring a Bicentennial Expo in Textile Hall for all Chambers of Commerce, Bicentennial Committees, schools, and industries in the six county area. Free 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Contact: Ms. Georgana Graham, Drawer 6668, Station B, Greenville, S. C. 29606. Phone: 242-9733

FOUNDERS FESTIVAL — BLACK HERITAGE, Charleston (Jan. 15 - Feb. 14) — Founders Festivals are a continuing series of month-long festivals centering on ethnic groups instrumental in the founding and growth of the city. Special art exhibits, ethnic foods offered in local restaurants, and several major events to be scheduled. Contact: Mr. James B. Bagwell, Jr., 313 Pitt Street, Mt. Pleasant 29464. Phone: 723-7281.

“Battle of Cowpens”, Cowpens (Jan. 17) — Parade, entertainment, historic lectures, battle re-enactments, exhibits and dinner will commemorate the Bicentennial and the 195th anniversary of the “Battle of Cowpens.” Contact: Mrs. William Dearybury, Cowpens Bicentennial Commission, Box 10, Cowpens, 29330. Phone: 463-6545.

FIRING ON THE “Star of the West,” Charleston (Feb. 17) — Re-enactment of the firing on the “Star of the West.” Authentic drama involving 150 Citadel cadets, costumed and narrated, firing antique cannon reproductions. At the Battery 11:00 a.m. Contact: Charleston County Bicentennial Committee.

IN THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1760-1774, Due West (Feb. 7-27) — The story of the turbulent pre-revolutionary period will unfold through portraits and documents representing the pivotal personalities who influenced the course of history. Contact: Richard Halderman, Director of Public Relations, Erskine College, Due West, S. C. 29639. Phone: 379-8858.

(continued from page 1) representing all 50 states plus 5 chuck wagons and 5 Pennsylvania Lead Wagons. They will remain at Valley Forge through Labor Day of 1976. At that time, South Carolina’s conestoga will be returned to the state as a permanent gift from Pennsylvania.