

# Wagoneers

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the one for my being on the trip in the first place."

Explaining how she got started on this venture, Hazel says that she always wanted to tour the country and see it slowly, so when the chance came up for her to go on this trip, her daughter encouraged her to go.

"And, now, it's my daughters and my grandchildren I'm making this history for, not myself. Now, I want to get home to them," she says.

Hazel's history-making events may have been for her progeny, but her experienced are principally for herself. She says that she has never met so many nice people in her life.

"You know how you feel sometimes, when you are at home — you don't even want to leave the house for fear of this and that," she mentions. But then she goes on to say how the wagon train revived her spirit and her faith in man.

"One little lady told me that she broke down and cried when she saw us all coming down the road — she had such a feeling inside of her — you know?" Hazel draws. "And, I told her, 'Honey, I know just what you mean. I felt it the whole way here.'"

The other side of the story Hazel's exuberance is

balanced, however, by a diametrically opposed feeling in the wagon train. The riders of Loretta Lynn's wagon out of Tennessee were apathetic and ready to go home.

Tommy Freeman and Joyce Moon, who became connected with Loretta Lynn's wagon through a friend of a friend, said, "Well, it's been all right until the last couple of weeks."

What happened in the last couple of weeks?

"Ah, they always want you to sign those books and ride through the towns," Tommy said.

The books he is referring to are scrolls which most towns along the route have made up and signed by the citizens. These scrolls are then presented to the wagon train and will be kept for posterity in the archives of Valley Forge.

For some of the riders, the formal ceremonies have gotten tedious, and they just want it over with. Others wanted it over with, but now that they are nearing the end, wish it wouldn't be coming to a close.

For Joyce Moon and Tommy Freeman, the only spark of enthusiasm they showed, came when they said, "We've only got three days to go and we're counting them down."

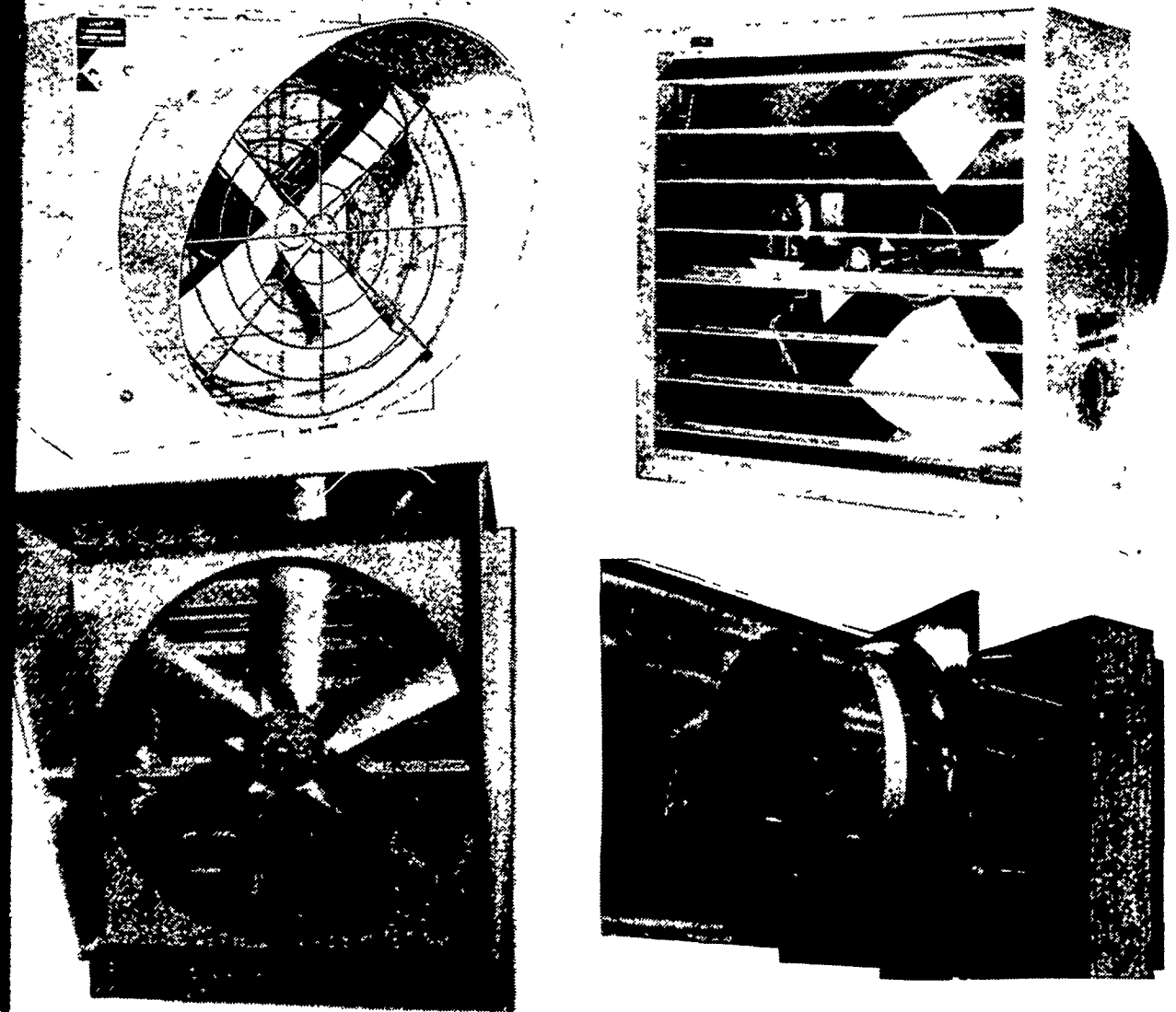
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Lancaster Agway store, working with the Centennial Commission of Pennsylvania who was official sponsor of the pilgrimage, supplied 600

pounds of Trim horse feed to the wagoneers at Circle M Ranch. Here William Suloff, driver for the store, loads feed into the feed wagon.

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