

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



This summer our family has four reunions to attend. Some are large gatherings with folks from far away attending while others are smaller and more intimate.

Both of my parents were interested in their ancestors and so I heard a lot of talk about great uncles and aunts. I've gathered quite a few names and dates and put them on a chart. Ten families have been traced back to Europe. Even so, there are many empty spaces. Hunting more information is something that one intends to do

but never seems to find the time for it.

Our son, Philip, is the tenth generation of the Weidler family to farm this land. My parents knew that there were Weidler ancestors but it was not until a lady from Texas did an indepth study of the family that I knew the direct line from which I'm descended. In fact two sons of Hans Michael are my ancestors.

Studying genealogy can lead one from church archives to cemeteries to courthouse records.

It is a time-consuming hobby but one that many people find very interesting. Lately, I've given several well-preserved studio pictures to persons that I really did not know but their grandmothers and grandfathers were on the photos.

I've heard that some people buy these old pictures to study the styles of hair and dress. Often the little boys wore dresses until they were almost school age. The ornate furniture in the pictures is also quite interesting.

Some folks are fascinated by past happenings and others couldn't care less.

200 Years Old?

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Each day the Appalachian Wagon Train went to a different campsite that was 10 or 15 miles away. It ended at Rockwood.

The wagon master told me the wagon train doesn't stop for storms or anything once it gets going.

For fun they held contests for the "Ugly Man," "Prettiest Bonnet," "Nicest Beard" and some other stuff.

Lots of people belong to the Appalachian Wagon Train Association, from Pennsylvania and a

few other states.

If a town has something special to celebrate, the people can invite the wagon train to join them. The train goes most anywhere if someone invites them. But first the association members vote to show they agree on it.

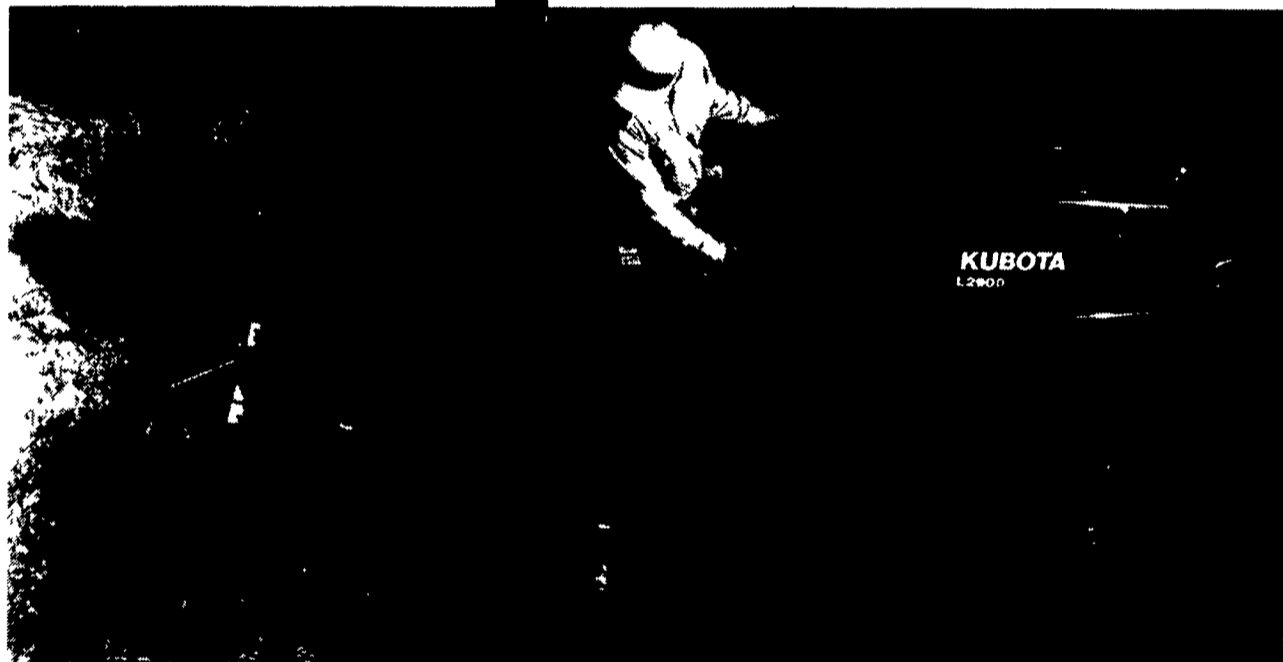
There are hundreds of ways to celebrate being 200 years old. Oh gee, there are parades, you can fly banners, send up balloons, have someone parachute out of an airplane for you or write your name in the sky with airplane exhaust. It could also be written on a big billboard and posted along the highway.

And you could travel around the world to places like Alaska and Africa. Hey, why not! All it takes are 365 days and lots, lots, lots of money. So start saving now. One day you might be 200 years old — if you live long enough.

Until then, here's a quiz. This one is about wagon trains and some words you might hear the pioneers say.

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