

Maryland Wagon To Join Train On Shore June 11

Daily Times 4/29/76

Maryland's Conestoga wagon will join the national Wagon Train Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania at Marydel, Md., on June 11.

The Maryland contingent will take its place among wagons from all over the nation in the Pennsylvania - sponsored reenactment of the western migration.

The pilgrimage is a replay of history — in reverse. A train of covered wagons will cross the country west to east, following as closely as possible pioneer trails and wagon routes. Maryland's Conestoga will be one of 60 official units — 50 representing each of the states, five Pennsylvania lead wagons and five chuckwagons. The Maryland wagon, a gift from Pennsylvania, is an authentic replica of the 19th century Conestoga.

Traveling across the United States in five segments, the entire train will meet at Valley Forge, Pa., for ceremonies on July 4 and will camp there until Labor Day. Total participants are expected to number over 150,000.

The State of Maryland will be traversed by two routes, the Wilderness Route and the 13 States Route. The wagons will encamp at various locations along the way, providing an opportunity for those not directly

involved in the Pilgrimage to sample the flavor of the experience.

A show group comprised of Pennsylvania State University students will travel with each of the five segments of the national train. Their performances features singing and dancing to the accompaniment of guitars and a piano.

The troupes, dressed in period trail costumes, will perform a dozen original songs at each night's encampment, weather permitting.

ADDITIONAL entertainment is being planned by local residents at Maryland's encampment sites.

The encampment schedule for the 13 States Route includes: June 11, Denton; June 12, Queenstown.

Equestrians from throughout the state have been invited to participate as outriders for all or part of the pilgrimage.

In addition to those actually riding in the Pilgrimage, thousands of citizens can participate in the program through the Scroll Program. Citizens may rededicate themselves to the Nation's founding principles by affixing their signatures to scrolls that will become permanent documents enshrined in Valley Forge.