# THE WAGON TRAIN SHOW

by Roger Cornish Bruce Trinkley and Don Tucker

#### The Pennsylvania Bicentennial Wagon Train Show

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*The Wagon Train Show* was commissioned in 1975 by the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania as the Commonwealth's principal observance of the nation's Bicentenary. The show premiered on June 7, 1975, in Blaine, Washington. During the next year five companies set out from Washington, California, Texas, Florida and Maine, traversed the United States, and converged on Valley Forge, Pennsylvania on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1976. The various companies gave more than 2000 performances in town parks, campsites, memorial fields, and auditoriums all across America.

Each Wagon Train Show company had six performers, three men and three women who also played the accompanying instruments: piano, guitars, electric bass guitar, wood block and tambourine.

The music for the Show was composed by Don Tucker and Bruce Trinkley, with lyrics by Roger Cornish and Don Tucker. The director was Manuel Duque, costumes were designed by Montez King, and Delbert Boarts provided technical assistance. *The Wagon Train Show* was produced by the Music and Theatre Departments of The Pennsylvania State University, with Douglas Cook serving as Executive Producer.

The arranger thanks Ron Byron, Kathleen McGrath, and Jerry James for proofreading the score and lyrics.

This edition of the script and songs from the *The Wagon Train Show* is dedicated to the memory of Don Tucker, Roger Cornish, Mel Black and Donald Lee Shell.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Welcome to the Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage!

We're happy to share this day with you – so your children can tell their children.

It's the transcontinental Bicentennial Revue!

(Underscore with vamp to *Jubilee Joe*)

#### **1. Jubilee Joe** Full Company

#### Music and Lyrics by Don Tucker





















Now you know who we are – and of course, you know why the Wagon Train is here – to help us share the Bicentennial together.

Now you need to know what the show's about.

Well, it *isn't* about our whole two hundred years of war and peace and great events – that's too much for one little show to handle.

It's about one special thing – Ordinary People!

(Attacca Ordinary People)





















Thank you, thank you very much.

When we told you our names, we forgot to tell you where we're from.

I'm from Pennsylvania! (Company members each say what state they are from.)

But if you're counting back two hundred years and more, we're from a lot of other places too.

For instance, my folks came from (country of origin of ancestors - again each company members says where their ancestors came from).

So, you can see that, like yourselves, we come from all over the place!

(Attacca Welcome Stranger)

## 3. Welcome, Stranger









N.B. Verses three and four are to be performed only if there is an Hispanic American and an African American cast member. If not, go directly from measure 52 to measure 113 on page 28.























The trouble with history – whether it's two days, two years, or two centuries –

is that it doesn't exist unless somewhere there's someone who remembers – remembers how

it felt, what it was like to *be* there – the sounds, the colors, and the bands playing along the way.

(Attacca I Remember a Parade)

### 4. I Remember a Parade

**Baritone Solo and Company** 

Words and Music by Don Tucker




















You know, before we joined the Wagon Train, some of us had never been west of the Mississippi. We'd spent all of our time in *school*, reading about the world in books.

We'd always dreamed about seeing the country, but now that we're finally doing it, there's just *too much* to take it all in!

(Attacca We Haven't Discovered America Yet)

## <sup>40</sup> **5. We Haven't Discovered America Yet**























When we write *the* book about America, the first page should say,

"You get nothing for nothing."

And when we write the last page, we should remind ourselves:

"Somebody had to pay the price."

(Attacca Arlington)

## 6. Arlington Full Company

## Words and Music by Don Tucker















John Simpson, Boston, Massachusetts. 1756-1778 Carl Ethridge, Elton, Kansas. 1840-1865













It says somewhere that every show has to have a love song. And for a country to reach its two hundredth birthday, it has to have a *lot* of love songs.

But love wasn't always glamorous in the rough and ready days of the frontier. Sometimes, if you were lonely and you wanted to start a family, you had to take your chances.

For example, in the frontier town of (INSERT LOCAL REFERENCE) ...

(Attacca Mail-Order Bride)

7. Mail-Order Bride

Lyrics by Roger Cornish **Bruce Trinkley** Freely тp Soprano 6 Or - ville, А lone - ly set-tler named Back in eight - y eight, De mp Alto 0 **#**0 • ‡• 10 20 A lone - ly set-tler named Or ville, Back in eight - y eight, De тp Tenor 0 ø lone - ly Or - ville, Back eight - y eight, De -А set-tler named in \_ тp Bass А lone - ly set-tler named Or - ville, Back in eight - y, ty - eight, De -5 C Ð •) cid - ed the time For Tak-ing pen-cil stub in was ripe cleav - ing un - to a mate. G 10 cid - ed the time ripe. cleav - ing un - to a mate. stub in was 90 ę cid - ed the time was ripe. cleav - ing un - to a mate. stub in 26 cid - ed the time was ripe For cleav - ing un - to a mate. stub in 10 rit. Ð ο tremb-ling hand, On a flo - ur sack scrib-bled, And this what he he is wrote: 6 be • tremb-ling hand, On a flo - ur sack he scrib-bled, this is what he he wrote: bo 40 20 20 6 ø ø scrib-bled tremb-ling hand, On a flo - ur sack he this is what he he wrote: tremb-ling hand, On a flo - ur sack he scrib-bled,\_ this is what he, he wrote:\_\_









Two hundred years isn't old – for a country. Consider, all over the world fields were tilled for a thousand years and more before the land we stand on today ever felt a plow.

This land is just now coming into its prime, we know – we've been walking the length and breadth of America and we can feel it. Under our feet we can feel the earth shifting – it's getting ready to bring forth something new – something we've only had the promise of before.

If you try hard, you can feel it: all over this country there's a harvest coming due.

(Underscore with first verse of *Harvest Due* and segue into singing.)

## 8. Harvest Due

**Full Company** 














Ladies and gentlemen -

Speaking for the entire cast, we're having such a good time here, and you've all been so great since we arrived – the mayor, the police chief, all the guys who helped us set up – that to show our appreciation, we have a special song just for you and your hometown.

(Change mayor and police chief where appropriate to thank others.)

(Attacca Blank)

9. Blank **Full Company** 

**Don Tucker** 







Back in the 1800's, Philip Nolan, a headstrong young army officer, was courtmartialed for treason, and upon being asked if he had anything to say blurted out:

"Damn the United States! I wish I may never hear of the United States again!"

His wish was granted, and until the day he died, Philip Nolan spent his life at sea, never seeing his country or hearing her name again. But during those years, it is said he grew to love *home* and *country* more than some who had never left it.

Yesterday, today, tomorrow – perhaps there will always be those who can never come home.

(Attacca Never)

10. Never

**Tenor Solo and Guitar** 

## **Piano Arrangement by Bruce Trinkley**

## Words and Music by Don Tucker





















Is the person who sent up this note in the audience?

We just wanted to say we're sorry, but we don't have a song about the St. Lawrence Seaway. (Substitute any local landmark or site.)

And to the little old lady who asked for a song about the United States Postal Service – they mailed it to us last week, but it hasn't arrived yet.

The fact is, ladies and gentlemen, there just isn't enough time for a different song about everything that's great in the United States. So, there's only one thing left to do –

(Attacca Let's Hear It For)



















Well, folks, it's almost time to leave you.

We know everything must come to an end, but we wanted to share the Bicentennial with you – reminiscing about the past and having a few laughs about the present.

We feel that the Bicentennial is a doorway to the next two hundred years, to the future.

It's everything we would like to leave to you, to your children and to their children after them.

(Underscore with first verse of *I Leave You*)

## **12. Finale: I Leave You**



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