

WAGONS

“Wait for the Wagon, Wait for the Wagon...and we’ll all take a ride”.

These words were used in a classic old song that I used to have on a tape – yes a cassette. Hey, cassettes may be passé, but they are not as old as wagons!

I am certain that wagons were not very comfortable; the only springs, as I recall, were located on the rider’s seat. But I also think that riding on a wagon every once-in-a-while would be a lot of fun; I think that the opportunity to experience this form of transportation, as generations ago, makes us appreciate the modern forms of transportation that much more. What do you think?



Many movies have been produced with wagons. Countless Westerns and cowboy movies have included these four-wheeled, covered boxes as well as variety of surreys and stage coaches. But my favorite of all time has to be “Dances with Wolves”; I just like that movie, the characters, the perspective and expose’ on the Indians, and the beauty of the Southwest...I love that movie! Following John Dunbar’s recovery of a leg injury, he proceeds Westward with a large wagon in tow.

I have a second-cousin who participates in a cross-country wagon trains; she has participated on several occasions according to family. I wonder what it would be like to reenact the Northwest



Passage or some other historical route; authentic costume, food, living conditions, etc? Imagine facing the same kind of dangers that this pioneers faced along the journey such as a hail storm, high winds, blazing heat, frigid temperatures, and so on – wow, what an adventure!

The Conestoga wagon was a large, sturdy, four-wheeled wagon used by American pioneers. The horse-drawn wagons, precursors of the prairie schooners, carried freight and settlers westward until about 1850. Normally built with both ends higher than the middle, a Conestoga wagon’s wheels could be removed, and the wagon bed could float as a boat.

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