

How About A "Covered Wagon" Family Vacation?

Looking for a "new and different" vacation experience? How about a covered wagon trek through the Tetons to see the scenic West and, at the same time, relive history?

L. D. Fromme, veteran Wyoming outfitter for wilderness pack trips, has put it all together in "packaged" tours called "Wagons West". His covered wagon treks through the Tetons have been planned to take care of every detail of a trip that replicates how pioneers traveled. For the past 10 years, he and his workers have guided groups on 2, 4, and 6-day covered wagon trips into the Teton Mountains from Jackson, Wyo.

"Anyone who loves the outdoors and is in good health and physical condition will enjoy these trips," says Fromme. "Riding or camping experience isn't necessary. Our clients are old and young, families,

children, married and single people."

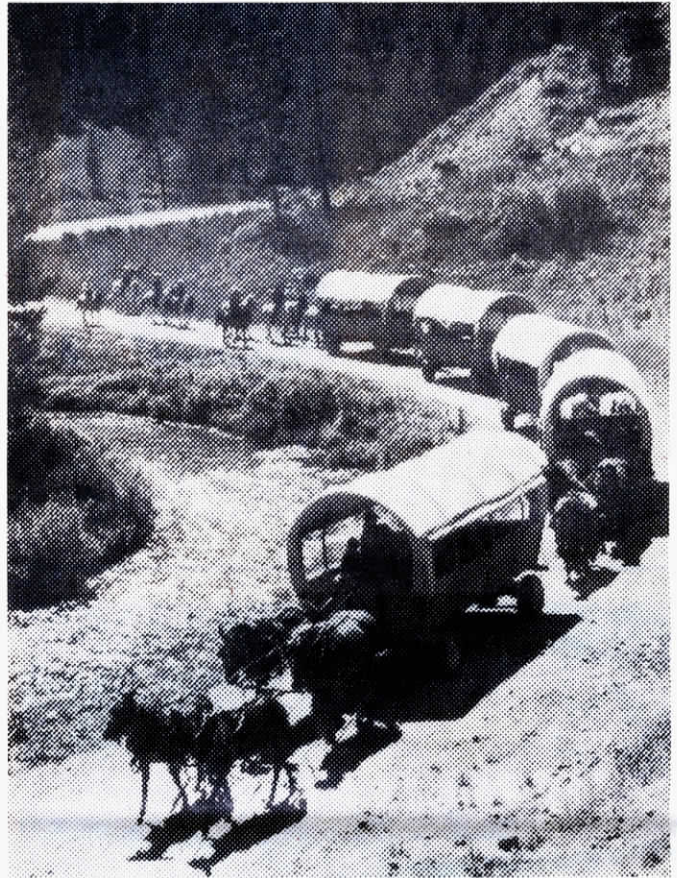
Guests ride and sleep in the covered wagons or a deluxe tent. Foam rubber mattresses are furnished. Meals are cooked and served around a campfire. Clients bring warm clothes, sleeping bags, fishing gear, etc. There's plenty of time for visiting, taking side trips and photographing scenery.

Trips are scheduled during June, July and August.

Adult fare is \$150 for a two-day trip, \$260 for four days, and \$360 for six days. Fares for children under 16 are about 25% lower.

Wagons West will send a brochure to interested people.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wagons West, c/o L. D. Fromme, Afton, Wyo. 83110 (ph 307 886-5240).



Guests ride and sleep in covered wagons, or they can sleep in a tent.

"780 AND STILL GROWING"

Farm Hat Collection Is "World's Biggest"

by Debbie Koontz

It's evening in Red Rose County, Pa. Time for all conscientious workers to take a mid-week break and 'get away from it all.'

Across the county people are getting dressed in their finest, donning their favorite hat and shining their shoes, getting ready to bowl, play racquetball, softball or take in a movie.

But for Pete Backus, of Marietta, it's not that easy.

You see, Pete always has a hard time deciding which hat to wear bowling. He claims it takes him almost ten minutes just to pick out a hat, and that he hasn't worn the same hat twice in the past four years. Understandable, considering he has 780 hats to choose from.

Pete is a hat collector; and a very particular one at that. He only collects hats that deal with farming.

But, as with almost every other collection, hats are not as readily available as they used to be.

"I used to go into the shops and they'd have them right along the door or window for anyone to take. Now they're getting harder to get," he explains.

This cap enthusiast admits to paying for almost 200 hats, with the going rate averaging about \$2.50 each.

"I write to a lot of places I see advertising hats and tell them about my collection. I always ask if they'd like to contribute to it, and if not, I'd like to buy one from them," Pete says.

Although he tries not to make it a practice, he says he has taken a hat

right off a person's head if they offer it, and if he doesn't already have it in his collection. "There was a time when I wouldn't do that, but now I don't mind."

And yes, he has walked up to complete strangers and asked them where they got their hat.

"They only look at me strange for a minute, then I explain about my collection. I'd say half the people I talk to don't believe I have that many hats."

But Pete never wears his hats for working because he's afraid they might get dirty. So, when he goes out in the evening, he tries to pick a hat from his collection which matches his shirt or his mood — whichever is more colorful at the time.

What is particularly interesting about Pete's collection is that no two hats are the same. Though he has 38 John Deere hats, each differs in color, material, patches and/or style.

Pete says his favorite hat is an Allis Chalmers hat. This hat stands out from the rest of the 780 because it is in full color and features a combine on one side and a tractor on the other.

"Some of these hats I can't replace," Pete asserts firmly. "One hat I have is called a 'Generation II.' It was one of the first hats John Deere ever made. A farmer gave me the one I have. They're almost impossible to find now."

Whenever a friend comes to the Backus home to see proof of Pete's wild exaggerations of 780 hats, they are politely ushered upstairs to the first room on the right. Once the door is opened, all the friends see are hats.

Rows and rows of hats, because the 780 cover three walls and the floor.

"He always wears a hat. All his friends wait to see what hat he's going to be wearing," Beth sighs. "I sometimes wonder if he's going to go bald from wearing hats all the time!"

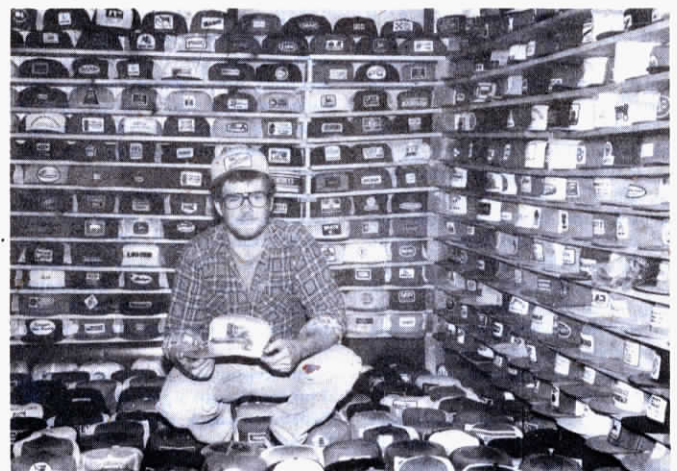
Pete not only wears a hat when working and relaxing, but he wore one when he got married.

"I wore a top hat at my wedding. Nobody believed I would do it, but I

did. I had to take it off during the ceremony, but the rest of the time it was on my head," Pete explains as he points to the top hat hanging from a nail over all the farm hats.

What's left for Pete after he has reached his 1000 goal? "I'll just keep on collecting. I'll probably shoot for 2000 then," he says.

Reprinted courtesy of Lancaster Farming, 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa.



Pete Backus expects his hat collection, which he started 5 years ago, to reach 1,000 by the end of this year. Photo courtesy Lancaster Farming