

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Repeating the historical trek of Oregon's pioneers, the "On to Oregon Cavalcade" this year is making a covered wagon trip from Independence, Missouri, to Independence, Oregon, to mark Oregon's 100th year as a State.

As the attention of the nation focuses on the train's progress at the estimated rate of 20-miles per day, it is hoped that interest will also be created in the Oregon Centennial Exposition, which will be in progress from June 10th through September 17th.

In 1859, pioneers following the overland route to Oregon had to secure special permission from their insurance companies if they wished continued coverage during the time they were en route.

New York Life, which insured many such settlers, was one of the first companies to offer protection on the dangerous overland trail. At that time hazards were so great that most companies refused to sell policies to people headed west, and their existing policy owners were refused certificates which would have validated their policies for such travel.

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oregon wagon train - add 1

Recalling the days of the travelers on those wagon trains, and of the pioneer agents who offered them protection by insurance, New York Life has provided a special \$1,000 policy for all members of the 1959 cavalcade, good for 119 days.

An accompanying certificate grants permission to make the journey in language reminiscent of 100 years ago:

"...said policy is free from any and all restrictions on travel and will provide coverage...against the Insured's untimely death resulting from such perils of the plains incidental to travel by wagon train as thirst, starvation, snake bite, buffalo or wild-horse stampede, exposure to the elements, or outrages perpetrated by hostile savages as arrow, spear or gunshot wounds; scalping; burning at stake or in prairie wagon; or Indian wrestling; as well as death due to natural causes."

Because early wagon trains often carried documents for delivery to settlers already established in the West, a \$5,000 policy, in a specially-designed, weatherproof case, is a part of the cargo of the 1959 caravan. It will be delivered to its owner, Portland Municipal Judge John J. Murchison, at the end of the wagon train's journey.

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NEWS RELEASE

for immediate release
April 14, 1959

from:

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SALEM--Gov. Mark Hatfield of Oregon Wednesday invited officials and members of Indian tribes from all over North America to the National Indian Encampment at Pendleton, Ore., July 18-26.

He sent letters of invitation to tribal chiefs and heads of Indian agencies in the United States, Canada and the Yukon Territory.

The Pendleton encampment will be part of the statewide Oregon Centennial observance.

Hatfield pointed out in the letters that 100 years ago, the Stevens Treaty with Indian tribes was ratified by the U.S. Congress.

"It is appropriate, therefore," he wrote, "that during Oregon's Centennial year, a great Indian encampment will be held in Pendleton, Ore., the home and area of the Umatillas, Cayuse, Nez Perce, Walla Walla and Yakima tribes."

"Visiting tribal delegates from throughout the United States and Canada will participate in arena events, including dances of all types, and by exhibiting examples of tribal art in a special museum for this purpose alone. Tribes also will set up a full Indian village, and will vie in other competitive events."

Ted Smith, Pendleton radio station executive, and Ford Robertson are co-chairmen for the event.

The Pendleton Chamber of Commerce has been assured that the Oregon Centennial Commission and Governor Hatfield regard the Indian Encampment as one of the biggest attractions of the Centennial.

Robertson said it is estimated that 100,000 to 150,000 visitors may be attracted to Pendleton for the colorful Indian encampment and its various events.

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Pendleton Chamber members are raising funds to underwrite basic costs, but predict the event will be a financial success. There will be no major event except the Portland Exposition in progress in Oregon during its dates.

The 100-day Centennial Exposition and International Trade Fair opens in Portland on June 10.