

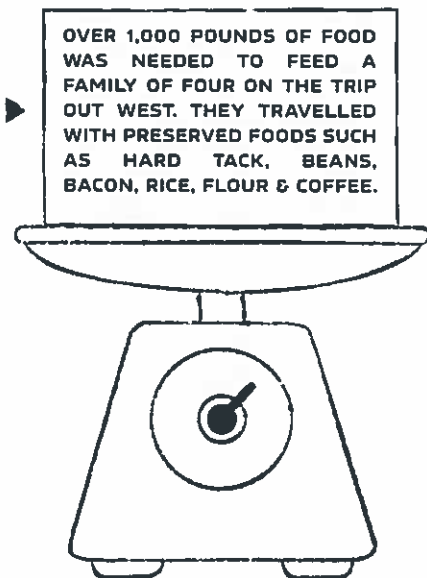
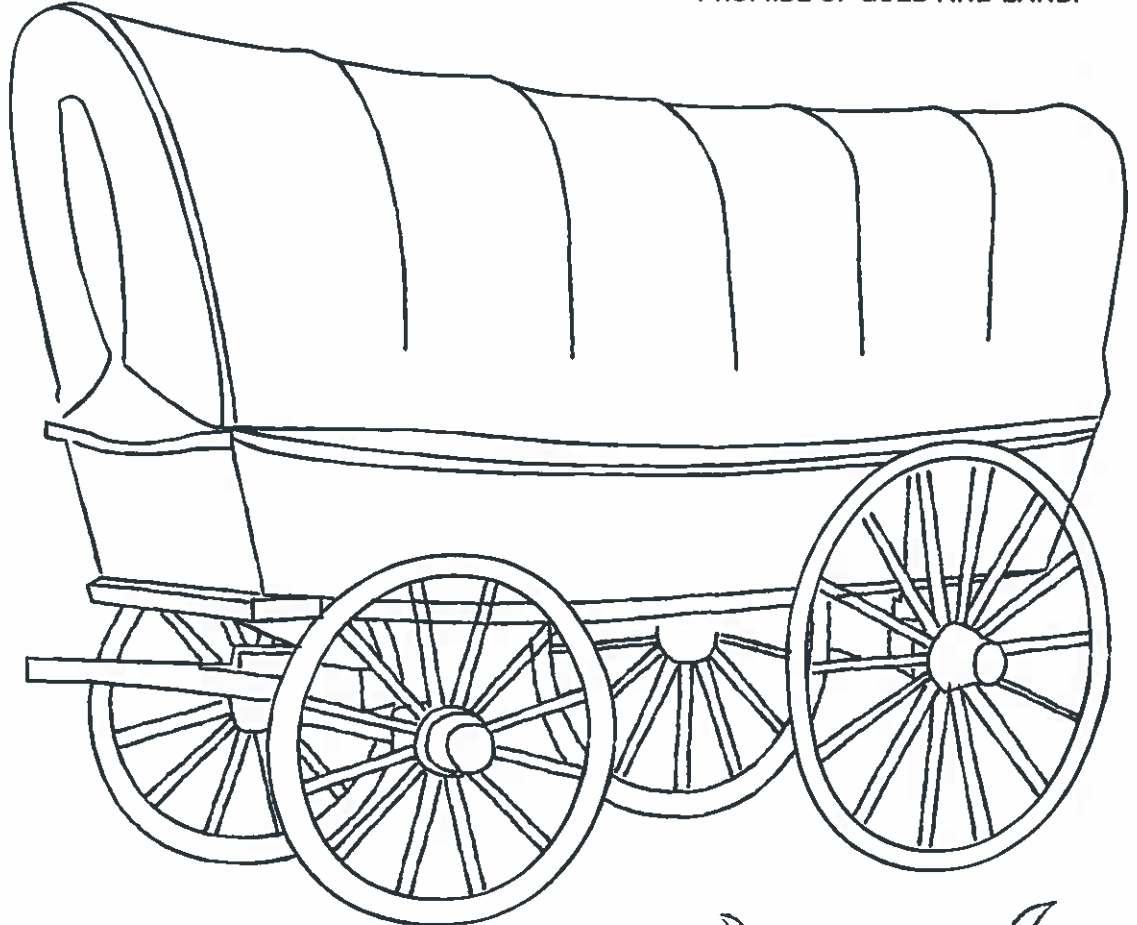
# THE PRAIRIE SCHOONER

## WAGON TO THE WEST

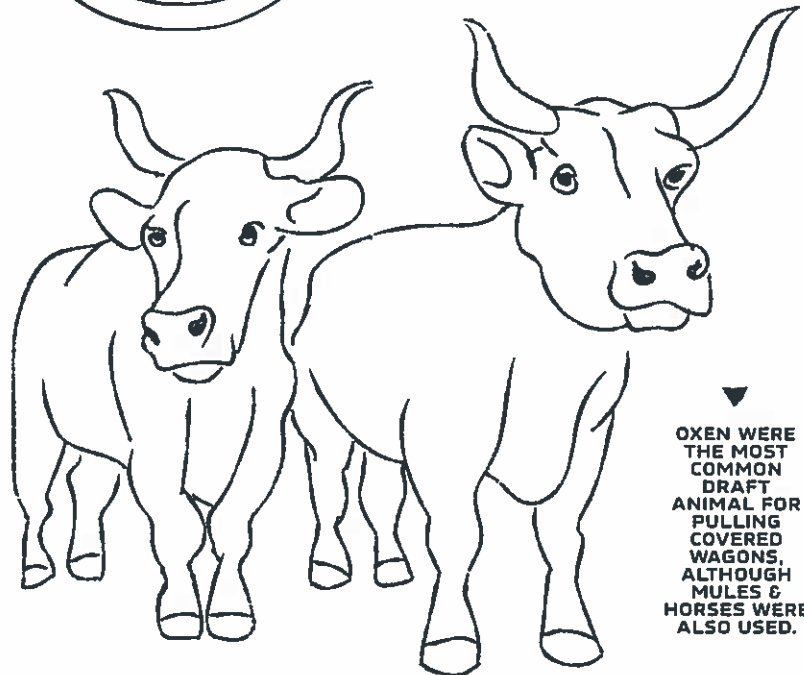
VISIT *Casper*

IN THE 1800S, 500,000 PIONEERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD LOADED UP WAGONS HEADED WEST IN SEARCH OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AND THE PROMISE OF GOLD AND LAND.

- ▶ A PRAIRIE SCHOONER WAGON IS A 19TH CENTURY COVERED WAGON POPULARLY USED BY EMIGRANTS TRAVELING TO THE AMERICAN WEST.
- ▶ IT'S CALLED A PRAIRIE SCHOONER BECAUSE ITS CANVAS COVER DRAWN OVER SIX OR SEVEN ARCHING WOODEN BOWS RESEMBLED A SHIP AT SEA.
- ▶ GROUPS OF PRAIRIE SCHOONERS OFTEN TRAVELED TOGETHER IN THE CLASSIC WAGON TRAINS ALONG SUCH ROUTES AS THE OREGON TRAIL.
- ▶ RATHER THAN HURT THESE SETTLERS, AMERICAN INDIANS OFTEN HELPED THEM. IN FACT, DISEASE WAS THEIR ENEMY, WITH CHOLERA ACCOUNTING FOR MOST OF THE 20,000 DEATHS ALONG THE WAY.



OVER 1,000 POUNDS OF FOOD WAS NEEDED TO FEED A FAMILY OF FOUR ON THE TRIP OUT WEST. THEY TRAVELLED WITH PRESERVED FOODS SUCH AS HARD TACK, BEANS, BACON, RICE, FLOUR & COFFEE.



▶ OXEN WERE THE MOST COMMON DRAFT ANIMAL FOR PULLING COVERED WAGONS, ALTHOUGH MULES & HORSES WERE ALSO USED.