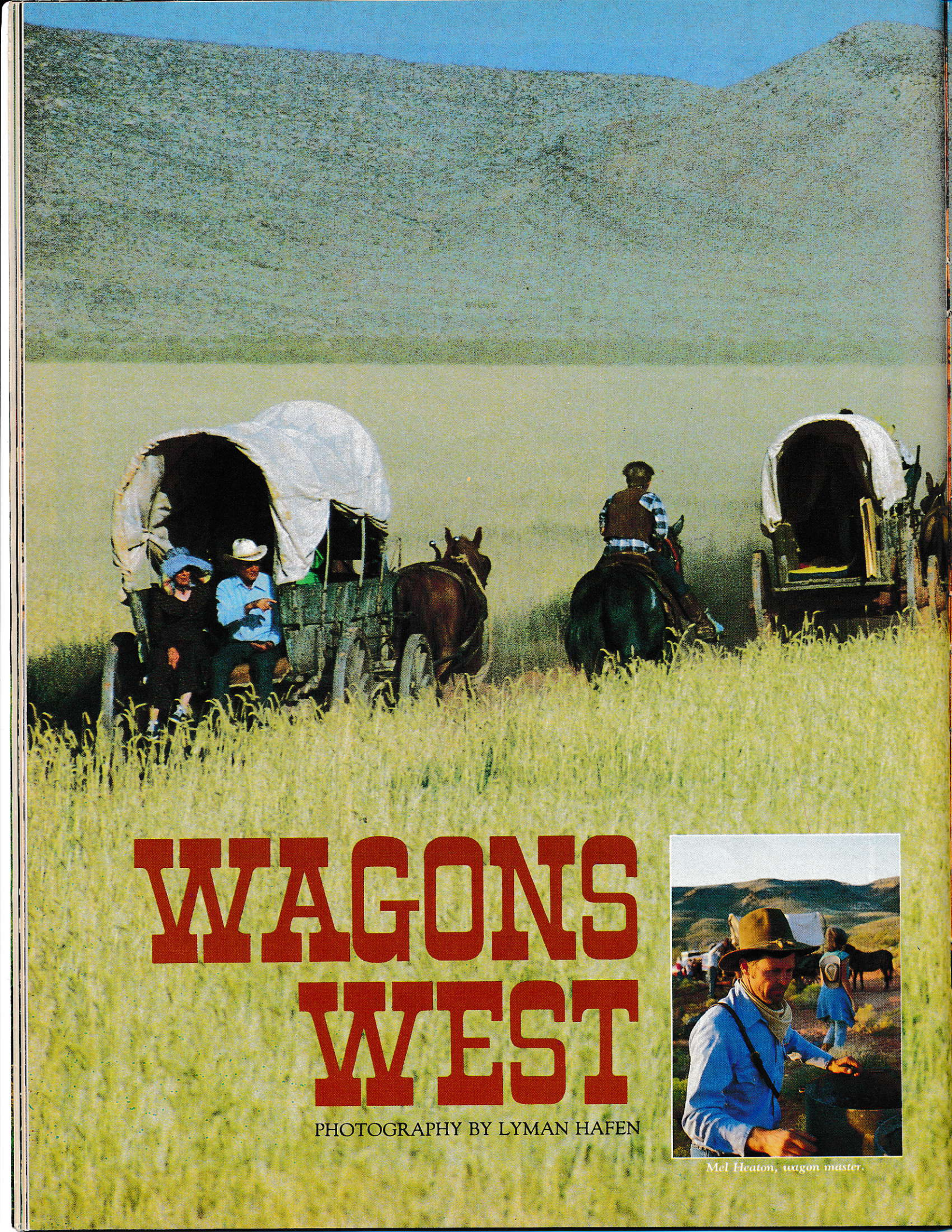
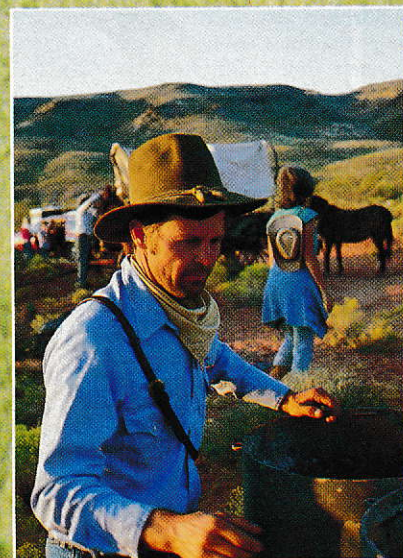


A large photograph of a wagon train in a field. Two covered wagons are visible, pulled by horses. Several people are on the wagons and on horseback. The background shows a vast, open landscape under a clear sky.

WAGONS WEST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LYMAN HAFEN



Mel Heaton, wagon master.



Opposite page: The wagons roll west from Fort Pierce on the last leg to St. George. Left, moving through Warner Valley. Below, Joseph Mitchell and Alyn Chamberlain on their way to be married in the St. George Temple. Bottom, a couple of muleskinners prepare for the day's journey.



THE HONEYMOON TRAIL

It is history relived each September as the Honeymoon Trail Company rolls across the sagebrush, beneath vermillion cliffs, on toward St. George.

The tradition began in 1878 as young couples came out of Arizona to be married in the St. George Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Because the long ride home over the rough trail became the honeymoon for these newlyweds, the by-way became known as the Honeymoon Trail. The trail was in use up to the 1920s, when highways and automobiles replaced it. Then it was forgotten, except to the cattlemen who rode it for many decades—until the National Park Service Bicentennial in 1975. That year, Mel Heaton of Moccasin, Arizona, led a wagon trek from Pipe Springs National

Monument to St. George over the original trail. He has made the trip every year since, bringing hundreds of people on the five-day, 75-mile pilgrimage each fall.

Traditionally, the trek ends on the Saturday of the Lion's Dixie Roundup Rodeo (September 15 this year). The group, dressed in pioneer wear, comes into the south end of the city and rides to the temple, the final destination. Then they ride in the parade later that day.

These photos, taken in 1983, depict the wagon company coming from Fort Pierce, through Warner Valley, and into St. George. Alyn Chamberlain and Joseph Mitchell came along on the 1983 trek and were married in the St. George temple at the end of the trail.