

Green River Rendezvous Pageant Highlights

A summary of scenes from the script

The Astorians

The story of the 1811 expedition sponsored by John Jacob Astor of New York. The party is led by Wilson Price Hunt and includes explorers John Hoback, Jacob Reznor and Edward Robinson. These men are the first non-Indians to investigate the Upper Green River Valley and see its potential for the fur trade.

Green River Rendezvous

The scene is set for a Rendezvous on the Green. An American Indian pipe lighting ceremony prepares the way. A brief overview is provided of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade of the 1800s and its dependence on the fashion of the beaver-fur top hat. The Ashley expedition of 1823 brings trappers to western Wyoming.

Fort Bonneville

Capt. Benjamin Bonneville is the first to bring wagons over South Pass. He builds Fort Bonneville in 1832 above the mouth of Horse Creek, near today's Daniel Junction, as a strategic military post. The fort lasts only a few years, but plays a role in our area's first Rendezvous in 1833, and it provides a theatrical backdrop for today's Rendezvous re-enactment.

The Mountain Men

The primary historical characters in the Pageant make their entrances: Kit Carson, Jedediah Smith, Joe Meek, Jim Bridger, and William Sublette.

Shoshones/Antelope Soldiers

The role of soldier societies in Native American tribes is described, and the Shoshones make their entrance with their great leaders, Chief Ma-Wo-Ma, his senior wife Wadzay Weepay, and Sun Priest Quintan-Quay.

Trapper's Bride

Jim Bridger buys Sweetgrass Woman from Ma-Wo-Ma for 5 horses. The chief drives a hard bargain.

The Horse Race

Capt. Bonneville challenges the Shoshone Chiefto a horse race and wisely loses.

Father DeSmet and the Prairie Mass

Father Pierre Jean DeSmet, a Jesuit, holds the first Mass between the Continental Divide and the Sierra Nevadas. It is attended by Indians as well as trappers.

American Fur Company vs. Rocky Mountain Fur Company

The wagons of the rival company trappers arrive, laden with bundles of furs. Explorers and mountain men Tom Fitzpatrick, Andrew Dripps, Lucien Fontenelle, William Drummond Stewart, Antoine Clement and artist Alfred Jacob Miller join the action. A flurry of trading ensues.

Pony Dancers

A display of horsemanship by bareback riders.

Whitman-Spaulding

Narcissa Whitman and Eliza Spaulding accompany their husbands, Dr. Marcus Whitman and Rev. Henry Harmon Spaulding. Narcissa and Eliza are the first white women to cross the Continental Divide and are harbingers of the civilization to come.

Alfred Jacob Miller offers to immortalize all the characters in a painting for his boss, Scottish aristocrat Sir William Drummond Stewart.

Grand Procession and Farewell