PHOTO: CIRCULAR.

PHOTO: REID.

PHOTO: WAGON TRAIN.

PHOTO: WAGON TRAIN\MULES.

In March of 1849, the company of Turner, Allen & Company, of St. Louis issued a circular advertising passage on a "Pioneer Train."

CIRCULAR: "Elliptic spring wagons, covered and fitted up comfortably for carrying six passengers each. Price of passage, including rations, \$200.00. 100 pounds baggage per man. We expect to make the trip in 55 or 60 days, but we take provisions for 100 days. We have taken much pains to select the kind of mules best adapted for the trip."

NARRATOR: Bernard Reid, a former school teacher working in the Surveyor Generals Office in St. Louis, purchased passage on this "Pioneer Train:"

REID: "So attractive was the scheme that before the end of April 120 tickets were sold, - and so were the purchasers, myself among them."

"There were twenty good spring wagons with square tops...and each seated for six passengers. There were 22 freight and baggage wagons with the usual hooped covers, all loaded to their full capacity and drawn by six mules, and some of the heavier ones by eight.

No pen can adequately describe our start. Half a dozen circuses in one would have been tame in comparison. Not one of our mules had ever had a bit in its mouth or a collar around its neck."