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By The Associated Press

With pride in their past and hope for their future, Americans kicked off the nation's 200th birthday party — a multimillion-dollar Bicentennial extravaganza as diverse as the country's heritage.

Five Bicentennial wagon trains converged on Valley Forge, Pa., Friday and a fleet of ships, led by 17 square-riggers, was en route from Newport, R.I., to New York City and "Operation Sail," a Sunday display of naval vessels unmatched in decades.

Much of the attention was focused on the East Coast cities that played a key part in the United States' early history — Boston, Philadelphia, New York and Washington.

But the spirit of independence and individuality was, perhaps, best displayed in the thousands of events — some sober, some silly in towns and cities across the country starting Friday and running through Monday, July 5.

There was something for everyone: recreations of revolutionary events and dedication of a landing site for flying saucers. Sports and speeches. Parades and parties. Fireworks and Frisbees. Organizers boasted of plans for the longest this, the largest that or the first of something else.

The White House said more than 10,000 persons would be (Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)