ESCAZU'S OXCART FESTIVITY

Twenty-five years ago, the Municipal, Council of Escazú established every second Sunday of March as the Cantonal Day of the Ox Drivers and the Festival of the Oxcart. In 2005, UNESCO declared the ox driver and the Costa Rican traditional oxcart as "intangible patrimony of humanity". Back in 1658, an existing document certified the existence of two wooden oxcarts and two teams: of oxen in Escazú. During the XVIII century, rich Costa Rican families grew sugar cane and had "trapiches" (rudimentary molasses factories, bringing deep changes in colonial Costa Rica. These conditions

promoted agricultural development. Thus, ox drivers settled with their oxcarts not only in Escazú, but in many areas of the Central Valley. Coffee growing, by the middle of the XIX century, made the oxcart the most important means of transportation of those days. Nowadays, oxcarts and ox drivers participate in religious celebrations of the patron Saint in different communities, festivals related to local traditions, and natural resources. In the National Parade of Ox Drivers and Oxcarts in Escazú, more than 150 ox teams and thousands of tourists meet across from the Town Hall. By 10 a.m., oxcarts loaded with women dressed in typical costumes start their 3 km journey up to the Church of San Antonio of Escazú to receive the priest's blessing. Marimba music and dancing masked figures enliven this popular festivity.

1. History records that oxcarts have been part of Costa Rican culture since _____.

A) the XVIII century
B) sixteen fifty-eight
C) nineteen eighty-three
D) the middle of the XIX century

2. The national parade of oxcart takes place _____.

A) Each year
B) Each Sunday in March
C) At the town hall of Escazú
D) In several communities of Costa Rica

3. The oxcart as a means of transportation was adopted because of _____.

A) Big families
B) The development of Escazú
C) The independence of Costa Rica
D) The growth of sugar cane production

4. Today the oxcart is _____.

A) The symbol of San José
B) An intangible heritage of humanity
C) A contemporary means of transportation
D) Always full of women dressed in typical costumes

5. Nowadays, Oxcarts and ox drivers' festival are related to ____.

A) The rainy season
B) Religious festivities
C) Ox drivers' associations
D) The community of Escazu only

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