

Trail Marker

PIONEERING YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Official Newsletter of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers™

December 2007, Volume 3, Number 12

Dear SUP Associates:

The **2007 Historical Symposium** held at the National Headquarters Building on Saturday November 10 was an outstanding event. As reported in the **November 17 Church News**, the Symposium featured three excellent visual presentations by **Dr. Ronald Walker**, historian; **Roger Sears**, project manager for the Tabernacle seismic upgrade, and **Richard Oman**, Manager of the Arts and Sites Division of the Family and Church History Department. The evening dinner featured an address by “**Mr. Mac**” **Christensen**, President of the Tabernacle Choir. Thanks to President-elect **Booth Maycock** who was the program director for this year’s symposium.



Diamond Jubilee Monument and Building Improvement Fund. 2008 marks the **75th** anniversary of the organization of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. In celebration of this event, the Sons of Utah Pioneers will sponsor a heroic **statue** of **Brigham Young and Joseph Smith** to be placed near the Center Plaza at This is the Place Heritage Park. In addition, our 25-year old **National Headquarters Building** is in need of some major refurbishment including **painting** and **carpeting** of the **library and national offices, roof replacement and repairs, and furnace updating.** A chapter and member’s **donation form** is included in this Newsletter. We will need the help of every chapter officer and member to reach our goal of **\$75,000** this coming year. Please make this **fund drive known** to all of your chapter members.

Thank You. As my President year draws to a close, I wish to thank the various chapter officers and their members for the support I felt from them. We were able to meet most of our goals due to your efforts. I know that **Booth Maycock** will continue to provide direction to improve our organization and welcome the 2008 President-elect, **Roger Flick**, who will add a strong historical tone to our organization. As new chapter presidents assume their position, I urge you to work closely with your boards and let them help you “**grow your chapters**”. **Strong chapters** are still the major key to success for the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

Jay M. Smith
2007 National President

SUP SYMPOSIUM A GRAND SUCCESS

The 2007 Historical Symposium, held Saturday November 10th at the National Building was well attended and had fascinating speakers. The event was also carried, with color pictures as the lead article in the Church News the following week. In the evening, Mac Christensen, President of the Tabernacle Choir, spoke on the sacrifices choir members must make to perform hundreds of

times a year, and the acclaim the Choir has brought the Church. Some highpoints of the afternoon Symposium talks appear below.

Ron Walker, BYU History Professor

1. Joseph Ridges built the original Tabernacle organ modeled after the Boston Music Hall organ, including the face of the goddess of muses carved into the façade.
2. Unlike most religious buildings of the day, the Tabernacle was plain, practical and efficient. For example, with so many doors, crowds could be seated in minutes.
3. The canvas originally purchased to build a tabernacle in Nauvoo, instead was used to cover wagons and handcarts and was made into tents.
4. For years, the Saints met for Sacrament meeting in the Tabernacle. It took two hours to pass the sacrament, so it continued to be passed during speaker's talks.

Roger Spears, Retrofit Engineer for the Tabernacle

1. To support the sandstone columns, micropiles were driven down 24 feet.
2. Workers stripped off 14 interior layers of paint (one was a robin egg blue!).
3. Two new basements were excavated under the Tabernacle for choir offices and air conditioning (only to the choir seats!) Storage, dressing, recording and rehearsal rooms were added – all underground to the north and south of the Tabernacle.
4. All wiring was replaced, making it a state of art broadcast facility
5. The space between benches was widened from 9 inches to 14 inches. (Upholstering benches would have affected the acoustics).

Richard Oman (LDS Museum of Art)

1. The uniqueness of the Tabernacle gives evidence of modern revelation.
2. Pegs split with a wedge held original beams together and were stronger than nails.
3. A gap was left at the top of the balcony so sound could travel to the 1st floor.
4. The half-circle pulpit was originally only 6 inches wide – no room for notes!
5. Ponderosa Pine was used in the columns because it was not knot-y.
6. Unlike many visitors, who thought the building was plain, Frank Lloyd Wright called the Tabernacle “One of the greatest buildings of the US, perhaps the world”



Above: Symposium-goers take notes on talks about the Tabernacle. Below: Mac Christensen, President of the Tabernacle Choir speaks of the management challenges of the Choir at the evening Symposium banquet.





Left: President-Elect Booth Maycock presents Modern-Day Pioneer Award to Mac Christensen and wife.



Right: Past President Grant Barton presents Modern-Day Pioneer Award to Angus and Jennie Christensen.

SUP DIAMOND JUBILEE MONUMENT AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

In preparation for celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Sons of Utah Pioneers in 1933, the National Board has approved several important building and grounds improvements that are critically needed to preserve the beauty and utility of our National Headquarters. They include the following projects:

- Repainting of library and office areas.
- Replacing carpet in library and office areas.
- Repairing and upgrading of roof and gutters.
- Replacement of furnaces and air conditioning units with newer and more efficient units.
- Modifying landscaping around building.

In addition, during this Diamond Jubilee year, the NSSUP will be erecting at This is the Place Heritage Park a life-size statue of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young entitled “Faces West”. It depicts these two prophets of God contemplating the plans for the Exodus to the Salt Lake Basin. This monument will be a copy of the monument now standing in Nauvoo and will provide a “bookend” in Salt Lake.

In order to fund these projects, Chapters and SUP Members are invited to give a donation to the Diamond Jubilee Monument and Building Improvement Fund. The donation goal for this fund is \$75,000. The form below may be used when making donations. Donations by individuals are tax deductible. (Suggested member donation \$75, or a dollar for each year since the SUP founding).

Diamond Jubilee Monument and Building Improvement Fund

I am pleased to support the “Faces West” Monument and the renovation of the SUP Headquarters Building and Grounds.

Name of Chapter or Individual _____
Mailing Address _____

Amount of Donation _____ Check enclosed _____
Credit Card Payment. (Check one) Visa _____ Master Card _____
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Name on Card _____

THANK YOU

Send to SUP, 3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109

BACK BY POLULAR DEMAND! *PIONEER MAGAZINE* AT A GREAT BARGAIN PRICE!

Again this year, until January 1, 2008, new subscriptions and gift subscriptions are available for TWO YEARS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE YEAR – Just \$15.00. Our wonderful *Pioneer Magazine* is reaching more people than ever and is getting better with each issue. For our SUP 75th anniversary, we'd like to have another 1,000 subscribers! Please help re-tell the pioneer story to your friends and family members, by giving them a subscription. Send names and addresses with your check to *Pioneer Magazine*, 3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84109.

Diamond Anniversary of the SUP

Next year is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. Open houses and special programs are planned for the national building. To get ready for these festivities, several needed building and grounds improvements have been identified. Your financial help is sought in making these improvements (See form on previous page).



In addition, “Eyes Westward”, a heroic size statue of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young planning the westward trek together (desktop size statue is shown in picture above) is scheduled to be prominently placed at the entrance of This is the Place Heritage Park. A large logo of Sons of Utah Pioneers will be placed on the base, along with plaques that explain the intimate involvement of Joseph Smith in the westward trek. For example, Joseph Smith drew the map showing the Great Basin and Winter Quarters that Brigham Young carried. Another copy of the map was given to the Mormon Battalion to guide them back to Great Salt Lake City after their march to California.

Your assistance with the National Building renovation and the Eyes Westward statue are needed. Please see the attached form for additional details. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Keith Black In Memoriam

Keith Black, one of the area vice presidents in SUP, passed away on November 15, 2007. At the time of his passing he was over the Lehi, Squaw Peak and Timpanogos chapters, and these chapters are already greatly missing him.



Keith grew up in Delta, Utah, and married Kathryn Ekins in 1954. They were blessed with three sons, 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

After earning a BS degree in Secondary Education from BYU in 1958, he taught for 35 years in Coalville, Delta, and Orem. Keith was a delegate to the Utah Education Association and attended five national conventions.

As an active member of the LDS Church, he faithfully served in numerous church callings, including 6 bishoprics. He enjoyed family history and temple work, and served in the Provo, Mount Timpanogos, and Chicago Temples.

In 1994 Keith was asked to be on the board of the newly formed Squaw Peak Chapter, and he was the president of that chapter in 2001. He

served as the SUP convention co-chairman in 2003. He received the "Pioneer of the Year" award in 2004 from his chapter.

Plan now to join the SUP American Heritage National Trek

Come make friends with SUP members from many chapters in visiting the sites where our Country was born:

- Jamestown – still celebrating it's 400th anniversary
- Williamsburg, Yorktown, Plimoth Plantation and the Mayflower II, to relive colonial America and the voyage of the pilgrims
- Lexington, Concord, Boston and Valley Forge, where the War of Independence was waged
- Monticello, Mt. Vernon, Washington D.C – The Homes of U.S. Presidents
- Ft. McHenry, where the Star Spangled Banner was written
- Philadelphia, with Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell
- Ellis Island, The Statue of Liberty and other National Landmarks
- The Freedom Trail and the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides)

The tour will be May 7 – 17, when the East is in full bloom. The cost is \$1865 (double occupancy), and includes airfare, motor coach, all admissions, breakfasts and two dinners. For reservations or questions, contact Priscilla at 208-496-2337 (hendricksp@byui.edu) or Dee Risenmay at 208-356-5505 (deelr36@msn.com). The tour is organized by the Travel Study Dept of BYU-Idaho.

Sesquicentennial Memorial Plaque

A plaque commemorating the 1997 SUP Sesquicentennial Mormon Trail Caravan is now hanging on the South wall of Heritage Hall in the Headquarters Building. Under the direction of Orson Wright, the plaque was designed to compliment the plaque that was prepared for the 1947 Centennial Re-enactment that has been hanging on the wall since the building was dedicated. The two handsome plaques are

hanging side by side (see picture below) and



include the names of all participants in each trek. We invite all SUP members to come and see the plaques, especially those who were on the 1997 trek.

Chapter News

LEHI (Lehi, UT) Several members of the chapter attended the convention in Mesa and had a good time. A good number also participated in the trek that went to the Colonies and other locations in Mexico or the one that followed the Mormon Battalion route to San Diego and up through California to the Sacramento and gold rush area.

Hershel Pederson (affectionately known as "Bones Pederson") was the presenter for the November meeting. Mr. Pederson played basketball for BYU in the 1950's. Among other things he has served as a mission president and a counselor in the Mt. Timpanogos Temple presidency.

The chapter is progressing well in their effort to obtain funds to start a monument on the Sugar factory.

CANYON RIM, SUGARHOUSE AND

BEEHIVE (Northeast Salt Lake Valley) Mr. **Lee Benson**, (a columnist for the Deseret Morning News and a co-author of the book *Soldier Slaves: Abandoned by the White House, Courts, and Congress*) introduced Mr. **Harold Poole** who was one of the 30,000 American Soldiers who were captured by the Japanese on the peninsula of Bataan in April 1942. Mr.

Poole told of the Bataan Death March and, as a survivor of the march, being required to labor for the Japanese for the remainder of the war. The book written by Mr. Benson and **James W. Parkinsen** is a report of attempted legal action to require compensation for the prisoners for their labor.

SALT LAKE PIONEER (Salt Lake City, UT) Those attending the November meeting were favored to hear from **Michael K. Winder** of the Winder Dairy people. He is the son of Ned Winder who was president of the chapter in 1959-60.

Michael's subject was "Relations Between Presidents and Prophets". The presidents referred to were Presidents of the United States and the prophets were the Prophets of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE (Southwest Salt Lake Valley) Interesting short pioneer histories were told by four members of the chapter at the November meeting. It was a great opportunity to hear pioneer story that had not been previously told.

It was reported that the "**Pumpkin Walk**" service project at the West Jordan Park in October was a great success. The next service project the chapter will participate in will be the Kiwanis Club's Baby Cupboard in December.

MAPLE MOUNTAIN (Mapleton, UT). The Thanksgiving/Christmas chapter meeting was held on November 29 in Springville. Following a delicious buffet dinner, BYU Religion Professor **Joseph McConkie** spoke to the forty members and guests about the relationships between the Children of Israel, the Puritans who came to America, and the Restoration of the Gospel. He pointed out that the Puritans hearkened back to the Old Testament in their concept of gathering, covenant making, and relationship to God. To them, England was Egypt, the Atlantic Ocean was the Red Sea and America was the Promised Land. He compared this with the Restoration of the Gospel through Joseph Smith with keys and powers also coming from Old Testament

Prophets. The Utah Pioneers came with that same vision as they gathered and then went to settle outlying communities at the invitation of modern prophets. Brother McConkie's ancestors were involved in the most trying of pioneer experiences, the Hole-in-the-Rock expedition, which he briefly outlined. The entire address was inspiring and well received by all in attendance.

SALT LAKE CITY (SLC, Utah) The program for December was presented by the **Woods Cross High School Choir**. A special menu was arranged for the dinner meeting by **Lavon Day** and the meal and the musical program contributed to a festive holiday occasion. The special effort by the chapter officers to have their members write and present their personal history is meeting with some success. These histories are being reported in the Chapter Newsletter.

TIMPANOGOS (Northeast Utah County) At the November meeting of the chapter **Dr Milton V. Backman**, an emeritus Professor of Church History at BYU spoke to the subject: "Pilgrims, Pioneers and the Birth of an American Holiday." The holiday was Thanksgiving Day and he spoke of the challenges and accomplishments of the Pilgrims and the Mormon pioneers. Dr. Backman discussed the earliest thanksgiving celebrations in Plymouth and the Salt Lake valley and the gradual development of the holiday from celebrations in New England to thanksgiving proclamations issued by General George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln. Another highlight of the meeting was the singing of the talented **Shauna Thompson**.

Thanks for *Trail Marker* Contributions!

Starting immediately, please send chapter newsletters, news items and pictures to the email or street address of **Louis Pickett**:

lpickett@utahbroadband.com or
10976 Quartz Dr. South Jordan, UT 84095

Deadline: last day of each month.
