

Trail Marker

PIONEERING YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW
Official Newsletter of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers™
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Dear Friends:

July is such a significant month for all of us. First, it marks the birthday of our great nation. It is much more than a day off, a picnic, fireworks and parades. Just recently a number of us did a National Trek covering many of the historical sites relative to the blood, sweat and toil it took to create this wonderful nation out of wild, unexplored land.

There were the sites of the first settlements where the first pulses of a desire for freedom were born and where the Declaration of Independence was written. There were sites hallowed by the memories of the many lives lost in the successful effort to wrest that freedom from unjust rule. We stood where those great men, inspired by God, created the constitution, a blue print for government that is unequalled to this date.



July is special to us also because it marks the coming of the Saints to the Salt Lake Valley. Here, again, we can't help but stand in awe of the faith, courage and physical stamina it took to conquer those vast distances of barren, foreboding landscape, let alone the elements of weather. How grateful we are that they opened up this land we enjoy now as our home.

I believe each of us should try, somewhat, to model our character after the wonderful example set by the Pioneers of 1847. I hope this has caused you to reflect back on your pioneer ancestors or those you have heard or read about. I'm sure you will find some interesting incidents that you could easily convert into a short story to be submitted to our Pioneer Story website. Please help us build that site.

I sincerely hope that many of you will participate in the many activities of "The Days of '47" celebration, the "Kids" parade and the dedication of our "Eyes Westward" monument on the 19th of July. The Sunrise Service and the big parade will be held on July 24th.

Don't forget to register for the Convention in Richfield to be held on September 25, 26 and 27. The August deadline will come fast.

Have a great celebration and thanks for your friendship and support.

Booth Maycock
2008 National President

NATIONAL NEWS
NOMINEES FOR 2009 NATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT NAMED The six member 2008 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that **Richard Christiansen**, Centerville Chapter

President, and **Dil Strasser**, National Membership Program Director, have agreed to be presented to the members at the Richfield Convention as nominees for the **2009 National President-Elect**. As you will note in reading

their bios, both of these men have **outstanding** credentials. We will be well served by whoever is elected in September.

Richard O. (Dick) Christiansen



Dick was born in 1931 and raised in the town of Central, Sevier Co., Utah, 4 miles south of Richfield. His paternal grandfather, Christian Peter Christiansen, came from Denmark and settled in Monroe, Utah in 1864. Dick's father was a

cattleman, sheepman and farmer, and that was also his son's life in his early years. He served a mission for the LDS Church to Uruguay and returned to serve in the U.S. Army for three years, with 16 months in Korea. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves on a part-time basis, including a year of active duty in the Berlin Wall Callup of 1961, and eventually serving as commanding general of all Army Reserve units in seven states working out of Fort Douglas. He retired as a Major General after 35 years of service with several medal recognitions.

Richard graduated from BYU in 1959, majoring in zoology and chemistry. He worked for Thiokol and the Addressograph-Multigraph Co. before working at the University of Utah for twenty-five years as Director of Scheduling. In this position he was responsible for all class and event scheduling at the University.

Richard and his wife, Marcia Ann Morgan, have four children, 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. They have served three missions for the church: Adam-ondi-Ahman, Uruguay Montevideo West Mission and Australia Sydney North Mission, plus two years as an ordinance worker in the Bountiful temple. He has served in two bishoprics and two high councils. He joined the Sons of Utah Pioneers in 1999 and is

currently serving as the President of the Centerville Chapter.

Dilworth C. (Dil) Strasser



Dil was born and raised in Salt Lake City. He is a descendant of Utah pioneers who were sent to settle Southern Utah. His ancestor, Charles A. Hughes of Mesquite, NV had 13 children. Frank H. Petty of Rockville, Utah owned a sawmill on

Cable Mountain in Zion Park. Thomas Cottam of St. George, Utah was a craftsman, woodworker and built furniture for the St. George Temple. Dil's wife, Diane, is from Cache Valley and a direct descendant of Marriner Wood Merrill.

Dil graduated from Weber State in Banking and Finance and worked as a stockbroker-financial planner for thirty years. He retired to go on a Senior Couple mission to Quetzaltenango Guatemala.

Dil and his wife have eight children and 14 grandchildren. His church callings have included being a Bishopric member, Branch President at the U of U hospital and he is currently serving in a Branch Presidency at the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home. He is also an ordinance worker in the Salt Lake Temple. He has served as the Sugarhouse Chapter President for the past two years and is also currently serving as the National Membership Director and as the Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Building and Monument Fund. He has worked with the Exchange Club for thirty years, helping to start several clubs. He is also involved in the Boy Scouts organization, currently serving as District Commissioner.

Dil believes that the "power of one" makes all the difference.

AUGUST 15 CUTOFF FOR RICHFIELD

CONVENTION TOURS Because of rising fuel costs and bus reservation policies, the **Sevier Valley Chapter** has set an August 15 cutoff for reservations on the **two planned tours**. Convention reservations for the other activities may still be made up to the Convention date. Remember, the Convention will be from **September 25 to September 27**. A special **training meeting** will be held for all **2008 Chapter President-Elects** on Thursday, September 25 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. This will be a very important meeting for these men who will become the 2009 Chapter Presidents.

“EYES WESTWARD” MONUMENT TO BE

DEDICATED JULY 19 AT 4:00 P.M. The **landscaping** for the SUP National sponsored **Joseph Smith and Brigham Young** statue is underway and plans are now finalized for the dedication at **This is the Place Heritage Park** on Saturday July 19. All SUP members and their families are invited to join with us for this historic event. Contributions for the monument and the SUP building renovation have been received from over **200 members**. An additional **\$25,000** in donations is still needed to meet our Diamond Jubilee goal of \$75,000. We hope to reach our goal before the end of our 75th Anniversary Year.

DAYS OF 47 ACTIVITIES

The **Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter** of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers will again play host to the **Sunrise Service** to be held at 7 a.m. at the Salt Lake Tabernacle on July 24. **Elder Earl Tingey** of the Seventy will be the speaker. A **chorus of 300 voices** from several Salt Lake Stakes will provide the music. We urge all members in the metropolitan area to support this special tribute to our pioneer ancestors. The traditional parade will include "front of the parade" entries by SUP members carrying flags and our diamond jubilee motif plus **Booth and Eddie Maycock** in their dignitary car. Prior to the 24th, members of the SUP have been busy supporting the Days of 47 events by distribution 50,000 programs throughout Utah and providing support for **Family Fun Day** to be held at **This is the Place Heritage Park** on July 12. Thanks to the many

chapters and their members for this support.

CHAPTER NEWS --

By Louis Pickett
BOUNTIFUL (Bountiful, Utah) **Erick Gilzean**, a Scottish convert and immigrant, was the speaker for the June meeting. (He is currently owner of the Edinbrough European Imports in downtown Salt Lake City.) Erick told several interesting stories, mostly about his native land and about his conversion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A Biographic/Historical Sketch was also given by **John Knight**. Music for the evening was by a **Scottish Bagpiper**, who not only played the bagpipes but spoke and gave interesting information about the instrument. As a recruiting help the chapter has prepared an attractive brochure to take and use as they invite friends to join them for the meals and to become members.

BOX ELDER (Brigham City, Utah) On June 7th

Dan Wheatley, the chapter trek master conducted a **historic trek to Southwest Wyoming** and along the pioneer trail down **Echo Canyon**. It was still too early to make it over the entire route and into Salt Lake City because of snow. Nevertheless, those who participated gained a new appreciation of the history and the difficulty of the pioneer movement. The chapter's project to restore the granary (reported previously) continues to move forward. They received some help from the Elder's Quorum from the Brigham City 16th Ward to remove and replace shingles. The completion of that part of the project was turned over to a contractor. The speaker for the June dinner meeting was National President, **Booth Maycock** who told of one of his ancestors.

HURRICANE VALLEY (Hurricane, Utah)

Chapter members can't stop talking about the very interesting reports they heard from **Glen Bundy** and **Lyman Hafen** and then the follow-up trek two days later to the **Mount Trumbull** area where **Owen Bundy** talked of the life style conditions for all who lived there. This month **George and Joanne Romney** from the **St. George Temple** were the guests who brought stories of what it was like to grow up within the

walls of **Marion G. Romney's home**. George also gave an account of his grandfather and his work on the tabernacle in St. George.

BRIGHAM YOUNG (Provo, Utah) Reports have previously been made of the chapter's sponsorship of the **Pioneer Village in Provo** but there is much going on there and it is desired that all be aware of the village and receive an invitation to visit there. Because of the changes and improvements the chapter has plans for a "mini-trek" in August. Events will include an informal tour of the village, remarks from **D. Robert Carter** (Provo Historian and Author), and entertainment by 88-year-old retired **Col. Jack L. Tueller** on his trumpet.



The Pioneer Village wagon was entered the **Provo Freedom Festival parade** this year. Under the direction of SUP Member **Stevens Nelson**, director of the Village, the wagon was pulled by two horses. On the wagon were musicians and chapter members including **Past National President Jay Smith**. Over 200,000 spectators lined the 2 1/2 mile route and cheered on the entry. The **Provo North Park Pioneer Village** is being extensively renovated over the next several months with the assistance of the city of Provo and the Brigham Young Chapter."

THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY (Heber City, Utah) Chapter members enjoyed an evening recognizing eleven citizens and their families for exemplifying the spirit of pioneering. Five of those honored have passed away but were recognized for their contributions as pioneers in

the past. A husband and wife were given a plaque as present day pioneers and four high school students: **Robert Fausett, Weston Babbitt, Ellyce Lundskog and Kimberly Bauer** were recognized by Chapter President, James Weston, for their conduct and examples as future pioneers.

HOLLADAY (Holladay, Utah) A big event for the chapter was the dedication of their monument (below) at the **Wilford Woodruff farm** on June



21st. **Elder Earl C. Tingey** of the Presidency of the Seventy was the featured speaker. This event attracted some great publicity for the chapter and for the SUP generally. (See Church News, Saturday June 28.) For the June chapter meeting **James Williams and his wife, Janet** were the speakers. James has served as the head of the Rheumatology department at the U. of U. Hospital. More recently he and his wife presided over the **Denmark Mission** from 2004 to 2007.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE (Southwest Salt Lake Valley) **Phares Horman and his wife, Hermine** (shown left and right below, with Bob Wurston – center), gave a very interesting report





on the **Mormon Colonies in Mexico** at the June dinner meeting. They went on the extended trek, which left from the national convention held in Mesa last September. Their report was supplemented by many interesting pictures and facts, which they had assembled. Several chapter members (pictured above) participated in a trek on June 23rd, which was hosted by **Energy Solutions**. The company provided a bus, a tour guide and a very nice box lunch. The group was given a close-up look at the facility (located 80 miles west of Salt Lake City) and an explanation of what they do.

MAPLE MOUNTAIN (Mapleton, Utah) Guest speaker for the chapter dinner meeting in May was **Angus Belliston**. The subject of his presentation was “**Nauvoo, Past and Present.**” He has served in the temple presidency of both the Provo and the Nauvoo temples and is a qualified authority on his subject. The chapter members enjoyed a very nice evening as Angus told several interesting and faith promoting stories of the early temple and the sacrifices of the saints who built it. He also told of experiences with the construction and open house of the new temple, which is built on the exact footprint of the original one.

MESA (Mesa, Arizona) Chapter members enjoyed a **Backyard Grill and Potluck Supper** on June 12th. It was held at the **Lowell and Glenda Heaton “Haven”**. The program for the evening included a heritage report by **Richard and Verona Rogers** and **Violin/Fiddle music by Tawna Flake-Posegate**. Chapter President, **Jess Jarvis**, encourages members to preserve the memory & heritage of the early pioneers by writing and telling the stories of ancestors and others who left the legacy that we enjoy.

MILLS (Southeast SLC, Utah) At the May chapter meeting **Sherilyn Bennion** gave a most interesting talk on the subject of **Frontier Women and their Accomplishments**. Some of the women described in her talk were writers, medical doctors and newspaper editors. Some of the facts she reported included where they lived, the kinds of journalists they were, the pay they earned and the results of their efforts in the history of the West. The speaker at the June meeting was **Ghulam Hasnain**. He is a representative of the **Utah State Humanities Council** and was the organizer of the annual **Salt Lake American Muslim Cultural Festival**. His talk was on the subject of : “**Understanding Islam as a life Style From the Perspective of a Shia Muslim**” Three Granger High School students: **Priscilla Auduong**, who emigrated from Viet Nam, **Julia Adofaga**, who emigrated from Sudan, and **Katrina Brito** who came from Mexico, were introduced and gave a report of challenges they overcame by hard work and diligence at home and at school. They were each given a scholarship to continue their education.

SALT LAKE CITY (Salt Lake City, Utah) **Playwright Rob Gardner**, of Spire Music, conducted his **Prophet Joseph Smith oratorio** in the Salt Lake Tabernacle in late April and the chapter members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. They then invited Rob to be their guest performer at their June chapter meeting. He spoke, played the piano and sang during his presentation. Both the performance at the tabernacle and at the chapter meeting in the historic 10th Ward building were reported to be “unforgettably magnificent”. The speaker for the June meeting was **Kay Stevenson**, an artist for the church who talked about his great grandfather, **Edward Stevenson**. Edward was a

president of the Seventy during the Nauvoo era. He served many missions and was given other assignments by Brigham Young. One such assignment was to go east and find and bring west the **witnesses to the Book of Mormon**. He found and brought **Martin Harris**.

TAYLORSVILLE/BENNION (Taylorsville, Utah) **Jessica May Wilson**, from Taylorsville high school, was presented with the chapter's 2008 "**Tomorrow's Pioneer Scholarship**" by **Jerry Davis** and **President Kent Tanner**. At the June meeting members were pleased to hear from **Ron Anderson** on the subject of the "**Mormon Trails Association**". Some of the activities of the association include: 1) Promoting interest in Mormon trails, settlement, persons, and accomplishments, 2) Assisting government and private agencies with trail identification, development and maintenance needs, 3) Publishing guides, books, maps, and other items to inform and educate the public. A prominent member of the chapter, **Donald Frame**, was honored by the chapter and given the "**Today's Pioneer**" award.



Chapter President Kent Tanner presents Modern Pioneer award to Donald Frame

TEMPLE QUARRY (Sandy, Utah) Chapter members enjoyed a trek to **the Sandy Museum** where a personal guide led them through the building and discussed the many items displayed there. Of particular interest to the group was the wooden sign that the chapter took down from a location on South State Street in Sandy. It had been placed many years ago by the Utah Highway Department to tell about the granite quarries where rock for the State Capital building, the LDS Temple and other structures came from. The sign was being destroyed and needed repair and maintenance. The chapter got permission and moved the sign to the museum. The sign is about five and one half feet by nine feet in size

SETTLEMENT CANYON (Tooele, Utah) The June program for the chapter included a very interesting report by **Sid Hullinger** on the subject of "**Mining in Tooele County**". **The Tooele SUP Museum** is open on Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to visit the museum, it has recently receive donations of a phonograph record collection containing a lot of old radio programs and a collection of "**The Utah Historical Quarterly**". These books are useful for researching Utah History.

SQUAW PEAK (Orem, Utah) The guest speaker for the June meeting of the chapter was **Fred R. Gowans**. For much of Fred's career he served as Professor of History and as Director of Native American Studies at the Brigham Young University. He is well published and very knowledgeable on the subject of Western U. S. history. With that background he provided much information of interest to the group. The chapter also had a very interesting June trek to the renovated Utah State Capitol and to the most interesting Wood Museum in Woods Cross. Every chapter should put these two sites on their "must" trek list.