

Trail Marker

PIONEERING YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

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

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Dear SUP Associates:

Greetings from President Smith:

What a wonderful month July has been! Your National Officers have been deeply involved in the Days of '47 Celebration in Salt Lake City. This issue of the *Trail Maker* shows pictures and includes articles describing many of these events. My wife and I were able to wave at **thousands of people** in the July 21 Children's Parade and in the July 24 Main Parade. The Spirit of the Pioneers was strong in the **Tabernacle at the Sunrise Service** on July 24 as a 300 voice choir filled the air with beautiful music and Elder Rasband gave an inspiring Pioneer address. So many SUP members from the Salt Lake Chapters were involved in planning, distributing **brochures**, assisting at the Family Fun Day at the Wheeler Farm, marching in the parades etc. **Our organization was prominent** throughout the activities and we were touched by all of their contributions.



The Chapter News section highlights **similar contributions by chapters outside of the Salt Lake City** area in their July 24 celebrations. What an impressive role the Sons of Utah Pioneers play in this annual celebration.

As we look forward to the **Fall months and renewed chapter activity**, I hope each Chapter Board will concentrate on the following important activities:

- ! Attendance at **Mesa 2007 Convention**
- ! **Interesting and Informative Monthly Chapter Meetings**
- ! Nomination and Election of **2008 Chapter Officers**
- ! **Recruiting New Members**
- ! **Renewal of Annual Members for 2008**
- ! Converting Annual Members to **Life Membership**
- ! **Memorialization** of Pioneer Ancestors
- ! Honoring deceased Chapter Members on the new "**In Memoriam**" Board
- ! Constructing **new Monuments**
- ! Identifying and Maintaining **Existing Monuments** and Markers
- ! Organizing **Scholarship, Essay and Biography Programs** for Tomorrow's Pioneers

Chapter Presidents must **delegate** these and other responsibilities in order to strengthen the chapters. Thank you for your dedication and faith in the organization.

Jay M. Smith
2007 National President

Float is top SUP Choice



entitled “From Pioneer Courage to World Support – Sweetwater Rescue to the Tsunami.” It was entirely covered with 18 home-made quilts which were donated to the Humanitarian Center after the parade. Receiving the award were Virginia Baird, Float Chairman and Michael Crook, High Council liaison.

President-Elect Booth Maycock represented the Past National President’s Council and presented to West Jordan Bingham Creek Stake representatives a handsome plaque indicating that their float best portrayed Pioneer Values such as Love, Loyalty, Service and Faith in God.

The float was



SUP assists with Salt Lake Pioneer Day

SUP chapters in the Salt Lake valley distributed 50,000 brochures and posters advertising Days of ’47 pioneer festivities, including a special flyer advertising the Sunrise Service. They placed the brochures, flyers and posters in banks, hotels and supermarkets – a Herculean effort coordinated by John Swallow, National SUP Public Relations director, Gene Bond, Area Vice President for South Salt Lake, and members of the Centerville and Bountiful Chapters who sorted and prepared the brochures for distribution. SUP volunteer David Horne of the Salt Lake Chapter assisted by taking sponsorship banners around to the several Days of ’47 venues.

In addition, members of the Mills, Jordan River Temple, Settlement Canyon and other chapters supplied volunteers to assist and the Days of 47 Family Fun Day held at Wheeler Farm. The volunteers had a lot of fun themselves, according to Sam Rino, Mills Chapter President.

The SUP also supplied the professional-looking parade entry, spearheaded by Rob Race of the Sugarhouse Chapter. The SUP entry was in it’s traditional position at the head of the parade. It included several handcarts, a large SUP banner, American and SUP flags, and a Conestoga Covered Wagon, in which rode 89-year-old Frank Swallow, one of the last surviving literal sons of Utah Pioneers (his father crossed the plains as a



Above and below: Part of the SUP entry in the Salt Lake pioneer parade.



child). This year marked the 10 year anniversary of the Sesquicentennial reenactment of the crossing of the plains, in which Rob Race and Mike Dunn (who carried the SUP flag in the parade and was Captain of the Handcart Pioneers in 1997) played prominent leadership roles. The past national presidents and their wives judged the floats and awarded a plaque to the float that best

depicted the values (integrity, family loyalty, faith in God, etc.) for which the pioneers lived and sometimes died.



Past national presidents and wives judging the float to be presented the Sons of Utah Pioneers Award

Finally, the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter sponsored a Sunrise Service at 7 am on July 24th in the newly-refurbished Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square. A large audience was thrilled by the 240 voice choir, led by veteran television broadcaster Sterling Poulson. The speaker was Elder Ronald A. Rasband, of the Presidency of the Seventy, who



Shown at the Tabernacle Sunrise Service (L to R): Elder Rasband, Jerry Higginson, Grant Barton, Jay Smith and Bruce Bingham (President, Days of '47)

gave a stirring talk on his pioneer ancestors. Conducting was Jerry Higginson, President of the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter. Ralph Thomson, chapter vice president, introduced Elder Rasband. The Mormon Battalion performed the flag ceremony. On the stand were President Jay Smith and his wife JenaVee, Past President Grant Barton

and his wife Marilyn, the Days of '47 queens, and Mary Johnson, Daughters of Utah Pioneers President, and her husband, E.T. Choir members received commemorative copies of the Pioneer Magazine featuring the Tabernacle. The Sunrise Service was featured as the lead article in the July 28th issue of the Church News.



At the Tabernacle Sunrise Service (L to R): President Jay Smith with Days of '47 First Attendant Cristal Johnson, Queen Marin Poole and Second Attendant Marianne Stuart.

Morris Bennion, twice SUP National President, Dies.

On July 9, Morris Bennion passed away. He was 86 years old. He and his wife, Faye, had 67 years of marriage before she died earlier this year. They were both strong supporters of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. He served as National President in 1989 and again in 1992, thus giving him six total years on the SUP Executive Council. During his administration the SUP medallion program was initiated, the Grandsons Organization was jointly formed by Morris and Dave Martin, and a special fund raising dinner in 1992 honoring the Utah Jazz and its owners raised \$27,000 for the SUP. He was a life member of the Jordan River Temple Chapter. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

Chapter News

MILLS (Southeast SLC, UT) On Saturday, July 21st the Mills Chapter officiated at the rededication of the original monument and site where Brigham Young declared "This is the Right Place". Frank Madsen and Michael Bennett headed a committee that had worked hard to assure the site on the hill is the right place and to

restore the original monument. The dedicatory prayer was offered by President Boyd K. Packer.



At the dedication of the new monument are (l to r): Ellis Ivory, President Boyd K. Packer, Elder M. Russell Ballard, and SUP National Past-President Grant Barton.

The Mills chapter conducted a two day trek on August 3rd and 4th to the Castle Valley Pageant in Castle Dale. The bus left from the National Headquarters building and included stops at the Western Mining & Railroad Museum at Helper and the Prehistoric Museum in Price. The buffet dinner at the park in Castle Dale was included in the tour. After the pageant, the group stayed for the night at a motel in Price

CEDAR CITY (Cedar City, UT) Chapter President, Joe Bishop has reviewed the chapter activities for the first half of 2007. The report included an annual Sweetheart's dinner in February, a scholarship fund raiser, a dinner in May to honor the scholarship winners with two recipients receiving \$2,000 each, participation in the Ancestor Biography writing contest and the elementary school Pioneer Ancestor essay writing contest. A May trek was taken along a portion of the Spanish Trail and to sites in Parowan and on the Buckhorn Flat. Six new members have been added to the chapter so far this year. Cedar City's July 24th festivities, sponsored by the Sons of Utah Pioneers and Cedar City Corp. honored those who settled the area while encouraging the pioneer spirit in the present. There was a program to honor current residents who have contributed to the community, remembering those who came before,

and recognizing the children who won the Family Heritage Essay Contest.

BOUNTIFUL (Bountiful, UT) The July chapter meeting was held at the Centerville City Park and the program included a report by Robert Little on the Early Pioneers and Leaders of the Church. Music was provided by the "Muddy Gutters" and a biographical/historical sketch was given by Rawney Ellis. As an incentive in the New Member Recruitment program the chapter pays one half of the first year's dues for all new members.

TAYLORSVILLE – BENNION (South Salt Lake) A. Kent Powell was the speaker at the June chapter meeting. Kent is from the Division of State History, where he serves as State Historian in the Publications and Public History Department. He informed the members of the things that the division does to preserve the rich history of the state. It was learned that Kent is a resident of Taylorsville so he was extended an invitation to join the chapter. Again this year the chapter entered their banner and pioneer handcart in the Taylorsville Parade which was held on June 30th. A bus trek is being planned for the chapter on August 18th. The route will likely include a visit to the Tooele and Grantsville museums and the Larry Miller Sports Park.

HOLE IN THE ROCK (Escalante, UT) The chapter's monthly summer meetings are held camping out on the Boulder Mountain. Area Vice President Doug Loosle and his wife, Marie attended the June meeting and reported to the group that they really know how to make the S.U.P. fun. The program included a brief history of the CCC Camps held in the area in the 1930's, with some of their accomplishments including the Hell Backbone Bridge and the Boulder and Escalante roads. President Craig Sorenson entertained with his harmonica and his dog "OLE" singing.

LITTLE SALT LAKE (Parowan, UT) The June meeting was held on the 21st and the members enjoyed a pot luck dinner followed by a presentation on the Parowan Gap--Nature's Perfect

Observatory, by noted archaeologist, Garth Norman. Mr. Norman has conducted extensive research and investigation of the Petroglyphs and other remains of the early Indian culture in the Parowan Gap area and gave his findings. This interesting and informative presentation was enjoyed by all in attendance.

GROVE CITY (Blackfoot, ID) At the June 27th chapter meeting Richard Lindsay gave a report on the Trek to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). The tour looked mainly at pioneer homesteads and included a visit to a ranch at the lower end of drainage at Birch Creek, which is on the INL land. The ranch was inhabited for about twenty years. Richard pointed out that the tour hardly touched on the "pre-historic evidences" from the time Native Americans lived and traveled in the area. Richard also gave a history of the INL and the naval gun range NRTS that preceded the INL. He said "originally it was a naval proving ground and they would bring the big guns from the battle Ships to Pocatello and reline the guns, sleeve them, rifle them and then take them out to the site and shoot them to sight them in". When World War II ended the government scaled back on war production and the gun range was closed.

SETTLEMENT CANYON (Tooele, UT) The chapter held it's annual picnic up Settlement Canyon on July 12th . The Officer in charge of this party was George McKellar and the committee included Timmer & Donna McKendrick, Roy & Linda Snyder and all Board Members.

SALT LAKE PIONEER (Salt Lake City, UT) The chapter, as is tradition, organized and hosted the annual Sunrise Service which was once again held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle following it's renovation. This year Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy gave the address, which was very well received. The Mormon Battalion provided the flag service and pledge of allegiance. The choral music was perhaps the best that has been provided. The Days of 47 Royalty was introduced and the whole program was a great way to start the 24th off right. The next luncheon

meeting of the chapter will be the special Fathers and Daughters (and Granddaughters) event to be held on September 12th.

SQUAW PEAK (Orem, UT) Last month Kerry Christensen drew the largest crowd ever to attend a chapter meeting. Over 100 people enjoyed a wonderful evening that will long be remembered. The July meeting featured John W. Welch, one of the most prominent authorities on the Book of Mormon in the church today. He has authored, coauthored, or edited a number of books and articles and has many other qualifications, too great to list. The chapter also participated in manning an SUP booth at the State Fair at Thanksgiving Point July 19, 20 and 21.

BRIGHAM YOUNG (Provo, UT) More than two dozen members, including wives, plus several guests participated in a bus trek on July 21 and 22. The trek included a trip to Logan where the participants enjoyed three wonderful light operas: Porgy and Bess, Showboat and Most Happy Fella. Performers included outstanding imported singers plus Michael Ballam. These productions were attended on Friday afternoon, Friday evening and on Saturday. The group also visited the tabernacles in Logan and Brigham City and finished the trek with a dinner at Maddox in Brigham City before returning home.

SALT LAKE CITY (Salt Lake City, UT) This year's Summer trek will be on Thursday, August 9th. It will be a bus trek to the Castle Valley Pageant with stops at museums in Fairview and Castle Dale. The Fairview museum has on display many sculpture pieces of Dr. Avarad Fairbanks, including the Lincoln Statue and the Peter and Celestia Peterson statue. This couple were residents of Fairview and set a world record of 82 years of marriage. Also in the museum is a replica of the Columbian Woolly Mammoth skeleton discovered in the canyon about 18 miles east of Fairview. The two museums in Castle Dale contain many items that will have interest for the group. Dinner will be the traditional lamb and chicken, with trimmings, provided at the city park. Montel Seely will be the guest speaker and will

tell of the history of Castle Valley and of his trek by handcart when he and his family participated in the re-enactment of the wagon trek to Utah. Following the pageant the bus will return to Salt Lake City.

TIMPANOGOS (Northeast Utah County, UT)

In July, chapter members were treated to the captivating love story of Joseph and Emma Smith, presented by Buddy Youngreen, respected historian and past president of the Joseph Smith Sr. Family Organization, where he served for 34 years. The dinner meeting was catered in the backyard of Area Vice President Keith Black. Forty-four attended the Chapter Hawaiian Luau in June. The Chapter is sponsoring a pioneer writing and art contest in two high schools.

Note to Chapter Presidents

Please email the *Trail Marker* to your board members and others for whom you have email addresses. You may also wish to discuss great ideas and speakers from other chapters in your board meetings.

Thanks for taking full advantage of this valuable tool.

Jay M. Smith
Grant E. Barton
Booth Maycock