

LDS Church holds open house

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Cardston and area citizens will have the opportunity to take a closer look at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Sunday, Oct. 28, when the church premieres a new film and hosts open houses at the Cardston and Cardston West Stake Centres.

The new film, entitled "The Prodigal Son," is a modern-day depiction of the well-known biblical parable of the same name and will be shown at 5:50 p.m., according to Keith Olsen, president of the Cardston Stake and Cameron R. Leavitt, president of the Cardston West Stake of the LDS church.

Olsen, said the 30-minute film, which will be transmitted from Salt Lake City via satellite, has a strong message. "The film portrays the story of a man who has just returned home after spending months in a rehabilitation centre and the reaction of his family to his return," said Olsen. "It's a drama that shows how choices affect us and how we can all benefit from accepting the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Following the premier showing of the film, guests may view displays or attend workshops which feature discussions about families, the purpose of life, Jesus Christ, and the Book of Mormon.

"We want to invite all our neighbors and friends to visit with us at this open house," Leavitt said. "We think the film has a message for everyone, and the open house provides a great opportunity for our friends to see our church in an informal setting."

The Cardston open houses are

just two of more than 1100 open houses taking place the same night in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico,

Haiti, the West Indies, and the Dominican Republic, according to Leavitt.

Local man appointed to committee

By Dawn Sugimoto May 19 1991

A Cardston resident was one of 10 people named to a steering committee to organize a Canadian Mormon archives.

Willis Pitcher was elected to the committee at the Mormon conference, The Mormon Presence in Canada, held at the University of Alberta May 6-9. The conference addressed the historical and cultural aspects of the Mormon religion.

"There are lots of historical records in the BYU (Brigham Young University) and at the Salt Lake City archives, but that's too far away. We need to get one established here. We'd like to get one started before it's too late," said Pitcher.

Pitcher said the committee's goal is to have the archives set up in two years. The archives will likely be in Edmonton or Calgary, "because it's the universities in Alberta that are pushing this. This is where it all started."

The conference featured 80 scholars, Mormon and non-Mormon, representing all of Canada and parts of the United States who wrote research papers on Mormon history for the event. The conference was the first of its kind, and was a result of Brigham Card's efforts. Card is a professor at the U of A and was one of the key organizers of the conference. "Without his untiring efforts, there wouldn't have been one," said Pitcher.

The conference was attended by 300-400 people, estimated Pitcher. "The attendance was good, and papers were very well-written and very well-received."

The purpose of the conference was "to try to establish the Mormons as an ethnical group and a worldwide church." Pitcher said it is a "new" church, but it is "solidly based and firmly entrenched" as

aimed at collecting and housing historical papers and artifacts," said Pitcher.

While part of the conference concentrated on the history of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, another part dealt with Mormon culture.



Willis Pitcher

...steering committee member

Pitcher addressed the conference on publishing accomplishments in the Cardston area. Robert Low, also of Cardston, spoke on the Cardston Centennial activities. Terry Petrie, director with Cardston Community Theatre, was also scheduled to speak, but he was unable to go to Edmonton because of illness.

Bicki Smith, president of the Cardston Allied Arts Society, took part in the event as well. Smith gathered art from the Cardston area and put together a display. The display covered a wide range of arts and crafts including painting, sculpture, poetry, writing and music from local Mormon residents.

"I felt as president of the Allied Arts Society that it is our

the Allied Arts who attended the conference. "There were several of them who wanted to go, but they had prior commitments. If I'd had more time, I would have liked to have had a part on the program."

The conference generated interest and promoted understanding of the amount of artistic contribution from Mormons in the area. Smith said she was surprised at how "rich" Southern Alberta is in artistic talent. "The writing area was a lot stronger than I was aware of. There has not been much cohesiveness between Mormon artists. We're just not aware of each other, and that's a problem found in all cultural arts."

Smith said she hopes people will realize that "it is possible to make a living in the arts," and will work toward marketing and increasing the marketability of their talents.

Smith said she would also like to see an arts festival from Canadian Mormons. She said the interest in such a festival seemed evident at the conference, and the idea should be considered in the future.

Smith said the research papers presented at the conference will eventually be on file at the Cardston Public Library. The speeches are being sent from Edmonton. Pitcher added the research papers will also be published in book form.

Locals headline Mormon festival

By Kathy Hebson Apr 21 1987

Local Cardston residents will be headlining a Mormon Folk Culture Festival this May at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Robert Low, Willis Pitcher and Terry Petrie will be among a lengthy list of guest speakers at the festival to be held May 6-8 in conjunction with the Mormon Presence in Canada conference, also held at the University.

The folk culture festival brings together the accomplishments of Mormons in art, music, prose, poetry, theatre, film, celebrations and sports, and highlights them in two and half days of informal talk sessions.

Cardston's Robert Low will be featured during day-two of the festival. As chairman of the Cardston Centennial Committee, he will outline the many activities and events which the Cardston and district is holding to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Mormon arrival.

Day Three, May 8, will see both Willis Pitcher and Terry Petrie as guest speakers. Pitcher, president of the Cardston and District Historical Society, will speak on the publishing of two history books, the publishing problems and the accomplishments of the historical society.

Petrie, a University of Lethbridge drama instructor, will join Jon Anderson of Access, Edmonton in discussions on filming Mormon life in Canada.

Former Cardston resident Donald Godfrey, now of Mesa, Arizona, will also be featured. Godfrey will discuss the diaries of Charles Ora Card and case studies in personal and family histories.

Also on tap for the festival are former Raymond resident Richard O'Brien, now at Red Deer College, who will speak on Mormon drama; Gary Bowie with the University of Lethbridge athletic's department speaking on Southern Alberta sports; Kenneth Hicken with the University of Lethbridge music department speaking on the music he composed for the Alberta Temple

Pageant; Dean Louder of Laval University speaking on the Mormon branch in Quebec; Carol Wood of Calgary who will be presenting slide tapes on the Mormon migration from Utah to Southern Alberta to Calgary; and Lethbridge

drama critic Carol Laycock speaking on Mormon writing, journalism, prose and poetry.

The festival is held at the Lister Hall Conference Centre on the University campus. Admission is free.

Mormon conference salutes Centennial

By Kathy Hebson Apr 21 1987
The first major conference on the Mormon people in Canada is slated for May 6-9 at the University of Alberta campus.

The conference, The Mormon Presence in Canada, will mark the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Mormon settlers in Alberta and is also designed to increase the social and historical knowledge of these ethno-religious people in Canada.

"The University of Alberta wants to honor the coming of the Mormon people

in Canada," said Brigham Card, professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Alberta. "This is their way of honoring the Centennial."

Card is one of four key organizers in the three-day conference and was in Cardston last week to discuss details of the event.

Twenty-one sessions will be held and will feature such topics as the creation of the Mormon community, early settlements, the Mormon experience in Mexico and its relevance to Canada and folk culture. Eighty scholars "from Van-

couver to Newfoundland" and from the United States will be addressing the conference, Card said.

Scholars from York, Queens, Calgary, Indiana, and Brigham Young Universities will be represented at the conference, as well as the former Canadian deputy minister of health, former assistant minister of multiculturalism, Secretary of State, and representatives from Agriculture Canada.

Card said the conference will be at-

continued from front page

tended by people from across the country and also expects several to attend from the United States. He is anticipating approximately 300 people to attend. "But it is an expandable conference," he added.

Card would also like to see strong representation from Southern

Alberta, and wants to see a minimum 25 people from the Cardston area attend. "This is the area where the whole thing started," he said.

Willis Pitcher, the local contact person for the conference, said he is hoping a bus trip or car pool could be arranged to transport local residents who are interested in going.