

Father and Sons Dedicate Site for Pioneer Memorial

Aug. 7, 1930

The greatest Gathering of Fathers and Sons in the history of Southern Alberta took place in Cardston on Aug. 5, when the three Stakes, Alberta, Taylor and Lethbridge, combined here, before going on to their camping grounds at Waterton, to do honor to the Pioneers of this town the first Mormon settlement in Alberta, and the parent stake of the three Canadian Stakes. It was originally planned that the exact site where the first pioneers landed in Crdston should be used for the site to erect a "Marker" for their memory, but as the plans progressed and interest grew, and all three Stakes wanted to participate, the plans were changed and a rather elaborate celebration was planned. The site chosen was then determined by a joint committee and the Temple Grounds were selected, and a Rock Cairn was decided upon, with a three way arch denoting the unity and origin of the Three Stakes S. S. Newton, Cardston's veteran Mason and Architect, drew the plans and laid the foundation, and also built a unique marble box in which was deposited a bronze box in which was deposited documents and memorial articles of the Pioneers, including the first issue of the Cardston Record, printed to 1898 and also the last one printed last week, The Cardston News, of July 31, 1930. Many other documents of historic importance were placed in the bronze box and cemented within the marble box during the ceremony of the dedication of the site.

Another feature of the ceremony was the bringing into the structure of a rock from every ward in the entire three Stakes, from Calgary, Taber, Claresholm, Sterling Stavelly, Frankley, Barnwell, and Lethbridge of the Lethbridge Stake, from Magrath, Raymond, Welling, and Stirling of the Taylor Stake and from Cardston, Leavitt, Mt. View, Hill Spring, Glenwood, Aetna, Kimball, Taylorville, Woolford, and Beazer of the Alberta Stake. Although all of these wards did not have their rocks there at before the memorial is completed. These rocks will be built into the very building itself, and will denote the wards of the three stakes from which they came. The whole structure will then typify the growth and development of the country from 1887 when the first pioneers came here, until now when there are some 10,000 Mormons located in these three stakes. There must have been more than 500 fathers and sons presented when this ceremony was done.

The Pioneers

At the very beginning when President Wood called the assembly to order, and after all present had signed the register which was later deposited in the Marble Box on the base of the Memorial, the Pioneers of 1887 were called to the front, and three great shouts of praise were sent up to honor them. Mrs. Jane Bates, Dr. W. Woolf, Mrs. Annie Steed, Mrs. Mary Layton, Sterling Williams, J.Y. Card, Henry Matkin, Ephriam Harker and wife, were among those so honored. Along with them were the Three Stake Presidents: Edward J. Wood, Heber S. Allen, Aseal E. Palmer, and also the Three Stake Superintendents of the M.I.A. - Gerald S. Brown, Mr. Wing, and Frank Steele. Around them also were Oscar Kirkham, W. O. Robinson, Mrs. Beasley, and other ladies and visitors from Utah and elsewhere.

The program commenced with the singing of "O Canada", followed by prayer by President Allen of Raymond, which was a wonderful prayer of thanksgiving, and praise for the Pioneers, and of faith and hope for the future of this country. Various speakers then were called to address the gathering, among them being W.O. Robinson Sup't Wing, Sup't Brown, and Sup't Steel of the M.I.A. then Pres. Allen, Pres. Palmer, and Pres. Wood, after which Stirling Williams, eldest son of Aunt Zina Y. Card, Pioneer lady of Cardston dedicated the site for the memorial, which he did in beautiful language and in a spirit of thankfulness and of hope for the future. Following these remarks were made by Oscar Kirkham, the great Mormon Scout Leader from Salt Lake City, in which he paid tribute to the Pioneers, and the crux of his message being that it takes trials, trivulations, hardships and privations to grow a race of real men, that you never grow real men under Palm Trees or cradled in the lap of Luxury. J. Y. Card and Z.W. Jacobs also made some remarks, largely in reference to the Temple and its meaning as an ensign to the people and a fulfillment of the hopes of the past.

OFF TO THE MOUNTAINS

At about two o'clock in the after noon, after the ceremonies were all over at the Temples Grounds the crowd broke up and fathers and sons began their hike to the Mountains. It was the busiest sight in Cardston for a long time. Hundreds of cars, everyone filled with happy fathers and joyous sons all bent in having a

good time and headed for the Mountains to have it.

All day lone cars were leaving town and others arriving as they did not all arrive in time for the noon-day ceremony. A Great encampment was then begun along the banks of Pass Creek in the Waterton Park on Tuesday afternoon, and the Stores all closed here all day Wednesday in honor of the event, and to allow fathers and sons to mingle together for one day at least away from the cares of business and with each other to be remembered as the greatest Outing ever held in the Cardston history, for after all the focus of attention was on Cardston's history, and in honor of the Pioneers.