

# Washington County Historical Society NEWS



Number 2

September 15, 2003

## MOST IMPORTANT NEWS HEADLINE



**Royce Jones,  
President**

Recently the Mayor of St. George, Dan McArthur and several members of the Washington County Historical Society dedicated a stone arch to signify the entrance to the trailhead of the Temple Quarry Trail. The trailhead is located near the northwestern edge of the St. George airport and the trail itself is clearly visible from many locations around the central or southern part of St. George.

The Mayor heartily shook the hand of Dr. Mark Greene during the dedication as it was Dr. Greene who, for many years, sought out every way possible to establish a more convenient and well-marked trailhead. Indeed, it is Dr. and Mrs. Greene who have devoted not only a great deal of time toward the completion of the project but have also generously paid for much of the construction costs.

The archway is a symbolic entrance to the Temple Quarry Trail, symbolic in that the pioneers who actually constructed and used the trail were far too

preoccupied with their daily tasks to have anything so ornate as the arch to mark their efforts. The pioneer craftsmen would excavate large blocks of basalt (black volcanic rock) on the west side of the airport hill and transport them around to the east side, down the hill and to the site of the St. George Temple. Those basalt blocks now constitute the foundation of the Temple.



Feller Stone performed the construction work on the arch and, during the dedication, it was revealed that the son of the Mayor, Eric McArthur, will be fabricating an ornate metal fence that will extend away from the arch on either side. This work will help him complete his efforts toward an Eagle badge.

# Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history.

Abraham Lincoln

Could this be a view we will see along the Boulevard in the future? Do you think visitors to St. George would remember the area for the little touches of floral displays as well as other significant points of interest? Utah DOT is soon to schedule meetings to discuss what should be done with and on the Boulevard, and your input would be helpful. Lucia Christensen, the Historical Society representative, would welcome your suggestions. She can be reached at 435-656-2661. Tell us what you think!



There are still a few pictures available at the Chamber of Commerce in the Old Court House that Anne Shaw has blessed for purchase. Come see the rendering of historical structures and make your selection! You won't be sorry!



## NO THORNS IN THESE ROSES!

President.....	Royce Jones, 673-3297
Vice President.....	Joyce Whittaker, 628-0971
Treasurer.....	Fred Armbruster, 656-9185
Secretary/Editor.....	Mary Martin 673-9430
Corresponding Secretary.....	
	Lucia Christensen, 656-2661
Publicity.....	Anne Shaw, 628-2497
Membership.....	LuWayne Wood, 628-1878 and Darlene Macfarlane, 673-5376
Immediate Past President,	Mike Empey, 627-0880

## Next Washington County Historical Society Meeting

Plan to join us for the next meeting in the Fall. We meet the LAST Thursday of each month at the Old Court House on St. George Boulevard. Lunch is at 12:00, and the cost is \$7.00. If you prefer not to dine, come anyway; there is no charge. We'd like to get to know you, and have you be part of the St. George family of those interested in the history of our community.

# WORDS...WORDS...WORDS

Lucia Christensen finds the Hidden Ponds:

Shortly after arriving in St. George, six years ago, my neighbor's daughter invited me to share her discovery: 2 hidden ponds. Incredibly they are located just off Main Street, a few blocks from the heart of our city.

They appear to be part of a bygone, carefree era when local children frolicked in the cool waters during the unbearably hot days of summer.

Later I came to learn that these delightful ponds are also a watering hole for raccoons, kit foxes, as well as home to fish and frogs. They help to provide a landing place for migrating ducks, and a forked-horn deer has been spotted sipping its refreshing waters.

The ponds are fed by the Snow Springs, emanating from Sugar Loaf.

Thus began my own love affair with historic St. George.



THE CITY OF TOQUERVILLE is in the planning stages of restoring the Old Historical Church that was built in the 1800's, and adding new construction to the east for much needed city offices.

A meeting was held in June with about 60 townspeople present, and they reviewed plans and pictures plus a proposed budget. The majority of those in attendance were thrilled with the idea of the plan for a community center that would be usable along with new city offices. Bob Olsen, local historical representative, his wife, Virginia, met with the Town Council and Mr. Donald C. Hartly, architect for the State of Utah, Division of State History to examine the plans. Mr. Hartly gave his enthusiastic support and full approval of the project.

The top priority will be in getting the windows replaced as historically correct as possible. There will also be a handicap access ramp and the roof will be put in shape.

The new additions at the rear will provide offices, conference room, rest-rooms, storage and a public area. This expense will be in addition to the historical restoration and is separate. The Zion Piecemakers, a quilting quild in Hurricane Valley, will make several quilts to add color and improve acoustics.

Thanks goes to Bob Olsen for his dedication to grounds care and general community improvement.

# This picture is worth.....



Is this the way to  
Grafton?



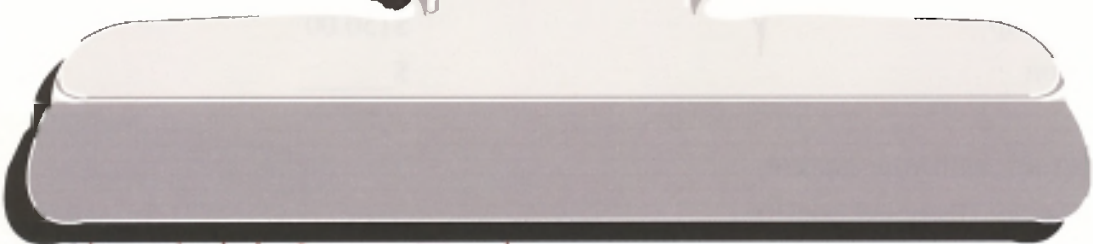
Dave Shrum and his.....??

Watch this space for  
further information!

One brick at a time in  
Toquerville



# MORE HORIZONS - MORE TO DO



The Editor wishes to thank the Computer Wrangler, Marie Merrill, AI Computer Doctor, for her invaluable help!

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JOYCE WHITTAKER, OF SANTA CLARA, REPORTS THAT THE ANNUAL SWISS DAYS CELEBRATION WILL BE HELD FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AND 27, 2003. THE SANTA CLARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PUBLISHING A HISTORY OF SANTA CLARA, UTAH - A BLOSSOM IN THE DESERT. IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY SWISS DAYS, AND WILL CONTAIN HISTORIES OF THE EARLY SETTLERS, INDIAN MISSIONARIES, SWISS SETTLERS, IVINS, CHURCH AND SCHOOL HISTORIES, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESSES OF SANTA CLARA, ETC. IT WILL CONTAIN ABOUT 600 WRITTEN PAGES AND OVER 200 PHOTOGRAPHS. TO RESERVE COPIES, CONTACT JOYCE WHITTAKER AT 435-628-0971. COST: \$45.00 PER BOOK.

CHECK THE SPECTRUM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.



BART ANDERSON, A MAN OF MANY TALENTS, NOTES THAT CULTURE IN DIXIE WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF LIFE ON THE PIONEER FRONTIER.

SETTLERS IN UTAH'S DIXIE FACED MANY DIFFICULTIES ESTABLISHING THEIR VILLAGES IN A

BEAUTIFUL BUT HARSH DESERT ENVIRONMENT. EVEN WHEN FOOD WAS SCARCE, THOUGH, THE PEOPLE "YEARNED FOR SCHOOLS, FOR LIBRARIES, FOR CONCERTS, DRAMA DEBATING SOCIETIES, CLUBS, LYCEUMS, AND LECTURES," LORRAINE T. WASHBURN WROTE. THE YOUNG ADULTS OF DIXIE SATISFIED THAT NEED IN SOMEWHAT SURPRISING WAYS, ACCORDING TO WASHBURN: "IN 1873 A YOUNG MEN'S HISTORICAL CLUB WAS ORGANIZED. UNDER THE SOLEMN LABELS 'UNITED WE STAND. DIVIDED, WE FALL' AND 'WE STUDY THE PAST, TO JUDGE THE FUTURE,' THE YOUNG MEN MET, ORGANIZED, DREW UP A CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, WROTE TWO POETICAL MOTTOS AND ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION. ALTHOUGH THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ARE BRIEF THEY SHOW BESIDES THE EXPECTED RELIGIOUS TOPICS SUCH SUBJECTS AS 'THE HEROES AND PATRIOTS OF THE SOUTH,' 'MATRIMONY, MARRIAGE AND MURDER,' 'NAVY ARCHITECTURE,' 'HISTORY OF SHORTHAND', ETC.

"THE YOUNG LADIES, NO LESS ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES THAN THEIR GENTLEMAN FRIENDS, PAINSTAKINGLY COPIED OR WROTE LITTLE ESSAYS WHICH THEY ASSEMBLED INTO ELEGANT PAPERS TITLED THE LITTLE GIRLS MAGAZINE, YOUNG LADIES' MAGAZINE AND THE BEEHIVE. THE MOST AMBITIOUS OF THESE UNDERTAKINGS, THE BEEHIVE, WAS BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED AND COPIED IN A METICULOUS SCRIPT.

(BART CONTINUES HIS NARRATIVE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER. JOIN US)

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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\$ 15.00

Yearly Membership for Singles

\$ 10.00

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BE YOU!

Lifetime Membership

\$150.00

Other Contribution

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your dues to:

Washington County Historical Society

PO Box 404

St. George, Utah 84771

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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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