

History 101: Dixie style

St. George continues tradition of Heritage Week

By AMIE ROSE

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This year's St. George Heritage Traditions Fair will include a demonstration of a little-known art: hair flowers.

St. George resident Janice Hummel will be making hair flowers at the fair Friday, Jan. 21 and Saturday Jan. 22. Hummel learned the art from her grandmother.

"Until two years ago, I didn't realize what a great thing she taught me," Hummel said.

Hair flowers are made of human hair and usually displayed in a picture frame, she said.

"It is an art almost totally gone," Hummel said. "Most people have never heard of it or seen it done."

And, she added, when people do see it in a museum, they don't realize what it is.

Depending on the size and intricacy of the design, a hair flower can take anywhere from 30 minutes to three hours to make, Hummel said.

She uses the art as a family-



courtesy of Dixie Regional Medical Center Volunteer Services

The Pink Ladies Auxiliary will be honored as part of St. George Heritage Week. Some of the original Pink Ladies include; (seated, left to right) Brenda Foremaster, Blanch Olsen, Minnie Pittman, (standing left to right) unknown, Ruth Wilkins, Laura Congrove, Mary Bowler, Shanna Wadsworth, Winona Wonnacott, Wilma Angeles and Lillian Andrus.

heritage project. She only uses hair she gets from family members, as well as a box of family hair she inherited from

her grandmother.

Hummel said she is the only person in her family who learned the art from her grand-

mother. She added that she hopes to pass it on to her own children, to ensure that it won't die.

Besides hair flowers, the fair will also feature dolls, Brazilian embroidery, antique coins, side saddles, antique quilts, flower arranging, needlepoint and weaving, paintings and sketches, rag rugs and sourdough scones.

The Traditions Fair is part of St. George Heritage week, a week devoted to honoring the city's heritage. This is the sixth year for the festival.

"It's just a great time with the holidays over and a great time for people to come down from up north and share in the element of heritage," said LaRee Jones, one of the week's organizers.

The week starts Saturday with a Moment in History at 2 p.m. at the St. George Tabernacle. The program will feature vignettes of the past, Jones said, as well as honor the Pink Ladies Auxiliary,

• See HERITAGE on D3

Heritage Week Schedule of Events

■ **A Moment in History** — St. George. Saturday, Jan. 15. 2 p.m. St. George Tabernacle, 18 S. Main. St. George. (435) 673-2594.

■ **Heritage Choir** — St. George. Sunday, Jan. 16. 7 p.m. St. George Tabernacle, 18 S. Main. St. George (435) 673-2594

■ **Family Fun Day** — St. George. Monday, Jan. 17. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sand Hollows Aquatic Center, 1144 N. Lava Flow Dr. St. George. (435) 673-2594.

■ **Senior Citizen Dance** — St. George. Tuesday, Jan. 18. 8-10 p.m. St. George Senior Citizens Center, 245 N. 200 West St. George. (436) 673-2594.

■ **Storytelling Festival** — St. George. Tuesday, Jan. 18. 1 p.m. Pioneer Center for the Arts, 47 E. 200 North. St. George. (436) 673-2594.

■ **"Stories for All Ages!"** — St. George. Wednesday, Jan. 19. 7 p.m. St. George Tabernacle, 18 S. Main. St. George. (435) 673-2594.

■ **Storytelling Workshop** — St. George. Wednesday, Jan. 19. 4-5:30 p.m. Washington County District offices, 189 W. Tabernacle. St. George (435) 673-2594.

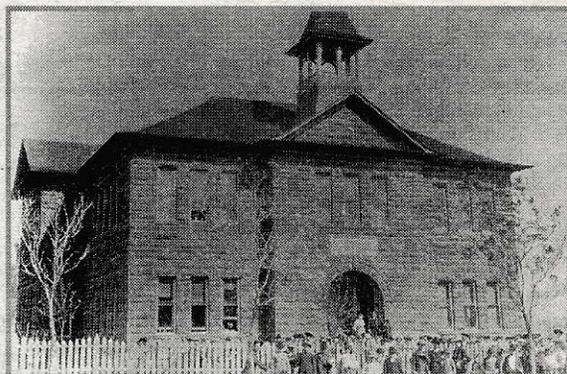
■ **"I Was Called To Dixie"** — St. George. Friday-Sunday, Jan. 21-23. 7 p.m. St. George Tabernacle, 18 S. Main. St. George. (435) 673-2594.

■ **Traditions Fair** — St. George. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 21-22. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Social Hall, 200 N. Main. St. George (435) 673-2594.



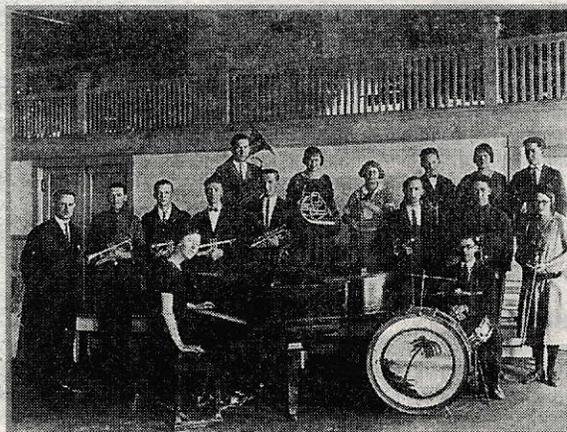
Jud Burkett / The Spectrum file

The Southern Utah Heritage Choir directed by Floyd Rigby (bottom right) performs a song entitled "Cross the Wide Missouri" at the St. George Tabernacle.



courtesy of Lynne Clark Collection

Woodward School has a rich tradition in education in St. George.



courtesy of Lynne Clark Collection

The best-known local music group during the "big-band" era was the Dixie Academy Band, directed by Earl J. Bleak (far left).

HERITAGE

• Continued from D2

now the Dixie Medical Center Volunteer Organization, for its years of service in the community.

The Dixie Hospital Pink Ladies Auxiliary was founded in the early '70s. Its strong foundations, its purpose and service to the people of Southern Utah and northern Nevada, made it a vital part of the community. Through the years the auxiliary has become known as the Dixie Regional Medical Center Volunteer Program. It has swelled to more than 300 active volunteers.

The city presents the community service award each year during Heritage Week. The founding members of the Pink Ladies Auxiliary will be the recipients of the community service awards for the year 2000.

These ladies volunteer thousands of hours to patients' needs that couldn't have been rendered by the hospital staff, Jones said. "Their pledge was to serve with love, patience and kindness."

The Heritage Choir program will be at the St. George Tabernacle Sunday. The choir, Jones said, is known around the world, and sang at Carnegie Hall in 1998.

"I think they're fantastic," she

added.

Also Sunday night at the Tabernacle, the city will give special recognition to two St. George authors, Juanita Brooks and A. Karl Larson.

The third day of Heritage Week, Monday, will be family fun day at Sand Hollow Aquatic Center. Swimming for everyone will be free all day, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Tuesday will be the children's storytelling festival, at the Social Hall, Art Museum and the Opera House. The event will feature third, fourth and fifth graders who won first or second place their schools' storytelling festivals.

Each child will tell a story from one of six categories: folk tales/tall tales, fantasy/myth, fairy tales, original, humorous and mystery.

The children will each receive a medal and a certificate honoring them for their storytelling talent, Jones said.

To learn the art, Jones said, most teachers have been holding lunchtime classes twice a week for the past six weeks for their students.

The storytelling will continue Wednesday, with two well-known storytellers, Karen Ashton and Frankie Colton who will be holding a storytelling workshop from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the

Washington School District boardroom, for high school students and older.

Ashton is the founder of the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival. Colton is an anthropologist, a librarian, teacher at Weber State University and is involved in storytelling organizations.

Wednesday night, Ashton and Colton will perform their favorite stories at the St. George Tabernacle at 7.

Thursday, Jan. 20, "I Do, I Do!" will be performed at the Social hall. Unlike the city-sponsored events during Heritage Week, admission will be charged for this play.

Friday, Jan. 21 and Saturday, Jan. 22, will be the Traditions Fair and "I Was Called to Dixie," an original musical at the St. George Tabernacle at 7 p.m. The musical is based on A. Karl Larson's book.

"It tells all the experiences of pioneers coming to St. George and settling here," Jones said. "It's the last time it will be presented in the Tabernacle — the oldest building still in use in St. George."

"I Was Called to Dixie" will also be performed Sunday, Jan. 23.

Saturday, Jan. 22, will be the city's birthday party at the Plaza. Jones said the city will serve root beer floats and other treats, all free.