

# GRAND TIME HAD AT THE BRIDGE OPENING

Successful beyond all expectations was the bridge opening celebration at Ash creek last Friday. It had been anticipated that there would be about 500 or 600 people there, but this number was about doubled, actual count showing 190 autos there.

Leo A. Snow, chairman of the program committee acted as master of ceremonies and introduced the following, who spoke: Senator David Hirschi, C. C. Neslin mayor of Salt Lake City, Hon. Edward H. Snow, B. J. Finch of U. S. public roads bureau, Randall L. Jones of Cedar City Chamber of Commerce, Bishop Edward R. Frei of Santa Clara, President Heber J. Grant, Representatives Mrs. N. A. Dunyon and Mrs. Arthur E. Graham from Salt Lake county, H. W. Lunt of state road commission, and the bridge engineer (did not catch name.)

After music by the Dixie orchestra, Pres. Joseph K. Nicholes offered the dedicatory prayer. All joined in singing "America," led by the orchestra. Address of welcome was made by Senator Hirschi.

Mayor C. C. Neslin made a happy little talk in which he conveyed the congratulations of Salt Lake to Dixie on this great accomplishment—the road and bridge.

"Pioneer Trail Blazers," the subject intended for Anthony W. Ivins, was very ably handled by Hon. Edw. H. Snow, as Pres. Ivins could not be present. Mr. Snow referred to the earliest white man known to have traveled in this section, Father Escalante. Indian tradition has it that he preached to the Indians from the top of Schnob Kiab (God's Hill) a hill near here. He recalled the travels of Fremont through this gorge in 1843 and extolled the efforts of that intrepid pioneer Jedediah Smith in whose company was Thomas Virgin, later killed by the Indians, and after whom the Virgin river was named. Peter Skeene Ogden, Sublette and other trappers were also mentioned. Mr. Snow paid tribute to the wisdom of the pathfinders who had located the original road over the very path now selected by the modern engineers. The speaker paid high tribute to former Governor William Spry, saying he was the pioneer governor of Utah to give stimulus to road building in Dixie. Praise was also extended to subsequent governors and road commissioners for good work along this line.

President Grant spoke on the beauty of Utah scenery and what this road means in connection therewith.

Mr. Finch spoke on road problems especially all-year-round roads, was interested in putting road through Zion Canyon to Mt. Carmel.

Bishop Frei gave a splendid talk on the economic value of the road. Told of traveling over this road when as a boy of eight years he accompanied his father, a pioneer, carrying a cowbell in advance of his father's wagon so that two wagons should not meet in a dangerous place. Mr. Frei gave some remarkable figures showing what his town, Santa Clara, had accomplished in the way of marketing fruit and vegetables.

Randall L. Jones gave statistics of Zion Park travel, showing the great increase in the past year. Mr. Jones said the Union Pacific predicted 50,000 people would come in 1926.

Regrets were expressed from Governor Dern, former Governor Spry, President A. W. Ivins and Dan S. Spencer that they could not be here.

Hearty applause greeted each of the speakers.

An abundance of luscious melons, grapes, pears, peaches, apples and other fruit was spread out on tables to which everybody helped themselves. This was furnished free by the different towns, and there was enough left over to have fed another crowd nearly as big.

The orchestra gave several splendid selections during the program, under direction of Prof. Bleak, and was heartily applauded.

Other singing besides the opening number was "Utah, We Love Thee," and the "Doxology," everybody joining in and the orchestra leading. Dilworth Snow sang "This is the

Place," in splendid voice, and was most heartily applauded.

Dancing followed on the new bridge (a description of which has already been published in this paper), and a real good time had.

It was sure a great day, the celebration was well planned and well carried out. All who had part in its success are to be congratulated.