

February 1954

## DEDICATION OF PIONEER MONUMENT

-II-

From an address delivered in Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Sunday, May 15, 1927, by Dr. Richard R. Lyman.

The call for this group of pioneers to go from Utah into southern California, came in February 1851. In the following month, March, the long journey was begun. One hundred families were in the company, or five hundred people.

These travelers had to remain in Sycamore Grove three months, or from June until September, while Amasa M. Lyman and Charles C. Rich carried on negotiations with the owners of the large ranches in that neighborhood. At the end of this period a deal was closed for the purchase of what was called the "Rancho del San Bernardino." A payment of \$77,500 was to be made for an area slightly greater than 35,000 acres.

Those forward looking pioneers, when laying out the city of San Bernardino, set aside a public park, which is now known as Pioneer park, and a cemetery, which is now called Pioneer cemetery.

It was soon discovered that going to Los Angeles to record deeds and attend to other county business, was extremely inconvenient. With the thought in mind of securing a new county, these pioneers sent Capt. Jefferson Hunt to the Legislature of California, for the purpose of securing necessary legislation to organize a new county to be known as the county of San Bernardino.

Captain Jefferson Hunt was an unusual character; he was one of the most prominent members of the Mormon Battalion. History tells us he was never given all the honor and advancement in position to which his strength and character and place in the Mormon Battalion entitled him. He was a splendid preacher, a man of eloquence, a sturdy pioneer, and a member of the San Bernardino high council.

In accordance with the instructions he received, this worthy pioneer went to Benicá, California, where the Legislature met, and on the 26th day of April, 1853, he secured legislation which authorized the creation of San Bernardino county, and four days later, April 30, 1853, a commission of four was appointed, in accordance with the act of the Legislature, to make preparations for electing the officers of the new county. It was on that day that the county of San Bernardino was born. The four commissioners who prepared for the election of officers and the creation of the new county were: Isaac Williams, John Brown, David Seeley and H.G. Sherwood.

(To be continued.)

(The above is from the O.J. Fisk collection.)

We are pleased to report an outstanding event in the lives of a couple of our members ... Harriet and John Wagner are the proud parents of a son - Earl Ray Wagner.

John and Mattie Talmadge recently observed their 66th wedding anniversary.

Alice Godfrey Bergman, of Aguanga, and Libbie Mathis Camossi had a pleasant get-together recently, recalling memories of the past, back to their childhood days, when they lived as neighbors in Cajon Pass.

See the February Desert Magazine for Vina Reed's poem of the desert.

Wife to husband: "I scratched the front fender a little, dear. If you want to look at it, it's in the back seat."

"Won't you join me in a cup of coffee?"  
"Sure; you get in first."

Support The Memorial Hall Building Drive....

As we have remarked before, although our need is financial, our most important contribution as members, is our moral support - our expressions of faith and confidence in the attainment of our goal. Of course, behind that is our faith in the Society, and a belief in its aims - the basic reasons for its existence. Having this, we are sure of success.



February 1954.

## BEYOND THE GREAT DIVIDE

"Through the dark and shadowed night, the Master's ever-loving hand  
Has led your loved one tenderly, into His bright eternal land."

Mrs. Ethel L. Varney, member of pioneer Downey family, sister  
of Mrs. R.F. Harvey.

Albert Franklin Roberds, 85, member of pioneer family, native  
and life-long resident of San Bernardino.

## JANUARY EVENTS

- 2d. - Installation Of Officers ... The officers elected during the first meeting in December, were duly installed, outgoing president Ed Hamer performing the ceremonies, with the assistance of marshal Libbie Camossi. Officers installed were: president - Fred L. Harris 1st. vice-president - John D. Wing; 2d vice-president - Harold B. Mecham; 3d vice-president - Ernest Rebecchini; secretary - Mary Benjestorf; assistant secretary - Jessie Crandall; treasurer - Mildred Powers; assistant treasurer - Esther Littlefield; corresponding secretary - Lillie Wing; marshal - Libbie Camossi; assistant marshal - DaVida Godfrey; chaplain - George Wixom.
- 16th. - Benefit dinner, under direction of Mary Benjestorf, helped swell the memorial Hall building fund. Motion pictures in color were shown by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wells, with Mrs. Wells acting as narrator, describing the many historical spots and interesting scenes depicted. They had taken these pictures on a round-the-world tour.
- 23d. - Mary Biery, Betsy Twistern, Tom Merry, Edna Bromilow and Janie Evans were the entertainers in a program of readings and piano numbers.
- 30th. - An impromptu program of story-telling and readings, Mary Biery, Chester Rix, Jessie Merry, Esther Littlefield, Mildred Powers, Myrtle Firestone, Fred Clinton and Tom Merry participating. Members enjoyed the songs and square dances of fifth grade pupils of Del Rosa school, under direction of their teacher, Margaret Babel.

Edna Bromilow was appointed assistant chaplain and also chairman of entertainment for the year.

Janie Evans was again appointed musician.

Ed and Edna Young were appointed caretakers of the cabin.

Robert Jackson was appointed member of Auditing Committee.

January Birthdays .... The following members had birthdays in January: Robert Baldridge, Alice Anderson, Carrie Ely, Fred Dustin, Francis Davis, Elbert Stephens, Walter Vroman, Charles Sprague, Claude Bidgood, Robert Harvey, Hiram More, Ray Kibbee, Julia Bresslin, Lula Fabun, Janie Evans, Archie Mitchell, Mary L. Scott, Bessie Gregory, John Sartwell, A.Wm. Burbank, Rose Rebecchini, Emma Beamer, Beverly Wing, Robert Oliver, Ida Jackson, Emma Turrell and Forrest Purdue.

## COMING EVENTS ....

- 6th. - Awarding of Honorary Life Memberships.  
Entertainment - Mary Biery and Julia Coe
- 13th. - " - Robert Jackson
- 20th. - Dinner for benefit of Memorial Hall - to be served between 11:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., by Mary and her staff - only \$1.00 for a fine dinner.

Lucy Mecham had another stroke - in serious condition.

Leland McIntosh is seriously ill.

Others reported on the sick list are: Emma Collins, Lillie Wing, Emma Beamer, Minnie Bell and Peggy Reese.

Our best wishes to all who are sick ... our sympathy to those who have lost a loved one.