

The Bulletin

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



A Dream That Became A Reality

by *Bette F. Barton,*

President of Daughters of Utah Pioneers
<http://www.dupinternational.org>

The following is a condensed version of an article that appeared in December in Pioneer Magazine, published by the Sons of Utah Pioneers organization: <http://www.sonsofutahpioneers.org>

Let us begin at the beginning of the dream. During the Jubilee Celebration of 1897 commemorating the fifty-year anniversary of the entrance of the pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley, several pioneers' daughters talked of forming a patriotic society that would honor the history and achievements of those valiant individuals. Annie Taylor Hyde, daughter of John Taylor, took positive action. On April 11, 1901, Daughters of Utah Pioneers came into existence at her home with the presence of 47 women who were daughters of actual pioneers.

It soon became evident that if the lives and accomplishments of these pioneers were to be perpetuated and honored, memorabilia from their lives must be collected and preserved, the artifacts they

actually handled and used in their daily lives. As early as 1903 the Daughters had a display of relics. One of the early problems encountered was the lack of a building in which to meet and also to display relics. "The first relic hall was established in the old LDS Tithing Office on South Temple and Main Streets where the Joseph Smith Memorial Building now stands. The first exhibit case was a yellow cabinet bookcase that had been used by Brigham Young. The Daughters made a rag rug for the floor." The artifact collection grew quickly and soon outgrew the Tithing House space. The next move was to the Lion House where again they outgrew the space. In 1911, they moved to the Vermont Building where the Deseret Museum was housed. Flora B. Horne, custodian of relics in the Vermont Building, said, "We all had many visions of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers as we worked among the 'silent witnesses' of pioneer days. Our dream of the memorial hall seemed real. We pictured a magnificent building that told in every line, wall, pillar, and feature our Utah history. We were tired of shifting about and wanted a building of our own. Hundreds of priceless relics were placed in our care. They needed cases and housing. On Sarah Jenne Cannon's birthday, celebrated September 24, 1911, I suggested the

CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 16, 2011
 State Capitol Senate Building
 Copper Room

6:00pm Mobile Watch Meeting

6:30pm Neighborhood Council Meeting

- *Welcome by Chair*
- Mobile Watch Report, Georg Stutzenberger
- Police Report, Det. Tony Brereton, SLPD
- Elected Officials Reports
- Mayor's Office Report, Joyce Valdez
- Public Forum
- Adjourn

NEXT MEETING:
 MARCH 16, 2011, 6:30 P.M.

need for a fund for a memorial building. Everyone present supported the plan. The first money toward the building fund was a five-dollar gold piece placed on the table that day by Emily Richards."

Thus began the realization of a dream. From that time forward the Daughters collected money toward a memorial building. However in 1915 the display was moved to Temple Square. The State Capitol was completed in 1917. Two years later DUP was given space in the State Capitol Building where they had an office, exhibit space and a small gift counter. Here they remained for the next thirty-one years.

Cornelia S. Lund was named life chairman of the Pioneer Memorial Building committee in the fall of 1936 and serious work began to finance the building. The fund steadily increased. This committee was of one mind that the triangle at the head of Main Street directly west of the Utah State Capitol was the ideal place for the Pioneer Memorial Museum. The first hurdle was to receive permission for the "triangle" to be used for the building, and an appeal was sent to Governor Henry H. Blood on September 22, 1936. In 1938 an application was sent to the new Governor, Herbert B. Maw for a lease of the triangle.

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Then in 1940 an appeal was made to LDS church leader David O. McKay, who was chairman of the Utah Centennial Commission, requesting his influence in obtaining the property. Finally in 1941 Legislative Bill No. 56 passed both houses. This bill authorized a lease of the property for the purpose of a memorial building, contingent upon the Daughters depositing \$50,000.00 with the state by February 1, 1943 for the construction of the building. At this time there was only \$11,415.16 in the DUP treasury. What a daunting problem!

Not to worry!! The presidency of Kate B. Carter began with her election in 1941. Many are convinced that without Kate Carter this dream would not have come to fruition. Quoting Jack Goodman's CITYVIEW:

This formidable lady, as more than one Utah legislator said (not disrespectfully), 'was a tartar'. Simply put, there is considerable doubt in a considerable number of aging minds, that this Pioneer Memorial Museum would have existed had there not been a Kate Carter, or a reasonable facsimile of same. Although at times she appeared ageless, she died in September of 1976 after serving 36 years as national president of Daughters of Utah Pioneers..... There were problems, too many to enumerate. But Mrs. Carter and her troops surmounted them all, usually in the most lady-like of fashions-although DUP of that era could

have given lessons in tactics to Jane Fonda and latter-day cohorts who marched against the Vietnam war or who now march for or against more indelicate matters.

With courage and determination, Mrs. Carter and the Pioneer Memorial Building committee met the challenge of raising \$38,585. During World War II all their efforts were directed toward paper and metal collection drives, coordinated by Erma G. Clayton, fundraising chairman for the Central Company of the DUP.

Because costs of construction had steadily risen, permission was granted by the state to raise the amount due to \$75,000 and to extend the date to February 1, 1946. At the same time the State of Utah appropriated \$225,000 toward the building. Daughters of Utah Pioneers architectural committee met with several prominent architects and decided the outside of the building would be designed along the lines of the old Salt Lake Theater (<http://bit.ly/gayjVQ>). Governor Maw, according to the Deseret News, "directed the State Building Board to proceed at once to have plans and specifications for the building and proceed with construction as soon as possible thereafter." On March 25, 1946, ground breaking took place on the triangle.

However, the problems were not over. In 1946 property owners in the neighborhood of the triangle issued protests against the proposed memorial building. Other protests came from Landscape Artists of Utah and the Utah Chapter of American Architects. The protests stated it was

unconstitutional for taxpayer money to be used to finance a building to be turned over to the DUP. The petition resulted in a long drawn out lawsuit in which the governor, state officials and the DUP were named as co-defendants. On February 9, 1948 the court ruled in favor of the Daughters and the State of Utah, upholding the constitutionality of the building.

Because of the long delay during court procedures, the construction company gave notice that the project could not be completed without an additional \$54,000. With confidence in the future, money was borrowed to complete the requirements. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints donated a much-appreciated \$10,000. Ultimately the building project was rescued when Daughters of Utah Pioneers published the history volume, Heart Throbs of the West, written by Kate B. Carter. There were 27,000 volumes printed which sold for \$2.50 apiece. Thousands of books were sold and enough money was made to repay the loan, install asphalt tile, paint the walls and purchase steel filing cases, display cases and draperies.

The dream that had been envisioned by Annie Taylor Hyde forty-nine years earlier, and the magnificent building pictured in the mind of Flora B. Horne in 1911 had become reality through the effort and devotion of national officers, county organizations, camps, and individual daughters. On Saturday, July 22, 1950, three days of dedicatory service commenced with formal dedication occurring July 23, 1950.

After the dedication the organization's collection of vehicles were displayed in

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Advertising	Sylvia Lloyd	sylviaklloyd@msn.com
Editorial Content	Roger Crandall	roger.crandall@comcast.net
Events & Mailing	Lola Timmins	lolatimmins@comcast.net
Layout & Website	Kelly Badger	kelly.badger@gmail.com

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the basement. This included the only original pioneer handcart known to be in existence, Brigham Young's wagon, a mule-drawn street car, some sleighs, and a wagon used by Johnston's Army. It soon became evident as donations kept accruing that there was not enough space to accommodate more large vehicles. Saramarie Van Dyke and DUP president Kate Carter were close friends and often talked of building an addition to the museum to house pioneer vehicles. When Saramarie died she left her entire estate to Daughters of Utah Pioneers for the purpose of building a carriage house. This bequest amounted to \$194,000. The land was purchased, a groundbreaking ceremony held April 8, 1972, and the addition was dedicated October 6, 1973. This important structure was officially named the "Saramarie Jensen Van Dyke Carriage House".

When the Carriage House was built, it was constructed around a 1902 Roosevelt steam powered fire engine, lovingly called "Rosie", which was too large to be brought in through a door. Rosie was rescued from Liberty Park where she had been displayed. Although children loved to play on it, she was being vandalized and falling victim to the weather. Originally the engine was pulled by three horses but was put to rest in 1917 when the Salt Lake City Fire Department was motorized.

Anticipating a project to commemorate the 1996 centennial of Utah's statehood,

Daughters of Utah Pioneers and Bountiful City Fire Department, made plans to restore Rosie. DUP President Louise Green and her board were convinced by Bountiful Fire Chief Brent Palmer, who had fallen in love with the fire engine, that he should be commissioned to restore her. He received a grant for \$10,000 and Daughters of Utah Pioneers donated \$125,000. The facelift began February 4, 1994. Museum Director Edith Menna was apprehensive about removing Rosie from the museum but there was not enough space inside to accommodate the renovation. Thus the fire engine was removed from the museum in 22,000 pieces. After restoration Rosie traveled the State of Utah on display during 1996 – 97 for Utah's Centennial.

Naturally, after she was put back together Rosie would not fit in the museum. Consequently, Daughters of Utah Pioneers under the direction of President Mary Johnson and Museum Director Edith Menna planned an addition to the Carriage House to be Rosie's own special home. The State of Utah appropriated \$350,000 during the legislative session in 1998 for this project. Rosie's home was dedicated January 22, 2000. "The AASLH, American Association for State and Local History, awarded DUP a Certificate of Commendation for the restoration and exhibition of its 1902 engine, 'The Roosevelt,' named after President Theodore Roosevelt."

Pioneer Memorial Museum celebrated

60 years of existence in 2010. After 60 years of service, this beautiful building, designed with the Salt Lake Theater in mind, needed modernization. Of special concern was the old electrical system installed before computers were in use. This concern was confirmed by the electricians redoing the wiring, who claimed the museum was a 'fire waiting to happen.' Recognizing the damage sunlight and direct electrical light can do to artifacts, the necessity of UV protection was addressed at the same time. The light fixtures were rebuilt rather than replaced. The historical integrity of the building was preserved by the architects, construction planners and the watchful eye of the State Capitol Preservation Board.

In 2007 the Utah State Legislature appropriated money for the project. The first phase of the renovation was begun in November 2009 and completed in August 2010. This was the renovation of the inside of the building, including electrical work, painting and general cleaning. The second phase, the outside of the building, began September 7, 2010, and was completed in December 2010. This included installing a new handicap ramp, repairing mortar, cleaning brick, landscaping, building new stairs in front of the building, and uncovering and renovating the skylight.

Rededication of the Pioneer Memorial Museum occurred October 8, 2010. The museum is open Monday thru Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM. We are glad to have the Daughters of Utah Pioneers organization and their handsome building as part of our Capitol Hill neighborhood.

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Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council
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CHNC Meeting January 19, 2011 by Rosann Greenway

The Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council meeting began with Stan Penfold providing useful information regarding our area. Stan reported that he is in contact with UDOT regarding issues affecting 300 West, such as pedestrian crossings, traffic calming options, and medians. Construction may begin this season and be completed this year. Stan also reported that the RDA will make street lighting improvements between 300 N. and 800 N. on 300 West. Stan would like feedback on these issues. His email address is stan.penfold@slcgov.com.

Georg Stutzenberger from Mobile Watch reported that patrol has been quiet in our neighborhood. He and other volunteers are focusing efforts on Federal Heights where they are dealing with student parties and parking violations.

Our SLCPD liaison, Det. Tony Brereton, reported that crime reports dropped by almost half from November to December.

The Deseret First Credit Union located on 200 West and 147 North will be closed. The building will be converted to office space to be occupied by an agriculture support group with national and international clients. An addition will be built at the rear of the building to accommodate an elevator. The stone on the front of the building may be updated, but no major changes will occur.

Our legislative representatives, Rep.

Rebecca Chavez-Houck and Sen. Ben McAdams demonstrated the award winning Utah State Legislative website. They encouraged constituents to use the website to follow the progress of bills and utilize live streaming audio and video of debates and votes. Check it out at www.le.utah.gov.

Robert Miles and Margi Rasmussen, representatives from UDOT, provided updates on two traffic studies on streets adjacent to the capitol. The study at 500 N. Columbus St. revealed that traffic patterns do not warrant any change in the current configuration. Traffic engineers are still studying and analyzing options at 300 N. State St. Mr. Miles encouraged residents to call the 24 hour traffic operations center at 801.887.3700 to report problems.

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