

company I met my wife, Olive H. Farr Walker, sick in consequence of having driven two yoke of oxen from Winter Quarters to this point. I then returned with these same pioneers and traveled in Captain Daniel Spencer's company, arriving in Salt Lake valley on the 19th of September, 1847. The only difference between myself and the Pioneers is that I traveled about 2,000 miles further than they did. In company with one of those Pioneers, Aaron F. Farr of Ogden, I went to the canyon, hauled logs, built houses in the fort, and with a whipsaw made the first lumber ever cut in Utah. From a portion of that lumber I made the three first panel doors made in Utah. I also worked a little on the mill erected by Charles Crismon on City Creek for the purpose of grinding wheat or corn. I assisted George B. Wallace in hewing timber for President Heber C. Kimball's sawmill in North canyon in the early part of 1848, and in the fall of 1849 I worked forty days at framing on the first flour mill built by John Nefl on Mill creek. Aaron F. Farr and myself built the first log houses ever built south of Salt Lake City, in Utah, on Spring creek, Hallidayburg.

Olive H. Bingham of Lewistown, Fremont county, Ida., in announcing herself to be a pioneer relates an interesting bit of history in her communication. She came to Utah in September, 1847, in David Spencer's company. Her husband, Erastus Bingham, assisted the Saints in crossing the Mississippi river while on their western pilgrimage from Nauvoo. He crossed the river for the last time on February 8, 1847, and went as far as Pisgah where he was instructed by Brigham Young to return for his family. This done he journeyed west again as far as the Missouri river and there he joined the Mormon battalion. He arrived in Utah shortly after the Pioneer band and assisted them in cutting timber until the Pioneers started on their return journey, he accompanying them as far as Big mountain, where he met his family, with whom he returned to this valley. Mrs. Bingham resides with her daughter, Mrs. Olive Louisa Bingham Walker, and a son, Erastus F. Bingham, is a resident of Huntville, Weber county.

The Chinese dragon, which was such an interesting feature of the midsummer carnival will be used this year. The costumes of the attendants, which were not in evidence last year, will also be brought here. In none of the night parades the dragon will represent the serpent of the Great Salt Lake. Its gaudy trappings, for that occasion only, will be covered with drapery which will glisten with salt crystallizations and which are expected, under the glare of calcium lights to produce a spectacular effect more magnificent than has ever been accomplished either by scenic artist or float designer. On that evening the pageant will have for its title "Great Salt Lake—Real and Fanciful." The floats will be decorated with materials made from the products for which the waters of the Lake are famous. Saltair will be reproduced in salt; Garfield will be in miniature on a float; the Lake and the islands will be in evidence; the uniforms of the attendants, the trappings of the horses, in fact,

everything connected with the parade will be encrusted with crystals of salt in designs most fanciful and beautiful. As now planned by the commission, the parade should be the grandest ever witnessed on the continent.

The work of the Utah Semi-Centennial Commission is increasing at such a lively rate that it has been found imperative necessary to increase the working force at headquarters by the addition of a stenographer and a clerk. The various committees are also burdened with duties of a most onerous and exacting nature and daily sessions is now the rule with them. Owing to the system adopted for the transaction of business everything is moving without friction and the members of the commission are encouraged by the knowledge that subscriptions to the jubilee fund will come up to their expectations.

E. W. Freeman of St. Johns, Apache county, Arizona, has furnished the commission with the following interesting information concerning Brigham Young's now famous spring wagon:

"We have in our town," writes Mr. Freeman, "the spring wagon that President Brigham Young brought with him across the Plains to the Pioneer company in 1847. I understand that it was seated and used as a council house in the Pioneer company. I also understand that the father of the late Horace Eldredge cut the timber and made the wagon. In Nauvoo President Young purchased it from him. It was brought to Arizona by John W. Young about the year 1881. He fitted it up for a kitchen and used it when he was building the grade of the A. and P. railroad. The wagon was finally left at the Windmill ranch, twenty miles from here. It stayed there exposed to the weather and the ravages of the Indians for several years. President D. K. Udall had it brought here and has taken good care of it ever since."

A friend of the Pioneers and of the News writes: Mrs. Mary Ann Hunter and her eldest daughter Mrs. Sarah Ann Booth of Grantville, Tooele county, Utah, came to Utah in Elder John Taylor's company in 1847, arriving in September or October. The late Edward Hunter Jr., of Grantville, a nephew of Presiding Bishop Edward Hunter, was the husband and father. He was a member of the Mormon Battalion and arrived in Salt Lake City twelve days after his wife and daughter, who came to the valley with Bishop Edward Hunter's family.

Schuyler Everett of St. George writes to Chairman Clawson as follows:

"I came to Nauvoo in the spring of 1843. I belonged to the boys' company under Captain Bailey. I had the privilege of seeing the Prophet Joseph Smith while alive. I also saw him after he was murdered. We were among the last that left Nauvoo, as father was one of those who were left to finish the temple. We spent one winter at Winter Quarters. The following spring father left with the Pioneers, leaving my step-mother, two sisters and myself behind. One morning, on going out, mother found a yoke of oxen with

chain on, standing over the tongue of our wagon. She thought that meant we were to travel on after father. On relating it to her brother, he offered her a team to go to the valley with. I was sent to Missouri after provisions. My sister Adelaide and I drove the team until we met father on his return from the valley. I have spent the rest of my time in Utah, except when I was sent on the Overland mail known as the Y. X. company. On our return home we came around Johnson's army and arrived in Salt Lake valley on the 19th of November. In the fall of 1862 I was called to go to Dixie and I settled in St. George, where I still reside."

Nearly one thousand of the most distinguished men of the nation, many of them accompanied by their families, will be in this city during Jubilee week. They will come from the twenty-four states and territories west of the Mississippi river and will form what is known as the Transmississippi congress. These men are themselves pioneers in the building and civilization of the West and will therefore enter with zest into the celebration of Utah's semi-centennial anniversary. The congress will meet in this city on July 14th and will continue through the week during the Jubilee. Their railway transportation will permit of their staying over for the celebration and efforts will be made to entertain them during this time.

The following letter was written from Spring City, April 8th, to Hon. Spencer Clawson, chairman semi-centennial commission:

Dear sir—Your favor of 5th inst. in reply to my letter of the 28th ult. to Director General Young, is before me, and while I appreciate your kind and favorable sentiments, they do not fully satisfy my mind; for when the late William Hyde and I were walking up to the Kanesville tabernacle, after the Battalion was discharged, President Young said in our hearing, "There are the boys who were the salvation of the Church." And later, at the fiftieth anniversary of the Battalion at Ogden, where the Old Folks of Salt Lake, Davis and Weber counties were also assembled, President Joseph F. Smith said, "If it had not been for the Mormon Battalion you would not have been celebrating here today." The Mormon Battalion started out as the advance guard of the Pioneers in 1846; and if our legislators failed to grasp that fact, cannot these semi-centennial commission take action and recognize and provide for the battalion on the same terms as the Pioneers, for we were passing through here in 1847 on our return to get our families, except those who stopped in California by the counsel of President Young. And they were the parties who opened up the gold fields of California.

Now, we do not ask to be recognized simply to show ourselves, but as a matter of right and justice. I am afraid, however, that we will make a sorry appearance in representing the brave five hundred. But if the committee will provide for the few remaining old veterans on the same terms as the old Pioneers, we will try and be there subject to orders.

Yours to command,

REDICK N. ALLRED.