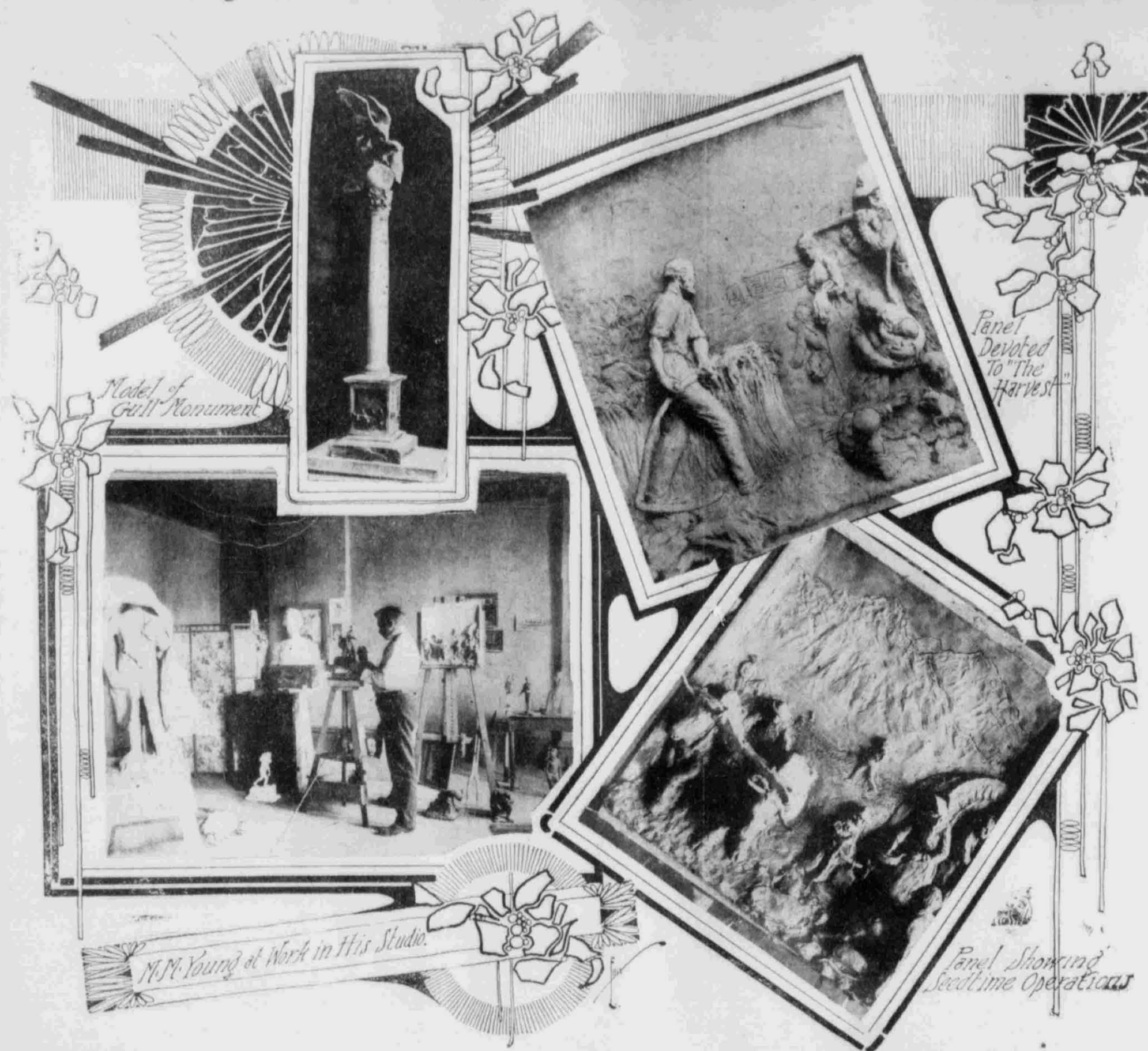


Young Utah Sculptor and His Latest Work.



Photos by Shipley and Johnson.

Monument to Utah Gulls Which Will be Exhibited at the State Fair Next Week.

It is not to come tonight. THE people of Utah have always revered the sea gulls, and plowmen have been glad to stop their horses when otherwise they would tread down on over-adventurous birds, grasping for a newly turned up worm.

On July 26, Mahonri M. Young completed a few clay sketches which were the first ideas to be worked out in concrete form for a monument representing the reverence the people feel for the gulls. Then it was known as a monument to commemorate a Utah legend.

Since that time old settlers have been repeating the story, and Mr. Young has worked away with increased information, until now the perfected model is declared by many who have seen it to be one of the most individual and original things ever done with sculptor's fingers in the west.

PRACTICALLY COMPLETED. The monument is now practically completed in miniature form. It will be exhibited at the coming state fair, and then the people will have a chance to judge what are the possibilities of a larger shaft in marble and bronze. The story which the monument sizes as a motif is original and native to Salt Lake valley. The execution has been in the hands of a native son who grew up when ox-teams still were to be seen on the streets occasionally, and when sturdy plowmen were still telling the youngsters of the first generations how the gulls came when their earliest crops were being devoured by crickets, and how the gulls attacked the crickets, and in the end there was a first harvest in Utah to save a settlement during the rigorous winter of 1848-49.

It therefore is native to Salt Lake in inspiration, execution, and in addition to that proposed to quell out in marble and bronze a story that is as beautiful

as any community was ever able to tell of its first warfare for existence.

INCIDENT OF WAGON BOX.

In the first sketches, there was no wagon box, but President Jos. F. Smith, in repeating the story of the gulls as he saw them come when he was a boy in southeastern Salt Lake, told of chasing a gull under a wagon box which had been taken off its running gear to furnish a first rude home for the family, and this has been effectively worked up in the second panel, which shows the box, with the boys beside it, and a gull flapping its wings as he pursues it. The despair of the times is typified by a father who sits bowed with grief, while the mother, a cricket flail in her hand, gazes to the westward where the gulls appear in full flight towards the perishing crops. This panel will follow one showing a team of oxen plowing the first land, while an Indian sits idly in the foreground, and a swifter follows behind. Old ox drivers, who have visited Mr. Young's studio declare that this pair of oxen are drawn with an exactness of detail that is so life-like that they almost imagine them to be alive and at work. Photographs of oxen in Salt Lake made years ago by C. R. Savage, were used by Mr. Young in getting a typical pair of pioneer cattle to use in his plowing scene.

IN HIS STUDIO.

One of the pictures reproduced here shows Mr. Young at work in his studio, modeling a panel for the monument. Much of the other work shown is interesting. A prospector leading a burro with a bit of quartz in his hand, which he is inspecting as he walks along is a little thing in clay for future reproduction in bronze, typifying the "State of Nevada." A white plaster portrait-bust of Mrs. Young sits in the background, while in various corners are bronzes which brought Mr. Young national recognition three years ago, when they were first exhibited.

JOSEPH SMITH STATUE. A clay model for a portrait of the

Prophet Joseph Smith is a design for a statue to be inserted in a niche in the front of the Salt Lake Temple, an order for this statue having been placed with Mr. Young nearly a year ago. A plaster cast of a "Septuagint Drinking Fountain" is an original design which could well be placed in any public position, where a drinking fountain with an original design is desired. It has possibilities to rival the famous Stephenson monument in San Francisco.

FUTURE OF DESIGN.

What will be the future of the design for a sea gull monument is a question it is not yet time to answer. With the people as a whole the reply must rest, since it either must remain an idea in an artist's studio or be erected by popular subscription of those who know the legend it tells, or by private donations. Perhaps \$20,000 would pay the bill for a marble shaft of suitable size, with bronze tablets. A little more than that was spent for the Brigham Young monument on Main Street, and the people as a whole responded to the call which built this.

WHAT THEY THINK.

A. O. Treganza, who has watched Mr. Young at work during the entire time the monument has been preparing, declares it is one of the most striking and successful things he has seen in that line of work.

Richard W. Young declares that it is far too good for the people to neglect an opportunity to erect it as a permanent improvement to Salt Lake City. He expresses the hope that the Sunday schools and the Young Men's Mutual Improvement association will join hands to finance the proposition, and that another year will see it well on its way to a permanent finish.

QUESTION OF SITE.

Where is the monument to go? The answer to this question too is still in the future. Members of the Commercial club's board of governors, have suggested that Liberty Park be chosen, and that the monument be placed immediately inside the main

entrance, replacing one of the present

flowing wells. Objection has been raised to this on account of the remoteness of the park, and a place immediately inside of the temple wall has been suggested, facing the main entrance, where a granite drinking fountain now stands.

This idea is gaining in favor, and if the Sunday schools and similar organizations should attempt to raise money to build it, this site will no doubt prove a popular choice.

HISTORICAL FACT.

One beautiful thing in connection with the sea gull story is that instead of being a remote legend, lacking verification, it is a cold historical fact, needing no romance of untruth to add to its resolute qualities of beauty and interest.

All histories of Utah narrate the story, and all pioneers tell it to their children, each one emphasizing the visit of the gulls as he saw it and was impressed by it. Most of them tell how they felt that the gulls were coming only to add one more plague to an already burdened community, and how their increased sorrow turned to joy as they saw the gulls fall upon the crickets, not to eat but to destroy and fight them, disgorging them as soon as they were filled to capacity, and then returning immediately to the fray until the horde of crickets were absolutely destroyed, never to return in all the 60 years that have since passed.

PROTECTED BY LAW.

Even the early laws verify the legend. They placed a heavy fine on burning gulls, but better still is the splendid tribute of the gulls themselves to the friendly relationship they enjoy with the settlers in this valley, and their descendants. Go over to the lake, and you will find the gulls will not take much notice of you, while you can slip up to within a few feet of them with your kodak. The complaints on the other hand, will fly in alarm at the approach of your foot.

ALMOST TIME.

Out in Davis county, whenever there is fall or spring plowing the gulls fly

farmward, and settle in beautiful white clouds upon the farmer and his work. They follow close behind the plow and feast on the worms, never fearing either the farmer or his small boy who perhaps plays near but with instructions not to harm the gulls. At night they fly back to their island nests on Stansbury, Hat and Egg islands. One of the tall peaks of Antelope seems to be their guide post, for a party which was storm bound there this spring declares that during the evening, while he took shelter in a rocky ledge just back of this peak, that hundreds of gulls flying low in the heavy wind, came over the peak at almost the same spot, westward bound from the fields of Davis county.

COUSINS ON THE COAST.

The gulls, by the way, are not peculiar to Utah, but are closely related to the San Francisco bay gulls, and to no others. Whether they were left on the lake islands when lake Bonneville shut off water communication with the coast through its extensive recession, is not known but the heavy guano deposits on the islands where they nest have had only cursory investigation. This summer A. O. Treganza made many visits to the egg centers in his yacht Skidoo and he has a series of photographs of them which is the most complete yet taken. It is probable that with the increased interest that will follow the erection of the monument the gulls will occupy a still more fraternal relationship with the people, and will become better known through scientific study. The remoteness of their island homes insures them continued prosperity without special laws for their protection.

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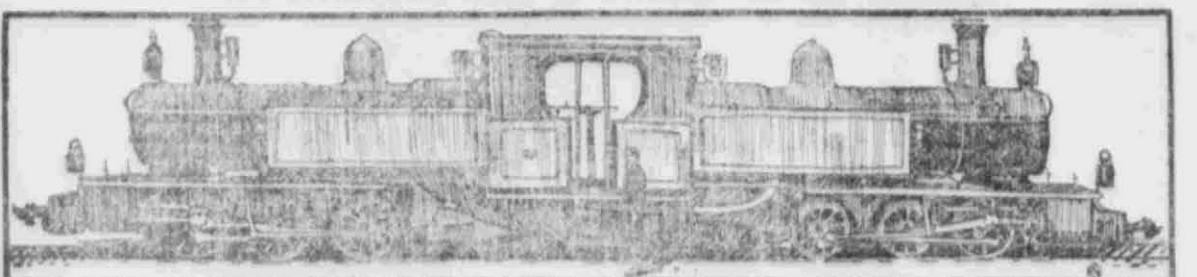
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