

Southern Utah Gives Glad Welcome to Nation's Chief Executive

Greetings of Thousands of Men, Women and Children touch the Hearts of President and Mrs. Harding on Visit to Cedar City and Zion Canyon.

Cedar City, Nestling at the foot of Superb Mountains Brings many Comments of Admiration from the Lips of Distinguished Visitors. Massive and Majestic Zion Canyon Holds them in Wonderment and Reverent Awe.

Iron County Record, 29 June 1923



President Harding on horseback in Zion Canyon.

Wednesday was a Red Letter day for Cedar City and Southern Utah, made so by the visit of President and Mrs. Warren G. Harding, together with their party of distinguished officials and people of national note.

For weeks the people of Southern Utah have been on the qui vive in anticipation of the visit and were delighted and honored beyond their dreams of expectation when the chief executive of this great nation of ours arrived in Cedar City on his special train of magnificent Pullmans.

In anticipation of the arrival of the President and party, people from every part of Southern Utah were present, the total number being estimated at 6,000, a number extraordinary when the limited population of this section of Utah is taken into consideration.

Visitors began arriving Tuesday night and car after car drove into Cedar up to the time of the arrival of the President's Special.

The crowd of eager, loyal and jolly Southern Utah citizens were jammed around the depot grounds, and stretched for a quarter of a mile on each side of Main Street, children dressed in gay attire in front so that they could easily get a view of the President and Mrs. Harding as the party drove past in gaily decorated automobiles.

As the special came to a stop at the depot grounds the local Presidential committee stepped up to the President's private car and greeted he and Mrs. Harding as they alighted. The committee that greeted the President on his arrival was composed of the following citizens: H. W. Lunt, state road commissioner; R. L. Jones, county representative; H. L. Adams,

county commissioner; Parley Dalley, Mayor of Cedar City; Mrs. Allie Knell and Mrs. J. P. Fuller.

As the President stepped toward the waiting throng, his eyes were greeted with a view of 36 native Indians, bucks, squaws and papooses, who had assembled to shake hands with "heap big man of United States," as Captain Pete, chief of the tribe called the President of the United States.

President Harding, smiling, grasped the hands of Captain Pete, and in turn several of the other Indians and suddenly caught sight of a bouncing papoose that was staring with eyes agleam at the nation's executive. Walking up to the child the President patted it on the head and greeted it with a cheery "good morning."

The President then went to where the white citizens of the country were waiting in

pleasurable anticipation of a greeting from him, and was followed by Mrs. Harding, who in a most gracious and whole-souled way called to the assembled multitude "I should be indeed pleased to shake hands with you all, but time prevents. I wish you a very good morning."

The President took special notice of the children who were immediately near him, patting each on the head and cheek and greeting them pleasantly with "Good morning, little one." One little chubby fellow that caught his attention and was looking at him with glowing eyes, was asked his name and he immediately answered "Bob." President Harding then grasped his hand and said "Hello Bob, good morning to you." He then turned and after greeting a large number in his immediate vicinity, he with the other guests were taken to waiting automobiles, which began the journey from the depot grounds past the new hotel and on south on Main street, the line of travel having been roped off and the people lining each side.

Fifty special policemen kept the street clear of people and guarded the street from top to bottom. The special policemen were all ex-service men, many of them in uniform and were stationed about 50 feet apart on each side of the thoroughfare through which the party passed.

As the guests were conveyed on past the throngs of people, children with smiling faces, threw roses in front of the President's car,

making a literal drive way of roses. As the President and Mrs. Harding were being driven along they constantly waved greetings to the people which were heartily returned, and all seemed to radiate a feeling of welcome that appealed to the visitors.

The President was heard to remark that the welcome extended by the people was generous and full of warm cordiality, and that the appearance of so many lovely children was an inspiration to him.

After the party had driven through the principal thoroughfare of the city, it proceeded on the way to Zion Canyon, the cars traveling about one hundred yards apart with the following people escorted by prominent officials of Iron County, Cedar City, and Salt Lake City:

Car No. 1 -- The President and Mrs. Harding, Hon. Charles R. Mayne, Governor, and Mrs. Mayne, Sen. Reed Smoot.

Car No. 2 -- Secret Service.

Car No. 3 -- Hon. George B. Christian Jr., Secretary to the President, Gen. Charles E. Sawyer, U. S. A., Captain Adolphus Andrews, U. S. N., Aide to the President, Mr. Judson C. Welliver.

Car No. 4 -- Lieut. Com. Joel T. Boone, U. S. N., Mr. E. W. Smithers, Stenographer, Mr. J. McDermott, Stenographer, Mr. J. W. Murphy.

Car No. 5 -- K. W. Fassold, Pathe News, John Painter, Fox Film Company, E. Carl Wallon, International News Reel Co., Henry Miller, Keystone View Co., Kadl & Herbert, Pictorial News.

Car No. 6 -- Hon. Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior, Mrs. Work, Mrs. Charles E. Sawyer, Hon. Frederick H. Gillette, Speaker of the House, Hon. Henry C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture.

Car No. 7 -- Mr. Malcolm Jennings, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Kieler.

Car No. 8 -- Ex-Gov. William Spry, Commissioner of General Land Office, Mrs. Spry, Admiral Hugh Rodman, U. S. N., Mrs. Rodman, Col W. J. Greeley, Chief Forest Service.

Car No. 10 -- E. P. Bartley, Associated Press, George R. Holmes, International News Service, Lawrence C. Martin, United Press James R. Nourse, Universal News Service, Sumner Curtis.

Car No. 11 -- Dave Lawrence, Richard V. Oulahan, New York Times, Louis Seibold, New York Herald, Charles Mickelson, New York World, Carter Field, New York Tribune, Robt. Berry, Phila. P. Ledger.

Car No. 12 -- H. P. Stokes, New York Evening Post, Crafton S. Wilcox, Chicago Tribune, Robert L. Norton, Boston Post, Charles G. Ross, St. Louis-Post-Dispatch, Robert B. Armstrong, Los Angeles Times.

Car No. 13 – Arthur J. Sonnett, Newark News, Carl Smith, Oregon Journal, Ashmun Brown, Seattle Times, J. Hayden, Detroit News, Millard J. Bloomer, Co-operative Newspaper Syndicate.

Car No. 14 – F. G. Bonfils, Denver Post, Frank R. Kent, Baltimore Sun, Joe Mitchell Chapple, National Magazine, Stephen T. Early, Associated Press, G. M. Foote, Western Union, W. V. Shipley, B. & O. Passenger Agent.

The day was ideal for the trip, being cool and refreshing, and as the caravan of decorated autos rolled smoothly along, the guests were feasting their eyes on the beautiful landscape and mountains on each side, the vegetation seemingly having taken a brighter and more refreshing tint for the occasion.

At Hamilton's Fort the people of that village were lined up along the road side and waved a welcome to the party, calling cheerily "good morning" as the cars passed.

The next town through which the line of autos passed was Kanarra, and here, too, the people were in line waiting for a sight of the President and party. The people were all neatly dressed and had decorated the principal street of the town for the occasion. The President and Mrs. Harding waved a greeting, which was responded to heartily by every man, woman and child.

From this town the ride down the Black Ridge claimed the attention of every member of the

party to such a degree that all else was forgotten for the time being, and expressions could be heard from many of the people to the effect that the Black Ridge was a most picturesque piece of country.

The next place to attract the attention of the party was Echo Farm, where everybody was warmly welcomed by the proprietor Frank Anderson and his good wife. All were refreshed with fruit of several kinds, and given a drink of the pure, crystal clear and ice cold water for which that farm is noted. Here President Harding, catching sight of Mr. Anderson's eight year old son, and learning that his name was Frank, called, "here Frank, my boy, let's you and I have our picture taken." The two posed while a dozen cameras and kodaks clicked, and the youngster had the honor of being photographed with the Chief executive of the grandest nation on earth, the United States.

After a ten minute stop at Echo Farm the party again entered the cars and proceeded to Toquerville. Here every person in the party were agreeably surprised to find the town beautifully decorated with the national colors, a handsome stand erected containing comfortable seats for the President and Mrs. Harding, Governor Mabey and Mrs. Mabey. The stand was set at the side of the street, and a driveway roped off adjoining it, on each side of which were lined up practically the entire population of Toquerville, Hurricane and LaVerkin.

As the President's car came to a stop the President and Mrs. Harding were greeted by a representative committee, headed by Senator Hirschi of Hurricane.

Upon request the President addressed the people for five minutes and among his remarks he said that "I am more than pleased to greet such a representative body of people, citizens of this great country, the United States. Great honor is due the rugged pioneers who came and settled this country, and proud should the descendants be to have for parents such noble and loyal men, whose foresight was providential. And let me say, that nowhere in all this land have I seen finer American citizens, fitting descendants of those pioneers gone before.

Mrs. Harding also spoke a few moments and expressed her pleasure in being in this part of the world and meeting with such warm hearted and industrious people. As the party left the town sixty beautiful girls, 30 from Toquerville, 20 from Hurricane, and 10 from LaVerkin, placed in each car a basket of choice fruits, and a large bouquet of beautiful roses and other flowers. The fruits, bouquets and baskets had been prepared by the good ladies of the three towns mentioned, and each basket was nicely decorated with the national colors.

Every member of the party was highly pleased and appreciated very much the thoughtfulness of the people of the towns in presenting such a choice assortment of fruits and all were especially enthusiastic in their praise of the

warm welcome given them. The gentlemen who were in charge of the entertaining of the visitors while in Toquerville were: Senator Hirschi Representative Judd and Claud Hirschi of Hurricane; Albert Anderson, Martin Anderson and Walter Slack of Toquerville; Amos Workman and Harry Hall of Hurricane; Henry Gubler of LaVerkin; John T. Batty and Mayor Spilsbury of Toquerville. These gentlemen were enthusiastically helped by the ladies of the towns mentioned, and it is conceded that the welcome extended was all that could be desired and won much praise from the President.

The trip was resumed to the Park and the party arrived at the entrance in good order, without the least vestage of trouble. Here they were greeted with patriotic music by the Dixie College silver band. After registering the party continued to the Union Pacific Zion Park camp where everyone alighted, having enjoyed a remarkable ride, pleasant in every way.

The guests were escorted to the hotel, where hundreds of Washington County people were gathered to do honor to the President of the United States. While the party were dining a program of songs and musical numbers were rendered by St. George talent which was appreciated not only by the President and party, but by the people assembled as well. The program was under the direction of Prof. McAllister of the Dixie Normal, and carried out

with enthusiasm.

After dining the chief executive was introduced to the people, as were Mrs. Harding and several other members of the party.

After the introductions President Harding and about forty of the party were taken up the canyon to view the magnificent scenery, riding horses which had been secured specially for the occasion. Two hours were consumed in viewing the grandeur of the Park. And each and every one was thunderstruck and gaed with awe and reverence on the gigantic cliffs that reared their majestic heads three and four thousand feet in the air. Exclamations of wonder from all visited the wish that their stay might have been extended so that they could feast their eyes to the full on Southern Utah's wonderland, of which they had heard much, but had never dreamed of its immensity.

The trip back to Cedar commenced at shortly after 4 p.m., and was made in schedule time. At every hamlet and town the people were again assembled to wave goodbye to the nation's chief and first lady of the land.

The party arrived in Cedar at 8:30 p.m., where a larger crowd of people were gathered to greet the President than had assembled in the morning.

The President made a twenty minute speech from the rear of his private car, and among his remarks he said the following:

"I am acquainted with pioneer stock. It has made the United States. By the difference between the arid and cultivated sections I can read the story of your work. To you men and women who came with your families in covered wagons into this country when the water still flowed through its natural gorges, the nation owes a debt of gratitude. I am the first President of the United States to come and express that gratitude but I feel sure that when I tell of this trip to my successors all future Presidents will come to visit this country of wonders."

Following the President, Senator Reid Smoot addressed the throng and was followed in turn by Mr. Gillett, Secretary of the House, Mr. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, Governor Charles R. Mabey, Ex-Governor Spry, each of whom complimented the people on their royal welcome to the President, on their loyalty to their country and splendid spirit of enthusiasm manifested in all things pertaining to the upbuilding of this section of the glorious state of Utah.

At the conclusion of the address by the gentlemen named, the President's special pulled out of the depot grounds amid the cheering of the multitude of people, and the call from hundreds of "Good Luc, Mr. President."

So ended one of the most interesting days of Cedar City and Southern Utah. A day on which a President of our nation visited the people for the first time in history, and a day that will never be forgotten by the people who participated in welcoming the President of the United States and the First Lady of the Land.

Zion	Exploring	Natives	Pioneers	Towns	Resources	Arts	History	Photos	Maps
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