

# Cedar City Owned Oxen and Pioneer Wagons Featured in Mammoth Death Valley Parade

A record crowd, estimated at 100,000 people, jammed into Desolation Canyon, about three and one half miles south of Furnace Creek Inn in Death Valley Saturday December 3, to witness the Death Valley Centennial celebration for the coming of the first white man into the region.

Attracting wide attention in the show were the eight covered wagons and oxen from Cedar, owned by Gronway R. Parry. The Bennett party was portrayed in the Parry wagons.

Men from Cedar City who took care of the wagons and acted as oxen skimmers were Edwin Higbee, Thurlo Gardner, William Flanigan, Otto Fife, Wilford Bergstrom and Tug Madison.

The pageant, which lasted well over two hours, depicted the Bennett and Jayhawk party trek through Death Valley, beginning from the time the people left Illinois until, they abandoned

their wagons and oxen in the Valley and continued on foot into California.

Approximately 1,000 people took part in the pageant, which included a symphony orchestra and a large mixed chorus. Also on hand, at the invitation of the Forty-niners, Inc., was a colorful group of old prospectors and guides. Long white beards were the rule rather than the exception,

Arrangements had been made in the amphitheatre formed by Desolation Canyon to seat 30,000 people. By the time the pageant began, 100,000 were in the canyon and an estimated 30,000 cars were in the area.