

February 26, 2003

Dear Citizens of Salt Lake County:

Greetings from the past! I am Nancy Workman, the first Mayor of Salt Lake County, and I'm pleased you've unearthed our little treasure. We worked hard to capture a bit of what Salt Lake County was like in 2002, and we're thrilled to present you with the result of our efforts.

The first official meeting of Salt Lake County government was held March 15, 1852. To commemorate a century and a half of development and progress for the residents of Salt Lake County, we celebrated our Sesquicentennial in 2002. Representatives from all 15 cities within the County, most unincorporated areas, and current elected officials provided memorabilia for inclusion in this time capsule to be opened in the year 2052. As you see, many unique items such as Olympic pins, pictures, scrapbooks, and even a horseshoe from "Chester," the last equestrian resident in the Imperial area, were donated.

Our County's Sesquicentennial celebration began on March 14, 2002, when Governor Mike Leavitt signed a document proclaiming March 10 - 16 as "Salt Lake County Government Week" commemorating our 150th year in "business." Next we held our Sesquicentennial Summer Celebration kick-off on August 21, 2002 in First Amendment Park, currently located in the central-east area of the County Government Center plaza. At that time we had many of the donated time capsule items on display. We invited all County Council members, city mayors, community council representatives, County employees, the media, and the public to join us that day. We announced the launch of our new County Sesquicentennial Web site (www.150.slco.org) and invited residents to enjoy Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation facilities with "2-for-1" admission during the week of August 21 - 25, 2002.

We wrapped-up our Sesquicentennial festivities with the dedication of this time capsule on February 26, 2003. Because the capsule had to be prepped and ready in time for its dedication, all items were sealed in the time capsule on February 24, 2003. Note the issues of the Deseret News (Sunday, February 23, 2003) and Salt Lake Tribune

(Monday, February 24, 2003)—both are the most recent issues available at the time the time capsule was sealed. Currently, the Salt Lake Tribune is a morning paper, and the Deseret News is an afternoon publication.

Other interesting facts:

- Great Salt Lake County’s population 150 years ago was about 7,000. Today our population is 900,000.
- During World War II the County’s total budget was around \$2 million. Today the budget is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a billion dollars.
- In the 150 years since the creation of our County we have had three forms of governments:
 - Probate Judge and Selectmen
 - Three Commissioners
 - Mayor/Council
- Some of the most important issues for early County government included building roads, controlling water privileges and granting mill sites. Today, some of our most important issues are maintaining roads, conserving water and granting mall sites.
- In 1868 the Territorial Legislature dropped the word “Great” from the County’s name. A lot of us think the legislature was wrong; Salt Lake County is still great.

Included with this letter is a complete list of all items buried here, as well as a list of all employees who were involved in making Salt Lake County’s Sesquicentennial Celebration happen. Without their diligence and enthusiasm, a project of this scope would not have been possible.

The mission for Salt Lake County government is to “meet the needs of tomorrow through a dynamic vision and sound decisions today.” It’s unlikely the leaders who organized what was known as Great Salt Lake County government 150 years ago would have chosen those exact words, but since that time I believe our County leaders have been driven to make the right decisions for the future of our community.

This Sesquicentennial celebration marked a significant period in Salt Lake County history—the birth of a new form of government, the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, and

the memory of September 11, 2001 were all still fresh in our hearts at the time we buried this capsule. I hope that in 2052 you find our accomplishments measure up and far exceed the legacy endowed us by our founders.

Sincerely,

Mayor Nancy Workman