

Peter Munk Is Honor Guest At Special Meeting

The special program honoring Manti's centuarian, Peter Munk given in the South Ward chapel Sunday afternoon featuring a pageant of his life was well presented and well attended. The newly decorated auditorium of the chapel was filled to capacity. The program was sponsored by the High Priests quorum of the South Sanpete Stake.

The highlight of the pageant was the appearance of the aged guest in the closing scene. Hale and hearty, the 100-year old, stalwart was alert and highly appreciative of the honor being shown him. Members of the Old Folks Committee from Salt Lake City were present. They gave congratulatory speeches and presented Mr. Munk a Red, White and Blue badge of honor.

The pageant was presented by members of the Peter Munk family. It was written by Mrs. Eunice A. Garbe, who was also the reader. It opened with a scene in the humble Munk home on the island of Bornholm, Denmark, depicted the hard experience of the long journey to Utah under pioneer conditions and closed with the scene of the guest's large posterity.

Born September 21, 1844 in a humble wood house covered with mud, plastered and whitewashed, on the island of Bornholm, Denmark. Mr. Munk is a son of Christian I. and Anne Marie Rasmussen Munk. Next to the living quarters was a woodshed and barn, all under the same roof.

They burned peat in those days, and Pete's mother went to the forest near by to gather bark used in an outdoor oven when she baked bread. A private teacher was engaged for Peter, for the school house was too far away. The families frequently were "snowed in" during winter time.

His parents were converts to the L. D. S. church and he and his brothers and sisters accompanied them to America in the Fosgren immigration company—the first group of Scandinavian L. D. S. converts to come to this country. They arrived in Salt Lake valley in September 1853, just after Peter's ninth birthday.

The family was sent by Brigham Young to help settle Sanpete County. They settled first at Spring City, then "Little Denmark", but Indian depredations caused them to move to Manti. When he was 16, he worked for Yens Hansen and received as payment an old ewe. From the one ewe he got his start in the sheep business, later purchasing 100 head of sheep and placing them in the Manti cooperative herd. He has owned a share in the herd since.

In 1868, he helped build the Union Pacific railroad through Echo and Weber canyons, earning enough money so he felt he could be married. His bride was Eunice Ann Brown and they were married November 24, 1868 in the old Endowment house, Salt Lake City.

All their three daughters and one son are living and there are 19 grand-children and 29 great grandchildren, three of whom are in the armed forces.