This special edition newspaper highlights the last 100 years of events, people, and places of Zion National Park, but the timeline of Zion began much earlier.

Humans, who have inhabited southern Utah for over 10,000 years, continue to visit this mysterious canyon. Why? Originally it wasn’t to hike or take pictures, rock climb or rest. Food and water...it was as simple as that. Human survival meant gleaning from the land its scant harvests. Archaic peoples, Ancestral Puebloans, and Southern Paiutes, the latter inhabiting this area for the last several hundred years, had extensive and intuitive knowledge of the plants, animals, and seasons. Homes were temporary brush shelters used for sleeping or to escape the heat. As they observed their surroundings, they knew they could “make a living.” They would hunt, fish, gather, and grow modest crops. Whatever was necessary to ensure their survival was used, but the harvest did not begin until asking and thanking the generous bounty.

This ancient way of life is gone now. Today, when traveling through on vacation, our temporary home isn’t a brush shelter but a tent or motel. We graze on granola rather than rice grass. Our water source comes from a tap, not the natural springs in the rocks. We don’t need to forage in order to live. But what may not have changed is a deeply felt, personal experience after we set foot here: the sound of the song of a river; a canyon wren scolding us; the subtle perfumery of sagebrush and juniper; the sight of cliffs that make us think big and feel small. Yet here we stand, mouths agape, eyes wide.

What will your harvest be? Joy, relief, excitement, challenge? Unlike our earliest visitors, we come to collect not things but knowledge, not resources but memories, not trophies but satisfaction.

Zion National Park has shed its winter whites, brushed off the dry remains of last season’s display, and opened its arms to you. The sun warms the ground. Buds and birds return once more. A quiet liveliness rustles and shuffles through the park. This year is special. We have the chance to reflect on the last century of what it has meant to come to this place. A Century of Sanctuary—1909 to 2009—includes the millions of people who have made their journey to Zion and, in many ways, made their mark. From the initial establishment of Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909 to this year’s gala packed with events, dedications, and programs; we can know, always, that we have an unchanging landscape to visit. With all the changes in the world, we can take comfort in returning to this spot. We can believe that, even though our personal world may be unsettled, sitting and gazing deep into the soul of this canyon, we might find contentment—we might find peace. John Muir suggests: “Keep close to Nature’s heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”

May your spirit be renewed and soar as high as the highest cliffs. May this visit to your park be a remarkable experience.
What's in a Name? History.

Art of Sacrifice

Part of the Towers of the Temple and the Virgin, behind the Human History Museum, this distinctive cliff was named for the red iron oxide streaking down in front. The streaking of minerals washed down the cliff confers the appearance of Wood on a sacred altar.

Angels Landing

Named by Methodist Minister Frederick Vinling Fisher during an excursion up Zion Canyon in 1914. Fisher was accompanied by two Rockville boys acting as guides. Claude Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham. After Fisher painted the striking profile of the Great White Throne he referred to it as a names it Mukuntuweap, thinking of the Zion Lodge. He refers to it as a canyon as Mukuntuweap National Park.

On the top of the cliff, he left the name on the rock, but would reverently pause at the foot of Angels Landing.

Overlooked Mesa

Beckons to the future. The name stands from the cliffs distinctive checkerboard pattern. The horizontal lines are caused by erosion, a remnant of ancient sand dunes. The vertical lines form because of the contraction and expansion of the sandstone. This peak was originally named according to Mountain West Superintendent Preston P. Patraw. By Claud Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham. Cline Wash

Isaac Behunin, the first settler who had a farm near the present day Zion Lodge. Later the cliff was renamed for the small marsh arch or “String buttons” found near the top of the cliff.

Cable Mountain

Named for the cable structure on top. The cable works were implemented in 1910 by young pioneer David Flanigan. His hope was to fulfill Brigham Young’s prophecy that one day the tree would come down from the cliff of Zion Canyon “like a herd of oxen.” The cable works proved to be a success. The system was used to provide building timber for the pioneer around Zion Canyon. The cable’s main role was in place for over 20 years. Wood from Zion Lodge came down the cable works.

Deertrap Mountain

Found near the east entrance. The name origin is unknown, but possibly named for the area. This peak was originally named according to Mountain West Superintendent Preston P. Patraw. By Claud Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham. The Grotto

Behunin Canyon

In the southwestern corner of the park, named Checkerboard Mountain by the Mormons. It is a Hebrew word, later interpreted by Mor- mons to mean a place of sanctuary.

Angel’s Window

Mukuntuweap Canyon by the United Order. The town of Rockville was established at this time. The town was in place for over 20 years. Wood from Zion Lodge came down the cable works.

Vining Fisher during an excursion up Zion Canyon, up Pine Creek, through 1.1 miles of sandstone, to end at Mt. Carmel.

West Temple

The highest feature in Zion Canyon. Called “Tempt-o-i-tin-car-ur” meaning “Mountain of God.” It is unclear where the name may have come from.

Refrigerator Canyon

This cool canyon brings a breath of fresh air in one part of the park. Refrigerator Canyon is on the first road. Walter’s Wiggles

Rock built after the discovery of gold in the area. Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham, residents of Rockville, on one 1916 trip with Meth- odist Minister Frederick Vinling Fisher. Bingham, residents of Rockville, on one 1916 trip with Methodist Minister Frederick Vinling Fisher.

Zion National Park and expands the boundary to include the high points above the canyon. Walter Ruesch is the first custodian.

The entrance bridge during construction. Drifting in the tunnel was very gritty work.

A Tunnels Through Time

A rock fall at The Grotto creates Great Arch and burns the Cliff. The tuyere is a tunnel. It was a Sunday and the family was in town.

With a Southern Paiute guide, Neep Johnson becomes the first Anglo to enter Zion Canyon.

A well-documented account of Zion Canyon for the widely read Scribner’s Magazine.

A Tunnels Through Time

With naming Zion Canyon: “These are the mountains and valleys of God. Among these great cathedrals as well as in any man-made church—this is Zion.” Zion

Zion Mormon pioneer Isaac Behunin is credited with naming Zion Canyon: “These are the mountains and valleys of God. Among these great cathedrals as well as in any man-made church—this is Zion.” Zion

Zion National Park

Frequent reference is made to Zion as a sacred temple and was in place for over 20 years. Wood from Zion Lodge came down the cable works.

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The decade was unmistakably the 1920s. The distinctive sound of jazz echoed through the streets and into the homes of millions of Americans. Emily Post defined what was considered proper and polite within society. Meanwhile, in cities throughout the East, Republicans failed to hold their stylish new mansions and furnished the dance floor. This post-war period proved a prosperous, innovative time in the United States. Many congregated within cities and took interest in the stock exchange, while new inventions like radio and television would shape the culture well into the future. This decade marked the first time in the history of the nation that the number of people residing in urban areas surpassed those living in rural surroundings. As cities grew, architecture evolved and skyscrapers—complete with high-style furnishings, became the new fashion. Travel, too, became a leisure that more and more people could afford to do so. By 1927, more than 10 million automobiles existed in the United States. For longer travel, railroads sprang up across the countryside. Rail travel had faced its peak in the 1920s and became an integral part in the promotion of tourism, including attractions to the West's scenic wonders—its national parks.

A second bridge is built and is still in use today. A bridge is built over the Virgin River at Canyon Junction as part of the Loop Tour. It is matched away by a flash flood a few years later. The Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway and tunnel. It doesn't change again until 1987, extended all the way to the North Rim.

Tour No. 1A—Five Days
1st day
Lv. Cedar City
At Grand Canyon
Bryce Canyon
Zion National Park
2nd day
At Grand Canyon
Lv. Zion Natl. Pk.
At Grand Canyon
3rd day
Lv. Bryce Canyon
At Grand Canyon
Zion National Park
4th day
Lv. Zion Natl. Pk.
At Grand Canyon
Bryce Canyon
Zion National Park
5th day
Lv. Bryce Canyon
At Grand Canyon
Bryce Canyon
Zion National Park

Each day includes motor bus transportation and three meals and one lodging at Zion Lodge, six meals and two lodgings at Grand Canyon Lodge, two meals and one lodging at Bryce Canyon Lodge and one meal at Cedar Breaks Lodge.

The Golden Age of the Loop Tour

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Lv. Bryce Canyon
At Grand Canyon
Zion National Park
4th day
Lv. Zion Natl. Pk.
At Grand Canyon
Bryce Canyon
Zion National Park
5th day
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The all-expenses included standard cabin accommodations. If “lux” cabins were desired, the additional charge per day was $4.25 for one person or $8 each for two people.

The road from Zion Canyon is extended at the way to the Temple of Sinawava.

A bridge over the Virgin River is built and still in use today. The Zion-Mt. Carmel highway and tunnel. It doesn't change again until 1987, extended all the way to the North Rim.

The road that Zion Canyon is extended at the way to the Temple of Sinawava.

Zion Lodge opens, operated by the United Parks Co., a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Ange's Woodbury is hired as the first Park Naturalist. 10,817 people visit Zion.

Grand Canyon Lodge, two meals at Grand Canyon Lodge, one meal at Cedar Breaks Lodge.

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Utah Parks Company Motor Bus Tours 1948

A Century of Sanctuary
After Zion was designated a national monument in 1919, life in the canyons remained a wildness of steps, while civilization and modern man changed outside its boundaries. For the families who made their home in Zion, nature still played a major role. For children brought up here, that first recollection, and the landscape that is etched in their minds as home, is a wild, open and unchangeable one.

Living in a national park also means living with the mandates of a conservation agency. There are guidelines and rules to contend with. Lorna Jolley Kesterson, daughter of the park's chief ranger in the 1920s, remembers they were not allowed to cut logs like other settlers did. "My dad was pretty strict about what we were doing. He would not cut down even one branch of a tree while some Hollywood filmmakers were making a movie in the park. That's the way he was very strict, stick with regulations."

The rules about pets were interpreted differently. Since domesticated animals were domesticated to the natural environment, families inside the park could not keep them. But, at Lorna's ranch, "we had one mountain sheep that took over our whole house inside. The inside would come in and slid the sheep. My mother finally decided the sheep was too tough for us." The children also had two baby cougars as pets as well as a family of ring-tailed cats in the attic.

Through no one is keeping cougars as pets anymore, children living in the park today share many experiences with the young people who came before. They may meet wild turkey at the school bus stop, stay up past their bedtime going at a sky watching in stars, and spend lazy Sundays counting kestrel that ran through the backyard. Certainly they will share the freedom experienced by other young people in Zion. Another prior resident remembers "the freedom to go up there in the hills." She recalls, "I always felt so fortunate to have been born there. We slept outdoors in the summertime. That was a big thing, to have a coldsnack. Oh, just put in the spot, you know, and the stars above and the good fresh smell of everything..."

And the children lucky enough to spend a few summertime in a park might carry a sense of responsibility too. Just like their park ranger parents, they are learning everyday what is about that place to make it worth protecting. They will know what is it to make and why a place like Zion means so much, now that modern civilization seems to outnumber those wild places. Often children follow in their parent's footsteps, but it seems that many park langers chose their career because their earliest experiences were in America's treasured places. Maybe they did not grow up in a park, but they took care of them with the same feeling that Della Higley, a Springdale resident for eight decades, shared: "We loved the land and we love the park, and we felt that the land should be taken care of and not destroyed."

"It was a wonderful place to grow up." Della Higley

Range family is from this "elderly" town. 1918.

Zion National Park turns 104. Park visitation reaches 2,452,000. The economic impact of the park on surrounding communities is $396 million and creates 2,452 jobs.

The largest fire in the park's history burns 10,516 acres.

The Kolb brothers open the Kolb Gallery. 1938

Zion National Park turns 150. Park visitation reaches 27 million people. Tourism since 1916 is now more than 60 million.
Centennial Events

ZION NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 100 YEARS ON JULY 31, 2009. EVENTS AND PROGRAMS WILL commemorate this milestone for Utah’s most visited national park. The centennial recognizes the park’s initial establishment as Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909 and Congressional designation as Zion National Park in 1919.

A Century of Sanctuary
Juried Art Exhibition
Historic and contemporary paintings, St. George Museum of Art, St George, Utah, August 25, 2008–May 23, 2009

Zion: A Creative Response
Art Exhibition
Southern Utah University student and faculty work, Zion Human History Museum, March 2–April 20

Zion Centennial Celebration
Juried Photo Exhibition
Utah photographers, Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, March 31-May 11

Special Ranger-led Programs
Zion National Park, April–October

Zion Canyon Centennial Fun Run
10Ks of fun on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, April 18. Advanced registration.

In the Footsteps of Thomas Moran
Z-Arts!: Zion Arts & Humanities Council
Invited artists painting locations sketched by Moran in 1873. April 20-24

Springdale Folklife Festival
Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, May 9

Red Rock Rondo
Live concert and debut of PBS musical documentary about Zion, O.C. Tanner Amphitheater, Springdale, Utah, May 9

Children’s Vision of Zion & Springdale
Photo Exhibit
Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, June 23-August 3

Zion Postage Stamp
First day of sale, June 29

Zion: The Integration of Art and Science
Arts and Sciences Student & Faculty Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah, May-June; Salt Lake City Office of Tourism, July-August

100th Anniversary Ceremony
The Grotto Historic Building, Zion National Park, July 31

Post Office Stamp Cancellation
Zion Canyon Visitor Center & Kolob Canyons Visitor Center, July 31

A Century of Cinema
Movies filmed in Zion National Park Thursdays, starting August 13

Tunnel Walk
Through the 1.1 mile-long Zion–Mt. Carmel Tunnel, August 26. Advanced registration required.

Historic Photos of Zion
Iron Mission State Park, Cedar City, Utah, September 1-October 9

Zion National Park
Utah High Schools Student Art Exhibition Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah, September, 2009.

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For more information visit www.nps.gov/ zion or contact Karen Mayne, Centennial Program Coordinator; karen_s_mayne@ nps.gov; 435 772-0210.

For Red Rock Rondo tickets or information visit the Western Folklife Center website, www.westernfolklife.org.

Photos courtesy: top left and lower center, Sherratte Library Collection, Southern Utah University; top center, and lower right, Zion NP.