

# 100 years celebrated



SCOTT SINE/PARK RECORD

Local centenarian C.B. Copley celebrated his 100th birthday during a celebration at the Coalville LDS ward on Saturday, May 23.

by **Kirsta H. Bleyle**  
OF THE RECORD STAFF

In the celebration of a lifetime, Summit County's only living centenarian, C.B. Copley, was honored Saturday, May 23, at the Coalville LDS ward with a turnout of friends and relatives honoring 100 years of his service to the community.

While the guest of honor sat in a high-backed wing chair, receiving the approximately 75 guests in an orderly fashion, attendees were given glimpses into Copley's past in the form of a small display on a nearby card table. A sepia-toned photo of Copley as a handsome young man is positioned next to a more recent photo of Copley and his late wife, Clara, who were married for 68 years.

His most recent honors were also displayed, including a letter from the National Geographic Society recognizing Copley, who joined the society in 1920, as one of its "longest-tenured members." Also, a letter signed by Utah Governor Michael Leavitt noted that Copley, as of his birthday tomorrow, May 28, is now a member of the Utah Century Club - an honor only few Utahns can claim.

Copley is something of a legend in the North Summit area, where he taught science and math in the high school for 47 years. To this day, the 100-year-old Coalville native teaches a weekly gospel doctrine class in the ward where his

birthday celebration was held.

According to Coalville Mayor Merlyn Johnson, Copley has "been a great asset to the community over the years and, in fact, he's still a great asset." He noted that Coalville City has named May 23-30 "C.B. Copley Week," in honor of the man who, Johnson said, remains a significant source of information regarding Coalville's history.

"Most people, when they get up to that age, their mind starts to miss," Johnson said. "(C.B.'s) just as sharp as ever."

But Copley has always possessed an impressive mind. As a student at the University of Utah in 1917, he received an award from then Governor Simon Bamberger for having the highest grade point average in the freshman class. Copley went on to graduate from the university in 1921 after only three years, earning degrees in math, physics, and Latin.

In addition to his 47 years as an educator, Copley served as Coalville's official weather observer for over 40 years, taught approximately 1,800 students, traveled to 46 of the lower 48 states, and received the prestigious Silver Beaver award from the Boy Scouts of America in 1935.

Copley was also chosen by KSL-TV to discuss his experiences with the Boy Scout program as part of a documentary videotaped last fall.

After serving his community for so many years as an educator, Copley likes to recount a phrase he once heard from a colleague regarding the two ways in which a teacher is paid:

"There's the green stuff he folds up and puts in his pocket. But the other stuff, you put in your heart."

And, as further example of the legacy Copley will leave to innumerable individuals, he has established a number of generous scholarships, including two in physics and astronomy at Brigham Young University, one in math at the University of Utah, two in home-making and music at Ricks College, and seven scholarships in the local public schools.

The North Summit Heritage Society, in a joint venture with the North Summit Business Association, will honor Copley again on June 6 during an open house as part of the North Summit fishing derby, rodeo, and bull-tamata celebrations, Johnson said.

As for the continued celebration in Copley's honor, Johnson said, it is the just reward for a citizen who has given his time and experience to the North Summit Community for the good part of a century.

"He's a fantastic individual," Johnson noted. "I don't know anyone who treats his neighbors better than C.B. Copley has over the years. It's a great honor to have