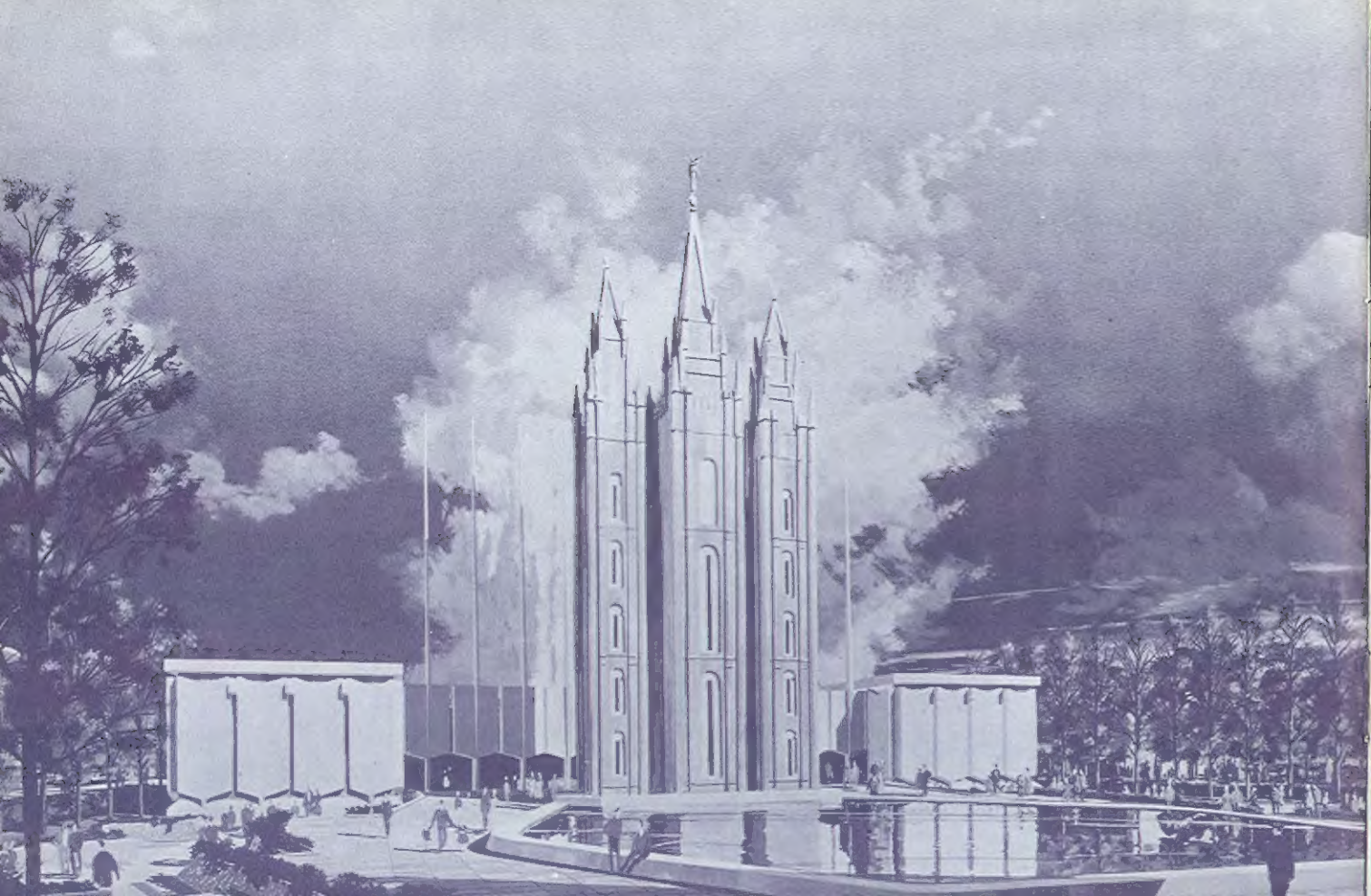


*The Church
of Jesus Christ
of Latter-Day Saints*

MARCH 27, 1963

GROUNDBREAKING AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965



Following are excerpts from remarks by officials at groundbreaking ceremonies for the exhibit of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, held at the New York World's Fair, Wednesday, March 27, 1963.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Chief of Protocol]: Ladies and gentlemen, the invocation will be given by Mr. Wilburn C. West. Mr. West is President of the Eastern States Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He has served on the High Council of the Washington Stake in the District of Columbia and as a Bishop, prior to his call to the Eastern States Mission.

WILBURN C. WEST: Our Father which art in Heaven, this day we express our gratitude for the many blessings which we enjoy from Thy hand. We are grateful for life and for the privilege of living, at this great time in the history of the world, when the gospel of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, has been restored again to the earth. We are grateful for the vision of this great World's Fair and for the part we shall have in bringing that vision to fulfillment.

We pray that through the united effort of all, peace may be achieved through understanding. We have met this day to break ground for one of the great exhibits of this Fair. We pray Thee that everything which is done here this day and which may be done throughout the lifetime of this exhibit will help man to find happiness, and we ask it in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, known to us all as the Mormon Church, will show, on this site, through motion pictures and exhibits, the history and the accomplishments of the Church and its world-wide membership. The building will be constructed around a replica of the soaring façade of the great Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.

I am told that the top of this pavilion will rise 127 feet, making it one of the highest buildings of the Fair and should reflect the highest credit on the Church and its members. Our first speaker today will be Mr. G. Stanley McAllister, president of the New York Stake of the Mormon Church, and vice president of Operations and Research for Associated Dry Goods Corporation. He has long played an active and important role in many activities of the Church. For 18 years, Mr. McAllister was a director of Building and Plant Operations for the Columbia Broadcasting System. He became vice president

← The exhibit of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints surrounds a 120-ft. tall replica of the façade of the Great Temple of the Church in Salt Lake City. This façade will be crowned by a statue of the Angel Moroni. Architect, William Hamby.

and operations manager of Lord and Taylor in 1946, and then moved up to the vice presidency in the parent company of Associated Dry Goods in 1959. He is a former president of the Scarsdale Board of Education and a charter member and director of the New York Citizen's Committee of Public Schools. He has also served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Education. My friends, I give you Mr. McAllister.

G. STANLEY McALLISTER [President of the New York Stake]: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. It's a privilege to be here today on this site. When we look back on the problems and difficulties of acquiring these opportunities, it's quite thrilling to be here this morning. We have some very distinguished guests with us today, people who have taken part in gathering information and have participated in bringing this idea to fruition, and I would like to have you meet them: Elder Delbert Stapley of the Council of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and a member of our Executive Committee for the Fair. Elder Richard L. Evans, a member of the Council of the Twelve, who is also a member of the Executive Committee for the Fair, and known to you probably through his voice on the Tabernacle Choir broadcast.

I would also like to have you meet President George H. Mortimer, president of the New Jersey Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and also a member of the Committee, as is Robert Sears, of the New Jersey Stake; James B. Conklin, president of the Inter-

national Broadcasting Corporation of the Church. We are also glad to have Isaac M. Stewart with us today. Bernard B. Brockbank will be the managing director of the Fair's operation. He is an assistant to the Council of the Twelve of the Church and one of the general authorities of the Church, and will be living in our area during the operation of this project.

David W. Evans, of Salt Lake City, has sponsored and been of great help in organizing activities surrounding this Fair. Our two architects are with us today: William Hanby and A. Grant Fordyce. It is their design and concept—with that of Harold Burton—which have brought our plan into architectural beauty, and we are very pleased to have them with us.

I would also like to introduce Raymond Daly, president of the George A. Fuller Construction Company, and his assistant, Richard Olds. These gentlemen will build our exhibit.

There are many others who have played important parts in making this occasion possible. I would like to pay tribute to the World's Fair officials, who because of their cooperation, sympathetic understanding and desire to be of help have made this possible: Bill Ottley, Stuart Constable and Robert Moses. We are mindful of the great help each of these gentlemen has given us and we thank them very much. It is now my privilege and great honor to introduce to you Elder Harold B. Lee of the Council of the Twelve, who is the chairman of our Committee, and the man who directs our activity here today, Elder Lee.

HAROLD B. LEE: It's my high privilege and great responsibility to lead the officials of the Church in the direction of what is to us a very momentous and important occasion. Because this is to be the center of our Church activities, you will understand why I chose some Scriptures to introduce remarks I shall make.

In a great and meaningful Scripture, the Lord said: "Wherefore as ye are agents ye are on the Lord's errand, and whatever you do according to the will of the Lord, is the Lord's business." We conceive of this, therefore, as something more than just a business venture. To us it's a significant, spiritual operation. We are on the Lord's errand today, and we are now engaged in His business. He said on another occasion: "Therefore, be not weary in well doing, for ye are laying the foundation for a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great." I suppose that not even the architects who have conceived the image of what will rise on this ground, know the greatness of that for which they plan. The builders themselves may not conceive to full extent the magnitude of what will be conducted here.

Perhaps none of us know the far-reaching effects of what we are building. But in order for us to understand, something else was said: "Behold," He said, "the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind, and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days." I might say to you gentlemen who are associated with us, and to whom we extend deep gratitude and appreciation for your cooperation, we feel that



Ambassador Richard Patterson, Fair Chief of Protocol, introduces officials at groundbreaking for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The ceremony marked the start of construction on an exhibit that will include a replica of the façade of the Great Temple of the Church in Salt Lake City.



the more unselfish, unpaid, dedicated service we can put into this endeavor, from the Church's standpoint, the more will be achieved in greatness. For thereon lies the foundation of the Church. The dedicated service of its thousands of people in unpaid ministerial activities and missionary work has made the Church what it is today.

We were very much intrigued by the theme that has been chosen for the Fair—the dramatization of the interrelations of peoples throughout the world and their hopes for peace through understanding. We have tried to capture that spirit in this exhibit for our more than two million people throughout the world. Our theme is based on the premise that the aim of all purposeful living should be the pursuit of happiness, as distinguished from mere pleasure, and appears as scripture: "Man is, that he might have joy."

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those on the local committee, particularly President McAllister, President West and their associates.

To all of you attending our ceremony today, we express our appreciation and trust that the turning of the shovels full of dirt which signal the official beginning of the structure will mean a happy relationship for the forthcoming years, 1964 and 1965.

Stuart Constable, Fair vice president for Operations, presenting commemorative medallion to Elder Harold B. Lee at groundbreaking for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

May I, in closing, as representative for the President of the Church, David O. McKay, assure you of our complete cooperation towards the success of this great Fair — perhaps the greatest the world has ever known. Thank you and may peace be with you always.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you, Elder Lee and Mr. McAllister. The next speaker is Stuart Constable, vice president of Operations for the Fair. I might mention to those of you who are not associated with us here at the Fair that Mr. Constable has been the colleague of Robert Moses for over 35 years. He has travelled the world over in contact with those concerned with international events. I give you Stuart Constable.

STUART CONSTABLE: I'm not here to make a speech but to present two World's Fair medals to Mormon officials. It's been a great pleasure for us to work with an organization such as this with the authority and ability to make rapid decisions. The decisions they have made have advanced this project immeasurably. We are delighted to have the Church of Latter-Day Saints in our Fair. We know their exhibit will be one of the best attended exhibits at the Fair. Now I should like to present the World's Fair medal to First President David O. McKay — who is not able to be here today. Brother Lee, will you take this medal for President McKay and give him my personal regards? And one also for you, Mr. Lee.

G. STANLEY McALLISTER: It is customary for us

to offer a dedicatory prayer on such occasions. We believe this will be a sacred spot and ask President George H. Mortimer, of the New Jersey Stake, to offer the prayer and benediction on this service.

GEORGE H. MORTIMER: Our Heavenly and Eternal Father. With hearts overflowing in gratitude we assemble on this plot of ground selected as the site for the exhibit of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at the New York World's Fair. We are grateful, Heavenly Father, for all events which have transpired to make possible our assemblage here on this day.

Our Heavenly Father, by virtue of the Melchizedek priesthood, which I bear, I dedicate this site for the exhibit of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints that it may be a place of prayer, meditation and instruction; a place where people can come and feel lifted in spirit, and raised above the problems, trials and tribulations of the day — to see ahead the hope for life eternal and a way to reach Thy celestial kingdom.

We do pray, Heavenly Father, that all who come here may feel the influence of the things they see and hear, that they may retain them to become a part of their lives and that Thy purposes for us here, and for all who live upon this earth, may be fulfilled. To this end, Heavenly Father, we dedicate this site. May it fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the First Presidency and those who have been instrumental in bringing this exhibit to its present state. We do all this in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

will have
a 50,014 sq. ft. exhibit
in the Fair's
Industrial Area.



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WORLD'S FAIR
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