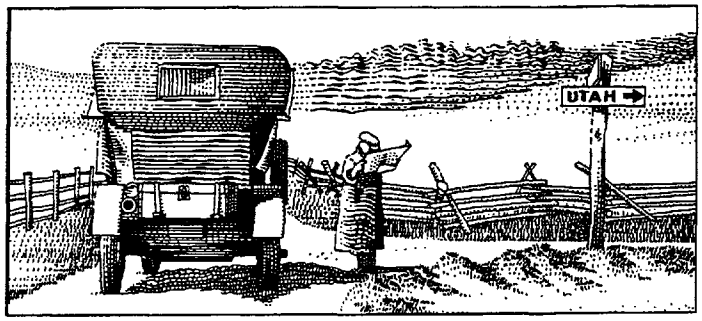
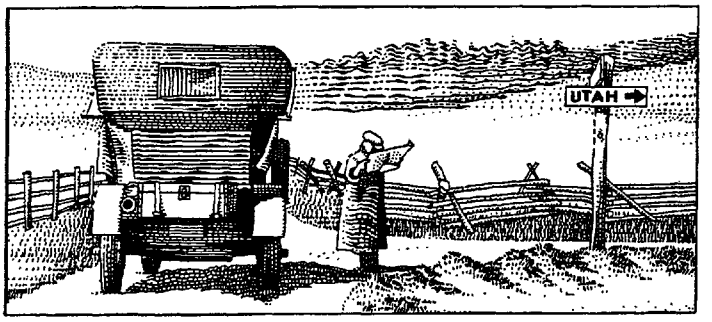


THE HISTORY BLAZER

NEWS OF UTAH'S PAST FROM THE

Utah State Historical Society
300 Rio Grande • Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 533-3500 • FAX (801) 533-3503

June 1996 Blazer Contents



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Law and Disorder in Early Corinne

THE BOOMTOWN OF CORINNE, BOX ELDER COUNTY, burst into existence when the east and west arms of the transcontinental railroad finally met at Promontory in 1869. Corinne quickly became a crossroads for freight and passengers heading north into Idaho and Montana. For ten years the town served as the bustling economic and cultural center of Utah's Gentile minority until, in 1878, the Utah and Northern Railroad wrenched away the freighting business, and the little metropolis withered to a quiet Mormon farm village.

But while the boom lasted Corinne boasted 250 vigorous business establishments. Among them were liquor and tobacco wholesalers, billiard rooms, banks, breweries, freighting companies, ice cream and soda parlors, livery stables, auctioneers, Chinese laundries, gambling saloons, and houses of ill repute.

If Corinne's business sector was lively, so was its municipal life. Corinne was chartered by the Territorial Legislature early in 1870. That March five political parties ran candidates for city office. The Malshite and Munrorer parties (named for two leading mayoral candidates—Malsh and Munro) vied with "towners," "down towners," and "north siders" for the positions of mayor, five two-year council seats, five one-year seats, and two justices of the peace. When Malsh and Munro tied, lots had to be drawn with Munro winning.

Corinne now had a government but no funding and apparently no city hall either. The first quarterly meeting of the city council convened in the offices of O. D. Cass, M.D. The second meeting was held "at the hay scales," with the new town marshal assigned to provide seats and lights. Neither seats nor lights (nor the marshal, for that matter) appeared, so the meeting was adjourned.

Many council meetings adjourned for lack of a quorum. Yet somehow a number of ordinances were enacted. Citizens were required to control their dogs and pigs, polygamy was disallowed, gambling parlors and houses of ill fame were prohibited, as was swimming in the Bear River within city limits, and visitors were not to carry concealed weapons or shoot up the streets.

Because each of these laws was routinely broken, the city had a constant list of outstanding fines on its books. In fact, the marshal's primary job was to collect overdue fines. However, some fines were written off, as when the city recorder tripped while carrying a bottle of ink, blotting out pages 61 through 74 of the city record book.

By summer town fathers must have found headquarters, for the local newspaper reported that a 22-foot square jail was to be built on the back of the city hall. The jail cost $260.33. The city tried to pay the builder in city warrants, whereupon the contractor "broke the jail all to pieces,

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loaded it up, and carried it away." For the time being the city had to pay private citizens to house and feed prisoners.

If the city had trouble paying its bills, local businessmen did not. In 1871 the same Dr. Cass who had let the council meet in his offices founded the Bank of Corinne. Soon a gracious brick building to house it went up on Montana Street between 5th and 6th streets. It was slightly larger than the jail had been, with a vault room, back office, and cashier's living apartment.

The bank flourished. The city continued to have trouble collecting its taxes. Eventually there were no funds to pay the marshal. The Retrenchment Committee, appointed to consider this problem, at first leaned toward dispensing with a marshal altogether. But given Corinne's high crime rate, they decided to cut his pay from $100 to $50 per month and allow him to keep a percentage of his collections.

He fared better than the city council. In straitened circumstances, the council abandoned their city hall and rented an old paint shop for $25 per month, using the front room for council chambers and police court and the back room for the town Board of Trade (presumably the town's licensing division).

It was a good thing they kept the position of marshal, for brawls and gunfights continued unabated. Two marshals quit, unable to collect their salaries, and a third lasted only one week. Taylor Shipley, the one-week marshal, was not the officer who stopped Horace Greeley (*the* Horace Greeley of *New York Herald* and later presidential campaign fame) and Jay Cooke from racing up and down Montana Street at breakneck speed in their carriage. "This is the not the Bowery," they were told.

In January 1873 the newspaper criticized the current marshal for arresting four of Corinne's leading citizens. The four admitted to having shot a stranger who, during "a friendly game at cards," had accused them of dishonorable behavior. After all, argued the editor, it was purely a private affair among gentlemen, and the leading citizens had buried the man "with every mark of delicacy and respect."

By 1875 the Bank of Corinne had closed its doors and the town was already declining. In 1885 the little brick bank was sold to the city, which at last had its own town hall.

Sources: Brigahm D. Madsen, *Corinne, the Gentile Capital of Utah* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1980); Bank of Corinne Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Preservation Office files, Utah Division of State History.

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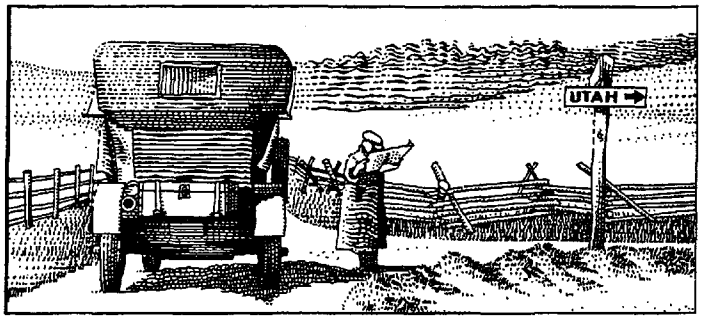

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Guano Sifters on Gunnison Island

MAKING A LIVING COLLECTING BIRD DROPPINGS does not exactly sound like the ideal job, nor are mineral patents for the mounds of guano deposits on the islands of the Great Salt Lake particularly a great way to get rich. However, from the mid-1890s until some time after the turn of the century a guano harvesting business did exist in Utah. The bird rookeries of Gunnison and Hat (Bird) islands produced thousands of baby gulls, pelicans, and herons. These islands were also the production sites of a substance that was useful as fertilizer. Guano, rich in phosphate and nitrate, had been excreted by the birds for centuries and deeply coated the rocks of the islands.

Gunnison Island in the northwest part of Great Salt Lake is only a mile long and contains about 160 acres of land, yet is the nesting ground during early summer for huge populations of gulls and pelicans and some herons. Its rocks provide excellent homes for the infant birds and the surrounding waters protect them from predators. The 22-acre pile of granitic conglomerate that is Hat Island in the southwestern area of the lake serves the same purpose. Where there are birds there is bound to be bird waste; thus enterprising minds could see value in those deposits covering the rocks the birds chose as homes for their young.

Commercial guano gatherers first came to Gunnison Island in the mid-1890s and began their work. Alfred Lambourne, a Utah artist, lived on Gunnison Island for a year starting in November 1895 and shared the island with guano sifters about whom he wrote in his book of musing and art, *Our Inland Sea*. He had been living on the island alone until March when the guano sifters came to spend several months harvesting the rich deposits. All at once the island seemed a beehive of activity, causing the pelicans to look elsewhere for their nesting sites. The gulls, however, were not deterred by mere commerce.

The guano sifters built a long, narrow cabin of rounded slabs and filled it with provisions, utensils, and their implements of labor. With their strange occupation and various nationalities and appearances, they intrigued Lambourne who saw them with an artist's eye and enjoyed their company on the island despite their destroying his solitude.

In the March wind the guano sifters went right to work. With pick and shovel, some dug up the guano deposits while three men worked at the sieves. Enveloped in clouds of brownish dust they passed the mineral through the screens and put it into bags. The men attacked the guano mightily, and the area soon was covered with trenches and pits as they gathered the ancient deposits.

Among the crew that Lambourne watched were a Pole, a Russian, a Scot, and an Englishman. They had traveled the world harvesting guano in places as distant as the islands off

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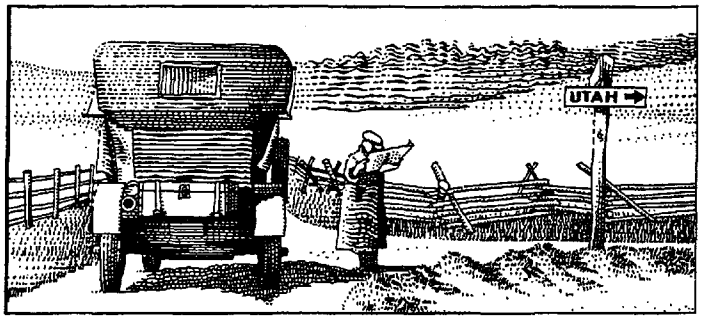

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the coast of Brazil and in the Mediterranean Sea. Lambourne nicknamed one brawny man "the Drudge" because of his strength and work habits. The genial guano sifters provided pleasant company for Lambourne on the lonely island. However, the gulls looked upon them as invaders, screaming constantly at them.

By early winter their work had ended for the season, and a schooner came to take them and their product away. Lambourne too left the island before a new crew would arrive.

Sifters also worked Hat Island. A cabin built by them remained for years as evidence of their occupation.

The first carload of Utah guano was marketed in April 1895. Several hundred tons of guano fertilizer were used by Utah farmers, who apparently achieved favorable results with it. Mineral claims were filed on the islands. Efforts were made to promote the produce. *The Mountain Empire: Utah*, a book written by George E. Blair and R. W. Sloan to promote Utah, praised the substance as being rich in phosphoric acid, nitrogen, ammonia, and potash—ingredients that would make an excellent fertilizer. In a sworn statement to the U.S. Land Office in Salt Lake City, August H. Vogeler told of the two-pound onions and excellent lawns he grew when he tested the guano from the islands. Chester A. Bullock, a fertilizer expert of Ohio who visited and analyzed the Gunnison Island deposits, wrote a letter to the Utah Guano Company stating that the deposits were valuable and that the company should find a "ready market." In 1904 it was believed the guano could be "dug, sacked and placed on the train for $2 per ton," according to Blair and Sloan.

Despite such optimism, the guano business did not fly. It never proved a successful business venture. Although there was easy access to the guano, it was difficult to harvest. Additional problems occurred when rain washed the deposits into the lake as it accumulated. Interest in it died.

Once the guano sifters permanently left the islands, the birds returned. Gulls, pelicans, and herons again congregated on Gunnison and Hat Islands to nest and raise their young in peace. Once again thousands of wings flashed in the sunlight reflected by the salty lake, myriads of raucous calls filled the air, and bird droppings coated the rocks.

Sources: Alfred Lambourne, *Our Inland Sea: The Story of a Homestead* (Salt Lake City: *Deseret News*, 1909); George E. Blair and R. W. Sloan, editors and publishers, *The Mountain Empire: Utah* (Salt Lake City, 1904), pp.72-73; Dale Morgan, *The Great Salt Lake* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1947) pp. 375-376; Workers of the Writers' Program, Works Progress Administration for the State of Utah, *Utah: A Guide to the State* (New York: Hasting's House, 1954, Utah Institute of Fine Arts, 1941), p. 485.

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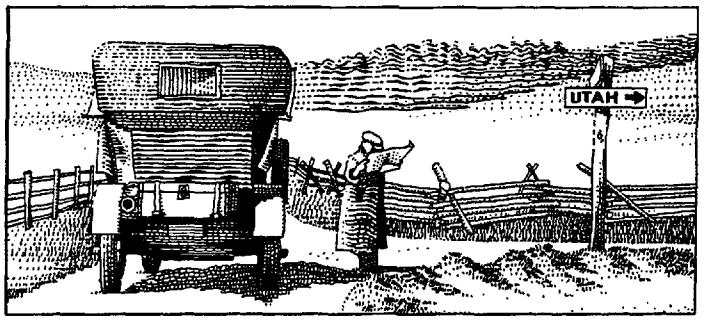

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Sister Augusta and Catholic Education in Utah

THE MOST STRIKING FIGURE IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF Catholic women's work in Utah was a Holy Cross nun, Sister Augusta. Born Amanda Anderson in 1830 in Virginia, she was reared after her mother's death by an aunt who lived on a ranch in Ohio. The ranch had a grist mill and housed the only Catholic chapel within fifty miles. Young Amanda helped the Indians who brought their corn to the mill to be ground. She also visited them regularly, taking food and medicine to the poor and sick. She rode horseback to attend a small country school. At age 24 she joined the Sisters of the Holy Cross at St. Mary's in Notre Dame, Indiana, where she took the name of Augusta.

In 1861 Sister Augusta was called to the U.S. Army hospital in Cairo, Illinois, to care for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. Known as "the soldier's friend," she began an association with General Ulysses S. Grant who consulted her about the care of his men. She ministered to others in need as well. On one occasion she visited a critically ill young widow, Maria Antonia DeVoto, who worried about her children Rose and Florian. Sister Augusta promised to be responsible for their care. After their mother's death the children were raised by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Indiana. Rose accompanied Sister Augusta to Salt Lake City where she became a teacher of voice and English. Florian, who received a master's degree from Notre Dame, later became the father of the nationally known historian and critic Bernard DeVoto who was born and raised in Ogden, Utah.

Traveling to Utah at the request of Father (later Bishop) Lawrence J. Scanlan, Sister Augusta and a companion, Sister Raymond, stayed in the home of Judge Thomas and Sarah Marshall until their convent was opened on First West between First and Second South. The Marshall family's St. Bernard dog adopted the sisters and accompanied them almost everywhere. Judge Marshall arranged a meeting with Brigham Young. He received the sisters with kindness, explaining that he could not aid them financially but encouraging them to open the school Father Scanlan proposed. Though there were only a few Catholic families in the city then, Sister Augusta shared Scanlan's vision and understood the need to establish a school.

Within a week plans for the school were being drawn up by architect G. C. Davis of the 14th Infantry at Fort Douglas. The cost of the building was estimated at $25,000, and the work of soliciting the funds for it fell upon Sister Augusta and Sister Raymond.

Week after week the two sisters took to the road. They visited every mining camp in the area from Ophir to Alta, climbing to the famous Reed and Benson Mine and the Prince of Wales, which employed many men. The miners were generous, and soon the money needed was in hand.

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The building was completed in three months. St. Mary's Academy opened its doors in September 1875 to 100 pupils, mostly Protestants. The first graduate of the academy was Louise Heffernan, daughter of the commanding officer at Fort Douglas.

Because the sisters had created such a favorable impression in the various mining camps and smelter towns, workers petitioned them to open a hospital in Salt Lake City. Sister Augusta responded by renting a brick house on Fifth East for $50 a month. It accommodated twelve patients and established the foundation for the Holy Cross Hospital. As the hospital opened and other Catholic churches, schools, and an orphanage were built, additional sisters came to Utah to assist in the work Sister Augusta had so courageously begun. Sister Augusta left Utah in 1889 to become the first Mother General of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in the United States.

Source: Bernice M. Mooney, "A History of Women in the Early Catholic Church in Utah," MS in Utah State Historical Society collections.

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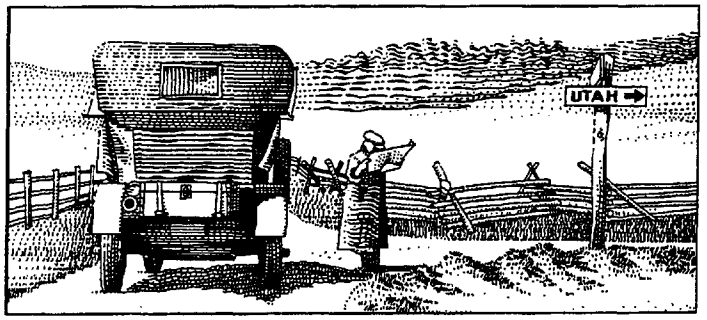

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Beaver Opera House Promoters Thought Big

HAVING TAMED THE WILDERNESS and established permanent homes, Utahns around the turn of the century turned to pioneering the world of culture. At least thirty communities all across the state built opera houses in a burst of civic pride. A hundred years later most of them no longer exist or have deteriorated beyond repair while the Beaver Opera House stands nearly intact.

In 1862 Brigham Young chided Beaver (then only seven years old) for its lack of improvements. Perhaps the communal subconscious retained memory of this, for over the next decades Beaver went through periodic retrenchments with residents determining to make their community the envy of surrounding towns. It was in 1908, one of these periods, that a group of leading citizens banded together to raise an opera house. Said the board of directors: "No money or labor will be spared in making this the finest playhouse south of Salt Lake...."

A list of the opera house supporters reads like a roster of town's dignitaries: R. R. Tanner, G. N. Greenwood, D. I. Frazer, J. P. Barton, J. R. Murdock, A. J. Hardy, and W. J. Robinson. Of course, a gentleman's name cited in connection with cultural activism usually meant a Mrs. was behind the Mister.

The architectural design for the center, done by Liljenberg and Maeser (the Maesers were another prominent local family), called for a $20,000, three-story building with dance pavilion on the first floor, auditorium and stage on the second, and third-floor balcony. The hall as constructed was slightly more modest, with the second-story auditorium serving as dance floor, gymnasium, and theater.

But the completed building was something to be proud of. It was of pink "tuff," a locally quarried stone used in many Beaver homes and businesses of the 1880s and 90s. A Classical Revival influence can be seen in its solid-block appearance, huge Roman archways, and massive round columns and rectangular piers flanking the broad entry steps. Atop the columns is an equally monumental entablature, an architectural term for three horizontal layers of stonework (architrave, decorative frieze, and ornate cornice) that support the roof but also seem to cap and tamp the building.

For twenty years the Beaver Opera House served as a center for the community. During vaudeville days entertainers like Ralph Cloniger, Luke Cosgrave, Shelby Roach, and Walter Christensen delighted rural audiences. When motion pictures supplanted live entertainment, the hall was renovated into a movie theater. But by 1929 it had succumbed to competitors and was turned over to the Utah National Guard, which used it until 1955.

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Perhaps familiarity bred contempt for the lovely old hall, for somewhere along the way its interior was gutted. But Beaver's present generation recognizes how well-designed and constructed it was with its pleasing proportions and unweathered stones. It has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and there are plans to turn it into a senior citizens' center—actions that may ensure its preservation.

Sources: Beaver Opera House Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Preservation Office, Utah Division of State History; Aird G. Merkley, ed., *Monuments of Courage: A History of Beaver County* (Beaver, Utah 1948).

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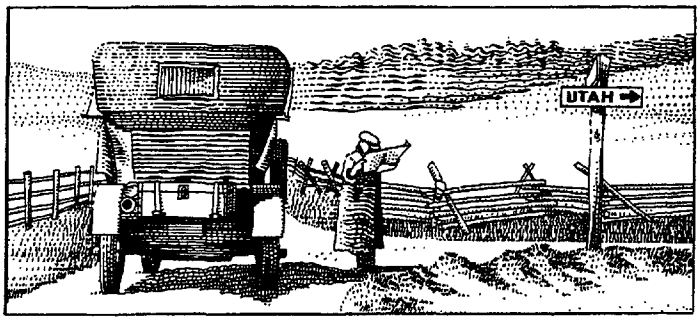

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Provo and the Central Utah Baseball League

EARLY IN APRIL 1920 the old Central Utah Baseball League, disbanded in 1915, was reorganized. The anticipated entry of the United States into World War I was believed by some to have been the reason for the league's demise, although there was considerable criticism concerning the use of semi-professional players by the Lehi and Spanish Fork teams who played a hard-fought series for the 1915 championship, which Lehi won.

A Payson team had participated in the old league but did not affiliate with the newly created group, and Heber City was granted a franchise. Other competing teams were Provo, American Fork, Lehi, Springville, and Spanish Fork.

On April 11, 1920, members of the Provo Commercial Club met and organized a Provo baseball club. W. D. Roberts was selected president of the board of directors, John Saxey, secretary, and E. J. Troyer, general manager. Other directors were W. F. Violett, Ray Timmerman, W. A. Hines, and William Bulkley.

While participating in the old Central Utah League the Provo team had used the BYU field on Temple Hill, but this was not a suitable arrangement for the new league. The directors asked Provo City to allow construction of a ball park on the 10-acre tract of land east of North Park. The request was granted.

Cost of enclosing the new park and the construction of a grandstand that would seat 1,000 persons was estimated at $3,000. When Alma Van Wagenen declared that he would donate $100 toward the project, he was immediately selected as chairman of the finance committee. Before the meeting adjourned he had raised more than $1,000 from the group. Other members of the committee were: R. R. Irvine, Jr., A. N. Taylor, John Smith, D. D. Sutton, J. Will Knight, Preston G. Peterson, W. G. Goldstein, James Clove and R. A. Moorefield. Plans for the facility were furnished by Claude Ashworth, and the finance committee was able to raise $3,500 necessary for the materials.

On May 19 every available carpenter in Provo, together with 30 helpers, reported to the site of the new park to donate a day's labor. More than 200 men came, and the grandstand and fence were virtually completed that day. Provo merchants responded by donating a quantity of food to supply a dinner for the workers. It was a great event in Provo's baseball history. The balance of the work was completed the following day, and on May 21 everything was ready for the opening league game.

The game proved a thrilling and controversial opener for the new park, Springville nosing out Provo 3-2. Years later, old-timers in Provo still maintained that the game ended a 2-2 tie as

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the last of Springville's runs was scored after the side had been retired.

With a new league and a new playing field, interest in baseball increased, and $300 and $400 gates were common, according to Saxey, the club secretary. When rival American Fork came to Provo the receipts often reached $600.

Under the managership of Otto Birk the Provo Timps won the Central Utah pennant in 1927 and repeated in 1929. Provo was always near the top in the league and produced some outstanding baseball players.

In 1930 a Utah State League was formed and Provo was granted admittance along with teams from Salt Lake City and Ogden. When Ogden dropped out of the league two years later a Utah State Industrial League was formed, and Provo won the championship.

The Timps won the state title again in 1934 and were dangerous contenders for the title in other years.

Through the use of federal funds in 1933 the grandstand was moved from the southwest corner of the park to the northwest corner. This abolished the nuisance created when boys trespassed over neighboring flower gardens in quest of foul balls. The change also reduced the sun hazard that players had experienced at the original location.

In 1936 4.5 acres of ground at the park was sodded, making it one of the finest ball parks in the state.

Source: *Annual Report for the City of Provo, Utah, for the Year Ending December 31, 1936* (Provo, 1936).

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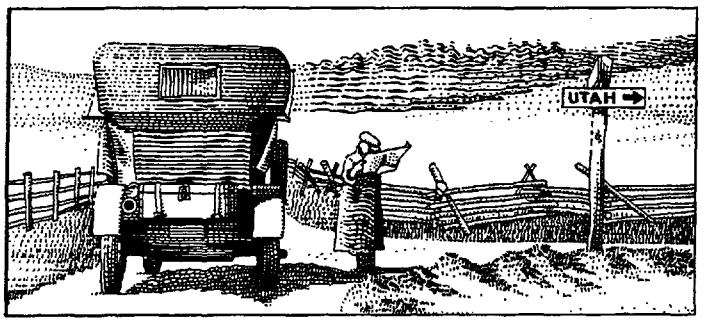

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Wildhorse Canyon Supplied Obsidian for Prehistoric Use

IN UTAH'S MINERAL MOUNTAINS, OVERLOOKING THE WEST DESERT, is the entrance to Wildhorse Canyon. Here the terrain is rough, blanketed with pinyon and juniper forest underlain by sagebrush, cacti, and grasses. The canyon has no year-round stream.

Above its mouth, Wildhorse forks into a small side channel and the main canyon. Lying between the tines is a short ridge. On this ridge, mixed with tuff, perlite and basalt stone, are three obsidian flows with a total thickness of 65 feet.

Archaeological and scientific studies suggest this site has served as a major obsidian quarry and manufacturing station for this part of the Great Basin for not hundreds but thousands of years. Several observations led to this conclusion.

First, extensive piles of tailings lie along the foot of the ridge. The depth and content of tailings, including uncarved obsidian fragments and hand-hewn castoffs, indicate much more than a few generations of use.

Second, chipping or manufacturing camps have been found along the nearby Mineral foothills. In neither the tailings nor these camps have large chunks of obsidian been discovered, suggesting that the knapping (breaking and shaping of the stone) was performed at or near the quarry. The finished or nearly finished products were then transported elsewhere, perhaps to distant users.

Third, some 45 miles south of the quarry stand the remains of four Fremont Indian villages. Archaeological exploration of these villages has uncovered artifacts made of three types of obsidian: *True obsidian*, which is transparent with closely-spaced, horizontal black bands; *pitchstone*, actually a dense, opaque, black volcanic glass; *brown obsidian*, streaked with flowing bands of brown, red, and black. All three obsidians have been found at the Wildhorse Canyon quarry.

Fourth, no other quarry with all three types of obsidian has been discovered in Utah. Other such flows exist, but they were not quarried. The prehistoric Indians who frequented Hogup and Danger Caves 8,000 to 10,000 years ago did not use Wildhorse obsidian.

Fifth, the Fremont villages were active between 900 and 1300 A.D. While sizeable, their populations could not in so few centuries have performed the amount of quarrying nor produced the quantity of detritus seen at the Wildhorse site.

Thus Wildhorse Canyon was probably a source of raw obsidian and perhaps finished obsidian goods for a considerably larger area and longer time span than represented by the Fremont villages. A good guess is that it served as western Utah's major obsidian quarry for several thousand years.

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Source: Wildhorse Canyon Obsidian Quarry Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Preservation Office files, Utah Division of State History; Michael S. Berry, *The Evans Site* (Salt Lake City: Department of Anthropology, University of Utah Special Report, 1972).

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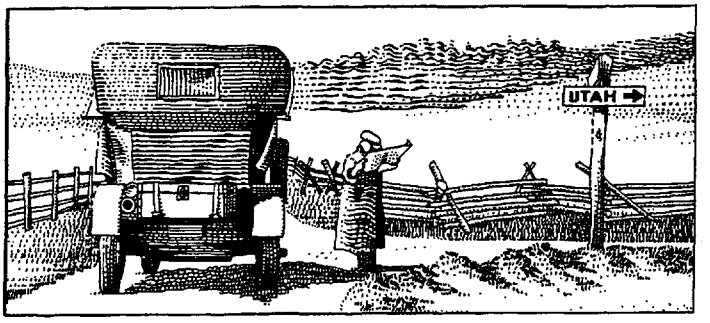

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NEWS OF UTAH'S PAST FROM THE

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Fossil Trilobites Rediscovered in the House Range

IN THE 1870S WHEN MEMBERS OF THE WHEELER SURVEY visited Millard County they erected triangulation bases on the Oak City hills, the summit of Notch Peak, and the top of Swazey Peak. As the men worked around Swazey Peak (elevation 9,583 feet) in the House Range, almost due west of Delta, they discovered a small reef between 6 and 20 feet wide and some 110 feet long. There they saw fossil trilobites "lying on the ground so thickly that handfuls might be taken up. They selected the best preserved...specimens." Scientists later named the fossils after members of the Wheeler party and called the place the Wheeler Amphitheatre and the shales containing the fossils Wheeler shales.

About a mile and a half from the Wheeler site a large deposit of fossils was later found at Blue Knoll. Enter Frank Beckwith, Sr., editor of the *Millard County Chronicle* in Delta from 1919 to his death in 1951. A tireless explorer of Utah's desert country, often in company with scientists and historians, he took Professors Frederick J. Pack and A. L. Mathews to the Blue Knoll site where Pack, a University of Utah geologist, fulfilled his ambition "to 'pick' a quart of trilobites." But the Wheeler site still "slept," Beckwith said.

That was about to end, however. Professor R. A. Morris came to Beckwith with a proposal to try to relocate the 1870s Wheeler find. Armed with a map of the Wheeler Amphitheatre and notes Beckwith had compiled from Smithsonian Institution reports, the two men set out. They spent most of the morning exploring in the wrong canyon and failed to turn up any trilobites. They moved west to the next canyon where "in a few moments our search led to the long lost pocket which had slept the half century unfound." The men found large numbers of trilobites, and after five later trips to the site Beckwith had collected enough to send to universities, exchange with other amateur collectors, and give to friends. With all that he "still had left enough to send the Smithsonian Institution 3300 very good specimens." Smithsonian scientists identified and labeled the finds and returned samples of eleven different species back to Beckwith. Then on November 1, 1927, the Smithsonian issued the following news dispatch:

"The hunt for a fossil deposit in the mountains of Utah, lost for fifty years, has come to an end at last with the receipt...of a collection of fossil trilobites from Mr. Frank Beckwith of Delta, Utah. One of the pioneer geological surveys which opened up the west a half century and more ago discovered in the House Range of Utah, a deposit of excellently preserved fossil trilobites. These old collections are all now in the Smithsonian....

"In later years Dr. Charles D. Walcott, late Secretary of the Smithsonian, revisited the region and tried to find more material, but never succeeded in locating the exact spot. He had

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proved that life existed on the earth at a much earlier geological period than had been supposed, and the trilobites furnished his principal evidence. Those were shelled invertebrate animals, whose closest living relative is the brine shrimp now found in great abundance in the Great Salt Lake and in the Dead Sea. The trilobites themselves, however, though they were the dominant life of the sea several hundred millions of years ago, completely disappeared....

"Dr. Walcott returned repeatedly to the House Range in search for the lost deposit. Though he made immense collections elsewhere in the west, he never found this deposit, nor had any one else up to the time of his death....Mr. Beckwith, an amateur collector, has located it. He forwarded his finds to the Smithsonian where they are being studied by Dr. Charles Resser, who has already identified a new species of trilobites among them."

Beckwith felt that he had received a great deal of recognition for what was really Morris's discovery. His own contribution he felt was only in sending what he had collected to the Smithsonian. He waxed eloquent about the homely ancient creatures he had collected: "...Trilobites are assigned an age in the earth's existence fully thirty million years ago. And to think that life then was so highly specialized, with such adroit parts, organs for locomotion, well developed eyes, a heart, a circulatory system and sensory system...." One specimen, Pytchoparia kingi meek, had compound eyes, "never less than four, and sometimes as many as 14,000 on a side! Think of 14,000 separate and distinct and well defined headaches from each case of astigmatism in those lenses!—and you can then see that John Trilobite's life was not all roses."

Source: Frank Beckwith, Sr., "A Field of Small Fossils in Western Utah: A Spot that 'Slept'," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 4 (1931).

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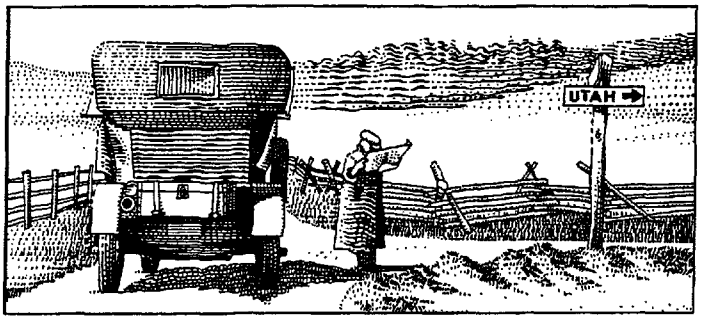

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Adventures of an Early Hot Rodder

AMERICA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE AUTOMOBILE has shaped much 20th-century history from the development of suburbs and interstate freeways to the latest battle over air quality. In the early days of motoring, though, owning a car conjured up images of romance and adventure, especially in the minds of young men like S. Alva Matheson.

One of the state's gifted raconteurs, Matheson was born on May 10, 1903, in Cedar City, Iron County. At about age 15 he began to long for a car. He had no money to buy one, of course, and in those days parents were not expected to supply it. Still, he was an ingenious lad, and he knew how a car's engine worked. In his life story, *Reflections*, he told of finding loads of discarded car parts at the dump. Worn parts were often replaced with new ones because garages lacked the equipment to rebuild parts. Young Alva thought he could coax some of these discards into working a little longer, so he began collecting the parts needed to build a car of his own. He wrote: "When it was finished I had eight different cars represented in it, such as a Ford motor, a Buick ignition, a Chevrolet oil pump, a Star radiator, Franklin front springs, a Brisco rear end, Dort clutch and Studebaker driveshaft. It was a sight to behold and whenever I stopped I usually had a crowd of spectators."

Soon after school let out in the spring, Matheson took his car on its first extended trip to a fathers and sons outing at Duck Creek in the high plateau country east of Cedar City. Others were going by wagon, but Matheson, in the timeless manner of young men, wanted "to show people I knew enough to build a usable car." The vehicle had no body as such. He had wired a seat to the frame and wired a box behind the seat to hold food and bedding for himself and his friend Elmer. At slow speeds on a rough road the car had a tendency to jackknife, throwing Elmer off the seat and onto the road, usually on his feet. And they had to stop at almost every stream to add cool water to the radiator. Other than that "the trip was enjoyable and uneventful" until the rough road dropped from Deer Flat on its way down to Navajo Lake. Rounding a curve the car again jackknifed, propelling Elmer and the bucket of eggs he was holding off the seat and down a steep hillside. "All he could do, "Matheson wrote, "was to go hopping from one lava boulder to another as his momentum dictated....with the bucket of eggs dangling at arms's length....By the time Elmer had reached the bottom I had rounded the turn and was right in front of him....When we realized that no harm was done it seemed so comical that we just sat and laughed...." That was only the beginning of Matheson's adventures with his first car.

Later, he owned a Model T Ford when it was a fad to "take the touring body off...and build a two-seater speedster type body. This was the early Hot Rod and....was the kind of a car I

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had." One day he and a friend, Jeff Woodard, decided to do a little prospecting and set off on an old wagon road toward Modena near the Nevada border. High centers, washouts, and ankle-deep dust were the hallmarks of such roads. Twenty miles from any possible help Matheson's car threw a rod. He tried driving slowly but knew from the banging that the car would be ready for the junk heap before long. He soon found the problem—brush he had driven over had opened an oil petcock, causing the oil to leak out. They decided to eat lunch while waiting for someone to come by who might help them. Lunch "consisted of salt pork to fry our eggs, some beans and bread. As I cut the pork I remarked at how tough the rind was. My friend said 'Yes, we used...a strip for windless bearings and they never did wear out so far as I know.' Wheels began to turn in my head. It didn't take me long to decide to try it in that connecting rod. It was about the right thickness and I could see no harm that it could do....I set to work with my wrenches and...had a bacon rind connecting rod bearing in and ready to try....by being careful it might get us to Desert Butte....When we reached the Butte....all was going well so we came on home....I left that bacon rind bearing in the motor for another two weeks of running before I changed it."

Matheson's hot rod had a tendency to lose oil in remote places. One day he and Jeff traveled through Lund, on to Blue Mountain, and west to Pine Valley, heading toward the Peerless Mine. Again, brush on the road's high center flipped open the oil petcock. This time he had no bacon rind to fall back on. Moreover, they were thirty miles from Lund on a road infrequently used. Ever inventive, they "heated some water and shaved and dissolved a bar of castile soap in it and used it instead of oil and by coasting whenever possible and blowing bubbles for miles we made it back to Lund with the cleanest motor on record and with no apparent harm."

Alva Matheson and his pals were not the only hot rodders or adventurers on Utah's dirt roads in the early years of motoring, but when it comes to telling the story of those times Matheson has few peers.

Source: S. Alva Matheson, *Reflections* (Cedar City, 1974).

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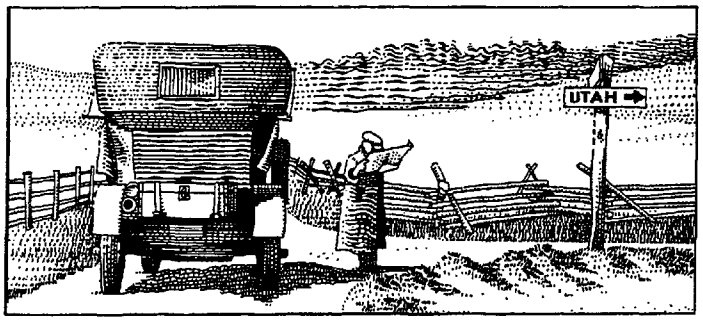

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The Rise and Fall of Ogden's Packing Industry

IN 1901 A GROUP OF MEN ORGANIZED THE OGDEN PACKING COMPANY with a capital investment of $7,500. In 1906 the first packing plant was built. During the next decade the facility was constantly expanded until by 1917 the Ogden Packing & Provision Company, as it was then called, encompassed almost six acres or 240,650 square feet. It was reportedly the largest meat packing plant west of the Missouri River and comparable to large eastern plants in its output. The development of the packing industry in Ogden was a direct outgrowth of the Junction City's prominence as "the livestock capital of the Intermountain West. Millions of head of cattle, sheep, and hogs were bought and sold annually at the bustling Ogden Livestock Yards and processed by local slaughterhouses and packing plants."

Located at the west end of the 24th Street viaduct, Ogden Packing & Provision Company had a daily capacity in 1917 of 1,250 hogs, 1,500 sheep, and 300 cattle, numbers that could be increased with the addition of refrigeration space. The manufacturing or processing divisions of the company could handle twice that amount. In addition to fresh pork, beef, mutton, veal, and lamb, the company also produced ham, bacon, sausage, cooking compounds, lard, tallow, and by-products, including fertilizer. These products were shipped throughout the Intermountain Area and into all regions of the United States and abroad. During World War I exports to Great Britain and France enhanced company profits. In addition to its main plant in Ogden the company had branches in Salt Lake City, Price, Butte, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The two California facilities were new, having been completed in 1917.

To keep the operation running at capacity the company's officers worked with representatives of the livestock industry in the West and urged stockraisers to increase their herd size—especially the number of hogs. To that end they "brought brood sows into the country for distribution among the farmers and their boys." Their slogan in Utah was "Raise a Pig."

OP&P claimed to employ the largest number of men and women in any single factory in Utah. Indeed, the company had expanded during World War I at a pace that R. & L. Polk's *Ogden City Directory* for 1917 called breathtaking. At war's end Utah's booming canneries and meat packing plants were forced to cut production as demand dropped. Not only was the government not buying as much canned goods and meat for the troops, but postwar recession was causing the average family to cut back on its purchases as well. By 1920 OP&P was unable to pay its creditors. Officers and board members of the company were forced to resign and a committee of stockholders took over in an attempt to salvage the business.

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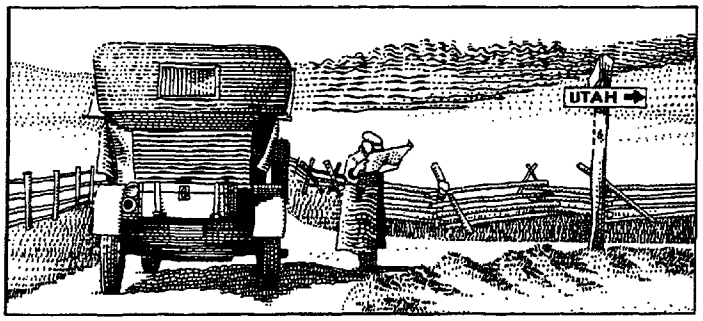

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The industry did recover, in part because of the continuing success of the Ogden Livestock Yards—at one time the 12th largest livestock yard in the United States. "The annual Golden Spike National Livestock Show drew so many visitors to Ogden that the Golden Spike Coliseum was constructed in 1926 at a cost of $100,000 to house it and other industry events," Murray M. Moler wrote. That same year the stockyards handled almost 1.5 million head of livestock, including sheep, hogs, cattle, and horses, and Utah packing plants produced 22 million pounds of fresh meat and meat products valued at $4 million. Some 75 carloads of meat and meat products were sent to southern California alone.

But the trucking of livestock directly from farms and ranches to feedlots and slaughter houses greatly affected Ogden's stockyards and major packing plant. The Ogden Livestock Yards were reduced to a weekly auction and the city's packing houses to small operations. In that they followed a nationwide trend, according to Moler. Even the fabled Chicago stockyards closed as did those in many large metropolitan centers.

The livestock industry remains an important component in Utah's economy, but it is no longer "Ogden's financial backbone."

Sources: "Utah's Packing Industry," *Utah Payroll Builder*, November 1917; Jesse S. Richards, "Ogden: Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock Center, *Utah Payroll Builder*, July 1927; *Ogden Packing & Provision Co. Creditor's Agreement, Dated February 24, 1920*, pamphlet in Utah State Historical Society collections; Murray M. Moler, "A Century in the Livestock Trade," *Ogden: Junction City*, ed. Richard C. Roberts and Richard W. Sadler (Northridge, Calif: Windsor Publications, 1985).

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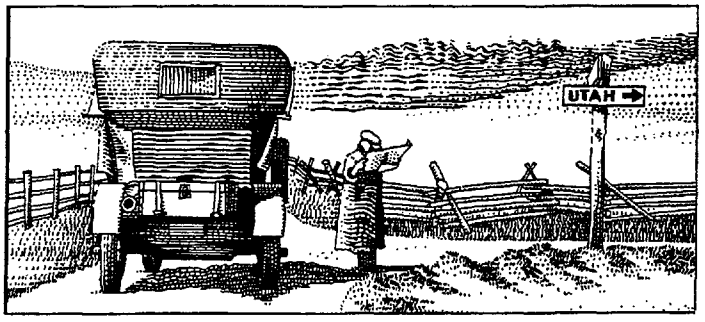

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The Legacy of Photographer Alma Compton

IN THE LATE 1980S A COLLECTION OF PIONEER PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES, most of them glass, was donated to Utah State University. They were part of 40,000 negatives made by Alma Compton during his long career as a photographer in northern Utah. The collection included not only portraits but views of local events, buildings, landscapes, and cityscapes. Thus it provides "unrivalled visual documentation of Brigham City people, events and buildings." The artistry evident in Alma Compton's photography shows that his skill matched his success as Brigham City's most enduring and popular photographer. The negatives also reveal he pursued his craft not just for the money.

Alma Compton was born in Nottinghamshire, England, near Sherwood Forest in 1856. His parents were very poor, so he did janitorial work to earn tuition for three months of schooling—the only formal education he ever received. Six years before Alma was born, his parents had joined the Mormon church. When Alma was twelve, he was sent with his older siblings to Utah. In Ogden each child found odd jobs to support themselves and save toward their parents' fare. The next year their parents immigrated to Utah.

After a youth spent working, at age 21 Alma began a five-year stint in the Scofield Broom Factory. For a young man of an artistic nature, factory line duty must have been somewhat oppressive. But by age 26 he had saved enough money to do what he wanted. He volunteered to work one year for photographer J. W. Christensen of Ogden in exchange for learning the trade. He then rented a tent and camera and became an itinerant photographer, traveling through Cache Valley and elsewhere in southern Idaho. He returned with enough profit to set himself up in part of Jens Gasberg's store in Brigham City. The initial lease was for six months. Alma would stay 48 years in the Box Elder County seat, although not in the same location.

Brigham City's population then was 2,500, enough to support more than one photographer. Gasberg ran the photo gallery as part of his mercantile business, but he was not a professional and must have been happy to share clientele with Alma for a percentage of the earnings. This left Gasberg to focus on selling optical goods, notions, jewelry, and groceries.

Alma worked out of Gasberg's store three years. In 1886, the same year he married Jane Dalton of Willard, he built his own small studio a few doors away. Jane became his assistant, helping to retouch, finish, and mount photographs. Even after she set up housekeeping in a rented two-room adobe house, she worked beside Alma. Their first two summers were spent touring, just as Alma had done earlier.

In 1888 Gasberg vacated the photographic business to concentrate entirely on merchan-

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dising. This left Alma as the town's sole practitioner. Even with a growing family during the economically depressed 1890s, the Comptons got by. That decade they averaged 275 sittings per year. In 1900 Alma took 1,500 photographs, probably to pay for his new studio. For the rest of his career, he averaged 500-700 sittings per year.

The new studio had not only expanded finishing facilities but room for art and music supplies. After 1901 the studio became increasingly successful. Alma's two sons and daughter, adopted in 1903, were taught the business as they grew old enough. In 1908 Alma was able to have a new house built, a one and a half story brick cottage. It was designed by Andrew Funk, architect of Brigham City's courthouse and fire station. Alma had become a substantial citizen.

After 1910 Alma's health began to decline. Jane and Alma, Jr., assumed a greater share of responsibility. But in 1919 the son suddenly died. The second son, Mathew, received a hardship discharge from the army and returned to take over the shop. He hired a young assistant named Pearl who later became his wife.

In 1931 Alma, Sr., died, followed the next year by Jane. Together, Mathew and Pearl ran Compton's photographic studio another forty years. In 1972 Pearl was still living in the family cottage, and her son continued to work in the office his grandfather built.

Sources: Alma Compton House, Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Preservation Offices files, Utah Division of State History; "The Story of an Old Album," in *Heart Throbs of the West*, vol. 9 (Salt Lake City: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1948).

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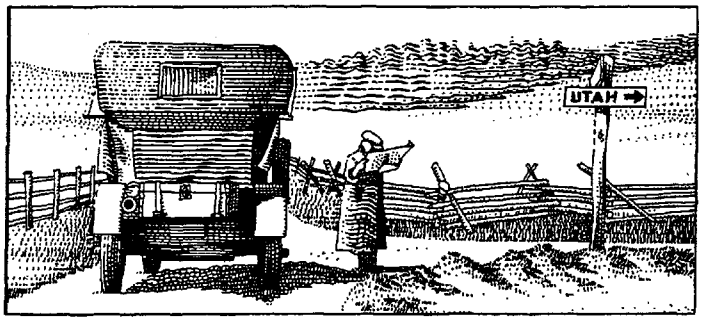

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The Fremont Indians' "Palm Beach"

A FEW MILES WEST OF BRIGHAM CITY the remains of Indian campsites reveal that the Great Salt Lake Fremonts timed their annual travels to take advantage of the weather and local amenities—setting a pattern that Utah's "snowbirds" would follow centuries later as they leave northern Utah in the fall for warmer climates and activities like golf in the south. Although the Fremonts were not quite jetsetters, they "owned" several seasonal homes that they frequented according to their living requirements.

Early each spring and in the late autumn, the tribe reopened its camp on the lower reaches of the Bear River. The fact that these were the best of all possible times to be on the Great Salt Lake was a minor consideration. The real attraction were ducks and geese who also arrived at these times to use the river marshes as a way station on their migratory path. During these months, too, bison were plentiful on the river.

Five Lower Bear River Fremont sites have been identified and excavated by University of Utah crews. The camps stood one to two miles apart. The earliest still displays the sun-baked, saucer-shaped floors of four pit houses. Built partly underground, these dwellings were reached via crawl trenches. It is not known what their roofs were made of, but a good guess is logs and sod. These homes were eminently energy-efficient, preserving the heat that radiated from central fire pits.

Post holes randomly distributed about this camp were observed, suggesting that corrals and fences once stood near the pit houses. In addition, 51 refuse pits have survived the centuries. Fragments of pottery, stone implements, arrow and lance heads, and bones have been carbon dated to 540 A.D.

Several miles away from this camp is another that came into use about two hundred years later. Its initial users also built round pit houses. They returned year after year, making repairs to the structures. A later generation built square pit houses with very long (up to 40-foot) entryways on the site. Much later—between 640 and 710 B.P.—a new tribe (probably Shoshoni) took over the camp and built above-ground houses over the pit sites. Traces of all three groups have been found and dated.

Not far from this second camp stands an 80-foot knoll. Archaeological excavation here has yielded pottery shards, projectile points, corn-grinding implements, shells, and even clay figurines.

The Fremonts were prudent food storers. A fourth camp, consisting of 100 shallow storage pits, has been found. Very likely meat from a bounteous fall hunt was dried and stored here with

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corn for use the following spring. This and the knoll camp have been dated to about 935 A.D.

U of U archaeologists describe the Fremonts' seasonal use of these river camps as "specialized cultural adaptive strategy." In other words, the Fremonts linked their lives to the seasons. They were not so different from today's Canadians, Montanans, and northern Utahns whose mobile homes mingle with I-15 traffic early each winter on the way to sunny Arizona.

Sources: Lower Bear River Sites Antiquities Survey, Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Preservation Office files, Utah Division of State History; *Excavations at Snake Rock Village*, University of Utah Anthropological Papers (Salt Lake City, 1967).

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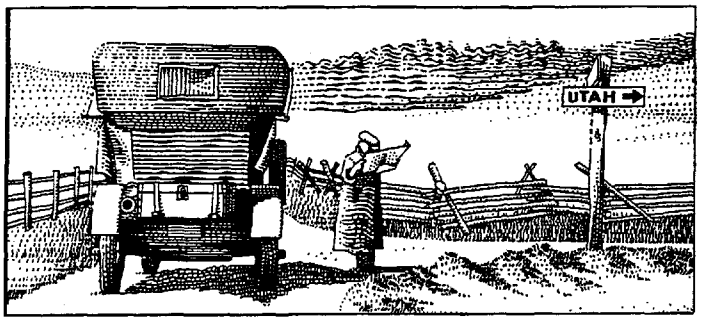

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New Deal Agencies Built 233 Buildings in Utah

THE GREAT DEPRESSION HIT UTAH EVEN HARDER than most other states. From 1932 to 1940 Utah's unemployment rate averaged 25 percent. In 1933 it reached 33 percent. Only three other states suffered more severely.

Because of this, federal relief efforts were especially intensive in Utah. Soon the state ranked ninth among the then 48 states in per capita federal spending. The percentage of Utahns employed in federal works programs was also far above the national average. Most of these works programs involved building construction.

Five different New Deal agencies administered the building programs during the depression: the Civil Works (CWA), Federal Emergency Relief (FERA), National Youth (NYA), Works Progress (WPA), and Public Works administrations (PWA). During the 1930s and early 1940s these five agencies funded 233 Utah public buildings.

One such building was the Minersville City Hall funded in Beaver County by FERA. It was built in 1935 to house the town's post office, library, municipal offices, and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers camp. To save costs, stone for the hall was brought from a demolished building of the old Murdock Academy, which had been standing empty since 1922. Civilian Conservation Corps crews dismantled and hauled the stone to Minersville.

To the north, in Brigham City, the PWA sponsored another public building, the Box Elder High School Gymnasium. This was a more ambitious project, one of 20 Utah school gymnasiums built during the 1930s.

Of red brick, the building cost $106,000. Its construction provided work not just for Brigham City laborers but for the Joseph Nelson architectural firm, an Idaho general contractor, a city building inspector, a Utah plumbing/heating/ventilating contractor, and a roofing/sheet metal specialist.

The design, acceptable for the time, provided for two gyms: a 7,000-square-foot boys' gym with seating for 1,000 and a girls' gym one-fourth that size. There was also a tiled swimming pool, locker rooms, classrooms, and a handball court.

Neither the Minersville City Hall nor the Box Elder Gymnasium—nor, for that matter, the other 231 courthouses, city halls, fire stations, armories, and school buildings that went up in Utah during the depression—would have been possible without New Deal assistance.

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Source: Nomination Forms, National Register of Historic Places, for Minersville City Hall and Box Elder High School Gymnasium in Preservation Office files, Utah Division of State History.

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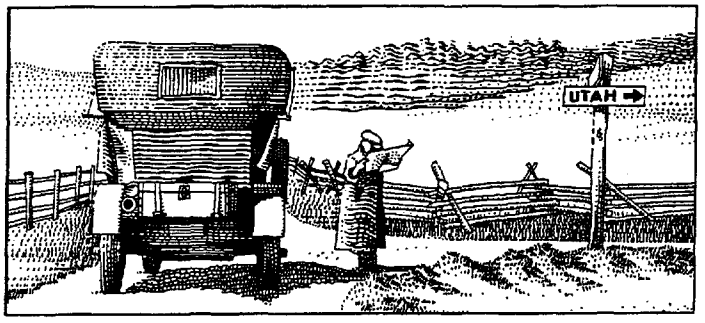

THE HISTORY BLAZER

NEWS OF UTAH'S PAST FROM THE

Utah State Historical Society
300 Rio Grande • Salt Lake City, UT 84101
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Scottish Stonemason Left His Stamp On Beaver

A SCOTTISH STONEMASON AND BUILDING CONTRACTOR, Thomas Frazer was 30 years old when he converted to Mormonism and immigrated to Utah. Settling first in Lehi, he was asked seven years later to relocate to Beaver, 170 miles south.

Beaver had been settled in 1855 by transplants from nearby Parowan. But the town's 6,000-foot altitude had proven more conducive to stockraising than farming, and the little settlement had not thrived. In 1862, on a tour of the southern Utah missions, Brigham Young chided the community for its few improvements. He released the local church leaders and brought in John R. Murdock from Lehi to reenergize the settlement.

Soon Beaver had a tannery, sawmill and store, and by 1868 residents were ready to erect more permanent homes. Frazer's arrival that year was probably no coincidence. Using black lava stone (or basalt) readily available on the foothills and in river beds, he first helped put up a church woolen mill. It turned a solid profit its very first year and inspired three decades of local prosperity.

After completing the mill and co-op, Frazer turned his attention to the emerging residential market. He and his apprentices would be responsible for most of the masonry houses built in Beaver between 1870 and 1890, including his own house erected in phases starting in 1870.

The modest, one-story Frazer house still stands. Its well-cut, squared stones and meticulously beaded mortar joints of uniform width reflect Frazer's craftsmanship. The house also exhibits characteristics that would come to distinguish Frazer's style: dormer windows, white-stained mortar, and combined Greek Revivalist and Federalist influences.

The years 1872-73 brought another departure from housebuilding when Frazer served as a major contractor for Fort Cameron, a new army post. This was a major undertaking for a remote village, employing every artisan from miles around. The compound ultimately comprised two large barracks, six officers' quarters, a two-story hospital, and headquarters and laundry buildings, plus stables and outbuildings.

By the mid-70s Frazer was back to designing and constructing stone houses, sixteen of which stand today. The summit of his achievement was the Duckworth Grimshaw house. Built in 1877, it has all the features of a mature Frazer design: the masterful stonework, graceful dormer windows, steep-pitched roof, and gable in the center front. This gable is peculiar to Beaver houses, hovering above an upstairs door that apparently leads nowhere. Actually, such doors led to small wooden balconies which have since disappeared.

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But the stonework seems indestructible and Frazer's vernacular design equally so. One architectural historian has praised the sophisticated harmoniousness of Frazer's designs, derived from his contrast of black stone with white mortar and woodwork, dormer roofs whose slopes repeat the pitch of the main roof, perfect symmetry, and overall unity.

Frazer also worked in brick (kilned about 10 miles west of the town). Fifty-six pioneer brick houses may be seen in Beaver. Possibly, too, he worked in "tuff," a pink stone first quarried in the 1880s and soon supplanted by basalt as softer and less expensive to cut. Tuff was used on the third addition to Frazer's own house.

Thomas Frazer was by all accounts a mild-mannered person with a "live-and-let-live" philosophy elucidated in his poem by that title published in a pioneer magazine. Yet his mark on Beaver was anything but timid. One measure of that influence is the sheer number of substantial masonry houses surviving from Beaver's pioneer period—as many as in all other southern Utah towns combined. Frazer blended his Scottish heritage, observation of English and eastern American building traditions, and Mormon utilitarianism to create a unique folk architecture.

Sources: Richard C. Poulsen, "Stone Buildings in Beaver City," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 43 (1975); Linda Bonar, "Historical Houses in Beaver: An Introduction to Materials, Styles and Craftsmen," in *Chronicles of Courage*, vol. 4 (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1994); Nomination Forms for the National Register of Historic Places, Harriet Shepherd, Thomas Frazer, and Duckworth Grimshaw houses, Preservation Office, Utah Division of State History.

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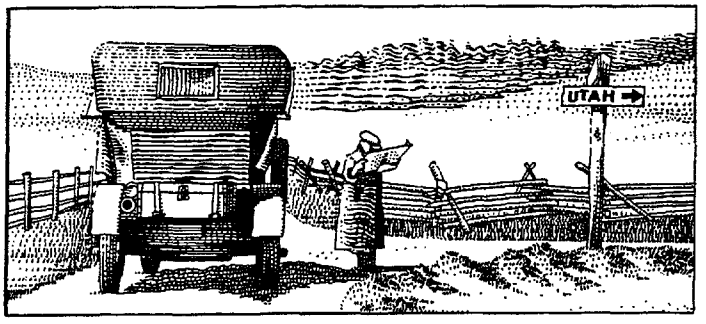

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Power Development on the Bear River

ONE OF UTAH'S EARLY HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPERS was L. L. Nunn who specialized in high-head technology—generating electrical power from small, swift, mountain streams. In 1902 he filed for water rights on northern Utah's Bear River, recognizing its potential for power-generation. Meanwhile, in 1902 Utah Sugar Company built its own plant on the Bear to power its Garland factory. This did not discourage Nunn, however, as the river was 350 miles long and offered other sites. He envisioned natural Bear Lake doubling as an irrigation reservoir and as one part of a hydroelectric system. In 1907 Nunn received permission from the U.S. Department of the Interior to develop Bear Lake for this purpose, but for some reason he did not proceed. Perhaps he was too involved with building his 11,000-kilowatt hydroelectric plant at Grace, Idaho.

Utah Power and Light Company, formed in 1912, soon bought out Grace and Nunn's other Telluride Power Company developments in northern Utah. UP&L also had a vision for developing Bear Lake, but it included the entire Bear River drainage area and would require superior capital and technical staff. Its holding company, Electric Bond and Share (EBASCO), owned hundreds of small utility companies across the country, had its own engineering department and construction company, and was experienced in low-head hydroelectric development.

Backed by EBASCO capital and expertise, UP&L built five power and pumping stations over the next 15 years and upgraded existing facilities. Most were in the Bear River zone. By 1922 more than half of UP&L's total 224,000 kilowatt output originated from this system. The Cutler Power Plant, built in 1927 as the last venture in the area and the most expensive, would increase this output by 30,000 kilowatts.

The Cutler station is located in Bear River Canyon halfway between Logan and Tremonton. Its purpose was not just to capture the Cache Valley runoff lost each spring because Utah Sugar's Wheelon plant was too small. The Cutler facility would also work with the Snake River system to create a massive interconnecting complex serving Idaho, southwestern Wyoming, and northern Utah.

Cutler was and is the largest low-head hydroelectric plant in Utah. It stands today virtually as it was built 70 years ago. It uses the same generation process as a smaller plant, or four main systems: water regulation, conduit, power generation, and electrical. But in a plant this size almost every component is larger, more powerful, and more complicated than in a high-head plant.

For instance, water regulation features at the Cutler plant include the dam (570 feet long, 125 feet high, and 50 feet thick) complete with spillway, intake tower with 18-foot diameter water passage winding inside it, intake screens, steel flowline to a surge tank, sluiceway at the bottom of

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the dam; various gates and valves that control all of the above; hoists, motors and compressors to control the gates and valves; and electrical control lines which send signals to open and close gates and valves at the dam and along the pipelines.

The sheer size of Cutler's structures demanded careful engineering. The intake tower is 108 feet high. Its concrete base alone is 76 feet high and 48 feet in diameter. Atop the base 17-foot screens collect water. Inside the tower is the 18-foot diameter water passage. This channel winds through the tower and meets a steel flowline near the sluiceway. To control the flow of water through this channel and flowline, a cylinder guides an 18.5-foot round intake gate which when closed plugs the water passage.

Atop the screens are 15-foot steel platform supports. The platform holds a motor and giant stem hoist that raise and lower the tainter (intake) gates. Also on the platform is a gantry crane that runs along a circular track raising and lowering the huge intake screens. Even the surge tank is massive: 81 feet tall and 45 feet in diameter. It is the backup in regulating water supply to the turbine-generators in the powerhouse.

Sometimes engineering glitches in such a massive industrial facility are surprisingly minor. The dam, besides harnessing stream flow for power generation, doubles as an irrigation catchment. At both sides of the dam base are intakes to irrigation canals. Air compressors had to be installed (plus a concrete housing) that create bubbles to keep ice from forming around the intake to the north irrigation canal—a small but crucial modification.

The powerhouse is the heart of the plant. On its first floor are 13-foot butterfly valves that regulate water from the penstocks (Cutler has two of these main water channels) to the generators. There are also oil tanks and pumps for the hydraulic governors, a battery room, a fire pump, a rheostat room to regulate the generators' voltage, and a room for the cables leading to the transformers.

The second floor of the powerhouse contains the turbine-generators themselves: two 15,000-kilowatt General Electric units attached to Francis reaction turbines by vertical shafts. The old DC exciters (small generators that provide field current for the large motors) still function on one of the units.

Below the powerhouse is the electrical switchyard. It has a steel lattice switchrack, bus bars, switches, and transformers. Its size has been increased by one-third since 1927 and some older transformers have been replaced, but otherwise the switchyard too remains as it was in 1927.

Like Nunn's high-head hydroelectric plant near Beaver in central Utah, UP&L's Cutler Plant has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is appropriate, for it stands as Utah's only example of the large-scale, low-head, sophisticated hydroelectric plants built throughout the West in the 1920s.

Source: Cutler Hydroelectric Power Plant Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Preservation Office files, Utah Division of State History.

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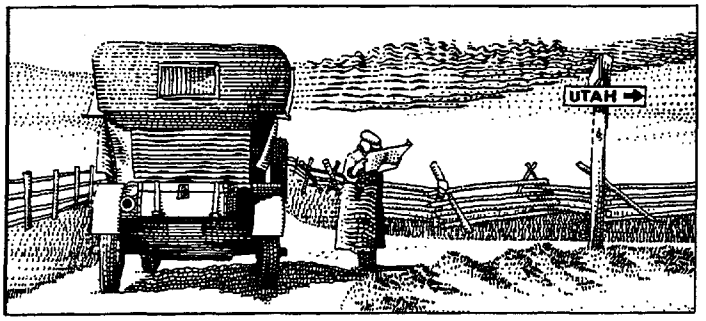

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The Box Elder County Courthouse

FOR 150 YEARS THE VITAL CENTER OF BOX ELDER COUNTY government has been the courthouse at One Main Street, Brigham City. The first section of the courthouse was built in 1857. What is now the nondescript rear wing was pioneer Brigham City's civic center. The nearly all-Mormon community held Sunday worship services in the large upstairs room of this building. On Saturdays public dances were held in the basement, which also served as a theater. Some scenery was painted directly on the back walls.

This original courthouse was constructed by workers of the Brigham City Cooperative Association, which built and owned most of the town. This did not mean exclusiveness, for virtually the whole town belonged to the co-op. Each adult male was asked to donate one-tenth of his time or materials to building the courthouse. Field stone was used for the basement walls and local brick for the upper story.

During the winter of 1856 a temporary roof protected meeting-goers. A permanent roof was placed the next spring but was blown away in a horrific wind storm. Leaders used this opportunity to double the size of the courthouse from 22 x 45 feet to 45 x 65 feet.

By 1867, when Brigham was incorporated as a city, the Mormon population had been divided into wards or parishes, each of which built its own chapel. The Fourth Ward and a school continued to meet in the courthouse until 1880 when it was turned over entirely to the county commissioners to conduct county business. Each morning and evening the courthouse bell signaled workers' schedules at the co-op factories. The bell also served as a fire alarm.

The years before and after the turn of the century were a heyday for American and Utah small towns. During this period, the courthouse was twice remodeled. In 1887 it was updated to reflect current architectural tastes, with an Italianate clock tower added. Besides county commission meetings, quarterly city meetings convened in it.

In 1910 a much larger expansion occurred. A massive wing was added to the old adobe rectangle. This wing, designed by the Brigham City firm of Funk and Wells, was also two-storied but boasted the Greek temple-like facade that remains today. The expanded courthouse had room for growing county services, including courtrooms, judges' and commission chambers, clerk's, recorder's, and assessor's offices, and the sheriff's department.

With the exception of minor additions made in the 1960s the courthouse has kept its 1910 flavor for 86 years. It is the best example of Neo-Classical architecture in Box Elder County.

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One note about the bell: the pioneer bell cracked in 1892. A borrowed replacement also cracked from being rung too many times during the statehood celebration of 1896. In 1897 a new bell was purchased for $433.

Source: Box Elder County Courthouse, Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Preservation Office files, Utah Division of State History; Lydia Walker Forsgren, *History of Box Elder County* (Brigham City: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1937).

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