

Misc. Items about Carl Wilberg
from the Emery Co. paper.

August 1901-

Nearly 100 of Scandinavia's sons and daughters and their descendants assembled at the Carl Wilberg place at the "Breaks" on August 7, 1901 and enjoyed themselves as only children of "Lair Scandinia" do. A table 40 feet long was placed beneath the leafy bower of shade, laded with the choicest viables to be had in Castle Valley. A program with plenty of singing was given in the afternoon and at 6 o'clock ice cream and cake was served. The crowd departed with an effusion of thanks to Brother and Sister Wilberg for courtesies extended.

On May 15, 1901 Carl Wilberg was appointed building superintendent for the new school building in Castle Dale at a salary of \$2.50 per day.

In 1902 Carl Wilberg had plotted into town lots all his land on the bench at Castle Dale, preparing for the boom that the railroad was expected to bring.

The last of Aug 1904, A.D. Dexin closed a deal with Carl Wilberg for a 40 acre tract of land lying south of the Osmehery. The (price) was \$350 and Mr. Dexin's friends are congratulating him upon securing a Big Canyon. He will erect a dwelling there next summer that will be an ornament to that part of town. (Dexin plans were foreshadowed as his daughter and son-in-law needed a place and built instead of Dexin.)

August 21-

Carl Wilberg was down from his mountain sawmill. In late August 1909 and had a handshake around with the boys. He states he has cut out quite a bit of lumber this summer and has it ready for hauling as soon as a road can be made down the (Straight) canyon, for this purpose he was looking for men and he hears that he got quite a number from Orangethille. As this road is on the Forest reserve we hear that some Government money has been set aside for its repair and is now available. As it is very general by people of Castle Dale and Orangethille we hope enough interest will be taken by the government to put it in fairly good condition.

May 1916-

Mayor C.E. Larsen and Carl Wilberg of Castle Dale offer 20 and 10 acres, respectively, of the pluck of their land with tree water for 3 years to anyone who likes and wants to grow sugar beets. Could well be emulated by others who have plenty of land throughout the County. Nearly 2000 acres of beets now sipped.

1917 Ice-

The local ice harvest in Jan. 1917 completed by the end of the month was one of the best. No one could have hoped for a better one or better weather in which to put it up.

Nearly every family had an ice house stored full of ice to run them throughout the summer. The Wilberg ranch owners sold ice all summer.

The ice harvest is on in Emery County. Besides the many private ponds which are being used to fill local ice houses, the Big Pond at Wilberg's

The ice harvest is on in Emery County, which are being used to fill local ice houses is a very active section, as the owners are houses, but many tons of the summers' daily hauler. At Wilbergs the ice is reported to

Carl Wilberg was appointed State Road Agent he took the place of F.A. Killpack of Ferris in this capacity.

Carl Wilberg became County Game Warden fully

when from Progress, Dec. 21, 1925 -

S.R. Johnson this week sold to Carl Wil between the Progress property and Emery Lar is already at work utilizing 18 feet of the new post office for Castle Dale which it is the building at present occupied by the off

Jan. 2 1926 Progress -

Postmistress Nettie S. Larsen and her cordly located in the new building erected Carl Wilberg on the ground next to the land building and fixtures nearly approach the 1 that the people of the town may well be pro

Jan or Jan 20, 1926 Progress -

Carl Wilberg was elected to the direct Organizational Incorporation Company at the same had. He is taking the place of Lars Oursch were as elected; including E.L. Pe ck, it Kenneth (son). The proposed reservoir ne was discussed to some extent but definite a to be called in the near future to discuss

Aug 1928 -

Carl Wilberg is making preparations to in a few days in Castle Dale City.

Sept. 10, 1937 Progress -

Work started this week by Carl Wilberg the east, his building occupied by the Cast Power and Light Company.

The new building will be brick and on completely modern. Mr. Wilberg will modern power buildings at the same time. The new will be occupied by a barber shop and beaut

Feb. Jan. 31, 1941 Progress -

J. Cecil Albee, State Meteorologist, a weather recording station at Castle Dale wd by Carl Wilberg at his ranch north of town.

Jim O. Childs of Price, who served as postman for twenty years during the '30s and '40s, told one historian of the vicissitudes of his job.¹²⁹

"I've delivered everything but babies and I wouldn't be surprised to be called on to do that some day," he quipped. "Hauled a dead man once," he continued. "Yes sir, sure he had stamps on him. He'd been cremated and was just ashes in a little metal box."

He also described how the people along his route asked him to do errands for them in Price because the haulage charges made store prices pretty steep out in Emery County. One day a lady asked him to buy a hat for her daughter. "I got the hat all right but took my wife along to pick it out," Mr. Childs said.

Mr. Childs, one of the many bonded contractors who carried mail to Emery County, received \$150 a month for toting from thirty to fifty sacks of mail every day over 130 miles of various kinds of roads. Childs delivered mail to nine post offices in Emery County, which served a total of about 5,000 people.

Other Emery County mail drivers during the '30s and '40s included Parley P. Johnson, who delivered mail for twenty-one years, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis of Emery.

G. Wilberg Resort

During the late 1920s and into the '30s, many parties, birthdays, anniversaries, and general revelry took place at Wilberg Resort, which was located four miles north of Castle Dale. Lloyd Wilberg, grandson of Resort owner Carl Wilberg, wrote the following about the resort:

During the mid 1920s one of Carl Wilberg's business ventures was a fox farm. Here they raised mostly silver fox, but also had the common red fox and towards the end of the venture, bred the rare platinum fox. They had several hundred foxes at any given time. They were kept in large pens about 25' x 25' made from heavy net-like wire. There was a kennel in each pen about 8' x 10' for the animals to escape the elements. These kennels were supported off the ground by four corner posts. The foxes were raised for their pelts.

During the coldest months of the year, generally January and February, the pelting process took place. This involved several of the Wilberg family, some members were "hired" but many gave their time. The foxes had to be skinned very carefully. The vogue at the time was the little, whole fox stole that laid around the woman's shoulder, the whole fox from head to tail. One would have to be very careful to clean around the eye, nose, mouth, and ear area, so the stole had the

¹²⁹ Interview took place on Friday, December 8, 1939.

appearance of a live, sleeping fox. The pelts that were damaged or imperfect would be used for capes and coats.

A part of the pelting process was called "fleshing." The pelts would be turned inside out and placed over a vertical "fleshing board" [like putting a sock over your hand], then with a dull knife all the fat would be scraped off. When the pelts were ready they were then trucked to Salt Lake to a furrier who then distributed them around the country to be made into some of women's finest fur fashions.

The size and extent of the fox farm brought many interested onlookers to the Wilberg ranch. Nor far from the fox pens was a beautiful, ten acre white ash grove where many of the curious sightseers would often ask if they could use it to picnic under before they left. This, along with the fishing ponds and boating facilities and an ideal swimming hole, probably planted the "resort" idea into the minds of family members.

As the family first began to seek financial help to start the resort, the bank predicted failure, but said they would lend the money on account of the good Wilberg name and other holdings the family had. Many of the leading citizens of the county predicted failure, but after the first months of operation, they pronounced it a great success. Then after the first four months of business these same people said it was the most valuable property in Emery County. Many of the business men in the county complained and said that all of the young people's spending money went to Wilbergs.

Spring of 1929 found many of the Wilberg family working long and hard to get things ready for the grand opening. The family would work at their regular day jobs and then head out to the ranch to work on the resort, often until two or three in the morning.

Their efforts paid off. In June, 1929 the *Progress* reported the following.

Wilberg's Resort, four miles north of Castle Dale, which was opened for the season June 16, 1929 is drawing large crowds of picnickers and pleasure seekers. A number of improvements and additions have been made this season: a new open air pavilion, now under construction, will be opened on July 31. This pavilion, 80 by 120 feet, is the largest and best dance floor in Eastern Utah.

A lake on the grounds furnishes excellent fishing and boats will be provided, a splendid bathing pool providing 24 private bath houses is kept busy a greater part of the time by the lovers of this sport.

Lunch stands and tables are provided for picnickers where lunches may be served on the lawn beneath a sumptuous shade.

A silver fox farm and zoo, where many wild animals and birds may be seen free of charge, including a bear, coyote, mink, wild cat, a huge dry land turtle imported from the desert of Arizona, peacocks, eagles, and others.

No admission is charged to enter the grounds or to view the many interesting sights to be seen on the place, or for the use of the tables and swings. A nominal fee only, is charged for bathing [swimming], boating, fishing, dancing, or for supplies at the lunch stand. A free band concert is given each Sunday afternoon.

The first dance at the Resort in 1929 was described by Lloyd Wilberg as follows.

[On] the evening of July 3 things were not quite ready, but it had been advertised, the orchestra had been hired, the people were all geared up about the dance so they went ahead and "opened." By nine o'clock there were so many cars that they were unable to park them. By the time the music was ready to start an enormous crowd had assembled near the bandstand. Just as the dance began there was a sudden cloudbust that sent everyone running for shelter of any kind. The storm lasted about thirty minutes and many people were soaked to the skin.

The clouds then cleared away, leaving a beautiful, starlit, summer's night. Many of the dancers helped sweep the water from the dance floor. It was repowdered and the dance began. The largest group of dancers ever assembled in Emery County enjoyed themselves on the largest dance floor in the state of Utah. The dancing part of the floor was 80' by 120'. It was located on a hill, near a beautiful grove overlooking a fifteen acre reservoir. It is no wonder that even now, 50 years later, talking about the resort brings tears to the eyes of some and wonderful memories to all that spent magical summer nights dancing under the stars.

When the opening dance dismissed at 2:30 a.m., there was quite a time getting the cars straightened out so the dancers could go home. The dance was a huge success. But while everyone else headed home humming their favorite dance tunes, we were picking up, straightening, and rearranging until the sun was coming up the morning of the fourth of July.

Evin was general manager, Cyrus was over the concession stand, Warren's job was the swimming pool and the foxes. Rufus took care of the cattle and helped out where he was needed.

MEMORY OF CARL WILBERG AND MATILDA MARIAH JOHNSON WILBERG



Carl and Matilda Wilberg

Carl Wilberg was born Septmeber 22, 1864, in Moss, Smaalenene, Norway, the fifth child of seven. He died August 8, 1951 in Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah.

He lived the first ten years of his life in Norway where his father owned a vineyard and a brickyard. The kilns were in a wild forested area called a berg which furnished charcoal for his kilns from which the name Wilberg originated.

After his father's, Lars Olsen Wilberg, death in 1874, the family that was left, his mother, Caroline Smith Winger, two sisters, and Carl joined the LDS Church and emigrated to Utah. They settled in Ephraim, Sanpete County. Carl attended school in Ephraim. As a teenager he worked in the timber. He made shingles, logs for building, anything else that was marketable. He also contracted the digging of wells.

At the age of nineteen, Carl married Matilda Mariah Johnson on October 24, 1883. Matilda was born February 6, 1865, in Ephraim, Sanpete County, third child of Rasmus and Mette Jensen-Schow Johnson. She died June 16, 1950 in Butleville, Salt Lake County. As a child, she showed a talent for music. A woman of the Presbyterian faith gave her lessons and allowed her to use the organ of her church for her practice. As she became older, the realization came to her that they were trying to wean her away from her church so she gave up her lessons.

Carl and Matilda were the parents of eight children: Eve Matilda, died at age 2; Mattie Caroline Miller; Carl Evin Wilberg; Mildred Vereleney Moffitt; Cyrus Oluf Wilberg; Rufus Bryan Wilberg; Vida Nathalia Fowles; Warren Hilary Wilberg.

The year following their marriage Carl attended the B. Y. U. Academy at Provo. He prepared himself for the position of school teacher which was to give him prominence as the most educated man in the area when he and Matilda decided to make their home in Castle Dale. He came to Emery County as the second teacher in Castle Dale in the year of 1885.

He served as County Clerk from 1890 to 1895 and County Recorder from 1890 to 1896. During his time in office, he helped many homesteaders to prove up on their land. His word was taken by the State Land Office as final proof. During his time in office, the three counties, Emery, Carbon, and San Juan were divided. He made the original plats for these counties and established the county lines.

He built the largest two-story building in Carbon and Emery Counties at that time for a general store and pharmacy. The upper floor was used for dancing and other recreation. This building still stands just east of the First Security Bank in Castle Dale. He also served as Deputy Sheriff. It was some time during this period that he also owned a small sawmill.

A secret desire to be a rancher took over, and the large two-story building was sold so that Carl could begin his venture. He began a farm in what was known as the Brakes. Here he settled and bought some short horn Durrahm cattle, along with about 750 head of Angora goats. The year was about 1896.

As life can do, problems developed and Carl lost everything, but an admirable man always picks himself up and emerges stronger than ever, and so it was with Carl. In an article in a Utah Farm Magazine, La Mont Johnson said concerning Carl, "A man who now rates as one of the outstanding livestock ranchers of Emery County, which is one of Utah's leading cattle sections, was once so broke that he had no place to lay his head. He had to become a 'nester' in another man's homestead shack until he could make a new start. There is always something inspiring about a person who can come up from the bottom until he stands on his own two feet again. So, from that low mark in Carl Wilberg's fortunes, when he lost virtually everything he owned, his initiative and energy have raised him back up to a position as one of the largest and most successful ranch owners in eastern Utah."

"His place between Huntington and Castle Dale has almost as many diversified activities as he himself has had during the last fifty years. Not many people could have accomplished this or believed he would have done, if they had seen him at his zero hour. The region westward from his ranch home to the Wasatch Mountains is mostly barren foothill country. It was even more lonesome on that occasion about 1908 when a rancher rode up to a little homestead shack he had built in gaining title to that range. The rancher found someone living in his shack and called, "Hey, what are you doing in my House?" The nester was Carl Wilberg. "I'm not trying to take your property, but I've just gone broke in town," he replied. "I had no other place to go. I'll get out if you say so, but if you don't need this shack right now I'd like to stay here until I can find something." The rancher readily gave his permission and from that time on Wilberg kept plugging away, building up a cowherd, increasing his land holdings, and improving the layout until he had a show place where there was once only barren hills.

Compared with this 'low' moment when he had nothing but a borrowed homestead shack to sleep in, Wilberg now had 3000 acres of rangeland surrounding his ranch home, extending to the west by several miles. He also had 550 acres of fine meadow range at the head of Joe's Valley, a permit for 220 head on the Forest here, and a 250 acre permit outside of the forest. This provided plenty of good range on which to raise his excellent Herefords to top condition. While Hereford breeding was his principal interest, he developed his crop lands by a thorough system of rotation and planting of permanent pasture grasses. He had an expansion and improvement program that was of financial benefit not only to himself, but to the entire county. He bought up some abandoned farms adjoining his home property and planted them to more permanent pasture grass. That restored these lands to the county tax rolls, improved appearance of the region, and provided more winter forage for his growing herd of Herefords.

His ranch had a lake lined with trees and pasture to make it a beautiful rural scene. Adjoining this was a large grove and resort facilities which made the Wilberg Ranch one of the most popular outing places in the area. He lighted the grounds up and made all facilities available for many private and public gatherings and dances. He had an extensive fox farm, his own feed-grinding mill and machine shop.

He and his wife who helped him acquire what he had enjoyed, their own independence with the satisfaction of helping others make their own way." (From article by Lamont Johnson)

Carl Wilberg died August 8, 1951 at his home after a lingering illness. He was buried August 11, 1951 alongside his wife and wonderful companion at Castle Dale, Utah. He was 86 years of age at the time of his death. At that time he was survived by his 4 sons and 3 daughters, 33 grandchildren and 49 great grandchildren.

lumber, and adobes. One of the first two-story residences was built by Bishop Henning Olsen for his newlywed son Abinadi (Nad) and his wife Hannah in 1887 at the corner of Main and Center streets. This lumber and adobe structure was still standing in remodeled form in 1995.⁴ The 1890s brought the biggest building boom the community would see in its first century. The first brick residence was erected by J. W. Seely in 1889 at the corner of First South and Center streets.⁵ This house, which was still standing in 1995, was built of an orange-toned brick shipped in from northern Utah. Locally manufactured brick became available a short time later, and by 1898 a Price newspaper reported "at least thirty brick buildings in course of construction in Castle Dale."⁶ The most noteworthy public buildings were the two-story Emery County Courthouse at the corner of First South and Second East streets (1892), a social hall on the site of the present city park (variously dated at 1890 and 1893), and the Emery Stake Academy building, completed in 1890, the frame and corner of the public square.⁷ Also during the 1890s, the frame and adobe Anderson Hotel was erected at the corner of Main and First East; James Jeffs built a large brick house that was also used as a hotel at the east end of town; and two-story brick commercial buildings were erected by Carl Willberg and H. Peter Orteson on East Main Street, by William P. Winters on the southwest corner of Main and Center streets, and by C. E. Pearson on Second East, north of the Courthouse.⁸ Of all these structures, only the Willberg and Pearson buildings remained standing in 1995.

Orangeville. In addition to approving the Castle Dale townsite, the visiting LDS apostles in August 1880 also gave permission for the upstream settlers "to locate on the Reed [sic] townsite and to build a school-house, as two will be needed on the creek."⁹ This townsite had reportedly been surveyed in the spring of 1880 on land claimed by John K. Reid, Andrew Anderson, and Alma G. Jewkes.¹⁰ The towns, less than three miles apart, were known as Lower Castle Dale and Upper Castle Dale until 13 August 1882, when Apostle Erastus Snow returned to Emery Stake to divide the Castle Dale ward. Upon Snow's recommendation, Upper Castle Dale was named Orangeville in honor of Orange Seely. This designation was somewhat anomalous in that Seely was a resident of the lower town, and the post office des-

ignated as Castle settlement.

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rowed range shack. However, by the early years of the twentieth century he had accumulated substantial holdings. As his sons grew up, they assumed responsibilities in the family enterprises. Evin Wilberg managed the United Meat Market, which the Wilbergs acquired from Evin's father-in-law, Peter Tolboe, in 1921 and which served the Castle Dale trade with the first refrigeration plant in the area. Cyrus Wilberg ran the slaughtering operation to provide meat for the local market and for delivery to the Carbon County coal camps. In the early 1930s, the Wilbergs acquired the Black Diamond coal mine in Straight Canyon, and Cyrus and his sons assumed management of this enterprise. Rufus and Warren took the major responsibility for the family's farming and livestock operations, including a fox farm. The entire family participated in running the resort, staffing ticket windows and food booths, directing traffic, or helping with security or cleanup. Attendance declined in the late 1930s, and the resort did not reopen after the 1941 season, but its twelve years of operation had been memorable. As Owen McClellahan recalled, "The Wilberg Resort took the edge off the depression. Everyone had to work hard to earn just enough to eat and buy a few clothes. Dancing at Wilbergs gave the people the relaxation they needed."⁹²

Wildlife and Fossils. Mountain lions, bears, coyotes, and bobcats were hunted less as a sport than as predator control intended to protect domestic livestock and deer herds. According to reports from government hunter Clayton Kofford, an average of more than five hundred predators were trapped or shot each year during the late 1930s. The Joe's Valley area gained a wide reputation for producing large mountain lions. This brought a Vermont-based guide and hunter named Bill Green to the area in the winters of 1939-40 and 1940-41. From a base at the Olsen ranch, Green, his celebrity clients, and his trained lion dogs killed numerous animals. Green's Emery County hunts were the subject of a feature article in the popular magazine *Colliers* in June 1943. On one occasion the Castle Dale Lions Club served sandwiches made with meat from animals killed by Green.⁹³

Emery County was gaining increased recognition as a major source of dinosaur fossils. Fossil beds east of Molen attracted the attention of researchers from the California Institute of Technology

1930. The Gem Theater in Green River was purchased and upgraded by merchant W. F. Asimus in 1931. The Castle Dale LDS Ward acquired the projection equipment of the Rex Theatre in 1930 and began showing movies in the ward meetinghouse. Local wards also provided movies at Emery, Huntington, and Cleveland.⁹⁴

Dances continued to be an important recreational activity. The formal junior proms at the high schools and Gold and Green Balls sponsored by the LDS Mutual Improvement Association attracted large crowds including both young people and older ones. The Christmas-New Year's week would have at least one dance every night somewhere in the western part of the county, and increasing access to automobiles made it possible for more people to go dancing outside their own communities. This was the era also of the outdoor dance pavilion, including the Star View pavilion built by Ross Petey and Ivan Jensen east of Ferron and several dance pavilions in Carbon County that were patronized by Emery County residents. The most popular dancing place in the Emery-Carbon region, however, was the Wilberg Resort.

Wilberg Resort. The opening of Wilbergs' on 3 July 1929 was a landmark event. The hilltop grove planted by Carl Wilberg at his ranch midway between Castle Dale and Huntington had been a popular destination for picnics and parties for the two previous decades. Now, however, the Wilberg family undertook a more ambitious effort to turn the grove into a commercial attraction appealing to the large population of young people in the Emery-Carbon region. They constructed the largest dance floor in the area, measuring eighty by 120 feet, booked the most popular dance bands, and drew crowds as large as a thousand on peak-season Saturday nights. In addition to the dance floor, the resort also offered refreshment stands, swings, swimming, boating, and a small zoo. Ever the opportunist, Carl Wilberg extended the season into the fall by building a warming fire at the center of the dance floor and offering free watermelon to patrons. The resort was only one facet of an extensive family economy. Carl Wilberg had displayed a strong entrepreneurial bent from the time he arrived in Castle Dale as a young school teacher in 1885. He dealt extensively in farm land, buying, selling, and trading. At one low point in his fortunes, he was reportedly reduced to living in a bor-

About 100 were seated at the first tables, and before the food was touched Hon. Orange Seely invoked divine blessing upon it and the assembled multitude. Under the direction of Mr. Seely the onslaught upon the generous bounty of the hosts began and continued for an hour, although Mr. Seely had everyone beaten before the third course was served.

After dinner, guests strolled through the orchards or toured the house with its newly installed plumbing: "Hot and cold water, issuing from the prettiest and most sanitary concerts of modern plumbing, were found in almost every one of the large airy rooms of this fine home." In the evening there was a dance at Killpack Hall at which Orange Seely, then in his sixtieth year, put on a vigorous demonstration of "step dancing."¹⁷¹

Other social events included community celebrations of the Fourth and Twenty-fourth of July, old folks' parties, the annual dinner and program commemorating the organization of the LDS Relief Society, and encampments of the Indian war veterans. The inaugural Peach Days celebration at Ferron in 1901 drew a disappointing attendance, but by the middle of the next decade it had become a popular attraction. The first Melon Day at Green River was celebrated in 1908. This community observance was apparently somewhat irregular for some years thereafter, but by its peak of popularity in the 1920s it drew special trains from Grand Junction and Salt Lake City. The first Emery County Fair was held at Castle Dale in 1916, after joint Emery-Carbon fairs at Price during previous years. Boxing and wrestling matches, with both local and imported athletes, and horse races were regular features of these celebrations.

Each community had its favorite outdoor recreation sites such as "The Breaks" or "The Cedars." The hilltop grove planted by Carl Wilberg on his farm north of Castle Dale was a popular recreation destination as early as 1905. A few years later, C. H. Winder developed a resort at Desert Lake featuring Saturday night dances and moon-light boat rides. Ferron residents traveled *en masse* to spend a week or so in the high elevations of Ferron Reservoir each summer, while residents of Orangethorne and Castle Dale made similar pilgrimages to Joe's Valley. In some years massive Emery-Sanpete "reunions" attracted five thousand people or more to Horseshoe Flats on the

divide between the two valleys. "Eastering" in the San Rafael desert was a well-established Emery County tradition by 1910. Multipurpose recreation buildings erected during the period included the Huntington Relief Society Hall, Davis Hall in Cleveland, and the Green River Opera House. Fraternal lodges, including Masons, Modern Woodmen, and Knights of Pythias, played an important role in the cultural and recreational life of Green River but attracted little interest in the western towns of the county, though short-lived Modern Woodmen chapters were established at Ferron and Orangethorne.

Commercial entertainment included frequent visits to the county by touring professional theater companies, most prominently the Walters Stock Company. In 1901 the Edison Moving Picture Company toured the county with a "Projectoscope" exhibition of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons prize fight. In 1902 Lars Christensen and Hector Evans of Castle Dale purchased an "Edison Concert Phonograph" and gave recorded concerts in several communities. In 1910 James W. Johnson obtained a projector and showed motion pictures in the upper floor of the Wall-Miller building in Castle Dale. In 1914 R. C. Miller fitted up that space as the Castle Dale Electric Theater, apparently the first motion picture theater in the county. Greenhallow Hall in Ferron began showing movies later the same year, and in early 1915 J. W. Nixon opened the Bonita Theater in Huntington. Among the most popular attractions were the silent Westerns featuring Art Acord, who had grown up in Castle Dale.¹⁷²

Baseball was being played by pick-up town teams by the turn of the century. Mohrland, like other coal camps, had a well equipped team with some players of semipro caliber and wide community support. The Mohrland team had two different sets of rivalries, one with the Carbon County coal camps and Helper and Price, and the other organized during the period, with games played on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. The Emery Stake Academy fielded its first basketball team in 1911 when it defeated a Ferron town team by a score of twelve to six. Basketball became the most popular sport at the new high schools,

church and to build a handsome frame gothic revival building on land donated by the Green River Townsite Company. Both the design of the building and the range of activities sponsored by the church were similar to those that might be found in the Midwestern small towns from which most Green River residents had come. In addition to worship services, the church was a center of community social life. Banquets were held in the church basement, and the ladies' auxiliary sponsored outdoor ice cream socials on summer Saturday evenings with music provided by the town brass band. Unlike the LDS wards in other Emery County communities that sponsored dances on every possible occasion, the Presbyterian church frowned on this form of recreation. In 1914 Pastor Nethery was assigned "to call on all dancing church members to persuade them of the error of their ways and to notify them that all who did not give up dancing would be expelled from the church."¹³¹

Schools

The growing school-age population, which reached 1,734 by 1901, had made most of the existing schools inadequate. The Castle Dale school could accommodate only half of the students enrolled, and the district was obliged to rent classroom space in commercial buildings. Huntington schools were spread among as five different locations. Among the larger communities, only the Ferron school built in the late 1890s and the Orangeville school constructed in 1901 came close to meeting local needs.¹³²

The first example of a new generation of school buildings was erected in the town of Emery between 1905 and 1906. Acclaimed as "one of the finest school houses in Eastern Utah," it was a two-story brick structure with eight classrooms. This two-story rectangular block was a popular style for schools in the period from 1900 to about 1910, and buildings on the same general model were erected at Huntington (1907), Castle Dale (1908), Green River (1910), and Cleveland (1911). All were of brick construction except Green River, which was built of concrete blocks with a stucco finish.¹³³

Of these buildings, only the one in Castle Dale remained standing in 1995, having been converted to city government offices. It was erected on its present site after several years of controversy and false

starts. In 1901, recognizing the need for a larger building, the Castle Dale school district obtained land on the rim of the bench from Carl Wilberg, who was beginning to market lots in the Wilberg subdivision and no doubt saw the school as an asset to his new development. District trustees invested a substantial sum in foundation work and contracted with E. A. Jones to burn a kiln of bricks. However, several prominent residents of the lower town, led by J. W. Seely, protested the building of the school so far from the center of town. Lawsuits were brought against the school board both by local groups and by the state superintendent, claiming that public funds had been expended without proper approval. After two elections in which voters rejected proposals to build on the bench site, school trustees finally obtained a more acceptable site through an exchange of property with the Castle Dale Ward Relief Society. The school was designed by the Dallin and Hedges architect firm of Salt Lake City and built by Castle Dale carpenter and contractor C. P. Anderson.¹³⁴

Expanding Programs. Fewer than half of the county's young people at the turn of the century completed the fifth grade. Nevertheless, a growing interest in schooling beyond that level led some local districts to offer higher grades. Huntington graduated its first eighth grade class of seven members in 1903. A ninth grade was added in 1905. Ferron was providing work through the ninth grade by 1906, and both Ferron and Orangeville instituted tenth grades in 1908. Students who sought an education beyond that available at the local district schools had several options. They could attend the Emery Stake Academy or the Ferron Presbyterian Academy. Several students left the county each winter to live with relatives and attend school in Ephraim, Mantu, or Mount Pleasant. Others went to Provo or Salt Lake City. When the Carbon County High School opened in 1912, the faculty actively recruited Emery County students. A small but significant number of county residents continued their education at the college level. Apparently the first native-born Emery County resident to graduate from a university was James W. Nixon III, who received an A.B. degree from the University of Utah in 1913 and an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1918. (The first county resident to earn an M.D. was Alonzo N. Leonard, who came to Huntington as a child in 1881.¹³⁵)

invention, named it the Utah Lay-off Machine, contracted with a foundry in Logan for its manufacture, and undertook an active marketing campaign involving demonstrations at state and county fairs in Utah and surrounding states.¹⁰¹ The "King Cultivator and Clod Breaker" was developed by E. M. Cox of Orangetown in 1904, and in 1911 Cox and Grange together received a patent for an "improved furrower." It is not clear whether these implements were ever marketed on a commercial scale. In 1903 Huntington resident William Howard was promoting a locking headgate of his own invention designed to prevent tampering with irrigation water settings.¹⁰² George Ipson of Huntington invented a "station indicator" designed to display approaching stops on streetcars. Ipson died before he could put his invention on the market, but the Station Indicator Company remained in business for several years with headquarters at first in Price and later in Salt Lake City. Several county residents held stock in the company or were involved in selling stock throughout Utah and Idaho. It does not appear, however, that the company achieved its goal of having the Ipson Indicator widely adopted by streetcar companies.¹⁰³

Making a Living

The 1900 census listed sixty-one different occupations in Emery County, including a wide range of crafts, trades, and professions.¹⁰⁴ The occupational range indicates a maturing of the economy, with a base in agriculture and stock raising but with probably no more than half of the families drawing their primary income from their own land and livestock. Insofar as this economic diversification provided opportunities in business, trades, and professions, it represented a positive development. However, it was apparent that the county's population was outgrowing its economic base. "Day laborers" constituted a significant occupational category, with, for example, twenty-four male heads of family so classified in Castle Dale and twenty in Orangetown. This designation was applied in most cases to men who had no regular employment and owned little or no land apart from perhaps a town lot. They might pick up work at sheep-shearing time or during harvest season on the farms and perhaps occasional building, road, or timber work, but it appears that at least

Construction and Manufacturing Industries

While agriculture, livestock, and mining were the county's economic mainstays, construction-related activities were also important during this period. New schools and other public buildings were erected in almost all communities, as were new and larger business buildings and many homes and farm structures. Locally burned brick (and unburned adobes for inner linings) continued to be used in many buildings. Most of the lumber used in the county also continued to be locally produced. The establishment of the Manti National Forest brought regulation of the lumber industry, with sawmill operators required to obtain permits to cut timber. Still, a significant number of sawmills were regularly in operation during the summer months. The Huntington Lumber Company, incorporated in 1907 by John F. Monson, LeRoy Strong, George M. Miller, and Joseph E. Johnson, operated a sawmill in Huntington Canyon and a planing mill in Huntington for several years. Ferra Young and sons, Martin Jensen and sons, and some others ran sawmills in Huntington Canyon. Carl Wilberg operated a mill near Seely Creek for several years then sold it to A. Gardner Jewkes, Frank Killian, and Clyde and Arthur A. Van Buren. This sawmill operation continued in the Van Buren family until 1950. Claiborne Elder had a mill in Reeder Canyon, and Henry Lord operated one near the Cap on Horn Mountain. George Petty and sons ran a sawmill in Ferron Canyon for many years. The original mill established in the Muddy Creek drainage by Rasmus Jacobson, Ed Torgensen, and Chris Jensen in 1893 was acquired by Hans Jensen, G. M. Burr, and Joe Christiansen in 1912. This operation remained in the Jensen family until 1945. A sawmill also operated on Cedar Mountain for a time, harvesting the small stands of Ponderosa pine.¹⁰⁰

Several inventions by county residents fostered hopes for establishment of manufacturing industries. Orangetown blacksmith Joseph S. Grange invented what was described as "a very useful & simple farm implement . . . variously known as a pulverizer, lay-off and go-devil." Short-lived foundries were established in both Orangetown and Castle Dale to manufacture the Grange implement. In 1902 B. F. Luke, manager of the Orangetown Co-op, acquired rights to Grange's

in the 1890s, but more were constructed of brick and on a larger scale. An upper story became common, which might be used as a dance hall. Building fronts were sometimes given a more massive appearance by the use of decorative brick features or rock faced quoins and door and window trim. The building erected by Carl Wilberg on Main Street in Castle Dale is included in Carter and Goss's *Utah's Historic Architecture* as a good example of the Victorian Romanesque Revival style in commercial buildings.¹²²

Probably the only architect-designed building in nineteenth-century Emery County was Green River's Palmer House, a three-story frame hotel built in French Second Empire Revival style. Other hotels in the county were simply large houses—and in some instances small houses that could offer one or two bedrooms to travelers.

Nineteenth-century Latter-day Saint meetinghouses and social halls were simple rectangular rooms designed to accommodate as many people as possible. A T-wing at the rear might provide some classroom and office space. The buildings typically had little decoration, except for the theater-social hall in Orangeville, which had large paintings on walls and ceiling. The Huntington meetinghouse erected between 1896 and 99 was the largest such building in the county, with a horseshoe-shaped second-floor gallery and decorative interior woodwork executed by local craftsman William Hunter.¹²³

Most schools were makeshift structures, single rooms in the smaller communities and cross-wing buildings with three or more rooms in the larger towns. Ferron and Orangeville had fairly capacious brick buildings by the turn of the century, and the two-room Lawrence school was well designed. The major era of public school building, however, came during the early decades of the twentieth century. The first Emery Stake Academy building had four classrooms on the ground floor and a large assembly hall on the upper story. The entry and bell tower, added about 1902, provided an additional small classroom. The building was apparently used for church meetings soon after its completion, in preference to the old social hall.

Farm Buildings. Farm buildings were of a rudimentary character in nineteenth-century Emery County. Grain was typically stored in

log structures—and in some instances in bins inside the home. After the extensive loss of livestock during the hard winter of 1880, the provision of some kind of shelter for farm animals became a high priority. The most typical result was a ramada-like structure with a roof of poles supported by wooden posts and covered with willows and a straw thatch. With a wall of wood slabs on two sides to provide protection from the prevailing north and west winds, such a shelter proved highly practical. These sheds continued in wide use well into the twentieth century, and their remains can still be seen throughout the county. Corrals and pigpens were made of poles at first and later of lumber slabs and "winny-edge." Chickens were largely free-ranging with sometimes rough log or adobe shelters provided as protection from nocturnal predators. John Duncan built the first barn in Ferron, and perhaps in the county, probably during the 1890s. Barns became very prominent features of the Emery County townscape during the following decades, as did the distinctive "inside-out" granaries with exterior framing. Much hay, however, was stacked in the open, and local ingenuity developed stacking derricks in a variety of designs for this purpose.

Sickness and Health

When LDS apostle Francis M. Lyman visited Emery County in 1880, he noted with satisfaction that there had been "but three deaths, and they were of children," since the beginning of settlement.¹²⁴ If the colonists were a healthy lot, it was fortunate for them because little medical assistance was available. Charles R. Curtis rendered his memories of the pioneer era in verse including these lines:

We never had no smallpox then and we never had no flu,
And we never had no doctors to pay our money to,
We lived on very common food you'll all agree no doubt
But no one ever had to have their tonsils taken out like folks nowa-days do.¹²⁵

Bishop Orange Seely reportedly pulled teeth and set broken bones in addition to doing needed blacksmith work during his ecclesiastical visits among the settlements.¹²⁶ There were, as we have seen, capable midwives from an early date. And many colonists put their

Among others operating lumber or shingle mills during this period were Charles Pulsipher, Andrew J. Allen, William Marshall, Alma Staker, and James W. Bradley in the Huntington Canyon area; Henning Olsen (Ungertman) and sons, Azariah Tuttle, Carl Willberg, and Andrew Van Buren in the Cottonwood Creek drainage; Brigham H. Higgs, James Henrie, and George Petty and sons in Ferron Canyon; and Rasmus Jacobson, Ed Torgenson, and Chris Jensen near Emery.¹⁵⁹

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town and supplied materials for numerous buildings. His son, Elisha Allen, Jr., continued in the trade until the 1940s.¹⁶¹ William Green and sons of Huntington began making bricks about 1896 for the construction of the Huntington meetinghouse.¹⁶² They continued as the chief suppliers to the community for some two decades. As was the case with locally produced timber products, brick sales were almost entirely confined to Emery County markets, although Hyrum Nelson reportedly shipped some bricks to Salt Lake City for use in constructing the ZCMI store.¹⁶³

Anders Rasmussen and his son Erastus manufactured quicklime for many years. They gathered limestone from the Cottonwood Creek bed, crushed it with hand tools, and burned it in a round kiln some sixteen to eighteen feet high. The product was marketed at Price and Helper as well as in Emery County communities.¹⁶⁴

Other Industries

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