

Copyright by
Lyle J. Barnes
1969

OGDEN'S NOTORIOUS "TWO-BIT STREET,"

1870-1954

by

Lyle J. Barnes

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

History

Approved:

Major Professor

Committee Member

Committee Member

Dean of Graduate Studies

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, Utah

1969

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Such a project as the writing of the history of Ogden, Utah's Twenty-fifth Street with all its associating crime, vice, and intrigue, seemed almost impossible. In fact, many people have asked how such a research could be accomplished. Certainly those involved with the Street were unwilling to participate in such an exposé. And, in fact, help came from some only when it became apparent to them that much of the information had already been obtained from others. Then they began to fear that their side of the story would be neglected. Of course such people might attempt to distort the truth, and it became necessary to corroborate everything with other sources. With only a few exceptions, the events recorded have been viewed through at least two, and often several sources.

It has taken as much as a year to gain access to some important sources; however, in the end little access to information has been denied. Special credit should go to numerous people who have submitted themselves to interviews or supplied information in any way. Many have asked that their names not be specifically mentioned and others did not specify, so I refrain from giving specific credit to them except in the footnotes and bibliography.

The Ogden City Recorder's Office was especially cooperative in opening their records to historical research. The Weber County Office was equally cooperative in making available the court records and other county documents. Most of the time I was admitted upon recognition.

Also, certain people in the police department offered much help by making the police records readily available.

There is much that could not be written and that which follows represents approximately half of the vital information that was gathered. Often the use of the information would injure innocent people, such as the children of persons deeply implicated in prostitution or gambling enterprises. Wherever possible, such information was left out. Sometimes such information was so vital that the risk of hurting the innocent relatives had to be taken. Sometimes the information was used, but without names, as indicated in the text.

Little has been done to spare the names of certain persons whose personal actions have done more to destroy their once good names than any recording of events.

Within the distance of three city blocks, there existed between the years 1870 to 1954 a multitude of social evils ranging from gambling, prostitution, and narcotics peddling to murder, robbery, beatings, rape, etc. Inquiries are made herein to ascertain responsibilities and irresponsibilities behind the continued good health of vice and crime on Twenty-fifth Street, Ogden, Utah, for eighty-four years before the clean-up occurred.

Credit is given to the individuals who courageously engineered the clean-up of government and the Street itself against power structures which were deeply rooted by years of growth. The clean-up was consummated and that which remains is only the adumbrate remains of the street itself to remind people of the past.

Lyle J. Barnes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. THE STAGE IS SET: THE SCENERY AND THE PEOPLE	1
The Scenery	1
The People	4
Some Descriptions of the Criminals	6
Chinese and Japanese Gamblers	9
II. SYNOPSIS OF 1869 TO 1944	12
Conditions in Ogden When the Railroad Came, 1869	12
The Changes that Resulted from the Railroad after 1869	14
Belle London	19
Fanny Dawson and the Murder Company	20
Law Enforcement on the Street, 1900-1920	22
1920-1940	27
Mayor Harman Peery	29
III. THE CATAclySM BEGINS AT THE TOP	33
The Election of Kent S. Bramwell, a Pro-Vice Mayor	33
The Appointment of Chief of Police T. R. Johnson	33
The Attempted Maintenance	35
The Exposure of the Conspiracy	36
Mayor Bramwell; Guilty or Not Guilty?	41
IV. A SHORT REPRIEVE, THEN EXTERMINATION	48
A Time of Passiveness in Law Enforcement	48
The First Anti-Vice Crusaders, Sheriff Mac Wade and Chief Deputy Jack Card	55
The 1950 Election and the Turning Point of City Policy Toward Twenty-fifth Street	62
V. SUMMARY	66
BIBLIOGRAPHY	74
APPENDIX	79
VITA	81

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Convictions by nativity for Weber County	9
2. Ogden City Police Department arrests and convictions	49
3. Change in police department effectiveness, 1947-1950	62
4. Crimes committed in Weber County, Utah by native, foreign-born, and unknown for selected years	80

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Looking west on Twenty-fifth Street	2
2. Racial-ethnic composition of Weber County	10

ABSTRACT

Ogden's Notorious "Two-Bit Street,"

1870-1954

by

Lyle J. Barnes, Master of Science

Utah State University, 1969

Major Professor: C. Blythe Ahlstrom
Department: History

A history which records the weaknesses and failures of society may serve as its conscience. The history of Twenty-fifth Street in Ogden, Utah is that kind of history. It reminds us that it is possible for evil influences to prey upon society to the extent that it weakens and becomes vulnerable to the influence.

First the people became passive. They began to feel that the influence was there and there was little they could do about it. They then began ignoring it as if by doing so it would cease to exist. But it didn't disappear. Instead it grew and became so strong that eventually they were bound by its power. This is the story of Ogden's notorious "Two-Bit" Street. Serving as the gateway into Ogden City for those who stepped off the train, it began to cater to the appetites and desires of the people who traveled through Utah.

It all began in 1869 when the railroads were joined at Promontory. Gestations of prostitution, gambling, and narcotics (opium) were the direct results of the absorption of Corinne and many other railroad towns along the way by Ogden.

Realizing this, the people of Ogden struggled at first to prevent the ominous spectre haunting the city; but they soon became passive,

and it wasn't long until the officials of the city were faced with the choice of either cleaning up the street or allowing it to remain. These authorities learned that by befriending those underworld leaders they could enjoy political strength enough to maintain themselves in power.

Finally, after eighty years of underworld prosperity, heroes who were courageous enough to challenge this power structure began to take steps to eradicate this influence. Uncertain of how it would work out and fearful of being politically and professionally destroyed, they nevertheless fervently attacked. Some were put down immediately; some made attacks, retreating when the pressure became great, later to return and renew the battle again. At first these were not the top leaders of the community, they were the men and women of the sheriff's and police departments. Finally, in the early 1950's these two departments began to harmonize their efforts; and with a change in leadership in city government, the crushing blow was made to Ogden's notorious "Two-Bit" Street.

What remains of the Street today is a partial skeleton of the past.

(90 pages)

CHAPTER I

THE STAGE IS SET: THE SCENERY

AND THE PEOPLE

The Scenery

Although Ogden, Utah's Twenty-fifth Street runs from the Union Pacific Depot on the western border of Ogden to the extreme eastern borders of the city, the portion with which this paper will be concerned is only the three blocks beginning directly in front of the depot and extending to Ogden's business district. Through the years, this part of Twenty-fifth Street has experienced many descriptive changes.

Pictures of Twenty-fifth Street before the turn of the century depict a dirt street rutted by wagon wheels and divided by streetcar tracks (see Figure 1). Saloons, blacksmith shops, and other business houses were built of brick, peculiar to the architecture of the time. The street became a "river of mud in rainy seasons and a layer of dust in dry seasons." Wooden sidewalks protected footwear from the mud and dust, but created additional hazards in the form of splinters, protruding nails, and crevices to swallow dropped coins. It was shaded by large boxelder, cottonwood, poplar, and elm trees.

There were few traffic rules. "Speeding" meant racing horses "furiously or immoderately" faster than the regular traffic, and ". . . such person(s) caught in violation of this law shall be liable to a fine in any sum not exceeding fifty dollars."¹ Riding horses or leading them

¹Ogden, Utah, *The Revised Ordinances of Ogden City*, 1894, Title X, Sec. 14, p. 163.



Figure 1. Looking west on Twenty-fifth Street.

onto the sidewalks brought a fine of up to ten dollars. Blacksmith shops did a thriving business fitting horseshoes. Teamsters lingering too long (over five hours) in the saloons, thus neglecting animals tied to the hitching rails, could suffer fines of up to 100 dollars, imprisonment up to fifty days, or both. Police officers could take the animals to livery stables and get them fed and watered, which could accrue additional expense to the owners. The cry of "runaway" would bring the entire populace to the doorways.²

An old brochure of 1897 told the story of many business places. Typical of the advertisements in this brochure was the one about the old Broom Hotel located on the corner of Washington and Twenty-fifth Street:

The building, an elegant three-story brick, is conspicuously prominent by its white front and central location, and universally spoken of as the best \$2.50 a day house run on the American and European plans.

The house contains 62 large sunny, nicely furnished and well ventilated sleeping rooms. The dining room is elegant and spacious, capable of seating 150 people. A steam heating system conducts heat to all parts of the building which is lighted by electricity, furnished with call bells, etc.

The brochure described the Mint Saloon, located at 308 Twenty-fifth Street as having

. . . a handsome interior with a bar and finishings in oak with rich wood carvings. Beveled plate mirrors, artistic masterpieces, rich cut glass, etc., make the interior one of brilliant elegance indeed.

The finest imported wines, many exceeding in age the half century mark, brandies, port wines, sherries, are to be found in great variety. The leading brands of eastern beer, bottled and on draught are to be had, as well as our home brew, Becker's.³

²Ogden *Standard Examiner*, July 11, 1937, p. 1C.

This was a centennial account of Ogden's Twenty-fifth Street of the 1880's.

³Bob Agee, "Ogden Flourishing, Booming in 1897," *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, December 22, 1965, p. 2B.

Butch Cassidy stayed at the Broom Hotel during the 1890's and probably frequented this saloon. George C. Streeter, one of the town citizens, was the last man to see him there. Telling his story in 1936, he said:

The last time I saw "Butch" was over thirty years ago here in Ogden. At that time there was a price of \$50,000 reward on his head.

I spoke to him on the street, but he did not turn around. He said quietly, "Meet me in the Broom Hotel." I went to his room and had a long talk with him. He never was much of a hand to drink, using less liquor than the average.⁴

Approximately forty years later, as the automobiles of the 1920's and 30's replaced the wagons and carriages of old, the dirt and mud had changed to pavement. The trees had been taken out, newer structures had appeared, street lights had been installed, the street had been widened, and parking stalls were provided.⁵

The People

The story of Ogden's Twenty-fifth Street cannot be told without reference to the people in and around Ogden. They were responsible for its existence as a center of sin, bright lights, and play. They patronized it, condoned it, and eventually destroyed it through their elected officials. The story of this notorious street and the people who created its destiny is the subject of this history.

It is apparent from the early descriptions of foreign non-Mormon immigrants and visitors to Ogden that the community had succeeded in maintaining its Mormon composition. Carolyn Larson, a Scandinavian visiting Ogden as an official representative of a Swedish Baptist Church

⁴Brown, Merlin C., "Some Westerners Believe Him Still Alive, In America," *Ogden Standard Examiner*, July 22, 1936, p. 12.

⁵*Ogden Standard Examiner*, July 11, 1937, p. 1C.

in the year 1884, after surveying the prospects for the establishment of a Baptist Church in Ogden, reported that there were many Scandinavians living in Ogden, but only three were Baptists. The rest were Mormon. There was no Baptist Church and no Baptist Pastor.⁶

One of the reasons for this condition can be found in the activities of an agency of the Mormon Church called the Perpetual Emigrating Company. As early as 1852, this company had succeeded in transplanting small communities of Mormons from eastern portions of the United States and Europe to Utah under an arrangement similar to the early colonial practice of indenturehood. With the building of the Utah Central Railway System, many of the "indentured" immigrants who came settled in Ogden, which became the center of this system.⁷

Of course, the wedding of the rails at Promontory Point opened the door to people of all religions. As a result of this event, anyone with sufficient funds to pay the fare who desired to come to Ogden, Utah would come--and they did. In one year after the Promontory union, Ogden's population had doubled to 3,000; by 1880 it had doubled to 6,069; and by 1890 it had again doubled to 14,889.⁸

Approximately one out of every three or four people that the traveler through Weber County would talk with in 1890 was an immigrant to the area from some distant country who probably knew little English if he

⁶William Mulder, *Homeward to Zion, the Mormon Migration from Scandinavia* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1957), pp. 286-287.

⁷Leonard J. Arrington, *Great Basin Kingdom, an Economic History of the Latter-day Saints, 1830-1900* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958), pp. 77-79.

⁸Bob Agee, "Quiet Town Booms into Brawling Community After Railroad Arrives," *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, July 25, 1962, p. 9.

were from a non-English speaking country. Assuming that this ratio would remain nearly the same on Twenty-fifth Street, our traveler could expect to see in every 100 people on the Street about two from England, seven from Canada, two from Denmark, one from Germany, one from Holland, one from Ireland, one from Scotland, one from Norway, and two from Sweden. In every 150 people that he passed he would see one from Wales; in every 300 one from China; and in every 400, one from Italy. The rest would be native-born.⁹

Some Descriptions of the Criminals

Historians of Utah history have argued pro and con about the effects of Mormonism on Utah. In recent years, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has become the cynosure of criticism, and some historians have achieved fame and fortune by their critical writings.

Certainly, a large share of this criticism is valid and has served to partially crumble the theocratic power structure which has made so many "Gentiles" feel deprived. Probably, the Church has learned more about getting along with other people than others within their midst have learned about the strengths and vision of the Church.

William Mulder, in his book, *Homeward to Zion, the Mormon Migration from Scandinavia*, relates several stories of distraught immigrants whose reception at Ogden Depot and throughout Utah was very cold. In one of these stories, Hans Zobel is reported to have said: "So this is really 'Zion' indeed, but what a reception. No shelter, no bretheren,

⁹U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890: Population*, I, 482, 524. U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950: Population*, II, 36, 54.

none of the pure in heart to bid us welcome, but on the other hand, we learned that there are a lot of untrustworthy people right here."¹⁰

There is a great deal of truth to the contention of these historians that non-Mormon elements coming to Utah have made Utah a more liberal society, tempered with fresh new perspectives and more of a sister to her neighboring states. Introspection is good therapy in broadening societal tolerance. It seems logical that people who have been indoctrinated with the idea that their way of life is the only true way will only gain a tolerance of another way of life by becoming familiar with that people and their customs. It may be assumed that reciprocal exchanges of culture would take place.

In search of objectivity, however, some study should be made of the "untrustworthy people" of Ogden. There is some evidence indicating that the foreign-born immigrant was the source of most of Ogden's criminal problems during the first decade of the Twentieth Century.

The Mormons were quite apprehensive about the newcomers from other parts of the United States as well as abroad arriving on the new railroad without some screening device such as the Perpetual Emigrating Company had provided. John Codman, a traveler through Ogden immediately after the Transcontinental Railroad arrived, remarked that the former policy of the people of Ogden had been one of isolation, and that they had been strongly opposed to all railroad enterprises.¹¹ Now with the available information describing the incidence of foreign-born criminals as compared to native-born criminals, one could say that they were justified in these apprehensions.

¹⁰Mulder, *Homeward to Zion*, pp. 178-179.

¹¹John Codman, *The Mormon Country: A Summer With the "Latter-day Saints"* (New York: The United States Publishing Company, 1874), pp. 3-4.

By 1868 the atmosphere of apprehension began to grow as the Union Pacific tracks appeared in Weber Canyon. On August 2 of that year, Officer Doxey of the police department warned: "There was some loose women in our town that would bear watching."¹²

The *Deseret News* editorial on May 21, 1868 stated: "The railroad is going to make a great change in affairs here, and our people should moderate their expectations and prepare themselves for the alteration which appears inevitable."¹³

Ogden received new moral problems with the coming of the railroad, and some of them involved the foreign-born immigrant. In 1900, approximately 24.2 percent of the total population in Weber County was foreign-born. This group of approximately one-fourth of the population committed approximately one-half the number of crimes committed by the remaining three-fourths of native-born people.

The percentage of foreign-born population diminished at the rate of about 1.2 percent a year during each of the next ten years, so that in the year 1901 the foreign-born made up about 22 percent of the population. During this particular year, their criminal activity dropped to just less than one-half the number of crimes committed by the native-born--still a figure much larger than their ratio of the population. By 1910, the foreign-born population had dropped to 16 percent of the total population. In that year, they committed one-half as many crimes in Weber County as the remaining 84 percent of the native-born population committed. By the year 1913, the percentages of foreign-born and native-born population remained about the same, but this time they committed almost as many

¹²Agee, "Quiet Town Booms," p. 9.

¹³Editorial, *Deseret News*, May 21, 1868,

crimes as the native-born (four crimes for every five committed by native-born people), though they comprised only 16 percent of the population (see Figure 2 and Table 1).

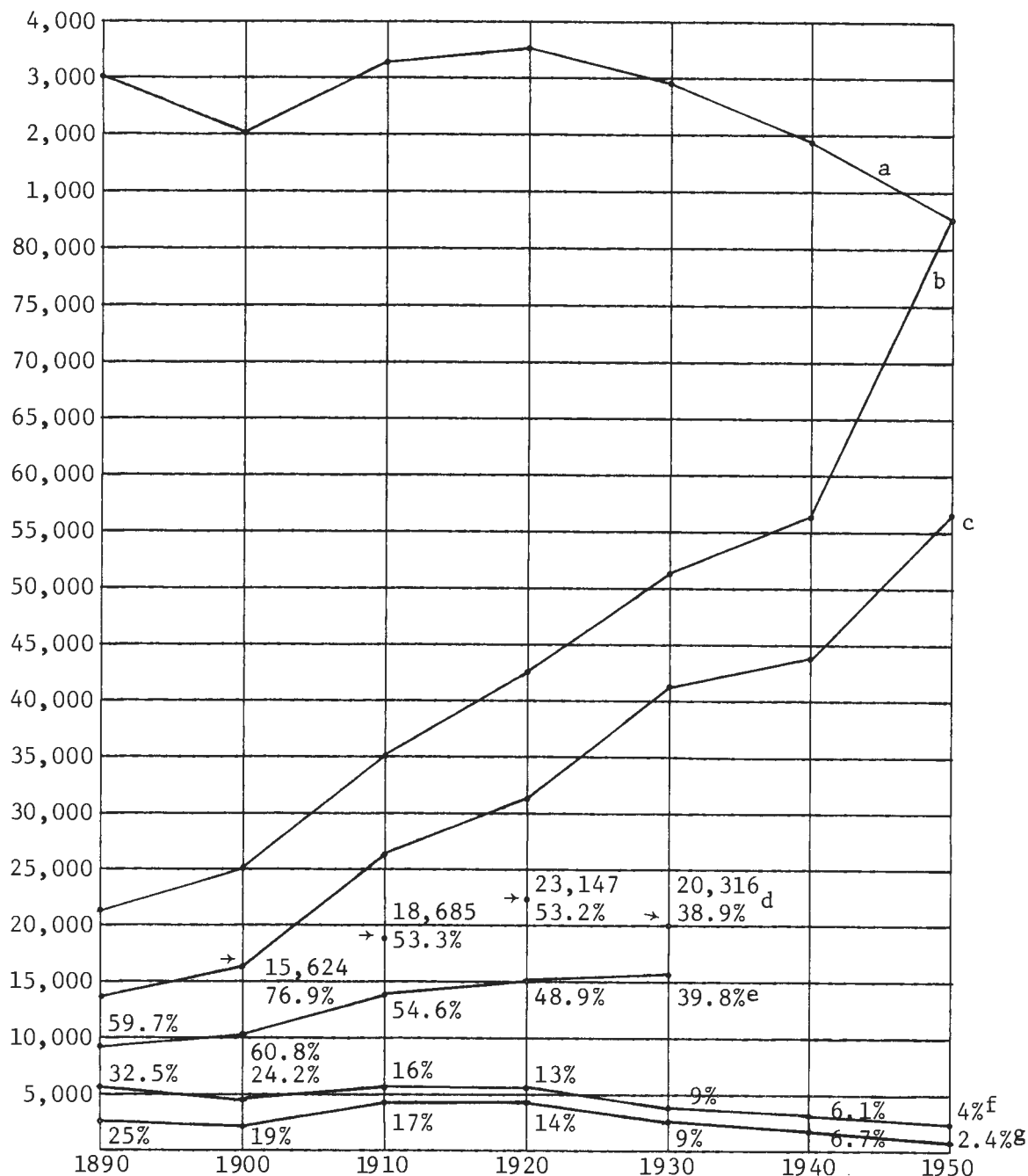
Table 1. Convictions by nativity for Weber County

Year	Nationality			Total convictions
	Native-born	Foreign-born	Unknown	
1900	28	14	33	75
1901	25	11	12	48
1910	12	6	10	23
1913	5	4	18	30

Source: Utah, Bureau of Statistics of the State of Utah for the years 1900, 1901, 1910, and 1913. These statistics were not included in the reports of 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1912, 1915, and 1916.

Chinese and Japanese Gamblers

Because there is a dearth of available data, it is impossible to use the same sources throughout to maintain a consistent measure. It is further impossible to maintain the classification of native and foreign born. However, certain records indicate that certain ethnic groups tended to become involved in certain vice operations. For example, 1916 was a campaign year for the Ogden City Police Department against gambling. Police records of that year accounted for eleven major raids during which many people were arrested for gambling. Ten of these eleven raids were against Chinese or Japanese establishments located on Lincoln Avenue between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Streets. There were



- a. Represents the first 5,000 on the scale.
- b. Weber County total population.
- c. Ogden City total population.
- d. Foreign-born native Negroes, Mexicans, 1st and 2nd generations in Weber County.
- e. Foreign-born native Negroes, Mexicans, 1st and 2nd generations in Ogden City.
- f. Foreign-born white in Weber County.
- g. Foreign-born white in Ogden City.

Source: U.S., Census, *Population*, 1890, pp. 482, 556; 1900, p. 790; 1910, p. 886; 1920, pp. 1037-38; 1930, p. 1105; 1940, pp. 50, 69; 1950, pp. 38, 54.

Figure 2. Racial-ethnic composition of Weber County.

some Greeks and Frenchmen among those arrested, but the majority by far were oriental.¹⁴

During the years 1940 to 1944 there were sixty-five gambling centers on or near Twenty-fifth Street, employing 259 gamblers to operate the gaming devices. Ten of the 259 names listed in the court record were Mexican and sixteen were Japanese and/or Chinese.¹⁵

Helen Estrada, the Japanese wife of Frank Estrada, a Mexican, describes the people who owned or operated the "businesses" of Twenty-fifth Street. She frankly admits that her husband was figured in on the vice operations of the Street. Above her husband's cafe (Pancho's Cafe) was a gambling center called the Key Club. Here gambling was available, as in other establishments on Twenty-fifth Street. The police accused Frank at one time of owning and operating a public nuisance. He was finally sent to the Utah State Penitentiary for income tax evasion. After his release three-and-a-half years later, he was deported as an undesirable alien.

Helen describes as Caucasian most of the number of people who owned businesses on the Street during the forties. The second highest group was Negro, and there seemed to be an equal number of Mexicans and Orientals. The Porter's and Waiter's Club, a gambling center owned by Annabelle and Bill Weekley, was an all-Negro concern.¹⁶ Usually Mexicans and Orientals were involved in gambling, illegal liquor and narcotics sales; while prostitutes were mainly Caucasian.¹⁷

¹⁴Ogden, Utah, Ogden City Police Records (Newspaper clippings), January 1, 1916 through December 31, 1916, incl.

¹⁵The state of Utah v. Harmon W. Peery and Rial C. Moore, 2nd Judic. Dist. for the County of Weber, No. 4251, Bill of Particulars.

¹⁶Mrs. Mac Wade, Scrap Book No. 3, December 1952 to July 1954, p. 18. Mrs. Wade kept a very thorough newspaper history of the activities of the sheriff's department of Weber County during her husband's service, which proved to be the most significant source available. More will be mentioned later in this history about Sheriff Wade.

¹⁷Helen Estrada, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, June 22, 1968.

CHAPTER II

SYNOPSIS OF 1869 TO 1944

Conditions in Ogden When the Railroad Came, 1869

In 1860, Ogden was a comparatively sinless town. There were only 1,500 people, many of whom were farmers, storekeepers, or loggers who lived in the mountains. They were quite a "pious" church-going people who could pride themselves in their sinless little city. In 1870, they could contrast it with the "Hell Hole of the Earth" (at other times called the "Jumping-off Place" and the "City of the Ungodly"), which was twenty-five miles northeast of Ogden--the city of Corinne. The Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches could claim only fourteen members of the estimated 1,350 (in 1874) men, women, and children living in Corinne; while the twenty "grog-shops," the near seventy prostitutes, and the dance hall claimed a much higher percentage even on Sunday. John Codman, a traveler in Utah, when visiting the Presbyterian Church of Corinne found only the organist in attendance out of the supposed membership of eleven.¹

Amidst the tranquility of Ogden in 1860, the only commission given by Mayor Lorin Farr to his police force was to: "Use wisdom in

¹Bob Agee, "Quiet Town Booms into Brawling Community After Railroad Arrives," *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, July 25, 1962, p. 9. John Codman, *The Mormon Country: A Summer With the "Latter-day Saints"* (New York: United States Publishing Company, 1874), pp. 78-82. Bernice Gibbs Anderson, *The City of the Ungodly* (Privately published), pp. 8-9.

administering the law, use kindness, be ready for emergencies and see that guns and pistols are always loaded and powder dry."²

Except for the occasions when outsiders were in town, such as cowboys herding horses to California, tough miners in for a fling, or emigrants in wagon trains stopping by, the town was quiet and peaceful with only a few minor infractions of the law. On January 19, 1863, Penjemin Olvit was arrested for gambling and when brought before Alderman Browning he was fined three dollars and cost of trial. On this same day, Charles Jenkins was also arrested for gambling and fined five dollars and cost. Still, the occasional offender was really no signal for alarm.³

In 1869, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific tracks met at Promontory and as they met, Ogden met the "foreigners" from the East and West. The old apprehensions about the moral decay that seemed imminent were forgotten on that day, March 3, 1869 as the people celebrated the arrival of the Union Pacific tracks in Ogden.

"At 11 o'clock this morning, the Union Pacific railroad track-layers hove in sight of this city, and from that time continued their march with great rapidity. The citizens exhibited the liveliest enthusiasm, and testified the liveliest joy, as from the high bluffs and every commanding elevation, they feasted their eyes and ears with the sight and sound of the long fiery steed. Onward and still onward they came, and thousands of our citizens, both from here and the adjoining settlements, decked in their holiday attire, gave a hearty welcome to the nation's great highway into this city.

About 2:30 P.M. they steamed into Ogden, when Colonel Daniel Gamble with true Hibernian enthusiasm, ran up the first flag, which while gradually floating in the breeze, was soon followed by numerous others. . . . Our excellent military brass band was soon out, and under the able

² Agee, "Quiet Town Booms," p. 9.

³ *Ibid.*

leadership of Captain William Pugh, sent forth the soul enlivening strains of rich music, which, with a salute to Captain T. S. Wadsworth's artillery, gave the preliminary welcome to the iron horse.

Pedestrians, equestrians and crowded vehicles now thronged the festive scene. Wadsworth's artillery having arrived, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, whose deafening echoes vibrated through the mountains, hills, and vales.⁴

The Changes that Resulted from the
Railroad after 1869

The ominous specter of outside influences hovered in the wake of the arrival of the great highway. Ogden became the "Junction City" and the railroad crossroads of the West. Gamblers, robbers, and men and women of ill-repute came to Ogden as they had come to all the important railroad towns along the way. Ogden absorbed Corinne's "businesses," and of course this included both good and bad elements.⁵

Mormon moralists and isolationists gained fuel to their fire with the murder of a Negress on April 30, 1870, almost one year and two months after the big welcome celebration for the track layers as they entered Ogden. As one might suspect, the culprits were outsiders.

The Negress, Susan Jones, was found with her head smashed and her brains protruding, lying on her bed in her tent situated near the Weber River opposite the Union Pacific Freight Station. She had been killed for \$300 to \$400 which she kept in a small trunk. The murderers turned

⁴Alma D. Chambers, "How Ogden Greeted Railroad Builders on March 3, 1869," *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, May 5, 1957, p. 12C.

This was taken from the "Directory of Ogden City and Weber County," written by Alma D. Chambers. The directory was printed under his supervision in the office of the *Ogden Herald* in 1883.

⁵Edward W. Tullidge, *Tullidge's Histories*, Vol. II (Salt Lake City: Press of Juvenile Instructor, 1889), p. 169.

out to be Thomas Knapp, a young 19-year-old blond-haired, light-complexioned native of Appleton, Missouri and Morgan Day, who had committed a similar crime in Omaha, Nebraska before moving on west.⁶

With the throngs of people came many outside influences which were to initiate a gradual deterioration of the moral fiber of the community. Everything from the construction of a brewery in 1873 to the establishment of gambling casinos and prostitution houses were soon to follow.⁷

Anticipation of these developments (although not necessarily so much in consequence of the railroad's future arrival as in consequence of interpolation from Corinne) caused the city fathers as early as 1861 to enter into their city ordinances laws

. . . to suppress or restrain all disorderly houses and groceries; to authorize the destruction and demolition of all instruments and devices used for the purpose of gaming, and all kinds of gambling; to prevent any riot, noise, disturbance or disorderly assemblage, and to restrain and punish vagrants, mendicants, street beggars and prostitutes.

Section 9 of these laws empowered the city " . . . to suppress or restrain bawdy and other disorderly houses and punish the keepers thereof." By 1881, these laws had been revised to spell out the offenses in more detail and to prescribe punishments up to \$300 and imprisonment up to six months. The police officers were authorized to enter these establishments with or without a warrant and arrest people engaged in such activities.⁸

⁶*The Ogden Junction*, April 30, 1870.

⁷Agee, "Quiet Town Booms," p. 9.

⁸Utah, *Ordinances of Ogden: The Charter of the City and Amendments* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Company Printers and Publishers, 1881), pp. 16, 26, 92-93, 95.

Even with these efforts to stave off the lust of the newcomer, surreptitious individuals entered Ogden, bringing with them their malicious enterprises. Either the city fathers winked at the above laws or the people became completely passive to the gestations of vice that were developing among them. Possibly, the people of Ogden were covertly in support of them.

Next door to the Chapman House Hotel at approximately 150 Twenty-fifth Street was Gentile Kate's brothel. Not only did Kate enjoy freedom from "suppression" or "restraint" as the law had prescribed, but she was "a respected part of the business life of town, a speculator in real estate, the most liberal customer of the stores, . . . and an unofficial great lady."⁹ When dignitaries came to Ogden, banquets and festivities always included Kate because she could provide conversation and fine raiment above the reach of Ogden. "No one was ever swindled at her establishment; no one was ever disorderly there, twice."¹⁰ Her major annoyance was Mormons--" . . . perhaps because she disliked their colorlessness, perhaps because she felt that their multiple marriages were sabotage against her profession."¹¹

An interesting story is told by Bernard De Voto concerning Kate:

Early in her career, Brigham Young died, . . . and soon there was an auction of his effects. Of late years he had taken to parading the streets of Salt Lake in a new carriage--a barouche made for him in the East. One sees the picture: Brigham at his portliest, at his most benignant, leaning back in the wine-colored cushions, one arm

⁹ Bernard De Voto, "Ogden: The Underwriters of Salvation," in *The Taming of the Frontier*, ed. by Duncan Aikman (New York: Minton, Balch & Company, 1925), pp. 47-48.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 48.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

bracing his paunch, his eyes straying over the multitudes who uncovered and bowed their heads as the right hand of God went by.

An equipage of splendor, behind gray stallions, on one side the all-seeing eye, carved and glistening, on the other side the beehive of Deseret, and on the rear the angel Moroni ascending to heaven from an audience with Joseph Smith. But a carriage, after all.

The Utah Central, one day bore it up to Ogden. Next day, behind the same gray stallions, bearing the same insignias of Mormonry, it rolled up and down the streets of Ogden, and haughty in its cushions was Gentile Kate.¹²

It is simple to evaluate the change in values that was taking place in Ogden. Not only were Ogdenites sanctioning the very corruption they earlier feared, but now they were giving credence and honor to an arch "sinner."

Chinese laborers had been imported by the Central Pacific Railroad to make up the work force for the building of the railroad from California to Utah. They were industrious people, but they brought with them opium and introduced it into Ogden. Ten years after their arrival, an ordinance appeared in the books making it unlawful ". . . to smoke opium or to in any way advise or induce others to do so, or keep a room or place for such purposes."¹³ Fines for violating this ordinance were from ten to one hundred dollars, and imprisonment was for not less than ten nor more than one hundred days. A person could be both fined and imprisoned for each and every offense.¹⁴ There is no indication that narcotics laws were at any time ignored by the police, but not so with the other laws heretofore mentioned.

¹²*Ibid.*, p. 49.

¹³Utah, *Ordinances of Ogden*, p. 199.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, p. 199.

The Chinese brought with them an evil element in the form of two fraternities known as the Hip Sions and the On Leongs, with their hatchet men who literally carried hatchets in their roomy sleeves. A Chinese person guilty of violating the rule of the "tong" was quickly hacked up. Police records of the early days tell of raids along Twenty-fifth Street and Electric Alley just off Twenty-fifth Street, and of the confiscation of opium pipes and the arrest of addicts.

Although the Mormon Church was emphatically against liquor sales in Utah, the Grove Brewery was built north of the Ogden River bridge in 1873 to supply the ever-increasing demands of cowboys, drivers of freight wagons, and miners who frequented the town. By 1875, the Union Pacific Brewery was operating, and five more breweries opened in the next three years, one of which was the brewery opened in 1890 by J. S. Becker and his sons where Lincoln Street crosses the Ogden River.¹⁵

During the years of the 1880's and 1890's, courts were preoccupied with cohabitation cases resulting from the residual practice of polygamy among the Mormons, which remained after federal laws prohibited it. This might account in part for the fact that there were practically no arrests for gambling and prostitution during these years (see Appendix).¹⁶ Also, the political power was changing from a Mormon to a "gentile" control. In the election of 1889, the "gentiles" took over the political control of Ogden, and immediately began to relax the enforcement of liquor and vice laws.¹⁷

¹⁵ Agee, "Quiet Town Booms," p. 9.

¹⁶ *The Standard*, 1888-1889, incl., Ogden, Utah.

¹⁷ Richard E. Kotter, "An Examination of Mormon and Non-Mormon Influences in Ogden City Politics, 1847-1896" (unpublished Master's dissertation, Department of History, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 1967), p. 109.

From Kiesel to Wall Avenue, Twenty-fifth Street was studded with saloons, gambling halls, and second floor "hotels." With these types of establishments came crime and violence. Knifings and shootings were prevalent along with robbery, rape and beatings, and other crimes.

This account of February, 1893 was typical. A Basque sheepherder by the name of Eugene Borel came to Ogden en route to San Francisco. He had \$1,800 in cash earned while herding sheep in Wyoming. According to newspaper accounts, George Lewis and others became aware of the money he had. They enticed him into a card game and took everything he had. In order to get him out of town, they gave him five dollars and a ticket to San Francisco. Borel left town for San Francisco, but after a week or so returned to Ogden with a gun. His meeting with Lewis happened on Twenty-fifth Street near Grant Avenue, where he demanded the return of the money he had lost. Lewis replied, "See me tomorrow," and walked away. Borel followed Lewis and reportedly shot him several times.

Borel was indicted and tried for murder, but was acquitted May 25, 1893. It seems that Lewis had been a notorious gambler in Denver before coming to Ogden, and had been associated with the infamous Soapy Smith who later became involved with Tex Ricard and Wyatt Earp. This was somehow construed to be reason for acquittal.¹⁸

Belle London

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, the scepter of "vice-royalty" fell into the hands of Mrs. Thomas Tottom, alias Belle London, whose prestige or notoriety, depending upon the viewpoint taken, would achieve the magnitude of Gentile Kate. Her base of operations was the Marian

¹⁸ Agee, "Quiet Town Booms," p. 9.

Hotel on Twenty-fifth Street where she hostessed a brothel. Behind the hotel, there were "cribs" along what was called "Electric Alley," in which the girls sold the services that were to make Belle London rich.

Belle kept a home which also served as a hospital for those whom she kept as prostitutes. Here, the girls were closely supervised. They were given the medical treatment that would maintain their physical well-being, and provided with physical examinations from time to time. The home was located on Washington Boulevard near First Street, which is twenty-four blocks north of the Marian Hotel and Electric Alley. There was also a stable and parking stall in Electric Alley where Belle kept one horse and a surrey. It wasn't uncommon to see Belle London riding along the dirt streets of Ogden in a chauffeur-driven surrey.

One summer, Belle sought the aid of a sixth-grade private tutor for her daughter. She was aware that her personal call upon this person--leaving the well-known surrey in front where all could see--could have brought disrepute upon her, so she asked her chauffeur to let her off one block away. From here she walked to the teacher's house, made the arrangements, and left. Each day thereafter, the daughter came to the same spot in the carriage and walked to the teacher's home for her schooling.¹⁹

Fanny Dawson and the Murder Company

Prostitution was not the only organized crime. The police records reported an even more virulent coterie that entered Ogden in 1916.

¹⁹Gwendolyn Shaw, personal interview by Mrs. Evelyn Dussol at the Weber County Library, Ogden, Utah, August 2, 1968.

Locating themselves at 352 Twenty-fifth Street, they set up a murder company by which they could steal money and dispose of the witness. The president of the company was Fanny Dawson, a woman divorcee from Idaho, who, accompanied by her children after separation from her husband, came to Ogden to set up "business."²⁰

Field agent for the company, according to police reports, was Patrick Flynn, alias "Paddy," alias "Mickey." His job was to survey the bars, gambling casinos, and hotels to find individuals who had won a large sum of money in a game or who in any way displayed some degree of wealth. Frank Filbrook and R. M. Powers, and sometimes Fanny Dawson, together with "Paddy," the field agent, then enticed the victim to go to Room four, 352 Twenty-fifth Street, a rooming house next door to the Park Hotel. When this was accomplished, Fanny set up the drinks--adding drops of poison to the drink of the victim.²¹

Of course, this was only one of their techniques. There were others less dramatic. Sometimes there was no technique--only the thrill of killing that prompted the murder. A good example was the fatal shooting of an unknown pedestrian the night after Christmas, the 26th of December, 1915. Sometimes their escapades included only armed robbery like the hold-up of seven citizens and the robberies of two Chinese laundrymen in December of 1915.

On Wednesday, January 19, 1916, the body of Patrick Quigley was found behind the Senate Cafe. On the night of the 18th, Paddy, the field agent, enticed (nothing in the record indicates the nature of the

²⁰Ogden, Utah, Ogden City Police Records (Newspaper clippings), January 1, 1916 through December 31, 1916, incl.

²¹*Ibid.*

enticement bait) Mr. Quigley to Room four of the hotel where he was offered the deadly drink. After succumbing to the poison, a sum of \$8.00 was taken from his pocket. Paddy had become interested in Quigley because he had flashed a ten-dollar bill from which he had received \$8.00 in change for a drink.

A. E. Ashby was found in the ice over a pond at Fortieth Street and Washington. He had died from chloral poisoning administered to him in the same hotel room. Another person, W. E. Hart, died from a shooting under the direction of Fannie Dawson. The company was also responsible for the robbery of the Seager Grocery Store at Twenty-seventh and Monroe Avenue.

The police records indicate that each of the above cases appeared insoluble until one of the accomplices confessed to the killing of Patrick Quigley. James, alias "Whitey," O'brien was arrested in Montello, Nevada. In his confession, "Whitey" admitted helping carry the body of Patrick Quigley to the spot behind the Senate Cafe on the 19th of January, 1916.

Interrogations of Fannie Dawson carried on into the night of January 21, while the lights burned in Room four of the hotel where Fannie's two innocent children waited for the return of their mother. She never returned. The interrogations were fruitful and the police had their murderers.²²

Law Enforcement on the Street,

1900-1920

The war against crime and vice continued throughout the rest of 1916.

²²*Ibid.*

From all appearances, the police department was doing its best to arrest gamblers, prostitutes, and thieves. The following are some of the many arrests and/or prosecutions that were made in 1916 and the early part of 1917:

1. February 18, 1916: J. W. Blackburne was given thirty days and E. M. Sullivan ten days in jail for pimping for Myrtle Blackburn.
2. March 13, 1916: Mable Wright and Rose Smith each forfeited \$25 for vagrancy and prostitution.
3. March 18, 1916: Several Chinese and Japanese gambling houses were raided, gaming tables were broken up, and other machines smashed.
4. March 24, 1916: Gertrude Miller and Myrtle Partner were charged with the robbery of Charles Rhodes.
5. April 3, 1916: Tom Wah and Wong Kee were arrested for operating gambling houses between Twenty-four and Twenty-fifth Streets on Lincoln and Grant Avenues.
6. April 5, 1916: William Bowe, Wong Tom, and Wong Lee were caught peddling two pounds of opium.
7. April 7, 1916: Kem Lee Yuen was charged with operating a game of chance.
8. April 7, 1916: Louise Smith was arrested on a charge of prostitution.
9. November 26, 1916: Five Frenchmen were arrested for gambling at the Empire Rooming House on Twenty-fifth Street between Lincoln and Grant.
10. November 27, 1916: Tom Suig forfeited \$100 and Ti Ito forfeited \$50 for gambling.

11. November 27, 1916: Two more orientals were arrested on gambling charges.
12. November 29, 1916: Sing Hi and Hawa Leong were arrested for gambling at 2468 Lincoln Avenue.
13. December 2, 1916: Fifteen people were arrested at 2462 Lincoln in a raid at 11:50 p.m.
14. December 4, 1916: 2462 Grant Avenue was raided for gambling.
15. December 9, 1916: 2459 Grant Avenue was raided for gambling, and thirteen orientals were arrested.
16. December 12, 1916: T. V. Moore, a prostitute, forfeited \$25.
17. January 3, 1917: Kam Lee Yeun's gambling establishment was raided and gambling fixtures were confiscated.
18. January 15, 1917: Helen Sutton, age 28, and Norma Sutton, age 21, were arrested for prostitution.
19. January 23, 1917: Mrs. Margaret Penny and L. H. Crone were charged with pandering for two girls, ages 15 and 17.
20. February 2, 1917: Mary Johnson, Sadie Thomas, and Pansy Reed (all colored), were arrested as prostitutes at 135 Twenty-fifth Street.
21. February 26, 1917: Thirty-six arrests were made in a new campaign against commercialized vice (pandering and prostitution), as the police force raided rooming houses and hotels, many of which were on Twenty-fifth Street.²³

From the above accounts, one could conclude that the police were diligently striving to correct the vice problems that existed on the Street. This, however, is not the whole picture. Through the efforts

²³*Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, January 1, 1917 to September 14, 1917, incl.

of citizen's vigilance committees, the Weber County Courts carried on a grand jury investigation to discover the effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies.

The Ogden City Police Department was castigated mercilessly by the grand jury, which accused them of slipshod methods of handling bail. They characterized it as a license for vice. Several indictments were made against the police department:

1. They were condemned for their failure to prosecute gamblers, prostitutes, and liquor salesmen.

2. They were accused of permitting violators liberty after they had failed to appear and had forfeited bail.

3. Not one was brought to justice after forfeiture.

4. The grand jury highly suspected the police department of conspiring to license vice.

5. The jury recommended the civil service methods of screening poorly-qualified police officers.

6. They found that the "arrest slips" had been torn up and money in the form of "bail forfeiture" was pocketed by the arresting officers.²⁴

In connection with the above accusations, Police Chief Thomas E. Browning was charged with refusing to receive into jail certain colored men charged with a crime. Was this a case in which ill-coordinated efforts of police officers to collect "payoffs" ended in the apprehension of individuals who had paid off? O. H. Mohlman similarly refused to inform on or arrest a certain person on June 22, 1916 for playing for

²⁴*Ibid.*

money on a gambling wheel. Both Chief of Police Browning, and O. H. Mohlman were exonerated.²⁵

Nothing came out of the grand jury investigations. Months later, it appeared that there was insufficient interest in prosecuting law-breakers. The same names appeared again and again in the police records. Margaret Penny was given another pardon for pandering. This time they called it "insufficient evidence." Was this a case in which a pardon was given after money had changed hands somewhere along the way? The police records reported that T. V. Moore was picked up for pandering at 218 Twenty-fifth Street, but her case was handled in the same way as before through the usual forfeiture-of-bail method. By September 14, 1917, it could be determined that the grand jury investigations had been fruitless. By this time the slate had been cleared of accused persons, as one by one they had been given legal clearance. Such actions by the courts could only serve as a green light to vice operators.²⁶

This was not the end of the accusations against the police department. Many people were enticed by the large profits to be gained by bootlegging whiskey, and members of the police department were no exception, as will later be proven. Utah went "dry" in 1917, even before the national prohibition law of 1919 was enacted, but this had little or no effect in Ogden. Prohibition laws accomplished little or nothing in Ogden because the city afterward continued to live up to its character as the place where "the saloons never close." Matters stayed the same

²⁵*Ibid.*, January 1, 1917 to September 14, 1917.

²⁶*Ibid.*

for some years, and liquor, beer, gambling, and "ladies of the evening" continued to be available.²⁷

1920-1940

The year 1920 began with more accusations against the police department. This time they were suspected of bootlegging whiskey which had been confiscated in liquor raids. R. H. Argubright, Division Deputy of the Internal Revenue Service requested information from the Ogden City Council concerning 164 quarts of missing whiskey that were supposed to be in the custody of the police department. The communication also authorized the Ogden City Council to appoint J. R. Ward to investigate the police department.²⁸

There was no report to the city council by Ward on his investigation. The only thing written into the minutes of the city council meeting was an authorization given to the Commissioner of Public Safety to reorganize the police department. By February 16, 1920, the reorganization had been effected. It seems logical that the reorganization became necessary because of negative discoveries made by J. R. Ward indicating that the police department was implicated in such a way as to necessitate a cleanup of the department.²⁹

In 1917 the federal government came into the law enforcement picture of Twenty-fifth Street vice under the Mann Act of 1910 which prohibited the transporting of women across state lines for immoral purposes. No

²⁷Agee, "Quiet Town Booms," p. 9.

²⁸Ogden, Utah, *Minute Book of City Council Meetings*, January 2, 1919 to January 15, 1920, p. 619.

²⁹*Ibid.*, p. 619.

accounts of the arresting of "slave traffickers" appeared in the police records of Ogden City until February 3, 1917, when Edward Lederman and Eugene Hall were arrested for attempting to bring Ursuline Rudolph, age 17, into their exploitation net.³⁰

In these cases there was no bail-forfeiture type of quasi-licensing. Police records show that on February 19, 1924, Roy Gibson and David Simon, two young grooms, brought their new brides to Ogden from out of state to get in on some of the sex money being spent. On March 3, 1924, they were sentenced to twenty years at the state penitentiary. On December 26, 1923, the same fate was dealt to A. L. Jones, Urban Zandry, and Charles Gibson from California, for bringing Patricia O'Toole and Myrtle Ritter into Ogden for the same purposes. Others prosecuted were Roy Elmer from Pocatello, who used his wife, Mary Elmer; and Bert Gray, who used his seventeen-year-old daughter, Jane. In most instances, the act of taking a woman across state lines for prostitution meant the difference between paying only a bail forfeiture and going to prison for the same offense.³¹

Generally speaking, prostitution, narcotics peddling, and gambling went on unabated through the 1920's, but the largest number of offenses were liquor violations. Due to the Eighteenth Amendment, police records in Ogden became overly saturated with cases concerning liquor violations. Moonshine stills were picked up right on Twenty-fifth Street, including an eighty and a forty-gallon still in one building. Two of the most

³⁰Ogden, Utah, Ogden City Police Records, February 14, 1924 to February 27, 1928, incl., and March 1, 1928 to January 3, 1932, incl.

These records have been obviously scanned as the above information indicates; therefore, the whole record is included as reference. Specific names and accounts can be found according to dates or names, as the case may be.

³¹Ibid.

recurring names involved in illegal liquor sales, according to the police records, were C. Bertognolli, an Italian and S. Matsumuri, a Japanese. Recurring names in prostitution were Roy and Mary Elmer; Annie Arduini, an Italian who operated in the Olive Rooming House (the two young brides, Mrs. Roy Gibson and Mrs. David Simon had joined up with this panderer after their husbands had been sent to prison); Beatrice Staley; Frank Barrett, panderer of several women; Jantly Jones, a Negro; Nina Ella Cleveland; Earl Anderson; A. R. Lindell; Lola Richardson; and Helen Brown.³²

Gambling and narcotics still seemed to be the activities of the Orientals throughout the 1920's. Occasionally there were Mexicans involved with the sale of Marijuana, but opium remained the big traffic.³³

The 1930's were largely a repeat of the 1920's with new names and new places all still located on Twenty-fifth Street. During the period from February, 1938 to September, 1939, forty-four prostitutes and pimps were brought in and booked. During these years, individuals began their commercialized vice operations that continued through later years. One young man and his girl friend first made their appearance on Twenty-fifth Street, an appearance that would continue through the 1940's. He was a pimp and she was his prostitute. They later married.³⁴

Mayor Harman Peery

One individual who has been much criticized for his policies of

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ Ogden, Utah, *Criminal Records*, 4504, February 11, 1939, p. 1490; 4724, September 22, 1939, p. 1564.

handling the Street was Mayor Harman Peery. He frankly pushed for an open town during his terms of office, 1934 through 1938,³⁵ 1942 through 1943, and later 1948 through 1949.³⁶

It was his philosophy that the best way to control the evils and problems of gambling and prostitution was to allow it to operate openly and thereby be able to control the health problems of prostitution and keep a finger of law on all activities. He believed that to adopt a punitive attitude toward the people involved would only drive the problems then in the open into secrecy. And, in reality, what remains of prostitution and gambling in the city of Ogden today is unknown to the police department.³⁷

During his second term there were sixty-five gambling centers with from one to twenty-nine operators in each, amounting to a total of 259 operators of gambling devices on the street and the cross streets.³⁸ Peery never attempted to hide his motives, and prided himself that the revenue of government from property taxes was low (he himself owned much property), and that the city obtained money for governmental service from the fees and forfeiture of bail received from vice.³⁹ It was his further contention that prostitution, gambling, and liquor couldn't be

³⁵Utah Historical Society, *A History of Ogden* (Ogden: Ogden City Commission, 1940), appendix.

³⁶Elizabeth Tillotson, *A History of Ogden* (Ogden: Ogden City Commission, 1961), introduction.

³⁷Ella Ballantyne, city recorder during Harman Peery's administrations, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, October 26, 1966.

³⁸State of Utah v. H. W. Peery & R. C. Moore, 2nd Judic. Dist. Ct. for Weber Co., No. 4251.

³⁹Weber County, Utah, *The Second Judicial District Court Register of Actions*, Criminal Vol. 7, No. 4251. *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, June 30, 1944, p. 1.

effectively combatted, and that harassment would only drive these operations underground.⁴⁰ He was comfortable with things in the open where the department of health could control venereal disease (which they attempted to do by requiring the prostitutes to undergo examination and licensing) and by forcing vice enterprises to pay considerable fees collected by the city recorder and police department that would go into the city coffers.⁴¹

In 1942 there were eleven known houses of prostitution. The city maintained a free health clinic for the women, but pressure was put upon the town officials by military officials to close down the houses and apply stricter tavern and liquor purchase laws.⁴² However, the houses of prostitution were not closed at that time and the problem lasted at least until 1949; and indeed, it may not even be ended yet.

Characteristic of the years 1869-1944 is the change of attitude toward the outside influences threatening the morals of Ogden. This attitude changed from fear to passiveness and to public indulgence with vice. This was not due so much to a demoralization of the natives as it was to the influx of people and their subsequent procreations, as already described in Chapter I.

It would be foolish to assert that there was anything that the people of Ogden could do to alter the fate of their city. After the arrival of the outsiders, they became part of the fabric of the city and were thereby able to affect the whole complexion of morality adversely. By 1916, the infection had sufficiently spread that the police department

⁴⁰Ballantyne, interview.

⁴¹*Ibid.* *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, June 30, 1944, p. 1.

⁴²Agee, "Quiet Town Booms," p. 9.

had begun covertly licensing vice. In fact, some of the officers had personal investments in the continued good health of vice through illegitimate licensing practices. City policy became friendly toward vice operations and by 1944, the go signal had been given to vice operators. From the mayor down through to the police department, the government of Ogden City was indulgent with vice.

These, then, were the conditions in Ogden prior to the year 1944, when Mayor Kent S. Bramwell started his administration.

CHAPTER III

THE CATAclySM BEGINS AT THE TOP

The Election of Kent S. Bramwell,
a Pro-Vice Mayor

Young thirty-two-year-old Kent S. Bramwell was a counselor in the bishopric of the Latter-day Saint Twenty-fourth Ward in Ogden. He had filled a two-year mission for the church in England, and was an individual whose reputation was above criticism.¹ His political ambitions were very high and he could see himself as a very powerful political aspirant.² His campaign for mayor centered around a promise to do something for the youth to upgrade their morals.³ What could be more fitting than to have a youthful mayor setting up a program for the youth? This seemed to be the opinion of the citizens of Ogden and they elected him over his opponent, C. Angus Wright, with a vote of 7,150 to 4,733.⁴

The Appointment of Chief of Police

T. R. Johnson

The first important act of the new mayor, Kent S. Bramwell, upon taking office on January 2, 1944, was to appoint a chief of police who

¹T. R. Johnson, Chief of Police from January 2, 1944 to December 31, 1945, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, October 5, 1966.

²Clyde Bramwell, relative of past mayor Kent S. Bramwell, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, October 10, 1966.

³Johnson, interview.

⁴*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, November 3, 1943, p. 1.

was later the source of much discomfort to him and finally the source of his downfall about three months later.⁵

This chief of police, T. R. Johnson, was one of the few individuals in office as a result of the change of government who really felt the strength of his position.⁶ One might say that the city of Ogden was almost run by Chief of Police T. R. Johnson. Mr. Johnson came to this position from the staff of the Salt Lake Tribune, which granted him a two-year leave of absence.

Mayor Bramwell's appointment of T. R. Johnson was probably due to the enormous pressure brought upon him by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Chamber of Commerce. No one had "gotten to" T. R. Johnson yet because no one knew who would be appointed until the appointment was actually made. No one had time to work on him or affect him or his appointment yet. Even Bramwell wasn't sure that he would take the position because, according to Mr. T. R. Johnson, he was not sure the Tribune would allow him the two-year leave of absence.⁷

Of course, Mr. Johnson's character was beyond reproach. This was proven by his record as Chief of Police.

Immediately upon taking office, Mr. Johnson was confronted by twelve to fifteen "proprietors" of Twenty-fifth Street whose purpose it was to discover his policy in handling the Street. He referred them to a copy of the oath of office which he had taken, that he had conveniently placed under the glass on his desk so that all could read it. He told them

⁵ Johnson, interview. *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, January 2, 1944, p. 1.

⁶ Johnson, interview.

⁷ *Ibid.*

that he didn't know what his policy was going to be, but that whatever it was, it would be consistent with his oath of office to enforce the laws of the state of Utah and of the city of Ogden.

As far as the Street itself was concerned, Chief Johnson frankly admitted that he did little to correct its problems. According to his own testimony, he controlled it somewhat, but others were more responsible for the actual clean-up.⁸ Mr. Johnson's real contribution came in exposing the political corruption which would certainly have to be corrected before much could be done with the improvement of conditions on Twenty-fifth Street.

The Attempted Maintenance

During its first week in office, the new administration became involved in neat little plans created by big-time vice to gain the cooperation of the Ogden government. According to the *Ogden Standard Examiner*, the Grand Jury investigation had revealed that actual licensing of gambling, prostitution, and liquor had been the policy of city government prior to Mayor Kent Bramwell's administration.⁹ Jack Meyers, the "kingpin" of the Twenty-fifth Street "underworld" and operator of a gift shop and pinball gambling center called the Pladium, located in the basement of the Eccles Building, set about to make sure that such a policy would continue under Mayor Bramwell.¹⁰

Mayor Peery and the mayors previous to his administration did not upset the system that had heretofore been compatible with the operations

⁸*Ibid.*

⁹*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, June 30, 1944, pp. 1-2.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, July 2, 1944, pp. 1-2.

of vice on Twenty-fifth Street and now the plans were being laid to gain the support of Mayor Bramwell. Jack C. Meyers succeeded in befriending Warren I. Cassidy, the city purchasing agent, and endeavored to work through him to obtain the friendship of the new mayor.¹¹ After this had apparently been accomplished, within two days after his election to office, the only one left to persuade was the chief of police. But this happened to be the "snag" which would upset the system.

The Exposure of the Conspiracy

After a thorough investigation, Chief Johnson made a successful raid on the Pladium, the gambling center of Jack G. Meyers. He confiscated the gambling machines ("one-armed bandits" and marble machines) and placed them in the evidence room of the city and county building, thus forcing Mr. Meyers to close down his establishment. According to Mr. Johnson, at about quitting time one night soon after the raid, Mayor Bramwell called him and, after apologizing for the late hour, asked him if he had met Jack Meyers. The Chief answered in the negative; whereupon Mayor Bramwell said that Meyers was in his office and that: "He is the kind of guy you ought to know because you're going to have dealings with him."¹²

The Chief did as requested and went to the office of Mayor Bramwell, where a very amiable conversation followed. No offer was made by either Mayor Bramwell or Meyers. Chief Johnson finally cut off the conversation, saying he wanted to see the purchasing agent, and asked to be excused. Jack Meyers indicated that he wanted to see the same individual and

¹¹Johnson, interview.

¹²*Ibid.*

offered to walk down with the Chief. On the way Meyers commented: "You ought to be the mayor of this town--that God damn fool [referring to Bramwell] is a sissy! He's crooked! I'll prove it to you someday."¹³ It was evident that Meyers was trying to win Chief Johnson to his side after becoming disenchanted with the arrangements he had with Bramwell.

No further contact was made with Chief Johnson for several days. Finally, Captain Warren I. Cassidy, the purchasing agent of the police department, came into the Chief's office to report that some people in the Labor Temple (a labor union office building located at 263 Twenty-fifth Street) wanted to talk to him the following afternoon. The Chief agreed to go and a time was set for the meeting.¹⁴

When the police arrived at the Labor Temple, they were ushered into the inner office, the two girls on duty in the outer office were dismissed, and the shades of the office were pulled. After a discussion of general problems, Chief Johnson asked, "What the hell do you people want? You didn't call me down just for conversation." The others answered by indicating that they hoped to pay off the mortgage on their building by bringing in some gambling devices and selling some whiskey over the bar. They promised to allow only exclusive members in to gamble and drink. The Chief replied emphatically, "No!", and reproved them for even suggesting that he would agree to such a thing. As they were leaving, Chief Johnson indicated his displeasure to Cassidy for arranging the meeting and gave him the same message just delivered to the Labor Temple people. At this point, Chief Johnson became fully

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

aware of the possible difficulty within his own department.¹⁵

The two incidents related above occurred within a few days after Chief Johnson took office January 2, 1944. They appear to be tests made by two sources to determine just how loyal Chief of Police T. R. Johnson would be to the oath he had taken; and possibly these people had hopes of weakening him to a point of some degree of passiveness. This might have originated in the mayor's office, because in the grand jury investigation that followed, it was brought out that Mayor Bramwell had promised Jack Meyers that he would win Chief Johnson over to their side.¹⁶

Shortly thereafter, Chief Johnson received a long distance telephone call from a man in Salt Lake City who wished to remain anonymous. He asked the Chief if he knew what was going on in Ogden. The Chief answered that he did not. The man asked if he could see Chief Johnson that night at his home and if he could enter through the back door at 6:00 p.m. He further insisted that the Chief's family be away. The house was emptied and the informer came as he had promised. The informer affirmed a rumor that was going around town that the Mayor had reneged on repayment to the Street of moneys that had been advanced for his campaign. The repayment was to have been in the form of permitting vice on the street in the same manner as in previous administrations.¹⁷

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, April 7, 1944, p. 1. The State of Utah v. Kent S. Bramwell, 2nd Judic. Dist. for the County of Weber, No. 4250, Exhibits A-I.

¹⁷Johnson, interview.

In reality, the mayor could not renege because the Chief of Police stood in the way of his keeping his side of any alleged bargain. The informant indicated that the plan was to get rid of T. R. Johnson. To do this they had to remove the mayor because he didn't dare release the Chief, and they knew that a new mayor would naturally have to make a new appointment for the office of chief of police.¹⁸

The Chief asked the informer how he knew of these developments, and the informer replied that he had been present when a record was made of the conversation in the Ben Lomond Hotel between Meyers and Bramwell on February 12, when Jack Meyers offered Kent Bramwell a bribe which apparently had been accepted.¹⁹ According to the informer, Jack Meyers, Warren I. Cassidy, Jim Kallas, Julius Garfield, Clyde Stewart, and Joseph B. Cragun had attempted on February 1, 1944 to procure and induce George Pappas to take money to Bramwell. When Pappas refused, a man by the name of Horace Turner served as a "go between." On February 11, they rented rooms 901 and 902 in the Ben Lomond Hotel for the days of February 11th and 12th. On February 12th, they obtained a recording device, and on that same day recorded the conversation between Mayor Kent S. Bramwell and Jack C. Meyers with a microphone which was hidden under the coffee table near where they sat. When the bribe was offered, Bramwell reportedly accepted. On February 14, the money was collected and a sum of \$500 was paid to Bramwell.²⁰

¹⁸*Ibid.*

¹⁹*Ibid.*

²⁰*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, July 2, 1944, pp. 1-2. *The Second District Court Register of Actions*, No. 4250.

Mayor Kent S. Bramwell testified in court that he was only playing along with the "underworld" leaders in order to gain enough evidence to undermine them.²¹ This, apparently was acceptable to the grand jury, because they acquitted Bramwell.²²

Other evidence indicated that Bramwell accepted \$600 from Meyers for a trip to California with some friends--Blaine C. Peterson (the city attorney) and his wife. Originally, the offer was reported to be \$300, but Bramwell indicated to Meyers that he owed that much money down the Street which had been given to him for his campaign. So Meyers obtained \$300 more and brought it to him in a *Liberty* magazine.²³ The Mayor promised to pay it back, but was told by Meyers to forget the repayment and said that it could be repaid in "other ways." He indicated that the loan could be repaid by purchasing certain merchandise for the city from Meyers. Mayor Bramwell insisted the city would have to obtain bids for any purchase, but nevertheless he accepted the money and took the trip to California.

Jack C. Meyers was tried on a perjury charge, but never served a day in jail or prison. He developed cancer and died before he could be sent to prison. All proceedings on his case were abated December 17, 1945.²⁴ Others were indicted for their specific contributions to this situation. In fact, the indictments went back into previous governmental positions, except those falling within the four-year statute of limitations.

²¹*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, April 7, 1944, p. 1.

²²*The Second District Court Register of Actions*, No. 4250.

²³*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, April 7, 1944, p. 1.

²⁴*The Second District Court Register of Actions*, No. 4256.

The previous mayor, Harman W. Peery, and his Chief of Police Rial C. Moore, pleaded guilty to licensing and sanctioning gambling and prostitution and were fined \$200 and \$100, respectively.²⁵ Warren I. Cassidy was exonerated along with the others in this plot for conspiring to commit bribery.²⁶

Mayor Bramwell; Guilty or Not Guilty?

Many citizens who remember the way they felt at the time the above events took place still feel a certain amount of sympathy for Mr. Bramwell. They regarded him as a victim of the evil that existed during this time on Twenty-fifth Street. They still feel that his innocence and ignorance of political forces rendered him vulnerable to the trickery and temptations of people whose purpose it was to undermine the public will. This, of course, could be only conjecture to anyone but Kent S. Bramwell himself.

One can accept the decisions of the court or draw his own conclusions from the evidences presented at the trial. Most of the next five pages have been extracted from the records used in the trial to exhibit the negotiations between Mayor Kent S. Bramwell and Jack C. Meyers.²⁷

Cooperation of the mayor and the police department with the Twenty-fifth Street "underworld" could be accomplished only if certain procedures

²⁵*Ibid.*, No. 4251.

²⁶*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, June 30, 1944, pp. 1-2.

²⁷The State of Utah v. Kent S. Bramwell, 2nd Judic. Dist. for the County of Weber, No. 4250, Exhibits A-I.

These are audio records of a conversation between Mayor Kent S. Bramwell and John (Jack) C. Meyers used as evidence to prove that Bramwell was negotiating with Meyers for the operating of gambling with the permission of the city government.

could be worked out and certain officials could be won over; including, of course, the chief of police.

Mayor Kent S. Bramwell and Jack Meyers met in room 902 of the Hotel Ben Lomond on February 12th and 26th, and again in room 303 of the David Eccles Building on March 1, 1944, to plan out the organizational machinery between city government and the gambling interests on "the Street."²⁸ In room 901, next door, a tape recorder was taking down the conversation. At the beginning of the discussion, Mayor Bramwell insisted that ". . . this has all got to be done with me out of the picture," intimating that his own activities would be secret.

Mayor Bramwell insisted that it would be necessary for the operators to list the location and positions of their machines. The chief of police would have to investigate the spots, the operators would have to take out licenses, and it would then be just a matter of checking the licenses against the machines.

Meyers agreed and offered the suggestion that they operate the way they had done in Denver. There they displayed a separate license for each machine in such a way that the police officer could readily determine if the owner of the establishment was properly licensed.

But he foresaw problems in that operators would be forced to halt operations long enough to obtain the necessary licenses to qualify for "business." Apparently Meyers recognized this delay and the loss of money that would incur. He began to shift to another approach. The mayor would notify the police department of the new arrangement and instruct them to ignore the games long enough to allow the operators to get licenses. Meyers expressed his confidence in the cooperation of the

²⁸The State of Utah v. Kent S. Bramwell.
This was taken from the main body of court proceedings.

operators when he said: "I think all of us would like to see something started [some system of cooperation between gambling interests and government], and I believe that, once we can tell them to go ahead and go, they'll get licenses."²⁹

As a somewhat cordial conversation continued, Meyers persisted in his attempt to pressure Bramwell for permission to operate until they could get licenses, and Bramwell continued to insist that licenses should be a prerequisite to operating games in the gambling centers.

Meyers used many persuasions, including bribery, to gain Bramwell's support. The conversation continued as Meyers described himself as the Mayor's advocate. He reminded Bramwell of favors he had given him during his campaign, as if to say it was now the Mayor's turn to reciprocate. He said,

. . . the boys are going to be a little . . . doubtful that it can be done, but not as far as you are concerned. See, I talked to them and told them that I had played ball during campaign and I'm about as close as anybody to Kent and . . . I believe I can convince him. . . . I'm going to have a meeting with him this morning and I believe I can convince him.

As if to promise more special favors, Meyers continued:

So I says to Jim [probably Jim Kallas], "Well how about us all getting together and making a little pot, and we can make him a present or a fund." [The gamblers will later call this the central fund. The Court referred to it as the bribe money, or money used to reward the mayor for cooperating.] Jim said, "Anything at all, you just raise and shoot." I think all of us would like to see something started, and I believe that once we can tell them to go ahead and go, they'll get licenses.³⁰

Bramwell again disagreed, saying that he thought it would be too spread out and impossible to control. Too many people might get wind of

²⁹ *Ibid.*, Exhibits A-I.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

the arrangement and this would jeopardize the Mayor's position. He expressed his fear that Commissioner Wood, who had his eye on the Mayor's position, might get his hands on the arrangement and explode it all open to the public, thus destroying Bramwell's own future as mayor.

Meyers retorted: ". . . Hell they're handling it all over the United States; they're playing ball in ninety-nine percent of all the places."³¹

Mayor Bramwell concluded that he intended the plan to follow according to his suggestion, and licenses would precede operation; but that he as mayor would attempt to bring the police department into line with this plan: "On the basis of what has taken place in the past, no explanation has to be made, and I can handle the Chief and the police department, and you handle the operators. That's the way the thing sits."³² In the course of the above conversation, Bramwell mentioned the fact that gambling was illegal according to state law, indicating that they were both aware of the implications of any plans that they made.

Meyers was out of town for a while, and upon his return there were problems. It seemed that the "Association" of gambler interests had been set up, money had been collected for the central fund, and individuals had begun to operate without taking out licenses. The newspaper had discovered the situation and had published an editorial attacking the "legalizing" of gambling in Ogden. Many of the operators panicked and

³¹*Ibid.*

³²*Ibid.*

began to draw out the money they had put into the central fund, and within a very short time, \$6,000 had been withdrawn.³³

The next meeting between Mayor Kent S. Bramwell and Jack Meyers wasn't so cordial. Bramwell said:

If what happened here [in the past few days] is an indication of the Organization, why it's too damn hot for me to monkey with. If the guys are going to be independent and get jittery and not have any faith in the Organization and the other boys, it's not worth monkeying with.

I've done everything I told you boys I would. I had the police department all lined up and everything else, and if . . . some of the . . . other guys hadn't got jittery and had done what we decided upon, then everything would be well today.

(Actually, it is questionable that the police chief offered any promise to help, because he later made raids that hurt the whole operation.)

Meyers responded, "Well, I wasn't here, and I got the story I got when they called me in, and I got damn sick of the whole thing myself."

Bramwell then said,

Well, as far as you go and some of the others, I would go the enth degree, but I'm certainly not going to play around with some of these sons-a-bitches who are going to knock over the traces and spoil the whole show.

If they want to go ahead and operate after what's been said, why it's their own privilege, but we won't give them any protection under the present setup, because the way it's set up, it makes it entirely impossible. It's their own damn fault and nobody elses.

. . . The worst damn thing we did was to go and pull our money out again. If they had left their money there, it would have been entirely different. They take out \$6,000 of it . . . [which was] a good indication the boys weren't willing to operate according to "law." That did more harm for the pin-ball boys here in town than if they had gone out and shot a man.

Meyers asked the mayor what caused operators to start taking their money out of the central fund. Bramwell replied, "They jumped the gun on the damn thing and started to operate before they had their licenses,

³³*Ibid.*

or had the Police Chief investigate the spots. And you know damn well, that was the basis upon which we were talking."

The meeting ended on the note that Jack was to attempt to see if he could patch it up and get the operators to take out licenses. The mayor made it very clear when he said, "The only thing I can see for them now is to overcome the embarrassing position they have put themselves in, and go over and take out a license."³⁴

Bramwell testified in court that he found \$500 in \$20 bills that had been pushed under the door one morning in the City and County Building, which money he held in his possession until Mrs. Bramwell handed it to William S. Heniger, an investigator for the attorney general, one month later on March 24, 1944. Bramwell further testified that he told the chief of police and Mark Critchlow about the money on the day he resigned.³⁵

Responding to the questions of the city attorney, Blaine Peterson, Bramwell told the court that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Press directed him to resign, and that he felt he should have received more "friendship" from the church people, or at least ". . . an opportunity to be heard."³⁶

From the dialogue above, as well as Bramwell's own testimony in court, one could conclude that he indeed was playing along with the gamblers in an effort to undermine them, but no evidence supports this directly, except Bramwell's own testimony in court. One could also conclude that the mayor found the chief of police unwilling to cooperate

³⁴*Ibid.*

³⁵*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, April 7, 1944, p. 1.

³⁶*Ibid.*, April 9, 1944, p. 1.

in the various meetings Meyers, himself, and others had with the chief and found himself in a bind unable to fulfill commitments with Meyers. Whatever we do, we can only conjecture about the meaning of all this; however, most of the evidence given so far in this history corroborates the second deduction.

Whatever may be said concerning the guilt or innocence of Mayor Bramwell, one thing is certainly true. The successful exposure of city alliances with vice was accomplished through the efforts of a few courageous people. With the cleanup of city government, the time was ripe for a cleanup of vice. Whether or not Mayor Bramwell was guilty, the city government and the police department were guilty of a long trend of permissiveness and "aiding and abetting" vice.

The underworld did not succeed through the Bramwell administration in maintaining the cooperation of the city government. Indeed, the alleged combination was annulled by the events of 1944 and the grand jury exposé. If it is the will of the people of Ogden to end forever gambling, prostitution, and their accompanying criminal parasites, they will always be indebted to one police chief who said no to the enticements of inimical treaties with the underworld. It appears that this was the beginning of the end.

CHAPTER IV

A SHORT REPRIEVE, THEN EXTERMINATION

A Time of Passiveness in Law Enforcement

Prostitution houses, gambling centers, and the sale of liquor in the taverns on Twenty-fifth Street continued to prosper during the forties; however, their continued good health resulted more from the city government's general frustration in not knowing quite how to handle vice than from political corruption and involvement. At least there are no known indications of political corruption. Records show that the police department under Chief of Police T. R. Johnson actively operated against gambling and liquor sales and moderately campaigned against prostitution. But during the year 1946, the department, under Chief O. H. Petersen, became more passive toward the Street. Under Chief of Police Maurice J. Schooff in 1947 and 1948, the police department was active in arresting gambling, but somewhat passive in the arresting of other vices (see Table 2).

Chief of Police T. R. Johnson ended his position on December 31, 1945, even though the new mayor, David S. Romney offered the position to him for the next two years. Instead, he chose to return to his job as reporter for the *Salt Lake Tribune*. Raids had been made on the Pladium, other gambling centers, and some prostitution houses by Chief Johnson, but his actions with Twenty-fifth Street tended only to harrass, rather than halt the problems. Mr. Johnson admitted that he controlled the

Street somewhat, but that the cleanup of the street would have to be left to others.¹

Table 2. Ogden City Police Department arrests and convictions

Police chief and year	<u>Prostitution</u>		<u>Narcotics</u>		<u>Liquor laws</u>		<u>Gambling</u>	
	Arr.	Conv.	Arr.	Conv.	Arr.	Conv.	Arr.	Conv.
Johnson, 1945	16	13	7	5	46	39	100	95
Petersen, 1946	0	0	6	5	5	4	28	17
Schooff, 1947	0	0	5	3	11	8	49	45
Schooff, 1948	0	0	6	5	5	4	34	17
Schooff, 1949	19	8	4	1	10	3	11	3
Mayor White and Schooff, 1950	44	36	13	3	54	45	46	36
Schooff, 1951	0	0	10	7	132	124	18	16
Schooff, 1952	3	2	7	2	108	91	12	7
Schooff, 1953	8	7	7	7	67	60	11	11
Schooff, 1954	7	4	6	3	55	39	7	5

Source: *Annual F.B.I. Reports*, 1945-1954 (Ogden City Police Department).

From January 1, 1946 to December 31, 1947, Mr. O. H. Petersen occupied the office of chief of police under Mayor David S. Romney. Petersen's qualifications for the assignment came from his previous position as assistant superintendent and parole officer at the Utah Industrial School.² Certainly, he would have known criminal correction and rehabilitation.

¹T. R. Johnson, Chief of Police from January 2, 1944 to December 31, 1945, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, October 5, 1966.

²*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, December 14, 1945, p. 11.

As he assumed his office in January of 1946, Mr. Petersen delivered an opening statement in which he said:

We have no desire to assume the role of wild-eyed reformers, but so long as we have laws on the statute books, they must be enforced or erased from the books. Don't be too critical of our efforts. Remember that we have a difficult assignment, embracing many complex angles.³

Probably Chief Petersen's most important accomplishment was the establishment of a youth bureau which had as its purpose the reduction of juvenile delinquency,⁴ but as far as the history of Twenty-fifth Street is concerned, he did comparatively little to change the status of the Street and halt the prostitution and gambling that flourished.⁵

County Sheriff John Watson kept vigil watch over the county and the problems therein, but he did little with Twenty-fifth Street from the years 1944 to 1948.⁶ Apparently, the general attitude described by the grand jury of 1944, "that crime and vice in Ogden city is none of the sheriff's business," didn't change with the years that followed.⁷

During this time, Rosette Duccinni Davie and her husband, Bill Davie, operated four houses of prostitution--the Rose Rooms, the Denver Hotel, the Wilcox Hotel, and the La Siesta Hotel--in which sex "tricks" (sexual intercourse, etc.) were sold for from \$5.00 to \$40.00, depending on the type of sex act and the beauty of the girl being "used." The income of the "house" per month was between \$20,000 and \$30,000. The women

³*Ibid.*, January 5, 1946, p. 8.

⁴*Ibid.*, December 31, 1946, p. 11.

⁵*Annual F.B.I. Reports*, 1946 (Ogden City Police Department).

⁶*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, January, 1944 to December, 1946.

⁷*Ibid.*, July 3, 1944, p. 10.

were kept, clothed, and fed out of this and were paid 10 percent of the income.⁸

The Rose Rooms was the most elegant of the four houses. Bert Strand, reporter for the *Ogden Standard Examiner*, who had been in on raids with the sheriff's office from 1947 to 1949, described these rooms as being furnished with plush carpet, velvet cushioned furniture, and decorative tiger skins. On the wall at the top of the carpeted staircase on the second floor was a full length painted portrait of a nude woman.⁹

Rose Davie had other part-time activities in which she participated. Along with her sale of "tricks," she sold dope, or at least had some share in the movement of it.¹⁰ Bill Davie was involved in the promotion of the "business," which included "pimping" (the soliciting of business for specific girls). He also had his hands in gambling and the sale of liquor.¹¹

Eventually, this duo became involved in the movement of prostitutes between the coastal cities and Ogden, Utah.¹² These women, thirty years or older, were rejects from the coastal cities, but were still considered to be of a higher class. They were physically beautiful, and charged more

⁸ Jack Card, Chief Deputy for Sheriff Mac Wade, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, November 3, 1966.

⁹ Bert Strand, *Ogden Standard Examiner* reporter, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, October 18, 1966.

¹⁰ Card, interview.

¹¹ Mrs. Mac M. Wade, Scrapbook No. 2, September 1949-December 1952, p. 40 (*Ogden Standard Examiner* clipping). Mac M. Wade, sheriff of Weber County from January 5, 1947 to December 31, 1954, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, October 17, 1966.

¹² Mrs. Mac M. Wade, Scrapbook No. 1, 1944-1949, p. 16 (*Ogden Standard Examiner* clipping).

for their services than did most other girls in Ogden. Eight of these prostitutes were picked up by Sheriff Mac Wade in June of 1948. Five were arrested in the Rose Rooms (205 25th Street), and three were arrested in the Wyoming Rooms (328 25th Street), owned and operated by Elaine Elkins.¹³

Eleven houses of prostitution operated on or near the Street during this time. Along with the above-mentioned, there were the Reed-Colorado Hotel (204-208 25th Street), the Wilson Rooms (320½ 25th Street), the Parkway Hotel (316 25th Street), the Marlene Rooms (246½ 25th Street), the Hyland Hotel (276½ 25th Street), the Golden Hotel (2422½ Grant), and a few colored houses of prostitution.¹⁴ The accommodations of these houses varied, ranging from the elegance of the Rose Rooms to the lower quality and fewer girls available at the Wilson Rooms.¹⁵

It was hard to prosecute those involved in prostitution during 1947 to 1948 because of the difficulty in obtaining evidence, and because officers used the wrong procedures in arresting. Some cases that seemed to the law officers to be certain convictions were thrown out of court.¹⁶

This case of September, 1950 is typical. Jan Lolly, age twenty-four, was released by the court on a prostitution charge. She had been found

¹³*Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹⁴Card, interview. *Ogden Standard Examiner* clipping in Scrapbook No. 1, p. 24. Mr. Mac M. Wade, interview. Maurice J. Schooff, Chief of Police from March 1945 to December 1955, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, November 22, 1966.

The Hyland Hotel, the Wyoming Rooms, and the Reed-Colorado Hotel changed hands four to five times from 1943 to 1948, but they were known houses of prostitution for almost the entire time.

¹⁵Strand, interview.

¹⁶Card, interview.

not guilty by a jury a week previous when a witness failed to identify her as a person with whom he had had illicit relations at the Rose Rooms. Although this time the prosecution had a witness who testified that he paid the woman \$5.00 for an act of sexual intercourse on July 23, Judge Nebeker granted a motion for dismissal on "a question of law."¹⁷ The record was not explicit about this "question of law."

Gambling, along with prostitution, seemed to operate fairly openly at this same time. Among the many gambling centers were the Labor Temple (263 25th Street), which apparently ignored the emphatic "No!" received from Chief Johnson,¹⁸ the Bank Smokery (3213 Washington), the Porter's and Waiter's Club (127 25th Street), and Lucky's Tavern (270 25th Street).¹⁹ In 1945, raids made on fourteen establishments netted thirty-two machines, ranging from the one-arm bandit type to the marble machines. The collective value was \$20,000, most of which came from Twenty-fifth Street.²⁰

Along with prostitution and gambling, there was an enormous amount of liquor and dope peddling on Twenty-fifth Street. The police department recorded from four to thirteen arrests and from one to eleven prosecutions a year from 1944 to 1954 from this type of illegal activity.²¹ Although the sheriff's office failed to leave records on this, the newspapers appear rather complete.

¹⁷Scrapbook No. 2., p. 25.

¹⁸*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, February 6, 1948.

¹⁹*Ibid.* Scrapbook No. 1, p. 12. *Ogden Standard Examiner* clipping in Scrapbook No. 3, p. 18. *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, January 22, 1948.

²⁰Scrapbook No. 1, p. 17.

²¹*Annual F.B.I. Reports, 1945-1954* (Ogden City Police Department).

On February 8, 1944, Clarence F. Clinton, age twenty-one, who lived in a trailer at the rear of 180 25th Street, was charged with the unlawful passage of the narcotic drug, marijuana.²² On June 9, 1948, Rosette Duccinni Davie, at the age of twenty-nine years, was released under a \$1,000 bail after being charged with possession and sale of narcotics illegally brought into the country. She made the mistake of selling the drug to an undercover agent who bought the drug (opium papine or morphine sulphate) in the form of bichloride of mercury pills.²³ On March 14, 1949, Sheriff Mac Wade's deputies seized two large sacks of marijuana weed estimated at a value of \$5,000 from an apartment house at 1239 Capitol Street. It was described as the "largest marijuana find in the history of Ogden."²⁴

Eugene Hernandez, age twenty-nine, staying at the Colorado Hotel, and Marie (Rose) Martinez, age thirty-seven, living at 239 Capitol, were charged with the sale of marijuana which Hernandez had obtained on Twenty-fifth Street for \$255. In a signed statement he admitted selling twenty cigarettes at \$1.00 apiece.²⁵ The latter two were picked up by Sheriff Mac Wade's department, and undoubtedly other individuals were involved in such operations but were undetected by the police.

The unorganized types of crime occurred often, along with the organized and licensed vice. The knifings, robberies, and murders continued at the same rate they had in the years before the forties, 90 percent

²²*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, February 8, 1944.

²³*Ibid.*, June 10, 1948.

²⁴*Ibid.*, March 14, 1949.

²⁵*Ibid.*

of which occurred on that notorious street in Ogden called so fittingly, "Two-Bit Street."²⁶

This was the description of Twenty-fifth Street during those years, and no one seemed to foresee the day when it would come to an end. In fact, many people had become used to the idea that the Street was there and that if you didn't go near it, it wouldn't hurt you. In talking to many people who were familiar with the times and place, they reported their fear of the Street and exclaimed that they never went near it on foot. No man would take his wife or girl friend into the area if he thought anything of her. It became such a part of the everyday image and personality of the city that it should have produced a concentrated law enforcement effort, but the police agencies did little more than maintain order throughout the city. It would require an aggressive individual to bring the vice to an end--one who could set a course and stick to it, even against the opposition of every official of the city.

The First Anti-Vice Crusaders, Sheriff Mac

Wade and Chief Deputy Jack Card

Sheriff Mac Wade became very successful in the field of law enforcement during the years from 1947 to 1954.²⁷ As sheriff of Weber County, Mr. Wade was able to extend his influence anywhere in the county. Ogden City, located as it was within the boundaries of Weber County, thus fell within his jurisdiction. The Utah State Code provisions for the duties of the sheriff simply indicated, and still indicate, that the sheriff's prime

²⁶Strand, interview. *Ogden Standard Examiner*, February 4, 1943, February 9, 1944, November 29, 1949. Scrapbook No. 2, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

²⁷*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, 1947-1954.

responsibility is " . . . to preserve the peace, and . . . make all lawful arrests."²⁸

At first, the courts provided little support for his efforts, and even the police force left him alone to handle the problem of vice cleanup. He was a very large man and possessed an almost genius quality of manipulating people to do his bidding. The public would probably have appreciated the sheriff had he been more of a listener than a doer, and if he had developed a kindlier manner. But this was not Mac Wade. He spent most of the first few months in office trying to determine who were his friends and who were his foes. Before serving in office six months, his enemies had made themselves known. Friends were easily identified because they supported a total cleanup of the Street--they had to in order to be his friends.²⁹

Jack Card, who became his chief deputy, was almost afraid of the seemingly impossible task, but he soon proved that he too was a man equal to the task. It wasn't long until Jack Card became the finest asset Sheriff Wade had in accomplishing the cleanup objective.³⁰ Card was convinced that if a person accomplished anything in law enforcement, he would have to do it by consistent and merciless raiding and policing of vice and crime. He told his employer that if he accepted the job, there would be no stopping until either the Street was cleaned up or both he and the sheriff were ousted from their positions. The agreement was

²⁸*The Utah Code*, Annotated 1943, 1953, 1958, c. 17, sec. 22, cl. 2.

²⁹Maurice Richards, County Attorney during the years 1949 to 1952, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, November 17, 1966.

³⁰*Ibid.*

made and the sheriff's department set a course that was destined to either succeed or fail, with no possible compromise.³¹

Deputy Jack Card greatly admired the sheriff and tried to emulate his actions and ideals. He was most impressed with his deep honesty, which he regarded as the sheriff's strongest characteristic. Wade impressed Card as the only person who didn't make special allowances for certain people, but insisted that all lawbreakers were subject to arrest.³² No one was to be exempt from the law for punishment for crimes they had committed.

One of the first to feel the wrath of the sheriff's deputies (according to Card) was Eddie Doherty, whom he described as a big-time gambler, pimp, dope peddler, and "junky" (on narcotics himself). On Saturday, January 17, 1948 at 12:55 a.m., Chief Deputy Jack Card and others raided Lucky's Tavern, owned by Doherty. They seized all the gambling equipment, including such devices as the cover and sides of a dice table, the cover of a dining table which had been turned into a poker table, a "twenty-one" table, chips, dice, cups, holders, and cards. Four persons who operated the various gaming concessions were taken in. Card claimed that this was his first raid of importance--it had been his desire to hit the "big boys" first, and the biggest "boy" was Eddie Doherty.³³

The character of Chief Deputy Card was confirmed by the county attorney, Maurice Richards (now county commissioner), as that of a tough

³¹Card, interview.

³²*Ibid.*

³³*Ibid.* *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, January 17, 1948.

and fearless officer--a man not afraid of anything, who would enforce the law against anyone.³⁴

Places of gambling raided by the sheriff's department during the next five years from the end of 1947 to 1953 included the Labor Temple,³⁵ Lucky's Tavern,³⁶ Dick's Club (318½ 25th Street),³⁷ the Key Club (2522 Wall Avenue),³⁸ the Bank Smokery,³⁹ the Rodeo Cafe (372 25th Street),⁴⁰ and the Porters' and Waiters' Club.⁴¹ These establishments had been the main "highlights" of entertainment in the Twenty-fifth Street district. The gambling devices and machines confiscated in these raids were stored in the "evidence" room of the city and county building and later destroyed. At one time, Sheriff Mac Wade and his deputies destroyed gambling machines and devices worth over \$20,000.⁴²

Sheriff Wade received less opposition to the cleanup of the Street from Mayor Harman W. Peery in the years 1948 through 1949. Mayor Peery, openly and without reservation, believed in and pushed for an open town during his terms of office of 1934 through 1939 and 1942 through 1943.⁴³ However, when pressure was brought to bear on government during his last

³⁴Richards, interview.

³⁵Scrapbook No. 1, p. 12.

³⁶*Ibid.*

³⁷*Ibid.*, p. 10.

³⁸*Ibid.*

³⁹*Ibid.*

⁴⁰*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, February 6, 1948.

⁴¹*Ibid.*, May 21, 1949, p. 8.

⁴²Scrapbook No. 1, p. 7.

⁴³The Utah Historical Society, *A History of Ogden* (Ogden: Ogden City Commission, 1940), appendix.

term of office, he found that he had to change his outlook on cleanup and began to plead for fairness in the treatment of the "little people" down on Twenty-fifth Street and the same treatment for the "big fellows" in the Weber Club, the Ogden Golf and Country Club, and others.⁴⁴

In 1945 Mayor Peery, on the surface at least, compromised his attitude and expressed a desire to clean up the gambling, but felt they ought to treat all violators alike--the private clubs, as well as other places, would have to abide by the rules. At time in 1949, Mayor Peery hurled favoritism charges in liquor and gambling cases at Sheriff Wade, claiming that the sheriff was concerned with violations in Ogden, while taverns and other establishments in the county were going unmolested. He further contended that nothing was being done about the private clubs.⁴⁵

There had been some evidence to back these charges up. On June 8, 1949, Deputies C. Clarence Clarke and Ray Gibson seized two slot machines and a "one-armed bandit" from the Ogden Golf and Country Club. The county prosecuting attorney had advised the deputies to raid the club. However, when Sheriff Wade learned of the raid he brought an immediate halt to it. The two deputies indicated that they thought they were doing what the taxpayers had paid them to do.⁴⁶

Sheriff Wade saw some value in permitting vice to operate on Twenty-fifth Street. He was able to obtain much information about crimes that were committed throughout the western states from informers down on the

⁴⁴*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, April 11, 1949. Scrapbook No. 1, pp. 3, 29.

⁴⁵*Ibid.*

⁴⁶*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, June 8, 1948.

Street in return for certain concessions by the law,⁴⁷ and in return for moneys in the form of bribes paid by the sheriff from the county coffers, specifically appropriated by the county for that purpose.⁴⁸ But, according to Sheriff Wade, the public demanded the cleanup of the Street. This demand became intense after a certain football player from one of the high schools had become infected with a mild case of venereal disease from a "trick" with one of the prostitutes on the Street. This case forced Mac Wade into action in 1947 during his first term of office.⁴⁹

From 1947 to 1949, Sheriff Mac Wade carried the ball alone against commercialized vice on Twenty-fifth Street with little help from the city police.⁵⁰ There was some evidence that vice operators were bribing city officials to ignore their illegal operations. One day, Chief Deputy Jack Card entered the Rose Rooms in plain clothes with other members of the sheriff's department. Rose Davie approached Card asking if she could help him. He answered that he didn't know, that he was "new at this." Whereupon Rose asked him if he would like to go with her. Before things could get under way, Jack stopped whatever was about to happen by showing his badge. Rose emphatically protested that she had already paid off once for the month. Jack left her with a warning that upon his return he would make arrests if prostitution was still going on.⁵¹

⁴⁷Mr. Mac Wade, interview.

⁴⁸*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, April 18, 1951, p. 14A.

⁴⁹Mr. Mac M. Wade, interview.

⁵⁰*The Annual F.B.I. Reports*, 1945-1954.

⁵¹Richards, interview. Card, interview. Scrapbook No. 1, p. 24.

During this time, much contention existed between the county sheriff and the chief of police, M. J. Schooff. The big flare-up began in 1949 over a letter of commendation written by Commissioner Thomas East, commending both the police department and county sheriff's department for their united efforts, which resulted in a court injunction against four houses of prostitution: the Rose Rooms, the Wilson Rooms, the Wyoming Rooms, and the Parkway Hotel. It was right after this that a long-smouldering feud broke out into open flames.

On Wednesday, September 27, 1949, Mac Wade appeared before the city commissioners and charged that the police were doing nothing to clean up Twenty-fifth Street. He contended that the Ogden police had admitted on the witness stand that only one arrest for prostitution had been made by them in the previous two years. Chief of Police Maurice J. Schooff answered that he had made arrests on the Street, if not as many as the sheriff's department.⁵² Thursday, September 28, 1949, Chief of Police Schooff further answered that he shouldn't be expected to ". . . undo in two years what has been going on for many years . . ." on lower Twenty-fifth Street, and averred that he had inherited a lot of this trouble from the previous four years.⁵³ In reality, the primary responsibility for most of the cleanup of the Street rested upon Police Chief Schooff, but personal and strategic forces operating upon the Chief during the late forties forced the problem of cleanup upon Sheriff Wade.

Although there was little cooperative effort between the sheriff's department and the police department, there was great competitive effort between them toward cleaning up the Street. The record shows that from

⁵²*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, September 27, 1949.

⁵³*Ibid.*, September 28, 1949.

1947 through 1948, there had been no arrests for prostitution, but that gambling and liquor violations were attacked quite vehemently by the police department⁵⁴ (see Table 3).

Table 3. Change in police department effectiveness, 1947-1950

Police chief and year	<u>Prostitution</u>		<u>Narcotics</u>		<u>Liquor laws</u>		<u>Gambling</u>	
	Arr.	Conv.	Arr.	Conv.	Arr.	Conv.	Arr.	Conv.
Mayor Romney and Schooff, 1947	0	0	5	3	11	8	49	45
Mayor Peery and Schooff, 1948	0	0	6	5	5	4	34	17
Mayor Peery and Schooff, 1949	19	8	4	1	10	3	11	3
Mayor White and Schooff, 1950	44	36	13	3	54	45	46	36

Source: *Annual F.B.I. Reports*, 1945-1954 (Ogden City Police Department).

The 1950 Election and the Turning

Point of City Policy Toward

Twenty-fifth Street

The new administration which came to office in 1950, with W. Rulon White as mayor, waged an all-out war against commercialized vice through the police department, with forty-four arrests for prostitution, resulting in thirty-six convictions; thirteen arrests for narcotics, with eleven

⁵⁴*The Annual F.B.I. Reports*, 1947 through 1949.

Because Sheriff Wade, upon leaving office totally cleaned out all records of accomplishment, there are no statistical reports with which to make comparisons. It can only be assumed that since the only available newspaper accounts of arrests for prostitution during these years were accounts involving the sheriff's office, and the *F.B.I. Reports* show no police arrests, the sheriff's office was the only one involved in the cleanup of prostitution.

convictions; fifty-four arrests for the sale of liquor, with forty-five convictions; and forty-six arrests for gambling, resulting in thirty-six convictions.⁵⁵

Many of the arrests made by the sheriff's department in 1947 and 1948 ended in a charge of vagrancy or indecent exposure. Until Chief Deputy Sheriff Jack Card was taken aside and given a description of what was needed for conviction, problems continued to prevent convictions in the courts.⁵⁶

In time, however, success came. Rosette Duccini Davie and her husband were finally caught in the trap of the law, and their one-time highly prosperous "business enterprise" was brought to an end when they failed to abide by a court injunction which closed two of their "establishments." The injunction came on October 4, 1949. Following this injunction, Bill and his wife continued the operation of a house of prostitution at the Rose Rooms. In July of 1950, the police department arrested them and brought them to trial. Bill pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$299 or serve 150 days in jail, while Mrs. Davie appealed her case to the state supreme court.⁵⁷ Apparently, this was not sufficient warning, and the pair continued to operate the notorious Rose Rooms. Again they were arrested and brought to trial--this time for the operation of the Rose Rooms and a prostitution house in Davis County from May, 1949 to November, 1950. This was a joint Davis County and Weber County conviction. This time they were both fined \$500 for contempt

⁵⁵*Ibid.*

⁵⁶Card, interview. Strand, interview.

⁵⁷Scrapbook No. 1, p. 31.

of court.⁵⁸ A final conviction came on May 21, 1951 when William S. Davie at the age of thirty-four was convicted of operating a gambling game at the Key Club on Twenty-fifth Street and was sentenced to five years at the Utah State Penitentiary.⁵⁹ Due to subsequent arrests and convictions, Rose Duccini Davie was sentenced to two-and-one-half years in the Weber County Jail.⁶⁰ (There were no facilities for women at the state penitentiary.)

Ironically enough, the other "big boy," Eddie J. Doherty, was beaten, not on prostitution (pimping) and gambling charges, but automobile dealing.⁶¹

The years 1944 to 1954 present a view of great drama and variance of philosophy in handling the problems of Twenty-fifth Street in Ogden. Gambling and prostitution were operating in the open with all the advertising and commercializing of regular legitimate enterprises. Such gambling and drinking centers as the Labor Temple, the Porter's and Waiter's Club, and Lucky's, have operated on Twenty-fifth Street under the disrepute of the moralist citizens, while other elite places that were not on Twenty-fifth Street such as the Weber Club, the Elks Club, Ogden Golf and Country Club, and other private clubs throughout the city operated the same type of gambling in uptown, more respectable establishments. But because they were frequented by so-called upstanding citizens, who wouldn't be "caught dead" on Twenty-fifth Street, they were allowed to operate without restraint or restriction. Of course, this was not

⁵⁸*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, March 5, 1951, p. 14.

⁵⁹Scrapbook No. 2, p. 20.

⁶⁰*Ibid.*, p. 40.

⁶¹*Ibid.*, p. 48.

without reason. It is natural that the place where the most crimes were reported to have happened would fall under the attack of the citizens much more than places where vice was going on, yet no crimes were reported.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

From 1870 to 1954, the infamous "Two-Bit" Street brought many problems to the community of Ogden. During the week of August 1 to August 8, 1925 (picked at random from the Ogden City police records), there were thirty-five arrests for crimes of a serious nature ranging from knifings and murder to robbery, prostitution, gambling, and dope peddling. Of course, this represents only a sample of the many crimes that were actually committed and never detected.¹ During the first three months of 1944 (January through March), a period taken at random at a time when history records a more effective law enforcement, there were reported by the police from two to three crimes committed per week ranging from vagrancy and indecent exposure to stabbing; and, of course, gambling and prostitution were going on in the open continually without interruption.²

One could almost say that it took Ogden eighty years to find the right combination of government officials needed to accomplish the cleanup of Twenty-fifth Street. Card claims that in order for vice to flourish, a cooperative government is needed--one that will accept, license, and participate in the sale of vice itself.³ Much of what was

¹Ogden, Utah, Ogden City Police Records (newspaper clippings), February 14, 1924, through February 27, 1928.

There is no consistent numbering of pages throughout these scrapbooks. Therefore, the searcher has to find the records by date.

²*The Ogden Standard Examiner*, January 1 through March 31, 1944. T. R. Johnson, Chief of Police from January 2, 1944 to December 31, 1945 personal interview, Ogden, Utah, October 5, 1966.

³Jack Card, Chief Deputy for Sheriff Mac Wade, personal interview, Ogden, Utah, November 3, 1966.

written in this account confirms Card's statement. The newspaper accounts, private interviews, and court records upon which this study is based indicate some sanction and permission from official agents of government for the operation of vice on Twenty-fifth Street. This does not mean that vice on the Street was something that shouldn't exist, but it does infer that whatever the government of a city, state, or nation allows, will exist. Going even further, whatever the people permit, the government will allow. If that is commercialized vice, the city will have commercialized vice. At least that is what the people allowed in Ogden for eighty years.

There is some question today as to the effectiveness of the cleanup of the late forties. Mr. Card feels certain that "call girl"-type prostitution continues to operate and that actual prostitution may also exist in hotels on a wholesale basis.⁴ Present conditions are uncertain since only fragments of evidence come to the attention of the police. But in the years before the fifties, prostitution and gambling were more open and could be located and this may have been of some value.

It is apparent, however, that the people of Ogden desire to have a city free from the open selling of sex and games, and the city and county governments finally acted on this desire. As a result, today the notorious street is more apt to be called Twenty-fifth Street instead of "Two-Bit Street," and maybe this is reason enough for cleaning it up. About one half of the old "Two-Bit Street" looks the same as it did in its hey-day with second floor hotels, taverns, and gambling places. From Wall Avenue, which runs in front of the Ogden Railroad Depot, to

⁴Ibid.

Lincoln, few buildings have been torn down or remodeled. The most recently razed building was the Earle Hotel in 1968. This was one of the larger buildings located on the north corner of Wall and Twenty-fifth Street. From Lincoln Street to Washington Boulevard, the Street has been changed dramatically. New business and government buildings have been built.

Washington Boulevard is the center of business where throngs of people park their cars, do their shopping, and entertain themselves. Only two gambling enterprises existed on or near Washington Boulevard--the Pladium, just off Washington on Twenty-fourth Street in the basement of the Eccles Building, and the Bank Smokery at 2313 Washington, where Vern's Card Shop is today.

The 300 block on Twenty-fifth Street is divided in half by Kiesel Avenue. Moving westward from Washington Boulevard, the new Commercial Security Bank building with a parking lot behind is located where the old Broom Hotel (on the corner) and the Rodeo Cafe, a gambling center used to stand. On the corner of Twenty-fifth and Kiesel, there are some small shops that are typical of the old Street. All of the 300 block south, both east and west of Kiesel, is a very beautiful park which attracts people during every season of the year. Many of the beautiful shrubs and flowers are removable and can be kept in hot house storage during the winter months. During the Christmas holidays, the city displays a beautiful wonderland of seasonal decorations.

To the right (north) just off Twenty-fifth Street on Kiesel is the Ross' and Jack's Parking Pavillion where the Wilcox Hotel (2470 Kiesel), a house of prostitution, used to stand. Continuing west on Twenty-fifth Street to Grant, one's attention is drawn to the beautiful multi-million-dollar federal building and the United States Court House. This beautiful

structure occupies a position to the right of the street where the Wilson Rooms (a prostitution house), Dick's Club (a gambling center), and the Parkway Hotel (a prostitution house) once stood.

Crossing Grant Avenue, the 200 block begins. To the right, Smith's Jewelry and Loans occupies the street floor and rooms the second floor where the Hyland Hotel (276½, a house of prostitution) used to be. Number 270, next door, is the Calypso Club, where Lucky's Tavern (a gambling center) used to be. There is a state liquor store across the street *legally* selling alcoholic beverages.

Still moving west to the left (263) is an old store on the site of the labor temple; to the right (246½) is the Marlene Rooms with the sign, "Marlene Rooms" still above the old unpainted wooden doors. Behind the doors, a staircase leads up to rooms above a barbershop and a men's miscellaneous store on the street.

Next door is another long dark staircase leading up to second floor rooms. A sign with a picture of an old owl at the top behind glass hangs over the sidewalk. Weather has deteriorated the rest of the sign until the writing is illegible. This was once the Wyoming Rooms, another house of prostitution.

Across the street, an old square concrete building stands with the name "La Siesta Hotel" written out in longhand, with flourescent lights from side to side near the top (277½, a house of prostitution which used to be owned by Rose Davie). Next door is the Helena Hotel, still in business for railroad passengers from the depot. On the north side of the street, hanging above the doorway to another staircase is a square white box with "Reed Hotel" inscribed in flourescent lighting on it. Earlier, this was the Reed-Colorado Hotel, another house of prostitution.

On the corner of Lincoln and Twenty-fifth Street, address number 205, is the El Borracho bar and cafe. This is a larger building all painted "rose" color. The El Borracho occupies only a small portion of the building. The rest of the building is made up of apartments for colored people and Mexicans. This used to be the infamous Rose Rooms, a very commodious prostitution house.

The 100 block is studded on the right and partway on the left with taverns and second floor hotels. Many of the buildings on the left have been torn down. About the middle of the block on the right (166) is the Windsor Hotel on the second and third floors, still in operation. The Denver Hotel used to sit across the street from the Windsor Hotel in the center of what is now a vacant lot. The Cafe El De Anna, owned and operated by Anna Bell Weakley, is situated where the old Porters' and Waiters' Club used to be. Mrs. Weakley also operated the Porters' and Waiters' Club.

On Wall Avenue where the old Key Club used to be located is a restaurant owned by a colored gentleman. This too was a gambling center during the forties. Certainly the remains of what was once the sin street of Ogden could be very stimulating to a hyperactive imagination.

Ken Davidson writes his reminiscence of Twenty-fifth Street as a former denizen of the Street itself.

It is a quiet afternoon in late summer and I am looking out from a hotel window facing Ogdens lower 25th Street. I see a shabby looking thoroughfare originating west from the Union Pacific Railroad Station on Wall Avenue. It is lined on both sides with vacant lots and many old buildings, some of them boarded up to keep vagrants out. The buildings are Victorian in vintage, built of brick faded with age. Their top facades are half eaten away by insects and erosion. There are remnants of window trim that were done in wood scrolls and intricate carving.

Many of these buildings, former two story hotels, boarding houses, or rooming houses, stand half empty now;

their upstairs windows blinking like a sea of questioning eyes. Bewildered and grieved looking, in the opaqueness of the afternoon sun. They seem to say, "What has happened here? What has happened to us?"

. . . As I sit here by the window of this once elegant hotel room, the slowly fading afternoon sun casting blurred shadows up and down the quiet street, I am still lost in reverie. I seem to hear music and people singing, and I see a procession marching before me. There are pioneers with their oxcarts, slouch-hatted miners and their burros, Indians and trappers, and red-shirted pony express riders. There are many, many more I cannot distinguish. I know the upstairs windows of the former two-story hotel and rooming houses are blinking their bewildered and questioning eyes down upon them as they pass by. They are surely saying over and over again, "What has happened here? What has happened to us?" And I seem to hear thousands of voices in an answering echo, "Everything! Everything!"⁵

The attitude of the people, and indeed, the attitude of the government of the city of Ogden, particularly as it pertains to crime and vice, is most directly recognized in the activity of the police department; not necessarily because the police department is also compatible with the free operation of vice, but because the police department has no other alternative but to follow the dictates of the city commission or the mayor, whichever claims control over the department.

There were those police chiefs that dangerously followed the dictates of their consciences, such as Police Chief T. R. Johnson, and to some degree, Police Chief M. J. Schooff in 1948 through 1950, but for the most part, the police seemed content in just doing their job and keeping the good graces of the people and the government officials. Probably this was one of the results of the big conflict between Sheriff Mac M. Wade and Chief of Police Maurice J. Schooff, in that it sparked the police chief to take action beyond the dictates of the

⁵Ken Davidson, "The Story of Two-Bit Street (personal paper written for credit in a writing class), Ogden, Utah, 1966.

mayor, at least as far as gambling is concerned. Certainly, the actions of the police department changed when Mayor W. Rulon White took office. In the year 1950, the police department made a fantastic change, and the final stages of the cleanup of Twenty-fifth Street included the police department in an extremely effective way.

The final evaluation of the late forties' and early fifties' cleanup has yet to be made. The evaluation will come when we are able to ascertain how effectively commercialized vice has been stopped.

If "The Street is like a Sunday School," as some seem to think when they compare it with the earlier periods, it may only mean that prostitution and gambling have moved to remote secret places. No one can say for sure just what the prostitution, gambling, and liquor scene is today.

The issue then is between the moralist and the realist approaches to gambling and prostitution. Do we say with the realist that it is impossible to beat vice, and therefore we should keep it out in the open where we can control it, or should we suppress it as the moralists think we should?

Captain Robert F. Carver, who came on the police force in 1944, feels that although prostitution has been driven into secrecy into the country or other cities, it is still better than having it here on Twenty-fifth Street. When vice was located on Twenty-fifth Street, it attracted the pimps, the con-men, the gamblers, and the burglars. Now, without the prostitutes, these undesirable elements have vacated the area.

There are still prostitutes in Ogden, but they are of a different type. The prostitute used to be paid in money. Now she may take payment

in a different form--whatever she may need at the time. For this reason, she could be more expensive. Now she takes her client into her home. He may stay the evening with her or he may spend the whole night with her. Prostitutes are now not so easy to find; and in fact, you may not be able to find one. During the war, with the traffic of soldiers, it became more of a regular business with a set price, with the "trick" lasting only the time needed.⁶

⁶Captain Robert F. Carver, personal interview, Ogden City Police Station, March 12, 1968.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Public Documents

Annual F.B.I. Reports. Ogden City Police Department, 1945-1954.

These reports were very helpful in analyzing the effectiveness of the police department during the years 1945-1954.

Ogden, Utah. Criminal Records, 1937-1941, inclusive.

These were used to corroborate other stories about the criminal activities of certain persons. They were also very bold proof of the vice peddlers of the 1930's.

Ogden, Utah. Minute Book of City Council Meetings, January 2, 1919 to January 15, 1920.

Ogden, Utah. Ogden City Police Records. Newspaper Clippings. January 1, 1916 to December 31, 1916, inclusive; January 1, 1917 to September 14, 1917, inclusive; February 14, 1924 to January 3, 1932, inclusive.

These records are all that remain of the early police records. The rest have been destroyed. They were vital in analyzing the mid-teens and the 1920's.

Ogden, Utah. *The Revised Ordinances of Ogden City*, Title X, Sec. 14, 1894, p. 163.

The State of Utah v. Kent S. Bramwell, 2nd Judic. Dist. for the County of Weber, No. 4250.

This case provided much information concerning the events surrounding the alleged bribery of Mayor Kent S. Bramwell. It also provided information about other individuals involved in Twenty-fifth Street vice.

The State of Utah v. H. W. Peery and R. C. Moore, 2nd Judic. Dist. for the County of Weber, No. 4251.

Vivid descriptions of the connection of the city government with vice operators on Twenty-fifth Street were contained in the papers of this case.

Utah. *The Utah Code.* Annotated 1943, 1953, 1958, c. 17, sec. 22, cl. 2.

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census, Eleventh-Seventeenth. *Census of the United States.* 1890-1950, Population.

These provided the statistics used in providing an objective description of the population in and around the city of Ogden (Weber County).

Utah. Bureau of Statistics of the State of Utah for the years 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1913, and 1914.

During these years, the reports included an entry for criminal convictions by county and by nativity. This gives a clear picture of who committed the most crimes out of native and foreign-born people. When analyzed with percentages of foreign born as compared with native born, one can place the blame of most of the crimes on one or the other.

Utah. *Ordinances of Ogden: The Charter of the City and Amendments*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret News Company Printers and Publishers, 1881.

Weber County, Utah. The Second District Court Register of Actions, Criminal Vol. 7.

This is a ledger book kept by the Court in which entries are made when each action is taken by the Court.

Personal Interviews

Ballantyne, Ella. City Recorder during Harman Peery's administration. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. October 26, 1966.

Mrs. Ballantyne's residence is 1366 Calhoun, Ogden, Utah. She knew Mayor Peery quite well before, during, and after his first administration.

Card, Jack. Chief Deputy under Sheriff Mac Wade. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. November 3, 1966.

Carver, Robert F., Captain. Personal interview, Ogden City Police Station. March 12, 1968.

Estrada, Helen. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. June 22, 1968.

Glassman, A. L. Managing Editor of the *Ogden Standard Examiner*. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. October 29, 1966.

Mr. Glassman experienced the playing of the tape against Mayor Kent S. Bramwell in the presence of the stake president and apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, David O. McKay. He also supplied information about Mayor David S. Romney's approach to the crime of Twenty-fifth Street.

Johnson, T. R. Police Chief January 2, 1944 to December 31, 1945. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. October 5, 1966.

Mr. Johnson's residence is 1179 28th, Ogden, Utah. Mr. Johnson was a staff member of the *Salt Lake Tribune* from 1936 to 1962. He was appointed Chief of Police under Mayor Kent S. Bramwell and took his oath of office on January 2, 1944.

Richards, Maurice. County Attorney 1949 through 1952. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. November 17, 1966.

Shaw, Gwendolyn. Personal interview by Mrs. Evelyn Dussol, Weber County Library, Ogden, Utah. August 2, 1968.

This lady was solicited to serve as a private tutor by Belle London for her daughter. It serves to describe the quixotic nature of Belle London.

Strand, Bert. *Ogden Standard Examiner* reporter. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. October 18, 1966.

Mr. Strand's residence is 3095 North 275 East, Ogden, Utah. Mr. Strand was with Sheriff Mac Wade on many of his raids on gambling and prostitution, and gave the author a very objective view of the things that happened in the raids.

Wade, Mac. Sheriff of Weber County from January 5, 1947 to December 31, 1954. Personal interview, Ogden, Utah. October 17, 1966.

Much of the burden of cleaning up Twenty-fifth Street rested upon Sheriff Mac Wade. His wife kept a very thorough running account of his accomplishments as sheriff which the author has access to, to substantiate the interview with Mr. Wade. All of the elements of this set of books (three in number) were clippings from the *Ogden Standard Examiner*, with the exception of his certificate of election.

Newspapers

Agee, Bob. "Ogden Flourishing, Booming in 1897." *Ogden Standard Examiner*. December 22, 1965.

Agee, Bob. "Quiet Town Booms into Brawling Community After Railroad Arrives." *Ogden Standard Examiner*. July 25, 1962.

Brown, Merlin C. "Some Westerners Believe Him Still Alive in America." *Ogden Standard Examiner*. July 22, 1936.

Chambers, Alma D. "How Ogden Greeted Railroad Builders on March 3, 1869." *Ogden Standard Examiner*. May 5, 1957.

This account was taken from the *Directory of Ogden City and Weber County* written by Alma D. Chambers. The directory was printed under his supervision in the office of the *Ogden Herald* in 1883.

Deseret News. Editorial, May 21, 1868.

Ogden Junction. April 30, 1870.

Ogden Standard Examiner. January 2, 1944 to December 31, 1953.

This source is important in that most of the history of Twenty-fifth Street raids, and crimes are described and most of the political intrigue is included in it. All of the details of the indictment of certain important political figures are included in the Bramwell Case. It has also served as a good source of confirmation of the interviews taken, as well as a source of new information.

The Standard. Ogden, Utah. 1888 to 1889, inclusive.

This paper was used to provide accounts of the earlier period of 1888-1889. It described the focus of law upon plural marriages, and also gave some account of the crimes that were committed after the railroad came.

Scrapbooks

Wade, Mrs. Mac. Scrapbooks (numbers 1-3). (a) No. 1, April, 1944 to September, 1949; (b) No. 2, September, 1949 to December, 1952; (c) No. 3, December, 1952 to July, 1954.

Mrs. Mac M. Wade kept a very thorough newspaper history of her husband, Sheriff Wade's career, which proved to be the most significant source available. When Mr. Wade left office, he cleaned out all the records he had kept. Therefore, the only accounts available are the newspaper accounts kept by Mrs. Wade.

Books

Anderson, Bernice Gibbs. *The City of the Ungodly*. Ogden, Utah: By the Author, 1959. (Pamphlet)

Codman, John. *The Mormon Country: A Summer With the "Latter-day Saints."* New York: The United States Publishing Company, 1874.

This should be considered a primary source since Mr. Codman was accounting his experiences, first hand, as he traveled through Utah; and in this particular instance, as he traveled through Corinne while it was still a booming town.

De Voto, Bernard. "Ogden: The Underwriters of Salvation." *The Taming of the Frontier*. Edited by Duncan Aikman. New York: Minton, Balch and Company, 1925.

In the absence of any primary sources describing Gentile Kate, I used this account given by Bernard De Voto. He seems to be a strong authority on the history of Ogden, and therefore a valuable source.

Mulder, William. *Homeward to Zion. The Mormon Migration from Scandinavia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1957.

Tillotson, Elizabeth. *A History of Ogden*. Ogden, Utah: Ogden City Commission, 1961.

Tullidge, Edward W. *Tullidge's Histories*. Vol. II. Salt Lake City: Press of Juvenile Instructor, 1889.

Utah Historical Society. *A History of Ogden to 1940*. Ogden, Utah: Ogden City Commission, 1961.

Books by Mulder, Tillotson, Tullidge, and Utah Historical Society are general histories of people and officials and trends. Use was made of the years and dates of mayors on charts found within the appendix and introduction of the two *A History of Ogden's*; while Mulder and Tullidge provided information about the movements of people--the first about the first impressions of immigrants to Ogden, and the second about the absorption of Corinne by Ogden.

Unpublished Materials

Davidson, Ken. "The Story of Two-Bit Street." Personal paper written for credit in a writing class, Weber State College, Ogden, Utah, 1966.

Mr. Davidson is an art teacher and quite capable of rhetorical writing, and his impressions were descriptive of what I wanted to say at the end.

Kotter, Richard E. "An Examination of Mormon and Non-Mormon Influences in Ogden City Politics, 1847-1896." Unpublished Master's thesis, Department of History, Utah State University, 1967.

Mr. Kotter states the thesis that political change is the major factor that gave impetus to the rise of the traditional image of Twenty-fifth Street, and he dates this change with the developments of the 1888 election.

APPENDIX

Table 4. Crimes committed in Weber County, Utah by native, foreign-born, and unknown for selected years

Year	Native	Foreign-born	Unknown
1900 ^a	28	14	33
1901 ^a	25	11	12
1902 ^a	--	--	46
1903 ^a	--	--	174
1910 ^b	12	6	10
1913 ^b	5	4	18

^aSource: Utah, Bureau of Statistics of the State of Utah, 1900, pp. 50-51; 1901, p. 50; 1902, p. 50; 1903, p. 50.

^bSource: Utah, Bureau of Labor, Immigration and Statistics, 1910, p. 242-B; 1912, pp. 384-385.

VITA

Lyle J. Barnes

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: Ogden's Notorious "Two-Bit Street," 1870-1954

Major Field: History

Biographical Information:

Personal Data: Born at Lehi, Utah, December 11, 1936; son of Floyd Joseph Barnes and LaFerne Gordon Barnes; married Norma Blake June 23, 1960; three children--Carolyn, Eric, and Ryan.

Education: Graduated from Lehi High School in 1955; attended Brigham Young University 1955-57; received the Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Utah, with a major in political science and a minor in sociology, in 1963; completed requirements for the Master of Science degree, specializing in history, at Utah State University in 1969.

Professional Experience: 1965-68, taught history and political science in Roy High School; 1963-65, taught history and political science in Weber County High School. (Both of these schools are in the Weber County School District.)