A Historical Study of Plain City, Weber County, Utah: Community Background as an Influence on Education

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A HISTORICAL STUDY OF PLAIN CITY, WEBER COUNTY, UTAH:
COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AS AN INFLUENCE ON EDUCATION

by

Fern Olsen Taylor

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

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

EDUCATION

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, Utah

1959
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During the time spent on finding material for the history of Plain City, many people have been contacted. Of necessity, this has been a start-from-scratch project. It has meant letter writing, personal interviews, searching through records and minute books, telephone calls, etc. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the help of my family. Without their fine cooperation, this project would have been impossible.

To my committee, Dr. Basil Hansen, Dr. Paul Lewis, Miss Evelyn Wiggins, I would like to express appreciation for their encouragement and advice.

To my typists, Mrs. Betty Olsen and Mrs. Grant Maw, my sincerest appreciation.

To all others who generously gave of their time in relating events--thank you.

Fern Olsen Taylor
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INTRODUCTION

The problem. The problem in the study of the history of Plain City was to show that community backgrounds do affect the lives of individuals. Greater social achievement can be attained within the framework of a good foundation in education, a solidarity of home life, a respect for mankind and attention to religious beliefs.

If we want the years ahead to be better than the present years, we must educate our children to know what is good, better than we have known it; to think more clearly than we have thought, and to act better than we, up to now, have acted. (44)

Even though this quotation was uttered practically a hundred years later than the town of Plain City was settled, it embodies the spirit that the pioneers carried with them in relation to education. They sought a better way of life for their children, through a process of education, not only in the three R's, but in ways of culture, refinement, human understanding and ability to deal fairly with their fellow men.

The purpose. The purpose of writing the history was to gather material on the growth of the town and compile it, to make it useful now as well as to preserve it for future generations. Also, at the end of one hundred years of growth, it seemed fitting that a record be established of the history of the town.

Delimitations. The history of the town itself, its growth and development, is of prime importance. To try to rate one individual above another in matters of prestige or accomplishments in this town would defeat the writer's purpose. Individuals are mentioned only in connection with the growth of the town. The study, therefore, will deal with specific aspects
of town growth via industries, organizations, schools, and churches.

Method of treatment. The nature of the topic has caused the subject to be treated as historical. Much personal pleasure has been gained by the writer in assembling information and compiling it into a document which may be useful to future generations.
CHAPTER ONE

AN INTRODUCTION TO EARLY PLAIN CITY

Location. Plain City lies about ten miles northwest of Ogden, Utah. The size of the town itself is not of great proportions. It is approximately thirty-five miles square, although not a perfect square, as the boundary line on the southern limits is a little irregular. The townsite proper lies about half way between the rugged Wasatch Mountains to the east and the Great Salt Lake to the west. It has a low area to the west where the land is infertile, and a river runs on the south. This prevents the growth of the town somewhat in those directions.

Practically all the soil on which the residents depend largely for a living is a rich sandy loam, technically designated a Fresno, fine sandy loam. There is some Jordan loam on the southeast and the southwest, and a small amount of Jordan sand in the north central part. The Fresno fine sandy loam is the most important soil in Weber County. (7)

Considering the nature of crops which are successfully grown in Plain City, it can be seen that the soil has a great deal to do with it.

Plain City lies at a point which is easily accessible to the other adjacent communities. A brief diagram is included to clarify the location.

To the northwest of the town, the soil is alkaline, resulting in barren plains where little vegetation thrives. Above this barren lowland is an area which is called the bench land, where the good loamy soil is located.

Colonists. It was this particular spot, Plain City, that the first colonists from Lehi selected to make their homes. These settlers came of
their own free will and choosing.

In November, 1858, a dozen men from Lehi, Utah, who intended to settle on the plain northwest of Ogden, surveyed the area from Ogden River to see about irrigation water and making a canal. The men returned to Lehi before Christmas. Some Weber County folk tried to discourage these men, but they left Lehi March 10, 1859. They established the townsite of Plain City. (6)

The location of the new village on a level plain some distance from the mountains suggested to the pioneers the name "City of the Plains." At the organization of the branch of the L. D. S. Church in May, 1859, the name "Plain City" was chosen. (7)

The first company of men, who came in November, 1858, was directed to this particular area by President Lorin Farr. In searching for a place to settle, they stopped at Ogden and proceeded to find Mr. Farr. As they visited with him, they said:

"President Farr, we represent a group of Lehi citizens who are in search of a more suitable place to locate permanently. Water is scarce in our home town. Last spring when your people were camped on the Provo River bottoms, a number of them informed us that water was plentiful and soil rich in Weber County," explained Daniel Collet.

"I know the exact spot which would be ideal for a new settlement," replied Farr. "It lies approximately ten miles northwest of Ogden on a rich plain. The soil is fertile and deep... Come, brethren, I'll go with you and show you the place." (5)

Thus the settlers were given guidance in finding a suitable place to settle.

Some early families. When the band of colonists came into Plain City that first cold day, March 17, 1859, their immediate need was shelter from the bitter north wind. They were able to find in the southern part of the town a hollow in which they could protect themselves. It is commonly referred to as Draney's hollow.

The wagons were lined up east and west for protection from the north wind. To the south of the wagons, a big hole was dug in the ground, and a campfire built in it. Although snow lay deep upon the ground, the pioneers made themselves as comfortable as possible under existing circumstances. There was little to be seen for miles in any
direction, except sagebrush, which stood from four to ten feet high. Yet, the colonists were pleased with the beautiful plain upon which they were going to build their home. (5)

This first group of colonists consisted of approximately one hundred people. They traveled for seven days on their way to Plain City from Lehi. Teams of mules and oxen and some horses transported their goods over muddy roads. After the seventh day of travel, they arrived in Plain City, March 17, 1859, at five o'clock in the evening.

The following people were in that first group:

1. George Musgrave and wife, Victorine Dix
2. Charles Neal and wife, Annie England
3. Jens Peter Folkman and wife, Matilda Funk, and son, George P. Folkman
4. Robert Maw and wife, Annie Davis
5. Jeppe C. Folkman and wife, Annie
6. Thomas Davis and wife, Mary, with their children, Mary, John, Robert, and Deseret
7. Joseph Robertson and wife, Alice Booth
8. Susannah and Seth Beddis
9. William Sharp and wife, Mary Ann, with their children Milo, Elizabeth, and Lorenzo Padely, who was an adopted son
10. William Van Dyke and wife, Charlotte, and their son William
11. David Francis
12. Daniel James and wife, and their children, Charlotte Ann and Elizabeth Ann
13. Alonzo Knight and wives, Catherine McGuire, Martha Saunders, and their children, William, Charlotte and Amanda
14. Henry Newman and wife, and their children, Henry Jr., and Deseret
15. William Skeen and wife, Caroline, and their child, William, Jr.
16. Joseph Skeen and wife, and their children Joseph, Jr., Lyman, William, Jane, and Moroni
17. John Folker and wife, Alice, and their children Alfred and Annie
18. Thomas Singleton and wife, Christine, and their children Elizabeth, Emma, and Sarah
19. John Draney and wife, and their children Samuel and Isabell
20. Jonathan Moyes and wife, Dinah Abbott
21. James Rowe
22. William Geddes and wives, Elizabeth and Martha, and their children Agnes, William, and Joseph
23. William L. Stewart
25. Christopher Folkman and wife, Elea, and son George
26. Daniel Collet and wife, and their children Reuben, Charles, James, Matilda, and Julia
27. Samuel Cousin, his mother and sister
28. Ezekial Hopkins
29. Daniel Hopkins
30. John Spiers and wife, Mary Ann, and their children Martha, Alberta, Winfield, and John
31. Martin Garner and wife, and their children Tene and Hannah
32. John Garner and wife, one son and one daughter
33. Jonathan Partridge
34. John Carver and wife, Mary Ann, and their children Mary Ann, George, John, and James S.
35. Thomas Ashton
36. John Draney, Jr.
37. Thomas Brown and wife
38. Clint Brown
39. Hans Peterson and wife and son, August
40. John Beck
41. Leavett Brown (5)

"It is said that John Carver and Jonathan Moyes joined the group at Kaysville." (8)

The time of the year was March 17, 1859, when the settlers arrived in Plain City. The first thing the colonists had to do by necessity was to provide shelter for themselves. The natural resources with which to build were non-existent, so, by the very surroundings, they had no choice except to make dugouts.

The dugouts were made by digging a hole in the ground, ten to fifteen feet square, and lining the walls with sod or boards. Cupboards were built in the side of the walls by digging shelves into the earth. Here they kept their dishes and other utensils. The dugouts had dirt floors and roofs, a fireplace in one end, a door and window in the other. A bake oven hung in the fireplace. It is claimed that the dirt floors got so hard in the summer that they could be wiped with a wet cloth. The roofs were made by first covering them with cottonwood timbers and willows, secured from the Weber River region, then with a layer of rushes and a thick layer of dirt. Charles Neal is credited with completing the first dugout in Plain City. (5)

Later, log cabins were built in Plain City with logs being hauled from North Ogden Canyon. For roofs they used willows covered with straw and dirt. A short time after this, rock and adobe were used for building material. The rock was obtained from the Hot Springs area.

An adobe plant was constructed near the four-mile creek, south and around the bend from the Van Sickle property. Many adobes were made here and used in several early homes in Plain City. (9)
Adobe making. Joseph Skeen, Sr., is credited with having made the first adobes. He learned the process in California while with the Mormon Battalion and introduced it first into Salt Lake City, and then into Plain City in 1859.

The adobe yard was below the hill, west of the Lyman Skeen home, and two blocks west of Maw's store. Many residents soon became engaged in the manufacture of the so-called "sun-dried" bricks. Among those engaged in this work were: Joseph Skeen, John Spiers, William Sharp, Thomas Singleton, Joseph Robinson, Jeppe G. Folkman, and William England.

Adobe yards. Besides the adobe yard west of Lyman Skeen's home, there was one west below Coy's Hill (Blaine Skeen's), one below George Moyes (Ivan Moyes), and a community one to the north of the town.

Adobes were made in wooden molds, usually four inches by four inches by twelve inches. The mud was mixed with the feet in pits until it was of the consistency of paste or mortar. It was then placed by hand in a wooden mold, holding either two, four, or six adobes, then tipped out on a hard, dry surface to dry in the sun. In order to loosen the adobes easily, the molds were first dipped in cold water and the bottoms sanded. Machines for mixing the mortar were introduced later. These adobes were set together in a building with mortar the same way that bricks are used.

Men were called to donate their labor for adobe making in the building of the first school house in Plain City, which stood on the south side of the public square, just opposite from where the present meeting house stands. (12)

Adobe manufacturers of early Plain City were those named previously; that is, John Spiers, William Sharp, Thomas Singleton, Joseph Robinson, Jeppe G. Folkman, and William England. Plasterers were William Sharp and his son, Milo.
Any special acknowledgment to one or two of the early families for their contributions at the expense of others who might deserve recognition would defeat the writer's purpose. Each person contributed in the amount of energy, capital, and responsibility to make a success of this infant colony. The special talents of some led them into establishing business, while others devoted their efforts to farming, but it was the cooperation of all that made the community live.

It is interesting to note reasons for settling in Plain City:

Many of the early settlers came there with the intent of engaging in the cattle business. It was favorably located for this industry, as the pastures were not too far away, and there was a good summer range available on the mountains to the east and the northeast. The range extended from Promontory on the northwest and the Great Salt Lake on the west, to the Wasatch Mountains on the east. Most of the Plain City herd ground, however, was to the west and north of town. During the early years, the settlers depended almost entirely on pasturage for their livestock's subsistence... Later, they produced sufficient feed to keep the milch cows at home during the winter months. During the summer, they were pastured in the "community herd," which was taken care of by a herder hired by the owners of the cattle.

An interesting event every fall was the "Round Up." All the cattle were driven off the summer range, driven into town and claimed by the owners, who had previously branded their animals in the spring before they were sent upon the range. All the calves which were born during the summer were now branded, and the livestock was placed on the winter range. (5)

Cattle business. The beginning of the purebred cattle business in Plain City goes back to about 1900. One of the purebred owners relates:

I came to Plain City in 1907. I used to drive my cows up to Hans Poulsen's place, as he had the only registered sire in this area. (1)

Also about this time, Burt Taylor and Alma Anderson purchased a Holstein sire from the Industrial School, which was maintaining a registered herd. The dams were good grade cows that these settlers first had, and in order to upgrade their stock, they wanted better sires.
The Utah State Agricultural College was promoting a program to help farmers increase their income by upgrading their dairy herds. Through their county extension agents, a program was established of finding sires for these herds. Mr. Press Thomas was instrumental in obtaining a sire from the Hollywood Farms in Seattle, Washington, for Merwin Thompson. This sire was used as a "block bull." It was maintained for a community service. The papers were made out to the Plain City Bull Association. (1924)

After a few years, troubles in the herds developed, so it was discontinued.

Through a program of education, the milk producers saw it meant more cash for them if they had better herds. The county extension agent, Mr. Christiansen, helped a great deal.

Another man who helped a great deal was Gilbert Thatcher. He would travel to the east, buy the registered sires and ship them to this locality.

The beginning of the Dairy Days in Plain City created more interest in registered cattle. Also, the testing program established by the Agricultural College (to determine butterfat content) enabled the owners to cull out the non-profitable cows.

Today the registered herds are few. They are, with their owners:

1. Merwin Thompson  Holsteins
2. Ralph Robson  Holsteins
3. Fenton McFarland  Holsteins
4. Clair Folkman  Holsteins
5. George Markos  Holsteins
6. Keith Blanch  Holsteins
7. Wheatly Taylor  Jersey

Another phase of cooperation by all to make this community thrive is shown in the way the settlers made use of the "Big Field."

A field a mile square was measured east of town, and as soon as time permitted, it was enclosed with a willow fence. Each family was given a city lot and twenty acres of land in the "Big Field," as it was called. Throughout the pioneer period, the land in the
"Big Field" was used as a community pasture, as well as for farming purposes. As soon as the crops were gathered in the fall, the people were notified, usually from the pulpit on Sunday afternoon, that the livestock would be turned into the "Big Field" on a certain date. Everyone who owned land turned his stock into the field as directed.

The idea of the "Big Field" is common to Mormon settlements. It was part of the plan of colonization set up by the early founders of the Church.

We had the same plan in Scipio, and also in other southern Utah areas. It developed from a plan called "The United Order," a plan where everything was held in common by everyone. Our plan worked for many years, then when it couldn't function any longer, the "Big Field" idea was dropped. (1)

The same thing happened in Plain City also. It worked for a number of years, but was finally abandoned as individuals became more independent.

Since the settlement of Plain City, the cattle industry has had an important influence on the growth of the community. Every family had its cows. This provided the essential milk, cheese, butter, and meat for the family, as well as providing a "little milk check" with which to buy the necessary articles from the store. The "little milk check" often was the only cash coming into the homes before harvest time of the row crops. This beginning of the cattle business carried over and had some influence on the promotion of Dairy Day in Plain City.

Merchandising. Two of the earliest merchants at Plain City were A. M. Schomaker and William Van Dyke. The former had a little store just east of the old adobe meeting house. Van Dyke's store was just across the street from the southwest corner of the public square, on the present site of the John Maw store. He sold produce to L. B. Adams, who was the first exporting man in Utah after the advent of the Union Pacific Railroad. He collected eggs, produce, and fruit, and sold these to the mining towns.
The Cooperative Mercantile Institution was organized in 1869 with John Spiers as president, J. P. Green, C. O. Folkman, George Folkman, and Andrew Ipson as directors, and George H. and J. S. Carver as the managers.

In the early days of Utah, the Church organized cooperative stores in different places called Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institutions. One was organized in Plain City in Jens Peter Folkman's home in March, 1869, and he was appointed manager by the directors. The capital stock was $500.

Jens Peter Folkman continued as manager for several years. At a reorganization some time later, John Spiers was retained as president and John Carver elected vice-president of the Board of Directors, which was composed of Jeppe G. Folkman, William Sharp, and Alexander Marian Schomaker, with George Bramwell, secretary, and William W. McGuire, secretary-treasurer.

Finally, a corner was bought by the company from Hansen, where Carl Olsen's store is now, and a frame building erected. Here Jens Peter Folkman continued as manager until the store was finally closed by Z. C. M. I. in Ogden on account of bankruptcy caused through too many bad debts.

It was reopened by the parent store at Ogden, and George and James Carver were appointed as managers, but it became necessary to close it once more for the same reason. Then George W. Bramwell and his brother, Henry, bought the stock of goods and ran it as a private business; but they were unable to pay for their goods, so Z. C. M. I. of Ogden took over once more and hired George W. Bramwell to run it as a branch of their store. It was next sold to Henry J. Garner and Robert W. Maw; then they sold it to Thomas England. He then sold the building to Peter J. Christensen, who rented it out for a time, and later sold it to Carl Olsen, who is at present operating a grocery store there. (12)

This store had a paid-up capital stock of $500. To begin with, practically all the people owned a small amount of stock. The effort was not along true cooperative lines, however, for no limitation on stock ownership was made in the by-laws. As a result, under stress of need, many disposed of their stock for goods. Later, the local manager became the owner of the majority of stock, and any real resemblance to a cooperative disappeared. (7)

Straw hat industry. An interesting industry in early Plain City was the business of making straw hats. The teacher was Minnie Hansen who traveled from Brigham City to teach the girls how to make hats. The process was as follows:
They used native straw which was first split, soaked, then braided in four, five- or seven-inch piece strands. These were sewed together to make the hat which was rolled, blocked, and pressed.

Minnie Hansen married Lewis Lund, a brother to Richard Lund. She learned the art from her mother, an early convert to the Mormon Church from Scandinavia. Josephine Ipsen Rawson learned it from her. Susanna Robinson learned the art from Annie Dye Taylor, wife of Joseph Allen Taylor. She made all her own hats.

Silk industry. Erastus Snow, in early days, advised the pioneers to plant mulberry trees and raise silk worms. Several trees were planted, many of which are still standing. The worms were obtained, but the industry was soon abandoned, as it was not profitable. Trees were planted by the Geddes families, Jeppe G. Folkman, Bertie Lund, Lindeloft and Anna and Christine Hansen. Elizabeth Moyes and Mrs. Lindeloft engaged in the manufacturing of silk.

Brickyards.

A suitable clay was found on the banks of the Weber River for the making of bricks, so it was not long before brick yards were established and soon doing a thriving business. Stephen Miller, a convert from England, had a yard by the river, as did Joseph Geddes, William Hodson, and George Q. Moyes. The yard of the three latter men was located by the William Skeen property on the banks of the Weber River. Other early brick masons of Plain City were Thomas Singleton, also a stone mason, William Sharp, Charles Neal, John Spiers (who helped in the construction of John Moyes' first adobe house). Geddes, Hodson, and Moyes sold brick to Reed and also to the ward for the lining of the meeting house. Joseph Geddes lived in a little log house where the Reed home now stands, formerly occupied by Gus Peterson. (12)

Other industries. In early days in Utah, the pioneers had to be self-sufficient. So it was with Plain City settlers. Today Ogden is only a ten- or fifteen-minute drive, but in 1859-1900, Ogden was a considerable distance away. People did not travel to town any more than was absolutely necessary. In order to be self-sufficient, they worked with their hands to build or make the things which would lessen the work and increase the comforts of their homes.
Every family had its lye barrel for extracting lye from wood ashes. They combined this with fat and made their own soap. Soda, starch, cloth, rag carpets, candles, quilts, straw hats, vinegar, and dresses were all made in the home. The ladies did the spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, tatting, and made fine bread, and dried fruit. They produced their own butter and cheese, while the men made adobes, nails, bricks, and did the farming. (5)

The fact that the town of Plain City was one of compactness, as can be seen from the map, helped to unite the people. Their farms were located on the outskirts of town. Yet the city lots that the homes were located on were farmed, with row crops predominating. The business establishments, churches, and schools were scattered, so as to be easily accessible to the citizens of the town. Today, the business establishments are varied.

Present-day businesses. The present-day business establishments are as follows:

1. Paul Costley Garage and Repair Shop
2. Olsen Grocery and Frozen Food Lockers
3. Roll Etherington's Garage and Service Station
4. Clifford Folkman's Service Station
5. John Nau and Sons Grocery Store, including the implement business
6. Everett Taylor, plumber
7. Tractor and Diesel Service, Bill Wadsworth
8. Herbert Barnes' Upholstery Shop
9. Clara Jean Singleton, Beauty Shop
10. Loyd Olsen, Potato and Onion Warehouse
11. Gil's Confectionery

Amusements and recreation. Brigham Young taught his followers that recreation and diversion from the hard work of pioneering and colonizing was essential to the progress of the people; so, as in other communities which were predominantly "Mormon," the settlers in Plain City found time for recreation and a diversion from the toil and strain of establishing homes and a community "on the plains."

Life was not all work and hardship in the Utah pioneer towns, nor was recreation forgotten by the first settlers. On July 24, 1859, when the infant settlement of Plain City was only four months old,
the first dance was held on the bare ground west of town, with a comb band furnishing the music. Later, socials were held in homes and in the schoolhouse. Each person brought a candle for light. In the words of Richard E. Lund, "Our dances in the winter time commenced in the afternoon and lasted well into the evening, and were held in the old adobe schoolhouse on the south side of the square and the bowery, which was nearby, in the summertime. We danced on the hard dirt floor at first, many in their bare feet. Some had fancy boots on. My brother, Mathias Lund, had purchased a pair to wear at a dance in the old bowery, and being a 'fussy' man, had gotten them plenty snug. When he tried to get them on, he could not; so he removed his socks, greased his feet, and they slipped on without any effort. He went to the dance and danced the 'Finger Polka' and the 'Nazarka' with the best of them."

The settlers also had candy pulls, using molasses skimmings, bonfire parties, athletic contests, picnics, corn husking and fruit-drying bees. After the work was completed, they played games and refreshments were served. The refreshments were usually molasses candy, cake, or dried apple pie. (5)

Mr. Richard Lund was the town musician. He and his family provided music for various entertainments.

If it was for a "benefit," they donated their services; otherwise, the fee usually was about one dollar for an evening's playing.

Close to the center of town was the amusement hall, in which their dances were held. It faced east, with a raised stage in the west end. It was located between Jess Singleton's house and the new one of George Weatherston. (10)

On the next street west, between where Carl Moyes and Howard Hadley now live, was located a large two-story building known as the "Berressa Hall." "Bishop Bramwell requested that L. D. S. people not dance there; but despite his instructions, some of the townsfolk did dance there." (10)

Common games that were played by the children of the town were steal stick, run-sheep-run, races, and tag games. These were usually played in the evenings after the day's work was done. Mrs. Walter Johnson (Mindy) has the credit of first teaching the game of volley ball in Plain City. This was done through the Mutual work in which she was participating.

Ball games, baseball and basketball, are traditionally a part of Plain City. Keen competition with other towns, even in the early days, has
given Plain City a reputation of being "ball-minded."

"Home nights" were far superior to those we have today. Members of the family took turns in furnishing entertainment. Story-telling to younger members of the family by older brothers and sisters furnished entertainment evening after evening. (10)

The "old swimming hole" in the river provided opportunity for older boys to learn to swim; others, too, when opportunity permitted.

Horseback riding provided sport for the boys, as practically every boy had his own pony. It served two purposes: to take the cows to pasture and to furnish transportation to the swimming hole. It was easier for the horse to conquer the ankle-deep dirt roads than for the rider.

The bowery, which was built a few years after the first colonists arrived, served as an open-air pavilion for dancing and dramatic presentations in the summer time. In the winter, the schoolhouse was used.

From the foregoing statements, it can be seen that the people had an interest in dancing--first, on the bare plains, then in the bowery and schoolhouse, and then in the amusement hall.

As time went on and the community prospered, the townsfolk decided to build an open-air pavilion. "It was built in 1924 at a cost of $6,500." (11) During a period of twenty to twenty-five years, this was the "center" for dancing groups in Weber County, outside of Ogden City. The hall is being used less frequently for dances now (three or four a year), but it is now being used for roller skating. Many leading citizens of the town are opposed to its being used for roller skating, thinking it should be renovated, and the fine hardwood floor preserved.

To the northeast of Plain City is the once-famous Utah Hot Springs. During the days of the horse and buggy, many people from Plain City frequented this popular resort, where dancing, swimming, and picnicking were enjoyed.
Winter sports are not to be forgotten. Bob-sleigh riding, cutter rides, ice skating, the enjoyment of walking in the new-fallen snow, visits to neighbors, quilting parties, candy pulls, snowball fights, corn-popping parties, and dancing have all had a place in the winter recreation of Plain City. Life was not dull in the early days—hard, yes, but there was always enough recreation to keep it from becoming depressing and monotonous.
CHAPTER TWO

HOW EARLY COLONISTS PROVIDED FOR THEIR FAMILIES

Farming. One of the first tasks that had to be done by the settlers in Plain City was to establish a townsite. Careful study of the map of Plain City will point out that it is a well-planned city with broad, straight streets.

Peter M. Folkman, village historian, chronicles the laying out of the village on the pattern of the Mormon city of Nauvoo, Illinois, the work being done at night with the aid of the North Star, some stakes, and a long rope. Joseph Skeen brought Jesse Fox, a surveyor, to Plain City in 1859. The canal and the village were surveyed. A few minor changes were made in the canal route, but the original survey of the town with improvised instruments was sustained without change. (7)

The land was divided among the settlers, each family to have a lot and twenty acres in the "Big Field." (5)

The first year was most trying for those people. They cleared only a small tract of land. Two things were responsible for that: (1) lack of seed, and (2) lack of water. The peelings from the potatoes were used for seed that year. A few squash, a little corn, a little flax and hemp were also planted. It was a small harvest, but each year a little more was planted from seeds they had gathered themselves. They soon found that the soil was fertile and that with irrigation, they could raise good crops. The clearing of the sagebrush and making the soil "plantable" was a tremendous job.

In the spring, the cattle had to be brought from the Little Mountain, where they had wintered. The farmers, however, had to wait for them to gain strength from the early spring feed before planting could begin.
Plain City was fortunate in that a gentleman by the name of Mr. Rollett in the spring of 1859 brought the asparagus plant seed from France to try it here. After getting it started, he discovered that the soil and climate were right for it.

Several had small asparagus patches at first and carried it into Ogden to the grocers and dealers there, or sold it to the Chinese market gardeners who came out from the city in search of rhubarb and asparagus to augment their own products, which they peddled from house to house... At present, there are several large patches in the community, which furnish employment to many people during the season. Most of the product is handled at present through the Asparagus Growers Association. (12)

From this experiment has come the important industry of asparagus growing in Plain City. Many farmers have turned from potato, onion, or tomato planting to asparagus planting.

The Plain City Asparagus Association occupies space in the Varney Canning Company at Plain City. Each spring it becomes the receiving point for the fresh-cut stalks of asparagus. Many local women and a few men are employed for several weeks, where they select, grade and crate, and send to markets nearby, the product that Plain City is gaining much recognition from. The payroll would amount to several thousands of dollars every spring for those who grow asparagus.

Other crops which have proven economically sound for this area of the county are potatoes, onions, sugar beets, tomatoes, corn, alfalfa, peas, and grain. Recently, two or three truck garden farms have begun to be operated.

A tomato-canning factory was located in the southern part of town in the 1890-1900 period. It was named the Chief Canning Co. and provided much employment for townsfolk. However, it was abandoned about 1912, and after it was dismantled, some of the buildings were moved to the John Maw store corner. Plain City was without a factory until 1925, when the Randall
brothers from North Ogden built the factory that is now located in Plain City. This particular factory has been the means whereby housewives could earn extra money for children's school clothes, household needs, which are often hard to obtain from the normal income, "Christmas" money, or taxes. It has also provided ambitious students with money, thus allowing them to continue in school. Recently, it was sold to the Varney Canning Company of Roy, Utah (1955). This year, 1958, it did not run due to the severe tomato blight in Weber County.

The potato growing in Plain City was, at the beginning, a very important business. In 1879, Joseph Stanford writes:

The potato is also extensively cultivated and furnished handsome returns. Some fifty carloads (each, 350 bushels), have been shipped direct to places outside the territory, this present season, at 50 cents per bushel. (8)

The Parvin Produce Company of Ogden established the business of shipping potatoes from Plain City. They were located in what is now the Olsen Grocery Store. When they discontinued business, Mr. Carl Olsen and Mr. Wilmer Maw started shipping potatoes. Mr. Olsen loaded his cars at the end of the spur in front of Roll's Garage. Mr. Maw loaded his cars at the Maw store. Both men became prominent shippers in Weber County, with the potatoes from Plain City reaching many far states of the union.

Soon other men became interested in the produce business, and started trucking potatoes to markets in Utah and surrounding states. Some of these are:

Mr. Chester England and sons
Mr. Alf Charlton and sons
Mr. Horace Knight
Mr. Alvin Robson
Mr. Carl Moyes
Mr. Loyd Olsen
Mr. Wheatly Blanch

(Others may have trucked small orders to individual stores.)
Mr. Olsen later became a partner in Olsen and Stratford Produce Company, with a potato cellar in Wilson and packing sheds in Deweyville and Nyssa, Oregon.

It was largely these same shippers who bought and sold the onions which have been successfully grown during the last 15-year period, with Mr. Olsen, perhaps, being the biggest shipper.

The problem of crop disposal was greatly benefited by the activities of these men which in turn meant a better economic situation for the farmers, and had its influence on community improvement.

The first alfalfa grown in Plain City by Joseph Robinson was first brought from California by the early settlers. It has been used directly for feeding purposes for the stock and dairy cows. Very little was sold as a cash crop until about 1944. During the war years, many farmers could sell their hay as a cash crop, and still hold down a full-time government job at a defense plant. This was a time of decrease in dairy herds in Plain City, as it was too difficult to operate a dairy herd--milking early and late--and work at a full-time job away from home. Some who sold out are still "out"; some of the others maintained their herds and are still trying to increase the size of them.

Peas and grain are not to be forgotten. Two pea wineries have operated in the past, one below the hill west of Blaine Skeen's residence; one in the east end of town, back of Ralph Robson's residence. California Pack has been the receiver for the peas. The grain has been privately owned and stored for individual feeding purposes.

The growing of corn as a feed has been relatively new in the Plain City area. However, during the last ten years, many acres have been grown and used as feed for beef cattle. It seems to be increasing in importance as a feed crop with beef herds consuming the majority of feed. Small amounts
have been grown to be fed along with grass previously, but only recently has it become a regular feed crop.

The sugar beet industry in Plain City has been important for a long, long time. Sugar beets were the major cash crop that farmers depended on for tax money, unpaid bills, "Christmas," and a living until harvest time again. Some of the older men of the community can remember

...when the railroad couldn't supply cars fast enough to take care of the harvest, and the town square was used to store the beets in a pile, the pile extending all the way across the square. Later, the beets were shoveled by hand from the wagons directly into the cars for shipment to the sugar factory at Wilson. (9)

Later on, "beet dumps" were built. One was built at "Lyman," a spot on the railroad track south of Loyd Olsen's feed lot. This took care of all the beets in the south and west end of town. Another one was built directly across the street from the new water tower. It was the "big" dump. Another loading platform was built in Poplar on the triangle piece of ground directly west of the Charles Taylor home.

These dumps were opened about the first of October each year; usually all the beets were harvested by Thanksgiving. However, some of the piles weren't always finished by then. The "old dummy" with its long string of beet cars behind was an exciting thing to see.

The sugar beet industry is one of the leading industries of Plain City. Prior to the coming of the railroad to Plain City in 1909, the beets were hauled to the Hot Springs and sent by rail to the Amalgamated Sugar Company plant at Wilson, or hauled direct to the factory by the growers. After the advent of the railroad, there were beet dumps placed at convenient points along the line for the accommodation of the growers in unloading their beets, which were then reloaded upon cars and sent to the factory to be manufactured into sugar. Before the enlarging of the factory at Wilson it was necessary during the month of October to pile the beets by the dumps until winter, when they were loaded upon cars and hauled to the factory as they were needed. Of late years, there has been very little congestion at the plant, which makes it possible to handle a great many tons daily. The sugar industry gives employment to many men both in the fields and at the plant. (12)
Mr. Willard Carver was long associated with the beet industry, serving as field man for the Amalgamated Sugar Company for many years. More recently, Mr. William Freestone has taken over the duties of field man. The beets are now trucked to Wilson, where the factory is located. It is still an important crop for Plain City farmers.

The truck garden so far has been run mostly by Mr. Mike Pannunzio. His fine lettuce, cabbage, peppers, and onions have found a place in Ogden markets. Mr. Jess Singleton, in recent years, has drawn many customers from the city to buy his fresh farm produce.

The raising of carrots for canneries has been done this year (1958) by the Japanese family of Henry Kawa, who live in the old Burt Taylor home. This is an unusual new crop to be raised commercially in Plain City.

Sugar cane was grown quite extensively in Plain City at one time, and molasses was made from it. The children ate it like candy. There were several molasses mills scattered over the settlement at one time. One was located where Del Sharp's barn now stands, and was run by a water wheel. Mr. Peterson had one of the first mills on his lot. There was one farther south.

In the manufacturing of sugar cane into molasses, the stalks were fed into an iron grinding machine which extracted the juice. This juice was then placed in a large sheet iron vat, holding two or three hundred gallons each, and boiled down to the consistency of thick syrup or molasses. Sage brush fires supplied the heat.

The jammings were used to feed cattle, or to cover cow sheds. The skimmings went to children to be used in the making of molasses candy.

Alonzo Knight had a mill west of William Hodson's house. John Draney had one on his lot. There was also a mill in North Ogden where several of the growers took their sugar cane to be manufactured into molasses. (12)

Fruit raising. To anyone who lives in Plain City today and who is not acquainted with any of the history of the town, the topic of fruit growing would sound almost ridiculous. Today, Plain City is not considered a
fruit center as it was in the very early days.

The strawberry plant was first brought to Plain City by Edwin Dix, father of Mrs. A. M. Christensen. This is a brief account of how it happened.

In the spring of 1860, I struck out with Charles Neal to seek employment in Salt Lake City. I found employment with Thomas Ellerback as a helper on his extensive fruit grounds. Mrs. Ellerback had just received by Pony Express, an assortment of fine varieties of strawberry plants packed in charcoal. I being employed in the planting part cared for the precious plants. I was fortunate on leaving Mr. Ellerback's employ to obtain from him about 25 small plants, bringing them to Plain City, where they grew and multiplied wonderfully. They proved to be pioneers of great value, giving Plain City the credit of being the first to grow the luscious fruit in Weber County. Many will remember that nearly every garden in Plain City had its strawberry patch. The parent stock of these plants was grown in California, and brought to Utah by Pony Express. (13)

From this small beginning, the culture of the single strawberry plant became one of the leading industries of Plain City. Hundreds of cases were sent out every season to different parts of the country, and people even came from Salt Lake to get some of Plain City's delicious strawberries. They were also shipped as far east as Omaha.

Children were engaged to pull the runners. Some of the early shippers of strawberries were J. Peter Folkman and Charles Neal.

At one time there were many cottonwood trees in Plain City, but they were cut down as the cotton fell upon the ripening berries, and rendered them unfit for market. (12)

John Moyes and his father, Jonathan Moyes, besides raising all kinds of truck garden stuff, grew small fruits, apples, peaches, apricots, grapes, pears, and plums.

John Moyes planted the first apple trees from seed, the first being the Spitzenberg. William Geddes is credited with bringing the first grape vine to Plain City from Salt Lake City. At one time, nearly every family had a grape vine or two, and some of these grape vines are still growing.

Aunt Min (Mary Ann Geddes) comments:

The first apples I ever remember tasting were in Henry Eames' lot. John Carver raised fruit and carrots; consequently, he always had plenty of kids around his place playing Run, Sheep, Run.
Some time ago, a government man in looking at Plain City remarked, "You seem to have everything growing here but bananas." (12)

Plain City, in early times, was often referred to as the "garden spot" of Utah. It would seem that the climate, soil, and temperature were just right to produce luscious fruit and melons.

Very little of the fruit industry of former days remains. One may see an occasional apple tree, or pear tree, a few berry patches, or a few melon vines.

Scarcity of water and blights caused by insects could be held accountable for the decline in fruit growing in Plain City. These, added to the fact that larger returns could be had from other crops, were influential in eliminating the fruit industry there.

**Railroading.** The Ogden Rapid Transit Company was the first to bring a railroad line into Plain City. The precise date of completion is unknown. The important thing was that it gave a way of shipping produce to markets, and of bringing needed supplies to the town.

In one account, the statement is given under the year 1879, "Some 50 carloads (potatoes—each 350 bushels) have been shipped direct to places outside the territory this present season at 50 cents a bushel." (8) This would indicate that a railroad line was in operation at that date.

Mr. Thomas Jenkins relates that in the year 1906 or 1907, he recalls the "old dummy" (a nickname given to the engine of the Ogden Rapid Transit Company).

The Utah-Idaho Central Railroad established a branch line to Plain City in the year 1909. This was the one which served the community and other communities in commuting to Ogden and in transporting produce to market.
It wasn't until 1909 that Plain City had communication with Ogden by means of a railroad. On October 15-16 of that year, the citizens of Harrisville, Farr West and many from Ogden joined with the residents of Plain City in a great celebration at the latter place in honor of completion of the U. I. C. branch line to Plain City. Six carloads of enthusiastic excursionists came over the new line, many of them former residents of the town, and joined with the local citizens in a fiesta of singing, dancing, and feasting. Lyman Skeen and John Maw were instrumental in bringing this much needed means of communication to the community.

A small steam engine hauled passengers and express to the "points" (Five Points) first and then to Harrisville, where passengers were transferred to the Cache Valley Electric Train. Then the road to Plain City was finally electrified; but owing to keen competition of the automobile, passenger service was discontinued a few years later. Freight and sugar beets were hauled for some time after that. (12)

Both companies are now dissolved and any reference to company books is unattainable. As is recorded in the minute books of the Weber County School District, the transporting of school pupils to Weber County High School was done by means of the Utah Idaho Central Railroad for a number of years. When county school buses were established as a means of transporting the students, the railroad lost the business, and that had some effect in losing the service of the railroad to the town.

At the present time, there is no railroad service available to Plain City. About 15 years ago (1943), bus service was established by some individuals who commuted to Ogden regularly to work. Influential in bringing that service to Plain City was Mrs. Vivian Hunt. At first, three daily runs were made; then the noon run was eliminated, and finally, the entire service was cut off. The automobile provided too much competition to bus operation; consequently, the town is now dependent entirely on automobile and trucking services.

Road building. The improvement that has taken place in Plain City in road building has been a constant project. At the beginning, there was nothing at all. It was a "start from scratch" project. A beginning of
wagon trails through the sagebrush which grew from four to ten feet tall, later developed into passable roads, after the brush was cleared. Dust, loose enough to move with every breeze, then to settle through every open window or door, ankle-deep, choking, characterized the early days. With the advent of the rock crusher above the Hot Springs, which provided a shale to be used, came better days. Men hauled in loads of shale in dump wagons to be scattered along the major roadways, but still the thick, stifling clouds of dust remained. The side roads were still dirt roads.

The shale was an improvement over the loose dirt, but better means of road building and materials were needed. Gravel was the next means of improving the roads. This was better as it provided a firmer base. Road widths were such by this time as to permit faster travel; also, the use of cars was increasing. But the problem remained--dust, loose, white dust.

The work of the County Commissioners helped to solve the problem when they saw fit to allocate sufficient money to begin pouring cement and black-topping the streets. At first, the main traveled roads through and into the town were treated. Later, as money was available, the side roads were taken care of.

In early years, Mr. Lyman Skeen, along with others, helped to take care of the road problem. More recently, the Weber County Commissioners, each in his respective turn as head of the Road and Streets Department, have taken care of them.

All are county roads in Plain City, except one. The state maintains the one south from the canning factory across the river and into Kaneshville.

Dirt roads are few and far between in Plain City any more. The problem of dust has been eliminated.

Salt harvesting. The location of Plain City proved to be advantageous to the settlers in many ways. Grazing lands, plentiful water, good soil,
favorable climate all helped them to prosper. Another factor, which proved to be of economic importance, was the way they took advantage of their natural resources—the salty water of the lake.

In 1859 there were no settlements either north, east, west, or south of Plain City, only a few scattered homesteads of individuals. So Plain City settlers had control of the creeks which emptied into the lake, First Creek, Second Creek, and Third Creek.

Realizing the necessity of having salt to use, a few individuals started harvesting salt. This was done by digging pits near the lake-shore, and filling them full with salt water from the lake. When the water evaporated, there were deposits of salt in the pits. Another method which was used was one Mr. Orson Raymond tells about. He states:

Men would plot off an acre or more, any shape they wanted, and would plow a couple of rounds around, making a bank around a piece of ground. They would also leave an opening towards the lake, so when the lake washed over this area, the enclosure would fill with water. Then they would close it, and leave the water to evaporate. Then they would take a wheelbarrow and shovel, and wheel it to make large piles of salt. They would then shovel it loose into wagon boxes and take it to town (Plain City).

They could make two trips a day. There were other men who sold the salt to men who came from the north (Corinne, Brigham City) to buy it for their cattle.

Larsens in Brigham City would buy it. They had a mill where they ground it and sold fine salt. (14)

In Plain City, there was a small plant on the old Lewis R. Jenkins place (9) where a Mr. Stewart, who was a southern man converted to the church, ground salt.

Mr. Christian Olsen had a warehouse located where the garage of Carl Olsen now stands.

It was a lumber building made of wide boards, facing the street. On the south side of it was a platform scale. Wagons would be weighed empty, then weighed loaded, to determine the amount of pounds of salt. The building was about fifteen feet wide and a little bit longer.
Mr. Christian Olsen often "put the men up" overnight, fed the stock, and provided board and room for the men. (14)

The creeks were used for salt making also. After the deposit had been formed, the men would break off the large crystalline encrustations with their hands.

Mostly the salt pits were located on the northwest edge of town. At one time, there were as many as twenty camps with 100 people on the payroll. Girls and women also helped to gather the salt and cooked for the men employees.

This crude salt was hauled by team to the Hot Springs, northeast of Plain City, to the Oregon Shortline Railroad. It was then shipped to the mining towns of Montana to be used in the smelters, mines, and also on the cattle ranches. It was also hauled to Cache Valley and traded for grain.

Probably the most important exporters of salt were Clayborne Thomas, Jens Peter Folkman, Charles Neal, William S. Geddes, Joseph Geddes, and William Stewart. They contracted to deliver salt to the smelting companies in Montana and worked up a lively trade in the community, thereby furnishing employment for many people in Plain City and nearby settlements.

Train loads of salt left the Hot Springs station nearly every day.

Some of those who worked at the salt works were Caroline Palmer, Ellen Peterson, Francis Carver, Martina Peterson, Matilda W. Folkman, and Sarah Moyes. Nephi Hansen and Jens Peter Folkman had a salt mill at Later's house, where the salt was ground and sacked ready for market.

Matilda Folkman, Sarah Moyes, and Cordelia Moyes Carver sewed the sacks. Some finer grades of salt were refined by boiling the salt water in wood-lined vats called "salt boilers" over sagebrush fires. Clayborne Thomas would say, "Well, boys, the west wind still blows--good weather for salt." (12)

The salt business on the shores of the Great Salt Lake was one small item which helped so very much in the financing of the ward and the total
economic strength of the townsfolk. However, as the waters of the lake receded, the businesses were gradually abandoned. Today, it is just a memory of some of the older citizens of the town. There is no evidence of a previous, flourishing salt industry.

Smelter works. To the northeast of Plain City, in one of the pastures, is to be observed a pile of slag. It is about three-fourths to a mile west of Highway 84, immediately south and west of the Hot Springs overpass. This is the only landmark left of a busy smelter "city."

"This smelter was built in 1906 and operated by the Utah Smelting Company." (15)

A group of people from Ogden were the chief investors in this smelter. Articles of incorporation were not filed in the Brigham City Courthouse, although the property lies in Box Elder County. The Utah Smelting Company was incorporated January 5, 1906, in Weber County, Utah.

Articles of incorporation were drawn up December 9, 1905. They were notarized December 21, 1905. The stockholders were:

David Eccles Bella Cadish John Pingree

Charles W. Nibley Henry H. Rolapp

Officers

President David Eccles
Vice-president Bella Cadish
Secretary Charles Nibley
Treasurer John Pingree

There is no record as to when the company was dissolved. (16)

Property owned by Utah Smelting Company, a corporation of Ogden, Utah, grantee of Ogden City, Weber County, State of Utah, was purchased for the sum of $875. The following tract of land, located in Box Elder County, Utah, is described as:

All that part of the southwest quarter of section fifteen (15) in Township seven (7), north range two (2) west Salt Lake Meridian, dated May 8, 1906. Recorded in X of Deeds, page 605, Box Elder County Recorder's office. (15)
Plain City has one souvenir of the old smelter city. It is in the form of a building located in the center of town. Henry J. Garner bought the building from the smelter, moved it, and converted it into a grocery store. A Mr. William Waterstratt operated it later. Finally, Gilbert Maw purchased it. Today it is the local beer hall. (Gil's Confectionery) (1)

Employment was provided for hundreds of men from the community. They worked in three shifts, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Every two weeks they changed shifts. Many Japanese laborers were also employed from surrounding areas.

They had large dynamos to provide electricity. It is believed by some that the mining activity of the McQuaire mines, located in the hills above the Hot Springs, opened up the smelter. As the mines were depleted, it caused the smelter work to stop. Others believe that the ore was shipped in from Montana and Tintic District of Utah, Park City, Utah. It was also believed that the escaping gases so ruined the surrounding soil that it had to close down.

"No date can be found as to when the smelter ceased operating."

(28)

"I came to Plain City in 1907. One Sunday afternoon, Alec Hogge and I drove out there. It was going strong then. Half of Plain City worked there." (1)

It had the reputation of being "quite a town" with blazing lights in the otherwise unlit plain. There were gaming places, saloons, card dens, etc.

A railroad spur was built from the Hot Springs to the smelter to haul in the ore. The roadbed is still visible. The tracks were removed when no longer needed.

The farmers of Plain City found that produce could be sold at the smelter city, so it served as a market place. The employment of such a
large number of men from Plain City contributed to the economic well-being of the entire town.

Soon after the turn of the century, considerable attention was given to consolidation and the improvement of schools. Plain City consolidated and built a new school in the center of town in 1906. This would be another proof that community backgrounds do influence education.

**Ice harvesting.** Since Plain City happens to be in an area where there are creeks and sloughs, water has a tendency to "pond up" in some sections. This may have disadvantages; but in early days, it proved to be an advantage as it provided a place for the natural freezing of ice.

During the winter months, the ice would be cut in blocks large enough to handle easily, then hauled to the town. People worked together in harvesting the ice. Many had their own storage facilities, usually in a barn or shed. When the weather began to warm up, the ice would be covered with hay or sawdust to keep it from melting for as long as possible.

Mr. Peter M. Folkman was the local "ice dealer." His shed contained ice, even into the hot days of July. When the ice supply ran out, the people were without any refrigeration, except what could be improvised in the way of food lowered into the outdoor well, or cold cloths wrapped around the milk bottle. A common sight was to see the "little red wagon" being pulled to the ice house by small children in the summer time to get 10 cents worth of ice. Mostly, it was used for packing food, and making "home-made" ice cream.

With the coming of electricity and modern refrigeration, the ice house business disappeared. Today, it is commonly accepted that children need good food for proper growth and development. The settlers tried to provide good food for their children by the use of natural ice for refrigeration purposes.
It would seem that very early the settlers had an interest in proper growth and development for their children. The best they could provide in the way of nutrition, shelter, and clothing had its effect on the education of the child.

**Blacksmiths.** Christopher O. Folkman was the first early blacksmith of Plain City. His shop stood west of his dwelling in front of the old granary (east of Leslie Maw's).

He invented a plow which he had patented. It was the first plow made in Utah. He beat it out of tires taken from the wagons belonging to Johnson's army. He was Bishop Chauncy West's blacksmith. A. A. Halgren is said to have been the second blacksmith in Plain City. His shop stood where Richard Lund's barn is located (where Farrel Maw's new home is). Another early blacksmith was Frank Bramwell. His shop was east of the schoolhouse. (12)

Other blacksmiths who should not be forgotten are Mr. Lew Ericson, Mr. Rollo J. Taylor, Mr. William Davis, and Mr. Paul Costley.

**Carpenters.** Early day carpenters were Hans Peterson (who built his own adobe house), Thomas Singleton and his brother Charles, William Sharp, who was also a plasterer, stone mason and adobe maker, and Joshua Messurvy. Joshua Messurvy superintended the building of the meeting house benches and helped build the pulpit. The pulpit was constructed of pieces of wood from trees growing in Plain City. Other carpenters were Charles Neal, Jon Peterson, Johnathan Moyes, who helped build the Raymond and Spiers' home, was also a maker of brooms and adobes. Milo Sharp and Ralph Robson, who helped build Abraham Maw's old adobe house, must also be listed in this category. George Harris was one of the first carpenters of Plain City, as was P. C. Green. Mr. Flygare made coffins. More recent carpenters are L. A. Poulsen, Frank Gale, Rollo Taylor, Harold Hunt, Milo Ross, and Richard Bates.

**Butchers.** The early pioneers raised their own meat, either beef, pork or poultry. In the late fall, a beef or hog was killed and cured to
be used as needed in the winter. The two methods most used were either preserving in brine or dry-salting the meat and packing it in wheat bins or hanging it up in the cellars or houses. In the cooler climate, it was kept in a frozen state all winter, right in the house or some outbuilding.

It was not long, however, before a new industry, the butcher business, was established. John England and his son, William, were two of the early pioneers who engaged in this business. They raised and slaughtered their own beef and hogs, and sold meat to the settlers from their "meat wagons," which made regular runs through Plain City and nearby towns.

John England owned the first slaughter house. It was located north of the Eunice Blanch home. Jens Peter Folkman and John Vause had the first real butcher shop in Plain City; the latter ran the "meat wagon" for a time, then established his own shop which was located by the side of his former home.

Gus Peterson had a slaughter house and a "wagon." He ran his business on a sort of cooperative plan. People put in their beef and drew out the value in fresh meat. Jens Peter Folkman ran the "Co-op" butcher shop. His son, Peter M., also had a butcher shop. Moroni Skeen and Fred Ralph did the killing for a large firm of butchers.

One of the more recent butchers who has provided service for the cold-storage locker business is Ralph Vause, a native of Plain City, who now lives in Farr West.

Mr. Vause came from a family of meat cutters, his father and grandfather being classed as expert meat cutters in England where the butchering business was considered a "white collar" job. At the time of his youth, his parents ran a meat shop where the home of Della Carver is now located. They provided Ogden markets with dressed meat, besides doing much custom work. His father, John F. Vause, shipped the first hogs from Nebraska to
the Ogden Dressed Meat Company, now Swift's.

Mr. Vause began his work as a butcher at the early age of twelve. He would kill a hog for 35 cents, and cut it up for 15 cents. The 50 cents he so earned was enough for a "dance ticket."

In 1914, he started work at the packing house (Swift's). After about twenty years there, he started in business for himself. His first equipment was a barrel which he carried from place to place. The killing of hogs and beef was done out of doors, usually under a tree, even in the coldest of weather. People planned ahead for the day their hog or beef would be killed, with most farmers wanting it done usually at Thanksgiving, or prior to the Christmas holidays.

About 1939, the cold-storage locker system began to gain favor with the people who raised their own meat; consequently, a set of lockers was installed at Olsen Grocery store—only a few to begin with. Mr. Vause was employed to take care of all the meat cutting for the lockers after that time. In recent years, more lockers have been installed, giving proof of the well-pleased customers he has in the area.

At the present time, his slaughtering is done in a modern shop with the best of facilities for properly caring for the meat. His services have been enjoyed by many people, especially when they unwrap a package of meat to find it so very well cut and prepared for them. His "special recipe" for country sausage is kept as a family secret.

**Shoemakers.** Thomas Wilds and Millie Hurnstone's grandfather is the only known shoemaker of early day in Plain City.

**Weavers.** Some of the early weavers of Plain City were John England, who wove cloth for dresses, and his father, who was a weaver in England, and perfected one of the first (if not the first) power loom used in that country. Others were:
1. Mrs. Trina Hansen, a carpet weaver.
2. Mary Catherine Shurtleff, who also operated a store in connection with her weaving. She lived where Art Simpson now lives.
3. Mary Hansen, who would shear the sheep, spin the wool, and weave it into cloth.
4. Anna Beckstrom, who would shear the sheep, spin the wool, and weave it into cloth.
5. Catherine Folkman, who was a carpet weaver.
6. Susannah Richardson, who was a carpet weaver.

_Midwives._ Annie Katherine Hedwig Raamussen Hansen, wife of Hans Christian Hansen, was the first midwife in Plain City, locating there between 1860 and 1862, while her husband on a mission to Denmark. She was born in Forborg, Denmark, October 3, 1823. She was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in January, 1852, and came to Salt Lake City October 1, 1853. She moved to Ogden later, settling first at Bingham's Fort, then later in Harrisville. She was asked by the Bishop of Plain City to come down there and practice her profession. Her log house at Harrisville was torn down by the men whom the bishop sent, carried to Plain City, and re-erected on a 2½-acre piece of ground which the ward gave to her. The moving was accomplished all in one day. John Carver was one of the men who helped to move her.

Sister Hansen, as she was known, was among those called to take a nursing and obstetrics course under the direction of Eliza R. Snow. After finishing the training, she practiced for many years in Plain City. She died March 31, 1899.

Jane Pavard England, wife of John England, was another early midwife of the settlement, coming to Plain City in 1862. She was set apart for this work on the ship coming to the United States, and promised that she would be very successful. This promise was literally fulfilled, as she did not lose a single case in her long practice in Plain City. She was born August 2, 1815, near Yeoble, Somerset, England. She died in Plain City November 20, 1882.
Another midwife was Elizabeth Murray Moyes, daughter of John Murray and Sarah Bates, and wife of John Moyes. She was born December 24, 1840, at Elizabeth Town, Michigan. She came to the Sugarhouse Ward in the early fifties. The town of Murray was named for her father, who was a Patriarch of that locality. She and her husband moved to Plain City, where for over twenty years, she attended to calls, night or day, rain or shine. She died of pneumonia on January 4, 1905, at Plain City.

Martha Stewart Geddes, wife of William Geddes, Sr., was another Plain City midwife. She was born May 10, 1838, in Scotland, and died August 11, 1900, at Plain City.

Martha Lund:

Although not classified primarily as a midwife, but rather as a practical nurse, she (Martha Lund) served the community faithfully from 1909 to 1924, assisting where needed the most. She assisted at the birth of quadruplets of Mrs. William Knight (Zina) as well as in many individual cases. Mrs. Mary Ann Geddes also assisted as a practical nurse, helping friends and neighbors in time of need. (17)

As one stops to ponder the influence on education in a little town in the plains, of the preceding businesses and professions, it could be easily detected that the people were anxious to improve conditions for their community by seizing upon every opportunity to better their finances. This in turn eventually resulted in the ability to establish better living conditions, schools, and churches. It was hard work, yes, but most rewarding is it when a better way of life is the result.
RELIGIOUS AND ESTHETIC FACTORS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON VALUES
IN THE COMMUNITY OF PLAIN CITY

Mormon Church. As has been previously stated, the settlers who
came to settle Plain City came of their own free choice, in search of a
to better area in which to live. The fact that they were not necessarily
"sent," as many other colonists were by President Brigham Young, doesn't
mean that the religious feeling was lacking, or that they were disinterested in the Church.

The infant settlement was only two months old when it was
visited by President Lorin Farr and Bishop Chauncey West of
Ogden City. The purpose of this visit was to organize the
Saints into a branch of the Mormon Church. William W. Raymond
was appointed President, with Daniel Collet and Jeppe G. Folkman
as Counselors, and John Spiers, Secretary. At this meeting,
the "City of the Plains" was chosen as the name of the town. It
was later changed, however, to "Plain City." (5)

In contrast with other areas which were settled by "pioneers,
those who came to Utah came because of a religious purpose. Their beliefs
were such that religion was the utmost thought in their minds; consequently,
the whole development of a settlement or a town was at first influenced by
the leaders of the Church. To disconnect the two would be impossible. By
looking at the growth of the Church in Plain City, it will help to clarify
the growth of the entire town with results being carried over to determine
how it affected the school situation. In a later section, attention will
be given to schools.

It will be noted that the first activity was to build a building
which could be used for church and school. This was located on the
southeast corner of the square (24 ft. by 18 ft). It was built in 1859. This was the gathering spot for the Saints for quite a few years. (7)

Later on, in 1884, a second church was built from bricks which were manufactured at Plain City, and more recently, in 1954, the new chapel was erected.

Important Church leaders in early Plain City should be recognized for the contributions they made in guiding the members, in advising them, and in providing spiritual solace when distress was at hand:

Mr. Raymond
Mr. Shurtliff
Mr. Bramwell
Mr. Garner
Mr. Thatcher

The auxiliary organizations were organized early:

Sunday School 1864 John Spiers, Superintendent
Relief Society 1868 Elmira Raymond, President
Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Assn. 1875 Emily Shurtliff, President
Young Mens Mutual Improvement Assn. 1876 William England, President
Primary (a Latter-day Saint youth organization) 1881 Susanna Robinsen, President

These organizations have contributed to the betterment of the members of the community by providing instruction in character building, self-improvement, healthful living, civic responsibilities, and spiritual attitudes. All the organizations are still functioning.

One organization which has gained growth and been popular with the boys is the Boy Scout organization. It is now part of the Mutual Improvement Association program. Scout leaders to be remembered are Philo T. Farnsworth, Fred J. Kenley, Lawrence Cottle, Rulon Jenkins, Ray Cottle, and Lee Carver. There is not a group organized for Girl Scouts at the present time in Plain City.
Episcopal Church. In 1871, a group of people left the Mormon Church, about thirty-five adults, who, with their children, made about seventy-five people. They were in opposition to some of the views expressed by the Mormon leaders. At that time polygamy was being practiced by the Mormons, and this was one source of friction which caused dissension, and with which they did not agree.

Another major problem was the method of land distribution by the Church. "All that a Mormon man could own was one city lot to a family and a few acres of farm land." (42) As many of the people had come to Plain City to engage in the cattle business, this was felt to be insufficient to meet their needs. "Latecomers and gentiles could have all they could purchase." (43) This again did not seem to be agreeable to those who were among the first settlers.

It has also been indicated (43) that the rough life of a pioneer way of life was hard on many of them as they had come from areas of culture and refinement. Some of them also felt they should have positions of greater leadership in the town because of their intellectual background.

Their leaving the Church cast a gloom over the entire community as some of the intellectual and social leaders were among the group. However, they became active in their own church and contributed to the growth of the town in their own way.

In 1877, the cornerstone of St. Paul's Church was laid. This is a small brick building, 26 feet by 40 feet, where non-Mormons met for their religious service. There was a large celebration when the cornerstone was laid. William Sharp erected the walls of the Episcopal Church. (12) (This particular building is today the Lion's Club House). Italics mine.

For many years this Church was active with a minister coming from Ogden to take care of it. School was also held there on week days.
Music. Plain City in the early days always had a brass band and a choir.

The first band was organized in the summer of 1865 with Thomas Singleton as leader. Mr. Singleton was a native of England. A man by the name of George Parkman came up from Salt Lake City to organize the band and give lessons to the players. The first instruments were purchased from the Fort Douglas Band, the money being raised by donations of cash and molasses. Will Geddes gave the first $5 and others soon followed his lead. The organization took place in the front yard of the old Singleton home as it was summertime and there was plenty of room outside. Mother wished to give Mr. Parkman a good meal, so she sent all over Plain City to try to borrow some white flour; but failing in this, she had to set the familiar 'short' bread before him after all.

Some of the members, as recalled by Mr. Singleton, were Charles Singleton, William Stewart, Charles Neal, William Sharp, Abraham Maw, Edward Goddard, Lorenzo Padley, Edwin Dix, Charles Heath, George Musgrave, Thomas Musgrave, and William Geddes. (12)

The members of the band as written on the back of a picture in possession of the Utah Daughters of Pioneers, belonging to "Mindy" Johnson, are:

- Thomas Cottle
- Frank Bramwell
- Willard Richard Lund
- Harry Bramwell
- George Draney
- Peter M. Folkman
- Harry Eames
- George D. Folkman
- Alfred Folkman
- Bob Hunt
- George Q. Moyes
- Joseph Hansen
- William Harrison
- Ernest Bramwell
- Janus Lund
- Charles Weatherston
- Samuel Draney

Always at celebration times and holidays the band would play. It also serenaded on the Fourth and the Twenty-fourth of July and during other holidays. The dramatic club put on shows to help buy uniforms for the members.

Drama. As can be seen from the following, Plain City has always been directly interested in drama:

During the early days at Plain City, a dramatic club was organized by Edwin Dix, an educated and talented Englishman interested in dramatic work. In addition to Mr. Dix, the members of the group were Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave, Louisa Moyes, Mary Ann Sharp, Charles Heath, and David Booth. Such plays as "Charcoal Burner," "Luke the Laborer," and "Ten Nights in the Bar Room" were successfully presented to
enthusiastic audiences in the small adobe schoolhouse. The curtains and scenery for the theatre were painted by George Musgrave.

In 1876, a group of younger people became interested in the drama. The older troop was not functioning at that time, and the town needed entertainment. Under the leadership of Joseph Geddes, the new group selected the play "Arabella," learned the various parts, and then went to Bishop Lewis W. Shurtliff, and asked the privilege of presenting it. The Bishop consented, provided they furnish their own lights. Since the matrons of the town made their own candles in those days, it was a simple matter for the members of the cast to bring candles from their homes to light the schoolhouse on the night of the play. To insure a good attendance, these energetic young people had visited beforehand every family of the town, and invited every person to attend the show free of charge. Edwin Dix had charge of the stage curtains and scenery used by the older group. These he loaned to the new performers. Assisted by the music of the Adams Brothers' band, the play was a great success.

Stimulated by this first experience, the new troop, which consisted of Joseph Geddes, Lizzie Eames, Annie Hanson Bingham, Elmeda Shurtliff, Lily Sharp, Sarah Singleton, Harry Eames, Joseph L. Skeen, Alfred Bramwell, Edward Goddard, and Josephine Rawson, produced plays for a number of years. They not only played in their home town, but carried their shows to other settlements. In fact, they made a considerable amount of money in their interesting venture. One winter's profits were $400. The money was used for instruments for the brass band. The sacrament set used for many years in the church services was bought with money earned by this little company.

An interesting feature of these early theatres was the way tickets were purchased for the shows. Peter Folkman ran a general merchandise store. On the day of the show, tickets were purchased from his store, and paid for with farm products. The price of the tickets was usually 25 cents, payable in chickens, eggs, butter, wheat, vegetables, or any article that could be used in exchange. (5)

More recently, the drama has been presented by the Mutual Improvement Association, usually as a production for "Homecoming Day" on March 17.

In 1946, a production was given to gain proceeds to improve the cemetery. "Tune In" was the name of the production. Members of the cast were:

- Grace Maw
- Florence Simpson
- Marjorie Carver
- Laura Musgrave
- Helen Vincenti
- Elmo Moyes
- Beth Skeen

- Lew Jenkins
- Ray Cottle
- Leroy Folkman
- Thay Carver
- Harold Rogers
- Floyd Palmer
- Mona Maw

- Viola Palmer
- Abram Maw
- Thayne Robson

(20)
It was a musical comedy in two acts with Abram Maw and Mona Maw acting as directors. Modern entertainment has practically eliminated the drama. As has been stated, the Mutual Improvement Association is most active now in drama, producing one play about once a year for Homecoming. Laura Musgrave and Lois Charlton should receive recognition for their contributions in directing dramas in recent years in Plain City.

Significance for education. As the personality of a child is caused by many factors, it would not be presumptuous to say that participation in and enjoyment of cultural programs of music, drama, and art, would have some bearing on the attitude with which an individual may look at life. This in turn could be influential in determining the attitude with which he will meet people and solve problems which may arise. One without any cultural background of the fine arts is apt to look at things with an entirely different viewpoint. Plain City is proud of past accomplishments on the cultural side in years gone by.
CHAPTER FOUR

EARLY PIONEER SCHOOLS

The growth of the school in Plain City has been most noticeable. From early times, emphasis has been placed on educating the children. This can be seen from the manner in which the settlers provided the best they could in the way of teachers and schools, as will be shown.

Location. During the early years, 1859 to about 1900, there were several small schools in Plain City. They were built in different areas: one in Poplar, one in the north lane, one in the southern part of town, and one in the center of town. Classes were held in the Episcopal Church also, after it was built.

The colonists paid careful attention to educating their children. During the first winter, school was held in a dugout. The following year (1860), a school district was organized. John Spiers, Alonzo Knight, and William Van Dyke were trustees. A small adobe schoolhouse was erected with a roof made of lumber and covered with dirt. It was not proof against rain, leaking so badly that a year later the building was temporarily abandoned. In 1862, the schoolhouse was shingled, and classes were held in it during the summer months. Church services, socials, and dramas were also held there. Three years later, an addition of 12 feet was made on the east end of the building. However, the schoolhouse was replaced in 1873 by a new one with dimensions of 25 feet by 50 feet. The settlers had now provided themselves with a building which could serve their needs for some time.

George Musgrave and his wife, Victorine, were the first teachers. Mrs. Musgrave made a sun dial which reflected the time of day, flashing a light by which school was commenced and dismissed. William McGuire, who came in 1860, was also a school teacher. He used the Bible as a textbook. Even under pioneer conditions, with crude equipment, these teachers contributed a generous share in developing a commendable school.
The people who lived in the east end of Plain City were, at this time, organized into a district of their own. They maintained their own church and school, separate and apart from any of the others. They had their own trustees for their school district.

The school site was directly across the street from the home of Fred Nash, and a little to the west. It was a frame building. There were no partitions in this one large room, but wires were strung across with curtains hung to divide the room. A "pot-bellied" stove furnished the heat, roasting those closest to it, and freezing the ones farthest away.

The students, according to Mr. Edmund Furness, began school late in the fall, and left early in the spring. All grades were held from one to eight.

Mrs. Etta Brown Cowles was the teacher. (She later was the wife of Dr. Cowles from the University of Utah). There were not many who graduated from this school in the eighth grade, but the year that Mr. Furness graduated, the others were Emma Cottle, Ada Skeen, and Elmer Robson.

The trustees always surprised them each year by closing school and taking them all bob-sleigh riding.

In a meeting held December 11, 1905, it was voted to transport the eighth-grade pupils to Plain City after January 6, 1906. From the minute books of the Weber County Board of Education, the following information is obtained.

September 8, 1906:
The question of running a school in Poplar was discussed, and upon recommendation of the committee on teachers, the school was ordered closed, and the pupils transported to Plain City. Mr. J. L. Robson was asked to call for bids on transportation.

September 15, 1906.
A committee from Poplar waited on the board in reference to closing the school there, and asked the board to open a school of six grades. After some discussion, Messrs. Stratford and Froerer were
appointed a committee to meet with the patrons of the school to adjust the matter.

September 22, 1906.
Mr. Froerer reported the visit of himself and Mr. Stratford to the Poplar school. They agreed that if the transportation could be done for $40 per month, the board would make the allowance that the two might run instead of one. This arrangement was said to be satisfactory to all parties concerned. It was approved and ordered.

March 11, 1911.
Poplar school abandoned; no further purpose for the school. Board of Education of Weber County to sell it to the Plain City Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the sum of $200. (21)

It is interesting to note from here what a difficult time was had to pay the $200.

February 10, 1912.
H. T. Maw requested additional time for "note" on Poplar schoolhouse.

October 25, 1913.
The clerk reported that H. T. Maw had failed to lift his note in payment for the Poplar real estate, after the second notice urging him to do so. The board instructed the clerk to notify him that if prompt settlement was not made, legal steps would be taken for their collection.

July 28, 1917.
John Wheeler reported that the Bishop of the Plain City Ward had stated that if the board would deduct the interest accruing on their note of $200, they would make settlement at once. John Wheeler was authorized to receive the $200.

August 11, 1917.
Clerk reported that he had received a check from the Bishopric of the Plain City Ward for $200. He was authorized to get from the treasurer their note of $200 in payment for the Poplar school and return same to them. (21)

In 1906, a mass meeting was held by the citizens of Plain City to decide on a site for a new school. The citizens agreed to assess themselves for the building of a new school, and to transfer the title to the Board of Education.

Since the Board already owned the northeast section of the square,
they wanted to put the building there, but the people refused to do so.

April 21, 1906.
Mr. Robson reported that at a meeting of the citizens of Plain City held April 20, they had decided to tax themselves to raise $350 to assist in purchasing a site for the new school building to be erected there, provided that the "Geddes" site be selected, which would cost approximately $500. This offer would not hold good if any other site were selected. Mr. Christensen moved that the proposition be rejected and that the Board proceed to build upon the school property on the public square. The motion carried. Messrs. Froerer and Robson voted "No."

Through the efforts of Peter N. Folkman and J. B. Carver, acting as a committee, more time was given in selecting a proper site for the school, to keep it from being built on the square. Mr. Henry J. Carver, who was then Bishop, proposed that a new site was ready to be deeded, and that the Board trade property with the Church, so the school property would lie directly in front of the school, both pieces to be held forever for public use. This action was carried out.

On May 12, 1906, plans were submitted for the school. On October 20, 1906, the contractor appeared before the Board and asked for acceptance of the schoolhouse and settlement of the contract.

There was some arbitration between the school board and the contractor, one claiming that the work was defective, the other that it had been carried out to specifications. It was finally settled by arbitration.

In 1907, the school at the north end of town was closed, and the property was sold to A. M. Christensen (Walt Christensen's place). The school at the south end of town was not in operation in 1909.

January 9, 1909.
The clerk was requested to urge settlement for rent of the brick house in South Plain City.

March 13, 1909.
The South Plain City Schoolhouse was rented to W. J. Benedict for $2 a month. (21)

Consolidation. The consolidation of the little schools with the bigger school in the center of town brought the outlying areas into closer unity with those who lived in the center of town. Many of the Poplar residents expressed regret at first in losing their little school and church, referring to the "good, old days," but acknowledging later that it was the only thing to do.
Since 1906, many additional changes were made on the central building. The heating system had to be corrected several times. Also, the problem of water in the basement was a source of trouble, as was the sewer drainage. Over a period of years circumstances such as the closing of neighboring schools, forcing an increase in enrollment, have caused the Plain City School to steadily increase in size.

Consequently, additional rooms were built onto the original building. Dedication of the new building took place on November 23, 1921. Levi J. Taylor gave the dedicatory prayer.

All patrons of the school appeared to be well satisfied with the building and faculty, and with the school that is maintained in Plain City. (21)

From 1921 to 1935, continued improvements were made in the way of beautification projects around the school. However, the sewage line was still a source of trouble, as was the boiler, due to the hard water. In 1925, an electric pump was installed, as

the water from the artesian well could not be used for drinking purposes, and had proved injurious to the boiler. (21)

In 1935 (February 23), a committee representing the Parent Teachers Association, consisting of Rulon Jenkins, Earl Hadley, and Merwin Thompson, met with the board, and asked for consideration in their building program.

In a letter dated April 11, 1935, addressed to the Weber County School Board, a request was made for the building of an auditorium and gymnasium at the Plain City School. This was approved December 30, 1935. On March 30, 1936, the bid to build the addition was given to Campion Company. On October 1, 1936, a letter was sent to the school board, stating that the building was complete, and ready for inspection. On October 8, 1936, Wilmer Jensen moved to accept the Plain City addition. It was seconded by Mr. Child and passed.

In 1944, (July 13), the heating system had to be corrected again.

In 1946, the lunchroom was built by Lawrence Mayberry for the sum of $16,542. It was completed in 1948.
March 17, 1948.
Mr. Olsen made a motion to accept the Plain City Cafeteria and remodeling as completed, The Harbertson Construction Company to be paid balance on contract.

In 1949, the school was insulated.

In 1951, an addition was built onto the school kitchen to meet the sanitary code. (21)

As these events which have been cited were taking place, the increase in enrollment was such that plans were being made to purchase additional space for expansion in future years.

February 23, 1953.
Mr. Van Kampen made a motion to appoint Mr. Olsen, Superintendent Bates, and Mr. Shupe as a committee to make a survey of the Plain City School to determine the need for additional space for the coming year. Mr. Kleijord seconded. Passed. It was on August 12, 1953, that Mr. Olsen and Mr. Bates were authorized to purchase the lot on the east of the school. Mr. Kleijord seconded it. It was October 1, 1953, that the board decided to purchase the property on the east for $12,000.

On September 16, 1954, Mr. Allen made a motion to authorize the President to sign the contract to build the addition to the Plain City School. The bid of J. L. Aiken of $248,000 was accepted.

After work was started, Mr. Aiken encountered water, which necessitated making a change in plans. Gravel was to be placed under the footings at an extra cost of $863.

On December 31, 1954, a change in plans to add a dressing room and toilets was seconded and passed.

October 6, 1955.
The board set October 24, 1955, as the date for dedicating of the Plain City School.

May 2, 1957.
D. M. Shupe recommended that the contract to replace the Plain City roof be awarded to Gennell and Leatham, as their work is highly recommended. ($957).

November 18, 1957.
Mr. Jensen made a motion to authorize Mr. Shupe to proceed with installation of showers at the Plain City School.

May 29, 1958.
Drinking fountain to be replaced. (21)
In the preceding remarks, it has been indicated that education was important to the colonists of Plain City at the time of the settlement of the community. This attitude seems to have prevailed throughout the years.

It is interesting to note that the Plain City School was the one which absorbed the students from the surrounding towns, as their schools were closed down. Farr West, Slaterville, and Warren are now entirely consolidated with the Plain City School.

The school at Plain City had the tenth grade there in 1921. Then it was a Junior High School, until the county adopted the six-three-three plan, which made it entirely an elementary school.

A band was organized in 1930. It has grown into a very strong band and now is under the capable direction of Mr. Earl B. Cragun, Principal of the School.

Crowded conditions are again being felt in the school. Ever since the completion of the new school, enrollment has increased up to the point that now the school is again in an overly crowded condition.

The school has played its part in developing a community of leaders.

Plain City has been a nurturing ground for more than her share of the leadership of the state and surrounding states. Unable to find adequate opportunities in the village, many of her young people have been drawn away, first to obtain an education, and then to find the competitive ascent to responsibility and influence. While at the present time, there is not a doctor, lawyer, professor, dentist, or artist living in Plain City, still there are college presidents, superintendents, and managers of large industrial plants, presidents of banks, judges, leading lawyers, college professors in all the colleges of the state, legislators, presidents of L. D. S. Stakes, and many bishops of L. D. S. wards who began life in this village.

Plain City has been known from the beginning both for her superbly cooperative people as well as some highly resistant to any forward development, a village of contrasts to an unusual degree, the forward-looking and short-sighted, the strong and the weak, the magnanimous and the small. (7)

Times have changed the information contained in the above quotation. Plain City can now claim in her list of leaders lawyers and professors.
Lawyers are D. A. Skeen of Salt Lake City and Rex McEntire of Fort Worth, Texas, and Wayne Carver of Carlton College, Minnesota, is a professor.

Present-day teachers. The following is a list of names of people who presently are engaged in the field of education. Many are residents of the town, while some have moved to other districts to teach. They are:

1. Alvord, Dorothy Maw
2. Carver, Don C.
3. Carver, Wayne, Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota
4. Casper, Erma Poulson
5. Conroy, Roma Knight
6. Cottle, Wayne
7. Cottle, Glen
8. Cutler, Fern Sharp
9. Delange, Mae Taylor
10. England, Crvil
11. Ericson, Elmer
12. Heslop, LaMont
13. Heslop, Weldon
14. Hart, Carl
15. Hart, Eldon, Business Manager and teacher, Ricks College, Rexburg, Idaho
16. Powers, Ruth Knight
17. Hadley, Della
18. Hadley, Florence Blanch
19. Jenkins, Ronald
20. Jenkins, Genevieve
21. Jenkins, Lawrence, Director, Secondary Education, Weber County School District
22. Knight, Ruth N.
23. Knight, Sharon
24. Knight, Wallace
25. Knight, Wanda
26. Jenkins, Vera
27. Musgrave, Thomas
28. Neal, Nellie
29. Palmer, Vera
30. Poulson, Alton
31. Rhead, Nancy
32. Ricks, Ronald
33. Robson, Thayne, University of Southern California
34. Seegmiller, Neta Thompson
35. Taggart, Jay
36. Taylor, Floyd A.
37. Taylor, Carl H., Director, Secondary Education, Ogden City Schools
38. Taylor, Wheatly J., Principal
39. Taylor, Fern Olsen
40. Taylor, Darwin J.
41. Taylor, Wayne G., Vice-principal, Corona High School, Corona, California
42. Thomas, Leulla
43. Todd, Ann Knight
44. Van Sickle, Darlene
45. Wienstock, Wilma Schoemaker
Special tribute. In 1955, Mrs. Bertha Weatherston Palmer was honored at a retirement party. She had taught for 38 years in the Plain City School. She was one who saw many changes and much growth in the school. Many of the townsfolk remember her as "their" teacher, with love in their hearts for her, as was so warmly expressed at the retirement party. She will long be remembered for her wonderful influence on the pupils she taught, and for her high ideals which she so ably shared with others.

Another individual who should be mentioned for his outstanding service to the school and to the community is L. Rulon Jenkins, who served as the principal of the school for several years. His recent death created a vacancy in the school system which has been hard to fill. His outstanding leadership in civic and church affairs has been an inspiration to many people.

It is to be noted that since the settlement of the town, the school has been a major source of activity for the townsfolk. Not to be forgotten is the fine work of the Parent Teachers Association in cooperation with the school. Each succeeding year finds the P. T. A. organization growing in membership, thus being better able to help the schools.

Parent Teacher Association. The actual date of the organization of the Plain City Parent Teachers Association is unknown. It is known to have been in existence for many years, however. The consolidation of the school, then later the building of the school into a larger unit, has taken cooperation from the parents.

Prior to 1950, there is not available any type of history book which had been kept by the Parent Teachers Association. However, in 1950, a P. T. A. History Book was set up. It contains the by-laws, constitution, objects, policies, meetings, committees, amendments, and reports from the presidents.
Presidents of the Parent Teachers Association since 1954 were:

1954  Zola C. Davis
1955  Milton Brown
1956-57 Helen Folkman
1957-58 Afton Wayment

The Parent Teacher Association has helped the school with various types of activities, some of which are: census taking, immunizations, Parent Teacher conferences, adult education classes, cleaning the cyclorama, making choir robes for the Christmas program, banquets and teas for room representatives, lobbying at the legislature to secure needed help on the school lunch program, beautification projects around the school, safety projects, polio drives, carnivals, helping with Dairy Day in the preparation and serving of food, registration for pre-schoolers, and many other matters of concern to parents and the school.

Often the question is asked: "Why P. T. A.?" To sum it up in the words of the "Objects of P. T. A.," they are:

To promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, church and community.

To raise the standards of the home.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into close relationship the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education. (44)

Under the fine leadership of the recent past officers of the Plain City Parent Teachers Association, there has been a definite bond of closeness develop between the school and the parents. Mr. Earl B. Cragun in his message of the President sums it all up:
The success of children in school is influenced by the attitudes, ideas, and understandings between homes and schools. Children do not develop to their highest possible level in a school that ignores the home. The home is primarily the central agency for establishing security in the child and planting within him basic virtues. Both home and school must join hands to insure a well-balanced personality, one whose maturity growth parallels his chronological age growth, one who has developed self-esteem, poise, and a zestful bravery for meeting daily problems.

We recognize that the people of our communities, as well as elsewhere, want their children to have the best educational offerings. You are not content to leave all educational matters to the children and school staff. It is proper to have you share in suggesting, discussing, changing, and approving the policies that are to be prevail in your school. Certainly we are convinced that local lay interest is essential to a satisfactory program of education for elementary school children. We surely welcome this interest. "Togetherness" is important in recognizing problems and finding solutions, and, of course the growth and happiness of the child is the reason for it all.

Although your children's teachers may not have the time they need in order to do as well as they know, you may have our assurance we will continuously try to make better use of the time we do have.
CHAPTER FIVE

SERVICE CLUBS

Plain City Lions Club. "Service to Others" is the theme behind civic groups such as Lions, Kiwanis, and Elks Clubs. After having watched "Lionism" through other clubs, a group of civic-minded people were organized into the first civic club in the town of Plain City. In this early group were farmers, businessmen, religious leaders, school administrators, salesmen, truckers, musicians, cattlemen, railroad workers, and common laborers. From such a diversified group of men, one may expect interests of such nature as to bring disharmony within the group. However, discounting differences of opinion, the men forget personalities and unite themselves in the objectives of "Lionism."

The formation of a service club in Plain City was a sign of the growth of the town. Up to this time, everything was church-centered. Many fine people who may not have been too active in the church were drawn into the club. This gave these men a chance to better contribute to the community growth.

The meeting of the club was held at first in Gil's Confectionery; later, it was held in the schoolhouse. Still not satisfied with the meeting place, the officers of the club in 1952 began inquiring as to a place they could buy for a clubhouse. This was an ambitious thought, as real estate is expensive in Plain City, and not many places were available. However, there was the old Episcopal Church, which had not been used in years and was available.
When this church ceased to function in Plain City, the property had to be sold to a member, so it was sold to Clara Thomas. She in turn sold it to her son-in-law, Dean Baker, and he, in turn, made the transaction to the Lions Club.

It was largely through the efforts of Mr. Frank A. Anderson in 1952 that the purchase was made. He actively engaged in the purchasing of the acre of ground and the building. Anyone less ambitious than Mr. Anderson might not have consummated the transaction.

However, in the negotiation, others are not to be forgotten. It is not intended to omit giving credit to others who worked long and hard. Two people especially to be recognized for offering financial backing were Mr. Oscar Richardson and Mr. Carl Olsen. It was the encouragement of these men to take care of the financial matters that gave the others the "courage" to undertake the purchase.

However, in the course of events, mainly a huge celebration on Decoration Day, and by the sale of two lots from the acre of ground, enough money was raised to pay for the property; consequently, the financial backing of these two men was not needed. (1)

With the purchase of the clubhouse, the Lions Club began to be recognized by the community as a worthy organization, one in which it would be an honor to have membership. But, as with other infant organizations, much still had to be done. Important projects are not accomplished overnight, and so it was a continuous growth—steady but sure. This will be discussed further in the thesis under projects which have been accomplished by the club.

(Dues) According to the secretary, the following was decided:

The dues of the club were set at $12 a year at the first organization. This has not been changed up to the present time. Members are expected to attend one meeting a month. There is also one directors' meeting per month. Extra meetings are called for anything else. However, very few extra meetings have been called. (1)
The regular meeting for the membership is the second Monday evening of each month. The directors' meeting is the second Thursday night of each month. Several members have won 100 per cent attendance pins in the last few years. The money raised from dues is used to carry on the affairs of the club.

(Projects) In order that an organization remain "alive," it has to have a purpose for its being. With the Lions Clubs, their main project on a permanent basis is "SIGHT CONSERVATION." This is a commendable project, for basic unity ties all clubs together. However, individual clubs can develop their own projects and receive from the International Headquarters due recognition for their efforts.

Several projects, which the Lions have sponsored, have benefited individuals, families, and the community. When one can see figures of the amounts of money that have been raised in this small community by the Lions, one can see that there has been real push and determination to accomplish their goal. Major projects, which have been attained, are:

1. An artificial limb was purchased for an elderly man, a victim of sugar diabetes. The sum paid out was approximately $400. (Brigham Bullock)

2. A contribution of about $500 was made to a "burned-out" family. (Lee Stewart)

3. A contribution of nearly $1,000 was made to another victim of fire. (Junior Taylor)

4. Purchase was made of three pairs of glasses for needy children as recommended by the school nurse. (Names not available)

5. At the time of the construction of the new ward chapel, the Lions Club raised $4,200 toward the cost. This shows close affiliation with the dominant religion of the town.

6. After the purchase of the clubhouse, much work had to be done to make it as nice as possible. Through the work of the members, a new floor was laid. The building was completely painted inside and out. New steps were built at the entrance, and a
walk laid to the street. It has been completely rewired, with fluorescent lights now installed, instead of the previous one light drop. New drapes are at the windows throughout, and the old weather-worn door has been replaced with a new one.

A weed patch has been turned into a nice parking lot. Approximately 100 yards of gravel was hauled in for the parking lot, and about 200 feet of tile laid around the property. The place is now a credit to the town, as well as being useful to its members. It has also been useful to other organizations who have rented the building.

7. Due to illness, one member was not able to get his crops in, so the Lions Club turned out to help him. Members brought their own equipment, cleaned his corral, hauled manure for several miles to his farm, spread it onto the land, plowed, and worked the soil ready to be planted. (Orson Knight)

8. The death of another member again brought the Lions out, almost 100 per cent. They helped the son of the former member prepare his father's ground for planting. This unselfish service to those in need is Lionism at its best. (Earl Hadley)

9. The death of another of the members once more brought a turn-out of the club to prepare the ground for planting. Many left their own work late in the spring to help a young man, recently returned from the missionary service and bereaved at the death of his father, to get his crops in the ground. (Rulon Jenkins)

10. The third fire—a Japanese family, both parents burned to death, everything lost—was a real disaster. Assistance was offered, but the club officers were informed that the other Japanese throughout the state and elsewhere had contributed to take care of the necessary arrangements. (Kawa)

11. The latest project has been the sponsoring of building the new bowery. This was a three-way project conducted by the Lions, the Church, and the Town Board. It is a credit to the community. The cost to the club was $4,104.31, of which $2,659.06 has been paid to date. (26) This will pay about one-third of the cost.

In addition, work was donated by club members. A paint job, which will cost another $50, still has to be done. Lion Lester England was chairman of the work committee. He should be recognized as one who kept members alert as to what work was needed.

(Money-raising events) Since the beginning of the club, a New Year's Eve dance has been sponsored. In the past, this affair was a tremendous success. Recently, however, attendance has dwindled, until it is not the money-making event it was formerly.
Another way of raising money has been the field day on Decoration Day. This has been very well attended by members of the community and county. The big attraction has been the "raffling off" of a steer. This project has raised close to $1,000 for the day on several occasions.

Another way to raise money has been the posting of the town during hunting season. Some feel that this is a necessity, as well as a means of additional revenue for the club; others feel that it is depriving the public of some of their freedoms. The fall of 1958 was the first time it had been done, with $500.25 being raised.

(Officers of the Lions Club) The organization of the Lions Club took place in 1948. The first officers were:

President                  First Vice-president  Second Vice-president  Third Vice-president  Secretary & Treasurer  Tail Twister  Lion Tamer
Dean Baker                 Clair Folkman          George Knight           Ray Chalton           Lawrence Jenkins            Vadel Maw           Carl Moyes

Charter members of the club are listed elsewhere.

For the years 1949 to 1958, the following men served as President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively, of the club:

1949  Bill Freestone        Elvin Maw
      President            Secretary

1950  Elvin Maw
      Elvin Maw
      President            Secretary

1951  Merrill Jenkins
      Merrill Jenkins
      President            Secretary

1952  Frank Anderson
      Merwin Thompson
      President            Secretary

1953  Lew A. Jenkins
      Merwin Thompson
      President            Secretary

1954  Fred Nash
      Merwin Thompson
      President            Secretary
1955
Wheatly Taylor  President
Merwin Thompson  Secretary
Charles Heslop  Treasurer

1956
Lawrence Jenkins  President
Merwin Thompson  Secretary
Charles Heslop  Treasurer

1957
Glen Charlton  President
Merwin Thompson  Secretary
Charles Heslop  Treasurer

1958
Keith Blanch  President
Merwin Thompson  Secretary
Charles Heslop  Treasurer

(D. A. Skeen) Mr. Skeen is a native son of Plain City. Since he has been such a leader in Lionism, being International President at one time, it is only right that we give him special recognition in the history of the club, as he was the one who really got the Plain City club organized. He has been a source of inspiration to other members. Mr. Skeen is at the present time a prominent lawyer in Salt Lake City.

(National conventions) In looking over the list of officers, one can detect that Merwin Thompson served as Secretary of the club for eight years. During this time, he and his wife have attended two national conventions as delegate from the Plain City club. He attended the convention at Mexico City, and also the one held in Chicago. Expenses of these trips were paid for by himself; yet, he brought the Spirit of Lionism to the club from these conventions. He has also attended several state conventions, at personal expense, along with a small amount of money from the club, which is allowed delegates to state conventions.

(Charter Night, 1948) For the first officers, directors, and members of the Lions Club, a special acknowledgment is in order. The first officers were listed on the previous page. The first directors were:

William Freestone  LeRoy Folkman
Walter Moyes  Keith Blanch
Elmer Carver served as Chairman of the Charter Night Committee, with Byron Carver and George Knight as members of the Committee.

The program for the Charter Night was as follows:

Banquet, May 11, 1948

Call to Order
"God Bless America"
Lion Pledge
Invocation
Introduction of Toastmaster
Remarks
Solo
Welcome
Introduction of Guests
Lionism
Violin Solo
Presentation of Charter
Acceptance of Charter
Solo

Elmer Carver
Congregational Singing
Carl Moyes
L. Rulon Jenkins
Elmer Carver
George Knight
Ronald Jenkins
Dean McGregor
George Knight
D. A. Skeen
John Nash
Mel Wright
President Dean Baker
Ronald Jenkins

Menu

Fruit Cocktail
Roast Beef Potatoes, Gravy
Hot Rolls Asparagus
Kernel Corn Spring Salad
Pie and Ice Cream (2)

After the banquet in the Plain City School Cafeteria, a dance was held with Art Simpson's Band furnishing the music.

Charter members of the Plain City Lions Club (1948) were:

Elmer Carver
A. Lew Jenkins
Floyd A. Palmer
Harold A. Rogers
Clair Folkman
Lyman M. Skeen
Carl Moyes
L. Rulon Jenkins
Earl E. Singleton
Archie Simpson
Fred P. Nash
Carl Olsen
Lee Olsen
Cliff Folkman
Elmer Hipwell
J. Everett Taylor

Vadel Maw
Virgil Maw
Dean Baker
R. John Maw
Ellis M. Lund
Merrill Jenkins
Ray L. Charlton
Vernal Moyes
Orson Knight
Merwin Thompson
Earl Hadley
Clyde Hadley
Bernard Poulsen
Oscar Richardson
Don C. Carver
Lloyd Knight
Clarence H. Bullock
William Freestone
Keith Blanch
Loyd Hadley
Jacob Cooke
Junior Taylor
Lawrence Carver
LeRoy Folkman
Walter Moyes
Carl Taylor
George Knight
Loyd Olsen
Don Olsen

The present-day members (1958) are:

Frank Anderson
Dean Baker
Keith Blanch
Thad Carlson
Glen Charlton
Lyman Cook
Dale East
Lester England
Merlin England
James Powers
William Freestone
Howard Hadley
Charles Heslop
A. Lew Jenkins
Lawrence W. Jenkins
Merrill Jenkins
Kent Jenkins
George Knight
Horace Knight
Orson Knight

Paul Anderson
Paul Knight
Elvin H. Maw
Farrell Maw
Lee Olsen
Loyd Olsen
Floyd Olsen
LaVon Palmer
Fred Nash
Theron Rhead
Ezra Richardson
Alvin Robson
Ralph Robson
Carl E. Taylor
Wheatly J. Taylor
Sterling Thompson
Ken Uchida
Willard Wayment
Eldon Weston
Merwin Thompson

(Significance of Lions Clubs to education)

Essentially a service organization, Lions Clubs afford opportunities for constructive work along educational lines, through cooperation with the school principal.

The activities program of Lions International is divided into two classes known as major and local activities. The major activities, those which were designed to prove of worth to almost any community, large or small, may be classified under the heads: (1) blind, (2) boys' and girls' work (under-privileged children), (3) citizenship, (4) civic improvements, (5) community betterment, (6) education for youth (including Moral Code for Youth and Studies in Conduct), (7) health and welfare, and (8) safety.

As one of the major activities, the "education of youth" includes the placing of the Moral Code for Youth in every schoolroom in the
community. These codes contribute to character building of youth. (2)

The safety program is emphasized by presentation of safety book covers to school children. These covers carry tips on safe conduct in school, home, and streets. School patrols are often organized under the Lions Club in the community, with the cooperation and help of the school principal.

In community life, Lions Clubs contribute greatly. They help with such events as are needed by the local community (example, Plain City bowery). They buy athletic equipment for some teams, or contribute labor to get a project going.

In some areas, Lions Clubs are helping the school principal in meeting local problems by beautifying the school ground, improving athletic fields, installing safety devices, presentation of pianos or radios to classrooms. "There are in school many children who are unable to concentrate because of defective vision, poor teeth, or other physical disabilities." (1)

In many cases, clinics have been established to take care of school children's physical problems. In many areas, Lions Clubs have helped equip a school band, either by buying instruments and contributing to the school, or by paying for the services of an instructor. Close work by the Lions with the school could result in greater benefits for those that both organizations are most interested in -- children.

It would seem that the town of Plain City has been benefited by the growth of the Lions Club. Their influence has been felt in years past. The results of their work can be seen in projects accomplished, and the work which remains to be done from year to year will continue to make the Lions Club of Plain City a force to "tie" the community together.
The Daughters of Utah Pioneers. The Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Camp of Plain City, was organized September 17, 1914. Officers have been as follows:

1914-1916  
Laura M. Jenkins, 1st Captain  
Evelyn Harding Christensen, Clerk  
Lula Marriott Neal, Aid  

September 29, 1916  
Eliza Balentine Garner, Captain  
Naoma Skeen, Clerk  

October, 1916  
Sarah Sophia Moyes Gale, Captain  
Naoma Skeen, 1st Attendant  
Amanda Waterstratt, 2nd Attendant  
Alminda Lund Johnson, Secretary  
Margaret Folkman Thatcher, Captain  
Elizabeth Ellis Lund, Clerk  
(Records destroyed by fire over a period of years; information not available as to who succeeded.)

1926-1927  
Carolina P. Weatherston, Captain  
Amanda Waterstratt, Secretary  
Amanda Richardson, Chaplain  

1928-1929  
Carolina P. Weatherston, Captain  
Elizabeth Robson, 1st Lieutenant  
Laura England, 2nd Lieutenant  
Edna Hipwell Moyes, Secretary  
Alminda L. Johnson, Assistant Secretary  
Rebecca Weatherston, Chaplain  

1930-1931  
Carolina Weatherston, Captain  
Elizabeth Robson, 1st Lieutenant  
Anna A. Lund, 2nd Lieutenant  
Edna H. Moyes, Secretary  
Alminda Johnson, Assistant Secretary  
Marvel England, Chorister  
Rebecca Weatherston, Chaplain  
Amanda Richardson, Assistant Chaplain  

1932-1934  
Alminda Johnson, Captain  
Emma C. Palmer, 1st Lieutenant  
Zina T. Knight, 2nd Lieutenant  
Edna H. Moyes, Secretary  
Anna L. Wheeler, Chaplain  
Anna Lund, Registrar  
Evelyn H. Christensen, Historian  
Marvel England, Chorister
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Officers</th>
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</table>
| May 1934-1936 | Elizabeth Ellis Lund, Captain  
Zina Knight, lst Lieutenant  
Mabel Coy, 2nd Lieutenant  
Edna Moyes, Secretary  
Anna L. Wheeler, Chaplain  
Evelyn Christensen, Historian  
Della Maw, Organist  
Anna Lund, Registrar |
| December 30, 1936-1937 | Alminda Johnson, Captain  
Zina Knight, lst Lieutenant  
Cerilla Palmer, 2nd Lieutenant  
Orma Carver McFarland, Secretary  
Ellen Knight, Chaplain  
Evelyn Christensen, Historian  
Cordelia Carver, Class Leader  
Della Maw, Organist  
Bernice Carver, Chorister |
| May 27, 1938 | Neta Charlton, Captain  
Alminda Johnson, 1st Lieutenant  
Rosella Cottle, 2nd Lieutenant  
Florence Simpson, Organist  
Bertha England, Chorister  
Florence Olsen, Secretary  
Elizabeth Lund, Registrar  
Cordelia Carver, Class Leader |
| 1938       | Alminda Johnson, Captain  
Zina Knight, 1st Vice-captain  
Cerilla Palmer, 2nd Vice-captain  
Florence Olsen, Secretary |
| 1939       | Alminda Johnson, Captain  
Alminda Johnson, 1st Vice-captain  
Rosella Cottle, 2nd Vice-captain  
Bertha England, Chorister  
Florence Simpson, Organist  
Florence Olsen, Secretary  
Elizabeth Lund, Registrar |
| 1940-1943  | Neta Charlton, Captain  
Rosella Cottle, 1st Vice-captain  
Vivian Hunt, 2nd Vice-captain  
Florence Olsen, Secretary  
Florence Simpson, Organist  
Bernice Carver, Registrar  
Amerism Skeen, Class Leader |
| 1944       | Alminda Johnson, Captain  
Elizabeth E. Lund, 1st Vice-captain  
Cordelia Carver, 2nd Vice-captain  
Rosella Cottle, Secretary  
Sarah White, Chaplain  
Florence Olsen, Registrar  
Bernice Carver, Chorister |
1945-1946
Ameriam Skeen, Captain
Florence Simpson, 1st Vice-captain
Sarah White, 2nd Vice-captain
Clara Randa, Secretary
Zina Knight, Chaplain
Alminda Johnson, Historian
Elizabeth Lund, Chorister

1947-1948
Sarah White, Captain
Alminda Johnson, 1st Vice-captain
Florence England, 2nd Vice-captain
Clara Randa, Secretary
Rosella Cottle, Registrar
Florence Olsen, Historian
Zina Knight, Chaplain

1949-1950
Florence England, Captain
Florence Anderson, 1st Vice-captain
Alminda Johnson, 2nd Vice-captain
Clara Randa, Secretary
Elizabeth Lund, Class Leader
Florence Olsen, Historian

1951-1952
Sarah White, Captain
Elizabeth Hadley, 1st Vice-captain
Florence Anderson, 2nd Vice-captain
Rosella Cottle, Secretary
Alminda Johnson, Registrar
Bertha Palmer, Historian
Bertha England, Chorister
Mildred Robins, Organist

1953-1954
Sarah White, Captain
Ina Bell Poulsen, 1st Vice-captain
Zina Knight, 2nd Vice-captain
Rosella Cottle, Secretary
Elizabeth Lund, Class Leader
Alminda Johnson, Chaplain
Mildred Robins, Organist

1955-1956
Sarah White, Captain
Florence England, 1st Vice-captain
Zina Knight, 2nd Vice-captain
Elizabeth Lund, Secretary
Bertha England, Registrar
Bernice Carver, Historian

1957
Elizabeth Lund, Captain
Bertha Palmer, 1st Vice-captain
Nellie Maw, 2nd Vice-captain
Louise Moyes, Secretary
Bertha England, Registrar
Alminda Johnson, Chaplain
Bernice Carver, Historian
Mildred Robins, Organist
Bernice Carver, Chorister
Marvel England, Class Leader (4)

(Significance for education)

In character, culture, refinement, in home building, in service to the community and to the state, these women emulate most commendably the high standard set by their pioneer mothers; and in gathering material commemorative of the home life, of social activities, of economic development of state and national relationships, they have achieved outstanding success. (5)

The above quotation refers to the entire group of Daughters of Utah Pioneers. To those fine women of Plain City who have now become an organized camp of Daughters of Utah Pioneers, the above quotation could aptly apply.

It is interesting to note the lessons which have been recorded in the minute books of the organization, lessons which have dealt with pioneer leaders and their activities in colonizing Utah and surrounding states. Even as the lessons were of importance in giving a clearer background of the early pioneer lives, they would also be a means of imparting to the children information which may not be recorded in textbooks used in regular school work. Much education by young children is received in listening to the older members discuss events that have happened in the past.

Does it not seem possible that all those women who have been or are now members of that organization have discussed at the supper table, in the presence of their children, the lesson of the day? Does it not seem possible that hundreds of children in Plain City have a better understanding of early day pioneer life because of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers?

A few of us older ones have carried and kept it alive, but what is going to happen to it when we all die? For some reason or other, we just can't get the younger women in the ward interested in joining us. (6)
Committee for servicemen. In 1944, a committee for servicemen was appointed by the Ward Bishopric for the purpose of paying tribute and honor to the boys and girls who enter the service.

The first funds were collected through a scrap iron drive, which was initiated by Dean Baker. The support of all the people of Plain City was gained by soliciting, and many tons of iron were donated by members of the town.

The task of securing the names to be placed on the monument, and helping to plan its erection was done by the committee for the men and women in the service, which consisted of William Freestone, Chairman, Elbert J. Moyes, Elmer P. Carver, John A. Hodson, Dean Baker, Mrs. Frank V. Skeen, Mrs. Albert W. Sharp, and Mrs. Vern L. Palmer.

We, the Committee for Servicemen, representing the people of Plain City, extend our thanks and heartfelt appreciation to all individuals whose combined efforts have made the erection of this monument possible. The primary objective of this committee is to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and be of service to the community, state, and nation, and to transmit to our posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

This everlasting and beautiful monument is sturdy and tough, and is truly symbolic of the sterling qualities and character of the men whose names it will bear until it shall have been worn away to dust by the elements of time, and returned to Mother Nature whence it came. (33)

The above inscription appears on the monument honoring the servicemen and women.

(Unveiling of monument) The unveiling of this beautiful monument took place on Saturday, August 26, 1944. Parents of servicemen were honored. The program was as follows:

- Band Concert: Unknown
- Advance of Colors: American Legion
- Vocal Solo: Nada Nicholas
- Thirty seconds of silence in tribute to the servicemen
- Prayer for peace and victory: Wilmer J. Maw
Address of Welcome
Solo, "God Bless America"
Speaker
"Star Spangled Banner"
Presentation of the Monument to the Town
Acceptance Speech
Dedication of the Monument
Vocal Solo
Benediction

Names as they appear to date on the monument are:

World War II (1941-1945)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Bargeron, Richard E.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Carver, Elwyn E.</td>
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<td>Carver, Paul C.</td>
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<td>AL</td>
<td>Charlton, Ray S.</td>
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<td>AL</td>
<td>Christiansen, Archie M.</td>
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<td>AL</td>
<td>Dalinger, Hyrun</td>
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<td>England, William C.</td>
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<td>Ficarra, Phil</td>
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<td>Haslop, Ervin G.</td>
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<td>Hipwell, W. Harold</td>
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<td>Hunt, Howard</td>
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<td>Illum, Carston</td>
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<td>Ito, Joe</td>
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<td>ARMY</td>
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<td>Robins, Lynn G.</td>
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<td>Ross, Milo J.</td>
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<td>Sharp, Milo R.</td>
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<td>ARMY</td>
<td>Simpson, Blair A.</td>
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<td>Skeen, Willard J.</td>
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<td>Taylor, Hugh H.</td>
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<td>Thompson, Eldon C.</td>
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<td>ARMY</td>
<td>Thompson, Ralph E.</td>
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<td>ARMY</td>
<td>Thompson, Lyle</td>
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<td>Uchida, Ken</td>
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<td>ARMY</td>
<td>Vincenti, Lewis</td>
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<td>White, Carl C.</td>
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<td>White, H. Delmar</td>
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<td>Painter, W. Lee</td>
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<td>ARMY</td>
<td>Skeen, Wayne</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARMY</td>
<td>Taylor, Emery</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
It is truly fitting that this monument be ever held in respect and reverence by those yet to live here in this town. These are the people from our town who carried the "offense" to the enemy during World War II.
CHAPTER SIX

DAIRY DAY

First program of Dairy Day. On August 1, 1929, the first Plain City Black and White Days celebration was held. It was sponsored by the Plain City Farm Bureau. The committee for the day was as follows:

H. B. Taylor  General Chairman
O. C. Richardson  Finance
L. L. Hipwell  Grounds
Mrs. Della Maw  Luncheon
Charles Telford  Horse Pulling
Elmer Carver  Sports
Merwin Thompson  Entries
Gilbert Thatcher
G. F. Stallings
A. L. Christiansen

"THE FARM BUREAU STANDS FOR ADVANCEMENT IN AGRICULTURE, AN AMERICAN STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE HOME, AND AN INCOME TO PAY THE BILL."

The day's program was as follows:

10:00  Cattle Judging  
R. L. Wrigley, Agricultural Agent
Cache County Judge

11:00  Team Pulling  
Farm Bureau Women - Proceeds to go to support the ball team

12:00  Luncheon  

1:00  Races and other sports

3:00  Ball Game  
Plain City "A" Team - Syracuse

9:00  Grand Ball

Merchants who contributed prizes were:

Brewer Dairy Supply  Rasmussen & Sons
Wilkinson-Shupe Implement Co.  Mountain States Implement Co.
U. I. C. Railroad  P. C. Richardson
Joseph Read  Consolidated Wagon & Machine Co.
Farrell & Jackson  Globe Mills
Wattis Kimball  Charles Cross
Bell Feed  Walker Feed
Bramwells  

(36)
Through succeeding years, Black and White Day has grown a great deal. The time of year has been changed from the hot month of August to the second week of May.

**Change of name.** The name has also been changed from Black and White Day to Plain City Dairy Days. Earlier the show was sponsored by Holstein Breeders and Plain City Farm Bureau, but now there is a central committee to handle the day.

**Help from Chamber of Commerce.** Members of the Ogden Chamber of Commerce visited the first show. They became so interested and thought the ideas was so good that they contributed money toward the second show. Mr. Ezra Fjeldsted also donated money. The "Ogden Livestock Show" committee backed it up also. Mr. Karl Richardson did much in the way of advertising the show, with other important businessmen of Ogden City.

**Influence of the County Commissioners.** Weber County Commissioners had been asked to support each of the three county shows (Jersey show, Coliseum-Guernsey show, Huntsville-Holstein show, Plain City); but they declined, indicating that if the three groups would get together, they would help them. So the three groups combined, with Plain City being chosen as the place to hold the show.

It was then decided that since the animals were all prepared for "showing," that they might as well participate in the Richmond Black and White Day. Consequently, many exhibitors took their animals to Richmond, Utah, for competition, and some ultimately to the State Fair.

**Judging.** The annual Plain City Dairy Days has given much publicity to the town of Plain City. In the judging in 1958, the Holsten class was judged by Charles Waltner, Mount Vernon, Washington; Jersey and Guernsey by William Weaver, Phoenix, Arizona; F. F. A. was judged by Dr. George Stoddard
U. S. U.; H. H. was judged by Dr. Eugene Starkey, U. S. U.

This is representative of the top quality of judging that has been a part of the day since its beginning. It is interesting to note that the first day was devoted to one hour of judging activities with the rest of the day devoted to a sports program. Today, the sports program is eliminated. The day is entirely "business." Also, it is now necessary to hold a full day of show activities for the junior division.

Management of show. The management is well planned and organized. It has the central management, directors, clerks and special committees, finance, premiums and entries, Junior department, Junior judging, classes, publicity, cattle supervisor, grounds and dinner, and special awards committee. Rigid rules have to be following in entering cattle for the show, pertaining to the certification, health of animal and classes of cattle.

Recognition of Plain City Dairy Day. In an article which appeared in the Standard Examiner, Ogden, February 19, 1944, the headlines appeared in bold black type.

"Plain City is Home of Utah's Biggest Dairy Day" - Fine Farms Are City's Trademark

Home of one of Utah's largest dairy shows is this western Weber County community, which is also noted for its asparagus, potato and onion crops.

Predominantly farmers, the people of Plain City are friendly and hospitable. They are proud of their achievements, fine farms, and happy children.

Dairy Day, usually held in the spring of each year, is the major celebration of the Plain City folk. Many men of the community own profitable dairy herds made up of the finest pure-bred animals. The celebration is held on the town square and includes stock from all parts of the state.
It would seem that Plain City is well recognized throughout the state for sponsoring this day. It brings much to the town in the way of revenue, as well as being recognized as a Dairy Center. In 1958, the committee built permanent bleachers as part of their activity in getting ready for the day. They have been used by the community for other events all summer, and will continue to be used for many years to come.

Firms which displayed machinery for advertising purposes are required to pay $25. The State legislature also appropriated a sum of money for this day. This helps toward the financing of it.

**Significance for education.** Since Dairy Day has been changed to May, it furnishes an opportunity for local school children (elementary), and many from the Junior and Senior High School to enter exhibits, and to attend one of the finest dairy shows in the state.

Since the rural areas have to depend on farming, dairy farming, and diversified crops for a living, the education of rural boys and girls in the upgrading of dairy stock is one way of teaching them how to increase their finances, thus leading to better economic conditions.

Especially since the Junior Division now has an entire day for its show, there is keen interest in preparing, caring for their calves, and planning for Dairy Day.

The local school capitalizes upon the day with much emphasis being given the study of livestock at this particular time in their regular school work. School is also dismissed for part of the day to give the boys and girls a chance to see how judging of cattle is done.
CHAPTER SEVEN

GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT

It is interesting to note in the study of the history of the founding of America, that the first step the Pilgrims took before ever setting foot on American soil was to meet together aboard the ship, and draw up the Mayflower Compact. As other areas were organized, the first item of business was a plan of government. Even as the wagon trains came westward, they were organized with particular leaders to assume the leadership. Down to the settlement of individual towns all over the nation, an organization was formed to conduct the affairs of the people.

So it was in Plain City, as in other towns throughout the states. In Utah, the town's affairs at first were conducted through the Bishopric of the Ward, or the Presiding Elder if a Ward was not organized.

However, as the size of towns increased, many non-L. D. S. people were not entirely happy with the entire town being run by church people. The other people wanted a voice in the running of the town, so it became necessary to begin a system of elections whereby others could be voted into office.

Incorporation of the town. Plain City was behind some of the other communities in becoming incorporated, in having a mayor and a town board. However, since the town was incorporated in 1944, a great deal more interest has been shown in community affairs. Many people have been given opportunities for service in a civic sense, which otherwise might not have been the case.
A town board has to be officially organized before it can function. In order to show somewhat the legalities that have to be unraveled, a brief account as to how the governing body of the town was first started will be given:

**Town board organization.** Adoption by the Weber County Commission of a resolution designating Plain City as an incorporated town brought into existence the most unusual incorporated town in Utah, it is believed.

Inclusion of a strip of land three hundred feet wide on either side of seven roads leading from the roughly triangular body of the town leaves the newly formed corporation unique in the history of the state. The design of the town was adopted in order to include the majority of the homes while excluding the bulk of farm lands belonging to residents.

Only objection voiced during the commission meeting was that of H. P. Poulson, owner of twenty-eight acres of unimproved land included in the town limits. Stating that he could see no advantages in incorporating the town, Mr. Poulson pointed out that his home, the twenty-eight acres of land, and a three hundred foot strip on other property owned by him would thus be taxable by the town. He requested alterations of the boundary in order to lessen the area of his property included.

County Commissioners George F. Simmons, after a consultation with County Attorney M. Blaine Peterson, pointed out that the commission had no part in the disagreement between petitioners of Plain City and Mr. Poulson, and had no choice but to either approve or reject the petition for incorporation. Since approximately one hundred eighty-five signatures comprise a majority of voters in Plain City and two hundred fifty-three signatures were affixed to the petition, Commissioners Simmons, Lyman M. Hess, and Joseph Peterson were unanimous in their approval and adoption of the resolution. Further action on the incorporation included appointment by commission members of a present town board and four trustees to serve as a governing body until the next municipal election, which will be held two years from now. (20)

**Cemetery district created.** Until 1937, the Plain City cemetery was a place of tea vines and weeds. Just before Decoration Day, the town would "turn out" with shovels and wheelbarrows to cut out the tea vines, so that people could decorate the graves on Memorial Day.

Before her death, Mrs. Emma Palmer remarked that "she hoped she didn't have to be buried out there in all those tea vines."
After the funeral, Mr. Floyd Palmer remembered what his mother had said. It bothered him a great deal, so he finally went as an individual, to the Bishop (Charles Heslop) and requested that something be done about the cemetery situation, suggesting that perhaps a committee could be organized to work on the problem.

Not long afterwards, Mr. Palmer was called in by Bishop Heslop and asked if he would be the chairman of a committee to improve the cemetery. He consented and asked to have Archie Simpson and Walt Moyes (who was the sexton) help him on the committee.

Their first project was to develop a well so that water could be pumped on the parched ground. No beautification could occur without water. They solicited the town, asking for $5 donations for each lot, this to be used to provide water. The results of the drive were satisfactory enough so that the committee decided to put the pipes in. They were laid in the fall of 1937 (November).

In the spring of 1938, Mr. West Stoddard from Hooper was engaged to drive a deep well to provide the water. It was thought that water could be reached at a level of four hundred or five hundred feet. However, as they reached this depth and still had not obtained water, the committee began to be concerned as to whether or not there would be enough money to complete the job. Finally, at a depth of approximately seven hundred and thirty feet, water was found.

This was the first step in the beautification of the cemetery. As people observed how much nicer the lots were that were being planted with grass and kept trimmed, more and more wanted to provide the perpetual care by signing up with the committee. It was soon found that the well was inadequate to provide the necessary water.
The committee then consulted with others and decided that the only
way service could be maintained was to form a town board so that they could
incorporate the town, provide a tax levy, and thus get enough money to main-
tain the cemetery.

In 1944, the town was incorporated. This now provided the proper
authority to provide a tax. Consequently, a tax levy was set to improve the
cemetery.

About this same time, the State legislature had passed the cemetery
district law to create cemetery districts.

Required for creating a district was a majority vote of property
owners in the district. This required taxing all the taxable property in
the town within the town boundaries. If it passed, a one mill tax levy
should be put on the entire town. After much discussion, in which some
objections were voiced, the vote was taken. The majority vote was "Yes;"
so the cemetery district was created.

Mr. Malan produced before the Board the returns received by him
from the judges of the election in and for the district as required
by Chapter 17, Session Laws of Utah, 1945, and stated that he had
checked the registration books for Plain City--there are 407 legal
registered voters, less non-property owners, leaving a total of 310
legal registered voting taxpayers.

The board proceeded to canvass the votes cast at the election.

The canvass of the returns having been completed, it is hereby
unanimously declared that the following is a full, true, and cor-
rect statement as to the election:

| Total vote Cast | 233 |
| Yes            | 222 |
| No             | 10  |
| Spoiled        | 1   |

Whereupon, on motion of Commissioner Simmons, it was unanimously
ordered that it appears from the canvass that more than one-half of
all the qualified voters in said district who shall have paid a prop-
erty tax in such district in the year next preceding the election, have
voted in favor of organization of the Plain City Cemetery District
covering the following territory:" (18)
After the district was approved, the town was divided into three districts. The same division that the bishopric uses was used. Then the Governor of the State appointed the cemetery commissioners who were:

District One  Albert Sharp
District Two  Floyd Palmer
District Three  Charles Heslop

It was necessary to hold an election for the cemetery commissioners after the appointment. At the election, the candidates were:

District One  Art Simpson, Albert Sharp
District Two  Harold Carver, Floyd Palmer
District Three  LeRoy Folkman, Charles Heslop

In the election, Mr. Heslop was defeated by LeRoy Folkman. At present, the cemetery committee consists of the following men:

Floyd Palmer, Chairman
Albert Sharp
LeRoy Folkman, Secretary

Activities of the Town Board. On January 11, 1944, at 4:30 p.m., the Articles of Incorporation for the town of Plain City were filed in the Weber County Clerk's office.

Unfortunately, the minute books for the first years are misplaced or destroyed, but since Mr. Elvin Maw took over the duties of Secretary, he has kept records of activities of the affairs of the town.

In 1949, at the November election, the following men were elected to the Plain City Town Board.

Mayor  Clair Folkman
Directors  Lewis Vincenti (4 years)
          Lee Olsen (2 years)
Directors (cont'd)  

Elvin H. Maw (2 years)
Dean Baker (2 years)

The new Board took the oath of office January 1, 1950. Mr. Elvin H. Maw was appointed to act as Town Clerk at the first meeting, January 8, 1950. In 1950, the Town Board accomplished much good for the improvement of the town. Some of the accomplishments are:

1. The Board was informed by the State Road Commission that Plain City would receive its share of the state road funds, to be used only for road work and culverts. The amount they received was based upon the population of the town.

The Board met with the County Commissioners and was informed that they would furnish all the equipment and do the work, but that the Town Board would have to pay for all the material. During that year, one-half mile of road was resurfaced, and one-half mile was graveled near the town dumping grounds.

2. The Board was requested by the Weber River Reclamation Bureau to secure the signatures of 26 or more taxpayers to form a Conservancy District in Weber County. This was done.

3. Mr. Frank Anderson was appointed Town Marshal.

4. In December, four strands of Christmas lights were installed around the town square.

In 1951:

1. On May 1, 1951, a franchise was signed with the Utah Power and Light Company for a 25-year period, to provide service to Plain City.

2. Plain City joined the Municipal League. This is made up of towns and cities in the state of Utah.

3. Four speed signs were installed near the business district and the school.
4. Two more strands of Christmas lights were installed.

5. At the general election, the following men were elected to serve on the Board of Directors for four years instead of two years.

   Lee Olsen
   Elvin H. Maw
   Earl Hadley

The Board now consisted of:

   Clair Folkman            Lee Olsen
   Lewis Vincenti          Elvin H. Maw
   Earl Hadley

In 1952:

   1. January 1, 1952 was the date the newly appointed officers took the oath of office. At this meeting, Elvin H. Maw was reappointed to act as Town Clerk.

   2. Mr. Frank Hadley was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Earl Hadley. (April 7, 1952).

   3. In May, a flagpole was installed at the cemetery.

   4. The Town Board and Cemetery Committee each year sponsor a celebration to raise funds to care for the cemetery.

   5. The road on the east side of the park was oiled for a block.

   6. Gordon Thompson was appointed to serve as a member of the Health Department, which was to work out a City and County health program.

In 1953:

   1. Rulon Chugg was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Lewis Vincenti. (April 6, 1953)

   2. Harold W. Johnson resigned as sexton of the cemetery. Charles H. Telford was appointed.
3. The annual celebration was held -- Potato Day, July 4.

4. At the general election, the following men were appointed to serve on the Board:

- Mayor: Lee Olsen
- Directors: Merrill Jenkins (4 years), Blair Simpson (4 years)

4. A building was built at the cemetery to store equipment used in the upkeep of the cemetery. Funds from Potato Day were to pay for it.

In 1954:

1. The oath of office was given to Lee Olsen as Mayor and Merrill Jenkins as Director.
2. The Plain City Town Board signed an application for culinary water and hired an engineer to estimate the cost of a water system.
3. The Board, in cooperation with the Weber County Recreation Committee had lights installed on the town park for use at night for the playing of softball games and other recreational events.

The agreement was reached that the County Recreation Department would administer the program and take care of any repairs to the lights. The town would take care of any repair work on the grounds. (27)

4. One mile of town road was resurfaced.
5. Victor Lund was employed to take care of the town dumping ground.

In 1955:

1. Rest rooms were built in the recreation hall, completed for Decoration Day.
2. Annual Potato Day was held.
3. Resurfacing of one-half mile of road from the junction of the West Weber and Warren road to the Warren and Plain City line was done; also, one-half mile on the north road to the Utah Hot Springs.
4. At the November general election, the following men were elected to the Board.

Elvin H. Maw (4 years)
Floyd Palmer (4 years)
Glen Charlton (4 years)

In 1956:
1. On January 2, 1956, the oath of office was given to Elvin H. Maw, Floyd Palmer, and Glen Charlton, who were elected at the November election. Elvin H. Maw was reappointed as Town Clerk.
2. Road numbers were installed in the town to conform with the County road numbering program.
3. A request was made for the Plain City Town Board to appoint a man to serve on the Culinary Water District, which was to be formed. Mr. Floyd A. Palmer was appointed to serve.

In 1957:
1. The Town Board assisted the Lions Club and the bishopric in building a bowery and fireplace on the north of the recreation hall.
2. One-half mile on the west of Plain City, running to the "dump" road, was resurfaced. Also, one-half mile on the east on the beet dump road was resurfaced.
3. The Board purchased some property from Llewellyn Hipwell, located west of the Lions Clubhouse, for the purpose of building a town hall.
4. At the general election, the following men were elected to serve on the Town Board:

Mayor
Lee Olsen (4 years)
Glen Charlton (4 years)
Kent Jenkins (4 years)
In 1958:

The Board signed an ordinance presented to them by the Bona Vista Water Improvement District to construct a culinary water pipeline along the roads in Plain City. This is being done at the present time.

From the foregoing statements, it can be readily seen that the town of Plain City is becoming aware of the need to progress. It is following up suggestions by deeds accomplished.

The next step in the growth of the town is being sponsored again by the Bona Vista Water District -- a sewage system. Already plans are laid for Plain City to hook onto the trunk line, with the outlet to be at the Slaterville Plant. This will probably be accomplished within the next year.

Plain City is also waiting for the gas company to lay a line into Plain City. When the water, sewage and gas lines are all in, then many expect to see the homes really increase in the town.

Significance for education. There is only one direction to go, and that is forward. It would seem that the Plain City civic leaders have taken this motto to heart and are striving to lead the town in the direction which will result in a better community. Civic pride and responsibility can best be taught by example. The young folks in the town cannot help but observe the amount of leadership which is required to run a government in a democratic society. It appears that in observing government in action, it is worth while even to elementary students. Such matters of business as elections can be observed and discussed in the classroom. This will create in the minds of the students the proper method of electing men and women to public office who will uphold the ideals of the community, and who will do the things so necessary to better the community.
CHAPTER EIGHT

UTILITIES

Telephone. The year 1905 is the date given that the telephone first came to Plain City. The first telephone switchboard was located in the store owned by Thomas England. There were three long distance lines. A system of record keeping was to have twenty calls, then register.

This first exchange was operated by the family of Mr. England. Lillian England was the "chief operator." Her salary was $25 a month. Lester England, Wilford England, Hazel England were "relief" operators. They received approximately $15 a month for their services. The area that service was provided for included West Weber, Warren, Plain City, Farr West, and possibly Slaterville. (25)

Later the telephone company lent money to build a telephone exchange building on the spot where Lester England's home now stands. It remained there for several years and was dismantled when no longer needed.

Telephones were few and far between in early Plain City. Mr. Thomas Jenkins relates that "at the time of an emergency, we walked from our home to the home of Henry T. Maw to use the telephone in the middle of the night." (9)

Later on, more telephones were installed, party lines with eight to ten families on a line. The telephone helped to bring the boundaries of the town closer. People were not so far away from others in the county.

Better service from the telephone company replaced the box-on-the-wall type of phone with portable types of phones. In recent years a few private lines have been installed in the town and an attempt has been made to reduce the number of people on a line. The biggest help has been the
elimination of hearing all the other phone rings. Now one hears only one other ring beside his own. Several homes in the town are now providing connections for the telephone in various rooms of the home. It would be most difficult to do without the service of the telephone today.

Lights. In order to provide irrigation water for the land in Plain City, pumping plants were built on the Weber River. To run the plants, it was necessary to provide electrical power.

On May 13, 1913, electric power was sent to Plain City. It came from the sugar factory in Wilson to West Weber, then north into Plain City. The pumping plants on the river were influential in pulling service into the Plain City area. (22)

Mr. Lewis A. Poulsen, a life-long resident, states "electricity came into Plain City in 1907. It came from the south, furnished power for the pumping plants on the river, then continued north." (23)

At the Chief Canning factory (across from Loyd Olsen's home), the junction box was located. Three transformers were placed there to convert power into electricity. For $1.50 a month, a home could obtain unlimited service.

The first establishment to receive lights was the McElroy store (Roll Etherington's Garage). The next place was the Joe Hodson place (later Sims', now Elmer Carver's). Men who worked for the company installing lights boarded at the Arthur Sims' home.

Mrs. Sims boarded about a dozen men who worked for the light company, this in addition to her chores of caring for eleven children, five linemen, a teamster, two or three "grunts" (helpers), boss, and timekeeper. Mr. McElroy was the only local man on the crew. (24)

Mr. Phiant was the electrician who did most of the wiring for the individual homes, although Mr. Lewis A. Poulsen did a great deal also.

Many people were hesitant about installing the electricity; but after seeing one or two homes lit up, they changed their minds as fast as they
could pay for the service and installation. Vacona Singleton relates, "After the neighbors saw my mother's house all lit up with electric lights, they were eager to get the service, too." (30)

Candles and oil lamps soon were replaced by the brilliant electric lights as fast as people could afford it.

The other boon that electricity brought to the town was an improvement in daily living. Washing machines, electric irons, pumps, stoves, vacuum cleaners, smaller appliances all help to ease the hard work of caring for a family. Later, electric-driven machinery for the farmer, potato washers for the warehouses, cannery equipment, cold storage lockers, and even street lights and park lights for the public square were to come.

**Railroad.** Early day transportation in Plain City has undergone the changes common to similar settlements of the West. Keeping in mind that in 1859 all that was here was an area of sagebrush from four to ten feet tall, one would not expect any mode of transportation to be other than could traverse such country. First came the oxen, pulling the loads through the sand or mud or across the river bottoms. Mules were also used in some instances and then horses. Trips to Ogden for small supplies or on matters of business were taken on horseback. Later vehicles, such as lumber wagons, buggies, surreys, and "white tops" were introduced. Then came the bicycle and the automobile.

On October 15-16, 1909, the citizens of Harrisville, Farr West, and many from Ogden joined with the residents of Plain City in a great celebration at the latter place in honor of the completion of the U. I. C. branch line to Plain City. Six carloads of enthusiastic excursionists came over the new line, many of them former residents of the town, and joined with the local citizens in a fiesta of singing, talking, dancing, and feasting. Lyman Skeen and John Maw were instrumental in bringing this much-needed means of transportation to the community.

A small steam engine hauled passengers and express to the "points" first and then to Harrisville, where passengers transferred to the
Cache Valley electric train. The road to Plain City was finally electrified; but owing to keen competition of the automobile, passenger service was discontinued a few years later. Freight and sugar beets continued to be hauled for several years after that. (12)

The service of the Utah Idaho Central railroad was of greatest importance in the transporting of the students to Ogden High and later Weber High School after they were finished with the school in Plain City. As competition became more keen, however, the railroad gave way to bus transportation by the school district to the high school. This has become the only means of transportation for high school students in recent years.

Culinary water. The system of obtaining culinary water in early Plain City was by means of springs and wells. The fringe around the western edge of town provided the first springs. Others were scattered here and there throughout the town.

Severe contagious epidemics and relatively high mortality among children periodically forced attention upon a culinary water problem.

In the absence of a village water system, the more enterprising began driving pipes farther down below the upper water table. In some cases, the hand pumps which brought the water up through the pipes were located in the kitchen and a sink installed. Water so obtained was comparatively safe and reliable.

Today (1934), the great majority of Plain City homes (654) are supplied with hand pumps. A few artesian wells provide running water, and a few of the more well-to-do citizens have installed power pumps so that hot and cold running water is now found in 8.8 per cent of the homes. Artesian wells provide culinary water also for 8.8 per cent of the families. The old unsanitary wells have disappeared.

Since many of the modern conveniences, which minister to health and comfort, are dependent upon running water, Plain City village people are greatly handicapped in comparison with villagers in many Utah communities where a village water system has been built. Farm families living out on the farm at Plain City are not more restricted in conveniences dependent on water than they would be in the heart of the village.
It is probable that Plain City will continue indefinitely to use underground water for culinary purposes. It is, however, not impossible that a growing interest in the need for a village water system may find a way to provide it. Connection with Ogden's water system is not a physical impossibility. The acquiring of mountain springs by local civic bodies continues to be a common procedure in many Utah towns. Underground water could be pumped into a large water tank supported at a height above the village. Bath tubs, indoor toilets, hot running water, etc., may beckon more strongly in the future than they have in the past.

From the above remarks, now almost a quarter of a century old (24 years), one can see that the culinary water problem has been a major item of consideration since the earliest days. It is interesting to note in the last paragraph of the above quotation, "a growing interest in the need for a village water system may find a way to provide it."

The interest has been there. People bettered themselves to the extent that practically all families had pressure pumps and hot and cold running water in their homes. But after a period of 24 years, the thing has happened that was suggested -- a water tank high above the village. However, the way in which it got there is not the same way as was suggested.

Weber Basin Project. To understand the significance of getting culinary water into Plain City for the first time in its history, it is necessary to recount briefly how this all came about.

In 1946, the officers and directors of town boards and mayors of cities or their delegated representatives met to form a water district to be known as the Davis and Weber County Water Development Association. An executive committee was formed and Mr. Elmer Carver was appointed to that committee. The purpose of forming such a district was to bring into existence the Weber Basin Project. The creation of it by the United States Government hailed the beginning of the project. Credit should be given to our State Senators Watkins and Thomas for their untiring efforts to push the bill through Congress and in having it signed by President Truman.

The Project was to be divided into three phases of water development: irrigation, industrial, and municipal. The municipal phase was what drew the greatest interest.

Through the interest of the town board presidents and mayors, there
was organized the Weber Basin Conservancy District. This was made a political subdivision of the State of Utah by the power of the court, with various powers of its own as the law directs.

After the organization of the District, all the cities and towns in Weber and Davis Counties were contacted for the purchase of water. Plain City wanted to purchase one thousand acre feet of water. Their request was held in abeyance until a line could be built from Ogden Canyon. This, however, was never done. (37)

The citizens of Plain City knew that unless they pushed hard, they would never get culinary water; so with the support of our staunch leaders, mayor, and directors of the town board, Plain City took the lead in initiating a program with the surrounding communities to form the Bona Vista Water Improvement District.

**Bona Vista Water Improvement District.** This company is also a political subdivision of the State, with various powers according to its charter. The purpose for which it was set up was to develop areas for water, for water and sewage, or both, according to its charter. The company was officially organized by the Weber County Commissioners. Soon after the creation of the district, officers of both the Bona Vista and the Weber Basin Conservancy Districts met. "There, plans were made for Bona Vista to buy 800 acre feet of water. This water is to be delivered annually for a period of 60 years. By then, the project will be paid for." (37)

After 60 years, the government indebtedness will be paid for, but no change in ownership of water is anticipated. (It would take an act of legislation to do so.) After that time, there should be a substantial reduction in the cost of the water to the consumer. Most of the water to be used will come from the Weber River; but later on, some will come from the Ogden River. This will be done at the time it is needed for North Ogden and points in that area of the county. At this time, the Weber Basin line will tie into Bona Vista.
Weber Basin Conservancy is a wholesale agency, selling water much as one might sell commodities on a market. Bona Vista is an agency, selling water, retail, to its consumers. This is the only association between the two companies.

It was not until August, 1955, however, that the County Commissioners appointed a board of four men to act as a spearhead in the water development program. Because Plain City was an incorporated town, they appointed their own member to represent them on the board. He was Mr. Floyd A. Palmer. Thus the Bona Vista Company now has a board composed of five men.

At this same time, Mr. Linn C. Baker was a member of the State Legislature. He is the one who sponsored the bill to create special improvement districts for unincorporated and incorporated towns. The reason he was the sponsor of this bill was due to his work in the Health Department for the State of Utah. As he studied samples of water sent to him from the outlying towns, he became aware of the amount of contamination there was in drinking water in certain rural areas. Plain City was high up on the list. This was traceable to shallow, surface wells being used.

Through the encouragement of Commissioner Carver, Mr. Baker was encouraged to get something started. As a means of doing this, meetings were called in various towns to determine if the people were interested in buying water and bonding themselves for it. Much interest and enthusiasm were shown, with the people of the Bona Vista District finally deciding to have a bond election. The election was held, and it was voted to bond the district to provide water to the people in the district.

The people in Plain City voted six to one in favor of it. In the other area of the district, it was nine to one.

The district was to be bonded for $900,000. This sum was thought to be sufficient to do the job. (36)
The contracts were awarded to three companies for installing the water mains; Eldon Knudsen for the Randall-Harrisville area, Bert Robinson for the Plain City-Farr West area, and Mr. Smedley for the Wilson area. Mr. Robinson, as of this date, is about 60 per cent complete with his work in the Plain City area.

The water mains are heavy. In engineering language, they are called a Smith Scott process. They have a mortar steel lining. It consists of a 14-inch gauge steel dipped in coal tar enamel, then fiber glass, and then 14-pound felt is used, and then wrapped in Kraft paper. All this makes for a tight main.

Part of the plans call for the construction of two reservoirs, one in Plain City, and one in the Randall area. The one at Plain City is what is called a stand pipe reservoir. It rises 145 feet high, and is clearly visible for many miles around. It was constructed by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company. The cost, when entirely completed, will be $80,000, which is about one-seventh of the money to be spent at the present time.

Another reservoir is now being built in the Randall area. It is to be in the ground and built with a concrete cap on it. The cost of that one will be $16,500. This will be close to the spring, which the company has filed rights on for 500 acre feet. By an exchange with the state on irrigation water, Bona Vista will be eligible to receive three or four hundred acre feet gratis. This, with the 800 acre feet bought from Weber Basin, is thought to be sufficient water to serve the area for some time to come.

Point of delivery of water to the Bona Vista District is at 4800 South on Highway 84. There Bona Vista picks it up from Weber Basin's 22-inch line with a 12-inch line. This carries it to 4000 South, where eventually another million-gallon reservoir will be built. From there, a 16-inch line carries
the water through the Wilson Lane area. (This is where the planned industrial expansion is expected to go). From Wilson, a 12-inch line carries it to 1100 West, north across the river, where it comes out in front of the Marriott Church. It then proceeds north to Heber Lund's corner in Farr West. Here, the line divides, with a 10-inch line going to both Randall and Plain City. Time will tell if a pumping plant may have to be installed at Randall to lift the water to the reservoir.

In Plain City, all the grid lines will be at least 6-inch lines. These are much heavier than those in Ogden City or other areas. This district meets the standards of the State Health Department by proper pressure at the taps at all times.

The Bona Vista has been set up to meet the Fire Underwriters Standards. This will mean better fire protection all along the line. Recently, a meeting was held with the County Commissioners, and they agreed to furnish 65 fire plugs to be used along the line. This would be one about every 600 feet. This will afford tremendous protection for property along the line. It also will reduce fire protection premiums and induce industrial firms to locate around this area.

The cost of hooking up is $250 for the original signers. Monthly rates of about $5 will be charged. Meter boxes are being installed, but no meter hook-ups are planned for immediate use. However, anyone who wastes it or abuses it will have a meter put in, as the water is too precious to waste. Rather than spend $40,000 to buy meters and install them, it is thought that that money could better serve the people by extending the lines.

The formation of Bona Vista has done the job that Plain City started out to do -- bring culinary water to the people.

Plans for the future include the million-gallon reservoir at 4000 South and Highway 84 (in 1962) and also a stand pipe reservoir in Farr West.
by 1972. It is expected that the population by that date will demand it.

Part of the power given to the Bona Vista Water District by its charter is that it may create water and sewage districts. The people are now asking for a sewer system. It is believed that within a few years that Plain City will be ready to install a sewer system. Preliminary surveys have been made, and it is believed that Plain City is high enough to use the facilities which exist at the new sewage treatment plant in Slaterville. Not more than 5-foot lift at the plant would be necessary to use those facilities.

Bona Vista is an expensive district. This is due mostly to the heavy lines being installed, and long distances it has to cover to serve the families that have signed up. It has been a difficult task for the board to plan and put into operation this organization. Credit and acknowledgment should be given to the board which consists of Kenneth Brown, Chairman, Floyd A. Palmer, Arthur Sorenson, Jr., Clifford Blair, Dick Groberg.

In May, 1958, Theron Palmer was appointed as permanent superintendent of the organization. Helen Kellos is the secretary; Neilson, Reeves, and Maxfield are the engineers. Mr. Jack Richard is the attorney, and Edward L. Burton Company is the fiscal agent, which also bought both bonds.

It is expected, as a result of the water and eventually the sewage system's being brought into Plain City, that Plain City will develop some growing pains. Already, many new homes are being built in the town. This may reflect itself in the town's becoming less of an agricultural area and developing more an urban influence. The ward will probably be divided also; and surely, the school will have to have some additions made.

Significance for education. It is to be recognized that a town is not any stronger than the people in it, physically, mentally, socially. A water system which can provide safe, treated sanitary water can do much to protect the health of the people. A water system can do such things as to bring an
influx of people to a community. This usually has an effect in the cultural environment and attainment of its citizens. A second effect would be the protection to the people by the safe disposal of sewage. Again the health of the people would not be endangered by open sewage disposal, or through old septic tanks which are located close to the shallow wells which have provided the culinary water for the town. Epidemics such as typhoid fever would no longer be a threat.

The program is costly, yes; however, the benefits derived far outweigh the cost in first, fire protection; and second, and most important, health protection for a good many years to come.
CHAPTER NINE

MAIL SERVICE

Pioneer service. Early day mail service is as exciting as the tales of the Pony Express riders in the early days of American history. The "mail must go through" was the motto of the early day carriers, as well as those employed as mail carriers today.

Before 1864, Peter Later, who lived in Harrisville next to the railroad, received the mail for the areas north and west of Ogden. It was delivered by him or members of his family to the other towns, North Ogden, Pleasant View, Farr West, Plain City, and Slaterville.

"During the year 1864, the first post office was established in Plain City. W. W. McGuire served as the first postmaster." (7)

This post office stood on the corner where Neta Charlton's home is located. People would call at this post office for their mail.

Rural Free Delivery, Route 2. In the year 1901, Mr. Fred J. Kenley assumed the duties as mail carrier. His first means of transportation was a heavy carriage with doors which opened on each side of the buggy. It was heavy and cumbersome and required two horses to pull it. He didn't use it very long. He next used a small cart. It held a wooden box in which he carried the mail, and it could be pulled by one horse. This was a much better means of getting around. He used this for quite some time; then, as cars became available, he had one to deliver the mail with. He will be remembered as "our mailman." He served for 32 years. During this time, he was dependable, courteous and on time. It is said that one could set the
clocks by his arrival. In 1933, he was retired and pensioned by President Roosevelt.

During the war years (1917-1918), Mr. Kenley's daughter, Augusta Nash, served as substitute carrier, as there were no men available to do the job. She served for nine months, along with her father. During the winter months she had to quit, as there was only the one car available.

In 1933, Mr. Adelbert W. Bingham took over the duties of Mr. Kenley. He had previously worked in the city, but on consolidating the rural areas and on retirement of Mr. Kenley, he took over Route 2. Mr. Bingham lived in Marriott next to the church where Mr. Butt now lives.

In 1937 Mr. Bingham went to Idaho to work, and Mr. Lavell Butt came to Ogden to assume the duties of Mr. Bingham. "Mr. Butt began his route on June 1, 1937." (30) He has served since then as the regular mail carrier.

Mrs. Sarah White has served as a substitute carrier since June 1, 1943 (15 years). She has substituted on other routes in the county as well as on Route 2. She carried Route 4 for 18 months, also substituting on Route 3.

During World War II, she went into the Kaysville and Farmington area, and worked two years. Recently, the Ogden Standard Examiner published a news story on her accomplishments as a widow who could keep up her religious and civic responsibilities, as well as having the job of carrying the mail.

Other men who work for the Postal Department from Plain City as mail carriers are Lyman Cook and Eldon Weston. They are assigned to the city routes.

In Plain City, the mail boxes are placed on posts along the roadway. Where several homes may be located down a road, five or six boxes may be placed together at a corner. This type of delivery is to be expected as long as the
town remains about the present size. At the present time, there are no mail boxes on the houses.

Newspaper. Although not a federal sponsored agency, the delivery of the daily newspaper is about as important as the delivery of the mail. It is awaited eagerly by the younger members of the family to see who can get the funny papers first, and by the other members of the family to see what is happening in the world. Deliveries were made by mail at first, but in 1919, a new service for rural patrons was started. At first, the papers were brought from Ogden on the "dummy" and were thrown off at the home of Walter Hart. Then they were delivered by him or his wife throughout Plain City. They used a horse and buggy at first to deliver the papers; later, a Model T Ford was used to deliver them.

Within a few years, however, Mr. Hart had to make trips to Ogden to pick up the paper. The system was one wherein Mr. Hart would buy the newspapers from the company for two and one-half cents apiece, and sell them for five cents to his customers. It was his obligation to collect his own bills. He had about two hundred customers.

The paper business lasted for seven years for Mr. and Mrs. Hart. Then due to inability to collect his money, he was forced to quit in 1926. Mrs. Hart relates:

My neighbors were so good to me during this time. I don't know how we would have managed without their help. Many a time I had to borrow a horse from Burt Taylor. He always had one ready for me. Then later when he had a car, he always kept gas in it in case we needed to borrow it to deliver the papers. I'll never forget his kindness to us. (19)

After Mr. Hart had quit, Mr. Harry Eldredge delivered papers for a short while. Then Mrs. Ryan Bingham bought the route through the Ogden Standard Examiner. She began delivering papers 32 years ago to the Plain City area, and is still carrying them.
Significance for education. Contact with forces outside of one's immediate environment gives a broader outlook and a deeper understanding of other people and their philosophy of life. Such details as a daily mail service and a daily newspaper bring closer to home the latest happenings in the area in which one lives. To remove the bonds of semi-isolation by such means as mail, newspapers, and later radio and television is a step in raising the cultural quality of any community. As the outside "news" creeps into a community, people tend to absorb some of the importance in going from the "old to the new" in ways of doing things, which eventually acts as a force on their way of life. This ultimately reflects its ways in a school program, with the consequences that the school program is bettered. This again is reflected in a better community life for all.
CHAPTER TEN

IRRIGATION WATER

When the first settlers chose the name, "City of the Plains," they chose a name that fit the area very well. The early settlers knew, also, that if they were to prosper, they had to do a lot of work in bringing water to the plains. Consequently, the major task of canal building was started immediately after their arrival in the valley.

"An irrigation company was formed with Joseph Skeen as watermaster, Daniel Collet and J. P. Folkman, assistants, and John Spiers, secretary." (5)

Much work has had to be done to keep the canal repaired. This was back-breaking work as the dirt had to be hauled in wheelbarrows and wagons to repair the levees. "A 'go-devil' scraper, made of hewn logs, fastened in a 'V' shape and pulled by three or four oxen, moved the dirt when the ground was level." (5)

This crude implement was of great importance in keeping the life-giving canal in repair.

Canal building. The canal building was one big task for the settlers, but the first summer a little water was brought to Plain City from Four-Mile Creek.

In 1860, the canal was completed to Four-Mile, the following year to Broom's Creek, and in 1862 to the Ogden River. In 1863, a dam and head gates costing $2,000 were built at Weber River. This assured a better supply of water. (5)

From the beginning, Plain City has received nearly all its water supply through the winding nine-mile canal which connects the Ogden River with small ditches in and about the village. The canal was built in 1859-1860. It has been enlarged and strengthened many times, particularly in the big levee area east of town. Although Plain City's water
right in the Ogden River was among the very early ones, her location in the lower valley (practically at the end of the Ogden River system) made it extremely difficult for her to effectively enforce her rights. A severe shortage of water in 1878 caused the settlers to buy a right-of-way and to construct an 82-rod canal between the Ogden and Weber Rivers so that some of the waters of the latter stream could be added to the fast dwindling supply from the former. This additional or supplementary supply has been of considerable value, especially during years of high water. In years of shortage, communities having prior rights in the Weber River take all the water, Plain City's supplementary right availing little in the latter part of the season when crops needed water most. The year 1889 was one of inadequate supply. At this time, the settlers finally pushed their case through court, and in September, 1892, obtained what is known as the "Geddes Decree," by which all waters of the Ogden River were apportioned to the various communities (13 canal companies). At that time, water was not measured in second-feet. Plain City's share was described in this court decree as the amount of water at the intake which would run through a "ditch 12.6 feet wide at the top, 7.5 feet wide on the bottom, and 3.2 feet deep and 0.12 feet fall per 100 feet." (Date of appropriation -- May 14, 1859).

The following important guiding principles in the division of the water were also announced in this decree:

That each of the parties aforesaid being the owners of the ditches and water rights above described are decreed to be entitled to the exclusive use of so much of the waters of Ogden River as will flow in their said ditches according to the dates of their appropriation; that the first in point of time in appropriating said water and constructing said ditches are entitled to the first rights of the waters of said stream, and so on successively to the last appropriation. That in case the water is insufficient in said stream to fill all of said ditches, then those having the junior appropriation shall turn into the natural channel of the stream all of the water diverted by them until sufficient is turned into said stream to supply the ditches of any prior appropriations in point of time and such junior appropriators and all persons acting in or assistance of them are hereby enjoined and restrained from diverting any part of the waters of said river from the natural channel thereof, except it be at such times and seasons as there may be a surplus of water in said river after supplying the ditches of all appropriators upon said stream whose appropriations were prior in point of time to the said persons so enjoined.

It is quite clear that this decree protects prior claims in the order of priority as long as any water is left. Unfortunately for Plain City, the enforcement provisions turned out to be wholly inadequate. To expect communities higher up the stream with later rights to turn the water back in the stream when prior claims further down required it, while their crops withered, was quite beyond the inter-community morality standards of the time. Had Weber County or Plain City been able to police the Ogden River, particularly in the upper valley, her established rights would have come to be recognized. This was not done, however, except intermittently, and habits of using
water during the low-water season which belonged to prior claimants became common. Various pretexts or excuses gained acceptance. One widely used was that "the court decree had awarded much more water than was in the stream, and in consequence all claimants should be willing to do with less than the amount allowed." Another one held "that all water in the upper valley eventually found its way back through seepage into the river channel and was again available for the older settlements in the lower valley."

Many law suits and the expenditure of large sums of money have failed to bring a satisfactory answer to the problem of bringing about a fair and equitable distribution of an adequate irrigation water supply.

A recent fortunate development is the building of the Echo Dam by the Federal Government in Weber Canyon, which has greatly altered the whole situation. This large reservoir holding about 74,000 acre feet of water enlarges the supply so that sufficient water seems to be assured for some time to come. On July 16, 1924, the stockholders of Plain City Canal decided to subscribe for 2500 acre feet. Two weeks later, they increased this amount to 3000 acre feet; the next spring (on May 7, 1925), they raised it once more to 4000 acre feet. John Maw, as president, and Charles Heslop, as secretary, signed over to the United States Government the stock of the Plain City Irrigation Company as security for the Echo water.

The problem of irrigation water has been a difficult one. Even after the nine-mile canal was built, the settlers still had trouble. One "sore spot" was the big levee located east of town. It often "went out," flooding sections and denying others any water until after the water was shut out of the canal and the levee repaired. Repairing the levee often required days. Townspeople jealously watched for their water turns, so as not to lose a drop of the precious water. Watermasters would post a notice when an individual's turn came up.

Even the building of large reservoirs is not a guarantee against a dry season. Although Echo Reservoir was not entirely completed in 1930, it was possible through the erection of a temporary structure to secure considerable water. In 1931, the fates united to demonstrate their ultimate control. The driest season of many years arrived to mock at the security promised by the erection of the dam. By mid-summer, the streams were virtually empty and not a drop of water was to be found in the Plain City canal. Meanwhile, promising crops withered. The gods of drought do not easily relinquish their firm grasp over the destinies of this semi-desert land.
Pioneer pump. Located on the Weber River in the south end of town is the Pioneer pump. This was installed very early in the history of the town and was influential in bringing electricity to the town. It provided water for the bench land located to the north of it which could not be irrigated any other way. A privately owned plant, it has done much to make this part of the town "blossom like a rose." Jack Spiers and George Weatherston were influential in getting it organized. Stock was sold and transferred to others as time went on. Sufficient to say, the installation of this pumping plant on the Weber River has made many acres of land tillable, which otherwise would be unprofitable.

The Plain City Canal is the lifeline to this settlement. Strict water enforcement is necessary that all may benefit. The following men have served as watermasters, carefully controlling the water supply and distribution to residents of Plain City:

John England           Jack Carver
George Weatherston     Joseph Hunt
C. S. Palmer           Bryon Carver
Ezra Richardson        Walter Christiansen

It is to be hoped that there will be no more droughts as the pioneers experienced, but rather that there will be an abundance of water available in future years.
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

As has been previously stated, Plain City is a town supplying her share of leaders for our county and state. Many have had their beginnings in the most humble of homes where crowded living quarters, usually due to large families, have been felt. Despite the inconveniences, home life has been such that love for each other was of paramount importance. This, coupled with the basic beliefs of the predominant religion, is evidence that trials and hardships and inconveniences and lack of worldly goods need not keep people from achieving. In speaking with a prominent educator a short time ago as to his success, the writer noted this remark:

It all goes back to the training I received at home by parents who were strong in the faith, who loved us, who sacrificed personal wants to help put the family through school, and to the influence of my school and religious teachers who stressed high ideals to live by. I owe a lot to them. (41)

It would seem that the town of Plain City has had her share of blessings. It isn't a poverty-stricken town; there are no slum problems to contend with. There are no families in dire distress due to economic reasons. There are no delinquency problems which parents cannot handle. Major crimes committed by local people are practically non-existent. Divorce rate is very low.

Contrary to this, we find the type of people who have a good home life, who work hard, who attend church, who share responsibilities with their families, who have family reunions, who take care of their own. We find the type of people in Plain City who will build a new school, a new church, who will bond themselves to install a water system, who will get out and vote at
election time for the candidate of their choice. We find the type of people who remember their neighbors in times of sorrow or sickness, and who are willing to turn out en masse to plant crops or harvest them for someone who needs help.

We have the type of people who are community minded. The formation of the Town Board, the building of a "Town Board Hall," the public services are not to be overlooked.

We have the type of people who are anxious that their children receive a good education, who are concerned that they receive enough education to insure a good job.

Plain City is composed of the type of people who take pride in their homes -- neat, clean yards surrounding an attractive house. Unsightly places are being improved. Many beautiful new modern homes are being built in the town.

We have the type of people who believe in education, all phases of it. We have the type of people who look to the future, who plan for the future, who know we are not living in a static world. We have young people growing up who will assume rightful positions of leadership before long in our society.

A period of one hundred years of growth has been discussed in this thesis -- 1848-1958. It is to be hoped that this study will be beneficial for future posterity.
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APPENDIX A

PERSONAL MEMOIRS OF PLAIN CITY

Robert Maw's statement, dated April 16, 1916, Ogden, Utah.

I, Robert Maw, Sr., say that I was one of the first pioneers who arrived in Plain City on March 17, 1859. We left Lehi on the 10th, and were seven days on the road. Crossing the mud flats at Bountiful, we had to hire extra teams to pull us through. We got to Plain City about 5 in the afternoon, and we camped on Samuel Draney's lot in a little hollow on the south part of what was afterward Plain City Plat. The sagebrush was very high there. We piled up sagebrush behind the wagons which we lined up east and west—that protected us from the north wind. We dug a big hole in the ground and built up a big fire on the south side of the wagons, and made a very comfortable camp.

In coming across Four-Mile Creek, we had to double teams because the frost was nearly out. We had six and eight oxen on a wagon. I drove one wagon, and in our wagon were Thomas and Mary Davis and children, John Davis, Rover Davis, Deseret Davis Masterson, Mary Davis Skeen, and my wife, Ann Davis Maw, to whom I was married in Lehi before we went to Plain City.

After we left Four-Mile, we found patches of snow only here and there; the ground was very muddy, no roads. On the night of the 19th, it snowed about ten inches of snow. (12)

Lyman Skeen

There was no feed except such as the stock could gather, and as rapidly as possible small areas were grubbed, plowed and seeded, when a part of the crops were planted. Joseph Skeen went to Salt Lake and secured the services of Jesse M. Fox, the pioneer surveyor who laid out Salt Lake City, to run the ditch line to Four-Mile Creek. It is worthy to note here that while Mr. Fox also ran the lines for the town, he did not change the original lines run with rope upon their (the Pioneers') arrival.

Work was commenced on the irrigation ditch, and in the meantime, those men who had not moved their families returned to Lehi to get them.

The harvest of 1859 was light, it being possible to gather but very little such as corn, squash, and some potatoes, and very little wheat, which was threshed by flail or sticks.
The lack of teams, implements, etc., limited the acreage planted, and due to the lateness of the season, when the irrigation ditch as far as Four-Mile was completed, the crops did not mature properly because of lack of water. No hay being harvested in 1859, it was necessary to hold back farm work until the stock could gain strength on the spring feed.

Becoming discouraged by the experience of 1859, some of the settlers went to Cache Valley, among them being Neuben and Daniel Collet, Samuel Cousins, Ezekiel Hopkins' mother and sister, and Mr. Lilly.

John Folker and Alfred Folker moved into Ogden. Others came from Lehi to temporarily fill the ranks, some of whom later moved into Cache Valley.

Upon arrival March 17, 1859, the snow lay deep on the ground, and the cattle were driven to Little Mountain with Alfred Folker and Nolan in charge.

The new arrivals waded in snow and with the aid of the North Star and ropes laid out the town at night. It consisted of three blocks wide by six blocks long, five acres to a block; the east side was Spiers Corner, thence north to Geddes Corner. The field was laid out one mile square, beginning at the cemetery corner and north to the old North Schoolhouse, the old Joshua Messervy place on the east line.

In fencing, a ditch was dug two and one-half feet deep and three feet wide, with dirt thrown all on one side; stakes were driven in the banks of dirt and willows woven to make a fence. Lots were fenced, four to a block, outside fence only, no partitions; the field was all enclosed, one mile square, and each man allotted 20 acres, no partitions, between the fields. This is where the name, the Big Field, originated.

After planting of crops in 1860, the canal was extended to Mill Creek. A V-shaped scraper made of split logs and weighted with men was used. Five or six yoke of oxen were used on the scraper and horse teams on the plows to break ground for the ditch work. The dirt was dug with spades and shovels. The dirt was hauled to the big levee in wagons and wheelbarrows. Lunch often consisted of a crust of black bread and a boiled potato. Tea was made from the boiled bark of certain trees. Segos and nettles were boiled for food.

Most of the work on the canal was by donation.

In 1938, Mr. Skeen relates that his father, Joseph Skeen, brought a tent with him and meetings were held in it. Also meetings were held in William Raymond's log house and in a dugout where Kate Skeen Hancock now lives (1 block north of Dean Baker's). (12)

Mary Ann Geddes

Several of the wild herbs were used extensively for food before the cultivated vegetables came into general use. It is well to note here
that modern science is finding that these same wild herbs contain properties of great medical value. Some of these early wild herbs were sego lily roots, nettles, pig weed, dandelion, sour dock, etc., which were boiled and used for green, as was also wild spinach.

Melons and beet juices were boiled down to a thick syrup to be used as a sweetener in connection with molasses. Peeled melon rinds were preserved and considered a great delicacy. Fruits and vegetables of various kinds were sundried upon the tops of sheds and stored away in flour sacks for future use.

Apples, plums, prunes, peaches, apricots, pears, sarvis berries, and wild currants were among the first fruits commonly dried. The vegetables were corn, squash, beans, peas, and tomatoes. The tomatoes first had the pulp removed and were cut in rings and dried the same as other vegetables.

Whenever a pioneer woman got ready to dry her fruits or vegetables, she would invite a group of women and girls over to an apple or peach cutting, or corn drying, or some other kind of a "bee," and they all had a good sociable time while they worked. Afterwards, a little party would be held and refreshments served, usually molasses candy and dried apple pie. The apples were cut in four sections and cooked.

I remember a meeting held in the adobe meeting house. Eliza R. Snow and Jane S. Richards were in attendance. We knelt on the dirt floor. Sister Snow said we little girls would live to see the day when time would be "hurried." Our light came from fine pieces of sagebrush piled on the hearth. We had one corner where we kept the big pieces for heat and another where we kept the small pieces to burn for light.

In 1861, a County Precinct was organized at Plain City with Abraham Brown, Justice of the Peace, and William Geddes, Constable. A post office was established in 1864, with W. W. McGuire as first postmaster.

At this time, it required two and one-half days by ox team and two days with horses to go to Salt Lake City. (2)

P. M. Folkman

Many of the early settlers went there with the intention of engaging in the cattle business. It was favorably located for this, as the pastures were not too far away and there was good summer range available in the mountains to the east and northeast.

They brought some stock with them from Lehi, Jens Peter Folkman, John Folker, and Mike Molen being the drivers. The snow was so deep they could hardly get through; and as there was not any grass available, the cattle ate the bark from the cedar trees for feed.
They piled snow on their beds to keep warm. Some of the pioneers stayed in camp one week while others came on ahead to Plain City on the 17th of March. (12)

William England (1921)

There was some opposition when L. W. Shurtliff first came to preside over the people of Plain City, so Franklin D. Richards didn't take a vote at that time. It was not long, however, before nearly everyone in the town would have held up both hands to support him. The settlement became prosperous, and it wasn't long before Plain City became known far and near for its delicious garden stuff and fruits.

Fifty-nine years of my life have been spent here. When I settled in Plain City in 1862, there were a few one-room adobe houses and one or two log houses. The main part of the town was laid out. The North Lane and the Poplar District were added later. Charles Weatherston's was the farthest street south. The Drenay's, Park's and Wadman's lived in the south end. Higbee lived on Weber River and kept a ferry boat. This was then one of the main roads from Ogden to Salt Lake. The only house between the Weber River and Kay's Creek was Captain Hooper's "herd house."

I never met any hostile Indians on the plains. I want to relate one incident. A man carried away a relic from an Indian burial ground. The captain of the company made him go back and return it. He was gone nearly all night.

My first job in Salt Lake was stripping sugar cane for John Young. I received a gallon of molasses for the day's wage--two quarts I ate for supper, and the rest in the morning.

I never had any extreme hardships. Our parties lasted nearly all night. We danced by the light of tallow candles and sagebrush fires. There was always a midnight lunch served. (12)

William Knight

I remember Lot Smith as a man of high temper. I remember when we would "corral" the sheep on the public square. There was a ferry boat across the Weber River on the old trail to Salt Lake. We used to go by boat from where Merwin Thompson's house is to where his farm is now. Public buildings were built mostly by donation. The people made the adobes in the schoolhouse. (12)

Miscellaneous memories

On Christmas, we usually had a program in the morning and a children's dance in the afternoon. The Sunday School always had a tree with presents on it for the children. Everyone brought candles to the dance until coal oil lamps began to be used. At first the coal oil lamps were fastened on the wall with reflectors at the back. Then came fancy chandeliers that were fastened to the ceiling, also various kinds of fancy table lamps. Then came the gas mantle lamp, and finally electricity.
Our dances were always opened and closed with prayer, as the first ones were held in buildings used for religious purposes as well as recreational. There was always intermission for lunch about midnight. The dancing was interspersed with songs, recitations, etc. Some of those who entertained in this way at the dances were Thomas Davis and his wife, who sang sailor songs; David and Henry Booth, who sang duets; Abraham Haw and his wife, Eliza, who also sang duets; and Louisa Hopkins and Edwin Dix recited.

We had mostly square dances; accordians, combs, and sometimes fiddles were used. Many a good time was had at Amanda Richardson's, as her husband, Ebenezer, was a good violinist. We told time by means of a contrivance that followed the shadow of the sun around. Consequently, we couldn't tell time on a cloudy day.

The distance from the southeast corner of the square to Wright's corner (Penneys") was ten miles. The distance was measured by the revolutions of a wagon wheel.

Live coals were kept overnight in a bake kettle to light the fire the next day.

The oxen trod out the wheat on a threshing floor to thresh the grain.

November 1, 1870, a meeting was held relative to preparing a place near Salt Creek to remove smallpox patients. On the second and third day of the month, the hospital was enlarged. The facilities for taking care of the sick were poor and meager; the house cold and drafty; consequently, many of the patients died.

The first brooms were made from sage, and rabbit brush; then, later from broom corn.

The first lights were "bitch" lights made of strips of cloth twisted together and set in a dish of grease.

Ernest Bramwell learned how to throw a curved ball from the first man in Utah to throw a curved ball, a Mr. Wells from Willard. He was the second man in Utah to throw a curved ball. (12)

Protection was a matter of grave concern during the early years. The consternation aroused by the coming of Johnson's army was general at the time of settlement. A village militia in command of Captain William Geddes was maintained for a number of years. The Indians, while generally placable, required constant watching on the part of the settlers. The following incident illustrates the condition.

One afternoon while the men were at work in the fields, a band of war-painted Indians appeared suddenly in the village. They proceeded to make a house-to-house canvass for the missing Indian. At the home of Hans Peterson (grandfather of E. G. Peterson, president of Utah State Agricultural College), an Indian finding a baby asleep, was in the act of taking the child out through a bedroom window, when the oldest son, Augustus, came around the corner of the
house. Although no match for the Indian in size, he immediately grappled with him. A few minutes later, the father, hurrying in from the fields, arrived in time to administer a sound thrashing to the Indian. (12)

The grasshopper invasion

William Knight describes the grasshopper invasion of 1870 as follows:

The grasshoppers were so thick you could hardly see the sun for them. They would try to fly across the lake, but could not make it and were drowned. The waves washed them up in windrows on the shore. Window curtains when exposed would be eaten, or anything hanging on a clothesline. I went to Ogden one morning. When I left, I passed an acre patch of good green beans. When I came back toward evening, the patch was stripped entirely bare. John Spiers plowed up a good patch of alfalfa where the grasshopper eggs were thick just before they were ready to hatch. (7)

Joseph Stanford

It may be said with propriety that a small mine of wealth has been discovered by the settlers in the shape of extensive salt beds from which the people this year have drawn considerable revenue. They (the salt beds) are formed by the waters of the Salt Lake flowing up a creek in the winter season, which creek abounds with deep holes. In these holes, the salt settles and crystallizes in about three layers or stratas, each from 12 to 18 inches thick. After the water recedes to the lake, these holes are pumped out and the work of removing the solid crystals of salt is commenced. It is then ground and hundreds of tons at $42 a ton, or $43.50 have been loaded on the cars for shipment of a distance of four miles. Much has been realized from this source by the people this present year. (8)

Joseph Singleton

Plain City in the early days always had a brass band, a choir, a dramatic association, and a baseball team.

The first band was organized in the summer of 1864 or 1865, with Thomas Singleton as leader. Mr. Singleton was a native of England. A man by the name of George Parkman came up from Salt Lake City to organize the band and give lessons to the players. The first instruments were purchased from the Fort Douglas Band, the money being raised by donations of cash and molasses. Will Geddes gave the first $5, and others soon followed his lead. The organization took place in the front yard of the old Singleton home, as it was summer and there was plenty of room outside. Mother wished to give Mr. Parkman a good meal, so she sent all over Plain City to try to borrow some white flour; but failing in this, she had to set the familiar "short bread" before him.

I was one of the party that came up to where Plain City now stands in the fall of 1858. We camped where the big levee was. A party consisting of Joseph Skeen, Collet Hopkins, David Francis, Thomas Fryer, Robert Maw, with others—don't remember their names—with Mr. Garner, who lived on Mill Creek near where the Slaterville creamery now stands (1819) was made.

With Mr. Garner as a guide, we followed up Mill Creek to where Mill Creek crossed Twelfth Street. From there, with a level made out of a 16-foot two-by-four, grooved tripod, with water in the groove to act as a level, from this point as described on Twelfth Street, the Plain City Canal from this point to Big Levee was made.

The preliminary survey was made by Mr. Garner. The tripod was carried by William Skeen and myself, and the water to fill the level when it was rested was carried in a canteen by Joseph Skeen.

This preliminary survey was made to the Big Levee in the fall of 1858. Then we worked on the Big Levee that fall till we went back to Lehi. In March, 1859, we moved to where Plain City is now established.

In the spring of 1859, Joseph Skeen brought a surveyor, Jess Fox, to Plain City, and he resurveyed the canal over. The preliminary survey was made by Mr. Garner, and after that, we went back and made a survey from Mill Creek to the Ogden River.

I came to Plain City with John Draney, Sam Parke and the Garners, two or three days after the first arrivals. When we came, there was little or no snow on the ground. Two or three days after, a snow storm came. The ground was covered with high bench grass. (12)

Edwin Dix

Edwin Dix was born February 14, 1838, near the cathedral town of Hereford, England. At the age of four years, in care of my mother, we journeyed to England. My father, going before us, had provided a little home for our reception. I remember it as incidental to the journey. We traveled by stage and railway. Railroad travel was only in its infancy. I recall the novelty of the signals, red and green.

Upon our arrival in London, we were met by my father. He conveyed us to the little home he had provided. At the age of eight years, I began my school years, the school numbering one hundred seventy pupils, called monitors. Notwithstanding the large number under this teacher's control, the discipline and morale were excellent. My school days were ended at the age of thirteen.

I then became a wage earner. I was employed by Reeves and Sons, an old firm of manufacturers. Their product was of the finest kind of artists' materials. Their materials were exported to nearly all the civilized countries of the world. The firm, being located in the very heart of London, was close to St. Paul's Cathedral, the big general post
office, the Bank of England, the Royal Exchange, the Guild Hall, and many other places. It was the noted thoroughfare known as the cheap side. While employed at this firm, I may say I got the major part of my education by home study.

At the expiration of three years, on account of ill health, I left there and started as an apprentice in my father's established business, as a marble and stone worker. When I was 19, I became obsessed by a romantic desire resulting in my leaving a good home and emigrating to the United States.

In March, 1857, I was married to Miss Hannah Booty. She was united with me in a desire to see America. We, accordingly, took passage for the honeymoon on the good sailing ship, George Washington, making the trip from Liverpool to Boston in 21 days. We remained there only a few days. I anticipated Horace Greeley's advice to "Go west, young man, go west." I found employment at the only marble shop in town at that time.

I recall among the families located there at that time was the Taylor family, William and Joseph. They were established in the Merchant Taylor business. Also, the McKay family, David McKay, father of David O. and Thomas McKay, was there.

Iowa City was at the time essentially a frontier city with the state capital being located there. This gave to Iowa City its chief importance. During my residence there, the capital was transferred to Des Moines and substituted by locating the state university there. The exchange resulted largely in promoting the activities of Iowa City.

In 1858, I went to St. Louis, making the trip by water from Muscatine, Iowa, on the Mississippi River. On arriving at St. Louis, I received favorable offers for employment at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, so I returned and accepted the work.

Again, responding to the call of the wild in the early part of May, 1859, we took the trail with many others who were seeking to better their fortunes by still wooing the Golden West -- Colorado, next to California being the chief attraction. We made the journey from Iowa to Salt Lake City by ox team and wagons of primitive type, getting our first glimpse of Salt Lake City on the morning of August 29, 1859.

After resting and recuperating a few days, I started out on foot to the newly settled colony of Plain City, Weber County, arriving there in the early days of September, about five months after the first settlement was made. I also met my sister and her husband, George Musgrave, who had crossed the plains in 1857 and located in Lehi, Utah, and then moved to Plain City later. On inquiry and to my great disappointment, I found there was no land or even a city lot obtainable--its being more or less perilous to occupy the land on account of Indian depredations which were not uncommon at that time. I then returned to Salt Lake City and took employment as winter was drawing near.

Having earned sufficient to provide for the coming winter, I then returned to Plain City to spend the winter of 1859-60 under the sheltering
roof of a dugout owned by Charles Neal. This commodious dugout afforded shelter at night for three families; namely, Mr. and Mrs. Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave, my wife and myself. There were a very limited few occupying living quarters above the ground during that winter.

In the spring of 1860, I struck out in the company of Charles Neal to seek employment in Salt Lake City. I found employment with Thomas Ellerbeek as a helper on his extensive fruit garden grounds. Mrs. Ellerbeek had just received by Pony Express an assortment of fine varieties of strawberry plants, packed in charcoal. I, being employed in the planting part, cared for the precious plants. I was fortunate on leaving Mr. Ellerbeck's employment, to obtain from him about 25 small plants, bringing them back to Plain City, where they grew and multiplied wonderfully. They proved to be pioneers of great value giving Plain City the credit of being the first to grow the luscious fruit in Weber County. Many will remember that nearly every garden in Plain City had its strawberry patch.

Realizing my desire to have a farm, I built a very small one-room house of adobe, or sundried bricks, using willows and straw and dirt for the roof. I had then made by cultivation of my city lot, a very fine garden spot. I took part in labor of building the canal, conveying the water first from Mill Creek, and later from Ogden River. The water obtained at that time was very limited. Still the pioneers of March 17, 1859, obtained sufficient to mature potatoes, melons, corn, and a small quantity of wheat.

About this time, the proposed temple in Salt Lake City was commenced. Responding to the many urgent calls, I reluctantly took employment in the building of the temple, working 18 months as granite cutter, and working at intervals on building the Salt Lake Theater. During my stay there, I saw it completed. I also saw the first performance. The first play was presented by John T. Cane, Phil Margetts, Harry Bowry, David McKenzie, and Henry Maiben. I also saw many fine productions such as "Green Bush," "Ifigomar," "Damon Phythias," and later "Julia Dean Hayne."

After my employment on the temple was terminated, I was employed at Fort Douglas, building the first quarters of General Patrick and California soldiers. While employed there, I witnessed the departure of General Conner and his men going north to give wholesome chastisement to the Indians. I also witnessed their return and the funerals of the dead soldiers.

In 1890, I was elected County Assessor of Weber County. I served two terms and was elected for the third term in 1902. I then served four successive terms. In 1902, I made my home in Ogden. Always taking an active part in public affairs, I was chosen County Chairman of the Republican Party committee during three presidential campaigns.

In 1884, I visited my home in London, England. At that time, I had my father and four brothers and one sister. At the present time, I am the only survivor. In June, 1905, I was married to Mrs. Rebecca Read.
Coburn. She died in December, 1924. She was survived by myself and our daughter, Alice Dix.

In 1916, I did my last public work in the assessor's office, in the revision of the scales of valuation for the assessment purpose. These same being made necessary by legislative enactment of the law, requiring basis, I undertook this work reluctantly. It proved to be the most strenuous work I ever undertook, and no doubt resulted in the permanent impairment to my eyesight in 1917. Since that time, I have passed the years in retirement.

At this time, I am survived by seven daughters by my first wife, Hannah Booty Dix, who are as follows:

Victorene Spiers
Julia Chadwick
Louisa Sheepwesson
Lydia Purdy
Florence Purdy all of Ogden
Emily Hunt of Baker, Oregon
Edith Christensen of Plain City

I am survived by one daughter by my second wife. Her name is Rebecca Read Dix. So far, I have 25 grandchildren and 71 great grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren. (13)

Now it is 1957, and Grandpa has passed away and five of his daughters by his first wife. Florence Purdy and Edith Christensen survive Grandpa Dix and Grandma Hannah Booty Dix, and Alice Dix is the lone survivor of Grandpa and Rebecca Read Dix. (13)

Thomas England

The following excerpts were written by Rex McIntire, nephew of Lester England. They were told to him by Mr. England.

Although Mr. England was born in Bridport, England, he has lived in Plain City since the age of two. Being only two years old at the time, Thomas had very little to say about coming to America, but his parents came to Utah because of a religious motive, they being Mormon converts. Thomas became a member of the church at the age of eight when he was baptized by immersion in the Weber River. It was customary to baptize in the local irrigation canal but his baptismal services came so late in the summer that the canal was dry.

Most of his childhood life was very simple; the chief break in monotony came in the few church duties which were conferred upon him.

It is very customary for the community of Plain City to have a baseball team during the summer months. This custom prevailed at the time of Mr. England's young manhood; he served in the capacity of catcher on the team. He told me that he could prove this point quite easily by
showing me his hands. Upon my examination of his hands, I found several knuckles which had been broken by baseballs glancing off the bat. He wore no glove or similar protection of any kind. He tells me that "that was the time when only men played the great American sport."

In reading about any early western town, we all remember the familiar old merchandise store which was stocked with everything from hardware to confections. In 1886, Mr. England went into the mercantile business in the north end of Plain City. The store was quite a large building built next to his house. He and his family served the community as village merchants for the next 37 years under this roof. He purchased salt, potatoes, fruit, and asparagus from the local farmers, and shipped to the mining centers of the West, Butte, Montana, being his chief market. Mr. England wasn't exactly forced out of business, but when a neighbor would ask for credit, he never refused; consequently, he had too many debtors. When he closed doors a few years after the close of the World War (I), he had several thousand dollars out on credit. The very fact, however, that he served the community as storekeeper during the town's infancy makes his name one of historical importance.

Speaking of historical importance, this next statement may be a trifle startling to some, but when I asked Mr. England what thing he considered one of his greatest contributions to the community, he told me that it was his purchase of a hayrake. This contrivance was the first of its kind to be brought into this part of the country. With it, he raked hay for the sum of 35 cents an acre during the summer months.

At this point, we had better gain some insight as to the personal family life of our subject. On January 8, 1880, he was married to Ellen Butler in Salt Lake City. By this marriage, one son was born. It was but a few months after the birth of this child that his young wife died in his arms. This death occurred upon the lot on which I live today. Grief stricken at his young wife's death, he knew not which way to turn. Many men have made grave mistakes in trying to make decisions during crucial moments such as these. Mr. England realized this, and tried to think clearly in the face of everything. Finally, he went to an elderly person for advice and was told to go to school. Acting in accord with the oldster's words, he attended the Central Academy in Ogden, and graduated after an attendance period of two years. It might be interesting to note that the school of which I spoke was located on 25th Street and Grant Avenue in Ogden, the spot where the Elks' Lodge stands today.

It wasn't long after graduation that he made a trip to Logan to witness the dedication of the new Mormon temple. Upon his arrival there, he found that all the hotels in town were filled to capacity. Several townspeople, however, sent word to the hotels that they could take care of a number of visitors in their private homes. A family by the name of Hayball was among these, and it was to this home that Mr. England was referred. It was by this reference that he met his second wife, Ellen Hayball Watson, who had recently suffered the death of her first husband. After a short period of courtship, they were married and moved to Plain City.
At this time in Mr. England's life, it seems that his friends decided it was time for him to enter the political field. His first calling was that of a school board trustee. It had never been his policy to make quick and impulsive decisions, and it was this qualification which placed him in the Utah State Legislature in 1909. Being a good speaker and one to entertain clear thoughts before speaking, he made a very capable legislator. The most important bill he helped pass was that bill which appropriated the money for the building of the present state capitol building. The ensuing twenty years, he was very active in state and county politics and in 1910 was appointed bailiff of the First District Court in Ogden. During the ten years which he spent in this capacity, he became acquainted with nearly every person who was arrested in Weber County during that period.

He retired from public service in 1931, and has contented himself with managing his eighty-acre farm located east of his home town. The death of Mrs. England, his second wife, occurred September 5, 1937, and he now lives alone and very independently goes on about his own business. He enjoys fine health and follows closely each turn of current events, both at home and abroad. His opinion of the present war is to let them keep it "over there."

In choosing Thomas England's life as a subject, I have not chosen the most picturesque or romantic character possible, but rather, I have chosen a man whose outstanding qualities of perseverance and careful analysis have made him an admired figure in the eyes of every associate.

(45)
APPENDIX B

THE EARLY SCHOOL

Memories of Mary Ann Geddes

William McGuire was the second school teacher in Plain City, the first one, as I remember, to teach in the little adobe schoolhouse on the south side of the square. We had a piece of board with the alphabet burned on it. William Geddes carried part of the Bible to school with him to learn to read.

We also read from the church publications, Harper's Weekly, The Contributor, Women's Exponent, etc. The first readers I remember were Wilson's, Bancroft's, McGuffey's. We studied grammar from Primary Grammar; arithmetic, from Ray's Arithmetic. In McGuire's school, we also had a blackboard upon which the letters of the alphabet were written. Some of the literature we read was from the Ogden Junction, Millennial Star, Journal of Discourses, Bible, Doctrine and Covenants, and the Book of Mormon. I attended school in 1873 at George Musgrave's home.

There were two little adobe rooms at first; then, George Musgrave built a large schoolroom west of them. Mrs. Musgrave assisted him, teaching in addition to the rudimentary studies, fancy work and sewing to the girls. Our crochet hooks were made from a piece of highly polished sagebrush. Tuition was $3 a quarter. George Spiers said that Minnie Carver would be the best girl in the school if the others didn't spoil her.

Spelling was mostly oral. Our textbook was the Elementary Spelling Book.

There were no school bells in those days. The master, Mr. McGuire, called the school together by going to the door and shouting, "books, books," at the top of his voice. The pupils ran as fast as they could, for vae betide the laggard. If a child misbehaved, and was not caught, the whole school was "thrashed" in order to punish the guilty one.

The Bible was the principal textbook used. Those who could afford them had slates. The first piece I ever owned was a piece given me by Seretta Raymond. It had broken off from her slate. She gave me a small piece to use for a pencil. In order to keep Jack Spiers out of mischief, Mr. McGuire tied him to a table leg.

All these first schools were tuition schools. A certain sum per quarter was paid to the teacher by the parents, who were also required
to furnish all necessary supplies to their children.

On the 18th of September, 1870, the first trustees of Plain City were elected. They were William W. Raymond, William Geddes, and William Van Dyke.

Other early school teachers were Louise Hopkins Brown, Minn Raymond, Dudley Brothers, Mary Ann Spiers and her daughter, Alberta.

Holes for ink wells were bored in the board desks of the first schoolhouse. Pupils brought their own ink, one well serving three or four.

The first stove used was a large round stove placed in the middle of the room that roasted the kids who were unfortunate enough to be near it and froze the ones farther away.

Some of the girls paid their tuition by helping Mrs. Musgrave clean the schoolhouse on Saturdays. Lena Swenson was one who helped earn her tuition this way. Dances were held in this schoolhouse. Tom and Billy Robson played at some of these dances. (12)

Edward H. Anderson

Superintendent Edward H. Anderson left a first-hand account of what the school was like in 1885:

In the afternoon I went to the Plain City School, where Mr. George H. Carver assisted by Miss Green has charge of nearly 100 children, ranging from six to twenty-five years of age. When it is known that all these are in one crowded, though otherwise comfortable, room with two classes reciting continually, no person will wonder that the school was noisy. This settlement, like a number of others, needs a graded school. The advantages would soon repay the expenditure. With the gradual improvements that are being made, this desirable end will, no doubt, soon be attained. Only two years ago, the school had no school desks that were worthy of the name. Now the house is well furnished with patent desks. (35)

Joseph S. Perry

Seven years later, in 1892, Superintendent Joseph S. Perry recorded the following in his school journal:

Grammar Department, L. Skeen, Jr., teacher, 72 pupils present, 84 pupils enrolled. Notwithstanding the large attendance, the order of Mr. Skeen's school is good. He teaches in a quiet, effective way. All the pupils are busy. Pupils are seated according to their grade; intellectual arithmetic, good work, World Reader; much interest, thorough preparation.
Intelligent busy work is given. Pupils know quotations and much attention is paid to general lessons.

Friday afternoon is given to Literary Exercises, and the school is turned over to the president of the organization. The school is doing excellent work, and Mr. Skeen is deserving of high commendation.

Primary Department, Miss Mira Gray, teacher. Miss Gray is a successful teacher. She strives continually to improve, and she takes great interest in her work. The school is well disciplined. A marked improvement in the order of the room is noticed. Writing is good, ruled slates, number work, picture stories, chart class, pupils read naturally, good language work. I was very pleased with Miss Gray's school.

In July, 1905, the Plain City School was consolidated along with the rest of the school districts of Weber County.

In 1906, a new 4-room schoolhouse was built at Plain City by P. A. Isaksen, at a contract cost of $7,584. This new building was recommended by Superintendent W. N. Petterson to take care of students from Plain City and the children from the Poplar School. (The Poplar School was closed in the spring of 1906.) Mr. John Q. Blaylock was the first principal with three teachers under him. Later the school was enlarged by fixing two rooms in the basement and six teachers were employed.

On the recommendation of Superintendent W. N. Petterson, the ninth grade was established in the fall of 1907 at the Plain City School. Ten students applied for ninth-grade work the first year. The principal’s salary was raised $5 per month to compensate for the extra work. In 1909, the ninth grade was offered with tuition free, but the students had to purchase their own textbooks from the Board of Education. In 1911, the ninth grade was discontinued when the Board decided to accept the offer of Ogden City Schools to accept eighth grade graduates into Ogden High School.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent B. A. Fowler, a junior high department was created in the fall of 1920, consisting of seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The ninth-grade students from Warren were transported to Plain City. In order to accommodate the junior high, it was necessary to add to the school building. A contract was awarded to William Treseder and Son on February 28, 1921, for $15,996.

John T. Wahlquist was the first principal of the Plain City School after the junior high department was established. Under his principalship, the curriculum was increased, giving sewing to the girls and woodwork for the boys.

The tenth grade was added to the school during the fall of 1921. However, this arrangement was only for a short time, due to lack of rooms and proper facilities. In 1933, the seventh and eighth grades from Warren were transported to Plain City.

In 1936, a contract was awarded to Campion Company of Ogden for $19,990 for the construction of a gymnasium-auditorium at Plain City.
This addition was recommended by Superintendent Keith Wahlquist to make possible the enlargement of the extra-curricular program of the school and the community. It also made room for the addition of the tenth grade.

A project was launched by the faculty during the school year of 1940-41 to try and bring closer relationship between the school and the community. (35)

Rulon Jenkins

The following report was written by Rulon Jenkins, Principal of the Plain City School:

Our school has, in addition to the regular school work, tried to bring closer community and school relations. An outstanding project came to a successful close March 5 of this year. This project was sponsored by our Physical Education Department. Early in the fall, invitations were sent out to the parents of our school district, inviting them to attend a "Social Recreation Class," to be held one night a week in our school gymnasium under the direction of our physical education teachers.

The invitations received a rousing response. Thirty couples indicated their desire to attend each week, while sixteen others wanted to come occasionally. Since about seventy people can be accommodated nicely at an evening class, this type of attendance was convenient. Each evening those attending were divided into mixed teams, and a regular program of games was conducted. By agreement at our first meeting, play began at 7 P. M., and ended promptly at 9:45 P. M. After this, lunch was served by members of the class.

Volleyball, van ball, shuffleboard, badminton, table tennis, corner soccer, and other social games were played each night. The teachers and parents entered freely into these games, and a congenial feeling grew noticeably. This led to freer discussions and better understandings in our community. (35)

In the fall of 1944, the school at Warren was closed on the recommendation of Superintendent A. Parley Bates and all the students were transported to Plain City.

Principals of the Plain City School, 1905-1958:

1. Willard S. Burton 1905-1906
2. John Q. Blaylock 1906-1909
3. John Wheeler 1909-1914
4. John C. Neal 1914-1921
5. John T. Wahlquist 1921-1922
6. Keith Wahlquist 1922-1924
7. Howard Grant 1924-1927
8. Verlan Braithwaite 1927-1928
9. J. Leland Gibson 1928-1934
10. John M. Reese 1934-1937
11. Rulon Jenkins 1937-1945
12. Don C. Carver 1945-1948
13. Earl B. Cragun 1948-

On the recommendation of Superintendent A. Parley Bates, a new lunch room addition was constructed at Plain City during the 1947-1948 school year. The contract for this addition was awarded by the Board of Education to Earl S. Paul at a cost of $23,650. (21)

Present-day Status

At the present time (June, 1948), this school has grades one to ten. There are eight teachers and a principal. (35)

The status of the Plain City School as of November 1, 1958, is as follows:

Students enrolled 405
Teachers 13
Lunch room workers 4
Custodians 2

There are two sections of each grade, except the first and second have two and one-half.

Teachers presently employed

The teachers who are at present teaching in the Plain City School are:

Earl B. Cragun, Principal
Margaret E. Cottle
Flora R. Cragun
Florence B. Hadley
Genevieve W. Jenkins
Edith C. Jones
Ruth N. Knight
Dwayne Manful
Vera Palmer
Ronald Ricks
Laurene Roberts
Ethel W. Skeen
Lorin K. Wiser
Margene Fern Tovey

The school still serves as a community center. It is still being used for activities, such as P. T. A. meetings, parent-education classes, community sponsored dinners, entertainments, and competitive athletics. (39)
During the fourth war loan drive (1942), a group of six Plain City students helped to sell $17,018.70 in stamps and bonds. Some of the most active members were Lois Simpson, LaRee Maw, Neta Thompson, Vira Beth Robson, Thayne Knight, and Keith Lund. (20)
APPENDIX C

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations (Mormon Church)

Primary - 1860 (November 11), Susanna Robinson, President
Relief Society - 1868, Almire Raymond, President
Young Ladies Retrenchment Society - 1875 (now known as the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association)
Young Mens Mutual Improvement Association - 1876, William England, President
Sunday School - 1864
Seventies Quorum - 1881, Peter Folkman, President, Alonzo Knight, Charles Weatherston
Deacons Quorum - September 30, 1877
Elders Quorum - Unknown

Bishops and Presiding Elders

Presiding Elder William W. Raymond 1859-1863
Presiding Elder John Carver 1863-1866
Presiding Elder William W. Raymond 1866-1870
Presiding Elder L. W. Shurtliff 1870-1877
Bishop L. W. Shurtliff 1877-1883
Bishop C. W. Bramwell, Jr. 1883-1906
Bishop Henry J. Garner 1906-1910
Bishop Henry T. Maw 1910-1913
Bishop Gilbert Thatcher 1913-1920
Bishop Wilmer J. Maw 1920-1926
Bishop George A. Palmer 1926-1936
Bishop Charles L. Heslop 1936-1944
Bishop Elvin H. Maw 1944-1949
Bishop George E. Knight 1949-1953
Bishop Merrill Jenkins 1953-1959
Bishop Lyman Cook 1959-

First Counselors

Daniel Collett 1859-1866
John Carver 1866-1877
John Spiers 1877-1895
Abraham Maw 1895-1901
Peter C. Green 1901-1903
Henry J. Garner 1903-1906
Peter M. Folkman 1906-1910
James L. Robson 1910-1920
George A. Palmer 1920-1926
Elvin H. Maw 1926-1936
Gordon F. Thompson 1936-1944
L. Rulon Jenkins 1944-1949
Leslie T. Maw 1949-1953
Elmer Ericson 1953-1956
Rulon Chugg 1956-1959
Thad Carlson 1959-

Second Counselors 1859-1872
Jeppe G. Folkman 1872-1877
John Spiers 1877-1901
Peter C. Green 1901-1903
Samuel P. Draney 1903-1906
Peter M. Folkman 1907-1910
William G. Rhead 1910-1913
Willard C. Carver 1913-1914
Marion Knight 1914-1920
William England, Jr. 1920-1926
Elvin H. Maw 1926-1936
Thomas Jenkins 1936-1944
Abraham E. Maw 1944-1946
Fred L. Singleton 1946-1949
Llewellyn Hipwell 1949-1953
Howard Hadley 1953-1955
William J. Searcy 1956-1959
LeRoy Folkman 1959-
Kent Jenkins 1959-

Ward Clerks 1859-1872
John Spiers 1872-1887
William W. McGuire 1887-1890
George Carver 1890-1903
Peter C. Green 1903-1907
William Kenley 1907-1914
William A. Kerr 1914-1936
William H. Heslop 1936-1942
LeRoy Folkman 1942-1944
Fred L. Singleton 1944-1947
Walter Moyes 1947-1951
A. Lew Jenkins 1951-1953
Herbert E. Barnes 1953-1958
Blair Simpson 1958-1959
Glen Charlton 1959-
Eldon Weston 1959-

Finance Clerks 1956-1959
Willard Wayment
Harold Hadley )
Wayne Skeen )

Episcopal Ministers 1959-
Reverend Gillogy
Reverend Samuel Unsworth
Reverend James Young
Reverend Parker
Reverend John W. Heslop
Deaconess Mrs. Shepard

Dates that they served are not available
APPENDIX D

HOMES OF COLONISTS

The first homes in Plain City were "dugouts" as these were the quickest and easiest made in that timberless and rockless region.

These dugouts had dirt floors and roofs, a fireplace in one end and a window in the other. There was no window glass. At first, sagebrush was used for fuel and also to give light. The dugouts were usually about 10 1/2 by 15 feet. It was necessary to go down steps to get inside.

Some were made entirely of dirt and sod, some of dirt and boards. There was usually a fireplace in the back end or at one side. Sod was sometimes used in the construction of the wall. The floors got so hard in summer that they could be wiped clean with a wet cloth. A bake kettle hung in the fireplace. There were cupboards built in the side walls with boards and shelves. The fireplaces were built of adobe.

I was over two years old when my brother, James, was born in Slatterville, where Mother and the children lived during the summer of 1859, while Father (John Carver) was preparing our home in Plain City. I can remember digging a place in the dirt floor by my mother's bed and filling it with water to play in.

Charles Neal is credited with having the first dugout in Plain City, located where Neta Charlton's home now stands.

The roofs were first covered with cottonwood timbers and willows from the Weber River, then a layer of rushes, and last a thick layer of dirt. When the road to North Ogden Canyon was opened up, logs and crude lumber became available for the construction of log homes.

There were not many log houses at first in Plain City. Joseph Skeen built the first log house in Plain City in the summer or fall of 1859. William Raymond moved one from Slatterville to Plain City in the same year. John Carver's log house was built in the summer of 1860. The road up North Ogden Canyon was finished in 1860 and became a toll road. The preparing of logs in those days for building was a tedious process. They were hand sawed in pits dug for this purpose and trimmed with axes. The first shingles used in Plain City were also handmade with saws, chisels and hammers being used in their construction.

Boards were also made by hand by a North Ogden man.
The dirt floors in the early Plain City homes were succeeded by flat rocks hauled from the Springs, then adobes, and later brick, after the establishment of the brick yards. Then came the split log or puncheon floors, and last, rough board floors full of knot holes. A cellar was usually placed under the house--paper being pasted over the cracks in the floor to keep out the cold. The frame work of the chairs was usually made of cottonwood or willows with rawhide or cane seats.

Lumber and glass began to be used in the construction of homes in the early sixties. Some furniture was made of dry goods boxes. Tree stumps were sometimes used for chairs. The first home-made dishes were carved from wood. Some crockery was obtained from Brown's Crockery Factory in Brigham City.

Our first brooms were made from sage and rabbit brush. Later they were made from broom corn. The first lights were "bitch" lights, made of strips of cloth twisted together and set in a dish of grease. (12)
APPENDIX E

STOCKMEN

Early-day Stockmen

Gus Peterson
William, Joseph and Lyman Skeen
Alonzo Knight
Clayborne Thomas
William Knight
James Madison Thomas
William Wallace Raymond
Milo Sharp
William Geddes
Thomas and James England (5)

Present-day Stockmen

Loyd Olsen
Quentin Jenkins
Ted Christensen
Abram Maw (40)

Present-day Dairy Herds

Merwin Thompson
Ralph Robson Sons
Keith Blanch
Clair and Robert Folkman
Fenton McFarland
George Markos
Leslie Maw
Bert Hunt
Paul Knight
Orson Knight
Noel England
Quentin Jenkins
Lewis Giles
Dan Knight
Wheatly Taylor
LeGrand Hadley
Theron Rhead

Processed Milk
Keith McBride
William Knight
Vern Palmer  
Parley Rawson  
Gordon Thompson  

Tanker Service  
Ralph Robson  
Carl Hodson (29)