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BUTLERVILLE

1847 – 1967

BUTLER VILLE 1847 -1967
Contributed by JUDY DRAPER
Submitted to Cottonwood Heights City
By Beverly Beckstead



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942-5950

COVER PHOTO-- The Deseret paper mill (The Old Mill) prior to 1893.

History Staff

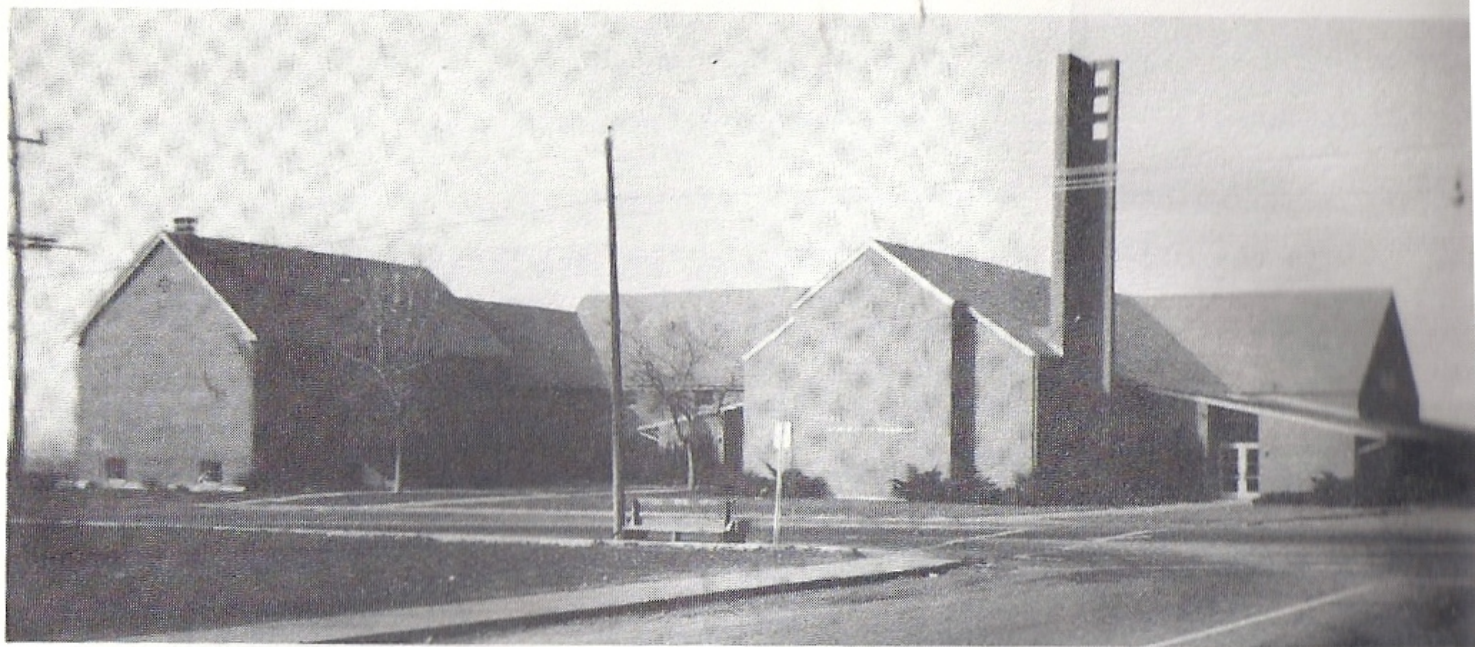
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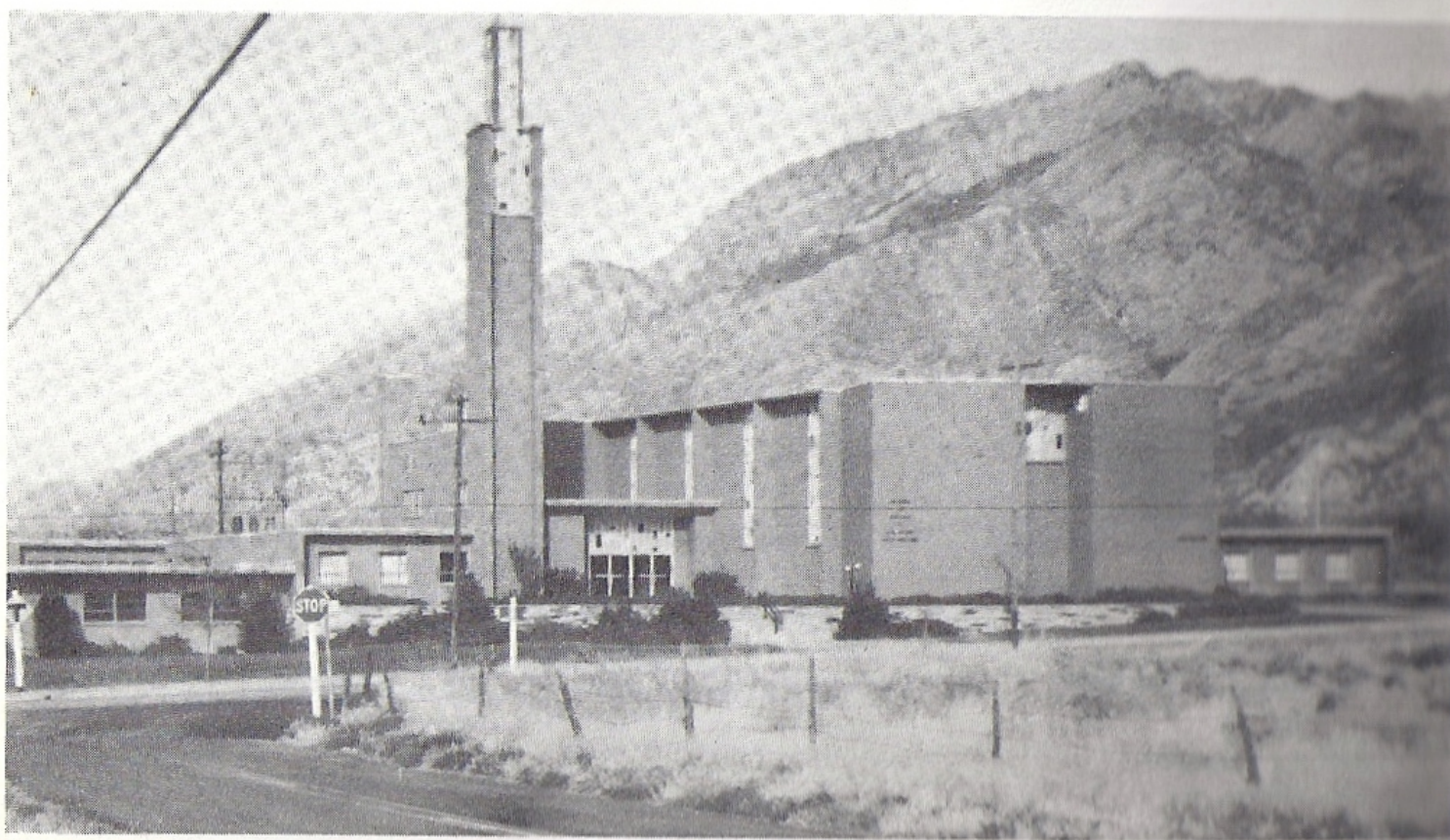


Butler Chapel Home of Butler, Butler 8th, Butler 12th Wards

THIS HISTORY COMPILED FOR THE BUTLER STAKE

5th ANNIVERSARY

NOVEMBER 18, 1962-1967



Butler Stake House

Home of Butler 3rd, Butler 6th and Butler 13th Wards

INTRODUCTION

To the old-timers it's Butlerville; to many newcomers it's Cottonwood Heights; and to many others it's simply Butler. By whatever name you choose to call this area in which we live, it is most of all a "land of promise" for the rearing of a righteous generation.

As most of us have come into this area to "plant" a home and rear our children, we have felt the special spirit that abounds among us. We firmly believe that the Lord has reserved this choice part of the Great Salt Lake Valley for those who have a desire to serve Him and build up His Kingdom.

Few of us are "natives" of the Butler area, but have come from many different parts of the county, and of the world, to build our lives here and plan for the future.

There are challenges and opportunities all around us. We have chapels to be built, new schools must be provided, parks and playgrounds are needed, and libraries, seminaries, and cultural facilities must be developed. But most of all, lives must be nurtured that from this area will come capable men and women of the future who can look to the heritage of their homes as the basis of their service to mankind.

These are challenging times in which we live. The forces of evil seem combined in massive efforts to depreciate spiritual values. Worldliness is an ever-present temptation among us. But here in Butlerville, may we find a refuge of righteousness and peace, and may we strive each

day to improve our lives that others, seeing our good works, will be led to join us, that together we may keep the commandments of God and build up His Kingdom, for the Kingdom is in our midst and we are called to labor in it.

May this historical sketch of the great Butler area be inspirational to all who read it, that we may savor the fruits of the past whose harvest we now reap, and be inspired to plant well today so that our children and our children's children can say with pride in the days to come, "See, this our fathers did for us."

Wm. James Mortimer
President
Butler Stake

A HISTORY OF BUTLERVILLE

As written by Merlin A. Butler

BUTLER BROTHERS



Top row left to right Alva, Neri
Bottom row left to right Alma, Leander, Philander, Eri
(Alma settled near Bountiful, Utah)

As I write this brief history, I do not claim that all events recorded here are entirely from my own research. I am just adding to stories that have already been written - adding a few items I can remember - and bringing the tall tales up to date. I will try to describe a few old characters, and also add a few human interest stories that might encourage more appreciation for the people who have meant so much in shaping our lives and surroundings.

When the Pioneers came to Salt Lake Valley, they used logs for the construction of most of their homes. Big Cottonwood Canyon was the main source of supply for most of this lumber, which also went into the construction of many commercial buildings throughout the Valley. The distance from the saw-mills to the city was too far for the teams to complete in one day, so there were established stopping places for them and the teamsters to rest and obtain food before continuing their journey. One of these places was at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon near the old paper mill.

A few homes were built around this stopping place. As the number of workers in the canyon increased, more people came to this particular place to build homes and provide food and other necessities. In about 1890, a post office was established at the mouth of the canyon to provide mail service for the sawyers, teamsters, and miners in the canyon. Now to go back about 1861 -- The Deseret News built a paper mill near the mouth of the canyon. Many people came to work at this mill and to gather rags to make into paper. A brewery and store were built to supply the needs of the increased population. Stone

haulers who hauled stones from Little Cottonwood Canyon to the Salt Lake Temple site had a stopping place west of the canyon, which was located at about 7000 South and 2000 East, and was better known to the old timers as Colebrooks Corner. Around these centers, farmers began to take up land and to build permanent homes. Among the earliest of these settlers were the five Butler brothers and the four McGhies. An election was held to choose a name for the town. Since there was one more Butler than McGhie, the name chosen was Butlerville. According to the L.D.S. ward records, the place was named in special honor of Alva Butler, who was the Bishop of the Old Granite Butler Ward. The town continued to increase in population and became noted for its fine fruits, farm products, and poultry products. Later it became noted for its fur farms and more recently as a fine residential area.

Looking back still farther to 1854, we find that Feramorz Little became associated with Daniel H. Wells and Brigham Young in the lumber business. Associated with them were A. O. Smoot, Frederick Kessler and C. F. Decker. This association was known as "Big Cottonwood Lumber Company." In that year and the following, they superintended the construction of the Big Cottonwood Canyon road. They also constructed five sawmills along the canyon stream. This was a very large undertaking, considering the fact that all machinery had to be hauled from Missouri in wagons. This company soon divided, and Feramorz Little went into business with C. F. Decker, and their company was known as "Little and Decker." For several years they conducted a very successful business, and they were considered to be the leading lumber men in the State of Utah. They marketed about a million board feet of lumber each year. This was an important factor in building up the new settlements.

Little and Decker later sold out to Armstrong and Bagley. These two enterprising young men had learned the business while employed by Little and Decker. They were so enterprising that one morning when Neri Butler and William Blair started up the canyon, lo and behold they encountered a toll gate at the mouth of the canyon and two guards to collect money for entering. After a brief argument Butler and Blair broke off an oak limb and persuaded the guards to let them through. No more trouble with toll gates was encountered from that day on.

The Butler boys became interested in and built mills in the canyon. Alva Butler operated a mill at the mouth of the canyon just below the present Salt Lake City water intake plant. Philander Butler owned and operated a steam sawmill at Butler fork. Neri Butler owned a steam mill near the mouth of the canyon directly in front of the home of Louis Ozancin. He owned another water driven mill at Brighton which operated until about 1930. The Green family owned a mill about four miles below Brighton. They later sold out to a Mr. Kuke (pronounced Cook) and his boys. Mr. Kuke and sons operated this mill until sometime in the 1930's when it burned down. It was never rebuilt. A community was started at Mill "D" which is now known as the Spruces Picnic Area. A boarding house, a dance hall and cabins were built for the workers. They furnished their own music for the dances. The old timers described this period as a very enjoyable time in their lives.

The lumber from the mills had to be hauled out of the canyon by teams of oxen or horses. It was brought out to the mouth of the canyon in one day's haul. It was then taken on to the city on another day by another group. The original group would return up the canyon with supplies on the second day. While hauling

lumber from the mills Richard Maxfield and Charles Wooton saw something shining on a rocky ledge. The next morning on their way up the canyon they stopped to investigate and found a vein of rich Galena Ore. This was the beginning of the Maxfield mine which, over the years, produced a large amount of valuable ore. Mr. Maxfield and Mr. Wooton didn't have enough money to develop and operate this mine by themselves, so they had to sell most of their interests to a mining company. They became just small share holders. Before the big strike was made, the working assessments had completely exhausted Maxfield and Wooton's shares so they had to fall back on farming and hauling lumber. Millions of dollars worth of silver ore was taken from the old Maxfield mine, but the veins ran deeper until underground water finally forced abandonment of operations. Many lessors have since tried to operate the mine at a profit, but all efforts have failed.

Other mines soon opened up and prospectors were busy throughout the canyon. Some of the most important mines in the canyon were the Cardiff, the Prince of Wales, the Tar Baby, the Alta Tunnel, the Coalition and the Kessler Peak. All these mines produced lead and silver ore and the Prince of Wales produced some gold. The Prince of Wales mine was owned by a Mr. Goodspeed and was located in Silver Fork. Several other mines in the canyon produced some rich ore, but all are closed now. A few lessors still do a little prospecting, but no ore is being shipped at the present time. The ore deposits in some of these old mines are still there but operational costs prohibit mining. Ore from the mines in Big Cottonwood Canyon was hauled to the smelters in Sandy, Midvale and Murray for final processing. These smelters are all torn down now or all in the dismantling process. The road to Sandy made by the ore haulers was, for them, the

easiest route; but when section lines were established, the roads were straightened to coincide with those lines.

Another mine was started in Butlerville. There was a need for silica and clay to line the furnaces in the smelters. Silica was mined along the foothills two miles east of the Butler school. Silica was sent to the Sandy and Midvale smelters. In 1910 the Utah Fireclay Company opened a Silica mine just north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The product was carried about a mile and one-half on a tramway from the mine to a point near the main canyon road. From there it was taken by truck to the plant where it was made into fire bricks and furnace linings. The mine was finally abandoned because they found too much iron in the silica. The intense heat would burn out the metal and leave a poor grade of bricks. The result was that these bricks became obsolete and no profit could be made.

More mines with richer ore were found at Alta in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Millions of dollars in ore were taken from there. However, these mines were also abandoned because of a diminishing supply of ore. Alta is now one of the most famous of winter sports areas.

Mining was hard and hazardous, especially in the winter when there was always danger of snowslides. Ore had to be "raw hided" out of the forks on cattle hides in the winter because of the deep snow. Many men were killed by snowslides, especially in Little Cottonwood Canyon. At one time in 1886, 18 men and 13 four-horse teams were killed just below Alta by what is known as Superior Slide. The lead team became stuck and no one could escape. Another time three men were killed at the Michigan Utah Mine in Mill "F" south fork in Big Cottonwood Canyon. At that time a number of local men were also buried

for several hours. Among those buried were Asa Bowthorpe; George Blair from Holliday; Henry Staker, Alonzo Green, Neri Butler, Jr. (who was my father); Loyal Andrus; Bert Atkinson; Jack Allsop; and many others who lived in or near the Butlerville area. The three men killed were in the downstairs portion of the bunk house, and two of the three killed were from Park City. This snow slide ran at about four o'clock in the morning, and it was late afternoon before they were all out and the dead bodies recovered. This happened in January 1911, and I remember the occasion very vividly.

Besides the mining and lumber business, farming attracted many settlers. Mr. Whitney homesteaded the land just below and immediately on the Butlerville Hill, and donated the land for the first log school where the church now stands. Jack Cornwall owned and farmed land on what is now Wasatch Boulevard. Hyrum Covert had property near him, and Andrew Hansen settled in what is now called Danish Town. Marshall Hunt, a company commander of the famed Mormon Battallion, settled near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon, and was later sent to take charge of the settling of the Colony at Snowflake, Arizona. Two of his grand daughters, until just recently, operated the Maxfield Lodge in the canyon. This resort has now been taken over by new management, and several million dollars will be spent in the near future to enlarge the facilities there. The two women that sold the lodge were Richard Maxfield's daughters. Nathan H. Staker had one of the first fruit orchards in the vicinity, and also ran the first grocery store. His store was established in about 1894. Eri Butler was a blacksmith and had his shop near the mouth of the canyon, directly behind Mr. Staker's orchard. Philander Butler owned a saw mill and a brewery. Neri Butler, as has been stated, owned two different saw mills. Alva Butler

operated a saw mill and farmed land he had homesteaded. Leander Butler was a farmer and owned a large acreage near the mouth of the canyon.

Now, let's go back again to the construction of the old paper mill. It was begun in 1881 under the supervision of Willard Richards. Two of the brick masons hired to lay the stones were James H. Moyle and James Muir. Machinery for the mill was hauled across country. According to Brigham Young's statement in the Tabernacle, the machinery was the best that could be obtained. It cost about twenty thousand dollars. This figure probably included the cost of erection of the mill, also. This mill was built of granite blocks from the temple quarry, at the mouth of the Little Cottonwood Canyon. In 1883 the Deseret News, operators of the old mill, announced that an important water wheel had broken and had floated down stream. There would be no evening edition of the paper until repairs could be made, and the mill was once again in operation. Power for the mill was furnished by a stream of water running a large water wheel. People were asked to save and gather rags. These rags were usually turned in at the tithing office, and scrip was issued for them. Later, the rags could be taken directly to the mill; five cents a pound was paid for the rags. When white rags could be obtained, the paper was fine in quality. Since there was no bleaching agent, paper was often gray because of the colored rags that had to be used. Whenever any article made of cloth was mislaid or lost, someone was sure to think it had been turned in for cash at the old mill. During the first 15 months of operation, 28,000 pounds of paper and paper products were turned out at the mill. On April 1, 1893, the Old Granite Paper Mill burned down. It is supposed the fire started as a result of a night watchman's lantern being tipped over into a pile of rags, while the

watchman was asleep. When the alarm was sounded, people thought it was an April fool joke, so some were slow to answer the call. As a result of the fire, the machinery, roof, and wooden interior were completely destroyed. It was never rebuilt as a paper mill because the process of making paper from the wood pulp was being widely used. Also, the railroad could now bring plenty of paper from the East. In 1928, Mr. J. B. Walker bought, remodeled, and made the mill into a dance hall and night club. It became very popular. Frequent parties and banquets are still being held there. About the same time the old mill was being operated, Philander Butler built and ran a brewery near by. About three-fourths mile from the mill, Wm. McGhie ran the first United States Post Office in the vicinity. It handled mail for the community and the canyons from 1892 to 1900 when rural delivery was started. The first rural delivery was carried by horse and buggy. Horse and buggy carried the mail until about 1920 when the first automobile was put into service. Many times after that the old horse had to substitute when the snow was too deep or snow drifted too deep on the roads.

The McGhie family consisted of the four brothers - William, Sant, John, and Tom, and several sisters. Sant was one of the first workers for the Utah Power and Light Company in the canyon. William, John, and Tom all had farms, located north of 7000 South and between 2000 East and 2300 East. William Rasmussen settled near the foothills between Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Diphtheria caused the death of several of his children, so he didn't remain here long. One of his sons established his home here, but he moved to California around 1920. Wm. Blair also had a home near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. He spent most of his life hauling ore and lumber out of

the canyons. Charles Wooton was one of the early settlers. His son Wm. Charles, became the first constable. John Harrop was the first justice of the Peace. Robert Ritter, Silas Jones, and James Harrop were some of the early settlers. Let's also give honorable mention to George Lowe, Charles Boyce, Amasy Brown, David Hilton and many others who gave the best part of their lives to the building of a fine community.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Nathan Staker and his wife, Matilda Wagstaff Staker (Aunt Tillie) as she was known by nearly all that ever knew her. Uncle Nathan, besides being storekeeper and orchardist, was foreman of the old paper mill during its operation. He and Aunt Tillie were two of the most unselfish people I have ever known. They were an ideal couple, and their kindness and sacrifice for others has been an inspiration to all that knew them.

The need for irrigation water was one of the first problems confronting the early settlers. When the ditch companies were formed, men of the community would go out and work on the ditch. Each was given one share of water stock for every rod of ditch dug. Several ditches were completed; later, dams were built in the mountains to store water for summer irrigation. The Brown and Sanford, Butler Ditch, and Little Willow are the main irrigation companies. The Deer Creek Aqueduct has been completed, and water for the community and the entire Salt Lake Valley is much more abundant. However, water is in much greater demand because of the thousands of homes being built; and, of course, all of them need water facilities.

Fruit farming was a very important industry in Butlerville, but orchards are rapidly becoming home subdivisions. Zoning laws are gradually forcing

farms to be abandoned. The entire area is being transformed into a residential area.

Now, there are a few more items that come to mind that I will mention. I remember very vividly the old ice pond about a half mile upstream or East of the old paper mill where ice was harvested two or three times each winter. An ice house or storage house made of stones and filled with sawdust, where the ice was stored for summer use by people in the community, stood near by. Townspeople would gather on harvest day. The ice would be sawed in blocks about two feet square and at times would be frozen to a depth of one foot or more. A horse would be used to draw each block from the pond. The ice would then be packed in sawdust. The blocks would be piled one on top of the other. I wonder, as I think of the old times, what has happened to the cold winters like we used to have. Some winters were so long and cold that three or four crops of ice would be stored in one winter. There would be sufficient ice on hand to last the community all summer. Remember, we didn't have refrigerators in those times, so this ice harvest was very necessary. Nearly every family had a home ice cream freezer and cows which contributed their share of the ingredients for good old home-made ice cream.

Now, another very important item that should be remembered in the record was what was first called the McGhie Springs. A beautiful stream of clear spring water that came out of the foothills at the mouth of canyon at what was called the forks of the road. About three second feet of water ran in open ditch and was partially used in the irrigation of the old McGhie place which was later bought by Hyrum Covert. I remember, as a boy, this stream,

banks lined on both sides with water cress and the water fairly seething with trout. These water rights were later sold - or practically given to Murray City and piped into a reservoir at 1500 East 7000 South where it is stored for distribution throughout Murray.

And now for the legend of Ferguson Canyon. It is told that in early Pioneer times a Mr. Ferguson became tired of life in the valley, so he went prospecting in hopes of making a quick fortune. He spent some time in the upper reaches of a small canyon just south of Big Cottonwood. After a long search, he claimed to have located an open ledge of pure gold. He reported the discovery to President Brigham Young. He was advised by President Young to go back and cover the vein and wait before bringing out any gold, as a gold rush in the valley would cause suffering and shortages among the people of the Church. After several closed sessions, Mr. Ferguson returned to the mountains and covered his claim with leaves, branches, and rocks. He marked the spot with landmarks he felt sure he could remember. Several years after the death of Brigham Young, Ferguson again took off for the hills to relocate his gold claim. This time he took several members of his family with him. As the story goes, his heart started to give out and he could go no farther. When they were about one-half mile from the spot, he pointed out the location, as nearly as he could remember from a distance. He was sure they could journey on without him and find the gold. They searched and searched but never were able to find it. The old gentleman was never able to go again, and from that time until now people by the dozens have searched for the lost gold mine in vain. Some rocks have been found bearing small amounts of gold from time to time, but nothing rich enough to

be worthwhile. Just a few summers back some boys thought they had located an old pine that should have been one of the landmarks, but they were not able to find the ore. Every year brings new hope, and people still look in vain. But who knows, maybe some day it will be found; and a fortune made in Ferguson Canyon, a beautiful little canyon named for a man who located a ledge of gold and then lost it again in early times.

From the very beginning of the history of Utah, Big Cottonwood Canyon has been one of the recreation areas favored by large numbers of people. The Utah pioneers were at Brighton celebrating the founding of the State on July 24, 1857, when word was brought to them that Johnson's Army was on its way. Ever since that time, the number of picnic areas has increased, along with the number of people using them. Some of the larger and better known areas from the mouth of the canyon are Oak Ridge, Moss Ledge, Storm Mountain, Maxfield Lodge, Lake Blanche, Burned Flat, The Spruces, and Brighton - with many more camp grounds in between. Brighton is at the head of the canyon and is surrounded by beautiful peaks. The M.I.A. home for girls, and many lodges and cabins provide facilities for comfortable living, or open camp grounds are available for the more rugged life in the open. There are a number of beautiful lakes within easy hiking distance from the main roads. In the winter numerous ski lifts operate at both Brighton and Alta, and thousands of people flock to these resorts - especially on weekends to enjoy skiing at its best. These lifts also operate all during the summer, and tourists from all over the world come to enjoy the beautiful scenic rides.

In years past, the Butlerville Hill was used for sleighing parties by people all over Salt Lake Valley. Hardly a winter evening passed without a

bonfire roaring at the top of the hill with great numbers of laughing riders going up and down the hill. Oil-surfaced roads and traffic conditions have completely put an end to this sport, but it still lingers in the minds of the old timers.

City workers enjoy the quiet and cleanliness of the country air after a busy day. As a result, hundreds of people are buying or building homes in our community. The trip to Salt Lake City can be made in about thirty minutes. After a day's work people can return to their homes which are out of the smoke and in plain view of the beautiful Wasatch Mountains.



The first school established in Butlerville was a two-room hut about one-quarter mile east of the old paper mill in the hallow near Big Cottonwood Creek. Nettie Ritter, later to become Mrs. Newcomer, was the first teacher. She had about twenty students in class. This school operated until about 1855, when a Mr. Whitney donated a few acres of land where a one-room log school with a lean-to was built. The lean-to was used for hanging coats and dinner pails. This small school was built where the church now stands. Eleanor Spencer, Nellie Pettit, and Alva J. Butler were the first three teachers of record at this school. Alva J. Butler was the son of Bishop Alva Butler. In 1893 a large brick room was added adjacent to the log room. A few years later two more brick rooms were added making a quite modern school for that time. At first, drinking water was carried in a bucket with a long-handled dipper to get water. Later, a tank with a spicket attached was installed, and paper cups were used. The green coloring in the water was not chlorophyl, but it came from the horses and cows which stood in the ditch while drinking. Sanitary conditions were not the best, as the old outside toilets were in vogue. It was quite a trip there and back, especially in the winter. But in spite of such sanitary conditions, I can't remember of any serious epidemics resulting.

The school district established in 1877 encompassed all of what is now Jordan, Murray, and Granite districts. Oscar Van Cott, Sr., was the first county Superintendent. Later, when the district was divided, Edward Ashton was made superintendent of Granite District, while Oscar Van Cott was made superintendent of Jordan District. Mr. John Smith was later elected superintendent of Jordan District. The same John Smith died recently. Not

long before his death he remarked that he considered himself to still be superintendent of the Jordan School District, as he had never been officially released from this position

Mrs. Estelle Bowthorpe, now considered to be one of the old timers, graduated from the eighth grade at Butler School in about 1901. Since there was no high school in the Jordan District, the students had their choice of going to classes at the University of Utah or the L.D.S. School of Business. The first teachers Mrs. Bowthorpe can remember at the old school were Mr. Dave Beeching and Mr. Kruson. She also remembers a hand organ Mr. Kruson had in the room to furnish what music they had in school at that time.

When the two rooms were added to the old school in 1901, they also added a long hall and the old bell tower at the west end of the hall. Each morning the old bell announced the beginning of the school day, and it could be heard all over the valley. Boys anxiously awaited their turn to ring the bell by pulling the rope which hung from the tower. It took two or three of the smaller boys to furnish sufficient weight to ring the large bell. Older boys liked to annoy the principal or janitor by ringing the bell at the wrong time. The old bell tower became quite a nuisance at times. It served as a hide-out, and often the bell would ring at all hours of the night - much to the dismay of the people in the vicinity.

In 1923, the church and school board exchanged property and sides of the road. A new school was built on the south side of the road, and more playground space was provided. The old church was torn down

and a teachers' dormitory was erected in its place. Here, on the new school grounds a baseball field was put into use; and many happy hours were spent playing the national game. The community always had a good ball team, and the townspeople came out in large numbers to give the team support. In the 1930's a C.C.C. Camp was established near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The C.C.C. Camp also had a splendid baseball team.

Some of the teachers and principals, besides those already mentioned, have been Dermont Huffaker; H. T. Walke; Wm. V. Morris; Louis Peterson; Parley Glover; Warren Lyon, Wm. Hogenson; Alonzo B. Iaacson; Benjamin Lofgren; Ivan Dalby; Ernest E. Greenwood; Horace Burgon; Pete M. Mickelsen; Harold Blair; and A. Earl Cox.

Since about 1930, there had only been six grades in school here, but since 1952, the school house has been enlarged twice. It now has twelve class rooms, a large auditorium, a lunch room and facilities, a modern kitchen where lunches are served each day. The school is considered to be quite a modern, up-to-date school.

For many years there were no high school busses, so students had to either walk or furnish their own transportation. The first bus was a wagon, with a top and side curtain, drawn by four wild and wooly ponies. John A. Maynes furnished the team, drove them, and hauled the Jordan High School students about ten miles to and from school. I remember many times that while riding this "refrigerator" bus in the winter, we would have to sit on the girls' feet to prevent them from getting frost bitten. This horse-drawn bus was finally replaced by a Model-T

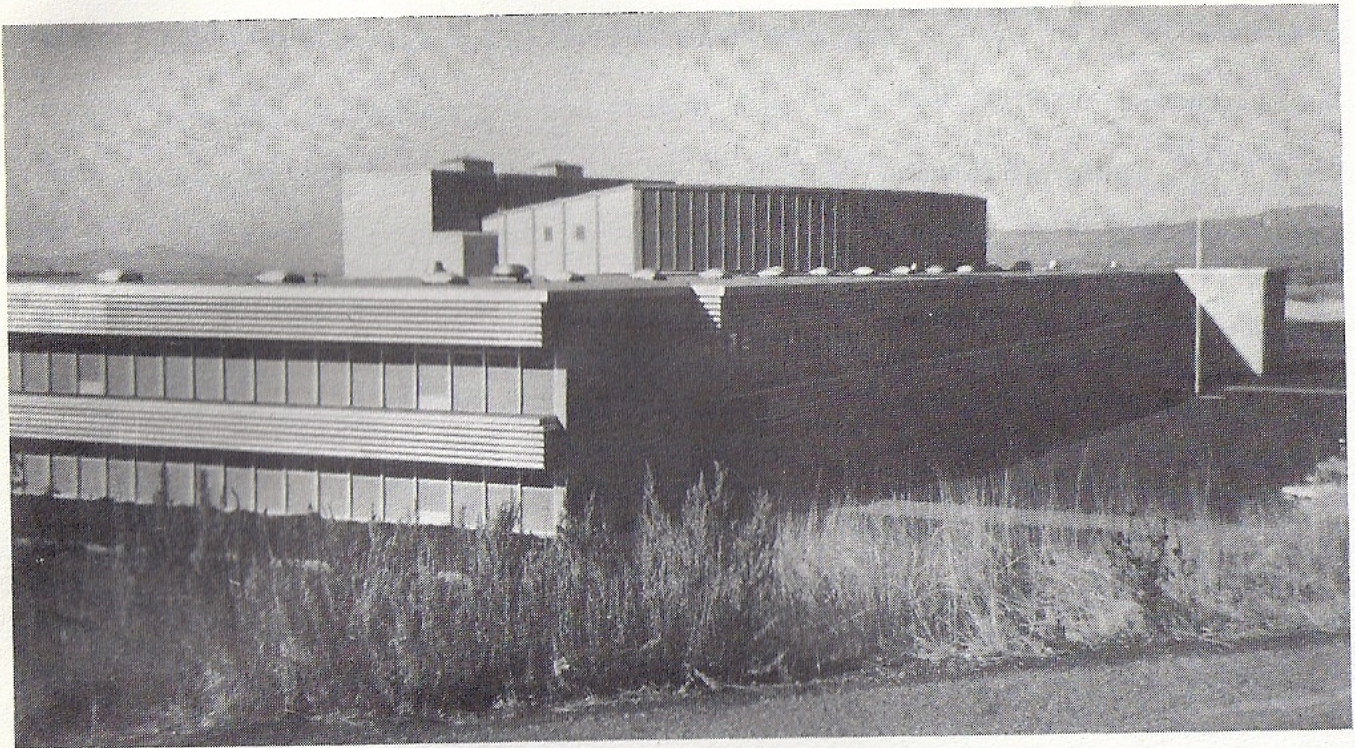
ford. We now have the most modern of busses to carry the students to the elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools. More schools are being built each year in an effort to keep pace with the expanding population.



Present Butler Elementary School



Cottonwood Elementary School



Butler Jr. High



New Brighton High School Construction Site

BUTLER STAKE
CHOICE AREA FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

By
President James Calvin Taylor
November 1962 - March 1967

We moved into the Butler area in 1956 with three small children, the oldest being two. We were delighted to find lovely people with young families endeavoring to accomplish our Heavenly Father's work in the manner those in authority desired. As we viewed the valley, much of the area immediately before us contained mink pens and cattle roaming in the open fields. Being an owner of a small herd of registered Herford cattle, I wanted to settle here.

A period of readjustment was ahead for us. Donna and I had recently been released as President of the Primary and as Bishop of the Spring Glen Ward. Thus, it took a while for us to be needed, to feel wanted and to be settled as members of this growing area. In 1957 I received a call to serve on the High Council and from this vantage point my vision of the potential of this area began to increase.

President Milne, a man of vision, a man of accomplishment, a man of faith and a man of dedication, as our leader began plans for the future. He began to build church edifices which stand as a monument to his great leadership and to the inspiration he brought to the members in the area. He truly was a "builder" in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

In 1962 and three children later, I humbly accepted a call as President of the newly organized Butler Stake November 18, 1962. The newly created Stake being the 361st Stake in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Again my faith was enlarged as I looked into the hearts of the finest young people I had yet met in the Church. Sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, who were willing to accept the challenge of improving their lives, building their testimony, giving birth to young sons and daughters -- truly, I found myself in the midst of valient sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. So many times I felt "good in their presence".

On my right hand stood one of my closest friends and a man of great worth, great vision and a great sustaining spirit -- President Folkerson. On my left hand stood a man with unlimited drive to accomplish, young in experience but of material with which to prepare -- one of the great ones before our Heavenly Father -- President Mortimer. In the High Council, the Bishoprics, my clerks and the members of the Stake stood tall, strong and powerful before our Heavenly Father, thus again with vision we began to build.

We projected in our mind five Stakes in the old east Jordan area, thus the purchase of a thousand acres of choice land for a Stake farm, which project floundered until suddenly we realized that we as a Presidency were responsible to

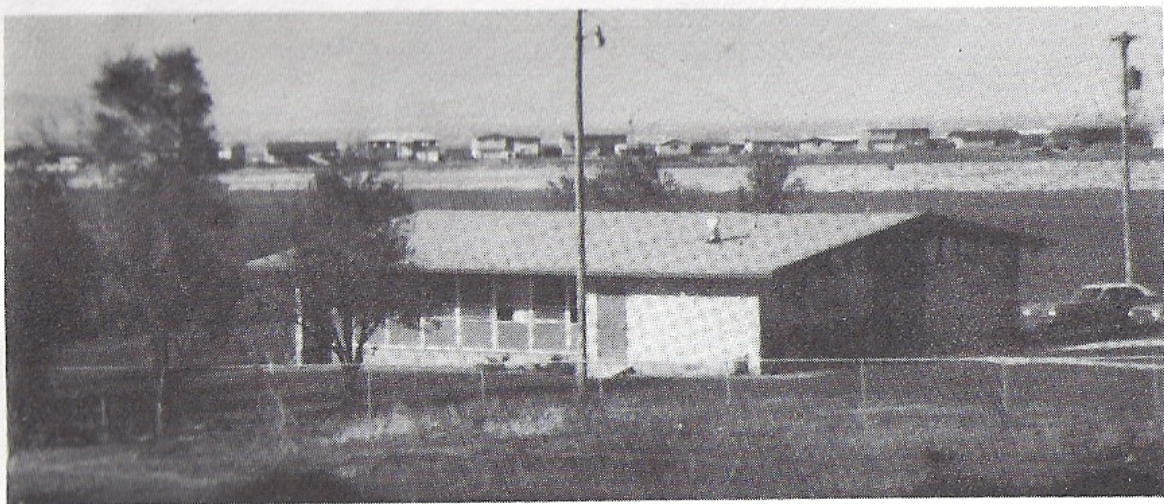
give the leadership to develop and organize the project into an effective operating unit, then the Lord was able to direct us to Bishop Hal Schulthies, who under our direction then brought the project into its fruitful position wherein it can provide the necessities of life for these Stakes if ever needed.

The High Council gave the direction with the approval of the Presidency to look forward to the eventual and probable development of three Stakes and 27 or more Wards in the area. Thus, again these wonderful young people undertook the challenge and accomplished to a good measure the preparation for this ultimate growth.

Bishop Crump of the Butler 2nd Ward, now President of the Butler West Stake, took the leadership of the first building under the Butler Stake. He was followed by Bishop Beckstrom of the Butler 7th Ward, now a Councilor in the Presidency of the Butler West Stake, in the construction of a three-Ward Chapel and Stake house. Thus, as we moved from 7 Wards into 13, the facilities were available under this able leadership for the organization of the Butler West Stake under this great and good man. The construction of a joint project by the two Stakes of a Seminary at the Junior High indicated a continuing interest of our people to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ at an early age to the youth of Zion. This project continued and the faith of our people increased with performance of their new responsibilities as leaders in this part of our Heavenly Father's vineyard.

My faith and my desire to serve our Heavenly Father increased in this interim as did my family and when the 9th child was born, I determined under the direction of my Heavenly Father that I must spend more time with them and I was released as President March 6, 1967.

Ahead lies progress, increased faith and a devoted people for my family, my lovely wife and myself to associate with here and throughout the Eternities.



Butler Jr. High Seminary Building

The people who settled in Butlerville were mostly Latter-day Saints. They met in a granite rock church midway between the town of Granite and Butlerville until May 12, 1901, when the wards were divided. A two-story adobe and brick church was constructed on the site of the present Butler elementary school. In about 1923 the church and school exchanged property. The old school house was remodeled and converted into an amusement hall and class rooms. In 1929 a new chapel was added to the old building. This made a good and adequate meeting place - both for amusement and worship.

In 1901 Alva Butler was chosen as the first bishop of the Butler-ville Ward. He served faithfully until he was released shortly before his death in 1901. His son, Wm. W. succeeded him and served as bishop until 1913. Charles Colebrook was next in line, and served until 1919. Wm. C. Wooton succeeded him. In 1931 Nathaniel S. Jones was chosen as bishop. Since that time, bishops named in order have been, Philip Badger, Frank L. Cowley, Wm. S. Erekson, Thomas J. Fyans, Clyde V. Buxton, Alvin Thomas, Harry P. Bluhm, Grant Pedler and John J. Erkelens. At the present time Thomas L. Ericksen is bishop of what is now Butler Ward. However, 13 wards and 2 stakes have now been established where before there was just one ward.

The Butler Stake was organized November 18, 1962, the 361st Stake in the Church. James Calvin Taylor was chosen as President, with L. Ronald Folkersen as 1st Counselor and Wm. James Mortimer as 2nd Counselor. Walter Lee Collins was the first Stake Clerk. Members of the High Council were, Clyde V. Buxton, Robert O. Pusey, Darld J. Long, Jr., Bryce Van Wagoner, Frank P. Reese, Alvin Donald Nydegger, W. Alvin Thomas, Vernon R. Holm and Harry P. Bluhm. In February, 1963, Walter Lee Collins, Robert W. Cutler and Simon Christiansen were added to the High Council to make it complete. George R. Wilkins was then called as Stake Clerk.

The original seven wards that made up Butler Stake and their Bishoprics are listed below:

Butler Ward

Bishop - Grant E. Pedler
1st Coun. - H. Floyd Hoffman
2nd Coun. - Karl K. Nelson

Butler 3rd Ward

Bishop - Mark R. Cram
1st Coun. - R. Elwood Pace
2nd Coun. - J. Daniel Mackintosh

Butler 5th Ward

Bishop - Dale C. Josephson
1st Coun. - Kenneth Lucas
2nd Coun. - Richard Jeffs

Butler 2nd Ward

Bishop - Sherman M. Crump
1st Coun. - Richard K. Klein
2nd Coun. - Richard L. Burt

Butler 4th Ward

Bishop - Amos B. Mosher
1st Coun. - Robert W. Sheppard
2nd Coun. - Clarence E. Tuttle

Butler 6th Ward

Bishop - Brent B. Mackay
1st Coun. - Graham D. Hollingworth
2nd Coun. - Bruce B. Anderson

Butler 7th Ward

Bishop - Ronald S. Beckstrom
1st Coun. - Wallace J. Fordham
2nd Coun. - Gary S. Anderson

Change is a fact of life in Butler Stake. New wards, new bishoprics, changes in bishoprics, changes in stake officers, all of which could keep a well-trained computer going to keep up with it. Because we are not computers, and for fear of forgetting or missing someone, we are only listing the ward bishoprics as they were at the time of the Stake's organization or as new wards were created:

On December 30, 1962, two new wards were created:

Butler 8th Ward

Bishop - Gerald P. Starr
1st Coun. - Eugene J. Barnes
2nd Coun. - Jerry L. McGhie

Butler 9th Ward

Bishop - Don H. Brighton
1st Coun. - Jacob J. VanRy
2nd Coun. - John K. Fortie

On May 2, 1965, Butler 10th Ward was organized with:

Butler 10th Ward

Bishop - Mark L. Wahlquist
1st Coun. - James A. Larsen
2nd Coun. - Richard E. Chipman

On June 13, 1965, 2 more new wards were organized:

Butler 11th Ward

Bishop - John A. Reid
1st Coun. - Carl H. Carpenter
2nd Coun. - Wallace N. Gygi

Butler 12th Ward

Bishop - Warren J. Ashton
1st Coun. - George L. Abel
2nd Coun. - Jerry L. McCleary

On May 8, 1966 Butler 13th Ward was organized with:

Butler 13th Ward

Bishop - Raymond E. Beer
1st Coun. - Larry A. Kramer
2nd Coun. - Daniel R. Parris

On May 8, 1966, Butler Stake was divided and a Butler West Stake was created, with Sherman M. Crump as its president.

Butler Stake was left with only six wards. These were mainly those on top of the Butler Hill. They are Butler, Butler 3rd, Butler 6th, Butler 8th, Butler 12th, and Butler 13th.

At this time L. Ronald Folkersen was released as 1st Counselor to President Taylor. Wm. James Mortimer was sustained as the new 1st Counselor and Don H. Brighton as 2nd Counselor, with Ray K. Marti as Stake Clerk.

On March 6, 1967, after nearly 4 1/2 years of dedicated untiring service, President Taylor was released and Wm. James Mortimer was named as the new President of Butler Stake. He chose Don H. Brighton as his 1st Counselor and A. Don Nydegger as 2nd Counselor. Ray K. Marti continuing as Stake Clerk.

The present High Council consists of W. Alvin Thomas, Harry P. Bluhm, Walter Lee Collins, Mark R. Cram, Eugene J. Barnes, Douglas V. Ericksen, Brent Mackay, Robert L. Blackhurst, George K. Alm, Clyde (Pete) Neilson, Warren J. Ashton and John G. Erkelens.

The present ward bishoprics are:

Butler Ward

Bishop - Thomas L. Ericksen
1st Coun. - Robert W. Cutler
2nd Coun. - Homer L. Carter

Butler 6th Ward

Bishop - Simon M. Christiansen
1st Coun. - Robert D. Vincent
2nd Coun. - Eldon W. Bates

Butler 3rd Ward

Bishop - Donald H. Johnson
1st Coun. - Conrad G. Maxfield
2nd Coun. - Roy E. McGuire

Butler 8th Ward

Bishop - Robert A. Greenwall
1st Coun. - Lowell W. Walker
2nd Coun. - Donald K. Allen

Butler 12th Ward

Bishop - Robert W. Warnick
1st Coun. - Irby N. Arrington
2nd Coun. - Gordon M. Long

Butler 13th Ward

Bishop - Daniel R. Parria
1st Coun. - H. Grant Kunzler
2nd Coun. - Robert D. Etherington

We know there are many great and wonderful stories, faith promoting incidents and testimony building experiences that could and should be included in this history. We hope, if you have any or have heard any that ought to be made available to all of the stake members, that you will write them down and give to the Stake Clerk. Then when another history is written, they can be included.

Many thanks to all who have made this history possible. We especially want to commend and thank Brother Merlin A. Butler for allowing us to use his work as the major part of this history.

May we as members of Butler Stake and residents of "Butlerville", live the kind of lives that will make those who have done so much in the past feel that their brave efforts and sacrifices were all worthwhile. May we all live worthy of the great blessings the Lord has poured out upon this choice part of Zion.

THE WELFARE FARM

"Why so far away?"

"Why so big?"

"Why so much work?"

"Why do we have to irrigate at night?"

"Why do we need it?"

What kind of questions are these, you ask?

They are just some of the questions people have asked from time to time about the Butler, Butler West, and East Jordan Stakes' Farm at Elberta, Utah.

This farm project, considered now to be one of the finest irrigated stake farms in the Church welfare program, has had an interesting, though brief, history, and holds great promise for the future.

Early plans for the farm actually began in the late 1950's when all this area was part of the old East Jordan stake. President Donald B. Milne and his counselors, Stanley W. Burgon and Edward B. Erikson, saw the need in the future of a welfare project that would serve the needs of many stakes that would come in this growing part of the valley. The poultry project on 9th East was felt to be inadequate, especially for too many years in the future.

Early investigations by President Milne and leaders of the stake at that time took them into south Utah county, and consideration was given to a several-thousand-acre cattle feeding operation in the area of Elberta. The feed-lot and cattle were for sale, and

some interest was expressed by President Milne in this project. However, consultation with leaders of the Church welfare program and the general authorities, including the late President Henry D. Moyle, prompted President Milne to look further.

Since he was looking in this area, he became aware of two separate tracts of land, adjacent to each other, that could be purchased and joined together to make an attractive farm project.

One tract of land was irrigated only by water from the Mona Reservoir, but it was felt that wells could be drilled and bring the land all under cultivation. This portion of the land was purchased first after President Milne presented it to the brethren of the stake in a priesthood meeting. Negotiations were then conducted with Arion Erekson for land lying east of the purchased property, which was already under cultivation, and had an excellent well with electrically pumped water. This area was actually purchased shortly after the division of East Jordan Stake in 1962 to form the new Butler Stake.

With these two tracts of land joined together, some 1,100 acres were then available for development. Under the direction of the Church, additional land purchases and developments were taking place north of Elberta, and it was suggested that management of this property also supervise our farm development.

Max Schnepf from Mesa, Arizona, was manager of the Elberta Project, and assumed direction of the East Jordan and Butler farm. Under his supervision land was leveled, cement ditches were poured, a pumpback system to collect waste water was installed, fields were laid out in quarter-mile plots, and

siphon-tube irrigation was begun, utilizing water from the Mona Reservoir as long as it was available, and then well water for the balance of the season. Under the direction of President Milne, and President James C. Taylor of Butler Stake, a well on the west property was successfully drilled, providing adequate water for some 800 - plus acres, which are now under cultivation.

The ground was found to be fruitful and productive, and has provided good yields of crops.

In 1965, President Milne and Taylor felt that our project had grown sufficiently that we needed our own manager, and could be more productive and efficient with a man who would live on the project and direct its activities more personally.

After careful and prayerful searching, Hal Schulthies of Gunnison, Colorado was contacted, and eventually accepted the assignment. He moved with his wife, Claudeen, and two children, Shauna, and Shane, from Colorado to Elberta, at great personal sacrifice, living at first in a trailer house until an adequate brick home could be constructed for them. This home was completed by Christmas of 1965, and has been a comfortable dwelling for the manager and his family.

The farm has been very productive in crops of sugar beets, barley, grain, alfalfa, sweet corn, silage corn, beans, onions, potatoes, and maize.

Much of the labor has to be hired, because of the distance from the stakes involved, but Saturday labor assignments, and evening and weekend irrigation assignments have been well filled by men from the stakes, and the farm has prospered as members of the Church have participated freely in work assignments.

Money to purchase the farm was borrowed from the General Church Welfare Committee, and payments on the loan are made yearly through proceeds from the crops and cash assessments to the members of the stakes. When the farm is fully paid for it will adequately meet the welfare assessment needs of the stakes who own it.

It is hoped that perilous times will never require the sustaining of our people from the crops of the farm, but if such times should come, we have the "insurance" of the farm and its productivity available. In the meantime, it provides many opportunities to teach our children to work, and to enjoy the fellowship and brotherhood of the priesthood as we work shoulder to shoulder in the project. It also enables many who work in offices and in professional capacities to get close to "mother earth" and appreciate the sweet feeling of physical labor and toil

Leadership of Butler, Butler West, and East Jordan Stakes are firmly pledged to the farm, and look to it as a blessing of the future and a salvation to the welfare needs of our people.

