

# Nehawka Department!

Prepared in the interests of the People of Nehawka and Surrounding Vicinity Especially for the Journal Readers.

## Mormon Pioneers in the Utah Wastes, the Record Shows

### Many So Poor They Had to Barter Everything for Food—Now Smile with Prosperity

From a booklet recently put out by Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, one may get a vivid picture of the hardships the Mormon pioneers endured in founding and building up what is now a prosperous and wealthy commonwealth.

This publication, a monograph prepared by Lowry Nelson, director of the extension division of the university, gives the results of a historical and sociological study made by him of the Mormon farm village of Ephraim, a place now of slightly more than 2,000 population. This study was the second of a series of three undertaken to assess the economic and social conditions and values of typical Utah country communities. The first of these studies, a monograph on the farm village of Escalante, was issued some time ago; the concluding booklet, which will deal with American Fork, a rural place of somewhat different character is yet to be published.

Ephraim is in Sanpete county, about 120 miles south of Salt Lake City. It lies at an elevation of 5,500 feet above sea level, near the mouth of Ephraim Canyon, on the east side of the Wasatch Range, which rises to a height of nearly 10,000 feet, while to the west are mountains of about 8,000 feet elevation. The town is the center of a live stock raising district which depends for its fertility upon an irrigation system based on Ephraim Creek.

### Sent Out by Brigham Young

Two years after the Mormon pioneers arrived in Salt Lake Valley, writes Mr. Nelson, "Brigham Young sent a colony to settle Sanpete Valley. They founded the settlement of Manti in 1849. In 1850 an effort was made by a man from Manti to establish himself seven miles to the north in what is now Ephraim, but the Indians forced him to return to Manti. It was not until the early Spring of 1854 that a colony of fifteen families succeeded in founding a settlement there."

"As in most of the new lands of Utah, the initial year in the new settlement brought hardships to the newcomers. The first necessity confronting the pioneers was means of defense against the Indians. Accordingly a fort was constructed as rapidly as possible. For this purpose men were organized in squads for church services, the general direction of the bishop. Some men were assigned to guard duty while the others worked on the fort."

"The first fort enclosed only one and one-half acres of ground and had but one entrance—a gate or west. The walls were seven feet high. The houses were built inside the walls, being constructed of adobe. The meeting house for church services was built in the center of the enclosure. The walls of this structure were of cedar posts set in the ground a few feet apart, with the intervening spaces filled with adobe. The roof was of logs, willows and dirt. Around the meeting house was a corral, in which the live stock was kept at night. The fort was completed in time to furnish shelter thru the winter of 1854."

### New and Larger Fort Built

"It was found necessary to build a larger enclosure later. The new fort covered about seventeen acres and the walls were fourteen feet high, and four feet thick. It was completed to its full height only on the north line. The men took turns working two days each week on the fort wall, and other days of the week on the canyon road which they might proceed firewood and timber for construction purposes. The cost of the fort has been estimated at \$13,000."

"In addition to the necessity of preparing a defense, there were the crops to be planted and cared for, canals to be dug, and roads and bridges to be made. All the while there were arrivals, periodically, of immigrants to swell the number to be fed and housed. Record has been made of the successful maturing of some crops the first summer (1854). The summer of 1855 made notable by the grasshopper outbreak which, except for a few potatoes, destroyed almost all of the crops. At the same time, the Indians were particularly troublesome, so that it was necessary to maintain a strong guard night and day. The workers carried weapons with them to the field and canyon."

"It was a fierce struggle against overwhelming odds which the settlers faced in the fall of 1855. With more and more immigrants arriving on the scene, and with crops virtually annihilated. Winter brot with it much hardship and worrying."

### Immigrants Mostly Penniless

"The immigrants were for the most part penniless and were forced to barter their clothing, bedding, ornaments and other effects for potatoes, meat and bread. Trading was with the northern settlements. Some went into the hills and dug thistle and sage roots. Rasmus Olsen, who arrived from Denmark in 1854, is said at one time to have exchanged his coat and silk hat for wheat and on another occasion to have given a feather bed for one bushel of wheat and two bushels of potatoes."

"It was doubtless a far cry for these sturdy pioneers from green old Denmark to the parched and desolate wastes of Fort Ephraim. The adjustment to the new habitat especially under the poverty of that first year, was exceedingly painful.

But they survived the hardships and built the modern commonwealth of Ephraim.

"James H. Hansen, who is still living in Ephraim, came to the place from Denmark as a boy with his parents in 1854. There were twenty-eight wagons in the party of which he was a member, some of these wagons containing several families all of them Danish or Scandinavian. The families already established in the fort had to accommodate these people fresh from foreign lands, unable to speak or understand the English tongue. The newcomers were worn and weary from the 1,000 mile journey across the plains. Upon their arrival in Ephraim, Mr. Hansen states, his father unyoked the oxen and led the family into the brush, where they knelt down, and the father prayed, not for riches, but that they might be faithful, come what may, life or death."

"Mr. Hansen, a Danish boy of five years, dressed in the costume of his native land, was taken into the house of a 'Yankee' lady for the winter. He could not understand English, but, by the use of motions, the lady made him understand, for instance that she wanted water from the creek. On one occasion, shortly after his arrival, he went to the creek for a bucket of water, and when he came out there was a group of Yankee children, who laughed at him for his queer dress and ways and jostled him until he spilled the water. Thereupon, he reports, he picked up a stick and hit one of them, after which he became one of them, and nationality lines were soon forgotten."

### Danish Influence Dominant

"By 1856, fifty of the eighty families living in Fort Ephraim were Danish, and the rest were Americans, English and Welsh. Much of the public speaking at this period was done in Danish, and for some time after the arrival of the first Danish immigrants prayer meetings were held by them on Thursday evening, the other portion of the population holding their prayer meetings in the English tongue, on Friday evening."

Since the beginning the Danes have dominated numerically. Slowly they came to learn the English language. The schools were conducted in English, as also in the main were the church services, although consideration was given, as it still is, to the older immigrants who found it difficult to learn the new tongue. In 1859 church services were regularly instituted to be conducted in the Danish language. Today, however, the visitor to Ephraim could scarcely detect, except thru name, that the predominant numbers of the population are the stock of old Denmark and the Scandinavian peninsula. The amalgamation has been well well-nigh complete."

"Fusion was certain from the very beginning. Here were nationalities strange to each other, yet fervent to the same religion, thrown together in the most intimate relations. At first they all resided within the walls of the old fort, which enclosed one and one-half acres. It was a virtual commune, for the work was directed by one presiding authority, the Mormon bishop. He was who directed the men in their work on the fort, in the field man of the road."

"Under the social compulsions of this sort of life, amalgamation was inevitable. It was inevitable, too for a long time, that the resultant would partake of the nature of both of the two different groups. Thus has been the case in Ephraim, or Sanpete county, has been the butt of many a jest with this old country skewness as the central idea. Many are the stories extant in the state of the ludicrous mistakes made by Danish speakers in church or civic gatherings who attempting to use the English language. For nothing is Ephraim so well known as for its Danish people and the stories that have grown in and around their early efforts at adjustment to American ways."

"The early educational work in Ephraim was characteristic of that of any pioneer settlement. The school as an institution came not as an edict from some remote central authority but sprang rather out of the local soil. It was a purely immigrant enterprise and for some time depended upon individual rather than public support. The teacher was not necessarily a learned man or woman, but was usually the best educated of the community. She was paid, not in money, for there was no medium of exchange as yet, but rather in vegetables, wheat, flour and other staples of life. The tuition of a child might be paid for by hauling a load of wood or rendering some other service necessary to the welfare of the teacher."

"At first there were no regular school books, but reading and writing were taught thru the use of some of the church works. The second year of the existence of the community Fort Ephraim was organized into a school district."

"The first settlers all belonged to the Mormon church. The anti-slavery movement was the result of religious motivation. Coupled with that, however, was the attraction of occupied lands, but this was not a factor at the time. The first group of fifteen families was organized under a leader—an ecclesiastical leader—who for a number of years presided, not alone the religious life of the members, but of temporal affairs as well. The main source of population increase was the immigrants, chiefly from Scandinavian countries, who were recent converts to the church and whose entire motive for coming was doubtless a religious one."

"Others, however, came in 1854, but not, therefore, in a

## AMERICAN LEGION DANCE

Plattsmouth, Neb.—Saturday Night Barn Yard Twins Orchestra NO LUNCH COLD POP. 5c

one of them his own, went to Murray on last Monday afternoon where the boys surely enjoyed the time in dipping in the sparkling waters of the Murray Bathing Beach, and sure enjoyed the treat for all boys consider it a treat to go 'swimen.'

Lester Wunderlich who with the good wife have been making their home in Kansas, received a few wires asking that he return to Omaha where he had worked before, and after some two years Mr. and Mrs. Wunderlich, some two weeks ago returned to Omaha to make their home. Frank Kuplin and wife and Mr. Anderson, returning home in Lincoln and accompanied their sister Mrs. Ed Hempeke of near Murdock were visiting for a time on last Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Wunderlich. Mrs. Hempeke and Mrs. Wunderlich being school girl friends in the past years.

Messadies Wm. Black and Clarence Case of Omaha, were visiting in Nehawka at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Opp, brother of Mrs. Black and on their return were accompanied by Miss Wilma Black who has been visiting here for the past week, and enjoying the stay at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Opp.

Albert Anderson and the family were over to Frank Horstman and family on last Sunday, where they spent the day very pleasantly. Mr. Anderson returning home in the evening, while Mrs. Anderson remained with the son and they will visit there and at her parents, C. Steffens at London for the remainder of the week.

Miss Etta Stock, formerly with the parents living north of town but now on one of the farms belonging to Carl Stone, has been suffering with appendicitis, and went to Lincoln where she underwent an operation for relief, and where her condition was found to be very grave. Her many friends however, are hoping that she may soon be much better.

Some one is going to get in serious trouble when they visit the chicken houses of Edward Murray north of Nehawka, for he has a good trusty shot gun and knows how to use it, and after having suffered the loss of some two hundred chicks by marauding gangs of chicken thieves will make any one roaming around the premises after night fall account for being there. Better watch out for the crack of the shot gun.

### Nehawka Wins Game

On last Sunday the Omaha Cardinals who think they can play ball and in a way they can some little came down to Nehawka and assayed to give the Nehawka team a trouncing, but had but poor luck with their game.

The game which was staged by the home team was almost faultless, and in the end after the Omaha lads were nearly worn out, the game ended with Nehawka having tallied nine runs

and the Omaha Cardinals only one third that or three.

### Will Visit The East

Miller Christiansen who is working with W. O. Troop on the farm, will expect as soon as the heavier work of the summer is finished, to take a trip to the east accompanied by the family, and will drive with their car. Their destination will be New Jersey and they will expect to be away for about six weeks.

### Mrs. Bert Willis Better

Reports came from the bedside of Mrs. Bert Willis who is in the hospital at Nebraska City and where she underwent an operation last week and was following the operation very seriously ill, is reported being some better at this time. Her many friends are hoping that she may soon be able to return to her home in Nehawka. Mr. Willis was over to see her on last Monday, and the stories were looked after by Mr. Joseph Sutphan.

### Jersey Heifers For Sale

I have nine jersey heifers coming two years old for sale, all good ones a portion of which are expected to be fresh in a few months. If you want a cow for the winter come and see me.

R. D. TAYLOR

### Enjoying a Vacation

Miss Bessie Weller of Auburn and the genial and accomplished sales lady of the Sheldon Department store of Nehawka, is during this week and next taking her summer vacation of two weeks, and the store is being looked after by the regular force and Mrs. Tucker, who is an expert sales lady.

### Spoke at Methodist Church

Rev. Mouzay, a brother of Mr. E. J. Mouzay of Union and also brother of Mrs. Schvialum, who stopped for a visit with his sister while on his way back from a visit at Denver and other points in the west, to his home in Cleveland, Ohio, was induced to deliver an address at the United Brethren church in Nehawka on last Sunday, and gave a most learned discourse of his travels and experiences during the recent past years.

### Spending Vacation in Colorado

On last Thursday D. C. West and wife, and Bobbie Wunderlich, and Mr. Joseph West the latter of Crested Butte, Colorado, were visiting in Nehawka, where they will spend some time at Masonic park, which is near South Fork, Colorado. They will expect to remain there for about three weeks.

### Installed New Refrigeration

George C. Sheldon the local representative of the manufacturers of the Kelviniters installed a large display counter and show case for the store of Tutt & Brubacher at Murray which they pronounce as one of the finest refrigerating plants they have ever seen. Mr. Sheldon also installed one at the farm of the home of Ower Willis which he operates on his local light plant.

### Purchases New Truck

C. D. St John and R. D. Taylor last week purchased through V. P. Sheldon one of the Reo Speed wagon trucks, which they are well pleased with the truck being gotten of Jones Oppor Co. of Omaha. On Monday an initiation of the new wagon R. D. Taylor took a load of cattle to Omaha on Monday and on his return trip brought some feeds for the mill and oil station.

### Burial Vaults

You care well for your loved ones while alive. One of our concrete vaults protects their remains when buried. An absolute guarantee. MILLER & GRUBER, Nehawka, Nebr.

## RAIL PROJECT EXAMINED

Washington, July 23.—The project of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad for acquiring the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient was put under examination today jointly by the interstate commerce commission and the Texas railroad commission. The transaction was first explained in detail by W. T. Kemper, former receiver and now president of the Orient line; and this was supplemented by F. B. Houghton, vice president of the Santa Fe system. Chairman Gilmore of the Texas railroad commission was aided by Examiner Davis of the interstate commerce commission in conducting the hearing.

The New Orleans joint traffic bureau, an organization representing shippers, obtained leave to intervene in the proceedings with an objection to the entire transaction. The bureau's petition contended that inclusion of the Orient line the Santa Fe system would eliminate railroad competition to a considerable degree, and would constitute a combination of parallel lines.

## POLICE PUPS FOR SALE

Males \$4.00, females, \$2.00. See B. F. Goodman, or call Weeping Water, 2502. Postoffice address, Cedar Creek, Nebraska. j13-tfw

George Pollard of Avoca was a business visitor in Nehawka, on last Monday morning and was getting a load of salt.

Paul Murdoch was a visitor in Lincoln for the day on last Sunday, going over Saturday evening and returning Sunday evening.

A. G. Cisney was a visitor at the county seat on last Saturday afternoon and evening looking after some business matters for the time. Edward Murray received some three hundred baby chicks from some point in Missouri the last week which are all doing nicely at this time.

Martin Ross was thrashing on last Monday and found that his wheat was testing 55 pounds to the bushel and contained only twelve and a half per cent moisture.

Otto Dodson was in Nehawka making preparation for the threshing of their wheat which was very good and were expecting to get at the work early Tuesday.

Mrs. Louis Ross entertained at her beautiful country home on last Friday at bridge and had a large number of her friends as her guests who all surely enjoyed the pleasant afternoon.

Mrs. David Craig of Elmwood and daughter, Mary were visiting in Nehawka at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Wunderlich, and also at the same time trying out their new Whipper car.

Robert Troop Jr., and wife were visiting for the day last Sunday at the home of Col. Rex Young, auctioneer and deputy sheriff of Plattsmouth, where they spent a very pleasant day.

E. C. Giles was thrashing his wheat last Monday and getting it out of the way of the rainy weather which has been prevailing for some time past to the detriment of the small grain in the fields.

Nick Frederich of near Murray was a visitor in Nehawka on last Monday bringing grain to be ground and mixed by the miller C. D. St John, the artist in the mixing of feeds of all kinds.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Rough and Walker Bates were over to Crested Butte on last Sunday where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Wilson and family and where all enjoyed the occasion very much.

Mrs. Lena Evans who is employed in Omaha as operator in a beauty parlor was visiting for over the week end at the home of her parents, returning to her work in the big city on last Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Stuck and their two boys of Stirling, Colorado, arrived in Nehawka late last week and have been visiting for a number of days with Grandfather D. D. Adams and uncle C. D. Adams, Mrs. Stuck being a daughter of Mr. D. D. Adams.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Christweisser were over to Union on last Saturday evening where they attended a party which was in the order of a surprise on Mr. John Christweisser, and was engineered by the wife. A most delightful time is reported by Mr. and Mrs. Christweisser.

C. D. Adams with a load of boys

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under these new world conditions, it is natural that they would think in terms of relatively small holdings. Then, too, in the settlement of land by the Mormons emphasis was placed on community building. There was accordingly a strong tendency away from large individual holdings, and the land was divided into small parcels to encourage as many to settle in the respective communities as possible.

"Near the town was an extensive natural meadow, from which hay could be harvested. Right to the use of this meadow was determined in an interesting manner. It was agreed that no one should cut any hay in the meadow until after midnight on the evening of July 25 of each year. Everyone who wished to cut hay would naturally desire to get in where it was most accessible and of the best quality. Accordingly, there was a premium attached to getting on the ground first. They would have a community dance until 12 o'clock when all would yoke up their oxen and make a dash for the hayfield.—State Journal.

### Four Boys Given Life in Prison

Chicago, July 24.—A show of grief and a lack of "hard boiledness" Monday saved 4 youthful bandit-slayers from a sentence of death in the electric chair. Instead, Judge Frank Comerford sentenced them to life in the penitentiary.

They are Stanley Dormal, 21; Stanley Thomas, 19; Albert Mas, 20, and John Tulacz, 22. They confessed to the shooting and killing of Pearl Eggleston, 18-year-old girl usher during the robbery of a suburban movie theatre.

The youthful defendants made a bid for mercy by pleading guilty. But is it doubtful if they realize how careful their demeanor was being watched by the presiding judge. Young Dormal, who confessed the actual killing, tearfully explained that he pulled the trigger in panic without wittingly intending to murder. He voiced his grief for the dead girl's parents. He helped police round up his accomplices.

### PLAN G. O. P. CAMPAIGN

New York, July 23.—National headquarters for the republican presidential campaign this year will be at Washington, with a branch in Chicago. Dr. Hubert Work, national chairman, announced tonight. There will be no large headquarters branch in the east, he said.

Dr. Work's statement was issued at the end of a conference of national committeemen which lasted all day.

New York is to be the headquarters of the eastern division of the treasurer's office, he said, and of the speakers' bureaus for the combined national senatorial congressional committees.

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