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*The
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UTAH COUNTY, UTAH



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THE PAYSON STORY

This booklet narrates some of the interesting and important events that have transpired in Payson from the settlement October 20, 1850 to October 1950. The material has been gathered from diaries, histories of Payson by early historians, from pioneers, old newspapers and from the minutes of the City Council. It is by no means a complete history of Payson, that would take a much larger book. We have tried to show through the mayors the growth of the place. This growth has been a combination of the City Council, Clubs, both social and civic, the Church and every individual in the community.

In appreciation we wish to thank the following people for information and photos furnished us. Mary J. McClellan, Minnie Sheffield, Lizzie Crook, Florence Argyle Mitchell, Minnie Douglas, Rhoda Davis, William Clayson, Mrs. Clark Elmer, Kathryn Betts, Mrs. Lyman Kapple, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Wilson, Mr. John Done, Edda Noon, Lula Erlandson, Clyde Wilson, Ella V. Hutchinson, Sarah Tanner, Laura Coombs, Nellie Kapple, Tessie Drissell, Charles Gale, Mamie Wyler, Ida Huish, Glen Loveless, Hazel Gasser, Mary Pace, Nell Huish Havit, Clark Reece, Rollo Huish, Clara Tweede, Klea McClellan, Ann E. Wilson, F. Schramm, Edward Bates, LuDene Smith, Madeline Dixon, Lovina Ottesen, Sarah Clayson, Mrs. Virtel, Joe Peery, Duane Hone, Jimmie McClellan and Cora Page.

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James Pace

Peteetneet or Payson, as it is now called, one of the principal towns in South Utah county, is situated on a little creek that the Indians called "Peteetneet" meaning "Little Water", and an Indian Chief Peteetneet that lived in this vicinity in the early days. Payson is about 2 miles from the Wasatch mountains, 66 miles from Salt Lake City and 7 miles from Utah Lake.

In the Autumn of 1850 President Brigham Young advised a settlement be made on the banks of Peteetneet Creek. On the evening of October 20, 1850, three families, James Pace, John Courtland Searles and Andrew Jackson Stewart, and two boys, Allison Hill and Nathaniel Haws, 17 souls in all, drew up in their wagons and made camp. As winter would soon arrive, they immediately began to harvest the wild hay found growing there, made corrals and erected log cabins.

The cabins were built from rough hewed cotton-wood logs, chopped along the banks of Peteetneet creek. Not having a broad-axe they hewed the logs with an ordinary axe.

The settlement was further enlarged by the Daniels family arriving the last of November, George and Joseph Curtis families, December 7, and Elias Gardner family the latter part of December.

On the 18th of December, 1850, Apostle George A. Smith and party stopped at Peteetneet on their way to Little Salt Lake. According to Andrew Jensen, Apostle Smith wrote from Peteetneet under date of Dec. 20, 1850, the following: "Great credit is due Captain James Pace for the energy he has manifested in making this

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settlement, twenty miles from any other. From this location under his direction, a fine and extensive settlement may soon be looked for by the pioneers of the mountains.

Before continuing his journey southward, Apostle George A. Smith wrote to President Brigham Young: "While we were here waiting for the rear wagons, the people of this place came together and were organized into a branch, (Dec. 20, 1850) Brother James Pace was appointed to preside; Brother Andrew J. Stewart was appointed clerk. The branch will be known by the name of the Peteetneet Branch with thirty-five members, old and young. We then gave the saints there such instructions as the spirit directed. We had a first rate visit and were warmly entertained by Brother Pace and the brethren at this place."

On the 23rd of December Charles B. Hancock arrived hoping to meet G. A. Smith's company and journey on with them, but they had left and left orders for no one to follow so he remained here. During the winter the settlement was further strengthened by the families of Breede Searle, Benjamin Cross, Henry E. Stevens, William C. Patten, John F. Bellows, James McClellan, Benjamin F. Stewart and James McFate.

With James Pace as head of the colony it started to progress, a meeting was called and school trustees appointed. They were: Joseph and George Curtis and James E. Daniels. Immediately steps were taken to build a school house which was finished and school started in April of 1851.

A picket fence made of large stakes, nine feet high, the first fort was built around the dwellings for protection against the Indians. The colony increased so that a larger fort was layed out about the middle of March.

In the Deseret News of 1851 we find: "On Friday, March 21, 1851, at 3 o'clock p.m., President Brigham Young and party, who were on a visiting tour through the settlements of Utah County, arrived in Payson and stopped over night with James Pace. Parley P. Pratt and Charles C. Rich's camp came up and formed a corral on the west side of the fort. The following day, March 22, many of the brethren on their way to California, arrived and joined the main camp. On Sunday, March 23, a meeting was held in the fort addressed by Charles C. Rich, Heber C. Kimball and Amasa M. Lyman. (President Young being sick.) In the evening another meeting was held in the house of James Pace, on which occasion Benjamin Cross was ordained a high priest and set apart as bishop Payson. On the 24th, President Young and Kimball organized all the camps destined for California, after which the president's party started on their return journey to Great Salt Lake.

The first child born in this new colony was Jerushia Morrison Searles, daughter of John Courtland and Jerusha Morrison Hill Searles, Jan. 30, 1851. She died Feb. 8, 1851, living just nine days. Pheobe Hancock owned the first loom in Payson and wove the first cloth in this year.

Their first summer (in 1851) they had good crops of wheat, potatoes, and garden vegetables on their newly plowed farms.

In the Church Chronology by Andrew Jensen it states that early in the year of 1852, post offices were established at American Fork, Springville, and Payson, in Utah County. As far as can be ascertained, John T. Hardy was the first postmaster in Payson. The post office being one room in his home. In August of 1851, Benjamin F. Stewart was elected Justice of the Peace, being the first to hold this office.

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On the 28 of August, 1852, James Pace and Elias Gardner were called on missions to England, being the first missionaries sent out of Utah. James McClellan succeeded to the presidency. It may be well to state here that the name of Peteetneet was changed to "Pacen" as it was first spelled, in honor of James Pace and Sons. The spelling was later changed to Payson.

January 21, 1853, the Legislature of the Territory passed an act incorporating Payson City, by which name the place has been known since. The following boundaries of the new city as stated in its charter, Viz: "Commencing at a point of the east bank of Utah Lake due west from the center of the public square in the city of Payson, in Utah County, thence south one mile, thence east to the mountains, thence along the base of the mountains to a spring known as "Goose Nest Spring" thence northerly to a point where the bridge crosses the Pond Town Slough, thence, down said slough to Duck Creek, thence west to Peteetneet Creek, and down the main channel of said creek to Utah Lake, thence south along the shore of said lake to the place of beginning." These boundaries were changed March 6, 1882, to read as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of Township 9 south of Range 2 east, Salt Lake Meridian, in Utah County, thence east three miles, thence south two and three-fourths miles, thence west three miles, thence north two and three-fourths miles; thus leaving an area for the city government of eight and one-quarter miles.

Walker War — First Grist Mill Built



David Crockett

The first city council was organized in April, 1853, with David Crockett elected mayor; others in the council were: Aldermen, Benjamin F. Stewart, John B. Fairbanks, James E. Daniels, Israel Calkins, James McClellan; Councilors, David Fairbanks, James Adair, Henry Nebeker, Elijah Haws, William C. McClellan, Breede Searle, H. Stevens, James B. Brackin, Samuel Adair, Joseph Curtis, Benjamin Cross and George Wilson.

From then on the Bishops, City Council and Citizens have worked together for civic betterment and the growth of this community.

Mayor Crockett had only been in office a short time at the outbreak of the Walker War.

In consequence of the Indian trouble, the people were compelled to fort in again, in many instances the houses had to be torn down (they were made of logs) and built in fort style. The settlement had grown so that it made a row of houses sixty rods square. The Pioneers built a fort around the settlement. The wall was four feet thick, eight feet high on the inside, and sloped to the outside. The mud was taken from a trench four feet deep on the outside of the wall. The north wall was never completed as the trouble came from the south. Gates were on the south and east. The east gate was located at the old adobe barn. The public square was in the center of the fort, where the Nebo Stake Tabernacle now stands. A flagpole stood in the center of the square and a public well to the north of it. There was also a public woodpile.

Bishop Cross died Dec. 30, 1853, and this left the bishopric in charge of the councilors, Breede Searles and Joseph Curtis. Not until March 5, 1854 was

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another bishop ordained, Charles B. Hancock was then put in as bishop with James McClellan and John B. Fairbanks as Counselors. The first adobe houses were built in 1855, and a few shingles were now being used on roofs instead of dirt. Charles B. Hancock, Breede Searles and others built a grist mill. This was quite an undertaking, as the building and machinery had to be built out of mountain timber. The only iron obtainable for gudgeons and other parts where iron had to be used, was old wagon tires and scraps.

The Deseret News, August 29, 1855 states: "The inhabitants of Payson, Nephi, Palmyra, Springville, etc. are respectfully invited to call and try the Payson Grist Mill, where they can get as good a turn out of flour and of the best quality as any mill in the county. Charles B. Hancock and Co.

P. S. We will warrant 43 lbs. of good flour to 60 lbs. of good wheat."

This mill was purchased by Orrawell Simons about the year 1860. He rebuilt and improved it. Pardon Webb built the first saw mill in Payson Canyon, and started the manufacture of lumber and shingles during the year of 1854. The roads to the canyon were improved in order to get out the lumber which was not only used in Payson but surrounding settlements.

Henry Nebeker built a school house in 1855, and although it was a private school he let it be used for public purposes of all kinds and the children of the town were allowed to attend school there. Jane Simons and Isaiah M. Coombs were among the first teachers.

The first theatrical performance was given in 1856. Joseph Barker, Salt Lake City, gunsmith, played the lead, taking the part of "Luke the Laborer," in a drama of that name. The play was given in the home of Franklin Stewart. Cotton cloth, without paint was used for scenery.

During this year the Indians killed some people in Cedar Valley so the citizens again had to keep guard, both around the towns and their herds of cattle and horses. Farmers had to plow and sow with gun in hand.

The bishop led out in building a Tithing House in 1858. A cellar was excavated 34 by 56 feet on the outside. This was walled up with sandstone, then adobe and native pine were used. The basement was completed the first year, with just a dirt floor. A stage was built in the south end. Cans of tallow with a rag in the center, and candles lighted the hall. The bishop seeing that the men were willing to work, had them build a stone wall around the tithing yard about two or three feet high. A small cellar was built with a tannery and machine shop on the top.

The year 1858 was the year of the "Move". The President of the United States, James Buchanan, sent out a large army to invade Utah, as it was reported that the Mormons were not loyal to the government. All the people in Salt Lake and north of there were told to move south. This brought many into Payson, especially the poorer class as they could go no further. Bishop Hancock, realizing the condition of the people, led out in many enterprises in order to make work. He built another grist mill in the upper part of town. This mill was purchased in the year 1880 by the Payson Co-operative Institution. They had a first-class merchant mill built on the site and commenced operation with James Finlayson in charge. In 1881, Finlayson became the owner. Better roads were made into the canyon. With his brother George W. a glove factory was started, lumber yard, tannery, shoe shop and etc.

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Nail Factory Started — Water Masters Appointed



John Thomas Hardy

In 1859 John Thomas Hardy was elected Mayor and he held this position until 1862. In 1859 David Sabin, William A. Beebe, Benjamin F. and Andrew J. Stewart, and others, started a nail factory. This was the first nail factory in the Territory. Their "fixed capital" came from a thousand wagons with four chains and ox yokes for each wagon which the Stewarts had bought from Camp Floyd. The factory was started to use up the iron. In the course of time this factory was abandoned as they could not compete in price with the eastern factories.

A carding and spinning factory was also in operation at this time, but finally had to go out of business for the same reason.

On September 19, 1859, Wranklin Wheeler Young was sent by President Brigham Young to preside over Payson as Bishop thus releasing Bishop Hancock. The first thing the new bishop did was to put a fence through the tithing yard to protect the hay.

Under his leadership many trades or enterprises were stimulated. The choir was re-organized and D. B. Lamoreaux was chosen as leader. During the winter of 1859-60 there were three schools taught, under the tutorship of W. G. McMullin, H. G. Boyle and James A. Wright.

A company consisting of Wm. C. McClellan, George Curtis, John F. Bellows, Orrawell Simons and George W. Hancock was organized to build a theatre and dance hall. It was called the "Union Hall" and was used for all kinds of public amusements and recreation. This was the first public house of any size built here. A dramatic association was organized with W. C. McClellan, R. E. Collett, J. D. L. Pearce, Charles Brewerton, Lucretia J. Wightman, and Mary Jane Pace as leaders. Other members were Thomas E. Daniels, Mosiah Hancock, Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Winslow and Mrs. Rawson.

Arrangements were made the spring of 1860 to fence in the hay and farming lands. For the first time in the history of the place, the city council appointed water masters over all the ditches. A reading club was organized Dec. 10, 1860, with the following officers elected: John B. Fairbanks, president, B. F. Stewart and W. G. McMullin as counselors, John R. Young, secretary and J. H. Moore, treasurer.

In 1861, the people with teams, plows, spades, shovels, wagons, etc., journeyed to the mouth of Peteetneet Canyon and dug a waste water ditch west to a natural reservoir. This ditch prevented the high waters in the spring from doing damage to the town and to hold the water for later use. This brought under cultivation land known as the "Poor Man's Field. Another story was built on the tithing house.

On Oct. 18, 1861 Bishop Franklin W. Young was called to settle in the "Cotton Country" so his brother, Joseph W. Young was appointed bishop. Joseph was a very able leader. Public meetings of all kinds received a fresh impetus, the tithing house was finished, reading club re-organized, schools encouraged. He was only here a short time, being called Feb. 1862 to take charge of the emigration business. John B. Fairbanks was then sustained as bishop with Orrawell Simons and Benjamin F. Stewart as counselors.

There being prospects for Indian troubles, a military school was organized and taught by General W. B. Pace of Provo.

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"The Farmers Oracle" Published — Black Hawk War Began



Benjamin F. Stewart
including Verbenas, Geraniums, Ice-plants, Pansies, etc., also fruits and trees."

Feb. 9, 1863, at a municipal election, Benjamin F. Stewart was elected Mayor.

A Gardener's Club was organized May 16 with Joseph E. Johnson of Spring Lake Villa as president. This club held weekly meetings for the improvement of its members in horticulture. On the 22nd of this month Mr. Johnson commenced the publication of a semi-weekly paper called "The Farmers' Oracle." It was devoted mainly to the interests of farmers and gardeners. It consisted of eight small pages to an issue, three columns to the page and published the first and third Tuesday in each month. This printing plant was the first to make an appearance in Utah outside of Salt Lake City. Mr. Johnson had a nursery in Spring Lake Villa. In the 9th issue of the Oracle, dated Sept. 22, 1863, it advertises: "A few choice pot-plants, including Verbenas, Geraniums, Ice-plants, Pansies, etc., also fruits and trees."

A large and commodious school house was built on the hill in the southern suburbs of the city. It was known as the adobe school house. It was later torn down and the Central School built there.

About this time Samuel Worsencroft, a Tinner, started in business here.

January 8, 1865 the jurisdiction of the bishop of Payson Ward was extended south to include Santaquin and Spring Lake Villa.

As near as it is possible to ascertain, from records we now have, the first Sunday School held in Payson was about 1858. Those responsible for this early organization were: Charles Montrose, Williard G. McMullin, C. W. Wandell and John F. Bellows. The first Sunday School of which records were kept was organized May 5, 1865, with Isaiah M. Coombs as superintendent.

The settlers were still having trouble with the Indians. The Indians continually ran off with colonists' stock. During the winter of 1864-65, small-pox broke out among a band of Indians near Manti. A large number died, among them was Chief Arropeen's father. The Indians believed the white settlers to be in league with the evil spirit, thus causing the epidemic, so in order for the sickness to cease they must kill off the ones responsible.

Matters came to a crisis when Chief Arropeen joined forces with Chief Black Hawk, with the intentions of running off cattle. The settlers hearing of the intended raid, a number of them went to gather their stock. On the way they were attacked by the Indians and Peter Ludvigsen was killed. After this incident the "Black Hawk War" as it was called, developed rapidly.

The Indians ravaged about 27 settlements during the next two years. Late in the fall of 1867 Black Hawk accompanied only by his family appeared on the Uintah reservation. Black Hawk repented and visited all the settlements asking forgiveness. He then retired to Spring Lake, the place where he was born, and died there about 1870 and was buried in the foothills.

In January of 1866 a census was taken of the city showing a population of 1,139. It was ascertained at that time there were in the community, 7,000 bushels of wheat, 219 head of oxen, 199 horses and mules and 131 vehicles.

Anson Sheffield, James Finlayson and John Loveless, school trustees, were instructed to build two school houses. One school was built in the northwest

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port of town, and finished. This one was always known as the "Rock School House." Between 1866 and 1875 four schools were built, one in each quarter of town. The other three were built of adobe.

A re-survey of the city, farming and hay fields was made by Daniel Stark. The limits of the city proper were extended half a mile each way. An ordinance was passed naming the streets of the city.

On November 19, the Deseret Telegraph Company set up its poles through town. The wires were stretched December 3 and a telegraph office opened in the Tithing Office with John D. Stark as first operator.

Salem Canal Dug — First Church Built



Orrawell Simons

Orrawell Simons was elected Mayor in 1867. On January 27, the members of the teacher's quorum subscribed \$863.50 towards building a meeting house.

At a meeting held on the 24th of Feb. arrangements were made to buy instruments so a brass band could be organized. The instruments purchased, all brass, were paid for by subscription. The citizens donated generously. The railroad only came to Ogden, and it cost \$40.00 by stage coach to bring the instruments from Ogden to Salt Lake. T. H. Wilson, Sr., brought them from Salt Lake to Payson free of charge. A band was organized July 1, 1869 with William Clayton, Sr., as leader and president. This band was organized under Bishop John B. Fairbanks and his first counselor Orrawell Simons.

In 1868, under the supervision of Lyman, George and Joseph Curtis, a canal to conduct a portion of the waters of Spanish Fork river on to lands between Payson and Salem was started. In three years the canal, seven miles long, two feet deep and eight feet wide on the bottom, and twelve feet wide at the top was finished. It irrigated about 2,000 acres.

Aurora Nebeker Wilson writes: "The first Relief Society of Payson was organized in 1856. Mrs. Rachel Drollinger was president; Pheobe Hancock and Wealthy Patten, counselors and Sally Ann Curtis, secretary. This organization was active until Mrs. Drollinger left for the Muddy mission. Little was done until May 7, 1868 when the Relief Society was officially organized, with Betsy Jane Simons, president; Agnes Douglass and Mary Moore, counselors; Mary Ann Hardy, secretary and Sarah Fairbanks, Treasurer.

January 9, 1869 a co-operative mercantile institution was organized: John B. Fairbanks, president; Orrawell Simons, Jonathan S. Page, James Finlayson, J. H. Moore and George S. Rust, directors; Isaiah M. Coombs, secretary and David Lant, treasurer, William Douglass was put in as superintendent.

April 17, a fund was raised for a Sunday School circulating library. An early historian states: "This afforded good reading to the people." The books were mostly histories and biographies.

In the early part of 1870 silver mines were discovered in the Tintic district. This caused much excitement among the citizens. Feb. 28, the first mineral was discovered in Eureka. The ore was picked up on top of the ground.

A meeting was called on May 22 and it was decided to tax all the people belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in order to build a Church. Up until this time they had held their meetings in school houses, homes,

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etc. A committee consisting of Wm. C. McClellan, George Curtis and George Pickering was chosen to superintend the erection and completion of this building. The building was finished and dedicated by Apostle Woodruff July 20, 1872.

On June 26, 1870, a co-operative company was organized for raising stock, making butter, cheese, etc. This venture proved very successful.

The city council in 1870 decided to build a City Hall according to a plan submitted by James Finlayson. This was the first brick building built in Payson. It was two stories high, the upper floor was a one room hall. Rooms were built on the first floor for the officers of the city, with a session and a court room; a jail cell was built in the basement.

April 26, 1871, Bishop John B. Fairbanks left for a mission to England. On August 20, Joseph S. Tanner was sustained as bishop to succeed bishop Fairbanks.

On September 18, Payson had telegraphic communication for the first time with Tintic district.

On Oct. 25, the Payson Ward sent fourteen men and three women to assist in building a Temple at St. George.

A literary society under the name of "Philomatheon Society" was organized by T. B. Lewis, Oct. of 1871. Mr. Lewis was considered one of the best school teachers in Utah and was Superintendent of the State School. This club met once a week in the upstairs of the old Tithing office. There was drafted a code of by-laws for the regulation of the institution. An organization was effected, consisting of president, and two assistants, secretary, treasurer, editors, male and female. They published a weekly paper with original pieces written by the Payson people. They also had a critic and a jonitor. A lecturer was appointed each week, and they also sang and had debates. The officers were changed from time to time. A very inspiring time was enjoyed by the members. The efforts of the lecturer, editor and declaimers were criticized. This organization continued for six years, at which time a similar organization was started called the Mutual Improvement Society.

During the winter of 1873-74 a High School was started in the upstairs of the City Hall, J. L. Townsend, principal. This was the first High School south of Salt Lake City and it ran until the B. Y. U. started in Provo about 1875. A set of Andrew's patent school desks were purchased for this school. These desks were the first patented desks west of the Mississippi.

First Circulating Newspaper Published — First Inoculations Given



Jonathan S. Page

Jonathan S. Page took oath of Mayor in January of 1875. On March 18, 1875 the Utah Central Railroad came into Payson. It consisted of one baggage car and one freight car loaded with rails.

March 26, 1876, Thomas Daniels Jr. installed a printing plant and published a small paper about 8 to 10 inches big called the "Payson Enterprise." This was the first circulating paper printed in Payson.

In the early part of 1877 the people called a mass meeting to discuss the proposition of levying and collecting a tax for the payment of teachers. It was decided to tax themselves and pay the teachers a monthly salary. Before this each child attending paid the teacher — generally in produce.

The Payson Presbyterian Mission was opened August, 1877 under the control of the Presbytery of

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Utah, by Rev. G. W. Leonard of Springville. In connection with the regular church work a school was opened in September the same year, with Mrs. Frazer as teacher. They used Mr. Charles Long's hall, known as "Independence Hall", for their mission.

Dr. J. H. Grier came to Payson about 1874-75. He built a home here, owned a drug store, a drygoods store and farm land. He practiced here a few years, then took post graduate work. Upon his return he introduced the diphtheria anti-toxin, was also the first to use chloroform as an anesthetic, also the first to vaccinate for smallpox. He later moved to Chicago, where he wrote and published the book, "The Doctor in the Home" later, "The Drugless Road to Health."

The Primary was organized Oct. 14, 1878 with Margaret Quigley Crook, LaVince Reece Done, Matilda Douglass Dixon, and Mary Adelma Dixon Nebeker, presidents in the four districts.

In 1878 a public library was started by Joseph L. Townsend and John D. Stark. A door to door canvass was made to collect books for it.

Wightman Hotel Built — First Bees Brought to Payson



Joseph S. Tanner

Joseph S. Tanner was elected Mayor in 1879.

The Wightman Hotel the largest in this section at that time, was built in 1880. It was owned and operated by William and Lucretia Wightman.

In 1879 John D. Stark induced some of the young men to learn to play band instruments. Jacob Schaerer was on a mission in Germany and Switzerland. Money was sent to him to purchase some band instruments. He brought them with him on his return home. Three or four of the instruments went to the old band, the rest to the new.

In March of 1880 the young band joined the old band, thus strengthening the old one. Also in this year the Huish band was started. This band consisted of six brothers and one sister. The sister, Florette, was probably the first girl to play the drums in a Utah band.

John D. Stark organized a Sunday School Drums Boys in 1881. He taught the boys for two years. The boys were ten to fourteen years of age.

George Garner brought the first bees into Payson. Some of the people wishing to raise bees, bought some from him, but not knowing the proper method of their care, many swarms escaped into the mountains. January, 1882, a bee association was started. The officers were Parley Grigg, president; Thomas E. Daniels, secretary and John Done as treasurer. They held meetings occasionally at which bees, and kindred topics, were discussed.

Seeing the need of doctors or midwives, the Relief Society in 1882 sent three women to Salt Lake to take a course in obstetrics, as it was then called. The instructor was Mrs. Romania Hyde. Those going from Payson were Lucinda Patten, Mrs. John Koontz and Mrs. Mary Oberhansli. Several other women who had been called in as midwives were Mrs. Phelps, Mrs. Rachel Drollinger, Clarissa Moore and Sarah Reece.

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Opera House Built — Justin A. Loveless Manufactured Horse Collars.



James Finlayson

James Finlayson was elected Mayor in 1883. He was in for two terms.

Seeing the need for a jail occasionally, one of modern style was built to the northwest of the City Hall in 1883.

The Presbyterians had been using the Long hall for their church and school. On November 2, 1883 they dedicated their own Chapel, also built a parsonage of seven rooms. This parsonage was occupied by the pastor and his family Oct. 24 of the same year. In August, 1884, the Presbytery of Utah met at this place and organized the Presbyterian Church of Payson with nine members. David Hone was ordained the ruling elder for one year.

The people of Payson could see that another school was necessary for their children. January, 1883 they held a mass meeting and assessed themselves a 2 percent tax and chose nine persons as a committee to choose a plan of a house suitable to meet the need. J. L. Townsend was appointed architect. The work progressed as far as the roof the first year and two large rooms were finished the next year. Seated with Victor Patent Lock Desks, accomodating 160 pupils, school opened Jan. 1885 under the direction of Professor A. C. Smyth and C. W. Wright. The upper story consisting of two large rooms, with sliding doors for partition, so they could be made into one large room, also class rooms, teachers offices, and cloak room. This was called the Central School.

Seeing a need for a larger place to hold dances and dramatic presentations, a company was organized May 20, 1882 to build an opera house. Those on the committee were: President John J. McClellan; vice-president John Betts; directors James H. Memmott, Solomon Hanock, Samuel W. McClellan; secretary, Samuel Worsencroft; and treasurer, George W. Hancock. The building was finished with 507 opera chairs. The play "The Green Bushes" was put on by local talent at the opening June 22, 1883.

It is said that the first piano used for dances was in the Hancock Hall in 1885 and that John Badham was the pianist.

According to the Payson Enterprise of Jan. 1, 1892, George Todd and Co., with Justin A. Loveless as Junior member, commenced the manufacture of horse collars in 1886. They were the first to establish this industry in Utah Territory.

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First Electric Lights Turned On — Iliff Academy Built



John J. McClellan
Thursday.

John J. McClellan was the new mayor to take office January of 1887. He held this position for two terms.

When Payson was first settled it was not laid off in streets or blocks as it is now. Just how early they decided to make straight roads through the town in both directions is not at the time known, but during Mr. McClellan's reign of mayor we find where the city buys property from individuals or trades in order to make roads and side walks. The roads and side walks were graveled and culverts put in at the crossings. The road to the cemetery was white washed.

The Paysonian, a newspaper was established in 1888. It is said it was independent in politics. It was edited by Lawrence Jorgenson and issued every

Thursday.

March 8, 1880 the office of Alderman was abolished by the act of Legislative assembly, they are now called councilmen.

During the summer of 1880 the band of Provo and their leader, James W. Wallis promoted a Utah County band Contest. It was held in Provo in October. Five bands participated. Two from Lehi, one from Spanish Fork, the Huish from Payson and the Payson Brass Band. Spanish Fork won second and the Huish Band favorable mention. A prize was also given for the best cornet solo and bass solo. George H. Done received the prize for the cornet and William Clayson Jr. for the bass, each received a silver goblet. Thus Payson won three of the four prizes given.

In 1889, the Payson Brass Band and the Huish band consolidated and formed the Payson Silver Band.

In some old minutes we find on October 11, 1890, a petition from Thomas E. Daniels Jr. James A. Daniels, George Finlayson and G. W. Hancock under the name of the Payson Electric Light and Power Co. asked permission to erect poles and stretch wires in the streets and alleys of Payson City. This petition was granted and electric lights were turned on in Payson December 24 1890. The power consisted of one dynamo owned by Thomas E. Daniel Jr. and George W. Haycock. The dynamo was first located in the Finlayson Grist Mill. It ran from six o'clock p.m. until twelve midnight.

A Methodist Church and school, called the Iliff Academy was built in 1890. They published a weekly newspaper called the "Iliff Academy Herald." In the issue of February 24, 1892 consisting of eight pages, was the following adv. "The Iliff Academy and Payson Business College, Academis, Normal, Scientific, Philosophical and classical Courses, An Academic Preparatory, School of Music. Thorough Business College. A faculty consisting of six experienced teachers.

R. A. Smith, President.

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Reservoir Built — Hand Fire Engine and Hose, Street Sprinkler Purchased



Hyrum Lemons

At the election in November of 1890, Hyrum Lemon was elected Mayor to take office in 1891. The first bank in Payson, the Payson Exchange Savings Bank, started to do business April 29, 1890, but did not get a license to operate until January 1, 1891, and they secured this license from Mayor Lemon.

From time to time the people had animals die, not knowing what to do with them, the city finally purchased three acres from Wallace Chard to be used for this purpose. They also secured ground east of Rocky Ridge from same.

Have found at this time no date for the first reservoirs built up the canyon. On August 29, 1891 we find where Reservoir No. 3 was finished. On Sept. 4, 1891 a reservoir was made of Maple Lake. This helped materially with the water supply for irrigation.

Not having adequate means for fighting fire a hand fire engine and hose was purchased October 31, 1891. D. E. Sargent was appointed Chief of the Fire Department. A engine house was built on the City Hall grounds and an iron fence was put around the City Hall Property. In June 1892 it was decided to organize a fire department. The rules being: first, having an organization consisting of twenty men; second, furnish each man with one hat, one red woolen shirt and one belt; third, furnish the department with pick axe, speaking trumpet and two lanterns; fourth, each fire fighter be allowed 50 cents per hour when on duty at fires and when called out by authority of the council; fifth, buy a light hose cart so men would have means of transporting the hose to the fire. This cart was bought Sept. 10, 1892.

In 1893 the streets of Payson were named and Daniel Stark was hired to make a Plat of Payson City.

In April of 1893, 149 Lombarda Poplar and 40 Locust trees were planted in the city park and 34 Lombarda Poplar and 46 Locust trees planted in the cemetery. This made a big improvement in each place.

The business men met with the council and asked for a street sprinkler, the dust being so bad in the roads. The city bought the street sprinkler June 10, 1893. It was up to the people in the sprinkling district to pay for the running of it. In order to fill the sprinkler a platform was erected near Simon's old mill, the water was taken out of the creek.

The electric plant had been in the grist mill but according to the Iliff Herald of February 24, 1892 it was moved to a new brick building just north of main street.

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Cemetery Grounds Improved



Charles W. Brewerton

On January 2, 1894 a new council took their seats with Charles W. Brewerton as mayor.

The cemetery was further improved by making a road through. This necessitated the moving of many graves out of the streets. The sunken graves were mounded up.

More streets were opened up and the roads and side walks graveled. An ordinance was passed prohibiting sheep from traveling certain streets in the city limits. In order to make roads two tongue scrapers were bought.

In the fall of 1894 all the reservoirs in the canyon were improved the ditches running into the reservoirs widened, the level of the East reservoir was raised five feet and of Maple Lake three feet.

In town boxes or troughs were placed on the water mains (ditches) on tenth street between D and F streets. Water was taken out of the creek south of F street and turned back into main creek channel at D street. This made a constant stream of water on tenth street to be used in case of fires or other purposes. The line poles and hitching posts were placed upon culverts or water ditch line making the street wider.

Curfew Bell Bought — Electric Plant and Water Wheel Purchased by the City



James S. Peery

James S. Peery went into office as mayor January 1896. At the first meeting plans were made for a statehood celebration for Monday, January 6. Utah had just been admitted as a state.

The businessmen felt the need of a night watchman to protect their places of business during the night. They met with the city council and agreed to pay part of the night watchman's wages if the city paid the balance.

The people also felt at this time that an ordinance should be passed to prevent minors from loitering about upon streets, byways or other public places late at night. A curfew bell was bought on July 13, 1896 and a bell tower built on the top of the City Hall for the bell. The night watchman then rang the bell by means of a long rope about 9 o'clock p.m. and all children under twelve unless with a guardian, had to be off the streets.

Up until this time each town did their own assessing of taxes, the council raised or lowered taxes as they wished. July 27, 1896 the County started to assessing the taxes, the city then only had the power to remit and rebate for indigent and infirm persons.

Fishing has always been a sport that people liked to indulge in. November 30, 1896 black bass were placed in all the reservoirs in the canyon. Maple Lake still has a few.

The owners of the Payson Electric light Plant wished to sell. Payson City was interested and appointed a committee consisting of Thomas H. Wilson Jr., George A. Finlayson, J. M. Boyle and Mayor J. S. Perry to investigate the

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possibilities of building a power house at the mouth of the canyon and using water for power. The committee found a site very favorable.

The city then agreed to buy the plant for \$2000.00. Work was started on the building at the mouth of the canyon to house the electric plant June 9, 1897. On Sept. 31, the plant was bought from T. G. Wimmer. On Oct. 25 a water wheel was bought and both were moved to the new building. November 1, the plant started operations in its new home. Junior Wightman was hired by the city to take charge. The people then had all night light service instead of until twelve midnight.

April 1898 an ordinance was passed that all births and deaths occurring in Payson, City had to be registered. Since that time records have been kept.

The Globe-Header, printed August 27, 1898 makes this statement: "According to an announcement, the Globe-Header makes its initial bow to the public today. We do not intend to make any great splurge of a temporary nature, or any wonderful announcement, but shall endeavor to issue a clean and creditable paper, and ask the people to aid and assist us in our efforts."

Band Uniforms Purchased — Payson Pavilion built



John H. Dixon

Beginning the year 1900, John H. Dixon became mayor of Payson. In this year the band purchased new uniforms, paid for by putting on entertainments to which the citizens patronized liberally, this did not entirely pay for them so each member contributed. A band contest was held in Spanish Fork in August. A prize of \$50.00 was given for the best band. Bands from Springville, Spanish Fork and Payson entered. Prof. A. C. Smith was adjudicator. Payson won the fifty dollars.

A small reservoir was made a little way up the canyon so water could be stored in order to run the power house and a flume built from it to the power house.

Board side walks were placed in front of some of the stores.

April 2, 1897 the City gave to the school district the west one-half block of square on the east bench to be used for a school building. In 1901 the Petecneet School was erected on this ground and used for the grades.

On November 5, 1901 James Finlayson's grist mill burned down. This was a great loss not only to Mr. Finlayson, but to the town as this was the only grist mill.

The people of Spanish Fork, Salem, Springville, Payson, Santaquin and Goshen felt the need for more water for irrigation. They investigated and found a natural reservoir in Strawberry Valley which by doing a little work could be enlarged and would hold a great deal of water. They took their proposition to the government in 1902 but a committee was not appointed to work on it until 1904.

The Payson Silver Band built a large dance pavillion in 1902. It had a raised spring dance floor, the large windows could be let down in the summer to make an open air hall. It was built where El Roy Barnett's service station is now.

February 24, 1903, W. C. Orem was granted the right to build the Interurban Railroad into Payson. This electric railroad would run from Salt Lake City to Payson.

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Power House Converted from Dynamo to Steam



Justin A. Loveless

Justin A. Loveless, the thirteenth Mayor took oath of office January 4, 1904.

The electric plant was found to be inadequate to provide enough power as more and more people were putting in electric light. The power house was enlarged and steam boilers were put in. This increased the power. The canal carrying water to the power house was improved. New poles were put up and more lines run making it possible for more people to have the lights.

Some of the young men in town liked to play ball on Sunday. As this was considered not the right thing to do an ordinance was passed making it illegal to play either baseball or basketball, inside the city limits on Sunday.

The Black Hawk celebration was held in Payson in August 1905. The encampment was held in the city park for four days.

This year the need of a place where one could get a drink of water was felt. A hydrant was put in on tenth street between E and F street for this purpose. It was also used in case of fire.

Tabernacle Built — First Side Walks Paved



Ammon Nebeker

Ammon Nebeker became the next mayor taking office January 1906.

The electric plant at the time wasn't paying its way. The light bills were hard to collect. At a meeting held January 15, 1906 it was decided to employ three electricians to run the power house; to establish a meter rate at one dollar a month minimum, eight cents per kilowatt above 13 kilowatts. The bill to be paid between the first and fifteenth of each month, those delinquent to be cut off with a five day notice.

The sexton asked for a machine for lowering caskets into graves. The present method being very inconvenient.

Early in the morning of May 7, 1907 the citizens of Payson were aroused. A large reservoir had broken up the canyon. A large stream of water came rushing down upon the community. The flood did a great deal of damage to the property but no lives were lost, although some of the people in the "Hollow" had to be taken out of danger on horsesback.

The flood washed out the dam turning the water to run the electric plant also washed away the flume, so an ejector was bought so the plant could be run with steam.

A hydro-electric power house was erected at the mouth of Spanish Fork canyon. The original purpose was to furnish power for driving the Strawberry Tunnel, which was under construction at the time, and construction of other features comprising the Storage Works. On completion of the power house, the government met with the Payson City Council Nov. 20, 1907 and discussed the

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probability of furnishing electricity to Payson. On investigation it was found they could secure the power cheaper from Spanish Fork power house so in due time Payson changed over and abandoned their own plant at the mouth of the canyon.

Payson people always looking for ways to improve their community wanted paved side walks. Some of the citizens met with the council and it was decided to pave main street. The city would pay half and the property owners the other half. May 30, 1907 the contract was given to David McDowell to pave both sides of main street for 17 cents per square foot.

The work soon began and the first year the side walks were laid from first south to first north on both sides. It took longer to put in paved side walks then, all the cement used was mixed by hand on a flat board.

Tolhurst Roller Mill Built — Celebrated Payson's Sixtieth Birthday



Joseph Reece

Joseph Reece was the next mayor taking office in 1908.

Two men from Delta, Colorado started a moving picture theatre in Payson, called the Gayety Theatre about 1907 or 08. It was in a building where Don's Cafe is now. They run a few months then sold it to George H. Done in 1908. He still called it the Gayety until he sold it April 1921. These first pictures were silent. Between shows, illustrated songs were sung, colored slide pictures told the story of the song while a singer sang the words.

After the grist mill burned down in 1901 there had been no mill here to make flour. Mr. Thomas F. Tolhurst came to Payson to see the advisability of starting a Roller Mill here. He had been running a mill in Spanish Fork. Conditions being favorable he built one in 1909 on the same sight as the old one. It had a capacity of seventy-five barrels of flour daily. It was equipped with the most modern and latest improved machinery and manufactured flour of the highest grade.

The cement side walks were extended to the Tabernacle and to the churches. A cement fence was placed around the Tabernacle grounds.

The Payson Silver Band went to Salt Lake in August 1909 to play for the G. A. R. Encampment. It was almost continuous playing. Being very hot, the older members became exhausted and had to quit. There was a humorous incident connected with this engagement. The Ohio Society was having an outing at Salt Air on the third day. The president asked the Payson band to join them. Getting permission from J. J. McClellan, he being in charge of the band while in Salt Lake, they went along and enjoyed the day. It was much cooler out there. In next morning's Salt Lake Tribune an article was published stating that the Payson band had been kidnapped. After this engagement the band dissolved, because some of the members were too old to carry on.

Payson being settled for sixty years, a celebration was held Oct. 20, 1910. J. Frank Pickering, editor of the Payson Enterprise published a "History of Payson."

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Sugar Factory Built — Payson City Water Works



William R. Heaton

William R. Heaton took over the office of mayor in 1912. Payson for sometime had been working toward new industries and improvements for the betterment of the community. The years 1912 and 13 saw the starting of some and the completion of others. School was held in the new high school during the school year 1912-13. The building was dedicated in January, 1913. Previous to this the Central School had served as the high school. Melvin Wilson was the first principal. Heber A. Curtis was the first student body president. Eight graduates received diplomas at the first commencement exercises.

A very new and flourishing industry was the Payson Eagle Bottling Works under the management of Mr. Messner and Roe Manwill. They converted the old adobe school house in the fourth ward into a bottling works. The plant was very modern. Two dozen cases could be filled every four minutes. The products were root beer, ginger ale, and soda water of all fruit flavors. They sold to Utah and Juab counties.

A 500 ton sugar factory went into production the fall of 1913. It was built west of Payson. Because of insufficient beet supply it was dismantled in 1940. Payson was handicapped by its method of obtaining culinary water. Those who could, dug wells, but this water wasn't always pure. In Payson canyon were many springs of good pure water just waiting to be utilized. Beginning this year a reservoir was built at the mouth of the canyon, the water from the springs piped into it, then piped on down to the homes in the city.

Payson was fast becoming known as a fruit growing center. Some of its prominent fruit growers joined the Utah Fruit Growers Association. This gave them a market for their fruit.

During the summer a fly killing contest and clean up days were sponsored. It proved to be such a success that it was decided to make it an annual event.

First Hospital Started



John T. Lant

John T. Lant was elected mayor for 1914-15. He had recently returned to Payson as an employee of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. He was instrumental in securing the sugar factory being built here. The water works system was completed in 1914 making culinary water available to all the citizens in the city.

Dr. A. L. Curtis came to Payson about 1911. Seeing the necessity of better care for emergency cases in 1914 he established a small hospital in rooms over the Wilson Drug Store. The venture didn't prove too successful. There were so many obstacles to be surmounted.

The sugar factory brought many new facilities into town. To supply residences for them the sugar company built between twenty and thirty new homes. Payson was in need of a band as they had been

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without one since 1909. In 1911 the Utah Conservatory of Music sent a representative, who got together some boys and engaged George H. Done as teacher. They were not organized because they didn't have proper instruments for a band. After Mr. Done filled his contract for teaching the band tried to stay together but had a difficult time. In 1914 or 1915 they organized and chose Melvin Done as their leader. Again Payson had a notable band. They played for most of the dances held in the Payson Pavilion from 1915 to 1918, they also were engaged in other towns. They took two trips south, one as far as Richfield and one trip to Logan in 1919. This band instituted weekly band concerts in the summer.

Completion of Orem and Strawberry Irrigation Project



Thomas E. Reece

At the municipal election held in Nov. 1915 Thomas E. Reece was elected mayor taking his office in January of 1916. This year saw the completion of two great projects that had been under construction over a period of years. On the 26-27 of May 1916 a celebration was held in Payson commemorating the completion of the Strawberry Irrigation Project and Interurban Railroad (Orem). Those on the committee were Dr. A. L. Curtis, chairman, Henry Erlandson, Jas. Reed, J. R. Vance, J. A. Loveless, Melvin Wilson and G. A. Wirkman. These men were among those responsible for these projects.

On Friday, May 26 the first Orem from Salt Lake to Payson carrying passengers arrived about 9:30 a.m. It was met by the band and townspeople. Mayor Thomas E. Reece gave a speech of welcome. Responses were given by W. C. Orem and J. L. Lytle. At 10:00 a.m. the Golden Spike was driven by the Carnival Queen, Mrs. George Done and Miss Gladys Orem. A moving picture was taken of this event. The Orem continued until 1946.

The Strawberry canal brought under irrigation ground from Spanish Fork to Goshen comprizing about 60,000 acres of land.

World War I began in 1914 when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia July 28. As the war progressed the U. S. was slowly drawn in. Germany's submarine sank merchantmen ships at sight. They would not provide for the safety of crew and passengers. Five ships flying the U. S. flag were torpedoed. On May 17, 1915 the English liner 'Lusitana' was sunk without warning. 1153 lives were lost including 113 American citizens. This aroused the American people.

President Wilson still held out. In the middle of March, 1917, three American ships were deliberately and defiantly sunk by the German submarines. On April 6, congress "resolved-that the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared."

With the declaration of war the National Red Cross was organized in each town. Mayor Reese lead out in this in Payson. Committees were appointed, the women knitted, rolled surgical dressings and made hospital garments to send to the armed forces.

While the war was going on overseas, some new enterprizes opened up in our community. An ice plant was built in the west part of town in 1917. The original

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stockholders were: Frank H. Taylor, James Taylor, H. H. Keener, A. M. Taylor, Thomas F. Tolhurst and Joseph D. Stark. This plant supplied Payson, Benjamin, Spanish Fork, Salem, Santaquin with ice, some ice also went to Goshen and Nephi. This plant continued in business for thirteen years then the electric refrigerators took over.

About May 13, 1917 a public library was opened in the Hancock building. The Cultus Club working with the city made this possible. The school children gathered up magazines and books. The mechanical art students of the Payson High School under the direction of Mr. D. M. Taylor built shelves and tables. A collection of current magazines were ordered as was also the leading state newspapers. This was something that had long been needed.

The State Bank of Payson opened May 21, 1917, with W. W. Armstrong, president; Lee R. Taylor, cashier.

The Payson firemen attended the state Firemens' Tournament at Lagoon. They won the ladder contest, also the hub and hub race. Sandy won the hose coupling and Eureka the hose cart race. By winning two events out of four the Payson boys won the Tournament.

Free Mail Service — Memorial Park Built



Henry Erlandson

Mayor Thomas Reece went out of office and Henry Erlandson took over in 1918. His administration finished the paving project.

The war brought many problems. The flu broke out during the winter of 1918-19. Drs. Curtis and Stewart had been called to war. This left Payson without a doctor. Mayor Erlandson worked with the Red Cross. Some of those working with him to help the sick were Wildman, Murphy, Delora Reed, Sara Mitchell Barnett and Daisy Harding. Food and medical supplies were taken to the stricken families.

November 11, 1918 the armistice was signed at 5 a.m. and by 11 o'clock the war was over. The bell on the City Hall rang out the good tidings to the people of Payson.

Free mail service was started and the houses numbered. The mail has been delivered to the homes since then. With the numbering of homes E. st. was changed to Utah Avenue.

June 30, 1919 the machinery in the old electric light plant was sold to the Thomas Electric Company for \$1020.00, the building was sold to Frank Harris.

To commemorate the services for enlisted soldiers from the City of Payson and vicinity during World War 1914-1918, the Memorial Park was built. Grass planted the Spring of 1919. Each of the new trees was planted by a veteran or his representative, and by the City officials who inaugurated the memorial enterprise. This was the second park of its kind in the United States. The first Park was in Baltimore, Maryland. It was built upon the suggestion of S. D. Johnson of Springville, brother-in-law of Mrs. Finlayson. The landscape architect was Prof. Emil Hansen, Supt. of grounds at U. S. A. C. Henry Drissell was the first gardener.

The large Locust trees were removed from the cemetery and young hardwood trees planted. This greatly improved the appearance.

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Grader and Level Purchased



J. C. Ellsworth

J. C. Ellsworth became Mayor January 5, 1920. On January 26 it was voted for the City to buy a grader and level in order to have better roads.

The Orem paved between their rails also a distance of two feet on each side of the track.

Now that Payson had a new park, some of the trees in the old park were removed and a ball park made with a ball diamond and a grand stand.

To have a fair distribution of culinary water, water meters were put in. The citizens then paid for the amount they used.

The Taylor school was built in 1919 with school starting January 1920. It was named after a pioneer educator, Jesse Taylor. A little adobe school house was torn down in order to make way for this new building.

Two drinking fountains were placed on Main Street one on the east side of first south, one on the west side of first north. One was placed on 1st west on Utah Avenue.

April 27, 1921 the Relief Society, Farm Bureau and City cleaned up the Cemetery. The lunch at noon was furnished by the city.

Built "White Way" on Main Street



Charles H. White

Charles H. White became mayor January, 1922. September 25, 1922 the property east of Memorial Park was bought from John Staheli. It was used for awhile as a tourist park, then converted into a playground.

May 17, 1923, the Payson Hotel, formerly the Craven Hotel was destroyed by fire. The Spanish Fork Fire department was called to help put out the blaze. A Mr. Houston of Salt Lake had bought the hotel two weeks before. It was a total loss.

Dr. A. L. Curtis bought the John Huish residence on first east, Utah Avenue and opened a hospital with a nine bed capacity. It wasn't long until the hospital was remodeled to accomodate fifteen beds. This hospital was operated with the Payson doctors cooperating until the city hospital was built.

The Lions Club was organized in 1924 with Dr. Grover Christensen as the first president and about twenty five charter members. This organization has proved very beneficial both socially and civically.

A "no parking" sign and an electric light was placed in front of the fire station.

The "White Way" as it was called was installed in 1925 by Frank Coombs. New poles and lights were placed on each side of main street from second north to second south. It was completed in December.

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First Fire Engine and Siren Bought



Thomas F. Tolhurst

At the November election Thomas F. Tolhurst was elected Mayor. He took his office January 1926.

The "White Way" was extended to include the front of Memorial Park. Six lights were installed.

June 24, 1926 the Nebo School board bought the City Hall property intending to erect a School House.

The Payson Seminary was dedicated in February 1926. A program was given at 10 a.m. at which Dr. Asa L. Curtis gave the dedicatory prayer. A stake reunion was held in the evening at the tabernacle. After the program refreshments were served. The "Prodigal Son" and "The Gift" were presented by the stake recreational Committee.

May 4, 1927 a Foamite-Childs 500 gal "Thoro-bred" firetruck was bought, also a fire siren. The siren was first placed on top of the Telephone Office. In case of fire the telephone girl rang the siren. The siren was later moved to the top of the Exchange Bank building, this building being bought by the City in 1927 and is used as a Library and City offices.

Started Onion Days and Home Coming — Built Race Track



Dr. L. D. Stewart

Dr. L. D. Stewart took over as mayor of Payson January 1938.

Early in the summer of 1938, Salt Lake City Former Paysonian's Club representatives, Dr. Louis N. Ellsworth and Dr. Potter met with mayor Stewart and suggested that Payson sponsor a home coming celebration.

Dr. Stewart called together the heads of all civic and church organizations, city officials, and civic leaders at a banquet held at Arrowhead where he presented the proposal.

They received the idea enthusiastically. The idea was introduced to build a suitable place to conduct a sports program to feature the celebration. They decided a race track would be a good drawing card.

The depression had begun, money was scarce. Ralph Done, a former Paysonian, offered to donate a large sum if the athletic and sports field be called Done Field as a memorial to the Done family. With this and local help through contribution in cash and labor, in less than a month this field was ready. The north end provides space for track and football activities of the high school. The south end is arranged for softball, baseball, etc. A race track for horse racing surrounds the area with stables and a large grandstand.

In 1929 at the request of Utah County authorities, who at that time asked each town in the county to sponsor a celebration to advertise one certain product grown or produced in the county, Payson adopted the Golden Onion. This was the beginning of the Home Coming and Onion Days celebration held each year the last of August and the first of Sept. The last day is always on labor day.

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The Nebo School district erected the Junior High on the grounds of the City Hall. It was built the summer of 1928 and was dedicated in October. Lewis Bates was the first Principal.

The Daughters of Pioneers, in honor of the first settlers, placed a pioneer cabin, furnished complete with relics in Memorial Park. It was dedicated and presented to the City July 24, 1928.

Under the management of C. E. Huish who had purchased the old Gayety theatre from George H. Done, remodeled it and renamed it to Star Theatre, the first talking pictures were shown in Payson July 14, 1929. *DDSOLE*

The Cultus Club undertook the project of building a tennis court, in west sidepark. This was completed Sept. 20, 1929. This had been needed for a long time. *HELEN TOLHURST AURORA WILSON LULA ERLANDSON COM*

In 1930 the Utah Poultry association built a poultry plant here. Floyd Harmer of Springville was put in as manager. This provided a place that the farmers could buy feed and also furnished a market for eggs and poultry.

To commemorate the arrival of the first settlers of Payson, Oct. 20, 1850, a committee from Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers presented a bonfire program where the settlers first camped. Oct. 31, 1930, a pageant, written by Kathryn Betts who was also the reader, was given. The original settlers were represented in the pageant by members of their respective families.

Aug. 4, 1931, the Alexander Keele monument built in Memorial Park was dedicated in connection with the Black Hawk encampment. The erection was sponsored by the three camps of Daughters of Utah Pioneers and Payson City. The erection was directed by the history committee, Ann J. Loveless, Ethel T. Page, Aurora N. Wilson and Annie L. Curtis, assisted by Henry Erlandson and John Gardner. It was to honor Alexander Keele who was shot by an Indian while standing guard at the beginning of the Walker War. A marker placed at each corner of the fort were also dedicated at this time and one marking the spot the settlers camped for the first night.

Dry Lake Reservoir Built — School Lunches Started



Dr. Asa L. Curtis

Dr. Asa L. Curtis took oath of office January 4, 1932. The state Bank closed its doors the day before, January 3. This left Payson without a bank and the people with very little money.

The Goosenest reservoir being under construction, Mayor Curtis and the council went on with it and completed the project. The McClellan, Box and Big Reservoirs were improved and enlarged. This tripled their storage capacity. Dry Lake was made into a reservoir. The supply of water was increased in the storage tank for culinary water.

With the aid of the C. C. C. the canyon road was improved. A road was built up right hand fork. A recreational area was built. Stoves and tables were built at Camp sites. This increased the usability of the canyon for picnics and camping.

The gathering of dry garbage was started. It was gathered once a month from March until November. This proved so successful that a wet garbage route was commenced.

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Through the Lady Lions and W. P. A. the school lunches were started. They were at first prepared in the basement of the I.O.O.F. building and then taken to the different schools and distributed at noon. The lunches are now prepared at the school, the school district in charge. A small amount is charged for the students.

December 1932 the Junior High presented the first Candle Service. From that time until now it has become an annual event. The entire student body all faculty members, the janitor, engineers participated, making it an outstanding Christmas production. Through song and tableaux the birth of the Savior is portrayed.

According to the minutes of the City Council the tennis courts at the west side park were lighted July 17, 1933. The ball park and race track were improved, some lights were installed and more bleachers erected.

Highway 91 Changed to First West

In 1933 Henry Erlandson was again elected mayor, taking office January, 1934. Seeing the necessity of a larger storage space for culinary water, Mayor Erlandson designed and supervised with W.P.A. help, the construction of an additional covered tank or reservoir at the intake of the City Water works at the mouth of Payson canyon.

A side walk was paved on the east side of main street from Memorial Park to the High School. The park was enlarged to include the square on the east. This piece of ground belonged to the city. A swimming pool was constructed in this area.

Because main street was so narrow, it was thought advisable to make Highway 91 through Payson on first west starting at first north. The contract for this highway was accepted April 13, 1935, and work commenced immediately.

Payson Hospital Built — Cemetery Planted to Lawn and Sewer Started



Philo Wightman

for not only Payson, but surrounding cities.

In 1937 the swimming pool was improved and the bath houses built. In 1938 the two tennis courts on the southeast side of the park were put in.

The cemetery was enlarged, new water lines laid, and the whole planted to lawn. This was a great improvement, making the cemetery one of the nicest in the state.

With the growth of the community the High School needed to expand. Dr. L. D. Stewart and Graham Daley broke the ground for a new \$39,000 shop and

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gymnasium on January 27, 1939, to be built on the ground south of the high school. The high school was also renovated.

Oct. 26, 1939 Mayor Philo Wightman turned the first ground starting the sewer system, in the presence of the City Council, WPA officers, citizens and workmen on the project.

Payson Creek running between Utah Avenue and first south paralleling main street was covered over, this opened a road back of the business buildings on the west side of main street.

Race Track Lighted — Power House Built in Payson Canyon



George Chase

George Chase became mayor January, 1940. These next years brought many advancements to the community.

The sewer project was nearly finished. C. E. Huish started a cold storage and locker plant. It was operated in connection with the Porter Meat Market.

The Seminary building was enlarged and remodeled making it one of the finest seminary buildings in the state.

Aug. 30, 1940 the Commercial Bank of Payson started business in the State Bank Building with P. P. Thomas as president, George C. Chase as vice president and Roy Broadbent as cashier. This meant a great deal to the people. There had not been a bank here since the State Bank closed Jan. 3, 1932.

For the Home Coming and Onion Days in 1940 the race track was resurfaced. The race track was lighted with 64 giant lights making night horse racing possible. This was the debut of night racing in the state. The lights also made it possible to have entertainments of all kinds at night, such as baseball, football, rodeos, etc.

A power house was built about three miles up Payson Canyon by the Strawberry Water Users association. It went into operation in 1941. This helped materially with the electric power.

The United States declared war on Japan, Dec. 7, 1941, the day the Japs made a sneak attack upon Pearl Harbor. On December 11 of the same month war was declared with the Axis. Once again the U. S. had to send men and war material across the seas, this time in two directions.

THE PAYSON STORY

Oiled Roads — Swimming Pool Remodeled



David Forsey
remodeled. This greatly improved the picturesqueness of the pond.

Thus we go on to 1942 when David Forsey took oath as mayor. The sewer was completed in April. Work then began on oiled roads. The roads were graveled the fall of 1941 for the preliminary base, and during 1942-43 eight miles were oiled. Several miles of new sidewalk were put in and rock irrigation carriers were constructed.

The swimming pool was remodeled to meet standard requirement then. How the children did enjoy this pool on warm summer days.

The band stand in the park was too small to accommodate the seating of the band while playing at summer concerts so a large platform of cement was built.

The sides of the fish pond in the north west corner of the park were rocked up, the dam and bridge

Widening of Main Street—Power Station Built—Parcel Post Packages Delivered



Floyd Harmer

Floyd Harmer, our twenty-ninth mayor, took oath of office January, 1944. One of the first concerns of the new council was fire protection. With the growth of the town the present fire apparatus was found inadequate. A new fire truck was bought. With two trucks fire costs were kept down. A resuscitator was also purchased and has saved several lives.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce was organized June 22, 1944, Leon Wride, president. Since then they have lead out in many worth while enterprises.

The war continued until 1945. On May 8, Germany surrendered, but it wasn't until August 14, that Japan surrendered. This brought to a close World War II.

During Home Coming and Onion days in 1945 a Dairy Show was inaugurated and has become a part of the celebration. It is looked forward to by the 4-H boys and the dairy men as much as any part of the celebration.

The Orem stopped running in 1946 making way for more modern travel, by bus and automobile.

March 22, 1947 work started on the widening of Payson Main Street. The sidewalk on the east side was three feet wider than on the west, so the east side was made the same as the west. The gutters were narrowed, for a distance of two blocks. Main street was then resurfaced for 3 blocks, from second north to first south, also from first east to first west on Utah Avenue.

The Payson Flower Club with the aid of the various clubs, Payson City and community planted 500 roses in the Memorial municipal rose garden on the hospital grounds. The garden was dedicated as a memorial to the veterans of World War II.

The Payson Jaycees purchased a Deluxe model oxygen tent for the Payson

THE PAYSON STORY

hospital. They also installed a skeet range, planted trees at the race track to make a wind break and installed a teeter, a swing and a slippery slide at the playgrounds in the park.

In July, Lee Rindlisbacker and Grant Carlisle, owners of a local dairy, opened a modern plant. They now pasteurize milk, handle butter, cheese, chocolate milk and other dairy products.

A plaque, in honor of the first settlers, placed on the pioneer cabin in Memorial park was dedicated Aug. 31, 1947. Mrs. Mary J. McClellan, chairman of the Centennial Daughters of Utah Pioneers committee was in charge of the program. The dedicatory prayer was given by Jasper Hill.

In May of 1948, behind-the-wheel driver instructions were provided to all sophomores in the Payson High School. The driving course was a follow-up of instructions given in the physical education classes.

At the close of business on June 30, 1948, the Commercial Banks of Payson, Spanish Fork, Heber, Nephi and Delta were consolidated into one new banking corporation. It is now known as The Commercial Bank of Utah.

Starting on Thursday morning, July 1, 1948 the Payson post office started a parcel post route. Parcels to all business houses and residential districts in Payson within the city limits are delivered.

The Jaycees built a second fire place at Memorial park Aug. 20, just north of the one erected by the Nebo Stake Bee Hive Girls. The city placed concrete pipe to carry the dangerously swift and deep Petetneet Creek which runs through the picnic area. A small stream was left open. This completed a very picturesque picnic area.

The American Legion Basketball state tournament was held in Payson Feb. 23-4-6. There were sixteen all star teams participating. The Payson American Legion Post No. 48 sponsored the tournament.

The official opening of the Huiish Theatre, built in memory of C. E. Huiish, Payson native son, was conducted Wednesday, April 27, 1949. A capacity crowd enjoyed the coronation. The seating capacity is 830. This theatre is one of the finest in the state of Utah.

Street markers, sponsored jointly by Payson City, the Lions Club and the Jaycees were placed on each intersection. This makes directions easier to find.

The Cocklebur Riding club rodeo arena was initiated July 4, 1949. Under lights the youth of the city vied for honors in steer riding, calf roping and novelty races.

The United States Post Office of Payson was moved to larger quarters Oct. 15. It now occupies the building on South Main St. adjacent to the Firsey variety store.

Mayor Floyd Harmer was re-elected for the fourth straight term November 8, 1949. This made Payson History, as he became the first mayor to gain the honor. This term will be four years, due to a recent change in Payson election law. The only other long termed mayor was Orrawell Simons. He served three terms, 1867 to 1875.

The new addition to the Taylor School was dedicated December 15 in the new auditorium of the school. The program was under the direction of Nebo School District board of education, with Melvin Wilson conducting. The prayer of dedication was given by Samuel E. Taylor, a former teacher and son of Jesse S. Taylor for whom the school was named.

1950 being Payson's Centennial year, many outstanding entertainments are slated and many improvements started.

THE PAYSON STORY

The first highway post office in Western United States stopped in Payson Jan. 23, 1950 on its initial run on a regular route from Richfield, Utah to Salt Lake City.

The improvement program of Payson's water works system was started in June. The improvement covers the entire water system, from the springs beyond Payson reservoir throughout Payson City, replacing pipe lines and flow lines, installing new lines and giving 70 fire hydrants to Payson.

The Payson High School during the school year of 1949-50 helped with the centennial as they won thirteen trophies. A first place trophy was awarded LeRoy Bills as best rifleman in the six western states. The Payson high rifle team won first place in state and regional competition as well as a plaque showing Payson as winning team in six state meet of National Rifle Assn.

In speech, Payson High won a sweepstakes award won in a state meet at BYU against 40 other schools.

In athletics the school won state football, Class B, second place; regional football, first place; state basketball, Class B, second place; regional basketball, first place; regional track, first place; Snow college trek, several regions competing, first place; BYU mile relay, first place; state mile relay, first place; Future Farmers of America basketball, region, first place. The school was also awarded the Moorehead sportsmanship football traveling trophy, Region 3.

Members of Payson Senior high school band under the direction of J. D. Christensen presented a centennial concert May 18, at the tabernacle. Favorite old tunes were played. One number was played by the old Payson Band. William Clayson directed a number and John Done conducted a number, Memorial Park, written by his son, Melvin Done.

District governor of Kiwanis International officially organized a Kiwanis club in Payson June 10. James S. "Sam" McClellan, president of the Payson club accepted the charter from Governor McCune, on behalf of the eight charter members of the club.

The Mountain State Telephone company improved and expanded the local telephone service. This includes increase in rural lines and outside plant facilities to reduce party line congestion. With the completion the toll charge between Spanish Fork and Payson will be eliminated.

The Legion Home was dedicated at an open house June 22, Bill Snyder, Payson Post 48 commander and Mrs. L. D. Stewart of the Legion Auxiliary arranged the program and dedicatory exercises, with Mr. Snyder as master of ceremonies. Bishop Glenn Cowan, Payson third ward, himself a legionaire, gave the dedicatory prayer.

A new city electrical sub-station located on the city property at the old Orem shop area went into operation July 1 at 4:30 p.m.

The Black Hawk encampment was held in Payson August 1-5. The keynote theme carried out in the programs during the five days was Our Pioneers. Some of the outstanding features were, a pageant written by Kathryn Betts, "Youth's Heritage-Our Yesterdays" a parade, a sham Indian-settlers battle, a sunrise service, where the settlers first camped and each day programs were given by the different posts.

There are two more centennial events scheduled. The annual Onion Days and Homecoming celebration Sept. 4 and the Birthday program and marker celebration in October.

Yesterday & To-day

1850 to 1950

Pictures Tell . . .

The

Payson

Story



First Furniture Store Built in Payson about 1870



Dixon's Market, 1950.



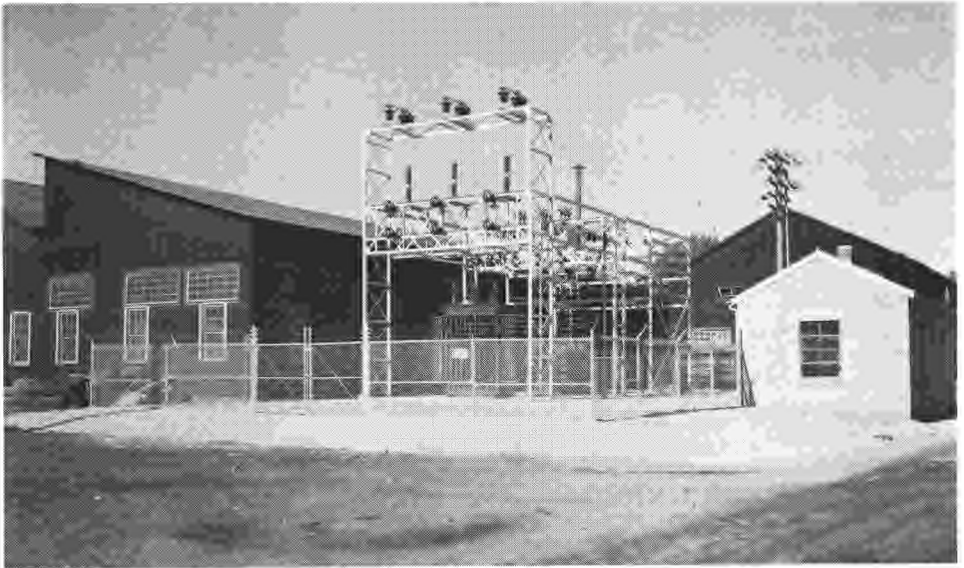
Union Hall, rear, built 1860. In front, William Douglass Hardware built about 1870.



Snyder Motor, 1950.



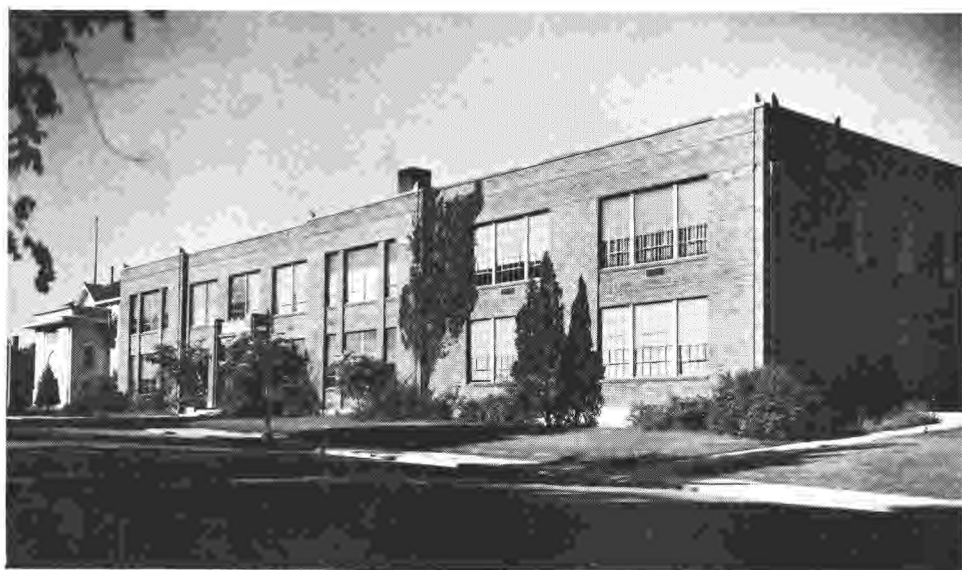
The Carl Schramm Home and Payson's First Bakery, about 1870.



Payson City Power Station and Storage Barns.



Payson City Hall built 1870.



Payson Junior High built 1928.



Payson High Basketball Team, 2nd place winners of Utah State Basketball Tournament, 1909.



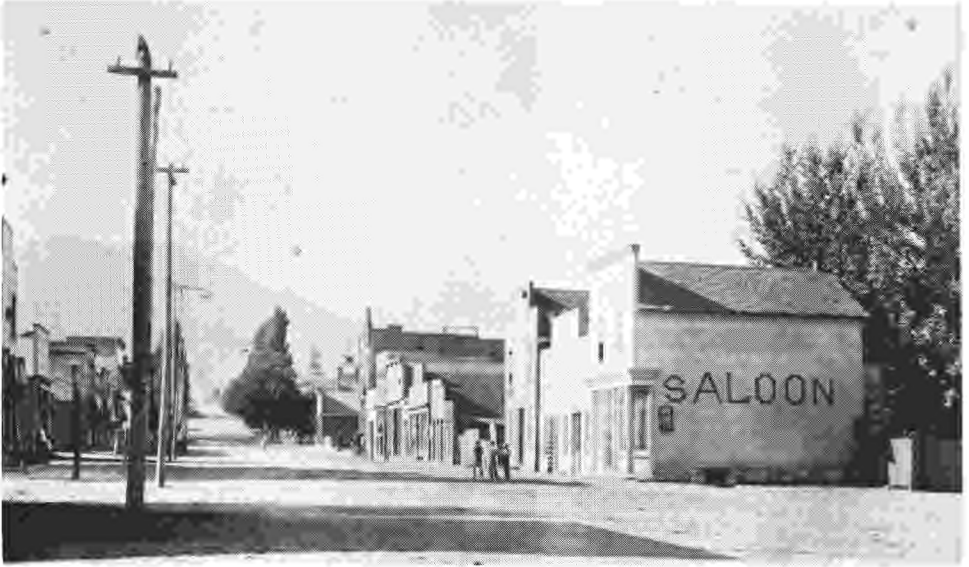
Payson High Basketball Team, 2nd place winners of Utah State Basketball Tournament, 1950.



Huish Pioneer Planing Mill, about 1864.



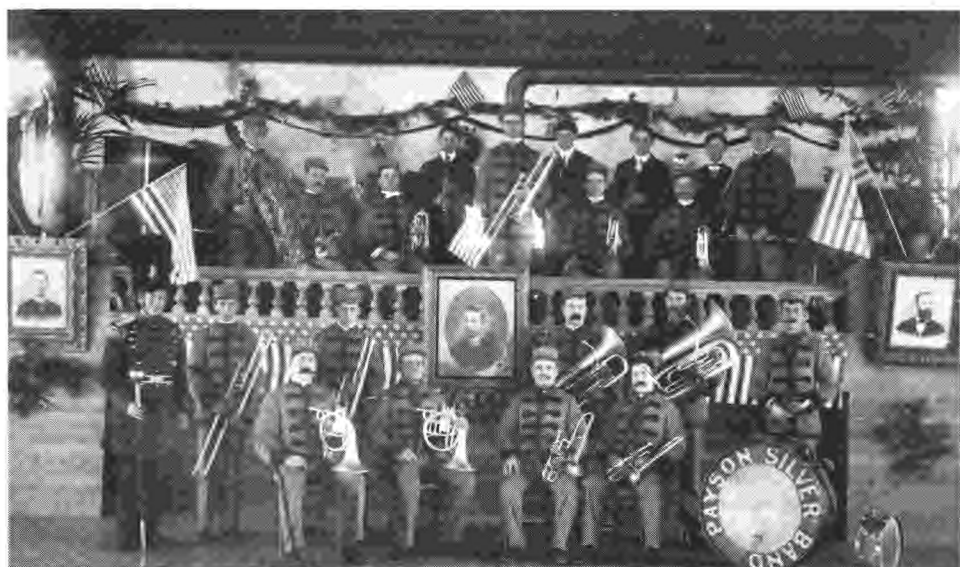
North East Corner of Park, 1950.



Main Street, West side, looking South, about 1890.



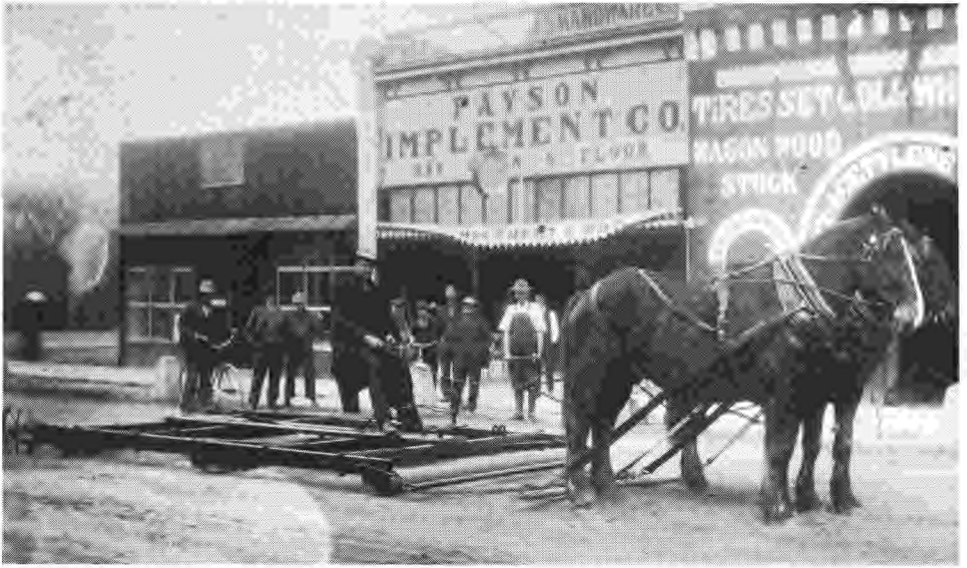
West side of Main Street, looking South, 1950.



Payson Silver Band, 1904.



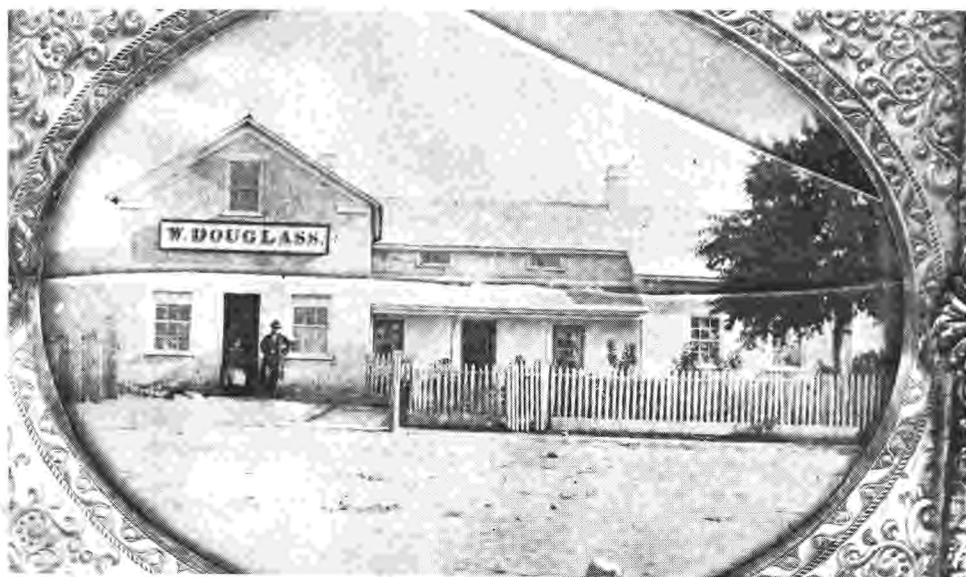
Payson High School Band, 1950.



Tipton Implement Co., First West on Utah Avenue.



Huish Theatre, First West on Utah Avenue, 1950.



William Douglass Home and Grocery Store, built about 1860.



Commercial Bank, 1950.

Presidents

Thomas, Chas. H. Erlandson & Erlandson