

Sketches Of Mormon Trail

By DELPHNE SQUIRES

While the company was encamped in Sycamore grove life went on as usual. The first weddings were celebrated—Nathan Swartout and Emma Tanner; James J. Davidson and Lydia Shepherd. The ceremony was performed under a spreading sycamore, and the first child was born November 7, 1851, in a wagon to Amasa and Cornelia Lyman. He was named Lorenzo Snow Lyman and he lived many years in Bloomington, California.

In the meantime, Capt. Hunt accompanied Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich while they investigated the country and selected the Lugo ranch as the most desirable location for a settlement. In the late fall the deal was consummated, but not before Hunt had piloted Lyman and Rich to San Francisco to arrange for part of the purchase price of \$75,000 for 37,000 acres of land.

To make the payments—there were three installments, the women willingly gave their keepsakes of gold and silver, with the hope that they were insured of a home in this land of plenty. To this day every abstract of title for land in the original tract bears the names of Lyman and Rich.

The colonists moved down into what to them was the promised land and for years contended with difficulties which they met and overcome. They were happy and made an example which the youth of today might well copy.

They laid out a fort where the Lugo homestead stood which is also the site of the beautiful new San Bernardino county court house. The fort was enclosed with a stockade 12 feet high and contained eight acres. A stream of water was brought down from the hills and made to flow through the enclosure. The families lived within the stockade, but the fields were tilled out—was built for their religious services, school and social gatherings. Elders Lyman and Rich were the first preachers and a Mr. Stout the first teacher, and he was paid by the parents of the pupils.

The women enjoyed simple pleasures in the form of quilting and sewing bees and when the grain was ready for shipment the women and girls met in the evening and made the sacks to hold it. The wheat was ground at the Rubidoux mill, near the present city of Riverside.

Capt. Hunt and his sons freighted the provisions which they were unable to raise from San Pedro with teams of mules and horses. He also received the appointment to carry the mail from Los Angeles to San Bernardino then on to Salt Lake by pony express.

When the Indians became more friendly the colonists began to build homes outside the stockade and Lyman, Rich and Capt. Hunt aided by the men of the colony built sixteen miles of road up into Waterman canyon where they set up three saw mills to provide the needed lumber.

The Lugo ranch had been a part of Los Angeles county. Captain Hunt was elected to the legislature which met in Benicia and through his efforts an act was passed and approved April 26, 1853 authorizing

the division of Los Angeles county and the formation of San Bernardino county. San Bernardino was selected as the county seat.

The town was controlled by the Mormons until 1857 when Brigham Young, desiring to centralize his church interests in Utah issued the recall to Zion. Many obeyed and numerous homes were practically given away. A few, however, decided to stay and enjoy the homes they worked so hard to obtain. When travel necessitated a place of entertainment a long adobe building was erected on lower Third street which was known as "Starkey's Hotel" and which has stood there for many years, but now so improved that the old timers would have difficulty in recognizing it.

During these years of travel between Salt Lake and San Bernardino the old Mormon trail was used and the patch of meadows known as "Las Vegas" (which is Spanish for the meadows) became the popular camp ground. It was one of the few places where plenty of water, could be obtained, which was one of the reasons it was chosen as the place for a Mormon settlement in 1855.

At a general conference of the church held in Great Salt Lake City in April 1855 a large number of missionaries were called to different parts of the world. Among them the following brethren were called to go to locate a settlement at Las Vegas, which at that time belonged to New Mexico:

James T. S. Allred, George W. Bean (Indian interpreter); James A. Bean, Wm. Brinkhurst, who afterward became the president of the mission; Wm. Burston, Sidney Carter, Benjamin Cluff, Joseph C. Clowes, Wm. S. Covert, who later became a counselor in the mission presidency.

Edward Cuthbert, Wm. Foster, Ariot Hale, Wm. Hamblin, Benjamin R. Hulse, formerly bishop of Harmony, Utah, Richard James, Thomas H. James, who could not go; Wm. P. Jones, Jr., Albert Knapp, Wm. Maxwell, Joseph Milam

Ira S. Miles, Amasa E. Miriam, Wm. C. Mitchell, Jr., Wm. Nixon, Stephen C. Perry, Thomas E. Ricks, Wm. C. A. Smoot, Geo. C. Snyder, John Steele, Wm. Vance.

On April 22, 1855, a meeting of the elders appointed to go on missions was called at the Seventies' Hall in Salt Lake City, to set the brethren apart for their several missions. The names of the brethren to go to Las Vegas were called in the meeting and were ordained and blessed by the Twelve and the presidents of the Seventies.

Instructions were given them by Brigham Young and Elder Orson Hyde. They were to prepare themselves to move without delay, and to go prepared to sustain themselves by raising a crop that same season if possible. They met at the close of the meeting and decided that the company should start on their great adventure Monday, May 7, 1855; that the brethren living to the south be ready to fall in when the company came up. They then set about fitting up their wagons, teams, provisions, and all the necessary equipment for the beginning of a new settlement.

(To Be Continued)

Out in Kansas they have an epidemic of sleeping sickness among horses. Now we know what was the matter with the nag we bet on the last time we went to the races.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE TO MEET

A representative from each organization in Las Vegas has been asked to meet at the Elks home on south Third street, Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock to plan for the annual community Christmas. The idea is to make preparation so that every child in Las Vegas shall know a little Christmas joy and every family enjoy a Christmas dinner.

If there is an organization in the city not listed below it would confer a great favor on the committee if the name could be phoned Miss Ethel Corey at the grammar school, as the omission is not intentional.

Chamber of commerce, junior chamber of commerce, city commissioners, city employes, Elks, Kiwanis, Rotary, Eagles, I. O. O. F., Moose, Shriners F. and A. M., Business and Professional Women, Mesquite club, Rebekahs, Royal Neighbors, Eastern Star, U-Wah-Un.

Parent-Teachers Association, Old Timers, American Legion, Spanish American War Veterans, and Auxiliary, Fortnighters, V. F. W.,

American Legion Auxiliary, V. F. W. Auxiliary, Eagles Auxiliary, B. of L. E., G. I. A. to B. of L. E., B. of R. T. Auxiliary.

Ladies Society to the B. of L. F. & E., Scout executive committee, Young Democratic club, Firemen, Bartenders union, Cooks and Waiters union, Carpenters union, Central Labor council of Clark County, Building Trades council of Southern Nevada, Ladies Auxiliary to the Carpenters union, Community Players.

Recreational department, Men's Bowling association, Clark County Delia, W. P. A., Review-Journal, The Age, Catholic church, Methodist church, Episcopal church, Lutheran church, Baptist church, L. D. S. church.

Christian Science church, Ladies Aid of Methodist church, Catholic Ladies, Baptist and Methodist choirs, Democratic Women's Study club, Christmas Tree and Toys, White Christmas Tree Project, colored citizens.

READ THE AGE

Pirate and Papoose



This pretty "pirate girl" found this Indian papoose at Hopi House, Grand Canyon, Ariz. The "pirate girl" is Zoe Dell Lantis who visited the Hopis while touring the Southwest in the interests of the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition, to be held on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay in 1939.