

## Sketches Of Mormon Trail

By DELPHINE SQUIRES

(The diary from which the journey of our Mormon pioneers can be traced was kept by them and compiled by Andrew Jensen, assistant church historian in Salt Lake. It was later published by Miss Weir in a report of the Nevada Historical Society 1925,-26.)

Friday, August 31, 1855—

It was decided by the brethren to take some of the cattle from Las Vegas to California to trade for mules. George Snyder, George Bean, Wm. Smoot, William Follet and Thos. Ricks were elected to drive the cattle. In the meantime some very good timber had been brought from the mountains and the brethren had drawn their building lots inside the fort. A number of men were to haul stones for the foundation of the fort wall. President Bringham advised them to build their mess houses on the south side of the fort.

The following extracts were taken from a letter written in Las Vegas Sept. 11, 1855, by Geo. W. Bean to Thos. Bullock.

"We are all in the enjoyment of health, reasonable strength and the good spirit which comforts us all in our privations and laborious duties; everything that we lay our hands to seems to prosper."

Our crops in general look well and big fair to come to maturity before frost. We have some fine melon patches, the melons just beginning to ripen.

"Our fort, 150 feet square, is now progressing rapidly; the walls are of adobes and are to be 14 feet high, 2 feet thick at the bottom and one at the top. Houses are going up and we will soon begin to live quite comfortably.

"Our explorations have assured us of plenty of desert and Indians.

"The monotony of our life is occasionally enlivened by a straggling party of Gentiles and apostate Mormons passing by in search of golden salvation.

"Jerome M. Benson of Jordan Bridge notoriety and a man named Tidero from Provo, are here at present on their way to the land of pleasant dreams.

"The weather is now quite comfortable. Slight shower last night and prospects for more."

Wednesday, Sept. 12—California mail arrived this morning with one returning missionary from Slam, named Elam Luddington. The president's wall house and fort are progressing rapidly. The men started with the cattle (30 head) and were to await the mail from Salt Lake at Cottonwood Springs.

Friday, Sept. 14—Mail arrived from Salt Lake. A letter from President Young advised them in their dealings with the Indians. Also told them if any wished to go to Salt Lake for a visit they might do so, but not to leave the fort unprotected. If any desired to take their families to Vegas to consult him.

Saturday, Sept. 15—At 1 o'clock President Bringham left in company with the mail for California. W. S. Covert was appointed to preside in his absence. The walls of President Bringham's house were finished this day—the first house built at the Vegas fort.

The following extracts are from a letter written by Elder John Steel

### HIGHWAYS AND MOTOR TAXES

The proposal before Congress to slash appropriations for Federal aid of highways is certain to become one of the hottest debates of the winter.

Direct taxes paid by highway users, the owners and operators of motor vehicles, on industries that depend upon highway transportation; direct taxes collected by the

to Elder George A. Smith.

"I would here say something in favor of Messrs. Savage, Hope and Conger, the mail carriers, who have accommodated us very much in bringing us letters and parcels for which we tender our heartiest thanks. I send you a draft of these mountains and valleys (it is not on any particular scale) so you can see the shape of our valley and our situation. Also a plat of our survey so you can form an idea of the extent of our domain. I would say that the gardens are very good, although there is a great quantity of saleratus and with the exception of one or two 5-acre lots, the land is bad. I planted 3 acres of corn, oats, peas, beans, etc., and my oats came up beautifully; so did everything else, but in spite of all my efforts to save it, the saleratus killed it, and I will not have three bushels of corn on it. My garden lot turned out well. There is not one particle of ground within 20 miles of us, with the exception of our garden, that is rich enough to grow bunch grass. There is some sandy land at Cottonwood Springs where wheat might be grown. It is 23 miles west. I think wheat put in the fall would have rain enough to mature it. I intend to put wheat on my garden lot this fall and I think it will come up early enough to plant garden truck next season.

The water which runs through this ground is quite salty. Our corn is mostly ripe and the melons are good. The Indians go into the field at night and steal so we have posted a guard. Occasionally flour is taken from our wagons and all the meat has been stolen. Really, I do not blame them for stealing anything to eat as there is not a thing in all this country for them to eat except lizards and mesquite.

The wolves here are as thin as a greyhound that has had nothing to eat for two months.

I hope I may go home this fall as my family is completely destitute. The crops which I worked so hard to put in before I left being destroyed by grasshoppers.

Our saw mill is going up under the hands of James T. S. Allred and James Dickenson (I mean Arm's song's mill) and the lumber rolls out very fast. Edward Cuthbert is our blacksmith and we have men of almost every trade here and can make anything from a needle to an anchor.

I am informed that the Indians on the other side of the Colorado do not use a bow and arrow but fight with a large club. The Indians here use poisoned arrows and flint points. They say poison does not stick to iron points. The poison is made by having a rattlesnake bite a piece of deer's liver, which is then buried in the ground and when it becomes putrid they take it out and dry it. When they wish to use it they either steep it in water or rub it on the arrow and whenever it cuts the skin it is sure to kill.

(To Be Continued)

states and the federal government reach enormous figures. Gasoline taxes on motor fuels, registration and license fees, together with certificates of titles—and what else have you, Mr. Motorist?

Statisticians produce figures to show that car owners now pay over one-sixth of all taxes in the United States—federal, state and local.

Now comes Senator Lonegran of Connecticut, with a proposition that he wishes put before the motorists

of the country, to re-establish the old and discarded principle of toll roads. The senator suggests that it would be an easy way to get more money out of the motorists.

### SPEND WINTER HERE

Mrs. Alice Pomeroy of Los Angeles has arrived and will spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Earl Davison.

## I'd Rather Be Cohan

By Daniel I. McNamara



Lorenz Hart and Richard Rodgers

WITH George M. Cohan as its star, and Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, inseparables of popular song, as the creators of its musical numbers, the Sam H. Harris Broadway musical hit, "I'd Rather Be Right" is bringing new lustre to the brilliant records of three distinguished members of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, partners in many theatrical writings, prepared the book. Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, for eighteen years a partnership in creating songs, wrote the music and lyrics. And another famous partnership, Cohan and Harris, is recalled in the association of the former as star and the latter as producer of the current success.

While George M. Cohan's recent activities in the theatre have overshadowed his earlier efforts as a songwriter, the fact is that for more than forty years he has been a successful creator of songs. Back in 1895, songs with both words and music by George M. Cohan were sung in Tony Pastor's, Koster & Bial's, Hyde & Behman's and other music halls of the mauve decade.

### Cohan the Songwriter

His "Hot Tamale Alley" was a favorite in 1895, when May Irwin scored one of the memorable hits of her career with this early coon song by the man who was to write more than twenty years later the immortal battle hymn of the dough-boy, "Over There."

George M. Cohan's membership in ASCAP is more than a perfunctory matter. None knows better than he the injustices suffered by the creators of song, and for his fellow creators of song he cherishes a devoted spirit. He has never taken office in the Society, but is one of its most vigorous protagonists. His historic appearances in the halls of legislation at Washington to help

the Society's fight against the impairment of copyright law is one of the bright pages of the Society's records.

Rodgers and Hart are celebrating in this new show an event of significance in their joint care—the creation of their one thousandth song. Even they have lost track of the actual count, but they're sure that somewhere in the program of "I'd Rather Be Right" their total reached the one thousand mark.

### A Long Collaboration

They have been writing songs together from the time eighteen years ago when Rodgers, an undergraduate composer at Columbia, called back Hart, who had preceded him through the college, to write the lyrics for the Varsity Show. Within a few months they had produced the songs for a Broadway show, "The Poor Little Ritz Girl." In eighteen years of successes, Rodgers has composed for no one but Hart, and Hart has written for no other composer.

Of all their songs, their favorite is "With a Song in My Heart," but the most frequently played is "My Heart Stood Still."

In "I'd Rather Be Right" the songs are full of hilarious joshing for the New Dealers, and in both song and book, George M. Cohan finds rich material for his astonishing impersonation of The President.