

# Sons of Utah Pioneers

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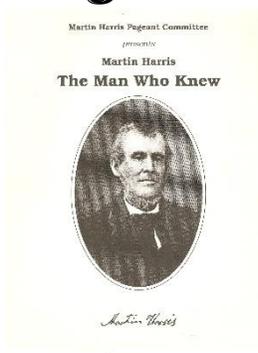
## Hurricane Valley Chapter Newsletter

Ghost of  
HighSchool Past

**July Activity:** Our chapter prepared and served a delicious 24<sup>th</sup> of July celebration breakfast for the community of Hurricane and surrounding area. Members of our chapter arose early that morning, setting up cooking areas, serving tables, and an area for meal preparation. Sausages were cooked the night before, and heated that morning to keep them hot for serving, and pancake batter prepared and cooked hot for our patrons. All in all, it was a wonderful event, and a time to have our name out to the public. We served 98 people.



**August Events:** On Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m., we will assemble at Dan Zaleski's home, and board a van to take us to the Northern Utah town of Clarkston, and there



enjoy the pageant, "The Man Who Knew". It is really the life story of Martin Harris, and will be, besides entertaining, very educational in coming to learn of the life and trials of Martin Harris, one of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>:** We will meet at the Hurricane American Legion Hall at 6:30



p.m. to be treated to a sumptuous pot-luck dinner, and have the honor to hear our fellow chapter member Nick Scholzen tell us about the history of the Scholzen Family, and how they came to be in the Hurricane Valley. Nick is a lifelong citizen of our community, and a major contributor to it.

**September Activities: 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>:** THE NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN CENTERVILLE, UTAH. We should be registering now to go. An application is found by going to [www.sup1847.com](http://www.sup1847.com) and signing up there. After hosting last year's convention, we should understand better than any, the importance of registering early.

**September 21<sup>st</sup>:** It will be our privilege to have Eric Stevens from the



Spanish Fork Chapter come to speak to us. He is a young man who is extremely excited about the SUP. It will be at 6:30 p.m. at the legion hall, and pot-luck.

**October 19<sup>th</sup>:** To Be Determined. Possibly the last remaining member of the WWII Code Talkers.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>:** President James McArthur from St. George, will speak



to us in the Legion Hall at 6:30 p.m. He served as the Temple President in Nauvoo for the past 3 years, and his presentation will be about his time there, and what he learned. He spoke in the Cotton Mission Chapter meeting, and it is reported that his presentation was wonderful. It is a must come and hear. The dinner will be pot luck.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>:** Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Hurricane Stake Center on the first Friday of the month. It will begin at 6:00 p.m., a half hour earlier than our regular meetings. There will be wonderful entertainment. This fabulous dinner helps us raise funds for various events and scholarships. Our new board for 2018 will also be sworn in.

**History:** LaVerkin Cont. – by Victor Hall, deceased HVSUP Board Member

### LaVerkin or Pah Tempe Hot Springs

The LaVerkin, or Pah Tempe, hot springs are the southernmost of approximately twenty-four similar springs in Utah that are associated with the Hurricane, the Wasatch, and other faults. The LaVerkin springs are about 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Some Utah hot springs are more than double that.<sup>4</sup>

Thomas Judd, the first owner of the hot springs, acquired them about 1889.<sup>1</sup> No attempt to exploit the springs commercially was made at first, but they were frequently utilized by early settlers of the area for recreation and for performing baptisms. Baptismal fonts were far in the future.

The springs were a real boon to builders of the Hurricane Canal both for soaking sore muscles at days end and for frolicking, when wives came to visit on weekends. The early settlers of LaVerkin made frequent use of them. Rosalba (Gubler) Fuller recounted that:

"The men made a little cement wall, damming up the springs enough so people could bathe, but mostly the water fanned out from there over the mineral formation, sort of like an umbrella and splashing into the river, formed a little pool. That's where we like to swim and play. Since we had no bathtubs in those days, we really loved the sulfur springs. A tarp was hung in front of the springs so people had a private place to dress."

Sheep were also beneficiaries of the springs. They were doused in the sulfur water to prevent scabies.

Hundreds of baptisms were performed there from about 1915 until into the 1940's. Annie Isom whose birthday fell in January is the first known person to have that honor. Her thoughtful family brought her down from Virgin to the only warm water in the area. Early baptisms such as Annie's, as well as the first two children born in LaVerkin, Rosalba Gubler and Moroni Sanders, took place in the river where it is warmed by the hot water. Later, after bathing and swimming facilities were in place, many baptisms were performed on Sunday mornings in the main enclosed pool. Sometimes the young person got to swim for a few minutes afterward. There is additional zest to the pleasure of swimming when it's done at a time that's normally forbidden.



A swimming pool fifteen feet wide and forty-five feet long was completed in 1918 by the LaVerkin Sanitarium and Resort Company that had been organized for that purpose. Morris Wilson and Joseph Gubler were then president and vice president of the company.

Two immediate tasks were to sell additional company stock and to establish a code of decency for bathing suits. Bishop Wilson involved the bishops of Hurricane and Toquerville in reaching a decision. The code for ladies, called for elastic in sleeves and legs that reached below elbows and knees, plus a skirt. Men's suits could be sleeveless, but legs were to fit snugly and reach below the knee.

George Judd, who was put in charge of procuring the women's suits, purchased cloth and paid a local seamstress fifteen cents a piece to make two dozen suits. They were sold for \$1.50 each, or rented for 25cents. Rubber caps and ladies' stockings were purchased from ZCMI. Rules of conduct prohibited naked bathing, dunking, throwing water, and diving from the walls. The pool was closed on Sunday.

In 1918, the pool's LaVerkin developers were startled to learn that the budding resort was actually part of Hurricane. Morris Wilson met with the Hurricane town board and got them to release the property.

The pool was a popular attraction for individuals, families, school, scout and church groups. A wagonload of young people might set out from Toquerville. They would sing all the way over, swim, then sing all the way home; arriving home at one or two in the morning.

In 1924, a permanent house was built for the pool manager, and small bathing enclosures were built east of the pool. Later, the pool was enclosed.

The pool was more of a public service than a cash cow. Stockholders' passes meant lots of business but no revenue. Pay for the manager was also meager. Even such perks as switching the lights on late at night to surprise some nubile skinny-dippers, didn't buy groceries. The LaVerkin Canal Company helped out by giving the job of "canal-walker" to Winferd Gubler, the pool manager. Morris Wilson bought the other shareholders out in 1936 and since then, the pool has been in private hands. Elias Smith gained ownership in 1952 and gave it the name, "Pah Tempe Hot Mineral Springs".

The Springs suffered major dislocations during construction of the Quail Lake project. Repairs restored regular flow, but the earthquake of 1992 caused the hot

water to again discharge directly into the river channel. The second problem appears related to the first, but nothing has yet been proven.

The current owner, Ken Anderson, has restored much of the flow to its original outlets. He has created an inviting tree-lined spa that offers camping and bed-and-breakfast facilities, that welcome day-use visitors. It features a swimming pool, both natural and indoor hot tubs, and various services based on the therapeutic qualities of the hot sulfur water. The Springs appear to be better known internationally than they are locally. There were eighteen thousand guests from thirty-five countries during 1997. Future plans call for a four hundred acre resort zone with multiple-accommodations for long-term, and temporary guests.

## **Chapter 2: Settlement**

### **Thomas Judd: The Canal And The Tunnel**

The rich but dry soil of the LaVerkin Bench was admired as potential farmland for many years but it took Thomas Judd to make it bloom. We are indebted to his daughter-in-law, Maude MacFarlane Judd,<sup>8</sup> for the bulk of our knowledge about the town's early development.

Thomas, an LDS convert, was eighteen when he helped his family move from England to St. George in 1864. Toquerville had been established in 1858 and the birth of Virgin and the other up-river towns soon followed. As the Virgin River's floods were eating away half of the available up-river farmland, discouraged farmers dreamed of a way to bring water out onto the Hurricane and LaVerkin benches. An early visitor was Erastus Snow who noted the LaVerkin Bench's potential, perhaps on the same trip in which he gave "Hurricane Hill" its name.

The feasibility of a canal and tunnel to bring water on the bench was discussed at a meeting of Washington County officials at the then-county seat of Washington City, but no action was taken. When Thomas Judd became interested in it, he didn't wait for government or group involvement. He organized a company and brought the bench under cultivation. In 1888, he stopped off on a business trip to the Canaan cattle headquarters to study its potential. Next, he hired engineer I.C. MacFarlane of St. George to do survey work. Following MacFarlane's favorable report and recommendations, Thomas organized a stock land company named The LaVerkin Fruit and Nursery Company. The company was incorporated in June 1889 with a capital stock of \$25,000.00.

The company acquired land, the value of which was appraised at twenty-five to thirty-five dollars an acre, and water rights. It then assembled crews to dig a canal and an 840 foot tunnel. Work commenced in the spring of 1889 with three main crews at work and with MacFarlane retained as chief surveyor for both the canal

work, the tunnel work, and for laying out streets and property lines on the bench. Workers were paid a dollar a day at first, but that was increased to a dollar fifty in deference to the hazardous duties the men had to perform. (Another version has it that they were paid \$2.00 per day: half being paid in cottonmill scrip; the other half in company stock.)

One crew excavated the canal while the other two bored into the hillside from either end of the new 840-foot tunnel. Candles were set in place as markers when taking transit readings. After nearly two years of work, the crews were just six inches off from a perfect union when they met each other. At least two caverns were encountered while boring the tunnel. One was quite large and had an extensive network of stalactites and stalagmites. A St. George stonemason who made grave markers and sandstone wheels for foot-operated grinders, broke many of the larger ones off, and hauled them home to use for making headstones. (It's unknown if families paid extra to have their loved ones buried under monuments of such exotic origins.) The other cavern was narrow, perhaps fifteen feet wide, but it had a high ceiling and was quite deep. Initially, wooden flumes were constructed to conduct water through these caverns.

While the tunnel was still quite new, twelve year-old Owen Sanders and two friends enjoyed exploring the caverns. For light, they employed pitch pine torches. They reached the narrow cavern by poling their way upstream in a crude canoe. By sloshing water over the side and listening for it to hit bottom, they knew the cavern was quite deep, but the dim light from their torches revealed little else. Young Owen had an inquiring mind so he tied a rope to a flume crossbar and shinnied down the rope to the cavern floor. That was his intention anyway. It didn't take long hanging from the bottom of the rope in the darkness and kicking nothing but air to end his inquiry.

Work on the canal kept pace with that of the tunnel, and sections of it took on identifying names. There were Cottam Headgate, Riding Headgate, Judd Fill, Judd Point, et cetera. The canal's cross-section was seven feet wide at the top, five feet at the bottom and two feet deep. It had a fall of one inch in one hundred sixty feet. Finally, early in 1891 the digging was finished, the diversion dam had been constructed, and wooden flumes were in place to carry water over ravines and across caverns. It was time to welcome the water and an expectant crowd gathered at the tunnel's west end to cheer its arrival. No celebration took place that day though. The water signaled its future intentions by dissolving a gypsum bank and escaping into the bowels of the earth.

**To be Continued -**