

### 13. ROSTER OF LEHI PIONEERS

In this series of articles, which began Jan. 16, there has been so much to say concerning the weekly happenings of 90 years ago that we have never taken the opportunity to introduce the members of this first company of Mesa pioneers.

So this week, which 90 years ago found the men and older boys of the upper camp busy constructing their irrigating canal, and the women, children, and a few of the older men that constituted the lower camp busy at their tasks, let us introduce the 84 individuals that made up this group of Mesa's first settlers:

The leader of the company, Daniel Webster Jones, 46, a saddlemaker, with his wife Harriet, 40, and ten children: Daniel P., 20, Wiley, 18, Edwin, 16, Eleanor, 14, Wesley, 12, Byron, 10, Elvina, 7, Lorenzo, 5, Frank, 3, and Almira, 1. A single man, John D. Brady, 19, was also a part of this household, and later was to marry Eleanor.

Jones' first counselor, Philemon C. Merrill, 56, a farmer, with his wife Cyrena, 59, and five children, Melissa, 28, David, 13, Lot, 11, Morgan, 9, and Peter, 7.

A married son of Philemon, Thomas S. Merrill, 23, a farmer, with his wife Esther, 19, and child, Thomas Jr., 2.

Another married son of Philemon, Seth A. Merrill, 18, a farmer, with his wife Lucy, 16, a daughter of Dudley J. Merrill.

Jones' second counselor, Henry C. Rogers, 43, a wagon maker, with his wife Emma, 40, and nine children, Henry Collins, 19, Charles, 18, Anna, 15, Joseph, 12, David John, 10, George S., 7, Martha 5, Willis, 3, and Isaac H., 1.

The clerk of the company, Thomas Biggs, 61, engineer, with his wife Syrina, 51, and four children, Thomas P., 18, Jonathan, 16, Mary, 13, and Angelina, 10.

Joseph McRae, 39, a blacksmith, with his wife Maria, 32, and five children, Joseph A., 12, John, 9, George, 7, Annie, 4, and Mary, 1.

Dudley J. Merrill (a nephew of Philemon), 43, a farmer, with his wife Ellen, 29, and six children, Orrin, 21, Mary, 18, Rialdo, 14, Orlando 11, Salena, 7, and Cora, 2.

Isaac Turley (who had acted as wagonmaster on the trek) 39, a blacksmith, with his wife Sarah, 32, and five children, Theodore, 13, William, 11, Alma, 7, Joseph, 4, and Hyrum, 1.

Ross R. Rogers, (a brother of Henry C.) 56, a surveyor, with his wife Cynthiann, 30, and ten children, George A., 21, Theodosia, 17, Ross Jr., 15, Cynthia, 14, Mary, 11, Amelia, 8, Zenobia, 6, Gleason, 5, Preston, 2, and Collins, 1.

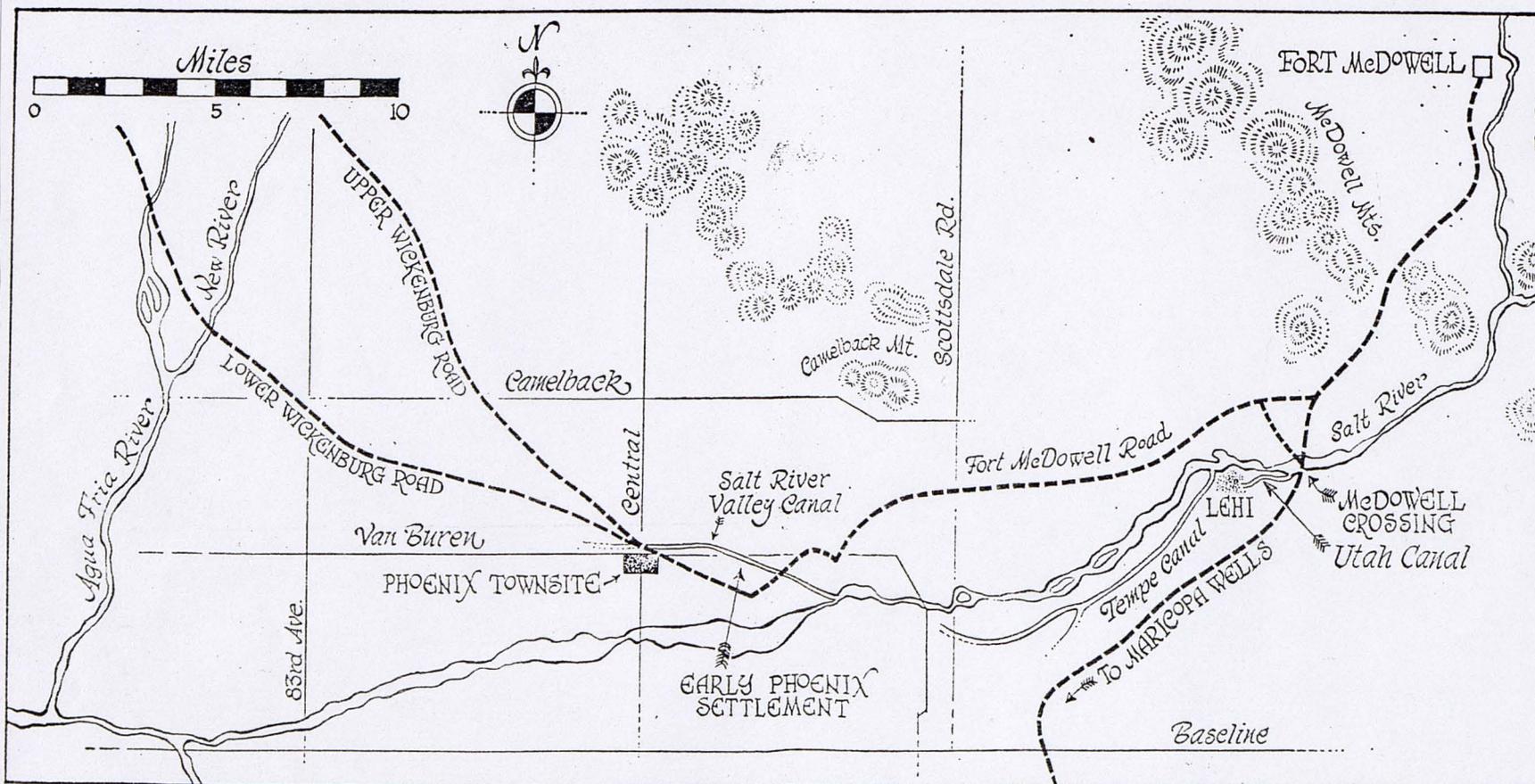
George E. Steele, 56, nurseryman, with his wife Syrina (a daughter of Thomas Biggs), 28, and four children, George Jr., 9, Samuel, 6, Attella, 4, and Thomas, 3.

Austin O. Williams (a widower), 55, and his son Austin, 18.

More  
about

# Mormon journal describes problems of early settlement

## along Salt River



Republic Map

This map, positioned on a diagram of a current Phoenix street map, traces the route the Mormon settlers followed in 1877 when

they entered the Valley. They traveled one of the Wickenburg roads to Fort McDowell before turning south and crossing the Salt

River at the McDowell Crossing on March 6. Later that day, they established the hamlet of Lehi, now a part of Mesa

Continued from Page A-1

along the Salt River, but there was no indication by Jones that he visited any canal sites proposed by the rancher.

Jones and Miller apparently met again the morning of March 6. Jones' son, Dan P. Jones, in an unpublished autobiography quoted by Mesa historian W. Earl Merrill, said the elder Jones and some other men went to Hayden's Ferry that morning to find out if the ditch site suggested by Miller in 1875 had been appropriated.

Dan P. Jones wrote that the wagon train "made camp for noon and waited for word from my father" when it reached the McDowell Crossing.

"Salt River at this time was running a large amount of water and was clear as crystal . . .," he said "About noon father came into camp and told us to hitch up, that we were going to . . . make camp on the other side."

That same afternoon, Daniel W. Jones and some of the boys began digging a short distance to the west the head of what came to be known as the Utah Canal. This was about four miles upstream from the head of the Tempe Canal, which was located near the center of the square mile bounded by today's Country Club, Mesa Drive, McDowell and McKellips Road.

ON APRIL 14, the Saints were visited by a correspondent for the Arizona Weekly Miner, published in Prescott. His account, printed April 27, included these observations:

"...on entering the camp we find them the same as other people. Those who profess the Mormon faith, in this section, we find to be kind and generous to a fault. The families are at home, and their heads are busily engaged in digging a canal. . .

"Notwithstanding the wind and the rain, all are actively engaged. The work done by those people is imply astounding, and the alacrity and vim with which they go at it is decidedly in favor of cooperation or communism. Irrespective of capital invested, all share equally in the returns.

"The main canal is two and a half miles long, eight feet deep and eight feet wide. The water is now conducted about one mile from the inlet. Two miles of small ditch is completed, and four more is required. They will be ready for irrigation in about two weeks, when ploughing and sowing will commence. The comforts of the family have been laid aside, that the earth may be a receptacle of prospective return. . ."

THE CAMP leaders shared with the correspondent the drawn plans for a community, which was to have an adobe wall about seven feet high enclosing more than a square mile of land about 2½ miles to the southwest of the canal head.

The middle of the area is bisected today by Lehi Road, running east and west, and Horne Road, north and south.

"In the center," wrote the Miner's correspondent, "is a square or plaza,

around which are buildings fronting outward. The middle of the plaza represents the back yards, in which eleven families, or 85 persons are to commingle. A gate stands in the middle of each wall, from which a street leads to the center of the square. On the sides of each street are regularly laid off town lots, for delicacies and vegetables. The remaining corners of the square represent four quarter sections of land, to be disposed of at will."

The town plan was never completed, because there was dissension in the camp over Jones' decisions and his friendliness for the Indians.

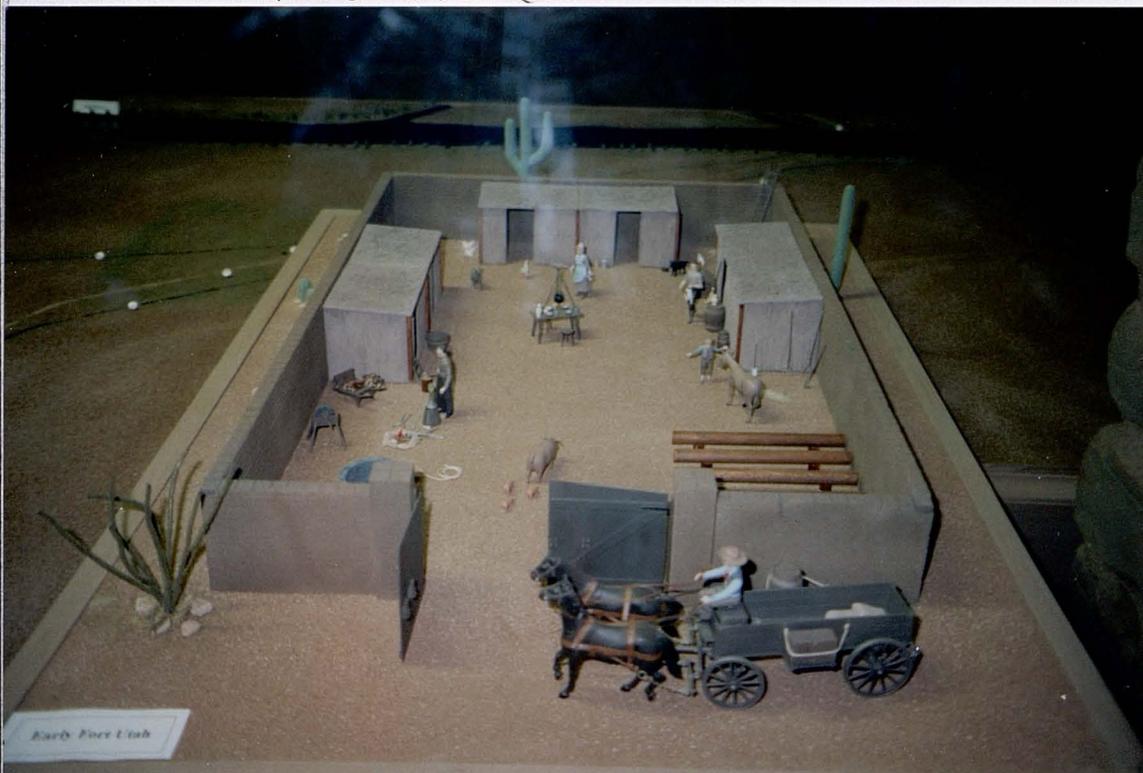
JONES WAS a righteous man whose self assurance and manner irritated others. Even before the mission began, Jones said he asked Young to relieve him of the command. This was because Jones had learned of "hard stories told against me" in his leadership of the explorer mission into Arizona and Mexico in 1875 and 1876.

Jones explained his difficulty this way: "One fault I have always had, . . . anything that is clear to my understanding to be right I naturally think others ought to see it the same."

Young told Jones the mission was his to lead, but Young also reportedly warned Jones "against one of the company who had volunteered to go."

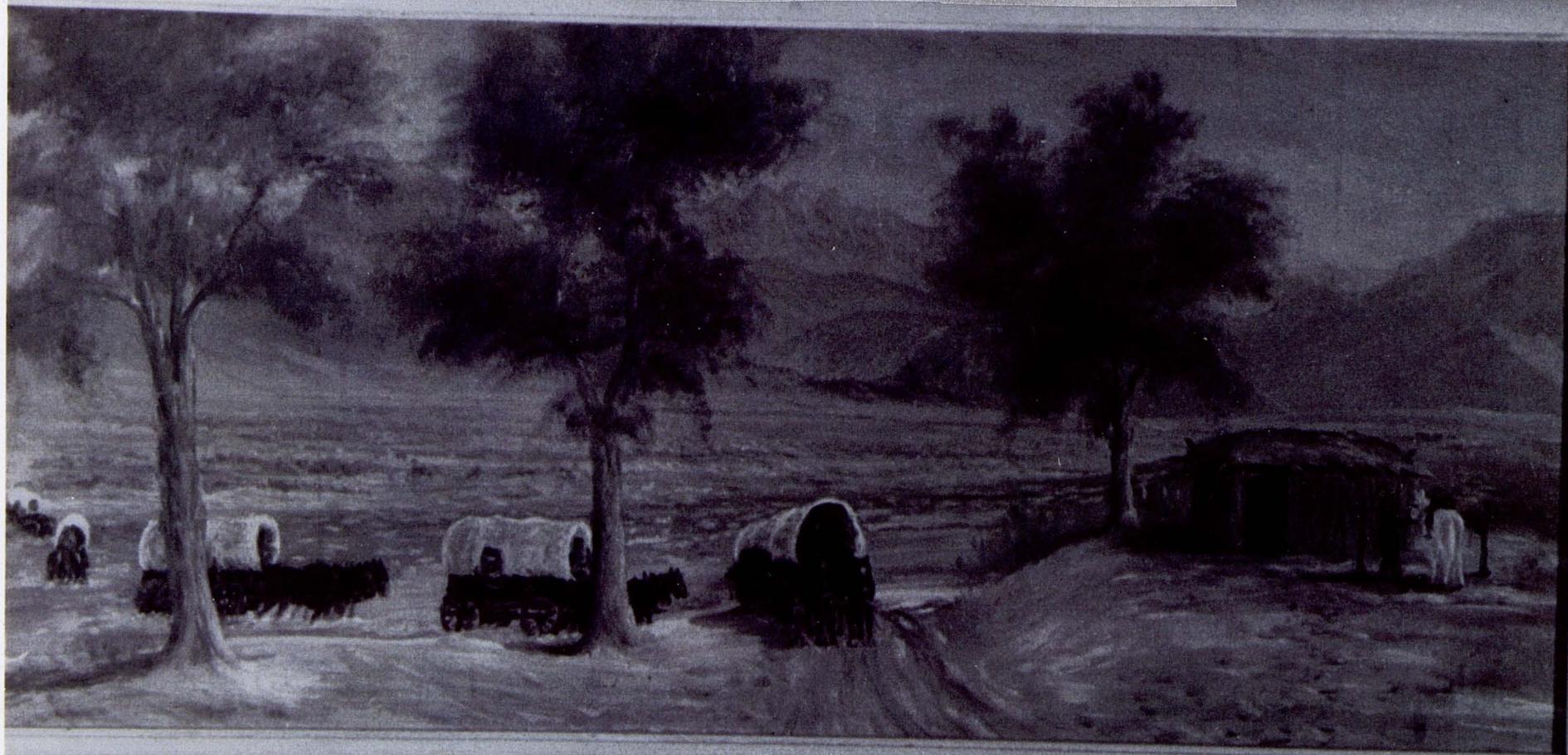
"He advised me not to take him," Jones said, "saying that he would try to take the mission away from me and would make me trouble. This I should have listened to; but the man seemed s

Fort Utah



Early Fort Utah

McDowell Crossing of Salt River, March 6, 1877.



From a painting by John Bond, owned by the Myron Smiths,

photographed by John Biggs.



Frank was born 1888 so this was probably taken in 1890 sometime.

Orson-13½

Wright 10½

Victor 15½

Ralph-8½

Frank-2½

Renus-5½



9 of the Shill boys--maybe 1902??  
Scott Renus Wright Frank Otto  
Ralph Victor Milo Orson





Lehi Glee Club

Guy W.--Evan--Orson--Thomas--Wiley--Park--Milo--Joe--Renus 1-5-1902

Jones Jones Shill Biggs SimkinsHarper Shill Davis Shill

O.C.--T.W.--Victor--Wright

Jones Jones Shill Shill

This building was built by Vic Shill  
about 1897. Burned about 1930



standing

1 Charles I Davis 2 Mary Eliza (Mrs. Arthur Gibson) 3 Hyrum G. Davis 4 Henry W. Davis 5 Emily Francis (Mrs Charles) 6 Wilbert L. Davis  
 Was Bishop of Lehi Ward in 1905

sitting

1 Ethel Burdette (Mrs Delbert Stapley) 2 Louise (Mrs. Erwin) 3 Emily N. Davis (mother) 4 Alice Adelia (Mrs. Wm. Gollaher) 5 Hazel Lillian (Mrs Oscar Shill)

Leon Jones man Lilly Nelson



Leon Jones man  
Lilly Nelson



Lehi School

# Japanese-American family embraced

MESA — When thousands of Japanese families were being sent to relocation camps in 1942, Paul and Sally Ishikawa were protected by Mesa's Main Street.

They were safely north of the government's designated boundary, living on family property in Lehi.

Japanese families who lived south of Main were sent by the U.S. government to relocation camps for the duration of the war.

But the Ishikawa family had been in Lehi since 1909, as long as many of the community's well-known Mormon families. They, like those who lived around them, were searching for a rural community.

Although the family once farmed nearly 80 acres, most of the property has been sold. A major part of the family property was sold to the

Mesa Public Schools for construction of the new Lehi Elementary School at 2555 N. Stapley Drive.

Eighteen acres remain of their property, all of which is cared for by Paul and Sally Ishikawa.

He is 69, and she is 61.

They also grow commercial citrus on 15 of the remaining acres.

"We do it by ourselves," Paul Ishikawa said. "It is a lot of hard work, especially when you're senior citizens like us."

Sally Ishikawa, whose parents came from Japan in the early 1900s, is a native of Lehi and was one of seven children. Her husband moved to Lehi from California in 1932.

Because her only brother died at age 17, Paul Ishikawa was adopted by the family and asked to carry on

the family name and farm.

"It's a Japanese custom that if no one is left to carry on, they usually adopt someone to carry on," Paul Ishikawa said.

But their cultural differences never have affected their status in the community, the two said. Although they were welcomed by the Mormon church and even attended some of its functions, the Ishikawas have stayed with their native religion — Buddhism.

"We were welcomed by the Mormon people. They were all friendly to us," Sally Ishikawa said.

Paul Ishikawa recalled that shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the family's Lehi neighbors called us to say that "the war was between the countries and not us."

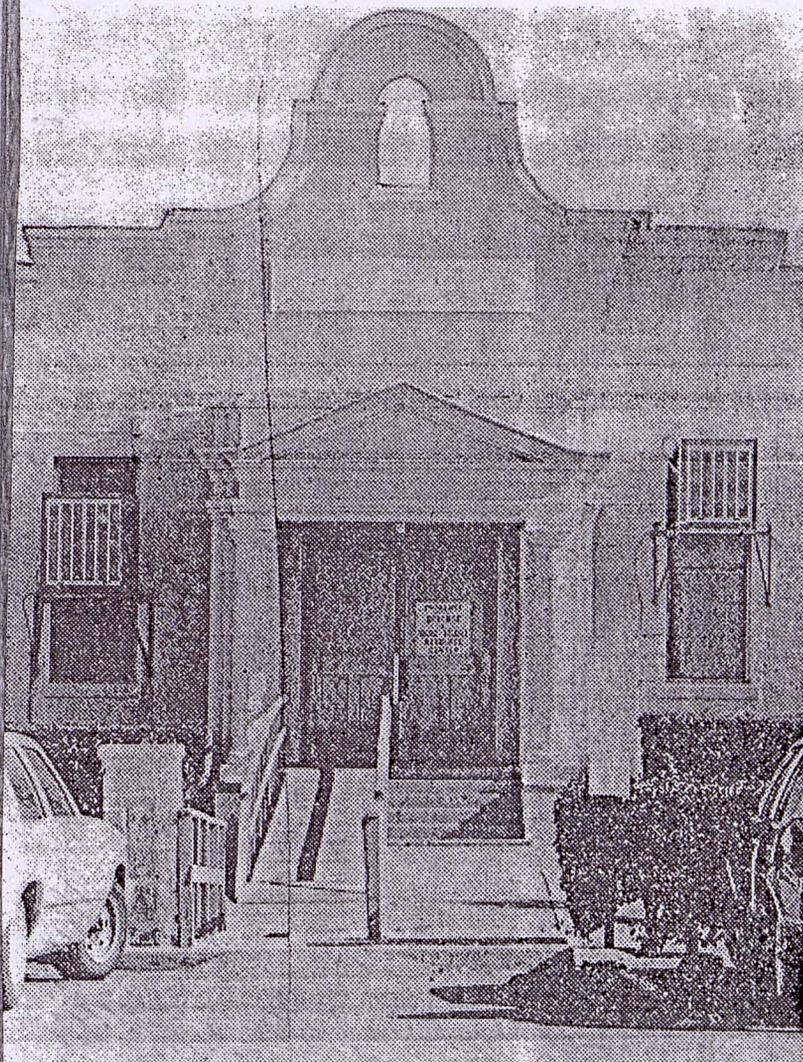
## Lehi

Sally Ishikawa, named the Lehi School's outstanding eighth-grade student when she graduated, said she and her family also were not discriminated against while attending the community school.

But she, like many of Lehi's longtime residents, has witnessed many changes in the community and it hardly resembles the Lehi of her childhood, she said.

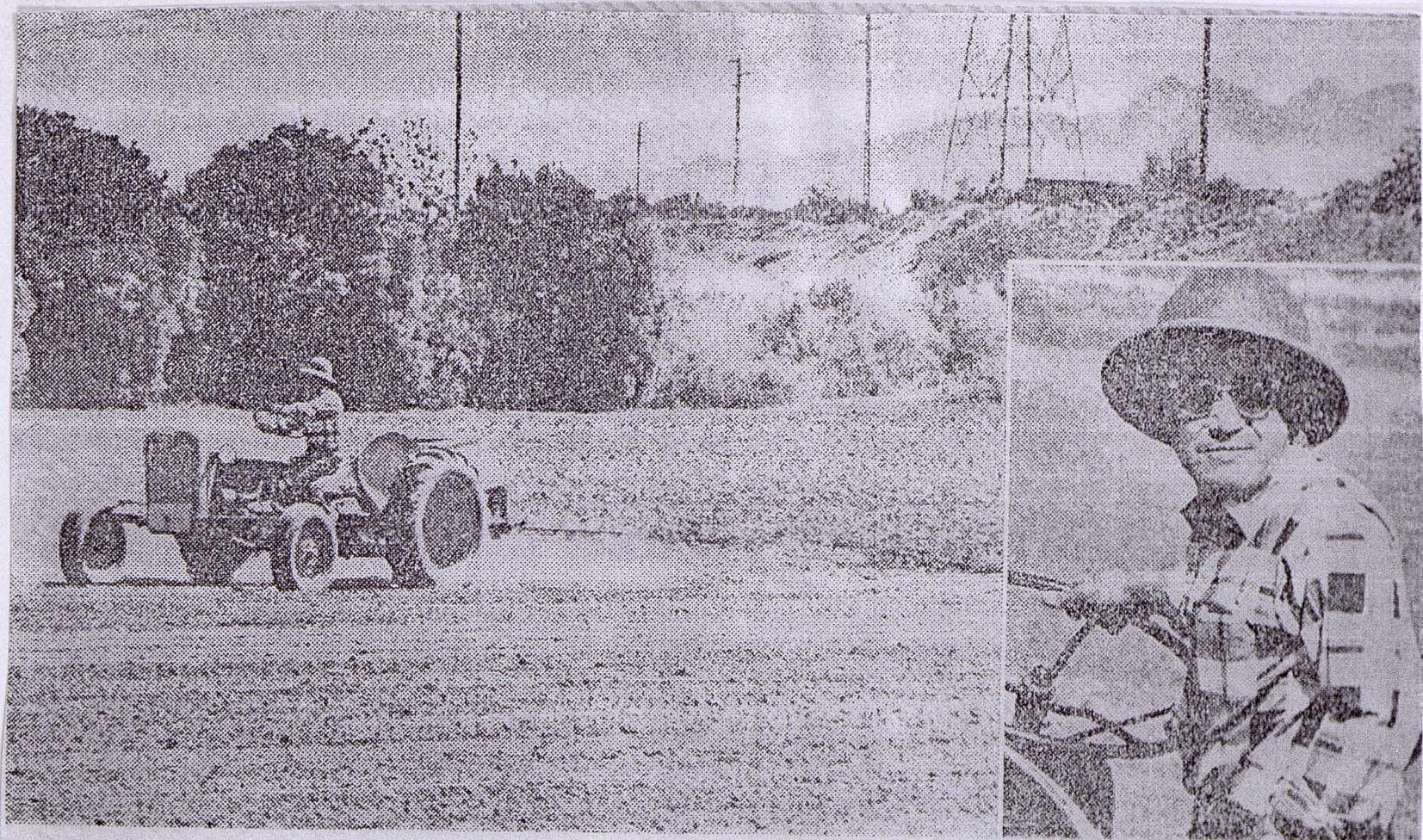
None of the couple's five children lives on the property, although two of Sally Ishikawa's sisters do. The first home on the property — where Sally and her children were born — was demolished earlier this year, they said.

The couple intend to stay in Lehi, close to their longtime neighbors and friends.



Doyle Sanders/Republic

The old Lehi School served as a focal point for community activities.



Paul Ishikawa drives a tractor to spray newly planted cantaloupe field. This Japanese family

carefully has tended citrus and vegetables on their 60-acres against Lehi Hill for almost 70 years.



Blanche

Emma  
Simkins

Deborah Wenz

Margaret

↑  
Boyle

↓  
Beryl

Boke  
Alice Skill

Arson  
Boyle Johnson  
Jim

about 1909

Virgie Button Mutt Boyle

Bridge over ditch at 3000 E Lehi rd



Ellis  
Biggs

Tom Biggs



new potatoes & fresh bread

Milo Mabel-Afton-Tom-Oscar-Carrie- Ella- Frank Tom  
 Shill Clark Biggs Shill Henry Biggs



Ella Shill + Tom Biggs

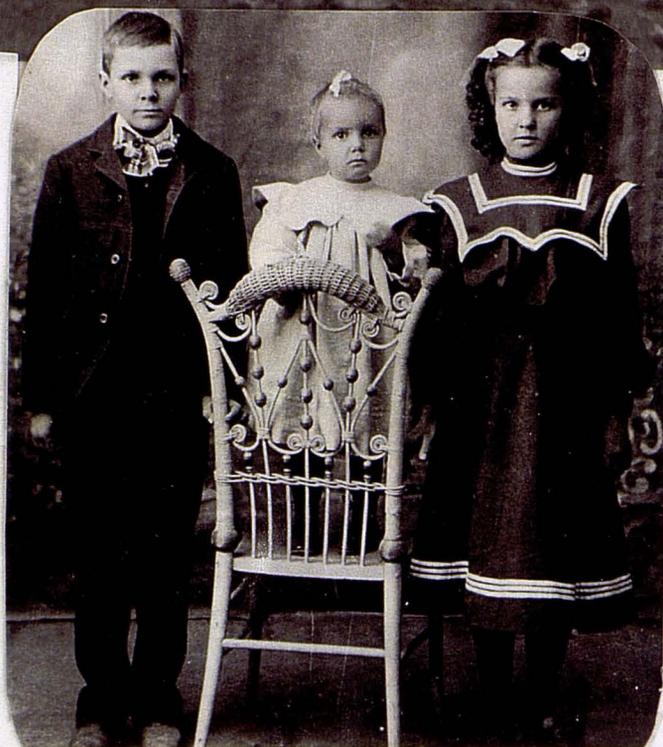


This is the Shill family. Taken July 4, 1897, in front of their N. Mesa Dr. home. George had just gotten home from his Mission & he died 2 yrs. later. All 11 of Charles & Harriet Shill's children are in the pic. plus 2 daughter-in-laws & 6 grandchildren, & 1 son-in-law. Ella is their only daughter.

Orson--Ralph--Tom Biggs--Ella--Alice--Milo  
 Victor & Laura-- George (baby Henry) CHARLES & HARRIET --Wright  
 Oscar--Wil Biggs & Frank--Carrie--Frank--Tom <sup>Otto</sup> Biggs--Scott--Rene



Hezehiah Simkins home at  
 McKellips & Horne(S-W corner)  
 Date drying boxes. Look at  
 the buggy. Young woman holding  
 child is Tottie Simkins. Baby  
 is Alice Shill. Her mother died  
 when she was 3wks. old. Other  
 girl is Anne Simkins. 1901-02



Oscar--Alice--Carrie in care  
 of Grandparents & A. Tottie  
 for 9 yrs. Then with their dad.  
 Mife Shill



Alice "Simkins" Shill



Alice Ann "Simkins" Shill

Charlotte "Simkins" Nelson

Sisters - about 1900  
Look at those hats

You are invited to attend a  
**Reception and Program**  
at the Lehi school auditorium  
on Saturday, the 22nd of October  
nineteen hundred and fifty-five  
from two until five o'clock  
in observance of the  
**Golden Wedding Anniversary of**  
Mr. and Mrs. Wright P. Shill, Sr.

Open House Following Reception  
38 East 14th Place,



Wright Paynter Shill was born January 12, 1880, at Croyden, Utah, the sixth child in a family of eleven. He came to Arizona with his parents in the fall of 1880. He married Lillie Rothrock, Oct. 19, 1905, who was born in Phoenix on March 29, 1885. Ten children have been born to the couple, all living except one son. Other descendants are 19 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

*As I sat by my fireside dreaming  
All alone one winter's night  
My thoughts went back on the ebb of time  
To a home that once was bright.*

*I seemed to see the faces  
In that cheerful firelight glow,  
The Mother, the babe, and the children  
As they were long years ago.*

*Now the house where they lived is vacant  
The Mother's voice is stilled  
A mound of earth now marks her home,  
In the city on the Hill.*

*Oh! Could I only follow  
But I must watch and wait,  
And try to shape my life's work  
To meet her at the gate.*

*Must live for those who love me  
Who look to me for care,  
And try to bear the burden  
God sees fit for me to bear.*

*Tho very sad the parting  
Of her I loved so well,  
Tis the Eternal Father willed it  
Why 'twas, I cannot tell.*

Written by: Milo G. Shill,  
Thanksgiving Day 1906,  
while living in a tent on a  
brickyard by Asher Orange Grove.



SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH,

January 5, 1923.

Bishop John W. Jones,

Lehi Ward.

Dear Brother:

We are attaching wheat deposit receipt #223 for \$121.00 in favor of your Ward Relief Society, covering the remittance of cash for this amount.

This receipt should be carefully preserved by the Relief Society officers, so that it may be available at such time as distribution of this fund may be authorized by the First Presidency. Care should be exercised to see that it is not lost.

This letter should be copied in the Ward Historical Record, also in the Minutes of the Ward Relief Society, so that the wheat fund account may be made a permanent part of the Ward Record.

Your brethren in the Gospel.

THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC

By David A. Smith

Enc.

<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints</i>		
<i>Office of</i>		
<u>\$ 121<sup>00</sup></u>	<i>Presiding Bishopric</i>	No. <u>223</u>
<i>Salt Lake City, Utah.</i>		
<i>The Relief Society of <u>Lehi</u> Ward, <u>Marion</u> Stake,</i>		
<i>has deposited with the Presiding Bishopric, wheat storage funds in the sum of</i>		
<i><u>one hundred twenty one</u> and <u>no/100</u> Dollars,</i>		
<i>payable to said Relief Society when authorized by the First Presidency and</i>		
<i>upon surrender of this receipt. Not negotiable.</i>		
<i>Interest on this deposit shall be at the rate of 4 per cent per annum from date, the in-</i>		
<i>terest to be paid to the General Board of Relief Society for special nursing and relief work</i>		
<i>in the stakes.</i>		
<i>C. W. Sibley</i>		
PRESIDING BISHOP.		
By <u>Jed J. J. J.</u>		

Orson Ellis Ivan Jeraldine Boyd Glen Max  
 Rollins Boyle Jones Jones Merrill Jones Johnson



Teacher  
Bailey

97

middle - Jennie Brown Trella Mary Irene Agatha Grace  
 Paul Nelson Sinterfritt Carter Spesard Haws  
 Coleman John Kelly Warren Charley  
 Murphy Skill

1923