

3550 Orchard Ave.
Ogden, Utah
March 27, 1997

Dear Tracy and Ida Rose,

Among the items enclosed is a picture that Ida Rose should recognize immediately. I got a copy of it from Clarence "Clix" Swaner, whom I think I have mentioned to you before. He is 97 years old and has collected pictures of the area all of his life. He just had given to him recently a collection of pictures covering the years 1916 to 1922 that show farming activities in Weber and Cache counties, old automobiles traveling dirt roads, WW I soldiers and many other very interesting pictures of those times.

Enclosed is a copy of the goat-cart picture that I mentioned to you when you were here last. Wendell's reaction to what I had written was that I was too young to drive, anyway. I wrote this up for Gene's retirement party held by his employees last October. Each of us were asked to share some remembrance of him, so that is what I put together.

The tree that we planted in 1936 will soon be dug up to make way for the landscaping that will be done for the new building when finished. I plan on being there to see if I can retrieve the bottle with our names in it. I wonder if it will still be intact.

Enclosed are some pictures of the building construction showing examples of man-made diamonds at work in cutting building blocks and in cutting out "weep" holes in the retaining wall to allow for run-off of water seepage.

I'm sorry you won't be home when we take my grandson to the MTC. What is the address of David's place of business? We would like to see him and your press that is on display in his building. I hope you enjoy your trip and hope to see you again Memorial Day when you can see the new meeting-house nearing completion. It is supposed to be finished towards the end of July.

Donald



Young people of the 18th Ward planted a tree in 1936 and they planted their names with it in a sealed bottle. Like the tree they have all grown old together. Like the tree, also, whose deep roots kept it standing tall, the young people have grown roots based on gospel principles that have kept them firmly anchored and able to withstand the buffeting storms of life. This tree and those former young people will soon be gone, but their memories of the 18th Ward have been preserved that others might know of the influence that meeting house had in their lives.

The old building is gone now. It served its people well during its lifetime. Old-age crept up on it, like it does to so many of us, until it could no longer adequately serve its people.

A new and better building will soon rise in its place on that same hallowed ground. It, too, will reach out to other generations of members, who within its walls, will rejoice as those before them have done in the blessings that come in worshipping together. They will know, also, of the “joys that never cease,” that come from keeping the commandments of God and living according to His word in all things.

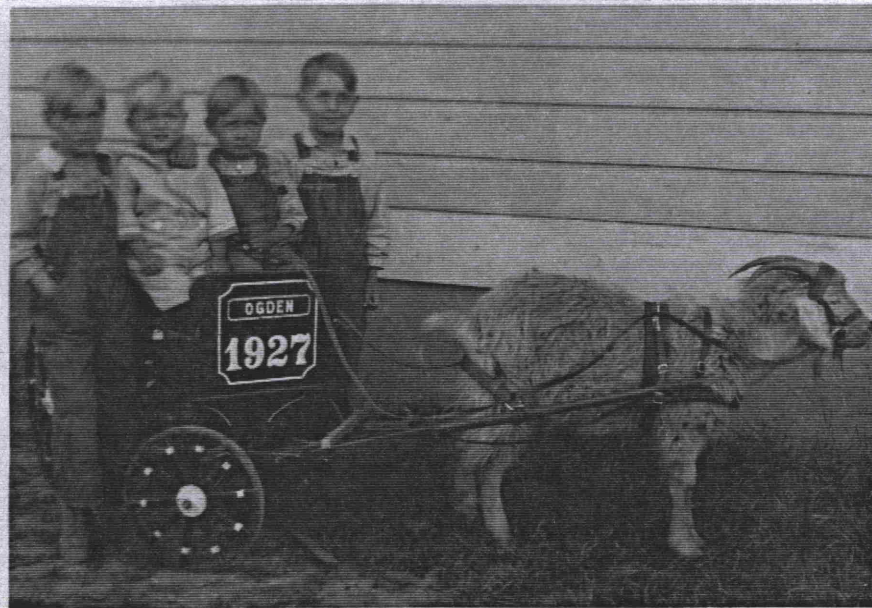
What a lasting influence for good that building will have on those who will yet pass within its walls! Many will hear anew the long familiar message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ that will lead them to all truth. They will share the selfsame experiences; they will have their joys and their sorrows; they will laugh and cry as those before them have done; and they, too, will give thanks to the same Divine Creator who nurtured such life experiences.

Young people will soon grow up in the ward and then move on. Later in life they will say as others

have said, “I cannot walk those streets, I cannot pass that way, nor turn my thoughts in the direction of that meeting house, but what my heart is filled with joy and gladness for the days of my youth spent there—because it was in the activities of that ward with so many wonderful friends, teachers, and leaders, along with the example and teachings of goodly parents, that my testimony grew and developed. How happy I am for all that happened there!

“Like Job, I can say, *‘with an iron pen and lead,’* (Job 19:24-27) I would engrave my testimony in the rock forever! And alongside that testimony I would engrave the names of those wonderful people who did so much for its development.”

In future years, young and old alike, as others before them have done, will go about their daily lives carrying out their duties in the church, while paying their tithes and offerings, and making the sacrifices necessary in building up the Kingdom of God, “til the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the great Jehovah shall say the work is done.” —Joseph Smith, March 1, 1842.



Eugene, age 6; Donald, 3; Wendell, 4; and Tracy, 8; are pictured in the cart of a traveling photographer alongside their home at 1464 Jefferson Avenue, just before the family moved to Marriott. This was in June of 1927, just a few days after Charles Lindbergh made his famous solo flight from New York to Paris. This was, also, two years before their younger brother Delbert was born.

Gene has a comforting arm around Donald who was crying because he wanted to hold the reigns. However, the older and more adept Wendell, deftly took the reigns from him, so that he could be the driver. Tracy seems unaffected about the power struggle between his younger siblings—he is thinking scientific already—while the goat munches peacefully on some grass to keep him calm and contented until the picture was taken.

The picture is an illustration of the fact that Gene has always had his arm around Donald to help wherever needed. This is true, also, of any of the brothers, due to the poverty of their youth, where they learned compassion and formed the desire to help bear other people's burdens and lift others up wherever possible.