

covered wagons. The big one was loaded with household goods and had a platform built on each side for a twenty-gallon barrel of water. Both wagons had two barrels each, making eighty gallons in all. Each barrel had a spigot at the bottom and a baffle board inside to keep the water from splashing out. The second wagon was used for supplies and had all the grub and bedding and kids. It was drawn by two gentle mares that needed no driving at all, so Ma managed that wagon and the kids. One day I was riding with Pa. The spring seat was attached to the top of a double-bed box, so it seemed high to me. One of the lead horses stumbled and fell. It scared me, as I thought the horse was dead. Pa put the brakes on and said "Whoa" to the horses. The horse got up and Pa got them straightened out, and we went on. It took us about a week to reach the border. The port of entry was at Santa Maria. I think it is now known as Naco. There was no customs house at Agua Prieta and Douglas at that time. We were delayed at the Border for about a week. I don't know why.

It was there that we lost one of Ma's mares. She was grazing too close to a deep, narrow wash. The bank caved in and, the mare fell in on her back, and we couldn't save her. Some cowboys gave Pa an old worn-out cow horse that could hold up the neck yoke, and the other mare pulled the wagon on the stay chain, mostly. We finally cleared customs and were on our way.

We were about a week getting to Colonia Morelos, one of two colonies in Sonora. We stayed there two or three days and went on to Colonia Oaxaca. We were at our destination.

ISRAEL'S TENT AT COLONIA OAXACA

Upon arrival, we bought two acres in the north-central section of town, up against the foothills, and pitched a large wall tent with side walls and a floor and a ramada shed in front. It was to be our home for a long time.

Then we started clearing the land of the mesquite thicket. The trees were not very big, so it was easy to clear. We saved all the largest limbs for posts and wood, using the branches to make a rip-rap fence. The fence was made by putting two posts opposite each other and filling in between with small limbs.

By spring the land was cleared, and we planted a large garden with about a fourth acre of strawberries. Mother sold strawberries and cream to the town "blades" and their "steadies," as their girls were called, for fifteen cents a dish.

GETTING HIVES

Up at the north end we built an apiary shed big enough for thirty stands of bees. Pa made the hives, including the slats, and when any of us saw a swarm of bees, we would toss dust or water up among them, causing them to settle, and then we would shake them into a hive. At night we would carry them to the apiary. That way, we got about thirty stands of bees. Pa built a bee house about twelve by twelve feet, with a honey extractor in one corner and a workbench along one side. The equipment was a built-in stove to heat the water, and the steam from it would go from the tea kettle spout through a tubing and through a hollow knife to cap the honey frames. The honey could be extracted by centrifugal action by revolving around in the extractor, which held four slats at a time. We stored the honey in forty gallon barrels. It was mostly mesquite, macratch, and fruit honey.

SPINELESS

When Pa wasn't busy at home, he was doing carpentry work for the neighbors, taking his pay in cows, pigs, or whatever he could use. The cows were a cross between the longhorn and the roan Durhams that the settlers brought from the States. They were a hardy breed and good milkers. By the end of the first year we had twelve head of cows and ten head of horses. In early spring, before the grass came, we would haul prickly pear to the corral, burn the spines off, and the cattle did fine on them. By June the grass was on; after July there were Mesquite beans and browsing and the natural, matured grass in the fall. It was believed that one bunch of Sonora grass was better than five bunches of the higher-up grass.

SHARED SCAB

We got our water from a neighbor's well across the road. Their name was Terry. Mr. Terry was respected by the whole town. He took his oldest son, Nate, to the States on one of his trips and had him vaccinated for smallpox. From the scab on Nate's arm he vaccinated the whole town, at twenty-five cents a vaccination.

PANTS DOWN

When the Terrys moved to Colonia Dublan about 1900, Pa