

In the meantime he built our home. It took about three or four years for Dad to complete a duplex of brick for his family. One side for each wife's family, because he could only work on it part time. This house is still standing in Oaxaca, although Oaxaca itself is uninhabited. (See picture of this house on the last page.)

Bishop Scott had a little store, and Hainey had a little store, and Father had a little store and so they all went together and built a co-op. Everyone in Oaxaca could buy shares in the store and Father built a good, nice brick store up on the block next to us where the main road came into town. The Church was just a block above us. They put Dad [James Harvey] in to run the co-op.

Dad's grandfather, James Harvey Sr. came down to live with them in Oaxaca. They built a small home at the back of their property and gave him a two and a half acre area, on which he grew fruits and vegetables. The children took turns taking his dinner to him and cleaning for him. Dad says that the melons and other fruit that James Harvey Sr. grew on his garden plot were the best that he ever tasted. He died while in Oaxaca and is buried there alongside of his five grandchildren who died there, too.

THE BIVESPIE

Dad continues:

Oaxaca was located on the Bivespie River. Occasionally we had small floods, but they were never very serious. The river started to rise in June or July when the summer thunderstorms started. Then it would run high until late in the summer. Sometimes up until November. We had to have a boat to cross it unless we swam it. Most of the time we swam across to a small farm on the other side of the river, where we raised vegetables and things. Orlando and I often would float melons in sacks as we swam back from the farm to Oaxaca.

The Bivespie played an important part in their lives, and eventually it ended their stay there. Dad describes some of their life in Oaxaca:

LOCAL ORTHOPEDICS

There was only one boat on the river and that belonged to John MacNeil. It was large enough to ferry wagons and horses across the river. He was a carpenter and he was the one who built our house and the Naegle house, and Dad did the brick work. MacNeil was the only bone setter we had in the town, too.

I broke my arm once. We boys, after a late evening working in the garden, went swimming and we rode this mule down to the river to swim. It was only about four or five blocks to the river and we'd go up the river to the deep places and then swim back down the river.

One time when we were coming home from swimming, there were two of us on that mule. Harvey and myself. Harvey was up in the front, and I was way back on the mule's rump. When we were almost home, Harvey decided to jump off and didn't say anything to me about it. When he jumped off the mule, the mule jumped and threw me off. I guess Harvey figured the mule would just keep going for me, but I wasn't holding onto any reins or anything and I fell off and broke my arm. Mr. MacNeil came over to the house and set my arm, but he didn't set it straight. I've always had a bump where it was broken.

PIONEER DENTISTRY

We didn't have any Doctor at all but we did have one man who pulled teeth. He didn't do any dental work, but he would pull a tooth when you needed one pulled. He had a pair of dental forceps. I had a bad toothache one time and so I went down to him to get my tooth pulled. He had a big stump out in the back of his yard and he sat me down on that and said, "Which one is it?"

And I said, pointing to the one I thought was the culprit, "Well, it's this one right here." He didn't use any anaesthesia or anything. They didn't have anything like that down there. He just reached down in there with his forceps and pulled the tooth out. But that didn't stop the pain.

Next day I went back and he pulled the next one. And it still ached. It had been aching for a week and it's kind of hard to tell exactly which one is aching when the whole side of your face hurts. If he had examined the tooth, he could have told if one of them had a cavity in it. Well, I had lost two teeth and still had the tooth that had the hole in it. But by this time I could see the hole.

Anyway, the next day I went to the cupboard and got some crystalline carbolic acid. I put a little piece of cotton around a little stick, stuck that cotton in carbolic acid and put it in that cavity, which I could now find easily. And it stopped aching! I never did have that tooth pulled. Later in life that tooth came out piece by piece.

PIONEER MIDWIVES

In answer to my question of who delivered the babies in Oaxaca, Dad said:

Aunt Lily [Mary Lydia Jackson Langford] and Sister Jones delivered the babies. And if they had problems they could send for a white doctor who was lived twenty miles up the river among the Mexicans. But usually, the baby had arrived and it was all over by the time he got there, or the mother had died.

Sister Haymore died in childbirth, and his daughter, Mary Haymore Nagley died in childbirth when she had her first child. They sent for the doctor, and he was able to save the baby, but the mother died. I think that was the only two. Well—come to think of it—I think that later Haymore lost his second wife in childbirth, too. But usually the midwives were able to handle the delivery of the babies.

[Since I was listening to the orally recorded tape, when I came to a place with a Spanish name I had a problem with knowing how to spell it. Sometimes I could find the correct spelling, but sometimes I would just have to guess at the spelling. With Mother's Mexican experience, I could rely on Lou's story for most of the place names, but I could not always do that with Dad's Mexican experience. Forgive any errors.]

THE MAILMAN COMETH

Young men grew up fast in Mexico. They had to herd and milk cows, and do a lot of things that our young men don't have to do now. Often both James Harvey and Heber Otto had to go out to the states to work to get enough funds to keep their families fed. This would leave the young men to keep the farms going and to be the man in the house. The young men in Oaxaca took turns going after the mail. Oaxaca couldn't afford to hire a man to do this regularly, so the teen age boys took turns going north up to where there was a