

Hot Springs

My brother, Donald, located some old streetcar maps for me of the Ogden Rapid Transit System. The system went as far north as the hot springs located near the small town of Willard, Utah.

I have previously talked about the locations of some other hot springs that occur along the Wasatch Front where overlapping arcs of the mountains occur. As one travels north along these mountains, I have gone swimming in the one located at the mouth of Ogden Canyon and the one located at Beck Hot Springs located at the north end of Salt Lake City. There are many more of these, primarily along the west side of our mountains.

As I have mused about the location of things with respect to Lorin Farr Park, it was across the streetcar tracks that ran eastward along 17th Street on its way to go up the north side up Ogden Canyon. This streetcar was grey in color and differed in appearance. The other streetcars were yellow in color. It is sad that these efficient machines are not there in place anymore. The current UTA (Utah Transit Authority) is running around in huge busses wherein there are only a few bus passengers. I often use the bus to get to Novatek where I am chairman of that company, but I have never seen more than nine people on the bus. That means that there are at least 40 empty seats on every trip.

The transit system is funded by an additional sales tax put on top of the other sales taxes. They are now installing electrical vehicles operating on rail tracks with an overhead wire. This system is currently having a lot of problems. They have named it TRAXX.

There used to be flowing wells up in Ogden Canyon where there was a pavilion for people to congregate to escape the heat in the lower valley. I can well remember these flowing wells. There was a kind of roundish dish like basin where the water would spray upward about six feet high and then fall back into the basin. There were a lot of these flowing well devices. If I were to guess the number of them I would put it at least 20. They said that these wells would improve the quality of the water by the aeration that would occur in this process.

This was a favorite spot for such outings. I can remember lemonade punch and other goodies at these gatherings with our own families and other relatives. Even my aging grandmother, Emma Burdett Tracy, was here at this occasion.

The even was actually a family reunion. I was probably only about six years old at this time. My mother had prepared a poem for me to memorize. Here I am, at 80 years of age, and cannot remember the poem. But I can remember the starting line. This is what it says, "If Washington were here today...." My uncle, Helon Tracy, gave me a quarter for saying my poem. A quarter was a lot of money for a six year old in those days.

The flowing wells were our water supply for many years. Later on though, the Pine View Dam was to be built. So all the flowing wells were capped and our supply for our city water came directly from those capped wells. Incidentally, Ogden City water was of very good quality.

Before the dam was built, a number of expensive homes were located in the canyon area. I can also remember other places in the canyon that were available for recreational use. One of them was called The Hermitage.

I can remember one time when I had sort of a date among some other boys and girls where I sat next to a her in a car one of the boys had. Then the two of us got out of the car and sat on a concrete abutment against the river. We sat together and dangled our legs above

the flowing water beneath our feet. I don't remember her name but I think that the family operated an automobile tire store.