

Heritage

One Community
Canal Building
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Community Projects
Working Together

Taylor West Weber Heritage

The “**Grove**” located in the general area between 1150 So and 1400 So, and 3300 West and 3400 West. A grove of Russian Olive trees which provided some shade from the warm summer sun for summer activities. With horse drawn buggies and wagons, breaks from the work routines were common especially for the 24th of July. The Ogden Standard, printed this article in their “100 year ago today” column on July 31, 1980.

• West Weber hosted a large July 24 Pioneer Day celebration in 1880. A marching brass band got things going, followed by speeches, singing, games, and horse and foot races.

Some 70 pounds of candy nuts were given to children, while 60 gallons of homemade beer and 80 gallons of lemonade were available for free too.

There were no drunks, fights or quarrels at the festivities, according to the Standard report from July 31, 1880.

One community: West Weber was established in 1859. It included the Taylor area. April 20, 1879, it was reported that West Weber YMMIA had 53 members. In the Taylor District of the West Weber Ward, started in 1884 with Sunday School and Primary being organized, 1886 Relief Society and Young Men were organized. In 1909 the Taylor Ward was created. **For 50 years, we were one community.** In 1937 many of our Tyrolean-Italian neighbors joined the



community from the coal mines of Wyoming. They added an element of relaxation and fun by establishing “The Friendly Club”. Many groups would go up the canyons for summer recreation. Pictured above is a social activity held up the canyon by the Tyrolean-Italian community.

Canal Building



The first community efforts were to harness the water from the Weber River and build canals to serve the area. It took four years to build a dam on the Weber River that would hold during the spring high water levels. One life, the son of Alvin Skelton was lost during the construction of the canal. It took all the community efforts with horse and wagon, loads of dirt, tons of rock, and many man hours to traverse the communities of West Weber and Taylor. Though the canals have been upgraded, the community wide efforts to improve the life of the community was through this combined effort.

Ball Teams

A West Weber Ball Team of the 1934 vintage pictured here are: Top, Vern Greenwell, Lyle McLean, Hance Taylor, Dee Bitton, Elmer Blanch.

Front, Glen McFarland, Percy Flinders, Elmer Penman, Eldred Charlton, Melvin Penman.

Joe Herrick was the manager, not on picture. Others on the team not listed-

Farm Bureau League for Baseball. With West Weber and Taylor fielding an outstanding team, they won many county tournaments in the early 1900's

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints had regional and all-church basketball and softball tournaments. West Weber won the regional softball tournament in Brigham City and went to the All-Church tournament. The Jr. boys won Stake and regional tournaments. Taylor went to All-Church in West Weber and Taylor often competed with each other for the annual tournaments.



Back row: Joseph Peterson, Coach; Robert Young, Junior Dayton, Merlin Anderson, Dan Favero, Melvin Green.
Front row: Dan Favero, Melvin Hunter, Vernal Anderson, Reed Neilson, LaMar Skeen



Front row: left to right: Gene Charlton, Elmer Penman, Gene Hancock, Lewis Greenwell, Andrew Penman, Team Manager.
Back row, left to right: LeRoy Herrick, Melvin Penman, Reed Hancock, Joseph T. Surrage, Victor Adams, Val Hancock, Robert Penman, Ezra Hadley.

1933, The Taylor baseball club in the Weber County Farm Bureau "B" league finished 17 victories out of 20 games. They closed the campaign with an 11 to 0 triumph over Layton in state championship finals. Henry Anderson managed the team; participants were: Earl Staker, Spencer Neilson, Gene Gibson, George Wintle, Joe Profaizer, George Neilson, Roy Hunter, Mick Profaizer, Herman Neilson, William Jardine, Raymond Gibson.

Dance:

Local Dances were the common social activity in the area. The old cultural hall was the venue to host weekly Dances. Young and old alike attended.



Members of the community formed dance bands and would take turn playing for the events. It has been reported that some dances lasted all night long, which made a long --tired day next day on the farm. The day the West Weber School (1909) was dedicated, the community gathered in large numbers, Governor Dern of the State of Utah gave remarks to an overflowing crowd. They served a "tray luncheon, after which they joined their young people in the ward recreational hall for a dance that continued until midnight." Bend of the River p. 414

Era Pic not local

Dances popular during this period included the polka, schottische, two-step, and the waltz.

DANCES. The dances were possibly the gayest of all the parties. Soon after sun-down the people could be seen coming in couples, many of them carrying candles to light the meeting house or home, or it might be a new dwelling house or barn. All the ladies brought lunch enough for themselves and partners and someone appointed brought lunch for the musicians. In the early days the music consisted of whatever talent could be mustered. Sometimes it would be a fiddle and an accordian. Hans D. Petterson had a very good accordian which he played frequently at those first entertainments. Later they had regular orchestras. One of the first was the Lowell Marriott Orchestra. It consisted of three fiddles, one lead and one second; one base viola. The candles were placed near the musicians and gave a mellow light which helped soften the crudeness of the surroundings.

Promptly at the stroke of midnight, the dancing ceased. Everyone found their partner, formed little groups and partook of the picnic lunch. Soon after one o'clock, at the hum of the fiddel, dancing was resumed.

There were other intervals during the evening; sometimes when the dust was swept from the floor, special musical numbers were enjoyed such as a solo or a duet. One musical treat which they enjoyed was the music of the harp played by Annie Collins. Miss Collins brought the harp with her from London. It was the only musical instrument of its kind ever owned by a resident of West Weber.

Often, the dances continued until the first rays of light appeared above the mountains, only then the weary but happy dancers made their way homeward; unfit for the days work awaiting them.

The dances were conducted in an orderly manner, under the direction of an elder of the church who was appointed by the bishop. Money was scarce so many of the dancers paid their tickets with farm products, which was given to the musicians for remuneration.

1924 to 1928

A group of young people in West Weber formed a fine orchestra and played for many dances, they were: Viola Penman, piano; Elmer Penman, trumpet; Milton Farr, violin; Elaine Farr, banjo; Kenneth Bitton, saxophone; Sylvester Hancock, drums; later Elmer Hadley was with the orchestra with his saxophone.

Hipwell, Bend in the River, 1975, Ensign Press Page 421

FROM THE HISTORY OF GEORGE BITTON. "Dancing, horse racing, and baseball, and house parties were the only kind of recreation we had at that time."

1880

A brass band and a dramatic association were organized in West Weber.

1892

December 27, Money was being collected to purchase instruments for the "Brass Band."

1893

March 14, \$115.60, Had been collected for band instruments.

1898 Published in the "Deseret News" July 26th,

Agreeable to the call of the First Presidency, memorial services in honor of the victims of the Main disaster, Sunday 24th, and a committee appointed to receive subscriptions to the national monument fund.

On the following day, the anniversary of the entrance of the Pioneers into this land, was fitly observed. The committee in charge of the affair are to be commended for their wise forethought in erecting a cool and commodious bowery for the comfort and accommodations of our people and the large crowd of visitors from Ogden and adjoining settlements, who were present. The morning exercises consisted of appropriate songs, recitations, toasts, etc., and remarks by some of the Pioneers of Utah and West Weber. In the afternoon, sports of various kinds were indulged in. A ball in the large amusement hall at night closed the day's proceedings, everything having passed off pleasantly. The exertions of the committee were taxed to the utmost to provide ice cream and other refreshments for the immense crowd.

During the evening another committee was appointed to make arrangements for a concert and ball on the night of August 10th, in honor of Elder James B. Hunter, who leaves us on the 12th to fill a mission to Great Britain.

Hipwell, Bend in the River, 1975, Ensign Press P 421



The "Friendly Club" was established for the Austrian-Tyrolean -Italian members of the community to come together for social events. Locals sold memberships to the Club and much of the improvements to convert the building from the DelMonte Tomato Canning factory were done with the skills and craftsmanship of the Tyrolean Italian community. This included putting in a new floor, and a raised rostrum on one end for the dance bands to entertain the group from.

The building was eventually sold to the Salt Lake diocesis' of the Catholic church, who in turn sold it to the general public.

Al Horn a professional square dance caller, purchased the building and added rooms around the lower half of the building and converted the upper level into living quarters. The main hall has remained much the same as it was in the late 1940's.

Horse Racing:



4700 West has not always been a formal road. In the early 1900's it was used for horse racing. Starting at Hawkes Store, (1400 So. 4700 W). they would race to Walker Slough. (1700 So. 4700 W.) After everyone had raced, they would race back again.



On the 4th of July, there was a race between mid-wives (according to Mary Ann Blench Gibsons' journal). to see who could get their horse and buggy ready the fastest so they could be prepared when they received word they were needed. She lived in what was the Taylor area.

1925

February 3, More than 600 people attended the "winter sports carnival" held at West Weber. The first cutter race was won by Walter Telford of West Weber, while Ellis Higley of Hooper was victorious in the second race. Leonard Peterson, in charge of the event, said the carnival was to be made an annual event.

Hipwell, Bend in the River, Ensign Press, Ogden, Utah 1976 p 439

Jr Posse

Following the equestrian traditions of the community, youth of West Weber and Taylor participated in Jr. Posse. During the late 1960's and early 1970's, the youth used the area east of the West Weber ward welfare farm, east of the West Weber Church. Dust could be seen for miles around as the horses' hoofs kicked up the dust. Dale Hansen was their leader. They participated in many Weber County wide events, winning many competitions for their horsemanship.

Ice Skating

Winter time presented its challenges as transportation was mainly




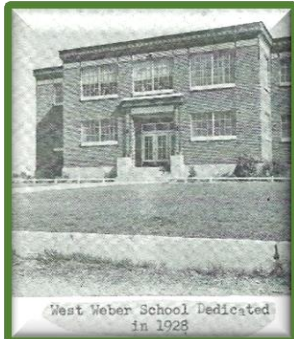
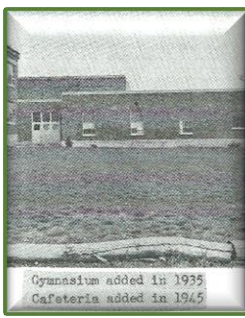


by horse and buggy, sometimes in wagons. Ice skating on the many ponds which dotted the community of both West Weber and Taylor were completely frozen over and made for excellent ice skating. Ponds were smooth, even though snow had to be swept off the ice to use it for skating. Ice was also used by households to keep perishable foods cool. By cutting the ice into blocks, moving it to your residence and kept on the north side of your house in a well-insulated structure, ice could keep until the middle of July.

Communities working together

In addition to the irrigation canals, the community, who consisted predominantly of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, provided for the social, emotional and physical needs of community. Soft-ball, fast pitch soft ball, basketball, volley ball teams came from both ward communities. The facilities available in the community were:

	<p>West Weber Cultural Hall Built in 1892 Cost: \$8,000 raised by community. Building was condemned in 1967</p>		<p>Taylor Cultural Hall Added to Taylor Church in 1911-12 Cost: \$6,000</p>
<p>West Weber bowery, (1895) Located north-east of old cultural hall and west of original West Weber LDS church Pic is of Kindergarten children in 1934</p>			<p>West Weber West School, located at 701 South. 4700 West, currently the home of Dwayne Wagstaff Classes were held for students in first through ninth grade.</p>

	<p>East West Weber School on Petterson Corner 1873 (2700 W 1800 S) School, church, and socials were held the schools</p>		<p>Taylor Elementary School (1898) In addition to school work, community and church meetings were held in this public school</p>
<p>All public meetings and many important public decision were made at the West Weber Elementary School built in 1923</p>		<p>Friendly club, remodled DelMonte Canning factory in 1937 to meet the needs of the social needs of the Tyrolean-Italian members of the community</p>	
	<p>The previous school was torn down and this school building was built. Taylor students started attending this school in 1945</p>	<p>West Weber School Gym was venue for many community basket-ball games and community dances. West Weber Ward Reunions were held in this facility for many years</p>	

Feb 1934, The Taylor Ward purchased three and one-half acres of land from John A. Skeen. The ground adjoined the meeting house and was prepared for recreational Purposes. The members of the ward were heartily in favor of this project.

Hipwell, History of Weber North Stake, Ensign Press, p 382

The Friendly Club was originally financed by the members of the Austrian-Tyrolean-Italian members of the community. When West Weber built their new building (1970), the LDS community had sacrificed all they could to meet their financial obligations. One last push was made to equip the kitchen with dishes, pans and utensils. Many of the Italian friends and neighbors helped in raising funds for that last major fund-raising effort. In turn in 1996. The West Weber community held a spaghetti dinner and turned over close to \$16,000 dollars to the building fund for St. Mary Catholic Church in West Haven.

We can work together, and together we can accomplish great things as our heritage has shown.

Sources: Hipwell, Ida Mae, "The Bend in the River", Empire Press, Ogden, Utah, 1976
 Hipwell, Ida Mae, "History of the Weber North Stake, Empire Press, Ogden, Utah, 1985
 "Golden Anniversary of the Friendly club, 1937-1987 Tyrolean-Italian Heritage, Todd Printing, Ogden, Utah, 1988

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse_racing

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contra_dance/bands

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contra_dance/bands