

operated during the 1890s. All the men in the Mapleton area were taxed for improvement of the roads. They could either pay the tax or work it off by helping build the roads. Most of them chose to work it off. When they used their own scrapers or their wagons equipped with dump planks they were paid at a higher rate than when they were just pick and shovel labor.

After E. M. Snow resigned the road supervisor's job, A. S. Fullmer was appointed. He supervised the construction of more roads and the needed improvements on others. But even with the best efforts, the gravel roads were muddy and hole pocked in spring and very dusty through summer and fall.⁵⁹

Family Life

Most families on the bench were quite large. There were exceptions, but the typical family included six to eight children. A few families had as many as fifteen or sixteen youngsters. They usually worked quite hard and made do with fewer material goods than others. Still, they seemed to enjoy themselves. The life of one family living in Mapleton about 1900 is very well described by John Martin Whitling:⁶⁰

We all had our chores and did them. We often argued with each other — but never our parents. Wood was hauled from the canyon early in the fall for our kindling; then after harvest we went up after the oak and maple. This was Charl's favorite job — he preferred it to school. Actually, Father hauled wood all winter long to help pay for food. He and some of the older boys would wrap their feet in burlap and go out into the snow; whatever extra wood they got was sold to Whitehead's Mill.

Actually we always had plenty of food at home. Sometimes just flour-thickened milk, but at least it was food. Usually at supper we had bread and milk, skimmed, of course. Father got some of the cream and the rest went into butter, which most of the time was sold to help pay for our groceries. Our meat was usually pork or chicken. Mother canned fruit in five gallon tins sealed with wax ... pickles in large barrels, chowchow in wooden candy buckets, dried fruits, and potatoes in the ground ... actually a nourishing diet. We then considered ourselves fortunate even if we never had enough chairs around the table.

Mother used to bake eight loaves of bread at a time; sometimes, we had salt-risen bread. Flour was ground from our own wheat at the grist mill on Spring Creek; which, of course, made the bread taste better. Father would bring in those large, seamless sacks and dump them into the bin in the pantry.

Delicacies were rare: Fruit, homemade pie, cake, pudding. Then, when the folks went to the store, which was not often, they almost always came home with a sack of stick candy ... rarely a stick a piece ... but we'd all have a taste.

... We all worked on the farm. The power equipment which we had then was our backs. Father used a push hoe to cut the weeds between the rows of beets and we'd get the rest with our thinners. We did have a cultivator which took two of us to operate, but we still had to hoe the beets two or three times a year. Harvesting was done by plowing a furrow along side the beet row and then we'd pull the beets, topped, and piled them by hand. Later we loaded

them into a wagon and hauled them to the Mapleton depot to be shipped to the Lehi sugar factory. Finally, we got two row cultivators, beet pullers, and racks that could be dumped ... this was the real automation of our times. The beet crop was our chief source of cash. Until the harvest, we lived on credit from the local store. Our bills were promptly paid and our credit was always good. Father, as did many others, did not use a bank. One night he came home with the beet check cashed ... \$385 in gold! We hit it outside.

When we could get a day off from our own work, we would hire out to the neighbors to get spending money. Fifty cents was a fair day's pay. This would pay for a dance ticket at Wallace Johnson's hall. ... Most of us boys, at one time or another, wore Mother's shoes to dance in, for our own shoes had nails in the soles that would scratch the floor. The girls worked out too for about \$3 a week which they used for their own clothes, or their sisters who stayed at home.

We hauled wood and cedar posts and sold them when we weren't busy on the farm. Our vacation was a trip up Spanish Fork Canyon to gather coal that had fallen off railroad cars.

Cultural Programs and Development

When the organization of the Mapleton Ward was effected in 1888 by the Mormons, it became the center of both spiritual and recreational life. Church groups usually organized the dances and parties that were the most popular forms of entertainment for both young and old. Weddings were held in the homes or the Wallace Johnson hall and they were well attended. Horseback riding and camping in the mountains, things that are done for sports activities today, were part of every day work life for many families. However, fishing trips were looked forward to and were quite often used as bribes to get more work out of the children. But dancing, with picnics afterward, gave everyone a chance to congregate and relax after a hard day's work. That is why the townsfolk danced together so often. Still, some of the good brethren cautioned against too much dancing because it "... showed up the result of it in ... the ill health of our young ladies."⁶¹ As a result, many of the dances were either sponsored by the Mutual Improvement Association or by dancing clubs that had the approval of the bishopric of the ward.

Several families rode the train to Salt Lake City on July 24, 1897, to attend the semi-centennial Jubilee. It was the largest celebration the state had yet seen, according to Bishop Tew. The parade was three hours long and everyone had an excellent time. Four trains carried passengers south from Salt Lake City as the families returned. There were twenty-two cars on the train that the Tews were riding, and they did not arrive home until three the next morning. Perhaps that is why he upbraided a group of young people the next day for going to Utah Lake and staying over night without guardians or chaperones. The parents were a bit upset at him. They really should have been upset at the