

THE FIRST TRAIN THAT ARRIVED IN OGDEN

(The following story is told to Gladys Belnap on April 1, 1932 by her father, Hyrum Belnap, who was an eye-witness to the event.)

They first laid the rails and brought the handcars in first. When the tracks were finished the trains came as far as Uintah and he (Hyrum Belnap) did not get to see them until they came to Ogden. It came in the spring of 1869. He does not know the month. Ogden had a big celebration when it arrived.

At the time Father (Hyrum) lived near the Weber River and viaduct. The train came in a little east of his home. Father was eleven years old.

A large platform was built and all the people stood around it.

Because of so many trees they could not see the train until it got to about 27th Street.

He and Gus and 3 or 4 other boys went early. They were running down the tracks and when they came to the turn of the Weber River, around the corner came the train. They all jumped off the track, but Gus stood and looked at it and he barely got off the track. As the train passed him they let the steam out on him. Dad couldn't see him and he thought he was killed. The train stopped between some brush and Taylor's Mill waiting for the signal to come into Ogden. There were three engines. They ran on up to the depot to wait for the train. They watched from the west standing on some cars on the tracks. There were about 2 to 3,000 people present. The school children marched down behind a banner. They were lead by Ballantyne. The crowd gathered round the platform and the school children on the east. The children were dressed in their best.

When the train came in all the people hollered and the train blew its whistles. It made such a noise and kept on making the noise that the school children became frightened and they all broke out and ran when the train came near. They had to cross a little bridge. It wasn't large enough for them all so the majority of them ran through the slew and the trains kept right on making noises. This impressed Dad more than seeing the trains. It took about half an hour to get the children back and quieted.

Brigham Young talked. Grandpa Gilbert Belnap was on the stand as he was sheriff.

It was the U.P. that came in and the C.P. did not come until later.

California train and U.P. met later at Promontory Point.