

Gunlock Ward History ,January 1997 through December 1997
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January , 1997 saw the following officers heading up
Gunlock Ward Organizations:

Bishopric: Bishop Wade Donaldson- First Counselor-John Benson- Second Counselor- Ed Burdick.

Young Women's Presidency: Glenna Burdick-President-Katie Smith- First Counselor -Lisa Bowler- Second Counselor.

Relief Society Presidency : Becky Bowler-President- First Counselor Georgia Gae Donaldson-Second Counselor- Aileen Bundy.

Primary Presidency: Sherice Wright-President- First Counselor- Rebecca Benson- Second Counselor-Kim Bowler .

Under the direction of Bishop Donaldson, the ward has aggressively followed all outlined programs, with officers showing much initiative and everyone has enjoyed a progressive, devout and peaceful year.

Activities of the Scouting program have accomplished a great deal. The cub scouting program is ahead of schedule in some areas under the direction and leadership of Judy Leavitt. there are four boys, age nine, who have gone to school together, been baptized very close to each other and enjoy Primary together. Jesse Munoz, Edward Leavitt, Vern Brady and Meb Bowler have formed a strong bond. It is comforting to be able to watch the continuity and enjoyment of these future leaders of our world. this thoroughly enjoy the field trips planned for them by Leader Judy Leavitt and are abreast or a little ahead in their scouting work. The regular Gunlock Ward Boy Scout Troop under the direction of Jay Leavitt are also active. They successfully completed a food drive, they assisted with the annual town party and contributed a fountain to our newly acquired town park. They also baked cakes and auctioned them off during the annual Blue and Gold buffet dinner which gave them funds for their scouting activities.

In March, 1997, Gunlock Ward members Guy and Gertrude Bowler returned from an LDS Temple Assignment Mission in the Chicago, Illinois Temple. In reporting on their time away from home, they told of the strengthening of their testimonies.

Other ward activities during the year which contributed to the strengthening of faith and uplifting of our ward spiritual consciousness were: The Annual Relief Society Birthday Dinner, The Annual Primary Christmas Party which has been held in the church every Christmas Eve since the turn of the century.

On this special occasion, parents, grandparents and families in the ward plus former residents who have lived in Gunlock all come from miles around to enjoy a Nativity Pageant presented by the Primary children of the Gunlock Ward. Then Santa arrives with a gift for every child who is there. This special memory stays with children and adults alike and warms them throughout the year.

Celebrating our theme, "Faith in every footstep" Members of the Ivins stake led by the Priesthood gathered this July at the Gunlock Rodeo grounds to begin a simulated pioneer trek across the rolling hills and valley between Gunlock and Jackson Peak, about 20 miles to the west of our town. Pulling handcarts, walking and on horses, carrying bedding, water and food, about 150 to 200 men, women and children took some time out of their lives to re-live a few days experienced by their pioneer forefathers. This trek was inspired by Ivins Stake President Gubler. Every step taken by this group was faith building, bringing into focus the pain and joy experienced by those who came before us. One Gunlock Ward Member, Aron Bowler said she would never forget this experience.

One sad note in our past year was the death of Laura Mae Leavitt, wife of lifelong Gunlock resident Verle Leavitt. She died of a heart attack which was totally unexpected. She is buried in the Gunlock cemetery beside a small grandson. She was always active in the ward working diligently in the Relief Society for years and years, but she also participated in civic affairs. A humble and devout person, her death has left us all diminished in ways we will not be able to fill.

On a brighter note, ward member, Mildred Ashworth, this year was able to visit Israel. Upon returning from the Holy land, she said she truly felt that her time in the Holy Land increased her faith and provided her with a renewed appreciation for our theme, "Faith in Every Footstep."

Each of us in this small ward are daily thankful for the strong and inspired leadership of Bishop Donaldson. Not only has he provided guidance to Gunlock Ward members, he has reached out and touched the hearts of non-members, gaining their friendship and respect. He leads all of us in the ways we should go. Our task is to follow his example and heed his messages. We have been blessed by our Lord who sent him to Gunlock to become our Bishop and provide a strong example in our hearts and minds and in our

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community. Under his guidance this small ward has three of our members in Stake positions: Sister Marie Jessup works in the Ivins Stake Primary, Sister Rolayne Bracken works in the Young Women's Ivins Stake and Michael Bracken is First Counselor in the Ivins Stake Presidency.

We close 1997 with prayers of thankfulness for our blessings and humble gratitude for our religion, our families and most of all for God's presence which is with us each day