

— ~ —

# LEROY ALBERT WILSON

INVENTOR · PROMOTER · PROSPECTOR

— ~ —

1892 - 1954

**By**

**Klara Rowe Petersen**

**2013**

**Graphic Design of Cover and Family Tree by Darin DeCesare**





## MAP SHOWING CAMP, CEDAR PLAN, & MURDER LOCATIONS

Key to map: 1 – Camp in Bull Valley

2 – Kanab and murder site

3 – Parowan and Cedar Plan

To locate camp follow route 18 (the red with green dots) road north from St. George to Veyo. At Veyo a left turn is taken which leads along a bluff, then drops down into the creek bed. Cross the creek and follow the dirt road until you locate camp which is roughly halfway between Veyo and Enterprise. There may not be much left of the original camp as I understand the county has plowed it under and someone else has staked claim to it.

The number 2 marks the location near Kanab where Tom Holland shot Leroy A. Wilson 18 May 1954. I don't know of any easy way to find the exact location of the murder. Find Parowan on the map and next to it is the number 3. There are many articles in the Parowan newspaper detailing plans for a General Steam Factory there. When he couldn't get sufficient monetary support for the factory there which is detailed in the Cedar Plan, he chose Bull Valley for a place to live and run his enterprises.

## Contents

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CHART OF LEROY ALBERT WILSON .....	2
FAMILY TREE OF LEROY A. WILSON .....	3
HOW THIS HISTORY CAME ABOUT .....	4
EARLY LIFE .....	6
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY .....	14
POLYGAMY & POLYGAMOUS WIVES .....	16
THE WIVES & THEIR HUSBAND .....	30
BUSINESS VENTURES.....	32
THE BUILDING OF CAMP AT BULL VALLEY .....	47
LIFE AT CAMP I .....	56
ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON TRIAL .....	65
LIFE AT CAMP II .....	69
MINING CLAIMS .....	74
INVENTIONS .....	80
LIFE AT CAMP III .....	88
WILSON'S REMAINING YEARS.....	92
THE MURDER .....	99
COLD CASE NO MORE - Geiger Counter Murder – Cold Case or Hot?.....	106
VISITS TO CAMP & SIBLING CONTACT .....	110
PEDIGREE OF LEROY A. WILSON .....	115
INDEX .....	116
END NOTES.....	118

## FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CHART OF LEROY ALBERT WILSON

**Martha Jane Smith** (1860-1948) md. **Charles Milo Wilson** on 6 Oct 1886 and divorced 13 Mar 1897

Charlotte Elizabeth Hammond (1830-1907) md. 1855 **Joshua Rufus Nichols** (1831-1902)

**Charles Hammond Nichols** (1855-1856)

**Walter Hammond Nichols** (1866-1935)

**Martha Jane Smith** (1860-1948) not md. **Joshua Rufus Nichols** (1831-1902)

**Jemima (Mima) Cliffman Wilson**(1889–1957)

**Leroy Albert Wilson** (1892-1954)

md. 19 Jun 1919 **Marguerite (Rita) Nelson** (1896-1973)

**Leroy Albert Wilson, Jr. or Bert** (1923-alive)

**Margaret Wilson** (1928-2005)

md. abt 1928(polygamous) **Goldie Elverda Owen<sup>i</sup>** (1902-1936)

**Gerald Ernest Soelberg** (1934-alive)

**Nolyn Soelberg** (1936-alive)

md. abt 1930(polygamous) **Maggie Veola Hatch<sup>ii</sup>** (1908-1999)

**Aaron Rasmussen** (1944-alive)

md. abt 1932(polygamous) **Annie LaVilda Johnson** (1895-1959)

no children

md. abt 1934(polygamous) **Marta Loss Rowe<sup>iii</sup>**(1902-1998)

**Marcia Rowe** (1937-alive)

**Klara Rowe** (1938-alive)

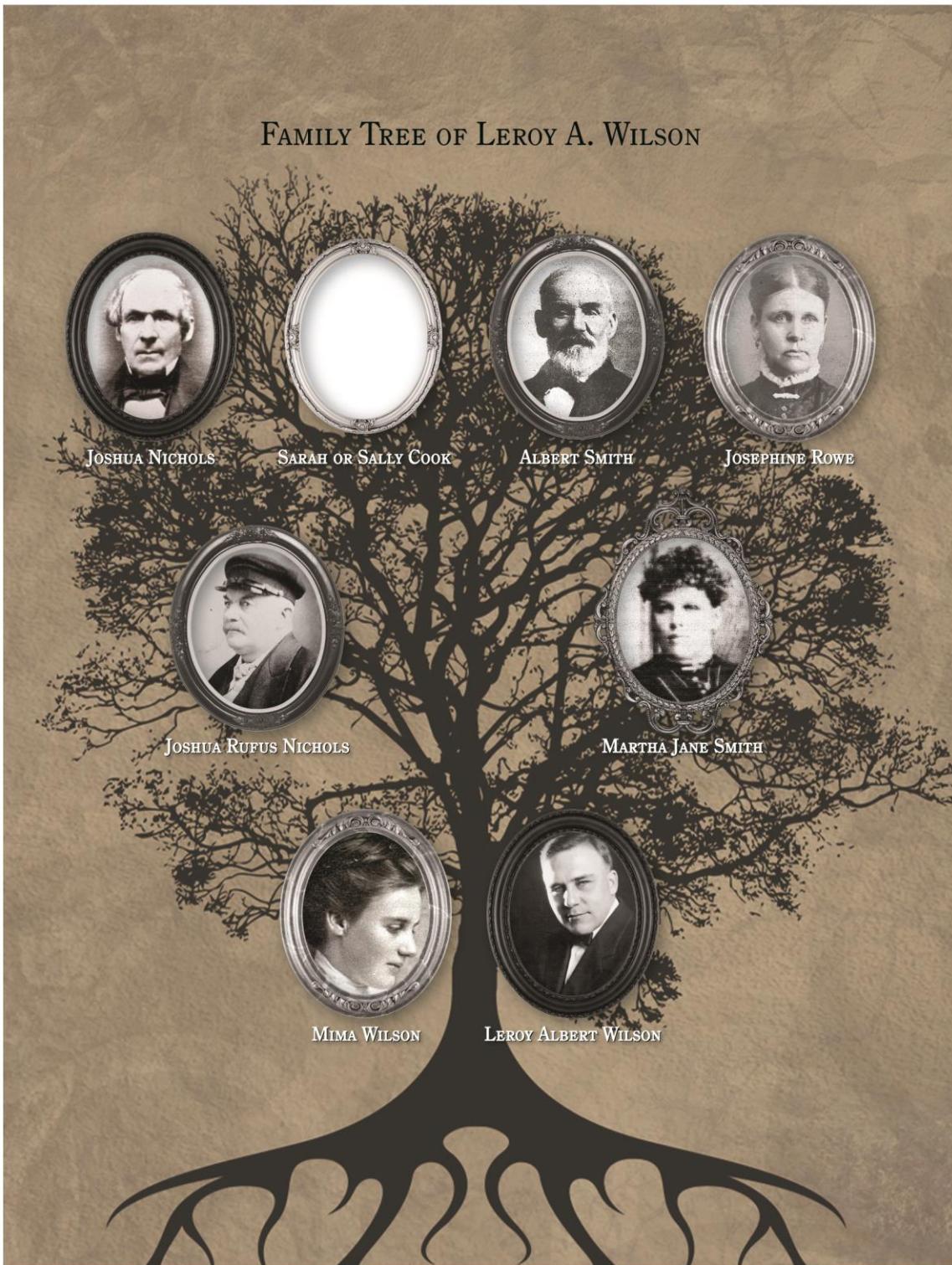
**Janice Rowe** (1945-alive)

**Martha Jane Smith** (1860-1948) md. 1897 **Joseph A. Thornton** (1851-1922)

**Charles William Thornton** (1897-1959) md. 1924 **Grace Greenwood** (1901-1994)

**Earl Joseph Thornton** (1902-1984)

## FAMILY TREE OF LEROY A. WILSON



## HOW THIS HISTORY CAME ABOUT

When I was born in 1938, my father was forty-six years old. As a child I absorbed a certain amount of information about him, but that was for limited times in the summer and on his occasional visits to our home where I lived with my mother, Marta and my sisters and Vilda. He did not talk about his own life and I have no stories from him about his growing up years. I was sixteen when he died and was busy with school, marriage, teaching, and family for many years. As my children grew up and departed onto their own paths, I wanted to know more of the details of my father's life. I loved him as a child. I was curious about his life. I wanted the facts about him.

In 2010 Dawn Rasmussen, my niece, was a saint to rescue and deliver to me many of my father's or Wilson's files, inventions, and documents that her father, Aaron Rasmussen, my brother had been burdened with storing. It was what was salvaged from my father's last residence or camp as we called it. He lived at camp in Bull Valley, Washington Co., Utah from 1936 until his death in 1954. Nolyn, Janice, and I spent considerable time organizing the materials. I then took upon myself the task of scanning the majority of what fell into my hands.

The difficulty in writing about my father is that there is not a neat, clean trail through his correspondence. Much has been lost. Although Leroy Albert Wilson was a voluminous writer, he did not keep a journal and he did not write his own life story. I have come to know him through his correspondence with others, what others wrote to him, and from other sources.

In court, census, birth, marriage, death, school, and military records I learned more about his life. Newspaper accounts were helpful. The Goodrich journals, Earl Hanson's account, and the letters between David O. McKay and him were insightful.

Fortunately, I asked those who had first-hand accounts about my father's biological father, when I was a young married woman. I helped Margaret write her memories of her father early in the 1990's. I wish I had asked many more questions of people who are now gone.

This account is not exhaustive by any means. I did not want it to be so long no one would read it, but I did want it to represent him and who he was. Most of all I wanted the things he said and others said about him to characterize him. I've tried to keep my views of him to a minimum.

It has been fun to find pictures of him, establish facts about his life, learn about his companies and how camp, my summer home, came to be. But it has not been fun to see the misery he created for himself and others by his choices. Janice said, "I too have felt the weight of our father's obsessions - of him being anything but a normal father, or our having to hide and lie for him, of being embarrassed and/or ashamed of his rantings and disrespect. It was a heavy burden and I feel we bear it again as we dig out the facts and review his life." I join her in this sentiment.

Having said that I recognize that there were important things I learned from him. I want to recognize his legacy to me. What did I learn from this man who is my biological parent?

1. To follow the living prophet – not seeing the Gospel as a pick-and-choose menu
2. To make my voice heard in a respectful way
3. To work hard
4. To pray and read the scriptures and not twist them to justify my choices
5. To be accountable for all my actions as opposed to rationalizing
6. To get an education

7. To be devoted to a cause
8. To tell the truth and not have secrets
9. To have a balanced life and deal with reality
10. To be able to distinguish the voice of the Lord

His life was a model of some of these things and by contrast I decided to choose a different path based on what I thought he did not model. Trying to live polygamy in a monogamous world was not only a mistake because the Church no longer sanctioned it, but because we couldn't have a chance at a normal life. One thing I wanted my children to have was the constant presence of a father and to be able to claim him, a privilege I did not enjoy growing up.

Camp was an interesting place to me. I value the skills I learned there. I was both a city girl growing up in Las Vegas and a country girl in a remote ranch type mining camp setting.

As I read accounts of my father by others and read his writings, there were times when I wondered if he didn't have a disability of some kind...maybe Asperger's Syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder. By all accounts he had a brilliant mind, but something was lacking when it came to working with others. He was so caught up in his ideas and zealously driven to fulfill what he thought was his mission in life that he could not acknowledge that he was misled. Pride ruled his life.

Since I do not have a scientific mind and do not understand how his inventions worked, I cannot tell if they would have been effective products or not – obviously the inventions that were patented were of merit at that time. I suspect he did not like to work out the details of implementing his inventions. How good were his ideas and inventions? Would more development of them or more capital have made a difference? Did he need to rely on an effective business manager? Would it have been better if he had developed one invention at a time?

I'd like to thank Hal Whiting for leading me to sources of information about my father. Like Loren Webb, he came upon camp on an outing and was intrigued. Hal was interested in his inventions and the murder trial gone wrong. Loren has gathered material over nearly twenty years thinking he would write a book. I'd like to thank Grace Thornton, Roy's sister-in-law for writing a report on her visit to camp at its inception and her daughter, Emma Jane Nelson for sharing it with me. It meant a great deal to me at the time. Later, I found others that had positive things to say about my father. I'd also like to thank my siblings and my family for their support.

Some have speculated about what was going on at camp. Were the people who lived there a cult? Were they a polygamous colony? Were they defrauders? Were they planning for end-of-world survival? What kind of people were they? I hope this account will answer these questions and the ones others may have. However, the real intent of this story about Leroy A. Wilson is to serve as a family memoir.

I've had to give up my resentment of the burdens my father placed on me. He was truer to his visions than he was to the welfare of his family. I hope the reader can look with compassion, forgiveness, and hope in a better day for him.

Klara Rowe Petersen - 2013

## EARLY LIFE

When **Leroy Albert Wilson (LAW, Roy, Wilson)** was born in 1892, Ellis Island opened, the boll weevil devastated the cotton crop, oil was discovered in Texas and John Taylor was president of the Church. Utah became the 45<sup>th</sup> state in 1896 on provision among other things that they denounce polygamy. He was born 16 Mar 1892 in Midvale, Salt Lake County, Utah and his parents are **Martha Jane Smith** and **Joshua Rufus Nichols**. His mother, Martha Jane Smith, was first married to **Charles Milo Wilson** 6 October 1886 in Salt Lake, Utah, but Charles left to return to his home in Illinois shortly thereafter. Martha Jane did not go with him, but continued working in Salt Lake City in the Joshua Rufus Nichols home. Some say he abandoned her. JRN was an acquaintance of Charles Wilson. Nichols and his wife, Charlotte Elizabeth Hammond had two sons, but only one was alive, Walter Hammond Nichols. Charlotte was an invalid and sometime after Charles Wilson left, Martha Jane and JRN "mixed it up". <sup>iv</sup>

Roy's sister, **Jemima (Mima) Cliffman Smith Wilson** was born 28 Jun 1889 in Gridley, CA. Mima attended high school for one year in Monrovia, CA and lived in the Walter H. Nichol's home. Walter Nichols is a half-sibling to both Mima and Roy.

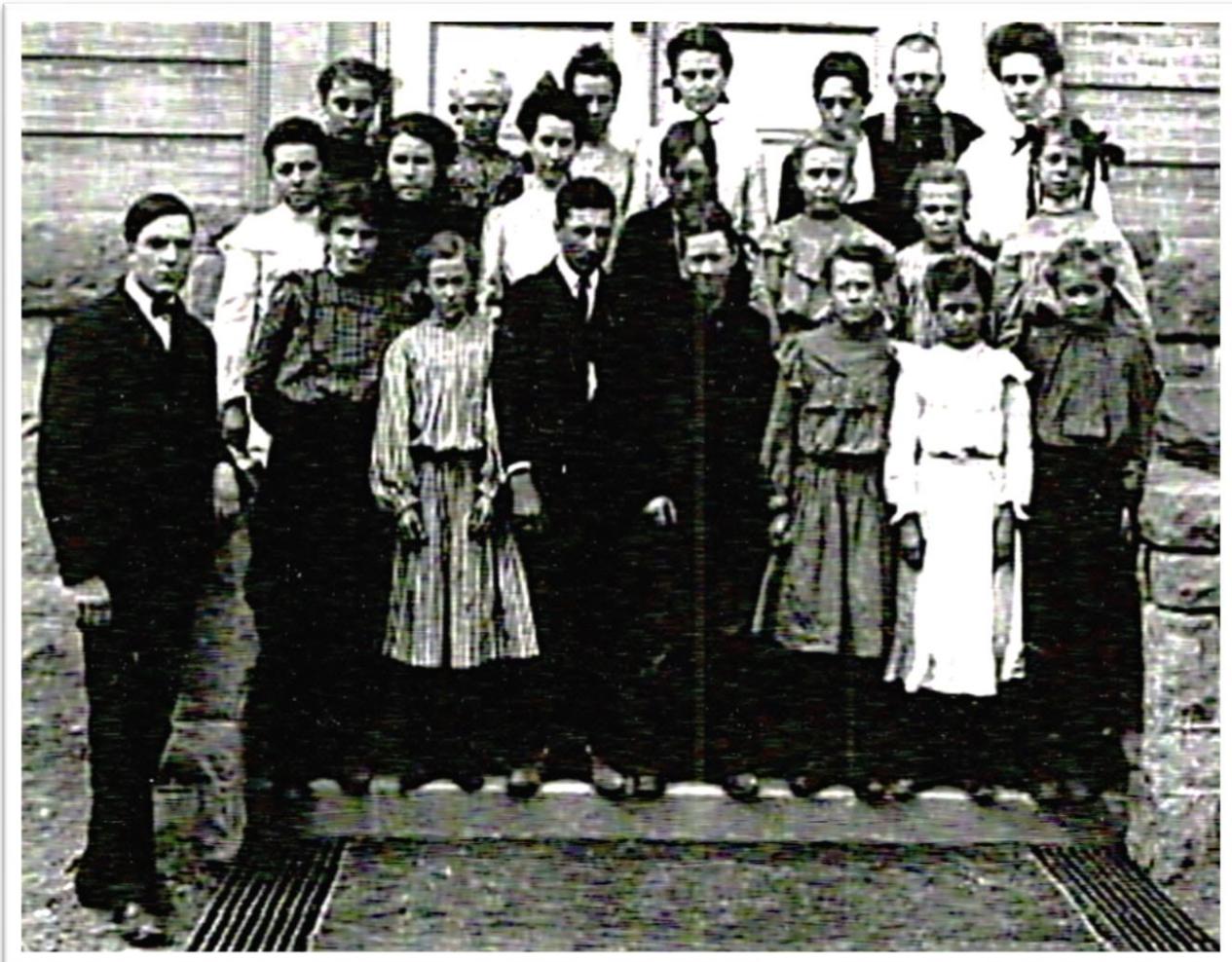


Rita Wilson, Roy's first wife and Grace Greenwood Thornton, wife of Charles W. Thornton, our father's step-brother, both asked Martha Jane who the biological father of Roy and Mima was. In both instances the answer was Joshua R. Nichols. Mima and her children have followed the genealogy of the Wilson line. I have followed the Nichols line. Martha Jane did not

want Mima to know who her real father was, but she told her son, Roy. Nichols provided a home for Martha Jane and the children he fathered with her, pictured left above which was destroyed by fire before 1897<sup>v</sup>. He probably did not have much interaction with them. Joshua R. Nichols died at the end of 1902 when Roy was ten years old and his sister, Mima was thirteen. He was survived by his wife who apparently left him before 1900 as we see her in her son, Walter Hammond Nichols' home in Boulder, Colorado in the 1900 census and JRN is still in Salt Lake City.

Martha Jane divorced Wilson on 13 Mar 1897. She met **Joseph "A" Thornton** who had come to East Midvale following the death of his first wife, Harriet Braithwaite. She and Joseph were married on 11 Aug 1897. Two sons were born to them: **Charles William Thornton** b. 11 Sep 1897 and **Joseph Earl Thornton** b. 19 Nov 1902. They lived in the old Smith home for several years, and then the home was sold and torn down and the East Midvale Ward house was built there.

Harold Goff with his students at Midvale Elementary School pictured below top. You can see Roy and Mima Wilson in the back row, last two people going left to right. Roy is wearing suspenders and Mima has her hair up in a pompadour style.





Grace Thornton, wife of Charles Thornton says in a 1965 letter "Grandma always said he (Joe) loved Mima and Roy and was very proud of them, treating them better than he did his own sons." Joe was gone away with his work much of the time in the mines of Garfield County. Our father continued his relationship with his Thornton step-brothers and sister Mima all through his life, but there is no evidence he knew Walter Hammond Nichols, who was 26 years older than him and also a step-brother. He had a very tender relationship with Mima and replies to a letter she sent him about 1930: "I was beginning to think that no one in this world cared a hang about me, and in the midst of this despondency I received a letter which breathes the very essence of solicitude and care. I would rather have that than the best love I have ever known from a sweetheart...Mima, I do appreciate it, very much." Charles worked with him in his Counterflow water heater business as well as other ventures and looked up to him.

One family story I recall is that Roy peppered his grandfather, Albert Smith, with many questions. He appears to have been very inquisitive and liked to learn about everything he could. He no doubt helped on his grandfather's farm where he lived and his grandfather was a constant in his life. There is nothing in his voluminous writings about his growing up years. In a letter Wilson wrote to David O. McKay dated 16 Nov 1935 he said: "The memories of my pioneer grandparents and other like men and women of my childhood are the choicest memories of my life and no other influence can ever become so strong nor so dominating in my life."

Bert Wilson, Roy's oldest child knows a woman, Lottie Fullmer, who was in his father's school class at some point and she said he was the smartest of smart. Roy and Mima attended Midvale Elementary School grades 1 – 8. The picture above left is probably at 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation. Midvale Elementary was part of the Jordan School District. Roy's daughter, Margaret Wilson Pohl said, her dad "had a photographic mind that remembered what he read down to page and paragraph number."

In his application for a government loan to mine iron ore on Cove Mountain, Washington County, Utah and start a mill to refine it, he claims to have graduated from Utah State in engineering, but his transcript does not reveal that. It only supports his degree in agronomy as does his diploma. Bert says that his father told him that he was a couple of classes short of getting a degree in engineering, but no evidence of that is found at University of Nevada @ Reno, Utah State, the University of Utah, or Brigham Young University. There is no question that he was an avid reader, student, and had many books on topics which support his life-time career and interest in mining and his inventions. If he had a degree nearly completed in engineering, I do not know which institution has evidence of it. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Salt Lake branch, lists him in their directory.



The picture above is from the harvesting fields of Pendleton, Oregon about 1910 or later showing Roy in the crew. He is pictured in the top row, seated second on the left. He rode the rails to get to the areas where crops were being harvested. He worked harvesting crops all through his college years to support himself according to Bert.

During the next era of **1910's**, both the Boy and Girl Scouts begin, the Titanic sinks, the millionth Model T for \$345 rolled off the assembly line, average salary is \$750/yr., divorce rate is 1/1000, and the US joins WW I in 1917 which ends in Nov of 1918. Roy graduated from high school in 1910 and was in the second graduating class of the Jordan High School.

It appears that he worked for a year or so before entering college which he started in fall of 1912. In an application for a government loan in the 1930's, he says at age seventeen he worked at the United States Mining and Smelting Co. in Midvale and was a boss over 220 men. He claims to have worked in Bingham, Alta, and the Utah Copper Mine. Emma Jane, daughter of Charles Thornton, says that Roy advised her father to work for stock in various mines of Utah, the Dream Mine, being one. He claimed in the government loan application that he "served in the directorate of several mining companies and had done considerable mining on his own account."

He attended Utah Agricultural College in Logan, Utah which is now named Utah State University from 1912 to 1916 when he graduated. He played football and ran track. He majored in agronomy and mi-

nored in agriculture. He belonged to the Camera and the Agriculture Club. He is quoted in a university publication called the Buzzer, "What other men dare, I dare." His yearbook picture is at the right.

A year before his graduation, there was a write-up in The Richfield Reaper under date of Thursday, 27 May 1915 about a farm experiment with the subtitle: Important Investigations Will Be Made Under Direction of Expert Agriculturists. "The object of the experimental work is to ascertain which is the best time to begin irrigation and to what extent the land should be irrigated in order to get the best results. The three crops were alfalfa, sugar beets, and grain. ... Mr. Wilson, the new man who has



AGRICULTURAL									
Name of Student			Leroy Albert Wilson.						
Address			Date of Registration Sept. 27, 1912. Soph						
Parent or Guardian			Agriculture.						
Address			Born March 16, 1892						
Year	SUBJECTS 1912-13.	Hours per Week	Weeks in Course	Credit	GRADE	Year	SUBJECTS 1913-14	Hours per Week	Weeks in Course
	English	8	18	3	C		Botany 4	3	18
	Mathematics	6	18	3	A		Farm Mach. 2	3	18
	Physical Culture or Drill	4	36	2	D		Irrig. & Dr. 2	3	18
	Art 20	5	18	2	C		Hort. 4	3	18
	Bacteriology 1	3	18	3	D		Sociology 1	3	18
	Botany 1	3	36	6	B				
	Entomology 1	3	18	3	A				
	German 3	1	36	2	C				
	Physiology 2	3	18	3	C				
	Zoology 2	3	36	6	A				
	Horticulture 2	2	18	2	B				
	Horticulture 2a	3	18	3	C				
	Horticulture 3	2	18	2	B				
Year	SUBJECTS 1914-15	Hours per Week	Weeks in Course	Credit	GRADE	Year	SUBJECTS 1914-15	Hours per Week	Weeks in Course
	Chemistry 2-5	3	36	5	C		Jordan High School	Hours per Week	Weeks in Course
	Botany 4	3	36	5	C		English 1st year	5	36
	Ent. 2	3	36	3	B		English 2nd year	5	36
	Botany 5	3	18	3	C		English 3rd year	5	36
	Economics 4b	3	18	3	A		English 4th year	5	36
	Geology 2	3	18	3	C		Figuring	5	36
							Plane Geometry	5	36
							Solid Geometry	5	18
							Algebra 4	5	18
							Chemistry	5	36
							Physics	5	36
							American History	5	36
							General History	5	36
							English Histroy	5	36
							German 1st year	5	36
							German 2nd year	5	36
							El. Agriculture	18	3
							Animal Husband.	5	18
							Review of Com. Branches	36	1

been assigned to this work, comes highly recommended. He has already taken hold of the new farm at Joseph and has spoken for space in this paper with which to keep the people posted as to his accomplishments."

Notice that many of his high school classes are recorded on the college transcript. I had the impression that his academic record was top notch, but he obviously liked some subjects better than others and applied himself to some, but not others.

Roy is pictured at right in his college football uniform. Below is his college graduation certificate for a degree of Bachelor of Science in Agronomy dated 6 June 1916. At the right below Roy is pictured in his cap and gown.



# Utah State University

On the nomination of the Faculty and as authorized by law,  
Utah State University has conferred on

Leroy Albert Wilson

the degree of

Bachelor of Science

in Agronomy

together with all the honors, rights privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.  
Given at Logan in the state of Utah the sixth day of June in the year of our Lord  
nineteen hundred-sixteen and the University's twenty eighth year.

Chairman of the Utah  
State Board of Regents

Commissioner of  
Higher Education



Chairman of the  
Board of Trustees

President of the  
University



After graduation from college, he worked for Great Western Sugar Co., in Greeley, Colorado as an Agriculturist and Assistant Beet Seed Supervisor according to his W. W. I Draft Registration Card dated June, 1917. He joined the Army on 15 April, 1918.

He says his mother is partially dependent on him and his physical description is: blue eyes, brown hair, 5 ft. 10 in. tall, stout build, and has a crooked finger on his left hand. On 17 March 1918 he buys an insurance policy on his life for \$10,000 from the Treasury Department. He is stationed at Camp Fremont, CA, Camp Taylor, KY, Camp Jackson, SC and discharged as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 21 December 1918. Roy in military uniform at right.



In a talk he gave to students at his alma mater in 1926 he gives his views on war: In WW I but didn't see much fighting, "for which I am not sorry. You train men to shoot, and they want to shoot, and I was no exception. I knew all about a Schnieder gun, and French 75's and those tough French range tables. I wanted to see them in action of some real targets. That is the damnable part about this militarism. It makes people want to fight. It's like a disease. It gets in the system, and the only things that will get it out is a real battle and the awful carnage that results from modern weapons. The boys who went through it are cured. They want no more, and every one will raise both hands, if they have any left, to vote against war."

In the picture below Roy is seated first on left and is holding his hat. On 11 November 1918 the Armistice was signed which meant he didn't have to go to war. In a letter written about 1930 to his

sister,  
Mima,  
explaining  
his life and  
what he is  
about, he  
says:  
"When a  
soldier at  
Camp  
Jackson, I  
was  
attached to  
the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Regiment  
of Field  
Artillery as  
a commis-  
sioned



officer and given overseas orders. I knew what that meant and in very sober mood sought a lonely place in the barracks where I could pray. I told God that if my life was of any value and He saw fit to spare it, I would return home to my people in the tops of the mountains after the war and devote the remainder of my days to the building of the Kingdom, but that if I was wanted in France or the other side, or to be wounded or gassed, I was willing to do whatever He saw as the best. In a most marvelous manner, I was suddenly transferred away from France and to the schooling I had always desired to receive from the time I entered the Army. "

He continues with "One day I was commanded to mount the guard in a formal regimental guard mount on the parade grounds." He'd never done this, only read about it, but says he blundered through. He expected reprimand from his commanding officer, but received instead, compliment. They knew he didn't know how to do this, but admired his ability to take it on and do it. "You did it somehow and that's the kind of men we want. We must have resourceful men. I've looked you up and you're the kind of timber we want for higher commands. There isn't any commission in the U S Army too big for you." When I was discharged from the School of Fire at Ft. Sill, OK and from the army 21 December 1918, I was offered a captain's commission if I would stay on as an instructor. He turned it down and declared, "I wouldn't stay in their army if they made me a Major General and I meant it." Leroy A. Wilson is pictured at right in military uniform with his sweetheart, Rita Nelson.

Shortly before he decided to quit the army he sent a letter on 5 October 1918 to the *Improvement Era* which they published in their Sentiments from the Soldiers column: "I have been wanting something for a long time without being able to determine just what it was.

Today I thought of the *Improvement Era* and of the wonderful inspiration it used to afford me, and then I knew it was this great little magazine of the Saints which I wanted, so I am enclosing my subscription. Why don't some of the brethren start a movement to have this periodical sent to our boys in the trenches and in the cantonments? I know from contact with them that they are thinking of the gospel, and would gladly read every copy. At least it should be among the magazines found on the reading tables of the Y. M. C. A. I am sure they would give us space. I have been at several large camps and have never yet found any of our publications. At Camp Jackson, which I recently left, over one hundred officers of the 'Mormon' faith were stationed, to say nothing of the enlisted men."



## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

The next phase of his life was courtship and marriage. He met **Marguerite (Rita) Nelson** of Salt Lake City, Utah pictured together below right sometime early in 1919. They were engaged by March of 1919. She took the train from Salt Lake City to Manti, Utah where he was and they appear to have married. In her letter to him dated 23 March, a Monday, postmarked 24 Mar 1919, she says:

"Darling Husband,

Just think it's true, but I can't believe it. Seems all a dream you know. Why did we any way. Not that I'm sorry dear in having you. It was a mean little trick tho don't you think? Some of the fellows asked me this morning (at work) when I was to be married and I just laughed. Lots of merriment. When I got on the elevator, the elevator man said, 'So, thought you had run away and got married.' I told him maybe I did. I surely had a tiresome ride home. The train was an hour late getting in. People standing up all the way. I had to take the Sixth Ave., and walk home and I was nearly dead. All my love until ..." (sent by Rita)



Their marriage license is dated 25 June 1919, the same date they were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple. She was twenty-two and he was twenty-seven. She came from a well-to-do family. The Nelson's owned a plumbing business, Nelson's & Son's in Salt Lake City. According to her daughter Margaret Wilson Pohl, her mother, Rita (Marguerite) "was a concert pianist with a wonderful singing voice. She was an excellent cook...even made hand-dipped chocolates, pies and bread out of this world as did Grandma Thornton, dad's mom. She had a passion for flowers and had a green thumb. She grew a vegetable garden, had fruit trees, and canned a lot for winter when things were dead". Bert says our father managed the agricultural farm by Lagoon and raised watermelons, etc. and it was a big operation.

The **1920's** were known as the Roaring Twenties. With the end of WW I, prosperity accelerated, women could vote, there was unprecedented industrial growth brought on by consumer demand, but when Wall Street crashed in 1929, the Great Depression brought years of hardship to all.

In the 1920 census they were reported to be renting a place next to her parents. His job is listed as an insurance agent and the city directory of 1920 says he worked for New York Life Insurance Company at 301 Walker Bank Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.

In an appeal to the patent office maybe in the 1930's, he says: "In engineering school ...In 1921 I decided to cut loose from all else and devote myself to these inventions." He gave a talk in 1926 to students at Utah State and he encourages them to be independent thinkers, have initiative, not be afraid to use it, and make the world a better place. "The most valuable lesson I have learned in these ten years (since graduation) is to listen to inspiration – to heed the still, small voice, the infallible monitor."

In 1923 the first of their two children was born 16 Sep 1923, **Leroy Albert Wilson, Jr. or Bert**. It will be nearly five years before Margaret is born. Of his early years Bert, remembers interacting with his dad by going to the Beck Hot Springs to swim. Bert's maternal cousin, Craig often joined them. Bert doesn't think their home enjoyed love and harmony. Margaret idolized her father. Margaret and Bert Wilson are pictured below. Margaret says in her history of her father, "My mother's brother, Uncle Rae said my dad could convince and show you why you should do what he believed in. He had a very convincing personality and it was hard to argue against him."

**Margaret McFarland Wilson** was born 10 Jun 1928 in Salt Lake City. She says that her father went into the delivery room and administered the ether. He had a very persuasive personality and didn't take no for an answer. They had just moved into their beautiful new home on 11<sup>th</sup> and G street prior to her birth.

Her Nelson grandparents lived next door. Margaret was seriously ill with eczema as a baby and

her dad went into the hills to fast and pray.

She lived. She says of her father, "He loved me to sit on his lap and pick the bad hairs out of his beard. He would play kid's cards like Fish and Old Maid with me. He was always offering me silver dollars, but I didn't take them. I wonder if he didn't offer them to help his guilt at the mess we were in as a family when he lost our beautiful home and started living

polygamy. My mother detested the practice

of polygamy and my father's connection with it. When my mother was carrying me, I believe there was scandal about Goldie, first polygamous wife Roy took, because mom was ready to divorce my dad." Bert adds, "I think our father was in the Ensign Ward bishopric in 1926 when he was excommunicated for preaching false doctrine."



## POLYGAMY & POLYGAMOUS WIVES

Roy was excommunicated from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on 21 September 1926 for preaching false doctrine (polygamy). When the Gospel was restored, everything had to be restored, even patriarchal marriage or polygamy. The manifesto issued 24 Sep 1890, two years before his birth, discontinued the practice of patriarchal marriage or polygamy, but he disagreed and felt the previous prophet should be followed. He didn't have the faith to follow the living prophet. He did not repent, nor regain his membership in his life time. He felt duty bound to live this principle because one of his four patriarchal blessings said he would call forth his wives and children in the resurrection – authored by Homer M. Brown. To his sister Mima, he writes: "With that blessing ringing in my ears I read everything I could lay my hands on regarding this principle and then sought the Lord God of hosts. What has followed is another long story. I sought Pres. Grant because one of the Lord's servants, Joseph F. Smith, told me to. That Pres. Grant was gruff with me and has, according to some views, been uncharitable with me, is of no importance."

He was advised by former **Apostle Mathias F. Cowley<sup>vi</sup>** whose advice he sought in this matter NOT to embrace polygamy. Under date of letter of 10 July 1926, he advises: "I feel interested in your welfare and that of your family and trust that you will not be mistaken by any ambition of your own to accomplish something not authorized by the Living Oracles of God. Remember what the Lord said to Joseph Smith in Sec. 132, V. 10, 'Will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed.' All things come to those who wait for the Lord's time."

Apparently Mima, his sister, had written to him about getting himself back in the Church. He tells her this in his reply: "He (God) has said that we must operate solely on the principle of free agency, and that people are to be left free as the air to 'choose their life and what they'll be'. It is displeasing to God when we seek to coerce people or to prohibit, or even prevent their going to Hell, if going to Hell is what they want to do....God has endowed me with certain intelligence. I have cultivated this intelligence and developed it to a certain extent. I must choose my life in accordance with the dictates of this intelligence and my conscience. This is what makes me an individual. This is the ego within everyone, and what shapes their lives and their destiny. When the gospel blesses our lives we have an added aid, and can then grow and develop much faster toward a higher goal, to which everyone lighted by the radiance of the gospel is striving."

In Brian C. Hales book *Modern Polygamy and Mormon Fundamentalism: The Generations after the Manifesto* Roy is talked about in several instances which are far from flattering. On page 225 Musser wrote on 8/1/1935: "Clyde Neilson and Leroy Wilson came to office and got Charles Zitting out in the hall, informing him that the four of us, myself, John Y. Barlow, he and Lewis A. Kelsch were going to die premature deaths unless we reversed our statements on the Priesthood set-up. Clyde was speaker. He said he had dedicated his life to the destruction of the Sanhedrin idea. These men were so full of the devil - Clyde and Roy...attacked Bro. Moray as he left our office, and in attempting to assault him, Roy thrust his fist into the wall of the building knocking a hole through the plaster, and greatly injuring his hand. They were possessed." In the footnote it further says: "Five months earlier Wilson, "without provocation, called Lorin C. Woolley (sic) the 'greatest liar in America' and accused him and Leslie Broadbent of causing the financial downfall of Baldwin the radio manufacturer." Ibid., March 20, 1935. Moray does not appear elsewhere in the records. Wilson did not join any group of polygamists, but remained independent from all of them. He probably went to certain polygamist leaders, maybe Joe Musser, to marry him to his polygamist wives. No records of these marriages exist.

About forty years after his death, my mother, Marta Loss Rowe, the last polygamous wife he took, felt prompted to petition the General Authorities of the Church for his reinstatement. This was granted. She also wanted to be sealed to him so that their three daughters could be joined or sealed to them. This was not granted. She asked us to try again after her death. We did. The answer was the same: No. We had our choice: our father and his first and only legitimate wife, Rita or our maternal grandparents. We chose our mother's side of the family and have all been sealed to our maternal grandparents: Margaretha Bodmer and Paul Wettstein.

In a letter dated 16 Nov 1935 from Los Angeles to David O. McKay, Wilson says he has advised his polygamist friends not to fight against the Authorities of the Church, but to "fast and pray and importune God

to make the way clear for them to live His Holy Laws (He means polygamy.). Our father was acquainted with David O. McKay and sought his cooperation and advice on the development of his inventions and enterprises. The Church at that time was supporting and encouraging individuals who were developing business in the state of Utah. In a letter on church stationery dated 4 January 1936, Pres. McKay tells him his "relationship to the Church does enter into the question as an aggravating factor," for their support. At first their relationship was very cordial, but through the years Roy, pictured above, sent letters to him that were accusatory and portray his frustration with the lack of success of his enterprises. He was demanding. His letters did not keep the same tone of civility as President McKay's did.

None of his children followed in his footsteps in "keeping the principle of polygamy alive" as our parents felt duty bound to do. I felt a lot of pressure growing up to enter polygamy. Wilson claimed he had a revelation that Marcia was to marry Lee Rasmussen, his business associate. I was next in line. When we were with our father in the summer, he would often, almost nightly read from the scriptures either about the great destructions coming in the last days or his interpretation of what scriptures supported living polygamy. He preached that "my law" was the Lord's command to live polygamy. I did not agree with that even as a child. For my sisters and I, who lived most of the time with our mother in Las Vegas, NV and attended Church regularly, it wasn't something we desired or were going to do. We could see from an early age you couldn't have it both ways. If the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was true, that included following the living prophet and not turning the Gospel into a pick-and-choose menu.

Aaron and his first wife Jeannie who were friends with some polygamous Allreds did consider entering polygamy, but were fortunate to have an officiating member of the Church dissuade them. This was a

turning point in their life, especially for Veola, as she was involved in the deprogramming that ensued. I wish our mother had been deprogrammed, also.

Veola tried her best to convince the only other living wife of Roy, Marta, to change her attitude about whether they should have lived polygamy or not. Veola could say: "We were terribly wrong to live polygamy." Marta took the matter to her bishop, but she never could say it was wrong. Instead she said, "We were ahead of our time to live polygamy." She preached polygamy to my husband, Chuck as late as the mid-1990's. Chuck told her, "Now, mother, you know that is wrong" and her response was to be silent and back off. I'd like to quote First Samuel 15:22 "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice..." Sacrifice they all did, but for the wrong goal. Marta carried her flame for Roy to her death. I've heard a story from Dawn Rasmussen, one of Veola's granddaughters, that indicated Veola also loved Roy to her dying day even though she chose to be sealed to Lee. He was a heartbreaker!

In 1963 Lyle O. Wright wrote a thesis at BYU for his Master of Science Degree to College of Religious Instruction at BYU. On pages 37-38, we find this: Leroy Wilson assisted Joseph W. Musser in publishing Truth magazine, "but Wilson was mechanically minded and had great aspirations for himself and the engines he developed. Unable to develop among the Fundamentalists the support he desired for his schemes, he pulled away from them. ... Wilson felt it was his calling and duty to put the Church back in order, and he anticipated using the huge profits which he expected to receive from his inventions to provide economic salvation for the Church. He claimed to have received revelation to guide him in his work, and some of his followers believed that he was as great as Jesus Christ." Wright references George P. Briscoe, Interview, July 15, 1962 and letter to him July 17, 1962; also Joseph Thompson, Interview July 17, 1962 as his sources. Neither I nor other family members ever heard Roy Wilson say he was equal to Jesus Christ or the One Mighty and Strong, but we do know he was very devoted to polygamy, economic development for the state of Utah and to prepare enclosures to provide ways people could live through the destructions prophesied in the scriptures in the last days.

Marcia says, "My father talked about religion and wrote many letters about his beliefs. He believed deeply in polygamy and God and his purpose and mission in life as he saw it. He worked tirelessly at promoting his views and projects, ideas and inventions to anyone with whom he came in contact. He was absolutely sincere in his beliefs and also absolutely wrong. He was deceived by Satan and his evil. He took one step into the dark when he took his first polygamous wife." Bert said in our 2009 interview: "It's a shame that he had the talents he had and polygamy ruined it all." Wilson went to President Grant and Mathias Cowley for advice, but he did not listen to them.

Both of our parents taught us that living polygamy was the only way to get into the highest degree of the Celestial Kingdom. They also believed that they were part of the few called upon to keep the principle of polygamy alive by dedicating their lives to it. That made them better than the other members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Charles Zitting refers to this idea in his history, "were under covenant to keep this law alive as long as they lived." He was friends with our father who introduced him to his first polygamist. Polygamy had quite a hold on their life.

Leroy A. Wilson took four polygamous wives. A short description of each wife and the children they had with him follow. The total count of children he had is eight: Bert Wilson, Margaret Wilson Pohl, Jerry E. Soelberg, Nolyn Soelberg Hardy, Marcia Rowe Adams, Klara Rowe Petersen, Aaron Rasmussen, and Janice Rowe Pascoe.



**Goldie Elverda Owen**, pictured at left, was probably his first polygamous wife. Goldie Owen's signature appears acting as notary for articles of incorporation of Counterflo Water Heater Co. Charles H. Owen, her uncle, was secretary in that company and introduced her to Roy, much to his regret he said later and according to Nolyn. She was sent home from her mission early because her mother died. Margaret's history gives us the only clue of when their union occurred which was shortly before she was born in 1928.

Goldie had two children pictured below both born in Salt Lake City : **Gerald Ernest Soelberg** born 22 May 1934 and **Goldie Nolyn Soelberg** born 9 May 1936, a boy and girl and she tragically died 18 May 1936 from complications following the birth.

These two children, Jerry and Nolyn were taken away from our father, who could not lay legal claim to them, and given by Goldie's family to the daughter of one of her sister's who was childless to raise: Lucille Gardner and Ernest Joseph Soelberg . Lucille was the daughter of Ethel, an older sister of

Goldie's. Ernest's brother was Earl Soelberg, an Idaho state senator and an attorney and he arranged for the adoption of Gerald and Goldie. Ethel, aunt to Nolyn, lied to get a birth certificate saying Lucille and Ernest were the parents. Jerry and Nolyn grew up in San Diego, CA.

I know our father felt terrible about this as he valued all his children or so my mother said and later in his life sought them out. Nolyn, gave me the details about this adoption in 2009. Nolyn has lived for many years in a beautiful historic home she is restoring in the Avenues of Salt Lake City where she raised her children. She taught school in Salt Lake and had a small antique store for some time. When we last had contact she was writing a novel.





Jerry pictured at right, made contact with Marta who lived in Las Vegas, NV about the time he was going into the Air Force Academy in Colorado



Springs. I was about seventeen then and went with him on a trip he took there from San Diego to Colorado. He flew jets, married, had several children, and divorced. I understand from Nolyn that he has tried marriage a few more times and as of my last contact with Nolyn in 2009, Jerry lives in San Diego and is alone. One report says he was flying planes in Alaska about the time Nolyn was at BYU. Nolyn is pictured on the left about college age.



When I was about twelve, Veola, Vilda, Janice, Aaron, and I went to San Diego to find these two children. We scared Nolyn half to death by contacting her on the street on her way home from school. I don't remember any other details of this trip, but it seemed to open the door to further contact. The year is at or near 1950. I probably took the picture at the left as I was the only other one on the trip. Vilda and Veola are in the back row and Janice and Aaron are in the front row, left to right.

Janice remembers that after we made contact with Nolyn, it became a vacation. "I remember the sightseeing we did - that was the first time I had seen the ocean and a lighthouse. I was impressed with that. I remember laughter between Veola and Vilda which spilled over to us. There was something liberating about being out of our

environment - away from being discovered, away from home, perhaps away from the weight of our 'mission to save the saints'".

The picture on the right is very intriguing. It was probably taken in or near Los Angeles, California for two reasons: the palm trees and the fact that grandmother Margaretha Bodmer and our mother, Marta Loss were living in Los Angeles, CA at that time and are pictured. From L. to R. we see: Veola, Goldie, then Margaretha Bodmer, and Marta. Was this a meeting of the wives to approve our mother as a potential wife? The date is no doubt in the early 1930's. We have a family group sheet on which our mother wrote married in 1934, but Veola told us that our mother and father weren't married until after Marcia and I were born. She tended us while they got married.

Roy wrote a novel with one of his wives or some other descendant of polygamous heritage, "A Tale of Three Worlds" of unknown date. A woman, no doubt, has written in pencil on the title page, "Sharing you is one thing but giving you up is another. I won't do it."



In the Publisher's Forward it says: "It is seldom that a publisher takes this liberty, but on this occasion deems it proper. Not only are the authors of this story capable but they have the unique advantage of thoroughly knowing their subject. Not only that but they are descendants of this unique Pioneer system of race building. Furthermore, much of their story is actual truth, which has either been experienced in their lives or which has come under their direct observation. Seldom do the public receive a treat wherein the morsel is not only prepared by capable hands but also by the chief actors of the episode. Certainly you will be surprised, but I promise you will be entertained, and perhaps made to think!"

Here and there are penciled hand-written comments which are definitely in Roy's hand. Who the other author was, we do not know. As I read the 250+ page double-spaced typed manuscript, I could see Wilson's life being followed in many ways. His object is to preach polygamy and whether there is any truth in the story about him representing the main character, we cannot know.



In her hand-written life story **Veola Hatch**, pictured at left, says she was born in Vernal the 13<sup>th</sup> and last child in her family, recounts her parents trip from Vernal to the Salt Lake Temple so that the family could be sealed, and her father's death when she was three. At age ten the family moved to Rainbow, Utah where her mother ran a boarding house at the Gilsonite Mines near Vernal, she attended high school in Pleasant Grove, Utah, then Vernal, and took every class available at Henagers Business College graduating as a secretary. She first worked in the office of Grant's Store, but the Depression caused that job to be lost. While back in Vernal living with a sister Oris, she was offered a job in Salt Lake in the office of General Steam Corporation with Leroy A. Wilson as the head. "While there he taught me the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including plural marriage. Having a desire to live all the gospel at a young age (25)" then implying she did live it which included polygamy. "Because of living it on our own power and not practiced by the Church at this time, we made this mistake," she later lamented.

If she was twenty-five, the year she married Roy was probably 1933. Her sister writes about her also and says she went to Southern Utah in 1936. Veola in the middle of the picture on the left and by a cow in



picture on right. One of the women in the picture with Veola, is no doubt Luella, her mother. The next account is interesting because it sounds like she and Goldie might have shared a home. In several letters to Veola from her mother, we get a little glimpse of what her life was like in the 1930's.

12 Nov 1934 - Luella Hatch to Veola "I hope you are not hungry today and I want you to tell Wilson how she is treating you and tell him it is bad enough to work without a salary, let alone being half starved If something doesn't develop in office for the betterment for all concerned I would not stay there on the present condition as you don't have to. We both can go to Vernal and get relief till I get the pension. May not be over \$50 but we could be independent and do what we thought best to do. Why don't you write to Erma and tell her to help you to get a dress. I have \$25 will send you to come for Thanksgiving so don't worry about that come and stay as long as he will let you or do as you want to go back when you get ready. I surely hope the

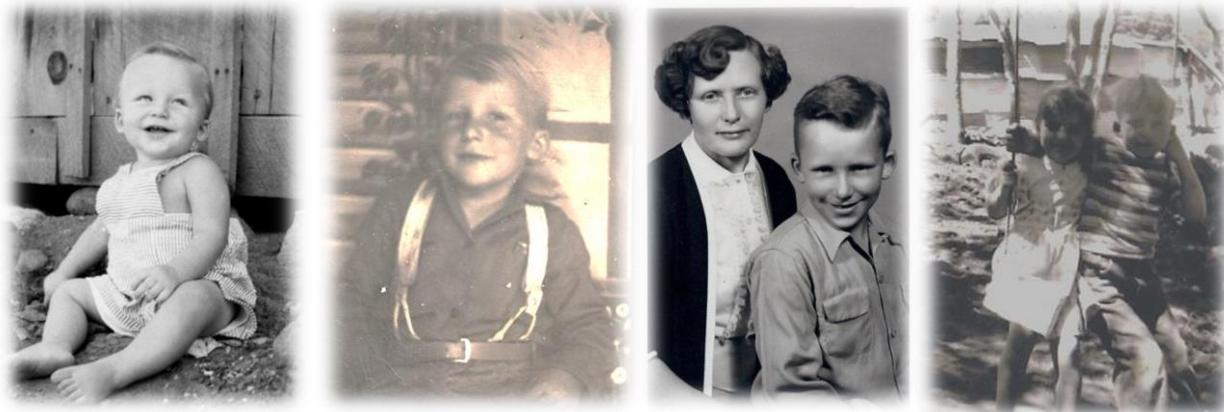
man that is coming puts something over. If not I will be discouraged for sure, won't you? Don't stay there and starve. How did they all treat you when you got back?"

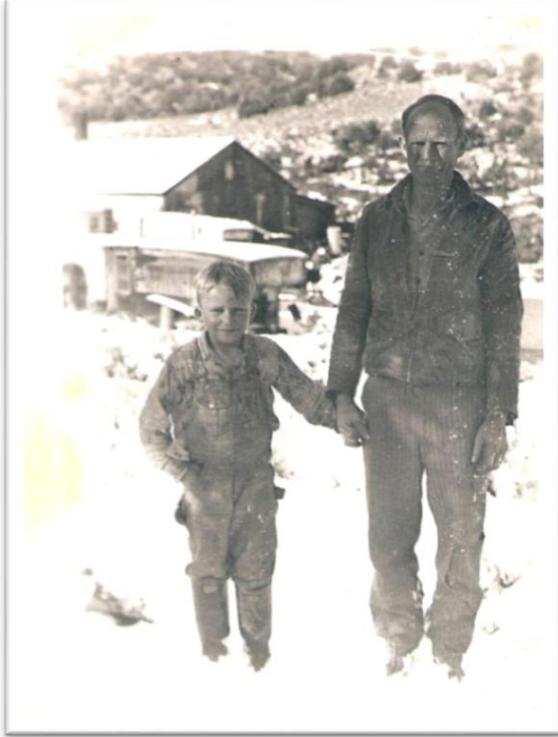
11 Dec 1934 - Luella Hatch to her daughter, Veola: "I am so happy you went to the temple. Yes, it is a very great privilege to be sure.

7 Mar 1935 - Mrs. J. N. Lybbert of Vernal to Veola, c/o Gen. Steam Corp, 409 Atlas Bldg., SLC, UT "Oh Veola if – if only we could start General Steam to rolling. I feel at times as if I can't wait any longer. Well anyway we still are hanging on, aren't we? I am so tired of never having anything to wear and never getting to travel and oh all the things one would so like to do. Are you well and happy? If you aren't well, I hope you are at least happy and if not happy at least well? I hope the enemies are laying off poor Mr. Wilson. How my heart aches for him. I do hope all his dreams materialize before long. From Orva (Orva is a friend to Veola, wife of J. N. Lybbert, a partner in General Steam.)

Because Veola did not have children for some time after she married Roy, she requested a priesthood blessing. Prior to Aaron's birth, Lee Rasmussen, our father's right-hand man, was going to be drafted into WW II. His first wife had died and as a single man, he was eligible because he wasn't married. In a letter dated 26 Jul 1944 from the American Red Cross, Washington Co. Charter, St. George, Utah re: **Willis L. Rasmussen** to Wilson denying release of Lee from active duty, the writer, a Wesley A. Nelson, says that if he were released, he would recommend that Lee be sent to an active mine. Having visited camp he can see that the mine above camp on Cove Mountain is not active. He suggests to Wilson that Lee will need to press his commanding officer for authorization to be released "because what is happening at camp is imperative to the war effort", which is the argument Wilson made. This strategy and others did not work and so Veola and Lee went to Las Vegas and were married in name only. Deferment was then possible. Lee was a married man. This kept him from being drafted and Veola also used his last name when Aaron was born in 8 Sep 1944 at Flagstaff, AZ, hence, **Aaron Rasmussen**. After Wilson's death, Lee and Veola lived together as man and wife.

Here are some pictures of Aaron, first as a baby at camp which was his home year round, then at about age 5, with his mother Veola about age 8, and with his half-sister, Janice on the swing with the corrals at camp in the background. Aaron and Janice were playmates. Marcia and I worked. They played. Aaron was home-schooled until his high school years.





Because Roy was so caught up in his inventions and correspondence in his office, Lee probably was a lot more accessible. Lee was there to teach him how to plant and care for the garden, milk the cows, how engines worked, and how to use the machinery in the shop and a multitude of other tasks. Aaron was devastated when Lee was working on a tractor at the Green Stone Quarry and was crushed to death as it rolled over him in 1972. I found in Wilson's writings, a letter from Las Vegas to Veola saying how much he missed "the little guy" and asked how he was doing. Aaron was no doubt a very important part of all of their lives who lived at camp year round which was principally Lee, Veola, and Wilson from about 1940 on. A few other people would work there from time to time, but they were the constant and now Aaron was a part of all of their lives. Pictured at left are Aaron and Lee with sleeping quarters and the shop in the background in the winter. Below we see Veola and Aaron with our dog, Sport, by the gas pump with the shop in the background. Equipment is lying nearby for easy

access on the property, but to the people who passed by on the county road, it was more of an curious eyesore on the landscape than anything else. It is also true that it was a source of speculation as to what exactly General Steam was all about.

Roy was not exactly friendly with anyone that trespassed on his mining claims. He appealed to the forest service to try to get the Santa Clara "Dutchmen" to stop running their cattle through Bull Valley. The land was open to all, so he wasn't able to stop them. I think he wanted the feed on the hills for his cattle more than he cared about the damage their cattle did as they migrated through Bull Valley. Of course, they did get in the garden from time to time and that was a nuisance.



I think Aaron wrote a story about Roy below which illustrates his bluster, lack of patience, and focus to move his projects forward. He was definitely a Type A and Red, power motivated person. He titled it, "Stern Man". There is no date on it and his estimation of Roy's age is incorrect as is the count of grandchildren. It is a very good characterization of Leroy A. Wilson, however.

Stern Man

Where in hell did that casting go? What's everybody standing around for? Get to work, you're doing it wrong.

These are the typical daily remarks of Leroy A. Wilson, the handsome, 200 pound, 68 year old owner and boss of the Wilson Co. He becomes angry at times, and appears to hate everybody (inside he really doesn't) but ten minutes later he will be all cooled off and as friendly as ever. He made and has numerous friends including inventors, scientists, and engineers as Roy graduated from college and is very brilliant in those lines. His associates all like him well to whom he would give his last dollar (or anybody else) if they really needed it.

Roy is married has two children and six grandchildren.

He is stern but soft hearted.

**Annie LaVilda Johnson**, pictured at right, made her home with Marta from the time we moved from Los Angeles to Fillmore, Utah about 1943. She was born 9 May 1895 in Avon, Cache, Utah. She had served a mission and did not have children. We were her family and she was like a second mother to us. She had training in childhood development. She was a tall woman and waitressed to earn money. In all the time she lived with us she never had her own bedroom. She always slept in the living room with a privacy screen in front of a fold out couch. Marta took in sewing. Together these two women provided for all their needs and even sent money to their husband, Roy. I doubt if they received much of anything in the way of support from him except Marta wrote in her journal that Roy set her up in an apartment and paid the hospital expense when her first two daughters were born in Los Angeles, but mother worked all the time.



From my earliest memory, we had to be quiet in the morning so not to wake Vilda, in her jeans at left, who worked an afternoon/evening shift. She was a quiet, fun-loving woman and was steadily there. I have nothing but good memories of her. Marcia added "if I could see her right now, I would give her a big hug." Vilda and Marta got along with each other. We attended church regularly, but she only came from time to time. She was friends with her fellow workers at the restaurant and even lived with one of them right before she was hospitalized for cancer. My last memory of her was helping her with hair care while she was in Southern Memorial Hospital about 1957. Someone in her family of origin took her into their

home, a sister, I believe until she died 22 February 1959. She is buried in the Hyrum City Cemetery, Hyrum, Cache, Utah. Vilda, pictured at right in her Helldorado costume. Helldorado was a big event in Las Vegas culminating in a rodeo.



We didn't stay in Fillmore long and our next home was in St. George, Utah where we lived until Janice was born in March of 1945. Vilda waitressed at Dick's Café in St. George and our mother sewed custom Western shirts for Dick and others. Marta was being pressed by the local authorities of our church about who her husband was. St. George was a very small town then and it seems entirely possible that neighbors noticed our father coming and going. We moved in the middle of the night very soon after Janice was born. A neighbor/friend had warned Marta and Vilda to leave. Vilda went to Las Vegas to find work and a place for us to live.



**Marta Loss**, pictured at left, was born 22 August 1902 in Fehraltorf, Zurich, Switzerland. Her family was of the working class which meant her education ended with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade much to her regret. She worked in a silk mill as did her widowed mother and sister. She joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1922. Marta and her mother immigrated in 1926. She lived in Idaho briefly and her family wanted her to marry a widowed high school principal, but she did not. She was still probably hoping to connect with the Mormon missionary she fell in love with in Switzerland. She worked in Salt Lake City for a short time, then in San Diego, and next in Los Angeles where she worked in wealthy homes as a domestic. All of the people she worked for thought highly of her. She became a citizen 21 Sep 1934.

She attended the Adams Ward in Los Angeles and met Roy while attending a genealogy class. He and George Budd<sup>vii</sup> preached polygamy to her and her

mother, Margaretha Bodmer. She believed their preaching as did our grandmother. She was devoted to the Gospel and did not want to be excommunicated by accepting Roy's marriage proposal, but she probably fell in love which clouded her judgement and became his last polygamous wife. Our father told her to attend church and take their children to church which she did. Marta taught Sunday School, served a stake mission soon after Roy's death and worked at the Extraction Center in the St. George for 30 years. Her Latin and German language skills were valued.

When we moved suddenly in late spring of 1945 from St. George, UT, Marta and baby Janice stayed temporarily in Mesquite, NV. Marcia and I were sent to camp for a few weeks. By the school year beginning in 1945, we were living at the Uvada Motel in Cabin No. 6 and remained at that 1930 No. Main Street address in North Las Vegas, NV until 1958.

Three daughters were born to Marta and Roy: **Marcia Rowe** 4 January 1937 Los Angeles, CA, **Klara Rowe** 17 May 1938 Los Angeles, CA, **Janice Rowe** 23 March 1945 St. George, UT. They are pictured above, left to right, Klara, Janice, and Marcia. Our little cabin was home to 2 adults and 3 children and



there were times when Grandmother Bodmer lived with us. In the back of the cabin was a bedroom with double bunkbeds and a cot for our grandmother when she was with us. Wedged between the back bedroom and the living room was a small kitchen opposite which was an equally small bathroom with a shower. Our father did not live with us and visited only occasionally. Mother would cook all his favorite meals and try to make everything perfect when he visited. I was glad when he left because then we could be our normal selves.

Marta cleaned rooms to earn our rent and proved to be so efficient at her job that the owner was able to make a profit and get out of debt. The owner of the motel was Earl Childers and he and his wife, Lily were very good to us through the years. Marta took over the management of the Uvada Motel at some point which meant our living conditions improved with a move to the office. Our living space probably doubled, but there was still only 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 closet, a living room and a kitchen.

Our birth certificates say our father is Albert Rowe, but that is a name our father contrived: Albert from either his middle name or his grandfather's first name and Rowe from his maternal great-grandfather, John Rowe. Our mother signed a notarized paper before her death saying Albert Rowe and Leroy Albert Wilson were one and the same person. In the history of polygamy in early years of Utah , it was not uncommon for polygamous men to be found and sent to prison. When we asked who our father was, we were not told. Supposedly this was for our protection, but it was for theirs as well. One night when we were probably eight and seven, Marcia asked me, "Do you know who our dad is?" I replied, "Roy Wilson". Pictured below on the left is, Marta, about age forty-five, next Marcia, Marta, Janice and Klara in 1996. Marta is 94. She died 24 August 1998 in St. George, Utah at age 96. She is missed.





**John & Klara Orme**, Marta's sister and brother-in-law kept their personal feelings about our mother's polygamous marriage to themselves. I feel pretty safe in saying they disliked the situation our mother put herself in and I know Aunt Frieda was very sad mother made that choice. However, Klara and John, did get

financially involved in our father's enterprises. In 1939 a Benevolent Trust Estate was set up and is in the Washington County records wherein equipment is given to Wilson's operation at camp and for whatever interest the Orme's receive, an attorney would need to explain. The picture above of Klara and John Orme at camp and in order from left to right we see: Lee Rasmussen, Bert Wilson, Margaret Wilson, Klara Orme with an unknown child in front of her, John Orme, and Milo Nielsen, a cousin to Bert, probably date of 1937. This picture is taken by the cook shack.

Klara and John Orme at right, holding Janice with Marcia and Klara in the background in front of the chapel that still exists and is adjacent to Las Vegas High School at 9<sup>th</sup> & Clark, no doubt had faith in Wilson's inventions and enterprises for them to extend themselves financially and at the year they sent much equipment to camp, Wilson was about to lose General Steam Corp. They lived in Los Angeles and we lived in Las Vegas. We saw them several times a year. John was always there to bless and baptize us as children.



## THE WIVES & THEIR HUSBAND

The wives probably got along quite well because they weren't sharing a home except for Marta and Vilda and Goldie and Veola for only a brief time. They were separated and not even in the same town or state. Vilda slept late and then went to work working into the evening past our bedtime. They were separated by time. Rita divorced Roy in 1943 and Goldie died in 1936.



In the family picture at left in the back row, left to right are: Vilda, Veola, Marta, Margaretha Bodmer, Marta's mother, Marcia. Front row: Klara, Aaron, and Janice about 1947 in front of Cabin 6 of the Uvada Motel in North Las Vegas, NV.

After our father died Rita, Margaret, and Doug stopped

by to visit with Marta in Washington, Utah and I understand it was an amicable visit. Rita did not appreciate some of Veola's actions, like leaving her to clean up all the dishes after a big Thanksgiving dinner at camp, but Vilda and Marta got along well.

I remember once that Veola had Aaron in her arms and ran away from Roy who was flipping her with a dishtowel. They were up by the side of the shop and she told him that if he didn't stop, she would take Aaron and leave. They were both angry and I don't know what about. This is the only fight I remember between these two.

While my sisters and I were away from our mother, we exchanged letters. On 29 June 1953 our mother sent a letter to our father in which she accused Veola of withholding mail from us and him. Apparently Veola was intercepting them and destroying them. Our mother wrote a pleading letter to our father to tell her the truth of these happenings saying her trust was betrayed. She says,

"Dear, I am much disturbed over the following matter which I wish you would straighten out for me if you can. It is this: I received a letter from Marcia, postmarked June 25 in which she states that she has not as yet received a letter from me. I did write a letter to her and Janice and stuck it in the same envelope with Veola's letter I had written to her. It would be impossible for Veola not to have seen the letter.

Why are letters withheld? Maybe I could overlook it if it hadn't happened before when I was up there. Klara had enclosed a letter to me in which she warned me to come home sooner enclosed in Vilda's letter which arrived there Monday or Tuesday. I was given that letter Thursday evening, the day I was to go home with the lame explanation that she didn't notice it before.

I know the car was badly needed up there more than I needed it, but it, the underhanded, crooked, unjust deal of withholding that letter from me, kept me from seeing my mother alive. Vilda says that a day or two before she (Grandmother Bodmer, Marta's mother) died, she called for me and then made the most heroic effort to give Vilda a message which, of course, Vilda could not understand. (Our grandmother only spoke German.) I will never know now (what she wanted to tell me).

Veola told me that in times past, maybe you still do?, you let letters I wrote you, lay around. In order to keep them from falling into the wrong hands, she took them and burned them up. Not until she read every one of them, I accused her, which she did not deny.

How do you think all this affects me? How can I trust again? How can I feel free to open my heart to you when what I tell you becomes public property? I noticed that she also withheld a note from Vilda from you with the same excuse that she gave me: didn't see it before. How can you tolerate this? Do you give her authority to open your letters. I want to KNOW.

Must what I write be censured first? My innermost soul rebels at being enslaved. That's what it amounts to. I am not free to write or act as I feel."

She closes her letter dealing with a few other matters, encloses \$5.00, and does not sign her name. I wonder if he got this letter? Did Veola withhold it, also. Veola would have to realize that sooner or later, Marta and Roy, would talk about this face to face and then she would be found out.

It would be naïve to suppose that in any relationship there is always accord and no points of division. None of us are perfect. Some personalities get along better than others. In the situation these wives were in one can well appreciate that jealousies and consequent actions would arise.

Wilson and those involved were not just trying to make a living, but more importantly they were endeavoring to fulfill his dream to save the saints in the last days when the destructions prophesied in Revelations transpire. He felt he could do that with the sale of his products and inventions. He felt that was his calling in life and his family was to be as passionate about that mission as he was. All that he had amassed to this point in the way of mining properties and the inventions, he was given or acquired are to be used for saving the saints in the last days in the enclosures he designs. His wives were behind him, but his children were not going to bury their lives at a remote outpost away from society, schooling, and good jobs, nor were they partial to being polygamous.

## BUSINESS VENTURES

In addition to working on his inventions, he and others start the Paradise Refining and Oil Company. According to Bert, he owned the oil rights to the Roosevelt/Vernal Oil Fields or Rangley Field at onetime which is so productive today. The Civil and Criminal Court Records, #9726, Articles of Incorporation of the **Paradise Oil & Refining Company** housed at the Utah Historical Society Archives dated March 15, 1921 show the incorporators to be: Jos. V. Smith, L. A. Wilson, L. K. Sims, J. Allen Spencer, Margaret Nelson and A. M. Kast all of Salt Lake City, Utah. Sims was President and Director and L. A. Wilson was General Manager and Director. Article XVIII says, "The entire capital stock of this corporation is fully paid by the sale, transfer and conveyance to this corporation of the following described lease or permit to prospect for oil, gas or minerals in and upon certain lands in Emery County, Utah located in NW quarter of Sec. 36, Twp. 21 So., R 7 E and the NE quarter and SE quarter, the SW quarter of Sec., 2, Twp. 20 S. R 8 E. The company runs 2 ads to sell stock in the Deseret News of 5/7/1921 and 5/14/1921. Stock certificate below was found at the Utah State Archives in Salt Lake City, Utah. As of April 2, 1923 Paradise Oil had its charter revoked for failure to pay their annual license tax.



The Great Depression of the **1930's** buried the American dream. California was viewed as the better place to live and many Dust Bowl farmers left their midwestern farms and went west to find any available work. Between 1929 and 1932 the income of the average American family was reduced by 40%. People were barely surviving. In the 1930's the average salary was \$1,368 a year, unemployment rose to 25%, a loaf of bread was 9 cents and a quart of milk was 14 cents. Franklin Roosevelt influenced Americans with his Fireside Chats and promoted the 3 R's: Relief, Recovery, and Reform. The Social Security Act was passed

in 1935, and many other federal programs came into being like: The F. B. I. with J. Edgar Hoover as its first director. The Empire State Building opens in New York City in 1931 and the Golden Gate Bridge was completed in San Francisco in 1937. Nazi Germany invades Poland in 1939 and WW II begins.

Wilson lost his beautiful home in the Salt Lake Avenues pictured below. Margaret describes this home: "The house my parents owned when I was born was designed and built in the English Tudor style and was next to my Nelson grandparent's 14-room mansion. The house had a dutch-door entrance and a large porch with stone, brick and 3-ft. walls around the porch. It had french doors going into the dining room and living room and also off this porch. It was beautiful inside with rose beige carpet in all areas but the dining room which had hardwood floors with oriental tapestry carpet. Red burgundy velvet drapes were at the windows and it was a lovely home. When I was six, my dad lost our beautiful home." (about 1934 or before)

The Great Depression made it extremely hard for him to move forward with his plans. Nevertheless, not one to be easily discouraged, he worked relentlessly to bring his ideas to fruition. The Counterflo Water Heater Company was up and running just prior to the Depression.

In a small booklet, entitled "A Great Western Enterprise" (see pg. 35) – **General Steam Corporation**, his patent attorney, **Murray O. Hayes** explains how the counterflo water heater came about: "The General Steam Corporation is a Utah company originally organized to develop the inventions of Leroy A. Wilson in the field of economical generation and utilization of steam, and to design and build steam automobiles at a popular price. One of the early inventions he produced was a highly efficient steam boiler of small size, light weight, and high capacity, but as the financing of a steam car is difficult, it was decided to build domestic water heaters and furnaces embodying the principles which gave the boiler such desirable characteristics, and so a subsidiary, the Counterflo Heater Company, was formed to develop and market these articles to obtain the necessary money to carry out the principal idea." The General Steam Corporation was formed prior to Counterflo Water Heater Corporation.



Roy loved steam. After he died, an article he wrote was published in the *Iron Men Album Magazine*, Vol. 18, Mar-Apr 1964, #4, pg. 3, where he gives a little history and says: "The photographs of old traction engines powered by steam are very interesting. I am familiar with some of them, having sewed sacks in Palouse and Umatilla County, Oregon. They bring back memories. They were remarkable pieces of mechanical ingenuity, but they all had one common defect in that they were woefully inefficient thermally." He goes on to tell how he has overcome this problem with his invention.



The certificate pictured at left was issued to Dewey Stout for 10 shares dated 16 Nov 1926 and signed by Thomas J. Yates, President and the Secretary, E. Jorgensen. The one pictured below was issued to one of Wilson's wives, Marta Rowe 7 Mar 1938 signed by Leroy Wilson, President and Veola Hatch, Secretary.



## A GREAT WESTERN ENTERPRISE



GENERAL STEAM CORPORATION  
Continental National Bank Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah

On 13 July 1929 the **Counterflo Sales Company** is formed. The officers are: Wm. A. Hilton, president, Murray O. Hayes, VP, Hyrum E. Crockett, secretary, treasurer, and general manager. The capital stock is \$10,000. On 12 June 1930 the Counterflo Distributing Company is formed with Benjamin Jensen, President/Director, G. A. Sorensen, VP and Director, Ernest Bramwell, Jr., Director, Wilford Horne, Secretary, Treasurer & Director, and Samuel Stark, G. W. Craven of Butte, Montana and W. S. Craven of Ogden, Utah, Edward L. Rosenberg as Directors. All except two are from Salt Lake City, Utah. They give a value of \$12,000 in cash for the contract. Brochure cover of GSC pictured at left.

Wilson writes from Reno, NV on 2 November 1926 to Yates and says: "Had two hours with Prof. Sibley, Dean of School of Engineering, University of Nevada. He is writing a book on thermodynamics for McGraw Hill Co., and he said, 'My God, man, you can make a fortune on any one of your many inventions.' Prof. Sibley also told him that his estimate of

\$10,000,000/annually on the water heater was reasonable and predicted I would eventually realize 80% efficiency with my regenerative cycles. Things look better, eh?" Counterflo factory pictured below.

Yates replies on Nov 10, 1926 and among other things says "Strong was down from Logan with a delegation. They want a factory in Logan to manufacture the heater. They are confident that if they get the factory enough money can be raised to build the plant and finance it there. ... David O. McKay as late as 1935, supports Roy's invention – the Counterflo water heater and recommends it to Ray Blackner,

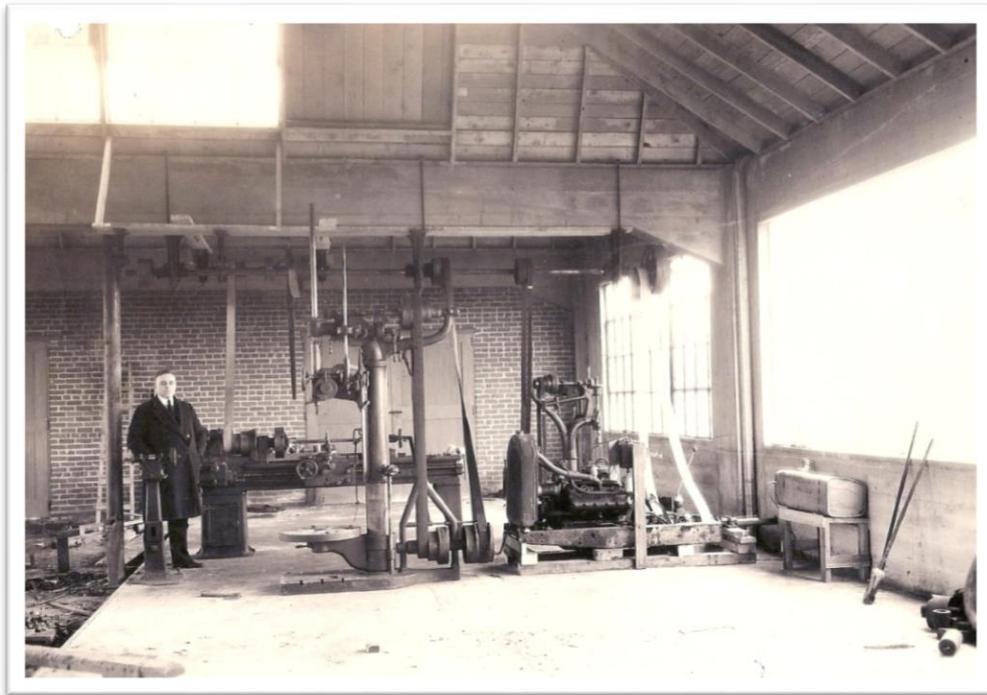


President of Union Power & Light Co., Lyman, Wyoming saying: "For several months, I have been giving attention to the merits of the Counter Flo Heater, a product of the inventive genius of Mr. LeRoy A. Wilson of this city. Thus far, my inquiry and observation have led me to believe that it is superior to any other heater manufactured. My short acquaintance with Mr. Wilson has impressed me not only with his ability as an inventor, but with his deep sincerity." The Counterflo factory is pictured above.

In 1927 the Salt Lake Tribune reports Wilson is installed as president of the Inter-national Inventors Society and Yates is his secretary-treasurer.

This picture shows Wilson inside the Counterflo Water Heater factory and on the back of this photograph he has written:

"Interior SE corner showing first water heater installed. LAW on left. First unit of General Steam Corporation factory 19<sup>th</sup> So. 2<sup>nd</sup> W., Salt Lake City, Utah taken by LAW, Friday, February 4, 1927." According to Margaret, he "loved photography and spent many a night in the closet developing his pictures."



**COUNTERFLO WATER HEATER CO.**

404 Atlas Building, Salt Lake City, Utah

Page  
# 449

Nº 564

*Mar 10, 1929*

I hereby make application to purchase 20 Common shares of the COUNTERFLO WATER HEATER COMPANY, at \$ 150 per share and agree to pay for same as follows:

Five and no/100 Dollars 5.00

on the signing of this order, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the balance as follows:

Eight and 34/100 Apr 10, 1929

11 11 33/100 May 10, 1929

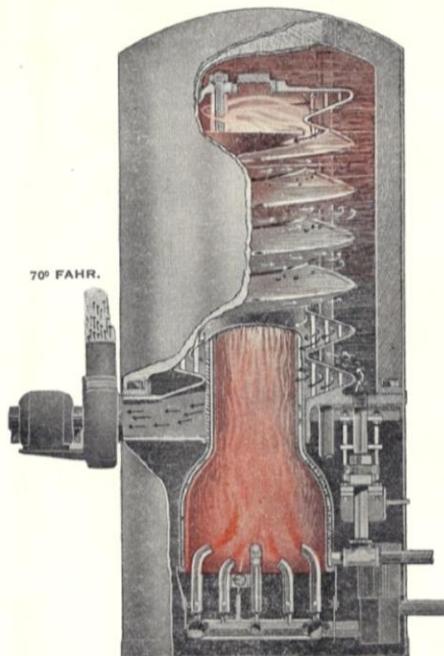
" " 33/100 June 10, 1929

Name H. S. Hullinger

Address Vernal, Ut.

*G.R. Callies*  
Representative

## THE COUNTERFLO WATER HEATER



Capacity 5 Gallons per minute or 300 gallons per hour



MANUFACTURED BY

COUNTERFLO WATER HEATER CO.

(Subsidiary General Steam Corporation)

404 Atlas Building

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

One of these water heaters was in the cook shack in Bull Valley. In the ad which appeared in the local newspaper, we learn the respected position his associates had in the community and that Wilson "is attending a National Metal Congress and the sessions of the American Welding Society, American Society of Steel Treaters, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers in Cleveland, OH." He earns praise for the counterflo water heater and they suggest he bring it east. In all his endeavors he wants to build business and claim resources in the state of Utah. He lists these men that support him:

"Call on H. E. Crockett, for eight years your Secretary of State; Tom Yates, who has served you well in various capacities, Dr. Fred Stuaffer, well known surgeon who built the Medical Arts Building for you; Dr. Murray O. Hayes, formerly head of the Department of Geology at BYU; Wm. A. Hilton, who saved a lot of school lands for Utah; or Dr. Geo. R. Hill, of the Amerifan Smelting and Refining Company; or Carl C. Burton, well known lumberman and home builder. You can find most of them at 406 Atlas Building, Wasatch 7745, or at their homes. A demonstration or plant visitation will gladly be arranged for you. Come in and let us prove the above statement. Say it with orders and subscriptions, Sincerely Yours, Leroy A. Wilson, Cleveland, Ohio, September 13, 1929."

The Counterflo Water Heater Company logo tops the plant building and is shown below.



# **Does Utah Really Want Industries?**

**(An Open Letter)**

## **Here Is a Test**

The Counterflo Heater Company has built a factory in your city. Their product is the finest water heater and domestic gas and oil-fired heating boiler produced today. This is beyond dispute.

It is positively smokeless, odorless, safe and practically 100% efficient, and occupies but a fraction of the space required by its competitors.

Best of all they cost less—not only to install but to operate.

Now you people in Utah will benefit manifoldly from the use of this furnace.

**(1) You save money on the original purchase price and on your fuel bills.**

**(2) You increase your local payrolls, thereby putting more money into circulation and relieving the unemployment situation.**

**(3) Dividends paid will go to people who, encouraged by one success, will reinvest their means in building added Utah industries.**

**(4) A successful concern manufacturing a staple commodity from Utah raw materials on national distribution will attract other concerns to your wonderful state.**

**(5) Articles sent out will bring money to Utah instead of taking it away.**

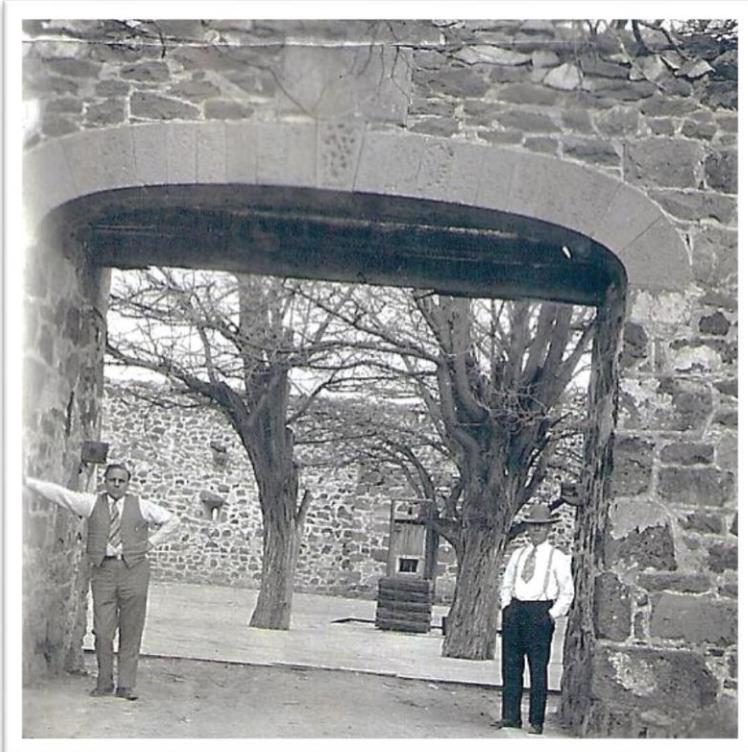
He places an ad in the newspaper of the counterflo water heater to stimulate sales: Does Utah Really Want Industries? He points out all the advantages of buying the counterflo.

According to Bert the company failed not because it wasn't a good product, but it was too expensive to manufacture, there wasn't a big enough profit margin, and Roy's management was in question. No doubt the Great Depression impacted the demise of this promising product.

The company went into receivership and the patent for the Counterflo Water Heater was lost. The upgrades Wilson made were never implemented. Murray O. Hayes says that just as this company began to show great promise, "opposition developed and it became difficult to obtain castings and other material to carry on the work. This turned Mr. Wilson's mind to securing his own sources of raw materials."

Wilson has ideas for businesses and inventions pouring into his mind and out his fingertips. His next big idea is to move General Steam to a site near Cedar City, build a factory, mine iron ore, use local coal to smelt it, and build his inventions. He calls it the Cedar Plan.

Wilson writes a prospectus called the **Cedar Plan** which provided for a manufacturing plant near Cedar City. In the eleven pages of "Why The Cedar Plant", he gives credit to the Almighty for his inventions saying: "...men who invent or men who discover or create new plans or institutions are but instruments who, in some manner or other, have learned the secret, many unknowingly, of harmonizing or tuning in with the Overruling Intelligence." He teams up with **Thomas J. Yates**, a graduate of Cornell in fall of 1925 to produce several models of the steam engine. Yates has a "reputation as a capable mechanical and electrical engineer". He tells Yates he can't pay him, but Yates sees the potential of the steam engine and is content to work without wages. They sell stock. Dr. Murray O. Hayes, a graduate of George Washington University, who has worked as an examiner for the Patent Office, becomes his patent attorney. Both men spread the word about Roy's inventions and their potential.



During the tests of the steam engine at some place in Salt Lake City, Will Murie, saw the tests and convinced of its success offered to trade his iron ore property in Iron County for General Steam Stock. At first Wilson wasn't interested in this proposition, because he wanted cash to patent his inventions and for a small factory to manufacture them. In May of 1927 he relented to Will Murie's desire to trade iron ore property for stock.

Roy Wilson at bottom left at Cove Fort with arm against wall. Prospecting picture at top right, Roy Wilson in center.

# Corporation Reaps Utah's Wealth

**U**TAH is a state of marvelous resources. Her diversified vaults of wealth, hidden in the mountainous ranges covering the greater part of the state's area, are not seen by the ordinary visitor. They are known only in part by the geologist.

The impression of the casual observer is that the state is a limited agricultural region. Soil of extreme fertility covers the floors of its valleys. Irrigation, through panoramic networks of canals and ditches, supplies the moisture. Bountiful crops of fruits, vegetables and grains are produced. The streams, however, supply only part of the irrigable land. Utah is an arid state. Without artificial moisture the land is barren and desolate.

Limited by its water supply, agriculture will always be secondary. It is the mineral deposits that are amazing. Utah is the leading producer of silver among the states. She ranks third in the production of lead. Her yield of copper is second only to that of Arizona. The fame of the Utah Copper Mine is worldwide. It is the largest open cut mine on the planet. Unlike the gold mines of California, which, from the grass roots, produced millions of dollars to their owners, the mineral wealth of Utah can, in the main, only be exploited by large capital.

Great as is the record of wealth produced by the copper mountains of Bingham it will, beyond doubt, be surpassed by the fabulous iron ore reserves of Southern Utah. This region is only four hundred and seventy five miles from the Pacific Coast. Here there is sufficient ore in the iron range traversing Iron County to supply the ever-growing needs of the Pacific Coast for generations. It is of hematite and magnetite qualities running as high as 50% to 72% pure iron.

#### Exploitation Begun

The Columbia Steel Company, that recently began the exploitation of Iron County ores, disclosed by diamond drilling that the numerous blowouts or blossoms frequently seen along this iron range are but fantastic upper thrusts of colossal iron bodies beneath aggregating hundreds of millions of tons—the quality of unparalleled richness.

The courage and judgment of Columbia Steel Company's founders and officials were vindicated against the pessimistic counsels of local bankers and skeptical investors. Its signal success attracted the attention of eastern steel magnates to this great western reserve of the world's most useful metal. The interest of the United States Steel Corporation was aroused. After investigation Columbia stockholders received an offer for their stock. It was a munificent one, and so attractive that the Columbia Company became the property of U. S. Steel.



LEROY A. WILSON  
General Steam Co., Salt Lake City, Utah

In this age of industrial combinations in magnitude beyond the dreams of other periods, where organized industry is backed by almost unlimited financial resources, the individual or small capital has disheartening difficulties. Leroy A. Wilson, the General Steam Corporation's master mind, has never been appalled by these difficulties.

His inventive genius and ability to organize quickens his determination to succeed. His hobby is steam power. Graduating in 1916 from the Agricultural College of Utah, he began intensive study and research of the principles of heat transfer and combustion. Scientific articles from his pen frequently appeared in magazines devoted to industry. After a few years he patented an invention involving steam power, the Counter Flow Heater. The success of this device was instant. Wilson's reputation as an inventor was established.

#### Able Men Become Interested

Among those attracted by his genius was Thomas J. Yates, a Cornell graduate of engineering. Earlier in life, Yates had lived for years in the iron region of Southern Utah. He was thoroughly familiar with its resources of coal and iron and became aware that it possessed physical advantages found in few places elsewhere.

True, the extensive coal seams that for 80 years had furnished fuel for the settlers, is non-coking and therefore unsuitable for blast furnaces. But, reasoned Yates, this coal is highly volatile and will produce steam for electric power. With Wilson's patented Counter Flow boilers located in a power plant beneath the discharge tunnel of the mine, electric power can be made at insignificant cost.

His representations fascinated Wilson. Together they made a thorough examination of these possibilities. The assistance of Dr. Murray O. Hayes, head of the department of geology of the B. Y. University, was obtained and his qualifications as geologist and his knowledge of patent requirements became invaluable.

Immediately Wilson conceived the plan of a holding company capitalized sufficiently large to enter the field and acquiring from local owners all available iron holdings and in addition the highly valuable patented coal properties adjacently located.

For a period of four years the campaign was waged. Parcel after parcel of iron claims, for which many of their owners had refused substantial cash offers, were sold to the General Steam, the holding company, in exchange for shares of their capital stock. Today they are the unencumbered owners of iron ore properties that contain an estimated tonnage exceeding 400,000,000 tons. They also own or control over 5000 acres of patented coal seams containing millions of tons. There is today a great demand for sponge iron made from Iron County ore. It is the equal of the famous Swedish sponge iron for which the steel manufacturers of the United States are paying \$60.00 per ton. Through the low temperature method of reducing these ores for sponge iron (which method will be adopted by the General Steam Corporation, using the efficient counter-flow principle) this company has demonstrated that sponge iron can be produced at a fractional part of the above price.

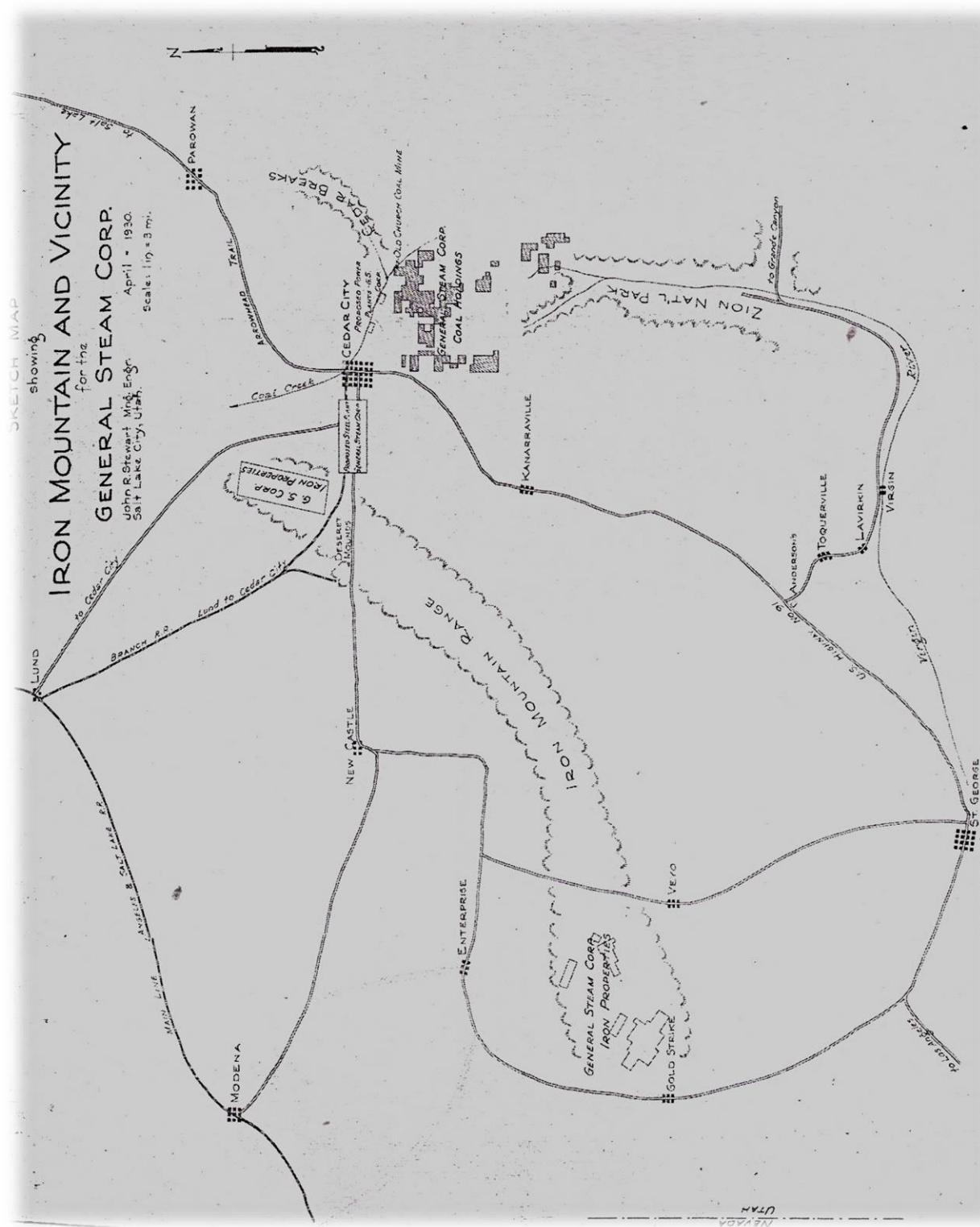
#### Days of Blast Furnace Numbered

Today blast furnaces costing hundreds of millions of dollars are producing the major part of our steel. Eminent authorities, however, declare that the days of the blast furnace are numbered. The advent of the electrical metallurgical furnace is here. With electrical power, the chief item of cost, reduced to less than two mills per K.H., no blast furnace can long survive in competition.

The General Steam Corporation has all the essential requisites for success. Efficient retorts for the manufacture of low temperature sponge iron will be employed. The raw material, both coal and iron, will be delivered to their factory at insignificant cost. The latest designs of furnaces for the electrical manufacture of steel will be installed.

The strategic position held by this company is most apparent. Their factory sites of 1000 acres in the heart of the valley and within a few miles of its supply of coal and iron is highly adapted for its purpose. Railroad facilities, splendid automobile highways, radiate from this location. Citizens of Southern Utah are active in their support of this coming industry.

This map shows where Wilson thought the iron ore and coal lands were. It also gives the viewer a layout of towns, roads, and railroads in Southern Utah in 1930.



Wilson tells of the success of Columbia Steel and of his dreams for steel production in Iron Co. He says, "Today we have under control approximately eight thousand acres of coal lands." Coal was necessary to stoke the blast furnaces that refined the iron ore. His process was able to use the type of coal he found on these lands. "Just when the financing of the factory was complete and all that was needed was working capital, the terrible catastrophe of the fall of 1929 hit." We know this as the Great Depression. They struggled on and had great support from people like Carlos Stevens, President Palmer, Dr. Fred Stauffer, Joe Hodges, Jess Holt, the Gregersons, Percy Wilkinson, Ed Parry, Leland Perry Lund, Lafe McConnell, the Jones and Bullochs.

Three Peaks lands were leased to a **Utah Construction & Mining Co.** near or after Wilson's death and royalties were paid into the estate. The funds were largely used for performing assessment work on the other holdings. In this way his dream of the industry near Cedar City that he saw in the late 1920's was realized in a some measure – iron ore mining pictures below.



invention to the benefit of all concerned."

Wilson turns to a former teacher/friend next: **John A. Widtsoe**. John Andreas Widtsoe was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1921 until his death in 1952. Widtsoe was also a noted author, scientist, and academician. Widtsoe praises him for his steam engine and says, "I feel you have in that invention a world revolutionary device. I cannot understand why such a device should not be taken up by capital and place you on easy street as well as to serve mankind greatly. I hope that the connections of which you spoke in Los Angeles will materialize and that you can place your

Wilson turns to many people to get support. The concluding paragraph of this short reply from Widstoe, he says "Keep up your courage but do not be so unwilling to let others handle some of your devices as to cause you physical suffering. You may have to yield some things that you may gain other things. I hope to see you again in the near future; meanwhile, with every good wish, Sincerely your friend and brother.

Another document called "General Steam Properties and Income Possibilities" is written to promote General Steam Corporation. Specifically it is addressed to a Mr. Gull at the Securities Commission.

There is mention of a group of mining claims called "The Overlooked Group". This piece seems to be some attempt to stop General Steam Company from going down. He persuasively argues that the "Commission is respectfully requested to acknowledge this emergency and immediately ratify the registration of this small block of shares to enable us to immediately do assessment work."

The Parowan Times in 1930 and 1931 publishes news that Roy Wilson manager of General Steam Corp. is anticipating building a factory. He talks to the Chamber of Commerce in Cedar City. On Dec. 6, 1935 under title of "Work Starts on Industrial Plant" the paper reports "Gravel hauling commenced during the week in preparation for putting in the foundation for a building in which it is proposed to manufacture Leroy A. Wilson's combined unit designed to heat, air condition, refrigerate and electrify homes." Mr. Blackner is making the plans for the laying of the corner stone celebration possibly next week. "Interested persons from the northern part of the state including members of the Board of Directors of the Utah Steel Corporation are expected to be here for the occasion.

In the meantime the local committee is taking leases with options to purchase on a large acreage of land required as a consideration for locating the industry here, and are still driving for the balance of the cash subscription. Approximately \$3500 has been pledged to date." On the 27<sup>th</sup> of the same month the Parowan Times reports news of a meeting the committee is having at the East Ward chapel to include visiting friends from California with the goal to entice more investors. The "committee" is a group of people trying to raise money to support Wilson's ideas. He also wanted the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to support him.

The letters in our possession between Wilson and **David O. McKay** are dated in the 1930's. David O. McKay was ordained an apostle 9 April 1906 and served until his death 18 January 1970 at age 96. In 1934 he was called as second counselor in the First Presidency by Heber J. Grant. He also served as second counselor to George Albert Smith. On 9 April 1951 upon G. A. Smith's death, he was ordained president of the Church.

Wilson wants the support of the Church, seeks David O. McKay's advice. On 29 Feb 1936 Pres. McKay writes to Wilson at 719 So. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA and reminds him: "Contrary to my advice you proceeded prematurely to build a factory at Parowan, thus indicating, indeed demonstrating that you considered my judgment of little value. .... I advised you to lay deeply and firmly a granite foundation before you began again to build another structure. You refused the suggestion. Now that the flimsy edifice is toppling, I fear temporary supports will be of little avail.... In conclusion, however, I want you to know that I still think, with all your weaknesses, that you have ability and vision, which if properly directed will prove of great benefit to the people of Utah and this Intermountain region." In a letter dated 1 Apr 1936 Pres. McKay says, quoting Wilson, "'I cannot conceive of God being proud of any one who would desert a righteous cause.' Neither can I, but I shall be eternally thankful that the Lord inspired me not to become enmeshed in your present entanglements." In another letter dated 21 Aug 1942 to a letter Lee Rasmussen (Wilson's faithful associate) wrote, Pres. McKay says, "I have long concluded to let Mr. Wilson go his way and work out his own schemes. If he fall into the clutches of the law, I have confidence that the courts will deal with him justly." Pres. McKay is always courteous, though frank with Wilson, but Wilson becomes accusatory and disrespectful over time.

Under date of 5 February 1934, **George Budd** from Salt Lake reports to Wilson on various projects. "Heber drove Geo. M. and me out to your house and your wife read your letter to us. She had previously read part of it over the phone to Geo. M. and we are in a dilemma as to what to do to help the most. It's a hard thing to go back to people you have painted a rosy picture to about the smith and the faucet and start to undo all you have done and tell them its all Smith's fault. People don't believe that

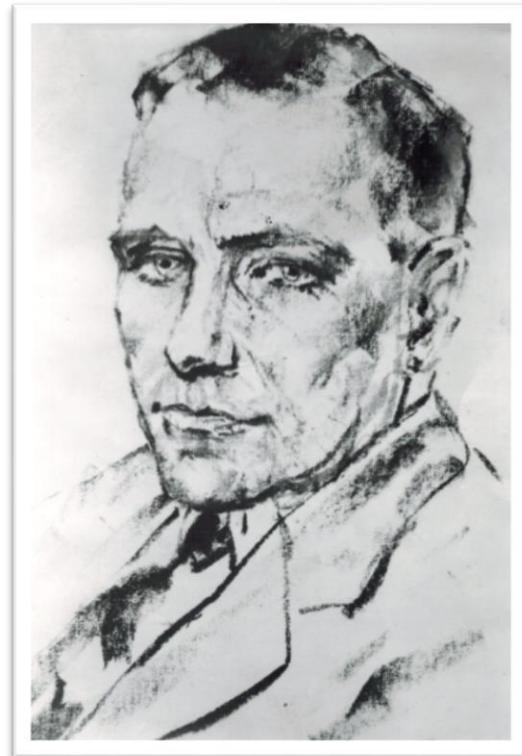
stuff and they don't hesitate to say so, no matter how true it is. They merely conclude that you are living up to your general reputation, as they put it, and crawfishing ("crawfishing" to describe someone who is hedging on a bet, or backpeddling on a particular point and trying to change their story) yourself, so that makes it hard to get the results you must have quick."

In the balance sheet for 1932 for General Steam, their cash position and therefore ability to operate is almost non-existent. The Cedar Plan does not get off the ground and next Wilson turns to iron ore properties on Cove Mountain and establishes camp at Bull Valley. Cove Mountain is located in Washington County and can be accessed by following the county road that goes between Veyo and Enterprise. It is still a dirt road today and is best traveled with 4-wheel drive vehicles. Bull Valley is the valley on the east side of Cove Mountain. It is from Bull Valley that he tries to continue his dream to mine the necessary minerals, refine them, produce the materials needed to build his inventions, principal of which is the steam engine.

In the back of a beautiful thick red leather journal found among Wilson's possessions which he used to note a few inventions, he wrote a statement which today we would call a mission statement. The journal has many blank pages and he probably needed bigger paper on which to record an invention. It is too bad he didn't use it for a journal of his daily activities. As nearly as I can decipher it, he said:

"To do something worthwhile in life, to achieve, to help make the world I live in a little better, to build and add to – not subtract, to be a good steward, to work righteousness, to promote industry in this great state, to do something to show in some measure at least my appreciation for having been privileged to know the able men and women who were pioneers of this great inland state, to know their ideals and ambitions and partake of their spirit, to help protect the ideals for which they sacrificed and came here, and to demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that evil and unrighteousness, that mammon, that the power of accumulated wealth and vested rights cannot withstand nor inhibit the march of progress of such ideals; these and other worthy objects – Father I dedicate myself to and pray for Thy help and guidance in this great work, and I do it in His name, amen."

The chalk drawing of Wilson above right says on the back that it was done in Balboa Park, San Diego, California and that the artist picked him out of a large crowd to ask if he could do the drawing. This drawing may have been done in 1934 when he married our mother, Marta Loss.



General Steam Corporation 25  
Salt Lake City, Utah 28

BALANCE SHEET 31  
As at May 31, 1932. 28

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash in Bank	\$ 26.36
Accounts Receivable	294.04
Notes Receivable	<u>450.00</u>
	\$ 770.40
Mortgages Receivable	4,800.00
Subscriptions Receivable	32,840.39 ✓
Bull Valley Iron Co. - Receivable in Stock	1,397.04

Fixed Assets at Cost:

Real Estate	17,746.00 ✓
Iron Claims - Patented	\$25,000.00
Iron Claims - Unpatented	<u>103,171.30</u>
Coal Properties - Patented	50,400.00
Development on Coal Leases	<u>10,176.03</u>
Water Power Development	60,576.03
Magnesite and Manganese Claims	11,681.79
Unpatented	625.65
Office Furniture and Equipment	506.06
Automobile	100.00
Development of Aviation Engine	<u>873.76</u>
	220,280.59
Patent Rights under License Agreement	<u>30,122.34</u>
Total Assets	\$290,210.76

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	2,552.64
Notes Payable	27,117.50
Mortgages Payable	9,406.50
Accounts Due Officers	10,673.25
McFarland Lumber Company Account	<u>2,348.68</u> \$52,098.37

Capital:

Preferred Stock - Authorized 500,000 shares  
of a nominal par value of one cent  
issued and subscribed 27,234 shares  
Nearly all of this stock has been dis-  
posed of at \$10.00 per share. Preferred  
dividends are 70 cents per share per  
annum cumulative. Premium on sales has  
been credited in paid in surplus.

Common Stock - Authorized 1,000,000 shares of  
a nominal par value of one cent.  
Issued and subscribed 715,218 shares      7,152.18  
Nearly all the common stock issued has  
been for original patent rights of as  
bonus with preferred stock.

Paid in and Donated Surplus      230,678.87      238,112.39

Total Liabilities and Capital      290.210.76

Wilson was scrambling to put anything together to stay alive. According to Murray O. Hayes, his patent attorney, in a letter dated 2 August 1938 to W. W. McCarthur of the Bank of St. George, he says:

As to Mr. Wilson's ability, it seems to me that no more need be said than that through the last six years of financial stringency that have broken many old and, apparently, amply financed corporations he has not only held together the vast properties of General Steam but has continually augmented them. How he has done it I do not understand. but the fact is he has.

Inquiries to the State Securities Commission about General Steam moving their offices to Bull Valley are made for verification if the articles of incorporation were filed. The Securities Commission replies in a letter dated July 18, 1938 that "Amendments to articles of incorporation filed Feb. 15, 1938 in Salt Lake County state that a directors meeting was held at Vernal, Utah on September 12, 1936 and an amendment was adopted designating Cove Creek Camp near Veyo in Washington County as the present place of business."

Wilson in topcoat and hat on the right of the car looking over some property with unknown men probably early 1930's.



## THE BUILDING OF CAMP AT BULL VALLEY

From the life story of **Albert Gardner Goodrich** we learn this: "I wish to digress for a little while and go back to a time during the depression years to relate an experience that taught me to be cautious regarding finances. I had some years before purchased stock in an enterprise known as General Steam Corporation and which operated in the mountains near St. George, Utah. There were 800 stockholders. My wife and I moved to St. George for nearly one year while I built a large machine shop (trusses Goodrich designed and built shown below) and worked at developing ore claims in the mountains. While

there I met **Floyd Bekins** of Bekins Truck Lines of Los Angeles who had invested \$60,000 in General Steam and George R. Hill of railroad fame. He had invested \$30,000. Other than experience, all I got out of that deal was an interesting cruise in Mr. Bekins' yacht. While I was trying to get iron from the hills, Mother was doing work in the St. George Temple. So our sojourn in Dixie benefitted some of our ancestors." He was serving as Patriarch of Grand Coulee Stake just prior to this writing.



Roy Wilson could feed and house people out of work in exchange for their labor to do assessment work on the mining claims and build a new facility in Bull Valley. He also gave them stock for their labor. In this way he optimized the few funds he had. He was in Los Angeles for some time securing backing to shore up General Steam and to build and test his steam engine and other inventions. It took capital to keep him going there, too. What happened to \$90,000? Was it services and equipment more than cash?

**Frank Goodrich**, a son of Albert G. Goodrich, worked for stock in General Steam at Three Peaks and by Jan 1934 he was on his way to Cove Mountain and as a 23-yr. old ended up being in charge of the work crew which he names as: Glenn Lybbert, Hollis Hullinger, Weldon Bastian, Alden Merrell, Morris Cook, Joseph Winder, Armond Eaten, Harden Powell and Frank Wilcoxon. They had to walk from Veyo to Cove Mountain where they found George McLean waiting for a Mr. Johnson to return. When he did, both left. There was a large tent house, an outhouse and a good spring of water. Their project was to drill a tunnel back into the mountain which was about fifty feet deep. They subsisted on deer meat and whatever fruits/vegetables the people of Veyo gave them. They also traded at a little grocery store in Veyo run by an Albert Bunker who let them have groceries for stock in General Steam. The crew would go down on Saturday night to socialize, the townspeople would let them stay overnight with them so they could attend church on Sunday. They walked the twelve miles to Veyo and twelve miles back to Cove Mountain.

The crew "had good times together. Weldon(violin) and Hollis sang and played their instruments on occasions in town and practiced at their rough camp. They played various kinds of games and often had company. I had my trombone. In the spring the group had to return to their family farms to take care of spring work and they wanted to show their appreciation to the people of Veyo so they killed a deer, barbequed it in a pit, "baked yeast bread buns, and had various other amenities" to go with the bread and meat. They prepared a program which included a skit. A bonfire they had got out of control and

threatened to burn miles of ground until the wind shifted and it died out. "We could see forest rangers, game wardens, and everyone else coming up to put out the fire and finding us with illegal meat."

Frank returned after spring planting and quit a job with the Utah State Road Commission because "the mining business had got into my blood and I had high hopes for the General Steam Corporation". His father and quite a group from the valley had gone down to Cove Camp and they needed some help building camp facilities and to do assessment work.



Another project this crew undertook was to build a road up to Cove Mountain. They built the road (road crew pictured at left) up to where they were going to mine iron ore. It was strictly manual labor. They concocted their own transit, and set stakes at each reading. The road was to be big enough for a car or pickup and was 1.5 mile long. It was a slow, difficult task. The crew moved the camp from Cove Mountain to Bull Valley which is on the east side of Cove Mountain. "This location was

desirable because it was near Forest Service road, which made camp more accessible. Toward the end of the summer, (probably of 1935) it was decided that Arthur Merrell and I should go to Los Angeles and help Roy Wilson, the president of the company, collect some used mining equipment and haul it back to camp in a couple of old moving vans supplied to the company by Floyd Bekins of Bekins Van and Storage Company.

The two hitchhiked to LA and spent about a month "chasing from one end of Los Angeles to the other gathering machinery to take back to camp." They had two truck loads and were told by Wilson to go to camp from the road running through Gunlock to avoid the weighing station in Santa Clara, Utah because they were overloaded and unlicensed. Their trucks failed on this tough Gunlock road and they determined to go back out to Highway 89 go through Santa Clara, St. George, Veyo, over the Moody Creek and northwest up the forest service road. Goodrich called Wilson collect and he "was extremely angry to think I'd disobey orders", but by the time I explained the impossibility and breakdown of the trucks", he changed his tune. We soon had the trucks in camp, unloaded, and the vans removed from the trucks. The vans made quite comfortable bunk houses.

Mr. Wilson and Jack Moss of Salt Lake City were there in Los Angeles getting a working model of Wilson's rotary steam motor built. They had a nice home rented out in Glendale, CA and we were to stay with them while in Los Angeles. We left Dad with a group of young men to carry on at camp some of whom were: Sterling Merrell, Ernest Merrell, Arthur Shaefermeyer, Kenneth Rasmussen, Morris Henry, Grant Holfetz, and his nieces Lois and Louise Lybbert who did cooking and housework. Veola Hatch was employed as a bookkeeper. Leland Rasmussen and his wife were living in the house in Glendale. Leland was traveling a lot but his wife did the cooking and housework for Mr. Wilson and Moss."



Before the shop was completed, the cookshack was built. Originally and for many years this was a three room structure. The living room or parlor was accessed through the front door seen above. Veola is standing in front of the door and the are three unknown men surrounding her. In the center of the parlor was a traditional pot-bellied stove. The floor was linoleum. Wilson had a big black rocker/recliner type chair, there was a wooden rocking chair, an upright piano, a desk stacked with books and magazines, a sewing machine in the room, and a couch.

The middle room was the dining room which had a window at either end, a very long table with wooden benches on either side and a chair at each end. The floor was linoleum. Wilson always sat at the end of the table. There were cabinets along the wall which was shared with the parlor for storing food and dishes. Outside of the canyon facing window they had a window box with screen and they put burlap on it which they wet in the summer so that the breeze could cool whatever food they had. Later there was a refrigerator in the kitchen which was the last room in the house.

The kitchen had a black wood cookstove and some tables and cupboards, plus a sink with a drainboard on either side where dishes were washed. The Counterflo water heater was between the stove and the sink along the outside wall. The floor was cement. The side of the kitchen facing Cove Mountain was made of windows like the shop had. Eventually, a shower was built into the corner of this room. A few years before camp was abandoned, Veola and Lee added a second floor for sleeping in the cold months of the year. There was a back door which looked up the valley and faced the direction of the shop. This door was the primary entrance and exit.

"Our next assignment was for a group of us to go over to Zion Mountain near Orderville, Utah and work at a sawmill which belonged to Ira Millett, a stockholder in the company. We were to get out logs from dead trees which could be sawed up into what we called 'sawed logs'. We were supposed to get enough of these timbers to build a shop building 30 feet by 60 feet. A log with Lee in front and other men standing on the log is pictured at right. These timbers were to be mounted stockade style on the foundation to construct the walls, and Dad had designed built-up trusses for the roof construction. So in

addition to the sawed logs for the walls, we had to get material for the trusses and roof sheathing. Dad had done a good job of designing the trusses so that an effective knee-brace arrangement braced into the walls and made a real substantial building. Winter came on, the Goodriches decided to rent an apartment in St. George, but others stayed at camp, were snowed in, built skis and were able to get out, but were broke and had no place to stay. The Forest Service was not going to plow the roads.



"We made an appeal to Wilson, pictured at left in boots and hat for some financial help with food and other expenses which he responded to grudgingly, but when he realized we were stranded he became worried for fear we would all decide to go back to Vernal. So he got in touch with Floyd Bekins, persuaded him to purchase a bulldozer caterpillar which quickly came to us." It was a reconditioned 75 Allis Chalmers track tractor and the operator was to train us on how to operate it. Cold weather caused all kinds of complications and repairs, but the tractor finally



The shop floor was cement with ditches running horizontally every 20 feet or so into which sawdust put down to absorb oil/gas drippings could be swept.

A 3 July 1937 copy of a **General Steam Newsletter** gives a review of the company's history and present status: "At about the time the Counterflo was thriving...with orders far ahead of production in 1928, the Depression came along." Many businesses failed and some thought GSC would fail as well, but "one man, (Roy Wilson) however, who's very life's ambition was contained in that company refused to give up. Thru the years of adversity with financing a practical impossibility he kept up the patents, held the claims, added new properties and searched every possible quarter for a means to go ahead. This was no small task. Claim work alone amounted to thousands of dollars per year." Shown above left is the building of the gigantic shop.

"In Sep 1935 this man (Roy Wilson) with feeble backing from three interested groups began building in Los Angeles two of his inventions. Both of these included a rotary steam engine and Counterflo steam generator, one being a power unit for a heavy truck." Finances were insufficient, to date about 85 weeks at a cost of \$300/week have taken place. There goes a big chunk of money - \$25,000+.

In May of 1936, many workers came to our property in So. Utah to do assessment work. More claims were added, two camps were built, and "it takes a lot of labor, a lot of gasoline, and a lot of food to feed the workers, ...survey and prospect thousands of acres of mineral land, make roads, haul lumber, etc."

In the autumn of 1936 these tasks were done: equipment purchased – mining and milling machinery from CA, AZ, and NV, "the big bending rolls were secured from the Six Companies at Boulder, a big generator at Chloride, a Mack dump truck at Kingman, a power shovel at Williams, a mercury retort, bullion furnace, road grader, ore rolls, big crucifers, another Mack truck, Wilfley tables from Ely. Machine shop tools, turbine generator, diamond drill, welding equipment, assay office, two trucks printing equipment, bulldozer, Wilson steam boiler and engine, compressors, all paid for and part hauled on the grounds."

He encourages their support by saying, "It is in your interest to keep this structure moving. Using equipment we now own, a short time should see us in production of Wilson steam power units, or

was able to clear the road. The next day the warm Chinook winds melted the snow. "The dozer was very useful that spring in clearing and excavating spaces for building sites and in building roads into some of our mineral claims. We had the camp in rather good condition. The shop building was mostly done and we felt we had accomplished a lot." The windows in the shop were salvaged in Los Angeles from an auto glass company.

milling gold ore, or both. Either job accomplished and we will build steel mills without selling a single share of stock. Think it over. Come and see if you do not believe. If it seems slow just remember every important new industry had a similar hell to go thru but the ones that survived made millions. Also that the most valuable asset any business can possess is the experience of it's founders. Ours has stood the acid test, we can now move on to real accomplishments with your support, and all that directly to your benefit."

**Grace Thornton**, wife of Charles Thornton, visits camp on 14 March 1938 after attending a stockholders meeting in Enterprise at 4 PM. She says, "I was greatly impressed with the progress they have made in the last year. Only successful men could accomplish what we saw last Sunday morning. A large, well lighted and ventilated mill equipped with huge, expensive machines. Some of these machines were Roy's own inventions. There is an office building, a chemist's laboratory, a printing office, a bunk house, a camp kitchen, a cook's bedroom. A Delco system provides electric lights, batteries make the radio possible. They have an Eden washing machine, a sewing machine, two stoves, a long table, benches, and some easy chairs. They have plenty of good wholesome food." Charles and Grace Thornton together with Bert and Rita had traveled from Salt Lake through snow and rain. When they got to the dirt roads leading from the Veyo dugway, Grace was so traumatized by the slippery roads and a dream she had the night before, that she refused to go on. She knew that if she didn't, Rita and Bert would not have their greatly anticipated visit and Wilson would have to walk 13 miles to camp. Wilson encouraged her to make her own decision without considering the others. He was sympathetic and tolerant. I had never known that kind of a Roy before. I considered the situation from all angles, then took my place in the back seat. Roy took the wheel and away we went. Such a ride. " The roads were very poor and in bad weather worse. Front of shop pictured below right.

Another quote from Grace's letter characterizes Roy when Charles was driving and he was in the back seat, he said, "Put her in low and for hell sake don't stop. Keep going, keep going, he shouted from the back seat. I think he was actually frightened. Funny for Roy to be scared."

Goodrich continues saying that Mr. Wilson was so well pleased he decided to invite all stockholders to a



Test Shipment of Gold ore to Los Angeles





continue his claim-jumping attempts to obtain some uranium property in eastern Utah and ended up in a gulch with a bullet in his back....I had worked out approximately 2,000 shares of stock supposedly worth a dollar a share. This serves as another example of my lack of wisdom, for the only thing I ever received for my conscientious efforts was experience." It is possible that Wilson was putting claims in his name to protect these from the bankruptcy of General Steam Corporation which did occur. A side view of shop above left is pictured before the glass is put in the windows.

The majority stockholders and the minority stockholders were two separate groups who divided up the assets of General Steam Corp detailed in the Final Report of Receiver Arthur Forst. There is no mention if every stockholder got a certain amount per share. **Ivor Clove** wrote a letter to the minority stockholders encouraging them to write to the judge that they oppose receivership and can manage the assets of GSC themselves. There were 4 letters in the case files: 1 against and desiring receivership and 3 for not going into receivership. A Lavinia Maughan, a Logan resident, dated 9/9/1939 claimed she and her sister invested \$2,000. An F. H. Sibley and a S. B. Wright of Wyoming September 1939 did not want receivership, but S. D. Mitchell with 750 shares said if they allowed Wilson and his boys to handle things, we'd never get anything. Settlement was made in February 1940 and GSC charter is suspended. The Parowan Times reports in October 7, 1938 that Fred Stauffer and A. P. Spitko plaintiffs in the case against Leroy A. Wilson prevailed and were awarded \$8,046.53 plus \$500.00 attorney's fees and "a decree of foreclosure of the mortgaged premises with the regular order of sale as asked for in the complaint."

At the end of 1938 Roy Wilson writes to the patent office complaining about them denying his petition to revive Serial No. 60,563 filed nearly two years earlier. He was unable to meet the deadlines and pleads for a second chance. His tactic is first to tell the guy off, then he reveals his hardships which were, wife had to go to work for WPA and his soldier's bonus saved them once, but if she hadn't gone to work "I would have had to give up valuable properties and stopped work on my inventions. ..I have lost my home, I have lost everything I own in this world save my inventions and a few mining claims." He says he got people interested in gold and got a few investors in California where he was marooned to work with him. About all he got out of it was some machine tools. He suspiciously charges that his

meeting at camp which was a success until **Mr. Lionel Bradford**, attorney for the company found that Mr. Wilson had been using his name instead of the company name to record the mining properties. "Everyone was thunderstruck. The meeting was soon adjourned and by sundown everyone had left camp. Many things could be written about the events that took place after that meeting, but sufficeth to say that ended the activities of General Steam Corporation. Mr. Wilson, Leland Rasmussen, and Veola Hatch remained at camp for some time. Evidently Wilson tried to

being out of tune with local church leaders may have reached all the way to the U S Patent Office. He says "I have been harrassed by conspirators seeking lawsuits and been drained to the limit." He offers the endorsement of Murray Hayes and Floyd Bekins.

In a 1934 letter to the editor of Popular Aviation he complains about some bias or slight and lists his abilities as: college grad, 40 years old, rare executive experience, can get things done with relatively small amount of money,etc. Tells how we skimped and saved and built us a home. We put ten thousand into it and had it all paid for save \$5,000, never missed a payment, but depression caused him to miss a \$300 payment whereupon the Home Owners' Loan Corporation seized his property.

There are numerous assay reports in Roy Wilson's papers, and although the reports give the mineral contents of rock they were asked to assay, there is no description or notation as to where they came from. On pg. 52 a picture of rock being loaded on Cove Mountain to go to Los Angeles for assay as to the content of gold is shown.

Unfortunately General Steam went into receivership late 1939. This was a huge loss to Roy Wilson and the many stockholders. An interesting fact about the defunct GSC is found in Lee's testimony at the murder trial in August of 1954 wherein he says under oath:

- A The Bull Valley Trust Estate.  
Q Is that a partnership?  
A No, that is a Trusteeship, trust estate.  
Q Who are the beneficiaries of the trust or of the estate?  
A It is a Trusteeship holding the properties of the defunct General Steam Corporation for the benefit of the stockholders.  
Q When Mr. Wilson signed papers as trustee, did he do that for the Wilson Research or Bull Valley Trust Estate?

This little piece of information from the murder trial gives evidence that my father and his associates were trying to do the right thing for those who had invested in the company. It didn't work out that the stockholders got anything because he didn't succeed in his enterprises.

Wilson's mother, Martha Jane Thornton, pictured on right, writes him a very sympathetic letter trying to console him in the loss of General Steam Corporation on 11 April 1939.

" Dearest Beloved Son – How glad I was to receive your dear note and to learn of your whereabouts. I did wish to hear of the outcome of your trial, but learned only yesterday of the court's decision. How could they take General Steam away from you? Of course, I know very little of your troubles, but you have my sympathy in your great trials and when I felt so badly over your misfortune, that still small voice whispered, it's a blessing in disguise. Let us hope and pray dear that this is so. God is with you always because you recognize and love Him in all you do and He will not desert you, but there'll come a time when truth will prevail and you will be understood for what you are - all that is noble, true, and loyal in all you do. Oh I wish I had the power to write as you do, but it is not given me, but you know my heart and eternal love is with you at all times. We are all with you – Mima, Charles



and Earl. We all pray for this to turn out for your ultimate good. God bless you Son, with love and devotion, Devotedly Thy Mother."

Roy's brother, Earl also wrote him a sympathetic letter about losing General Steam and gave him advice under date of 12 Apr 1939 from Midvale R. D. #1, Box 43:

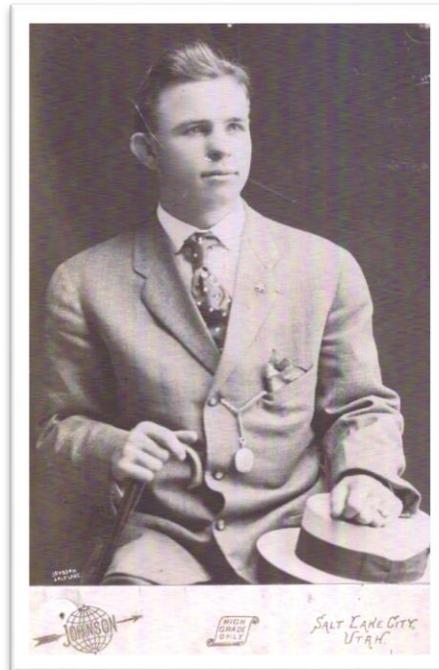
My dear brother Roy,

I just read your letter to mother and feel your depressed mood. Roy I sincerely feel that such an episode has happened for a purpose and your immediate felt loss will become an asset to you. Roy you have a very brilliant mind and physical makeup such that cannot nor will not be dimmed by reverses, so may I ask, will you just try hard to forget the past, draw a deep breath and burst out into the future.

Roy may I offer a suggestion, one I feel will be of material value to you. Why don't you start anew in Counterflo, put Chick (Charles Thornton) in as your chief construction engineer with his ideas of simplicity in your most wonderful invention. He has shown you as well as I his research on this and his elimination of the most expensive, cast iron element, that of a tubular element, very efficient and sturdy also very easily manufactured at a low cost with even greater possibilities in transfer of heat and yet as you know your idea and invention.

Roy, Henry Ford, today is president of his company and founder and inventor, but others have developed it and made it what it is today. Thus it can be with you, but you must have help, even though only mechanical. Now don't think me medelsome but I do think my suggestion a solution and surely you can trust your own blood brother Chick and really Roy he has got something. Please give this your deep thought, don't become angry and toss this into the waste basket, but pause and give it thought. In all the sincerity of my makeup, I am, your brother, Earl. Charles Thornton, Roy's half-brother and full brother to Earl, is pictured at right.

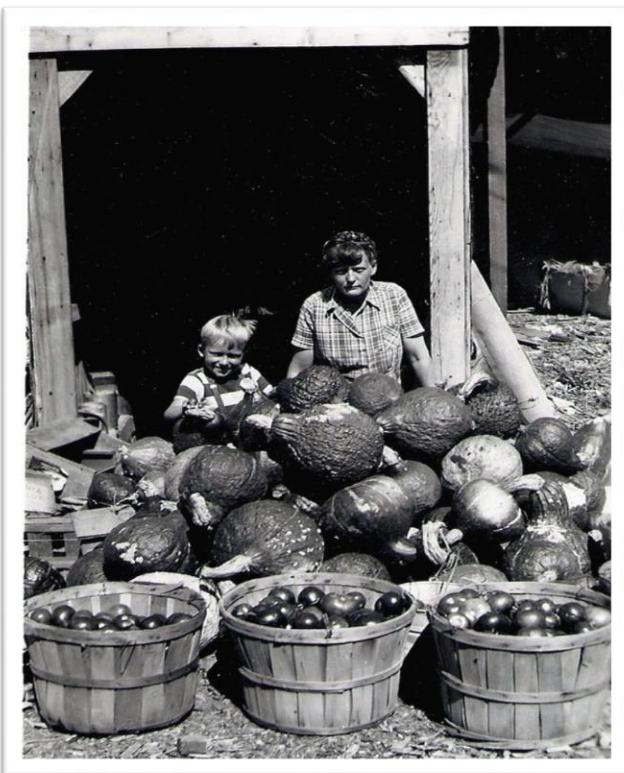
Just prior to losing General Steam Corporation, Roy's mother had written to him about her poor health and wanting to be sealed to Joshua R. Nichols. Apparently Nichols was on her mind and in her dreams. Roy replies on 15 April 1938 and tells her he is sorry he has not been able to help her (financially). "One of the things I have sweat and hung on for was to be able to help you, and yet the years have dragged along and now that I seem a little nearer to success, you seem to be getting tired of life." He gives her detailed instructions on how to have herself sealed to Nichols and concludes with: "God bless you. You must find this happiness. It is for you, but you must not put it off. After you are sealed he (Nichols) will not bother you so much and may leave you here with us a little longer for we love you very much and want you to stay. Your loving son, Leroy."



## LIFE AT CAMP I

World War II occupied the first part of the **1940's**. Women manned jobs typically held by men as the men went to war, radar, ballistic missiles, jet aircraft, and the Colossus computer were developed to support the war effort, and the depression gave way to prosperity. The atomic bomb dropped in Japan conclusively brought the war to an end. The atrocities to the Jews of the Hitler regime became known as the Holocaust. After the war, the conflict between East-West was the beginning of the Cold War. The United Nations was born. The Jews return to build Israel in 1948. China falls to communism. A new house cost about \$4,000. \$100 then converted to 2012 values would be worth about \$1,400.

Our electricity was made by running a gasoline engine and the energy stored in the Delco batteries in the shop. There was no indoor plumbing in any of the buildings. A tank was installed above the cookshack where water was pumped from the spring in order to provide running water in the cookshack or main living quarters. We always hauled drinking water right from the spring tap for meals. Wilson required that. Below the spigot that accessed the spring there was a cellar where we put milk, cream, and butter. It was just a dirt dugout, very small, housing a pump, spiders, frogs, vines and moss hung down, and who knows what! I dreaded going there.



We all learned how to take care of the huge garden. We learned how to hoe weeds and harvest what was planted. There was a strawberry patch in the upper garden, raspberries by the upper tank, and fruit trees on the perimeter by the canyon. Keeping the garden watered was another big task. Sprinklers had to be moved and the pump by the pond started. At left Aaron and Veola showing off the garden produce before it goes into the cellar for use during the winter.

Around 1945 when Alan and Weston Nielsen, Wilson's nephews were around fourteen, they spent time with their Uncle Roy at camp.

**Alan Nielsen**, his nephew, in giving some history about camp in Bull Valley says that camp was a place during the depression that "desperate people could live and have plenty of food to eat." "Almost every year, right after school had let out for summer vacation, Uncle Roy came to visit us. He would take my brother Milo back

with him for the summer. Uncle Roy's son, Bert and Milo were best friends and spent their summers together excavating land with bulldozers and always had exciting stories to tell of their times at Uncle Roy's camp." Bert says they slept in the south loft of the shop...a favorite place for all the kids. Our mother's trunks were stored there and we loved to go through them and be up so high.

**Weston Nielsen**, Alan's brother, got his turn at camp, too, and when questioning Uncle Roy on how he got his inventions he was told, "First of all there has to be a need for your invention. Next, you research

to find out what laws controls the function of what your invention is to do. Then you design a machine that uses those laws. Every successful inventor has used these same procedures to accomplish their task." Weston also says, "Even to this day (2002) I am curious why a man with such a brilliant mind chose to go against the teachings of his Church leaders and practice polygamy."

Weston also recalls how he was homesick on his first visit and asked to go home. Uncle Roy said, "Are you kidding? That's too many miles to drive. You will get over it in a week or two and he was right. He helped me get over my homesickness by taking me on rides around the area, explaining geology, teaching me to garden, and to help out. Although I was too young to run any of his heavy equipment like my brother Milo did, that experience was a wonderful summer for me."

The picture below shows camp in Bull Valley from the south. First you see the cookshack. Beyond the shop, are the corrals, and then the huge expanse of the garden. You can see equipment lying about. If you look carefully you can see the road leading to Cove Mountain which is shown at the bottom of the photograph. The chicken coop was south of the cook shack.



A typical day started with chores like milking of cows, running the milk through the separator, watering the garden, preparing breakfast, gathering in the dining room where we knelt in prayer for the day and to bless the food. After breakfast, Wilson went to his office to work, Lee went to the shop to carry out Wilson's inventions, and Veola and the children kept the housework up, washed clothes, weeded the garden, picked the garden produce as it matured, gathered eggs, and all other necessary chores. At noon we again had another big meal prepared and everyone gathered again. People were summoned to eat by banging on a big piece of iron hanging from the nearest bunkhouse. The clanging could be

heard far and wide. We always knelt around the table for prayers before we ate. Sometimes Veola would read to us from Zane Grey novels and other books after dinner and before we did the dishes. Cows had to be milked again in the evening.



Camp is pictured below taken from the Enterprise Road side and the bunk houses standing in a row near the middle of the picture can be seen. The mill is in the canyon below the shop which now sports a chemical lab on its right side. Spare machinery parts of all sizes lay around the premises together with cars and trucks destined to be remodeled or used for spare parts. The place resembles a salvage yard in some ways with all the equipment lying about.

Playing inside the Pierce Arrow, an old car at camp at bottom right, and other vehicles was a favorite childhood activity. Some were very plush. Once a mother cat put her litter of babies in the trunk of one of the cars. Lee found them, put them in a gunny sack, and drowned them in the pond. Too many cats I suppose! I was not happy about that!

Camp was Aaron's home year round, but mine and my two sisters only for varying time periods in the summer. Our father wanted us to be there as much as our age warranted in the summer, but as we got older, our mother needed our help with the operation of the small motel in Las Vegas that she ran. Marcia and I would alternate and Janice being seven years younger would stay a portion of the time with each of us. Aaron and Janice were playmates. One day I was sent to watch over Aaron and One day I was sent to watch over Aaron and



Janice as they rode their trikes on the smooth steel mill roof. There was no railing to prevent them from going over the edge. I was terrified that they might go off the roof. It was a drop of about fifteen feet

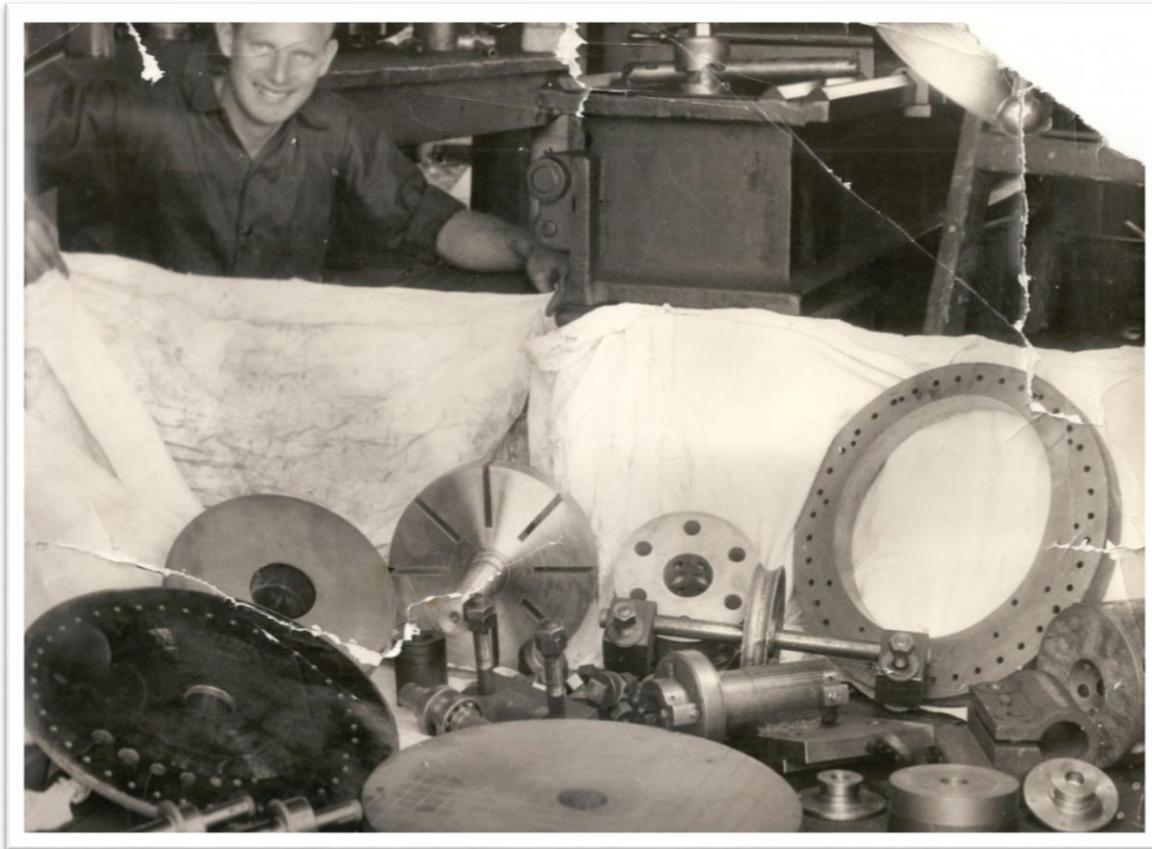


to the ground below. The picture above shows the mill under construction and the roof is not on yet.

Bert told me that **Leland Willis Rasmussen** owned a grocery store somewhere over by the Manti Temple and he was prosperous. His wife was Bertha Mary Erickson who he married 13 February 1936 in the Salt Lake Temple and he owned a black 1936 Ford Coupe. Lee's wife died 24 August 1937 only a year and a half after they married and was persuaded to work at camp manufacturing Wilson's inventions. Pictured at right is the interior of the shop with Lee in foreground and

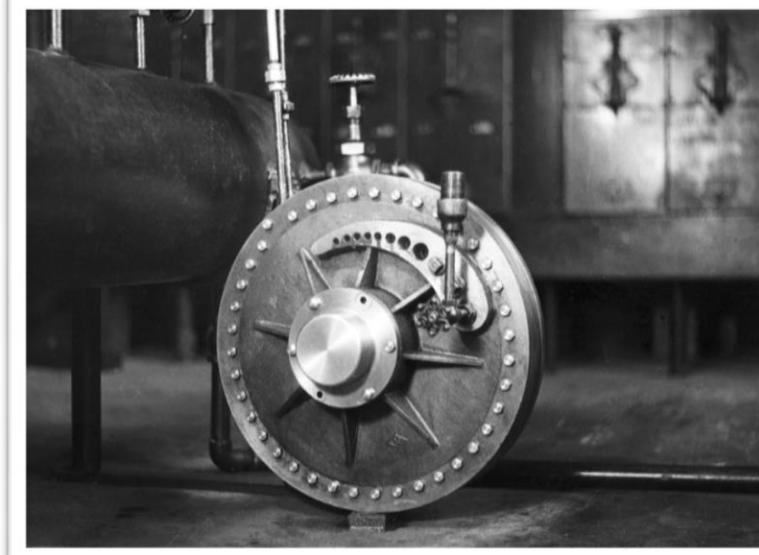


maybe Guy Walker behind him. Bert doesn't know if Lee sold his store and invested his money with our father. Lee had a mild and agreeable temperament that was compatible with Wilson's fiery one.



Lee Rasmussen showing parts of the steam engine in the shop at Bull Valley.

Wilson's steam engine assembled at right. Wilson writes on 26 July 1940 on his L. A. Wilson Engineering Works stationery to the Chief of the Air Corps, War Department, Washington, D. C. and gives his mailing address as Box 7, Enterprise, Utah. He says he is responding to a letter received from Major Mervin E. Gross on 22 July 1940. It concerns his steam airplane power plant. He says he has "filed more than seventy patent applications in the United States Patent Office" and also in Great Britain, Canada, Mexico. Further he states, "I do not wish to sell my design or invention of a steam airplane power plant to the United



States nor to license it on a royalty basis. I merely wish to sell them engines to a definite specification and price." He then launches into a six-page explanation on how it works. In the closing paragraph he says, "I urge that you send us an order for not less than one complete 4,000 horsepower steam powerplant and an order for ten of them would be better. ...Make the price just the same per horsepower as you would pay for a gasoline engine burning high-octane fuel. Mine will burn cheap fuel oil or slops. We will go to work immediately on this order and give it our very best."

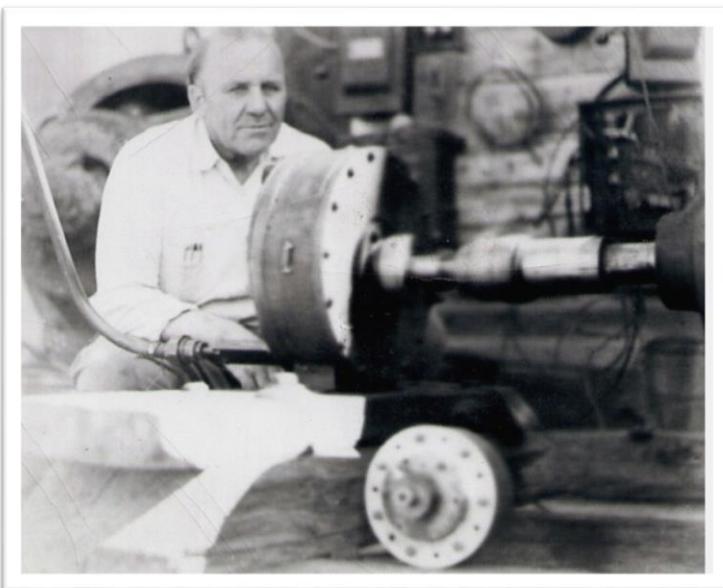
After General Steam Corporation went into receivership, he formed another company called Wilson Research and Engineering Company. Other letter head stationery says his company is: L. A. Wilson Engineering Works with plants at Panaca, Nevada and Bull Valley, Utah; General Steam Corporation; and Bull Valley Trust Estate – Holding the Assets of the Former General Steam Corp.

As late as the July-September 1953 issue of Light Steam Power, Wilson published an article titled, "Steam Power for Automobiles – Where the Fuel Goes" in which he invites inquiries and says "We make complete steam power-plant, or boilers and engines to order". In his papers was found a picture titled Wilson Sports Steamer, but I question its existence. It may have been a model on paper only.

Outside of the huge shop was the equipment Roy Wilson is shown with in the picture below right. He had many inventions and only a handful, six or seven were patented. As his resources ran low, he was not able to continue patenting his ideas. To insure no one stole his unpatented inventions, he would mail them to himself. The mailing date would then substantiate the date of his claim.

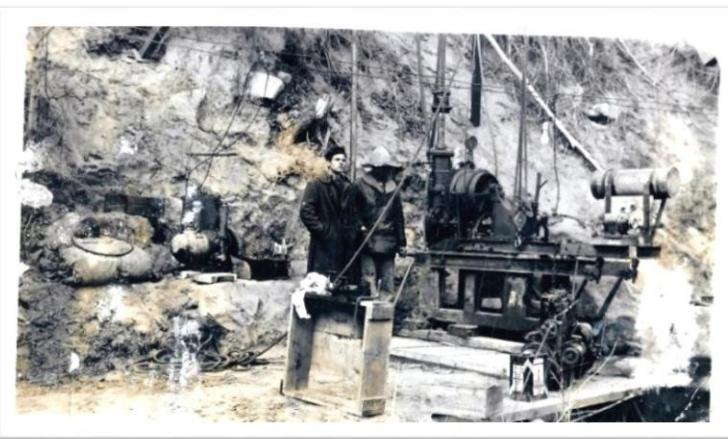
In an interview with Bert Wilson once I asked where he thought all the money went that is shown in several different printed sources. We both concluded he spent a lot of it acquiring and keeping mining claims, paying operating and living expenses, but patents would require financing as well. In a letter dated 13 August 1945 the law office of Judd, Ray, Quinney & Nebeker tell Lee and Veola that they do not own the Church coal ground at Kolob and they were given notice of this in July 1931 that General Steam Corp did not own them and they are now owned by Zions Securities Corporation. This gives some substance to our suspicion. By the time I was born in 1938 and was old enough to spend time at camp, their resources were limited. Their clothes were usually very worn, underclothes full of holes, and Veola sold cream to earn a few dollars so she would have access to some money.

In July of 1940 Floyd R. Bekins writes several hand-written notes. One was to Veola Hatch 12 July 1940 about shipping and paying for drill bits from Diamond Drill Contracting Company. He advises her to make out a bill on blank paper to read: Hauling drill rod from Utah to Cima, Calif. \$15.00 (In account with Jack Busher.) Diamond Drill Contracting Co., 1825 E. Slauson Ave., L. A. They will probably pay Busher direct but they won't pay it to you after keeping the rods so long.



The picture at right is of the diamond drill operation which drills to discover the depth of coal stratas.

The other note is dated 11 July 1940 addressed to Wilbur (Fox) about two different power take offs that involved someone named Busher that don't work. He advises Wilbur to return both to him so he won't send the wrong one again. Both of these notes show that Bekins is assisting Wilson financially. On 29 July 1940 Bekins writes to Veola Hatch responding to her request to send money for recording fees (on mining claims). "I have been sending you and Mr. Wilson money requested for this purpose for over four years now. Some of this money has paid for recording GSC claims and the rest of it for recording claims in the name of Mr. Wilson and others. I have been carrying this unwelcome burden for these ungrateful individuals and stockholders. " He says he will not send any more until all parties who signed a temporary work agreement meet and arrange a new contract which is satisfactory to all. "I will be sending money to Mr. LeRoy Cox to use as a trustee to pay the county recorders all fees covering all the claims of the corporation and the claims that have been put in the names of the various individuals of our group for the protection of stockholders and members of our group."



He wants to keep working under Fox's advice as he is familiar with the ramifications. He requests a "true certified copy of the contract that Mr. Orme and I signed in L. A. showing the names and addresses of all parties who signed it to date. I have done a great deal more than was requested of me at the meeting held at Beaver Dam. All of the terms of this agreement have been broken in letter and spirit by Wilson, Lee, and others. Since they have breached the contract I demand its cancellation and a new arrangement will be worked out. I will put up no more money until these things are done. Yours truly, Floyd Bekins."

Wilson replies on 12 August 1940 to Mr. Bekins which is full of demands and criticism. He reports on the state of things with remarks as follows: "small butane tank works fine....steam boiler ready to run on butane, send the 2500 gallon tank at once, can run tests with simple amalgamator and Wilfley tables then". The final two paragraphs of the letter are about Bekins not having the right information and "we could straighten you out on these matters and show you the truth about them" and invites him to write what the problems are in a "frank discussion ...to clear up any matter." He invites him to write them down and advises him to "if you stick to the facts and do not wander off into detours which are not relevant to the matters at hand I am sure there would be very little need of any protracted correspondence on the matter." He concludes with , "Because you wish to have an argument with me on the steam truck agreement is no reason for failing to keep your agreement and perform on the mill agreement. You and I can discuss the truck agreement and it is no matter for discussion with others." Very truly yours, Leroy A. Wilson.

Veola sends a similar letter in tone the day before about Judge Cox being elected unbeknownst to them of which they disapprove because he doesn't keep his agreements with us and has lied. She says the only copy they have has been sent to them. She further claims their reason for not wanting Cox to handle things is that his fees are unreasonable. She concludes with "We hereby make demand upon you to comply with the agreement we now have." Matters between Wilson and Bekins were heating up.

The Utah State Archives has a collection of letters Wilson wrote in 1941 to Governor Herbert B. Maw and others. He hears that **Governor Maw** wants the state of Utah to develop its resources. Early in the year he starts writing letters to him inviting his participation in mining and milling magnesium. As in all his letters when he is trying to sell his ideas and the mineral wealth he controls, he explains at length how it all works.

Governor Maw courteously replies that he will refer his interests in economic development in the state to a new office he hopes the legislature will create: Department of Publicity and Industrial Development. He takes for granted that people are going to do his bidding and buy into his ideas. Soon he starts urging them and sometimes ordering them to do such and so. Another tactic he uses, and this for getting action or to close the deal, is that it needs to happen right now or else some opportunity or other will be lost. By the end of 1941 the new office has been created and Wilson corresponds with them.

In Wilson's 20 April 1941 nine-page letter to Governor Maw, he takes the time to share his political and religious views. He makes a prediction, "our young men will be flocking pell-mell into the armed forces and being sent toward South America and other points to try to ward off the enemy." He doesn't say who the enemy is, but Hitler could fill the role. Other predictions are made about other countries, but history did not bear this out.

He then reveals on page five, "Eight years ago this March, I was about decided to quit. (That would have been abt. 1933.) .."It was about time for me to quit and take care of my business and my family.\_ That night of the day I made this decision, I took very ill and by three o'clock the following morning was so weak I couldn't raise my arm from the bed nor turn my head to look at the messenger I know was standing at the head of my bed."

"I left the body and went into the Spirit World. It is too long to relate it all to you, but suffice it to say that I saw an army bent on our extermination at the foothills of the Rockies in Colorado and they seemed to extend up and down the Eastern borders of the Rockies for a long distance in both directions."

"I was shown that if this nation and this people rejected my inventions, which I was informed mostly had been given me by inspiration, and this great industrialization I had planned and of which more details would be given me, they would greatly suffer. I saw that when the trouble broke forth it ran rapidly and that we would have little time left. I saw the factories in Southern Utah were to be our main defense, for they would provide means for defense and supply. No people can fight any better than the means of production and the inventions they control. The prophet Ezekiel states we will get our munitions out of the rocks of the mountains of Israel, which have always been waste but are not inhabited."

In the same letter he mixes business with religion and/or his divine inspiration with a story about D. V. Farnsworth. In 1933 this man was told him he had just a few weeks to live. Dr. Stauffer asked Wilson to

influence Farnsworth to "straighten out his affairs and leave his family the best he could." Wilson preaches D & C 89 or the Word of Wisdom to him and tells him he is going to live, not die.

"The reason why I knew he wasn't going to die was because I had a dream in which I saw he and I on the earth when the Saviour came, so I knew that that day was not here yet, but soon. So D. V. wouldn't die, for I knew my dream was true. I told him this and he took heart. At that time he couldn't walk fifty steps without stopping to rest. He fasted four days and sought the Lord. ... If ever a miracle was performed on this earth, that was one.

Another incident is next related involving D. V. Farnsworth again: "D.V. was also in the same bed with me in the same hotel when holy messengers came into the room, laid their hands on my head and I was healed and then given a most remarkable testimony of the divinity of this gospel and especially of certain principles thereof. Wilson doesn't say what he was healed of and is probably alluding to polygamy by use of the word principles.

In another letter to the governor date of 6 June 1941 Wilson says, "I have never doubted the sincerity of your purpose. I know you have great driving power. The only question is how much of this driving power will (be) put back of your purpose and how easily you will be checked and turned from that purpose. This steel project is your great test. If you fail in it, you will likely fail in the rest of your program."

Wilson writes to Wm. T. Gettke of Crestline, NV, Senator Murdock of Utah gets a 56-page report, and Henry J. Kaiser of Oakland trying to get support for his ideas. Some local southern Utahans ask him, "what business could get started the easiest to furnish income and employment? They are Dr. C. W. Cox, Mr. Sproul, and M. C. Tunison, M. E. It is unknown what if any business was done locally. He lists these people as his enemies: Moreton, Bradford, McKnight, and McKay, etc. ...meaning there are other enemies. All of these people were once his friends.

## ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON TRIAL

Life at camp did not get easier when **Roy Holt** swore out a complaint on 26 September 1941 against Lee and Wilson for willfully and unlawfully committing ‘an assault upon the person of another with a deadly weapon’, before Justice of the Peace George F. Whitehead in St. George Precinct according to No. 6599 Appellants’ Brief so stated by Gaylen S. Young, attorney for Wilson and Lee.

It is possible that Floyd Bekins was involved in the threats Roy Holt made on Wilson that he would kill him. When Roy Holt and others in his group trespassed on Cove Mountain property, Lee, Ed Churchtown, and Wilson warned them to get off the property. They were armed. According to them no guns were pointed at anyone. Roy Holt spoke to them in a vile manner and said he would go on the property when he wanted to do so. In 1926 H. J. Holt and Arthur W. Gregerson transferred their claims to Wilson and his associates. Roy Holt and his group were trying to jump the claims. The accusation by Roy Holt came before an Iron County Court where both Lee and Wilson were found guilty.

In the process of the trial, various witnesses testified in behalf of Wilson and Lee:

27 June 1942 – Wilbur W. Fox – “H. J. Holt has a vicious attitude toward Wilson, is acquainted with Floyd R. Bekins and knows of his connection with H. J. Holt, and that said Bekins tried to induce him and John L. Heinzelman to stool-pigeon for him.”

2 June 1942 – Veola Hatch – “Floyd R. Bekins their financial supporter is in conspiracy with the Holts, Holmes and Roy Cox who are trying to get their properties in Iron and Washington County, they offered bribes, threatened, coerced, and frightened her to get valuable agreements of Wilson’s and were on their Bull Valley property 25 & 26 September 1941.

11 June 1942 – Dr. W. C. Cox – Had knowledge of an incident in Pine Valley where Jess Holt made threats against Wilson and then came to Dr. Cox’s home to try to take back his testimony by writing a letter to the judge which he refused to do.

28 May 1942 – W. A. Whitehead – In June of 1941 J. Mark Holmes asked me to locate iron ore claims on Cove Mountain on what I understood to be the old General Steam property. They said the ground was open for location. Holmes said he was “having difficulty settling with Wilson”. Before this time Leroy Holt said he was going to locate iron claims on Cove Mountain for Bekins and Holmes.

14 June 1942 – Ivor Clove – Is a trustee of the Bull Valley Trust Estate and that H. J. Holt and Bekins have tried to get him to turn over the claims in the trust to them by saying they would take care of him and make it profitable to him. Clove says he believes Bekins, Cox and the Holts are together in trying to gain possession of the Cove Mountain iron ore property. He has known Lee and Wilson for 6+ years and says they are “men of high character...would not do physical violence or harm to anyone..trying to do good, but has known H. J. Holt for many years and says he has a reputation for jumping other people’s claims.”

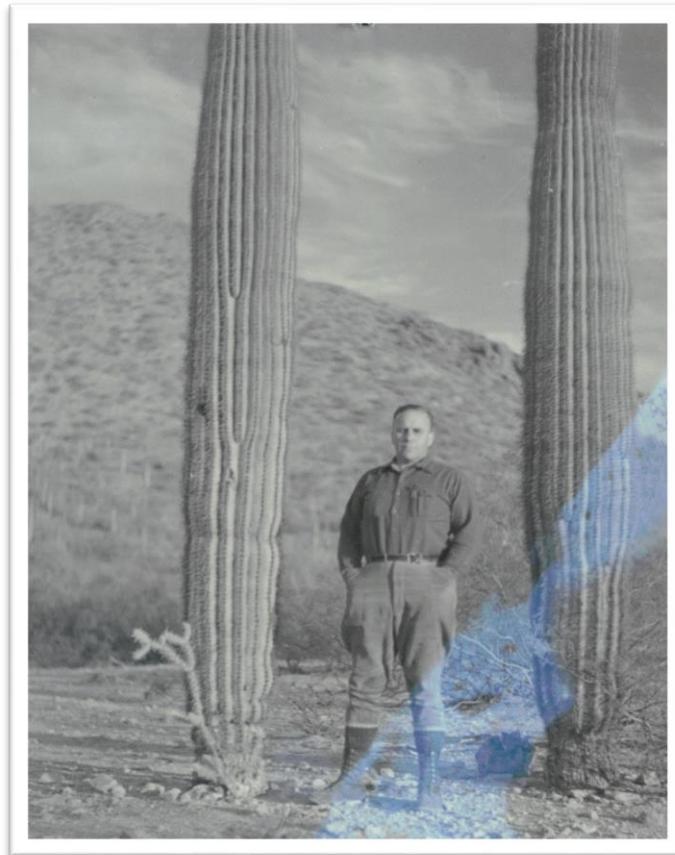
13 June 1942 – Carlos Stevens – Believes Wilson and Lee to be men of high character, believes “a conspiracy exists to defraud the stockholders of said iron ore property...to turn people against Wilson and Rasmussen...go with other groups working against the corporation.”

June 1942 – M. C. Tunison – vouches for Wilson and Rasmussen’s character and knows “hatred and prejudice exists on part of Holmes and the Holts”. “Henry Holt told him that his son H. J. Holt would

rope and drag Wilson" and was also induced to deny testimony given in court.

28 May 1942 – Victor Sullivan – Holmes complains he has nothing in writing to prove his interest in coal property in New Harmony or claims in Cove Mountain which is one and the same as the property belonging to General Steam. "Holmes said that Bekins was out on a limb and had nothing in writing to show his interest in the claims Holts, et al had located on Cove Mountain."

17 June 1942 – L. A. Wilson – Gives a 27-item list of factors he has that are influencing his trial unfairly. His first point is that this trial is keeping them from producing the metals needed by the war effort. Pt. 11 claims that Orval Hafen, former county attorney, William Palmer, and Heber J. Grant are prejudiced against him and Hafen gave information to a leading Utah newspaper "styling him as a 'motion rig' inventor in a retreat in the Bull Valley hills and that the Sheriff had gone armed into said hills to bring him in, that said Palmer unfairly obtained a judgment against the GSC of which he was a principal stockholder and officer, with the aid of Attorney Bradford, then acting as attorney for Wilson and/or said corporation," and is now disbarred. Pt. 12 Wilson claims "numerous court cases have been brot against him, but that in said cases they have been unable to prove that he is dishonest or that he had dishonest dealings in his business transactions." Pt. 14 claims that David McKay induced him to forego offers he had from persons and institutions outside of Utah for financial aid and promised him the Church would put more money back of him than they had the sugar industry" and therefore he ceased efforts to interest outside capital. President Grant was opposed to Wilson and McKay could not help as he promised, if he did promise.



9 June 1942 W. J. Graham, Pres. Of AZ Small Mine Operators Assoc. says he believes Wilson to be a man of excellent personal character, that his incarceration would be a serious loss to the war effort because of the process for the recovery of many rare metals Wilson has, and that he can't conceive that Wilson would commit a premeditated act he is accused of, "because, while impulsive, Mr. Wilson is a man of extreme human kindness."

17 June 1942 – Carlos Stevens – again testifies that he has known Wilson for many years thru Thomas J. Yates. Yates told him of Wilson's inventions and of the bitter opposition and vicious prejudice that existed against Wilson both religious and financial. He also said determined efforts were being made to keep him from succeeding with his inventions.

If the case tried in Iron County regarding this matter had prevailed, Lee and Wilson would have served five years in jail. The Parowan Times on 13 November 1942 reported a "stay of execution was granted on their claim that they were aiding in the war effort. This gave them time to appeal to the Utah Supreme Court and it was thrown out for a variety of reasons none of which had anything to do with the war effort. It had to do with the way the case was handled by the lower court.

Long after Wilson died, **Earl Hanson** of Utah Construction & Mining Company was asked to write a report on his dealings with Wilson. He wrote his report to York Jones of Utah International, Inc., in the Cedar City, Utah office on 29 June 1977. Utah Construction changed their name to Utah International at some point. "Pursuant to your request I have compiled the following documentary concerning Roy Wilson, a legendary inventor, prospector, promotor, and the leader of a colony who lived in the Bull Valley mountains above Veyo, Utah."

He tells how he became well acquainted with Wilson, his family, and his associates, during 1949-1955. Much of the information he reports is already in this history, but new information is stated such as: "He invented an ore drying process which he sold. In 1948 during the time I was Resident Engineer of Utah Construction's Cedar City Operations, 'Utah' opened the Smith Iron Mine in the Three Peaks area where Wilson and his General Steam Co. held approximately 100 lode mining claims." Wilson noticed there was a conflict between his ground and ours as he prepared to do assessment work. "He wrote a hostile letter to the Company." Hanson was asked to contact Wilson and resolve the matter.

As Hanson approached Wilson's camp on the east side of Three Peaks, "Wilson came out and stood with folded arms looking away from me. This 6 ft. 3 in. 240 lb. sentinel of a man dressed in army type shirt and high laced boots subdued me. He did not move until I spoke and introduced myself. He spoke in a loud voice and acted in a belligerent manner and I listened for some time to his accusations. I did finally explain that his claims had priority and 'Utah' would respect his rights." Wilson then proceeded to tell him about his rotary steam engine and thought my company should use it to replace its diesel truck engines.

Hanson explains to Wilson that his company is making geological field examination of the Iron Springs District as a supplement to the work the Bureau of Mines had done. He inquires if Wilson might be interested in leasing his claims. "Wilson indicated that he might be interested in leasing those claims which had no iron ore outcrop.

At his invitation I visited him at his headquarters high up in the Bull Valley mountains and he greeted him just as he did at Three Peaks. Hanson had to listen to 45 minutes of his complaints and his plans to make steel and build steam automobiles. He showed me his large shop which he had equipped with machine tools for use in building his steam engine and steam driven automobile. The yard contained tons of scrap aluminum from scrapped airplanes. Several large discarded gasoline powered trucks, a  $\frac{3}{4}$  C. Y. P&H dragline, the large rolls that shaped the penstock for the Boulder Dam power plant, a number of gasoline powered generators, large lead type storage batteries which interconnected provided 130 volt electric power. There was a chemistry laboratory, an engineer's transit, and complete equipment, a blueprinting machine and office equipment."

Hanson lists the people who were living at camp when he visited: Veola Hatch, W. L. Rasmussen, John Foster, Guy Walker, J. C. Johnson, and a woman and a girl (this was probably Elfreda and her daughter who came from Germany to see if she wanted to be Lee's wife).

"Wilson allowed me to borrow a large district map showing all of the claims. It was copied in our office and became the base district map. All of the Wilson claims had been surveyed by John R. Stewart, a U.S. Mineral Surveyor."

"Wilson showed me the vegetable garden which supplied much of their food. They did not eat meat although deer was plentiful. Chickens were in evidence and two cows. A small mill prepared stone ground cereal and flour for their use."

By 1952 'Utah' prepared a lease for Wilson's signature, but he rejected it because he wanted it to be signed by the officers of the Bull Valley Trust Estate. "Wilson took large Fools Cap paper and cut it to legal size and instructed his secretary, Veola Hatch, to type the nine pages as Wilson and I composed them. It took five hours to complete the document. It was signed by W. L. Rasmussen, Veola Hatch, Leroy A. Wilson and later by Ivor Clove, Postmaster of Enterprise, Utah. The document is unique as it contains special provisions which guaranteed Wilson and his companies the right to purchase iron ore from 'Utah' at regular prices. No typing errors were in evidence and the 20-year lease was accepted and signed by 'Utah's' officers." Following Wilson's death a new lease was executed covering only the important claims.

"Leroy Wilson promoted several companies including General Steam Corp. and Marvel Water Heater Co. (did he mean Counterflo Water Heater Co.? – Marvel WH Co. is a present-day business). When the 1929 depression came and the stock companies failed, Wilson's home in Salt Lake was foreclosed. He moved to Bull Valley and attempted to mine gold ore. A small mill was constructed on Cove Creek and failed in 1942 due to the government order No. L-208, forbidding supplies to gold mines." Hanson says Lee was hired in 1934 as a mechanic to help build the steam engine and other inventions. Both Lee and Veola came to Bull Valley in 1936.

Earl Hanson, for whatever reason, visited with Rita and Margaret in Ogden, Nolyn while she was attending BYU, reported Jerry served in the Air Force in Thailand and as a commercial pilot in Alaska, and met Marta Rowe of Washington, Utah. He lists knowledge of these people also: J. E. Churchtown of Salt Lake, A. L. Johnson of Las Vegas, Carlos Stevens of Bear River City, Janice Rowe, Marcia Adams, and Guy T. Walker of American Fork. Rita Wilson pictured below on the left and Margaret with her son Doug on the right.



## LIFE AT CAMP II

Margaret never had anything but praise for her father. Both Bert and her spent summers at Bull Valley. Margaret says she got along with Veola, but Bert and Milo never did and they played tricks on her constantly. "My father brushed and braided my hair every morning. I only remember one belt beating when I talked back to him at camp. I played the piano, washed clothes over the bonfire, took cold showers, and went swimming at the Forbushes in Veyo." Pictured below left is Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup> from left to right, Margaret, and Lee Rasmussen last in line with some of the men that worked at camp in the back, probably taken around 1937.



Margaret recounts in her history of her father, "My mom worked six days a week, did washing and ironing for five or six people Sunday morning while we were at Church." None of Roy's wives had an easy road. They all provided the majority, if not all, of their livelihood in addition to helping him. Margaret says of her father's health that "he believed in naturopathic medicine, vegetarianism, reflexology, chiropractors, and

natural medicine. He was very healthy and could hike up a hill like a billy goat, leaving Bert and I behind to huff and puff." He had a lot of trouble with mucous and his bowels and was probably allergic to wheat as I am. His eyesight was in decline and he writes to a Dr. Sherman at the end of 1938 for help." Dr. Sherman replies, "Your case is most unusual as you say you formerly had very good sight and now it seems that your eyeballs are out of round so bad that you have to push on them to round them up to throw the focus in the right place.

He draws diagrams and gives him a few other tips, but advises him to come see him when he is in Los Angeles next. I remember my father pushing on his eyes in the evening when he would read and he put the book very close to his face. His Nielsen nephews who visited camp wondered why he never got corrective lenses.

Several letters between Rita and Roy reveal a little about their personal life. He greets her with My Dearest Rita and he closes with Devotedly Yours or Love. In another letter he says he is sending her the money it would have cost me to come home for Thanksgiving, as this is the wisest thing to do. A letter dated 16 Nov 1937 from Rita to Roy greets him with "Dearest Roy".

Dearest Roy:

Am enclosing a letter to the Secretary of the Interior. Where was the return reply to come to me or Bradford. Maybe he wouldn't deliver it to me if he got it. And I am not going to call him and ask for no favors. He was in to see me the morning after he got back and altho he had calmed down some he didn't have much that was nice to say about you and he said it all depended how you treated him to the way he treats you.

He said you agreed before he ever went down there to give him three hundred dollars for the first month and he thinks you should make that right with him. He thinks you spend money foolishly when you should spend it on your books and getting things in order. Of course I guess that sum seems a lot of money but a lawyer is expensive at the best and I guess you have to keep in their good graces.

Haven't seen or heard any more from Jack and I am going to leave him alone too. I was good to his wife while he was gone and he knows where I am and if he wants to he can call me. I was up to Stelter's office yesterday to make out the coal form and I asked him if Jack had been around and he said he came in to see if there was any mail but had gone right out again.

Leland was in to see me again last evening. Suppose he will get away for camp today. He was hunting up money to get down on first. I guess when it comes down to it he is about the only real friend you have. They sure all seem to get disgusted and dislike you so.

We all have colds and so don't feel so hot. Bert had one a week ago and then Sunday the scouts from the ward went on a hike up to Mt. Olympis and he walked in snow all day so got wet and is coughing now. He was one of seven to reach the top. The rest couldn't make it. He is sure sore and stiff from the climb too.

I hope things are going to go better. I have been very low and discouraged the last week. Can't see much use to go on. Suppose there will be an end to it all sooner or later. But the sledging is pretty hard while we are going.

What are you going to do about the check at the store. Can you send the ten for them or are you going to cover it with a deposit in the bank. Please try to do something. It is very hard for me.

Write and let us know how things are progressing, with much love,  
Reta.

Most of his letters are demands to do this or that and to do it right now. He has her running here and there to do his bidding while she is working full time. He even tells her to take a day or two off of work

if necessary to contact stock holders, etc. all in an attempt to stop GSC from going into receivership. His quick mind had no patience. He was away from Rita more than he was with her especially, I suspect, near the end of their marriage. Circumstances of his business could not have helped their relationship. He probably provided very little for her devoting whatever resources he had to developing his business so that he could finally provide for all his families.

Her letters to him are business-like also. She writes: It looks like we will be down for Decoration Day the Saturday before. That is the way we planned it Sunday. Grace and Chick and a couple of their kids and if Bert and Margaret can get off from school I am bringing them for the summer. She signs the letter, Love, Rita.

In March of 1943 Rita and Roy are divorced. She took the action in anticipation of a future marriage which did not eventuate. He did not want the divorce. He had lost one wife to death and had four remaining, now he had only three: Veola Hatch, Lavilda Johnson, and Marta Loss. He lost two of his children to relatives of his wife that died.

Margaret didn't go to camp nearly as much as Bert did. Both recall their father liked to sing and Margaret thinks her father had a good sense of humor. Bert quit going to camp when he was 18 so he could work to earn money. He worked as an aircraft instrument mechanic at Hill AFB and when he went in the Navy he was a gyro mechanic. The expectation was put on all his children to participate and support his inventions. Bert says his father often prevailed on him to draw his inventions, but he was so

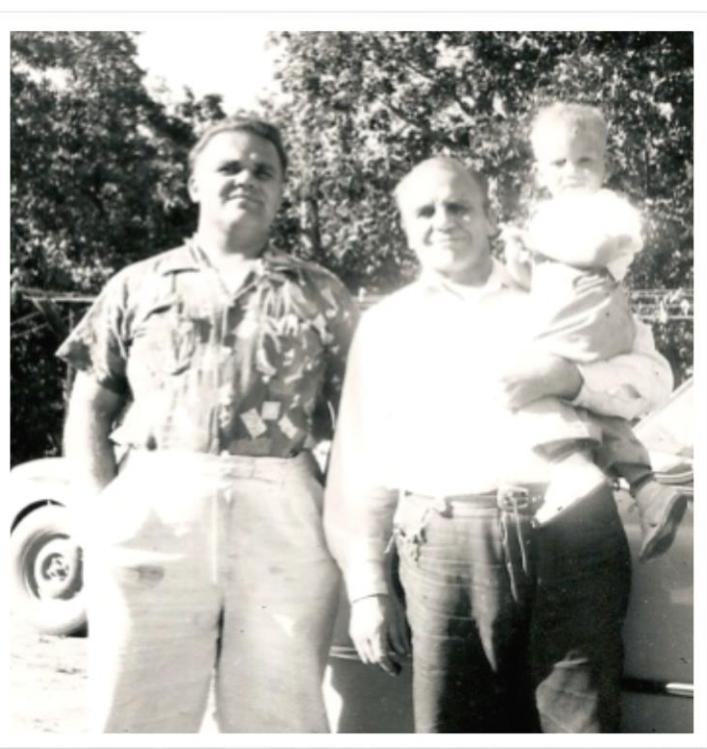
exacting, Bert felt he could never please him.



Pictured at left are Margaret, Roy, Bert, and Milo Nielsen. Wilson obtained an appointment to the Naval Academy for Bert, but with no time at all to prepare for the entrance exams Bert fell short. When Bert and Cheryl married, he wanted them to come live at camp, but they didn't. Bert graduated from the University of Utah with a

degree in business and worked for General Motors Corporation. He lived in Salt Lake most of his life and visited his dad from time to time.

Bert said he once came to camp and found his father's clothing in such tatters, that he went to St. George and bought him five shirts. Roy returned the shirts to him because they were short sleeve and he was wearing long-sleeved garments. Bert visited camp from time to time and on the right we see a 3-generation picture: Bert, Roy, and Bert's son, Lee about 1954. Roy looks as proud as any grandfather does holding one of their grandchildren. Roy was dead by the time most of his grandchildren were born. His own last two children were seven and eight when he died. He didn't get much of a chance at grandparenting.



Margaret sent her son, Doug Pohl to camp, but by then her father was dead. Doug and Marcia in Veyo church yard on the left. Aaron and Janice are in the back row of the picture on right with Doug and Klara in the first row. The Veyo cinder cone is in the background.



Apparently our mother complained or revealed that we (Marcia and I) slept in on Saturdays after attending dances Friday evening and didn't get up early so he instructs us in a letter: "I want both of you to take the responsibility of getting up in the mornings. ...Your mother gets to bed later than you do and she needs sleep much more for many reasons. If you do not get to bed until 11:30 or 12 because of going to a dance or a movie you get no credit for that the next morning. You must arise just as early. Therefore, you'll likely not be so anxious to stay up late so often." He rails on for three paragraphs about being disobedient to a parent, advises us to say 'thy will, not mine, be done', and concludes with praying we will be obedient, render homage to our parents, for "we'll never tell you wrong", and signs it Lovingly and sincerely, Your Father. This is the first and only admission by him that he is our father.

Were we never to experience dances or movies with our friends? Never tell you wrong.....maybe not in day to day matters, but they certainly told us wrong about other very large matters like polygamy, instilling great fear of the days before the Millenium, modeled living a duplicitous life, and making it difficult for us to discern the spirit of the Lord. Of course, they thought they were doing us a huge favor and could not see the damage they were doing.

We received another letter not dated or signed, but definitely from our father about if we didn't live polygamy "you can never come where we will be worlds without end and I bear solemn testimony that I have not lied to you nor will I deceive you," and invites us to disagree with him, pray for our own confirmation, and "answer this letter without delay." Demanding and impatient are definitely two of Wilson's characteristics.

When Marcia was about 17, her friend, Lee, had a brother home on leave during the holidays from the Navy and she arranged for Marcia to go out with him and her date. Our father was visiting us then and after Marcia's date escorted her out to the car which was at the curb in front of our house, our father suddenly leapt from his chair, ran outside, chasing the car down the street as it was getting underway, yanked open the door, and pulled Marcia out of the car. I guess he felt her virtue was in jeopardy. Marcia was terribly embarrassed. Our father lost his temper it seems from time to time and became irrational. I am sure our mother was shocked by his behavior and did not agree with such harsh, unreasonable treatment.

Two days before Wilson died, he wrote a letter to a Mr. Vic Bullock more or less apologizing for getting in a fist fight with Zirker. He said:

**Dear Mr. Bullock:**

I was very happy to receive your favor of the 15th \*  
and will greatly appreciate the "quit claim" to the claims mentioned.  
I regret the incident with Mr. Zirker but neither of us suffered  
save for our pride.

This tendency to punch someone out if there was conflict remained with him throughout his life. When he had strong feelings about something, he put the punctuation mark on them by using physical force. I was never the recipient of even a spanking by my father. He was more prone to raise his voice and speak sternly if I needed correction. Janice remembers being sassy and talking back to our mother. When our father came to visit, she shared this with him, because Janice remembers him talking to her about this and sitting on his lap while he confronted her. She remembers repentant tears, but no spanking.

## MINING CLAIMS

Wilson continued his relentless pursuit of his inventions and accumulation of mining claims for minerals needed for inventions and preservation of life in the “last days”. At some point he was offered a job with a firm in Denver for \$500/month, but declined. He was dismissive of his son, Bert’s job with GMC, saying it was only a job.

The assessment work on the mining claims was a huge task as was filing all the paper work. Most of the mining claims were in Utah, but there were some in neighboring states. The number of mining claims is difficult to calculate as they were in the process of acquiring claims and then letting others go that held less importance to their objectives. The men did the assessment work which was work done to show improvement to the mining claim. They used equipment like bull dozers to make improvements. Assessment work on the claims was the labor of the summer and fair weather months. Veola got the men ready to go out on the claims by providing lots of whole wheat bread, peanut butter, honey, etc., for their grub box . One night the men came home late and the lights in our sleeping van were still on. When Veola heard their cars laboring up the last stretch of road to camp, she told us to turn out our lights so we wouldn’t have to get up to fix them something to eat!

There are notebooks full of the mining claims that Wilson discovered. Sometimes the children were pressed into surveying duties. There was a transit and a chain as part of the gear for surveying. I can’t remember the details of how it was done, but I do remember doing it. A notice of location was posted, the corners of the area measured was defined by stakes, and the notice put in a tin can or tacked to a post. Then a notice was filed with the county recorder. Someone else could easily come along and take the notice out and put theirs in, backdating, but filing with the county, one could not backdate. Wilson was accused of being a claim jumper but Lee said of him, that if there was ever a dispute about a mining claim, Wilson would bow out and let the other party have it.

In September of 1952 we see a mining lease between Bull Valley Trust Estate and Leroy A. Wilson and Utah Construction Company. They are leasing for 22 years the Lode Mining Claims or Placer Mining Claims in the Iron Springs Mining District, Iron County, State of Utah as follows: Tramp 1,2, 4; Lucky Strike 1,2, & 4; General Steam 5, 10, 12, 18; Emma 1, 4, 7, 8, 9; Broadway 1 & 2, Shamrock 1-18, 20-21, 26-31; Broadway 1, 2, 3; Iron Wedge 1-6; Marvel 1, Comstock and Blue Jay; Silver Star 2 & 3; Murie 10 & 11, 13-20, 22, 24; El Rico 2 & 4, 5-11, 20 & 21; Sunset 1, 2, 5-12 all located in T. 35 So., Range 12 W, S. L. B. & Meridian.

Royalties on iron ore taken out of these mining claims continued on for many years. Lee and Veola were the primary benefactors of this money which they used to continue assessment work. One lease includes signature lines for: W. L. Rasmussen, Trustee Chrm., Veola Hatch, Trustee, Ivor Clove, M. L. Rowe and Leroy A. Wilson and Allen D. Christensen for Utah Construction and another lease where there are signatures, omits Marta.

Marta Rowe received a patented mining claim , the Alice, which her descendants still hold, in this area which is now surrounded by a big BLM recreational development. Hiking and motorized trails run over and through this steep, hilly area.

There are numerous notebooks filled with notices of location. The following pages shows some lists of mining claims found in Wilson’s papers and a picture of him out on some of the ground he prospected.

Multiple use  
Aug 14 1954  
Lynn Haven 2415

Radiant # 1 } Located by Leroy A. Wilson, Dec. 11, 1940.  
 Radiance # 1, Located by L. A. Wilson, Apr. 25, 1942.  
     Located by W.L.Rasmussen, Feb. 5, 1953.  
 Radiance # 2, Located by Leroy A. Wilson, July 17, 1941.  
     Amended by Leroy A. Wilson, Mar. 11, 1942.  
     Located by W.L.Rasmussen, Feb. 5, 1953.  
 Radiant # 3, Located by Leroy A. Wilson, Nov. 1, 1953.  
 Radiant # 4, Located by Leroy A. Wilson, Nov. 1, 1953.  
 Radiant # 5, Located by Leroy A. Wilson, Nov. 1, 1953.  
 sandy # 1, Located by W. L. Rasmussen, Apr. 25, 1942.  
     Located by W. L. Rasmussen, July 2, 1951.  
 sandy # 2 Located by W. L. Rasmussen, Apr. 25, 1942.  
     Located by Veola Hatch, July 2, 1951.  
 Sandy # 3 Located by J. E. churchtown, Apr. 25, 1942  
     Located by Leroy A. Wilson, July 2, 1951.  
 Marybelle Placer, Located Dec. 11, 1940 by W.L.Rasmussen, Veola Hatch,  
     Leroy A. Wilson, Mrs. Niels Nielsen, J. E. Churchtown,  
     Margaret N. Wilson, C. F. Harland, Mrs. M.J.Thornton.  
 Marybelle Placer, Located Mar. 16, 1942 by the same above.  
 Marybelle Placer, Located Feb. 5, 1951 by W.L.Rasmussen, Veola H. Rasmussen,  
     Leroy A. Wilson, J.E.Churchtown, Bert Wilson, A.L.  
     Johnson, M. L. Howe, Anna Nielsen.  
 Marybelle Placer # 1, Located by Leroy A. Wilson, Margaret N. Wilson,  
     W. L. Rasmussen, N. H. Morrison, T. R. Gledhill,  
     J. E. Churchtown, Veola Hatch, Angus Duncan.

Wilson out on some of the mining claims. Those lace up boots held up for years. He often had them on his feet especially when he is out prospecting.





LEROY A. WILSON.

From	To	Names or Claims	Date	Recorded	Kind	Book	Page
B.S.H. & Narguerite C.	Leroy A.Wilson	Shamrock Nos.1,3,5,2,4,6 Wedge; Trump, Tramp Nos.1,2, Elve Jay No.1; Sunset No.2; Rums, Shoe No.1.	8/15/27	8/23/27	Q.C.Deed	#5	Rining 190.
Perry: P.M. & JULY Walk-						Pg. 749	
tron: Lafayette & Emily							
McConnell, Will G. Marie							
and Caddie R. Marie,							
R.A. & Florence S. Arthur							
Walter Marie Jr. John E. Leroy A.Wilson		Marie Nos.1,3,11,17.	8/11/27	8/23/27	Q.C.Deed	#3	Rining 192.
& Sarah U. Walker, Will C.						Pg. 192.	
& Caddie M. Marie.							
Leroy A.Wilson	General Stein Corp.	Silver Start Silver Star No.1 Marie No.1,3,14-17; Shamrock Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6; Sunset No.2; Elve, Shoe No.1; Tren Wedge; Trump 6 no Trump No.1,2,4 Blue Jay.	8/20/27	9/23/27	Q.C.Deed	#3	Rining 204.
						Pg. 204	
Percy & JULY Wilkinson	Leroy A.Wilson	Elmira Nos. 1,3,5.	3/30/35	6/28/37	Deed	#3	Min. 360.
Thomas W.A. Wilson	Leroy A.Wilson	Elmira, Elmira No.1,2,3,4,5.	3/30/35	6/29/37	"	#3	Min. 361.
Margaret Wilson	Leroy A.Wilson	Elmira, Elmira No.2,4,5.	4/21/35	6/29/37	"	#3	Min. 362.
Goldie Owen	Leroy A.Wilson	Elmira No.1,2,3,4,*	4/21/35	6/28/37	"	#3	Min. 362-3
Sophia B. Forsyth	Leroy A.Wilson	Elmira No.1,2,3,4,5.	3/30/35	6/28/37	"	#3	Min. 363.
Kathy E. Forsyth	Leroy A.Wilson	Elmira Nos.1,2,3,4,5.	3/30/35	6/20/37	"	#3	Min. 363-4.
Joseph Nelson	Leroy A.Wilson	Elmira, Elmira Nos.1,2,3,4,5.	4/21/35	6/29/37	"	#3	Min. 364.
P.M. & July Wilkinson	Leroy A.Wilson	Red Riddle No.1,2,3.	3/30/35	6/28/37	"	#3	Min. 365.
Joseph Nelson	Leroy A.Wilson	Red Riddle No.2,3,4.	4/21/35	6/28/37	"	#3	Min. 365-6.
Margaret Wilson	Leroy A.Wilson	Red Riddle No.1,2,3.	4/21/35	6/28/37	"	#3	Min. 366.
Goldie Owen	Leroy A.Wilson	Red Riddle No.1,2,3.	4/21/35	6/28/37	"	#3	Min. 367.
Thomas W.Forsyth et ux	Leroy A.Wilson	Red Riddle No.1,2,3.	3/30/35	6/28/37	"	#3	Min. 367.

lode.			SECTION	Township	range	
Andrew Gregerson	Iron(Cove Mtn.)	June 10, 1929	General Steam C.	39 So.	18 J.	Wash Co.
Andrew Gregerson	Iron	July 1, 1929	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 J.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 1	Iron	June 10, 1929	General Steam C.	39 So.	18 J.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 1	Iron	July 1, 1929	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 J.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 2	Iron	June 11, 1929	General Steam C.	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 3	Iron	June 9, 1929	General Steam C. 1, 2, 11, 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 4	Iron	June 12, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 5	Iron	June 12, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 6	Iron	July 2, 1929	S. J. Lund Deeded 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 7	Iron	June 14, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 8	Iron	June 14, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 9	Iron	June 14, 1929	General Steam C. 1, 2, 11, 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 10	Iron	June 15, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 11	Iron	June 15, 1929	General Steam C. 7 & 12	39 So.	18 & 18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 14	Iron	June 9, 1929	General Steam C. 11 & 12	39 So.	18 W.	Wash. Co.
Andrew Gregerson # 14	Iron	July 1, 1929	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 18	Iron	July 1, 1929	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 22	Iron	June 10, 1929	General Steam C. 2 & 11	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 22	Iron	July 1, 1929	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 30	Iron	Sept. 12, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 46	Iron	July 1, 1926	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 47	Iron	July 1, 1926	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 48	Iron	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 100	Iron	Sept. 1, 1939	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Andrew Gregerson # 101	Iron	Sept. 1, 1939	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 J.	"
Utah Metals	Iron	June 10, 1929	General Steam C.	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals	Iron	July 7, 1929	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 1	Iron	June 10, 1929	General Steam C.	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 1	Iron	July 7, 1929	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 3	Iron	June 11, 1929	General Steam C.	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 3	Iron	June 9, 1929	General Steam C. 2, 11 & 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 4	Iron	June 11, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 5	Iron	June 12, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 7	Iron	June 12, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 8	Iron	June 12, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 9	Iron	June 13, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Utah Metals # 11	Iron	June 12, 1929	General Steam C. 12	39 So.	18 W.	"
Roland # 1	Iron	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Roland # 2	Iron	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	"
Cove Lode # 1	Iron	July 5, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	17 & 18 W.	
Cove Lode # 2	Iron	July 5, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	17 J. Wash. Co.	
Cove Lode # 3	Iron	July 5, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	17 & 18 W.	
Cove Lode # 4	Iron	July 5, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	17 J.	
Cove Lode # 5	Iron	July 5, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	17 & 18 J.	
Cove Lode # 7	Iron	July 5, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	17 & 18 W.	
Cove Lode # 9	Iron	July 5, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W. Wash. Co.	
Cove Lode # 11	Iron	June 6, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	
Cove Lode # 12	Iron	June 6, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	
Cove Lode # 13	Iron	June 6, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	
Cove Lode # 14	Iron	June 6, 1928	Leroy A. Wilson	39 So.	18 W.	
All the above mining claims are situated on Cove Mountain, southerly of Cove Creek in what is generally known as Bull Valley District, Washington County, Utah, about ten miles northwesterly from Veyo, Utah.						
Overlooked # 8	Iron & other	July 1, 1926	General Steam C.	31	38 so.	17 W.
Overlooked # 11	Iron & other	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	31 & 36	38 & 39 so.	17 & 18 W.
Overlooked # 12	Iron & Other	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	31	38 so.	17 W.
Overlooked # 16	Iron & other	July 12, 1926	General Steam C.	31	38 so.	17 W.
Overlooked # 16	Iron & other	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	31	"	"
Overlooked # 17	Iron & other	July 13, 1926	General Steam C.	31	"	"
Overlooked # 17	Iron & other	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	31	"	"
Overlooked # 18	Iron & other	July 13, 1926	General Steam C.	31 & 32	"	"
Overlooked # 18	Iron & other	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	31	"	"
Overlooked # 19	Iron & other	July 14, 1926	General Steam C.	32	"	"
Overlooked # 19	Iron & other	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	32	"	"
Overlooked # 20	Iron & other	July 14, 1926	General Steam C.	"	"	"
Overlooked # 20	"	July 1, 1941	Leroy A. Wilson	"	"	"
Overlooked # 21	"	July 14, 1926	General Steam C.	"	"	"
Overlooked # 60	"	August 12, 1936	Leroy A. Wilson	6	39 so.	"
Overlooked # 63	"	"	"	"	"	18 W.
Overlooked # 64	"	"	1	"	"	17 W.
Overlooked # 65	"	"	6 & 7	"	"	"
Overlooked # 66	"	August 19, 1936	"	"	"	17 & 18 W.
Overlooked # 34	"	July 21, 1926	General Steam C.	1 & 6	"	18 W.
Overlooked # 47	"	July 22, 1926	"	1 & 12	"	"
Overlooked # 48	"	"	1	"	"	"
Overlooked # 70	"	May 27th, 1939	Deeded to L.A. Wilson	6	"	17 N.
Overlooked # 71	"	July 1, 1938	Leroy A. Wilson	"	"	"
Overlooked # 72	"	Aug. 19, 1926	"	"	"	"
Overlooked # 73	"	"	"	"	"	"
Overlooked # 74	"	Apr. 20, 1937	"	"	"	"
Overlooked # 79	"	Oct. 20, 1937	6 & 31	38 & 39 so.	"	"
Overlooked # 99	"	"	6 & 7	39 so.	"	"
Overlooked # 100	"	May 14, 1937	"	"	"	"
Overlooked # 101	"	July 7, 1938	7	"	"	"
Overlooked # 102	"	Apr. 19, 1937	6 & 7	"	"	"
Overlooked # 102	"	May 15, 1937	6	"	"	"
Rhyolite	"	Sept. 1, 1929	C.W. Thornton Deeded to L.A. Wilson	31 & 36	38 so.	17 & 18 W.
Cowher Queen	"	"	"	31	"	17 W.
Hematite	"	"	"	31	"	"
Hematite # 1	"	"	"	31 & 36	"	17 & 18 W.
Hematite # 3	"	"	"	36	"	18 W.
Hematite # 5	"	"	"	"	"	"
Juniper # 1	Iron	(74 1/2' x 17' x 12')	31 sq. ft. 12' x 12' 6" x 12'	38 & 39 so.	17 & 18 W.	"
Juniper # 7	Iron	"	"	"	"	"
Juniper # 10	Iron	"	"	"	"	"
Juniper # 9	Iron	"	"	"	"	"
Juniper # 10	Iron	"	"	"	"	"

# Quit-Claim Deed

I, LEROY A. WILSON

grantor

of SALT LAKE CITY, County of SALT LAKE, —, State of Utah, hereby  
QUIT CLAIM to

GENERAL STEAM CORPORATION  
(a corporation organized under the laws  
of Utah)

of SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

grantee

ONE THOUSAND and no<sup>o</sup>.<sup>o</sup>oo

for the sum of

DOLLARS,

County,

the following described tract<sup>s</sup> of land, in IRON

State of Utah:

SILVER STAR,  
SILVER STAR No. 1,  
MURIE No. 13,  
MURIE No. 14,  
MURIE No. 12,  
SHAMROCK No. 1,  
SHAMROCK No. 2,  
SHAMROCK No. 3,  
SHAMROCK No. 4,  
SHAMROCK No. 5,  
SHAMROCK No. 6,  
~~SHAMROCK No. 7~~,  
SUNSET No. 2,  
EMMA,  
EMMA No. 1,  
IRON WEDGE,  
TRAMP,  
TRAMP No. 1, TRAMP No. 2,  
BAUER JAY,



WITNESS, the hand of said grantor, this 20th day of  
AUGUST —, A. D. 1927.

## INVENTIONS

Wilson's inventions are numerous. There are several categories. Inventions he patented. Inventions he mailed to himself to document the time of discovery (examples on pgs. 84 & 85), that were unpatented, and inventions that were in process of patenting, but were not completed. As he ran out of funds, it was impossible for him to continue the long, legal process to obtain patents. The actual patents found in the United States Patent Office are listed below and there are a few patents in foreign companies.

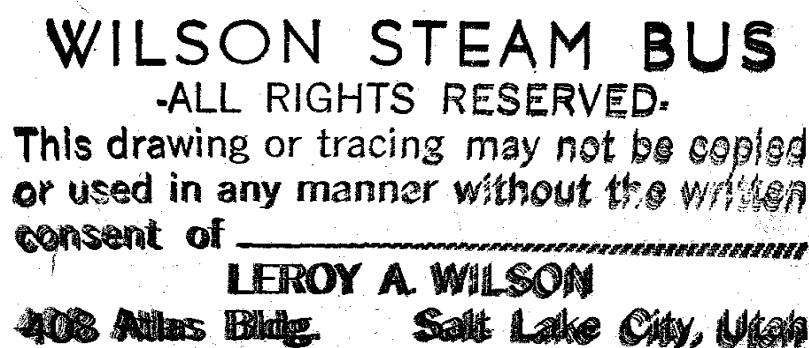
Patent No. 1,927,107 Vapor Generator filed 24 Mar 1924 granted 19 Sep 1933 (same as 115,991)  
 Patent No. 1,987,952 Charge Preheating & Reduction Device filed 9 Sep 1930 granted 15 Jan 1935 (s/a 378,009)  
 Patent No. 2,087,393 Drop Feed Counterflow Heater filed 9 Apr 1928 granted 20 Jul 1937 (maybe s/a 262,822; 270,368; 277,901; and 254,492)  
 Patent No. 2,316,982 Apparatus For Grinding & Separating Ores filed 15 Apr 1938 granted 20 Apr 1943  
 Patent No. 2,712,222 Regenerative Rotary Motor filed 18 Oct 1943 granted 5 Jul 1955

Wilson's inventions that follow are those applied for, some rejected, and some patented. Others were probably dropped. Janice listed many of the inventions, but there are others not listed.

Date	Invention	Number	Country	Comment	Disposition
Feb 9, 1925	Fluid Motor, Internal Combustion Motor & Rotary Pump	8000	US	Rejected May 20, 1925	Sub. Spec & ? May 17'26
Jan 21, 1926	Generator Unit for Vapor Engines (1) Notes	082, 834	US	Rejected in May ?	
Mar 12, 1926	Non-Rebounding Resilient Support	094, 363	US	Rej. May 23'26	Drawings following?
Mar 24, 1926	Reversible Rotary Motor	096, 997	US		x
Mar 24, 1926	Reversible Rotary Motor	"	US	Duplicate	
Apr 17, 1926	Working Substance for Heat Engines	102, 814	US		x
May 29, 1926	Cycle for Utilizing Working Substances & Mechanism Therefore	112, 704	US	2 copies-not exact	LAW notes on 1st
Jun 14, 1926	Steam Motor with External Rotor	115, 990	US		x
Jun 26, 1926	Grinding Machine	118, 870	US		x
Sep 1, 1926	Working Substance for Heat Engines	129, 624	US		x
Sep 1, 1926	Fluid Heater	129, 793	US	Amended 3 times	
Sep 1, 1926	Rotor Motor	129, 794	US		x
Sep 1, 1926	Rotary Pump	129, 795	US		
Sep 1, 1926	Double Expansion Rotary Motor	129, 796	US		x
Oct 21, 1926	Sleeve Valve Compound Rotary Fluid Motor	141, 006	US		x
Nov 24, 1926	Regenerative Rotary Motor	150, 543	US		x
Dec 24, 1926	Resilient Supporting Means	156, 979	US		
Feb 3, 1927	Cycle for Utilizing Working Substances	165, 739	US	Abandoned	x
Feb 15, 1927	Automotive Vehicle	168, 375	US	2 copies-not exact	Rejected twice
Mar 7, 1927	Balanced Flow Control Device	173, 416	US		
Apr 11, 1927	Hot Air Heater	182, 909	US		

Date	Invention	Number	Country	Comment	Disposition
Apr 11, 1927	Automotive Boiler	182, 910	US		
Apr 11, 1927	Combustion Device	182, 911	US		
Apr 20, 1927	Steam or Vapour Generators	291579, 1927	UK		
Jun 27, 1927	Device for Imparting Heat to Fluids	201, 716	US		
Nov 3, 1927	Resilient Support & Driving Stress Transmission Device	230, 917	US		
Nov 11, 1927		232, 666	US		
Nov 11, 1927	Automatic Thermal Device	232, 667	US		
Dec 12, 1927	Counterflow Water-Tube Boiler	239, 539	US		
Dec 12, 1927	Combined Periodic & Thermostatic Control	239, 592	US	2 copies* +Inventor	
Feb 15, 1928	Heat Exchange Apparatus	254, 492	US		
Mar 19, 1928	Counterflow Heat Exchanger	262, 822	US	Rejected	
Apr 16, 1928	Down Draft Fluid Heater	270, 368	US	Rejected Feb 13, 1929	
May 15, 1928	Vertical Tube Superheating Boiler	277, 901	US	Rejected Mar 1929	
Jun 29, 1928	Preheating Feed Device for Furnace	289, 230	US	"	
Nov 12, 1928	Ignition System and Element	318, 987	US		
Dec 8, 1928	Spiral Flue Water-Tube Boiler	324, 590	US		
Dec 8, 1928		324, 728	US	2 copies-not exact	
Jan 7, 1929	Safety Control for Burners	330, 884	US	with Gustav A. Johnson	
Jan 11, 1929	Self-Supporting Water Tube Boiler	331, 759	US		
Feb 2, 1929	Down Draft Fluid Heater	336, 988	US		
Apr 22, 1929	Base-Outlet Air Heater	357, 049	US		
May 17, 1929	Apparatus for Heating Water or Other Fluids	333891, 1929	UK		

Here is a picture of a stamp he used to protect his invention of a steam bus.



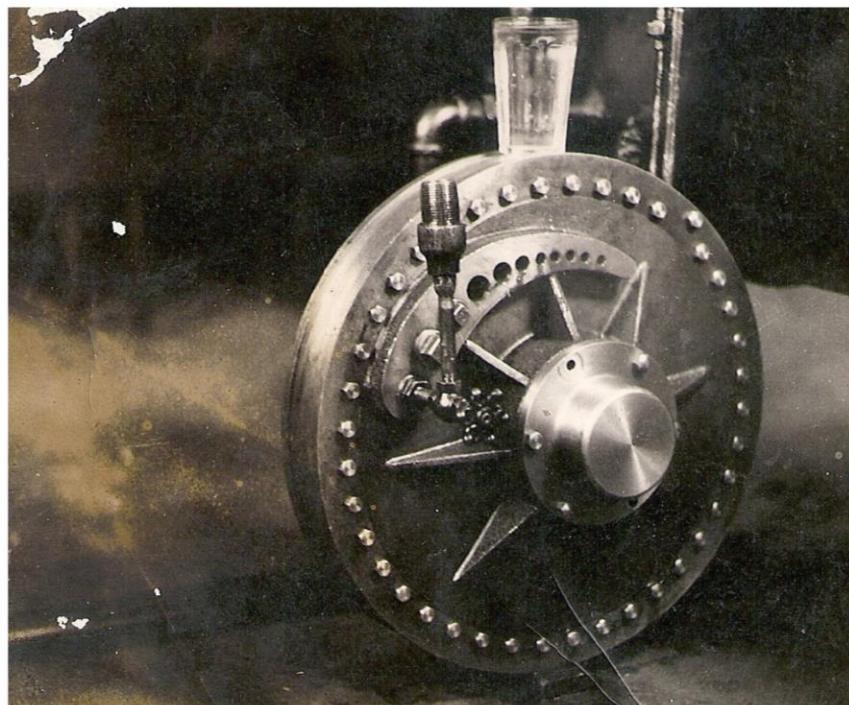
Date	Invention	Number	Country	Comment	Disposition
May 27, 1929	Resilient Suspension for Vehicles	366, 311	US		
May 27, 1929	Automatic Heater	675, 790	France		
Jun 8, 1929	Automotive Generator	369, 510	US		
Jun 8, 1929	Heater	369, 511	US	With Gustav A. Johnson	
Jun 20, 1929	Automatic Heater	372, 398	US		
Jul 13, 1929	Ore Reduction Apparatus	378, 009	US		
Oct 2, 1930	Feed Mechanism for Metallurgical Furnaces	32283 (1930)	Mexico		Granted US Jan 15, 1935 #1,987,952
Mar 10, 1932	Steam Airplane	598, 080	US		
Jan 24, 1936	Combine Utility	60, 563	US		
Oct 12, 1938	Ore Dressing	234, 673	US	Atty in DC	
Aug 25, 1943	Combined Utility	499, 876	US		
Sep 22, 1943	Rotary Motor and Turbine	503, 454	US		
Oct 18, 1943	Regenerative Rotary Motor	506, 678	US		
Oct 18, 1943	Regenerative Rotary Motor	506, 678	US		Granted US July 5, 1955
Feb 2, 1933	Der Resonanzdampfmotor (The resonance steam engine)	571, 067	Germany		
Sep 3, 1929	Wheel Rotary Motor	390, 175	US		
	Fluid Tube Vapor Generator	115, 991	US		Granted Sep 19, 1933, #1,927,107
	Combined Utility	499, 876	US		

Pictured at right are Margaret, Veola, and Lee in front of Wilson's Office with some of the workers in the background about 1937. This is where Wilson spent much of his time. He invented. Lee built.



## LAW Ideas not submitted to Patent Office (Sealed in Envelopes)

Aug 25, 1925	Steam Car: steam turbine to drive fluid transmission, having motors directly upon axles or wheels; two-wheel, four-wheel drive	216 Ness Bldg., SLC
Sep 1, 1925	#16: Wilson Steam Car (WSC)	487 Seventh Ave., SLC
Sep 1, 1925	#16: Wilson Steam Car (WSC). To show hook up for heat exchanger used to equalize heat to prevent necessity of using too high condenser pressure	487 Seventh Ave., SLC
Oct 10, 1925	Caveat #66 - WSC - Chassis	526-7 Atlas Block, SLC, UT
Nov 8, 1925	WSC	487 Seventh Ave., SLC
Feb 13, 1931	Process for Producing Magnesium from Magusite or Dolomite	8 x 12 paper
Nov 2, 1933	Regenerative-Binary Cycle Power Plant and/or Wilson Steam-Air Automobile & Power Plant	Signatures: Geo H. Budd, 3 large sheets 10.5 x 1 M. N. Wilson, J.S. Barlow, H. Watkiss
Dec 27, 1933	Combined Heating, Cooling, Air Conditioning, Hot Water & Electric Generating Unit	Drawing by S. Clements Horsley, 347 Madison Ave., New York City
Dec 27, 1933	Warm Air Furnace - System for Small Houses - Down Draft Oil-Burning Type	Ditto
Jun 22, 1934	Reduction & Smelting Process and Furnace	Two sides
Ditto	Steam Power Cycles, Combined Steam & Internal Combustion Cycles, Compressed Air Drives & Included Cycles, etc (refers to previous caveats)	One side 10.5x17
Sep 20, 1934	How to Secure 100% Thermal Efficiency & Eliminate the Condenser	Geo H. Budd, Veola Hatch, 3 large sheets 10.5 x 1 L.H.Bates



Wilson's steam engine ran so smoothly that a glass of water set atop of it would not vibrate or fall when it was in operation.

## LAW Ideas not submitted to Patent Office (Sealed in Envelopes)

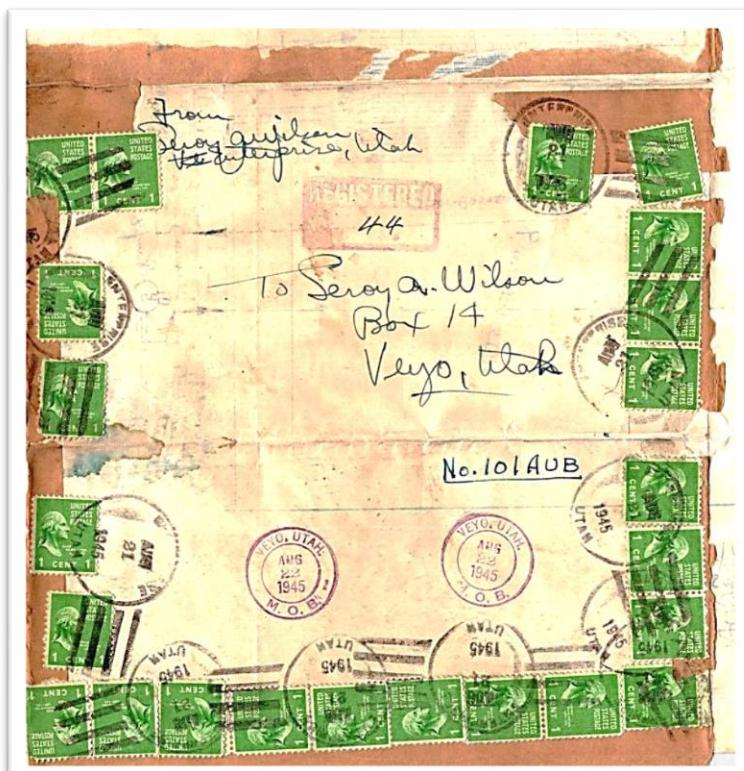
Date	Title	Address/Description	Comment
May 24, 1923	Wilson Steam Boiler & Car		
Jun 13, 1923	"	General Delivery, SLC	
Jun 19, 1923	Drawing, no title (Dated May 24, 1923 inside)	216 Ness Bldg., SLC	
Jul 23, 1923	Concept for Steam Car		
Sep 23, 1923	Method of Diagnosis by Viewing Bodily Aura	from Ness Bldg. to: 523 11th Ave., SLC, UT	
Mar 18, 1924	Boiler Fluids	533 11th Avenue, SLC	
Mar 18, 1924	Method & Apparatus for Conversion of solid hydrocarbons into liquid hydrocarbons	533 11th Avenue, SLC	
Mar 31, 1924	Solid Hydrocarbon Conversion Process	533 11th Avenue, SLC	
Mar 31, 1925	Process & Method of Power Generation	216 Ness Bldg., SLC	
Apr 14, 1925	Hydrocarbons	533 11th Avenue, SLC	
Apr 15, 1925	Power Generation in relation to General Fluid		
Jul 27, 1925	Wilson Steam Car (much greater detail)	533 11th Avenue, SLC	
Aug 17, 1925	Ignition energy stored under high pressure & used to power engine	216 Ness Bldg., SLC	

Picture of Wilson steam car.



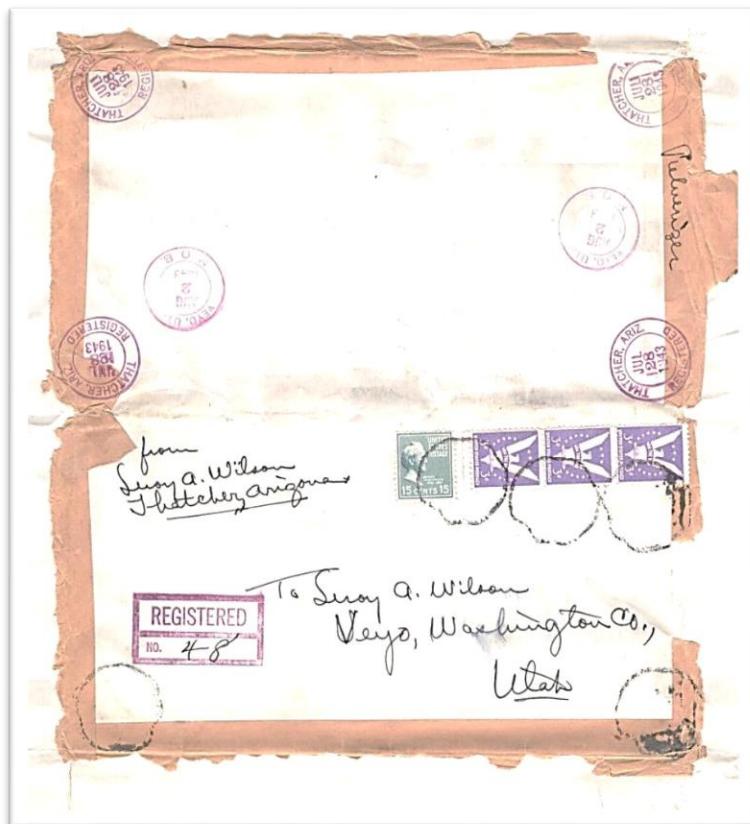
## LAW Ideas not submitted to Patent Office (Sealed in Envelopes)

Oct 15, 1934	Coal Carbonization Process & Instrumentalities	SLC: MN Wilson, Earle Heath, Geo H. Budd, Orva E. Lybbert, L.H.Bates	One large sheet
Jun 7, 1940	New Source of Power	P.O. Box 7, Enterprise, UT; Patent #125	
Jun 8, 1940	Steam Airplane Power Plant	Signatures: Wilbur Fox, JE Churchtown, WL Rasmussen, Veola Hatch	6 legal size blue sheets
Jun 12, 1940	New Source of Power	WL Rasmussen, JE Churchtown, Bert L. Wilson, John Heinzelman, Wilber Fox, Milo Nielsen	4 legal size sheets to Enterprise address
Jun 13, 1940	Steam Airplane Power Plant	Bull Valley, Ut	
Jun 13, 1940	Oil or other Fluid Burner (Engine Cycle & Burner)	P.O. Box 7, Enterprise, UT	
Aug 23, 1940	Combined Airplane & Helicopter; Patent #132	941 E. 13th South St., SLC, UT	
Nov 28, 1940	Method & Process for Disintegration Materials & Separating Values obtained	P. O. Box 14, Veyo, Utah	
Jan 10, 1941	Method, Process & Instrumentalities for Treating Ores	P. O. Box 14, Veyo, Utah; No. 200	
Apr 30, 1941	Drawing, no title	Wilson Engineering & Co.	
Aug 4, 1941	Bullet-Proof Steel, Armor Plate and the Like	Witness: Douglas M. Todd & Todd McClannsey	from LAW at Barclay Hotel, LA, CA; to LAW in Enterprise, UT
Aug 4, 1941	Wilson Chlorine Cell-Also Production of Caustic Amalgam	Ditto	from LAW at Mesquite NV



## LAW Ideas not submitted to Patent Office (Sealed in Envelopes)

Sep 27, 1941	Process for Treating Dolomites, Overton Magnesite or Dolomite and the Like. Also applies to other Metals as well	Enterprise address. Wit: W.L. Rasmussen, J.E.	
Apr 27, 1943	Ore Process & Instrumentalities; #1007	from Tuscon AZ to Veyo	Large Sheet: 17 x 21" folded like envelope &
Apr 30, 1943	Disclosure & Specifications: Tout One Mine + locating placer claims	Kanab, Ut enroute Bull Valley	Ditto
May 1, 1943	Letter re problems with development above	to: Mr.O.H. Stark, Pres., Ross Contracting Corp. Deseret Lodge Motel, Tucson, AZ	
May 28, 1943	Method of Disintegrating Ores	Ltr from Tuscon to Veyo	Large Sheet: 17 x 21' folded like envelope & stamped: 3 sheets,
Jun 5, 1943	Determinative & Extractive Method for Platinum Metals & Other Elements & Compounds; #888	Veyo to Veyo	
Jun 7, 1943	See Apr 30 above - same		
Aug 2, 1943	Wilson Copper Process	from Thatcher, AZ to Veyo	Huge Wall Drawing & text
Jul 23, 1943	Self-Dumping, Non-Flouring Centrifuge	from Thatcher, AZ to Veyo	Large Blueprint +text
Aug 17, 1943	Combined Hot-Water Heater & Refrigeration or Combined Utility		
Oct 25, 1943	Wilson Copper Process	Wilson Engineering & Co.	Huge Wall Drawing
Oct 26, 1943	Combined Helicopter & Airplane	Mesquite, NV to Veyo, UT	



Date	Title	Address/Description	Comment
Apr 28, 1944	Helicopter, Jet Propulsion, Combined Compressor, Steam Power plant	Boulder City, NV to Veyo	Witnessed: Dr. Frank P. Wheelwright &?
May 24, 1944	Lifting & Propelling Aircraft	Veyo	Interesting Note
Jun 1, 1944	Helicopter, Wing Shifting, Hydraulics, etc.	Veyo	
Jul 10, 1944	Helicopter No. 65	Veyo	
Aug 26, 1944	Volatilization Process, Cathod, Positive, Charged Particles	Veyo	
Aug 28, 1944	Briquetting roll cokeless.....using soft coal	Veyo	
Aug 28, 1944	High Velocity Projectile...spining device	Veyo	
Sep 1, 1945	Atmospheric Power Plant; and (2) Cathode Fountain		Large sheet, two separate ideas witnessed and notarized
Mar 18, 1946	Traction Wheel, Patent App # 503, 454	Gunlock to Veyo	
Mar 29, 1946	Cement re housing	Ltr. to Douglass M. Todd, Washington, DC	
Apr 1, 1946	Metallurgical Process & Instrumentalities	Veyo	Large Sheets, witnessed and notarized
May 8, 1946	Steam Vehicle Drive	Veyo	
Jan 3, 1947	Extruder		
Jan 13, 1947	Perlite		
Jan 15, 1947	Extruder & Die Caster		
Jan 15, 1947	Pressure Heating and/or Melting Die Casting		
Mar 18, 1947	Steam Engine		
Feb 1, 1947	Reciprocating Piston & Fluid Pressure Cylinder		
Feb 1, 1947	Die Casting Machine		
Jul 14, 1948	W.G. Cycle Powerplant	Veyo	
May 31, 1950	Revolutionary Tractor	Wilson Engineering Co.	
Apr 25, 1952	Deseret Supersteamer	Veyo	

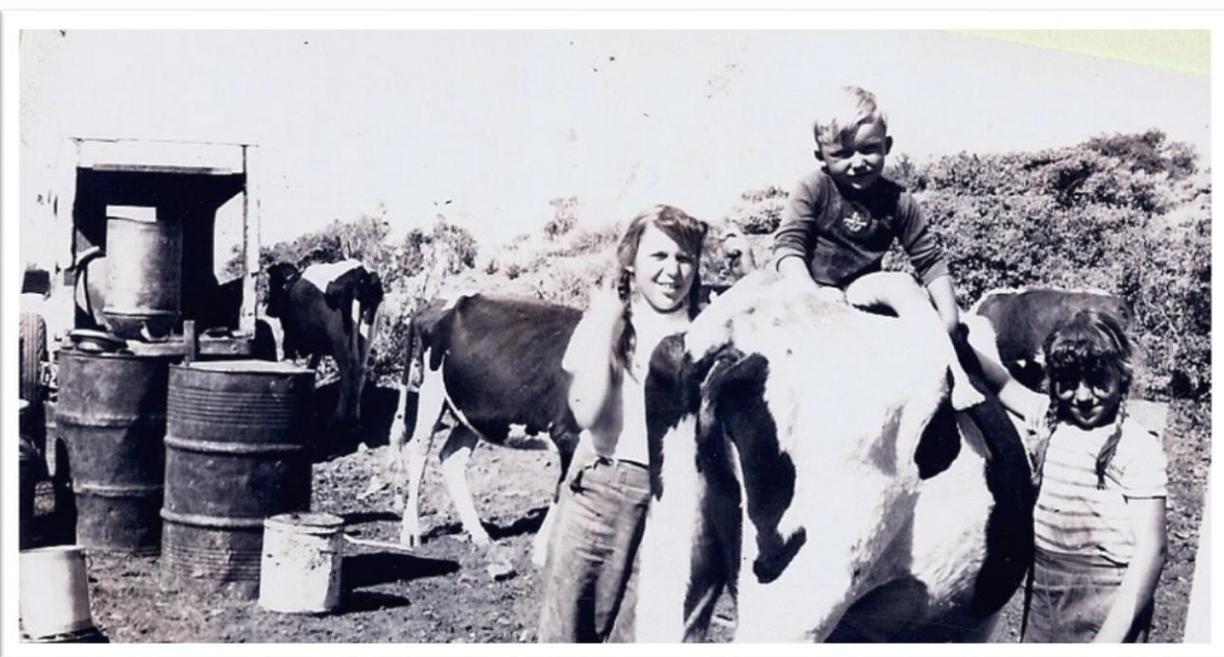
Wilson showing one of his inventions, a boiler.



## LIFE AT CAMP III

Wilson often came out to cut feed for the cattle in the evening. I can see him with his scythe in one hand and a huge bundle of alfalfa slung on his shoulder. When the feed gave out in the hills closer to camp and in our small pasture, the cows would be herded higher up for better feed. That meant we would have to go up the road towards Enterprise about three or four miles to the crest of the hill with the milk wagon type truck that had the running boards we were fond of riding on to milk the cows. From the picture below, it looks like we took water to them also so it was labor intensive. We were probably milking about 12 cows. Pictured below are Marcia, Aaron, and Klara.

One evening when we were through with our milking and feeding operation, we got in the milk truck to go back to camp and the truck would not start. Night was coming on and we didn't have flashlights or anything to make us comfortable to spend the night, but spend the night we did, sleeping on the bare hard wooden boards of the milk wagon truck. The men were all away from camp doing assessment



work so it was up to us to solve the situation. It was a chilly, miserable night as I remember and when morning came and again the cows were milked, we walked back to camp. Veola became quite expert in fixing cars. I can remember her working on a car by the shop so she would have transportation to get to town.

Porcupines would get in the garden and destroy our crops. Lee would sleep in the garden sometimes to kill off some of them. The dogs stayed with him and Sport could not get it right...he chased the porcupines and got their quills in his snout more than once. I don't recall Shep being quite so foolish. Then we had to use pliers to pull out the barbed quills. It was no fun for dog or man.

Once when I returned from rounding up the cows for milking with only part of them, Wilson asked why I hadn't driven the rest down. I replied that I thought the rest of the cows would follow the ones I headed home, but I was also afraid of the skittish horse I rode. He was fond of trying to unseat his riders. His answer was, "I am not interested in excuses, but results." That made a lasting impression.

Beekeeping was Lee's area of expertise, but we all participated. The hives were moved from place to place to capture the best honey. When it was time to harvest the honey, we would go out on site where the hives were or sometimes the hives were brought to camp. We heated the uncapping knife over a fire then skimmed the top layer of wax off the honey comb. Then we put the honey comb frames in the triangular frame inside a big barrel that had a crank on the top. Next we turned the crank which spun the honey out of the comb into the bottom of the barrel. The honey comb frames were then put back into the hives. The hives would be taken someplace warm for the winter. Here we see Lee trying to capture some of our bees that had swarmed and are at the lower right of the picture. Janice, Aaron, and Veola watch.



to pump water to the garden above. It was a big job to keep the garden watered. Some of the sprinklers had to be moved manually.

At the beginning of the growing season, it was typical to eat a green called: pigweed green. It was steamed and we put butter and salt on it. It was quite mild and that together with eggs, whole wheat

The pond with Aaron on his own home-built raft with Shep, the big yellow dog is pictured at left. Janice is standing and holding on to an inner tube. They are probably age six or seven. I don't know if Wilson gave them swimming lessons in the pond as he did Marcia and I. I did not like swimming in the pond because of the unknown surface below and the moss that grew in it. The pond was formed by damming up the stream that ran through the canyon. There was an engine mounted on a platform on the edge of the pond. It was used

bread and pancakes, homemade cheese were the mainstays of our diet until that huge garden started producing.

Simmering big pots of fresh green beans for dinner was typical as they came into season early along with peas. Creamed peas and new red potatoes was a favorite dish. We all learned to weed and pick what was grown in the garden. I remember my father showing me how to weed. He'd done his share of weeding sugar beets. Whole wheat bread and butter and honey were served, too. There was a strawberry patch and strawberries were served with delicious thick cream. The diet was very vegetarian, but now and then, one of the chickens was killed.

We learned how to make cottage cheese and cheese. We used a hand-powered churn to make butter. Every morning and night the milk had to be run through the separator which was powered by hand. Cleaning the separator was the biggest part of the job. Of course, milking the cows was even more work. I struggled carrying a huge full bucket of milk from the corrals to the cook shack. Sometimes Lee would appear from nowhere to carry it. Milking the cows was pretty much up to the kids, but sometimes the adults, Lee, Veola, and only occasionally our father helped.

One summer day I came happily skipping into my father's office to offer him a big glass of fresh squeezed citrus juice. He called me his merry sunshine. I felt loved and accepted.

When local fruit came on at Chadburns, we went there to pick it. My favorite crop was the Himalaya berries, big juicy red/black berries. Veola made delicious berry pies. We learned to can and dry fruit and vegetables. We laid sheets out on the roof of our sleeping quarters because they were flat metal and then put apricots, peaches, and apples out to dry.

We canned outside over an open fire sometimes or inside on the cookstove. Then the jars of canned fruit and vegetables were taken to the cellar. We learned to make bread and pies and cook on a wood cookstove. Our wheat was purchased, but there was a mill in the back of the shop where wheat was ground into flour.

We learned to chop wood and keep the cook fires going and how to regulate them for best cooking results. Once when only Marcia and I were at camp, on a cold, rainy summer day we were not having luck starting a fire. Marcia put some liquid on it, probably gas or kerosene, and when nothing happened she peered in to see if it was catching on what was smoldering, when poof the fire caught and singed her eyelashes and eyebrows. This was not good news for a teenager!

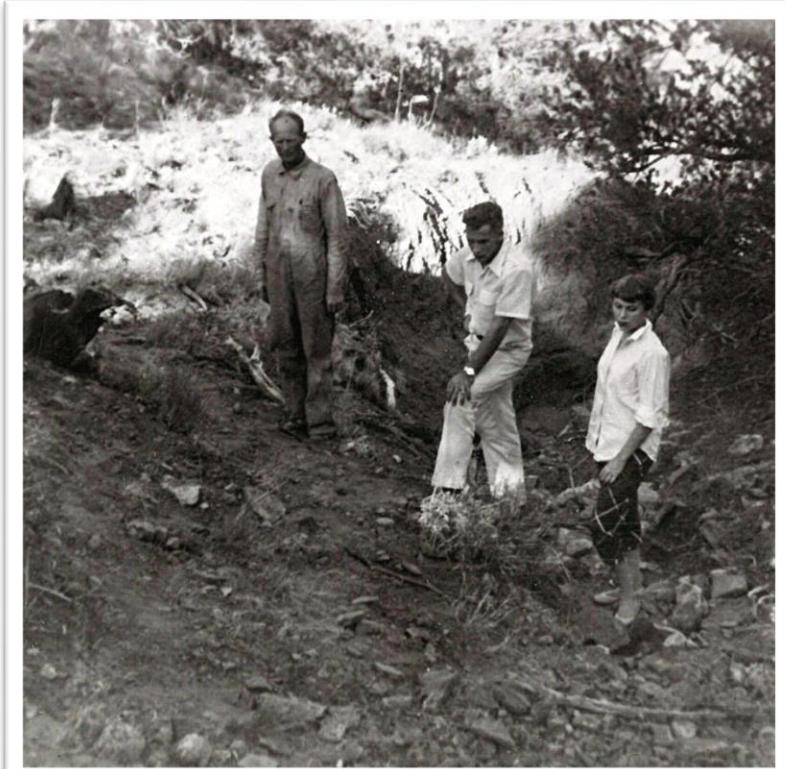
Occasionally in the summer we would make ice cream. We would buy big blocks of ice in St. George, haul to camp, put in an old coca cola insulated metal box with a lid on it, cover with burlap and sawdust which was located in a grove of trees. Veola would make the ice cream base with eggs and cream and milk. Someone had to chip the ice to fit around the hand-cranked ice cream freezer and layer it in there with salt to reduce the temperature of the ice. When the turning got hard, the ice cream was ready. We would sit in the cool shady grove and eat our delicious ice cream.

Wilson, Lee, and Veola were friends with people in Veyo, Gunlock, and Enterprise. They did business with some of them. Before my time they charged goods at both Veyo and Gunlock stores in exchange for General Steam stock. We went swimming at the warm springs in Veyo. They did not go to church in Veyo or Gunlock, but we did keep the Sabbath day in respect to not working. From time to time we partook of the sacrament, but not every Sunday. I don't remember who blessed it. Only necessary

chores were done. The shop was quiet. We always had family prayer around the breakfast and dinner table which was our midday meal and in the evening before we retired. After Wilson died, we attended church in Veyo.



taken inside the shop. When you entered the shop from the south and walked about ten feet, you could turn right and go into an area divided off from the shop with a wire like partition. Inside that area was a tool and parts storage area. Three of the perimeters were lined with floor to ceiling shelves with baskets to store tools and parts and the rest of the space also had the same floor to ceiling shelves with storage which occupied about three rows. You can see the windows ready for installation. I don't know what the purpose of the huge coils was. The next picture is of Lee in overalls, Guy Walker, and Marcia all studying the erosion that a recent downpour had caused. There was an earthen dam between the road continuing on to Enterprise and Camp which had two spillways. It provided a way to cross the canyon. Aaron and Janice liked to play in the spillways. Torrential rains often threatened to take out the dam.



## WILSON'S REMAINING YEARS

Wilson did business with Tout Copper Mines – Ross Contracting Corporation to supply them with a pulverizer that has at least a 10-ton per day capacity. Mr. Ross will pay them \$1,000 for the pulverizer and if they deliver it within 30 days from the date they receive the materials needed, he will give them a bonus of \$100 for every day they deliver early and fine them \$100/day for every day they take longer than 30 days to deliver. Here we see evidence of how they earned money to keep going.

Wilson's only means of communication in his isolated "camp" outpost was to write letters. Mail came into the surrounding towns of Veyo, Gunlock, and Enterprise. There is correspondence to mining and manufacturing companies, officials at every level from local political leaders up to and including Pres. Truman, officiating officers of the Church, polygamist leaders like Joe Musser, the patent office, health magazines, etc. He made his voice be heard. He believed in speaking out on any subject he found disagreement with or thought his ideas could influence. He uses every opportunity he sees to further his goals. He often goes into detailed explanation about how his inventions and processes work which go on for pages.

In a 1948 letter addressed to Bud, which was a nickname Mima used for her brother, Roy Wilson, she tells how much their mother has declined and that her sister, Annie, is even doing worse. She also responds to his inquiry about our Rowe line. She asks him to put her on the list of customers for honey and tells him Milo's remains arrived and the funeral will be when Conway can get there in a week. Milo died in WWII. He and Bert were close friends. She urges him to come visit their mother. Instead he writes a letter to his half-brother Earl about treating his mother right and hurrying up and getting the house ready for her.

It is interesting to note in his correspondence to Veola and Lee in January of 1948 from Las Vegas, NV where he was trying to get finances from platinum to plough into perlite construction, that he concludes with these two sentences in two separate letters: "Hug that boy for me and tell him his Uncle Roy misses him" and "How is Aaron, pictured at right, coming. Does he ever ask about his 'Uncle Roy'? Tell Aaron and Veola I sure miss them and would like to be back." Aaron called Lee by his first name. When Aaron got old enough to want to know who his father was, Veola would not tell him. She evaded the question. Wilson vacillates between optimism and discouragement at this time with phrases like "Good luck to all. We're on our way!" and "I have been dejected for two days." "I am busted but happy, because I got up from my feet after praying yesterday and had a feeling come to me like taking a heavy load off my shoulders and I felt the time had come for things to turn." Yes, they were about to turn, but in an unexpected way.



In these 1948 January letters dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> he often writes he can't understand why he hasn't heard from Lee and/or Veola who are at camp. On or near the 18<sup>th</sup> he writes Lee again and says, "I wrote Milt Holt (proprietor of the store in Gunlock) today to go up and see what is wrong. We are all alarmed and wondering if something has happened. If you have to, get sufficient gasoline from Milt. Money is terribly short here. M. gave me \$2.00. (This probably is my mother, Marta) I have been quite a drain to them, but we'll make it somehow." He isn't staying at the Uvada Motel where we lived apparently because he says he is in unit 37 and there were only 12 units or separate cabins at the

Uvada Motel. In a 1/18/1948 letter from Wilson to Mr. Coulter of Henderson, NV, we learn he is at the Oasis Auto Park in the 1800 block in North Las Vegas. In 1950 we see interaction between Wilson and Ed Churchtown, a machinist who does work for Wilson. Ed and his family came summer after summer to help and then he worked a full job to support himself and family in LA besides helping Wilson. 1952 correspondence reveals that Ed is building a Heavy L. Machine which seems to be something to help with mill construction.

The winter of 1949 was very severe. I'm not sure what motive those at camp had for writing HELP in the snow, but that request was met by the local authorities battling their way there with supplies to assist and rescue only to be met by Wilson, who yelled out his welcome with, "Did you bring the mail?" Their story made the newspapers, even the *Deseret News* on 2/2/1949 front paged their plight and the rescue efforts under title of: 2 UTAHNS SET OUT TO SAVE 4 AT ISOLATED MINING CAMP.

In the **1950's** the Korean War begins, General Douglas MacArthur is fired by President Truman for comments about using nuclear weapons on China, Charles Schultz's comic strip Peanuts is first published, Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes president in 1952 and serves two terms, Rosa Parks incites the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Jonas Salk develops polio vaccine in 1955. In 1957 the Civil Rights Act is passed and the Soviets launch Sputnik which begins the space race, TV blossoms with shows like I Love Lucy, See It Now with Edward R. Murrow, the Today show, and Bonanza and the era ends in 1959 with Alaska and Hawaii becoming states.

A letter from Veola to Carlos Stevens dated 1/17/1950 bears out the extremism she, Lee, and Wilson displayed the longer they were isolated in the hills of southern Utah. She tells Carlos how she has healed her 83 yr. old ill mother by throwing away all her drugs, making her fast, treating her with herbs and natural foods and relates how she gradually improved and could walk around. Veola thinks she can get her well enough to even work again. She teaches her the Gospel she has fought in year's past and says "disobedience to these truths caused her strokes and I know I am right." Veola's mother died the following year.

She also preaches about the need to protect ourselves in the last days. "He (Wilson) saw that the time had come for desolations and destructions to start and that in order to live thru them we would have to build enclosures that would house us, our cattle, etc. against hailstones, pestilence, earthquakes, destructions, etc. and that in the tops of the mountains was the place to do so. ...food grown in these enclosures will cause them "to live long lives and it was a forerunner to becoming young and fruitful again and this renewal would let a select few live on into the millenium to perpetuate the earth." Veola also urges Carlos to help them protect their properties.

Carl Stevens, his son, came to camp to help. Having Carl around in the summer was like having an older brother to help out. He and Marcia neatly taped a gash on my head I received by landing on the rocks by the stream when our horse, old Nellie went plunging down the hill from the Enterprise road to the mill and executed a 90 degree right turn.

In the early 1950's we also see evidence of Ellis Cripe making a part typed and part hand-written contract for \$500,000 from sale of stock as consideration for royalty on iron, coal , green stone, soil builders, or other sales of materials drawing royalty to be cataloged and set up in a contract. It is further agreed that F. A. Heaton and L. E. Cripe will upon payment of an additional \$500,000 be given royalties on the mineral resources other than the Cox Comb claims. I doubt if any or at the least very little money actually was paid.

In December of 1950 Wilson writes to: "Dear Children...This is my Christmas Gift for you." He recommends that we study the scriptures daily. Most of his letter is about the terrible latter-day destructions prophesied in the scriptures. It is a full four pages about destructions and escaping to the tops of the mountains. "Nearly 3 years past I saw all this in a vivid dream and was told to write this to as many as I could and warn them that the beast was about to complete the destruction of the whore, babylon."

This Christmas letter is representative of what he preached over and over in the evenings as we gathered. Those evening scripture readings and his interpretation of them filled me with fear.

When I was in college and Professor Reed H. Bradford read us the story of "The Other Wiseman" at Christmas time, I concluded I would rather die doing good along with all the other people, than live in fear all my life dreading the "last days" and trying to physically protect myself. We know today from our Church leaders that emergency preparedness, provident living, and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our protection.

In January of 1952 we see correspondence indicating Wilson, pictured at right, is trying to get a loan from the federal government to develop his super jet aircraft engine. There is correspondence to the Honorable Richard Nixon, a Paul J. Smith of El Cajon, California, the Department of the Navy, Office of Naval Research. Wilson is advised that he must make complete disclosure of his invention in order for them to evaluate the possibility of a project with him. Lydon B. Johnson is in the loop also.

Wilson says, "I built and operated the Counterflo Factory in Salt Lake City. It is still operating and they say making good money." Bert says he lost his patent for Counterflo when the company went out of business. "I invented and designed this heater and boiler, and set up the complete manufacturing schedule and facilities for its production. We operated our own foundry and did our own machining." I don't believe the Counterflo water heater continued to be manufactured. If someone else reorganized and manufactured it, I do not know who they are.

In a 22 February 1952 letter from Wilson to Senator Wallace F. Bennett in Washington DC about the loan application, he claims that the geological field investigation which was an unfavorable report on their iron ore properties was unfair. He continues "it is a plain case that our old enemies, the steel trust and the LDS Church officials, are doing everything in their power to prevent us from getting under way." He asks which of their five iron ore properties they were referring to. Many assay reports and reports



from others like Murray O. Hayes, a geologist as well as a patent attorney and an engineer last name of Benson of Utah Construction Co. disagree. They report abundant iron ore. He also says Christian Vrang of Evanston, Wyoming is qualified to assess their lands and offers to participate in the cost if necessary. He says they can refine the iron ore into sponge iron, iron powder, ductile gray iron, steel or alloy steel.

He keeps in touch with other inventors and corresponds with them. He writes to Round Mountain Gold Dredging Corporation in Round Mountain, NV about getting gold that he can further process and sell.

He tries to sell a Mr. Harry L. Lindell of Las Vegas in Jan of 1952 on an engine he claims goes 300 miles on a gallon of fuel oil. He is trying to raise money for the guillotine production. The guillotine was needed to cut the green stone. An example of the green stone can been seen in an Enterprise chapel. At right is a truckload of green stone ready to go to market with an unknown person in white t-shirt and Lee Rasmussen.



In correspondence between Paul J. Smith VP 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank and Wilson in early 1952, Mr. Smith, who evidently was trying to raise money for him says that "some facts and figures, names and addresses where we sought sources of capital might be helpful when you prepare the RFC forms." They are:

1. Mr. Robert A. Bisbee, Me and Mr. Scott, CA – declined, but thought there was opportunity to make money
2. Mr. Fenton of Nat'l. Steel & Shipbuilding declined, \$100,000 insufficient to manufacture steel
3. Mr. Powell, Kaiser Steel, CA – didn't need anymore iron ore
4. Mr. Fred Johnson, ore buyer, more interested in platinum
5. U. S. Steel, UT – declined – don't want to do business with anything belonging to L. A. Wilson
6. Portola Trading Co. want to ship 500,000 ore to Japan, but Gen. McArthur fired and no response
7. Bank of America, CA – don't want to finance outside of CA. Loan amt. \$1,000,000
8. Ventures, Inc., CA - You know the story on this
9. Utah Banks which you are able to tell about

From this communication we learn that iron ore has declined to interest investors in CA and in Utah and the one possible interested party does not want to do business with him.

In July 7, 1953 Wilson gives Ed Churchtown, instructions in a letter on the pump he is machining. He chastises him for not cooperating fully and asks that he send \$50 a month to him out of his \$400 month (salary). "There is



no sense your fighting me. I'm your friend and working like a slave to benefit you all." The picture above was found in Wilson's belongings and may be representative of what the enclosures would look like. At left are Janey & Ed Churchtown, Roy Wilson, Veola Hatch, and Lee Rasmussen.

Wilson reveals that Veola and Lee administered to him because he had "a strong feeling I would experience an attack upon my life". At the beginning of the administration he sees a heavy-set fellow from the

other side, angry and wanting to get at him, but during the blessing, he vanished. In the concluding paragraph he further relates, "I have been sternly given to understand this is no foolishness nor can we dillydally nor be lightminded. ...only by getting these enclosures, metal production in small furnaces a few men can handle, and like coordination can we save ourselves.

We must positively control our own food production and our own metal production and fabrication steps. That precision casting method is a BIG step forward. I have now been shown how to make metal and also recover another semi-noble metal, at the same time, and use nothing but charcoal.

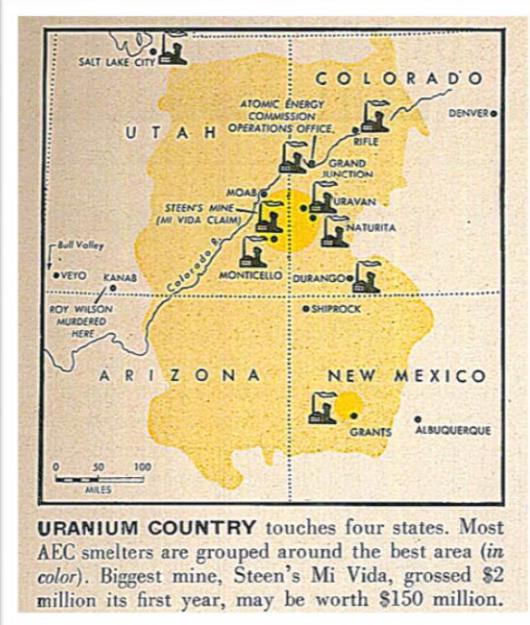
In August 1953 he writes to a Bob McCord (a steam friend) about being healthy and to Herbert M. Shelton of Shelton Health School in Texas about where to find mangoes. He says white sugar is "a horrible poison". He recommends to Dr. Mendelsohn in Brush and Morgan, CO to feed their cattle green succulent foods because when they feed them beet pulp, they will shrink on the way to market. Says he discovered there was more than 5 elements necessary for bodily health and that his professor, Dr. Greaves about flunked him. He details the materials he has discovered for the production of food and to build enclosures, agrees with him that chemical fertilizers are bad and people should compost, talks about his steam inventions. Says he has published articles in the Feb 1953 issue of Auto Sport Review and in July-Sept 1953 issue of Light Steam Power and decries the "greedy rulers and satanic crafts, especially the pill-rollers, the vivisectionists and the germ-theory school."

In September 1953 he writes a 5-page letter to Mr. Carl R. Guth of Phoenix, AZ about his steam engine and a similar letter in October 1953 to Mr. Van Buren. November 1953 he writes to Dr. James McEachen's Hygienic Haven in Escondido, CA in answer to his inquiry for some mineral that will enrich the soil. In this letter he decries the danger of the atomic bomb testing and thus the importance of the enclosures to avoid this pollution. He reveals "I am not proposing this (enclosures) as a money-making scheme. My inventions and mineral holdings will likely make me all the money I can use as they are developed, but ...struggling for dollars to do development work." And "I would far rather have an interest in some of these enclosures, along with some good, fine intelligent people of goodwill, than to have anything else in this world."

In notes I took from Marcia prior to my talk at the Nielsen reunion in 2009, she said: "Roy's intentions in my opinion were good. He believed deeply in polygamy and God and his purpose and mission in life as he saw it: his steam engine, healthy food, preparing for the second coming and the truth as he saw it. As a teenager close to the time her father died, Marcia observed: "As a seventeen year old I experienced a time when just he and I seemed to be alone at camp. He was playing his harmonica and I got this overwhelming sense that he was a lonely person and very sad. His life was a tragedy, his dreams were not fulfilled, but he kept slogging on. The more isolated he was, the more eccentric he became."

In December of 1953 a lease agreement for the Radiance Lode, #1, #2, Sandy 1, 2, 3; Radian 3, 4, 5 located in Sec. 25, Twp. 42 So., R. 2 W, S.L.B. & Mer.

was made between Leroy A. Wilson, Trustee of Veyo, Washington County, Utah, first party and **Mr. Cyril Thomas Holland** of Beryl, Iron County, second party. These lode claims are situated on White Mountain in Kane County, Utah. Mr. Holland "is desirous of prospecting for and mining uranium ore from said claims and processing said ore to remove the uranium." Holland pays Wilson \$190.00; agreement is



URANIUM COUNTRY touches four states. Most AEC smelters are grouped around the best area (in color). Biggest mine, Steen's Mi Vida, grossed \$2 million its first year, may be worth \$150 million.

made about other minerals than uranium are owned by Wilson; Wilson/Holland take a 50% split of anything they get from Atomic Energy Commission; term of lease is for six years; lease can be terminated if it is not profitable; Wilson to supervise the erection of the processing plant and operation of plant; Wilson agrees to obtain 85% grade uranium; if Wilson fails to operate, Holland can suspend the \$500/month payment. Holland agrees to pay a 5% royalty on uranium; pay ½ of all bonus payments to Wilson; perform all annual improvement labor; Holland to pay Wilson \$190 for Jan and Feb of 1954 and by March 1954 the \$500/month payment is due; to erect a processing plant on said premises within 12 months from date capable of processing said ores not less than 15 tons of ore daily and processing plant will stay on property when lease expires. There are other conditions, but the above is sufficient to illustrate the nature of their agreement which seems written to give Tom Holland an option to withdraw at any time if it is not profitable with no penalties. The copy is not signed.

The inset information below and the map of uranium lands on pg. 95 are from Life magazine July 1954. Although there is evidence in his correspondence through the years that he is willing to make a deal in any way to make his enterprises happen, he does primarily want to have control of the land, inventions, and management. In the case of the uranium, other claim owners were leasing. In much of his letters in the uranium fever era, he advises against dealing with the AEC. He, no doubt, wanted to put his own mill into operation and mine the ore himself thus making a greater profit and cutting the AEC out of the picture.

county courthouses. A good claim is worth a lot of money since the AEC pays bonuses for the first 10,000 pounds of ore from new discoveries—from \$15,000 to \$35,000 depending on quality of the ore—plus generous base payments and transportation allowances.

As the pay-off increased, so did the cries of claim-jumping, leading in some cases to violence. But the boom went on and 550 firms now sell ore to the AEC. Eight mills process it, more are being built. The expanding industry now employs 8,000 people, not counting the hundreds of prospectors who climb canyons and mesas, hoping to make the big discovery.

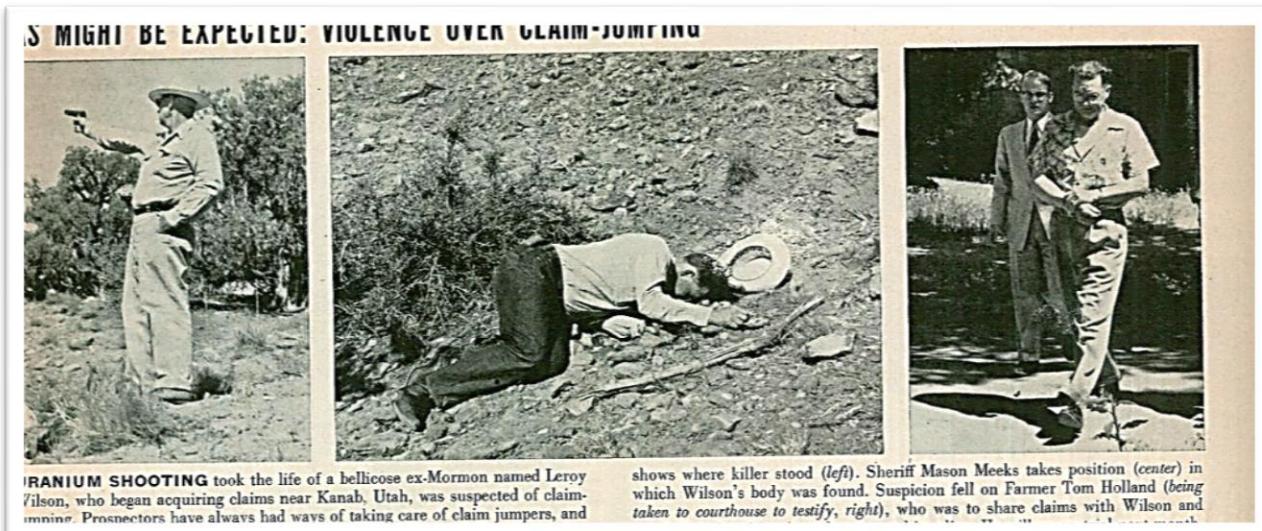
Sam Taylor, after visiting camp early in 1950's, depicts Wilson as a balding, virtually toothless, promotor who will not let anyone else get a word in edgewise in a conversation. He thinks he is a phony. He and his brother wrote a book called "Uranium Fever" in which they state that Wilson deserved to be killed. They do not have a good word for him.

## THE MURDER

The following correspondence occurred between Jan 1954 and 18 May 1954 from Leroy A. Wilson concerning uranium.

1. Letter from LAW to Tom Holland, Esq. of Beryl, Utah date of 1/15/1954 re: carburetor mfg.
2. Letter from LAW to Tom Holland 2/18/1954 re: uranium agreement on Radiants, Holland not living up to terms of lease, no money, no assessment work
3. Hand-written letter from LAW to Tom Holland, (Case 115, Ex D-4) date of 3/30/1954 cancelling lease on Radiant Group Claims as per their conversation.
4. Letter from LAW other parties interested in uranium mining: Fay Hamblin, Jack Church, Franklin Heaton, Bud Kent dated 4/8/1954 saying they cancelled Radiants lease to Holland who was to have had \$15,000 cash on hand and could get \$75,000 as soon as lease was signed, not to sign with AEC and did not act as agreed and is telling them what they need to do if they want to mine uranium.
5. Letter from LAW dated 5/15/54 P. O. Box 312, Kanab, Utah to Vic Bullock of SLC, UT" regrets incident with Mr. Zirker, but neither of us suffered save for our pride," outlines success for uranium mining; appears Bullock is an interested investor
6. Letter from LAW dated 5/17/1954 to Durham Morris and Stanley Bradshaw of Cedar City, UT about lease with Holland, need to use his ore milling process on the ore, invites their participation instead of trying to outsmart him.

Tom Holland was accused and tried for Wilson's murder which occurred 18 May 1954. Wilson was sixty-two years old. He was shot from behind with 5 bullets from a .45-caliber pistol. Three shots entered his back, one shot went into his arm, and one shot into his face. The local sheriff, Mason Meeks, was more of a rancher than a sheriff. Holland had an alibi provided by the Zirker teenage daughters. Wilson had had a fight a few days earlier with Zirker. Zirker and Holland were allied in some way.



From Life magazine, titled "As Might Be Expected: Violence Over Claim-Jumping" July 1954, we see Sheriff Meeks, first demonstrating the angle the gun was at when Wilson was shot, the position our father was in when the sheriff found him demonstrated by Sheriff Meeks, and Tom Holland going from the jail to the court house to testify.

The murder of Wilson hit the national news again when Time magazine published "The Geiger-Counter Murder" on Monday, September 6, 1954. Here is a synopsis of the article: "In the West's 20<sup>th</sup> century uranium rush, only one prospector thus far has been dry-gulched in 19<sup>th</sup> century fashion. He was Leroy Albert Wilson, a brawling, bullying Utah claim-jumper, whose body was found near the Kanab uranium strike with six .45 bullet holes in the head and back and a Geiger counter still clicking in his hand. The sheriff promptly arrested Wilson's prospecting partner: Tom Holland, 49, a jovial, six-foot settler, who had driven off with Wilson the day of the murder, but came back alone. He claimed that he had dropped Wilson, returned early to carouse with friends. 'You've got a fast horse and a long loop, sheriff,' said Tom Holland, 'but you've got the wrong man this time.' There were no other suspects in sight, but several trial witnesses supported Holland's alibi. No murder weapon was found.

Lee Rasmussen, Wilson's loyal friend and collaborator wrote a passionate letter to Time Magazine in June of 1954 denouncing their report on Wilson. His letter is dated June 1, 1954 and here are some excerpts:

"Reference is made to your May 31, 1954 issue of Time magazine and particularly the libelous article you printed on page 19 against the character and reputation of Leroy Albert Wilson, 62, Veyo, Utah, who met death at the hands of a foul assassin the afternoon of May 18, 1954 at Kanab, Utah."

Lee says that he talked to their reporter McCullough for a half-hour giving him the facts. He says he has known Wilson for 20 years. McCullough instead of reporting facts, "preferred to dig deep into the slimy gutter to bring up much to smear a great man's character and to carry the torch for the liberation of the murderer. Mr. Wilson was not an outsider, as you state, but has owned property in Kane County for no less than 14 years, and has made that county his place of residence for a portion of every one of those years. His visits there have been frequent and a great many residents are his lifelong friends."

"He is not a brawler. Such language is libelous to the extreme, calculated to give the impression of lowdown, disorderly, drunken, repulsive personality. Mr. Wilson was never in all his life anything of the kind. He possessed decided opinions, and if occasion called, he never hesitated to express the same."

"You call the man (Wilson) a claim jumper and a bluffer. I challenge you to prove a single case where he took over any other man's claims by either of those methods. On the contrary, I can show you where (Holland) facilitated the jumping of several of Wilson's claims by one intimate comrade named Zirker, et al. I can also show that when there appeared to be a conflict in mining claims, Wilson justly entitled for the ground withdrew his claim or gave a quit-claim deed to the other party."

"Tom Holland was never a partner with Wilson, nor have they fought and made up and fought again. All Tom's pretended dealings with Mr. Wilson turned out to be phonies. Only this murder can explain them. The maneuvering of a blood thirsty criminal to entice a victim into a secluded spot and there fill him full of lead while his back was turned is an act of treachery and cowardice only equalled in my opinion by your own character assassination of this noble gentleman."

The Deseret News on May 22, 1954 publishes under title, "Utahn Faces Prospector Murder Count" in Section B, pg. 1, Kanab — "A Utah farmer-prospector was charged with murder Friday in the fatal shooting of another prospector in the hills southwest of Kanab. Cyril T. Holland, 49, Beryl, Iron County, was charged with the death of LeRoy Albert Wilson, 62, Veyo, Washington County. The charge came after a three-man coroner's jury had met in the Kane County Courthouse.

Wilson's bullet-riddled body was found Wednesday afternoon by a posse led by Kane County Sheriff Mason Meeks. He had been shot five times with a .45-caliber pistol. Testifying before the coroner's jury, Sheriff Meeks said he had been called at 2 p.m. on May 19 to investigate the disappearance of LeRoy Albert Wilson. He said that he and Orville Robinson, Kane County rancher, had gone to a spot southeast of Kanab where they had been informed a car had been parked.

Sheriff Meeks said he and Mr. Robinson followed the tracks of two men for 1 ½ miles to the southwest. He said they found Wilson's body at the end of the trail. Wilson was described as clutching a piece of uranium ore in his left hand. His body was lying atop a scintrometer, an instrument used to detect presence of uranium ore.

The Kane County sheriff testified that the tracks of the two men separated a short distance before the spot where Wilson's body was found. He said the shells were found about 12 feet from the body of the victim. Tracks of Wilson's companion were not found within 14 feet of the body, he said. Sheriff Meeks then told of returning to Kanab to obtain Dr. George R. Aiken. Dr. Aiken testified that any of the wounds found in Wilson's body could have resulted in death. He told the coroner's jury that there were no signs of a struggle surrounding the body.

Following the testimony of Sheriff Meeks and Dr. Aiken, the press was excluded while other witnesses testified. At the conclusion of the testimony, the jury ruled that Mr. Wilson "came to his death by gunshot wounds inflicted by a person unknown." Jurymen were Preston Bunting, Merle Shumway and Norris MacDonald, all of Kanab.

Following the inquest, Holland was arraigned before Kanab Justice of the Peace A. T. Wakeling. He asked time to procure counsel. A date for a preliminary hearing was not set." More than one newspaper in the intermountain west picked up the story. From a clipping in my possession which does not say what newspaper or what date and under the story line of "Utah A-Miner Discovered Shot to Death", Kanab, Kane County comes their report:

"The bullet-riddled body of a 62-year old uranium prospector was found Wednesday evening about 7 ½ miles southwest of here. Leroy Albert Wilson, 62, Veyo, Washington County, was found dead by Kane County Sheriff Mason Meeks who had instigated a search for the man. Wilson had been shot five times. Sheriff Meeks said the victim had been shot three times in the back, once in the head and once in the arm.

"Held in Probe – Tom Holland, Beryl, Iron County, was being held 'for investigation of murder' in the Cedar City Jail. The complaint on which Holland was being held was signed by A. T. Wakeling, Kanab justice of peace. Sheriff Arthur Nelson of Iron County said that Mr. Holland's car was seen in the vicinity of the murder scene. He said that when Mr. Wilson was reported missing Tuesday night a search was organized Wednesday. The body of Wilson was found about 5 p.m. by Sheriff Meeks and Merrill Johnson of the Utah Highway Patrol. Sterling R. Bossard, Richfield, district attorney for the Sixth Judicial District which includes Kane County, said he intended to go to Kanab Friday in connection with the case.

"Held Iron Claims – Mr. Wilson was reported to have held many iron claims in the Bull Valley district of southwestern Utah. He also held many uranium claims throughout the southern part of the state. He was reported to have been investigating uranium claims at the time of his death.

"Leroy Albert Wilson was born March 16, 1892, in Midvale, a son of Charles Milo and Martha Jane Wilson. He was a graduate of the Jordan High School and the Utah State Agricultural College. Following his graduation from USAC in 1916, he attended Reserve Officers' Training School at Ft. Sill, OK. He served during World War I and was discharged as a second lieutenant.

"After his discharge he became an oil geologist. Mr. Wilson was also the holder of many patents and patent applications ranging from water faucets to ore dressing processes. He also invented several steam boulder accessories and had built a steam car. He had been living at Veyo, Washington County, since 1936.

"Mr. Wilson is survived by his former wife, Mrs. Margarite Nelson Wilson, Ogden; two sons, Leroy Albert Wilson Jr., Burley, Idaho, and Gerald Wilson Soleberg, San Diego, CA; two daughters , Mrs. Margret Pohl, Ogden, and Miss Goldie Wilson Soleberg, San Diego; three grandchildren; two half-brothers, Charles W. Thornton and Earl Thornton, Midvale, and a sister, Mrs. Mima W. Nielsen, Midvale."

Marta was visiting Roy when word came to me through her employer, Lily Childers, that my father was dead. Marta was on her way home. Wilson was supposed to have a brown brief case that was missing from his hotel room when Ellis Cripe looked in on him the day after the murder and it was not there. Our mother has a brown brief case and whatever was in it, we do not have as she probably gave it to Lee and Veola, if it is one and the same. If she told us about the brief case, I do not remember her story about it or the circumstances around his death.

Wilson's death was a shock to his whole family. The driving force was gone. I was sixteen at the time and after many tears and a period of time, it felt good that the veil of secrecy we had lived under was gone. That was a relief. Aaron shares this sentiment: sad our father died, but relieved. Being a child of a polygamist was difficult, but it was also difficult because the longer he stayed at camp, the more eccentric and out of touch with civil society he became. He tried to succeed at many things and none of them resulted in any permanent income or success. He had his little successes here and there, but only enough to keep camp operating and that by a slim margin. With his death, all involved were free to live their lives without the heaviness we had all labored under. However, I doubt if Marta or Veola would agree with this.

Because he was excommunicated, the funeral was held at the mortuary, not in one of our churches. He was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery next to where his first and former wife, Marguerite Nelson would be buried at the expense of the military. Bert provided the burial plot.

Accusations that Wilson was a claim jumper crop up in several instances over his life. Were they true? Actually, he had owned property near and around Kanab for many years prior to the uranium boom. He thoroughly understood the mining laws. If others had claims and neglected to do assessment work, then they were available for discovery by other people. Not doing annual assessment work meant you no longer had an interest and others could take it over. Tom Holland and his friend, Zirker were more likely the claim jumpers. After Wilson's death, Veola and Lee wrote detailed notes showing they were guilty of jumping our claims. The residents of Kanab were nervous that the murderer had not been found and the case was considered cold.

In March of the following year, Lee received a message. It was opened in presence of Sheriff Johnson, Patrolman Merrill Johnson, and Veola. It was turned over to the Sheriff Johnson. The message said: "This means you and your clict There is some mining claiomes out East of Kanab on the Coxcomb Range.

That you better leave alone and keep hands off, iff there is eny body I hate it is a claim jumper you might end up like your partner did." The postmark is 17 Mar 1955.

Among Wilson's papers is a report titled Wilson et al VS El Toro dated March 27, 1955. Wilson was murdered about 10 months earlier on 18 May 1954. The writer is unknown, but is probably Lee Rasmussen. In the three page document the writer gives details of why Holland was the murderer and why there was no lease issued to Holland. The murder trial did not bring out all the details Lee or the writer of this document well knew of and so he is presenting his reasons and the facts he knows why things happened as they did. In the murder trial the alleged lease was kept out of court. Therefore, no motive could be established, Tom Holland had an alibi provided by the Zirker teenagers, and he could not be convicted even though public sentiment pointed to him as the murderer.

The writer claims that if the lease on the desired uranium property had been signed, no murder would have been committed, "the El Toro people would have had what they wanted, Wilson would have been banqueted and praised, made a great fellow, by them. Tom Holland would have acted very happy, having freshly obtained just what he wanted to get." That was not so.

Zirker jumped our ground in section 30 down to the dip to the east of the Radiance Claims and if the lease was signed, he would not have done that. The May 3 lease "did not contain the coveted Radiance Claims." Wilson and Zirker got into a fist fight over jumping of Wilson's claims. Wilson told Zirker to

*Claims jumped by Zirker*

Bullock's, Smith & Zirker ~~concessions~~ to  
Lilly No 1 placer, filed May 1, 1954 Book 5, p.  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 19, T 41 R 1W, dated 7 April, 54

Zirker #1 placer SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 30 T 42 S, R 1W, S.L.B.M. ?  
6 ~~May~~, 1954 filed May 7

Zirker #2 placer NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 30 T 42 S R 1W S.L.B.M.  
6 ~~May~~ 1954, filed May 7

Zirker #4 placer SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 30 T 42 S R 1W S.L.B.M.  
6 ~~May~~ 1954 May, filed May 7

Original Wilson Locations, in sec 30, 42 S, R 1W  
Aspect 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

stay off his ground and Zirker retorted, "he would (not)do so and he would bring a gun." Once again Wilson is about to be slapped with assault charges, although only fists were involved this time – no

weapons. The county attorney did not think there was cause for action." Zirker asserted repeatedly that he would kill Wilson.

Zirker and Holland then went to Justice of Peace Wakling to induce him to arrest Wilson on "charges of assault with intent to kill and wanted \$100,000 damages. Holland then asked, "That crooked S.O.B. county attorney and sheriff has been bought off. How about you, can you be bribed?" Wakling did not cave to Holland's demands.

Word was sent from Holland to Rasmussens after Wilson was murdered, "that if they would honor their ridiculous lease they would proceed to operate under its terms, otherwise they would jump our ground, take it away from us and give us nothing." Kane County Attorney Mackleprang thinks that the murder of Wilson was that of an organized gang. Holland told Ellis Cripe "that he would kill any man who double crossed him." Holland possessed a 45 automatic.

What was Holland's motive? To get uranium property. It was a hot commodity in the 1950's. In a letter from Lee and Veola Rasmussen of unknown date and only possessing page 2, this paragraph is revealing:

"It is quite evident that Tom Holland has backers with whom money is no object when it comes to accomplishing their evil ends. Tom is pouring it out like water around Kanab and those gullible people are drinking it up. All (in) an effort to purchase witnesses and favorable public opinion. Phil Allen stated to us while at Panguitch on Thursday February 16, that Holland had been to him and requested that he testify against the character of Wilson. Allen replied that he knew of nothing bad about Wilson. Holland then stated that it would be best for him to so testify. Allen informed us he is in fear of his life, that he had previously been informed Holland has threatened to kill him." This paragraph no doubt refers to the subsequent action Holland took against Lee and Veola to get title to the uranium mining claims.

Wilson was offered \$30,000 as a down payment by Allen to lease the Radiance claims and to give \$1,000+/month royalty for two groups of neighboring claims. Lee and Veola compile five pages of typed excerpts from Wilson's correspondence to prove that he did not have a lease with Holland. It may have been presented in court or at the very least given to aid the attorney in the murder trial.<sup>viii</sup>

Lee and Veola are distraught over Wilson's death. They knew Holland had to be the murderer, but the courts did not convict him. The murder remains a mystery and they struggle on to understand it and to carry out Wilson's and their business plans. By August 26, 1954 Tom Holland's trial is over.

The Southern Utah News headlines: Uranium Murder Jury Verdict – "Not Guilty"! Who Committed Cold-Blooded Murder? Acquittal of Defendant Cyril T. Holland Opens Door for Complete Investigation. Many thought Holland was guilty. The residents of Kanab felt like there was a criminal loose in their midst. However, it would be many years before this case turned from cold or unsolved to solved. Who killed Leroy A. Wilson? The murder weapon could not be found.

For Veola and Lee the evidence needed to convict Tom Holland would not come forth in their lifetime. Fifty-seven years after Tom Holland pulled the trigger and murdered with repeated shootings Leroy Albert Wilson, shooting him three times from the back, then once in the arm, and once in the head, testimony of his deed came forth. I would like to thank Larry Zirker for having the courage to reveal his knowledge of the crime. His father, Tom Holland, Lee and Veola Rasmussen have gone from this life, but the descendants of Leroy Albert Wilson are grateful to know another piece of the story of this crime.

Published in the Southern Utah News on August 26, 1954

## **Orderville Hearing Before Justice of Peace Edward Carroll Is Held Thur- Defendant Pleads Innocent**

The twelve man jury that has sat on the Uranium murder trial hearing of LeRoy A. Wilson, 63, who was found in a dry wash seven miles south of Kanab on May 18, 1954, with his body riddled by five shots from a 45-automatic pistol, returned a verdict of "not guilty" for the defendant Cyril T. (Tom) Holland after deliberating until 2:00 a.m. Thursday morning. The case was turned to the jury Wednesday at about 1:15 p.m.

### **Jury offered 4 points**

Offered four points in returning a verdict, namely: Guilty of murder in the first degree (which requires the death penalty). 2 Guilty of murder in the first degree with a recommendation of leniency (which requires life imprisonment). 3. Guilty of murder in the second degree (which carries a sentence of 10 years to life). and4. Not guilty, by Sixth District Judge John L. Sevy, of Richfield, the jury returned the above verdict.

Acquittal of the defendant opens the doors for complete investigation of the crime, which remains unsolved, and talk in this area is mounting to such proportions that the Attorney Generals Office will be asked to send top qualified investigators here, and possibly to call on the FBI in the case, if further investigations warrant.

### **Crime must be solved**

Citizens of Kanab feel that with the area nearing its first real development from uranium ore possibilities, oil and other prospects, that in all fairness to the people who have spent many years in developing and holding on to their lands and homes, that a complete and thorough investigation to solve the murder must be made. With the influx of expected, and present, people coming into the area they feel that security should be offered to these people, as well as protection to local members who own land and are developing the land.

Talk by prominent citizens Thursday, today, indicates that they will not be content with letting the cold-blooded killing go unsolved. There appears from testimony that there are many points that can be gone into to bring into light facts and further testimony that will open the case to the point of solving.

## COLD CASE NO MORE - Geiger Counter Murder – Cold Case or Hot?

The Southern Utah News published an article by Larry Zirker, the son of Zirker referred to previously on April 13, 2011 in which he told the following:

[by Dixie Brunner](#)



*"A Geiger Counter like this is used to detect radioactive uranium ore.*

The following personal account concerning the murder of Leroy Albert Wilson was delivered to the Southern Utah News by Larry Zicker, senior scientist/engineer for the U.S. Department of Energy in Idaho.

My name is Larry Zirker, and I once lived in Kanab, Utah. My parents bought a motel in Kanab in 1953 and I started the first grade, taught by Mrs. Peterson up on the hill, and started second grade in the new school that was built. My second grade teacher was Mrs. Fawn Robinson, and Mrs. Swapp was my third grade teacher. We moved to Page, AZ between my seventh and eighth grades.

I drove through Kanab recently and noticed much of the motel building and the apartments in the back are still there, but the barns in the back and trees have long been removed. The motel was located just west of the current Treasure Trails Motel. The building currently looks unoccupied. When I lived there, we had two nice patches of grass in the front. I can remember it was about 1957 and Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheads (Tonto and the Long Ranger) wrestled on my front grass two times during one summer. There used to be a restaurant next to the motel, and the excited customers were standing up and looking out the windows at these two early TV stars.

In 1954, great intrigue incurred in Kanab, Utah with the uranium prospectors, claim-jumpers and the Geiger Counter Murder. Money was to be made and had been made with uranium. The Geiger Counter Murder occurred in Kane County in 1954, and still is an unsolved murder. My father has been dead for years, and I thought that the Kane County Sheriff would like to have an unsolved murder taken off of the county records.

This story is a compilation of data that I got from my parents and sisters over the years. A few years ago I was on an airline flight from Salt Lake City, Utah to Tucson, Arizona, when the plane flew over Kane County. I could look down onto the Old Town of Paria and to where U.S. Highway 89 cuts through the Cockscomb Ridge. At that time I thought I should tell the story.

From the plane I could see the rough road and uranium discovery site that had to be blasted out that was just north of the cut and on the west side. It is quite visible by car as you drive the highway, but most in the county don't remember how or why the road was built...it was uranium.

My dad had a gunnysack of the ore from that site in our back shed, and I use to shine a black light on the rock at night and see the uranium, plus we had a Geiger Counter that I used to turn on and listen to the clicking sound of the electronics.

### The Story

There was a man who lived in our motel named Tom Holland, who was from Beryl, Utah. He was a prospector looking for uranium. Tom got my father all spun-up about staking claims, and taught him how to put in the corner posts with the discovery documents for 20-acre parcels of land. Tom became a friend of the family and was often to dinner with us. As a young child (seven-years old), I can remember going out with my dad and dragging the long steel tape measure across the sagebrush flats. We staked uranium claims in the valley east of the Cockscomb Ridge cut and north of Highway 89 about 40 miles east of Kanab.

Another man, Leroy Albert Wilson, also lived in one of the back apartments of the motel with two of his men. One day my dad discovered that Wilson claimed jumped some of my father's and Tom Holland's claims. A claim jumper is someone who goes into the county recorder and gets his back-dated mineral claim documents recorded. My dad told me how Wilson would back-date or "jump" the claims. What he did was go to the county recorder with a little pay-off money, and back-dated papers. My dad and Tom found out about it when they noticed different discovery documents and corner posts on the land they had filed on earlier.

When my dad found out about Wilson jumping his claim and not being one to back down from anyone, he went out to the back apartment and told Wilson to get out of the apartment. Wilson was a bully and he had his men jump my dad and each grabbed an arm as Wilson came over to punch out my dad. My dad was short, but was stocky, and as a construction worker he was very strong. Just before Wilson could hit him dad broke free with his right arm and struck Wilson in the middle of his face, and knocked him down so hard that he stumbled back until he hit the wall, slumped down and passed out. Then dad told the other two guys to step forward if they wanted some of him. Needless to say, like most bullies, they packed up and moved out that night.

Late in his life, my dad told me how Holland then set up Wilson. Holland went to the county recorder and told him where he had discovered a high-grade ore out-cropping in a different part of the county. What he did was to take a piece of high-grade pitch blend (uranium) ore from Wyoming and showed it to the county recorder. He took a Geiger Counter and when the dials pegged, it made a great impression on the recorder. Then the recorder called Wilson as predicted and the next day or so Wilson went out to the site to jump it. But Wilson didn't know that Holland was there waiting for him and shot him six times with a model 1911 45 caliber Army service pistol as he walked around him.

He then went back to the motel and arrived before my sisters came home from school at 3:30 p.m. Tom's motel room was just down the hall from our kitchen and living room. Later that day he gave the pistol to my dad because dad had always admired and wanted it. It was a World War II service pistol. Well, when they found Wilson, the coroner had determined he was shot later in the afternoon. But Holland was at our home in the mid-afternoon, and my sisters were to eventually testify in court that he was there when they came home from school. My dad had cause to kill Wilson because he had a fight with him, and Wilson had jumped his claim.

When my dad found out about the murder, he hid the pistol in a one-gallon paint can that he had in his workshop. Dad had a whole wall in his workshop with dozens of paint cans.

In the murder lawsuit against Holland by the county, the county sheriff was no match for the old country lawyer Holland had hired. The lawyer, Mr. Pickett from Prescott, Arizona, had some 45-caliber casings, just like the ones the sheriff found around the murder site in his pocket. When he had the sheriff on the stand he took one of the murder casings and held it in his hand and asked if this was found at the murder site. The sheriff said, "yes."

Then Pickett pulled out several of his cartridge casings and mixed them up with the murder casings, asking him to pick out the one from the murder site, but he could not. The sheriff stated, "He didn't mark the evidence."

Mr. Pickett showed the sheriff lacked evidence gathering protocol and general professionalism, plus the county coroner said Wilson was killed late in the afternoon.

Well, Pickett, the evidence of witnesses and the coroner got Holland off. My dad told me that Holland privately admitted he killed Wilson, but since he had been acquitted, he was safe from prosecution. Once we went to see Holland in his dismal farm in the desert near Beryl, Utah, and caught trout in his pond.

My mother told me years later when I was at the university that Holland went crazy, and was put into an asylum for the insane.

It was the summer before entering the eighth grade, we sold the motel, and I was helping my dad box up things to move to Page, Arizona, where my dad had a construction job building the Glen Canyon Dam. I remember going through some things high up on the shelves where the paint cans were and discovered a partial box of 45-caliber 230-grain military full metal jacket cartridges. When I showed them to my dad, he turned as white as a sheet, and quickly took them away from me. These were the remainder of the cartridges used in the murder.

Years later he told me more of this story as we drove through the Cockscomb Ridge, and he showed me the uranium discovery made on the west side of the ridge just north of the cut.

He reminded me that I had been there years earlier. He then told me a few years later after the murder trial; he took the pistol out of the paint can and smashed the gun into dozens of pieces with his eight-pound sledgehammer on his anvil. (A side note is the anvil he used was his father's anvil, and I still have it in my shop). Then he put the pieces into a shoe box and on a drive to Zion National Park one weekend, he threw out a piece every few miles.

Now, as far as I know, the case has never been closed on the books of the Kane County Sheriff's Department. I believe my father could have been tried as a co-defendant because he had possession of the murder weapon, the bullets, and he had a motive. He actually obstructed justice by concealing evidence in a felony murder case.

On June 12, 2010, I was going to Page for my 45th high school class reunion and stopped in Kanab and talked with Sergeant Ted Bernard, the duty officer, about this story and he asked me to submit my story. The above paragraphs contain the story, as I was told or better yet, as I remember.

An interesting side story since meeting with Sergeant Bernard, I Googled the name of Leroy Wilson and discovered this Geiger Counter Murder has been written about in national publications 56 years ago. During this personal investigation, I discovered the two following articles: One published in Crime magazine in May 31, 1954 and another in the National Affairs magazine on September 6, 1954.

There are several errors in the stories I noticed, but I am sure the Crime magazine didn't have the best of journalist reporters. But it does include one important fact that I remember and that a Geiger Counter was used to entrap the victim, Leroy Albert Wilson."

Holland brought a civil suit after he was found not guilty of murder against the estate to try to get some of our uranium property. In this he failed. Others brought lawsuits against the estate: Antone Prince, Three Peaks Corporation, Justheim and Gorlinki, Harold Cline, Barnes, etc.

Veola and Lee were determined to carry on with Wilson's inventions and mining interests. There was no will, so there was a probate and Bert Wilson was appointed the administrator. Orval Hafen was the attorney. They got him and others to invest in possible business ventures, as always, with promise of future earnings through stock. Some money was paid for legal counsel, but Mr. Hafen tells them from time to time, he can't go on when the prospects of them succeeding are so slim and when they can't reimburse him for his services. He has to spend time with paying clients.

A 30 May 1956 letter from Orval Hafen to Lee and Veola advises, "I do not share your enthusiasm about all the great plans you hope to develop in the way of perfecting inventions, erecting mills and research laboratories, etc. there at camp. I also feel that you put more stock in dreams than you should. ... I also feel that you have an exaggerated idea of being persecuted by others, and I think you imagine a lot of schemes about how others are plotting against you that have no basis in fact. ... I know you folks feel a great deal of progress has been made by you in the past twenty years, but I am frank to say that it is hard for me to see. I think you have a rocky road ahead of you, and I just don't see how you are going to even keep your claims in good standing, much less develop them and erect expensive mills and laboratories without any capital to do it on. I think the sooner you realize that you must have outside capital to help you develop the claims and that you will have to lease to these big companies on much the same basis that they obtain leases from others, the sooner you will make some progress."

He urges them to describe all of their claims and property in order to form a corporation to which they could transfer the property and they are derelict in doing that. He sent a copy of the letter to Bert and says he just wants to get the estate wound up. Then he will step aside and let someone else handle their business who is more optimistic. Again in 11 February 1957 he reiterates the concern. On 28 March 1957 his patience is nearing exhaustion with Veola and Lee. The probate still is not concluded and he hasn't been paid. He requests that they release him from any further service unless they can pay him to finish the estate work.

Eventually, Lee and Veola gave camp up. They moved down to the Moody Creek where the county road either goes up to camp and on to Enterprise or forks down the canyon to Gunlock and out to US 89. In time they left that location as well and lived with Aaron and his family in Santa Clara.

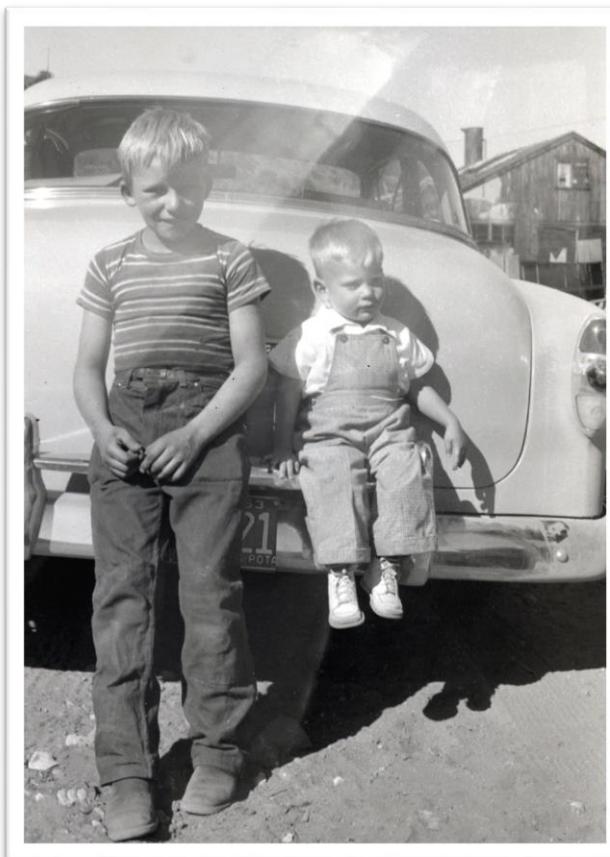


Rasmussen in the back of the truck. Margaret sent Doug to camp so he could have some of the experiences she had. He learned about his grandfather Roy's camp, but missed connecting with him as he was gone by then.

Aaron Rasmussen at right about age 8 with his visiting nephew, Lee Wilson, Bert Wilson's first child. The date on the photo which shows Lee with his father and grandfather is 1955 which tells us that the film was developed at least six months after it was taken probably due to the trauma of Wilson's murder. The shop is in the background. Notice its deteriorating condition.

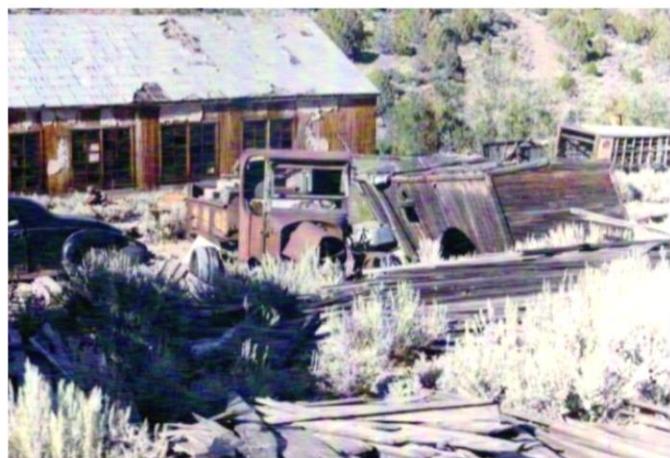
They waded through many difficulties after Wilson's death struggling to keep his dreams alive. They had put so many years into Roy's dreams and his beliefs that it was very difficult to give it all up. Lee and Veola were getting older and not able to meet the work demands of keeping camp going or do all the assessment work. Aaron was needing more contact with people and to finish his education.

The picture at left above was taken in June of 1958 and we see Lee Rasmussen, Klara Rowe, Margaret Pohl, standing in front of the open door of the pickup, with Doug Pohl and Aaron



## VISITS TO CAMP & SIBLING CONTACT

The family members came to visit camp from time to time. It was our home either in the summer or year round. So much of our life had gone into the hopes and dreams Wilson had. The following pictures show some visits from various family members. From left to right, Lee Rasmussen, Larry Adams and Marcia Rowe Adams with their first child, Michelle, Klara Rowe, Janice Rowe, Veola Hatch Rasmussen, and Aaron Rasmussen in 1958.



A visit was made in the fall of 1971 and the picture at mid left records the state of the shop at that time. The shop is still standing and rusted old cars and equipment are lying about. Eventually the shop burned down when it was struck by lightening.



The picture at the bottom is interesting because you can see part of the Be(kins) logo on the van. This van was Wilson's bedroom. On laundry day we would sweep out the vans, then pour the used laundry suds over the floors as a way to further clean them. The floors were wood slats and the water could drain through them and to the lowest point of the floor. Camp was a rough and dirty place. It was hard to keep things clean. This picture was taken about 1978 when Kyle Rowe Wright and Jason Adams, grandsons of Roy were about ten years old.

Camp was visited sometime about 1994. At right we see Michael Winterholler with his mother Patrice. He is a great-grandson and she a granddaughter of Roy Wilson. Equipment and cars are gradually disappearing from camp.



At right is pictured the foundation of the shop. It was struck by lightening and burned to the ground. It is hard to see it because sagebrush is growing through cracks in the cement foundation.



What remains of the mill can barely be seen in the photo at the bottom of the page. Only a few pieces of equipment remain. The earth has swallowed up much of camp.

In recent years I believe the county or Forest Service has razed the site so that little if any signs of camp remain.





About 1995 at the left the family is gathered around the famous pipe which tapped into the spring from which we had to hand carry drinking water for each meal. It was a steep uphill climb to the top. You can see the pipe with valve sticking out at bottom right of the photo.

Pictured at left are Patrice, Darin and Michael Orton, sons of Michelle Adams Orton, Klara Rowe Petersen, Nicole Clement and her mother, Janice Rowe Pascoe.



At left are Klara, Patrice, and Michelle. After Veola and Lee left camp, people would help themselves to whatever they liked. It didn't seem like private property to them with the usual residents not on site.



Other occasions brought us together. Nolyn, Janice, Marcia, and Klara attending Patrice and Chris Winterholler's wedding reception in St. George, Utah at the home of Patrice's father, Larry Staples on 22 May 1993.

Nolyn, Bert, Klara, and Janice are at a Nielsen Family Reunion (Mima's descendants) in May 2008 pictured at right where I gave a presentation on their uncle and our father, Leroy Albert Wilson. Janice also participated. It was well received and one of the comments I remember is that the best achievement of our father's life were his children.



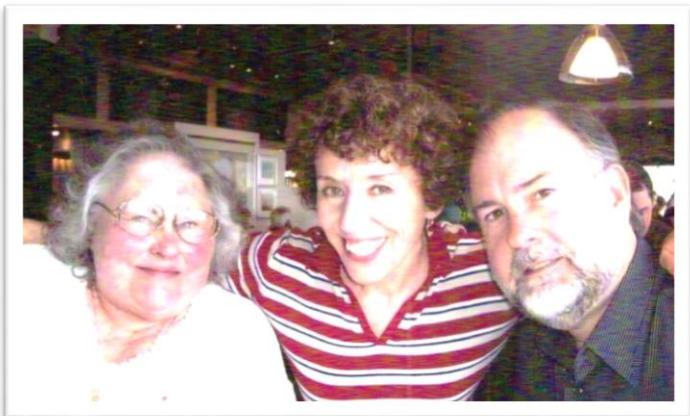
Bert and I pictured at right in Bert's backyard 28 Jul 2011 after we had lunch at Finn's. Bert turned 89 in September of 2012. Even though he wishes his wife was still alive and he had better mobility, he is very cheerful and optimistic. He's helped me understand and know things about camp I didn't know. He was born in 1924 and I was born in 1938 so we are 15 years apart in age – almost a generation.



The picture at right was taken at our mother, Marta's funeral with Janice, Klara, Marcia, and Aaron left to right on 26 August 1998.



The children of Leroy Albert Wilson have never been together at the same time. Bert and Margaret did not know of us when they were growing up, nor did Jerry and Nolyn. Different circumstances brought us together. Bert served as the administrator of our father's estate. I've sought him out through the years to try to understand my father's life and he has always been polite and kind.



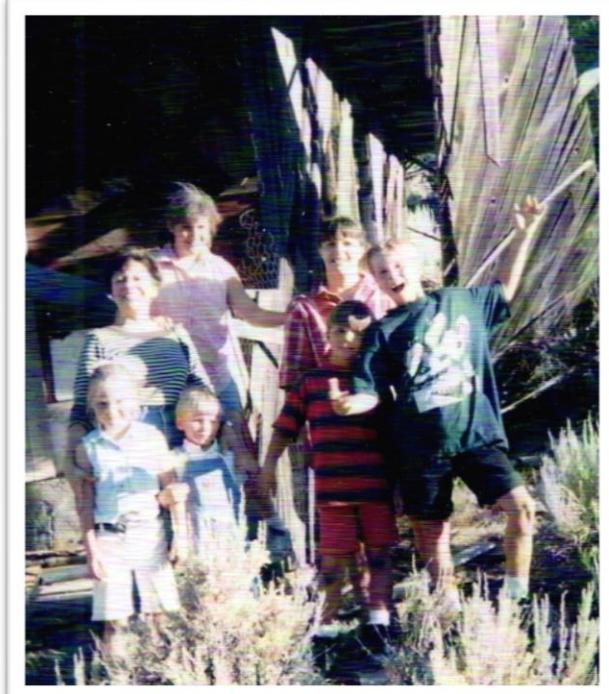
one marriage at a time! All but one of us have suffered through divorce and/or a broken marriage, some more than once. Bert, Marcia, Janice, Aaron, and I are active members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Nolyn and I were school teachers. Jerry flew planes. Bert was a financial officer. Janice was a process technician at a chemical plant. Marcia did not take on a career and Aaron was a heavy equipment mechanic/parts manager. Margaret was a manager at Hill Air Force Base. The descendants of Marta and Roy are 77 not counting spouses.

There are probably 12 through Goldie and Roy. Aaron, Veola's only child, has 8 children and his grandchildren number 16. Vilda had no children. Margaret had one child and one grandchild. Bert has three children and 36 descendants from them. The estimated descendants are around 150 or more.

One more camp picture showing children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Roy visiting camp about 1995. From right to left, Janice with Kelsey Orton and Michael Winterholler standing in front of her. An unknown person last exiting the cook shack. Michael and Darin Orton standing in front of their mother, Michelle Adams Orton.

Jerry and Nolyn did not know about their father until their teenage years. They did not have the same experiences the rest of us did at camp. Camp was a binding experience and common ground for all, but them. They were left out because of circumstances and I wish they had been able to experience it and so we could have known each other earlier in life.

None of us followed in our father's footsteps as far as being inventors or creating businesses. All of us were monogamous,



## PEDIGREE OF LEROY A. WILSON

<b>4 Joshua NICHOLS</b>	b: 21 May 1783 p: Massachusetts, United States m: 3 May 1810 p: Massachusetts, United States d: 4 Aug 1854 p:	<b>8 Thomas NICHOLS</b>	b: 15 May 1732 p: of Connaught, Ireland m: 7 Nov 1765 p: Massachusetts, United States d: 24 May 1812 p: Massachusetts, United States	<b>16 Mr. NICHOLS</b>	c: abt 1700 d:	33
<b>2 Joshua Rufus NICHOLS</b>	b: 15 Mar 1831 p: Manlius, Onandaga, New York m: p: d: 11 Dec 1902 p: Salt Lake, Utah, United States	<b>9 Elizabeth PIERCE</b>	b: 10 May 1742 p: Massachusetts, United States d: 6 Oct 1829 p: Massachusetts, United States	<b>17 Nancy MCBRIDE</b>	c: abt 1705 d:	34
<b>5 Sarah COOK</b>	b: 11 Jun 1788 p: Massachusetts, United States d: 5 Jan 1846 p: Detroit, Michigan	<b>10 Levi COOKE</b>	b: abt 1766 p: Massachusetts, United States m: 27 Apr 1785 p: Massachusetts, United States d: 24 Dec 1843 p: Massachusetts, United States	<b>18 Samuel PIERCE</b>	b: 3 Jun 1706 d:	35
<b>1 Leroy A. WILSON</b>	b: 16 Mar 1892 p: Midvale, Salt Lake, Utah m: 25 Jun 1919 p: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah d: 18 May 1954 p: Kanab, Kane, Utah	<b>11 Achsah SMITH</b>	b: 20 Aug 1765 p: Massachusetts, United States d: 26 Jun 1805 or 5 Jun 1809 p: Massachusetts, United States	<b>36 Samuel PIERCE</b>		
<b>sp: Marguerite NELSON</b>		<b>12 John Pearson SMITH</b>	b: 21 Aug 1812 p: Pennsylvania, United States m: 27 Aug 1835 p: of Pennsylvania d: 20 Jun 1885 p: Salt Lake, Utah, United States	<b>37 Abigail JOHNSON</b>		
<b>6 Albert SMITH</b>	b: 24 Aug 1837 p: Bucks, Pennsylvania, U. S. A. m: 28 Nov 1859 p: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah d: 15 Feb 1915 p: Midvale, Salt Lake, Utah, USA	<b>13 June Hart UPDYKE</b>	b: 4 Mar 1815 p: Bucks, Pennsylvania, US d: 28 Oct 1892 p: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	<b>38 Gershom FLAGG</b>		
<b>3 Martha Jane SMITH</b>	b: 25 Sep 1860 p: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah d: 30 Oct 1948 p: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	<b>14 John ROWE</b>	b: abt 1814 p: of Hunterdon, New Jersey, USA m: 19 May 1834 p: New Jersey, United States d: p:	<b>39 Hannah LEPPINGWELL</b>		
<b>7 Josephine Augusta ROWE</b>	b: 6 Jul 1841 p: New York, United States d: 21 Feb 1917 p: Midvale, Salt Lake, Utah	<b>15 Jane Schofield SMITH</b>	b: 25 Feb 1814 p: Pennsylvania, United States d: 7 Apr 1895 p: Salt Lake, Utah, United States	<b>40 Westwood COOK</b>		
				<b>41 Joanna COOKE</b>		
				<b>42 Ebenezer SMITH</b>		
				<b>43 Hannah BOLTWOOD</b>		
				<b>44 John SMITH</b>		
				<b>45 Esther COLTON</b>		
				<b>46</b>		
				<b>47</b>		
				<b>48 Joseph SMITH</b>		
				<b>49 Ann SMITH</b>		
				<b>50 John KITCHEN</b>		
				<b>51 Phoebe PIDCOCK</b>		
				<b>52 Samuel OPDYCKE</b>		
				<b>53 Jane HART</b>		
				<b>54 Robert MERRICK</b>		
				<b>55 Hannah MC MASTERS</b>		
				<b>56</b>		
				<b>57</b>		
				<b>58</b>		
				<b>59</b>		
				<b>60 Joseph SMITH</b>		
				<b>61 Ann SMITH</b>		
				<b>62 John KITCHEN</b>		
				<b>63 Phoebe PIDCOCK</b>		

## INDEX

Aaron, 1, 4, 16, 19, 22, 23, 24, 39, 48, 50, 64, 79, 80, 81, 83, 99, 103, 104  
**Alan Nielsen**, 48  
**Albert Gardner Goodrich**, 41  
**Annie LaVilda Johnson**, 4, 25  
Arthur W. Gregerson, 57  
**Bert**, 8, 14, 15, 17, 28, 29, 34, 45, 49, 51, 53, 57, 61, 62, 63, 82, 85, 92, 98, 102  
Brian C. Hales, 16  
Bull Valley, 1, 23, 33, 39, 41, 42, 48, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 65, 91  
Carlos Stevens, 37, 58, 59, 61, 83  
**Cedar Plan**, 34, 39  
Chadburns, 39, 82  
**Charles Milo Wilson**, 4, 6, 104  
**Charles William Thornton**, 4, 6  
**Counterflo Sales Company**, 31  
Cove Mountain, 8, 22, 39, 41, 42, 47, 49, 57, 58  
D. V. Farnsworth, 56  
Darin and Michael Orton, 101  
David O. McKay, 8, 16, 31, 38  
Doug, 64, 99, 103  
Dr. C. W. Cox, 56  
Dr. W. C. Cox, 57  
**Earl Hanson**, 1, 59, 61  
Ed Churchtown, 57, 83, 86  
Ellis Cripe, 84, 91, 93  
enclosures, 17, 39, 84, 86, 87  
**Floyd Bekins**, 41, 43, 44, 47, 54, 57  
**Frank Goodrich**, 42  
**General Steam Corporation**, 21, 30, 32, 35, 38, 41, 42, 46, 47, 53  
**General Steam Newsletter**, 44, 47  
**George Budd**, 26, 39  
George F. Whitehead, 57  
**Gerald Ernest Soelberg**, 4, 18  
**Goldie Elverda Owen**, 4, 18  
**Governor Maw**, 55  
Grace Thornton, 8, 45  
Guy T. Walker, 61

Holland, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, 98  
inventions, 1, 2, 9, 14, 16, 17, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 39, 42, 44, 45, 46, 49, 51, 53, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 71, 82, 87, 88, 98  
**Ivor Clove**, 46, 58, 60, 65  
**Janice Rowe**, 4, 26, 61, 99, 101  
Jason Adams, 100  
Jerry, 18, 19, 61  
**John & Klara Orme**, 28  
**John A. Widtsoe**, 37  
**Joseph A. Thornton**, 4  
**Joseph Earl Thornton**, 4, 6  
**Joshua Rufus Nichols**, 4, 6, 104  
**Klara Rowe**, 2, 4, 26, 99, 100, 101  
Kyle Rowe Wright, 100  
Lee, 16, 17, 22, 23, 28, 39, 43, 47, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 65, 73, 79, 80, 81, 83, 86, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 98, 99, 100, 101, 104  
**Leland Willis Rasmussen**, 51  
**Leroy Albert Wilson, Jr**, 4, 14  
**Leroy Albert Wilson, Jr. or Bert**, 4  
LeRoy Cox, 54  
Life magazine, 89  
Lyle O. Wright, 17  
M. C. Tunison, 56, 58  
**Maggie Veola Hatch**, 4  
Marcia, 4, 16, 17, 22, 26, 27, 28, 50, 61, 64, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 99, 100, 102, 103  
**Marcia Rowe**, 4, 26, 99, 100  
Margaret, 4, 8, 14, 15, 18, 28, 29, 30, 32, 61, 62, 63, 64, 73, 99, 103  
**Margaret Wilson**, 4, 8, 14, 28  
Margaretha Bodmer, 16, 20, 26, 81  
Marta, 4, 16, 17, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 63, 65, 81, 83, 91, 103, 104  
**Marta Loss Rowe**, 4, 16  
**Martha Jane Smith**, 4, 6, 104  
Mason Meeks, 88, 90, 91  
**Mathias F. Cowley**, 15  
Michael Winterholler, 101  
Michelle Adams Orton, 101  
**Mima**, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 15, 47, 82, 91, 102, 104  
**Mr. Cyril Thomas Holland**, 87  
**Mr. Lionel Bradford**, 45  
Mr. Sproul, 56

- Murray O. Hayes, **30, 31, 33, 34, 41, 85**  
Nicole Clement, **101**  
Nolyn, **1, 4, 18, 19, 61, 102, 104**  
Orval Hafen, **58, 98**  
**Paradise Oil & Refining Company, 29**  
Patent, **34, 47, 53, 71**  
Patrice, **101, 102**  
Paul J. Smith, **84, 85**  
Rasmussens, **93**  
Reta, **62, 63, 104**  
Rita, **4, 6, 13, 14, 16, 45, 61, 62, 104**  
**Roy Holt, 57**  
Southern Utah News, **94, 95, 96**  
**Thomas J. Yates, 34, 59**  
Three Peaks, **37, 42, 59, 60, 98**  
Time magazine, **88, 89**  
Tom Yates, **33**
- Utah Construction & Mining Co, 37**  
Veola, **4, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 39, 43, 46, 48, 53, 54, 55, 57, 60, 61, 63, 65, 73, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 91, 92, 93, 94, 98, 99, 100, 104**
- Vilda, **19, 25, 26, 81**  
W. J. Graham, **59**  
**Weston Nielsen, 48, 49**  
Wilbur (Fox), **54**  
**Willis L. Rasmussen, 22**  
Wilson, **1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 73, 74, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 104**  
Zirker, **88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 96**

## END NOTES

<sup>i</sup> When Goldie died a few days after her second child, Nolyn's birth, her sister's (Ethel Owen Gardner) daughter and her husband, Lucile Gardner and Ernest Joseph Soelberg, arranged an adoption. See text of LAW life story for details.

<sup>ii</sup> Veola married Willis Leland Rasmussen 11 Aug 1942 in Las Vegas, NV to get Lee out of military service. Veola was a polygamous wife of Leroy Albert Wilson at that time, but after Wilson's death, she and Lee lived together as man and wife. This arrangement gave Veola Lee's military benefits when Aaron was born as an added bonus.

<sup>iii</sup> When Marta Loss married Leroy Albert Wilson and their children were born, he made up the name Albert Rowe for her to report on their three daughters birth certificates. These names were borrowed from his ancestors.

<sup>iv</sup> Here are several evidences of who the biological father of Leroy Albert Wilson was. In Wilson's application for a loan to further his mining interests he says his father is one of the foremost mining men of Utah, etc. which Joshua Rufus Nichols was.

### HISTORY OF APPLICANT AND THIS MINE.

THE APPLICANT'S FATHER WAS ONE OF THE FORMOST MINING MEN OF UTAH. HE WAS ALSO A METALLURGIST AND CHEMIST OF CONSIDERABLE ABILITY, AND WAS THE DISCOVERER OF THE OLD ORESENY MINE, NOW THE HEART OF THE LARGEST MINE IN THE PARK CITY DISTRICT.. HIS GRANDPARENTS WERE SOME OF THE EARLIEST PIONEERS TO UTAH..

In "The History of Salt Lake City", page 307 it says owners of the New York Lode are Nichols, Stover, & Co. In Salt Lake City Record, pg. 85 it says J. R. Nichols is vice-president of Crescent Mining Co. 1892

In a letter from Rita Wilson, first wife of Leroy Albert Wilson to Klara R. Petersen about 1968 in answer to my inquiries, she says: Grandma (Martha Jane Smith) lived at the Nichols home in Salt Lake and did sewing for Mrs. Nichols. This Charles Milo Wilson was a mining friend and Grandma married him. He was well fixed and wanted to go back East but Grandma didn't want to go. ...Milo went back East and Grandma mixed up with Nichols and had the two children by him. Mima was born in Calif. I suppose Nichols sent her there and Roy was born in the family home where Annie and Lew lived and she met Joe Thornton there and married him. He worked out at the Garfield Smelter and Grandma continued living in Midvale. She had a nice home Nichols built her but it caught on fire and altho she had nice things, linens, etc. she lost them all in the fire. Mima didn't know or said she wouldn't have lived with Nichols. They were good to her and sent her to school....Grandma Thornton raised Roy and Mima except for a year Mima lived in Calif. With Walter Nichols, a half-brother who was supt of schools in around Palo Alto. I think he has two sons around there someplace (and two daughters). Signed Reta.

<sup>v</sup> Copy of a letter in my possession to Conway Nielsen, a nephew to LAW from Grace Thornton, wife of Charles Thornton and Charles was a half-brother to LAW wherein she says: "We all recall Grandma (Martha Jane SmithWilsonThornton) telling us that she lived several years in the home of J. R. Nichols as nurse to his invalid wife, and as housekeeper. She greatly respected Mr. Nichols and his family. Mr. Nichols was a metallurgist and owned stock in a silver mine in Park City...and he was vice president of the company. The family (also Grandma) lived both in Salt Lake City and in Park City. Aunt Rita told me in my early married life, about 1930, that J. R. Nichols fathered both Mima and Roy. Years later when Grandma lived in our home I was bold enough to ask Grandma if that was true. She said yes, but asked me not to tell Mima, as Mima did not know it. She had always thought that Charles Milo Wilson was her father. Grandma told me that Mr. Wilson was a friend of J. R. Nichols and that Grandma and Mr. Wilson were married in the Nichols home. This marriage did not last long. Aunt Rita says that Mr. Wilson deserted her. While Grandma (Martha Jane) was living at our home Aunt Annie Smith (Uncle Al's wife) came up to

---

see Grandma. I asked for more detail. Aunt Annie said that Mrs. Nichols divorced her husband because of his infidelity. Mr. Nichols was then free to marry Grandma after her divorce from Mr. Wilson, but he did not choose to do so. (Martha Jane was pregnant with her first child with Thornton at this same time.) However, he provided for the two children." In the 1960's I was in touch with Dorothy Nichols, a granddaughter of Joshua R. Nichols and Charlotte E. Hammond (the invalid wife) and she claims they did not divorce. My guess is they separated, because we see her living with her son Walter H. Nichols in Colorado in 1900 and we see JRN living in Salt Lake City, Utah. JRN died in 1902.

<sup>vi</sup>**Matthias Foss Cowley** (August 25, 1858 – June 16, 1940), born in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) from 1897 until 1905.

Matthias Cowley was ordained an Apostle on October 7, 1897. He replaced Moses Thatcher who was removed from the Quorum at the April 1896 General Conference. Cowley was widely noted in the church for his talks on doctrine.

Cowley resigned from the Quorum, at the request of church president Joseph F. Smith, on October 28, 1905 because his presence in the hierarchy undermined the church's position in the Reed Smoot hearings. Cowley was notorious for having widely performed marriages contravening the church's manifesto prohibiting new plural marriage. Earlier in April of the same year, Apostle John W. Taylor had resigned for the same reason. In addition, with the death of Apostle Marriner W. Merrill in early February of the next year, there were three vacancies in the Quorum of the Twelve. In the April General Conference of 1906, three new apostles were called to replace them: George F. Richards, Orson F. Whitney, and David O. McKay.

Reports of Cowley's continuing involvement in new plural marriages led to his priesthood being suspended by the church on May 11, 1911. (This rare and virtually unique disciplinary procedure was used for Cowley because his former fellow apostles in the Quorum of Twelve disagreed over whether to leave him undisciplined or to disfellowship or even excommunicate him.)

However, Cowley's name continued to be linked with plural marriage over the next several years. As late as the early 1920s, Cowley was meeting with excommunicated polygamists, the early Mormon fundamentalists beginning to coalesce at the Baldwin Radio Plant in Salt Lake City. But in the mid-1920s, Cowley broke all ties with the polygamous dissenters. His priesthood standing in the LDS Church was restored nearly twenty-five years after it had been taken - on April 3, 1936.

Cowley was never restored to his position in the Quorum of Twelve. On June 16, 1940, he died in his home in Salt Lake City, Utah from uremia resulting from kidney failure.<sup>[4]</sup> He was buried at Salt Lake City Cemetery. On October 11, 1945, his son Matthew Cowley was called to serve as an Apostle for the church. (from Wikipedia)

<sup>vii</sup> The Church History Library has a document on George H. Budd which says: 1/7/1942 George H. Budd, 18<sup>th</sup> Ward, Ensign Stake is a member in good standing according to his bishop, Heber C. Kimball. Four days later it says George H. Budd b. 8/15/1877 is a member in good standing in the 124<sup>th</sup> Quorum of Seventy of Ensign Stake. His parents are George Budd and Sarah Jane Turpin. It appears that George Budd repented and gave up polygamy.

<sup>viii</sup> Both documents referred to on this page are in our possession.

