

# ACTIVITY IN THE 1900s

Washington County records reveal that Thomas Stapley (1890), Levi Savage (1901), and Thomas Judd (1901) were the first recorded land owners of the, now, Confluence Park area. Many more followed. A variety of agricultural pursuits would emerge on the property: alfalfa fields, a pecan orchard, a dairy, a turkey farm, cattle grazing, and more. Irrigation was a constant struggle. Methods would vary through the years: LaVerkin Creek diversion with an open dirt



*A grain storage building for the turkey farm.*



*Easter picnic for the GordonWood family.*

ditch, to a collection pond system, to sprinkler pipe water delivery. Through all of it, the constant forces would be the Virgin River, LaVerkin Creek, and Ash Creek, bringing periodic floods, nearly running dry at other times, but always supporting a welcome oasis full of wildlife and adventure for local residents.

Looking toward the confluence, notice the red-roofed dairy barn and former agricultural fields.

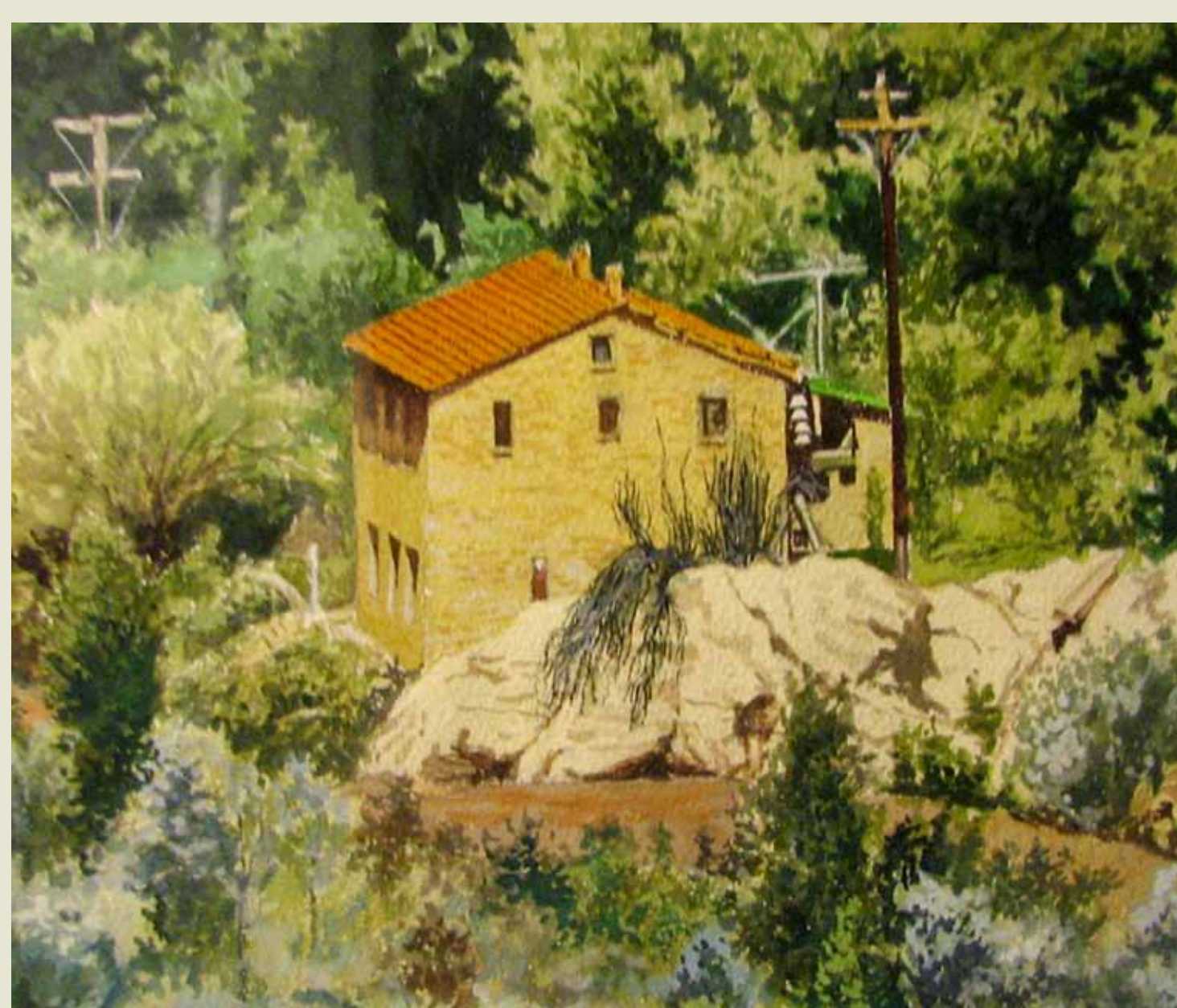


*Looking toward the confluence, notice the red-roofed dairy barn and former agricultural fields.*

## Electrical Power Generated from the Virgin River

The greatest change to the Confluence area came with the construction of a hydroelectric plant on the Virgin River below the Pah Tempe Hot Springs in 1929. Victor Hall's writings, *Selected Topics Related To Hurricane*, make reference to the plant as follows:

*The plant that was in operation from 1929 until 1983 utilized water diverted from the LaVerkin irrigation canal. The canal began about three miles upstream. Water first went into a settling pond ... a sluice gate facilitated flushing the pond as necessary. Downstream ... the canal clung to the Virgin River canyon wall, then went through a quarter-mile tunnel before emerging onto the LaVerkin bench. From this point, a pipe (penstock) forty inches in diameter conducted water to the hydro-electric plant.*



*Painting of Virgin River power station by Farrell Collett.*

The *Washington County News* reported on April 29, 1929, that operation of the plant had begun, and that, "Fred Brooks, whose family was then living at the plant, would be in charge."