

George Jarvis, the Temple Tower and Water

A Visit with George E. Miles

A record of a visit by Zora Smith Jarvis with her uncle, George E. Miles, on October 20, 1966

During the morning of October 20, 1966, I visited Uncle George E. Miles, who is 100 years old and whose mind is alert and clear as can be. I opened the front door of his St. George home, walked down the long hall, and opened the door to the big living room. He recognized me instantly and invited me to come and sit by him.

I felt he could tell me much about the St. George water problem, and I was not disappointed. He said that he had served 25 years as the St. George stake clerk, and during that time the Church was working with the city council at all times, urging and helping in any possible way to better the city's water supply.

We began an animated discussion about the visit George and Ann Prior Jarvis made to Arizona at the time the St. George Temple tower was being done, to see if the change would help Ann's asthma. Uncle George thought that they would have stayed and made their home in Arizona, but George Jarvis was called home to make the tower on the St. George Temple higher. He did the scaffolding as he had done for the walls of the temple during its construction.

We talked about the early pioneer days and the alkali in the water. Then he arose and raised his arms in a circular position and said, "Brigham Jarvis was the man who was helping everyone with water problems. With Brig it was always water, water, water." He told of a number of Brigham's activities. It thrilled me, as his wonderful mind was sharp and clear in detail. Then he exclaimed, "Brigham finally brought the Cottonwood water into the city." Lowering his voice to a deep bass, he continued, "Of course, the city paid him \$2,000, to get the job done." Then he added, "The present pipes are laid in the same canal Brig had the men make at that time."