

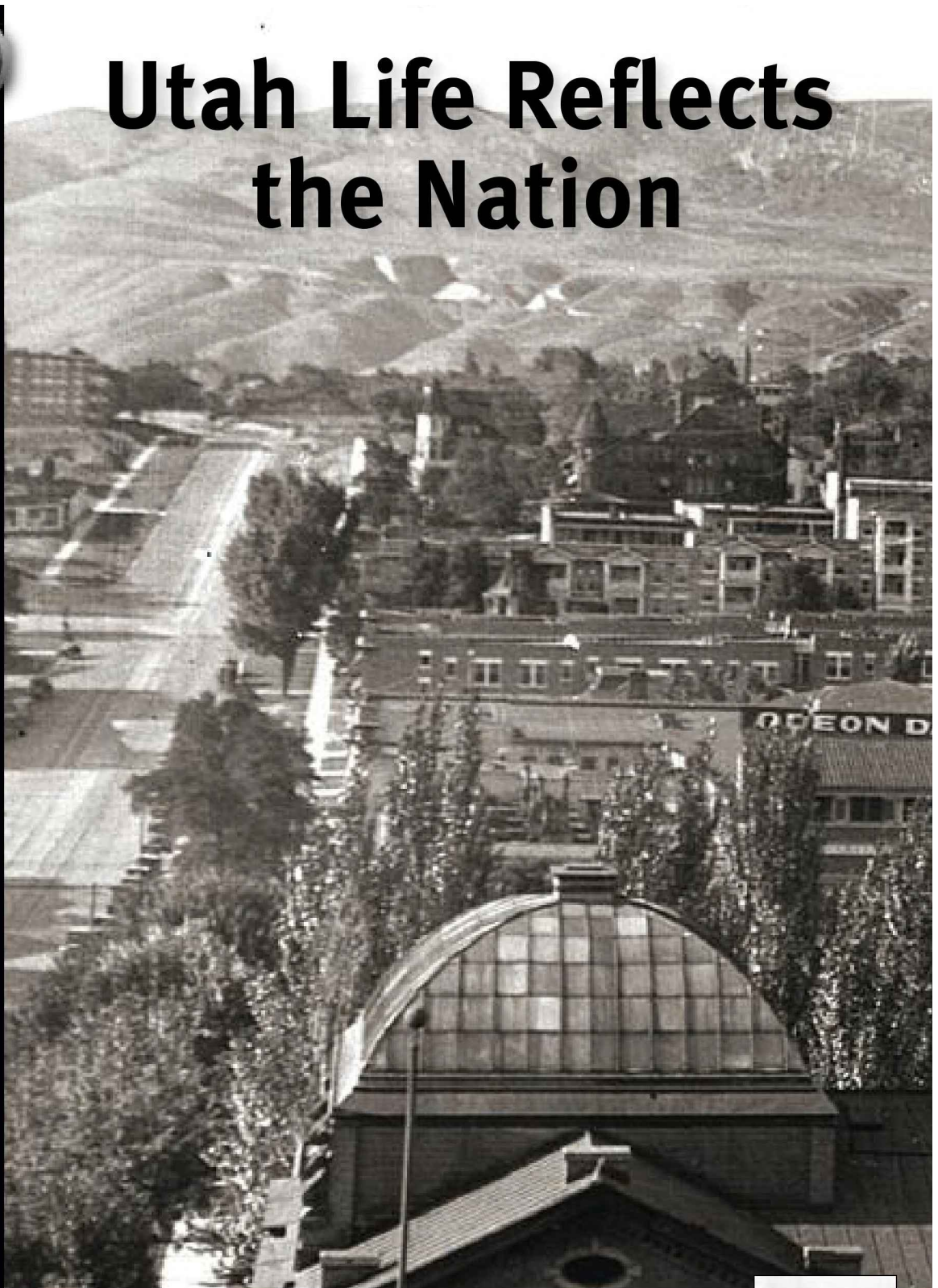
PEOPLE TO KNOW

- Simon Bamberger
- Henry Blood
- Luana Brooks
- John Browning
- Mary Chamberlain
- Marriner Eccles
- William Haywood
- Daniel Jackling
- Clint Larson
- Helen Papanikolas
- Posey
- Albert Potter
- Alma Richards
- Franklin Roosevelt
- Woodrow Wilson

WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

- bankrupt
- compensation
- controversy
- depression
- influenza
- labor union
- progressive
- reclamation
- regulate
- smelter
- strikebreaker
- unemployment rate
- watershed

A rooftop view is dominated by the Capitol Building on the foothills of Salt Lake City. Main street runs along the left. How has the city changed since the turn of the twentieth century? Do you recognize any buildings still around today?



**1900**  
Scofield Mine Disaster.

**1906**  
Open-pit copper mining begins in Bingham Canyon. IWW is established.

**1912**  
Alma Richards is first Utahn to win an Olympic gold medal.

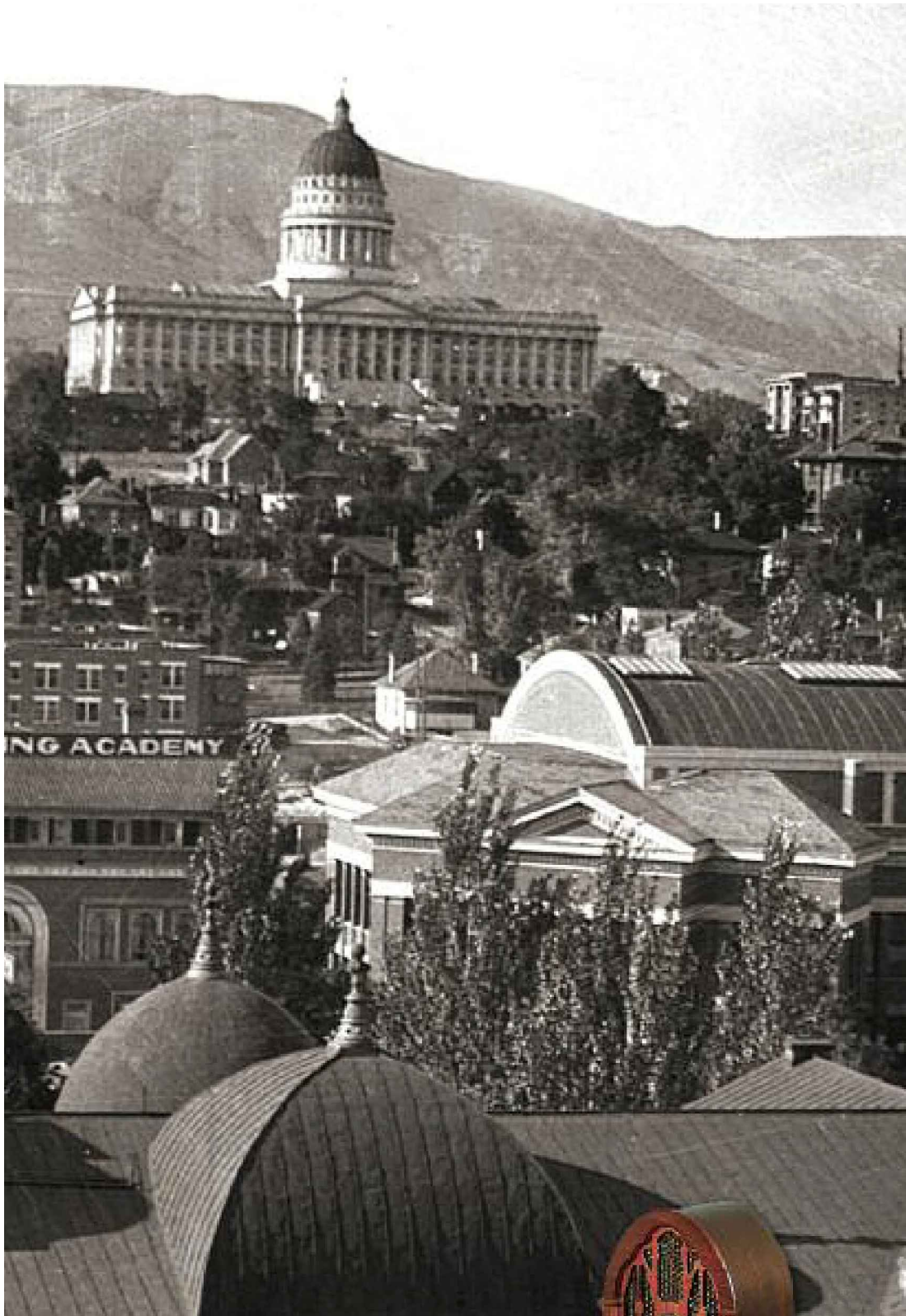


**1905**  
Uintah Indian Reservation is opened to white settlement.

**1908**  
Natural Bridges is Utah's first national monument.



**1914-1918**  
World War I  
The U.S. enters the war in 1917.





# Chapter 12

## SETTING THE STAGE

During the first two decades of a new century, Utah's economy rested on two solid pillars—agriculture and mining. Then, following World War I, agriculture and mining limped along while industry, construction, trade, and transportation prospered. Labor unions fought big business, and Progressives fought for a safer, cleaner life in the Beehive State.

After years of prosperity, Utah plunged into the Great Depression. Federal farm programs, the CCC, and the WPA put people back to work and helped Utah's economy.

**1917**  
Transcontinental telephone link is completed on the Utah-Nevada border.

**1918**  
Zion National Park is Utah's first national park.

**1920**  
The Nineteenth Amendment gives the vote to U.S. women.

**1922**  
First radio transmission in Utah is heard.

**1923**  
Posey War

**1929**  
The Great Depression begins.

**1932**  
Franklin Roosevelt is elected president.

**1934**  
Great drought hits Utah.

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## Utah Enters a New Century

Utah's statehood in 1896 and a new century came almost hand in hand. The 1890s and the early 1900s brought more immigrants, mostly from the British Isles and Scandinavian countries. Families also came from other countries. These new immigrants brought their religious beliefs, languages, holiday traditions, and other ways of living.

Immigrants came for many reasons, but above all, they came to find jobs. The railroad needed an army of workers. More laborers were also needed to work in mines and smelters.

People anxious to start a new life responded to advertisements and agents who promised them high wages, land, and religious freedom.

Some newcomers founded their own social organizations, mutual aid societies, and

churches to help them cope with the isolation and frustration of being in a new place among strangers. Others joined with church groups already going strong in towns.

Sadly, workers from foreign countries were often paid less than other workers. Many jobs were not open to them at all, especially if they could not speak English. Adults and children were often the victims of ridicule.

### Mexican Immigrants

The first group of Hispanic immigrants came from northern New Mexico and southern Colorado at the turn of the century. They settled in San Juan County and worked as shepherders and ranch hands. Others farmed.

Shortly after 1910 the Mexican Revolution caused thousands of Mexicans to flee to safer places. Lawyers, doctors, engineers, and other educated workers fled Mexico for safety. Poorer people also came. They had lost farms and homes in Mexico. Many single men came to work in Utah mines and were later joined by their families. Soon there were Mexican *colonias* (communities) in Bingham, Garland, Ogden, and Salt Lake City. Most of the newcomers worked in mines, mills, and on railroads.

Seasonal migrant workers moved from farm to farm, harvesting crops. While the parents and older children worked in the fields, young children played in the shade of an old car or tree. The migrants worked long hours for little pay. At the end of a long day they slept in run-down wooden shacks in poor migrant camps with no running water or indoor plumbing. Life was very hard for the migrant workers.

### Greek Immigrants

At first, mostly unmarried men came from Greece to work in mines. They lived in boardinghouses where Greek food was prepared for them. Later, brides were brought for them from the old country, and family life began. The Greeks were proud of their heritage and did all they could to preserve it. The children were

*This young Greek boy is dressed in traditional clothing from his homeland. His family immigrated to Utah to start a new life. What challenges might they have had to overcome?*



taught to speak Greek and to read and write it. They celebrated feast days with special food, folk dances, and colorful costumes.

### Chinese Immigrants

By the early 1900s, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Provo all had Chinese laundries and restaurants. Park City and Ogden had Chinatowns, and Salt Lake City had its Plum Alley—all-Chinese neighborhoods. Some of the Chinese had come in earlier years to work on the railroad and stayed. Others worked in mining and set up small businesses.

### Japanese Immigrants

Many Japanese workers were employed by the E.D. Hashimoto Company, a labor agency in Salt Lake City's Japanese Town. Most of the Japanese worked as farm laborers. In 1919 a Japanese school was started. During the twenties there were about 800 Japanese men working at Bingham and 1,000 in the coal mines around Helper and Price.

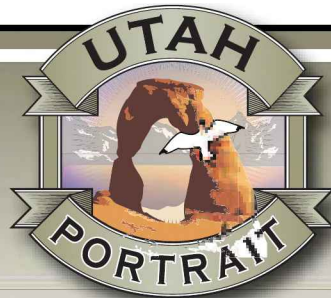
Other Japanese Americans grew crops and sold them to fruit and vegetable stands, grocery stores, and restaurants. Most of their fruit and vegetable farms were in Box Elder, Davis, Weber, and Salt Lake Counties. The Utah celery and tomato crops and the sugar beet industry became dependent upon Japanese labor. By 1930, Salt Lake City and Ogden were Japanese centers with special stores and Buddhist shrines.

### Jewish Immigrants

In 1911 a group of Jews from New York and Philadelphia chose a site near Gunnison for a community. Fifty-two families, under the leadership of Benjamin Brown, started a small community called Clarion. Contributions from Jews all over the nation were gathered to support the people there. Even so, the colony did not succeed, mostly because of poor land and lack of water. Only about twelve families stayed and became successful chicken farmers.



By 1900 the census reported 417 Japanese in Utah. In 1910 there were 2,110, and in 1920 almost 3,000. Many were recruited from Japan by labor agents from the Hashimoto family.



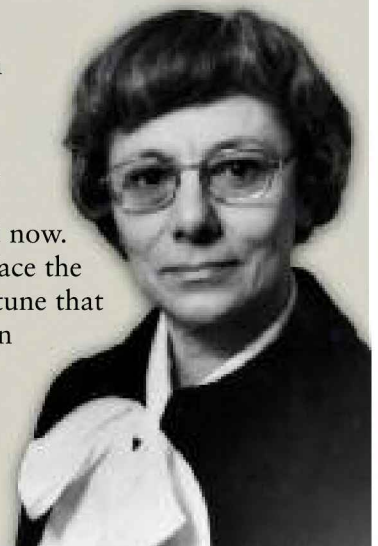
### Helen Zeese Papanikolas

1917–2004

The child of Greek immigrants, Helen Papanikolas grew up in Helper, a railroad town near coal mining camps near Price. Her world there included Italians, Serbs, Croats, Greeks, Irish, Japanese, a few blacks, and others. Years later, she began to write the stories and histories of the Greek immigrants. She was chosen to edit the book, *The Peoples of Utah*, which focused on ethnic diversity in Utah history.

“Although neighborhoods in Utah exist where African Americans and Hispanics predominate, the Little Italy, Greek, and “Jap” towns are gone. The [parents] are dead now. It is their children’s turn to face the unknown. It is our good fortune that their voices have not yet been stilled and that their . . . experiences will find their way into Utah history.”

—Helen Zeese Papanikolas,  
1996



## New Communities Are Built on Indian Land

Near the end of the 1800s, U.S. Congress had given in to pressures from whites who wanted to live on Indian reservation lands. Congress passed The Dawes General Allotment Act. Under the act, the head of each Indian family was to receive 160 acres of land, and unmarried people each received a smaller amount of land. Indians were to live on their own pieces of land and farm it or keep small herds of cattle. The lands not given to Indians were to be made available to white settlers.

By this act, the White River and Uintah Utes lost two-thirds of their reservation lands. By 1905 white settlers moved onto the land and started building homes and grazing cattle. The communities of Duchesne, Lapoint, Roosevelt, Strawberry, and many others were started. Duchesne County was made up almost entirely of Uintah reservation lands.



certain parts of town. They were not admitted into amusement parks such as Lagoon and Saltair. They could not eat in most restaurants or stay in hotels. In movie theaters, they had to sit up in the balconies. Accomplished black performers were hired to sing or play in bands, but others of their race could not buy tickets. They stood outside to hear the music.

To help end discrimination, blacks in Utah established a chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in Salt Lake City in 1919. The group worked to pass laws to end discrimination.

Then life got worse. About 1921, the Ku Klux Klan was organized in Utah. The Klan was a group of men who acted as ordinary citizens during the day, but at night they put on long, white robes that covered their faces. During the dark of night, Klansmen burned crosses in the front yards of people they wanted to scare off. The Klan allowed only white Protestants to join their group. They were against Catholics, Jews, African Americans, and all new immigrants of any race or religion.

Sometimes the Klan did more than scare their victims. In 1925 Robert Marshall, a black man, was lynched—hung till dead—from a tree in Price. Although the terrible practice was common in many places of the country, this had not happened in Utah for many years, since 1885 when Sam Harvey was lynched in Salt Lake City. Neither man was given a trial for crimes he was accused of.

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## African Americans

Utah's population of African American settlers started from the time the advance pioneer company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 with Green Flake, Oscar Crosby, and Hark Lay. By 1850 there were sixty blacks living in the Utah Territory. By the 1900s the black community had their own

newspapers, social groups, and churches, including the Trinity African Methodist Episcopal and Calvary Baptist Churches.

### Discrimination

During the 1900s, Utah's African Americans, like others in the United States, faced public discrimination. On the job, they were paid less than others. State law prohibited a couple of mixed race from getting a marriage license. Black families could only live in

*Churches like the Calvary Baptist Church were important to Utah's early African American communities.*



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## What do you think?

There were laws against marriage between whites and some other races from 1898 to 1963. Do you think government has the right to make laws about who someone marries? Why or why not?

# Utah Churches Serve Ethnic Groups

While there was ongoing prejudice in many ways, churches began serving the needs of Utah's ethnic groups. Often the different races met together. Sometimes services were held separately.



▲ The first church for blacks in Utah was the Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City. Then the Calvary Baptist Church helped with everyday life as well as the spiritual needs of blacks. In Ogden, there was the Wall Avenue Baptist Church.

In 1927 the Catholic Church started a mission for the Hispanic community in Salt Lake City. That mission became Our Lady of Guadalupe, with Father James Earl Collins in charge. The mission is still active today. ▶

In the early 1920s, a Mexican branch of the LDS Church was organized.



◀ The Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Madeleine was dedicated in 1909 in Salt Lake City. Father Lawrence Scanlan was responsible for building the beautiful cathedral.



The Congregation Montefiore Jewish Synagogue served the needs of Salt Lake City's Jewish community. ▼



The Japanese Church of Christ was established in Salt Lake City in 1918. The Japanese also started two Buddhist churches. ▼



In 1905 a small Greek Orthodox Church was built in Salt Lake City. ▲ The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was built there in 1915. By 1916 the Assumption was built in Price.



## Electric Trains Provide New Transportation

A new century brought faster transportation. More electric streetcar lines and passenger trains made travel easier, at least in the larger towns. By 1909 passenger railroad reached Ogden. A second line ran in the other direction to Provo, and soon it ran all the way to Payson. Twenty-six trains a day made that run. Eventually there was a system of trains from Cache Valley in the north, through towns and cities of the Wasatch Front, and south to Payson. Since few people had cars, the trains were a vital source of transportation.

The electric streetcar system in Salt Lake City reached its peak in 1918 and included a line north to Bountiful, Farmington, and Centerville. Then, in the late 1920s, buses started replacing streetcars, and slowly the lines were abandoned.

*Well-dressed riders celebrated the arrival of the electric train in Payson in 1916. (top right)*

*Students rode the trains from Orem to Salt Lake City to attend ball games or to sit in the less-expensive "peanut gallery" of the Salt Lake Theater. (middle right)*



## Linking the Past to the Present



In 1999, light rail lines were once again installed in Salt Lake City, then north and south to nearby towns. TRAX carries people to work, to shopping areas, to the University of Utah, and to popular sporting events such as Jazz games. How does a light rail system help the environment and conserve natural resources?

## On the Ground and in the Air

By 1900 there may have been only twenty gasoline-powered automobiles in the state. By 1909 there were about 873 cars and trucks. At first there were no paved roads, and the dirt roads were shared with wagons and horses. There were very few gas stations.

*When cars broke down, drivers were greeted with the shout, "Get a horse!"*



Utahns did not see an airplane flight until 1910, about seven years after the Wright brothers' first flight in North Carolina. During the next several years, large crowds of people were entertained by daring plane exhibitions. "Barn-storming" was a popular word for men who stepped out onto the wings of airplanes and performed stunts. Planes did loops and dives to the applause of people below.

## Electricity Makes Life Easier

At about the time Utah became a state in 1896, Utah was just starting to use electricity for streetlights. Then electric lines were brought to mines, city businesses, and then to homes. In 1913 small local electric companies joined to form Utah Power and Light Company, which supplied about 90 percent of all the state's electric power. Electric lines carried electric current to smaller communities. It took a long time for farms in remote areas to get electricity, where families were amazed and grateful.

For years, homeowners paid a fixed amount based on the number of bulbs used in the house. New inventions such as electric washing machines, vacuum cleaners, stoves, and irons made life easier for those who could afford them.

The time was 1929–30, and I was a small boy in Torrey. My brother and I were wide-eyed with wonder. Now we could push a button or pull a chain and, like magic, an electric bulb hanging from the ceiling would light up a room. No more carrying the old smelly coal-oil lamp from room to room with spooky shadows dancing on the walls.

—Clay M. Robinson



In 1916, Lt. Maroney brought his biplane to Payson for flight demonstrations.

### Inventions for the New Century

INVENTION	FIRST USED IN UNITED STATES	FIRST USED IN UTAH
AUTOMOBILES	1900	1900
AIRPLANES	1903	1927
RADIOS	1906	1922
MOVIES (SILENT)	1905	1905



Electric Washing Machine

## What do you think?

After reading these quotes, why do you think people showed disbelief that some new inventions would ever be worthwhile?

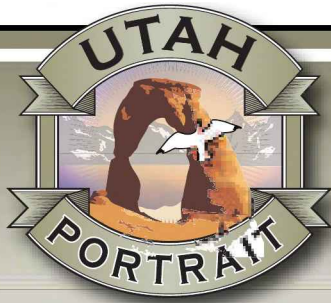
“ This telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. ”

—Western Union memo

“ Radio has no future. ”

—Lord Kelvin, British scientist





## Daniel C. Jackling

1869–1956

Jackling was one of the founders of the Utah Copper Company, now Utah Copper Division, Kennecott Copper Company. He was the developer of the Bingham open-pit copper mine in the Oquirrh Mountains across the valley from Salt Lake City.

Jackling's childhood was less than perfect. His parents died when he was very young, and he was raised by relatives on Missouri farms. He left farm life to go to college, earned a degree, and taught chemistry and metallurgy at the same college. Hearing of the rich mines of Colorado, he moved there, married, and worked for several years. Then, in 1896, he moved to Mercur, Utah, and became superintendent of the mill there. He eventually went to the other side of the mountain and worked in the Bingham mines.

During World War I, Jackling received the first of many awards for efforts in supplying copper from low-grade ore to the country. A copper statue of Jackling, sculpted by Avard Fairbanks, honors the copper giant and stands in the rotunda of the Utah State Capitol Building. Jackling has been called "brilliant and ingenious" by historians.



## Mining Brings Progress and Problems

Producing goods such as tools, shoes, clothes, buggies, streetcars, and about everything people needed became big business in Utah. Shipping by rail was also a very important industry. One of the largest industries during this period, however, was mining. The story of Utah mining is the story of copper, coal, silver, and gold.

Samuel Newhouse and Daniel Jackling and others purchased claims in Bingham Canyon, hoping to extract gold. The mine, however, turned out a low-grade copper ore. Newhouse set up a *smelter* in Murray, where gold, silver, lead, and zinc were also extracted from the ore.

After experimenting with underground mining, Daniel Jackling developed the open-pit mining method for low-grade ore. A smelter was built nearby to remove the minerals from the dirt and rock. Jackling and others designed and built a system of rock-crushing plants, flotation mills to separate the ore from the minerals, and smelters. In later years, huge steam shovels, moving seven tons of earth per scoop, clawed away at the mountain to make a great open pit. Train cars hauled out the heavy ore.

*In 1903 the original Utah Copper Company was created to mine and process low-grade copper ore at Bingham Canyon. Experts said the company would never make money because a ton of ore contained only 39 pounds of copper. Today, Kennecott is a leading producer of copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum.*



# The Utah Labor Movement

As mining increased, miners began to organize to get better wages and safer working conditions. Utah-born William D. Haywood worked with other men to establish the national IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) in 1905. The members of the IWW were often called "Wobblies." The *labor union* fought for workers' rights. Mine owners and corporations, of course, fought against the unions.

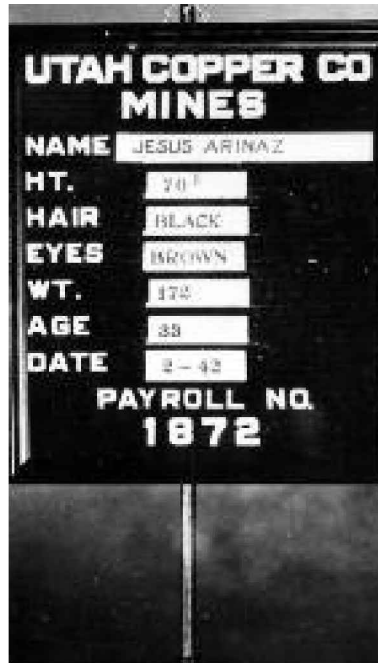
By the fall of 1912, the WFM (Western Federation of Miners) labor union in Bingham Canyon had signed up about half of the 4,800 employees there. Many of the miners were Greeks. The union talked about increasing wages another fifty cents a day above the \$2 or \$3 per day the workers were already being paid.

## Strike!

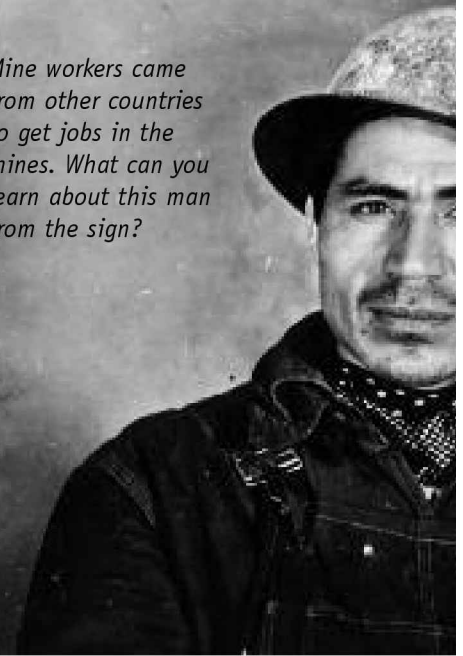
After their pleas failed to produce results, the miners went on strike. They took guns to the side of the mountain and dug trenches overlooking the mine, where they could fire down on guards and any *strikebreakers*. The company had hired Italian, Greek, and Mexican strikebreakers to work in place of the striking miners. Father Lambrides, a Greek Orthodox priest, climbed up to the strikers to convince them to meet with the governor to solve the strike.

The miners agreed, but their demands were not met. Eventually a Greek miner was shot in the leg, and one of the strikebreakers was killed. The strike finally ended.

Other strikes followed. Coal miners joined the United Mine Workers and went on strike when faced with a 30 percent reduction in wages. Violence followed, and more men were killed.



*Mine workers came from other countries to get jobs in the mines. What can you learn about this man from the sign?*



## The Scofield Mine Disaster

Explosion! Utah's worst mine disaster killed 246 people, including 20 boys. Some of the miners were killed inside the mine by an explosion of coal dust. In the next shaft, men heard the explosion and tried to rush out, but instead met deadly carbon monoxide gas. It was a time of great mourning in the mining towns. The mining company paid for a set of new burial clothes, a coffin, and \$500 to each dead miner's family. No miners had life insurance.



## The Progressive Spirit

Throughout the nation, reformers were dedicated to cleaner, safer, more *progressive* living conditions. People wanted the government to get involved in cleaning up the cities, providing sewers and gutters, and paving streets. They wanted *regulation* of companies whose industries were causing heavy air pollution. They also wanted regulation of railroads whose high shipping charges were sapping the profit from business and farming.

Safe food was a real concern. There was no regulation of food sold to the public. Some dairies were preserving their milk with formaldehyde—embalming fluid—to keep it from spoiling.

Progressives also worked for laws that prohibited dangerous employment for women and children. Laws prohibited child labor and set minimum wages for female workers. Workmen's *compensation* made money available for workers injured on the job.

Progressives were concerned that taxes were paid mostly by those least able to afford them. There were no laws against wealthy companies and individuals bribing congressmen. Educating people with disabilities, especially the deaf and blind, were important goals.



*Regulating the food industry was an important part of the Progressive Era. Look at the meat at this outdoor market. How is meat handled differently today?*

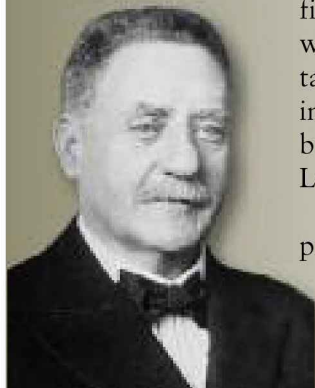


### Kanab's Progressive Board

By 1911 a group of citizens in Kanab became outraged with a male-dominated town board that refused to clean up the town. Taking up the cause, a team of women headed by Mary Chamberlain ran for office and won positions on the town board. The women passed ordinances prohibiting drunkenness, sports on Sunday, and the shooting of songbirds within the city limits. They fined owners \$1.50 for each stray cow wandering the streets. The women also worked to get a new dike built to protect the town from floods.



## Simon Bamberger • 1846–1927



Simon Bamberger, born in Germany, was Utah's first Democratic governor and the first state governor who was not a Mormon. He was the oldest governor, taking office at age 71. He was only the second Jewish man in the United States to be elected as a state governor. A respected businessman, Bamberger built the Salt Lake and Ogden Railway. He also built the Lagoon amusement park.

Bamberger led important Progressive legislation in Utah, including the prohibition of alcohol and the establishment of the Department of Health. With his approval, the Utah legislature created a Public Utilities Commission (to regulate the electric and gas companies) and passed a Workmen's Compensation Act to help workers who were hurt on the job or who were out of work get money.

## Athletes Compete for Medals

Recreational pasttimes grew in popularity during the first part of the new century. Baseball became popular all over the state. People in towns formed teams and played against each other. Football and track also became popular.

Then an exciting even took place in Europe, and Utah athletes joined with other Americans to compete at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden. Far from home, Utah farm boy and BYU student Alma Richards competed in the high jump event and became the first Utahn to receive an Olympic gold medal.

Nothing ever will erase that memory, when King Gustav stepped forward to place the Gold Medal around my neck while the Stars and Stripes rose to the top of the highest flagpole, and the band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

—Alma Richards, olympic gold medal winner

Alma Richards had previously set the record for the high jump in 1915 at 6 feet, 5 inches. Five years later Clint Larson, another BYU athlete, stunned the 20,000 spectators at the Penn-Relays annual track and field meet in Philadelphia. Larson broke the record and became the high jump champion of the world, setting a new record that lasted for seventeen years.





Men dug out a tunnel under the mountains to divert water from the Strawberry River while the dam was being built.

“Before the Strawberry [Valley Project] was finished, we used to get one crop of alfalfa and that was it. During a dry year we just burned up.”

—Albert Swenson,  
Utah County farmer

## Reclamation and National Forests, Parks, and Monuments

Land and water issues were very important during this time of reform. By the turn of the century, farmers in Spanish Fork, Payson, and other places in Utah County were using all of the available water from the natural flow of streams and rivers, but there was not enough. To solve this water shortage problem, men planned a project that would transport water from the Strawberry River across the mountains. The project would require building a dam and diverting water from the river through a mountain tunnel.

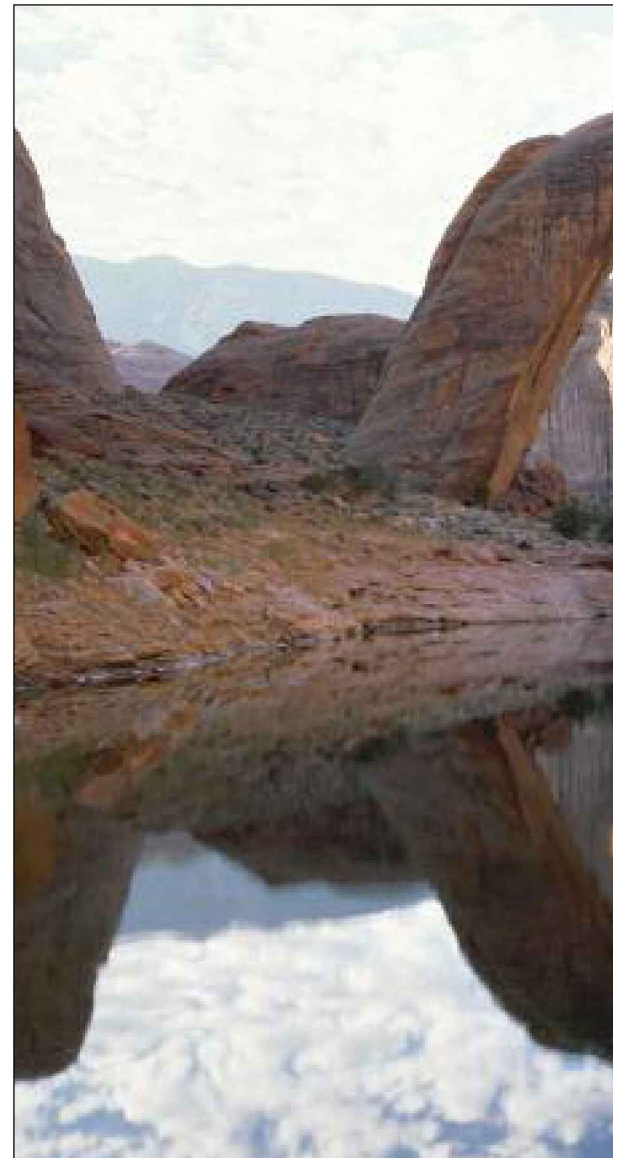
The land needed for the dam and the massive reservoir was part of the Uintah-Ouray Indian Reservation. However, with permission from national *reclamation* acts, the land was used anyway, and work on the dam began. The project began in 1905 but was not completed until 1922. As the first water shot out of a concrete-lined tunnel over three miles long, residents cheered. Thousands of acres of farmland were irrigated. Other water projects followed.

### Wise Use of Forests

Besides building dams, many other changes in the way people used Utah's land took place during this time period.

Albert Potter was an officer of the federal government. His main interest was grazing lands for cattle. Potter took a five-month trip around Utah. His job was to see how the needs of both the people and the land could best be met. On horseback, he visited towns and talked with people. He went into the mountains and observed timber and grazing lands. He noticed how the mines and new electric power plants affected the land.

Potter saw that forests were very important as *watersheds* for city and farm people. His survey resulted in a forest management program. Two national forests had already been set aside as protected public lands, but more were organized.



## National Parks and Monuments

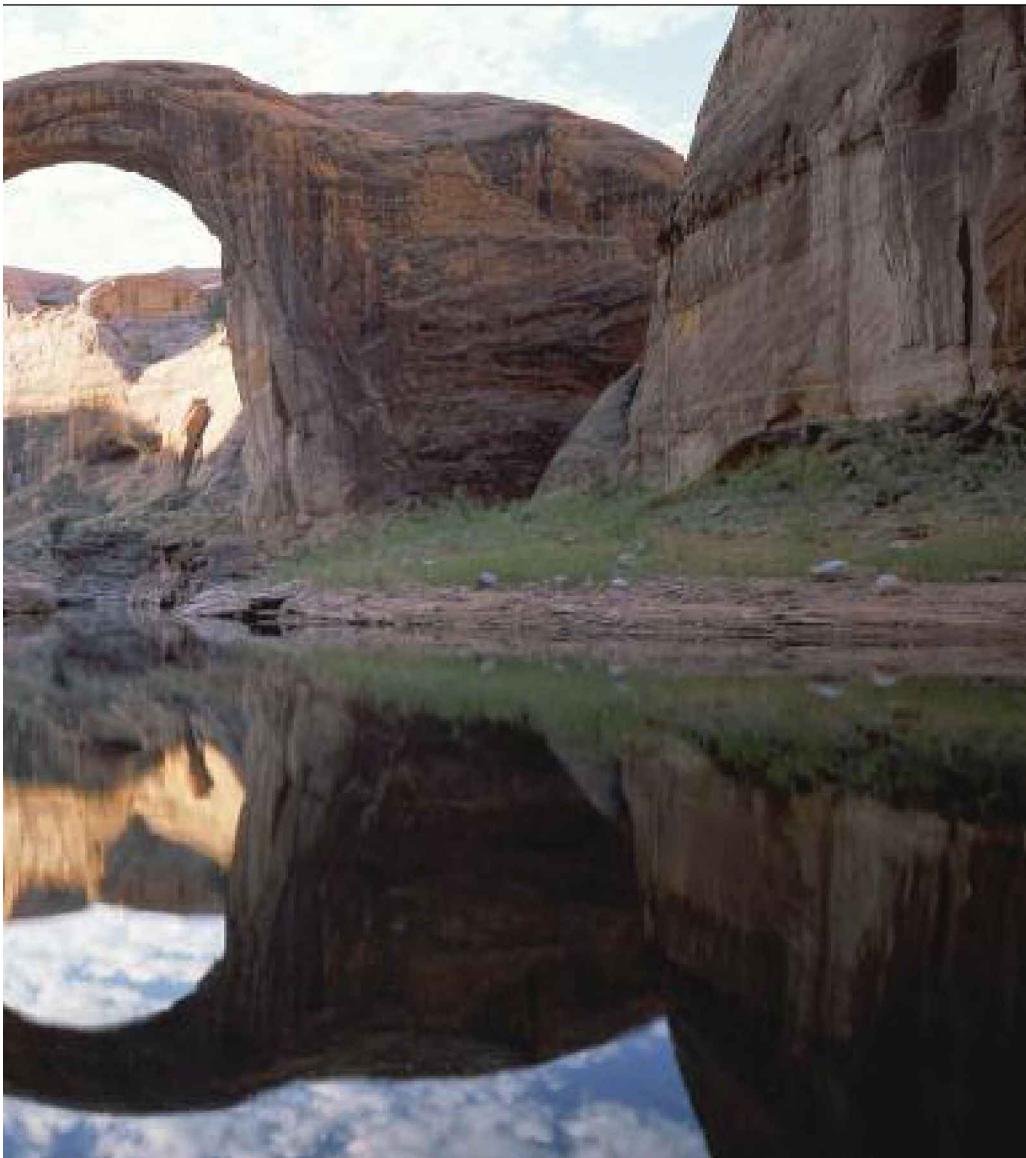
One way the government protected natural land was through national parks and monuments. In 1908 Natural Bridges National Monument was the first national monument in Utah. Articles about the site appeared in *National Geographic* magazine, which made people eager to see the natural wonders and Indian ruins there.

Rainbow Bridge National Monument was named in 1910. At their Indian trading post in Monument Valley, a couple heard of a “rainbow-turned-to-stone.” They told the news to University of Utah professor Byron Cummings, and that summer he took some students and two Paiute guides, Noscha Begay and his father, to find the natural rock bridge.

Cummings wrote:

We were all overwhelmed at the sight of this mighty towering arch. The wealth of color reflected from the cliffs and the deep shadows of the gorges make you feel you are in some giant paradise of long ago, and that any minute huge forms of man and beast might come stalking out of the shadows and ask why such puny creatures as we disturb their solitude.

Have you hiked in Utah’s first national park? Established in 1918, the majestic towering sandstone cliffs and emerald green river valleys of Zion National Park make it a favorite place to visit.



*Rainbow Bridge is the world’s longest natural bridge.*

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*You can find all of Utah’s national and state parks and monuments on a map in Chapter 1 of this book.*

### Linking the Past to the Present

Today, there is a lot of **controversy** about the use of public lands. Study news sources about grazing lands, cattle and sheep industries, water issues, mining rights, and other matters related to government-owned land. How do you think public lands should be saved or used?



A newspaper can be like a time machine, giving readers a peak into the past. What can you discover about the past from reading the front page of this newspaper?



Utah inventor John Browning from Ogden developed the first automatic machine gun purchased by the United States government. The early models were used during World War I. Browning Arms Company is now in Mountain Green in Weber County. Browning guns are still used in the military and for hunting.

## World War I

Utah's attention from local issues was overshadowed by news of a war in Europe that had been going on for several years. Then families learned that German submarines, called U-boats, had fired torpedoes into four unarmed American merchant ships in the Atlantic Ocean. Germany was now clearly seen as an enemy of the United States. U.S. President Wilson addressed Congress and asked for a declaration of war in 1917.

### Utah Helps in the War Effort

Utah men joined the nation and volunteered to help fight what came to be called the "Great War." The mines at Utah Copper Company (now Kennecott) produced copper and other minerals used to supply guns and ammunition.

U.S. wheat was needed not only to feed the troops in Europe but also to relieve the famine of the starving people there. By 1918 more than 200,000 bushels of wheat had been stored by Utah women. The federal government requested "all the LDS Relief Society wheat for use in the present war." The wheat was donated and shipped overseas.

Finally, on November 11, 1918, Utah greeted the news of the war's end with great celebration. At 11 o'clock in the morning—the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—the guns in Europe fell silent. The terrible war ended. Over 10 million people in the world had died.

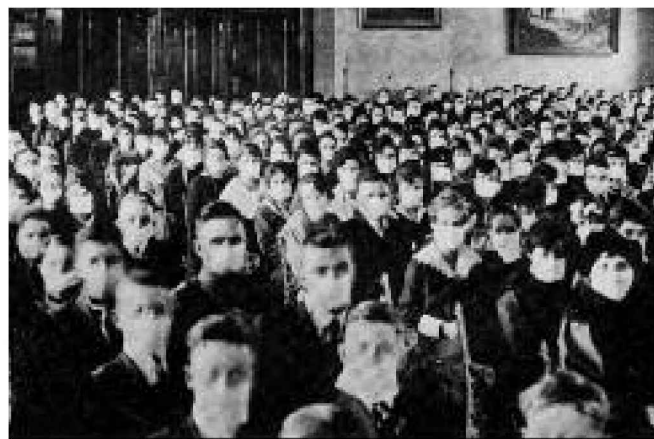
“ The great World War ends. . . . The bells ring and every whistle in factory and engine in Provo are turned on full force, the firing of guns and every noise-making appliance was brought into play. I never heard such a noise in all my life. ”

—Will Jones, November 11, 1918

## Outbreak of Influenza

More soldiers in Europe died as a result of the dreaded influenza virus than in battle. Then many soldiers who survived the terrible ordeals of combat in the trenches and the **influenza** epidemic in Europe returned to find the same enemy spreading death at home. There was no medicine to help cure the disease.

In 1918, a Utah state health officer banned all public gatherings, including church services. Schools closed their doors for two to three months. As the numbers of sick people grew, streetcars limited the number of riders, business hours were shortened, and no special sales that would gather crowds were to be held. Funeral services were limited to fifteen minutes. The disease eventually ran its course, and life returned to normal.



*To help prevent the spread of Influenza, students at Brigham Young University were required to wear face masks.*

## The Posey War

While the fighting in Europe was going on, there was a much smaller battle going on at home. Land use was still an important issue between Utah's Indians and ranchers. Cattle companies, settlers, and Navajo herders were competing with the Utes and Paiutes for land. There were small battles in 1915 and 1921, and several Paiutes were killed.

Then friction between the groups reached a new crisis point two years later when sixty-year-old Posey and two Indian boys were accused of robbing a sheep camp, killing a calf, and burning a bridge. The three were arrested, but escaped during their trial in Blanding.

To "end the Indian problem," a sheriff's posse rounded up about forty Indian men, women, and children in the small Indian community of Westwater near Blanding. The Indians were guarded first in the basement of the school. Then they were moved to a small barbed-wire stockade in the center of town. To avoid arrest, other Indians fled towards Navajo Mountain, where they were later found and taken to the stockade back in town.

In the meantime, Posey and others fought back. The Indians killed a horse,

their shots barely missing three passengers in a Model T automobile. The event made it into newspapers all over the country.

Unknown to the settlers, Posey had been wounded in the battle and later died. When a U.S. marshal finally learned of Posey's death, he set the rest of the Indians free and gave them land on Blue Mountain so they would have more hunting grounds. Sadly, however, Indian children were sent away to school at the Ute Mountain Reservation in Colorado. The last Indian battle was a very sad time for Indian families.



*In his later years, Posey typically wore a dark vest with an army belt buckle as a badge. The badge was perhaps seen by him as an emblem of his military leadership. Posey often referred to himself as General Posey.*

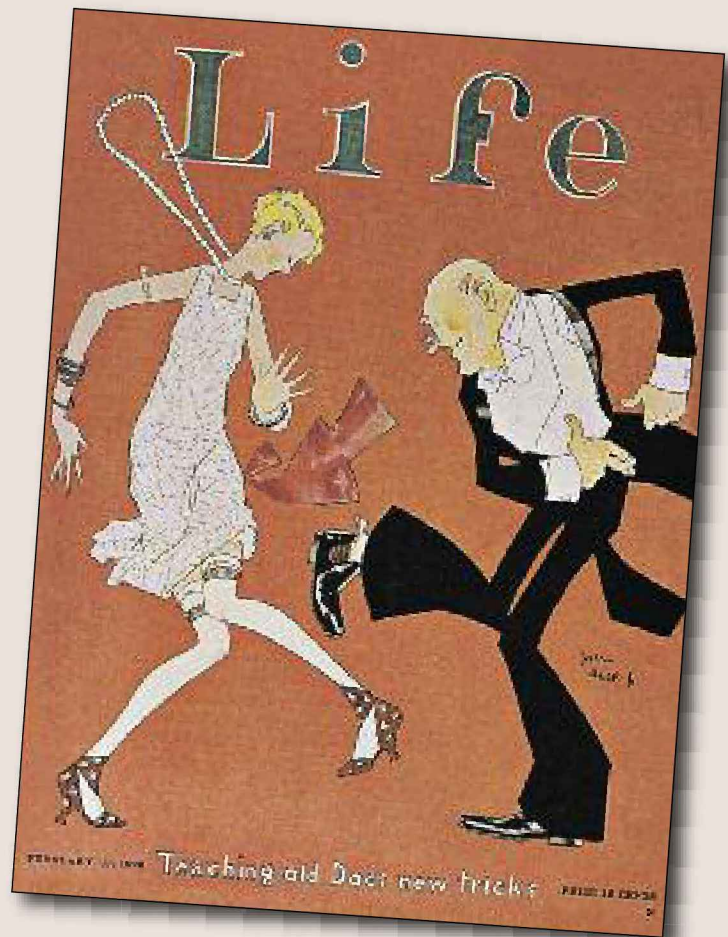




# The Roaring Twenties

**D**uring World War I, life was hard on everyone at home and overseas. After the war, daily life got better. There were jobs and money to buy all the new inventions. The 1920s came with high hopes. The twenties are remembered for women's short skirts and short hair, fancy clothes, and a dance called the Charleston. There were dance contests and stories called "soap operas" on the radio and in the newspapers.

In the United States, African Americans developed a new musical form that became popular. Jazz came to Utah in a flurry. Along with the craze for jazz music, local theaters installed sound systems and showed the first "talkie" movies.



## What do you think?

How do you think movies might have changed Utahns' perceptions of the nation and world? How do movies and radio impact our society today?



## Radio in the Twenties

Utah's first radio station, KZN (now KSL), began when several employees of the *Deseret News* put together a small radio studio on the roof of the newspaper building in Salt Lake City. In the first broadcast, LDS President Heber J. Grant spoke the opening words. Then the mayor of Salt Lake City spoke over the radio:

It is fitting to have this word of greeting come in the springtime, as the beginning of new things. Here in Salt Lake City, we are now enjoying beautiful spring weather. . . . We have passed through a rather severe winter, but . . . we all feel that we have withstood the storm, and now that things are brighter, it is a pleasure to congratulate each other over this wonderful invention. I send . . . greetings to you all, and will now bid you good night.

—Mayor C. Clarence Neslen

The closing remarks reflected inventions of the century:

I have had many unique experiences in my life. I had the privilege of riding the first bicycle that came into Salt Lake City. . . . I talked on the first telephone that came here. . . . I have also had the pleasure of riding in an airplane from Brussels to London, at the rate of 100 miles an hour. . . . And now, we have the opportunity of talking over a wireless telephone and having it broadcast to many stations . . . from 500 to 1,000 miles away. . . . I am grateful indeed that my lot has been cast among a people who look forward to every good thing for the benefit and uplift of mankind.

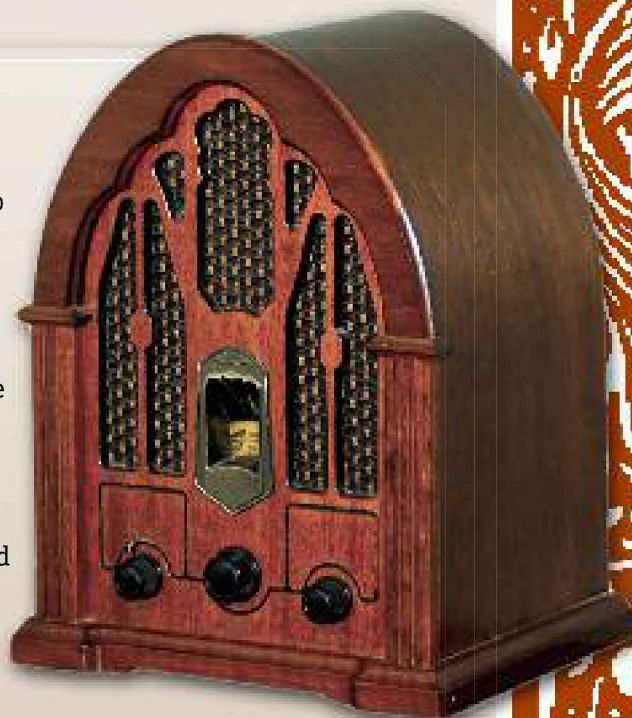
—George Albert Smith

At first, the station came on the air each night from 8:00 to 8:30. Later, program time went to an hour and a half. Early programs combined live music from the studio orchestra with music played on records.

Over the next twenty years other towns started their own radio stations, including KLO in Ogden, KUEB in Price, KSUB in Cedar City, KVNE in Logan, and KOVO in Provo. Radio grew in popularity, and before long almost every home had one.

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*An important national event was celebrated in 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote. Had Utah women voted before this time?*



# The Great Depression

The 1920s were a time of prosperity and change. Then everything changed quickly when a wave of panic spread over Wall Street—the nation’s financial center—in New York City. On October 29, 1929, later called “Black Tuesday,” the largest selling day in the history of the New York Stock Exchange began. Since so many people were selling their stock, and few were buying, prices dropped quickly.

Some people lost everything they had overnight. Millionaires went *bankrupt*. The country was falling into the worst *depression* in its history. By 1930, the country was in a state of gloom and fear. People lost their jobs, savings, and homes. The Great Depression spread across the United States.

Utah was among the hardest-hit states. Utah had a very high *unemployment rate*. In Duchesne and Uintah Counties, unemployment was 75 percent. Only a fourth of the people who wanted jobs were working. Three-fourths could not find jobs. All over the state, many people worked only part-time for low pay.

Families suffered. Families without places to live moved in with other families. Fathers and even children as young as thirteen sometimes left home to hunt for work.

## Mining and Farming Prices Plunge

Profit from Utah’s industries fell sharply. The value of Utah mine products dropped 80 percent. By 1932, farm income plunged from \$69 million to \$30 million. With prices and production so low, the farming community of Smithfield, north of Logan, lived almost completely on welfare payments or charity.

A man in Hooper said he could not afford gas for his old Model T Ford, so he could not take his eggs to market. His chickens had almost no market value. The cows he bought for \$50 would sell for only \$20. It was a great time to buy if you had money, but few people did.

## Groups Work Together to Give Aid

County and city governments opened storehouses stocked with food, clothing, and bedding. Boy Scouts often collected flour, sugar, potatoes, and cereal for the storehouses. Local governments paid men two dollars a day to shovel snow and cut wood.

The Red Cross collected and passed out food. Coal companies donated fuel to heat homes. The Catholic Women’s League, the Jewish Relief, the LDS Relief Society, and the Protestant Ladies Aid Society helped people help each other.

Despite the best efforts of local governments and relief groups, resources had been strained to the breaking point. The U.S. Congress started providing loans to states, counties, and cities.

“Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.”

—a saying from the Great Depression

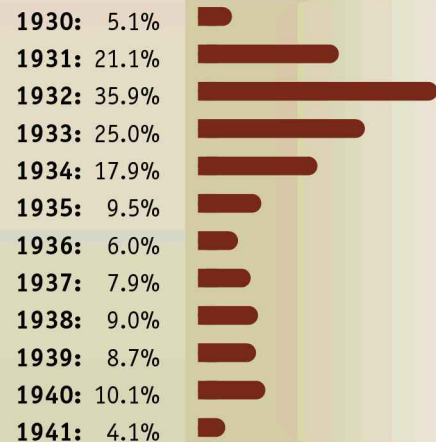
“No one thinks of those depression days as happy times, but they were not all bad. We all learned things about work and pulling together and making the most of what we had—things that have stood us in good stead these past fifty years.”

—Helen E. Bunnell

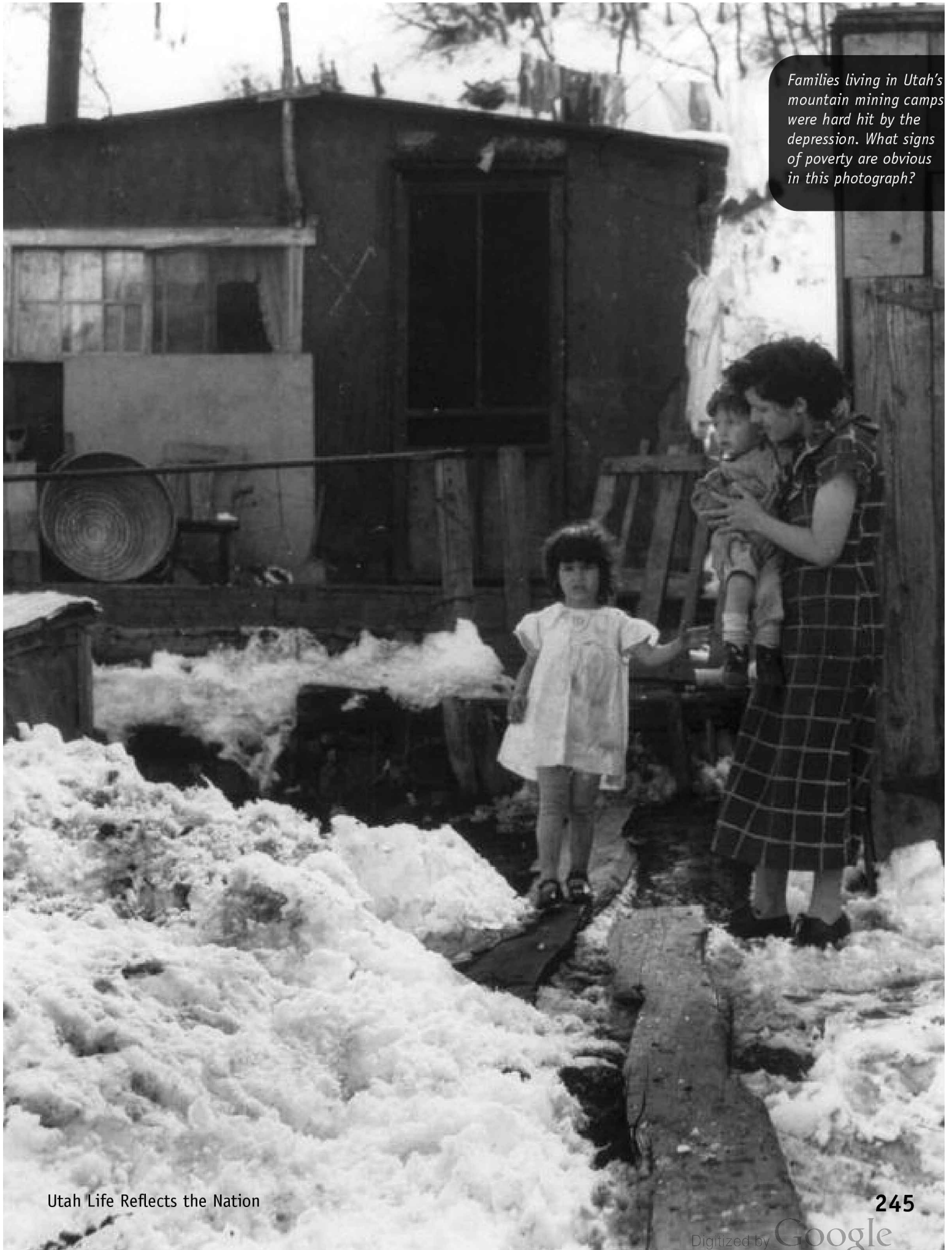
## Unemployment in Utah, 1930-1941

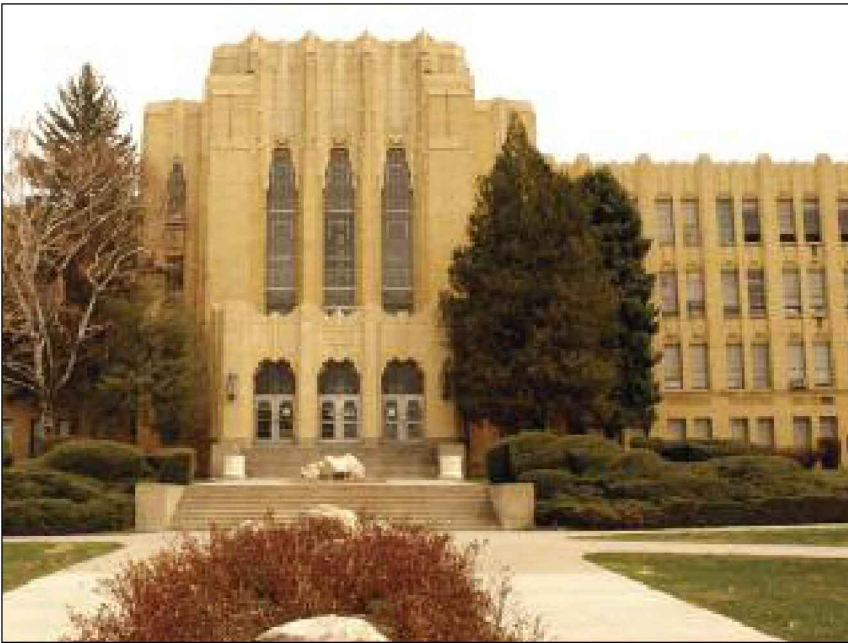
Thousands of Utahns had no work and no way to earn a living during the Great Depression. According to this graph, in what year was unemployment the highest? What year was it the lowest?

Percentage of  
Workers  
Unemployed



*Families living in Utah's mountain mining camps were hard hit by the depression. What signs of poverty are obvious in this photograph?*





*Ogden High School was built by WPA workers in 1937. The classic art-deco marble hallway, library, and auditorium are still used by students. New Deal workers also built high schools in Hurricane, Nephi, Richfield, Cedar City, and Copperton. School gymnasiums were built in Brigham City and Murray.*

## The New Deal

By 1932, Americans had suffered through three years of depression. Many voted for a new leader. Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and called a special session of Congress. He presented a plan called the New Deal. The president thought the unemployed workers, farmers, and small business owners had been dealt with poorly. He offered them “a new deal” of the cards. The New Deal created many agencies that provided jobs.

### The CCC

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) employed young men and sent them to camps away from home. For one dollar a day the boys built roads and trails in the forests. They carried heavy rock to build retaining walls and dug holes to plant trees to stop erosion. They built dams, bridges, and campgrounds in Utah.



*CCC workers in Hobbie Creek Canyon east of Springville worked to build a log dam for soil conservation.*

*Men working for U.S. Forest Service conservation projects lived at the Duck Creek Camp in Iron County.*

## The WPA

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) paid men to build highways, roads, and streets. They built new buildings, including schools. They made parks, athletic fields, and swimming pools. They built sewers and water lines, and improved the Salt Lake Airport runways.

The WPA also set up programs for artists, musicians, and writers. For \$80 a month artists painted murals in the Utah State Capitol dome and murals in other buildings. The Utah Symphony began as a WPA project and gave concerts all over the state. Writers preserved Utah's history by typing copies of pioneer diaries and interviewing older residents.

*Men from Ferron, Orderville, Mt. Pleasant, and Orangeville worked at a CCC construction site.*

## Juanita Brooks

1898–1989



Juanita Brooks was a Utah historian, author, and educator. After her husband died, leaving her a widow with a small son, Brooks earned degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo and from Columbia University in New York City. She taught English at Dixie College, but resigned to marry a widower with four sons.

While helping raise her own son, four stepsons, and the couple's four more children, Brooks worked on a typewriter at night on her kitchen table. She wrote about the history of southern Utah and about growing up in Nevada. She was very successful in locating pioneer diaries, which she collected for the WPA program and later for a large library in California.





“ Even the grasshoppers were starving during the drought. ”

— Leonard J. Arrington,  
Utah historian

*The peach harvest provided a welcome source of food for these farm families in Springdale.*

## Help for Farmers

Other New Deal programs helped Utah farmers. The **Farm Security Administration (FSA)** funded camps for migrant farm laborers and gave long-term loans at low interest rates to small farmers. Farmers and ranchers became more interested in learning the science of agriculture.

### A Long Drought

Utah farmers experienced a very hard time when very little rain fell for the fourth year in a row. In 1934 Utah Lake had only one-third its usual amount of water, and Bear Lake was down fourteen feet. Sheep and cattle suffered when grass dried up along with the water holes. Utah's farmers were in desperate need of irrigation water to keep crops alive.

Utah's Governor Blood asked for financial help from the federal government. Utah's administrator of the **Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)** sent an urgent telegram to the national FERA, asking for help. The request was made to President Roosevelt the very next morning, and within two days the federal government announced a grant of thousands of dollars to help Utah. The funds were used to dig 276 wells, develop 118 springs, line 183 miles of irrigation ditches, and lay 98 miles of pipeline to carry water.

As the drought continued, Governor Blood went to Washington and asked President Roosevelt and the **Public Works Administration (PWA)** to make the Deer Creek Dam and reservoir in Heber City a top priority. A dam was built, and water from the Provo and other rivers was stored in the new reservoir and used to irrigate farms and provide water for animals.

Dams were also built in Sanpete County and at Moon Lake in the Uinta Mountains. Pineview Dam, east of Ogden, was built with money from the federal government, and a water project in Hyrum was approved. Rain finally fell in early November, too late to rescue the summer crops.



## Henry H. Blood

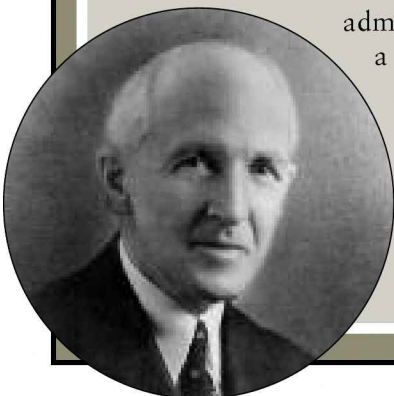
1872–1942

Henry Hooper Blood was a prominent businessman and the seventh governor of Utah. When he took office in 1933, more than a third of Utah's workforce was unemployed, and the percentage of Utahns on relief was among the highest in the nation.

Governor Blood supported President Roosevelt's relief programs and obtained many federal programs for Utah.

The building of dams was important to his administration. He urged the passing of a 2 percent sales tax to help in the relief efforts, approved the creation of the Department of Welfare, and promoted tourism.

Blood's family was the first to live in the Governor's Mansion in Salt Lake City.



## Marriner S. Eccles • 1890–1977

During the 1930s, Marriner Eccles directed the Utah Construction Company, one of six companies chosen to construct the huge Hoover Dam in Nevada. During the depression, building the dam provided jobs for thousands of men from many states.

Eccles was also in the banking business and helped the First Security Corporation in Ogden withstand several serious runs on its banks. He told the tellers at a bank to count money very slowly as people lined up to withdraw their funds, giving the illusion that the bank still had plenty of money. He also arranged for federal money to be delivered. Men lugged in large bags of the money through the front door, showing customers the money was not running out. Eccles hoped many customers would feel their money was safe and not want to withdraw all their savings.

When the acts of the banker in Utah were brought to the attention of President Roosevelt, Eccles was called to help create the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). It would guarantee people would not lose their savings if a bank failed. A year later Eccles headed the Federal Reserve System. The Federal Reserve Building in Washington, D.C., is named for Marriner Eccles.



## Ethnic Groups During the Depression

By 1930, more than 4,000 Mexican immigrants were living in Utah. Life was always hard, but as the depression got more serious, they were among the first to lose their jobs and most were sent back to Mexico by the U.S. government. This happened in other places in the United States, not just in Utah.

The following quotes are from *Missing Stories: an Oral History of Ethnic and Minority Groups in Utah*, by Leslie Kelen and Eileen Hallet Stone:

Every once in a while I'll see people going up and down the railroad tracks with sacks, picking up aluminum cans, and it reminds me of [the depression] days and what we kids were doing. I remember a group of us, all about eight or nine years old, started going junking. We'd take our gunny sacks and pick up bottles, scraps of metal, copper wire, aluminum, anything we could see. . . . those were rough times.

—Dan Maldonado

Italian immigrants, like most other people, had trouble getting jobs. But, as this quote shows, often the young people still mixed in sports, just like they had before the depression:

We'd go down to the [local church]. It was the only place that had a gymnasium. The caretaker lived next door, and we'd ask him if we could play ball. He'd say, "Sure, as long as you don't wreck the joint." So, we used to play basketball all the time. Everybody played. Gee, we had blacks, Greeks, Italians, Mormons. We all grew up together. As children it didn't make a difference.

—Eugene Robert Barber

## The Depression Ends

The scope of the New Deal was immense. Its programs brought relief to millions. Yet, these programs did not end the Great Depression. It was the country's entry into World War II that provided jobs for both men and women and got the economy going again. You will read about World War II in the next chapter.





## Memory Master

- Describe reasons immigrant groups came to Utah during the early 1900s.
- Describe some of the changes in transportation during this time.
- Who were the Wobblies?
- Why did workers form labor unions?
- Explain why progressive reformers were concerned about living conditions.
- Why were reclamation projects important to Utah's farmers?
- How did Utahns change the way they used public land during this time?
- Why was land use a major factor of the Posey War?
- What were the sources of music on Utah's first radio programs?
- Summarize the ways the Great Depression affected Utah's people.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of federal programs in helping Utah's farmers during the depression.
- What world event finally ended the Great Depression?



## Activity | From the World to Utah

This chart shows how many people from some foreign countries were living in Utah from 1900 to 1930. Study the chart and answer the questions below.

- Did the percentage of foreign-born people in Utah increase or decrease from 1900 to 1930?
- The number of immigrants decreased each year from which countries?
- In all the years combined, the highest number of immigrants came from which country?



Utah's Foreign-Born Population

COUNTRY	1900	1910	1920	1930
Canada	1,331	1,694	1,466	1,196
Denmark	9,132	8,300	6,970	4,883
England	18,879	18,082	14,836	10,851
Germany	2,360	2,360	3,963	3,589
Greece	3	4,039	3,029	2,197
Ireland	1,516	1,656	1,207	584
Italy	1,062	3,117	3,225	2,814
Japan	419	2,062	2,359	1,730
Mexico	41	145	1,083	2,386
Netherlands	523	1,392	1,980	2,325
Norway	2,128	2,128	2,310	1,698
Scotland	3,143	2,853	2,310	1,669
Sweden	7,025	7,227	6,073	4,389
Switzerland	1,469	1,691	1,566	1,419
Wales	2,141	1,672	1,304	862
% of Utahns who were foreign-born	19%	18%	13%	9%



# Go to the Source

## Understand the Great Depression Through Popular Music

Both film and radio were fairly new technologies during the difficult years of the Great Depression, yet these industries thrived. Music in movies and on the radio reflected the nation's longing for better times. Popular music was often an escape from the hard realities of life.

Study the lyrics from these depression-era songs, then answer the questions below.

New day's comin',  
As sure as you're born!  
There's a new day comin',  
Start tootin' your horn,  
While the cobbler's shoeing,  
The baker will bake,  
When the brewer's brewin',  
We'll all get a break!

Now, a new day's comin',  
For Levee and Burke,  
New day's comin',  
For boss and for clerk,  
No more bummin',  
We'll all get to work,  
There's a new day coming soon!

— From “There’s a New Day Comin’,”  
1932

We're in the money, we're in the money;  
We've got a lot of what it takes  
to get along!  
We're in the money, that sky is sunny,  
Old Man Depression you are through,  
you done us wrong.

We never see a headline about  
breadlines today.  
And when we see the landlord we can  
look that guy right in the eye

We're in the money, come on, my honey,  
Let's lend it, spend it,  
send it rolling along!

— From “We’re in the Money,” 1933

They used to tell me I was building a dream,  
and so I followed the mob,  
When there was earth to plow,  
or guns to bear,  
I was always there right on the job.  
They used to tell me I was building a dream,  
with peace and glory ahead,  
Why should I be standing in line,  
just waiting for bread?

Once I built a railroad, I made it run,  
made it race against time.  
Once I built a railroad; now it's done.  
Brother, can you spare a dime?  
Once I built a tower, up to the sun,  
brick, and rivet, and lime;  
Once I built a tower, now it's done.  
Brother, can you spare a dime?

— From “Brother Can You Spare a Dime?,” 1931

1. State the overall message of “There’s a New Day Comin’” and “We’re in the Money.”
2. Music during the depression era was almost always optimistic. Why do you think this was so?
3. How do the lyrics in “Brother Can You Spare a Dime?” reflect the frustrations of out-of-work Americans at the time?
4. What are the lyrics to one of your favorite songs? What does the music you listen to say about how you view the world around you?