Drawing C/015/017

0010

Presentation given on history of LDS operated coal mines

By PHIL E. FAUVER
Special to the Progress

Shirl McArthur spoke at the Emery County Historical Society on Feb. 22. McArthur is writing a history of the coal mine owned and operated in Emery County by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

In the 1880's two men John Chilton and William Hinkins from Castle Dale decided to develop a coal mine for Castle Dale in the same coal seam where Orangeville had two small mines. The coal seam was 12 to 15 feet thick. They later sold the mine to Chris and Peter Ott of Castle Dale. The Ott's applied to the government and obtained ownership of 40 acres around the mine. After Chris died Pete sold the mine, in 1904, to Jess Knight, a financier in the State of Utah. In 1936 Clinton Edwards and Hugh Broadrick, purchased the 40 acres and proposed to mine coal. However the steep road to the mine was a major difficulty and they transported only a limited amount of coal with teams and wagons. In 1950 the Church purchased the 40 acres then known as the Edwards property.

In the early 1900's coal was the chief form of fuel for providing heat in most homes in and around Utah. The church was mining coal in Emery County in the 1930s as a welfare project to provide coal to heat the homes of needy families and later church owned buildings in Utah, Carbon and Emery counties. As the project grew it started providing coal to the Bishops Storehouse in Salt Lake City. In 1942 the Emery Stake Coal Project was included in the general Church Welfare Program.

In 1946 the church made arrangements to take over the ownership of a mine known as the Old Wagon Mine located about 10 miles northwest, of Orangeville. It can be seen on the slope above the pageant site. The mine began operation under the General Church Welfare Program and was known as the Deseret Coal Mine and as such operated for about 30 years.

The church leaders assigned three stake presidents in the Utah Central Region the responsibility of providing people to work in the mine and helping in its operation.

The church coal mine operated with volunteer help and donated mine equipment for several years. McArthur described how the coal dust was so bad at one time the church mine had to be closed in 1941 due to a lack of water. Later the mine was reopened when water was piped from above the mine into the mine to keep the dust down.

McArthur told of how steep the road was and the dangers of hauling coal in team drawn wagons from the mine. He related a story of how William Moffitt's team of horses became frightened and fell with the wagon off the edge of the loading platform to their death and destruction 200 or more feet below. He also told of the 1950 burning of the wooden tipple, used for loading wagons and trucks with coal. This fire was caused by some welding slag falling into coal dust setting off an explosion and fire that burned the tipple to the ground. The destruction of this tipple made it convenient for the construction of the replacement tipple which was made of steel. The new tipple started loading coal in Jan. 1, 1951.

The coal from the Deseret mine seam of coal did not burn as good as coal from other locations. However, with test drilling better burning coal was found in a seam above the seam being worked. A shaft was cut into the roof of the lower mine and coal from above was dropped down through this shaft. They called this upper mine the Beehive mine. Later another adjoining seam of coal was opened and it was named in honor of McArthur's wife, The Dove Mine. By combining these three mines the mine became known as the Des Bee Dove Mine. This mine achieved a record of more than 100 million tons of coal shipped in a year.

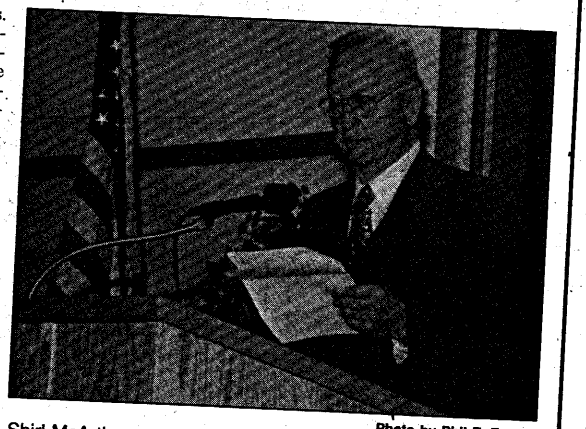

Photo by Phil E. Fauver
Shirl McArthur speaks at the Emery County Historical Society meeting.

Choosing the high school classes that lead to success

It's that time of year again. High school students are lining up to talk to their counselors about next fall's classes.

If you want to make sure your student is ready for education beyond high school here are recommendations from ACT, makers of the college entrance exam, the ACT Assessment.

It's never too early to think about college preparation. Choices made as a freshman and program in high school, the student is preparing well for college. In fact, the ACT, used for college admission by almost all U. S. colleges and unversities, measures what the student has learned in high school to estimate how well he or she is expected to do in college.

Most college admissions professionals say the courses a student takes in high school and his or her grades are the most important pieces of information

ommended list of high school courses that students can use as a guide for planning their choices. Be sure to check with the colleges and universities of interest to compare the requirements. The ACT minimum recommendations are:

*English: four years

*Mathematics: three years (algebra and higher level math)

*Natural Sciences: three years, with lab experience

music, theatre, drama, dance, computer science.

A student' chance of success in college is greatly enhanced by taking rigorous courses in all subjects, especially in math. Research from ACT shows that students who take more math classes are better prepared for college than other students and score higher on the ACT overall.

PHOTOS WANTE

The Sun Advocate and Emery County Progress will be publishing as a feature "Your Favorite Castle Country Photos". You are invited to send or bring in to either of our offices your favorite photo of the area. We will scan it and let you take it back home with you the same day.

We also will be producing a special screen saver disk featuring the photo and the name of who submitted it.

Photos should include the details of where and when it was taken and who is in the picture. This information will be printed in the newspaper as the photos are used.

Thanks for your interest. It should be a well read part of the newspapers.

Looking West from the S

Part of the Rochester Panel in the S

Rafael.