

'Classroom in the Corn' is a-maize-ing

By Nancy Spurllock
 Uintah Basin Standard

School was in session one recent weekday as students from Roosevelt's East Elementary sat on bales of straw and took part in the "Classroom in the Corn" program at the Monsen Family Bluebell Corn Maze.

After the buses arrived, the children were greeted and split into two groups. Half the students went to the pumpkin patch to get a pumpkin.

The other half went to the classroom and learned about how corn is grown and what it is used for. The classroom is a prerequisite for the students in order to enter the maze.

"They'll get to see a combine and a corn planter," Bluebell Corn Maze owner Mark Monsen said. "We'll take an actual stalk of corn and we'll diagram it, showing the stalk, roots, tassel, ears, silk and leaves. We'll tell them about how we prepare the land, irrigate, plant the seeds and harvest it."

The information learned in the "class" helped the students navigate their way through the elaborate 7 acres of maze — or "maize," as the Monsen family likes to spell it, since it is made out of corn.

"There's over 4,000 products we get from corn," Classroom in the Corn teacher Ramona Brown said. "Tires, trucks, marshmallows just to name a few. We teach them about that and other things that will give them the answers to get them through the corn maze."

When the children are finished with class, they'll switch and go to the pumpkin patch. Once all the children have attended both activities they are allowed entry into the maze.

Once inside the maze, the students come to numbered markers as they navigate the winding paths.

"The chaperon pulls out the sheet that we give them and asks the children the question pertaining to that number," Monsen said. "If they get the question right, it tells them the right way to go. If they get the question wrong, then they go the wrong way. So they get to review some of the things that we taught them."

After the students are finished with the maze, they are allowed to view the



"Get Lost" is the theme of the 'maize.' The attraction's name is a clever play on words by the Monsen family since their maze is made of corn.

two of the four trails.

"If people don't want to be scared, they don't have to be," Monsen said.

"We call it family friendly haunting. We try not to be too aggressive, no ax murderers, no chain saws, but we try to scare you."

After 26 years as a full-time farmer, Monsen and his wife, Lori decided to start the corn maze. This is their ninth year of managing it and they've seen many interesting things happen among the ever-changing corn.

The corn is planted in both directions in order to create the unique maze pattern. The grid layout determines where to install the bridge and cut the five-foot pathways. Both are done while the corn is less than a foot tall.

"Our tickets have a pattern on them that map the maze," Monsen said. "If people walked every trail, made all bad choices, they'd probably walk close to two miles. A child from 6 to 10 years

they make a wrong choice, they just go back and make another choice, and then pretty soon they're out."

The pattern of the maze changes yearly as well as the sponsorship. This year the corn-eating "Corn-i-vore" Rex tromps across the top of Mountain

America's logo. Other sponsors for 2009 include Coke, Signs & Lines, Western Petroleum, Uintah Basin Medical Center, Strata Networks, Intermountain Farmer's Association, the Roosevelt Subway, Gateway 66, the Bluebell Store, Scissor Happy

Salon, Ag Equipment Company, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Duchesne County Chamber of Commerce and Dinosaurland Resource Conservation and Development.

"I'd like to thank all of the businesses that make this possible," Monsen said. "It's helpful when they support such a positive activity for our community."

Other patterns have included two bells for Bluebell's centennial celebration, a milk cow, statue of liberty, an American flag, an oilfield worker and the Uintah and Duchesne County seals. One thing that never changes is the happiness customers experience at the maze, some of which is life-changing.

"We've had several marriage proposals here at the corn maze," Monsen said. "We've also had several couples that met here and ended up married. No weddings yet, but we'll do what we need to do."

The Bluebell Corn Maze is located ¼-mile north of the Bluebell Store. It's open Tuesday and Wednesday by advance reservation only for groups of 20 or more; Thursday and Friday from 5 to 9 p.m.; and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. It's closed Sunday and Monday.

Cost is \$7, ages 11 to adult; \$5, children 5 to 10. Prices are increased by \$2 beginning Oct. 15 during normal hours of operation at dark for family friendly haunting (no group reservations during the haunting time). Children 4 and under get in free with an adult. A \$3 courtyard fee is applicable for those not participating in the maze.

"I don't sell products at my farm — even though I do sell pumpkins and concessions — I sell experiences," Monsen said. "You can go anywhere and buy a pumpkin, but I'll sell you a wagon ride and you'll get to go out in the field and actually pick your own pumpkin."

"So there's an experience there and since we've been in business for nine years we have lots of return customers and that's part of the tradition," Monsen continued. "They come out and they take lots of pictures. It's an enjoyable time seeing people have such a fun time."

For more information or to make

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things that we taught them.

After the students are finished with the maze, they are allowed to play at the many courtyard activities such as a less-challenging hay-bale maze and a corn shed. They're also allowed to feed the goats.

"I like it a lot," student Traiden Williams said. "There's tons of fun stuff. You can get lost and have a fun time."

Monsen gives the teachers games to play with the children when they return to school to help them remember the things they learned on their outing. However, when the buses load up and take the students away, the fun isn't over.

Between Sept. 26 through Oct. 31, the maze will be open to the public and the Monsen family invites you to "get lost" in their corn-eating T-Rex "Corn-i-vore" maze.

The 7 acres of twists and turns, a farm-inspired playground, wagon rides, pick-your-own pumpkins, a cow train, pumpkin and corn launchers, a goat walk, a corn shed, warm food, family fun, and haunted October nights offer something for everyone.

"The maze has three different personalities," Monsen said. "During the day it's school field trips. In the afternoon it's small families. When it gets dark, it changes completely. The music changes and then teenagers come with their dates and their groups so it evolves. The whole atmosphere changes. When we haunt it changes again because the scary music comes on."

Beginning Oct. 15 during normal hours of operation at dark, the maze offers family-friendly haunting on only

a fun time."

For more information or to make advance reservations call (435) 822-6293 or for group reservations call (435) 454-3792.

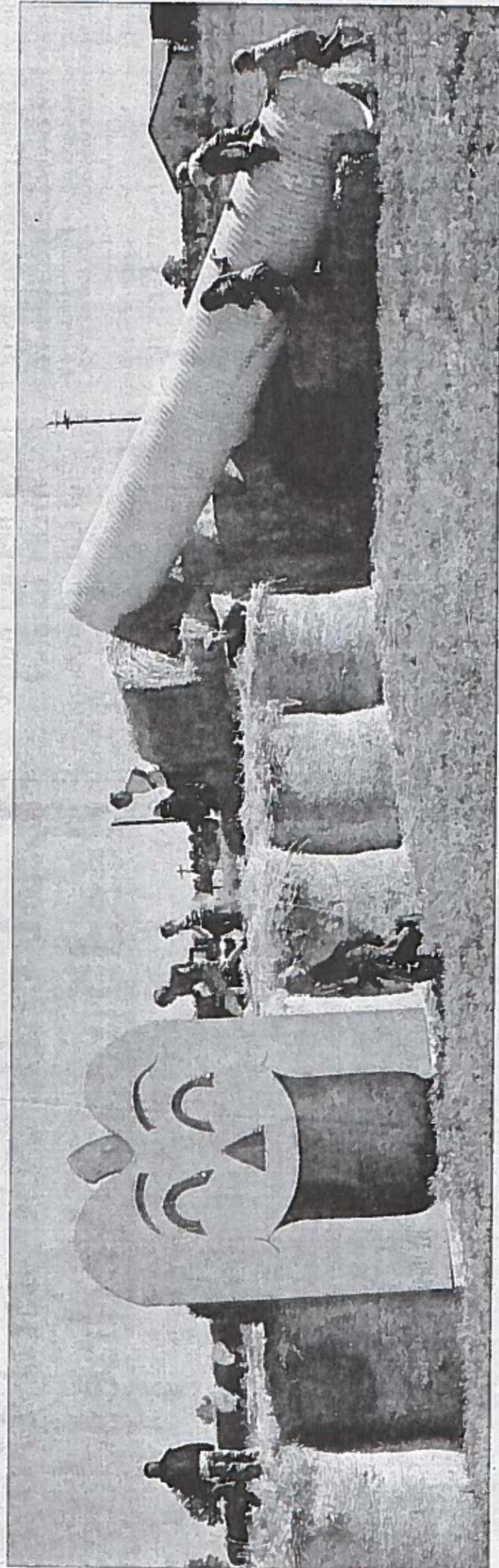
PHOTOS: NANCY SPURLOCK, UTAH BASIN STANDARD



Bluebell Maze owner Mark Monsen greets students at the foot of the bridge as students continue their journey inside the bowels of the T-Rex "Corn-i-vore" maze.



Ramona Brown teaches students about growing corn and the uses of corn during East Elementary's third-grade field trip. Students use the information they learn in the class to navigate through the maze.



The hay bale maze is less challenging for the third-grade students from Roosevelt's East Elementary. This is just one of many activities the children enjoy during their visit to the Monsen Family Bluebell Corn Maze.

Utah Basin Standard
3 Aug 2004 RHC 0578

11-YEAR-OLD Bluebell rider nets first in horse meet

Eleven year old Bluebell resident Savana Miller, and her Missouri Fox Trotter 'Tom's Complicated Lady', completed the North American Trail Ride Conference Competitive Trail Ride held at Strawberry Mill B on June 26-27.

Savana placed first in the Horsemanship division and her horse placed first in the horse division. Enjoying great scenery, trails and riding competition were 47 riders from Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. The North American Trail Ride Conference is a 30 year old organization offering sanctioned competitive trail rides throughout the United States. Rides are based on condition and soundness of the horse and the rider's performance, NOT speed.

Riders travel a pre-timed course over a variety of terrain and are judged by experienced veterinarians and horsemanship judges. Some riders participate just for the pleasure of riding in a new area, others to learn or improve riding skills. Various classes allow for competition of riders at different experience levels. The attention to horse care, safety and camaraderie has helped make competitive trail riding one of the nation's most popular horse activities.

For additional information about the sport, organization and/or future rides, contact: Stephanie Miller (435)454-3958.



• YOUNG RIDER WINS BIG — Eleven-year old Bluebell resident Savana Miller placed first in the Horsemanship division the North American Trail Ride Conference Competitive Trail Ride held at Strawberry Mill Bin June 26. Her Missouri Fox Trotter 'Tom's Complicated Lady' also won a first place.

Alonzo William and Martha Abigail (Cook) Bird

The Birds were Bluebell's first honey farmers

Bluebell's first honey farmer, Alonzo William Bird, was born Nov. 7, 1867 in Mendon, Cache County. As a young boy Alonzo learned how to farm and raise and care for sheep.

Since he had to take turns going to school with his siblings, he didn't receive very much education. However he did learn how to read, write and do simple arithmetic.

In about 1873 his family moved to Sevier County where they resided in Gooseberry. Alonzo met and fell in love with Martha Abigail Cook when he was about 19.

Martha was born March 16, 1868, in Nephi. Martha and Alonzo married in 1886 and made their first home in Gooseberry, where the couple's first three children were born. Alonzo William, who died at 3-years-old, Martha Jane and Clarence Oran.

In order to support his family, Alonzo broke wild horses, cut, hauled, and sold cedar posts and worked building fences for neighbors.

Around the time of Clarence's birth Alonzo was injured in an accident involving a gun that exploded shell pieces and gun powder into his face, leaving him blind in his right eye.

The family moved to Benjamin, Utah County, where they lived in a two-room log home with a dirt roof on ten acres which Alonzo's father had given him. In Benjamin the family raised grains for their animals and themselves and in the fall Alonzo worked on the threshing machines for which he received one and a half bushels of grain per day as payment.

Four more children were born

into the Bird family while living in Benjamin; James Ivan, Kelsey Charles, Isaac Wilford, and Leroy.

In 1902 the family moved to Ammon, Idaho, where Alonzo worked as a laborer on sugar beet farms.

In 1904 Alonzo received a letter saying that his father was very sick. The family sold everything they owned, except their team and wagon, and headed back to Utah where they lived with and cared for Alonzo's father for about one and a-half years. Around this time Lyndon and Violet Elizabeth were born into the family.

In 1907 the family moved back to Idaho where their last child, Edith, was born.

In March of 1910 Alonzo traveled to Utah to the Indian reservation and filed for 160 acres of land in what is now Bluebell.

The family packed up all of their belongings and moved to Bluebell which was to be their permanent residence. They settled in Water Holler which is about 5 miles from the center of the town.

The family lived in tents while Alonzo and the boys built a two-room home.

Neighbors gave the new settlers fruit tree starts and the family planted a garden. Alonzo and his sons caught bees, put them in boxes and planted alfalfa and bull-clover.

After buying honey extracting equipment the Birds produced so much honey that they were soon hauling honey to Salt Lake and Provo.

"He used to tell us 'a man is only as good as his word, if his word isn't any good, he isn't any good,'" wrote Alonzo's daughter Edith in "Bluebell Utah 1905-1983."

Martha and Alonzo lived in Water Hollow until Martha passed away in 1932. After that Alonzo lived in town with his daughter Martha Jane until he died in 1942.

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The Myton Daze Committee would also like to thank any organization or individual that we may have missed. Know that you are appreciated.

Thank You!

Uintah Basin Standard
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EARLY SETTLERS — After living in many different small towns throughout Utah and Idaho, Alonzo William and Martha Abigail (Cook) Bird and their nine children settled in Bluebell in 1910.

Bluebell corn maze: Get lost and find a great time

By Deborah Tracy
Vernal Express

Build it and maybe they'll come.

That was the guiding principal behind Mark Monsen's decision to turn his field into a gigantic corn maze more than a dozen years ago. The concept has grown and expanded since that time, and now that field is a feast of corn-y fun. In fact, it can more accurately be described as a celebration of all things autumn.

Monsen said it started as a way to supplement his farm in Bluebell. "I was in the dairy business back then, and I was looking for something else to do," he explained. "There were some girls down here in town that traveled all the way to Salt Lake to go through a corn maze, and I thought, 'maybe they will come to mine if I build one.'"

So he did and people come. Since it began it has steadily increased in scope. "I think it's good for the community. It gives kids something to do that's not getting in trouble."

Besides the maze, there is lots to do. There is a building that is a corn kernel "sand box." There is a large sandbox using the traditional stuff with big toys to move the sand. Kids can feed and pet other kids (of the goat variety), run through a mini-maze made of hay bales, ride the "cow train" and slide down a pipe tube slide.

They can hop a wagon pulled by tractor to pick a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch, and older "kids" (some adults have been spied trying this) can shoot a pumpkin at targets using either a pumpkin chunkin' cannon or the really big firepower, "Big Bertha," which can blast a 8-inch pumpkin as much as a quarter mile away.

There's music. There's food, including kettle corn, Frito pie, hot dogs, nachos, and caramel apple sundaes to name just a few goodies. In October, the spooky part of the maze will take center



DEBORAH TRACY, VERNAL EXPRESS

Mark Monsen stands before "Big Bertha," a powerful pumpkin chuckin cannon, which is now in operation at the Bluebell Corn Maze. The main attraction is the maze, but other activities besides firing 8 inch pumpkins include an inventive playground, a pumpkin patch, a cow train for the tots, kettle corn and more.

stage, and the regular maze and a special spook maze will be open at night, with bonfires and more eerie music providing the atmosphere. Debuting this year will be a vortex tunnel built by Monsen, based on similar things he's seen in larger amusement park-type haunt houses.

He noted that having a lot of different types of attractions in addition to his professionally designed maze were part of his initial plan. "I felt like if people were going to travel all the way to Bluebell they needed something to do when they got here, and if they just came through the corn maze and left, that wouldn't be worth it for them driving that distance," he said. "We've got enough things to keep a family busy all afternoon."

While the attraction is open to the public from Thursday through Saturday, Thursday and Wednesday

the Corn Maze is the ultimate "field" trip for schools and church groups.

During a field trip, an additional offering is the corn maze academy. Sitting on hay bales and taking brief walks, children receive an agricultural lesson. "We try to teach them about farming, because a lot of the kids today don't realize where all their food and fiber comes from. So we teach them how important farming is to their community and to their lives," Monsen said.

Getting kids to have fun outdoors is something that he believes in. "I think our kids live too much in boxes," he said. "They live in their bedroom, they live in the kitchen, they live in the front room. They go in a car, they go to school, they go to a bowling alley, they go to a show house, everything they do is inside of a box. This outdoors. We call

it the classroom in the corn."

More than 100 first-graders from Discovery Elementary School from Vernal were the first to take a field trip to the Bluebell Corn Maze last Thursday. Mom Tara Richardson was there as a chaperone with her son Riley's class. She felt it was a great place to bring the kids.

"They learn about farming, agriculture, where food comes from," she said. "And of course there's the obvious. This is a really creative playground. It's wonderful."

There is also an educational component to the maze itself. People can take a book-let of clues. At specific points in the maze, if they are unsure which way to turn, they can answer a trivia question and if they get the right answer it will tell them which way to go to continue through the maze. There are questions relating

to American history, sports, movies and, of course, corn transformation.

It's a lot of work to transform an empty field into the field of fun that is the corn maze. Planting of more than 250,000 ears of corn starts in May when the ground warms up. "We plant in rows, east and west, north and south," Monsen said. In June, working from a professionally produced maze design, the first cutting of the corn that will form the paths of the maze is done. At that time the corn is 5 to 10 inches tall.

Each year features a different maze. The first year was a dairy cow, an homage to his original business. After 9/11, the maze featured a patriotic theme. The last election inspired a donkey and elephant maze, and when Bluebell turned 100 years old the years 1906-2006 were carved in the

corn.

This year's maze is based on "I Love Drilling," the logo of a company owned by George Burnett of Vernal. "The oilfield is such a big part of our area, there is more money and jobs brought into this area because of the oilfield," Monsen said. A meeting with Burnett resulted in this year's maze. "We hope the people in the oilfield come and enjoy us, and we are really proud to support them. Without the oil field, I don't know what the Basin would be like."

While looking at the gigantic wall of corn it's can be hard at first to figure out how it's designed, but Monsen's explanation makes it seem simple. "Remember in school when your teacher gave you a piece of grid paper and then would give coordinates, like B17 and A3. You made dots on the grid paper, then you connected the dots and it drew a picture. That's exactly what we do here."

While he makes it sound simple, Monsen acknowledges that transforming the empty field into the Corn Maze courtyard is lots of work. Each year right before opening day for the public (this year it was Saturday the first day of fall), everything is brought in, and then when it closes Oct. 27 everything is taken out.

There is a seasonal crew of about seven to 10 people who help run the Corn Maze during the five weeks it's open.

When it closes, cows are set loose in the corn. Because of Bluebell's elevation at 6,200 feet, the corn doesn't usually ripen and dry down enough through. Harvesting a corn crop is not why Monsen does this each year.

So, what drives him to give people and kids an opportunity to "get lost?"

"It's just the grins and the laughter and the fun people are having, it gives you a sense of fulfillment. When you see people really enjoying what you have done, there's a lot of satisfaction to that."

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MONSEN CHOSEN FROM DISTRICT

Bluebell 6th grader to ride the Olympic Torch Train

By Susan Collier

On Feb. 7 the Olympic Torch will travel through Heber and Alayna Monsen, a sixth grader at Altamont Elementary will board the Olympic Torch Train representing the Duchesne County/School District. The Olympic Torch Train will transport the torch and other students from rural school districts along the tracks of the Heber Valley Railway for a portion of its fantastic journey across our country.

Alayna is the daughter of Mark and Lori Monsen of Bluebell. She has four older brothers and likes basketball, horse 4-H, and piano. She is excited about being selected to ride the Torch Train. "When asked how she was selected to participate in the once-in-a-lifetime adventure, her answer was simple, "by luck, I guess." While "luck" did play a part, the fact that Alayna is also an exceptional student helped her out quite a bit.

Each sixth and seventh grade teacher throughout Duchesne School District selected a student as a possible Torch Train participant. Teachers were asked to select a student who was an exemplary role model for his or her fellow classmates in citizenship, leadership, athletics, academic attitude, or attendance. All the names then went into a "hat" at each school, and Alayna's name was drawn at Altamont. Her name was then submitted to the district where another random drawing selected her as the Duchesne School District participant on the Torch Train.

Each of the children selected will



A FIRE WITHIN—Dida fire within Alayna Monsen spark her teacher to select her as a candidate to participate in the Olympic Torch Train? Alayna, who attends school in Altamont will represent the Duchesne County School District at the special event in Heber City.

be accompanied by a reporter from his or her home town newspaper during the memorable train ride.

Three historic steam locomotives will haul the passenger and torch cars. One of the locomotives was built in 1909 by American Locomotive Company. This 90-ton locomotive was shipped 290 miles from Ely, Nevada to Heber to participate in the great event.

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RHC 0578

Continued from page 1

Because of limited parking during the Olympics, the train will also transport cross-country spectators from Heber to the Soldier Hollow area.

The actual Torch run through Heber will start on Feb. 7 at the Heber Valley Rail Road Depot at 10:45 a.m. Approximately 30 people will take a turn carrying the flaming symbol along its six mile journey through Heber.

The torch will arrive at Rocky Mountain Middle School (700W. 600S.) at about 11 a.m. for a Torch Run Celebration. Two parachutists holding American and Olympic flags will drop from the sky accompanied by patriotic strains played by The 29th Army Band.

The torch will proceed North down Highway 40 from the Hub Café at the Highway 189 intersection to Smiths Food and Drug.

The Heber Valley Olympic Cauldron designed by Peter Fillierup will be lit at 11:45 a.m. during a short interruption of the run. The 15 foot high cauldron will be surrounded by the flags of 40 nations and is located in the Heber Park between 200 and 300 South Main Street.

Uintah Basin Standard 29 Jan 2002



DON'T SHOOT — Craig Mitchell stands beside one of his life size elk designs. The design is made more striking because a huge antler spread is set atop the planar animal. Mitchell was recently recognized for his metal work which helped spruce up the ROTC building at the University of Utah.

Sand hollow Precision Metal Bluebell business is an Olympic contributor

During your next visit to Salt Lake City, perhaps you should stop by the University of Utah Campus, the site of the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. The whole world will be welcome to the University and in preparation of this massive event a facelift was issued for the campus.

The funds allotted were quickly claimed and projects began to pop up all over the mini metropolis. However, one building in particular felt that the money they had been given wouldn't cover what was desired. The building was the University of Utah Army ROTC Training Building. The item in demand? A sign made with sheet metal and professionally designed ROTC logo.

As a result of wanting the perfect sign for the program, they began looking outside of the school for a solution. What they found was Craig Mitchell of

Sandhollow Precision Metal in Bluebell, UT.

Mitchell, who taught Industrial Education at Uintah Basin Technical Center for 36 years and owns Sandhollow Precision Metal, volunteered his expertise and ability. The end product now hangs on the west side of the ROTC building for the world to see.

This wasn't the first display of ability for Mitchell. He presented to Governor Leavitt a dinner bell in the shape of Utah. His work also hangs in various resorts such as Steamboat and Breakeridge.

Whether you're planning on attending the Olympics in Salt Lake City, or if you are just visiting, make a swing by the University of Utah Army ROTC Training Building. You will discover the magnitude of the contribution that Sandhollow Precision Metals made.

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Bluebell Corn Maze grows, adds attraction

By Cheryl Meacham
 Uintah Basin standard

The owners of the The Bluebell Corn Maze are celebrating their 10th year with a bigger maze, featuring a more intricate design. They have also added a pumpkin blaster this year that will hurl a pumpkin hundreds of yards towards an old pickup truck with a redneck and a hog.

"If you shoot the redneck or hog you win a prize," said Mark Monsen, owner of the Maze.

"Each year we try to find a theme to represent what is going on in the Basin, during an election year we did 'Go Vote,' another year we honored the oil field industry. This year we thought we'd do something about ourselves because it's our 10th year," said Monsen's son, Alex, adding that the design of a man peering through the corn is actually taken from their logo.

The Monsens come up with an idea for each year's maze and send it to a designer who then creates a pattern. While the corn is short the Monsens take to the fields and flag the pattern. Then they use an herbicide to remove growing corn from where the trails need to be. Afterward a tiller is brought in periodically to fill up the weeds and keep the trails clear.

Five months ago there was nothing but an empty field. Now stalks of corn stand eight to 10 feet tall, planted with rows

running north and south, east and west to form walls of corn. The Monsens have begun hauling in play equipment, a corn cannon and pumpkin blaster, and concession stands. Hay bales make up a mini-maze and seating areas.

The maze will open to the public Sept. 24 and close for the season on Oct. 31.

More than 2,000 Uintah Basin school children visit the maze each year, and each year they learn something about agriculture and how important it is to their lives. The theme this year centers on livestock, specifically the amazing bovine.

"We're teaching them about beef cattle. What they eat and drink, their meat and the different products they give us," Mark Monsen said, adding that people need to realize all the work that goes into cattle production—feeding when the snow is three feet deep, keeping up on all the vaccinations to prevent disease, and finally humane slaughter.

"Ranchers aren't villains, we're using what Mother Nature or God—however you believe—put before us to use," Monsen said.

Each class will hear a presentation at the maze and teachers will receive a packet of educational materials to take back to school to reinforce the lesson. The kids will also have a chance to go through the maze and pick a pumpkin.

The pumpkin patch is al-

ready dotted with orange globes lying under green foliage and twisting vines. The school children can each choose a small pumpkin to take home with them, the general public pays for the gourds based on their size.

Courtyard activities include rides on the cow train—barrels painted like cows pulled by a four-wheeler, a goat walk, a corn cannon and PVC slide and plenty of refreshments. Available this year is the ever popular kettle corn, as well as hot dogs, chili dogs, nachos, hot links, bowls of chili and mugs of cocoa. For desert folks can sample a homemade apple sundae.

Beginning Oct. 14 at dusk, the Haunted Trail begins. There are three trails available and only one of these is designated for haunting, so families of young children can participate in the maze without joining the frightening fun. Sounds from the haunted trail—shrieks and giggles—are still audible though.

"This year we're doing Hillbilly Hell," Alex Monsen said. "It's a cantankerous hillbilly clan who've taken over the maze and live in a junk yard."

He said while they try to keep the haunted trail family friendly, it is frightening to small children.

"We don't let it go over the top and make it a gore-fest, but there are scary faces, body parts and gruesome stuff," he said.



CRAIG ASHBY, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

The design for this year's Bluebell Corn Maze features a lost man peering from between the corn stalks and pumpkins. The maze, celebrating its 10th year in operation, opens for the season on Sept. 24.

"We discourage young kids, but that's left up to the parents. I've been haunting every year and I've seen grown ladies pee their pants, little kids giggle and laugh. Some people love Halloween so much they just beg to be part of it."

The Monsens agree that the maze is a huge amount of work, but a worthwhile endeavor.

"It's a positive thing when you can actually create something that makes people say, 'Wow!' when they come to the maze and have fun," Mark Monsen said, emphasizing the importance of the agricultural learning that takes place through the field trips.

"It's enjoyable," he said.

"I know it's quite a drive for some. We appreciate the people coming up to see us and enjoy the farm and outdoors. It's just a good place to live. Our main goal when we started was to make it a positive experience."

A dozen sponsors participate in the maze to provide educational experiences for the Basin's youth.

The maze is located 3/4-mile north of the Bluebell Store. Signs will be up in Roosevelt. Hours of operation are Tuesday and Wednesday by advance reservation only—call in advance to make arrangements for groups of 20 or more. Thursdays and Fridays the

maze is open from 5-9 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The maze is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Admission is \$7 for ages 11 and up, children 4 to 10 years of age are \$5. The Haunted Trail is an additional cost of \$2 per person. Children 3 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. A courtyard fee of \$3 per person is charged when not participating in the maze.

Special events include: Oct. 14-15 UEA Holiday Weekend, the maze opens at 11 a.m.; the Haunted Trail runs Thursday through Saturday beginning at dusk on Oct. 14. No group reservations are accepted for the Haunted Trail.

Matheson makes ston in Vernal during recess

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Bluebell Corn Maze returns to get people lost for 14th year

By John Pustina
jpustina@tribmedia.biz

BLUEBELL—Honoring Roosevelt in its centennial year is the theme for the 14th annual Blue Bell Corn Maze, opening Sept. 21 and continuing through Oct. 26.

A Uintah Basin autumn tradition continues as Mark Monsen has once again created an original corn maze with about 250,000 ears of corn on eight acres, along with other attractions on his farm, located three quarters of a mile north of the Bluebell Store, about 15 miles from Roosevelt and about 45 miles from Vernal.

"Come get lost with us" remains an ongoing theme.

The themes change each year. The corn maze first opened in 2000 with a dairy cow theme because the Monsen farm was originally a dairy farm. A patriotic theme was used the following year, shortly after the 9/11 attacks. In 2006, Bluebell's centennial year, 1906-2006 were carved into the corn. An election year featured a donkey and an elephant. Last year, the theme "I Love Drilling," paid homage to the oil and gas industries in the Basin.

There's more to interest people of all ages. There is a courtyard with a large round bale maze, a goat walk where children could pet and feed goats, slides, a corn bin with whole corn that children can play in, and of course, Monsen's cannons.

The Duchesne County farmer is known for his compressed air cannons that shoot corn and pumpkins across a field to a certain destruction that delights spectators.

"We have two pumpkin cannons. We are going to shoot all the time," Mon-

sen said.

Eight- and three-inch cannons will shoot pumpkins every day during about a month that the corn maze will be open.

Monsen acquired the 3-inch "pumpkin chuckin'" cannon about five years ago and he built the 8-inch "Big Bertha" two years ago.

A tractor pulls a wagon to the pumpkin patch where people can pick their own pumpkins.

Then there is a new attraction this year called "Friendly Fire," nurrball wars played in an enclosed area with paintball guns and protective equipment. Monsen removed the barrels from paintball guns and replaced them with larger barrels.

"We have field trips during the day Tuesdays through Fridays. We're teaching kids about farming this year. We'll be doing it on pollinators and what pollinators do for us," Monsen said.

"The last three weeks of October, we are going to have a spooky trail. Kids can hike the haunted corn maze. It's separate from the other corn maze, so if you don't want to get haunted you don't have to," Monsen said.

The third annual Lose Yourself 5k Benefit Run on opening day, Saturday, Sept. 21, will benefit the Trenton Bastian family of Vernal.

"Every year we pick a family that has been having troubles and we do a benefit for them and all the proceeds from the run go toward that project," Monsen said. "It's not like a lot of corn mazes you run around our farm. It's just a fun thing to try to help this family."

Field trips for schools

and church groups are available with reservations and group reservations are available after the corn maze officially closes Oct. 26 through Halloween.

The corn maze will open at 11 a.m. Oct. 17-18 for the Utah Educator's Association school holiday.

The "Creep Farm" haunted maze begins Oct. 10 at dusk and runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Group reservations will not be accepted during the haunt.

The hours are: Thursdays and Fridays, 5-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. To 10 p.m.; closed Sundays and Mondays; and Tuesdays with reservations only.

Admission is \$8.50 for adults, age 11 and over; \$6.50 for children ages 4-10; and free for children 3 and younger that are accompanied by paying adults. The courtyard fee is \$4 per person if not participating in the corn maze. The creep farm is \$10.50 for adults and \$8.50 for children.

Additional information is available by calling 435-822-MAZE (6293). For group reservations, call 435-454-3732 and to schedule school or church field trips, call 435-454-3369. Information also is available at www.bluebellcornmaze.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
This rendering shows what the Bluebell Corn Maze with the 2013 Roosevelt centennial theme would look like from the air.



BLUEBELL'S NEW FLAG — Telitha Parry and Judith Brundage dedicated many hours of their time to design and create the Bluebell community a flag for the upcoming centennial celebration on July 1. The flag will also fly during other special events in upcoming years.

Bluebell gets a flag for its 100th birthday

When early settlers came to Bluebell it was an unnamed place on the Uintah Valley Reservation and there was nothing. The only supplies the first settlers had were the ones they brought with them. A trip to Vernal took nearly two days by wagon. In order to build a home settlers journeyed to the mountains for lumber. Who would have thought that 100 years later Bluebell would have its own flag?

Thanks to the talents of sisters, Telitha Parry and Judith Brundage it does. Telitha and Judith were both born in Bluebell and have remained to raise their families in the area. They spent many hours choosing the right colors, creating paper patterns and tracing the let-

tering and flowers onto a white banner.

Then they began appliqueing the patterns onto the flag. Bluebells decorate the center and the word "Bluebell" is in blue at the top. The Bluebell Centennial years "1906 - 2006" is posted at the bottom. "Our flag will fly at our Bluebell Centennial celebration, July 1, and other activities throughout the years to come," said Marlene Roberts.

The Bluebell Centennial will be July 1 and kicks off with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Bring the family out for a whole day of activities, games, demonstrations, food, pictorial stamp cancellation and many more activities that you do not want to miss.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE APPROVED

Bluebell gets nod for its centennial stamp

In honor of the Bluebell Community's Centennial Celebration on July 1 Bluebell will have its own cancellation stamp. The cancellation stamp, which was designed by Bluebell resident Janice Bird, will be available at the Bluebell Post Office on July 1. artwork is the same as the town's namesake and depicts bluebell flowers. The centennial logo encircles the flowers and reads, "Bluebell, Utah 84007 - Centen-

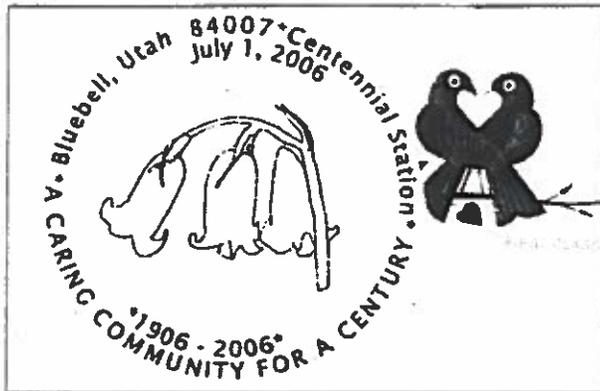
with artwork and graphics to finally get the one that we really liked!"

Bluebell postmaster, Jim Bryson, even got into the act by providing ideas from the "Postal Bulletin," to help Janice and Marlene come up with something to best represent Bluebell within the decidedly limited space of a postage stamp.

"He also told us what specific information had to be on the

stamp," says Janice. "Jim has been a great support and we appreciate his involvement in the community." When the cancellation stamp was completed it was submitted to the postal committee in Salt Lake for approval.

The U.S. Postal Service is providing the stamp free of



READY TO GO — Postal Service officials have approved the Bluebell centennial stamp for cancellation to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the tiny community in Duchesne County.

nial Station - July 1, 2006 A Caring Community For A Century 1906-2006 ."

The idea for a cancellation stamp to help commemorate the town's 100 years came from centennial celebration organizer Marlene Roberts and Janice took it from there.

"This was a fun way to help start our community celebration," says Janice. "Marlene shared the idea and we went from there in designing the stamp. She had seen and collected cancellation stamps from other events around the country and thought it would be a fun thing to do for a keepsake."

Computer technology came in real handy to help with the stamp's design and achieve the precision necessary, says Janice. "There were many hours spent playing

charge. A cancellation station will be set up at the Bluebell Park for the July 1st celebration.

"You may bring your Bluebell postcards or any postcard or envelope that you would like cancelled, to the cancellation station at the park that day," explains Marlene. "Others may send their self-addressed stamped envelope to the Post Office and it will be cancelled and returned in the mail."

The cancellation stamp will only be available for 30 days. Postcards are available at the Bluebell Store and Swasey's Foodtown and through Marlene Roberts at 454-3190. A few of the postcards may also be viewed on the Bluebell centennial website @ www.celebratebluebell.com.

Bluebell has a colorful history

Vernal Express

17, May 2006

RHC 0578

Bluebell is located in Duchesne County and sits at 6200 feet. It was named by Beryl Mary Lisonbee for its large amount of Bluebell flowers. It prospered in industries such as freight, dairy, poultry, and hay farms as well as blacksmithing. The settlers in Bluebell shipped their products throughout the Uintah Basin and Utah.

The first people to reside in Bluebell were Elmer and Alice Galé. They were a little intimidated at first by the large population of Native Americans in the area, but soon gained respect from them. Elmer made his living making charcoal and selling it in Roosevelt. They would soon be joined by a number of people looking for a remote location to set up their homesteads and begin lives in the West.

James Cook came to the area as a blacksmith. He set up his shop on his ranch and although most people had small shops in which they could do their minor repairs, for a long time the people of Bluebell relied on him for their major blacksmith needs.

Effie Powell also provided a vital service to the town as the first school teacher. She taught school

in a two-room log cabin that also served as church and public meetinghouse.

The first post office was in the home of Levison Hanock. The post office received mail by packhorse three times a week; it also served as the town's general store. Today the Bluebell Store is "Bluebell's One-Stop Shopping Center." One can buy almost everything he or she needs there — and it still serves as the town's post office.

Having settlers that began farms and trades was vital to beginning a community. These early residents of Bluebell laid a good foundation for the town. Their stories are an important part of Bluebell history which is soon going to be celebrated.

Bluebell is a community that is ever growing and changing with the times. It has a very rich history which is why one would want to attend the celebration on July first. The Bluebell 100 Year Celebration will have many activities and an ongoing video of the history of Bluebell residents and the town itself. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

NEWCOMER WRITES TRIBUTE TO EARLY SETTLERS

Bluebell has a poet and they know it!

By Lezlee E. Whiting
and Phil Johnson

Folks in Bluebell knew they had a poet in their midst about the first time newcomer Bruce Brown read a few of his writings at a "Get to Know Your Neighbor" barbecue at the Bluebell Park.

It was the summer of 2004 and the gathering was one of those events where just about everyone in the entire town turns out to eat and socialize. Bruce and his family were there too, even though he had recently been ill. So he said he decided to share a few lines he had written about his recent experiences because he knew it was something most people can relate to.

"I had just gotten out of the hospital and wrote a poem about those hospital gowns that open at the back," he said. He read four poems that night. It was the first that anyone knew that Bruce, who works for Central Dispatch in Vernal as a dispatcher, had a talent for writing poetry.

Bruce moved his family to Bluebell three years ago after living along the Wasatch Front for 26 years but they had a good idea of what they were in for — his wife Ramona grew up in Bluebell, the daughter of Lewis and Kay



GIVINGBACK—Carrying on family tradition, Bruce Brown is an EMT and runs on the Alamogordo ambulance and a volunteer fire fighter. "This is my way of serving the community," said Brown who wrote a tribute to Bluebell for the community's 100 year celebration on July 1.

Fausett. His own mother grew up in a little log cabin in Mountain Home.

Inspiration comes from a variety of sources, it could be a joke that he liked, one time a poem was

written for a co-worker whose mother was dying of cancer. When it comes to striking a more serious tone, he tries to put himself in the shoes of the people he is writing about.

"As I drive around and see an old log cabin and ride around I think who lived there, what was their story?"

When he was asked to write a poem about the settlement of Bluebell, he used another style of poetic verse. His writing style can change to fit the tone of his message.

"It just depends what I am trying to get across," he said. "Some of them are light-hearted. I have written quite a few about something that I think is funny."

A job assignment of compiling crime statistics for Utah inspired Bruce to write one of his best poems, he explained. "I decided to write a poem honoring officers who had given their lives in the line of duty. It was published in the crime statistics report which is distributed across the country. People liked the poem," Bruce related. "I have seen it hanging in police offices in a number of

states." When he was given the assignment to write the Bluebell Centennial poem the first three verses came fairly easy but then, for a while, nothing.

"I knew where I wanted to go with it but I ran into a snag," he said. "I got up and went for a walk up through the field and through the trees and kept repeating the verses I had written."

You're invited to

Bluebell's Centennial

When: Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 1

Where: The Bluebell Park

What: An all day birthday party with food, games, activities, and more!

That's why he finds relaxation in working his horses and irrigating fields — it gives his mind time to unwind.

"I can use my hands and my back and my head can be where ever else it wants to be," he related.

He said his family always felt welcome in Bluebell when they came for visits and now that they live their full-time nothing has changed. "The people have always treated us like we belong," he said. "I expected the closeness of a small town again and I have found that."

A hundred years ago they came
and built houses and settled down.
They say the bluebells grew profusely,
so that's how they named our town.
They worked to make things better
for those who'd come later on.
And now of course those settlers
have all been long gone.
And through the years
each generation has added to that start,
and we've built a little community
with an awful lot of heart.
Some were born and raised here,
the descendants of pioneer stock,
and others who came much later,
sort of the "new kids on the block."
Each life has added something,
sometimes in ways we never knew,
and each has made our history richer
like spices added to a stew.
Or like the beauty created
when different colored strands
are made into a tapestry
by the master weavers hands.
With lots of hard labor,
and a generous measure of love,
together we've built a legacy,
that's something to be proud of.
And now the future is before us.
Take care to build it well,
for in your hands is the destiny

BLUEBELLS

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By Bruce N. Brown

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Bluebell is home to the Uintah Basin's one and only corn maze

By Katie Hansen

Raccoons will not be the only creatures found in local cornfields this fall thanks to Bluebell dairy farmer Mark Monsen and his family, who have cultivated a giant corn maze on their farm.

In the shape of a giant cow, the Monsen's six acre maze has two-and-a-half miles of trails which will stump

Creating the maze, was a way for the Monsens to put a different twist on an agricultural income.

even the brightest puzzle solver.

The Monsen family started thinking about bringing a corn maze into the area last fall, when local kids started going out to the Wasatch Front to explore the already popular mazes.

"The recreation kids need should be positive and wholesome," explained Monsen adding that there are a couple other reasons the family decided to try a maze.

A maze, although expensive, is a good way to make money — if it gets enough support. "Things are changing," said Monsen, adding that agriculture is moving from family farms to corporate farms. Creating the maze was a way for the Monsens to put a different twist on an agricultural income.

Monsen, Soil Conservation District Board member, noted that he also feels it is important to teach kids the

need for agriculture. During the two-month maze season, which starts Sept. 14 and runs through Halloween, students from around the Basin have been invited to come on an agricultural field trip called "classroom in the corn," to learn about plants and farming and explore the maze.

The maze, which reads "udderly corny" on the top, was designed by Brett Herbst, who has designed five other mazes in Utah. However, his company, MAIZE, has consulted for 103 corn mazes from Hawaii to Florida.

The corn, which was planted exclusively for the maze, was allowed to grow until it was about four feet tall when the Monsens knocked down the trails laid by Herbst.

Bluebell is about the smallest area where a corn maze has been built explained Monsen adding that his maze, which is the only one in the Basin, is an experiment to see how the set-up works.

There are two phases within the maze and visitors can go on both, or one. In mid-October, one of the phases will be haunted. After the season is over, Monsen said that the maze may open for paint-balling.

Visiting the maze offers more than just exploring the corn paths; the Monsens have set a up corn sandbox, filled with whole corn kernels and a straw pyramid, built out of straw bales, to entertain small children. For anyone who gets hungry, treats will be available at a concession stand. In the spirit of autumn, visitors will also be welcome to take a wagon ride to a pumpkin patch, where they can buy a

pumpkin and pick it themselves.

"Corn cobs" will wander the maze to see that visitors are staying in line as well as adhering to a set of rules, designed to keep the maze intact and visitors safe.

While the maze is open, high school

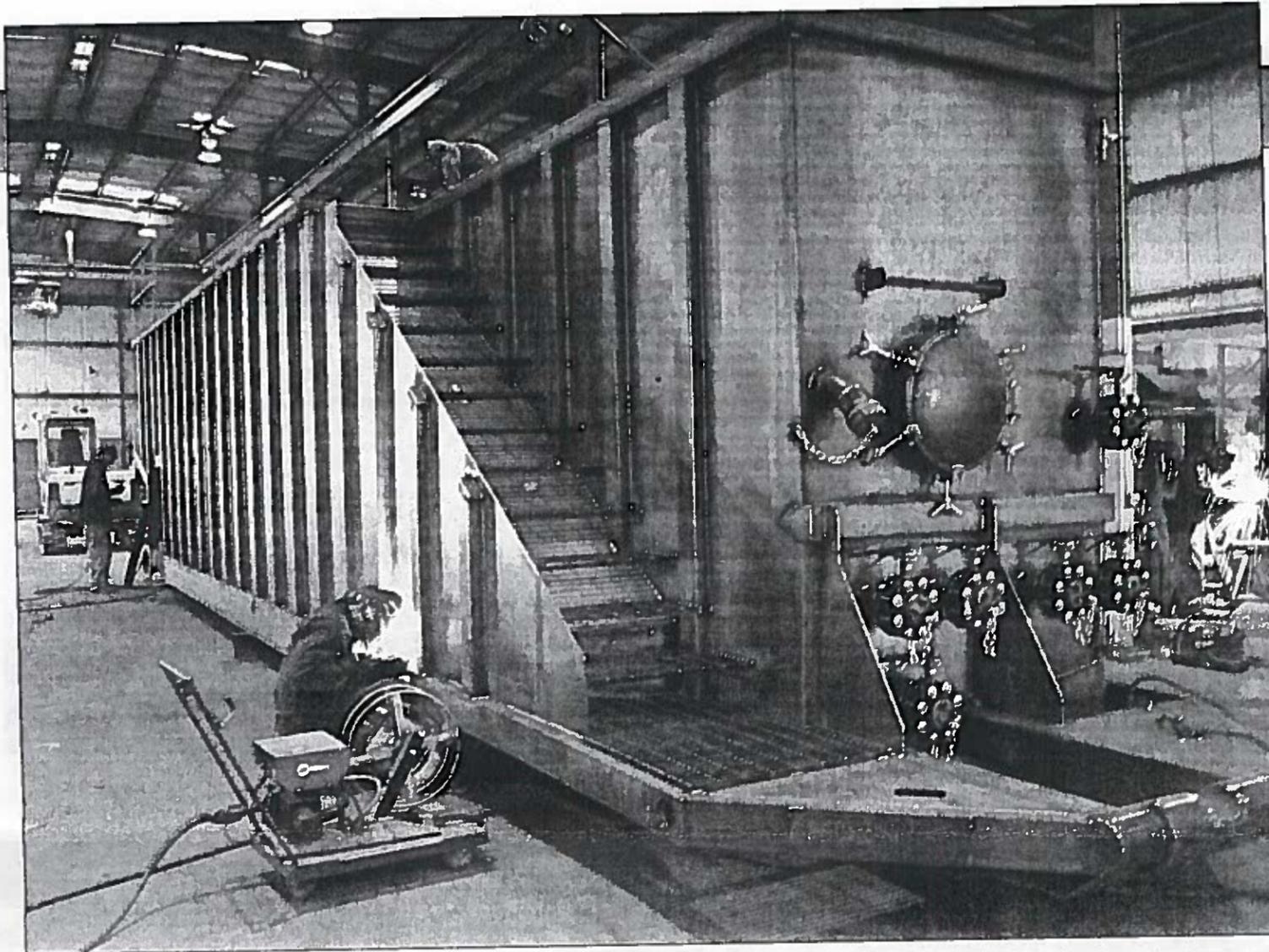
students from around the Basin will be invited to a high school challenge. Monsen detailed that there will be a team of five selected individuals from each school. The team that makes it through the maze first, gets a prize. The maze will be open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 4-9 p.m. "There is a lot of fun stuff," said Monsen, adding that his family has worked very hard on the project. The maze will open in conjunction with the first annual King's Peak Celebration on Friday, Sept. 14 — So go get lost.



UDDERLY CORNY. Mark Monsen stands in the corn maze he and his family have been diligently cultivating since this spring. The maze, shaped like a cow, will give people a chance to get lost in corn over their heads.

Uintah Basin standard 11 Sep 2001

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Welders work on a frac tank at Advanced Fluid Containment. The Ogden-based manufacturing company was founded by Bluebell native Sterling Roberts and his business partner Garff Hubbard.

Bluebell man's company succeeds despite economy

By ViAnn Prestwich
 Uintah Basin Standard

During the economic slump of 2008, a former Bluebell boy risked his personal money by starting a business that would manufacture steel tanks for the oil field.

Eighteen months later, Sterling Roberts and his business partner, Garff Hubbard, are using their present success to expand.

Roberts chuckled slightly when asked why, in the middle of a recession, he chose to dump his life's savings into a company called Advanced Fluid Containment.

"Well, banks certainly weren't going

to loan to us," the former Uintah Basin resident admitted. "Everyone looked at us and said, 'You are crazy, starting a big manufacturing company right now.'"

Undeterred, the men found an Ogden location and hired the best welders and design engineers to build steel tanks. The team prides itself on being able to build to any specification and can construct tanks for large or small projects. The company can also take existing tanks and modify them adding or reconfiguring valves and fittings.

Hearing Roberts talk about his products instills confidence. The company has about 50 employees and is produc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

ing more than 100 tanks a month. The majority of the steel containers are round production tanks of either standard size or custom design.

The frac tanks the company also builds are more complicated and time-consuming.

"They are square tanks with wheels on them," Roberts explained. "We build about two of those a week and are hoping to get to six a week. We are getting more orders all the time."

If economic times appeared unfavorable for starting a new venture, the owners had previous experiences that did favor their success.

After graduating from high school, Roberts got a degree in electrical and automation technology. His professional experience includes 20 years working for Autoliv, one of the largest auto air bag manufacturers in the world.

Starting as a maintenance supervisor, the Bluebell native worked his way up to the Autoliv Elite Management Group in 2000, where he ultimately was responsible for production, training and machine build for the entire company with a \$100 million budget.

Autoliv is considered a worldwide expert in production methodology. Some of the methods came from the Toyota philosophy, known as the Toyota Production System. Roberts spent two years traveling back and forth to Japan learning the system.

The system depends in part on a human resources management policy that stimulates employee creativity and loyalty but also on a highly efficient network of suppliers and components manufacturers.

"They taught us that all processes needed to be visual," Roberts said of his time with Toyota.

"If manufacturing processes are done visually then ev-



Advanced Fluid Containment co-founder Sterling Roberts and chief financial officer Stephen Erektion stand outside the company's manufacturing facility and offices in Ogden.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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IONS at U.S.C.

Bluebell man named as new Vernal Temple president

Howard G. Todd, 73, Bluebell Ward, Altamont Utah Stake, called as president of the Vernal Utah Temple, succeeding president Dan J. Workman. President Todd's wife, Maxine Winkler Todd, will serve as temple matron.

President Todd is a former stake president and counselor, bishop and elders quorum president. He is a retired elementary school principal and teacher. He was born in Ballard to William Russell and Fannie Gagon Todd.

Sister Todd is a former Primary president's counselor, Young Women adviser, Primary and Relief Society teacher and humanitarian services specialist. She was born in Naples to Ulrich Bernard and Lucile Merrell Winkler.

Around Our Region

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Bluebell plans 100 Year Celebration

The town of Bluebell will be holding its 100-Year Celebration on Saturday, July 1, 2006 at Bluebell Park "from sunrise to sunset."

Located in Duchesne County, at 6200 feet above sea level, Bluebell is as captivating as the name that calls up vignettes of home, sunshine and memorable times. Driving east of the Bluebell Store for less than a half-mile, until recently a small, timeworn log cabin could be seen on the south side of the road, built new as the home of **Etta** and **Heber Powell**. This two-room home was the school for parts of the year 1909-1910 when Etta was not teaching in the granary owned by **Ethar** and **Alice Delliah Gale**. The Gales were the first ones in Bluebell in 1906, living among the Native Americans who respected the Gales because they did not take their cattle.

By 1910 enough materials were gathered for a building to be used as a church house, general community meeting

house and a schoolhouse. This is known today as **Gardner Goodrich's Granary**.

The history goes back just a century, but it is rich in stories and deeds and memories. Population in 1914 was "273 souls," on tillable soil of 6,000 acres with another 2,000 acres under cultivation. Early products for market included wool, mutton, dairy products, beef, poultry, honey, alfalfa and clover seed, each of which is a story in itself.

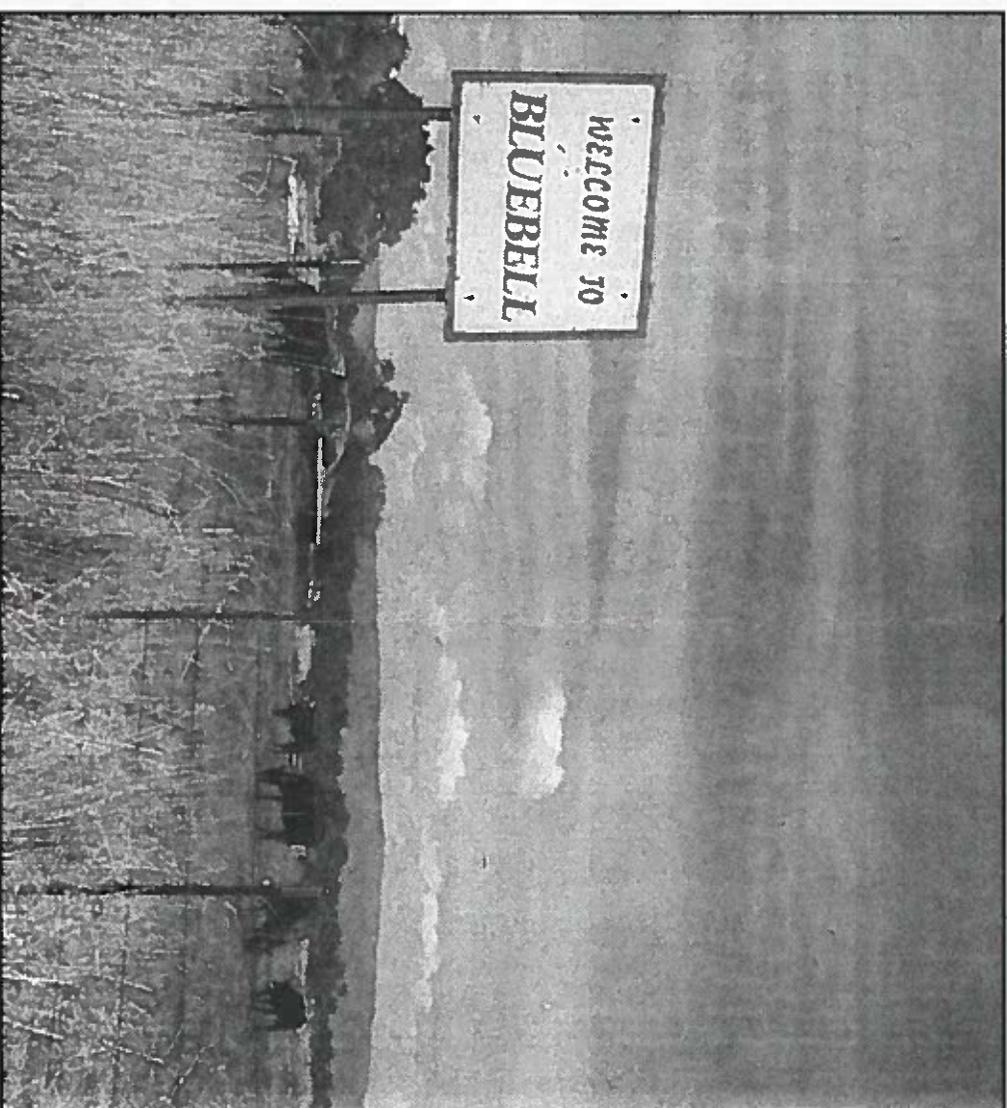
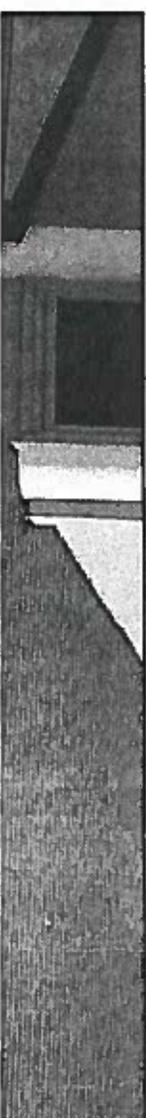
The freighting industry employed some of the early folks full time, and others occasionally, to haul the wool from the sheared sheep to Price, over Indian Canyon or by way of Cate Canyon to Nine Mile. After unloading the wool, the freighters would load their wagons with food, dry goods, farm machinery, hardwood for floors, and other necessities.

Sandy loam soil and excellent water rights made possible a town that adjoins grazing land and is not far from timber.

Tall white clover that sprang up along the ditch banks provided nectar for the numerous hives of bees as well as mature clover seed that could be sold by early settlers.

Like many other folks in rural areas, Bluebell residents were without electricity until 1939, when the first 51 miles of line were energized with a contract from Uintah Power and Light Company of Roosevelt. Telephones came in much later to homes that had formerly used a Mountain States pay telephone in the community center.

The Bluebell Centennial Book is available for further reading about the people and places highlighted in these paragraphs. Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate on Saturday, July 1 at the Bluebell Park. The day will begin with breakfast, end with an auction, and includes a parade, games, booths and many other events during the day.



Sign welcomes all to visit outside Bluebell

Bluebell raises giant flag over new park

By LEENICHOLE MARETT
lmarett@ubmedia.biz

Citizens of Bluebell have a brand new sight to greet them each day—a giant flag flying from a 77-foot flagpole above the newly renovated Bluebell Park.

Renovations have been underway for many months now at the Bluebell Park.

New playground equipment, landscaping, paving and cement work all contribute to a wonderful new environment for the community to enjoy. The new flag is the crown jewel of the project.

"This flagpole is 77 feet tall," said Brad Draper, who oversaw the park improvements. "Seven feet of it are underground. We knew when we started this that we wanted it to be something the community could really be proud of, and I think we've certainly accomplished that."

The park improvements, including the flagpole, were made possible by numerous individuals and businesses who contributed to the project.

"We didn't go into this asking for anything for free," said Draper. "We had the money in hand to make all the improvements that we wanted. But we had so



L.W. MARETT, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

A crowd of over 100 people gathered at the Bluebell Park on Thursday, July 23, for the first raising of the new Bluebell Flag.

many people who helped us out and refused to take a dime for their work."

Multiple awards were handed out at the ceremony to businesses who donated time, equipment and

personnel to the Bluebell Park project.

"I wish I had time to thank everyone, but the list is just too long," said Draper. "When we take about who made this pos-

sible, it's really the whole community."

The flag raising ceremony began promptly at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday night. As the sun was sinking to the west, members of the



L.W. MARETT, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Bluebell celebrated the grand opening of their newly renovated park with a flag raising ceremony on Thursday, July 23.

American Legion and local veterans raised the flag to the top of its pole for the first time.

Steve Dunsmore, of American Legion Post 58, spoke briefly about the im-

portance of the American flag.

"The flag is not political. It doesn't represent Republicans or Democrats. It represents you, each of us, the American people," Dunsmore said.

Emotions ran high throughout the evening. The crowd of over 100 people sang, wept and cheered together as above it all, the American flag flew at half-mast in honor of the Marines killed in Tennessee.

"The flag is a symbol of freedom," said Dunsmore. "It's a symbol to everyone else in the world. No one enjoys the kind of freedoms that we do here in our nation. The flag is a symbol of hope."



L.W. MARETT, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Children from the Bluebell Ward Primary performed a patriotic song and waved American flags at the Bluebell Flag Raising on July 23.



L.W. MARETT, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Steve Dunsmore of American Legion Post 58 spoke about the importance of the flag as a symbol. "The flag is not political. It doesn't represent Republicans or Democrats. It represents you, each of us, the American people," Dunsmore said.

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UBS-July 28, 2015

Bluebell Store and Grill serves up a slice of Americana

LEENICHOLE MARETT
lmarett@ubmedia.biz

A small Upper Country town, population less than 300. A four-way stop. A small general store, offering some of everything to residents and passers-by.

For years, the Bluebell Store has been an icon of Americana, and now, it's a great place to stop in and grab a bite to eat.

The Bluebell Store Grill opened in December, and has been serving up a steady stream of diner favorites ever since.

"We open every day at 6 a.m.," Cindy Bird, who has been working at the Bluebell Store since October, said. "A lot of guys stop in for their coffee every day, and we have homemade breakfast burritos hot and ready to go so that they can just grab them and head to work."

Their breakfast menu isn't limited to breakfast burritos—the grill offers a selection of breakfast favorites. Breakfast is served all

day long, alongside classics like bacon burgers, chicken strips, grilled cheese sandwiches, French fries and English chips.

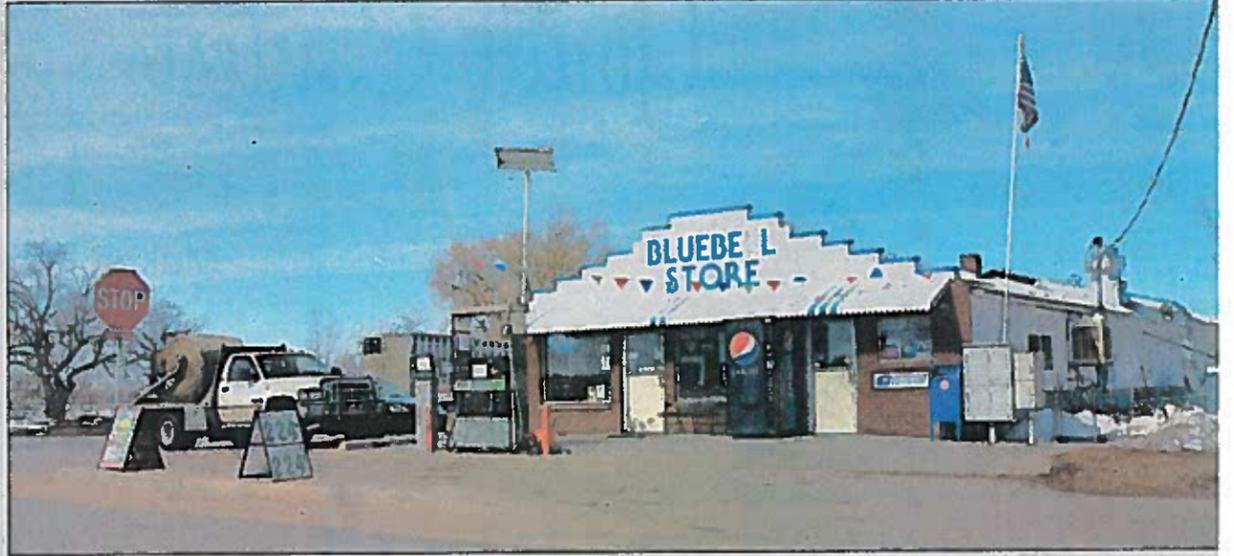
"It's nothing fancy, but the food is really, really good," said Bird.

The Bluebell Store and Grill is located at the intersection of 4000 N. and Center Street, right in the heart of Bluebell. They are open from 6 a.m. til 4 p.m. Monday – Saturday, and are closed on Sundays.

Diners at the Bluebell Store Grill can choose to call in, carry out or stay to eat in the new dining room located at the back of the store. It's small, but it's usually packed full of community members enjoying a hot meal.

"It's a steady stream of people in and out," Bird said. "We do at least as many call in orders every day as we have people coming in to eat."

In addition to the food coming fresh off the grill, diners can also enjoy a selection of desserts baked



L.W. MARETT, UNTAX BASIN STANDARD

The Bluebell Store sits at a four-way stop in the heart of the Upper Country. This icon of Americana has always offered up so of everything—from gas to soda to soft-serve ice cream. Now, travelers can stop in for fresh food at the new Bluebell Store Grill

fresh daily.

"We have a woman here in town who makes all these desserts from scratch," said Bird. "She brings them in fresh every day, and they're so good."

The Bluebell Store is owned and operated

by Toni and Bruce Jenkins, longtime Bluebell residents. The store has always been a staple in the small community, and its soft serve ice cream is renowned throughout the Basin. The new grill fills

one more need for upper country residents.

The community has been nothing but supportive of the Jenkins' new venture since the grill opened several months ago. The couple have always

been actively involved in the community, and that support goes both ways.

"I love working here," Bird said. "The people are so nice, and the owners are some of the best people I ever known."



L.W. MARETT, UNTAX BASIN STANDARD

The kitchen at the new Bluebell Store Grill churns out fresh food all day long. The menu features a selection of diner favorites, including bacon buggers, chicken strips, french fries and english chips.



L.W. MARETT, UNTAX BASIN STANDARD

The dining room at the new Bluebell Store Grill is small, but it's always filled with people looking for a delicious meal. The Grill is open Monday-Saturday from 6 a.m. till 4 p.m.



L.W. MARETT, UNTAX BASIN STANDARD

Cindy Bird stands behind the counter at the Bluebell Store, ready to help customers with anything they need. "I love working here," Bird said. "The people are so nice, and the owners are some of the best people I've ever known."

Around Our Region

Bluebell will celebrate with a pictorial c

July 1 is the big day for the Bluebell 100th year celebration but for the whole month of July, celebrants have the privilege of sharing the unique centennial postage cancellation stamp.

The idea of having a commemorative stamp began with Marlene Roberts, organizer of the Bluebell celebration. Having a collection of her own, Mrs. Roberts initiated the idea of offering a Bluebell centennial stamp for a keepsake, and cred-

its artist Janice Bird with the design. The artwork consists of the bluebell flowers that are the signature of Bluebell town. The logo is formed into a circle and reads *Bluebell, Utah 84007* Centennial Station* July 1 2006* A CARING COMMUNITY FOR A CENTURY 1906-2006*

"Jim Bryson, Bluebell Postmaster, provided great support in the style, design, specific information and submission of the stamp to the postal committee in Salt Lake," Janice

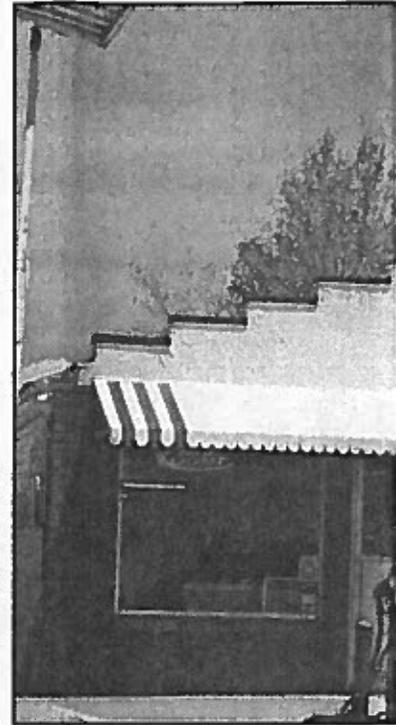
Bird recalled. "It was approved in March and the US Postal Service is providing the stamp free of charge."

A cancellation station will be set up at the Bluebell Park for the July 1st Celebration. Those who want the memorable keepsake will be able to purchase blank postcards, envelopes, and stamps and have them cancelled. A wide variety of Bluebell postcards are also available for purchase, many of which will be new photos in June 2006. "You may also use your own cards or envelopes and stamps and have them cancelled at the park," said Janice.

The Bluebell Post Office is in full cooperation and Sue Wood, Postal Officer in Charge, invited the public to "send 26 cents for a stamped U.S. postal card or 47 cents for a stamped U.S. postal envelope. If you provide the addressed envelope(s), the amount is just 39 cents for each one. Send the payment plus any personal envelopes with the necessary addresses to Bluebell Postal Service, Bluebell UT 84007 any time between now and the third week of July. These can be mailed to anyone inside the U.S. if the address is provided. Addresses outside the USA require additional postage."

In addition to the stamp and photo cards, other memorabilia are available. The Bluebell Store has blue T-shirts for sale with the Bluebell logo, and there are always a wide variety of snacks. "You can't miss the store. We call it our Bluebell Mall-One Stop Shopping," laughed Marlene Roberts.

The Centennial Book will be completed after the Celebration Day, in order to include the events that take place on July 1st. It will be available in



Bluebell Store provides information and

September and advance payment is suggested. Further information about this book will be included in future articles.

"Bluebell is the best place to raise your kids," declared Sue Woods who has owned and managed the store for three years, with the help of Sylvia Hudson.

"I have lived in Bluebell forever - except for 10 years in Louisiana," said Hudson, "And I really missed the beautiful mountains when I was gone. I have a wonderful view from the windows of my home, just down the road."

For questions, or to purchase the beautiful scenery of Bluebell on postcards, go to the Bluebell Store or contact Marlene Roberts at 454-3190.



Bluebell Park will be the July 1st celebration spot--early visitors are from the Mt. Home preschool.

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round Our Region



rate with a pictorial cancellation stamp

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Bluebell cancellation stamp for the 100th year celebration will be dated July 1, 2006.

Bluebell—Book records history

When Elmer Gale first settled in Bluebell in 1905, he didn't know that 78 years later he would be mentioned in a history book. In fact, he didn't even know he was settling in Bluebell.

At that time Bluebell did not exist. Gale was the first

person to settle in what is now Bluebell after the Uintah Basin was opened to homesteading.

Today, 78 years after the first settlers first pitched their tents and began to build their small cabins, a history of Bluebell is being

written.

That started as a high priest group project to write a history of the upper country has ended up as a community effort in Bluebell to write a comprehensive history of the town. Other communities apparently lost

interest or enthusiasm and did not follow through on the project.

According to Garde Sealey, one of the 11 person committee writing the history, the book should be completed and available to the public by Memorial Day. The book will have close to 800 pages, and 700 pages will be produced.

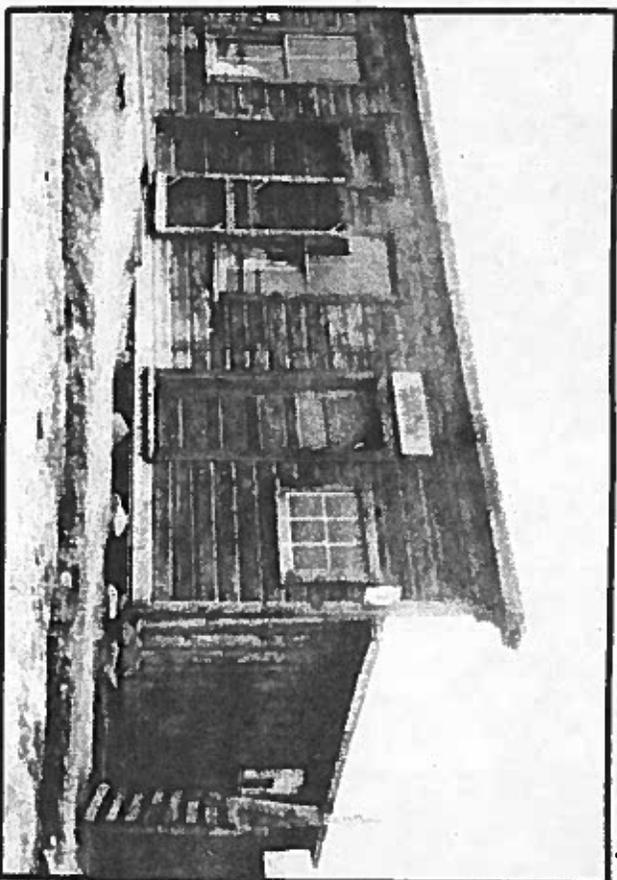
The committee has been working on the project for three years, says Pauline Winkler, another committee member, and the last year the work has been intensive.

The history will extend from 1905 to the present, Winkler says, and will include numerous sections on different aspects of the history. The book will even

contain interesting topics such as how the community received the name Bluebell.

According to one account in the book, Pauline says, shortly after the area was settled, a Sunday school was organized. A name was needed for the Sunday school, so a young girl, Mary Beryl Lisbonbee suggested

Continued on page 9



SHOPPING?—This is the second Bluebell Store in the 1920's. The Bluebell history tells about the time a person could go down to the store and buy a brand new pair of overalls for 90 cents.

Continued from page 8

The town be named Bluebell after all of the blue bell flowers growing in the area.

There are other versions of the story, Winkler says, but all of them accord the name to the many blue bells that grew in the spring. One history says the blue bells grew so thick the country looked like an alfalfa field in blossom.

The book also contains sections on school, church, traditions, community industry, soldiers, missionaries and maps.

Carma Mathews, have been making frequent trips to the genealogical center in Duchesne for the past two years to go through microfilm copies of the Duchesne Record and the Roosevelt STANDARD, forerunners of the Utah Basin STANDARD in search of old news items about Bluebell and its residents. Many of the items will be consolidated into a section named "Clippings from the Past," Winkler says.

The section on soldiers will include each of the 102 Bluebell men who have served in the armed forces.

Each of the 11 committee members as well as about a dozen other people have written sections of the book. In addition to this, about 400 family histories will be included. All of the families living in Bluebell or that have lived in Bluebell are invited to submit a history. Most of them did, Pauline says.

The book also contains about 1,500 photographs. Included in these photographs are pictures of all the current residents of Bluebell, Winkler says. There are now 101 families in the community and about 400 people.

The project has involved the whole community, Pauline says. "Bluebell has always been a close community, but his has helped it get even closer."

"The project has brought the past here," says Carma Mathews.

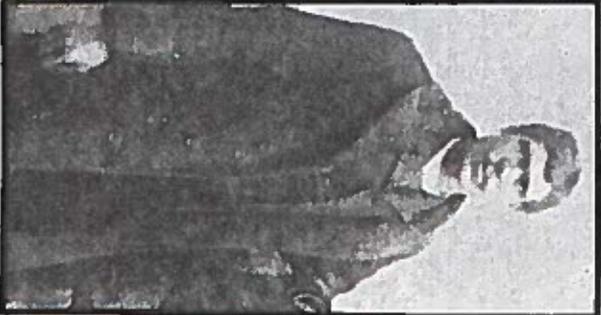
One of the problems the committee has been facing is financing of the history.

The original contract with the publisher, which is based in Springville, was for \$21,000. But because of the addition of more pages than had originally been expected, it is costing about



WORKING—For the past three years members of the Bluebell history committee have been working at putting out the Bluebell book. Members are left to right: Carolyn Miles, Garda Seeley, Maxine

Todd, Fontella Jenkins, Pauline Winkler, Verona Goodrich, Velma Morson, Rae Jenkins, and Cleona Remington. Not pictured are Carma Mathews and Porter Mer-



The first settler in Bluebell was Elmer Gale. He settled about one-half mile North and a little East of the Bluebell Store in 1905.

BLUEBELL

Second of Our Series of BOOSTER Articles on the Various Basin towns
in The Uintah Basin

1927-02-02 UBS
A strip of bench land, 4 miles wide and six miles long, with a great depth of rich soil lying over a clay subsoil, with people engaged in agriculture, horticulture and dairying on lands not so many years ago densely covered with sage brush and an equally dense growth of native bluebells—this describes meagerly the Bluebell district.

First settled in 1906 the region has become a factor of importance in the development of Duchesne county and by no means the least important of the activities of its residents is furthering of the dairy business. Bluebell is located 12 miles south of the Ashley national forest boundary with a strip of fine Indian grazing land between the district and the forest and this splendid advantage offered was grasped by the farmers without delay. Dairying on a scale commensurate with the advantages at hand was started, with the result that at present the cream station at Bluebell pays out between \$800 and \$900 weekly to farmers. Crops may grow and crops may fail, but when a farmer receives from \$15 to double that amount each week for cream produced by his own cows he has no fear that a wolf will appear at his door—not in the summer nor in the winter. Bluebell dairy farmers are not in the least averse to showing their dairy stock, for pure bred and high grade

cows are the rule, all of them of selected dairy type. Extreme care is exercised in the selection of the sires in order to constantly improve the herds.

Dairying combined with the sheep industry and the raising of beef cattle makes hay growing the chief agricultural industry on the 3000 acres under cultivation. However, pears, plums, apples, cherries and other varieties of fruit are grown and produce fine yields. Garden products yield profuse and harvests each year, and small grains do equally as well.

Irrigating water is obtained from the Lake Fork river, and the development of the Moon Lake reservoir will furnish additional water in quantity sufficient to irrigate twice the present cultivated area.

School facilities at Bluebell will be greatly improved, as under the recent Bond issue voted for this county, a part of the money will be used to erect a new school building.

There is no question that the dairy business is the dominating factor creating the prosperity of the Bluebell district, but it is acknowledged by all that diversified farming as practiced here must be given its full share in the results obtained by the residents of the district. This proves that dairying on farms does not necessarily occupy all the time and that other farming activities need not be neglected.

Feb 25, 2003

Basin LIFE



CHIROPRACTIC TREATMENT EASES SCOLIOSIS

For family of 5-year old, taking a different path eliminated need for painful surgery

By Susan Collier

Imagine finding out your child will have to wear a heavy plastic brace on his upper body for nine years, and then undergo surgery to have a metal rod inserted into his back. That is exactly what Bluebell residents Jesse and Courtney Tatman faced when doctors told them their 5-year old son Garrett had curvature of the spine — or scoliosis. It was news they accepted, at first.

It wasn't until a year and a half into the grueling therapy that the family sought an alternate medical option, chiropractic care.

When Garrett was 5, an occupational therapists who visited the Duchesne County Preschool observed him and were concerned that he might have scoliosis, a muscular skeletal condition characterized by a lateral curvature of the spine with a rotational component.

Garrett's mother Courtney was understandably worried when the therapists called her at work and told her they suspected that her son had scoliosis, a condition about which she knew little.

Garrett's pediatrician confirmed the diagnosis and referred the family to Primary Children's Medical Center where doctors explained that Garrett would have to be fitted for a heavy plastic brace that he would wear 18 hours a day until he was 12 or 14-years old, at which time they would surgically insert a metal rod into his spine.

Garrett's spine was 48 degrees from a normal vertical position and his ribs pushed up against his lungs, a painful and potentially fatal condition. However, Garrett had not complained of any pain, probably, doctors think, because he had grown accustomed to the discomfort and didn't know anything different, his mother explained.

Garrett's condition was so bad, that doctors told his parent if he were older they would have operated immediately. However, an operation at his young age would assure deformity because as he grew the rod in his back would have left his back the size it was when he was five.

Scoliosis typically affects more girls than boys. Doctors believe Garrett either had the condition at birth or that it was the result of delivery when the little boy was born prematurely.

They do know that it quickly progressed so that by the time Garrett was five it was obvious there was a problem. Even his shoulder blades were noticeably at different heights,

and one of them jutted straight out of his back.

According to Courtney, what doctors at Primary Children's Medical Center didn't tell the Tatmans was that the brace was not going to help Garrett improve. It was just designed to keep the condition from deteriorating until he was old enough for surgery. The other thing they didn't mention, she said, was the muscle deterioration the boy would suffer from wearing the device that didn't let him use his back muscles.

So for a year and half the courageous little boy donned his heavy brace when he got off the school bus and wore it all evening and night until he climbed on the bus again in the morning.

"I felt he would be judged. Kids can be mean," explained Courtney, who opted to have Garrett attend school brace free. On weekends and summer days he wore it even longer.

Because it pushed down on his hips he could not sit, ride his bike or ride horses without the device pushing painfully into his body. "He found other ways. He didn't stop his life, but he had to change everything."

Because of its design, the brace also put pressure on Garrett's bladder. "The first six months were terrible," said Courtney, who explained her son cried often and begged her to let him be free of the brace. "It was horrible in the summer when he got heat rash and open sores."

It was Courtney's mother, Linda Meham, who mentioned her grandson's condition to her chiropractor, Dr. Dean Fitzgerald. He sug-



HAPPY NOW— Garrett Tatman is very happy now that he doesn't have to wear a heavy hot plastic brace to keep the curvature of his spine from getting worse. Instead of wearing the brace for nine years and then undergoing surgical insertion of a metal rod into Garrett's back, his family opted to try chiropractic treatments which has relatively quickly reduced the curvature.

gested they let him examine the boy.

"It took a couple months for her to talk me into going. I was scared, but if there was any chance I thought we should try it," said Courtney. At the end of a 90-day chiropractic treatment trial there was an 11 degree improvement, so the family continued with the new regime.

Three times a week Garrett goes to

the chiropractor. He was never really scared to go — unlike his mother who sat cringing in the chair nearby.

In cases like Garrett's chiropractors make adjustments to the patient's neck and back. Some chiropractors then position the patient in a mirror image position for 20 minutes of traction. At the beginning of the 20 minutes the chiropractor fires an impulse into the nervous system that confuses the system for a split moment and allows the muscles and tendons to adjust to the new skeletal position effected during adjustment.

The fired impulse is sort of like turning off your computer to clear the memory and let the system refresh. The hope is that the nervous system will forget the misalignment of the body during the impulse and reprogram the muscles and tendons to keep the newly aligned skeletal system in the position they are in during traction after the confusion terminates.

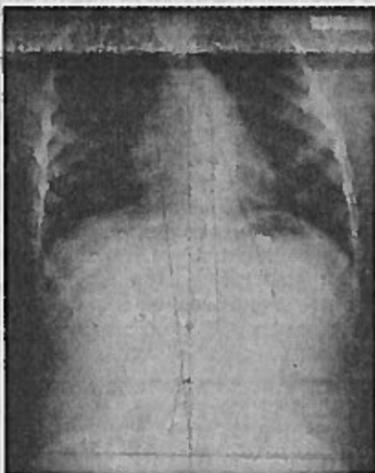
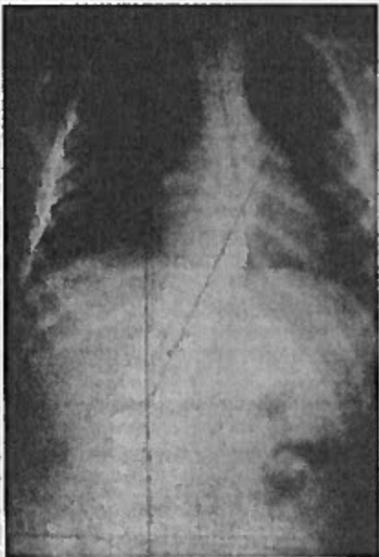
Garrett has only two more months of the intensive treatments left. Then he will only see his new doctor once a month.

Now, after seven months of chiropractic care Garrett has a 15 degree curvature — that's a 33 degree improvement from the 48 degree curvature when he started chiropractic care. Since he became a chiropractic patient he no longer uses his brace and his back muscles are also improving. Garrett also looks normal. His shoulders no longer look like they are at different heights and his shoulder blade doesn't stick out.

But best of all, Garrett, now seven, is able to enjoy his favorite activities, horse back riding, fishing, and bike riding, in complete freedom from the encumbrances of the heavy brace.

In addition the family and their insurance company are saving \$3,600 for the purchase of each additional brace required as Garrett grows. They had already purchased two of the expensive items.

The Tatmans were a little surprised at the negative reaction they



BEFORE AND AFTER— Garrett Tatman's x-rays tell the amazing story of a remarkable cure. The x-ray on the left shows Garrett's spine shortly after he was diagnosed with scoliosis. The spine curved 48 degrees from the normal position. The x-ray on the above was taken after seven months of chiropractic treatment. The spine is now only 15 degrees from the normal position. Look at the upper and lower curvatures of the spine to see the difference.

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Uintah Basin Standard

February 25, 2003 -- Page 13



HORSES AND CHIROPRACTIC CARE — Sara Brown, 31, was diagnosed with scoliosis when she was 10. She is shown here at 14 jumping her Arabian horse Shazam. She credits chiropractic care and horse back riding as the two factors that reduced her curvature of the spine to normal parameters so she could participate in cross country, soccer, and other sports as a teen.

received from Primary Children's Medical Center when doctors there found out they were taking Garret to a chiropractor. "The staff there feels like we aren't doing the best for our child," said Courtney myelitis. Sara Brown, 31, Roosevelt had a similar problem and discovered practically the same solution 21 years ago. Her mother Susan Brown, Ioka, brought 10-year old Sara to her pediatrician for a check-up when he said he believed she was developing scoliosis and in time may have to a metal rod inserted into her back to straighten it. At the minimum, he told the Browns that Sara would have to be fitted for a brace to keep it from getting worse as she grew. The Browns were living in Lehi at the time, and Susan mentioned the condition to their neighbor Dr. Tebbe, a chiropractor. He examined Sara, made a few adjustments, and gave her specific exercises to do. "I remember doing the exercises a little bit," recalls Sara, who had additional chiropractic adjustments. At her next annual check-up with her pediatrician, he was amazed that Sara was better. Susan and Sara give credit to the chiropractor and to the horse back riding lessons Sara started that summer. "Horse back riding has proven to be a valuable medical tool for many physical problems, as well as mental," said Susan. "In fact, there are programs in Utah that specialize in therapeutic horse back riding. The National Ability Center in Park City is probably the program closest to the Basin. There is also one, Courage Reins, in Lehi, and others around the state.

SEE SCOLIOSIS on page 20



HEY I KNOW THOSE GUYS! — Although commonly referred to as "the old farm couple in front of their house," they actually hail from the 1928 painting, "American Gothic. This year they are the inspiration for the Bluebell corn maze. The Depression era painting was meant to show "America and what it stood for."

Corn maze helps prove that land has unique multiple uses

Bluebell rancher Mark Monsen is in his third year of operating a unique attraction in Duchesne County. Monsen is the guy behind the "corn maze" — he's a man born with farming in his blood who began to think outside the box a few years ago and decided it was time to put his seven acres of corn to new use.

He kept growing corn, but just made it so it was something that people would come and pay to walk through — or more appropriately, get lost in.

The inspiration for this year's corn maze is a 75-year old painting by an Grant Wood, a Depression era artist who Monsen says he easily identifies with.

"He wrote that he was 'inspired by his personal universe filled with tales and legends thus paying homage to people who worked hard without bothering about earning money.' The reason I wanted it was because of his words and how he put it, it kind of said how I felt about agricul-

ture and the people on the land."

The Monsen family has milked cows on their farm since 1942. Mark's brother, Eldon, sold the last of them last week.

"It's kind of the end of an era," notes Mark. "You have to make a choice; you go in great big or you get out. Conventional agriculture is just not doing too good right now and I picked this theme because I wanted to salute the American farmer and his wife. They are standing there together."

This year's cultural corn maze is a bit of a departure from the giant cow carved in the corn when the maze opened in 2000, the first year Monsen decided his farm land could offer an attraction that kids were heading out of town to see.

"I was working hard in the spring to put in a little piece of ground in, and it was hot and I was tired and I stopped to rest... it wasn't long after that our friends down the road were talking to me and said their kids

went clear to the city to go to a corn maze and I thought I could do that."

He contacted Pleasant Grove resident Brett Herbst, the brainchild of the corn maze (Herbst has them up and running in five counties) and the rest is two miles of corn maze history.

"As soon as I am done this year I start thinking about next year. It's cut when the corn is really short when you can see what you are doing. You flag it and make a grid and connect the dots... and then when you get in an airplane you hope it looks like you wanted!"

"The corn maze is more than just fun, it's also educational. Last year 1,800 school kids paid a visit to the corn maze, which adds new features each year."

The maze is open Thursday, Friday from 5 - 9 p.m. and Saturday, from noon to 10 p.m. The maze is open Tuesday and Wednesday by reservation. It closes for business Nov. 1.

"Popular Attraction in 3rd Year"

Uintah Basin Standard
30 Sep 2003

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Corn maze provides "good farmin' fun" for the whole family

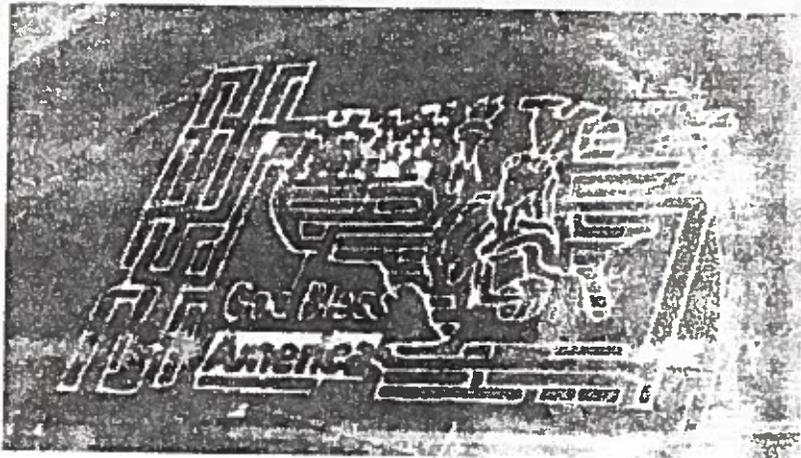
The corn maze to open in a Bluebell cornfield will provide a unique source of good farmin' fun for adults and children alike. The Maize will give Uintah Basin residents the chance to "get lost" Sept. 14 through Oct. 31.

The Maize, first introduced to the Uintah Basin last fall, was created by dairy farmer Mark Monsen. This year's design is a patriotic theme carved into six acres of corn. It contains a network of twists, turns, and decision points to find your way through, which will take about an hour for most maze-goers, according to Monsen.

After finding their way through the Maize, visitors are invited for a free wagon ride to a pumpkin patch where they will have the opportunity to pick and purchase their own pumpkin. They may also visit the tricycle track, a corn sandbox for little kids to play in, a pumpkin launcher, a small straw bale maze for children to crawl through, a cow train, and concession stand.

The Maize is located 3/4 mile north of the Bluebell Store. Hours of operation will be Thursdays and Fridays from 3-9 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 10 p.m. Field trips are offered on Thursdays by reservations. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 12 and under, and children five and under are free with a paying adult. Discounts are offered for large groups and field trips.

For more information or to make reservations, call 435-454-3732



A "MAZE"-ING- This six-acre cornfield maze sports a patriotic theme this year. It will be open for everyone who wants to "get lost" from Sept. 14 to Oct. 31. It is located 3/4 mile north of the Bluebell Store.

**Mark Monsen Farms proudly presents
Northwestern Utah's only Corn Maze!**



Opening
September 14, 2002



• Wagon ride to pumpkin patch. Pick your own pumkin.

• Let the kids race around the tri-cycle track.

ENTRY FEE REQUIRED

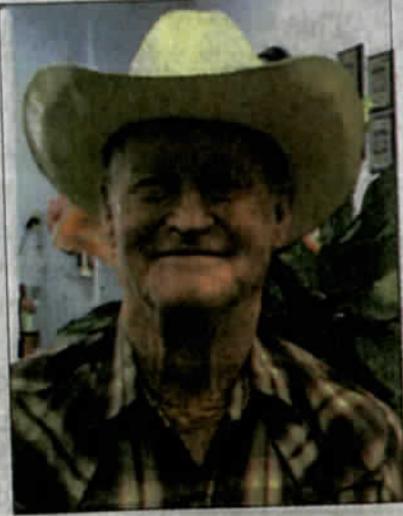
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Thursday & Fridays: 5-9 PM
Saturdays: Noon-10 PM
Tuesday & Wednesdays:
By reservation
Large Groups Welcome

www.cornfieldmaze.com

Located 3/4 mile North of the Bluebell Store.
For more information call :435-454-3732

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Uintah Basin Standard
10 Sep 2002



Come Celebrate with us!
Lewis Fausett is turning 80.
Open House at Bluebell
Park on June 8, 3 to 6 p.m.
No gifts please.

Share with him a written
memory of working/serving
with him in the: Oilfield,
Wool pool, Fair, Livestock
Committee, E.M.T. Asso-
ciation, Fireman, District
Scout Advancement Chair,
Mission, Temple, Church
calling, Neighbor, or
Friend.

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Vernal Express
June 4, 2019

86-YEAR OLD BLUEBELL WOMAN 'TOTALLY SURPRISED'

Finding family she never knew

By Lezlee E. Whiting

Ellen Roberts was just 2-years old and her brother, Sandy was 5 when they were placed in an orphanage by their father following the death of their mother. The siblings had only each other and quickly formed a strong bond during their young lives.

That's why it was even more heart-breaking when the two lost track of



Sarah Ellen Morris

Stanford Morris

each other for the rest of their lives on the very day they had planned to run away from the orphanage in Circleville, Ohio.

Ellen arrived at their pre-appointed meeting spot as planned, but Sandy never did come. Sadly, she decided she had no choice but to go on without him. "I tried all my life to find him," said Ellen, now 86-years old and living in Bluebell.

Just what happened to Sandy on the day the two were to run away together will forever be a mystery to her. But thanks to a small miracle that was years in the making, Ellen recently came face-to-face with her brother's only grandchild.

Sandy Morris' granddaughter, Linda Morris, of Montgomery, Alabama, never knew her grandfather. Sandy, or "Sanford" as her father had always referred to his dad, had died of a heart attack in 1969, before Linda was even born. Several years ago, Linda decided to delve into genealogy in part to find Sarah Ellen Morris (Ellen's given name), her grandfather's only sibling. Sandy Morris was so private that he never told his own son of his life at the orphanage, nor did he ever mention the fact that he had a sister.

Linda posted a query on an Internet message board, where it went unnoticed for years.

In 2002, Ellen was living in St. George when she met Lorell "Lee" Roberts, a Basin native. They married and moved to Bluebell.

Not too long after their marriage Lee's son, Jay, was perusing the Internet when quite by accident he ran across Linda's query seeking Sarah Ellen Morris.

Jay e-mailed, "she just married my dad ... she's going to be so excited!"

For two years now, Ellen, her great-niece Linda and her nephew Lee Morris (Sandy's son and Linda's father) have been putting the missing pieces of their lives together through telephone calls, e-mails, letters and pictures. It was made even more poignant because Lee was estranged from his father at the time of his death. Sandy had divorced Lee's mother in 1955 and Lee had no siblings.

Two weeks ago Linda and her mother, Sharon Morris, made the trip from Montgomery, Alabama to Utah, to meet the only living relative they know of on their father's side. Lee Morris was unable to make the trip due to his work schedule, but his wife and daughter brought his "Aunt Ellen" his love.

"It's kind of like having those pictures come to life for me," said Linda after spending a few days with the Ellen. "Her eyes are like his."

"His (Lee's) father never talked

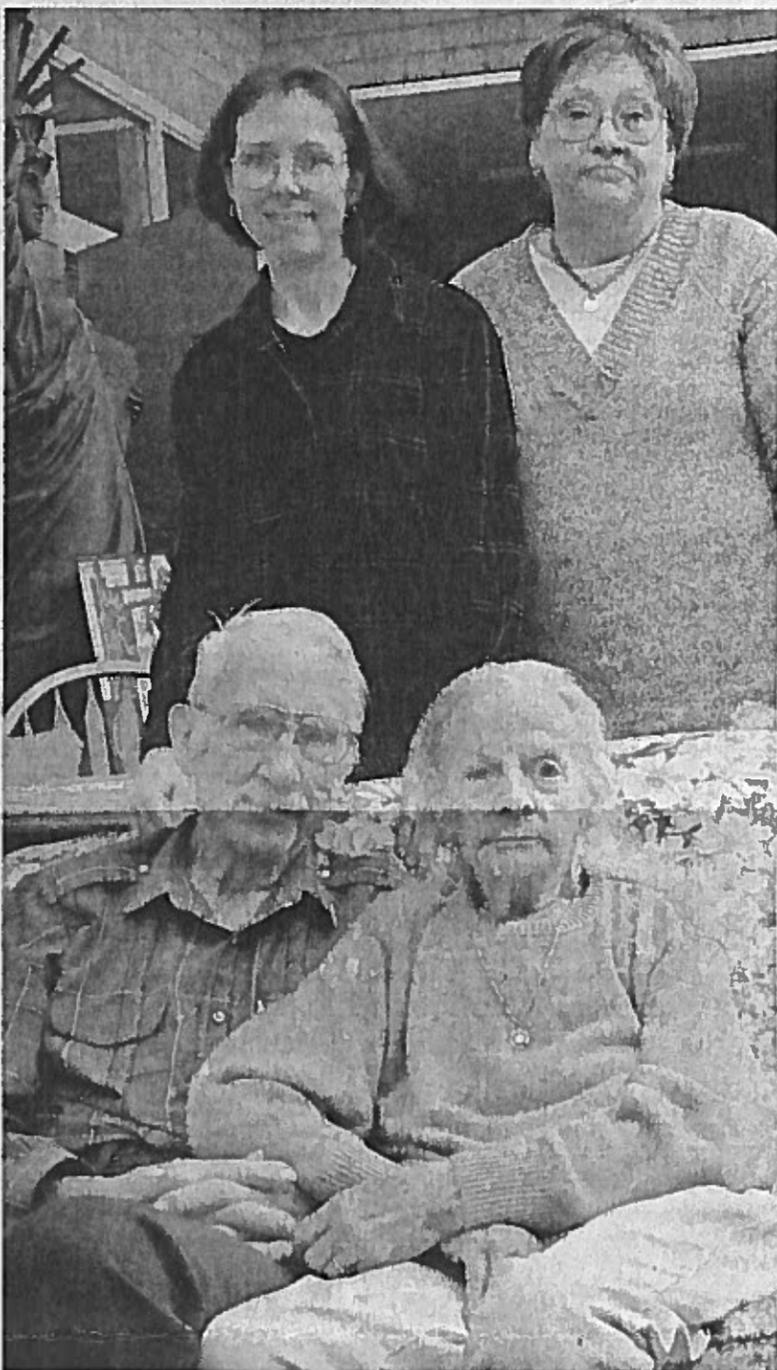
about his family. Lee didn't even know his dad was an orphan. He only knew he had run away from home when he was 14 or 15-years old, so this was a total surprise," Sharon said.

Their aunt's flair for letter-writing has provided the Morris family of Alabama with a great deal of information that has helped fill in some blanks for Lee. Many of her epistles were real "cliff hangers," leaving them eagerly waiting for the next installment. The letters detailed the exciting and often sad lives of Sandy and Ellen as siblings, as well as Ellen's adventures as she made her way on her own at the young age of 11. Her life's work included becoming a fashion model, a stunt woman in Western movies in the mid-1950s, and a restaurant owner.

"Her letters helped my husband understand his father much better. He (Sandy) was a private man and had a real tough time growing up and he really didn't know how to be a father. It wasn't that he didn't love his son, he just didn't know how to show it because he never had a father," said Sharon.

One story Ellen shared told of being adopted. Their new parents liked Ellen but not Sandy, evidenced by the way they treated him, Ellen explained. She can still recall how they administered daily beatings to the young boy and would lock him in the closet for days at a time with no food or water.

One day Ellen said she heard her brother crying and came to the closet, listening carefully as he told her how to dial the operator. They were rescued, and returned to the orphanage. Because they feared being adopted and possibly abused again they decided to run away and pledged to meet each other at an appointed time. What was to have been the day they began their new life together, became in reality the day they started their new lives separated forever.



FOUND: FAMILY — Not too many years ago the members of the Morris family didn't realize that each other existed. A chance glance at an Internet message board united Bluebell resident Ellen Roberts (seated at right) with her great-niece Linda Morris, (standing at left) and her nephew Lee Morris. The Morris' live in Montgomery, Alabama. Pictured next to Ellen on the couch is her husband Lorell Roberts. Pictured with Linda is her mother Sharon who is married to Ellen's nephew, Lee, who was unable to make the trip to Utah.



SPECIAL KEEPSAKE — This gold Star of David is the only remembrance that Ellen Roberts has from her mother who died when she was just 2-years old. A friend of her mother's gave it to her years after Ellen ran away from the orphanage where her father had placed his daughter and son.

Mark Monsen Farms proudly presents



Northeastern Utah's ONLY Corn Maze!

Opening September 17, 2004

HOURS OF OPERATION:
 Thursday & Fridays: 5-9 PM
 Saturdays: Noon-10 PM
 Tuesday & Wednesdays: By reservation
 Large Groups Welcome

- Wagon ride to pumpkin patch. Pick your own pumpkin.
- Try our new Roller Slide!

UEA Weekend Open Noon to 9 pm Thursday & Friday

ENTRY FEE REQUIRED
www.cornfieldmaze.com

Located 3/4 mile North of the Bluebell Store.
 For more information call :435-454-3732



*Uintah Basin Standard
 14 Sep 2004
 RHC 0578*

GET LOST IN THE MAZE — The Bluebell Corn Maze is once again ready to entangle your sense of direction, ensnare your imaginations, and insure your fun. As can be seen from this aerial photograph, the

2004 design is an extensive catacomb of corn depicting visions of the Basin. It's not for the faint of heart. This year's maze is opening Sept. 17; reservations can be made by calling 435-454-3732.



Powell Family Had 14 Children

Hardworking settlers overcame adversity

(Editor's Note: From now until Saturday July 1 — when Bluebell celebrates its 100th birthday — The Uintah Basin Standard is highlighting histories from early Bluebell families and important community events.)

James William Powell a dedicated father, husband, farmer, rodeo man and neighbor was born in Vernal on Sept. 8, 1888. At the age of 21, still unmarried, he moved to Bluebell with the Gales and Goodrichs and claimed 80 acres of land where he built a one-room home.

James began building fences and planting trees, like the ones he had in Vernal and continued building until he had corrals, an ice house, pig pens, a chicken coop, a cow barn, loafing sheds, a feeding shed, and a milking barn with stalls.

Shortly after establishing his homestead he met Vivian Ewell at a local dance. Originally from Provo, Vivian had recently settled in Mt. Emmons with her parents.

He set out to charm Vivian, and married her in 1917. The couple lived in his one-room home until he built a larger two-bedroom home to which he later added two more rooms, a lean to, and a wash house. The old home became a granary.

James worked hauling freight and would be gone for days transporting goods. He traveled to Price and Salt Lake where he would pick up cargo and haul it back to Bluebell. After a few years James gave up freighting because it became hard for him to leave his family. By this time he had acquired more land and stock and several children.

He was a hard worker but also liked to have fun, every Fourth of July he would get up at 4 a.m. to set off dynamite in a hole by the school — the blast signaled the start of the patriotic celebration.

For years James was in charge of the July 4th and July 24th rodeos in Bluebell. He supplied the animals and when he didn't have a bucking horse he would find one. He was also the auctioneer for many socials and the "high stepper" at the dances.

Vivian, a devoted mother, was sick most of her life due to asthma and a bad heart. She saved the lives of her 14 babies by driving miles in a buggy twice a day for months to acquire breast milk from friends.

She was self-educated and served as a teacher in Sunday School. She was also the LDS stake bee keeper for years.

In 1924 James almost lost his life to typhoid fever and had to be quarantined. He eventually regained his health.

In spite of all their challenges James and Vivian provided very well for their large family.

"A good garden and orchard were very important to my father. We always had all kinds of currants, plums, apples, gooseberries, peaches, apricots, pears, rhubarb, berries, concord grapes and asparagus growing in our orchard," wrote Ruth Powell Christensen in Bluebell's first history book.

In the fall the family thrashed grain for themselves and others and hired neighbors to help with the cooking and thrashing. The grain was taken to the waterfall powered mill between Mt. Emmons and Boneta.

"We would get our winter flour and germade mush. The inside of the germ of the wheat, and the

bran was for the pigs. Bran was very cheap feed, now it's packed in small packages and sold in health food stores," wrote Ruth.

In the spring they sheared sheep and neighbors would bring their sheep to the Powell's long shed to shear their sheep too.

Vivian was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in January, 1961. Jim died of a heart attack "on his farm with a shovel in his hand" about one year later.

Uintah Basin Standard
6, June 2006 UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY
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BEING REMEMBERED — James and Vivain Ewell Powell gave everything they had and more to care for their family, friends and neighbors. The couple raised 14 children and contributed an immense amount of time and effort to establish Bluebell.

Social

A-8



The children of Howard and Fontella Jenkins are pleased to announce their 60th wedding anniversary and 80th birthdays. A celebration will be held in their honor on Sat., May 22, from 3-5 p.m. at the Bluebell Park. All friends and family are invited. A light luncheon will be served. No gifts please.

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May 18, 2010

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LILA GARDNER GALE
... Bluebell pioneer.

Lila G. Gale Tells History Of Basin Pioneers

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Mrs. Alice Delliah Gardner Gale who celebrated her 90th birthday May 5 in a Vernal rest home tells a very interesting story of the pioneers including she and her husband, who settled the town of Bluebell.

Mrs. Gale was born May 5, 1872 in Salem, Utah, a daughter of Ira W. and Alice Snow Gardner. She married Elmer Gale, November 24, 1892 in the Manti LDS Temple and a year later moved to Jensen. When the Federal Government opened the Uintah Indian Reservation to white settlers there was a wild rush into this section. Homesteaders came from different parts of the country to find homes

THE FIRST filings that were made on the land that comprises Bluebell and the vicinity were made by the following individuals: Elmer Gale, Leslie Goodrich, Rhoda Goodrich, Heber Powell, George Spencer and Henry C. Wathen. All of the above came from Uintah County with exception of Geo. Powell who was from Price and Harry C. Wathen, from Holladay

ZAR

hs, tes

The first permanent settlers to come to what is now called Bluebell, were Elmer Gale, wife Della, and two-year-old son, Jesse. They moved from Jensen, Uintah County, in a covered wagon drawn by a span of horses and arrived in Bluebell, March 4, 1907

Vernal Express 1962

RHC 0578

being and Bet- rling- own the M Mrs. S d eide- c and r p- r- ard Ir- eep- in non- F in du- b-ool B- seen St- hes- t of de- C- tah b- w- itly n- nza T- n- me u- t- f- a- C- a- l- n- s- ers lay- est- nle- est- ere- ant- ize- the- rer- st- ere- ite, al- ter- ir- l- ont- his- and- er- lth- in

THE FOLLOWING spring brought several more families to the area. Among them were the following: Leslie Goodrich and wife, Rhoda Goodrich, Heber Powell and wife, James Cook and wife, Leonadis Lisonbec, Robert Alexander, John Ferrell, Harry C. Wathen and Roy Therning.

These pioneers of Bluebell were impressed with the grandeur of the blooming bluebells waving their heads among the sagebrush, cedars and grass during the months of May and June. This impression was so vivid that when they named the place, Heber Powell suggested that it should be named Bluebell, and all agreed.

These first settlers, like all pioneers, had many difficulties to surmount. There was the clearing of the land, plowing and preparing it for crops. But no doubt the most difficult of all was getting the water from the Lake Fork river to irrigate the crops. This required a great effort and took a long time to dig the ditch. It was full two years before any irrigation water reached Bluebell. The historical facts of this story are told by John K. Therning, one time secretary of the Farmer's Irrigation Company, in the following words:

"FOUR OR FIVE miles west of Altonah, Dry Gulch No. 11 is taken out of Lake Fork river. This ditch is divided into classes, and Class B comes out of it five and one-half miles northwest of Bluebell coming down to one-half mile straight west of Bluebell, then continuing one mile farther south.

"Class B was just a plow furrow in 1908, when water first came through it, and there was hardly enough water to reach to the end of the ditch for culinary purposes. The plow-furrow ditch had been made under the direction of Heber Powell assisted by Henry Allred.

(Continued on Page 11)

Lila G. Gale Bluebell History

(Continued from Page 4)

"In 1910, the Farmer's Irrigation Company was organized to water what was known as Alexander and near by, Alexander was located between the present towns of Altonah and Bluebell.

"**THAT WATER** that is used in Bluebell is obtained from the Yellowstone river, a branch of the Lake Fork river. They also obtain some from the Payne Canal of Dry Gulch and the Class B Canal in Dry Gulch.

"In 1945, the Farmer's Irrigation Company was consolidated with the Dry Gulch Irrigation Company, taking over the name of the latter."

Like other settlements in America, Bluebell has its Indian stories but here at this later date these stories all tend to show the friendliness of the Indians rather than to show that they were enemies. Mrs. Lila Gale tells the following stories:

"The Indians were our friends. Mr. Gale would be traveling around hunting his horses. When he would come to a little or low place in the brush, there he could see an Indian hiding. He found out that they were watching to see if he would steal or kill their cattle. They watched and watched, until they were satisfied that he would not take any of their cattle. Then they said, "White man no take cattle."

"**ONE TIME** I became very frightened. My husband had gone up in the canyon and he did not get home until after dark. There was not a soul for miles around, so there was not anyone to call. I heard a loud coarse voice, it seemed more than one. I thought it must be drunken Indians, so I locked the door and did not make a fire. We had a large stove. I took my little boy and crawled behind it and wrapped him up, as it was cold weather. I did not make any light.

My little boy said, "scart, Mamme?"

"I told him, No, I did not want to scare him or make him cry. He knew there was something unusual. I told

him to keep still until his Daddy came. Mr. Gale came soon afterward. One cannot imagine how glad I was to hear his coming.

"It was a mountain lion that I had heard. It sounded so loud that I thought there were many voices. My husband heard it and saw its tracks. They were the largest lion tracks he had ever seen.

"At another time, three Indians came when my husband was after wood. I felt afraid.

THEY SAID, "No be fraid, your man heap good. No hurt you."

"My little boy said, Mamme, why don't those men wash their faces clean?"

One day when Fred Goodrich and Jim Powell were getting dinner, two Indians rode up to their camp. They were building houses on their homestead. The Indians wanted to know why they were building houses on their land. One of the men told them that the land belonged to them now. They talked to the Indians about the land for a while and gave them some dinner. When the Indians left, they said, "good-bye, you my friend."

The first school at Bluebell was held for about two months in the fall of 1909 in what was known as Elmer Gale's granary, which has since been moved about one-fourth mile west of where it originally stood, and remodeled for a home for Jesse Gale and family. The remaining school term of 1909-1910 was finished in a dirt-roof log cabin, which is now known as Gardner Goodrich's granary.

At that time the school was known as Bluebell Public School, District No 10, Wasatch County, Utah. Effie Powell was the first school teacher and taught 29 students from beginners to sixth grade. The District School Board consisted of three members: Henry Allred, David Thompson and Milton Alexander.

BY THE FALL of 1910 the main room of the Ward Meeting House was completed, and school from then on, until about December, 1927 was held in the Ward House. At the latter date, school was held in the present Bluebell School House.

Like school, the first Sunday School was held in Gale's granary for a few months, then it was held in W. P. Merrell's home until the Ward Meeting House was ready for use in the fall of 1910. In 1939 a new chapel was begun but just a short time before it would have been completed, it burned down. The people did not give up, however, and started building all over again at once. This lovely new building was completed in the spring of 1941.

W. P. Merrell was the first Bishop in 1912, and he remained in that office for about twelve years. Bishop Leslie B. Goodrich was then ordained as Bishop of the Bluebell Ward. In 1939 Bishop Bernard Winkler was chosen as Bishop, and in 1948, he was replaced by the present Bishop, Gardner Goodrich.

The first store and Post Office was in one small room of Mr. Levison Hancock's home. Mr. Hancock became Post Master in about 1910, serving the people until about 1915, when Mary S. Merrell was appointed Post Mistress. She remained as such until March 1923, when John K. Thirning was given the position which he held until he moved in 1948. Hazel Goodrich was then appointed Post Mistress.

THE FIRST MAIL came tri-weekly and was carried by horseback from Roosevelt by David Thompson. For many years the mail has been brought daily except Sunday from Myton by truck.

The social life of the few settlers, who wintered in Bluebell during those first years was very limited. Mrs. Lila Gale writes an interesting account of how they spent Christmas in 1908. Here it is in her own words:

"My husband said, let's go to the saw mill a while and I will work there." So we got ready to go. He worked there till the day of Christmas eve. We started to go to Roosevelt. When we reached the gulch, an awful storm of snow came up. The horses just sat back and would not face the storm at all, so we camped in the cedars. My husband raised the wagon tongue and propped it up with the neck yoke, took a canvas and put it over

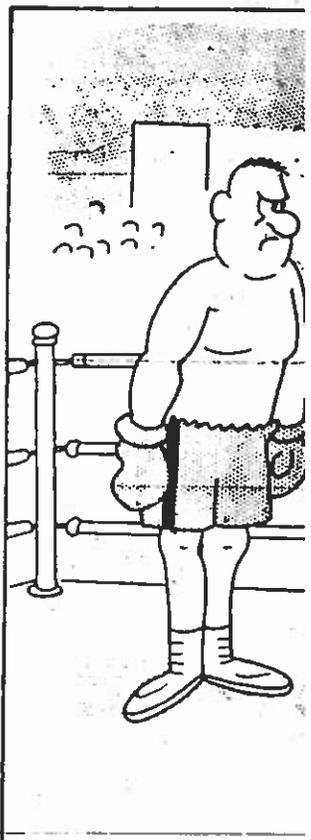
the tongue like a tent, making a bed we slept in. The storm lasted all night.

"Our little boy said, "Mamme, will Santa come here in the storm? Will you know where we are?"

"We told him, "yes he come". So his stocking hung on the cedar tree covered with snow. In morning he woke up there in the snow on was a stocking full of and candy and nice toys was surely surprised.

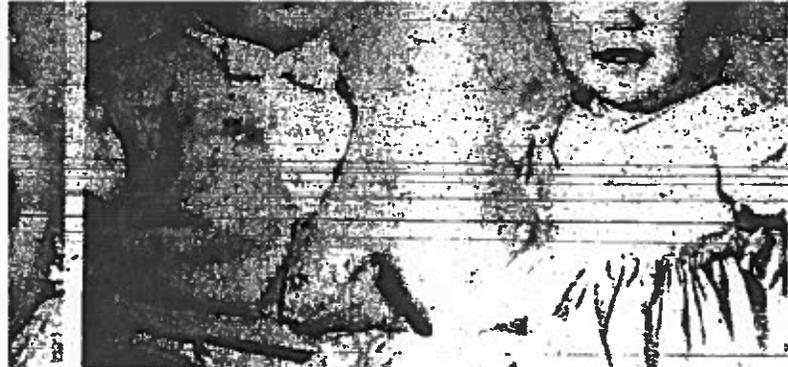
"**THE SNOW WAS** feet deep that winter. We gan to think that we w be snowed in and though would be very hard to out with a team and was. There was no hay to be. We hauled straw from Roosevelt to feed our team. Two cows. The rabbits sa the snow and ate our y fruit trees clear down to ground. Anyone would t

Laff Of



"My kind old mother, sends her

RED



Todd K. Hartle

Yvette Harrison

...and Mrs. Fran Peterson, Jensen, May 17; Todd K. Hartle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hartle, May 26; Yvette Harrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Harrison, May 22; and Teri Patterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Patterson, May 26.

Pictures of one-year-old babies are taken free of charge by Thorne Studio and published by The Vernal Express. Pictures should be taken one week prior to the baby's first birthday.



Flaming Gorge Dam as it appeared last December.

The picture was presented by Frank M. Clinton, regional director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and C. S. Rippon, cop

the-tongue-like-a-tent, and making a bed we slept there. The storm lasted all night.

"Our little boy said, 'Mamme, will Santa come here in the storm? Will he know where we are?'"

"We told him, 'yes he will come'. So his stocking was hung on the cedar tree and covered with snow. In the morning he woke up and there in the snow on tree was a stocking full of nuts and candy and nice toys. He was surely surprised.

"THE SNOW WAS four feet deep that winter. We began to think that we would be snowed in and thought it would be very hard to get out with a team and wagon. There was no hay to be had. We hauled straw from Roosevelt to feed our team and two cows. The rabbits sat on the snow and ate our young fruit trees clear down to the ground. Anyone would think

the trees would have died, but they came out again and there are still lovely apples on them each fall."

Until the Ward House was finished the people danced in such places as Mr. Gale's granary and Gardner Goodrich's granary.

Ever since Mr. Gale planted potato peelings in the spring of 1907 and they grew and made lovely potatoes without any water except rain, it has been known that Bluebell was a good farming district.

For a while, Bluebell was hampered in an agricultural way, due to the shortage of water. Before that time, however, this section was one of the heaviest producers of grain, hay, and livestock in the "Basin." Now, since the Moon Lake Reservoir has been completed, the farmers' crops do not suffer so much because of lack of water. In

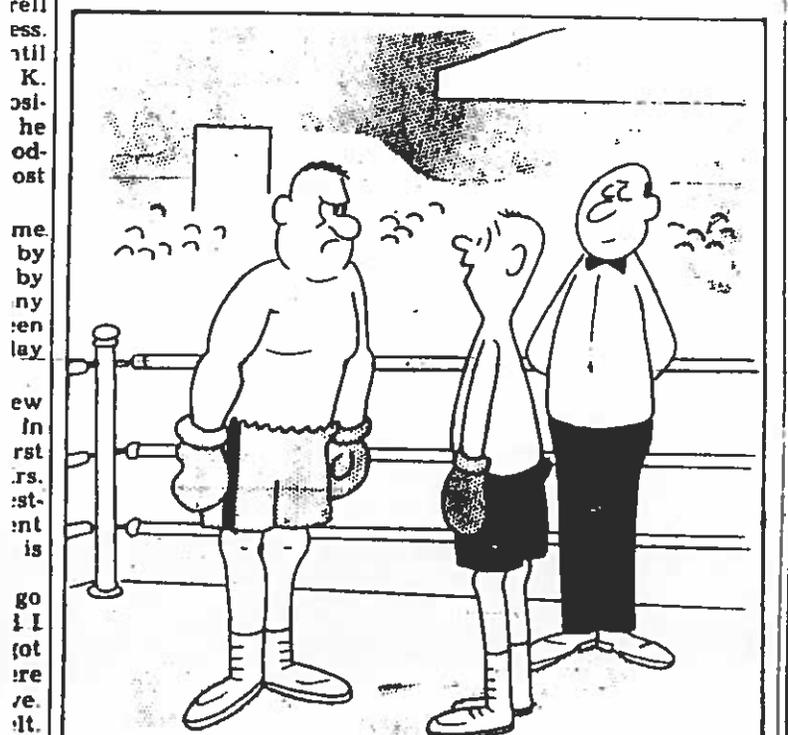
Governor Gets Dam Picture

Gov. George D. Clyde Monday morning received a large tinted, framed photograph of

most years there is enough water and consequently crops are better.

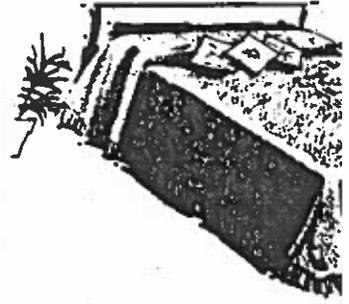
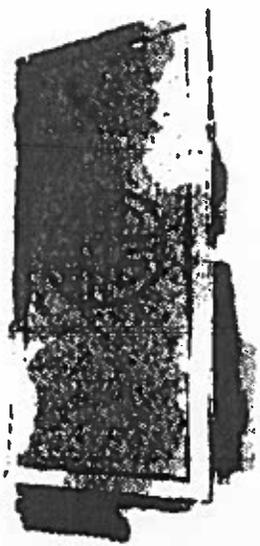
THE GALES have one son, Jesse, seven grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Mr. Gale died April 11, 1938. The past 10 years Mrs. Gale has spent her time at a sisters home in Bluebell and at her granddaughters and husband, Phyllis and Danny Turner in Vernal.

Laugh Of The Week



It's here now! Summer starts at Penney's with a whirl of buys warm days ahead, terrific at the beginning of the season... C

DOLLAR D



Special Buy!
New Deep-Tones
Fluffy Cotton Cl

Your favorite style in basic or shocking pink, red, brown, lime, Dutch blue, sunflower!

Save! 27" x 48"
Cotton Pile
Scotton Buy

Local residents honored to serve as Grand Marshall

SUBMITTED BY
 TAMRA KAPPEN

Howard and Fontella Jenkins, lifetime residents of the Upper Country, are honored to have been chosen to represent their community as the Grand Marshalls of the Longhorn Days celebration parade.

Both are descendants of early settlers of Bluebell and Mt. Emmons. Howard Jenkins was born in Bluebell, Utah, on the old Jim Cook place on April 25, 1930.

He was the son of Samuel and Sephronia Connell Jenkins. He had four brothers and four sisters. Howard was expected to help on the ranch that was homesteaded by his parents in an area southeast of Bluebell called the gulch. It is now known as Jenkins' Draw.

He grew up working everyday with his family. He herded cows and sheep, milked cows and helped put in crops at an early age. Howard attended six years of school in Bluebell and six years of school in Altamont. He graduated from Altamont High with the class of 1948.

Fontella is the daughter of Earl and Loretta Rogers Murray. She was born in Mt. Emmons on June 29, 1930. Fontella had two sisters and three brothers. She went to school for three years in Mt. Emmons. She then attended three years of school in Bluebell and six years in Altamont. Fontella's talent as a fast runner earned her the school time nick-name of "race-horse Murray."

Howard and Fontella were married on March 17, 1950. They lived in the gulch for part of the year and moved to the Jim Cook place during the summer. Hard work has always been a large part of their lives.

The two of them milked a herd of up to 30 cows by hand night and morning. The rest of their days were filled with irrigating, keeping a home and garden, and caring for their animals.

Opportunities to earn needed money took them to Salt Lake City and Littleton, Calif., for a short time. Howard worked at the brick yards in Salt Lake and learned to build homes in California.

Howard and Fontella's

father, Earl Murray, tore down the old Bluebell School and the old Hack Ralph home. Using these materials and the experience of both men, they were able to build a new home for each family.

Howard and his brother Glen formed a partnership and purchased the ranch from their mother after their father passed away.

They raised milk cows, hay and red potatoes. Howard and Fontella worked at several other jobs in addition to their farm work over the years. Howard hauled milk for the local creamery, and worked as a carpenter in Roosevelt where he helped build homes and the State Road shed.

Later he worked for a couple of years on the oil drilling rigs. Fontella worked at the Frontier Grill, Huish Drug Store and Nelson Ricks Creamery. Together they were employed for two years as custodians for the LDS Church. Later, Howard and Glen divided their property and Howard and his son Gary became partners. They named their ranch the Double J Ranch. Several properties were added to the ranch over time. They and their families milked cows for 11 years before converting to a cow - calf operation.

Fontella was a perfectionist at sewing clothing, quilt tops and appliquéd pillow cases. She also enjoyed making cedar clocks. She has been known in her community as a hard worker, a great homemaker and cook. In years past, you could have stopped by any day at noon and enjoyed a delicious meat and potato meal with homemade rolls and a fancy dessert. She is especially remembered for her pies, cookies and hummingbird cake.

Her tidy home was always surrounded by a well-kept yard and orchard and her pantry was full of home canned foods. Fontella has been an active member of her church. She served for years as the Bluebell Ward Primary President and later as the Relief Society President in the Altamont Second Ward. She has always been a dedicated visiting teacher with a heart centered on service. Her lucky grandchildren remember her loving care as she read them books,



Howard and Fontella Jenkins, lifetime residents of the Upper Country, are honored to have been chosen to represent their community as the Grand Marshalls of the Longhorn Days celebration parade.



Howard and Fontella Jenkins are pictured in their younger days.

told stories and taught them life lessons.

Howard, too, has lived a life of service. He served in the old Bluebell Ward in the Mutual Organization and several other callings. He is well known for the many years of quiet, selfless service as he cared for the Bluebell Community Park and Cemetery.

Many of his grandchildren remember him teaching them to say the alphabet backwards while they milked cows as a family. Howard has always enjoyed a friendly visit, a good laugh, a new foal and a weed free garden. He remembers all the old timers of the area and has a

ready handshake and wave for all he meets. For years he has raised beautiful gardens. This year's rows of potatoes and corn are no exception. Double J Ranch has been home to some tremendous horses over the years. The horses were used for riding and work, but also for chariot and flat saddle racing. Howard's other pastimes have included camping, fishing and traveling.

Howard and Fontella are parents to three children: Gary (Paula) Jenkins, Bruce (Tony) Jenkins, Sherrie (Ron) Giles all of Bluebell. They have 14 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

MAiZE takes twists, turns lik

By ViAnn Prestwich

Rather than get lost in this year's election rhetoric, get lost in an eight-foot tall corn maze that features a Republican elephant and a Democrat donkey.

The Bluebell Corn MAiZE which opened Saturday and runs until Oct. 31 features twists and turns through the "Vote 2008" theme.

"Every year we try to find something that goes with the Basin or events that have happened," Alex Monsen said about the theme. "This year, with the election, we wanted to encourage people to go out and vote."

Alex is the son of Mark and Lori Monsen who own and operate the MAiZE.

"I've helped my dad since I was a senior in high school," Alex said. "He's the hard worker. I'm just the guy that follows him around."

Alex works at UBTA-UBET Communications, but spends considerable time building props that will be used to "haunt" the

MAiZE. On Oct. 16, one of the two paths through the MAiZE will become haunted providing those who are looking for a scare a place to explore.

"We're trying to make it scary," Alex said. "We like families to be able to come so we stay away from bloody and gory things, but we want to make it frightening."

Every year Alex tries to think of new and better ways to haunt the corn paths. He wouldn't give any hints as to what might be expected except to say that if someone has claustrophobia, they might want to reconsider going through during the haunt.

Growing up, Halloween was Alex's favorite holiday. He often dreamed of trick or treating door to door in a neighborhood. He explained that he'd never had that opportunity.

"We had to go in a car," Alex said, "And now parents are worried about their kids going and so they all go to trunk or treat things."

The second generation MAiZE



The Monsen family decided on an election theme for this year's Bluebell Corn MAiZE.

fan, explained that he just wants kids to have a place to celebrate.

On Halloween, the maze will hold a family party where carved pumpkins as well as costumes will be judged.

This year will feature an even

larger playground for the kids. There is still a pumpkin launcher, cow train, hayride, and corn box. Smaller children may enjoy the large hay bale maze or a tractor ride to the pumpkin patch to select their own pumpkin. A slide constructed from PVC pipe

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On Halloween, the maze will hold a family party where carved pumpkins as well as costumes will be judged.

This year will feature an even

larger playground for the kids. There is still a pumpkin launcher, cow train, hayride, and corn box. Smaller children may enjoy the large hay bale maze or a tractor ride to the pumpkin patch to select their own pumpkin. A slide constructed from PVC pipe

has been as popular as the goat walk.

The MAiZE is opened on Thursdays and Fridays from 5-9 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 10 p.m. Reservations for large groups are also available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There is no school on Oct. 16 and 17 so the MAiZE will be open at 1 p.m. on those days.

Because the spring weather was colder this year than normal, the Monsens were not able to plant as early as they normally do. They were concerned that the corn wouldn't have time to mature, but according to Alex the stocks are tall and are high-quality.

"They are green and healthy," he said. "Whenever the frost hits, the corn starts to get brittle, but right now it's looking good."

One of the favorite food items sold at the MAiZE is kettle corn, but the Monsens have discovered that families enjoy more than just snacks.

"We'll have hot wings, chili dogs, and things like nachos,"

Alex said. "We're giving more choices."

The A-MAiZing Race will be held on Oct. 11. Every year this obstacle course provides physical challenges as well as "yucky" tests.

One year contestants had to milk a goat and drink it. Another year they dug through a pumpkin to find clues. This year no one will reveal what test will face the contenders.

"We've come up with something new that will be a surprise," Alex promised.

To sign up for the race interested parties need to call KXRQ and enter the drawing.

For more information about MAiZE times and prices contact Mark Monsen at 454-3732 or go to www.cornfiledmaze.com. Specific questions can be e-mailed to mfarm@ubtanet.com.

The Bluebell Corn MAiZE is located at 5000 N. 11948 West, about ¼-mile north of the Bluebell Store on the west side of road.

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EARLY SETTLERS — Luther and Irene Merrell Gale were married in 1915. Irene was among the first group of pioneers to settle in Bluebell.

Log Homes and Dirt Roofs Memories of Irene Merrell Gale

Editor's Note: From now until Saturday July 1— when Bluebell celebrates its 100th birthday— The Uintah Basin Standard is highlighting histories from early Bluebell families and important community events.

When Irene Merrell Gale was 10, her family moved from her home in Naples to an unnamed place on an Indian reservation. At the time she had no idea that her heart would find a new place to call home for the rest of her life.

Her father, William Porter Merrell, bought 40 acres of land to homestead and built a one room home. On April 7, 1908 he loaded his wife, Mary S. Lybbert Merrell, and their five children into a covered wagon and began the two day journey to what is now Bluebell.

"Father had gone to the land and got logs out of the forest to make a large one room house," Irene wrote in 1982 for a story she submitted to a history book compiled into "Bluebell, Utah 1905 - 1983." The little home had two windows and two doors, which weren't installed yet, and a dirt roof.

It was dark when the family arrived but after lighting a lantern so they could see to make their beds on the floor, both parents hung quilts on the doors and on the windows to keep the children warm.

"I believe, even that night, Bluebell felt like home and it still does

when I go back. Even now," wrote Irene.

In the beginning, wagons hauled in barrels of water from Dry Gulch Creek. Later the men made a canal so they could water their crops.

Irene participated in many exciting events that took place during the establishment of the Bluebell community. Her father let her put the first rock in the foundation when the early settlers built the LDS church. Previously, Sunday meetings had been held at their home.

She attended the celebration held upon the completion of the Myton bridge. She loved to dance and would travel by wagon with her family all year round to community dances held in Altonah, Upalco, and Boneta. To keep warm while traveling they put heated stones under the hay in the back of the wagon.

"None of us had ever seen a car when I was little. We never saw electric lights until after I was married and had children. I never saw a train until I went to Salt Lake to be married," wrote Irene.

On April 2, 1915 Irene married Luther Gale in the Salt Lake Temple. She gave birth to 12 children, three passed away. Luther passed away in 1969 after the two had been married for 52 years. In 1982 at age 85, Irene had 62 grandchildren and 116 great-grandchildren.

Merrell's home was an early 'gathering place' in Bluebell

UBS
13 June 2004

William Porter and Mary S. Lybbert Merrell had one of the nicest homes in Bluebell, thanks to Mary who had learned many home-making arts from her mother. While most of their neighbors had dirt floors and roofs, the Merrells had a carpeted sawed lumber floor because Mary even knew how to weave carpet.

Will, referred to as a "delicate child" was born in Cache County in 1869. At 10-years-old he moved to White River with his father and brothers where they spent a very hard winter.

His family later moved to Dry Fork and were the first people to cross what is now called "the twists" just west of Vernal. They traveled in a covered wagon led by an ox team

Will became the "man of the house" at 15 when his father passed away due to complications from a back injury obtained while building the Naples first school/church house. Will had a keen interest in people and the ability to do almost anything he wanted.

Mary S. Lybbert was born in Juab County on Sept. 25, 1877. Her



William Porter Merrell, Mary S. Lybbert Merrell.

EARLY SETTLERS — William Porter and Mary S. Lybbert Merrell moved to Bluebell in 1908 where they established a homestead. The Merrells played an active role in the early church and community.

parents immigrated to Utah from Norway and crossed the plains with the early pioneers. When Mary was about 6-years-old she traveled with her family for three weeks to get to Vernal, arriving in October 1883.

Will and Mary married in the Salt Lake Temple in October 1896. Neither Will nor Mary attended school for long and they were both self-taught and very well read. In April 1908 the couple left Vernal and homesteaded 40 acres on the Uintah Valley Reservation which was opened for settlement in 1905.

"We took all our worldly possessions and most important, our five young children to an unknown, and unnamed, and undeveloped area," wrote Mary in "Mary S. and Will Merrell Memoirs" which was published in the "Bluebell History 1906-1983."

They didn't go to Bluebell empty-handed, they took enough supplies to set themselves up rather nicely and eventually had the first lawn in Bluebell.

Since water was scarce, especially in the winter, they melted snow in a tub over a bonfire.

The family assisted in building the Bluebell church and organizing the ward and Will was appointed superintendent of the branch.

Mary inherited her family's or-

gan which she taught herself how to play. The organ was moved to the church where she played the hymns at meetings. "It made the meetings much more spiritual and enjoyable," wrote Mary.

They later bought a piano which has remained in Bluebell at their daughter's home. Since their home was in a central location and they had one of the first telephones in town, the Merrell's home became a gathering place for those seeking assistance.

"It was often that folks came to our home in all times of need," wrote Mary. Neighbors and travelers would go to their house during funerals, marriages, illness, accidents and maternities.

The Merrells ended up moving back to Vernal. However, some of their children are still in the area.

"In leaving Bluebell, as so many of our children needed high school, we left the source of some of the most fond memories of our lives. We left with much sadness but knew it was necessary," wrote Mary.

Will developed cancer and passed away in January 1930. Mary died in January 1958 at the home of her daughter, Lucile Merrell Winkler, in Bluebell.



CODY WILKERSON, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Mark Monsen, creator of the Bluebell Corn Maze, fires off his pumpkin cannon during opening weekend.

More than maize: Corn maze offers family fall fun in Bluebell

By JOHN PLESTINA
jplestina@ubmedia.biz

BLUEBELL—Honoring Roosevelt in its centennial year is the theme for the 14th annual Blue Bell Corn Maze, now open and running through Oct. 26.

A Uintah Basin autumn tradi-

tion continues as Mark Monsen has once again created an original corn maze with about 250,000 ears of corn on eight acres, along with other attractions on his farm, located three quarters of a mile north of the Bluebell Store, about 15 miles from Roosevelt and about 45 miles from Vernal.

"Come get lost with us" remains an ongoing theme.

The themes change each year. The corn maze first opened in 2000 with a dairy cow theme because the Monsen farm was originally a dairy farm. A patriotic theme was

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MAZE

Continued from A1
used the following year, shortly after the 9/11 attacks. In 2006, Bluebell's centennial year, 1906-2006 were carved into the corn. An election year featured a donkey and an elephant. Last year, the theme "I Love Drilling," paid homage to the oil and gas industries in the Basin.

There's more to interest people of all ages. There is a courtyard with a large round bale maze, a goat walk where children could pet and feed goats, slides, a corn bin with whole corn that children can play in, and of course, Monsen's cannons.

The Duchesne County farmer is known for his compressed air cannons that shoot corn and pumpkins across a field to a certain destruction that delights spectators.

"We have two pumpkin canons. We are going to shoot all the time," Monsen said.

Monsen acquired the 3-inch "pumpkin chuckin'" cannon about five years ago and he built the 8-inch "Big

Bertha" two years ago.

A tractor pulls a wagon to the pumpkin patch where people can pick their own pumpkins.

Then there is a new attraction this year called "Friendly Fire," nurfball wars played in an enclosed area with paintball guns and protective equipment. Monsen removed the barrels from paintball guns and replaced them with larger barrels.

"We have field trips during the day Tuesdays through Fridays. We're teaching kids about farming this year. We'll be doing it on pollinators and what pollinators do for us," Monsen said.

"The last three weeks of October, we are going to have a spooky trail. Kids can hike the haunted corn maze. It's separate from the other corn maze, so if you don't want to get haunted you don't have to," Monsen said.

Field trips for schools and church groups are available with reservations and group reservations are available after the corn maze officially closes Oct. 26 through Halloween.

The corn maze will open at 11 a.m. Oct. 17-18 for the Utah Educator's Association school holiday.

The "Creep Farm" haunted maze begins Oct. 10 at dusk and runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Group reservations will not be accepted during the haunt.

The hours are: Thursdays and Fridays, 5-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. To 10 p.m.; closed Sundays and Mondays; and Tuesdays with reservations only.

Admission is \$8.50 for adults, age 11 and over; \$6.50 for children ages 4-10; and free for children 3 and younger that are accompanied by paying adults. The courtyard fee is \$4 per person if not participating in the corn maze. The creep farm is \$10.50 for adults and \$8.50 for children.

Additional information is available by calling 435-822-MAZE (6293). For group reservations, call 435-454-3732 and to schedule school or church field trips, call 435-454-3369. Information also is available at www.bluebellcorn-maze.com.



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OLINE AND HER CHILDREN — Oline Larsen Therning Wathen moved to Bluebell when there was no store, school or church. She helped establish the community and was loved by all who knew her. Back row, left to right: Ray Therning, Merriel (Matt) Wathen, George Wathen and Florence Wathen Hancock. Front row, left to right: Viola Wathen Bjorkman (insert) John Knud Therning, Oline and Henry Wathen.

OUTCAST PIONEER COMES TO BLUEBELL

Oline Larsen Therning Wathen

(Editor's Note: From now until Saturday July 1 — when Bluebell celebrates it's 100th birthday — The Uintah Basin Standard is highlighting histories from early Bluebell families and important community events.)

After being disowned by her family for joining the Mormon church, Oline Larsen Therning Wathen made her way to Zion, Utah, and eventually arrived in Bluebell before it was even named.

Born in Hyllerup, Denmark in October, 1859, Oline was the youngest of six children born into a happy

home. As a child she was a very active in the Lutheran church. Much to the dismay of her family, she was baptized into Mormon church in 1892, she was 22. "The water was so cold it was necessary to break the ice to perform the baptism," wrote Florence Wathen Hancock in the history book "Bluebell, Utah 1906-1983."

After being baptized her sole desire was to get to Zion. For two years she worked in the missionary home in Copenhagen, cooking and cleaning, to earn enough money for the trip.

Upon her departure from Denmark her sister Marie expressed the feelings of her family. "Oh, Oline, I am so glad that our mother is dead and not here to know of the disgrace you have brought to our family."

Oline sailed away on the steamship Arizona and arrived in New York. From there she took a train to Utah and arrived in Salt Lake in June of 1884.

In December of 1884 she married John Knud Therning, a tailor. While living on "K" street, near Third Avenue, in Salt Lake City, Oline gave birth to three children: John Knud in 1886, Helen in 1888 who died at one month, and Raymond in 1889. Shortly after Raymond's birth the small family moved to Holiday.

RHC 0578

Her husband passed away after only being in Holiday a short while. In 1893 Oline married Henry Charles Wathen and had five more children: Henry A. in 1893, Merriel W. and Viola (twins) in 1896, Florence in 1898 and George in 1902.

Her husband filed a homestead and the family left Holiday in October 1909 and headed to Bluebell. "This place was really a disappointment. There was only a one-room shack amid cedars and sage brush," wrote Florence. "There were no stores, no schools, no churches" when they first arrived. Later a few of the settlers got together and organized a school in Effie Powell's home.

In 1912 the Bluebell ward was organized and Oline became the first counselor of relief society. She served in the position for about 18 years. She also taught the young children in the church for about 14 years.

Oline never wasted anything and always gave outgrown clothing to people who needed it. She made clothes and shoes for people who had died and helped prepare the bodies for burial. She also helped trim and cover caskets because there was no mortician in the town. "She was very particular about

SEE PIONEER on page 5

PIONEER

Continued from page 4

cleanliness. Her clothes were always neat and clean, with ruffles and lace and a brooch or necklace at her throat and gloves were very important to her," wrote Florence.

She played an active part in the birth of her grandchildren and took most of her daughters and daughters-in-law to her home to care for them and their babies for awhile.

In 1915 her son John Knud Therning, who had stayed in Holiday, came to Bluebell and opened the first Bluebell store.

When Oline passed away in 1941 she had 26 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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CREDITS DIVINE INTERVENTION AS WELL

Pioneer firefighter's home saved by AFD

By Preston McConkie

Thirty-two years after Lewis Fausett's rented Bluebell house burned down, the volunteer fire department he joined in 1976 saved his handsome log home from sharing the same fate. But that's only how the story ended.

When houses catch fire in the wee dark hours, sleeping people die. But of the 14 children and four adults who bedded down Dec. 29 in Fausett's Bluebell home, all were safely outside before the first flames burst through the rafters just before 2 a.m.

"For the time of night and the lack of fire warning devices, it was surprising no one was injured," said Utah Fire Marshal Kim Passey after inspecting the two-story, fire-damaged home.

"I'm amazed we didn't have to search for someone trapped inside, or have to bring out a body," said Altamont Fire Department Training Officer Bruce Brown. "There was definitely divine intervention."

With a gaggle of girls sleeping in a room that minutes later would be filled with smoke and toxic fumes, intervention came about 1:45 a.m. as Lewis and his wife Kay finished their scripture reading and prayer. Normally that routine would have occurred hours earlier, but with Lewis retired from all work except the Altamont Fire Department, the couple was preparing to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and their brood had kept them up visiting late into the night.

With the couple settled into bed and the lights off, just before dozing off Kay heard a tiny electronic chirp. It was the sound that saved lives.

Unknown to Kay, an overheated cable was smoldering in an outer wall; as heat rose electrical resistance did as well, and power transmission failed. The alarm clock's reserve battery was apparently low, and the appliance complained with a programmed bleep. With a matriarch's instinctive worry, Kay put her hand on the bedside's touch-activated lamp. It didn't light.

That's when Lewis Fausett received the traditional demand from a wife to get up and "see what's wrong." He toured the house from second to first floor and found nothing wrong. He went outside and all seemed well. He came back in and smelled smoke.

In moments Lewis' platoon of descendants was clearing the building while he called 911 on a cell phone. With dispatchers alerted, Lewis found his fire department turnout gear and dressed for a fight.

Outside, waiting for comrades and heavy machinery to arrive,



Lewis Fausett stands near his younger comrades on the Altamont Fire Department he has served on since it was formed in 1976. Retired from all other work, Fausett and his wife Kay were preparing to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and hosting 16 children and grandchildren at their home, when an electrical fire started upstairs Dec. 29.

Lewis and others watched as heavy smoke rolling from the east eaves suddenly whooshed into orange flames.

"It was just like it exploded," he said.

A quarter mile away, Brown, Lewis's son-in-law and fellow firefighter, had been asleep for 10 minutes when his pager went off. Learning that the home he'd just visited was on fire, he pulled on his own turnout gear and hurried into the -22 degree cold.

"Because of the rural area I keep my gear with me," Brown said. "Sometimes I meet the fire engine on my way to the station."

Counting Lewis, Brown was the second firefighter on scene, though he could only try finding the fire source until equipment arrived. Just 13 minutes after dispatchers paged the department, the first engine from Altamont rolled in.

But as Assistant Fire Chief Kelly Bird took charge and made the initial assault on the flames, a second engine's pump froze and couldn't deliver water. Unable to do more than contain the fire, Bird called for help from the Duchesne Fire Department.

Bird led the first push into the building full of blinding smoke. He didn't yet dare use fans to clear the smoke for fear of feeding the flames. Brown, who had been in the house many times, was also lost in the smoke - until his helmet hit a familiar chandelier.

"I'm a big tall guy, and no one else in the family is," Brown said. "I've given them a bad time about that chandelier. But as soon as I hit it, I knew where I was."

The disabled fire truck was sent to guide in Duchesne firefighters who didn't know the area. Bird later said, "We got the fire under control, but that's all we could do. It was Duchesne that put it out."

Only one room inside the house burned - the room where Lewis's female grandchildren had been sleeping. Fire also broke into the attic, and as others firefighters attacked from inside the house, Brown climbed a ladder onto an addition to the house which had burned away and left an opening into the attic.

Armed with a high-pressure hose, Brown found he couldn't drench the burning rafters without standing directly below them. He shouted, "Watch out," and shot the water straight up, catching a shower that soaked

his clothing and gear.

In the hot attic the soaking was merely uncomfortable. But backing down the ladder, Brown's gloves and clothes stuck to the metal. By the time he jerked and ripped his way to the ground his jacket and trousers had frozen so he couldn't bend his legs. A glove he'd pulled off froze and wouldn't go back on.

It was three hours before fire teams were certain every spark was extinguished. At 5:30 a.m. engines rolled back to the Altamont station, where Brown couldn't get his protective trousers any lower than his hips. He was forced to get a fellow firefighter's help to remove his boots.

At the department's Jan. 3 after-action review, Brown told firefighters that thanks to their efforts, the log home was largely saved. That was particularly important because homes in hyper-rural Bluebell don't qualify for fire insurance. Although the interior was destroyed by smoke and water, the building had survived.

"I'm proud of this team," said Brown, a former Salt Lake City firefighter. "We employed the training we've had, and we took on a fire just as big as what they get in the big cities."

Looking back, Lewis reflected on his relationship with fires and fire departments.

"Back in '75, my house burned," Fausett said. "We were three hours waiting for Roosevelt to get out to us."

That's when Kay and several neighborhood women petitioned the Duchesne County Commission to form rural fire departments. The commission listened, and when nearby Altamont got its department, middle-aged Lewis joined. Now, 32 years later, Lewis listened when his wife asked him to check things out.

Thanks to that and - as they say - the divine hand, at the end of their mission the couple will have a house to come back to.

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Samuel & Sephronia Jenkins leave their mark on Bluebell

(Editor's Note: From now until Saturday July 1— when Bluebell celebrates its 100th birthday— The Uintah Basin Standard is highlighting histories from early Bluebell families and important community events.)

Samuel Henry Jenkins was born in Vernal in 1897 and learned at a very young age how to work hard. When he was a boy of 12, his father left him to spend a summer alone on Dr. Hearth's place just west of Myton. For an entire summer he cleared sage brush, plowed the fields and fed and cared for four horses all by himself.

As a teenager, this ambitious young man freighted goods with his father from Vernal to Price in the days that it took two days to make the trip. They got so cold in the winter while traveling they would walk behind the wagon to keep from freezing, Samuel wrote in his history.

At 18 Samuel moved to Rigby, Idaho where he met the woman he would soon marry. Sephronia Connell, born in 1896 in Cedar City, had moved to Rigby with her family in 1900. The couple was married by Sephronia's brother Johny who was a bishop. The newlyweds established a stable life in Rigby and Sephronia gave birth to her first child, Henry Levor, in 1917. Sam had a good job and they lived in a nice house. They were quite well off and happy.

Shortly after the birth of their son, Samuel's father sent a letter saying that he was needed at home. So the couple packed up their belongings and with an infant son made the 12-day journey to Utah. At the time they didn't realize that years of hardship lay before them until they would be content again.

They set up a home in Rainbow, Utah and Samuel worked in the mines to support his family. At first it was hard for Sephronia to move to such a rural place because she had lived in cities most her life.

In 1919 a second son, Herbert C., was born in Glines, Utah. Unfortunately he only lived three days. Sam sold one of his teams of horses to pay for burial costs. Two daughters soon joined the family. Ruby Violet was born in 1920 and Marie came along in 1922.

Not long after Marie was born



JENKINS FAMILY — The Samuel and Sephronia Jenkins family returned to the Bluebell area in 1927, this time to stay. The family started in Idaho and lived in different small towns throughout Utah before settling in Bluebell. Pictured left to right, back row: Hazel, Henry, Howard, Joseph, Glenn and Marie. Front row, left to right: Elaine, Samuel, Sephronia and Ruby.

Samuel was needed by his family again. His brother Robert asked if he could borrow some money for a down payment on a farm in Bluebell. Samuel lent the money to him but then after the payment had been made, Robert decided he didn't want the farm. Sam and Sephronia had to do something so they wouldn't lose their money.

They moved to Bluebell in 1923 to take care of the farm and Joseph Emanuel was born in 1924. Two years after moving to Bluebell the family moved to Vernal so Samuel could work for the Hackings herding sheep. Then they moved back to Bluebell in 1927, this time to stay.

For a long while Samuel provided for his family by working in mines outside of the area. Four more children joined the family. Glenn Samuel was born 1928, Howard Owen in 1930, Hazel Evelyn in 1936 and Katie Elaine 1939.

Taking care of a family of eight children while her husband worked out of town wasn't easy for Sephronia who bottled about 1,000 jars of food a year. She also worked in the fields and milked cows when her children were too young to help much. In 1938 Henry bought his mother a washing machine and during the 1950s the family became more modern by acquiring electricity, indoor plumbing and a phone.

Samuel and Sephronia eventually acquired about 320 acres of land in the Bluebell area. For 27 years the family of 10 lived in a two-room log home. They did move into a newly built home in 1950.

It took the Jenkins family several years to actually settle into Bluebell but once they did they decided it was a nice place to live. Sam passed away in 1959 and Sephronia passed on in 1975.

(Source: The first history book of Bluebell.)

Basin LIFE

CIRCUMSTANCE, DESTINY OR A MIRACLE?

Separate paths meet as octogenarians find true love

Their paths crossed 60 years ago and then again in 2002 when tall, lanky and handsome 84-year old Lorell "Lee" Roberts knocked on the door of his future wife's house in Laverkin, Utah. He told the petite, beautiful blue-eyed widow who answered the door that he was with the senior volunteers and was visiting folks in the area who lived alone. Eighty-three-year old Ellen Cornelius had no idea that this knock would not only lead to a marriage of which she had only dreamt, but would also help her find a link to her past.

During Lee's next visits to Ellen, the pair got to know each other and were fascinated by what they were discovering. What really surprised the two was the fact that first of all they had met a special someone at their age, and second that they shared common interests.

Lee was particularly fascinated with Ellen's adventurous life. Her Jewish mother died when she was just 2-years old and her father placed her and her 6-year old brother, Sanford "Sandy" Morris, in an orphanage in Circleville, Ohio.

Ellen only stayed at the orphanage for nine years. No, she wasn't adopted — she decided to run away. With the successful escape under her belt she began supporting herself at age 11 when she was befriended by a paperboy who helped her land a job washing dishes in a restaurant for \$3 a week and a closet in which to sleep.

The last time she ever talked to Sandy was in line on their way to school. Girls and boys were not allowed to talk to each other at the orphanage and were not housed together.

The siblings made whispered



me if he didn't get killed," said Ellen. "I never heard from him again."

Then one day while he was just scanning the Internet, Lee's son, Jay Roberts, just happened to spot an inquiry for an Ellen Morris (Ellen's maiden name was Sarah Ellen Morris) by a Linda Morris who lived in Alabama. Jay works for the LDS Church Family History Department and had tried to locate Ellen's family on prior occasions.

Soon Ellen was chatting on the phone with Sandy's granddaughter and the two were exchanging pictures and letters. Ellen discovered Sandy, who was a flight instructor, had a heart attack while flying his plane.

Ellen is glad to have some closure to that part of her life and the opportunity to correspond with her niece.

Like many folks in their eighties Lee and Ellen didn't think they would ever meet a perfect companion, let alone someone with whom they share so many interests. "We feel it is a miracle that we met at all," said Lee.

"We decided to put our two social security checks together," said Lee, always the romantic. The two were married on Nov. 4, 2002 in Duchesne by a Justice Court Judge. Their nine-month courtship included drives, dates to the fair, nights out at the movies, and horse events.

Since Ellen didn't like the heat of southern Utah the two decided to settle in the Basin because they both like open country and peace and quiet.

They drove around the area and found a little house on a rise in Bluebell that was perfect for all of their animals including horses, pigeons, a miniature mule, goats, a dog, a cat, a goose, two pet mallards that can fly away but don't, Eastern Wild Turkey, chukker, quail, peacock, pheasants and many different breeds of chickens.

They have settled into their new routine reading in bed when the roosters start crowing, feeding the animals morning and night and taking weekly outings to lunch at the senior center, to the LDS Vernal Temple, and to church on Sunday.

They both enjoy being able to donate blood. Lee has made 60 dona-

THOUGHTFUL GIFT — Lee Roberts bought his bride Ellen a beautiful organ for a wedding present when the two married a little over a year ago.

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THOUGHTFUL GIFT — Lee Roberts bought his bride Ellen a beautiful organ for a wedding present when the two married a little over a year ago.

accidentally nailed his foot with an air hammer, knocking Lee to the concrete floor below.

Both Lee and Ellen are cancer survivors. Cancer of the throat almost claimed Ellen's life. Lee battled testicular cancer in 1955. Ellen's surgery to remove her cancer left her with a soft voice making it difficult at times to communicate with Lee who is hard of hearing. "We write notes," explained Ellen with a smile.

Ken was a long haul trucker and Ellen quickly learned how to drive a truck. The couple moved to California during World War II and Ellen and found herself working on B17 and B27 bombers in an aircraft plant and then for the Red Cross at a hospital in Mare Island, California.

During the same period, Lee was a sailor in the U.S. Navy stationed on Mare Island and assigned to the special ship repair unit. They lived and worked so close to each other that Lee could have humped into Ellen at the store or along the sidewalks.

As the war drew to a close their paths started to diverge. Soon after the second atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, Lee found himself sailing to the Sasebo Navy Base in Japan on the USS Nerurus, a ship he helped build.

Ellen was on her way to a large ranch near Reno, Nevada. Ken lost a leg in the war and was discharged. The two signed on as a couple to work at the ranch as cook and cowhand, but contrary to what ranch management planned, Ellen was the cow-

hand for six years and Ken was the cook. After 13 years of marriage Ellen and Ken divorced.

In 1955 Ellen worked in western Nevada, riding horses for stunts like Susan Hayward. She and Susan would don similar wigs and look-alike outfits, so if you're ever watching an old western and the heroine rides off into the sunset it just might be Ellen.

Later she owned and operated a restaurant in Carlin, Nevada, and also boarded and trained horses. In 1961 she married her second husband, Horace Corneliuss, who was a Mormon. Two years later Ellen was baptized a member of the Mormon church. They later solemnized what would be a 41-year marriage in the LDS temple. She and Horace eventually settled in Washington County where she owned a charming restaurant in Virgin.

Lee married twice. His first marriage lasted six years and produced three children, but ended in divorce. Lee later married Pauline Torretta, a beautiful Italian woman. The two had three children and were married 54 years before they divorced.

Lee also moved about the country working as a carpenter. "I was born and raised in Roosevelt and left in 1937 to find work with the carpenter's union building army and navy installations throughout the West," said Lee. He also lived and worked in Wisconsin for 38 years. Lee headed for California in 1974 where he worked construction, help-

ing to correspond with her niece. Like many folks in their eighties Lee and Ellen didn't think they would ever meet a perfect companion, let alone someone with whom they share so many interests. "We feel it is a miracle that we met at all," said Lee.

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They have settled into their new routine reading in bed when the roosters start crowing, feeding the animals morning and night and taking weekly outings to lunch at the senior center, to the LDS Vernal Temple, and to church on Sunday.

They both enjoy being able to donate blood. Lee has made 60 donations and guesses Ellen has made even more since she worked for 13 years at the blood bank in St. George. They also read at night before they go to sleep while they listen to beautiful music.

"She's a fabulous cook but she's too fancy for me," said Lee who admits he has gained ten pounds since his marriage to Ellen. On the other hand, Ellen has lost 15 pounds. The couple is already planning what they are going to plant in their quarter acre garden this spring and are busy hand-carrying a dump truck load of gravel around their place in wheel barrels.

"I have the husband, the life and the family that most girls, including me, only dream about. I have been surrounded by love from Lee and all of this children and family. For the first time in my life, I know what it feels like to love someone in return," said Ellen. "My life was a total vacuum up until I met Lee. There is no way I can describe what this means, unless you experience it."

SHARING A PASSION — Ellen and Lee Roberts of Bluebell are both "horse people," but now that they are in their eighties and no longer riding they are going to sell their two paints, a 4-year old mare and an 8-month old filly. They have already purchased a yearling miniature mule to help keep them busy.

plans to meet at a specified location outside the orphanage grounds so they could run away together. Ellen was there but Sandy wasn't. "I never knew why he wasn't there," she said.

Until her marriage to Ken Mansfield at age 17 she lived with several families who were impressed with the independent girl, including the big band star Ted Lewis, who was popular in the 1920s and 1930s. During this time she moved from dishwashing to several more inter-

esting jobs in New York City and developed a love for horses.

Meanwhile back in Roosevelt Lee was growing up on horses, just one more bond that would draw the couple to each other.

Over the years the two were in serious accidents which left them with severe injuries. Ellen was badly injured in a car/train collision which claimed the lives of three other teens. Lee suffered crushed vertebra in a construction accident when his friend

After 43 years on the job



The Bluebell Store was built about 1915 by John and Mable Therring. It has seen many renovations and owners, but is still the heart of the community of Bluebell.

Sylvia Hudson has seen Bluebell go from a bustling community to the more relaxed rural look where the majority of its residents farm and ranch, and commute to work in neighboring Roosevelt.

Sylvia Hudson retires from Bluebell Store



Photo: David who was from Birchall, Leonard and Hazel Goodrich work.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SYLVIA HUDSON
 BY THE AUTHOR
 1/5/10

By Nancy Spurlock
Uintah Basin Standard

You'll no longer have the "short lady with the brown hair" waiting on you from behind the counter at the Bluebell Store, because Sylvia Hudson, 82, has finally decided to retire. After more than 43 collective years of service, the Bluebell resident has decided it is time to do something else.

"I just woke up and said, 'It's time,'" Hudson said. "There's lots of things I can do and I always find time to go out and do something in the yard to keep me busy. I can do, really and truly, I can do anything. I can crochet, quilt and I can scrapbook. I have an acre of ground that I always plant and I take care of my garden."

"I want to do things with my children," Hudson continued. "LaVorn Bristol is my son. He lives here in town and helps me out a lot. Then Dixie Lee Allen is my daughter and she lives in Vernal. I have nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. So I have plenty to do."

Hudson was born in 1927 and lived in Midway as a child. She moved to Bluebell at age 17 after marrying Ber-

nace Bristol who was from Bluebell. Bristol served in the military with her brother and Hudson met Bristol when he made a visit to her home in Midway. After Bristol passed away she then married Gardner Hudson in 1975 who passed away in November 2004.

Originally there were two stores in Bluebell, the Hancock Store and the Therning Store. The Therning store, which is the current Bluebell Store, was built around 1915 by John K. and Mable Therning. In 1945 Leonard and Hazel Goodrich bought the Hancock store and in 1946 they bought the Therning store.

"I started to work for Hazel and Leonard in the Hancock store," Hudson said. "Then they bought this when it was Therning's Store and I came to work for them here. I worked for them nearly all the years they had it."

The Goodriches combined the stores into one and renovated it by replacing doors, tiling the floors and expanding the store. Leonard Goodrich also brought in an ice cream freezer and a refrigerator. The Goodriches traveled to Salt Lake, Price, Roosevelt and Myton to purchase goods for the store. Along with Sylvia's help,

Leonard and Hazel Goodrich packaged most items themselves and were proud of how fresh their cookies and candies were.

Hudson moved south for approximately 10 years after she married Gardner Hudson. When she returned to Bluebell, she was rehired at the Bluebell Store and at times worked in the post office as well. She now lives a block away from the store and has seen it evolve through the years with technology changing as quickly as the merchandise on the shelves. She witnessed the growth in the community, the paving of roads and the passing of friends. She knows that even though the Bluebell Store has changed, it is and has always been the hub of the community.

"When Leonard and Hazel (Goodrich) owned the store, we sold everything from meat to hardware to veterinary supplies and it was where the only phone in town was," Hudson said. "The old timers came in and they would just sit around, just chat and talk to each other."

"Then when the oilfields first came in to Bluebell we had to have two counters and we had quite a few workers here," Hudson continued.



Hudson waits on Upalco resident Kevin Mitchell two days before she retires, after 43 years of service. "I've made friends and that's what I'm going to miss, all the people," Hudson said.

Hudson worked for her good friends Hazel and Leonard Goodrich (above) for the many years they owned the Bluebell Store. "I started to work for Hazel and Leonard in the Hancock store," Hudson said. "Then they bought this when it was Therning's Store and I came to work for them here. I worked for them nearly all the years they had it." Hudson said she's felt a sense of family with the people she has worked with for the 43 years she was employed at the Bluebell Store.

"That was a very big experience. I've seen this town grow from mud roads to what we have today."

The Bluebell Store ownership has changed through the years since Hudson's initial employment with Hazel and Leonard Goodrich.

In November 1972 Leonard and Hazel Goodrich sold the store to Ronald and Sharleen Goodrich and they owned it for 20 years. They built onto the back of the store and installed walk-in coolers. Hudson worked for them the entire time they owned the store.

Jeff and Penny Samuels purchased the store from Ronald and Sharleen Goodrich in 1992. The Samuels updated the store to meet the customers' needs in changing times, adding a gift section, beer and discontinuing the dairy and farming supplies. However, as much as the store changed, nothing has ever affected Goodrich as much as the day Sharleen Goodrich died in 1997.

"One thing that really stands out in my mind, of course Sharleen and Ron had already sold the store to Penny and Jeff, yet Sharleen was still working at the post office," Hudson said. "She took her father out to Salt Lake to the doctor and when they came back they got killed in an auto accident out at Daniel's and that was shocking to me."

"This has been just like a family for me," Hudson continued. "I think I sort of have grown into their family because every one of them I think of as just my very own family."

Hudson says that her most cherished memories will be about the people that frequent the store.

"I've made friends and that's what I'm going to miss, all the people," Hudson said.

In September 2003 Bruce Jenkins purchased the store from the Samuels and due to the demand of the oilfield, lengthened its hours. He and his wife Toni currently own it. They know how invaluable Hudson has been and that's

she's just as much of a landmark as their store.

"This past summer people would come in and they would say, 'Where's that short lady with the dark hair that's always here?' Just because she's been here so long," Toni Jenkins said. "Visitors that come by just in the summertime, come up for camping or hunting, they all remember Sylvia and want to know where she's at or what she's doing."

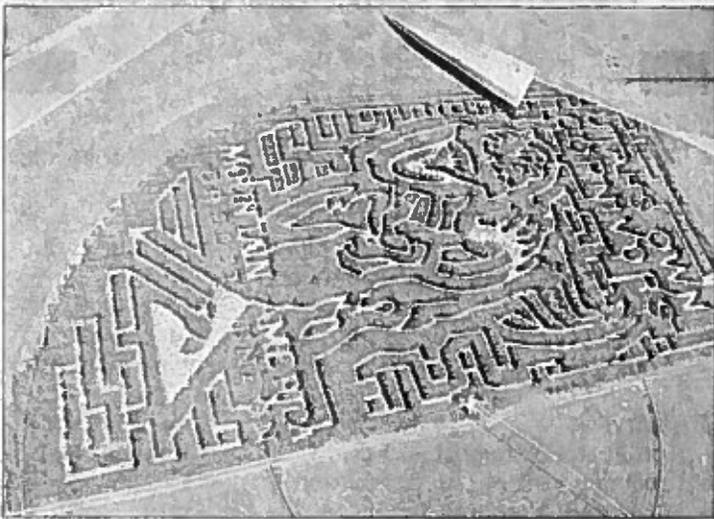
"She knows more about this store than anybody who ever owned it," Jenkins continued. "Sylvia comes in and she just knows what to do and gets it done. She's spry and just sharp as any younger person I know. She is just a lot of fun and a ball of fire. She protects us fiercely, which you don't find and she's very loyal. I'm going to miss her terribly. Her work ethic is unmatched. She's not going to be replaceable."

Hudson attributes her long and happy life to her great work ethic and discipline. She's been through a lot in her lifetime and has some advice for the younger generation.

"One thing I would sure like to tell the young people is that time changes and history does repeat itself," Hudson said. "So when you think the older people haven't been through this already, maybe not in the same style, but they've already seen it a couple times in their lives. So don't be complaining and don't expect to be handed everything you own and get. Don't expect it to be handed to them from others. You've got to learn how to do it by yourself. Do the very best you can and stop blaming others for your troubles."

"You should go and get what you want," Hudson continued. "That's exactly the way I feel right now. The little store, the post office being here, this is the whole center of our community, it's true. I sure hope this store continues to prosper and stay here. We need a headquarters and the Bluebell Store is sort of the headquarters."

UBS
Jan 5, 2010



An aerial photograph of the Mosen family Bluebell Corn Maze depicts a corn-eating T-Rex "Corn-i-vore." The 7 acres of twists and turns, a farm-inspired playground, wagon rides, pick-your-own pumpkins and other family activities will run from Sept. 26 through Oct. 31. For more information, call (435) 822-6293.

T-Rex takes a bite out of Bluebell corn maze

By Nancy Spurlock
 Uintah Basin Standard

If you're in Bluebell between Sept. 26 through Oct. 31, be on the lookout for the T-Rex that lurks in the corn.

The Mosen family Bluebell Corn Maze depicts a corn-eating T-Rex "Corn-i-vore" and its creators invite you to "come have fun and get lost" in it.

The 7 acres of twists and turns, a farm-inspired playground, wagon rides, pick-your-own pumpkins, a cow train, pumpkin and corn launchers, a goat walk, a corn shed and warm food hold the promise of family fun from Sept. 26 through Oct. 31.

"We bring everything in because this is just a cornfield," owner and creator Mark Mosen said. "We bring electricity in, all of our buildings and all of our games. We try to make it as comfortable for people as we can. We set up tents, we have picnic tables and places for them to sit."

The Bluebell Corn Maze is located ¼-mile north of the Bluebell Store. It's open Tuesdays and Wednesdays by advance reservation only for groups of 20 or more; Thursdays and Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m.; and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Prices are for ages 11 to adult, \$7; children ages 5 to 10, \$5. Prices are increased by \$2 beginning Oct. 15 during normal hours of operation at dark for family friendly haunting (no group reservations during the haunting time). Children 4 and under get in free with an accompanying adult. A \$3 courtyard fee is applicable for those not participating in the maze.

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"I don't sell products at my farm, even though I do sell pumpkins and concessions. I sell experiences," Mosen said. "You can go anywhere and buy a pumpkin, but I'll sell you a wagon ride and you'll get to go out in the field and actually pick your own pumpkin."

"So there's an experience there and since we've been in business for nine years, we have lots of return customers and that's part of the tradition," Mosen continued. "They come out and they take lots of pictures. It's an enjoyable time seeing people have such a fun time."

For more information or to make advance reservations call (435) 822-6293 or for group reservations call (435) 454-3732.

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

The Bluebell Store tells its story

By Mindy Mitchell

Surrounded by green fields, wild grass, sage brush and blue swaying flowers, the Bluebell Store has essentially been the center of the small community of Bluebell for over 80 years.

Functioning as a feed store, marketplace, gas station, messaging service, post office, hair salon and all around gathering place the store has nurtured the community and witnessed several changes throughout the years. In fact, the small store has almost taken on a life of its own as it has quietly

The Bluebell store is so rooted within the community it seems to be a living, breathing entity of its own.

observed and endured changes in owners, economy, technology and society.

Nothing says Bluebell Store more than Sylvia B. Hudson who has seen it all. Sylvia has been an employee of the store for over 40

years off and on. She has observed the rise of technology and participated in the evolution of the community.

"Sylvia is the Bluebell store to me," says Amy Jenkins the current owner.

A Look Back

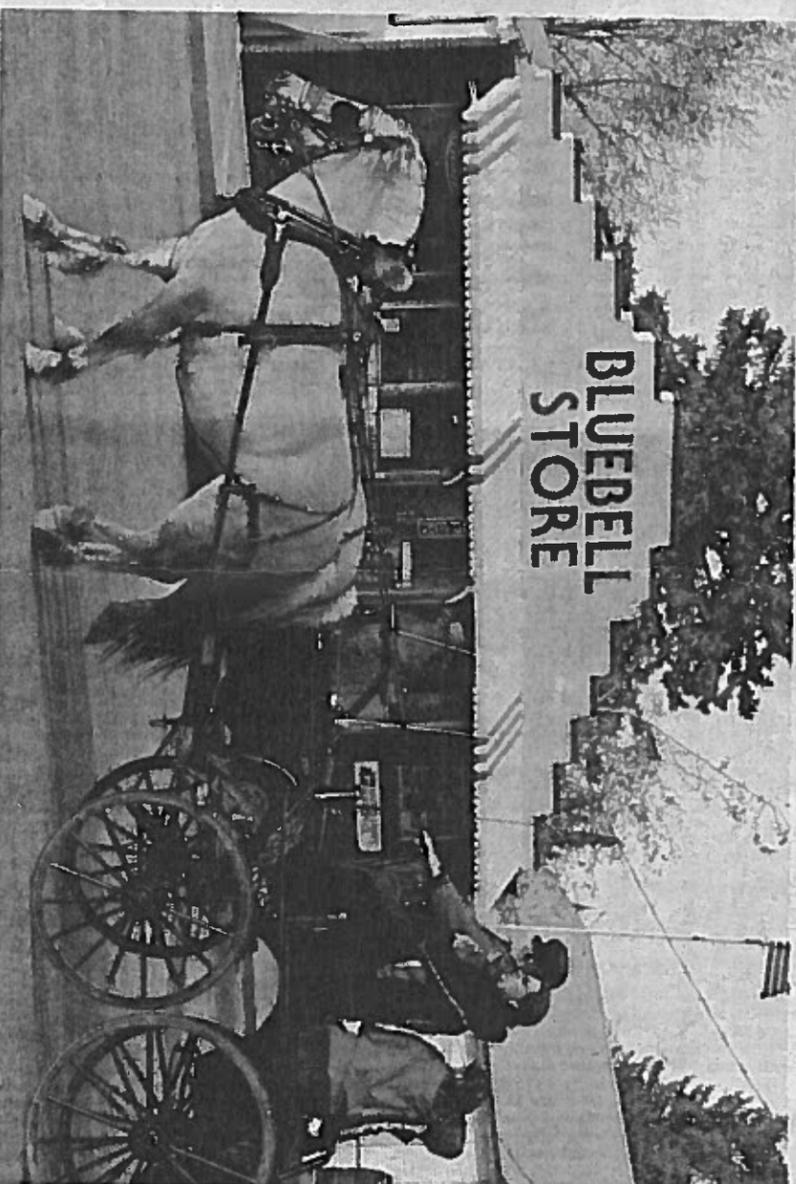
Originally there were two stores in Bluebell — the Hancock store and the Therning store.

leather, shoe repairs and carpenter tools. The goods were hauled in by wagon and the trip to Salt Lake and back took nine to 14 days.

The store also sold groceries like sugar, lard, salt, baking powder, mackies, candles, tobacco, coffee, tea, canned salmon, pork and beans, dry beans, and rice. Aside from being a local hardware and grocery store, it was also a fabric shop and carried gingham, calico,



ALMOST A CENTURY OF CHANGES — The Bluebell Store was built about 1915 by John and Mable Therning. It has seen many renovations and owners but is still the heart of the community of Bluebell.



THE OLD AND THE NOT-SO-OLD — The Bluebell Store, today, as horse and buggy pass by. The buggy rides are offered for family reunions. The Bluebell Store has served the area for 80 years and has seen Bluebell go from a bustling community in the early 1900s to the more relaxed rural look where the majority of its residents farm and ranch, and commute to work in neighboring Roosevelt.

current Bluebell Store was built around 1915 by John K. and Mable Therning.

The first items the store carried were nails, spikes, horseshoe nails, horseshoes, rasps, files, axes and axe handles, shovels, grubbing hoes, picks, pick handles, tubs, palls, wire clothesline, rope,



SHE'S SEEN IT ALL — Sylvia B. Hudson has been an employee of the Bluebell Store and post office for over 40 years. She has witnessed many changes in society and enjoys being a part of the Bluebell community which she has served since she moved there when she was 17-years-old.

sheeting, cheese cloth, denim, flannel, ribbon in all colors, elastic, rough cotton sacks, overalls and ticking for pillows and mattresses.

The Hancock store was owned by Lewison and Emily Hancock. The store had two hand-operated

The Bluebell Post Office and its postmasters:

As far back as most people remember the Bluebell Post Office has been attached to the Bluebell Store. In the beginning Lewison Hancock operated the post office and a store out of a small room in his home. Hancock served as postmaster from 1910 to 1916. In those days mail was delivered by a pack horse then later it was delivered by horse and buggy or sleigh.

* Lewison Hancock was replaced by Mary S. Merrel, who served as postmaster from 1915 to 1928.

* Along with running the store John Thurning also served as postmaster from 1923 to 1946.

* Store owner Hazel Goodrich replaced John Thurning as postmaster in February of 1947.

* Shareen Goodrich who was also a store owner served as postmaster from 1973 until she passed away in a tragic car accident in 1997.

* Dixen Taylor replaced Shareen Goodrich and occupied the position until he was reassigned to Altamont.

* Jeremy Libberton replaced Dixen Taylor as postmaster. Libberton is now a supervisor at the Vernal Post Office.

* The current officer in charge is Jim Bryson. He will be leaving May 25 to become the postmaster in Manila. Sue Wood will become the officer in charge until a new postmaster is appointed.

SEE BLUEBELL on page 17

gas pumps, one for regular and one for Elyl," wrote Hazel Goodrich who was Levison's granddaughter.

John Hancock continued to operate the store into his early eighties. He then sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Telford who operated it for a few years then left Bluebell.

From the beginning the Bluebell store has been a place where everyone is welcome and greeted kindly as they walk in the door.

"Grandpa was always a great tease and had fun with the children as they came in. Little boys were not happy to be called little girls and the little girls did not enjoy being called boys," said Hazel speaking of Levison Hancock.

Even though John Therman was confined to a wheelchair for 20 years due to rheumatoid arthritis he continued to be involved in the community and its people. John always maintained his interest in people and in current events, in politics, in development of community and nation and was knowledgeable about many subjects," said Hazel.

In 1945 Leonard and Hazel Goodrich bought the Hancock store and in 1946 they bought the Therman store. Sylvia had begun working for Leonard and Hazel while they owned the Hancock store.

Remodeling and New Owners
The Goodrich's combined the stores into one. Leonard totally renovated the store. "Leonard did many repairs," says Sylvia. He replaced the doors, tiled the floors and built onto the store making it larger. He also brought in an ice cream freezer and a refrigerator. The ice cream freezer held two and a half gallons of ice cream. Levison Hancock lived in the small apartment behind the store up until he passed away in 1954.

During the 1940s the store received many goods from salesmen who would visit the store and take orders for hardware, groceries and dried goods. These items were later delivered to the store by Link in the mid-eighties the local oil Trucking Company of Myton or Utah Right Lines of Vernal. The Goodrichs traveled to Salt Lake, Price, Roosevelt or Myton to purchase other goods for the store. Along with Sylvia's help Leonard and Hazel Goodrich packed most items themselves. "We aged bacon and sliced bologna. We cut bacon and sliced bologna. We sold feed, panels, fencing, guns, and dairy supplies," says Sylvia.

"For years we would travel to Salt Lake City and visit Scowcroft, ZCMI Wholesale, Salt Lake Hardware Company, Porter Walton Seed Company, Purty Biscuit Company and the candy companies. Our board cases and we bagged them ourselves. Everything was so fresh and good, not at all like the dry cookies and stale candy we find on the supermarket shelves today," wrote Hazel in 1985.

Leonard and Hazel Goodrich sold the Bluebell store to Ronald and Shariene Goodrich in November 1972. "Shariene and Ron owned the store for 20 years. They built on in the back and put in walk-in coolers," says Sylvia. She worked for them the entire time they owned the store.

"Talk about punctual she was never ever late. Sylvia was always there and ready to go to work. I guess the key is she was reliable," says Billy Goodrich son of Ronald and Shariene.

Ronald and Shariene opened the Country Fair, a local clothing store, on the south side of Main Street in Altamont in 1977. The Goodrichs built a new building for the Fair in 1982.

Shortly after the new building opened they moved the grain and fencing from the Bluebell store into their new store. "The feed in back moved to the Fair," says Sylvia. However, the store continued to carry some dairy and farming items such as vacuums and vet supplies. The small apartment behind the store then became a salon which was operated by Jewel Lamb.

According to Sylvia, the store was very prosperous during Ronald and Shariene's ownership. This was due in part to the oil boom of the 1970s and early 1980s. However, 1970s and early 1980s. However, the store pretty hard," she says.

Let's end Penny Samuels bought the store from Ronald and Shariene in 1992. The Samuels are originally from the area but moved to Bluebell after buying the store. "I worked for Penny and Jeff from day one," says Sylvia. "They were really well-liked in the community." The Samuels made adjustments

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Leonard and Hazel kept Sylvia very busy. "There were times I ran the store by myself for two to three weeks at a time. Some days I would pick raspberries in the morning until it was time to work. I did a lot of things for Hazel," she says. Sylvia also helped care for Hazel when she developed rheumatism in her later years. "I would come to work early and dress Hazel and comb her hair."

Due to the demand of the oil field Amy says she needs to Hudson. Upon returning to Bluebell she went right back to work at the store. Sylvia also worked in the post office off and on from 1946 to 1997 as a leave replacement.

"Throughout her years Sylvia has been a part of many exciting changes. "I saw a lot. When I first came here there was no telephone in the community only the one here in the store. People would come here to make call and receive calls. The store acted as a messaging service and would send someone out to give messages to neighbors and friends.

"There were very few people with electricity. But the store had electricity. People came to the store for drinking water. I was very glad to get culinary water. There were no oiled roads just dirt. When it rained we'd just have mud. I'm thankful for the new roads," says Sylvia.

Working in the store has not been without ailments. Lifting hay and bags of grain for all those years had its consequences. "I had to have my bladder brought up from lifting hay," she says.

"Sylvia is and always has been an asset to the business. She is ambitious and cares about the people of Bluebell," says Sue Wood daughter of Ronald and Shariene Goodrich.

Sylvia has enjoyed being a part of the Bluebell community. "Well, I've got to know all the people old and young. You know it keeps you young associating with people." Sylvia says. "If I say I'll do something, I'll do it."

Young children gather at the store every morning to catch the bus and have been as long as most people remember. Groups going on vacation, scouts, 4-H groups and hunters use the store as a meeting place. Walking into the store I can imagine many people from the community huddling together during war times listening to the radio or waiting for calls.

The Bluebell store is so rooted within the community it seems to be a living, breathing entity of its own. "This is the center of everything," said one regular customer. The old and the young are drawn to the store whether it is to relax and drink a cup of coffee or just sit for a while. The store greets everyone. The next time your in Bluebell, stop by the store. Sit and talk a while. You'll be welcomed.

to the store to better meet community needs. "The store had never sold beer before Penny and Jeff," says Sylvia. The Samuels discontinued the dairy and farming supplies due to a lack of suppliers and added a small gift section to the store.

Penny says that her children Nick and Sydni grew up in the store. Penny also says she enjoyed the people and getting to know everybody. "We liked Bluebell so much that we stayed here after selling the store."

In September 2003 Bruce and Amy Jenkins bought the store from Sylvia and Jeff. "I had no idea when we moved here that my husband wanted to buy the store. We worked for four months to get this store," says Amy.

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The Winkler home was one of hardship and faith

Herman J. Winkler, was described as a "go getter" who never knew when he was tired. He was born in Richfield in 1866 to parents who were recent immigrants from Switzerland. They arrived in Utah in 1864 after joining the LDS church.

Due to trouble with the Indians, the family left Richfield and moved to Manti. Shortly thereafter, they followed their friends to Mt. Pleasant where they lived in a two-room school house.

Herman's mother died in childbirth when he was 14. His father remarried and Herman went to live with his aunt, Louise Hasler, whom he was very fond of. He worked for farmers and sheepmen to "earn his keep."

Martha Verona Gardner, the second of ten children, was born in Salem in 1874. Martha, along with her family, moved to Scofield after her father homesteaded a ranch there.

Martha and Herman met while Herman was a foreman over a large herd of sheep. He visited their ranch and the family invited him to spend the evening. He came over often using the excuse of coming for milk and butter. Martha and Herman dated for three years before becoming engaged.

Herman asked Martha to marry him just after the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple on April 17, 1893, which they both had attended. They were married on July 6, 1894 in the Manti Temple.

The couple lived in Molen in Emery County for a short time and moved to Scofield to run a cattle and dairy farm for a while. Then they moved back to Molen where their first son, Ralph Herman, was born in 1895. Their second child, Alice, was born in 1897 in Salem.

The family lived in various small towns and ended up setting up a home in Ferron where they stayed until 1910. Four more children were added to the family: Ira, William, 1900; Ulrich Bernard,

1902; Anna Mary, 1904; and Justin J., 1907.

"Herman worked hard to sustain his family. His greatest desire was to have his children close to him," wrote Martha Verona in her memoirs which were published in "Bluebell, UT 1806-1983."

In 1910 Herman brought his family to the Uintah Basin and acquired land in Bluebell. "The journey was long and hard, made by team and wagon with furniture, clothing and other supplies. The cattle were driven by the boys, the family rode in a buggy," wrote Martha.

The family stayed at Frank Smith's home while Herman built them a home. Verona was born in Roosevelt in 1911 and Ernest was born in Cedarview in 1913.

"Our permanent home was a three room house built from logs one half mile north from Therning's Store," wrote Martha. "These were hard days for everyone, but we were happy. We washed our clothes on a washboard with homemade soap, and knitted stockings by hand. Eggs were exchanged for cloth from which our clothes were made."

In 1915, Herman was called to serve a mission in the central states and with Martha's encouragement, he went. He spent most of his time in Oklahoma. During his mission he contracted malaria fever from which he never quite recovered.

During the flu epidemic of the early 1900s, about two years after Herman returned from his mission their last child, Velma, was born in 1919. Martha managed to avoid the flu, however Velma was very sick. The whole family contracted the flu but unlike many others in Bluebell who lost their loved ones, the Winkler family was spared.

Herman served as a ward teacher almost all his life. He was a member of the high council, a counselor in Sunday School, stake leader of genealogy and also served three years as the school trustee.

"He loved his fellow men, was



EARLY BLUEBELL SETTLERS—Herman J. and M. Verona Winkler, parents of nine children, added the gift of love to the early Bluebell community. The Winkler family worked hard and dedicated many years of service to the LDS Church.

concerned about their welfare. No one was ever turned from his door, regardless of nationality. They were always welcome. If he didn't worry about anything in his own family, he worried about his neighbor," wrote Martha.

Herman's health continued to decline after catching malaria and he passed away June 17, 1926 leaving Martha a widow with nine children.

"I had tried to make the best of everything he left for us, and with the help of my dear children we have not suffered," wrote Martha

who boarded school teachers, worked in the canning center and cooked lunch at the school to earn a living. When she turned 65 she received federal assistance of \$25 per month.

Martha served as primary president for nine years and as relief society president for 23 years. When the Bluebell Ward cleaned and painted the Altamont chapel, Martha, at 80-years-old, was there to help.

Martha lived to be 87-years-old and passed away in 1961, 35 years after her husband.

Feb 21, 2006

BLUEBELL CENTENNIAL

Two grand women are part of Bluebell's historic fabric

"I wanted my kids to do everything I had done as a young girl on my parents' farm."

—Arsula Bird, Bluebell

life from the horse and buggy days to land rovers on Mars. They are two of many great women who have woven the fabric of Bluebell as it nears the centennial mark this July.

Ioka Origins

Both women were born in Ioka, Lois in 1917 and Arsula in 1918. Both are 88-years-young. "I'm told I was born in the (homestead) cabin in the gulch," said Arsula. "My parents were Lewis Larson and Zetta Spencer who migrated from the Manti area of Sanpete County."

Lois' folks were Melvin Benson from Woodland, Wasatch County,



A BLUEBELL GRAND LADY

—Lois Goodrich has lived in Bluebell for nearly seven decades. She moved from Ioka to Bluebell with her husband Owen in 1938. Memories fill much of her time now. She once enjoyed collecting dishes with paintings, particularly those by Norman Rockwell.



SERVICE TO YOUTH — Lois Goodrich was a 4-H leader in Bluebell for 42 years. This photo accompanied a tribute to her in the Salt Lake Tribune some years ago.

By Phil Johnson

Together they have 176 years of "living!" Arsula Bird and Lois Goodrich of Bluebell have loved



and Rachel Smith of Snowflake, Arizona. Both families bought farms in Ioka. Lois had two brothers and four sisters; Arsula six sisters and four brothers.

"That farm is where I learned to work," bragged Arsula. "There wasn't anything I couldn't do. My parents were not educated people but they were smart! They knew just what to do to take care of their family."

Arsula loves horses! As a girl, she saddled up and rode all day, with the admonition from her father to "be home by dark." "I was on a horse last when I was 80-years-old. If my legs will let me, I going to mount up again this summer."

All siblings in Arsula's family were assigned jobs on the farm. "I had to herd 16 milk cows, ride the work horse when we cultivated, weed the garden, drive the team and tromp hay on the wagon and help Mother in the house."

"We had no running water. In winter, I harnessed a horse to the sledge, loaded a bucket and barrel and headed for a creek that was not frozen in Upalco. I was fast!"

"It was a good thing that we all had good hands (on the farm). We never lacked for a thing! Dad always raised and stored more food

than we could eat. He gave a lot away to those who were going without. Mother bottled fruits and vegetables all summer and fall.

"Mother was a great cook. But, we had a hankering to try store bought bread and jam. Father got some. We never asked for it again," Bird laughed.

Music was important in Lois' home. Her father loved to write songs and two were published — I Found You In Uintah and He Left A Star In The Window To Keep The Stars In Old Glory (a tribute to those who fought in World War II.)

"One song, 'On Our Farm,' had

SEE BLUEBELL on page 20

A CHILDHOOD MEMORY — Arsula Bird explains how this glass butter press was used at the Ioka farm where she grew up. After the freshly made butter was packed into the glass cup, it was turned over on a plate. The handle was pushed down, leaving the imprint of a cow on the rounded butter brick.

Basin Standard UTAH COUNTY LIBRARY REGIONAL ROOM FILE FOLDER

21, Feb 2006

RHC 0578

Bluebell Township
EST: 1906

1st Residents Elmer and Alice Gale
1st School Bluebell School 1909
Teacher Effie Powell
1st Post Office & Store 1910
1st LDS Church Bluebell Branch
February 12th 1911 - Presiding Elder
William P. Metcill

2006 BLUEBELL CENTENNIAL — This sign at the Bluebell Park notes important events in the community's early years. The Centennial celebration will be held the first of July.

BLUEBELL

Continued from page 18

20 verses. I can still sing most of them," said Bird. "It started with a complaint about fluctuating prices for farm goods and ended with 'this song is too darn long!'"

Lois' grandfather helped build the old stone loka church. "He and others worked so hard to quarry and shape that beautiful rock. My father was the Bishop of the loka Ward for many years. His funeral was the last to be held in that wonderful church."

To Bluebell

Both women married within a year of each other: Lois to Owen Goodrich in 1937 in the Salt Lake Temple and Arsula to Charles Bird in 1938. Not long after, both couples settled in Bluebell.

Arsula's husband built the small frame home she still lives in, about a mile south of the Bluebell Store on County Road 80. "It's always been good enough for me," she proclaimed.

"At first, we had no water or electricity here. But that didn't bother me because I had never known anything else. We only bought six acres, but it was enough for a cow, pigs, sheep, chickens and turkeys."

"I wanted my children to learn the same things I done on my parents' loka farm. I needed enough animals to keep my kids busy. Charles worked in the glissonite and laterite mines.

Laterite which is found near Strawberry, is cleaner than glissonite and is used to make many of the same products, said Arsula. Miners dig shafts to reach both minerals. But glissonite was extracted by digging down while laterite was located by

digging upward. Ultimately, mining claimed Charles' life. He died of black lung disease — caused by breathing dust in the mines — in 1980. "I'm sure glad most of my children live nearby so they can give me help when I need it. I never learned to drive a car, but I can sure handle a team of horses," Arsula boasted.

"The Goodrich family moved into the back of a store owned by Owen's grandfather Hancock. Those back rooms were the Goodrich family abode until they built a brick home next door in 1965. It stands next to the Bluebell Road about 1/4 mile east of the Bluebell Store.

Farming was the first Bluebell endeavor for the Goodrichs. They partnered with Owen's father, Leslie B. Goodrich. "There just wasn't enough income from the farm to support all of us," Lois said.

So, when the oil business began to emerge, Owen took a job on the Chevron pipeline to Salt Lake City. He became a mechanic, maintaining the pumps along the line. Owen passed away in 1991.

Bluebell Memories

Both women fondly recalled small town rodeos and parades as major summer events. "People would make homemade ice cream, you know in the hand cranked freezers. It was the best ice cream in the world!" Arsula exclaimed.

The LDS church house was the social center for Bluebell folks in the winter. Plays, entertainment, dances and other recreation were the fare.

"My father-in-law was Bishop of the Bluebell Ward when we moved here," said Lois. "Church was still held in the log building begun in 1910. That building was torn down in 1939 and construction on a new one began in 1940. Unfortunately, or fortunately, the new building burned while under construction." The result was a larger building, with improved heating and air cooling systems, finished in 1941.

"That church was used until 1972 when it was sold to a private party and converted into a home. Bluebell, Upalco and Mt. Emmons Wards were combined at that time and became the Altamont 2nd Ward. In 1982, the Bluebell Ward was recreated but continues to meet in Altamont.

Arsula and Charles raised eight children in Bluebell. Their posterity has grown to 35 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Many of the Bird clan live in the Uintah Basin.

Arsula has been very active all her life. She delights in making things and giving them away. "I

MITCHELLS MEDDLE WITH METALS

Upalco family forges ahead, turns dream business into reality

By Susan Collier

One of the first things many newcomers to the Basin notice is the abundance of beautiful, intricate metal decorations adorning the entrances of many ranches in the area. Each design is a unique and typically depicts the lifestyle of the owner.

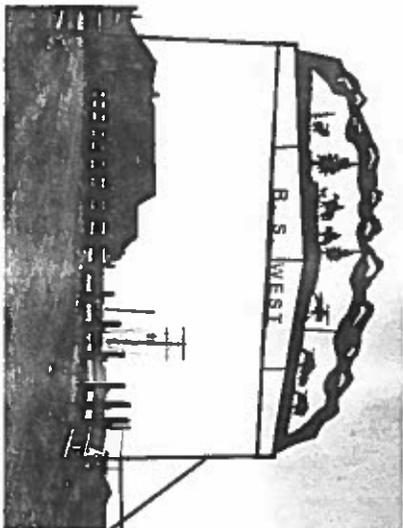
The creators of most of these designs are Craig Mitchell, his wife DeAnn, and their son Kevin. Craig and Kevin are raising the business full time with Craig a part-time helper. Craig is receiving a welding degree from Utah Applied Technology College in Haysville.

Maybe because of his 26 years as a welding instructor, the moment Craig saw his first plasma cutter he wanted to do artistic metal design. His dream has even led him to do a design for

World famous resorts like Steamboat Springs and Breckenridge, Colorado feature the Mitchell's intricate metal work.

the Salt Lake Olympics.

In the effort to spruce up for the Olympics, farms were allocated for beautification projects at the University of Utah. The University of Utah Army ROTC wanted a professional sign with the ROTC logo for its training building. The ROTC funds were only enough to cover most of the materials but Sandhollow Precision Metal donated their labor and a beautiful magnificent sign has been created on the building for all the



WELCOME TO OUR HOME — Sandhollow Precision Metal built this beautiful ranch entrance decoration to welcome visitors to the R. S. West ranch. The sign is in the direction of an elk and an Indian hunter buffalo below a unique mountain design.

world to see.

The company also presented a metal dinner bell shaped like Utah to Gov. Mike Leavitt, and it has works in world famous resorts like Steamboat Springs and Breckenridge. The Mitchell's intricate metal work is found on the upper walls of a restaurant in Winter Park, Colorado. The work virtually surrounds the restaurant's interior.

DeAnn does a weld but she leads designs into the plasma cutter computer and cuts some of their intricate designs on their 6 by 12 foot CNC plasma cutting table, which has a down draft feature that sucks the smoke out of the garage. The computer basically tells the arm — which is outfitted with a cutter head — how to move. In order to complete the work stored in its memory, Plasma has an ionized gas which acts like a torch but can cut the metal in intricate detail.

Metal's strength allows the artist to create delicate designs which look as though they aren't in motion. Bounding their work delicate horns, gun-baiting hunters, bucking broncos with riders, frolicking goats, an Indian with arrows in hand, charging stampeding buffaloes, and strolling cowboys are all



CUSTOMERS WELCOME — Craig and DeAnn Mitchell, owners of Sandhollow Precision Metal, welcome shoppers to their store whenever they are home. The store carries hundreds of decorative metal items.

supported in a few small projects where they intersect the house of the design. Some of the Mitchell's more artistic pieces reflect light to create alluring firebreast, shades of blues, greens, and purples as a result of a secret heat finish process.

In addition to their large custom order the Mitchell's create hundreds of smaller scenes for walls or tables. Most of Craig's scenes fall a story usually from his life or from a story he has heard. DeAnn and Kevin sell their hand-crafted pieces in hundreds of

other venues, such as candle holders, napkin holders, and key rings. All of their scenes are based on the first floor of the Mitchell's home in Upalco. Their hand-crafted is pretty amazing. **SPEAKEASY**, on page 20

Continued from page 11

ings the Mitchell's have only been doing metal art seriously for the last six years. They have even been featured in Silver Sage, a western arts publication, and have been featured artists at art and fine crafts shows around the West.

Craig and DeAnn enjoy leading hundreds of metal designs into their trailer and setting off to participate in art and fine craft shows. They have participated in shows in Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Oregon. Anywhere but California, said Craig. The Mitchell's plan to go to Alaska this summer for a show.

Craig is looking forward to retirement in a few years when he will be able to devote more time to the business and to show. "We can be tourists all we want then do a show. It's the whole secret of the deal," declared Craig.

According to Craig the smaller elk designs sell better than any thing else, but the Mitchell's are willing to make anything we can just design or make art or sculpture. Craig was quick to point out that Sandhollow Precision Metal takes trash metal to the dump.

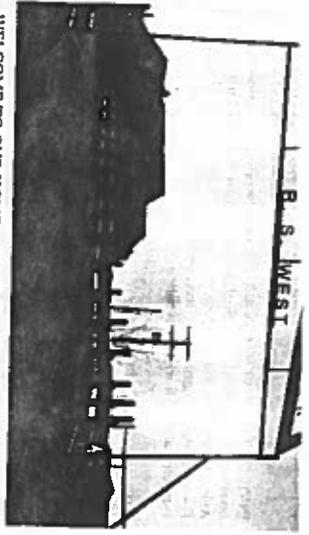
The Mitchell's have known each other since childhood. In fact, their parents have been between their two children's homes. Their 35-year marriage produced four children and nine grandchildren.

The Mitchell's creative western art will be on display during the Olympic at the Wild West Fair in Haysville, Feb. 11-21.

The Mitchell's also enjoy seeing their workers drive around town. "The metal business is hard work,

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WELCOME TO OUR HOME — Sandhollow Precision Metal built this beautiful ranch entrance decoration to welcome visitors to the R.S. West ranch. Horsemen head in the direction of an elk and an Indian hunt buffalo below a unique mountain design.

Continued from page 13

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Craig and DeAnn enjoy loading hundreds of metal designs into their trailer and setting off to participate in art and fine craft shows, sometimes as many as 30 a summer. They have participated in shows in Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Oregon. "Anywhere but California," said Craig. The Mitchells plan to go to Alaska this summer for a show.

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According to Craig the smaller elk designs sell better than anything else, but the Mitchells are willing to make anything except junk designs or modern art sculptures. Craig was quick to point out that Sandhollow Precision Metals takes trash metal to the dump.

The Mitchells have known each other since childhood. In fact, their present home lies between their two childhood homes. Their 35-year marriage produced five children and nine grandchildren.

The Mitchell's creative western art will be on display during the Olympics at the Wild West Fair in Heber, Feb. 11-23.

The Mitchells also enjoy seeing their work as they drive around town. "The metal business is hard work, but the rewards are very satisfying," noted Craig. "We take extreme pride in showing realistic detail and producing a high quality product for our customer at a reasonable price." For a glimpse of what the Mitchells have to offer check out their website at www.sandhollowmetalsart.com.

photos made about included on the first floor of the Mitchell's home in Upson. Their list of credits is privately owned. SEE MITCHELL on page 30

UINTAH COUNTY...
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STEALING FROM THE DEAD?



CHERYL MECHAM, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Connie Hart stands beside her husband's grave in the Upalco Cemetery. She is outraged at the theft that has occurred at the cemetery and disheartened by the apathy and excuses that she's encountered by family members of the deceased buried there.

Widow says cemetery hit by thieves, vandals

By Cheryl Mecham
Uintah Basin Standard

The Upalco Cemetery is unique.

There is no manicured lawn, just a few lilac bushes, and scattered iris greens. A couple dozen family plots lay side by side, undisturbed. At least until a couple of flower-snatching marauders sacked the place.

Connie Hart, a recent widow, is outraged at the theft and tampering that has taking place and the mess left behind.

Hart's husband, Allen, was laid to rest in September, buried next to her grandson, Justin, who died the year before. It's the hardest loss she's known, Hart said, adding that her husband was there to help her when she buried her mother and her grandson.

"We were side-by-side for 26 years," Hart said. "We had plans like so many people do."

Just before Memorial Day, Hart and her daughter and grandchildren arrived at the Upalco Cemetery with

SEE CEMETERY on page A-4

Uintah Basin Standard
Aug 31 2, 2010

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CHEERYL MECHAM, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Connie Hart, a recent widow, studies a wreath that was taken from the Uplaco Cemetery where her husband, grandson, mother and stepfather are buried. The decoration was returned to the cemetery after Hart complained to law enforcement about the apparent theft.

CEMETERY

Continued from page A-1

artmule of colorful silk flowers and metal baskets. They brought enough flowers to cover her husband and grandson's graves, as well as to brighten the plot that held Hart's stepfather and her mother.

"She grew a beautiful flower garden, so we filled the entire area with flowers," Hart said. The hours spent yanking weeds from the hard-packed dirt and raking away debris before decorating the graves was an exercise in love. Hart was so pleased with the results she photographed the sites.

Hart returned to the cemetery a few weeks after Memorial Day to lay a flower on each of her loved ones' graves. But when she pulled her vehicle through the ornate iron gates and around the bend closest to her husband's grave, she found two empty mounds of earth.

"I went into shock," she said. "There wasn't a flower in the whole cemetery. Some of the great-granddaughters had made a wreath with a laminated photo of them and their daddy that was wired to a pole. It had hung there for two years. It was all gone."

Hart walked to her mother and stepfather's plots. They were stripped as well. She began walking from one plot to another.

"There wasn't a flower on the place," she said.

Hart called Uplaco resident Mark Thacker and asked him where the flowers had gone? Hart said Thacker told her he didn't know but would check into the theft. Two weeks went by and Hart called Thacker for some answers.

She promptly called Duchesne Sheriff Travis Mitchell about the matter.

"He said he was investigating it and he would call me back," Hart said.

Weeks went by without a word, she said. Finally, in frustration, she left a message demanding that Mitchell call her back immediately, which he did.

According to Hart, Mitchell said he thought he knew who had done it - children. He approached the family. The mother of the children denied that they were involved.

"Mitchell said they'd been in trouble before," Hart said. "He said he gave them a stern talking to and they wouldn't do it again."

Hart said she felt that more should be done, but what? Mitchell explained that she could press criminal charges. He told Hart it was a lengthy process but she was within her rights as a victim of theft. Hart declined.

Hart has contacted individuals who have family members buried in the cemetery to let them know what has happened. She said she has been told more than once that the children were performing a Good Samaritan act, indeed a community service by cleaning up the cemetery. She is incensed, claiming that the

flower-satchels are being protected by the community. "That's the biggest bunch of bull I've ever heard," Hart said. "If the kids had been cleaning the cemetery, why didn't they go in with a shovel and rake and clean out the weeds and take the cemetery? People want to sweep this under the rug. What do you do when people won't stand behind you?"

Mitchell told the Uintah Basin Standard there was no evidence to prove criminal intent, however, he respects that Hart is upset over the matter. He added that he understands the intrinsic value of what was lost goes beyond the monetary value of the items.

"The sheriff he can send a deputy to the cemetery to check on things, but it is up to the people who have family members buried there to 'keep watching out.'"

Even though a cemetery is a public place, anything placed on the graves is private property and its removal is considered theft, Mitchell said. However, he noted that the public must be aware that whatever they put on the graves is especially vulnerable to theft because it is basically unprotected.

"That's my cemetery, too," the sheriff said. "I have a vested interest in it. My grandpa-ents and parents are buried there."

You'll be 'a-mazed' in Bluebell

By VAnn Prestwich

Last spring when Mark Monsen seeded his corn, he planted some rows running east and west and some rows running north and south. This produced a seven-acre grid that has now been cut into a maze.

This is the eighth year that the Bluebell farmer has used his field to produce a place where families can have fun getting lost.

Opening Sept. 21 and running until Oct. 27, this year's corn maze, an outline of an oil worker, is intended to celebrate the oil industry.

"The oil industry has done a lot for the area," Monsen explained. "That's why we chose this design."

Rhonda Ayala, a mother of two young daughters, looks forward to taking the girls out to Bluebell each fall for a trip through the corn maze.

"I think it is really good," Ayala said, "because it's a good activity for any kid young or old. My girls have a ball."

And, the Bluebell Corn Maze, is so much more than "just a maze." Monsen has two acres where kids and adults can go walk through the pumpkin patch and take home their own pumpkin. Other attractions include a box filled with shelled corn that children can play in.

There is a "cow train"—barrels painted like cows pulled by a four-wheeler. There are goats to pet. A pumpkin launcher, PVC slide, corn cannon, and hay ride are also part of your experience at the maze. Kettle corn, which Monsen claims is the best in the world, and hot dogs can be purchased.

During the last three weeks in October the maze will be haunted with characters from fairy tales who have "gone bad." The witch from Hansel and Gretel will be there, as well as other characters for the family friendly haunting.

There's a lot of learning that goes hand-in-hand with the entertainment. The RC&D along with the Soil Conservation District and a grant sponsored through the Bureau of Reclamation have helped subsidize an educational component for the 2,000 students who come

MONSEN'S CORN MAZE HAS A LOT TO OFFER



An aerial view of the 2007 Monsen Farm Corn MAIZE shows the tribute to the oil and gas industry.

September through October:

This year they will learn about the water cycle through a game where each child takes on the role of a drop of water. A drop may evaporate, become ground water, or run off into the river. After playing the game several times to insure that all the students see the water cycle from various viewpoints, the class enters the maze where there are "passports" that ask water-related questions. Correct answers help the youngsters know how to travel through the confusing corridors of corn.

The Monsen family first opened their corn maze on their 360-acre farm seven years ago after Mark Monsen talked to kids from the Basin who had traveled all the way out to Pleasant Grove to go through a corn maze.

"I was a dairy farmer," Monsen said. "I remember the day I decided to do this. It was spring and I was irrigating. I leaned on my shovel to rest. I looked at this piece of ground and thought how I wasn't going to make hardly anything by putting water out on the soil."

Monsen said he wanted to do



Debbie Ponton and Jill Magel took first place in the Amazing Race in 2005 and second place in 2006. They plan to reclaim their title as the top team this year.

BYU grad launched 'MAIZE' craze

The corn maze in Bluebell was designed by Brett Herbst, a Brigham Young University agronomy graduate who grew up on an Idaho farm.

Herbst designed one maze in 1996. This original labyrinth was located in American Fork, Utah and was the largest corn maze created in the western United States. This unusual attraction drew 18,000 people in only three weeks.

In 1998 the new MAIZE Company designed three corn teasers. Last year his company planned the Utah Basin corn network and more than 180 other fall entertainment sites. These mazes were all over the United States, Canada, Italy, Poland, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.

Mazes part of the past

Since the 1970s navigating through an intricate maze has become a popular form of recreation, but mazes date back at least 4,000 years.

In Roman times mazes and labyrinths were found in artwork on the floors of homes, public buildings, and even in the pavement of streets. In the centuries that followed, mazes appeared in artwork and architecture in the inlaid floors of French cathedrals. Hundreds of stone labyrinths lined the shores of the Baltic Sea.

Later European gardens included puzzle hedges at the wealthiest castles and palaces. The goal within these mazes was to find the center and then return to the beginning point.

was to mind the center and then return to the beginning point.

an educational component for the 2,000 students who come to the farm on field trips each

Maze Schedule

MONDAY CLOSED
Tuesday Advance Res.
Wednesday Advance Res
Thursday 5 to 9 p.m.
Friday 5 to 9 p.m.
Saturday Noon to 10 p.m.
Sunday Closed
Opening Date: September 21
Closing Date: October 27

on the soil." Monsen said he wanted to do something worthwhile for the community. When he proposed a corn maze to his wife she wondered if anyone would want to drive clear to Bluebell to walk around a cornfield. But Monsen remembered the girls who traveled to the Wasatch Front just to go to a corn maze.

And now he has thousands who have loaded up in school buses, vans, cars, and trucks every fall since 2000 to drive to Bluebell just to be "a-mazed."



Debbie Ponton and Jill Magel took first place in the Amazing Race in 2005 and second place in 2006. They plan to reclaim their title as the top team this year.

'Amazing' racers plan to repeat '05 win

Three years ago Jill Magel and Debbie Ponton, milked a goat, rotten the milk, and dug into a drunken pumpkin for a key that would unlock the bike one of them had to ride across the cornfield. These were just some of the feats they accomplished faster than younger competitors to earn themselves the title of "Amazing Race Champions" at the Monson Farm Corn Maze in Bluebell.

Last year they lost their first place title and took second. This year they plan on returning to the No. 1 spot.

The third running of the Amazing Race will be held Oct. 6, at the Bluebell Maze on Monsen's farm, three-fourths of a mile north of the Bluebell Store.

Anyone can enter, but Magel and Ponton plan on winning.

"If we would have used our

heads we could have won," Ponton declared about last year's second place finish.

Magel agreed. "I've been looking forward to this all year," she said.

Even though the women, by their own admission, are "middle-aged," they still plan to use their wisdom and experience to "kick butt."

When asked if they were exercising and toning up in preparation for the big race, Magel said, "Well, I guess we should."

During their triumphant first

year Ponton got the team a quick lead with her ability to milk a goat.

"I was raised on a farm," Ponton explained, "milking a goat was no problem for me. I got two big squirts and a kid next to me looked up all surprised and asked how I did that. 'It's a secret,' I told him. I'm not telling that young kid."

Magel's job was to drink the milk — a task she quickly accomplished. Going to the cornfield to throw up the white fluid was not part of the contest, but

that particular job didn't require many minutes.

During their two years as competitors they have climbed haystacks, hog-tied the goat, hunted for clues, and hauled water.

"There were kids there for their prom day date," Ponton explained, "We whipped them good. Last year's winners are 20 years younger than us and we could have beaten them if we'd used our heads."

Both women admitted to being sore after the competition but not sore enough to stop them from competing again.

"We're going to use our heads this year," Magel said. "For sure."

Anyone wanting to compete against the returning twosome can call (435) 454-8752 for more details.

Erilee Ayala, 4, and her 5-year-old sister Jasmine (below) prepare for a ride to the pumpkin patch at the Monson Farm Corn Maze in 2005. Jasmine Ayala (left) heads off into the corn maze in Bluebell. Each year schools from around Duchesne County bring students to the maze to learn about agriculture and nature, and of course to have fun.



A COMMUNITY-WIDE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Young & old help Bluebell mark 100 years

By Mindy Mitchell

With a little inspiration and a lot of motivation almost anything is possible. Bluebell Centennial committee members, who have been planning the celebration for close to a year, managed to pull off a huge success with Bluebell's one hundredth birthday party.

People from far and wide were lured back home to attend Bluebell's Centennial Celebration on Saturday, July 1.

As early as 7 a.m. folks lined up for breakfast. The flag raising ceremony began later than expected because the breakfast crowd was still being served.

Bessie Lisonbee Mace grew up in Bluebell and traveled from Salt Lake just to attend the celebration. "I couldn't miss it after I heard about it," she said. "I love to come home to visit my relatives and enjoy the peace and quiet. Bluebell will always be home." Bessie said she's related to about one half of the original settlers of Bluebell.

Mindy Warr, who now lives in Marbleton, Wyoming, and Elizabeth Otterstrom now of Salt Lake City, who were best friends in high school while growing up in Bluebell also said they couldn't miss the celebration. They brought their families along to support their home town.

Bluebell's first parade was a huge success. The creative committee members encouraged families to design their very own "family floats." Descendants of the original Bluebell settlers rode on trailers and wagons which were pulled by horses and tractors with signs bearing the name of the ancestors.

The Carlson family, whose ancestors helped settle Bluebell, rode in a wagon pulled by a four-wheeler boasting, "Swedes invade Bluebell 1880 - 1906."

In the afternoon, activities were plentiful and everyone had something to do. Children's games included cow milking, roping, dart gun shooting, fence building, toy horse riding and a sawdust find. Teenagers played water balloon



FAMILY FLOATS—Descendants of early Bluebell settlers participated in family floats for Bluebell's first parade.

their ancestors used to cook so long ago.

In the evening townspeople put on a program, performing talents and even skits about the early Bluebell settlers. A dinner and an auction followed.

The auction brought in about \$4,100 which will be used to fund improvements to the community. "The funds will probably be spent on the cemetery and park," said

committee member Janice Bird who estimates that about 1,000 people attended the celebration.

"We ran out of food, and we had 300 hamburgers and 200 hotdogs!" she said. "I am shocked that so many people came."

No doubt, the early Bluebell pioneers would be shocked as well and also pleasantly surprised at how the community they created continues to flourish.



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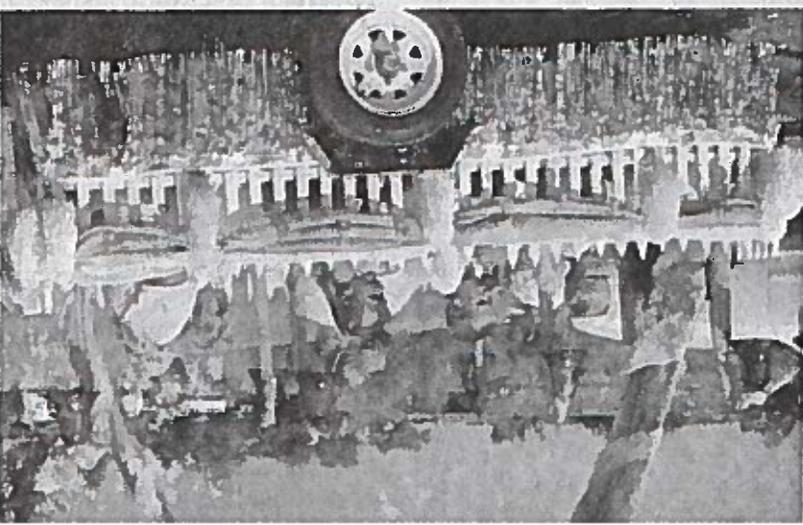
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In the afternoon, activities were plentiful and everyone had something to do. Children's games included cow milking, roping, dart gun shooting, fence building, toy horse riding and a sawdust find. Teenagers played water balloon volleyball, tug-of-war and "catch." Water balloons were shot at a crowd of youngsters out of a homemade sling shot.

Crafts and face painting, organized by community volunteers, were offered free of charge for the youngsters. There was also brace-let making, rock painting and old-fashioned doll making to give kids a chance to create something to take home as a memory.

For the homemakers there were demonstrations on old-fashioned cooking techniques so that those in attendance could learn how to make their own honey candy, sauerkraut, yeast and bottled fish — or at least get an idea of how

FAMILY FLOATS—Descendants of early Bluebell settlers participated in family floats for Bluebell's first parade.



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"The auction brought in about \$4,100 which will be used to fund improvements to the community. No doubt, the early Bluebell pioneers would be shocked as well as also pleasantly surprised at how the community they created continues to flourish."



SINGING AWAY—The Winkler sisters Glenna (left) and Heidi (right) performed songs during the evening program.