

Heritage Horizons



WINTER 2020

Dansie's Market

In 1925, Robert Erva and Llewellyn Bone Dansie opened what is known as the first "convenience store" in Layton called Dansie's Market. The 12 X 12 foot building was stocked with groceries such as bread, milk, cheese, and ice cream. In front of the market sat a single hand pump gasoline station provided oil and Firestone tires in addition to gasoline. The market sat on Highway 91, which, prior to the establishment of I-15 through Davis County, was the main road between Ogden and Salt Lake. This convenient location helped the Dansies attract locals as well as those passing through the town.

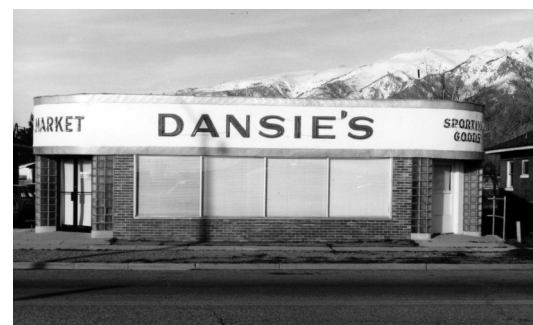
A few years after establishment, they enlarged their building to 20X20 feet, added two new overhead gas pumps, and began selling beer, sporting goods, shoes, and clothing. In 1947 the building was remodeled and bricked all the way around and looks as it does



today. In 1972, after 47 years in business, Mr. Dansie closed the doors. He explained simply that "he got tired" and retired at the age of 76. However, Erva could not rest and decided to dabble in real estate, building several homes, the Dairy Queen drive-in, and a service station.

For a large number of Layton and Kaysville residents, the name "Dansie's" brings back many fond memories of a time when visiting their small, familiar convenience store was a real pleasure.

Early in November, the Dansie family contacted the Museum to donate historical items from the store and estate in memory of Jay Dansie. The majority of items received, including a portion of the original bar, will be set up in a recreation of the store on the Museum's north wall. Local artist Laurel Bitton is painting a mural of the original 1920s store to serve as the backdrop for the exhibit.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 1920—2020, Celebrating 100 Years of Layton
- New exhibits around the entire museum!
- Tours available for small groups
- Women on the Home Front: A World War II Mini Exhibit—February 2021-April 2021

Volunteer Projects

The Museum's wonderful army of volunteers has been chipping away at a full collections inventory. Each item on display has been described, its condition assessed, measurements taken, and location recorded. This will help to update the collections database so future exhibits can

be made! From August through the end of December, our amazing volunteers clocked a total of 806 hours! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Annie Bommer at 801-336-3932 or abommer@laytoncity.org!

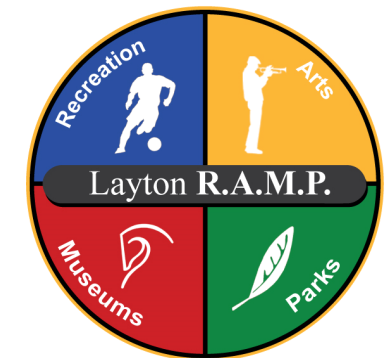


Centennial Lectures

The Museum's Centennial Lecture Series has been revived after a break due to COVID. Lectures take place on either the first or second Thursday of the month and are both live-casted on the city's Facebook page and recorded and posted on the website!

So far, Jerry Stevenson has jumped back in time to bring to light the Layton and Kaysville separation and Joyce Brown reminisced the early days of entertainment in Layton! Future topics include exploring

Lost Industries with Bob Stevenson (January 7), remembering Verdeland Park with Sam Trujillo (February 4), getting back to work at the Layton Sugar Company with Ted Ellison (March 4), and celebrating a Century of Layton with Mayor Joy Petro (April 1)! The Museum would like to thank Layton RAMP for making the lectures possible! Be sure to tune in!



Have You Ever Wondered...?

The Gray Lady Corps, named for their gray uniforms, were volunteers of the American Red Cross, notably during World War II. Each member of the corps must have sixteen hours of lecture and practical instruction before a total of twenty-four hours of probationary service. When these requirements have been met, the volunteers would receive a certificate, a cap, and the iconic gray uniform, making them a full-fledged Gray Lady of the American Red Cross. Their duties included assisting nurses, writing letters for the soldiers, running errands for the sick, arranging parties, and raising the morale of the groups in the hospital; in a newspaper article from 1944, it was suggested that the slogan of the Gray Ladies should be "Make that service boy happy!" Geneva Richards of Kaysville served as chairman of the Gray Lady Corps for four years through

the war. She and the eighteen other local members were a common sight at Hill Field's base hospital. Christmas was the largest event organized by the group on Base with sandwiches and cakes to prepare and presents to wrap for the soldiers. At the 1944 party, attendees included over 1800 service men and women. The event was so large and successful that it ended in the donation of a piano to the Gray Ladies for the Hill Field recreation hall so they could further their efforts of entertaining the soldiers.



Completing a 153 Year Old Quilt

In July 2020, Lucia Pabst of Syracuse, Utah contacted the Davis Layton Company of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. She inquired if they would be interested in a 153 year old quilt top. It had been passed down from generation to generation in her family. Lucia was in poor health and her family was not interested in keeping this as an heirloom. The Davis Layton Company accepted the donation.

The quilt top was made by Farina "Feena" Maria Bentley Lucas for her sister, Sylvia Louise Bentley's, wedding in 1867. The quilt was never finished.

After receiving the donation, the Company decided the quilt should

be finished in honor of Feena's efforts. Diatra Wilko took up the project. The quilt was completed in September 2020, sadly one week after Lucia passed away. She never saw the completed quilt.

Lucia thought it would be nice to have the quilt hanging in the historic Hill Cabin located at the Heritage Museum of Layton. Her wish has come true and the quilt is currently on display at the Museum! The quilt will be transferred to the cabin during the warmer months.



Intern Spotlight—James Rhodes

The Museum has a new intern that has been assisting Annie, the curator, with inventory and educational projects!

James Rhodes is a recent graduate of Weber State University in Anthropology. He stated that "interning at the Layton museum is an adaptive and stimulating environment. There is never a dull moment when there is so much work to be done on such a wide variety of

artifacts. From guns to paintings to textiles their variability in subject matter has made this an incredibly engaging place to develop new skills. The large breadth of skills both acquired and necessary to handle all of these tasks will be a great asset in my future and I am thankful for the opportunity to get to work with this team and this very interesting collection. As far as the future is concerned I am looking at Master's programs all around the

US, searching for programs related to genetic anthropology, primatology, or evolutionary anthropology. The U is looking ever more alluring by the day but my decision still remains to be seen."

Thanks for all you do, James!



Display Case Updates



On December 12th and 19th, four students from Northridge High School came to the Museum to assist in the renovation of the display cases throughout the exhibition area. December 30, a volunteer group came to

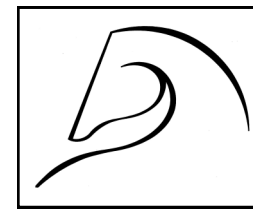
finish the remainder of the cases. Prior to their assistance, cases varied in color from white to cream to apricot and there was little continuity between the colors. Displays were painted off-white with a

mahogany border to match a group of cases that were already in place. The easy project of updating the display cases has revived a sense of relation between exhibits.

Heritage Museum of Layton

403 North Wasatch Drive
Layton, Utah 84041

Phone: (801) 336-3930
Fax: (801) 336-3931
Email: abommer@laytoncity.org



Community identity and pride are enhanced by having a place where local history and culture is preserved, displayed and available for research. Visit our museum often!

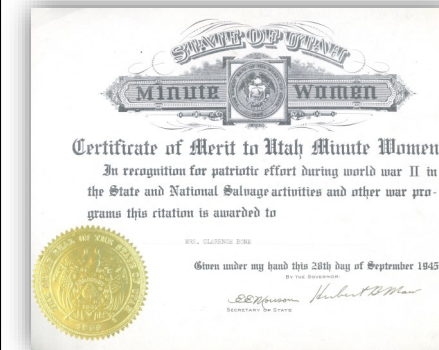
We're on the Web!
www.laytoncity.org

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday
12 p.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday
1-5 p.m.

Closed
Sunday-Monday

Utah's Minute Women: The Warriors of the Home Front



"5,000 Utah women, mothers for the most part of men in our armed forces, are marching on the home front in support of their fighting sons. These women wear no uniforms. They aspire to no glory, no commendation for their arduous work. They work that their sons may have tools with which to fight. For these are the Minute Women who volunteer neighborhood and community in essential civilian war efforts, campaigns, and drives."

The Utah Minute Women, a force of over eight thousand Minute Women, and five thousand children called Paper Troopers spread out over thirty-two counties, was the first group of its kind to be organized in the country. The first meeting of the Utah Minute Women was held on September 12, 1942. Their program was outlined and a woman on every block was recruited to participate. Operating under the War Production Board of Utah, the Minute Women strove to educate civilians on the importance of wartime conservation efforts. Salvage drives were started to save everything from scrap metal, tin cans, cooking fat, nylon hosiery, waste paper, and rubber. One such drive was held at the Ritz Theater on Main Street in Layton: on May 21, 1943, women were able to receive a movie ticket for every five pairs of silk or nylon hosiery that was donated.

Volunteers used the techniques of door to door canvassing, newspaper and radio covers, and posting flyers around their neighborhoods to promote the patriotic salvage efforts. The flyers contained slogans and eye-catching propaganda drawings to appeal emotionally to the fellow women supporting the effort. A letter from Bertha Stevenson to the Salt Lake Minute Women that was distributed around the communities outlined how salvaged tin cans could be used. "1. There is enough tin in three salvaged cans to make a hand grenade. 2. One tin can yields enough tin for a pair of binoculars. 3. A family of four saving its tin cans for two weeks will save sufficient tin to supply this metal for a portable flame thrower. 4. A month's of savings of cans will make the bushings for three machine guns. Save 'em, Wash 'em, Clean 'em, Squash 'em."

Minute Women contributed to the war effort in more ways than just salvaging materials. They often assisted with soldiers at Bushnell Hospital in Brigham, City. They collected and donated any needed materials including books for the soldiers to read and trees for landscaping the area. The Minute Women continued to lift spirits and bring the country back to a stable time of peace until January 31, 1946, roughly five months after the formal surrender of Japan.

The efforts put forth by this great group of women helped win the war for the American people. They lifted morale, contributed to supplies needed, and applied their talent and leadership skills to help the home front through trying times.