I REMEMBER UTAH

N. R. Hacken
AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

This is not a book on Utah history, although there is much history contained in it. Nor is it about travel, but if you are curious enough to visit some of the places mentioned, there is usually enough description to help you find them. What began as a personal history has developed into a unique mixture of places, things and happenings. It reflects the experiences and impressions gathered over a lifetime by one native of the state of Utah who for nearly half a century has lived elsewhere.

The original intent was to produce an illustrated personal history. As the material was collected and sketches made, endless possibilities came to mind. For this reason, it was necessary at the outset to decide what to include and what to leave out. Once this was done, the metes and bounds established made it possible to set the framework for the story.

Most of the illustrations were made from rough sketches on location and are reasonably up-to-date. Some of the buildings shown are no longer in existence and some of the locales have undergone drastic changes from what is shown in the illustrations. For these and other reasons it was often necessary to rely on photos and imperfect memory.
Much of the text was written from memory of events as I experienced them. Some historical material was researched to expand my memory of the events; other sources helped me recall hearing or reading about them.

After beginning the work, especially the drawings, it occurred to me that these words and sketches might have a broader appeal than just to my immediate family. Friends who were shown samples of the work displayed genuine interest and urged me to treat this work as one of general appeal rather than from the aspect of a single family. What at first was reluctance on my part seemed to change into enthusiasm and I, therefore, chose to treat this work from the broader point of view. Hopefully I have succeeded in achieving this purpose.

Most of the drawings are pen and ink sketches finished in the studio from rough sketches done in the field. They were done with technical pens ranging in size from 0 to 000, depending on the heaviness of the lines desired. All sketches were first done lightly in pencil and then inked in with pen. The colored work was done primarily in water color both on location and in the studio.

Nephi R. Hacken
Sacramento, California
Fall, 1993

Nephi R. Hacken
EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Nephi R. Hacken was born on October 19, 1912 in Saltair, Utah. He died on April 24, 1994 in Sacramento, California.

For the last several years of his life, Nephi ("N.R.," "Cap," "Dad," "Grandpa," "Great-Grandpa," "Further-Further Hacken") was working on a loving memory of his formative years in Utah. He named this book, consisting of reminiscences that featured both his own text and his own artistic illustrations: "I Remember Utah."

It was somehow typical of N.R. that his work was not brought to a close. Like his hand-built home at 2700 Northrop Avenue in Sacramento, on which he renovated, expanded and tinkered for years, this book, "I Remember Utah," was an open and expanding canvas for his fertile and deeply felt memories. With new memories flooding into "Further-Further Hacken’s" mind every week, how could he possibly have ever finished it?

When I, his son, received his literary testament, I felt overwhelmed, relieved and honored.
I felt overwhelmed, since my own artistic temperament runs to the level of stick figures; my artistic portfolio is blank. In a sense, that simplified the task, since my only purpose was to reproduce Dad's words and artwork between these covers. On the other hand, some of his work (both illustrations and lettering) had been done in pencil and/or incompletely. These items needed just a bit of computerized help. I apologize for those places where it is clear that the hand of Dad has been less than perfectly aided by the graphics program. Neither in the artwork nor in the text, however, has anything been added that did not stem from the brain of Nephi R. Macken.

I felt relieved, since the manuscript of "I Remember Utah" (like Dad himself) had now reached an ultimate fulness, regardless of how much more might have been waiting for expression. It was now possible to distribute one of his most-revealing life-works (this book) to his other important life-works (his descendants--children, grandchildren, and hopefully more individuals further down the branches of the family tree). Since I have had some experience in working with words--and had assisted him with word processing up until his death--I was happy to help bring the product to completion.
I felt honored to pore over the materials Dad left behind, and to feel his life and enthusiasm radiate from sketches and the written word. I hope that some of that life and enthusiasm, that awe and wonder for his native state, transmits to you when you read his book. His historical details, his anecdotal memories, and his fine eye for the nuances of God’s and man’s creations speak to us from these pages. In them, the mystery and wonder of his own life are presented as a gift to us.

This book is, of course, dedicated to him. His life and work are his legacy. May his Schnitzerli (Swiss German: "paring knife") even now be carving rich and rewarding hunks of fruit from the Apple of Eternity.

Richard D. Hacken
Provo, Utah
October 19, 1994
# I REMEMBER UTAH

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