When the first homesteaders came to Molokai in 1922, Molokai was an isolated island with no paved roads, beautiful homes, electricity, stores, schools, nor churches. Worship was conducted in one's own home, a family gathering, or with other families combined. The early pioneers, as we call them, provided for their own sustenance. Planting of vegetables, raising animals, and fishing were the main lifestyle of every family to survive, regardless of religion.

In the early 1930's, a church was erected in the Ho'olehua area to accommodate all Latter-day Saint worship services. The Church on Molokai during this time was under the direction of a mission; therefore, we were known as the Ho'olehua Branch. A branch president, along with his counselors and clerk, were called, sustained, and set apart. Officers and leaders of the branch were also called, sustained, and set apart to conduct the affairs of the various auxiliaries.

Transportation in and out of Molokai was via the ocean. A navigation ship called the Hualalae, was the least expensive means of transportation to Honolulu.

Molokai was known for the raising of pineapple. Transporting this produce to the cannery in Honolulu was via the Young Brother's barge; the barge likewise brought in food, lumber, freight, and other commodities to the island from Honolulu.

Other means of transportation was via the air. One of the old-type airlines was the "Sea Corsky" and it landed at a little area at the Ho'olehua airport. However, traveling via the ocean was still the cheapest means to Honolulu.

When the branch in Ho'olehua was well established, a committee was formed to organize a temple group to care for the members' temple needs. One of the assignments of this committee was to arrange the least expensive method of transportation to the temple. Airfare was too costly, thus, traveling by boat was the answer. The cheapest space on the ship was the ship's deck.

However, another form of "cheap" transportation was via the pineapple barge. Though it was illegal to be transported on a pineapple barge, with permission granted by the ship's captain, the members took this chance and traveled to the Laie Temple. Though researched, there has been no information acquired as to how long the members traveled in this manner. But I can say that it wasn't too long. Being that it was an unsafe way to travel, the Lord blessed the Saints with safe arrival to and from the temple.

Another memorable aspect of the Molokai temple excursions was that they were always conducted during the Thanksgiving week, a real family time. In addition to the transportation committee, other committees were formed and responsibilities delegated to arrange for food, housing, and temple ordinances.

Temple excursions continue to be part of the lives of the Saints on Molokai. However, today our means of transportation is only by air to Honolulu with a choice of four different airlines.
We no longer conduct temple excursions during the Thanksgiving week, but now travel in the month of August where family members are able to add in their school shopping, etc.

Time has really changed since the members first came to Molokai. The membership has grown tremendously; we are now under the Kahului Hawaii Stake, with wards and bishops taking the full responsibility of the growth here on the island.

The Lord truly has blessed the Molokai Saints tremendously from the beginning to this present day.