

Sausages and sourdough honor Bishop Partridge

BY JOHN L. HART Church News staff writer

OAK CITY, UTAH

The Church's first bishop, Edward Partridge, who served from 1831 until his death in 1840, struggled to care for hungry and impoverished members. Their plight sometimes moved the tender-hearted bishop to tears.

Evidence of just how much things have changed since then is the way in which Bishop Partridge's descendants memorialize him — through a breakfast free to all comers. About

650, of which 75 were immediate family, had just to sign "grandma's register" as they attended this, the breakfast's 10th year.

"We don't care how many people come," said Asael Lyman, the breakfast's founder and great-grandson of two of Bishop Partridge's daughters through a double blood line. "We plan to keep holding the breakfast every Memorial Day until Bishop Partridge himself comes."

Cost of the food and events, about \$2,000, is no burden on the family — "We've prospered," Lyman says simply. An Idaho businessman, he retired to this central Utah town to be where two of Bishop Partridge's daughters are buried and many descendants live. The breakfast reminds them of their forebear.

It's more than your average community event. Three sticks of dynamite are ignited to wake the town at 7 a.m., a piano player, Rod Miller, was imported from Disneyland, and visitors were interviewed and recorded with a video camera.

Townsperson, described by Lyman as being humble and unpretentious, began arriving shortly after the dynamite exploded. They helped themselves to some of the 100 dozen eggs and 140 pounds of sausages being fried up on a griddle the size of a wagonbox. Some of Lyman's family flipped pancakes, mixed from one of five milk cans full of oozing, bubbling batter. Others ran errands, some just visited.

Lyman's brother, George, shares expenses, and sons Matt, Jeff, Dave and Mike do most of the organizing.

Other family gatherings over the weekend included a baptismal service for convert and family member Ronald Curran, and a visit to the cemetery later in the day.



Asael, left, and George Lyman, above, reflect on past at graves of forebears.



Richard B. Holmes, Phillip Smith and Louis Stewart cook breakfast.



Rod Miller, Disneyland piano player, plays old-time tunes for Oak City residents and descendants of Bishop Edward Partridge. Photos by John L. Hart