

what the other Mormons and the Mexicans were producing, and perhaps find new methods of farming, or interest others in their methods and crops. They also were to promote and interest the young people in projects, such as are sponsored by the 4-H organizations in the United States.

The social life of Colonia Dublán was almost as active as it had been before the Exodus, when there had been over 1,200 people. During the reconstruction period the population rose to 335 in 1930. Plays were still one of the favorite forms of entertainment. Such plays as the "Seven Keys to Baldpate," "The Littlest Rebel" and "The Stranger" were produced. Days of celebration were Cinco de Mayo – Mexican Independence Day; July 24th – the arrival of the Mormon pioneers into the valley of the Great Salt Lake; and "Old Folks" day – honoring the older people of the Colonia. There were music festivals, dances, weddings, receptions, and many more community gatherings.

Toward the end of the thirties, the Colonias began to be called "old folks towns," by those who had left for the United States. The population figures show the change that took place from 1930 to 1940. In 1930 the population for all the Colonias was 1,211 and by 1940 it had dropped to 674 people. Part of the drop in population was due to the depression, which for the Mormons began when they returned to the Colonias after the Exodus, and ended about 25 years later. The greatest cause may have been in that the younger families move to the United States because of a better opportunity for employment. Also the young folks graduating from the high school went out to the United States for their college training, and few of them returned. There was no opportunity for young people in the Colonias, unless they tilled the farms. If they farmed, they would have had to start on new land, and their parents were in no financial position to help them get started during this depression period.

As the number of Mormons decreased, the Mexican populations increased in the various Colonias. The Mexicans began moving into the Colonias soon after the revolution, but their settlement in the Colonias during the thirties was much more rapid

than previously. Some of the Mexicans were farming land, but a large percentage were working on the Mormon farms.

The end of the reconstruction period saw the Mormons getting back to the point of prosperity that they had achieved just before the Exodus in 1912. The depression was over, the war in Europe stimulated prices, and there was no prospect of another revolution to upset the trend toward more prosperous times.

PROSPEROUS YEARS

The War years were the beginning of prosperity for the most of the Colonists. From 1935 to the present time, crop prices have risen, and within the last four or five years the upward spiral of prices have been ever more rapid. This was also a time when those young men who were going to the United States for their higher education, were returning after completion of their schooling, to settle in the Colonias. The draft laws of the United States would have affected them had they stayed after their education was completed. This was a period of new farm lands coming under cultivation, and an addition of many machines to replace the horse and hand labor. These farmers were becoming more and more like their counterparts in the United States, in that they raised less and less of their required food, letting the store replace the garden.

Mountain Colonias



Figure 47: COLONIA PACHERCO. Looking south toward the stream bottom and the larger area of cultivation.



Figure 48: COLONIA PACHECO. The main street looking south.



Figure 49: COLONIA PACHECO. Looking west. The wide street can be seen plus 2 brick homes.

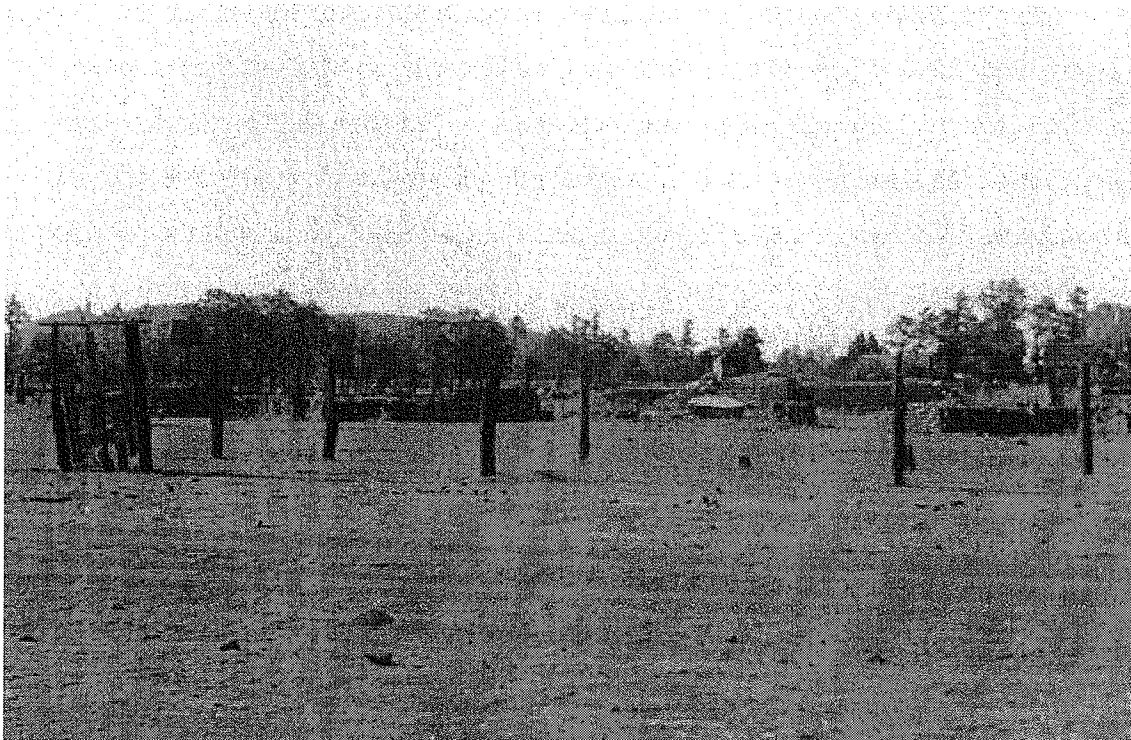


Figure 50: COLONIA PACHECO. All that is left of the church house and school after the second fire.

The only Group of Mormons that cannot be said to have become prosperous during the war and after, were those living in the mountains. Their farm land was too limited to take advantage of the rising crop prices. Their cows were not giving enough milk for cheese-making to be profitable. And cattle prices, at first were high, but before the herds could be increased, the exporting of cattle into the United States was halted from fear of the hoof and mouth disease, which was present in part of Mexico, and this caused cattle prices to fall. The lumber industry, which had helped them survive in the mountains, was moving to other parts of the forest, as most of the commercial timber had been cut in the vicinity of the Colonias. The population figures show this retreat from the mountains between 1940 and 1951:

	1940	1950	1951
Colonia Pacheco	60	40	6
Colonia García	64	0	1
Colonia Chuichupa	106	16	9

Many of those who left the mountain settlements moved to Colonia Juárez. Those who are living there at present are still milking range cattle, and the milk is still being made into cheese. They are still growing oats and some potatoes, and have a few cattle to sell. Much of the farm land is leased to Mexican farmers, who are rapidly moving into the mountains. There is no more lumbering near the Colonias. The last of the Mormon sawmills near the mountain Colonias closed in 1951 at Colonia Pacheco. The large lumber companies owned by Mexican and American interests are moving farther and farther west as the forest are cut before them. Since the chicken industry has again come into existence in Colonia Juárez, one family in Colonia Pacheco is raising chickens in order to sell the eggs.



Figure 51: COLONIA GARCIA. Main street in Colonia Garcia, looking north.



Figure 52: COLONIA GARCIA. From the rocky knoll, looking south.



Figure 53: COLONIA GARCIA. Abandoned Mormon School house. Consists of one room.

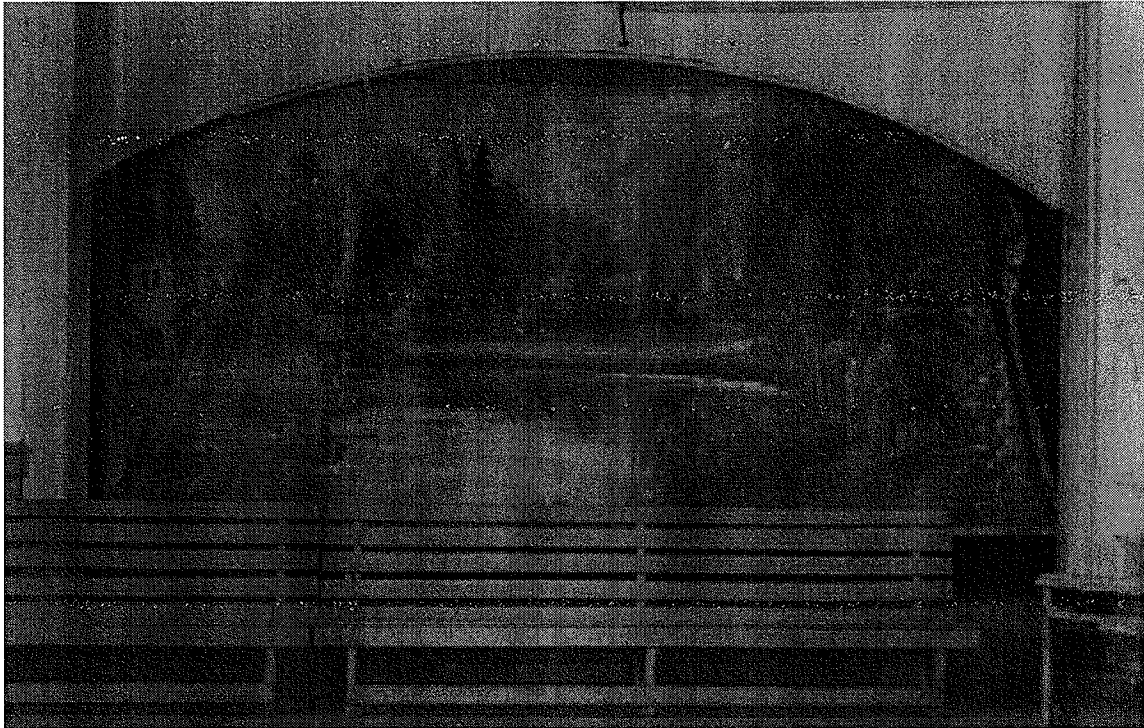


Figure 54: COLONIA GARCIA. Curtain inside of the school house. This curtain was painted before the Exodus in Colonia Juarez.

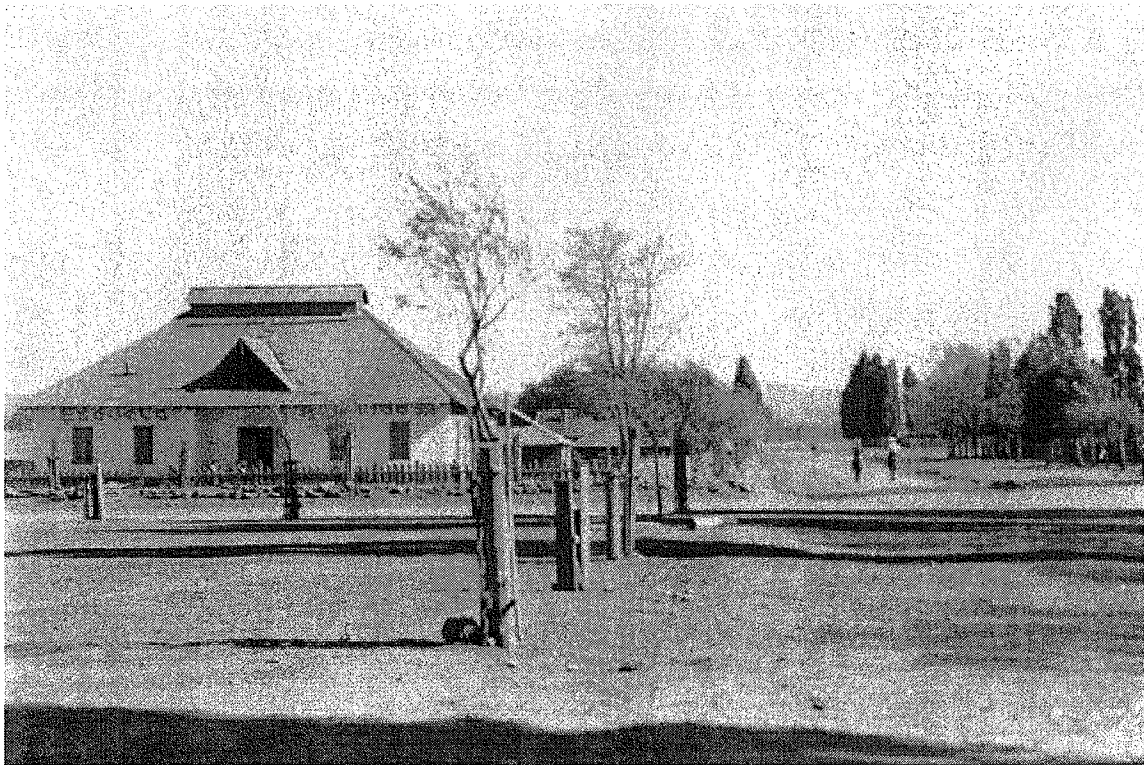


Figure 55: COLONIA CHUICHUPA. Mexican school house.

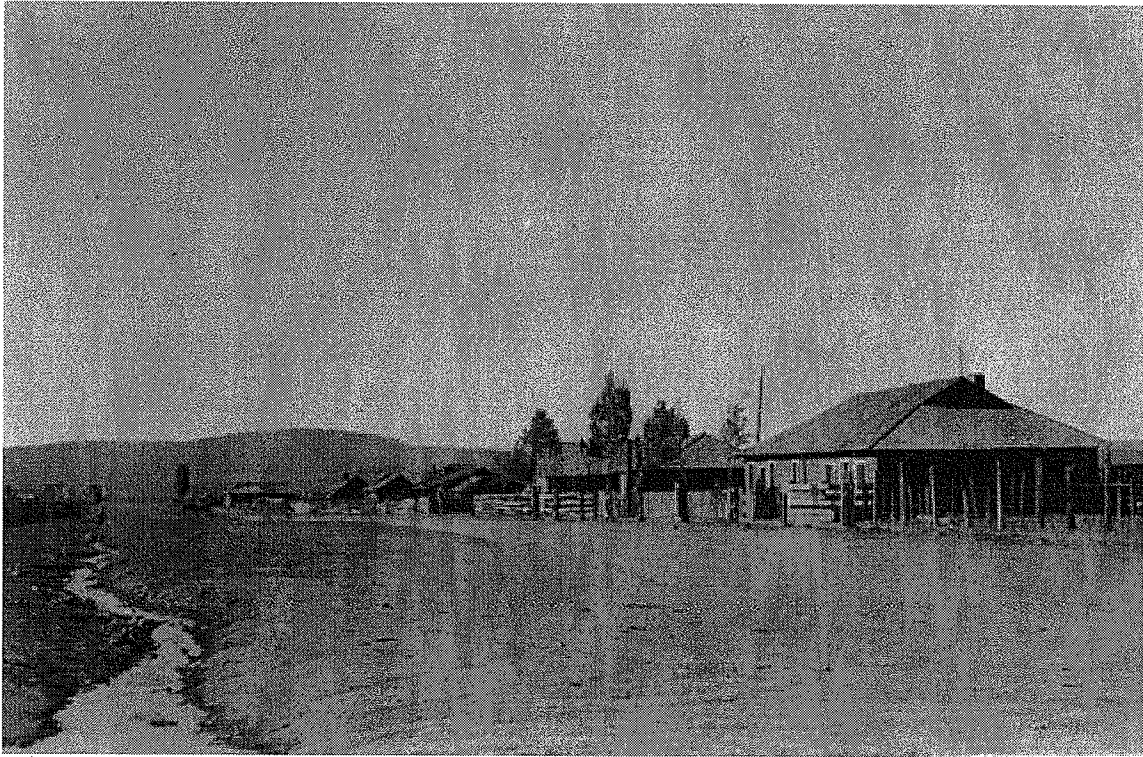


Figure 56: COLONIA CHUICHUPA. One of the western most streets in "Chupi".

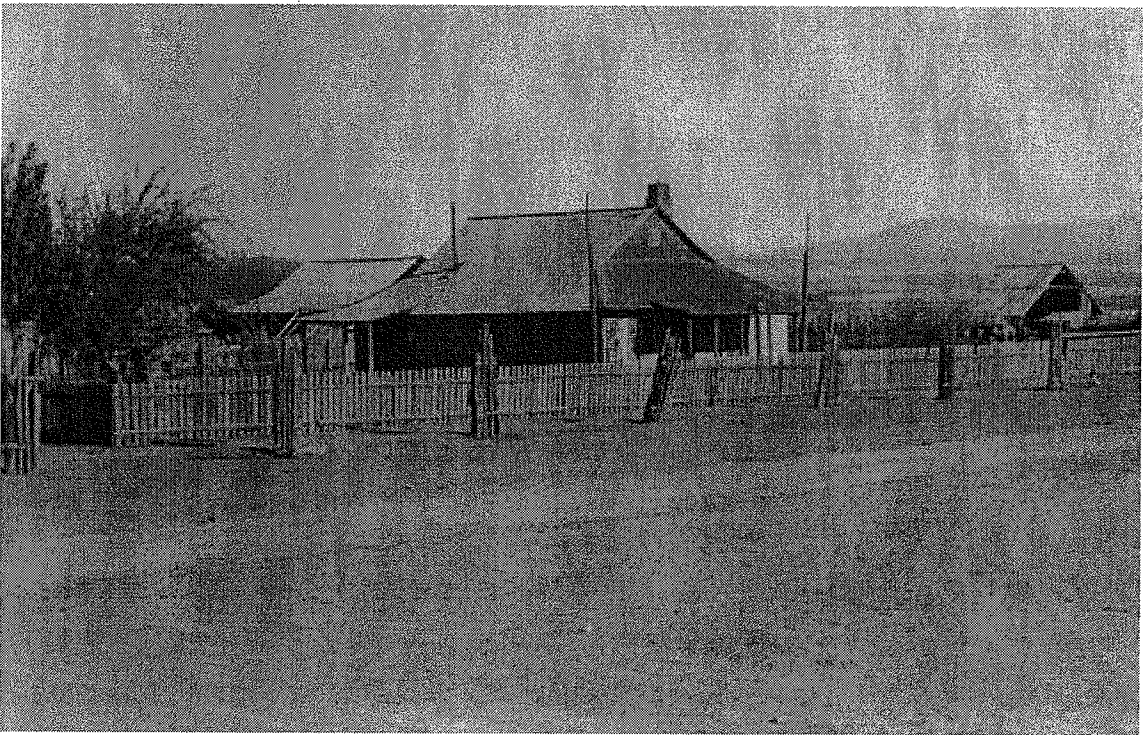


Figure 57: COLONIA CHUICHUPA. Former Mormon house. In the background can be seen part of the cultivated land.



Figure 58: COLONIA CHUICHUPA . Mormon Church, school, and gym. These buildings are used very little now.

Colonia Juárez

The Colonists in Colonia Juárez built up their standard of living through their profitable orchards. There was always a good market for apples, and the only thing that kept the crop low was the frost, which occasionally caught the trees when in bloom. Smudging, much the same as in the citrus groves of Southern California is sometimes necessary to keep the blossoms from being frosted. Old oil drums for orchard heaters or small open fires near the trees are now used.

In the past few years there has been a problem of older families not having enough farm land or orchards to support themselves. Many older people also moved from the mountains, where they had had a difficult time to make a living. In Colonia Juárez there was little land to be bought, and they had very little money with which to buy anything. The mountain folk had increased the population over 200 from 1940 to

1951. With this problem on their hands, a group of men got together to see what could be done to help these people. It was decided to again try the chicken business.

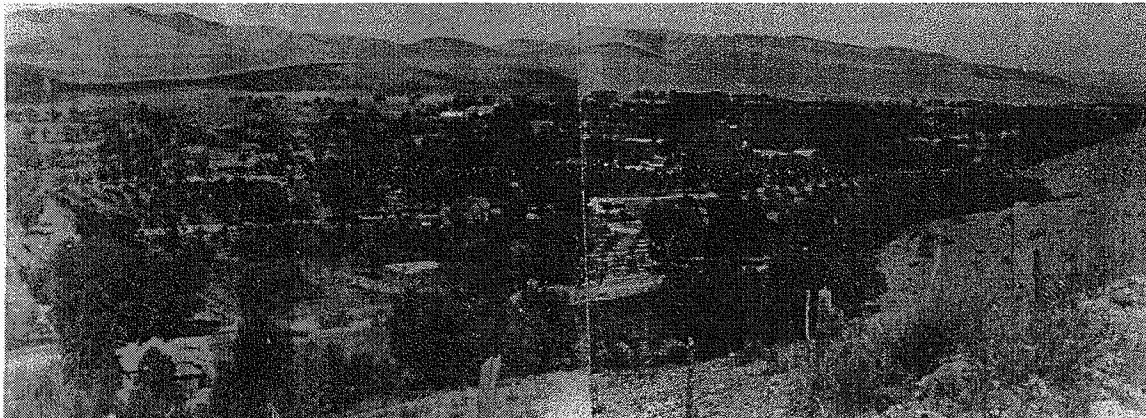


Figure 59: COLONIA JUAREZ. Looking west off the "dugway" that leads into Colona Juarez from Casas Grandes. The buildings just to the left of the center on the west side are the Juárez Stake Academy.

From the time of the collapse of the original chicken cooperative in 1940, up to 1949, only about 50 cases of eggs a week were produced. In 1949 a new cooperative was formed. The stock from the original company was still held separate from the newly organized business. The sale of the new stock was for buying large quantities of feed, and for marketing the eggs. The new cooperative was organized with a Board of Directors elected by the members, and this organization, which is still active, gives each stockholder one vote, regardless of how many shares he holds. All the officers and directors serve without pay. At present there are about 85 members and 20 to 30 nonmembers in the Colonia Juárez and Dublán. The nonmembers can buy feed when it is available from the cooperative, and can sell their eggs through them for a small fee.



Figure 60: COLONIA JUAREZ. Main Street in Colonia Juarez. The cars are parked in front of the general store.

Claudius Bowman, Jr. contracts with the directors of the new cooperative to grind and prepare their chicken feed, and to supply them with some of the baby chicks. The original cooperative which is still in existence, but is inactive, rents their hatchery and grinding equipment to Mr. Bowman. He has also contracted to prepare the eggs for shipment.

The hatchery in Colonia Dublán can supply only about one-fourth of the necessary chicks each year. The other chicks come from California, Texas, Utah, New Hampshire and Oregon, usually by Air Express. The duty charged by the Mexican Government is 5 centavos per chick, plus 10 per cent of the value of the shipment, which adds up to about 15 centavos per chick.

The breeds of chickens being used by the different members of the association are Leghorn (the largest percentage), Austro-white, New Hampshire and a few New Hampshire-Leghorn crosses.