Some Notes on the Geary Family

The Geary family was well established in Leicestershire, England, from an early date. They were a family of farmers, some of them freeholders (owning the land they farmed) and others tenants with a life-estate on the lands belonging to the gentry. Family records indicate that Edward Geary (a recurring given name in the family, along with George and John) built the large moated farmhouse known as Old Hayes, several miles west of the city of Leicester. This house, which still stands, has the date 1753 carved above the front door. Edward's son John and grandson Edward continued to operate Old Hayes and the adjacent farm, Bondman Hayes. However, this Edward was "a drinking man" who sold his life-tenancy to his landlord, the Earl of Stamford. This action reduced his descendants to laboring on the land their fathers had once managed.

Edward's son George, born in 1786, lived out his life in Leicestershire, but his son Edward, born in 1830, moved as a young man to the new industrial town of Clay Cross, Derbyshire, in search of employment. There, he married Elizabeth Ann Hewitt and together they joined the LDS Church. The missionary who introduced them to the Restored Church was Elder Long, and they named their first son, born in 1854, Edward Long Geary.

The Geary family immigrated to the United States in 1857, spending six weeks on the Atlantic crossing. Having spent all of their funds on the passage, they went first to Pennsylvania where Edward worked in the coal mines for several years before they came on to Utah in 1862. The Civil War had begun by this time, and their train was fired on as they approached St. Louis. From St. Louis, they traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa, by team and wagon. There they joined a Mormon wagon train under the direction of Joseph Horne.

In Utah, the family lived at first in Bountiful, but they were soon attracted to the newly-developing area around Morgan. Eight-year-old Edward Long hiked with his father over the mountains from Bountiful to Morgan to investigate the country. They crossed an area where there had been a recent fire, and the boy remembered burning his feet while walking through the ashes. In the fall of 1863, the family moved to Round Valley, just east of Morgan, with their few household possessions plus the running gear of a wagon, a yoke of steers, and a few sheep. The old Geary farm, on the banks of the Weber River, is now a golf course.

Edward Long Geary married Alice Criddle in 1877. Her family were among the early settlers of Littleton. Together, they had three children while living in Round Valley: Edward George (1878), William Frederick (1880), and Mary Alice (1882). Edward Long worked on the family farm, took the lead in erecting a two-story rock house, and with his draft horses did roadbed work for the Union Pacific Railroad. He had six younger brothers, and prospects for expansion in Morgan County were slim, so he began looking for a new country to settle in. He visited the Huntington, Utah, area and liked it well enough to locate a homestead claim there. However, the LDS Church issued a call for

settlers on the Little Colorado River in Arizona, and Edward Long moved his family there in the early spring of 1883.

Edward George, who was only five years old at the time, preserved a vivid memory of the trip and in his old age could still point out precise details of the route and campsites. Edward Long's chief capital resource was his excellent teams of draft horses, and he worked them throughout the summer, digging a canal and hauling rock for the foundations of a gristmill at St. Johns. By the end of the season, however, he had concluded that there would never be sufficient water to fill the newly-constructed canal. So he packed his family into the two big trail wagons and brought them to Huntington. Edward George remembered that when they crested the hill four miles south of town, and his father pointed to the ragged cluster of dugouts and log cabins that marked their new home, his mother broke into tears and wept all the way to town.

Edward Long had relinquished his homestead claim when he decided to go to Arizona, so it was necessary to purchase land from other settlers. The family spent much of the year1884 in Morgan where Edward Long replenished his funds by working on the railroad. While they were there, Alice bore another son, Ernest Leroy. Back in Huntington, a last child, Maud Maryann, was born in May 1886. Alice was never well after the birth, and on October 20 she died, discouraged by her prospects and worn out after bearing five children in less than eight years. The family was broken up, with the oldest boys, Edward George and William Frederick, remaining with their father, and Ernest and the two girls being taken in by their Geary and Criddle grandmothers. In 1888, a typhoid epidemic claimed several lives in Huntington, including eight-year-old Freddie Geary. In 1889, Edward Long married a nineteen-year-old girl named Ann Louisa Guymon. While they were at the Manti Temple for the wedding, word came of the death of little Ernest in Morgan. Ann Louisa died after only a few months from pregnancy complications.

Edward Long and Edward George lived alone, assisted by a succession of housekeepers. Edward Long was a big man with great strength, drive, and endurance. Throughout this period of family disasters, he continued to build up his holdings in land and livestock and to assume a leadership role in the community. He supervised the construction of the Huntington Reservoir and served several terms on the town board and on the board of the irrigation company. He formed a partnership to operate a steam-powered threshing machine. He brought the first purebred cattle to the area and also imported a stallion from Belgium to improve the quality of the local draft horses.

In his "spare time," commencing in 1888 (usually during the winters), he began driving on the Nine Mile Canyon freight road between the railroad at Price and the army post at Fort Duchesne in the Uinta Basin. He drove a six-horse team pulling two large trail wagons on trips of a week or more in each direction. At first, he left Edward George to board with Huntington families while he was away. Soon, though, the boy was accompanying his father, and by 1890 he was driving his own four-horse team.

In 1894, Edward Long married a middle-aged widow from Manti, Isabella Walker Weibye. Edward George recalled, "Aunt Bell, as she was best known, was an Englishwoman with a lot of wit and humor. She was a midwife and a splendid housekeeper. Her entrance into our home made living conditions much better." With an improved home life, Edward Long's elder daughter, Mary Alice ("May"), came from Morgan to live at home, along with Aunt Bell's daughter, Mary Weibye. Edward George was delighted to have two sisters, and his bond with them was among the strongest of his life. With an enlarged family and extra income from the freight road, Edward Long undertook the construction of a two-story, seven-room brick home. Edward George wrote, "When completed it was for many years the nicest house in town."

Physically, Edward Long and Edward George were very different. In contrast to his big-framed, full-bearded father, Edward George was an undersized, asthmatic boy who grew to be a short, slight man. But in temperament they had much in common. They conformed to what might be called an English type, men of few words, unemotional (or at any rate unwilling to express their emotions), hardheaded, with unremitting drive. All his life, until his last illness, Edward George invariably arose before dawn and worked until dark (with only a brief midday break), compensating for his lack of brute strength with sheer tenacity. (He admitted that his father outdid him. During harvest season, Edward Long, after working through the daylight hours, would get up again after a brief evening rest, and work through the night by moonlight.) Neither man made many close friends; they were more respected than liked by their associates. Despite the many, many hours they spent together, there is nothing to indicate that Edward George ever received many words of endearment from his father; nor did his children hear many words of endearment from him. (With his grandchildren, it was easier for him to show affection.)

Edward George wrote that he never in his life completed a full term of school. There was always threshing in the fall, the freight road in the winter, and farm work in the spring. Still, he was a good student, completing the fifth-grade level of the public school and going on to high school work offered by the Huntington LDS Ward Seminary. His surviving schoolwork shows everything conscientiously and neatly done and a level of competence in world history, geometry, drafting, penmanship, and business writing that few high school graduates today could match. After completing all of the schooling available to him at home, he enrolled at a proprietary business college in Salt Lake City, financing the course with his freight road earnings. One of his teachers there was J. Reuben Clark, Jr., who would later become United States Ambassador to Mexico and later still a counselor in the First Presidency of the LDS Church. Even though he had to drop out before the end of the term because of his spring farm work, he was given a favorable letter of recommendation from the school president, who described him as "energetic and reliable" and said he was qualified to be "a good assistant bookkeeper."

On his twenty-first birthday, Edward George received from his father a forty-acre farm, a town lot planted with a prune orchard, a wagon and harnesses, and "a pair of bay horses, full of life and the fastest sleigh team in town." He rented an additional farm from Aunt Bell and harvested a good crop of oats and hay that he sold in Price. With the proceeds,

he purchased eleven acres adjoining the Huntington Roller Mill. This was the land where he would later build his home.

Being now very well set up for a young man, he "commenced keeping company with Lauretta Jane Wakefield." On August 11, 1901, he proposed marriage to her and was accepted. They planned to marry the following April. Shortly after becoming engaged, he went to the mountains for two months to work on the construction of the Huntington Reservoir. On his return home, he found a letter from "Box B" in Salt Lake City, calling him on a mission for the LDS Church. He also discovered that Lauretta was gravely ill with rheumatic heart disease.

Lauretta died on January 27, 1902, with Ed at her side. Three days later, he departed for the Northern States Mission. Lauretta's elder sister accompanied him on the train to Salt Lake City where he was sealed to Lauretta with her sister acting as proxy.

Ed enjoyed his mission experience, both in Chicago, the mission headquarters, and in Michigan, where he spent most of his time laboring in Detroit, Jackson, and Battle Creek. Together with several other elders, he was able to travel with a Methodist group on a steamboat excursion to Niagara Falls. (Characteristically, the report of this trip in his journal included detailed information on the boat, which had been built in Wyandott, Michigan, in 1902, had a gross weight of 3,077 tons, 310 staterooms, 1,000 first-class cabins, and a total capacity of 2,500 passengers. He also calculated that he spent a total of $484.30 on his mission, traveled 5,332 miles by steam railroad, 575 miles by electric railroad, and 520 miles by water.)

In order to finance his mission, Ed had to sell his team and wagon and one of his farms. Upon his return home, his father gave him another team. Soon he was once again building up his assets, farming, picking up extra work where possible, and courting Lauretta Wakefield's younger sister Grace, whom he married on February 3, 1905. While herding cattle at the mouth of Miller Creek Canyon in the summer of 1905, he was invited to dinner at a nearby sheep camp, where the proprietor proposed that Ed and his father join with him in buying the state school section where the camp was located. Ed was interested, but his father could not see the point of buying and paying taxes on grazing land that they were now using free of charge. Three years later, this property became the site of the Hiawatha coal mine, which for fifty years was one of Utah's most productive mines. Ed, though never much of a speculator, always regarded this as an opportunity missed.

Grace bore a daughter, Lauretta Fawn, in 1905, a son, Merlin Glen, in 1909, and another son, Elmo G, in 1914. Ed erected a three-room brick home on his "Millside Farm" in 1908 and added an additional four rooms two years later. In addition to running his farm and livestock during these years, he served as secretary-treasurer and chief engineer of the steam-operated threshing machine company, served as Huntington town clerk, supervised the county roads, served as census taker (at five dollars a day, "which was good pay for that time"), became a partner in a sawmill, and won the contract to install a culinary water system in Huntington. He was one of the organizers of a bank established

in Huntington in 1913 and served as cashier for two years. In addition to all this, he also served for ten years as a counselor in the bishopric of the Huntington LDS Ward. When the Emery County School District was created in 1915, Ed was appointed as a member of the board of education. During his term of office, the district built two new high schools and three elementary schools, with Ed having primary responsibility for the construction financial accounts. In 1917, he became the secretary-treasurer of the Huntington Canal and Reservoir Association, a position he held for almost forty years. And this is only a partial list of his civic responsibilities. In 1919, he acquired a general merchandise store that he operated for twenty years.

There is a photograph of Edward Long Geary taken in 1909 or 1910 that shows him seated near the porch of his home, holding a great-nephew on his lap. He is a man in his mid-fifties at the height of his powers, full-fleshed, with a large head and full beard, prosperous and secure. Photos a decade or so later scarcely seem to be of the same person. He is drawn and angular, somehow diminished, his eyes, damaged by years of exposure to threshing chaff, hidden behind dark glasses. This is the man I remember from my earliest childhood, sitting silent in my grandparents' front room on one of his infrequent visits from his home in Salt Lake City. His fine house in Huntington had burned down in 1916. He sold off his assets and moved to Provo with Aunt Bell, whose health had broken down. After her death the following year, he relocated to Salt Lake where he married a woman thirty years his junior. "Aunt Pearl" had a reputation in the family as a termagant, and she probably received as little satisfaction from the marriage as she gave. Edward Long lost most of his money in bad mining investments and spent his last years managing an apartment house on the lower Avenues. Still, he kept working to the end, suffering a fatal heart attack at the age of eighty-nine in a hardware store where he had gone to buy a part for a leaky faucet.

Edward George lived out his life as a kind of Old Testament patriarch, very much the dominant figure in his family. Fawn and her husband, Ray McCandless, after spending the early years of their marriage in the Spring Canyon coal camps, settled during World War II in a house across the street from her parents' home. Elmo and his wife Estella built a house just through the orchard on a portion of the Millside Farm. Merlin got the farthest away—almost a mile distant in the middle of town. Ed issued orders to his sons and grandsons to report for duty for the roundup or branding time or the hay or grain harvest. (He always paid the grandsons for their time, formally writing out a check in his big checkbook at the drop-top desk in the dining room.) Family gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas were always held at our grandparents' home. Grace loved to have a full house and enjoyed the bustle of four women working together in the kitchen. Ed disliked crowds and stayed out of the house until dinner was ready, puttering in the barn or toolshed or packing eggs in the cellar. Then he would assume his presiding place at the head of the big mahogany table, seated in a curved, black captain's chair, and formally offer a blessing on the food.

After dinner, when things had quieted down and the women were in the kitchen washing the dishes, the grandchildren would gather at Grandpa's feet and request a "freight road story." He would scratch his bald head and then launch into a tale from the most

adventurous time in his life, half a century earlier. He seldom spoke at length to us on other occasions. Working with Grandpa was a mostly silent business. He seldom issued instructions, expecting you to see what needed to be done and do it. Then if you did it wrong he would tell you what you should have done. But occasionally, during moments of enforced leisure, he would become reflective. I remember once when we were sacking grain in the Middle Field, as we waited for the combine to make its rounds and fill its hopper, he told me about the death of his young stepmother. He had been sent to this field to get the horses to take her to the doctor, when a neighbor arrived to tell him there was no need. She was dead. On another quiet moment in the fields he recounted the story of their arrival in Huntington and his mother weeping all the way from Four Mile Hill.

In his late years, Fawn and Ray took him to St. Johns, Arizona, following the route he had traveled in 1883. They were amazed at the accurate, detailed knowledge he had retained of the landscape through which he had traveled as a five-year-old child. They also took him back to Nine Mile Canyon for the first time in many years, and he was able to show them where he had written his name in axle grease on the canyon wall in 1895.

Ed suffered from heart failure at the end and spent most of his days seated by an oxygen tank in his front room. The farms had been formally divided among the three children, but Grandpa could not let go. If he thought something was not being done right he would force himself to his feet and shuffle out to the field, usually with his worn shovel over his shoulder. One incident remains vivid in my mind. I had been raking hay all day and had repeated breakdowns of the rake. I had an engagement in the evening, and finally in disgust, I drove the tractor into the farmyard, slammed it to a halt, jumped off and started for home up the orchard path. When I heard the familiar creak of the barnyard gate, I turned around and saw Grandpa staggering painfully toward the tractor, going out to finish the job.

1884

# Edward Long Geary

Edward Long Geary was born August 18, 1854, at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, England. He was named for a Mormon Missionary, Long, who had been there. His father and mother, Edward and Elizabeth Ann Slater Geary, both belonged to the Mormon church before they were married. John Taylor stayed at their home while laboring as a missionary in England.

When Edward Long was two or three years old (about 1856) they came to America. It took six weeks to cross the ocean in the sailing vessel. They went to Pennsylvania and the father worked there in the mines for about four years, then came to Utah. Edward remembered picking wild walnuts in Pennsylvania, and getting the black all over himself.

The Civil War was beginning when they lift Pennsylvania, and as they went into St. Louis in a train (boxcar) the engineer was fired upon. St. Louis was as far west as the railroad went. At Council Bluffs, Iowa, they uoined a company of Saints led by Captain Horn. Eighteen people were assigned to each wagon, so they had to walk most of the way. Edward L. was only six years old, but he remembered all of his life, the time when they crossed the Platte river. There they saw the first Indians. These Indians were swimming in the river.

On reaching Utah, the family went first to Bountiful, where they remained about a year. The father painted the Bountiful Church house. There were lots of swallows' nests in the cornices that he had to clean out.

The father took Edward L. over the mountain to Morgan. There had been a forest fire, and the ground burned the feet of the boy. At Morgan, he stayed for awhile with a family, while his father went back. While there, he nearly died of croup. The next fall--about 1862, the family moved to Round Valley, Morgan County. All they had was the running gears of a wagon, a few sheep, and a yoke of steers. When going up Weber Canyon, it was so cold the boy froze his toes while driving the sheep. The first winter in Round Valley was a hard one. The steers and most of the sheep died. Edward L. and his sister Annie, hauled wood on a hand sleigh from the creek bottom.

Edward got out ties for the railroad when he was fourteen.

On March 19, 1877, Edward Long Geary married Alice Criddle. They lived at Morgan, where four children were born; Edward George, May 14, 1878; William Fredrick, April 16, 1880; Mary Alice, Feb. 25, 1882, and Ernest Leroy, March 3, 1884.

In 1882 the family was called by the authorities of the church to settle St. John's Arizona, but they stayed there only one summer, as there was no land near the town, and no water. Also, the Mexicans gave them a lot of trouble.

Edward Long Geary helped build the first canal and gristmill in St. John's, and carried on these pioneering works in Emery County, where the family moved in the fall of 1884. During the first winter, they lived by the Huntington river, then got a place in town. A daughter, Maud Maryann, was born at Huntington, May 27, 1886, and the mother died, Oct. 20 that same year. The family continued to live in Huntington. In his earliest years there, Edward operated a freight line through Soldier canyon to Vernal, and was one of the first men to haul materials for building Fort Duchesne.

On March 13, 1889, he married Ann L. Guymon. She died the next year, and he later married Isabella Walker Wybie.

Edward Long Geary was always noted as a builder and a leader. He was always a good "Boss" where men were working. He was foreman when the Huntington Reservoir was built. At one time he was the heaviest tax payer in the community. He was one of the incorporators of the Huntington Canal and Agricultural Company. He served as director of the company for several years, also on the town board several terms. He was a lover of good horses, and always drove the horses on the band wagon on the Fourth of July. He and others brought in Huntington's first horse-power threshing and the first steam thresther, and operated a sawmill with his farming interests. He helped launch Huntington's first water pipe system about 1910, and was a pioneer in farm drainage operations. He imported the first purebred Durham cattle, Percheron, Clydesdale and Belgian horses; he and associated bringing one from Belgium at a cost of $4,000.

In 1915, he moved to Provo, and to Salt Lake a few years later, operating apartment houses there until he died. He was at a store purchasing material to make repairs, whey stricken with a heart attack, Oct. 10, 1941, and died within the hour. He was buried at Huntington, Utah.

# *Authors tell of writing experiences*

by ELIZABETH HANSON
Staff writer

Thinking of writing a book? "Keep your eye on a star and forge ahead," encouraged Owen McClenahan at Meet the Authors Night. "All it costs is money and time but look at the heritage you leave your family."

Owen wrote his book because he felt he had to share the majesty and spiritual beauty of the San Rafael, which, good or bad, has been like a tranquilizer to him.

With the help of his talented wife, Jane, he got the rocks out of his pocket and head and into a volume so popular the first 2,000 copies sold out fast and another printing has been made. Mark Williams contributed his photography to the book.

Keith Wright put up with a few rejection slips getting his first book, "Judgment Day at Copper Globe," printed. "You send your life and blood and some kind of a machine in the office stuffs it in a return envelope along with a rejection slip. I finally got Tower Publishing interested and they advanced $1,000. I was in no position to argue." They printed his book on mass market paperback, not much better than newsprint, charging the public $1.75 per copy. He figured

writer's discount, he was told they were sold out and would have to reprint. So far, no news.

"Greasewood Greens" fared better because he sent camera ready copy and it has proved a popular book.

"I can't remember when I didn't want to write. I used to think one was born with the ability and need only sit down and write story after story to be published in magazines. As an adult, I realized writing is hard work. In the Army I carried a notebook to record important things I wanted for myself. The first was a typewriter and the second a motorcycle." He got the typewriter 25 years after the motorcycle.

"Poplarhaven" required a little remembering and a little lying, but it was given to me as a gift by a lot of past influences," admitted Edward Geary. "I have become aware we really have quite extraordinary historical resources here. I use history to get the wholeness of living human beings under different circumstances in a community. The past is a foreign country, but you can cross the border and gain great values."

Edward said he had admired Kent Powell's work for a long while and would like to steal some research for novelistic

Emery County authors met recently to discuss their writing projects with local residents. Participating were, left to right, Dr. Edward Geary, Dr. A. Kent Powell, Keith Wright and Owen McClenahan. The program was sponsored by the Emery County Historical Society.

Photo by Elizabeth Hanson

Emery County men worked in Carbon mines. Farmers took produce there. A likely place to recruit men to break strikers appeared to be Emery County. He remembered going with his father to pick up his paycheck at Hiawatha, hearing the talk about injustices in coal mines and soaking up influences that jelled into research for his book, "The Next Time We Strike."

cidents and emotions to his account.

Kent found newspapers a rich source of stories. He interviewed a National Guardsman brought to the scene of the strike in 1903. He flew to Washington D.C. for a two-day fling at the archives of the United Mine Workers.

Glimpses into the background of each respected and ap-

Clenahan, her husband; and Dennis Nelson, Keith Wright.

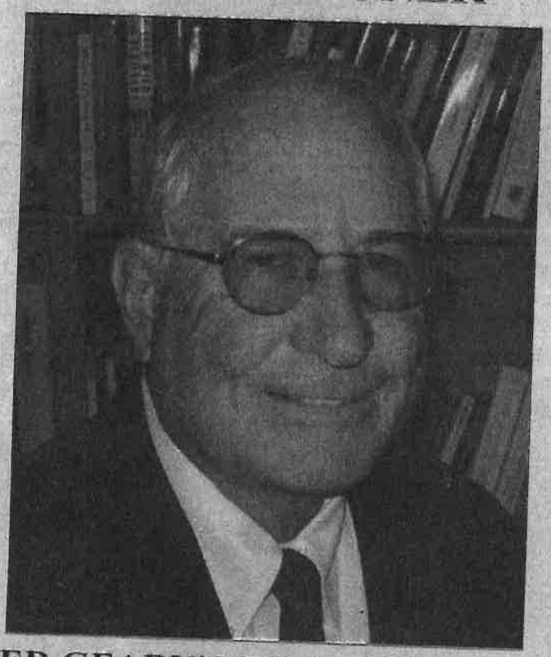
During his years as educator at Emery High and Green River, Keith directed Shakespearean plays of high quality and was an excellent teacher, said Superintendent Nelson.

The academic backgrounds of all four native born authors accented the fact that a college

Montell Seeley and Lavora Kofford. While enough materials have been gathered to fill another volume or two, the past compilers are still recovering and probably cringing at the thoughts of tackling a similar project.

The Gardner Brothers, Van Burke, Lamont, Dee and Kendall brightened the scene with three songs. "The Old

# EDWARD GEARY
## FOR EMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONER



## ED GEARY'S THOUGHTS ON PUBLIC SERVICE

### *OUR HERITAGE*

On the second floor of the county office building you will find a gallery of photographs representing more than 100 men and women who have served as county commissioners (or, during the territorial period from 1880 to 1896, in the predecessor offices of probate judge and selectmen). The earliest photos depict sturdy, stern-faced pioneers who interrupted their physical labors in taming a wilderness in order to establish the institutions of local government on a firm foundation. Through the succeeding generations, the facial expressions, clothing, and hair and beard styles change, but there remains an impression of serious-minded citizens, committed, not to their personal advantage, but to serving the people. This tradition of citizen-public servants is a proud part of our heritage, a tradition we hope will long continue.

### *THE COUNTY COMMISSION*

The commission form of government is distinctive in that the commissioners exercise both executive and legislative functions, powers that are separated in most other American governmental structures. The "checks and balances" required to limit government power are achieved in a different way in the commission system. The commissioners are all equal in authority, and this equality provides an internal check on the exercise of power. At least two of the three commissioners must agree before they can take any action. More commonly, all three will work together toward a consensus on important matters. When policy differences do occur, they are frankly acknowledged and transparent to the public.

Some counties have abandoned the commission form of government in favor of a mayor-council or other form, but I believe the commission has served Emery County well. It provides for three executive/legislative officers who represent all of the citizens, who are jointly responsible for policy decisions, and who are in a position to check one another's errors or excesses. I am running for county commissioner because I value our heritage and wish to join the large company of those who have served over the last 130 years.

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# Ed Geary receives national award from history group

Edward Geary accepts a national history award for his book *Proper Edge of the Sky.*

Estella Guymon recalls Edward's youthful experiences in Huntington. Photos by Larry Davis

**By Larry W. Davis**
*Progress editor*

CASTLE DALE- Family and friends of Edward Geary, author and professor, honored the Emery County native at an awards program sponsored by the Emery County Historical Society Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Museum of the San Rafael.

At the program, Mr. Geary, a native of Huntington, was presented an award by the American Association for State and Local History in honor of his book *Proper Edge of the Sky.* The award was presented by Kent Powell, also an Emery County native who is now with the Utah State Historical Society.

In accepting the award, Mr. Geary noted that he felt a mixture of enjoyment and anxiety. "This is an immense honor, and I'm delighted that the Emery County Historical Society has devoted one of its precious meetings to this honor," he said.

Mr. Geary said that it was while growing up in Emery County that he first began to discover that "time fits in with time and place with place," adding that that discovery became his passion for writing. "That's all I really care to write about, and it's almost inexhaustible." He said that the things that one writes about are those things that one loves.

Over the years, the author said that he has discovered some of the reality of the world that he knew first, and that he has discovered how many of the great authors have found universal meaning in places they know well. It is that kind of realization that led to his popular books, *Goodbye To Poplarhaven* and *Proper Edge of the Sky.*

"My life's goal," Mr. Geary said, "is to eventually try to understand where I started." He pointed out that everything seems to get involved with everything else, and that being with people who share a common love of history is a great pleasure. "Thanks for all you've done and all you've been," he said in conclusion.

In making the presentation of the award, Mr. Powell said the American Association for State and Local History seeks to recognize accomplishments of historians. Nominees must go through a difficult and long process of review beginning on a state level and then advancing to a regional level. The awards represent the top 100 history projects in the United States. "These awards are not given without merit," Mr. Powell said.

Mr. Powell read from the author's *Proper Edge of the Sky* and noted that the author's words "capture the history in a way that remarkable." He called the book, "local history at its best."

Also speaking at the program was Ed Geary's mother, Estella Guymon, who said that her son grew up an avid reader. In 1979 he read an article in the newspaper about how rural Utah students were being deprived of a proper education. Mr. Geary responded to the article, and Mrs. Guymon read from the article at the program.

In part, Mr. Geary recalled in the article his experiences in growing up in a small town and going to a rural school. He wrote that the first day of school was like "a fresh start in life" and that he didn't feel "deprived" as a student.

Mrs. Guymon also noted that her son loved the stories of his grandfather and grandmother. "Each time a story was told it was like a whole new experience for him," she said.

He also enjoyed long walks and exploring, she said, noting that he spent much of his youth at places like Rowley Flat, along the canal banks and at Sandberg Hill. As a young writer his stories were published in the *Deseret News Newsette,* a monthly publication featuring the writing of Utah's youth. He also went to a young writers convention in Chicago with his father where they stayed with a host family. While there they were treated to a World Series game.

According to Mrs. Guymon, her son's writing continued while he studied at BYU. While there he wrote a column in the school newspaper titled "Campus Capers." Later he attended Stanford on a teaching fellowship and, along with other students, created the publication *Dialogue- A Journal of Mormon Thought.* While teaching at BYU, Mr. Geary continued

*(Continued on Page 5A)*

# County seeks input on wilderness issue

# Edward Geary

*(Continued from Page 1A)*

to publish stories in the *Deseret News*, and in 1985 he published a collection of many of those stories in *Goodbye to Poplarhaven*. His influence in literature led to his appointment to the Utah Arts Council by Gov. Bangerter where he was over the literature division.

One of Mr. Geary's teachers at North Emery was Jane McClenahan who also spoke at the program. The retired teacher said that when teachers teach, their students become a part of them. One of those memorable students for Mrs. McClenahan was Edward Geary. She said he was involved in many activities and clubs at North Emery and that he served as editor of the school paper and yearbook. As his yearbook advisor, she said that she relied on him to take charge of all aspects of the publication and that he put in many hours of work and dedication in getting the job done.

The theme of the 1956 North Emery Yearbook was "Faces," and the editor used a combination of line drawings and poetry to explore that theme. Mrs. McClenahan brought a copy of the yearbook to the program and read Mr. Geary's closing statement. "He has a special ability to put things in words that we all think but can't express ourselves," she said of her former student.

The program was under the direction of the Emery County Historical Society and its president, Vernell Rowley. Guest entertainment was provided by the Huntington Glee Club, and the Colors were presented by Boy Scout Troop 306 of the Castle Dale First Ward.

Kent Powell, left, representing the Utah Historical Society, presents Edward Geary with a national award honoring him for his historical perspective in the book *Proper Edge of the Sky*.

Members of the Huntington Glee Club perform recently at the Emery County Historical Society meeting at the Museum of the San Rafael. In the meeting, Ed Geary noted that the organization is right up there with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in longevity.

## Savage Industries buys two coal loadout facilities

SALT LAKE CITY- Savage Industries Inc. of Salt Lake City has announced the opening of two new coal terminals in Utah and Michigan.

In September, Savage acquired the CV Spur storage and railcar loading facility from Mountain Coal Company, an affiliate of ARCO Coal Company. It is located in Carbon County near Price on the Southern Pacific Railroad. The facility was renamed the Savage Coal Terminal (SCT). SCT can load up to 115 car unit-trains in less than three hours and 84 car unit-trains in less than two hours. The facility can also receive at least three different qualities of coal simultaneously, and it has ample storage capacity for several customers.

## Bulletin board

*(Continued from Page 3A)*

**HEAT**

The Home Energy Assistance Target Program has funds available. The program is designed to assist eligible households with a one time only payment during the entire 1994-95 heating season ending March 31. If you think you might be eligible for assistance and want to make an

**Benefit**

There will be a dance and auction to benefit Richard Oveson's transplant fund on Feb. 18 from 7 to midnight at the Cleveland Elementary School. The dance will feature the Oak Creek Band. Price is $3 per person or $5 per couple. An auction will start at 8 p.m. with many handmade locally donated items, such as quilts, afghans and ceramics. There

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