

Oscar Whiting Home

614 North 300 West
Mapleton, Utah



The Oscar Whiting home was built on the Mapleton Tithing lot where a building known as the Tithing Office had been constructed. It had been used by the early pioneers when tithing was paid “in kind”. The vegetables, fruit, meat, wheat, etc. were stored and used as needed by any of the “needy” of that area. Oscar bought the lot from the L.D.S. Church, the location now being on 600 North and 300 West. Loren Nielson, then Bishop of Mapleton Ward, was hired as the builder and contractor to the home as it now stands. It was begun in the summer of 1929, and the Whiting family moved into it in October of that year. Oscar had married Mary Sullivan on January 23, 1918. Previously he had served an L.D.S. mission in Virginia, where he had met Mary. Mary was expecting her sixth child when the move into their new home was made. “Virginia” was born on October 14; a few days after the move took place. The house plan was quite revolutionary and Bishop Nielson was very happy with it. This same year, 1929, was the first for “city water” in Mapleton, so Oscar’s home was one of the first connected to it. In anticipation of a new life of luxury, facilities such as a septic tank, cesspool, and field drains were completed. Of course these included a bathroom, kitchen sink, as well as laundry accommodations in the basement. They were now a family of eight. Oscar and Mary’s oldest child was Thora, with Ray being next, then Juan, Gary, Joyce, and now baby Virginia. The newly purchased land offered a great garden spot and areas for flowers and shrubs. The Whiting family became quite famous for their beautiful yard surrounding such a lovely new home. The children were delighted to live near the Mapleton Elementary School.

On August 12, 1932, Oscar was raking hay in the “Mendenhall field”. Son, Ray, a 12 year old, was mowing hay with horses, of course – no tractors in those days – when a horsefly bothered the animals. Ray stopped the horses and walked out on the tongue of the mower to knock off this big fly, and when he did so the horses became frightened and started the mower moving ahead. Ray had not put the machine out of gear so he fell forward in front of the blade. Both arms were severely cut. The left one below the elbow about one-third the way through and the right one was cut above the elbow all the way through the bone. Oscar realized something had happened and screamed at this nephew, Quin Whiting, who was working nearby. Oscar and Quin took Ray down to Dr. George Anderson in Springville. The ward fasted and prayed in Ray’s behalf to save his arms. Through a miracle and the wisdom and knowledge of a great doctor, Ray’s arms were saved. He has had some limited use of his arms, particularly the right one, but has been very active in community elections and church assignments. His occupation has been that of a farmer and sheep owner and he has reared a beautiful family after he graduated from college. Mary bore another daughter, Marilyn, on October 18 – the same year as Ray’s accident. Education and missions were the aims of the parents for these seven children, six of them having fulfilled missions and graduated from college. These children are grateful to parents who were so diligent. They pay tribute to Oscar, who has passed away, and to their mother, Mary, who is still living at age 101 ½ years (October 1989) for the heritage given to them. The home is now owned by John Allan, who is the grandson of Oscar Whiting.

Researched and Written by Helen Wiscombe