



**Emigration  
Canyon  
Websites**

Welcome  
News  
Contacts  
Meetings  
Documents  
Newsletters  
Links

## **Emigration Canyon Community Council (ECCC)**

### Emigration Canyon Community Council Newsletter

August, 2000

#### **About the Community Council and This Newsletter**

To reduce mailing costs the Emigration Canyon Community Council (ECCC) have teamed up with the Emigration Improvement District to send the newsletters jointly. However, the organizations are distinct, with separate purposes, officers, and bylaws. Here is a brief description of the Community Council, contributed by Tammy Hines, the ECCC chair:

Emigration Canyon Community Council is made up of 12 residents who are willing to volunteer time to serve the Canyon. Each member is elected by registered voters in the canyon to serve a two-year term. The Emigration Canyon Community Council charter, as specified in the bylaws, is as follows:

"The purpose of the Council is to formulate and present recommendations to the County Commission, Planning Commission and other city, county, state and federal agencies concerning actions which affect the property owners and residents within the Council District and to take any other action which will be for the benefit and welfare of the residents and property owners within the Council District".

#### **Community Council Elections in November**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the general elections at Camp Kostopulos, Community Council elections will be held. There are 12 positions on the Council, and all seats are held for 2 year terms (the last election was November 1998).

Any canyon resident over 18 can run for office. If you wish to be on the ballot, please contact Tammy Hines or Mike Giddings, and prepare a short candidate statement (limit 120 words) for submission to the next newsletter and the web site. You can also e-mail submissions to [giddings@emigrationcanyon.org](mailto:giddings@emigrationcanyon.org).

If you have an interest in canyon affairs, this is a good way to have your voice heard. Though we do not make laws or policy, well considered input by the Community Council to law-makers in the County is often taken seriously. Plus it is a great opportunity to find out what is going on around the canyon and to get to know your neighbors.

#### **Status of Newsletter, Web Site, and E-Mail**

You may have noticed that the ECCC newsletter has not been published for some time. Newsletter production is a time consuming task. The current editor is trying to avoid writing the whole newsletter single-handedly, and written contributions are often slow in coming. We welcome contributions from residents. Articles on canyon issues or letters to the editor with your opinions of canyon affairs are encouraged. Send submissions to [newsletter@emigrationcanyon.org](mailto:newsletter@emigrationcanyon.org), or contact Mike Giddings.

Another reason newsletter publication has been delayed is that the Community Council wants to move towards internet publication to reduce costs, labor, and improve publication speed. We realize that not all residents have access to the internet. We are working towards a model where the newsletter will be available both on the web and in print at certain distribution points in the canyon. Then we plan send a postcard and/or e-mail to inform people when a new issue is available. In the meantime, we've decided to send a newsletter out in the traditional format because elections are coming soon, and it is critical that residents are aware of this important upcoming event.

#### **Random Notes**

By Michael Giddings

A lot has gone on since the last newsletter, so here is a brief summary of some issues, taken from memory (therefore, no promises about accuracy). Cellular phone service is coming to the canyon, with new towers slated for Little Mountain summit. We are not sure of the timing. The "Final" Emigration Oaks expansion has begun, and much of the new expansion can be seen from Little Mountain, or on a hike up Freeze Creek (they have completely blocked the hiking trail there with a huge dirt embankment). The issue of a secondary access to/from the Oaks remains contentious, and a few of the residents in the Oaks filed suit against the county to try to gain a second access due to fire safety concerns. On the other side of the issue is where to put an access — there are no ideal solutions. The EID is looking for additional water resources for Emigration Oaks, and possibly residents of Killyon Canyon. There has been increased ORV use in the canyon, which has residents concerned. Efforts are underway to restrict access. The pace of building in the canyon has not slowed, and in the not too distant future we will be at the limit of our water supply (around 700 residences by most estimates). This has been a bad fire season, but so far the canyon has been fortunate and avoided problems. Which moves us on to the next topic...

## **Water-wise gardening in a fire-prone canyon**

***Contributor: Barbara Bentley, Ph.D.***

Now that the hills are starting to lose their blush of spring green, residents of the Canyon might very well start worrying about wild fire. And this worry is not unjustified. Fire is a natural phenomenon here in the West, and the long history of fire suppression along the Wasatch Front has resulted in a build-up of dry fuel, ready to carry intensive flames to our very doorsteps.

Yet we also live in a desert environment, where water is an increasingly scarce resource -- the very thing that could be most effective in reducing fire danger is also the very thing that is in increasingly short supply. Although fires are less likely to start or spread in moist vegetation, clearly we are not likely to be watering the hillsides to reduce the fire danger! And, quite frankly, we should not be planting water-guzzling gardens just to reduce fire danger.

Is there a way out of this dilemma? Yes! Despite the increase threat of fire during the summer, there are plenty of actions that can be taken to reduce the risk to our lives and property --- the easiest of which is to plant gardens around our homes that are both fire resistant and water wise. In the publication "Living with Fire", the Great Basin Fire Prevention Organization provides tips for use in the "defensible space" around your home. Here are some of them:

Chose "fire smart" plant species. These are plants that remain green through the summer. Such plants include ash & oaks (trees); barberry, hibiscus, three lobe sumac, wood rose (shrubs); and snow-in-summer, daylilies, flax, and red-hot poker (perennials)

Avoid junipers, pines, and other trees or shrubs containing oils and resins that make the plants burn with great intensity.

Use an efficient drip irrigation system to help keep the plants green during the driest months.

Include fuel breaks in the garden design --- driveways, walkways, patios, water features, and areas with inorganic mulches all can reduce fuel loads, and even boulders and rocks can be fire retardant elements in a design.

Fire-wise/water-wise landscaping can be beautiful, environmentally sensitive, and protect property. Let's make Emigration Canyon a model of such wisdom.

## **Please Contribute or Volunteer!**

The Emigration Canyon Community Council needs *you!* There are many ways you can contribute. Monetary contributions go towards producing and mailing the newsletter and the web site. Much of our budget comes from residents' contributions. Time is also a very valuable commodity. Volunteers are always welcome. You can run for office. or if you

don't have the time, volunteer to work on a specific issue. Or volunteer to help with the newsletter. If there is an issue you feel is important and would like to pursue, we would like to hear from you.

## **Historical Note: The Canyon's First Resident?**

***By Jeff Carlstrom of the Emigration Canyon Historical Society***

Sometimes this history project makes me feel like a detective. I've spent a lot of time searching for missing persons. Much of the detective work begins as a reasonable question. Such as: Who was Emigration Canyon's first resident? The answer wasn't as obvious as I had hoped. It came (and it's still coming) in small pieces, pieces that are parts of different stories altogether.

One of the goals of this project is to find the origins of the names we find in the canyon. This is another job that hasn't been as easy as we thought. For example, Pinecrest is at the top of Burr Fork. Does anyone know where the name Burr Fork came from? I for one am stumped. I'm surprised that such a major canyon name can be forgotten in a few short decades.

Killyon Canyon is another puzzle. Also called Killyons Fork or the Killyon Road, we all just assumed it was named after "some guy named Killyon." Whoever he is, he left his name on a beautiful part of the canyon. A fairly easy hike takes us to the pass overlooking Affleck Park at Big Mountain. Old timers remember when it was possible to drive a vehicle up there, and indeed the current map of the canyon shows a substantial "jeep trail" all the way over the pass.

We've spoken with members of the Bertagnole family, who remember Killyon Canyon from way back. The family has been herding sheep since 1906 or so. They were told that the Killyon Road was an old Pioneer Road. This was pretty much all we knew for a long time, until more stories helped us out.

Two of the many important historical events that had to be researched for the canyon history are the handcart migrations and the Utah War. These events happened within a year of each other (1856 and 1857). The locals used Emigration Canyon to carry people, supplies, and information back and forth to Wyoming. Many of these locals kept journals. More than one tell us that Emigration Canyon had a settler during those years. His name was John Killian. He kept a "ranch" about five miles up the canyon. Not only that, he had built a new road over to Big Mountain. Bingo.

We still didn't know who he was or why he was here. And so our research continued.

When the pioneers first settled the valley in 1847 they had to gain access to some important resources right away. Water, of course, and soon after that, timber and rock. Emigration Canyon, along with City Creek and Red Butte, were accessible sources of such resources. Here we find John Killian once again. He was granted timber rights to upper Emigration Canyon in 1854. Bingo.

Now things are starting to take shape. Killian would need a road into the high country where the best timber lives, and he was allowed to charge a toll for use of his road. That road must have started where the Mormon Trail leaves the canyon bottom for Little Mountain — about five miles up canyon. We also know that a large lumber mill was built at the base of Big Mountain in the 1860s. But Killian didn't run the lumber mill, Appleton Milo Harmon did. What gives? Well, we found John Killian's obituary — he died in 1858.

An earlier timber grant was awarded Daniel H. Wells (1852). Wells was an important figure who made quite a name for himself developing the timber mills in the Cottonwood Canyons. He was to become the General of the Mormon Militia and mayor of Salt Lake City. In his canyon grant, D.H. Wells instructs people who are in need of timber to contact "John Killman, who resides in the canyon." Could they have misspelled his name here? We find no evidence of a John Killman in any record. Bingo?

Not too long ago, Cindy Furse created a Web Page for the Emigration Canyon Historical Society. One of her first "hits" was from a student interested in his family history, and he

wondered if we had ever heard of his ancestor, John Killian. Bingo.

We now know that John Killian was a notable figure from the days in Nauvoo. He was a captain in the Caldwell County Militia during the vigilante days of Haun's Mill. He was said to have been sent to Emigration Canyon as part of the "Silver Grays" who were protecting the roads into the valley from invasion. His family did not know about his timber grant, but they were able to tell us of Killian's ties with the Nauvoo Legion and D.H. Wells.

At the risk of being too liberal in connecting the dots of history, I'll admit to a mental image of John Killian living out his waning years comfortably at his ranch in Emigration Canyon. A respected patriarch. A wise and watchful protector. And yes, our canyon's first resident.

### **Another Historical Note**

On October 25, 1852, a canyon grant for "emigration kanyon" was awarded to Daniel H. Wells, granting "exclusive control of the canyon for opening a road to the public, toll authorized." Wells was a busy man, having just come from building a ferry on the Green River that same spring.

Territory of Utah, Great Salt Lake County

County Court, October 25, 1852

*The County Court of Great Salt Lake County on the petition of D.H. Wells for the exclusive control, and privilege of the wood, timber, lumber, poles, grass, stone, road and water, of the kanyon commonly known as emigration kanyon, including the entire control and privilege of said kanyon, and its tributaries to the summit of the outer-side ridge of the same from and above a certain point known as the point where present emigration road terminates in said kanyon, and turns off to pass over the mountain. Be it ordered by this Court That the said D.H. Wells have the exclusive control of the aforesaid kanyon, and that he make a good wagon road, and keep it in repair; also keep the same open to the public, for the purpose of hauling out wood and poles by paying him twenty-five cents per load for each load of wood and poles hauled out of said kanyon.*

*In connection with the foregoing, I wish to observe that arrangements are now making to construct a good road into the aforesaid kanyon, and that all persons are expected to desist from hauling out wood, poles or timber unless previous arrangements are made with John Killman, who is living in the kanyon, or the subscriber in this city.*

D.H. Wells left on a three-year mission at Green River Ferry the very next year. He was to find great success in later years operating the famous and lucrative mills in Big Cottonwood Canyon. By 1856, he was running Mill E and Mill F for the Big Cottonwood Lumber Co (under Brigham Young) .

### **Emigration Canyon Community Council**

Tammy Hines, Chair 582-3456

Michael Giddings, Co-Chair 582-6113

A list of all other council members and their contact information will be posted to the web site soon (<http://www.emigrationcanyon.org>).

You can also e-mail the council: [council@emigrationcanyon.org](mailto:council@emigrationcanyon.org)

Very soon we will have an e-mail server set up for canyon announcements. This will be a good way to rapidly disseminate up to the minute news. Stay tuned to the web site for subscription information.