

# WINES PARK

**Constructed: 1909**

**Address: 500-600 North Center**

**Present owner: Lehi City Corporation**

On 7 January 1908, Margaret Taylor Wines died in Palo Alto, California. Her husband, prominent Lehi businessman Ira D. Wines--who had earlier achieved fame as a Pony Express rider and Overland Stage driver--desired to build a lasting memorial in honor of his wife. On April 1908 he met with the Lehi City Council and offered to donate an entire block of his property to the community provided it become Margaret Wines Park, and that it be landscaped and well-maintained.

City officials accepted Wine's offer and began in earnest to meet his specifications. The landscaping design of Nicholas Byhower was accepted. He selected thirty-eight varieties of trees and a number of shrubs.

In the earliest years, a wooden bandstand was erected in the center of the park. This was replaced in 1940 by a bi-level, cement bandstand with restrooms. Many pleasant summer "concerts under the stars" were enjoyed by music lovers before this facility was demolished in 1966 and replaced by new \$3,000 rest rooms. The Athenian Club, a local literary group, erected a rock-masonry drinking fountain in 1936 which is still standing.

To the delight of Lehi children, the city and other local organizations combined to develop a playground in the northeast corner of the park during the late 1930s. Initially this consisted of a slippery slide, swings, and tricky bars. Over the years, various clubs and organizations have added to and improved this playground. In the spring of 1997, a new, modern playground was developed in the park.

In the spring of 1950, the Lehi Garden Club planted a "Centennial Rose Garden" which included 458 plants. This was later removed, however, and the area sodded with grass. To accommodate picnics and barbeques, twin fireplaces

and two large tables were installed on a raised cement platform in the northwest corner of the park in 1952.

In 1959, a large concrete platform, which could accommodate six picnic tables, was constructed in the southeast corner of the park by the Lehi Jaycees. Since that time, small picnic areas have been constructed in the northeast and southwest corners.

Beginning in 1958, a Community Carnival was held annually in Wines Park. In the earliest years this festivity was used as a fundraiser for constructing the Hutchings Museum. Once this worthy project was completed, the carnival was utilized for a variety of causes. A typical year was 1978, when the event included a pet show, a freckle contest, old-time races, a boxing event, a greased-pole climb, and an auction. concession stands included hot dogs, Sloppy Joes, punch, and cake. An all-day bake sale provided “mouth-watering goodies, homemade candy, jams and jellies.” Other attractions were a rummage sale, a fish pond, a dart throw, a basketball shoot, and even a gypsy fortune teller. An obstacle course assessed athletic ability and a nail-driving contest tested strong arms. The pony ride was a popular feature. In addition, a professional dog groomer was there to spruce up pets. For shaggy humans, haircuts were available in a “Tonsorial Parlor.” Recently the community carnival in Wines Park has become a traditional part of the Lehi Roundup weekend.

From the very beginning, Wines Park has captured the fancy of almost everyone. Its location is convenient, its facilities functional, and its verdant lawns and abundant shade trees a welcome respite from sweltering, summer days. Thousands of memorable reunions and picnics have been held there. Band concerts, carnivals, weddings, Boy Scout functions chuck wagon breakfasts, and children’s story hours are well remembered. The Lehi Miniature Parade tradition got its start here, and numerous Blackhawk Encampments in the park have enriched Lehi celebrations.

Although most of these events have been structured group affairs, many people come to the park for solitude, to nap in the shade, or to walk the pathways strewn with crunchy autumn leaves. Wines Park is a wonderful living memorial not only to Margaret Wines and the generosity of her husband, but also to the vision of local politicians and townspeople.

