1959 LDS Grain Elevator Kaysville Utah

The LDS Church had established a grain elevator in Kaysville as part of the Church Welfare program. At that time there was the main office area, and a covered dumping pit, which was graded so that a dump truck could drive over it and dump the grain. The grain could then be carried by the elevators to the storage bins. There was also an area for the elevator controls so that the grain could either be taken to storage or retrieved. The grain storage bins, were located to the east. However there was a vacant space a little larger in area than the storage bin.

I will try to give a visual description of the building layout from a bird’s eye view. Each cylinder is circular with two cylinders connecting side to side then continuing for three sets

It had been determined (or it may had been planned for) that there was room for another set of six bins. From the understanding that I got, was that the Church Headquarters had contacted a construction company to erect the bins. They were told that local Stakes would supply the manual labor using volunteers from the Clearfield, Layton and Kaysville’s Stakes. The construction company said that that would be impossibly as that type of construction required trained engineers and professional labors that had been trained in that field of construction. They explained that special forms had to be constructed. These forms were floating forms that would be raised by hydraulic jacks as the concrete was poured into them. Although the construction company objected, Church authorities felt that volunteers from the Clearfield and Kaysville Stakes could do the main manual labor.

Bob Acker, a young man that had came from Canada, with Roy when Roy returned from his mission, and I volunteered to work a day shift at the mill. Bob was also staying with us while he was here visiting.

The forms were about 10 to 12 feet high. The Rebar steel had to be continually tied as the forms moved up. Also as the rebar were placed, vertical rods that hydraulic jacks moved up, lifting the forms, was placed every few feet. There was a control office in center of the forms where all the hydraulic jacks were regulated. In that control room a professional operator had to continually monitor the movement of the forms. As the forms moved up cement was continually poured into the top of the forms. The forms lifted slow enough that the cement was set enough to hold by the time the forms had lifted and the fresh concrete was exposed. The concrete now had to be smoothed by hand floats. Those assigned to work the outside of the had a pretty easy job as they set on a bench attached to the moving form and just had a area in front of them to smooth, however those selected to work the inside had very little air ventilation. The humidity and heat also made it quite uncomfortable. Those inside were to be rotated every hour.