

# Reverend Harold Brauer Ogden, Utah Ministry as depicted through newspaper items from the *Ogden Standard Examiner* 1944-1949

## Background

Ancestry.com has linked some newspaper articles to individual names that have been placed in family trees by people who use this Internet service. Ancestry.com links many other records to individuals, such as census records, marriage records, death records and obituaries, military records, etc. after someone has entered individual names into a family tree.

The information contained in this compilation resulted from a search on the name Harold Brauer and a location of Ogden, Utah. There were over 300 newspaper items from the *Ogden Standard Examiner*.

Among the items included in the chronological sequence are paid advertisements for St. Paul's Lutheran Church where he served as minister, weekly church promotions in a Saturday column called *In Our Churches*, summary news articles about Rev. Brauer's sermons, and general news articles involving occasional weddings, funerals, presentations to community groups, and other activities of note in the newspaper. There were even basketball box scores in 1947 and notes from the past well after leaving Ogden.

It is interesting that Rev. Brauer's sermon summaries appeared quite often, but such summaries were rare for other ministers. It is not known if he had a special relationship with the *Ogden Standard Examiner* or someone from the reporting staff was a member who provided extra exposure for Rev. Brauer and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The appearance of sermon summaries seemed to diminish over time.

Also, it is important to point out that ads, promotions, and other items required planning in order to get information submitted in a timely manner and to have titles and themes for sermons thought out in advance.

One must understand the context that Ogden, Utah presented. Ogden was the major east-west train route across the U.S. At the time of WWII, there were about 100 passenger trains a day passing through Ogden including troop trains. Remember, there was no air travel at that time. In addition, Ogden was a hub for WWII support efforts. Next to Ogden was Hill Air Force Base. Located in Ogden was the Ogden Defense Depot or Ogden Supply Dept. The Ogden Supply Depot had about 500,000 square feet of space, the size of about 10 WalMart stores. Just south of Ogden was the Clearfield Naval Supply Center. Thousands of people held employment in military operations and supply functions that were the major supply point for the Pacific Theater of WWII. There were women who filled the role of "Rosie Riveter." There was a broad mix of people and Ogden was one of the few cities in Utah that had more non-Mormons than Mormans. There were hundreds of prisoners of war who worked in Ogden, mainly at supply depots. There was a mix of German and Italian POWs.

After the war, there was a major reduction in civilian and military personnel. Several thousand people were laid off on the Naval Supply Center first. Slowly, other facilities ramped down. The community faced a major adjustment from its war-time role. Airlines emerged after the war and railroad travel diminished to the point where the Ogden railroad station is now a museum. After working to salvage useable military supplies following

the war, the Ogden Supply Depot was eventually dismantled and no longer exists. Only Hill Air Force Base remains as a military installation.

Looking over the newspaper components, one can gain some insights into the ministry of Rev. Brauer. At first he served St. Paul's. Then he responded in 1945 to an opportunity to start services in Layton, south of Ogden. By late 1948, the group formally organized as Trinity Lutheran Church. Later, he conducted services near the campus of Utah State University in Logan during the week. Also in Logan, he conducted a weekly, 15-minute devotion on the KVNU radio station. He recorded some in advance should he not be able to be there. Copies of those recordings are saved on CDs. Toward the end of his Utah ministry he also held services in Bountiful, closer to Salt Lake City. He maintained a challenging schedule.

Table 1 is a summary of items found through the search organized by year. Ancestry.com probably did not link all possible newspaper opportunities to Harold Brauer. The mix of items changed considerable over time.

**Table 1. Summary of Items in Ogden Standard Examiner by year.**

Year	Ads	In Our Churches	Sermon Summaries	Weddings, Funerals, etc.	General News	Other	Total Mentions
1944	2	5	2	--	2		11
1945	31	32	27	2	2	1	95
1946	39	36	15	3	9	2	104
1947	22	34	4	2	3	3	68
1948	0	22	0	2	10	1	35
1949	0	12	0	0	3	4	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>332</b>

The newspaper article (4/15/49) reporting Harold Brauer leaving Ogden and moving to Wisconsin provides a nice summary of his ministry accomplishments while in Ogden.

One major accomplishment was starting a Christian day school at St. Paul's in 1945. See the article dated 8/x/45.

It is also interesting to find the implementation of Vacation Bible School in June of 1946 (see 6/7/46 and 6/1/47). It may have been the only VBS program among the Protestant churches of Ogden.

There were three theft cases involved with the church and parsonage (3/11/46, 4/8/49, and 8/27/48).