



# Orem in Retrospect

BFA Exhibition by  
**JAY WALLACE**

To my wonderful children: Madison, Corbyn, Annika, Jenevieve, Micah, and Garrett,  
whom I have missed spending time with.

To my parents for all of their help and support  
and to my loving wife, Lara, who helped to see me through.



# E V O L U T I O N   O F   T H E   O R C H A R D S



## EVOLUTION OF THE ORCHARDS.

Intaglio 18"x24" - 12"x 18"

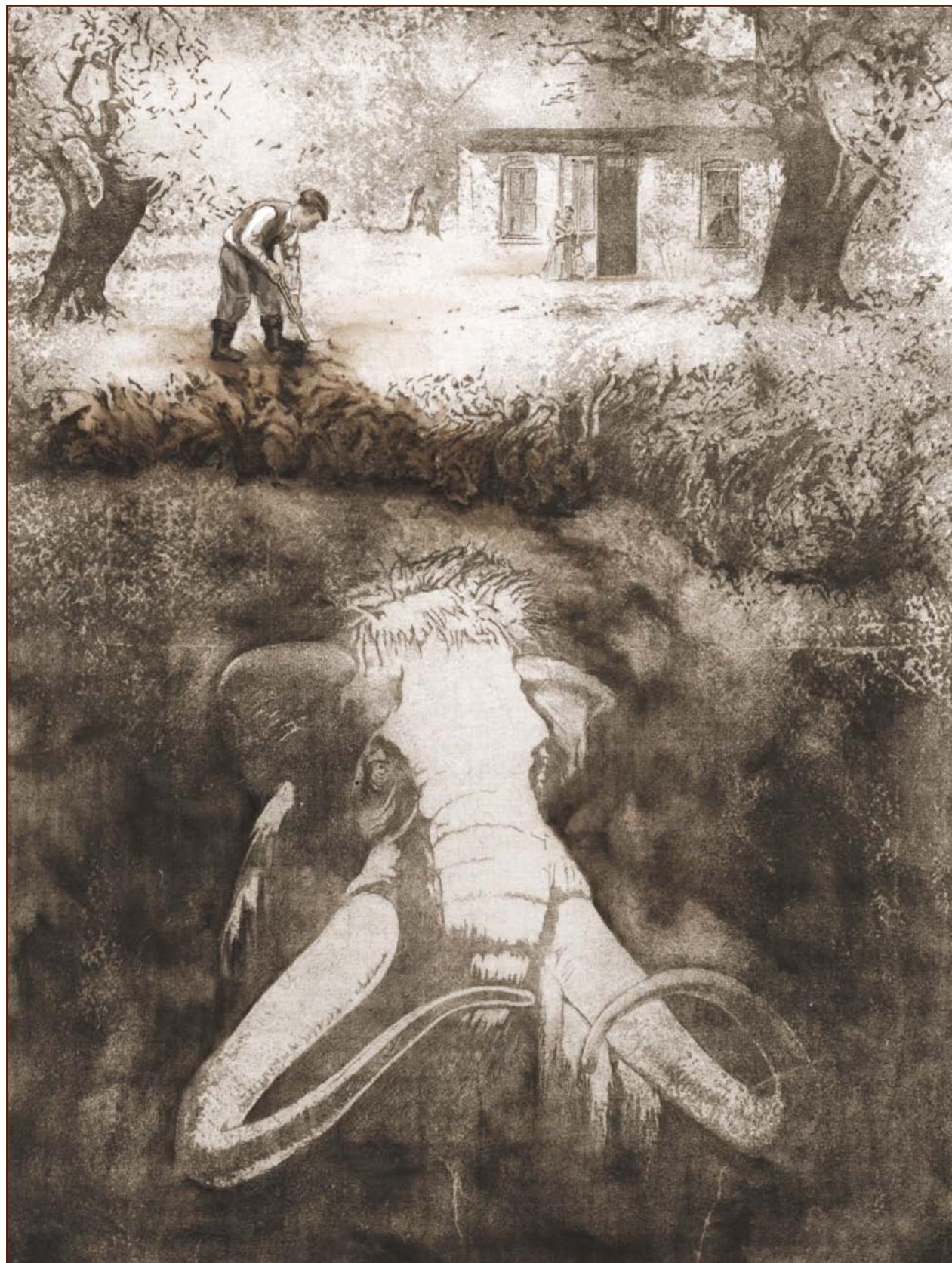
The triptich, Evolution of the Orchards was the first piece that inspired it all. Growing up on an orchard I learned the value of hard work. I lived the beauty of a place that no longer exists. Stratton's, Crandall's, Pyne's, and Gappmeyer's and various Church owned orchards surrounded my home. The orchards were my childhood playground and my escape into imagination. Fond memories of fruit stands, making apple juice, mountainous piles of pruned limbs lit for bon fires and hotdog roasts, riding the tractor, and skim boarding on irrigation water to cool off on hot summer days, all remind me that our family traditions linger on their last thread, and will soon be gone forever. With the piece, Evolution of the Orchards, I show Orem's evolution from a vast acreage of pristine orchards on Provo's Bench to the taxed burdened farmer who inevitably sells out to development, which has lead to over-development . Today, Orem's rapid and aggressive commercial development has made it the retail center of Utah Valley. I drive by numerous vacant office spaces for rent or lease, and it makes me long to turn back time.



**OREM'S INTERNMENT**

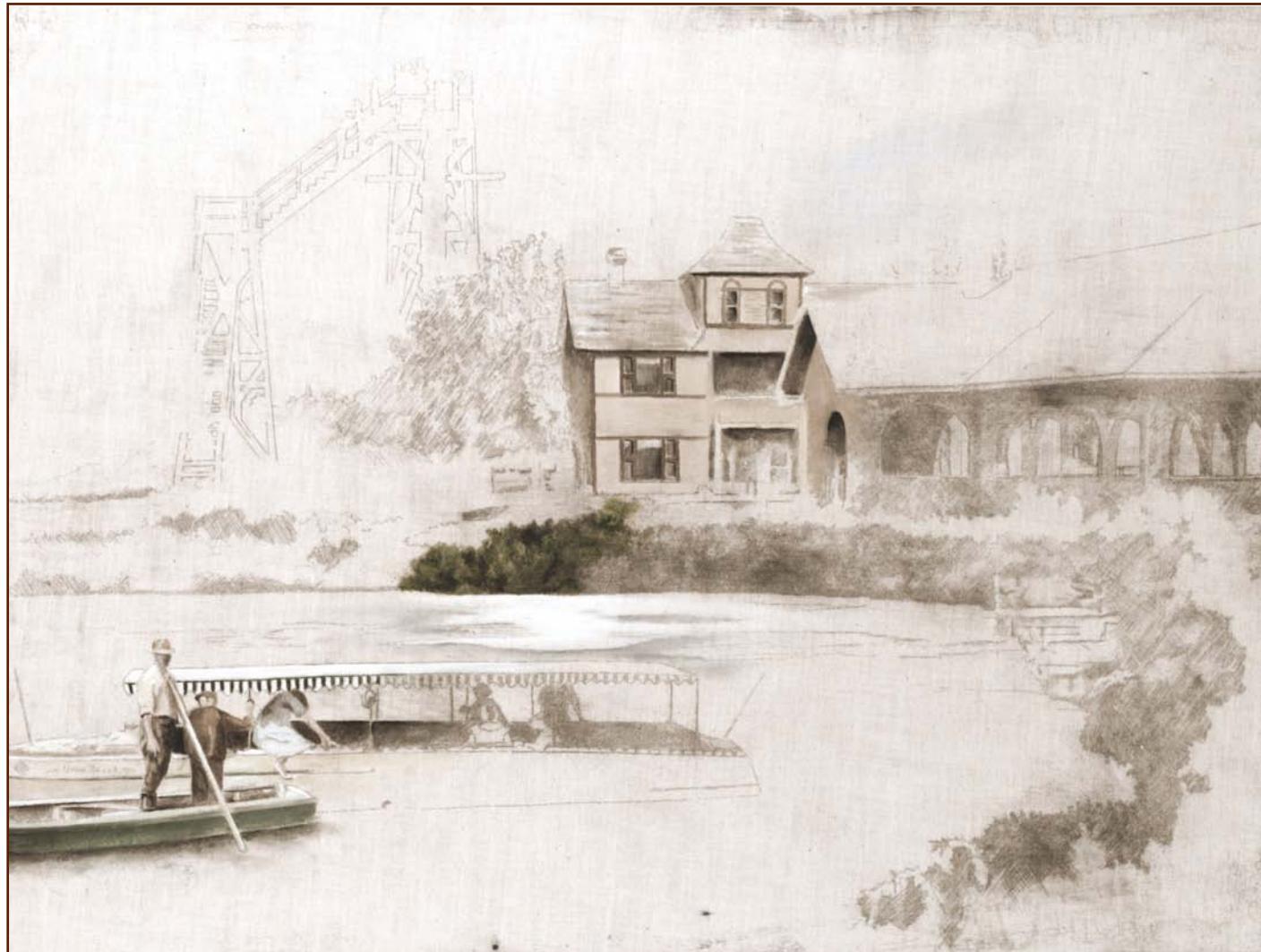
Intaglio 18"x24"

Many people blot out unpleasant pieces of history in their books, and I have found this to be true even in Orem. Many people do not know about the prisoner of war internment camp located where Canyon View Jr. High stands today. I find it ironic to be located at a place where I went to school and thought of as a sort of prison. It was dismantled in 1970 after it had housed Mexican farm labors for nearly twenty-five years, and recently a small plaque was erected on the corner of the property. Racial tensions were high after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and there were many POW camps all over the US. Many prisoners have shared tragic and bitter experiences of their past. My own mother, as a child, remembers a special friend who was taken away. It left a lasting harsh impression on her mind, of what happens when prejudices take over. But, here in Orem, it was different. With the loss of men due to the war, a need for farming labor fueled the Utah Farm Labor Association, and in cooperation, Orem used this labor camp as a unique and positive experience as many were hired by Utah County farmers. Internment occupants were treated as family in Orem, they ate with locals at their dinner tables, and many made friendships that lasted a life time.



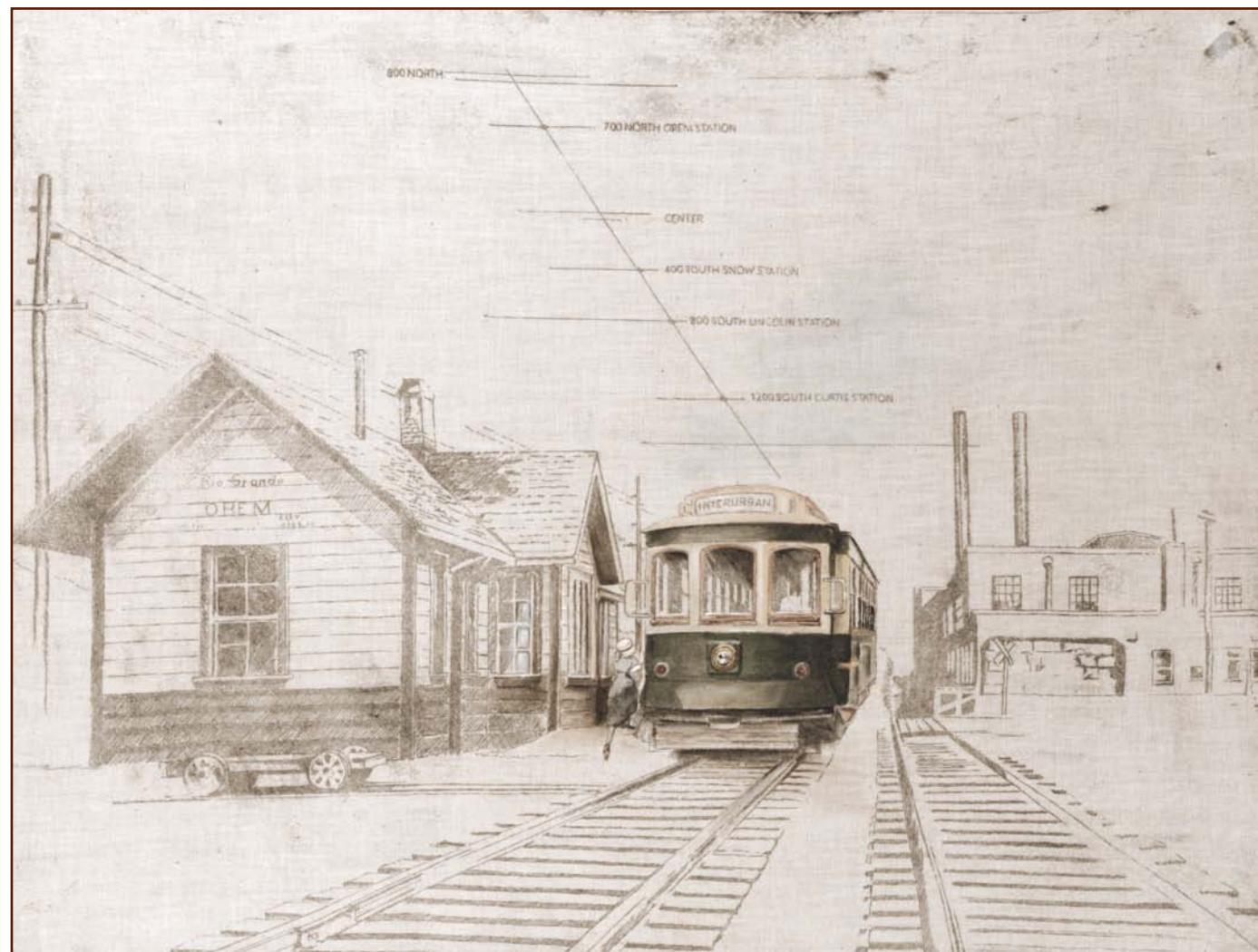
**MAMMOTH**  
Intaglio 18"x24"

It wasn't until reading an old book of Orem, that I discovered an amazing story of Orem pre-history. Because of the need for culinary water, many of the homes built after 1919 needed to have trenches dug. Orem city offered to connect those older homes to the water main, if homeowners provided plumbing out to the street. One crisp November day in 1938, Daniel Thomas was digging his water trench when he unearthed a large tooth. Archaeologists from the U of U were called, resulting in a full-scale archeological dig uncovering a complete skeleton of a woolly mammoth that lived in the Great Basin a millennia ago. The strain of the digging brought on a stroke, and Thomas died in January 1938, two months after finding the tooth. This pre-historic skeleton is now at the U of U's museum of natural history. Maybe, one day it will hopefully find its way back to Orem. This story reminds me of one of the many adventures I had as a young boy in the family orchard. At one time after many hours of digging with some neighborhood friends, we excitedly unearthed an old large metal box which ended up being the top of the junction box for the telephone company. My father yelled across the orchard to cover it back up. The wonderment that comes from finding an arrowhead, a petro glyph, or a trilobite in the area was real for me that day. It's fascinating to think of what lies beneath us.

**WHAT FUN WAS**

Intaglio 18"x24"

As a boy I learned to water ski on my dad's vintage tri-hull Glastron fishing boat at Utah Lake. It is known for its warm glass like water, and is just minutes away from home. It's also known for its shallow, algae covered murky waters. Today, a "no trespassing" sign stands next to the city dump, barring the dirt road to what was one of the largest, most popular entertainment and recreation areas in Utah, Geneva Resort; named after the owner, Captain Dallin's daughter, Geneva. Back then, in the 1890's, the water was so clear one could stand waist deep in it and still see sand and shells on the bottom. At the turn of the century there were as many as 4 lines at the same time off the Geneva spur. The water reflected the mountains and was filled with trout, mullet, suckers and chub, with miles of clean beach front, especially on the Northern shore. The bustling resort housed, acres of trees and picnic lawns, a small zoo, two heated pools complete with a fifty foot waterside and toboggan, cruise boats, a large ferry, restaurants, a large hotel, saloon, a beautiful dance pavilion which hosted live music, horse racing, shooting matches, ping pong and ballgames. "It's what fun was!", and I wish I could have seen it. Due to the introduction of carp, low water tables, flooding years, and a fire, it became hard to maintain, eventually it sold out to Utah Power and light. Although effort was made in the early 60's to revive the now Orem Marina Park, it's not the same. It's just sad that today, my children enjoy a lake that has been abused by men, with a lovely view of the remains of Geneva Steel and swampy stagnant ponds. There is no beach to enjoy, just a little boat harbor. It's a true loss, and one that we can never recover.



**INTERURBAN**  
Intaglio 18" x 24"

I love electric cars. I dream of building my own someday to charge at home. The power, the good it does for the environment, the minimal cost, and simplicity of it all, lures me to it. It was just mind boggling for me to know that we had an electric line here in Orem called the Inter-Urban. The Salt Lake and Utah interurban railroad constructed an electric line from Salt Lake to Payson. This line drastically changed the orchards from using the produce strictly for families' needs, to becoming a big and profitable industry here. Walter C. Orem, president of the Orem Company Utah Electric Railroad, who had the slogan "Things are happening in Orem," built the line in 1914 and it was decided that the community should be named after him. Four train stations were constructed- the Orem bench at 700 North, the Snow at 400 South, the Lincoln at 800 South and the Curtis at 1200 South. Orem's Inter Urban was powered by a 110 horse powered electric motor and was heated and lighted. The basic fare was two or three cents a mile. It jerked from side to side and was called at times "Leaping Lena" for those who got motion sickness. Because of its small size they also called it the "Dinky Durban." The Inter-Urban helped broaden the cultural background of Orem residents who traveled to Provo or Salt Lake for special concerts and the theater. The Inter Urban ceased operations in 1946 after declining business, and failed equipment. It continued in Orem until 1951 on a limited basis. One of the only reminders that it existed are some old depots used as businesses, and a car purchased for a diner in Cedar City. It is my hope that Orem city may again rebuild an electric line similar to the Trax system in Salt Lake. It was built, torn out, and rebuilt. It is interesting how sometimes we go back to a good a thing.

**THE SCERA**

Intaglio 18"x24"

Many cities have historic downtowns where the communities have a sense of coming together. It seems that Orem doesn't really have a historic "downtown," but it does have The SCERA. The SCERA, is now called SCERA center of the Arts, and has always been a great hub for the community here in Orem since 1933 when it was first organized. In the summers as a kid, I remember my mom purchasing summer movie packets, which I now purchase for my kids to enjoy. My first date with Lara, my wife, was to see Beauty and the Beast at the SCERA in 1991. The SCERA actually stands for the Sharon Community Educational and Recreational Association. It was born from a community who came together for a great purpose. At the time, the children during the Depression were swimming in polluted and dangerous canals, and after two small children drowned, the need for a pool became a community concern. Movies were being shown at Lincoln school next door to earn money for a theatre and pool. Many people sacrificed their time and efforts to help raise \$60,000 in bonds to help cover the costs of construction. This was a time when money was scarce, but goodwill was not. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints donated 25 acres of land and thousands of dollars to help landscape this beautiful park and facility, as it promised to never compromise values and to provide wholesome family recreational activities without opening its doors on Sunday. In 1936, Rosalawn Swimming Pool opened and admission was only five cents. On Labor Day, 1949 SCERA opened its doors, where it was the Art Deco showplace of Utah County. People would dress up and were extremely respectful of this facility. Since then, additions have brought the water park, art studio and gallery, museum, and the SCERA outdoor shell theater. The SCERA offers drama, choir, art, music, and dance classes to youth and adults alike. Productions, exhibits, concerts, and family friendly movies are shown here still today. It's an honor to have my BFA show exhibited in its Art Gallery.



**UNALTERED**  
Intaglio 18"x24"

One of the downfalls of Orem is there are no "Avenues" to drive through, and only few historic homes to buy and cherish. Most historic homes were modernized or torn down. Out of the six homes that were built before 1892, only three were unaltered on the exterior. One of these homes is the Bunnell home which is located at Utah Valley University. I walked by this home many times and enjoyed the pioneer architecture, but never knew the history of it. Stephen Bunnell was one of the original pioneers to settle the area in the 1860's. He built the home in 1892. At the time the area was still used as an Indian burial site on the western side of the property. Bunnell introduced Red Delicious apples to the area, and built a race track for training his thoroughbred horses on this site. In 1966 William Sorensen, President of Utah Technical College, acquired it for the present day campus. In 1976, Carroll Reid of student services, recognized the historic value of the home and led a three year restoration project by faculty and students, with federal training funds. They painstakingly restored original windows, door moldings, shingles, and the fireplace. Inside they added a spiral stair case, skylights, restroom, and kitchen for the restaurant management school. The home is used by Lifelong learning, Pioneer Heritage classes, and special occasions. The amazing thing about the Bunnell Home is that this unaltered piece of Orem history was preserved and stands in the middle of a busy campus next to the brand new, massive UVU library, filled with modern designed windows and architecture. The two buildings stand side by side where the old and new reside together on campus. Preserving historic architecture is important. Many of the new stucco monstrosities now line the city, and they are dated trends that will eventually have to be remodeled. I admire all efforts to preserve these one of a kind buildings that are irreplaceable for others to enjoy and admire.

**GENEVA STEEL**

Intaglio 18"x24"

The Geneva Steel Plant changed the livelihood of farmers here in Orem. Where once farming was the primary source of income, it became secondary. Geneva Steel was one of the largest industrial complexes built in the Intermountain West, "... conceived in the shotgun haste of wartime." With another world war looming, President Roosevelt ordered Congress to increase steel production. There was a major concern of a possible closure of the Panama Canal, which would jeopardize the availability of steel on the West Coast. Vineyard was hand-picked from the government as a perfect location for the Defense Plant Corporation. The area was large and protected by mountains, the transportation facilities of the Union Pacific and Rio Grand were there, an abundance of clear water from Utah Lake was available for cooling, excellent drainage, and abundant orchards in Orem to facilitate new housing developments for employees. On March 15, 1942, the government purchased the land from 40 farmers and an LDS Church which were given up in the spirit of patriotism. Vineyard cleared everything out and relocated in two weeks and the construction work began immediately. The facility was finished in record time and was completed on February 3, 1943. Only two months after V-J day, operations ceased, and a skeleton crew of 400 remained at the plant. U.S. Steel purchased the plant for a quarter of what it cost the government to build. The plant brought stability to Utah Valley. "People make the difference" was their motto, and they were able to hold their place as a viable competitor in the steel market. The support in Utah Valley also saved them from avoiding closure among the 16 U.S. Steel plants that did. In 1986 the USX closed the facility due to failure to implement one billion dollars in needed improvements. A 13 month strike followed with nervous families waiting to receive pensions which were awarded only after a 7 year legal battle. Chris Cannon bought the plant and broke production records of 3,600 tons of iron a day, and in 1991, installed a state of the art \$70 million Q-BOP oxygen furnace to improve nitrogen oxide emissions by 95 percent. At the end of 1998, cheap Asian imports reduced the cost of steel by two thirds and Geneva could no longer compete. Over 800 employees, including my brother, were laid off due to the \$21.6 million losses it had suffered in the last quarter. In

February of 1999 it filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy and closed its doors in 2001. After attempts to save Geneva failed in 2002, it was dismantled in the following years. Throughout all its ups and downs Geneva Steel has always been a prominent benefactor to the community, including the Freedom Festival, and also created the Utah Valley Economic Development which has stimulated the growth of commerce in the Valley. I remember the day, June 30, 2005, when the stacks and furnaces were blown up and fell. I felt the blast's shock wave while I was at work nearby. It only took 4 seconds to destroy this perfectly good and sound plant. Geneva their sold water shares, the power plant, and the reclaimed steel that once lined the plant to Harley Davidson. Utah County has recovered extremely well, and in a recent study was named number one for economic areas in the US. As a tribute, the Harley Davidson shop was built almost entirely of reclaimed steel remnants from Geneva. It is a truly amazing shop. I loved that they saved a piece from history and found beauty from the unique and rusted infrastructure, giving it new life. It is one of my favorite buildings in the valley.

**HYDROELECTRIC**

Intaglio 18"x24"

As a boy I remember taking drives up Provo Canyon and wondering what those pipes descending from the mountain were for. In my mind I thought they were pipes for a well. After reading further into history, I realized that the Olmested Power Plant was a story of one man's genius and another man's ingenuity. These men changed the world, starting with the electric and mining industry. Nunn proved once and for all the feasibility of long distance, high voltage transmission of electrical power and gave impetus to the rapid development of other electric companies in the Intermountain area. Lucien Nunn was a Harvard law graduate who settled the mining town of Telluride Colorado to make his fortune. After purchasing a mine and needing Westinghouse current, he offered \$50,000 in gold for help in building the first alternating current generator in the West, transformers, and a 100 horsepower electric motor to run the mill. Westinghouse, (using Tesla's genius) and his engineers' major contribution was to develop the transformers needed to power the mines from miles away. Nunn reported that the experts in the field insisted he would be a miserable failure. Nunn proved them wrong. Continuing to provide all of the Telluride mines with electric power, he expanded throughout Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Montana and eventually built and operated plants on more than 20 cities. The first plant in Utah was located in Logan Canyon, and then he constructed the Nunn's plant on the Provo River in 1898, where he built the first 40,000 volt line in the US. The line was used to power Mercur's mining, eventually giving Mercur, Eureka, and Bingham two sources of power. At that time, it was difficult to find experienced engineers to run these power plants, so Nunn created a built-in training program. He started recruiting educated and innovative people to teach while he was still in Colorado. After realizing that attending classes in the back of the plant would not do, Nunn made plans to build a new plant up Provo Canyon designed specifically for on-the-job training. Students were taught machinery, shop work in metal, wiring, insulating, and repairing. In 1904 The Olemsted Power Plant was named after one of his brightest engineers, Fred Olmsted. A new technical library was built, including a laboratory testing room, boarding house, classrooms, recreation hall, and a new faculty head was hired. Ernst Thornhill directed the formal curricula, entrance, and advanced study in correlation with leading universities in the country. Scholarships were also given to them for experimental research and work. This electrical engineering program was one of only two in the nation. This plant is still fully operational and is now incorporated into Rocky Mountain Power.

## B I O G R A P H Y



Jay Wallace is a BFA Design Illustration major and printmaker from Utah Valley University. After a fifteen year career in commercial printing and graphic design, Jay turned to a medium which allows him to creatively combine his love of printing and drawing. Many of his prints display architectural elements executed with the precision of a true draftsman. Jay works in traditional etching on large scale copper plates, alongside with non traditional intaglio methods. He finds inspiration with his fine, delicate lines from Old Masters such as Giovanni Battista Piranesi and Carl Bloch, along with experimentation on new materials and techniques. Jay's BFA show *Orem in Retrospect* was born from his experimental methods in printmaking, and is completely printed on muslin and hand painted in oil. The raw quality of the muslin gives a homespun antiquity to his unique montages. *Orem in Retrospect* is a collection of eleven prints that enlighten viewers of forgotten history, which is woven into a very personal experience of a city he has called home for thirty-six years. Jay, and his wife, Lara, currently live in Orem with their six children, next door to his parent's orchard.