Original Las Vegas Depot in 1905

“Growing Up In Las Vegas” is a fictional story based on historical facts and photos from 1905.
Take a centennial journey back to Ellie’s Las Vegas world in 1905. Learn about the beginning of the dusty western town of Las Vegas through the eyes of a child. Help Ellie celebrate the arrival of the railroad, the fourth of July, and her birthday. See paintings of the original 1905 school house and the unique pot-bellied stove. Enjoy your history trip back in time as you share this book with a child.
Dedicated to Mom, Dad, Bill and especially to Bud, who made this all possible.

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My name is Luella Mae Moore. Everyone calls me Ellie. I am five years old. I was born in Salt Lake City in 1900.
Meet my brother, Billy. He is seven years old. We both live in Las Vegas now.
Las Vegas . . .
at the very beginning.
My father owns the mercantile store in Las Vegas. I live with my family in a tent house next to the store.

Father is building us a new house using lumber from Mr. Von Tobel. There are no trees in this area so lumber is brought in on large wagons.
Valentine's Day is lots of fun. My cousin, Emma helps make valentine cookies.
Mom uses leftover wash water to water our pear tree. She carries the water in a wooden bucket. Father planted the tree four years ago when we moved to Las Vegas.
It was exciting to move into our new house. It is nice to get out of all the dust that blew into our tent house.
The pear tree is in bloom with beautiful white blossoms.

Mom scrubs our clothes on a washboard. She heats water in a copper boiler. Then she hangs the clothes on a clothes line with wooden clothes pins.
With the arrival of the railroad, Las Vegas becomes a town on May 15, 1905.

The railroad sells the first land lots in its new town of Las Vegas.
The San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad arrives.
It is so hot, we need to cool off. We rode on a wagon to the Las Vegas Ranch to go swimming in the pond. Billy splashed me with water.
The Paiute Indians like to camp near Las Vegas Ranch. We watched a Paiute Indian mother grind corn. She carries the corn in a pretty woven basket. Their basket weaving is very nice.
The Paiute boy likes to cool off by washing his pet lizard.
We have a hot Fourth of July celebration. Mom watches while Billy plays with a punk. We have to be very careful that we do not start a fire.
Billy went with Dad in the wagon to bring my cousins to my birthday party.
Happy Birthday to me!
Before school starts, Mom is sewing me some new school dresses.
School starts in September. I am in the first grade.
I have my very own desk next to the pot-bellied stove.
Mom spends many hours in the kitchen. She bakes bread, cakes, pies and cookies.

I help Mom by picking up pears to cook and can.

Pears have to be peeled and cored for canning.

Canned pears and pear butter taste very good.

Mom lets me mix up the spices with the pear butter.
We enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. Because it gets dark at 5:30 in the fall, we have to use a lantern to light our way to the outhouse.
The Christmas tree was brought from the mountains on a wagon. We decorate it with popcorn, candles and paper snow flakes.
I love the holiday season!
1905 has been an exciting year.
To learn more about Ellie's Las Vegas in 1905, see the "Growing Up in Las Vegas" Activity Book.

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Ellie’s swimming costume