

# Gustive O. Larson Accepts Position With B Y U Religious History Dept.



GUSTIVE O. LARSON

Gustive O. Larson, head of Seminary and Institute of Religion activities in Cedar City since 1926, will leave Cedar City this fall, having accepted appointment to the faculty of the department of religious history at Brigham Young University at Provo. Mr. Larson will assume his duties at B Y U upon the opening of the fall term in September, serving with full professorship.

Although he will not begin his duties at B Y U until fall Mr. Larson will spend a portion of the summer at the church in preparation for his work next winter.

Mr. Larson came to Cedar City in 1926 and for 10 years was principal of the L D S Seminary, before the Institute program for college students was adopted by the church. He taught courses in religion for college students during his term as principal of the Seminary, the first time this had been undertaken by the church.

Following his 10 years at the seminary Mr. Larson served as head of the Swedish L D S mission for the three-year period through 1936-1939. Upon his return he became director of the L D S Institute of Religion, a position he has held until the present time.

A student of history, Mr. Larson had made some very concrete contributions to the historical recordings of this area. He published the book "Prelude to Freedom," and two booklets, one on the history of Cedar City and another on the history of Iron County. He has also had a number of articles published in nationally circulated magazines.

Mr. Larson has also written two courses of religious study for general use in the church. He served for five years a stake superintendent of Sunday School, and has been a member of the Stake Board of Education during almost the entire time he has resided in Cedar City.

He has done considerable exploring of old historical trails and has been over the Old Spanish Trail twice. In the past four years he has been an active "river runner," of western rivers.

Very active in civic and political affairs, he has served in many capacities. He served as chairman of the Iron County Chapter of the American Red Cross for nine years, was a member of the Pacific Area Red Cross Advisory Council for three years, and was a member of the national nominating committee this year.

He served as chairman of the Iron County Democratic Committee for six years and in February was elected for his fourth consecutive term in that position.

He is a member of the state board of the Utah Association for the United Nations, and is vice president of the Utah Heart Association.

He was an active member of the Cedar City Rotary Club for 21 years, and served as secretary of the club for seven of the 21 years. He is historian and one of the organizers of the Cedar City Chapter of Sons of Utah Pioneers.