



## Wasatch Hollow Community Council

### Interview Summary and Index

**Interviewee:** Marian Rockwood Johnson

**Interviewer:** Melvin P. Thatcher

**Date:** May 15, 2015

**Location:** Salt Lake City, UT

#### Summary

Marian Rockwood Johnson moved into the Wasatch Hollow area in 1948 with her husband Ray Johnson and daughter Julie to care for her elderly mother. She tells about the new Bonneville School which opened in 1949 and was attended by her children. She provides information about the construction of the LDS Colonial Hills Ward chapel on 1700 East and the Hillside Stake Center on 1900 East. She recalls Governor Clyde and Lewis Bowers (owner of Emigration Market), both of whom lived on Browning Circle. She pays tribute to Clara McMasters, well-known composer of LDS children's hymns, who also lived in the neighborhood. She talks about relations between LDS and non-LDS children and neighbors and the transient nature of the neighborhood due to young families outgrowing the small houses. She recalls some of the businesses at 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and at 15<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Marian's grandfather, Albert Perry Rockwood, was warden of the Utah State Penitentiary in Sugar House from 1862-1873. She shares information about the origins of the prison, her grandmother who was prison matron, and her grandfather's tenure as warden. She relates her memory of seeing prisoners with arms and legs hanging out the windows of buildings on hot summer nights. She notes that the prison was relocated to Point of the Mountain because of the concerns of local residents about escapees.

*Note: When telling about the prison, Marian refers to photos which are found in the photos section that follows this index.*

#### Index

Time	Brief description
00:00:00	<b>Introduction</b>
00:00:56	<b>Self introduction.</b> Moved onto Harrison in 1948. Married to Ray Johnson. In military 1942-46. Invited by mother to take care of her. Purchased last



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	house available on Harrison. Had lived close by on Gilmer. Marian is the tenth of 12 children.
00:05:33	<b>Harrison avenue.</b> 1800 block was graveled. Trees on only one side. No gutter and curb or trees on north side.
00:07:10	<b>Bonneville School.</b> Oldest daughter in first kindergarten class, 1949. 1800 East was dividing line between Uintah School and Bonneville School. Made a difference in selection of playmates. Knew Uintah children from church. Close friends were Bonneville students.
00:09:24	<b>Neighbors.</b> Engineer, doctor. Always had good relationships.
00:10:22	<b>Colonial Hills Ward chapel construction.</b> LDS Church purchased 11 acres in 1947 to divide Wasatch Ward; new ward called Mountair Ward but name was changed to Colonial Hills Ward. Membership above 1500 East. Sold home building lots along the Gully in Browning Circle. Proceeds went to building the new chapel.
00:13:03	<b>Colonial Hills Ward division.</b> Robert McMaster became bishop in 1955 after Vernal Denning. In the same year the ward was divided, and he became bishop of Colonial Hills 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward and Marian's husband, Ray Johnson bishop Colonial Hills 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward.
00:13:45	<b>People in the neighborhood.</b> Road to Governor Clyde's home on Browning Circle was first for snow removal. Lewis Bowers, also on Browning Circle, owned Emigration Market and provided some food for ward funerals. Dunford Bakery was located by Emigration Market.
00:15:54	<b>Changes in neighborhood.</b> Could see up to mountains and St. Mary's of the Wasatch with nothing in between.
00:16:26	<b>Hillside Stake Center construction.</b> 1900 East dipped down to Emigration Creek. Church had to build three floors below street level for stability. Raised the road in order make a more stable foundation. Her children road the water through the culvert under 1900 East.
00:19:19	<b>13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> businesses.</b> Emigration Market on SE. Service station on NW corner. A&W drive-in on NE corner; closed after a short time. Building on SW corner had doctor's office and a pharmacy (today's Jolley's Pharmacy).
00:20:56	<b>Transient neighborhood.</b> Reflects on transient nature of the neighborhood as young families grow in size, look for bigger a house and move out.
00:21:59	<b>Answers questions.</b> Origins of Colonial Hills name; dates from name of subdivision in 1947. Children's choice of friends influenced by school attended; many were not LDS. LDS and non-LDS relationships on block; not many non-LDS; inclusive neighborhood gatherings.
00:26:18	<b>The McMasters.</b> He was stake patriarch. She was on General Primary



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	Board. Always willing to sing at funerals in the ward. Sister Laverne Parmley, General Primary President, who lived across Harrison, asked Sister [Clara] McMaster to compose of a Primary song. Tells the story of the composition of “Heavenly Father Loves Me.”
00:30:06	<b>(Con’t).</b> Reads a tribute she wrote to Sister McMaster including the words of “Heavenly Father Loves Me.”
00:35:48	<b>Sugar House prison.</b> Laughs about her grandfather telling the prisoners they had to say their prayers. Grandfather Albert Perry Rockwood served as warden from 1862-1871. Third wife from Denmark lived with him in the prison as matron. Marian’s father was one of their eight children.
00:39:53	<b>(Con’t.)</b> Talks about pictures of the prison: early prison (Photo 01), high stone walled prison later (Photo 02), and wall parallel with 2100 South (Photo 03). Remembers prisoners hanging arms and legs out windows on hot summer nights and waving at them when driving by. Reads excerpt from an article about her grandfather’s tenure. Prisoners in stripes (Photo 04).
00:44:33	<b>(Con’t.)</b> Built cages to move the prisoners from place to place (Photo 05). Neighbors complained about escapes and said they didn’t want prison so near to their homes. Prison relocated to Point of the Mountain [1951].
00:46:16	<b>Final memories.</b> Recalls Sunday walks at age 15 or 16 with friends past shops at 15th East and Emerson. Mentions Fallon’s Drugstore, OP Skaggs, a novelty store with penny candy, and a service station.
00:48:41	<b>End time</b>