



Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Interview Summary and Index – 001

Interviewee: Alice C. Schmidt

Interviewer: Heidi Iverson

Date: March 2, 2015

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Summary

Alice Cannon Schmidt tells about growing up in the neighborhood at 1647 Kensington Avenue. She focuses mainly on the years between 1934 (age 5) and 1944 (age 15). She recalls living at the chicken farm in the Gully then moving to Kensington. She notes wide open spaces on the east side of the Gully with sheep grazing and fruit trees inside it on the west side. She played with siblings and nearby neighbors in the Gully where she was especially fond of climbing a big tree down by the creek.

The impact of the Depression and WWII come out in this interview. Alice talks about buying and sharing ten cent candy bars from Pat's at 15th and 15th with her family during the Depression when they did not have much money. She notes how her family had each other although times were hard. She reflects how WWII affected her family's life and "burned my feelings."

Alice recalls some of the businesses in Sugar House and how ice blocks and coal were delivered by trucks to her home. She tells about the schools she attended, the impact of boundary changes as population grew, and school teachers. She also notes increases in the number of LDS wards in the neighborhood over time. There were two bus lines but no trolley for transportation.

Talking about games, Alice highlights playing the game of Beau Geste (based on a movie) and steal the sticks in the Gully. The girls also liked to play dress up at her house.

Alice recalls sleighing and skiing on the clay cliffs in the Gully and how her elder brother earned a pair of skis to replace his homemade ones. She also recounts rivalry between the boys and the girls over the right to enter a hole in the ground near the clay cliffs.

Alice talks about studying modern dance with Virginia Tanner and taking over her



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dance studio while Virginia took time off to have a child.

Alice closes with comments about her immediate family.

Note: For more on Beau Geste, the movie, go to [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beau_Geste_\(1939_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beau_Geste_(1939_film))

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| Time | Brief description |
| 00:00:00 | Introduction. |
| 00:01:01 | Residences. Lived on chicken farm in the Gully. Moved into house built by father at 1647 Kensington Avenue. The Dutchie bought and expanded the chicken farm (see photos with John N. Cannon interview) |
| 00:03:16 | Landscape. Few houses on 1600 block of Kensington. Trees were small. Had barn and cow in backyard. Other [east] side of the Gully was sagebrush and sheep grazing area up to St. Mary's of the Wasatch girl's school. Biggest change has been [spread] of the city. |
| 00:09:27 | Earliest recollections of the Gully. Chicken farm with house and barn. Digresses to tell about father working for the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) at the Soapstone area. Stayed there during summer (age 2-3), slept in shed, and saw mice. Returns to early recollection of playing in the Gully after the move to Kensington within view of mother; felt secure (age 6-7). |
| 00:12:28 | Kids in the Gully. Played with own family and friends who lived close by. Sense of "us" and "not part of us" based on residential distance. Recalls Jerry Dean in this context. With immediate friends had a sense of "belonging to the Gully." |
| 00:14:18 | More on Gully landscape. Wooten's fruit orchards on west side {below Kensington}. Flats down by creek. East side was natural. |
| 00:16:34 | The Dutchie. Dutchman with heavy accent. Bought chicken farm from father who had sold eggs to supplement income during the Depression. |
| 00:17:57 | Trees in the Gully. Elaine's tree planted on chicken farm by father. Loved climbing the Big Tree down by the creek. |
| 00:20:31 | 15th and 15th shops. Favorite place was Pat Pattison's candy store. Occasionally bought 10 cent candy bar to divide into ten pieces and share with family. Didn't have much money during the Depression. Gas station on Kensington corner. Drugstore and grocery store on the other side (of 1500 East). Mother took little red wagon to shop for groceries. Shops at 13 th and 17 th were built after Alice's time. |



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| 00:24:15 | Haunted house, well, and cave. Located across creek near modern Rocky Mountain Power property. Joined water brigade to fight a fire on that side of the Gully. |
| 00:28:43 | Sugar House memories. Movie theater, library, Sugar House memorial, Southeast Furniture, Irving Jr. High, Hygia Ice plant and rink. Curly delivered block of ice to house by truck. Coal was delivered by truck too. Redman storage and sign. |
| 00:34:55 | Schools. Attended kindergarten at Garfield. Shifted to Uintah after boundary change—went from the “garbage can” to the “lid of the garbage can” in the parlance of the kids. Attended Irving Jr. High. Boundary change sent younger siblings to Roosevelt Jr. High. Irving fed South high except for three blocks (including Kensington) from where students went to East High. |
| 00:37:24 | Churches. Wasatch Ward was the original (LDS) ward. Divided to form Edgehill Ward. Later Colonial Hills Ward was created. Raised in Wasatch Ward. |
| 00:38:36 | Transportation. Did not have a horse although father was a cavalry man in the army. His father got a car, and he chauffeured him around. Father had an early Ford but they mostly walked everywhere. Two bus lines: 15 th East and 17th East. Rode to East High. Trolley came up to East High and reversed to return to downtown. |
| 00:42:22 | Games. Played Beau Geste in the Gully with tumbleweed forts, paths through the willows, and rubber gun battles. Game based on movie with the same name. Tunneled in tall grass in vacant lot on south side of 1600 block of Kensington. |
| 00:47:36 | People. Except for an aunt, no extended family lived nearby. Best friend was Melza Beth Clyde, niece of Governor Clyde. Did everything together. Played with brother Johnnie and his friends, Pug, Pat, Darrel. Played alot with own siblings. |
| 00:51:50 | Dressing up. Played dress up in father’s potato cellar and basement of house. |
| 00:53:30 | People con’t. Neighbors: Hewes boys, navy sea scouts, built big boat. Berochinskys. (Lady) school teachers: Cracroft (1st grade), Taylor (3rd), Lila Smith (4 th), Matilda Cahoon (5 th), Bardsley (7 th). Jr. high: Miss Law (Latin), Miss Ensign (music), Mr. Archibald (social science) |
| 00:57:32 | Prison trustees. Saw prisoners in black and white stripes and ball and chain cutting springs out in the Gully and prisoners standing by the bars in windows at the prison. |
| 01:00:34 | Activities. Played in the road and between houses on Emerson. Played |



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| | jacks and roller skated by own house. Played steal the flag/sticks and Beau Geste in the Gully. Colleen fell and ran a stick through her cheek playing jailer in steal the sticks. Johnnie helped her until ambulance arrived. He came home covered in blood and fainted. Alice known as the “Gully Girl.” |
| 01:07:01 | Personal impact of WWII. Father in reserves from WWI. Promoted to colonel in WWII. Had to go away periodically with the reserves. Drew hug symbols on letters to father. Food rations and “Benson butter.” Rolled bandages at school to send to the war. Gas rations. Didn’t realize how the war had “burned my feelings” until after it was over. |
| 01:12:32 | Reflections on the Depression. Nuts and oranges were special treats at Christmas. Everything was plain. Family had each other. Father made money in military service. |
| 01:15:37 | More on the Gully. Refers to hand-drawn map of the Gully below her house (see map in “Alice on The Gully” in the documents section following this interview). Skied and sleighed on the clay cliffs. Johnnie made skis from barrel slats. Lady at Alta resort offered to give him some skis but he did work at her house to earn them. The boys’ exclusive claim to a hole in the ground between the clay cliffs and 1700 East ticked off the girls, who found a cave on the other side of the road and tricked them into thinking a treasure was there. |
| 01:21:43 | Gardening. Did not have a victory garden. Resisted father’s effort to teach her to garden after the war. Claimed to be tired from dance rehearsals. |
| 01:22:20 | Virginia Tanner. Studied modern dance to strengthen her ankles. Studied with Virginia Tanner at Deseret Gym then with Virginia Tanner at the McCune School of Music and Arts. Took over the studio with friends when Virginia married and became pregnant. Digresses: Graduated early from school due to the articulating unit system. Taught school for two years. Got married and Virginia resumed operation of the studio. |
| 01:26:00 | Family. Husband Charles (C.) DuWayne Schmidt, 6 children, 37 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren. Sister Annie and mother were school teachers. Reiterates that mother kept track of her children. |
| 01:30:00 | End time |