



Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Interview Summary and Index - 001

Interviewee: Allen Brown

Interviewer: Melvin P. Thatcher

Date: May 3, 2016

Location: Eagle Mountain, UT

Summary

This is the first interview with Allen Brown about Paul J Hansen, the mastermind of basketball at the Edgehill Ward gym and his uncle. He talks about Paul’s parents and siblings, the religious life of the males in the family, and Paul’s education and military service. And he introduces key elements in Paul Hansen’s life as it related to Edgehill basketball—his love of malts, why he decided to build a cabin a Hebgen Lake, teaching morals and values through literature, music, and old movies, his love for basketball, and his inauguration of the basketball program to help boys and young men turn their lives around.

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Time	Brief description
00:00	Introduction.
00:40	Paul Hansen’s family. Allen’s mother (Mabel, born 1900). Brother Joseph Mellon was outgoing, salesman. Brother Richard could fix anything, engineering graduate. Mother. Mother Mabel (a Cornwall) was formal, loved literature, and was musically talented. Father Joseph was a traditional Danish laborer and highly religious.
04:45	Paul Hansen’s family (cont.). The family subsisted in Forestdale (2100 South 700 East) as the father filled several church missions. Sister Lewetta was born then died of diphtheria at age 10. Paul J was born in 1914. Aunt Stinie (Christine) Hansen married real estate developer Hyrum Jensen. Father worked for him.
08:20	Paul’s mother and father. Paul’s mother graduated in education at University o Utah, taught school at Forestdale Elementary. Father devoted to church callings.
09:58	Religious life. Paul’s father was traditionally orthodox. Mother was committed to church but not spiritual. Eldest brother was okay with church. Second brother was really religious. Paul was no biblical scholar but was



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	gospel oriented in his lifestyle and active in church.
13:06	Education. Paul was a serious student from elementary school. He was good from boyhood to manhood. All-A student at East High. Science oriented. Decided he loved teaching and turned down medical scholarship to Columbia University. University of Utah graduate in teaching science. First job was as a teaching assistant in zoology for Mr. Howell at East High.
16:58	Malt fan. Paul became a “malt fan” while working the soda fountain at Wallgreens (2100 South 1100 East) to earn money for university. He was always ready to go for a malt after Edgehill gym activities.
18:49	Consummate teacher. Paul taught math and science at Granite High. Had uncanny ability to communicate at student’s level of understanding. Exceptionally bright but a common man who accepted and respected people as they were.
21:20	Hebgen Lake. 10 miles from West Yellowstone. Paul was recommended by the superintendent of schools as the best person to teach math and science to the teenage sons of Dr. Scarborough at the family’s Lake Hebgen cabin one summer. He set a goal to have his own cabin there someday.
25:15	Family relocates to our neighborhood. Hyrum Jensen helped Joseph Hansen purchase two duplexes on 1300 East between Logan and 1700 South. Family moved there in late 1920s.
27:08	Morals and values in the humanities. Paul extolled the moral values found in good literature and introduced his nephew to uplifting “listening music,” movies with a moral, and malts.
31:10	Graduate school. Paul obtained a delay of induction into the military to finish a MA degree in educational psychology at the U of U.
32:43	Military officer’s commission. Paul disdained rigidity of military discipline during basic training but went on to Officers Candidate School and became a 2 nd Lieutenant graduating at the top of his class.
34:52	Basketball. Paul introduced Allen (age 11-13) to basketball while serving at Hill Air Force Base. Played on a team at Westminster College gym: Eddie Kilgore, Emerson Hardy. Although short in stature, he loved the finesse and team play of basketball.
36:36	Military service. Called overseas to serve in Germany (had BA in German). Made lead of a team to set criteria to determine which officers to retain after Victory in Europe. Returned with the rank of captain in the Army Air Force.
40:41	Confidant. He hated the military but won respect by displaying a positive attitude. Paul did not share his inner feelings except with nephew Allen.
42:53	Doctoral program and Edgehill basketball. When he returned from the War



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	in 1946, Paul was accepted into the Ph.D. program in the Department of Education at the U of U. From then on he dedicated himself to helping young men turn their lives around through training in basketball and started the Edgehill basketball program.
45:40	End time