



## Wasatch Hollow Community Council

### Interview Summary and Index - 002

**Interviewee:** Allen Brown

**Interviewer:** Melvin P. Thatcher

**Date:** May 24, 2016

**Location:** Eagle Mountain, UT

#### Summary

This is the second of two interviews with Allen Brown about Paul J Hansen and his role in the Edgehill Ward basketball program.

Allen talks about the importance of LDS Church activities for young men, regardless of religious affiliation, in the community. He outlines the structure of the basketball program and Paul's philosophy of teaching values along with basketball skills. He singles out other adult coaches and talks about some of the outstanding players. He notes officiators were paid and says Paul regarded good officiating as as important as teaching boys how to play basketball.

Allen tells about playing on the older M-Men's team, especially in 1953 and how his participation ended with a LDS mission call in 1956. He closes discussing the LDS Church policy change on youth activities on the 1960s that brought an end to the idyllic days of Edgehill Ward basketball and Paul J Hansen's role in it.

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Time	Brief description
00:00	<b>Introduction.</b> Interview Date: May 24, [2016]. Place: Eagle Mountain, [Utah].
01:13	<b>Church activities.</b> Talks about importance of organized [LDS] Church activities for young men in the neighborhood. Mentions Paul Hansen's love of basketball which he played with friends in Westminster [College] gymnasium and at Hill Air Base. Scouts, basketball, and other activities were open to neighborhood without church membership requirement. Al Jenke, scoutmaster.
06:23	<b>Edgehill basketball program.</b> Paul returned from active duty and launched Edgehill basketball program. Open to all. Taught basketball and values. Teams structured by age. Boys given jobs at the gym to learn life skills.



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	Uniforms provided identity. Provided environment for personal growth beyond basketball. Developing character was central.
11:41	<b>Edgehill basketball program (cont).</b> Each season started with a meeting in the chapel. Reason for basketball was stated as putting into practice what the boys learned there. Adult leaders: Allen singles out Bill Hutchinson, coach of his Explorer B team. Paul Hansen recruited a wide variety of dedicated men.
15:01	<b>[Pause]</b>
15:06	<b>Explorer teams.</b> Allen's first year was with the [Explorer] B Team, coached by Bill Hutchinson. Second year was with the A Team, coached by Paul [Hansen] which participated in the All-Church Tournament at the Deseret Gym.
16:20	<b>Good players, good people.</b> Paul inspired the boys to be good players and good people. He taught what was important [for living]. Church attendance was required for participation. Fast friendships formed.
19:35	<b>[Pause]</b>
19:37	<b>M-Men team.</b> Age 18 and above; coached by Bill Paul, Sr. Personality different from Paul [Hansen]. Devoted to program. Outstanding players; most did not play for high schools-exception, Dick Paul, East High. Some played for colleges: Bill [Jr.] and Dick Paul, University of Utah; George Souvall, Utah State. Allen played for US Air Force team in Europe. Development came from Edgehill Ward basketball.
23:58	<b>Paid officiators.</b> Paul [Hansen] felt enforcement of rules was as important as teaching how to play. Boys learned to respect or fear them. Marv Pugh. Carl Hulbert.
26:29	<b>Allen's participation.</b> Allen's coaches: Bill Hutchinson, Paul Hansen, Bill Paul, Sr. Called to active duty in in air force in 1953. Age 21. Church got active duty call postponed to April for Allen play in tournament. End of his Edgehill basketball experience.
30:17	<b>Allen's participation (cont.).</b> Played basketball for Wasatch Ward from 1955-56 after return from active duty. Paul [Hansen] was still deeply involved. Started graduate school. Accepted a mission call (age 25) 1956-58. Off to graduate programs. Ended basketball participation.
32:25	<b>Air Force basketball.</b> Allen won starting position on an air force team in central France. Attributes to [Edgehill] basketball training.
33:28	<b>[Pause]</b>
33:33	<b>Church policy change.</b> Paul [Hansen] had enjoyed support of [local] church leadership. In 1960s, under Pres. David O. McKay, the church changed emphasis from organizing activities for young men to promoting their



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	participation in priesthood functions. Structure of church basketball and paid officiating were eliminated.
36:24	<b>Church policy change (cont.).</b> Paul was not able to function with support of local church leaders. Felt disappointed and disenfranchised. Continued making an effort into the 1970s. Stark difference between 1950s and 1970s church basketball.
40:05	<b>End time.</b>