



Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Interview Summary and Index – John N. Cannon

Interviewee: John N. Cannon

Interviewer: Melvin Thatcher

Date: March 9, 2015

Location: At his home in Provo, UT

Summary

This is the second interview with John N. Cannon. He begins by talking about The Gully and photos of the area around the chicken farm taken in the spring of 1955. John comments on the types of transportation and the condition of the streets in his part of the neighborhood. He recalls construction of the Wasatch Presbyterian Church, “real evidence that not everybody was a Mormon,” in the area. After recalling the family names of friends and neighbors, he talks about games that the kids played through the streets and the neighbors’ yards. John shares some recollections about administrators and teachers and attending Garfield Elementary School, Uintah Elementary, Irving Jr. High, East High, and West High. He reminisces about the education that he received at the University of Utah and Stanford University and through military service during WWII and the Korean War. He also talks about employment at Westinghouse Electric, North American Aviation, and Brigham Young University.

Note: John used hand drawn maps and some photos to talk about the landscape. The Gully, residences, and businesses. For these items, refer to the maps and photos sections that follow his interviews.

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00:00:00	Introduction.
00:01:16	The Gully. Defines extent of “The Gully”. Describes buildings on the chicken farm. Talks about the clay cliffs (dam), the canal and Emigration Creek and how the creek breached the dam. Skiing and sledding from above the canal onto the flat on the east side of the creek. Talks about his hand drawn map showing landmarks [see Map 2 in the maps section below].
00:09:07	Chicken farm. Tells about moving to the farm, 1930-32, during the Depression, then his father’s work for the Civilian Conservation Corps



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	(CCC) between Kamas and Mirror Lake, 1933-35. Father returned to work for ZCMI in 1936 or 37.
00:11:07	Photos. (1) Old barn with damage on the side. (2) Son Jack in front of the farm house, taken spring 1955. (3) Picture from behind the house with the clay cliffs and the canal in view. (4) Canal and chicken coops' footings. (5) Barn and chicken coops' footings. (6) Top of the clay cliffs and canal.
00:19:45	Transportation. Three modes: electric streetcar on 15 th East. Steel in rails needed during the War, so streetcar was replaced by bus down 13 th South to 17 th East. Family car 1933 airflow DeSoto.
00:23:34	Streets. Started as dirt then later oiled. 1600 East was paved, but others was dirt. Recalls grandfather's car getting stuck in winters. Kensington was paved after the War (1945-46). Turn of Emerson to 17 th East was not paved. Riding academy had fallen down during the War. Comments about how most of the features on his sketch map are gone [see Map 2 in the maps section below].
00:28:06	Wasatch Presbyterian Church. Recollects its construction. "Real evidence that not everybody was a Mormon." Religions of Jack, Jim, Joel and Pug Hughes.
00:30:20	Friends and neighbors. Playmates in four street groups included: Clydes, Parratts, Bills, Pratts, Jeff Leff [Harry Leff, Jr.], Kratzers, Reimanns, Kimballs, Jensens, Hardys, Hughes, Leavers, Chickie Barker, McMurdys, Chapmans. Others: Tuellers, Rasmussens, Powellsons. Robert Powellson
00:32:40	Games. Recalls games played. Describes "double slips." Virtually no houses were off limits. Bro. Reimann learned to play piano from and sounded like a player piano. Clarks only had girls and another had no children. Stayed away from Vander Endes who had purchased the chicken farm.
00:37:41	Garfield Elementary School. Kindergarten to 3 rd grade. Had difficulty with reading but good with numbers. Recalls use of bouncing ball to teach numbers. Principal Mrs. Brewer was strict. Put kids in closet for misbehaving.
00:41:00	Uintah School. 4 th grade divided into 4 sections. Recounts moving up from section 4 to section 3. 5 th grade moved up to 2 nd section. 6 th grade advanced to 1 st section. 7 th and 8 th were combined grade into the articulating unit. Recalls Miss Bardsley teaching percentages. Superintendent Nuttall
00:44:47	Irving Jr. High. Two years for 13 and 14 year olds. Talks about Latin class taught by Miss Law. Mr. Archibald and Mrs. Ashton taught current events.



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00:46:51	East High. Graduated at age 16. Talks about math classes. Sister Elaine was a bookworm.
00:48:07	West High. Completed graduation requirements during first half of year at East High, then finished out year at West High to take aircraft engines. Notes wood, metal, and electricity classes taken earlier in jr. high.
00:49:08	Vocational counselor's assessment. Made football A team at East. Also played track. Track coach was a vocational counselor who had John lined up for an occupation in mechanics and questioned his plan to study physics in university.
00:52:24	Military service (WWII). Started university at age 17. Had joined Air Corp Enlisted Reserve (ACER) in high school. Joined Civil Air Patrol at age 18 for pilot training. Got discharged from army air corps, took the Eddy test, joined the navy, and received an education in electronics. War in Japan ended while in boot camp. Program was shut down as he was about to graduate, and he was discharged as Electronic Technician's Mate 3 rd class.
00:57:10	University of Utah (B.A.). After discharge, John went on an LDS mission at age 19. Returned at 21. Recounts why Dean Joseph F. Merrill admitted him to the physics program prior to his military service. After his mission, John changed his major to mechanical engineering because he felt like he could not do graduate work in physics. He became a serious student and graduated in top twenty percent of his mechanical engineering class. A. Leroy Taylor was dean of engineering.
01:01:34	Military Service (Korean War). First job was with Westinghouse Electric. Commissioned 2 nd Lieutenant in ROTC at university. Called up for Korean War as a forward observer. Truce signed on his 26 th birthday. Talks about his discharge as a 2 nd Lieutenant.
01:06:04	University of Utah (M.S.). Went back to school on GI bill. Finished Masters. degree. Took job with North American [Aviation] in Los Angeles in the Missile Development Division.
01:07:52	Employment at Brigham Young University. John Simonsen, schoolmate from Uintah, recruits John to teach at BYU. Had been at North American from 1955-57. After three years, the dean told him to get a Ph.D. as BYU transitioned from college to university status. Don McKaey. Baxter.
01:11:15	Stanford University (Ph.D.). Made friends with Lou London of Stanford. John applied to Stanford and was accepted. Finished all coursework for Ph.D. and money ran out. Returned to BYU to become department chair, 1962-65. Finished Ph.D. in 1965.
01:16:23	End time