



Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Interview Summary and Index

Interviewee: Gerald “Jerry” R. Dean

Interviewer: Melvin P. Thatcher

Date: September 29, 2015

Location: Holladay, UT

Summary

Gerald “Jerry” R. Dean, who resided in the neighborhood from his birth in 1928 until his marriage in 1951, shares his memories of growing up. His birth home was located at 1575 East Roosevelt. When he was 16 years old, the family moved to 1525 South 1600 East.

Jerry describes the neighborhood and area east of The Gully during the Great Depression years and shares his earliest memories at 1575 East Roosevelt. He tells about neighborhood services – snow removal and milk and ice delivery. He also talks about the pastimes of kids and their activities in The Gully and at the Wasatch Riding Academy where Colonial Hills Ward is today.

Jerry recalls hard times during the Great Depression and how he made money. He tells about his first job doing custodial work at Uintah School while he was still a student there, and other jobs he had downtown.

Jerry tells about getting his first car at age 15 and shares memories of playing football, hanging out at Pattison’s shop at 15th and 15th, and local church leaders. He especially remembers his lifelong best friend Glenn Jensen and how parents treated the friends of their children like family. Names other close friends in the neighborhood.

He closes with comments about beneficial experiences with neighbors and church leaders, the impact on his life of serving a LDS missionary in Norway, and his appreciation for parents who taught him how to work.



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Time	Brief description
00:00	Introduction.
00:50	Lay of the land. Great Depression. Walking and riding bicycles. Open space east of 1700. Fields and orchards up to St. Mary's of the Wasatch.
03:09	Earliest memories. Lived in stucco duplex at 1575 East Roosevelt (see photos 1-3). No garages. Neighborly. First birthday party. Grandmother's house.
06:40	Services in the neighborhood. Horse-drawn snowplow. Cloverleaf Dairy milkman with horse-drawn wagon. Iceman in Ford truck.
08:57	Pastimes. Attending church. Walking to school. Saturday movies. Radio serials-Green Hornet, Jack Armstrong.
10:24	The Gully. 1300 South to 1700 South between 17 th East and 18 th East – “a haven for growing up.” Cops and robbers, tunnels, huts, dams, swimming, buried treasures, potato and marshmallow roasts, tree climbing, golf balls.
13:20	Wasatch Riding Academy. Operated by Barneys. Cared for horses of wealthy. Attracted to big cars. Did odd jobs for horse owners. Ten cents for half day's work.
15:54	Great Depression. Clothing. Meals. How dad got to work and back.
19:00	Earning money. Age 10-15. Collected soda pop and beer bottles. Shoveled snow. Gathered and sold wood scraps from construction sites. Picked fruit in orchards above 1900 East. Amounts earned.
22:56	First job. Uintah Grade School (see photo 6. Teachers - Mrs. Sherill, Mrs. Hulbert, Mrs. Bardsley, Iman Hales, Mrs. MacNeil, Mrs. Myers. Befriended janitor Mike and got job cleaning for \$8/month.
27:00	New shoes. Dad reimbursed \$8 spent on shoes.
28:14	Other ways of making money. Sold soda pop on street at 15 th East. Hawked paring knives door to door. Helped friends with paper routes.
32:40	Activities with grade school friends. Football, softball on Michigan Avenue. Western movies at Marlo and Southeast Theaters in Sugar House – Texas Rangers, Boyd Silver.
34:19	Irving Jr. High. School boundaries split neighborhood between Roosevelt



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	and Irving junior highs. Long walks to either school. Built model airplanes with Mr. Tanner, shop teacher. School sports. First assembly at Southeast Theater.
37:48	After school job. Uncle Harry Parker helped get job at J.L. Firmage Company, a men's store. \$15/week.
40:07	East High School. Neighborhood friends reunited at East High in 1943-44 school year. Sports, social life, stylish attire.
41:36	After school job. Worked for J.L. Firmage's Nehi Beverage Company. Washed bottles, made syrup. Wartime rationing.
43:34	First car. Age 15. 1930 Chevy (see photos 13-14) from Battle Mountain, NV. given by dad. Couldn't afford tires due to rationing. Dates, rabbit hunting, camping with Dave Bean and Gene McCoun, caddying at Bonneville Golf Course for 50 cents/day.
46:15	Neighborhood memories. After school football in front of Glen Jensen's. Penny candy, funny books, and malts at Pattison's. Church at Wasatch Ward: Bishop Rulon Sperry, Mr. Wood, Bro. Vincent. Camping, swimming, canyon outings Sunday lessons with youth leader Reid Jerman. Close friend son Harvey Jerman.
50:07	Best and first friend. Glenn Jensen. Have shared life's experience since age 5. Jerry's best man at wedding on August 8, 1951. Like brother's today.
51:33	Friends. Treated like family by parents of friends. Close friends: Glenn Jensen, Wayne Harrison, Carl Hawkins, Tom Green, David Fry, Bill Barney, Richard Smith, Doug Kimball, Don Reimann, Verl O'Brien, Dick Carlson, Don Ellis. In high school dated together with Dave Bean and Gene McCoun. Big name bands at Rainbow Rendezvous. (See photos 15 and 17)
54:24	Closing thoughts. Musings on what life would have been like without these experiences with good people and community and church leaders. Maintains many associations until today.
57:25	Closing thoughts (cont.) Remembers getting sick on the street car. Recalls LDS mission call to Norway (see photo 19). Worked at Chevron service station at 15 th and Emerson. Impact of Norwegian mission on his life.



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1:00:19	Closing thoughts (cont.) Expresses appreciation for parents who taught him how to work.
1:01:36	End time