



Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Interview Summary and Index 001 – Reid Johnson

Interviewee: Reid Johnson

Interviewer: R. Joe Zeidel

Date: March 6, 2015

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Summary

Reid Johnson shares his memories of growing up in the neighborhood during the decades from the 1930s to 1950s. He talks about the outdoor activities of kids along his block of Harrison Avenue during summer and winter including roller skating, ice sliding, and touch football. He recalls the snow on residential sidewalks being cleared by a horse-drawn plow and tells of the lessons that he learned working briefly in shops at 15th and 25th. Reid remembers attending Uintah School, Roosevelt Jr. High, and East High and recalls how the faculty and students reacted to the principal's announcement of Victory in Europe in May, 1945. He tells about using the family car for transportation and growing up in Wasatch Ward where he met his future wife Donna. He talks about other activities such as roller skating on 14th E, school dances, and his first kiss during a church play. Reid remembers his cousin who was killed in the Pacific Theater during WWII. The interview is interrupted by a phone call.

Note: This is the first of two sound tracks for the same interview

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Time	Brief description (one row/section; insert rows as needed)
00:00:00	Introduction. Will talk about 1930s-50s. Age 86
00:01:12	Outdoor activities on Harrison Avenue. Boys roller skating, jumping squares on sidewalk. Squeak Williams' house. Reid Sessions. Ice sliding in winter down driveway. Bumped head. Co-ed touch football in summer. Street was paved.
00:06:34	Snow plow. Describes horse-drawn plow and how the city plowed the sidewalks in the neighborhood.
00:08:05	Shops at 15th East. Talks about lessons learned working for OP Skaggs grocery store and a gas station for one week. Mr. Gygi. Never went up to Emigration Market on 13 th S 17 th E.



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00:11:39	Schools. Moved to Harrison at age 5 or 6. Attended Unitah School for elementary education. Very strict principal Lois Anderson. Roosevelt Jr. High on Lincoln Street and 9 th South.
00:14:50	(Cont'd). East High. Talks about hitchhiking (“thumbing”) down 13 th E to East High. Graduated in 1945 at age 16. Schooling shortened by one year because of articulating unit in elementary school, a combined 7 th and 8 th or 6 th and 7 th grade. Recalls V-E Day in May 1945 when principal announced victory in Europe and everyone left school early.
00:18:54	Transportation. Had use of family car but never drove to [high] school. Recalls accident in father’s new 1946 Ford in parking lot at University of Utah.
00:22:15	Growing up in Wasatch Ward. Big ward, many youths, good teachers, good youth programs. Tells of learning that “when you strive to do good things, the pay is big.” Gives examples.
00:22:44	How he met wife Donna. Member of Wasatch Ward but did not form a relationship until after his mission to Sweden. Dated for three years before marrying. Parents of 4 children, 21 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren.
00:28:37	Other activities. Gives location of favorite roller skating place on 14 th E. in front of Donna’s house. School dances. Not a girl-chaser. Tells of first kiss in a church play at age 15 or 16.
00:33:11	Cousin killed in WWII. Recalls relationship with cousin Jed Harris of Blanding, Ut., who died in the Pacific Theater.
00:37:24	Phone rings.
00:37:33	End time