



Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Interview Summary and Index

Interviewee: Karen Gray Matthews

Interviewer: Jerri Mausbach and James Crawford

Date: August 14, 2015

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Summary

Karen Gray Matthews shares her memories about growing up around 15th and 15th from 1937 into the 1950s. She tells of the friendship between Grandfather Nicholas Morgan and Claude Cannon and the homes that they built at 15th and Kensington.

Karen says her mother Marjorie worked for Hale's Beauty Shop at 15th and 15th which changed ownership a couple of times. She eventually rented space for her own place, Marjorie's Beauty Shop, on Emerson at 15th East.

Karen, who had polio from age 3, recalls her mother selling the shop to take care of her and the trouble that ensued when she continued to do hair in their home at 1481 South 15th East. She describes the treatment for her legs and summer surgeries with the aid of March of Dimes. She talks about her father's Texaco station and other businesses between Emerson and Kensington on 15th East.

Karen relates the contributions of her grandfathers to the history of Salt Lake City and Sugar House. She tells about taking road trips with high school friends and shares some stories about shopping for horse radishes at 15th and 15th and her family life.

Note: A few questions with answers have been deleted in order to maintain the focus on the neighborhood in the 1940s and 50s.



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Time	Brief description
00:00	Introduction.
00:11	Homes at 1500 East and Kensington. Maternal grandfather Nicholas Morgan, law student 1907, married. Ethel Tate and his roommate Claude Cannon, dentistry, married Emily Barnes. Couples shared apartment in Washington, D.C. Grandfather built house at 1537 [15 th East] [on the SE corner of] Kensington; Claude built across the street. Claude suffered a stroke at age 45. Every day after work and walking up from 11 th East, Grandfather shaved his friend, Claude. Claude died in 1930. Refers to notes (see Document 05). Grandparents moved away in 1937.
03:17	Mother's work. Mother attended beauty school. Worked for Hale Beauty Shop at 15 th and 15 th (refers to map; see Image 01). Continued there when it was sold to Arabella Leonhardy, and then to Anne Davis. Anne's daughter, Sandra, became Karen's friend.
05:59	15th and 15th shops. Talks about shops that were located in the King's English Bookstore building: Karen's father's Texaco station (Image 40), Pattison's variety store, Anne's beauty shop.
07:11	Parents. Mother married Charles ("Chick") Gray. After the death of her husband in 1984, she married William Wagstaff.f. Chick owned the gas station. Tells of family moved to 1500 East and Emerson behind King's English Bookstore. Mentions babysitter Sue White
12:07	More on 15th and 15th shops. Folland Drugs (milkshakes, wild Indian drink), East Bench Grocery (aka Red and White Store), Safeway, three beauty shops, shoe repair, ice cream store.
13:48	East Bench Store horseradish. Tells about an encounter with Grover, the clerk with a wooden leg, when sent to store to buy horseradish. Mr. Cannon, owner.
14:57	Mother's beauty shop and other shops at 15th and 15th. Rented small space from Mr. Cameron on Emerson next to shoe repair shop by Folland Drug. Gives the location of other shops in relation to today's businesses:



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	Texaco station, another gas station, Robert's Beauty Shop (now Caputo's). Bus stop.
19:09	Friends. Did not play in The Gully. Mentions Anne Cannon, Sandy Davis, Karen Post Robertson, Dick Paul, the McMasters.
21:19	Photos. Random comments made while looking through photos. Mother's shop (known as Marjorie's Beauty Salon; Image 24), Emigration Market (no need to go there). Mentions aunt who lived across from Christensens at 1600 East and Logan (John Christensen and brother). Refers to mother's shop address list (Document 06). Getting perm at the salon. Gives street addresses of Paramount [Milk Depot] and Pattison's [variety store]. Wasatch Ward building; grandfather at dedication in 1917 (Images 08-09). Beauty shop uniforms (Image 23).
26:19	Families. Cannons, Alstons.
27:12	Schools. Garfield, Uintah, Roosevelt, Irving.
28:40	Documents. Refers to Edgehill Ward directory with business advertisements (Images 21-22). Mentions Harvey Glade, Glade Candy, Glade Hale.
30:49	High school. Rode city bus. Wore full petticoats or long tight skirts (hard time getting on bus). Rowena Bowers.
33:34	Church. Very important. Provided social life. Some non-Mormons have felt left out.
34:05	Karen's polio and mother's business. Paralyzed below waist by polio, age 3. Mother sold shop and did hair at home on Emerson and 1500 East. Turned in by buyer of her shop had to build separate entrance for customers. Digresses to tell about going to the wrong birthday party when her mother still had her shop. Shop was purchased by Zurchers. Schoolmates Vicky Zurcher and her cousin Jerry Odekirk.
37:43	Polio (cont.). Summer surgeries (refers to Image 39). Describes heat treatment on legs. Mother did Eve Greenwood's hair to pay for Eve massaging Karen's legs. Got financial help from March of Dimes.
40:11	Social life. Most social activities provided by [LDS] church. Also socialized with cousins and friends. Drove to Sun Valley with friends in junior year



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	and Las Vegas in senior year. Mentions theaters downtown: Center Theater, Uptown Theater, Utah Theater. Seldom went to Tower Theater.
42:00	Grandfather's chair. Talks about Grandfather John Morgan's chair who started the first commercial college west of the Mississippi River. Monument downtown.
42:28	Grandfather, university, and work. Did not serve an LDS mission (Anne Davis went on mission). Attended BYU one quarter then transferred to the University of Utah. Grandfather paid tuition for first quarter. Hired Karen to work in his oil business. Great great grandfather built the Wasatch Building downtown.
45:13	Great grandfather and Sugar House. Tells story of how her pioneer great great grandfather DeLaMare brought the first sugar machine from Liverpool across The Plains to Sugar House in 1852. Mentions Brigham Young, John Taylor, Philip DeLaMare.
48:24	Back to 15th and 15th. Contest to win a bicycle at O.P. Skaggs (Ralph Gygi, manager).
49:36	Family life. Small family home on 15 th East. Climbed stairs without rail on crutches. Beauty shop in back bedroom. Had Bendix washer and dryer in kitchen. Seldom ate out. Home-cooked meals and leftovers. Father owned used car lots. When mother was in labor, he had to walk to aunt's house to borrow a car with gas to take her to the hospital. Recalls mother scrambling to brake and start stalled car with a screwdriver on steep hill at 13 th and 13 th .
54:49	End time