



**Interview Summary and Index**

**Interviewee: John Rapp**

**Interviewer: Jerri Mausbach and James Crawford**

**Date: March 9, 2015**

**Location: Murray, UT**

<b>Summary</b>	
<p>John Rapp was born and raised in the area of 9<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> but was a frequent visitor to the gully and environs at 1500 East during the 1950s and 60s. When he married, he moved into a duplex at 1300 East and Bryan Avenue for a few years.</p>	
<p>John shares his memories of going through storm sewers, up Red Butte Creek to get to the gully in our neighborhood which he knew as the “Acorn” because of the wild acorns that grew there. He talks about playing with bows and arrows and building forts in the Acorn.</p>	
<p>John and friends also skateboarded on homemade skateboards, bicycled, and played with kids in the neighborhood.</p>	
<p>John reminisces about living on Bryan Avenue, houses and shops in the area, and the house that daughter Erin purchased on Kensington Avenue.</p>	
<p>John provides an interesting view into church and family life. His mother’s side was Mormon and father’s side was non-Mormon. He talks of a polygamist great great grandfather who was incarcerated in Sugar House Prison and a skilled woodworker. He notes how family members went different ways in matters of religion.</p>	
<p>John also gives a peek into the class society that existed at East High which was manifest in the tryouts and selection of players for the high school’s basketball team.</p>	

<b>Index</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Brief description</b>
00:00:00	<b>Introduction.</b> Location not mentioned: Murray, UT
00:00:27	<b>Background.</b> Born at 9 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> . Lived in this area from 1948-1973. Went to original Emerson Elementary School from 1953-1960. Went to



## Wasatch Hollow Community Council

	Roosevelt Middle School and East High School.
00:01:55	<b>Background (cont.)</b> Lived on Bryan and 13 <sup>th</sup> East when first married. First daughter was born there. Bought a home in Murray. The house has the same floor plan as the house on Windsor where he grew up.
00:02:20	<b>Background (cont.)</b> . John and wife both went to U of U, wife also went to Westminster. Wife has a MA in Social Ecology and was Medicaid Director for Utah. While in college did lots of things working as a mechanic, did an apprenticeship as an electrical engineer major, with a year to go before graduation there was a glut of engineers. Made more money as an apprentice than his friends, so became a diesel mechanic for Trailways and then worked for 30 years at UPS.
00:07:19	<b>Red Butte Creek and gullies.</b> Lived close to Liberty Park growing up. Loved Robin Hood and explored areas like Red Butte Creek that ran right under his house. Had a grate that went to the storm sewer under driveway. Would go down the storm sewer with flashlights and head east and follow the creek up. Would go down from 850 East to 7 <sup>th</sup> East and then go east all the way to 11 <sup>th</sup> East underground the whole way. Then follow the creek through the gully up to 13 <sup>th</sup> East. Some houses dammed up the creek and made pools. At 15 <sup>th</sup> East couldn't get through because of the houses. Called the gully there the "Acorn." Played in it with bows and arrows. Upstream was another gully. Took discarded old shingles and made arrowheads. Tried to shoot quail, but never got any. Spent most of summers there.
00:12:15	<b>Skateboarding and bike riding.</b> Made skateboards and skated down the sidewalk by the church that borders Acorn. If got going too fast, could roll off onto the lawn. Rode bikes everywhere in this area and played with kids in the neighborhood.
00:13:37	<b>Living on Bryan Avenue.</b> Moved to 13 <sup>th</sup> East and Bryan after marriage and took the kids on stroller rides to east 15 <sup>th</sup> to a store where Einstein's is now. Loved a house on 14 <sup>th</sup> and Kensington and the stores along this street. Daughter married a Greek man whose father owned three of stores, one was here and one was the Crystal Palace on 9 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> .
00:16:20	<b>Daughter's house on Kensington Avenue.</b> Daughter found a house on Kensington that was the same floor plan as the one she was born in.
00:18:40	<b>Westminster area.</b> Asks exactly what is in the area across from Westminster where they have peacocks, deer and all kinds of crazy stuff like hobbit houses. Would like to know the history of it.
00:20:22	<b>Lower Logan Avenue.</b> Spent a lot of time at a friend's below on Logan Avenue whose house was designed by a famous architect.



## Wasatch Hollow Community Council

00:21:11	<b>Sugar House rapist.</b> Beat up the future “Sugar House Rapist” in 7 <sup>th</sup> grade.
00:21:59	<b>Playing in the Acorn.</b> Spent a lot of time playing in the Acorn. Built forts. Pretended to be Robin Hood who was played by Errol Flynn.
00:24:45	<b>Church and family.</b> Played ward basketball (John is 6’5”). Ward basketball was neighborhood v. neighborhood. Immediate family was split...half were Mormon, half were not. This was quite the controversy.
00:25:38	<b>Polygamist grandfather.</b> Great great grandfather was a polygamist and spent time in the penitentiary in Sugar House, which is now the Sizzler at 13 <sup>th</sup> East and 21 <sup>st</sup> South. He was the penitentiary gardener and wore street clothes so no one would know prisoners were maintaining the grounds.
00:27:00	<b>Church and family (cont.)</b> Attended the 31 <sup>st</sup> Ward. The two youngest kids in the family attended the Congregational Church at 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> . Mother’s side of the family were polygamists so there was a real fight about baptisms. Dad was a Mason from Missouri and didn’t like Mormons, which created conflict. John and wife married in Holladay United Church of Christ and attend a Catholic Church now because their grandchildren sing in the choir. Madeline Choir School.
00:30:30	<b>Murray house and pioneer craftsmen.</b> The older houses in the neighborhood are much nicer than newer houses. Comments on the artistic work of early brick masons and pioneer craftsmen. Polygamist great great grandfather carved the doors in the Salt Lake Temple where newlywed pictures are taken.
00:32:50	<b>Class society.</b> On Halloween would trick or treat up the hill because all the rich people lived in this area and gave out whole candy bars. East High constituted the “top of the hill.” The people were a different class, society class. 5 <sup>th</sup> East and 13 <sup>th</sup> South were the divide.
00:35:42	<b>Class society (cont.)</b> The “hill” started at 11 <sup>th</sup> East. The different groups ran together. You had to be on the “hill” to be on the East High team. John lived down below, so they would not pass the ball to him during tryouts for the team. That made it hard to make the team or get any playing time. It was a very class driven society. Those families made more money than the families that lived in John’s neighborhood. Byron Tolman, David Soper.
00:37:45	<b>Family members above the “hill.”</b> Sister lived on 17 <sup>th</sup> East in a small house. Grandmother lived at 17 <sup>th</sup> East and Harvard. John would go to the A & W across the street from Emigration Market when he visited her.
00:39:00	<b>Closing thoughts on the Wasatch Hollow area.</b> John and his wife were amazed at the changes when they moved in the area after marrying. Daughter Erin moved up here, and we would have loved to stay, but the



## Wasatch Hollow Community Council

	housing was much cheaper in Murray.
00:44:52	<b>End time</b>