



Interview Summary and Index

Interviewee: Carolyn Watrous Taylor

Interviewer: Melvin P. Thatcher

Date: August 29, 2015

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Summary	
<p>Carolyn Watrous Taylor shares her memories of the family’s Home and Garden Variety Store at 17th and 17th and growing up on both sides of the gully that cuts through our neighborhood during the 1940s and 50s. She portrays an idyllic time when children were free to roam the neighborhood and the streets were safe for playing.</p>	
<p>She recalls the pastoral east side and the development of housing above 1900 East from the 1950s. She tells how her father got his start in retail sales during the Depression at the Safeway store on 15th and Kensington, remembers working in the store as a child with employees who were mostly from the neighborhood. She also tells about other shops at the intersection of 17th and 17th.</p>	
<p>Carolyn remembers the animals and plants in the gully above 1700 East and playing there with friends until age 14. She also talks about sleighing down Roosevelt Roosevelt Avenue to 11th East and on the hillside south of the gully between 16th and 15th East. She tells how the family home on 1700 East became a center for neighborhood events and children after her father built a swimming pool.</p>	
<p>She recalls a neighborhood of family homes with kids on bicycles and walking to school. There were some challenges, however, as her father had to teach her how to deal with a schoolboy bully who harassed her as she walked home.</p>	

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Time	Brief description
00:00	Introduction.
00:40	Birth family. Father Ray Watrous, mother Mildred Bates Watrous, sister Patricia, brother Tom.
01:06	17th and 17th. Moved in at age 8. Parents opened a variety store. New housing area. Pastoral. Bertagnoli pastured sheep on 1900 East. Lived by



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	a gully (“The Gully”) with many types of wildlife. Neighborhoods developed above 1900 East from 1950s. People needed supplies.
04:37	LDS wards. LDS stake divided neighborhood among six wards. Edgehill, Mountain View, Monte Vista.
05:19	Family store. Had a nursery and household goods. Worked in store with siblings Pat and Tom. Employed neighbors (Kim, Stu Pendleton father of Louise, Virginia Hasslefeld. Only non-neighbor employee: Dick Rand. Store became a hangout for neighbors. Children worked beside father.
08:26	The Gully. Gully was deeper. Road was raised in 1960 and a 4-way stop was added. The Gully was “magical place for children” to play. Many types of trees. Developed first interest in plants. Rope swing across stream; pools and eddies.
11:18	17th and 17th shops. Mr. Baxter built grocery with meat market on northwest corner. Ferris Horner’s service station on southeast corner. Eveart, the barber. Castleton’s ice cream parlor which failed.
13:09	Family store. Father used funds from his successful Little Mountain Ski Area to start their family store. Sold small items purchased from Economy Drug and Rexall Drug at 15 th and 15 th . Store gradually became a huge success as the Home and Garden Variety Store.
17:01	Play. Roads had little traffic. Sleighed down Roosevelt from 16 th to 11 th East. No television at home until age 14 or 15. Ballingers next to Ferris Horner’s had first TV.
18:20	Swimming pool. Father built first family swimming pool in neighborhood at 1650 East 1700 South home. House became center for local events and children. Bruno, a Newfoundland dog, was neighborhood mascot.
20:44	Bruno. Family’s Newfoundland dog became the neighborhood mascot. 1956.
21:16	More on gullies. Sledding hill on lower Blaine Avenue south of the gully below 1700 South between 16 th and 15 th East. Built huts in the gully on the north side. South side gully too steep. Large field where family hold was built. Father sold west side of property on 1700 South. Scoop Roll, son of John, put in fill to build a house there.
25:39	More on playing in The Gully. Played Indians, robbers, Superman and met boys below Joe Hatch’s house north of Wasatch Presbyterian Church until age 14.
27:51	Friends and the Gully. Friends were from all over, then LDS ward divisions divided friends. Teenagers didn’t play in The Gully as much. Farms became suburbs. Friends changed. Walked in The Gully but stopped hanging out there.



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32:11	Wasatch Presbyterian Church. Neighbors were happy when the church bought Baxter's property after the store closed.
32:43	Character of neighborhood. Mostly single family homes. Rode go karts in street and parking lots. Bicycles popular. Walked to Irving Jr. High. Usually passed prison on 2100 South and exchanged waves with prisoners.
35:11	A bully. Tells how father taught her to fight with a stick and face down a bully who chased her part way home after school in 7 th grade.
37:13	Father. Dispensed advice on fishing , gardening, tools etc. Told stories and joked with customers. Trusted for his integrity.
38:25	Father and Safeway. Father started as a 16 year old volunteer for the Safeway store at 15 th and Kensington during The Depression and ended up managing it.
42:42	Sugar House memories. Bells ringing on VJ day, many furniture stores, and the monument in Sugar House.
44:55	Social activities and friends. Teenage years, instead of going out with a group of friends, did family outdoor activities. Spent time visiting and talking with friends at their homes. Mentions Anne Cannon, Dorothy Milne married Phil Kotter. Siblings each had their own groups of friends. Notes impact of creation of school and ward divisions on friendships. Friends were mostly LDS. Non-LDS friends-Ballingers. Milne Jewelry.
51:38	Closing memories. Bus riding. Tiny garages. Chicken coops. Part of transition from rural to suburban area. High school rumbles. Church basketball. Father joined LDS Church. Isolated from national events. Could see downtown from side of The Gully. Present at "that moment of change."
56:05	End time