



Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Interview Summary and Index – Donna Wood Johnson

Interviewee: Donna Wood Johnson

Interviewer: Susan Dillon

Date: March 6, 2015

Location: Salt Lake City, Utah

Summary

Donna Wood Johnson moved into the neighborhood at age 4 in 1935. She talks about the family homes at 1332 Harrison and 1402 1400 East, and the shops at 15th and 15th, and 1300 South and 1700 East and notes that her uncles built the building that is now Jolleys Pharmacy where candy was made for Fernwood Candy Company, founded by George and Leah Wood.

Donna talks about games and youth activities in the neighborhoods, school, and church. She highlights the Wasatch Ward. She recalls going to Uintah School for her elementary education and making several visits to the principal's office for talking too much. She also mentions Roosevelt Jr, High, East High, and the University of Utah.

Donna remembers activities with her best friend, Marilyn Felt Anderson, including playing violin together for Sunset Lawn Mortuary. She recalls fondly a store in the Malens' home on Harrison where penny candies were sold. She tells of playing touch football with the boys, ice skating in a homemade pond in her backyard, sledding down "Steep Harrison." She recounts elder brother Bob Wood learning how to do business in their father's store and later founding Prowse Wood Builders.

Donna shares recollections of pasting rations stamps from her father's grocery customers in books during WWII and her father, who was an LDS bishop, helping needy people with food from his store during the Depression. Finally she tells how she got to know and date her future husband and how she learned to ski, bowl, and drive a car from her brother's friend.



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Time	Brief description
00:00:00	Introduction. Moved into neighborhood in 1935 at age 4. Will talk about 1935-1953 when she married and moved away.
00:00:57	Reflections on the neighborhood. Lovely, peaceful, wonderful neighbors, tall mature trees. Does not remember the gully. No farms in her area,. Middle class homes.
00:02:46	Relocation of family home. Lived at 1332 Harrison Ave from age 4 to12. Relocated to a bigger house 1402 14 th East when maternal grandmother and paternal grandfather moved in.
00:04:24	Walking. Recalls walking everywhere.
00:05:40	Weekend activities and vacations. Salt Air, Lagoon; Yellowstone, Canada. Recalls favorite thing was to take bus with a friend to a movie downtown followed by 5¢ Hersey bar. Also took bus to McCune School of Music for lessons.
00:07:12	15th and 15th shops. Mentions Skaggs grocery, pharmacy, and Patterson’s, where boys bought things they shouldn’t have.
00:08:09	Games and other activities. Kick the can, run sheepie run. Ghost stories. Dancing at Saltair, Lagoon, and Rainbow Rendezvous. Church activities.
00:09:51	Streets and trees. Paved streets big trees. Saddened when mother cut down tree in front of house.
00:11:04	Trolley and bus. 9 th East trolley reversed direction at East High. Mostly took 15 th East bus downtown. Stop at Harrison Ave.
00:13:24	Snow, yard, friends. Snow never closed school or church. Shoveled sidewalk. Recalls mother’s beautiful yard. Seldom had friends over due to grandmother’s dementia.
00:15:51	Wasatch Ward. Fourteen marriages formed from couples in ward. Father was a leader. Focus youth activities – dances, roadshows, sports. Most of her activities were with the ward. Reid’s mother was long-time organist. No parking, so people walked to church.
00:20:19	Elementary School. [Uintah School]. Music teacher Miss Neil. Strict principal Lois Anderson. Recalls visits to principal’s office for talking too



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	<p>much. School games-jacks, jump rope, hop scotch. Articulating unit combined 6th and 7th grades.</p>
00:22:54	<p>Secondary schools. Did 2 years each for junior high and high school. Graduated high school at 16 and university at 20. Roosevelt Jr. High at 900 S 900 East. East High – most graduates went to University of Utah. Walked to school.</p>
00:24:58	<p>Best friend. Marilyn Felt Anderson. Describes playing violin together for Sunset Lawn Mortuary and riding bikes up there (13th South).</p>
00:29:09	<p>Malen’s store. Located in Malen’s home on 14th East and Harrison. Sold penny candy, soup, and bread.</p>
00:30:12	<p>Sleigh riding down “Steep Harrison.” Describes sledding down lower Harrison from 13th East to 11th East.</p>
00:31:20	<p>Getting ready for dinner. Put on dress, did handwork for trousseau, and waited for father to come home.</p>
00:32:48	<p>Malen’s store. Tells about favorite candies and notes kindness of Mr. Malen.</p>
00:34:50	<p>Husband’s business. Commenting on plastic containers, digresses to talk about formation of her husband’ business, Industrial Container and Supply.</p>
00:37:23	<p>Neighborhood games. Touch football with the boys. Ice skating in her flooded backyard.</p>
00:38:27	<p>Brother Bob Wood. Founded Prowse Wood Builders, a home construction company. Worked in father’s grocery store from age 9 to 18. Took over management when father died. Very creative. Owned pigeons and rabbits and built things.</p>
00:40:18	<p>Random memories. Talks about pet duck. Tells how ice pond was made in her backyard. Ice skating at Peale’s Pond at 9th East and about 60th South. Swimming lessons at Deseret Gym. Remembers streams but not the gully.</p>
00:43:30	<p>1300 South 1700 East shops. Remembers Emigration Market but did not shop there. Says across the street a building (today’s Jolleys Pharmacy) was built by her uncles, of whom one owns Fernwoods Candy and Ice</p>



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	<p>Cream. Candy was made there for Fernwoods. After her father died, her mother received rent from another family-owned store. George Wood and Leah started Fernwoods. Had at store in the building. 15th East stores were more important for family's shopping.</p>
00:48:04	<p>WWII rationing and war bonds. Father owned grocery store. Food, butter, meat, and gas were rationed. Tells about pasting ration stamps from father's store in books. Bought war bonds. Was at girl scout camp when the war ended. Remembers mother picking her up at Cloud Rim Girl Scout Camp when gas rationing was taken off.</p>
00:50:15	<p>Great Depression. Father was LDS bishop. Church did not have Welfare Square to help people. Came home to house full of people needing help. Helped them with groceries from his store.</p>
00:52:00	<p>Brighton Girls Camp. Run by LDS Church. Stayed for one week in lodge, Horseback riding, mountain climbing. Girls Scouts was not run by LDS Church. Stayed in tents.</p>
00:54:12	<p>Sleeping in backyard. Older sister approached by man from the alley. She screamed and ran.</p>
00:55:58	<p>Dating future husband. Tells of dating for one month on a dollar. Normal date would be a dance or movie followed by a hamburger and a malt. Tells how she got to know Reid when, after his mission, he called to ask out her older sister. Dated him and another fellow for nine months, then he gave her his fraternity pin. Dated three years before marrying. Explains significance of fraternity pin.</p>
01:01:55	<p>Learning to ski. Learned to ski from Bob Gillis, a friend of her brother. Also taught her to bowl and drive a car.</p>
01:02:58	<p>Comments on photos. Dick Prowse</p>
01:07:28	<p>End time</p>