

TRANSCRIPT

CLIFF and MARTHA HANSEN

Interviewed by Mark Junge

September 25 and 26, 2009

Jackson, WY

JUNGE: Today is the 25th of September 2009. My name is Mark Junge and I'm talking with ex-governor and former senator Clifford Hansen. And one of his housekeepers.....(noise in background)....is that correct Brew?

BREW: I'm uh...I guess I'm a caregiver..I'm the cook, aren't I. I'm the cook and the "mean girl"?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: And, Ardith (Junge's wife) is sitting off to my right and I'm facing Cliff Hansen at his house at 1000 Spring Gulch Road. Would you call this Wilson, Cliff, or Jackson?

HANSEN: Jackson.

JUNGE: Ok, Jackson. I'd like to talk to you a little bit about your past growing up and find out how you grew up and maybe have you tell some stories of your growing up in Jackson and your father and mother and things like that. Then I thought maybe tomorrow we could talk about your career. Your political career. Does that sound ok to you?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Ok, well first of all. When and where were you born?

HANSEN: I was born in Zenith, Wyoming, October 31st, 1912.

JUNGE: Right. So you...in three weeks, are going to be 97.

HANSEN: Right.

JUNGE: Ok. How does it feel to be 97?

HANSEN: Well, actually, I don't feel much differently than I did when I was 96!

JUNGE: That makes sense. Who were your parents?

HANSEN: Peter Christopherson Hansen was my father and my mother was Sylvia Irene Wood Hansen.

JUNGE: Now I read a little bit about your mother – Sylvia Wood Hansen. She came from Idaho, right?

HANSEN: Right.

JUNGE: Did she talk to you much about how she grew up as a kid?

HANSEN: They all had work and duties to perform on the ranch which she waded right in and did her share of the work.

JUNGE: There were what...six or seven kids in her family?

HANSEN: You know, I'm not exactly sure how many there were. I think there were probably seven....I'm guessing on that.

JUNGE: Her parents. Was it her parents that came originally down the Mormon Trail with Mormon handcarts or were those her grandparents? I think it was your great-grandparents that originally came out to this country with handcarts. Am I right about that?

HANSEN: I believe you are.

JUNGE: Ok, did she ever talk about that?

HANSEN: Not a lot. Only to say that her parents were with a group of people who used handcarts to come to this part of the United States.

JUNGE: Now, she met your dad in Idaho...is that right?

HANSEN: Right.

JUNGE: What was he doing? Was he a rancher?

HANSEN: He was a rancher and he married my mother...trying to think of the name of the...

JUNGE: Oh, the name of the place?

HANSEN: What?

JUNGE: The name of the place where they got married?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Did they get married in Blackfoot or Idaho Falls? Well, that's ok. That's not important right now. She really had a pioneer existence.

HANSEN: Yes she did. She was an extremely hard worker and insisted on doing everything she could to help her husband, my father. It wasn't an easy life by any means.

JUNGE: Did she pitch in and do a man's work?

HANSEN: She could do anything. The answer to your question --did she do a man's work? Yes.

JUNGE: What type of person was your father?

HANSEN: He was a good manager and a hard worker and...

JUNGE: Was he strict?

HANSEN: He was very honest, as was my mother. Anything that involved in any commitment they might have made to anybody. They made few – the ones they made were very strictly observed. They were extremely honest, forthright, great people.

JUNGE: That's a very nice statement to make about your parents.

HANSEN: Well, it's a very truthful one.

JUNGE: You know, one of the things I didn't ask you Cliff – where is Zenith? Where you were born, Zenith.

HANSEN: Zenith? Zenith is north of Jackson. I guess the town that you would know about or the place would be Moose.

JUNGE: Oh sure, sure. I know where that is.

HANSEN: Well, Zenith was very near...I mean it was in that location.

JUNGE: Ok, so were you born in a log cabin?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Just like Abraham Lincoln!

(laughter)

JUNGE: Did you have to share a bed with your brothers and sisters?

HANSEN: No, I think we had...mother was a very good manager and as many as I can remember, we each had our own bed.

JUNGE: Hmm. I think your father, did he build on to that cabin or did he build that cabin originally?

HANSEN: I don't think he built it originally. I think he bought it and moved into it.

JUNGE: Well, you probably remember some of the old timers in the valley, I would imagine.

HANSEN: I think I do.

JUNGE: One person in particular I'm interested in getting your opinion of – my old boss when I worked at the Recreation Commission in Cheyenne was Ned Frost. Did you know Ned Frost?

HANSEN: Yes, I did.

JUNGE: What was your opinion of him?

HANSEN: Well, I don't know that I had occasion to do many things with him but he was well-respected and probably met more people in this valley and knew them by name than I did.

JUNGE: Really? Because he was an outfitter?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Were you the one who called him to Congress to testify in some sub-committee hearing? I think you'd called him to testify in Washington one time. I think that's what Bert, his wife told me.

HANSEN: Well, she probably remembers that better than I. I don't recall that particular incident but if she told you that why I think you could count on it being right.

JUNGE: How about people like the Rockefellers?

HANSEN: Well, actually our first experience with them – we were on opposite sides of an issue about whether Jackson Hole ought to be a national park or not. They early recognized it's beauty and significance; the Rockefellers did, so they were for it. At that time, I was a county commissioner and I was concerned about the taxes and fearful that if it were made a national park, the source of revenue that we were getting would get shut off so I opposed the Rockefellers in their enthusiasm for making it a national park.

JUNGE: What sort of income were you worried about getting shut off? Hunting and fishing?

HANSEN: I suppose, as best as I can remember, those were two of the sources whose possible loss concerned me.

JUNGE: Well, there was a big brew-ha-ha about that and I think there was even a movie star out here who helped head up a group that drove cattle right through the park. Was that Wallace Beery?

HANSEN: Yeah, it was.

JUNGE: Wallace Beery.

HANSEN: He was well known and some of the local people, Lew Gill for one, who was a close friend of Wallace Beery's....

JUNGE: What was his name?

HANSEN: Lew Gill.

JUNGE: G-I-I-I?

HANSEN: His son is still in this area and a good friend of mine. They were concerned about any deviation of revenue that could result from the activities of the National Park Service.

JUNGE: Didn't they have like a posse and they were armed? There could have been a fight!

HANSEN: Well, that's true. Actually, the publicity leading up to that exceeded any reality. We weren't going to fight anybody but we did carry guns.

JUNGE: So, it was more or less a publicity thing.

HANSEN: Right. It was.

JUNGE: Well, as it turned out, whoever was heading up the park, Yellowstone Park at that time maintained his equanimity and he didn't get too excited and call out the National Guard so things just kind of went on I guess.

HANSEN: Yeah, I don't know...

JUNGE: Was it Horace Allbright? I wonder if it was Horace Allbright?

HANSEN: I guess it may have been.

JUNGE: Did you know Horace Allbright?

HANSEN: Slightly.

JUNGE: What was your opinion?

Hansen: He was dedicated to the National Park Service and in his opinion, everything he did was what they would wish to have done.

JUNGE: He was a well-respected man.

HANSEN: He was a controversial man. A lot of the local people didn't embrace him as a friend but he did what he thought was best for the National Park Service.

JUNGE: Now what did you think of Rockefeller's Snake River Land Company buying up all this property?

HANSEN: We opposed it initially because we were afraid the source of revenue of taxes would dry up if it became a national park and with that conviction in mind, we opposed the Rockefellers.

JUNGE: How do you feel about that now? Have you changed your mind about it?

HANSEN: Yeah, very much, of course. And I recognized later that this was indeed a very special place and the view of the country was something that people would nationally hold very much in high regard and I having earlier opposed the Rockefellers, I later did a 180 degree turn and went on record telling them of that – told Mr. Rockefeller, along with everybody else, I felt that the destiny of the country had to be its becoming a national park.

JUNGE: You're glad now that it's a national park?

HANSEN: I am. I mean, it's unique enough and beautiful enough that it certainly ought to be a national park.

JUNGE: Going back to your childhood – you entered the first grade and you stuttered.

HANSEN: I did.

JUNGE: And there was a story about some cowboys in the bunkhouse that heard you stuttering and saying that you wanted to be governor. Do you remember that? How did that go?

HANSEN: Yeah. Well, I guess I told them that I had got the word..they had got the word that I had said I'd like to be governor. I told 'em, "Well, I'll tell you fellas something. One day, I will be governor."

JUNGE: And what did they say?

HANSEN: I don't recall any response that they gave me. I was determined that I was going to be governor and obviously they didn't argue with me.

JUNGE: Now the teacher sent you back from school saying that you were 'uneducable.' What did your mother say about that?

HANSEN: Well, bless her heart! That wonderful lady. She had been a former school teacher and she felt that when the teacher said I was uneducable, she concentrated on my math subjects which I, with all modesty may say, excelled and uh...

JUNGE: How did she...how did she deal with your stuttering problem?

HANSEN: Well, we saw...my father saw a little ad in the paper..it wasn't a local paper. I remember the name of the paper was the Pathfinder. One of the ads in that paper was displaying a promise that this man had inserted that said he could guarantee a corrective treatment for stammerers and stutterers. I guess my father or mother saw that ad so they got in touch with the fellow named Benjamin N. Bogue. B-o-g—u-e and he too as a youngster had been a stutterer and a stammerer with a speech problem. They wrote to him and that started a correspondence between my parents and Mr. Bogue and finally, he took me over.

JUNGE: You were about uh...I believe about 13 or 14.

HANSEN: Yes, right in that age group. I've forgotten precisely.

JUNGE: You went to Indianapolis?

HANSEN: Right.

JUNGE: And do you remember that experience?

HANSEN: Very well.

JUNGE: What was that like?

HANSEN: Well, I could describe it in detail. I don't know if that would be of interest to you.

JUNGE: Well, it is because I was reading about it and it had something to do with raising your arm every time you pronounced a syllable? I didn't understand exactly how they did that.

HANSEN: Well, in order to help me pronounce syllables, the technique that Mr. Bogue used...and incidentally, he too as a youngster, was a stutterer and a stammerer...and cured himself. He'd have you put your arm up in the air like this and take two fingers

and push them together like this every time you started to say a syllable. The idea of that was ...well, we went through a routine before that of swinging your arms in unison with other kids and every time we'd say a word...I could illustrate like..."Where...there...is...a...will...a...will...there...is...a...way." Mr. Bogue developed that procedure to...

JUNGE: And that's what did it for you?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: When you came back from Indianapolis, were you able to speak normally?

HANSEN: No. No, I wasn't. As a matter of fact, when I came back from Indianapolis, I was using the Bogue method and every word I'd say...or syllable I would put my little finger and uh..not little finger but...

JUNGE: Your index finger and your thumb?

HANSEN: Right. Index finger and thumb together to say the word. And the magic of that was I would be concentrating on that mechanical part along with trying to say the different syllables that were in the word.

JUNGE: Oh, I see. That slowed you down.

HANSEN: It slowed me down and when I was in school, why, the kids were very tolerant. They put up with me.

JUNGE: Did you ever get into any fights about it?

HANSEN: No, I didn't.

JUNGE: What that tells me, Cliff is that you were a determined person. You were determined to succeed.

HANSEN: I think that's true.

JUNGE: And it worked that way in politics too, didn't it?

HANSEN: Well, you've got to be determined to accomplish any difficult task certainly, in politics but by that time, I wasn't using this Bogue technique any longer but I was equally determined to speak and I sought out opportunities to speak to the public.

JUNGE: That took a lot of courage.

HANSEN: Well, it did but I had the incentive of having stuttered and being unable to speak and I know that was a strong part of the motivation.

JUNGE: In fact when you went to college – and this just amazes me – you were on the debate team.

HANSEN: After I learned that I could speak I sought out opportunities – I couldn't think of anything that I'd want to do more than to speak in public.

JUNGE: You never had stage fright? You never were worried about your stuttering coming back?

HANSEN: No. No, I wasn't. I later on talked to...if I could think of the gal's name...

JUNGE: Was she in politics?

HANSEN: Yeah. Her husband was governor of Indiana.

JUNGE: Oh, not Bai, Birtch Bai?

HANSEN: No, it **wasn't Birtch**

JUNGE: Oh. Governor Bowen, the physician?

HANSEN: I'm embarrassed to say I don't remember.

JUNGE: Don't be embarrassed about that. That's normal. Anyway, so what about this person?

HANSEN: Later on, she had overcome her stuttering and she was telling me how the techniques that she had employed...by gosh, it was the same routine **Birtch Bai? had used.**

JUNGE: Did you enjoy getting up in front of an audience and talking?

HANSEN: Yeah I did.

JUNGE: Why?

HANSEN: Why?

JUNGE: Yeah!

HANSEN: When I was still a stutterer I couldn't imagine anything I'd like to do more than being up before an audience and speak.

JUNGE: So you whipped that problem along with most problems you faced in life.

HANSEN: Well, I'm not sure if I've whipped a lot of other problems but

(laughter)

JUNGE: Tell me what it was like growing up in Jackson Hole. Did you have a horse named Billy or something like that? Tell me about this horse.

HANSEN: Well, my older sister's husband Bill Francis gave me a horse named Billy. He wasn't too pleased. I guess he felt that he was worthy of something more important than a horse carrying his name. He was a great guy, my brother-in-law was. I know that we thought we'd be doing him a favor by naming a horse after him but we found out early on that he wasn't pleased but later on, he accepted the name.

JUNGE: What kind of a horse was this?

HANSEN: It was a good horse, a saddle horse.

JUNGE: When did you first start riding?

HANSEN: Oh gosh, just as a little kid.

JUNGE: Your dad would put you up on the saddle?

HANSEN: Bareback was the best way to ride and if you fell off, you wouldn't get hung up in the stirrup.

JUNGE: Did you fall off?

HANSEN: I'm sure I did many times.

JUNGE: Well, maybe you had the sagebrush to break your fall.

HANSEN: I'm not sure I was around sagebrush when I fell either.

JUNGE: Were you good on horses..or were you good with horses?

HANSEN: Without any undue flattery, I was good. I was a good cowboy.

JUNGE: Did you want to be a cowboy growing up?

HANSEN: That wasn't my greatest ambition. My greatest ambition was being able to talk to an audience.

JUNGE: Did your dad want you to come back and run the ranch after you went to college?

HANSEN: I think it would be fair to say he did.

JUNGE: But you didn't want to be a cowboy anymore.

HANSEN: I didn't mind being a...my goal wasn't to make that my first choice of an occupations.

JUNGE: Now your oldest sister's name was Parthenia?

HANSEN: Right.

JUNGE: And then you had a brother Jerry?

HANSEN: Sister Gerry.

JUNGE: Sister Gerry? Oh, I thought it was spelled G-e-r-r-y.

HANSEN: That's the way she spelled it but actually it was Geraldine but we just nicknamed her Gerry.

JUNGE: Were you close to those two sisters of yours?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: What kind of people were they?

HANSEN: Great people.

JUNGE: Do you remember growing up with them? Can you tell me any stories about growing up with them?

HANSEN: Billy Francis was later to be my brother-in-law and he was a son of...I'm just a little hesitant to make a flat-out statement about that.

JUNGE: I guess the important thing was do you remember –did you and sister do anything together that was memorable like did you make up a steak together or...you know?

HANSEN: They were great sisters, those sisters of mine. They were very conscious of Dad's interests and Mother's interests. They were good kids.

JUNGE: Did they look at you as their little brother?

HANSEN: Early on, they were filled with compassion because of my speech impediment.

JUNGE: Oh, ok. Let's see...you were third oldest and you had what, three following you or two?

HANSEN: Three.

JUNGE: Helen?

HANSEN: Ordean and Robert.

JUNGE: So, who were you closest to?

HANSEN: In the family?

JUNGE: Yeah. Who do you think was your closest ally?

HANSEN: My mother.

JUNGE: Did you have any friends in the surrounding ranch country when you grew up that you played with?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Do you remember anything about that?

HANSEN: The Martin family lived two ranches ahead of ours and I guess one story that may be of interest – when we first learned that Mr. Martin wanted to sell his ranch. That was the name of a rancher that was the second ranch north of ours. Word got out that he wanted to sell it because Mrs. Martin had been told by the doctor that they ought to move to a lower climate...that this climate was taxing her heart more than...seemed like the best sort of condition that she could be in. When that word got out, Mr. Lewis among others, he thought he'd like to buy the place. He told Ed Martin was the owner whose wife was having a little heart fluttering he could get a better offer of more money from someone else...

JUNGE: Than Mr. Lucas?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Story I heard was that Ed Martin said he wasn't going to talk to anybody else. "One thing about Pete Hansen, when he tells you what he'll do, he's a man of his word and he'll do it." And because of that conviction that Ed Martin had of Dad, when he sold out, Dad made him an offer and he accepted it, not instantly but the story I recall hearing was that he had the conviction that Dad would pay him what he was asking.

JUNGE: Now this wasn't Lucas Fabian was it?

HANSEN: No.

JUNGE: Do you remember Lucas Fabian?

HANSEN: Well I....

JUNGE: Wasn't he involved with the Snake River Land Company?

HANSEN: I believe he was. I didn't know him.

JUNGE: So what did you do for fun on the ranch...or was it all work and no play?

HANSEN: No, no! Our parents were very good to us and supported us in our play activities.

JUNGE: What did you have to do on the ranch? What was your job?

HANSEN: We usually had men to milk the cows but I could milk. The families we had, I guess...we usually had one or two men volunteering to milk and then that was their job from then on.

JUNGE: Did you stack hay?

HANSEN: A little.

JUNGE: Seems to me that would have been one of the hardest jobs to do...or did you have to grub out sage?

HANSEN: No, we didn't but we pulled a rail, like a big log and attached a piece of railroad to it and dragged it at right angles to the sage and that ??? the sage pretty well.

JUNGE: Were there more Mormons in this part of the valley or were they over by Clark and Vita Moulton, Mormon Row area.

HANSEN: The concentration of the Mormons was over by where Clark and Vita lived.

JUNGE: Did you know them?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: How did you get along? Did you like those people?

HANSEN: Yeah, they were fine people.

JUNGE: Is Clark still alive? I wonder if Clark and Vita...

HANSEN: You know, I'm not sure but I don't think so. I think they both passed away but they were good people.

JUNGE: They were in a totally different part of the valley. How did you guys ever get together? Were there community functions or did you just go traveling on your horse sometimes?

HANSEN: The Mormons, including Clark and Vita's parents, I guess, were charged by the church to try to expand the number of Mormon converts. My father had some experience with the Mormons in Idaho and he didn't want to become an active worker for the church, so he didn't.

JUNGE: But you came from Mormon roots. Your mother came from Mormon roots, right?

HANSEN: Yes, she did. She certainly did.

JUNGE: Why would they change from Mormonism to Episcopalianism?

HANSEN: Well, Dad didn't...he'd had some earlier experiences in Idaho with the Mormons when they were trying to convert everybody – all their neighbors to Mormonism and I think it would be fair to say that Dad's influence over Mother was dominant and ...

JUNGE: So they became Episcopalian?

HANSEN: Mother did. Dad wasn't active in the Episcopal church by any means.

JUNGE: Did you go to St. John's?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: You were Episcopalian?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Was that a good experience for you? Because according to your mother's story – I read her story in the paper, she thought church was boring.

HANSEN: Well, bless her heart! I wouldn't try to contradict anything she'd say.

JUNGE: Did you think it was boring?

HANSEN: (laughs) I guess most kids my tender age thought churches were boring.

JUNGE: Were you a strong Episcopalian growing up?

HANSEN: Well, I wouldn't say I was a strong one. Later on, we supported the church.

JUNGE: You were on the board...or was that the hospital board?

HANSEN: I was on the hospital board but I don't recall that I was on any other church board despite the fact that they did name of the halls they built in my honor ONLY to raise money.

JUNGE: Nothing wrong with that.

HANSEN: Nothing wrong with that!

JUNGE: Did you know Robert Miller?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Wasn't he the first game warden? He had something to do with early conservation.

HANSEN: He was head of the National Elk Refuge to start with and along with that position went some duties...I don't think he ever went out trying to arrest people to that extent.

JUNGE: What kind of a guy was he?

HANSEN: He was a very fine man.

JUNGE: Talkative? Was he talkative?

HANSEN: Of course, I was just a little kid when I knew him best but I know my father held him in pretty high regard.

JUNGE: What about Struthers Burt? Did you know Struthers Burt?

HANSEN: I'd met him.

JUNGE: Oh, but you weren't friends?

HANSEN: He was much older than I was at the time.

JUNGE: The Bar- BC wasn't that far away, was it?

HANSEN: No, but he wasn't very active in the Bar-BC.

JUNGE: Oh, he wasn't?

HANSEN: No.

JUNGE: He was more of a rider. Did you know Earl Hardeman?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Was he a neighbor?

HANSEN: He lived up on Mormon Row and was a rancher.

JUNGE: Oh, Earl Hardeman? I thought Earl Hardeman lived up in Wilson.

HANSEN: I guess I'm talking about his father.

JUNGE: Oh, I didn't know about his father. So, his father lived up on Mormon Row.

HANSEN: I think that's right. Unless I'm mixed up, I think that's right.

JUNGE: Ok, but then there's a big ranch up there..a barn barn up there by Wilson, the Hardeman barn that was bought up by a conservation group and Earl lived up near that barn so that's why I thought you might know Earl. He was an auctioneer in town wasn't he?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Well now, tell me about going to the University of Wyoming. First of all, let's go back to high school. Were you in sports at all? You were pretty small, I guess.

HANSEN: I was too small to be in football.

JUNGE: Did you play other sports?

HANSEN: There weren't very many other sports that amounted to anything.

JUNGE: Yeah. You had your chores – that was probably what gave you your exercise.

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: What was your best subject in high school?

HANSEN: Debate. My high school was interrupted by this stint I did in Washington...er..Indianapolis to overcome my speech defect.

JUNGE: Well, then...when you went to college...what was your major? Ag?

HANSEN: Yeah, Dad thought if I was going to be on the ranch I ought to know something about ag so I went and took some ag courses and I guess I should tell you the dean of the college of agriculture said, in order to please my dad, I'd enroll in some ag courses but then I could get them substituted for some other courses that were more appealing to me than were the ag course. He even said to me one day, "Cliff, you're enrolled in agricultural courses but you don't take any of our courses. You're always substituting them for others." Which was true. My father was a talented man and he understood. He was a graduate engineer of the University of Utah at Logan.

JUNGE: Oh, Utah State. Really, I didn't know that. He was a very educated man.

HANSEN: Yes, he was!

JUNGE: Why did he go into politics?

HANSEN: Well, he was kind of asked to do it I guess. When Teton became a county, the governor had to appoint the first county commissioners and Dad was his first choice and he became chairman of the board.

JUNGE: Are you proud of that?

HANSEN: Yes, I am.

JUNGE: Was he a good county commissioner?

HANSEN: The best!

JUNGE: Why do you say that?

HANSEN: Because he was!

JUNGE: Was he good with people?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Did he first remember names? Didn't he remember names good?

HANSEN: Oh yeah!

JUNGE: So did you pick that up from him?

HANSEN: I guess early on I learned how important a person's name is to a person and just never forgot that.

JUNGE: And you picked that up from him?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Did you pick up your political ambitions from him?

HANSEN: His influence and that of others...on school boards and things like that when there's a vacancy on a school board...and Mr. Martin who was on the school board and wanted to move to a lower climate which actually they didn't achieve anything that was significant in improving Mrs. Martin's health because they went from Jackson to Victor. Hell, there wasn't enough change in elevation to amount to a tinker's damn!

JUNGE: So when you mention him...did you take his place on the board?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Oh, there was an opening and you took his place.

HANSEN: He persuaded the...I don't remember if those choices were made by the local board or by the governor, but anyway Mr. Martin was one of three commissioners and when he decided to leave here, he wanted to be sure I was on the board.

JUNGE: What, the Teton County School Board?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Did you like that work?

HANSEN: Yeah, I guess so.

JUNGE: It sounds to me, Cliff, in reading about you and hearing you, people asked you to serve -- you didn't actively --or did you actively go out and try to get these positions?

HANSEN: No. Casting aside all modesty, they did ask me?

JUNGE: Because they felt you were competent.

HANSEN: I presume so.

JUNGE: Did you do it because you wanted to be in the public eye or because you wanted to do the job?

HANSEN: I guess those two questions ought to be answered kind of together. They wanted me and I thought it would be ok to do it.

JUNGE: Were your Mom and Dad glad that you went into these things?

HANSEN: I've often wondered about that – instead of being on the ranch and tending to the ranch, here I was having to give an inordinate amount of time to the ranch – to the politics I should say.

JUNGE: Do you regret that?

HANSEN: No, I don't.

JUNGE: You don't regret not having come back and just been a rancher?

HANSEN: No.

JUNGE: What was the advantage of being in politics?

HANSEN: I guess, largely personal gratification.

JUNGE: Nothing wrong with that! But you served people in the process.

HANSEN: Right.

JUNGE: Did you take pride in a job well done?

HANSEN: Tried to.

JUNGE: Well, what made you so effective as a person...as senator and a governor and a legislator? What made you so effective?

HANSEN: I guess first treatment is remembering people, remembering their names. Nothing pleases a man more to have someone remember who he is. Maybe not everybody would agree with that but I think that it's true.

JUNGE: I think that's a good point. I think it's a very good point. But just getting something done for somebody else -- did that give you pleasure too?

HANSEN: Yeah. I didn't do anything or try to get anything accomplished that wasn't honorable and worthwhile.

JUNGE: What's the best thing you did as a senator or governor – what's the best thing you ever did?

HANSEN: I don't know.

JUNGE: Well, what about getting Wyoming 50% of the federal mineral royalties as opposed to 37 and a half?

HANSEN: Well, that was pretty important for Wyoming.

JUNGE: Yeah, it brought in a lot of money.

HANSEN: It did indeed!

JUNGE: And what about the land...surface rights...mineral rights? You worked to get the landowners taken care of so that they could have some say-so about the minerals under their land.

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: And the capital gains. What about the capital gains tax? You got that reduced.

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Do you think those are all important things?

HANSEN: I thought they were.

JUNGE: Can you see the result of them now or is it just all in the past?

HANSEN: No, you can see the results of them now. I know the present governor, when he talks about what Wyoming has, he talks about the capital gains tax and some of the other things in which I played an important role.

JUNGE: How did you get along with Gale McGee?

HANSEN: We got along fine?

JUNGE: But didn't his vote cancel yours out?

HANSEN: Sometimes.

JUNGE: Except when it came to maybe Wyoming's interests? To get that job, you had to beat Teno Roncalio – the senator's job.

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Was Teno a good man too?

HANSEN: Yeah, he was. We got along fine.

JUNGE: Did you? Ok, let's step back here..I know we haven't got too much time here before you...probably have to take a nap, right?

HANSEN: No, I don't have to. You're the one that'll need a nap after listening to me!

(laughter)

JUNGE: Tell me about going to college. I read an article in the paper about you driving a Model-T to college or something like that. What's the story behind that?

HANSEN: No, I didn't drive a Model-T to college. My father took me down and introduced me to the dean of the college of agriculture. Later on the dean said, "Cliff, you're enrolled in agriculture but the courses I think are important, you're always substituting them for engineering courses or something else." He was telling the truth.

JUNGE: Yeah, you probably wanted to do speech and debate. Now, how did you meet Martha? Where did you meet her?

HANSEN: I met her at the University. She was a member of the Tri Delta sorority – Delta Delta Delta. She tells the story – I wish she could tell it to you – she went to a meeting and there were a lot of University of Wyoming students on hand and she says that she looked around the room and decided that...I have to throw aside any modesty that I may have to tell you the story. She says that she saw me across the aisle – I don't know how many boys were there but she decided that I was the one she wanted to marry.

JUNGE: Right then?

HANSEN: She didn't tell me that but that's what she said she did. She was the one that thought I was the one....

JUNGE: So she..chased you?

HANSEN: Well, I was not hard to chase by her! I thought she was a pretty neat gal.

JUNGE: What was it about her that you liked?

HANSEN: Everything!

JUNGE: She was attractive?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Was she bubbly? Her personality?

HANSEN: Not particularly.

JUNGE: Do you think that there's chemistry between people sometimes...that there's no words to describe what goes on between two people...that it's a chemistry maybe?

HANSEN: I've heard that.

JUNGE: Was it that way?

HANSEN: Well, I thought she was a pretty neat gal and my father thought so too.

JUNGE: Oh he did? What about your mother?

HANSEN: Dad kind of managed that part of the marital activities.

JUNGE: He was the boss in the household?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: So did you and Martha..did she ask you on a date, or did you ask her on a date?

HANSEN: (laughs) Oh, I asked her on a date.

JUNGE: Do you remember your first date?

HANSEN: No.

JUNGE: Where did you meet? In the sorority house?

HANSEN: Yes. Actually, the Tri-Delta Sorority had an open house. They would first have one group of boys and then another. That's when I first met Martha. I was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity but at that time, I wasn't. I think I was just a pledge. Do you know what a pledge is?

JUNGE: Oh yeah.

HANSEN: Anyway, some of the actives said, "Now if you're serious about this Tri-Delta gal, why that's all right. But otherwise, stay out of it because one of our active brothers is very impressed with her and he'd like to have her look with favor upon him." Later on, I told the actives in Sigma Nu, of which I was a member, I thought she was pretty nice and I'd like to have her for my date so that's how we started out – I mean, how I squared with the local fraternity...not with the local but with the fraternity to which I belonged.

JUNGE: Did you meet her your last year in college?

HANSEN: No, it was in my second year in college, I think.

JUNGE: Did you live in the Fraternity House?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Ned Frost wasn't going to school at that time was he? Was he a Sigma Nu?

HANSEN: I can't remember.

JUNGE: Ok, but you guys married...you graduated in '34 during the middle of the Depression.

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: And in that same you, you got married. You got married to Martha the same year.

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Which came first? Graduation?

HANSEN: Darned if I can remember.

JUNGE: Well, that's ok, Cliff. Well, listen, maybe what we ought to do is...would you be willing to talk again tomorrow about some of these things?

HANSEN: Sure.

JUNGE: Sure? I know you're probably worn out a little bit from the 75th anniversary party.

HANSEN: Let's ask one of the girls.

JUNGE: Artie? Brew?

HANSEN: You know their names better than I do...I mean..who is here. This fella here hasn't gotten worn out yet, but I'm working on him. He wondered if he could ask some more questions tomorrow.

BREW: Yes, he's on our schedule for tomorrow. Oh dear!

HANSEN: Oh dear god!

BREW: Same time, same place.

JUNGE: We're not going to give you any peace! You're going to have to work up until the very last minute.

BREW: And you know what, after you work, then you can have a nap. This is like an hour and a half, right?

JUNGE: Yeah, we're done. We're done for the day, I think but we can come back tomorrow if it's all right with you.

HANSEN: It's ok with me if that girl says yes.

BREW: I said yes.

JUNGE: I have to ask you one last question. Yesterday, you celebrated your 75th wedding anniversary with Martha. What's it like being married 75 years?

HANSEN: To be married to that special lady is pure heaven –she is one special lady!

BREW: She's the greatest!

JUNGE: I guess I asked you one last question and now I'm going to add another one. Are you going to celebrate your 100th?

HANSEN: God willing!

JUNGE: Ok. Thank you Cliff.

HANSEN: Thank you very much!

JUNGE: I enjoyed this!

HANSEN: I'm glad you did. I hope I didn't wear you out.

JUNGE: No, no. Not yet. Tomorrow, maybe you can wear me out tomorrow.

HANSEN: All right!