

JUNGE: Today's the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, 2009. My name is Mark Junge and I'm in the house of Clifford and Martha Hansen here in Jackson Hole at 1000 Spring Gulch Road between Jackson and Wilson. What's the butte off to our west?

HANSEN: We don't have a name for that butte. Just the west butte, I guess.

JUNGE: And then over here? What, do you just call that the East Butte?

HANSEN: East butte.

JUNGE: Ok. Now they're sitting here holding hands, Martha and Cliff and just two days ago celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Martha, I'm so glad you're here today...with it after spending so much energy in your 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. So, I'm going to ask you some questions about your background. Is that ok?

MARTHA HANSEN: Thank you!

JUNGE: Let's go through this one more time. Clifford, your name and your date of birth.

HANSEN: Clifford Peter Hansen. Date of birth is October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1912.

MH: Martha Elizabeth Close Hansen. Date of birth is June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

JUNGE: Do you know that your birthday and mine are on the same day?

MH: Is that right?

JUNGE: June 5<sup>th</sup>. We're both Gemini. Does that make us special?

MH: Well, I hope so.

HANSEN: But you're not twins!

JUNGE: We're not twins. No. Not yet. Ok, Cliff, we talked a lot with you yesterday about your upbringing and your place of birth and Zenith. I thought today, for the purpose of posterity, for the purpose of your children and their children, your great-grandchildren and their children, maybe we would talk a little bit about Martha's upbringing.

HANSEN: Please do.

JUNGE: Is that ok?

HANSEN: It's sure ok with me if it is with her?

JUNGE: Well, I don't want you to feel ignored.

HANSEN: Oh no. Hell no!

JUNGE: Martha – who were your parents?

MH: My parents were Arthur W. Close and Hilda Frame Close.

JUNGE: Are you related to Dr. William Close and Glenn Close?

MH: No, not that I know of, I should say.

JUNGE: Can you tell me a little bit about your parents and where they came from? Can you tell me something about your parents? What sort of people were they?

MH: Just parents. Ordinary people. I'm not much help but I just can't think of anything in particular that made them stand out.

JUNGE: Was your mother a good cook?

MH: I'm sure she was.

JUNGE: How many kids did she have? How many brothers and sisters do you have?

MH: I think I have four brothers.

JUNGE: Can you name them?

MH: (chuckles) Dear me! Tom and Al Close and ...gosh...and I said four, didn't I?

JUNGE: Yeah, I think you were the sixth among eleven children, weren't you?

MH: Eleven children that belonged to my mother?

JUNGE: Oh, eleven children belonged to your mother?

MH: No! They didn't! I don't think. I didn't know it if they did.

JUNGE: Oh, wait a minute. I'm sorry. Your mother was one of eleven children.

MH: I don't know about that either.

JUNGE: Now you came from Idaho, right...or she came from Idaho.

MH: She came from Idaho, I guess. I didn't.

JUNGE: Where were you raised?

MH: Just here..

HANSEN: Sheridan.

MH: In Sheridan. Thank you Cliff.

JUNGE: Did you know Elsa Spear Byron? She lived in Sheridan

MH: No. The name Elsa Spear is familiar to me.

JUNGE: Do you remember much about Sheridan, Martha?

MH: No, not really. Nothing special that I can think of. I think it was a very lovely city.

JUNGE: Why did you go to the University of Wyoming?

MH: Because my father...I received a scholarship from the University and my father said I would go to the University of Wyoming and use the scholarship.

HANSEN: Incidentally, she was the highest in her class.

JUNGE: You were? So you were pretty smart?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: You were smart enough to pick up Cliff for a husband.

HANSEN: The other way around!

MH: Well, that was pretty wise!

JUNGE: Do you have many memories of your University days?

MH: Not really. It was just school.

JUNGE: Do you remember meeting Cliff?

MH: Oh gosh. I can't quite remember. It seems like I just walked into a room and looked across the room and there he was.

HANSEN: There were other people there as well....

MH: Yes.

HANSEN: But for some reason or another...

MH: I speared him!

JUNGE: What was your major in college? What was your specialty?

MH: I was studying to be a teacher.

JUNGE: You wanted to be a teacher? Well, there weren't many occupations open to women at that time besides that were there? Did you ever expect to be a housewife?

MH: (laughs) I don't think I ever wasted anytime thinking about it.

JUNGE: You wanted to get married though.

MH: Well, when I saw Cliff. I hadn't thought about it before that.

JUNGE: You hadn't?

MH: No.

JUNGE: You got married in your sophomore year. He was a senior wasn't he? Wasn't he two years older than you?

MH: Well, I do guess he was two years older. I can't remember. I do know that my father said if I was going to get married, I could go get a job. He didn't plan to pay for more education.

JUNGE: Did your mother agree with that?

MH: I don't know.

JUNGE: Who was the boss in you're your family, your mother or your father?

MH: Well...I think my father probably thought he was the boss.

HANSEN: Good answer.

JUNGE: Yes. Let me ask you this. Were your parents...sometimes a father does not want to lose his daughter and he can't imagine anybody good enough for his daughter. Did your father like Cliff?

MH: I'm sure he did. I don't think he had any feelings about losing me. I think he thought I'd be around – some of the time anyway.

JUNGE: Yes. I've got to ask you this since you guys have been married 75 years. Do you, after 75 years, do you sort of think alike? Do you sort of know what the other person is thinking?

MH: I don't know, do you think so Cliff? I suppose to a certain extent we do. After all, we're just exposed to the same area and the same things so we don't have an opportunity to think very differently.

JUNGE: Did you find it hard to adjust living with Cliff?

MH: No, no, he was ok. I thought he was all right.

JUNGE: I think you stayed with Cliff's brother, didn't you for awhile, his brother-in-law here in....? Or did you come right to the ranch, do you remember tha?

MH: I think we came right to ranch, didn't we Cliff?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Now you were raised in Sheridan, Martha. What did your father do?

MH: He had a farm machinery business. He had a store and sold parts for farm machinery.

JUNGE: And your mother?

MH You mean, what did she do? Did she have a job?

JUNGE: Yes.

MH: No. I think she just raised a family.

JUNGE: So you weren't really acquainted with ranch life before you met Cliff.

MH: No, I don't think so.

JUNGE: That must have been a bit of an adjustment for you when you came up here.

MH: I guess it was. I'm sure that I didn't measure up to the job probably.

HANSEN: I'll have to interrupt. She measured up very well. The next morning after we got up here, she was cooking for men. I've often marveled at how quickly she moved into the job of cooking for people.

JUNGE: So you weren't used to cooking?

HANSEN: Not for that kind of...I guess your own family occasionally, I don't know. Is that right Martha?

MH: What is it?

HANSEN: I thought maybe you'd cooked for your own family of course. When we lived on the ranch, you were *the* cook, weren't you?

MH: I guess so.

JUNGE: Were you a good cook?

MH: You shouldn't ask *me* that!

HANSEN: She was a very good cook!

JUNGE: Did you have to learn some recipes for wild game or did you just basically eat beef?

MH: I cooked some wild game, didn't I Cliff?

HANSEN: Yes, you surely did?

JUNGE: So if Cliff came home with a steak you had to carve off a steak once in a while.

HANSEN: Yes she did and she knew how to carve it off.

JUNGE: Oh. Did you make friends pretty easily or was it hard to make friends? I don't imagine there were neighbors too close.

MH: That was the thing...they weren't around to get acquainted with.

JUNGE: Who do you expect was your best friend in Jackson Hole?

MH: Well, I don't know. We sure didn't...we weren't around many people, were we Cliff?

HANSEN: No, my sister and brother-in-law, Bill and Gerry Francis were friends we saw most often, weren't they Martha?

MH: Yes, in fact, about the only other people we were with very much and I certainly thought a lot of Gerry Francis!

JUNGE: What do you think of, when you look back over your life here in Jackson Hole, what do you think about the changes here in Jackson Hole.

MH: I think they've been very slow. No change has been very slow. I think it's just what happens.

JUNGE: Is there any other place you'd rather live?

MH: Well, I haven't spent any time thinking about that.

JUNGE: You were always too busy.

MH: I enjoyed Sheridan when I grew up there.

JUNGE: The mountains were close there too.

MH: Yes, but not like they are here.

JUNGE: Although both places have their rich places and their royalty visiting occasionally. Do you remember the Sheridan Inn.

MH: Yes.

JUNGE: And there was a brewery there at one time, the Sheridan Brewery where they made beer.

MH: I guess so.

JUNGE: And you went to the Sheridan High School.

MH: Yes.

JUNGE: Up on the hill?

MH: Yes.

JUNGE: Who was your best friend in high school?

MH: Oh, golly, I can't seem to think. It must have been too long ago.

JUNGE: That's ok, that's all right. You had two kids. Was it right away after you got married that you started having kids?

MH: Yes, I think so.

JUNGE: Now your background – both of you – are large family backgrounds. Your parents and their parents came from big families. Am I right? Why didn't you guys have a lot of kids?

MH: I don't know. Do you know Cliff?

HANSEN: No.

MH: We were certainly delighted and pleased with the two we had.

JUNGE: Yes. And your grandkids?

MH: What do you mean about our grandkids?

JUNGE: You're pleased at how they turned out?

MH: Yes.

JUNGE: Do you have great grandkids?

MH: We must have. But you know, we don't get around much anymore, and they're all busy—the whole family so they don't get to us very much anymore either.

JUNGE: Martha, was it a big change for you to have to live in Washington?

MH: Well, it was a change but it was a great experience. I enjoyed it.

JUNGE: Oh, you did? What was the best part about it?

MH: Well, I met lots of people that I was pleased to know. I spent my time, what time...my extra time I spent showing people who came to Washington from Wyoming around the city.

JUNGE: So you were part of a reception group?

MH: I guess so.

JUNGE: Did you live in a house or an apartment?

MH: I guess we lived in an apartment, didn't we Cliff?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Cliff, in some of the news articles that I read, knew some of the people, that of course became world famous. You knew Gerald Ford and you knew Jimmy Carter and you knew Russell Long.

HANSEN: Yes.



JUNGE: That seems to me to be sort of unusual to me that you would be such good friends with Russell Long because he was an unreconstructed Southern democrat, wasn't he?

HANSEN: I guess you might describe him that way. I got acquainted with him because he was head of the finance committee but I must say we worked closely together on many different projects.

JUNGE: Well, what was it about Russell..why was he so easy to work with for you?

HANSEN: Wyoming and Louisiana, we found out, had a number of common interests and in order to accomplish some of the things for each of those states, we had to work together and I was glad to do that and I think Russell was too.

JUNGE: I'd never ask you who you didn't like because that wouldn't be a fair question but what I am interested in is, who did you find particularly troublesome? A person who you had to deal with that you just had problems dealing with.

HANSEN: Well, you know really I got along pretty well with about everybody and I don't remember having trouble with any one particular person or group that you could say was unique.

JUNGE: Who do you think was a better president, Carter or Ford?

HANSEN: I got along well with both of them but that doesn't answer your question.

JUNGE: No, but that's ok. I know you're reluctant to talk about people in any kind of a disparaging way. Martha, did you get to meet Ford or Carter?

MH: I'm sure I did.

JUNGE: Do you have any really strong memories of Washington? Things you did?

MH: Well, what I did mostly while we were in Washington was show Wyoming people around the city. It just kept me busy all the time and I enjoyed it! I mean, I enjoyed being with those people and being of some use.

JUNGE: Were you disappointed when Cliff decided not to run again?

MH: No, I thought that was up to him.

JUNGE: Why didn't you decide to run again?

HANSEN: I think, if I'm not mistaken, I think I ran for governor. Or...was it the other way around?

JUNGE: You were governor and then you ran...you won two terms as a senator.

HANSEN: I guess that's right.

JUNGE: And I read something in the newspaper about your not wanting to do a third term, which you would have won because of asthma or something?

HANSEN: Oh, I was an asthmatic.

JUNGE: Oh, you were.

HANSEN: And if you know anything about asthma, it's a debilitating disease.

JUNGE: And you weren't going to go into anything that you couldn't win.

HANSEN: Of course, there's no guarantee that I could have been re-elected although I think I could have been.

JUNGE: Oh, I think you could have been. I think you could have been there as long as anybody. Now how does it feel, Cliff, to be the oldest former senator of the United States?

HANSEN: Am I the oldest former senator?

JUNGE: Yes, you are.

HANSEN: Well. Damned if I know!

(laughter)

JUNGE: So, you're not proud of that?

HANSEN: I have a lot of good friends that I made while I was in the Senate –Democrats and Republicans both. Russell Long was one of my closest, dearest friends from Louisiana who was a Democrat – as you know.

JUNGE: Martha, were you glad to get home after being in Washington?

MH: I don't know I would say that I was glad. I certainly did enjoy our time in Washington. It was a great experience and I am grateful for it!

JUNGE: Are you Episcopalian?

MH: Am I?

JUNGE: Yes.

MH: Yes.

JUNGE: Were you active in the church?

MH: No, not really.

JUNGE. What were you active in?

MH: You mean, aside from the church?

JUNGE: Yes. In the Jackson community.

MH: I don't know. I can't think of anything especially. I was busy raising two children.

JUNGE: And now one of your grandkids is going to run for governor.

MH: Well, that's good.

JUNGE: You think?

MH: Well, I think so – if he wants to. Don't you think if he wants to he should?

JUNGE: Yes. Yes. He's a good solid Democrat right?

MH: I don't know about that.

JUNGE: I'm just kidding you. I know that you guys are good solid Republicans. "Rock-ribbed" Republicans. When Cliff won the governor's position in 1962, his mother said that was the proudest moment of her life.

HANSEN: Is that right?

JUNGE: Yes.

HANSEN: She told you that?

JUNGE: No, she said that to a reporter and I read that.

HANSEN: I see.

MH: Well, I sure it was a very proud moment for her.

JUNGE: If Matt becomes the next governor...if he beats Freudenthal or whoever, will that be a proud moment for you?

MH: Why, of course, it will be.

JUNGE: What do you think about the current administration? Are we headed in the right direction?

HANSEN: I'm sure there are some things I would like to see done differently, or focused on different positions.

JUNGE: What bothers you in particular? Where would you like to see Wyoming go?

HANSEN: You've already described me as a "rock-ribbed" Republican and I guess that I could say I find more merit in the Republican position on a lot of issues than I do on the Democrats side.

JUNGE: Martha, did you ever influence your husbands' decisions, do you think? Do you think your thinking ever influenced him?

MH: I doubt it.

HANSEN: It did.

JUNGE: Really? In what way? Was she pretty common sensical in giving you advice?

HANSEN: High regard for my wife's opinion.

MH: But I didn't give you advice, did I?

HANSEN: No.

JUNGE: In matters of trusting other people or evaluating other people, did you depend on Martha to give you a pretty good reading on other people?

HANSEN: I certainly...I shouldn't say I depended on her. I always like to have her opinion and then I don't mean to suggest that I had a different opinion but I was certainly always interested in her thoughts and ideas. She's a lady of good judgment.

JUNGE: If you could do it all over again Martha, would you marry Cliff, have children by him, go through all the political campaigns – would you do it all again?

MH: Well, if it meant being with Cliff, I would.

JUNGE: So, in other words, it wasn't the job of raising the kids or going on the campaigns or being the welcoming committee in Washington, it was him.

MH: Well, that came first. The children, of course, were very important.

JUNGE: Did you run the household pretty much? Did you run the ranch – I mean as far as practical things go – schedules, finances, things like that?

MH: Some, but I don't believe I handled all of it.

JUNGE: Did you handle the finances?

MH: I don't think so.

JUNGE: Cliff did that. The man of the house often did that. Nowadays, it's a little different. Now how many...tell me, Martha. How many more years do you think you'll be married?

(Laughter)

HANSEN: Start with God willing!

MH: That's right. I don't know. I do know that I've been blessed to have him as my husband and I hope that we will have many more years together.

JUNGE: We all pass away and we all go somewhere. Do you expect to go to heaven?

MH: Well, I hope that I have conducted my life so that if that is the place that people who do well with their life go to, I hope that I will be able to go there.

JUNGE: So you believe in it?

MH: Believe in heaven?

JUNGE: Yes.

MH: I guess I do.

JUNGE: Do you think Cliff will be up there with you?

MH: I don't know that?

JUNGE: Do you think he have to spend a little time in purgatory for awhile?

MH: Oh, he's a good man.

JUNGE: No, I think you guys will be together always. Now looking back on the way you raised your kids, would you do it differently, Martha?

MH: I'm sure I made many mistakes. I'm sure I did. For one thing, I don't think anybody's perfect no matter how bad you would like to do things absolutely right. I doubt there's anyone who does them absolutely right. Everything. But you do the best you can.

JUNGE: I've got to know this because see I'm a grandparent now. I've got to two grandkids. Do you two think a lot about your grandkids and their kids or do you think in terms of from day because sometimes I get so caught up with my life that I don't think really a whole lot about them. But I'm wondering if that's uppermost in your mind – the grandkids and their kids and so forth or do you think about day to day things?

MH: What do you think, Cliff?

HANSEN: A balance of both.

JUNGE: Really? So you would be thinking about Matt's run for the governorship? You would be thinking about that?

MH: Oh, of course. That's important.

JUNGE: How tough is it for you guys to get around now? You say you don't go out much anymore?

HANSEN: Well, we ....I think that's true. You say we don't get around much anymore. I guess that's...

MH: That happens when you get older.

HANSEN: Implies that your travel is restricted and that...I think it would be fair to say we spent some time with our relatives, mine and Martha's both.

JUNGE: Isn't it kind of nice that you're able to stay in your home?

HANSEN: We think so. As a matter of fact when we say the blessing before a meal, which we oftentimes do, we thank the good Lord that we're able to be together in our own home.

JUNGE: Yes. Absolutely. Do your kids come to visit you often?

HANSEN: They do. The ones who live close, of course, we see more often than those who live farther away.

JUNGE: You don't see Peter that much because he's further away?

HANSEN: He's pretty good though about coming to see us, isn't he Martha?

MH: He sure is.

JUNGE: How many kids does he have?

HANSEN: What is it – two?

JUNGE: Yeah, you had five right? Three from Mary and ...

MH: Grandchildren, you mean?

JUNGE: Yes, grandchildren.. Peter had two right?

MH: That must be right.

JUNGE: Well, do you have any plans to go anywhere, do anything?

HANSEN: Well...we don't have any plans to be in jail.

(Laughter)

JUNGE: No, I don't suppose.

MH: We're pretty content right where we are. Is that ok, Cliff?

HANSEN: Yeah, it certainly is as far as I'm concerned and I've got the most...I think... got the most wonderful wife in the world and...

MH: Well, we're truly blessed to be together.

JUNGE: Do you think that's fate, destiny that you two came together?

HANSEN: Well, you could say yes because when Martha first saw me there was a room full of people, mostly men and across the room from where we sat she saw a man --- I mean you could tell that story more accurately than I can Martha.

MH: Well, I just saw a room of people and I glanced across the room there was Cliff and I knew he was the man I wanted to marry

JUNGE: Right away?

MH: Just looking at him.

JUNGE: So there is such a thing as chemistry, huh?

MH: I guess so. I don't know what it was but it's worked so far.

JUNGE: If you had a disagreement in your married lives...we're talking about 75 years, three-quarters of a century...if you had any disagreements, what were they over?

MH: I can't think, can you Cliff?

HANSEN: No, I wouldn't say we had any serious disagreements on anything. Martha has very good judgment and when opportunities arose...

MH: Well, we have made it and gotten along pretty well all these years, haven't we Cliff?

HANSEN: We surely have.

MH:...And agreed on most things and not made a great big issue if we don't agree.

JUNGE: That's important in raising kids, isn't it?

MH: I guess so.

JUNGE: It's a good example for kids when their parents don't fight. Martha, you've gotten around quite a bit in the state, haven't you?

MH: I guess so. I've campaigned for Cliff.

JUNGE: Did you enjoy that?

MH: Yes, I did. I enjoyed the people very much. Made some very fine friends.

JUNGE: Do you remember any of them?

MH: I don't know if I could think of any right now.

JUNGE: That's ok...but you went from corner to corner in the state when you campaigned. Did you remember names as well as Cliff did?

MH: I'm sure I didn't.

JUNGE: He was remarkable when it came to remembering people's names.

MH: Yes. I just tried to be friendly and tell people that he would make a good governor or whatever he was running for.

JUNGE: So, when she was in another part of the room shaking hands and having a cocktail with other people, you totally trusted her to make you look good?

HANSEN: Yes. Unequivocal answer. Yes!



JUNGE: That's a good feeling, isn't it --to know that your spouse is making a good impression on other people?

HANSEN: Martha has many fine qualities and she blended them together very well.

JUNGE: Martha, who were you named for?

MH: You mean, the name Martha? I have a great grandmother whose name was Martha. I think it was the grandmother. Someone way back then.

JUNGE: And the Close family, where did they come from? Did they...

MH: No, from my mother's family.

JUNGE: Oh. Where did they come from?

MH: From the West coast, I think. I think so, but don't quote me.

JUNGE: Is Close an English name?

MH: Irish.

JUNGE: Oh, it's Irish. You've got a bit of the Irish in you? So, she was a little stubborn, right?

HANSEN: A little...

JUNGE: Stubborn.

MH: Is having a bit of Irish being stubborn?

JUNGE: Well, you have to have stubbornness to survive as an Irishman, don't you?

MH: I don't know.

HANSEN: It's the husband that has to survive!

(Laughter)

MH: You'd better watch out. You might not survive!

(More laughter)

JUNGE: Do you remember much about your brothers and sisters? How many did you have?

MH: Are you asking me?

JUNGE: Yes, Martha, I'm sorry.

MH: I think I had two brothers.

JUNGE: Yes, do you remember much about them?

MH: Well, they were younger than I. I really don't remember a lot about them.

JUNGE: Did you have to change their diapers?

MH: No, they weren't that much younger.

JUNGE: So, do you think that they were a little spoiled?

MH: No, I don't think so. I mean, I have no reason to think so.

JUNGE: How many years...you weren't that far apart, huh?

MH: I don't think so. I'm trying to think about their ages. I think we were all pretty close.

JUNGE: Did your parents die young?

MH: I don't think so.

JUNGE: Cliff got to know them, right?

MH: He must have.

JUNGE: Do you remember her parents?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: And what about her brothers, do you remember them.

HANSEN: I remember Tom and Al. Those were her brothers, weren't they? Martha? Your brothers were Tom and Al?

MH: Yes.

HANSEN: They were nice people and I liked them both and we got along fine.

JUNGE: Did you get to see your family after you moved to Jackson Hole, Martha or did you not get to see them much?

MH: No, not very much. Jackson Hole is a little remote and inaccessible in the winter. But then, I was ok. I was happy to be with Cliff and I managed to find plenty to do.

JUNGE: I want to ask each of you this question. Looking back on your lives together, what was the best thing, Martha, the best thing?

MH: I guess it was always having Cliff there with me.

JUNGE: Cliff?

HANSEN: Same answer for me. My wonderful wife was there and that was by far the best part of my life.

JUNGE: Did you hear that Martha?

MH: I heard that ...did he say that I was a wonderful wife or something like that ...or we had a wonderful life?

JUNGE: And that you were the best part of his life.

MH: Oh, I didn't hear that. Thank you Cliff!

HANSEN: Well, it's true.

JUNGE: What was the most unfortunate thing in your life?

MH: Well, when we lost our daughter Mary, I guess was the most unfortunate.

JUNGE: Does a person ever get over that?

MH: Well, you have to adjust your life and carry on but I'm sure you never get over the feelings of loss and the sadness.

JUNGE: Would you agree with that, Cliff?

HANSEN: I certainly would. She was a great gal, that Mary.

JUNGE: She ran for governor, didn't she? Mary ran for governor.

MH: Well, I think so, didn't she Cliff?

HANSEN: Well, I'm not so sure if she...

JUNGE: She ran against Mike Sullivan...

MH: I think that's right. And she lost.

JUNGE: Martha, can you remember any little story about your kids -- ? Is there any story that sticks out in your mind?

MH: No, I don't think so. I just know how blessed I was to have them.

JUNGE: Did those kids ever...now you can't tell me those kids never got into trouble.

MH: I suppose they did but I managed to forget those things pretty easily.

JUNGE: When you think about the Hansen name – you've got all these kids, grandkids, you've got great-grandkids. What do you hope for the Hansen name? What are your hopes?

HANSEN: I hope they will continue to be honest. I'm sure they will. I have great confidence in their good judgment.

JUNGE: You hope that you passed your good genes onto them? Both of you?

HANSEN: Well, my fathers and mothers on to them.

MH: Well, if we had good genes, I hope they have them.

JUNGE: You don't know if you have good genes?

MH: I don't know.

JUNGE: You have to look back at your life and say you've been good people.

MH: I think we've tried most of the time to be good, haven't we Cliff?

HANSEN: I think so—we've tried to be honest and fair.

JUNGE: Well, one of the things that I think makes you such a great couple– and you're going to go down in Wyoming history for this – people remember you as being such warm friendly people who cared about other people. Am I wrong in that?

HANSEN: Well, I believe that's a fair conclusion as you look at our lives.

JUNGE: And Cliff, I don't think you could be nasty to anybody.

HANSEN: Well, I try not to be.

MH: You hope you don't have to be, don't you Cliff?

HANSEN: Yep.

JUNGE: Ok, I've got just a few more questions and then we're all done. Did this celebration wear you guys out? This 75<sup>th</sup> celebration?

HANSEN: I wouldn't say it did, would you Martha?

MH: No, I hadn't thought about that.

JUNGE: You were just glad that you could have it.

MH: I thought it was wonderful that people would celebrate it with us. For me, anyway.

JUNGE: Now, you're two years younger than he is. Would you two like to live to 100?

MH: I'm not going to worry about it.

JUNGE: You're not going to worry about it? That's not important to you?

MH: No, I don't think it is.

JUNGE: Really? Why not?

MH: I just think I'll take things as they come.

JUNGE: You'll adjust to whatever happens.

MH: I hope I can.

JUNGE: Cliff, what about you? Do you want to live to be 100?

HANSEN: I don't want to live a day longer than Martha lives. She is very, very important in my life and as long as she is alive, I hope I'll be alive. When St. Peter welcomes her at the Pearly Gates, I hope that he'll say, "Cliff, we're glad to see you too."

JUNGE: Do you think St. Peter will allow Episcopalians to come in? Of course, St. Peter is a Catholic saint.

(laughter)

HANSEN: I guess I used his name where I shouldn't.

JUNGE: Martha, let me ask you a couple more questions. Are you strong politically? Do you have a strong political mind...do you think about current events and politics?

MH: Well, I'm interested but I don't let it dominate my thinking.

JUNGE: What is the most important thing to you if it's not politics?

MH: The most important thing is my life with Cliff.

JUNGE: That's fair. If you had a comment about how this country's going, about how the world, if you had to make a comment, what would you say?

MH: I would say I think things are going pretty well.

JUNGE: Oh, Yellowstone Park blowing up, volcano...super volcano or perhaps the world going to war with h-bombs and wiping out the planet.

MH: As far as Yellowstone Park is concerned, I think it's been doing pretty well so far and I'm not going to waste time wondering about how it's going to do in the future. I think it's been ok. As far as the h-bombs doing what?

HANSEN: Wiping out the planet. You don't think we'll wipe each other out?

MH: Well, if we do, I don't think I'll have time to worry about it.

(laughter)

HANSEN: Good answer!

JUNGE: You know, you're a very practical person.

MH: Is that right?

JUNGE: Yes. Very practical.

MH: Well, I hope that's an advantage.

JUNGE: Of course. How's your memory Martha?

MH: Probably isn't very good but I don't worry about it.

JUNGE: Cliff, I asked her these questions. Do you worry about the future of this country? The future of Wyoming. Do you ever think about it?

HANSEN: I guess I think about it to this degree. As events roll around, I like to believe that I have chosen to be on the positive side and that's the best I can do.

JUNGE: Well, the positive side for a Republican would to have less government in our lives, right?

HANSEN: Well, having working with some pretty fine Democrats – Russell Long and different ones – I don't believe that Republicans have any --

JUNGE: Stranglehold on morality?

HANSEN: Yeah.

JUNGE: Is that what you were going to say? I didn't mean to put words in your mouth?

HANSEN: Well, that's close enough.

JUNGE: Do you remember working with Ted Kennedy.

HANSEN: A little bit. Not a lot. I worked a lot closer with Russell Long than with Ted Kennedy – both Democrats but...

JUNGE: You worked with Jerry Ford?

HANSEN: Some. Although he had a coterie of friends, not including me...I don't mean that he didn't like me or that I didn't like him but friends that he friends that he worked with more closely that were part of a group that I wasn't.

JUNGE: Well, when you in the Senate, until Malcolm Wallop came in the Senate, you were the only rancher in the Senate.

HANSEN: I guess that's right.

JUNGE: Were you proud of that?

HANSEN: I knew that...I really hadn't thought much about being proud of it. I was hoping that I could measure up to whatever merit the distinction gave me.

JUNGE: Well, was getting a vote...getting people to vote with you...was that like rounding up cattle?

HANSEN: I guess you could describe it that way. That's what you try to do...realize that you're not going to support them on...I mean that you're not going to actively support them on everything that may come along or is of great concern to them. Insofar as I was concerned, if I found issues that Wyoming, I felt, would like to see made part of a national issue, I could hopefully find part of that set of issues would be effective in getting the support of things that...

JUNGE: That's very diplomatically put.

HANSEN: Thanks.

JUNGE: Now you're both in Medicare, right?

HANSEN: I think we are.

JUNGE: What kind of a plan would you like to see for us older people, because I consider myself older too? I'm 66. Do you think we're going to ever have a good health plan for everybody in America?

HANSEN: No, I think we won't. I think that the part of the health that is administered to some of our population will have to come from the goodness of your hearts –other people.

JUNGE: Really? I'm going to read you a quote that I read about here and I'd like you to confirm this or deny it. Dr. Larson in his history book, *History of Wyoming*. Dr. Larson wrote – he's talking about you when he says 'he.' "He had entertained some liberal thoughts while governor, but outgrew them while in the U.S. Senate." Were you more liberal when you were a governor? Do you think you were liberal than ...more progressive than those legislators were?

HANSEN: I've got to be careful how I answer this now.

JUNGE: Be careful Cliff. Don't make a mistake!

HANSEN: Well, I make plenty of mistakes. Repeat the question.

JUNGE: Do you think as a governor that you were a little bit more progressive and liberal than those legislators you had to deal with?

HANSEN: I was more progressive and liberal than some of them. I wouldn't say all of them by any means, but certainly some of them.

JUNGE: Do you think you became more conservative as a U.S. senator having to represent the whole country?

HANSEN: Yes.

JUNGE: Do you suppose too that a lot of other senators being from more liberal states were generally much more liberal than you anyway?

HANSEN: I guess I could answer yes truthfully.



JUNGE: Why are you a conservative, if we can call you a conservative? In other words, why wouldn't you have supported all the liberal causes for the...you're so good with other people, why wouldn't you have supported socialized medicine? Why wouldn't you have supported things that ...any cause that came out of Congress in support of poor people or the oppressed people? Why wouldn't you have been that way? Or were you that way, let's put it that way?

HANSEN: I don't know that I was that way but I believe first that it's the duty of each of us to do the best job we can taking care of ourselves. To the extent we lack the ability to satisfy all of our demands.... that's a hell of a sentence.

JUNGE: No! I understand what you're driving at. You are talking about self-reliance. You're talking about people taking care of their own problems and not government.

HANSEN: Right.

JUNGE: Do you think that comes from your background as a rancher?

HANSEN: I would think so and my parental backgrounds.

JUNGE: Your parents were the same way?

HANSEN: I would say they were.

JUNGE: How about you Martha? Are you a self-reliant person?

MH: I don't know how self-reliant I am. I had to depend on Cliff an awful lot.

JUNGE: But you had to live out here on the ranch where you were somewhat isolated when you were first married, right?

MH: I think you adjust to whatever problems you face.

HANSEN: Let me interpose a question right here...an observation. When we were rounding up cattle, there were certain times when decisions had to be made and Martha was the person who made them because she was here and whether or not it may have been her wish that I could have been helpful in talking things over with her she didn't always have that opportunity. Then, of course, she went ahead and did as she thought...she did the best she could in deciding what ought to be done. I'm certain that there were many times when what she decided was her decision alone.

JUNGE: Martha, do you think that human beings are all the same from time to time and that we don't change much essentially as human beings? I'm curious about that.

MH: I think depending on what you are exposed to, you adjust and I guess I'd have to say I think you change.

JUNGE: Well, you had to change. Did you change from the time before you were married to the time you were after you were married?

MH: I had to make adjustments. I'm sure of that.

JUNGE: What you're telling me then is that people don't really change; they just adjust to their circumstances.

MH: That's what I think. I'm telling you what I thought I did, anyway.

JUNGE: You can't speak for other people.

MH: No.

JUNGE: Did you instill or inculcate in your children the same ideas of independence and hard work that you were raised with?

MH: I hope so.

JUNGE: Do you think you set by example, set an example for them?

MH: If I didn't set an example, I don't think they'll develop entirely on their own on certain things.

JUNGE: Oh, you don't?

MH: I'm not making a general statement.

JUNGE: This tape that we're doing here, this recording, is for your family, the Hansen family and also for the State of Wyoming because this will go into the Archives at the State of Wyoming. Is there anything that you'd like to add to this interview?

MH: I hope I answered these questions intelligently and I certainly do appreciate your graciousness.

JUNGE: Thank you. Cliff?

HANSEN: I don't know how I couldn't improve upon what Martha has just said. I'm proud of her and she, in my opinion, is a very great lady!

JUNGE: Martha, what would you say about Cliff?

MH: Oh, he is the dearest husband anyone could ever hope to have. I love him dearly and I'm very proud of him!

JUNGE: You too really have represented this state very well. More than very well. In an excellent way! I do want to tell you that.

HANSEN and MH: Thank you! You're very kind!

JUNGE: Well, if there's nothing else that we need to add to this, don't move and let me take your picture. Is that ok?

HANSEN: It's ok with me.

MH: Good place as any, huh Cliff, in our lounging chairs

JUNGE: Most women Martha would say, "Oh, no. Don't take a picture of me. I'm not ready." So, I'm glad you said that.

HANSEN: You know, we've enjoyed getting to know you young man.

JUNGE: Well, thank you. Thank you very much!

HANSEN: We surely have!

JUNGE: I told you yesterday and I sincerely meant it that I wanted to meet you for years. I didn't say this on tape but I've wanted to meet you guys for a long time. So, I'm very proud to be here.

HANSEN: Thank you very much!

JUNGE: The State of Wyoming is very blessed to have you sit down and talk with me a little bit about these things. Martha, I'm sure you've got a lot more memories stored up there in that brain of yours. Am I right about that?

MH: I don't know about that. Probably if you asked the right questions.

JUNGE: Well, what would be a right question?

MH: I don't know. You'd have to find that.

JUNGE: That's my job. That's a tough job sometimes.

HANSEN: Well, you do have a tough job and I'm glad you have to do it rather than me.

MH: And me.

JUNGE: You know, if I talked to some other people, and I found this is true, if I talked to some other people I would find out things I could ask questions about but because we weren't raised together all I can do is go by the newspapers and what I read on the

internet. But I'm sure that there are events in your lives I could prick your memory with those events if I just come up with them, which I can't. Well, let me just throw this out before we quit. Martha, what's your strongest event?

MH: Golly, I don't know. My dearest memory is being with Cliff all these years.

JUNGE: Was being married with him, was that day really special in your mind?

MH: Well, I can't really remember anything about it, can you Cliff?

HANSEN: About the date we were married?

MH: About our marriage – about the actual event.

HANSEN: I guess all I can say is it's been a very wonderful experience for me to get to live with her for 75 years.

MH: Well, we're blessed. We really are very blessed.

JUNGE: Why do you think...do you think that's something you earned on your own or some outside force blessed you?

MH: I don't know about some outside force or about earning it but it's worked.

JUNGE: Very good. With that, we'll end this interview and we'll start shooting some pictures, how's that?

MH: Ok. Do we have to do any differently than we're doing now for the pictures?

JUNGE: Well, I'd like you to dance a little bit.

HANSEN: I refuse to dance.

JUNGE: What, you're not a good dancer?

HANSEN: I can't hardly dance!

JUNGE: Is that true?

MH: He never did want to dance.

JUNGE: What? Was he a good dancer when he did dance?

MH: I thought he was ok....if I could get him at it!

(much laughter)

HANSEN: Dear God!

MH: This is getting a little personal, huh Cliff!

JUNGE: You know Cliff..I've got to tell you this...after we did the interview... Cliff offered me a drink.

MH: Oh, he did huh?

JUNGE: So Brew went to the cupboard to get some whiskey and Cliff said, "Not the good stuff!"

(much laughter)

HANSEN: Brew!

JUNGE: You're not getting the good stuff are you, Brew?

HANSEN: Brew!

JUNGE: She's not here today. Tonya's here today.

HANSEN: Tonya! Come here immediately!

JUNGE: Martha, do you ever touch whiskey?

MH: Oh, I sip it on occasion with Cliff.

JUNGE: Here comes Tonya.

HANSEN: Howdy!

TONYA: Howdy!

HANSEN: This young man has been interviewing us and I think he and Martha and I would like a drink.

TONYA: Ok. What would you like?

HANSEN: The GOOD STUFF!

TONYA: Jack Daniels!

(much laughter)

JUNGE: Well put! Well put!

TONYA: How do you like yours?

JUNGE: Just a small, neat.

TONYA: Ok.

HANSEN: What did you say?

JUNGE: Neat.

HANSEN: Just a small, neat?

MH: Does she know what that means?

TONYA: Neat means just plain.

MH: Boy, where'd you learn all this?

JUNGE: Yeah, I didn't know what you meant yesterday when you said would you like that "sweetened?" I thought you meant put sugar in it?

MH: I still don't know.

JUNGE: You still don't know what that means?

MH: No.

JUNGE: It just means that you want it...

HANSEN: Or straight.

JUNGE: No, you said sweetened and I think you meant you wanted it pumped up a little bit. A little bit more.

JUNGE: Isn't that what that meant?

HANSEN: Maybe so.

MH: More whiskey you mean. Less water.

JUNGE: Yeah.

MH: That sounds reasonable.

TONYA: I always put too much...here you go. Yours is with water Martha.

JUNGE: You can hold mine for just a second while I take some pictures.

TONYA: Here ya go, Cliff.

HANSEN: WOW!

TONYA: I know. Just sip it!

JUNGE: Just sip it.

MH: Yeah. That's what we'll do. Sip it as long as it lasts.

JUNGE: Is that whiskey in her glass?

TONYA: It's got water in it. She likes hers with...

JUNGE: Oh, she likes hers a little less potent, right.

MH: You thought it was full of whiskey huh.

JUNGE: I did. I did.

TONYA: No, I wouldn't do that to Martha.

MH: Are you going to take pictures of us drinking?

JUNGE: No, not unless you want to.