

Oral History From: Jenene Hansen

Collected By: Ashton Hansen

I interviewed Jenene Hansen because she is my mom. She is one of the most caring and wonderful women I've ever met in my life. She is also someone I can trust. I can tell her so many things and I know it will stay between the two of us. I really look up to her in so many different ways. She has done so many things in her life that has made her happy. She has three beautiful daughters, a loving husband, and two grandkids. However, her grandkids are a dog, Rosco, and a cat, Toby. She still loves them though. She has given so much to her family and everyone around her. She is truly one of the most outstanding mothers I know. She takes care of her whole family before even worrying about herself. She has done so much for all of us and we all appreciate everything she does. She is always thinking of us and how to make us happy. She is a very good mom, a caring wife, and a wonderful friend. I couldn't ask for a better mom.

Ashton: What your full name?
Mom: Jenene Hansen

Ashton: Do you have any nicknames?
Mom: Yes, I have one nickname.....

-Laughs-

Ashton: What's your nick name?
Mom: Beaner

-Laughs-

Ashton: How did you get the nick name "Beaner"?
Mom: umm probably because my brothers and sisters said I acted like a little jumping bean and I was little so they called me "Beaner."

Ashton: Hmmm... When were you born?
Mom: July 26, 1961

Ashton: How many older siblings do you have?
Mom: I have an older brother two older sisters

Ashton: what are their names?
Mom: Brent, Joyce and Diane

Ashton: who are your younger siblings?
Mom: I have two younger brother siblings; Grant and Elden.

Ashton: Ok...name one event that you remember with each sibling.
Mom: With my oldest brother I remember he was very protective in my older years, in my dating days. In my younger years he was very competitive, and we played some dangerous games sometimes and he lit me on fire once...

-Laughs-

Mom: he made a bomb with some straw and threw it in my playhouse, and I caught on fire. But my older sisters were prepared and they had water and so they threw some water on me, and the only thing that burnt were my pant legs. My legs didn't get burnt because they threw the water. But that was a really scary time, I remember I was freaking out and just screaming because I didn't know what to do and my brother was kind of laughing but kind of concerned. I really, I don't k remember what anyone was even doing at that time. I was just worried because I was on fire.

-laughs-

Mom: And my oldest sister was always doing my hair she was enough older than me that I wasn't real close as to playing with her. She was going to beauty school and I was in jr. Hammil hairstyle and the ice skater style... do you know who that is?

Ashton: No

Mom: oh ok that is because you are young. But uh... the Dorothy Hammil hairstyle was a popular one, and so my sister cut my hair that was clear down to my waist clear up to my shoulders. It was a big change having hair down to my waist clear up to my mirror and seeing it cut up clear past my shoulders. But I trusted her because she knew what she was doing and so I knew it wouldn't be that bad. But umm...

-Long pause-

Ashton: How was that?

Mom: It was scary, but it was really cute haircut and she did a really good job. I had a few perms where I ended up totally wet because she shot the perm all down me. And.... just a year older than me so we went to school together. And...She didn't want me to wave to her or even act like I knew her when we were at school. But for the most part we were pretty close. We would go shopping together in our teenage days. We went to go get hamburgers together. I taught her how to drive a stick shift car, and my car was a stick shift so I already knew how so I had to teach her. I took her on State Street; I thought that would be a good place to teach her... that wasn't a very good idea.

-Laughs-

Mom: Umm.... that's all my older ones, should I talk about my younger ones?

Ashton: Yeah...

Mom: My younger brother grant, his nickname was "Fuity."

Ashton: Why?

Mom: because he was always a gentle little fruity type kid. He was very caring and I played sports with him we used to play baseball a lot of times on baseball. We had a big yard and enough kids in our family we could just play with each other and have a good time. My youngest brother was young enough that I wasn't real close as far as playing with him; I did take care of him sometimes though. But all of us kids kind of took care of each other. We were all pretty close. But we each was closer to one sibling like every family. But we all played together and had fun together, so...it was fun with all of them.

-...pause.....-

Mom: Now what?

Ashton: Umm... what was your favorite childhood game and why?
Mom: Like a board game...or....

Ashton: Just like any kind of game?

Mom: Hmm.... I liked to play tether ball and I liked to play bad mitten. We had a bad mitten net set up in our backyard and a lot of times in the summer us kids would go out after dinner and play bad mitten. In Salt Lake the wind didn't blow like it does in Emery County so we were able to play it. And... it was really fun to go outside and play tether ball. I remember I was pretty good at it and people would get mad because this little girl could beat them. But I just thought, well, I thought I was cool because I was able to beat a lot of people that didn't expect it. And that was fun, and it was kind of funny when I would win these bigger girls and I was just a little girl. And....I didn't like to play games that you sit around and play. I usually wanted to be up and going and doing something. I couldn't just sit still for a long time I had to always be doing something. Running around, or hopping, or just...well just not sitting down.

-Laughs-

Mom: As far as a sitting type game I like scrabble, it wasn't a game that took a long long time to play. Umm... *long pause* I didn't play cards much. Umm... we used to play monopoly. I liked monopoly, I liked the money part of it, and I liked counting the money and doing all of that when I was a kid.

Ashton: As you grew up and became a teenager, what were the rules as a teenage in your family?

Mom: we had our curfews and we knew our curfews. Umm... my dad had a way of I guess he had a way of setting rules and we knew that when they were set we followed them. He was actually pretty strict with us when it came to curfews. And he was always letting us know exactly what time our curfew was and if it changed we didn't try to argue even if we hated it, but.... We didn't really hesitate and think of if we were going to be late or not we just knew that if our curfew was midnight, which it was on Saturdays and Fridays, and we just had to always be home by midnight. If we didn't go to church the

next day then we couldn't go out the next weekend, so we always were up Sunday mornings to go to church. So all of us would go have fun but we would always be up for church every Sunday because we knew that we would want to go hang out with our friends the next weekend and we knew the consequences if we didn't go. And if we wanted to ask to do something that, like go to a movie on a weeknight or, - we didn't really do that- but if we ever really wanted to do something, then if we kind of thought that we would get a no for the answer, we would usually ask our dad first, I think? Our dad was more quiet than our mom and I don't know I can't remember who I asked? He would always kind of let us do things just so we would get out of the house because we were all pretty rowdy even inside the house. So I think if we really wanted something and knew our mom would say no we would just go ask our dad. Now what was that question again?

-Laughs-

Ashton: What were the rules as a teenager?

Mom: Oh ok.... I guess oh and Saturday jobs. We had our Saturday jobs we had to do. My mom worked so when I came home after school I had to usually vacuum the living room or do some after school type of job. And we would always help her out on the weekdays after school and on the weekends before we would go out. And just every now and then we would just help outside. We had a farm and we would help out there with the chickens and the other animals. Umm... that's about it, just little jobs and little jobs on the weekend.

Ashton: did you ever break any of the rules?

Mom: I did. I surely did. Do you want to hear about it?

Ashton: I sure do!

-Laughs-

Mom: Well me and my cousins and cant remember who all was with us, we were told not to go on State Street because as kids dragging State Street on Friday and Saturday night was the big fun thing. And one weekend then my parents told us not to go on State Street and we didn't drag state but we did drive the car across State Street to go get a banana split at Denny's on State Street and we had our ice cream and we came out and we got in the car and I drove the car forward right over a cement parking block.

-Laughs—

Mom: and I got high centered on it and I couldn't get the car to go forward or backward because it was high centered on the parking lot block. And so us girls had tire things and we were trying to get that car unstuck and we eventually I think just drove backwards and got off the block but it taught me that when my mom and dad said don't do something and don't go somewhere then if I did it sometimes something happened like that.

Ashton: Did you ever get pulled over as a teenager?

Mom: Yes I did.

Ashton: How was that?

Mom: umm... the first time was on State Street

-Laughs-

Mom: for going to slow. Because we were talking to some hot looking boys I'm sure, and you weren't supposed to drive that slow and you weren't supposed to do that and so I got a ticket for going to slow. And I think that is the only ticket I got

Ashton: Impressive.

Mom: I might have got one for speeding later on but... I don't think so...mostly just stupid things is what I got tickets for.

Ashton: You mentioned you lived on a farm; do you have any "bad" memories of when you were little?

Mom: well... I remember this one time one of our cows got sick and we weren't allowed to go around it because it was sick and bad looken, and I remember when it died it stunk really bad. But I remember sitting in the kitchen and my mom grabbed a, I don't remember what it was but I remember looking at her like oh no what are you going to do? And I just remember walking out behind her, all of us kids wanted to see what she was doing, and I remember watching her walk out to where the dead cow was. And then cow was pretty bloated, because all animals get bloated when they die you know. So she walked over to the cow and I just remember she stabbed the knife in it and this horrible, and I remember hearing the noise it made. It kind of, well I don't really know how to explain but I remember we could smell it and it stunk so bad. It was gross.

Ashton: Did you ever get in trouble in your high school?

-Long pause-

Mom: At school I don't think I did, I don't ever remember getting in trouble. Umm... I remember I didn't get very good grades and I wish I would've got better grades but I don't remember getting into trouble at school.

Ashton: What was your favorite memory from high school?

Mom: Hmm. I liked going to the basketball games at night and watching them and I didn't get to go very often because I had a job but when I got to go it was fun and I liked my business classes and I was in the ski club and that was a fun, really fun time. We got out every Wednesday afternoon and got our skis and loaded the bus and went to Park West and skiing for the after noon. That was probably the most fun.

Ashton: Did you have any good friends in the ski club?

Mom: Yes I did. Umm... what was her name? Umm... Brenda was my friend in high school her name was Brenda mancusso. And she did the ski club with me and another girl named Kathy and Tracy and umm the three of us pretty much decided to do it together and they were better skiers than me, it was my first year of skiing but those were my friends in the ski club and pretty much all of the other kids.

Ashton: Did you have any boyfriends in the ski club?

Mom: we did yeah. Uh not really boyfriends not like a pair off boyfriend but there were guys in the club and umm... I can't even remember their names, so I guess they weren't too important to me?

Ashton: Umm....

-Pause-

Ashton: Do you remember any stories or legends that were going on in your high school? Was your school haunted or were there any like legends in your high school?

Mom: I don't think there was that I knew of...umm... there was one thing that just about every year at graduation there was a student killed. Graduation just about every year and that was a scary thing. Umm... I don't, can't think of any haunting things that I know about anyways.

Ashton: when you started to grow up, how did you meet your husband now?

Mom: because every time I went to my sisters house, that was married, her husband's nephew was around them, and so then I started hanging with my married sisters and their husbands and since Kim was always with their husbands then we hit it off too.

Ashton: Where was he from?

Mom: He was from Huntington.

Ashton: Did it make it hard having a two hundred mile distance between you guys?

Mom: It did. Umm... we wrote letters to each other and we did phone calls and we usually didn't see each other, like every other weekend we would see each other maybe. And we dated for... probably a year and a half or so.

Ashton: What was your favorite "romantic" thing that he ever did for you? Before, like while you were still dating.

Mom: hmmm.... boy this is a hard one...

-Laughs-

Mom: umm.... wow that's kind of bad huh? A romantic thing?

Ashton: Like what do you remember about one of the dates?

Mom: Umm... we went to concerts; we went to see the Beegees concerts. And after the Beegees concert we went to what's called the rocket park. And it has a big rocket at the

park, that's where I used to play when we were kids and we used to go hang there and talk at night. Umm... *pause* heck I can't even think of anything he did romantic.

-Laughs-

Ashton: One of those hopeless romantics, huh?

Mom: Hmm... I'm sure he did stuff I mean he was always taking me out to dinner and stuff like that I can't think of any one thing that stands out in my mind.

Ashton: What was your favorite thing to do with your boyfriends?

Mom: Umm... I liked going skiing and we did that. Umm... I went ice skating once and that was fun but I don't know how to ice skate. Umm... I liked going to the park and having picnics. We went to lagoon and movies, that's about it. Umm...

-Long Pause-

Ashton: Were the boys you dated good kids or bad kids?

Mom: umm... I didn't date a lot but the ones that I dated were good kids. There was a time that I didn't really date but kind of hung with some kids that weren't really good kids. But, umm... *pause* didn't really... didn't really date a lot of guys.

Ashton: did you ever bring your boyfriends back to your house to talk with your parents?

Mom: Nope.

Ashton: Why didn't you do this?

Mom: umm... I don't know we just, I didn't take the guys home because... I guess my parents were always busy or I didn't have a reason to take them home. Umm... when me and dad started getting like serious, I started taking him home once in awhile. He didn't really hang with the family but he would come over here and there and sit a minute before we went out on a date or something. Nope, I didn't take the guys home a lot.

Ashton: What was your most memorable experience with your girlfriends?

Mom: Tons of them! I had the most fun with girls. Umm

-Laughs-

Mom: we, but they were like cousin friends you know? They were, they weren't necessarily the girls I went to school with. Umm... we went to a subdivision one time that was building new houses, and we went all through them when the construction workers weren't there and we walked out on the balconies and we took pictures and umm... they were way mansion type houses, just gorgeous big huge homes and we'd sneak in those and go in those. And, umm... we would go to like a furniture store and lay on the beds and take pictures and act like we were in a motel or something.

-Laughs-

Mom: and we would play dress up like in fancy clothes and go stand by fancy trucks and take pictures of each other by the truck, it was a cool lookin' truck. Umm... we used to go four wheeling too, I forgot about that. It was neat in my high school days if you had a 4 wheel drive pickup, and in my school there was a club called the "four wheel club" and all the guys would get their 4 wheel drive trucks and have contests to see who could go up the biggest hills and that was fun. Us girls used to watch that and I was a gitty one and I didn't get scared going up those hills. Umm... and I used to want to own a truck. I always wished I had a neat looking four wheel drive truck. I didn't ever have one and I liked a guy once just because he had a good looking truck I mean he was cute too, but it was the truck that was the main thing.

Ashton: Did any of your friends get seriously hurt doing "fun" things?

Mom: Doing fun things?

Ashton: Like, accidentally hurt bad, did you or any of your friends or family ever get hurt badly, like just was hanging out and then it turned out bad and you got hurt?

-Pause-

Mom: Umm..... no, but there was a time when Michelle could have got hurt and could've died and we were really really stupid kids. And we learned from it. Do you want to hear it?

Ashton: Yeah.

Mom: Umm... she was drinking wine and drank way too much and we were young and we had little tiny bodies that shouldn't have been drinking we were under age and, Michelle drank so much that she, she is lucky she didn't die of alcohol poisoning. Because she was like so out of it. But what we should've done was taken her to the hospital, but what we did is we just took her home and put her to bed and eventually threw up which probably saved her life or she probably would've died but that was a scary time, that was a really scary time, because we knew that we did wrong and we knew that we were under age so we didn't dare go to a parent for help, but we should've.

Ashton: What was the most trouble you have ever gotten into? Like when you were a teenager.

-Pause-

-Laughs-

Mom: umm... I can't remember my punishment but...

Ashton: What was the crime?

Mom: but what I did is me and Michelle and I can't remember who else, was, my dad was in New York and we were having a sleepover at my house and my mom must've been in bed and we took the car. And I can't remember if we had permission, I think we had permission to take the car. Anyways we drove to the east side of town and went to a boys house to leave something on his porch and when we pulled the car in the driveway – the drive way is on a hill- and we left the front door open while we went up to the house and the car started to roll backwards and the door hit a pole and it sprung the hinges on the door so we couldn't get the door shut. Here we were, clear on the eastside of town, unable to shut the door and we still had to get home and it was like probably late, late. I mean probably 12:30 or I don't know. But it was probably curfew time. And so we were trying to take jumper cables to tie the door shut just so we could drive on the freeway to get home. And we were in a parking lot and the cops came. And wanted to know what we were doing, and let me think,

-Laughs-

Ashton: You what?

Mom: And... Yeah...

-Laughs-

-Whispers-

Mom: "You don't want this on the tape."

Ashton: Yes I do. Why not?

-Laughs-

Mom: the cop was standing right there and I had shorts on and it wasn't good and anyway we ended up getting the car door tied shut to get the car home, and I knew we was going to be in big trouble, and so I wrote my mom a note and it said something to the affect of, "I'm going to be really, really tired in the morning and I know I did bad with the car but don't wake me up let me sleep in and then we will talk about it."

-Laughs-

Mom: Or something like that I cant remember what I did but I left her a note and I was hoping she wouldn't wake me up and I cant remember if she did or not.

Ashton: How much trouble did you get in for that?

Mom: I would imagine I was grounded for a couple weekends. They didn't beat me or anything but I would bet I was grounded for several weekends.

Ashton: When the cops showed up, umm, what was your first thought?

Mom: Oh no! We're in trouble.

Ashton: Did they call your parents?

Mom: No, they didn't.

-Laughs-

Ashton: did you get a ticket or anything?

Mom: Nope, they just told us, they just wanted to know what we were doing out so late and we told them that the door was broke and I think they helped us fix it and then I peed my pants.

-Laughs-

Mom: and then they sent us home.

Ashton: Why? Hmm... Ok... umm... How did your husband propose to you? Anything special?

Mom: Umm...which time?

Ashton: All times.

-Laughs-

Mom: umm the first time we were sitting on Joyce's couch and we were alone and it was Joyce and Denizil were probably in bed, it was real late, and he asked me then. Just the basic, "will you marry me?" No ring you know just...

Ashton: Why did you turn him down the first time?

Mom: umm... I wasn't ready I was too young. I, I don't know I can't remember I just put it off. And then he probably just thought it was a conversation. I don't know we never really made a big deal out of it. And then later on umm... I can not even remember.

-Laughs-

Mom: I wonder if he does. I don't know I can't remember? I remember when I got my engagement ring. He brought it, came to my work on my lunch break and surprised me with my ring. And then I went to lunch and never went back to work.

Ashton: did you get into trouble when you didn't go back to work?

Mom: No I think I called them, but I was too excited I was running around showing everyone my ring, telling them I was getting married. That was pretty exciting.

Ashton: What was the wedding like?

Mom: It was very pretty. It was a big line, really big pretty cake; umm it was my colors were peach and brown. Sounds ugly. I got married November 22nd so it was just before thanksgiving. The weather was snowy. Umm... we got married at a church and when we

got there my decorating crew never showed up and so I was all upset and about in tears so my dad got up and was starting to decorate stuff. And then the people got there to decorate and it was a really pretty wedding it was, I think I had six bridesmaids and six guys and a big huge line and a dance afterwards and, I cant remember the refreshments. But my wedding cake was really pretty. OH! And when I got married me and Michelle laughed in the ceremony and I couldn't talk because we were laughing too hard.

-Laughs-

Ashton: Why were you laughing?

Mom: Because the umm the guy that married us, the priest or whatever he was, had me drink wine and I knew I shouldn't be drinking it because I was under age, and I took a sip of it and I choked on it so me and Michelle started laughing and dad kind of had to touch me on the side to tell me to shut up.

Ashton: Why did you drink wine at your wedding?

Mom: Because that's what the religion does is they drink wine. The Christians.

Ashton: Do you, did you have the whole "something old something new, something borrowed, something blue?"

Mom: I did, yep.

Ashton: what were your things for it?

Mom: Umm...something old I cant remember what something old was, maybe It was Diane's necklace I borrowed it from her and I wore it, my wedding dress was a borrowed wedding dress something new I probably didn't have anything new, I don't know I had new shoes and new umm I don't know what was new but umm... Diane's diamond necklace was probably something old and the dress was borrowed. And I don't know what was something blue; I probably had blue underwear on.

-Laughs-

Ashton: umm... was your wedding the dream wedding you had always wished for?

Mom: it was. Yep it was, I walked down the red carpet isle, and the music played and it was all very pretty really, really pretty.

Ashton: How long were you married before you had your first kid?

Mom: umm... one year and one month. Good thing I didn't say six months huh?

Ashton: Umm... what was your first kid like?

Mom: umm my first kid was Jill, who was born with a little bit of hair but shortly after turned into a little baldy and she had pale skin and blue eyes and a little round face and we were so excited. It was a week before Christmas and we already had a Christmas sock for her and it was just really exciting.

Ashton: As she grew up did she get any younger siblings?

Mom: Yes, she did. She got Erika and Ashton. Erika was just about three years younger than Jill, she was just a few months short of being three years. And Erika was a “premie” baby, she jumped in and came a month early and, when Erika was born she was a dark baby with dark eyes and black hair and little tiny five pounds. And Jill was seven Pounds and twelve ounces. Then Ashton came and Ashton was seven pounds, twelve ounces. You were about the same as Jill. I think you were a little bit shorter maybe. And when Ashton was born Jill was eight years old I think? Is that right?

Ashton: umm... yeah

-Laughs-

Ashton: I don't know yeah

Mom: Yeah she was about eight. And Jill was a big help with Ashton and Ashton was born close to memorial weekend and dad has always gone fishing on memorial weekend and he wondered if he should still go. And I still remember you were brand new and a couple days old and he says, “Should I still go fishing?” and I said, “Yeah.” And so he went fishing and I was umm... I was at grandma's house and everybody left and went to decorate graves and I was just home with you and you were just a crying and I think that is when your crying started was I don't know a few days old. But you were fun and we were glad to have another girl so I wouldn't want to have a boy because I wouldn't know how to tend them. Then you and your sisters all grew up way too fast.

Ashton: What was your most, your favorite memory with all three girls, when they were little?

Mom: the age I liked the best and when we just had a lot of fun, is when we first bought our house and moved into our house and Ashton was in preschool and you were all old enough that we could jump in the car and go places and we didn't have to worry about bottles or any bags and stuff. And us girls could go shopping and have fun and I liked, it was fun going camping. You guys had a lot of fun camping. You would paint on rocks and build dams in creeks. And one time Erika fell into the fire when we were camping. She was playing with a dump truck and just, was going way too fast or something and she just went straight into the fire. I always liked just sitting by the camp fire at night and listening to the fire crackle while you kids roasted marshmallows and sometimes hot dogs. I think a lot of the time the only reason you roasted hot dogs was because dad did and you wanted to be like him. But you girls had a lot of fun when we went camping. We always had to camp by the river because I liked laying in bed in the morning listening to the river run, it was just so relaxing. The fun times I think of is camping and shopping. And a trip we took to St. George when we all sat in bed and ate strawberry pie. We tried to go to St. George every once and a while. Dad liked Mesquite and us girls like the shopping, the outlets and the mall. Those were fun times. I want to do that again.

Ashton: What, ok...name one memory with each girl, individually that you remember you had a lot of fun.

Mom: Umm... Jill was into dancing a lot and I had fun going to her umm... show time dance competitions. And she did really good at those and she had a lot of fun going and competing with all of the other girls, it was really fun. And Erika was into Jr. Jazz basketball and I had a lot of fun going to those. And she also did softball one summer and we went there and watched her do that. Do you remember that? Do you remember going to watch her?

Ashton: Yep, I sure do.

Mom: Yeah and I remember sometimes it was so hot, and all those girls would be sweating and just running around in the field having a blast. And Ashton did her piano and all of her cheerleading days and Jill and Erika took dance classes when they were little but Ashton didn't really like her dance classes and so when Ashton was in about fourth or fifth grade then I thought it would be good to have a hobby or something to do so that's when we got her in to piano. And I thought that was kind of a natural talent because you picked it up so fast. And then you did so good on that and then we bought a piano and then when you mentioned that you wanted to do cheerleading I thought, "Oh no she doesn't want to do cheerleading because she had never done dance classes, and I wondered how you would do at cheerleading. And you set your mind to it and you practiced and I remember I was amazed at how good you did it from not having dance classes or all that training. You jumped in and almost pretty much taught yourself and..."

-Pause-

Mom: very talented in cheerleading. And I don't know where my girls got their talent in cheerleading because I have absolutely none. Umm... they must have got it from their grandma, Grandma Ilene, but I look at my kids and I see talent that I just never would guessed and, Ashton has been a strong minded independent little person her whole life I think, you've always been the you could do it yourself kind. "I can do it myself!"

-Laughs-

Mom: from preschool days of me curling your bangs you... and wetting them down and right through all the years you've had a strong mind and you're smart and probably anything you want to do you could do it, you could go for it.

Ashton: What about your other two girls what about them?

Mom: Umm... Jill was always determined to show me that she could do it too. And Jill was strong minded and smart but in her high school days she really didn't want to sue her smarts as good as she could. She was more into having fun and she when she decided she was going to move out then, that was a really hard time for me that was a way bad time. But she said she learned from it and I think she learned from it. And she says it was a good experience. And it was I guess. And both Jill and Erika could hardly wait to get out of Emery County. That's all they wanted to do was get out of Emery County and move somewhere else. And when Erika wanted to move out of Huntington then I told her I says, "Well apply for jobs in salt lake and if you get one and it's a good job then you can go." And she applied and got the job and the next week she was out of here. And so, my

kids have grown up and they're succeeding and they're smart and they're, they can take care of themselves. And I think they've done alright.

Ashton: so far, who was your most trouble child, or your most challenged child to raise?

Mom: probably Jill because we wanted to have everything so perfect and we were over protective and we didn't want to allow her to have the freedom that normal kids need and she wanted it and we didn't think she needed it and so it was kind of a power struggle. And it's like the first kid was a lab rat.

-Laughs-

Mom: You do all these testing and do all these things that you think are right, and by that time you get to your last kid you see what you did right with your first and what you didn't do right and you kind of change things a little bit. Hopefully make things better. And if you do, then good and if you don't, then oh well you can't fix things that are already done and over with. Umm... Erika was a challenge because she, she wanted to do things that weren't good things at one point in her life, which was ninth grade. She wanted to hang with a kid that wasn't a very good kid and so me and dad had to be detectives and we had to monitor what she did and it seemed like whenever she was doing something she shouldn't have been doing she got caught doing it. And so she spent a lot of her weekend grounded and so we learned from that. We learned that sometimes you have to let them do something but then hope they get caught and then you have to pay the consequences. And so far Ashton has been a good kid, I hope, I think.

Ashton: You know.

Mom: I know, and I hope I can count on that because now I'm too old and worn out and can't deal with stress.

Ashton: that's why she's a good kid.

Mom: yeah yep.

Ashton: what has been your favorite memory having all the family together and grown up?

Mom: Christmas. I look forward to Christmas because, Christmas the kids come home and we have good food and the house smells good and I love the Christmas decorations and if we didn't have presents we could still have fun at Christmas time because it's nice to sit around in our flannel jammies and lounge and just kick back and enjoy each other's company. Any holidays, any time the kids all come home, that's when it's fun for me.

Ashton: What has been your funnest vacation as a family?

Mom: Probably the trip to St. George and Mesquite, when we went down there and did the shopping and umm... swimming and had the strawberry pie in bed.

-Laughs-

Ashton: Did you ever take trips and umm... like, leave somebody at home.

Mom: yes, when we went on our cruise and I left you and Erika at home. Remember that?

-Laughs-

Ashton: yeah.

Mom: umm... that was, we had a good trip, but I was really nervous. And you got sick and I knew before I went on that cruise that somebody was going to get sick, I just had that feeling, and I knew that we were going on the cruise and I knew we couldn't take the kids. And it was nice that Erika was a good sister and tended you. And everything was fine. I came home to a clean house and nice kids, and everything was good.

-Pause-

Ashton: What has been the funnest trip that you have ever been on, like as a kid, as a teenager, as an adult, as a mom, as a wife, what has been the funnest trip/experience you have ever done?

Mom: Umm....

-Pause-

Ashton: With or without kids.

Mom: When I was a teenager me and Michelle took a road trip and we went to bear lake and we stayed in a cabin and we laid out by the lake the next day and we could go anywhere we wanted as long as we checked in with our parents every night. And we went from Bear Lake, up to Idaho and we got a hotel room and stayed the night there and we had a road map and we just didn't really matter where we went or where ewe ended up we were on a road trip. We had so much fun just driving around talking and laughing at all this stupid stuff we remember and stuff we did. We both just had so much fun together and on the road trip it just made it a lot of fun being with her because she is a fun girl. And then of course we ended up heading from Idaho clear down here to Huntington to see dad, to see guys. Teenage girls were like that even back then when I was young.

-Laughs-

Mom: But that was a fun trip. That was a lot of fun because we ate out, we drove, umm...and then another fun time was that time that we stayed in that motel in Orem. Was you there? You was there?

Ashton: Yeah.

Mom: and we bought all those snacks and just us girls stayed there and that was fun. We watched movies and just sat in bed and had all that good stuff. And we just stayed and

had a girl's night in the hotel for a night. And then I had to wake up because I had meetings the next morning and you girls went up to salt lake to stay with grandma... or Diane. I can't remember which? And we went and swam, just would go swim, that was fun.

Ashton: How many cruises have you been on?

Mom: Two.

Ashton: Which one has been your favorite so far?

Mom: Probably the first one.

Ashton: Why?

Mom: Because we had five couples, umm, we had never been on a cruise before and we were all so excited and we didn't worry about anything and umm, except our kids back at home. Who tended you guys when we went on our first cruise?

Ashton: Me

Mom: And who else?

Ashton: Erika

Mom: Oh.

Ashton: And Marcie

Mom: Was that the first one?

Ashton: Mmm hmm.

Mom: And then the second one, it must have been the second one when you stayed with...

-pause-

Mom: who did you stay with the second time?

Ashton: Joyce, and Kassie

Mom: Oh yeah...Huh...anyway the first one was the funnest it was, it was a blast. We didn't worry about anything on the islands. We worried about our kids and family back home but that's about it. It was fun. Oh yeah Jill was married.

Ashton: Yep.

Mom: On our first one.

Ashton: Where did you go on your first cruise?

Mom: To the Virgin Islands. Umm, St. Croix, St. Thomas, and I always forget the other one.

Ashton: Puerto Rico

-Laughs-

Mom: Puerto Rico, yep that's right. How did you know?

Ashton: I have a shot glass

-Laughs-

Mom: *laughs* oh yeah. Puerto Rico, St Croix, St. Thomas. Fun, fun. Coolest part, standing on the ship at night with the lights and smelling the sea and feeling the breeze. It's a feeling that's indescribable. It is just cool. It's just so neat.

Ashton: what's your favorite memory from your cruises?

-Pause-

Mom: Umm... the feel of the ship at night and seeing the water in the islands was so pretty. The Cayman Islands water was just so pretty, it was just gorgeous. It was light blue and swimming with the, whatever they're called...

Ashton: Stingrays.

Mom: Yeah. Stingrays was fun. Umm... just the excitement of being some place different and seeing all of the, all of the trees and things were different from here. We went to the rainforest. And you take a little shuttle and the guys drive you like crazy and like idiots, like one hundred miles an hour down these little tiny skinny roads and you just hold on and hope you make it, and that was pretty neat. Going on a cruise is like escaping for awhile. It takes you away from work and just makes you relax. There is so much going on while you are on a cruise. Things are happening all night, every night. There are things for everybody to do. From all ages. There are so many different restaurants and places to eat, so many places you can shop like gift shops, on the ship, and there is workout places, pools, hot tubs, and shows at night.

Ashton: what has been, let's see.

-Pause-

Ashton: how is life different now, from when you were a kid?

Mom: Umm... when you are a kid you don't, you don't really think of the future like you do when you are older. And you should enjoy yourself when you are a kid but when you are older you look back and you think of the things you wish you would've done. When you grow up you want to be able to look back on all of the fun times you had so when you are young you don't want to grow up too fast, then your parents miss you, and you miss out on fun teenage experiences. I look at some things that I wish I would've done

different but, I look at what I've done and what I have and I'm proud of my kids and they've done good and I like my life and where I'm at and what's that question?

Ashton: I have no idea

-Laughs-

Mom: what is different now then when I was a kid?

Ashton: yeah, yeah.

-Laughs-

Mom: You definitely when you are older you just think more about the future. Umm... you think about preparing for what's going to happen. When you are a kid you're, you're more free, you don't have the worries, and that's good that's ok but, when you are older you know that, you know, it's up to you. If you don't work hard and you don't build what you want. You're not going to get it. When you are a kid you don't really think about what you want and what you are going to need when you are older. And I have just learned that enjoy life and I've made it hard sometimes, harder than I needed to. And I'm learning to relax a little more than when I was raising the kids. When I was raising the kids I was a clean fanatic, and now I'm not.

-Long pause-

Ashton: what are your expectations for the future, for you and your husband and your kids? Or your hopes for everything?

Mom: I would hope that I would continue to be good people and that they continue to build their life's and make their lives a success. I would someday like to have grandkids, but it's not something that I would want to rush into. And it's not something that I would ever want my kids to rush into. I think that when the time is right for them then that's a good time. Umm... I would like to see myself retired one day so that I don't have to go to work everyday. But I still don't know exactly, I still haven't figured out how I'm going to that yet. I'd like to see my kids save money so they can have more than we do when they are our age, or see our kids have really good careers so they can be wealthy and more wealthier than we are. And I want to see my kids be educated. I don't want them to live trashy lives. And, I don't ever want to be and old lady. And I don't ever want to get old and fat.

-Laughs-

Ashton: Way to be!

-Laughs-

-Long Pause-

Mom: when I was young I said I was never going to get old and not paint my finger nails, well I'm old and I don't paint my fingers nails now, but I still don't want to get old and fat. Umm... and I don't ever want to have gray hair, and I don't ever want to be toothless.

-Laughs-

Mom: And I don't eve want a wart on my nose.

Ashton: Is there anything you would like to say to, like anyone, like when people listen to this in one hundred years, is there anything you want to say. For them to think or know or remember, or anything?

Mom: Umm...I think being a mom is just the neatest thing in the world. I, life would be totally different if I didn't have kids. It is just great with kids, and I don't know what it would be like without kids. They are a great part of my life since the minute they came into it. And my husband is good, my job is good. Everything is just good right now and I wouldn't change anything. Well...

-Pause-

Umm...I don't know if I would change anything at all. And, I guess no. I don't know what else to say.

Ashton: ok then I think we are good.