

On May 16, 1940, in Lyman Wyoming, Craig Jensen was born. He was born in his mother's bedroom, delivered by Dr. McDill. He is the fifth of six children born to Thorvald and Leah Jensen.

As a child, like other children, Craig enjoyed playing. He played "hide and seek" and he also played marbles. They generally played marbles from the first through eight grade. The game of marbles was known as round ring marbles. According to Craig, "They had rules and everybody put so many marbles in and drew a circle around them and then you shot from the line." When he was 10 years old, he won a marble tournament in Green River, Wyoming. His prize was a trip to the amusement park, Lagoon, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He also remembers playing "kick the can", a game very similiar to hide and seek. "You and everybody goes and hides and when they find you, they got to run over and jump over the can. Till everybody is caught, you had a chance to come in and if somebody wasn't caught then the last guy would come in and kick the can and everybody would get to go free," was Craig's description of the game. Many of the games were played with brothers, sisters, and all other neighborhood children.

Craig also worked while he was growing up. He delivered papers for the town of Lyman, on his bicycle. He remembers that when he delivered papers is when they began to put the street names up around town. He delivered papers for five years, getting up every morning at six o'clock and would either ride his

bicycle or walk all over town, usually when the weather was twenty degrees below zero. He would deliver anywhere from 60 to 70 papers a day, and would make about thirty bucks a month. "It used to take me damn near three hours a day to deliver papers."

With the wages that he earned from delivering papers he would buy his school clothes and also spend his money at the show. He considered himself self supporting, "I just paid all my own way."

Until Craig was six or seven, his family didn't have indoor plumbing, so they would have to use an outhouse. For toilet paper, they would use a Montgomery Ward catalog. "I used to tear one page off to wipe your butt and five pages to set a fire so you didn't freeze to death while you used it." They did have water in their house, they just didn't have sewer until later. They used to bath in an old tin tub and they would heat the water on the stove. "You bathed in the old tin tub once a week, every Saturday night."

While growing up, Craig attended Lyman Grade School. He remembers his first grade school teacher, Katie Blackner, because, "she came after me with a yard stick." He also remembers reading such books that included Dick and Jane, Spot and Puff. His school each had individual grades. They usually started having PE in the fifth grade. They generally attended PE, two or three times a week. "We went up to the high school gymnasium and we had a physical education class. It taught a little about basketball, volleyball, and things."

If anybody was ever ill in his family or needed major surgery, they would either go to Evanston, Wyoming, or Salt Lake City, Utah. Craig remembered having a lot of ear aches, when he was younger, and to cure the ear aches, "You used to lay on a hot water bottle, days at a time." He also had his tonsils out when he was in the sixth grade. Measles seemed to be an epidemic when he was in school. "Everybody had the measles, whenever anybody caught anything they took in to school and everybody had it."

Holidays were a big event, celebrated in Craig's family. Christmas was a "big family occassion." The night before Christmas, Craig's whole family would decorate the tree. He used to go around with his church group and sing Christmas carols. The whole group would get together and they would ride around town on a hay wagon, singing carols, they generally did this a week or so before Christmas.

Birthday's were also celebrated, generally with a party. "When I was younger I got to have a lot of parties." He remembers having four or five parties when he was younger. One party that stood out in his mind, was when he was in the sixth grade. He had invited all his classmates to the party, "it seemed like pocket knives must have been the big thing, because I got four or five of them."

There were also holidays that the whole town or community celebrated. "We celebrated the fourth of July, they celebrated Labor Day and they celebrated the 24th, because its a Mormon community." The celebrations usually included a parade,

barbeque, and a rodeo.

When Craig was fourteen years old, he recieved his first car. "My first car was a 1936 Dodge, give to me by my brother when he went into the Air Force." Since then he has had a numerous amounts of cars and has also been in many car accidents.

At the age of 15, Craig got a job washing dishes in a cafe for 75 cents an hour. He worked at the cafe for about three weeks, and then the owner of the cafe accused him of running all the hot water out, so he wouldn't have to do the pots and pans. Which Craig claims was a "mistake, and she accused me of it, so I quite." After that he went to work haying in a hay field, "through the month of August to September up in Robertson." The wages were the best wages you could get at the time, and he got paid five dollars a day.

Craig doesn't remember going on many family vacations because "we was to poor." But he does remember going to Randolph, Utah to visit his relatives. "It was usually in July or August, we would go down there for a week and stay with my aunt (my mother's sister)."

He also remembers listening to the radio a lot while growing up. "We never had a television until after I got out of the Army." He mostly remembered listening to detective programs on the radio.

Craig first voted when he was 21 years old, in 1961. "I have voted everytime an election has come up and I have always been registered." Craig very much stands for the Democratic

party. When asked why, he explains, "Because the Democrats are more or less known to be for the working man and the poor people." He feels the Democrats are more responsive to the working class. He remembers voting for such people as Ed Herschler and Teno Roncalio. He doesn't care much for the current President of the United States, George Bush. He thinks he "is a wimp, he's a yes sir man." He feels Bush is following in the footsteps of Ronald Reagan.

After coming out of the Army for the second time, Craig lived with his parents until he met his wife Judy. "I met her at a dance in Mountain View, oh in 1963." They were married on December 18, 1965. They had a home wedding which took place, "in my brother's house, with the immediate family on both sides, and the Bishop." They were married by the Mormon church.

After being married for about a year, they "had a set of twin boys that died at birth." The hospital didn't have the facilities to take care of the babies, because they were premature. About three years later, in 1969, "we had twin girls."

Craig got a steady job at FMC, and he belonged to the United Miner's Union. When asked why he joined the union, he responded by saying, "It was kind of the common going thing at the time." Since then he has always been part of an union. He feels "a man needs a representative." he has more or less always agreed with the union policies. When he first joined the union, he remembers the dues only being about four or five dollars a month, which he

considered reasonable.

The union hall was located in Rock Springs at the time. It published a small newspaper that printed "anything that was news." The union also sponsored recreational activities, but Craig never participated in any of them because, "I lived in Lyman, I didn't go all the way down there to them."

Later when Craig became an ironworker, he joined the Ironworker's Union. He remembers boycotting, Coors Beer Company. " They were in the union at one time and they dropped out. So in our union paper they (the union Presidents) told us not to buy beer, because we was boycotting Coors." The union also had other lists of items they were not to buy, because these companies were against the union.

Once when Craig was an ironworker, his whole crew walked out on a job. "We walked out when things didn't go what we figured was right, we walked off the job and everything, and I walked a picket one time for a short time." When he walked out, it was at Allied Chemical, and he was out for three days. When asked what it was like, he responded by saying, "You walked around with a sign and everybody who talked to you, you told them what was happening and why you was picketing and you would appreciate them not going in and going across your picket line." During the picketing, no violence occurred, but the police were there. "They drove up and down the road a couple of times to see what was happening and then they left." The reason they walked out had something to do with the electricians. After that the conditions

were better, "The reason you went out, you thought it was your work, instead of somebody else doing it." Overall, Craig feels very strongly in the unions. If you didn't have unions, "these companies would work you to death and give you nothing."

While being an ironworker, Craig worked on such plants as the Jim Bridger Powerhouse during the boom era. During the boom time, he explains that, "Everybody was making money, everybody was going 900 miles an hour. They wanted to work you to death. It was go, go, go." During the boom era, the biggest problem according to Craig was the dope. "That's the period when we heard more about dope and more of these out of staters came in and they bought the dope and that with them." Craig said he never saw it, but he heard about all the different people living along the Blackfork river in their RV's, because there wasn't enough housing, so the people had to live in the desert.

In the future of the country, Craig feels that "we'd better get a better President or something or were going to go down the tubes. People got to be stronger and stand up better than these wimps are doing."