

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewee: Mary Hoover (MH)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Harvey Girl, South Rim Village Life 1940s-1970s

Date of Interview: September 23, 2014

Method of Interview: At Mary Hoover's residence in Williams, AZ

Transcribers: Doreen Morton and Sue Priest

Date of Transcription:

Transcription reviewers: Sue Priest

Keys:

Interview note:

TM: Today is September 23, 2014. We are in Williams, Arizona at the home of Mary Katherine Hoover. My name is Tom Martin and we are continuing a series of interviews with Mary. I'm going to put the date down on this deed of gift. Mary, you and I had been going through the list of the folks in the cemetery and we had left off with Harry Miller. So who's next on the list?

MH: The next one is John Moon. John Moon was a pipefitter. I think he worked for the Park Service but I'm not sure. He was there for quite a long time. He and his wife... I can't think of her name. I think that she died in Oregon. When John died she stayed there. She went to college. Her boys were in college, so she went to college with her boys and became a teacher. She had three sons. I should have asked Becky their names because I can't remember all their names. Bobby was one of them. Jimmy. I can't remember if the other one was John or not, I just don't remember. Anyhow, she had the three sons and she raised them. One of them was raising goats in Oregon. She did something very unusual. When she was going to college, she decided to go to Hawaii and go to college there for a year when she was becoming a teacher. She came back and she taught. I think she went to New Mexico. Myra used to hear from her. She was a very smart woman, actually, but she had never had a chance to go to college. I thought it was really unique that she went with her sons. They went to NAU, it was probably still the teachers college.

TM: Arizona state school?

MH: It was a teachers college at one time. I knew somebody went there to become a teacher, but he never used it.

TM: He passed away young didn't he? He was 53.

MH: He was fairly young. He was a very nice man. I have to tell you a funny story between Buford, Myra and John Moon. Carolyn was up at the Bright Angel one day and he said something to her. She was only... She's seven years older than Becky. He said to her, "When are you going to get a little sister or brother?" She said, "I don't know but my mamma's gonna have a baby." John looked at her and he said, "Really?" He told Buford that and actually she was going to have a baby and that was Becky. This little girl goes up to him and says my mamma's gonna have a baby.

TM: Did Buford know?

MH: He knew by the time she said that. John saw him and told him that.

TM: Did John have a nickname?

MH: He was just John.

TM: Was he tall was he short?

MH: He was just medium. She was a medium sized person. Their boys were quite athletic. Whatever they had at school at that time for games. Some place in all of the stuff that Buford and Myra had, there's pictures of when Buck, he was a school teacher... They used to have a summer program for the kids and there's pictures of a lot of these kids. I know that Mike Verkamp was in the front running one time. I think the Moon boys pictures are on there, too. Becky's got boxes. I had boxes of pictures but I got rid of a lot. I still have lots to go. She had boxes and boxes and cases and cases, so I don't know if she'd ever get to it. I don't know who else would have those pictures. Do you know Betty Bartlett in Flagstaff?

TM: Yes.

MH: She might have some of those old school pictures.

TM: Does Becky still have her photos?

MH: Like I said, she has boxes and boxes. I don't know what all she has because she has her grandmothers and grandfathers on both sides. She has the families and the pictures from the Canyon because Virgil took a lot of pictures involving them. So there's a lot of pictures with them in them, like our parties and things. So she would really have to dig. She has been going through them and sorting them out and giving her sister some and she sent some to her cousin. Her children didn't know their grandparents very well and they didn't know their great grandparents and all. So unless she puts names on them, they won't have any idea who those people are.

TM: She's exactly right.

MH: She's trying to get them while they're still young enough to learn who they are.

TM: And while she can still remember who the people are in the photos.

MH: Cause sometimes she doesn't remember them and I know them. So it's before she came along that they were around.

TM: Do you know how John passed?

MH: I think he had a heart attack, but I'm just not sure. I always liked him, he was always very congenial. He never passed you up, he always stopped and said, "Hello how are you doing this morning?" and stuff like that. He was always very pleasant.

From there we go to the Moran's. Their daughter and son-in-law lived at Grand Canyon. I'll have to think of their name. I don't exactly know what he did. I think he worked in the kitchen, I think he was a cook maybe. I don't think the wife worked. I think they came up there semi-retired and they went to work. Did we already come to their daughter and son-in-law? He was in the transportation department. We'll come back to them.

Then we have Gerry Moretz. Gerry and her husband came to the Canyon from the south. I don't know what state they came from. Both of them were ministers. She worked at the laundry a good long time. Then she didn't work anymore, she just quit working, and he took care of everything. He worked first for Fred Harvey. He was very good at upholstering, painting, and doing things in the apartments and houses when they needed work or anything upholstered. He was very good at things. He was a little man, real quick. Bless his heart, the last time I saw him he had cancer. I don't know how we got cancer but he got it in his jaw. It could've gotten from a tooth, but I don't know how. His face was all worn away and he had a scar across his face. She had passed away, Gerry passed away I think in Kingman but she's buried at Grand Canyon. His name is on the gravestone. I

don't think his daughter ever got a chance to bring his ashes up. I saw him about two or three weeks before he died, I don't know just when that was. I was out here on the street and he came up to me. I was so shocked, he looked so bad. He said he was going to his daughters and I think he stayed down there. I can't remember his daughter's name, she went to school with Karen, I think. She married a bellhop. She died a short time after he did. She was supposed to bring his ashes up to Grand Canyon and I don't think her husband ever did it. They were having marital problems or something because he got married right away after she died. I don't know what was going on there. Gerry loved the Supai Indians. She would go out and preach to them. There's always been a church house that the Supai village. She got electricity brought to it. Orrin Crandell was the electrical guy at that time. He worked for I guess it was for APS electrical company. It's the only one we had up there. Anyway, she got the electricity hooked up. She'd go out and preach on Sunday, turn everything off and go home. She got her electric bill and it was really high. She couldn't figure out why it was so high so she went and asked Orrin. He goes out, none of the Supai had electricity in their little houses, so they had taken cords and hooked it into her electricity so they didn't have to use kerosene lamps and stuff. That was pretty smart. She had a huge bill. I guess they settled that.

TM: I'm confused. Who remarried quickly?

MH: Her son-in-law married quickly after the daughter died.

TM: Because the daughter died soon after the father?

MH: Yes, Geraldine died first and she is buried at the Canyon. I didn't know that she had died or I would have gone to her funeral. But I had no idea. It was just like Harold Miller. I did know when he died. He was in an accident and he died. His ashes were supposed to go up there but I don't think their son-in-law had ever taken them up there. Maybe it's because I didn't care for this young man. I never saw him in years because they didn't live here. They very seldom, if ever, came up to see Gerry and Elmer. Then, Gerry and Elmer moved to Kingman when he retired.

TM: Elmer was Gerry's husband's name?

MH: Then she died and he died. And then their daughter died so I lost contact with all of them. But, they were very nice people. I was sick one time, the doctor had given me some pills for pain and they made me go to sleep. I had just got in from Phoenix, they released me from the hospital and I came home. He said, "When you get home, be sure to take a pain pill right away and lie down." So I did and who should come to the door but Gerry. I was really getting drowsy, she came in and sat beside me. I said, "Gerry, I have just taken a pill and I'm going to go to sleep. Come and see me another time." I woke up about 2 ½ hours later and who was still sitting on my bed and holding my hand? Gerry. She said, "I've been praying for you the whole time you were asleep." I imagine she was praying for me because she was that kind of person. She didn't always approve of some of the things we did, but she worked there and she did her job. We all have go our own ways.

TM: What did she do the laundry?

MH: She folded towels, she fed sheets, she worked in the general laundry. She only worked there about two years when he got on with the Park Service. He worked for Fred Harvey at first. When he worked for Fred Harvey she worked, but when he went to work for the Park Service I guess his wages were higher and she didn't have to work anymore. She got really involved in her religion again. Like I said, both of them were preachers. They were ordained ministers so they could go and preach. They preached to the Indians because that was their thing, they wanted to do that.

Then we have William E. Morris. Everybody called him Gene. He was a musician besides working for the Park Service. He worked in the warehouse on the circle as you go up the hill toward the Park Service, there used to be the jail over here. Did you know we had a jail at Grand Canyon?

TM: I didn't know you had a jail. Tell me about the jail, Mary.

MH: It was a little one-room place with just the necessities in it. A wash basin, a stool and a bed, that was it. When you got put in jail, that's where you went.

TM: Did it have windows?

MH: It had windows, yes. When it went on and on, they'd take them down to Williams or Flagstaff. Usually into Flagstaff. The Supai's were very smart. They found out that you could take the window out. They would wait until it got dark and climb out the window and go home. Then come back early in the morning, climb back in the window. When they came after them in the morning, they were there. We always used to joke about our invincible jail.

TM: With the removable window.

MH: It was probably this much of this room [showing area]. Very small. And it set right there across the road from the warehouse.

TM: 8' x 8' maybe?

MH: Probably. It wasn't very big.

TM: Where was it again?

MH: Next to the Park Service warehouse.

TM: Near Albright?

MH: No, it isn't that far, that's new. When you go up the hill and turn towards the hospital, and you keep turning, there's the old warehouse. The old jail was right across the road from it on the far side. Anyway, that was the setup and Gene worked there. He also played in an orchestra.

TM: What kind of instrument?

MH: I don't remember. I went to dances where he played I didn't pay much attention. They didn't always play at Grand Canyon. Sometimes they went places and played for New Year's and stuff. Their daughters name was Gerry. His wife's name was... She worked at Babbitt's store as a clerk. She was a redheaded gal. They had a son named Mike. Mike worked at the laundry a couple summers. He went to school up at the Mormon school, it was a boarding school. A lot of the kids went from Grand Canyon there because you could room and board there. Grand Canyon school only went to the sixth grade at one time. Then they went up to junior high school, then they finally got the high school. The high school and the junior high came in together.

TM: Where was that boarding school?

MH: Provo, Utah. It's a Mormon school.

TM: Up near Salt Lake, it was quite a ways away.

MH: Gene Morris and his wife... Their son was going up to start school in Utah and somehow or other, I don't know if they had a blowout or what but they rolled the car. She got out of the car and somehow got up to the road but she couldn't remember that her son was there. They helped her and got her to the hospital. Finally she said something about, "Where's my son?" They went back and got him. He was all right, he'd just been knocked out, he wasn't hurt badly. Gene died real suddenly. They played all night on New Year's one year. He came home and started to get out of the car and had a heart attack in their driveway and he died. After that they moved down to Phoenix. Anyhow, Mike was a nice kid, I loved working with him. They lived down there and I think that she's passed away. I'm almost positive of it, it's been quite a while. They still had the Legion hut when he... Because they used to play out there and play sometimes, I just can't remember what he played. It was local guys that played out there usually.

TM: It says William E. Was E. for Eugene?

MH: Eugene, everybody called him Gene. Anyhow, he was very nice. I don't think I met very many people weren't nice at Grand Canyon. It was a little, close knit community. It's grown now and it's not that close any more. But you knew everybody, you knew their telephone number. We had two numbers/three numbers, whatever was needed at the time. You really didn't have to say your number, all you had to do was say I wanted talk to so and so and they'd plug you in. That's when I first went up there. Everybody knew everybody. If you were someplace else visiting and you called back, they'd want to know if you were having a good time and if you were enjoying your trip. You had to wait for half an hour before you could get through to the person you wanted to talk to.

Then we have Helen Muller and Mary Blanche Muller and Rudolph [Dick] Muller. Dick was the blacksmith. I always had a place for that dear man in my heart because my father was a blacksmith. We got to be friends. His first wife had passed away. They had two sons and a daughter. I think the one son was a lawyer out in California. The daughter drove a school bus some place in southern Arizona. The other son, his body developed but his mind didn't. He couldn't take care of himself or anything but his mother insisted on keeping him. Well, they separated and she went and lived in a tent because she didn't want to leave Grand Canyon, but she wasn't going to live with Dick.

TM: Did she have a job?

MH: No. He supported them. She would bring him up to the Bright Angel when I first worked there. I don't think she lived too long after I got there. She was buried out at the cemetery.

TM: Where was her son at the time?

MH: When she died, Dick put him in a home. The last time he went to see him he said, "Mary, I'll never go back. Here was this big man, full grown body, big man, lying there in a diaper. Didn't know who I was. I just couldn't take it, I fell apart." He started to cry even when he was telling me this. That was his cross and he did try to be a father but you can only be so much. I never saw his son that was a lawyer. I met the daughter of a couple times. She married a boy that worked at Grand Canyon but I can't think of that name. She did drive a bus because later on Dick married Helen. Helen was from Kansas City. So I got acquainted with her. She ran the El Tovar art room. They used to call it the art room. She was a little woman and she loved that job. She got to meet such interesting people she said. She was always my friend. After they moved down to... down along the Colorado River some place, Dick got sick. Helen had had her breasts removed because of cancer and she couldn't raise her arms up very high. They were living in a trailer down there. Name some River towns.

TM: Could be Laughlin, Bullhead City, Needles, Yuma.

MH: One of those little Arizona towns, but I can't remember what one it was. Anyhow, they were living there and Dick got sick at 4:00 in the morning. He would not go to the hospital there or up in Las Vegas. He wanted to go to Cottonwood because a lot of people from Grand Canyon went to Cottonwood to the doctor because they had good doctors and the hospital was great at that time. Flagstaff hospital was not all that great at one time. It was much smaller and they didn't have the equipment and stuff that Cottonwood had. So she got up at 4:00 in the morning. This little lady, who couldn't raise up her arms hardly, drove him all the way to Cottonwood. She hadn't driven in a long time. She got him over there and he had gallstones. Then they found out, I think he had cancer. He didn't live very long. He had wanted to be buried at Grand Canyon so she had him brought up to Grand Canyon. Then she stayed in the trailer. I guess she didn't make very many friends where they was living. They couldn't find anybody's name and address but mine. They called me up and asked me if I knew her. I said, "Yes I do." They said, "Are you related to her?" I said, "No, she's just a friend. What's the matter?" They said she'd passed away. I said, "I know she has a daughter that drives a school bus. I think I know what town it's in so I'll call them and find out." So I called them and yes, they did have a lady by that name. She called me back and asked when did she die? I said, "She'd just died yesterday and they called me this morning. So I got in touch with you because I didn't know if she had anyone else." She had two brothers in Kansas City but they were both in their nineties. I knew that they wouldn't come but they might help her. I don't know if they did or if she had insurance, I don't know anything about that. But they brought her up to the Canyon and buried her. That's another one, no one said when they were bringing her or anything. So I never went to that funeral either. They always say you should attend the funeral. I used to try to do that but sometimes it gets out of hand and you can't do it.

TM: And sometimes you don't know, and if you had you would have gone.

MH: Yes, because it was right there and it could have gone. Even if I had to walk out there I could have gone. She came up one time and stayed with me for a couple of days. She had a shower in her trailer. She said, "Mary, can I just take a good old soaking bath?" I said, "You sure can. I'm going to run down to the store." You know how it was, I met somebody in the store and we talked for a little bit. It took me longer than I thought. I got back and she said, "I thought you were never coming back. I found I couldn't get out the tub. I tried and tried and finally managed it. I don't have that much strength in my arms anymore and I couldn't pull myself up." We had a nice little visit together. She went back home and wrote me and note that said she was so glad I was there and she could spend the time with me and see the Canyon and everything again. She loved the Canyon. She said she went to all the places that she and Dick had gone to. It was nice. Then she passed away and so she's buried up there. Bless her heart.

TM: You told me about Dick. He was the one that always had a pot of coffee on and would invite people over.

MH: Yes, "Come on in and have a cup of coffee." This one girl used to come by and every day she'd say, "I gotta go home and do my washing." She never did tell him that she was a Mormon and she didn't drink coffee. Christmastime came and she got this huge box. She took it home. It was a washboard and an old beat up tub and a bar of P&G soap. It was from Dick so she could do her wash.

TM: What other Dick stories do you remember?

MH: He was a good blacksmith. He took care of the mules all the time. There's been a lot of blacksmiths up there, but he was there for the longest. I don't know how many years he was there but he was there a long time. I always have a special place in my heart for Dick. Sometimes I'd go by and if nobody was around I'd go in and talk to him a little bit. I never went to their house or anything

like that. Sometimes you got friendly enough and you went to the houses. Most of the time you were too tired by evening and on days off you always had things to do. You didn't associate much unless you went to a dance or show, something like that. He didn't associate much with your neighbors. But we all knew one another. If somebody needed something they were there and they helped you. Gerry always came by to see me. Allen Nail and his wife always used to stop by every evening when they go for their walk. They'd come by and knock on my door. I'd say, "Would you like to come in?" "Oh no, we're just going home but we thought we'd come by and say hi." I saw them up at Mike's memorial. I really think a great deal of those two kids. One time she was going to tell me the name of her book. She wrote a book but I never did get it from her. And I've only seen her once. She wasn't at that, something else I went to. I haven't talked to her in private or anything for a long time. So that's the Muller's.

Then we go to the Elmer and Katie, we called her Nelsie. Everybody called her Nelsie.

TM: How did she get that name?

MH: It was just the nickname. Elmer was the stationary engineer for the railroad when it was still the Santa Fe. He had a little office right outside of the plant where they used to pump all the water through. I can't remember what they called it, it's a huge old building.

TM: Was it the powerhouse?

MH: Yes, the powerhouse. The powerhouse had the water systems through it, it had the electrical through it, it had big – they weren't called generators they were called something else, but they were like generators. They had just got a new one in when the Park Service decided to bring APS in. It sat there for a long time. I don't know if it ever got hooked up or not. It might still be in there.

TM: It's all still there, all that equipment is still there.

MH: Anyhow, they did use the one, they had two. The new one and an old one. They generated all the electricity, they pumped all the water from there, and they furnished the steam heat for the hotel and the Bright Angel and the girl's dorm and the Indian dorm. We did have an Indian dorm, we were segregated. The Brown Building also was heated from there. The kitchen's got steam heat from there. I think that's all, I don't know about the houses.

TM: Let's back up a minute. Tell me about the water. In the sixties they build that trans-canyon pipeline and pumped that up from Indian Gardens. Before then how did that work?

MH: They brought it up from Indian Gardens and I don't know where the source was. I think it was at Indian Gardens. Then Halverson's came in and they put the water across to the north rim. That never goes dry on the north rim. It also supplies the north rim. It's a very interesting thing, the north rim a few years ago had a break; the first time they really dug any of the pipes up in years and years and years. They found that the pipes were wooden. I thought that was amazing that from the early thirties when that was put in, all those years those pipes had carried that hotel there in that area for the employees and all that.

TM: So before that Halverson work that was done in the 60s, the powerhouse building had pumps. Was that where they would pump the water up from Indian Gardens. That's a giant lift.

MH: Yes, it was. It still is a lift for them because they still pump it from the north rim. Sometimes it would get really bad, especially in the summertime when you had a lot of people you'd have brown water. You'd have to explain to them it was the turbidity. The water would turn. Even when they started getting it from the north rim it did that.

TM: Where were the tanks? Where did they store the water?

MH: They had 20 some tanks up there. I don't know how many they had at the time. We didn't have that many I'm sure because they put them in out there by the rim.

TM: Out there by Yavapai there's a bunch of them. Back in the fifties, were they there or someplace else?

MH: They weren't there in the fifties, they didn't build Yavapai until the sixties. So that's when they put those in up there. Let's see, where did they have them? Do you know where Hermits Circle is? They had a dead-end road right before you came to Hermits Circle. At the end of it there were some tanks. It was up by where the CCC camp used to be.

TM: So, up above the old maintenance facility. On that highland up there.

MH: Yea. I think Paul Smith lived in that last house and on the other side was Freddie Bart. The tanks were right beyond those houses. It was a dead end street. I don't know how many tanks there were, I never went up there.

TM: They pumped that water up from the Gardens, got it up to the tanks and then gravity feed it back out?

MH: They put it through an aeration thing that was outside of the laundry. To the west of the laundry there's kind of a sink where the railroad comes up in a 'Y'. There was a sink in there and it was an aeration plant. The water would come up like a sprinkler system and go back. I guess they pumped it out of there. I don't know exactly how that worked. I just remember the water coming up. The laundry used a lot of water. When they'd run short of water, the laundry had to bring water in. It was brought in by the tank. Every once in a while you'd get a rusty tank of water. There was no way to get off of there so it wouldn't go into the water system. So they would pump it off there and pump it through the laundry down into the sewage system to get rid of it. We'd cry because of all the money we had to spend to get that water.

TM: Would that stain the linens?

MH: Yes if it got it in the linens, but you didn't put anything in the washing machines you just ran the washers till the water ran out.

TM: How often did you have to haul in water?

MH: I think those years when we had to haul water sometimes, it was about... I went the laundry in '47, it was probably '60 or so before we didn't have to haul water anymore. I do remember that because I was involved in how much money we could spend because we did a budget. That really hit your budget, it knocked things around for you. That was one of the bad things we had happen to us.

TM: So Elmer was in charge of that as the station engineer? He was in charge of the water?

MH: They called him Pop Nelson. One time I got this picture postcard from Florida. It said, "We're having an enjoyable time" or something to that effect and it was signed Pop. I thought, "Who in the heck is Pop?" because I always called him Mr. Nelson. He was never Pop to me he was Mr. Nelson. They were very cordial people. He didn't belong to the Legion but she belonged to the Auxiliary through her brother. Her brother was Ray Scheck. Their brother was killed in the First World War, maybe it was the Second World War. He's on the Legions monument out there at the cemetery. Anyhow, she belonged to the Auxiliary through that. She would invite visiting people from the

Auxiliary to spend the night at their house because the Auxiliary had to pay for their room when they came to visit. Sometimes we didn't have the money. There was never a worry though because Nelsie would always come through. Either she or Mrs. Ennis, usually it was Nelsie because her kids weren't there anymore. Ennis's kids dropped in and out more often. I think the Nelsons went to Salt Lake City when they retired because their daughter was living there. I never did meet their kids. I have no idea who they were or anything because they were already grown and married by the time I came there. They were older so I never did meet them. When I was sick in the hospital one time Maudie came to see me.

TM: Did Nelsie meet Pop at the Canyon?

MH: They lived... the two houses there by the hospital, they lived in one of them. The Ennis's lived in the other one for a long time. Then when John Cunningham got Curly's job, he moved in there. They had a little house out in back. John's mother, Lucille, after she was too old to take care of the girls dormitory, she lived in that little house.

TM: Had Elmer met Nelsie/Katherine?

MH: I don't know where they met. I don't know where they originally came from. I know that in that little 2' x 4' office that he had, he had an old desk. He gave it to Buford and we put it in the laundry because Buford had a desk at home and didn't need it. It was an old one. One day I pulled all the drawers out. I was cleaning them and I found a bill from something in the back of one of the drawers. It was from 1905. So that was there from the start of the railroad. Buford and Myra have an old railroad clock, it's still over in their house. It's Karen's now but she hasn't taken it home yet. It's a Sessions clock. It was one of the railroad clocks. He brought that over personally and gave it to Buford.

TM: What a gift.

MH: Fred Harvey's decided that the desk was theirs, so when the laundry was closed they came and took the desk away. I think it's behind the El Tovar desk where you check in, it was at one time. I haven't been in the El Tovar for quite a while, not to look around. I used to go around back there and I'd see it. That was after the laundry was closed. Anyway, he was a very nice man. They had a Masonic lodge at one time. There were a lot of men that were active in the Masonic lodge. He was the Master. He and Virgil Gibson and John Cunningham and them got Buford into the Masonic lodge. He was Master at one time, too.

TM: Where was the lodge?

MH: Upstairs in the old community building. I don't know exactly what the Masonic Lodge do. But, they have people who carry on a certain part of it. They had chairs. Their chairs were made from hewn logs. Hewn logs formed into furniture. They gave them, at one time, to some town that had just started a Masonic lodge because the Park Service said they had to get them out of there. So they got rid of all that stuff. They get rid of all of our costumes and everything. I didn't belong to the Lodge but as the Auxiliary we had a little closet on the steps. We had a whole bunch of different things stored in there. The Park Service came and took them out to the dump. We had these old dresses from 1900. I was in a fashion show and wore a 1920s dress. We had things to wear when we had teas and things like that. I was only in one fashion show, I'm not a fashion person. Just give me an old pair of slacks and an old shirt and I'm fine. The Nelsons were always into everything. They liked to dance. Everybody used to dance. That was a big thing there because we didn't have but one movie a week. I guess they started the movies in the twenties. It wasn't Fred Harvey that started them, it was the Legion Auxiliary. Then Fred Harvey found out you could make money by having

movies. So they took it over. That was OK 'cause you had somebody to order... You never knew if you're going to get the right picture or not. Sometimes they'd send you the wrong one. You'd have it all advertised around town that such and such show was going to be on and it wouldn't be that show. Everything used to be at the community building. It was a community building. Everybody had to put money into it for the expenses on it. Then everything went up and it got to the point that some of the organizations weren't paying their part. That's more or less when the Park Service took it over. They said they'd be responsible for it. Every organization had a representative on the board. At the beginning of the year they started a calendar. You put in your bid for [events]. Monday night was Legion night I think. They had church there on Sunday and they had a show on Saturday. So three days were taken up every month. If they wanted to have a dinner they had to put in for the kitchen ahead of time. It was upstairs when they had dinners. There's a kitchen upstairs. The Auxiliary bought the dishes. They were all marked but the Park Service took the dishes. We didn't know they were going to take all that stuff out. There were people up there that knew me and they knew Betty Berkamp. They knew different people who were Auxiliary members. They could have said something and we would have found a place for some of that stuff.

TM: Why didn't they do that?

MH: It was their building. They considered that abandoned things because we didn't use them that much. Then, we weren't an organization anymore. The clubs and stuff didn't always meet there. They had different places to meet. We had church there. The Catholic Sunday school wasn't there, but the Community Church Sunday school was there. Myra was the Sunday school teacher. Sometimes she couldn't go, she was sick or something. I'd go do the Catholic one, theirs was later so I'd go do hers. So I was running back and forth, different books, different churches. It didn't make any difference, I wasn't teaching them anything against what they believed. So it was OK.

TM: Roughly what year was it that the Park took the building over?

MH: It must have been around the... Everything was happening in the early sixties and I imagine it was in that era that they did that. I just don't remember exactly. Then they built the Shrine of the Ages and they used it for a lot of things besides church. Now they really use it for everything imaginable. I haven't been there excepting to go to funerals and...

TM: Even today it's not looked at as the Community Center. The Community Center is still that two-story building.

MH: It burnt down in 1934, I think it was.

TM: Is that right?

MH: 1930 - sometime in the thirties, early thirties. They had started to run the library in '29. They had a lot of books in there and a lot of them burned. The ladies who had originally got the library started with the Auxiliary and the PTA. The PTA dropped out because their organization said they couldn't contribute to an organization like that. They could contribute to a school, but they couldn't contribute to a community library. So, anyway, those ladies stopped. Course some of them were the same ladies anyway 'cause everybody belonged to every organization, for something to do if nothing else. Mrs. Metzger was very active in it in '29 and when they built the new community building. There was a place - the Legion has some of those - the Legion has that picture of where Mike Verkamp is running in the summer program. I'll have to go over there and get that book and let you take some pictures. But you'll have to return them because they are not my pictures.

TM: We'll do it right here. I have my camera. We'll do it right here.

MH: Okay. I'll go over and ask Al if I can borrow it next week and bring it over. I remember seeing that because the Legion was the one who sponsored it that year. So I know they have that, they have some other pictures, too. They had pictures of the old Community Building. It was sad that it burned, but this one is much better - it's bigger and it took care of the community for a lot of years. I don't know what they have in there now, I think they have classes for orientation and stuff in there.

TM: They do various trainings. The concessionaires will do trainings there. Occasionally there'll be events there. People give presentations there.

MH: You know what they made me do the last year that I was working?

TM: No.

MH: They made me take orientation. I had never taken orientation. I just went to work! One day somebody said, "We don't have any record of you ever going to orientation." I said, "I never did it." I worked all those years without doing it. When I first went there you just went to work. I was a waitress. I knew how to wait tables and I'd worked at a Harvey House before so they didn't ask me any questions.

TM: That was it. So it sounds like the Nelsons were very active in that.

MH: They were very active in the community. She was very active in the Auxiliary, at one time, too. But then they left. The community lost two good people when they left. He was very good at his job. We very seldom ever had a blackout or anything like that. Then when APS came in, they strung lines from Williams up to the Canyon and they appointed people to walk the lines in case of a blackout, because 9 times out of 10, there was a line that was broken. I think they had seven miles they had to walk. One time they had a blackout and I think it was Ed Hart, he worked for the Santa Fe. Anyhow, they were walking the line and he started at the beginning of 0-seven mile. He walked and he got almost to the end of the seven mile and he found where it was broken.

TM: Oh my goodness.

MH: He was an older man. But anyway, that was one of the things to do with the powerhouse when they got the APS in, while they still had to maintain for a little while yet. The trains, I think, were still coming in when they first got the electricity up there. I don't know when they took the trains out. I remember them moving the Brown Building. Have you ever heard of the Brown Building?

TM: Yes. I've heard of it.

MH: Well it used to sit up right above where the Thunderbird is, between the Thunderbird and Kachina. It used to sit in there. Sometimes the trainmen stayed there. If they had to stay overnight, they stayed there. And some of the employees stayed there. The second cook at the El Tovar was a Frenchman and he stayed there. One time some room caught on fire and, oh, he was so excited. He always got excited anyway, he was very excitable. Anyhow, he came running down with his knife in his hand, yet. He'd been cutting something in the kitchen and he said, "Where is my dresser?" They said, "Well, we took all of the furniture out of this end that we could bring out." He said, "Oh, where is it?" He went over to it and he said, "Oh, thank heavens." He was going to go down to Mexico to some horse races or something and he'd put all his betting money in his dresser and he was frantic to get it out. Anyhow, it was there and he got it. I was told it was \$3,000, but I don't know.

TM: Which would have been huge! That would have been a year's worth of wages.

MH: Yeah.

TM: Wow.

MH: Anyway, he got his money. But the Brown Building was moved. When they moved it they only broke one glass. They moved it with the furniture in it. They took it on wheels down to the corner where the first overlook is and they couldn't get around the corner. It took them almost a week to get the wheels up there to be able to go turn around that corner and then go up where the road is now and then they had to go over the railroad tracks. Well, they got up to the railroad tracks and they got stuck. When they got stuck on the railroad tracks, the next morning the train was supposed to be in because they brought supplies up yet. It was supposed to be early in the morning. So they took the rails out and they got it over it and they hurried up and put the rails back. So the train came in in the morning. It was just fantastic the way they did it. Then they took them over that hump there at the corner across from the Community Building. It's the first big building as you go down that road, on the left hand side.

TM: On the left side?

MH: The right hand side is where they built – we were going to have a station there. I don't know what they were going to do, but anyhow, they built a station there and it's used for something to do with transportation, but I don't know what it is. I haven't been there since it's been active or anything. So I don't know what they are doing in there.

TM: That was a big building to move.

MH: It's a two story building. They painted it the same color as the Coconino Apartments. That was amazing to me that they got that over there. Everybody at the laundry, you couldn't get any work out of them. They were always running over to see if they got the building started! We all looked out. I used to have to say, "Buford, you've got work to do." He'd turn around and say, "Yeah, and so do you." It was fantastic the way they did that. Those are our big stories.

TM: So that's the Nelsons. Sound like wonderful people.

MH: Stuckey. Let's go back to Mirand. Mrs. Stuckey was the daughter of the Mirands. Her name was Connie Stuckey.

TM: She should be over here in the S's.

MH: She's in the S's and they're in the M's.

TM: Yes. Okay, so here's James Roy Stuckey and Connie M. Stuckey.

MH: Roy Stuckey, at one time he was in charge of the transportation department. He came up and he was a bus driver to start with. He and Connie were active in the young community. I was older than they were. They moved, I think they moved to Rimrock, they moved away. He was sick and he died, well, she died first I think.

TM: She was only 61.

MH: Yeah, she wasn't very old. He was older than she was to start with. He was 75 when he died. The Mirands were her parents. She was a bus driver, too. She drove a bus. He started out driving a bus. They weren't married when they came there but they met and married there. I think one of them had a child, I think it was a boy, but I'm not sure. I don't think he lived there, I think he probably lived with his other parent 'cause he wasn't their child. I don't remember which one he belonged to.

TM: What else do you remember about them - Connie and, did he go by 'Roy'?

MH: He went by Roy. He was a character.

TM: How so?

MH: He was very loud, for one thing. If he was in the building, you knew it!

TM: Was he hard of hearing?

MH: No. He just liked to be heard.

TM: Was he a big man?

MH: Yeah, he was a good man. He was very good in the community. He did a lot of things in the community. I was never really connected with any of the things that he did. I know that if anybody needed some help, he'd give them a hand and he was good to the drivers. They all liked him. After he was a driver he went into being the one who... What do they call it when they send them out?

TM: Like a dispatch?

MH: Dispatcher. He was a dispatcher in the transportation department. He always had something going on. Everybody'd laugh and laugh when he was around because he always had something stupid to say or some stupid story to tell.

TM: What about Connie? What do you remember about her?

MH: You know, I really didn't know her very well. She was a petite lady, blonde-headed lady, and I never was where she was. I don't know how come I knew him better than her, but I did. I didn't know him that well, either.

TM: So then we'll turn this page and then is Laura Nelson and Roy Ernest.

MH: That is - you know something?

TM: Wife of Elmer. Oh - so do we carry over?

MH: You know, this is their daughter. Katherine is their daughter.

TM: Okay. Is that right?

MH: She died in 2009 at 91.

TM: Right. 'Cause Laura died in '62, she was 77.

MH: So this is their daughter. Laura is their daughter and this is their son. I never knew them. They had left home before I was around, but they're buried there because the Nelsons all wanted to be buried together.

TM: So Laura S is the mother; she died in '62. Her son was Roy Ernest?

MH: Uh huh.

TM: This says he's still alive.

MH: I think he lives in Salt Lake City, but I'm not sure. That's where he did live.

Don, Donald Newman was a character. They called him 'Tusayan Don' because as soon as he'd get off work he was at the bar at Tusayan. He was kind of a loner and yet, everybody knew him. He was one of these guys if you had a problem, if you needed some help with something - he'd come and help you. But he was kind of a loner, to me he was lonesome man. I don't know exactly what he did. I should know, but I just...see he's down there as Tusayan Don. That's what they called him.

TM: He was only 58, when he passed away.

MH: Yeah, he wasn't very old. He was kind of crippled, I think. Seemed like he threw his leg or something when he walked.

TM: So he wasn't a member of the Legion?

MH: No. He was never a member of the Legion. I don't know where he came from. He'd always talk to you but I never did ask him questions about himself.

TM: Was he big? Was he small?

MH: He was tall. He wasn't heavy, but he was well built. I just don't remember seeing him excepting... I can't even think where he worked. I know he didn't work for the Park Service, it must have been for Fred Harvey but I don't know what he did. Anyhow, they called him Tusayan Don. He lived in the men's dorm so he wasn't married.

I don't know this Paul Nichols.

TM: He died in '47 and you only showed up in '46.

MH: I wasn't there. But he was a Hopi Indian. He worked for the Park Service, but I didn't know him.

I don't know who this is.

TM: Infant. Rhiannon O'Neil. One of the O'Neils.

MH: I put something on here but I can't read what I put on there. Oh, Patricks. Patricks. Yeah.

TM: Son of Dotty and Slim.

MH: Slim Patricks. I forgot all about the Patricks. Ken Patrick. No- this is O'Neil. I don't know. He worked for the Park Service. I don't know who he was. That was an infant.

TM: Was an infant, yeah. So Ken Patrick...

MH: Ken Patrick was a ranger for the Park Service. He was only 40 years old and he was killed by a poacher. He's buried at the Canyon. He was Slim and Dotty Patrick's... Was it Dotty? Slim was married twice. I don't remember what his first wife's name was. For a while they worked down at Phantom Ranch. They worked for Fred Harvey. He was a guide at one time and I don't know what she did at that time. Anyhow, he grew up at Grand Canyon. He was a very nice young man. He married somebody from the Canyon, but I can't remember who it was. Then they transferred. I think it's on his gravestone what he was doing when he was killed. He was trying to arrest some poachers. He wasn't at Grand Canyon, I think he was in California.

TM: Port Reyes, out by San Francisco.

MH: Anyhow, Pansy Patrick was his mother.

TM: So that's Dotty?

MH: No.

TM: This says son of Dotty and Slim.

MH: Ken was – Dorothy/Dotty Patrick's...

TM: She went by Pansy?

MH: I think she died, I can't remember.

TM: Or was Pansy the first wife?

MH: No, Pansy was his mother. Pansy Patrick was his mother - no she wasn't either. She was Slim's second wife. Pansy was a telephone operator. When Slim died, she went over to Flagstaff and she was a... She had a daughter who married one of the boys from down here. Used to be a deputy sheriff - Dave Poquett. She married Dave Poquett. Her mother was... She died young and then Dave remarried. Pansy married also. After she went to Flagstaff she married a man named Greer. I don't remember his first name. At one time he'd worked at Grand Canyon for a while at the Babbitt Store as a butcher. I don't remember his first name. Pansy was a very pretty woman, she had beautiful eyes. Like I said, she was a telephone operator and I really didn't know too much about her. The mother, Dotty, worked at the Canyon, but I don't know what she did. I know that they did work down at Phantom Ranch for a while but I don't know how long they were down there. I do know he was a guide, too, at one time.

TM: Okay.

MH: And, who do we have next?

TM: Natalie Paul, as an infant in 2008.

MH: Yeah, that name isn't familiar.

Cody Pearson was a sister of Eagle Mae Smith. Her name was - this is her married name. I have a picture of she and I, I think, feeding sheets through the ironer one time. She was a Williams girl. The Smith girls came up and worked at the Canyon. Means, not Smith, Means. Eagle Mae married a Smith, she married a Pearson. Their last name was Means. Their father was the one that was a roper. He roped wild animals for zoos. I think we talked about him before. I really liked working with Cody. She was a good worker but she left. She married and then I think she had a child. I don't know what happened to that marriage, but then she married again when she was in Prescott. She wasn't very old, she was 67, but she wasn't very old.

TM: What do you remember about her? Was she tall? Was she short?

MH: She was probably five foot four and a half or five. Eagle Mae was the tallest one and Cody was the next. Their sister lives over here. Her husband just died a couple years ago. Opal Means is their sister. She's still got her maiden name, she never married. The other one was, hmm, I can't think. Why can't I think of that name? I see her every once in a while. She lives over here on one of these

streets on this side of town. That was quite a family, the Means family. Eagle Mae passed away a couple of years ago. Her daughter lives up here on the hill. Her name is Linda Thompson. Eagle Mae had three girls. The sister that still lives here thought it was terrible when Eagle Mae was married to Johnny Smith. He was a guide at Grand Canyon. Then he was in charge of the barns, in charge of the mules, at one time. He fell off of a roof or something and died. She remarried a couple of times after that and both her husbands died before she did. Anyhow, she's down here as Eagle Jones - Jones was her last husband. She just died a couple years ago. Her girls all live down in Prescott, excepting the one that lives here - Linda. She's the oldest.

TM: How many years did you work with Cody in the laundry?

MH: I think she only worked there about a year, maybe not quite a year. She was Cody something else then. Then she left and she went to Prescott. She lived the rest of her life in Prescott, as far as I can remember. I didn't see her but maybe two or three times after she left us.

The next one is the Pillow's.

TM: Doris and Melvin.

MH: Mel Pillow was in charge of the Fred Harvey garage.

TM: He died when he was 60. He was young.

MH: Yeah. I think he had a heart attack. She, evidently, is still alive. I have no idea where she is. I really didn't know her. I think she drove a bus. I know she drove a bus.

TM: What do you remember of Mel?

MH: I'm trying to think of what she looked like. I can't even remember what she looked like. One time he did a nice thing for me. I got stuck and he went and had me pulled out. I started to pay him and he said, "Oh, I think we can afford to take that one." He wouldn't let me pay him. Don't tell Fred Harvey that. He was nice to me.

And this Emma Poquett and Phil Poquett. They ran Phantom Ranch for a long time. Everybody said that Emma made the best bread and the best biscuits of anybody in the world.

TM: Is that right?

MH: Yeah. She had a good reputation as a cook. They worked there as a couple. She was ninety when she died and he was sixty-two. When he died, they came up, and I think she lived down here. She either lived here or in Ashfork. There's a lot of Poquett's and William's in this area. They're from Spain. There is a name for people who come from that area.

TM: The Basque?

MH: Basque. They were Basque people. I don't know if Emma is still living.

TM: Was that their daughter?

MH: No, that was his wife. No she's dead. Emma's dead. She died in '77. He died in '46. They left. He died about the time or right before the time I came here. Everybody talked about them, how great they did at Phantom Ranch and that's where I base what I said about them. Because I didn't really know them, but Poquett is an old name down here. Dave Poquett is related to their family. I don't

know if he was Felix. There was a Felix Poquett that owned a house over here. There was another Poquett that owned one next to Marian's house up here on the next street. Anyhow, that's an old name around here and they had ranches. They raised cattle and they raised sheep. They did the winter thing. They'd take their animals south for the winter and then they'd bring them back up in the spring so they'd usually had a place in Wickenburg.

TM: Further down in the lower elevations?

MH: Yeah. It was warmer for the animals.

This person, I have no idea who they were but they were a hundred years old.

TM: Helen Pustmueller. It says Maxson. She may have been related to John Maxson and again, he was in the '30s a geologist that was from the University of California, I believe Caltech. I'm not sure on that, but it looks like she's related to him.

MH: I don't know who this Gregory Powell was.

TM: Gregory Powell was a wonderful man that worked at the general store for Babbitt's. His wife is still, I believe, working at the post office. He served in Vietnam, did Greg.

MH: That name isn't familiar to me, at all. I know Powell's, but I don't know that one. They're not from here, the ones I know.

This is a Hopi Indian baby.

Quimby's, Alma and George. George worked for the Park Service. I don't know what he did for the Park Service, but he worked for the Park Service. She worked at Verkamp's, Alma Quimby.

TM: Is George her son?

MH: No that was her husband - he died. He came up here to pick out a site to be buried. The next morning he was dead. He picked it out.

TM: Did he know his time was short?

MH: I know he had a heart attack. I don't have any idea if he knew ahead of time, or what. I don't know where she went after she left here. They had left here already. I don't know where they went, but she evidently came back here to be buried, too. She was 96. She was buried in '95. I have no idea where they went. I always liked her. I wasn't real friendly with them. I don't know why George liked Buford, he used to talk to Buford quite often. I don't know what they talked about. I have no idea.

You know the Quinn family? One of them still lives up at the Canyon.

TM: Mike Quinn? Certainly, works at Special Collections. What do you remember about...

MH: Ben Quinn was the GEO for Fred Harvey. They took him down to Phoenix, not Phoenix, Prescott and he died. I think he died down there at the Veterans Hospital. He had gangrene in his leg or something and he just gave up. I didn't really have much to do with him. I think his wife was one of the most exceptional woman I met. She was such a lady. I really admired her. She had a little spunk.

TM: How so?

MH: Well, she carried the family more than he did. He'd stay and work at night and stuff. He got so he was working more at night than he was during the day. Then he wasn't well and they put him in the hospital down there. She still lives in Phoenix. They had three boys. Quinn - now I can't remember any of their names.

TM: Is Michael one of their boys?

MH: No. Mike Quinn came later and he's not related to them. There are three Quinn boys. One of them worked with - they had Tusayan Cafe, with Eric and Bob.

TM: Bob Sutton?

MH: Uh huh, and I can't remember what his name was. I know it. They went to school with Buford's girls. They lived in one of the new houses. When they got the new houses, they got the first one. It was up on the corner, there. I can't remember that street. Then the next one was somebody else's house and then the next one was the one that Buford and Myra got. I think there were three houses in a row. One faced the other street and then two of them faced the cut-in street. Buford went down one day and he said, "You know, we'd sure like to have that new house. I'm not going to make a fuss about it, but I'd like to be considered." So he left. Everybody was fighting over that last house, it was the last new house that they had up there on the hill in the park area. One day, Mr. Quinn called and said, "Buford, the house is yours." So they moved into that house.

TM: That must have been a very hard job for Mr. Quinn, to try to sort all that out.

MH: Yeah it was. I think he was in the ski patrol during the Second World War. I think he was the one.

TM: Would that be the Tenth Mountain Division?

MH: Yeah, something. I just vaguely remember somebody being a GEO that said that they had been in the ski patrol. It seemed like it was him. I didn't really talk to him very much because I never went down to the office, hardly ever. He was always at the office and he didn't come down to the laundry. He said he didn't have to worry about the laundry. It always ran.

TM: Nice. That's a nice compliment.

MH: Yeah it was, so I didn't see very much of him. Troy Lagren, when he was the GEO he brought laundry down. I guess Mary didn't want to do it. His wife's name was Mary. I can't remember all of these things.

TM: You're doing a great job!

MH: Quinn, Gary Roberge. He's buried out at the Canyon. He was a very patriotic young man, but he was never in the service. He worked down at the garage.

TM: He was very young - 44.

MH: I don't remember how he died.

TM: You mention he was patriotic - in what way?

MH: Anytime that the Legion needed some help with something, he'd come out and help although he wasn't a veteran. He came out and helped them when they were building a house for the

caretaker and all this stuff. He was very good about that. He had an aunt that worked at the laundry and then she worked someplace else after I left. I don't know where she went to work. She came down here and lived in the St. Agnus' apartment. Little, tiny lady. His wife went back to Missouri. They evidently had a farm back in Missouri and she went back there. I think the aunt eventually went back there to live with her. I don't remember very much about him because I had no contact with him, really. All the guys really liked him, they always had nice things to say about him. He must have been sick or sickly or something 'cause he died quite suddenly.

The Roberts - he was the first Justice of the Peace, it says here, but he wasn't the first Justice of the Peace. He was a Park Service federal commissioner. Helen, not Helen, Betty was I think, his wife. No, that couldn't be either. I don't know who Betty Roberts was. Morrell had a wife.

TM: It could be, the dates would be right. He would have been older than her, of course, by maybe 10 years, or so. Not quite that.

MH: I just don't remember.

TM: What do you remember about - did he go by "Bob"?

MH: I never had to go before the commissioner, I don't know anything about him. (laughing) I got stopped one time for parking in the fire parking space at the El Tovar. I had to deliver papers up to the El Tovar but I didn't go before the magistrate or the judge. They called him a judge but he was the commissioner. Mike Verkamp has written a book about the ones who were commissioners at Grand Canyon. So you might ask him if you can read his book. He has an interesting book. I always thought maybe I'd ask him for one, but I never did. I helped him remember some of the names. Now I can't remember the names, either, but I do know that he was one of them.

TM: Did he have a good reputation as a fair and just judge or commissioner?

MH: As far as I know. I never knew anybody that when before him and I never went before him, so I really don't know. Whoever his wife was, I don't remember her at all. So if this is his wife, I have no idea.

Robinson - he was a little man that... I don't know why he would have been. Now I'm not sure that this is the same. This might have been Slew Robinson. It doesn't say anything about Park Service.

TM: No. It just says 'date question'.

MH: It says he was 94 so that wouldn't have been Slew.

TM: So here's Marlin. Marlin was 50 when he died in '61 and he worked for the NPS.

MH: This is the one that worked for the Park Service. This one here I'm not sure of. We had a Herman Robinson. He and his wife Helen worked down at the Motor Lodge. They were in a terrible accident. That couldn't have been him because he was younger than that, 'cause they were still there. He was 94 when he died. So I don't know who that is.

TM: Well it does say 'date question' so it's possible that 94 isn't right.

MH: No, this would have been before '87 when they were up there.

TM: Or maybe that's the date in question, but then age.

MH: Because he hit the... There used to be an overpass here, the highway was different. When it was different they had a overpass and I don't know if the train went under it or if it just went out to the road. 'Cause the train still is... I don't know how they get it around here, but anyhow, they do. Well, they have the overpass on the highway. But down here, right at the end of the street, by the motel that has a little train and things out there on the side, there used to be an overpass right beyond that. They hit that one evening going home and they were really badly hurt. I don't know if she died at the time or what. I don't remember her being on any list of earlier people being buried. Her name was Helen. I don't know if this is a Herman.

TM: That could have been. It would have been '69. If he survived the accident, then that would make sense.

MH: No, it was '87.

TM: If the accident was in '69, then he would have died not quite 20 years later.

MH: Helen was probably the one that was killed in that accident, then. They worked at the Motor Lodge. They used to have couples and they took care of the little cabins and they had to carry kerosene for the stoves. They'd put the showers on a little bit later and they had a central bathroom. There were probably three central bathrooms along there. A lot of the employees lived down in those little cabins when I came out. The Ennis boy lived next door to the Smiths, who were my friends, and I worked with them. They lived in those little cabins. They were real tiny! I don't know how they put all their stuff and everything in it. Even their clothes, it would be hard to put two people's clothing in.

TM: So was this the line of cabins that's still in existence today?

MH: There's none of those left.

TM: No. This was over by Maswik.

MH: The north end was built later, they're like four rooms in one building. I think right at the beginning of the road right across from the cafeteria, there's some little cabins left, or right on the other side of the cafeteria, there's some little cabins. I think there's ten, nine, ten, something like that, right across the road. They were built a little later. The ones that were built there on the main street - they were the old original ones. Then down behind the cafeteria, they built those two story buildings. Before then, there were little cabins all along there. And then, right next to the railroad track there were tent tops. Have you ever heard of tent tops?

TM: No.

MH: Well, they had a roof on them. It doesn't sound like it, but they did. They had tenting material for curtains and you could close them so they wouldn't flap and stuff. The floor and halfway up the sides were wood. When Eagle Mae Smith first lived there, her husband Johnny was a guide - a trail guide. Her sister down here has never forgiven Fred Harvey for making her sister live in one of those awful dumps. The next to the last time I saw her she had something to say about that again. I said, "Well you know, a lot of people lived in them." "Well that was indecent to make people live in a place like that." Of course they had kerosene stoves in them. If you ran out of kerosene, you had to go and get it, if it was in the night or anything else, or you just waited 'til the morning. Whoever was taking care of that section brought the kerosene.

TM: Were they just used in the summer?

MH: The tent tops were more or less used in the summer. But at the Canyon it can get cold at night.

TM: Oh yes.

MH: Sometimes they had to have heat. They never had any air conditioning for them when it got hot, but they did have heat for them in the winter if they had to be there. Those little cabins had kerosene stoves, too. At one time they had wood stoves and then they went to kerosene. Because it was easier and it was just better. So they progressed that much. And then of course, they tore them all down and built the present Maswik. And they tore the old cafeteria down. There's one corner that has some rocks, some old rocks. They left one little bunch of rocks there. I don't know how big it is - I can't remember even looking at it in recent years - but they left one corner of the old rock in it. It had a fireplace. It was beautiful old fireplace and it had to be blasted for them to get it out of there. The Santa Fe built that old building. It was an old log building. When they built it, they put a foundation on it that was like the El Tovar. When they built that building, that foundation, it was a foundation. They were going to tear down the El Tovar at one time. The Park Service was talking about doing it. It was an old building, its a hundred years old and it needed to be torn down and all this and that. It went on and on. They sent an engineer out and I guess he told them, "You'll never build a foundation as good as that one." They put new boards on the outside. When I was working up there, every year they did something to the hotel. They put new boards on the outside, they put a new roof on it with a sprinkler system. They had to put new floors in a couple of rooms, not very many. They put new furniture in while I was there. They put new windows in - which was the dirtiest job, because all that stuff in between the walls had disintegrated and they had to clean it all out. Of course it was all over the floor. They'd rent the rooms and they wouldn't be ready because, guess what? They didn't finish until 5:00 and you had to go in there and vacuum them all up. Sometimes they didn't have the windows in and we put stuff over the windows.

TM: Housing has been an interesting issue since the days of the tent tops, it sounds like.

MH: Yes, it has always been. When they built Maswik Lodge, the first two story buildings that they built from Maswik, not the newer ones, the ones that are closest to the railroad track. They ordered the material for curtains, well it didn't come. Somehow or other it got as far as Phoenix and they didn't have anybody to bring it up, so they had it there in their warehouse. So Buford took off and went down there and got it during the night. The guy came down, opened up the warehouse, loaded up the truck for him, and he brought the material up. For two days and two nights, we were cutting and sewing and even the boys had to come and put rings on the curtains for us. We were putting the curtains up and they were putting people in the rooms.

TM: Right then. Wow.

MH: Right then. The last one, as we got the curtain up and we're going out the door, the people came for it. That was the last room they had to rent in that unit. It was an exciting time. They told me to buy... They had not the bathrooms like they have now, they've remodeled them. They had just an old tin or metal shower. Like you used to have in homes, sometimes, they weren't very wide. And you only had to have half a shower curtain 'cause they weren't that wide. They told me to get some cheap shower curtains. So I sent to Chicago and got shower curtains. Well that was fine. I think we paid a dollar a piece for them. I think we got a hundred for a hundred dollars. We had to pay the postage on them, the freight, which was kind of high 'cause they're heavy. Anyhow, we got 'em. I didn't get hit for that one though. I just got hit for the pillows that I ordered from Chicago. They don't weigh pillows - it's by the truckload and you pay for the whole truck and it was expensive. I didn't know that - nobody told me that. I had never ordered pillows because we used to have a man come around and make pillows for us. Well, he quit and so we had to buy pillows. We got slammed on that one because the freight was a lot more than the pillows.

Anyhow, we were down to Roberts, Robinson. This is Slew Robinson.

TM: So Marlin J. Why was he called Slew?

MH: That was his nickname when he came there. Everybody called him that. He worked for the Park Service. I have no idea what he'd done unless it was some type of maintenance. He was a big man and he was related to Hoss on Bonanza.

TM: Really?

MH: Yeah. You know he [Hoss] was from Kingman.

TM: Didn't know that.

MH: He was very nice. He happened to come up the day that Slew died and he stayed until he was buried. He helped Neva, his wife's name was Neva. She left there, I have no idea where she went and I don't know where they were from.

TM: He was very young, 51.

MH: Yeah. He was a big man and that's all I can remember about them. I don't know if he was a nephew or cousin or what, but he was related to him. He was very, very nice to them. He really helped her.

This was a baby of a young man that was a bellman.

TM: Rhonda Rowland, 1965.

MH: They left right after this. This girl came with her mother. She married a bellman and they had this baby and when the baby died, they just left. They didn't stay there. I guess it was too sad a place for them.

And this one I don't know. It says Bright Angel Lodge. I have no idea who he was. He died in 2009, so he died after I was there.

I don't know who Sandoval was. These are those old graves that were on the side.

TM: The Sandoval's have a long history at the Park don't they?

MH: There's some other Sandoval's that were there sometime or other. They would have died long before this because they used to have wooden crosses on some of those. I remember when I first went up there, you could still see the names on 'em. One of them was Sandoval. I'm pretty sure it was Sandoval. It was something Spanish sounding with an S. They were on the side where the Shrine of the Ages is, on that side of the cemetery. There were a whole bunch of them and some of 'em were babies. I remember there was a Manuel somebody or other. You couldn't hardly read the crosses; but they had crosses, wooden crosses on 'em. I don't know anything about them, really. Because it was before I came there. But this Sandoval, I don't know. I have no idea who they were. I was there then, but I just don't... Well this one was '92 so it must be a mother or something. But I don't know who this one was. He died in '83 and I was there in '83, but I don't know.

This is Lucille Scheck and Ray Scheck. George Scheck is Ray's brother but he's on the Legion memorial. Lucille came out as a Harvey Girl and she met Ray.

TM: When did she come out? Do you remember?

MH: I don't remember, but I have something about her someplace. She never worked. He worked for the Santa Fe. He was a dear man. Something break down, "You know you can always call me" so he'd say. He was Mrs. Nelson's brother. He'd always say, "You know you can always call me. I'll come." And he would, too. He got out of the hospital and this man was in charge of the maintenance department. Poor Ray, he'd just got out of the hospital and he called him up and said, "The laundry has to have hot water and the hot water tank is broke down, there's something wrong." I said, "Can you get over there and fix it?" When I went to work in the morning, he was just finishing fixing it.

TM: He'd been down there all night.

MH: He'd been there all night. He died just a few days later. I was so upset with that man for sending him - why didn't he go down himself? He was in charge of it. Or why didn't he get one of the other guys to go in? But anyhow, I was very upset over it. Ray was such a dear person. He never, ever refused to come and fix something. He'd always say, "I'll be right there", and he would be. Or, "I can't come for about two hours, but I'll be there." He'd always tell you that. Lucille was a housewife for many years and I really didn't get to know her because she never went anyplace. When he died, she went to work at the Babbitt Store on the fountain. She and Ida Cumminings both worked on the fountain together. Both of them had been Harvey Girls. I think she came out, I don't think she came from Kansas I think she was from the - I have a picture in my mind that she was from the south, but I'm not sure. After Babbitt's closed she went down to Prescott and she lived in an apartment right downtown so she could go walk up and down, look at the stores.

TM: That's a sad story, though.

MH: Yeah, but I really - Ray Scheck was such a good person and to die like that, I just felt so bad about it.

TM: What else do you remember about Ray?

MH: Well, he was in service. His brother George, of course, was in service. I don't know too much about them excepting that he was always willing to work and always came to work.

TM: Did he help with the Legion and Legion affairs?

MH: No. I don't remember Ray ever belonging to the Legion. He might have. I don't remember him belonging to the Legion.

These are the Scheier twins. The Scheier's came in 1948. I guess that was the year they came. They had twin boys and they're buried out at the cemetery. I'm going to tell you something - I don't know if the boys will approve of me telling you this, but they spread their father's ashes where he liked to go hunting, some of them [ashes]. They put some on top of the twin's grave. I don't know, they brought Jo's ashes up and I think they spread her ashes on the twin's grave. They didn't put up any memorial to them or anything, but both of the parents are dead. The next year they had twins again and that was David and Dale. Dale passed away, too.

TM: That's nice of them to do that, though.

MH: He's buried up there. No, his ashes were scattered, too. Says 'ashes scattered'. Anyhow, I went to Dale's funeral. This say's Jo and Lawrence but I don't know if they planned to be buried, if they got spaces to be buried in. Somebody should ask David. David lives up in Page. He does come down when something's going on. He and Dale were opposites. Dale was a blond, blue-eyed boy, and

David has the most beautiful brown eyes you ever saw and brown hair. Jo was from Kansas. I think Lawrence might have been from... For some reason they used to go to Colorado and I kind of think maybe he came from Colorado. Jo was my partner driving to Kansas with Myra. Sometimes just Jo and I, but sometimes Jo and Myra and I. It was according to what we could arrange. She had four boys and they had one daughter. Mary, I think, works in an office someplace. I don't know where - if it's Idaho. I just don't remember where she went. I have had her address, maybe I still have it in that little black box. Anyhow, Mary was in a bad accident. She lost some of her fingers. She was in a dune buggy and it turned over and it drug her. I don't know which fingers, but she has never been handicapped by it. She has done all kind of - she has been a bartender, she's been a secretary, she's done all kinds of things. She's a very smart little girl. She's not a little girl, they were all tall, pretty much. I think probably David is the shortest and he's not short, he's probably 5' 9" or 10". The other boys are taller. Donny lives over in Flagstaff. I don't know where he lives, he told me anytime I wanted a ride to go to Flagstaff, he's not working anymore, he used to be a truck driver, he said, "I'll come over and get you and take you anyplace you want to go." Which is nice of him.

TM: So was he in Flagstaff or is he in Page now?

MH: David's in Page and Donny is in Flagstaff. Michel is in some little town on the west side of Arizona, but I can't think of what it is. I just don't remember.

TM: Dale, the 4th son, has passed away?

MH: Yeah. The mother and dad and he are buried at Grand Canyon, plus the twins that died at infancy.

TM: That's a very nice touch.

MH: Dale died at... He was wrapping a gift for his grandson and I think he had a heart attack. He was working for the Park Service and he was trying to quit smoking. He'd pick up a piece of wire, he was an electrician, he'd pick up a piece of wire. You know some wiring is lead and he got lead poisoning.

TM: Would he chew on it?

MH: He'd chew on it. He'd put it in his mouth and he'd chew on it. He got lead poisoning from it and he became crippled from it. I don't know if he was still in a wheel chair when he died, but I imagine he was. He was wrapping a grandchild's birthday present and he died. I didn't know their children. I know Mary doesn't have any children but I'm sure Mike does. Mike sells farm implements like John Deere and that type of thing. Why can't I think where he lives? Anyway, I haven't seen Mike in years. I think I probably saw him at Dale's funeral 'cause I did go to that funeral. I was so in shock that Dale died when he did. I remember seeing David there and I remember seeing Donny there and I remember Mary being there; but I just don't remember.

TM: What do you remember about, because you said you'd spent some time with Jo, driving back and forth.

MH: We used to drive back to Kansas together. That was an experience. Everybody in the car would go to sleep and I'd do all the driving. I didn't learn to drive until I was 26. I wasn't probably the best driver, but they'd all go to sleep and I'd drive. We went 66 for years and then turned up, I think, at Dalhart, Texas so we could hit Newton Kansas, 'cause Myra was from Newton. Or we would go up a little bit before there because Jo was from Spearville, which is practically Dodge City, its right outside of Dodge City. Her brother lives in Spearville, as far as I know. He might have died. I don't know if he was one of the older ones or the youngest one. I don't know what. Her sister lived in Dodge City and we'd go there because her mother was still living when I first drove back with her. We'd go and

spend a few minutes there and then leave Jo off and go on, Myra and I, to Myra's folks or to Buford's folks.

TM: Would you do that, roughly once a year or every other year? How often?

MH: We used to do it every summer.

TM: Every summer.

MH: It was easier because we had a lot of help in the summertime. In the winter time we were very short of help at the laundry. I could feed sheets, I could fold sheets, I could do anything, so if they got busy... We were doing Death Valley's laundry for a long time. It would come in and we had to have it out, in a couple of days it had to be ready to go back. So everybody really had to work in those months. I would have liked to have taken winter vacations, but I very seldom ever did. I did go back a couple of times, in the wintertime. Once my brother came down from Alaska. I hadn't seen him but one other time that I could remember, my oldest brother. My folks knew he was coming and they told me he was coming, so I said, "I'm going to get off." It was Christmas time. They never let me off at Christmas time. I went in and I said, "If I have to quit I will do so, but I'm going home for Christmas." They said, "Well, we can do it. We can do it. You go on and go home." So I went home. We had the whole family together.

TM: Did Jo go with you that time?

MH: No, not that time. I went on the train. Before Jo and Myra and I started going back in the summer, I used to go by train. When I went with them, we'd drive Myra's car 'cause it was the biggest.

TM: Just the three of you? Just Jo and Myra and you?

MH: And the three girls. Mary Scheier and Myra's two girls. So we were kind of crowded.

TM: Six of you!

MH: Yeah. They were young, you know they were little kids mostly, then. But there were still six of us. Sometimes we'd go to Spearville and stay overnight at Jo's mother's house because there was nobody there and sometimes her sister had family at home. Then they put the mother in a home in Garden City so then Jo would stay with her sister. She also had a sister in Kansas City, but she never went to see her. She said they never gotten along very well. I don't know what happened but anyhow. Whatever it was I didn't ever ask.

TM: Was she a big woman? Was she small?

MH: Jo was a big, blond woman, she was tall. She wasn't heavy, but she was tall. And her boys are tall.

TM: Like her daughter, her daughter sounds that way, too.

MH: Yeah. She's a lot thinner than Jo ever was, but she's tall like Jo.

TM: And her sons?

MH: Lawrence was tall, he wasn't heavy. He was a tall man. They were just a great couple. Jo was the first one to invite me in her house at the Park Service. She lived right at the top of the hill when

you come up from the general office for Fred Harvey and the road splits out. It goes this way and this way and this way. She lived in that first house as you went across. I went up there to see her about something, and she said, "Come on it!" I was so surprised because I'd never been really invited into anybody's house in the Park area. So that was really different. I had her kids in Sunday school. Later on, they had a Sunday school teacher. This teacher would do exercises and she'd say, "Okay, Mike you lead them in prayer", and she'd go in the other room and do her exercises. She'd say, "Everybody has to bring a dessert and something to drink and after we get finished with Sunday school, we'll have a little snack." So when they were reading about Christ being in the desert for thirty days and thirty nights {sic} the boys were laughing and Jo didn't pay any attention to what they were getting out of the kitchen. They got a couple jugs of water, they got crackers, and they went to Sunday school. They said if Christ could get along on bread and water, we can get along on bread and water. That was one of their things. One of the twins, I don't know if was David or Dale, we had this priest that had birds, I think I told you about Father. He had all these birds and they would swoop down during church. They'd come flying in out of the other room because he always had to open up his sitting room because he didn't have enough room in the chapel. He'd open up and the birds would come in. He never penned them up. I don't know how he ever kept them. If he opened the door he must have eased out so the birds wouldn't escape. But anyway, it was funny. He said, "When you say a prayer at our church you say 'Amen' you say 'Aaa - Men' and look up and make sure..."

TM: Watch your head as you say it. Oh my gosh. So Jo was the first person to invite you in as a Park Service employee, or the wife of a Park Service employee.

MH: I thought that was really different.

TM: Did she know you were from Kansas?

MH: No. She was just a friendly person. She was a nurse and I had probably met her at the hospital, I don't really remember when I first met her. I might have met her at church, I don't know. We didn't have church in the chapel, at that time that chapel didn't exist. The Verkamp's and I think mostly Muz Verkamp built it, but anyhow, they got it done.

TM: So Jo worked at the hospital?

MH: Yeah, she was a nurse.

TM: What years was this, roughly?

MH: Well, I think they came there in '48 when the twins were born. And it was the old hospital.

TM: We are just about done here, for today. We've been at this now a couple of hours. You know what, why don't we come back to Jo next week? Because I'd like to know a little bit more about her.

MH: When I was sick, Dr. Garabayo was at the hospital at that time, he was our doctor. He came in and I was just really hurting. I had never cried about my father. I was so fortunate that we had him for thirty years after the doctor said he wouldn't live a year. I was just so thankful that we had him and I never cried about losing him. I talked to him sometimes, but I never cried about it. But anyway, Jo came in with the doctor and Dr. Garabayo said, "What is your mother's name?" I told him and he said, "Is she still living?" I said, "Yes", and he said, "And your father's name?" I started to cry and I couldn't quit. I heard him say to Jo, "She must have just lost her father." Jo said, "Oh she lost him a long time ago." It just hit me and I just cried and cried and cried and I couldn't quit. I wasn't crying 'cause I was hurting. I was hurting, but I wasn't crying because of that. I was crying 'cause I lost my

dad. He was always there to hold my hand. I'd always say, "Dad, come and hold my hand, I got a problem." I'd talk to him about it even after he was gone.

TM: That's so sweet.

MH: I loved my mother, but I always depended on my dad. You know, we were a different family. Most girls are told that you have to wash dishes, you have to do this you have to do that. My mother once in a while would ask me to sew something or maybe hang the wash out or iron one of the boys' shirts or something like that. But I never remember her every saying, "Wash the dishes." My brothers washed the dishes with her because the two youngest ones would talk to her while they were washing the dishes. They were very close to my mother because they always had that time with her. They'd say, "Move over mom, I'll wash, you dry." They'd wash the dishes and she'd dry them and put them away. They'd talk up a storm. I never had that closeness with my mother like that. She'd tell me once in a while, "Dad's got a button off his shirt" or "Sew this" or "Shorten this" or "Do this or that" and I'd do it. I know that she didn't like sewing because when I'd go home on vacation after I was away from home, she'd have a stack of things. Seams to be sewed, buttons to be put on. If it was something they wore all the time, she'd go ahead and do it, but if it was something they didn't wear all the time, she didn't do it. So I just had that impression. She never told me, "I don't like to sew".

TM: But your relationship with your father was different?

MH: Yeah. Well, her hands were crippled. She had arthritis. Her fingers were drawn up like this.

TM: So it was very hard for her to lift.

MH: It was hard, but she could go out on the farm and milk a cow faster than my brother-in-law and she milked every day. She grew up doing that - she could still do it. I don't know how she did it, because she couldn't straighten those fingers up.

TM: Well, then she needed them to be around and she had the skill. So I put down a note here that says, "More about Jo".

MH: Okay.

TM: We'll pick that up next Tuesday. Mary, thanks so much again.

MH: You're most welcome.