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Interviewee: Paul Schnur (PS)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

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TM: Good morning. Today is Saturday, February 23rd, 2019. This is a Grand Canyon Oral History interview with Paul Schnur. My name is Tom Martin. Good morning, Paul. How are you?

PS: Great. How are you this morning, Tom?

TM: Wonderful. It's a little cold here at the south rim of Grand Canyon. We are in one of the Bright Angel Lodge cabins conducting this interview. Paul and I have talked about his recollections at 1956 of the TWA v. United air crash, but Paul had already been at Grand Canyon for 10 years before 1956 so what I'd like to do is discuss with you today your earliest memories of Grand Canyon. I'd like to start: Where were you born?

PS: I was born in New England. I was born in a little town called North Conway, New Hampshire. My father, as you may or may not know, was a physician. He had gone to medical school. He was born in Brooklyn, grew up in Brooklyn, went to medical school there, but was an outdoors person, didn't like the city. So he took a job when he finished medical school with the CCCs and was stationed in a CCC camp in New Hampshire. He met my mother, who was a Canadian nurse. She was working in a hospital nearby. They were married and I was born. Shortly after I was born the CCC started cranking down because the Depression was beginning to wane. Since my dad was a federal employee, they reassigned him to the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona.

TM: You know, I'm going to go back for a minute, Paul. Your father's name was?

PS: Leo Schnur.

TM: And your mother's name was?

PS: Aileen. Her maiden name was Miller, but she became a Schnur.

TM: Where did your father go to medical school?

PS: He went to medical school at the Long Island College of Medicine, which is now known as New York University Downstate.

TM: What was his undergraduate degree in?

PS: He didn't graduate an undergraduate degree because if you go to medical school, you just have to have two years of college.

TM: Okay.

PS: So he had two [On transcript review, Paul corrects to three] years of college before he went. And I'm still trying to find out where he went to college. I think it was Columbia, but I'm not sure. [On transcript review, Paul corrects to Columbia and New York University]

TM: Okay. So he met your mother and then he was transferred. Pick the story up then. You were born. Do you have any other brothers and sisters?

PS: I have one sister, but she was born in Arizona. She was born after we moved to the Indian reservation, and she was born in the Indian hospital at Tuba City. Her name is Sally, and her married name is Forster.

TM: So your mother and father bundle you up and take you out to Arizona. Did your father and mother ever say what their thoughts were on leaving the East Coast? You mentioned your father liked outdoors type things.

PS: Correct.

TM: Was this an exciting move for them? Were they really looking forward to heading west?

PS: I think they were. My dad loved the outdoors. He was very big in Boy Scouts. All during his college and medical school years, he would leave the city and go up to northern upstate New York where he would work in either a Boy Scout camp or some camp in upstate New York. I have a picture—that's a very prized picture—and it's of Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was governor of New York. He was at a Boy Scout jamboree in upstate New York. He was sitting on the back of a big touring car that was a convertible. All the Boy Scouts are around this car, and you can see my father in a white doctor's uniform standing up among all of the Boy Scouts. So, yeah, he was very much into outdoor stuff. He was a fly fisherman. He was a hunter. So the West was something that he would look forward to.

TM: Do you know if he had been west before he was sent west?

PS: I don't know for sure, but I would say he probably hadn't been west before he was sent there.

TM: Okay.

PS: I met a cousin, who was a nephew of my mother, one time when we went to revisit her homeland in Nova Scotia. She told me that when he got the assignment to Arizona she was my nanny or babysitter because my mother was running a restaurant. They were living in Stowe, Vermont at that time. My father came home and said, "We're moving to Arizona. You have to go back to Nova Scotia. You can't go to Arizona with us." She said, "I'd like to go." I suspect she was probably an undocumented—not alien—but an undocumented member. So she went back to Nova Scotia and they left for Arizona. I have a picture of my mother and father in an old 1936 LaSalle, traveling to Arizona, obviously on Highway 66.

TM: Which would have been quite the journey. Did they talk about how hard that drive was?

PS: Well, they didn't talk about it, but periodically we would redo that drive because while we were here, my father would want to go back and visit his family in New York. Of course, there were no jet airplanes, so we would get in our old car and drive from Arizona back to New York along two-lane

highways except when we got... If you recall, the first turnpike in America was the Pittsburgh-Harrisburg Turnpike. He would drive 100 miles an hour on that turnpike because there was no speed limit.

TM: Wow! (laughing)

PS: It was like Germany.

TM: Wow. And everybody else would have been driving that fast, too.

PS: Yes, certainly, in old cars.

TM: That actually went fast.

PS: Yeah, they went fast. They just weren't designed to go 100 miles an hour, you know—suspension and tires and...

TM: Vibration from the wind. Yeah. Where was he assigned then? What was his first assignment?

PS: As far as I can tell, and, you know, unfortunately, when you look back, I wish I'd asked him a lot more questions than I did. Wouldn't it have been wonderful to do an oral history? I think we first lived in Fort Defiance and then in Fort Wingate and then in Tuba City. I started first grade in Tuba City. At that time, and still is probably, the Indian schools and the white schools were separated. The Indian schools were government schools, so they were large. There were Indians from all over the reservation. And the white schools were primarily just for the white kids who were children of the employees of the Indian Service. The school I went to, I think had two classrooms, first through fourth grade and fifth through eighth grade. I've been through Tuba City, that building is still standing but it's in ruins. I'm told that the reason it hasn't been torn down is because it's filled with asbestos and they can't find a company that'll tear it down. So I started first grade there and then World War II came along. My father was drafted into World War II. One of his first jobs was to set up the hospitals in the Japanese relocation camps. You know, we had two Japanese relocation camps in Arizona. One in Poston, which is on the Colorado River, and one at Sacaton, which is in the Indian reservation south of Phoenix. One time when I was surfing the net and I put his name in, this picture came up of him and a Japanese doctor seeing the first patient in the Japanese relocation hospital in Poston and the description of him setting the hospital up. This picture's in the Library of Congress.

TM: My. He was in the Army then?

PS: Well, this was right... When I try to put it together, it was right before he went in the Army. He had probably been drafted. But I found this out by visiting the Poston... If you go to Poston, the old camp, the only thing that's left there is a plaque that some of the internees put up. It says that—and this was very interesting, I didn't know it—it says that President Roosevelt declared that the Japanese would all be placed in internment camps and these camps would all be in various areas. Oh, and these camps would be on Indian reservations. And the Indians said, "No, you're not going to inter Japanese on our land. You did that to us and we're not going to let you do it to them." But President Roosevelt said, "I'm sorry, sir, but we are going to put them on Indian reservations." The Indians said, "Well, then, if you're going to put them on Indian reservations, the Indians are going to run the camps." I had never heard that before. Well, of course, my dad was working for the Indian Service, so they assigned him to set up the hospitals. Then he went on active duty and was stationed around the country. He was scheduled to be sent over to Europe with a hospital and became ill. He was then discharged from the Army and was reassigned to the Indian Service in Sacaton, which is the Pima Reservation just south of Phoenix.

In the meantime, he had discovered Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon. And, as I think I told you maybe off the record, he was an outdoorsman. He was a fly fisherman. He was a hunter. He discovered Oak Creek. So while he was at Sacaton, he bought property in Sedona and built a house. Actually, he built about five houses in Sedona. But that was his ultimate goal, was to live in Sedona and be the doctor in Sedona. There were no doctors in Sedona. After he had built the house, he was reassigned. The Indian Service was like the military. Every few years they would reassign you. They reassigned him to the Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. So we went from southern Arizona to the Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. My dad and I liked it there because we were on the reservation. We could hunt or fish anytime, anyplace we wanted to. But my mother and my sister, who had been born at the Tuba City hospital—I think we may have mentioned that—wanted to come back to Arizona. So my dad started looking for a job in Arizona. Ultimately took the job managing, or running, the Grand Canyon Hospital.

I had an interesting experience in that I was researching the physicians of the Verde Valley because I wanted to write a book on the history of the physicians in the Verde Valley. I was at the Sharlot Hall Museum doing some research, and I came across a book called *Mile High Docs*. It was a book about the doctors of Prescott. The doctor who wrote this, his first chapter was Prescott not Grand Canyon. [On transcript review, Paul corrects the first chapter subject. It was on Grand Canyon] Of course, that got my attention, so I read it. He said that he had just finished his residency and they were advertising for a doctor to run the Grand Canyon Hospital. He decided that might be something he was interested in. So he and his wife came out and interviewed for the job. They said, "I think you're who we want. We'd like you to take the job and let's sign the contract." They said, "Okay." Then they said, "Oh, by the way, just a point of information, and that is that you can't have pets if you live in the park. You're not allowed to have dogs or any animals." They had two dogs and his wife says, "Well, we'll keep them in the house." They said, "No, I'm sorry. You can't even have pets in the park, even if you keep them in the house." So she said, "Well, I'm not going to Grand Canyon, then." So instead they went to Prescott, and I think my father came right after he did and interviewed for the job. He was given the job. We had two dogs, but the dogs went to the Sedona house, and we came to Grand Canyon. So we had no dogs when we were at Grand Canyon.

TM: So then would you weekend in Sedona? How would that work? That you would back and forth?

PS: My mother and my sister and I would go spend the summers at Sedona and my dad would commute. He, of course, was the only doctor at the Grand Canyon Hospital, so he would come to Sedona on the weekends. Then if he got a telephone call, if there was an emergency, he would get in his car and drive back to the Canyon. He was a very fast driver. I told you he drove the turnpikes in Pennsylvania at 100 miles an hour. Interstate 40 was not there yet and 180 was not there, so in order to go from Sedona to Grand Canyon you go up the switchbacks to Flagstaff, you'd follow Highway 66 to Williams and then you'd take—what is that? 60?

TM: 64?

PS: 64 north of Williams to the Grand Canyon. He couldn't go fast on the switchbacks, but once he got to Flagstaff he would drive 100 miles an hour down 66 and up 64 until he got to the Canyon. So he would come up, take care of the emergency, and drive back down to Sedona. He did that for many years.

TM: In the winter, would you and your mom and your sister then come back to...

PS: Yeah. Because we would be in school, you see. So we would live here full time in the wintertime.

TM: I have to ask you: What about your dogs?

PS: The dogs stayed in Sedona until they died.

TM: And you had somebody take care of them in the winters?

PS: We did. We had renters. Remember I told you Dad built five houses, and so four of them he had for rental units. So some of the renters took care of the dogs.

TM: Nice. Okay. All right. He took the job then in 1946 here?

PS: 1946. We packed up from North Dakota and moved. I have a picture of the U-Haul—it wasn't called a U-Haul—it was a huge, big truck loaded down with everything you could put in a huge, big truck, coming back to Grand Canyon. We moved into a house on Navajo Drive. You know, Navajo Drive is the hill that goes up, right next to what used to be the maintenance area, and it goes up into the residential area. There's a house right on that hill that was a very nice house that we assigned to live in.

TM: What are your earliest memories of the house and the school?

PS. Well, the house, I have very vivid memories of the house. The house is still there, and it's very much like it was in 1946. It's just been, you know, it's been redone a couple of times. But it was a two-story house. I think it had probably three bedrooms upstairs and a living room and a dining room downstairs. It had a fireplace. And there's a porch on the back of it where you could sit outside. A big fireplace that burned real wood. A single-car garage and a driveway that drove off of Navajo Drive back to the garage. Sitting right next to the driveway was Louie Shellbach's naturalist building, which I don't think is used for that anymore. I spent a lot of time in that building with Louie Shellbach. He was one of my great heroes. He was a great, great guy. He was very much involved with the school and with the children. He was excellent with children. We could go in there anytime and he would show us his collection of butterflies, his collection of all the things he had, and tell us about the geology of the Grand Canyon. He was very active in the Boy Scouts. Most of us were in the Boy Scouts at that time. Yesterday the Shellbach family talked about Louie and had a lot of pictures. I have this wonderful picture of him pinning on my first class badge. I look scared to death and he's just beaming from ear to ear and my dad is sitting behind. I told the Shellbach family I would send them that picture. So that was our house.

The school was across the road that came in. The main road that came in is now the back service road that goes by the clinic and goes by, I think, the campgrounds are up there. That was the main road in, but that's the back road. The school was alongside of that, where the school is still present. There was no high school. There was just first grade through eighth grade. And, again, I think there were either two or four classes in each room. I went to, I think, sixth, seventh and eighth grade there. Graduated from eighth grade. I've got the old yearbooks, so I've got all the old pictures. I can remember my eighth-grade teacher, Mrs. Heightmeyer, who was quite an interesting lady. Well, I remember her as a teacher.

She was the principal, and she was the eighth-grade teacher. I think it was probably either sixth through eighth. But, anyhow, the Verkamps were classmates. Garrisons were classmates. A lot of people who were here at the meetings and that you see around the historical society were classmates of mine there. My sister went to school there. One of my friends was a fellow by the name of Phil Weeks. Phil Weeks lived right down the street from me. Philip Weeks. His father was the baggage car man on the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe Railway. He and I graduated from eighth grade together. We went to high school at Wasatch Academy, we can talk about a little bit. We graduated from twelfth grade together. We both drove down to the University of Arizona, where we went to college. He went to law school, I went to medical school, but we received our college degrees together. He was my best man and I was his best man. Unfortunately, he died when he was only 68 [On transcript review, Paul corrects to 62]

years old, so we haven't had him for a long, long time. He practiced law in Phoenix and was a very prominent lawyer in Phoenix until he passed away.

TM: What else do you remember about the superintendent, Mrs. Heightmeyer?

PS: Well, I'm not sure I can tell you more than I already have told you. She lived here at the Grand Canyon in one of the houses up by the school. She was an excellent teacher. I don't know whether she was married or not. I can't remember that. I don't know whether she had children or not. I can tell you an interesting story about her and that is that one day she said, "We're going to have a visitor, a very prominent person, and I want to talk to you about that." She said, "The Shah of Iran is coming to visit the school. He's in the United States and he wanted to see an American middle school. So they're bringing him to visit our school. So I want to tell you all about Iran." She put a map up and we talked about Iran. We talked about its government, its economy, its people, all the things about Iran. We're all sitting in our class and in walks the Shah of Iran with, I think, the superintendent of the park, who was Mr. Bryant, and probably several other rangers and probably some of his people. He walked in, he walked up to the head of the class and said hello to Mrs. Heightmeyer, and said, "Children, I'm very pleased to come visit you. I see there's a map up here. I wonder if you could show me where the country of Persia is." We all said, "Persia? Where is Persia?" Mrs. Heightmeyer got unbelievably red and she said, "Oh, Your Highness, I think my students know the name of your country as Iran." He said, "Oh, okay. Then, where is Iran?" Of course, we knew all about Iran, so we told him everything we knew about Iran. That was kind of fun to get to meet the Shah of Iran.

TM: Nice. And this would have been 1947, '48?

PS: Probably '48. And obviously he was still the Shah of Iran. It was before the revolution and his disposure.

TM: You mentioned the Boy Scouts.

PS. Yes.

TM: Do you remember who the scoutmaster was?

PS: The scoutmaster was the postmaster. I can't remember his name, but he was the...

TM: Metzger?

PS; Yes, I think it was Metzger. I think that's right. I haven't thought about that name for a long time, but he was the postmaster. I think he was not married. He was the Boy Scout leader and spent a lot of time with us doing lots of things. We did lots of camping. We hiked the Grand Canyon many, many times. I mean, I can remember as a kid hiking the Grand Canyon with the Boy Scouts. Oh, yeah, we had all the Scout equipment and the uniforms and we'd camp. You know, you didn't need a permit to go down the Canyon. You could go anytime you wanted to and you could virtually camp anyplace you wanted to. There was no camping... But we would go down frequently and camp. We would hike along the rim and camp. We went to jamborees. We went to Phoenix on one occasion. The national jamboree was going to be in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. We took the troop train from here to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and back, which was quite a trip. I can remember we were on the train going through the Southeast somewhere. The train stopped at night and they said we could get off because it was going to be there for a couple hours. We saw something we'd never seen before, and that was fireflies. The kids from Grand Canyon had never seen a firefly before. So the Boy Scouts were a very integral part of our community. You know, nowadays kids sit at home on their computers watching that but we did stuff

with the Boy Scouts—camped out, worked on our merit badges. That’s why I say Louie Shellbach was very much interested in the Boy Scouts.

TM: I’m curious to capture a little more detail about the hikes into the canyon that you did.

PS: Okay.

TM: These were overnight hikes, down to maybe Indian Gardens or did you go further afield?

PS: Oh, yeah, we would go to Phantom. We would not infrequently go to Phantom. And, of course, Phantom was a little bit more casual in those days. The mule trains would go regularly and we would have to hike around or pass the mule trains. I can remember camping down there along the river and in the campgrounds. I think we would go up to Phantom and they would feed us some food. But usually we’d bring our own food.

TM: Did you hike east or west? Did you go out toward Hermit at all? Or go the other way? Or was it just down the main corridor trails?

PS: I can’t remember hiking like the Hermit Trail or... But I can remember many times doing the Kaibab and the Bright Angel Trail, so I think those were mostly the trails. But, in those times, some of those other trails were in pretty bad shape. Not really, you know...unless you were a real backcountry hiker.

TM: That’s why I was asking. I know that by the 1960s the Scouts actually were hiking over to Granite and Hermit. In the 60s. So, I’m like, wait a minute, I don’t want to miss a chance to ask you about what you remember about those hikes in that time period 10 years earlier, from ’46 to ’56.

PS: I just remember doing the Bright Angel and the Kaibab.

TM: Okay.

PS: Some of the vivid memories I would have would be when we’d be at the bottom and we’d start back out. I can remember it being grueling to hike out the Bright Angel Trail, or even the Kaibab Trail. I have this vivid memory of being at the bottom and seeing the rim of the canyon. Start hiking and being tired and hot and miserable and saying, “I’d just like to quit but I can’t because there’s no way I’m going to get up there if I quit. The mules are not going to take me up. The helicopters are not going to take me up. I’ve gotta keep going.” This sustained me, this memory sustained me through college and medical school because when I got to finals, finals to me were like hiking out of the Grand Canyon. You could see the end. It was like a week and a half. You’d say, “I’m sick of this. I’d like to quit, but I can’t. I’ve gotta get through this.” So every time I took finals, I would think about hiking out of the Grand Canyon. Now, another revelation is that when Barbara and I were 65, we decided to do rim-to-rim. This was the first time I ever did rim-to-rim. I knew what it was like to do rim-to-rim, so Barbara and I trained for probably nine months before we did it. We trained in Sedona by hiking up from the creek to the rim many times. In Phoenix there’s a mountain called North Mountain, I don’t know if you’re familiar with it. If you know where the Point at Tapatio is, that hotel, a Hilton Hotel, there is a hill across the street that is probably a three-quarter of a mile hike, but it’s almost straight up. We would go down and do that hike a couple of time a week, yes. Multiple times. So when we hiked out of the Grand Canyon, we did rim-to-rim, it was a breeze. I thought to myself, “God, as a kid, this was a nightmare and, here I am 65 years old and it’s a breeze.” Its training.

TM: That’s right.

PS: Yeah.

TM: Yeah. So I wanted to ask you before we leave Grand Canyon School, there was a presentation the other day about helicopters in 1950 by Ed Montgomery. But in 1950, you would have been at Wasatch.

PS: Well, during the school year, but I would have been back here in the summers.

TM: Okay. So Ed Montgomery's son was in school here. He was eighth and under, so he was here. I was just trying to put it together to see if you knew him, but you wouldn't because you'd have been at Wasatch.

PS: Yes, uh huh. When I finished grade school, there was no high school at this park or most parks. There was a Presbyterian mission school in central Utah, in a little tiny town, that was fairly reasonable, was a good school. So most everybody from Grand Canyon went to high school there. At that high school there were kids from many other national parks—from Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, from the park in Hawaii, Bryce, and Zion. Because of the fact that there were no high schools in all of these parks, they came to Wasatch. So it was kind of a camaraderie of park service kids.

TM: What year did you start there?

PS: 1950.

TM: Did you meet Joan Nevills?

PS. Oh, yeah. (laughs) Well, she and I were classmates. I remember her very fondly. I remember her talking about her mother and dad dying because they had been killed just shortly before she and I met. I knew she lived in Flagstaff, so I called her up a couple years ago and said, "Would you like to have lunch?" She said, "I'd be delighted." So my wife and I met her for lunch in Flagstaff and we started talking about old times. I said, "We were in the same class together, we were in the same things." She said, "Well, yes, and you know you took me to the senior prom." I hadn't remembered that at all. (both laugh) I said, "I did?" I didn't want to pretend like I didn't remember, you know? She said, "And I have a picture." So she whips out this picture of she and I at the senior prom. So I guess we were more than just friends.

TM: Fun.

PS: But, I was from that area, she was from that area. We talked a lot about her folks. She went to Wasatch for more than high school. She went to grade school there because they lived up on the reservation and I don't think there were any decent schools there. I think she was in eighth grade when her father and mother were killed. Seventh or eighth grade. She was pre-high school when they were killed.

TM: I'm counting. I think she was in ninth grade.

PS: Could have been ninth grade.

TM: So she would have been just a freshman in high school. I'm not sure. It'd be close. Right in there.

PS: Seemed to me like she was in the eighth grade, but it could have been. [On transcript review, Paul adds she would have just been starting 8th grade when they were killed]

TM: Very well could have been. 1949 when her parents passed away. Did she talk about flying with them?

PS. No. I never talked to her about flying with them.

TM: Okay.

PS: Another interesting person. If you have any more questions about Joan, as I say, I think she's still alive and lives in Flagstaff.

TM: She is.

PS: Yeah. She's a very nice person.

TM: Indeed.

PS: Another interesting person that I was in grade school here at Grand Canyon, went Wasatch with, was Douglas Ramsey. Are you familiar with the name of Douglas Ramsey? Okay. Douglas Ramsey was... His father worked for the park service, I think. He lived probably two doors from our house in Grand Canyon here. He was a year ahead of me in school, so he would have graduated and gone to Wasatch before I did by a year, but then we were in Wasatch together. I can remember in high school him being fascinated with politics, talking about politics. Most high school kids in a rural school in Utah never talked about politics or even thought about politics. Then when he graduated from Wasatch, he went off to college, I think to an East Coast college and majored in political science. When he graduated from college, he took a job with the State Department. As Viet Nam started, he was assigned to Viet Nam as a member of the State Department. Several people who were State Department employees were driving in a car along a road where they were stopped and captured by the Viet Cong. He spent the next five years as a prisoner of war. I don't know if you'd call him "war" because he wasn't in the Army, he was a State Department employee. But he spent five years...and they kept him in tiger cages. He survived and he came back. He and I would meet occasionally and he would tell us about his experience there. He had very, very... They fed him very little. He would see the chickens out getting more food than he got. He would eat bugs that would come into his cage. It was quite a harrowing experience. So he was one of our classmates from Grand Canyon.

TM: And then in the summer you would come back.

PS. Come back here and I would work. Every chance I got, I worked. I worked for the laundry when I was in grade school. I guess, either there were no child labor laws or they didn't recognize them at Grand Canyon. But when I was in grade school, the first job I ever held was folding sheets in the laundry down by the power station. I did that for a summer. Then I worked in the old gas station for a summer. That was the gas station that was on the old road, out pumping gas. My mother and father were very close friends with Virgil Gibson and his wife. Virgil Gibson was the Fred Harvey photographer. He ran the Lookout Studio. I had decided in grade school and high school that I was going to become a professional photographer. So I worked for him in the studio and I developed the photographs. The tourists would bring their rolls of film in, which, of course, were black and white in those days, and we would develop them during the evening so they could come back and have their pictures the next day. It was almost like 24-hour photo service. I worked for Virgil for a number of years. I did a lot of things with Virgil. I would go on his photo shoots with him. I have a wonderful picture of President Eisenhower because one day he got a call saying, "President Eisenhower is going to be in tomorrow and there's not going to be people there because we don't want anybody to know he's going to be here, so he doesn't get swamped with tourists. But we want photographs, so we want you there." So I went with him, carrying his cameras. Superintendent Bryant was there and a couple of the park rangers were there, and the photographer and I were there. It was just that small group. So I did have a chance, one on one, to meet General Eisenhower, he hadn't been elected President yet. I have a picture that I took of him, so I have that up on my wall in the Sedona house.

Later that day,—I was telling you about Doug Ramsey, who was my friend that was a prisoner of war—he and I were doing something up at the Hopi House. I can't remember exactly what we were doing there, but we saw this crowd. We walked over to see what this crowd was. Well, it was General Eisenhower and he was surrounded by people. He was just mobbed by people. They wanted their pictures taken with him and they wanted to say, "Oh, I served with you." Because remember this was... Oh, the war was just only over for only a few years. "I served with you here, and I served with you there, and I served with you there." He was supposed to be at a luncheon meeting at the El Tovar but he couldn't get out of the crowd. So Doug Ramsey and I sort of took him by the arm and cleared the crowds and got him to the entrance to the El Tovar so he could get to his lunch. (laughs)

TM: (laughs) Oh, my gosh.

PS. He was such a gentleman, you know, he was not... I mean he shook hands with everybody and he took pictures with everybody. He just didn't push people out of the way and go. He was a very gentleman sort of a person.

TM: Nice. What do you remember about Virgil?

PS: A lot. (laughs) Virgil started out as a photographer for Fred Harvey, I think working in Winslow. Then ultimately when whoever was the official Fred Harvey photographer at Grand Canyon left, he came in and took over. His wife was the granddaughter of Bert Lauzon, I think. I think it was Bert Lauzon. At least it was one of the old pioneers. Virgil was an excellent photographer. High-level-energy guy. Very close friend of my mother and dad's. Was at every event taking pictures and I was usually with him. He gave me my first camera, which was a Speed Graphic. I don't know if you have seen a Speed Graphic, but it was new photography. It shot 4 by 5 pictures. I mean, it was a dinosaur and a nightmare. It took incredible pictures if you could carry it around with you. (laughs) I took pictures with it for a long time. I've got a lot of his pictures. His kids live in Phoenix and I have met them at some of these symposiums. They have some of his pictures. I have lots of his pictures. I had talked with Helen Ranney about doing a... He's a forgotten person. Nobody has ever heard of him. You talk to people. Nobody has ever seen his pictures. It's amazing how he disappeared from the scene. I said to Helen Ranney, "You ought to really do a show of his work at the Kolb Studio sometime." She said, "Well, you know..." This was when she was still working for Grand Canyon Association. "Well, maybe we can do it, but somebody's got to spearhead it. Do you want to spearhead it?" Virgil's daughter was there. She didn't want to spearhead it. I didn't want to spearhead it. So it didn't get done. But it still would be a great project down the road.

Most of the stuff he took was black and white. Taking pictures of the Grand Canyon in black and white is kind of tragic, but it's still pictures. And most of the pictures were colored, they were hand colored. So I have a number of pictures of Grand Canyon that were hand colored. He came to Sedona to visit a lot because they would come down and visit my folks when we were down in Sedona. So I have a lot of pictures that he took of Sedona. I have pictures that were taken right behind our house in Sedona that are big, huge pictures. I have Red Rock Crossing, the Cathedral Rock pictures that he took. Then I have a lot of pictures, and you might help me with this, I have pictures that he took of parties at the El Tovar and at the Bright Angel with the Verkamps. There's one where there's a whole bunch of people sitting at a table at the El Tovar. My mother and father are around him and Virgil's wife is there, and Mary Verkamp—that was Jack's first wife—she was there. But there were some dignitaries sitting there. They must have been Fred Harvey dignitaries. I've shown these pictures to Steve Verkamp and I've shown them to Mike Verkamp. Nobody seems to be able to recognize. One of them may have been a Harvey, may have been Daggett or Byron Harvey.

TM: I bet that's right. I bet Mary Hoover might be helpful with that.

PS: Yeah, she might.

TM: Yeah. So what was Virgil like as a person?

PS: Kind and gentle. High energy level. Good sense of humor. What else can I say? I never saw him angry. I never saw him mad. He was very intent on getting photographs, as any photographer would be. At any social gathering, he was very professional. He was always taking pictures. He didn't engage, you know, in the libations. One of the things about Grand Canyon in the wintertime was there was a lot of partying and there was a lot of alcohol at the parties. That was part of the scene. There were people who got into trouble with that. But I never saw Virgil involved in that. He was just a lot of fun. He was fun to be with. Had a good sense of humor. He knew his stuff. He knew his photography. I think he got great pictures. He didn't have the media to work with that we would have now, so that's why I think his pictures didn't survive. They were mostly black and white, and black and white pictures of scenery don't sell. They did in those days because that's all you had. I don't think he ever published in the *Arizona Highways*. If you were an Arizona landscape photographer in the 40s and the 50s, if you didn't publish in *Arizona Highways*, you were forgotten. The big timers always got something in *Arizona Highways*.

TM: What was Virgil's relationship like with the Kolbs, with Emery?

PS: Cold. You know, obviously. I heard somebody say this not long ago that... Oh, I know who said it. The fellow who just wrote the book about the Kolb brothers. What's his name? Norris? I can't remember his name right now. He was commissioned by the Grand Canyon Association to write this book. He gave a talk, as I mentioned before, at our retirement community, and he claims that Fred Harvey built the Lookout Studio to block people going to the Kolb Studio. I'd never heard that, but obviously the geography is such that that could be true. I never saw Virgil talk with Emery. I think he did his thing and Emery did his thing. Behind the scenes there could have been stuff going on, but I don't know anything about any unpleasanties between them. At the Lookout Studio at that time, we had lots of pictures. We sold lots of film, we sold cameras, we sold trinkets. But there were lots of Virgil's pictures up. They were framed. They were usually 11" by 14". There were pictures of trees with the in Canyon the background. Beautiful pictures of the Canyon that were colored. They were in black and white because, you know, you can do a real crisp black and white of the Canyon that's pretty impressive. Many, many of them. Lots of pictures of Indians. Hopi Sammy. Do you remember Hopi Sammy?

TM: Do you remember Hopi Sammy?

PS. Oh, very well, yeah. Hopi Sammy was in all the time. He was at the Lookout Studio all the time because people wanted to have their pictures taken with him and they wanted to take pictures of him. He would dress up in his head dressing, which is not Hopi, it's Plains Indian, but that's okay. It looks better for pictures. He would walk up and down the rim, stopping and letting people take pictures of him, and asking for a little something for the pictures. I've got a great story to tell about him if you want me... Maybe I've told you about it. He was sort of the janitor at the Bright Angel, among all the other things he did. One Sunday I was the bellhop on duty. In those days the bellhops at the Bright Angel wore kind of a maroon uniform with a button collar and a little cap on top. Mr. Harvey was coming to visit, Daggett Harvey was coming. You know, we didn't have cell phones then. So he rode the train to Williams. He didn't take the train up because they sent a Harvey car down to meet him at Williams. As the car drove up, every place he passed, they would call—he was coming to the Bright Angel—they would call the Bright Angel and said, "We just passed Valle Airport" or "We just passed through Tusayan." So we were ready. When he came through the park service gate, they called us. So when the Harvey car pulls up in front of the Bright Angel Lodge, the manager of the Bright Angel was there. I was there because I was the only bellhop on call. The desk clerk was there and Sammy was there. He wasn't

in his full uniform; he was in his janitor's uniform. Mr. Harvey got out of the car and said hello to us and said, "Sammy, take me to the men's room." So he starts to the men's room with...and we didn't quite know whether we ought to go along, but he encouraged us to come with him. So we all went down and we went in the Bright Angel's men's room. In those days, it was a pretty elaborate men's room. It had copper urinals and it had copper mirrors and very fancy sinks. It was pretty elaborate. So we went in and Mr. Harvey looked around the bathrooms. He had kind of a fetish about the bathrooms in all Harvey facilities being kept immaculately clean. He looked around and he looked all around and he said, "Sammy, I'm proud of you. This really looks nice. Thank you for keeping it this way." Sammy said, "Mr. Harvey, I'm mad at you today." I mean, everybody sort of went like this. He said, "Sammy, why are you mad at me?" He said, "Mr. Harvey, it's Sunday, and Sunday is my day off. But the manager tells me I have to be here on Sunday because I have to have the bathroom clean for you. You could have come on a Monday." (laughs) Mr. Harvey just sort of looked at him and everybody was just sort of horrified. But we went on our way. Sammy was probably the only one that could talk to Mr. Harvey like that.

TM: Nice. Good for him because he was saying, "Hey, the structure is pulling people in to get them to do stuff." Interesting. What else do you remember about Sammy? What was Sammy's last name?

PS: I have it written down, but I can't think of it. I gave a talk and I had Sammy's picture in it and I needed his name, so I went to Steve Verkamp and Steve Verkamp remembered his name. I have it written down that I can get to you. [On transcript review, Paul notes his name was Sam Pemahinye]

TM: I think I've got it, actually, in Mary Hoover's interview.

PS: Okay.

TM: What else did you remember about Sam kind of off-hours. Mary recounted when it snowed a lot, he would dig this trench from the powerhouse up to El Tovar. You'd see the snow coming out of the trench, but you couldn't see Sammy because he was kind of short.

PS: He was short, yeah.

TM: But just seemed like a very caring, a wonderful individual that, as you recounted with this Daggett Harvey story, very dedicated to his...

PS: Oh, yeah. He was totally dedicated. He was a fixture here. He was part of the scene. There were a number of people... There was a great big fellow I can remember by the name of Jake who was about 6 foot 8 or 6 foot 9.

TM: Jake Barranca.

PS: Yeah, I got a picture of him with a little donkey (TM laughs) and he's much bigger than the donkey. But, anyhow, Sammy was like that—he was a fixture. I'll tell you one thing that I saw happen more than once. When Sammy was all dressed up in his headdress and all of his accoutrements, this was when he was off duty, walking up and down between the Bright Angel and the El Tovar so people could take his picture, they would take his picture and not pay him. He would get livid at them and he would say things to them that were not very kind if they didn't pay him for taking his picture. Which, you know, is a reasonable thing to do. If he's out there to take your picture you can certainly give him 50 cents or a dollar, but some people didn't do it.

TM: There are three other things. We've been at this now for an hour.

PS: Oh, my gosh.

TM: Time is just zipping along. Three other questions I've got for you. Your recollections about the powerhouse. Your recollections about Harold Bryant. And your recollections about Ed Montgomery and his helicopters in that brief summer and fall of 1950, if you noticed him at all.

PS: We talked briefly about this yesterday. I saw that presentation. I thought it was a magnificent presentation. I saw all those pictures of helicopters that were flying in the park in the 50s, which blew my mind, because I didn't think that could happen. I don't remember anything about the helicopters. As we discussed before, the first time I think I ever saw a helicopter at the park was at the crash. We went out to... As I told you, the main thing I did was to use my car and drive the media back and forth from the park to the Red Butte Airport. I just did that constantly. But I would be out there waiting for them.

TM: Right, and Montgomery was here in 1950 and this was 1956, when the crash happened.

PS: And that's the first time I ever saw a helicopter here.

TM: Yeah. Yeah, interesting.

PS: That's the first time I ever remember seeing a helicopter. It was a small town so news traveled and I don't remember hearing anything about those helicopters.

TM: The story is actually incredible and nobody's ever published or written a thing about it, so that's why I'm kind of asking it. They were kind of out of sight, out of mind. But they were *way* on the park's radar screen.

PS: Well, gosh, they would have been, yeah. Because I can remember, I told you, hiking out of the canyon, realizing that there's no way you could get out because there was no helicopter that could come get you. If you wanted to ride a mule there, it was pretty expensive to hire a mule to take you out. I had no recollection of those helicopters.

TM: Okay. The powerhouse. Big two-story building, down in the draw, just south of the Bright Angel Lodge. Did you ever get in there? Did you get tours? Did you walk around?

PS: No. I was always around it and there was always steam coming out of it. It was always warm in the wintertime, you know, when you got around there. But I don't remember anything specific. We had electricity. We always had electricity. I don't know that we had... Electricity was not a concern but the powerhouse went all the time. It was noisy. As I say, there was a lot of smoke and stuff coming out. I don't remember anything specific about it except the laundry was down near it. It was right next to it. So the summer I worked in the laundry I was down there a lot, but more concerned about the laundry than the powerhouse.

TM: Was the big chimney in place then?

PS: Yeah, and smoke came out of it, so it must have been burning oil or something like that. But there was certainly no control over the emissions from it.

TM: Mmm-hmm. Okay. And then Harold Bryant.

PS: Harold Bryant, I think, almost all the time we were here was the superintendent. He lived in that big house at the base of the hill below El Tovar. He was very low key. I don't ever remember him... He was comfortable to be around. He was a gentleman. He was always in his uniform. I don't think I ever saw him *not* in his uniform. He was ever-present. Most everything for the Boy Scouts stuff, he would be there for that. I think he and my dad got along very well. When my dad took over the hospital, it was in pretty bad shape in terms of they hadn't had anybody here that had done a good job on running it. My

dad had had extensive experience running large hospitals in the Indian Service so for him to run this 10-bed hospital was not a big deal. He whipped it into shape. He made it profitable. He had good service. They did obstetrics. They did minor surgery. They took care of the patients. They took care of the park service, the Fred Harvey people, and the railroad people. They were all prepaid. So it was kind of the first HMO. People had never heard of an HMO or prepaid medical care before. He had a nice relationship with Bryant because he was providing a service. I think when he got down to 10 years and they wanted to renew the contract, the park service was asking for a lot more things than they had done in the first contract because the hospital was so successful. So, as I recall, my dad had some of the same negotiation problems with the park service that Susie Verkamp talked about yesterday.

TM: And by then, I think Harold Bryant would have left...

PS: He probably was gone by then.

TM: ...and John McLaughlin would have come in.

PS: Yes. Now, another prominent person was Lons Garrison. I think he was the assistant superintendent who never became the superintendent.

TM: That's right.

PS: There's a newspaper article that's a full-page newspaper article written by him in the *Arizona Republic* about the Grand Canyon Hospital, what a great facility it was and what a good job it was doing, and how it was approved by all the hospital approvals. I think the fact that dad was providing this much-needed service to the park made his relationship with Harold Bryant quite good.

TM: I do want to ask you about one other person, then. Sam Turner. And Sam's son Sam.

PS: Okay.

TM: Sam was the head of the depot. Wasn't he the depot manager?

PS: Oh! Oh, yeah. Okay. Sure. I was blocking on the name.

TM: Yeah, because we were talking about Garrison and Bryant and now I switched gears.

PS: I was very close with Sammy. Sammy and I were very close friends. He was a year ahead of me. We did a number of things together, Scout things together. We went to Wasatch together. We were involved in a lot of activities in Wasatch. When he graduated, I think he went off to California to college. Like Redlands or Pepperdine, or one of those schools there, and I went to the University of Arizona. But we stayed in close contact. They lived over the train station and his folks and my folks were good friends. As I said, there was this big social stuff that went on with the Verkamps and their family, so they were close in that. Then Sammy came to Tucson and became a school teacher in Tucson when we lived there. I tried to reconnect with him but I never did reconnect. But I've stayed in touch with him and he and I have been in communication with some history stuff. I've talked with him about some history stuff. I had an interesting experience in that we went over to La Posada to spend the night at La Posada. You know, the big entertainment at La Posada is to take a glass of wine and go out and sit and watch the trains go by. So we're sitting out there with a whole lot of other people, drinking wine and watching the trains go by. I say to the people next to us, "Where are you from?" They said, "Oh, we're from Tucson." I said, "Oh, you're from Tucson. You came up here just to experience La Posada?" They said, "Yes." So we started talking. Somehow I mentioned Sammy Turner and they were next-door neighbors of Sammy Turner in Tucson, yes.

TM: Is that right?

PS: Uh-huh.

TM: Nice. What do you remember about his father?

PS: Oh, gosh. I don't have any recollection. I mean, I just knew him, but I don't remember any details.

TM: Okay. The trains ran on time and that was good.

PS: Yeah.

TM: Yeah.

PS: I'll tell you one story about the trains, aside from him, and that is when I was in seventh and eighth grade, I wore braces. The only orthodontists were in Phoenix and Tucson. So they took me down to a Phoenix orthodontist. They put braces on. Did you ever wear braces as a kid? Did you ever have kids that wore braces? Well, you know, they have to be tightened every two weeks. So the only way I could get them tightened was to have somebody take me to Phoenix. Well, my folks couldn't take me down to Phoenix because it was like a 12-hour drive to Phoenix. So I would get on the train at 8 o'clock, ride the train to Williams and get off the train. Then pick up the Super Chief when it came through and ride it to Ash Fork. Then I'd get off the Super Chief at Ash Fork and get on the train to Phoenix that didn't leave until 2 o'clock in the morning, but I would get on it probably about midnight and I'd go to sleep. Then I'd get down to Phoenix at 8 o'clock in the morning and I'd take the city bus downtown where I'd get my braces tightened. Then I'd go to two double-feature movies in Phoenix. Then I'd take the bus back and get the 8 o'clock train out of Phoenix, back to Ash Fork. Ash Fork to Williams, Williams to Grand Canyon and come into Grand Canyon at 8 o'clock in the morning. I would do that every two weeks.

TM: How old were you?

PS: I was in the seventh and eighth grade. My wife is horrified that my mother would let me do that.

TM: You were 10, 11? No. Eleven, 12?

PS: Yeah, yeah. Probably 11 and 12. But, you know, it was a different world in those days. There weren't crazies around. There weren't all the things going on that go on today.

TM: Paul, this has just been so fun to talk about these things. Before we wrap this up, is there anything else that you're like, oh, I should mention?

PS: How about Rowe Well?

TM: Please.

PS: You know about Rowe Well?

TM: Tell me.

PS: (laughs) Okay. I just wrote this up and it was just in the *Old Pioneer*. Rowe Well was a cowboy bar and there was a bowling alley there, among other things. As I recall, it was out on a dirt road, maybe what five miles from here or so. One of the other jobs I had... Obviously, I'm telling you about working, but I guess... I don't know whether my dad made me do that or I just wanted to work, but I set pins in the bowling alley. They didn't have automatic pin setters. Sometimes that was a little challenging because the people playing bowling had had a little bit too much to drink. Sometimes they'd throw the ball before you'd finished setting the pins so you had to be careful. I remember one time I was either on

break or I'd finished my work and I was in the bar. Normally, minors couldn't go in the bar, but at Rowe Well, they didn't care. There was a cowboy in there that had a little bit too much to drink and he'd built up a bar bill that he couldn't pay. They said, "You gotta pay the bar bill. You have to pay the bar bill." So he was going around and saying, "Well, I got an old car out in front. I'll sell the car. Does anyone want to buy the car?" I thought, "What kind of car?" So I went out and looked at it. It was an old Buick Roadmaster. In fact, it was a 1937 Buick Roadmaster and he was asking \$25 for it. I happened to have \$25 in tips in my pocket. So I bought this old Buick Roadmaster from him and I drove it home. My dad was out of town and my mother was a little upset because I'd bought this thing. She was a pretty sweet, kind mother but my dad had a temper. He could have a real temper. I knew what was going to happen when he got home. He was livid that I had bought this car. Remember, it was during the summer and I was going to Wasatch. You couldn't have a car in a boarding school, so I don't know what I was going to do with the car for the rest of the year. But my dad was furious that I'd bought it. But I'd *bought* it. Of course, I didn't have any title to it. I'd just paid the cowboy and drove it home. He said, "Well, okay, you can keep it, but you've got to pay the maintenance on it." So I said, "Fine." It needed tires badly. The tires were bald. I went down and priced the tires and they were like \$200 for a set of tires back in 1952. So, with that, I got rid of the car, and there was peace in the family.

TM: Nice.

PS: But I remember going to Rowe Well. In fact, I think... Well, you probably shouldn't put this in anything written up. You know, in those days you had to be 21 to drink, but I don't think Rowe Well cared what age you were. If we were underage and we wanted to buy liquor, you know who we bought it from? The Indian bootleggers. Because, you know, Indians couldn't drink, either. So there was a whole underground sale of liquor to Indians with the Indian bootleggers. So if they would sell liquor to the Indians, they'd sell it to minors, too.

TM: Mary Hoover talked about a big car, like a limousine-type big car, that would drive around. Then it would take people out to Rowe Well and later in the evening would bring them back. It was the Rowe Well shuttle car. Do you remember that at all?

PS: I don't remember that, no. But I remember a lot of people being out at Rowe Well drinking.

TM: Mmm-hmm. And, of course, Harold Bryant's mission was to shut that place down.

PS: Oh, sure. Yeah.

TM: Eventually I think they did.

PS: I think they did, too. Or at least ... Well, there might have been something left there. I don't know whether they had cabins. They may have had cabins there. I think the Supai Indian village was on the way out to Rowe Well.

TM: That's right, yeah. Well, maybe this is a good time to wrap up Part 2.

PS: Okay.

TM: There might be a Part 3. I'm not going to say no to that.

PS: Okay. Well, let me just wind up by saying this: My dad ran the hospital for a number of years. He always had decided that he wanted to be a doctor in Sedona. So when he felt that he had fulfilled his mission here, and for other reasons, he decided to leave and go to Sedona. So he moved to Sedona and was the first doctor in practice in Sedona. He built an office in downtown Sedona.

TM: What year was that?

PS: 1955. He built an office in Sedona that had a medical and dental clinic, so he practiced for the rest of his career in Sedona. I was still in college and going to medical school so I would come back here each summer and work. Generally speaking, I would bring a whole lot of people with me. There would be kids from college who were looking for summer jobs. I would get them summer jobs either as bellhops or... A lot of the girls that I knew would come and work in the gift shop, selling gifts. And, of course, there was places for them to live. I dated a Harvey girl. Unfortunately, she was an ASU student, so that couldn't go anywhere because being a UofA student, you just couldn't deal with that. Let's see. There was something else I wanted to tell you. In addition to coming up here and working... Oh, there was one year that I... You remember the Kachina Lodge? Did we talk about the Kachina Lodge?

TM: No.

PS: The Kachina Lodge was a lodge that was on the Orphan Mine.

TM: Tell me.

PS: Okay. There was an article written some time ago about it in *Arizona Highways*. Actually, I was quoted in this last issue of *Arizona Highways*, which was the Grand Canyon issue of the *Arizona Highways*. There was a lodge built there. Then Will Rogers, Jr. bought the lodge and he ran the lodge. When I was in eighth grade, his son was in my class. (phone rings) Can we take a real quick break?

(phone break)

TM: You mentioned Will Rogers had bought the lodge.

PS: Yeah. Will Rogers...

TM: Junior.

PS: ...had bought the lodge. Right. He had somebody running it who had been an Indian trader on the reservation called White Hogan and he had a big Indian silversmith shop there. His son was in my class in the eighth grade. When we graduated, they moved to Phoenix and Scottsdale. He ultimately opened an Indian silversmithing shop in Scottsdale. Where I was going with the story was that some people from California bought the lodge from Will Rogers, Jr. They wanted to build a big, impressive lodge there. They became good friends of my parents and they needed a manager. So they hired me when I was in high school to manage Kachina Lodge. So for a year I managed Kachina Lodge. There was a bar and a restaurant there. I wasn't old enough to go in the bar, but I was managing it. The reason why I'm quoted in this month's *Arizona Highways* is because Fred Harvey did not have a lot of accommodations for people and Tusayan had virtually nothing at that time, so we would fill up every night. And then people would come in without reservations, having driven all day long. It would be late in the evening and they would have to go back to Williams or Flagstaff. So we put a bunch of tents up out in the forest. We had tents that we'd rent out to people. By the time they got to us, and it was getting dark, they were willing to sleep in the tents. So we rented tents. That's what's quoted in the *Arizona Highways* this month.

TM: Nice. That's very interesting about Will Rogers, Jr. Hmm.

PS: I can send you the article from *Arizona Highways* about Kachina Lodge. How it was built, how Will Rogers bought it and ran it and then sold it to the Barrington family. After I was managing it, the Barringtons went bankrupt, and I think that's when they came in and reopened the mine and started mining uranium again. I think they either tore the building down then or they converted it into their offices.

TM: Do you remember, roughly, the year when Will Rogers sold out to them?

PS: It would have been probably '51 or '52.

TM: Okay. All right. Helpful. Thank you.

PS: I've got that article on my computer. I'll send it to you.

TM: That'd be great.

PS: Yeah. Because it has details about the Kachina Lodge. It had a number of different names. It was only called Kachina Lodge for a few years. It was called Grand Canyon Lodge, and then it had a couple of other names.

TM: Nice. Well, I tell you what, Paul, why don't we call it good here.

PS: Okay

TM: Thank you very much for this incredible interview. Today is Saturday, February 23rd, 2019, and this is the end of Part 2 interview with Paul Schnur. My name is Tom Martin. Thank you very much.