

**Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society**

**Interviewee:** Ron Livingston (RL) and Susan Livingston (SL); also present: David & Rosemarie Elston (DE & RE), Hazel Clark (HC)

**Interviewer:** Tom Martin (TM)

**Subject:** Ron recounts his 1955 Glen Canyon river trip, ranching with the Sanders family on their X-Diamond-X in the upper House Rock Valley, and construction of Navajo Bridge

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**Transcriber:** Stacy Birk

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TM: Today is March 1, 2019. We are at the home of Ronnie Livingston. Today is the 1st of March, 2019. My name is Tom Martin. In the room as well is David Elston and his wife Rosemarie, and Hazel Clark.

RL: Tell me what brings us together here? I know the river trip has something to do with it.

TM: I think somehow a copy of this...

RE: Ended up with me. (laughs) I helped Shawn clean her room several days, again... I've been doing this for 25 years... I saw that when I was cleaning, and go, "Oh, this is cool!" I said, "Dave would like to read this." So Shawn let me take it home. Dave was all excited and he contacted Tom [dog barks] and...

DE: Then I asked if I could send a copy up to Tom.

[pause for dog barking]

TM: That's the Great Pyrenees barking to let us know it's here and listening.

RL: He's a Kuvasz. They're from Hungary. They tend to be very protective. We had to have him fixed because he was getting too protective with everybody coming around here. So we had him fixed, and that's changed his disposition a little bit.

TM: So are they related to Pyrenees then?

RL: Yes, yes. In fact, I think Pyrenees are an offshoot of them. They're from, like I say, from Hungary. During the Second World War when the Germans were tramping through Europe, they killed a lot of them because they were so protective. Then when Europe ran out of food, the Europeans started to eat them and about wiped the breed out. But they're making a little come-back now. Just within the last five years now, they can show them at the big dog shows. So they're just getting recognized.

TM: So, there is a register that I think you signed at Rainbow Bridge, this big book, and the Park Service has made pictures of every page of that book. I've been going through the book, like people do crosswords and sudokus, those funny puzzles, every now and then I'll open this thing up and I'll look for a name that I can recognize and I'll turn on the power of the almighty computer these days and make phone calls. Nine-point-eight times out of ten, they're dead, they're gone, I can't find them. But, that point two of a percent time, I end up talking with people and it's wonderful 'cause I think trying to capture the history of Glen Canyon... What was going on there before the dam. What were people doing? What were they seeing? I just want to capture this data. So that's why we're sitting here at the table today. He knows I'm a nut about this stuff so he saw this and he's like, hey, he needs that. This reunion that Harold Stapley put together in 1989, has everybody's names in it. You give me a list of names and I start looking... I'm like, "Dave there's names here, look at all these names!" What started it all as well is Barry Goldwater ran the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho in 1950. He wrote a guy that I'm researching, saying, "I just did this trip in these rubber boats. I'm gonna go back to Phoenix and I'm going to buy a half dozen of them and we're going to start boating," and that's what he did on that '51 trip. And then he, you know, he was too busy and so he turned it over to the Y and then you ended up in there. How did it end up that you were in the Y at the time?

RL: Well, really I wasn't a member of the Y. But Dr. Leonard Staff, he ran... After Barry Goldwater quit running the tour, Dr. Staff took over and he ran the tour. To go down the river you had to be 14 years of age. I was 13 but my folks asked Dr. Staff, "Is there any way you can take Ronnie along on that trip?" I don't know what strings he pulled but he got it so that I could go down the river as a 13-year-old instead of as a 14-year-old. Dr. Staff was our family doctor, and I can tell you some good stories about him. I don't know whether you want that on the recording or not, but...

TM: I want on this recording whatever you want on this recording. [laughs] If you don't want it on the recording, don't tell me the story.

RL: Well this does not relate to the river trip.

TM: Well, there are lots of rabbit holes that are fun to fall into, turn on your headlight and look around, and go, "Look at that!"

RL: Well, one real quick one, then. My dad had a frozen food locker plant and we did custom slaughtering. As soon as I was old enough to drive, I was old enough to go out and kill farm animals for customers. I was 16 when this happened. Went out and killed this steer... We had an old pickup truck with an A-frame on the back. First thing you did was you took the legs off at the knee, and then you took the head off. Then you hooked up what's called a gambrel to the hind legs and you picked it up with this A-frame to, oh, about the height of your head. Next thing you did was you took a real thin, sharp knife, put it in the end of the tail and ran it up the tail towards the carcass, up to the bunghole. Then you cut around the bunghole. Well, I put my knife in there, ran that thing up, and it went 'BLLFFF' right up my nose.

DE: Oh, great.

RL: Was out there by myself and had this steer ready to take in but I had to gut it first. And my nose is bleeding bad. Finally I got the animal done and went in to the lockers and told dad what had happened. He says, "Well we need to get you down to Dr. Staff." So we go down to Dr. Staff. He looks up my nose and says, "Well, it's butchered up there, but I don't know how to fix that thing."

DE: You put the knife up in your nose?

RL: When I ran the knife up the tail, it went 'BLLFFF' right up there. He says, "I don't know what we'll do." So make a long story short, he figured out that what he would do is take a piece of gauze, and as I remember it was twenty inches long or so. He crams it up my nose and he reaches in my mouth, and he pulls that gauze out, ties a knot in the end. And then he comes back to the nose side of it again...

DE: Aww – geeze!

RL: ...and pulls that gauze. So I had this knot in the back of my throat, with this gauze hanging out here. He proceeds to pack that gauze into my nose to get all he could in there. Says, "Well, let's see what happens with that in ten days or so." [chuckles] So, in ten days or so we went back to the doctor. He reaches in with I'm gonna call a pair of scissors and cuts the knot off in there. Then he pulls the gauze out and looks up my nose and says, "Well, I think we fixed it."

DE: And you've had a high tolerance for pain ever since, right?

RL: Pretty much. So that's a Dr. Staff story.

TM: What a great idea. Yeah. Nice, nice.

DE: May use that on the river someday, you never know.

TM: You never know.

RL: Anyways, Dr. Staff he was a good friend. He was more than our doctor; he was a good friend. Him and his wife, and then came the daughter, Lori. I understand that she did a video a few years ago. I did not go to that reunion that you're talking about here. When you get older, you look back on those things and say, why in the heck didn't I participate in that? I don't remember why I didn't go but I would love to see if Lori'd share that video.

TM: She has a brother, I think, and they're looking for pictures now that he might have. But I just picked up from Harold Stapley, '51, '53, '4 maybe, and '5, which might be you, videos of the river. It's a BETA tape, so it's VHS. It's not the original 8 mm or 16 mm. I'm gonna try to get that digitized. So if we connect up, then I'll just send that to you, 'cause anybody... I know...

RL: I'd love to have that.

TM: ...Gus Scott would like to see that as well. So it's a matter of just sharing everything I find. Absolutely.

RL: I don't remember Lori having a brother.

TM: Well, I could be totally confused. I just talked to her on the phone once. I do not know her that well, so I...

HC: Could it be a brother-in-law?

TM: I'm not sure. But, anyway, she's got some places to look, and she's gonna look. So we're connected up by email that way. What do you remember... You were 13 when Doc Staff said, "Yeah, Ronnie, you can come on the trip." Then what happened?

RL: Okay, so we meet over at the Y in downtown Phoenix. We're headed for the Sky-Y Camp at Prescott. We get up there and we get everything loaded. I don't remember whether we went up in a bus, an old bus, or whether it was a...

TM: How about a stake bed truck borrowed from the city or somebody?

RL: That was gonna be my other option for how we got there. If somebody told you that, that must be...

TM: The pictures of the other trips, that seemed to be what they were using was some big stake bed truck and the boats were in there and everything was piled on top.

RL: Can you imagine doing that today?

TM: Not without lights and sirens!

DE: You'd be dirty before you started your trip.

RL: Yeah. First red light and the policeman would have you pulled over before the next one.

TM: That's right.

RL: Anyways, there was a guy on that trip by the name of Norm Hall. Was he listed on the year that I went?

TM: This is '55. Oh, there he is, Norman Hall.

RL: He was a young man, I'm gonna guess at the time maybe he was 25 or so, and he worked for the Y. The following year, Norm asked me if I would go with him up to take the boys up to hike the following year. And that year we did have a bus, we graduated and we went in a bus. As I remember it was an old Army bus, and it had seen better days. On that particular trip, I remember we were driving late at night and we hit a horse on the reservation. When you hit something on the reservation, doesn't matter whether it's supposed to be out there or not, it's your fault. Anyways, we got that horse off the road and we proceeded up the road. I don't remember how we held the fender on there, but today you'd use duct tape to do it. Anyways, we limped on up to Hite and got the boys that year started on the river. Norm and I drove home, then, in the old bus.

TM: So you guys ran the shuttle, then, the next year.

RL: Yes, that's what we were.

DE: So you were 14 running the shuttle. That's pretty good. [laughs]

RL: Okay, so we get on the river and just right away you come to the first little rapids which is just around the corner from Hite. So that introduced us to the river. It wasn't much of a rapid, but we didn't need much to get started. Somewhere, I have got Barry Goldwater's—and I can't find them and I been looking for them—I've got his handwritten notes of 'At mile post such-and-such, you find a spring on the left-hand side of the river if you hike up there a quarter of a mile.' I can't find those dang things.

TM: Gus Scott put together some hand-written notes which are typed up in here. I bet he woulda got that from Barry. I'll ask Gus, 'cause he's up in Prescott and he's... He was young like you when he started, and he's sharp as a tack. So I'll check with Gus.

RL: Well, I've got those notes somewhere. They would be a real collector's item today. And I don't know where they're at. So anyways, as I remember we had 2 ten-man black rubber boats. And then we had a smaller one. When we left the Sky-Y Camp, they made us a present of leaving there... Cheese used to come in big horns about this big around, and they blessed us with a big horn of cheese like this. When we got on the river and it gets to be 90 degrees, and you're floating with this cheese down it, after about 5 or 6 days this cheese gets smelling pretty ripe and strong.

DE: That's just so it attracts the flies and not you.

RL: Yeah. I don't remember how many days we ate on that cheese. It got smelling so bad that we just chucked it into the Colorado River. At that time, if you put your head under the water, the water was so chocolate you couldn't see your hand in front of your face because of all the sediment coming down the Colorado River. Today, of course, that backs up behind the dam and Lake Powell. Then you get on the bottom side of the dam and the water's all clear. Makes for good trout fishing. Some of the prominent places that I remember was going back to Rainbow Bridge. As I recall, it was about a 6-mile hike from the river to the bridge. Today you boat right up to the bridge. Another place was the Crossing of the Fathers where the padres cross the river. And then where the Mormons also crossed the river at Hole in the Rock. I don't know if you've ever seen this book or read it, but it's very good description of what went on there. I remember when we camped there that night, we got in there and it was later in the afternoon. We looked around the canyon and it's hard to believe that they went up that little slit in the wall. We were told that there's a lot of rattlesnakes there at the little beach, so of course that put everybody on the alert. Don't be sleeping with the rattlesnakes that night. Again, Crossing of the Fathers, as I remember there was a plaque that was put on the wall there. That was interesting. And all these things now are under the water. At the time, I was not a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but eventually was. I remember a lot of these things looking back. I have become a student of John D. Lee who had the ferry. His wife actually ran the ferry most the time – Emma. She was one tough lady. She put orchards in there, had a garden. Somewhere there's a picture. I think it might be in here. She referred to the place as "Lonely Dell." Let me see if the picture's here. I can't imagine that she built a house out there like her home was. Well, it's someplace else.

DE: It's quite a little compound there, Lonely Dell.

RL: Anyways, today the national park has gone in there and dolled everything up. I am not a big fan of national parks knowing what they did up there, and to the livestock people in that area. Just going a little further... This kind a gets away from the river, but you had Lees Ferry and then you had the Vermilion Cliffs. You familiar with that? Okay. And then you have... There's a canyon at the end of Vermilion Cliffs just before you start up to Jacob's Lake. Well, this valley going back there. The Mormons

used that when they would go to the temple from Safford and Thatcher. When they went to get married in the temple, it was a three-month trip.

TM: The Honeymoon Trail.

RL: Yeah, the Honeymoon Trail. The Honeymoon Trail was on the property that Susan's dad had a ranch. He bought the ranch in 1959.

DE: His wife.

TM: Okay, so this is my little time-out. I have a question for you. Susan is?

RL: My wife.

TM: Great. And how did you meet her?

RL: We knew each other from the fourth grade.

TM: Where was that, where were you going to school?

RL: In Tempe.

TM: Okay. I also forgot to ask you – when you were 13 and you heard you could go on this river trip, did you know to swim?

RL: Yes.

DE: That's a good question.

RL: As a kid, I was at the Tempe Beach pool all the time.

DE: So was Rosemarie's mom.

TM: Okay. All right. So you were a happy swimmer. I'm gonna go back to the river for a minute before we come back to the Honeymoon Trail, because I want to get there. How much time did you spend in the boat versus in the water?

RL: At the beginning, as I remember, we spent a lot of time in the water. Pretty quick, swimming in that water where you couldn't see your hand, it got real...

HC: Did you have a lifejacket on?

RL: What was that?

HC: Did you wear a lifejacket?

RL: What is that?

DE: You sound like Powell.

RL: No, I don't recall that we even had lifejackets with any of us. That was a different age.

DE: Yes, it was.

TM: Did you meet Pete Petersen? Do you know Pete?

RL: No.

TM: He's a photographer for *The Republic*. He was on the '53 trip and he did not know how to swim. He never went anywhere without his lifejacket. But he was the only guy with one as far as I can tell. [laughs]

HC: And he was an adult with cameras.

TM: Yeah, yeah. By the way, Ronnie, I forgot to ask you – how old are you?

RL: Now? I'm 77.

TM: You're a young guy! He's 20 years older than you. Okay, so you were mentioning the Honeymoon Trail. So we have Lees Ferry, we have Vermilion Cliffs, and the road 89A that that wraps around. Of course back then it was 89 when it crossed on the bridge. Then it goes up to Jacob's Lake but just before it starts up that monocline, there's a road that goes to the north that goes up to House Rock Valley on the Honeymoon Trail. And your future-wife's family had a ranch up there?

RL: Well, I was married by that time. I'll refer to Susan's dad as "Pa" and her mother was "Ma."

HC: What were their real names?

RL: Well, Alfred Perry Sanders. The dog is named in honor of Susan's dad. And Ma's name was Pearl, Pearl Kate Sanders.

TM: How long were they up there? They had a ranch up there – how long were they up there?

RL: There were there from 1959 to 1978.

TM: There's a waterhole up there called Pa's Pocket.

RL: That's a different Pa's.

TM: Thank you.

RL: There's a lot of waterholes up there. What you're referring to, I think was in the boundaries of the ranch. These different waterholes get names, and ten years later somebody else comes along and renames them. It sounds like you might be familiar with that area?

TM: A little bit. A little bit.

RL: How about White Pockets? Are you familiar with it?

TM: And Joe's Place.

RL: Joe's Place?

DE: I'm familiar with White Pockets.

RL: Okay, well, White Pockets was on the extreme east side of the ranch. The fence ran up to White Pockets and stopped because cattle couldn't go up White Pockets anyway. Anyways, the Honeymoon Trail, once you get back going up the road that connects 89A to 89... The first time Susan and I went up that, it was just... We were in 4-wheel drive the whole way. It was places that I thought, "I don't know how we're ever going to get through there." And now, now you can go in there and...

DE: Oh, yeah, 2-wheel drive car to go to the Wave or someplace like that.

TM: Ronnie, what year woulda that been, roughly, that you were first in there with a 4-wheel drive?

RL: Probably about '61.

TM: There's a place up there today which is internationally known called Wire Pass. It leads you into the Wave and all of those formations in there.

RL: Uh-huh. The Wave was on the ranch.

DE: Was it really?

TM: Were you aware of that place and did you go visit it or it hadn't been discovered yet...?

RL: It was just another place out there. Another pile of rocks.

TM: All right.

DE: Wow.

RL: Coyote Mountain, or Steamboat Mountain, that's a real prominent landmark. Steamboat, that was in the...

TM: And that's on the east side of the Buckskin? Is that right?

RL: No, it would be... Now, what are you calling the Buckskin? As soon as you leave 89, you get going down the Buckskin there. Then there's a gorge and I think it's got Buckskin in the name. But it goes down and eventually connects with Lonely Dell.

TM: And the Paria. The Paria picks it up. And so is the Steamboat, trying to figure out the geography here, kinda in that wedge between what would be the Paria coming down south and the Buckskin heading to the southeast. Is Steamboat in that middle ridge there?



RL: Yes.

TM: Okay, thank you.

RL: Okay, and the gorge where the Paria is, there's a lot of hikers go down through there. You have to know what the weather is before you go because of flashfloods. Shelby, another of our daughters, her mother-in-law and one of her sons hiked down through that canyon from 89 down to Lonely Dell. There's places where there's big puddles and they had to put their pack over their head and kind of tread water getting through holes. Relating that back to the ranch, the extreme east side of the ranch was that gorge.

TM: Was the Buckskin.

RL: Yes...

TM: Or the Paria?

RL: The Paria.

TM: Okay, okay. So the ranch then would have included all the Buckskin, east to the Paria.

RL: Yes. The ranch was 67 sections.

TM: So that's all of the Paria Plateau. That's all of that entire...

RL: It's also referred to as "The Sand Hills." Do you know what a section is?

TM: Yeah, it's 600 acres. Is that right?

RL: It's 640.

TM: 640, okay.

RL: It's one square mile.

TM: Thank you.

RL: The valley here used to be all laid out in squares. Most of it started with a section and then they break them down into half-section, quarter-sections, 40 acres. Eventually you get down to 2½ acres. You talk to kids today and they say, "Yep, my grandpa had a ranch there in Gilbert." "Oh, he did. Who is he?" They give you the name. "Well, how big was the ranch in Gilbert?" "Oh, it's two acres."

DE: That's a ranchette. [laughs]

RL: Yeah. The X-Diamond-X was what Pa's ranch was called and it's, like I say, 67 sections, so that's almost 40,000 acres.

TM: So, Ronnie, if we're taking this drive from Lees Ferry up around the Vermilion Cliffs and we're gonna get to the monocline and start going up toward Jacob's Lake where the pie is really good, that turnoff right there that goes from 89A today up to 89, there's a ranch house right there on the corner. Was that their place?

RL: No, that was... You had to go back in there about 6 miles and then you came to the X-Diamond-X.

Dave: Back over hill and down the other side.

TM: Okay. Thank you.

RL: The people that owned that back in the 50s and the 60s was the Bowmans and they owned Jacob's Lake.

DE: Yeah, they still do.

RL: Yep, yep. John Bowman runs it today, but John's getting a little age on him and his kids are starting to take over now. Also, just after you come to the sign that says X-Diamond-X, which was not much of a sign but it lets you know that, hey, you're going into another ranch here, Pa had an airstrip built there. He was a crop duster by profession. He was a cowboy-flying crop duster. Anyways, every roundup that we went on, well, he flew a plane up there. He had a plane that was a real favorite of his. It would seat 5 people. And he would...

TM: What kind of plane? Do you remember?

RL: Yeah, I'll show you a picture here.

TM: Great.

RL: Every morning somebody would fly with him and locate where the cattle were that day. That made our roundups a lot easier than covering 40,000 acres looking for 3 cows out there somewhere. So we would spot where the cattle were, and then when we saddled up and rode out we'd know where to look for these cows. Anyways, as you get to the beginning of the south end of X-Diamond-X, there's a airstrip on the west side that Pa had put in there. He had a crash there a few years later, I think it was in '65. He had 4 other persons in the plane with him. I'll give you some information on that. One of my brother-in-laws and I were about 75 yards east of the strip when the plane came in. It came in and came down and all at once it went up like this... I yelled to my brother-in-law, says, "That doesn't look like Pa's flying." What had happened he hit wind shear. It picked him up and then it slammed his plane down. Talley and I were, like I say, about 75 yards to the east and we were there in a matter of seconds and started pulling people out. You don't have cellphones in those days, so I sent somebody up to Jacob's Lake, that was the closest telephone, to get some ambulances headed Jacob's. We had all the roundup equipment, branding equipment stuff, in the back of the trucks. We threw all that stuff out on the ground and put these 5 injured people in 2 pickup trucks and took off for Jacob's Lake. Long and the short of it was, we had one of Pa's sister-in-laws who was wedged between the front seats and the bench seat in the back, and we got everybody else out. And Tilly was wedged in there.

DE: She didn't make it, huh?

RL: She made it, but we had to yank her out. It was very painful for her. [emotional] Excuse me.

TM: No worries.

RL: Anyways, we got Tilly and put her in the back of a pickup and headed for Jacob's Lake along with the other injured. We get to Jacob's Lake and there's no ambulances. So we had to wait about an hour before they got there.

TM: And they're coming from Kanab?

RL: Yes. Two ambulances came and we loaded everybody in them and then we all took off for Kanab. As it turns out, Tilly had both legs broken and both arms broken. It was really understandable but how painful. So they ended up being fine. But Pa's sister-in-law, who we didn't think was injured very bad, but the people in the hospital said, No, she's got a lot of internal injuries. She was in the Kanab hospital for about a week and then she died. So, anyways, that was on the south and the west corner of X-Diamond-X Ranch where that happened. Then it was another headquarters on the other ranch called Poverty. You can find Poverty on a lot of maps from up there. And that was...shoot, we thought we were living in the Hilton when we went there.

HC: Why did they name it Poverty?

RL: What was that?

HC: Why did they name it Poverty?

RL: Because it was Poverty.

HC: Even though you thought you were at the Hilton.

RL: Anyways, we had a lot of good family memories from Poverty. And now the government has leveled everything there. They've taken out the outhouse, which we wouldn't miss today. But they took out all the corrals. You go to Poverty today and there's nothing there but a windmill.

HC: Did you see much of the uranium miners while you were there?

RL: What was that, ma'am?

HC: Did you see much of the uranium miners while you were there?

RL: No, didn't see any.

TM: Nope, that would have been 10 years earlier, before they bought their ranch. They were all over that Lees Ferry area with dozers. Well, they were all the way up the Glen Canyon, up to Moab and beyond up that way. But that would have been ten years earlier. One question I had for you about that country, did you ever see any escaped bison comin' out of the House Rock?

RL: No. They were on the other side.

TM: They had good fences, they didn't get away! Okay.

RL: And I could tell you some stories about hunting. Do you know how they used to hunt the buffalo?

TM: So this is me pulling taffy saying, "Tell me more!"

RL: Okay.

RE: So, how did they hunt buffalo?

RL: At that time, you had to put in to get a permit to hunt buffalo. What they would do is they'd run one or two or three of 'em into a corral. You got drawn to shoot and you just shot a buffalo in the corral. Then you got to keep one-quarter of the meat and the rest went to the state. The way I know about this is from the locker plant because we would get the carcasses and process them for the hunters. Today now, they don't do that. You get drawn to hunt buffalo now. You hunt from the Buffalo Ranch all the way up to the top.

TM: To the boundary with the park.

RL: Yes.

TM: So, what were you thinking... I think it'd be much more sporty to get a chance to get out on the House Rock and try to track a bison down, versus having somebody put it in a corral for you.

RL: Yeah, it is. Today it's a challenge. In those days everybody that got drawn got one.

TM: Because they would bring it in and you would shoot it in a pen.

RL: Yeah. But today it's a different story.

TM: Yeah. Were they doing any bow and arrow bison work at all back then? This would have been in the 60s?

RL: Yes, it was 60s but I don't recall that. They might have.

HC: Your locker company was down here?

RL: Yeah. In Tempe.

HC: So you'd bring a buffalo all the way down?

RL: Yeah. Actually, they would dress them out up there. They had butchers there that would dress them out. The hunter left with either a hind quarter or a front quarter, or...

HC: Do you get the hide, too?

RL: I don't know.

HC: Got any buffalo skins lying around? [laughter]

RL: Yeah, but not here.

TM: So the Bowman's had this spread there right at the corner before the road goes up Jacob's Lake and the Honeymoon Trail goes off to the north. South of the Bowman's, the next ranch south, on the south side of 89A, do you know who was running that place then?

RL: The Bowman's ran a lotta places up there. I've got some books for you guys here. If you're really interested in that country, you can go through these books. The books are written by Michael Kelsey. Mike and I became very close with each other. We edited his 6<sup>th</sup> edition and he allowed me to put a lot of comments in there; the plane accident was one. Just a lot of history from X-Diamond-X. If you got time, and we can cut this out if you want, but another buffalo story is... When my dad retired, I went into the livestock business. I used to have a feed yard on Stapley and Baseline. You know where that is?

All: Uh-huh.

RL: Well, we had a customer that sent 200 head of buffalo in for us to feed. Have you ever heard of the Wolfswinkels?

DE: Oh, yeah. Conley Wolfswinkel. I went to school with her daughter.

RL: Well, Conley was who I leased the feed yard from.

DE: Oh, yeah.

RL: What do you know about Conley?

DE: Conley? Oh, I don't remember a whole lot about him. I remember meeting him 'cause they lived in Paradise Valley. I went to Paradise Valley Country Club and my parents belonged there also. That's all I remember. I know he went to jail for a while about 20 years ago. And he used to own a place on Kyrene and Warner – a big mansion.

RL: Yes. Well, Conley... If people know Conley, they do not speak very highly of him but I certainly do, and I gotta stand up in his defense 'cause I did a good bit of business with him in the livestock business and it was all verbal handshakes. You couldn't get Conley to sign a contract. Hell would freeze over before you got that done. I leased the yard from him there on Stapley and Baseline and we had capacity to feed 10- or 12,000 head of cattle. So, Conley buys these buffalo up in Idaho and sends 'em down and he wants me to feed these things. So we do and he wants me to start to sell them as novelty items to anybody who wants to say, "Hey, I got a buffalo out back, you want to see it?" So we sold a few that way and then we started to kill on them and sell sides and hindquarters and front-quarters of buffalo. I was out picking six of them up to take in to the locker plant to kill one day. You couldn't work the buffalo on horseback because you go into a corral with 200 of them and wherever the first one goes, the other 199 will follow. They just move in waves like this. So we always just worked 'em on foot. If we had one that we needed to doctor, we opened the gate and you might get 2 or 3 out, but you might get 50 out to get the one you want. You run it up to the chute... You know where Chick-a-Flick is on Stapley? That's where our chutes were. On Stapley, where Chick-a-Flick is today, is where our chutes and office was. So, you run 50 of 'em out, you gotta run 'em all through the chute until you get the one that you want to doctor.

Then you put 'em back all on foot, nothing on horseback. So, we're loading up these six to take in to the lockers, and one of 'em runs into a fence and breaks his nose and starts to bleed. We didn't take him to Dr. Staff, though. [laughter]

DE: Need twenty feet of gauze for a buffalo.

RL: Anyways, he starts to jump fences. We had work alleys, and I think it was 5 fences that he jumped to get out of there. And here all the cowboys were horse-less. So he's jumping these fences and he's headed for Southern Avenue. I started climbing over fences, because I couldn't jump, going after him. I didn't want to lose sight of him and have him in downtown Mesa before long. So I kept on after him. We got down to Stapley and Southern. You know where the Organ Stop Pizza is? Okay, well we got to right there. There was a Mexican family that lived right there, I think he was a Santero. He had a little pasture out back and this buffalo stopped in his little pasture. This gentleman comes out to see what all the commotion is, and here comes this little fat guy chasing this buffalo. I said, "Do you have a rifle?" "No, but my neighbor he has one." There was one other house on the east side of Stapley. I says, "Well, go see if you can borrow that thing." I didn't know what the heck we were gonna do with this critter. So he runs over to his neighbor and gets a rifle and comes back. It was a little single-shot .22, about this tall. He gives me one bullet and it was a .22 short. Now the heck am I gonna do with one bullet? [laughter]

DE: Gonna make him mad, yeah.

RL: So anyways, I get in this little pasture with him and I'm working my way up to him to get as close as I could. The hide on a buffalo's forehead can be an inch thick. And, what am I gonna do with this .22 short? I knew I had to get as close as I could, so I'm working my way up there. Now he's pawing the ground and he's looking down at me like this. Which means, Hey, guy, come on, get a little closer and I'm gonna clean your plow. So I got up to where I thought I couldn't go no closer, took this little .22 and pulled the trigger. My little .22 short bullet went out, hit that buffalo in the right spot, and down he went. My claim to fame is I'm probably the only white man that ever killed a buffalo in the city limits of Mesa, Arizona with a .22 short rifle. [laughter]

RE: Oh my gosh, that's a good story.

RL: So, anyway, that's another buffalo story.

RE: Thank you. That's a wonderful story.

TM: So I'm looking at these photographs on this table and a lot of them are of the Navajo Bridge. So maybe let's swing this now, around to the bridge and your family's connection with the bridge. How did your family's connection with the bridge happen?

RL: Well, Pa's brother worked on the bridge.

TM: So this woulda been your wife's uncle. What was his name?

RL: Bob/Robert.

Tm: Did he go by Bob or Bobby?

RL: Either Bob or Robert, either one of 'em.

TM: Okay. All right.

RL: He had been called worse than that, but we'll just stick with Bob and Robert. This picture here, Uncle Bob and Aunt Marie, they got married in the middle of the bridge about a month before the bridge was dedicated.

HC: What kind of car was that?

RL: An old one.

HC: It wasn't at the time!

RL: Anyways, you can see the guardrail here on the bridge on both sides.

DE: I'll be darn. Yeah. That's why it was 18 feet wide, the old 1929 bridge.

RL: And here's...

TM: So, hang on, wait, wait, wait. You're going so fast, all I can see is dust. So Bob Sanders, how did he happen to be part of the bridge construction? Now there was a back east company that had put the bridge together. That had made all the parts, put it on the train, shipped it out. People had driven it up there, and they start building out from the east side, and swung cables across to the north side. And trammed all that junk to the other side so they could start building out the north side. How was it that he was out there for that?

RL: Well, you know, I don't know who he worked for, but he worked road construction a lot.

TM: For the state, you think?

RL: Yes, yes.

TM: Okay.

HC: There probably wasn't anybody on the other side of the river to send it to except him.

DE: Maybe so.

RL: He was just part of the crew. If you're familiar with that, when they dedicated the bridge they had over 5,000 people come to the dedication.

TM: It was a big deal. Yeah, yeah.

RL: From the north and from the south. And we got some pictures here of that.

TM: How did Bob meet Aunt Marie? Do you know?

RL: I don't know.

TM: But, did they meet down here in Phoenix do you think?

RL: Probably, but I don't know for sure. Yeah.

TM: Okay. And then he thought... I mean, whose idea was it, This is gonna be a good idea – let's go get married on the bridge.

RL: Well first of all, he wanted to take his new bride and fly under the bridge but somebody beat them to that. So Uncle Bob didn't want to do something that somebody else did. So...

DE: Heaven forbid.

RL: ...we can't fly under, we'll just get married on it. One of you gals want to read this? This is a newspaper article telling about their marriage.

RE: Yeah. [Reads] 'First wedding on Lees Ferry Bridge last Sunday night.' And this was Friday, May 3, 1929, in *The Coconino Sun* newspaper. 'Cupid, last Sunday evening, stole a march on everyone else in connection with dedication at the new Lees Ferry Bridge. It's a way Cupid has. The exact center of the bridge 500 feet above the turbulent Colorado was the scene of a wedding. The principals were Robert Sanders and Miss Marie Hawley, both of Phoenix. Reverend Conrad van Zee, a missionary to the Indians, tied the knot. Attending the young couple were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Petersen. Mrs. Petersen is a sister of the bride. Nearly 40 others living in the vicinity, or connected with the State Force at the bridge were here including trader Buck Lowry and H. O. Norville, superintendent of the State Bridge Force. The principals had planned being married in an airplane from a Phoenix airport, but the bridegroom, being an aviation student, but a friend of his stole a march on him and did that stunt a couple weeks ago. There was swift action following the ceremony. The groom was seized...'

RL: From what you're gonna read from here on now, if you had friends like Uncle Bob's were, you wouldn't need enemies. [laughter]

RE: That's probably why I just got through... Like what is that word? After they just got married. 'The groom was seized, handcuffed, and thrown into the backseat of Mr. Norville's car. The latter started for Flagstaff, but the bride jumped into the front seat. Then the men dragged the groom out of the car and Mr. Norville sped away with the bride bringing her about 5 miles this way. She finally succeeded in coaxing him to return. They went back. Mr. van Zee reached that evening on the other side of the bridge. The groom was still in handcuffs. Mr. Norville left for Flagstaff, first hanging the handcuff key, which he had in his pocket, on the knob of a door in the Petersen domicile at the end of the bridge. Late that night the bridegroom's friend yielded to his persuasion and with a hacksaw removed the handcuffs only to find the key a few minutes later. The Sanders' parents live at Fort Thomas this state. He is a mechanic with the State Bridge Force. Mrs. Sanders is a daughter of J. Hawley, mining and cattleman in Phoenix. They got their marriage license here several weeks ago.'

TM: Can you turn that over and read what's written on the back?

RE: 'Navajo Bridge Uncle Bob Sanders helped construct across the Colorado River near the Vermilion Cliffs.'



RE: That's kinda hard to read...

RL: Let's see, I don't know if I wrote that or Susan did.

RE: Looks like Susan did.

TM: Great, great, wonderful. So, Ron, it's interesting 'cause you mentioned Alfred "Pa" Sanders liked to fly.

RL: He was a crop duster.

TM: But it sounds like his brother did as well, because he was saying let's fly under the bridge.

RL: He did not have a pilot's license, but he was taking lessons. Never did get his license. I'll show you some pictures of that then, also.

TM: Okay, yeah. This is wonderful. This is a picture of a really wonderful touring car. It says Flagstaff ARIZ on the radiator there. There is a license plate which I cannot see what year it is, but one would assume it'd be 1928. The picture is taken right on the bridge and there's 3 or 4 cars spread out all across the bridge. This picture is from the west side of the bridge looking east. There's a very happy looking couple there. The bride does not look handcuffed and the groom looks very happy. So, thank you.

DE: Anyone who would marry me in the middle of a bridge in the middle of nowhere, I'd be very happy, too. By the way, the Vermilion Cliffs area and that whole area is...

TM: Is there anything written on the back of that picture?

DE: ...my favorite place in the whole state of Arizona.

RL: There is. That's Susan's writing also.

DE: [reads] 'Bob and Aunt Marie in the middle of Navajo Bridge. Bob helped build the bridge.'

TM: Nice. So now I'm starting to learn a bit more about the construction of the bridge. It wasn't just the steel company back east, but clearly there was state involvement as well. Which would have been road alignments on either side, grading... Maybe the concrete work across the bridge? I don't know?

RL: I wouldn't know.

DE: Not to mention having to work that out with the Indians.

TM: Well, funding certainly came from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for that. So, yeah, it's a fascinating journey about all that all happened. So here's another picture. This is a foot and a half wide by 4 feet wide that shows the bridge now being linked together. The picture was taken by...

RL: Somebody in California.

TM: N. R. Hismathy, it looks like, in Los Angeles, California. And this is number 2853 on the photograph. There are a number of cranes setup – gantry cranes – out over what would be the west side of the bridge connecting up the last few bits of girders, it looks like here. It's interesting because on the far west side, the bridge has not been connected to the land except for a couple of angled girders. The east side you can't see, but there's some big cranes over there, as well. On the river down below, there's no riverside vegetation; there is a lot of sand down there. And that's an amazing shot.

RL: Now getting back to the trip down the river, when we came down the river, of course Lake Powell wasn't there and the dam wasn't there, but that was a dream that somebody had let's put a dam up here. There were surveyors hanging from the cliffs down there that were surveying in preparation for the coming dam. We saw that when we were floating down the river, seeing them rappel down.

TM: So, Ronnie, you're there in '55. The Y only did one more trip, in '56, and right about that time the river trips got turned off the river at Cane Creek. Could not then go through the dam site anymore because they were starting to build the coffer dam, and they were high-scaling, dropping stuff down. They said, "Can't have these river runners going through here anymore; they're going to go through the diversion tunnels and we don't want that to happen." As somebody who spent, it sounds like, your entire life in Arizona, and certainly familiar with the lay of the land and the country itself, but somebody who's been through Glen Canyon and most likely been out on Lake Powell after the dam, what are your thoughts on that pro and con?

RL: Well, you get me talking about the government and... I think there's times that we need to have projects like the dam, and it's been good for generating energy. It's kind of sad to see Hole-in-the-Rock and Crossing of the Fathers and the bridge disappear, but nothing lives forever. Lake Powell is a great recreational area. So I have no problems with the dam at all. Now, if you wanna get talking about the livestock, then I got some real serious problems with taking all these ranches and making conservation areas so people can go out there with their motorbikes and tear up and down. Hikers are not bad, but... When Pa bought that ranch, the permit was for 650 mother cows, which entitled every mother to have a calf that you rounded up once a year and sold. When the government started running ranches out up there, they did it by economics. When he sold the ranch — actually, he didn't sell it, he traded it for a piece of property in Show Low — his permit was down to 200 head and you can't afford to have a ranch that has 200 head of cattle on it. Every year they would come out there, "Well, you need to put a fence here. You need to put a fence there. You need to drill a well here." These college people come out there and tell people that have lived on the land... Farmers and ranchers, they don't want to hurt their land because that's where their living comes from. But then you got some educated baboon coming out there telling ya how to run your business. They have run all the ranches out of that area. They're all under the Grand Canyon Trust.

Interesting story there. When Pa bought the ranch, he bought it from Benny and... Benny and who? Benny and somebody Foster, they were brothers. Benny had a stepson by the name of RJ. RJ...shoot. I know his name as well as my own. I'll think of it in a minute. Anyways, RJ was just a kid when his dad and his uncle owned the ranch. He woulda been about 13 in 1959. Anyways... Oh, it was Benny and Manny Foster that Pa bought the ranch from. So Pa has the ranch for 20 years and ends up trading it for this place up in Show Low. He traded it to a guy by the name of Jim Bryant. Jim Bryant now is in his 90s, still alive, still gardens. Anyways, one of Jim Bryant's daughters marries JR. JR Jones is his last name I couldn't think of. So, JR as a teenager was working out on the ranch with his dad and his uncle. Rowd buys the ranch, he sells the ranch to Jim Bryant — or trades it to Jim Bryant. One of Jim Bryant's daughters marries JR Jones. So now Jim Bryant owns the ranch, he needs somebody to run it and he hires his son-in-law, JR

Jones. JR still lives on the ranch up there and has the lease from Grand Canyon Trust. Now when the Grand Canyon... I'm not sure if the Grand Canyon Trust owned it, all of that country, but somebody wanted all the cattle off of there, some conservation group. They removed all the cattle from all these ranches and put together this trust. Somebody found out that there's a document somewhere saying that there has to be some cattle on that country. I don't know where that document is, or who has it, or where it came from but they had to put 600 head of cattle back on all that Sand Hills property up there. So they get 600 head of cattle and put 'em out there. Who's gonna take care of those cattle? JR Jones. So JR has been on that property since... I think his dad and brother owned the ranch from '79, excuse me, '59 to... Excuse me again, from '57 to '59, then Rowd picked it up for 20 years. And then JR's wife is Jim Bryant's daughter. Now, Jim Bryant had another daughter by the name of Shannon. Shannon is the secretary to one of my sons who has a mortuary in Show Low. So we can't get away from the Jones, we can't get away from the Bryants, and they can't get away from us! So it's kind of interesting how that is going on.

TM: Let's go back to Bob and Aunt Marie for a minute. Are there any family stories about the bridge? About building the bridge?

RL: No.

TM: Okay. 'Cause there was a fella that died there building that bridge.

RL: Yes, I'm aware of that.

TM: Okay. I'm just, like, what else... What were their stories? Breakdowns of trucks hauling girders from Flagstaff up to the jobsite; and misaligned bits of steel; hot rivets dropping into the river, rivet after rivet after rivet. Anything they dropped went down. If you go today down under the two bridges, there's a ton of junk under this bridge, and there's very little under the next bridge just based on all the safety stuff that came on about you don't drop stuff. So I was just kind of wondering, what were the other stories.

RL: Yep. And I can't help you with that.

TM: Okay.

RL: In the late 20s, that was quite a feat to build that.

TM: Oh, yeah. There was a bridge very similar to this that was built just below Victoria Falls and they did it the same way. And that gave these guys... And all the engineers are all talking to each other at the engineering conferences going, "This is how we did that." So they were like, oh okay, we could do this here. They originally wanted to put like this cable bridge across? Like the Royal Gorge. Have you been over to that bridge there at the Royal Gorge?

DE: On the Colorado? Yeah.

TM: Big towers and there's big cables, and they hung down, and they hold a little wooden roadbed. And they said, "Look its wood. If it catches on fire, we won't have a bridge." So much discussion about how this all happened. Do you guys have any more photographs of this bridge construction?

RL: Yeah. In fact I got some here.

DE: That's a great bridge.

RL: Let's see. This stack is for one of you; and this stack's for the other.

TM: Thank you. I'll give you this stack, and these stacks are... There are some photographs here. There's a whole package of photographs at the top. There's a bunch of information about Lees Ferry here.

RL: These are not my photographs but it tells you on every one of them where the photograph came from. So that will be very helpful for doing something like you're talking about.

DE: Have you been up there in the last few years?

RL: Been up there?

DE: Up to, like, the Navajo Bridge area?

RL: Yeah, yeah we had a family reunion up at Jacob's Lake.

RE: Last year, wasn't it?

RL: Would you... You know where that picture is on the wall...

RE: Uh-huh. Want me to go get it?

RL: Yes, please. Yeah, we had a family gathering up there this last year. It was for a week and it was a come-and-go deal because everybody couldn't go for a week. So come for what you can and one day we had 87 people there. We went out because Rowd's great-grandkids, they don't know any of this. When I was 13 I could of cared less about it, but I want to know now. Susan and I have done a lot of family history work, a lot of research. But you don't know that when you're... You're not interested in that when you're 14, 15, and 18.

DE: I wasn't.

RL: Yeah. It doesn't hit you 'til you're 60 or so. Anyways, we had this reunion up there and the purpose of it was to educate the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Ma and Pa, what part they played in that country up there. Something that I did not relate from Jacob's Lake, as you're headed towards the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Pa had a contract to fly for the Forest Service spraying for bark beetles. His son Steven was actually the one doing the flying job that day. And Pa was, he was kinda like me in the feed yard and in the locker business. I had to be the fastest skinner, and te fastest boner, have the fastest horse, and Pa was the same way. He had a mechanic with him that was up there to do what Pa was doing, but he's not gonna let the mechanic do that, he's gonna do it himself. They had this tank truck that... They were up on the top of the rim there at the canyon and they were coming down, and he had too much weight for the road and probably going a little faster than he should have. And then the road starts to turn and he hit a curve. He was going up like this on the side of the road trying to slow down. Behind him was the forest ranger with Steven in a pickup truck. Pa's driving his water truck and he hits a big curve and he can't negotiate it and he rolls the tank truck. It throws him out of the window

of the truck because you didn't wear seatbelts in those days. Throws him part of the way out and rolls over him and kills him. So there's another connection with that area up there that we wanted the grandkids to know. I did some research on that and found out exactly where it was.

TM: Did you guys put a memorial up there?

RL: What's that?

TM: Did you put a memorial up there?

RL: No, we didn't.

TM: But you could.

RL: Yeah, I guess. Anyways...

TM: You're not gonna ask permission, you're just gonna do it.

DE: That's right.

RL: Anyways, the grandkids and great-grandkids know where that happened now.

TM: Thank you. Thank you very much.

RL: Well, let's look through them and I'll tell you about some of them.

TM: I'm just gonna turn that over to you and you're going to start talking. What do we got here?

[start narrating through photos and documents]

RL: Pa was also a very good poet. He wrote a lot of poetry, a lot of songs. Played a lot of instruments. Flew a lot of airplanes. Anyways, this is a poem that he wrote about... This is the plane that we were talking about, and that's the one that crashed. Mike Kelsey did some research on the... He got a lot of information from me on the crash, but he took the serial number off the plane and did some research on that and he came up with the size of the motor and everything on the plane.

TM: Yeah, it says it's a Gullwing Reliant V-77 Stinson. I was gonna say, this is no Piper Cub here. That's a little more powerful...

DE: That's the John Deere tractor of the air right there. Mike McComb could do it up.

RL: Then he also had a bi-plane that he used for aerobatics.

DE: Like that there.

RL: Well, that's one of the worker planes. Old Yeller is what...the other one was called.... He did all this kinda stuff, not with me. Anyways, that's a poem that... [dog barks]

TM: There's a picture of 4 gentlemen here and a plane.

RL: Okay, this is another brother of Pa's. No, this is Uncle Bob in his older age. This is the one that got married on the bridge; and then Pa; and then this is an individual that financed Pa getting started in the crop-dusting business, Mr. North. Then this is another brother of Pa and Uncle Bob – that's Budge.

TM: Did Bob keep a journal? Did he have any letters? Again, just thinking about the bridge and bridge construction and his role in it.

RL: Not that I know of, but there's a lot of pictures. Uncle Bob's daughter took a lot of pictures, and Uncle Bob in his later years took a lot of pictures. But back in the bridge time, was not...

TM: What's Bob's daughter's name?

RL: Sylvia.

TM: Is she around?

RL: No.

TM: Okay. Did Bob have any other children?

RL: No.

TM: Okay.

RE: This is a cool picture. This is all the family...

RL: This was taken last year at our reunion. We went out to one of the old windmills there and some of the guys climbed up there. This was Pa's brand. You can see it's an X-Diamond-X.

TM: So, if you take two capital X's and you put them side-by-side, you end up with a diamond in between the X's. Just so the listeners know what's going on. So they've gone up high to take a picture here. There's 1-2-3-4-5-6-7, so 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8, just roughly we're looking at 70 people in this picture. That's great! They're all lined up in 2 X's and it's the X-Diamond-X. That's very nice. When was this taken?

DE: Last year?

RL: Yeah, within the last year.

TM: There's nothing written on the back of this -- something's wrong!

RL: We'll have to get that done.

DE: Probably in the summer of 2017?

TM: So here's an article of the woman dying in the plane crash injuries.

RL: Susan and I researched this out somewhat. We went up to Kanab and found this.

TM: Did you go to the museum there in Kanab? The city's got a nice museum there.

RL: Yeah, it's right across the street from the motel we always...the Perry Lodge.

TM: All right, okay.

RL: Okay, and then this is... I've got numb hands. Tom, if you could pull those...

TM: No worries. Why are your hands numb? Carpal tunnel thing? I'm a physical therapist, so I'm always curious.

RL: I've had 4 back surgeries and after the last one my hands got numb and my balance went kaput. This was Poverty.

TM: The Poverty headquarters of the Sanders X-Diamond-X Ranch with the barn and the corrals, outdoor shower, there's a main house, Halversen's camper home. There's a new outhouse, there's an old outhouse. And there's Rowd's house and 2 bunk houses behind the trees. And there's a windmill right there.

RL: And that's all gone now.

DE: Just out of curiosity, the Halversen's camper home?

RL: Yeah, the Halversens... Don't get me going off on another story here.

DE: Well, I'm just wondering if this is Elling Halvorson?

RL: No. This was Ray and Adeline Halversen.

DE: Oh, Okay.

TM: Who were they?

RE: That's what Susan wanted me to say: Has Ronnie said anything about Adeline? I said I don't know. So I started talking to her....

RL: I don't know if you want to get that far off the river or not.

TM: We've got quite a ways, and we're not going back. Well, we could, but I don't know what's left down there that you haven't talked about. There might be.

RL: At the ranch, there was... Well, let's finish going through this and then we'll come back.

TM: Okay. So then we have California condor. All right.

RL: Do you know where they observation of condors?

TM: Yeah. And they release them up on the hill up there on the road that's going between 89 and 89A. [turning pages] We got the Navajo Bridge from Glen Canyon and stories thereof. And it looks like there's a couple of copies in there and that's alright.

RL: Looks like about 2 or 3.

TM: Then, we get to more information on the Navajo Bridge dedication day with a ton of vehicles and the bridge there. This was very well documented.

DE: Trombone player in front.

TM: Yeah. So here are some photographs of the bridge under construction. And this is from Cline Library, which was interesting. I wonder where that photo-set came from? And this is cars lined up for the dedication. And this is the Pickwick Stage bus that gets stuck in the sand.

RL: There's lots of sand up there.

TM: Lewis Ransome Freeman, whose collection is at the Huntington Library in California, has a bunch of pictures of this bus stage coming up to the bridge. And now here's a photo of Bob and Marie getting married, before the handcuff event.

RL: Actually it was the same day, I think.

TM: Yes, sounded like, but this would have been just before they...

RL: Yeah.

TM: ...everybody else stepped in; his friends. There's a couple pictures of that. And then there's some pictures of the historic ferry crossing before the bridge was constructed there at Lees Ferry. This front gate is surmised to be 224 miles downstream on river left, right at the highest high-water line. Mighta gone that far.

DE: Really?

TM: Yeah. It's pretty neat. It stopped 224 miles... stop... walk around on the left...

RL: As I remember our trip from Hite to Lees Ferry, as I remember it was 165 miles.

TM: That's pretty close. Yeah, that's right, that's right. And so, high-water woulda swept that ferry up at Lees Ferry and taken it right on into Marble Canyon and Grand Canyon below. And of course here's a picture of John D. Lee and Emma. And Emma French, she had remarried. Have you tracked her going up to Winslow and she is the doctor of the town.

RL: Uh-huh.



TM: That's an amazing story. Yeah. And there's Jacob Hamblin. And there is the Mountain Meadows Massacre. And here is the execution of John D. Lee at Mountain Meadows. So he's sitting on his coffin and he said, "Shoot me right here in my chest."

RL: Yes, and they shot him and he fell into his coffin.

TM: And children loaded it up and took him away, and nobody ever checked his pulse! One wonders.

RL: Well, if you have 20 guns aimed at you...

TM: Only one of them actually had a bullet in it. And so there's a fascinating story there, but I digress.

DE: That's interesting. So you never know if you were the one that... Really, I didn't know that. How neat.

TM: So there's Pa and Ma. Now, Rowd and Pearl... Where did "Rowd" come from? Is that a nickname for him?

RL: Yeah. His name was Alfred, remember my dog.

TM: Yeah, but how does Rowd get out of Alfred? I'm not that smart.

RL: Beats me.

RE: Was a rowdie cowboy?

RL: His dad named all his kids with nicknames. Like you saw the one where the four were in the picture. One of them was Budge and his name was Floyd. How do you get from Floyd to Budge? Another one was Fat. Everybody knew him by Fat and I can't even remember what his real name was.

RE: Well, I had an Uncle Dummy, so there you go.

TM: So there's a picture here of Rowd, 1981, and that's been made into this...

DE: I'll show you a little sideline. Right here, where it says "1985 Auggie Detalitano uses photo to make a painting". The photo on the cover of my book, or the picture, was painted by Auggie.

TM: How about that.

RL: Well, let me tell you a story about Margas and Auggie. One of our sons...

TM: But you were going to tell us a story about Adeline Halversen and now we're getting ahead of ourselves. All right.

RL: One of our sons married Margas Buckner and after several years they got a divorce. We're very close with Margas and with Joe, and they're about the best example of divorces that you can ever hope to find.

RE: You're exactly right.

RL: Anyways, they get a divorce and Margas is out... She's a schoolteacher and she's—I'm entering some thoughts here—but she's out looking for a husband. There's another teacher at the school she's teaching at, he's an art teacher and his name is Auggie Detalato. They go out on a date one time and Auggie says—now this is my words—he says, Would you like to see my etchings? [laughter] Margas says, “Yes.” So they go over to Auggie's house. He has a little book, like I guess all artists do, of things that they've done. Margas is looking through this thing and she comes across this picture. And she says, “Hey, that's Joe's grandfather.” This picture came off of a newspaper article, right here. This is Adeline but Auggie did the painting of Pa off of this photograph. This photograph is taken by... Somebody from *Arizona Republic* came up.

RE: Nyle Leatham.

RL: Yeah. Yeah. Nyle Leatham. Nyle came up and rode with us on roundup two times up there and took a lot of pictures.

[Group joined by Susan Livingston “Grandy”. Introductions and welcoming]

RE: So Grandy, when was the picture taken at the ranch? Was it...?

SL: About two years ago.

RE: Two years ago, okay.

DE: 2017, probably.

RL: Has it been two years since we went up there? Okay. How time flies.

HC: 18 months.

SL: Has he told about the Adeline stuff?

RE: He's telling us about Margas and Auggie; how Auggie painted that picture. Then we're gonna do Adeline. But he's said some wonderful things.

TM: And we're waiting to hear about the Halversens.

SL: Oh, you know what? Very unique, one-of-a-kind family. As sweet a bunch of people as you'd ever want to meet.

TM: Would you like a chair? Can we get you a chair?

SL: No, I'm gonna leave you all to your stuff. I just want to make sure you had your water.

TM: We're not getting your side of the story.

SL: Oh, hey, we know each other so well.

RE: Since fourth grade.

SL: We're having our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer so we know each other. You know the type of couple where they can finish a sentence? So you're getting it all.

TM: Thank you.

RL: They have asked questions that: How did Uncle Bob and Aunt Marie...how did they meet?

SL: Gila Valley. They were Gila Valley people. Both families were in the Gila valley. No, they were Fort Thomas. I'm not quite sure which town his wife was from. I can do some checking though for you. They were together for seven years and when they ended up deciding they were going to get married, no family was there. It was all those that he had worked with and worked on the dam with. I'm sure he told you about right after the ceremony friends kidnapped...?

DE: Yeah, yeah.

TM: I was interested in that. It sounds like Bob worked for the state. Was that right? If I get this right.

SL: It should be.

TM: It mentioned a little bit about him in the state crew. So they would have been the bridge builders employed by the steel company and would have been the state crews working on the road. So I wondered how his... They mentioned his crew that did the kidnapping, the handcuffing and all that. And so, who was he working with then?

SL: I'll tell you what. Do you have Uncle Bob's story here? Have you gone through his story that was written by...

TM: The newspaper clipping or...

SL: No, another one that was written.

RL: What story are you talking about?

SL: Let me think who wrote it. Let me go see if I can find something else for you. It's not the newspaper clipping.

TM: All right. I don't know that we've seen Uncle Bob's story. You've been holding out on us, Ron.

SL: I honestly don't know what all he's brought out. He's gone through so much stuff to get ready for this.

TM: Yeah, this has been great. So there's stuff about Glen Canyon and Lees Ferry. And there's the plane crash, we talked about that. But I don't know that there's a bit about Bob in here.

SL: Let me go do some looking. Let me do a little bit of looking if I can remember where it was put. Give me a minute or two and I'll be back.

[Side conversations, Susan steps out]

TM: Yeah, trying to just put it together here, you know, the people on the Arizona strip on the east side of the strip, not the west side of the strip, not the center of the strip, but the east side basically is what we're looking at here.

HC: Did you know the people on the west side of the strip?

RL: The Palmers had a lot of property.

HC: That's as far as you know? So you didn't know the Craigs, ...Toroweap or anybody like that?

TM: John, John Riffey out there was working with the Park Service. He had his little plane he would fly around. And the Heatons and the Bundys and the Schmutzes. Just a whole bunch of the same similar ranching families, but scattered all across that Northern Arizona Strip.

DE: They went all the way up to the Tuweep didn't they?

TM: Oh, further west.

DE: Really, even further?

RL: Somebody down, it would be east of the buffalo ranch, had a ranch in there. Can't think of their name now.

DE: There's an old line shack there, you know when you leave Cliff Dwellers by the Salt Creek trailhead? There's an old-line shack and some old corrals down in there. I can't tell you the highway number, but it's...

TM: Right, but that's still... From the Bowman's place, that's east yet of there.

DE: Oh, you're talking west.

TM: I'm talking west. And then we start up on the highlands of the plateau, who's grazing up there. And then you drop off the westside again, and go past Ryan and out that way past Fredonia, so...

RL: There's a lot of country there.

TM: There's a lot of country there. Yeah, yeah.

RL: I'll think of that name. It was well documented in the newspaper of a murder that took place up there. I'll think of it.

TM: Well, you were going to mention Halversen -- Ray and Adeline Halversen. I've been waiting for this story. [laughs]

RL: All right. Let's finish this, this picture here.

TM: So this is a write up here on Pa and Ma, Rowd and Pearl, 23 February 1969. Now it says, "Stacy's arm?"

RL: She's taking the picture.

TM: Oh, it's her arm in the photograph. [laughs]

DE: She gets photo credit.

RL: And then the story about the...

TM: Story about the painting.

RL: ...with Auggie.

TM: Yeah, yeah. And then we've got, you were talking about a story here. This is a vanishing breed.

RL: This photo was taken about an hour before he was killed.

TM: Oh my gosh. So he started about an hour before. Pa's/Rowd's truck accident, Forest Service Road 422, south of Jacob's Lake Lodge.

DE: Oh, I know right where that 22 is.

RL: Used to be, and I just don't remember if there's a lodge right down by the main road to the canyon. There used to be an airstrip there. I know the airstrip is not there anymore.

TM: It says former councilman. I didn't know he was a Tempe city councilman.

RL: Yeah. Susan's dad and my dad served on the Tempe city council at the same time.

TM: Both of them? That's nice.

RL: But we weren't able to convince them of much. They did away with Tempe Beach, which... Nearly built that upside down building.

TM: Cordial centennial, 1875 to 1975. And so this is the *Southern Utah News*: Tempe man killed in Kaibab wreck. What is the date here? So that's what's here and Susan is looking for more information about Bob and Marie. Thank you very much for putting this together. This is great.

RL: Actually, I was telling Dave I procrastinated doing this. Even though we talked about it a month ago, I didn't start until about eight o'clock this morning.

TM: Well, you did a great job.

[Susan returns]

RL: Okay. Here we come now.

TM: "This is My Life: A Life of Cowgirls," by Adeline Cooley Halversen. Okay,

DE: Boy, you really have a lot of great documents here.

RL: Okay. Adeline, she was like Emma at the ferry.

DE: Can do everything?

RL: She was one tough lady. I forget, I think she and her husband and her kids were kind of caretakers at the ranch because Pa was down here most of the time in the valley, taking care of the city council and church assignments and running the aviation business. So Adeline and her husband Ray were caretakers at the ranch. They kept checking the fences and making sure the water was there. Anyways, Ray ends up losing a leg to I think it was to blood poisoning. He lost a leg and then he couldn't ride anymore so Adeline and her two kids did all the riding. Ray would drive the truck to where he could and sit on the fence and watch while his wife and kids they did the work. But Adeline, she could take a big old spike and with a three-pound sledgehammer wham, wham, wham and that spike would just disappear. I mean, she had biceps on her. This is the way Adeline dressed all the time. She would wear her chaps and her spurs when she went to town. That's the way she went to town.

Kind of a shoot-off from this, there was a guy that used to live in Tempe -- Randy Chamberlain. Randy is a friend of ours. Randy isn't, but we've got a common friend, Chris Lueck. Chris was coming back from Salt Lake one time and he stopped to see Randy in Kanab. Randy says, "Well, hey, can you give me a ride down to the Valley? I need to get something and bring something back up here." Chris says, "Well, sure." So they go out and they start across 89, and they come to the old Honeymoon Trail road. Randy

says, "Hey, turn right here." Chris says, "Where we going?" I'm telling about Adeline and our experience with Adeline at the ranch, and Chris says, "Hey, hang on just a minute, I can add to this story." Randy says, "Turn right here." They go down Honeymoon Trail and they go down to the Twomile headquarters. Randy says, "Okay, turn on this little road." They go back and Adeline, now, is living in her horse trailer, a four-horse horse trailer. Adeline comes out, chaps on, sidearm on. She always carried a revolver. This was a Annie Oakley of our days. She comes out. She had met Randy in the... She was in buying groceries, I think in, well, it had to be either Fredonia or Kanab. She was in the grocery store and Randy sees this odd-looking cowgirl in there and it was Adeline. Randy says to himself, "I gotta know this gal's story." So he goes up and introduces himself. They get talking and Adeline says, "Well, if you're ever out that way, stop by." That's what Randy's doing, he's gonna stop by.

TM: If you're living in a four-horse horse trailer, you need to winterize that or winters are pretty grim.

RL: Well, that's another story. [laughter] So Adeline comes out. She and Randy shake hands and Randy introduces Chris. Then Randy takes a wad of bills out, and he says, "Here, Steve said to send this to you." Don't know whether it was \$100 bills or \$1 bills or what, but it was a big wad. So Chris Lueck, a friend of ours, he knew Adeline's story before I was able to tell him about it. He had known of Adeline through Randy and stopping by. Anyways, Adeline's story is her life story. The back part of it is written...

TM: In her hand.

RL: ...in her writing. It's kinda hard to decipher but if you've read old genealogy records you can pick your way through it. But anyway, she was quite a gal. And old Kelsey, in his book... Oh, here's the picture of the house that was at...

TM: Lonely Dell. That's the Johnson place.

RL: Yeah. I couldn't begin to build a house like that out there with...

DE: That was at the Lonely Dell? I didn't know that.

TM: This is after...

RL: It burned down.

TM: It did burn down. But, didn't the Johnson family come in there after it burned? They did a lot of improvements.

RL: Yes, yes.

[Susan returns again with more things]

SL: This is what was written about him by a friend, dear friend of his. Very brief, but I'll look here and see if I have something else.

TM: [Reads] "Adventure of Pioneer Cowboy, Robert E. Sanders. At the age of five, Robert traveled with his family by covered wagon from St. Thomas cross the Mogollon Rim to Camp Verde looking for ranch land at the age of five." Camp Verde, so John Hance would have already run through that country 20 years earlier, 20 or 30 years earlier. "Family ended up settling in the Gila Valley." Interesting. "As a young cowpoke, Robert was always filled with creative energy and a love for living and making other folks happy. By no means was he the quiet, mild-mannered type. In fact, he would have put lots of gray hairs on our modern-day parent heads. He entertained the local residents with high-speed car races and wild stunts on motorcycles. He was famous for arranging some damn good dances for his friends and neighbors. And on one occasion, he even hijacked a railroad steam engine with a partner, as transportation to a dance taking place near Safford." That takes a lot of gumption. "In another incident, his father returned home to find Robert involved in a shoot-out range war with a neighboring rancher. No casualties were reported." That's good. "After World War One, severe drought forced Robert to search for other means of earning a living and helping his family. He turned to road construction, and spent most of the next 25 years in and out of this type of work. Many of his beloved lifetime friendships began during this period. One of the big jobs he supervised during this time was the construction of Lees Ferry Bridge, better known today as the Navajo Bridge. In fact, Robert chose the middle of this bridge as the site of his wedding to Marie Pawley Sanders, on April 28, 1929. After his marriage to Marie, he worked on a rolling construction crew for the state of Arizona as a master mechanic. Later became the superintendent for heavy equipment."

RL: I forgot about that.

TM: And there's some other interesting stuff here about Robert. I'm going to pull out my camera and take a picture of this, if you don't mind. You know what, I didn't bring my phone in because I didn't want it chirping and beeping and doing...

DE: I can take it and send it to you.

TM: So, yeah, if you wouldn't mind to take a picture of this that'd be great.

DE: I need to tilt it a little bit to get the glare off.

TM: Really trying to get a handle on the bridge and construction and all that stuff. So this is great to work on that. A friend of ours has started doing a lot of research on the cemetery there at Lonely Dell. A fellow named Pat Riley worked really hard on this in the 60s and 70s and 80s. He lived eventually in Sun City. He's passed away now but he tried to figure out who exactly was buried there. And then this new fella's come along to pick up that work. So keep that alive, who's where. And the families are still coming in and having remembrances of their loved ones there.

[pause for photos of document]



RL: John D. Lee, I think I've mentioned I have become kind of a fan of his. In the church you can have 50 people get in a conversation about John D. Lee. Twenty-five of them will be for John D. Lee, and twenty-five of them will not be for John D. Lee, they will be for Brigham Young.

DE: Sounds like today's politics.

RL: In my study of that, of the Mountain Meadow Massacre, I think Brigham Young held John D. Lee out for the scapegoat for the church in what transpired there.

TM: And Harrison Pearce. Have you...? So, Harrison Pearce was a contemporary church member with Mr. Lee. As John D. Lee was sent to Lee's Ferry, Harrison Pearce went to the other end of the Grand Canyon, and was sent by the church to set up a ferry there. And Harrison did not have to face the firing squad like Lee did. But that's another story.

RL: Yeah. John D., he took the brunt of that happening.

TM: Have you been researching the Mountain Meadows Massacre. Have you been looking into that?

RL: I've read a lot of it. Juanita Brooks, she did the first one on it and now there's been several other attempts to document what happened there. So anyways, in the church you will find if you had 50 people, 25/25. If you had 100 people, it'd be 50/50, and you can get in some heated discussions.

DE: I'll bet.

TM: Well, this is oral history. We're after your stories and we keep quiet. So that's all right. It's what it is.

RL: Okay, well.

TM: Where are we at?

RL: You both got your books of Kelsey's?

TM: We do. Thank you.

RL: And I didn't get around to doing this, but...

DE: I actually have one of his books already. After I look at this I might return it to you so you can give it to someone else. Unless I have a different edition.

RL: Okay, he did two.

DE: I followed a few of his hikes in there over the years.

RL: Well, if you were to read that and not know who Rowd Sanders was, or who Pa was, you'd just fly right over that. But I have taken, and I don't know whether I have got it done in the ones that you have, but I've overlaid where the X Diamond X was in all the Sand Hills country.

DE: Oh, how neat.

RL: See if there's any overlays in there. I shoulda made copies of these for guys, but didn't get that far.

HC: Just out of interest, do you remember anything about the food on that river trip? Apart from the cheese?

RL: About the what?

HC: About the food on that river trip, apart from the cheese.

RL: Yeah, the food was, as I remember, pretty good.

HC: Get pancakes with every meal?

RL: Pretty much. [all laugh]

TM: I would love to get a picture of this, but I'm looking at the glare and trying to figure out how can we do that?

HC: Want me to hold it this way? And then you can...

DE: Oh, so these are your comments?

RL: Yes.

DE: That's pretty neat. That'll be worth re-reading.

RL: Well, that tells you where you can go in the book to read the story.

[pause again for photos of document]

RE: So, how did Auggie choose to draw that painting of Pa, I wonder?

RL: How did he...

RE: I know. I mean, out of all the pictures this must have been meant to be.

RL: Wanna come see my etchings?

DE: And he had to have an etching to show. [laughs]

RE: So we know that's what they did that night.

[Talking about photos and documents]

DE: Tom has asked me to consider writing a book about the history of the Navajo Bridge. He's been back in the archives in Washington DC for several weeks scanning all the information he could get. He called me and he said, I'm not a writer, but you are, and I'll give you all this information if you would write the story of the Navajo Bridge. So I've been looking, Googling, trying to find if anyone else has written up all the information. I've found a lot of snippets here and there, a lot of articles from papers, but no comprehensive book about it. So, I'm thinking about it. It's a lot of work to get it right.

RL: There's been people pushing me here to write some of these stories.

DE: Oh, I'll bet.

RE: You've got some great stories.

RL: But I'm not a writer.

RE: You have a great memory.

DE: Yes, you do.

RL: I can remember things.

DE: I spent most of the day with my dad yesterday, who on a lot of days doesn't even know who I am, much less his wife. He's lost everything, so you're very fortunate. Your family's fortunate.

[Background conversations]

RL: What's the wife's name here?

DE: Hazel.

RE: They met on the river.

DE: Hazel was a river guide, I believe.

HC: I wasn't a guide, Tom was the guide. I was the passenger.

DE: Oh, you were the passenger.

HC: I was the passenger.

DE: Okay, we'll get that straight.

HC: So then he gave me my own boat; now I'm not a passenger anymore.

RL: Joe is going down the river, I think in June or July starting at Glen Canyon and going through Glen Canyon and all the way down. You probably know how far in advance you gotta get signed up. Joe did not sign up, but a friend of his ran across a deal. I don't know, somebody cancelled out. Anyways, they put, I think, 24 people together to go do this one run, that... And they just found out about it, like, within the last six months instead of waiting six years. Right spot, right time.

HC: So, did Adeline have children?

RL: Yes. When Tom gets back I'll go a little further with Adeline. Shawn put this book together. Shawn, if I ever do write some of these stories, she will be very, very helpful.

RE: Yeah. She can do a little bit of everything.

HC: I thought of another question when you guys were talking, and now I can't think of it.

DE: Where is the Gila Valley?

RL: Safford; Safford and Thatcher.

DE: Okay.

[pause for side conversations]

HC: So how did you meet Kelsey?

RL: We both bought his fifth edition books. A lot of what he wrote... Well, he wrote a lot about that whole area but I was able to pick out bits and pieces of X-Diamond-X and Rowd Sanders.

HC: So you just got in touch with him?

RL: Yeah. So I just run him down and called him. Said, hey, you made some mistake here, but I can add more information there. We talked a lot. He's a real interesting guy.

HC: That's what I've heard. I've never met him. We always love it when he says, you know, this will take you two weeks to hike but I posted it in three days.

DE: I'll never forget the first hike I did, because I don't know him. He talked about trails that you could do in a day down to the river and back. It was Soap Creek.

HC: Well, you can do that in a day.

DE: So I grabbed a buddy, and we didn't know Soap Creek. It was South Canyon and he says, down to the river and I did it in six hours, and I took my dog with me. Well, that's great. So I grabbed a buddy of mine, we spent Friday night at Vermilion Cliffs Lodge. We drive to the trailhead and get a leisurely start. And we hike... First of all, it took us 45 minutes to find the trailhead. But we did. We got down there, we got down to the river. We stayed five minutes at the river, we were so... I mean, we drank water, filled everything up that would hold water, turned around and came back up.

HC: In the dark.

DE: Practically. I think we both ran out of water. It rained on us and we were drinking water out of these little pockets in the rocks. We get to this cliff face – how the heck do we get off this? I had a headlight that I'd just thrown in my backpack. My friend Tom didn't have one. We made it out, but, man! No, that's no six-hour hike, with a dog. It was ridiculous.

HC: Tom carried a dog out of that trail.

DE: The South Canyon?

HC: Well, he went in with two of our friends and their dog, and ended up carrying the dog out. He got to the top and Tom put it down. He got to the back of the car and just looked at Tom. Pick him up again. He was absolutely shattered.

RL: Well, Tom, to go on, Hazel asked about Adeline, if she had children. She did. When they first came to work for Rowd, the first time Rowd's family met Adeline and Ray they had I think it was probably, maybe a two-ton truck, and they carried their horses in the back of this thing. But in front of where they kept the horses they had a living compartment. And they had goats that lived with them also. We were just all amazed at their living condition. They were very strong Seventh Day Adventists and Rowd could not get them to ride roundup on Sunday. They were just not going to do it. But Ray and Adeline... Like I mentioned, Ray lost a leg so Adeline and the kids did the riding.

Adeline's daughter, Shirley, she goes off and gets married. I think she met a guy... She went to somewhere in South America on a mission and she met somebody else that was on a mission. They come home and they end up getting married. And Ray, the son, which was a couple years younger than Shirley, after Shirley had left so now it's just little Ray and his mother, Adeline, out there on the ranch. Rowd sells the ranch so Adeline goes around to other ranches in the area there. They all loved Adeline and they all found jobs for her to keep her busy. So it's just Ray and Adeline now, little Ray. Little Ray meets this gal who has four kids and she's many years older than Ray. Adeline and this new bride of young Ray's, they don't get along so Ray takes his wife and her four kids and goes off. So now it's just Adeline out there but she finds jobs on all the ranches. And, of course, everybody loved her. She was out there doing something in a corral right along the Honeymoon Trail and a bull gets after her horse. Adeline gets thrown and she broke her hip. Now she's out there in the middle of the boonies. Nobody

around, nobody else within miles, and lo and behold here comes the owner of another ranch there and here Adeline is laying out in the corral, can't move. That was just a real freak accident that he happened to be along and saw her. So they get Adeline to the hospital and they supposedly repair her hip. Did a poor job on it and she walked with a limp the rest of her life. I think Kelsey, in one of the books he makes a comment about Adeline. Hang on just one second here. He makes a comment about why is he writing about Adeline in here. He says she dressed the part of a real cowgirl. She was bucking hay when he met her. Kelsey makes a comment about her bucking hay just like a man would. He says, you should see the biceps on this gal. I mean, like I say, she'd take a hammer and pound a big old sledge like that. She was a funny gal. You can read her story in there. And Kelsey makes...if you get reading this book he makes just a few paragraphs about meeting Adeline.

TM: Is this a copy of what's over here?

RE: That's for you. Susan had an extra one.

TM: Thank you very much. That's great.

RE: And she's still looking for other stuff.

TM: Okay.

RL: So, let me go a little further with little Ray and his mother. Adeline starts to develop Alzheimer's and she's not able to do ranch work anymore. She ends up living with a gal for a year and a half, up in Fredonia. Can't think of her name, now... I've met her. Sue, Sue who? Sue somebody. Sue takes Adeline in, and Adeline lives for about a year and a half and her Alzheimer's is getting worse and worse. Adeline was a twin. Sue calls the twin sister who lived in Washington. They came down and took Adeline up to Washington. So she dies in Washington, and little Ray, now, moved to Idaho. And big Ray, who lost a leg, he died in California and is buried in California someplace. I got the place somewhere. So, anyways, Susan and I wanted to find out... Kelsey told us that Adeline is buried in Washington. Susan and I, at that time, started to do a little research on them and we found that Adeline was not buried in Washington. Kelsey says that big Ray was buried in California. Big Ray is not buried in California. So, we kind of knocked heads with Kelsey a little bit, and he insisted that he was right. So Susan and I jumped into it. I said, let's see if we can find little Ray. So we went looking for him and lo and behold, we found him. So I called him and visited with him. Had a good visit. I says, "Tell me about where your mom and dad are buried." "Well, they're buried right here in Idaho." I said, oh, Kelsey, we've got you on this one. What little Ray had done is, he moved his dad. Had him dug up and moved him up to where little Ray lived in Idaho. I forget the name of the town there. And his mother is buried there with... Big Ray and Adeline are buried together there. We've got Kelsey. Between volume four or five and volume six he's got the straight story now.

TM: He's got it sorted out. Nice. I think the last thing I want to ask you about the river trip... Hazel very kindly asked about the food, which was good. Did you take any photographs?

RL: I didn't. About the food, the thing I remember is the dang cheese.

TM: Well, the other kids remembered the pancakes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

HC: The cheese was only on one trip but the pancakes were on every trip.

TM: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, fun.

DE: Bad thing about your discarding the cheese in the river, as you float down it floats with you. There's my cheese again, you know. [laughter]

RL: Dang fish won't even eat it.

TM: Did you ever run any other rivers, the San Juan, the Grand Canyon, anything else or just that one?

RL: No. Well, we went...and everybody was concerned about us because we had gray hair so they watched out like we were three-year-olds. I forget, I think it was the Green that we went just a few miles on it. Put us in the middle of the boat and we had life preservers on.

DE: The chicken coop, yeah.

RL: We got pictures somewhere of that. But no, never any other rivers.

DE: Did you have any experiences once you're on the beaches with any wildlife or anything?

RL: What about the wildlife?

DE: Did you see like bighorn sheep or any mountain lions or turkeys or...?

RL: No. On the ranch up there, there was at one time a lot of deer.

HC: But on the river, they would have 20 Boy Scouts or 20 Y kids. That would terrify any creatures.

DE: Oh, that's true. Coulda been a little noisy. Yeah.

RL: We've got a brother-in-law that does a lot of hunting. He got drawn for bighorn sheep this year. He was expecting to be gone out hunting for a month and he got his trophy bighorn ram the first day.

TM: Is that right? My gosh.

HC: Where was that?

RL: Where was it? I don't even know where. Dear, do you know where Bill got that sheep?

SL: I don't know. I don't know if he shares his hunting spots. [laughs]

TM: Everybody's, where was that? Let me know.

SL: He goes to Mexico, he goes to Alaska, and...

HC: Could be anywhere.

SL: They have a son that's a taxidermist.

TM: Okay. Nice.

DE: Do you think at the age of 13, your experience on the river made you appreciate Arizona more, made you a better outdoorsman, or do you think it made any difference?

RL: No. I have a lot of appreciation for Arizona and the history of it and the people that made it what it is today. Yeah. I like this. I think Goldwater's last paragraph or two hits the spot.

DE: Did you ever have any other dealings or camaraderie with him over the years?

RL: No.

DE: I got a scouting award from him one time. I think it was my Life's badge. He came to Saguaro High School one time and he gave out Star, Life, and Eagle badges, and I had earned my Life badge. Another time, when I was doing my master's degree, I had to do an interview. So I called Goldwater's office because I had to interview with somebody I respected. I didn't respect James Watt at the time, so I wanted to ask him about that. He invited me up to his house in Paradise Valley. Said, "What are you doing for breakfast?" I go to Goldwater's house and he shows me his CB thing and we had breakfast. I got an A on that paper. He was a real Arizonan, dyed in the wool, and he appreciated the Natives. He loved the river.

HC: I remember that he used to drive out on the rez in a gold Cadillac all the time on all those rez roads to visit Native Americans out there. He definitely spent a lot of time out there. I know he had the trading posts as well, but he was not shy about driving around... We used to live in a house in Flagstaff, Tom and I rented the place, and it had "Goldwater" written across the roof at one time because that was his headquarters in northern Arizona when he was running for, whatever...

TM: 1964. We should probably wrap this up as a oral history interview. Before I do this, Ronnie, is there anything else you'd like to mention about that river trip, 1955?

RL: No. My big thing is the cheese. [laughter]

TM: Well, Ronnie Livingston, with your wife, Susan, and Dave Elston, and Rosemarie and Hazel Clark, and my name is Tom Martin. This has been a very wonderful interview today. It is the first of March 2019. And thank you very much.



RL: You're welcome.