

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewees: Jannie M. Turner (JT)
Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)
Subject: Part 2 of 3 Two Generations in Flagstaff and Sedona, 1920s–1960s
Date of Interview: 02/23/2022
Method of Interview: By telephone
Transcriber: Stacy Birk
Date of Transcription: June 2022
Transcription Reviewers: Tom Martin, Jannie Turner

Key for Part 2: Sedona, 1954, Jack Wilson, Korean War, military reserves pilot, Camp Pendleton, Married People Barrack, Brownies, swimming pool, Downey airplane factory, Sedona School, Dr. Leo Schnur, Arizona 89A, Schnebly Hill Road, switchbacks, race cars, Pendley, Slide Rock, Jordan Road, Walter & Ruth Jordan and Jordan's Orchard, Wayside Chapel, Camp Christian/Fo-I-Fa, 1957 filming of "The Wagon Train," Tommy Rettig, Cleis Coburn, Merry Go Round Rocks, Earl van Deren, cattle ranch, Sedona Museum, cowboys, Dick Sprang and Dudy Thomas, Back of Beyond neighborhood, Doodlebug Ranch, Harry Aleson, Indian country, mid-1950s, Glen Canyon river trips, Batman cartoon, Elmer Purtyman, Donnie van Deren, Judge Harold Longfellow, Boy Scouts' Grand Canyon hiking.

TM: Today is Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022. This is Part Two of a Grand Canyon oral history interview with Jannie Turner. My name is Tom Martin. Jannie, good afternoon. How are you?

JT: I'm fine, thank you.

TM: Great. May we have your permission to record this oral history over the telephone?

JT: Yes, you do.

TM: Thank you. We ended Part One, your family had just moved to Sedona; your father, as a lawyer, was serving the ranchers of the Sedona community, so that they didn't have to come to Flagstaff. They could see him directly in Sedona. Can you pick that thread up and recall some of your early Sedona going-to-school memories?

JT: Yes. When we moved to Sedona, in 1954, we rented a house that belonged to Jack Wilson, who also owned a lot of the houses around Wheeler Park, back in the day, in Flagstaff. And so, he was a friend of my dad's, and he let us rent his house, while my dad built our house. We had come there from California because, between the time that I was in Emerson School and 1954 - it's like a three-year period -- my dad was a fighter pilot from World War II, and the Korean War was going on. So they sent us to -- he was in the Reserves -- so we got sent to Camp Pendleton for three years, while he trained fighter pilots. And so, then we came back here. He started to get a job at a Air Force; you know, just a airline factory, or something, over there. But, I apparently was having trouble with the smog and stuff, and why, the asthma and things. And so they, he said, Forget that; we're moving back to Arizona. Then we moved to Sedona.

TM: Okay. So let me make sure I have this story right. Because your father, like his father, got his law degree, but then, during the Korean War, to serve the country, he was called off to Camp Pendleton, to train service members to become pilots.

JT: Right.

TM: Well, let's not skip that. What do you remember? Because you were there for three years. What do you remember about Camp Pendleton?

JT: Well, we lived in Married People Barrack; it was one great big long building, with doors going into all the, like, apartment places. And we had taken my dog from Flagstaff. And I know, one day my dog got run over by a car. And my dad and I ran out there, and my poor dad had to snap to attention because the driver was his general. I remember that. So we went out in the desert, around Camp Pendleton, to bury the dog. We didn't, you know, of course, we didn't get mad at the general or anything. But! I remember that. And I remember being in Girl Scouts -- Brownies, in Brownies -- out there; all of the girls were on the base. And so I was in Brownies, and I went off to summer camp, somewhere in the mountains of California. With the Brownies in the summer. I can remember my dad -- I still have my bedroll; my dad bought me a bedroll, and they sewed my name into it, you know, and everything. So I still have that. And I remember that there was a pool on base; and, of course, my dad was an officer, and so we got to use the pool. And both my brother and I learned to swim in that pool. So it was a great thing for us to be able to do, cause it was Camp Pendleton, you know; it's close to San Diego, and its temperature's good, so we -- over that three years, we did a lot of swimming in the officers' pool.

TM: Did you get a chance to swim in the ocean there at all? Practice what you'd learned?

JT: Oh, yes, we went. But when I was five, or four... Sometime when I was close to then; maybe it was when we first moved over there. But we were at the beach, and I was playing in the water, and I got surrounded by a school of jellyfish. And they were stinging me. And my dad had to run into the water and grab me out, and take me to the doctors. And I had stings all over my legs. And I never was much of a beach person after that! Still not my favorite. Give me the mountains anytime. But I remember that event. We also went, in 1950... '57 is after we moved to Sedona. So anyway, we lived on the barracks, in those barracks. And we had a nice enough life. My brother and I, and my mom, were home alone a lot; of course, my dad was working. But it was, there was quite a camaraderie between all of the families that lived there, and we did stuff together.

TM: I was gonna say, were there other children there, your age, that you could pal around with?

JT: Yes, there was. And I went to school there, on the base, also. For second and -- second grade, anyway. But maybe the end of first grade, and beginning of second grade. So, and I just,

I remember that I really liked my teacher. And I remember we had a great playground; and I got in trouble for hanging upside down on the monkey bars in a dress. And the teacher talked to my mother, and I got scolded. But we weren't allowed...

TM: Ooh, they shoulda put you in pants!

JT: I know! We didn't wear pants in those days.

TM: Isn't that fascinating. Yeah, your mom wasn't the only...

JT: ... can't go upside down on the monkey bars at all!

TM: Exactly! Well, you can't run, and play in the dirt, then. All kinds of things.

JT: Yeah, it was... It obviously made an impression on me, because I remember it still. But, yeah, and so, from there, there was some kind of an airplane factory. [JT: He was a lawyer for North American Aviation during the building of the X-15. Dad didn't like being a corporate lawyer.] My brother could tell you immediately; he's told me a dozen times, but I can't think of it. But we moved into Downey; and it was a great job!

TM: That's Los Angeles?

JT: Yeah. That was a great job at this place that builds airplanes. And they needed somebody -- it was an office-type lawyer position, you know, for my dad. And it was a great job, and they were real excited to get it. He was just... Maybe he was even going to be a lawyer, for the firm. Maybe that's why... And so, but I was not able to breath well over there; so we came back to Arizona. And we moved -- that's when my grandfather told my dad, Why don't you go open a branch in Sedona? Because they need somebody so badly down there. So that's when we moved down. And I was third grade, when I started school down there. My brother was there, first grade all the way through; but I started at third. And there was -- there was never more than 40 kids in the whole school. And we started with four teachers; each teacher had two grades. It was eight, or eight grades; first through eighth; and so each teacher had two grades within the classroom. So we would have -- I started with Mrs. Riordan in the third grade, and had her again, like, in the fourth grade. That way; so that I had... But we moved to the other side of the classroom. So at that time, Sedona School was on Brewer Road, across the street from the Forest Ranger's house. They're making that into a historical site right now, in Sedona. And, so anyway, but the school was, it was just one really l-o-n-g building; and was just the separate doors going into the four classrooms.

TM: And in your class there would've been ten or twelve kids, then? So...

JT: Sometimes five, in my class; and maybe seven in the other. It just, throughout, from first grade through eighth grade, there were never more than 40 kids; and sometimes less.

TM: Okay, so my math's off; so that's ten or twelve kids in the room, but the room's split down the middle, and so there's five or six of you on one side, and five and whatever on the other.

JT: Right. And so the teacher would go from one side of the room and teach a lesson, while we were, like, reading. And then he'd come over to us, and they would read while we did math, whatever. So it was just one teacher we had. But we were really close; we're still close. I still, once a month, meet with my girlfriends from grade school. We get together. Many of them are still, spread in the Verde Valley; I'm the only one still in Flagstaff. But I do have -- I inherited my mother's house in Sedona, and we've kept it. So I go there, and then we all get together.

TM: Oh, wonderful! Sounds nice.

JT: Yeah, so it was very close. We were a close bunch of kids; we had, we had a lot of fun. And so, most of us had both parents working; and my mother was, at that time, she became my -- when we first moved there, she worked for Dr. Schnur. And then later on, when the work really kicked in, for my dad, and he started getting a lot of business, he needed somebody to help him type. So my mother then became his office secretary. So, but, all of our parents worked. And we just had the run of the place! You know, there was just, every day when we'd get out of school, we'd walk home; there was no, of course, buses or anything back in those days. We all walked. And we'd all get together, sometimes, and go do something; we had, when we became a little bit older -- teens -- there was nothing for us. We could go to the skating rink in Indian Gardens, if our parents would drive us; but we didn't have anything we could do, other than, just running all over the place. You know, we climbed all the mountains, we swam in the creek without supervision. You know, we did all of those things. Just kids, so, like, in Mayberry of some TV show...

TM: Can you describe to me what your earliest memories of Sedona are like; just how much traffic was on the road? Was the road dirt? Was there a stop sign even in town? What do you recall of that?

JT: Okay, so the little house that we lived in, is just straight up behind the, what's the main part of town now.

TM: Just the main, kinda, downtown, Pink Jeep tours kind of area, where the jeeps are, and...

JT: Uh-huh. They were across the 89A; across, a couple blocks up. And all the roads were dirt. And, so we had, I had the lady from the bar -- Oma was her name, Oma Bird. She came up one day and said there was somebody in the bar that had a dog they needed to get rid of. It was a pure bred -- supposedly -- pure bred Australian shepherd, and her name was Lady Victoria, you know. And she said, I immediately thought of your daughter; she's just the right age to have a dog. So, anyway, that's, we got our dog that way; and had that dog clear up until after I was married. So, we got... And, I know there was a culvert, near our house, because she had a litter of puppies in there. So there was a little culvert for water flow, that goes down towards -- we're higher than the town, of course; everything flowed towards town. So, and...

TM: Yeah. And how much traffic was on the road, do you remember?

JT: There was no, no traffic; we walked all over the place; you know...

TM: So you could play a ...

JT: They swapped out all the roads, and we didn't have to scoot over for a car or anything.

TM: You could play a game of marbles, sitting down on the middle of the road, and that would be fine.

JT: Oh, yeah. And we rode our bikes, on the dirt roads and stuff, you know. We learned to ride our bikes, and do all that kind of stuff. I know the very first day we were there -- well, shortly after we were there -- my brother had a birthday in October. He turned five. And school had not, I hadn't started school yet; we were just getting ready for me to start, in the third grade, and it was already started when we got there. So I didn't, you know, it was all his friends, and little boys, younger than me, five years younger than me. So my parents said, Just go meet somebody. So I started going through the neighborhood, knocking on doors, and saying, Do you have any kids? And the people'd say, Oh, no! But you know, there's some kids that live down here, in that pink house, you know. So I wandered around and I found a bunch of -- they were older than me by about three years -- kids. But they all had younger brothers and sisters. And so they met me, and they went and got their brothers and sisters and came back, so that I met a little group of friends. And I went to school with those kids the rest of my life. Yeah. And we did have birthday parties, and that kind of stuff.

TM: What are your first recollections of Dr. Schnur?

JT: Yes. Dr. Schnur, he was a kind, nice doctor; everybody loved him. And he had an office just right close to our house; mom could walk back and forth when she worked there. But he was really the only doctor we had. And I don't remember needing a doctor, but I do know that when it was time for polio shots, and all those kinds of things, in grade school, he was the one that administered that kind of stuff. So, but I can vaguely remember what he looks like, and I remember how much I liked him. But, and I, just recently I was walking through the cemetery in Sedona, seeing all these old friends I knew; and somebody has fixed up his headstone and area very nicely; somebody's really made an effort to make it look nice; probably his son.

TM: Wonderful; yeah.

JT: Yeah, so; but yeah, he was not somebody I spent a lot of time at -- I wasn't sickly. There were other kids, I do know, that saw him more often than I did, and have more memories.

TM: So, can you help me figure out the roads? Schnebly Hill Road.

JR: Yes.

TM: Now Schnebly Hill...

JT: Is on the other side of creek from most of the downtown.

TM: Steep, steep road.

JT: Steep road.

TM: Had the switchbacks...

JT: Not maintained.

TM: Had the switchbacks been built yet?

JT: Yes, the switchbacks had been built. In fact, when I was a kid, there was a time when they would race, up and down the switchbacks, in little racing cars. That adults would drive; I mean, they were just small cars that were...

TM: You mean the high-powered, big-engine but midget race cars?

JT: Uh, yeah. They were...

TM: Kinda like a; um, how would you describe them?

JT: Well, I don't know; they were, like, convertible; most of them were open. And they were just kind of, well...

TM: Sorta looked like a...

JT: Enlarged children's' toy. You know, my brother had a little fire truck he would sit in and pedal...

TM: Like the top half of a pill; kind of rounded front and a rounded tail?

JT: Yeah.

TM: And a little cockpit that you would sit up in, and four wheels that were hanging out there.

JT: Yeah; and they just, and they raced. We'd all gather up there on the hill and watch. You know, they did it at least three times that I remember in my life... So, but that's; it's; and it, actually, connects to I-40, these days.

TM: Right. And this was highway...

JT: ... the Schnebly Road turnoff.

TM: That was Highway 89? Is that right?

JT: I think it's always been 89 through Sedona. It was just another way to get up there; but, yeah.

TM: Okay. And I guess, gosh; so that would've been built in, what? The 20s, probably?

JT: Yeah; oh, yeah. Because lanes, in those days; so, cause I know my grandparents had a place, in Oak Creek Canyon, that we would go to. It was just a cabin place, but it was all Forest Service land that they leased, and they could build a house on. And a lot of people did. Lot of houses in the creek like that, that people from Flagstaff had a second home. But they all had to come down. I know the road, the switchbacks, when they were being built, my grandmother was afraid of them; because the strongest gear in the car is reverse. And so when my grandfather had a car, he would go down that hill in reverse! And she got out and walked, and met him at the bottom.

TM: I don't blame her!

JT: No, she was not riding that Model T, or whatever it was, going down backwards, down this steep, steep hill. Because it didn't follow the path of the road now; it was just more of a straight down. You can see parts of that old road; there's one part where you can see it. It just kind of slants straight down; it doesn't go through switchbacks.

TM: I'll have to look for that; I've never noticed it. I'll have to look for it next time we're there. Huh. Did you; so. Did you ever get a chance to go up to Slide Rock and visit with the Pendleys?

JT: Yes, we knew the Pendleys; they had the orchard up there. And a lot of us would go up there and visit with them; they had the apples, sorting machines, and all that kind of stuff. And I can remember being a kid, running around the place, while the grown-ups would visit and stuff; but we took all that stuff for granted. Yeah, we went down to Slide Rock. I have home video of my family -- my dad and my mom and my brother and I, at Slide Rock -- sliding down the rock -- on the Fourth of July. And we're the only people there. So, yeah, it wasn't known! You know, so there was some, but some people knew about it, of course, but it just wasn't a big site, that people went to. Now you can't get in; it's just crazy. But I know, the, as far as the roads go in town, the roads -- Jordan Road was there; it'd been there for a long time. I see it in a lot of old pictures. Jordan Road took off of 89 at an angle, right downtown. It's actually a roundabout, now. But, take that roundabout, then that road slants off towards Wilson Mountain. But Jordan's Orchard was down there, and that was a big business; Walter Jordan started it, and his brother, came; and they were all good friends of my family. We lived across the street, after my dad built the house; we lived across the street from the orchard; and my

mom and dad would go help them pick apples, and peaches when they were ripe. Because this was a big orchard, and not a lot of help. And during the night, I remember sometimes in the spring, if it was going to freeze, and they had to get out those big smudge pots, that were filled with oil, I guess? And burned; and so all of us would go over there, and everybody would get wheelbarrows and spread those smudge pots through the orchard, and light them, and every -- all the neighbors were involved! We all just pitched in and helped, because that's what you did. And they had a irrigation that dumped in to a pond; the water came up from the creek, through a water wheel, and dumped into a big pond right there at the top of the street, by our house. And I have video of my brother and I -- and I know all the other kids -- we all swam in that pond. And it was nasty! I look at those pictures, and I'd have never have let my children in that pond! It was just a, you know, a depression in the ground, and stuff in there; there were frogs, and it was never clear water; it was always muddy water.

TM: That meant it was healthy!

JT: We had so much fun up at that place. In our little video, we have our dog -- the dog that I got; Vicki was her name -- on a little raft. And my brother and I were there; and the dog was tipping, and trying to stay up on the raft and not fall in the water. And my brother and I are up there playing with it; it's just kind of a funny little memory that we have in our little video collection.

TM: Did you eventually get old enough to help with the harvest?

JT: Yes. I got old enough to go and help sort apples.

TM: Okay. What did that entail?

JT: That's when they would... Well, there's -- ahh. I can't think of the word. Like a treadmill, you know.

TM: Like a conveyor belt, kinda thing?

JT: Conveyor belt; a long conveyor belt. And the apples would come down there. And then, some people would be pulling out the biggest ones, and putting them in boxes; and some are pulling out the littlest ones and putting them in boxes; and some are pulling out the ones that look like they would make jelly, but not be used to eat. You know, this kind of stuff. And so, we'd stand over there and pull apples off. I didn't do a lot of it, but I did some. And they had the best peaches in the world; giant, beautiful, really-big, delicious peaches, that they would box up and send up to the markets in Flagstaff.

TM: This was at Jordan's Orchard?

JT: Yes, yeah. They had peaches and apples. So. And it's now the Sedona Historical Museum. They kept the...

TM: What do you remember about the Jordans?

JT: I remember the Jordans pretty well. We were, like I said, we were just right across the dirt road from each other. So we got together a lot with them. And, of course, he owned the pond, and so, you know, sometimes he'd be by, doing his work up there, when all of us kids were playing. But he was a hard-working guy, but she was just the sweetest lady. Ruth Jordan was just a wonderful lady; we really liked her. And one of their daughters married a guy who was a reverend; his name was Jackson. And I baby-sat their children. And they lived right across the street from the orchard in the other direction. So I would walk down to their house and baby-sit, and come back. But baby-sitting in those days entailed doing the laundry and washing the dishes, and getting the kids to bed, and cleaning the house, and vacuuming. But 50 cents an hour, I was in hogs-heaven, with all that money!

But we were very active with the Wayside Chapel, which was the church -- still is the church -- downtown. And that was the only church, and so it was a community church; it was nondenominational, and everybody in town went to that church. And the Jordans were always there; and, I've seen a couple pictures of people, that I'd recognized cars -- even today. I say, Oh, I know that's so-and-sos car! And, so we were always there on Sunday; when I got old enough, I sang in the choir. And they had Wednesday night potlucks, downstairs, in the bottom of the church. And all of our parents would come with their potlucks, and the parents would all talk, and all of us kids would play. When we got older, that's where I learned to play Spin-the-Bottle; in church, in the basement, on Wednesday nights! And when I got old enough, I actually helped teach Sunday classes -- Sunday school classes. And we had an affiliation with a Christian camp in Prescott; it was Camp Christian the first year I went, and then they changed it to Camp Fo-I-Fa, which meant "forward in faith." And when I got -- I went there two or three years, with several of my friends, and they actually met some of the Flagstaff kids there. And, then when I got older, I went as a camp counselor, for a couple years over there.

But, so, and I know in 1957, there was a film crew coming to town, and they were going to film the movie "The Wagon Train." And they came to the school, and had all the kids line up in the school, and they walked down behind all of us kids. And I had no idea what they were doing; nobody did. But they were picking the kids that had the longest hair. Because we would look more like somebody that had been on a wagon train for all that time. And I had hair practically to my waist at that time, and so I got chosen to be in the movie. And we made, like 75 dollars a week. Huge! And the child star, in the movie, was Tommy Rettig; who at that time was "Lassie," on TV; the little boy in "Lassie." And he was so cute, and I'd always had a crush on him. So everyday we'd go over to Sedona Lodge, which became the King's Ransom later on; but it was a big sound stage. And that's where the movie people would set up all their stuff. And so Sedona Lodge is where we would go; it was also a lodge -- people stayed there, and they had a swimming pool. I have pictures of us swimming in the pool. But, we would go to the sound stage, and they would give us our outfit, for the day. And then they'd put us in a bus and take us up to Merry Go Round Rock, on Schnebly Road; and that's where they were filming. So we would spend the day up there, while they were doing the filming. They brought in fake trees, and put them around! I thought that was the weirdest thing. Because, you know, we had trees everywhere; they weren't in the right place, you know, for the set. Tommy Rettig was one of

the main stars. Everybody else gets killed off by Indians; right away, at the beginning of the movie.

TM: I see.

JT: But then there's like five stars that are left; five or six? Anyway, and he's one of the ones that survives all the way through, because he has a big part.

TM: How many weeks did you get to work for them, with that?

JT: Ooh, it took -- two months, probably.

TM: Two months!

JT: Yeah. So we were, every day we were up there; and we were 'sposed to keep that one outfit on, the whole time. Because, you know, if you're on a wagon train, you can't be changing clothes all the time. So we had just one dress, and old-fashioned-y boots, and a bonnet, and that kind of stuff. Didn't have to wear the bonnet, and I didn't. I have the movie, and I'm in it, and I don't have it on, so I know I didn't wear it. But, halfway through the thing...

TM: That was a huge earner for you.

JT: Oh, yeah.

TM: You know, you could put that money in a college fund, and do fairly well!

JT: Yeah, and I did! That was great. We had one little girl, Cleis Coburn -- she was much younger than me. And she was like four or five; and I was -- hmm -- in '57 I was eleven? And so she was younger, but she was this cute little blonde. And she later on, they used her again in the movie "4:10 to Yuma." So, but she was from there; and she gets killed off in the movie, too. We all -- all the locals got killed off; we got attacked by Indians. But that one outfit, I ended up getting in big trouble because I tore mine. Because when they were shooting scenes, that didn't have the group in them, I got to know Tommy Rettig, and he and I were rock climbers. We climbed all over those rocks! Merry Go Round Rocks. We had so much fun, I just remember; just a couple kids playing in the rocks, you know. But I did tear my dress, and I had to get a new one, you know, and, boy, I got in big trouble for that. So; but, yeah; and that was a really great movie. It was a big deal, for us kids, you know, to be making movies. They made movies in Sedona, but I don't think we paid much attention 'til they actually used so many locals to be all the people in the wagon train.

TM: Do you think that the filming, in Sedona, helped to -- in a small part, or a medium part, or a large part -- to bring more tourism to Sedona?

JT: Absolutely. Absolutely, that's how it started; cause it would say, you know: "Filmed in

Sedona, Arizona, blah, blah, blah." In this movie, the night that we all got attacked and killed by Indians, there were two young couples, and Tommy Rettig, who sneaked away from the wagon train and went -- they were playing in Slide Rock. So it was filmed; and they did a filming in Slide Rock. And then when they came back, in the movie, when they came back to the camp, all of us had been killed. So, their place had been attacked while they were playing; but it did show them playing in Slide Rock. And, you know -- nobody knew about that then! We were playing down there all the time alone; and after that, there were always other people there; it got to be real popular. So, but yeah, that was, I think... all of those movies...

TM: When do you think tourism really took off in Sedona? As you look back on it now?

JT: I would say in the... Well, it became a lot better known in the 70s, when we had a whole lot of hippy population come in. And they started all of that vortex business, and all this kind of stuff, which we all thought was a bunch of hooey. But I was -- in the 60s, I graduated from high school in the 60s, and our road was still a dirt road; we still hung out with the same kids. My dad -- because we didn't have much to do -- we started doing, watching "American Bandstand," as young teens. And so there was this group of us -- there's about ten, maybe -- that were in -- some a year younger than we, some a year older than we. But we would get together, and we would do dances, at each other's houses. Once a month, usually, I think. Anyway, so, my dad, we didn't have a place for that at our house, so my dad enclosed our carport, and painted the cement slab, and built a fireplace at one end, and everything. Just so we would have a place for the teens. And I, the same kids that I see all the time, we were, you know, crushes on each other, and we would dance to all the 50s music; and, you know, my mom would serve Chex Mix and Coca Colas. And it was just! And it was a get-together; something for us kids to look forward to every month, and to get-together and do. So that was real fine. We bought a ranch, close to us; Earl van Deren's cattle ranch went for sale. And my dad really thought that would be great; he could keep horses, we could live in this ranch. So we put a "For Sale" sign on our house for 30,000, and it was way too high; nobody was interested. But we bought the ranch, and I kept my horse up there; I had a horse. My dad could use it also, cause he was in the sheriff's posse, and they used horses still. And we had a barn, and we had, sometimes we had barn dances up there; where the kids could sit on the hay bales, and we could play the record player and dance and stuff. So, at that was mainly our biggest entertainment, that's all we had.

TM: Can you tell me a little bit about the van Derens?

JT: They were a big family, of, of pioneers, down there; they'd been down there for years. In fact, the property that we built our house on was part of his range land, that he sold off. And he was a real good friend of ours, a real working cowboy. If you ever go to that museum, the Sedona Museum, there's a whole room of "The Cowboy." And I knew every one of 'em! And I went in just recently, by myself, just to take a look at -- there's a whole room full of cowboys, and they're talking about all of these individual cowboys that made Sedona what it was in the ranching days. And, of course, the van Derens are prominent in there. But he owned a house that's straight at the top -- well, you go down Jordan Road, and then up. And now there's fancy, fancy houses up there now; but that was the only house right there. And so we kept -- I could

walk, from my house to there; so every day after school, when I had my horse, I had to go up and ride my horse, and groom it, and feed it; get it set for the night. And I would ride it all over those hills! All by myself. I went out to the old movie set, and rode around out there, and just all kinds of things; that was a great thing to have. But we bought the land from van Deren. But their...

TM: Okay. The, I'm assuming that cattle, they would've run cattle all through the Verde Valley?

JT: Oh, yeah.

TM: And this could be some fairly large spreads.

JT: Yes. And he also owned land in another state. Was it Colorado? Or -- I don't; something like that. I'll have to -- I can check on that. But he also had ranches in other places; and then they would bring them for winter range, and for summer range, and that kind of stuff. And so, Sedona was a good place to come for winter range; we didn't have a lot of, snow and stuff... So, and that area where we built our house, didn't have a tree one. And it was just flat, grassy land; and so, you know, I have pictures of my dad building our house, and the view all the way around it. There's not another house anywhere; you know, it's just Jordan's Orchard is across on one side, and the rest of it is just bare. But now, of course, you can hardly see the Red Rocks for all the trees people have planted.

TM: Jannie, I want to go back for a minute. You mentioned a conveyor belt for apple sorting. Was, would the -- the Jordans, they would've -- they weren't the only orchard; would all the orchards bring their apples to a central processing place, and kinda combine them all?

JT: No. I think each one of them had their own place. So. And the one at the Jordan's is still in the apple shed, at the museum; with the boxes stacked beside it, ready to be loaded, and fake apples, sitting on the conveyor belt, so the people can see how the system worked. It's a great museum; if you get a chance you should go down there.

TM: Yeah, yeah. And then from there, the apples, they woulda trucked them off to Phoenix, I suppose, for sale, or...?

JT: Flagstaff, or Flagstaff; those old wagons...

TM: So horse-drawn, up 89?

JT: Yeah, yeah. Once it was a good enough road to drive up, they would go up 89.

TM: Okay. So you had to be kind a careful when you were driving your car, that you'd come 'round the corner and there'd be a wagon going two miles an hour.

JT: That could happen. Yeah. I just today was looking online and somebody'd posted a picture

of the downtown of Sedona in the 50s. And there's a couple working cowboys at the Shell station, with their horses; just standing there! But we did have cowboys in town all the time, you know; they were just normal to us, but they were cowboys. Even though we were big Roy Rogers fans, when we finally got a black-and-white TV; we didn't associate that fact as the same thing as what our cowboys were!

TM: Did you ever meet someone name Dick Sprang?

JT: Yes, I did meet Dick Sprang; he was a friend of my family.

TM: Can you tell me about... about your recollections of Dick?

JT: Okay. My brother and I, both we were talking about Dick at Christmas; and we both remembered going to their home, in a neighborhood called Back of Beyond. I know they lived down at the Doodlebug, or at least lived down at the Doodlebug Ranch; but then when we started actually visiting them, they had a house in a neighborhood called Back of Beyond. Which is still there, on the one that's 79, that goes out to the freeway. And in that house, he had a studio where he did his drawings. And we were comic book kids, in those days; didn't have much else, TV time or anything else, so. So we were just fascinated with watching him; and he would draw on his easel, so that we could see. And the panels were big! They were big, like -- I don't know -- two-and-a-half feet by two-and-a-half feet? Something like that. Big pictures! And he would draw this great picture, and my brother would watch him for hours. And part of the time I watched, and then I would go off with Dudy, and she would let me use her piano; which she left to me in her will; I have it here in my home. Yeah. And...

TM: Oh, my gosh! And she was Dudy Thomas, before she married Dick.

JT: Yeah. And we never called her Dudy Strang; she was Dudy Thomas, always. And so, I don't know if, you know, independent woman that kept their maiden names were unknown to us in those days. But she was one. She kept Dudy Thomas as her name. So, but my parents would visit with Dick and stuff; and my dad had his heart attack, Dick drew a picture. Said, 'Dear Jim, Lawyers don't have heart attacks, only their patients!' And my dad had; and I have that at the house. So they were pretty good friends, especially with my parents; and with us, we just thought they were great. And, we went out to visit them quite often, you know; and we'd have, like, lemonade and cookies outside in the yard, and that kind of stuff, with them. And then we went to Utah -- I guess it is? -- where they moved to? And I have that little video clip, of us in Utah, at their house with them; so we went up and spent some time visiting with them.

TM: What else do you remember about Dudy?

JT: Dudy? Dudy was -- she was an amazing person!

TM: How so?

JT: She had been all over the Indian lands, you know; I... I have a whole folder, actually, marked "Dudy Thomas." And she was out all over the Indian lands, and she studied a lot about what was going on out there. It was... Okay. Hm, mm, mm. There was another guy that was very famous for being out in the Indian lands, also; and they went with him -- I forgot his name; it's somewhere. Harry Aleson. And so they would, go around to archeological places, and records all kinds of things, and take pictures; and she was with him on all of that stuff.

And so, she had all kinds of stuff. She gave me -- gave my dad, actually -- a couple of great big, huge pictures of -- couple of them are photographs -- by another famous artist [JT: Fredrick Monson]; and, of a Navajo hogan, with a family that, it was one man, and there were two women, and a bunch of little kids. And it said the man's brother had died, and so he married the widow, and kept both wives, and took care of both of them. And that's kind of a famous picture, I found in an artist, in a museum somewhere, that picture. But I have, but I know, that they did a lot of stuff up there; and I don't know if they ever knew the artist, or not; but they're black and white. Later on, the artist's daughter-in-law color-coded them -- tinted them.

So, but yeah, Dudy was, she was, I think, probably very strong and tough, because she was just all over that area. They went through the Grand Canyon, and Glen Canyon, and San Juan River, and all of those kinds of places. So, she boated a lot.

TM: She boated with Harry and Dick; the three of them did a bunch of month-long river trips in Glen Canyon. In that time period -- in the mid-1950s, before she...

JT: Yeah. And they supposedly discovered Defiance House, which is an Anasazi ruin. And, so, she was just, I think, amazing and fascinating, when she talked; my mother was just fascinated with her stories.

TM: Nice. And do you remember, do you remember Mickey, the cat?

JT: [Laughs.] Um, I might've, I'm not -- I don't remember that we spent a lot of time; but I do know that there was one. There was a cat around.

TM: Yeah, they had a dog named Pard, and a cat named Mickey; and Pard and Mickey went on their river trips!

JT: Oh, my goodness, that's great. Gosh, that's great. Now I don't take them in the car or anywhere without a leash.

TM: And I just, you know, it makes me wonder about Dudy, and, you know, wanting to know a little bit more about her.

JT: Yeah, she had to be really a strong, energetic, outdoor, Annie Oakley-type gal.

TM: Yeah. And of course Dick was writing the Batman cartoon.

JT: Right, it was a Batman he was drawing. In fact, I just saw a comic book that's been on sale, on the news; it had Batman and Robin on the cover. And it just sold for -- pfft -- tons of, a million dollars or something. But I looked, when that came up, I looked, I said, Hey! And so, it just clicked with me; and I think maybe he was even drawing that one. When we were there. So, my brother was... was totally fascinated by him and his drawings; and he always...

TM: Did your brother become inspired to become an artist? You know, from watching Dick?

JT: No; no. He didn't. He is an internationally-known brain research neurologist. And he goes all over the world. I've traveled to other countries with him, because he's been invited to come and share his knowledge with those countries.

TM: That's wonderful.

JT: And it was a free trip! So I go! You said, you want to go with me to Italy? Do you want to go with me to Portugal? How about going to Oxford [JT: It was Cambridge.], England -- I mean the university. So, yeah, so, I've been around with him. So, but...

TM: So, another river runner that they boated with, I wanted to bring in, who was a Sedona resident, was Elmer Purtyman.

JT: Yes, I knew Elmer Purtyman, too. And he actually owned a hotel; it was just, I grew up calling it Purtyman's Hotel; it may have had a name, but that was Purtyman's Hotel. Just, just before you enter Sedona; it was off to the right, and they just recently tore it down. They're building something else in there. But he had this little hotel over there, and he was well known in town; I mean, my dad -- my dad's office was right on the main drag, across the street from the Oak Creek Tavern. In those days, they had what they called the Four O'clock Club. And all the guys, in town, that knew each other and stuff, would go over and have a beer after work at four o'clock. And all the cowboy artists -- knew all of them -- all of those guys went over there and had a, you know, they'd visit in Oak Creek Tavern. And Elmer Purtyman is one that would go over there. And so, at all the get-togethers, you know, we did a lot of stuff with the sheriff's posse, and everybody belonged to the sheriff's posse. And, you know, we just all knew each other. So. He was quite a character, though, I thought; he was a funny little guy. He had, at one point, one summer, he setup a movie projector, on the grounds of his hotel. And we all went, sat on the ground, and watched Ma and Pa Kettle, "The Egg and I." Two or three of us have been talking about it: 'Remember the scene in "The Egg and I," at Purtyman's Hotel?' So, and everything like that was kind of a big deal to us, because it was so unusual; it was something new and different for us... So, cause it was just such a little town, and nobody really knew about it, and it was just the same local people all the time.

TM: Uh-huh. And the population would've been a few hundred? I'm trying to think -- what do you think the population was?

JT: When we moved, to Sedona, we went to get a post office box, in the little post office

downtown. The postmistress happened to be my cousin [JT: Frankie Tanner.]. You know, my dad had a brother, and his wife passed away right away after World War II, of cancer. But her mother was the postmistress, in the post office in Sedona. And so my cousin would come down and stay with her, and then she and I would get to run around together. So, but when we first moved down there, we went to the post office to get a post office box, and we got, like, the highest number, that was in the boxes. And it was two-seven-six (276). So, it was really little when we first moved there. And we saw it grow, but it was mostly people like us, you know. That were just ordinary, you know; the people we bought our clothes from the dress store, on the main street; main drag, going through town, you know; our groceries were in the grocery store, next door to the bar. You know, it was just a little town, and everybody was coagulated pretty much in that downtown area. There were homes out in West Flag, and West Sedona -- just a few, you know. Like I said, those kids ended up going to Cottonwood to go to high school; but those kids came to our school. And so there were a few homes, but everything that went on that was an activity for us to do, was in town. So.

TM: Okay. I do want to go back to Harry Aleson. Did you ever meet Harry?

JT: I don't know. I was too young to really pay attention. I met other people around them, but I don't remember which one would've been him. I imagine he was around.

TM: Right. He stayed -- actually did some work for them -- in Sedona one year. But then as you say, they moved and then Dudy had a brain tumor, and she passed away. And then Dick stayed up in Utah, remarried.

JT: Yeah, we met; and we knew her, too. She was a good friend of my mom's.

TM: That's Elizabeth?

JT: Dick and... Ah; is that the last wife he had?

TM: I'm not sure.

JT: The last wife he had, anyway, they lived in Sedona for a little while, and then moved to Jerome. And I think she stayed in Jerome. So, but yeah, that's the only one I met -- the last wife. But she was a good friend of my mom's; cause, of course, Dick, when he brought the new wife home to Sedona, introduced her to his friends; and, of course, we were some of those friends. And I had inherited Dudy's piano, and she had given my dad those paintings; from photographs, I guess they are, big photographs. They're big! Like four feet by four feet. I have them stored in my house in Sedona; I just keep thinking, What do I do with them? You know. Because I'm sure that it's worth something, to somebody, but I don't know what to do with it. But, a...

TM: Well, there's the Sedona Museum there; that's, you know, that, so; yeah.

JT: Yeah. But it's, that's Sedona history and this is close to reservation history.

TM: This is going to be more Monument Valley, yeah.

JT: Yeah, yeah.

TM: Probably; that's a good question. Wow. Who else in Sedona, Sedona family, have we not talked about that we should?

JT: Oh; gee. I don't remember... anybody else that would've been necessarily involved in any of their doings. You know, Elmer, of course.

TM: Right, cause he was running Glen Canyon; and he ran a trip in Grand Canyon, I think, '54, but it mighta been earlier; right around in there. Ended up having this pretty bad wrangle-tangle with Donnie van Deren, his nephew; who he told...

JT: Lot of those families were all inter-twined in marriage, you know.

TM: Yeah; I guess he told his sister that he would not take Donnie through any rapid he couldn't scout. And there were a couple he couldn't scout, so he decided to hike with Donnie from Hance Rapid to Phantom Ranch. And there was no trail back in those days, to speak of; and it's about 30 miles, in-and-out, and in-and-out, and in-and-out. And they -- Donnie actually made it to Phantom, and the river runners ran the rapids and got down to Phantom and waited. And then Donnie came in, and they got a mule from the Fred Harvey people and went up and rescued Elmer.

JT: I remember hearing that.

TM: Yeah! It was quite the fascinating story, but I was like, Oh, my gosh. But yeah, I -- as we're talking about Sedona, I just wanted to make sure we don't miss, miss anyone that you remember as a child there, that was, you know, a part -- a fixture of the community, if you will.

JT: Right, right.

TM: Dr. Schnur, and the van Derens, and, and, you know, the Jordans and the Pendleys, and, and you guys, of course.

JT: Yeah. And there were, there was a lot of families that, you know, were... Harold Longfellow was a judge; his wife was one of the teachers at the high school.

TM: And he would of worked a lot with your father, I would assume, being a lawyer.

JT: Uh-huh. Yeah.

TM: Was there a court in Sedona, then?

JT: No, they had to go to Flagstaff, for court. And my dad's brother would take court cases; but my dad did not. He just simply did the necessary paperwork for people's lives -- their wills, and deeds, and divorces; those kinds of things, you know.

TM: Oh, okay. So he wasn't a prosecutor per se, or a...

JT: No, he hated that; he hated that. I just know he hated all those court things. And he was involved in a few; course, growing up, with his dad; and then, when he first was going to be a lawyer, in the company with his dad, and he had a couple cases that he sat in on. And he came home and he said, I just am not going to do that.

TM: Wow; okay. Good for him!

JT: Too much stress. And people are angry, and, you know, it's just. So, he was, it was a good way for us to be, because people just came in to him as a friendly person, you know. The helpful guy that does your deed; you know, he makes sure you get a copy of the deed, and tells you exactly how to go to the courthouse in Flagstaff and file the deed, and those kinds of things. But, and sometimes dad would do the filing for them, so. But he worked, like I told you before, he worked for a side of beef, or jars of pickles, things like that.

TM: Right. So he would barter, but as you say, he was a safe place, if you will, in the legal world.

JT: And he knew what was going on in everybody's life, because they would all come in to him for advice. You know -- well, I've got a neighbor that he's planted a tree on my side of the fence -- what do you think I should do? And my dad would, he would be like, I always think Andy Griffiths. He'd go out there, and talk to the guy. Say, well, let's see if we can't settle this, you know, and work something out. And it was just, it was so much easier; and everybody liked him for that, you know, because he was just a good old boy. So.

TM: Nice. Well, a mediator, if you will.

JT: Yes, definitely that. I remember him telling about some lady that lived alone, down by the creek, in this rattletrap shack that was on little stilts. And underneath -- and they had a really difficult time talking to her, because there was so much noise -- and there was all those thumpity-thump-thump-thump-thump down in the floor! And he kept at it; he asked her, he said, Have you got dogs or something living under there? What's making all that...? She said, Oh, no! She says, I've got a nest of rattlesnakes down there, and they're just bumping their heads on the floor! Dad came home, telling my mom; he said, Man, when I walked out the door, I made the biggest jump you ever saw anybody make. Yeah. So, it was fun. My dad died young, so we'd only really been there ten years; when he... passed away; so.

TM: Is that why you left Sedona?

JT: No, I -- when my dad passed away, I was married and living in Flagstaff.

TM: Oh, okay.

JT: I married young. Fresh out of high school and, big mistake. And it didn't last. I married a Babbitt, and that made it a big deal. So.

TM: Yes, it would.

JT: Yeah, in those days, it was a big deal. It was three years, and I had two kids. Then I married Turner; so, after. And he, he was killed, in a motorcycle accident; so.

TM: All right. Maybe, this is a good place to put a comma in this oral history...

JT: Okay.

TM: And we can talk about, next time, how it was that you left Sedona; cause it sounds like a pretty nice place. And why would one wanna leave?

JT: Yeah. Well... But my mother never did; she still -- she stayed, 'til she passed away. And then we still have her house, and we still go there.

TM: Okay; nice.

JT: Yeah.

TM: And you haven't gotten us to the Grand Canyon yet.

JT: Yeah, I haven't gotten you to the Grand Canyon yet. Actually, I went to the Grand Canyon a lot as a kid. Yeah. My brother went up and down it many times, because he was with Boy Scouts, and they used to do that. Every year they had an annual trek down into the Grand Canyon, and spent some time down there, and then trekked out of there. So, those little Boy Scouts were big hikers.

TM: So I'll wanna hear all about that!

JT: Okay!

TM: Nice. Anything else you want to add to this interview, as we wrap it up?

JT: No, I think that's it.

TM: Okay. Well with that, this will conclude Part 2 of a Grand Canyon oral history with Jannie Turner. Today is Wednesday, February 23, 2022. My name is Tom Martin, and, Jannie, thank you so very much.

JT: Sure! Check your email for that picture.