

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewee: Mary Hoover (MH)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: South Rim Village Life 1940s-1970s

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Transcriber: Casey Dell

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Transcription Reviewers: Sue Priest and Tom Martin

Keys: Jo Scheier, Buford and Myra Belgard, Ruth Stephens Baker, Dr. Leo Schnur, Francis and Etta Sheffer, Harriet Sinyella, Robert "Vic" Slayton, Judge Stanley and Ragnhilde Stephens, James Stewart, Merle Stitt, Jack Verkamp, Jessie and Minnie Bell Sutton, Dorothy, Ken Sr., Ken Jr., and Melvin Talakte, and others

TM: Today is September 30, 2014. We're at the home of Mary Katherine Hoover in Williams, Arizona and continuing on with our series of interviews with Mary. Did you have any more questions about this stuff?

MH: No. I guess I'll put this all back together.

TM: That picture makes perfect sense. So, we were talking about Jo Scheier. There are some photographs that you showed me some weeks ago about a – it was a big theatrical show at the community center.

MH: Yeah, she wasn't in that.

TM: That's not – is she Little Jo or is Little Jo someone else?

MH: No, Little Jo is somebody else. Little Jo was a hostess at the Bright Angel. Jo Scheier was a nurse at the hospital. She's the one that had the four boys and a girl. She had six boys, actually, but the twins died at birth and then she had twins again.

TM: You would travel with her to Kansas?

MH: We would travel together. Sometimes we'd stay at her mother's house in Spearville and sometimes I'd let her off at her sister's house in Dodge City. If Myra was with us, why we were driving Myra's car and I'd drive her on to either Newton or Hutchinson. Her mother lived in Newton and her parents and Buford's parents lived in Hutchison. So when we were driving back, we came to Hutchison first and sometimes I left her off there. Sometimes I stayed overnight there, sometimes I got a plane or a train and went on to Kansas City to see my folks.

TM: How many years did you go back and forth with her?

MH: We started when Karen was little, before she had Becky. So that was in 19... Karen was born in '55, so it was probably, we started... No, not Karen was not born in '55, Becky was born in '55. We had Karen with us. She was probably 4 or 5 years old, there's a 7 year difference. So we probably started in about '52 traveling together. Jo didn't always travel with us, we started out later traveling all three of us and the three little girls, which was a carload, especially because Myra liked to take a lot of clothes. I don't

think she wore half of them. In case she got invited to this or that, she wanted something to wear. So we would take a... we went to the... When you come into the state of Arizona, they want to look in your trunk of your car. We went through that inspection thing and this man, he said, "Do you have any fruit in the back of the car?" I said, "No." He said, "I'll have to look." So I went out and opened up the back of the car and he said, "Oh, we'll just forget it this time." It was so full of clothes, if there was fruit there, he wouldn't have found it anyway. But anyhow, we always came and went with a lot of clothes. Sometimes she'd trade clothes with her sister because her sister and she were about the same size. And she loves shoes. She had to have a pair of shoes for every dress she took.

TM: This was Myra?

MH: Myra, yeah. Jo was like me, we were old farm kids. It didn't make any difference to me if I had one pair of shoes or two. Jo would put everything she had in a brown paper bag and we'd take off. Her family were from Spearville. Her mother had a house there and sometimes we stayed at this little house. Her mother was still living but she was living with her daughter because she had Alzheimer's. She was living in Dodge City and eventually she was put in a home in Garden City. There was a Catholic home there and they put her there. I think I told you that at first she was so restless because she didn't have anything around her that was hers. So Jo told her sister, you take her her chair and her bible and her prayer book and her lamp and her table so she has her furniture there. She was perfectly content after that. She lived there for several years. She had a – I think it was a great granddaughter – that was a nurse there. She didn't know her but she always looked after her. She didn't realize who she was.

TM: Right, that she was family.

MH: Yes, she was a young girl.

TM: What did Jo's husband do?

MH: He worked on the vehicles for the Park Service. He and Dick Patton and I don't know who all else. I don't know what he did before he came here and I don't know if he was working for the Park Service when he came. I know he was in the army.

TM: Second World War?

MH: I don't know where they met or anything.

TM: Ok, that was my next question. Where did they meet?

MH: One time we drove home and she had lost a brother-in-law. He had been killed. His truck broke down on a curve. He got out and he opened the door, another truck came around and went around him. There was another one behind it and he didn't see him. He hit the door, the brother-in-law, and it killed him. It was just a half a mile or so from home. It was close to home. So anyhow, his wife, who was Jo's sister, was selling all their stock. We stayed overnight there and all night long I heard them putting cattle in trucks. They must have had a lot of cattle. She was trying to selling everything off. These truckers came late in the evening and started loading them up to go early the next morning. We stayed there overnight. I don't know what happened to that sister. Jo had kind of a large family I think. She had a brother that ran the silo, took care of the silo at Spearville, grain silo. I think that's what the family business was because there were 2 or 3 silos there. I don't know if one person could handle all that. I

don't know if they had a grist mill or anything else with it, but they must have, because usually if you have a silo and you have grain, you have a mill for it.

Jo had a real good sense of humor most of the time. But she was all nervous. When she was your nurse, she wasn't your friend, she was your nurse. And she told it like it was, "You're being a baby, Mary." Sometimes I hurt and I'd cry. Usually not, I could take a lot of pain, but sometimes I did cry. She was my nurse several times. It was funny, the nurses would all come to Jo when they had trouble with their kids. One girl had been a nurse for several years. She had small children and one of them got sick one day. She called up and she said, "Jo, I don't know what to do. My little boy is sick. Tell me what to do." So Jo told her what she'd do and it took care of it. I don't know what it was but anyhow, she was always the one that they went to because I guess she was a little bit older and had that authority.

TM: She'd had kids of her own.

MH: Yeah. You always trusted her, whatever she came up with, you trusted her.

TM: How long did she work there at the hospital?

MH: I think they left in the 50s. I think the boys probably, the older ones graduated from there but the younger ones, the twins, probably didn't. And little Mary didn't. She finished school in Lake Havasu. They bought a home and they retired there. Lawrence, he died of cancer. They had a pool and he loved to lie in the pool because your body is buoyant and he liked that feeling. So he'd spend the whole day in the pool because it was so comfortable for him. He was in a lot of pain I think. Jo had cancer and her daughter had cancer. I think the boys were all okay with it. So many people at Grand Canyon that lived there in the 50s and 60s got cancer. It was from the uranium mine. They didn't cover that when they went through town. It was one of those things. But anyhow, they went down there and Jo volunteered. She loved working in the thrift shop for the church down there. The St. Vincent de Paul thrift shop, it was connected to her church. She'd say, "You have to come down and go shopping with me. They have the best things in here." I never did make it. I was to her house a couple times but we were just going down and coming right back so I never did make it out to that church. She was Catholic, too, and I was Catholic so we had a lot in common. Myra, at the Canyon, was Methodist and down here she was Methodist but she had a Catholic background. Her grandparents on her mother's side were Catholic. They were left orphans. When Fern was 15 her grandparents died. I don't know how they died but they died.

TM: Fern was Myra's mother?

MH: Fern was Myra's mother. Her parents had died. She was an orphan when she was 15. She went to work at the Fred Harvey laundry. Harry was from an English family and he worked on the Santa Fe railroad at night. He was the yardman at night. I don't know exactly what yardmen have to do. I think they have to get the railroad cars ready to go out the next morning. Then they have a switchman and Buford's, who is Myra's husband, his uncle was the night switchman. He's the one that switched the cars around. They were all connected with the rail road with Fred Harvey.

TM: So Buford's uncle knew Fern's husband, is that how that worked? Did Fern – you mentioned the English guy – did they get together?

MH: Fern married Harry.

TM: Did Harry know Buford's uncle?

MH: Oh yes, and aunt. When I went back to Kansas... When I first came out to Arizona, they didn't need me that fall and they wanted somebody to go to Newton to work the night shift. Don't ever take a night shift if you don't have to.

TM: In Newton, Kansas!

MH: In Newton, Kansas. The housing was above the train depot. There was a girl that worked, I think she worked over in Wichita, she went to the same church I did. She said, "Why don't you come out and live with me, you're not getting any rest." So I moved in with her for about 2.5 months or so and then I came back out. I was working for Fred Harvey at that time. They only had one person on at night at the counter and the baker. So there were only two employees there at night. If I had any problem or anything, the baker was a really nice guy, he'd come out and help me. He baked the bread and he taught the bakers. He taught bakers for Fred Harvey and he was very good at it. His name was Bible. I can't remember his first name. Frank Bible. He was just a very, very pleasant person to work with. I had an incident with a man one time and I was scared of him. He didn't live there, he lived in Hutchison. I'd had a run in with him in Hutchison and I was scared of him because he got fired over the incident that we had. One evening he walked in and I went back and I said, "Frank, would you go wait on that man that's out there?" He said, "Sure Mary." Then he came back and he said, "What happened with you two?" I said, "He did something and he blamed me and he threw something at me and our boss fired him." He said it was my fault and it wasn't my fault. He blamed me for putting dishes that had creamed stuff, like creamed peas, stacked them and left them there. He was the morning dishwasher and he couldn't get them apart. He was mad. When he did get a couple of them apart, he threw them at me and they hit the wall and broke. That's how hard he threw it. So the boss came back and fired him. He never forgave me. I used to see him and I was so scared. I'd see him going down the street and I'd hurry in and get behind the desk at the hotel or go in the dining room or the kitchen and get out of the front of the hotel because he wouldn't go in the back.

TM: So Fern's husband, Henry, was the night switch man. Was that at Grand Canyon or in Kansas?

MH: In Kansas – in Newton. Everything with Fred Harvey is connected. Right now they have a new museum going in at Topeka. My niece sent me a folder about it. A girlfriend of hers remembered talking about her Aunt Mary being a Harvey girl. When her daughter was working there in Topeka she was given this folder and she sent it out to me. They're building a museum there. It's going to have a veteran's museum and a Harvey Girl museum and a Santa Fe museum all in the old Harvey House, at the station there. The first real Harvey House was at Topeka, Kansas. It didn't have rooms. It had a restaurant and curios and stuff like that. That was one of the big things, at one time, was to go to the Harvey House wherever you lived. At Hutchison when I was there and in Newton when I was there, a lot of local people came in because it was a nice clean place and they got good food there and they were well waited on. Sometimes we'd wait on trains coming through because the passenger trains, maybe something had happened and they didn't have heat or something to cook with and they'd stop. I had this very nice lady one morning, I was supposed to be off work and they said, "Will you help us? We have this train coming in and they're going to stop to eat?" So I said, "OK." I was supposed to be off work and I was tired. This lady ordered a cup of tea with cream. She wanted cream with it. I had to carry some other things and so I stacked the cream on the saucer with the cup. As I leaned over, I knocked the cream off all over this lady's beautiful suit. I was so upset. She was so nice. That made it worse. If she would've got mad at me, it would've been easier because I really fouled up. But anyway, she was on the

train. She says, "I have clothes out on the train, I'll just go change." She was very pleasant and nice. I just was flabbergasted that I had done that. Usually people are nice to you.

TM: It was a simple mistake. You don't like it when it happens, but...

MH: Yeah, it happens. Like I said, I shouldn't have even been there to start with but they had so many people coming in off the train it worked that way. Anyhow, to get back to Jo... I think Jo was up with her daughter Mary when she died. They cremated her body and they brought her ashes and put them on top of her... I don't know, they might have buried her ashes. I don't know what the boys did, you never know. But they did take them out to the cemetery at Grand Canyon. On Lawrence's they took part of them up where he hunted. He liked to hunt. They took part of his ashes up where he hunted and then they brought the others and put them on top of the twins, their first kid's that died in infancy, they put the ashes there.

TM: Do you know where he liked to hunt?

MH: Well, they used to go all over. They hunted around here. There was a bunch of guys from Grand Canyon—there was Oscar Willis and Big Jake, Buford, and Jack Verkamp and Lawrence. They'd all go hunting together. Sometimes they'd go down on the east side of the state, McNary, up in that area. They'd go up there and hunt and sometimes they'd just hunt fairly locally. Over the years, I don't know that the other guys hunted for buffalo. Actually, you don't hunt for the buffalo, they chase a bunch of buffalos out and say shot that one. Anyhow, Buford had an elk head, he had deer heads, he had pheasants, he had all these animals. Myra wouldn't let him bring them home. She said I'm not going to have those animals in my house, so they went down to the laundry. I don't know if it's still there, but one of his elk heads was up at the El Tovar on the wall, up above the mezzanine there. He had a wild boar. They took Eli's wild boar and put it in the dining room down at the Bright Angel – the head, in that extension dining room. They had a name for it but I don't know what it is, I can't remember.

TM: So, back up a minute. In the laundry, when Buford was managing the laundry, his trophy heads were adorning the walls of the laundry?

MH: Some of them were adorning the laundry walls, yes. Because Myra wouldn't let him bring them home. He had this Mr. Erickson who was a friend of his down at Prescott. He was a taxidermist and he mounted the heads for him. He just thought that was the best old thing in the whole world. So he had all these heads and then his father had some little animals that he had had the taxidermist take care of back home. I can't remember what all they were but he used to go hunting back home. There weren't very many deer. They transplanted deer from Arizona into Missouri and Kansas. Now there's a lot of deer where my sister's home was. It was nothing to wake up in the morning and have a bunch of deer all eating your grass. Even elk would come through the yard. They were transplanted from Arizona at one time. They took a whole bunch of them and took them back there. Everybody at Grand Canyon used to go hunting. It was just the thing to do. Even I went hunting once.

TM: Did you hunt for sport or were you hunting for food – or both?

MH: Well, it was like this – I had never gone hunting and the deputy sheriff said, "Would you like to go hunting?" I said, "Yeah, I'd kind of like to." I had never shot a gun. I had one at home under the bed I never used. I never took it out. I don't know who gave it to me. One of my brothers most likely. Anyhow, it was under my bed and that's where it stayed. I never took it out. My sister's kids all pretty much hunted. Patty didn't because that didn't appeal to her. She didn't like to be around the animals, period.

TM: Was this your sister Patty?

MH: No, my niece Patty. So she never shot a gun. Some of the other girls did, but most of them, when they got old enough, they went off to the city and worked and weren't at home when the people went hunting. But the boys always hunted. My oldest nephew was such a good shot that when he went in the army, they put Clyde training rifleman. He could break a rifle down and put it back together and shoot in so many... He was an expert rifleman, in other words. He was at Ft. Riley, Kansas for 3 years. He never went away from home because Ft. Riley was 100 and some miles from his home. So he went home and spent his weekends with his wife and kids, which was great. But everybody else was going overseas. He had wanted to go overseas but they kept him there because he was such a good shot and everything and he could really train them. He hunted squirrels and rabbits and they used to clean them. During the depression he was just a little kid when they first took them to Kansas City and sold them. They had to get a special permit and they had to clean them and they had to have them inspected and everything to make sure they didn't have any disease or anything. They would clean them and take them up and sell them to the restaurants in Kansas City. I think they had a distributor that actually sold them but they did take them up there. They'd take the backseat out of the car. They had something they put in there, it was a tank like thing they put in there and it had to be scarred out every time. My sister learned to clean things very well. But anyhow, they sold them there. One year that's all the income they had because crops were no good. There was no rain and nothing grew. So they really had a hard time.

My sister never worked out until she was older. She was working out when she was young. She worked at a hospital for a while but then she never took any training. She was like an aide. In her later life, she took some courses and she became a nurse in a nursing home. She did that for about 20 years. My brother-in-law, they decided to move to town. My mother moved in with them when she was 80, I guess. She was there for four years, I think. Maybe almost 5, I don't know. They lived in Ottawa. That's where my mother and dad met was Ottawa. She thought she knew her way around. One day my sis wasn't home and she wanted something from the store. She went downtown and she got turned around and she couldn't find her way back. This town that she'd lived in as a bride and as a young person and three of the kids were born there. But anyhow, she found a barbershop. A barbershop was a safe place to go to her, because her brother was a barber. He was a barber for many, many years at Ottawa. So she saw in this barbershop and she went in and said, "Will you call me a taxi?" When she got in, she told the taxi guy where she wanted to go and he said, "Well you're only about 3 or 4 blocks." She said, "I don't care, just take me there." So he took her there because she was so afraid that she'd get lost. She was so turned around. She didn't go uptown by herself, she always went in the car with my sister. My sister took her where she wanted to go. She didn't have to hunt for where she wanted to go.

TM: And things change over 60 years.

MH: I get lost in Flagstaff. I really get lost in Prescott.

TM: Well, that's interesting. I'm just kind of wondering, where would Lawrence – where would have been his best hunting ground?

MH: I think over by McNary was all their best, Hannigan Meadow and that area. They loved to go up there. The whole bunch of them would go. They always teased Jack and Lawrence because they were Catholic and they couldn't go hunting on Sunday morning because they had to go to church. The rest of them didn't go to church so that was OK.

TM: Did Buford get his buffalo? Did he go out to the House Rock Valley?

MH: He went to House Rock. So he had buffalo, elk...

TM: We saw the picture of the pronghorn.

MH: He had all of those animals. Like I said, Myra wouldn't have them around.

TM: That's funny. I could see them in the laundry. So who are the Schick's?

MH: Fred and Jeanne. She was the daughter of Ed Cummings, the Cummings. She married him. I don't think Fred ever lived up at the Canyon. Both of them were in service. I don't know if that's when they met but when they came home she was in the... I think she was a WAC. I don't know. She might have been a WAVE. There were three girls. Does it say, "WAVE" here?

TM: It says WAVE there.

MH: Yeah, she was a WAVE. Three girls from Grand Canyon went and signed up at the same time. Two of them were Grace Moore's daughters. Two of the girls lived down in Sedona.

TM: Was Jeanne one of the three?

MH: Yeah, one of the three. But she went in as a WAVE and I think the other two went in as WACs.

TM: Remind me again what a WAVE is.

MH: It's women's – I can't remember exactly what it means. It's the women's part of the Navy. They had to go down to Phoenix and be sworn in and then they didn't take them right away. But every weekend for three weekends, they had a going away party because these girls were celebrating going in the service and they all had – everybody was having parties for them. They did go in. Ida Cummings was her mother. Ida lived with her when she was older and Ed had died. She had no other family. At that time they were living in Phoenix. Jeanne would take her mother out to the tracks because she loved the horse races. She bet her two dollars and when she won, you knew it! She'd write you a note and say, "I won!" This little – she was a real matronly looking lady. She was short and kind of stout built. I just couldn't see her yelling at the races but I guess she did. She said you couldn't hold her back. When she'd get excited – she got excited. But anyway, that's who that was. He had been in service, too, but I don't know what he was in. They had a daughter and they went back and lived with her. Both of them, I think, died back there. I don't know where it was – some place in the south or the east. I think it was in the south. She was a really a nice person. I used to write to her. Well, I wrote to her mother and then when she was gone, I wrote to her, too. She was really into the Pioneer's Society.

TM: That was Jeanne?

MH: Yeah. I don't remember those other two girls' names. All I can think of is one of them is a Cole and the other one is a something with an "O"... a name with an "O". The older girl was Pinky and the next one was... I can think of her mother-in-law's name but I can't think of her name. Anyhow, they still lived down in Clarkdale. The older one lives in Clarkdale and the younger one lives in Cottonwood.

From them we went to Schmidt, Dale Lee Schmidt. He was a ranger. I don't remember him. I have no idea who he was.

Seebert's. They were the ones that lived next to Harold Miller and helped take care of his son when he was in an accident. Bernie was the one who drove the bus down to meet the train here. Although we had a train going up to the canyon, a lot of people rode the bus up. They had two buses sometimes. Sometimes just one, according to how many people they had wanting to go up on the bus. Employees could ride those buses and come down here and then you could stay over. When they brought people back the next day, you could get the bus back. It was a company thing so we got to ride it for free, which was nice.

TM: Bernie, that's Charles B?

MH: Yeah, Charles B is Bernie. They called it the stage coach and Jake drove that. Who was the other one? Charlie, Charlie Dunn drove a stage coach and then Ken Polson from down here drove. He drove up and back but he lived down here. He was from an old family, you see Polson on one of the buildings down here. That was the family he was from. His sister was married to a doctor that was here for years. They lived right over here across from the Methodist church.

TM: What do you remember about Bernie? Was he a big man or a little man?

MH: He was a big man. He was Bernice Meadows' father. They had two girls. One of them lived in California. I never saw her. Bernice worked at Grand Canyon and she lived with her folks until she got married to Clyde Meadows. Then they were in Kingman. No, when she married Tommy Burns they went to Kingman. That didn't work out, so she married Clyde who she met at Grand Canyon because she was a telephone operator. Bernie's wife never went out in the public. She was a recluse, you never saw her. Once in a while he'd take her for a ride and you'd see her in the car going down the street and maybe take her out to a point or someplace like that but she didn't like people. She didn't like to be around people. I never really saw her face to face. I knew who she was and I would've recognized her but I didn't know her.

Then we have Francis A. [Sheffer] who's second name was Anthony. Sometimes he'd go by Frank and sometimes he went by Francis and sometimes he went by Tony and sometimes by Anthony. He was a little short guy. He was a bus driver. He was from Ohio, I believe. He came out and he drove a bus. They had to put extensions on the pedals when he drove because he was so short he couldn't reach. If he was sitting in the seat so he could see out, he couldn't reach the pedals. He married a Navajo girl, she still lives at Grand Canyon. Her name is Etta Sheffer. Her son Tony works for Fred Harvey. He was a very smart young man. For some reason he must've known he wasn't going to live long because when he married Etta he bought a nice trailer, he bought a nice new truck, and he insured it so that it would be paid for if he died. He did die before it was paid for, long before it was paid for. So, she was in the clear but she had this little boy. He's not a little boy anymore. He's about this wide but he's only about this tall. Anyway, he still works at Grand Canyon. I haven't seen him in a long time. I have a picture of him someplace in my stuff when he was a little boy. She used to have such a time with her money because she had to pay for food and stuff and the utilities and the parking of the trailer and all that. Sometimes we didn't work long hours in the winter time and she just had problems. This little boy was real small, but she's a small person and his dad was a small person. The school called me up one time and she said, "Do you have an Etta Sheffer that works with you?" I said, "Yes." They said, "Does she feed her boy?" I said, "Why are you asking me that?" She said, "He's underweight for his age and his size." I said, "Well, it's like this. I know she feeds him because if she doesn't have money to feed him, she comes to me." I would always lend her the money. She always paid me back. But sometimes she just didn't have enough to go around and she felt she didn't want the lights turned off or the gas turned off or whatever it was –

I don't think they had gas up here. But anyhow, she needed to pay her utilities and her space so she wouldn't lose it. Like I said, the trailer was paid for and all that but there are times when you get really scrap. She'd come over and she'd tell me. I said, "Don't ever go without food. If you want to borrow it, that's fine. If you don't have the money to pay me back, that's OK. I don't want any little kid going hungry." Anyhow, I told them I know that he's fed. So, they didn't bother me about it anymore. They thought he was so underweight for his size. But like I said, Tony was smaller than I am. He was just a little man and Etta was a small woman. I haven't seen her in years but she probably is still a small woman. I think Tony has a family now, but I think they all live in that trailer. I haven't been up in trailer village for a long time so I really don't know. I liked that little boy, he was so cute.

And then who do we have? We have the Short's. Georgia Short. She had two husbands named Short. They were brothers. Nelson Short was her first husband. He was the engineer for the Park Service. He died and she eventually married her brother-in-law. They're all three buried right there together. I didn't know her very well. I didn't know any of them very well. In fact, I don't even remember meeting Lawrence, but I might have. He didn't live there all the time. I think he was retired already. She had left the Canyon and they met again and they married, which was, you know, fine. They knew one another and they were comfortable together and why not.

Then we have dear Harriet. Harriet was a Supai lady.

TM: When did you first meet her?

MH: She worked at the El Tovar in the pantry during the school year but she took off in the summer because her husband... Her husband and she split up. He had a son and nobody wanted him. So Harriet took him and she raised him.

TM: This was a son by another woman?

MH: Yeah, and she raised him. He's, I think half Navajo and half Supai. Her ex-husband lived there until he died, I guess. His name was Lorenzo. She lived out in the little trailer village, the little Supai village out by the town there.

TM: Supai camp?

MH: She read everything. She was one of the most intelligent people to talk to because she knew about everything. She would read every magazine she could get her hands on. She'd read it and she retained it. They were making up an alphabet for the Supai people so that they could write their history and stuff. I think there was a lady down at Supai that was a teacher or something. She started it and Harriet helped with that. She was so smart but she wouldn't take care of herself. She had a blood vessel break in her knee one time and every time her heart would beat, she'd spurt out some blood. It broke through the skin. One of the girls came and said, "Mary, Harriet's back there washing clothes." We had to do hand washing. She did the hand washing because she was the checker and the checker always had to do the hand washing. So, she was back there washing somebody's hand washed clothes. I went back and there was blood all around her. I said, "Harriet you've got to go to the doctor." "I'm not going to no white doctor." I said, "Yes you are. I'm gonna get a towel, I'm gonna put it around your knee and I'm gonna put you in my car and I'm taking you to the doctor." She could've bled to death but she just would not hear that. But anyway, she took good care of her boy. Lauren was in Up with People when they went to Europe. She got him leather Indian pants and shirt and everything he needed. He was the Indian in Up with People. In that tour they went to France. He got to go a lot of places because of that.

He went to school at Grand Canyon. He got in a bad car accident and he never really recovered from it and he died. I think he's buried at Drift Fence so I don't think he's buried at the cemetery. She is buried at the cemetery and for a long time there was no headstone. I kept thinking the first time I get enough money ahead, I'm going to get her a headstone but I never got around to it. Somebody, I think it was probably her sister who lived in Parker, came up and put a headstone. It's a very small one, it has her name on it. I always think of her. I was so proud of her that she was so well educated and she did it herself. She learned on her own. I think her sister, maybe, was a nurse in Parker. I never saw her sister but she would talk about her once in a while, she'd say something about her. I really enjoyed her. She was a great person to work with. She had opinions and she'd tell ya.

TM: Like what? What sort of opinions did she have?

MH: Well, we had this family that had lots of children. They were a Supai family. She said. "Oh, those people are trying to populate the whole United States." All these kids would walk by – I think there was one in every class at school. They'd walk by where we were working there by the laundry. They'd come up from Supai Camp and go down past the powerhouse and then up to school. She'd shake her head and say that every time she'd see them. I thought that was so funny. Anyway, she was quite a person.

TM: How would you pronounce her last name?

MH: Sin-yell-uh. There's still Sinyella's, I think, up at the Canyon. I'm not sure. She didn't have any children of her own. She was so good with that boy. It's one of those things that happen, you know. Kids do get into accidents and stuff. It wasn't his fault. He was a passenger in the car, he wasn't driving. I can't remember who was with him, but there were maybe four kids in that car that night.

TM: Did she ever talk about it?

MH: No. I know she was heartbroken because sometimes you'd see her crying. I know she was thinking about him because he was so precious to her.

TM: She clearly encouraged him to see the world, which she clearly was interested in.

MH: Yeah. A lot of the Supai boys went away to go to school. They had a school at Supai but they had that Haskell Institute in Kansas and some of them went there. I think that Don Watahomigie went there. He was a very smart young man. I think he might be still yet the tribal chief. He was something up in the tribe anyhow. Sometimes she'd talk about him a little bit. She was proud that he went away and went to school and got an education. He used to go around to different tribes and talk to them about alcoholism. His name was Watahomigie, I think.

And, let's see that top one.

TM: Let's see, this is Julie Ann Sisson.

MH: I didn't know her.

TM: Julie was a teacher at the school. She was very well liked. I met her and her husband, they were just wonderful people. She was so greatly liked. She died of cancer. I believe so, I could be wrong.

MH: I think I read that in the paper.

TM: She was a wonderful, wonderful woman.

MH: Robert Slayton was Vic Slayton. He was married to Genoveva [sic] Martinez who was a step-daughter to Joe Lee. Genoveva [sic] owns, is it Seven Mile Lodge? Vic was a Flagstaff boy and he was an electrician. He came up and did a lot of the electrical work when they were building out at Tusayan, when some of the motels were going up. They met and they married. She'd been married before. Her first husband died of a blood clot, cerebral hemorrhage. I can't think of his name. He's on here, though, because he's buried by him. I think Bev [sic] has probably got a grave reserved because I'm sure she wants to be buried with them. She was at Mike's memorial the other day. She went to school at Grand Canyon. She worked at the laundry and then she worked at Verkamp's. Then later on, after she married Vic and they got this motel, she ran the motel. She had a curio shop but then she hired somebody to run it. They went down to Montezuma, it's not called Montezuma, where they lived. One of those places down by Montezuma Well and Montezuma Castle. I can't remember what the name of that is.

TM: Cottonwood, there's a number of little...

MH: Anyway, I saw her up there. The Lee family is a large family. Joe Lee had two stepdaughters and Veva [sic] was one of them and Annabelle was the other one. Their last name was Martinez. The family originally came from some place in Northern New Mexico. I think Henry Lee went back up there. He used to live at McNary. It was Henry Lee and Joe Lee. Joe Lee was Veva's step-father, Annabelle's step-father. The rest of the kids are all Lee's. Henry Lee is Joe Lee's brother. They had a sister named Susie Apodaca. Her husband worked for the Park Service at Grand Canyon. Henry Lee worked at the Canyon and his daughter's buried up there. He and Cora had a daughter. She had something wrong when she was born and she didn't live to be very old – maybe 8 or 10 years old. Her grave has a little fence around it. She's on that first part of the cemetery. Susie Apodaca died quite a number of years ago and I imagine she's buried up in New Mexico because that's where they came from.

John Smith was married to Eagle May Means, that was her first husband. He was a boy, I think he was from Ashfork. He was a guide and he was the second one in charge of the mule rides at one time.

TM: Did he go by John?

MH: He went by John. He was a sailor during the Second World War. On his tombstone it says he circled the world three times in the years he was in the Navy. He was a very nice man. I think he fell off of a roof or something. He had an accident and he died young.

TM: He was only 50.

MH: Yeah. She married two more times but her children are she and John's children. She had Linda and Kathy and Shirley is the youngest one. Linda lives here. Kathy just passed away this past year. They went to school at Grand Canyon because their parents lived up there during their early school years. Shirley lives down in Prescott. I haven't seen Shirley since she was quite young. I saw Kathy because she was a good friend of Becky's and she came up with Becky several times. Linda calls Becky to see how she's doing. I see her occasionally. I see her husband more than I see her because he comes down the street and sometimes I'm out getting my mail. He always stops and shakes my hand. He's a local boy, he's from here. Let's see what is their last name? Ray, Ray, Ray what is your last name? Goodness I forget things so bad anymore, but anyway, he's a Williams boy.

TM: Then there's Lee Smith. There's John Smith and Lee Smith.

MH: Lee Smith was killed in a mule accident at Grand Canyon. He was a guide.

TM: Oh, he's the one we talked about a couple different times.

MH: He was just an old cowboy. Fine man, but an old cowboy. I say that with a lot of love and respect, because it takes a lot to be a cowboy sometimes.

Ragnhilde Stephens. Ragnhilde was the wife of Judge Stanley G. Stephens. They were at Grand Canyon for many years. They didn't have a commissioner up there for years, they had a judge. He had an office down where they have the buses – it's the Fred Harvey general office now. He took care of parts and he also took care of books. He did numerous things. He registered people to vote. He registered me when I was 21. I really liked Judge Stephens. I had very little contact with Ragnhilde. She worked for Mr. Kolb. They had two daughters. You probably knew Ruth Stephens Baker. That was their oldest daughter. Then Barbara Stephens is their other daughter. Ragnhilde died before he did. His girls got mad at him because he married right after. He was a lonesome old guy and he had a long life. Anyhow, they didn't know where he was after she died and he died. They couldn't find out where he was buried. I don't know if you know that we have a lost and found money for the state of Arizona. All the states have it and you can apply and get it. One day I opened up the paper and they had this list. The very top one under Williams was Ragnhilde's name. So I got Barbara's address and I sent it to her and she sent it to Ruth. They sent it in and it was a life insurance policy. Well, the next year, I opened the paper again. I don't know how come, because I never bought the paper. It was very unusual for me to buy a Phoenix newspaper, but here was Ragnhilde's name again. So I sent it down to Ruth. She said, "Boy was that a good thing because my car was just ready to go to the graveyard. It really helped me and I know it really helped my sister, too." So anyhow, I have a picture up at the Canyon. She came up to me and she put her arm around me and thanked me for doing that. She had written me a letter but she thought she should do it personally too. I haven't seen Barb since she was a young girl. She worked at the curio shop at the El Tovar, I think. I never saw her in the dining room – I know she didn't work in the dining room. She worked at the El Tovar and I'm sure it was at the curio shop.

TM: So I knew that Ruth worked for the Kolb's, so this would make sense that her mother worked for them, too.

MH: Her mother worked, she was a housekeeper. No, she was a clerk. It was Charley Dunn's wife that was his housekeeper for a while and I can't think of her first name. But anyhow, Ragnhilde worked there. She had an hour for lunch. But she had to go home, get their lunch and put it on the table and sit down and eat it. We had a mess hall over where the personnel office is – I guess it's still there, in the old cowboy dorm, it was the old cowboy dorm. Anyhow, Judge Stephens would come down to eat with us. The laundry people and the guides and the Judge. Some of the guys from the buses came in there to eat if they didn't have homes. Some of them had homes and went home. But anyhow, he would come in to eat. It seemed like Ragnhilde would go home, just put on something real fast, put it on his plate, give it to him and set down and eat hers. When she was finished, she took his plate, whether he was finished or not. He said, "It's nice to be able to put your spoon to your mouth and know that you can put it back on the plate and get something else to eat." He just really enjoyed coming to the cowboy dorm 'cause he could sit and really relax and eat his lunch. We ate all of our meals there. That was a long time ago.

TM: What do you remember about Ragnhilde's daughter, Ruth?

MH: You know, I never knew her because she had left here and she'd married. I think she lived in Tucson all the time. I'm not sure. I never saw her at Grand Canyon until after her parents were gone. Then I got

halfway acquainted with her. And like I said, Barbara left. I think she went off to college and I never saw her again. I did see her a few times when she worked there in the hotel. I was in the dining room and she was out in the lobby. You know, you don't go through the lobby when you leave work from the dining room, you go out the back door. So I didn't really see the people, unless I went up on my day off and looked around to see what was there. I didn't buy many things from the El Tovar, because it was too expensive. But I did go in there, just to look. I did buy a picture of Man-o'-War. I still have it but somebody punched a hole in it. I paid on that until I got it. I wasn't making that much money but I loved that picture of that horse. Like I say, I still have it. I don't know why I'm keeping it because it has a hole in it. I don't know who did that either. I have no idea who punched a hole in it. Anyway, I got that from the Art Room. It used to be called the Art Room at the El Tovar. Now they have clothes and everything. It was always paintings and jewelry and that type of thing. They didn't have clothes there. Just in more recent years they got clothes.

TM: T-shirts.

MH: Yeah, T-shirts. Sometimes they have skirts and stuff in there. The Bright Angel didn't sell clothes, either. I guess they had some sort of agreement, probably with Babbitt's, that they wouldn't sell clothes if you don't sell jewelry, you know. One of those kind of things. If you sell good jewelry, why we'll sell clothes. They usually have those types of agreements in a small town.

TM: What else do you remember about Judge Stephens?

MH: In his office, still yet, there is a scratch on the window and it says his initials Stanley G. Stephens – SGS. Somebody from the office came and asked me one time, "Whose initials are those on that window?" I said, "What are the initials?" They said, "SGS." I said, "Oh, that was Judge Stephen's, that was his office." Later on it became the general manager's office for a while. I don't know if it still is or not. I don't know where the general manager's office is anymore but they did have it in there for a while. That used to be the accounting office, too. But before it was the accounting office there, the accounting office was in the basement of the El Tovar. They had a robbery there one night. We didn't have policeman, per say, but we had Santa Fe special officers. They carried a gun and they patrolled through the area. They even patrolled through the girls' dorm. Made sure we didn't have our boyfriends staying with us, I guess, or so they used to say. That was why Mrs. Cunningham was there because she knew every boy in town and she knew every girl in town. If they stood out on the porch too long talking at night, she's gonna say, "It's time to go home, just give her a goodnight kiss and leave." I used to think that was so funny.

But anyhow, I'll get back to Judge Stephens. He did many things in town. He was a good dancer. I never saw Ragnhilde at a dance, but he loved to dance. He'd come up to the Bright Angel when they'd have dances. He could waltz. He was a very good waltzer. That's about all I remember about him.

TM: Well, now you have to tell me about the robbery.

MH: The robbery happened one night. There were three men and they broke into – it's a sewing room now, but it used to be the general offices. They had a little room in the back where they had a safe and they kept the money in there. I don't know how they got in. They probably came in the back door because usually it was open because people came and went. They had people coming for the bake shop and the cooks coming in early and stuff. Anyway, they evidently got in ok and this guy that was patrolling—they were leaving and they had the money—he shot through the door and he shot one. Two of them got away, but he shot one and injured him. The third one had the money and got away and they

got onto the reservation before they caught him. I don't know who they were or anything. But I do know it was a special officer from the Santa Fe. We had a number of special officers. One of them used to live next door to Buford and Myra. I think Mr. Converse was one of them at one time. He had been at Dell Rio Springs. He ran the ranch at Del Rio Springs. He and his wife. Meat had to be, inspected and all this stuff. It got to be such a hassle to get somebody to come out and inspect. So they decided just to buy the meat. It was cheaper than trying to run the ranch. So they brought George Converse and his wife up. She worked in the kitchen. She worked in the El Tovar pantry, I think, where they made salads and stuff. He was a night watchman. He was such a kindly man. Some of the night watchmen, if they found an Indian boy or a white boy, for that matter, drunk and walking around outside, they would take them and put them in jail. George would take them home and put them to bed. He didn't want them to get in trouble. He was a kindly man. I can't think of his wife's name. When they retired they moved to Prescott because they had a daughter that lived there. I don't know when they passed away. I don't think they're buried at the Canyon. I think they're buried in Prescott.

TM: These two people, Ragnhilde and Judge Stephens, it seems like they were very much an integral part of the community in the 20s and 30s.

MH: Yeah. They were there a long time. In fact, Judge Stephens came there and they didn't have housing for them. He and Ragnhilde lived in a tent down by where the laundry is, the old laundry. The old laundry used to be right behind the El Tovar. Then, I think it was in the early 30s, they built this big laundry down where it is now.

TM: By the powerhouse.

MH: They built the powerhouse before that. I think the laundry was the second one they built. Anyway, they lived in a tent and because it was close to the laundry, they could hook up to the water. They had a faucet and they had water in their tent. And electricity in their tent – which was different. Some of the others lived in tents and they had kerosene lamps. They went that route.

TM: Do you remember anybody talking about in the winter, would things just close? Or were things still...

MH: A lot of things closed down in the wintertime.

TM: I mean, back in the 20s, back when the Stephens were in their tent with their water and electricity?

MH: I think they got a house before the winter came. I think it was because she was expecting, probably Ruth. I don't really know, but anyhow, they didn't live there but part of one year. They thought they were fortunate because they had running water. They had those tent tops over in the... was the auto camp then. A lot of people lived in those even up to... Eva May and John lived in one. But this was before then. I think they lived there maybe during the war. I'm not sure.

TM: The First World War?

MH: The Second World War they would've been there. I didn't come there until after the Second World War but I'm sure that they were around there at that time.

The next one is James Stewart. He was an electrician. I think he had a heart attack. They lived there by Buford and Myra on Avenue A, which is Apache Street now. They had a couple kids. When he died, she left. It was very sudden.

TM: He was only 45.

MH: Yeah, I kind of think it was a heart attack, I don't remember. I probably saw her. I have an impression of a dark headed woman, but I don't remember her. I probably saw her in the backyard when she was hanging out clothes. I have no idea. I don't think she worked any place. But she could have, just because I didn't know it. Buford and Myra lived on Apache. They lived on Boulder first.

TM: And did you know him at all, Jim Stewart?

MH: Yeah, I didn't know him very well. He always spoke, he was friendly.

TM: Was he big? Was he small?

MH: Oh, he was an average size man. Not too big.

TM: Jim Stickler?

MH: I don't remember Jim Stickler. In fact, he might have been up there later because he died in 2007.

TM: He was a tall man, tall and thin. Wonderful man, very reserved but once you got to know him a little bit, he was very friendly.

MH: He probably came after I left—because I left in '91.

Merle Stitt. He was an angel. He was the Park Superintendent. He was a little man. His wife was a big woman. They lived in the house right at the edge of the hill. Used to be the park headquarters. Then the park superintendent lived there for many years. The house was used for the park superintendent. Now it's a Fred Harvey general office. That's where the general manager has his office.

TM: The White House. I didn't realize that was the park headquarters before it was the superintendent's house.

MH: Then it was the superintendent's house. Quite a few... Well, Bryant's lived there and Superintendent Bill – what was his name? Spud Bill lived there. A lot of the superintendents lived there. I can't remember all of them. I can't remember all of the superintendents, that's for sure.

TM: Merle lived there?

MH: Stitt's lived there. I think they might have been one of the last ones that lived there. Becky worked in the mailroom at the Park Service when Mr. Stitt was the superintendent. Her husband wouldn't let her drive the jeep. Buford gave them a jeep when they got married. He wouldn't let her drive to work in the jeep. He was afraid she was going to get hurt. She didn't know how to drive a jeep. But the superintendent let her drive his jeep. He'd say, "Do the mail run. I don't have a car today, here's the keys to my jeep. Go drive it." She drove his jeep all over town, but Mike wouldn't let her drive their jeep because she didn't know how to do that. She could drive better than he could probably. She never had

an accident and he had a few. Anyhow, Mr. Stitt was a very nice man and he was very into the community. The Legion hut was being closed down at that time and he did a lot of the bookwork of closing a place down. He also helped on the agreement with the Rotter's. The Rotter's bought the land where the Legion hut was. Their second building, the dining room, is here and the next building was where the land for the Legion was. He helped get that all settled. He was very good at all that kind of stuff. He was very active. He didn't go to every meeting, but he was always very interested in everything that was going on. The people that worked for him, really liked him. He was a very congenial man. When he said something, he meant it and they knew it. He was just a very good person. I didn't know Lorna very much. I know that when they moved... They had just got this house and he was moving their refrigerator and he had a heart attack and died. They had just moved. I don't know what has happened to her since. I have no idea. I did some work for her at one time but I just have no idea of where they went. She was congenial, I guess, but I never had any close contact with her. He'd come down to get his uniforms cleaned and stuff but she never came to the laundry. That's where I met most of the people I knew well, was at the laundry. Because they'd come in with their problems so you'd talk to them. I got this on here and I got that on that and how do I get this out? You know, one of those kinds of things.

TM: I had heard that Superintendent Stitt was very formal in dress, always dressed well, if you will.

MH: Yeah, he was a very fine gentleman.

TM: And that his heart attack came just after he retired. What else do you remember about him?

MH: I remember mostly what Becky told me because she was so happy that she had him for a boss because he was so nice to her. He was always really exceptional to her – to that kid. She was working for Jack Verkamp. Jack Verkamp got mad because she went to the Park Service, but she had a chance to better herself and learn something new. Mr. Stitt was very kind. He'd tell her, "Now you have to remember to do this." He'd make sure that she knew what she was doing when she'd leave to take stuff around. He'd say, "I expect you to be back before I go to lunch." Sometimes he'd walk to work – he wouldn't have his jeep. Sometimes he'd leave it there, too. He liked to walk and it wasn't too far from the old headquarters that's out there by the cemetery. That was the headquarters. He'd walk in from there. He liked to walk. He didn't really need to because he was a very thin man, maybe that's why he was a thin man.

TM: Did he smoke?

MH: I don't believe so. I never saw him smoke. I didn't see him all that much and yet I was quite aware of him being there. I don't know why, I don't know. It seemed like he was into things. Of course I did a lot of the Legion's books and stuff like that. I was volunteered to do the Legion's books. I kept books by hand for years for the Legion. Now they've got three computers.

TM: He seemed very approachable, Mr. Stitt.

MH: He was, he was very friendly. Some of them, you were scared to speak to them. He was never that way. You could go up and say whatever you wanted to him. He was fine with it. I never had any confrontations with him. I never had any argument with him about anything. Some of them would give you a bad time.

The next one is Duane Stricklin. I don't know who Duane and Steven Scott Stricklin were. Have no idea.

Of course Connie [Stuckey] and her husband. We talked about them. They were Moran's daughter and son-in-law. They worked for the transportation department.

And, of course, Sturdevant was before my time but I always heard of Sturdevant and the other gentlemen that was killed—Johnson.

Jessie Sutton. Jessie Sutton was a housekeeper. I don't know why they have Western Union. She died in '52. I think she died because she got a chicken bone in her throat and she choked to death. Maybe she worked at Western Union before they came to the Canyon. It used to be that when they had a husband and wife and they wanted to work together, they would put them together. They worked down at the Motor Lodge. They had kerosene stoves and they didn't have a bathroom, per say, no shower or anything in those little cabins. They had to go a central shower. They took care of one section of that. They were very nice people. Like I said, I'm sure she's the lady that I knew that died from a... They were driving some place and she had eaten and she thought she had something in her throat. They stopped and the doctor said he couldn't find anything and before they got to the next town she had died. I think that was the one. Pop Sutton had a heart attack when he was there. She was still living, I mean that was before she died. He left when she died. He had a heart attack during the night and we couldn't get anybody to ok the ambulance. He was a veteran so they wanted to send him down to Whipple. She wanted to send him to Whipple.

TM: This is in Prescott – this is a long ways.

MH: Yeah. We put him in the back of a laundry truck and the night watchman, who worked for Fred Harvey by that time, drove. We called ahead for an ambulance to meet him and he drove the laundry truck with Mr. Sutton in the back of it. He did survive but he passed away not too long after that. Well, it was a while. Minnie was a really sweet lady and he was a nice person. I guess he died first.

TM: Called him Pop?

MH: Yeah, Pop Sutton. It looks like on here that he died first, but I was thinking that she did. I didn't even know his name was Jessie for a long time. Because everybody called him Pop Sutton. Anyway, I remember that night because I got the keys and met the night watchman. They took a mattress out of one of the rooms that wasn't occupied and put it in the back of it and he started out and he met the ambulance.

TM: What was the problem with getting an ambulance?

MH: You had to have the Park Superintendent's OK and you had to have the doctor's OK for it. If you could get the doctor there, he could've taken care of him. I don't know if we were without a doctor, I don't know what happened. I do remember going down and opening up the laundry and going in and getting the truck keys and bringing them out. He was gone probably two hours, so the ambulance came up from Prescott pretty fast. But I don't know. I know I was given a lecture about doing that because we weren't insured for that kind of stuff and all this stuff. I got a lecture about it. But I did it anyway and he did live a while.

TM: Good for you.

MH: The next one is Betty Rich Swanson. She was Betty Rich, I think, when... I didn't know her very long and I don't think she was there very long but she lived in an old age – she died in 2003. She's buried

down on the left-hand side of the cemetery. I vaguely remember her and yet I don't remember her. I remember that, at that time, they called her Betty Rich, so she must have married someone named Swanson.

And then there's Amy Snyder Tacey. I didn't know her.

TM: Amy Tacey was a wonderful gal, she's a mother.

MH: Teacher?

TM: No. She worked for Fred Harvey and she ran a shuttle company driving backpackers out to the South Bass trail. She died of cancer. She hiked a lot. She'd go by 'hiking chick'.

MH: And this man was a veteran. He died in '95 and I left there in '91. I don't think I ever met him. I have no idea who he was.

Dorothy and Ken Talakte, their son Ken just died. They have another son that was buried there by them. Melvin, was it Melvin?

TM: Melvin. Wonderful man was Melvin.

MH: He's the one that had his leg amputated because he had sugar diabetes, I think.

TM: He had diabetes and his legs got infected.

MH: He had a sense of humor. When they were fixing his artificial legs for him, he said, "Be sure to make them long, I want to play basketball."

TM: [laughing] That was Mel.

MH: He was so courageous. He was putting a roof on his house on the reservation. He said it was too awkward to get up there and work with those legs on. So he got up there without his legs and put the roof on. Which is really something.

TM: Really amazing.

MH: I remember the father and mother.

TM: What do you remember about them?

MH: Kenny was a butcher at the Babbitt's store. In young Kenny's obituary, they put down that he was the manager of the Babbitt store. He was manager of the meat department at the Babbitt's store, so they had that wrong in there. I think Rita wrote it up and she probably didn't know. Rita was young Kenny's, second wife and I doubt that she knew that. Young Kenny's two daughters live here in town. He had three daughters, no sons. I don't think he had a son. He has a daughter named Laurie York, who lives up in Montana. That's why they went to Montana. And then, one works down at Safeway. I know her name and I can't remember it. The other one works for the Forest Service. Her husband just died. Their last name was Dennison. You might have seen that in the paper, he worked for the Forest Service here. He was quite young, I think in his 40s. It was very sudden. I don't know if he had a heart attack. I

don't know what happened to him, but it was very sudden. Then a month or two later, his father-in-law, Kenny died. I remember Kenny when he was a little boy. He was a nice kid. I remember him going to school at Grand Canyon. He would work with his dad in the summertime, so he learned the meat business. Then they came down here and they worked at Babbitt's here. Then I think they went to Holbrook. I think Kenny graduated from down here – from Williams High School. They were Hopi people and Dorothy was a little lady. They have quite a few children. They have a couple of daughters over in Flagstaff but they have different last names now. I can't even remember their first names anymore. They were a large family. I remember telling one of the girls that Dorothy liked to play cards and they said, "Our mother never played cards." I said, "You don't know your mother very well." They used to have card parties at the Auxiliary. I never played cards because I didn't really like cards, but she would play cards. She took on being the membership chairwoman one year, she went around to everybody's house and collected membership. She did a good job. Anyhow, I told them that and they said, "Our mother? Our mother did that?" They didn't know their mother very well. She was a very sweet, nice person. I loved it when I went to the butcher shop to get a piece of meat. You could tell Kenny Sr. that you wanted a steak an inch thick. He cut it an inch thick for you. We'd go out on steak fry's sometimes. You got off work at 11:00, nobody chased you from the rim. There was an overhang and we could get in there and build a fire. Occasionally, they could see it from the North Rim but most of the time you couldn't see it. We went there one night and they came out and told us we couldn't do that anymore, it was against the law. So we didn't do it anymore. But, it was fun.

TM: Were you cooking steaks out there?

MH: Yeah. We went to Shoshone a few times but then they put the gate up and you couldn't go out there. You had to get the key. You weren't supposed to be out there unless you had the key and all that. So we didn't go about there anymore. Kenny Sr. was in service and Kenny Jr. was in service. I think Melvin might have been but I don't remember. Young Kenny was a highway patrolman. His wife, Linda, his first wife, is buried out here. She's the mother of the three girls.

TM: She's here and she's buried in Williams?

MH: In Williams, uh-huh. She belonged to a different tribe. I can't remember what tribe it was. She had a real different spelling of her name, was an Indian name. She was the nurse at the hospital. I don't know if she had cancer, I don't know what was wrong. She died young. She was a really good nurse. The doctor would say, "Just give her some medicine." I'd say, "What am I taking this medicine for?" She'd come and say, "This is what you're taking this for..." The doctor wouldn't tell you. We had some real different doctors down here. Grand Canyon always had army doctors for years and years. I don't know if they still do or not. I have no idea who the doctor is up there anymore. I do know that all the ones that we had when I first went up there... Dr. Henry was the first one and he'd just got out of service and he came up there. He didn't stay very long that first time. Then he left and then he came back. Dr. Schnur was an army doctor and Dr. Lacy was an army doctor. I didn't go to the hospital very much. There were doctors there I had no idea who they were there because I had no contact with them. I loved it when Dr. Henry was there. He was one of my best friends. And I liked Leo [Dr. Schnur]. I don't think I ever went to Dr. Lacy, but I knew him because he had kids in school with Karen and Becky. I can't remember, it was one or the other of them. They had a boy that was in school and he was very active in sports and stuff. Then later on he lived down here. He married one of the girls from up at the Canyon, too, but I can't remember who she was. I do know what her name was – she was an Atchison. She was Bill Atchison's daughter. They lived out here in one of those A-frame houses. I do know that Bill was so good as a doctor up there. He had two people that he dearly loved. They were good friends. One was Hank

Draper. He was the manager at the Bright Angel. Hank had heart trouble. Well, he got out of the hospital, Bill had released him that day – or couple days. He went over to check on him. He went over to his apartment. He was checking on him and Hank got up and straightened his bed out. Bill says, “Here, let me do that.” “Oh, I can do it,” he said. Before Bill left, he laid back down on the bed. By the time he left and got back to the old hospital Hank had died. It was really fast and sudden. I liked his wife but I think she always blamed Bill. Then not too long after that, Mary Verkamp was in the hospital. She went into a convulsion and died. I was talking to Bill one day and he said, “You know Mary, I’ve gotta leave this place. When you’re in the city, your patients are your patients. When you’re in a small town, they’re your friends. I can’t stand to lose any more friends like this.” He moved away, he went back to Phoenix. He was a surgeon, he was a very good surgeon. That’s what he wanted to do. He had trouble with his back and he had it operated on. He said, “Don’t ever have your back operated on. Don’t let them touch it. Use therapy, use heat, cold, whatever you need to do, but don’t let them operate.” He had had that done and then he couldn’t control his hands, they got real shaky, so he couldn’t be a surgeon anymore. He learned to give anesthesiology. He gave it to me when I was down there when I was sick one time. I went under with Bill telling me a joke and I came out with Karen pinching my shoulders and yelling at me, “Mary wake up!” Buford’s daughter Karen. Bill was down the hall. She kept saying that to me and kept pinching my shoulders and I finally just screamed out, “Karen I hear you.” I just couldn’t say it. I couldn’t get it out. I yelled it so loud, and Bill was way down the hall. He said, “I knew you were alright. I heard you yelling at Karen.” He was a good doctor.

I’ll get back to our people here. We were down to Stuckey, Sturdevant, Sutton, Talakte. Talakte - I lost track of them when they left Grand Canyon pretty much, excepting once in a while we’d come down here and I’d see him at the store. They didn’t stay here that many years and I didn’t have a car back then, so I didn’t come down here that often.

I know that Karen Taylor was a teacher. She died while she was at the Canyon.

TM: She was young, she was 43.

MH: Mmhmm. I think she was coming home. She died coming home in her car, I think.

Martha Terry and Ted Terry were Becky’s in-laws. Ted worked for the Park Service and Martha was a telephone operator. Ted took care of the water pumps for the Park Service.

TM: From Indian Gardens up, those big pumps?

MH: Yeah. He used to go down and work on the one at Indian Gardens. Martha was a telephone operator. She was a Flagstaff girl. I don’t know if you’ve ever heard of Compton’s in Flagstaff, she was from that family. Ted was from Texas. I didn’t care for Ted but I loved Martha. She used to work with me in the library some. She was an Auxiliary member. She did things with me and I always liked her. I think Ted thought he knew everything and he wasn’t that well-versed in things.

Warren Thurman – I hadn’t been here very long when he died. I don’t know how he died. I remember them talking about him back at that time, but I just don’t remember anything about him.

And, of course, Tillotson, he was the Park Superintendent way back.

TM: Miner Tillotson, that’s right. And his wife Winifred? Did you ever know her at all?

MH: No, I knew the Bryant's that came after them, I think. I'm not sure if the Bryant's were here before or after but I think it was after.

TM: I believe it was after.

MH: I can't even picture the Tillotson's. He died in '55 and I came in '47.

TM: I'm not sure if they died in the Park, I think they may have been living away.

MH: I think they were living away, yeah.

Freddy Tisi - his mother used to work with me at the laundry. It says MVA.

TM: Automobile accident.

MH: He was killed in a car accident. I really don't remember him. But I do remember Edda Tisi because she worked for us. When I was a housekeeper at the El Tovar, she was the turndown girl at night for a while. She worked with the porters and that was part of the porters' job. I just don't remember her boy that well. He was only 22 when he died.

Faustin Torivio and Joy Torivio and – I think this probably was their son, but I'm not sure. But Faustin was – that's Faustin Jr.—I remember the Faustin Sr.

TM: Ok, who was Faustin Sr.?

MH: He worked in housekeeping. They used to have a houseman, they called them houseman. They didn't do maid work but they carried the linen to where you needed it and they took care of the yard a little bit and they swept around the doors of the cabins. He worked at the Bright Angel and Joy worked there a long time. She just died in 2001. She worked as a seamstress in the sewing room. She was a real nice person. I used to go down when I was the housekeeper at the El Tovar and sew some because something would have a seam or something and they didn't have time to do it right then. I'd just go over and get on the sewing machine and she'd laugh at me, "Doing my job, doing my job." That was OK. Faustin Sr., somebody asked him one time if he knew me and he said, "Oh yes, I knew that lady. I remember her dancing with that long hair out behind her." I used to go down to the Bright Angel and dance. The Indian kids hardly ever danced but they would watch us. He was one of them that watched. But anyhow, he said. "Oh yes, I know that lady." I didn't remember their son. I did know they had children, but I just didn't know them.

Torivio, Torivio – wasn't he Park Service? Torivio – Bob Torivio. Seemed like he worked for the Park Service but I'm not sure.

And this one I don't recognize at all. He must have come after I left.

TM: David Trenchard.

MH: Of course I knew the Turners, they still have a...

TM: Eloise and Robert and Samuel.

MH: Eloise and Sam.

TM: Who were they? What did they do?

MH: Eloise worked as the secretary to, transportation department – John Bradley, no not John Bradley, Curley Ennis. They lived up over the train depot. Her husband Sam was the station manager for the Santa Fe. They had a son named Sammy. I think Sammy's still living. I don't know who this Robert Eric is. I have no idea. It said that he died in '97, he was only 23. It could've been a grandson but I have no idea. I really don't. Eloise was such a prim lady. I was always so amazed to find that she lived up over the station. Sam wasn't overly friendly, he was business-like, you know.

TM: What was his duty as a station manager?

MH: He had to supervise. They had to sell tickets there sometimes and he sold tickets. He looked after people coming in. Sometimes he had to meet dignitaries. He had to make sure that everything was in order, like when President Eisenhower came to the Canyon. He had to make sure everything was up to snuff. I know there were other presidents that came up there. I know that Bush came up one time.

TM: Did President Eisenhower come in on the train?

MH: He came on the train and he gave a talk from the back of the train. You know the train backs in? He was on the back. Tersh Verkamp went down and he signed something for him and he gave him the pen he signed it with. That was nice. I can't remember what it was that Tersh took down there. He took something down and asked him if he would sign it. That was a long time ago, because Eisenhower was after Truman.

TM: In the '50s, yeah.

MH: That was quite a while ago. I don't remember Eloise ever being in the... I don't think Sam was ever in service. Usually the trainmen didn't get put in service unless it was absolutely necessary.

Hal Unruh. He was a desk clerk and he belonged to the Legion.

TM: Was he desk clerk at the El Tovar or Bright Angel?

MH: I think it was at the El Tovar. I halfway remember him as being a nice man. He wasn't a big man. I just don't remember too much about him. He died – that's quite a long time ago.

TM: 1957.

MH: Yeah, '57.

And, of course, the Verkamp's. We have all the Verkamp's.

TM: You know what, maybe we should stop here because the Verkamp's are going to keep us busy for quite a while. We have a ways to go, so it may be good just to hold it here because I would like to spend some time going through the Verkamp's. It's very complicated, who's who and try to get that kind of figured out. So we'll just put a mark on there. Alright, well thank you again for such wonderful reminiscences. So very fun to hear about different stories.

MH: I didn't know Rose Verkamp, but she was Aunt Rose. She used to come out to visit.

TM: I'm going to take this away. Wait, wait, wait Mary.

MH: She never lived at the Canyon that I know of.

TM: Well you can tell me that next week. Next Tuesday is that ok?

MH: That's fine.

TM: Alright, it'll be a new month.