

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society  
Interviewee: Mary Hoover (MH) Part 13  
Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)  
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Keys: American Legion John Ivens Post Members

TM: Today is the 23rd of December, 2014. We are at the home of Mary Katherine Hoover in Williams, Arizona. Mary has worked very hard to get the scrapbooks from the Legion, from the John Ivens Post. This is some interesting information that Mary has talked to me about considerably as we've done our interviews. Mary has a wonderful scrapbook here and what's this first piece of paper you've got Mary?

MH: This is a letter from Mr. Duke who is one of the Legion officer's way back. I thought it was very interesting, you might want to read it.

TM: It says 'John W. Ivens was born June 3rd, 1893'.

MH: Well that part, he was just verifying that John Ivens was the one that it was named after, I think.

TM: 'Came to Grand Canyon in 1911 where he was employed by Fred Harvey Company. Worked on farms [can't decipher]. 1916 he returned to Grand Canyon where he worked in the Kolb Brothers studio until leaving for Army duty. He enlisted September 20, 1917 in Flagstaff. Reported to Fort Riley, Kansas. Transferred to Camp Kearney, San Diego, California where he stayed in training until March 18. Later part of March, he volunteered to sail immediately for France to help fill the list of casualties for the following month. He sailed April 1st reaching France. He was made Private First Class attached to Company C, Second Field Signal Battalion. Though his father is still living at Pawakee, Wisconsin, due to close friendship he cited as his nearest relative, though not a blood relative, Emery Kolb of Grand Canyon, Arizona.'

MH: He and his father didn't get along. He kinda ran away from home because he didn't want to live on a farm all his life. That's why he came to Grand Canyon. He worked at different things along the way. He worked as telephone lineman and different things when they were working on the telephone lines. I thought the bottom part of it about Mr. Duke was real interesting, too.

TM: This part at the very bottom down here? Let's see.

MH: I think it starts right above there.

TM: I'm just going to keep reading this.

MH: Yeah, that's fine.

TM: 'Though his father', it says, 'is still living...' Certainly was still living. '...at Pawakee, Wisconsin. Due to close friendship, he cited as his nearest relative, though not a blood relative, Emery C. Kolb of Grand

Canyon, Arizona and to whom notice of his being wounded and of his death was sent and replied to a letter for detailed information written by Mr. Kolb to headquarters First Division Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, the following letter was received: "Our records show that Private Ivens was seriously gassed in action during the night of June 17-18, the year 1918 in Coulmelle, France. Master Signal electrician Emerson E. Mull now present with the Second Field Signal Battalion at this station states as follows: "On the night of June 17-18, year 1918, I was of in charge of three telephone test stations along the division access of liaison near Coulmelle, France. Each one of these stations were manned by a sergeant in charge and 3 reliefs of 4 men each. Private Ivens was of a member of one of these in charge of Sergeant John Kelman #198629, Company C, this organization. During the night the Germans laid down a mustard gas attack and Sergeant Kelman test station was in this gas sector. The men stayed by their posts throughout the attack and the result was all 12 men and the sergeant in charge become gas casualties. The sergeant lost his eyesight. Five of the men afterwards died of which Private Ivens was one. I personally assisted in carrying the men back to the first aid station from where they later evacuated to a hospital in the rear. Very Sincerely Yours, W.H. Dukes, Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Dept. Division: Personnel Adjutant. P.S. Sergeant Kelman is not present. His address is unknown."

At the bottom it says 'We in our community take no disabled men therefore all our work is done for Tucson and Whipple Hospital. The unit pledged \$5 a month for hospitalization. Paid rent on piano for several months. Then paid \$25, his first payment for new piano purchased for Ward 10 at Whipple. Also have pledged \$5 a month for special relief fund for disabled veterans through Mrs. Greenly. Edith Kolb, historian'. Wow.

MH: That's really a historic thing.

TM: It is. Can I take a picture of that?

MH: Yes. John Ivens is actually buried at Arlington Cemetery. They brought his body over and buried it at Arlington. I have a picture of his grave there someplace. In fact, it might be in that new book because Al Richmond did that book. He's the one that... We gave him the information and wrote some of it up, but he did the actual book. He was very interested in that. He was in Washington, D.C. and he went and took a picture of the grave.

TM: That would be interesting to see.

MH: I don't know who put this book together. I think it was Mrs. Gillian started it. Did I ever tell you about the Gillian's?

TM: I don't remember.

MH: They took care of the Hearst house out by Grandview. They were husband and wife. She was an artist. I think she might have come from New York because she often, well she didn't often, but she went back to New York and took some of her paintings back there several times. Mr. Burris has a sister who has some of her paintings. In... What book do I have? I did a write up about Mrs. Gillian/the Gillian's long years ago. I put pictures of those two paintings that she had given to Mr. Burris' sister. I think her name is Copeland, Mrs. Copeland. I'm not sure anymore. I have a copy of that write-up someplace. I went over the other day and I was going to look for it and then Al started talking to me and I forgot to look for that one. But anyhow, I have a picture of her. I wrote about when they came to the Canyon and they took care of the Hearst house. They used to ride 14 miles in rain or snow or shine to come to

meetings. We can't get people to come to meetings now. If we get four or five you're lucky. But they would all come because that was a big social event. They would have something to eat after the meeting and they'd sit around and talk. Sometimes they'd listen to the radio. But they couldn't get radio very well up at Grand Canyon, it was very interfered with. But they would do things like that. Have card parties. All the ladies at Grand Canyon used to play cards and the men used to play poker. But anyway, they often time had card parties and things like that. Mrs. Gillian was one of them that used to get them together for that. Can you imagine riding horseback in in the middle of a snowstorm to go to a meeting?

TM: It would take all day to make that ride.

MH: Then they'd stay over. They'd either stay with Mrs. Nelson or who is the other lady that lived there? Well, there were two families. Mrs. Ennis. One of them would take them in for the night. Now these were some of the... This is an old book and I can't see the writing on it.

TM: Let's see if I can help. There's a photograph here of one, two, three, four, five, six women at the rim.

MH: I think they have all the names down here. I think that's when one the national or one of the state officers came to visit.

TM: Okay, first of all, this letter is important and it goes right back in the front.

MH: It goes right back here.

TM: I think what I'm going to do Mary is I'll go ahead, I'd like to take a photograph of this entire book, but let's do that a little later.

MH: OK.

TM: So there are again six women standing at the rim. They're all bundled up. So it must be wintertime. They're all wearing heavy coats.

MH: Mm, hmm.

TM: And it says... Where is your magnifying glass?

MH: I think it's on the table someplace.

TM: Let's see. Oh there it is.

MH: I was using it.

TM: I'm going to use it.

MH: I was trying to look up addresses off of new cards.

TM: This is 'Mrs. J.M. Dowling Chapman, picture taken by R.H. Williams at Hopi Point. Sent in special delivery to The Republican but due to confusion existing at that time in the state publicity department

were never received for publication.' So let's see what it says here about this. This is '1929 officers training left to right in order: Cummings, Williams, Ennis, Netsker...'

MH: Those are familiar names. Netsker and Cummings are familiar names.

TM: '...and Nelson'. So 'Officers 1929: Mrs. Maude Ennis, Mrs. Juanita Williams. Mrs ....'

MH: The Williams' also lived out by where the Gillian's lived. They worked at the fire watchtower and they also rode in sometimes but they didn't come to every meeting. The Gillian's came to all the meetings. The others were actually working out there and, of course, like in the wintertime I think they went away and they weren't there. Or they might have stayed there and just lived there during the winter time. I don't know. But they were at the fire watchtower.

TM: It's a wonderful picture. Ida Cummings, Mrs. Ida Cummings. You've told me about her. Ethel Netsker. And then Clara Burris. Oh, and they've got president, vice president, treasurer, historian, sergeant at arms. So these women are...

MH: Officers in the local American Legion Auxiliary Number 42, Unit 42. Most of those were ones who signed up. They had to have 15 members in order to get a charter. Mrs. Gillian was back in New York with her paintings at the time and she wasn't there. So they got in touch with her husband and ask if he would sign her up. He signed her up so they would have enough to get the unit started. She came back and she was suddenly a member and an officer in a club she didn't know anything about. She went on and she was the only woman to ever be elected to the Department of Arizona as president for the state. She was very into even going into national things, but she didn't do as much in the national as she did in the state. In 1934 she was elected President of the Department of Arizona American Legion Auxiliary. She was very praised for what she did during that year. She started several programs. I don't remember just what all they were. I know they had a lot of Spanish speaking people at Grand Canyon at that time. I think she was one of them that started English classes for them and she taught them to cook American. I thought that was real different that they, because they did what they did in Mexico and of course, that was a different time and a different era and they didn't know anything about American food. So they had to learn. Some of them lived on ranches and some of them lived in town. But they them got started learning English. Got their kids in school and got them started at Grand Canyon, which I thought was really great.

TM: That's really great. 1923, first meeting 1924, '25, 1925, '26, '27. So this is the history...

MH: Of the American Legion Auxiliary, not the Legion.

TM: OK.

MH: I thought maybe you'd find it interesting 'cause there's some interesting pictures in it, too.

TM: Absolutely, absolutely.

MH: 1934 was the year that they built the new Community Building. The old one had burnt down I think in '32 or '33. It was right across the road from where the one is now. It was the same type of building, but it burnt.

TM: 'Stray Cats A Farce, comedy by Carter and Gaul, auspices American Legion Auxiliary Community Hall, Grand Canyon, June 28, 1930 at 9pm'. Persons of the play. That's nice. 'Grand Canyon Little Theatre presents three-act comedy drama Boss of the Powder Horn, by Walter F. Swanker, Community Hall September 1, 1934'.

MH: The ladies put on lots of plays.

TM: They did. You had told me about the costumes that they wore that were eventually thrown out.

MH: Yeah. They started in the 20s when Mrs. Metzger came there. She was into doing that before she came. She had a sister-in-law who did puppet shows. She wrote plays for the puppet shows and she would show them. She was the court recorder for the federal government, her sister-in-law was. I don't think she ever married. I think her name was always Metzger, but I'm not sure. She was Art's sister. That's how Mrs. Metzger came there because she was working for the federal government and the courts as their recorder. She came to Grand Canyon with his sister and that's how they met. She came back and married him. She went home and came back and married him. He had a homestead outside of Grand Canyon, but they lived in town because he became the postmaster there. He came to Grand Canyon in 1917 on a motorcycle from Washington state.

TM: That would have been quite a ride in 1917.

MH: Yeah, his father and brother had come out and they started a store across from where the old, old Tusayan was. The old Tusayan was simply a bar and a service station.

TM: Where was that?

MH: It was on the old highway that went behind where the airport is now. The highway went behind that. When go down from Frank Rotter's, that road goes right straight up. It's at the top of that hill. They had the fireplace left there for a long time. I don't know, I haven't been up on that hill for years and I don't know if it's still there or not. But the fireplace was very well built and they just left it there. Like I say, I don't know if it's still there or not. I don't even know who owns the land. That was right above George Reed's homestead.

TM: 'Mail Order Brides, American Legion Auxiliary Community Hall Grand Canyon, March 15, Admission 50 cents'.

MH: That's how they raised money for things. They didn't have movies yet then yet. They didn't have radio, they didn't have television. You had to do something to have fun and that's what they did. You did a lot of it. There's one of the characters from one of their plays.

TM: So here's a woman. She's got a pretty fancy hat on with a big feather. She's holding some feathers. The dress looks pretty exotic. There's quite the scarf that she's wearing and it says 'Mrs. Arthur Gibson as Emeline Siftrift'.

MH: She was in one of the plays. I don't know which one.

TM: 'Costume with...that belonged to...' Oh, the costume has something that belonged to her grandmother.

MH: That's very likely. They had all kind of costumes for years and years at the Community Building. When the Park Service took it over completely, they just threw them all out. Which was a very shame. They didn't notify anybody that they were going to do it. They just did it. They said it was their place and they could do what they wanted.

TM: Here's a newspaper clipping. Another Arizona memorial. 'John Ivens Post #42 dedicated the above beautiful memorial to their departed comrades last week in an impressive ceremony that was witnessed by hundreds of tourists and residents of the Grand Canyon territory. The services were in charge of the Legion Post and was participated in by Grand Canyon school children. The memorial was presented to the Grand Canyon National Park on behalf of the John Ivens Post by Commander E.M. Ennis and was accepted on behalf of the government by Park Superintendent M.R. Tillotson'. This is the stonework and the log work at the gateway to the cemetery. And these are various copies of that article.

MH: Some of these things are mixed up by date because people have gone through them. I've gone through them in the past, but I tried not to do that. But anyway, there's been other people in it, too.

TM: So here are some photographs. This is a different picture. Again, same six women and a man here as we had seen in the '20s there. And here it says who these people are.

MH: They had a meeting every year with the department president. They would always take them out to a point and have a little service and take pictures. Sometimes it was Hopi Point. They went to other points, I can't remember which ones.

TM: 'The openist part of the great open spaces! Mrs. Irene McIntire Walbridge National President of the Auxiliary and Mrs. Edna M. Doval Chapeau National of the 8 and 40 with Arizona Auxiliaries on a pinnacle at the very edge of the mile deep Grand Canyon. Below, Mrs. Doval with the wreaths of welcome presented to her in Honolulu at the beginning of the visit to Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units in Hawaii'. There is a picture of her with quite some wreaths, you can hardly see her. She's all covered up in flowers. Here's another photograph. Oh my gosh let's see. Careful with this.

MH: That must be one of the parades they had. Every year, excepting 1940, they had a memorial service at Grand Canyon for the veterans who had died and were buried there. In 1940 they didn't have hardly anybody there. '40 or '41, I think it was '40, that it just kinda, everything fell apart and they didn't have any service that year. Then of course, the next year there were very few people there because the war started. Well that was actually '42 that they didn't have very many people there. '41 was when the war started and '42 they were all in service. Because all these fellas that had been in the CC [sic] camps went to service. They came back and worked for the federal government in the Park Service. So they had a good crew when they all came back because they'd all had their feet wet in war and had worked for the government and worked at Grand Canyon. So they knew the place. Just a whole bunch of them just came back there and lived there. Some of them retired from there. Some of them went to other stations. Some of them got promotions and went to Washington. Some went to different parks and were superintendents and one thing and another. That bunch all started in the CC [sic] camps.

I think there were seven CC [sic] camps at Grand Canyon at one time. And they had barracks. The last barracks burnt. They took part of one of the barracks and made a minister's house out of it. One day it caught fire and burned down. So the people of that church, it was the Community Church, decided that they had to get a minister there and have a study minister all the time. They finally do have a minister

for the National Park. It's a minister in the National Parks program. They have usually a Baptist or a Methodist minister. They have other churches recognized there. The Catholic Church has a little chapel. The Mormon Church, I think, meets at school. They have different churches that come in and they've always been very good about letting them have services there. I've heard that some of the Parks didn't like to have that because they said that was church and state, but Grand Canyon was an exception to many rules and that was one of the rules. I don't know how they got away with it, but they did. Anyhow, every year they had a group of men and women and they marched from the Bright Angel. I don't know if this picture was at the Bright Angel. They marched from Bright Angel Lodge out to the cemetery. Because I marched it several times.

TM: Did you?

MH: Yes. It's a long walk.

TM: It's a long walk and these people have banners and flags. I'm going to read the names. It says 'Bob Francy'. It says 'Mila Harrison' it looks like, 'Superintendent Tillotson, Bill W.D. Henry, V.P. Titto Davis'. Is that right?

MH: Yeah, there was a Davis up there.

TM: 'Dick Gilliland, Maude Ennis, Clara Francy, Ruth Rowan, Laura Nelson, and Janice Grace Paco'. Maybe I'm not quite sure. And then a number of articles here. 'Canyon Post Selects New Legion Heads', 'Grand Canyon Woman Named Unit President', 'Canyon Women Hold Meeting', 'Veterans Notes', 'Whipple News', 'Grand Canyon CCC Honored'. Here's a number of photographs. I'll go through this page first because it's the one that's up there. A picture of a single engine radio engine airplane and there's a woman standing next to the plane. The lettering on the side of side of the plane says 'Grand Canyon Airlines'. And this is...

MH: Grand Canyon Airlines use to be out toward County Line, it was on that side of the road.

TM: The Red Mountain or Red Butte?

MH: Near Red Butte, yeah.

TM: Red Butte. This says 'Mrs. Glennis Sodgrass of Phoenix. She's Department President and private pilot Irving, Mrs. Ray, National President. At Grand Canyon Airport, May 1934'. And then on the other page there are a number of women at the rim again, a couple of men on the far right hand side, maybe one at the back. This is a whole list of people here. This is great. It doesn't say what day it is.

MH: Someplace in something I read just recently that Mrs. Greenway, Isabella Greenway, gave the Auxiliary a bunch of things to send to the veterans at the VA hospital because we didn't have any disabled veterans at Grand Canyon. She thought it should go to disabled veterans. The America Legion used to send them two or three cases of smokes every Christmas. They would have a fit now if you sent them a case of cigarettes.

TM: Yep.

MH: But everybody did smoke back in that age. I don't know what that is.

TM: Well, there's a picture of a woman and a small child at the rim. This is 'May 11, 1934. Mrs. Viester...?

MH: Could be.

TM: ...and Dene Pali'.

MH: Is it Greenhall.

TM: No, it's P-A-L-I is the last four words. And it looks like D-E-N-E. Dene Pali.

MH: I don't know who that is.

TM: Well, the child looks Native American. It's a young woman. It's a little girl, she's probably 10 or so. She's wearing a long skirt. She's very happy looking. Dene Pali. 'Maude Hall'.

MH: Maude Hall, I believe was Curly Ennis' mother.

TM: 'Knitted 92 caps for the boys at Whipple. Yarn being donated by the Babbitt Brothers. Mrs. Spencer, Ethyl Metzger and Maude Hall'. 'Margaret O'Connor of Clarkdale, Northern District Committee Woman visits Grand Canyon February, 1934'. Has this been photo documented? Has this binder been photo documented Mary?

MH: Pardon?

TM: Has this binder been photo documented?

MH: I don't know.

TM: May I?

MH: Sure.

TM: Thank you. I'll need to use a tripod to get a clear picture of the writing of every page. And that'll all go to Grand Canyon, to the South Rim Collection.

MH: Okay. The Legion and the Auxiliary were both started in 1923. One of the pictures in one of these books has a picture of, what's his name. Well, we'll come to his picture and I'll remember who he is. Anyhow, he was at the Peace signing in Paris, France.

TM: At the Armistice at the end of World War I or is this...?

MH: He wasn't an officer, he was there as a soldier. He was a soldier in France. Robert Fix was his name. He was at the signing of the peace agreement in Paris, France. He happened to be there and I guess he thought it would be an interesting thing to watch for future generations.

TM: Wow.



MH: He went there. I used to be able to pick his face out in the picture, but I don't know if I could anymore or not. I don't see that well.

TM: 'Ernie Owls John Bradley, Mrs. Mockerstone, and Sam'. Oh, and they've got violins, these gentlemen.

MH: John, played in the orchestra for years.

TM: John Bradley.

MH: Mm, hmm. They used to play the Bright Angel every evening excepting I think Sunday. They'd have dances up there for the tourists. Anybody could go, but they were primarily for the tourists.

TM: There is a photo of a number of people. Some date on it. On the back it says 'Bill Dowling and Curly Ennis with the flag at Shoshone Point. Irene Gray and Paul Tibbetts. From left, Art Metzger, Ken Meadows. In the front of him third from Art is Bob Fix'.

MH: Mr. Jam was in everything, Mr. Metzger was in everything. I always called him Mr. Jam.

TM: Why did you call him that?

MH: He called me Ms. Sweeper. JAM was his initials and I called him Mr. Jam.

TM: That's cute. 'Report for 1934-1935 the John Ivens Unit #42, Grand Canyon'. You know what I should do is take a picture of this, photo this, and all that will be on a little disc or a thumb drive. I'll give that to you or when I bring these back they should go to the Legion as well, somewhere, so that they have this documented out electronically.

MH: That would be great.

TM: That would be great.

MH: People don't join things like that anymore. The boys come home and they go back to their families and all they're interested in is trying to get their life back together. Of course, they were doing that after the First World War and after the Second World War and after the other wars, too, but it's just a different attitude nowadays. When was this one taken?

TM: Well it doesn't say Mary. On the back there's a number of...

MH: There's Jo Douglas, I can see her face. I can't see the rest of them very well. I think they got their names pretty much on the back.

TM: If you could try to maybe figure out what date this was. So back row is Nella Draper [sic].

MH: Melba Draper.

TM: Melba.

MH: She came in... Let's see when was he there? He died there, Mr. Draper. He was in charge of the Bright Angel dining room/kitchen for the Bright Angel Lodge, pretty much. He worked under Mr. Kennedy. She was a librarian and she worked at the library. But then she started teaching school. When he died, she finished out that year and then she left and went back to Texas. She was from Texas. She said when she met him she thought, "I wouldn't marry a man that was a cook." They had a very happy life but he died of a heart attack in his bed at the Bright Angel. They lived in one of the places they had for the managers at the apartment there. Bill Henry was our doctor at that time. Bill had released him from the hospital that morning and he thought he'd go by and check on him. Hank was up straightening his bed out when Bill got there. He said, "Here let me do that." He said, "I can make a bed." Then he got back in bed. Bill sat and talked to him for a little while and he went back over to the old hospital which is only like three blocks if you go around the loop and walk if you go across. By the time he got back to the hospital, Hank had died. Melba just went all to pieces about it. They were very close. I don't know anything about any of Melba's family and I don't know anything about his. They were great people to work with. Melba knew lots about books and she really helped with the library a lot.

TM: Ruth Rowan is here. Marion Smith. Jo, um...

MH: Jo Douglas.

TM: Jo Douglas, but it says Anderson in brackets. It says Jo Douglas and then there's a bracket Anderson end bracket.

MH: Hmm. Her maiden name was Forsight. They were from a ranch up in Utah. Her mother was a librarian at Provo, Utah, but they lived on a ranch when they were growing up. Every time they had a birthday they had a pot of beans, instead of a birthday cake. I always remember her telling me that.

TM: It says 'This picture taken at the installation of officers in 1949. Front row left to right...' and then there's a number of names here which looks like Madis, could be Gladys Burack.

MH: There was a Davis there. Burack, yeah.

TM: 'Sergeant at arms, Ruby...'

MH: I can't remember what Davis' name was. Joanie Davis I think it was. There were two Davis's there at different times and I don't know if that was far enough back for Joanie or if it was too early for her.

TM: 'Dorothy Talakte.'

MH: Yeah, that was Kenny's mother.

TM: 'Ruth King, historian. Back row is Melba Draper, Amy Slater, Ruth Rowan, Mary Jane Daisy.'

MH: Myra joined when Buford did and I think that was in 1947.

TM: Here's a picture, there's a bunch of kids.

MH: Now this is one of the things that the Legion and the Auxiliary sponsored. You can see a Verkamp here. I see some freckled face Verkamp here someplace. He should be right in here. Here he is, I think. I think that's him. One of them.

TM: There are some names on the bottom. Oh that's Tersh Verkamp. That's Steve Verkamp. There's Marlene Rundell. This is the community field games. It looks like 'Helen Rowan and Mike Verkamp'. It's a great picture. They're all in the ready, steady, go, run position.

MH: Yeah, they use to have a race. Well, they had things to entertain them in the summertime. Mr... Well the teachers sometimes did it. Sometimes the ministers did it/were in charge of it. I can't think of any of them that were in charge. Buck Clark was one of them, he was a teacher. I think Pavlich was once in charge of it and then a couple of the ministers. But I didn't know the ministers very well. Being a Catholic I only knew the priest. No, I knew some of the ministers, but not well.

TM: 'Life in a Dormitory or Why Housekeepers Get Gray'. Here is the notes of the play. It says 'Scene: Same room but a little more tidy. Both Belle and Sadie are wearing dresses. One by one the girls enter talking all the while. Hostess is last to show up.' I'm going to turn this book sideways here. There's a baseball game going.

MH: Yeah, that was one of the times they had a kids program going in the summer.

TM: Ken Poraya is the minister.

MH: Ken Poraya, yeah. They went to Las Vegas and he was the minister over there for years, but he died. His wife, Betty, still lives there I think. Myra use to write to her. I think right up till the time that Myra died she was still living.

TM: Wow. That's precious. I'm going to set that over here. I'm going to set that down here.

MH: Put that on the chair if you want to.

TM: Yeah. Wow.

MH: This one here is the one that Al Richmond got together. There are pictures, but most of it is pictures of commanders. I should remember what's in it, but I don't. I helped compile it. Most of this was like when they went to conventions, when they elected officers, stuff like that. This is the newest book they put out.

TM: Excellent. This is 'The History of the John Ivens Post #42 the First 75 Years from 1923 to 1998. The American Legion Grand Canyon Arizona the First 75 Years 1923-1998. Compiled and edited by Al Richmond with Buford Belgard and Mary Kay Hoover.' It has a whole list of the historians of the Post, a list of the commanders. How many of these did you have made up?

MH: A thousand, I think.

TM: Did you?

MH: They gave one to all the members at that time. Then they gave to officers that came to visit and they also gave the national and the state. That's John Ivens.

TM: There's a picture of John Ivens, a picture of his grave in Arlington and his grave marker in France.

MH: Both. I don't know how many they have left. The last time I looked it looked like it had really gone down. So I don't know how many they have left and I don't go over there that much anymore.

TM: How would I get a copy of this Mary? How would I get a copy of that?

MH: You could probably have that one, unless I have some loose things in it.

TM: There is a loose something in there.

MH: I don't know if it's something I was going to take back over there or what. Let me look here. Oh, we were using this to put history in the newsletter. Every newsletter we put some history in it. That's what this is, is one of the histories that we put in the newsletter. So you don't need that, it's in there.

TM: Thank you.

MH: You can have that one. I'll tell Al I gave it to you.

TM: Ok.

MH: This is a book that started in 1972. I don't know what these letters are, but this is from Mr. Reed about the homestead. It's very fragile.

TM: Yes, it is.

MH: I don't know if the letter is still in it.

TM: It looks like it's right there.

MH: There's a letter from Mr. Reed about that. That's where they got the Legion Hut was from... The land was... Originally it was going to be a nice amount of land. He died, then it went into, I don't know some kind of a trust or something and the man that was in charge of it came up to Grand Canyon. I think I told you this.

TM: Uh, uh.

MH: He was at... They called him the... He always wore a white hat. Anyhow he was at Grand Canyon and he said he'd sign the papers as soon he got back to his office. That night he stayed at the El Tovar and they found him dead in the morning. So then the lady that was in charge of it after that lived in California. She also agreed to go along with what Mr. Reed had asked them to do and she died. She had called Buford up and talked to him and told him they were going go through with it. She had the papers there and was going to sign them the next day. Then she died during the night. So there were 21 heirs and they wanted the money. It was worth quite a bit of money. Mr. Thurston got most of it. Bob

Thurston bought most of it. He could afford to buy it, but the Legion couldn't. Mrs. Verkamp helped him get the land and get started. They paid her back.

There was something going around one time that they stole that land. That it wasn't paid for and all this stuff. So I got hold of the Thurston kids and I read the riot act to them and told them that it had been paid for and there was proof of it. Mrs. Verkamp had lent them the money and they had paid it off and it was their piece of land. He didn't want to let them have the right-of-way to go back to it. They were building the new highway and the highway department told them that they had to give them access. There was also a home back there that belonged to some lady that owned just a little piece of land in there. She had built a home. I think one of the Thurston boy's lives in it now. A Thurston lives there. There's a son lives up there and then a grandson of Bob's lives there. I don't know which one of them lives in that house. Buford and Myra had a little piece of land there, too. When he got that land he built a house out there, too, and then he sold it to Frank Rotter because they did away with our jobs and we had to leave Grand Canyon or take whatever they wanted to give us. We couldn't quite see what they wanted us to do. So anyhow, we didn't go through with that.

This is also, I think, from Mr...., well I don't know if it is from Mr. Reed or not. Yeah, it is from George Reed, too. It's all about the land. He was a very fine gentleman. He made his living for a long time growing vegetables and stuff out there. Then he worked in the village at this and that when, you know, he needed money and stuff. There were a lot of men who were carpenters up there and worked on buildings and schools. The schools and the different things that were put up. It was a man named Roscoe. I can't remember his last name, but he worked up there with Quincy Coatney. Mr. Reed had worked there earlier and Mr. what's their name, Grace Moore's father, Bill Lockridge. Lockridge or Lockwood? Lockridge. He was one of them that helped build a lot of things up there. He lived on a mining claim, I think it I was. They used to have... You could put in for a mining claim and you had to do so much work on it every year.

TM: Mm hmm, that's right.

MH: As long as you kept it up, you kept it. But then the government took them all back, I think. Sometime after I was up there, I know, I heard lots of discussion, cussing and discussion. There were quite a few people who had mining claims.

TM: So this is the membership of 1964-65.

MH: I don't know that there's any pictures in there. I can't remember.

TM: Let's see.

MH: I don't think I joined until around that time. I joined through my brother who was killed in Iwo Jima.

TM: There's a photograph. 'Buford Belgard with red cap on left front carrying Arizona flag. This is in John Ivens Post #42'.

MH: Fourth of July?

TM: 'National Convention of the American Legion in Washington, DC'.

MH: Oh, oh, I don't think Buford missed very many National Conventions. Boy, no matter what he wanted to go.

TM: There's a photograph there.

MH: And he went.

TM: 'Chicago, Illinois 1992. Buford Belgard, Al Dunaway, Maria Curry'. What's it say?

MH: Was that Maria Curry with them?

TM: Yes.

MH: She has since passed away, but she was Department President at one time. She was Department Commander. She was in service and she was a Department Commander at one time. She came out of service and married and had a big family. But she kept active all the time. She passed away a couple years ago. She was a very, very concerned person. One of her things was that she worked on Americanism. She really put lots into everything she did. She was a wonderful person. He wasn't an officer ever. We'd go to these meetings and, of course, I couldn't go in and Myra couldn't go in because we weren't officers in the Legion. But she was an officer in the Legion so her husband Jack would come and have dinner with us and she'd go in and have dinner with the men.

TM: There's a nice article here. 'Art Metzger's camp cooking on the Rim Bone Simple'.

MH: They used to love to go to Shoshone and have cookouts out there. They still do. Do you ever go to those cookouts and stuff they have out on the rim?

TM: Mm, hmm. 'Kolb photos at NAU. Canyon pioneer, Emery C. Kolb foreground. Pioneer photographer and explorer at Grand Canyon carefully checks over a glass negative of an early canyon scene with longtime friend Harry Metzger, curator Flagstaff's Pioneers Historical Museum. Standing James Frasier, left, and Richard Quick of the Northern Arizona University library. Kolb is presenting a unique collection of 700 Canyon photographs taken by himself and his late brother, Ellsworth, in the early decades of the century to the Northern Arizona Pioneers Historical Society Collection at the NAU library'.

MH: Mr. Kolb was a little, short man. His brother was tall and thin and he was short and thin. He could read a magazine and you could ask him what was on page such and such and he could tell you what he'd read. That was when was younger. When he got older he couldn't remember who you were. That's at a convention.

TM: This is a photograph of a banner that says 'Arizona' that's being carried down the street here. It's labeled 'The National Convention of New Orleans, Louisiana, September 1968. Buford B. Belgard at left carrying Arizona banner'.

MH: Yeah, he always carried one end of the banner. There's, is that Dick Patten?

TM: That's Dick Patten carrying the Post colors.

MH: He was the Department Commander one time, too. He lives down at Chino Valley. He worked for the Park Service.

TM: This says 'Belgard with Post colors at Atlanta Convention 1969'. And 'John Ivens Post, Buford Belgard with Post colors, National Convention Atlanta, Georgia'.

MH: It sounds like a Buford Belgard book.

TM: Mm, hmm.

MH: He was in all those. He was very active in the Legion.

TM: Very active.

MH: Yes he was. The man who gave his eulogy, well he did the service when Buford died, he was the Department chaplain. We couldn't find a minister. One was going to a family reunion, one was doing this, one was doing that and we couldn't find one. He said, "I'll do it." He said, "I can do that. I'm the chaplain." So he came up and he put... They did a beautiful service. He wasn't feeling very well that day and, you know, he died right after that.

TM: Is that right?

MH: He was a very fine gentlemen, he was from Prescott.

TM: Can I make a picture of that too?

MH: Yeah, you can take it, but you have to bring it back.

TM: Oh absolutely, not only will I bring it back, but I'll bring it back with a electronic copy of all the photographs.

MH: This goes along in the same vein. This one has more pictures in it. This is a picture when... It's got the names on the back of it. One of these guys is... This one was from down here I think. This is Dick Waters. He was the editor of the paper, The Mohave Miner Newspaper. This is Mr. Nelson. He was the Department Commander that year. And this is... I just thought of his name and now it went through my head. It's on the back. This is our dear friend, Mr. Cockrell, Bob Cockrell. He was a good friend.

TM: This is '1961 Post 42, November 11. Jean McDougal, C.R. Dick Waters, Vince Ellis...'

MH: Vince Ellis, that was the one.

TM: '...Bob Cockrell, Buford Belgard, and Lawrence...'

MH: Scheier.

TM: 'Scheier'.

MH: Most of those guys were federal employees. I don't know what that is.

TM: This is a picture of John Ivens' grave in France.

MH: Oh, and I think this and I don't know...

TM: This is Arlington.

MH: Cemetery.

TM: It would be John Ivens' grave in Arlington.

MH: See, I can't see that. I don't know what this is, I can't remember.

TM: That's the France grave for John Ivens.

MH: This is Curley Ennis. Dear old Curley.

TM: That's a great shot. So this is 'Emmett "Curley" Ennis, Commander John Ivens Post 42 in 1943'. That's a great picture.

MH: Here is one of the parades from the Bright Angel. It's a good picture of the front of the Bright Angel, too. I don't know what picture this was.

TM: Hang on Mary, let's get these. I'm going to slip these photos right back in there where they came from. Right there. Yes, thank you.

MH: This is another picture from the Bright Angel. Took a lot of them that year. I don't know what this is.

TM: This looks like a service happening at the ceremony. This is 1951. It's the color guard. Grant Wedoff, Lawrence Scheier, Howard Stricklin, Neil Higgins, Herbert Corbin, Ernest Greening, Buford Belgard, and Ralph Walker. What does this say? This is again 'Color guard 1951'. These are great photographs.

MH: Then these are minutes I think.

TM: 1952-53 officers of the Post there. These are wonderful.

MH: They really had a lot of members at one time.

TM: They did.

MH: That's a list of members at that year. This is another one from the Bright Angel down. Here's my friend, Ralph. I can see Ralph because I knew that he was there. I can't hear from him. I guess he must have passed away.

TM: Ralph Walker.

MH: He lives up in Nevada, Sparks, Nevada. He was very ill and he couldn't remember things. The last time I talked to him was about two years ago and I haven't been able to contact him since. So I don't



know if he's in a home or if he's passed away. He said he couldn't remember things, but he could remember all the things about living at Grand Canyon. He loved the Canyon, but they left there because she wanted to live in a city. They went up to Sparks, Nevada and made their home there. She died before he did. She had cancer four times. You know they has that RECA. Was it RECA award for people who had cancer, certain types of cancer. They were downwinders. I told her about that. I didn't know that she'd had it four times. This was when she was sick with it the fourth time. So, I told her about it and I got her the papers and she sent them in and she got money. She wanted to buy a SUV, a small one. She got it and she got to enjoy it for two months and she passed away. She could have had it and enjoyed it much sooner if I had known that she had that type of cancer. She could have gotten it on any of the times she had cancer. So here's Bob Fix.

TM: And Jack Harbin.

MH: This was the one that was at the signing of the Peace in Paris, France. This is Jack Harbin who flew the plane that landed down on the plateau and got in trouble with the Park Service. I think this is David Kevama. I saw him several years ago over in Flagstaff. He and Donald Longhomma worked for Jack Verkamp for years and years. He moved to Flagstaff. I don't know what he was doing over there. But I was walking down the street one day and somebody grabbed my arm and I thought, "Who's that?" And it was David.

TM: Oh nice.

MH: I hadn't seen him in a long time. I know Donald's has passed away, but I don't know if he has or not. Both of them were in service. Then they got jobs at Verkamp's and worked there for years and years. This is Mintz again. This is the picture of the Hut when they built it.

TM: So this would have been in Tusayan then?

MH: Yeah, it's where the building next to Frank Rotter's dining room in that building is. The next building they built where this was. In fact, it was the first building that Frank built.

TM: 'George A. Reed home'. This is '1953, the John Ivens Post 42, the Hut'.

MH: And there was all my friends. I think I'm in that one, maybe. Look for brown and white shoes.

TM: Let's see...

MH: I used to wear brown and white shoes in the summer time.

TM: Let's see what it says on the back of this. 'Left to right: the Frank boys, Bessie Reed, Mary Hoover'. Ok, from left to right. Let's see 'J.J. Reed'. So that would be you right there.

MH: Right there. Yep. That was a big dinner that we had out there.

TM: 'April 12, 1953. Buford Belgard, the Frank girls, one of the Scheier boys, Douglas Frank with a cut on his foot. Mrs. Ernie Greening...'

MH: Didn't hear from Douglas Frank this year.

TM: '... Ernie Greening, Myra Belgard, Ruth Bain, and John Scheier'.

MH: That was the same one. Mr. Metzger and Red Wright built that fireplace in there. And the Indians came out and danced.

TM: They did?

MH: Porter Tameche's dance group that use to dance out by the Hopi House came out.

TM: So this is 'Dedication day. Lenore Gibson, Rosa Lauzon, John Gibson, Mary Hoover, and Myra Belgard. Photograph by Virgil Gibson. Dedication April 1953'.

MH: That was a long time ago.

TM: And this was at the Reed home. This was at the Legion Lodge at the Hut?

MH: They bought it and then they put a bar in downstairs and they had a kitchen. Then they built on a 40 x 45 room on it. They could have dances out there and dinners and stuff. They did have dances and dinners out there.

TM: 'Hopi Sam on the right, Pemahinya'.

MH: Sammy Pemahinya, he loved to come out and do things. He was my little friend. I think he was a grandfather or great uncle of Jack Honanie. Do you know Jack Honanie?

TM: No.

MH: He lives here. But, when I was working at the El Tovar he was one of our bellman. Jackson Honanie.

TM: Now, Herman Honanie is the chairman of the Hopi tribe.

MH: Yeah. Jack worked up at the Canyon. He was a bellman and then he left. I don't know, I didn't catch up with him until he was down here. He's an uncle, I think, of Kenny Talakte, too. They're all Hopi Indians.

TM: One more 'Holiday parade 1957. Ken Talakte, Cecil Manning, Oscar Willis, Buford Belgard'. Those are great photographs. 'Woodrow Peppers'.

MH: Woody Peppers. He went back to Washington. He had a good job in the Park Service back there. It's funny, I don't remember his wife at all. But I remember him because he was at every meeting. We would have our meeting in one room and they'd go in the other room and he was always there.

TM: 'Williams to host...'. This is the Williams News. 'Williams to host Legionnaires...'.

MH: That's when Buford, I think, became commander.

TM: '...June 18, 1959. Candidate for State Department Commander'.

MH: He really loved all that stuff. To me it was just a lot of work.

TM: Well, you made it, you made it happen with all the work that you did.

MH: Well, I used to put on their dinners and stuff. They hired somebody to do it and she was supposed to pay their utilities and she didn't pay it. They almost lost the place because they owed so much for water. Because they used to have to haul water. I guess they still, once in a while, haul water up there.

TM: Here's a wonderful bit of history of the Post. This is from March 18, 1960 by Ethyl Metzger. It says 'In 1912 George A. Reed, then a ranger in the Forest Service, resigned his position and homesteaded 160 acres. A place known for many years as the Reed place. Eventually all except the roadside property of the homestead came into possession of Mrs. Eva Buggeln-Moss with Vic Watson as business manager for her land and cattle interests in this locality. Due to neglect and some vandalism the vacant Reed home was rapidly deteriorating. Recognizing an opportunity here, Buford Belgard contacted Vic Watson representing the leases of the property who held an option to buy later and also the absentee owner George Reed'. So it goes on about the history here which is great.

MH: Mm, hmm. Mrs. Metzger loved to write and she was very good at writing. She did a lot of writing.

TM: Excellent.

MH: She was in a car accident and she lost her leg. Becky used to go over. She loved the kids to come over. She'd put them on her lap and read to them when they were little kids. Becky lived right across the street, so she went over quite often. She'd say, "Mrs. Metzger would you read me a story?" She'd pick her up and put her on her lap. One day she said, "Mrs. Metzger you have a hard lap." She had an artificial leg.

TM: Oh my gosh.

MH: She was in a car accident.

TM: Here's the members from 1961, 61-62. Excellent. 'Arizona Legion Expected to Fire Blast at Proposed Tractor Trade'. Great, great history here. Again, what I'd like to do is take pictures of all of this and bring this back to you with the photographs as electronics. Then you could put that on your computer and if Buford or anybody else would be able to put this electronically, it could go up on websites, whatever. To help record this history and preserve this for the future.

MH: That would be great.

TM: That would be wonderful. Wow. Excellent. Thank you, Mary.

MH: Well, did I have another one over there?

TM: There's one here, I don't know if it went with those.

MH: That's a big one. It's got pictures in it, too.

TM: Let's see, let's look at this. Am I going at it the right way? No, I'm not. Let's go at it this way.

MH: I stuck some of pictures out so you'd be sure to see them because I thought they were interesting.

TM: Story of John Ivens Post.

MH: This was on the Reed homestead. Is that one a golf course? No, that's John Ivens.

TM: That's Arlington National Cemetery. That must be where...yeah, John Ivens...here he is in Arlington there.

MH: No, that's not. They had a... I don't know if I told you that or not. They had a golf course out at Reed homestead down there in the valley where the motels, some of the motels are. I don't know how many holes it was. Anyhow, it was a good size golf course. Jack Verkamp used to go out and play golf there. Buf wasn't a golf person. But they had a lot of people who were and they did go out and play golf. I can remember them having one of those little golf, I don't know what they call it, I played it a couple of times. It was just a small... It's got a name and I can't think of it.

TM: Like a putting kind of area or?

MH: You could play a whole golf game, but it was in a small area.

TM: Ok. Like a mini golf.

MH: Mini golf, yeah. That's what it was. It was out at Tusayan. I can't remember, but it seemed like it was right there next to the Tusayan bar, but I'm not sure. I just don't remember. That was so long ago. But it was there in that area. And of course that's all built up now, but they had it right there. We went out a couple times and I played golf. I'm not good at anything to do with balls. I hit my brother in the eye with a ball one time and he in turn hit me in the eye with a ball bat. No, I hit him with a ball bat and he hit me with a ball. He said I did it on purpose.

TM: Photograph of the 'First seven volunteers from Grand Canyon, April, 1917 to the Arizona National Guard. From left to right in the front row are R.E. Bob Francy, Tom Truelove, Lyle McLean, and Ben Griffith. Back row are Charlie Kennedy, A.N. Artblower, and Guy Gilkerson. Photo is donated by J.A. Art Metzger'.

MH: The first one you said, Francy, he left the Canyon. He became a deputy sheriff. He left the Canyon and he went down to Winslow or Holbrook and bought a big ranch. I don't know if his family still live on it, but I'm sure he's gone. He was real active in the Legion when he lived at Grand Canyon.

TM: You've talked about him before. That name rings a bell. That's Francy. Ok, let's see. I'm going to turn this around.

MH: He was the commander of the Legion one time, Bob Francy was. He spent a lot of time over at the cowboy dorm. They had a big room there with pool tables in it and everything so they guys would have some entertainment. He was the commander and he kept missing the meetings. "Oh, I gotta work, I gotta work." So this one day he was down in there, I don't know which one of the guys were there, but

one of them was there and they grabbed his arm and took his cuffs, put it around his arm and put it around a pipe and he was there for that meeting.

TM: He attended.

MH: I thought that was so funny.

TM: Here's a picture of A.E. Harbin.

MH: Who is that?

TM: That's 'A.E. Harbin, Post Commander 1925'.

MH: A.E. Harbin. Is that the right name on there?

TM: Well, H-A-R-B-I-N, A.E. Harbin. Does that...

MH: I don't remember him. He looks like somebody I should know, but I don't remember who he is.

TM: There's L.F. Kennedy.

MH: Oh, he was a fine gentleman. I loved that blue eyed gentleman. He is the sparkliest blue eyes you ever saw.

TM: That a nice picture of him, too.

MH: They have him down in one of the Pioneer's Paper as being Mr. Harvey. I kept thinking I would write. It was one of the pictures that the Schellbach boy furnished the O' Pioneers. I kept thinking I'd write to them and tell them that's not Mr. Harvey. Mr. Harvey was dead long before that picture was taken. He was there for 50/49 years, Mr. Kennedy was.

TM: Is that right?

MH: And he was so kind hearted. That's the memorial out at the cemetery.

TM: The cemetery gateway. 'Fred Johnson was born in Kanab, Utah 25 October, 1998. Education was received in the schools of his home town.'

MH: He and another man were killed.

TM: On the river.

MH: They drowned.

TM: Mm, hmm.

MH: I didn't realize there was a third one with them, but there was a third person with them.

TM: There was.

MH: But I can't remember who he was.

TM: It was in the gift I was supposed to give you today, talks about that. I'll bring that when I come back. Yes, there were three of them. The two drowned but the other man was able to hike out. Hiked all the way up to the rim, went to the Superintendent in the middle of the night, knocked on the door and said, "I resign" and told them what happened. Then they started the search. They found Sturdevant but they didn't find Johnson.

MH: I think Johnson's wife is buried next to his. One of them isn't buried there. They never found his body. But they did put up a monument for him anyway, a headstone. They say they're running out of space at Grand Canyon for the cemetery and the Park is not going to offer any more space for it. It's an iffy thing, huh. It's according to who's the head of the Department of the Interior at the time it comes up.

TM: Here's a picture of James Metzger. It's unfortunate because he's kinda of out of focus, but the building behind is in good focus.

MH: Freddie Bart used to take a lot of pictures, but he never offered them. He'd show them to you, but he wouldn't offer them to you. Which was a shame, because he was really a good photographer.

TM: Earl Fambro.

MH: He was one of the first commanders of the Legion.

TM: '34-'35.

MH: Not the first one, but one of the first ones. The one that was the first one just died in the '60s. He came up to some big party they had at the Legion Hut and the next year he was gone. He worked for the Santa Fe.

TM: Here's a photograph. 'The new Community Building opened 31 August, 1935'. There's a picture of the Community Building.

MH: Someplace it said how much it cost and I can't remember where that picture... I saw that picture. I can see that in my mind, but I can't...

TM: I bet it's in here somewhere Mary.

MH: It's in something.

TM: Yeah, yeah.

MH: There might be other books over there. We've got boxes of books. They told me they were going to throw out the minutes and I said, "You don't throw the minutes out that's the history. You gotta keep all those."

TM: You're exactly right. The back of the Grand Canyon School building. Yeah, if they could keep that history that's important. 'Grand Canyon school building. Front of the building. Dedicated on the 8th of December, 1939. E.C. Kolb represented the Legion. Superintendent Tillotson represented the National Park Service'.

MH: That's the rock building in the middle. And that's Mr. Fix.

TM: John Fix.

MH: He had a brother that worked at Grand Canyon, too. They ran the... Let's see did they run that? I think I'm getting him mixed up with somebody else that ran. Del Rio Springs was George Converse. George Converse ran Del Rio Springs for Fred Harvey.

TM: 'April 1945, service held on Canyon rim at the front of the El Tovar Hotel for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Conducted by S.G. Stevens. Soldiers were from the rest camp'.

MH: That was a CC [sic] camp. Well no, it's a rest camp. They had a rest camp up there for soldiers that were on R&R. They used to use Moqui when Clinertz, was it Clinertz? It was Charlie Greening's cousin or uncle or something owned it. Then Charlie Greening got it from him. But it was on Forest Service land and they couldn't do anything without the Forest Service saying it was okay. Charlie sometimes did things and then he had to tear them down because the Forest Service hadn't OK'd it. Then they'd turn around and tell him, "Well you can put that back up now. You have permission."

TM: 'Commander William Bowen from 1947-48. William Bowen was commander of the Post. He was transferred to Grand Quivers National Monument, New Mexico'. Bill Bowen.

MH: You know that the Forest Service took care of Grand Canyon. They didn't have a superintendent for a long time. There was a man out that the Forest Service... He and his wife used to ride through the forest and check things out. He didn't even have a assistant for years, his wife rode with him.

TM: Really?

MH: What was their name? Moose, Clyde Moose. I don't know where they went, but they left there and they went someplace in, I think, southern Arizona. I just don't.... He wrote a book about his time at the Grand Canyon and with the Forest Service. I always wanted to get it. One time I saw it advertised and I wrote to them and that copy had been sold. There's a couple that have a, I think their name is Cassidy, they have a bookstore down in Prescott and they had that book and I wanted it so bad. But they'd already sold it. I've never seen it ever since then. I bet that would be interesting reading.

TM: Very much so, very much so. '1949 State Department Commander, Lawrence Carr, Tempe, Arizona. District Commander, Jeffery Ferris Flagstaff, Arizona. National Committeeman, Ray Poncho from Flagstaff and Commander Jack Verkamp, Grand Canyon, Arizona'. That looks like at the dedication of the Legion...

MH: Mm, hmm, probably was.

TM: ...memorial. This is wonderful material, Mary. 'Commander George McAllister '49-'50'.

MH: George McAllister, I think he was a desk clerk. Is that George? Let me see his face. Yeah, that was George. He was a dandy. He married a very rich lady. I think she was from Canada. He worked at the desk at the El Tovar. He was the head desk clerk. He came home from service and he wore his uniform whenever he could because he thought he looked good in it. And he did look good in it.

TM: There we go, there's that picture again of the children, but it's got a nice typed up. There's 'Gail Rondel, Tersh Verkamp, Mike Verkamp, Carol Heberling, Helen Rowan, and Steve Verkamp'. That's a great shot.

MH: Do I have a, yeah, I do. We used to give these to the school kids. The Legion puts it out. That one only went to President who...

TM: ...who goes to George Bush.

MH: They've got one out now that has Obama on it, but I didn't order those. I used to buy these and do it through the Auxiliary. I didn't buy the last, well I didn't buy, I wasn't at the Legion anymore when they came out. I was there for a little while, but not very long after that.

TM: So William Coulter and Julina Coulter.

MH: The Coulters were real prominent. She was in service as well as him.

TM: There's Mr. Metzger.

MH: Yeah, I can't think where she worked, but she worked and so did he.

TM: Are these the Colter's of Colter Hall?

MH: No, no.

TM: Different spelling, too, isn't it?

MH: This C-O-U and the other is C-O. Colter was named after Mary Jane Colter.

TM: Thank you.

MH: It was just girl's dorm for many, many years. Victor Hall, which is the men's dorm, was named after Victor Patrosso who was the manager at the El Tovar until Mr. Rouser took his place. He was kind of a dandy, too. He loved to have people come in and play the piano. I think he sang some, too. He was Italian. With a name like Patrosso what else would you be? Anyhow, he was there for quite a number of years. He was an old bachelor and when Buford was going to go back and he and Myra were going to get married, he told him, "You should never get married. You should be free. You shouldn't have a family." Buford said, "I've known this girl all my life. I'm going to go back and I'm going to marry her." He said, "We don't have any housing for married people." So they put him in the girl's dorm. They used to have four rooms at the end of the girls dorm that were shut off from the rest of the girls dorm. The chef at the El Tovar had one room and Buf and Myra had one room. I can't remember who had the other two rooms. But anyhow, there were just four men in that part, but they were all married. It was funny that he told him not to get married.



TM: That was it, just four couples. Just four married couples there.

MH: Yeah. Then that was right before the war. Buf came out in 1941, I think it was '41. His aunt and he drove out. He was engaged to Myra but they weren't married yet. So they went back and in April they were married. In '42, I think it was. Anyhow, they were married 67 ½ years to the day. I think Myra stayed alive that last day just so she could say it was an even amount of time. She wanted everything to be even and perfect. I used to tell her, "The world isn't perfect Myra." She had this thing everything had to be beautiful and everything had to be perfect.

TM: Nice.

MH: She tried to make the world perfect. She did a lot of good things in this old world. She was a good friend. I think her daughter is my daughter, because I practically raised her because Myra was a social butterfly. She didn't miss anything if she could help it. She went to every bridge party, she didn't play bridge well, but she went. Any tea they had, she'd go to it. Sometimes she'd drag me along, I didn't like things like that. I'd rather be working, but we were just different people.

TM: It seems as though the chance to socialize, you really had to make it happen.

MH: Yes, she did.

TM: Otherwise, it could be very isolating.

MH: Yeah, it could be. You know, I have personal pictures someplace of things that we did. One year we made a bunch of dolls and gave them out to kids. One year we took, this was back in Kansas, we took an orphanage and each one of us took a child and tried to get them what they wanted. The little girl that I got wanted a doll that was a cowgirl. I found a doll that had one leg. I couldn't afford very much, cause I wasn't making very much money. I couldn't go buy something that was perfect, because I didn't have that kind of money. So anyway, I went and I got this doll. I had some felt and I made a felt boot. I sewed it to the upper part of the leg. I put a boot on the other leg and got a little cowboy hat from the dime store and I made a little vest and a little shirt. I always could sew. Anyway, I sewed and she was so happy that she got that doll. I even got a note back from her. Some of the kids didn't get notes back.

TM: Oh, that's nice.

MH: But I got a note back, so I was happy that I did that for that little girl. We had a Christmas tree there at the dorm at Colter Hall which was the girl's dorm then. We went down and decorated the Christmas tree and had a little Christmas party there. Mrs. Cunningham was the house mother at that time. Sometimes she'd let us use the stove and we could bake something or cook something, but we had to furnish our own cookery and stuff. We weren't supposed to cook in our room so you had to go and ask permission to use the kitchen. Then she'd let you use it if she wanted to and if she didn't she wouldn't. It was up to her. She was pretty good to all of us. That was John's mother. She was there a long time. She used to always stick up for me, so I was especially partial to her as a house mother.

TM: Oh, that's nice.

MH: Anyhow, we got along fine. We had this one girl, her sister and she and her brother-in-law would go out. One night Georgia didn't want to come with them and they stopped by the house. So Frank says, "I'll take her home." So Frank and she were out on the porch talking and Mrs. Cunningham said, "Would you please kiss that girl goodnight and go home so I can get some sleep?" It wasn't a boyfriend, it was a brother-in-law. But she didn't know that. She just knew there was a boy out there with her.

We had a curfew. You had to be in by midnight. I lived in a room that was down on the ground floor and one night this gal came in from Rowe Well and she was really high. She played the banjo. She had her banjo with her and she knocked on our window. So we unlocked the window and let her in. Well, she had to sit there on the windowsill and play the banjo a little bit for us. Finally she went to her room. It was way after midnight. She was an older woman, she was older than we were. But, she got in that way and the next day our screens were nailed shut. Mrs. Cunningham nailed the screens shut. She thought it was us going in and out the window. We weren't going in and out the window. We came down the hallway. The couple of times I did have to go over and get the key was because I went out of town and I got back too late to come in. I'd go up to check the key out at the El Tovar and get in the dorm and sign my name that I was coming in at two o'clock in the morning or whatever time it was. I'd been on a trip or something. I never got into trouble for it. When they were drinking and they came in, they got into trouble for it because Mrs. Cunningham would have to let them in or they'd have to go to the El Tovar desk and get the key. They were very strict back in those times. It was a different world that we lived in. We had rules and rules and more rules. Anyway, they were good times.

TM: In through the screen window and the next day they were nailed shut.

MH: We went out and pulled the nails out, but nobody came in anymore that way. Peggy's bed was right there and of course, they'd wake her up first and then I'd wake up and she'd say, "What should we do?" and I'd say, "Unlock the window and let her in," you know. We didn't want anybody to get into trouble, either, but we were the ones that were getting in trouble.

TM: Yeah, you guys became the keepers of the other way in.

MH: Then I moved out of that room and moved into another room. Peggy left and I went into another room. It was too small. I had a room by myself because they put me in a... Once I was in where the linen room was, on the first floor. They put a sink in it after I moved out of it. Constance Keller was in that room and she loved it because she had it all by herself.

TM: Oh, yeah.

MH: They put a little closet in for her and they put a sink in for her. I had to go out and use the sink in the romp room when I wanted water. I had a pitcher and a basin, but I had to go get it out of there. That was a long time ago. Then I got the first room at Brant Hall when they built Brant Hall. They came in and, well, Mr. Witteborg had been advanced and he was vice president of the company. They had talked about building a bunch of apartments, small apartments. He came down before he left and he said, "Mary, when they build those apartments you're going to get the first choice of what room you want." Well, he got in touch with the general manager and told him to come out and get me and take me out there and let me pick my room. There were no walls up yet, there was nothing there. He said, "This is a room and this is a room and this is a room." But all it was was the basic things to put the walls up. So I picked the one on the corner. I stayed in that room for quite a long time.

TM: Was that a good choice in the end?

MH: It was a good choice. It's where the office is for the tourists that come in with trailers. That trailer part. It wasn't bad, I liked it. I got the batteries stolen out of my car down there one night. Instead of parking in the parking lot, there was a driveway down where they used to come and pick up linen and stuff. I parked in it because it was at night. I went out in the parking lot and there wasn't any spaces, so I just parked there. The next morning I went out and I tried to start my car and it wouldn't turn over. I thought, "What's wrong with this?" It was a fairly new car. I bought it brand new and I hadn't had it very long. I thought, "What's wrong with this thing? I don't know anything about cars." So one of the boys came by and I said, "Would you look at my motor? My car won't start this morning." He opened up the hood and he said, "No wonder it's not starting you don't have a battery." Somebody had taken my battery. So I had to go get a battery for my car that day. But that's the only time I ever lost anything out there, so I guess I was lucky. I lived out there for quite a while. I lived at Colter Hall for 20 some years.

TM: Was it?

MH: No, was it is 20-some years? I worked at the laundry for 20-some years, 28 years. I moved out there in 1962 or '63 they built that building. They built Rouser Hall too, but it's just dorm rooms. They had the idea of putting those up for married couples, however, but they didn't make them into apartments, which I thought was real different. At one time we got our room and board and it really didn't make any difference if you had a kitchen or not. But the apartments at Brant had a kitchen and a bathroom and then this big, huge room that had sleeping. It had they were like couches and there were two of them. Then they had a big square at the end of them for a lamp. We had a big thing like I have in there for books and stuff like that. It had a lot of storage in it. I came down here and bought this place and I didn't have room for all my stuff. I have a lot of stuff out in the garage yet because I just didn't have room for it. And I've got rid of a lot of things in my apartment even, but I still have too much stuff. I'm getting rid of it gradually. My nieces are starting in on me about the pictures again. I've started to go through them a dozen times and something always happens. I just put them back and leave them. But I have gone through some of them. My nephew wants some, my oldest nephew. My brother Bun, my youngest brother's oldest daughter, wants some pictures. I have a picture of my father with my brother Bun's middle girl. She was grandpa's girl, so I'm going to give her that picture because she learned to dial dad's number, the house number. They only lived two doors apart. But instead of coming over she'd call up and she'd say, "Grandpa, can I come play with you?" They would play checkers and stuff and she'd cheat. She really didn't understand what she was doing, but she was cheating according to grandpa. My dad was retired by that time and he had a lot of time on his hands. It was really good he had the kids close at hand.

TM: Yeah, fun.

MH: Anyhow, he'd say, "You gotta go home Debbie. You are cheating." Pretty soon she'd call up and she'd say, "Grandpa can I come over and play some more? I won't cheat." I just got a long letter from her, I was really surprised. She's 60 years old now and she quit her job. She worked for a bank for years and years and years. She was an officer in that bank. Her husband died and she has a down syndrome son. She started him in school when he was a year and a half old. He pretty much takes care of himself. He still lives with mom.

TM: Great.

MH: But he could live on his own excepting he needs somebody to advise him because they're too generous. They don't understand that somebody wants something from you, you don't just give it to them. You have to think it over. Or if they want to borrow money, you don't lend money. She gave him a credit card. She thought it would be good for him to have a credit card because he was working and he had to go out to lunch. So she told him just to use it for lunch. Well, one day he came home and he said, "My friend doesn't have any money for lunch. Is it okay if I take him to lunch?" She said, "You can take one person to lunch once a week. No more." So he did that, but he's very careful. He goes to his mother and does ask her. I think she's going to get married again. I don't know how that's going to work. She sold her house and she has a good retirement from the bank. Her husband had left her fairly well off when he died. So she's going to be okay, I'm sure. My brother and my sister-in-law like this guy that she's going with. So that's good.

TM: Good.

MH: All I know is his name is Jim. She didn't tell me the rest of his name.

TM: Well thank you for letting me look at these. I will take them and photograph them and bring them back along with a thumb drive. I'll try to do that in the next week.

MH: Well it is a holiday and I don't think they're going to do any newsletter or anything this week. He didn't say anything about it. He could have told me because I was right there if he did it.

TM: If I have a deadline it will just get it...

MH: Here's another book that she has that she can get into. It's just all history, no pictures in it, but she can get into it. It's back to '23 I think. It's from the beginning.

TM: History is fascinating stuff so whatever, whatever and all. Anyway, I want to turn it around though. I don't want to hang on to it, I get it back to you and you need to get it back to where you got it from so that everything is in its place that way. But thank you very much for letting me do this.

MH: I don't know where that book is and I don't... She might have taken it home because she's been working on the newsletter at home.

TM: That would make sense.

MH: So I don't know where that book is, but it goes back to '20. It's got a picture of the first commander in it. But of course, that's in that...

TM: There's a lot of amazing photographs in here. So yeah, thank you.

MH: A lot of that is in there, because that starts in 1923 when they first started. We tried to go all the way back and do it up until the date that they had it published.

TM: You did a fascinating, an excellent job.

MH: Al did a good job on it. Al Richmond did that.

TM: Thinking about how to curate this for the future. And AI may have already done this already, it doesn't matter. The more it's done, the better off it will be.

MH: Yeah, I think that's really good.

TM: Thank you. With that I'm going to run away so thank you very much for another interview.

MH: Oh, I'm happy to. I was happy to do it. It makes my mind keep busy.

TM: Well thank you.

MH: I have to think things over and think things out. Sometimes I make mistakes. I get into something and I'm not sure. Even pictures in my family. I've got pictures I don't know. I've got real old pictures of children dressed real differently because it was a different era. The boys have dresses on as well as the girls.

TM: They did then didn't they?

MH: Yeah. Then they put like little rompers on boys. I have pictures of my brother AI, and he has rompers on. I think, my oldest brother, there's one of him in those.

TM: If they didn't have the name of who and when on the back, it is very hard to remember who is this and when was it.

MH: I've been putting names on backs of the ones I'm going to send the kids because I don't remember who all of them are actually. You know lost one nephew this year, great-nephew, and I don't know if I have a picture of him. Yet, we had a family reunion and he was there because Bo was there, his little boy was there. I know he was there, but I don't know which one of them he is. I have a picture of a very heavy set boy. Seems like he was heavy set and that's what he looked like, but I just cannot remember for sure. And they had family pictures. We have a lot of pictures of the family. I took pictures and then they had a photographer come out and take pictures of family groups, you know. I just don't know who all of them are.

TM: Um, well when you remember you'll write that down.

MH: We started out with 75 people when they came together and some of them left and others came, you know. Some of them didn't come at all. My brother George's girls didn't. Well one girl came but the other girl didn't.

TM: I'm going to have to run away. So I'm going to turn this off now.