

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral History

Interviewee: Mary Hoover (MH)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Harvey Girl, South Rim Village Life 1940s-1970s

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Method of Interview: At Mary Hoover's residence in Williams, AZ

Transcriber: Betty Upchurch

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Note: 'Single quotes' are text from back of photographs

Keys: Jake Baranka; Buford Belgard; Orville Wadsworth; Virgil Gibson; Susie Verkamp; Paula Shawlee; Laura Nelson; "Hopi" Sammy Pemahinya; Bernie Seeberg

TM: Today is August 5, 2014, we're at the home of Mary Katherine Hoover and my name is Tom Martin. This is going to be our 5th interview with Mary. Mary has brought out a bunch of photographs and I am going to start these photographs with these two pictures. Mary, can you tell me the names of these two people?

MH: Henry Walken and Catherine. My father wrote it because this is my name. He thought all Katherine's started with a K but it started with a C.

TM: So, C-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e.

MH: DeBroock. Sometimes its spelled o-e-c-k and sometimes o-c-k Hoover, not Hoover, Walken.

TM: So this is your grandmother and grandfather.

MH: Grandmother and grandfather.

TM: Great. So, Henry Walken...

MH: He died at the turn of the century and she died in 1927. She lived with my parents when she died. She never liked my father because he had been in the army and she thought that people that were in the army just were no good. But he was so nice to her. He put her in the downstairs bedroom and every Sunday morning while she was having her breakfast, he'd go put some money on the dresser for her so she'd have some money for the week 'cause she had no income. It was really...he was always pleasant to her. She'd go to church and she'd have her money to put in the collection box and she'd have money to buy a few stamps and little things that she wanted, but she always thought that my mother did it. Mom tried to tell her and she'd say, "No, you did it." But of course, I didn't know her because I wasn't born when she died. She died the year before. She loved to sew. She had a sewing machine. I had an aunt, she and her husband were given the farm by grandma when she couldn't stay there anymore. She had always been kind of mean to grandma. So my mother and dad decided that they would take her into town so she'd be close to church and she could do things for herself. She wouldn't have to wait for somebody to drive her in from the farm. Anyway, she had what she wanted there. She had her room and she was only about four blocks from church if she wanted to walk down and she still walked when she was there. One time my aunt came in and my mother told her, "Grandma's dying." She said, "No, she isn't. Just make her get up and walk". My mother told her, "No, she's dying." Then she started in, "Well I want her sewing machine when she's gone." My mother would have loved to have it, but she said, "I'm not going to fight with you. You can have it." She loved to sew and she brought it with her

when she came. It was in her bedroom so she could use it.

TM: Do you know how your grandfather passed away?

MH: No, I think he died of natural causes. I think he died about... It's in the history book, but I haven't looked it up.

[Doorbell rings, mailman comes, setting up camera]

TM: Catherine was not a friend of the camera, was she? There's too much glow coming off her photograph.

MH: My mother kept that picture out for a long time. That's probably why it faded out.

TM: Try this without the flash, too.

MH: I have a tintype, I think, of them, too. But I haven't gotten to it yet.

TM: So, I'm going to put these here. This is a newspaper article of the Harvey Girls. Do you remember when this was?

MH: It's not on there any place?

TM: I'm looking to see. Is this the Williams newspaper?

MH: Yes.

TM: This is the 'Former Harvey Girls Remembered and Honored' and there's photographs here. There's Katherine, you called her Kay Massey.

MH: She passed away at almost, I think she was 100 years old. Her stepson lives down here.

TM: So this is October 23. 'More than 600 former Harvey Girls gathered in Phoenix Saturday, October 23 at the Arizona Hall of Fame.'

MH: I have a whole bunch of pictures of that.

TM: It doesn't say what year that was.

MH: I thought I put 'em in the envelope, but I guess I didn't. [rustling papers.] This is Mary Jane Colter. They had her picture there as you went in. And that was at that. This was in the entryway, too, for us to read.

TM: This was down in Phoenix at the State Historical Museum?

MH: State Museum, uh huh. And this was, I can't see it. Is this a person or is that?

TM: Yes, that's the back of someone there. There's two people here and there's another person.

MH: This lady over here was a member of the legislature for longer than any woman, I think, at the

state. Anyhow, she was in the government for longer than anybody in Phoenix. And this lady is, Sandy's mother, I didn't put her name on there either. She was a Harvey Girl here in Williams and she rode down with us. This was at that gathering, too. This is a whole bunch of us there that were Harvey Girls. Some of them were from Winslow. That little lady was from here. I should put down the names. I don't know if I did or not. You want to turn it over?

TM: It just says, 'At the Arizona State Museum, Harvey Girls.'

MH: This is myself and Blanche. That's Blanche Coatney. Dee Coatney. She went by Blanche Ferguson, and then Dee Coatney. She's the one...

TM: C-o-a-t-n-e-y?

MH: Uh huh. They had lots of memorabilia there and some pictures there. I tried to take pictures of them. Of course they had the portrait of Fred Harvey, the famous portrait. I absolutely cannot see this.

TM: Well, this is a photograph. It's tough because the flash has... It's a painting of someone sitting in bed. There's a bed here and it looks like a cowboy sitting there, maybe.

MH: That was Jack Hall. That wasn't supposed to be in there.

TM: These are three, four, five, a number of people here.

MH: I'll get out my old trusty, here. I can't see this morning worth a darn. Guess if you get it turned right you can see better. I can't see who that one is.

TM: That might be you in red there, I'm not sure. Then there's a number of other...

MH: That's Blanche isn't it?

TM: Is that Blanche?

MH: I think it is. Yeah, she was there. And Dorothy. This was probably me. Is that me or was that Dorothy Hunt? She had her hair fixed like I did that day, I think. I can't see the face.

TM: I'm not going to be very good at this. I'm not going to be very helpful. Oh, hey, hang on. Here it is. There's 'Dorothy Hunt, Dee Coatney, Kay Massey, Mary Hoover, Vern Hovey, Buford Belgard', in the front is 'Chris McGill, Pat Hovey at the opening of the Fred Harvey display at the Arizona Hall of Fame Museum, Phoenix, Arizona'. It's not dated, but former Harvey girls from Grand Canyon, former maintenance manager of Grand Canyon Vern Hovey and former laundry and dry cleaning department manager, that would be Buford. Harvey Girl from Williams, that was Chris McGill.

MH: That's the one that was on that other picture that I said I didn't know her name. Her daughter worked down at the Safeway here for years and years. The little lady, in the middle, right there next to me.

TM: Who's she again?

MH: That's me.

TM: So that's you here?

MH: Yeah.

TM: Who's sitting next to you?

MH: Chris McGill.

TM: Chris McGill, all right.

MH: They really had a nice presentation that day and they served a beautiful dinner. We got to all be together. Buster Holt was there and they had a picture of him. I don't think I got one of him. I don't know why, but it was like a portrait picture. I don't know why I didn't take a picture of it because I took pictures of other things. Some of them didn't come out. I'm not a very good photographer. It's evident.

TM: Mary, I'm wondering, before we look at these can we finish off where we were yesterday? We were in your scrapbook and there was a picture we were looking at. We were looking at one photo of a lot of people. We'll recognize it when we get there.

MH: That one.

TM: I think it might have been this picture which was the Christmas party. We wrote this down here, this is '1949 Laundry Christmas party' and so that's going to go there.

MH: I think that was the last one we went through.

TM: I think so, too. So there is one older gentleman looking sort of shocked and a bunch of small children.

MH: This is Karen Belgard. She must have been about three or four. This is Tony Kyasyousie.

TM: I'm going to slip that out and we're going to write down on the back of it who's who. I'll slip that right out of there. Were these Virgil Gibson photos?

MH: Yes. He's been gone many years.

TM: Yes. Have you talked to me about Virgil in depth yet?

MH: Not yet.

TM: Are you ready? Should we?

MH: When we finish this is fine.

TM: Okay, all right. So remind me again now. This is the Belgard's daughter Karen?

MH: That's Karen, and that's Big Jake behind. I didn't even see him when I handed you that picture.

TM: g-a-u-r-d for Belgard?

MH: B-e-l-g-a-r-d.

TM: And this is Tony?

MH: Tony Kyasyousie. K-y-a-s-y-o-u-s-i-e.

TM: And this is Big Jake.

MH: Big Jake Barranca and that was his girlfriend. I can't remember what her name was. I don't even know if I ever knew it.

TM: B-a-r-a-n-c-o?

MH: c-a.

TM: Okay and that's his girlfriend. You can hardly see her, but I'll put down here Jake's girlfriend. Is this at the 1949 Christmas party do you think?

MH: Let's see, she was born in '47. That was probably '49.

TM: How about circa? How about that? Circa 1949.

MH: I don't know if I had a big picture of this one or not, but that was the laundry crew at that time.

TM: That looks like Jake Barranca there.

MH: We had lots of dinners. Karen's there and she's probably a year or two years old.

TM: Here, is she sitting on Buford's lap?

MH: Yeah. That would probably be 1949, maybe. I think it's a Thanksgiving dinner. We had lots of Thanksgiving dinners. We had dinners all the time. It's a wonder we're all not fat.

TM: I put down 'Laundry Crew circa 1949'. I got Karen and Buford here on the far side.

MH: Buford holding Karen.

TM: Okay.

MH: This is Roxie Ralston, the one in the plaid shirt.

TM: It looks like it might be someone with a mustache, but now I'm going to have to get out your...

MH: I think she was making a face. She was always making faces.

TM: That must be what's happening. Yeah, she's doing something funny like that. So this is Roxie?

MH: R-o-x-i-e Ralston R-a-l-s-t-o-n. That's on the back. I don't remember who this girl is. She worked at the laundry. This is Myra. This one back here I don't know, next to Roxie. That boy just worked a short time and I don't know him. And I don't remember her, I don't think. My brain doesn't go back that far. I

can see her face, and yet I can't remember who she is. This boy only worked there less than a month and I don't know his name.

TM: So, I'm going to put some question marks here and I'm going to write in 'Myra'.

MH: Should we go around the back?

TM: So these are question marks. I think we're over here.

MH: That's... Don't put any question mark there, I'll think who that is. I think I can think who that is. And her son. I can't quite see her face.

TM: Those aren't the Kyasyousies?

MH: Does she look like an Indian? That's Ronspie's wife, Elena, and that would be Tony's little brother, no it would be Tony. The little boy would be Tony because he's Karen's age. He was Karen's age. He passed away.

TM: So Elena.

MH: K-y-a-s-y-o-u-s-i-e. Kyasyousie. I used to write it in the time book all the time.

TM: So that would be her son, Tony.

MH: That is Tony.

TM: She's holding him.

MH: Yeah. And who's next to that? Should we go in the back? I'm not seeing at all well today, I'm sorry. That's the wrong side. I can't even see it on the right side.

TM: No worries. This is Big Jake. That looks like Big Jake right there.

MH: Yeah, that's Big Jake. And this is, I think his name was Farrell and this is Marge Davis and this is Rodgers. I don't know what his first name was. And this is Alice Rodgers, she worked there.

TM: Okay, let me catch up. So that's Jake and Mr. Farrell.

MH: Farrell. He was a dry cleaner and I don't know what his first name was. F-a-r-r-e-l-l, I think.

TM: Okay, and then... The couples going this way isn't it. These two are the couple, Alice, the Nelsons. Is that right?

MH: This was Margie Davis here, did you get her?

TM: No, I did not but I am right now.

MH: And this is Rodgers, I don't know what his first name is. This is Alice Rodgers right behind him. She was a shirt presser. She told Buford one day, "I can press shirts faster than anybody you have in here." He went over and he got on the press. She had somebody helping her. He did the sleeves, he did the

yokes. He did the whole thing, the cuffs, the collars, and the body. He did it faster than she did and she had a helper. He said, "Do you still think you're the fastest one?"

TM: So who's up on this row?

MH: On this row we have... Of course, there's Jake. I don't know if that's George or... I don't know who he is. This one and this one are husband and wife, but I don't know who they are. I just don't remember them. And this one was...

TM: This is an awfully hard photo, the people are very small in this picture.

MH: He worked for Mr. Masterson. This is his wife, but I can't remember their names. This boy was just there for a very short time. This is Ralph Walker and this is Arlene Walker. These two are Walkers. But these here, I just can't think of them right now. We might let the picture... and I might be able to get back to it. I might have a large picture like that, I don't know.

TM: Let's see. Let's keep looking through the book here and see what we can find.

MH: No, I think we had it the other way. [replacing photos]

TM: No, you were right. You had it right. This one goes in here like this and the other goes on top of it.

MH: So, you got the Walkers.

TM: Yes.

MH: This one is me. I think this is Pudge Haynes. That boy became a preacher, but I can't remember what his name was. Right below him is Pudge's husband, but I can't remember his first name. Haynes is his last name.

TM: Okay. We'll leave this here. Let's see if there's another photo bigger than this in here. Here we go. That's the same photo, it is a little bigger. Not much though. But this woman has turned now. She's facing the camera.

MH: I don't know her. That's Jake's girlfriend, but I don't know who she is. She didn't work for us. She worked someplace else. I didn't see her very often 'cause she hardly ever came to the laundry unless we were having a party or something. So I didn't know her very well. The pictures are bigger. That picture is bigger, isn't it?

TM: Let's take that one out.

MH: I think this one is... Is he in that picture, too? That's Ranspie, R-a-n-s-p-i-e (sic), I think. Let me look and make sure before you write it down. I'm pretty sure that's Ranspie. They had quite a few children. I'm all thumbs, I can't see. Boy, am I helpful today.

TM: No, you're doing fine. You're doing just fine. Okay, I'll put this back in here now. Now, here's a picture of a Christmas tree and a number of people around the tree.

MH: Christmas party. These are the Adams' girls here, these two. And this must have been Karen's first

Christmas.

TM: Someone's holding a small boy, it looks like maybe.

MH: That's Karen. Oh, yeah. Jake was always carrying Karen.

TM: Is that Jake? Okay. So, that's Jake with Karen.

MH: These two girls were Adams' girls. They were sisters and they were from... I think they were from Idaho, either Utah or Idaho. Their dad was in the state legislature or something and he was also a commander for the Legion. He talked to Buford at a meeting one time and asked, "Do you have any kind of jobs I could send my daughters to for the summer?" So they came down and worked for us that summer. I don't remember their first names.

TM: Who's over here? Do you recognize anyone over there? There's a big tree in the middle with a star.

MH: This little girl back here is the Wadsworth girl. I have a big picture of her someplace. In fact I have a framed picture of her, but I don't know where it is. It must be in that box over there.

TM: There's a Kathi Sue Wadsworth. She's the infant daughter of Orville Wadsworth.

MH: No, this is Loraine Wadsworth. She was really a great little girl. I taught her how to crochet and she caught on so fast. She had a little problem with one of her hands. I didn't think I could teach her because I thought it would be a handicap. And it wasn't. She just caught on so fast.

TM: Was she related to...?

MH: No. Manley Wadsworth?

TM: To Orville. Infant daughter of Orville. Kathi Sue is buried in the cemetery, from 1955, 16th of August, infant daughter of Orville Wadsworth.

MH: No, that must have been one of Manley's grandkids. I don't remember how old his boys were then, but they were older. Anyhow, this is Myra peeking over there. And this is Mrs. Masterson. Her name was Lucy. And Kelly Chines and her husband.

TM: Lucy Masterson?

MH: Lucy Masterson, she worked for us. Her husband worked for Santa Fe, but he's not on there I don't think.

TM: And Myra.

MH: This is Pudge Haynes and this is her husband. That had to be in maybe '48.

TM: There's one more. Is that you right there? There's a person right there, looking to the right.

MH: I don't know who that is. I can't see enough of their face to tell.

TM: All right. So that's Pudge Haynes.

MH: And her husband. I don't remember his first name. He worked in the kitchen. I think it's H-a-y-n-e-s. I've got it written in both ways. I just saw something a while ago written Haines, but I think it's Haynes not Haines. I wish I kept the old payroll books. I had them for a long time but I finally threw them away.

TM: Okay. Put these back in here. [replacing photos]

MH: That must have been '48.

TM: Would this have been another of Virgil's photos, do you think?

MH: Yeah. All those kind like that are his. He used to come out and take our pictures all the time so he could join our parties. They didn't always come to the parties, just once in a while. He liked to come over and take pictures. The reason I thought that we shouldn't get into Virgil is because his wife was a Lauzon. So when we get into Lauzon's... He had no other family up there excepting his family. So when we go into it we'll go into Virgil. I knew there was a reason.

TM: Remind me, remind me because I will... Oh, my heavens. Now we changed the page. Now there are two small photographs full of people. My heavens. Should we look for bigger photos, Mary? These were big dinners. There's huge spread here.

MH: This was the Christmas of 1947. That was Buf and Myra's Christmas picture.

TM: 1947?

MH: Yeah, that's when Karen was born.

TM: Okay, let me write this down on the back. So this is B-u-f-o-r-d and M-y-r-a.

MH: Holding Karen Belgard.

TM: With daughter, Karen. This was 1948?

MH: 1947.

TM: Christmas. And again, this would be Virgil Gibson photography?

MH: Virgil has two sons living and a daughter.

TM: I just visited with Paul Schnur. He tells you he and Barbara say hello, by the way. Yesterday I visited with Paul and Barbara and they mentioned the daughter in Phoenix. They're going to try to connect me with her.

MH: The boys live in Phoenix. I don't know where. I can't even think of the daughter's name. It was Mike Gibson and John Gibson, Mike and John.

TM: It seems as though Virgil Gibson is sort of the unknown photographer of Grand Canyon.

MH: He was there, not as... He was the Fred Harvey photographer. He didn't own the shop or anything. He was the manager and he sold all kinds of things for like film and stuff. He took pictures of people when they came, but he also went out in the field. He had a guy that worked with him. I used to date

him and now I can't remember his name. I'll think of it when we go to Virgil.

TM: In a way, he just seems like the secret photographer of Grand Canyon. I mean the Kolb's weren't taking pictures like this. They were taking pictures of mules.

MH: You could go and have pictures taken but the main thing was they took pictures of the mules. We were taking about the cosmonauts. They went down the canyon and we'll go into that when we get to Kolb's. He took lots of pictures. These are my family.

TM: So who's this?

MH: That's Cynthia Sue. That's my brother Bun's little girl when she was a baby. This is her mother who we practically loaded onto that horse. She would have nothing to do with animals like that. Dogs, yes.

TM: She looks like she's ready to ride up there.

MH: I'm really proud of that girl. She's really done a lot with her life.

TM: Has she?

MH: Yeah. That's out on my sister's farm. This is my oldest nephew. And that's my brother's kids. I have quite a few pictures of them. They always lived close to my mother. I don't even know who this is.

TM: It looks like you standing on the wall at the Grand Canyon.

MH: No that's my roommate, Jackie. She's on a Harvey Girl picture here with me. And this was a girl I lived with when I was back in Kansas. The one time I went back and worked a little while at Newton. I couldn't sleep because I had a room over the railroad track. She worked there. I don't know exactly what she did. But anyhow, she worked there close. She came out to see me at Grand Canyon. This is Madeline Jacob's son, Tommy. That goes with Grand Canyon Inn. She goes with Newton, Kansas, because that's where I knew her. She came out and visited me once. I thought that was really great.

TM: Nice. That's a deer there.

MH: Is that my little building?

TM: I don't see a building, no. Just a deer working over some vegetation there.

MH: That's my Sunday school class. I did lots of things when I lived at Grand Canyon and one of them was teach the Catholic Sunday school. I came down here and I found out that there was a Gene Figueroa that worked for the Santa Fe at Grand Canyon in the station. He was, well sort of the extra man that did everything. Took care of luggage and ran errands and did everything. Anyhow, this was his kids but a couple of them are here. I have a different picture.

TM: What year is this, roughly?

MH: Susie Verkamp was Karen's age and she was five years old when she came to Sunday school. So this must have been in '52.

TM: I'm going to put down 'Mary Hoover teaching Sunday school class'.

MH: I think this is probably the same group, I'm not sure.

TM: Sorry, approximately 1952?

MH: Yeah. So we have, this is a Figueroa. I don't know what this little boy's name was, but his grandmother raised him and her name was Payne. P-a-y-n-e. This is Maria Ibarra, that's my friend Julie's cousin. I think that this was a Figueroa. I don't know who that little boy is. I think that's Jane Verkamp, I'm not sure. She was a couple years older than Susie. This is Vicky Ibarra. And this is one of the Verkamp boys, I can't see his face, I think it must be. Is it Tersh?

TM: It could be.

MH: This is a Scheier boy. And this is Buddy Weeks, bless his heart. I have some other pictures of the Sunday school class, but think that... I had the Scheier kids. Somewhere I have a bigger picture of them.

TM: Let's see if we can find that because these pictures are really small.

MH: That's just an old picture of the Canyon.

TM: A big Grand Canyon landscape picture. Now this is a journey to the North Rim, here. That's the North Rim Lodge.

MH: Yes, I went over there twice and I loved it. I think that is so pretty over there. We went out and had lunch there and came back.

TM: Did you drive around then?

MH: Uh hmm, both times. The first time we drove in a car. The second time I rode in the back of a pickup truck and we brought fence stakes back.

TM: So you rode back on top of the fence stakes coming back?

MH: Karen and I set on the fence stakes and Myra and Buford drove in the truck. It was a hot day and I about died.

TM: How old was Karen?

MH: I don't remember.

TM: You guys were in the sun just baking away.

MH: I remember that Fern Rouche was the acting superintendent over there and we stayed at their house overnight. She flew over and she was fixing dinner. We drove all the way around and just got there. Anyhow, that was a long time ago. That was a pretty one.

TM: Here's a napkin. I think we saw this. This is Blanche and Emery 1905-1955. Right?

MH: Kolb. That's out on the reservation. We took little trips.

TM: Now we've seen this photo already I think. You know, we've seen a number of these actually. Did

we write on the back? We did, we wrote on the back of this already. All right. So that's this book.

MH: That's that book.

TM: Great. Okay, where should I put this, Mary? Should I just leave it right here on the table?

MH: That's fine if you can find a space for it or put it on a chair over there is okay if it's not got something on it. You've got things on it. I found these when I was going through. These are cards, picture postcards. That's very old fashioned ones.

TM: So this is a picture postcard, it's the Harvey Girls. Photo source is Fred Harvey, produced by Beautyway, co-producer is Fred Harvey. So these are some of the Beautyway cards that George Mancuso would do. A really nice photograph here of all the trains lined up there.

MH: That's the Shriners, I think.

TM: 'March 28, 1937, Shriners special train at Grand Canyon'.

MH: Here's a bigger picture of the Sunday school class.

TM: Excellent. Now let's go through this again and let me write down who's who because I don't see anything written on the back there, Mary.

MH: This one is Maria Ibarra. That's with an I, I-b-a-r-r-a. Have I got it right side up?

TM: Yes.

MH: These two are Figueroas.

TM: Do you remember their first names? There's a boy and a girl.

MH: No, I really don't. Their aunt lives here, she didn't have a picture of them and I gave her one of those.

TM: Good, okay. Who else do you recognize there? Is that Tersh there?

MH: This one is one of the Scheier boys. I think that is probably Donny. S-c-h-e-i-e-r. I think Mike was older, then there was Donny and then there were the twins David and Dale. But that's Donny. This is Victoria Ibarra.

TM: So Charles Joseph.

MH: Charles Joseph what?

TM: Scheier? And Carl Paul Scheier. I'm looking on the list here to see. So there's Carl Paul.

MH: That's the baby. Those were twins that were born the first year that they were here.

TM: Twin sons, okay. Of Lawrence Scheier?

MH: They were the children of Lawrence Scheier, yeah. The next year they had David and Dale, but Mike and Donny were already grown a little bit, they weren't babies.

TM: We talked about them the other day?

MH: Yeah. Then they had a girl named Mary who was named after me and all the other Mary's she knew.

[Dealing with musical ring tone]

MH: This is Susie Verkamp.

TM: Right here. Right in front? Who's right behind her?

MH: That's one of the Figueroas.

TM: There's three Figueroas then?

MH: There's three there, yeah. They were children of Gene Figueroa, he worked for the Santa Fe.

TM: Okay, and Susie. What year do you think this is?

MH: I think Susie actually came to Sunday school when she was four. That was probably the summer when she was four years old so that should have been about 1951. I had to tell her that if she wouldn't talk to me that she couldn't come to Sunday school. Then I couldn't shut her up. She talked all the time. She was a cute kid.

TM: She was very cute.

MH: Her mother decided she was old enough. These are the pictures of... I told you I had a picture of Shorty square dancing? Shorty Yarberry.

TM: Is that right? He's got his cowboy boots on there, doesn't he?

MH: Oh, yeah, he does. He always had his cowboy boots. They had a square dance club.

TM: So this is the Community Building it looks like?

MH: That was at the Community Building. And this was the Superintendent, here I think. What was his name? I really liked him. He died down in Prescott, he and his wife moved to Prescott when they retired.

TM: Okay, so in the back of this photograph...

MH: Stricklin?

TM: Yes, Howard Stricklin.

MH: Howard Stricklin.

TM: It says 'Off hours. The square dancers at the Community Building including NPS Superintendent

Howard Stricklin and Shorty 'Colonel Custer' Yarberr, Fred Harvey barn man'. So I want to do something.

MH: I didn't put the rest of them in?

TM: I want to just mark Shorty and the Superintendent. So, here's how I'm going to do that. Shorty is there and Stricklin is over here. Superintendent in the plaid shirt. Great and what year do you think this is going to be, with Shorty and the Superintendent?

MH: That was probably... I don't know when Mr. Stricklin/Howard Stricklin was the Superintendent. I don't remember what year.

TM: Need to make up a little list.

MH: Alda. They were there twice, no maybe it wasn't them that were there twice. It seemed like he was a ranger there and then they came back. They had a son and a daughter. Mike Stricklin and I don't remember what the little girl's name. Her name was Alda, his wife. But I don't remember what... Alda was the daughter's name, too. Mike was their son. Anyway, it must have been in the '50s, even up to mid- '50s. I didn't go to square dances. I liked to dance, but not that kind.

TM: What kind of dances did you like to dance?

MH: Oh, I just liked to go out, just dance. I used to jitterbug with my brother. I never found anybody that jitterbugged like he did, so I never did dance that dance. I liked to do the Vesuviana. That was a real going thing when I first went to Grand Canyon. Everybody did the Vesuviana. Jack Verkamp did the Stroll. You just walk with the music to one end and turn around real fast and walk to the other end. That was the Stroll. Anyhow, I thought it was funny. This was a bunch that used to play, they were at a show we had. This is the show that we had. This is the show that they put on that I told you about.

TM: This is written on the back. It says 'Daisy Steele. Gladys Linbeck, Bob Suggs...

MH: He was from Oklahoma.

TM: ...and Charlie Gathings, 1946' it looks like. Where would they playing?

MH: They were playing at the Bright Angel for the dances there, in that big room. They would have somebody play every night except Sunday. And that was that one. They put on skits. This is the chef.

TM: It says on the back 'Mr. Johnson...

MH: He was the second cook in the kitchen.

TM: Marsay Buddy'.

MH: Marselle.

TM: Marselle Fouche.

MH: F-o-u-s-c-h-e-e, I think. He was French is all I can remember. He was ornery.

TM: Who's Mr. Johnson?

MH: He was the second cook at the Bright Angel. Red was the chef. They put on a skit about a drunk coming into the bar.

TM: And then Buddy. Who's Buddy?

MH: Buddy is this boy back here. He was a, I don't know what his last name was. He married Little Jo. But I don't know what his last name was. Anyhow, he worked on the transportation desk selling tickets. He was a ticket guy at Bright Angel for the busses and stuff that came there.

TM: 1946ish.

MH: This was 19... I wasn't there, I think it was the year... Yeah, I think it was 1946. That's when I went to Newton.

TM: Here's some women.

MH: Exotic dancers.

TM: Oh, so it's written on the back, hang on a second. 'Jean...'

MH: Jean. I don't know what Jean's last name was I can't remember.

TM: Howard? Young? No Long or L-o-i-n-g or D-o-i-n-g. It's written in pencil there, it's kind of hard to see.

MH: I can't see it. It's a blank to me.

TM: Let's see. There's more written on here.

MH: There was Jean.

TM: There's 'Billie, Helen, Oshtion' Let's see.

MH: Helen is the one who married Mr. Parker, I think. I think she is in that picture. And Jean and...

TM: It looks like it says Lonely Hula Hands.

MH: 'Lovely Hula Hands'.

TM: Lovely Hula Hands.

MH: They were doing a hula.

TM: What year is this going to be?

MH: They're all the same year.

TM: 1946.

MH: They were only going to have it for two days and they ended up having it for three because everybody enjoyed it. It was fun. And this is Little Jo.

TM: Little Jo who?

MH: I probably have it on the back.

TM: It just says 'Little Jo' and she's dancing.

MH: Her mother and dad worked there too, but I can't remember their names either. That's probably why I didn't put it down there, I couldn't remember it. She was a hostess most of time. I didn't really work with her very much because she worked mornings and I worked evenings. I really didn't know her very well.

MH: That's the Bobs.

TM: Bob, Bob, and Bob. No, Jack, Bob, and Bob.

MH: Jack, Bob, and Bob.

TM: So would this be Jack Verkamp?

MH: No, they were just guys that worked there and they weren't there very long. I didn't know their last names because I didn't really work with them. There's one of the best bosses I ever had. That was Charlie Parker. He started out on the trains. In the dining room he seated the people and took care of the money and everything in the dining rooms on the trains. He was just such an excellent person to work for. He's the one that would come up and chip in with the ice cream. And he married...

TM: 'Mr. Parker, Jane, Elena, Paula and Helen'.

MH: Charlie Parker. He married Helen.

TM: 'Former manager of the Bisonte'.

MH: He was the manager of the Bisonte when I worked there.

TM: 'This was taken when the kids got together and...

MH: He got tired of riding the trains.

TM: ...gave a variety show. Mr. Parker was Master of Ceremonies. The girl opposite Mr. Parker is now his wife'. Cool.

MH: And that's the skit they put on with the Harvey Girls.

TM: It looks like it's at Grand Canyon.

MH: Dancing and one thing and another.

TM: This is 'Ray and Jean, Jack and Marge, Bob and Ruth, Curly and Jo doing the Little Foot. 1946

Community Building variety show’.

MH: The Vesuviana. That’s the dance I liked. That’s called also the Vesuviana.

TM: That’s the Vesuviana dance. Nice.

TM: Here’s three folks. It says ‘Bob, Red and Jenny’. And that’s all. So who do we have here, do you know?

MH: This is Little Red. She was a waitress in the morning and I didn’t know very well. And those boys I didn’t work with. I’m not sure where they worked anymore because I wasn’t in contact with them very much. I don’t know what this is.

TM: This is a gentleman at some sort of machine.

MH: Oh, that’s Ernie, Ernie. He was the electrician.

TM: It says ‘Ernie’, okay. He’s working on some sort of wiring or something here. I’ll put that down. The electrician.

MH: Everybody helped. Everybody in town helped.

TM: Do you remember Ernie’s last name?

MH: No. Let’s see Linbeck? It wasn’t Linbeck it was something with an L but I can’t remember what it is. Maybe I’ll think of it. And there’s Henny at the bar. She was from Chicago.

TM: On the back, it says, ‘Ray Johnson, Henny, Red, and Bud’.

MH: Ray Johnson was that Johnson that we had on that other picture, second cook at the Bright Angel. And these are the girls again. This girl did the backdrop. She did a beautiful painting on sheets.

TM: Of the Canyon there, that backdrop.

MH: Yeah, it was beautiful and somebody sliced it all up. Isn’t that terrible? She put so much time in it. These three girls really did a lot to organize it. This is the one that married Charlie Parker. This one was the hostess. And this was, there it went...

TM: There are names on the back here. It says, ‘Jean, Eleanor, Paula, and Helen’.

MH: Jean and Eleanor. Eleanor, Eleanor. I probably got it upside down.

TM: No, you’re right that way.

MH: No, this is Paula Shawlee.

TM: How do you spell her last name?

MH: S-h-a-w-l-e-e. She was in some movies, not as a star or anything, but she was in movies where she had parts, speaking parts. She was a really nice girl. Her husband was an artist.

TM: 1946ish?

MH: Uh huh. It was all the same year. They came up because her husband, it this Paula on the back?

TM: Yes.

MH: Her husband was an artist. Walter Shawlee was her husband. Anyhow, he wanted to come up and paint the Canyon and that's how they came up there. She got a job as a hostess and he got a desk job. I never did see any paintings he did but he liked to party. I served his birthday party at the Grand Canyon Inn and Paula had this... He was so depressed because he wasn't with any of his friends on his birthday and he couldn't celebrate. He didn't have any friends. She said, "Oh, honey, I'll take you out and buy you a steak dinner." So they came out to Grand Canyon Inn which was the old Hoagland's place. I served them and they must have had 50 people there. They were really partying. She bought a bottle of champagne for everybody in the building. They really partied. I could hardly serve the steaks and I don't think they ate hardly any of them because every time I started across to get to a table, somebody'd say, "Oh, come on and dance with me." I said, "I can't dance I got steaks in my hand. Do you want to eat or do you want to wear it?" This is John Bradley, I'm sure. I can just barely see him.

TM: 'The Grand Canyon's singing cowboy, John Bradley. He was also in charge of the livery department, horses, wheels and blacksmith department'.

MH: He's in there.

TM: Is he in here?

MH: Is Sylvia there, too?

TM: It's just him. He's sitting on a...

MH: Oh, they didn't live up at Grand Canyon anymore, maybe they're not buried there.

TM: Okay, I don't see them there.

MH: They lived down in Cottonwood. A lot of people used to go to Sedona and Cottonwood and Clarkdale from here. Then they got so quite a few went down to Chino Valley. Chino Valley just became a town after that. It's not an old town. These uniforms... Paula Shawlee, like I said, was an actress. She knew everybody in Hollywood and those are the uniforms from the Harvey Girl, the movie. She got them and they did a Harvey Girl song.

TM: And you've got names. The first names are 'Red, Aggie, Anna, Ruth, Jean, Millie, Amy, Marge, maybe another Madge and Jean'. She was able to get these uniforms from Hollywood and they mailed them out?

MH: They shipped them up, they wore them for this party and she sent them back.

TM: Is that right?

MH: She knew everybody that was to be known. In fact, I think that Mr. Parker went out there and worked at the studio where she had worked. He ran the commissary there for a while after he and his

wife got married. And here they are some more. That's with Joe, I'm sure it was Joe. He was the kitchen steward.

TM: 'Mrs. Johnson, Red the chef, and Joe Meyers'.

MH: Joe Meyers, yeah. He was great to work with, Joe Meyers was. That Mr. Johnson made the most beautiful omelets you ever saw. They were like this thick when he made them. He knew just how to do it. They would just rise up. Every night we had an omelet special. Sometimes it was with different kind of meats like bacon or chicken livers, or different vegetables, or cheese. But he did beautiful. The guy named Ray, not Ray, Joe Meyers, he was working there in the kitchen. Somebody came in and said to Mr. Johnson, Ray Johnson, "Hurry up Ray." He had 14 omelet orders in and he was flipping all these skillets, you know. He got so mad he threw the skillet on the floor and walked out. Meyers, Joe, went in and he started fixing omelets and they were about ½ an inch or 1 inch thick. He just made scrambled eggs and flipped them over 'cause he didn't know how to do it. There is a good way to do it. They were a thing of beauty. This was some of the audience. We had lots of audiences. I didn't take these. I think Virgil took 'em. I'm not sure who took 'em, they were still there then.

TM: This one has something written on the back. It says, 'Wally Rouser, Mr. Rouser, Mrs. Rouser, Mr. and Mrs. Rouser, Margaret, Virgil, wife, Jake, Buford...

MH: Virgil's wife is Muriel, actually.

TM: ...Myra, Mr. Kennedy, Tony, and Zella'.

MH: How did that get in there? This was Barbara. You might know her, she's from Flagstaff. Her husband was Babe, they called him Babe. He was the NavaHopi driver for years.

TM: 'Barbara Blane' it says.

MH: Barbara Bloome?

TM: Maybe, it's Bloome. B-l-o-m-e?

MH: That could have been her name before she married.

TM: B-l-a-n-e.

MH: She married Babe, I can't remember his last name at the time. I'll think of it. She worked for Dr. Lundstrom. When I went in one time to see Dr. Lundstrom about a problem, she was the receptionist for him.

TM: At the hospital?

MH: No, at his office. I think I went to his office. I had a growth on my face and he took it off.

TM: This is Dr. Lundstrom here in Flagstaff?

MH: Yeah. She was his office person. I was so surprised to see her. We had a big old train in, that one that I showed you was I think from 1933.

TM: The Shriners?

MH: With the Shriners. Right after I went there in '47 or '48, no it had to be '47, they had a Shriners train come in. She was the hostess and this one man was drunk. He gave me a bad time because I wouldn't serve him because we were closed. We had an hour to get everything set up and get your own meal and everything and they closed the door. This man came in and he wanted to eat. I told him he'd have to come back after 5. He got mad and he started cussing me. She got him by the scuff of the neck and said, "You can come back when you can be a gentleman" and she took him over to the door and pushed him out the door. I don't know if he came back or not. I didn't see him and I didn't wait on him. I was crying because I didn't like being cursed. This was at the...

TM: 'Making the costumes'.

MH: Yeah, getting all the costumes ready.

TM: It says 'Marge, Amy, Helen, Ruth, Red, and Omaha'.

MH: I can't see one of those names.

TM: Let's see, there's one person here doing a very high kick and it says 'Jean'.

MH: Jeannie. That was Jeannie.

TM: Jeannie who?

MH: I don't know. I didn't work with her that much, I don't think. I don't know who that is or what that is.

TM: There's a gentleman with a top hat and a cane and it says 'Elmer'.

MH: Oh, that was Elmer Nelson. Now we had two Elmer Nelsons. This one was a clerk. The other Elmer Nelson was with the Santa Fe and he was the stationary engineer. This one worked for Fred Harvey. He was a desk clerk, I think. He had been in vaudeville.

TM: Okay. Is he in here?

MH: He's not buried at the Canyon.

TM: And again, this is all this '46 series.

MH: There is a Nelson buried at the Canyon. It's Elmer Nelson, too. He and his wife are buried there. And this man, he might have been married at some time, but he was single when he was there.

TM: That's what's confusing me. Nelson, there is an Elmer Nelson. It says 1882-1957, but this is a different Elmer Nelson from this man?

MH: This is the one that was the stationary engineer for the Santa Fe.

TM: So he would run the trains around?

MH: No, he had a little office there and he took care of making sure that all the tracks were right and everything when it came in. He also was in charge of the power plant, in a way, because he was, I don't know, he was the Santa Fe man up there. They had a station agent, but this man was... it was a different type of job. He had to take care of the land around the tracks and all that, make sure they were clean and all that. But he didn't do it himself.

TM: He would direct somebody to do it.

MH: He would direct somebody to do it, yeah.

TM: What else do you remember about him?

MH: He was something. He was really a nice gentleman and his wife Nelsie was really nice. I don't know what her first name is.

TM: Was that Laura?

MH: Laura Nelson, yeah.

TM: Okay, and what did she do?

MH: She was a housewife. She didn't have to work. I think they moved to Salt Lake City.

TM: What do you remember about Elsie, Laura went by Elsie? Sorry?

MH: They called her Nelsie, N-e-l-s-i-e, that was her nickname. She entertained a lot. She had a bridge club that came every, I guess every two weeks. I don't know, I was never in bridge clubs. But she was always very entertaining. When we had Auxiliary presidents come up, she would have them to her house. They'd stay overnight then and she'd entertain them. She's just a very nice person. When Elmer and she went on a vacation to Florida one time, everybody called him Pop Nelson, but I always called him Mr. Nelson. The time came he was gone and I got this card. It said, "Having a great time. We wish you could join us." And it said, "Pop." I thought, "Who's 'Pop' that would be sending me a card from Florida?" It was Mr. Nelson. It was a picture postcard.

TM: How nice is that.

MH: I was so surprised he thought of me. I used to see him every day, but I didn't talk to him. He had a little room about half as big as this room. It was a little wooden shed, I think. Buford has the clock that was in it. He gave him the clock. He also gave him the roll top desk but Fred Harveys took it. Took it and put it up behind the desk at the El Tovar. He had a roll top desk and I found a bill for something from 1905 in it. It was behind the drawer. I was cleaning it up because they had closed that little room when the Santa Fe stopped going up there.

TM: So this was in the station, it was a room in the station?

MH: No, it was right down by the power plant. It just sat out there in the middle of nothing. That road didn't go down there at that time, it went behind the laundry. They put that in later. Like I said, it was just a real small room. Every time I'd go by, if he was in there, I'd wave at him. I guess that's why he got to know me because I waved at him all the time. He was in charge of doing things like making sure we

got steam. They used to have all the hotels on the rim. Like the girls dorm, the El Tovar, the Indian dorm, the Brown Building were all heated with steam from the power plant. He was in charge of making sure that they had their steam and everything, too. So, he was, he was really...

TM: The laundry got its steam from him as well then, from the power plant?

MH: Yeah, we had a path in the wintertime. I think I told you about Sammy.

TM: You did, that Sammy was shoveling that path.

MH: Yeah, anyhow, that was a fun time. Let's see we got finished with him, didn't we.

TM: 'Elmer Nelson', that's a great shot. But this is not the Elmer Nelson.

MH: No, this is the one that was a clerk. I'm not sure whether he was a desk clerk or... I'm sure he was a desk clerk, pretty sure. He was a clerk of some type.

TM: I'm just going to write on the back 'Not Elmer 'Pop' Nelson'. So we can keep our Nelson's straight.

MH: Not Santa Fe. And this man was from out at the airport, I think.

TM: It says 'Scotty'. That's all it says is just 'Scotty'.

MH: Scotty. He was from the airport.

TM: Okay, from the Red Butte?

MH: The one out by Red Butte, yeah. He used to come in and have breakfast in the morning.

TM: You got the whole community into this thing.

MH: Yeah, yes it was. If they weren't in the audience they were in the show. This practically closed the place.

TM: When was this held? It wouldn't have been in the summer because everyone was working.

MH: It was in the fall. I can't remember, I think I went back to Kansas in November. I went right before this happened, I wasn't involved in it because I wasn't going to be there.

TM: Oh, they must have missed you.

MH: No, they didn't miss me. They had plenty of people. It was before everybody started leaving for the wintertime. I think it was around the first of November, I'm not really sure.

TM: So, here's a group of five people. There's four women, two women either side of one man in the middle, and the women are holding bouquets. On the back it says 'Helen and Jane, Mr. Parker, Elena, and Paula'.

MH: Elena?

TM: It might not be Elena. This is that scenery backdrop that was painted, the Grand Canyon. It's a real pretty backdrop.

MH: It could be Elena. I just don't remember. I used to think I'd never forget those girls but you know I wasn't around them a lot.

TM: Let me just work out the math, dear. '54, '64, it's only been 68 years!

MH: Oh, only 68! This is the cancan girls. Look at their feet. They're all going different directions.

TM: No, but look. They all have their one foot up, that's pretty good.

MH: It just isn't the right direction.

TM: You've got them all listed here by first name 'Ruth, Billy, Peg, Jo...'. Three, five, nice. It was quite the show. Oh, you got their backsides there. The photographer was working hard on that one. They all turned around and they're flipping their dresses up.

MH: And this is the skit that...

TM: This is the skit that the cooks did.

MH: Yeah, the cooks did that one.

TM: It says 'Joe Meyers BA kitchen steward'. It says 'Red Fouche as a chef and Ray Johnson is the evening cook, 1947, doing the Harvey Girl cancan'. Okay, so you've got 1947, I've been writing 1946 on all these.

MH: It's '47.

TM: Its '47 so I'm going to go back now. I'm going to take a minute and I'm going to go back and change all these.

MH: That was the year I went to the laundry. Because I went home.

TM: You know this says 'circa '46', but I'm going to change this now to '47.

MH: They were so crazy.

TM: How do you mean?

MH: They just...Everybody had a good time.

TM: Crazy fun.

MH: Fun. Yeah, they were all fun. They were a good group to work with, but then we had a lot of good people to work with. Charlie Parker, he was kind of dignified and yet he would get right in the middle of it.

TM: So, that must have been fun.

MH: Yeah, it was.

TM: To see, to see that. What else to you remember about Charlie Parker?

MH: I just really liked him. He was just a good person to work for, always stuck up for you. If he found somebody doing something to give you a bad time or something, he was right there getting it straightened out. Here's the three musketeers here showing their...

TM: These guys have it. 1947, that got our date stamp straightened out. Worked so hard to label all these and now I have to go back and relabel them all. But at least we'll get it right.

MH: We had two managers that would come and give us a hand once in a while with our homework. Charlie Parker was one of them and the other one was Mr. Mac, but we'll talk about Mr. Mac another time.

TM: Okay, sorry about that. All right.

MH: This is the chef's wife, Fouche's wife. I don't know what her first name is, but it might be on there.

TM: It says 'Ruth, Kay, and Peggy' and there's a gentleman standing there, too, I'm not sure who that is. Wait a minute. 'Ray'.

MH: Ray. He was a bus driver. This is the chef's wife and this was a waitress that was there. They used to sing — what was that song about Peggy? "Peg of my Heart" — to her all the time, to Peggy. She was very popular.

TM: A Hawaiian scene again. It says 'Jane'. That was quite the show.

MH: Here's my friend Hopi Sammy. Mr. Pemahinya. 'Hopi Sammy' it says and it's got your address on the back. Do you think that's the same show, 1947?

MH: Yes, he was in it.

MH: His last name was Pemahinya.

TM: Now let me write that down. How do you spell that?

MH: P-e-m-e-n-y-a, I think. You have another picture of him that has it on it.

TM: Yeah, and we wrote that down. I've got that photo of him from a postcard. And these are the grass skirt women again doing the Hawaiian thing.

MH: They had a horse show.

TM: There's clearly a couple people under this. One person hiding under what looks like a horse and then the other woman she's got a blanket draped over. You can see her boots, but the four boots of the two people make four feet of the horse. Very clever. 'Jane Wintering'?

MH: She was painting on this. That was when they were painting the backdrop.

TM: Wow, a lot of work. Jane, painting backdrop, 1949. Sorry, 1947.

MH: That was Daisy Steele, I think. I can't see him, but he's got his foot...

TM: It says 'Daisy Steele with his guitar, 1946 at the Community Building'.

MH: That was it.

TM: What's interesting here is he's got a nice looking cowboy boot on his left foot...

MH: I don't know what's wrong with his foot.

TM: ...but his right foot is in a cast. You can see his toe sticking out there. Looks giant, his foot looks giant, definitely something's wrong.

MH: Oh, that one woman I didn't know in that one picture is his wife, I think. Anyhow, here's the three muska... or the two drunks again.

TM: It says 'Red and Bud'.

MH: Bud was the one that was the transportation department clerk. And, of course, Red was the chef. Ol' Red the Chef.

TM: Red the Chef.

MH: And guess what. We're to the finale.

TM: Well, here's the whole group. There they all are. Oh my gosh, you have written down first names of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, well there must be 30 or 40 people there on the stage. My gosh, how fun is this. So this is the entire cast. And again, '47 for the show?

MH: What was that on that one?

TM: You know, it's either 1946 or '47.

MH: You know what, I think it is '46 because I went back home. I think I went back to see my parents about going to school because I had a scholarship to college and I didn't know whether I wanted to go or not. I had worked all through high school. I really worked in high school because I worked every time they said, "We need somebody" I'd go. It just seemed like I was doing nothing but working, going to school, working, going to school. Then they told me my scholarship didn't cover my room and board. It covered my education part of it, but not the room and board. The only job they had that they would offer me was cleaning up after the rich girls that went to that school. I thought I can't do that. I can't go to school and get up, get in their rooms and make their beds and clean their rooms and stuff. I thought I just can't do that and keep a schedule for college. My girlfriend, Peggy, went to college on a scholarship. She had the same scholarship I had, but she chose a different school. She went to Sacred Heart in Wichita for two years and then she came out here and went to NAU because her sister was out here and she went to NAU. So she came out here and went there, too. Which was nice.

TM: Do you miss that? Do you look at that as a missed opportunity or are you glad you didn't go?

MH: No, I always was able to make a living. Sometimes I worked two jobs, but I always helped my folks and I was always able to do what I wanted to do, pretty much. I learned a lot of things by being on my own because I moved out of my parents' when I was quite young. My dad was working in Hutchinson and then he went back to Kansas City. When they moved back to Kansas City, I went a semester in Kansas City, at Ward High, and then the rest of the time I was in school in Hutchinson. It was like having private tutors at Hutchinson because we only had a class of five. So you had lots of attention and you could learn more that way. That worked out really well for me. I liked to read. Peggy was my roommate at that time and she'd say, "Mary, turn out the light. It's two o'clock in the morning." I'd still be reading. Then I'd get up at 5:30 and go down and make coffee. But it didn't kill me. I learned a lot of things by doing those things. You know, you think when you're young you can do anything. You really can if you really put your heart to it. I was the only one that graduated from high school in my family, seven kids. The boys all went to work early. Dad told them if you don't go to school you got to go to work. And they did. So it was just a different time and people didn't think about.

I still don't think you need to go to college to learn things enough to get through the world. My brother Bun started working when he was 15. He's my youngest brother and he worked with my dad. My dad taught him a lot. He worked for a truck line. However, he didn't drive, he worked in the shops. This truck line was a big truck line. He worked for... it went through lots of changes over the years. It was sold to this one, to this one and it ended up being Yellow Freight. He moved with them when they moved and he always worked for them. He had a good pension when he got finished. He did well with his life. He was very mechanical. All my brothers were kind of mechanical. But he was really good at it.

I don't think my oldest brother was very mechanical. He learned the bakery business when he was real young. We had a bakery in my hometown and he went to work there. The man who had the bakery got sick. I never will forget his name, it was Mike Roundish. Anyway, he lived alone and he got sick and my brother had some medicine one time to take to him. My two brothers, one on each side of me, went to deliver the medicine. He came to the door, this man had been a baker all his life. He had on a white night shirt and he had on a white nightcap and he was as pale as the white of his clothes. He was so sick. We looked at him and we all thought 'ghost'. My brother threw the medicine in the door and we left. We ran all the way home, we were so scared of him. We weren't very old. Then my brother went to work for his brother in a neighboring town when he did die. But he decided he wanted to go see the world so he started riding the rails. He went all over the United States and ended up going to Alaska and that's where he stuck. He lived there the rest of his life. We didn't see him from 1930, it must have been about '32 or '33 when he left. He was quite young. I think he was 20 when he left home. Anyway, he didn't come home until 1962 and my dad didn't recognize his voice. He thought it was a salesman at the door because he had a little suitcase. He started to say something and dad said, "We don't need any" and closed the door. Mom said, "That's your son. Open the door, Dad." She recognized his voice. So, that's kind of how we got reacquainted. However, it was 1961 because he thought that their 50th wedding anniversary was in '61 and it was actually in '62. He was going to surprise them for their anniversary and he came home. My mother had both her arms broken and she couldn't fix anything for him to eat. She was so upset because she was going to fix him. When he got there she started planning right away. I'm going to fix him this and this and this. I'm going to fix him pies and I'm going fix him cakes. She was going to do all this stuff and she couldn't do any of it.

TM: Had she fallen and broken her hands?

MH: We had a little house and we had 17 steps up to the front and one onto the front porch. But when you came in the back, from the back alley, you went down 3 steps. Then you got to the house and you

had one step right into the kitchen. It had a little entryway there and it never froze over. But for some reason, the wind, I guess, was blowing the right way and the step got wet. She started to open the door and her feet went out from under her. She went down and she broke both her wrists. She had five breaks altogether. My folks were never pushy and my mother had no sense of pain. She'd had her back injured. She'd had so many things that caused her to lose her sense of pain. She went to bed. It was about 9 o'clock at night when she came home. She'd been over to my brothers who lived two doors away. My brothers always loved to live to near mom. He only lived two doors down the street. My other brother had lived across the street and then he moved a block to the next street, but right straight down from us. So they were always at home. Anyhow, she came in the back door and she fell and she put herself to bed. The next morning she told Dad, "I think you better take me to the doctor, I think I broke something." He couldn't drive her up there and he called my sister-in-law, but she had to go to work. She was working some place. She left them off and said she'd come back and get them. Dad said, "No, I need the car. I can drive home this evening whatever they do." She'd driven Dad's car and she went home on the bus. Dad stayed there with her. The girl there said, "Well, the doctor won't be in until this afternoon." So, she called the doctor and he said, "Send her over to the hospital." So they sent her over to the hospital there. What was the name of it? It was right next to Ward High School. Anyhow, they sent her to the hospital. They let her set there until noon. This was at 8 o'clock in the morning. She set there all that time and the doctor came in and he said, "Mrs. Hoover, why didn't you tell them it was an emergency. I would have come right away." She said it didn't hurt. He put both of her arms in casts and he put her fingers way back so she couldn't move her wrists, both of them. She couldn't do anything for herself. She was completely incapacitated. It's bad when you can't feed yourself, you can't comb your hair, you can't dress yourself, you can't do anything.

She was that way for over a month. My sister-in-law's would help my father. My father was retired so it was after 1965, because he retired at 65. Anyway, she got along okay. She had the strongest fingers. Her fingers were all pulled up like this, but she could wring things out. I couldn't wring that much water out of anything. Her fingers were just strong. I never could understand it because mine have never... I had strength when I when I was younger, but after I broke my wrists I don't have that much strength. Anyway, she did everything. My sister came up and stayed a week with her. My two sister-in-law's, one lived second door down and one lived across one street, they came up and they fed her and they helped dad clothe her and stuff. We got her dresses that wrapped around, came to the front like hospital gowns do. You know you put your arms out. So he could dress her and everything. He took care of her and the girls took care of her. I would have gone home, but she said that they didn't need me. When I called I said, "Mom, I'll come home." She says, "No, you don't come home. You just stay there." She said, "If I need you I'll call you up, Dad will call you and tell you." The other times when she'd been sick and had to be in the hospital... My father wrote me two letters and both times my mother was in the hospital. Those were the only letters I ever received from my father. Ever. He didn't like to write letters, but he did write.

They didn't have a telephone at the time that she went to the hospital, those times. Then he just wrote me a letter and said, "Mom needs to have surgery and she won't go to the hospital unless somebody's here." So I said, "Okay, I'll come." In fact, I called the neighbor and told them to go over and tell them I'll come in the next couple of days. I told my boss and I went. But anyway, she got well and she worked. She'd always worked hard. She was always a housewife. When my father and she got married, he said, "I'll make the living and you raise the family because I want to have a family." She gardened and she cooked and she cleaned and she canned things. She had a whole cellar full of canned stuff. She'd dry beans, she'd make sauerkraut. She did everything like that. She just kept house and worked hard.

She used to sew me dresses. She hated... To my dying day I'll think she hated sewing, but she did make me some dresses and stuff. When I'd go home after I'd left home.... I was sewing at the cleaners. When I worked at the laundry, we had the cleaners and I did the sewing until Maria came and sewed for us. I would hem and stuff there. So when she knew I was coming home, she'd pile it all up. So when I'd get home, I'd have all these things to do. One time she said she wanted to embroidery some pillowcases for her daughter and her granddaughters. She wanted 22 pair of pillowcases. I marked them all for embroidery and sent them home and I sent her paint to paint them. When I got home she hadn't done it. You know, I went home in the fall. So I painted 22 pair of pillowcases. She gave them to her granddaughters, she gave them to... The whole family got pillowcases that year. I guess she thought I'll just give them everything and then nobody will say I gave one more than I gave the other. But anyway, I got to paint all of them. She didn't know how to use those paints. It's very easy but she didn't want to learn. But anyway, she really didn't like to sew. I'd get to do it. She was a dear person. She'd rather be outside. She did the butchering. My father would kill the animal and she'd do the butchering. I sent a deer home one time. I went hunting and I got a deer. I went hunting with the deputy sheriff. We were out coming in and we were just beyond Rowe Well and here was this deer standing... We hadn't seen a deer all day. Here was this deer standing up there on the side of the hill just waiting for me to shoot at it. Just as I shot it moved and I got its hind leg. So he went up and killed it. He told me if you're going to hunt a deer you have to gut it and clean it and everything. And of course, he cut the musk glands out and did all that.

TM: Was this Bud Dunagan?

MH: No this was before Bud. This was John, not John, Frank Bradney. He was the deputy sheriff up there. He came out to work in transportation for John Bradley. He didn't work there very long because he got the job as a deputy sheriff. I guess he'd done that before. He married Billie Weaver who was the nurse at the hospital. They stayed there quite a while. But anyhow, he took a liking to me. He was always nice to me. When we got it done I was just shaking all over. It was cold and all that blood. I was just kind of uptight with it. So anyhow, he said, "We've got to go by Rowe Well. You want to go in and have a whiskey?" I said, "Yes, yes." So we stopped there and had a shot of whiskey and went home.

TM: And you warmed up a little bit.

MH: Yeah. The next day I took it over and they put the deer in the freezer. At that time they still had the truck going into Albuquerque, the supply truck. He took this frozen deer over there and they put it on a freezer truck that went into Kansas City and they took it home. We didn't skin it. It had the skin and the head on it yet. My brother George came up and he skinned it. The neighbors said, "Mrs. Hoover, you've got some kind of an animal laying out on your back stoop." She said, "Well, I can't imagine what it would be." She went out and looked and it was a deer. So she got George and George came up and skinned it. He died in '48 so you know that was pretty early. Anyhow, I went hunting another couple of times, but I never shot anything. I didn't even want to shoot anything. But then we were all getting older and Buf and Jack said one time, "You know it's time for us to start shooting with a camera instead of with a gun." I think I was to that age that I didn't want to ever kill anything again so I never went hunting after that. I went the two times and that was it. I didn't shoot at anything the second time I went hunting so that was okay.

TM: We're just going to finish out these photographs. This is 'Laundry crew dining at the Bright Angel'.

MH: Yeah, that was probably at Thanksgiving. This is Ralsty Ralston and this is her date. I don't know

who he is, I can't remember. This is Bernie Seeberg he was a bus driver. This is his daughter, she's buried at the Canyon. Her name is Meadows, Bernice Meadows. She's his daughter. This is his son-in-law, but this is not the son-in-law that's buried at the Canyon. This is Tommy Burns. Now I can't see again.

TM: Bernice Meadows?

MH: Yeah, Bernice Meadows. Her parents are buried there, too. Their name is Seeberg. Winifred and Bernie Seeberg.

TM: So there's Seeberg, Charles, Winifred and Bernard. So Charles Bernard and his wife is Winifred Buchanan Seeberg.

MH: Uh huh. But she's buried under Meadows. Clyde Golden Meadows was her second husband and they're buried there.

TM: M-e-a for Meadows? I don't see them that's funny.

MH: They're buried there because I put her... S-e-e-b-e-r-g.

TM: I see Seeberg but I don't see Meadows.

MH: It was more recent, it's not on that list. He was Kenneth Meadows' brother. He came up there to visit Ken and while he was there he met Bernice who was divorced from Tommy. They got acquainted. How was it? Bernie was a bus driver from Grand Canyon to Williams. He was on, what did they call that? Winifred was a housewife. Anyhow, they had the ashes and they buried them by Clyde's grave, but they didn't put up a headstone. Long years ago, Seebergs lived next door to Millers. What was his name? His son's name is in there and his name is the same, Harold, Harold Miller. Anyhow, the boy was in an accident and he was very injured. He was in bed.

Winifred was a recluse, she never went out of the house. Once in a while he'd take her for a ride in the evening when nobody was around. She didn't like anybody to see her. She had two girls, one lived in California and Bernice lived with them. Anyhow, when Bernice died they put her ashes out there, but they didn't put a headstone up. This Mr. Miller, Harold Miller, he was so thankful because when his son was so bad off, and they lived next door, he had to go to work. He was an electrician and he had to go to work. So she would go over and go in the back door and sit with him and make sure he ate his lunch and stuff. Bernice would go over in the evening and stay with him. When she died they had not put up a headstone for her. Harold came up, he was getting up in years, and he said, "Mary, would you go out and get a headstone?" He said, "I have \$500 I put away. Will you go out and see what you can get for \$500?" It isn't a very big headstone, but it's there and it was because Harold wanted to thank them for having taken care of his boy. I thought that was so nice. Harold has died. He died last year, I think it was, or the year before. He went off the road going up to Payson. He was living, where did Harold live? He lived south some place. I have his address some place. But anyway, he was getting up in years. He came to Buford's funeral and how he drove I don't know. He could hardly see. He had a big truck. I just held my breath when I saw him parking. I thought he's never going to make it, but he did. He came up for Buford's funeral and he drove up by himself. He used to come up here and hunt because he lived at Grand Canyon. He'd go out by Red Butte and hunt out in that area. The guys would all go out and spend an evening with him because everybody liked him. He was a nice person. He thought so much of Bernice's family because they had helped him at that trying time. His wife left him and didn't have anything to do with taking care of the boy or anything.

TM: Remind me again, what did Bernie Seeberg do?

MH: He drove the bus from Grand Canyon to Williams and back.

TM: Now is he the one you were telling me about where the chunk of ice came up and hit him?

MH: No, that was Jake. Jake took over after Bernie was gone. And he drove.

TM: What else do remember about Bernie then?

MH: He was a big heavy set man. He was real nice. I rode on the bus a number of times with him, you know, but I really didn't know him that well.

TM: Was it an employee bus?

MH: The Fred Harveys (sic) ran a bus down here to meet the train [for] the people who didn't make reservations to go up on the train. Then after the train quit, they would send the bus down to meet all the trains. One fellow that lived down here, what was his name, he lived right over here. His sister was married to a doctor down here. Anyhow, he drove a bus up there. He lived here and he would meet the one in the morning and take people up. Then Jake, when he took over from that man... It was Ken Polson. How could I not remember Ken Polson? Anyhow, they're an old family here in Williams. He got the job of driving the bus up to the Canyon early in the morning. When he retired, Jake took over his job. He stayed down here in... it was Gonzalez's motel at the time. I don't know what they call it, it's at the end of town. Anyhow, Jake took that one over.

TM: And Bernie, what did she do?

MH: She was a housewife. She didn't work outside of the house.

TM: Was she Bernice, short for, because her father was Bernard?

MH: I don't know, probably so. She had a sister that, like I say, lived in California, but I never saw her ever. She married Tommy Burns and that didn't work out, but they do have a boy. He lives in Kingman. I think he has children because somebody told me that there was a family of Burns over there. I don't think Bernice ever knew her grandchildren. I think she died before they were born. His name is Tommy, too.

TM: That right she's on a later list. I have to update this list because I have to figure out who's who. So, we've been at this a couple of hours. I need to run away today, but let's keep going with the photographs. Oh, this is what you were looking for wasn't it?

MH: Yeah. I've got that part of it done, but I'm going to go through the old one because there's some on there like Gerry Moretz. She's buried up there. Her husband died, I think, at Cottonwood and her daughter died just a short time after he died. I don't think his son-in-law brought the ashes up there. He died of cancer. The last time I saw him, his whole cheek was eaten away, he could hardly talk. I saw him out here in front, one day. I thought, "Oh my goodness Elmer." He looked so bad. He was going to his daughters and she lived in Cottonwood. He had been living in Kingman and he drove down there. I don't know how he was driving, he just looked so bad that day. He didn't live very long after that. I think she must have had him cremated. They've never put any... But see, the space is taken because Gerry's

buried there, his wife. They were both preachers. He worked for Fred Harveys (sic) and then he worked for the Park Service and she worked for us in the laundry.

TM: J-e-r-r-i?

MH: Her name was Geraldine actually.

TM: Geraldine. What was her last name?

MH: Moretz. M-o-r-e-t-z. I think I've got her obituary here someplace. If I can't find it fast I'll give it to you the next time. It might be one of these. That's Linda Talaktee. That's Jean Deloof. I just saw it yesterday, but I'll get it out.

TM: Well, let's pick this up again.

MH: That's my father.

TM: Price Hoover, yeah.

MH: They used to give these cards out when people died in our church. They don't do that anymore.

TM: Let's see if we can...

MH: In fact, you can have all those if you want them.

TM: You know where these are going to go? They're going to go up to special collections.

MH: Okay, that's fine. That's fine with me.

TM: I've got my Mary Hoover special collections pouch here. If that's alright with you, that's where it's going to go. But these?

MH: But those I want to keep because they're my...

TM: These two pictures of your grandmother and grandfather are staying here with you, okay?

MH: That's fine with me.

TM: What are you going to do with the photos in this binder?

MH: I don't know. Some of them are the kids and I might take them out and put them in their history. It's a mess right now because I've taken pictures out of it, too. Some of the girls wanted... One of boys said that he'd never seen a picture of himself and one of the girls said that. I started taking them out.

TM: This is the newspaper article and the pictures from the Harvey.

MH: And that's fine. They can go there, too. That story that was in the Williams News.

TM: That should be well documented at the Park, but still I'm going to keep that together there. All right.

MH: I'll put these aside and we'll go through them next time.

TM: Let's gather these up and we'll go through these the next time. We'll just keep working on these. These are great shots.

MH: Do you have any way of seeing if that is? Have you ever seen a picture of Gorbachev? It just seemed like that was the name. I think he was the Russian whatever.

TM: This looks kind of like him. You know he had a couple of blemishes on his head. He had a big red spot on his head, he was bald, but he also had... This could be.

MH: I think it is them. It just seems like the right name to go with that. That's Betty and Walter Rouser with them. I have two of those I think. I have a whole bunch of them. Go ahead and take that one or take this one, whichever. This is just them, but that one has Walter Rouser.

TM: So this is the two of them here.

MH: I've got two there. The same people, different pose, but the same people. I think I have two of these, don't I? Of them sitting at the table. Yeah, I have two of these, you can have one of those. I think this one would be better for you.

TM: So, now this looks different. This doesn't look like...

MH: Oh, no, that isn't it. I picked up the wrong one.

TM: This says Walter Ranger and Betty Ranger.

MH: Rouser.

TM: Rouser? Is that right, Rouser? So is this Walter and Betty here then on the horse?

MH: Yes, no, no, no.

TM: This is the Gorbachevs.

MH: Gorbachevs. They went down to the first tunnel or the first window and back at the Bright Angel.

TM: And that was as far as they went?

MH: But the cosmonauts went down. I have a picture of them on the trail. A funny thing happened. They had one who weighed too much and he couldn't go all the way down.

TM: One of the cosmonauts weighed too much?

MH: He was with them. He wasn't a cosmonaut, but he was with them. I guess he was in charge of their trip or something. Anyhow, he wanted to go down, too, but he weighed too much and they didn't have a western shirt and jeans for him. They sent Buford to Flagstaff to buy one. We had a budget for Transportation for western shirts and jeans to rent to the tourists that came up and didn't have them with them. Our budget went to hell because they gave them all their jeans and their shirts.

TM: And they kept them and they didn't get them back?

MH: And they kept them and they didn't get them back. So we had a hard time getting, we had to wash fast.

TM: Oh, it's diplomacy, Mary.

MH: It's the State Department.

TM: Yes, exactly.

MH: Anyhow, take the best one. There are two of them.

TM: This is 'Lee Kimball, the foreman' it says.

MH: He was the foreman on the trail at that time. He's been gone a long time.

TM: I'm going to have to show this to Hazel and see if she can recognize them.

MH: They must have pictures of it, but you can go ahead and take it because it's the Rousers, too. I think this one is better, isn't it? It's brighter.

TM: I want to take this one if I can because it's got a picture of Lee here.

MH: That's fine, too. I don't care. My family don't know these people. Like I said, they're not interested. They have so many family pictures they don't know what to do with them. Becky has so many family pictures, and she's got all these pictures, too.

TM: So this is Walter and Betty Rouser. So this would be with the Gorbachev's inbetween them, do you think?

MH: Uh huh. And that's at the El Tovar in front of the fireplace on the north end.

TM: This doesn't make sense because Gorbachev was in the '90s. This would have been Khrushchev.

MH: It could have been Khrushchev. I don't know. To me it was somebody from Russia.

TM: That might have been Khrushchev then. Okay, okay. That makes more sense.

MH: You know I don't remember the years that these people came here and stuff.

TM: I'm going to put a question mark here. I'm going to show this to Hazel and see if we can figure this out.

MH: We had a lot of pictures of them.

TM: So this is the same here again. Okay, El Tovar dining room. Again, 'Betty Rouser and Walter Rouser' but it doesn't say who the others are.

MH: I didn't know who they were. I couldn't think straight to see. Buford and Myra had a lot of pictures

that Virgil gave them that he didn't give me. I know that they had... Someplace Becky's got boxes and boxes. She's got twice as many pictures as I have.

TM: Well, when are we going to go through them?

MH: Becky would love it if somebody went through them and threw them away. Anyway, she went up and she went through a whole bunch of stuff. Last time she was up she spent the whole day under the steps because Myra had all these boxes of... She had Grandpa and Grandma's pictures. She had the other Grandma and Grandpa's pictures. She had all this stuff to go through.

TM: She must have had photos of the Park. I mean, tons pictures of people at the Park.

MH: She has boxes of photos. I have a big box of pictures framed from her grandparents out in my garage because she didn't have room for them over there. My garage has very little of my stuff.

TM: This is the Belgard family. So that's different than the Grand Canyon stuff.

MH: No, they were at Grand Canyon. Buford and Myra were up there all this time.

TM: Buford and Myra's parents were at the Canyon?

MH: They came up there quite often. But anyhow, there's nothing out there I don't think. Unless it's just of a trip up to the Canyon or something. But they have a lot of framed pictures out there. It's huge. It sits there and I need the space. I don't have hardly anything of mine out there.

TM: What can we do to help? Think about it.

MH: I keep telling Becky, "Why don't you just take them and take the frames and get the pictures out of them?" "No, I don't want to do that. I think Karen wants those." So, she's left it here. I have Karen's wedding dress out there. I have Mr. Metzger's cabinet out there. I have a chest out there that Mr. Metzger made. I have Julie's things out there. I must have two or three big boxes of stuff of Julie's because she doesn't have any place to put it. She's got stuff in here that I wish she'd take out to the garage. But it just sits there because she doesn't have room at home. She says, "I want to buy your apartment when you're gone and then I could just move in and have everything."

TM: This is Ronald Timichee.

MH: Timichee.

TM: Timichee, here. But again here these people are. I need to figure this out.

MH: They did a dance for them.

TM: Okay, I'm going to take these and I'm going to check with Hazel to see who these are, who this is.

MH: Okay, that's fine.

TM: I'm going to turn this machine off and I'm going to run away. Because I said 10 minutes ago that I was going to leave and I'm still here.

MH: Julie thinks she's going to get off earlier today so she's going to come and get me for lunch.

TM: Mary, thank you so much. Okay, good. I'm going to turn this off.