

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewee: Mary Hoover (MH)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Grand Canyon life 1940s to 1970s

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Transcriber: Jordan Warren

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Keys: Buford and Myra Belgard, Fronz and Hanna Rotter, Rosemary Acosta, Manley Allen, Jake Barranca, Cecil Atsitty, Francis Ayers, Merrill D. Beal, The White House, Bennett murder, Billy Weaver, Mr. Reed, Bob Bendt, American Legion, Betty and Red Briscoe, Royal Byrd, Maurice and Lorraine Castagne, Madeline Jacobs, Betty and Norm Clark, Quincy Coatney, Jack Verkamp, Ed "Uncle Ed" and Ida Cummings, Jeanne Schick, Dan Davis, Charles Dunn, Delbert Endlich

TM: Today is September 9th, it's Tuesday, 2014. We're at the home of Mary Hoover. My name is Tom Martin and this is a continuation of our interviews with Mary about her times in Grand Canyon from 1946 forward. Today, I've brought a list of the people in the Grand Canyon cemetery. I wondered if we could look at that, Mary, and if you could tell me what you remember about the people you see there.

MH: Let's see, who did we talk about that I know.

TM: That's right, we've talked about some of the people here already, haven't we?

MH: Yeah. We talked about Mrs. Allison. I knew the Allen's, but I didn't know them well. Their son stayed up a long time after they left up there.

Rosemary Acosta. Perhaps the Rotter's mentioned her.

TM: We've got a very good understanding of Rosemary. I interviewed her for some hours before she passed away. What do you remember about her?

MH: Well, I remember when Rosemary came. She was kind of hard to understand and yet she could speak English probably better than some of the ones that were there.

TM: Why was she hard to understand? What language – where was she from?

MH: She was from Germany. She was in the Hitler Youth movement. After the war, they took 'em to England and they sent some of 'em over here. In my time at the Canyon, we had two girls come that had been Hitler Youth movement and one of 'em was Rosemary. She worked at the Bright Angel and she was very artistic. I remember at Christmas time she made all these Disneyland figures and put them around the room. She decorated them, you know, with Christmassy things. It was so unusual because usually a Christmas tree in the dining room was it, you know? She really went overboard and did lots of things. She met a gentleman named Acosta. I can't remember what her maiden name was, but she married him and they had a daughter. She was very, very fond of her daughter. She and her husband split up. He was

from Mexico and I think he went back to Mexico. She stayed there at the Canyon all the years and she worked for Frank Rotter. She could work any place. In the dining room or at the desk or doing reservations or any of it, because she worked right with him all the time. She really caught on to everything. It was really a pleasure to run in and see her 'cause she was always so happy to see you. I didn't see her very much in the last few years because I didn't go to Grand Canyon very often and sometimes I didn't stop out at their place. If the Belgard's were with me, we always stopped to see Frank. There was no 'ifs' and 'ands', you had to stop there. Frank has always been very generous in the community and he was generous with Rosemary. When they built the housing for 'em, she had a private room or a private apartment, I don't know which it was. Her daughter worked there for a while and then she put her through school. She just really was a good mother. Interested in everything her girl did. I don't know where her girl is now. I haven't asked Hannah for a long time, but I should ask her.

TM: She's in San Fransisco, she's married, she has a daughter – a teenage daughter now. Just, I think, ready to go on into college now.

MH: My goodness. See, I hadn't seen her for a while before she died. One evening she was really busy and I just stuck my head in and said, "Hi" because she was taking reservations or doing something with reservations. She really didn't have time and I didn't have time, either, so that was the last time I saw her. She used to come down here to buy her groceries. My friend Julie got acquainted with her. She could speak Mexican and, of course, Julie does too, so she would talk to her when she'd come in. Julie told me that. Anyway, that was one of the nice people that came to us. The other girl that came over – and she came over real different from what Rosemary did. Rosemary went to England and they put them in school there and taught them English and stuff and then they sent them on over here.

Well, this other girl's name was French. It was Helga Jontenee. She was only there once summer and she worked at the laundry the whole summer she was there. She was only fifteen or sixteen. She met some war correspondent and he married her to bring her over. She had to learn English. She didn't have the schooling that Rosemary had, it was harder for her to speak English. Her father was a Frenchman and his company had sent him to Germany. When they sent him to Germany, he got caught up and they wouldn't let him go back to France. His family was there with him and so they were there. They picked her up and put her in the Hitler Youth movement. She said it was so stupid to have to go down and do the 'whoos-step, whoos-step' [laughing]. She'd show us how they did it. Anyhow, this man brought her over and then they didn't get along. I guess she was quite a bit younger than he was and they didn't have the same taste in entertainment and going out and having a home and all that stuff. So she really never had a home after she went into the Hitler Youth movement. In fact, she didn't know where her parents were. I don't think that Rosemary did, either. But Rosemary did find her mother. I don't know that Helga ever found her family. But she came and she worked. She was a beautiful girl. Everybody liked to hear her talk because her French accent really came through with a little tinge of German on it. But, she was something else. She worked, like I said, at the laundry that summer. She decided that she wanted to go to school. I think she went to San Diego and she learned to be a dental assistant. That's what she was studying the last we heard from her. Then we didn't hear from her anymore. So I imagine that she has a home someplace and a family. But, we just never heard from her again.

TM: Okay, so that's Rosemary.

MH: That's Rosemary. The Allen's. Manley Allen worked for the Park Service. I don't know exactly what he did for the Park Service. It says he worked for the Park Service here, too. His wife was a little lady, very nice little lady. They had a son. He used to work out at the airport. He took care of the helicopter for emergencies and stuff, so it would be always ready and always fueled up and everything. But I don't know where he went. He might still be at Grand Canyon, for all I know, because I just don't remember.

We talked about Mrs. Allison. I didn't know David Anders. I didn't know Elsie Anderson. And, of course, the Arnberger that's buried up there is Rob Arnberger's uncle, I believe. I'm not sure. He was in Service.

TM: His father, I believe.

MH: His father? I'm not sure.

TM: That's Leslie?

MH: Arnberger.

TM: Yes, that would be his father.

MH: His father. Somebody told us that he was an uncle. He never lived there. His son, then, was the Superintendent of the Park. I don't know too much about them excepting that their son, Rob Arnberger's son, got the scholarship from the Legion and he went to college. I guess he's very intelligent.

TM: He's a very smart man. He's married now, too!

MH: I hadn't heard that.

TM: And he's working, was working for border patrol down in Tucson, law enforcement. Yeah, he's a wonderful guy.

MH: He was a nice boy. We enjoyed... I used to write him letters for his scholarship.

I knew Cecil Atsitty. He was an Indian, he's a Navajo-Hopi guy. I think I have a picture of a team and he might be one of those fellas. But, I'm not sure.

TM: Where did he work?

MH: I think he was a bellman, but I'm not sure. The name is so familiar and yet I can't quite place him. So, I wouldn't swear to that.

TM: Samuel. I'm sorry, Ron Arnberger's son Samuel.

MH: Samuel, Sammy.

TM: It just came to me.

MH: We had a Francis Ayers that worked at the Park Service. She was the superintendent's secretary for years. She had a son named Al/Alvin. I thought his name was Alvin. Anyhow, it's got Albert Evan here. This might be her husband, I'm not sure.

TM: So she was secretary for the superintendents, then?

MH: Yeah.

TM: What else do you remember about her?

MH: One day she was... She loved to go for a walk. She'd get up early. Before she'd go to work, she would walk up on the hillside, there, sometimes to the Brant's grave. There's the old road... The old highway used to go back and there's a fire watchtower at the end of it, where it turned back to Hopi Point. She was walking up there and she found a man who had hung himself in a tree. She very calmly walked back down to the office and went in and said, "I need a ranger to go with me up to the old highway part, there." They sent somebody up with her. They asked her why and she said, "There's a man hanging in a tree." She was very calm about the whole thing! I used to work with her son. He worked at the fire watchtower out there. He used to take me home because I worked at Hogan's place in the evening, in the dining room, to earn some extra money. I always had a project I needed extra money for.

TM: Good for you.

MH: So he would bring me home, if he got done. If it was a really bad fire time, sometimes he'd stay at the fire watchtower a little bit late and then he'd be late getting... He came over and washed the dishes at Hogan's place and then he'd take me home. Sometimes I'd help him so we'd get there sooner! [Laughing] But, anyway, he married a young lady named Jill. I don't know where they went. I have no idea where they went.

I didn't know Sophie Baker. Jake Barranca is buried at Grand Canyon. I thought, perhaps, that he wasn't.

TM: If he's on the list, I'm pretty firm about him being there.

MH: Of course, I knew him very well. And the Bass's...

TM: I think we talked about Jake. He was...

MH: He was a truck/bus driver. He worked at the laundry and he was a bus driver. He drove the delivery truck when I first went up there. He was the first person I met when I went to Grand Canyon in 1946. The first person excepting for Mrs. Cunningham who took me in and showed me where I was gonna live. My roommate was Peggy, that came out with me. She took us in and showed us which was gonna be our room. Then she took Johanna who came out with us, too, and put her in another room with another girl that was a little bit younger, because Johanna was younger than we were.

TM: And Jake was the first person to say, "Hi, how are you?"

MH: Yeah. He had a hat, a lady's hat, on his head and he was in the delivery truck.

TM: A lady's hat?

MH: I was always amazed. Women used to wear real different hats, and they wore hats all the time. He found it in the garbage someplace, he had it on his head. He said, "Hey yous girls, where you come from?" We said, "Kansas." He says, "Come here and talk to me!" So we went and talked to him a little bit, got acquainted with him.

I don't know who Sophie Baker was.

Of course, Ada Bass was Mrs. Bass. Her husband is buried... Are these—these are all of them?

TM: No, remember anybody before 1940 isn't on the list.

MH: The Bass's were from Bass Camp. They were an old family.

TM: What do you remember about Ada when you'd see her? She would come in and maybe go shopping, or what was she...

MH: I don't know much about her. I only read about her a little bit. I knew that the Bass's were Dolly Gibson's grandparents, or... Yeah, because Dolly was a Lauzon and the Bass daughter married Bert Lauzon and of course that made them the grandparents. I think they were gone, probably, before I came there. I'm not sure when they died.

TM: That's right. By that time they could have moved to Wickenburg, I'm not sure.

MH: It seemed like from the very first time I went to the cemetery, their bodies had been buried.

TM: Okay, okay.

MH: Aileen Baugh, that was a baby. Her mother and dad worked for the Park Service. Ann Baugh's father was something in the Park Service in Washington. When he got older, he came out and lived with them. He was a very tall, dignified man. Her husband was in maintenance. When they got the new Park Service houses, they were one of the first ones that got one. I thought that was really nice because they were expecting this baby and then the baby died.

I don't know who this... Merrill D. Beal was Dave Beal.

TM: Merrill went by 'Dave'?

MH: I don't know when they died. It says 2010 and he was 84. I never did meet his wife. I met him a lot of times, but I never did meet his wife.

TM: What do you remember about Dave?

MH: He was a tall young man, he was a ranger. I think he worked different jobs for the Park Service. His father wrote a book about Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians. I think I did have it. I don't know if I still have it or not. I gave so many books away I don't know what I gave away anymore. But, anyhow, he was

always very pleasant. Like I said, I never did meet her, I don't know why. 'Course there's a lot of people I didn't meet, 'cause I wasn't in that group. It used to be that the Park Service was segregated from Fred Harvey. I was there a long time before I was ever invited into a Park Service house. The reason I was, was Jo Shire came there. She was from Kansas. I was selling things for the Auxiliary and I stopped at her house. She said, "Oh, come on in! Have a cup of coffee with me." We got to be friends. We'd go back to Kansas for years together and it was a pleasant friendship. She and Myra Belgard and I used to drive back to Kansas because we all three came from Kansas.

TM: How many years did it take before that happened?

MH: Well, I was teaching Sunday school and I had a lady who was raising her grandson. I can't remember her name anymore. But, she was raising her grandson and I had to go up and talk to her. She talked to me for an hour through the screen door and never said, "Come in."

TM: She worked for the Park Service?

MH: Her husband worked for the Park Service.

TM: And she wouldn't invite you in to sit down?

MH: She wouldn't invite me in to sit down. I came to talk to her about the little boy and his Sunday school, you know? We were supposed to go and introduce ourselves.

TM: What year was that, roughly?

MH: Well, let's see. I taught Sunday school in the early 50s. Probably between '52 and '55, in there.

TM: So, it would have been five to ten years that no one from the Park Service...

MH: I was once invited to Superintendent Bryant's house for a tea. I don't know if it was a money raiser or if I was invited because Myra drug me along. Because she never liked to go by herself and she was a very good friend, we were very close. She was more like a sister to me than my own sister. She had a sister named Dorothy and I had a sister named Dorothy, so we had... And we were both from Kansas. I went to grade school with one of her cousins in Kansas City. I didn't know that at the time, of course. But I found it out when we were talking and she said, "Where did you go to school?" I said, "Oh, I went to numerous schools. I went to Saint Joe's and I went to Saint Michael's." "Saint Michael's? My cousin used to go to a Saint Michael's school in Kansas City, Missouri" she said. "Well, I did too!" She told me what her cousin's name was and I had gone to school with her in the third grade.

TM: Oh, fun. What do you remember about that tea at the Bryant's house?

MH: Well, all the ladies came. It was kind of—it wasn't a—it was kind of a different... I'd never done anything like that. Anyhow, I dressed all up and everything. We went down to the... That's when the Superintendent's house was right at the bottom of the hill, behind Verkamp's, down at the bottom of the hill.

TM: What's called 'The White House'?

MH: The White House, yeah. It's brown. I guess it's still brown. Anyway, we went there and they had all these Park Service ladies and only the management from Fred Harvey. Buford was one of the managers so Myra got invited. I guess she called her and asked her if she could bring me. I don't know exactly what she said. But, anyhow, I went with her, so she must have said yes. Mrs. Bryant was a little lady and Dr. Bryant was a tall man. Mrs. Bryant thought that everything she had was so good because it was so expensive when she bought it. She had beautiful silk butterfly curtains on this—they called it the... They had a name for it, that room that was downstairs. Anyhow, it was downstairs in this big room, kind of a cave-like room built into the rock in the back. But, anyway, we were there. To me it was very different because I'm not very social, to start with, when I go out. To go into a bunch of women that I didn't know. I'm not into that type of thing.

TM: You know what's interesting Mary, though about this, is my sense was that in the 40's through the 70's there was a much tighter community bond between everyone who worked there. And this is the first time, now, I'm getting a glimmer that there was a wall.

MH: Well, the Park Service lived up on the hill and the Fred Harvey's lived on the other side of Center Street and so did the Santa Fe people and all the other people. But the Park Service was all up on the hill. Then Fred Harvey's got permission to build some houses up there and that kind of broke it. The kids went to school together. I can remember one little girl saying to me, "I can't play with my friend anymore. Her Mama told her that she was better than me because her Mama and Daddy work for Park Service." I said, "Honey, don't feel bad. Do you know that the Park Service is the government and do you know who the people are that are the bosses of the government? They're like your Mama and Daddy, me, all of the people. Because the government is under all of the people." I guess it was okay with her then after that 'cause she talked to her, but she wouldn't go back over to her house. She wasn't gonna go there. They put some of the teachers up in the Park Service the first part of it, too. Then they built the houses on...up further. Buford and Myra lived in one of the new Fred Harvey houses. There was three or four of them there on the corner on... I can't remember what street that is. They let Jack Verkamp build a house up there and then he got to build some apartments. That was on the same street that Buf and Myra lived on. But I can't remember...

TM: So it was after these other sort of businesses at the South Rim were able to build housing next to Park Service housing. Did that help break that down a little bit?

MH: Yeah, it did, it did. It really did help. The teachers going up there helped, too. There was just the teacher eches and they were very small. I don't know if they still have them there or not, but they were right across from the school and they were little houses. You had to really put in for one of those houses. Buf and Myra, when they got married and came out, they lived in the girl's dorm. They had a part of the girl's dorm that was cut off from the other part. The chef and the butcher... No the chef and somebody else from the hotel and Buford and Myra had a room over there. It was just a room, it wasn't an apartment. Of course, they got their room and board so they could go and eat wherever they wanted to, at that time. But, anyway, that was real different. Then when they gave 'em a house, they gave them one on what was Avenue B, its Boulder, now. It only had one bedroom. Karen was born while they were there.

Mr. Kolb had a house out in Trailer Village. Buford went down and talked to him. He rented it to him, because they had three bedrooms. Besides Karen... Or two bedrooms, maybe. It seemed like Karen and this other little girl had the same bedroom. Anyhow, this girl came in. She was a waitress and a bartender. She could do anything. She had this little girl and she didn't have any place to live, excepting in the dormitories. So she asked Myra if she would take care of her and they did. In fact, they wanted to adopt her. But Betty wouldn't hear of it. I can't remember what Betty's last name was. She stayed there a whole summer and into the school year. Buf and Myra had this little girl with them.

A really horrible thing happened at the Canyon during that time. I think Karen must have been about maybe 5 or 6 years old. There was a man there that worked there and he had taken one of the waitresses out for dinner a couple times. She was a school teacher and she was just there during the summer time. Her name was Mary but I can't remember his name. But, anyhow, she had gone back to school. It was one of the holidays or something and she was off. She had some friends named Bennett. They were expecting a baby and they lived in one of the little houses on B Street. He came up to the house while she was there. He wanted to take her out to dinner. She said, "I just had dinner, no thank you." He said, "Well, come and have some dessert with me." She said, "No, I don't want to go out." He drew a gun and he shot her and he shot Mr. Bennett. He told Mrs. Bennett if she didn't quit crying and screaming that he was gonna kill her, but then he turned around and left. They hunted all night for him. He went back in the woods and all the rangers were out hunting. Buford was a constable at that time and he was called out. He was with one of the rangers, I don't know which one. They were driving around and they stopped by the house. Karen said that she had heard a gunshot. He loaded the gun and gave it to Myra and said, "Sit in front of the door and if anyone tries to come in, shoot." Anyway, nobody came to the door. But Karen heard this [gunshot]. She told them about where it was. It was down an old service road, they used to have a dump back there someplace. They went down there and they found him. He had shot himself. That was our big murder mystery for a little while anyway.

TM: So, did he kill Mr. Bennett and this...

MH: Yeah.

TM: Wow.

MH: Mr. Bennett used to work at the power plant for Fred Harvey, Santa Fe. He was a young man, but the other men that worked there were older.

TM: Is he in here? Or where they buried elsewhere?

MH: I don't think he was buried there. I think they took him back to his home.

TM: Do you know the story of—you mentioned the guy hanging in the tree. Who was that and what was that story?

MH: They didn't know who he was. I think he was a tourist and he committed suicide. I never did hear who he was, actually. I used to never read the paper. Now I read the paper and I listen to the radio and the TV. Becky said, "It's too depressing, quit listening to all of the stuff. You're depressed!" I'm not depressed.

TM: Well, you're just trying to stay current with current events.

MH: Yeah. She doesn't listen to any of that stuff. The next one is Buford and Myra.

TM: Well, maybe we should talk about Buford and Myra. Tell, tell me more about that.

MH: We were all from Kansas and like I told you before, the first day that they saw me at the counter, she thought I was her sister there because I look so much like her sister, Dorothy. My sister Dorothy didn't look anything like me.

TM: At this time you were working at Bright Angel?

MH: Bright Angel, yeah. At that time I was on the counter, actually. They walked in and of course you see the counter right away. She said, "What is Dorothy doing out here?" But, anyway, we got acquainted. She came up to me and asked me who I was and where I was from and all that stuff. So we started talking. They were expecting—let's see, were they expecting Karen then? No, not yet. When they were expecting Karen...the first time, they had her. She was born in Flagstaff because our doctor wasn't very good at Grand Canyon. Billy Weaver was the nurse there and she said, "Buford, take this girl over to Flagstaff, do not bring her in here for a delivery. You can't depend on the doctor." So, they went over. Myra's mother came out and stayed. Then she went over there and got a room and stayed there until Myra came home after three days. It snowed so bad that night Buf didn't think he was gonna make it over there. But he did and Karen came into the world.

When I was working in the dining room at the El Tovar, I was to the point that every time they'd seat somebody at my table I'd say, "Oh, do I have to wait on them?" I thought, this is time for you to quit this job. So I went and talked to Mr. Rowser who was the GEO. He said, "Well, we don't want you to leave." He said, "I'll look around and see what's open." He said they need a cashier. He called me and told me, "They need a cashier down at the laundry, could you do that?" I said, "Well, I guess I can." I used to cashier a little bit in the dining room back in Kansas.

TM: Did you know that Buford and Myra were working at the laundry at the time?

MH: Yeah. We had to go down there to get our uniforms.

TM: Okay.

MH: Everybody knew who they were. Myra was working there at the time. I replaced Myra's sister-in-law at the laundry as the cashier. Margery was expecting. She had to leave our Christmas party that year to go to Flagstaff to have her baby.

TM: How long before you showed up in '46 had Buford and Myra been at the Canyon?

MH: They came out here... He came out in 1941? Then he went back and they got married, he went back to Newton. Like I said, they lived in the girl's dorm, at the end of the girl's dorm, at first and then they got the house on B.

TM: Was Buford always in the laundry, or had he done other things?

MH: He worked in the laundry in Newton. The lady that was running the laundry during the war, she wanted to leave really bad and they didn't have anybody to send out. They wanted to send Jimmy, that's Buford's cousin. He worked at the laundry, too, but he didn't want to leave.

TM: Was he a Belgard as well?

MH: He's a Belgard. Well, actually, he was...hmm. He had a different last name. His aunt was Jimmy's mother. It's a real easy name and I just can't think of it. Anyway, he didn't want to come out, so they sent Buford out. He was 21 years old and they sent him out to run the laundry. But he knew how to do it because he worked at the one at Newton. He worked at nights during the school year putting the linen on the trains and in the summertime he would work in the laundry, too. So, he knew how to do everything in the laundry, pretty much. He started to work on April Fool's Day, 1936 for Fred Harvey. He continued to work until they closed the laundry at Grand Canyon in '75. They came down here and we bought the dry cleaner's down here.

TM: So that would have been 30—basically from '36, '46, '56, '66, it would have been 30/35 years there in the laundry, doing laundry business for Fred Harvey.

MH: Uh-huh.

TM: And then moved here to Williams.

MH: Yeah, Williams. They came down here and we bought the dry cleaning. At that time polyester was really getting started and we couldn't make enough to make a living for all three of us. So, I went back to the Canyon and worked, but I came down on my days off. For 15 years I didn't have days off because I came down here on my day off. When I came down here to live, when we first bought the laundry...

TM: When was that, you came to Williams to live?

MH: I came in '75 and I went back up to the Canyon in '78. I got a job at the hotel that's at the end of—it was a Ramada Inn. Mr. Hovey, who had worked at Grand Canyon, was one of the owners of that.

TM: Mr. Hovey who had been an engineer for Fred Harvey out in Death Valley?

MH: At Death Valley and at Grand Canyon.

TM: And then came to Grand Canyon. That would be Sue Hovey's....

MH: Father.

TM: Father, thank you.

MH: Yeah. He owned part... They were five partners and they bought several Ramada's. He was one of them.

TM: This was there in Tusayan?

MH: It was here.

TM: Here in Williams?

MH: Yeah. So I went down there and I talked to Dick who was the manager down there. He said, "Do you know anybody that works for Fred Harvey?" I said, "Yeah." I knew Mr. Hovey and I knew Mr. Ernst. He said, "I'll call you back, give me your number. What time will you be at work?" I said, "I'm always down there at 6:00." I'd go down and start the steam and everything and go eat and come back, just like I did at the Canyon. But, anyway, I was down there and he called up and he said, "I talked to Mr. Hovey and he said don't let her get away. Put her to work." So I went to work. I had to be there by 5 and I worked 'til 10 at night.

TM: So that was here, at the Ramada Inn here, in Williams.

MH: So even on Saturday and Sunday, I was working down there. We worked half a day.

TM: So, were you working at the Canyon and then you come in and...?

MH: No, I worked here. That's when we owned the dry cleaning.

TM: Oh, got it.

MH: Then they got a new manager down there and I didn't like him. He was a young man. He was the manager, he didn't do anything 'cause he was the manager. He had a very ill-disciplined little girl. I just thought he was very obnoxious. When he went upstairs—they had an apartment upstairs for the manager—and when he went upstairs, he was up for the night and he would not come down. Things would go on and you'd need some help and he just wouldn't come down. So I got mad and I turned my time in. I went down and talked to Jim Pickets, who was a wonderful guy to work for. He had the Rod's Steakhouse. He bought it from Rod Graves. I went down there and asked him for a job. He said, "When can you start?" 'Cause his cashier was leaving. I said, "Well, I have to give him two weeks," I said, "I wouldn't just walk out and not leave him with somebody to do it." So, he said, "Okay, I'll see you in two weeks." I worked down there from 4-10. They closed at 10, but you never got out at 10 because it was always somebody come in late. I really enjoyed working for him. Like I said, the money from the cleaners wasn't enough to keep us going. So I would take the sewing home with me to Grand Canyon and I'd do the sewing up there.

And I did the books up there. And I'd come down and work on my days off. So, I didn't have any days off. After I got back up there... I went back up there because we just weren't making enough money. So, I went back and I worked as a housekeeper at the El Tovar first. I was there 7½ years and they were remodeling the El Tovar the whole 7½ years I was there. Then they sent me to Yavapai to clean it up. I went out there and worked and I worked at Maswik.

TM: Let's go back to Buford and Myra for a minute. Any other fun stories about them? A fun story you remember?

MH: Buford liked to go hunting and Myra really wasn't into hunting. She would go sometimes with him, but she didn't like it. He liked to get out with his friends. His favorite hunting partners were... His Dad would come out from Kansas and he'd always take him hunting. Jake/big Jake, and Lawrence Scheier and Jack Verkamp. Sometimes Oscar Willis would go with him. They would go out deer hunting and stuff. Buf hunted antelope. He got one one year and I did make Karen a vest out of the skin. And they had elk. I think I've eaten every kind of wild meat there is in this country. I even had some bear meat and buffalo meat. Buf's dad used to bring out pheasants. They were always cooking something wild. I remember one time they had the Wedoff's, he was the auditor for Fred Harvey, and Grant came and his wife, Jo, they were from Kansas, too. They came and had dinner with them for Thanksgiving. She fixed a beef roast and she fixed an elk roast. Jo didn't like the idea of eating anything wild. So, Myra put the venison roast on the table and she didn't tell her until they were finished eating. Jo said, "Oh that was good!" Myra said, "You ate venison." She said, "Oh, no, I wouldn't eat venison." Myra said, "It was venison. I still have the beef roast over here on the stove." She was very upset 'cause she'd eaten venison. She didn't think that you ought to eat wild animals. But, anyway, they would have me over quite often.

Karen, when she was a little girl, she'd want something from the store. She'd call the operator and say, "Tell my Daddy to bring me some cookies for lunch!" They'd call up the laundry and say, "Mary, tell Buford to bring Karen some cookies for lunch." So I'd tell him and he'd go get them on the way home. We'd babysat Karen a lot when Myra was being social and going to clubs and stuff. She'd bring her down to the laundry and we'd put her in a laundry basket, put a couple blankets or something under her and she'd sit there and play. We'd give her a book. Myra'd bring things down for her to play with and we'd stick her in a laundry basket. I told her when she grew up, "I thought you were gonna grow up in a laundry basket."

We did the same with Becky when she came along. But Becky didn't come down as often. Myra stayed home more when Becky was coming up. Buford liked to go out to Rowe Well because he was a good friend of Jack's. They always had a good time talking about airplanes and stuff, because Buf was in the Air Force. He was in the 5th Air Force during the war. They closed a lot of things down and they didn't have very much doing at the laundry. They had a lady come in, like I say, I don't remember her name, but she came in and ran the laundry during the war years. I think she might have been related to the man that ran the laundry over in Albuquerque for Fred Harvey, but I'm not sure. Anyway...

TM: What did Buford do in his Service?

MH: He was a radio repairman for the airplanes, but he didn't fly. He was in the Air Force, but he didn't fly. He was in the South Pacific. He was in a lot of the places where my one brother was in the Army. His best man was a flyer, he flew during the war. He came out here right before he had a plane crash and died. I can't remember his name. He was from Newton. He had a lot of friends all over the world. He was very interested in the American Legion. He was the Department Commander for the state of Arizona. Then he represented Arizona as something in the National for a while.

TM: In the National Legion?

MH: Uh-huh.

TM: Would he go to Washington, DC for meetings?

MH: He went there several times. He invited the National Commander out and that was the first time they'd had a National Commander in years. His name was Commander McNeilly? McNeilly, I think it was that came. After that, they kind of liked to come here, because they usually got to fly over the Canyon or do something exciting. So, they liked to come after that. And, of course, the Post got to be wealthy because there was a gentleman that owned part of the land at Tusayan. He owned 21 points. Where all the hotels and motels are down in the bottoms, that was all Mr. Reed's homestead.

Mr. Reed used to grow vegetables and sell them to the El Tovar and the Bright Angel. They didn't have a road. He rode horseback in with the groceries, which was unusual. But anyhow, he got to be friendly with Buford. He came up one time and he said his wife was in the hospital and she was incapacitated. She couldn't sign for things anymore. I don't know if she had Alzheimer's or I don't know what was wrong, but she couldn't legally sign for anything anymore because she couldn't read the contracts and stuff. They didn't expect her to live very long. He said he was going to sell the place. He wanted to give the Legion first it was 20 acres and then he went down to 10. Then she did die and he was gonna do it. There was a man that worked with him that was in charge of taking care of selling it and everything. He came up and he was gonna make out the paperwork for the 10 acres. He had a room at the El Tovar and during the night he died. There were 21 heirs, no, there was 1 heir. It was a lady and she was in California. She called Buford and told him that she would give them the land because she wanted to carry that through. Well, she died that night and she hadn't signed the papers. Then there were 21 heirs and the 21 heirs wanted to make a lot of money off of it because it was a valuable piece of land because it was so near the Park and everything. That's how the area out there got to be sold out. Thurston's bought it. Buford didn't know that this lawyer that he had was working for Thurston, too. It got down to two and a half acres, in the end they got two and a half acres. But they had to buy it.

TM: For how much? Do you remember?

MH: I can't remember. I do remember that Mrs. Verkamp and Peggy lent them the money because at that time they didn't have that much money. They lent them the money and they paid them off. There was a house out there, the old Reed homestead. One of the Greening boys had been living out there and raising chickens. The fox kept getting their chickens. He worked for the Park Service, so they decided to move in. So, they took this old house...

TM: So, Buford and Myra, who had been staying at the Kolb's house in Trailer Village then moved out to the Reeds?

MH: No, they didn't move out there yet. Fred Harvey's had built these new houses. When they built the new houses in the Park area everybody was wanting one. Some of them were making big fusses about getting one. I think Ben Quinn was the one that was in charge at that time. Buford went up to him one day and said, "Sure would be nice to have one of those new houses" and he just turned around and walked out. Everybody was giving Mr. Quinn such a bad time about getting a house. So one day he just called up and said, "Buford, I put your name down for that house." So they moved up on the hill, which was really nice. It was a nice house. They had an attached garage and everything. It was really neat.

TM: Wow. What year was that, roughly, do you remember?

MH: Karen must have been 6 or 7 and she was born in what, '55. So it was in the...

TM: '60, '61-ish?

MH: Yeah, it must have been around... 'Cause Myra got sick and they hadn't been in the house very long. That was in '62. So, it must have been in '60 or '61.

TM: When did the land in Tusayan, Mr. Reed's land, when did all that happen?

MH: That was in the '50s.

TM: Okay.

MH: There was a little piece of land out there that somebody owned individually. I don't know who it was. I know the Thurston's owned right behind it and they had a house. A lady, Jack Field's mother, I think it was, had a house out there. It was a small one and I think that's where the Thurston's lived. They lived behind where Buford got this land and they put up a pre-fabricated home. They brought it in and built it all in one day. Some of the guys were up here building things and Buford knew all the construction guys. A couple of them came and said they'd lay the foundation for it. So they got the specs and everything and they laid the foundation for the house. They just brought the house up on a great, big truck and took it off and put bolts through this and that. And it was together.

TM: There it was.

MH: So Myra and Buford moved out there. It was kind of hard for Myra because she liked to go to the store all the time. She went to the store everyday, I think, for something. Whether it was to look or to buy. She did like to go to the stores. But, anyway...

TM: So was she fairly isolated, then, once they moved out there?

MH: No, she knew people out there. It seemed like they would have had a good thing going, excepting they couldn't get honest bartenders. They had one named Cal and he was a good bartender. He had bartended all of his life and he was a veteran from World War I. He'd been shot up. He lost half of his stomach and one lung. But he was living at Grand Canyon. He was about so big around, he was very thin. Cal took care of the hut for the first years that they had it. He also worked at the laundry and that's how come he went out to the hut. But he didn't work the full day. He packed for us and when the day would get on to about 3:00 or so, he'd leave and go out to the hut. But we had several boys that could pack and I could pack, so it didn't make any difference that he was gone. He was a good old man. One night he was at the hut and somebody was trying to get in the door. He lived upstairs, it was a two story house. He came down with his gun. He opened up the door and said, "Did you want something?" This guy looked at the gun, turned around and went away. That was our friend, Cal. He was a dear friend.

TM: So, the Legion got the land and Buford oversaw the building of a, was it a restaurant or what was the concept of the building? A lodge?

MH: No, they built on a large 40 x45, I think it was, room, cinder block. They had dances in there and dinners in there and stuff. The house had a kitchen. They built a little bit on the back of it and they used the kitchen for dinners. That's where I learned to cook Mexican food.

TM: Where you cooking with Josie?

MH: No, I cooked before Josie. There was a lady named Gene Delouf. Gene and Hank. Hank worked for the Park Service and then sometimes she'd bartend or sometimes he'd bartend. They were good employees.

TM: And then Cal would live upstairs?

MH: Cal left us, he went back to Flagstaff. Eventually he went up to his son's and he passed away up in Colorado. He wasn't feeling too good and he thought he should be where he could be able to go to the hospital if he had to. It was okay, I mean, he left under good terms and everything. He was with us quite a while.

TM: So, Buford was having a hard time finding good bartenders.

MH: Good bartenders. They had a water truck and one of them took it. He was gonna leave. He packed all his stuff and put it in the water truck. He got down the road and it stalled on him and he couldn't get it started, so he just left it. Somebody called and said, "Buford, what's the Legion's water truck doing down by Valle?" He said, "Well, it was parked behind the hut last night when we were out there." He said, "I'll go down and see." Somebody said, "Well, this man got out of it and he had some luggage and stuff and he thumbed a ride down the road." And he left with the bank.

TM: Oops.

MH: Oops was right. Anyhow, that was one of them.

TM: How much was in the bank?

MH: I have no idea. I did take care of their books at the time. I took care of a lot of books at the time. I did the Auxiliary's, I did the Legion's, I did hut's, and I did a lot of the bookwork for the laundry. Buf set up a system that we charged for everything. Every rag that went out of the laundry, we charged for it. They said we shouldn't be making a profit because it was a service unit. But we did make a profit because we did personal laundry, too. You had to have personal laundry because you did guest laundry. We had people that were... I don't know what people think when they travel. One time Buf spent the night going through all of the sheets. Washed ones and dried ones, ones that hadn't been through the ironer yet, because this lady had lost her... She was traveling, I think she was from Germany. No, she wasn't from Germany, she was some European country anyway. She had lost her little pack that she had around with her. All of her money in it and her passport and everything was in it. It was in a white bag. Of course, the maid went in and grabbed up the white sheets and threw it in the laundry. When you have a ton or two of laundry to fill up a machine at one time, you don't look at every sheet. So, whoever did the loading, loaded it in. It had been washed but you could still read everything. Anyhow, she sent

him a bottle of the best, I don't know if it was a wine or a liqueur. It was Sherry Herring, H-E-R-R-I-N-G, from her country after she got home.

TM: That's nice.

MH: And I drank most of it. [Laughing] Oh, it was good. I'm a blackberry brandy person, but I haven't drank blackberry brandy in many years. That's what I used to like.

But, anyway, Buf and Myra had the two girls. They raised them here. Grandma and Grandpa used to come out. Sometimes Myra's mother would come, but her dad didn't like it out here. Said there were too many trees. He was used to Newton. Well, Newton in town has a lot of nice trees around the houses, but you get outside of town it's kind of flat. Toward western Kansas, that's where western Kansas starts, about there and it's kind of flat. He didn't like it out here. He couldn't see anything. He said you could look down the road and see cars coming, you can't look down the road here.

TM: Then Buford and Myra moved into Williams.

MH: They moved into Williams and they bought a house up on the hill. It was so hard to get up there in the winter time. This apartment building over here, Mr. Fitzinger built this and he built... He didn't build this, this was already a building. He gutted it and made apartments. But he built that apartment building over there and it's a three bedroom. But it was kind of a mistake because it had so many steps. It's a split level. When Myra got sick, she couldn't get up and down the stairs. It was really hard. Then you couldn't go out to the street without going down at least two or three steps. So it was really hard on her. We tried to take her in a wheelchair and we couldn't manage it.

TM: It's hard, you need to be real strong.

MH: Anyway, if they would have stayed right there, she would have been like a prisoner in the downstairs because she wouldn't have been able to get up and down the steps. Her daughter Becky took her, bless her little heart. She took care of her and she died at Becky's house. She was in a home for a little while. They were terrible to her there and that didn't work out. Buf says, "I don't know what to do." Becky cured that. She went in and this girl was trying to make Myra stand up and get in the wheelchair and Myra couldn't stand by herself. She said, "Just turn around and sit down in that chair!" That was when Becky walked in and she said, "I'm going to take my mother home right now." She eased her down into the wheelchair. Becky's quite strong. She eased her down in the wheelchair, took her out to the car, got her in the car and took her home. Came back and told them, "I took my mother home and she's not coming back!" She got her stuff and brought it to her house. Prescott has a group that goes into homes and helps. They're not nurses, they're nurse's aides type thing. This lady that ran it would send her daughter a lot of times, because Myra liked this girl real well. So that made it pleasant for her.

TM: Nice. Did Buford come to visit as well, or did he stay here?

MH: He stayed here but he went down there all the time. I think I was on the road every day. Every other day, at least. He really was lost when she was gone. She had cancer. We took her to six different doctors and nobody caught on that she had cancer. She had liver cancer. That's what she died of. She told Buford, "When I die, I want you to have an autopsy to see what I've died of." So when she died, he

did that and that's when they found that she had liver cancer. She'd had cancer before in the '60s. Not too long after they moved in the house in the Park area she had cancer and she was in Phoenix.

TM: What kind of cancer did she have in the 60s, do you remember?

MH: I think it was ovarian. Anyhow, they said that she had cancer through all of her body. But this last one started at her liver. She really went downhill.

TM: How old was she?

MH: She was 88 when she died. I don't know if that's on this, yeah it's 88. No, that's Bette Briscoe.

TM: This says '87, there's an '87 and '89 for Buford and Myra.

MH: Yeah, '87. Well, she would have been/she would have... She died in, what? Uh, I should remember. She died on October the 20th, so she was 87½. And Buford was 89.

TM: He passed away the next year?

MH: The next year. He insisted on staying in his house. I'd go over and fix him something to eat in the evening and turn his news station on because he couldn't see, couldn't hear. It was very dangerous for him to be living alone, but I couldn't go over there and live. So I stayed in my house but I went over there all the time. I washed the clothes for him. He could do a few things, but he couldn't adjust things like the TV or anything. He'd sit in front of the TV and he had macular degeneration. Myra had macular degeneration, too, before she died. She couldn't see anything. When she was lying in bed, her little granddaughters were there. Becky had a couple of girls at that time. She'd point to the stars and she taught them to sing 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'. Bless their little hearts, they sang it at grandma's funeral. They wanted to sing that for grandma, so they did.

TM: Nice.

MH: Buford would sit over there. One day I came in and he was just talking a mile a minute. I came up the steps and I said, "Who are you talking to?" "I'm talking to Myra!" "Okay, I'll go downstairs and wash clothes or something." Pretty soon he got quiet. I went back upstairs and fixed his dinner. He never said a word about it, but he really missed her. Becky's one daughter whorls and she made their urn to be buried in. He kept her ashes and they put them in the same urn. They're buried together at the Canyon.

TM: It sounds like quite the love affair. A lifelong...

MH: It was. They were married 67½ years to the day.

TM: Is that right?

MH: Yeah. That was lots of years. They were married in April, I think. I think that comes out to October, being 67½. I used to remember all those dates without thinking about them, but I have to think these days.

TM: Well, you're doing great.

MH: Anyhow, they were good friends. Myra and I often times went back to Kansas together. We'd drive her car because it was big. The girls and sometimes Jo would go. She had a daughter, too. So we'd have three little girls and three big girls. It seemed like I was always driving.

TM: The ladies' road trip.

MH: Yeah. We'd drop Jo off at either Dodge City or... There's a little town right outside of Dodge City that Jo grew up in. Her brother still lived there but I can't think of the name of it offhand. Anyhow, there's a big mill there and he ran the granary mill. We stayed at her mother's house a few times. Then Myra and I'd drive on to her mother's house or to Buford's mother's house. If we were going through Hutchison, we'd drive to... Buf's mother and dad had moved from Newton over to Hutchison and we'd stop there and stay overnight. Then I'd catch the plane or the train or whatever and go on into Kansas City so Myra would have her car while she was there. One of my brothers or somebody would come over and pick me up at the station. I'd just call them up and tell them.

TM: And that way, the grandparents could play with or see/visit with the grandkids.

MH: Yeah.

TM: Nice.

MH: Yeah. Myra went home every year there for a while. Jo went home quite often because her mother was still living. But her mother got, she had Alzheimer's. The one time we drove up to Jo's sister's house and there was this lady going down the street. She had on a hat and a heavy winter coat. Joe went in the house and said, "Margaret, where's Mom?" She said, "Oh my goodness, I don't know! She must have got out!" It was her going up the street. She was going to church. She said, "I don't know why they made me wear this heavy coat, I'm so hot." Poor little lady. Then they put her... She couldn't take care of her anymore because she was just always getting out on her. So they put her in a home and it was at Garden City, Kansas. Jo went there, oh she cried. She said, "I wanna go home, I wanna go home!" Jo looked around and there was nothing of hers there. She didn't have her bible, she didn't have her little table with her lamp. She didn't have her chair. So Jo went to Margaret's house and said, "You didn't take anything of Mama's. She needs something of her own around her! You take her table and her chair and her bible." And [then] she was perfectly content.

One of her granddaughters was one of the nurses there. She'd go in and check on her all the time. Jo was real pleased that she was there and she got good care there. But she finally passed away. Alzheimer's kills you, too.

TM: Age does that, time does that.

MH: Yeah, my brother died of Alzheimer's.

TM: Did he?

MH: Yeah, my oldest brother. But, anyway, our trips were fun. We had the car packed so...

TM: With the six of you!

MH: And Myra had to have all of her special clothes!

TM: Oh, my gosh!

MH: And then she'd go shopping. Honestly, we needed to put a thing on top of the car.

TM: A trailer!

MH: A trailer or something. Sometimes, she'd even box up stuff and send them back. But, anyway, she'd get to see Dorothy and her family. She had a brother back there, too, but her brother got mad at the family and didn't have much to do with them. He did work at the Canyon, though. His wife did too. I was the one that replaced his wife. But, anyway, we'd go back there. I never stayed at Fern's house. I stayed at Buford's father and mother's house. One time I drove a niece back home. She was leaving her husband. She had a baby about five months old, cutest little boy you ever saw. He was so good on that trip. I had given she and her husband \$75 when they got married. They bought a car with it, it was an old Chevy. They came out, they drove all the way out here with that old car. They drove it out here. When she called me and said she wanted to go home, I had told her I was going to go on the train to go back and see mom and dad, she said, "Can't you just drive me home?" She says, "I don't feel very well and I've got the baby." She said, "Could you just help me out?" I said, "Sure, I'll help you out." So, I turned my ticket in and drove her home in that old car. I said, "Did you get new tires?" She'd told me the back weren't any good. She said, "Oh, yeah, I got new tires." I didn't look at the tires. We got to Buf's mother and dad's house. The tailpipe had come loose so when we went down the driveway it hit the street. We got to my sister's house. This was my sister's daughter, one of her daughters. We got to my sister's house and my brother-in-law came out and he said, "Mary Hoover, how could you drive that car with my family in it with those bad tires?" I said, "Dottie said she got new tires!" So I went in and I said, "Dottie, didn't you get new tires?" She said, "Yeah, I put them in the back of the car." [Laughing] They were in the trunk. He said, "I'll fix the tailpipe and we'll get into town and get some tires before you go anyplace else." Well, she didn't feel good. She said, "Would you take me up to the doctor, just tell Mom you're gonna take me and..." Now I can't think of my nephew's name. He was a cute little boy. Johnny Logan. Anyhow, she said, "Would you take me and Johnny Logan up to the city with you and then I'll come back down later." I said, "Okay..." We got in the car and we went to the doctor. He came out and he said, "I have some bad news for you." I was sitting in the car with the baby. He said, "I have some bad news for you. We need to run some tests, I think your niece has cancer." I said, "Oh, my goodness" and I started to cry. I just couldn't help it. I was so upset about it because I'd had friends die of cancer. I've had so many friends in my lifetime who've had cancer. Anyhow, I said, "I'm gonna take you back home." He said, "Get her in the hospital, as soon as you can." So, I took her back. My sis was so calm, I was so amazed at her. I went in the bedroom and laid there and cried for hours. Sis says, "Mary, it's alright. I called the doctor, they'll take her in tomorrow and run the tests." Well, she didn't have cancer. Something else was wrong. It was minor, compared to cancer.

TM: Great!

MH: So, they took care of her. I went on up... My brother came down and got me. I went up to my mom and dad's. She drove up later and she got a job and she stayed there. She still lives... Well, she lives outside of Kansas City, Missouri, someplace. Anyhow, she's still back there. She just quit working. She worked until... She's getting up there in years. She's in the late 70's.

TM: Yeah, must be.

MH: She worked until that time. She's been married several times. The first husband, that she left, he had no sense of responsibility. He worked on a ranch. They lived there for a while and then she was gonna have Johnny Logan, so she thought she should come into town. So she got a job waiting tables at... Is there a place called Buffalo Bill's or Bill's Steakhouse or something out in east Flagstaff? She worked there until the night before he was born because she never had any money. I went down there, that kid didn't have a bit of food in the house. She didn't have any diapers for the baby. Myra and I went down, we were going to go by and see her and go out to the fair. It was about this time of the year and we were going to go to the fair. I said, "Myra, you go ahead and go, I'll stay here." So I did. She had the old car yet. I got in it and I drove it down to the store and bought her a bunch of groceries and stuff.

TM: Diapers.

MH: Diapers. She didn't have a bed, so I came back to Grand Canyon and got her a bassinet and took it down the next weekend. She didn't have a place for the baby to lie or anything! I got her blankets. I spent 700 bucks on her because she didn't have a thing. He came in, he went right to the refrigerator, made a couple sandwiches, sat down and ate them and took off. "Gotta go have a beer with my friends." That was it. I didn't see him. Of course, I went home that evening, but...

TM: \$700. This must have been in the 1950's or 60's you did this?

MH: Yeah.

TM: That was big money. That was a lot of funds. It's a lot of money today still.

MH: Yeah, I spent a lot of money. Anyway, I got her all the things that she needed. I don't know, that boy didn't... That's why she left him.

TM: Good for her!

MH: He wouldn't take any responsibility. Then she married again. He'd get mad at her and she wouldn't know why he was mad. He wouldn't talk to her for a week. She said, "Have you ever been in a house with a person you're supposed to be living with when they wouldn't even say 'Good Evening', 'Pass the potatoes' or anything to you?" She just couldn't take it anymore, so she left him. Then she married Brett's father and he was a party boy. He liked to go out and party all the time. She kept saying, "We don't have money to do that. We have a family." She had Brett, so they had two boys. So she left him. Then she married a railroader. He was good to her. He left her with a house and she's comfortable. She sold the house. He told her she could sell it at a certain price to sell it and he wanted her to give so much of it to his daughter. He had a daughter. She lived in it for several years. When was it we had the family reunion? Right after that, he died. 2001 was when we had the family reunion. He died right after that.

She's by herself now. She's the one who had the boy who had...they were gonna do a heart transplant and a lung transplant. Well, they did the lung and they found that he had a hole in his heart and they thought they could take care of it. But, in the meantime, a fungus had grown in his new lung and it killed him. So, he's gone. He had two step-children and three of his own. The one girl is about two years older than the twins. The twins are a boy and a girl. The boy's legs didn't develop and he has to have a wheelchair to get around in. He's a nice kid. He's a real sweet boy. He never complains. He has a friend that comes by to see him, they grew up together. He went to college and this boy said, "Don't worry about him getting to college because I'll come by if you can't take him." He told his mother that. So, if Lisa couldn't take him or his dad couldn't take him, this boy would come out and get him. Take him to college classes. I thought that was real nice. He'd come out and play games with him and bring him books to read. He's always been a pal of his.

TM: Nice. That's Buford and Myra, let's keep going.

MH: Bob Bendt, he was with the Park Service.

TM: What do you remember about him?

MH: You know, I knew Bob and yet I really didn't. He was married, I don't think they were very happy, I'm not sure. There's a daughter involved, but I think it was her daughter. He was a ranger, Bob was a ranger. He was once the commander of the Legion Post, I remember. I never socialized with them. So I really didn't know them very well.

Of course John Bradley, we've talked about him and Silvia.

I didn't know William Breed.

I knew Betty and Red Briscoe.

TM: Who are they?

MH: That's these two here. She worked as a... Oh, what did she work as? She worked for Fred Harvey in the office, she was a secretary. Red worked for us at the cleaners for a while and then he got a job at maintenance because they paid more. He painted, like houses and stuff. He was a really funny little... He wasn't a little Irishman, he was a big Irishman. Anyhow, he was a funny guy. He loved to party, loved his cigarettes. I guess they had a good life together. He passed away. He smoked too many cigarettes, his lungs went out on him. He was on oxygen all the time. The last time I saw him was... He walked down the hall with us at the VA hospital and the minute we stepped out the door, he said, "Does anybody have a cigarette?" Of course, nobody did. That's one thing, Buford never smoked and Myra never smoked and I never smoked. So, we could honestly say, "No, we don't have one!"

TM: Well, good!

MH: But here he was with his oxygen, carrying it down there with him. He could be ornery and he could be nice. He used to sometimes give me a bad time. He'd tell me I wasn't doing something right. I had to learn to dry clean and stuff and I thought I knew more than he did. But, anyway, he was kind of a loner

in a way and yet he liked to go out and party. She liked to really go out and party. After he died, she was gonna move down to Prescott but she moved to Flagstaff. She lived in an apartment over off of San Francisco Street, no the next street over, Turquoise Street, in one of those apartments. She got really weird. She thought somebody was gonna come through the telephone and kill her. She told me that people were always calling her up and she felt threatened because they'd hang up. Well, I get telephone calls all the time and they hang up. You know they hit the wrong button or something, I don't know. Anyway, I don't think anything about it. One evening, I was over there and I was driving away. I hardly got in my apartment and the telephone rang. She said, "Are you alright? Are you really alright?" I said, "Yeah, why?" She said, "There was a man running along beside your car when you left." Well, I had to look up the street, if there was a man next to my car, I would have seen him. There was nobody there. Anyway, that was one of the things she did to me.

Then she fell and hurt herself. Steve Verkamp was her landlord. She put in a claim because, I don't know, some pipe was broke or something and the floor was wet and she fell. She got a settlement out of it and her hospital bill was taken care of. She owed me so much money over the years, I did so many things for her. She got all this money and you know what she told me? "I hired this couple that lived down the street, they're wonderful. They took me up to the El Tovar and I bought them dinner and we had drinks. We had a bottle of wine with our dinner," she said, "It was awfully expensive, but I just really enjoyed it." She said, "I paid for the gas. But they've been so good to me, they took me to the store." I said, "Why didn't you get a taxi? It would have been cheaper." I never really lent any money to anybody thinking I'd get it back, because 9 times out of 10, you don't. But that made me kind of mad. To think that she went up and partied at the El Tovar and couldn't pay [me]. Then she put me down that I was gonna take care of her funeral. I wasn't gonna take care of her funeral. I don't know who did it, I have no idea who did it. I didn't go.

I'd go over and pick up her laundry and bring it over, cause she just couldn't do it. She just couldn't iron clothes and some of her things needed ironing so bad. So I'd go over and pick them up, bring them over, take them back over. Then I let her stay here 'cause she didn't have enough money to pay her rent one time. They were making her move out and she didn't have any place to go and she didn't have any money for first and last and all that stuff. I said, "Well." I was working at the Canyon and I could stay over at Buford and Myra's it didn't matter. So, I let her stay here. All I asked was that she pay the utilities while she was here. I got notices that I was overdue. I've never been overdue paying bills in my life until then. I get a bill, I sit down and write a check and that's it. I don't charge things.

TM: Moving right along.

MH: We're not moving very fast are we? We're down to...we talked about Bradley's, Briscoe's.

Burris. I didn't meet the Burris's until later years. They were here in the 20s. I think their son was born up here. He was still connected with whatever he did in Service the last time I saw him. They came up for the gate being redone at the cemetery and they're buried up there. Both of them are buried up there. But, they came up and I got acquainted with them a little bit that day. There was a lady named Gillian and I wrote an article, she's very interesting. But she isn't on here because she's not buried at Grand Canyon. Anyhow, she had been an artist and I was writing this article for the Legion for her because she was the first department president for the State of Arizona from our unit. That was in the

1934's. Her husband joined the Legion. He joined her up, but she was back in New York with some of her artwork or visiting or something. He joined her up in the Legion and she got interested in it, so they would come in. They knew the Burris's. Mr. Burris's sister had some paintings that she had done and he sent me pictures of them. I did an article on her for the Auxiliary because they wanted a history of all the presidents. So I researched it. There's people with that name over in Flagstaff, but I don't know if they were related. I didn't know these people. They left in the 40s, in 1940. That's another side story, too. But, anyway, the Burris's are buried out here and their son is a member of the Post here. He still keeps his membership here.

TM: LeRoy, oh no, that's different. I was just thinking... They were buried in '88 and '89.

MH: Yeah, they're buried out here.

TM: I see, okay.

MH: This is Burro. This is them. Burro was an Indian man, but I didn't know him. He died before I... There was a Burro up here when I was here. He was Supai, but I don't know whatever happened to him. It wasn't this one.

The Byrd's were some people that were... He was an officer in the Navy, I think, during the war.

TM: That was Royal?

MH: Yeah, Royal. I don't know where she's buried. I don't know if she's buried here, but her sister is. She was buried in the same plot that he was buried in. So, this must be her. I keep thinking I'm going to call Patience and find that out, because I can't remember what her first name was.

TM: So, Lula may be Royal's sister?

MH: No, her sister... I can't remember what her sister's name was. I should remember it, but I don't. She was a waitress.

TM: So, Lula would be his wife, then?

MH: Yeah, she was Royal's wife. He worked for the Park Service and the sister-in-law worked up at the Bright Angel.

The Cameron's were way before me. Although, Elizabeth Cameron didn't die until '73.

TM: I wonder if these are children or grandchildren of Ralph H. I wonder if that's...

MH: That's the Cameron's that were from Cameron.

TM: Okay, yes.

MH: And Campos... I think he worked in the kitchen or something but I don't remember him.

These people, I didn't know, they were Park Service people.

I know Maurice Castagne and Lorraine.

TM: Who were they?

MH: He was the foreman for the Orphan Mine when they bought it. They took it over for uranium. It was a uranium mine and he was in charge of that. His wife's name was Lorraine. I think they lost a boy. That Troy, I think, is their son, possibly. They moved from here up to Colorado. He had quite a crew out there. A lot of people at Grand Canyon have gotten downwinder settlements. I got one, too. Myra got one, too. Jo got one, too. Her husband got one and little Mary got one. Anyhow, there were so many people that were there during that time. They never covered the trucks. They drove through and went out through Cameron and up to Tuba City. So, many people got cancer. All of the men who worked in the mine died of cancer. The ones that worked up in the carpenter's shop for the mine, they got through it okay and the ones who worked in the offices got through it okay. It really kind of did this town under, because they had a lot of people have cancer here. Anyway, that was a long time ago.

TM: So, the uranium ore was put in trucks and the mill was in Tuba City?

MH: The refining was done there.

TM: That's right, the refining was done there. Okay.

MH: They would take it up in these great big, long trucks and they didn't cover it with anything. And of course...

TM: The wind.

MH: ...things would fly off and they went right through the village.

TM: What else do you remember about them?

MH: I know that she was Catholic because she used to sit in front of me at church sometimes. But, I didn't know her, really. He used to come in. He was quite friendly with everybody in town. I don't know why I didn't know her. Her/their kids went to school here. Evidently this one boy died, but I don't know what... He died in 1970.

TM: Didn't you mention that you'd worked there a little bit? Did you work up at the hotel up there?

MH: I worked at one, it was Mr. Hogan's and then it was Mav and Jacob's.

TM: Okay, so before these guys bought it?

MH: Before they got it, yeah. Mr. Hogan was the one who started the mine. He got that through an Act of Congress because he was a Rough Rider with Teddy Roosevelt.

TM: That's right.

MH: This was not a Park when he got it. That's how come that was private land. He was a sweet little man. He was so pleasant all the time, never had anything to say bad. He and Madeline didn't get along. He was supposed to be able to live there until he died and he finally went to Flagstaff to live. She kind of made his life miserable.

TM: That was his wife?

MH: No, Madeline Jacobs was the lady from Phoenix. Her husband had been a big lawyer in Phoenix, but they were divorced. She was quite a lady. She came in here, she had a big car that she drove around town. It didn't have a current license on it. It had an old New York license on it, in fact. She would drive it around town and the rangers told her, "You have get an Arizona license on that." She said, "I do not, this is federal land. As long as I'm on federal land, I don't need a state license on my car." She drove it, and she drove it, and she drove it just in the Park! She got ready to leave, they put it on a truck and hauled it out. Well, she never bought a license for it. She knew the governor, she knew everybody in Phoenix that was somebody. She was from a very wealthy family from New York, evidently, 'cause she told me one time some people came in and they were saying that she had junk jewelry. She said, "I know good jewelry when I see it." This man said, "Oh, no you don't." She said, "Yes I do and I know gold as well as silver. And I cut my teeth on the gold doorknobs of the Waldorf Astoria when I was a little girl." This guy just walked out, "Who is this woman?"

TM: What was her last name?

MH: Jacobs. Her husband was a lawyer down in Phoenix. She knew everybody in politics and everything. She was hard to work for.

Carter's. Charles Carter, I don't know who that was. They were NPS people. I did know people that were in the NPS, but it wasn't this Carter because his brother lived down in Williams. That Carter died, too, and so did his wife. His wife died over in Flagstaff, I think. I don't know where they're buried.

Cheatham. That was Clyde Cheatham.

TM: That's James Clyde?

MH: Mhm, yeah.

TM: Okay, and who was he?

MH: He died in '42. That was the father or the uncle. The Clyde Cheatham I knew wasn't that old. I mean he lived longer than that. He was a desk clerk. I don't know what this man did.

Clark's, Betty Clark and Norm Clark. I don't know who Susan Clark was, Amy Susan. Betty lived across from Buf and Myra. She worked at the post office. Norm worked at Park Service, he took care of the...where they put all of their extra...not equipment, but extra things that they had to have for the Park Service. It's a warehouse, he was a warehouse man. They lived right across the street but it was a Park Service house, right across the street from Buf and Myra. They had, I think it was her niece's two

girls. She was raising them. She was at the post office for quite a long time. She died first and then he died, but they're buried out here.

TM: What else do you remember about them?

MH: Well, I always liked them. I didn't have much to do with them because I wasn't in that circle. She was always at work when I went out to the post office to get something. She was always very pleasant when you went to the counter to buy stamps or anything.

TM: Was she the postmistress, or did she just...

MH: No, she was just a clerk.

TM: She was just a clerk for the post office, okay.

MH: Quincy Coatney. He was a very good friend of Jack Verkamp's. He did a lot of carpenter work around the Canyon and stuff. I don't know, he worked here and there. I don't know that he ever worked for anybody very long because he went from one job to the other. But, he was very capable. He was in the Second World War and he was a prisoner of war. He married Blanche Ferguson, who he called 'Dee' because I think his first wife's name was Blanche. They were married and they lived up here for quite a long time. Blanche was a waitress. She's buried by her first husband, I think. She's not buried here, anyway. I think her husband was buried either in Colorado or down in Phoenix, I'm not sure. Their daughter lived up in Colorado. She was living with her daughter when she died, so possibly she's buried in Colorado. But she owned a home in Phoenix. Quincy loved to hunt but he didn't want anybody to stand behind him and shoot a gun. Because when he was a prisoner of war, he said they would take so many prisoners out and they'd shoot by their head. Not shoot them in the head, but shoot by it. The Germans did that. He couldn't stand for a gun to go off behind him. He just went...

TM: So was he in the Army, Quincy?

MH: Well, he died in '81. He was 72 years old. He was young when he was in Service.

TM: Do you remember the Branch he was in?

MH: He was in the Army.

TM: Do you know where he was captured? Do you know anything about his Service?

MH: It was in Germany. He was in one of the German camps. He lived down in Williams for a while, but I don't know how long or anything.

I don't know Cochran's.

Bernice Cook. I didn't know John Cook was buried out there. I guess he should have been. He worked for the Park Service up here for forever. He was Park Service Superintendent someplace, but not here. He was a tall, bald-headed man. I didn't really know his wife. His boys still come through Williams. They

used to always stop by or call Buford when they'd come through Williams because Buford was Scoutmaster when they were in the Scouts.

TM: Oh, nice.

MH: Yeah, long years ago.

TM: Are they the Cook's that have the pizza place in Tusayan?

MH: No, they're not related to them. I don't know where they came from. Like I said, when they lived up here, we didn't socialize too much. But, Buford was the Boy Scout master with Freddy Bard and then, I don't know, he did other things. They had a program in the summer time. He didn't really help with them, but he helped financially with them. Buck Clark, who was a teacher up here, was in charge of it the one year. The Legion has pictures of the kids. The Verkamp kids are in it, a whole bunch of the local kids. Some of them I don't remember even anymore. I know that Mike was out there in front when they were gonna have a race or something. But, anyway, he was really interested in that.

TM: And Crane?

MH: The Crane's had children that died, two sets of twins. They were Park Service people, but I don't know anything about them.

TM: It says 'infant' here.

MH: Alexander Crosby was the barber here. I didn't know him. I didn't go to the barber, so I didn't know him. He'd bring his towels down sometimes.

TM: Did you cut your own hair?

MH: I do yet, sometimes.

TM: Is that right? Good for you! So he was the barber. Where was his barber shop?

MH: It was at the Bright Angel and now it's one of the restrooms off the lobby. They had a barber shop and they had a beauty shop in there. It was on the Canyon side. He was up there for quite a while, but I didn't know him. I used to go to the beauty shop over there, sometimes. But, I never went to him.

And there's Ed Cummings and Ida Cummings, they were dear people. Ed was 'Uncle Ed' and he's the one that had the house that Buf and Myra moved into on Avenue A, Apache Street. The back room always smelled like leather because he took care of the tack at the barn. He'd bring it home and work on saddles and stuff at home and it smelled like mules and leather. But, anyhow, they were nice people. He loved to tease the kids. He'd go up to Becky and say, "How are you today, little girl? Whatcha doing?" No, he'd say, "How are you little boy, what are you doing?" She'd say, "I'm not a little boy, I'm a girl!" He loved to tease the kids.

TM: Oh, that's cute.

MH: They had a surrey over at the barn and he used to take special people on rides around and stuff. Or, if it was a special time, like an anniversary or something and you wanted to treat your wife to something different, you could take her. He'd get the mules out, hook them up and take you for a ride.

TM: Nice. Was that his surrey?

MH: No, it was Fred Harvey's. I don't know what ever happened to it.

TM: They must have sold it, I wonder.

MH: I have no idea. I don't remember when I last saw it, even.

TM: Did you every get to ride in it?

MH: No, I've never ridden in a surrey with a fringe on top. He wasn't very tall, but he was a geologist.

TM: Ed was?

MH: Ed was. He's the one that went down for Mary Jane Colter and got the rock for the fireplace at the Bright Angel. It is the strata of the Canyon.

TM: Laid up in the rock on the sides of the fireplace.

MH: Yeah, he's the one that did that. Ida was a Harvey girl and she raised her daughter.

TM: Did then meet, then, at the Canyon?

MH: They lived at the Canyon for a long time and then...

TM: Do you think they met there?

MH: I imagine that they did, I'm not sure. I don't know where Ida came from. I used to write to her. Her daughter was Jeanne Schick.

TM: Jeanne who worked for Park Service?

MH: Jeanne Schick? She was in Service and I don't think she came back up here after. Her husband did something someplace else. They lived down in Sedona in later life. But, anyway, she lived with her daughter when they lived in Phoenix at one time. She loved to go to the races. Ida loved to see those horses run. She bet on them and she'd have the best time. Her \$2 bets oftentimes won. But, anyway, she'd go out to the races, Jeanne would take her out there. I'd write her a letter...

TM: This was Ida who loved to...?

MH: Yeah. I think Ed died quite a while before she did, I'm not sure. He died in '51 and she didn't die until '80.

TM: Until '80, yeah. She was 90, that's right. She loved the races, nice.

MH: She was a heavy set little lady and kind of short. Her last job was at Babbitt's in the old Babbitt's store, at the fountain. She worked with Lou Scheck. I'll tell you about Lucille and her husband later. Anyway, she worked there at the store. She was so short she could hardly reach up to put the stuff on the counter and pick the change up and stuff. But she was really nice. I'd write to her for the Auxiliary, send her a card and say, "When you get around to it, you can pay it, and if you don't pay it, that's alright, too. I'll take care of it." But she always sent the money. Her daughter said that she loved to get my letters, because I told her about everybody I could think about that she knew at the Canyon. Sometimes I would write her three or four pages. She said, "My mother knows when those dues are due and if you don't get the letter to her right away, she's watching the mailbox every day until that letter comes." So I tried to be more prompt with it. I took care of the membership for a long time. Anyhow, we really liked her.

I don't know who this Curley is but she must be a Navajo. Yeah, she's a Navajo and Irish, it says. I don't know who she was.

I don't know this one.

Dan Davis. Now he had...

TM: Dan Davis was a ranger. In the 50's he was working at Phantom Ranch as a law enforcement ranger. He was a good friend of one of the river runners down there. Then he left Grand Canyon and kept his career in the Park Service.

MH: Now, I don't know if this is the Dan Davis that was the ranger who's wife's name was, what...Joanie Davis?

TM: He had a child named Dan Jr. You would have worked concurrently there with him in the 50s.

MH: Hmm. If he's the one that I remember, his wife was always sewing and she never quite got anything finished. We went to a party one night. She was gonna put a zipper in a dress and she didn't get it done. She brought a whole bunch of pins and said, "Mary come in the bathroom with me. Would you pin my dress up?" She was funny. She used to come to the library, she and another girl. Then they'd go have a drink on the way home. I don't know if it was her or the other girl that found a book that said let's kill whatever the husband's name was. It was a mystery. She took it home and threw it in his lap. He told her that she couldn't come to the library anymore because they'd always go by the bar before they go home. These two girls always came together. I can't remember who the other one was anymore.

John 'Jed' Davis, I don't remember him. You know there were several Park Service superintendents I never saw. I don't know why I didn't see them. They just never came to the laundry, I guess. Or they didn't come where I was working, so I really didn't know all them.

Terry Ann, I don't remember that one. I think that might have been Dan Davis' daughter. They lost a daughter, but I'm not sure that that's her. I don't remember.

TM: I think that's right.

MH: And Demaray, I didn't know them. They were here before I came. He was a director for the Park Service and I have no idea who they were.

Rob Dobbs. I knew Dobbs, but I don't think it's this one because they moved away and I don't think they were buried here.

Charles Dunn, he was a bus driver. He had a wife named Barbara. She worked for Mr. Kolb as a housekeeper after he was gone for a while, because Mr. Kolb couldn't be by himself. I don't know where she went, where she died at, but she did have a daughter. Her daughter was a young girl. She was dating... We had a baker who baked for Fred Harvey. He had a nephew that was his favorite nephew. This boy always wanted to come out and spend his summer working and being with his uncle. He finally convinced his folks to let him come out and work. He was out at Hopi Point and the Dunn girl was with him. They crawled over the barrier and were sitting with their feet dangling in the Canyon. John Lewis came by, he was driving a bus, he said, "You kids get up from there! You have no business being on that side of the railing." When he turned to help her up, he stepped back and he fell in the Canyon and it killed him. This girl never got over it. Her mother had a terrible time with her. They finally left because of it, because she just couldn't take it here. But Charlie used to drive the bus. He and Bernie Seeberg drove the buses from Williams up. Then there was a man at Williams that drove the one up, because he lived in Williams and he met the first train. He would bring people up to the Canyon and then go back that night. Bernie and them would meet the daytime trains. We could ride on those buses for free to town, to Williams. To the big city of Williams! It was fun to do, it was something different anyway. Sometimes we'd come down here and have lunch.

TM: So, was his nephew buried at the Canyon or not? That went over the edge there at Hopi Point.

MH: He died.

TM: Was he buried at the cemetery?

MH: No, I think they sent him back to his parents.

TM: Oh, my gosh. That's tragic.

MH: I used to know the name of that baker and I thought I'd never forget it. He was so upset. We had some good bakers back then.

Delbert Endlich, he worked at the laundry. I don't know if his wife has died or not. She came through one time but it's been about 10 or 12 years, maybe 15 years ago and I've never heard from her since. We called him Spike. He was a very thin man. He did the job that Cal had been doing. He came in and took Cal's place.

TM: As a bartender at the...?

MH: No, as a packer for the laundry. She worked. She ran the Hopi House, not the Hopi House. She ran the El Tovar art room for a while. I think she was down at the Lookout Studio for a while.

TM: Why was Delbert called Spike?

MH: I don't know. I never called him Delbert. He came in and said, "I'm Spike" and that was that. It was Spike.

TM: What else do you remember about him?

MH: He was a good worker and he was a nice man. He really took care of things. When he did it, it was done right.

TM: Did he load or did he just pack, was that all he did?

MH: He didn't have to load. The drivers had to load the trucks because they had to know where they put everything because they had to deliver like to Bright Angel and Hopi House. Not Hopi House...

TM: I'm sorry, did he load the washers, dryers, did he...

MH: No.

TM: Did he just pack?

MH: He just packed, he never did anything but pack. He kept very good books, because we had a count of everything. He did very well at it. Cal did, too. Jim Smith was before Cal, but he's not on here because they went back to Chicago and they're buried back there.

I don't know this "Jed" Davis. Floyd Davis I knew. He fell down the El Tovar steps, he was a bus driver.

TM: Really? Was it Floyd Davis? It says here NPS, but I wonder if that was Floyd or not.

MH: Well, you know....

TM: That could be wrong.

MH: That could be wrong. He wasn't that old.

TM: But there was a bus driver that did fall down the El Tovar steps.

MH: But he was older than 40.

TM: Older than 49.

MH: Because I worked with his wife. Anyhow, he was up at the bar and he was drinking and he came and he fell down the steps and hit his head and he died. I don't know whatever happened to her.

TM: Okay. So, I'm gonna put a little check right here next to Terry Ann Davis.

MH: I had never heard of him. Terry Davis.

TM: Actually we, who else did... Let's put it here, because I'm going to need to run to Flagstaff now, Mary.

MH: Okay.

TM: Another two hours has zipped on by.

MH: They always do, don't they?

TM: They do! And so, we'll come back and we'll pick it up again.

MH: And I loved the Ennis's.

TM: Oh, good, good we'll start there.

MH: Mable Everly, I don't know where her husband is buried but...

TM: Alright, good.

MH: Anyway, we'll stop there.

TM: Okay, thank you.