

Transcription: Grand Canyon Oral History

Interviewees: Jim (JT) and Lea Tuck (LT)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Jim and Lea Tuck recall working for the Park Service, Alcatraz, and the connections they made during this time

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Transcriber: Shreya Iyer

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KEYS: John Muir National Historic Site, Alcatraz, Jerry Rumburg, Interior Secretary Roger Morton, law enforcement training in 1977, Fire Island, Greenbelt Park, 1995 General Management Plan, Grand Canyon Transportation

TM: So today is the 18th of June, 2017. Today we are at the home of Jim and Lea Tuck in Flagstaff, Arizona. So, Lea what year were you born?

LT: 1945.

TM: 1945, and Jim you?

JT: 1947.

TM: Okay. Lea, where did you grow up?

LT: I grew up in Osceola, Iowa.

TM: What were your folks doing there?

LT: They ran a greenhouse and florists shop, so I grew up with a green thumb and I still love gardening.

TM: Oh my gosh. How big was the greenhouse?

LT: It had three glass houses and then a florist shop.

TM: Wow, so fairly large?

LT: It was, for a small community, it was 5,000 people, so not that large but it took care of the business of the floral industry or whatever in Osceola.

TM: Nice. Did you have any brothers and sisters?

LT: I have two older sisters.

TM: Okay. Did you guys camp much, were you guys outdoors much?

LT: Not really outdoors, but my parents... We didn't camp but we went on tremendous vacations every year. Three week vacations going to many national parks. I always thought I would grow up to be a forest ranger. But we did travel a lot. My father was always the one who organized it and prepared

wonderful places for us to see. Well, and also they were very interested in starting a program for foreign students to come to the high school. We had an AFS student stay with us from Sweden during my junior year. AFS is American Field Service student. We have stayed in contact with Ganila, her name, for all these years and we consider her the fourth sister. Have visited her and she came to a wedding recently so it's a great contact, international contact, as well.

TM: Very cool. And then graduated from high school?

LT: Right.

TM: And then did you head to college then?

LT: I went to Iowa State University and graduated in 1967 in elementary education.

TM: And Jim, where did you grow up?

JT: Tulsa.

TM: What did your folks do?

JT: Dad worked for the telephone company for 39 years and my mom worked at home but also sewed, mostly later after we were out of school, doing alterations and so on in women's dress shops.

TM: Brothers and sisters?

JT: Older brother, he's five years older. He went to medical school at OU, served at Vietnam in the Air Force and is retired now in northern California. Younger brother, five years younger, went to Cornell and has just retired from the city of Colorado Springs in the planning department.

TM: Did you guys camp out as well?

JT: Lots, we were Boy Scouts, all three Eagles. My dad was not a scoutmaster but very active. We, depending on which of the brothers, went to Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico. We went up canoeing in the Boundary Waters with the Scouts. We did a whole lot of that kind of stuff. Canoeed the Illinois River in Arkansas. I'm sorry, the Buffalo River in Arkansas, the Illinois in Oklahoma. So we did a lot of canoeing but a lot of camping as well.

TM: So you were traveling a lot Lea. Three weeks is a big chunk of time for a vacation. Yeah, that's great. And Jim, sounds like your mother and father certainly were encouraging for both you and your two brothers, Eagle Scouts, that's a big deal.

JT: Well, and every two years we would take the classic national lampoon vacation and either going east to see the Statue of Liberty or going west to see the Golden Gate Bridge and so on. Up to Yellowstone or wherever. So we did a lot of the same kind of vacations.

TM: The classic road trip.

JT: Probably saw each other along the way.

LT: That could be.

JT: First time at the Grand Canyon, I was in diapers. I've still got a picture of that.

TM: What year was that?

JT: I was probably a year and a half so '48, give or take. The last time up there, I'll probably be in diapers again.

LT: That's great!

TM: That's wonderful. And then, I'm assuming you completed high school and wanted to head on to college.

JT: Went to Washington and St. Louis for a couple of years. Lost my scholarship so ended up at Oklahoma University. Graduated with a degree in zoology and a draft number of 39 so I joined the Navy to avoid the draft.

TM: And what did you do in the Navy?

JT: I was a gunnery officer on an LST and also had shore duty. Stationed in the Philippines for my last year or so in the Navy. I spent three years altogether. LST is a landing ship tank. They no longer exist. They would drive up on the beach and put a ramp out onto the beach. Mine was 520 feet long. Tanks and trucks and so on full of Marines would drive on to the beach for a beach assault. They no longer do that, they go on helicopters and so on. So the ship that we put on commission in 1970 is no longer in the Navy.

TM: How many years were you in service?

JT: Three. The standard commitment, even still today, is about three or so.

TM: Had you completed your degree in zoology though?

JT: Yes. At one point I was pre-med. While my brother was in med school I watched an operation with him and I decided maybe that wasn't really what I wanted to do. It was still kind of in the future, but as I got out of the Navy, looking for a job with a degree in zoology is a challenge but the Park Service happening to be hiring. I was in San Diego in the Navy and the guys out at Cabrillo said, "You ought to apply to Alcatraz because they're hiring now. They're about to open up." I sent an application up and that was that. So I was one of the first eleven rangers on Alcatraz in October of '73.

TM: So let's back up a little bit. How did you two meet?

LT: We met, was it at John Muir National Historic Site? I was working as a temporary park technician at that time.

TM: What year was that?

LT: Oh boy, '74 or something like that.

JT: Yeah, I was married to another person at the time. In fact, you were a curator as much as anyone is a curator.

LT: And interpreter at John Muir Site.

TM: So this is in California. I'm assuming...

JT: It's Martinez, in the Bay Area.

TM: Okay, because you're at Alcatraz.

LT: And I also worked on Alcatraz as probably the third group of rangers.

JT: Those were seasonal jobs so we rotated a lot of people through.

LT: I think they only allowed you to work six months at that time on Alcatraz. But that was my first job in the Park Service.

TM: So Jim, when you got the job at Alcatraz, was that a permanent position or was that a seasonal?

JT: Oh no, seasonal. I worked there three months. Worked as a writer/editor in the regional office downtown for nine months. Then I went to Muir Woods. Now wait that's wrong. I went from Alcatraz to Muir Woods for nine months as a kind of interpreter and informal law enforcement and then I went to the regional office... Am I'm forgetting?

LT: It's a long list.

JT: My first permanent job was at John Muir. Even that was not a permanent job, it was called Subject to Furlough where you were worked ten months and were off two months or so. That way we didn't count against a full FTE, a full time equivalency. We also didn't get benefits because of that. The Park Service used to, not really scam, but it ended up being a scam on a lot of us because you would essentially be a year round employee but not get benefits. So, no medical benefits, no life insurance, none of that. No retirement, none of that. Yet, they had you for the full year.

LT: They always said, "If you don't like that, there's plenty in line for your job." If you wanted to work for the Park Service, you were satisfied with those things.

JT: I never had that said to me, but I know it was. The worst thing that I remember was that our seasonals for the three month season, the typical season, would unfortunately run out of money in August and say, "Well shoot, if you want to volunteer for the rest of the month we'll be sure you get a job back next summer." I heard of that but I didn't experience that either. There's lots of rumours out there that probably based on truth.

TM: What was working at Alcatraz like? This was when the Park Service just took the island over.

JT: Yeah, just got it. It was closed in '63 and we got it in '73. It had been occupied by various people including mostly American Indian tribes, but also Black Panthers had been out there and so on and so forth. The place was a mess. Buildings had burned, it'd been trashed, it was a nightmare. But it was really fascinating because we were putting together the story that we wanted to tell. The supervisor, Jerry Rumburg at the time, was this wonderful guy whose dad ended up being regional director of the Southwest Region out of Santa Fe when he retired. Jerry in fact died in a car accident when he was working at Arches. It was fun for the group of us to kind of put this story together. To search through

newspaper articles, walk through the buildings and decide which buildings were walkable, 'cause a lot of them were ruined partly from the salt air and the rusting and that kind of stuff. But it was pretty fun. We had New Year's Eve out on the island and that was pretty eerie. That was a strange place to be.

LT: I didn't work with Jim, but I would think I was the third group of rangers that worked out there. It was fascinating because you might have someone on your tour that had been a guard or a prisoner. They may or may not identify themselves but you always had more information coming in and more discoveries that people would go into the buildings and find things. Civil War as well. Like Jim said, this group of rangers that had a good comradery. We would have parties on the island. I think that's what I remember quite a bit is that after the tourists had gone we'd stay there. It would be evening and we'd tour the island in the dark because there was no electricity at that point. Not of the cells.

JT: There's a little morgue on the island. The trees still pull out.

LT: Always something that you thought you could discover.

JT: Back then we talked the entire tour, about an hour and a half I think. Now they're recorded on phones, but we had a group of twenty-five or so typically.

LT: Thirty at the most.

JT: We talked the whole way. We walked backwards the whole length, up the hill and down the hill and though the cell block. I guess that got kind of labor intensive. I did have a woman, we were talking about the kids that lived out there, the guard's kids. They would ride the ferry into San Francisco at 7 o'clock in the morning. From the back of my tour I had a lady say, "Well that's not the way it was when I lived out there." So that classic kind of thing where you get challenged. And things change so it wasn't a big deal, but it was an interesting thing. People were just fascinating, especially people our parent's age who had lived through the Baby Face Nelson and Machine Gun Kelly and the Birdman and all that stuff, were just really exciting to see that.

LT: On vacation in San Francisco looking over at the island when I was younger and knowing that there were prisoners out there and wondering what was happening. Then to find yourself working on that island. It was really an esoteric kind of experience to be there and to have those kind of ghost-like feelings of the people that were there in those cells, what they were thinking. Interesting job.

TM: One story from Alcatraz that you remember that you want to share?

JT: Let's see... Jerry Rumburg, first supervisor, when he was touring Roger C. B. Morton, who was about as tall as you, Secretary of Interior, on opening day or whatever, pointed up at Al Capone's cell and said Al Capone died of syphilis after he left Alcatraz. Somehow got into the story that he had acquired syphilis while he was there. Not true, as far as we know. But then Missy Voit one day, I overheard her, there was a little theater in the cell block and they had a band then and they played dance music, she said, "But I don't know who they danced with." She was this cute, youngest of the group, eighteen maybe twenty year old young lady. But that was left up to the imagination. Nothing dramatic though.

TM: How do you spell Rumburg?

JT: R-U-M-B-U-R-G, Jerry. He was the first supervisor, hired all of us and hired you I guess. Again, died after he transferred to Arches. Really a heck of a good guy. His cousin worked there. His cousin now is in

Grand Junction. He had a good group of people and pretty oddballs, too. I'd just left the Navy. Just a very few had Park Service experience, otherwise they were people right off the street that had applied for a job to be a ranger in Alcatraz. It was pretty funny. Women didn't have uniforms at the time so they let them put together anything they damn well pleased.

LT: Shirts that were men's size, because we had to wear that. When I worked at John Muir, the uniform there was like a Girl Scout leader uniform. The zip up the front of the skirt and a scarf without a badge.

JT: Her dress is in the museum collection.

LT: The men wore a badge on their uniforms but for women it was just a patch. So that was the very beginning of women really working in the Park Service, I think, in ranger type jobs.

TM: And this would have been in the '70s?

LT: '70s, uh huh.

JT: That dress is in the museum collection.

TM: Okay. Jim has just brought a photograph of Lea. She's wearing a....

JT: A Line, they called it. Right?

LT: A Line, yeah. Very loose.

JT: Polyester.

TM: Sort of big collar, patch there.

JT: Had a girl's patch. Notice it's smaller and it's surrounded by white. No badge.

TM: Yes, a patch. And this is knee length skirt?

JT: And they also had a pantsuit.

LT: But I wasn't allowed to wear it because the superintendent didn't like pantsuits for women.

TM: So this is a question now with Grand Canyon National Park having no River District right now. Shut down due to the one word I think of is bullying.

JT: Oh, it's worse than that.

TM: Which encompasses sexual harassment. It encompasses men on females, females on females, men on men, females on men. Every way you look at it, I think of the word bullying. And Jim, as you say, it's worse than that, that may not be the right word. Did you see this in the '70s?

LT: I did not, I felt. I've been thinking about it, but I don't feel like I had that pressure on me, so no.

JT: They weren't isolated though, either.

LT: Right.

JT: Down on the river, it's a whole different place. A lot more difficult when you're in a little nine acre Park for employees. Same thing on Alcatraz, everybody's following this tour and that. We were lucky, too, with our supervisor. Jerry was a heck of a good guy. So I think that's part of it. Part of it is because we were lucky, I think.

LT: After I left John Muir Site, I worked in the Western Regional Office in San Francisco for about eight years. I got a lot of help in my career to support me and to advance in the Park Service there.

JT: There were stories at that time of senior male employees and junior female employees, but all rumor because we didn't know for sure.

TM: It's interesting, you mentioned remote Park on the river and yet the issue is much broader than that.

JT and LT: Of course. Oh yes.

TM: So this kind of matches you saying we hear stories of... It clearly wasn't super prevalent. Something that, as you mentioned, for many years working in San Francisco region was not an issue.

JT: A teeny little part of that I saw. I took a river trip back in '92 right after I arrived in the Park. It was a patrol trip and there were 3 or 4 SCA volunteers who had just finished their term. Quite often, maybe now still, they were given a river trip as a kind of a thank you for that. As it turned out these were all four young women. When they placed the toilet, instead of putting it back in trees and behind, they put in right on the middle of a sandbar. I said, later after the trip, "Why do that? Why embarrass people, there's no need. You could have done that a little bit better." So that was just a teeny little piece...

TM: So, the SCA is a...

JT: Student Conservation Association. I think maybe AmeriCorps has replaced it. I thought SCA was still around. Unfortunately, SCA, because they brought in employees that were either not paid or paid very little, started replacing park rangers in front-line situations. Now what we see are cooperating association employees. But too often, that's who'd took the front desk or who did whatever. We still see that. But we saw a lot of uniforms at Canyon de Chelley recently. Lot of employees up front there.

TM: So in 1992, Patrick Hathaway would have been the head of the River Unit?

JT: Let me think. No, Mark.

TM: It was either that or Mark Law. Okay. I'm just trying to put it in place because Mark left soon after that.

JT: Yeah, but the guys that ended up leaving recently, at least one, was there. Dave was there. I like Dave as a person but he was a little bit rowdy for me with the job. But the job was such a different job. I'd actually applied on that job some years before when Eberhart got it, Ron Eberhart, who went on to grander and greater things. It was probably as well I didn't get it.

TM: So let's back up a little bit, because we're sort of still in Alcatraz, certainly still in the Bay Area. When did you guys leave the Bay Area then?

LT: Well, we weren't married then.

JT: I was. Let's see, okay, so I went from Alcatraz to Muir Woods to the Regional Office, I think. Is that right?

LT: But we didn't work together there.

JT: To Greenbelt Park in Maryland. Oh no, I'm sorry. So Alcatraz to Muir Woods to the Regional Office to John Muir and that's where we worked together. Then I left there to go to Greenbelt Park in Maryland in '77. That was my first real honest to goodness year round job. It was law enforcement and so on and so forth.

TM: So let's talk about that. What was law enforcement training like in 1977?

JT: It wasn't. I actually was commissioned. There were a couple of classes, C2 and C1 as I recall. I had a commission at John Muir but I couldn't carry a weapon. I think I could have written tickets, never did. I did that by going to classes at Mount Diablo is it, the community college there in Pleasant Hill. I think I went to FLETC for a week here and there for various training. FLETC, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. That's kind of the way I started. Then I went to Greenbelt, to Maryland. There I had to be fully commissioned even though we had park police there as well. So I went down to FLETC again for I think driver's training, for firearms training, some legal stuff, but it was little bits and pieces rather than the multi month situation that they have right now. But I was fully commissioned, carried a weapon, did what I needed to, and so on. Then when I went to Fire Island, after Greenbelt Park, I was fully commissioned there and I was a law enforcement supervisor.

TM: What was it like going from San Francisco and sort of the West Coast, Alcatraz, John Muir. What was it like then going back east and going way back east to Fire island?

JT: Everybody said I'd never get back west again. That was the kind of classic model at that time was once you go east your dead. You've killed your career. I guess it wasn't true for all of us, anyway. There is this real western mentality that the real Parks were out here, back east they're all historical, boring, that kind of thing. That wasn't true at all, though. Greenbelt was an interesting Park. Fire Island was a wonderful Park. Greenbelt was formed because they had closed the only campground in the District of Columbia and built a Park Service office there, is my memory. So they needed a Park and they had just built the community of Greenbelt, Maryland. Eleanor Roosevelt did that, it was one of the very first planned communities. Used to still be able to see kind of how it developed but that's all gone. So this was fair land. 175 acres on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway that the National Park Service managed, mowed basically. So they developed a little Park with a big campsite so that people could go to Washington DC and camp. Because the other nearest campground was Prince William Forest which was a good ways away from DC. It was kind of a tradeoff. It was, in my opinion, the least significant Park in the system. I tried to get PJ Ryan, have you ever heard of Thunderbear? He's an alternative National Park Service newsletter editor and he's on issue number three hundred and god knows what.

LT: He was our boss at John Muir Site. So that's how we got to know him, a fantastic guy.

JT: Kind of a federal employee Edward Abbey sort of guy. That may be stretching it, but when I spent my first day at John Muir, as he was orienting me, he was my direct supervisor, he gave me a copy of Desert Solitaire and said read this. So there you go. If you want to look him up, just google Thunderbear. So anyway, how did I get there? P.J...

TM: We were talking about going to the east coast from the west coast...

JT: But there was something more that I was going to...

TM: ...and the things that you ran into besides people saying that your career's going to die if you go east.

JT: Well anyways, Greenbelt Park was this little Park and it was fine, but Fire Island was a real Park. I mean it's a National Seashore, it's a beautiful seashore. We did law enforcement and we chased sea planes who were flying into Park Service territory improperly, we did boat patrol, we patrolled down the island. It was a pretty neat place. I lived in an 1858 lighthouse keeper's house which was pretty cool, but it was so poorly insulated, big stone walls, that our average fuel oil cost for the year was \$200 a month. It was really something but it was a neat place to live. Went from there, though, to Cabrillo so I got back west again.

TM: Had you guys been in touch while you were back east?

JT: Yeah, we were friends.

LT: We were friends from working at John Muir Site. We kept in touch but of course he was married at the time, so we were just good friends.

JT: But Lea had visited us in Greenbelt. Not at Fire Island.

LT: Also at Cabrillo. I worked in the Park Service in the Western Region in the Division of Interpretation and I had a job down at Cabrillo, so stayed with Jim and his wife Gretchen during that time. So we saw each other.

TM: Cabrillo, where is that?

JT & LT: San Diego. Down at Point Loma.

JT: It's a real multi-faceted Park.

TM: Why did you leave Fire Island, what took you back west?

JT: It used to be that every three years you looked. If you wanted to advance and vary your career... It was really just like the military in some ways, except in the military the assignors assign you to new places, in the Park Service you apply. I've got 200 rejection letters, still, from the days when I applied for my eight different jobs that I worked. It was variety and New Yorkers wear on some people because we were restricting their movement up and down the island and doing other things that they really didn't want us to do. I knew San Diego because I'd done my Navy time there and it was just a neat opportunity. Was not a raise, I don't remember, may have been a raise.

TM: You mentioned the three year model. You stay at a Park three years and then you if you want to advance you have to leave.

JT: Pretty much, used to be.

TM: A few NPS employees bucked that and I think of John Riffey of course had a totally course, forty years at one location. It almost cost him his job but they eventually worked it out. Your thoughts now looking back on that sort of three year end move, good/bad for the long-term understanding of how service units work for the historical understanding of how we got to where we are today.

JT: I understand.

LT: I always thought it was good because I like moving around. When you move around you give new ideas into your job. You just have a fresh outlook. So for me, I think it's a very good thing. I think it's stopped now because of the cost. It was amazing how much it costs to move us. The whole household, from when we were married, from Cabrillo to Denver to Fort Smith, Arkansas to Grand Canyon, each of those were major moves and cost quite a bit for the Park Service. So I think that's why somewhat discouraged later on.

JT: We often said that bringing a new perspective and so on, there were always people that would stay around a while. When I look at a Forest Service career, and forest rangers quite often will stay a longer time and become more of a part of the community, often in small communities, I'm thinking right now of Springerville or someplace like that, you're more susceptible to the pressure from the locals who view the area as *their* Park not the nation's Park. Fort Smith I ran into it with the Chamber of Commerce over an issue. No big thing. They viewed Fort Smith as their Park and I viewed Fort Smith as part of the system. And that was a rub. Had I been there 25 years and been in Rotary for 25 years and whatever, it would have been a lot more difficult to hold with the standards that we viewed as important. When the Park Service closed a couple of times at Fort Smith, Ed Barrs, I don't know if you know who he is, he was a historian for the Park Service, was leading a Civil War battlefield tour through. The community expected me to let them in even though the Park was closed and I didn't. I just said no it's not going to happen. They considered it an affront to their local cash cow. Yeah, I thought it was good. But, on the other side, good and bad, moving every 2 to 3 years, your spouse ends up losing the job that they were in, having to find a new job. So my wife at the time was not constantly, but on occasion, having to leave. She was a preschool teacher. She would leave her kids behind in March and then move to a new place and not be able to get a new job until September. That kind of stuff. So it wears on the family and kids the same way. When we moved down here, part of the reason we stayed around was for the kids and school. 'Cause the boys had just started elementary school. So it's not all great.

TM: I also think of institutional memory. That's the word I was looking for.

JT: And that's important. But there always are people who stay around who do have that. And if I think about the Parks, I can think of people in each of those Parks who stayed around long enough to really hold on and be able to say, well, we tried that or we whatever and whatever. So it's important to have both I think.

TM: So then back from the east coast to the west coast to San Diego.

JT: My wife found a better deal, she left. It was kind goofy, shall we tell the whole story?

LT: Sure.

JT: We had a ranger rendezvous coming up, Association of National Park Rangers. This time Lea was in the Bay Area, I was in San Diego, the rendezvous was at Squaw Valley.

LT: Yeah, Tahoe.

JT: Yeah, Tahoe. We had planned some weeks before to get together with other former John Muir employees and have dinner together because we were all, at least the two of us, were funneling it that way. My wife chose that time to part, so I drove up to the Bay Area to stay with a friend. Called Lea asked her if she needed a ride to the dinner we were going to with PJ Ryan, the Thunderbear guy that we just talked about, and a couple of other people. So went up to the door. I don't know how it went from there you can tell that story.

LT: You have more detail than I remember.

JT: Well, I asked you how Dave was and she said, "We broke up this summer." She had been dating a guy in Alaska and she said, "How's Gretchen?" I said, "Well, she left me yesterday." So it was downhill after that.

LT: It was right time, the right place. At John Muir I saw his qualities and thought great man, so it just was the right place and time to get together. After that, because I was working for the Park Service, I had to make a decision about if I would leave my job and go to San Diego and stay there, which I decided to do. I went on a long furlough so I could change my mind if I had to. But went down to San Diego. Then we got married after that.

TM: It does speak to the dual career dilemma.

LT: It does. I left my career. I was 36 at the time and I really wanted a family and to be able to have children. That was the different direction I chose to go, wanted to, so that was okay for me. That's where we went together and had a family and that's history.

JT: It's rare the couple today that's able to manage it and advance. If you stay where you are, and there's a couple of couples that I can think of up at the Park and they're satisfied. GS9 park rangers working the visitor center wherever, maybe one's law enforcement one's interp. But the rare exception is Jenny Russo and Dennis Burnett who moved here in retirement and now have moved to Tucson, like all National Park Service people do it seems. She was chief ranger for the Mid-Atlantic Region, he was chief ranger at Shenandoah. They kind of roughly, I think, would take, and I might be totally wrong, one would go for the advancement the other would try to get closer. But they shared really well. Had kids. Their kids grew up to be wonderful young people. But that's rare. You don't see it. Well, Mark and Barb. They stayed at Grand Canyon a longer period of time and when they went to...where they did go, to Page anyway...they were able to both get jobs there. It's tough.

TM: And Mark talked some about that. In San Diego, which Park were you working at?

JT: Cabrillo.

TM: And tell me about Cabrillo.

JT: Cabrillo is a great multi-faceted Park. It is the site of a maybe Portuguese/maybe Spanish explorer. First Anglo, roughly, to land around that era depending on whether you believe Drake, I think Drake may have been sooner. So there was that story of exploration. There were gray whales that migrated by and it was up on a bluff so you had beautiful views. There were tide pools that were exposed really well. There were views off to the south and east of naval operations, North Island Naval Air Station. So you had planes taking off, there were submarines down below, there were surface ships coming out through the harbor all day long. There was nuclear weapons stored in this wonderful concertina wire place on the North Island Naval Air Station. And what else? There was one other theme. Shoot, I've forgotten. Fascinating place.

LT: Lighthouse.

JT: Oh yeah, there was a lighthouse. So a lot of things going on so you could bump around here and there. And a lot of traffic there, a lot of visitors. They run America's Finest City half marathon starting there. So it's really popular. It's at the end of a peninsula that includes the National Cemetery, Fort Rosecrans, and a major Navy scientific installation where they test radars did all kinds of... When I was in the Navy I took classes there in naval intelligence, the capabilities of Russian stuff. So it was a pretty neat place to be.

TM: How long were you there?

JT: Three years. Standard three years.

TM: Do you have a good Cabrillo story to share?

JT: No, I don't think so. Oh yeah, sure. When we started dating, Lea came down and we went to a party that the Superintendent was at. The same Superintendent that supervised us there, which was probably part of the reason I got the job at Cabrillo, anyway. But she had moved down to Cabrillo and she was shocked. She'd known that my wife had left but then she imagined in her mind how that all came to be. It was kind of funny. We assured her.

TM: And then from Cabrillo?

JT: I don't know, what did we do after that?

LT: We went to Denver.

JT: We went to Denver pregnant, in fact. After boring San Diego, Denver had monsoons much like we have for the first seven days that we were there or something. It was so nice. I was in Regional Office in Denver. At that time it was Rocky Mountain Regional Office but it's got a different name now. I think Intermountain. I was mostly the Cooperating Association Coordinator. We had 24 Associations out of that region, from Bent's Old Fort that grossed \$2500 a year to Yellowstone Association that grossed \$3 million plus, including Rocky Mountain and so on. Lots of things going on with the Associations at the time. I got to come to Tucson because we had Southwest Parks and Monuments at the time in some of our Parks. At that point, got together with Dan Murphy who you should know by legend if not by reality. River running guy out of Santa Fe. He is, I think, probably gone now. One of Hillerman's books is dedicated to him after they had run the river together. Murphy was just this great, great legendary, I don't know what you call him. I wish I could say a lot more about him. He was a philosopher and older than me anyway and really revered by everybody and well thought of. There was a time when we had a

meeting in a motel. I, at that time, had pretty long hair and usually took a hair dryer with me. I had dried my hair that morning like all good park rangers do and he lamented, as he was talking about the old Park Service, he lamented park rangers drying their hair with hair dryers now. It was so funny. He didn't know that I had. In his room he had a little Velvet tobacco tin, it was a little square one. I said, "My grandpa used to smoke Velvet tobacco. Can I have that?" And he said, "No, I've got some stuff in it. I can give it to you someday but not right now."

TM: So when you mentioned Dan and you mentioned PJ Ryan, and we already talked a little about JT Reynolds, I think about people who are visionary leaders of the Park Service in a nontraditional way, if you will, that when I think of gray and green they bleed that color. Can you tell me more about...?

JT: Not for me with JT. We never got along very well, frankly. To me we didn't mesh, that's fine not a big thing. Chemistry sometimes doesn't work. Murphy really stayed, quietly, working mostly with Associations and interpretive planning and so on. So he didn't really stand out in a big way. PJ as well. He left Cabrillo to work in the Washington office, I think, because his wife is a linguist and knows, god how many languages, eight or nine or something. She was at some university back in the area. He worked on the Exxon Valdez spill. I don't think he actually did the cleaning but I think he was doing some of the work there. He's since retired.

LT: He wrote Thunderbear which is fascinating reading because it's an alternative newsletter to the Park Service. So he often showed another side of the picture in a funny way. He's a great writer. I think that really was a leader in that it was distributed. A lot of people read it and got a big kick out of seeing another side of the Park Service in a humorous way and they could relate to it. He was a leader in that way. I liked him a lot.

JT: Yeah, I do too. One of the cute little ones that he ran one time was a contest for inappropriate concession-provided items. The winner ended up being Muir Woods, a redwood logging truck for sale at Muir Woods National Monument. And they sell them. I wanted him to do a least significant national park unit. I mentioned Greenbelt, I though was surely a... But he said no, no, because, this was part of his empathy I guess, some small group of people got that Park established for good reason and we don't want to hurt their feelings. It was really pretty cute. He had a lot more kindness in his heart, I think. Pretty neat guy.

TM: So Region, what did you take away from working Region?

JT: Oh Region, what did you take? Lea was there a lot longer.

LT: In the Western Region. I saw a lot of duplication. That there would be a new Park plan that was done in like 1970 and then they would redo it in 1980 and a lot of great ideas that never got accomplished. In the Division of Interpretation this was true. We had wonderful ideas but the money wasn't there to go forward or the people weren't the kind of people that wanted to carry that idea through. So the duplication was amazing to me, that these grand ideas were written over and over and over again and very little of them accomplished. But I saw a wide variety of good ideas that were put into action as well. I was working with mostly the disability part of interpretation which is kind of ironic because now I am disabled and using those ideas in the Park. I'm seeing what they have done with accessibility in the Park. I wrote a handbook on that on how to give training for accessibility and gave some workshops on that.

JT: More than likely the first publication the Park Service produced about accessibility and especially in programs.

LT: So I think it's great that I'm living some of those ideas nowadays. Jim works a lot with me on the accessible parts of our stay in motels as well as stay in Parks. We really give a lot of information back on how things can be approved or what works.

JT: We plan so much in the Park Service without any view towards implementation. The '95 General Management Plan, which I was a part of, is a perfect example. The transportation program that was going to cost millions and millions and we knew wasn't going to come out of appropriated funds. We knew we were going to have to charge the visitors, prices kept rising and rising and rising. Although some things were implemented. Canyon View for example which is a wonderful facility. But too often we see those things sitting on the shelf and frustrating everybody after putting all that effort and money into it. I'm not sure Brad would share that, Brad was my boss at the time. He was the GMP leader. Brad Traver, he's at Petrified Forest.

TM: And Traver is spelled?

JT: T-R-A-V-E-R. Yeah, he's superintendent there now. He went from the Canyon to Tonto, where he did have some impact on development, I think, of a new visitor center that was burned because it's real hot down at Tonto. So energy efficient. Then he went to Petrified Forest and he's working on Mission 66. Kind of a return to the feel of Mission 66 there at the Painted Desert visitor area. Really good guy. And he's a legend in his own mind when, the story goes and I didn't get to hear this, he was flying down to Cottonwood with some planners. Denise Traver, his current wife, I don't know her name at the time, was working as the campground ranger down there. You're looking like you've heard this story. No? Okay. You hear about this but I don't think I've done it. He got back in the helicopter and they took off. He's sitting with his park radio against the chair and he keys the radio without knowing it and he says, "Who was that woman down there? She's really hot." And the whole...

TM: Park hears it!

JT: I don't know if Denise heard it but the story's been told many, many times. It's probably a bald face lie. But it's a cute...

TM: Life with an open mike.

JT: She is just full of energy and Brad's a nice quiet fellow. Very thoughtful and a really neat guy, so they make a great, great couple. She is the ultimate backpacker. You know Denise then. Is all the time off on some of these galivants.

TM: We need to get from Cabrillo to Region to Grand Canyon. So how do we get from Region to Grand Canyon, how did that happen?

LT: Fort Smith.

JT: Oh yeah. So I was in Region for three years. I'd always wanted to be a superintendent, that's what you have to try to do. So I was applying out. My parents lived in Tulsa, Lea's parents lived in Arkansas in Hot Spring at the time. So there we were sandwiched with Fort Smith in between. I applied on the job, so we went there and I was there for three years.

TM: As superintendent?

JT: Yes. Small Park, nine people.

TM: So from law enforcement...

JT: To law enforcement and interpretation in Denver.

TM: ...to interpretation and then as superintendent. What did you see as a superintendent that was new to you?

JT: I don't think anything because I'd been around enough. I take a view of the Park, especially in the middle of a city as Fort Smith is, as a representative. So I joined Rotary and I got to know people around here and there. That was kind of my perspective. I had pretty decent people working for me. Maintenance chief was good. The Park itself was a little tired, needed money. It ended up getting money because of Clinton being president, but that was after I left. Kind of hard. I'm a crappy supervisor, I don't like confrontation. Almost any discussion when you're giving an evaluation, even if it's the best employee you've ever had, there're still things that are tense about it and I hate that. The best day of my Park Service career was the last day I supervised anybody. We'll stop at that. I liked being able to work with the community. It was a nice community, there were decent people there. I still have friends there that I talk to. I wish in some ways I'd continued, but the job for Grand Canyon as management assistant came up. So we talked about that. Frankly the school district where we were in the Fort Smith area was a little conservative. Oh gosh, I'm not going to use one word, but we were concerned about the boys growing up.

LT: And I was unhappy in the south. The weather and the culture.

JT: It was hot. 90 and 90 in the summer.

LT: I just wanted to be in a more natural Park, so when Grand Canyon came up I was elated.

JT: We knew there would be a more diverse community in the school, we knew there was a nice little school district. Jack Davis who was the superintendent at the time hired me and off we went, so I was management assistant in public affairs.

TM: Tell me a little bit about the role of management assistant because it seems like it's a very key role.

JT: It can be, and that was the reason I ended up working for Brad was that I didn't figure out how to be key to the superintendent yet, to be perfectly honest. I didn't satisfy Rob Arnberger in whatever it was I was doing. So he didn't see me as being that useful, I think, if I can be blunt, and this can be public I don't care. It can be anything you want though. I also had the Freedom of Information Act. I was public affairs officer and a couple of other... I managed the cemetery. None of which was an overwhelming job. But it is what the superintendent wants to make of it. It should be their go-to person. So "hey I'd like you to go do this." But like I had done at Fort Smith, I saw part of my role as being in the community. So I went to school board meetings, I got out into Tusayan and met people. In fact when Rob arrived and said, "You've got a day with me what do you want to do?" I said, "I'm going to introduce you to the people in Tusayan because you have a huge impact on their operations out there." I think that was probably a mistake. [Laughing] Politically, philosophically, whatever, doesn't matter. So they found me a good job, Brad was a great boss.

During that time I had picked up the contract for the shuttle bus which, at that time, was three or four months long. The desire was to grow it because the management plan was completed and the shuttle program was a huge part of it. So that job grew into almost all my job with the management plan. That satisfied me just fine, no training frankly. I have to look at my notes here. We got money from Congress to start making that happen. In the later 90's we got money and we bought new buses. We looked into alternative fuels. That was really fun. Again, totally ignorant to what alternative fuels were all about but we hired some good contractors and tried to determine... We had propane, since 1974 Grand Canyon ran on propane. Alt fuels from the very beginning of the shuttle system. But the propane had kind of phased out because those buses had died. So we had some to rehab and we had to decide what we were going to do. We had propane, we had natural gas, we had hybrid electric was starting to come in, or all electric. We ended up deciding, we being the whole group obviously the superintendent, and bought a couple of electric buses. Converted a few buses to liquefied natural gas and bought some brand new compressed natural gas buses. The electric were easy. You plug them in and run them. Didn't work real well for the numbers we had. The natural gas, because there's no natural gas at the Canyon, had to be trucked in. You truck natural gas as liquefied, -260° and it pours. [Looking at a picture] So those big tanks that you see that's LNG, that's minus 260 degrees there. So if you start with LNG, then you can also make CNG, this is CNG storage, where you let the LNG warm up. This is hugely insulated, like a of couple thousand R value with double jacketed and perlite in the middle. As it warms up, you run it through, its basically a radiator. It warms up and it starts to build pressure and it comes into a generator that's somewhere around here and pumps up to 3000 PSI and then you get CNG. At the same time, some of your boil-off vents up and its methane. Methane's greenhouse gas and you don't want that. So we cooked up, and I'd like to think I was responsible but I wasn't, we cooked up providing that normally boiled-off gas to a pipe line over to the maintenance yard. The new maintenance yard back in the back. So they were getting natural gas to heat their water, heat the buildings and so on. We weren't losing any product so we hadn't lost money. Plus we weren't contributing methane greenhouse gas.

So this is a pretty cool little innovation and we then expanded to around. We bought the CNG buses because the LNG they died over a period of time because they were older anyway. Sold them off. That's what's running now. Xanterra is running buses now that there's CNG power from there. The Park Service has dump trucks and vans and so on and so forth and sedans that are CNG powered. That introduction is probably the best thing I did, even though I didn't really do it. I was kind of, it was my thing. I found by searching, because I didn't know what the hell that was all about, a Fresno. Fresno had just built a similar one and I asked him if we could have their contract/their specifications for a contract and they said sure. It was bought with government funds and I/we hired the guy that had written those specs to not only help evaluate the proposals but also help evaluate the people that built the thing. He was really cool. He was out of somewhere Southern California. It worked, it really worked. It's still, to this day, running. I wrote that back in '06 when I retired. It was a pretty neat thing. Now, of course, you see all the buses are natural gas. They run quieter, they run cleaner. The mechanics can work on them because they run a lot like an internal combustion. Diesel just don't hold a candle to them.

TM: It's tough because at altitude at 7,000 feet you have a 30% efficiency loss no matter what your fuel.

JT: We were paying less per BTU, or whatever it is, with natural gas. That's with delivery in a truck because there will never be pipeline gas there. It's just not appropriate. That's kind of the way the job ended up. We ended up with fifty drivers. I did training each year. The drivers were year round and housing is an issue as you know. The drivers all had to come self-contained and live in Trailer Village, and so on and so forth. That's kind of the thing that I feel best about, I think, is helping all that happen. It was obviously with lots of support from Brad.

TM: Let's talk about that a little bit. When I think about the bus system today, the resting heart rate for the Park is 5 million and when it gets excited it goes up to 6. The buses are being overrun with people at sunset trying to go back to Point A to Point B and the poor bus drivers are all like "what do I do now?" What do you think is the way forward here for this, with increased visitation? 'Course the population of the country is going up.

JT: Well, you've seen the pictures of the light rail vehicles in the Park, running all the way out to Hermit's Rest. I don't see that happening, it's just the millions and millions of dollars. Technology's there, no problem at all. We actually met with a company that makes hydroelectric tanks for the Army, or that proposes. We talked about running up from Tusayan where the big parking lot was going to be on catenary because catenary is a real efficient way to provide electricity. It could have charged the batteries and once it got to Canyon View it was going to go on battery power then the rest of the Park so you didn't have those big coppered wires hanging around. Money, money, money. I think, and I'm sure they're thinking about this, the articulated bus you've seen in town, I think they need to start thinking about those.

TM: So a bigger bus essentially.

JT: That almost doubles capacity. Flagstaff seems to be running theirs just fine. I see it on the NAU route, I see it all around here. Actually, the Flagstaff people who I worked for for a couple years when I retired, had come up to the Park and looked at the fueling station, looked at our natural gas buses, asked for our recommendation. We made the recommendation and they bought hybrid electric which is fine, that was their choice. But it runs on diesel still. But diesel is still diesel and still is not the cleanest, it's a lot cleaner. My feeling someday is... Some many years ago, Nava-Hopi, the bus company that's now closed, used to drive up to the Park two or three times a day. She said, the manager Karen Valmer, said, "I'll run some employee shuttles for five months/six months, whatever it was, as a test to see if people want to move down to Flagstaff." 'Cause that's why we're here, the big push about housing. Nobody would move with the understanding that she was only going to run it as a test case for five or six months. On the other hand, if somebody like Napleton, the people who run Mountain Line, bid on the contract against my favorite people, Paul Revere transportation who just who do a wonderful job, wouldn't that be cool if the Flagstaff system was tied to the Grand Canyon system so that they might have drivers back and forth. They'd have buses going, maybe Paul Revere ought to get down here. I think there's neat potential for that to connect. When we hired Paul Revere it was kind of funny because these guys were out of the blue, they were from Boston for christ sake. They came in with ties and all this crap. We sat down and they just did a great proposal. They bid against Amfac but their proposal was better and that's the way you got to do it in the government. It's proven to be a good thing. I think they're in their third or fourth five-year contract now. They're doing very well. The manager is this wonderful lady who just... She does her job.

TM: Sharon?

JT: Sharon. Kayesha, her daughter, just graduated from Berkeley School of Music in Boston a couple years ago now. Here's this kid that had hardly ever been out of Boston, I think she moved in high school. Sharon moves her out to the middle of nowhere. All the heathens out here. She took a chance and, I think, just really prospered. I guess the very first night, a great story about Kayesha is that Jeff Foo who worked at maybe the Yavapai at the time and his wife Nancy had two daughters that were Kayesha's age. The first night in the Park in Trailer Village, Kayesha spent the night with the Foo's. So there she was, that was the end of that.

TM: How do you spell Foo?

JT: Foo, I think.

TM: And how do you spell Kayesha?

JT: I have no idea. Common spelling.

TM: So you came to Grand Canyon in 1992?

JT: '91.

TM: '91. Did you get a job then working for the school at that time Lea?

LT: No, I just stayed home with family for a maybe a year or two, a year. Then I worked for the school as an aide to what's her name? Well it was a special education type of job.

JT: It was the Seal's wife, Becky Crumbo.

LT: Becky Crumbo, yes.

TM: C-R-U-M-B-O.

LT: Mm hmm. So I was doing that for a while. Then when the 75th anniversary of the Park came along, they hired me as a coordinator to help within the classes to develop different activities to celebrate the birthday. So I did that. I think that worked for about three months with the special accumulation of a birthday party for the school. Each of the classes put on their project. It was really pretty exciting to see all their projects. Also, they wrote books about the Grand Canyon and the Association. If they wrote a book, gave them a free book from the Association. That was a nice tie-in as well for the kids to write something about the place that they lived and learned a little bit more about the special place that they're going to school which I think would stay with them all their life. That they can say they went to school at Grand Canyon. One of the projects that was done in the sixth grade was a time capsule to be opened on the 100th anniversary which is coming up in a year or two. I saw that the school had saved it and put it in the sports display area to be opened.

JY: That was some years ago.

LT: I'm hoping it's still there and I'm hoping that someone, I should probably will follow up on it, will say this is a special time capsule from the sixth grade so the sixth grade gets to open it and see what's inside which was mostly some essays written. It was Sisson's class, Steve Sisson's class. They wrote essays about what they think it would be like in 25 years. They took pictures of the parking lot, it was already congested and full of cars, and various other places around the Canyon Village. And put in baseball cards thinking some of these might be worth something in 25 years; various other things that they found that they thought were personal. It was a really neat...

JT: So it's a box like yea, a plastic file box.

LT: With a lot of stickers on top of it.

JT: I don't know know who we ought to call or write about it because I hardly know anybody.

LT: The principle or superintendent.

TM: Who was the superintendent at the time?

JT: That was John Vest.

TM: V-E-S-T?

JT: V-E-S-T. I believe he's in town, if he still is. His wife was something like Marilee.

LT: She taught history at the high school.

JT: But there was also a principle who was somebody different.

LT: Yeah, it was a woman.

JT: And you know whose super good about this is Chuck Waller. Chuck was on the school board for years.

TM: It wasn't Sheila Breen?

JT: No, that was after us, we had left. It was a woman who I thought did a really good job.

LT: She did but I can't remember her name. So that was a fun project to do. Then after that I didn't work for them anymore. Then started working for the Park Service in the accounting office and worked part time there. The kids went to school so I was able to work and walk to school part way with them and then go to work in the maintenance office.

JT: That was back when they would skate on the slab that is now the museum collection. That was a great skating rink. Damn museum collection screwed it up.

TM: Built on that spot. I did want to ask you, Lea, about Julie Sisson (S-I-S-S-O-N) and the other teachers you have recollections just of, just the other teachers that were there.

LT: Well, Julie was the teacher for Paul, our youngest son. He was in a first and second grade combination class which was the first time that they had done that in Grand Canyon. It was a little controversial but it was a new concept in teaching, is to combine two grades together and then the teacher would be the same for first and second grade so they would get to know her pretty well and the students. Some people liked the concept and some people didn't. I think it was a nice concept. I really liked Julie Sisson and I wanted her to be Paul's teacher. She was just a enthusiastic, warm hearted, intelligent person that treated everyone equally. 'Cause in the classes there were usually a lot of young children that didn't speak English very well. They were the children of the workers in the motels and so on. Those kids needed more attention but she would find ways to make them feel positive. As well as, I think, with Paul, making him go forward with different projects as well. She was just available, as well, to the parents. A remarkable person in the sense that she also had diabetes, was pretty severe but you never would know it because she didn't complain.

JT: We sadly, did both boys go up or just Paul? We went to Phoenix one time when she was in the hospital there after one of her amputations. We went up to her room and visited and she was wonderful. She died soon after that as I recall.

LT: We did keep in touch with her even when we moved back to Flagstaff. Went to their home and said hello and thanked her for being such an exceptional person in the boys' life.

JT: She had bird feeders out and so on.

TM: It's a difficult place, it seems, for teachers.

JT: Oh it's got to be, yeah.

TM: It's remote, if you don't have family there it can be very isolating. Can you speak to that a little bit?

LT: For the teachers? I didn't get to know very many of them very well. Some of them were married to people who had Park Service jobs or jobs inside the Park. I guess for me, I was the type of person that would want that kind of job because it would give you all this experience and you'd be in an area where you could go hiking and be out in the outside. To me that would be an ideal teaching job because I used to be a teacher and I would have wanted that. So I didn't know if there was any other problems within the system.

JT: Potentially. If your child's teacher is the spouse of your supervisor, and that was the case for me. It never boiled but it could have. What do you do? That was exactly the case for me, and again, it never, they were professionals. But there is potential for that. That's why the superintendent's wife rues their life that's been, but not now. Superintendent's spouse basically can't get a job. When Dick Marks was there, Haz was so frustrated, she had always worked. She couldn't work because he was in charge of the whole works. I don't know about Mitsy. I think Mitsy was a writer so she was able to take care of it. Elvira, I don't think she worked either. Yeah, that's a tough situation.

TM: You know one of the things you mentioned Lea was for you it was easy because you enjoyed the Park, the Grand Canyon, but for employees who get a job who aren't jazzed about the Grand Canyon, it's a long way from a movie theater or a number of other city things.

JT: The Wadlington's said that that was there least isolated Park they'd ever worked in, Bruce and Carol. Isn't that something. 75 miles to Walmart, that's the definition of isolation. When we went there, I had this feeling that with all the single people there it ought to be a great place for single people. I didn't find anybody who shared that. The Park Service stayed away from Fred Harvey, interpretation stayed away from law enforcement and so on. Early on you heard the stories of the parties where you throw the keys on the table thing. There were some kind of shady, according to some I guess, things going on at the Park. It was the Peyton Place of the Park Service. But I didn't work there at the time. You heard the stories.

LT: I heard stories but didn't see it.

TM: I have heard that it's been very isolating for people. That even as a single there are other singles, but it can very be problematic. But again, it is your bosses. And there's connections and you have to be careful about the politics and how that works. Can you speak a little bit to, you mentioned maintenance is not talking to law enforcement. In speaking with Mary Hoover who came to Grand Canyon in the mid

40's and left in the 90's, she mentioned it took her years working in the laundry before she was invited to a tea with one of the Park Service families.

JT: Oh my, we never got invited to teas.

LT: We did with the Superintendent, we went to parties.

TM: Can you speak to this isolation. You know the immediate people you work with. It was one of the wonderful things that I experienced working in the clinic, is because I got to work with the community. There were no barriers. Can you talk a little bit about maybe your thoughts on why that might have been? What would have been responsible for the isolation in work crews/work departments and then concessions to Park Service and then concession to concession, etc.

LT: I felt that the families, there was a certain distinction where you lived in the Park. Because we were on, it was considered Park Circle was the elite place at the time. They had any other houses built that are better, these were Mission 66 houses. So that kind of had status and then you went down from there to various different types of housing, then down to the trailer villages. I don't know if there was much...

JT: I think that speaks of people.

LT: Yeah, I do, too.

JT: That's why there's a caste system in India and better neighborhoods in Flagstaff and so on. We have schools like Sechrist and DeMiguel which have a better-off group of parents than Killip and Kinsey. So I don't think it's unique to Grand Canyon. I was just surprised that it couldn't have been more collaborative.

TM: Had you seen that... Now you had been a superintendent at another Park, you had worked Regional, had you seen that in other service units that there was a caste sort of system, to use that word?

JT: Sure. It's like business.

LT: Yeah. The rescue people were kind of up there because they were doing those exciting stories. They looked down a little bit to the interpretation people because they were just working with people in more mundane situations they felt. So, there was that separation of what your job was.

TM: But if you stepped back a little earlier in time, the search and rescue people were made up of... The interpretive, the accounting, the maintenance people were pooled together to make that happen. Then eventually search and rescue became search and rescue. They sort of turfed those people out that had those skills. I remember talking to Jerry Chavez (C-H-A-V-E-Z) who was the high-scaling pipeline man and he was very upset when he was no longer invited to participate in search and rescue because he had the rope skills and he had the highwall skills and had no fear of heights.

JT: He had scorpions for pets, too.

TM: I didn't know that. So looking at this shift which I don't think was just Grand Canyon unique.

JT: No, I had it in the Navy but much more extreme. There were officers and there were enlisted people. You just didn't... You'd get thrown out of the Navy if you date an enlisted person as an officer, literally. I don't know if it's fixable. I talked to a few, not a lot of single people, who did not like Grand Canyon because of that. There was just not the range of people today to see, to go out with.

TM: And you think that was part of that sort of caste structure where we are this unit and we won't talk with anybody else. It's hard to break into that if you want to visit and meet people.

JT: Yeah, it's hard.

LT: Well, they came together in the school a little bit more because everyone was...

JT: But the single people didn't have kids typically, so they didn't have that chance. You had the Lions Club which was one the grand bringers together and that's one of the very few I can think of. A lot of people went out to bowl. Mike, oh shoot, and his wife Sandy.

LT: Its part of our age here. [Laughing]

TM: Yeah, Mike and Sandy sure. He is electrical in maintenance and she... Hoblin, thank you (H-O-B-L-I-N).

JT: Yeah, they lived right down the street. The kids would play together on the street so we had this six-house kind of group. There were the Keskeys and the Wahler's and the Ryan's and us. That was fun.

LT: That's one thing I felt in the four years that we were there, it was so good to have young children that could live in this wide open space. They would go out into the forest and play there for half a day or more and then they could end up with one of these families that also had children within the neighborhood. "Okay, can we stay here for lunch?" "Sure." So it was this...

JT: It was Mayberry.

LT: To me it was just the ability to live in nature that was the best part of living there, compared to living even in Flagstaff which has a lot of open areas. The kids could go out their backdoor and just go into an area without adults and have this time of their own to learn to take care of themselves. I loved that, to be able to raise children in that kind of environment. To me that was the best part of Grand Canyon. Beyond the jobs that we had there, it was to raise children there.

TM: That journey of self-play, now we recognize that's very important to let kids do that.

LT: That's right, to be outside.

JT: Kyle Hesselton, you remember Kyle with the newspaper? Took that when we first got there. [Showing photo]

LT: That's our boys.

TM: So this is Jim and Lea and their two sons. The two sons are up on a stump and Jim and Lea are standing on either side.

JT: The stump is still there I think, in the front yard of 383 Park Circle.

TM: Is that right? That's a great picture.

JT: Yeah, the worst thing the boys did at those young ages, was they crossed Center Road.

LT: There was a certain limit as to how far they could go.

JT: There's an old dump over there with glass and so forth. That was too attractive once they found that.

LT: They told us later they'd sit on the side of the highway there and wave to the people as they go by. But they had treehouses.

JT: Wonderful treehouse that Chuck Wahler helped them build. Way up high. Will fell out and ripped...

LT: He had several gashes from his adventures there.

TM: They kept Jim Wurgler and Tom Meyers busy.

JT: Yes they did. What great guys. You can't say anything better about a youngster and an oldster working together and having their own personalities yet complementing one another and the nursing staff. Who was the elder lady, Lucy?

TM: Yes.

JT: Lucy. One time when I went in, she was doing an EKG for me and having to shave. She said, "I don't like men with hairy chests and women with floppy bazoolies." [Laughing] It was really funny.

TM: Lucy had a room named after her in the clinic. Who I didn't know, she was gone before I arrived. But I've heard great stories about Lucy from Jim.

JT: You never met her, oh no. They were all probably true, too.

TM: Very interesting. So Jim, the concept was, let's go back to the transportation system for a bit, as somebody who knows very little about it, it seemed like the concept was to get people out of their cars outside the Park. Get them into a transportation system and then tool that through the village area.

JT: That would have been a part of Canyon Forest Village. The initial concept by the Italians, whatever company it was, were going to build this big development which would have competed with the Thurstons and so on, which made it unpopular of course. From there, take light rail in, I mean constant/all day long, light rail into the Park. The only people that would drive in would be people generally going to lodging who had suitcases with them and stuff. It kind of made sense but it meant you had to carry your cooler and your diapers and you really had to be prepared for that kind of visit, which is not the kind of visit people are used to. What killed it from my opinion, and it's just my opinion, is just the cost. The cost that would have to be associated with the entrance fee. That would have just driven way, way up and it didn't seem appropriate. So that's where we are right now. I think, gosh, all of that planning and talking, and so, again, here's a beautiful plan. It was think. It cost \$10 to mail the copies out. It was a grand idea but it seems that planning needs to be bordered by some reality. Planners would tell you, and I think this is what they would tell you, that you never, never should be fit into a box

when you do your planning. You've got to do the grandest of plans and then figure out how to pay for it. That just doesn't work. When I think of all the great plans I've seen through the years. I used to work on resource management plans in the regional office in San Francisco. Even those that are dealing with animals and plants and so on, there's got to be reality because there's cost associated. It's like the traditional conflict that we have when we build new facilities like Canyon View. It's easy to get the money out of congress to build a facility, it's hard to get them the operating funds year to year to operate the thing or keep it clean. That happened to Canyon View early on, I believe. But it certainly happens all over. It's sexy to put your name on a whatever but not to staff it. You don't get to put your name on the staff.

TM: How can the Park Service sort this out for the next hundred years as we go through this great centennial coming up in 2018 for Grand Canyon National Park? Looking forward, it seems as though staffing is being cut, funding is being cut, visitation is increasing. The concept of lean and mean, if you cut that too much it becomes weak and sick.

JT: That's always been that way, though. Ever since we started, it's been doing more with less and now I'm doing less with...

LT: James Watt.

JT: That kind of stuff. That's been a constant problem and especially with this administration. I just kiss off the next three and a half years. They're going to be hell. They are going to be hell. I don't think we're going to escape from this hole with what he's doing to the national monuments. When I read the list of national monuments, there's some pretty interesting ones there but they're not ones that come up like Yellowstone and Yosemite. Maybe Obama did get carried away and it's too bad if he did because then it gives more credibility to Trump. And Trump deserves no credibility.

TM: Well this is an interesting question: What happens when the concept of the National Park Service becomes a political football? Can you speak to that a little bit?

JT: Well it's always been a political football, I think. It's the representative of the small county and wherever who want something in their backyard to bring home to the people, it's the pork. There's always been pork barrel development. Especially with the smaller Parks. The big ones are already had though. Grand Canyon-Parashant, we went there once and scared us to death on the road, driving along that ridgeway. Very few people will get there. It's made the Utahans angry because it's taken that stuff out of their whatever they wanted to do with it, but it's always political I think.

LT: It's emotional I feel that people who go to those Parks fall in love with them so there's a certain amount of care that I think needs to be developed with the visitation of many people to Parks and learning that they are a part of their heritage. Hopefully that will still maintain the Park system beyond what the politics do in Washington DC. I feel that way. There's a lot of good people that will step forward and love the Parks and make sure that they aren't going to be destroyed too much.

JT: But that's kind of politics, too, though. The standing up to...

LT: That's an emotional part that you have to have as well to defend the Parks. I think it's there, I do, I feel it.

JT: I think we're in trouble, though. I should have put my pink hat on for today. I've got one.

LT: I think they'll recover as much as there's trouble right now. I do.

JT: Yeah, but if you think about things like The Confluence, which I don't think will happen, but if The Confluence would happen you'll never recover from that. If they had built the Orphan Mine they cantilevered down, you wouldn't recover from that. If you'd built the rim to rim tram. Or when I was in the office, the rim to rim bridge that was going to be supported by dirigibles that were computer controlled so it wouldn't sway. But I'd never drive across. There's a lot of things like that. Would we build Phantom Ranch now? Would we build a swimming pool down by the lodge? Or would we build the lodge or all that kind of stuff. And would we have built a wheelchair accessible ranger station at Indian Garden? And if you go in those things one time, you'll notice it was a standard design I understand and so on, but each of those three buildings, and I think it's concessionaire maintenance and law enforcement or something like that, they're wheelchair accessible. So we're going to go down tomorrow, gotta charge your batteries.

LT: Get down that trail, they're going to pave it all the way.

JT: Of course Ron Clayton got people down their in wheelchairs. Not very often, but he did it. I don't have the answer, I'm frustrated right now.

LT: I believe that people will be the final barrier to really bad things happening, I do. I think Trump will have that to contend with as far as the worst of his decisions. Hopefully, there will be people that will be standing in front of the bulldozer before it happens.

TM: It is fascinating when you look in the rear view mirror for the last hundred years and you say well gee would be build a Phantom Ranch today? The answer is probably no because we've learned. And yet have we learned not to do, what are the types of developments. Here's a concept of saying we need to move people, we need to get them out of their cars, we need to get them to interface with the resource to get them to connect with this place. How do you do that?

JT: Well, we did end up with the lowest common denominator pretty much with this, I think. Because what we didn't do is sacrifice huge swaths of land for parking lots. We could have just as easily and probably cheaper, that was about a million and a quarter, built monster, monster, monster... [Telephone interference] We could have built parking lots that would have accommodated six million people. That's not a problem. All it is is P-J and ponderosa that you're cutting down. This, I hope, is kind of there in the middle of the road, doable sort of thing. These people are all retired, too, or used to be, so they've gotten to a point in their life where they want to not necessarily... They were pretty cool though. I admire them. They're the ones that get to see the mountain lions. It's the ones driving the Kaibab route that see mountain lions at night.

TM: It's interesting looking at the now very expansive parking lot at the Canyon View information plaza.

JY: It's huge.

TM: Some of this did basically go into...

JT: It compromised. It really compromised.

TM: Like I say, when your visitation goes up and up and up and you're not willing to look at mass ways to move people, what do you do, of course, now that the shuttle bus goes out to Tusayan in the summer,

to try to deal with that. How can we get at least some people to stay/leave their cars in Tusayan and we will shuttle them?

JT: I've never seen the ridership on that loop. Obviously they've got it but I used to print that kind of stuff out. I'd be interested to see. And you are going to talk to Brad I hope, or have you?

TM: I haven't. But Brad has put together, here, quite an exposé of that whole concept, its development and its failure. It is in special collections and it has a date restriction on it.

JT & LT: No does it, interesting.

JT: What is the restriction?

TM: I'm not sure.

JT: But that doesn't mean he can't talk to you.

TM: It just means he might not be as forthcoming as he would like to be.

JT: But he wouldn't be anyway because he's still with the Park Service. He's a manager in the Park Service, he can't be forthcoming. He won't say anything about Trump.

TM: He won't say anything about Trump but he won't say anything about Arnberger or any of the other people in Region or the Secretary of Interior or the pressures from congressman so and so that was lobbied by the rubber tire industry to do such and such. It's such a complex...

JT: So you put it in context. This is Brad Traver who can't talk. So Brad, what do you have to say?

TM: That's why I am sitting at your kitchen table and you are retired.

JT: But you can read between the lines to a certain extent. His perspective, even who he is today, is valuable I think and you'll always get to him someday down the road. He is a bright fellow. The worst that could happen is he could die tomorrow and take with him all that stuff. That's interesting, I didn't know that he had done an exposé. He and Rob are/were good friends. I think they got along well and admired one another for the skills that they had. That was part of the reason I think that that plan ever got finished in the first place. So that was a good thing that went on, was that they did well together. The plan's not that outlandish but the money grew as it grew. It got crazy.

TM: So you came to the Park under Superintendent Davis?

JT: Davis and then Chandler and then, wasn't Arnberger it was someone in between, and then Alston.

TM: Alston was after Arnberger. And then Alston got kicked out by Martin in theory.

JT: Is that your perspective on that?

TM: Big to do about that, McCain had to get involved.

JT: Martin was the regional director at the time and then he became the superintendent, well how interesting is that. And of course, Robyn Martin is his niece so you have to be careful talking to Robyn, too. But I really admire Robyn.

TM: I do, too.

JT: She picked up my duties plus a thousand others. Very bright young lady.

TM: And again, when you mention Thunderbear and Dan Murphy, I think Robyn definitely cares about the resource but it's just getting harder and harder to do. As the pressures from the delegation, state delegation, senatorial delegation, whoever has the pressure and the lobbying money. Whether it's the air tour industry, it's the river concessionaires, its Xanterra itself. It's the main concessions and their lobbying trade associations.

JT: You know who will be a great interview after she retires is Laura Sharon. You know Laura. She'll be a wonderful interview but not now. She would be now just like Brad would be now but she'll have her...

TM: It would be very fascinating to talk to someone in concessions. There was a fellow who left the Park Service, he was in concessions. I think he was over Alan Keske (K-E-S-K-E).

JT: We know Alan very well, the kids used to play together. He's in Provo. Wife died and he's remarried. That would be Bruce Waddlington.

TM: No, it was after Bruce.

JT: Well, Rebecca Ray, but she's still in the Park Service. After Rebecca, was a fellow that I did not know.

TM: Young guy? Ended up going up to Alaska, worked Parks up there for a while and then stepped out of the Park Service entirely.

JT: Then Laura would be able to tell you who that is because she knows the history and there's nothing secret there. Rebecca would be interesting but I think she's Capital Reef or some place. Bruce is not in the Park Service anymore. He does some contracting work. He's got a daughter here and they do come to visit, we don't see them but they come to visit. So there may be a chance with Bruce. The other one's Ginger Bice. Ginger Bice and concessions goes back, she'll give you some of the high school kids. She went to school at Grand Canyon. Her dad was in maintenance and there is a Bice Street or something. No, no it's not Bice, her name was something else. Joe Bice, her husband who's also retired, they live in Prescott, south of Prescott, Dewey or something. Joe drove trucks for the Orphan Mine. They would really be interesting. I think they may have a totally different perspective, of course their politics, their whatever.

TM: Sure, everybody does.

JT: I don't know but really good people and really long involvement. She may have all kinds of links to other people. And Joe as well.

TM: That's a good idea. What were your thoughts about working for different superintendents, having been a superintendent?

JT: The truth is, I left that job pretty early so all I really worked for was Arnberger and Davis.

LT: Chandler.

JT: Oh yeah, and Chandler.

TM: But he was there only a year was he?

JT: Bob was not there that long actually. In fact he had to get special dispensation to get buried there because you have to have lived there three years to be buried in the cemetery or get special permission from the superintendent. So it's kind of like the president pardoning the president previous. But he did get that dispensation.

TM: Let's talk about the cemetery for a little bit because you said that was something you managed.

JT: Oh it's a neat place.

TM: What can you say about it when you were managing it?

JT: Well not much because I had only one burial I was involved in. But a lot of discussions about plots and stuff. It's a classic old-time cemetery separated by a lot of different things. Culturally separated, though. The veterans, the indigents, the Park Service higher ups, the older people, the kids and so on. In fact Gary Gaza, out at the watchtower, has a daughter. I didn't know her but I knew Fabian who's now probably 30 herself. It was just one of those interesting little holdovers from the days previous.

TM: Who did you see buried there?

JT: Lucy Sandoval, a Xanterra, no, Fred Harvey employee. Had a call one day from a funeral home in southern California. "Lucy Sandoval has died. We understand she has a plot here. We have arranged with Fred Harvey to open the grave and we're sending her." I said fine because I checked and, yes, she did have a plot. Can't do it anymore. So I went over there to meet the van and up pulls a minivan with an older couple, probably our age now, with a casket and said, "Here she is." I said, "Yeah." I called Mark Law, in fact Mark has a little bit different story than I have about this. I called for some rangers, whatever brand of rangers we could get, but ones that had ropes.

TM: That were strong.

JT: Three or four of them showed up and we lowered her down and then Fred Harvey came and closed it up. For the longest time, some years, it remained with just this simple little plaque. Now it has a real plaque. I forget who I ran into that had a little different twist on that, it was kind of funny, because Mark I guess was one of the people that showed up to help put her down. Karen Taylor who's the author of the Long-Eared Taxi, GCA's... Karen died of an embolism.

LT: After the big fire in the library...

JT: The library in the old employee's bar.

LT: ...because she was involved in that.

JT: May be related, maybe not. Therean, her husband is still maybe around. Lived in Trailer Village. He buried her ashes in a little burlap type bag and put a wooden stanchion, a four by four stanchion up with a plastic and grey sign, pleasant sign, and just stood it on top of her grave. It sat there for years and years. I think she may have a grave now, or a headstone. Dave Karraker was a sad one. He was the Albright superintendent. His daughter is Marianne. Marianne is, I believe, in Page now, I don't remember. He took Lea and Will, our older son, out birding a couple of times. He took a group from Albright in the 70s I think, when I was there for a class, and he said meet us in front of the center at 6:30, whatever. Some of us showed up. He said, "There's a bluebird over here that I can whistle up sometimes. Let's go over here." So he walked us over kind of to the entry path into Albright. He whistled and the bird whistled back, he whistled again and the bird whistled back. He kept this up for long enough to suck us right in. He had found a place where he could echo off of the maintenance building. [Laughing] That was all he was doing was just echoing. Just the nicest guy and the family did a real nice job. If you're out in the cemetery, look him up. What did they write? Birder and educator and interpretist, naturalist...

LT: Good friend.

JT: And there used to always be a little teddy bear on there that one of the family members put up. His former wife, also Karraker, she retired from the Park Service eventually. So I buried those three. There was another couple, but gosh there's some history there. Ken Patrick, not I in my opinion, first ranger killed in the line of duty, because Hot Springs had one in 1938.

TM: Yeah, he's not.

JT: And who do you contend?

TM: I'd have to go and find it, but there's a pretty good lineup for someone else being in there.

JT: This guy was a Park guide. He was found dead the morning after he had busted a still that was either on or adjacent to Hot Springs National Park's land. It wasn't a National Park at the time, it was a National Reserve. Then I think somebody else in that line. I had a boat at Fire Island that was named the Ken Patrick for him. Tommy, his wife, worked someplace in the southwest. Tommy Patrick Lee, I think is her name, I've never met her. Otto Tage, Margaret Tage, she was personnel officer. Nicky Lendig, who was administrative officer, and I went out to find the stone for his headstone. It was the two of us and a little trailer. We found a stone that was about like yeah. We backed the trailer up to it and we started to lift and we didn't lift. So we ended up with a little rock about that big. One of the other sad ones was a bus driver for Fred Harvey who got Aids. William. Dan Cole and he and I drove out to the quarry, out Rowe Well Road, you turn before you get to Rowe Well. He picked out his stone. Dan had a forklift so he sent a forklift over. That thing sat where the buses used to park before they were maintained, sat on that ledge for a year or two before he finally died. So he was seeing his headstone everyday. That was kind of interesting. Wilson, Walter Wilson or something. I guess he had been a huge man, and had, through his Aids, lost to be really thin.

TM: Tom Meyers talked very warmly about how much he had learned from this gentleman about Aids and about life.

JT: In the Death in the Canyon book?

TM: No, just personal communication. Very touching.

JT: Well, Tom caused more car accidents in the Park than any other person.

LT: Tom caused?

TM: Tom Meyers?

LT: Why did he do that?

JT: Because Becky would bicycle with the shortest of shorts along the road. Well anyway, it didn't matter where she was.

TM: Well, Tom didn't cause that, Becky caused it.

JT: He brought her there. I guess his kids are in college or out of college probably. Two girls, right?

TM: He has a girl that's a doctor now.

JT and LT: Really!

TM: Yeah, his kids are...

JT: What a guy he was, I helped him just a very little bit with his river boat and he thought I had broken some red tape doing that, but I hadn't. He was fun to work with, good guy. We used to be awfully secretive about stuff.

TM: Can you talk to that? Because I know that my relationships with the public relations people have been interesting in that...

JT: Well, you're dealing with very personal stuff. I had a Freedom of Information received from an attorney for a lady who had driven to the Park, had no money, so she had to sign a voucher saying I will send you ten dollars, whatever it was, when I get it. She drove out to Hermit Road and tried to drive... No wait a minute... I think she tried to drive over and hung up, got out of her car, jumped, didn't kill herself, jumped, didn't kill her. Anyway, the photographs in the file were horrendous, just horrendous. He said, "I want copies of those, call me." I said, "Are you serious? You really want...?" He said, "Yes I do and there's your FOIA so you will send them." I did, of course. But, that kind of stuff. Boy, if the family saw that? I just can't imagine why the hell did he need it? She jumped for Christ sake. So there's a lot of that kind of stuff going on. You do have some privacy. When I hold babies in the hospital, I know their name and I know their weights because it's written up on a board. Otherwise I don't know if they're a single family of whatever, drug babies, why they're in there at all. There is privacy concerns that matter. We had a guy that was playing with his kids who were ten or eleven or whatever. Two dads, three or four kids, and the one dad was jumping to a lower ledge. The day after he was found, the guy that he was with called me and said, "Now, I hope that you can keep my name out of the newspapers on this." He was a Phoenix Sun or something... So yeah, there's all that kind of stuff going on that matters when you start talking like I'm talking right now, probably more than I should. Because somebody could be hurt by that. So if I use that guy's name, then I'd hurt his feelings.

TM: How do you balance protection of family, which you've made very good cases for that, with public education?

JT: You hire people with a little maturity to where they can make those judgements and not your newest ranger in the door. I don't know, have we seen things in the last ten years that have shared more information than should be?

LT: I don't think so. ...under investigation.

JT: We do see a whole lot of different names being Park spokesperson. I don't know, I think that may be something to think about. Although, if it hasn't been a problem it hasn't been a problem. But you always air on the side of caution I think. It's like cutting down a tree if you keep it you can always... That would be my feeling about that. So yeah, it is hard because in some ways it's public information and in other ways it's not really. There are things under investigation and privacy. I'm glad I don't have to do that.

TM: It's a hard job.

JT: And Tom, you know Tom with his work was amazing. He named names and said it. I'm sure he talked to an attorney before he did that more than once. But yes, it is educational.

TM: It seems a balance.

JT: Yeah and that's hard because your balance is not mine. And you being on the outside and somebody being on the inside, and they have all those other pressures on them to bear, so it's not really fair to have them stand in your shoes because they can't.

TM: But we do have the Freedom of Information Act which has been very helpful.

JT: Which is what you need to do if you think you are being stonewalled. And then it gets a reading. I worked with an attorney out of DC on a couple of cases that are kind of touchy. She ended up saying yes release this, don't release that. She knew what she was doing. She was trained.

TM: And that's how the system is supposed to work, there's a process in place.

JT: But FOIA is an overwhelming burden in a lot of cases. It means hours and hours of work, all the photocopying, all of that kind of stuff, determining whether or not to reply or how to reply. It's not an easy thing to deal with. Does Robyn do the FOIA now? It would seem that she would be an ideal person.

TM: I'm not sure who is the FOIA officer.

JT: It was interesting. Then you got to deal with law enforcement folks who don't want to give you anything. "No you can't have this." But you get through that.

TM: You do on the inside, but on the outside you don't. I mean when law enforcement says no, then...

JT: Then you got to go FOIA.

TM: But in the Park's defense, there is a website now that has FOIAs all listed that they released. They're all there.

JY: So if they've been released....

TM: So that's helpful if I'm looking. Oh, someone else has already done that, we don't have to do it again, it's on the web. So that's a nice tool for that as well. I was thinking about the cemetery. There's discussion today about saying, well we're just not going to put anybody else in the ground there. Do you have any thoughts on that?

JT: No, who cares. I mean, when they get to the last person that's the way it's going to be anyways. So why... Do you want to be buried there?

LT: I've thought about it but I'd rather have my ashes spread somewhere else in the Grand Canyon.

JT: We're all three entitled. I don't see a reason to necessarily 'cause there are plots available. It was established, it's there. There are people with reservations, too. So if you got a reservation, I don't think you ought not to be told no. I don't think there's that many empties, are there? 20, 30, 40?

TM: Way less than that now.

JT: Because there's 300 plots I thought.

TM: Well there's much discussion. Do you put up a stone that you can put plaques on? Eventually that's going to be covered in plaques. Do you move the fence? It's P-J. You can build a bigger parking lot. Do you just move the fence?

JT: It would be easy to move the fence.

TM: These are questions that a new superintendent is going to have to deal with. The next superintendent after the new superintendent then.

JT: I had a great one one time. We had a huge lightning crash by the cemetery. I went over to see it the next day or something and here was this ponderosa that was that big around and it came down just outside the fence. So I went over to look at it. Here was a hole, a squirrel hole or a woodpecker probably started it. Here was this little plastic triangle sticking out of all the stuff inside. I pulled it out, it was an American Flag that had been on a veteran's grave and that a squirrel or a woodpecker or a whatever had picked it up and said well that will be good in my nest. It was pretty funny. It was a patriotic squirrel. Obviously an Abert squirrel.

TM: 20-30 years from now, someone might listen to this recording. What would you like them to know that you haven't mentioned already?

LT: That we haven't mentioned already. That's a good one. Let me think about it. Just I hope that it's kept so that there aren't the developments that I see that are possible right now. Especially the one with the Navajo going down into the canyon so people could see it. I am a person that doesn't have accessibility so I would definitely benefit from that but I don't see that as being a thing that should be done to the Canyon. So that's my hope is that it stays natural as it is and people can visit it as they see fit but that they would be able to go to the remote places and enjoy their own space there without airplanes noise, a lot of those conditions that they're still trying to find solutions for. I don't know how that sounds.

JT: Sounds better. I actually, what I reflect on is how lucky I was that one Friday I was in the Navy and the next Monday I was on Alcatraz. How lucky was it that the timing just worked that way because I

don't think I would have found a Park Service career except for the fact that they were hiring eleven or twelve people at that one time that I sent my 171 in and just happened to be at Cabrillo when somebody mentioned, hey they're hiring up there. It's just magical almost. That let this whole 33 years happen for me. Just how lucky I was.

TM: The magic of life.

LT: I was thinking of Grand Canyon but in total, the life of the Park Service really is magical. One that you look back and think how lucky, you use that term, to be able to live these kinds of experiences. It just has been wonderful for the family as well. I got into the Park Service by chance as well, but I fought for it because I wanted a permanent job and in order to get that I worked as a secretary to get permanent status and then I could apply for other jobs that I really wanted to be in. It's harder, I think, nowadays for anyone to get into the Park Service job.

JT: That was hard because if you weren't a veteran. I got five points, disabled veterans got ten points, added to the end of your score and if you weren't a veteran you didn't have a chance.

LT: It was very difficult. So I spent some time as a secretary wondering if I was doing the right thing in order to go forward with a career. But happy that I have these experiences to share now.

TM: In deed. Jim and Lea thank you very much for your time today. Today is the 18th of June, 2017 and we are with Jim and Lea Tuck in Flagstaff, Arizona. Thank you very much.

LT: It's been fun.

JY: My pleasure, thanks.