

**Transcription:** Grand Canyon Oral History

**Interviewee:** Mary Hoover (MH)

**Interviewer:** Tom Martin (TM)

**Subject:** Growing up in Kansas, working for Fred Harvey at 14, moving the South Rim in 1946

**Date of Interview:** 7/21/2014

**Method of Interview:** In person

**Transcriber:** Elaina Smith

**Date of Transcription:**

**Transcription Reviewers:** Tom Martin

**Keys:**

TM: So, neither Mary or I are quite certain of the date. We're gonna call this the 21st of July, 2014. We're in Williams, Arizona at the home of Mary Hoover. And, Mary, if you could introduce yourself and let us know, what year were you born?

MH: My name is Mary Katherine Hoover and I was born on December the 4th, 1927, so I will soon be 87 years old. And, I was born at Greeley, Kansas. My father was a blacksmith. My mother was always a housewife, but a very hardworking housewife. And, we lived there until, in the 30s, when my father had a heart attack. He was ill for a long time and did not go back to work for a year.

TM: So, my name is Tom Martin and I'm going to conduct this interview today with Mary. Mary, I'd like to know, do you remember how your father met your mother?

MH: Yes. I had two older uncles, they were my dad's oldest brother and his fourth oldest brother and they lived in Kansas. Well, Dad was from Maryland and he ran away and joined the army in 1909, and he was in the army until 1912. And, while he was in the army, he wanted to see his brothers. He was at Fort Riley, Kansas and they were at Baldwin and Ottawa. So, he went to Ottawa to meet them. And, he wrote them a letter but, at that time, mail was really a long time sometimes getting there. And, so he had to find a place to stay because they weren't there when he got there. And, he still had time, so he found a room in a boarding house and my mother was working there for her great aunt. So, that's how they met. And, it went on, and they finally married, and they were married at Ottawa, Kansas in October, on October 16th, 1912.

TM: Do you have brothers and sisters?

MH: I had five brothers and one sister. My oldest brother died at 92 in 1905, I think it was 1905.

TM: Is that 2005? Sorry.

MH: 2005. And, he, he had Alzheimer's. He lived in Alaska and was a gold miner.

TM: Wow.

MH: The next brother, my brother George, lived in Kansas City and the last job he worked on was polishing headstones for cemeteries. And, one night, his daughter was sick, they had the doctor out, the doctor had a cup of coffee with him before he left, an hour later, my brother came upstairs, he'd been working on his truck, and he came upstairs and he told his wife, "Go next door and call the doctor back." He said, "I think I'm dying." And, he went and laid across the bed and he died. He had a blood clot. My sister married very young. She had ten children and they're all still alive. She died in 2008 and she was 92. Her husband had died about ten years earlier, eleven years earlier, ten years earlier. He had had a stroke and she nursed him at home for eleven years. And, in that time, we're very proud of my sister, she was a good nurse, he never had a bedsore in all those years. He couldn't talk the last six years. And, he couldn't walk at all. We have a picture of him at their 60th anniversary and he's sitting out on the porch on a bench, but they put him there. He couldn't walk out there. And, they took him out in a wheelchair and the boys set him on the bench so he could talk to people. He couldn't really talk to them very much but, anyhow, he could tell them, "Hi." But, she took care of him at home for eleven years. Bless her heart. And, she was a good mother, she was a hard worker. If they had hay that needed to be baled and there was nobody to do it, she did it. The only thing she never did on the farm was milk cows. She said, "No way am I gonna milk cows." So, she never did that, but she gardened, and she grew, and she helped plant, and she did everything else, but, and she sewed for her girls, and she sewed for her boys, and she kept her house running. And, sometimes it was a hard job 'cause farmers aren't really sure of an income and there were years when they didn't have much. But, anyhow, they got through life and they were married 67 years when, when he died. So, if he had lived, they would have been married 78 years, I guess. But, anyway, the next brother was Albert and Al was a sickly boy. He, he caught every disease that came along in his childhood. He learned to walk and talk. At seven months he was running all over the place and he was talking, jabbering more or less, but my mother knew what he was saying, she always told us that. But, he was tall, slender, and he had blonde hair and green eyes. And, when 1941 came along, and Pearl Harbor was a fact of life right then, he went the day after Pearl Harbor and went to sign up. They put

him in a place, a place along the way to wait because they had so many people signing up. And, it shows on his record that he wasn't signed up, I think, 'til the 15th of December. But, he had a very short training and then he was in the south Pacific four years. He came out when the war was over. And, while he was there, a couple of times he was fortunate to run into one cousin and one friend from our hometown.

TM: Wow.

MH: Which was very nice. He had to have an emergency surgery and they flew him to Australia. He had a, it wasn't appendix, I can't remember. Oh, he had kidney stones. They flew him to Australia and they put him on a three month leave and that was the only time he wasn't on duty. And, he came back, he had malaria, and he was very ill for about a year. I think my mother aged 20 years in that year because he needed a lot of care and he had some little mental problems like so many of the boys that came home. And, he had to have help a lot, but then he got going. He wasn't a good student. He never finished grade school because he was older and it was embarrassing for him to go in with the younger kids. And, finally mom and dad said, "Well, you're passed the age where you have to go to school, so you can stay home." So, he worked in a hospital for a while and he learned a lot of things while he worked there. It was Saint Margaret's, which was a Catholic hospital in Kansas City, and they taught him a lot of things. And, he was just an aide more or less. He would help put patients to bed and the usual things that they do. And, when he went overseas, that came to good use for him because they often times put him with the doctors because he knew how to do so many things.

TM: Nice.

MH: But, he came home and he was depressed and he would scream and yell at night. You couldn't sleep in the house when he was there. So, I was so glad when he got a hold of himself and got going. He married. That marriage didn't work out. He had one son. I have no idea where the boy is, I have no idea what his last name is, so I never contacted him. My mother saw him once at a grocery store and she knew it was him because he looked just like his dad when he was that age. And, she went up to him and asked him who he was, so she knew it was him. But, other than that, he always had a job. He didn't have any trouble getting a job. There were various jobs. He delivered dry cleaning, he worked at the independent school delivering supplies, that was his last job. And, he had a heart attack. I can't remember just what year it was, and I thought that he had died in 1979, but it was 1977, I think, when I think back. Anyway, he had a heart attack in the hospital and died. Our whole family has heart trouble but me and my oldest brother.

And, my next brother was Henry. He was the joy of all of our lives and I still mourn him. He was my next oldest brother, and he always kind of looked after me, and he and my younger brothers, brother and I had lots of adventures together. Hank was at Iwo Jima and he was killed there, but they brought his body back and he's buried near my folks in Kansas City at Mount Calvary Cemetery. And, all my family's buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery. And, one day I'll be buried there too.

TM: What kind of adventures did you have with Hank?

MH: We lived down by a river, it was a block away, and we spent many a day wading in the river, catching fish, my brothers used to chase snakes. Not me! But, they did, and, I don't know, we just did all kinds of things. My dad would say, "Don't go to Spencer's bridge!" Saturday morning, have our breakfast, and away we go to Spencer's bridge, and that meant a spanking when we got home with a razor strap. My dad was a blacksmith, he was pretty strong, but, you know, I think it hurt him more than it hurt us because about a half-hour or so later he'd say, "Here kids, go up and get an ice cream cone." So, I know he regretted having to do it, but, anyhow, he did correct us. It was a lot harder to get a correction from my mother than it was to get a correction from my father. My mother could make you feel about an inch high. She never hit you, she never did anything but say words to you, and she made you so ashamed of whatever you did wrong.

But, the next, I was in between there, my next brother is Bernard, and, when I was a little girl, I couldn't say Bernard, so he became "Bun." I used to call him "Bunny" and then it got shortened to Bun. He still uses Bun. He's eighty-something years old, 83, I think, and he still uses Bun for his name. But, he's still living, and he lives in Kansas City, and he has a really, a great wife, and they have three girls, and they have grandchildren, and great grandchildren. So, there's five generations in their family. We have a lot of five generations in my family. So, that's not unusual. None of the kids went through high school but me. I was the only one that graduated from high school. And, when I was going to high school, one day... My folks were having a hard time, they had lost everything when my dad was sick and then he couldn't work at the same work, and he had to learn to do different things, and he always got a job, but sometimes it wasn't very well paying, and the times weren't very well paying at that time either, and they lost their house, the business, and everything, and, so, dad just had a hard time making a living. And so, I thought, "I really should get out and get a job." I was 14, 14 and...

TM: Where were you at the time? Where were you going to high school?

MH: I was at Hutchinson, Kansas.

TM: Ok

MH: My father worked for a truck line and his boss asked him to move down to Hutchinson and take care of the business there, so dad did. It wasn't a permanent thing, it was a temporary thing, and we lived at a rooming house at first when we went there. That was the beginning of the war and they had built the air, the naval air station at Hutchinson.

TM: 1940...

MH: '1, '42.

TM: '42, ok.

MH: We moved there in '41. No, we moved there in '42. Dad went there in '41. Anyway, he'd been staying in this rooming house and this lady wanted to go to her daughter's because she was expecting and she wanted to take time off from her business. And so, my mother went in and took it over for six weeks and that was quite an experience. We had nine oil, nine people that ate there, eight lived there. And, the eight that lived there, they were all oil drillers. The days have changed. All those oil wells in Kansas are plugged off. Now, we could use them. But, at that time, they were working there and one, one was a student that lived in the next, next apartment house, and he would come over and have his meals because he heard my mother was a good cook. He was going to school, he was going to business college. And, they were all great to my mother. They'd come and help her wash the dishes, they said, "Got anything you want us to do," "Would you like for us to run the sweeper," whatever, because they knew that she really kept their rooms clean and nice and they appreciated her, and they were upset when she left. But, we lived there, dad and mom lived there, I was a sophomore, yes, and they moved back to Kansas City, and I went, I went one semester to school at Kansas City and I hated it. Our school at Hutchinson had 35, 40 pupils, and when I graduated, there were only 35. One of the boys had gone into service that would have graduated. Our graduation class was huge. Five people. And, we had three girls and, no, four girls and one boy that graduated. One boy had gone into service a couple weeks before school was out, and he went into the Navy.

TM: So, a small community?

MH: It, Hutchinson was quite large and it's really large now, compared to what it used to be.

TM: Meaning, meaning there were just a lot of people not going to school? Or, or?

MH: It was a Catholic school.

TM: Ok. Sorry, thank you, thank you.

MH: My girlfriend was Catholic, my girlfriends I should say, but they went to public school because they could take different subjects, but I looked at the Catholic school because I am a

Catholic and, not only that, it was only two blocks from where I lived. I lived in the hotel and it was only two blocks from the church.

TM: Nice.

MH: So, I could run down there, and run up the steps, and my friend would wait to ring the bell until I got to the top step. So, I wasn't late very many times. Bless her heart. But, I made it through high school and I always, I used to get pretty good grades. They told me as long as I got good grades I could stay working and go to school there, and I tried, and I made it. But, my folks were real proud of me, but they couldn't come to my graduation, so the housekeeper came and, she was a dear, dear friend and she was an older woman, about my mother's age, and she was very motherly to me. She'd always come up and check on me, and see if I was doing ok, and if I needed anything, and, "Do you want me to call your mother?" about this or that, and I'd say, "No, I could handle it." So, the sisters at first didn't know that my folks had moved because I could write just like my mother and I would sign my card. So, they asked me to have my dad sign it. So, then I had to send it to them. But, it worked. But, anyway, we had a dear person that was a nun there and she was in charge of the high school, and she was about 5 foot tall, very small little lady, and she could handle anybody. We had this tall boy, he was always getting into mischief. His name was Pat Imagine, an Irishman. Anyway, he was always getting into trouble and this little lady walk up and she'd say, "Patrick! I would hang my head and blush in shame if I did that. Shame on you!" And he'd say, "Yes, sister. I'm sorry." He was a little kid again. She could just bring him right down to her level and give him that finger. Anyhow, it was an experience.

TM: So, it was a hard time for your parents and, it seemed like, if you went to work you could help with the family income?

MH: They didn't have to feed me and they could use my coupons because it was war time. My mother was the only lady in the neighborhood that could afford to make jelly because she had enough sugar.

TM: Wow, yes.

MH: And the pride of our life was when she gave us a little jar of jelly to take home when we went to see her. When one of the boys came down, she'd send one.

TM: What flavor, what flavor would she make?

MH: Usually it was grape because, when we lived in Greeley, we always had grapes.

TM: Ok

MH: So, we always had a lot of fruit, but grapes were right out in the backyard, so we had a lot of grapes. But, it was a good life and when 1946 came the, I graduated from high school in '46, May 26th. And, they closed the Harvey House the last day of May and moved everything out.

TM: Had you been working there already?

MH: I had been working there. The reason I went to work there, one of the girls I went to school with was next door to, lived next door to a lady that took care of getting the girls for the trains, for the troop trains during war, and she said, I said one day to her, "I'd really like to find a job, something I could do after school." And she said, "I know of a job you could probably get." She said, "I'll go down with you and you can talk to Agnes. She's in charge of the Harvey Girls that wait on the trains." So, we went down and they were going to have a train in just a short time, and she talked to me a little bit, and she said, "Can you work every evening?" And I said, "I get out of school like at 4:00, 4:30, and I can work anytime after that." And, so she said, "Ok, can you go to work now?" And I said, "Yes, I can." She said, "Can you carry a tray?" I said, "Oh, I think I can."

TM: Now, how old were you?

MH: I was 14. I was gonna be 15 in December and this was the last of November.

TM: How much did you weigh at that time?

MH: Oh, about 100 pounds. Some of the trays were heavier than I was. And, so I have a bad back today.

TM: Oh.

MH: But, anyway, she hired me on the spot. And I...

TM: What year was this?

MH: 1946.

TM: Ok

MH: No, 1942. 1942.

TM: So, so you were a freshman in high school?

MH: Yea.

TM: I mean, this was your first year of high school when you were hired for this.

MH: When I was hired. But, I had two weeks, I was a year older because my birthday came in right after that. Anyhow, they accepted me and Mr. Rousinger was the manager there and his brother lived not far from my folks, and they were very nice to me. When they'd go to Kansas City to see his brother, sometimes they'd take me along so I could see my mother and dad. And he'd just go tell the head waitress, "Mary's not gonna be on duty tonight 'cause we're going to Kansas City and we're taking her with us."

TM: So, how old were you when you started working for Harvey?

MH: I was 14.

TM: Ok

MH: Well, I was 15 within three weeks.

TM: Ok

MH: But, it was before Thanksgiving. Anyhow, we had all kinds of troops that came through there. We had all kind of American troops. Navy, Army, Air Force, whatever Army, Air Force, Marines, everything. Every branch of service went through there.

TM: And they were stopping there for what purpose?

MH: For meals. Sometimes we had to get up at 5 O'clock and go serve breakfast and then go to school, which we did. But, the nuns were very nice and we were kinda excused for the first hour or whatever we needed and, so, we could do that.

TM: Nice.

MH: And, then, once in a while, at noon, they'd have one come, not very often. Every Harvey House had meals according to where they were, and our evening meal was always turkey. I had never eaten turkey in my life. The first night I had a turkey dinner I thought, "Oh, this is wonderful!" We got one dollar and our meal for serving a troop train. And, when we went to get our money, we had to be paid every day, and we had to go sign a voucher for the money, and we had a little gentleman that was in charge of payroll, and he'd say, "I hope you girls brought your two cents. I hate to make change." Because, at that time, social security hadn't been in practice very long and the social security was two cents on the dollar. So, we all had to put two cents in our pocket when we left home so we'd be sure to have our two cents. 'Cause, oh, he'd get really uptight when you'd tell him, "I don't have two cents." Or, we'd go borrow it

from somebody at the desk or someplace and give him his two cents. But, at that time, two cents could buy something.

TM: So, how many men would come in? And these trains, they would stop for to take on oil for the trains...

MH: No, they would just stop for meals.

TM: Ok. 30 minutes, 45 minutes?

MH: They sometimes had 30 minutes, sometimes they had 45. We had to have everything ready. And they, when the train stopped in front of the station, the chef started stacking up dinners. And when they'd march in, whoever went to the first table got fed first. And, like I'd be in charge of, sometimes I was, of the first table and I'd get it done first, but then you didn't always get the first table.

TM: How many people would sit at that table?

MH: Sixty.

TM: Sixty?

MH: They would have 600 come in. We used, we had a coffee shop also and they'd put some of them in the coffee shop. We had help in the dining room and sometimes they'd put them in there. Sometimes we had tables set up in the lobby. We had people from all over the world. We had the French, we had Australians, we had New Zealanders, we had people from different countries. I can always remember the, what are those English people that? The cockney English. We couldn't understand a word they'd say! But, the other English, we could figure out what they meant. But, anyway, we'd get a trainload of them every once in awhile, and we'd get trainloads of, like, the ones that were doing the building of different places, there's a name for them. There was a place being built out in California and for about three or four months we got trainloads of these young men to go out to work on that. And they'd say, "Oh, we're going overseas." And we'd say, No, you're not. We know where you're going." Just by, you know, what their outfits were. And, they wouldn't believe us, but, every once in awhile one would say, "I'll bet you." So, we'd give him our name and address and they'd send back the dollar, 'cause he bet us a dollar.

TM: Uh oh! That was a whole day's wage you were putting on the table there!

MH: And I got them back, usually.

TM: Did you get tips at all?

MH: Sometimes.

TM: Ok

MH: Sometimes we'd have some officers and sometimes we'd have a trainload of all women service personnel. That was real different.

TM: How?

MH: They didn't like sitting at long tables. They wanted the tables to be split up, but, of course, we couldn't do it 'cause we only had so many minutes and we had to get them in and get them out. But, our manager, when it was Mr. Rousinger, he was very kind to the guys. He would go buy a whole bunch of oranges and a whole bunch of apples and set them out in the lobby and say, "Help yourself." So, they'd take an apple, or an orange, or both, or whatever, and they were always gone. You know, they really liked that 'cause they could eat them on the train.

TM: Nice, nice.

MH: And, he wasn't able to go in the service. He had heart trouble. And, he eventually left us and became an auditor, which was what he was trained to do, but they put him in charge of The Bisonte because they didn't have a manager for there.

TM: Do you need some water?

MH: No.

TM: Ok

MH: I have a lot of phlegm.

TM: The Bisonte, was that the name of the?

MH: That was the name of the name of the hotel at Hutchinson.

TM: Ok

MH: It doesn't exist anymore. It was a beautiful hotel, it was old English brick style building. It had three fireplaces in the lobby, two of them were native stone, one was... I can't say it now. It was white rock that was real polished.

TM: Marble?

MH: Marble. The ladies had bridge clubs and they'd go in there. If we had a troop train, we also set that up, but if they didn't have a troop train and it was the ladies night to have bridge or something, they were in there. But, we did have different functions there besides the troop

trains, but not very often, sometimes we'd have a wedding party and it'd be a big one come in. We had a great chef, he was a Mexican man, and he had lots of kids, and he knew how to handle kids.

TM: What was his name?

MH: Joe Garcia. And Joe, he was hilarious at times. But...

TM: How so?

MH: Oh, he'd tease you about everything! "Who's your boyfriend this week?" Who had time for a boyfriend?

TM: I was gonna say!

MH: When you worked all the time. Sometimes we worked everyday of the week, at least one meal, sometimes two meals when the trains were going through real fast. When the train would come into the yard there, coming into the station, somebody'd be out back and they'd say, not "train's arriving," "Train's in the block!" And, boy, we knew we had to hustle! And we'd get our coffee pots full, and our water out, and run around and fill the glasses, and fill the coffee cups, and sometimes they didn't want coffee and we'd have to hunt up a tea bag. Not very many of them drank tea, however. But, anyway, whatever we gave them, they were happy with it and they ate it. And, like I said, that was the first time I ever ate turkey and I ate turkey for four years. I was so sick of turkey! One night, I went in to see Joe and I said, "Joe, could I just please have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?" He said, "Oh, you foolish kid! You get a well balanced meal and you want a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Go over there and tell them I said ok." And I went over to the place where they made the sandwiches and told them, "Joe said it was ok for me to have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich." And they all laughed because they knew exactly why I wanted it 'cause they eat the same thing too. When we had a train, everybody in the whole building ate turkey. But, anyway, that was one of his things. And, he had a, we had a man in the supply room, his name was Tom. I don't know his last name, I can't remember it anymore, but he only had one arm and he could wrassle those things around, those boxes and the milk cans, and all that. And, Joe told him that I could skim the cream off the top of the milk cans because I liked to make butter, and I would shake it. I had a fruit jar and I put it in it and I'd shake it until it'd go to butter. And, everybody would use it. When I'd get to the refrigerator, there was never any left. I don't think I had any but one or two times while I was there. But, I did it as often as I could. But, anyway, he was a really nice man, that Tom. And, he did everything and he never wanted any help, he always did it himself. And, we had a gardener. He was there when the hotel opened, which I think was 1908, I'm not sure of the day, but when The Bisonte was opened, he was hired as a gardener. They had a beautiful lawn. I do have pictures of it and I will get them out and show them to you someday. And he also grew the starshines along the wall, and boy, you never saw a dead leaf or anything. He was out there early in the morning and it was like trimming somebody's hair, taking up all the dead leaves and stuff, and it was a picture

when he got finished. And, he also grew flowers in the back. There was a back room and he grew flowers for the tables.

TM: Nice.

MH: And, I used to get to go back sometime and pick through the ones I wanted and put them on the tables, and I thought that was so nice. And, he loved to tease me because I was going to school, I was living at home when I first went to school there and my brother would walk to school with me because he was in grade school, and he'd walk to school with me and sometimes he'd carry my books, and sometimes he'd put his arm across my shoulder, and sometimes he'd hold my hand! You'd think I was a helpless person. But, that was my little brother.

TM: Cute.

MH: He was looking after me because Hank wasn't there. And, I know that Hank told him to look after me 'cause he told me to look after my sister and her family. But, anyway, he'd say, "I saw you going down the street this morning with your boyfriend. You guys hold hands all the time?" I said, "Yea, I don't want him to get into any trouble."

TM: Oh, that's cute!

MH: But, anyhow, we'd walk to school together. And, we weren't little kids, we were...

TM: Who was doing the dishes?

MH: The dishes, where?

TM: Well, when the troop trains would come in...

MH: They used paper plates.

TM: Is that right?

MH: And that chef could put potatoes and gravy over here, meat over here, and dressing and whatever vegetable they had, and he could arrange it so that the vegetable was always under where the potatoes and gravy were. And, he would pile up, he'd give you thirty plates on a tray, and he'd take it and set it in on the tray stand, and sometimes you didn't have but half an hour, so you just passed it down. You'd say, "Pass it down, pass it down, pass it down." And, other times you could go and serve them. And, you had to serve the coffee and if they wanted milk, you had to go get the milk, and if they wanted more water, you had to go get more water. And then, they always, we always put the dessert and the salad on the table when they'd come in the block. That was one of the things we had to put on the table, two of the things we had to put on the table. And, we had to make sure there was plenty of sugar. They were serving the troops

and there was no rationing on their meals, so they got good meals and they got whatever was there was edible and nicely served. And, Mr. Rousinger said, "They are in service. The other places are not using tablecloths." He said, "We have lots of sheets. We will put sheets on the tables."

TM: Nice!

MH: And, so we had tablecloths.

TM: And silverware?

MH: And we had silverware. But

the plates were paper.

TM: So, someone had to wash the silverware and the cups. There would have been a lot of that.

MH: Oh, yea. We had the dishwasher.

TM: Ok

MH: We had a man that did the dishes. He was an angry old man. But, he threw a dish at me one time 'cause he thought I put a bowl, after hours, that I had put a bowl with some kind of creamed vegetable with another bowl with another bowl inside of it and he couldn't get it apart. And, he thought it was me 'cause I was usually the late girl, because I took all the extra time because I needed the money, so I always worked anytime that they asked me to work. And, I was eating my breakfast and I was sitting in the wrong place to start with, and he saw me in there and he threw it at me, and they fired him. And, I felt so bad because he got fired, but he was just an angry old man. He didn't like all of us kids. And, I don't know if he didn't have children himself or if his children weren't good to him, I don't know which. But, anyway, I didn't even ever know his last name. And, we had a baker. We had a bakery there and our bread was baked there.

TM: Wow.

MH: Except when we had troop trains, and then we had to carry bread from the bakery that was across the railroad tracks, it was less than a block, and they'd have these big cases of bread and sometimes they sent two of us over and we'd carry a whole box of it over, a case of it. And, sometimes we had to make sandwiches for the troop trains because they didn't have a full stop and we didn't have time to feed them. Usually it was at noon, and the chef would stand at the end and he would sack them. And, he knew how to stack them so they didn't get too heavy. And, sometimes we'd make 1,000, 1,200 sandwiches. And, we had everybody had to help. You

put on, somebody put on the first mayonnaise, or whatever sandwich spread, or whatever it was, the next one put the meat on, the next one put the cheese on, the next one put the lettuce on, the next one put this on, and then he'd sack them and put them in the box.

TM: One sandwich per sack or two?

MH: Just one.

TM: Just one?

MH: But, they could have two because, like, if the train had 600 personnel on it, why, you know, we had to have enough to feed them and men usually eat more than one sandwich. So, and then they'd always give them an apple or an orange, and sometimes the boss would stick a candy bar or chewing gum in it, but it was according to who your boss was at the time. Some of them didn't do that and some of them did. And, we had people who lived there at the hotel. We had a young officer, his wife was an English girl, an English bride, and they had a little girl named Annie and she was a cute little girl. And, one day, I came down the street with this, I don't know where she got this in her head, I came down the street with this kid that went to school with me and he cut through by the hotel, but he came with me to the door there and she stuck her head out and said, "Where did you pick him up at?" This little girl, she was maybe six years old!

TM: That's cute.

MH: And, then we had another little girl and her dad was a civilian, he did something for the Naval Air Force, but I don't know what it was. But, they had a little girl and she was about that age too. Her name was "Sally Jeanette Baunam and I'm from Memphis, Tennessee." She was so southern, she was so cute. But, I used to babysit those little girls sometimes when their folks wanted to go out at night. If I got off early enough, I'd go babysit for them.

TM: Nice. So, you must have been quite the wage earner for your family doing this.

MH: No, I really didn't earn that much that I gave them that much. I would go home sometimes, or I'd always remember all the birthdays because my mother and dad couldn't always do that. They always did some little thing, like, most of the time, my mother used to give me handkerchiefs. I still have a drawer full of handkerchiefs, or a scarf. I still have a lot of scarves she gave me. I had one favorite scarf. I kept it for about 50 years, it had holes in it, and I still kept it, but I finally said, "No, I gotta get rid of some of this stuff." And, I finally got rid of it. But, she would stick a handkerchief even in a letter she wrote me, 'cause handkerchiefs were like 5 cents a piece, they were reasonable, and she could put it in an envelop of a letter and it didn't cost any extra postage. 'Cause that was when letters were, like, 3 cents or so, and then they went up to 6 cents. And, to the end of his time there, I used to tell Mr. Metzger, who was the postmaster at Grand Canyon, "Give me a 6 cent penny postcard." And he'd just laugh. He said,

"Mary, you're back in the young years." I'd say, "No, you guys raised them!" And he'd laugh and he'd go get me a postcard.

TM: So, so then after the war?

MH: After the war, in '46, they put us on 123, which was the slowest train. It was the Grand Canyon Lemon. It stopped at stop. And, they put us on that, we were riding on a company pass, and when we got to...

TM: Hang on. Let's back up a minute. So, the troop trains stopped coming in.

MH: Stopped, uh huh.

TM: And, they were gonna close...

MH: They closed.

TM: They did.

MH: In the last day of May of 1946.

TM: So, what were your options? What was the talk, what were you thinking?

MH: They gave us places that we could go to. Some of the kids, they went to, they didn't want to leave Kansas, and they went to Dodge City, they went to different places.

TM: This was Fred Harvey that was giving you these options?

MH: Fred Harvey gave us the option.

TM: Ok

MH: And, my girlfriend, Rosalie, that I went to highschool with, and her sister, Peggy. I went to highschool, they're sisters, and I went to highschool with them. And, Rosalie came to Grand Canyon one summer. She took a summer job at Grand Canyon 'cause she was older than we were and she was already, I don't think she was in college yet, maybe she was in the last year of highschool. And, anyway, she had come out to Grand Canyon and worked one summer. And then, the next year was 1946 and we had to choose where we wanted to go, and because she had always talked about Grand Canyon so much, Johanna Burkap, who was still in highschool, and Peggy Hart and I came to Grand Canyon. Peggy and I had both graduated, but Peggy, Peggy and I both had a scholarship. Peggy took hers, I didn't. I went home and I talked to my folks and they said they couldn't help me at all, which was alright, and I talked to the school and they said that I would have to work. And, I worked four years through highschool, running all the time, and I was so tired of running here and running there, and, so I decided,

“Well, I’ll wait a year.” They said, well, I could pick up the scholarship next year, but I didn’t, I just kept working. And, I was happy at Grand Canyon and Peggy was my roommate, my first roommate, and Rosalie was there that summer, and Johanna was there, and, you know, we weren’t alone, we were friends together, so... Johanna was the youngest of us, she was from a little town in Kansas, her folks were farmers, and her sister had worked at the Harvey House at Hutchinson. She was a hostess there and she went to business college, I think, at night. But, a lot of the kids, there were 26 kids going to school all hours at The Bisonte. They had the head bellman went to night business college, his sister went to the night business college. Mercedes Bowner’s sister went to the night business college, Mercedes, I think, was still in highschool at the time, but she was older than we were, so she got out sooner and I don’t know what happened to her and I don’t know what happened to her sister, but her folks lived there ‘cause her dad worked there. We just kind of lost track of one another after they got out of school ‘cause I guess they got different jobs or they went off to school, I have no idea.

TM: So, this would have been the first time you travelled outside of Kansas?

MH: Yes. Except to go to Kansas City, Missouri. I lived in Kansas City, Missouri when I was a little kid for three months, nine months. We got there on the first day of school and we left on the last day of school. And, my dad and mom still had their house at Greeley, and so we moved back there and then my dad found a job in Kansas City and went by himself the first year, so we lived in our old house, and my sister lived there for a year, and then they finally sold it. They had to sell it because they, well they couldn’t afford to have two house rent, a house rent and maintain the house in Greeley too. So, we moved to Kansas City.

TM: So, the four of you then, three or four of you decided, “Let’s go to Grand Canyon.”

MH: Yea.

TM: And you all went together?

MH: And we all went together on the... Well, Rosalie came out later than we did. She was not out of school yet. She might have been in college already, well, she’d have to be in college already ‘cause she was older than Peggy.

TM: Ok

MH: Peggy was just a wee bit younger than I was. I think her birthday is in January, so she was a month or so younger than I was.

TM: So, this was May or June of 1946?

MH: It was, we left in May the twenty-sixth of 1946.

TM: How long did it take you to get to Grand Canyon from Kansas?

MH: Well, we got, we got on the train, which took, like I say, forever. I think we left on the twenty-eighth, actually. We got on the train and they came and told us we had to get off at Albuquerque because the rooms weren't ready for us at the dorm at Grand Canyon, so they took us off the train, and we were there for six days. So, it took us a day and a night to get there. And, like I say, it stopped at every little stop, not long stops, but it stopped constantly. And, anyway, we got there.

TM: So, just taking the train from Kansas to Albuquerque, did you have any thoughts or impressions on that leg of the journey?

MH: Well, I really liked Albuquerque. Actually, there were four girls that had come up and worked from Texas and two of them stayed there until it closed, and they were on the train too, but they Albuquerque too, but they stayed at Albuquerque and they worked there. I don't know how long they worked there. We had a lady there that, the first thing she did was tell me I couldn't wear my earrings in the dining room. And, I looked all around and all these women had earrings, I had little bitty ones, they had long ones, they had Indian jewelry up their arms, all this stuff, and she told me I couldn't wear my earrings. I hated that woman. She was so mean to me. She put me on the counter and then she'd seat all the counter stools first, because they were usually train people, which I liked, actually, but I liked to wait on the train people. I did that when I was at the canyon too. I always knew all the trainmen because they always sat at my part. Anyway, I could do nothing right, nothing. And then, I went home to see my folks about going to school. I really wanted to go and just talk to them in person. You can't talk in person on the telephone because dad's over here saying, "What'd she say? What'd she say?" And my dad couldn't hear it and mom would have to repeat it two or three times, and, so...

TM: So, from Albuquerque you were gonna head home?

MH: No, I had been at home, and we were coming out to Grand Canyon, and we stayed there for six days and worked there, and then we got to the canyon on the sixth day of June of 1946, and the first person we met was Big Jake. Jake Baronco was working there. He later on worked at the laundry with me and he was also, later on, a tour bus driver. Everybody loved Big Jake. They'd go up Buglin Hill, and he'd say, "Everybody lean forward." But, Bernie also said that, Jake wasn't the one who instituted that.

TM: That's cute.

MH: Anyway, it was funny. Jake came to work at the laundry when I, I worked at the Bright Angel the first year. I went back to Kansas for about four months in the winter time, and I worked at the Harvey House at Newton, because a lady that had been there for years retired, actually, it was my friend Beauford's aunt, she retired and they sent me back there, and I had to work nights because she worked nights because her husband worked nights. Anyway, I got put on that shift. I hated working nights. I didn't stay there any longer than I had to, I went at Thanksgiving time and I came back, it was quite a while before Easter, maybe a month. I was supposed to stay 'til Easter, but they were getting ready for Easter at Grand Canyon and they told them that they wanted me back. I walked into the dining room at the Bright Angel and, who was the head hostess? Odessa, my friend from Albuquerque. She was in charge of the dining room, what a horrible experience. And I still couldn't do anything right. She would set me to work from two to eleven, but we had an hour off between four and five. You were supposed to have your dinner set at your station and then it should be five o'clock. Well, of course, Odessa didn't like me and I didn't like her. She would set me down from two to five and say, "Fold the

napkins." I bet I folded more napkins than any person they ever had work for that many years. And, that was job, it seemed like, everyday. Anyway, whoever was there from two to four, if anybody wanted to come in and have coffee or something, or a sandwich or something, but the kitchen, as far as the hot stuff, was closed 'cause they were getting ready for dinner. And, people would come in, and I don't know if you knew Barbara... Her husband was a driver and his name, they called him Babe, and he was from Flagstaff. Anyway, she later was one of the doctors down there's office girl. Anyway, she was a big woman. And, we had, God bless them all, the Balsamic(?) Lodge had a big (?) out in California and they brought in all kind of trains that day, and they were all partying. And, this one man came in, and he was so drunk, and it was between two and four. And, he came in, two and five, we closed at two and opened at five, he came in between that time and he sat down at the counter and he wanted to eat. And, I said, "We're closed. I can't serve you, the kitchen is closed." "Well, I have to have something to eat." I said, "I'm sorry, I can't serve you. The kitchen is closed." And, he called me every name under the sun and I started to cry. Nobody cussed me. I had one other experience with a man that cussed me, and to this day, I would never ever say "hi" to him or wait on him. But, anyway, Barbara said, "What's the matter Mary?" And I said, "He wants to eat and I've told him that we're closed, that I can't get him anything out of the kitchen." She took him by the scruff of the collar back here, he had on a suit, she took him by the scruff of the collar and she said, "Sir, at five o'clock, you're welcome to come in and eat dinner, but we are closed." You know, they got two or three little steps there, I thought he was gonna fall on his face, but she took him out the door and he didn't come back in. I don't know what happened to him, but he didn't eat in the Bright Angel that day.

TM: So, the first, the first year, 1946, that winter, '46, '47, you were away, did they closed down the Bright Angel that winter? Was that normal at that time? How did that work?

MH: No. Sometimes they closed the Bright Angel, sometimes they closed the El Tovar.

TM: Yes, ok.

MH: I can't remember when they did it. That year, I was here in October of '47 because I was here when Karen Belgard was born.

TM: Ok

MH: But, so I went, it must have been in November. It was before Thanksgiving, around Thanksgiving when I went. But...

TM: Ok, and you had also mentioned when you came from Kansas, you came with a Vercamp?

MH: It was a 'b,' with a 'b.'

TM: Bercamk.

MH: Not Vercamb.

TM: Ok

MH: vercamb.

TM: Alright, thank you. 'Cause I was like...

MH: They were a German family, farmers.

TM: What was your impression the first time you saw Grand Canyon? Got off the train, you walked up the hill...

MH: I had just never seen anything like it. It kind of takes your breath away and it scared me. I still don't walk near the rim. It's one of those things. I knew people that fell over the rim and no thank you, I don't go that close. If I walked down the wall, I'm way on this edge.

TM: Oh yea? Ok.

MH: I still don't do that. One time, I started to walk down the canyon with my nieces and nephews and we got down to the, that hole there.

TM: First tunnel?

MH: The first tunnel. And, I said, "You kids can go on if you want to, but I'm going back up the hill and I'm not coming back down here." So, I just, and then one time I walked, I had a friend that came out from St. Louis and worked there, and she worked in the bar. She worked as a waitress when they needed her as a waitress and she worked in the bar too. And, Jackie was from St. Louis and she was my roommate after Peggy had left, and she was a little girl, she was real small. Anyway, she had a boyfriend that was in the park service, and Bill and she were going to hike down the canyon and they invited me to walk down with them from Hermit's Rest. Well, I walked a little ways and I said, "I'll go up and wait for you up above." And I went back up the hill and I never did go down that trail either, but they did. But, anyway, they liked to hike and

we had a very good relationship and we kept in touch. Jackie passed away. The last I heard, her, she married again, she left the canyon. She was very independent. She was like I was, very independent. And, Bill would tell her what to do, and she'd go do what she wanted, and then he'd give her heck 'cause she didn't do what he wanted her to do. It didn't last very long, as you can tell. Anyhow, she married Bill Volvinghaugh(?) and he was almost the same. During the war, she was a chauffeur for generals and she was in the civilian corps, but she was a chauffeur in California. She drove generals, and admirals, and all these high-ranking officers all up and down the coast. But, she married a taxi driver and Bill said she didn't know how to drive. He wouldn't let drive the car. So, she finally convinced him that she could drive, if she got to drive the car. But, they had a daughter and, after the mother died, she came out to see me. And, I asked her for her address and she, we were talking, and she left without giving it to me. And, you know, I lost track of her completely. I have no idea, and I can't remember her last name because she married. It was a real kind of difficult name. Volvinglow(?) was kind of difficult for me to learn, but when I first knew her, she was Chapman. And, anyway, she was from a little town outside of St. Louis, it starts with an 'f.' It's one of the oldest towns in Missouri, anyway.

TM: Ok

MH: Anyway, I went there to visit, and they took me out there, and there's a real old church there, and it's still, it was still in use then.

TM: Nice.

MH: I don't know if it is anymore. It was over 100 years old at that time. And, of course, our church in my hometown was close to 100 years. But, anyway...

TM: So, back in 1947, you were away the winter of '46, '47, and back at '47.

MH: Yea, I came back.

TM: Here is the boss that you do not want to work for, and there she is.

MH: And there she is. And, she finally, they got a new manager in and she left, and she went back. Her name was Odessa and she was from Odessa, Texas. Anyway, she went back to Texas. Thank God. Anyhow...

TM: Did you see her again or was that it?

MH: No, I never saw her again.

TM: Ok

MH: I heard that she died. They told me when she died, I don't know why they told me. I really didn't care!

TM: See ya, long gone.

MH: But, anyway, maybe I'll meet her at the pearly gates, who knows.

TM: Who knows.

MH: But, she was an awful person to work for. I got, I got another one that was just as bad. She was at the El Tovar. After her, well, when I was still working for Odessa, I just got to the point I could not take it anymore. She would fill up my whole station all at one time. She never did that to another waitress. But, I had four fours and a two to pick up on, so I had 4, 8, 16, 18 people to wait on.

TM: 18 plates.

MH: And she'd seat them all at one time. She'd take the first 16 in the line and put them at my tables and then she'd say, "What's the matter, can't you handle it?" That's the way, I felt like shooting her right through the head. But, anyway, I always smiled and said, "Oh, I'm ok." That's my favorite saying, "Oh, I'm ok." If I'm sick, "I'm ok." If I'm mad, "I'm ok." But...

TM: I'll keep that in mind as the interview proceeds. You're like, "I'm ok." I'm like, "Alright."

MH: And then, I went up to see Mr. Rouser. Wilmer Rouser was from Kansas City and we got along well.

TM: Who was he? What did he do?

MH: He was the manager. He was the GEO, actually. He was over Mr. Witteberg. Mr. Witteborg was his assistant. And, anyhow, I went up to talk to Mr. Rouser. I said, "Mr Rouser, I can't take this woman anymore. I'm gonna have to leave." And he said, "Well, let's look around and see if we can't find something for you to do." So, (?)'s sister-in-law was working there as the cashier and she was very pregnant. She had her baby during our Christmas party that year, 1948, '47, 1947. I went to the El Tovar in 1948. Anyhow, she, this lady that I worked for at the El Tovar, she was almost as bad as Odessa, but she drank and she would take her days off, and then she'd call up and say, "I'm sick." And, I knew some of the people who worked down at the hotel in Flagstaff, it still stands, I can't... Weatherford. And, she'd go down there and get a room and a bottle, and sometimes she'd call down for a second bottle. They used to have a bar and a restaurant there, I don't know if still do or not.

TM: Mm hm, they do.

MH: I haven't been in that hotel in years and years.

TM: They've redone it. If you get a chance, you might go in and...

MH: And look at it.

TM: They've nicely fixed it up.

MH: Well, that's good.

TM: Yea, yea.

MH: Anyway, she would go down there and then she'd call and she'd be a day late. So, one day I was sick. I guess I had, I don't know if I had a cold, touch of flu, or something. My stomach was upset, and I was coughing up all this stuff, and blowing my nose, anyhow, I just didn't feel good. And, so, I went home. And, she was standing outside of my door talking to Mrs. Cunningham, John's mother. John's mother was our housekeeper at what's Colter Hall now was girl's dorm then. And, she was telling her that I didn't come to work because I had been out all night drinking. And, Mrs Cunningham said, "Not Mary." I did go out and drink sometimes, but I never missed work. Anyway, she was standing out there and Mrs Cunningham really stuck up for me. And, she said, "Well, you can see where, who's your friends," she said to her. And Mrs. Cunningham said, "I don't want to hear anything bad about Mary." And I heard the whole conversation 'cause I was laying there in bed about ready to run to the restroom to heave up again. And, I went in the next day and I really didn't feel that good. And, Rosalie says, "Do you want me to go tell her that you're not coming in today?" And I said, "No, I'll go in. We've got a big tour today. I can manage it. I'm ok." So, I went over and I worked. But, I had an experience like that with Odessa, too. I was waiting on Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy ran the Bright Angel. He was a great person. He had the bluest eyes I've ever seen and they would twinkle when he'd get tickled about something. And, anyhow, Odessa seated him at my table and I forgot his bread. I never forgot anything for anything for Mr. Kennedy. When I waited on him, I gave him very good service and I really liked the man. And, anyway, he said, "What's the matter Mary, don't you feel good?" And I said, "No, I really don't." I said, "I've been back in the restaurant three or four times today. I just have been sick to my stomach. I don't know if I got something bad to eat, I don't know what happened to me." And he said, "You go home. I'll ask one of the other girls to finish my dinner." And, so he went and talked to a girl and I went home. And Odessa said, "I don't believe in people being sick." That was another thing that she did to me. Anyway, Mr. Kennedy said, "Mary, she's not gonna be here forever. Just smile and grit your teeth." And he said, "You'll be okay." So, every time she'd say something to me I'd just smile. And then I'd have (?). Anyway.

TM: Did you keep that advice, because I...

MH: I still do it.

TM: At Grand Canyon, good and bad bosses would come and go.

MH: Yea, but I had some really great bosses. Mr. Rouser was one of them. He was always very nice to me. He had a wife that was real nice to me too. But...

TM: Rouser as in Rouser Hall?

MH: That's where it came from.

TM: Tell me about him.

MH: He was a short little man. He and his wife, Betty, came up from Kansas City. He had run the Union Station at Kansas City that Harvey restaurant's there. And, he came out from there and he had one son. His son was lazy. He'd say, "Oh, I don't want to work today. My dad's Mr. Rouser." He'd go read a magazine in the lobby. One day, his dad said, "Did you pay for that?" He said, "No." He said, "You don't read the magazines off the newsstand unless you pay for them." He was a very, very nice man. And, he would come in to eat with Mr. Witteborg. Friends would bring them up fish. They'd go down to Phantom Ranch and they'd bring up fish for them. And, so they'd have it served to them, the chef would fix it for them. Joe Bianchi was the chef at that time at the El Tovar, and Joe would fix it for them, but they like beer with it and they'd tell me, "Bring us a couple beers. The bartender knows what we like." And, I'd go in and say, "Mr. Witteborg and Mr. Rouser want a bottle of beer." And, I'd say so-and-so is gonna come and get it and bring it to them. And, I'd go back in and they'd say, "Mary, where's our beer?" "It's coming." I didn't tell them I couldn't do it. And, one day, Mr. Rouser said, "Why don't you bring us our beer?" I said, "I can't." He said, "What do you mean you can't?" I said, "I'm not 18 years old yet." Actually, I was about 19, I think. But, anyway, I guess I was 19. Anyhow, I told him I wasn't old enough to do it anyway. And, he said, "You aren't?" I said, "No." And, he said, "I thought you were older than that." I said, "No, I'm not." But, anyway, there was an article this last time in the newspaper, in the Pioneer Magazine by Barbara Stevens. She was working in the curio shop when I worked there as a waitress. I remember her and I remember her dad because, when I was 21, I ran down, he registered me and he said, "Whatcha gonna be, Republican or Democrat?" And, my folks were Democrat, so I said Republican. I used to hate this man that used to come around and pick my father and mother up, and take them one block down to the school, and give them doughnuts and coffee, and tell them to go in and vote. He was a city employee of some kind and I didn't like that. And, and I made up my own mind about things and I still have political opinions, and, one of them, I think Truman was one of our best presidents. He never took very much from the government, he had a very, very small pension when he left, I think it was the smallest of any

president in this century, in the 1900's, he made decisions, he stuck by them. He's the one that OK'd the atomic bombs, he didn't want to do it, like any human being would not want to kill that many people, but he did it because he thought it would stop the killing that was going on, and he did it. He didn't do it because he wanted the United States to have the world, he did it because he thought it would save lives in the long run.

TM: Right.

MH: And, he went home in his own little old car, he packed all of his stuff that they owned, their clothing and that, and they went home. And, they went to Independence, Missouri, they lived in a little old-fashioned neighborhood that was a hundred years old, they lived in the house that was her Grandmother's house. She had inherited it and it was right down the street from one of my brothers.

TM: Oh my.

MH: And, sometimes he'd go for a walk and meet Harry Truman and they'd talk.

TM: Nice.

MH: But, I never met the man.

TM: Where did you go to register? Did you have to go to Flagstaff?

MH: No, I went down to Judge Stevens. He had the office down in the, well, now where the central office is for the Fred Harvey Company, or whatever it is.

TM: The general offices, they call it.

MH: Yea, general offices. Right there, as you go in, on the left side, there was a counter there and then Judge Stevens was right behind that. And, they said that he was an auditor, but he used to take care of parts for the ordering for the buses and the cars that came in that needed parts and stuff.

TM: Ok

MH: And, anyhow, it has "S.G.S." on his window. If you ever go up there, it's where the second room is as you go toward that on the outside, on the left-hand side of the building, and it has scratched on there, "S.G.S.," and that's Stanley G. Stevens.

TM: Is that right?

MH: Anyhow, that's where his office was.

TM: His daughter was Ruth?

MH: Ruth Baker and then he has another daughter who's living and that's Barbara.

TM: Ok, and...

MH: Barbara's the youngest.

TM: Ok, got it.

MH: Ruth is older.

TM: Ok, ok.

MH: Anyway, he asked me, "Republican or Democrat?" And I said, "Republican." Just out of spite to my mother and dad because they always went down and voted Democrat.

TM: So, I'm gonna back up a little bit. What other stories can you tell me about the Rousers?

MH: Well...

TM: Before we start getting into the Stevens.

MH: They left and went back to Kansas City and I never really heard anything about them. I remember somebody saying he had passed away or it was in the paper, or something, but I can't remember what year it was. I'm not good at dates.

TM: You're doing pretty good so far.

MH: I don't know. I looked through old histories yesterday for a while.

TM: Oh, good for you.

MH: Anyway, I have a whole box of old histories over there. That plastic box is all history stuff.

TM: Excellent!

MH: Part about my family and part about the canyon. Anyway, he went back to Kansas City and I don't think he worked anymore. I think he retired at that time. Mr. Witteborg was the manager for quite sometime and he became a vice president of the company.

TM: Was a general manager for...

MH: Grand Canyon.

TM: For Grand Canyon. Ok.

MH: And, Fred Witteborg and I had a big spat one time. He told me that he needed some towels immediately in the kitchen at the El Tovar. So, I went and got the towels, I got in my car, I drove them up there, I took them in and put them on the chef's desk, came back. And he called me up and he said, "When are you going to deliver those towels?" I said, "I've already delivered them." He said, "You didn't. The chef said he didn't get them." I said, "They're sitting on his desk." He said, "No, they're not because he wouldn't tell me they weren't there if they weren't there, if they were there." And, so I started to cry and I hung up. And, I started to cry and this little man named Cal, how could I forget Cal, dear old Cal.

TM: Cal?

MH: No, it wasn't Cal. Yea, it was. Cal Thonhoff. Anyhow, Cal was...

TM: Cal? Cal, short for Charles?

MH: C-A...I have no idea.

TM: Ok

MH: Just C-A-L.

TM: Ok

MH: That's what he always went by. He was a World War I veteran and he had part of his stomach, he lost part of his stomach and part of one lung in the war.

TM: How do you spell his last name?

MH: Thonhoff.

TM: Thank you.

MH: And, he, he lived at the canyon for a number of years and then he ran the first American Legion, it was the only American Legion post that was ever up there. They had built a building and had a hut, and he ran it and he lived out there, and then he went back to Flagstaff, and then he went to, over by they have a reservation, there's a little town, he went there.

TM: Peach Springs or...?

MH: Well, no, it's not Peach Springs, it's the other one. There's little, little place. It's just a bar.

TM: Truxton?

MH: Truxton. He went to Truxton and he ran a bar over there. And, the next thing we knew, he passed away. But, Cal was my friend, I could do no wrong. And, when I was crying there, he said, "What was the matter?" And I said, "Mr. Witteborg just called me a liar." He said, "I'm gonna go up and punch him in the nose!" Mr. Witteborg was like this. Cal was like this. Anyhow, this little man was gonna go up and punch that big man in the nose because he made me cry. I said, "No, no, no! We'll both get fired! Don't do that!" About that time, the telephone rang and it was Mr. Witteborg, "I'm sorry Mary, you're right. They are on his desk." So, he apologized to me.

TM: Oh, that's nice.

MH: And, his wife took care of the library at Grand Canyon. She was a graduate from Stephens College for women and she was very much a lady. And, he was up here and she was down here.

TM: Oh

MH: She came about to his waist. He was a big man. Anyhow, they had no family and, for a while, they lived on Avenue B in those one-room houses, one-bedroom houses. And then, when he got to be, he came up there as a busboy.

TM: Wow.

MH: And, he stayed for, 'til he worked himself up. This was a matter of time. I had Kleenex over here. Anyway, he had worked himself up and he was eventually a vice president of the company, so he did quite well. And, she was such a, really a very perfect lady. And, everybody really liked her. She took care of the library for years and...

TM: What was her name?

MH: Genevieve Witteborg. After she had it and they left, Mrs. Draper, who's husband had come to take over the Bright Angel Lodge, she took over the library and she was a librarian. And, then she went to teach school and they had to have a librarian for the community library and I took it over for 22 years. So, I worked at the library one night a week for 22 years. One of my best customers was Mary Verkamp. She didn't come, she'd send her kids down with a bag and she'd say, "Pick out a dozen books from the C shelf." That was, and the author was C. It didn't make any difference what the book was, 'cause she kept track of which ones.

TM: Ah, she was a voracious reader, then.

MH: Oh, she was. She'd kneel backwards on a chair at the kitchen table and turn the pages, and I'm not gonna tell you what else she did. But, anyway, she liked to read and her kids would bring her her books, and she'd go down the line and if we had any new books, I'd stick one of them in, too, so she'd have something new.

TM: Nice.

MH: Because she probably read every book in there twice.

TM: My.

MH: So, anyway, I got to be the librarian for 22 years and I got to order books. And, I had books that were given in memory of people and some of them were absolutely beautiful, gorgeous books. Some were very technical, some were very historic. And, I gave a book in memory of my father and, to this day, I cannot remember what the name of that book was that was real popular at that time. But, Mrs. Wing died and she was very into books. She read constantly.

TM: Who was Mrs. Wing?

MH: She was the wife of one of the rangers, and Kit Wing was his name. And, when she died, people from all over sent books in her memory to the library.

TM: Is that right?

MH: The Metzgers were one of them that, there were several women that got together and thought that the community should have a library, and Mrs. Metzger was one of them. I can't remember all those ladies' names, I've got it in the history over there at the Legion, 'cause they were all auxiliary members, not all of them, but most of them. And, they got together and they started the library. And, they wrote to all their friends and asked them to send any books that they had on hand that they had finished reading and didn't want anymore.

TM: To Grand Canyon.

MH: To Grand Canyon.

TM: Send the books in.

MH: Yea, and they got....

TM: Who put up the space for the library?

MH: I think it's, well, it was a minister's little office there for a long time, that was the library, and then the children's library was in the back underneath of that projection room where they did the movies. Myra took care of that, but she only took care of it for one hour and I took care of the library for two hours. Anyway, I bought all the books and cataloged them. And, we didn't do the Dewey Decimal System, we had our own system. None of these ladies that started the library knew anything about the Dewey Decimal System, so they did a file by the author, it was under the last name of the author, and then they did one by whether it was history or not, whatever it was, whatever the subject was, and then they did one by the name of the book. So, we had three files, so if somebody came in and said they wanted this book, you could just go over to the name of the book file, or you could go to the author, or, you know, whatever, the subject, and it worked very well.

TM: Nice.

MH: And, we just put the, like, the B and we just counted the books by putting a number after, like, the author's name was Burns, it would be B-1, B-25, whatever. And, we had several, well, thousands of books in the, actually. It was a very, very, I got a picture of it. Two people couldn't be in there all at one time.

TM: It was crowded.

MH: Crowded. Very crowded.

TM: Where did the funding come from to buy new books?

MH: Well, we had a 10 cent late fee. We didn't always get the 10 cents, people didn't always have 10 cents, anyway, we got it from that and we got it from donations.

TM: Nice.

MH: And, we had a Mr. Belt that was a buyer for Fred Harvey out of Chicago. He was in charge of buying books for Fred Harvey's newsstands and stuff. And, everytime he'd see a book that he'd think would be interesting to us in the west, he'd send it to us.

TM: Oh my.

MH: And, Mr. Belt, I can always remember because I came to his belt. He was so tall. He was such a nice man, though. I knew him in Kansas, and I was at the Bright Angel one day in the newsstand there, and he was in there, and he said, "Mary Hoover, what are you doing out here?" I didn't even know he knew my last name.

TM: Oh my gosh.

MH: And, I said, "Well, I came out here to work when the Bisonte closed." And we stood there and talked and had a nice conversation. And, he said, "What are you doing?" And, I said, "Well, I'm working at the laundry, and I'm taking care of the library, and I keep busy." And, he said, "Oh, you're interested in the library." And, I said, "Yea, I've been doing it for a while now, since Mrs. Draper left." Of course, he knew the Drapers. And, so, he said, "Oh, that's a thought." And he went on. And, a couple weeks later, I got this nice book. And, he said, "There will be more to come." That's all he put on it, "H.A. Belt."

TM: Nice.

MH: His initials were H.A.B. And, I thought, "Gee, that's nice." And, he did send them.

TM: So, he would have books sent to him for review and then send them on to you.

MH: Send them on to us. Uh huh.

TM: That's great.

MH: Yea. So, we had some nice books come in that way. And, I always put, "Donated by," in the books so that they would get recognition. And, if they were new books, we had a shelf for new books, and they'd go out right away 'cause everybody wanted a new book, you know, to read. Some of them, I had a list who gets it next.

TM: A waiting list.

MH: Because we'd have a waiting list for some of the books. And, then we had this one little lady, I can't remember her name anymore, but she came in one day and she said, "Mary, I have a book for you. It's on the bestseller list." But, she said, "It's filthy. Please don't put my name down as the one who donated it." So, I didn't put her name in it. It just said donated it on such and such date, that was it.

TM: How did you transition, then, from being a server to laundry?

MH: Well, when I went to see him about this lady that I wasn't getting along with in the dining room, he said, "I'll give you a couple of days and I'll look around and see what's available." He didn't want me to leave and I did work hard for him. So, he called, he came over and he said, "Mary, would you be interested in being the cashier here at the laundry?" And, I said, "Well, I can try it." And, he said, "Ok, you can start on Monday." Well, Buford's sister-in-law was going to have her baby and she was quitting, and she was real happy about that because the doctor told her she shouldn't be on her feet and she shouldn't work anymore. And, so I started right away and I learned it, and by the end of the year, I could run any machine in the laundry. I couldn't always empty them, and I couldn't always fill them, but I could run them.

TM: They were huge. I mean, they were big machines.

MH: Yes, they were really huge machines. Later on, we had a girl that was a, I guess she was a GEO, she was right out of college, she had not brain one. Anyhow, she came in, she was there when I left, when I turned my time in.

TM: When was that?

MH: In '91.

TM: Ok

MH: I went back and I was a housekeeper. Anyway, she came in, no, it wasn't her, yes... How was that? We had a girl that came in, it had to be before '73. Anyhow, she, this girl, came in and they send her down to us to be, to take one of the washers. We never had a woman in the washroom. It was heavy work. We had a bunch of Indian boys, and we had Ralph Walker, and we had, he's still up there, what is his name, Bobby Martinez, and, I don't know, we had several white boys, but we had a lot of Indian in the washroom, and one of them was there for years. Raspy raised his family at Grand Canyon and I think he had five or six kids.

TM: Who's that?

MH: Raspy Kyashuse, he was a Hopi man and he worked at the laundry from, he was there when I came to work there, and he worked until the laundry closed. And, that's why I quit, because it closed. In '73, I came down here. But, anyhow, they sent us this girl down and we told her she had to fill the washers. Well, she went and told one of the boys, "Come and fill this washer." She thought the washer meant that you just put the soap in and the bleach or whatever needed to be put in the machine and then it, you just push the button and it went. Well, this great big washer, you had to put the clothes in and you had to balance it because it had three pockets. And, I said, "The boys don't do that for you, you have to do it. You wanted the wages that came with this job, you didn't want the job." I said, "You just go back down and tell that young lady that I cannot put you to work here." Buford was away on something, I don't know what he was doing, but he wasn't there. And, I sent her down there and this girl said, "Well, she's qualified." I said, "No, she isn't. She told me herself she had a bad back, that's number one. The second thing is, she knows nothing about running a machine, that's the second thing. She doesn't know how to balance the machine, that's the third thing." I said, "You're going to have somebody killed if you let somebody like that..." Because the machine won't come loose. They had bolts in them like this and they were in six feet of cement. But, they would break loose, and one did one day because somebody didn't balance it. And, if it hadn't been for Bobby Martinez, somebody would have probably been killed because it was already moving across the floor.

TM: Wow.

MH: It was still connected to the electricity and Bobby went over and hit the switch and knocked it off.

TM: Turned it off.

MH: But, oh, that was so scary.

TM: Let's back up for a minute. How did you meet Buford?

MH: The first day I was at the Bright Angel, this couple came in and sat at the counter. And, she said to me, "Where are you from?" I said, "Kansas." And she said, "Oh, you know, when I walked in the door, I thought you were my sister. And I was wondering what my sister, Dorothy, was doing out her behind the counter at the Bright Angel." And, you know, one time I saw a picture of Dorothy and I looked at it, and she was standing in front of a white house, a little house, and I thought, "I didn't have any dresses like that." And I looked at it, and I kept looking at it, and I thought, "Oh! That's Myra's mother's house. That must be Dorothy." But, she looked so much like me I couldn't, I didn't even recognize... But, anyway, that's how I met them. And, then Myra was gonna have Karen and they needed a babysitter in the evenings sometimes 'cause they were quite social. They went to everything they could. And, so I became the official babysitter. For about three years, I was the only one that ever took care of Karen. One night, they said, "We want you to go with us to this party." And I said, "Who's gonna take care of Karen?" They said, oh, some little girl down the street's gonna take care of her, and they named her, but I can't remember who she was. I was so hurt! I was the only one who ever took care of Karen.

TM: Oh!

MH: But, Karen's their oldest girl. And, then Becky came along and they said, "We want you to be her godmother." And, I'm Catholic and they were Methodists, or Baptists, or whatever the community church was at that time. And, I said, "I don't know if they'll let me do that." And, so, we had this little priest that used to come up from Flagstaff. He only came once a month on Tuesday and he had Mass at the Bright Angel. If it was in use, the room there, the big room, he would have it sometimes upstairs, sometimes he'd have it at the community building, wherever he could find a place to have it, but you had to call around and ask, "Where's Mass gonna be?" Anyhow, I went and asked him. I think he was kind of upset that day about something and he didn't want to be bothered. And he said, "Oh, just go ahead and do it."

TM: Oh

MH: So, I became Becky's godmother.

TM: Nice, fun.

MH: And, now I'm her mother, I think, 'cause she calls me every other night, "Are you alright?"

TM: Oh, nice!

MH: Yea.

TM: Nice.

MH: She's a good kid. She's not a kid anymore, she's in her, 50, 57. She's not a kid. But, anyway, that's how I met them. And, then I got, I knew some of his family. When I was in the third grade in Missouri, he had a cousin that went to school there and she came out and worked one summer.

TM: Really?

MH: But, I knew her from school in Missouri.

TM: Wow.

MH: She was in the fourth grade, I think, and I was in the third. Anyway, we got acquainted. But...

TM: So, what was Buford when you went to first work at the Bright Angel?

MH: He ran the, he came here in 1941 to run the laundry at Grand Canyon.

TM: Ok

MH: He's 21 years old, I think, at the time. And...

TM: To work for Fred Harvey.

MH: He worked for Fred Harvey at the laundry. He was like me, he worked during his highschool years. But, he put the linen on, like, the Super Chief, and all those big... They did the laundry at Newton and he lived at Newton with his grandparents. And, so he'd go down and he'd put the laundry on the train. And, sometimes the train was late and sometimes he didn't get any sleep. He went to school straight from the train.

TM: Wow.

MH: But, it was one of those times of the, of our world.

TM: Yes.

MH: And, Myra worked in the dime store there and then she went to work at the laundry there. And, but they went to school together.

TM: Where was the dime store?

MH: At Newton.

TM: Ok

MH: This was at Newton.

TM: This is where they met there.

MH: And, then, when the lady that was running the laundry at Grand Canyon, she had taken over for her brother and she didn't want to be there, and, so they asked Buford if he would go out there and run it. He was 21 when he came out here.

TM: Wow!

MH: His aunt was afraid for him to drive out, so she rode out with him and went back on the train because she was afraid for him to drive that far by himself.

TM: Oh my gosh.

MH: He did have a car. But...

TM: Yea, but the roads in 1941 would have been quite an adventure.

MH: It was old 66.

TM: Yea, yea.

MH: But, it was quite narrow and everything. And, his aunt was quite protective of him. And, she did have a son that was the same age and Jimmy and he were good friends. And, his uncle owned 21 oil wells in Kansas and, not too long after that, they shut all the oil wells in Kansas down. So, you don't see oil wells there anymore, but they do have oil in Kansas, and Oklahoma, and Missouri, and all that area, Texas. But, you don't see them anymore.

TM: How did Buford get to be called Buford? That's an interesting name.

MH: His mother named him that. I don't know why. His middle name is Bern and I don't know where they got that from either. I knew his mother and dad. His mother was very sweet and his dad was an ornery old cuss. We did have fun together, though. I went hunting with him one time. It was Big Jake and I in the back of the truck, freezing our buns off because it was so cold,

it was in the wintertime, and Buf and his dad were in the front, and we were supposed to be looking out for deer. And, we got up to the top of this hill, and it was getting kind of late, and they stopped the truck. And, Buf's dad got out and he said, "Mary, would you like a drink of whiskey?" I was shivering, I was so cold. And, I said, "I sure would." He didn't know that I could drink whiskey straight. He handed me the bottle and I think I drank half of it. Jake said, "Leave some for me." So, I handed it to him and he drank all but about an inch of the bottle. We got in the front of the truck, and I sat on Jake's lap, and we came home. I froze! I was so frozen.

TM: Oh my.

MH: I was so cold I didn't think I'd ever be warm again! But, neither one of us were drunk. We were so cold we just absorbed it, I guess. But, his dad had never seen me ever take a drink and he didn't think I drank. And, I thought his eyes were gonna fall out of his head. He got so, he just didn't believe I'd do that! He didn't know that my father gave me my first drink when I was two years old.

TM: Is that right?

MH: It was a thimbleful. And, he had a drink, everybody in the house had a drink. He only had one drink a day. He never went over one drink. And, sometimes he didn't have drinks, a drink for months, but, if somebody came, or something, the kids could have a drink too, but they had to drink it straight.

TM: Nice.

MH: So, I learned to drink whiskey straight.

TM: Ok

MH: And, anyway, he didn't know that. He didn't know my folks. They lived at Newton and we lived in Kansas City by that time, so we didn't know them. But, Buf's father had lots of businesses in his lifetime. He owned a hotel in Dighton, Kansas, and he bought a ranch out there, and, during the second world war, he leased it to the federal government and they used it for target practice. They bombed, they scraped, they did everything out there. The naval air station used it. And, when they went back to ranching, they had to watch real careful because there were live bullets and stuff around.

TM: Yea.

MH: And, one time they had a grass fire, and Buford had a brother, and he inhaled smoke and he never got over it, really. He lived to be, I think it was 32. And, the doctor told him his lungs were going and that he would live very long and he should do everything he wanted to. And, he had a little boy, about three years old, he's still living back in Newton. But, they came out here, he and his wife, came out here with the little boy and, so he'd... Ronald had never been down

the canyon, he never got drunk, he never hiked, he never did anything, so he told Buford he wanted to do all these things that he hadn't done. So, Buf took him down to Rowe Well and got him drunk. His dad and mother were so mad at him. And then he said, "I've arranged for us to go down the canyon and go to the north rim." On mule back. And, Ronald did it, he made the whole trip. And, they stayed overnight in Phantom and then they went up the other side, and Buf's dad went around and picked them up in the car. And brought them back. And, he hiked along the rim, and he did all the things he hadn't done, and he went home, and, in two weeks, he was gone, but he did get to do what he wanted to do. But, anyhow, they were a nice family. They had that ranch and then he had a dealership for John Deere machinery, farm machinery, and he did something else in Newton and he was on the, I always remember him being on the board for the county fair. And, you had to buy stock in it and, long years afterwards, when he died, Buf was going through his things and here was all his stock. He was supposed to redeem it within so many days after the fair and he didn't do it. So, he just donated the money, in other words.

TM: Yes, yes.

MH: But, I went there one time. I had a car, I bought it over in Flagstaff and it had some trouble with it. And, they had to work on it over there and, when they did, they did something wrong and the wiring was all off. Well, I started down the road and the lights would come on if I turned on the windshield wiper if it was raining, or if I, everything was miswired. So, they took it down to Phoenix and they had it rewired. Well, they must have moved the motor block because they didn't put the belts on tight enough and I lost three batteries because it wasn't pulling...

TM: Yea.

MH: Tight. And, I went back to Kansas that year and I took Becky with me. She was just a little girl. And, we went up through Oklahoma, and I had never gone that way before, and we got to, I think it was Denton, right outside, west of Denton, Oklahoma. We were at the top of this hill and I heard this pling, pling and I go, "Oh, God! What's happening?" So, I turn the motor off and I pulled down the hill and rolled in, there was a service station, luckily, at the bottom of the hill and I rolled in there, and this young man said, "You can drive it around to the garage and I'll come and look at it." And, I thought, "How am I gonna get it started?" Well, it started, and I drove it

around to the garage, and he said, "You've lost two fan belts." About the time he said it, he had started the motor, and, about the time he said it, the third one went.

TM: Oh my.

MH: He said, "You ruined your battery." He said, "I don't know how this happened, but it's got a crack in it." And, so, he said, "I don't have a battery, but I do have the belts, and, luckily, I have all three of them." He said, "I only have one of the one kind." And, so, he put them on and he said, "I'll get you started, and you can get into Denton, and there's a man there that'll fix you a battery." Well, he was an old man. We were, it was about noon, 4 o'clock or so, we got out of that garage. And, we went to the other side of Oklahoma City and we stopped at Howard Johnson's and they had a service station, so I pulled in and I said, "Will you fill up my gas tank? I'm going over to eat something and we'll be in the dining room." So, he came over and he said, "I was gonna bring the car over for you, but I can't get it started." And, I said, "You can't get it started? Oh my gosh! I just put a new battery in it and all this stuff." And, he said, "Well, when you get ready to go, come over and I'll jump start it." And, he looked at it and he said, "I don't know what's wrong with it." He said, "If you're not going too far, just go straight there, don't stop. If you have to get gas, tell them, 'I can't turn the motor off.'" So, I went, I had enough gas to get there. Like a dummy, I pulled up in the Belgard's driveway, stopped the car. The next morning, he wanted to get his car out to go get groceries...

TM: Oops.

MH: I couldn't move the car. He said, "I know a man that's really a really good mechanic." He said, "I'll call him up." He came out, he charged me 2 dollars and 35 cents, he fixed that. Those belts weren't tight enough. He said, "That's been your problem all along." He said, "How many batteries did you lose?" I said, "This was the third, this was the fourth one." I'd gone over to Las Vegas and it went out up there, had to get a battery. I don't know. I just, I was so mad at that company that sold me that car. And, they're the one ones that did, that messed up the electrical. And, anyway...

TM: In the first place, yea.

MH: Yea. And, you know, I never changed the battery in that car and I had it for over ten years after that.

TM: What kind of car was it?

MH: It was a Mercury Montego.

TM: A Ford...

MH: Mm hm.

TM: Mercury Monterey?

MH: No, Montego.

TM: Montego.

MH: Wasn't it?

TM: They had a Monterey. Was a four-door?

MH: Was a four-door.

TM: 1956-ish?

MH: I don't know what year it was.

TM: Ok

MH: I don't think I got a car until in the '60s. I didn't learn to drive until I was 26.

TM: Ok. Where did you learn to drive?

MH: Myra taught me on Rowe Well Road. I'm the only person, I think, that ever got stuck in the dry ruts of Rowe Well Road. The garbage truck used to go down it and it had ditches about this deep, and I got in one of them and I couldn't get out of it.

TM: Oops!

MH: Yea.

TM: So, you had mentioned that Buford had taken his brother down to Rowe Well to get drunk.

MH: Uh huh.

TM: So, what was going on out there?

MH: That was a night club. They also had some cabins.

TM: So, is that where, now, Eric Gueissaz has his place?

MH: It's, his place is right by there.

TM: Ok

MH: The place that he has was built by one of the engineers from the railroad, I can't think of his name. He was an engineer for years and years, and they would come up sometimes and stay overnight, and he'd always take that train. Anyhow, he would stay out there. And, I guess his family stayed out there a lot too, especially in the summertime. But, he'll come to me. It's Tom something. Anyway, Eric Drapers, not Drapers, Hank DeLufe owned it and then I think he sold it to Eric and, and Sue. Anyway, there was a big barn up on the hillside above it and Buf and Myra used to keep horses out there. They liked to ride horses and they used to keep horses out there at the barn. And, the people that owned that, the sister lived down here, she was a music teacher down here. Their name was Hamilton, they were an old family, and Mr. Hamilton owned that house, and, during the war, he tried and tried to sell it. And, he couldn't sell it, and he needed the money, and, suddenly, the house burnt down, but the barn didn't burn, but the house burned. And, I guess he got enough money to start someplace else because they left the area, but his sister was here 'til she passed away. Her name was Sampson and her daughter still lives here. Well, no she doesn't. She lives in Kingman, she moved. Her name is McDowell now. Anyhow, she moved away. But, anyway, it was a nightclub and now there's just that little covered area where they have some benches.

TM: Mm hm.

MH: That was built almost at the time that they closed it, but they had many owners between. Jack and Gladys Harbon were out there for years. Jack...

TM: So, is it where the road goes up that little drainage to the old dry dump up there? There's a, right now, that little shade kind of roof on poles.

MH: The nightclub was right behind there, and there was parking lots, and then there was a circle of little cabins.

TM: Ok

MH: I don't know how many they had, maybe eight or ten.

TM: Ok

MH: Something like that. Anyhow, Gladys and Jack Harbon ran that.

TM: It's in, it's in the park or is it...?

MH: It wasn't in the park at that time.

TM: Just out... Oh, ok.

MH: Dr. Bryant said he was gonna leave until he got that land. He hated that nightclub out there.

TM: Interesting.

MH: He hated drinking and that was where all the help went. That's where all the help went and had parties and they had...

TM: All the park service help went too!

MH: Oh, yea! And, they had a dancefloor out there and they had a pinball, it's not called pinball. Is it bowling?

TM: The bowling?

MH: Bowling alley out there. We used to have quite a time out there.

TM: Oh my.

MH: I always got the short straw and had to do the pins.

TM: Oh

MH: You had to take a pin setter with you. There was nobody hired to do it, you had to do it. But, anyway, we went out there one night and there was an old man, and he was a Japanese man from Hawai'i, and his name was Adam Harada. And, dear old Adam, he was, he was really high that night, and he was rolling a ball down, and he fell, and he cut his head. And, they took him out to the truck and John Smitke was there. I don't know what John was doing out there, he never went out there, but he was there and he said, "Mary, go tell Jack you need some ice and a towel and go out and put it on Adam's head." So, I did and oh, he was really bleeding. I said, "We really should take him to the hospital." "Oh, we'll go in a few minutes." So, they finished off their bowling and they went. He was ok the next day, but I think the doctor took some stitches in his head. But, Adam would go to Hawai'i every year or so and he was, he had family over there. And, anyway, he would go there and he'd always bring me a present. I had, I still have some records that he brought me. And, he brought me two birds one time, he brought me a parakeet, one time he brought me two canaries. I'm not a bird person. I'm not a pet person, period. Anyway, he brought me books, he brought me leis, he brought me candy, every time he'd come back, he'd bring me something because I was always nice to him.

TM: Oh

MH: He had, he didn't know how to drive, but he learned...

TM: What did, what did he do?

MH: He was a bellman at the El Tovar. He and Chinaman George. Chinaman George's name was George Mirakami and he was, he was a second world war hero, actually. He got some kind of a medal from the government. It's over in the Legion building, a picture of him and about his medal. But, anyway, and he had a letter from the president and somebody took it.

TM: Oh my.

MH: I don't know who took it, but it was signed by the president and they probably worth something, or something. But, it was on the back of this picture. And, he and Jack Harbon were good friends. Chinaman liked to drink, too. Adam didn't drink, but Chinaman did. But, anyway, they were funny guys. Adam would, or George would go out on Jack's birthday and Christmas, he'd take a bottle out, and he'd have a drink of whiskey, and he poured a drink on Jack's grave until the bottle was gone.

TM: Oh, oh.

MH: And, of course, he was weaving home. He did drive a little. I don't think Adam ever drove, if he did, I don't remember ever seeing him drive. But...

TM: That's touching.

MH: Anyway, those were some of the guys that worked there. Adam was there way before the war and, when the war came along, it was before Mr. Rouser came there, I think.

TM: What's Adam's last name?

MH: Adam's? Harada.

TM: I just, I just keep looking at the list here from the cemetery. Where's he buried?

MH: They took his, he died in Hawai'i.

TM: Ok

MH: I think, or else in Los Angeles. I know George Mirikami died in Los Angeles. He was about an inch or two higher than I am. He wasn't very tall, but he could carry those old bags up those steps. And, we had a nice crew of bellmen at both places. At the El Tovar, they had a lot of Hopi Indians and one of, two of them were, well, one of them was the Tomichi, the other, Bruce, worked someplace else. I think he worked in a warehouse or something. But, Gilbert and Bruce were painters and, in the dining room at the El Tovar, art paintings on the one wall, and Bruce did those. And, then the paintings on the rugs in the hallway were Gilbert's. I think one of Gilbert's kids might still live up there, either grandchild, or something lives at the canyon. But,

we had a maintenance director that came in and his name was Hubby, and he had one son and three girls? Three girls.

TM: That's Sue's... MH: Sue's mom's husband. Tomichi. Mary Tomichi's granddaughter, Teresa, or daughter, Teresa married Tom Hubby.

TM: Ok

MH: And, then the one girl is up in Colorado and she was married, but she's but married anymore, with somebody I didn't know. And, the other lives back east and she married a ranger, I think their name was Warner or Wagner. Warner, I think it was.

TM: Sue's mom's husband...

MH: Was the...

TM: Was an engineer...

MH: Was the engineer.

TM: For Fred.

MH: Yea, and he'd been out at Death Valley.

TM: Death Valley.

MH: And, they brought him here. And, he was a very nice gentleman, but he was so, he got so ill toward the end, and then they moved down to Phoenix and he passed away down there, but she's still living. She wanted me to do a history. I still have the tape over at the Legion. I haven't worked at the Legion since, I don't know, '93 or something like that.

TM: I had a chance to interview her, it was a lot of fun. So...

MH: Pat used to take care of the flowers at the canyon for the El Tovar, and she was down at the Bright Angel, and we got behind a little bit, she could pour coffee and talk to the guests.

TM: Nice, nice.

MH: The girls hated it.

TM: Oh?

MH: 'Cause they didn't know what she was doing. But, it was alright. She was kind enough to do it and they didn't have to do it at least, 'cause it makes you make that many more steps when you have to go back and get coffee for five or six people, but she would do it. But, her girls grew up with Buford and Myra's girls.

TM: Nice.

MH: And, of course, Tom was ornery Tom. He used to follow me around when I'd be at the hotel to ask me something. I'd be up on the top floor and they'd give me a beep and tell me that Tom Hubby was hunting for me, where was I? I'd say, "I'm on the third floor!" So, here would come Tom. But, anyway, I liked the kids. I didn't like Pat as well as I liked the others, but she's, she's an alright girl. And, then, she was older and Sue, I really loved, and I liked the, I really liked the youngest one, too, but I can't even think of her name anymore. Nancy! Nancy is...

TM: I only know Sue and she's such a dearheart.

MH: Yea, she is. She and Eric had a baby girl and she's buried out at the cemetery. And, the last...

TM: She didn't live very long, did she?

MH: No, she was, I don't know how to tell, she didn't develop skin. And, oh, Sue was just devastated and so was Eric. They said Eric just sat there and held that baby and cried, and cried, and cried. And, you can't blame him. I mean, it was a bad thing to have happen. And, the last time I saw Sue, she was crying. She was out at the cemetery and somebody had taken all the little, she put little play things, little ornaments and stuff on the baby's grave, and the park service came in and took everything off of the graves, and she was crying. And, all we could do was hold her and say, "Oh, I'm so sorry, Sue." And, of course, that's been years ago.

TM: But, still, these things never leave us.

MH: But, still, it never leaves you. No, that's true. But...

TM: But, they have a wonderful daughter and...

MH: Yea.

TM: And, she's done real well.

MH: But, they've always gotten along. And, I think they still go back to see some of his family once in awhile. But, he used to have, what was it, a Swiss Day?

TM: He still does.

MH: He still does?

TM: Yea.

MH: I never did get to go to one, but Buf and Myra used to go. I didn't go as much as they did. I'm not a party person, I'm just not into that. We had two places to go. We had Tusayan and we had Rowe Well, and Tusayan was an interesting place. It was over on the old road that went behind the airport, and it was there for a long time, and they would have parties. Jack Verkamp was in charge of the March of Dimes fundraiser and he would have something going every weekend. And, I would go out to Hogan's place and wait tables at night. And, if I got any tips, they went to the March of Dimes. They'd have a taxi dance someplace, usually at Rowe Well. And, Jack and Gladys were out there, I think, then yet and then they'd go out to Tusayan and they would have, it was, it was a wild party. And, everybody would come, the bosses and everybody. And, I remember Mr. Witteborg, they had this real pretty secretary, and she put on a garter, and, to raise money, she would take a donation for somebody to, some man to take a garter off of her leg. And, she'd put her leg up on the stool or on the whatever, and she was always dressed real pretty, and she had a flower in her hair, and they'd take that off, and they were supposed to get the garter. Well, Mr. Witteborg, they bid on it, and he bid the highest bid and he gave it back, so they had another one. And, he bid a little bit lower, but he still won.

TM: Oh my!

MH: And, he gave it back again.

TM: Oh my gosh.

MH: And, the third time, his wife said, "Well, either take it this time or don't bid on it." And, they had a bunch of sailors up there that were on R&R. Grand Canyon used to get lots of sailors on R&R.

TM: Really?

MH: They used to stay at Mulkey(?). Anyway, these sailors were up there, and it was this old building, and it had great big log things in the middle of it, and this young man could imitate Clyde McCoy doing the "Sugar Blues." And, he was standing there, and they leaned him against, he was drunk, and they stood him against this big old log, and one would stand on each side of him, he didn't have an instrument, he did it with his voice.

TM: Wow.

MH: But, you'd swear he was playing an instrument. And, he'd slide down the wall and they'd put him back up, and then he'd slide back down, they put him back up, and, finally, somebody said, "You better set him down, he's not gonna get up the next time." So, they took him over and set him down in a booth. And, they Jitterbugged out there. They danced every dance you could think of. And, we had this lady, her name was Alma Kovich and she was Mr. Rouser's secretary, and she could play the piano like, but it was a ragtime piano, 'cause she played for the silent movies at the 12th Street Theater in Kansas City, Missouri.

TM: Wow!

MH: That's how she earned her living for quite some time. And, she could really pound out the songs on that piano. Well, she played, and she played, and she played, and, finally, they started going over and giving her money not to play.

TM: Oh!

MH: But, they really earned the money!

TM: Oh my gosh!

MH: But, that was when you got a dime for a tip and it was pretty good, you know. And, Jack really worked that. It was, and March of Dimes was just really quite new, you know.

TM: Nice, nice.

MH: And...

TM: He worked that fundraising.

MH: He worked that fundraiser. It was for one month month, he had something going every Saturday night.

TM: Wow. Was that summertime?

MH: In the summertime. Well, it was in February.

TM: Do you remember the year? Do you remember when that was, roughly?

MH: Well...

TM: In February? Ok.

MH: Well, the March of Dimes is in February and that's when they usually have it. And, sometimes, it wouldn't be a lot of people there, and, other times, it would just be loaded, 'cause everybody liked to party. And, even the park superintendent would come out, that really getting a crowd.

TM: Yes, yes.

MH: And, anyway...

TM: Fun.

MH: We had some park superintendents who were really ordinary, as most of them had been rangers, you know, and they worked their way up, like Spud Bill and Mr. Strickland and all those men, they worked their way up. And...

TM: Merle Stitt.

MH: Stitt, yea. Oh, I loved that man. Becky worked for him.

TM: So, Mary, it's been a couple of hours now.

MH: Uh huh.

TM: And, I'd like to stop now.

MH: Ok

TM: But, I would like to start again in a couple days. This is a lot of fun! Just, I'm learning a ton of stuff and I don't think we've yet but scratched the surface here.

MH: We haven't hit the cemeteries yet.

TM: Oh, no, no. I'm just kind of cross-checking names on occasion. But, but I would like to learn more Howard Bryant and about the superintendents. Frans Rotter hasn't shown up on the scene yet and neither has Rosie Acosta. I'm missing other people that, that I think were there. I need to know more about the Stevens' and the Verkamps. And, we haven't even

just sort of scratched the surface. So, if you wouldn't mind, if we can call it a day today and, then, let's work on another visit time.

MH: Ok

TM: Would that be ok?

MH:Ok

TM: 'Cause, I just, you're the first person I've interviewed at two hours that I get a sense you're just getting warmed up.

MH: Well, I lived there for forty-something years!

TM: Exactly!

MH: Almost 50.

TM: So, we have some time and I would like to, I'd like to kind of keep working this with you, if you're ok with that, on a couple hour chunks. And, let's just do this as long as it takes if you're willing, 'cause I've got a bunch more questions and I got a sense you've got a lot more stories.

MH: Well, I know lots of stories about Grand Canyon.

TM: Wonderful.

MH: We haven't got to the mull guides, we haven't got to the transportation, any of that.

TM: Or the laundry itself and the changes it went through when Amfac showed up, I mean, just and, and, and.

MH: Oh, yes. We really went through changes. We got new equipment, goodness. And then...

TM: Ok, so let's... Hold that thought now.

MH: Then it went the other way. It went the other way.

TM: Yes, it did! Ok.

MH: Julie said if we were finished before noon, she's gonna come by and, if we're finished, we're going to go down to the senior's to eat.

TM: Nice.

MH: But, it doesn't start until 12, would you like to join us?

TM: You know, I'm going to need to run back to Flagstaff.

MH: Oh, ok.

TM: So, I'm gonna run away.

MH: You live in Flagstaff now?

TM: Yes. Yea, yea.

MH: Ok

TM: So, I'm gonna turn this machine off now. I hit this button over here.