

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewee: Ada Hatch

Interviewer: Tom Martin

Subject: Ada recounts life in Page

Date of Interview: February 28, 2022

Method of Interview:

Transcriber: Susan Seibel

Date of Transcription:

Transcription Reviewers: ML Blue, Tom Martin

Keys: University of Northern Arizona-Flagstaff, Tuba City, Page Arizona, Airstream Trailer, Glen Canyon, Kanab, Zion, Lake Powell, Bureau of Reclamation, Navajo, English, Thelma LeFeaver, Edith Bybee, Teacher Apartments, The Bureau of Reclamation, Bashas' Grocery, Flagstaff, Bitter Springs, Highway 89, International Delta Kappa Gamma, Windy Mesa, The Pink Sans, RD's, Lillis Larson, Leo Larson Sr., Leo Larson Jr., Passive solar house, Scott Larson, Cedar City, Grant Jones, Sharon Buck, Dick Buck, SS Forward Hatch, The Happy Hikers, Evinrude boat, S Cape Hatch, TwentyNine Palms, Colorado River, Lake Havasu, Johnson motor, Jim Merrill, Globe Arizona, Shirley Merrill, Leroy Merrill, Alaska, The Boat Works, Navajo Generating Station, Canyon Boat Works, Antelope, Rainbow Bridge in Bridge Canyon, Floating Marina, Escalante, Dangling Rope Marina, Sea Sport, Bellingham Washington, Narrow Canyon, Old Hite, Bullfrog, The Hite Marina, Old Hite Ferry, Art Chaffin, The Niensens, Halls Crossing, Wahweap, Wanda and Terry Eiles, Cal Black, Frank Wright, Three Roof Ruin, Murphy, Jim Gagnon, Women's Bowling League, Esther Salisbury, Sybil Shores, Slickrock, Slot Canyon, Canyoneering, Peach Wash, Alice and Stan Jones, Bill Hatch, Gary Ladd, Post Office, Steve Ward, Gay Ann Ward

TM: Today is Monday, February 28, 2022. This is Part Two of a Grand Canyon oral history interview with Ada Hatch. My name is Tom Martin. Good morning, Ada. How are you today?

AH: Good morning, Tom. I'm great.

TM: Wonderful. Ada, may we have your permission to record this oral history over the telephone?

AH: Yes.

TM: Thank you so much. We finished off Part One. You had gotten your bachelor's and your master's at the University of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff and had taken a job in Tuba City and worked there for a little while. That's in northern Arizona. Tuba City is about halfway between Flagstaff and another little town called Page, Arizona, which you moved to— Was that in 1968?

AH: In '68, I moved up here to Page.

TM: What can you tell me about your first recollections? Was that your first time you had gone to Page, or had you gone to Page when you were playing basketball for the Tuba City team?

AH: No, I didn't go then, but I came up here earlier with my family in our Airstream trailer.

TM: When was that? Was that when the dam was under construction?

AH: I did not see the dam under construction, so it was before that.

TM: Oh, you mean before Page even was put on the map.

AH: Wait a minute. No, no, that's wrong. I came up here with my family. I guess, because the lake was coming up, so it was after the dam was completed.

TM: Okay. So, sometime between, maybe 1963 and '68.

AH: Yeah. Yeah.

TM: Okay, and that would make sense because the bridge was in across the Glen Canyon there, just downstream of the dam, and you guys could have been driving either over to Kanab and Zion, or the other way coming—

AH: Yeah, well, we specifically planned to come and see Lake Powell.

TM: Oh, okay. What are your recollections of Page at that time? What was the city like?

AH: Well, we were under the Bureau of Reclamation. I got here about ten years after everything started. I was hired as a first-grade teacher because I could speak some Navajo, and we were starting to get Navajo kids in our school. But when I started I had 37 kids and out of that three of them were Navajo.

TM: Wow. Only three.

AH: But they didn't speak English. My Navajo is not very good but enough to get first graders started.

TM: Did they pick up English fairly quickly?

AH: Yes, they did.

TM: As most small children do seem to be good with languages. They just—

AH: Right. Yes, and of course, they were around English with the kids, you know, the other students.

TM: What do you remember about the school, your first-grade room, and the building itself?

AH: Well, we had two buildings. I was in first grade and there were only two first-grade teachers and one kindergarten teacher, Thelma LeFeaver. She was right next to me. I just remember her teaching and laughing all the time with the kids. I thought that was so neat.

TM: So, she laughed with the kids. That was great.

AH: Yeah, she was a wonderful teacher.

TM: I wonder if in working with the three Navajo in your first-grade class, did your Navajo improve?

AH: I don't think that much. No.

TM: So, Thelma was teaching kindergarten. You were in first—

AH: I was in first grade. The other first-grade teacher was Edith Bybee.

TM: What do you remember about Edith?

AH: We really had different methods of teaching and the parents requested me over Edith [*laughs*].

TM: Oops. Was she older?

AH: Yes, she was, and she had three kids.

TM: Okay, so she would have been— Her vision of teaching would have been quite different?

AH: Yeah, was quite different, a fairly new teacher.

TM: I've heard that the wind can really blow in Page, and I heard that the roof of the early school was like a metal or a tin roof. Does that ring a bell, or had that already been replaced by the time you got there?

AH: I don't remember a tin roof. I do remember the wind, though, and looking out the window and, you know, it was just red sand blowing by.

TM: This person had told me that when the wind got to blowing, you couldn't really hear real well, and so everyone just got to reading. It was kind of a day off. Does that ring a bell with you?

[*Laughter*]

AH: No, no, I don't remember anything like that.

TM: That might have been before you got there, maybe in an earlier building. What was your housing like?

AH: Well, I lived in the teacher apartments and they were \$25 a month to rent but all utilities were paid, and all maintenance was done. You know, all the grass was watered and cut and everything. There were three or four rows of teacher apartments with about five apartments in each row. And they were filled because, you know, they needed a place to house teachers.

TM: Was the school kindergarten through twelfth grade?

AH: Yes.

TM: And I'm assuming the town at that time, you know, would have been only ten years old and fairly new.

AH: Yeah, it was. It was a new town, and when I got here, the population was only 2,000 people because the dam had been completed, and those workers and all had gone. The Bureau of Reclamation houses that were built to house the builders of the dam were empty. And those bureau houses were selling for \$11,000 to \$12,000 and they had a garage and three bedrooms, two baths, and now they're selling for – well, I don't even know now – way over \$150,000.

TM: Sure, sure. And of course, some of that's going to be inflation in there, but that was probably a pretty good deal for the time.

AH: Yes, it was. And they told my dad when I moved up, they said, "If you want to invest in something, buy some of these bureau houses."

TM: [*Laughs*] Oh my gosh! So, did he?

AH: He didn't, but we probably should have, for sure.

TM: I suppose, yeah. Get them when there was a chance to do that. So, early, early Page had a lot of mobile homes.

AH: Right.

TM: Had those been replaced then by the time you came with actual—

AH: No, there were still a lot of trailers here.

TM: Okay. Were they empty?

AH: I don't remember them being empty. People went stayed on were living in them.

TM: Okay, all right. What else do you remember about the town?

AH: Well, we had— Bashas' was our grocery store and in Bashas', one part were the foods and all, and the other part was hardware and just like a variety store of things. And we had, I think, just two gas stations.

TM: Did you have some sort of a clothing or apparel store?

AH: That was part of Bashas'.

TM: So it was sort of the general store.

AH: Yeah, it was. It was.

TM: I'm assuming if you needed anything above and beyond that, you would have to go to Flagstaff.

AH: That's correct.

TM: And the road to Flagstaff had been paved by then, had been made from the gap north—

AH: Yeah, it was all paved when I got here.

TM: —and connected. Actually, wouldn't the gap— It was Bitter Springs, isn't it, where the road peeled off from Highway 89 to go up through the cut—

AH: Up through the cut, yeah.

TM: And then off straight on over to Page. And that would have been, what? A two-and-a-half hour drive, three-hour drive into Flagstaff?

AH: To get to Flagstaff?

TM: Yeah.

AH: It was three to three and a half hours.

TM: Would you come in to Flagstaff to shop every month or so? How did that work for you?

AH: No, I belonged to this International Delta Kappa Gamma educational sorority, and we would have a meeting in Flagstaff once a month. So, I'd go down for the meeting, and I would shop then, but I never made a specific trip just to shop.

TM: Did you stay playing basketball at that time?

AH: No, I didn't, not while I was here in Page.

TM: You mentioned a little bit about some of the issues that were happening at Tuba City. Was Page having sort of similar issues, or were they different?

AH: They were different. They didn't seem to have— To me, you know, Tuba, as I mentioned before, you either were athletic, you were in sports or you were drinking and Page was much different.

TM: I'm assuming Page would have had its drinkers, but I don't know, were they a little less or more hidden? What do you think?

AH: Well, I would say less. You know, we had the Windy Mesa, and that was a beer or, you know, an alcohol place where people would go.

TM: It was a bar then.

AH: Yeah, it was a bar.

TM: What a good name!

AH: [*Laughs*] Yeah, right!

TM: Did they have food there as well?

AH: No, not much.

TM: Where would you go to eat, if you wanted to go out to eat, or did anybody even do that?

AH: Yes, the steakhouse was open and then, of course, the Pink Sans, which later became RD's, and it's still RD's. But I knew the Pink Sans owners really well. Later, Lillis Larson, she and her husband owned the Pink Sans, and Lillis taught first grade later with me. I got to know her really well. She really was a good teacher and gave me a lot of good ideas in the field of teaching.

TM: Do you remember her husband's name?

AH: Yes, Leo.

TM: What do you remember about the Larsons?

AH: Well, they sold a lot of homemade candy, and they had big, great big copper bowls that they would mix this candy in. And then their son was also Leo Larson, and he was my neighbor, our neighbor, when Jim and I built this passive solar house. He lived right below us. Later, he had...diabetes, and he ended up passing away. His son now lives there, Scott Larson, so I've been neighbors of the Larsons for years.

TM: For decades.

AH: Yeah, yeah.

TM: What do you remember about Leo Sr. and Lillis, who taught you quite a bit or some things about teaching, some ideas?

AH: Well, Lillis was a teacher over in Cedar City, and she was a supervising teacher. That's where she picked up her teaching. They were some of the first people here with Pink Sans.

TM: What was the Pink Sans? Was it a restaurant or a store?

AH: It was a drive-thru, but you could go in and eat also. It's right on the main drag.

TM: So, burgers kind of thing. Burgers and shakes and fries.

AH: Yeah, burgers and shakes.

TM: Was there another restaurant like that in town?

AH: Not at the beginning.

TM: So, there was a steakhouse, there was the Pink Sans, and the Windy Mesa.

AH: Right.

TM: What else do you remember for stores that were there in town?

AH: There was a shoe store, and Grant Jones and his wife owned that shoe store.

TM: Gosh, I'm just thinking for 2,000 people, to try to own a shoe store, there wouldn't have been much going on.

AH: Well, of course, he was going when the dam was being built and there were a lot of people here.

TM: Yeah. It would have been a lot of construction shoes. Okay. That would make sense. Were they just shoes or did they do clothing, as well?

AH: No, I think he just had shoes. A person to interview that would really be good about the early history of Page is Sharon Buck because she grew up here, and her dad owned or ran Bashas', the grocery store. Sharon is still here. Sharon and Dick Buck. She remembers the early days and going to school here.

TM: Did you teach her?

AH: No, no.

TM: So she would have been a little older—

AH: Well, she's younger than I am. Well, we're about the same age. Anyway, I could give you her number.

TM: Yeah, after we're done. That would be great. I could get that number. I'll put a note here about that. That would be great. Did you eventually start exploring out on Lake Powell there?

AH: Oh yes, I was out on the lake all the time. I had my little boat, called the *Forward Hatch* because it had a front hatch. Every weekend I was out on the lake. I had lots of company come to visit me. I'd take them out on the lake. I said, you know, I thought I was only going to be here one year, but then I said, well, I'm going to be here till I see every canyon.

TM: [*Laughs*] Oh my!

AH: I'm still finding canyons hiking with The Happy Hikers, things to see and do.

TM: When did you get the *Forward Hatch*, the *SS Forward Hatch*?

AH: [*Laughs*] It was my dad's boat. He brought it up here because we had this lake. Then later, he brought an Evinrude boat and that was called the *S Cape Hatch*. It had a hatch, too. But I had two boats up here, and I really ran the *Forward Hatch* because it had an outboard motor and I carried O-rings and all for the outboard in my wallet. But the *S Cape Hatch* was an inboard/outboard. When my parents came up and all, we'd go out in that boat, but mainly I used the *S Cape Hatch*.

TM: I'm just thinking about this. Your dad had a boat, and he lived in TwentyNine Palms. Where did he boat in TwentyNine Palms?

AH: Well, he would go over to the Colorado River at Lake Havasu.

TM: That makes sense. The *Forward Hatch*, was that like an aluminum hull—

AH: Well, it was like a little, yellow fiberglass boat with a 35-outboard Johnson motor on the back of it.

TM: So, it could get up and get going. When did you get that boat? Was that the first year you were there in '68?

AH: Yes, when I moved up and lived in the teacher apartments, that boat was parked right in front. I was in the first of the teacher apartments, and it was parked right out front.

TM: Was there a sign that said "For Sale" on it, I'm thinking, maybe?

AH: No, I kept that boat for a long time.

TM: Well, no, when you bought it, did you buy it there in Page?

AH: No, Dad bought it in TwentyNine Palms and brought it up.

TM: I'm sorry. So, your dad ended up supplying you with a navy. He brought you two boats.

AH: Yeah, right. But it was really— Everybody knew me because of my boats. I would run them in and get them checked over often before I'd go out on the lake on the weekend. I brought a plastic prop, and it was guaranteed. And every time I'd go on the lake, because the lake was coming up, there was a lot of floating debris. No matter how hard I tried, I'd would be forever hitting that prop with floating stuff, wrinkle it, and I would take it in and get a new prop all the time.

TM: [*Laughs*]

AH: They just had a fit because they were having to replace this prop of mine! The guys at the boat works had a bet on me. Two of them said, no, I would just lift the *Forward Hatch* off and leave it. And the other said, no, she cranks it up and leaves it. Well, it depended on which boat I had whether I'd just lift it off or whether— You know, the *S Cape Hatch* I'd have to crank it off.

TM: Right. Because it would have been a much bigger boat. Did it have an inboard V-8? What was the drive for that?

AH: It was an inboard. One of the times I was up lake with the dog. The dog got hit with porcupine, and so I pulled the boat out and there was no vet or anything here. So, we took her home and had to pull these quills out of her. I forgot to drain the boat and it froze.

That's how I originally met my husband is he came over and he said he had a friend that had a new engine that he could put in my boat. I said only if I could work right with you so I can learn how to use this boat with the inboard/outboard engine.

TM: Nice. What was Jim's last name?

AH: Merrill.

TM: Where was he from?

AH: Well, he grew up in Globe, Arizona.

TM: That's a mining town.

AH: Yes, it is. He first worked down there in the mines. His father was in the mines. When he came here to Page, he was married. His wife, Shirley, was the speech teacher, and so when he'd come and fix, work on my boat, I would always call Shirley and say— Actually, everybody called him Leroy. So, I told her, "Leroy's over here. I'm fixing hamburgers. Do you want to come over? You and Leroy can have dinner with me." So, she always knew when he was here working on my boat.

TM: And how was it then— He was married. Did she pass aw— Did they get divorced?

AH: Well, she went in the summer— He went to Alaska, and he left a note and told her that, but when she came back and he was not here, she came and asked me about Leroy. I said, "Well, how would I know? I don't have any idea where he is." Anyway, he was up there two years. He got a divorce from Shirley. So, I went up to see him in Alaska. When he moved back to Page, he pulled the boat and everything, and I went with him back down here to Page. He had proposed to me, and I said no for two reasons. Mainly, I was a super happy, happy person. Jim's the only person I've ever loved, but I couldn't imagine a happier life. And he was 10 years older than I was, which really concerned me. Plus, Shirley was his second wife, so I would have been wife No. 3. I told him the reasons. I said, "You're so much older than I am, and I'm so happy." He said, "Ada, marriage— There are so many things partners can do together to make life easier." But anyway, after two years, I said yes. We were married in 1977.

TM: So, he kind of wore you down.

AH: [*Chuckles*] I was single 35 years, married to Jim 35 years. He passed away in 19— Geez, I don't know. Just a minute, let me look on this— He passed away in 2012. So now I'm on my third 35 years, and it's pretty darn good, too.

TM: Oh, good for you. I'm sorry that he passed away because it sounds like you guys made it work.

AH: He built a wonderful passive solar house for us, which I am living in now.

TM: And what did he do in Page?

AH: He worked for the boat works, but then he was out at the Navajo generating station, working in maintenance.

TM: Were there other boat repair shops besides The Boat Works?

AH: Yeah, there were a couple because with this new lake forming, you know— There was Canyon Boat Works.

TM: I'd be thinking, yeah, that I wouldn't want to sell shoes in Page, but selling boats [*crosstalk, laughter*]. Just because the number of people coming into the town through the summer with boats would be a little more opportunity to sell sparkplugs and O-rings and things like that that might be needed to keep boats going. So, that time period from '68 to '77, before you married Jim, you had your boat. Would you be out on the lake basically every weekend kind of thing?

AH: Yeah, almost every weekend.

TM: Even in the winter?

AH: Yes, that was the best time.

TM: Why?

AH: Well, because there weren't any other boats out there. And we could take the *Forward Hatch*, like, to the end of Antelope. And one year it was so cold, there was ice, so we rubbed up against the frozen end of the lake.

TM: And then would you camp out? Spend the night up there?

AH: Yeah, I really knew the lake well.

TM: I bet. I bet. Did you go fishing?

AH: No, I never did, although every now and then I'd take fishermen out. In fact, we were out, and a huge storm came up. We went into the floating marina, which was on the way to Rainbow Bridge in Bridge Canyon. We ended up three days before we could get out and get down back to Page. And so, I didn't show up at school. You know, we couldn't communicate back. Because of the big storm, everyone really was concerned, but when I came back in, I said I need to say that I missed two days of school. They said, "Ada, just the fact that you're home and safe is all we care about. Don't put anything down about missing school."

TM: Mmm, that's nice. Well, I wonder about the wind, um, can really get going—

AH: Well, it was, and we tried! You know, somehow the big tour boats would come in, and I don't know, I can't understand how they would weather the storm to bring people up to see Rainbow Bridge. But I tried to get out, following that tour boat in the wake, but I just couldn't do it. It went faster than I could go. So we'd have to go back again and tie in to the dock, which, you know the floating marina, then you went a little bit further and went to the dock where Rainbow Bridge was. The rangers had to get all of us off the floating marina because of the gas and concerned about the cables breaking. We all had to go and stay on the dock where you landed to hike up to Rainbow Bridge.

TM: And just camped out there. What did you do for food?

AH: There were other houseboats. We kind of all shared food and all.

TM: Was that the only time you got trapped out by a storm?

AH: Yes, it was.

TM: And do you still have those two boats?

AH: I don't have either one of them, but I have another boat.

TM: Did you sell them then?

AH: Yeah, or basically I gave them away.

TM: Yeah. I was— That's a polite way of saying, "They didn't sink, did they?"

AH: [*Laughs*] No!

TM: Because that wind can sink boats.

AH: Yeah, I know. We were stuck; Jim and I and two other teachers were stuck way at the end of the Escalante. Jim, being a marine mechanic and all, could basically always fix whatever might have gone wrong with the boat, but this time he couldn't. So, we figured— And it was winter. It was November. We figured somehow, we're going to have to get out of, you know, this arm of the Escalante. I had two paddles, but then we used water skis. All four of us were paddling until dark, and then we had to screw a piton into the rock to hold the boat from going back. We spent the night and then just at daylight, we got up again and we were rowing again. We got out onto the main arm of the Escalante. There was a boat after a couple hours went by. We waved at them, and they just waved and went on! So, we took a life jacket and threw it into the lake. Then they saw, you know, that we needed help, so they turned around and got us. They towed us back. At that time, there was no floating marina. There was Dangling Rope marina. They towed us back there. Then we had to call in to the schools and tell them we'd been stuck up-lake because of the boat breaking down.

TM: And that would have been a good chunk of the teacher population out there with you and two other teachers, three of you there. Oh my.

[*Laughter*]

AH: I know! And the bad thing was none of us left lesson plans.

TM: Oh, my.

AH: But anyway, it was funny because the school would call the other schools. They called to see if I was there and, they'd say, "No, she hasn't come in yet." So, they sort of covered for us. Then one of the secretaries went to Jean's house because she thought that something had happened. I guess that's when they realized that the three of us were out. One was the art teach, and Jean taught fifth grade. I taught third grade at the time.

TM: You must have been, like, four of you trying to sleep on that boat. There wouldn't have been a lot of room there.

AH: I know, I know. It wasn't the greatest.

TM: But that's pretty good, pretty clever about throwing a life jacket in the water there to alert them, because there is a lot of waving going on, you know, as one boat passes another, and it's typical— "Oh, hey! How you doing?" That's the only thing you've got to alert somebody that something's wrong. How do you do that? But that's pretty clever, using your skis as paddles.

AH: As always, whenever I take somebody new on the lake, I go over everything in the boat. "Here's the life jackets. Here's the line. Here's a buoy that's connected to the line that you can throw out. Here's the fire extinguishers." So that everybody knows in case of an emergency what to do.

TM: Right. Which makes sense. Which makes perfect sense. What kind of boat do you have now?

AH: It's a Sea Sport. It was built in Bellingham, Washington. Jim went up, and we bought it brand new.

TM: Is it inboard or outboard?

AH: It's a total inboard diesel.

TM: And how long is the boat?

AH: I think it's a 24-footer.

TM: That's a good size.

AH: Yeah.

TM: What else do you remember about some of early adventures boating on the lake?

AH: Well, as the lake was coming up, we could get further and further up lake and our goal was always to get to the end and get out and explore beyond the lake. We did a lot of hiking and a lot of that.

TM: I'm thinking at one point you could have gone all the way up into Narrow Canyon, way up past Old Hite and the Horn, that country North Wash and the Dirty Devil, the Fremont arm.

AH: We only went as far as— The end of the lake was, geez— It was about 35 miles further up lake than Bull Frog and Halls Crossing. Hite. It was Hite. So, we boated as far as Hite.

TM: When people say Hite, I kinda back up a minute and I think, "Well, there's the park service concession ramp called Hite, the Hite Marina. And then three or four miles down lake from there is the old Hite Ferry that Art Chaffin and the Nielsens were running. But that would have been underwater. So, when you say Hite, are you thinking of the ramp and the marina?"

AH: Yes, I am.

TM: Okay, and would you need to fuel up on your way there?

AH: Yes, definitely.

TM: Where would you do that?

AH: We would get gas at Halls Crossing and then we'd get it at Hite. So, there were basically three places: Wahweap, Halls Crossing and Bullfrog, and then Hite, those were the three places on the lake where you could get gas.

TM: Did you make friends with any of the people that were at Halls Crossing?

AH: No, not really.

TM: Okay. I'm thinking of Wanda and Terry Eiles would have been there. Cal Black was out there, and Frank Wright and that was in the early days. So you'd just show up, get some gas, and head on out again.

AH: Right.

TM: Was that the same for Bullfrog that you didn't necessarily know the people there but just, you know, just got fuel there?

AH: No, mainly I just got in there for fuel. But I went into the Escalante with these two fishermen I had, and we saw, way up on the cliff, ruins. One of the fishermen said, "Well, let's go up there." I said, "You know, that is really, really a steep cliff." But there were some hand and toe holds, so he says, "Well, I can do it." He went ahead and used those hand and toe holds and got up there. I thought, "Well, I'm a better climber than you are. So, if you can do it, I'll do it, too." So, we went up and we looked at these ruins. It's called Three Roof Ruin. Actually, the center one had two open entrances into it. It had a roof and everything in it. And then one below it was a partial building, but it was— It had a lot of sticks and mud. And then the one that was further north was like a kiva. But when we went in there, we saw— I'm sure we were the first white people to ever get in there. There were metates and some corn. But then when we got— The other fisherman stayed with the boat, but then when we started to get down, it was way too steep. We just couldn't make it. Murphy, that's his last name, he tried to throw us a line up to us, and we couldn't get it. Jim Gagnon [*phonetic*] would not let me go down, and so finally I said, "You know, there's nobody that's gonna come, and either we're going to be stuck up here all night, or you're going to have to let me go down and try and get a line." And so, I did. I went down enough for him to throw me a line. Then I got it up to Jim, and we anchored it. We were able to get down, but that was very scary. Later, they came in and the park service restored that Three Roof Ruin. But they did it wrong because the middle thing, they boarded up and just had an entrance to one side. I said, "That's not right because originally it was open on both sides." The door was, you know, open to enter either way. And I showed them slides of it, pictures of it. So, they went back in and changed it to where it was originally.

TM: It's oftentimes if you don't know kind of what's there and what's going on, you know, you make some assumptions. It's helpful to get photographs to go, "Oh, look at that. It was different." Did you make friends with some of the people that worked for the park service?

AH: Yes, I did.

TM: Who do you think of when I— Who comes to mind?

AH: Well, I was on a bowling team, and it was all for park service, except me.

TM: How did you guys do?

AH: [*Laughs*] Oh, we were okay. We were a women's bowling league. But Esther Salisbury [*phonetic*] and Sybil Shores [*phonetic*]. Sybil Shores was our captain. So, anyway, yeah, I knew a lot of park service people.

TM: How often did you do the fishing guiding?

AH: I didn't do any guiding. These were just friends, and I'd take them out and they'd fish and I'd [*crosstalk*] hiking [*crosstalk*].

TM: That would be something you would do for decades. Some friends, and they're like, "Well, I want to fish," like "Great! You stay with the boat, and I'll go hiking."

AH: Exactly.

TM: What were some of the other neat things that you discovered out there hiking in Slickrock country?

AH: Well, just the beautiful formations and the rock was so, you know— Just the whole scenery and everything was gorgeous out there.

TM: I bet. Nowadays people are into slot canyon, sort of, canyoneering, they call it. Were you doing canyoneering, or were you trying to find routes up on to the top of the Slickrock country and then walk around on the top?

AH: Well, it depends. Like, from Page, we'd go out and we'd find the top of a canyon, and we'd work our way down into it. But if we were on the lake, then we'd climb up the canyon until we couldn't go any further.

TM: Got it. It makes sense.

AH: But there was a place we call Peach Wash, and you always wore your oldest underwear because by the time you got through it and all the water, there'd be so much red dirt in everything that you'd have to throw it out.

TM: Yeah, it'd be like dyed. [*Laughs*] How about that! What else do you remember about boating on the lake?

AH: I remember rescuing a lot of people. I always had extra gas, and I— Like Stan Jones, I loaned him a paddle once. When he returned it, he'd painted it and put Ada on it and gave it back to me.

TM: Oh, well, that's nice. So, Stan Jones wrote a bunch of guides to the lake.

AH: Yes, he did.

TM: When did you first meet him?

AH: Well, actually, my dad met him in TwentyNine Palms. He lived in TwentyNine Palms. And then when he was here in Page, he worked at the post office, and I came in to get my mail. It was general delivery until I got a box. And Hatch— And he said, "You wouldn't happen to know a Bill Hatch in Twentynine Palms?" I said, "Yeah, that's my

father.” Dad sent me a file on Stan Jones. He loaned Stan some money when Stan was in TwentyNine Palms.

TM: What else do you remember about him?

AH: He really knew the lake. He was out there a lot, did a lot of mapping. His wife, Alice, was quite sick. But Stan did a lot of lake stuff. And like Gary Ladd, you know. Gary explored and written books about the lake.

TM: Did Stan work for the post office then?

AH: He did. Yeah. And then, you know, when he started exploring the lake, he would make these maps and sell the maps.

TM: And they were well liked. They were good.

AH: Oh yeah. They’re still being sold. Steve Ward knew Stan well, and when Stan passed away, Stan left all of his information to Steve. Steve passed away just a week after Jim, my husband—

TM: Oh my.

AH: Steve’s wife, Gay Ann Ward, is still producing those maps, and they’re still on sale.

TM: That’s nice. Of course, now the reservoir is really low.

AH: Yeah, very low.

TM: As low as it’s been since the days when it was being filled.

AH: Yes. In fact, a couple of weeks ago, the lake was at the level it was when I arrived here in ’68. And now it’s even lower than that. And I was out there yesterday, picking up— Well, with the lake so low, there’s stuff all over. You know, anchors everywhere, and batteries, and chairs, and stuff where that it’s, you know, just— So, I’m trying to work on getting some kind of a clean-up committee to get out there with this low lake and pull some of this stuff out of, you know, to try to get it out.

TM: Good for you. I think that’s great. ‘Cause, yeah, it definitely needs to be done. Now is the time to do it.

AH: Just lines by the Wahweap boat rentals, north of that, there’s just lines and lines of rope just everywhere. And anchors, you know, houseboat anchors.

TM: Right.

AH: I mean, everything. Fishing poles—

TM: All kinds of junk, I'd imagine. Well, we've been happily talking for about an hour. Maybe this is a good time to put a comma in this interview series and call it a day for today. What do you think?

AH: That's fine, yeah.

TM: Okay. Is there anything else what we've just talked about in this hour that you think should be added into this?

AH: No, I can't think of anything.

TM: Well, with that, this will conclude Part Two our Grand Canyon oral history interview with Ada Hatch. Today is Monday, February 28, 2022. My name is Tom Martin. And Ada, thank you so very much!

AH: You bet! Have a happy day!

TM: You, too.