

Interviewee: Curt Sauer (CS)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Curt recounts working as a seasonal ranger at Cottonwood Campground in the summer of 1972 then worked as a seasonal winter ranger at Grand Canyon in 1976-1979 then he took a full-time job as dispatcher at GRCA in 1979. Curt ended his NPS career in 2010 when he retired as Superintendent at Joshua Tree National Park. Just settling into retirement, he was called back to help with the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. This is Part 6 of a 12-part interview.

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TM: Today is Wednesday, October 7, 2020. This is a Part 6 of a Grand Canyon oral history interview with Curt Sauer. My name is Tom Martin. Good morning, Curt, how are you today?

CS: Morning Tom, I'm doing very well, thank you.

TM: Great. Curt, may we have your permission to record this interview over the phone?

CS: Certainly.

TM: Thank you. We ended up finishing up part 5. You were talking about the high water of 1983, and this was under the incident command structure, the ICS system. I wonder if you could pick that thread up.

CS: I think what I mentioned was that we probably used it to make command systems decisions during that one-two-three days of evacuating some 164 people. My recollection is the early 80s, incident command system was just being implemented in the National Park Service. At least that's my recollection. And we had, were fortunate to have, a fellow by the name of Paul Anderson, who I believe was the Inner Canyon Backcountry Subdistrict Ranger at the time. And he was one of the leaders in the implementation of ICS in the Park Service as far as I recall. So, we had quite a bit, a few, training sessions on it. Searches and rescues were not uncommon at all. Hikers would be hiking across the Tonto Plateau and however it happened become disoriented or run out of water, take a bad fall. So, in addition to river rescues, and most of the river rescues were one flight in and one flight out or maybe a couple flights, but the searches could go on for days, weeks, and I am certain we were using ICS, can't remember the fellows name, but he went missing supposedly hiking to Phantom Ranch and we conducted what I recall was a ten-day search for him and never

found him. As far as I know he's never been found. It utilized the incident command system, and the big difference with the incident command system for most people that are in a military or quasi military structure is you can end up working for somebody that, you might be in logistics or planning or operations or finance, and you can end up working for somebody that you usually didn't work for or was somebody that worked for you. Just depended on how experienced they were and when they show up to the incident, but over the years, ICS is now utilized in almost all emergency operations in the Park Service and I think throughout the United States. I believe it started in California.

TM: Is that a good thing? Basically, it sounds like the structure was built on skills it didn't matter what your job title was?

CS: Exactly. If you were good in operations, you ended up working in the operation section but planning is a critical activity in any operation. We've had a lot of wildland fires out here in California and all along the western United States this year. The firefighters out on the line are the ones that show up on tv. I'm trying to think of another incident that just occurred recently that wasn't a fire... well the Covid 19. In just the logistics behind locating, acquiring, receiving and distributing PPEs in the various states and at the national level, FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, their ability to respond to hurricanes and you know, everybody sees the folks that are out doing the work. That's what FEMA covers. But once people all have to be fed, they all have to be sheltered, they all have to be tracked, and that's done in the planning section. And then they have to be able to get an assignment but they need to be transported at certain times to certain places and just the whole logistical layout of making sure they have the tools and the equipment they need and that it is at the correct staging area at the correct time. And you know, the helicopter shows up and flies over to your house at 7 o'clock in the morning, well, people have been working all night to make sure those helicopters were ready to go because they were used all day yesterday, same with the air tankers. So, logistics, planning, and finance are just as critical in an ICS structure in an incident as the operations. I think it would be nice if sometimes the news media would back away from standing in front of burning down buildings saying "Ooh the fires are raging", and just do a report on the logistic required to house and feed these people. And you know, once they get released from an incident they are tracked until they get back to home base.

TM: Okay. How does that differ from what was happening in 1970s, because, you know people were getting lost or hurt in 70s and 60s and 50s, what did the ICS bring in as a tool that you guys, you know, clearly embraced.

CS: I think it was future planning. We have two usually, two planning meetings in every 24-hour period and at night, you were taking the information received from the searchers or information received from overflight to the fire perimeter and let's simplify this and just stay with searching. You have broken up your search area into probabilities of area and probabilities of detection. And prior to this, you would search an area and then if you didn't find somebody, let's try another area, let's try another area, but you may not have searched that area well enough, so your probability of

detection was never really considered, and the probability that the hiker would be in an area was just sort of determined by, well he was supposed to hike up over here, and then he was supposed to go over there, but we took the time in the planning meetings to take the information that you received by properly debriefing the search teams over the radio or when they came into base camp. And their level of expertise. If you have 20 volunteers that have never searched, their probability of detection in a certain area is much lower than an experienced search group. That's all factored into what the probability of detection in that search area would be and if it's a high probability of area and lower probability of detection then you need to put more personnel into the area to search it again. And, you know, very simplified, if you search from north to south, then the next search team is gonna search from east to west, of course terrain affects that considerably. So, prior to ICS I would think it would be safe to say a lot of that was based on the gut feelings of the searchers. And, they became tired because you hadn't ordered, you hadn't planned ahead, and you didn't have enough staff, or personnel to adequately cover every place, so you started breaking up your teams. So, there is a whole lot of things that ICS brought up, containment, hasty search, probability, variable probability of detection. All those things that caused us to take some of the more experienced folks that were out in the field and pull them in to be on the head team so they would have a larger perspective on the entire situation. So that work still hasn't changed.

TM: And did you see that produce results, I mean it's clearly hard to quantify when there is someone missing, and it takes 10 days to find them or 5 days or a day with and without the ICS. Did you get a sense that it was really not only working to help find people but was at the very least covering the needs of the people on the search and how that at least was arranged, because it sounds like a big part of this.

CS: I think it increased the safety of the people on the incident.

TM: Nice.

CS: Even to the extent where, I don't know what decade it was but one of the frequent causes of fatalities for firefighters was they would be released after fighting fires for 10 days, for 12-hour shifts, and frequently in your initial response you work long shifts, 24 hours is not uncommon still. You know, they're anxious to get home, and they just worked their third 12-hour shift and they have been sleeping in base camps that are inundated with smoke. They are tired, they are exhausted, and they get released, they used to get released, and they'd end up falling asleep at the wheel, so now it's not uncommon at all even though you're going to be released, you are held in the camp for 8 hours until you can get some rest. And tracking of personnel to make sure they get home on time is now common place. I just think they improve the communications and planning and emergency operations, especially emergency operations of long duration significantly. So now, you know, nationally, regionally, there are incident management teams, different levels of expertise and the larger a search gets. You know one time at Joshua Tree in the 2000s, we had 8 different fires in 5 different days and it was during the fire season and we had a limited number of personnel that could respond because, and I am talking county and state and BLM and park service,

and everybody in the park was exhausted, and then we had another fire start up and it was a relatively small fire. It should've been fought with a type 3 incident command team. Well there weren't any type 3 incident command teams available, and we were so tired that I requested a type 2, and they came in and I basically apologized to them saying, "It's a lot smaller than what you usually handle but my personnel are exhausted and they are not functioning in a safe manner". So, the ability to draw in additional resources through the incident command system is of great value, especially when you consider fire season like this in the west.

TM: Yeah, yeah, it's just been brutal. Okay, nice, and so that was used in 83 for not as you were mentioning not just the river but for search and rescue and fire.

CS: Yeah it was probably even earlier than '83, so yeah it was well utilized by December of '84 when I left the Canyon.

TM: What else do you remember about 1983?

CS: (Laughs) Well, let's see. I mentioned that Georgy (White) gave my son a baby blanket, so my son was born September 12, 1983.

TM: What's his name?

CS: His name is Richard Damian Sauer but his name when he was born became Cubby.

TM: Who is he named after?

TM: He's named after my father, Richard, Richard Leroy Saur, and he was named after the character in the book *Damian* by Hermann Hesse. That's his middle name, and he didn't like Richard, so he became known as Damian but he has always been known as Cubby to me. Actually, I know that you are interviewing another person by the name of Kim Johnson, who was a boatwoman, boat person, and she became a very good friend and she would go out for her daily runs and stop by the house because my wife at the time, Connor, always had a full cookie jar so she planned her runs to end up at our house and grab a couple cookies. And one day she walks in, said to Connor "So how's It doing?", and I said "It's doing fine", and she said "You know, we gotta quit calling It It because It's gonna get a complex." So, we had a, what do you call that, not a lottery but, you can raise money by, I don't know what it's called, a basketball pool or something, you choose the day of the month, the morning or the afternoon, male or female. Well, she said "You know, you guys like bears, so it's a baby bear, so we could call it Cubby, or we could call it Cub," and we decided that we would call the baby Cubby because, if we called it Cub that would be the case if it is a male, and Cubby would be either male or female.

TM: Oh, that's neat.

CS: So anyways, I think we ended up raising about 200 bucks or something.

TM: Wow.

CS: And the name just stuck and Brad Lundquist won the pool, took his half, went out and bought Cubby a football. And that's how Richard Damian Sauer became Cubby, probably because Kimmy Johnson stopped by for some cookies in the cookie jar. Anyways, that was the highlight. Connor went into labor, and we drove the 60 miles down to Flagstaff to the hospital, in the end she wasn't fully dilated, we got a motel room and spent the night in a, I don't know, Motel 6, some sort of motel like that. Turned on the tv, and it was the first time I'd ever seen MTV, I thought this is the strangest thing, but I ended up watching MTV for about 4 hours while my wife was in labor. And we eventually went back to the hospital, and she had a 26 hour delivery and finally he was born at 10 pounds 10 ounces. She had a C section. And while Mom was in recovery and I was in nursery with It. He was 10 pounds 10 ounces and the nurses had fastened some of that cloth you use in a cast into a beanie, like a stocking cap, to help him keep his body warm, and he was on oxygen and covered in a little plastic cover, for the oxygen. So, I was the first one to see him, in fact I was in the operating room when he was delivered and just wanted be with him in the nursery. That was a life changing event.

TM: Nice.

CS: Quit climbing after that, quit taking so many risks, and at the time we had a Volkswagen bus and a Volkswagen Karmann Ghia and we couldn't transport Connor and him home in the Karmann Ghia and the Volkswagen bus at that point wasn't dependable enough to drive back and forth so I needed a ride home and called up Superintendent Dick Marks, and said "Hey, do you mind picking us up at the hospital?", he said "No, be right down." So, he and Hass, his wife showed up in their Mercedes-Benz and Cubby was transported back to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon in a Mercedes-Benz. Quite the event there on September 12th and 13th. And I think we took him hiking the first-time, of course he was in a backpack baby carrier when he was 4 weeks old.

TM: Where did you go?

CS: We went down the Bright Angel Trail a couple miles, turned around and came back up and yeah, so that started his exposure to parks and eventually he became a seasonal firefighter in high school and at his senior year at Olympic National Park he got on as a firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management at the Mojave National Preserve, and did that for several years. Became a seasonal park ranger at Lake Mead National Recreational Area, eventually told me that "Park Service wasn't the same as when you were there Dad" and got a job with the Hotshots out of Prescott Arizona, with the Red Mountain Hotshots. Worked for them for a year and decided that he didn't want to be away from his wife and kid at the time, so he quit the Hotshots and joined the Army. And two years after he quit the Hotshot crew, they were burned over, in a fire, I think, I don't know the number, 19 out of 20 of them were killed.

TM: That's the Yarnell Fire.

CS: Yeah so, he's had a storied past, mostly around the outdoors.

TM: Nice.

CS: So now he is creating a storied past and present with the Army.

TM: Nice.

CS: Stationed in Fort Bragg in special operations and was deployed twice to the middle east and would deploy again in May.

TM: Nice, sounds like you are very proud of him, for good reason.

CS: Yeah, he's my best friend. Which I find interesting because my dad and I were best friends.

TM: Well, it is a testament to your father on how to have a relationship with a child, so great kid yeah, with another man now, who is grown up, so, yeah.

CS: Yeah, so that was the September of 83.

TM: So at that point you're still working the river unit manager and were you thinking about transferring out of Grand Canyon by then or were you pretty comfortable there at Grand Canyon and liked what you were doing?

CS: Yeah I was pretty comfortable, it was challenging, but yeah, I started thinking about transferring, had been there 5 years, and the way you progress in park service is that you transfer, it is very seldom that you're in a, you know, like a sub district ranger position and you become the district ranger and then you become the chief ranger of the park, it just doesn't happen very often at all. So, I was looking to transfer.

TM: Can you stop here for just a minute and talk about that practice? Because one of the things that I wonder about is the loss of institutional memory, if you want to climb a ladder which is certainly understandable, that requires moving, and when you arrive having climbed the next rung of the ladder you don't necessarily know very much about the place you are arriving at. I could be wrong on that just as an outsider looking in.

CS: Well, that's one aspect of it, I think that people, well first of all, I think that it's a change in all federal services, I don't know about all federal services but certainly the forest service and park service in the 50s and 60s, the men, head of the family, have the job and the wife follows the man, she might have a job or she might not, well that's all changing in the 60s and the 70s and the 80s, and so now you have, men and women, in the park service, but they have varied, they could be single, they're usually married by a certain age, and you have a spouse that has a profession of their own, and so over the years the rate of transfer has changed, and some people that are probably quite qualified to be district ranger or chief ranger that are working at another park, chose not to apply, because it means that their spouse would have to uproot their career or end their career. And another consideration now is the quality of the school districts that you're transferring to, and the economic viability of having a comfortable life, you know, and the fact that required occupancy for park rangers has become less and less. And the fact that in the 50s your rent, and the 60s, your rent when you were required occupancy and you had to live in a house inside the park, the rent

was very inexpensive compared to the outside because most of the outside was tourist towns and retirement communities. But then some place in 60s and 70s they decided that rents were too low and the park service was not recuperating enough revenue to maintain the houses, so they did comparability studies of the surrounding communities. Well, if you're living in an old log cabin, stone cabin in the Tetons, and your community that's comparable is Jackson Hole, your rents become exorbitant. And so, people decide we can't afford to live there, and it's not unique to the park service. I have a friend that works for the California Highway Patrol, and he graduated top of the class of his academy, and he was given his choice, you can go anywhere you like and we'd like you to go to San Francisco, or we'd like you to go to LA. Well, it's a young family, and they took a look at cost of living in San Francisco and decided that they would take a rural area in the desert. So, it's not unique to park service, certainly the Forest Service has the same situation, and you know. So, there are all those factors that have changed and yeah, to some degree it's gonna affect the application pool, but there are, most of the time people that are hired can handle the job and they learn very quickly. And they bring exposure to various interactions with the communities, varies interactions with the critical decisions that needed to be made, and they have the park service policies to follow. And almost always there's the old timers that have been there for a while and they have just decided that I like it here, my spouse likes it here, I like the school district and we're staying. And the new guy shows up, the new gal shows up, and if they are wise enough, they will spend a considerable amount of time talking to the old timers, not just in the ranger ranks, but in the maintenance ranks and nowadays in the resource manager ranks, to see what's going on.

TM: Right, and that helps with the institutional memory.

CS: Yes.

TM: And, one thing, the average "American" looks to buy a house as an investment over the span of one's career and with required occupancy, that doesn't always equate to being able to do that.

CS: It hardly ever equates.

TM: Yeah, it sets you up for a fall when you do retire because you don't have a place to hang your hat, if you haven't managed your money well you don't have 200 or 300 thousand dollars to plunk down and buy a house, where you want to retire. So it's a trap there in a way, it's a nice trap because you know it's made of gold, but it's a trap.

CS: It used to be that you had the parks to yourself in the winter, and you don't have the parks to yourself anymore. I just spoke with a friend of mine who went up to the Tetons two weeks ago, and they were in Jackson Hole, and went into the park and even at, 8 o'clock in the morning, 9 o'clock in the morning, the place was packed. And this is coming from Larry VanSlyke, my original mentor, and you know, he said "Curt, I don't know what happened, people are supposed to come see the parks, the population of this country has grown so much in the last 60 years, and the ability to travel, and you know, even with Covid 19 issues, they are still going to the parks,

which is what they are there for, but for the old timers it's kinda like, what happened! So... population.

TM: Yeah, thinking about the 150th anniversary of John Wesley Powell's trip through the Grand Canyon was last year and the population of the country has increased by a factor of ten. We haven't built another Grand Canyon or another Tetons or another Glacier or a Joshua Tree or anything else, but the populations just really going up and that puts a whole new set of pressures on the agency and the staff there. Which, you know, looking back now 30 years ago but to 1984, 83, was a whole you know, a population of 9 not a population of 10 or 8 with that growth curve.

CS: And it's just gonna continue. There will come a time that there will be use limits in parks.

TM: Well that's a, you know this is a, I think a good time to sort of walk down that avenue a little bit cause we are talking about this. How do you see that working?

CS: Not very well. I think it would be a shame, and again the economics and the politics is gonna be what shapes it rather than the policies conserving the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and there will be tremendous, tremendous push back and science will be belittled and the animal and vegetation populations will continue to be impacted and dwindled because people will continue to come and carrying capacity will be established at too high of a level, but ultimately, your gonna have to get a reservation, you already have to get reservations for camp grounds cause there are a finite number of camping spots. Eventually the Park Service will come up with a finite number of visitors that you know, say, it reaches the carrying capacity, and in those areas that are visited by most of the visitors, that carrying capacity will be entirely too high and the place will be impacted I would say, you know, if you look at some of the areas the most recent park I was at was Joshua Tree, and if you look at some of the areas and hike up to Barker Dam. We put in a new parking lot, let's see, 2010, 2007 at Barker Dam that was twice as large as what was there, and now it is during visitation season it is totally overflowing. The trail is probably twice as wide as it was when I arrived there and 2002, 3, and there is just no quiet, and in fact, it used to be a place where you could just get up there about 8, 9 o'clock in the morning to watch some Bighorn, desert Bighorn, and now if you want to see desert Bighorn, you need to get up there 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock in the morning before the people show up, and the Bighorn just leave. They come down for water in Barker Dam and then they leave. So anyways, how is carrying capacity gonna be established? Park Service has been talking about carrying capacity for over 40 years. Every time you talk about carrying capacity you start factoring in the natural processes and the ecosystem, you run into a buzzsaw because economics is what the surrounding communities are interested in. Yellowstone is a prime example. Fortunately for Joshua Tree the surrounding community of Joshua Tree, 10 thousand people, most of them, they use the park, they highly value it, and they are interested in protecting the park but the interesting phenomenon for me, most of the people that live around national parks, I won't say most, many of the people that live around national parks, don't care for them, and don't utilize them. Visitors come from various distances and think it's wonderful. Most of the people that live around forests actually utilize the forest course they have multiple recreation

in those areas, so you can go snowmobiling and you can go hunting and you can go hiking and you can go camping and the locals like the forest service and the locals, most of the time, I would say, don't particularly care for the park service and its policies, too restrictive.

TM: Yeah, that's a non-impairment mandate in the Organic act but that is what keeps the parks the parks.

CS: What I often thought about was how parks look like now compared to what they look in the 50s and 40s.

TM: Good point.

CS: And most of the parks in the areas people don't visit, look pretty much the same, it's the areas that people visit, the areas where the concessioners have been brought in. The golf courses and ski areas are pretty well dwindling out inside the parks but the areas people visit, you know, Old Faithful, Old Faithful in the 70s, we went there and there were probably another 30 people watching Old Faithful in the fall, and the Old Faithful Inn, you know, had 30 people in it, they weren't staying there. I just went up to Old Faithful last year on a multi park trip and we actually went into the park at 5 o'clock in the morning and left by 10:30. Because there were just too many people, you couldn't pull into the parking lots at the geyser basins, Old Faithful Lodge parking area, which is huge, was full.

TM: This is on a fall day?

CS: This one was on, that would have been late June and July.

TM: Okay so kind of peak summer.

CS: The fall that I referenced, we traveled up to Teton for a ranger rendezvous in the fall and there just weren't that many people. But during the summers, at Old Faithful and you know there are wooden bleachers and well actually I think they are metal bleachers constructed and I counted over 2000 people. Most of them were talking loudly on their phone, swearing, drinking, and Old Faithful went off, and they are like, well that's not very tall, and so what they see is nothing compared to what we saw even in the 60s and 70s and for me the 70s. And just the whole venue, fortunately you can, if you go in at 5 o'clock on July 3rd, you can stop alongside the road to watch a baby bison that's just been born, learn to walk. And there were no bear-jams or anything, that's the way it used to be and that's what Larry was talking about at Teton two weeks ago.

TM: It's interesting because it seems the push continues to increase use in the off season. I'm just wondering if that's the answer or not, I mean you have to draw the line somewhere and say alright well, we are gonna try to keep that spectrum of visitor's experiences alive by limiting those numbers in the off season. But then again you have economic pressures and political pressures too as you mentioned.

CS: Right. If resource managers were able to implement plans that they could implement then there would not be as many people. You know, wolves, wolves in Yellowstone is a great example, it took decades, and there are YouTube videos on changes to the ecosystem from wolves. And just one simple act can change how the elk and moose behave, its changed the river flows, its changed the vegetation and the forests and the meadows, that's what the park service organic act was about, for conserving natural and historic objects and the wild life there in. Then you have to provide for their enjoyment, unimpaired enjoyment of future generations, well the future generations are here and they want in. So, you know, carrying capacity is going to continue to be a discussion long into the future, but I have hope because as I said, most of the areas where the people don't visit are still the way they were, and obviously if you exterminate all the wolves and all the mountain lion in Grand Canyon, you're gonna change that but they come back and/or they get reintroduced, so long term if you want to see a national park that existed as a vignette of America, you have to take the time to go to places in parks that people don't go. And more and more people will figure that out and more and more people will have the money to do that and the time and then those places are gonna be affected. So, it's a balancing act. Coming back to my chief ranger, don't know if I mentioned this to you on the record but my chief ranger in Grand Canyon, his name escapes me right now, had a picture of the, think it was the Tonga National Forest, anyways it was a national, it was a forest landscape clear cutting and the title was "Mitigation is a code word for you have already lost.", so if you have to mitigate you have already lost. Pretty uplifting discussion huh?

TM: I think that's an important discussion actually because this is a serious problem that if we want to have a concept of unimpaired natural resources for the enjoyment of future generations in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations, I mean, non-impairment comes first.

CS: Well, I would think so but, your gonna have to pause for a minute someone is knocking on my front door.

TM: Okay.

CS: Hold on a second. Okay I'm back. You there?

TM: I am.

CS: Okay.

TM: Yeah no it's a difficult discussion about looking at the careers of park service people that many of them are saying what you're saying is, you know I got me the job 30, 40 years ago, today things are different.

CS: Yep, which takes me back to you know we discussed George Wagner, Dick and Bert McClaren and 2nd and 3rd generation people that raised me, they were thinking the same thing.

TM: Interesting.

CS: Which is totally different, it is not the way it should be, they had different values based on what they'd been brought up with.

TM: Curt, I wonder if they had different values only if you took anyone of them as a child and you land them in the Teton today they look around and go, wow this are great, and they wouldn't have that rare view mirror of history to look back on as you have now and as they had then, not sure if it's a change of value, it's a vision of change over time they saw they were worried about, you saw you were worried about, and none of us have a long enough yardstick of memory to understand the changes over time.

CS: And I suppose each generation could say, well this is what I have now and I need to take care of it or I need to enjoy it. I frequently, well, I use to frequently, sometimes I would think I've heard about reports from the early explorers of the west along the national fly-ways down in the swamps in Louisiana where so many birds would migrate and would darken the sun. That must have been a sight to behold. But even now, you know, I don't know, ten years ago maybe, at Joshua Tree we were out up on a peak, up on some highland looking at the land that we were gonna acquire, some land for the park service through the Mohave Desert Land Trust, and one of the fellows that was with us was a birder and we are looking at the land and he's looking up and he said "Curt look up", there were a hundred white pelicans, about 3000 feet above us.

TM: Woah.

CS: Catching the wind currents, migrating to the Salton Sea, and for us, 100 white pelicans was a phenomenal sight. So, thousands of brown pelicans in the Gulf, that use to be a phenomenal sight.

TM: Yeah. Well this had been an interesting turn of events on this discussion maybe, maybe this is a good place to wrap this up and we will pick up part 7 with 1984.

CS: Okay.

TM: And we might go down this, we might go down this road again.

CS: The philosophy of park management.

TM: Yeah, I think it is important to explore, and I appreciate you taking the time to do it.

CS: Okay, well it certainly wasn't intended but that's how I feel.

TM: I'm glad we did it, I got something else happening so I'm gonna, if it's okay with you go ahead and wrap this, wrap this one up.

CS: Yeah, I got some windows to paint.

TM: Okay, good. Well with that, this will conclude Part 6 Grand Canyon oral history interview with Curt Sauer, today is Wednesday October 7th, 2020, my name is Tom Martin, and Curt thank you so very much.

CS: You betcha, thank you.