

**Transcription:** Grand Canyon Historical Society

**Interviewee:** Dick Hingson

**Interviewer:** Tom Martin

**Subject:** Dick recalls working at the North Rim Lodge in the late 1950s and early 1960s PART 2

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TM: Today is September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. It's Monday. This is part two of a Grand Canyon Oral History interview with Dick Hingson. Dick's first name is actually Dickson. My name is Tom Martin. This interview is being conducted at the kitchen table here at our house in Flagstaff, Arizona. Good morning, Dick! How are you today?

DH: I've been doing great! Just wonderful!

TM: Good, thank you so much for your willingness to carry on with what is part two of this oral history.

DH: That's fine.

TM: At the end of part one, you were finishing up your summer of 1959 as a busboy...

DH: That's correct.

TM: ...at the North Rim Lodge, and I was curious if... Well, one of the things I was curious about that I did not ask you about in part one was when you were in the dish pit in the summer of '58, there was a song that the dishwashers would sing to the guests, and you mentioned that. And in '59, when you were a server, was there a song that you sang as servers to the guests?

DH: I honestly can't remember that we sang. I can't remember the... Well, it's a tricky one. In '59 we had three opportunities for busboys to sing. One was as a part of the evening song from the dining room steps with the organ. We would do that about eight o'clock. And there was some kind of song or short repertoire of songs that would be sung on the steps into the dining room with the organist right there. I don't honestly remember that in that year, yet, we had written a busboy song, but we sang a little standard repertoire of old favorites. There was also a singing that would occasionally take place to people who were having birthdays or honeymoons. And so, the honeymoon song "Tell Me Why", I remember that one, we would sing that at the tables to whoever was so lucky as to be on their honeymoon. Or we would sing a birthday song to someone having a birthday at the tables in addition to some short repertoire that we did on the steps of just traditional favorites of some kind. We weren't yet doing what was called The Grand Show. I don't...well yes, it was, but it got more elaborated through those summers. I can't remember, honestly, singing a busboy song in The Grand Show. It was to be the next season of '60, we would be singing a Grand Show which had every department in the lodge. We

wrote a desk clerk song for that because, by then, I was desk clerk. But I can't remember singing a waitress/busboy song in The Grand Show because I wasn't then, in 1960, a busboy. We could research that, but I don't have that here. Yes, that's correct. There would've been a song, probably. But we wrote a desk clerk song for 1960.

TM: For '60? Okay. So, is there anything else about '59 that you wanted to mention before we go to 1960?

DH: I'm just referring, occasionally to some stuff I put up here.

TM: That's fine.

DH: I don't have anything that I particular in the summer of '69, other than what we've covered. '59 was the busboy summer and there were highlights, yes, we talked about those.

TM: So, in the spring of 1959, you had gone to Case Western Reserve University for the first semester of college.

DH: That's correct.

TM: And then, were you able to go through finals, complete that semester, and then get on the train and head to Grand Canyon? Is that how that worked?

DH: Yes, it apparently happened that way, excepting maybe a few days late because of... I have to research whether it was '59 or '60, one of them was delayed a few days by my grandfather's death and funeral in Anniston, Alabama, in a remote cemetery. Whether it was '59 or '60, we'd have to check the date on that. So yes, otherwise, you would go back on the train. I think in '59, I think the grandfather was 60, so would have been on the train in '59 and arriving in a similar way in... I'll say that provisionally for now.

TM: In 1960?

DH: Well, we're up to '60, aren't we? That's right. Unless the grandfather had died in '60, in which case I had to fly and then come in on a shorter train route or something.

TM: Okay. So, if assume you took the train, it would be the same to Lund and then...

DH: Oh, you would get off at Lund, that's right, and be picked up by a yellow bus, Utah Parks Company Bus, and driven to the Cedar City train station for some interlude or picking up other I don't know what. We then would leave from there after maybe lunch there and head on through Zion and the North Rim, which was always the route. Through Zion and the North Rim.

TM: Via Kanab, Fredonia...

DH: Via Kanab and Perry's Lodge. That's right.

TM: Okay. So at that time, from Kanab to Fredonia there's a dirt road that goes across the flat plains and then up to Jacob's Lake Lodge and that road is still in existence today. It's a logging road.

DH: A logging road, but we didn't take that. We went up the highway.

TM: You went the highway.

DH: The state highway.

TM: Got it. Okay. Which is where the road is today, where Highway 89...

DH: Yeah, that hasn't changed. It was always that road. I began to consider that my sacred road over time.

TM: Highway 89, there?

DH: The highway into Grand Canyon out of Kanab and Fredonia. Would look for it from the plane.

TM: Really?

DH: I considered it as basically sacred value to me personally because it was the entrance, or the reentrance. So, every plane flight and thereafter jets and so forth, I would look for that.

TM: So, is it safe to say, in 1960, after finishing up your first year of college, you were looking forward to going back to the North Rim?

DH: Oh, yeah. The North Rim was definitely...and this was to be an elevation of some sort, you know. And so, yes, the answer is yes.

TM: Elevation meaning working your way up?

DH: Elevation and, you know, pay, promotion, status. Not yet what they call staff, but the dining room was a prestigious location after all. You're out there with the big windows. I should've said that one of my jobs... You could just add that one of my jobs as a busboy was that in the evenings because it has meaning now, was to at sunset raise the big blinds on the west end of the dining hall so that the full light would come in right at sunset. You could raise them in those years. Not anymore. But, then you could and that's important for history.

TM: Okay, yes. That reminds me of something, though. Moving from a busboy to a desk clerk would take you out of the tip pool.

DH: Yes, it would.

TM: So that must've been a cut in pay, in a way.

DH: Probably, you wouldn't get anymore. Yes, it was probably some kind of a cut in pay, but I didn't care because the desk was closer to the nerve center of the lodge and in terms of things I thought I could contribute with. So, I did not conceive of it as... I was more closer to the management circle. Anything behind a desk would be. And to the overall running of the lodge, itself. So, that's my view of it.

TM: Did they give you uniform? Did you have some sort of dress to wear, how did that work?

DH: You got to dress more, you wore a jacket.

TM: Okay. Of your choice or was it a company jacket?

DH: No, it was a...

TM: Uniform?

DH: I believe that dress attire was just business casual, something like that, I believe.

TM: And, your work hours were on a rotating schedule...

DH: That's correct.

TM: ...of morning, midday, and evening shifts. How did it work for the desk clerk schedule?

DH: Desk clerk would've been a 7AM to 3PM shift followed by a 3PM to 11PM shift, and there was not a midday shift. There was a morning shift and a night shift. And a night clerk came in at 11PM.

TM: And worked all night, the rest of the night.

DH: Just to maintain a presence and do the books.

TM: Mm-hmm, okay, alright. Did you get into that job at all or were you just the morning or the afternoon?

DH: No, I got into it a little bit, and you'll see that as we go along, I actually was promoted to chief clerk eventually. But, not at first. It was hard earning that job at first.

TM: So, in 1960, as clerk, what were the new things that you were exposed to that summer?

DH: Well, you had to learn the reservation system, first and foremost. The reservation system involved a board with tabs for each cabin, 200-some cabins, which had to be properly managed. We do it now by computer, but then it had to be done by hand using color coding for reservations for people who had shown up or whenever they showed up. The hazards were always double sales or especially not renting a room, that mattered to the management because of a mistake, and holding reservations according to some scheme where if they called in you held them and honored them rather than selling them. And then, of course, there was the question of literally turning people away, which was a big deal because...

TM: Because they would drive all that distance...

DH: They had come all that distance and they had to be sent back to, at best, Kaibab Lodge 20 miles north, or to Jacob Lake Inn, or to Kanab 83, or to Fredonia or Kanab. So that was a major deal if there was an error or mistake made.

TM: Did you have a lot of people that showed up assuming they were gonna be able to get a room and

you guys were full?

DH: Yeah. There was no choice but to send them back. Now, of course, there was also a campground at the Inn a mile back up the road. I assume some dealt with it that way cause that usually I think would've had space, usually. There was nothing at the Inn, you couldn't rent there. You'd get food/buy food there, but you otherwise would be sent back. You'd just have this on a map, there's no place.

TM: Right. So, what kind of snafus do you remember?

DH: Well, the snafus... Yes, there were snafus that I had at first. Learning any very detailed, closely fitted thing like that, you're going to have some errors at first. I do remember a conversation with Jim Williams, who was the chief clerk. He was an LDS; he was either return missionary or to be a missionary. He was very... Well, he was very meticulous and very strict. He turned out to be doctor. He ran this shop tightly. I got into trouble with him at first because of mistakes. There was one point where I wasn't sure I could do it. I mean, it was demanding. I offered to just take another...to be demoted if that was satisfied him. He was very angry about double sales and mistakes, but his basic approach was "You can do this, and I need this" (*laughs*). So, he kept me on and I actually wound up to be as good a desk clerk as they ever had.

TM: How old was he at the time?

DH: He must've been a couple years older, not much more.

TM: Okay. 20?

DH: In fact, I think I roomed in with him or his brother. He was about 20, he would've been...see, I would've...yeah, 18. He would've been probably 20.

TM: Okay. What else do you remember about him? What did he look like? Was he tall, was he thin?

DH: Well, he was a slender, tall, LDS missionary-to-be, for sure...maybe had been, with a brother there. Not a whole lot other than that he was competent and ran a tight shop. I do not remember much else because once I was doing it and it was working, then he was very satisfied. Except he was, you know, personable, I thought. Especially his younger brother, Tom. But I don't remember much. I can't remember...no, I did not room with him because he was staff, he would've been in a cabin. So I did not know him real well. We didn't have much just chat, chat, chat going on that I remember.

TM: Yeah, okay. Who were the friends that you made with on that 1960 summer?

DH: Well, the friends then would've been, probably, I'm pretty sure the Kanans, Muriel and Mike, because I'm pretty sure Mike had started playing the organ. Muriel, I'd made friends with as a waitress and we helped developed The Grand Show together. That was a project on the side that I got to work with, that's where you make friends.

TM: And where were they from?

DH: Mike came from, I'm pretty sure—at that point, something like Missouri. Muriel was from an established LDS family in Salt Lake. Provo, maybe it was Provo, Provo as best I can remember. We can

check this because I'm still in touch with them. This could be checked.

TM: Okay. Well, that's fine.

DH: I'm happy to side research and all the little things like that. It's doable.

TM: So, Muriel was a server, she was working in the dining room?

DH: She was a server in the dining room and Mike was the organist.

TM: Okay, fun. Who were your roommates that year?

DH: Most of the year, I was still in the dorm. I must've been...this is hard. I think I'd moved in with people I more wanted to be with. There was no more of the garbagemen, they've been fired from the summer before. Maybe Randy Saltus was one of them. Now Randy, Randy was from the east, and he and I were kind of intellectuals. He was Middlebury College. I probably didn't room with him if I got it right. We had a friendship going alright. He was also, I think, a desk clerk, maybe on the other shift. That's all I remember of him from right there in '60. You know, high level. I don't know what his pull was with the railroad; it would've probably been some for him. But he would've been a friend. I do remember one scene where he had brought a phonograph record and we played the Mormon Tabernacle choir with organ out there on a plug (*laughs*) out at the end of the men's dorm of all places. It was lovely out there listening to that. And *The Battle Hymn of The Republic*, it was that record. And so, I do remember that as a very elevating, grand experience out there at the south end of the boys' dorm, just sitting there under the trees doing a rep. But, you know, as far as other people from that summer, Randy would've been one of them. But I can't remember many names right now. Maybe something will pop up.

TM: Did the LDS have a church service on weekends?

DH: They had services and they were held on Sunday mornings at 10AM in the rec hall overlooking the Grand Canyon. I considered myself in the Protestant fold, which was... Their services were... Harry Britt, for example, ran their services for the Christian Ministry in the National Parks, which furnished that service to the parks. Their services were, it seems to me, in the campfire circle at the North Rim campground on Sunday evenings at seven o'clock. That's my memory of it. I don't recall a morning service, but that was the two main services. Now the Catholics had something which I didn't intersect with at all. They would've had a mass and a priest that would've come from somewhere. But I don't know, I did not associate with that. I experimented with the Mormon service once or twice just to see, my goodness, what is this like right here in the lodge rec hall auditorium? So that's how I knew that their testimonies and the way that they conducted this. You would wind up with a lot of tearful sessions for some reason. I never completely understood this, but there is a deep religion. It's designed that way.

TM: And Harry Britt?

DH: Yeah, I worked with him on the desk. He was the Christian Minister in the national parks.

TM: How old was he?

DH: He would've been young 20s, probably, at that point. He would've been either that or maybe night clerk, I can't remember which, but he was associate on the desk, that's correct.

TM: Okay. So, what were some of the interesting stories you were exposed to that summer as front desk?

DH: Well, other than the trip across the canyon, let me see, I did...

TM: We'll get to that in a minute, but I'm just thinking about the front desk job, you're trying to figure out who's got a reservation, what room do they were getting into...

DH: Well, you're dealing with a Teletype. I liked the Teletype. The Teletype is an invention (*laughs*). A forerunner of the internet, I suppose, because it ran by some sort of like a phone or an electronic phone situation but digital. So, you could send what were like little... That's how reservations often got handled. One park would email somebody's reservation to this park.

TM: So, these would be like telegrams?

DH: You could send these like telegrams on your own. They had that capacity, the Utah Parks Company. Sometimes, informal messaging could be... There wasn't a total restriction on what could be Teletyped. So, I wound up being pretty good at that because I'm a very excellent keyboarder. So, that added actually to my ability to shine a bit there. You could handle all these messages. That was the main alternative to the phone. And the switchboard, now there was a switchboard and you had to know how to run that.

TM: How did that work?

DH: Switchboard was rows of little buttons, you know, and you had these cords. You plug one into another one so guests wanting to talk to each other across cabins... You had a family with three cabins, well, then you could plug them in that way. Or they could be incoming long distance and so forth so you would handle that. And a keyboard of some sort to match it and that was right there in the front desk. I rather liked that because I'm a typist, a person that became quite digitally proficient later on. But that was the beginning, sure. So, that was a part of the job, is to run that. You had to be able to take some hours making that work. I mean, you would spend some hours doing that, seems to me. I can't remember a designated operator on that.

TM: So, not only did you have to get people into their rooms, you had to work the Teletype machine and the phone system. Did you have to handle money, actual money?

DH: You had to have money and it had to come out right at the end of each shift.

TM: And how did that work?

DH: Well, you had receipts and each shift had to balance, to the penny, with its books. So, the senior desk clerk had to be able to get it to come out right. That was part of the job. If it didn't come out right, you stayed until it did. You stayed after and you weren't paid for it either. You would just stay and reconcile the books to the penny. Well, there was one other job on the desk, which I should say since you asked about it, which was you participated in sing-a-ways to the buses leaving. At 9:00 and 1:00

there were bus departures. You'd go out, called sing-a-longs or sing-a-ways rather. Sing-a-ways, they were sing-a-ways, and this is known, generally, that we had those. There was a repertoire of songs. We'd go out there and stand in the little inlet that's right around the flagpole and you would sing to these people. Now, the thing about the singing was it was a fairly standard repertoire which I can't remember all the song. One I do remember was the business of the departing employees when you came to the end of the summer because that was a big farewell moment. Very intense bonding would have occurred by the end of the summer. So you had a farewell song which would always be sung. The basic song was "So long, it's been good to know you/So long, it's been good..." that was to the buses, you know, and you'd wish them... There are packets of these songs. *So long, it's been good to know you* is the one we would sing to them. When we sang goodbye to the employee at the end of the summer, it was a much more, usually somber moment of separation. "Ooh we all remember/Ooh we come September" something like that, "Ooh, we'll all remember/Ooh we hate to say goodbye to you." And there would be some kissing there, which would be tearful. People would kiss and hug, especially in 1960, which was not always... Kind of uptight time emotionally. But there would be emotion with departing employees at these sing-a-ways as that we sang this song about September. I don't have the whole lyrics in front of me, but they could be accessed. Anyway, that singing was a part of the job. Then, there was the other singing which we developed for the desk crew for the evening performance in the rec hall. There was a desk clerk song which I helped write with the organist and his wife.

TM: Do you remember the words at all?

DH: Yes, it was "We are the three ladies from Louisville/We have a reservation for you to fill/A room with sharing baths." That was the first verse of it. Now, I can't remember all the rest by memory, we could get it.

TM: That could've been pretty fun.

DH: Yeah, that was fun. And the three ladies from Louisville would come out on the stage in big hats, and stuff like this. They were dressed in kind of a typical old maids traveling together sort of a style and sing "We are the three ladies From Louisville." I helped write that song with Mike Kanan the organist, you know, who put all this together. I could probably access the whole thing through him, maybe.

TM: It would be fun to know what the words were.

DH: I could probably get the whole thing, but, you know, I can't remember them all right now. That might've been 2 or 3 verses about that, but I gave you the first.

TM: Yeah. Fun.

DH: It could be accessed. Make a note. I'm in touch with them now, it's not hard.

TM: I'm assuming, just like today, occasionally, someone you knew by name recognition would show up to check in. Either a film star or a politician or...

DH: Well, of course, my parents came (*laughs*). I mean, well, it didn't have to be a film star, we'll just start with my parents because they came back that summer, I think. In fact, we took a mule ride to the bottom with my mother and father and me. I remember the mule ride still. My mother with a sore hip. I got pictures of this. Then me, I got a bleeding nose coming out on that mule trip for some reason. I don't



know why. But there was the mule trip. There was also a potential disaster where my father, once again, rose to the rescue of the company because a man had been thrown from a car or something on the road between the road to Point Imperial, along that road. There he was with a dislocated shoulder, which is very painful. My father just happened to have a gas bag, with a little portable oxygen and anesthesia machine with him, which he used to demonstrate. Without any formalities, my father took care of this man on the side of the road under the supervision of the lodge's assistant manager who was Lamar Snyder, who was then the lodge manager. But after a couple of years of doing that, graduated to become the general manager of the Utah Parks Company. Lamar was quite a figure in those years, and Lamar saw all this with my father participating in that, and we took care of that man. We got him the immediate relief he needed and, in fact, I helped with instruction from my father about how to relocate the shoulder. You had to snap it back into place. You have experience with this. It does pop back into place, and we did that. Well, that only could elevate my standing with the management. Another crisis averted neatly. So, we would see Lamar in special situations like that. My job was a junior desk clerk, well I think—let me see—I think I was a... Well, you had a junior desk clerk level and you had a senior desk clerk level. I started, no doubt, as a junior desk clerk, but I became competent enough to be promoted with a few extra cents per hour to senior desk clerk, eventually. It was just greater status and responsibility went with that and you would have to check out the books.

TM: That same summer?

DH: Yeah, I think I probably got promoted pretty... Once I've learned it and once I've figured it out, I would've been promoted to senior desk clerk which did have more status. Will say about the desk itself and the configuration there, that's important because in those years, it was an open desk. If you've ever been to the lodge, you've seen that there's this desk except that what they put in there in the seventies was not historical. They've put like a bank teller's cage up there.

TM: Yes, that's right.

DH: That is not historical and should've been stopped. But, the Park Service allowed it. Whether this would fit under the Historical Act I don't know, except I can tell you the new contractors are telling them they're going to have to remove that by 2024. It's already in the prospectus because it was not historical. And, what it does is shuts off that whole operation from the guests, it's like you're running a secretive bank or something back there. It's not right. It was not done that way. It could be done the way we did it.

TM: How deep was the desk between you as the clerk and the customer standing in front of you wanting a room?

DH: Well, it's probably the same desk that you see now. I would say it was...

TM: Two feet wide or so?

DH: Maybe something like that. You had this...

TM: 18 inches?

DH: ...wraparound desk, that's right.

TM: Uh-huh, okay. Pretty easy just to put a paper on and have somebody sign?

DH: Yes, yes, and you'd sign and you could talk to them. So, that's all I can say about that. Then the assistant manager would sorta hang out and the chief clerk would have stations also in the back. But the desk clerks, senior and junior, out there in the front at the wraparound desk.

TM: There would've been a bellhop somewhere?

DH: With a Teletype machine. Bellhops would come to the desk. You ring a bell and the bellhop would show up. That's how you signal and somebody would take them up to the room, now they had to be lodged. So the bellhop would ring the bell.

TM: So, bellhop would arrive, help them with their luggage, and get them to their room?

DH: Get them to the room. The biggest tips were those people, they got the biggest tips. They got rich the bellhops, you know.

TM: Did the bellhops get better tips with the waitresses?

DH: Well, that's a good question. That's a good question. I think at least as much as the waitresses. I think they tended to get pretty good tips. You got a lot of sloping and considerable walking to deal with. That would've added to that because people could see that. That carrying bags up and down hills. These were some of these pretty rich people. You would get a pretty good remuneration for that.

TM: And they must've been winded at that altitude, so watching people schlepp their stuff...

DH: High altitude, they knew that that was that too. Yea that's right, you had kind of a captive audience there. Heavy bags and people staying for a while. So, deluxes...yes that's...

TM: So, besides your parents, who else was sort of an interesting person to come and say hello to and check them in their room?

DH: Boy, you know... I hadn't thought about this. I can't, right off-hand, think of famous people. You had a certain number, though, of foreign visitors, so it was always interesting that you noticed they were people from France and Germany like that. I do not remember, maybe it'll come to me, but I don't remember right now a big dignitary. The governor or... I don't remember, over there, people like that.

TM: Yeah, okay. One of the things I did want to ask you, since you mentioned your father happened to be there on a very fortunate day when somebody dislocated their shoulder.

DH: Yeah, that's right.

TM: What do remember about healthcare at the North Rim at that time?

DH: The nurse! They had a...and this will provide a dramatic story later...but there was a nurse who was in the very front cabin there along with a barber. There was an onsite barber and there was a nurse, full time, who could perform all those functions for people who had things short of needing emergency care. He could stabilize most things through that person. That was interesting they had that job, that

was their job for the summer. That's right.

TM: And if you needed some cough medicine or a simple...?

DH: Employees would have access to this person.

TM: Did the nurse have the ability to dispense that kind of stuff?

DH: Yeah, she could give you... Well, I don't know the limits but she could, within reasonable limits, or whatever was state law I suppose. There was some arrangement about that. I just remember she could give out medicines and take care of simple bandaging of splits and bones and, you know. I mean, things would happen. We'll come later to a bigger incident, but...

TM: Well, I would think of cuts in the kitchen...

DH: Well, you could go... Yeah, that's right, the employees could... See, I never needed anything out of there that I remember. So, I don't have much memory of it. But there she was, she was there and available. And then, there did come down the road, it begins with that. But I knew that she was there. And of course, you had to get your haircut. If you didn't get it in Kanab, you were going to get it there. You could have your hair cut. So that was the two things they had right up front.

TM: And did you normally, your days off, were they midweek? How did your schedule work?

DH: Well, it varied. Yes, it would have to rotate weekly. I think it was only maybe one normally. But you could put them together by working somebody's shift or straight through some other week or something. There are ways to build, especially for your Trans-Canyon trip, which was gonna be...

TM: You would have to work out...

DH: You'd have to work something out...

TM: ...some days off.

DH: ...to have enough days off to get through that. Otherwise, they would've been scheduled days off. I think that shift may have been put up a few weeks ahead of time so people could see what it was gonna be. They knew.

TM: How that was gonna work. I also think about lightning in the summer time when I think of Teletype machines and phones. Did the lightning wreak havoc with some of that stuff at times?

DH: It seems to me, the power...we did have some occasional power failure. I don't remember huge things about it, but it seems to me that you could lose power and did. I told you the incident with the static electricity in the last interview. But other than that, I can't remember much about lightning. Yes, you would lose power. I think you could lose it. I'll get to it later, but you could lose it more often at Zion. But, at the North Rim you could. Sometimes you were out.

TM: Right. Well, let's talk about your rim-to-rim journey then that summer of 1960. Now, this would've been your third rim-to-rim?

DH: Yeah, the third rim-to-rim journey. You know, they blur a little over the years. I just will say that I was getting stronger. I mean, I knew what it was. And so you knew what to do. You knew how to arrange time, food and so, in the course of years, this was getting something much less desperate (laughs) than that first one. That was near... I'm lucky I got out on the first one. But the other ones... I remember there was some strengthening. I'm trying to think if it was the summer of '60. We could cease, we're having to fit what summer. There was one summer, and it might've been that we can just put it in there provisionally because it doesn't matter where I arranged to meet my Aunt Rosa on the other side of the canyon at a certain time. She was a pioneer, almost pioneer, schoolteacher come out here in the 30s or something to teach from Alabama. She brought my younger brother out there, and I remember... We can tell this story as well in '60 as '61. I remember we got out right on schedule. I planned a schedule, I could do it. Got out and we wound up having dinner in the El Tovar with an orchestra playing in the balcony. They had an orchestra in 1960. They would perform for dinner. A small orchestra. Not anymore, but they had it then, and I'll never forget all that. And, of course the soda fountain was always the... Everyone talked about that soda fountain because that was always the hiker's dream to get into the Bright Angel soda fountain after hikes.

TM: Where was that located?

DH: Where it is now. It was just... They've kept that same soda fountain.

TM: That same location right there.

DH: That's right. You could see its lights at night. Everybody knew where that was and it was the first place when you got out, you'd go to. As I say, it got better because we timed it better. We were timing.. I can't say more about this trip versus that one, it was the same trail. You never went up the Kaibab Trail, you went down the River Trail.

TM: And then up the Bright Angel?

DH: And then up the Bright Angel. So each time it was the same thing except you getting more in touch with what it was.

TM: Do you remember who you would've hiked across with that year or did you start going on your own?

DH: No, no. You never would do that. You would go with a little group. I remember one, oh god, what was he? Usually was same sex groups. I don't remember very... In those years, you wouldn't... In fact, I don't even know that women did it as much in those years as they might now. Usually, they were small gangs of boys. I remember one was a football player from American Fork. He just stands in my mind as somebody memorable. But he came from American Fork, which is a different town than I remember. I liked him; I remember him. I don't remember people very well, though, because it's just the way it was. People convenient. You did the hikes. I'd have to do research and letters or something.

TM: Let's go back for a minute when your mom and dad came out and you took a mule ride down.

DH: That's right.

TM: Did you go down to Roaring Springs and keep going to Phantom Ranch, or was it just down to Roaring Springs and back?

DH: No, it was to Roaring Springs and back. And with a mule, it was the very same trip except for the little problems that we had. I do remember one hike to Roaring Springs where I forgot the water, and I might say that was probably in the '59 or '60 summer, maybe '59. Of all things, I forgot water or failed to fill it. Whatever I did it, it was ridiculous. I remember coming back with salt crystallized on my face. That was rough. Good thing I got out. I remember drinking for hours and I fell in love with that water fountain outside that lodge desk for the whole shift. I was constantly getting water out of that fountain after I had returned to my shift. So, that was one time where I remember a hiking error that could've been costly. But it was the Roaring Springs from the Roaring Springs waterfall. You would go to the waterfall and then come back out.

TM: But what I am thinking, Dick, is now you're introducing the fact that you started hiking not just the big rim-to-rim, but doing other hikes.

DH: The Roaring Springs hike would be another one that people liked to do.

TM: Did you do that a couple times a summer or once a week?

DH: One or two times a summer, maybe twice. And then you would do the Transept Trail.

TM: How often did you do that?

DH: Well, I got into that one. I remember doing that one... The strongest memory of that one was whatever was the last one I did on it not that long before leaving. We were getting ready to leave beginning of the feel of fall or lower light and you get sharp, crystal air from a cold front or something. My God, it was gorgeous in those years. Gorgeous. I remember it was gorgeous and the clarity. I remember doing that one with Ray Bayless, who was a desk clerk and then assistant manager. He was somebody that I did hike with was Ray Bayless. He was more intellectual. I would tend to gravitate to people with some head, brain. He was a thinker. He was Jack Mormon or something because he smoked. (laughs) I remember that. So, the fact that I opened up to him about a lot of things, probably could've. See, you get this pure Mormon bunch of stuff. They preoccupy with sins and the holiness code and everything else. But, you know, he was Jack Mormon. So, I remember him. I still heard where he was much later, in southern Arizona. I mean, one of the few...and the Kanan's knew him. There was a little bit of an intellectual inner circle. The people who had some college training found each other one way or another. So, you had things like that. So, that was a Transept hike. Those were the main... If you didn't go out to Cape Royal, of course that was the other one, then they would take employees out there. Probably in the summer of '60 would've been about the time I might have gone out there to an employee BBQ where they were to furnish the hotdogs and all this sort of stuff. You sat around some campfire out at Cape Royal and you sang songs. I remember singing one that drew a lot of applause to the dorm mother. "If it weren't for Mrs. Kiesel, all the girls here would go to Hell." (laughs) Lot of laughter, because she was the... They were managed to be in on time and straight and narrow.

TM: She was the matron?

DH: The matron. The women's dorm had the matron, so that mattered. Yeah. And she, I think, probably did that more than one summer. Later, but we'll get to later, I had a role with her, an assigned role. But,

for now, we knew her. But I was still, all that summer, I had not been promoted yet so I was still in the dorm that summer.

TM: So, your rim-to-rim, where you met your aunt Rosa on the South Rim, with your younger brother.

DH: Yeah, that's right, Drew.

TM: Then, did you do the plane again, fly back across or did you go with them, travel with them? How did that work?

DH: I'm pretty sure it would've been the airplane. I'm pretty sure every time that I was over there, I'm pretty sure you came back on the plane. I'm trying to think of an exception, but one doesn't occur right now. If it wasn't with them, then I probably flew back. And only once did I get the trip in that I told you going down to the river only one time.

TM: Just down to the river and back again?

DH: Well, no. I mean, on the airplane.

TM: Oh, oh, where you actually flew low?

DH: Where they actually did an extended tour of...

TM: '59 you paid extra.

DH: '60 something, '59 or '60, somewhere in there. '60, one of those years. Might've been as late as '60.

TM: Speaking of 1960...

DH: Little extra money, you know.

TM: ...and the river, were you aware of the jet boat up-run in 1960? Did that make it up to the North Rim at all in your consciousness?

DH: The jet boat, no, I did not. We did not know about that.

TM: Okay.

DH: The news was very slow up there.

TM: How did you get your news?

DH: Seems to me the paper would come in days late. (laughs) Seemed like they delivered the paper but, other than that, unless you were listening to radio, there wouldn't be any news.

TM: And you would have to bring your own... Well, there might not have been any small transistor radios, radio sets were fairly large in those days, I'm assuming.

DH: I can't even remember whether... You'd go days really without knowing any news, it seems to me. I don't know that I... One summer, it must've been... Finally I had a car at the very end, but not yet. So, car might have... I can't remember getting it any other way than that way.

TM: What else about the summer of 1960 you remember?

DH: Let me see if I wrote any note about it. I've named the names. I took organ lessons with Mike Kanan. My mother's help organized that. We paid him a little bit. I played the organ, some in the lodge lobby, and then also the LDS church in Kanab on request allowed me to practice in there if I took the company bus to Perry's Lodge. Now that was another outing we would do, would be to go to Perry's Lodge on days off. I can add that one in. But Perry's Lodge was a favorite because the company bus you could ride for free into Kanab on days off. The usual thing you did then was you only had a long lunch, that's really all you had. You'd get in there at 10:30 in the morning, you'd swim in the Perry's Lodge pool, then you would have a lovely cheeseburger lunch, probably, out there by that pool at Perry's Lodge, and then you would take the bus back. It would come through...well it would come through there about 3:00 to take you back with the afternoon run back up to the North Rim. So, that was a favorite kind of weekly outing which I am glad I mentioned.

TM: And there was a store in Kanab so you could maybe get something that you needed?

DH: You could get something that you needed if you needed to go to a store. I mean, I don't remember any specifics about it but there were stores. That's right. And so, I didn't write much more from... You've heard most of what I was able to write down.

TM: What do you remember about Perry's Lodge? Where was that in Kanab?

DH: Perry's Lodge is still where it is. It's at the... The road goes north through Fredonia north into Kanab and then it makes a left turn at a sweep there, and that's always been Perry's Lodge. And it's never changed. Movie stars stayed there, that's the sale point. So it had a certain tinge of glamour because of that. It still does. So bus would let you out there and you would go for that pool. They knew us, they knew the employees, we could use the pool. That would be a day in Kanab.

TM: Nice, alright. Did you start spending days in Kanab every now and then on your first summer there?

DH: Yeah, the first summer, we'll just put them in every summer. It wasn't like discovered late, everybody knew about that. It was the regular thing. That was the gala out of town trip you could make.

TM: At this time, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62, that period, Glen Canyon Dam was under construction.

DH: That's correct.

TM: Did you go over there at all to check that out?

DH: Yes, I made a note about that. Trying to think for sure when. I think it was probably in the later summer. Now I wrote in a note that I saw it under construction in one of the last two summers. Maybe the last one. It was halfway up. Whenever that summer was, it was halfway... I mean all this...a lot of that...the heavy duty crisscrossing of stuff was at least half... Not complete, it was partway up. Maybe it was as late as '62, but we'd have to match that.

TM: Maybe 1960 even.

DH: Yeah. So I saw that and I remember a sense of foreboding when I saw a thing like that coming into that country. There was a sense of foreboding, this is not good.

TM: Why?

DH: It was heavy-duty industrialization coming into canyon country. I knew there had been dispute about it, and if there was things being lost behind it, I knew, not the detail, but just to see it was a shock. A shock. I've got a picture someplace, but it was a shock. It said change was coming. Now we should, of course, in that summer we will get to... It'll be when we get back to Hopkins. There was a Hopkins connection to that summer, or those summers, but it's coming. I'm just putting a marker in for it, and that's why this book is here. But, it was not part of there. Alright, that's the answer I think about the dam. Yeah, there was some trip with Kanans. Seems like I went with the Kanans and one of my... Gary Lemon, seems to me, he was just somebody I liked who was one of the boys that worked there. There was one trip over to Flagstaff with the Kanans. I remember that was a big deal. Maybe we even got to Desert View, I can't remember, but that was part of getting to know them. Which lead to rooming with them. So, it would've been in the '60 or '61 summer.

TM: And that would've been a long day outing.

DH: That's a long, long trip. I can't remember if we stayed or not, but I was over to Flag.

TM: Right, it would make sense you'd spend the night actually in Flagstaff and then drive back.

DH: Yeah, something like that or Cameron. I mean, yeah we went over there. That was very memorable, but that definitely set up the friendship with the Kanans that was important in my final years.

TM: Yeah, Muriel and Mike.

DH: Yeah, Muriel and Mike, so that had to have started early, and then, as I say, I remember Gary Lemon as somebody I liked. I'm glad that he... I can't remember any more people. But that was a way, if you had a vehicle, yes you could do it.

TM: Okay. Were you writing home, letters going back and forth?

DH: Yeah, there was some correspondence in those years. Of course, my father found heavy duty work in finding and starting his international foundation in those years and so forth. But there would've been letters, letters back and forth. That's how people wrote, you'd occasional phone call, but letters, you'd send letters. I don't have any here right now, but tomorrow. There might be other stories will come out from that, of course, once they're located. If they're locatable.

TM: What else do you recall about that summer of 1960?

DH: '60? That's it. I wrote down notes about '60 and there was not anything else to say for me that I remember of any current event or major event. I mean, a little bit of blurring the two desk clerk summers, you know. And there was not a... Life up there was pretty simple in a lot of ways. I mean, you



didn't have major news events that were influencing anything there. It was a short season which only went from mid-June into August. I remember parents, as I said, picking me up the one summer early and I... Maybe it happened, I think it was only once, maybe twice. But other than that, I don't remember anything else.

TM: And your meals were at the employee cafeteria?

DH: When we got into the end of '61, let's see, were we in '60 summer? We're we still in the '60 summer.

TM: We're still in the 1960 summer.

DH: It didn't change until the next summer. So the meals were in a side dining room over by the kitchen. They fed us in there. I don't know what they use that room now for, probably to feed the help in there. They probably still do. It was unforgettable to have my first meal in there when I arrived, you know, that was... You remember that first meal. Oh yes, in that room by the kitchen, and it was smaller windows. So all through that summer we continued to eat those meals in that room and they would be pretty early if you were in for breakfast. You had to be there early to have your breakfast first before they opened the dining room. And you didn't get fed... It was not always off the menu of the dining room. It was not much of a choice, you were just simply fed.

TM: Right. So, cereal or eggs for breakfast?

DH: Yeah. Some kind of sandwiches for lunch and some kind of a reasonable... You were fed alright. There was one dispute about that that arose in the summer of '62, which I'll get to, but we were fed alright.

TM: Alright. We've been going about an hour, should we try to go through 1961?

DH: I'm alright, except can I have a little sugar need. I don't know if I put a sandwich in here.

TM: Maybe we should just wrap this up, Dick.

DH: Well, no I'm alright. I'm okay. Just go ahead, go ahead. We'll go into 1961, if you like.

TM: Well, you know it lets don't. We've been at this an hour, let's call it good. We're in no rush here.

DH: Alright, you're getting some good stuff and that's fine.

TM: Is there anything else about 1960 that we hadn't talked about that you wanna bring in before we wrap up part two?

DH: No, because the big changes were '61 and '62, not '60 so much. I can't remember anything about '60 that I wanted to talk about, no.

TM: Well, in that case, maybe this is a good place. We will go ahead and finish up. This concludes, then, part two Grand Canyon Oral History Interview with Dick Hingson. Today is Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. My name is Tom Martin, and Dick, thank you very much.

DH: Okay, pleasure.