

**Transcription:** Grand Canyon Historical Society

**Interviewee:** Dick Hingson (DH)

**Interviewer:** Tom Martin (TM)

**Subject:** Dick recounts returning to the North Rim Lodge summer of 1962, school at Johns Hopkins, summer of 1963 at Zion, research in Sydney, Australia 1964

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TM: Today is Wednesday, September 4th, 2019. This is a Part 4 Grand Canyon oral history interview with Dickson "Dick" Hingson. My name is Tom Martin. This oral history is happening at the kitchen table at our home here in Flagstaff, Arizona. Good afternoon, Dick. How are you today?

DH: I'm just feeling good. Looking forward to the '62 summer.

TM: Okay. Yes. In Part 3, you had taken us through the summer of '61 through the fall and spring of your university classes at Johns Hopkins and we'll pick this up then with you getting on the train.

DH: I think. [laughs]

TM: I think. [laughs] Okay. To come back for your 1962 season at the North Rim as assistant manager.

DH: That's right. That's right. I arrive at the desk. Graduation had just happened at Hopkins with commencement.

TM: Oh, I'm sorry. Did you graduate?

DH: I graduated after three years there. That is correct.

TM: Okay.

DH: It was collapsed a bit and was graduated. Commencement had in '62 had just happened before, in fact it would have delayed slightly the arrival for the opening of the lodge because of just the placement of the commencement day ceremony in Baltimore. So then I got into the lodge a very few days late with permission. The first question was going to be where would I be put? Then I would be oriented to what I was expected to do. So the first interesting surprise was that my friends from the previous summer, the waitress and the organist of all things, had saved a cabin which I would share with them if I wanted to, hoping I would, expecting probably I would. It turned out to be none other than what they called in those days a shared shower cabin. That's two rooms separated by the bathroom and the shower. They being a married couple. The room they had left for me had a bed by the window directly looking into the Transept Canyon, right on the rim. Nothing to wake up to every single morning but the canyon and the silence. The quiet. So that was a stunning surprise. What great pleasure.

Then there was some kind of orientation with the manager of the lodge, which was no longer Lamar, it was another manager, if I'm not wrong, all this could be fact checked, but if I'm not wrong, I believe that was T.E. Murray. I think it was Mr. Murray who had taken over. So he went through kind of a checklist of things that I was supposed to do as assistant manager. Of course I learned the cast

of characters, therefore, who were in charge of different parts of the lodge/the different departments. The checklist of jobs... One thing included for example, I would be opening any official mail coming in to the...you know, seeing what it was, much like an administrative assistant would do. There were other duties such as doing the payroll biweekly. I would be the one that did that. One interesting thing, though, was that there was no written job description. I was never presented a written job description. It was just like it was we went through this paragraph or two of things that that job entailed, but nothing like any modern day business practice where the job description matters, where you're shown lines of authority on a chart. Nothing like that. It was surprisingly informal. This led to trouble soon enough, but I just remember that's how it started. And so I went with what I was told that I was to do.

And now this before long, and it's already the last part of June and heading into July, there began to be some signs of trouble ahead because it turned out that the supervisor service, whose name was Jack Crowley, C-R-O-W-L-E-Y, kind of a strapping type that fit the job of bellhop chief, [laughs] was kind of the managers...in some ways managers' actual pet. I mean, that was the person closest to the manager in a philosophical or friendship way. So before long it was becoming obvious that Crowley was dipping in here and there into things that I'd been told were my responsibility. The most interesting example was that he would seize the mail and open it and go through it rather than me. And so, although I had all this hope that I would be able to test myself/improve myself in a management position, it was pretty clear that I was being undermined by Crowley and that was to result in some simmering, first not very well stated, but finally it began to come out that there was conflict there.

So there was some point, by the time we got to the last half of July where, yeah, it was pretty out in the open that we didn't get along very well to the point that the manager basically forced some kind of a truce. It didn't take any power away from Crowley, but just basically did not support things that had been taken away as far as it being mine and it would just continue on. Now, the thing that happened though that saved the day on that was one day in about mid-July, I guess, the news had come that Jack Crowley had been drafted and was due out August 1st. So if I could hold out till liberation day [laughs] which would be August 1st, I would be in more of the clear about that and it would not have become... That was a change. The sigh of relief the minute he walked out the door was great. However, it didn't lead to any... This got handled so that there was no physical fighting and no court of appeals or any of the formalities and no things... I've often wondered what happened to him. That first term of the draft probably would have led him into the Vietnam War, which wasn't far away. But, I never saw him again. So now I was back with people I was more comfortable with on the desk and so on and able to supervise that.

Now as far as things that went on in that job, there were not all that much that was super memorable except for a couple things that ought to be mentioned. One was that given the absence of a job description, where was my role to end and begin here? You see, for example, I took the side of the help in the dining room with the chef over some perpetually rotten bananas that were being fed to the help every morning. Old bananas. Overripe. I felt like it was my job to go and bring this up with the chef. Well, I found myself up against autocracy right away there just like before. Chef listened to about two sentences of that and I'll just never forget him saying, "You get out of my kitchen." Saying that to the assistant manager. So once again, you see that the lines of authority, actually ultimate authority, where did it lie? It lay in practical circumstances, not on some organizational chart that anyone has ever seen. I had no recourse for the chef, except...

TM: Wouldn't you take that up to T.E. Murray?

DH: Or the manager. Yes, that's right. I think it may have got mentioned that there was some problem. I believe so. And I got my just deserves on that a few days later when I overheard the

manager telling the chef that we're going to have an employee revolt in here if you don't get fresh fruit in here for these employees.

TM: Good.

DH: Yeah, that's right. [laughs] So, you know, each thing takes its course, but it wasn't cut and dried how this was going to be. But I felt vindicated when all this happened and this was only indirectly that this came back to me. There was one dramatic incident because there's always going to be some crisis somewhere. And there was. One morning the nurse showed up at my cabin 98 early in the morning. She said, "I need you down in my cabin as quickly as possible." Maybe it was a messenger. Anyway, the point was there had been a death in cabin 35. A tourist man had died, there was his wife and three little girls. So I went to on down to see what this was. It turned out that the man had been stung by bees the afternoon before along the Point Imperial road somewhere and in the course of the evening had gone into shock from the bee stings and died in the night. So was dead in the morning. And now we had the widow and the three little girls and you had to make the legal arrangements.

The sheriff had to be brought in, but the nearest sheriff was in Fredonia 78 miles to the north. So I was assigned to take the widow into the—there was nothing you could do but wait—and go into the dining room right after breakfast. Maybe breakfast was brought on the side or something, but to sit there and do the best I could to have some kind of a conversation and consoling hour or two while we waited for the sheriff. I'll never forget the sheriff, just right out of central casting. I'm me, you know, two guns, the boots, the long dungarees. I mean, he was a costume guy from the 19th century Fredonia sheriff. [laughs] The throwback to another age. But anyway, they went through all of that. So that was like probably the biggest test of my ability to manage a situation that was highly unusual and sad. I think I did pretty well. I mean, it was... I knew that was the thing. I knew how to talk, how to deal with somebody. My dad was a physician. So we wound up with a diversionary conversation of some kind while we had to wait all this time in the middle of this sorrow.

Beyond that, I don't know what happened then after the sheriff... By that point that's back in the hands of the manager so it was all handled in the ways above my head that you would expect. That was probably the most memorable administrative kind of experience. And then probably the most memorable...

TM: Can I ask you a question about this Dick? I would have assumed, just based on today's North Rim, that park service rangers would have been notified and brought in.

DH: Well, that is correct. And whatever happened about them don't register in my mind as much as... This may have been related to the manager and what he had to do rather than what I had to do. So I don't remember the park service role.

TM: Okay.

DH: There must've been some kind of transport or ambulance, but it wasn't laid out. I just played my part on the stage satisfactorily and then we had to go on. You know, you still had a lodge to run and all of this.

TM: Right. Right.

DH: So that was that one. Then I did have my final trans-canyon hike, which I believe somehow was arranged so that I... I remember two things about it. I had more strength than any previous hike. This

was the fifth one and I knew what I was doing and it was timed right and maybe the weather was right, something, but it was a piece of cake really to cross the canyon now. And I was older by four years having just turned 20. I do remember we added onto that a hike out to Plateau Point for the sunset. That was one of the great transcendental experiences of my time in the canyon because that's this glorious wide panoramic sunset from one of the great Tonto Trail or plateau viewpoints. I remember the foreboding right there about how can I ever leave this and go back to Baltimore. And now comes the business of medical school which was not what I...or the potential of medical school, I mean, or medical school. It was medical school.

It was going to have to be medical school because I had not been admitted... The thing that had happened with Oxford had not worked out somewhere along the line. And the reason it didn't work out was because they could not bridge the dual application of me. It didn't look certain enough why would I be applying to medical school and to English literature. There was some uncertainty there, enough that I had not gotten that. So it was going to be medical school like it or not and there was some foreboding about that because now now what? It wasn't Homewood anymore with the trees and the lawns and the liberal arts campus, but it was going to be another type of scene in East Baltimore which was a slum and a whole new thing with another dorm and people and so on. So that's what I was facing as I left the final summer. Then the next thing to talk about logically I guess would be anything that had to do with it that medical school year, but it's up to you.

TM: You know, before we leave the '62 summer, besides opening the mail, which you were competing with the bellhop for, do you remember what other activities you had? It sounds like you were to be a problem solver for staff.

DH: And had experience, of course, with the desk particularly in all of its operations and a chief clerk job.

TM: Would you fill in for employees that didn't show up for work? I'm thinking, you know, if a front desk employee didn't show up, you would step into that.

DH: Well, there had to have been some of that, but I can't remember incidents.

TM: Okay.

DH: I mean this is logical that you were jack of all trades, especially without the clear job description. You know, you'd come in with the manager would want this and this and this and this, and this would happen and needed to be investigated and, you know, you'd do investigatory work and go-betweens, take messages down to department heads. It's just a variety. Also to supervise the girls. One new job was to supervise closing at the girl's dorm every night to enforce the curfew [laughs] along with the dorm mother. So one of the jobs was they go down there at 10:00 at curfew time and just like at a school front desk record those who were late. Enforce the dorm. So it was things like that, but, you know, nothing stands out strikingly after all these years.

TM: And you were also you mentioned doing payroll.

DH: That's correct.

TM: Did you just sort of land in the seat and the person who had been doing payroll, were they able to give you okay, here's a list of people, here's what they earned, here are the hours...

DH: Yeah. I was provided all that until I was trained how to do it at the beginning of that time. It was not when you look at it that complicated. But it involved care like I'd already shown them when I was chief clerk. It was just interesting to see all the time cards and going through to checking, double checking all the hours and getting that report straightened up.

TM: Would you do that at night?

DH: No. It would be done in the afternoon. I would usually take all that stuff down into the dining room by one of the great windows and do it at two o'clock in the afternoon.

TM: That's not that bad.

DH: No, I thought that was quite a perk on that job. [laughs]

TM: Then would you type out each individual check or did somebody else do that? How did that work?

DH: Oh boy, you're going back through so many years of memory. I don't remember whether I signed checks or anything like that. The checks might've been different from the payroll report. So I can't remember the sequence there.

TM: Or you could have given the payroll report to an accountant...

DH: Somebody. That's right.

TM: ...who would then work out the payroll.

DH: That's right. There were auditors, you know, who would deal with... I remember some vague memories you deal with auditors once in a while and they would come in. So having done the desk and the chief clerk job, it seems to me, I probably did relate to those auditors in some way. But we'd pass those things. There were no incidents about the books while I was there. It ran enough that I don't... I remember the things that were extraordinary and not much else.

TM: Right. Right. Right. Right. Yeah. Understood. And Muriel and Mike Kanan, your roommates across the bathroom, that worked out okay?

DH: Oh, yeah. There were lots of... Muriel was a sort of person really who had a great sense of humor. Hilarious about all kinds of things. Mike was erudite in knowledge. I guess he was in sociology training by then. He's older than me by four years so he would have already clearly had been into wherever he was doing his sociology. But, you know, there wasn't anything much I remember. I can't remember if it was that summer I went around with them to Flagstaff. It could've been. You know, blurry memories about... But that would have been all part... And the Glen Canyon dam that I mentioned.

TM: Yes.

DH: It could have been that summer. It didn't much matter which one it was. You could compare that against the progress of the dam if you wanted to date it. [laughs]

TM: Well, it's interesting you mentioned there were no written guidelines because...

DH: No.

TM: ...T.E. Murray as the general manager...

DH: Of the lodge at that time.

TM: ...of the lodge...

DH: Later of the company. But of the lodge.

TM: ...would have landed in it, one assumes, just as the previous manager would have.

DH: That's correct.

TM: That's...

DH: Lamar.

TM: Lamar Snyder. He seemed to be a pretty good guy that was able to bring out the best in his employees.

DH: Yes.

TM: It seemed as though Murray had favorites.

DH: Yeah. There was an insider kind of... Just as there is in everything. Insiders. I was the outside boy, not from Utah, from the east. A pet of the president of the railroad, but not of anything else and forgotten by the president of the railroad. So, you know, it's back to the old boy's network.

TM: Yeah. Okay. All right. Besides the Kanans, did you have any other friends that year '62?

DH: Well, I think probably Randy was there. Randy Saltus, cause later I remember I did... Randy was the only one I ever saw, it seems to me, outside later. There was a year, I can't remember which year, but not too long after where I visited him for a week in his family property or cottage on one of the Maine islands, the state of Maine. So, I mean, it was enough of a friendship that it had that. So I'm pretty sure he would have still been there. And Bayless I think it was still there and the Kanans. But no, I did not have a lot of... It's also you have these funny hours where you've got to get up early in the morning and all kinds of things. It's not a highly social time. The Mormons tended to be somewhat insular and you didn't break into those networks very easily.

TM: If you had to be a supervisor that closed the girl's dorm at 10:00...

DH: I think it was 10:00. Yes.

TM: ...and you had to get up early...

DH: And you had to get up early.

TM: ...that was a long day.

DH: Yeah, it was a long day. And you might very well be kind of on duty. Maybe you'd be let go to go home to take a nap or a walk or something. These days might've been fairly long. But I can't remember things other than you might expect around there in the routine. Maybe had a power failure here or there or a storm or somebody didn't show at work. You know, there's all these unexpected things that require authority to go see to it, do something, make a report. Funny that it wasn't more, but maybe part of the problem was that Crowley had usurped some of that when I look back on that, you know.

TM: Uh-huh. And Randy Saltus, what was he doing the summer of '62? Do you remember?

DH: Well, he came in I think as a baker. I think he was something like a baker in the kitchen, as I remember. Which was a more highly paid... That would have been a higher skill and they would have paid for it. Yeah. I'm pretty sure that's what he was.

TM: Yeah.

DH: I remember even in that summer that I got to live in the dorm and move away from the garbage men, I was in there with cooks and people like that, you know. They were pretty highly paid, those people. So Randy was in that string. There's nothing much about the friendship that comes back other than we probably talked about every current event in the world and some philosophy and things. But I just don't remember. Lost track of him 30/40 years ago. I will say I did visit with him on his island [laughs] for a week, you know.

TM: And then your walk across the canyon.

DH: Right.

TM: Did that end again in the flying back?

DH: Yeah, I would have. Each time you flew back. That's right. So I flew back. But I don't think that was the summer of the grand tour down to the river. I think that was more conventional, I believe.

TM: Okay. During these summers, especially the last summer, were you aware of park superintendent, any of senior park management, park staff?

DH: No. The presence in that sense was just mysterious to the employees. You didn't have email. You couldn't just go research stuff like that. Nothing was available to us. The most contact we would have had with them was if we maybe went on one of their hikes. You went on a lecture on the patio or something like that. Or maybe to a campfire circle. I will say that there was one other event I should report comes to mind which had to do with a Christian minister in the national parks. That's worth talking about cause that's Harry Britt, I think it was. No, maybe it was his successor. Anyway, I was invited to actually give the sermon or something like that or the talk. These were a little more informal than you would get in an Anglican Church service to be sure. But, you did have a program and I provided music. The musical part I thought went very, very well because it was like what I'd heard with the Battle Hymn of the Republic the year before. Organ in the pines you play... They were hymns, they were a collection of hymns before the beginning of the service which certainly set a mood. You could do that over the PA system for the evening Protestant service is what it was. By this point, the beginnings of the end of my conservative theology were certainly at hand. I had had the experience of the Sandburg poem and I also just not may be well enough prepared. So I remember I really had to wing that sermon. And of course they do it too, I suppose, if you don't really have a whole lot to say. There are plenty of rote things you can just make up and say. I just said the

predictable things and got off the stage. But I remembered that was adding to my sense that there was likely to be change coming about the religious view because inside I felt like I don't really believe this. So that's a little bit of emotional turmoil going with that aside from being not... Well, you're going to be well-prepared and best prepared if you really believe it. Now, if you think that there's questions then, yeah. I mean, I just think it was a signal to me internally that maybe things were not going to be a straight line. That was important signal though. That's all. I remember that in there but there's not other major events. Of course you had the Pioneer Day and things that went with that and that would have required supervision from some level from every manager. [laughs] But there was nothing else that I remember from the detail.

TM: Was there a 4th of July celebration?

DH: Yeah, they had a 4th of July, too. There was something with the flag and a little parade. That's right. They would do both of those.

TM: Mm. Were there fireworks at all?

DH: No, you wouldn't allow that in a forest like that. They wouldn't do that. But they had some kind of ceremony on the 4th and on the 24th except that the... I expect there must have been a ranger at the 4th, but not at the Mormon celebration. No.

TM: Okay. And then in the summer of 1961, you worked with...I guess it was Muriel Kanan...

DH: Right.

TM: ...to make a desk clerk song.

DH: That's right, which I'm going to try to get for you. Yes, that's right.

TM: Was there an assistant managers song in '62?

DH: No. I don't think there was any song other than for departments where you could not... That'd be more like a solo or something like that.

TM: I see.

DH: I can ask them and check, but I believe that it just was big department. By big department I mean the cabin maids would have one, the dishwashers had one, the bellhops had one, the desk crew had one, and the... What did I say? Cabin maids. You know, it was those major divisions.

TM: Okay. But management didn't?

DH: No, I don't think management did...

TM: Have a presence.

DH: ...anything other than just [TM laughs] watch. Supervise what went on and that was it. [laughs] Just to see that the people showed up. You were expected to participate in the entertainment. Many of those employees had been selected because they had a talent. This was all traditional in the way that... I got over that because I had the pull of the president of the railroad and I didn't have to show that. But many of them did.

TM: Right. And that going away song was happening at the Wylie Way camps in 1919. So that...

DH: That's plausible. Yes. That's right.

TM: ...tradition had been...

DH: Yes, that's right. I believe it may have come out of Yellowstone, you see, because the Union Pacific had the lodge at Yellowstone.

TM: Exactly did. That's right.

DH: These traditions were brought from there down into the North Rim and Zion and Bryce.

TM: Okay.

DH: I've learned that kind of independently. You've got that right.

TM: Yeah. Okay. Well, is there anything else about the summer of '62? [laughs]

DH: No. I couldn't think of... It's true, you just remember the highlights like this.

TM: Did you go to closing for '62? Were you there for closing day?

DH: I don't think it was quite closing and I can't remember just why. It might've had to do with the medical school calendar which would have been maybe... I think the medical school beginning calendar was probably a little earlier than the Homewood campus/undergraduate campus. So you had to get in there on time and be ready to go. Somehow I think I had to leave a little bit early. Now as I said, they closed the Monday after Labor Day.

TM: You mentioned that Jack Crowley was drafted.

DH: Yes, he was.

TM: Was the draft something that you were aware of?

DH: It's an interesting question about implications of all this. I was not particularly aware of it. Although I was 20, I mean, nothing was going on yet that activated that at a very high level. I don't think they were particularly reaching very far into college kids' ranks or anything like that to draft them in 1960. So I was vaguely aware. I remember being a little bit surprised, of course, when that happened, as well as internally pleased [laughs] to get rid of him.

TM: Sure.

DH: But I knew nothing about it. I was in another circle from anything that had to do with the draft.

TM: Okay. And as you were becoming aware of a more...how do I put this...of troubles with.. I'm not sure if theology is the right word, but certainly growth in inspiration from...

DH: Sandburg. Oh yes.

TM: ...Sandburg and sense of place,...

DH: And science. I mean, I'd had some science, too.

TM: ...were you becoming aware of the country's conservation movements at the time?

DH: Not very much. Not very much. That's interesting, but true. I mean, I'm thrown into this sort of island in the sky here, but [laughs] no, not yet. The things around the dam even. I did not know anything about those battles.

TM: Sure. Okay. And so it's time to leave in late summer of 1962 and it sounds like you're torn with this journey of going to med school...

DH: Oh yeah.

TM: ...because it sounded like you'd rather study English.

DH: Yeah, there's a part of me that was quite intrigued by all that, going to England, but you know, I hadn't been out of the country. Yes, it is all same song but you know, I didn't have the strength to... You know my father was somebody in medicine and I was the oldest one.

TM: Did that open doors for you or was that simply just pressure from your father? Of course you would go to med school.

DH: No, it did open doors. It wasn't just, I mean, there were doors open to this as will show up in later years coming right around the corner that were wonderful. But there was some kind of a thing where I was trapped. I couldn't think of something else I was supposed to do other than being a doctor.

TM: And doctors had many different things to do from geriatrics to pediatrics.

DH: Yes, all that all there and you know law. I remember reading about law. But oh god, there was nothing in...

TM: About medical law?

DH: No, not medical law just law. There was a book of vocations, you know, I could read. But I wasn't grabbed at that time about what it looked like the lawyers worked on. It didn't grab me.

TM: Okay. Uh-huh. Sure. Fair enough.

DH: For whatever reason. Oh, they're in the business...

TM: But it didn't sound like medicine grabbed you either.

DH: No, not a lot. There was a lot of skepticism that this was it. But I didn't have the inner strength simply to, you know, I took the path of least resistance.

TM: So you mentioned East Baltimore. Was this still a satellite of Johns Hopkins or what was the university there for pre-med?

DH: Oh, that's the famous Johns Hopkins hospital.

TM: Okay.

DH: You see that even added to the weight because my father had been a faculty member there in the late forties for three years. On the faculty of the Johns Hopkins medical school. So that just added a weight. And they had a...it's a famous...you can Google that and see the famous dome on top and the statue of Jesus Christ [laughs] in the front of the hospital, all this. But, then they had the medical school and a basic science building on the northwest corner from there. All that was kind of modernistic stuff. Then all around though or close by were the row houses of more poverty stricken East Baltimore. It was a very different environment.

TM: I bet from looking out to the Transept every morning.

DH: Oh, it was totally different. Totally different. You don't get that anymore. It's got the city view didn't interest me a whole lot in that first year. So that's all. I mean, I was into another scene now and having to adjust to an academic curriculum that was going to be pretty intense from the beginning, you know.

TM: Dick, was that a 12 month a year program or were you going to have your summers off? Was going back to Grand Canyon in...

DH: I didn't have enough... Well, no, it did allow time to go back so that is coming. I got one more shot at the parks come to think. I did get another shot at the parks. And that happened because I wanted to go back to Grand Canyon as soon as I could. Might have been... Can't remember the length of the summer. Most of it. I remember being back on the phone with Lamar Snyder who was running, by that point, the personnel recruitment for the whole Utah Parks Company. I wanted to go back to Grand Canyon and he's on the phone telling me I need you at Zion. Why did he need me at Zion? Well, the reason was that they had hired a chief clerk there. You see, it had already started. They were a week or two into the... It was like a little later than usual June opening here. Then they had had a couple of weeks in the first part of June with a kid actually worked, I think, on my desk, seemed like, who had applied and gotten the job as chief clerk at Zion and he couldn't do it. They got to the end of June or near the end of June, and they were two weeks behind on the books and they weren't balanced. So I was an emergency hire at a pretty high level actually, that's not bad. I was brought in as chief clerk at Zion in the summer of '63 at the end of June, last days of June. They hired my sister at the same time to work on the desk with me. So I wound up running the Zion just like you would have at Grand Canyon except now this is Zion front desk. And I got privileges that are pretty good. Like I had staff at Grand Lodge, I got to have meals in the dining room. I even got to have my sister in once in a while to have a meal in the dining room. She was on the desk with me in Zion. She was a clerk on that Zion desk.

TM: So now I have a ton of questions about Zion. Did the front desk work in pretty much the same way that Grand Canyon did?

DH: Yes.

TM: There was a board. There were little cards.

DH: Yeah. I knew the situation, what it was. That's right. And I knew how to work those books because I'd had the experiences of chief clerk as well at Grand Canyon and so then with a little more training, it took a little more training, but within two weeks I had it all in order.

TM: Wow.

DH: It was restored and it ran like a clock after that. It's not a hard job.

TM: So teletype, telephone and...

DH: And balancing the books every night.

TM: ...balancing the books.

DH: And supervising the front desk personnel.

TM: Were you responsible for payroll as well?

DH: No, because the assistant manager or manager... That belonged over in the manager's shop.

TM: I'm sorry. So this is chief clerk. This is not assistant manager.

DH: I was not assistant. I was chief clerk at Zion for that summer.

TM: Was the pay the same or better as it had been the year before at Grand Canyon?

DH: It just seemed like maybe it was the same company pay scale as I remember. I don't remember a major change about that.

TM: Okay.

DH: And a little different, of course. This is not the glamor lodge, but it was a very traditional... This was the old Zion lodge, by the way, before it burned down. It burned down five years later.

TM: Okay.

DH: So I worked in the original 1928 lodge.

TM: And no Lamar to give you a chocolate milkshake if everything worked out.

DH: No, I didn't have that. And I can't even remember the manager but we got along because the books were getting cleaned up. The auditors came in and they passed that. Now I had a burden there which is definitely... I mean, I had a car, I remember I had the car. I must've driven out there that time. So I had a car and that gave me freedom to go up and down there whenever I wanted on free time. I remember that being, among other things, an extraordinary wet summer with spectacular waterfalls in Zion, you know, and some landslides here and there. I mean, it was all that sort of stuff. Climbing Lady Mountain up the cable. All the way to the top of that cable you could climb. It's in front of Zion lodge. I climbed to the top of the cable. And then so did my sister. That was later that one of the embarrassing incidents in the summer cause she got stranded up there with whoever she's with and they couldn't get down. Had to get ranger rescue. The lights coming down [laughs] after dark. Oh my god, you know, it was just this embarrassing. It's your sister up [both laugh] there. There was a scene about all that. She was a fairly rambunctious character, anyway. There'd been problems with her all down the line pushing envelopes of various kind. That

was another one she pushed. [laughs] But anyway, that was one of the most memorable things of the summer of getting her off Lady Mountain. [both laugh]

TM: Oh dear.

DH: I think there was power failures. I remember that. You would lose power in Zion regularly during those kinds of storms. That all added a drama and so on and so on. Now the other thing I had to be doing there/I was supposed to be doing... Because now the word came and this is where I started to get into trouble. I mean, I had not done that well at Johns Hopkins. That's predictable when you think about it. I wasn't maybe going to like biochemistry. It turned out that I had failed the biochemistry exam and would have to take it over at the beginning before I could start the second year, and I would have to pass it. So I had books there with me where I was supposed to be reviewing biochemistry. Well, you can imagine that only so much got done with those books because everything else was too absorbing and that was not very absorbing to me at that time.

TM: Can we go back for a minute? My running assumption is that your classes that fall '62/spring '63 at Hopkins, you were surrounded by a bunch of driven individuals who wanted to be doctors.

DH: That's correct.

TM: There probably would have been a couple like you who were there because of pressure but weren't into it.

DH: Well, I think that makes sense. Yeah, I was on the sort of side-stream of some of this. I mean, I liked some subjects better than others. You only found that out by doing it. I didn't especially like anatomy or biochemistry, but I liked physiology more. And passed physiology. They had a public health course, a short public health course, which I remember liking cause I had more sociology.

TM: Okay. Uh-huh. I mean it sounds like you're very much a people person. Enjoyed that.

DH: Yeah.

TM: But the hard sciences not so much. Anatomy, was that gross anatomy?

DH: It was both gross and histology, I did better in histology. I can't remember the grades here but I must've, kind of in a mediocre way, I think passed anatomy and histology better.

TM: Okay. But no H's.

DH: Oh no. This was of course competitive, too. You're in another league so I was struggling. I had to take the biochemistry over because they were not going to advance me to the second year unless they could certify competence in the biochemistry. So that was the dilemma and I had the choice of what to do. I had to come back and take an exam in biochemistry. I must've left Zion a little early for that reason. Not much but a little bit. So when I came back and took that exam, it'd just been a bad summer for that. I didn't pass that exam. So we came to a big crisis because I didn't pass the exam. So we came to a showdown decision point where I was blocked by that failure. The word came back that I had to make a decision whether they were going to allow me to repeat the year or I would have to leave. That was a scary, very scary time at the beginning of somewhere in September of 1962.

TM: '63. September of '63.

DH: Sorry. Yeah, sorry. September of '63. That is correct. September of '63. And here's where sometimes you get the strangest things happen in a life. Some coincidence happens and you wonder where does that coincidence come from? My father, of course, was somewhat distressed about this. He had had some little conversation with his friend who was the Dean of the Case Western Reserve Medical School. His name is Dr. Bond, Dr. Bond. My father told the story that he was a psychiatrist, head of the medical school. Well, interesting because Dr. Bond... This just came up somehow at the beginning of that weekend where I was going to have to make this awful decision what to do. Dr. Bond wanted to know if he could see me. So I wound up in the Dean's office but in a psychiatrist's office with Dr. Bond. Wow. That was a very pivotal hour because he knew some things about my father and the family and this was not necessarily the traditional psychotherapy session on the couch or something. He was very revealing in terms of some things that helped liberate me and made it possible for me to go back. He recognized that I'd been under this terrible driven pressure. He said your father and mother are the most ambitious people in this medical school. That was an interesting evaluation. So I was learning that you've got an anomaly here and I was part of that. So he had just a much more light kind of thing where I was able to talk more openly about myself on several fronts. But the one that matters here is that he was actually just... I think he sort of saw a situation where I need a little bit of just friendly guidance here and the friendly guidance was just to go back and it'll be wonderful. Go back and do it over. That was the idea, you know, that would work. And he pointed out several advantages of that and so forth. My father was willing to put up the money. Well, I can't remember the tuition arrangements under these circumstances. In other words, he freed me partly from my parents and freed me to go back. And what else would I have done? I mean,...

TM: What else would you have done? You were an...

DH: ...I didn't have an option.

TM: ...incredibly smart, intelligent guy. You clearly could have worked business. I mean just any other doors could have opened.

DH: Yeah, but at that weekend it was all too much.

TM: Interesting.

DH: You had to make this decision here pretty fast. I mean, it wasn't like you could develop anything. You just had to...you're up against the calendar.

TM: So how did Dr. Bond suggest that by doing it over it would work because you'd passed a number of these classes. Do you have to take the same classes again?

DH: Well, you would take them again, except that now you would be on top of everybody. You'd be ahead of the curve in every single one of them when you started.

TM: Because you knew the books.

DH: You already knew them. Well, that's actually true. That's actually true. It would be a whole lot easier. You would have nothing better to do with yourself than to go back and now really dig in and have all the insights and sense of progress that go with the B and the A level compared to C minus or D.

TM: And so they basically scratched out all your prior grades?

DH: That's right.

TM: And you took everything, all classes over again.

DH: You took it over again.

TM: Oh my gosh.

DH: That's right. So you were back in gross anatomy but it wasn't as hard as the first time. That's right. You have an advantage, you know. And I went back with a sense of personal liberation in part because of some things, you know, in the more general sphere that Bond had gotten worked through with me or helped me with and so now I was freed from certain chains in a way. So I wound up there, said, well, you know, all right, we'll go back if that's the easiest and best way to go under these circumstances and it's what I did. And by the way, it went well. I'll get to that later. But anyway, I did go back. No, I didn't like gross as well but I did like histology. That's the microscopic anatomy. I excelled at that.

TM: Nice.

DH: I was student teaching aid therefore in that class. So I was used at a higher level in that class than I would've been in physiology and all that fell into place.

TM: Did you TA in the spring semester as well?

DH: Mmm, I can't remember which semester. Well, that would've been a second semester. Wait a minute, wait a minute. Let me think a minute what did I do? No, I didn't TA there. Sorry, TA was at Harvard later. But I just remember I did well. Let's take the TA out. Don't do the TA.

TM: Got it. Thank you. Because I was going to say...

DH: There's another thing coming. That's right. It was just that I was doing well. I was doing well. And another thing happened that was a tremendous break. I had passed physiology very well in the first year. The course was given in the spring semester. I had done better in physiology and so I did not have to take physiology over. It was the biochemistry that they had been mainly concerned about.

TM: Okay.

DH: And so I took all the first semester stuff over, but here came the next lucky break because meanwhile my father had made a contact on his international travels. He was doing this around the world stuff that was leading to his own change in direction into public health again and worldwide world health, and had lecturing, too. While lecturing in Australia had been sought out by the professor of surgery at the University of Sydney, a Dr. Milton, who my father talked with about me. And it so happened that Dr. Milton would like to have me come and do a kind of a free quarter. I was going to get an elective quarter out of this second year, you see, cause didn't have to do physiology over. So they allowed me an unusually long elective quarter combined with summer and I was able to go take up the offer of Dr. Milton to come to the University of Sydney and work on a pet project of his, which pleased me no end because it was on the microanatomy and histology of the wombat stomach. Well, this is as exotic as going to Mars. It turned out that the wombat had a very unusual gland in the curve of the stomach near the esophagus called the cardio gastric gland and it's shared

only by the wombat, the beaver, and the koala bear. Now, one of them is not a marsupial but two of them are. It has these ductules through which whatever it secretes pours into the main stomach. What is this gland about? What is its histology? What is its physiology? That was going to be... I leapt at that idea to get to go to Australia. That made up for almost the whole ignominy of having to repeat because it was a complete icing on that cake. So we accepted that since I was doing okay in the second year and the university allowed all of that as part of that year.

TM: All right.

DH: So I had six months in Australia working on wombat stomachs. [both laugh]

TM: What was this little gland for? Did you figure it out?

DH: No, we didn't. What we identified, and you had to do the work to see, basically the cell structure and physiology was that it operated essentially like other mammalian stomachs. It wasn't making sulfuric acid. It wasn't making strange enzymes. It operated on similar principles as the ordinary mammalian stomach. So that's what you just called... There are many results in science, which we just call negative results but you still have to do the work to find that out. So we did all this...

TM: That's fascinating.

DH: ...while I was just getting to live at the University of Sydney in Sydney and make side trips. They took me and the family so we got all these side trips in Australia. It was actually not bad. Amazingly good outcome.

TM: And then back to Johns Hopkins in the fall.

DH: And then you come back. That's right, yes, at the end. I will say when it was because that's part of history, too. It was momentous what was happening in the world. The finish with Milton was... As I remember, the last day was something like August 11th of 1964 and the Gulf of Tonkin incident had just occurred in the South China Sea off Vietnam. It was pretty clear from everything anybody could see that this was going to be the start of the Vietnam War. So there I am flying on across Australia with war looming and then on to a route that included Darwin and then Hong Kong and flew over Vietnam. I still remember the rice paddies down below thinking about, oh my god, what is going to happen here. And into Manila for two days and then up to Japan for a week and then a few days in Alaska. Gorgeous fall. Alaska railroad and all the colors like the North Rim foliage. Same look to it. I was really home again up there but had to leave and go back to that second year at Hopkins. I mean, the second academic year which was going to be still very problematic what this meant. But there was no choice because that was the end of the elective period. Done.

TM: You didn't get a chance to go back to Dr. Bond and say...

DH: Now what? [laughs] I didn't get the chance to go back to Dr. Bond. I just went back to Hopkins. That's all because that's the path of least resistance. That was all premised on that. I went back and you were going to start pathology. Pathology is the next course.

TM: Okay.

DH: So I can go on with it as long as you want.

TM: Well, maybe this is a good place to wrap up Part 4 and we should probably talk then about how to take this forward because eventually you're going to get back to Grand Canyon.

DH: Yeah, that's right. You're going to have a thing that will happen. That's right. In fact, I made some notes here, so we could talk about that a little bit if you want to. Whether you talk on online or not, I don't care, but I'm going to look up that note and see what I see coming here.

TM: Maybe this is a good place to terminate Part 4. Is there anything else you'd like to bring into this before we go to pathology and Hopkins in the fall of '64?

DH: Well, in terms of why we're doing this interview, you know, and anything extraordinary here, I've covered the main points. But clearly I've gotten into a look at natural history in a very interesting way. A surprising way, unexpected, in a wild country. And I got into the wild part of it when I was in Alice Springs and in some other places so that I was reminded how much all that mattered to me and anything that let me intersect with that kind of direction, which is reinforcing, but the big moves were still ahead. All I could say it was a happy time more than most people would ever get in a life to have that happen.

TM: Yeah.

DH: In spite of the fact that socially, there were reasons that I was still... I mean I'm not saying every single front was spectacular, but it had a whole lot of lift to it. So very sustaining. So then I come back to what might be quite problematic in '65, '64 or '65.

TM: It's funny looking at this, Dick. It looks like at Zion the summer of '63, you did incredibly well. You took a mess and cleaned it up.

DH: Yeah.

TM: Didn't really want to go to med school and was sent off to med school and was sort of saved there to repeat...

DH: Saved.

TM: ...and do it again.

DH: [laugh] That's right. Bought time.

TM: Bought time in a great way and exposed you to see yet more things in, as you say, the natural history of Australia.

DH: That's right. Yes, which was just a worldwide opening, was the beginning of several.

TM: Oh, and also introduced you to world travel.

DH: Well, I'd had one other one, for what it's worth, in the last semester at Hopkins undergraduate. In early '62 I had a week in Liberia on one of my father's expeditions. I could report that just for having happened for it was a whole week. But it was the beginning of the final undergraduate semester at Johns Hopkins that I got to go to Liberia on a Navy boat that was captained by my father's brother of all things. Norfolk to Monrovia.

TM: Wow.

DH: So that was an exposure to the wild world, after all. The rubber plantations, the open seas. Things like that. So we can insert that as part of the record of January/February of... It was just about all Hopkins would let me have. About six or seven days at the beginning of my senior semester.

TM: Well, you did pretty good with six or seven days. That's pretty good.

DH: Well, it's as different as they could be. [laughs] So that's in the record.

TM: You know what let's do, let's wrap this up then as Part 4 and to be continued. And so this will conclude Part 4 Grand Canyon oral history interview with Dick Hingson. Today is Wednesday, September 4th, 2019. My name is Tom Martin and Dick, thank you very much.

DH: Okay. Thank you.