

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewees: Marcia Clark (MC)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Marcia recounts her three years in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, 1942-1945, followed by making her way to Flagstaff, Arizona with her family

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TM: Today is Monday, October 12th, 2020. This is a Grand Canyon Oral History interview with Marcia Clark. My name is Tom Martin. Good evening Marcia how are you today?

MC: I'm just fine thank you, how are you?

TM: Marcia may we have your permission to record this interview over the telephone?

MC: Yes you do.

TM: Thank you very much. Marcia what year were you born?

MC: I was born May 4th, 1928.

TM: Where were you born?

MC: I was born in Manila, Philippines.

TM: What were your parents doing in Manila?

MC: My father was a businessman and he was involved with some coconut business making the kind of coconut we buy in packages today...desiccated coconut.

TM: So was he running coconut...

MC: He was treasurer of the firm.

TM: How did your dad meet your mom?

MC: Excuse me?

TM: How did your mother meet your father?

MC: My dad was a New Yorker. His father died when he was about fourteen so he quit high school to earn some money to help his mother raise his two siblings. I think he got a job first in a jewelry store. That wasn't enough money, so he caddied on a golf course on Sundays. That's where he met people that were influential in his life. After a while, he got involved with the...gosh what was that...

TM: So he was caddying on a golf course and the question is how did he meet your mom?

MC: He met my mother in Hawaii because he was offered a job on the US Shipping Board. He was eventually sent to Hawaii and my mother was over there teaching school.

TM: What's the US Shipping Board?

MC: Excuse me?

TM: What's the US Shipping Board? I'm not familiar with that.

MC: Well that was a long time ago, I don't know what it was.

TM: OK, so he did really well for himself. Did he go to college?

MC: So they met and they were married in Honolulu. On their honeymoon they took a trip to the Philippines stopping in Shanghai, China and also Japan.

TM: What was your mom doing in Honolulu, was she from Hawaii?

MC: No, she was raised in southern California, called National City. Then she finished high school and went to San Diego State Teachers College at the time, which is now San Diego State University. When she graduated, she and her best friend, whose name was Marcia, that's who I was named for, they went to Oakland where they got teaching jobs. Then she heard about this opportunity to teach in Hawaii on Maui. She accepted and went over by ship to Maui. When she arrived the school board greeted her and advised her that she would have certain decorum that she was gonna have to follow on. One was not to drink or smoke. Another one was to not stay out late at night. And another one was to go to church on Sunday. Her family were not church goers but the family that they had her live with were, so they would take her to church with them and that's where she...and she loved it she really did. So she became confirmed in the Episcopal Church there. After she and my dad were married they went to the Philippines on their honeymoon.

TM: Marcia, can I back up a little bit. How much time did your mother and father get a chance to get to know each other before they got married?

MC: A little while, I am not sure how long that was.

TM: OK, well that's neat.

MC: Yokohama in Japan, they stopped there and did some shopping, and also in China. Then ended up in Manila. My dad was first of all interested in a business called E.J. Nell Company. It was a importing/exporting business. Then he heard about coconuts so he decided to work for this coconut farm. He did for years until World War II, well even after World War II.

TM: Did he go to college?

MC: He never did. He just went two years to high school and then he went to work to help support his family.

TM: He ended up being the treasurer of a firm, then he was good with numbers.

MC: He was a very, very bright man and he also was a very good golfer. He met a lot of influential people. He was Philippine open champion two years in a row. Some of the trips that he made were in Hong Kong, I guess for golfing, and my mother would go along. She didn't like golf, but she went to shop.

TM: What year did they get married, do you know?

MC: Let me think, I think it was probably 1921.

TM: Do you have older brothers and sisters?

MC: I have an older sister, who's 5 years older than I am and my brother was three years younger. We were all three born in Manila and we lived a very nice life there. We were pretty spoiled. Had a Filipino amah that practically raised me. Next to my mother, I loved her best. She was with me until I was a good ten years old.

TM: Yeah in 1938/1940, when is the war and hostilities going to start really impacting your...

MC: Yes. Before that I went to a school called the American School. It was segregated I'm sorry to say. It was for American children number one, and you had to have white skin and afford the tuition. As far as I was concerned it was a very good school system. I had gone through that school system until I was in the 8th grade when Pearl Harbor happened. I had gone to school... Because of the time change, Pearl Harbor in the Philippines occurred on a Monday instead of Sunday as we think of it. I was at my desk working away and my mother arrived. She came up to my desk and said, "Gather up all your books and everything in your desk and we're going home." I thought what the heck's going on, but I did. My sister and brother were already in the car and away we went to our house which isn't always the safest place. My father, his office was downtown Manila and he had a hard time getting home because after Pearl Harbor then the Philippines were bombed. We had our first air raid that same day.

It was very frightening because there was a feeling of war about to happen, but we never really believed it would. I always said Corregidor is so highly fortified that the Japanese could never get that close to Manila. Well they didn't land on Corregidor, they went to southern Luzon and then worked their way up to Manila. So we knew they were coming and my father... We had a radio. That was the only communication we had because the newspapers shut down immediately. We were told that we would have to have a suitcase for each person packed with clothes for just three days. My mother packed not only the suitcases for everyone, there were five of us, but she also put some canned corned beef and some canned malted milk, and I can't remember what else, and her knitting needles. She knitted a lot for the British war relief at that time. We were first taken to a place called Villamor Hall, the Japanese had picked us up. We were there for three days. When we got there we were placed on the stage and the rest of the crowd was down in the lower part of the auditorium. So we managed on the malted milk and the corned beef and were glad to have it. We had water, there was a drinking fountain. We could always get water but that was probably the only food that we had.

TM: Can I just back up a minute. This is the Japanese occupation of Manila, is that right?

MC: Right. We were picked up on January 3rd, 1942.

TM: Did you father or mother speak any Japanese?

MC: No, and they didn't speak any Tagalog either.

TM: You were 12/13, how old were you?

MC: Excuse me?

TM: How old were you?

MC: I was 13. My sister was 15, my brother was about 10, I think, at that time, 9 or 10.

TM: Were you aware enough of the geopolitical scene at the time to be concerned?

MC: Yes I was concerned, especially when the Japanese ordered all the men to leave first and we didn't know where they were going to be taken or if we'd ever see them again. So my father had to leave with the rest of the men, and the women and children were left behind. Then we were taken to Santo Tomas University. My father and the rest of the men were already there so it was a huge relief to see them there. We were there for three years and one month. I forgot to mention, among my dad's golf partners was General MacArthur and also Eisenhower who was on MacArthur's staff at the time. He was quite a renowned golfer and he belonged to several golfclubs around the Philippines.

Let me think what else. We got to Santo Tomas. It was a university campus. The main building was where they wanted all women and young girls to be and the men were taken to what they called the education building, and we were assigned rooms to sleep in. Well, they had to give us some mosquito netting because mosquitos are always bad over there in the tropics. My father, I don't know how he managed to do this, but he arranged for some wooden beds to be made into beds for us all. Our cook, who had been our cook from before I was born and who was very loyal and wonderful to our family throughout the war, he arranged for some mattresses from the house to be brought in. Then for the first year we were there he was very, very good at bringing us food. So we really didn't suffer that much except for the fact that we couldn't leave. Everybody who was in there was assigned a job. We had a central committee mostly of American men and they were wonderful with how they planned this whole thing. You know, men who had been high up in the banking industry or whatever you call it would be carrying garbage cans down to the main floor. It was a three story building that my mother, and sister and I were in. My brother and dad were in the education building. So like I say, the first year was not that rough because David was able to bring us food. He was very loyal to us.

TM: What was his name?

MC: Well its spelled David, but we pronounced it David, I guess that's the Filipino pronunciation of it. Aso if we needed any medication or anything, he would manage to get it and for a while he even took our clothes out and had them laundered and brought back. Then he went back to the house and he brought more clothes to us. One of the things my father did when we knew the Japanese were coming, he arranged for a Swiss family to move into our home, and our home was not damaged during the War if you can believe this. I think he also transferred funds into a Swiss back. David was so trustworthy I think he was able to get money out of the bank and get it to us in the camp, because it was always handy to have money there. He was wondering, well what could we spend money on? Well, people were pretty industrious and they started little businesses like a candy store, or bread making store and so on and so forth. This grew around the camp so if you had some money you could help with your food distribution.

TM: Did everybody kind of take care of everybody else?

MC: A lot of it happened that way. We were not just Americans in there, there were a lot of British civilians, and then there were Dutch, and there were Russian, and French and they were from Holland as well. We were all on the good side of the war if you could call it that.

TM: I was thinking, too, about the people that weren't anywhere near as prepared as your family was, as your father and mother had the foresight to kind of do a little pre-planning. They must have found it much more difficult.

MC: I don't know how they planned like they did. My dad said as soon as we were interned and the Swiss family moved into our house, and they were neutral you know, they had to fly a Swiss flag over the roof of the house. The flag was seen by the Japanese planes coming in so we were not bombed like most places were. The first year wasn't bad at all as far as the kids were... If you were over 18 then you had a job, if you were under that you went to school because school teachers were also interned. Everybody had to have a job as adults. My father had the job of arranging for packages that the Filipinos would bring into the campus and then he would help to carry those packages to another area where

tables were set up and people would come and claim them. That was one of the things that he did that caused him to have a double hernia lifting all that. He had to have surgery while we were interned without the benefit of anesthesia.

TM: Whoa, by one of the doctors that was also interned there?

MC: There were doctors interned there, sure. In fact, our regular doctor that we'd had for many years and his family were also interned. I don't know what they did for my dad. He liked whiskey so I'm sure they gave him...

TM: I'm sure they did.

MC: That was all they had to give him. But he survived it, he was tough. Anyway, like I say, the first year wasn't that bad. The second year things got a little tougher. By the end of the first year they decided no more Filipinos could come into the camp so we had to... We had a garden, we had a little area where we could plant a garden. That was my brother's job mostly. My dad worked at the front line and my mother ran a library. People came in with books and they loaned their books out and so forth, she was running that. Then my sister Helen, who was 18, she had to help serve food in the central kitchen there.

TM: And you were going to school, what was your job? What were you doing?

MC: Well I was just a student. My brother and I, we were in the 8th grade when we went in and...

TM: Into the 9th grade on the second year.

MC: Yeah, I was like a junior in high school when I got out. Does this interest you?

TM: Yeah, I've never talked to anyone who's done anything like this, and I'm thinking it's not going to get any easier in the next year.

MC: No, things were getting really bad. Starvation started to really hit us on the third year. I'm just going to jump over to the third year. My birthday was May 4th and I came down with a bad case of measles. They had a makeshift hospital, you might say, and army nurses were really heroes in Santo Tomas. They took care of a lot of sick people and they were hungry too. I was taken into this hospital and I was pretty sick, pretty high fever. Then I broke out and started to get better. But that was one thing that I had trouble with.

TM: That must have been going around, measles, and I'm sure other diseases must have been...

MC: It was amazing. They had several cases of polio, too, and it stopped. We also had church services in there. Santo Tomas it was a Catholic university actually and there was an area where they have Catholic services. We were Episcopalian so we had those, too. My mother always told us we were going to be alright. But, you know, the war got worse and worse and we got hungrier and hungrier and people were dying of starvation. My father had dropped down to, let's see, he was probably 200 lbs. when we went in and by the time we were liberated he was down to, I'm just guessing, I can't remember for sure... I was down to 83 lbs.

TM: So your dad probably lost 60 or 70 pounds?

MC: Yeah, and by the time we were liberated I was 16.

TM: 16 year old, 83 lbs.

MC: Mm hmm, at liberation time I was 83 lbs.

TM: Did the allies bomb Manila?

MC: Oh yes.

TM: Did they know you were there?

MC: They knew we were there. I'm sure Filipino spies and so forth had let them know. There were several American POW camps. Ours was for civilians as well as any allied, that's the word I was trying to think of, allied people in the camp. Have you ever heard of the book... Excuse me... [pause]

TM: You were talking about the third year, the allies were bombing Manila and you were in an allied camp of civilians but there was no food.

MC: Very little. My brother had a garden and he raised different kinds of vegetables, tomatoes and a vegetable called talinum, I'm sure you've never heard of that. Kind of a spinach-like vegetable but supposedly very good for you. And we survived.

TM: I would of assumed that food was short or non-existent across most of Manila at the time.

MC: Yes, all over the place. On September 21st, 1944 we got our first American air raid, and it was wonderful to see those planes come overhead. They knew where we were, they weren't about to bomb Santo Tomas, but they did whatever they needed to do to start winning the war. Their first landing, I believe, was Leyte Island. That's where MacArthur walked through the water, you probably saw that picture. He was a friend of my dad's cause they played golf. His chief of staff was also a very good friend of my dad's.

TM: Was that Eisenhower? You mentioned Eisenhower, or was that someone else?

MC: He had played golf with Eisenhower and played bridge with them both.

TM: Okay, but the chief of staff was someone else.

MC: Yes. There was a book out called *Pandemic*. Oh wait a minute, maybe that's not the right title. I'll check on it for you. I think you would find it extremely interesting. There is a section on there about the description of Santo Tomas that is the best I have read. The author is James Scott, James K. Scott. Just a minute I'll find it. [pause] The title of the book is *Rampage* and it's fantastic. You can order it on Amazon. I have a grandson in the Marine Corps right now and he was very interested in it, and a son Tom who lives not too far from me.

TM: When you think back on that time, those three years 80 years ago/79-80 years ago, what are one or two of the key memories you have about that.

MC: Well, as a child, at first I thought it was fun because I was in there with all my school friends and parents were so worried they didn't pay much attention to us. We had our own games we played. We played croquet and softball, basketball even. So it wasn't bad at all. As I say, after the first year was over and my mother had to tell me that I was going to have to wash my own clothes... I had no idea how to do that so I learned because I didn't want to wear dirty clothes. It was incredible. But if you get that book, and there's a description of Santo Tomas that's a lot better than what I can tell you.

TM: Well you were there, that's kind of why it's kind of important to get some of your recollections.

MC: This book is all about the liberation of the Philippines, it's not just Santo Thomas. The first part of the book is. I think it's a book you should read.

TM: Okay. So it sounds like at the very least you learned to be independent, you learned to take care of yourself and to take care of others.

MC: Well, we all had to do our bit. The teachers taught and years after that when I was in Flagstaff and enrolled at Flagstaff High School, I had these credits from Santo Tomas with me and they were all accepted. Then I took an achievement test as well and I was placed as a senior which is where I should have been had there not been a war. I graduated 1946 from Flagstaff High School and went to NAU.

TM: So let's bridge that over. It was getting really tough, there was very little food. Well, people were dying, you mentioned. And Americans were advancing into Manila. Did the Japanese just disappear at one point, I mean how did that...?

MC: No.

TM: Did they just fight to the end then?

MC: No, when you get the book and read about Santo Tomas it will tell you all about that. Then if you have some questions after you read that, then I'll be glad to answer any more questions about it.

TM: That sounds fair enough.

MC: Is this interesting to you?

TM: It is, because these are the things that make people. This event would have made you who you are. I don't mean to pry but, yeah, I find this... These are the things about oral history that just surprise me and amaze me, these sorts of things that people have lived in. Yeah, I'm going to be very interested in your time in Flagstaff and Grand Canyon, but this event in WWII I think really would have helped make you who you were, who you are.

MC: Well it is. I think whatever happens to us as we're growing, from childhood on up through adulthood and up to the grandparent stage and now the great grandparent stage, it all makes you who you are. My mother had a very strong faith and she knew that we were going to be alright. She kept telling us this. She had a great deal of faith in the good lord looking out for us. She was right because we all survived it. Not many families that went in all came out whole like we did.

TM: Wow. So when the Allied forces came in, did you immediately go back to the house that the Swiss folks were in?

MC: No. Manila was in such... Anyway, I'll go back a bit. After we were liberated and as I said, MacArthur came in, of course, with his chief of staff and all...and my dad was in very bad shape, he was in bed...and this chief of staff... I can't think of his name. Whitney...I'm not sure. Anyway, he went to look up my dad, found him and saw him and said to him, "George, what can I do for you? He said, "You can get my family out of Santo Tomas as soon as you can," cause he was afraid of a kamikaze plane coming in and landing. Army nurses were the first to leave the camp, and it was about a month before we could do this. By this time we had gained weight and felt great, at least the kids did. I'm sure most people did, too. The army nurses were the first to fly out and they were flown to the island of Leyte which had been secured a long time ago. Well, it had been secured September before, this was in February so we were the next group, a plane load of Santo Tomas survivors. The plane was camouflaged, if you can imagine this, with branches, palm branches around it. But, as soon as we got up over tree tops, then the branches started falling off and then the Japs started firing at us. We had ack-ack exploding all around the plane but nothing hit us, thank god. Some of the WAC nurses that were on the plane supposedly to take care of us, and they were pretty hysterical about it. My mother was calming them down and saying, "Nothing to worry about, we're going to be fine." And so we were. Got to Leyte and it was like being in a wonderful

world. We were treated royally. We had porters. Women were in one place, men in another. We had wonderful food and movies on the beach every night. We could take rides out with the LSTs in Leyte Bay. It was a great time. I hated to leave.

TM: Did your father get to fly out with you?

MC: Excuse me?

TM: Did you father fly out with you?

MC: Yes. In order to leave, that's one reason it took us a month before we could leave Santo Tomas, he had to be able to climb up on the plane. In those days that's what you did, I guess. We could all do it, and by the time he was able to that is when we left. We were still the second plane to leave. We spent about a month on Leyte Island, just recuperating mostly. We had all sorts of physicals and dental exams. Our teeth were perfect. My mother told them it was because we hadn't had candy for a long time. Maybe that was it, I don't know. We were there and then we boarded a navy ship run by... Oh gosh, I don't know what it was. Well anyway, you'll have to excuse my memory.

TM: You're doing great.

MC: Anyway, we took the long way around to San Francisco. Of course the war was still raging and we were concerned about submarines on the way. But that didn't happen. We got to San Francisco and my mother's brother and his wife were there to meet us. We went right away to my mother's favorite hotel in San Francisco, and then had to do some shopping because we needed shoes and everything else.

TM: Do you remember what month and year that was that you arrived at San Francisco?

MC: Let me think for a minute, I should. It was about the middle maybe. It was just before Roosevelt passed away. We got there before Roosevelt passed away, but we were there in San Francisco when he did pass away. I remember hysterical people were all over the place. We were there for a while, I guess about a week maybe, maybe not that long. My mother's father was still alive so we went to southern California to see him, and he was delighted to see us back healthy.

TM: Gosh I bet.

MC: I'd never been to the states before. My aunt and uncle had some property in Flagstaff and had horses. It's a beautiful place Flagstaff, especially in the summer.

TM: This was your mother's brother?

MC: My mother's sister and her husband. They had a guest house behind their house so they invited us to come and recuperate there and then decide what the next step was going to be.

TM: What were their names, your aunt and uncle?

MC: I'm sorry?

TM: You're aunt and uncle, what were their names?

MC: Hoepntners. He was head of Sante Fe for northern Arizona. Bert Hoepntner/Herbert Hoepntner. So we stayed in his guest house and then my dad's company had their main headquarters in New York and he was very anxious to get there and get going again, start the business going again. So he had to leave and then my brother and George went on the train back there, too. My sister went down to the University of Arizona. I stayed in Flagstaff to finish high school and I lived with my aunt and uncle for those two years.

They were wonderful to me and, like I say, had horses. We could ride on weekends. Rode up to the Peaks and rode down Mount Elden a few times and other places as well.

TM: So back me up just a little bit Marcia. So you got to San Francisco, Roosevelt died, you went down to see your grandfather. It was your first time to the states. I'm assuming you must have taken the train to Flagstaff.

MC: Yes.

TM: Was this 1943?

MC: 1945. We were three years in Santo Tomas. Pearl Harbor was 1941. We were interned in January 1942 and then three years later, 1945, we were liberated.

TM: And the war ended that summer, that fall 1945?

MC: That summer was wonderful except that I had to take a class in American History in order to qualify as a senior at Flagstaff High School. That was something I didn't like doing. But I did it.

TM: Can you tell me about your uncle, Uncle Bert. Was he working for the Santa Fe railroad?

MC: Mm hmm.

TM: What do you remember about that train ride coming over? Was that a steam train still or had it gone to diesel?

MC: Was it a what?

TM: A steam train or had it gone to diesel?

MC: We went on the train, yes.

TM: In '45, okay. What were your thoughts of seeing the desert after growing up in the Philippines?

MC: [laughs] Well I thought it needed a lot of rain, like it does right now.

TM: Oh my gosh, it sure does! That must have been quite a change.

MC: Yeah it was. I'll have to tell you, I turned 17 on the 4th of May just after we got there to Flagstaff. My dad said, "You're going to start school Monday." I said, "That's not fair. We've been through all this..." He says, "No, you need to start to school." So I went and it was just at the end of the school year so it was all so new to me. I was wandering around in school a little bit, it was a one story high school.

TM: This was Flagstaff High, and it was kinda halfway up a little hill. I'm trying to remember where it was. Let's see, there's Humphreys and it would have been just a block west of Humphreys?

MC: I think so, I'm not positive where it was, but it was the only high school in Flagstaff at that time.

TM: Right, and it was just a couple blocks from downtown?

MC: Yes, that's a good point. It was all so brand new to me. People were very nice I'll have to say. Flagstaff High School was just great. Professors and other kids. I went to see them decorating this auditorium and I couldn't figure out what on earth was going on, so a young man came up to me and said, "Would like to go to the prom with me?" I said, "What's a prom?" He said, "Can you dance?" I said,

"Yes." Well that's all you need to know and I know where you're staying. You're staying with the Hoepntners, so I'll pick you up there." I didn't have anything to wear, it was war time, but ladies in town heard about me so they brought formals out for me to try on. I was still pretty skinny then, but I did find one that had a sash that I could wear. And sure enough went to the formal dance.

TM: Nice and who invited you, do you remember?

MC: A young man, I can't think of his name. A very nice young man. That's about all I can think of. People in Flagstaff in general and certainly my aunt and uncle's friends and so forth and the church there, Episcopal Church there, they were very nice to us.

TM: Nice. Pine trees, that's another new thing as well. And the smell lumber coming from the lumber mill. And the sound of the trains taking off to the west up the hill, chunk, chunk, chunk. Is that right?

MC: Yeah. Anyway, it was just the end of the school year so I finished up junior year and then I had to take this one class, summer school class, by mail. I belligerently did that. So I started up again as a senior. But that summer in Flagstaff was just so wonderful. It was so cool and beautiful. We just thought the whole area was just marvelous, you know. Grand Canyon, made a trip up there right away and saw the Grand Canyon. Just totally impressed.

TM: So your uncle, Uncle Bert, did he work for the Santa Fe Railroad?

MC: Yes

TM: What was his position again?

MC: I think he was head of Northern Arizona, into Bakersfield I think. He had to travel during the week on the train to check on these different stations. He went to Gallup and he went to Bakersfield, and the rest of it was around Arizona. He was out of town mostly during the week. He'd get back for weekends.

TM: So he was sort of a line engineer, if I get that right? He's not driving the train, but he's overseeing operations?

MC: I guess.

TM: Okay. So troubleshooting with the stationmasters.

MC: Yeah. So I went to school in Flagstaff and had a good time.

TM: What was your first impression of the Grand Canyon, this was the summer of 1945?

MC: Well, it was wonderful. But then when the war ended, we were all so excited that we decided we'd go into town. My aunt and uncle lived out of town a ways. So we went into town to see about the celebration and there wasn't one. [laughs] So that was kind of disappointing because we were so excited about having it over. ...had surrendered and so on and so forth.

TM: Back up a bit, do you remember which way out of town your aunt and uncle were staying? Were they on the road toward the Grand Canyon?

MC: Yes.

TM: Up near the Museum of Northern Arizona?

MC: Yes, yeah.

TM: Alright, because your son, John, shared with me a wonderful photo of a couple of cows standing in a pretty open meadow with the San Francisco Peaks behind them. I was trying to think, well that's full of houses there now. Where was that picture taken?

MC: That's where we used to ride. We would ride up to Schultz Canyon a lot. I remember a trip going up to Humphreys Peak on horseback and freezing near to death it was so cold.

TM: I bet. The Doyle Saddle road would have been open then, and the pipeline would have been in place going up to the Inner Basin. Seems like there would have been a lot of wonderful riding areas to go.

MC: Yes. Well there was and I guess there still is, I hope. It's developed a lot out there, too.

TM: Well it has everywhere on the planet.

MC: Yeah.

TM: It sounds like you sort of went from hell to heaven.

MC: Right. [laughs] You can kind of say that. But my mother, and dad, and brother were in New York and my sister was down at the UofA, and I missed them. But my aunt and uncle were wonderful to me. They had two horses and then got a third so the three of us could ride together on weekends. They were just very nice to me.

TM: So for your senior year, something new would have happened to you in the form of precipitation falling from the sky, frozen.

MC: [laughs] Well I could hardly wait for snow, I'll tell you. I was so excited. As soon as it finally fell, my aunt took my brother and I, he was still there in Flagstaff, and we went up to make snow angels in the snow. I was so excited to see the snow, but I got used to it and it got awfully cold in Flagstaff which I was not used to.

TM: How did you handle that first winter, did you spend a lot of time by the stove?

MC: I did, and of course I had a nice warm coat and boots and so forth, and mittens but it was still... In Flagstaff in those days they didn't have a school lunch program. What the kids did was they would leave high school and go down into the city or village, whatever. There was a bakery and they sold lunches in the bakery. My aunt sometimes made my lunch for me, otherwise I would go down to this bakery and have lunch and then go back up in time for school.

TM: And it was snowy out there and cold?

MC: It was.

TM: What else do you remember about Flagstaff in 1945/1946?

MC: Oh, it was just magical really. People were very, very nice to me and I'm sure the rest of the family. My sister was down in Tucson that year most of the year, and my brother had gone with my parents to New York.

TM: What part of school did you like the best?

MC: Well, I enjoyed the history class because I felt part of it. And I knew some Spanish having grown up and spent time in the Philippines. In fact I think I started at the American school in kindergarten and

they had a bilingual education then. It was very ahead of its time. I've lost a lot of it, but I still get by a little bit. I have learned to speak a little Tagalog, too. Workers here are Filipinos and I can shock them every time I say something in Tagalog to them. And then, as well, the one's in Spanish from Mexico I can...

TM: Nice. Were you thinking of going to college after high school?

MC: Right out of high school I went to NAU. It wasn't called NAU. It was called...

TM: Arizona Teachers College?

MC: Yeah, Arizona State Teachers College. I didn't want to be a teacher at the time. I took a business course and didn't like that, so finally I got into education and that seemed to suit me well. That's where I met my husband.

TM: Okay. So this is the summer of 1946?

MC: Right.

TM: Did you go to summer school then to start?

MC: No, no I didn't. After the first summer I didn't go to summer school. So eventually I had my bachelor's degree, and had married my husband and then we moved to the Grand Canyon.

TM: Okay. Well I'll tell you what, we've been yik-yacking for about an hour and you've gotten me to the summer of 1946. Maybe this is good place to stop for Part 1 of this interview and we'll pick it up again in the summer of 1946. How does that sound?

MC: That sounds fine.

TM: Well with that, this will conclude what is now Part 1 of a Grand Canyon Oral History interview with Marcia Clark. Today is Monday, October 12, 2020. My name is Tom Martin, and Marcia thank you so very much.

MC: Okay.