

Transcription: Oral History

Interviewee: Mary Hoover (MH)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject:

Date of Interview: October 21, 2014

Method of Interview: In-person

Transcriber: Amy Bayer

Date of Transcription: May 10-June 2, 2018

Transcription Reviewers: Tom Martin

KEYS: Constance Keller, Verkamp, Hopi House, Barry Goldwater, Bert Lauzon, Relationships, TV

TM: So today is October 21. It's Tuesday. We're at the home of Mary Katherine Hoover here in Williams, Arizona and we're continuing with oral history recollections of the South Rim Grand Canyon in Mary's time there and Mary had just mentioned a friend she had spent a lot of time with. What was her name, Mary?

MH: Constance Keller. K-E-L-L-E-R.

TM: How did you meet her?

MH: Constance was an older lady, she had lost her husband. They were living in Albuquerque, and she was from a family in Chicago who had a candy factory, and her parents were gone and her husband was gone. She had no children, and she had a brother-in-law someplace...I don't know where. He was back east in New York or Maryland or some place in that area. Anyhow, she was living there in Albuquerque and she thought "I've got to do something with the rest of my life," and she was getting up to into years. She was...I think she was in her 60s when she came, and she saw this ad for Curio Shop Clerks at Fred Harvey Grand Canyon so she called up, gave the number, and it was Joe Ernst was in charge of that. And Joe said, "How old are you? How long do you intend to work?" and all this, and he found her very...a very nice person, which she really was. And she said, "Well, I can come out...I can get on the train and come out for an interview." So she came, and he interviewed her, and he hired her. Well, she had to go back and close up her apartment and everything, and she did. And she went to work at the Hopi House.

TM: What year was this Mary?

MH: You know, I'm not really sure anymore.

TM: Roughly?

MH: Um...

TM: 40s? 50s?

MH: Well, it was probably the 50s or 60s...50s probably. It was in the 60s, because television had just come in and I had a television [chuckle].

TM: 64-ish, maybe?

MH: Yeah, 64. Now, she would come to my door. She lived right around the corner from me. She had a little, single room. It had been a...actually it had been a linen drop from the second floor, and they had closed that off and made it into a bedroom. They put a little sink in for her and everything so she had all the conveniences. And

she brought her own bed [chuckle]. I thought that was really different. She was Scotch descendent. She had beautiful Scotch plaid clothing. And she dressed to the...she was every bit a lady. She was a little grey-headed lady when she came, and Joe put her right by the door going out of the Hopi House toward the El Tovar. Well, she got more people walking out with things than anybody there ever had. She was very observant of people, and anyhow, she was a Presbyterian. So she don't go to church at the Canyon, but she had her own way of taking care of church. And she'd come to me because she had a lot of beautiful clothes with zippers up the back and she couldn't reach the zippers anymore. So she'd knock on my door and say, "Would you zip me up?" and of course I would. And on the night that *Hazel* was on tv she would come knock on my door and say, "I think it's about time to watch *Hazel*. Can I come in and watch with you?" So she'd come in and we'd watch it, and then she'd say, "Well, I got to go home." And she'd go down the steps and around the corner to her little room, and I loved her for that.

TM: So you mentioned she was positioned by the door in the Hopi House. Would she see people and say, "This person really likes that, and I should really show it to them?" Or was she catching shoplifters? Help me out.

MH: Well, like one day this man came in and she was waiting on somebody and he said, "Can I see that belt?" and she handed him the belt, well, she finished waiting on this person and looked up and he was going out the door and she said, "Oh, sir would you like to pay for that belt?" He had put it on and was going out the door with it. He was very embarrassed, but he came back and paid for it. But she oftentimes would see people do things like that. And she was...like I said she was very observant.

TM: I see.

MH: She was a...she had a really good sense of humor. One day she came over to my...apartment and she said, "Mary, what do you say when you get angry?" and I said, "Oh, I say numerous things!"

She said. "Well, I said a bad word today. I got so angry with somebody and I just said 'Oh Damnit!' and I never curse."

I said, "You're just a human being. We all do those things. Don't worry about it, Constance." She had it so on her mind that she cursed somebody. She didn't say, 'Damn you', she just said 'damnit'.

TM: Do you know how they made her so mad?

MH: Huh?

TM: Do you know how they made her so mad? What was the incident?

MH: I have no idea. But she was really angry at somebody over there. It could've been anything. It could've been somebody going out the door for all I know. But she had this one little...curios...cabinet that she showed people things out of. And some of them were very expensive. But she also had sight of the rugs and some of the real expensive things on the other side, because the Hopi House has a lot of bric-a-brac around and everything, but there are spaces where you can see through and she oftentimes see people pick up things. They were looking at things and they'd just pick up things and stick it in their pocket. She always caught people.

But anyway, she got older and she finally decided she had to retire, and so she found a home in Phoenix and it was on a dead-end street. I don't remember the street, but it was called Presbyterian Manor, I think. Anyhow, she went there to live. Well, she always told me that she'd never have a tv, and that she'd never have a kitchen or a refrigerator because she didn't like to cook. And, this place fed her well and if she couldn't get up to the

dining room or couldn't get up to breakfast or wasn't feeling well, they'd bring it up to her apartment. She had taken her bed with her [chuckle] when she moved down there, and that always impressed me, because I didn't know anybody that moved a bed around. But anyway, she went down there and she was living there. She got to be good friends with Barry Goldwater, and one day he was out at this home and he was giving a speech to the people there. It was election time and he was giving a political speech. And he walked in and who did he see? Across the room was Constance and he went right to her and gave her a big hug and said, "Oh Constance, if I had known you were down here I would've come to see you much sooner." And everybody was saying, "How do you know him?" She waited on him. Actually, Mr. Goldwater had probably all the jewelry he ever wanted but he'd buy gifts for people and he'd always take Constance's word that it was good. So that was something nice.

TM: At the Hopi House?

MH: At the Hopi House, yeah. So anyhow, we went down to see her one day...my friend Myra and I...and she said, "Oh, I have something to show you." She had this great big screen tv right at the end of her bed. She said, "I watch Johnny Carson every night and I thoroughly enjoy it." And I was amazed at that. But anyway, she enjoyed her tv. And then she says, "I have something else to show you." She had gotten a little refrigerator and she opened it up. Guess what was inside? Strange. A box of chocolates. She still loved her chocolates. And a jar...or a pitcher of water. That's all she had in it. But anyhow, we went...that was the last time we saw her. We went there and...she invited us up for lunch in the dining room that day and I put my purse on the table and she said, "Mary, we don't put our purses on the table." She just leaned over and told me that. She didn't want me to be embarrassed or have someone walk up and say, you know, "we don't," you know. So she kind of whispered it to me, so I wouldn't be embarrassed.

TM: [laughter] That's nice.

MH: I thought that was funny. I hardly ever carry a purse but that day I did. Anyhow, we had a nice lunch together and she walked out with us. It was a dead-end street and here she was at the end of the street and we could see her for about...we had gone about 3-4 blocks and we could still see her out there waving to us and that was the last time we saw her. But, I really loved that little lady. Like I say, she had the most...she was a Murray...and she had the Murray clan...all the scarves and the...

TM: Crest?

MH: Crest, and the suits and everything made out of the Murray clan...material. It was real wool. She had some beautiful things. But anyway, I have a...it's a set for perfume and powder and it's glass. And she gave me that. I've never used it but I have it. It sits on my dresser. But anyway, I thought that was really something for her to give me that 'cause it was from *her* family. But it doesn't have any...initials on it like some of them do but anyway I thought that was really something for her to give me that.

TM: So you don't have a tv, do you Mary?

MH: Yes, I do.

TM: You do, okay. What are your thoughts about the television?

MH: The television came in in 1962.

TM: Okay. Was it a good thing? Was it a bad thing? Looking back what were you doing before the television and then after the television?

MH: We couldn't get radio reception. It was so much interference, I guess because the minerals in the rocks and stuff, and you couldn't get radio reception at all up there. I had a...I had a Victrola. And it had a radio on it, but I never listened to the radio until later. And then they...I don't know how they did it. Maybe it was with the antennas and stuff, but we were able to get radio after quite a while. Then I got a tv. Couldn't stand it until I got one. Had one station and had two stations and she...we were in heaven when we got five. We did have tv and it was beamed in from Bill Williams Mountain to the fire-watch tower at Hopi Point. So that was our big, big stir that year. The men in the village got together with a man named White, who had an electrical place down here, and he was very interested in tv and he helped them get it set up. They called him Whitey but his last name was White. And he came up and worked with them and got it all set up, which was really great. Eventually Fred Harvey had...all these rooms had tvs in them. They didn't put it in the Old Motor Lodge, but did when they changed over and made the new buildings at the...for the Maswick Lodge.

TM: Why do you think Constance didn't want a television?

MH: Well, you know, she had certain things she did. And I think she...like she read her prayers in the evening. She read magazines and she liked to look at fashion magazines and stuff. And I imagine that she kept herself busy. She had a nephew...actually I think her nephew took care of her burial. He was a doctor and I think he was in New York. And thinking back, I told you her brother-in-law was in New York or Maryland, but it was her nephew. Her brother-in-law lived in Colorado some place. I met him one time. But I never met her nephew. He did come out...when she died...why I guess he did come out and took care of her funeral and everything. And I imagine he was her heir because she didn't have any children. And that was the only family she had was her brother-in-law and this nephew and his family. So anyway, she was one of the...she never said unkind things. She would maybe dislike somebody, but she said, "I don't talk about them." And you'd know that she didn't like them. Otherwise, she would've said something, because if she liked someone she'd say, "Oh that person is so nice." You know, but she was every bit a lady. We had lots of ladies that worked at the Grand Canyon and we had some that weren't very nice ladies. But anyway, she was every bit a lady.

TM: So Mary would you be willing to speak some about the social scene at Grand Canyon, and specifically you never married so how did that whole social scene work out for you, and you may not want to talk about this, but if you do?

MH: I kept myself busy. It didn't make any difference. I had lots of nieces and nephews and when they had children I used to make them baby quilts and all that kind of stuff. I must've made a hundred baby quilts over my lifetime and just right now I have 5 new great nieces and nephews. One of them is...

TM: You're a very attractive woman, I can't imagine that a man wouldn't...

MH: I had a bad experience and I just...after that I just didn't want to have anything to do with getting married. I worked hard, I went home. If I had enough ambition to do something, I did it. I have made three very intricate bedspreads, which I gave away. Then I'd made quilts, big quilts for my own bed. And I made my brother and sister-in-law the most beautiful quilt. The funny part was I bought them in the late 40s early 50s I found a...through a friend, I found a catalog that was really good, and I still get it. It's Herrschners. They sell all kinds of crochet stuff and embroidery stuff and quilts and stuff. And I had a little extra money this one time and I thought...I was looking at this catalog and they had appliqued quilts. Well, I bought three of them. One was a daisy and one was like a morning glory and the other one was a poppy...poppies are my favorite flowers. And I did the first two. I did the easy one, which was the daisy one, and then I did the other one and I kept the poppy one. I cut it all out and everything, then I put it away. And my brother and sister-in-law were having their 60th anniversary and I thought "oh, what can I give them?" and she just loves handwork. So I had cut that all out and

over all those years I never made it, so when they were going to have their anniversary I got it out and I did it. And I...we had a minister here at the Methodist Church...his name was John...son...Johnson...Johnston...Johnson. Anyhow, he quilted and he did a beautiful job, and I had him quilt it and then I made a donation to the church for him, and I sent it to my brother and sister-in-law. She was delighted. In fact, I have pictures of that quilt. I have pictures of a lot of things I made. But anyway...

TM: Did your mom...did your mom do needlework?

MH: She used to...we used to have a quilting frame in our living room. We never used the living room hardly unless somebody came to visit, and when her quilting people came in. She had friends that came and they would quilt a quilt. And sometimes they'd raffle it off at Thanksgiving time to earn money for the church for Christmas. And the Catholic Church does a lot of things that people don't realize that they do, and they use money like that for holidays and stuff so that everybody would have a Christmas and that was a good thing. And my mother just always left the quilting frame up. So I was always where there was quilting being done, you know, growing up and my sister loved to quilt. She made her grandkids...in fact she made 10 quilts...baby quilts...before she died so the next bunch of grandkids could have one from grandma. And of course they're not just grandkids anymore, she's got like five families that are five generations with my brother and I being the highest of the generation and one of the kids is going to have twins in November or December and we just had the new li'l baby. The new li'l baby boy that's the fifth one. That's the fifth generation one. I don't know, we have a bunch of them in the family. Even my brother has a fifth generation under him. His oldest daughter's great great whatever it is grandchild is a fifth generation so that's really something. He's a little boy. And he came early, but he's doing great. And so I think that's wonderful but I'm just not up to doing quilts anymore. I got two all cut out and ready and I just put it off. One can be done completely on a sewing machine. It's a lion, which would really be nice for that little boy to play but I just haven't had the time or the energy or the effort to put in so I haven't made it. But I do love to make quilts. But I need to...since I've lost so much weight...I need to do some alterations for Mary, before I do any other sewing. And I can't sew very long at a time. I really get nervous sewing, considering that I sewed all of my life. It makes me very nervous now to sew so I don't do very much of it.

TM: Mary, what are your thoughts about technology? I'm thinking you arrived at the Grand Canyon in the 1940s. And the telephone was different and there wasn't tv and radio was different and today we all got these little phones...

[Sound of knocking in background. Mary's neighbor enters and there is an unrelated conversation. Interview begins again at 23:02]

MH: Besides everything else I used to keep busy doing books for the auxiliary and the legion. I did the legion's books for over 50 years. And the first part of it I did by hand, and when we came down here they got me a computer. And I had to learn the computer when I was in my 60s, which was kind of hard for this old lady. But anyway, I still use it, but I'm not very good at it. But I do it and I still keep the books for the...for the condo here, too. So, I always had books to do, and I did the laundry books for years. And if I couldn't get it done during the day, I'd take stuff home and work on it at night. Sometimes I'd go back down to the office at night and work on it. But anyway, that way I got to meet all the night watchmen because we used to not have policemen. It started out with the Santa Fe Special Officers and rangers. Well, the Santa Fe Special Officers could carry guns. Well, then the Santa Fe went out...so they hired night watchmen. And they came through and they put in clocks and had to clock in at this... Whatever building they were going through they had clocks and so that was a change for all of us. And, of course, we still had the rangers, and I never really had any problems with the rangers. Excepting once I had parked in a fire lane because I couldn't find a place to park, and I had to take some stuff to the office and there was no place to stop. So I just parked in the middle of the fire lane, ran in, and put it on the desk,

came out and here was a young girl ranger writing me out a ticket. And the judge didn't come up for tickets, so they had one of the rangers take care of things like that. And I think he was a chief ranger...I'm not sure...but anyway I had to go over to...at that time Steve was already commissioner and...Steve Verkamp. And I had to go over to his office and the ranger was there and he said, "Well, Mary it's like this. I'm not going to put this on your record or anything and I'm not going to charge you any fine. But I want you to donate \$25 to such and such." [Chuckle] So I said "okay" and I wrote out a check for \$25 and that was take care of. I didn't have that on my record that I parked in the fire lane. But that was the only time I had any problem with the rangers.

TM: I'm still thinking about technology and just changes you've seen...

MH: Technology was such a change to have. Well, you know we had to make our own entertainment before then. People would go out on hikes, of course. Grand Canyon is known for its hiking and sometimes there would be something new come in.

We did have a once-a-week movie and it was on Saturday night. And they had to get ready...it was okay because they had all the chairs set up for the movie, and then they'd have mass and religious service for the...if it was Methodist or Baptist, whoever they were having for the ministry in the park, they would come in after. The mass was always at 8 o'clock in the morning. So at 10 o'clock the priest was out of there and the minister could come in and do his services. I taught Sunday School. My friend Myra taught Sunday school. When Myra was sick, I could go from my Sunday school over to her Sunday school and teach her kids. This one lady was very adamant that I was teaching at Protestant Sunday school when I was a Catholic. I said, "Well, I teach my own and they're just list kids. I'm just reading them things from the Bible and read them a story. They have their own little book that you read out of." And I said, "that's all I do." Maybe I teach them a little prayer or something, but I said, "I teach my...religious class out of my book." Well she said, "Well, I'm going to take over the Sunday school." And she did. And of course, I was relieved of my job of doing Sunday school, but that was alright because Peggy...Peggy Verkamp and Mary Jane Daisy and I did Sunday school for years together and I enjoyed doing it. I got to know the little kids that way. Otherwise unless they were friends of my friend's kids, why I never knew them.

TM: Who's Mary Jane Daisy?

MH: Her husband was one of the rangers. His name was Dean, and Mary Jane was a Williams' girl. And Dean was a little man. He was a ranger for a long time. And I don't think he had a college education. At one time there were three men that were rangers who did not have college educations. One was Dean Daisy, one was...what was Dolly Gibson's dad's name?...here I go again, anyhow, him. And then there was a man somewhere in the coast where they have a park. Those three did not have college educations. But they were very knowing about everything to do with the area. Burt Lauzan was the other one. He didn't have a college education, but he was very smart and the Indians loved him. He was one of the few men that went to secret ceremonies of the Supai's and stuff. He was always there because they invited him. He was their brother. And he did treat them very well and they loved that old man. Of course, things are different now and he was very good to them. He would let his backdoor open to kitchen and he had a long table, and the Indians would come in on their way back down to Hilltop, and they'd sit around the table and put their heads down on the table and sleep. And I think I told you about his daughter-in-law coming down the steps.

TM: You did.

MH: ...and getting scared to death. But he was always good to all of them. If he was coming in and saw one walking, he'd offer them a ride. Sometimes that was good. Sometimes that was a mistake. I remember making a mistake giving somebody a ride from the store out to Supai camp. He was drinking and he had a bottle and he

sat in the back seat and I was by myself and I knew him and everything. I was taking him out there and I kind of turned my head, and he had the cap off the bottle and was drinking out of it and he spilled it all over my backseat.

TM: Uh oh.

MH: Do you know hard it is to get hard liquor whiskey out of...the smell out of the car?

TM: Oh no.

MH: But anyhow, I never...I liked that old man. I really did. He was a very strong man. His name was Philip. And Philip worked on putting the lines down into the Canyon. The pipelines and stuff and the water and stuff, and he was so strong they'd have two or three carrying one pipe or two pipes and they carried them on their shoulders. Well, he would carry one all by himself and go down the Canyon. That's how they took them down. That was before they really used helicopters and stuff. He was just...he always talked to me no matter where I saw him. At one time he was a cook at Bright Angel when I was working down there, and that was in the early...mid-to-late 40s. I was there in 46 and 47. Anyway, he liked pinions and he would make a stew and for the help he'd put pinions in the stew. It was really good. And he'd use any kind of meat and he'd make the best stew. But anyway, he was always a friend, but I never did offer him a ride after that. I thought, no, I'm not going to go through that again. But, I knew he had to walk and it was a long way out there, but anyway, he finally passed away, and I think he was buried at...what is that...drift...

TM: Drift Fence?

MH: Drift Fence. Where they bury so many of their people. I was surprised that they didn't bury Harriet Sinyala out there, or her boy, Lauren. But they were buried in the cemetery. And I think maybe her sister had something to do with because her sister always lived in town. She lived in Parker and she was very well...Harriet was very well educated. A lot of it was self-education, but she was very well educated. But her sister was very well educated.

TM: You had mentioned some of the graves at the cemetery didn't have headstones. And I wondered was that not so much out of family neglect, but more so out of cost for what a headstone would cost?

MH: It could very well be cost, because some of the people couldn't afford it. Buford and Myra had theirs made before they died. I have my burial all taken care. I'm going to be buried...my ashes are going to be buried. And I have a creche in a mausoleum in Kansas City right across the road from where my mother and dad are actually buried. That's where I'm going to be.

TM: So what...do you remember what a typical headstone would cost? Not something fancy. Just something average even?

MH: I think around anywhere from 800 to 1000 dollars.

TM: And in the 50s...are you thinking like 1950s cost or today's cost?

MH: No, now. I don't know how much they cost back then. Although one of my brothers worked in a place that made headstones, but he died in what...48? And so that was a long time ago and I have no idea how much they charged for them.

TM: That's a fair amount of money.

MH: My mother and dad had left...when my father died, my mother got a headstone and had her name put on it, too. Reluctantly, because she said she wasn't going to die for a long time and she didn't want to waste the money. And my brother and I went up and bought the grave for dad and her, and we went home and we told her what the paperwork was. My brother paid for one and I paid for one. We had all the paperwork there, and we gave it to her and she said, "Well, I'm not going to die for a long time. You just wasted your money." She was very thrifty, my mother was. We would never have made it through some of the years that we did if it hadn't been for my mother being very thrifty. But she had already got the headstone because when my dad died she did it. I don't know how she did it, because they were living on social security and very little income they had. I was really surprised but she must have put money away. She was one of these little old ladies...she'd go to the bank and she'd figure out how many groceries she was going to spend, put the rest in savings. She wouldn't go into savings unless she just had to. So I don't know how she did it, but she saved money, considering that we were completely broke when we moved to Kansas City. We had enough money for the rent. She couldn't have the electricity turned on the first month because it cost 6 dollars for the hook-up at that time. And so, you know it was a different era. And our thing was dad would give us when...that was when we were little kids...my brother was...one brother was in the fifth grade and I was in the third, and my youngest one was in the first grade. And we went exploring every Saturday, or else we...we had a choice. If the weather was bad or something, you could get into...kids could get into the afternoon show for a nickel. And then, we had another nickel left over because dad would give us each a dime. And we'd go get a...it was a half-pint of ice cream. It was a little box, and oh, it was good ice cream. Anyhow, it was right across the street from the theater. Anyway, that's what we'd do on bad days, otherwise we'd get on the bus. And you could ride...kids could ride for a nickel and you could ride as far in one direction as you could. So we'd go as far as we could on one route, and the next time we'd go on another route, and we explored all of Kansas City.

TM: Interesting.

MH: We went to Swope Park, we went here, we went there. We went on the streets that we shouldn't have been on [chuckle]. We got on a...they used to have street cars in Kansas City...and we got on a street car and it said 16th and Genesee I think it was, and this man that was running the street car said, "You kids don't want to go on this one." "Oh, yeah, we want to see everything." And so we got on it and we got down there and we were the only...and the conductor...and we were there only white faces. My brother...older brother...oldest brother said, "We better get back on." We didn't...we had never been where there were...not that we'd been adverse to having colored neighbors or whatever. I have friends who are black and I enjoy them, but at that time we had never been out of our little hometown where they had been 200, maybe 300 people, that were all related to my mother.

TM: [laughter]

MH: ...And we were so scared, but we had seen them on the train when it went through. We used to go down and watch the train sometimes. It went through my hometown. It was the MKTY line. M-K-T-Y. It went down into Texas, I think. Anyhow, it went to Kansas City and then it went down south. Anyhow, my father used to...when he got a job in Kansas City, he used to ride that train and we'd always go down and watch the train stop so we could see our dad get off of the train. And my brothers would sometime...my older brother would sometimes come and carry dad's suitcase. And he worked in the city for a year and he moved us up there, and we stayed for 9 months. School started the day that we got there and we left the day it closed for the summer. And dad didn't like the job he had, and he wasn't getting along well, and the guy wasn't paying him right. His checks would bounce, one thing and another, and that man later became a millionaire in the second World War, because he made parts for airplanes or something, but anyhow, dad worked there. He was a welder and he

made ornamental iron...tables and staircap...steps, and he made a circular staircase for this man one time and it was in a mansion in Kansas City, Missouri, and...

But we had just never seen a colored person. And when I was little we had a neighbor that had a restaurant, and one day he came over and he was crippled and he said, "I got a crew coming in and they gave me a contract to feed them for three weeks. Can Mary come up and set the table for me because it's hard for me to get around and put the dishes on the table and stuff?" And so, momma said, "Oh yeah, she could do that." And she showed me how to set the table and what I should do and everything. Well, there was this one very big black man. I was scared to death of him. He was probably the nicest person in the world, but I would set all the food on the other end of the table.

TM: How old were you?

MH: I was six.

TM: Oh, my.

MH: I was in the first grade that year. And so, anyhow, I served him, but all I had to do was take the...make sure the place...the silverware all around, then take the food out. And then, when they were finished eating, I would take the dishes back into the kitchen for him so he could take care of them. But I didn't have to wash dishes or anything. All I had to do was serve it. And he gave me some very hard candy for my pay and my mother would throw it away [chuckle]. Oh, that poor little man. His name was Mr. Rice, Charlie Rice. He was a nice man, but he didn't have any money, and he had his sister living with him, and they finally... I don't know where they went, but they left. He just wasn't making it. In my hometown, everybody cooked at home. Nobody went out to eat, and that was really different when they did. And usually if they went out to eat, it was some church doings. Because that restaurant was the only one in town and it...when it closed, nobody else opened one up.

TM: It's a lot different than it is today.

MH: Oh yes, it was an old country town. We had a movie there once a week in the summertime. If the weather was bad, the guy that had a garage across from the park would clean out his garage, and they'd set the chairs up in the garage and we'd watch it in the garage. Otherwise, it was a tent with no top on it. And they'd set out...they'd come with this big truck and they'd set out all the chairs and everything for the movie. Get it all set up, and it was a dime. And I stayed with my sister that one summer and she'd put my...she had my nephew. And my oldest niece and nephew...had been born, and she'd put them in the wagon in their pajamas, and we'd pull the wagon up to the show. She would pull it. And I would walk beside her and we'd go up to the show. Of course, there'd be no charge of the little kids, they slept through the whole thing most times. Anyway, we'd sit there and watch on these folded chairs, watch the movie. We thought it was great. My sister would always take me along and she was...

TM: What kind of movies were you watching? What sort of...

MH: They were just regular movies, but they were black and white at that time.

TM: Okay. Sure.

MH: And we thought it was wonderful. You know, it was so different. Anyway, that was one of the places that I went to the movies. And then I went to the...they had the Tivoli...Tibilee theater, and then we had the Ashland theater. And we usually went to the Ashland. But sometimes they'd had a movie we'd already seen, so we'd go

to the other one, but we had to walk further. But, we couldn't take the street car or the bus because either you went to the show or you rode. So we did that.

TM: And you couldn't pay for both.

MH: Couldn't pay for both. My dad made twelve fifty a week, and that was \$20 a month. You can imagine how you had to save. My mother cooked on a kerosene stove in that first house, because we couldn't afford to have the gas hooked up. So...but she had an old kerosene stove that she used in the summertime when we lived in my hometown, and they took it with them and so she had that to cook on. And a gallon of kerosene was just 10-15 cents at the most. It was probably 10 cents, everything seemed to be 10 cents around that time. But my dad would walk to work and he had quite a ways. Once in a while he didn't feel very good, he'd drive, but very seldom. Sometimes the police would come along and they got so used to seeing him that they'd pick him up and bring him home.

TM: Oh, that's nice.

MH: Yeah, it was, because they didn't ordinarily do those kind of things, but they'd see him and he was an old...getting older, you know. And it was a good thing because he did have heart trouble and so it was a good thing that they did that for him. But he just didn't feel that he could buy the gas and go, and gas was like 15 cents a gallon at the very most.

My brother ran a service station, one of them, and when he went into service in 1941 he closed up the service station and he was getting 15 cents a gallon, and it was up on the corner. It was about...almost a block from where we lived, and so he didn't have to ride anyplace to get to work or anything. And he told mom, "I'm going to go sign up." And then, they took him but they didn't put him right in. They took him to...I don't know where. They took him someplace. On his papers they didn't sign him...sign him up for to actually enter into service until the...it was right at Christmastime, I think. Maybe the week before Christmas, but he went in the day after Pearl Harbor. He went up and signed up, but they took him away and I don't know if they took him to Leavenworth or...I just don't know where they took him. 'Cause I wasn't very old at that time and I just...I just don't remember that. But I remember the day that Pearl Harbor happened. It was like everything was turned off. I had to go up and get a loaf of bread. The clerk and I were the only one in the store. There was nobody around the street. The streetcar wasn't running. Nothing seemed to be running. It was just so...dead-stopped. And I went back home, and my mother, she kind of cried about it, because she said, "Now all our young boys will go off to war." She had brothers in service. They came home, but there were some cousins that were killed in service. That was in the first World War.

My dad was in service but he was in service before the first World War. He was in from 1909 to 1912, and that's how he got to Kansas. He went to...it was in New York...some Fort something in New York, and signed up for the Army and they sent him to Fort Riley, Kansas. And he was in the 6th Calvary, Company C...Company D, 6th Calvary at Fort Riley, and that's how he met my mother. Because I had two older uncles who lived near Ottawa and my mother was working for her aunt at Ottawa in a...boarding house. She rented rooms and she fed her roomers. And my mother was there helping her, and for some reason dad's letters didn't get to my uncles on time, and they didn't come in the day he got there like he thought they would. Well, he just came from Fort Riley, and it's not that far, but he didn't know where they lived, so he thought he better find a place to stay until they came to town. So, he got a room in this boarding house and he thought, "well if they don't come then I'll just stay here for my week." He was off duty for a week. And so, he stayed there and he met my mother, of course, she served the meals. And that's how they came to know one another, and eventually they got married. And had seven kids, raised them all, and they have a lot of grandkids, lot of great grandkids, lot of great great grandkids. We're a large family.

TM: What else...what else do you think about when you look back. Think about Grand Canyon. Think about your life that you think is important to capture here on this machine. To speak to future generations about your life.

MH: Well, I met this young man and...I was very close to my mother and dad and every year I tried to go home to see them. Well, I had made plans to go home and then we became engaged. Well, we had some religion discussion and he insisted he wanted to be married in his church, which he never attended, and I insisted I wanted to be married in my church.

TM: What did he do?

MH: Well, I went home to see my parents.

TM: What did he do? What was his job?

MH: While I was gone... He was a driver for the company. He was in transportation. Anyway, I went home, well I gave him my mother and dad's telephone number, but he never called and we had some other difficulties, but anyway, I was kind of upset with him and he was upset with me, I guess, because he took...I didn't know he had been seeing another girl. And they went to Las Vegas and got married the day after I left to go home to my folks. He was so mad at me, and it didn't last, and I felt sorry for her because she was a good girl and a good person. She had a son by him and he left before the son was born.

TM: Wow.

MH: Which I thought was really, as well as they should've known it was pretty bad.

TM: Absolutely.

MH: And...

TM: Lucky it didn't happen to you. I mean, what would...

MH: I just said "to hell with it." I threw the ring at him and he said...he came to talk to me...and I said, "I don't even want to talk to you. Here's your ring." And I threw it at him and slammed the door in his face and that was it...

TM: Good for you.

MH: ...and I never trusted anybody for a long, long time. I just...I just decided that wasn't for me. I'd help my family and be good to them. I had 28 nieces and nephews so there was a big family.

TM: You kept busy.

MH: And I liked to do things for my folks. I could do them as a single person, but when you're married you have to do...you know...things for your own husband and wife things, and so I just decided that was it. I'm not going to get married. I just gave up on it. But I had a sister that was married 67 years and for the last 11 years she took care of her husband who had a stroke and you know that was a big chore. She didn't leave him for more than an hour unless one of the kids stayed with him. And she really took good care of him. He had to be fed, he couldn't walk, he had to be changed, she had to clothe him and everything every single day. It was really hard, but she

was a nurse. She had done nursing. She knew how to take care of him and she did. She'd read to...she'd sit by his bed and read the newspaper to him every day. She'd call up the weather and see what the weather was going to be and tell him what the weather was going to be every day. If one of the kids was going to come, she'd say, "I'm going to fix them lunch now, because so-and-so is coming and I have to make more than usual." And he got so he couldn't talk or anything. And he'd grunt. She knew exactly what he wanted. I don't know how she did that. But I was there one day and I thought, "what is he trying to say?" She says, "okay I'll get it for you." And he'd just smile. It was fine; that's what he wanted. And I don't see how she did it, but she did it. He was a big man. Not fat. Big boned man. He'd been a wrestler when he was a young man and that's when she met him when he was wrestling. His brother was the superintendent of the school there at home, but I don't think...at that time there was another man at the time my sister was in school. Anyway, she went to the Catholic school and that was public school.

TM: It's interesting because it seems like the pool of available men at the Grand Canyon, the selection is kind of...

MH: Well, you know nothing is permanent at Grand Canyon. It's very unusual for people to come and stay. There were certain jobs that people stayed at for years and years like me and the Nelsons and the Ennises, you know those people. But they we're the ones who came there with fairly good jobs. And they could make a living, and it was satisfactory and they loved the scenery and the loved the area, and it was good for them. But there were other people that came that...I had people that came in that walked out before the end of the day. "Oh, I hate it here!"

TM: The first day?

MH: Yeah, the first day.

TM: Wow.

MH: And I had people from all over the world that worked with me. I had kids from Finland...different European countries. France and Germany. I had kids from Australia. I had kids from South America. Just all over.

TM: Now some of that was on the temporary work Visa, wasn't it?

MH: Some of it was. They were work exchange. Somebody from the United States would go to their country and work. I had this one really funny little French boy. He had been all over the world. He had a car of his own. So when they got to New York...they flew over from Europe. There were several of them. And I got the smart one in the bunch. No, they were all smart. But this one was...he was really exceptional, and they came over on a plane and they got off in New York and they were supposed to fly to Los Angeles and then come to Grand Canyon. Well, he said, "let's take a few extra days." I think there were five or six of them in that bunch. He said, "let's take a few extra days and drive. We won't see anything if we fly." So he talked them into it and they came to Grand Canyon. And the first day he said, "I got to have a day off." And he said, "I only got one day to take care of something." I said, "Well, you just started to work." He said, "I'll be back the next day." He said, "I've just got to return this car." They had a stretch limousine that they had driven across the country...

TM: Oh my gosh!

MH: They took their plane tickets in got a stretch limousine. They had money over. They ate, they looked around, and they got to see the country a little bit, and he got to go to Los Angeles.

TM: Where did he have to return the car? To Los Angeles?

MH: Los Angeles. Yeah.

TM: So he drove to Los Angeles, and then took the train back?

MH: Mmhmm.

TM: Oh my gosh.

MH: Yeah. He came back and he was there, and he was a funny kid. He said he went to...he was German. That one was German. He went to France and they told him not to leave his car in a dark place, to put it under a light so nobody would strip it. Well, he goes down the next morning and his car was stripped. And they laughed and they said "Well, you made it easy for them. You lit it up so they could find everything they wanted." Because he parked under the light. But these other guys told him to park under the light so it'd be safe. But he came to my Christmas Party. I used to have a Christmas party for the help that worked with me. Fred Harvey used to give us a turkey. What would one old lady do with a turkey? So I decided I would have a Christmas Eve party for all the help that worked for me, and I would put the turkey on in the morning, run home during my noon hour and check it and it got done. It got done. I get everything done. Anyhow, he came to the party and he said...he was going to leave right after the New Year's...and he said, "Mary, it was a good thing you had this dinner for us. You know what I would've done? I would've got drunk and you would've had to fire me." I thought that was such a thing to say. He was just a young kid, probably 20 years old. But he said he'd just get drunk and get fired.

TM: What year was that?

MH: That was...I was out...it was after 78... 'cause I was working in housekeeping at that time. I can't remember exactly. I was working at Yavapai and I worked at Yavapai from 80...78...80...85. It had to be around 85.

TM: Okay. Did you keep in touch with him? Did he go back to Germany?

MH: No, he went back to Germany and I got a little note from him saying, "I sure enjoyed my time at the Canyon" or something to that affect.

TM: Oh, that's nice.

MH: But anyway, he could speak English very well. He was very well educated. I don't know. We just had kids from all over. The kids from Finland, some of them integrated into the scenery and never went back. We had a boy from Yugoslavia that married a girl from the United States. She was older than he was. It was a convenience marriage so he could stay in the United States. They lived together for, I think, a year and then she divorced him, and she went into nursing after that, I don't know. She was down in Cottonwood for a while, but I have no idea where she is anymore. And I never knew where he went, but he only had one more year to go to be a doctor. And he said, "Here I am making beds." And I said, "Well, you know it doesn't hurt a doctor to know how to make a bed." [laughter]

TM: That's right. That's right.

MH: I thought that was funny. We had a quite a bunch of people come through over the years.

TM: How long was the average employee working for you at the laundry?

MH: I had...we had Indian kids that worked at the laundry, like Ransby was there all the time I was there. And when it closed, I don't know...I think he went back to the reservation. He took his family out there. But there was girls that worked there for years. Like Harriet worked there for off and on for years. Sometimes she'd take off in the winter months because she had to walk in and stuff, and it was getting kind of hard for her to walk in from the village. But we had like Big Jake for us for quite some time, then he went into bus driving. The first time I saw him he was driving a truck...a delivery truck. He delivered the garbage to the garbage dump, he delivered the food to the El Tovar and to the Bright Angel and to the Cafeteria back and forth. There was a guy named Kenny that was working with him when I first met him and he came to work at the laundry. They stayed for about a year. And the Smiths were there for maybe 3-4 years. They were from Chicago and he worked at the...both of them worked at the laundry. And let's see...we had two ladies that came from Hollywood. One of them had been a housekeeper for...Bing Crosby. The other one worked in an office. And they were good friends and they came and they worked two years and they went back to California. And then we had a lady named Marjorie who came from a ranch out here by Flagstaff. Her husband had bought this ranch, and then he died, and she had to go to work and she took me to...out to her place one time. It was on a very dirt road. The first time I ever saw an elk out in the yard. I said, "What is that animal out there in the yard?" She said, "Mary that's an elk. Haven't you ever seen an elk?" And I said, "No." That was the first time I seen an elk.

TM: Oh my.

MH: She was my roommate at a time for a short time. She was...her name was Marjorie. She ended up...

TM: So would you see elk in the village at all?

MH: There used to never be elk at the village.

TM: Was there grass in front of the El Tovar?

MH: Yeah.

TM: There was?

MH: Oh yeah, there was grass there but once in a while you'd see a deer up there but you never saw an elk inside the park. And I don't know how come all of a sudden they have so many elk there. You know, at one time they took deer to Kansas and Missouri and Oklahoma, I think. They transplanted herds. Where my sister lived there was nothing to see an elk or a deer in their front yard. There was a hay field across and they'd go over there and enjoy their meal, and cut through her yard and go up on the hillside. But that was a long time ago. It just doesn't seem possible that she's been gone as many years as she has. She lived a long life. She was 92 and she said it was time for her to go. She was like my mother. My mother wasn't going though [laughter]. She was going 15 years and she only lived 14.

TM: She did pretty good. She wanted to go for 15. She went for 14. That's pretty good.

MH: She thought she was going home any day, and she was so happy that day that she passed away because the nurse came in and she fed her, and she had said her prayers, and she says, "My son and my daughter are going to come see me and I'm going to take a little nap so I'll be fresh when they come." And she went to sleep and when my sister went in she was gone. But a what a way to go. She was suffering because she'd been hurt. But my mother didn't have a sense of pain. She had an injury to her spine in a car accident and the doctor...she had ribs broken and they were pressing against her lungs and it was on her left side and he was so worried about

those ribs puncturing her lungs and he didn't...they didn't take you to the hospital then...those days. They took her to my sister.

TM: Wow.

MH: It was just a few miles in to my sister's house and she wasn't complaining of anything, and she didn't say her back hurt, and he just thought it was her ribs were broken. So he took her in and my sister put her to bed to keep her quiet. And he taped her and everything. And she wasn't supposed to use her arms to do anything. To raise them up or anything. And dad brought her home at the end of the week. He took a bunch of pillows around her in the car and got her comfortable, and brought her home and it was a Sunday and I said, "Mom, I didn't get the clothes washed yesterday, but I'll do them when I get home from..." It was a school day and I said, "I'll come home from school and do the washing." I came home and who was hanging clothes out on the clothesline? My mother. She couldn't raise the one arm and she was trying to get the clothespin over the end of the things she was hanging up. I said, "Mom! What are you doing? You're not supposed to be doing that. I was going to do that when I got home. Go in the house! Go lay down! Go away!" So I finished up the washing but she said, "Well, that's my job." She always did her job. When my parents met and decided to get married they talked and my dad said, "I will always make the living. I want a family." He didn't come from a very happy home and he said, "I want a family. I want to enjoy a family." And he said, "I don't want you to ever have to work." My mother never worked out after she worked for my great aunt. That was it. She worked hard. She grew a garden every year. She raised chickens and sold them. She did a lot of things, but she sold eggs. Sometimes she did sewing for people, but I don't think my mother ever really liked to sew. When I'd go home on vacation there was always a stack of: "Would you put a hem in this? Would you sew this jacket up? It needs to have the lining changed." Whatever. And I'd do it.

TM: Well, you might have been better at it than she was.

MH: She had a nice sewing machine. It was a treadle and that's what I learned on. Well, in the meantime, I had been introduced to the electric sewing machine and my dad thought that the thing she wanted most was an electric sewing machine. *She* didn't want an electric sewing machine. *He* wanted it.

TM: [laughter]

MH: He'd sit down and sew at the sewing machine and he'd enjoyed doing it, but she wouldn't let him. That was not *his* job. It was like cleaning the house: "It is *my* job." So when they... dad retired, she start to do something and he'd say, "I just got finished running the sweeper. I did that while you were over at Pat's. I did the dishes, you don't have to do the dishes." So one day she sat him down and shed said, "I have my things that I've always done and you have a hobby and you can go out and work in your woodshed. Go work in your woodshed and let me do my things in the house." So they came to an agreement. That's what they did.

TM: They worked it out.

MH: And he made little figures for people's yards. He made ducks and birds and all kind of stuff. And he made birds, he painted them so you could see the feathers. And I came home and they put a trellis up at the end of the porch and he had 4-5 little birds on it and I thought, "Gee, they never move." And I said something to my mom and she said, "Oh, dad made those." They were wood.

TM: Oh, my gosh.

MH: They looked so real and I thought they were really birds sitting out there, because they were like the birds we had in the area.

TM: Nice.

MH: He had made those. He made Myra a set of ducks. He made my sister geese for her yard, and he was always making things like that. And he made these things that would sit on top of your mailbox when we lived in Greeley everybody had either a mailbox or they had to go to the post office. And he had made...these figures that when the wind blew it had a little...

TM: Propeller?

MH:...fan and he had one that was like a man doing a jig and there was another one the hand was going all over, pretty soon the other hand would [laughter] go over. He made things like that all the time. He loved doing that. But he couldn't make a living at that, of course. He was a blacksmith. He liked being a blacksmith. He loved to shoe horses. In all of his years he had never been kicked by a horse or a mule.

TM: Wow,

MH: That's pretty good.

TM: That's very good.

MH: He made a...I don't know what you'd call it...it had slats going along the side of the horse and they couldn't move very much. And he could pull their leg up and work on each shoe and he had his own...I was saying kiln, but it wasn't that...

TM: A hearth?

MH: What?

TM: A hearth. Where you forge...

MH: Forge. It was a forge.

TM: Forge?

MH: Yeah, and he had that and he fit...he could really fit the shoes for the horses. Some of the...usually if a blacksmith is real good he can fit a mule or a horse real well but some of them don't and they're really uncomfortable and they throw a shoe. And he was able to keep going and do all those things and he liked to do ornamental iron and...

TM: Did he ever come and visit you at the South Rim?

MH: They never came. My father had heart trouble and they told him...he went back one time to see his mother and he was quite young at that time, and he noticed that his heart wasn't beating the same back there, and he'd gone over some mountains and stuff, so he never was enthused about going anyplace. When his mother died he went back for her burial, but that was before I was born. So I never knew my grandparents, any of them. My grandfathers died at the turn of the century and my grandmothers in the 20s, so I never knew them. My

grand...my mother's mother lived with my folks near the end. She had a farm. When my grandfather died, she ran the farm. And the boys helped her. She had sons and they helped her until they left home and got involved in their own businesses. Some of them were farmers and one was a barber and one, two, three of them were construction...they had construction companies. And so, she didn't have boys at home anymore, so she and the girls took care of everything. And my mother used to ride in when they'd go to the mill and have flour ground. She thought that was the most wonderful thing in the world to get to ride in the buggy and my grandmother... she was real little and she couldn't reach the horses to get the bridle on and stuff. She'd get the horse over to this...they had step up over a fence. And she'd get the horse over the fence and get them close enough that she could grab it. And that's how she'd get the horses ready to go to town. But she could do it. She was a strong person. Anyhow, she was living with my uncle and aunt. My aunt was a very...I wouldn't say she was thrifty...she just...she didn't believe that you needed sugar on cereal. She didn't believe you needed this on that. She wouldn't put salt in anything. Everything was flat at her house. I hated to go to her house to eat because my mother's cooking was so much better. But anyhow, she was...I don't know...she was always snotty. She didn't like girls I don't think. She was always real snotty. She had a daughter. And her daughter was just like her mother. If I touched her doll, "Mama, Mary is touching my doll!" so I just...she'd say, "Go up and play with Julie...Judy...Julia..." Her name was Julia. She had Olevia and Julia anyway I'd go upstairs and I'd sit on the step. Just sit there because every time I touched anything she'd yell. It wasn't worth going in.

TM: Why?

MH: You had to let her things alone. Why did I even go up the steps?

TM: Right.

MH: There wasn't any reason. I'd rather gone out in the yard, chasing chickens around or something.

TM: So Mary, you mentioned that your mother grew up on a farm. She could...she could hook up a team very early...

MH: My grandmother.

TM: It was your grandmother or your mother?

MH: My grandmother. My mother would go into town with her when she was a little girl.

TM: So I'm assuming that you don't...if all the parts were there...with the horse, and the wagon, and the bridle, would you be able to tell me how to do that? How to hook things together to make it work?

MH: She put the bridle on first...

TM: No, could *you* do that?

MH: No, I couldn't do it.

TM: Okay, okay. Just trying to think about this generation.

MH: I never had to. I used to ride once in a great while.

TM: Okay.

MH: And once I rode a horse that took off in the woods. It was at Grand Canyon.

TM: [laughter]

MH: The garbage truck went by and something fell off and the horse spooked...

TM: spooked.

MH:...and little Jake Smithers was a guide and had to chase me down. I couldn't get the horse to stop. Anyway, it went up on it's hind legs and it's a wonder I didn't go off on the ground.

TM: Oh my goodness. Yeah.

MH: But that was the last time I really rode a horse. My sister had a horse and I have a sister-in-law who had never lived on a farm, but I have a picture of her sitting on that stupid horse [laughter]. And I rode that horse around the yard a couple times just to get her to consent to get on it, but it wouldn't buck you off. It was an old horse. When it was a young one, my niece [Dottie?] used to ride it all over the countryside. She'd jump fences and everything else, but she got her wrist broken one time jumping. The horse got tired of jumping and it just went right up to the fence and ducked its head and she went right over. And she broke both of her arms. She wasn't very old. I think, she was probably a teenager but she wasn't very old. But yeah. I never lived on a farm, but we had a farm. My brothers lived there and my sister and my brother-in-law lived there at one time. But my dad really kept that farm up and the boys...we had a hedgerow on one side and they had fencing on one side and they had a creek on one side. And on the front they had a rock wall because they cleared the field, and so they made a rock wall. And the house was made out of rock.

TM: Wow.

MH: The window seats in the house were about 18 inches...

TM: This was in Kansas?

MH: In Kansas. It was out in the country from our hometown.

TM: Is that building still standing?

MH: I imagine the house is although the last time I went by it, a city couple bought it. My dad had grown a beautiful orchard. He had all kind of fruit out there and he took such good care of it. And these people bought it. Well, the first year they had a late cold spell and the trees were all in bloom and of course they didn't produce anything that year. So he thought they weren't any good and he cut them all down. After all the years, my dad spent on them. And my dad had made this chicken house. They called it a [...] house, but the boys called it a chicken house, but anyhow it was out from...at the edge of the house yard and my mother had quite a walk to go out to it. Well, this lady was crippled and my dad really built a good building. He could take...where the chickens roost, he had boards that he could take out from under them and wash them off. He'd take them down to the river and put them in the river...

TM: Yeah, sure.

MH:...and let them wash them off in the...He just had them fixed really nice. In the summertime, they didn't get out and the foxes and stuff couldn't get in, but he did have...he could open for them so it weren't so hot. And he just had it fixed really nice. They brought it right up to the kitchen door because this lady couldn't walk out that far to get the eggs. And we went by there and this beautiful old rock house had a couple rooms built on the back of it. I don't know how they got through all that rock to build it. They probably took a window out and just cut down from there. But anyway, they had built a couple rooms on the back of it, and they spray painted it all white.

TM: What color was the rock before that?

MH: It was natural rock.

TM: Oh my.

MH: It had browns and greens and stuff and it was a rocky area and they had used what they had there to build it. And they really had built a good house. I don't know who built it. My folks bought it. They bought 80 acres for \$500. The 30s came along and they sold 80 acres for \$500.

TM: Oh, yeah. Oops.

MH: Yeah, that was a long time ago, but things were really different then. And my dad loved that farm. Every time he could take a little time off, he'd go out there. And sometimes he'd even close the shop, which was really unusual. But if it was time to pick or anything, he'd go out and make sure the boys picked the fruit right. Put it in bushel baskets right, and did it all right. Sometimes my mother would go out and stay with them and he'd go back and pick her up the next week. But my mother was very good at canning. We had a cellar full of canned goods when we went to Kansas City and it was a good thing because we ate out of those cans for a whole year and we brought some home.

TM: Did you have any dairy cattle?

MH: We had a dairy cow that we put out in pasture. Moody's pasture. It was a whole...probably three quarters of a mile from our house. We did have a barn at one time and they kept the cow in there...then dad started using it for a garage and they got rid of the cow. You could buy milk for seven cents a quart and my cousins had a dairy that was only a little over a block away. Less than two blocks anyway. And my mother would boil out the milk bottle, give me seven cents, and I'd run down to Jay and Pete's and I'd put seven cents in and shake it all the way down there. People would have a fit if you did that now. He was separating, usually it was Pete, no it was Jay, Jay was separating the milk and he'd separate right into the bottle and put the cap on it and say, "okay." And I'd give him my seven cents out of the bottle before he put the milk in. But that was funny because people now wouldn't do that at all. When we moved to Kansas City we found that there place right outside the city limits. At that time I think the city limits was Seventh Street for Kansas City, Kansas, and that place was called Wellburn. My brother lived in that area right now. He's lived there for years. They had this place out there and you could take your gallon jar and get a gallon of milk and...it was probably less than 50 cents. And you had to bring your own jar. And they would put it in the jar for you. You'd pay them and they'd give you your milk.

TM: It was the town dairy.

MH: Yeah, it was the town dairy. I don't know where their cows were. They weren't there. But there were fields around that had cattle that might belong to some of them.

TM: And they may have brought in the surrounding farm's milk.

MH: And they had...they made like cottage cheese and stuff like that. You could buy other things than milk there. Anyhow my dad liked whole milk. He liked fresh milk. He didn't like that pasteurized milk you got in the city. That was junk.

TM: Interesting.

MH: So we'd go out and we'd get that milk. And then I left Kansas City...we left Kansas City when we went back...the city limits had gone out further and the place wasn't there anymore. I don't know if they moved or if they just closed probably. Maybe they just sold the dairy. Places that made cheese and stuff.

TM: Its very common as these towns grew they would outgrow the outline.

MH: My sister had two separate places that they sold milk to. They sold Guernsey milk to one place and they sold Jersey milk to another place because they got more money for Jersey, but they had Guernsey cattle too, so they'd milk them and sometimes...they milked a hundred head of cattle...the boys would help my brother-in-law. I said to my sister one day, "Don't you ever milk the cows?" She said, "No. I will never milk a cow." I said, "Why?" She said, "My husband would have me out there every morning at five o'clock milking cows and I have enough to do to get the milk cans ready." She wouldn't go out and milk [laughter]. And she told her daughters, "Never to learn to milk." And my mother and dad told me I had to learn to milk. SO my brothers took me out to the cow. And she had been out in the pasture and had burrs in her tail.

TM: Oh no.

MH: They showed me how to do it. And I started to milk the cow and she swished me and I thought I had lost my eyesight. Those burrs just scratched me all the way across my eye. And I run screaming to my mother and she put some soap and water in and washed my face good. There were some little scratches and she put some Vaseline or something on it...she used Vaseline for everything...anyhow she put some Vaseline and stuff on it and I survived and I didn't lose my eyesight. And I never did milk again either.

TM: I was going to say, did they ever send you out to milk again?

MH: That was it.

TM: That was enough.

MH: But, you know, my mother grew up on a farm and she could milk faster than my brother-in-law who grew up on a farm.

TM: Wow.

MH: Even when she had her hands were all crippled later in life she could still milk those cows faster than he could. But then they got electric milkers because my nephew was in an accident and he'd couldn't...he was...he was hurt real bad and he couldn't milk so my brother-in-law finally got some electric milkers.

TM: What happened to him?

MH: He was...he was a basketball player and he got a scholarship to some college and at one time he was...his pic...I have a picture of him in the Kansas City Star that he was...the best...in that class of basketball. And he was coming home from school at Christmastime. And Kansas used to not have a speed limit. You could go as fast as you could control your car. Well, he was coming down this old dirt road and this water truck pulled out of a farm house and he came all the way across to...you know...to turn onto the road cause country roads aren't very wide. And you really have to know how to handle a big truck and this man came out and he didn't stop. He came out of the farm without stopping and my nephew was going too fast and he was too close and he couldn't get the brakes on in time to stop. And he went completely under that water truck and his car was smashed down on top of him so bad his face...the steering wheel hit him in the face. And he...

TM: Did the milk truck not see him coming?

MH: He didn't probably look. He was probably thinking about turning the corner there, you know. And he'll...you think of Kansas as kind of flat...

TM: Yeah!

MH: Well, it's not. Eastern Kansas is up and down and up. And they're not big hills, but when you come over a hill you never know what's going to be in front of you. It might be a car going on the wrong side of the road or anything.

TM: Sure.

MH: And that was the kind of road he was on. It was just an old country road. Anyhow, he went completely under it and he was really badly hurt. And they didn't know if he'd ever see. I saw him at...that was before Christmas, and I went home in February, and he couldn't focus his eyes yet then, and he couldn't go back to school and he lost his scholarship. He hurt his legs. And he was really bad...he didn't break legs but he hurt them. I don't know what he did to them. And I only saw him that one time when he was sick. He was sitting up. I didn't stay there very long and I only spent a little time with him. But anyway, he's always had health problems but he learned to do cement, which is a hard job. He's had cancer twice. The first time he went in, he had treatments, he got out of the hospital and two months later he had cancer again. He went to the hospital and they said, "We'll operate on you." And he said, "No, you're not. If I'm going to live, I'm going to live. If I'm going to die, I'm going to die." He said, "I'm not going through that again." So he went home. He's still alive. And this has been what...12 years or so now.

TM: Good for him.

MH: And he farmed 'til he and his wife split up a few years ago and they sold the farm, excepting that she took one where the house was. She took that acreage as part of her settlement. I don't know if she lived out there or not. I don't know what she did. I only met her one time and I really didn't like her. But anyway, she said, "What do you do?" and I said, "I work in housekeeping." "What do you do in housekeeping?" "I make sure the beds are made and the places are clean. I'm the housekeeper." She said, "Oh, well I have an office job." And I said, "Oh, that's nice." I didn't care what she did. It didn't make me any difference. And she sat there and she didn't say anything else to me. Finally, Jerry came in. He had been out in the yard and he came in and said, "It's time to go home." So she got up and left. And Dot says, "I feel the same way, Mary." I says... she didn't like her either. But she thought she was better. And I always say, "You might be as good I am, but you're no better than I am, and I'm not better than you are."

TM: That's right.

MH: And I've always said that and I believe that. I thank God for this on this earth. Maybe we don't have equal intelligence, maybe we don't have equal height, have whatever, but we were all put here equal and it's up to us if we want to get ahead. But we should never put yourself above anybody else.

TM: That's right.

MH: And I've always thought that way. I fought for Indian kids...and Buf and Myra used to fight for the Indian kids. And we used to fight for the Mexican kids that worked for us. When I first went to work at the laundry we had Mexican kids and I remember one time there was a fair over at Flagstaff, and these kids all got a ride down there. Well, nobody came to work the next morning, so Buf goes down and gets a bus down and goes to find as many of them as he could, and he brought them to work and they were never very happy after that. They started leaving. And so he went on...he said you can't...you can't hire Indians of different tribes. That's all a malarkey. They might have different beliefs and everything but we had the Cherokees, we had Apaches, we had Navajos, we had Hopis, we had a Seminole Indian.

TM: All at the same time?

MH: At the same time. And I only ever had trouble with the help getting in an argument or a fight one time. We had five girls. One of them stood on the side and she was egging these others on. This one said this was about you and this one said this is about you. And she got them all fighting. And they were really going at it and Randy came and said "Mary, they're really fighting out there." These boys thought it was hilarious. So anyhow, I go out and they all had long hair and I got a hold of this one and pulled, "You stand there. You stand there. You stand there. You stand there. And you, I want to see in the office." And I took that one in. "Oh, I didn't do anything." So I said, "Okay, go out and go to work." And I took each one of them into the office one at a time. Buf was out at the Legion thing and he wasn't there, so it was up to me. So I took each one of them in the office, and I said, "Okay, what were you fighting over?" "Well, she said that so-and-so said this about me." And I said, "Do you listen to what everybody says about you?" I say, "If they're talking about me they're not talking about somebody else. Ignore it. Don't listen to that crap." Anyhow I took each one of them in and I talked to them and said, "You four girls go back to work." And I called the first one back in and I said, "You're fired." She said, "Oh I can't go home. I don't have any way to get home." I said, "Call the nearest trading post to your folks and you have them go out and give them a message and they'll come and get you. But you are going home today. So go get your things ready so when they come in you will be ready to go home." And they had her check ready and her folks came and got her and I never had another squabble like that.

I had some white ladies that would tease one another. My friend, Petey loved to tease this...one other woman that she worked with. And she'd just do it out of orneriness, you know, and this lady said she was going to kill herself one night. Well, Petey came and she said, "you know I teased her and she left and I don't know where she went and it's getting 10-11 o'clock at night." She said, "Should we go out and look on the Rim?" And I said, "Petey, I'll walk down to the Bright Angel, I'll walk the rim, and when I come back, I'll let you know and we'll get a ranger." Well, I went out the backdoor. I had a key to the back door to the girl's dorm at that time. Now, they leave it open, but at that time you had to have a key to get in and out. And Mrs. Cunningham, for some reason, gave me a key. I don't know why. It was closest to my room to come from the laundry and come in the door. And anyway, she had given me a key and I went out the back door and here was this lady, huddled up in the corner on the back porch crying her eyes out. And I said, "You know...she's just teasing. I've talked to her and she won't tease you anymore." And I said, "You just go in and go to bed and get up in the morning and come to work and you'll be fine." So she went in and went to bed, and I said, "Petey, I don't want you to ever tease that woman again. Say hello to her, say it's a nice day, do whatever you want that way, but don't tease her." So she quit teasing her, but Petey was a sweet person but she could be ornery sometimes.

One time I was temporarily in her room because they were painting my room, and she said, "Mary, I swept the floor, but you don't have a dustpan. And I have a dustpan. So," she said, "I just swept it under your bed." And she did. I pulled my bed out and sure enough, she swept it under my bed. Oh dear. I loved that lady and she was a fine person but she raised a family on her own, and she had a daughter who had lots of children and she died and her husband was always in trouble. And Petey went down to where they lived and she knew all the farmers and all the ranchers around there, and she got a placement for each one of the 12 grandchildren.

TM: Wow.

MH: And that was something to do. And she came to us with nothing and she eventually, she saved every penny she could and she built a little house in her hometown. And people down there liked her and the construction guys were building a lot, and they told her to have her son put in the boards to make the walls in and they poured cement foundation, and they did and she had saved enough money to get the wood and everything, and her one son did the roofing and she had her home. And I got to go down and see her one time...well, I took her home.

TM: Where was this?

MH: She was in...it's on the...where is that...it's a little town...Shola. Shola. She lived in Shola. And she had her little house down there, and I went down to see her...well, I took her down there when she went home...and she was going to come up to see me. And she got all ready to come, and had written me a note to say she was coming and I was already to go down and meet her and everything, and they called me and told me that she had her suitcase by the door and she was lying on the bed. She was dead. She'd had a stroke, but she was really a good person in lots and lots of ways. She had a lot of talent. She could play the organ like you wouldn't believe. She could play the piano. But she never did it in public. She'd go over to Buf and Myra's. They have an organ and she'd play it, but they didn't know how to play it, but she could really play it. She was just a really exceptional person.

She came, like I said, with nothing and she enjoyed her life at the Canyon. But on Mother's Day one year her son and his family were supposed to come up for Mother's Day and they didn't call her or anything and it came noon, it came 1 o'clock, and they hadn't come and she called and she called one of the others and they said, "Oh, they went to such-and-such place today." And she was crying, because she thought they were going to come, and she was going to see the family so I had this friend who was a helicopter pilot and he was out there at the heliport. And I called up and he was always saying "Come on out and I'll give you a ride." I'm not a very good flyer, but anyway, I said, "Petey, I got a surprise for you." And we got out there and she said, "I've never been up in an airplane." And I said, "Today, you're going to go up in a helicopter." And she said, "Oh my goodness." And she was so thrilled and enjoyed it so much and I was so sick the whole time.

TM: [laughter]

MH: I used to get so sick on a swing even. Anyway, she just enjoyed that so much. And she said that was the best Mother's Day she ever had, because I took her out to dinner after we got off the plane. She ate...I looked at her eating because I was still queasy. I said to the guy, "How much do I owe you?" and he said, "I always told you I'd take you for a ride. It didn't make any difference if there was two or one in the plane."

TM: That's nice.

MH: So he took me for a ride. He had the authority to do it and everything.

TM: Do you remember his name? Who that was?

MH: You know, I don't. I think his first name was Jake but I'm not sure. I know there was a Jake out there and it seemed like it was him that took us.

TM: This was when they were taking helicopters right out of downtown Tusayan?

MH: Yeah. And you could go over you could still go over the Canyon and that was really a thrill, but it wasn't to me.

TM: [laughter] Yeah it can be kind of sickening. Fun. Well, why don't we call it a day today?

MH: Okay.

TM: You've got me...

MH: This is a rambling day.

TM: Yeah, this was a random day. This was good. And we'll reconvene.

MH: I'll try to have that book.

TM: Next week I won't be here.

MH: Okay.

TM: But the week after I will so...

MH: I kind of think that Becky is making up a newsletter and she might have taken it home.

TM: Okay.

MH: Because I asked her just the other day and she said well it's time for us to make one out but we haven't started it yet.

TM: Okay.

MH: So I imagine they've done that.

TM: Do you want to give me a call? I'll call you maybe...I'll you next week and sort of see how things are going on that?

MH: Okay. That's okay.

TM: Okay, all right. Let's do that. Cool, well thank you again.

MH: We don't have to do long-distance calls anymore.

TM: That's right, everything is nice and close [...] Same exchange. I'm what you'd call long-distance to the Grand Canyon but not to Williams from Flagstaff so that's handy.

MH: That's a good thing.

TM: Cool. Well thank you again.