

Transcription: Oral History

Interviewee: Shirley Patrick (SP)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Shirley shares about the communities surrounding the Canyon during the 1950-1960s.

Date of Interview: November 27, 2017 PART 4 of 4

Method of Interview: By phone with Shirley from her home in San Diego, CA

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KEYS: South Entrance Road, 1950's South Rim Housing, American Legion John Ivens Post, Moqui Camp, Freddy Bart, South Rim Phone system

TM: Today is November 27, 2017. This is a Grand Canyon Oral History interview with Shirley Patrick. This is the fourth interview we're doing with Shirley. My name is Tom Martin. Shirley, are you okay if we record this conversation today on the telephone?

SP: Yes, and if I come along with something that I don't want, I'll tell you.

TM: Okay. That sounds great. You know we were talking before we turned the tape recorder on just now about a number of things. One of the things you mentioned that I really found interesting was the routing of the road to the South Rim developed area that happened after you got there. You had mentioned that as you came into the developed area, there was an entrance station and just past that was a gas station and just past that was a Park headquarters and the Babbitt's General Store with the housing off to the west of that and off to the east as well. Can you describe for me the first recollections you have of the little gateway community of Tusayan?

SP: The first, of course, was at the old road that came into the Canyon, which as I recall was west of the current road. I can remember the telephone poles that only had, I think, one line on them. I call them telephone poles because that's what, you know, we mostly call them. But they were very low. I don't know that they were, oh hell, it may have been 6-8 feet tall is all they were. I remember that. Just one pole and one cross arm. I do not remember any fencing. There weren't a lot of cattle out there. I remember there were lots of deer. Out in the part now where Valle is, that area through there used to be loaded with antelope. Loads of antelope out there. But anyway, the old road coming in from Williams was very narrow, two lane, and it was made of red cinders. Not asphalt or black cinders. It was red cinders. It was a pretty road, really pretty. About maybe half to two-thirds of the way on that road from Williams into Grand Canyon, on the right-hand side of the road there was a little bar there. That was Tusayan.

TM: Okay, so that would have been on the east side of the road.

SP: Yeah, it was on the east side of the road.

TM: Going north. Okay.

SP: Yeah and that was Tusayan. That was the old Tusayan on the old road. I can remember Ken and I went there a time or two...this was in '52. It was kind of dark, you know, not a lot of lights, not a lot of noise. There was some music and some dancing and of course the bar. But it was, as I recall, relatively small. A few people there, not many. But that was Tusayan. When you ask me about Tusayan, that's

Tusayan. I'm trying to think of the guy... What was the guy who had the license which was the most valuable thing anybody could have in those days was that liquor license.

TM: What that have been Bob Thurston?

SP: Thurston, that's right. He hung onto that like it was gold. He really did. So then when they put in the new road, they blocked off the old road. So Thurston was able to go over then on the new road and he built another bar and restaurant there. Sometime during the time I was there, I don't remember the years... Now I can't think of her name. First name was Marie. Trying to think of what her name was and who she was married to. Anyway, she was Sheila Wiman's mother and was the manager. She ran it, did a wonderful job. She had a contract to feed the miners. What was the name of the mine, Orphan Mine?

TM: Yep. That's right.

SP: That mine was open then and there were lots of miners. She had the contract to feed the miners. I don't know whether you talked to Sheila Wiman about that. Whether her mother ever worked down at the mine itself or whether they all came up to her restaurant. As I recall, they came up and ate at her restaurant. That one that he (Thurston) built there was very nice. Had a real nice bar and a dance floor and that's where everyone would go. It was outside the Park and everybody who lived in the Park wanted to get outside the Park because they wanted to get away from Park Service. You know, they wanted to have some freedom. They would go either to the American Legion, which was just outside the Park, in fact it was right by Moqui camp. Do you have anybody telling you about Moqui Camp?

TM: Not yet, but let's talk about the Legion building first. What do you remember about the Legion building?

SP: Well the Legion sat on the west side of the road a little more towards the Park just a few...maybe, I'm guessing, at max quarter of a mile. Just a short distance. Where Tusayan was on the right-hand side of the road, the Legion Post was on the left. John Ivens, was that it?

TM: Yep, that's right.

SP: John Ivens Post? It was on the left side of the road. It didn't sit right on the road, you had to drive up a little ways. It was kind of on a little hill. Sat up to the west of the road a ways on a hill. It was a relatively small building, but they maintained it. When Buford Belgard was very active there, there were a lot of improvements. Seemed to me it was just a little building. A lot of people didn't go there. Well, it was a pretty small community at the time, so it was pretty small. It became more popular in the '60s. Seemed to me it was larger and there was more going on there. But it sat across the street from the new, well, newer Tusayan. The Tusayan that's there now, the restaurant, I do not think it has anything to do with the old Tusayan restaurant. I don't even know that it's even there. I'm not sure, because when I've driven past there I haven't seen anything that faintly resembles the old Tusayan that was on that new highway. To go out to the original Tusayan on the original highway, Arizona State shut that road off. Parts of it they dug up, parts of it they left alone, but you could not get out there anymore. They blocked that road off entirely. So you never could go back there and say, "Hey, this is where the first Tusayan was." No, no, you couldn't get out there.

TM: Did Ken ever play at the Legion hut there in Tusayan?

SP: I don't remember him ever playing there. He primarily played at another bar and dance hall in Williams that's gone now. I told you the name of it last time (Shalimar). He played at, I think, Tusayan a few times maybe. The newer, not the one whatever it is now, but the one that was there in the '60s. I think he played there a couple of times. But primarily it was the Shalimar. That's the name of the one in Williams?

TM: It might be, I'm not sure.

SP: Yeah, I think Shalimar "Ballroom". He played there quite a bit. To my recollection, I don't remember him ever saying anything about playing at the American Legion.

TM: Okay. What can you tell me about Moqui Camp then? This was Moqui Lodge, is that right? Or was it called Moqui Camp and not Moqui Lodge?

SP: Oh dear... Now where was it? Where did I tell you it was located?

TM: Well, it was further north still than the Legion hut. I should back up and say I think that's where it was, but it could have been different.

SP: What I'm thinking of is the one that was just on the south side of the Park border.

TM: That's right.

SP: It was on the west side of the road as you're going into the Park and it was a very, very nice building, restaurant. They had some cabins there that they rented to tourists. Then they had people who had small trailers, this was in the '50s, pretty small trailers. They used to park those there. With the Park, if you wanted to stay there and weren't going to stay as a tourist, you had to work there otherwise there was no place to stay. If you worked and you were single, you got the dormitory. Married quarters were very, very few and far between. So usually it was singles. And they had, as I told you, the cowboy bunkhouse and they had one married people's dorm. I don't even know if that building is still there. Then they had the one for the single men and then they had the one, as I told you, for the single women. Those were at the hotel, as I remember those. The only way you had a place to live was if you worked there. Otherwise than that there was no place to live. However, if you came to the Park and you had a little trailer or something, there might be a space you could park it out at Moqui Camp. In fact my aunt worked there as waitress for a while.

TM: Did she?

SP: I think it was in the '50s. She and her husband came out to visit us and I think they had a little trailer. I think they parked at Moqui Camp and she worked there. She was a waitress and she did the desk once in a while. Primarily I think she was a waitress there at Moqui Camp until they got a job in the Park and then they moved into the Park.

TM: Was that run by Fred Harvey, the Moqui Camp?

SP: No that was run by, what's his name, Greening? Heard of Greening?

TM: Nope.

SP: Oh my. Well, you're going to have to check into that. I don't know much about them but it seemed to me the guy's name was Greening (I think he's passed away). It was privately owned. He hung onto it as long as he could. You know how the pressure of the Park is in demanding everything that's going to be taken out here and rebuilt. The Park finally got him out of there and tore it all down. That's why there is nothing there of the Moqui Camp anymore. At least that I could see from the highway. I saw nothing. I think Greening used to run some horses there, I think.

TM: They still do. They still do have. The Booth family is, Virginia Booth. Yeah, they're still back there with the horses.

SP: Yeah, where do they have their horses?

TM: Well, down the road. You know that dirt road that goes back into Rowe Well that way. Their horses are back down in there.

SP: They're inside the Park?

TM: No, no, they're outside the Park, but just past where the old Moqui Lodge was. Kind of over that hill there. You can't see them from the road.

SP: Well, the old Moqui Camp and Moqui Lodge that was right on the main highway going into the Park. Okay, on the left-hand side.

TM: That's right.

SP: I was gone for a long time, I don't know what happened after that. The next time I went back I noticed that it had been dozed out completely and there was nothing left.

TM: Well, if you drive down that... There's a dirt road there and if you go down that road you go up over a little hill and they still have some horses over there.

SP: Did he go to the west of the main highway to get to that place or did he go down the highway, then go over west to get to it?

TM: You went north on the highway and then you turned left or west and then headed west up over this hill past...

SP: Okay. From inside the Park or outside the Park?

TM: No, outside, just outside the Park. Across the street from the Forest Service buildings, where their complex is.

SP: Okay, well the Forest Service buildings used to all be on the east side of the main highway.

TM: Right, they still are.

SP: Well, okay.

TM: Who did you know that was in there?

SP: Well, I knew one guy, I can't remember his name. He was a dear, dear friend of Slim Patrick's. He was a ranger. Fine man. I met him a couple times. He was a tall, slender, handsome man. Then after that, ranger Valentine, I think, was there. I believe it was his wife who worked in the Park. But anyway, there were quarters there. I never was in them so I can't clarify anything about the Forest Service except I knew that they had a Forest Service ranger there. The main road used to come in to the Park, as I told you, where the old administration building is and where, now, I think they sell tickets or you can pick up tickets there to go into the Canyon. What do they call that? It's some sort of a ranger office now, that beautiful brick building.

TM: Yeah, that beautiful stone... The old Park headquarters is now the law enforcement people are in there.

SP: But anyway, that was the main building and ALL of the Park offices were in there. Just a few feet south of that was where the entrance booth was. You just came in past the entrance booth and then as you're looking toward the Canyon and you look left and that's where the service station was. I think the building's still there.

TM: It is.

SP: The rock part. Yeah, it's still there. But that was a very nice service station and they sold gas.

TM: Okay, so drive. Take me for a drive. We're going to go past the admin building on the left. We're going to go past the gas station on the right, we're going...

SP: The admin building is on your right as you're coming in.

TM: I'm heading south.

SP: Are you talking coming in from the old road or are you coming in from the new road?

TM: I'm sorry, I'm talking about leaving the Park. We're driving south.

SP: Okay. On what road?

TM: On the main entrance road there.

SP: Main entrance road NOW?

TM: No, this is back in the '50s.

SP: My old one.

TM: Your old one.

SP: My old one in the '40s and '50s?

TM: You betcha.

SP: Okay, we're coming in one that goes right by the old rock building, which you call the law enforcement building now.

TM: Yeah, which was the Park headquarters. So we're leaving and so that's on our left. Then we pass the gas station, which is on our right, and then we go to the entrance station.

SP: I gotcha. Okay. So you're also passing Babbitt's grocery. 'Cause Babbitt's grocery was just right straight across the street from the admin building.

TM: Got it.

SP: Okay? Then right next to Babbitt's grocery...and it was a lovely store. It had the soda fountain there where Ida Cummings worked. I can't think of the other lady's name. Remember I told you that last time.

TM: You did.

SP: Can't think of the other lady's name. Great, great people. Anyway, then right next door to that was the post office and Art Metzger was the postmaster.

TM: Right and you were going to tell me about Freddy Bart.

SP: Freddy Bart, he was the clerk. In other words, they were the two postal employees that were there. Metzger was the postmaster and Freddy Bart was the postal clerk. I don't know how long he'd been there. He wasn't there, as I recall, when I first went there, moved there in 1952. I don't remember him being there then. He may have been there but I don't remember him. I remember him later on because, as I told you, his mother lived with him. Next thing I knew they had a house up in the Park Service area. Now, where Art Metzger lived I do not know. I never did know where he lived. Then right behind that post office was where the little office was for the telephone that you were asking me about earlier. Theda Flynn was the one and only worker there.

TM: The one and only? Wow.

SP: Yeah, she was the only one. When I first went there she was the only one there, as I recall. There may have been somebody else that worked part-time, I don't remember.

TM: So when she went home the phone system would stop?

SP: Well, there wasn't anybody that stayed all night. Nobody had any phones hardly anyway. The only phones were probably at the Park Service and maybe at Fred Harvey and like that. People didn't have phones early on that I recall. We never did. I know that. We never had a phone all the time we were there, as I remember. They weren't that readily available. There was a phone down at Phantom Ranch, I told you about that. It was rings, certain rings. One certain ring would be for the GS guy, Dean Tidball and another would be for Phantom Ranch and another one would be for, maybe, the North Rim. I don't know how it was, but it was on rings. So it was a pretty rustic system. As I recall, Theda Flynn was the only one or at least the main one that was there. Later on, as the Canyon grew and I think they expanded the system, then she had a couple people working for her. I think, I'm not sure, I know Pansy Patrick worked there for Theda Flynn. I think that was in the late '50s. Pansy was there in the late '50s and in the '60s, I think. Part of the '60s. Then she transferred to Flagstaff with the telephone company. But Theda stayed there. When they closed up that phone office there, Theda Flynn, I think, retired. I don't remember her working after that. But yeah, that was all it was. It was just an old-fashioned one which you had the cords. One cord for the incoming and one cord for the outgoing and that was it, as I recall. And the changes came. They added buildings, changed buildings, did something over in there. I

wasn't too familiar with it. When they finally got the Arizona... I think it was Arizona Public Service came in with electricity. Because up until then... Now there's another thing that the Park did that I think was another one of the dumb things they did.

TM: What's that?

SP: When they tore down the smokestack. Were you there when the smokestack was there?

TM: No, but I've seen pictures of it.

SP: All right.

TM: By the powerhouse.

SP: Right by the powerhouse there and that's what generated the electricity for the Park. Santa Fe ran all of that. Santa Fe was in charge of taking care of all the quote-unquote utilities. That was Santa Fe. The whistle used to blow for 8 o'clock, 12 o'clock, 1 o'clock and 5 o'clock. You could hear that whistle blow when you were down at Phantom Ranch. You knew what time it was. I mean it was a beautiful structure. I don't know if the "laundry" (that big rock building right near there) is that still there? It used to be the laundry building.

TM: That's there. Yep.

SP: I don't know what it is now, but that was where the laundry was. They did all the laundry for the Park. They also, if I recall, not sure, but I think they did a lot of the laundry for Death Valley, I think. Not sure, I think.

TM: Yeah, Mary had talked about that. Driving the truck. Buford would do that occasionally, drive the truck back and forth to Death Valley and they did have some sort of...

SP: Yeah, and of course Mary, she would know that because she worked there. She would know exactly, but it just kind of rings a bell to me that they also did the laundry. Plus they did all the laundry for Phantom Ranch.

TM: So, when they had the powerhouse going, was it pretty quiet or did it make a lot of noise?

SP: No, the power...it was great. I mean, the whistle would blow and the powerhouse was there and it wasn't that noisy. There was no irritable noise there, you know. And of course, as I understand it, a lot of it was built by the 3C's. But much of it, like some of the rock railings in front of the Bright Angel and a lot of the different places, they were all built by the 3C's. Down by the railroad, I think that was built by Santa Fe, but I'm not sure. You'd have to check with somebody more knowledgeable than I am about that.

TM: At that time, how many trains a day were coming and going? Do you remember?

SP: One came in and one went out.

TM: Okay. So when did it come in and when did it head out?

SP: It came in in the morning and went out in the afternoon, as I recall. Of course, they were old steam engines at that time. It was quite exciting to see them come in. A lot of people had their pictures taken by the trains when they would come in. Of course, I'm a steam train lover. I love the old trains. I'm not much on the electrics and I'm amazed at what these diesel engines will do. I never ceased to be amazed. You don't need to record this but on the trip that we just made over to... What's the name of the place where the four presidents have their rock monuments?

TM: Is that Mount Rushmore?

SP: Mount Rushmore, yes. That's where I went for my birthday this year. My family took me over there. But the point I wanted to make was how remarkable it was. The things that they could do, the trains. Going across Wyoming and across through there, excuse the old expression, there ain't nothing out there. You go for hours and see nothing. You don't see another car even. But anyway, once in a while we'd see trains and I always counted them. I can remember counting over two *hundred* cars. There might be one or two engines on the front and maybe one, maybe two in the back. Those steam, I mean these diesel engines. They were pulling, pushing, however, over two hundred loaded flat cars, box cars.

TM: Did you know Sam Turner?

SP: I probably met him, but I never, ever knew him personally, no.

TM: There, the stationmaster.

SP: It seems to me he was the guy that was in charge of allocating the Fred Harvey houses and rooms and stuff like that.

TM: Oh, I was thinking about the fellow who was the stationmaster for Santa Fe at the station there. Maybe I've got his name wrong.

SP: Is that who he was?

TM: Maybe I've got his name wrong.

SP: Yeah, I don't know. I know there was some guy, whoever, I thought it was Sam Turner. Anyway, the guy that I'm thinking about though, I thought that he worked for Fred Harvey.

TM: That could be.

SP: If it's Fred Harvey then it's not Sam Turner. If he worked for the train station, that had to be Santa Fe. So I don't know.

TM: Well, there could have been a number of Turners there, so that's yeah...

SP: I don't think so. Sam Turner's the only one I knew.

TM: So let's go back then. Now we're leaving the Park. We're driving to the hospital in Cottonwood.
[laughter]

SP: Okay, on which road?

TM: Well, on the main road, on the main road out. So you go past the...

SP: The current main road out or the old main road?

TM: Well, let's go to the old main road.

SP: The old main road was the one that came right in there, right by what used to be the administration building and by where Babbitt's store was.

TM: So I'm leaving. I'm going to pass... The store's on my right, the admin on my left. Then I pass the gas station on my right and then I go past the entrance station. Now I've got to go for a while...

SP: You go for a long while.

TM: ...to get to Tusayan. I've gonna have to go for a while.

SP: Yeah, you go for a long while. Yeah, you're going on a...

TM: Was this asphalt?

SP: ...different road. The road that you come in nowadays is not the road you used to go out on.

TM: Okay. Was that a red asphalt road or...?

SP: Yeah, the one I'm talking about, the old one, was a red cinder road. The one that you have now is asphalt, black asphalt. It's not, what do I want to call it, volcanic rock.

TM: The cinders, yeah.

SP: Yeah.

TM: Okay, then how long would it take you. You'd have to drive down to Valle and then onto Williams.

SP: Okay. The road that goes across now, that goes east when you get to Valle, goes east to Flagstaff, was not there. First time we were on that road, it was a dirt road. When they first put it in it was a dirt road for quite a while. I think it was about 90 miles. But it cut off, you know, a lot of miles going Williams then across. It cut off, I don't know, 15-20 miles, maybe something like that. But anyway, that's the time when you'd go across there and that's where we would see the elk. We'd see beautiful elk there. And then, of course, all the antelope. Herds and herds of antelope out there. But not much cattle.

TM: So if you wanted to go to the hospital down in Cottonwood would you drive to Williams and then head out toward Perkinsville that way or would you...?

SP: No, no, no.

TM: How did you do that?

SP: We'd go to Williams and across to Flagstaff and down through...what's that creek?

TM: Sedona? Oak Creek?

SP: Yeah, that's the way you had to go because the road only went to the turn off to Camp Verde. That other part of Highway 17 that went on into Flag was not there. You had to go through Oak Creek and then you'd go over, go left a little bit and then you'd get over to where Highway 17 was and take a right and go 17 down to Phoenix. It took many years before they finally put the road in basically from Camp Verde up to Flagstaff.

TM: Right but even then...

SP: When I went to the hospital, that's the way I had to go. Through Oak Creek south to Cottonwood, AZ.

TM: ...from Sedona, I think it went off to Jerome then off over to Prescott and then on down to Phoenix via Wickenburg. It was a long ways around back then.

SP: Yeah, yeah. Till they got highway 17.

TM: Well, in the '50s, they got the highway starting to come in.

SP: Yeah, but I do remember that. We thought that was just really great when you could go down and turn off there to Camp Verde and then get on the highway and go down. It was really nice (In those days, and you can turn this off) in those days it was a lot of dirty politics. All the money, all the tax money, went to Phoenix. Went to Southern Arizona because of the tourism. There was never any money for Flagstaff. The roads weren't any good. The services weren't any good. I mean, Flagstaff was the stepchild. I know we all used to resent that you'd go down and hit the Maricopa County line and boy the roads were great. But when you were in Coconino County the roads were lousy because Arizona State did not do much in the way of maintenance for northern Arizona at the time. All the money catered to the tourists in southern Arizona. That was the prevailing mentality at that time in the '50s.

TM: You know something else you mentioned was about TWA flying in and out of Valle.

SP: Yes. TWA had regular scheduled flights in to Valle airport once a day.

TM: From where?

SP: Oh, I came in from Las Vegas. My plane went from what they called... It was Cloverfield at that time but now they call it LA International Airport. It was just a little tiny place then. I got on a little DC-3.

TM: Oh, this was Los Angeles or was it Las Vegas?

SP: No, I went from... They call it Los Angeles now, but at that time it was Santa Monica. They've done a lot of political changes there, but it used to be, I think it was Cloverfield. It was not LA International Airport. They took a lot of the military planes that came back from WWII and they fixed them up for... In fact I worked for Matson Navigation Company, one of my early jobs when I was in my teens. What their job was they bought a lot of the excess military aircraft, the DC-3's. They bought those and remodeled them for commercial use. I think there was a cargo C-47 or C- something. Then when they got them to do commercial then it became the DC-3's. That's what I flew in, a DC-3, the two-engine plane. I flew from what you call now LA International Airport into Las Vegas. That's where you picked up the...I think it was the TWA plane that went into Valle. A big, brown Fred Harvey bus was waiting for the people there. That was one of the duties of the Fred Harvey bus drivers. Every day they'd have to drive out to

Valle to pick up the people coming in and, of course, take them out when it came time to go out. So anyway, yeah, the first time I flew in, I flew in to Valle and it was a regular airport. I mean that's where it landed.

Then, of course, I told you about Petrified Log, that was the name of the place that Dottie had. The wonderful curio shop there at the turn off at Valle. It was called the Petrified Log. It's gone. Dottie ran that. She did the ordering, she picked out the stuff and she sold it, priced it, everything. That woman could do anything. Anything! She was just amazing. A couple of years after Slim died she re-married a great guy who was a miner but he got lung disease from the uranium. It ultimately killed him. He was very ill and she was working out there. They lived in a trailer that was behind the Petrified Log and she took care of her mother. Her mother came down from Montana. Dottie was from Montana. Dottie was taking care of her mother and her husband, I can't think of his name offhand now, and she was working. Never saw her without a smile on her face. She was amazing. So anyway, Petrified Log was a wonderful curio place and Valle was very, very nice.

TM: You mentioned was it your daughter that was born down there in Cottonwood?

SP: No, Kenny was.

TM: Your son, okay.

SP: My son was. He was born in Cottonwood.

TM: Why did you go down to Cottonwood to have your child?

SP: Because I didn't feel comfortable after being from the big city quote-unquote. I didn't feel comfortable going to either Williams or the Canyon to go to the doctor because everything I had heard was how good Cottonwood was. I thought, boy, if I have any complications I want to be at a good hospital. That's the reason I went to Cottonwood.

TM: Was there a hospital in Flagstaff at the time?

SP: Oh, yeah. There was a hospital. Very, very small compared to... This thing they got now is absolutely horrendous. What is it? It's the Northern Arizona something. It's pretty pretentious. It's pretty big. I have a piece of property that's just two blocks from there. But anyway, no that's why I went to Cottonwood. I wanted to go to the best hospital I could go to. I thought if there's any complications or anything goes haywire, I don't want to be some place where they can't take care of it. That's why I went there.

TM: Was it a good hospital? Were you glad you went there?

SP: Well, let me put it this way, compared to the hospitals in California where I came from... Debbie, my first child, was born in Santa Monica so that was an area I was familiar with because I lived there. I was familiar with the hospital. It was a fine hospital. So there was quite a comfort level being there. Well now Cottonwood compared to Santa Monica Hospital was probably pretty close. Close as it was going to get. I wasn't too keen on going to Williams Hospital, but we learned to love Dr. Calley. Have you heard about him?

TM: No.

SP: Dr. Calley, he was the primary... I don't know of another doctor who was in Williams. Wonderful guy. I loved him. He took good care of all of us for years.

TM: In Williams?

SP: He was a wonderful man. He was so great. I do want to tell you a little story.

TM: Please.

SP: Doc Calley was in Williams and so far as I know there was one other doctor. Dr. Calley didn't do surgeries. Barnes was his name. Dr. Barnes. But he, as I recall, was in Flagstaff. If there was any surgery to be done in Williams, Dr. Barnes would come and Dr. Calley would assist. Of course, Williams Hospital is gone now. I don't know whether there's a hospital there, but it's not the old hospital that I remember. Now this was in the '60s. I remember going to see Doc Calley for some reason. They said, "Oh, he's at the hospital. Go over there." You have to realize how casual it was. You know, it wasn't all regimented like it is now. So I went over to Williams Hospital said I needed to see Doc Calley. I can't remember what I had to see him about now. He happened to be there and one of the people, of course that you know that worked there, you've already interviewed her is... Who's the couple in Williams and she was a nurse at the Northern Arizona University?

TM: Yeah, Bud and... The Dunagans.

SP: Yeah, yeah.

TM: Dorothy.

SP: Yeah, Dorothy. She was a nurse at Williams hospital at that time. So anyway, Doc had always been after me. I had a mole on the instep of one of my feet, I think it was my left. He'd been after that, after me to get that taken off for a long time. I said, "It doesn't hurt, it doesn't stick out. It's fine. I'm not going to do it. That's that." So anyway, I had to go there to have him get me some medicine or something. I think I had a cold or flu or something. Anyway, so I'm there and he says, "Okay, Shirley, come on in here and I'll get it for you." So I walked in there and it was a little operating room. "Get up on here," he says. "Why do I have to get up here?" He says, "I'm taking off that mole." [laughter] That's how they did business! "I don't want it off." He says, "I don't care we're taking it off." Dorothy Dunagan as I recall, it was either her...I think it was her, and the other one there was with the gal who was married to the packer. Married to the packer at Grand Canyon. Oh shoot, can't think of her name right now. But anyway, I think Dorothy Dunagan was there. She was the nurse and it was so funny, Doc said to me, "Do you want to watch?" I said, "Sure I want to watch." So I sat on that table and I was watching. He started cutting away and all of a sudden I start seeing all these little blinky lights in my eyes, everything was blinking. Dorothy said, "Do you want to lie down?" I said, "Yeah, I think I better lie down." [laughter] So then when Doc was finished, he bandaged it up and she brought me back a cup of hot coffee. She says, "Take some of this. You'll be okay." Somehow or other the conversation got around, either that time or one of the other times I was there, about Doc Barnes having to come down to do surgery. I think it was Dorothy Dunagan was telling me...I'm not sure if it was someone else that I knew there said, yeah, when he'd come down/he'd come from Flagstaff, he'd have his cowboy boots on. He'd put on his robe to do surgery but he'd be in there with those mucky old cowboy boots doing the surgery at the hospital in Williams. You know, you have to understand, Tom, how very, very rustic it was then. It was so rustic compared to now.

TM: No, Shirley, can you talk to that a little bit? Talk about that rustic. How do you mean?

SP: Well it was rustic insofar as Highway 66 was a two-lane street. One lane each way. Highway 66 went right through the town. I remember when one time, it was in the '60s, I was sick. I was very sick with a cold. There was a flu going around and I think that... No maybe it was in the late '50s, it was with Debbie when she was little. So it had to be in the '50s. Debbie was very sick and I was sick. I went in to see Doc Calley and Doc Calley gave me all these little slips for prescriptions. There was only a Rexall Drug there. A little Rexall Drug and you know in those days, if you go into a drugstore, guess what? There were few medicines. There was Pepto Bismol and there was iodine and there was Mercurochrome. There was Vaseline, there were a few little things like that. Maybe a little bit of make-up. I don't think very much. Mostly it was medicines and drugs. Didn't have a lot of stuff. So anyway I took all the prescriptions up. What do you call the guy that fills prescriptions?

TM: Yeah, it would have been the pharmacist.

SP: Pharmacists, you know, their shelf always was higher than you were. I looked up there and put these five prescriptions up on the desk. I don't remember his name. Sweetheart of a guy. I said, "I only have a couple of dollars." I said, "Please, only fill what I have the money for." We were poor, honey. I said, "Just fill those for the baby because that's all I've got the money for." He said, "Okay, they'll be ready in about 15 minutes, half an hour." Whatever. So I went out and what we always did, walked up and down the street and looked in the windows. There weren't very many stores. There was a beautiful Babbitt's store across the street. Oh, that Babbitt's store was nice. Everybody used to go to Babbitt's for groceries. They had the best grocery store and the best department store. The stuff was all great.

TM: How did it compare to the store at the Canyon?

SP: Yes, that was Babbitt's. Babbitt's practically owned the stores in Northern Arizona: Winslow and Holbrook and Flagstaff and Williams, maybe Prescott. In that general area they, the Babbitt family, they're the ones that built it up. They had the agency, I don't remember if it was Ford or Chevy agency in Flagstaff.

TM: Yeah, Ford.

SP: They had that. They came in there I think before the Park came in. I think they had been around a long time and they started the stores.

TM: So if you wanted to go shopping and you were at the South Rim would you find everything you needed at the Babbitt's store there?

SP: You'd find everything you needed there.

TM: So you didn't need to go to Williams because it was sort of the same store with the same stuff.

SP: No, all you did when you went to Williams, you went to Williams (A) to get out of the Canyon and (B) it was a bigger selection.

TM: Okay.

SP: But, all the necessities were there. The prices were nice. The quality was always top notch. No cheap crap. The quality was always good. Very, very good store. You'd go to Williams and that was a bigger store and then you'd go to Flagstaff and they had the big grocery store there. Then they had a very nice department store a block away from the grocery store. They had a wonderful department store. There used to be a very nice Penney's nearby and a Western Auto. We used to go into Western Auto all the time. I'm talking about stuff that no longer exists.

TM: For auto parts.

SP: Yes, anyhow, Babbitt's was extremely important to basically bringing civilization to northern Arizona.

TM: What kind of car did you have then in the '50s when you and Ken were there?

SP: When I finally moved there, I had a 1950 Mercury. The first time I was there I had a 1949 Mercury which I traded in on a '50 Mercury. I married Ken and he did not care for Fords at all. He wanted something else so I said, "Okay, fine." So he traded my car in on a used, but a beautiful car, 1948 Buick Roadmaster. Oh was it ever a nice car. But that's what happened to my 1950 Mercury [laughter]. But anyway, no, people drove either to Williams or to Flagstaff to shop. A lot of them resented always having to go to Babbitt's. They wanted other stores. They finally put in, I can't remember the name of the store, but anyway, they finally put in another grocery store down in Flagstaff. I can't think of what the name was. It wasn't Safeway, it was some other one. Everybody thought that was great. So you know, it was one of those things. You wanted some variety and at that time there wasn't much in the way of variety. Babbitt's had the nicest clothes. They didn't carry cheap crap at all. They carried nice things and the prices were good. But anyway, so here I am, I'm walking along looking in the windows and stuff and it's about time. I went back to pick up the prescriptions. I walked in there and I looked up on the counter and here was all this medicine up there. I told the guy, I said, "Wait, I told you, I don't have the money to pay for all. Just the most important ones for the baby. The rest of them I'll get some other time." He said, "No, you both are sick and you need your medicine." He said, "Here, you take this medicine. Here's a paper." He gave me a little statement. It wasn't like a bill, it was just a little statement like they used to make out itemizing the amounts. He said, "When you have the money, send it to me."

TM: Wow.

SP: That's exactly right. I didn't have to sign any agreement. He said, "You need that medicine. Your baby and you are sick." He said, "Here's what the cost was." It wasn't that much. You know, in those days. But if you ain't got it, you ain't got it. He said, "You must take this medicine for you to get well and your baby to get well." He says, "When you have the money, just drop by or send it to me."

TM: Nice.

SP: That's the way it was, Tom. That's why I keep telling you it was a different world. That's the way people were. And Doc Calley, you'd go in there and if you couldn't pay when you were there, fine. I'm trying to think of the woman's name that was there. She was great. She worked for him for years. We'd go in there and just give her the five bucks and that would pay for our visit. If we didn't have it, sometimes she'd send us a bill, sometimes she wouldn't. We'd just pay it the next time we went in. But, Tom, I can't draw a picture of how different it was there then. But see I'm a lot older than you.

TM: Sure.

SP: If you're like my son, my son is 57. He'll be 58 next year. I'm 90 so that tells you I was 32 when he was born. Big difference from the way I remember it and what I first saw when I first went there. Of course, what I saw when I went there is what I fell in love with. I was so sick of being in the city. I didn't like the city, I didn't like the way it was. To get out there, it was real. People were real. The way everybody was treated was real. I'll never forget the first thing when I went with Ken someplace. I guess I went out to Tusayan or someplace. Everybody was sitting around. They were having a beer or whatever. I don't drink. Ken introduced me to these people, guys he worked with or whatever, and they asked "Where you from?" "Oh, I'm from California." "Oh! One of those lousy prune pickers, huh?" That's what they always called anybody from California – a lousy prune picker. That was their nickname. But anyway, anything else? That's kinda about how Williams was. The Shalimar Ballroom was there. That was the only one there. Williams was a very, very nice rustic place. It was a two-lane highway. Highway 66 went right through it just like it went right through Seligman and Ash Fork and Peach Springs and all of those places. All of those little places, they lived off of the traffic of Highway 66. And you know what? It never was crowded and it never was stop-n-go.

I can remember hearing about Highway 66 during the war and so many of the military guys would be hitchhiking. They didn't have any money. They would hitchhike and people would always pick them up. You never were afraid to pick up a hitchhiker. Never were afraid because the people were different. Now, you wouldn't dare pick up a hitchhiker out there. But in those days it was very common. You'd be going along the road and there'd be some kid riding his thumb and you'd pick him up. He'd want to go wherever you could take him. You'd take him so far and then he'd say, "Okay, fine, thank you." He'd get back on the road and hitch another ride. You know, of course, you don't see it anymore. But Williams was a delightful little place and Doc Calley was great. I understand he's buried in the Williams cemetery. So anyway, Williams was the place, or Flagstaff. Of course, Flagstaff has changed a lot. But again, the hub of Williams was Babbitt's store and the hub of Flagstaff was the Babbitt's stores 'cause they had not only their grocery store, they had their department store and they had their car agency and they were into a lot of things. They were kind of like the Fred Harvey.

TM: Well, so at the South Rim was that true there, as well, that the Babbitt's store was the hub of the community?

SP: Well, it was. That's where you went for everything. They sold a little bit of clothes there. They sold, of course, your groceries there. It was, of course, a small variety. You didn't have much of a variety of stuff, but there was enough that you didn't have to go to town for anything. They had everything you needed.

TM: So, when I was thinking about the hub of the community there in the '50s, one of the things that came to my mind right away was the John Ivens Post.

SP: Yeah, that's where, of course, a lot of the military people went. Ken didn't belong to it for whatever reason. I didn't know why. I was too busy working, taking care of kids. I didn't really pay lot of attention to those things. He didn't participate in any of that or belong to it so I really don't know much about it. I just know it was there and a lot of people went there. They had events there. They had dances there and things like that. But Ken didn't have anything to do with that. Usually he was trying to play music in Flagstaff and Williams and into Utah and spread out as much as he could to play. That's what he liked to do. So he spent his time playing, usually with the band.

TM: I think he ended up leaving the Park Service to try to make a go of it in music?

SP: He did. I think that was the dumbest move he ever made, but he did. We ultimately ended up back in Flagstaff and I got a wonderful job. I had the best job in the world in Flagstaff. Had a nice little house in Flagstaff. I was working with the astronauts when the astronauts, I told you, would come out and they had to learn a certain amount of geology.

TM: Well, I think I'm kind of wrapping this one up it seems. I think we've got some homework now to try to get some transcripts out to you. It sounds like the next thing is to have you look those transcripts over and then we will revisit with what you feel...

SP: Good. You were able to communicate with Kenny with these transcripts?

TM: I'm going to have to email him again. When the transcripts show up, and it may take some time, we need to mail those to you for you to look them over.

TM: I tell you what, Shirley, you know what? We're going to go ahead and I'm going to turn the machine off now. Don't hang up the phone though, so hang on for a second.

SP: Yeah, please, because I don't want any of that stuff to be on the machine.

TM: Yeah, so this is completing interview number 4 with Shirley Patrick. Today is November 27, 2017. My name is Tom Martin and that completes this interview.