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Between Kathryn Schram, J.L. Crawford, Fern Crawford, and an Unknown Man
Recorded at Zion National Park about 1979

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Transcribed by: *Amy Loveless*
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J.L. Crawford: If you remember, well let's see, let me think back a moment. I guess that they were still using the old lantern-slides and the big old machine to give the talks with. Was H.L. Reed one of the seasonal rangers?

Kathryn Schram: Yes, I remember Mr. Reed's name and I sort of remember him, but you know it's been over fifty years.

J.L. Crawford: Woodbury had gone.

Kathryn Schram: Yes, I remember. Mr. Woodbury. I can't say that I remember him very clearly, but I do remember his being here. I think he came here. Either worked here for a short time, or just came here.

J.L. Crawford: I think probably he just came here. I think his last duty, actually, was about 1933.

Kathryn Schram: I came here in 1937.

J.L. Crawford: He was in and out and around the area. Well, he's a St. George man, but he was a professor at the University of Utah. But he wrote the little book about the history of Southern Utah and it's National Parks which came out in the *Utah Historical Quarterly*. He's the man who started the interpretive program here in Zion, and they used to illustrate their talks, as they could accumulate pictures and get them into these slides, these humongous slides. Well, they measure three and a quarter by four inches, but they had a machine that just this. Well, they've got in here (Zion Album). And they have it here in the building someplace, like a slide projector. It was about two feet long, and it was longer than that when you get this experience; probably about three feet long. Anyhow, I had left the Park Service for a couple of years, and when I came back, they made me Assistant Chief Naturalist, and the chief said, "We've got all these pictures, what are we going to do with them? All these old neat, hand-colored lantern slides. We ought to do something with them, because they're so neat!" Well, even Fern got in the act.

Kathryn Schram: I'll bet. (Laughter)

J.L. Crawford: She's probably the one that came up with the idea of an album. She wanted to make an album out of it. So, as was said in here, I get big Jackson support. You probably

don't know him, but he used to dig me a little bit. He'd say, "Oh, J.L. You were here when they made the canyon. You know the history of it; you take care of it." (Laughter) What I did, is I tried to divide it up into the different subjects that those old naturalists used to talk on. You know their different subjects in the Park story. So I took a year doing this, just dividing all the slides up, there were about three hundred of them, into the different categories, geology, history, etc. There aren't too many that are really historical. Then, I was to caption each one, and I thought, "Well, why not?"

We needed a little introduction to each heading, so I ended up putting little headings, like "Exploration" and "Settlement." Before that we had "Pre-history." Then, they hired a designer. There was a couple that lived in Springdale that had moved in here. The wife was a designer, a book designer, and he was a writer. So they hired them to design and edit the book. So when I turned over all my materials and they said, "How about giving us a synopsis of your life, just a little sketch?" So I did and then he proceeded to re-write my introduction and made it my autobiography, which I wasn't too happy about.

Kathryn: Well, I think it's just beautiful. Do you remember Harlen Stevenson? He was a landscape-architect. He was here in the summer and went into the San Francisco Regional Office in the winter. He lived up Oak Creek Canyon next to me.

J.L.: Now, he was married, wasn't he?

Kathryn: Yes.

J.L.: Yes, I remember Mrs. Stevenson. I was going to ask you if you remembered. I didn't know or remember whether it was Stevens or Stevenson.

Kathryn: It was Stevenson, Harlen D. Stevenson.

J.L.: Yes, I really wasn't that well acquainted.

Kathryn: He wasn't here all the time.

J.L.: Who was another young couple that lived up in Oak Creek?

Kathryn: Tom Foley, he was in the office.

J.L.: Now they're people I can remember. One time you and Mrs. Foley, I guess it was, you ladies were arguing about your cars, which one had the best car. (Laughter) You remember your old black Plymouth?

Kathryn: Oh, I tell you! Steve said, "You were a hazard." I'll tell you about that car. You know I came into wherever the train ends out there, you know, and I had to take a bus into Cedar City.

J.L.: Lund, yes.

Kathryn: So I called up the office and Strunk answered, and I don't know if you knew Strunk very well, but he just grunted at me. (Laughter) I couldn't understand a thing! So Tom Parker got on the phone. This was about eight-thirty in the morning, and I was in a hotel, and he said, "Just sit right there in the hotel, and I'll come get you." At four-thirty in the afternoon he appeared. (Laughter) I sat all day.

J.L.: And that was Parker that came.

Kathryn: Yes, that was Tom Parker. Did you know him?

J.L.: Oh, yes.

Kathryn: So, all the way out here, he kept telling me about all the people in the Park Service here, you know, evidently preparing me for them, and I thought, "Somebody should have prepared me for you!" (Laughter) But anyway, then of course I had to have a car. So on Saturday we worked until noon, and then my neighbors said they'd take me into Cedar City to buy a car. Well, of course by the time we got in there, there wasn't too much time, and I looked at cars. It was almost six-o'clock, and I had to make a decision. So I booked that Plymouth.

So I said to the men, "Well, you'll deliver it, won't you?" And he said, "Oh, I couldn't do that."

I said, "Well, I don't know how to drive a car! The only time I'd ever driven a car had been when my boyfriend sat beside me and told me what to do!"

So he said, "Well, go around the block with me, and you can drive all right."

So I started out. I was scared to death. And I suppose I didn't meet more than eight or ten cars all the way out here, but I was sure every one of them was going to hit me. (Chuckle) So after lunch, I felt so proud of myself, I thought, "Well, I'll go up the canyon." I'd been up the canyon once at night, so instead of going up the canyon, I got on the road up the switchbacks, and I didn't know how to turn around, and finally, I came to a place where the men had been working, and I finally got it turned around. (Laughs)

J.L.: I didn't know that you'd never driven before, but well, of course, I just sold you gas and changed your oil and greased it. So I remember telling Vern about it, that it was a neat little car of yours I was just at the age that I wanted a car so bad, and of course I couldn't even afford an old jalopy. But I did get one.

Kathryn: You know I'm going to tell you. I didn't even have to have a driver's license, and I can't remember how I paid for that car. But I'm sure I didn't pay cash for it. But if you worked for the National Park Service, it didn't matter. They'd charge anything to you in

Cedar City because they knew they would get paid, because Patraw would see to it that you did pay.

J.L.: Let's see, the Foleys had a Chevrolet, a coup, about the same year as yours. Yours was about what, a 1937?

Kathryn: Probably. I came here in '37.

J.L.: That's what I remember. And I had said, yesterday I was talking on the phone to Tim, I said, "I remember that little 1940 coup," but it wasn't. It was earlier than that because I left the station in '40 and went back to school. When did you leave here?

Kathryn: In '41.

J.L.: 'Forty-one. And I had turned the station over to Phil Hepworth and I went up to school at BYU, went for a year and then I went right into Uncle Sam's service that next summer. Then when I came out, I had a job. I was very fortunate. I worked two summers as a seasonal naturalist here and at Cedar Breaks. Of course Zion had a relationship with Cedar Breaks and Capitol Reef and Bryce and...

Kathryn: Timpanogos Cave.

J.L.: And Timpanogos Cave was in it, right.

Kathryn: Yes.

J.L.: Do you remember Charles Kelly, who... I don't know when he came to Capitol Reef.

Kathryn: I don't remember him.

J.L.: He was a historical writer. I don't know how he came to get a job.

Kathryn: It wasn't the one who had milked the snakes, was he? (Laughs) I think it was Pat who made him quit that.

J.L.: No, there was a man. . . . Let's see, did they have that snake pit at the old museum?

Kathryn: Oh yes, they had the snake pit there.

J.L.: That might have been Drew Chick.

Kathryn: Well, it wasn't anybody who worked here.

J.L.: Oh, wasn't it?

Kathryn: It was someone at one of the mines, but I'm not sure which one.

J.L.: Well, I guess I didn't know about that, but there was a fellow by the name of Drew Chick. During the CCC days, he was one of the foremen, and then he was a ranger. He was seasonal, but he became... oh, what was his job. He worked later. The last I heard of him he was in National Capitol Parks. But he had been, oh... I guess in the snake pit, showing somebody the animals and the reptiles, and one of the rattlesnakes got him on the finger. He lost his finger as a result of that.

Kathryn: I think that may have been before I was here. Seems to me that I heard someone tell about that.

J.L.: It probably was. I have an idea Chick was somewhere else when you came. I don't know who the person might have been that you associated with the snakes. You mentioned Strunk. I used to service his car, and I just hated when he'd drive up and open the door and get out. Of course in those days, it was a service station. It wasn't a gas station. We were trained that when a car stopped, we were to go up and start washing the windshield, and say, "What can I help you with?" And then as we'd go around and put the gas in and come on around and end up checking the oil and so forth and...

Kathryn: The tires?

J.L.: Yes. Usually we'd look and see if we thought the tires needed checking, and then we'd consult them, but usually it did involve that because tires—I don't know if they've changed their pressure. I only check mine once a month anymore, but it used to be every day or two, you better check your tires, because of the heat and so forth. And radiators . . . With Allen Strunk's car, you open that door and... woo! He smoked cigars all the time, you know. That'd accumulate inside that car. He lived in Springdale. Remember about him. He divorced his wife and there was a dentist in Springdale and he stole his wife and broke up that family.

Kathryn: Strunk did? Stole his wife...

J.L.: Yes.

Kathryn: I'm amazed (laughs loudly). How did he steal her?

J.L.: Well, it might have been a money thing. I don't think that in those days a dentist was all that wealthy.

Kathryn: Oh, no.

J.L.: I think he'd come from St. George and set up here and had a part-time deal.

Kathryn: Was that before I lived here? I never knew he had a wife when I lived here. He lived in a tent up in Oak Creek Canyon. He lived across from the Stevenson's little house in a little tent there, and we used to see him. He was so thin, and you know his face was kind

of grayish cast. He had this short, clipped hair and he never smiled even, but once he laughed right out loud and threw the whole office in an uproar.

J.L.: Tell you who he reminded me of, if you were old enough to remember Ned Sparks in the movies. You wouldn't know Ned Sparks.

Kathryn: The name kind of rings a bell.

J.L.: He was a sort of comedian, but he was one of these straight-faced; you never saw a smile out of him. I remember one thing about him in the show called *The Old Doll's House*. [Sic. Movie was actually *Lady for a Day*.] Who was the old, grand old lady that used to...? Now I've forgotten names, but anyhow, in the show -- it was one of Damon Runyon's stories they were doing-- these gangsters, they had a young lady that had been away to finishing school and they had put up a story that she had wealthy parents. I don't know just what the story was, but anyhow, they needed a mother for her. She was going to make the scene, and maybe it was her real mother, I guess it was. Apple Annie, anyhow, as they called this old lady that sold apples on the street and was always drunk, but they were going to make a fine lady out of her to show off to her daughter. But they need a husband for her, so this Ned Sparks is one the fellows that was in on it. They said, "Why don't you?" I can remember this statement, he says [J.L. alters his voice to make it humorous): "My wife doesn't like me to go around marrying people." (Laughter) And he didn't even crack a smile. That reminded me of old Allen Strunk and his kind.

Kathryn: Oh, my. He was very good at his job, I think.

J.L.: Oh, I think he was.

Kathryn: Very patient, but...

J.L.: His wife was around here. They had two children: a boy and a girl. They were grown. Well, the boy went to high school in Hurricane. The girl was a little older, and she was a doll. She was a... oh, I mean, she was a 400 New Yorker, a little too good for us local people. The boy, can't remember his name, but he was kind of down to earth and he was kind of a regular guy. The mother, she was skinny as a crow.

Kathryn: Well, he was too! He used to look so funny. I used to spend a lot of time with Mrs. Stevenson because Steve was gone on a lot of field trips, you know. And we'd see him across there out in his shorts, and he was so skinny, and he was out there splitting wood. (Laughing) He was so funny. Poor man.

J.L.: I didn't remember what Stevenson's job was. But then, he did work some with ____ or rather, we used to work with him.

Kathryn: He was a landscape architect. That was his title. So he went in to work in San Francisco in the winter on plans.

J.L.: Let's see, I was thinking of another landscape architect. He must have been after Langley. Did you know him?

Kathryn: I met Harry Langley. He was stationed in the regional office and he came out here a couple of times.

J.L.: He was here for quite a while earlier because he had designed the bridge.

Kathryn: Oh, I see.

J.L.: I had taken care of his room. I used to work at the Inn out here, the cafeteria. He had one of the cabins there for quite a while. There's another case of a broken family, too. Maybe you know that story too?

Kathryn: No, I really don't know much about Harry. He was single when I knew him.

J.L.: You didn't know White Mountain Smith, I guess.

Kathryn: No, I've heard of him, but I didn't.

J.L.: He was superintendent here when I came back from the service. He was the first superintendent I worked under. And of course, it was...

Kathryn: Why did they call him White Mountain?

J.L.: Because he's from White Mountain, New Hampshire. He had told somebody when he came to work here his name was Charles S. Smith, and when he went to work for the Park Service, the story was that there was another Charles S. Smith, so they said, "Well, how are we going to keep you two fellows separate?" And so he said, "Well, I'm from the White Mountains, so you can call me White Mountain." So they all did. He started out way back in 1916 in Yellowstone. But this Langley took his wife away from him; left him alone. So they had adopted a baby girl...

Kathryn: Langley took whose wife?

J.L.: Well, Langley, Harry Langley. Actually, as the story goes, Charles Smith's wife just didn't like life out here in the west. She was used to a different type of living, and she just left him and later married Harry Langley. So they moved back to Washington, D.C. and lived happily.

Fern Crawford: Now J.L., she said that Langley was single when he was here.

Kathryn: I thought he was.

Fern Crawford: And when he came over to Panguitch. I'm sure he lived over in Panguitch a while.

Kathryn: Oh.

J.L.: Well, I just got hold of a book I didn't know had been written. It's not for publication, but it's the story of the history of Bryce Canyon. They're having me go out there nearly a month from now to teach their seasonals a little history about the area, so they sent me this book that I had never seen before, and it talks about Harry Langley a little in that, and so he might have stayed in Panguitch.

Fern: I was sure he lived in Panguitch a while.

J.L.: And he might have then. . . I can't imagine his wife having been with him since she hated this kind of a life and this kind of country. But after he went back to Washington, they seemed to get along.

Kathryn: His name really was Henry Langley, as I recall, and he didn't know it. He was born in England, I think, and he didn't know it. I don't remember what all the fuss was about. But he finally discovered his name wasn't really Harry, it was Henry.

Fern: I know J.L. said he looked like an Englishman.

Kathryn: Well, I think he was born in England. I think that's how it happened.

J.L.: You know the story of his designing this bridge, they say that he got some of this old G.I. green soap that they didn't want that was sort of yellow-green or whatever, and whittled little pieces and build this miniature bridge. Then I remember out here—this was my dad's orchard. The park line at that time was up here right where the Superintendent's home is. It wasn't until about 1929 when they came to Zion and built that bridge. After he did that, he got sheet metal and cut a piece. I think there's a picture of it in here—I'm sure there is, somewhere in here (he turns pages in a book), but in the face of the arch he made a metal template for every rock in that bridge.

Man's voice: Is that right?

J.L.: I remember he had it laid out right down here where the parking area is now.

Male voice: I'm going to look at it more closely now. (Laughs) I haven't really looked at it.

J.L.: Here. This isn't a very good picture of it, but that's it.

Kathryn: Oh, yes.

J.L.: Then they had a man who had a job of cutting the rocks for the face of the bridge. He'd take that particular template and pattern it all off and chisel the rock to the shape of it.

Male voice: What was there before the bridge? They just forded the river?

J.L.: Yes, they forded the river down this way. While they were doing most of the building, they just forded it, not the river; this was just the side creek – Pine creek.

Male voice: But there was no bridge there at all before then?

J.L.: No, it was just a matter of crossing it. There's so little water in it, unless it's raining, that it's no problem. And they crossed down this way and they made a sharp bend, and then get on the switchbacks. The old original bridge—the river bridge wasn't there either. It was up the creek about a quarter mile. So they had to come back down along this route. Now there's a book on the tunnel, the construction of the tunnel.

Kathryn: Oh, yes; I've got one of those.

J.L. When you hear about how much it costs to build that kind of road, it's fabulous, you know. You can't believe in this day and age what it cost. The bid was six-hundred-thousand or something like that to build this road and the tunnel up through the other end of the tunnel.

Male voice: The profit was only six thousand dollars or something like that. Isn't that right?

J.L.: Well, that was the total contract for the Nevada Construction Company. Of course there was another company.

Male voice: No, six-thousand, I said. Wasn't it six-hundred-thousand that was the contract?

J.L.: Yes, six-hundred-thousand.

Male voice: And it was only... Do you remember?

Kathryn: It wasn't very much... (Talking over each other)

J.L.: We used to hear rumors that the Nevada Contracting Company went broke on this. Then that was false. They didn't go broke on this, but they did go broke on a project in New Mexico later on, as most contracting companies sooner or later will. I had a cousin who was a road contractor. He was a big contractor in Las Vegas. He did a lot of work for Nevada. He came up here and did some of the freeway inside of Cedar, but eventually he...

Male voice: . . . made a bid he couldn't live up to?

J.L.: Well, what happened is he had a subcontractor who took him under.

Kathryn: Oh, yes.

Male voice: Who was the story-teller you were telling me about yesterday? The guy that told the tall tales.

Kathryn: Tom Parker. (Laughs)

J.L.: Oh, Tom Parker. He was the kind of macho... you know.

Kathryn: Oh yes. He was always telling these tall tales, you know, and he was always the hero. So one morning he came in and he had been up in Alaska, worked up there for some time. So he was telling us this big tale, you know, and of course he was the hero of it, and after he went out Tom Foley said to me, "You know, I heard that on the radio last night. (Everyone laughs.)

Male voice: But Tom wasn't involved in the radio business.

J.L.: Do you know where Tom Parker was from? He retired in Nephi, Utah, and I wondered if he was a Utah man. I didn't know.

Kathryn: I probably should know, but I don't.

Fern: Where do you live now?

Kathryn: Well, two years ago I sold my home in Vallejo, California. I'd lived in California since 1945. I went from here to Washington to work for Mr. Tolson, who was the Assistant Director of the Parks Service. He came out here and he got a message in code, and he said he couldn't decode it, but of course he could. But I decoded it, so he wanted me to come and work for him, so I went to work for him in 1941.

J.L.: I don't think I ever met Tolson, but I know I confuse his name with Tillotson, sometimes.

Kathryn: Yes.

J.L.: Hillory Tolson: he was quite a famous person in the Park Service.

Kathryn: (laughing) He was very hard to work with because he was very exacting. He was hard in this respect. He wanted everybody to express themselves in his words. That can't be done, you know. So all the letters for the signature of the director or the associate director had to come over Tolson's desk and he'd red pencil everything and send it back. You know, he got very unpopular with everybody that way.

J.L.: You know some of the people who have done the most good in the area do become very unpopular with a lot people. That, I would say, sort of goes for this man.

Kathryn: Who's he?

J.L.: Paul Allen.

Kathryn: I think I met him, but I've heard much about him.

J.L.: Well, he was very unpopular here because he tried to get rid of Walt Ruesch.

Kathryn: Oh, couldn't get rid of Walt Ruesch! You know about Walt Ruesch, I guess. When I first came here, the first time I saw him, I thought he was losing his trousers. (Giggling)

J.L.: Losing his what?

Kathryn: Losing his trousers! He wore them way down around his hips. I don't know how they defied the laws of gravity, but they did. But anyway, he was something else, and he was the Park Service.

J.L.: He was a character. (Chuckling) He was his own man and he didn't care what other people thought of him.

Kathryn: That's right. Of course, this is all hearsay. You've probably heard all of these, but anyway...

J.L.: Well, I knew him. He was my uncle.

Kathryn: Yes. He was the first person in charge of the Park, wasn't he?

J.L.: Oh, yes.

Kathryn: So he went to this Park Service Conference which they had every year, and he started out from here with his Park Service coat and hat, and he'd send his trousers to Cedar City to be cleaned, and they didn't get back, so they met him on the way. But any way when he got to the conference, nobody... and I mean nobody, had ever seen anybody like him! And always after that, any time somebody from another park or from Washington came up, the first thing they wanted to see was Walt Ruesch because everybody had heard of him. (Laughing) And of course, his vocabulary...

J.L.: Did you know his son, Rupert?

Kathryn: I don't think so.

J.L.: I think he wasn't around here much. I think he worked with Stevenson some, and he was an engineer by training. But he left here, and most of his career he did in the coal mines over in Carbon County, and he lives here now in Springdale. He did a book on Walt Ruesch.

Kathryn: Did he?

J.L.: I will have to call him and see if he has an extra one.

Kathryn: Oh, I'd love to have it.

J.L.: He quotes... well White Mountain Smith talked at his funeral, and he had some very good things to say about him, and I think that Albright wrote in the Courier that he had a... I forget how he said it, his language... but it was not offensive. Well, it got offensive sometimes, really.

Kathryn: Well, people didn't really pay any attention to it.

J.L.: No.

Kathryn: Because it was Walt.

J.L.: Somebody would have shot him if they believed him or thought anything about him, and especially how his wife, who was my dad's sister, put up with him, the things he'd say and the things he'd call people!

Kathryn: I know.

J.L.: I shouldn't repeat some of those.

Kathryn: Oh well, I've heard them all. (Laughs)

J.L.: Just in his ordinary conversation, he was worse than W.C. Fields, you know, who would be talking to a little child and call him you little "S.O.B."

Kathryn: When the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Parks Service came out here -- now this is all hearsay on my part, you know. This is what I was told. They came here, and after they left, I can't remember the exact words, but it was probably worse than what I'm going to say. He said, "Well, I'm glad the bastards are gone, but I think the S.O.B.'s had a good time..." (buzzing noise takes over)

(Silence for about 30 seconds)

J.L.: When I was just a little kid, we [Vern Ruesch and J.L.] lived together like brothers. But one time, it must have been Thanksgiving; it could have been Christmas, but anyhow after the big feed. The day after there were a lot of leftovers. So I happened to be there in the house with Vernon, and Aunt Marilla fixed a nice little table. I'm sure she had leftovers. She fixed some mashed potatoes and made little hash browns or whatever you call it and leftover little bit of turkey or whatever. She fixed a nice little tossed salad, but Walt Ruesch was a meat-and-potatoes man. He sat there and ate without saying a word, and when he ate, he threw it in. The fellows used to talk about when he'd sit down to lunch, he'd gobble his sandwiches and in about ten minutes he'd say, "Well let's get back to work!"

But he didn't say a word, and when he finished, he pushed away from the table, "You . . . [mumbling], if you fix another meal like that, I'm going to kill you." (Laughter) Aunt Marilla didn't pay him a single bit of attention, she just went home.

Kathryn: Nobody paid attention.

Male voice: I didn't hear that, can you say it again?"

J.L.: I shouldn't... (All chat over each other, laughing.)

Kathryn: Go ahead, I heard what Ruesch said!

J.L.: Well, you know, to refer to a woman as an S.O.B. is something' else! "You G.D. son of a bitch, if you fix another meal like that, I'll kill you." (Laughter from the background) That's exactly what he said! Now...

Kathryn: And he loved her dearly!

J.L.: Oh, yes.

Kathryn: I know she was in the hospital.

Male voice: Was this his wife?

Kathryn: Yes! It was his wife. She was in the hospital.

J.L.: She was a wonderful woman.

Kathryn: I sent her some flowers, and Walt came to thank me for them and there were tears in his eyes. He said, "That's the first time anybody's ever sent her flowers."

J.L.: Well, he was a soft-hearted fellow.

Kathryn: Oh, I know.

J.L.: He did this for bluster. He didn't want anybody to know that he was a softie, and he'd use this language to make himself look tough.

Kathryn: As Steve Stevenson said, "You know, everybody liked and respected Walt. They couldn't get rid of Walt Ruesch out of this place. They'd be hand-stricken." Well, one morning I came into work. I lived right in the creek there kind of in an amphitheater of rock, and when it gets cold, it gets cold! We had wood stoves, and my fire would go out, and I came in and said I was freezing all night, it was so cold. Frank Rozelle was there. You remember Frank?

J.L.: You bet.

Kathryn: He said, "Well, maybe I better send a CCC boy over to stoke your fire." And Walt Ruesch jumped all over him. He said, "I don't think you should say things like that to her!"

He thought he was insulting me. (Laughs) He was just kidding of course.

J.L.: Do you know his nickname for you?

Kathryn: Who?

J.L.: Old Frank Rozelle's.

Kathryn: No, what?

J.L.: Well, I shouldn't have...

Kathryn: Well, come on! Tell me! Tell me. You've got to tell me.

J.L.: You remember the Amos n' Andy show?

Kathryn: Oh, yes.

J.L.: And Miss Blue?

Kathryn: Oh yes, I've heard that. (Laughing) Miss Blue. Well I could tell you one about Frank!

J.L.: ...Called you Miss Blue. Ha-ha.

Fern: He called her Miss Blue. (All laughing)

J.L.: Well, they did.

Male voice: I love it!

Kathryn: You know Frank used to get drunk.

J.L.: So did his son.

Kathryn: He would get...

Male voice: Well, wait a minute. Why did he call her Miss Blue?

J.L.: Oh, I don't know.

Kathryn: I guess Miss Blue on the show was a secretary or something.

J.L.: Miss Blue was a character on the Amos n' Andy show. I think she was a secretary.

Male voice: Oh, I see.

J.L.: It wasn't an insult, it was an affectionate thing. Everybody loved Kathryn. (Laughing)

Kathryn: Well, anyway. The men used to go on all these field trips, you know to all these National Parks. I had heard that on a field trip, the men all got kicked out of this hotel because Frank got drunk, and when he got drunk, he was terrible! And he was loud and he was verbally abusive and everything.

J.L.: I can believe it.

Kathryn: So, anyway, I had gone down to see Elle, his wife. Do you know his wife, little Elle? She was a dear little person.

J.L.: I'd forgotten her name. I barely knew them.

Kathryn: She was crying, and I asked her what was wrong and you know, she was a Mormon.

J.L.: I didn't know that.

Kathryn: Yes. She was a Mormon. I guess he professed to be a Mormon to marry her, but he wasn't really a practicing Mormon. So she said, "Well, I'm afraid Frank will die when he's drunk and he'll go to Hell." So this is just a preface.

But I was going up to Salt Lake on a weekend, and taking Mrs. Gregory, and Frank came into the office and said, "Elle's up in Salt Lake."

They'd been very nice to me. They'd taken me up to their home in Salt Lake several times.

He said, "I just can't stand it any longer! I don't have a car down here, and Elle isn't here. You take leave, and take me to Salt Lake."

I said, "Frank, Mrs. Gregory and I are going up on the weekend."

"I can't wait until the weekend."

So he finally talked me into taking him to Salt Lake, and Mrs. Gregory was to come along. Did you know her?

Fern: Oh, yes.

Kathryn: Did you know she was a rather dignified lady?

Woman: Yes.

Kathryn: Wonderful lady.

J.L.: And yet she could be down-to-earth and calm, and friendly!

Kathryn: Oh! She was the most calm....

J.L.: We had her in our home a couple of times.

Kathryn: Oh yes. But she had a certain dignity, too.

J.L.: Oh, yes.

Kathryn: So, we started out and it was late in the afternoon. We got stopped for dinner some place, and he was kind of nasty to the waitress. That wasn't very like Frank. He was very nice to people.

J.L.: Well, I think of Frank as being kind of a stern person.

Kathryn: Well, he had that appearance, but he really wasn't. So we got back into the car. Mrs. Gregory was in the front with me, and he was in back, and I was watching him, and he was drinking. And so, the next gas station we came to, I said to Mrs. Gregory, "We've got to go in the Ladies' Room." So we did and I said to her, "You've got to get in the back seat and pretend to be not feeling well, and I've got to get him in the front seat, and don't you let him get to that bottle." And so we did, and he was mad, but we wouldn't give him that bottle. He was just—he'd had enough, so he... I didn't know he was like that, but he got very verbally abusive to me.

So I sang, "When Irish eyes are Smiling" all the way up to Provo or wherever it was we stopped, and finally I got to thinking about Elle. I said, "I can't take you home to Elle in this state. She'll be so upset." So I said, "Well, let's stop here overnight."

[He said] "No, I've got to go on to Salt Lake."

So, then I thought about the time they got kicked out of the hotel, and then I thought, "Well, that'll be a pretty kettle fish if we get thrown out of the hotel because of him." So then I decided we better go on to Salt Lake. Then he decided he wasn't going. He was going to stop. He lit into me and he threatened me.

He said to me, "I'll be damned if I'll be kidnapped!" (Laughing)

I finally had to let him out of the car because he was going to jump out of the car.

J.L.: I guess I should have known that they were Mormon, or that one of them must have been, because Ross was a member.

Fern: No, Ross didn't join until just before he died.

Kathryn: Well, their daughter, their older daughter, I can't think of her name. But she lived in Salt Lake and she was very active in the Mormon Church. I don't know about the rest of the family, but I know that she was.

J.L.: But Ross had the drinking problem. I can remember an episode at Aunt Marilla's home one time. I think it was Christmas morning. The women, Rita and Aunt Marilla were rushing around trying to get something done. She wanted the men to do something, and they weren't helping. He got mad, and had a little glass of whiskey in his hand and he threw it and it hit the mantelpiece of the fireplace and went stomping out. I'd never seen him do that.

Kathryn: Frank really was a wonderful man, but when he got drunk, he was like a totally different person.

J.L.: His job, he was Project Superintendent over both the CCC camps when they were over here.

Kathryn: Yes.

J.L.: He was a very capable individual.

Kathryn: We all felt that he was older than he professed to be because I guess he was afraid that he couldn't keep the job.

Fern: He threw his weight around, you know. When he came...

J.L.: And he could have been brushed like Walt Ruesch, you know. One time I don't know how the subject came up about a Park Service job, but I said, "I'd like to be a Ranger."

He said, "Well, you would've been. We were going to hire you, and you had to get up and _____ (muttering) quit! In 1936, I was sent to Bryce. I was in the CC camp here, and they sent me to Bryce as the assistant warehouse under Dick Critchlow. Did you know Dick?"

Kathryn: Oh, yes. I knew Dick very well.

J.L.: His wife just died a couple months ago.

Kathryn: Did she? You know, I was going to try to call her. I knew her. Well, they lived in Oakland, you know.

J.L.: Well, she only lived about a block from us, and we hardly knew her there in St. George.

Kathryn: I'm sorry to hear that.

J.L.: I had gotten a record from her, some of his recordings that were recorded onto tape. He was quite a guitarist.

Woman: Didn't you say he'd play on the radio?

J.L.: Oh, yes. He'd been a radio entertainer before he came here, and then I guess he did quite a bit of it after they moved to California.

Kathryn: Oh yes, he did. He got in with a group of real good entertainers.

J.L.: Anyhow, they sent me to Bryce and I was working under him. Then they sent me back down here to take over a similar job under... I don't remember whether Ken Culmer had it or not, but I got sick when I got back down here. I don't know whether I got a sore throat or a cold; I don't know what hit me. But I'd said, "Well, I don't like that job. I'm going to quit." Harlan Ruesch, you probably didn't ever know him. He was a nephew of Walt.

Kathryn: I don't think so.

J.L.: He twisted my arm to go to Idaho. "Why don't we go up there and work on the farms." Jobs were hard to get. I was tired of the CCC. I didn't know this that they were thinking of me, that they were taking some of the CCCs, putting them in uniform and making them seasonal rangers! They'd taken two or three of the fellows already. I didn't have the slightest idea that they were considering me. I had taken the test for . . . they'd come up with a new job designation, junior assistant technician. It was a civil service thing. I had taken the test and passed it while I was out at Bryce and two of the fellows, another one that was an engineer that worked with Rupert and Steve Stevenson. Bob Lore got a job. Another one named Davis. They hadn't offered me a job and I just asked to be released and then I took off.

Then after I got in the station, Rozelle told me this: "Well, you were going to become a ranger if you hadn't got nervous and quit. Oh, boy was I ever sick then when I heard that!

Anyhow, things turned out for the best because I finished school. I hadn't finished when I got drafted, but I came back and then on the GI bill I was able to go on and get a degree. Then I came back and very fortunately taken into the Inn. For some reason, Fred Fagergren liked me.

Kathryn: Oh, yeah. I liked Fred Fagergren. He lived up there in that house where the Stevenson's lived, after they left.

J.L.: Then, eventually he lived over in one of the rock houses up here. He became Chief Ranger, and he was the one who hired me.

Kathryn: And where is he now?

J.L.: He passed on years ago.

Kathryn: He did?

J.L.: Yes, he died about 1965. He smoked heavily.

Kathryn: Yes, and he was very heavy.

J.L.: He got emphysema... well, I don't know that you'd call it emphysema, but anyhow it infected his lungs. He got to be Regional Director out in Omaha before they created the Rocky Mountain Region. They put the headquarters in Denver. We had been under the Southwest with the headquarters at Santa Fe. I think that's where we were when you were here.

Kathryn: No, we were under San Francisco.

J.L.: Okay, and then later when I first started it was Santa Fe. Then, when I came back to the Park Service in '73. I quit in '53, and then in '73, I came back and Omaha was our headquarters. Fred had been the Regional Director. He was dead by then, before I came back.

Kathryn: Fred was a fine fellow.

J.L.: And his wife is still living in Omaha.

Kathryn: Is she? She was a darling, too.

J.L.: She was a beauty. I guess she's going strong; she's in bowling leagues, and the last I heard her job was delivering cars for Hertz, wasn't it, one of the car rentals.

Kathryn: She was a very shy girl when she was down here. Wasn't she beautiful?

Fern: They had problems with a child; one died... (muffled speaking)

Kathryn: Oh, did she?

J.L.: I think so. Now their son is a superintendant somewhere, I can't say just where, but one of their sons.

Kathryn: Their oldest daughter, I always wondered if there was something drastically wrong with her because she cried all the time. She was difficult.

J.L.: That was Anne.

Fern: The one who died; Anne.

Kathryn: They lived up there by me for a while.

Fern: They lived out in Price for quite a few years.

J.L.: My sister lived in [Colorado]. Her husband worked for Rocky Mountain, and I visited a time or two. One time I visited and they were expecting Fred to come to the park. They said, "If he comes, he'll just come to Estes. They said he can't come over the Ridge Road because it's over twelve thousand feet. If he goes over that, he's got to carry oxygen. So we went over, and he didn't make it.

Let's see, John Lewis hadn't come over to the area at the time you were there. Well, it was after the war, so you wouldn't know them, but all of these people (looking at photos or book), I remember every one of them, and you some better than others. Of course, Paul R. Frank, he did three tours here at Zion. He came once as acting superintendant.

Kathryn: No, he changed quite a bit. He was heavier when I knew him.

J.L.: I remember him losing a little. He slimmed down a little. You know, he didn't look too old when he died. I was a little surprised.

Fern: (Muffled speaking) Is his wife...

Kathryn: No, I think she died.

J.L.: (shuffling through papers) This was the well-liked superintendant. Everybody loved Scohan.

Kathryn: Yes. I've heard of him a lot, but I...

J.L.: What did you think of Pat Draw? How did you rate him?

Kathryn: Well, he was a very good man, and he was pretty strict, but I always thought he was fair, as far as I knew.

J.L.: I think he was very sincere in his job.

Kathryn: Yes, and I think everybody knew that they better do the right thing. He wouldn't tolerate any... As I told you, when I came here, you know, I didn't have furniture, I didn't have a car. I didn't have anything, but the clothes on my back, practically. I could just buy anything in Cedar City and charge it. If you worked for the National Parks Service, that's all they needed as a recommendation. Can you imagine that today?

J.L.: (laughs)

Fern: I think they just trusted you...

Kathryn: Well, I don't know about that! But you know, we all had charge accounts at . . . I think it was Biedermans

J.L.: Yes, I recall Biedermans Market.

Kathryn...in Cedar City, and somebody would go in almost every week. So we'd all have our lists made up, and they'd take our grocery lists, and they'd fix a box up of all the stuff. Always everything was right, you know. Then they'd send us a bill, I guess at the end of the month or something.

J.L.: I don't remember ever being in Biedermans Market, but I always heard about it. I remember Mack Bean, of course. He was a mechanic. He was my mother's brother. He used to drive bus when they first started the bus service in Cedar City, 1925. He used to talk about Biedermans Market.

Kathryn: So who is operating the Lodge now? It used to be Utah Parks Company.

J.L.: Well, that's quite a story, and you know, I wish we had a book. I've been after this Zion Natural History Association to get on it and get a book published which I kind of helped with, and as a matter of fact, the lady who did the research and wrote it, dedicated it to me. It's called, *The Dudes are Always Right*, and it's the story of the Utah Parks Company in Zion. Well, Jamie Gentry, who's the business manager of the Association, says they're going to do it this year. (? 1980), but they'll only put out a limited number because it won't be a good selling item. But I'm sure you'd be interested in it because she goes way back into park history. She did a fabulous amount of research, going clear to Omaha and Salt Lake City, and she got to stuff that even I didn't know.

It goes back to the Wileys, how William Wiley came out of Helena, is I guess where he'd come from. He was a school teacher and he'd put up the inexpensive tourist accommodations in Yellowstone. He had to fight with the railroads and finally he gave up or sold out because he couldn't get a lease. They'd give him a lease each year, so he had to fight for it. So he gave up and then this Salt Lake and Los Angeles Railroad hired him to come down here and put up a camp in Zion and they lost money on it every year and that was from 1917 to 1923. Then it turns out that the Union Pacific owned this Salt Lake/Los Angeles Railroad and the Oregon Short line which were railroads and eventually they were talking. I think that Albright twisted their arm a little bit to take over this operation. I thought that Wiley had come in here on his own, but it turns out that all this time he was hired by this railroad company.

The Utah Parks Company then made a big thing out of it. They had to go through the trouble of building telephone lines to all of these parks and invest in buses and build these pretty good lodges, especially the one at Grand Canyon, which building burned down in 1932. Then this thing I'm reading about Bryce tells a little about it, how they struggled each year and they wondered about renewing their lease when it ran out in twenty years, and Pat Rogers convinced them that they should renew their lease, that it's going to be good. After the war, after they had to close for two or three years, you know they did have to close this operation, I don't know for about two or maybe three summers, then

opened up again in '46. From then on, they just went down, down, down, and they tried to sell the operation and couldn't find a buyer, so they ended up giving everything in the three parks and Cedar Breaks to the government. They took a tax write-off for it. I don't know they rated it at two-million dollars or something like that. .

So then the Park Service, for two or three seasons, they looked for somebody to operate it. What they should have done is just closed it and got rid of everything, like Patraw wanted to do. After Patraw got into region and became the regional director, I went there to a school one time and he got me off to the side to talk about Zion. He said, "You know what I think they ought to do with Zion is to get all that stuff out of Zion and let private industry put up a big, nice hotel and take care of it all in Springdale."

The Park Service made a mistake by looking for an operator to take over and run this for two or three years until they could decide what to do with it. TWA got in on it and so they let them come and operate it, and then they finally gave them the lease on the whole thing and then eventually they took over the big operation in Yellowstone. So they've got a subsidiary organization, T.W. Services, Trans-World Services. So that's who has it now. Have you been up there and seen all the new stuff they've built?

Kathryn: Yes.

J.L.: Just this winter, they rebuilt those old stone pillars in front of the lodge. The lodge burned down in—what year was it, '64 [sic]? The lodge burned down in December, and they had put this pre-fab lodge up in time to open the lodge for the regular season. So, that's what they've been operating and they didn't have those big rock pillars any more, but this year they built them back to look like the old original lodge.

Male voice: I've heard a lot of good comments about that, too, from people like Elsa and other people in the area that really felt badly about the way the lodge looked before they put up the pillars.

J.L.: Yes. It was a grand old building the way it used to be, and then this pre-fab thing. They build it on the same general plan except they didn't have all this rock work and the portico out in front.

Male voice: Kathryn was saying that somehow the new lodge didn't have the ambiance or something. What were you saying about the old lodge?

J.L.: Well, those of us who remember the old lodge, and of course the road went right in front; you drove right in front of the lodge and now that's all cut off. You have to park way back here and walk that way.

Kathryn: It seems to me that the dining room isn't at all as the old lodge was and maybe I've forgotten, but you know when we'd go up there for dinner, we'd dress up! It was a real occasion and it was almost like a city hotel.

J.L.: Right. It's a different world of course, now. You can see that these original lodges by the Utah Parks Company . . . and did you know Pat Rogers?

Kathryn: I knew of him, and I probably talked to him, but I don't think I really knew him.

J.L.: In the years that you were here, he was probably the manager of the Grand Canyon Lodge [North Rim], but he became the general manager of the whole works. He was a great old operator and . . .

Kathryn: That's probably where I knew of him more at the Grand Canyon.

J.L.: Back in the early thirties when I was a dishwasher, that's the job I could get. But he'd come around if they had a big tour coming in, he'd go around and say, "You and you, you be the dance tonight." And what he'd do, he'd take the boys around and introduce them to the dudes. He'd say "I don't want you dancing with those waitresses and the cabin maids. You dance with these visitors." We referred to them as the "dudes".
(Laughter) If you ever showed up without a coat and tie on, right back to your room you went. You dressed up! You came in looking like a decent guy.

Male voice: And that was the standards, but they've gone! They're no longer. And what they remind me of now—you go into the lodge up here and it reminds you of one of these fast-food places.

Kathryn: It's very different than it was, that's for sure. Was he at El Tovar?

J.L.: No. He was always North Rim, and El Tovar of course is South Rim, and it was the Santa Fe Railroad that owned that.

Kathryn: Well, I remember his name, but I can't quite place him.

J.L.: You would have remembered if you ever got acquainted with Pat Rogers and his wife. He had a lovely, beautiful wife, and they were gracious, and you know, they did everything right. Now my brother one time, she heard him refer to Pat Rogers as the "Old Man." Their employee, of course, called the boss the Old Man. She heard him say that, and gee did she address him down.

"Don't you ever let me hear you refer to Mr. Rogers that way. He's Mr. Rogers to you, and don't you ever call him Old Man! (Laughing) He learned a lesson there!

Kathryn: You know, of course, when I was here, the top staff used to have to go around to all the national monuments periodically, and to Bryce. So when they did, then their wives

would often like to take off on a trip while they were gone, you know. So I'd take annual leave and go with them. We went to Grand Canyon, and Mrs. Patraw was one of the first three women ranger naturalists in the National Parks Service. She was a botanist, you know.

J.L.: Yes. She did a book on it.

Kathryn: Yes, and she'd been stationed at Grand Canyon. Of course everybody always loved Mrs. Patraw. So we went over to Grand Canyon with her and it didn't cost us a cent. Anywhere she went, there was no charge. We went down into the canyon on the mules and... oh! (Reminiscent sigh)

J.L.: You know that's something I've never done. I don't know what's the matter with me, I didn't hike Grand Canyon, I didn't go down on the mules, and here I'm too old to do it.

Kathryn: Going down, I got about a third of the way down and I was standing in the stirrups and my legs were cramped, and I thought, "I'll never make it!" But I got over that. So then we came back that same day and we got to our room, and there were flowers and fruit in our room. The manager of the El Tovar had sent an invitation to dinner with him, but I can't remember his name.

J.L.: Well, no. I wouldn't have known that. I was going to mention the Superintendent's name there.

Kathryn: Oh yeah, Tullotson. Well, I don't know if he was there at that time. I guess he was there at that time. And then we went over to the Hopi dances, you know.

[Ends abruptly]