Bob Harris – Then and Now Written Memories Project – Audio Recording Interview

Conducted by Trevor Cox at the Southern Utah Veterans Home in Ivins, Utah

February 24, 2025

Audio File 1 [Bob Harris – Audio 1 – 2.24.25]

TC – What is your name?

BH – My name is Bob Harris. I was born in Memphis, Tennessee. I lived there most of my life until I joined the Air Force. After that, I came to St. George, then Nellis Air Force Base for a year and half and I met this beautiful girl there. So, we got married and been married for 73 years now.

TC – So, can you tell me a little bit about the places you would visit, the things you would do here in Washington County and surrounding areas? Places you liked to go?

BH – Well, I'm an outside person. I liked to go camping and hiking and things like that. Take a tour through the country, or whatever. Did a lot of that. I worked for Tour West, Incorporated. We took tours down the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. I did that for 17 years, I guess. So, I did a lot of outdoors in the area with them.

TC – When did you work with them? Do you remember?

BH – I don't remember. Probably late 50s, yeah probably late 50s I worked for them and worked for them for 13 years and took tours down the Grand Canyon, Colorado River, and the Salmon River in Idaho. Other rivers also. Did a lot of camping outside.

TC – Were there any favorite places for you to go here locally?

BH – Locally?

TC – Yeah, outside and around?

BH – Well, I'm an outdoorsman, so I liked to go do outdoor things, camps and things like that. Tours that people take to show people who want to know about this country and then the questions, I'd talk to them about it. I'm not a spokesman, so I can't necessarily just speak out to you, you're gonna have to ask me some questions.

TC – Yeah, you're fine. So, when you lived here were there any places, like businesses or food places, you liked to go visit?

BH – A few places I liked to go visit? Outdoors and things like that…can you hold off just a minute?

[Recording paused and resumed]

TC – So are there any places like stores or businesses or places you used to go visit quite a bit?

BH – Stores, normal places for groceries and thing like that. Way back when, there used to be Snow's Park here. I went there many times. But I don't know exactly a town that has [unintelligible].

TC – So, how has southern Utah changed in your time here?

BH – Well, it's grown quite a bit. I've been here for many years and I started off with a company and I worked them for 18 years here and I've seen a lot of growth and people coming in all the time to camp and hike and whatever. So, I've done a lot of that and visited a lot of places too. I don't know exactly what to tell you.

TC – So, where did you work?

BH – I worked for Tour West, Incorporated. It was a company that took tours down the Colorado River. I did that for 18 years. Saw a lot of the country, met a lot of nice people, outdoors people, I mean that's the kind of thing I like to do. Well, what else?

TC – Whatever, is there anything else you'd want to add or share about southern Utah and places you've been?

BH – Well, southern Utah is a beautiful place. For people that like the outdoors, this is the place to go. There's a lot of things to see. From this area here, they've got river companies and hiking companies and tour companies to take people all over to see this part of the country. A lot of people have not seen this and don't know exactly what they're missing, I guess. But, then again there's a lot of people that are not interested in this type of thing either. So, hard to say. Hard to please everyone, I guess, but do what you can, I guess.

TC – Well, thank you Bob.

BH – You're welcome.

TC – I appreciate it.

[Recording paused and played]

BH – And I helped them see that. When they'd come on these tours, I'd help them quite a bit. But maybe they don't know that too, I don't know.

[End of Audio File 1]

Audio File 2 [Bob Harris – Audio 2 – 2.24.25]

TC – Okay Bob, will you tell us a little bit about your experience playing baseball for Dixie College?

BH – Sure, I went to Dixie State College way back in the 50s. It was great. I loved it. I loved to play baseball and to play for them for [unintelligible] league was great, it was a lot of fun. Met a lot of nice people. Traveled around quite a bit. Saw different parts of the country that I would never seen if I had not played that, played for the college there. But it was a great. Had a lot of nice people too, coming from all over the world. It was just interesting to me to do that type of thing.

TC – What position did you play?

BH – I played third base some and mostly mid-field.

TC – Do you have any memories of any games that you played?

BH – Well, yeah. Back in those days we had a lot of competition with the local people, which is normal, I guess you'd have anywhere with…it was good. I don't have anything exceptional to say about that, but it was interesting and fun. Great activity. Met a lot of nice people. Still friends with some of them. Not too many…old age is getting to me. It's been great, I've been [unintelligible].

TC – Can you share any memories about college campus? The old college campus?

BH – Oh, college campus was just an original thing. We had, we played baseball for St. George. Back in those days it was a pretty limited type thing to do. I don't know, I don't know [unintelligible], I'm not the person you really should be talking to, 'cause I don't pronounce too good.

TC – You're great.