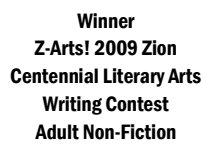


# Zion Lodge Stories

## A Job in Zion Park

The year was 1966. I had just graduated from high school in a rural Utah town. I had hardly been outside my valley.

Jobs were hard to come by and I was working as a dishwasher in a local restaurant. But a friend had managed to get a job working at Zion Lodge in beautiful Zion National Park during the previous summer.



I filled out an application and after a few weeks, I got a phone call telling me that if I could make it into Salt Lake, there would be a job waiting as a dishwasher at Zion Lodge. I could take the train down to Cedar City and there would be a bus to take me to Zion National Park. Train transportation was provided because Utah Parks Company was then owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. Today, people forget that the railroads built most of the really great national park lodges so people would ride their trains to get to them.

The original Zion Park Lodge, designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood in the 1920's, had burned down that winter. They rebuilt the lodge in 100 days and they were just finishing up when the bus dropped me off in front of it in late May.

I believe my actual wage was 74 cents an hour and I worked six days a week. I also got room and board. It was less than I made washing dishes back home, but this was Zion Lodge! In about a month, I had worked my way up to supervising the janitorial crew but the pay didn't improve. My "raise" for being the janitor supervisor was that I was sometimes called to bellhop for bus tours or to bus dishes in the dining room. When I worked the dining room, I had to carry a big metal trays loaded with at least fifty pounds of dishes on my shoulder with one hand. The "style" we had to adopt in the dining room didn't

allow anything lower-class like a dish cart. Zion Lodge didn't pay me at all for those jobs. The company got free labor. It was a perk because I could make several times my wage in tips. The bellhops were at the very top of the non-management totem pole and all of them were veterans with several summers of experience.

Nobody worked there to make money. Zion Canyon and the Lodge is what brought people back!