

2004 Outings

January 17: *Grand Canyon National Park Library Tour* by Susan Eubank, Librarian.

In 1920, one year after the National Park was established, a library was started at Grand Canyon intended for both the Grand Canyon community and the staff of Grand Canyon National Park. Donations came from Ellsworth Kolb and others and a loan of 50 reference books came from Arizona State University Library. Since that time, the Library has grown to about 12,000 volumes with about 6 branches all over the Park. Come spend the afternoon with, Susan Eubank, the current Park librarian and discover the Library's rare books and its comprehensive collection of Grand Canyon materials.

Susan Eubank came to Grand Canyon National Park Library in October 2001. She is a professional librarian with 15 years experience in specialized collections. She has worked in two botanic garden libraries, a mountaineering organization library, and an architecture college library. Her passion is creating more access to these small collections that contain the "gems" of the library world.

Place: Park Headquarters Building
1 Village Loop, Grand Canyon
[old Visitor's Center, Parking Area A]

Time: 1:00 PM *

To access the library go through the lobby glass doors into the interior courtyard of the building. The Library is in the Northwest corner of the courtyard.

* Let's meet at Maswik cafeteria at 11:30 AM for lunch before the program.

*(Carolyn Castleman,
January Outing Leader)*

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A Tribute to George Steck, Grand Canyon Hiker (Part I)



A delightful reception was held Thursday, November 13, at the Kolb Studio at the edge of the Grand Canyon, hosted by the Grand Canyon Association and Grand Canyon National Park. This wine and cheese event was to honor George Steck, a previous winner of the Grand Canyon Historical Society's Pioneer Award, and a veteran Canyon hiker. George has hiked about 6,000 miles and 1,100 days in the Canyon. In 1982, he took an 82-day hike across the entire length of the Canyon from Lees Ferry to Grand Wash Cliffs on the north side.

George is well known for his books, *Grand Canyon Loops I and II*, which have been republished into one volume. George has worked as a Volunteer in Park over the years on many projects including compiling a list of Grand Canyon place names and correlating them to topographical maps prior to the GIS era.

A huge crowd gathered around the staircase to hear Bil Vandergraff's introduction telling how he first met George at the Backcountry Office years ago. This was followed by Deputy Superintendent Kate Cannon presenting George with a plaque inscribed with the following:



Grand Canyon National Park
Lifetime Achievement Award
Presented To
GEORGE STECK
Grand Canyon Backcountry Explorer
For His Contributions Toward
Exploring The Remotest Corners Of
The Park, As Well As Sharing His
Love And Knowledge Of The Inner
Canyon With Others.
November 2003

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February 21: *Fighting Wildfires.* Presentation will be at 11:00 AM in the Gurley Street Grill, 230 West Gurley Street in Prescott.

March 27: *Grand Canyon Climber – The Story of Robert Benson.* Robert is the hero of GC climbers. Known for walking from Horse Canyon (Green River, Utah) to Lee's Ferry to join up with George Steck and his group who were on their way to Grand Wash Cliffs, Robert continued the trek along the River from Lake Mead to Moab (with a broken pelvis). Gary Ladd and George Steck will tell their stories of Robert Benson. Join fellow hikers and historians at Marble Canyon.

April 16-18: *Tour of Phantom Ranch.* Keith Green, GCNP Ranger, will give us a tour of the ranch with stories of the history of every building and location around Phantom Ranch, along with showing historic photos of the same places. Keith will try to arrange for overnight accommodations if you are interested; there will be a limited number of spaces, so you **MUST** contact Keith by January 1, 2004, to reserve your space: 928-638-0666 or Keith_Green@nps.gov

May 15: Author Craig Childs

June 19: Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point, South Rim Grand Canyon

July 17: Annual Campout at Jacob Lake, North Rim Grand Canyon

August 21: Annual Community Project (such as the Grand Canyon Cemetery clean-up)

September 18: Harvey Butchart book by Tom Myers

October 16: Annual Board Meeting

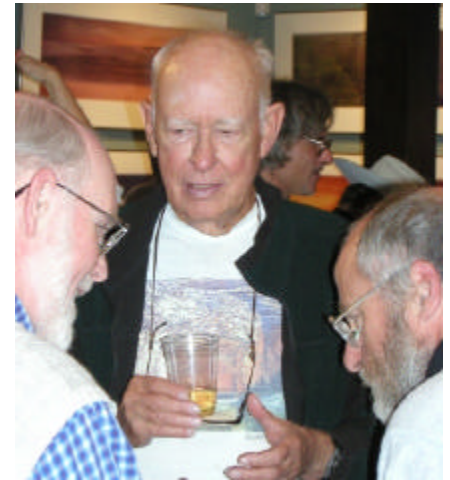
November 20: SARS Director Ken Phillips

December: No meeting

Keith Green
Keith_Green@nps.gov
2004 Outings Coordinator

George Steck ...continued from page 1

Then George took the floor and told some of his own stories. He said how he worked at Sandia Laboratories and only got off about 24 days a year, most of which he would spend in the Canyon. But, he



was fortunate to be able to spend time IN the canyon WITH his wife and family, unlike some other canyon explorers. George said he enjoyed hiking with families. He remembers a time when there was a party of 19 – 6 adults, and the rest were assorted sons, daughters, nieces and nephews. No one was ever hurt seriously on any of these hikes, but there were injuries like running barefoot into a cactus, or cutting a hand on a sharp rock. The reception ended all too quickly, as it was time to adjourn to the Community Building for the main event.



Steck's friends during the book signing at the end of the reception at the Kolb Studio.

[Part I: Article by Nancy Green;
photos by Diane Cassidy]
...Part II in January 2004 Bulletin

Former Grand Canyon Ranger ...Reaches Age 106

Michael Harrison was a ranger at the Grand Canyon for 10 or 11 years, 1921 or 1922 to about 1932. Michael is still alive but is chronically ill. He will be 106 years of age on December 13, 2003. He remains in his home in Fair Oaks, California. He is still the Director of the Michael and Margaret B. Harrison Western Research Center which is part of the Library at UCD, Davis, California.

The following article is from the *LA Times*, circa 1920s:

CONSIDER THE MULE

Mike Harrison, the charming young man who helps to guide the destinies of Grand Canyon, shares my enthusiasm for mules.

He says a mule is like a cat. He has a proper disdain for the human race.

He will earn his hay faithfully and intelligently. He hauls maiden ladies from Boston and fat tourists up and down the Bright Angel trail—not because he has the slightest interest in them; but because that is the way he earns his living. He makes no concessions and permits no liberties. His soul is balanced with a magnificent impartial impersonality. He would just as soon kick one as another.

He knows his stuff; he accepts no advice and no interference. If you let him alone, he will get you there safely; after that you can fall over the precipice for all he cares. He preserves his dignity and his social caste. He bridges no social chasms. He and the cat are the true aristocrats of the animal world.

The Harrison Western Research Center, bequeathed to the University of California Davis Library in 1981, is a research collection of 20,000 books documenting the history and development of the trans-Mississippi West from the mid-19th century

to the present, with particular emphasis on the American Indian. The Library is especially rich in popular literature and periodicals, government documents, annual reports and other publications of learned societies, and scholarly monographs. In addition, there are books from Western fine presses and a collection of correspondence with 20th century artists, writers, and enthusiasts of the American West. These materials provide for research in such varied fields as ethnic studies, military, local, and economic history; sociology; folklore; exploration and travel; geography; religious studies (especially the Roman Catholic and Mormon churches); literature; art and architecture; and the history of printing. The Library collections are complemented by original works of art including bronzes, watercolors, oil paintings, drawings, and etchings of the Southwest, and American Indian baskets, pottery, and other crafts.

An integral part of the Harrison Western Research Center is an extensive catalogue of approximately 600,000 cards providing cross-references and indexes far more exhaustive than those found in traditional library card catalogues. There is a small reference collection at the Center, with additional reference resources available in Shields Library on the University campus.

The Harrison Western Research Center is located on a bluff overlooking the American River in Fair Oaks, near Sacramento, approximately 30 miles from Davis. The Center is open by appointment only and arrangements must be made in advance to use the Library.

[Article submitted by Vincent J. Lozito, Conservator, Fair Oaks, California]

30,000 Grand Canyon Books, Periodicals, etc.

There were at least 20 books published or reprinted in 2002 and 2003 about the Grand Canyon/Colorado River. If you find it hard to keep up with reading the new books, imagine what it would be like to maintain a bibliography of everything published that refers to the Grand Canyon or Colorado River. If you didn't know, there is a real-time on-line searchable bibliography at www.GrandCanyonBiblio.org, compiled and edited by Earle E. Spamer with Internet edition contributors Richard D. Quartaroli and Daniel F. Cassidy (sponsored by Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon, AZ).

The bibliography lists items produced between 1540 and the present. It includes books, periodicals, serials, maps, audio-visual works, and electronic media in 34 subject areas. Coverage includes the Grand Canyon of Arizona and the lower Colorado River corridor between Glen Canyon Dam, Arizona, and the Colorado River delta in Mexico. Greatly expanded and revised from earlier editions published by Grand Canyon Natural History Association. [Internet edition first released in January 2000.]

Earle Spamer now reports that the bibliography stands at 30,000 citations – more or less two for every mile hiked in the Canyon by Harvey Butchart.

Flight Forecast

December brings the centennial of the Wright Brothers' first flights at Kitty Hawk, NC. So, what does that have to do with the Canyon?

In January 1917, Orville Wright spoke at a "Motoring Day" conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Department of the Interior. He predicted that air travel to the national parks would soon be commonplace. "But," he said, "in order to visit the parks by aerial routes, suitable landing places will have to be provided, either within the parks themselves, or in the closely adjacent country."

He was pretty much on the mark there, but missed a bit with his forecast for seaplanes coming and going at Crater Lake, Oregon. Still,

he was not a champion of tourist flights, it seems.

"No matter by what route we arrive, however, our national parks must be viewed from the ground to be appreciated. The giant Sequoia, when viewed from on high, will be no more impressive than the modest shrub, and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado will flatten out almost to a plain. Though the shining river will be seen winding its tortuous way in a mass of variegated colors, the grandeur of the gorge in size and sculpture will be gone."

So, why is the Canyon always pointed out to passengers dozing at 35,000 feet?

[Article submitted by
Earle E. Spamer, Philadelphia, PA]

Season's Greetings !

Time to Renew

Membership in the Historical Society is open to any person interested in the historical, educational, and charitable purposes of the Society. Membership is on an annual basis using the standard calendar; and dues are payable on the 1st of January of each year.

*Please review the **Membership Renewal notice** inserted with this issue, and help support the Society in its mission to preserve Grand Canyon history.*

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2004 Outings Coordinator:** Keith Green, PO BOX 1986, Grand Canyon AZ 86023-1986; phone 928-638-0666; email: Keith_Green@nps.gov.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Diane Cassidy at 2112 Demerse Avenue, Prescott, AZ 86301; email: Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org.

Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 10067

Prescott, Arizona 86304-0067

12-03

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