

# Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc.

To develop and promote appreciation, understanding and education of the earlier history of the inhabitants and important events of the Grand Canyon and surrounding area.

## The Bulletin

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December 2004

### Search & Rescue

Ken Philips was introduced by Tom Myers, former Board member. Ken is a 20-year Park Ranger veteran and is currently Chief of Emergency Services at Grand Canyon National Park. Those who know Ken would describe him as “unflappable, cool, calm, and collected” during a Search and Rescue (SAR) mission in the Grand Canyon.

Ken’s presentation of Search & Rescue included many comments and side stories.

On January 1, 1890, Franklin Nims became the first to be rescued in the Canyon. During a railroad survey on the Colorado River, Nims stopped to take a photograph and fell 22 feet. Members of the survey took him out Rock House Canyon to Lees Ferry. From there he was taken to Winslow.

The June 30, 1956, TWA and United Airlines mid-air collision killed 128 passengers and crew. This was the world’s worst civil aviation disaster at that time. A Swiss Rescue team, training in Colorado, rushed to the Canyon to coordinate the rescue. Those who died in that collision are buried at Grand Canyon Village and at Flagstaff. The National Park Service staff was not trained and did not have the equipment to do the type of rescue required. Steve Verkamp, GCHS member in attendance at the Outing and who lived at the Canyon, remembered that day. He said, “Not a cloud in the sky— typical June day.”

June 30, 1944, a military plane on a training mission had an in-flight emergency over northern Arizona. Most of the crew jumped out. The pilot regained control of the plane and flew to a military base and landed safely. The crew landed on the Tonto platform north of the Colorado River. Supplies were dropped to them. It took several attempts and several days to reach the crew and take them out to the north rim. One attempt was to send the rescue team and “folded boats” on mules from the south rim. Today, with the training and equipment available, that rescue could have been completed in time for the crew to have lunch at the Bright Angle Lodge.

On an annual basis, the SAR team flies 400 missions, is involved in 250 helicopter medical evacuations, and investigates and recovers 12 inner Canyon fatalities. To date, there have been 31 Park Service personnel who have died on SAR missions.

The NPS now has a Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) program. This includes a “Hike Smart” campaign that conveys information on making backpackers responsible for their own safety. The SAR team receives evidence and information on people in trouble from signal fires, SOS messages, mirror signals to overhead air planes, and satellite phone calls from commercial river trips.

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### 2005 Outings

**January 15 - *Film of Guided Cougar Hunt in North Bass area with Ambrose Means in 1917*** by Linda Thompson, granddaughter of Ambrose Means.

The hunting party included Rex Beach, a popular novelist of the time, Fred Stone, of music opera fame, and William Miller, the moving picture camera man. The film also includes Uncle Jim Owens and his hound dogs. Also accompanying Ambrose Means on part of the trip was Bert Lauzon and William W. Bass. This film shows the hunting party crossing over the Colorado River on the famed Bass cable cage and is where the photograph of Ambrose Means' horse hanging from the cable car is taken that is shown in Buzz Belknap's Grand Canyon River Guide.

Ambrose Means was earlier noted for his world championship roping and accompanying Buffalo Jones on two of his African expeditions, roping the wild animals of Africa. Then former-President Roosevelt was quoted commending Ambrose Means on his marvelous roping feats in Africa. Ambrose then later rode in the Young Buffalo Wild West shows in 1910 which also headlined Annie Oakley. Two books, one entitled *Lassoing Wild Animals in Africa* by Guy Scull and the other *Lord of Beasts* by Robert Easton and Mackenzie Brown tell of the African expeditions. The story of this 1917 film of the Grand Canyon trip was told by Rex Beach in his book entitled *Oh, Shoot*. All of the historical books and facts will also be on exhibit for your viewing.

Program begins at 11:00 AM in the screening room at the NAU Cline Library in Flagstaff. [Mike Coltrin, coordinator]

**February 19 - *Geology in the American Southwest: New Processes, New Theories*** by Gretchen Merton, 2004 GCHS Scholarship recipient [Nancy Green, event coordinator]

**March 26 - *Tour of Lonely Dell at Lee's Ferry*** in conjunction with the Grand Canyon River Guides' Spring gathering at Marble Canyon [John Azar, event coordinator]

**April 16 - *History of El Tovar/Verkamps/Hopi House*** in conjunction with the 100-year anniversary of the El Tovar, Verkamp's Store, and Hopi House [Keith Green, event coordinator]

**May 14 - *Carving Grand Canyon*** by Wayne Ranney [Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]

**June 18 - *Annual Shoshone Point Picnic*** [Linda Anderson, event coordinator]

**July 16 - *Annual North Rim Campout*** [John Azar, event coordinator]

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## Search & Rescue...continued from page 1

The best and most effective way to bring an injured individual to the rim is with a helicopter. However, the terrain and vertical walls (such as a slot canyon) may require the use of a litter team to bring an injured individual to the rim. The injured individual is packaged in a “vacuum mattress” and a ten person litter team transports the individual to the rim or a location where the helicopter can land. A cardiac patient is assisted on the trail. Moving the patient to the rim and then to a hospital (nearly 100 miles away) is not in the best interest of the patient.

If the rescue is just below the rim at an overlook, the “yellow tape” comes out. Visitors, with cameras, want to film the rescue. This creates a scenario where another accident could happen. Also, the rescue may be treated as a crime scene. A large tripod can be built on the rim with a boom to reach out over the rim. This allows an injured individual to be lifted to safety away from the vertical wall of the Canyon and preventing the individual from hitting the wall causing additional injuries.

A water rescue requires the use of special equipment and special training. A waterproof special design backpack and waterproof headset is required to communicate between team members. A highly maneuverable Boogie Board is used to reach swift-water victims. A diagonal rope across the river takes advantage of the current to move individuals or equipment from one side to the other. A short haul helicopter operation is used to lift passengers and crew from a raft stranded on a rock to a beach.

A death investigation in the Canyon utilizes forensic entomology to determine the time of death. Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board investigate air tour and private air craft crashes. Before aircraft were banned from flying below the rim, a small Piper Cub was not able to climb out of Crazy Jug Canyon. The October 1985 crash illustrated the hostile environment of the Canyon to small aircraft. The pilot missed the planned turn from the Colorado River to fly north up Kanab Creek. Then another turn up Crazy Jug Canyon and not enough power to fly out of the box Canyon resulted in the crash.

Suicides by driving a vehicle over the edge have been recorded. It is interesting that the individual will buckle the seat belt before driving over the edge! Also, this is not a scenic view flying to the bottom of the Canyon. The weight of the engine and front end of the vehicle will result in the vehicle flying upside down and landing on its top.

Margaret Bradley was a world-class marathon runner (placed 31st in the 2004 Boston Marathon). Running at a high altitude was part of her training for the next competition. She and a friend thought it would be a good training run, and a fun run, to see the Canyon by going down the Grandview Trail to Horseshoe Mesa then west on the Tonto Trail to the South Kaibab Trail. They started west on the Tonto Trail early afternoon of a very hot summer day – the first mistake. They had a limited water supply – the second mistake. They ran out of water. Margaret thought she could reach the river by going down the Cremation drainage – the third mistake. She died (July 2004) on a ledge above the Colorado River. This was a tragic death of a first-time backcountry visitor.

George Mancuso and Linda Brehmer died in a flash flood in August 2001. George loved the Grand Canyon. He knew the Canyon, as they say, like he knew the back of his hand. He was a “smart hiker.” His experiences in the Grand Canyon can be viewed by his images that are on the walls of restaurants and motels in the Flagstaff area.

Air Force and Air National Guard SAR personnel spend two weeks in the summer at GCNP. This has proved to be invaluable for those military personnel who are sent to the desert of Iraq.

Thanks, Ken, for a very informative presentation on the Search and Rescue (SAR) and Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) at the Grand Canyon.

*[Article submitted by Lee Albertson based on notes by Nancy Green]*

## November Outing Attendance

Keith Green, President of Grand Canyon Historical Society, welcomed those in attendance at the November Outing. Mike Coltrin, 2005 Vice President and Outing Coordinator, discussed the alternatives for a January 2005 Outing. In attendance was the Granddaughter of Ambrose Meads – a 1917 Canyon Hunting Guide. Linda Thompson indicated she had film and documents from her Grandfather’s adventures in the Canyon and would be willing to present these to the group at the January Outing. Mike will meet with Linda and finalize the details. As you can see the Outing Coordinators job is *a piece of cake!*

## 2005 Outings...continued from page 1

**August 20 - Community Service Project** at the Grand Canyon NPS Library. We will assist Librarian Susan Eubank with barcoding the entire book collection, which entails one group that will be physically putting barcodes on books and another group that will be entering those barcodes into the computer. We might also put labels on the books, if necessary. *[Nancy Green, event coordinator]*

**September 17 - The Bert Loper Story** by Brad Dimock. Held in conjunction with the Prescott Book Festival *[Dan Cassidy, event coordinator]*

**October 15 - Annual Board Meeting** *[Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]*

**November 19 - Powell Museum** - *[Keith Green, event coordinator]*

**December** - No meeting

## Scholarship Recipients

*Students like these benefit from the funds you contribute to the Grand Canyon Historical Society Scholarship Fund...and we all benefit from the results of their work. Please contribute today.*

2004 – **Gretchen M. Merton**, a PhD candidate whose dissertation title is: *Geology in the American Southwest: New Processes, New Theories*. The work the scholarship will be funding is her research in the history of geology in the Grand Canyon and surrounding region.

2003 – **Steve Buckley** of Flagstaff is the recipient of the 2003 Scholarship of \$1,000 for his master's thesis project: *Mountain Lying Down: An Environmental History of the Kaibab Plateau*. This is our first award for an environmental history. Previous awards have been for variety of historical and anthropological projects in the Grand Canyon Region. This is a bit more significant in that this is the first year we offered the scholarship for an environmental project. His introduction to the application was "Presently, there is no environmental history of the Kaibab Plateau. The isolated geologic upwarp, which serves as the northern barrier to the Grand Canyon between Kanab Canyon and Marble Canyon, is a true sky island. This breadth of land mass has provided for a rich history of human use. From early archeological evidence and inferences from known patterns, human habitation has had an effect on the larger ecological system of the Kaibab. The famous Kaibab deer herd and the ecological lesson it taught concerning the extirpation of predators, is but one remarkable note from a complex past. The Kaibab, as it is known, is a derivative of the original Paiute word, kaibabits, meaning "mountain lying down." The name was given by Major John Wesley Powell in the course of his exploration in the 1870s. Until such time it had been commonly known as Buckskin Mountain. It is the ecological story of this mountain I wish to tell."

2001 and 2002 – No scholarships were awarded.

2000 – **Russell K. Quinlan** was awarded the GCPS 2000 Scholarship at the Northern Arizona University History Department Awards and Honors breakfast on April 26. Russell is a fourth year doctoral student at Northern Arizona University studying criminal history and law enforcement. His research will concentrate on the career of Hubert "Bert" Lauzon who served as a constable and a justice of the peace for the Grand Canyon District of Coconino County before becoming a National Park Service Ranger in 1928, a position he held until retiring in the early 1950s.

1999 – **John S. Westerlund**, a doctoral student at Northern Arizona University, was awarded the GCPS 1999 Scholarship. This is the second time John has received the GCPS Scholarship.

1998 – **John S. Westerlund**, a doctoral student at Northern Arizona University, was awarded the GCPS 1998 Scholarship. John will use the money to pay for travel related research expenses pertaining to his doctoral dissertation in American history. His topic is titled "From Indian Village to Minuteman Missiles: Navajo Ordnance Depot in the American West." His research will take him to the Washington, DC area and to the reservations in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah to obtain oral interviews with former

Navajo and Hopi depot employees. The Navajo Ordnance Depot is a munitions depot located west of Flagstaff, Arizona.

1997 – **Michael Anderson**, Ph.D., was the recipient of the GCPS 1997 Scholarship for his research on the administrative history of the Grand Canyon National Park. This is the second time Mike has received the GCPS Scholarship.

1996 – **Amy Jo Horn-Wilson**, a master's candidate of the Department of Anthropology at NAU, was awarded the 1996 GCPS Scholarship of \$500. Amy Jo's project will be a study of the Cohonina peoples that occupied the Coconino Plateau, including the South Rim and Esplanade of the Grand Canyon and Havasu and Cataract Canyons from approximately A.D. 700-1150. Some archaeologists believe they are ancestral to the modern Havasupai. For her thesis, she intends to examine projectile points created and used by the Cohonina to detect changes in form over time and space. In addition, she will compare Cohonina projectile points with those created by the Kayenta Anasazi and modern Havasupai to discern culture interactions and relationships. The materials she will use are excavated and surface-collected projectile points stored at Grand Canyon, Museum of Northern Arizona, and Kaibab National Forest in Williams. The results of her analysis will provide additional temporal information for archaeologists as they interpret the prehistory of the Grand Canyon and the entire Southwest.

1995 – **Chris Johnson** was awarded the 1995 GCPS Scholarship of \$350 for his work on the history of the "discovery" of Rainbow Bridge. This is the second time Chris has received the GCPS Scholarship.

1994 – **Chris Johnson** was awarded a \$350 Scholarship for his work on a completely different aspect of Grand Canyon regional cultural history. His subject was Jacob Hamblin, a noted explorer and settler of the region. Chris looked at how the Mormon Church has used Hamblin's image to benefit the institution through public representation of him as a larger-than-life western legend. This study resulted in the paper *Bridging the Gap: Jacob Hamblin and Mormon Historiography*.

1994 – **Juti Winchester** was awarded a \$350 Scholarship to continue studies at the Grand Canyon involving early master plans used to develop the Grand Canyon park site for visitor use. Her emphasis was on cultural ideas that influenced these plans. Included were Mary Jane Colter's vision of Indians, and how that vision effected the development of selected parts of the Grand Canyon visitor use area. These studies produced the paper *Just Like the Real Thing: Mary Jane Colter and Her Artistic Endeavors*.

1993 – **Susan Olberding** was awarded the 1993 GCPS Scholarship of \$380 for her work on her master's degree in history and her research on the *Water, Water Nowhere: A History of Water Use at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon*.

1992 – **Michael F. Anderson** was awarded the first GCPS Scholarship of \$250 to study the trails and perform research on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The research resulted in the paper *Thunder River Trail at Grand Canyon National Park*.

## Thanks, Bill and Sibyl !

Bill and Sibyl are now in Alabama as Grand Canyon and Arizonian transplants! They have reported of their move east, moving into their new home and becoming acclimated to the weather and surroundings.

During the early years of the Grand Canyon Pioneer Society, they were the Outing Coordinators. They took and developed a number of pictures, and wrote about the outing adventures. They also took one more very important step. The photos (including names with faces) and write ups were placed in a very nice large photo album. This step reflected the talents and professionalism of Bill and Sibyl, and provides a history of the GCPS / GCHS.

Fortunately they did not move the photo album to Alabama. The album was taken to the November 2004 GCHS outing in Flagstaff. Those who were at the outing had an opportunity to look at the pictures and read about the outings. After a discussion, it was decided that the album should be taken to the annual picnic and monthly outings. This will allow those in attendance to review the past and put names with "pioneers."

Thanks BILL and SIBYL for not taking everything to Alabama.

## Welcome New Members

Don & Cathy Gray – Lake Havasu City AZ

## 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.

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**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2005 Outings Coordinator:** Mike Coltrin, 2041 West Brichta Drive, Tucson AZ 85745; phone: 520-624-1831; email: Coltrin1@cox.net.

**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.

## Season's Greetings !

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Grand Canyon Historical Society

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