

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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May 2006

A 1914 Journey Across the Kaibab

On Saturday, April 22, Fred Swanson of Salt Lake City was introduced to the members of the GCHS by their Vice President Mike Coltrin. Fred was engaged to speak with us about the recent editing which he had performed on the journals of George C. Fraser, published as *Journeys in the Canyon Lands of Utah and Arizona, 1914-1916*. This was during an era of recreational



explorers coming to the Colorado Plateau region and taking guided trips through the land so unlike anything ever seen before. These intrepid travelers tended to be Easterners, well to do, and educated.

George Fraser was an attorney from New Jersey by trade, but by passion an amateur geologist. He wanted to follow in the footsteps, literally, of explorers like Powell and Dutton, who were only one generation before Fraser. He wanted to see the area from the pink cliffs to the Parashant. George was an upper crust, wealthy Easterner who invested in railroads, book collecting and even owned the famous Hashknife Outfit. He leaned on his connections with the Union Pacific Railroad to find a suitable guide for this adventure for himself and his son, George Jr. His contact was Uncle Dee Woolley, already famous on the North Rim for having the brainchild of building a cross-canyon trail. He immediately recommended his son-in-law, Dave Rust, as the trail guide. This is the 100th year anniversary of the trail that mostly was built by David Rust. Rust's Camp, down by the river, was in the area of today's Phantom Ranch.

This 1914 trip took place on horse-drawn wagon and horseback through Zion, the Uinkaret Plateau to Powell Plateau. Some parts of the account included traveling on the Grand Canyon Auto Road. George was a meticulous chronicler of the event with an acute gift of observing the detail of what he saw. He took a total of 5 trips with Rust between the years of 1914-1930, including a Glen Canyon trip with Bert Loper.

It got its name, as Dave Rust liked to joke, because it ought to be a road. He describes the forest using that classic turn of the century phrase - "that you could ride your horse through the forest at a gallop." He noted there was no underbrush, and the trees were spaced widely apart. At that time, there were 60,000 head of cattle being run on the

...continued on page 4

2006 Outings

May 20 – TWA/United Tragedy, 50 Years Ago by Dan Driskill. On June 30, 1956, two airliners collided over and crashed into the Grand Canyon, killing 128 persons in what was then the world's worst commercial aviation disaster. This crash led to the FAA and the modern air traffic control system. Driskill will discuss this tragic mid-air collision, as well as post-crash recovery, investigation and clean-up efforts (which continue to this day) of the airplanes.

Driskill is a writer, attorney and former ambulance service owner who currently works as a flight paramedic in northern Arizona. He is currently writing a non-fiction book on this topic. If you have any personal information on this subject, please be sure to attend or write Dan Driskill at 11 West Oak Avenue, Flagstaff AZ 86001, or email him at medic_dan_2000@msn.com.

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Community Building – South Rim
Grand Canyon National Park

After the presentation we will visit the United Airlines Victims Gravesite Memorial at the Grand Canyon Cemetery.

June 24 – Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point. Members from across the country converge at the Canyon's edge for a potluck of good food, friendly faces and lively conversation.

July 15 – Annual Jacob Lake Campout. Spend a day (and a night) in the North Kaibab Forest at the historic Jacob Lake Ranger Station with fellow Canyon adventurers.

August 19 – The Spirit of Grand Canyon by Interpretive Ranger Bob Audretsch. Bob will discuss his thoughts of how Grand Canyon inspired many writers, artists, musicians and poets, reading from the works of such people as John Wesley Powell, Henry Van Dyke, Teresa Jordan, Carl Sandburg, and Colin Fletcher. Be prepared; Bob may ask us to write an observation or compose some poetry to share (or not) with the group. The program will begin at 1:00 PM at the Shrine of the Ages, at South Rim Village - Grand Canyon. Look for members and the presenter having lunch at 12:00 Noon in the Maswik Cafeteria.

September 15-16-17 – Havasupai History. The GCHS will hike to Havasupai and learn the history of the People of the Blue Green Water. To do this, we need an exact number of persons who plan to camp. There is a \$30 entry fee per person, and \$12 per night per person for the campsite. For an extra cost, arrangements also may be made to use the horse duffel service or reserve a hotel room. There is also the option of taking a helicopter for a day trip. Please notify Keith and Nancy Green by May 31, 2006, if you plan to attend this unique GCHS outing. Please state if you are planning to camp. Email: KNGreen4@msn.com or call: 928-638-0666 or Write: PO Box 1986, Grand Canyon AZ 86023.

..continued on page 2

2006 Outings...continued from page 1

October 21 – Annual Board Meeting held at Flagstaff City Library Community Room, 300 W Aspen from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM.

November 18 – Seeking Summits Below the Rim: The Stories and History of Climbing in Grand Canyon, by Mathieu Brown (2005 GCHS Scholarship recipient). Seeking Summits is a project to document the stories of early climbing in Grand Canyon. Despite the prolific activity of a handful of climbers little has been publicly written and documented on their pursuits. Like any time period in Grand Canyon history, that of the early summiteers carries its own perspectives and adds value and depth to our collective understanding of the Grand Canyon and its influence on the human individual and regional meaning. Although not publicly documented, the knowledge of early Grand Canyon climbing remains rich. It is held in the journals, letters, photographs, and memories of the individuals active in the pursuit. Luckily, many of these stories have yet to vanish and sit waiting to be uncovered and rediscovered from the climbers themselves on a local and regional scale.

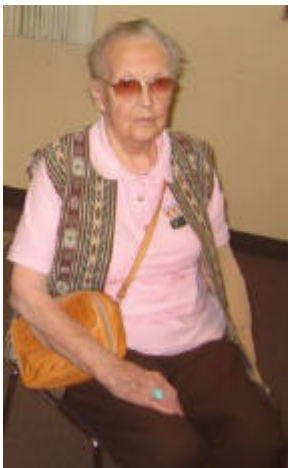
December – No meeting.

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April Outing Attendance



Those attending Fred Swanson's program included...a very special appearance from North Woodstock, New Hampshire...Gale Burak!



Also attending, from *Tucson*: Mike & Sue Ellen Coltrin; from *Grand Canyon*: Keith & Nancy Green; and from *Flagstaff*: Brad Dimock, Dave Monet, Don Lago, Dick Hingson, Ken & Dorothy Lamm, Charlie Bongo, and Peter Runge.

[Photos by Mike Coltrin]

First Hikers Symposium Well-Attended

Reprint of article in April 13, 2006,
Grand Canyon News by Jackie Brown



[Photo by Diane Cassidy]

More than 100 hikers of all abilities explored below the rim at the April 8th inaugural Grand Canyon Hikers Symposium, guided by 15 Canyon trekkers representing a diversity of experiences spanning nearly 50 years and thousands of miles.

The Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association and the Grand Canyon Field Institute began organizing the event and put out a call for presentations about a year ago.

GCHBA founding member and symposium organizer Tom Martin was optimistic about attendance, especially since the audience returned after lunch undiminished in size.

In keeping with the intent of the symposium, presentations covered a range of Canyon experiences as varied as the resource itself.

As Martin noted in his introduction, bringing people together to talk about the Canyon wasn't a difficult task. "The problem," he said, "is how you're going to get these people to stop." To that end, organizers imposed a no-exceptions 20-minute time limit for each presentation.

Each speaker focused on a particular hike or climb in the Grand Canyon. These included first ascents of the Cranberry Canyon Route, Zoroaster Temple, Marble Tower and Clay Tank Castle; second ascent of Grapevine Buttress; rim-to-rim hikes in the heat of summer and at 79 years old; a month-long backpack trek below the rim; and a hike in Harvey Butchart's footsteps to Wotons Throne.

Though experiences were as varied as the moods and terrain of the Canyon, all covered familiar territory for those who can't stop hiking it. Water was a crucial element in many presentations, as was the weather and other forces of nature like underbrush. They talked about their gear - or in the case of the earlier hikes, the lack of it; about the combined weight of socks and soccer shorts; about route-finding through Redwall or taking "what looked like a really good shortcut" and ending up someplace other than the expected destination. And they shared pictures, lots of them.

Martin said that if post-symposium surveys are positive, this could become an annual event. If that's the case, he said he would like to see more representation from beginning and day hikers.

"People are intimidated," he said. "But this has the potential to cover more of the day hikes. Everyone in this room could have given a presentation."

Scholarship Fund

Al Richmond, Scholarship Chairman, reported that despite the usual advertising and even extending the deadline slightly, there were no applications for scholarships received this year. So, the fund will roll over into the scholarship to be awarded next year.

The Board now wishes to take the time (and space) to extend a genuine thank you to those who generously contributed to the scholarship fund during the past several months were:

Marilyn Abraham
Pete Borremans
William Driscoll
Robert Lauzon
Betty Leavengood
Barbara Miller
Bob & Robin Ribokas
David G. Monet
Charles & Beth Tolfree
Dan & Diane Cassidy
Margaret Lee
Lee & Shirley Albertson
Charles R Schulz
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Laura Cole
Robert Ennis
Mike Ford
Pam & John Frazier
Mary K Hoover
Mike Mahanay
Robert J Phillips
Gus & Sandra Scott
Paul Callaway
Hazel Clark & Tom Martin
Bert Fingerhut
Barbara Kuckuck
Jacek Macias
Charles & Ilana Bongo

Promotion of GCHS

The Board also extends a thank you to those of you who contributed to the promotion of the GCHS (funds used for the printing of membership brochures, hosting of the web page, etc.):

Pete Borremans
David G. Monet
Charles & Beth Tolfree
William Driscoll
Betty Leavengood
Harry Phillips
Charles R Schulz
Peter & Shannon Eno
Pam & John Frazier
Shirley Patrick
Dr Robert & Beverly Bechtel
Cynthia Bragg
Gale Burak
Roy & Marjorie Burris
Mike Ford
Stephen R Owen
Robert J Phillips
Lee & Shirley Albertson
Paul Callaway
Jacek Macias
Josephine Scheier
Gus & Sandra Scott
Charles & Ilana Bongo

* * * *

Welcome New Members

Mike & Gale Dom – Kingman
Tom Florerchinger – Arizona City
Helen Thompson – Grand Canyon
Mike McHenry – Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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1914 Journey ...continued from page 1

Kaibab. Fraser had plenty of interactions with cattlemen, homesteaders and prospectors, all of whom ended up in his journals.

Fraser's favorite point was Cape Final. He said he felt confused from the views at Bright Angel Point and Point Sublime. He did note the profound silence at Point Sublime, which is certainly a far cry from today. He went down the Bass Trail, planning to cross to the south side, but

our presenter wants you to read about what happened there in *Journeys*. Fred showed some historical slides and then a discussion followed.

Thanks to Fred Swanson for undertaking the painstaking task of editing these journals and presenting us with an interesting historical perspective of one of David Rust's favorite clients.

*[Article submitted by Nancy Green;
Photo by Mike Coltrin]*

GCHS member, Ann Reynolds, taking in the view along rim trail from Point Imperial; Mount Hayden in background.

*[Photo by Diane Cassidy,
July 2005]*



Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2006 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.