

# 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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www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

July 2009

### 2009 Outings/Projects

**July 11, 1:00PM – John Riffey: The Last Long-Time Ranger.** Jean Luttrell, biographer. For decades, John Riffey was the legendary ranger at Toroweap.

**Location:** NAU's Cline Library Screening Room A.

**Lunch:** 11:00 - Meet at Casa Bonita on Milton Road across from Target.

**July 18 & 19 - Pasture Wash Ranger Station Service Project.** A campout at Pasture Wash Ranger Station. For the second year in a row, Grand Canyon Youth and volunteers will work on the restoration of the ranger station and barn. This is a service project and GCHS members are invited to participate. Details of van shuttle, food, etc. will be provided for anyone interested in this outing.

RSVP to John Azar at [TontoWalk@gmail.com](mailto:TontoWalk@gmail.com).

**August 22, 1:00PM - Call of the Canyon.** Tom Martin & Hazel Clark. NAU Cline Library Screening Room A.

**September 20 2:00PM- A Mule's Eye View of the Grand Canyon: The Photograph Collection of Trail Guide Ray Tankersley.** Mona McCroskey. Sharlot Hall Museum., Prescott. See our web site for further details.

**October – to be announced**

**November 7 - Annual Board Meeting.** Details to be announced.

**November 21 - Grand Canyon Anthropology,** Michael Anderson. Mormon Meeting Hall in Pine, Arizona. Details to be announced.

Please check our web site for outings updates:

<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/>

### Farewell to a Valued Member

Frederick Schick passed away on April 23, 2009, at the age of 91. Fred moved to the Grand Canyon in 1937, where he worked for Fred Harvey for three years before enlisting in the Army during World War II. While at the Canyon he met Grand Canyon native, Jeanne Cummings, and married her in 1945. After a career as a financial analyst at Lockheed Aircraft in Southern California, Fred and Jeanne retired in Sedona and were active in the Grand Canyon Historical Society.

Submitted by Barb Frizzell, Fred's daughter

### 2009 Annual Picnic

On June 21, twenty-nine members gathered at Shoshone Point for the annual picnic. After a tasty potluck under a brilliant blue sky, President Eric Berg called the meeting to order. Each member introduced themselves to the group. Eric reviewed recent activities by the Society including outings and publication of the *Ol' Pioneer* and *Bulletin*.



Picnic at Shoshone Point photo by Mike Quinn

Eric updated the group regarding a recent state budget proposal that would eliminate funding to the Arizona Historical Society (established in the 1860s). This would also stop funding Sharlot Hall Museum, closing an important archive and interpretive museum.

The bulk of the afternoon was given over to the presentation of awards (see accompanying articles). The **Pioneer Award**, coordinated and presented by Kirstin Heins, honors an individual who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of and knowledge about the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. Pioneer Award recipients are nominated by Society members and then chosen by members of the board. This year's recipient is **Brad Dimock** for his scholarship regarding Grand Canyon river running.

The **Hall of Fame Award**, coordinated and presented by Al Richmond, recognizes organizations and individuals who have selflessly contributed to the betterment of the Grand Canyon community over years past. These honorees are recommended by previous recipients of the award and current residents. This year's recipients are: **Becky Crumbo** and **Leo Schnur, M.D.** (deceased). Becky

Crumbo has been part of the Grand Canyon Unified School District and community for more than 25 years. During that time she has been a positive influence in the lives of students and community members. Leo Schnur, M.D., was recognized for his years as a physician to the Grand Canyon community and nearby Indian communities. Paul Schnur accepted the award on behalf of his father.

Al Richmond also recognized **Jackie Brown**, long-time reporter for the Grand Canyon News, who has reported on numerous GCHS events and is leaving the paper.

Eric described upcoming Outings (see Outings schedule) and the meeting was closed.

*Submitted by Amy Horn, Secretary*

### Hall of Fame Awards – Becky Crumbo and Leo Schnur

The twelfth annual GRAND CANYON HALL OF FAME AWARDS are sponsored by the Grand Canyon Historical Society and the National Park Service. The Hall of Fame award, coordinated and presented by Al Richmond, recognizes organizations and individuals who have selflessly contributed to the betterment of the Grand Canyon community over years past. These honorees are recommended by previous recipients of the award and current residents. The names of the recipients will be engraved on the permanent plaque housed in the Shrine of the Ages. The awards were presented on June 21, at the Society’s annual picnic. This year’s recipients are, **Becky Crumbo** and **Leo Schnur, M.D.** (deceased).



**Becky Crumbo, Al Richmond, and Paul Schnur** photo by Mike Quinn

**Becky Crumbo** has been part of the Grand Canyon Unified School District and community for more than 25 years. During that time she has been a positive influence in the lives of students and community members. As guidance counselor, Dean of Students and now Head of School, she was key in the implementation of the International

Baccalaureate Program, which supported her focus not only on academic success but a sense of community responsibility for her students as well. Becky has coached, mentored and served both students and members of the community through her service at school and Rotary.

**Leo Schnur, M.D.**, was recognized for his years as a physician to the Grand Canyon community and nearby Indian communities. A former Army doctor, Leo Schnur not only served as physician to the community for many years, but also to the Indian communities of the region. Dr. Schnur took great pride in the Grand Canyon community and this was reflected in his part in the planning for the Shrine of the Ages; he was elected President Emeritus of that organization. Through his selfless commitment to the Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts, many of the youth of the community were inspired by his enthusiasm for life and knowledge. The Boy Scouts of America honored him with the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his service. He also dedicated his efforts to the Grand Canyon community through his active membership in the Rotary Club and American Legion.

*Submitted by Al Richmond*

### Pioneer Award – Brad Dimock

The Grand Canyon Historical Society's Pioneer Award for 2009 was presented on June 21, 2009, to Brad Dimock for:

- \* His contributions to knowledge of Colorado River and Grand Canyon history through his original research, award-winning writing, and operation of Fretwater Press, a publishing house specializing in the characters and stories of the Colorado River system.



**Brad Dimock with Kirstin Heins** photo by Mike Quinn

- \*His efforts to preserve and find a permanent home for Grand Canyon’s historic boats.

- \* His work as the editor of Grand Canyon River Guides’ Boatman’s Quarterly Review for 8 years, for which he wrote, researched and published many articles about Grand Canyon and its history.

- \* His education and outreach work, conducting regular presentations and leading trips for organizations such as the Grand Canyon Association and Grand Canyon River Guides, providing participants with the ability to share the

stories of Grand Canyon's past in their own educational and recreational endeavors.

\* His original contributions to the Grand Canyon Historical Society's History Symposia.

\* His efforts to understand river travel in a more personal way - by recreating the boats and travels of early river navigators.

*Submitted by Kirstin Heins*

## **New! Grand Canyon Trivia**

Frequent *Ol' Pioneer* contributor, Don Lago, has just published a new book: *Grand Canyon Trivia* with a "fun facts" format. Trivia included covers the whole range of Canyon facts, from geography questions such as "how deep" and "how wide" and how it compares with all sorts of things, such as the depth of Lake Superior or the length of the Golden Gate Bridge. It also covers geology, hopefully making it fun, such as how long it would have taken John Hance to dig the Grand Canyon as he claimed he did - 280 million years - which is a lot longer than it took the Colorado River! Also included are wildlife, botany, Native Americans, trails and river running and, of course, history - including lots of information that has never been published before that Don found buried in the Park archives and other sources. Thus, in spite of the entertaining format, there is lots of new and interesting information for longtime Canyon lovers, including many amusing stories about Canyon people and history.

*Grand Canyon Trivia* is now available from most of the Fred Harvey stores on the South Rim, at Babbitt's and other stores in Flagstaff, from Five Quail Books, and Amazon. It's only \$10, which these days is hard to beat.

## **March 2009 Outing Report**

On March 28, 2009 Connie Reid (Archeologist, Kaibab National Forest) and Amy Horn (Archeologist, Grand Canyon National Park) presented programs regarding the ranching history of the Kaibab Plateau at the Ranger Station in Fredonia, AZ. The program included a display of historic ranching photos from the Kaibab National Forest.

Connie kicked off the meeting by summarizing the jurisdictional history of the Kaibab Plateau. She began with Mormon settlers arriving in the 1860s and finished with current National Forest range management.

Some important dates in Kaibab Plateau ranching history:

- 1860s – earliest cattle and sheep on Kaibab Plateau
- Late 1870s – United Order of Orderville (LDS cooperative) controlled most springs and rangeland on east half
- Late 1880s – Kaibab Land and Cattle Company organized to manage eastern holdings
- 1890s – B.F. Saunders purchased both UOU and VT holdings

- 1907 – Corporate Grand Canyon Cattle Company (GCCC) bought out Saunders, controlled most springs and pasture until 1924, when GCCC sold out to small ranchers
- 1893 – Grand Canyon Forest Reserve
- 1907 – Grand Canyon National Forest and Game Preserve (later Kaibab National Forest)
- 1919 – Grand Canyon National Park

Amy Horn discussed how NPS archeologists document and research historic ranching sites. In recent years, Grand Canyon National Park archeologists have discovered many archeological sites on the Kaibab Plateau related to its cowboy history. Amy discussed three main site types from Grand Canyon's North Rim and the insights they provide into the ranching history of the area: fences, water control features, and aspen carvings. The sites represent the transient use of the Kaibab Plateau as summer range, not as an area that was homesteaded and widely settled.

One story discussed by Amy involved the discovery of an old drift fence on the Walhalla Plateau. There, an old zigzag, log fence cuts across a narrow "neck" of the plateau. "Now what the heck was that for?", the archeologists wondered after finding it. Some research led them to the ever-present North Rim character James T Owens. Although he is better known for his achievements as a big game hunter and game warden for the United States Forest Service (USFS), Owens was also part-owner of the first buffalo herd in Arizona. In 1906, Owens secured a permit to range buffalo east of the Kaibab Plateau and drove fifty-seven buffalo from Lund, Utah across the Arizona Strip to House Rock Valley. He and a group of partners that included BF Saunders and Dee Woolley attempted to cross-breed buffalo and cattle with only limited success. Eventually, the partners sold out and Owens was sole owner of Arizona's only buffalo herd.

After he left the Forest Service in 1919, Owens developed a small tourist business. He led multiday horseback trips for sightseers and lion hunters. In 1921, Owens also wanted to develop tourist enterprises at Cape Royal, in conjunction with Thomas McKee. He hoped to develop a tourist camp at Cape Royal with his buffalo as an attraction along the way. From the camp, he could then lead lion hunting trips below the rim.

On March 8, 1921, James T. Owens was granted a permit to graze 64 head of buffalo on Grand Canyon National Park lands during the calendar year 1921.

The cost of the permit was \$1.00. Anderson indicates that the buffalo preferred to stay in House Rock Valley, and it was a nuisance to keep them on the plateau; but Owens

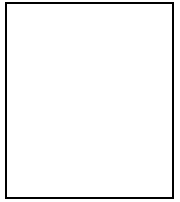
# Grand Canyon Historical Society

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## March Outing (cont'd)

tried to please the North Rim visitors and the Park Service by keeping them on the plateau. However, because the park would not let Owens hunt deer to feed his dogs, he was forced to stay near Bright Angel Point, where he could obtain beef from the Grand Canyon Cattle Company.

The program was well-attended by residents of the Kanab-Fredonia area, many of whom were either Kaibab Plateau cowboys or related to those cowboys. A few brought photos to share.

*Submitted by Amy Horn, Secretary*

## Call for Board Members – 2009

The GCHS Board of Directors continues to build and guide the organization. The strengths of the organization are worth repeating: monthly outings; community service projects; *The Bulletin*; *The Ol' Pioneer*; the Pioneer Award; scholarship of \$1,000 to a student at NAU doing research on Colorado Plateau issues; collection of historical and significant documents to be housed at NAU's Cline Library Special Collections; and organizing the next Grand Canyon History Symposium. Grand Canyon History is alive and well and interesting. But in order to share this information, it is necessary to have people help plan and organize the running of the Society. It is too important to let this information just slip away without being documented and disseminated.

Please think about spending some of your valuable time keeping this organization alive by being an active member of the board. **Don't hesitate to nominate yourself or others** (with their permission) to the board. Elections will be in September. Contact **Erik Berg** if you would like to be on the board. Please submit your nominations by **August 21, 2009** to [eoberg@cox.net](mailto:eoberg@cox.net).

## Submit Your Stories for Ol' Pioneer

The Ol' Pioneer is the Society's magazine featuring stories, photos, and letters of historical relevance to the Grand Canyon. Submit your stories, photos, etc to the editor, Mary Williams at:

**Mary Williams**  
**4880 Weatherford Rd,**  
**Flagstaff, Az 86001**  
**Phone: 928-779-3377**  
**mary@marywilliamsdesign.com**

**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2009 Outings Coordinator** at [TontoWalk@gmail.com](mailto:TontoWalk@gmail.com).

*The Bulletin* welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.  
Please send them to: [kgreig@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreig@yahoo.com)