

Come to the Annual Picnic!!!

Saturday, July 20th Noon to 4pm Annual Picnic and Award Ceremony at Shoshone Point, South Rim

PLEASE NOTE: Noon start is later than last year in order to accommodate a morning meeting of your Board.

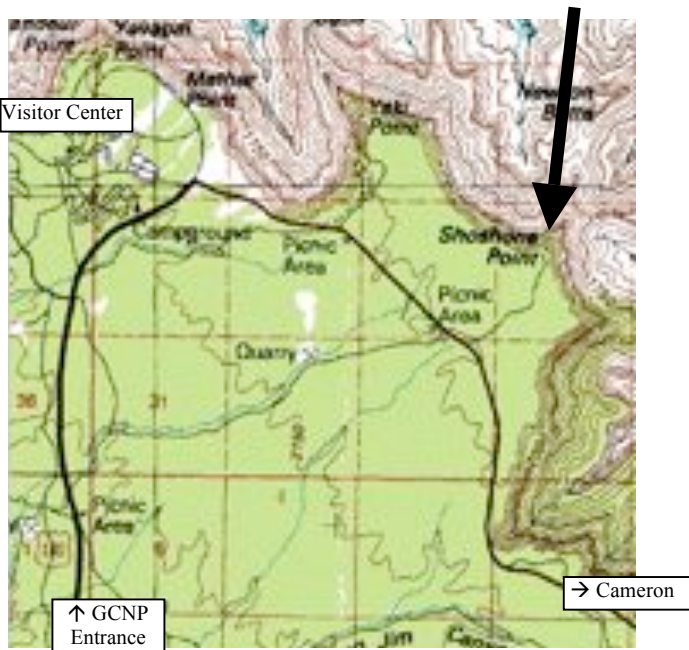
We'll eat around 1:00 then have a short speech about what's up with the Society by our President, Wayne Ranney, and then presentation of the Pioneer Award and the Hall of Fame Awards.

Everyone should bring: a dish to share (casserole, dessert, etc), drinks, dishes/utensils, and something to barbecue.

Parking at the point will be limited; please carpool or plan to walk from the parking lot. There will be volunteer vehicles to help ferry supplies and people as needed.

To get to Shoshone Point from the main entrance:

- Take the East Rim Drive.
- About 1.5 miles beyond the road to Yaki Point, turn left into a dirt parking area and look for the yellow gate.



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

Lois Jotter Cutter

Dr. Lois Jotter Cutter passed away at her home on April 30, 2013 at the age of 99 of congestive heart failure.

Dr. Cutter was the last surviving female member of the 1938 University of Michigan/Nevills Expedition down the Green & Colorado Rivers, including Grand Canyon. During this scientific expedition Lois (then Lois Jotter) and Dr. Elzada Clover were the first women to survive running the Colorado River. At that time, Lois was a graduate student and Elzada was a professor in the Botany Department at the University of Michigan.

In 1937, Dr. Clover and Norm Nevills hatched the plan for a botanical specimen collection trip. Norm and Don Harris built three boats specifically for the trip: the *Wen*, the *Botany*, and the *Mexican Hat*. Starting in Green River, Utah and ending on Lake Mead, the trip lasted 43 days.

On the trip, Norm Nevills was quite conservative and chose to line and portage many of the rapids. Lois was tall, strong and athletic and assisted in portaging and lining the boats, ate Rye Krisps and Underwood deviled ham for many lunches, and slept under the stars. There were several adventures, including chasing a loose, unmanned *Mexican Hat* through rapids in Cataract Canyon. Per the times, being the only women on the trip, Lois and Elzada prepared all the meals.

During a layover at Marble Canyon Lodge, Lois met river runner Buzz Holstrom who presented her with a waterproof match case/compass that he'd carried on his solo river trip the year before. Lois kept that match case the rest of her life. Buzz had been heard to say that women didn't belong on the river, but when he met the trip on Lake Mead he wrote on her helmet: "To the girl who proved me badly mistaken". (cont'd p. 2)



Lois Jotter (right) with Elzada Clover (left) & Norm Nevills (bottom) after reaching Lake Mead

Belknap Collection, Cline Library Special Collections, Northern Arizona University
NAU.PH96.4.114.3

Lois returned to Grand Canyon in 1994 for the Old Timers river trip organized by Bob Webb. An oral history interview with Lois from that trip was published on page 28 of the Fall 1997 *Boatman's Quarterly Review*. You can read it at: <http://www.gcr.org/bqr/pdf/10-4.pdf>. Other publications about the expedition include the chapter on Lois in Betty Leavengood's book *Grand Canyon Women: lives shaped by landscape*, 2nd edition 2008, Grand Canyon Association; and William Cook's *The Wen, The Botany and the Mexican Hat*, Callisto Books, 1987.

Lois was born in Weaverville, CA on March 11, 1914 and she graduated from the University of Michigan and went on to earn a Doctorate in Botany, also from the University of Michigan, in 1943. Lois married Victor Cutter, Jr in 1942 and devoted the following years to raising a family. She returned to academia in 1963 after Victor's death. Lois was an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro from 1963 until retirement in 1984.

During retirement, Lois enjoyed gardening, reading, bridge and travel, including a trip down the Amazon River.

Lois will be remembered by her children Ann Cutter of Greensboro and Vic Cutter of Sequim, WA; her grandchildren Sonia McKerr of Huntington Beach, CA and Nolan Archer of Lake Forest, CA; and her great-grandchildren Zachary and Joshua McKerr of Huntington Beach, CA.

A private memorial service will be held later this summer. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care of Greensboro, 2500 Summit Ave, Greensboro, NC 27405.

New River History Exhibit at University of Utah

Multimedia Archivist, Roy Webb, has announced a new Colorado River History exhibit at the University of Utah, and he is offering guided tours for those who give him a call!

"I wanted to let you know that we've just put up a new exhibit on river running history in the Special Collections Department reading room (4th Level, J. Willard Marriott Library). The exhibit is titled **Rivers and Dams of the Colorado Plateau**, and we pulled out books, documents, rare photographs, ephemera, and films to put in the exhibit, which features the USGS Surveys, "Buckethead" Jones and his scroll maps, the French Kayakers, Women on the River, SOCOTWA, Music Temple, and many other topics of interest to river runners including Grand Canyon photos and films that play the whole time. The exhibit is free and open to the public, M-F 8-6, Sat. 9-6, in the Special Collections Reading Room, and will be in place until August. If you can't make it until July, we plan to expand the exhibit to the whole 4th level, to feature Norman Nevills, the Hatches, and Charlie Eggert."

Contact information:

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William Anthony Ott

The Grand Canyon backcountry rangers in the 1970s and 80s referred to them as the "Albuquerque Connection." George Lamont Mancuso told me they were the "Steck Army." Harvey Butchart just called them "those Albuquerque hikers." They were or are John Shunny, Don Mattox, the Steck family, the Peterson family, Royce Fletcher, and Robert Benson. The common thread among them, except for Benson, was their employer, Sandia National Laboratories. Many of their adventures were planned in the lunchroom at the laboratory. Shunny led the river trips; Mattox led the hikes and is responsible for introducing George Steck to the Grand Canyon. George's love was Glen Canyon for hiking and boating, but when the dam was finished George needed some new territory to explore. Thanks to Don he began a long love affair with the Canyon.

This eclectic group of hikers would meet once a month and have lunch and drinks at one of the group's homes. One name that would always come up in discussions was Bill Ott. Ott was well respected by the Albuquerque hikers for his completion of the first long traverse of the Canyon on the north side. I became interested in this obscure hiker who had disappeared from the Canyon scene after his epic hike. I asked Harvey for his file on Ott. Included in the file was his hand-written hiking log for his Through-Canyon hike in 1981. His speed of moving within the landscape of the Grand Canyon was impressive. I made an effort to find him for an oral interview. My search came up empty.



Billy at work

Years later after I left Albuquerque for Fredonia, Arizona, there came a knock on my front door. It was a man about my age who introduced himself as Bill Ott! He wanted info on water sources along the Esplanade where he planned to search for rock art. We became good friends and I accompanied him on many of his hikes to look for and photograph these polychrome panels found in the Grand Canyon

and Utah. We also ran several rivers together.

When he decided to look for the artwork below the south rim I was concerned about his planned solo hike on Hualapai land. Not only does the Hualapai Tribe make it nearly impossible to obtain a hiking permit, but the terrain is remote and very difficult. He was undeterred and decided to go ahead with his plan. I said goodbye to him when he left my place for what would be his last hike. A friend delivered him to the head of Mohawk Canyon and Billy dropped below the rim. I had asked him to take a spot device with him but he didn't believe in hiking with any rescue aids. Billy was old-fashioned and determined to succeed with his hike. He failed to return to the rim and three weeks later several searches by land and air were performed but turned up very little - just two boot prints. He now is considered deceased. The Grand Canyon hiking community has lost a valuable asset with the death of Billy Ott.

Submitted by John S. Azar

BA Trailhead Improvements

Photos provided by Keith Green



Keith Green at the new sign at the renovated trailhead



Kolbs' Driveway is Now Paved

Wide walkways and water station along the rim



Shaded benches and restrooms near the trailhead



Top of the Bright Angel Trail is still that invitation into wonder



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

Historic Marble Canyon Lodge Lost To Fire

As *The Bulletin* was being finalized, we learned that a middle of the night fire burned down the historic restaurant/trading post portion of Marble Canyon Lodge early on June 19th. Fortunately no one was hurt badly, and the motel rooms, gas station and post office are still intact. Our sympathy and good wishes go out to Don Foster, his family, and all the employees at Marble Canyon.



Marble Canyon Lodge pre-fire



Marble Canyon Lodge morning after the fire
Photo courtesy of Allison Schmidt

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **Outings Coordinator** at eoberg@cox.net.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to: kgreig@yahoo.com