



The Bulletin

2013 Outings

Saturday, November 16th Privy to Power: Historic Infrastructure Tour at Grand Canyon Village

When: Tour 1: 8:00am to 11:00am, 11:00am to Noon informal lunch at Maswik Cafeteria, Tour 2: Noon to 3:00pm

PLEASE NOTE: Tour 2 in the afternoon is currently full, so we are offering a morning tour, Tour 1. If you are interested in attending the morning tour YOU MUST CONTACT Erik Berg and Ellen Brennan at outings@grandcanyonhistory.org. SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 30 PEOPLE TO SIGN UP. The afternoon tour is currently sold out, though you may request to be put on a waiting list.

Details: This outing at Grand Canyon Village features important - but often overlooked - sites related to the village's early infrastructure challenges.

Due to the canyon's remote location, the village had to be a largely self-sustaining community – providing its own power, water, and sewage systems. Our Fall Outing for the Grand Canyon Historical Society will feature a rare behind-the-scenes look at two important early infrastructure facilities that are not normally visited by the public: the Grand Canyon Power House and the park's first sewage disposal and water reclamation plant – both built in 1926.

Designed to resemble a huge Swiss chalet, the Power House is an overlooked architectural gem and still contains the original Fairbanks-Morse diesel generators. Due to the rim's hard limestone rocks, waste disposal was a challenge from the early days because outhouse pits were hard to dig and not terribly effective (or sanitary). The village's pioneering waste treatment and water reclamation plant was one of the first in the entire country and a model for later plants. The Power House is a National Historic Landmark. The waste water treatment plant is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The outing will include tours of both facilities (and possibly a bonus site!).

Where: Both tours will leave from the NPS Backcountry Information Center (across the railroad tracks from Maswik Lodge) Tour 1 at 8am and Tour 2 at Noon and both will last about 2-3 hours. Attendees should be prepared for about a half-mile worth of walking (some of it over slightly uneven ground). Attendees are encouraged to informally meet for lunch at the Maswik cafeteria from 11 to Noon.

Sunday, November 17th 10:00am to 12:30pm, Annual Board Meeting. Location: 1511 N Aztec St Flagstaff, AZ. From northbound US Highway 180, turn west on Beale St., Go to Aztec and turn right. The house will be on the left after about 150 yards.

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

Mary Simpson: Touched the Lives of Many



Mary Simpson in Grand Canyon

GCHS member Mary Phyllis (Nelson) Simpson passed away Wednesday, Sept 25, 2013 following a boating accident on the Colorado River, in the arms of her husband of fifty years, in her beloved Grand Canyon.

Mary Phyl was born in 1946 in Winslow, Arizona, to John Robert and Emma Jean (Babbitt) Nelson. In the early 1950's her parents operated the Park Service concession for the Thunderbird Lodge and Trading Post in Chinle Arizona. She and her older sister Jeanie attended the local one-room schoolhouse for one year, but learned very little that year as the school was wild and disorderly. After that she was sent to live in Flagstaff during the school year, with her grandparents Joe and Viola Babbitt, where she attended St Anthony's Catholic School.

During the summers, Mary and Jeanie adventured in the Canyons during the day, riding on horseback up the canyons and swinging from their knees in the Canyon de Chelly ruins that are now closed to the public. In the evening the sisters dressed in traditional Navajo velvet dresses, their hair in classic Navajo buns, with the heavy silver jewelry for the dinners that were served family style in the Lodge. In 1958 her father died and her mother sold the Thunderbird Lodge. Mary stayed in Flagstaff and lived with her grandparents while finishing school.

Mary met her husband, Robert Simpson, when she was thirteen and he was fourteen. They were married in 1963 and had three children, Janet Elaine, Kenneth Charles, and Lillian Ruth. In 1967, they moved to Cameron, Arizona on the Navajo

reservation so that Robert could help his father with the business that he had established there. They later moved to Tucson with their children in 1972, to pursue more education at the University of Arizona, but returned to Flagstaff in 1974.

In 1976, Robert and Mary took over the family business in Cameron from Robert's parents, Willard and Lillian Simpson. Mary had been happy as a student, housewife and mother. She was reluctantly recruited to do bookkeeping for the small grocery store and soon found herself managing the business and transformed it into something of real value to the community, carrying a full selection of groceries, fresh meat and fresh produce. She embraced the social aspects of the business, knew most of the community by name, and enjoyed greeting Navajo grandmothers and playing with babies.

In 1976, Mary hiked the Grand Canyon for the first time with her husband and children. It was to become her lifetime passion. She became an expert in lightweight backpacking and it has been reported that if a hiker came to her house, she'd make them dump their pack out, and she'd say "you don't need this, you don't need that" and toss the item aside - trying to help the person get their pack weight down. She hiked with her husband, her children, her mother and sisters, her friends, and she hiked alone. She hiked in every season. She was heard more than once saying to a Grand Canyon hiker or boater who was anxious about exposure (along the Deer Creek narrows trail, for example), "remember, gravity doesn't pull you sideways, it only pulls you down".

Mary was an early contributor to the Grand Canyon Hikers Yahoo e-group and was a board member of the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association, serving as its second president, and also participated in several service projects. Hikers would stop in to see Mary in Cameron on their travels to and from the Canyon, expanding the circle of people whose lives Mary touched.

Mary discovered the joy of rafting the Canyon on a family trip in 1982. After several trips, she and Robert bought their own boat in 2004 and did several trips each year until trips were limited to one per person per year in 2009.

Mary Phyl was a person who lived life with gusto, both in her love of family and love of adventure, a woman with a huge heart and generous nature. She loved to read and she loved to teach children and adults alike. Mary Simpson left bits of her knowledge and love everywhere she went.

She died in her husband's arms in the place that had always brought her the most joy. She died with her river sandals on, a thought that has brought a great deal of comfort to her grieving family. She will be profoundly missed.

A celebration of Mary Simpson's life was held at Grand Canyon on October 27, 2013.

For more about Mary see <http://maryphyl.homestead.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/maryphyl>.

Parts of this story were excerpted from Mary Simpson's obituary at: http://azdailysun.com/news/local/obituaries/mary-simpson/article_5fbcc34e-369d-11e3-add3-001a4bcf887a.html

Elect Your Board!!

Each year, the Grand Canyon Historical Society elects new board members to serve a three-year term. Board members help guide the organization, coordinate events and serve as officers.

Please read the biographies of the nominees listed below and select FOUR to serve on the board. You may also submit write-in candidates. You may either mail the enclosed ballot, **or email** your vote to GCHS Secretary Tom Martin

secretary@grandcanyonhistory.org no later than **Wednesday November 13th**.

Lee Albertson

Lee's interest in the Grand Canyon and the Historical Society dates back to the 1980's. He has participated and led Historical Society Outings, served on past Boards as a member and as an officer, and a number of his writings have been published in Historical Society publications. Lee was the recipient of the 2008 Grand Canyon Historical Society Pioneer Award.

Lee was a presenter at the 2002 Grand Canyon History Symposium. In addition, he organized and directed Historical Society members and volunteers in developing very successful 2007 and 2012 History Symposiums, and worked with Symposium partners from Grand Canyon National Park, Xanterra South Rim, Xanterra Rail Road, Northern Arizona University, Museum of Northern Arizona, and Grand Canyon Association.

Lee supports the Grand Canyon Historical Society in establishing an "Oral History" project.

Ellen Brennan (second term)

Ellen Brennan is currently working as the cultural resource program manager for Grand Canyon National Park. Before this, she was the cultural resource program manager for the Southern Four Corners parks, including Navajo National Monument, Canyon de Chelly, and Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site. She worked as the Vanishing Treasures archaeologist for Grand Canyon for five years and worked as an archaeologist and surveyor's assistant for seven years after completing her Master of Arts in Anthropology at Northern Arizona University. In her early career she worked as a backcountry ranger and fire management employee at Grand Canyon. Ellen has a long history of caring for the Grand Canyon and the resources it contains and has enjoyed sharing that knowledge and passion with others during her term as a board member for GCHS. Also during her term, Ellen helped plan and execute the successful 2012 History Symposium.

Tom Martin (second term)

Tom Martin has been hiking in Grand Canyon National Park from river rafting trips since 1969. Tom co-founded the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association and River Runners for Wilderness, organizations advocating for greater resource protection of Grand Canyon National Park. In the last few years, Tom has been researching some of the Park's historic boats, including constructing a full size replica of Moulty Fulmer's GEM, the first McKenzie River dory to travel through Grand Canyon. Tom also volunteers as moderator of the Grand Canyon History Yahoo! e-group.

Tom's publications include the first hiking guide for river runners in Grand Canyon, called *Day Hikes From The River*. In conjunction with Duwain Whitis, Tom co-authored the first truly waterproof guide for river runners, *Guide To The Colorado River In The Grand Canyon, Lee's Ferry To South Cove*, which won the 2007 National Outdoor Book Award. Tom recently retired from his career as a physical therapist at the Grand Canyon Clinic at the South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park. During his current term on the GCHS Board, Tom helped plan and execute the successful 2012 History Symposium.

Frank Romaglia

Frank is a retired commercial airline pilot, living in Phoenix, AZ. Prior to flying commercially for Southwest, Frank was a US Air Force pilot for 20 years. He still enjoys flying WWII aircraft in air shows. He has also been working as an outdoor guide since 2004, leading hikes into Grand Canyon. Frank is particularly interested in helping GCHS expand its outings program.

Current Board Members and Officers

ELECTED in 2012 – Term: 2013, 2014, 2015

- Howard Asaki
- Karen Greig*
- Beth Hickey
- Carol Naille*

ELECTED in 2011 – Term: 2012, 2013, 2014

- John Azar*
- Erik Berg*
- Kathy Farretta
- Wayne Ranney

ELECTED in 2010 – Term: 2011, 2012, 2013, Outgoing 11/2013

- Ellen Brennan
- Keith Green*
- Amy Horn*
- Tom Martin

*Currently serving a second consecutive term. [Board members are eligible to serve two (2) consecutive terms and will not again be eligible for election until one year has passed from their last term of office. (By Laws, Article IV.1)]

CURRENT OFFICERS

President: Wayne Ranney

Vice President: John Azar

Treasurer: Amy Horn

Secretary: Tom Martin

Hall of Fame Award &

Scholarship Chair: Al Richmond

Pioneer Award Chair: Lee Albertson

Outings Coordinator: Erik Berg

President Wayne Ranney Honored with Copper Quill Award

The Friends of the Flagstaff Library named GCHS president Wayne Ranney the recipient of the 2013 Copper Quill Award in honor of his significant contributions to the geology literature. The award is made annually and the recipient receives a plaque and cash stipend. Wayne was honored at the Friends' annual luncheon on October 17, 2013. You can see photos and learn more on Wayne's blog at:

<http://earthly-musings.blogspot.com/2013/10/the-copper-quill-award-luncheon-october.html>

Are You a Two-Email Household?

We recently added the option to have 2 email addresses associated with a single membership account. That way *The Bulletin* doesn't just go to the inbox of one member of the household.

To add a second email address, send a note to treasurer@grandcanyonhistory.org and include your name and the additional email where *The Bulletin* and your GCHS correspondence should go.

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

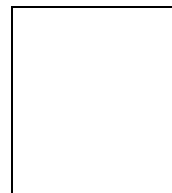
Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 31405

Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-1405

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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