



# The Bulletin

## 2014 Outings

**Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> Spring Outing - Driving Tour of the Flagstaff to Grand Canyon Stage Line** See Details Below

**Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> Noon to 4pm. Annual Picnic and Award Ceremony at Shoshone Point, South Rim** Food, Friends, Fraternity, Fun!

### Spring Outing: Driving Tour of the Flagstaff to Grand Canyon Stage Line – Sat May 24th

The Grand Canyon Historical Society Spring Outing will be a day-long driving tour along the route of the original Flagstaff-to-Grand Canyon stage line, led by Forest Service archaeologist Neil Weintraub on Saturday, May 24th. The tour will include stops at important historic sites including the Babbitt ranches, the Moqui Stage Station, and the historic Hull cabin (the latter two located in the Kaibab National Forest).

**Note: You must RSVP to attend!**

**Meeting Point:** The tour will start from the junction of Forest Road 417 and Highway 180. This turn-off is on the east side of the highway about a half-mile north of the turn-off for the Red Mountain Trailhead (about a 35 minute drive from downtown Flagstaff).

**Starting Time:** The tour will leave from the FS417/180 junction at 8:00 AM sharp! We will end up back at the junction no later than 5:00 PM that afternoon.

**Vehicle Requirements:** Much of the tour will be over rough dirt roads that will require a high-clearance SUV or truck. If you do not have a suitable vehicle, we will try to group you with somebody who does (cars can be left at the junction for the duration of the tour).

**What to Bring:** Comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for the unpredictable northern Arizona weather. Bring a day's worth of drinking water, plus a lunch and any snacks. Other recommended items include broad-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and camera.

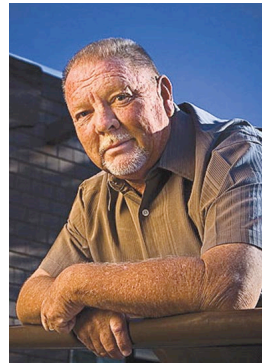
**YOU MUST RSVP:** If you would like to attend this tour, you must RSVP to Erik Berg via phone (480-961-5005) or email [eonweb@cox.net](mailto:eonweb@cox.net) or [treasurer@grandcanyonhistory.org](mailto:treasurer@grandcanyonhistory.org) no later than **Monday, May 19**. It is important that you RSVP so that we have an accurate count of attendees and their vehicles.

**NOTE:** Due to the back road nature of this tour, it will be somewhat dependent on weather and road conditions at the time.

## Mike Verkamp

Cornelius Michael "Mike" Verkamp, 72, a sculptor in stone, storyteller and member of a pioneer northern Arizona family, died at his home in Bullhead City, Arizona, February 27, 2014 after a short illness.

GCHS Scholarship Chair Al Richmond said of Mike: "I knew him as one of the finest products of the Grand Canyon community. Mike always had a happy greeting that helped to make my day. He is missed."



Born at Grand Canyon on Feb. 5, 1942, Mike Verkamp was an outstanding student and all-star athlete at Grand Canyon High School. He earned a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Arizona in 1966.

Before joining the U.S. Navy in 1967, where he served two tours in Vietnam with the "Seabees" unit NMCB-74, he married Evelyn Stanley. They

had one son, Michael Kenyon "Kenny."

After his wartime service, Mike managed Verkamp's Curios on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon for 25 years. As manager, Mike orchestrated a renovation of the store and upstairs residence, leading to its designation on the National Register of Historic Structures.

Mike was a beloved member of the Grand Canyon community and devoted family man. He and his wife Evie were married for 47 years. After their son Kenny died in 1995, they raised their two grandsons Mike and Joshua. Mike served on the local school board for eight years, a period marked by significant expansion and improvements to the school's facilities.

Along with his wife and grandsons, Mike is survived by six siblings: John Verkamp, Steve Verkamp, Jane Pritchett, Susie Verkamp, Kelly Wadsworth, and Lisa Verkamp.

No services are scheduled, but the family may hold a celebration of Mike's life at Grand Canyon Village this summer.

This article was taken in part from the March 6, 2014 *Grand Canyon News* obituary at <http://bit.ly/QDShHg>.

## Adriann Partrick Awarded GCHS Scholarship

The 2013 Grand Canyon Historical Society Scholarship has been awarded to Adriann (Addie) Partrick, an online graduate student at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. Employed as a park guide at Grand Canyon National Park, Addie will be working on a project to assist the park in

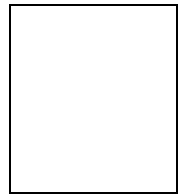
# Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 31405

Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-1405

03-14

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



deciding how to best manage a newly acquired site, the Desert View Watchtower.

During the summer of 2014, Addie will be doing interpretive research in and around the Desert View Watchtower. The focus of this research is visitor experience, expectations, and desires when it comes to visiting cultural sites in the southwest.

Architect Mary Colter built the Desert View Watchtower in 1932. The inspiration behind the Watchtower was to celebrate our native tribes. Colter described it as a “re-creation” of various towers built by Native Americans throughout the southwest. Managed by Xanterra Parks and Resorts for many years, the Desert View Watchtower has been operated as a curio shop, which makes it challenging for the National Park Service to fully tell the story of its cultural ties to the canyon as a place of emergence and spirituality. This is a unique opportunity for Grand Canyon National Park to spark emotional and intellectual connections to our cultural heritage.

To prepare herself for this project, Addie will be enrolled in graduate level classes, specifically “Cultural Heritage Interpretation” that will supplement the research and include data interpretation education and training. The scholarship

will fund this class and also go toward qualitative research materials and transportation costs to the Desert View area.

Addie will be collecting data for analysis of what visitors want to see when they visit a cultural site like the Desert View Watchtower. Information regarding desired experiences at cultural sites will help the Division of Interpretation better decide how to manage this site and how to make this story speak to many generations. Interpreting the Desert View Watchtower is part of Grand Canyon National Park’s strategic plan for the Division of Interpretation and Resource Education, updated in January of 2014, and remains a high priority for our immediate future.

*Submitted by Al Richmond*

## 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](mailto:mary@marywilliamsdesign.com)**



**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **Outings Coordinator** Ellen Brennan at [ellen\\_brennan@nps.gov](mailto:ellen_brennan@nps.gov)

**The Bulletin** welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.

Please send them to: [kgreig@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreig@yahoo.com)