

# Grand Canyon Historical Society

Promoting the study and preservation of Grand Canyon cultural and natural history



## The Bulletin

### 2016 Events

#### June 29-30 TWA/United Accident 60th Anniversary Commemoration

[Details on Page 4](#)

#### Saturday July 9, 2016 Noon to 4pm Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point

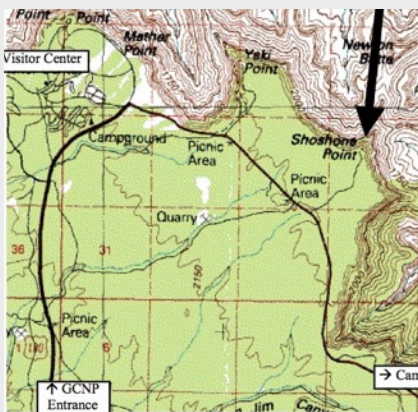
Lunch will start around 1:00, followed by a brief Society update by Wayne Ranney. After that will be the presentation of the **Pioneer Award** and **Hall of Fame Award**.

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:

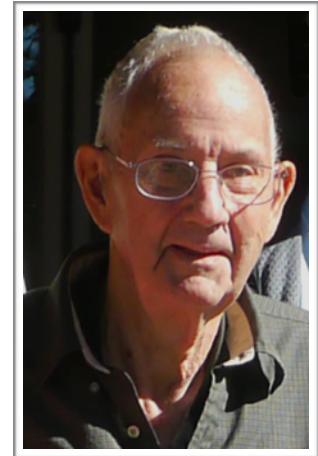
- Take the East Rim Drive.
- About 1.5 miles beyond the road to Yaki Point, turn left into a dirt parking area and look for the yellow gate.



#### November 4-6, 2016 History Symposium at South Rim

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### Lee Albertson (1934-2016)



On Saturday, February 20th, 2016 the Society lost a valued long-term mentor, friend, and active Board member. Lee Albertson was a major contributor to the success of the Grand Canyon Historical Society. A member since its founding in 1984, Lee served on the Board from 1996-2005, in 2008, and most recently since 2013. He was GCHS President from 2002-2004, and Secretary 1997-2001, 2005. He was instrumental in the success of the three Grand Canyon History Symposia, serving as chair for the 2nd and 3rd Symposia. And in 2008, Lee was presented with the Society's Pioneer Award for his [contributions](#) to promoting Grand Canyon history.

Lee was born on February 12th, 1934 in Kearney, Nebraska. In his youth, Lee joined the Boy Scouts of America and obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated from Oklahoma A&M with degrees in Civil Engineering. Lee began his professional career in Omaha in 1959 where he was assigned to the "new gadget", the computer. Since he didn't know any better, he used the computer to help him design highway projects. This "new use" of computers got the attention of Tutor Engineering in San Francisco, who hired him to help design "BART" (Bay Area Rapid Transit). As a result of Lee's work on BART, MIT offered him a fellowship. While in Boston, Lee learned to fly an airplane. Flying made him yearn for a place with more blue skies, leading Lee to apply for a job at the Arizona Department of Transportation. In July of 1968, he moved to Phoenix where he met Shirley. Shortly after Lee married Shirley, he also fell in love with the Grand Canyon. He enjoyed many hikes and raft trips in the canyon.

Lee was a devoted family man; grandsons Everett and Clayton brought continued joy to Lee. He loved to be updated on their activities through daily phone calls. Going out to lunch with his friends was also an important part of his life. Lee is survived by his wife of 46 years, Shirley Albertson, and their only child Charlotte McCullough.

Several GCHS members shared their thoughts about Lee; one noted: "I shall remember Lee as a great teacher. His willingness to share ideas, stories, and historical society experience was inspiring." And another observed: "The canyon's colors have faded just a bit now."

We will all remember Lee fondly for his kindness and enthusiasm. He will be missed very much.

## Symposium at a Glance



**Date:** November 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2016

**Location:** Shrine of the Ages, Grand Canyon National Park.

**Program:**

- **Friday and Sunday:** Optional activities and tours at the Park.
- **Friday in Flagstaff:** Tour Grand Canyon Collection at Cline Library Special Collections & Archives at Northern Arizona University.
- **Saturday:** Sixteen presenters will be speaking at Shrine of the Ages on Saturday, in addition to a special evening presentation by Gary Ladd.  
*The program is subject to change*

**Meals:** Beer, wine, and light appetizers will be served at the Friday evening reception in the Santa Fe room at Maswick Lodge. All other meals will be on your own.

**Registration:** Opens August 15th for GCHS members and presenters. All others may register for any remaining spaces at the end of August. With room for only 250 attendees, the symposium is expected to fill quickly.

Follow the GCHS website or Facebook page for registration and lodging information:

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

**Questions Contact:**

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or

Helen Ranney: [helenranney@icloud.com](mailto:helenranney@icloud.com)

## 2016 History Symposium

### ***Don't Just Find Your Park - Find Your Park's History***

Upon seeing one of our beautiful National Parks for the first time, many of us dreamed of finding a way to live and work in these places of boundless vistas - places with the delicate natural sounds of insects, birds, flowing water, and occasional silence - places that are steeped in human and natural history. Those dreams have become a reality for people working for the National Park Service whose 100th anniversary will be marked on August 25th of this year. To celebrate that milestone, the Grand Canyon Historical Society is sponsoring a special, condensed history symposium November 4-6.

Symposium attendees will be given the opportunity to partake in specialized tours, meet and dine with other like-minded people, listen to speakers knowledgeable on a wide range of topics, and delight in an evening program given by one of Grand Canyon's most eminent and experienced photographers.

Beginning Friday, November 4th, there will be tour events at NAU's Cline Library in Flagstaff and at the South Rim. South Rim tours will include Kolb Studio and Residence, the park's Museum Collection, and the recently repurposed Desert View Watchtower. At Friday evening's reception, attendees can share stories with old and new friends over beer, wine, and light appetizers.

Saturday, following an introduction by GCHS president Wayne Ranney, there will be a full day of presentations that have been selected from amongst a number of excellent proposals.

**Saturday's presentations:**

Nicholas Bauch *Henry G. Peabody's Grand Canyon Slideshow: the Geographic Revival of an Eminent National Park Service Photographer*

George Billingsley *My Experience as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Havasu Campground in 1970*

Dick Brown *Eroding Footholds: Grand Canyon Pioneers vs Federal Control*

Brad Dimock *Martin Litton and The Grand Canyon*

Dennis Foster *The Railroad of Visitors: Management Missteps and Cautionary Lessons from Transportation Planning in the Last Millennium*

Mike Gallant *An Exploration of the Successes, Failures, and Controversies of "Mission 66"*

Margaret Hangan *A Study of the Historic Occurrence of African Americans in the Grand Canyon Region*

Stephen Hirst *Recovering Lost Stories: The Havasupai Photograph Project*

Harvey Leake *Through the Camera's Lens: Historic Images Help Unravel the Stories of Forgotten Pack Trips to the Grand Canyon and Beyond*

Tom Martin *A Century of National Park Service Management of Colorado River Running*

Barbara Matusik *The Phenomena of Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter: Creating an Architectural Sense of Place on Grand Canyon*

Shane Murphy *Julius Farlee, John Hance, W. W. Bass and the Birth of Grand Canyon Tourism*

Kern Nuttall *The Park Service Cemetery at Grand Canyon*

Richard Quartaroli *The Grand Canyon Rose: Grand Canyon National Park's First Botanist, Rose Collom*

Jonathan Upchurch *The George W. Parkins Inscription: Now We Know Who He Was*

Susie Verkamp *The Shrine of the Ages: Community and Complexity*

Saturday evening Gary Ladd will present a program titled "Grand Canyon's Fifty Finest Features." Over the past 50 years, whether it's been floating the river, walking the rims, or exploring the backcountry and inner canyon, Gary and his camera have visited parts of the canyon most of us will never see. His intimate knowledge of the geology and features of virtually every corner of the Canyon have allowed him to collect a unique library of images.

On Sunday there will be four tour options:

- 1) Rim walk with a local Native American to learn how the tribes of the Grand Canyon Region are bringing about profound changes through the rise of new “conservation reservations”.
- 2) *A Change of the Guard: Kaibab National Forest and the New Park* - Tour Tusayan Ranger Station compound or visit the Grandview Fire Tower and Hull Cabin.
- 3) *A Century of Geological Discovery in Our Park*.
- 4) Grand Canyon Railway Depot steam engine tour.

“Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to continue always a child.” - Cicero

*Submitted by Rich Turner*

## The All-Wooden-Boat Brigade - And The Toroweap Mirror Flash

It was a cold windy afternoon as my FJ Cruiser kerplunked down the rocky dirt track into the Tuweep Campground. Tomorrow, March 29, the All-Wooden-Boat party led by Dave Mortenson would be passing by. They were scheduled to run Lava Falls sometime during the day, camp at Tequila Beach below the rapid, and continue on to Whitmore Rapid where we would meet them the next day in order to provide supplies and exchange a couple of trip members.



John Riffey at Toroweap  
(NPS Steve Leding, Circa 1952)

We were a party of five and we had a historical task to perform: As the boats passed by below, we would attempt to signal them with a mirror reflecting the sun’s light deep into the chasm. Why? Because that’s what monument ranger John Riffey used to do for the boat parties back in the 50’s. He would signal them with a mirror to let them know that he had seen them, confirming that they were still floating successfully down the river, and would be able to inform their families that they were alive and in good shape. Mind you, this was before satellite phones (or even satellites), and before there might be 50 to 100 parties of boats on the river at any given moment who could assist in case of serious problem or accident.

The next morning, at 9:15 AM, we congregated at Toroweap overlook to begin our long vigil, waiting for six wooden boats to appear 3 miles up-river. Included in our gathering were Diane Cassidy, Sandra Scott, Tom Martin, Tom Clawson, and myself. Tom Clawson would be joining the river trip as an oarsman at Whitmore the next day. Tom Martin was there coincidentally to pick up some friends who were hiking the Tuckup Trail.

Visible directly below us was a party of 4 rafts tied up on a sandy beach. About 2-1/2 miles upstream, we could see another group of boats camped for the night. Within an hour, this second group had set sail and were floating down the river. The first group didn’t break camp until well after noon. Two other groups floated by during the day, but no wooden boats. Where were those guys? It was frustrating to sit on the rim all day long waiting for the boats to appear, but then again, there are certainly much worse ways to spend a day. However, by 4 PM they still had not appeared and it was now too late for them to run Lava. Plus, by now the sun was sinking into the west, so signaling them with a mirror would be nearly impossible due to the oblique angle of the sun.

We decided to head for Whitmore – a three hour drive away – where it would be significantly warmer due to its lower elevation, camp for the night, and wait for the boats there. We spent another long day awaiting their appearance, but finally, at 3:46 PM, a white speck appeared on the horizon, and using a long telephoto lens, we were able to confirm that this was Craig Wolfson in the lead boat, a wooden replica of the Flavell II, heading our way.

After they landed and we hiked down the trail to meet them, we learned that they’d been delayed due to upsets in both Crystal Rapid and Lava Falls, and had to conduct boat repairs. The previous night they camped at Stairway Canyon, 8 river miles upstream from Toroweap, and had rowed nearly 20 miles each of the last two days in order to get back on schedule.

All’s well that ends well, but never forget that in the Canyon, you get what you get.

*Submitted by Arnie Richards*

## Scholarship Awarded to Casey Rutherford Jones for Study of Grand Canyon Springs

The Grand Canyon Historical Society Scholarship Committee, chaired by Al Richmond, has awarded the 2016 Scholarship to Casey Rutherford Jones, an Environmental Science and Policy masters student at Northern Arizona University. Casey’s research pertains to the hydraulic connection and travel time of possible contaminants on the North Kaibab Plateau to important springs, especially Roaring Springs. She will be using the scholarship funds for the cost of analyzing water samples. Grand Canyon News featured the award in a recent article at <http://bit.ly/22ijydL>. Casey’s research statement follows:

*The Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) is under threat from land use change, whether intentional or not. Hundreds of existing and proposed uranium mines dot the landscape surrounding the park, and runoff from retention ponds poses a risk of*

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Spring 2016

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Casey Rutherford Jones &  
Al Richmond

*infiltrating the groundwater supply. Water is discharged at springs, which provide essential habitat for springs-dependent species in the canyon, as well as potable water. One important spring, Roaring Springs, is the sole provider of drinkable water for all of GCNP's 5 million annual visitors, as well as those who live in the park or surrounding land year round. Once contaminants enter the Redwall-Muav aquifer, little is known about their travel paths or transit times. I propose a dye tracer study, in which nontoxic fluorescent dye will be inserted into two sinkholes on the Kaibab Plateau. I will monitor 18 different springs with charcoal packets to qualitatively determine the connectedness of the karst system, and quantitatively sample and analyze water at Roaring Springs, Bright Angel Springs, and Emmett Springs to determine transit time of potential contaminants. The awarded \$1,500 will go toward the analytical costs of 125 water samples taken at the three springs listed above. Isotopes, specific conductance, and other parameters can be analyzed and assessed at \$12 per sample. The results will determine a breakthrough curve displaying the transit time of potential threats to GCNP, which will be indispensable in the future management of the park and surrounding areas.*

### TWA/United Accident 60th Anniversary Commemoration Events

**June 29- July 1** Silent wreath laying at the TWA memorial in Flagstaff Citizens Cemetery and United Airlines memorial at Pioneer Cemetery, Grand Canyon National Park.

**June 30 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and continuing until 2:00 pm** Grand Canyon National Park staff will be on-site at the 1956 Grand Canyon TWA-United Airlines Aviation Accident Site National Historic Landmark monument, and will provide on-site interpretation about the significance of the 1956 accident. A formal program will be offered at 10:00 am; those wishing to participate should meet the ranger at the Watchtower in the Desert View area.

**June 30 8:30 p.m.** An evening program will be presented at the McKee Amphitheater in Grand Canyon Village to tell the story of the accident and how the national park seeks to preserve the accident site.

**If you have questions** please call Kirby Lynn Shedlowski at 928-638-7958 or at [Kirbylynn.Shedlowski@nps.gov](mailto:Kirbylynn.Shedlowski@nps.gov), or email Wayne Ranney, Grand Canyon Historical Society, at [wayneranney17@gmail.com](mailto:wayneranney17@gmail.com)

**For schedule updates**, check the Grand Canyon National Park Website or the GCHS Facebook and Web pages

### 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:

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*The Bulletin* welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to:  
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