

**July 4, 2022**

**Grand Canyon History Tidbit by Kim Besom**

**June 1932 Superintendent Monthly Report**

**So, what was happening here 90 years ago?** According to the **June 1932 Superintendent Monthly Report**, the following were some of the items of note for the month:

**General Weather Conditions:** South Rim: Weather favorable to travel prevailed throughout the month. Light showers were recorded early in the month. Later in the month the weather was clear with particularly high temperatures.

North Rim: Sleet and snow fell on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, and an hour's hail occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Heavy wind occurred during the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> with minor damage to trees on the various rim observational points. In general the weather has been excellent for both work and travel.

**Superintendent:** On June 11 Superintendent Tillotson went by airplane to the North Rim and spent that day in inspecting and laying out work on that side of the Park. The following day, Sunday, he spent the entire day making a detailed sanitary inspection including conditions at the mess hall, comfort stations, sewage disposal system, etc. He also made a trip to Cape Royal for the purpose of deciding upon a policy as to the type of comfort station to be built in outlying sections of the Park and determining definite locations.



#00502: NORTH RIM LODGE CURIO SHOP EMPLOYEES WITH SUPERINTENDENT TILLOTSON, SUMMER 1930

**Labor Situation:** On the South Rim the limited operations of the Fred Harvey Company and the Santa Fe Railway, due to light travel, has curtailed possibilities of summer employment for many persons who have become somewhat dependent upon local work for most of their livelihood.

Fortunately, the installation of the pipe line by the Santa Fe from Indian Gardens to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon has done much in the way of providing work for a number of men who make their homes hereabouts. When this work nears completion in the latter part of July, it is expected that a number of pipe-line employees will be able to secure employment with Jack Casson, the successful bidder, apparently, on two recently rewarded bids for road construction.

The failure last week of the Arizona State Bank with branches in a number of nearby communities including Williams and Flagstaff is providing a severe blow to the financial condition of Northern Arizona. Many families in the park suffered large losses and business in Flagstaff and Williams is partially paralyzed.

The unemployment throughout Arizona appears to be increasing and in some isolated cases people are really suffering from the lack of necessities.

The labor situation in the country to which the North Rim is most closely related, that is, Southern Utah, is in bad shape financially.

**Equipment and Supplies:** The following equipment was received during the month on the South Rim: four Ford automobiles with truck bodies, an air compressor, grease gun, gas range and flame outfit, photographic equipment, mimeograph machine, addressograph, Royal typewriter, office clock, mopping unit and 18 Toledo torches.

**Maintenance: South Rim:** The installation of a darkroom in the corner of the warehouse for the use of Assistant Superintendent Lloyd to aid him in his work of construction progress pictures, scenic views and current news photographs, is nearing completion as the month ends.



#00302: BLASTING ROCK TO LAY WATERLINE TO NEW DARKROOM, CIRCA 1932

The telephone line connecting the North and South Rims was repaired and relocated in places by a two man crew.

Materials necessary for the construction of the Caretaker's Cabin at Indian Gardens were sent down on the Santa Fe tram during the month. Initial construction on this project will be deferred until early fall.

**North Rim:** C.A. Lindbergh, contractor on the North Entrance highway, moved into its camp and has since been getting his plant in operation for completion of surfacing obligations. A work order was received authorizing preliminary work to include necessary sloping of banks and removal of slides which came in last winter. Since that time a shovel, truck and tractor have been busy. The crushing and oiling plant tested out satisfactorily. Time left for the project is about 35 days. Mr. Lindbergh has every confidence that he will finish within that time.

Considerable has been accomplished relative to cleanup of the North Rim headquarters area, which has given the impression of a temporary summer camp rather than a dignified park headquarters.

While attending to supplying fuel for campground, employees have cleaned up at Cape Royal, Point Imperial, Neal Spring and Point Sublime. Tin cans, paper and other litter scattered along roads are picked up by employees on sight as they drive to and from work.

**Cooperating Governmental Agencies:** The US Forest Service granted permission for the National Park Service to establish an information office on the wye at the junction of Highway 66 and the South Approach Road. This information office opened with a ranger on duty to give the public information on Grand Canyon National Park and to collect statistics regarding travel on Highway 66.



#03685: STONE ENTRANCE SIGN ON HIGHWAY 66 BETWEEN WILLIAMS & FLAGSTAFF, CIRCA 1936

**Ranger Naturalist and Guide Services:** Lectures on the geological history and origin of Grand Canyon were given twice daily at Yavapai Station. Campfire lectures on various natural history subjects were given every evening on the South Rim, starting May 23, and a similar series of talks was started on the North Rim on June 30. Auto caravans were conducted daily along the Desert View Drive, starting May 23. Similar trips were arranged for every afternoon along the Cape Royal Drive, starting June 20.



00710: JUNIOR PARK NATURALIST MCHENRY CONDUCTING AN AUTO CARAVAN TOUR AT CAPE ROYAL, JUNE 1933

Yavapai Observation Station was open daily from 8:30am to 5pm with a naturalist in charge. The Wayside Museum of Archeology (now called Tusayan Museum) was officially opened to the public on June 19.

**Wildlife:** A yearling buck deer was killed at the Village. It was suffering from a skin or blood disease. It was shot and the carcass cremated.

On the North Rim in the parks and glades grasshoppers are becoming numerous and crows are seen in increasing abundance as followers of the grasshopper hordes.

**Travel:** Records show that 21,060 people entered the park this month as compared to 30,042 a year ago, a decrease of 8,982 or 29.3%. Cars entered every day this month.

There seems to be too little money in circulation to permit the average person to visit the park as he would like. Forest, plant and wildlife all seem to be enjoying a wonderful season of growth and expansion. The North Rim has probably never appeared more beautiful than it is this season.

**Visitors:** Their Royal Highnesses, the Rajah and Rene of Jubbal, traveling incognito as Mr. and Mrs. Baghat Chand arrived in the park. Mr. Chand is ruler of the Indian State of Jubbal, having succeeded to the throne upon the death of his elder brother, who died without male issue some 12 years ago. Prior to this time, Mr. Chand was a member of the Indian Forest Service. As a forester, Mr. Chand was greatly interested in the flora of the Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Beery of motion picture fame dropped in at V.T. Airport and were brought to the Grand Canyon Lodge for an overnight stay.

**Police Protection:** Clarence Lightner of Evanston, Ill., reported that when he was entering the auto camp grounds the glass on the side of his car was fractured by what he thought might be a shot from a gun. The case was investigated and two boys were picked up who admitted they had been shooting gravel from sling-shots. The parents of the boys paid the owner of the damaged car an amount of \$4.50. The boys also shot some holes in the windows of the Santa Fe Pump House.

The Milgram case against the Chief Ranger was dismissed. The prosecuting witness failed to appear.

On June 17, the careless burning of trash at the incinerator on the South Rim dump caused fire to spread to adjacent timber growth causing light forest damage to about a dozen second growth pinyon pine trees. Fire controlled shortly after spread.

**Sanitation:** A total of 3,021,850 gallons of water was reclaimed in the sewage plant, and average of 97,479 per day. Periodical bacteriological examinations of the domestic and the non-domestic water supply were made by the sewage plant operator.



#00067: NAVY/MARINE AVIATORS IN MARTIN MB-2 BOMBERS, FROM ROCKWELL FIELD SAN DIEGO, FLY OVER RED BUTTE AIRFIELD, JUNE 14, 1932



#12996: 9TH BOMBER SQUADRON FLYING IN FORMATION OVER GRAND CANYON,  
JUNE 29, 1932