

GRAND CANYON PIONEERS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lee's Ferry Trip July 27, 1991

We have become so accustomed to having the wind blowing 40 miles-an-hour that we forgot about heat. How could we have forgotten about how hot it would be at Lee's Ferry during the middle of July? Well, I did forget, but not for long. As we sat eating lunch under the shade of the biggest mulberry tree I have ever seen, I was wishing for a breath of a breeze. How fickle we are, one time hating the wind, next time wishing for some.

Thanks to our guide Val Avery, who as ever, was very well informed about the location, people and events. As we viewed the stark remnants of the past, Val's narrative put flesh back onto the bones of history and turned these reminders into human events. Can you imagine the labor necessary to build the dugway by hand? Can you imagine the risk involved in crossing with the ferry? Not everyone made it safely, some lost all their possessions to the river, others paid with their lives.

And then stood the ancient, giant mulberry tree. I've seen it many times and never wondered why it was there or if it had a purpose other than to provide shade. As we ate our lunch Val told us the story of an attempt by the Mormon's to create a silk industry. This tree was planted to provide mulberry leaves to feed the silkworms. You'll have to ask Val for the rest of the story. We're all glad we were there to hear it first hand.

Thank you Val from Bill Suran, Sibyl Suran, Mike Gibson, Nancy Reimche, Ron Werhan, Carol Furey-Werhan, Al Richmond, Gene Wendt, Marvel Wendt, Steve Verkamp, Marie Maiorana, Fred Schick, and Jeanne Schick.

Ron Werhan

HOUSE ROCK SPRINGS

An article that appeared in the March 31, 1991, Arizona Republic titled "Graffiti Carved in Arizona History", told the story of House Rock Springs, and rekindled my desire to visit the site. I've heard about it for years, but never really talked to anyone who had been there, or even knew where it was. First this article appeared, then we visited Willow Springs and saw the signatures carved in the rocks there, then I knew I had to visit House Rock Springs. The article gave instructions how to reach the signature site. House Rock Springs are clearly shown on the

maps of the area, but believe me, the instructions are incomplete and the maps are wrong. Without the helpful directions from Adeline Halversen, and a high clearance vehicle, we would never have found the site. It was well worth the trip. The rocks near the spring contain a hundred or more signatures that date from the 1870's and 1880's.

We have since learned that the site is on private property, and has not been placed on the National Historic Register. We are considering making the nomination for National Historic Register a GCPS project. Several things have to happen before we can start this project, including permission from the owners. Watch the newsletter for future announcements regarding this project. In any event, I know that Carol and I will be returning to the site to make a more complete search for signatures. We hope you will be interested too.

Ron Werhan

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Bob Coody tendered his board membership resignation effective immediately citing press of business and other responsibilities. He continues on as a member and recommended Bill Suran to fulfill the remainder of his term. Bill garnered the next highest total of votes in the last election and is an active member. President Ron Werhan called an impromptu meeting at Lonely Dell with seven board members present. They voted unanimously to accept Bob's resignation and Bill's placement on the board. Bill will serve until 1992 when he will be up for election.

Jack and Bobbie Davis are leaving the Grand Canyon this month for the big city life in Washington, D.C. Jack accepted a well-deserved promotion to Assistant Director for Operations of the National Park Service. GCNP has prospered under Jack's hand and he will be sorely missed. We will miss both Jack and Bobbie who have given the Pioneers Society continued support and friendship. But take heart, they will return in 1994 when Jack plans to retire. They promise to keep in touch and we will also. Good luck Jack and Bobbie!

Robert Chandler, a 32 year National Park Service veteran has been named to replace Jack. He comes to us from the Everglades National Park in Florida. He is expected to arrive at the Grand Canyon in late October. The GCPS will

make plans to welcome Robert as soon as he has had a chance to get settled.

As I passed through the gate of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument in Colorado last month the smiling face of Pioneer member Ranger Gerry Ray greeted me. We had a nice visit and I left with the admonition to give a big hello to all of her friends. So-HELLO! In addition to enjoying her job she looks great in her uniform.

Hearty congratulations are due to GCPS member Jim Babbitt for his hard work on the Babbitt Brothers building in downtown Flagstaff. Originally built in 1888, it has reopened after a lengthy and expensive renovation. The pressed tin ceilings and glass signs will make it well worth your while to visit. Historic preservation of buildings is a tough job but the Babbitt's deserve a lot of credit for taking the time and effort to hold on to an important part of our heritage. Thanks!

It has been almost two years but we are almost to the end of getting our tax problems straightened out. Tony Choi, CPA is almost finished wading through our situation and it looks like we will have to pay some taxes but at least we will be square with the IRS. Without the records prior to 1989 we have been corresponding with the IRS in the dark but they are satisfied with our efforts. As originally believed, we are incorporated as a not-for-profit organization but we are not tax exempt. The paperwork had never been filed with the IRS. If it had been done so it would not have cost us anything back then but now it will cost \$375 just to file. That's money lost from our scholarship endowment but we have little choice in the matter.

Our endowment continues to grow with book sales revenues and we had hoped to offer a \$250 scholarship this year for the first time. Maybe we still can if the tax bit and filing fee don't take too much away from the interest earning account. We have already spent \$250 on archival preparation of the Metzger Collection which is now in the Special Collections and Archives at NAU and are at least making some contributions toward historical preservation. When we get the tax bill we will try to determine if we can handle the scholarship and if so, we will get the options out to the board members to vote on. Stay tuned!

Al Richmond

53 YEARS AGO . . .

Excerpts from the Grand Canyon column in the April-May, 1948 issue of the "Santa Fe Magazine" had the following by Eloise Turner:

Engineer O.L. Murray and Fireman R.L. Woods sneaked in with the regular Grand Canyon train 15 minutes late, and no whistle at the crossings or at the station. The unusual handling of the train on Easter Morn was authorized by officials so the noise of the up-grade pull around the Wye would not interfere with the fourteenth annual Easter Sunrise service broadcast on the Rim of the Canyon. Protecting crossings for the 2,092 visitors leaving the service just as the train arrived, was Special Officer Dick Bosley, assisted by Park Rangers.

Fred Harvey Assistant Transportation Superintendent John Cunningham, John Schmitzke, and John Bradley are recuperating from a week-end fishing trip at Hualapai Wash on Lake Mead. Accompanying them was Alton "Stiffy" Stinson, powerhouse engineer.

Ed Cummings, who guided his first party down the Bright Angel Trail in 1920, was given a surprise birthday party at a family reunion with his six sisters when they gathered in Phoenix to attend the Arizona Pioneers' Celebration in March.

Contributed by Al Richmond

FROM LEE'S FERRY TO HOUSE ROCK SPRINGS

By Bill Suran

Like eating peanuts, once started on gathering historic information about the area in and around the Grand Canyon it is difficult to stop. Consequently on a scorching Saturday morning, July 27, fourteen of the hardy Grand Canyon Pioneers gathered again to learn more about the Mormon Honeymoon Trail.

The early pioneers, after leaving Willow Springs (where we visited on our last trip), traveled up the Hanblin Wash close to the base of the Echo Cliffs to Lee's Ferry. We followed the same course but had the convenience of a paved highway and the bridge across the Colorado River at Marble Canyon. Before 1928 the only way across the river was by a rickety and dangerous ferry accessible only by a road some three hundred feet above the river called the Dugway. Mormon men working out a "work tithe" clambered along the face of the Echo Cliffs blasting out a trail wide enough for wagons to make their way to the river. Where possible they built the road over stones laid like a wall from an anchoring base and filled in behind them. Where this was

impossible they drilled holes in the face of the cliff and placed logs perpendicular to the wall and braced them from underneath. These they covered with rushes to continue the road to the river. From our vantage point we could see the remains of this work above the rushing Colorado.

John D. Lee was the first man to make any significant mark on the history of the area. While hiding from the law because of his involvement in the Mountain Meadows Massacre, he built a cabin for his wife Emma and established a ranch. Emma Lee's comment, "What a lonely dell" gave the place its name. We viewed the irrigation ditches Lee dug and admired the orchard he planted to make the canyon along the Paria River an oasis in the desert.

The stone building Lee built as a fort and trading post entered the annals of history in 1889 when Robert B. Stanton and his men making a survey for a possible railway route through the Colorado canyons stopped on their way downriver. The bountiful produce from the Lonely Dell ranch provided a Christmas dinner for the party. The building stands today. What stories it could tell!

A short hike upstream brought the group to another landmark in history, the remains of a paddle wheel steamboat, the Charles E. Spencer. Charles Spencer, who conned numerous eastern millionaires into believing there existed sufficient gold in the rocks along the banks of the river to establish a profitable mining operation, brought the boat in pieces over the desert waste of Utah to Glen Canyon. His idea was to bring coal from Warm Creek to his mining operation at the ferry crossing where he would use it to power a steam engine/water pump used to blast out mud from the walls from which he planned to remove the gold. It required more coal to bring the empty boat back upriver to Warm Creek than it carried down to the mine and after two trips Spencer abandoned the idea and left the boat a few hundred yards downstream from the ferry crossing where it sunk into the mud. Like the boat, the mine proved worthless too and Spencer left the area. The low water of the river gave us an unexpected view of the remains of the craft.

After a picnic lunch in the shade of an old mulberry tree at Lonely Dell in front of Lee's cabin part of the group followed the honeymoon trail farther making the trip westward to House Rock Valley. After making an inquiry from a wiry, informative woman, Adeline Halversen who works as a line rider for the Signature Rock Ranch, we were able to locate House Rock Springs, another place where Mormon pioneers carved

their names and dates on the walls of the Vermilion Cliffs. When we returned from the spring Adeline posed for with her gun and hat. (Look photograph in next newsletter, Ed.)

The trail the early pioneers took on their honeymoon continued to Fredonia and Pipe Springs and from there to St. George, Utah. That perhaps is another trip, but we had gone far enough. House Rock Spring may just possibly open a new can of worms for the Grand Canyon Pioneers--but that is another story.

NOTE FROM JEANNE SCHICK

Jim Shirley told us the story of a happening in 1926 when his brother Joe was driving on the Dugway at Lees Ferry. He encountered another car coming up and since they couldn't pass on the one-way road, the car coming up had to back down. They got acquainted before proceeding. The other car was driven by Governor Hunt -- it was said THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME GOV. HUNT EVER "BACKED DOWN" ON A COLORADO RIVER PROJECT!

GET WELL SOON JOHN JR.

John and Sylvia Bradley were planning a reunion of Grand Canyon cowboys for July 27 to be held at a campsite near Flagstaff. They very sadly had to cancel the plans when they received word that their son, John, had a stroke and is partially paralyzed. John and Sylvia are now in California to be near their son. We are all praying for you and your family, John and Sylvia and hoping John makes a complete recovery.

Jeanne Schick

LETTERS

15225 Ridgeview Road
Sun City, AZ 85351
July 23, 1991

Dear Al,

For a month I had been intending to join you for the field trip to Lees Ferry and Houserock Valley. Just recently, however, I have decided that it would be a lot of driving to see mostly things that I already know pretty well. I will miss the fellowship and you can give my good wishes for a fine day to the others.

For the record, I might brief the group on what I have done in that area. Twice I have walked up more than halfway through Paria Canyon and back to the car at the lower end, and I have walked down from the upper end to complete the trip.

I have climbed the Echo Peaks on two occasions, the first consisting of a

First ascent of the highest (south) peak and an ascent of the north peak that required a start from the other side of the base. This used the route described by Dellenbaugh for their ascent in 1871. I retrieved an illegible message in a baking powder can that might have dated back to 1871. It seemed to be a copy of the original onto an envelope that was postmarked 1911. I brought this can down for P.T. Reilly who had asked me to see whether he had been informed correctly about something from the second Powell expedition. My route involved a chimney climb more difficult than any other I have done. I had to brace my shoulders on one wall with the soles of my feet on the opposite wall. I could easily understand why Dellenbaugh said that the three men helped each other at one place. The message in a more recent bottle told of a much easier route. It was left by Harry Aleson who said that his dog came up there with him. I came back with Bob Packard to climb the slightly lower middle peak. The route was up the same sandslide we used to climb the south peak.

I have been up and down the Spencer Trail twice. On one of these occasions we walked east to the rim above Ferry Swale and also stood on the rim over a route down to the river at Mile 10 above Lees Ferry. Packard and I had come down the river from below the dam and had found this route associated with some petroglyphs down near the river. This route is most likely one that was found by the Escalante party, but they saw no way to go out on the other side. They had to continue to the Crossing of the Fathers. I have also gone up from the bottom of the open valley by a sandy route farther north than the Spencer Trail. This was used by the Escalante party and by the supply packtrain in 1871.

In Houserock Valley, I have been to Jacob's Pools a couple of times and have gone up the trail to the top of the plateau. There is a newspaper rock type of petroglyph display at the break in the rim. There is also the name G.M. Wright, 1893, on the wall nearby. The same name used to be cut on a vertical rock wall very near the sunken steamboat. This must have been removed by the NPS.

What I haven't done is to see the Houserock Spring. I wish I were going to be with you on Saturday to see that place and be with the group.

Sincerely,
Harvey
(Harvey Bouchart)

Dear Ron & Carol,

Thanks for all your planning, etc. The

field trip was most enjoyable--and we learned a lot. Noted in the little pamphlet picked up there that Les Weaver constructed the stone building near the river in 1916 where he and Hazel attempted to operate a dude ranch. I know their daughter Billie--she comes to the reunions--lives in TX.

See you soon.

Fred & Jeanne Schick

NEW BOOKS

As you may know, Dick Brown is writing a book on GRAND CANYON PIONEERS, to be published by the Grand Canyon Natural History Association in April 1991. I mentioned to him that my favorite pioneer was "Cap" John Hance. Dick thought I would be interested in some information he came across in Prescott recently:

John Hance's niece, Eva Hance, died 3/24/89 in San Mateo, California at the age of 99. She was the daughter of George Washington Hance who arrived in Arizona with John in 1869. The Hance brothers were soon joined by a third brother, Jim, who lived in the Verde Valley for many years. Eva was born on the George Hance family ranch in Verde Valley. She remembered her uncle as being the first to settle on the South Rim. Her father, George, was a prominent rancher and Justice of the Peace in Prescott for 50 years.

Jeanne Schick

THE KOLB BROTHERS

The Grand Canyon Natural History Association has just announced the publication of The Kolb Brothers of Grand Canyon, Being a Collection of Tales of High Adventure, Memorable Incidences & Humorous Anecdotes, by GCNP member Bill Suran. This volume is a beautiful, eye catching book about Ellsworth and Emery Kolb, and their adventures in and around the Canyon. It contains many artfully reproduced Kolb photographs. The text, the photographs and accompanying artwork have been masterly melded together to make a most attractive book that is worthy of any collection. The book is on sale for \$5.95 at the Natural History Association book store in the GCNP visitors center and in the Kolb Studio. Congratulations Bill!

MEMORIES

Jeanne Schick has been gathering information from friends for this column and submitted the following two stories:

I REMEMBER CHRISTMAS EVES AT GRAND CANYON
By Margaret Nelson Thune

In the 20's and early 30's there was

always a big Christmas Eve celebration, which was attended by all of the Grand Canyon community -- and -- also by many Navajo Indian families who would travel for days to be there.

Everyone would gather at the Community Building where there was a big Christmas tree and lots of decorations (the work of our Moms). We all sang Christmas carols, then watched a pageant which was performed by local talent (?). Each year a different story usually written and directed by Ethel Metzger -- and always involving the Nativity and the spirit of Christmas. After that came the GRAND FINALE -- the long-awaited arrival of Santa Claus.

Each year this very important role was played by a well-known Grand Canyon resident, but his identity was always kept a secret. I remember the year I was chosen to play the part of a little girl in the pageant which afforded me the knowledge of who Santa was -- what a super ego trip that was for one little Margaret Ann!!!

After greeting everyone with some well rehearsed, "Ho, Ho, Ho's", Santa went right to his work and proceeded to give each and everyone -- an apple, an orange, and a decorated cardboard box with a string handle that contained some nuts, a few hard candies and some chocolate vanilla cremes which were called Bon Bons. I can still see them and remember their sweet, sweet taste!

When Santa had given everyone their gifts he then took his leave to start his annual round-the-world Christmas Eve journey. We all returned to our homes to sleeplessly await the crack of dawn to see what surprises had been left under our Christmas trees -- and the Navajos started their long journey back to the reservation clutching their precious gifts.

We Grand Canyon kids loved those Christmas Eves, but as I look back now, I'm still aware of how much it meant to those Indian families who traveled so far -- some on horseback, a wagon or two for supplies -- some small children, the rest on foot, sometimes in four to five feet of snow. They had with them their crop of pinyon nuts laboriously picked from the ground after the first frost, to trade for supplies at the General Store --then on to the Community House to await their turn to receive their gift from that magician in the bright red suit...an apple, an orange, and a little box of candy!

Who ever said, "there is not Santa Claus" --the Navajos knew better!

TWO ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE
By Roy Burris

Do you remember the old two-room school house at the Canyon? It is still there, but is now an office building.

We had 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades in one room and 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th in the other. There was one teacher for each room.

Each student had a desk, arranged by grade. You stayed at your desk to study and do assignments.

When it was time for a class to recite, it went up to a row of chairs behind the teacher's desk and in front of the blackboard. Each student took turns standing and reading or answering the

teacher's questions.

If you remember all that, do you remember the name of the boy next to me who put a tack on my seat when I was standing to read?

I can't remember his name, but I sure got his point!.

A FAVORITE GCPS MEMBER RECIPE

CURRIED GREEN PEA SALAD
(Contributed by Sibyl Suran)

- 2 cups fresh peas or frozen green peas
- 1/2 cup chopped scallions
- 1/2 cup celery
- 3/4 cup cashews or peanuts

If using frozen peas, defrost. Line salad bowl with paper towels and allow peas to drain. Add Scallions celery. Mix, cover and refrigerate several hours. Add nuts just before mixing dressing (see curried dressing recipe)

CURRIED DRESSING

- 1 tsp. curry powder (or more)
- 1/2 tsp. cream mustard
- 1 tsp. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. rice vinegar (or other mild vinegar)
- 2 tsp. vegetable oil
- salt, pepper
- Water sufficient to thin mix
- Stir until well mixed, stir into salad.
- Unusual and tasty.

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Edited by Ron Werhan and Carol Purey-Werhan. Marje Maiorana usually does a wonderful job compiling the newsletter using Ventura Publisher. However, she is on vacation so we don't have the benefit of her artful craft.

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