



PIONEERS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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A CHRISTMAS AT GRAND CANYON

by Gene Wendt

Marvel, our two daughters, Marjorie and Deborah and I began going to the Canyon at Christmas time back in the sixties because we enjoyed the quietness of the season. We could tell many stories of our experiences during the many years we spent there and I would like to share one of them with you.

The girls had always wanted to ride the mules and we finally planned on doing a trip to Plateau Point. Being from Tucson we naturally had no winter gear, none of that heavy stuff that the moths would eat in the south. Excitement ran high as we ate our Christmas dinner at Bright Angel Lodge. The weather was cold with a forecast of snow, but then what did the weatherman know? He was seldom right anyway.

We spent the night on the ground floor of the El Tovar and it seemed as though we had just fallen asleep when at 2 AM Marjorie let out a yell, "Hey Mom and Dad, it's snowing." We all gathered at the window to view a magnificent sight of three deer standing in front of the manger scene with snow falling heavily around them. We were all so excited it was difficult to get back to sleep. It

was two degrees below zero when we got up at six o'clock and walked through deep new snow to the Bright Angel for a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs and that good old fashioned Grand Canyon French toast. With a good meal under my belt I walked to the mule corral at the head of the trail and met Sam our mule skinner. He looked me square in the eye and said, "Are you really going to ride the mules to Plateau Point?"

"That's what I promised my girls, but if you would rather not go we can cancel."

"No way," said Sam, "Get them out here so we can start." In light denim jackets, no overshoes or hats we broke a new trail through ten inches of snow on the Bright Angel. What a sight to behold! As we wound around the switchbacks and watched the clouds play on the peaks in the Canyon we did plenty of 'ooing and ahing'. The mule Deborah rode added comedy to the trip. He must have eaten some extra green hay as he ejected an abundance of flatulence and at times seemed to be jet propelled.

Only a little snow had fallen at Indian Gardens where Sam stopped and warmed up the stove and

visited at the ranger station before we headed on to Plateau Point. As the day wore on the sun came out and the temperature climbed considerably. After taking some photos of the Inner Gorge we headed up the trail and arrived at the top in mid-afternoon with sore posteriors, stiff legs and whatever else goes with eight hours of riding a mule. I swore that would be my last ride into the canyon. Next time I would walk and lead the mule if it was mandatory for me to take one.

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A long conversation with Harvey Butchart last October brought a letter that is interesting. The entire piece is too long to include in one Newsletter but parts will appear in the next two issues.

RECOLLECTIONS OF EMERY KOLB

by Harvey Butchart

Not long after coming to Arizona in the summer of 1945, we began visiting the Grand Canyon several times a year. In 1946 we took in Emery Kolb's lecture on the 1911 canyon voyage. At that time Emery gave the talk in person and I felt he was already showing his age. I attended his show ten years later and noted then he had the lecture taped and I thought the taped version came over more smoothly.

I think my first visit with Emery was in 1958. He spent most of the day in a reclining chair in his room below the store, but he could get up and hand out cards promoting the canyon movie and welcome the audience before each showing. He mentioned he had an illness similar to the flu that left him

weak. He also said he had symptoms of Parkinson's disease. I wish I had asked him at what age he

had this complete reversal of his physical fitness. Merrel Clubb, the foremost hiker in the canyon at the time and Professor of Old English at the University of Kansas said he thought Emery had given up too easily. When Barry Goldwater rediscovered the natural bridge and got the name Kolb accepted, Clubb enticed Emery to go off Point Imperial with him to where they could see the bridge. He must have seen more of Emery than I did. He said he would get Emery started and then he would "let the old man talk."

In years to come I visited Emery a number of times and we talked on various subjects. During my first visit he told me the story of using a canvas boat that he kept near the river west of the Bright Angel Trail. Emery said that on one occasion they went down their short cut to the river midway between Plateau Point and Horn Creek and took the boat down river to Hermit Rapid and then hiked back upriver to the rim in time for the evening show all in one day! I didn't ask what they did at Horn Creek and Monument Rapids, but I assume they carried the boat past these places. Carrying a 100 pound boat over the irregular rocks there would be no mean feat saying nothing of navigating the white water.

The canvas boat played a part in another story when Emery told about his first trip to Shiva

Temple. He and John Ivers took the boat past Horn Creek rapid to the mouth of 91 mile Canyon, just upriver from Trinity. Then hiked up this wash and into Trinity Canyon above the Tapeats where they could go up the redwall to the saddle between Isis and Shiva. From here it was possible for them to get through the Supai formation and on to the saddle between Shiva and the North Rim. On this trip they found deer tracks going toward Shiva indicating a route to the top. This was about 1908. They walked through the woods to the Old Bright Angel Canyon trail and returned to

the South Rim via the river crossing at the mouth of Bright Angel Creek.

I wish I had asked Emery where they stopped each night. When I repeated the exploit, using an air mattress instead of a 100 pound boat to go from Pipe Creek to the north bank above Horn, and down river below Horn to 91 Mile Canyon, I drove from Flagstaff and got to the last of the Tapeats showing in Trinity Canyon the first day. I walked from there to the North Rim Campground the second day. It would have been easy for me to walk across to the South Rim the next day, but I had other plans. When I asked Emery if they had abandoned the boat at the mouth of 91 Mile Canyon, he said they had used it some more, but he couldn't recall how they got it. They could have walked across the Tonto from Bright Angel Creek to where they had left it, but Emery couldn't settle this for me. [Continued in March 1993 Newsletter.]

Editors Note: The canvas boat Harvey mentions was a homemade affair Emery and John Ivens built about 1908. He and Ivers played around with it on the river at the foot of Bright Angel Trail for a while before Ivers and he made the trip to Hermit Rapid. On the trip to the saddle between Shiva and the North Rim Emery related he discovered three large potholes filled with water. They did not have time to find the trail to the top of Shiva on that trip but Emery knew it was possible to climb the temple. John Ivers died in France during World War I.

An interesting letter arrived since the last newsletter that might be of interest

Dear Pioneer Society:

My husband and I just recently visited the Grand Canyon for the third time, during the week of September 20. We took the mule ride to the bottom and stayed overnight at Phantom Ranch. As usual, it was beautiful, maybe not quite as beautiful as the Christmas we spent at the Canyon in 1987. There was about a foot of snow and it was a winter wonderland.

While at the Canyon I purchased your cookbook. Probably what brought my attention to it was the Harvey Girl on the cover. I am extremely interested in Fred Harvey history, its people and the stories of their lives.

Each year in Topeka on Labor Day weekend we have Topeka Railroad Days. It has become a popular event. During the weekend we run 10 excursion trips on the train lasting several hours. I have been coordinator of the Harvey Girls, who ride the train as car hosts for the past five years. Kerley, my husband portrays Fred Harvey and I a Harvey Girl. After seeing your photograph I really

wished we had brought our outfits and been photographed at the Canyon too.

Kerley and I both work for the Santa Fe Railroad and enjoy its history also. We spent the night in Williams before arriving at the Canyon and saw the Fray Marcos and train. Santa Fe ran an employee excursion train with the #3751 steam engine during Septem-



Kerley & Brenda Thowe as Fred Harvey and a Harvey Girl.

ber. I went from Los Angeles to Topeka to Chicago and back to Los Angeles. I was fortunate to ride the train from Los Angeles to Wellington, Kansas, as a Harvey Girl. That four days as a Harvey Girl was the greatest thrill. Not only did I

get to see the Harvey Houses at Needles, Barstow and Winslow but met so many past Harvey House workers too. I have been writing them and enjoy my new friends. On my travels back to Kansas I stopped in Santa Fe and met with Lesley Poling Kempes, author of the book *Harvey Girls* published in 1989. The bookstores at the Canyon sell her book. She is a charming person.

I would be very interested in hearing about your society and its members. I have been doing research at the Kansas Historical Society Archives on Fred Harvey. They have access to some great material

Thanks,
Brenda Thowe.

Editors Note: It was nice hearing from you Brenda, and hope you find the recipes in the cookbook worth your trip to Grand Canyon too. It is always nice to hear from people interested in history and that is what the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society is all about.



Santa Fe train in Flagstaff during 1992 L.A. to Chicago trip

The article on the parachute jump into Grand Canyon has brought memories to another member of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society and we include it here.

MEMORIES OF R. E. LAWS

The September newsletter under "1944 Parachute" made mention of R. E. Laws, "a ranger of considerable hiking experience," brought back many vivid memories of this fine young man. It was true that he had considerable experience and hiked and climbed extensively in the Canyon. In 1937 the

all but defunct Boy Scout Troop was reactivated for us younger generation boys. R.E. Laws was our first Scout Master. He was a wonderful leader with an acute interest in us and scouting. I will never forget the many hours I spent with him and the lessons he taught. To learn of his and other members of his family's

by Joe Kleindienst
deaths under tragic circumstances was truly saddening.

As always it was thrilling to greet old and longtime friends at the Old Timers Reunion in September and we look forward to two years from now -God willing, for the next one.

Who Was Elizabeth Ina Joy?

I would like to share with you some little known facts about Shoshone (Cremation) Point. . . of the hundreds of prospectors that I have researched at Grand Canyon, all but one have been men. Back in the days when everyone seemed to be using mining claims to claim a piece of the Canyon for himself (or herself), Elizabeth Ina Joy located the Inspiration

Lode Claim on Cremation Point. She staked the claim on December 2, 1907 and recorded it on February 14, 1908. It ran 1500 feet in an easterly direction from the discovery shaft. On an old map of the area there is shown a Joy's Draw, just above the Moqui Trail. Most likely this draw was used by Elizabeth Ina Joy to reach her secluded claim on Cremation Point.

By Dick Brown

Does anyone know anything about Elizabeth?

In the 1920's there was a C.T. Joy and his wife living in Flagstaff but I am not sure if Elizabeth was the wife. It would be fascinating to learn more about this woman prospector. Just who was Elizabeth Ina Joy?

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Love the last newsletter! Much better pics. Even that of Sibyl.
Gale Burak

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ellen and her son, William Hamilton III; Matt and Robyn Werhan; Rob and Mary McKenzie; Mike Merritt; Don Lynholm, all of Flagstaff; David and Janis Cunningham; Bernice Meadows, both of Kingman, Arizona; Ilene Ennis of Walnut Creek, California and Sam Fenner of Medina, Texas. We are glad to have all of you come aboard and look forward to your visiting our meetings and field trips.

LUNCHEON MEETING NOVEMBER 21, 1992

By Sibyl Suran, Secretary

Thirteen lucky members of the club met at Ruby Lew's Home Cooking in Flagstaff at noon on Saturday, November 21 for conversation and food. The staff of the restaurant opened their arms to us and topped it off by giving us a 20% discount.

Attending were: **Ron and Carol Werhan, Jeanne and Fred Schick, Sibyl and Bill Suran, Marie and Paul Maiorana, Maxine and Eldon Roth, Don Lyngholm, Mary Ellen Hamilton and Garland Downum.**

Mostly we talked and ate, but incidentally accomplished a wee bit of work. We discussed and approved buying some letterhead stationery and envelopes. We also decided to run the January Newsletter on a copier with the pictures half-toned in order to compare with the November Newsletter which was printed, courtesy Marie Maiorana, our President.

We passed around a copy of the Scholarship offer and noted that they have

been sent out to eligible scholars. In the absence of **Al Richmond**, **Sibyl Suran** told the club about the Good Neighbor rates in effect until the end of December from Grand Canyon Railroad to see if any members were interested in taking advantage of the saving. A few said they were taking their visiting families.

Bill Suran told about his independent research of the names found on the rocks in House Rock Valley on our field trip last spring. He has finished researching the Family Center files at the Mormon Church and now plans to visit St. Johns in the spring to follow up with search of tombstones and talk with local inhabitants for information on their forebears. A suggestion was made that the club might be interested in taking a weekend field trip to coincide with his stay in the area to lend a hand. More on this later.

We all enjoyed the meal and being able to visit together.



Garland Dowum, Eldon and Maxine Roth; Ron Werhan, Carol Furey-Werhan, and Paul Maiorana; Don Lyngholm and Sibyl Suran; Jeanne and Fred Schick. Having lunch at Ruby Lew's during our November 21st get-together.

GRAND CANYON PIONEERS SOCIETY'S 1993 SCHOLARSHIP

Notice for the application for the 1993 G.C.P.S. annual scholarship has been sent out to the various departments of NAU. Applications and a short biography must be submitted to the society by February 26, 1993. The scholarship of \$250 will be awarded in March 1993.

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Hate to mention it but the dues for 1993 are now due and should be paid as soon as possible so you will continue to receive the Newsletter and partake of the other activities the club offers.

Make note that the Januray meeting will be at Paul and Marie Maiorana's home on 4020 Fribourg Way, Flagstaff. (602) 526-5172, Saturday, January 23 at 1:00 PM. This is a covered dish meeting so **bring food**.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATES?

Can you name the states of the United States that consist of letters that appear only once in their spelling? There are nine of these. Name all the states that are spelled using only four letters of the alphabet. The names may be more than four letters long but contain only four different letters. There are nine of them. Name all the states that border on the Atlantic Ocean. There are fourteen of them. Name the states that end in "ia". There are five of them plus the District of Columbia. And since you have come this far name all the states that end in "a". There are twenty-one of these. Answers can be found in the front pages of your telephone directory.

This GCPS Newsletter was edited by Bill Suran,

& compiled by Marie Maiorana, using Ventura publishing software.

All comments, submissions and suggestions are welcomed at the address below.

Membership, including bi-monthly newsletters, is \$10 individual and \$15 family annually.

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