



The Ol' Pioneer

The Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

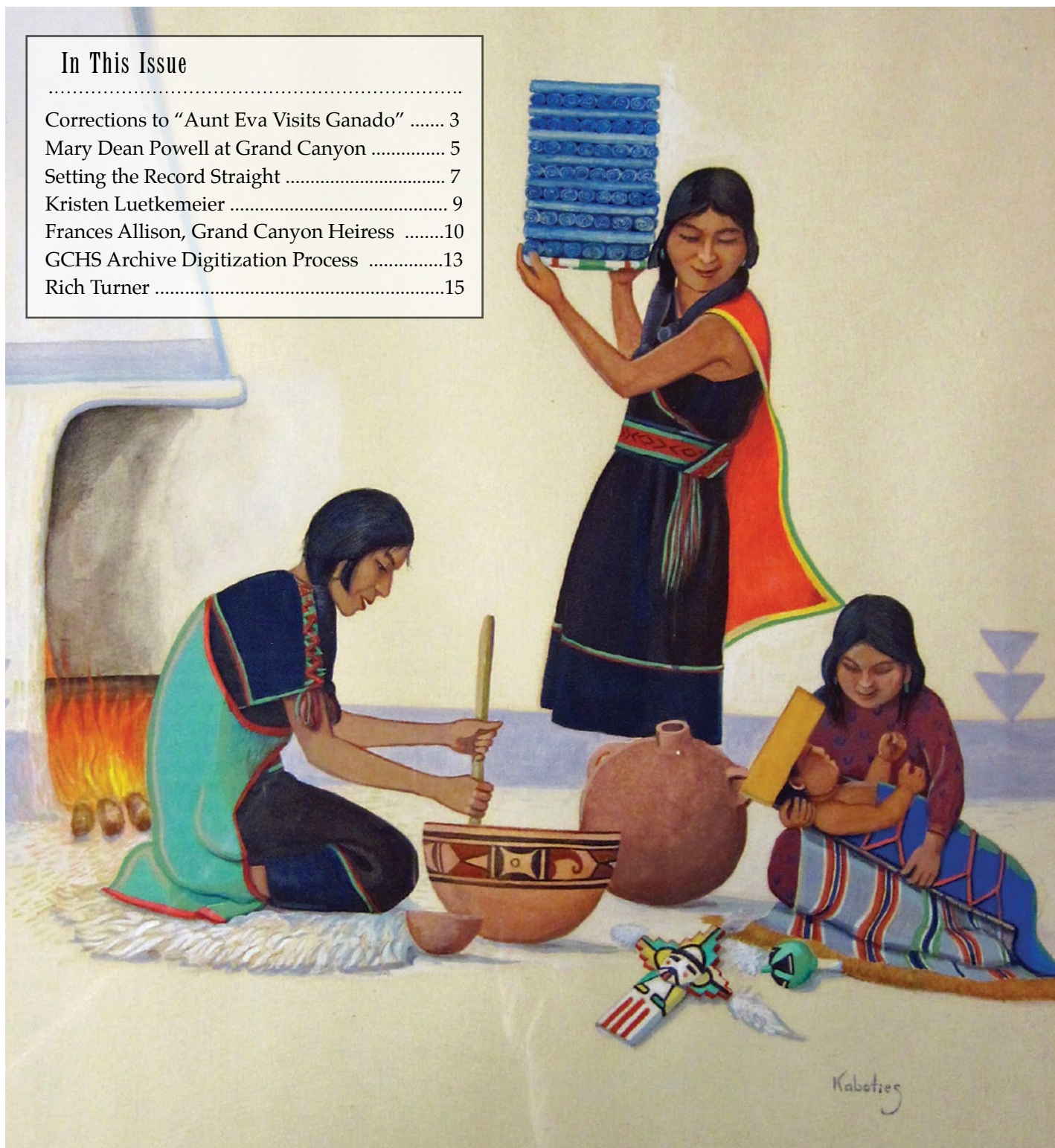
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Kabotieg

President's Letter

For those of us who are involved with the Grand Canyon Historical Society, 2020 so far will not be looked back upon with great fondness. Our activities were either delayed or canceled due to Covid-19. Time doing things in and around the Grand Canyon has been wisely prohibited or very limited. River running, hiking, and even sightseeing was limited at best. The Colorado River Basin History Symposium has been postponed to October 2021. Unable to do anything but prepare and plan gets very frustrating.

Living in Kanab, it got even worse for me the second week of June. I looked toward the Kaibab Plateau and saw smoke. It was the beginning of what would be known as the 71,500 acre Magnum Fire. The next day, I made a planned trip over the Kaibab with a "required" stop at Jacob Lake to purchase some of the world's best cookies. As I studied the cookie selection, I asked the sales person about the fire and she said, "It is 13 miles away and no big deal." Two days later the North Rim was closed, Jacob Lake was evacuated and Hwy 89A was closed. Dry conditions with very strong winds made fire conditions as bad as they get. My biggest fear was what my favorite drive up into the giant ponderosa forests of the Kaibab Plateau may now look like.

Several weeks later as July was about to begin, Hwy 89A was finally opened. Needing to do something and get my Grand Canyon fix, my wife Pam and I drove up to the Kaibab. Upon approaching the higher elevations above Fredonia, the devastation was soon visible. As we got up into the pinyon-juniper forest we saw that the fire had crossed the road and burned the forest as far as we could see. Higher up on the Kaibab the results of long hard work and proper forest management were apparent. The ponderosa trees in the fire's path were stressed but not totally devastated. Jacob Lake Inn and their famous cookies had been saved and Grand Canyon NP's North Rim re-opened for day use. And by the way, those famous Jacob Lake cookies are now available via mail order (call or email in your order).

I'm always amazed how often things are seen that are rare in the Grand Canyon area and are new to me in my seventh decade of experience. While driving back down off the Kaibab Plateau, we saw a column of what appeared to be smoke that I thought indicated some small area still burning. As we approached the closed rest stop on 89A, some things were different as we watched the smoke spin like a tornado or large dust devil at least 400 feet tall. Unbelievably, this column wasn't moving along as I expected but stationary about 100 feet from the highway. It wasn't smoke at all, but ash. The topography, the winds, and temperature all combined at this location to make this event happen. I could see ash dust along the ground being sucked from all sides into the vortex above. As a long-time hiking buddy would say, "The Canyon gods are sharing another secret!"

My message to all our Grand Canyon Historical Society members, supporters and volunteers is to hang in there. Soon your Grand Canyon adventures will again be possible. We at GCHS are doing what we can to plan, prepare and schedule so we can add to your personal Grand Canyon experiences.

Stay healthy and safe,

Dave Mortenson

President@grandcanyonhistory.org

Cover: Artist, Fred Kabotie. From the Frances Allison Collection

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The Historical Society was established in July 1984 as a non-profit corporation to develop and promote appreciation, understanding and education of the earlier history of the inhabitants and important events of the Grand Canyon.

The Ol' Pioneer is published by the GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. An integral part of the publication is an informational section, *The Bulletin*, that updates members on Society activities, programs, events, Board actions and discussions. *The Ol' Pioneer* is a benefit of membership and is open to any person interested in the historical, educational, and charitable purposes of the Society. Membership is on an annual basis using the standard calendar; and dues of \$25 are payable on the 1st of January each year, and mailed to the GCHS Treasurer, PO Box 1667, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-1667. *The Ol' Pioneer* magazine is copyrighted by the Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form without permission of the publisher.

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Submission deadlines: January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Submit photos and stories to the editor of *The Ol' Pioneer* at: articles@grandcanyonhistory.org Contact for mailing address (928) 606-9932. Please submit written articles and photos electronically by email if possible. Submissions to *The Bulletin* should be sent to thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org

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Corrections to "Aunt Eva Visits Ganado" and "Getting Even"

by Mike Maurer

Harvey Leake, the great-grandson of John and Louisa Wetherill, sent the following correction to the companion articles "Aunt Eva Visits Ganado" and "Getting Even" published in the Spring 2020 issue of *The Ol' Pioneer* (Volume 31, Number 2). Mr. Leake is no doubt correct that my Great Aunt Eva Hance and her colleagues visited the Wetherill and Colville Trading Post at Kayenta, not the Hubbell Trading Post at Ganado.

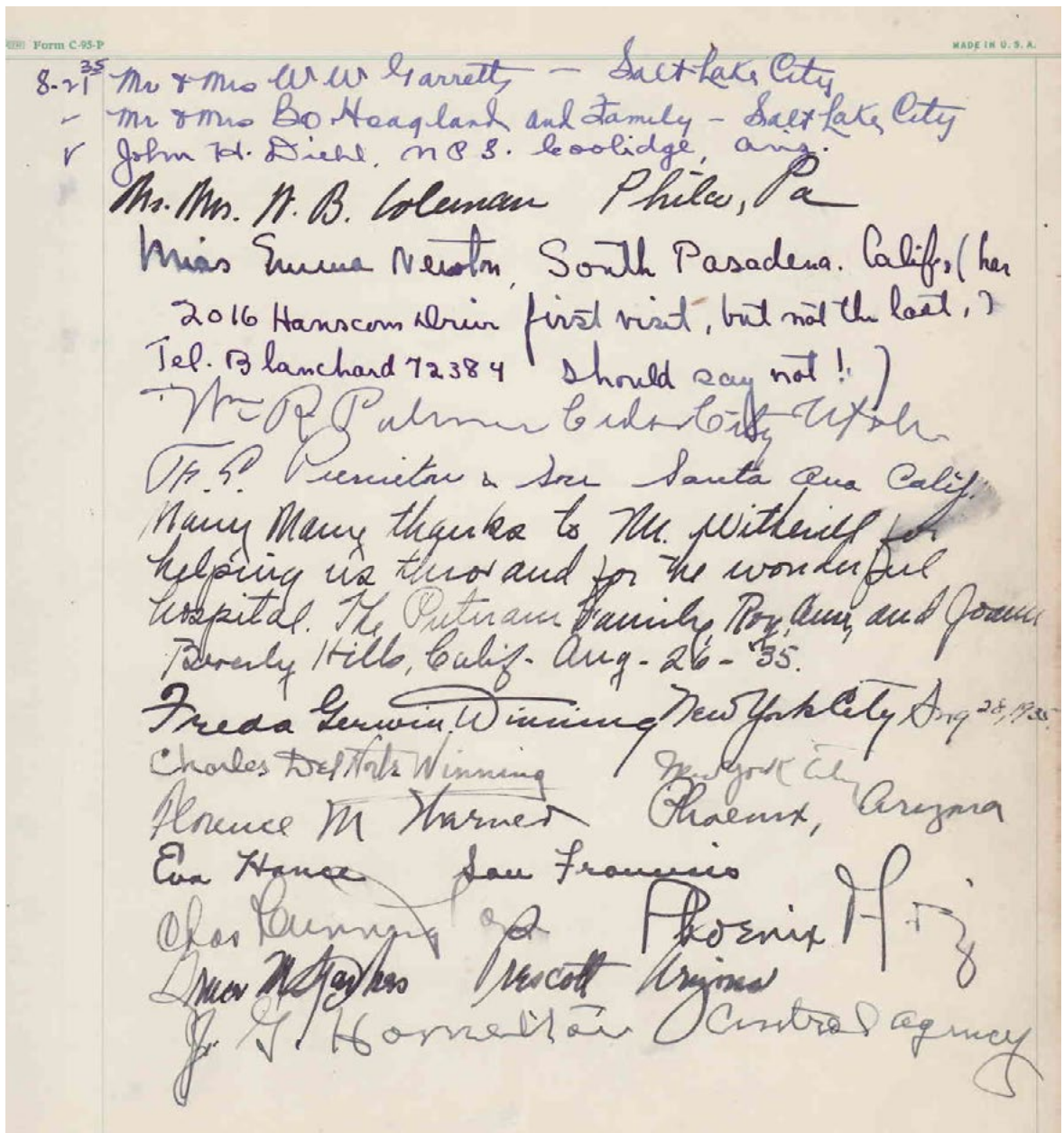
CORRESPONDENCE FROM HARVEY LEAKE:

"I would like to point out a possible correction to the article "Aunt Eva Visits Ganado." The author might want to consider that "Granada" should have been "Kayenta" and the "Hubbell Trading Post" should have been the "Wetherill and Colville Trading Post." I am attaching an image from a page of the Kayenta guest register that shows both Eva Hance

and Grace Sparkes [and Charles Cunningham], so we know they visited there around August 21, 1935."

AND IN FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE FROM HARVEY LEAKE:

"Unfortunately, I haven't been able to identify any name in the guest book that could be the English novelist. I even looked at preceding pages in case he had signed in earlier."



Mary Dean Powell at Grand Canyon: No Room at the Inn?

“For arrogance, bad breeding, and ill treatment, my reception at El Tovar beggars description.”¹

by Cindy Stafford

A large tombstone monument honors Major John Wesley Powell and his wife Emma Dean Powell on a hill at Arlington National Cemetery. Their only child Mary Dean Powell was interred there as well, but no one would know that now, as the monument does not list her name. In fact, even Arlington’s digital search function for graves lists “No Results” when looking for hers.² Seemingly lost to history, even those familiar with her famous father’s legacy often do not realize that he even had a child, let alone that she was born in Salt Lake City during his second Colorado River exploring expedition in early September, 1871.³

In May of that year Emma and her sister-in-law Ellen Powell Thompson traveled west with their husbands and awaited the baby’s birth. Reunited with the men in November during their winter break from river exploring, the party journeyed by horse and wagon to the new frontier town of Kanab, Utah.⁴ They lived in tent houses while the men began to survey the plateaus of Utah and northern Arizona. The baby slept in a clothes basket.

“Some Capitol Girls: Beauty and Brains that Washington is Proud Of” featured a 21-year-old Mary and several of her peers in a society page article. According to this source, she inherited her well-known father’s scientific pursuits and helped him with his work at the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Ethnology. Attributes included: “tall and graceful with flashing black eyes, popular with those who knew her well, but rather retiring and conservative about making friends.” Privately tutored initially, Mary completed her education in Germany and France,



speaking those languages fluently. She loved music and devoted half of each day to piano practice. Mary made her “first formal bow to society” the previous year, “taking it by storm and becoming the head of the musical clique of the city.”⁵

Mary’s name shows up intermittently in the newspapers for social events in subsequent years. Sailing to Europe for the summer with her mother and several prominent Washington families received mention in June of 1896. January 1897 found Mary at a reception hosted by her parents at the new Shoreham Hotel, “daintily dressed in a pale pink silk and chiffon.” The following year, she attended an exhibition with her father at the new Corcoran Gallery of Art, greeted by National Geographic Society President and family friend Alexander Graham Bell.⁶ No mention of suitors has surfaced.

In *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell* (2000), Donald Worster writes that Emma took Mary to France to recover from a “nervous illness” and doctors feared that news of her father’s stroke in January 1902 might “push her over the edge.” We are left to speculate about the nature of that condition. The biographer further sums up her life: “Mary cut no

figure at all in the world, lived quietly at home, suffered recurrent illnesses and never married or took up a career.”⁷ Evidence does not entirely support these conclusions.

Following John Wesley Powell’s death in 1902, Mary lived with her mother in D.C. apartments for more than 20 years and cared for her as the latter became infirm.⁸ She also actively participated in the National Woman’s Party, the more active protest organization engaged in the fight for women’s suffrage, led by Alice Paul. A 1937 luncheon honoring 24 “silent sentinels” thrown in jail 20 years earlier for picketing the White House listed Mary Dean Powell as one of those “privileged to wear” the prison door pin as a badge of honor.⁹

Newspapers from that era mention Mary Dean Powell’s participation in protests, hosting teas, attending lectures and other fundraising events, and serving on the district branch executive board for the National Woman’s Party. Though the formal women’s suffrage movement in this country began in 1848, it took 30 years of lobbying to introduce the first constitutional amendment to Congress, and amazingly, another 41 years for it to pass both the House and Senate in 1919. The race for 36 states to ratify the 19th amendment took another long year, with seven southern states vehemently opposed, and climaxing with a nail biting one-vote margin in Tennessee. As district chairman, Mary attended the celebration when Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed the 19th Amendment into law on August 26, 1920.¹⁰

Mary followed in her mother’s and aunt’s footsteps in her work for women’s rights. Emma Dean Powell and Ellen Powell Thompson attended women’s suffrage lectures as early as the summer of 1871 in Salt Lake City,

Utah and probably before that. Ellen later held leadership positions with the National Woman Suffrage Association in Washington, D.C. and helped plan leader Susan B. Anthony's 80th birthday celebration. In March 1933, a thousand women carried banners in the "Alva Belmont Memorial Service and March" in the nation's capital, honoring past figures in the movement. Emma Dean Powell's banner, presumed carried by her daughter, is preserved in the National Woman's Party Textile Collection.¹¹

also wrote that on a 35-minute tour for which she paid \$17, other passengers "sentimentalized about my father's monument as they always do." She suggested that better manners would draw more people to the canyon than a monument and opined that Emery's trips down the canyon equaled her father's in some respects. She ended with the invitation to dine with Emery and his daughter when they visited Washington.¹³

Emery apparently advised several places to direct her hotel complaint,

tesy" from the Interior Department, "astounding experiences" with the Park Service and "fighting a number of men who are liars."¹⁵ Her December 9th unmollified response to Victor Patrosso reiterated that she was refused a room, not offered one, and that she would never accept a room "compliments of the hotel." Mary again mentioned the \$17 tour fee which she was "quite willing to pay." She ended the letter, "For arrogance, bad breeding, and ill treatment, my reception at El Tovar beggars description."¹⁶

Meanwhile, Grand Canyon Superintendent J.R. Eakin replied to National Park Service Director Stephen Mather's inquiry into the matter, stating that he would try to get a refund from the Harvey Company for the tour fee. He followed up a week later that they agreed to this but needed the address for Major Powell's daughter. Two further letters from Mary to Victor Patrosso advise him of her travel plans for the holidays with a veiled threat that she expected a response from him no later than January 3rd. She added, "I am giving a copy of this letter to four men of prominence and brains and connected with the government, also to two congressmen."¹⁷

We will give the latter the benefit of the doubt and assume she did not intend to suggest that the congressmen lacked either prominence or brains.

One can imagine Director Stephen Mather delegating this problem swiftly to his assistant, second in command at the Park Service, Arno Cammerer, who wrote offering the Harvey Company tour refund to Mary. Only her January 2nd, 1925 response is archived. "Under no circumstances whatever will I accept a refund." She went on to say the matter was of no great concern, that she was bored to death with it.¹⁸ She must have had a good holiday in New York as this offer seemed to satisfied her.

Only a cycle of letters between Superintendent Eakin and Mary Dean Powell remain in this trove. On stationery from The Biltmore in New York City, she handwrote a response April 14th, 1925 to thank him for his



Prominent women at equal rights conference at Woman's Party. L to R: Mrs. Agnes Morey, Brookline, Mass.; Miss Katherine Morey, Brookline, Mass. & State Chairman of the Woman's Party; Elsie Hill, Norwalk, Conn.; Mary Dean Powell, D.C.; Emma Wold, Portland, Oregon; Mabel Vernon, Wilmington, Del., 11/11/22, National Photo Company Collection, Library of Congress.

A Library of Congress photograph shows Mary with four other "prominent women" at an equal rights conference for the National Woman's Party in November, 1922. She also attended international conferences in Paris (1926) and Havana, Cuba (1930).¹²

On November 22, 1924 returning to Washington, D.C. by train after a visit to the Grand Canyon, Mary Dean Powell wrote from Chicago to thank Emery Kolb for his "great courtesy." She had enjoyed his lecture, adding, "Your treatment was in striking contrast to that which I received at the hotel." She elaborated further the following day in a second letter, indicating that El Tovar Hotel employees refused her a room, believing she did not intend to pay for it. Mary

as a flurry of letters followed, beginning November 30th with the El Tovar manager Victor Patrosso and his December 5th response. El Tovar's beloved, long-time manager mentioned receiving her two letters, though only one has been archived. He tried to assure Miss Powell that there had been an unfortunate misunderstanding, that the staff had wanted to give her a room compliments of the hotel. The manager, who had been away from the park during her visit, regretted that he could do nothing but "tender my sincere regrets and hope (she) would be able to visit Grand Canyon again."¹⁴

In Mary Dean Powell's December 4th letter to Emery Kolb, she mentioned receiving "very little cour-

“very courteous letter” forwarded from Director Mather. Mary added, “I have been reading Mr. Dellenbaugh’s *A Canyon Voyage* in the hotel library this afternoon, and my ridiculous experience at the Canyon came back to my memory and made me laugh, although I had almost forgotten it. I feel quite sure that had I met you I should have had a very pleasant time. Your letter was most agreeable and showed you to be a gentleman. Should you ever come to Washington, I should be glad to play ‘guide’ and show you the sights. They are not as imposing as the Canyon but worth seeing.” On April 25th Superintendent Eakin replied, “It will always be a source of regret to me that I did not have the pleasure of meeting you on your last visit to the Park, and I sincerely hope that at some future date you will return to Grand Canyon National Park and receive the courtesy and consideration that the daughter of such a distinguished man should receive... we will do our utmost to make your visit pleasant and interesting.”¹⁹

The remaining response written from the Hotel Lafayette, Washington D.C. May 4th once again reiterates the episode at El Tovar, why she refused the refund, why she would never stay at El Tovar again, and that she had “taken the matter up with the two Arizona senators,” then Ralph Cameron and Henry Ashurst. She thanked Superintendent Eakin for his courteous letter, but did not want to bore him with a prolonged correspondence.²⁰ No record of correspondence with the senators can be found.

Mary returned to the Grand Canyon in July 1941, the 70th anniversary of her father’s forays in the area during his second expedition (and her birth in Salt Lake City), on an itinerary planned by the National Park Service. She visited both rims, as well as Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks with a park service escort. Newspaper accounts describe her “traveling in a few hours through the same country that her distinguished father took months to traverse...”²¹ They do not mention where she stayed at the South Rim.



Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access, “Man and Mary Dean Powell, John Wesley Powell’s Daughter,” by Wood Boat, 1941.

Though listed as “Man and Mary Dean Powell,” the man in question in the 1941 photo above, is readily recognizable in the Grand Canyon community. Emery Kolb stands next to the boat his brother Ellsworth navigated through the canyons on their 1911 expedition, stored at the time next to the Kolb studio and home at Grand Canyon’s South Rim.

By 1946, two Powell biographers, William Culp Darrah and Wallace Stegner, sought the Major’s daughter’s whereabouts and tried to track her down through the Grand Canyon Superintendent, H.C. Bryant. Eventually the National Park Service office in Washington D.C. relayed her address nearby on Capitol Hill “as recently as 1941” in care of the National Woman’s Party at the Alva Belmont House.²² Party members often rented rooms or apartments on the property when they lobbied for legislation and many of them lived there permanently, including Alice Paul. A National Historic Site affiliated with the National Park Service since 1972, in 2016 President Obama designated this site the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument. It houses the National Woman’s Party collection, library, and archives and you can earn a Junior Suffragist badge by learning about women’s suffrage history.²³

Mary Dean Powell died June 25, 1959 a couple months shy of her 88th birthday. A cousin arranged her burial at Arlington National Cemetery a few days later in the Powell plot next to her parents. The section “Headstone or Marker Ordered” on the record of interment lists a penciled remark, “pending.”²⁴ If one had been placed, those visiting John Wesley Powell’s grave might remember his only child. At least we have archival records to thank for documenting some of her remarkable life, though left longing to know more.

Endnotes

1. Grand Canyon Museum Collection #46768, Folder 5/10, Mary Dean Powell correspondence to Victor Patrosso, Manager of El Tovar Hotel, December 9, 1924.
2. Arlington National Cemetery, <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Find-a-Grave>.
3. *Salt Lake Herald Republican*, September 9, 1971, 3. This birth notice gives the date of birth as September 8th, however, all subsequent documentation lists September 10th as Mary’s birthdate, including a passport application she filled out in 1901.
4. Fowler, Don D., ed. *Cleaving to an Unknown World*, (University of

- Utah Press, 2011), Jack Hiller's diary entry October 27, 1871, 82-83.
5. "Some Capitol Girls: Beauty and Brains that Washington is Proud Of," *The Repository*, January 29, 1893, 9.
 6. *The Evening Star*, June 22, 1896, 7; "The Social World," *The Evening Star*, January 30, 1897, 10; "Art, Science and Society: Devotees of Each Entertained at New Corcoran Art Gallery," *The Evening Star*, March 17, 1898, 12.
 7. Worster, D. (2000). *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*. Oxford University Press, 548, 567.
 8. U.S. Census Records 1910, District of Columbia, Sheet 15B; U.S. Census Records 1920, District of Columbia, Sheet 6A; The University of Arizona Special Collections, Frederick S. Dellenbaugh Collection, AZU.MS.407 Box 5 Folder 9, Correspondence Mary Dean Powell to Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, July 3 (probably 1923, as cousin Arthur Davis's recent firing from the Reclamation Bureau is mentioned).
 9. "1917 Suffragettes Honored: 24 Who Were Put in Jail Are Present at Luncheon," *The Evening Star*, Washington, D.C., December 16, 1937, B-10. See also "Mary Powell Visits Canyon," *Arizona Independent Republic*, July 6, 1941,
 6. Replica prison door pins and pendants, as well as books honoring this history may be ordered from the Alice Paul Institute, www.alicepaul.org.
 10. "Wadsworth is First Target of Suffrage Sign," *The New York Call*, October 20, 1918, 1; "Society," *The Evening Star*, November 6, 1919, 9; "Women Demand Equal Rights in National Fight," *The Washington Herald*, September 26, 1921, 1; "International Teas To Be Inaugurated," *The Sunday Star*, November 27, 1921 Part 2; Women Suffrage Timeline at www.crusadeforthewote.org; "Colby Signs Woman Suffrage Proclamation," *The Washington Times*, August 26, 1920; 1, 11.
 11. "Woman's Suffrage," *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, September 3, 1871; Library of Congress, series: Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911; Scrapbook 3 (1897-1904), JK1881.N357 sec. XVI, no. 3-9; "Thirty Organizations to Honor Feminists in Sylvan Theater Memorial Pageant July 8," *The Sunday Star*, Washington D.C. July 2, 1933, A-3; National Woman's Party Textile Collection, Emma Dean Powell banner, 1913.204 a.b.
 12. "25 Going to Paris," *The Evening Star*, May 12, 1926, 21; "Society," March 14, 1930, B-3.
 13. Northern Arizona University, Cline Library Special Collections, Emery Kolb Collection, NAU. MS.197 Series 1 Box 1 Folder 5 and Folder 2. This collection lists her name as "Mary Jean Powell" with the incorrect year of 1906. Her letters are stained, handwritten, and difficult to decipher.
 14. Grand Canyon Museum Collection #46768, Folder 5/10. Many of these letters are copies of typed originals.
 15. NAU, Cline Library Special Collections, Emery Kolb Collection, Series 1 Box 1 Folder 3 and Folder 4.
 16. Grand Canyon Museum Collection #46768, Folder 5/10.
 17. *ibid.*
 18. *ibid.*
 19. *ibid.*
 20. *ibid.*
 21. "Daughter of Famous Explorer Visits Southern Utah," *The Iron County Record*, Cedar City, Utah, July 10, 1941.
 22. Grand Canyon Museum Collection #46768, Folder 5/10.
 23. nps.gov/bepa.
 24. "Deaths," *The Evening Star*, June 27, 1959, B-8. "Record of Interment," June 29, 1959, digital image, Ancestry.com.

Setting the Record Straight: Bob Cornelius and the Phantom Ranch Pool

It has been brought to our attention that inaccuracies appeared in an article published in the Summer 1997 OI' Pioneer, v. 8, n. 7. The article title is "Swimming at the Oasis," written by Keith Green. Keith was not present at Phantom Ranch during the time period his article covers (he arrived in Summer 1972) and his article recounted stories that were told to him. Keith apologizes for any inaccuracies and for any distress this caused.

Bob Cornelius, a ranger at Phantom Ranch during the time when the pool was determined to be a hazard and subsequently filled in, provided the following article to set the record straight. Bob is author of the Kindle book Saddling Up at the Grand Canyon; his 16-part oral history interview with transcripts is available at <https://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/oral-history.html>.

by Bob Cornelius:

Earlier this April I posted on Facebook a photo of the Phantom Ranch pool taken by a park service photographer in 1966. The posts became very popular. One commenter listed a link to an article attributed to The Grand Canyon Pioneer Society. The "historical" article was titled "Swimming at the Oasis" and had been published, with

permission [on a website] called, "Grand Canyon Explorer" [Editor's Note: the article has been deleted from that website].

The article mentions me by name, Cornelius. It claims that during the 1960s I, along with Coconino County Health inspectors, hounded Fred Harvey about the pool. The article ignores that life, health and safety were part of the mission of both the park service and its concessionaire the Fred Harvey Company as it related to both visitors and employees.

Admittedly I am not perfect but for starters I did not arrive at Phantom Ranch until June 13, 1970 as a seasonal park ranger. In 1960 I was in the 7th grade.

I never had a wife that hung out at the pool flirting. I love the water but if you knew the workload in 1970 for a ranger at Phantom you would know I never had time to swim. I in fact kept my uniform on except for bed due to the unpredictability of sudden callout for ranger services.

When I arrived at Phantom the pool was full of water. I had three jobs associated with it; clean the pool house bathrooms which, by the way, were flooded from a leaking pipe in the wall, haul all the trash from several large trash cans back down to the river so it could be packed to the rim on NPS mules and record daily chlorine readings.

I have a copy of my old ranger logs and although they are not a complete accounting of all activities, they do provide a snapshot of what was going on at Phantom during my tenure. For example, 7/14/70 Waldo Wilcox (NPS) turned water into the pool from the new Trans-canyon Waterline. That was followed by 7/19 chlorinator ceased working but repaired after a ½ day of effort. 7/24 pool again closed due to chlorinator and filter breakdown; pool to be drained 7/25/70. 7/26/70 I got instruction to measure for a rope that would go around the entire pool to warn people of the big hole. By my recollection and this log entry I believe this to be the last time the pool was operational.

One interesting entry is dated

7/23/70. The seasonal staff which I was a member of were told, "All Inner Canyon business was to go through the supervisors' office" (Corridor Unit Manager on the south rim). Although I provided input, I was never directly involved in the final decision to close the pool. These types of major decisions would always be made by the superintendent and his staff after careful deliberation along with consultations with the management of Fred Harvey. By 3/5/71 that decision had apparently been made since a park planner by the name of Smith and the new General Manager of the Fred Harvey Company, Mr. Bennet, met at Phantom Ranch to discuss ideas regarding its future operation. I noted Mr. Bennet suggested turning the pool house into quarters for his staff. Both parties were looking for ways to convert existing facilities to other uses. The pool, which was expensive to maintain, was unfortunately no longer part of those plans.

The first mention in my logs of hauling trash to the pool is 10/4/71. Unlike the [Ol' Pioneer] article... I did not take relish in helping fill up the pool. The NPS, Fred Harvey and the USGS all took advantage of an opportunity to dispose of junk and trash that had accumulated over many decades in the area. For the most part we all worked independently cleaning up our areas of responsibility. For my part I transported rusty barrels, rusty angle iron, a refrigerator I dug out of the river, a rusty cooler I dug from the boat beach, former garbage can bases from the campground, smashed pipes from the waterline wash out and much more to the pool. I hauled this accumulated junk on my back, in a wheelbarrow, by packhorse or on a small walk-behind tractor device loaned to me by the trail crew.

I did assist Fred Harvey using the little tractor with the cleanup of items they deemed trash at the Fred Harvey corral and old generator house. I busted up the concrete apron around the pool with a sledgehammer and threw the concrete in. I never intentionally nor remember anyone throwing any historic items such as

pool house doors, a guitar, a piano, a pool table or any fine china into the pool. That is not to say someone from the Fred Harvey Company did not.

I left Grand Canyon in May of 1973. A decade later I received a phone call from an NPS employee wondering if I knew the date that the pool was covered up. No one at the park could find any record. I referred to my log and told them that on April 19, 1972 NPS employee, Howard Lapp, using a D9 caterpillar completed the filling of the pool and no, I did not report it with glee.

My dad taught me above all else to always tell the truth. My response [here] to the.... inaccurate and melodramatic nature of the supposed historical article is just that.



Phantom Creek Swallow Smoke
Painting by Bob Cornelius

Introducing Board Member Kristen Luetkemeier

Was there a time before Grand Canyon was part of your life? What was that like?

My dad had a career in the Air Force, so we moved every three years or so. I was born on the central coast of California, and lived also in Nebraska, Alabama, and Virginia as I grew up. As an adult, I added stints in Massachusetts, eastern California, Tennessee, Colorado, and Arizona. I'm grateful for the insight moving has given me into life in different parts of this vast and diverse continent. Grand Canyon came into my life more recently, but I've been interested in history for as long as I could read and spend time in significant places.

What was your first involvement with Grand Canyon?

My parents had a collection of The American Wilderness/Time-Life Books. As a kid, I loved to lie in front of their bookshelf and page through them, imagining what it was like in the places shown in the photographs. One of them focused on Grand Canyon. That book was probably my first introduction to the place.

Decades later, while a park ranger at Manzanar National Historic Site, I came to the Albright Training Center for two weeks in the National Park Service Fundamentals program. I arrived right at the beginning of the first big storm of the summer in 2012 – thunder and lightning all night long and no electricity and giddy sleep deprivation the next morning. My first look into the canyon was somewhere along the Hermit Road, where there were puffy white clouds below us. I got lucky over those two weeks and was able to see everything I most wanted to – Mary Colter's geologic fireplace, the Desert View Watchtower, and a California condor. It was also special to meander up the Bright Angel Trail on a cloudy July day, stopping at every Civilian Conservation Corps



rest house to read *Conversations on History and Literature*, a book of interviews between Wallace Stegner and Richard W. Etulain.

A few years later I was thinking about new work at a place with a multi-disciplinary approach. A job opened up at Grand Canyon National Park, where the person I was dating had just moved. I applied, was selected, and moved here in the summer of 2015.

What's your favorite Grand Canyon memory?

In November of 2018, two friends and I spent six days walking from the Nankoweap Trailhead to the Tanner Trailhead. The deep evidence of Native people on the landscape, ever-changing angle of sunlight, shooting stars, Butte Fault scenery, brand-new beach, hitched ride of a hand-crafted dory, Little Colorado River crossing, friendly raven, and outstanding camaraderie made it my favorite of times spent in the canyon.

I've also loved conducting oral history interviews with a few colleagues here, and feel especially lucky to have had that experience with Ron Brown and Lance Gambrell, who both passed on in February 2020 after influencing me and many others with their dedication to caring for and representing Grand Canyon.

What do you think is the most exciting thing going on with Grand Canyon history and culture?

One of the things that made me excited about moving to Grand Canyon was the work by the National Park Service, Intertribal Working Group, and Grand Canyon Conservancy to transform Desert View into a place of cultural demonstration and first-hand accounts of what Grand Canyon country means to people whose roots are generations upon generations deep here. I couldn't believe it when, a week or two after arriving here, I was standing in the Watchtower listening to Ed Kabotie tell the stories his grandfather illustrated in the murals there.

I've been grateful, too, for opportunities to hear from people in the Grand Canyon Trust's Intertribal Centennial Conversations during and beyond 2019.

What's been your biggest Grand Canyon Historical Society impact since election to the board in late 2017?

Brian Blue, David Schaller, and I have led a small group that has made big strides in accessibility and protection for our archival collections. As I write on March 1, Grand Canyon Historical Society, with the assistance of a donation from Kathy and Mike Hayes and a grant from the Arizona Historical Society, has funded Northern Arizona University Special Collections and Archives to digitize and provide online access to 681 items. You can see them at <https://cdm16748.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/gchs>. Work to digitize and providing online access to more historic photographs, documents, oral history recordings, and other items is ongoing.

Frances Allison, Grand Canyon's Heiress

Let me ride through the wide open country that I love
Don't fence me in.¹

by Kern Nuttall

Frances Allison's unassuming marker can be seen in the South Rim Cemetery at the Grand Canyon. From the cemetery gate, her headstone is toward the far righthand corner of the grounds. Her file in the Museum Collection at the South Rim contains numerous details about the burial but reveals little about her life.² Likewise, her obituary³ makes no mention of her marriages, although it did say she had written an account of the town history of Williams, about 50 miles to the south. She did write a book while living in Williams, *Adventures in the Arid Zone*, published by her father in 1920, but it is a collection of stories, more fiction than fact, probably written in part to amuse her father. A copy can be seen in Special Collections at the Cline Library in Flagstaff.

Allison, Frances Cornelia:

23 Nov 1887 - 19 Feb 1954, age 66

Frances Allison died of pneumonia at Marcus Laurence Hospital in Cottonwood, Arizona, having suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for 14 years.⁴ The disease is well recognized for its many complications, often including a shortened lifespan. The death certificate reported her occupation as "heiress" and her marital status as "widowed," although widowed may not have been entirely accurate.

Her ashes were mailed directly from the Cottonwood funeral home March 1, 1954, to Grand Canyon Superintendent Harold Bryant.² Jim Wescogame dug the grave, probably with the help of one or two fellow Havasupai, for which they were paid \$15. Burial took place around 2 pm Saturday, March 6th. About twenty-five people attended the informal



Frances Allison at age 59. Photo taken from a Brazilian visa dated 1946.

service, including the older daughter, Julia Meardon from Albuquerque. Her younger daughter, Caroline Hardmeyer, was unable to attend as she was living in Switzerland with her organist husband. Rosa Lauzon, the widow of Ranger Bert Lauzon, was probably among those at the ceremony, and it seems likely that a number of other long-term residents of the Canyon also turned out. The headstone was cut from a rock provided by the Park Service and the older daughter supplied the bronze plaque. The headstone was placed and the plaque attached May 28th by a crew under the direction of Otis Hicks, Park Service maintenance staff working off the clock for \$25, paid by check from Julia Meardon. The two daughters planned to visit the grave together in October of 1954, although there is no information as to whether they actually made the trip.

Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

Frances was the daughter of William Outis Allison (1849-1924), a successful publisher and the first mayor

of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.⁵ The father published *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*; *The Druggists' Circular*; and *The Painters' Magazine*, popular trade journals in their day. He also invested profitably in real estate and finance.

In her formative years, Frances studied music in Europe and had a reputation as a singer of some merit. At 17, she married 21-year-old Arnold M. Probst in Manhattan, New York, on July 20, 1904. The New Jersey State Census in 1905 showed the household of William O. Allison included his wife and younger children, as well as Frances, her husband, and their newborn daughter. By 1910, Arnold and Frances had their own household in Englewood Cliffs, along with two daughters and several servants.

The Opera

A few years after her first marriage, Frances showed up with a new name and occupation.⁶ On April 29, 1913, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* reviewed a performance of *Carmen* given by the Aborn English Grand Opera Company. The participation of Frances was described this way: "Miss Frances Allison Hess, a new aspirant for vocal honors, made her debut as Michaela. Miss Hess possesses a light soprano, sweet and true, her upper tones being markedly clear and pearly, but weak in the middle register. For a first performance, however, she sang remarkably well, with few traces of the nervousness to be expected on such occasions."

On June 1, 1913, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* published the following note: "Mrs. Frances Allison Hess has gone on the stage. She is singing with one of the Aborn companies in Brooklyn. Mrs. Hess is the daughter of W.O. Allison, a banker. Last November she married a Mr. Hess, who is a trainer

of horses. The marriage created something of a sensation in the circle of her society friends. Now they are astonished again by hearing she has gone on the operatic stage. Mrs. Hess has a good voice, which has been carefully trained, and she thinks she ought to use it." The popularity of such gossip was emphasized by an identical note published a few days later in *the Oregonian*.⁶ Almost nothing was revealed concerning her new husband, not even his first name, although they apparently lived awhile in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Rock Island Argus, an Illinois newspaper not far from Chicago, reported August 8, 1916,⁶ "When Mrs. Frances A. Hess decided to return from Colorado Springs to New York City, where she resides, she adopted horse back riding as the means of conveyance because she likes to ride and believes it is a healthful form of traveling. She was traveling with her two daughters, Julia, aged 11, and Caroline, aged 9. Each was astride a horse. They have been riding nearly continuously for six weeks." It was not all hard riding, since they were planning to stay for three days in an unspecified local accommodation. The article goes on to say they were planning to complete their journey from Chicago to New York City via steamboat. Also mentioned was a horseback ride of several hundred miles Frances made a year earlier from the west coast of Florida to the Everglades.

Williams, Arizona

Frances Allison Hess married Richard M. Scott in Chicago on January 24, 1917, several months after completing her horseback ride to Chicago. On June 21, 1917, *the Williams News*⁷ mentioned the new veterinarian from Chicago, Dr. Scott, was setting up a practice in town. He had a draft registration card, since it was during the Great War, showing he was a Canadian citizen born in Quebec, six foot two-and-a-half inches tall, slender, with blue eyes and brown hair.

On February 14, 1918, *the Williams News* reported Mrs. Frances A. Scott

was instructing the Junior Singing Club in a production of the fairy opera *Hansel and Gretel*. It also said that Frances was "for a number of seasons the prima donna of a New York Grand Opera Company, and her work there received high praise." Over the next year or so, she and her husband were mentioned regularly in the local paper, often participating in fundraising events for the Red Cross to support the war effort. One such event was reported June 7, 1918, where Mrs. Scott sang in a quartet at the Grand Canyon. On August 23, 1918, the cast of "the standard American Opera, Robin Hood" included Dr. Scott as "Little John," Mrs. Scott as "Allan A' Dale," and daughter Julia Scott as "Sir Guy of Gisborne." William O. Allison of New York visited his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Scott, February 28, 1919.

A brief note May 9, 1919,⁷ said that Frances "had the misfortune to fall and break her arm." Whether this was due to an episode of domestic violence is a matter for speculation, although her husband's temper was documented June 20, 1919, when Dr. Scott was fined ten dollars for getting into a fist fight with another gentleman. For whatever reason, by the 1920 Census,⁸ Frances Scott was divorced, living with her two daughters in the house in Williams that had previously been the husband's place of business. Dr. Scott himself apparently left town for California.

Arctic Explorations

Frances Allison married arctic explorer Harold H. Noice in Manhattan, New York, October 27, 1923. She was 35, several years his senior. The marriage made for a minor subplot in Jennifer Niven's true adventure story about Ada Blackjack,⁹ an Inuit wom-



ARCTIC ROMANCE SHATTERED.
The Arctic romance of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Noice of two years ago has been shattered. Noice was the leader of the famous Steffanson relief party which went to Wrangel Island in 1923, to find only one member—Ada Bladyade—alive. On a visit to California he met Miss Frances Allison, daughter of the late William Allison, millionaire New Jersey banker. Noice and Miss Allison were married, but their romance was short lived. She is now in Reno, evidently seeking a separation. Noice is living alone in New York.

From the Monday Picture Page of the Idaho Statesman, May 4, 1925.

an who was the only survivor of an attempt to colonize Wrangel Island in the Arctic ocean in 1921. Noice led the expedition to rescue the survivors in 1923, about the time he became entangled with Frances. Being jealous, she believed Noice had become romantically involved with Ada during the voyage back to Nome. Throwing considerable mud on Ada, Frances insisted her husband do the same. The Noice couple originally planned to spend two years living among the Inuit in the Canadian arctic, where her intent was to study native music, but they never made it past Brazil. By 1925, Frances was seeking a divorce in Reno, Nevada,¹⁰ while Noice suffered a nervous breakdown.

William Allison Estate

In 1924, William O. Allison died at the age of 75 from a stroke, leaving an estate worth several million dollars.¹¹ The wife and three children, Frances included, were left with trust funds estimated to be worth \$150,000 per year, but the bulk of the estate was donated for the "beautification of that section of the Palisades located along the Hudson River in Englewood Cliffs." The heirs tried to have the will overturned by declaring William

Allison insane, but they settled for a tiny fraction of the estate in 1931. The remainder was given to the state of New Jersey for the purpose William Allison intended. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission now administers public lands along the Hudson River, including Allison Park.

Frances married Hendrik Schouten in San Francisco on June 25, 1925, the year of her divorce from Noice. She obtained another Reno divorce on January 21, 1931,¹¹ making the marriage a relatively long one for Frances. The case was filed and tried within an hour, the grounds being desertion and non-support. Her attorney commented there “were other grounds on which the suit could have been based,” but those issues were felt unnecessary to bring up.

The Sheik

Forty-five-year-old Frances Allison married Khalil Ben Ibrahim El Raoif, a Saudi Arabian sheik, in a Bagdad mosque in 1933.¹² They had met in Bagdad while Frances was on a world tour. During another tour in 1935, the couple was interviewed at the Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina, where Frances reported they were “completely happy.” While her husband did not speak English and she did not speak Arabic, they communicated through a personal language composed of French and sign language, sprinkled with English and Arab phrases.

When Frances divorced her Arab husband in 1936, it made frontpage news in papers like *the Augusta Chronicle*. She reported being variously “poisoned, stoned and beaten by his people.” She said what she “wanted was to promote inter-racialism and inter-religionism. I don’t believe in differences between religions or lines of demarcation between the races.” She also said she expected to live the rest of her life “in the desert.”

Grand Canyon Days

Sometime in the 1930s, Frances began staying frequently at the El Tovar Hotel, although she also continued to travel widely.² Destinations included

such diverse places as Brazil and Liberia. Interested in Native American crafts and culture, she often visited the reservations to see how rugs and similar items were made. She also gave many gifts, generally encouraging artistic pursuits among the Hopi and other tribes. In the early 1940s, she began staying at the Bright Angel Lodge to reduce the pain associated with climbing the steps at El Tovar.

On November 10, 1944, Frances donated fourteen Hopi cultural objects to the Grand Canyon Natural History Association, eight kachinas, four watercolors of kachinas, one watercolor of three Hopi women [see cover], and one basketry plaque.¹³ Several of the kachinas are presently on display at the Tusayan Museum, in the first cabinet on the right as you enter. Of the six in the cabinet, the four larger ones are hers. The remaining objects are housed at the Museum Collection. Five of the artists are known: Sam Pemahinge (Mudhead kachina), Fred Kabotie (watercolor of women), Leroy C. Kewonyama (two watercolors), and W. Polelonema and Ed Nequartewa Jr. (one watercolor each).

Longtime resident Mary Hoover came to the Canyon as a Harvey girl in 1946, staying to work more than 40 years. She reported in an interview in 2014 that Frances often came for several months at a time, particularly during the summer.¹⁴ Although quite demanding, Frances was also free with her money. Her morning grapefruit had to be specially prepared or it would be sent back. Each section of fruit had to be properly separated, the top sprinkled with powdered sugar, then grilled briefly to blend with the juices. Mary herself never waited on Frances because that was the purview of more longstanding Fred Harvey employees, her regulars. Frances would walk around on her own, but she had to be helped up steps. She always entered the Bright Angel Lodge from the side entrance on the west, where the restrooms are currently, the location of a beauty shop and barbershop back then. When Frances came to the steps, a couple bellhops

would carry her up in a chair, then she would walk under her own power to the dining room. She often sat outside overlooking the rim, reading in a chair supplied by one of the staff. Mary said that Frances left a fur coat in her will to one of her regulars, but it did not fit because Frances was so much smaller.

The rumor that the package containing the ashes of Frances Allison sat on Superintendent Bryant’s desk for some time before it was recognized is most likely inaccurate. A memo in Frances’s file showed that the Cottonwood mortician called Bryant to say the remains were being mailed, and burial followed the receipt of the ashes by only a few days.² The motivation for such rumors is a matter for conjecture. In the case of Frances, she was someone many people loved to gossip about, both because her wealth engendered some envy and she did indeed have a colorful past. The rumor that she had been married nine times, once to a Native American, might even be true, although corroborating evidence is lacking. It was likely no more than six.

Endnotes

1. Song lyrics by Robert Fletcher and Cole Porter, *Don’t Fence Me In*, 1934.
2. Grand Canyon Museum Collection cemetery file: Allison, Frances C.
3. Williams News 1954 Mar 11: *Final Rites Held for Mrs. Frances Allison at Grand Canyon*.
4. Arizona death certificates, Arizona Department of Health Services website (genealogy.az.gov): Allison, Frances.
5. *Genealogical History of Hudson and Bergen Counties, New Jersey*, Cornelius Burnham Harvey, ed., 1900, New Jersey Genealogical Company, New York: *William Outis Allison*, p 148-150.
6. *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 1913 Apr 29, p 9: “Carmen” by the Aborns; *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland) 1913 Jun 1, p 14D: *She Surprises Society by Going to Footlights; The Orego-*

GCHS Archive Digitization Update

by Kristen Luetkemeier

- nian 1913 Jun 15, p 8; *The Rock Island Argus* 1916 Aug 8: *Horseback Trio on Their Way to Home in the East*.
7. *The Williams News* 1917 Jun 21, p 1: *Veterinary in Williams*; 1918 Feb 14, p 1: *Will Aid Red Cross with Fairy Opera*; 1919 Feb 28, p 1: *Personal and Local*; 1919 May 9, p 5, column 3; 1919 Jun 20, p 1, column 2.
 8. Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Arizona, Coconino County, Williams Precinct, Enumeration District No. 18, Sheet No. 6: Frances Scott and daughters on lines 18-20.
 9. Jennifer Niven, *Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic*, Hyperion, New York, 2003: Frances Allison is mentioned on pages 200, 246, 272, 308-310, 324, 338, and 349.
 10. *The Idaho Statesman* 1925 May 4, p 10: *Monday Picture Page*.
 11. *The Jersey Journal* 1928 June 13, p 13: *Kin Declare Allison Insane, in Fight Over Estate of Millions*; 1931 Sep 23, p 10: *W.O. Allison Heirs May Get \$250,000*; 1931 Jan 22, p 6: *Reno Divorce for Mrs. F.A. Schouten*.
 12. *The News and Courier* (Charleston, S.C.) 1935 Nov 6, p 10: *Sheik and Wife Visitors in City*; *Schenectady Gazette* 1936 Apr 22 p 11: *Her Marriage to Arab Sheik Not All Roses*; *The Augusta Chronicle* 1936 Apr 22, p 1: *Heiress, Married to Sheik, Was Poisoned and Stoned*.
 13. Museum catalog records supplied by Colleen Hyde, Museum Specialist, Grand Canyon Museum Collection.
 14. Mary Hoover oral history interview, July 24, 2014, part 2, Grand Canyon Historical Society website (grandcanyonhistory.org): Frances Allison is mentioned in pages 27-29 of the transcript.

The Grand Canyon Historical Society (GCHS) archive contains 30 individual collections, administrative records, and oral history recordings with much to convey about Grand Canyon's past. In partnership with Northern Arizona University, these materials are cared for and made accessible through the university's Cline Library Special Collections and Archives.

Over the last two years, GCHS has focused on digitizing these collections. Digitization of archival collections has two big benefits. One benefit is to help preserve original items by providing researchers access to a digital copy of the original. The other benefit is providing public access at a distance online. We've been making good progress!

Last year Marie Sansone, Helen Ranney, and I collaborated on a priority list of the individual collections for digitization. Criteria for inclusion consisted of:

1. Represents significant aspects of Grand Canyon and its past
2. Helps users understand Grand Canyon and its past
3. Fills holes in archival representation

Collections we identified as priorities:

1. Robert McPherson Collection
2. Jack Greening Collection
3. Gale Burak Collection
4. John Riffey Collection
5. Ethel Moore Cole Collection
6. Robert Eschuka Benson Collection
7. Muav Saddle Cabin Collection
8. Jump Up Cabin Collection
9. Arthur Metzger Collection

While the John Riffey Collection cannot be digitized because of copyright issues and the Arthur Metzger Collection is partially complete, the rest of the collections on this list have been completely digitized!

Tom Martin has also delivered approximately 100 of the oral history recordings he has conducted for GCHS, half of which have also been transferred and described. This is a new aspect to the Society's archive, and one that has already increased involvement with Grand Canyon's past through interview narrators, volunteer transcribers, and internet audience members.

Three part-time Northern Arizona University contractors, Amelia Swann, Patrick Conley, and Malia Runge, have been doing the digitization work. Like so many institutions, the university is facing resource shortages and competing priorities. Even within a difficult context the project staff has continued to make progress, and expect next to finish the Arthur Metzger Collection, continue work on oral history recordings, and move to digitizing GCHS publications.

We also anticipate an update to our finding aid to include new materials deposited and assignment of GCHS call numbers to each existing and new item. Finding aids are how researchers and repositories themselves know what is in a collection, so updating our finding aid as we add materials is important. When GCHS received scrapbooks, documents, drawings, etc. in the past, it used Northern Arizona University forms as the means for donors to make their gifts. Even though the paperwork attached to those gifts says that they are gifts to the university, the university has agreed to reflect these items as part of the Society's collections in the university's records. During the last two years, we have adopted our own oral history release form and deed of gift. As the Society continues to use these new agreements, we will not have to worry about this kind of dichotomy between what the written record says and what people understand is happening.

Several other people and organizations have contributed to this work, and we appreciate them!

- Funding for this digitization project is made possible by Arizona Humanities.



- Northern Arizona University Head of Special Collections and Archives Peter Runge has been a staunch supporter of our partnership and enabled good results.

- Northern Arizona University Cline Library archivists, Kelly Phillips and Sam(antha) Meier, have provided oversight, training, and infrastructure support for the project and the project archivists.

- Grand Canyon Historical Society supporters Kathy and Mike Hayes have helped enable digitization work through a generous donation.

- Grand Canyon Historical Society Board Member David Schaller led the effort on the Arizona Humanities grant funding.

- Grand Canyon Historical Society Board Member Brian Blue has been a constant presence in this project, tracking financial status and, especially this winter, maintaining connections between the Society and the university.

OK, if you've read this far, you probably want to see some of this archival material! Making the digital copy available through the NAU Special Collections and Archives website is a separate part of the digitization project, and has been completed for 682 of our items. To see them, navigate on the internet to the website for Northern Arizona University Special Collections and Archives, click Search Digital Archives, and click on Grand Canyon Historical Society. Happy browsing!



NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
Cline Library

Digital Collections

Advanced Search

Search and browse selected digitized and born-digital photographs, letters, diaries, documents, maps, sound recordings, oral history interviews, and films from Cline Library's [Special Collections and Archives](#) and our regional partners.

Learn how to effectively search Digital Collections via [Guide on the Side](#).

Please note that most materials held by Special Collections and Archives (SCA) have not been digitized. [Click here](#) to search detailed inventories of SCA's physical archives via Arizona Archives Online.

Questions? Email special.collections@nau.edu or call 928-523-5551 to learn more about Digital Collections at Cline Library.

<p>Colorado Plateau Digital Archives Explore thousands of vintage and contemporary photographs, diaries and letters, oral history interviews, films, and maps which document the history and development of...</p>	<p>NAU Archives Cline Library serves as the home for the permanent historical records of Northern Arizona University. The digitized photographs, records, and oral histories available through...</p>
<p>NAU Student Newspaper Northern Arizona University's student newspaper has been published continually since 1914, first as The Pine, and then after 1946 as The Lumberjack. Initially published bi-weekly,...</p>	<p>Arizona Historical Society The mission of the Arizona Historical Society in Flagstaff is to collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history of Flagstaff and the surrounding region from the military...</p>
<p>Hopi Cultural Preservation Office As part of a long-standing partnership, the Cline Library is pleased to host online access to archival collections owned by the Hopi Tribe, such as the remarkable photography of...</p>	<p>Navajo Nation Museum The goal of the Navajo Nation Museum archives is to collect, organize, preserve, document, educate, and provide access, information, and resources by and about Dine people. The...</p>
<p>Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection The Grand Canyon Museum Collection is a storage and research facility dedicated to preserving the physical artifacts that tell the various aspects of the Grand Canyon story. Th...</p>	<p>Grand Canyon Historical Society The Grand Canyon Historical Society celebrates and promotes the study and preservation of the Grand Canyon region's cultural and natural history for the education and...</p>

Introducing Board Member Rich Turner

What was your first experience with the Grand Canyon?

I first saw the canyon when I was nine, on a family vacation to visit my uncle in Los Angeles. Being from Chicago, the western landscape was magically alien to me. I fell head over heels in love with its tortured geography and polychromatic geology. I decided at the first glimpse of the Canyon, that I would not live in the Midwest when I grew up. It would be 16 years however, before I returned to that magnificent fissure I first saw as a naive youth.

How did you end up back at the Canyon?

My teen years were spent working at a summer camp in Wisconsin. It was there that I learned the joys of working with kids, especially in an outdoor setting. That experience led me to decide on teaching as a career.

After graduating from Knox College with a degree in History and a teaching certificate, I was drafted into the Army and spent the next two years at posts in Louisiana, Georgia, and Alabama as well as the jungles of Vietnam and Cambodia. Upon returning home (Christmas Day 1970 - best Christmas present ever), several friends from summer camp invited me to accompany them on a 19 day Colorado River trip through Grand Canyon. Martin Litton, the owner of Grand Canyon Dories led that trip. I was once again bewitched by the Canyon and, looking for a way to remain there, persuaded Martin to hire me as a river guide. I would spend the summers of 1971 - 1986 rowing dories in that majestic sweatshop. My winters were spent teaching 5th graders in Phoenix, a job I was offered on the river by one of my passengers who was a principal in one of the fast growing school districts of Phoenix. After Martin sold Grand Canyon Dories in 1987, I continued my addiction with the Canyon and the River as a private boater.



What led you to become interested in the history of Grand Canyon?

During my coursework in history at Knox, I gravitated toward those classes dealing with the American westward movement. I became fascinated with the fur trade and those early explorers attempting to fill in the blank spaces in the maps of the North American continent. Individuals like Jedediah Smith, Jim Bridger, William H. Ashley, Lewis and Clark, John C. Fremont, and John Wesley Powell among others, piqued my constant curiosity. After working on the river and moving to Arizona, I began to read as much as I could about the history of the Grand Canyon region and the individuals who contributed to that narrative. I spent many nights reading into the wee hours and going to school the next day somewhat spent.

One of the first things my wife and I did when we bought our house, was to turn a bedroom into a library. The Grand Canyon section has always been the largest, fastest growing segment of our collection. While working as a dory guide, and even now for that matter, I felt that the more knowledge I had, the better prepared I would be as a guide

to answer passenger's numerous questions. Those histories have also helped to quench my own unfading curiosity.

In addition to reading historical narratives relevant to the Grand Canyon region, I was fortunate to be able to help conserve several historic boats in the Park's collection. On finding a bobby pin wedged between the seat boards in Emery Kolb's boat, the Edith, my mind became preoccupied with questions like; Who did it belong to? How many trips, if any, did it make while stuck in that seat? How long had it been there? Was it actually used in someone's hair, or was it used for some other purpose? These are questions that could never be answered, but would make a great premise for a novel - a river trip as seen from the perspective of that bobby pin.

How did you become involved with the Grand Canyon Historical Society?

I first learned about and joined Grand Canyon Historical Society at a Grand Canyon River Guides Spring Training Seminar quite a few years ago. It felt like an organization that went to the heart of my interests. Since joining, I have attended 4 of the 5 history symposiums (I was out of the country for the first one). The outings I have attended have been exceptional. I particularly remember an outing that followed the old stage route from Flagstaff to the Canyon. To follow that route, brought the hardships of travel a century ago to life. After helping at several symposiums, Wayne Ranney and Dave Mortenson encouraged me to run for the board.

How has the Grand Canyon affected your life?

Summers in the Canyon have always been a wonderful way to decompress after ten months of teaching. It continues to be a place of

continued on page 20

The BULLETIN

2020 GCHS Events

(Subject to change, so check our website)

JULY

MIDYEAR BOARD MEETING

Saturday July 11, 2020

Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

OCTOBER

Rescheduled: FIFTH GRAND CANYON HIKER'S & BACKPACKER'S SYMPOSIUM

Saturday October 10, 2020 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NAU Cline

Library, Flagstaff

Updates at: <http://gchba.org>

FALL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday October 14, 2020 Evening Zoom session, details TBA

OCTOBER 2021

COLORADO RIVER BASIN HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

October 2021 Kanab, Utah

GCHS News

GCHS Approved as Certified Historical Institution

On June 19, 2020, the Arizona Historical Society (AHS) board of directors approved Grand Canyon Historical Society as a Certified Historical Institution (CHI). This program is designed to support historical museums and organizations across the state of Arizona in its efforts to collect, preserve and share Arizona's rich history. This year, AHS expanded the program to provide an option for smaller historical organizations, without physical facilities, to become certified. The program now provides for two levels of certification: Tier 1 CHIs can apply for grants up to \$2,000 per year. Tier 2 CHIs (GCHS is one of two) are eligible to apply for grants up to \$1,000 per year. By the way, GCHS is a new affiliate member of AHS; there are more than 60. As such, AHS represents a new resource for us, providing expertise in collections management and public education program development.

-- Submitted by Dick Brown

Sixty-Fourth Anniversary of the 1956 Grand Canyon Midair Collision

On the morning of June 30, 2020, the 64th anniversary of the tragic 1956 mid-air collision over Grand Canyon National Park, flowers were placed on the TWA memorial in Flagstaff and on the United Airlines memorial in Grand Canyon Village in remembrance of those who lost their lives. The flowers were also placed for the families of TWA and United Airlines passengers who cannot travel this year due to the Covid-19 crisis. In the future, those families visiting Grand Canyon should consider visiting the Museum Collection facility to see historical documents, read recent family remembrances, and listen to oral histories which are also now available online at: <https://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/oral-history.html>.

Please call ahead to ensure facility hours: Kim Besom (928) 638-7766.

-- Submitted by Ian Hough





**Jason Nez
2020 GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PIONEER AWARD**

Presented with appreciation to
Jason Nez
for

- His talent in communicating traditional beliefs and histories to the public in educational and meaningful ways;
- His lifelong dedication to the protection of archeological sites throughout the greater Grand Canyon region;
- His continued outreach to educate people about Indigenous connections to the landscape and the importance of preserving the lands in order to preserve the people;
- His generosity in sharing knowledge of his culture and its history with friends, colleagues and thousands of National Park visitors each year;
- His experience in the field, surveying numerous historical sites throughout Northern Arizona;
- His unique cultural perspective, fifteen years of dedicated archeological work in the region;
- His consistent work in bringing native history to life in speeches and demonstrations; and
- His leadership in bringing a cultural voice and influence to the management of the Grand Canyon region.

Granted this 11th day of July 2020
At Grand Canyon National Park

The Grand Canyon Historical Society regrets not being able to formally present the Pioneer Award plaque to Jason at the Annual Picnic due to its cancellation. We hope he'll join us next year. A more extensive article about Jason appeared in the Spring 2020 *O! Pioneer*. His receipt of the award is also featured in the May 21, 2020 *Navajo Times* at <https://bit.ly/3e3UCUD>.

2019 Centennial History Symposium Presentations Now Online!

If you missed out on the 2019 Centennial History Symposium, or would like to relive the experience, the presentation videos can now be accessed via the GCHS website: grandcanyonhistory.org. Thanks go out to Mike Quinn for taping, editing and making these available.

* * * * *

Hall of Fame Awards Ron Brown Daniel Tobin and Terry Tobin

The twenty-second annual Grand Canyon Hall of Fame Awards are sponsored by the Grand Canyon Historical Society and the National Park Service and would normally be presented at the Society's Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point, but the COVID-19 virus has prevented that. We are making the award in absentia with hopes that the two living recipients will be able to attend the picnic next year for a personal presentation. The names of the three recipients are engraved on the permanent plaque housed in the Shrine of the Ages.

These awards are usually made each year to recognize service to the Grand Canyon community. The recipients were recommended for their community service by previous recipients of the award and by current residents. We rely on their recommendations, as they know better than anyone who has been involved in community service at the Grand Canyon.

Text as it appears on the permanent plaque in the Shrine of the Ages:

"GRAND CANYON HALL OF FAME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE Recognition is hereby given by the Grand Canyon Historical Society and the National Park Service for those organizations and individuals who have selflessly contributed to the betterment of the Grand Canyon community over years past."

The twenty-second awards name three who have given exemplary service to the Grand Canyon Community. The recipients have made personal contributions of money, time, support, and/or work over a period of many years.

This year's awardees are: Ronald L. Brown (deceased), Daniel J. Tobin and Terry L. Tobin. Short bios follow:

Ronald L. Brown (Deceased). Over his twenty years of service as a National Park Service interpretive ranger, Ron was a teacher, mentor to many rangers, and gave thousands of ranger programs to the visiting public. Working until just a week before his passing, he epitomized tenacity and devotion as an Interpretive Park Ranger. Ron had the innate



Ron Brown

ability to connect visitors to Grand Canyon and help them find their own reason to love this place. He spent countless hours and devoted much of himself to coaching and encouraging new rangers to perfect his beloved craft of interpretation. An accomplished interpreter himself, Ron was one of only a handful of Interpretive Park Rangers to complete the rigorous

Interpretive Development Program and accomplish all ten bench marks. He was also the only Interpretive Park Ranger at Grand Canyon to receive the Interpreter of the Year Award twice. Ron will be long remembered for his portrayal of Captain John Hance, an early Grand Canyon pioneer, guide and storyteller. Ron last portrayed Hance for the Grand Canyon Historical Society at the 2019 History Symposium.

Daniel J. Tobin resided at Grand Canyon for 40 years and was employed by or owned a variety of businesses that include the National Park Service, Fred Harvey at Phantom Ranch, interim manager of the airport, start-up partner for the Tusayan-GC Shuttle Company, and owner/operator of National Parks Medical Billing. Somehow, along with his entrepreneurial efforts he made time to serve with the Lions Club as member/president, as a Salvation Army volunteer, coordinator for the Community Holiday Baskets, GC Schools volunteer in the Booster Club, Odyssey of the Mind volunteer, PTA member/president, Caviat president/board member, and coordinator/fundraiser for the track team jump pit. As if this was not enough, Dan also served as a Grand Canyon Music Festival volunteer, Cub/Boy Scouts volunteer, Grand Canyon Ballet company board member, and somehow also managed to procure funds for the purchase of CPR training equipment and mannequins for the community. And finally, to round out his service Dan served as a board member for the Valle-Wood Volunteer Fire Department. Now it is our turn to recognize Dan for his efforts and community service.

Terry L. Tobin also resided at Grand Canyon for 40 years and served the community in a variety of capacities. Terry was a Grand Canyon School teacher for 30 of those years, the start-up manager of the Squire Day Care Center, and also employed by Fred Harvey at the rim and Phantom Ranch. Beyond these full-time pursuits, Terry served as a Lions Club volunteer, Salvation Army bell ringer, Middle School soccer coach, Middle School assistant basketball coach, High School softball/baseball coach, and Middle and High School soccer



Dan and Terry Tobin

official. During her forty year tenure at Grand Canyon she also managed to squeeze in time as an AYSO volunteer, start-up coach for Little League Softball, serve as a Booster Club member/officer, Hands Across the Border coordinator, PTA member, coordinator, coach and judge for Odyssey of the Mind, Grand Canyon Music Festival volunteer, and all-around worker for the Community Holiday Baskets. And finally, for years Terry filled the all-important position of Keeper of the Grand Canyon Schools History and Culture. She coordinated and updated the High School athletic records and display boards in the gym, and updated the High School awards and plaques. Now, quite fittingly, we award her a plaque of her own for her community service.

--Submitted by Al Richmond

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Call for Board Nominees

The Grand Canyon Historical Society (GCHS) will be electing new members to the board this fall to serve a three-year term. If you are interested in being a nominee for the board or know somebody who would be a good candidate, please send a nominee submission, including a brief bio, of no more than 250 words, by October 15th to:

GCHS Secretary at secretary@grandcanyonhistory.org

Qualification to be a Board member requires a love of the Grand Canyon and its history and a willingness to provide time and expertise in support of the Society's mission. Board member duties include providing input on Board decisions, electing officers, selecting scholarship and award recipients, helping to arrange or support outings, and planning/ implementing the next History Symposium.

Board members need to be GCHS members in good standing and do not necessarily need to live in Flagstaff or at the Grand Canyon as a lot of business is conducted through phone and email. These are volunteer positions; attendance at all meetings is strongly encouraged. Board meetings are usually conducted in Flagstaff or at the South Rim from one to four times a year, though they are currently being conducted virtually. Ideally Board members will always attend the annual meeting in January where officers are elected.

An interview by the nominating committee may be part of the candidate selection process. All applying will be placed on a ballot that may have nominating committee recommendations. In November ballots will be sent to the membership with election results determined and candidates notified on or before December 5th.

Having an active board and officers is critical to maintaining a healthy and active society - please consider applying or nominating someone. If you have any questions please contact:

President Dave Mortenson at president@grandcanyonhistory.org.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Karen Greig at thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org.

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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self-reflection. I am reinvigorated after spending time on the river or rim. Meeting awesome people who share a love of this place has enriched my life greatly. One of the real joys of being a commercial guide on the river was meeting wonderful people, some famous - some not, but virtually all having something that reshaped my character in some way. The same holds true of the people I've met from Grand Canyon Historical Society, Grand Canyon Conservancy, Grand Canyon Trust, the National Park Service, and other groups working to protect this extraordinary landscape. I am a very different person than I would have been if I had stayed in Chicago.

