



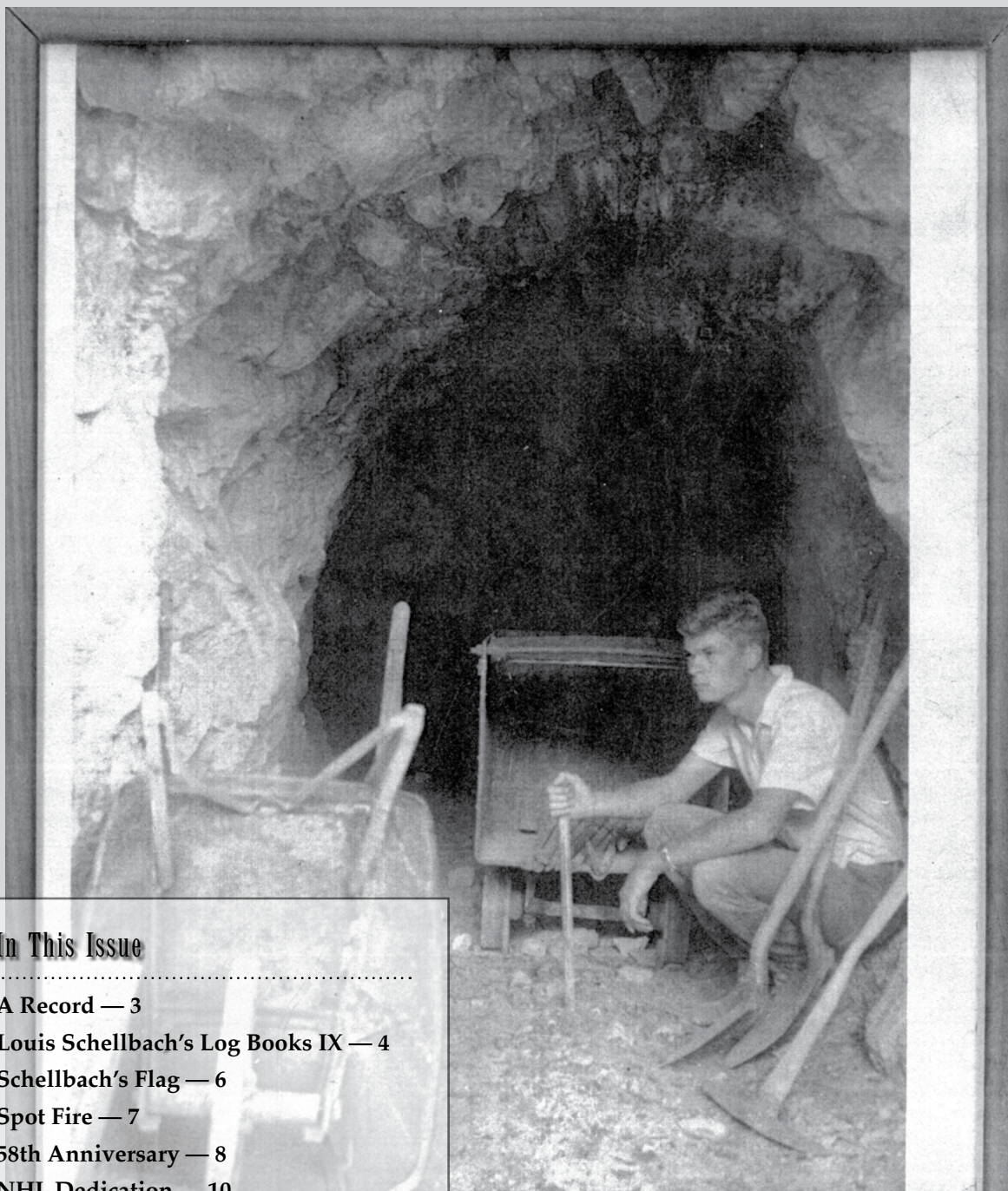
The Ol' Pioneer

The Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

Volume 25 : Number 3

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Summer 2014



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Marshall Scholing

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President's Letter

Greetings all members of the Grand Canyon Historical Society! A lot has been going on at Grand Canyon National Park with the summer well underway.

By the time you receive this edition of *The Ol' Pioneer*, our annual picnic will have been completed. I hope you were there to participate in the fun! Fire restrictions were in place as late as the 4th of July but monsoon thunderheads were building steadily meaning that the Bar-B-Q likely went ahead as scheduled. Congratulations to Don Lago, this year's recipient of the Pioneer Award. As many of you will be aware, Don has single handedly kept this journal relevant and alive through the last several years. Don's scholarship on all things Grand Canyon is not often matched by anyone else these days. Much to my liking (and other members as well), Don does not concentrate exclusively on the "charismatic characters" of the canyons' history but rather finds the obscure yet interesting stories that previously escaped notice by other historians. The Hall of Fame Award went to John Cunningham (deceased) and the Grand Canyon Association. Congratulations to all our recipients.

In April of this year, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced the designation of the "1956 Grand Canyon TWA-United Airlines Aviation Accident Site" as a National Historic Landmark. In recognition of this designation, a commemoration event was held on June 30, which marked the 58th anniversary of the crash. Events were held at the mass gravesites in Flagstaff and Grand Canyon, at Desert View, and at the Thunderbird Lodge. Ian Hough, Park archeologist and lead person on the NHL nomination gave the evening program at McKee Amphitheater to over 150 people. The Grand Canyon Historical Society was a vital participant in these events. As President of GCHS, I represented the Society and was one of four speakers at a reception held to honor nearly 50 family members who came from all sections of the country. The reception was held at the Thunderbird Lodge on a hot summer day. Bill Wright, NPS Chief Ranger spoke first and welcomed everyone. Wayne Ranney, GCHS, followed him, with Jennifer Nims Reed and Ray Cook being the two family members who spoke. Both of them spoke eloquently about the difficulties their families endured after the tragedy. You can read a copy of the comments I made, on page 9 in this edition of *The Ol' Pioneer*.

Tom Martin, the GCHS Secretary and Coordinator of the Society's Oral History Project (OHP) was busy all day interviewing numerous family members who wanted their stories preserved in the Collections at Grand Canyon National Park. Tom also represented the Society at the memorial wreath laying at Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery (the United Airlines Memorial). Another wreath laying took place at Citizen's Cemetery in Flagstaff at the same time to honor the TWA victims. Tom has been extremely busy recording many aspects of Grand Canyon's history since the last edition of *The Ol' Pioneer* went out. Our OHP will deliver many tangible benefits to the preservation and study of Grand Canyon's history to future historians. If you would like to make a special contribution to the OHP, please send a check in any amount to: Grand Canyon Historical Society, attn.: Treasurer, Erik Berg, PO Box 31405, Flagstaff AZ 86003-1405.

We value your membership! At the risk of being way too much "ahead of the curve," note that the 4th Symposium on Grand Canyon History is only 30 months away!

Wayne Ranney
GCHS President

Cover: Marshall Scholing on Horseshoe Mesa, August 7. 1957

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Volume 25 : Number 3
Spring 2014

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 in conjunction with *The Bulletin*, an informational newsletter. Both publications are a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society 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 31405 Flagstaff, AZ 86003-1405. *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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Submissions to *The Bulletin* should be sent to Karen Greig, kgreig@yahoo.com

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A Record

In reference to Wayne Ranney's letter in the *Ol' Pioneer* regarding personal stories of connection to the Grand Canyon, I came across some old photos and a diary describing my first meeting with Harvey Butchart at the foot of the Tanner Trail—on August 22, 1958. I was in college at the time. Harvey was a great correspondent over the years.

Marshall Scholing

A Record
Marshall Scholing
Dean Bruner

Aug 1958 Grand Canyon vacation trip.

22 Aug 58: Descended the old Tanner (Horsethief) trail today. Left the S. rim at Lipan Point at 6:40 A.M. Made a sharp drop down the Kaibab and Coconino Formations and soon arrived at the neck of Escalante Butte at the head of Seventy-five Mile Creek. Spent some two hours crossing the east flanks of Escalante and Cardenas buttes. About ten O'clock began the descent of the Redwall limestone over a steep and faint trail. Continued the rest of the trek toward the Colorado River over the red shale slopes of the Algonkian formations. In most cases the trail was extremely faint and there was some difficulty in finding the way. The Colorado river was reached at about noon. While eating lunch by the river on J.H. Butchart of 907 W. Summit, Flagstaff, Arizona, arrived at our spot. He proved to be the number-one authority on this region, and, at this time was just beginning a seven-day one-man trek to find a new route to the North Rim, somewhere eastward of Cape Royal. Took pictures, studied the geology at the river, talked with Butchart, and, about 2 P.M. had to leave for

the long trip out of the canyons. The temperature was quite hot at the start of the trek out, but, along about midway in the red shales, we were fortunate in having the benefit of an Arizona electrical storm which added much to cool things off and help solve the water problem. (Our entire water supply in the canyons was our canteens and what little we could filter out from the river.) Arrived back at the hogback of saddle at the head of Seventy-five Mile Creek by dusk (about 7:30 P.M.) and continued on up to the rim in the moonlight. Arrived back at the South Rim at Lipan Point at 10:40 P.M., having been in the Canyon some fifteen hours. Returned to Desert View campground and spent the night there.

23 Aug 58: Today we headed westward along the rim from Desert View. Located the site of old John Hance's ranch and decided to explore along the rim from this spot. Went west a mile or two and climbed out onto the east flank of Sinking Ship (Three Castles) Butte, in the vicinity of Grandview. Were not able to get to the top of the main peak at the south end of the butte, but, we did get to a high point in the middle section of the butte. Discovered a few old Indian relics along the east

side of the base of the butte. Noted the geological faulting which has "tilted" this formation. Returned to Grand Canyon village by nightfall.

24 Aug 58: Descended old Hermit Trail as far as the ruins of the Santa Fe's Hermit Camp today. Left the South Rim at Hermit's Rest at about 8 A.M. Had a little difficulty in the rockslide just above the Redwall limestone as usual. Arrived in Hermit Camp about noon. Spent some five hours in the canyon bottom, exploring Hermit Camp and making use of the waters of Hermit Creek. Afternoon sun quite hot as we have few clouds to help cool things off. Really made



Marshall Scholing at the grave of John Wesley Powell, Arlington Cemetery, circa 1980.

a noise with the old bar-triangle used by the cook. Bet they could hear us on Pima Point, 3,500 feet above. Dean found some purple bottles to take home. Left Hermit Camp about 5:15 P.M. and had a very hot climb from the Tonto Plateau up to the base of the

Redwall (Cathedral stairs) in the late afternoon sun. Made good time once we got into the shade. Got over the bad rockslide areas before dark set in. Made the rest of the trek in a fine moonlight. Arrived back on the rim at 11:15 P.M. Back to Grand Canyon

village campground tonight.

15 Aug 58: Left for home this morning.



Cathedral Butte inversion. 12/17/1961 photo: Marshall Scholing

Some years ago, we visited Horace Albright who was in a rest home in Los Angeles. He was a delightful raconteur and discussed National Park events. I recalled that he was at the Grand Canyon when geologists went down the trail to the Nankoweap basin. I asked what he knew of those activities. Without missing a beat, he told the story of the “Nankoweap snake.”

“When the geologists were in the canyon a snake was seen near their camp. One of them picked up a rock to kill the snake. The other geologist however, prevented this and took the snake home—as a pet. One night an armed burglar entered his home, however the snake bit him and he ran away...”

Submitted by Dove Menkes

Louis Schellbach's Log Books: Part IX

by Traci Wyrick

(End of 1945) Schellbach was receiving many books for the Reference Library during this time. His Nov. 23rd entry mentions his "knowledge of Nevada material," so I have included one of his achievements. A highlight for this year was M.D. Clubb and his son, Roger, climbing Vishnu Temple on July 17, 1945.

Wednesday Nov. 7, 1945

Yavapai duty. Attended staff meeting in a.m. Learned that the positions requested for the Naturalist Dept. here for Jan 1st to June 1st 1946, (Asst. Park Naturalist, Junior Pk Naturalist and two Ranger Naturalists) the money requested is to be used by the Supt. and Asst. Supt. for other purposes than filling these positions. Why practically alone, and by the way, the full Naturalist position, under Associate Naturalist pay and rating! It does not make sense. The first snow fell for the season at around 3:20 p.m. and passed off. Later in the evening, it again fell. Evening wrote Mrs. Collom, Dr. Kearney, Geo Bonawit and made out October book sales and account for Treasurer, G.C.N.H. Assn.

Tuesday Nov. 13, 1945

Routine duty Yavapai. Changed rain gage with winter solution yesterday.

Wednesday Nov. 14, 1945

Attended staff meeting in a.m. Miss Isabelle Story arrived last night. Routine duty at Yavapai. Received Carnegie Ins. of Wash. Publication No. 563 on "Cambrian History of the Grand Canyon Region" by E.D. McKee and "Cambrian Fossils of the Grand Canyon" by C.E. Resser. Mrs. Rose Collom arrived this day to work on herbarium for a week or ten days. Heavy attendance at the 3:30 p.m. talk but visitors fell off during day.

Thursday Nov 15, 1945

Routine Yavapai duty. Attended stoves at workshop and Yavapai. Prepared slides to show this evening. A group of locals invited to workshop to visit with Miss Story and spend an evening looking over Grand Canyon Kodachrome scenes:

Miss Isabelle Story, Mrs. Rose Collom, Dr. and Mrs. H.C. Bryant-Supt., Mr. and Mrs. John Davis-Asst. Supt., Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Bill-Chief Ranger, Mr. and Mrs. Hubbs Chase-Foreman, Mr. and Mrs. L. Schellbach-Pk Naturalist.

Tuesday Nov. 20, 1945

Yavapai duty. Started Mrs. Collom on lichen specimens for Plant Checklist and preparing specimens for collection. H.C.B. notified me that I was to be the Master of Ceremonies at the Christmas Program.

Friday Nov. 23, 1945

Yavapai duty. McKees cousin and a Richard Miller in at Shop. Miller attended the last Field school at Yosemite and now has been appointed director of the State Museum at Carson City, Nevada, located in the Old Carson City Mint building. He wanted me to help him out with my knowledge of Nevada material. Afternoon group of school teachers visited the Shop. 20 year index of Mammology received.

Saturday Nov. 24, 1945

Yavapai duty. Although supposed to be off. Am to take these two days off after my vacation next week. In a.m. typed herbarium labels and stored Grand Canyon Countries in stock room. To movie in evening.

Monday Nov. 26, 1945

On Annual Leave for the week. Attended rain gage and worked at shop helping Mrs. Collom.

Friday Nov. 30, 1945

Attended P.T.A. meeting. Ranger Bert Lauzon was the speaker.

Tuesday Dec 4, 1945

Day off for the 25th work. Maps received from the U.S.G.S. ordered some time ago. Wrote Mrs. Collom and sent her expense check.

Wednesday Dec. 5 1945

Back on duty. To Yavapai and Staff meeting at Hdq. Selected 20 Kodachrome slides to be sent to Saratoga N.P.- Hamilton, Supt., H.C.B. to send and write letter of transmittal. In p.m. cleaned, dusted and rearranged three exhibit cases, nos. 7-8-9 at Yavapai Observation Station. They were very dusty and dingy. Our cases are very poor for the display of exhibits. I have brought this matter to the attention of immediate supervisors and higher up for the past seven years-but get nowhere. Wrote Natt Dodge, Naturalist at Santa Fe this evening.

Thursday Dec. 6, 1945

Yavapai duty. Cleaned and arranged the rest of the exhibit cases at Yavapai this a.m. Weather clear and cold. Will try and get down to drafting November monthly report-but visitors at the station keep me busy. The Boy Scouts are to be invested with their second class ratings tomorrow evening at the Naturalist Workshop at 7:45 p.m. This means I will have to attend to the heating of the place and arrangements.

Monday Dec. 10, 1945

Yavapai duty. Attended weekly rain gage graph change. Low temperature at Yavapai so far this season 19 degrees. This morning sky overcast and cold—maybe we are in for some snow. Sent application forms to Judd for next years ranger-naturalist position. H.C.B. and 2 Rotarians at Yavapai in p.m. Evening completed November departmental report and G.C.N.H. Assn's book sales account.

Thursday December 13, 1945

Yavapai duty. Very cold. Attended rain gage and sent in graph of snow fall to U.S. weather Bureau. Snow shoveling. Got out parapet covers.

Friday Dec. 14, 1945

Yavapai duty. Stoves servicing. Attended some correspondence. 10 a.m. two visitors to Workshop, sent there by Asst. Supt. Davis. Letter from Dodge re justifications on job sheets for Park Naturalist at the G.C. Spoke to Chief Clerk, L.G., re the Grand Canyon Natural History Ass'n set up. Evening letter to Mrs. Collom enclosing \$25 check as a X-mas gift or bonus for her faithful work on the Park herbarium, from the G.C.N.H.A.

Friday Dec. 21, 1945

Yavapai duty. Did some more work on entomological collection. Evening 6:30 p.m. to Community Building attending rehearsal of X-mas program. Rigged spot-lights for show. Pretty sick with cold.

Saturday Dec. 22, 1945

Day off. H.C.B. relieving at Yavapai. Snow and rain during last night and all day to day. Heavy fog in and about Village. Attended stoves at Shop. Show this evening. Go on annual leave all next week.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS:

Shorty Rowen from Part 8 and Dean Daisy from Part 2: (see Helen Rowan Cabeen-Lindeman's letter). →

Helen's book is available through her for \$12.50 plus postage (about \$3 book rate). Her email is : cghelen@netins.net.

From her book: Roy James (Part One); his wife was Dorothy and they lived on Juniper Hill. Also from Helen: Ethel Moore Cole: she grew up at GC. Her Grandfather, "Lockwood", surveyed for the railroad going up to Grand Canyon.

Sunday Dec. 23, 1945

To Community Building to deliver the projection equipment needed for tonight. Heavy snow fall. Went to rehearsal of Community show at 1:00 p.m. The Community Building at 7:00 p.m. with family. Operated the spot lights and the projection of X-mas Carol slides. The house was packed and apparently the show enjoyed by all. Rode home with the Bills.

Tuesday Dec. 25, 1945

Christmas Day. Snowed during the night. The youngsters enjoyed their gifts as well as Ethyl and myself. Day overcast although warm. Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Young from Alameda, Cal. school teachers and friends of the Director visited the Shop this a.m. with Supt. H.C. Bryant and then to our

house. They leave today for home after spending five days at the Park. Miss Arta Belle from El Tovar to dinner this evening.

Clarification: "Chief Clerk L.G." is Lou Gastellem

NAMES FROM ENTRIES NOT SELECTED:

Gene Motte?—Schellbach mentions him "overhauling stores".

Victor Patroni?

Shultz—a new assistant naturalist

Donald McHenry—He was the acting GC Park Naturalist in the early 1930s and was the first service naturalist assigned to the National Capital Parks, near Washington D.C.

Ross McFadden? — entomological data

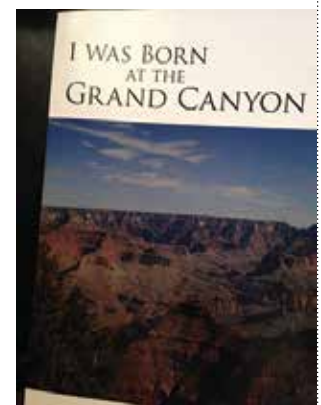
Hello Traci,

You don't know me, but I want you to know how much I enjoy your contributions from Louis' Log Books! You see, my brother, Marvin Rowan and I (Helen) were born at the Grand Canyon Hospital in 1936 and 1938 respectively and lived there until 1950, so we lived at the Grand Canyon during the time of these log entries. My dad was Miles T. Rowan, and was called "Shorty" because of his short stature and the name should be spelled Rowan instead of Rowen, although it was often misspelled. The entry from the log book stating "he filled the station tank," would have been my dad! He went from Iowa to Grand Canyon in 1929 and worked in park maintenance as a Heavy Equipment Operator until he retired in 1950 and we moved back to Iowa.

We lived in the duplex at the junction of Navajo-Tonto Streets. Dean Dazey and his wife Mary Jane and daughter Katheryn lived at the other end of the duplex. I think you questioned who Dean was. He was a Park Ranger. I personally knew Louis and took a tour of his shop with my school class; Harold Bryant, and was in their home; Porter Timeche and his son Billy; and many of the others that were mentioned in Louis's Log Book.

Your entries bring back many wonderful memories of growing up in the Grand Canyon Village, and I want to thank you so much for bringing those to us. I have written a book, *I Was Born at the Grand Canyon* with many of my memories in it because my children have insisted. It may still be in circulation at the Grand Canyon.

Sincerely,
Helen Rowan Cabeen Lindeman



Schellbach's Flag

Submitted by Traci Wyrick

From the internet website: www.net-state.com :

.....

1926, Nevada Lieutenant Governor Maurice Sullivan decided that the high cost of producing the current flag, because of intricate design and numerous colors, prevented its widespread use in the state. Lieutenant Governor Sullivan thought that a more economical design would lead to more use throughout the state, particularly in schools, and he proposed that a new design be adopted for the flag. In June, 1926 a state flag design contest was announced. The winner of the contest would receive \$25.00 and the honor associated with having designed the state flag.

A design submitted by Louis Schellbach, III was selected as the winner. The "Schellbach" design retained the blue field of the earlier flags, however the ornate and expensive-to-reproduce Coat of Arms was replaced by a simple wreath of sagebrush cradling a single silver star. Above the star, a golden scroll with the words "BATTLE BORN" was displayed.

In spite of a push to adopt this new design before the inaugural ball, the winning "Schellbach" design was not approved by the 1927 Legislature and Nevada continued to fly the 1915 flag, at least at the Governor's Office and at official ceremonies.

The matter of the state flag was picked up again in the 1929 session of the Nevada State Legislature. Senator William Dressler introduced a bill repealing the 1915 flag and officially adopting the "Schellbach" design. This bill passed through the state senate, but was held up in the Assembly when the Education Committee determined that the design for the flag did not include the state's name. In

an amendment proposed by Cada C. Boak, the state name "NEVADA" was to be added to the design around the silver star.

The Senate would not approve the amendment proposed by the Assembly and the Assembly would not back down. Deadlocked and with the legislative session coming to a close, a conference committee composed of Senate and Assembly members, was appointed to work out a compromise on the design.

A compromise was worked out and approved by both the Senate and the Assembly. The state name, "NEVADA", would appear on the flag in Roman letters to conform with the letters of "BATTLE BORN" on the golden scroll above the wreath of sagebrush. The name would not be placed around the star however, but would be displayed below the sagebrush sprays. This committee amendment was adopted by the Senate and the Assembly and prepared for delivery to the Governor for his signature.

On March 26, 1929, the bill adopting the "Schellbach" flag was signed by Governor Balzar of Nevada. (see more on website)



Spot Fire

by Sam and Phyllis Turner

The giant ponderosa pine reached highest among its forest companions. That was its undoing. As the boiling gray thunderheads rolled low over the woods, it took the first bolt of searing lightning. With a splitting CRACK the bolt snaked its way around the trunk, exploding limbs and branches into fiery sparks across the clearing. Clumps of grass and piles of needles sizzled with smoke and flames. Two-thirds of the fire-weakened upper trunk split apart, crashing to the ground. Flames spread quickly over the grass, searching for stronger fuel. Simultaneously, the first drops of rain splattered through the needles, steaming up from the superheated coals of the burning trunk. The battle had begun.

The drops came harder and faster, splattering the ground with cool, protective moisture. In the distance, claps of thunder rolled out. Another tree in a distant part of the great Kaibab National Forest had been struck. But here, where the giant was smashed, torrents of rain soaked into the ground, extinguishing the once leaping flames. Rivulets of water hurried down the gentle slope, joining their cousins into the rush of stormy runoff, to become a flash flood miles below the forest.

The clouds rolled past. As quickly as it started, the rain stopped. The jagged trunk stood mute and black, steam still rising from its chimney. The shattered remains lay dark and quiet. Only an acrid odor remained, settling amid the stillness of the scarred clearing. The danger was over. Or so it seemed.

Five days passed. Buried beneath the broken trunk, came a pink glow.

Dim at first, it crept along the inside cavity, searching into dark cracks and crevices. Magically, it hopped from one splinter to another, seeking the hidden treasure of unburned spots.

A wisp of smoke appeared. A flicker of red lit the inside of the log. Suddenly it burst into flame. The smoke drifted lazily, like a single chalk line into the cloudless sky.

Twenty miles to the northeast, the ranger atop Grandview Lookout Tower at the Grand Canyon's South Rim, sighted the smoke in the early morning sunlight. Within minutes, contacts from the Hopi Fire Lookout Tower and Red Butte gave a triangulation on the forest map. The ranger radioed the dispatch office of the Chief Forest Ranger in Tusayan.

There was a sense of urgency in the flame. The log glowed red with coals. Some of the outer wall of the trunk began to flame. Chunks of fiery coals broke away, dropping on the now-dry clumps of pine needles and grass. With a sizzle, the needles melted and curled from the heat. Tongues of flame tasted each morsel of grass, sucked it into an ever-widening circle of smoldering ash. All the fire needed was a little breeze to leap into life, heading in any direction toward not too distant trees.

A few miles away a green pickup truck, with the official Forest Service emblem on the door, turned off State Route 64 and headed east on the Ten-X Ranch turnoff. They were traveling north of 7,326-foot Red Butte, that rises like a beacon to travelers between Williams and Grand Canyon. The truck traveled fast, churning clouds of dust.

Just as the flame was about to gather itself into a lunge in all directions, the dust cloud boiled over the scene, catching up with the braking truck. Two men jumped out and grabbed fire rakes and their trusty Pulaskis—the firefighters' indispensable cutting and digging tools. Splitting up and working feverishly, they began scraping a circle around the fire. They chopped out grass and twigs, building an ever-widening fire line around the burning trunk.

As if sensing its competition, the trunk flared in heated anger, forcing the men to move away from the circle. But the fire was in a race it was about to lose. An hour passed, and the two men met on the other side of the circle. Without stopping, they crossed and shoveled the dirt back onto the glowing grass clumps, widening the fire line once more. The fire died, choking on itself. The broken trunk lost its flame and crumbled into a pile of coals. By the time the sweating figures met again near the truck, the battle was won. All that remained were the smoldering embers burning back upon themselves. Drinking from his canteen, the Forest Service firefighter spoke into his radio.

"We got to this one in time," he said. "Another 30 minutes and it would have been too late."

They sat in the truck cab drinking from their canteens, watching the embers die. Finally, the firefighter started the engine, shifted gears and turned the truck back to the road. He looked up at the sky.

"The clouds are building again," he said. "Looks like it might rain this evening."

58th Anniversary Historic Landmark Reception

June 30, 2014

Remarks by Wayne Ranney, President of GCHS

Thank you one and all for being here today at GCNP. I wish we could be meeting under different circumstances but given the nature of our being here, I am pleased to know that after 58 years you are finally being given the official recognition you deserve and a sense of closure that you may have never received. The community of Grand Canyon welcomes you and honors all of you who lost loved ones. We have not forgotten.

My name is Wayne Ranney and I am the President of the GCHS. Our Society was established in 1984 by a group of GC Village residents who wanted to preserve the rich and colorful human history of the Grand Canyon. The idea, if I may paraphrase it in my own words, was that the geology of this world-class landform always seemed to overwhelm and diminish the many human endeavors that have occurred here. I don't say this readily – I am a geologist myself! But in our 30-year existence, the Society has sponsored three symposiums (with a 4th scheduled for January, 2017), established an Oral History Project (which is on-going this week at GCNP and which many of you we hope will participate in), and publishes stories and articles in our quarterly newsletter, *The Ol' Pioneer*. We are honored that the NPS has chosen to include our organization at this reception and to be part of this milestone event.

After the crash in 1956,

the remains of most of the victims were interred at two locations, Flagstaff's Citizen's Cemetery for TWA passengers and here at Grand Canyon Cemetery for United Airlines passengers. This morning we gathered at these sites to lay wreaths in remembrance of those who lost their lives. Now, we are gathered here in one place to reflect on the events of 58 years ago. We hope that coming together as one group inspires you to see in each other a way to reflect on the past and see into the future.

The accident was of course a tremendous personal tragedy for many people in this room. But, it was also an important historical event for our nation, the field of aviation, and GCNP. While many grieved, others went to work to fix the problems at the root caused of the accident. As we know, the existing Civil Aeronautics Administration was morphed into the Federal Aviation Agency, later changed to

the Federal Aviation Administration. In a sense, the sky above us became better organized so that a tragedy like this would not easily be repeated. These were the results of the crash on a national level.

Locally, the efforts of the NPS to accommodate and support the huge numbers of people who arrived here after the crash, people from the military – the Air Force and the Army, the airlines – TWA and United – and the press – both radio and TV – was in itself an event. This small Village, so used to throngs of people coming here on vacation, was shaken to its core by the scope of the accident. The residents of Grand Village in 1956 felt a personal connection to it, perhaps not as strongly as some in this room, but certainly much more than most others in our country, who could only read about it in the newspaper.

I myself have always felt a kind of personal connection to this tragedy. It happened on June 30, 1956 – one day before my 2nd birthday. Yes, that means that tomorrow is my 60th birthday, so in a way you can see in me the length of time since the crash. Twenty years later when I became a National Park Ranger at Grand Canyon, I was allowed to peruse the Park's collection of photographs and the first box of slides I opened were the official ones taken by NPS personnel at the recovery site. Alone in that room, I became



photo © Tom Martin

a living witness to the tragic nature of the event. To me, at that time, the event seemed ancient when it was actually only twenty years in the past.

As tenuous as these connections may be, I never knew how much closer I could come to it until my wife, Helen, was having lunch in Flagstaff one day in the fall of 2005 with fellow GCHS member Richard Quartaroli. It was then that they both hatched the idea for a commemoration event to be held on the 50th anniversary of the crash on June 30, 2006. This event was sponsored and hosted by the GCA and over 300 people came and were crammed into the Shrine of the Ages auditorium, where two children of victims attended. Most importantly, this event crystalized for the first time the

debt that the NPS and Grand Canyon Village owed to the hundreds of people whose lives were altered on that tragic day. That was the impetus for action on the part of the NPS and the GCHS. Our Society researched family contact information for notification, and collected general family information. All of this helped in securing the NHL nomination that is now a reality.

Finally, as a result of these dedication and commemoration events, GCHS can serve as the hub for future correspondence if family members such as you want to stay in touch. We maintain a non-public list of family members with contact information. It is through the GCHS that you can share stories, become involved with our Oral History Project, or submit ar-

ticles for our quarterly publication. I'd like to point out our OHP coordinator, Tom Martin, who is willing to conduct an oral history to be preserved in the GCNP Collections. And our web site is easy to access at www.grandcanyonhistory.org.

On behalf of the over 300 members of the GCHS, we welcome you to GCNP and we honor the memories you have lived with for these 58 years. We hope that today you take this opportunity to meet other family members and talk with National Park Service representatives and Grand Canyon Historical Society members about the NHL designation of the accident site. We remember those lost and we honor you.



Above: 1956 crash family survivors

Left: Color Guard

photos © Tom Martin



Formal National Historic Landmark Dedication

July 8, 2014

Remarks by Wayne Ranney, President of GCHS

Good morning everyone and welcome to Grand Canyon National Park. My name is Wayne Ranney and I am the President of the Grand Canyon Historical Society – established in 1984 by a group of Grand Canyon Village residents who wished to preserve the rich and colorful human history of the Grand Canyon. In the 30-year existence of our Society we have endeavored to keep the memory of the many human successes and failures that have occurred at this iconic landscape in focus for future generations. Ours is not a Society of merely preserving old photographs or dusty texts, but of putting history in clear view so that people alive today can learn from the past. I guess that is why the National Park Service so graciously and thoughtfully asked our organization to be a part of this dedication. I am honored to represent the Society here today and we are honored that the National Park Service has chosen to include us at this important dedication. We have never forgotten the scope and scale of this horrific accident in the skies over Grand Canyon.

A little over one week ago on June 30, we commemorated the 58th anniversary of the mid-air collision of two airliners over Grand Canyon – TWA Flight 2 and United Airlines Flight 718. Memorial wreaths were laid at both mass gravesites in Flagstaff and Grand Canyon. About fifty family members came, some for the first time since the accident. Sons and daughters of the victims, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were here to remember. In most respects it was a happy event but in every sense it was also a moving and heart-rending occasion. I was amazed that after 58 years that anyone involved with the crash would bother to come at all. But such is the depth to which this tragedy cut

into the lives of thousands of people.

One of the themes that we continually heard last week was how the crash severely and negatively impacted the lives of so many family members, such as spouses and children, who were left behind in the wake of the disaster, which rippled outward much farther than the 128 people who lost their lives that day. In the innocent and naïve decade of the 1950s people were expected to be strong, stand tall, and perhaps pretend that it never really happened and would just go away. Perhaps that was an equal part of the tragedy – that many of them had few places to turn to where they could express their grief or feel the depth of their tragic loss.

In the years following the crash the National Park Service reacted to the event in much the same way. I saw this first hand when I became a ranger at Grand Canyon only 20 years after the accident. Like a lot of family members who were profoundly wounded, the National Park Service employees and residents of Grand Canyon Village couldn't believe it happened here and wished it would just go away. Two after-crash clean up projects were undertaken to repair the landscape below us but little was done to repair the broken hearts or shattered lives left across a country of 169 million people.

And then remarkably, eight and a half years ago in late 2005, a chance luncheon in Flagstaff between my wife, Helen Ranney of the Grand Canyon Association and historian Richard Quartaroli of Northern Arizona University, started a conversation that everyone felt was appropriate – a commemoration event to be held in Grand Canyon Village on the 50th anniversary of the mid-air collision, June 30th, 2006. I think the National Park Service was as surprised as the rest of us to see every seat in the Shrine of the Ages Auditorium taken by people from all walks of life who just wanted to honor the people who were lost, recall and

remember the tragedy, and touch a piece of history. At that commemoration, we were all touched when two family members showed up, Ray Cook who lost his father on the United Airlines flight and Sally Gauthier who lost her father on TWA (please stand).

That event hosted by the Grand Canyon Association, eight years ago changed everything related to this accident at Grand Canyon National Park. It began a process whereby the accident could be viewed in the context of the present without the shadows of the pain of the past. The National Park Service completely reversed course on its long silence and began to understand the accident not merely as a scar upon the landscape but also as a scar upon hearts that needed only remembrance, acknowledgment, and closure. Bravo to the National Park Service today for acknowledging that this event is an important piece of Grand Canyon and United States history! I want to thank everyone with the National Park Service, the Grand Canyon Historical Society, the Grand Canyon Association, and the Federal Aviation Administration who made this designation possible. But especially let's thank Rangers Ian Hough and Jan Balsom who spearheaded the drive to make this happen. Without their personal understanding of the crash and their professional commitment to see something done, we would not be here today.

Three minutes – that was the elapsed time between take off for both of those planes. How many times people must have thought if the planes had only been delayed just a few more seconds somewhere on their path toward the Painted Desert VOR line that stretched 200 miles between Bryce Canyon to the north and Winslow to the south. Just a few more seconds would have prevented this crash. But the truth is, if this accident didn't happen here on June 30, 1956, it would have happened elsewhere not long afterward. With

the benefit of 58 years of reflection we can now see that as a people we were giddy with our technological ability to fly cross-country and that our enthusiasm for flight far outpaced the need to better regulate the sky for air traffic. In some unthinkable way, this accident needed to happen so that the skies above us could become better organized for safety, speed, and modern lifestyle we may take for granted today. Regulations, especially federal ones, often get a bad rap these days but let this tragedy be a reminder to us all what the results can be when there is too little of it.

On behalf of the over 300 members of the Grand Canyon Historical Society, we welcome you to Grand Canyon National Park and we honor the family members here today and who have lived with their sense of loss for these 58 years. We hope that all of you will take this opportunity to meet the family members who are here with us (show of hands please), talk with National Park Service representatives (in uniform) and Grand Canyon Histori-

cal Society members (show of hands please) about the National Historic Landmark designation of the accident site. We remember those lost and we thank everyone for being here today.

The Ol' Pioneer submission deadlines are roughly the first of January, April, July, and October.



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