



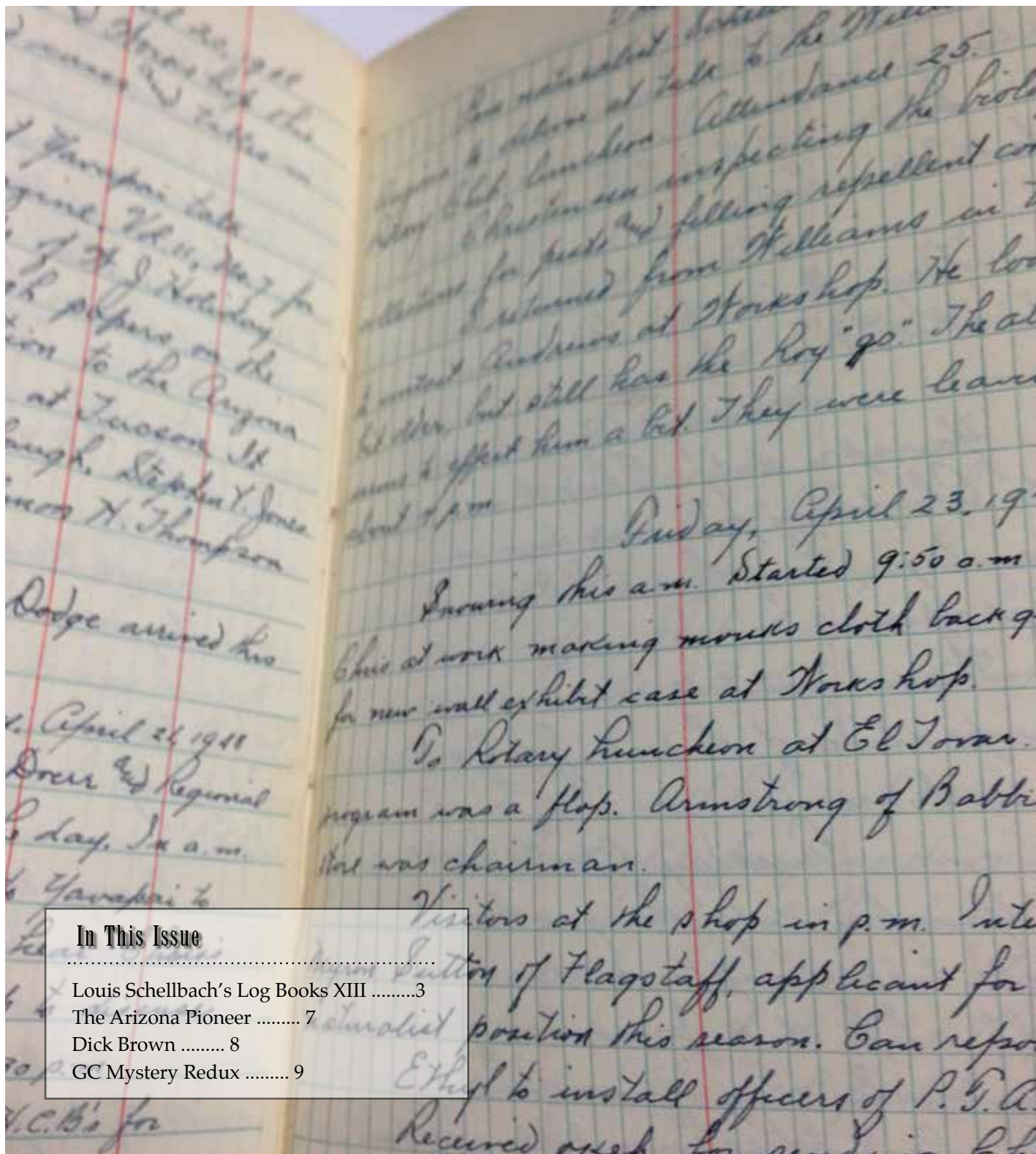
# The Ol' Pioneer

The Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

Volume 28 : Number 1

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Winter 2017



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# President's Letter

What a great event! (If you were there, then you know what I speak of). Thanks to all of our dedicated members, volunteers, the Board, and partners who helped make the 4th Grand Canyon History Symposium such a success. I can honestly say that the whole thing went off without a single hitch. I would like to extend a special thank you to our hard working Committee Chairpersons and the two Co-Chairs, Dave Mortenson and Helen Ranney, who dedicated themselves to insure that the Symposium was a perfect blend of history, learning, camaraderie, and fun. I also want to thank our excellent presenters who provided us with a fantastic series of talks. I've lived and learned about the Grand Canyon for 41 years and was amazed at the amount of new information that was generated about the canyon's history. This will certainly be a Symposium to remember.

It was nice to meet Christine Lehnertz, Grand Canyon's 19th Superintendent (and first woman Superintendent). She gave great Welcoming Remarks and was seen more than once coming back to take part in the fun. She seemed to especially enjoy learning about the replica boats, set up in the open space between the Shrine of the Ages and the Pioneer Cemetery. Her team with the National Park Service made our members and non-members alike feel welcome. Special kudos to Interpretive Ranger (and GCHS Board member) Ron Brown, who handled the thankless task of making the presenters' slide programs run flawlessly (with just one glitch and that presenter rolled beautifully through it). Thanks also to Michael Quinn who videotaped all of the presentations. I'm sure that the NPS 2016 Centennial year was given a proper send off with this Symposium. We also couldn't have pulled it off without the enthusiastic cooperation of the two concessionaires at Grand Canyon, Grand Canyon National Park Lodges (Xanterra) and Delaware North at Grand Canyon. Our Friday night mixer was a huge success and very well received by all.

Our after-Symposium survey was completed by 72 people or 29% of attendees, a remarkable response rate by industry standards (5% is considered excellent). 75% of them rated the symposium as excellent, 22% as very good, and 3% as merely good (with no responses for fair or poor). We are pleased to see the response. Some great suggestions were received such as more talks and field trips.

So with this in mind, at our recent Board meeting a "Planning Committee 2019" was initiated to start preparing for the 5th Symposium in Grand Canyon's Centennial year. If you would like to help on a Committee or perhaps even serve on the Board, I invite you to become more involved. The Society is entering a new and exciting phase with improvements to our journal, ideas for more field trips, and Symposium planning. This organization is only as good as the support it receives from its members.

My two terms as Board member and President will end in 2017 and I encourage anyone with a love of history, the Grand Canyon, or our wonderful community to become more involved. I can honestly say this is one of the most rewarding ventures I have ever embarked on. I invite you to join us in the fun!

Wayne Ranney  
President

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Cover: One of Louis Schellbach's log books. Photo by Traci Wyrick.

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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 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.

Editor: Mary Williams

Submission deadlines: January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Submit photos and stories to the editor of *The Ol' Pioneer* at: [info@marywilliamsdesign.com](mailto:info@marywilliamsdesign.com) Contact for mailing address (928) 779-3377. Please submit written articles and photos electronically on CD or via email if possible. You may mail photos for scanning if needed.

Submissions to *The Bulletin* should be sent to Karen Greig, [kgreig@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreig@yahoo.com)

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# Louis Schellbach's Log Books Part 13

by Traci Wyrick

## Thursday August 1, 1946

Ranger-naturalist returned to duty from leave without pay. Wing to go to North Rim tomorrow for duty there under Schulz. Arnberger left for season.

## Friday August 2, 1946

Routine duty. Making posters for Campfire Talks starting next week, Tuesdays and Thursday evenings. Wing to North Rim for duty. An ex marine Uhler signed on for season as ranger-naturalist. To report for duty tomorrow. To Rotary Club luncheon. New G.C. doctor was the speaker.

## Saturday August 3, 1946

Day Off. To Williams with family for shopping. New road construction near Red Lake terrible. Got stuck in loose volcanic cinder surfacing and almost ruined car. Returned via Flagstaff and Cameron. To movie in evening with Don. Hurlstone Fairchild called and said he was leaving tomorrow. Voiced appreciation of cooperation. Uhler, ranger-naturalist, did not report in for duty. Heard his wife was very sick.

## Monday August 5, 1946

Sturm leaves tomorrow on a weeks leave without pay. Inspected Campfire Circle for talk tomorrow evening. Seats in terrible condition were sprayed with D.D.T. to eliminate insects.

Got out general memorandum to operators etc. re Camp Fire Talks. Wrote John S. Garth re his reservations on North Rim, while working on our preliminary checklist of butterflies. So far our list has 99 species and subspecies, which compares formally with Yosemite's 100. We will have more. Still working on G.C. N.H. Assn bank deposit. Awaiting Schultz North Rim report. Prepared sales publications for the Supt. H.C.B. to take around to the North Rim tomorrow.

## Tuesday August 6, 1946

Sturm off. Prepared weekly work schedule of department. Making posters for lodge, hotel and Post Office of the Camp Fire Talks. Ordered slacks, new uniform and hat from McGinnis at Merced, Calif. Campfire Talk.

## Wednesday August 7, 1946

Attended staff meeting in the a.m. Brought up matter of the Yavapai parapet binoculars and leaking exhibit cases. Attended correspondence and shipped off beetle (adult) found in Yellow pine logs of the Cafeteria. Made a check of the preliminary check list of butterflies as checked off in the McDougall checklist and found we have so far recorded 115 butterflies (species) in the Park. Jack Cotter with his Boy Scout Troop of Clarkdale, visited the Park. Asst. Supt. Garrison met and interviewed him re administrative assistant position.

## Monday August 12, 1946

Made up July publication sales and bank deposit for G.C. N.H. Assn. Also prepared weekly work schedule. Sturm has not reported in. Schroeder to have his 2 days off this week held over until next week for a trip to Santa Fe. Attended corresp. Meeting at 5 p.m. Community . Had the Kaiser family as dinner guests. He is A.P. man at Phoenix, Ariz. Regional Director M.R. Tillitson in.

## Tuesday August 13, 1946

Completed correspondence and signed the monthly report. Sturm arrived but as yet has not reported to me 11:30 a.m. He is scheduled for Lodge lecture this evening. I took Sturm's place and presented the Bright Angel Lodge lecture at 8:00 p.m. Then to Campfire lecture to check on Carswell. He did a good job.

## Wednesday August 14, 1946

Sturm reported in for duty at Yavapai. Force sent out there for policing grounds. Preparing equipment and

supplies, purchase list. Trouble with housing of my temporaries, Sturm and Schroeder. Both have families and no quarters livable available. To movie in evening with Don Lou.

## Thursday August 15, 1946

Routine duty. Schroeder relieved at Yavapai by Dowling, to move to other quarters. G.T. Robbins, Herbarium Assistant of the Univ. of Arizona, in with Mrs. K.W. Parker of Tucson and Miss Elizabeth McClintock of U.C.L.A.—both botanists. Campfire rained out.

## Friday August 16, 1946

Ranger-naturalist Dowling terminated work last night. Schroeder busy moving yesterday and today. Miss Ayers of Chi. Office in. Prepared letter to Busch and Lomb Optical Co. asking information on scope and binoculars for Yavapai. Party for the temporary men at Bryant's this eve. Painting Campfire projection screen. To Rotary luncheon. Painting Campfire projection screen.

## Monday August 19, 1946

Carswell on leave to North Rim with H.C.B.—Schroeder to leave this evening for Santa Fe, to be gone four days. In a.m. prepared the sound projector at office for viewing a 16 mm reel of Kodachrome taken this spring. Rain at noon. Prepared work schedule and changed rain gage for week.

## Wednesday August 21, 1946

Attended staff meeting. H.C.B. brought back from Garth on North Rim, 80 specimens of butterflies to fill out our series in collection. Sturm at Yavapai. Heavy rain in p.m. Took another roll of Kodachrome old stock of clouds over canyon and sent to L.A. for processing. Schlessinger and wife in. They took Ethyl and I to dinner at El Tovar. We had them at home afterward. Hastings, wife and children in at Shop—Custodian of Montezuma Castle.





Schellbach on the job.

**Thursday August 22, 1946**

Attended correspondence in a.m. Completed painting projection screen. Carswell reported in. Schlessinger took some movie shots around the shop. Kit Wing brought the Carswell's around. Received 50 copies "Southwestern Monuments" from S.W.N.M. Assn's, Dale King. To sell for \$3.00. To Service personel \$2.00. Sold 12 to personel, sent 10 to North Rim and 8 to Yavapai. Spud and Jane Bill arrived. The Kodachromes sent to Capital City Parks were returned to day. To dinner as guests of Mr. Gotsberger.

**Saturday August 31, 1946**

In a.m., out to see McKee and look at the photographic exhibit there. Left around 1:30 p.m. for Prescott. Arrived Prescott and put up at Shadowcroft Court. Did some shopping with family, Dinner at Hassiampa Hotel and then to movie.

**Sunday Sept 22, 1946**

Day Off. In evening compiled notes on the "Depressaria" reared from larvae in 1944 for J. Gates Clark. Letter from L.M. Klauber re determination of what I thought was a glossy snake "Arizona elegans". This he says is "Hypsigleva ochrorhyncha" DOR snake, and supposed to be fairly well distributed over northern Arizona.

**Friday Sept. 6. 1946**

Chief ranger Perry Brown reported to me this morning that the Colorado River Trailside exhibit has been vandalized. The plate glasses broken, specimens stolen and maps, charts and labels destroyed. What kind of American visitors are we having these days? No respect for their own property or for others. This not only applies to the above but to the Yavapai Observation station also and the area in general. The job must have been done according to Perry, sometime

Saturday night or Sunday.

**Monday Sept. 9, 1946**

To Flagstaff with Dr. Bryant, his son and the Carswells, to attend the meeting of the Meteorite Society on the College campus. Received 10 copies of Utah Hist. Quarterly and "Apes, Giants and Man" by Wudenreich. William B. Hafford, Prescott, Ariz, presented the study collection, with 23 pheles of different pollens that are condusive to asthma and hay fever. Mrs. Rose Collom arrived this a.m.

**Tuesday Sept. 10, 1946**

Made up bank deposit of August publication sales. Mrs. Collom to the North Rim until Friday.

**Monday Sept. 16, 1946**

Checking out paleontological specimens of Kaibab requested by Miss Halka Pattison, Standford Univ. for study. (610 Cabrillo, Stan. U. Calif)

Made weekly work schedule and attended rain gage. Payed Federation dues to L. Gastellem. Received clean retyped manuscript of "Checklist of Plants, G.C.N.P." from Dr. W. B. McDougall this p.m. Now it must be typed for photo lithographing. The desert scaly lizards in captivity are doing well. The largest lay two white skinned eggs today. Received shipment of maps from U.S.G.S. Sent letter and specimen of Glossy snake (*Arizona elegans*) to Klauber this day for determination. Received also from McDougall, Checklist of Death Valley plants for library. Evening gave talk at Bright Angel Lodge 8:00 p.m. Attendance approx. 209.

#### **Tuesday Sept. 17, 1946**

Al Schroder making survey of new archaeological site near village. Sturm at Yavapai. Carswell day off but in at workshop helping Mrs. Collom on botanical collection. Got specimens and letter off to Halka Pattison. Received from Reg. Office three photo prints of G.C. from their negatives for our files. Acknowledged receipt and in return sent 12 Kodachrome views of G.C. for their slide library. Dr. Bryant turned in a 16 mm. reel of early motion pictures by Stephen Mather's daughter, Mrs. E.R. McPherson, for the library. They were taken Oct. 10, 1927.

#### **Wednesday Sept 18, 1946**

Mrs. Rose Collom left this a.m. on the bus for Phoenix. Sky overcast. Representative of Life Magazine in to do an article on G.C. yesterday afternoon. Showed her about the workshop. Life photographer in today. The Mather 16 mm. movie reel received yesterday is of the "Congressional Party and Park Service Officials inspect new improvements on South Rim", taken by Stephen T. Mather. Prepared 16 songs slides for campfire and community singing.

#### **Thursday Sept 19, 1946**

Routine work. Preparing specimens of "Depressaria" reared in 1944 for shipment to U.S. N. Museum, Dept. of Entomology, and writing up notes on

same for J.G. Clarke. In p.m. attended representatives from Life Magazine, who are working up an article on Grand Canyon. In evening gave Lodge Talk at B.A.

#### **Friday Sept. 20, 1946**

In a.m. took Life representatives along West Rim Drive to point out geological features. Attended Rotary Luncheon. Schroeder presented talk on archaeology. Sturm brought in larvae on Pinyon pine tip. Two of the colony preserved in alcohol. The rest placed in breeding jar for rearing, and determining adult stage or moth.

#### **Tuesday Sept 24, 1946**

Routine duty. Attended packing of the "Depressaria" reared in 1944 to J.F. Gates Clarke for determination and letter of transmittal to Muesbeck, in charge Dept. Insect Identification U.S. Dept. Agri. Wash. D.C.

#### **Friday Sept 27, 1946**

Last night was the last Campfire Talk of the season. Notices prepared for their discontinuence for the season. To Rotary Luncheon held today at the Bright Angel Lodge. Ordered 2 books on pollen and pollen plants yesterday for the Reference Library.

#### **Saturday Sept 28, 1946**

Day Off. To Flagstaff with family. Took the Carswells also. Attended to contacting Mrs. Carol Jones for typing m/s of Checklist of Plants. Also contacted Les and Gale Arnberger at the Coltons. Arrived home too late for the movie.

#### **Sunday Sept 29, 1946**

Day Off. At shop cutting petrified wood and painted the drain board at home. Asst. Park Naturalist Paul Schulz arrived from North Rim duties.

#### **Monday Sept. 30, 1946**

Attended rain gage. To office to pose with staff for Life photographer. Attended corresp. Fed the pine larvae, and mounted a "velvet ant" from B.A. Point. Stepped up the replacement process of preserved pine larvae. Sturm completed seasons work today.

. . .

**NEW NAMES NOT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED:** (I have excluded names where Schellbach already identifies them in the above entries, unless I've found more in-depth information on them.)

Perry Brown—Brown was a chief ranger and later became Superintendent of Big Bend National Park from 1963-1967.

Halka Pattison Chronic-- (1923-2013) Halka worked with Eddie McKee in the 1940s, which helped build the foundation for her future in geology. She received her Ph.D in geology, and among her passions were the fossils in Walnut Canyon.

Klauber—Laurence Monroe Klauber (1883-1968) Klauber was an American herpetologist and the foremost authority on rattlesnakes in his time. He was the first curator of reptiles and amphibians at San Diego Natural History Museum.

John S Garth—Garth was a USC biology professor and internationally recognized as an expert on marine crustaceans and butterflies. He wrote the award winning book "California Butterflies".

Mrs. Carol Jones—steno-typist who worked in Flagstaff.

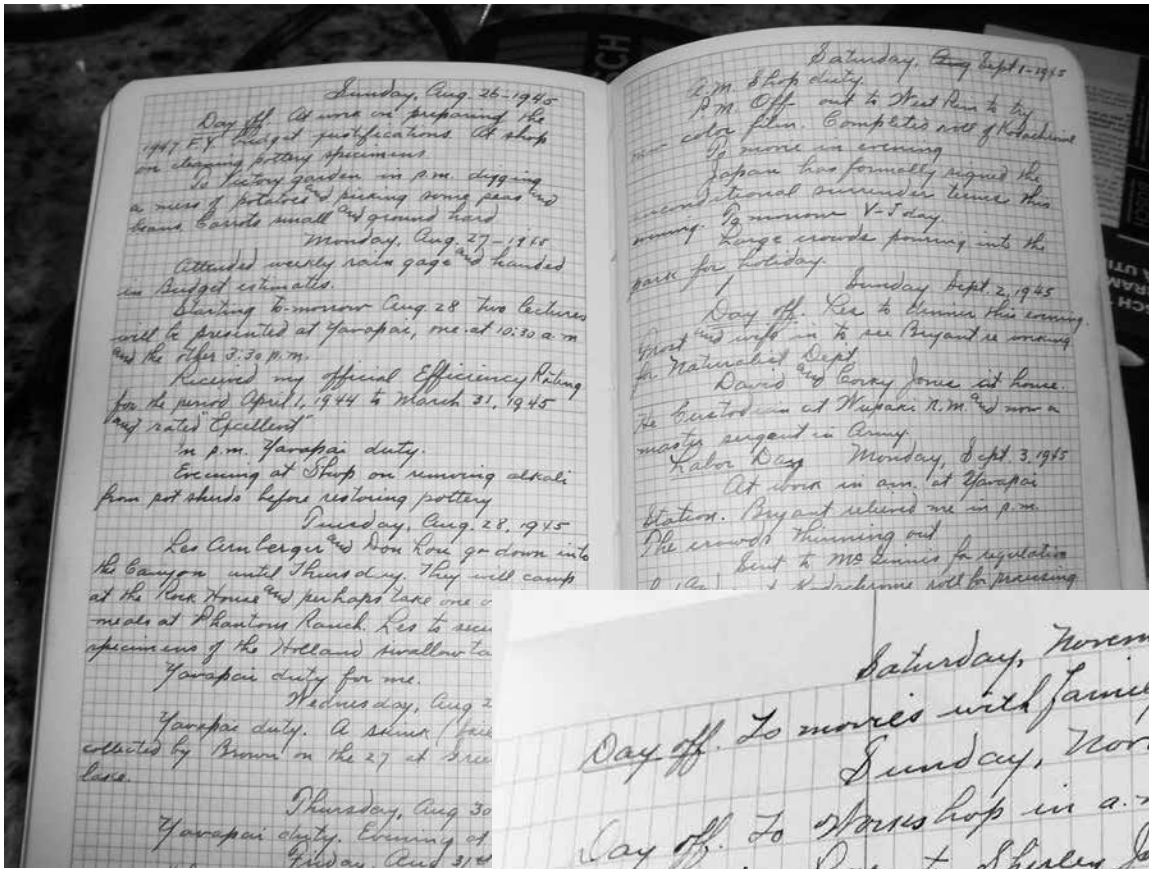
William Hafford (?)

#### **ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS:**

From Part 12: "Wing"- Kit is his first name.

From Part 1- (update) J.G. Clarke—J.F. Gates Clarke (1905-1990) Clarke was an entomologist and moth expert. He was a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. He was instrumental in developing a collection of more than 30 million insects for the museum's department of entomology.

From Part 6-(update) Carl F.W. Muesbeck (1894-1987) one of the 20th century's most noted and productive entomologists. He was honorary president of the entomological society of Washington, and identified insects for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.



Sunday, Aug 26, 1945  
 Day off. At work on preparing the 1947 F.Y. report justifications. At shop on cleaning pottery specimens.  
 In factory garden in p.m. digging a mass of potatoes & picking some peas and beans. Carrots small and ground hard.

Monday, Aug 27, 1945  
 Attended weekly rain gage and handed in Budget estimates.  
 Starting tomorrow Aug 28 two lectures will be presented at Yavapai, one at 10:30 a.m. and the other 3:30 p.m.  
 Received my official Efficiency Rating for the period April 1, 1944 to March 31, 1945 and rated "Excellent".  
 In p.m. Yavapai duty.  
 Evening at Shop on removing alkali from pot stands before restoring pottery.

Tuesday, Aug 28, 1945  
 Les Amberg and Don Hou go down into the Canyon until Thursday. They will camp at the Rock House and perhaps take one or more meals at Phantom Ranch. Les to see specimens of the Holland Swallowtail.  
 Yavapai duty for me.

Wednesday, Aug 29  
 Yavapai duty. A shrimp (see collected by Brown on the 27 at Blue Lake).

Thursday, Aug 30  
 Yavapai duty. Evening at Yavapai. Aug 31

Saturday, Aug 25, 1945  
 2 p.m. Shop duty.  
 P.M. Off. out to West Run to try color film. Completed roll of Kodachrome to more in evening.  
 Japan has formally signed the unconditional surrender terms this morning. To morning 4-5 day.  
 Large crowds pouring into the park for holiday.

Sunday, Sept 2, 1945  
 Day off. Les to dinner this evening and with us to see Bryant re opening the Naturalist Dept.  
 David and Carry Jones at home. He bustled in at Yavapai 11:30 and was a master sergeant in Army.  
 Labor Day Monday, Sept 3, 1945  
 At work in am. at Yavapai Station. Bryant returned me in p.m. The snowblowing out.  
 Sent to M.B. Dennis for registration of film. 4 Kodachrome roll to processing.

Saturday, November 16, 1946  
 Day off. To movies with family in eve.

Sunday, November 17, 1946  
 Day off. To Workshop in a.m. & p.m. on roads and ends. Letter to Shirley Jones of England.

Monday, November 18, 1946  
 Yavapai duty. Schulz off. Attended rain gage. Small attendance at Yavapai.

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1946.  
 Yavapai duty. Schulz day off. A copy of letter to Director Region 4, from Director Region III, calling off transfer of Schulz to Lassen N.P. He wants him to remain at Grand Canyon.

On ranger naturalists efficiency ting reports.

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1946  
 Staff meeting in a.m. Don Hou had accident this a.m. on his bike by knocking on Sall & D.

## THE ARIZONA PIONEER

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Every traveler who goes to the Grand Canyon of Arizona, hears of Capt. John Hance, the famous old pioneer and yarn-spinner; and those who are fortunate meet him and hear some of his yarns. The "Captain" has a genius for the making and telling of tales as tall as the canyon—tales which are frank and glorious lies, like most of the world's treasures of romance, and which Arizona will cherish, perhaps, just as Greece cherished the grand eloquent legends of the Trojan war.

But now and then the captain has a serious mood, and indulges in it by telling a true story more interesting than his lies. One of these moods took possession of him as we sat on the edge of a cliff and looked down into the purple mazes of that untenanted City Wonderful, through whose silent depths the hidden Colorado flows.

"Last winter," said the captain, in his inimitable quiet drawl, "me and my partner started down into the canyon to do some prospectin'. We separated, as usual, an' took our stuff to different camps, agreein' to meet three weeks from that day at the top an' go to Flagstaff together on business. Well, I took a look at my asbestos mine an' a few other holes in the rocks, an' pounded away at new places without findin' much, an' finally crawled up on the twenty-first day to meet Jake. Well, he didn't come. Fur six days I knocked aroun' my old camp there an' still he didn't come. By that time I knew there was trouble, fur Jake was the exactest man that ever clumb these rocks. Still, I didn't want to think he was dead, so I went into Flagstaff an' asked whether he'd been seen there, or at Williams, or the Bright Angel, or Bass', or anywhere along the road. Not a word of him could I hear, so I came back to this here big ole ditch to find him."

I smiled at Capt. John's irreverent title for the great canyon which he had loved as his home for thirty years. "You came alone?" I asked.

"Course," he answered, "who could help me? I knew just about where he'd be. I made a bee line fur the piece o' country where he started to look fur mineral, and in less 'n three days I found his camp. There it all was—his pot o' beans all dried up on the ashes of his fire where he'd let 'em to cook, his pile o' canned things an' dried up biscuits, an' flour, an' bacon, his blanket rolled up fur the day, everythin' fixed up jus' as he'd left 'em in the mornin'.

"Well, I searched through everythin' an' finally found his diary—we allus keep a diary, you know, when we go off prospeetin', so's not to lose count o' the days. The last entry was Jan. 16, ten days after we parted. 'Digging three miles below here,' it said, 'just above the granite—no finds yet.'

"So I knew I would find him down the river about three miles an' twelve hundred feet or so up from it. An' o' course I knew the kind o' country where he'd be likely to look fur mineral. Sure enough, the nex' day I came acrost him, lyn' cluttered up with a big o' loose rock. There he lay with a broken hip, his face up an' his dead eyes glarin' at the sky. An' there he had died alone, after sufferin' an' starvin' probably, furdays an' nights.

"It was plain as day how it all happened. He had been poundin' into a ledge o' rock about 10 feet above, an' somethin' had slipped, an' down he had come with the stones a-top o' him. I reckon it was kind o' hard to wait there till death got ready to come.

"Well, I laid him out straight and decent on the rocks and wrapped him in a blanket an' piled the stones over him fur a grave—fur there weren't earth enough aroun' there to bury a man in. Then I rolled a big rock on his head an' marked it with his name an' the day he died and wrote 'Good-bye Jake' on it. An' so I left him. An' if 'twas me I'd rather stay right there, but his relations are bound to carry him up an' have a proper funeral in Flagstaff. It'll be a hard job, but if they want it, it's got to be done."

"How can they want it!" I exclaimed, wondering what fitter resting place they could find for the lonely prospector than this grave of stones on the spot where he fell, in the most beautiful wilderness ever conceived by the mind of God. How stern must have seemed his fate to him, as he lay there through the silent hours, with the torrent below and the heights above him, beyond the reach of a friendly hand or voice, waiting in pain and solitude for the inevitable death.

—*The Topeka State Journal*, July 2, 1903. Citation reads: "Harriet Monroe in *New York Journal*."

*Submitted by Shane Murphy*



# Introducing New Board Member Dick Brown

At the last GCHS Board meeting, Dick Brown of Tijeras, NM was elected to a 3-year term (2017-2018-2019). The 'Ol Pioneer interviewed Dick so that he can be introduced to our members. Incidentally, while he is new to the Board, he is not new to GCHS. He's been a member since 1984, having been recruited by Fred and Jeanne Schick when we were known as the Grand Canyon Pioneer Society.

'Ol Pioneer: After all your years as a member, what made you run for the Board now?

Dick Brown: I really believe in the GCHS mission and now that I'm winding down on other activities and reducing my participation in other organizations, I have more time, and still have the energy, to contribute to the Historical Society team's important work.

OP: What were those other activities that have been taking up your time?

DB: Well, for starters, my engineering career (retired). I'm a Cold War Submarine Veteran and as a civilian I have been involved with our Naval Submarine Force. I was the Navy League's Rocky Mountain Region President and Chairman of the Commissioning Committee for the nuclear submarine USS New Mexico. During the same period, I served on the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Heritage Committee and was recently inducted into its Hall of Fame. I know, submarines and balloons – I just can't keep my feet on the ground. I also served as a National Director for the American Council of Engineering Companies and as President of their Board of Directors. I designed a large microwave communication network and radio telemetry systems for 200 utility sites throughout the Navajo Reservation and won Arizona's Engineering Excellence award in 1989 for my work with Northland Pioneer College. That project was a

two-way distance learning network connecting the Holbrook campus to various satellite campuses in Winslow, Show Low and throughout northern Arizona.



OP: Okay, got it, you've been very active in your professional career as well as other organizations; how did you find time to connect with the Grand Canyon.

DB: It's my favorite place in the world and I've been coming here for decades. On my first visit in 1969, I remember seeing Emery Kolb taking pictures through his studio window of mule riders at the head of the Bright Angel Trail. I did not know who he was until years later. I've hiked most of the Canyon's backcountry trails and have been conducting exhaustive research on our canyon pioneers for over 35 years. From museums and libraries throughout the Southwest, I've collected a dozen Office Depot boxes of research material.

OP: Who's your favorite pioneer?

DB: I have two – Pete Berry and Louis Boucher. Before Pete arrived on the scene he was a silver miner in Colorado's Quartz Creek Mining District which had claims named Horseshoe, Last Chance and Flagstaff – perhaps foretelling of his future endeavors running a Flagstaff saloon and developing the Last Chance Mine on Horseshoe Mesa. And about "Ol Louie – after he was driven out of his

so-called Canyon domain by the Santa Fe Railway, he settled in Trinidad, Colorado where, ironically, he advocated a railroad extension from Marysville, Utah to Point Sublime to help build the tourist trade on the North Rim.

OP: Have you had any articles in *The 'Ol Pioneer*?

DB: I submitted a few articles in the 1980s and now with retirement here, I'd be willing to contribute more. I am a prolific writer and have authored three award-winning books and over 100 magazine articles. By the way, I have been a presenter at our last three History Symposia and have volunteered to work on the Planning Committee for our 2019 Symposium which will coincide with the Grand Canyon National Park Centennial celebrations. Also, I might mention that I will be presenting a paper titled "Uncle Jim Owens – Grand Old Man of the North Rim" at the Arizona-New Mexico Joint History Convention in Flagstaff, April 20-23, 2017.

OP: Will living in New Mexico make your attendance at board meetings or outings difficult?

DB: Not at all. I'm just an easy 6-hour drive away on I-40. Donna, my wife of 50 years, and I live in the Manzano Mountains 12 miles south of I-40, up in the ponderosas, at 7500-ft elevation, just like the ponderosa forests of Flagstaff and the South Rim. We love coming here!

OP: Any closing comments?

DB: I very much look forward to more involvement in GCHS. Having served on four other boards for 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, I believe I can contribute to the business of our organization while striving to meet our strategic goals and preserving our Grand Canyon history.

OP: Thank you Dick. I think we will make this interview a regular feature of *The 'Ol Pioneer* and visit with other board members in the near future.



# Alleson Grand Canyon Mystery Redux

In the Spring 2016 issue of *The Ol' Pioneer* (pp. 11-12), editor Mary Williams transcribed and printed a short piece, "Grand Canyon Mystery," by Harry Alleson that I sent after her request for a short piece to fill a blank spot. It's reprinted from the April 1953 *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 169-70). On a recent training trip for a commercial Grand Canyon river outfitter, I had shared this reading on John Wesley Powell's anniversary of his birth, March 24th. This new-to-them information shocked the attentive boatmen. Alleson, however, left out one crucial detail: the skeletons were of burros. (Something else left out, in the transcription a sentence in the first partial paragraph on p. 12 is missing, between "...skull. Only...": A stump of leathery ear clung to the second skull.) I had known about this article probably for over 20 years, but could not remember how I came to acquire the information. A query to the Utah State Historical Society, holders of the Harry Alleson Collection, resulted in the fact that no Alleson diary for 1943 (the time of the incident that Alleson details in the article) is in that collection. Luckily, Drifter Smith contacted me with some grand information regarding how he found out in 1989, and it may very well be that he shared it with me at that time.  
—Richard Quartaroli

Just got my *Ol' Pioneer* and I was surprised to see Harry Alleson's "Grand Canyon Mystery", which is one of my favorite discoveries. I think I ran across this around 1990 when I first got seriously interested in Grand Canyon History...the original "article" was published in the *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 21(2)(April 1953):pages 169-170.

I immediately wrote to Harvey Butchart to get his take on Alleson's tale. Somewhere around here I still have his letter—Harvey was REALLY GOOD at answering questions—but, alas, I can't put my hand on it at the moment\*...so here's what I remember him saying....

When Harry's alleged diary excerpt was published in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, P. T. Riley and others interested in Grand Canyon history quickly contacted Alleson for more details. His little diary excerpt sure makes it seem like he may have found the remains of the Howland brothers and William Dunn who disappeared near the end of Powell's 1869 river trip when they tried to hike out of the canyon at Separation Canyon.

Alleson's reply was to the effect that "I never said the remains were human!" Then he went on to say he was writing about the remains of a couple burros that he'd found.

Riley insisted that he still wanted directions so he could go view them

himself, if there was anything left to see. (Alleson's "diary excerpt" was dated in 1943 and published ten years later. Riley might have thought it would be worth a long hike to see the remains of a burro with red hair...)

In the end, Alleson admitted he made the whole thing up, and said there had never been any burros either. I think Butchart made some reference to Harry Alleson being a bit of a joker...

Anyway, Harvey's not around anymore to answer questions, and if what he had to say is true, there's not likely to be an entry for July 19th. 1943 in Harry's diary, or at least not one like what he wrote for *Utah Historical Quarterly*—if indeed they have a diary among his papers at the Utah State Historical Society.

Another bit of related trivia: "Billy" Hawkins, the cook and youngest of Powell's 1869 river crew made the following remark in a letter to W.W. Bass a few months before he died (in September 1919).

".....This is the last time we ever saw Dunn and the two Howland brothers alive. Some years afterwards I, with a party of some others, buried their bones in the Shewits Mountains, below Kanab Wash..."

As far as I can tell, subsequent Canyon historians don't take this at all seriously, and I don't remember ever seeing it mentioned in any of the usual books on Powell's expedition.

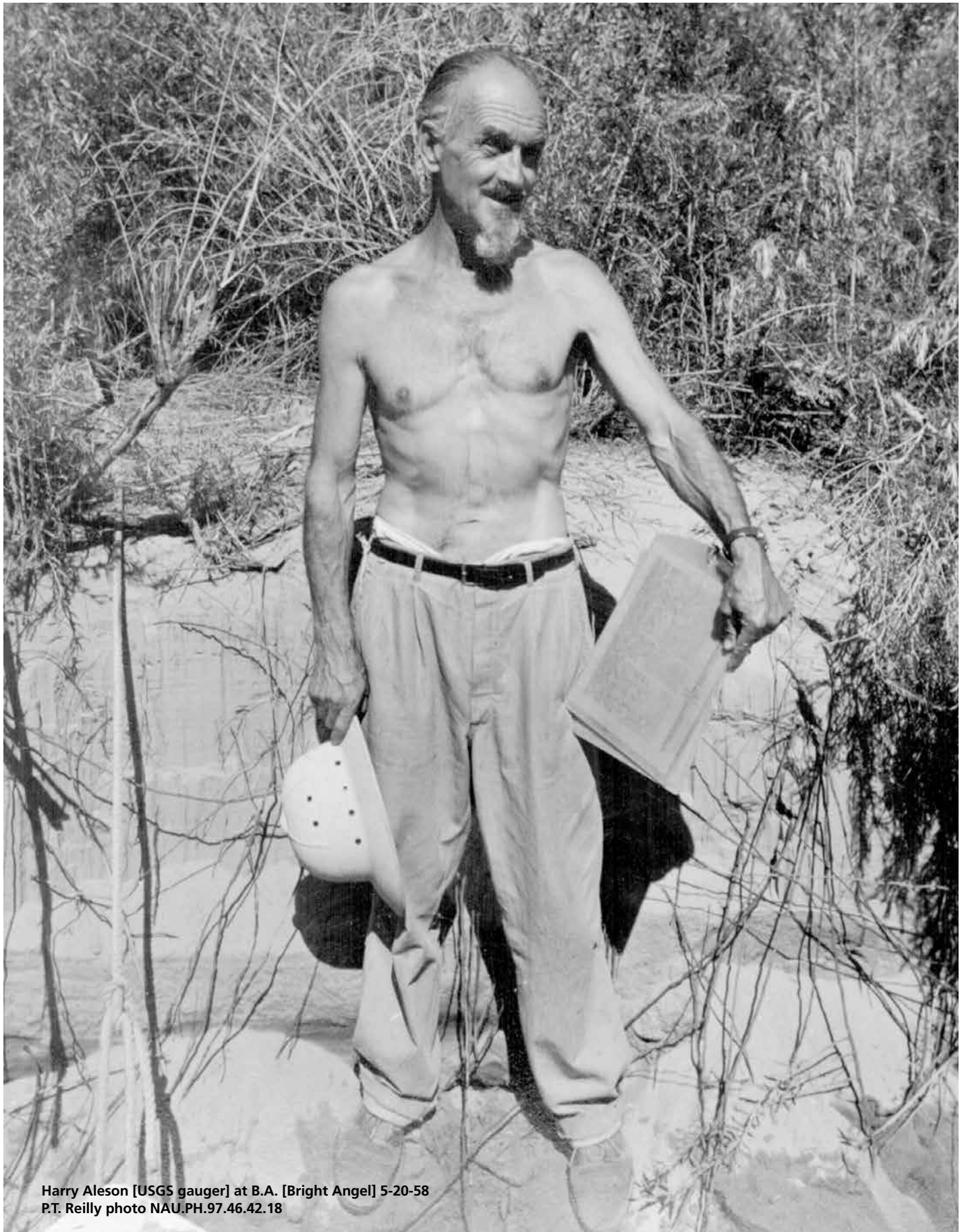
[Years earlier (in 1907), Hawkins had written a similar letter to Robert Brewster Stanton. Both are included in *Colorado River Controversies* by Robert Brewster Stanton, edited by James M. Chalfant, foreword by Julius F. Stone. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1932... i. e. published a decade or so after Stanton died. In the letter to Stanton in 1907, Hawkins does not mention burying the remains of the Howlands and Dunn.]

Some historians do, however, mention a Shiwits Paiute named Toab, who was fingered by Anthony W. Ivins as the bad guy who killed Powell's men. But that's yet ANOTHER story—one about quoting from sources you never bothered to look at, but just "saw" second hand. The original was "A Mystery of The Grand Canyon Solved," a chapter Ivins wrote in *Pioneer Stories* which was compiled by Preston Nibley and published in 1940. Anyone who read it and took it seriously does not deserve to be called a "historian."

I could go on, but I've got to get back to unpacking all those boxes...

Yours truly,  
Drifter Smith

\*I did find that letter from Harvey Butchart. I've attached scans...



Harry Aleson [USGS gauger] at B.A. [Bright Angel] 5-20-58  
P.T. Reilly photo NAU.PH.97.46.42.18

15225 Ridgeview Road  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
April 3, 1989

Dear Drifter,

Thank you for all that documentation. I had heard about the loss of the watch and the resulting hard feelings. But I had never gotten that story as straight as it is given here. It makes Powell and his brother look rather bad. Hawkins gives enough detail that I am inclined to think he is being accurate in the report of very unreasonable behavior on the part of the Powells.

Marston and Reilly have both given me the dope on Aleson's wild find in the remote area where he felt that the bones should be left undisturbed. When he was challenged to lead a party of history buffs to examine the bones and what might be there besides one bullet, he told why he didn't think it was worth going back. He said that the three skeletons were of burros. Nowhere in his short article that was published in the Utah Hist. Quarterly does it say that these were human skeletons. I think he had to admit that the whole yarn was made up and that he couldn't even produce the burro skeletons. I wonder whether that was the only time that Aleson did any faking. He had an exchange with Ed Hudson (?) about going upriver through the Grand Canyon. You may recall that Hudson was the builder and navigator, who, with help from Dock Marston, took the first powerboat through the Grand Canyon. He wanted to be the first to take a boat upriver from Pearce Ferry to Lee's Ferry. Aleson assured him that this feat would be impossible without the guide service of himself. However, it would be so difficult that Aleson required fabulous pay for the service with the money to be delivered to Aleson's account for success to stated positions of the trip. It went something like \$10,000 for getting to Diamond Creek and \$20,000 more when they got past Lava Falls. I think Aleson put the entire voyage as worth \$100,000. Hudson didn't accept these terms. Reilly figured that Aleson knew he would be turned down and it was his way of saying that he didn't want the job of getting Hudson upstream.

Dock gave me some of Aleson's log on walking into Trail Canyon, (Mile 219). It was supposed to tell us how to get up to Snyder Mine, but we got confused trying to follow it and finally I found the way down from the mine without help from Aleson's account.

I met Aleson once, when he was river gager at BA Creek. Marston took him by boat up to Clear Creek, and he came back with the report that he figured the flow of Clear Creek to be 3 cfs, or perhaps it was per minute. I have heard that the flow of BA Creek is often about 85 cf per second or minute. You may have this better than I.

Marston and Reilly agreed that Aleson put a lot of trivia into his logs, like what he had for breakfast. I got to the top of all three summits of the Echo Peaks. Only on the north summit was there cairns of previous climbs. One illegible note in an antique baking powder can may have come down from 1872. A modern glass jar had a

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note from Harry Aleson to the effect that he got his dog to the top. It had to be by a route easier than the one used by Dellenbaugh and his companions that I also used. This way involved the trickiest shoulder blades and foot sole chimney climbing that I ever did. Aleson must have used the sand slope farther south on the east side.

I think there is another hoax concerning the Howlands and Dunn. Some one has reported finding Dunn's name inscribed on a rock near the summit of Mt. Dellenbaugh. We couldn't find the name when I was up there the second time, but even if I could have found it, I would doubt the authenticity. The three men would be trying to get to St. George without any touristy detours. The view from the top wouldn't help them find waterholes or the best rou

Sincerely,

