

Bert Reluctantly Catches a Flight for SLC

It was Spring Break of 1975, I was 19 at the time, a student at New Mexico Tech, and as it turns out developing a persistent taste for out of the way places. This trip was a solo hike down the Grand View Point Trail to Hance then upstream along the River and side canyons to the Old Tanner Trail. The "unidentified hike" as I have since come to think of it. On the North end of the beach at the mouth of Cardenas Creek around mile 71, I found an intact human skeleton resting on it's back in the sand, about 15 feet above the water, mostly uncovered by the wind. From a boatman's perspective, near the top of the eddy that would form at high water on river left. Twenty-nine years later this undoubtedly will require some visualization to account for beach loss. One other detail, at that time there was a rain gauge a short distance to the Southwest. Maybe it is there still, or record of it. The location was definitely not at Lava Creek, miles upstream, which has apparently been reported.

It is hard to describe how I felt at the time, a mixture of sadness for this person, their family and friends, a pointed reminder of our own mortality. Sorting all this out, I decided to stay and have a closer look.

I camped nearby that night and wondered what might have happened. How long had it been? There were no clothes or flesh remaining, just bones. I looked closely at the skull, carefully replaced it and laid down in the sand, this person was taller than I, well over six feet. I don't remember exactly, but under the circumstances I probably carried on some sort of necessarily one-sided conversation on the possibilities and had enough manners to share a nip from my flask.

On the hike out I decided I would notify the Park Service, a decision I would later have reason to question. Also later I thought if I had feigned a mild confusion about the exact whereabouts of our friend I may have gotten a free ride in their (our?)

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2003 Programs/Outings

April 19: "Wyoming to Mexico, Green and Colorado Rivers Expedition" slide presentation by Thomas John Barry.

Place: Sharlot Hall Museum's Granite Creek Center
115 S. McCormick Street - Prescott

Time: 1:00 PM

Lunch: 11:45 AM at The Dinner Bell Restaurant
321 W. Gurley Street

Tom Barry is currently a Coordinator/Instructor of Senior Programs at Yavapai College. But, in 1999, Tom went on a river journey originating in the snow-covered Wind River Mountains of western Wyoming, navigating 1600 miles down the Green and Colorado Rivers to Mexico. Along with the slides, Tom will tell his story of this 82-day expedition.

May 17: Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. MNA has exhibits relating to anthropology, biology, geology, and fine art. The Museum has permanent exhibits in five galleries and changing exhibits in three additional galleries.

June 7: Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point.

July 4-5: North Rim Camp Out at the old Jacob Lake Ranger Station. Plan for a barbeque on Friday evening and presentations on Saturday by representatives of the Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument, and North Kaibab Ranger District.

...more outings info coming in future issues

Letters to the Editor

Dear GCHS, 2/20/03

Enclosed is my check to cover membership dues of my own, plus a new membership for my son Dale and his wife Patrice.

Having lived at Grand Canyon from November 1946 to December 1968, I consider myself and family mid-timers instead of old timers.

Sincerely,

Josephine Scheier
Lake Havasu City, AZ

Dear GCHS, 2/10/03

Subscription renewal enclosed....don't want to miss a line of news or tales of old G.C. Lived there over 30 years. Keep up your fine job publishing.

Sincerely,

Theda Flynn
St. George, UT

Hello Pioneers, 2/10/03

My name is Traci Schellbach-Wyrick and I am the granddaughter of Chief Park Naturalist Louis Schellbach III, who worked and resided at the Grand Canyon in the 1940s, 50s and early 60s. I am also the granddaughter of Dean Tidball, who was a hydrographer on the Colorado River near Phantom Ranch for the USGS in 1951-52.

My grandmother Ethyl Schellbach worked a short time selling curios at the El Tovar for Fred Harvey Co. My other grandmother Edna Tidball was a teacher at the south rim grade school. I would enjoy hearing from those members who might have known and worked with my grandparents. Interestingly, my parents met each other at the Bright Angel Lodge.

My email address is tntwyrick@juno.com and my mailing address is:

Traci Schellbach-Wyrick
1302 Briggs Rd
Killeen TX 76549

Dear Sirs, 3/1/03

I've got a feeling of "fun a-foot" each time I recall receiving the initial material from you and your Society!

I'll be turning 88 on March 11th – but when I think of "The Canyon" I revert to my later teen years. I first glimpsed the Canyon in the summer of 1934 – on a camping trip "to the National Parks," so we could see as many as possible before returning to Long Island (N.Y.) as our expected itinerary was planned to be.

I'll always remember that my first look into the depths made me think – "Oh, it's not really a mile deep!" I was right on the south rim between where the

Bright Angel and the old "Brown Building" used to be. Later, I went down the trail and believed!

The Bright Angel then was only one of M. J. Colter's imagination (!) projections. It was an old log building (which later became the first part of the "Rim Cabins" of the Bright Angel). I can recall browsing around in the "store" – looking for cards and stamps – but not much more! In later years I worked as a maid in the Bright Angel Hotel and the old "Bucky O'Neil" building had become the first two rooms of the Rim Cabins!

The Brown Building was between the Bright Angel and the El Tovar, up on the rise easterly. We "help" had rooms in it, as part of our pay; desk clerks, waitresses and maids lived there during their summer jobs in the hotels. Also, Mr. Les Kennedy, Manager of the Bright Angel, had a small "suite" of rooms there. I remember he never moved to the newer quarters he no doubt could have had if he had chosen to in the "B.A."

Our housekeeper at the "B.A." was Mrs. Eliza Kennedy, no relative of Les Kennedy. She had formerly worked on the Great Lakes as a housekeeper on boats up there. I remember she came from Flint, Michigan.

After a couple of weeks spent camping at Grand Canyon, Dad, my brother and I continued on our "Parks" tour. We crossed the little Colorado at Lee's Ferry and then proceeded to Bryce and Zion canyons, Salt Lake City, Glacier National Park, Seattle, Crater Lake Park, San Francisco, and finally Long Beach, California. At that time it had scads of oil drilling structures right near the beach where we camped!

We returned to Phoenix and were preparing to get back home to Patchogue, L.I. On our first leg of the trip, we picked up our mail from mother (Back home). Included with the letter was a copy of a telegram she'd sent to General Delivery in Albuquerque. It said "Return to Phoenix. Have sold the piano. The girls and I will meet you there."

That "wire" changed our lives. Mother got in touch with Dad via "The Arizona Club" in Phoenix and she and "the girls," Mary, Madeline, Eleanor and Jane, came to Arizona to stay.

But, enough of this for now. I have hundreds of little stories like this which crowd into my mind at times like this. Would like to write some to the publication.

Regards to all the old Canyonites. We had wonderful times there.

Anne E. Wilson (Anne E. O'Leary)
Windham, NH

Plowing Snow – Early 1940s



My parents lived at the Grand Canyon from 1934-1950 and my Dad, Miles Rowan worked for park maintenance. My brother and I were both born there and I was 12 when we moved to Iowa. Here is a picture of my Dad and others plowing snow out toward Grand View in the early 1940s.

Helen Rowan Cabeen Lindeman

New Members

Paul Grimaldi – Arlington VA
 Dick McCallum – Flagstaff AZ
 Robert Lauzon – Flagstaff AZ

"Dreams of mountains as in their sleep,
 they brood on things eternal"
 ...this is carved into the wood above the entryway to
 the El Tovar porch.

Buck Farm Inscription?

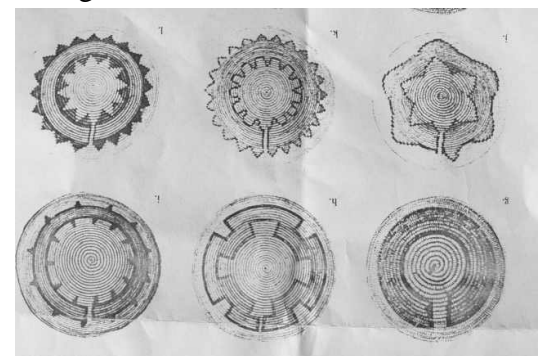
I found an inscription [or maybe just a natural phenomena] on the rim at Buck Farm Canyon. The circle is about 10 inches in diameter. The orientation of the line from the center is approximately 003 degrees true north.



Given the precession of the earth rotation at one degree per 70 years, this line would have pointed true north [to the North Star] about 210 years ago.

The theme of a round center feature with a line coming out is an old one in Ute and Navaho baskets. [See picture]. But, I

have always assumed it referred to the sollicit or the time for planting.



Several people whom I have asked [with no more credentials than me] assume this is a "cowboy glyph." I do not know. Can someone give me a more educated opinion?

Bob Kerry
 100 N. Bella Vista Dr.
 Tucson, AZ 85745
 520-792-1370

2003 Easter Hike and Sunrise Service in the Grand Canyon

The setting for the 2003 Easter Hike and Sunrise Service in the Grand Canyon is the South Bass Drainage Area.

Individuals or groups hike in on Friday, April 18. On Saturday, there is time to explore this interesting area of the Canyon. On Sunday, the service is held in an open area with a view of the Colorado River, the Redwall, Mt. Huethawali, and the Powel Plateau to the north. The group hikes out after the service.

This is an "easy" Grand Canyon Hike - no rock scrambles, no hiking on the edge, and no roping of packs to the next level. The most difficult part of this outing is the 30 miles of rough unpaved road to the trailhead.

For more information and to reserve a spot please call Lee Albertson, 480-838-2710 or email at Albertson1213@msn.com.

Bert Reluctantly...*continued from page 1*

helicopter when they went down to "rescue" the next day.

The remains were taken to a professor at NAU who reconstructed a likeness of the persons face, got an idea of the correct time frame and who it might be, then located a likely old timer, who promptly said "Yep, that's Bert." Bert Loper was lost after capsizing in 24.5 mile rapid 26 years before. He was a man who liked boats, canyons and whitewater, spent a good part of his life pursuing the same and had expressed a wish to be laid to rest in the Grand Canyon. A shame that wish was not honored and he lies in a cemetery in Salt Lake. Sorry Bert, I would have been honored to oblige with a variation on burial at sea.

So, one more bit of lore that gives those so inclined another spot to stop and reflect on the life of one of the pioneers of our sport. I certainly plan to myself next time, if I can ever get to the end of this damned list. Maybe try hanging around Separation for a few days too, see if I can get a streak going!

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Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2003 Outings Coordinator:** John Azar, PO Box 1121, Fredonia AZ 86022; phone 928-643-6423; email: TontoWalk@aol.com.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Diane Cassidy at 2112 Demerse Avenue, Prescott, AZ 86301; email: Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org.