

Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc.

To develop and promote appreciation, understanding and education of the earlier history of the inhabitants and important events of the Grand Canyon and surrounding area.

The Bulletin

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October 2004

Grand Canyon's Greatest Hiker

On Saturday, September 18, the Grand Canyon Historical Society met at Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott to hear a talk by the authors of the soon-to-be published definitive biography of Harvey Butchart. This talk was given as part of the 3rd annual Prescott Book Festival.

Tom Myers is well-known in the Society as an already published and famous author. He was a physician at the Grand Canyon Clinic for 10 years, and currently practices at the Williams Clinic. Elias Butler loves the

canyon, and has been a hiker, backpacker and river runner for years. These two men collaborated on the book entitled, "Harvey: The Adventures, Tragedies and Legacy of Grand Canyon's Greatest Hiker."

Although Harvey is the backcountry's most eminent hiker, there is somewhat of an enigma surrounding him. Tom had this cardboard box full of material on Harvey, and Elias and he decided to dig deep and see what they could find out. We will be able to find out in 2005, when this book is published by Puma Press.

Some of the amazing Harvey statistics include:

- From 1945-1987, he spent 1,025 days hiking in the Grand Canyon.
- He covered over 12,000 miles.
- 83 buttes were climbed, 29 of which were first recorded ascents.
- 116 River to rim routes were pioneered.
- Over 1200 hiking logs written.

In 1905, Louis Akin was commissioned to paint pictures of the Grand Canyon to entice tourists to visit. A painting of the El Tovar and Hopi House with the Canyon to the north ended up on the wall of a house in China where Harvey was born in 1907. His parents were missionaries, belonging to the Disciples of Christ. Another goal was the pioneering of a

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Harvey at Tanner Rapids, 1954.
Photo by Dale Slocum.

GCPS Outings for 2004

October 16: Annual Board Meeting. The annual board meeting of the GCHS will be held to attend to regular business and open discussion (see proposed agenda on page 2).

Meeting: 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Flagstaff Public Library
300 West Aspen

After the meeting, those interested in visiting with other members will regroup for lunch at Las Manzanita Mexican Restaurant, 103 West Birch Avenue.

November 20: Search and Rescues in Grand Canyon by Ken Phillips. Ken is employed as a Park Ranger by the National Park Service and currently serves as the Chief of Emergency Services (SAR Coordinator) at Grand Canyon National Park. He is Paramedic and frequently serves as a SAR instructor to NPS units nationwide. He coordinates the EMS and SAR programs at Grand Canyon, which are the busiest in the NPS. Ken conducts situational awareness training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (Glynco, GA) and has spoken at numerous conferences nationally. He is the course coordinator for the NPS Basic Technical Rescue School at Canyonlands National Park in Moab, Utah. Ken also serves as a United States delegate to the International Commission on Alpine Rescue (IKAR)-Helicopter Rescue Sub-Commission, which meets in Europe.

The presentation will be from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM in Flagstaff at the NAU Cline Library in Screening Room A (located on the first floor in the Media Services area). Those who would like to visit afterwards can gather for lunch at Busters Restaurant, 1800 S. Milton Road. (Tom Myers, November Outing Leader)

December: No outing.

* * * * *

New Members

Sharon Williams – Grand Canyon AZ
Sandy & Dennis Reason – Grand Canyon AZ

Letter to the Members

September 7, 2004

Dear GCHS Members,

Please allow me a moment to reflect on a few thoughts of the last twenty years with the Society. As the saying goes, the only constant in my life is change. Please understand that I usually welcome change...it makes life interesting. Much of the change I have experienced was good but some has been less than enjoyable. In this case I am about to address both aspects.

When the Pioneers began back in 1984, a steady influx of new members added much to the quality of life with the Society. This constant change was and remains good for the organization and the camaraderie so engendered. Two such welcome additions early on were Bill and Sibyl Suran. Both fit well with the "club" as Sibyl is so fond of calling the GCHS. Over the years their contributions...I do not believe it necessary to enumerate them as they are well known to all...have become legendary... especially Sibyl's "pack rat midden cookies."

Now there is another change on the wind...this one not so good for us...and me in particular. Bill and Sibyl are leaving the area to live with family in Alabama. Over the years several of our friends have gone their way but the "loss" of these two touch me the most.

We sort of adopted each other back in 1981 and I hold many fond memories of photographic field trips with them, my father and our four-legged friend, PJ. Four people, a golden retriever, and a wide assortment of camera equipment stuffed into a pickup truck cab gives new meaning to the idea of being close. Sometimes we had the luxury of two vehicles but somehow we always managed to wind up in one for at least part of our trips. We had great picnics in the most beautiful places and also managed to come up with some great images...I worked in color and Bill in black and white. We even put on a month-long show at the capitol in Phoenix and built a dark room at their home in Kachina Village...where many images in *The Ol' Pioneer* came to the light of day.

When Rich entered my life nine years ago Bill and Sibyl welcomed her to the family. We have sort of looked after each other through some tough times since then but we also have enjoyed many good moments.

We have more than twenty years of stories to remember and cherish...but they will not soften the impact of this change. However, all we can do is wish Bill and Sibyl well in their new home and thank them for all of the good years. Stay in touch, friends...with all of us.

Al & Rich Richmond

Board Meeting Agenda

October 16, 2004 @ 10:00 AM

1. State of the Grand Canyon **Historical Society** in 2004, 20th Anniversary Year: *Lee Albertson*
2. Minutes of the October 2003 Board of Directors Meeting: *Nancy Green*
3. Treasurer's Report: *Linda Anderson*
4. Analysis of 2003 and 2004 Debits and Credits: *Linda Anderson*
5. GCHS Manual (How To Do Book!): *Lee Albertson*
6. Manage Outings--A Shared Responsibility: *Lee Albertson*
7. Planning for a future Grand Canyon History Symposium: *Lee Albertson*
8. Harvey Butchart Place Name: *Lee Albertson*
9. Links to/from GCHS web site: *Lee Albertson*
10. Scholarship Award; Status Report and Allocation of Funds: *Al Richmond*
11. Grand Canyon Hall of Fame Award for Community Service: *Al Richmond*
12. Pioneer Award; Administrative Adjustments: *Lee Albertson*
13. Results of Election for 2005 Board of Directors (Term: 2005, 2006, and 2007): *Nancy Green*
14. Proxy Votes (those Board Members not in attendance): *Lee Albertson*
15. Election of Officers for 2005: *Lee Albertson*
16. Committee Chairman and Appointments (Chairman, Pioneer Award; Assistant Outing Coordinator; Planning for 2005 Outings; June Outing Manager, Annual Picnic; July Outing Manager, North Rim Camp Out; August Outing Manager; Chairman, Membership Committee): *Lee Albertson*
17. New Business: *Lee Albertson*
 - Chairman: Harvey Butchart Place Name
 - Contact: Planning for a future History Symposium
 - Chairman: Online Bulletin
 - Chairman: Links to / from GCHS web site
 - Other
18. Adjournment: *Lee Albertson*

Current Board Members

ELECTED in 2003 – Term: 2004, 2005, 2006

- Mike Anderson * MAnderson@GrandCanyon.org
- Keith Green Keith_Green@nps.gov
- Jim Ohlman JOhlman@PeabodyEnergy.com

ELECTED in 2002 – Term: 2003, 2004, 2005

- Linda Anderson * LindaA@GrandCanyon.org
- Gale Burak N. Woodstock, NH

ELECTED in 2001 – Term: 2002, 2003, 2004

- Nancy Green NGreen@apsc.org
- Mary Hoover 928-635-2010
- Dr. Tom Myers GCDOC1@AOL.COM
- Carolyn Castleman AZlady2@juno.com

*Currently serving second consecutive term.

GC's Greatest Hiker...continued from page 1

medical practice by Harvey's father, James Butchart, MD (1866-1916). His father was an ear/nose/throat specialist who set up a remarkable hospital in China. He was considered a generous man, and established a pillar of western medicine there. However, it was a time of unrest with the Boxer Rebellion occurring from 1899-1900. The Emperress of China was highly resentful of western influences, who were trying to dominate the opium trade. She was particularly suspicious of the missionaries, and encouraged violent and vicious "boxers" to run rampant through the countryside, accosting and sometimes killing foreigners. James Butchart himself was once chased by such a mob, only escaping by dressing as a Chinese peasant and shouting loudly in Chinese that "He went that away!" Curiously, the Emperress herself had to use a similar tactic to escape the military who invaded the Forbidden City.

Harvey's mother, Nellie, was also a missionary and a teacher. Living in an American compound in China, it was a good life for this mother of four. Harvey had an older brother, and two younger sisters. The family enjoyed Chinese servants and a comfortable home. Sadly, this was not to last, as James stubbed his toe. Ignoring his own injury in the flurry of activity at the hospital, it quickly turned to gangrene, and he died shortly after. Harvey was 9 at the time. Nellie moved the children to a part of China where it was a summer retreat setting for the wealthier Chinese in a mountain resort. This area is now a national park revered for its beauty. This is where Harvey first learned to enjoy hiking.

In 1919, the family returned to the United States. Nellie settled the children in Eureka, Illinois, home of Eureka College, a Disciple of Christ college. Harvey left high school early, and went to the college. Here is where he met Roma Wilson, also a student at the college. Her father was the president of the college at that time. Another student there was Ronald Reagan, who claimed that his first taste of politics was representing the student body there. It's where he claimed he first felt the power of public speaking.

In 1929, Roma and Harvey were married. They graduated, and began a family right as the depth of the Great Depression hit. Ann and Jim were their children. Harvey had to move the family around trying to make ends meet. Little Ann had asthma, and the doctors recommended to Harvey that he try a drier climate. In Flagstaff, Arizona (population 5,000), there was Arizona State College. Harvey applied for a position as a professor, only to find out that he was expected to be the entire math department.

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Arizona State Railroad Museum



The museum will serve as an invaluable resource for celebrating and preserving our state's unique heritage. The Atlantic and Pacific, Santa Fe Pacific, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, Grand Canyon, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroads have all contributed to the historical legacy of northern Arizona. So too have the Fred Harvey Company, ranchers, loggers, miners, legions of tourists, and others who worked and traveled these lines. The Arizona State Railroad Museum will bring all of these fascinating stories to life in rich detail.

AN INVESTMENT IN ARIZONA'S PAST... AND ITS FUTURE

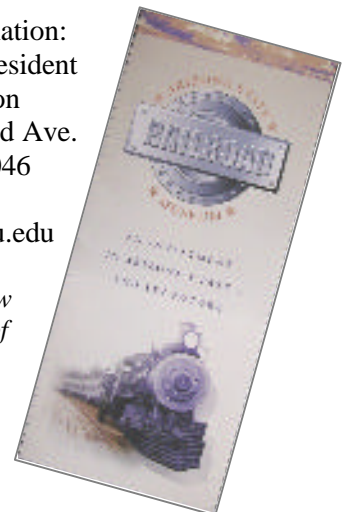
Slated for a beautiful 15-acre park in Williams, the 100,000 square foot museum will reflect the atmosphere of railroad engine houses and shops. Exhibits, archives, art gallery, meeting rooms, interactive computer facilities, 1 500-seat auditorium, and outdoor amphitheater will provide incredible opportunities for learning and discovery. Potential displays will include a variety of steam and diesel locomotives; interpretive displays of railroad uses by ranching, mining, logging, passengers, freight, tourism, and track construction; art exhibits emphasizing railroad and national park advertising art; Fred Harvey Company history and artifacts; and a variety of traveling exhibits.

The Arizona State Railroad Museum Foundation has been incorporated as a tax-exempt organization for the establishment, construction and continuing support of the museum.

For additional information:

Al Richmond, President
ASRM Foundation
204 West Railroad Ave.
Williams AZ 86046
928-523-7209
al.richmond@nau.edu

Editor's Note: Now you know why we haven't seen much of Al Richmond lately.



GC's Greatest Hiker...continued from page 3

In 1949, Harvey became the sponsor of the Hiking Club. Harvey and the enthusiastic group of students would take off for the San Francisco Peaks, Grand Canyon or Sedona. Harvey came into contact with Merrel Clubb, who had done an exploration of Vishnu Temple. This inspired and fascinated Harvey. He decided to explore Glen Canyon with nothing more than a knapsack and an air mattress. He had experimented with homemade boats as a kid around the lakes in Illinois. He tested out his theory of travel first in 1954 in Oak Creek, and then in 1956 he went from Hermit to Boucher - and it worked. He would lie across the middle of the raft, letting the raft fold around him like water wings. This left his feet free to kick. Sometimes he would lie length-wise on the raft. There was an incredible photo of Harvey with sneakers, knapsack, kerchief knotted on his head, funky bathing suit, getting ready to flop onto his air mattress to float down the Colorado River. The AP picked it up and it was published in various newspapers. Otis "Doc" Marston, Colorado River historian, saw the picture and began a correspondence with Harvey.

One of Harvey's hiking buddies was a 22 year old student named Boyd Moore. Boyd had had a near-drowning experience as a boy, and was always very leery around water. He was not a good swimmer. Although he enjoyed hiking with Harvey, he was none too keen about the idea of the air mattress on the Colorado River. Nonetheless, they both hiked from Point Imperial to Nankoweap. The River was running at 35,000 cfs. At 60 Mile Rapid, Harvey went first, but as Boyd followed, he got caught in a fierce eddy. Harvey went back to help him, but could not reach him in the roiling water. Boyd's body was never found, although legendary river runner P.T. Reilly later found Boyd's backpack. Harvey was stunned and devastated by this loss of someone so young and so close to him. Harvey was quoted as saying, "A heavy heart is the heaviest thing to take up the trail." He lost interest in exploring the River.

But he didn't lose interest in the Canyon. Starting in 1961, he took up climbing. Word of mouth started getting out about Harvey's amazing hikes and route-finding. In 1968, Colin Fletcher's book, *The Man*

Who Walked Through Time was published. Colin had sought Harvey out for information on the ways to get through part of the Canyon. He especially needed information on the distance between Nankoweap and Havasu. He gave credit to Harvey in his book, and Harvey's fame grew.

The height of Harvey's fame was in the 1960s and 1970s. This is when Harvey's Trek guide books were published. He didn't believe in hoarding all of his hard-won information. He was totally willing to share his expertise with any interested hiker.

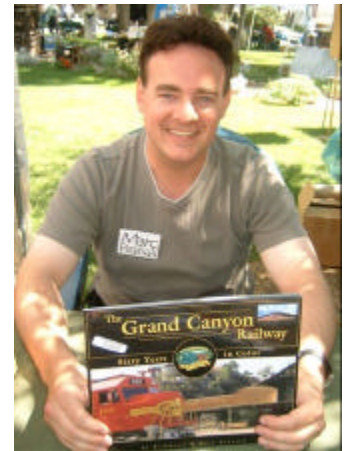
He went for his last Canyon hike when he was 80 years old. At 214 Mile, it was brutally hot, and he ran out of water. His hiking partner, Scott, was able to go find some water, but Harvey realized at that time that he just wasn't going to be able to do that anymore.

In 1976, Harvey was quoted as saying, "I want to leave my footprints on the sands of time." That, he has surely done; and on our hearts, as well.

Some of Harvey's ashes were scattered at Shoshone Point this June, out of respect to the place he loved so well.

Article submitted by Nancy Green

Editor's Note: For those who returned to the book festival after lunch, they got to enjoy a presentation on the history of the Grand Canyon Railway and the railway in Prescott by Marc Pearsall, co-author (with Al Richmond) of *The Grand Canyon Railway... Sixty Years in Color* and by Joe Schwieterman, author of *When the Railroad Leaves Town*.



Marc Pearsall
at Prescott Book Festival
[photo by Gus Scott]

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2004 Outings Coordinator:** Keith Green, PO Box 1986, Grand Canyon AZ 86023; phone 928-638-0666; email: Keith_Green@nps.gov.

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.