

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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www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

July 2005

Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point



View from Yavapai Point on June 11 at 12:00 Noon
[from NPS web cam at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov>]

Arriving at Shoshone around 10:30, Mike and Linda Anderson began setting up the tables with the table cloths and unloading the charcoal and cooler. It was windy and the thunder was all around; but the clouds would blow over, allowing the sun to peek out now and then. This went on for some time until it finally decided to rain around 11:15...and it rained - a lot!

After watching the weather forecast on the Internet and the Weather Channel, Linda thoughtfully reserved the Recreation Center Ramada. Thank goodness. So, the three GCHS board members present voted to move the picnic. They left a note and map, and then packed up and moved to the Recreation Center.

There were about two dozen who came out for this year's picnic. It appears that many of the "regulars" watched the Weather Channel too and decided to skip the picnic this year.

The charcoals got a late start but everyone had a good time eating the potluck desserts while waiting for the dogs, and the ceremonies.

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2005 Outings

July 16 - Third Annual North Rim Campout. at the historic Ranger Station at Jacob Lake. This will be a fun get-together. Spend a day (and a night) in the North Kaibab Forest with fellow Canyon adventurers.

When: 12:00 Noon to sunset

Where: Historic Ranger Station

Jacob Lake (see page 4 for directions)

Festivities begin with a noon-time carpool to the Ryan Smelter (at the junction of FR 422 and FR 462, about a 15-minute drive) which was built around 1901 to process ore. We'll take a short walk down Warm Springs Canyon to view a couple historic structures. Then we'll motor over to Three Lakes Cabin to see the new enclosure fence and discuss the history of the cabin.

We'll be back at Jacob Lake for an early evening cookout of enchiladas, tacos, burritos, salsa, chips, etc. (courtesy of John Azar). Bring something to share, like dessert. Also, bring chairs and something to drink.

Camp over at Jacob Lake or nearby campground. There is space behind the Jacob Lake Ranger Station to set up tents or sleep in your vehicle. There is a restroom and a hose bib for water.

John is also hoping to show the movie *The Greater Good* on Saturday evening in the newly restored Jacob Barn, if all works well. The movie details the history of the Forest Service and is quite entertaining.

August 20 - Community Service Project at the Grand Canyon NPS Library.

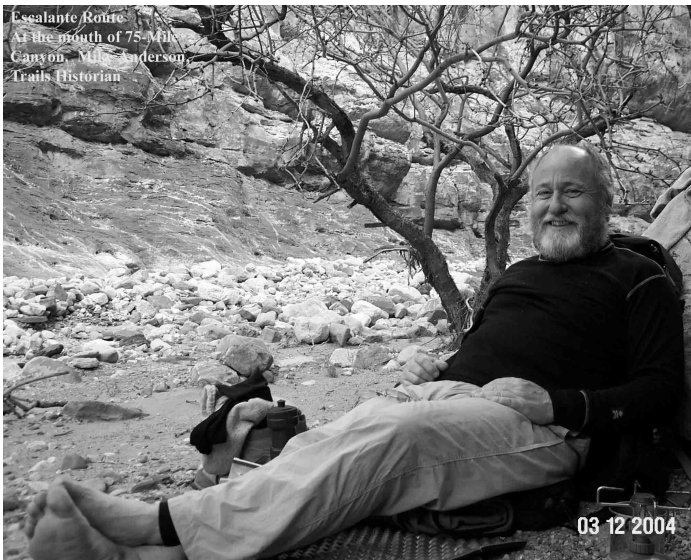
We will assist Librarian Susan Eubank with barcoding the entire book collection, which entails one group that will be physically putting barcodes on books and another group that will be entering those barcodes into the computer. We might also put labels on the books, if necessary.

We will meet Susan at 9:00 at the Grand Canyon National Park Library in the Park Headquarters building. (If you come in the park by Mather Point, take a right at the intersection where the left-hand turn would take you to the store and post office. Parking is in front of the Shrine of the Ages.) Lunch will be provided. [Nancy Green, event coordinator]

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Picnic & Awards...continued from page 1

Todd Berger proudly announced the 2005 recipient of the **Grand Canyon Historical Society Pioneer Award**...to the Park's Trails Archaeologist and historian:



Mike Anderson for:

- writing three books on Grand Canyon history:
 - *LIVING AT THE EDGE. Explorers, Exploiters and Settlers of the Grand Canyon Region*
 - *POLISHING THE JEWEL. An Administrative History of Grand Canyon National Park*
 - *ALONG THE RIM. A Guide to Grand Canyon's South Rim From Hermits Rest to Desert View*
- directing the 2002 Grand Canyon History Symposium at the South Rim, and serving as compiler and editor of the proceedings from that symposium
- working as Trails Archaeologist with the National Park Service at Grand Canyon, including documentation of historic and prehistoric sites along the trails
- teaching the Canyon's history to individuals who contact the park with questions, to groups such as Elderhostel, Grand Canyon Association, and Grand Canyon Field Institute, and to park employees and river runners
- choosing to switch careers to dedicate his academic and professional life to studying and teaching the history of the Grand Canyon

The eighth annual **GRAND CANYON HALL OF FAME AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE** was then presented to three individuals who have shown exemplary service to the Grand Canyon Community. The recipients have made personal contributions of money, time, and work over a period of many years. One recipient is deceased and happily the other two are still with us.

The awardees this year were: **Kenneth G. Talakte and Reeta P. Talakte** (living) and **Elmer Nelson** (deceased).

These folks were recommended for their community service by previous recipients of the award. We rely on their recommendations as they know better than anyone who has been involved in community service at the Grand Canyon.

For the last thirteen years, **Ken and Reeta Talakte** have become a team working to improve the social environment at Grand Canyon. Both are heavily involved in school programs such as presentations of the Americanism Program and the working on Christmas parties for the grade school. They are always available to clean the cemetery and participate in the Memorial Day observance at the cemetery and 4th of July parades. Their family also helps to make the area presentable for residents and visitors by regularly cleaning a section of Highway 64.

Born on the Hopi reservation, Ken was raised at the Canyon and graduated from the High School. After a tour of duty in the Army with the 82nd Airborne Division, he later returned as a DPS officer and served here for twenty years until his retirement. His service to community has continued through the American Legion's John Ivens Post #42 where he recently completed four years as Post Commander. Reeta also serves in the Legion Auxiliary Unit #42. Ken regularly assists area veterans with transportation to the VA hospital in Prescott and Phoenix.

Ken has always been an active member of the community as a child, DPS officer, and Veteran. Reeta has joined with him and together they devote much time and energy to improving the community.

Elmer Nelson was known to everyone at Grand Canyon Village for the first half of the Twentieth Century as "Pop." He came to the Canyon as a Santa Fe employee to work on the power and heating plant construction for El Tovar. By 1908 he had risen to the position of facilities engineer which he held until his retirement in 1953. He not only was responsible for all of the Santa Fe facilities at the Village he worked to improve social conditions in the community. Pop served on the school board, spearheaded the building of the rodeo grounds and baseball field, maintained a Victory Garden during World War II, and donated money, time and materials to community projects.

Elmer not only believed in being a good engineer and providing the best services to the Village and National Park, he also believed in the community and its people and worked hard to improve the social quality of life for them.

We are deeply indebted to folks like Elmer, Ken, and Reeta for helping to make the Grand Canyon Community a better place in which to live and work.

Note: For a complete list of awardees, see the Society's web pages at www.GrandCanyonHistory.org.

2005 Outings ...continued from page 1

September 17 – *Mountain Lying Down: An Environmental History of the Kaibab Plateau* by Steve Buckley. Buckley is the 2003 Scholarship recipient for his master's thesis project: *Mountain Lying Down: An Environmental History of the Kaibab Plateau*. This is our first award for an environmental history. His introduction to the application was "Presently, there is no environmental history of the Kaibab Plateau. The isolated geologic upwarp, which serves as the northern barrier to the Grand Canyon between Kanab Canyon and Marble Canyon, is a true sky island. This breadth of land mass has provided for a rich history of human use. From early archeological evidence and inferences from known patterns, human habitation has had an effect on the larger ecological system of the Kaibab. The famous Kaibab deer herd and the ecological lesson it taught concerning the extirpation of predators, is but one remarkable note from a complex past. The Kaibab, as it is known, is a derivative of the original Paiute word, kaibabits, meaning *mountain lying down*. The name was given by Major John Wesley Powell in the course of his exploration in the 1870s. Until such time it had been commonly known as Buckskin Mountain. It is the ecological story of this mountain I wish to tell." Presentation at 1:00 PM in Screening Room A in the NAU Cline Library in Flagstaff. For those arriving early, you may find some members gathering at 11:30 AM for lunch at Busters Restaurant. [Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]

October 15 - Annual Board Meeting. The annual board meeting of the GCHS will be held at the Flagstaff Public Library meeting room from 10:15 AM to 12:15 PM. Following the meeting, if you are interested in visiting with members, we will walk or drive one block to Las Mananitas Downtown Restaurant at 103 West Birch Avenue. [Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]

November 19 – 100th Anniversary of the USFS by Cathie Schmidlin of the Williams office of the Kaibab Forest Service. Cathie will be discussing the USFS and how it relates to Grand Canyon history at 1:00 PM in the Cline Library Media Center, Viewing Room A, at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. (If you get to Flagstaff early, you may find some early-bird GCHS members at Busters Restaurant at 11:30 AM). [Nancy Green, event coordinator]

December - No meeting

June Outing Attendees

Despite the unsettled weather, these hearty pioneers enjoyed a great day at the Canyon for the annual picnic and awards ceremonies:

Pete Borremans – Green Bay, WI
Reneta & Jacek Macias – Roselle, IL
Mike, Sue, Andrew & Star Coltrin – Tucson
Gene Fowler – Flagstaff
Steve & Chris Verkamp – Flagstaff
Ken & Reeta Talakte – Williams
Keith & Nancy Green – Grand Canyon
Mike & Linda Anderson – Grand Canyon
Todd & Bonnie Berger – Grand Canyon
Dave Anderson
Eva Cabibo
Matt Courchaine
Pete & Diane Lynn
Jenny Turner

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Historical Restoration Project – Jacob Lake Barn and Ranger Station

The work on the cabin and barn was scheduled for the week of June 12. John Azar had a large crew to help. There were nine local youths working for the Youth Conservation Corps who helped remove the old structures within the barn, paint the cabin and barn, clean-up the place and haul off the trash.

During the week of June 20, John had the help of two Native American volunteers who helped with the restructuring of the barn interior.

They had clear weather the first week and heavy rains the next week. Both buildings are approaching their original condition.

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2006 Picnic

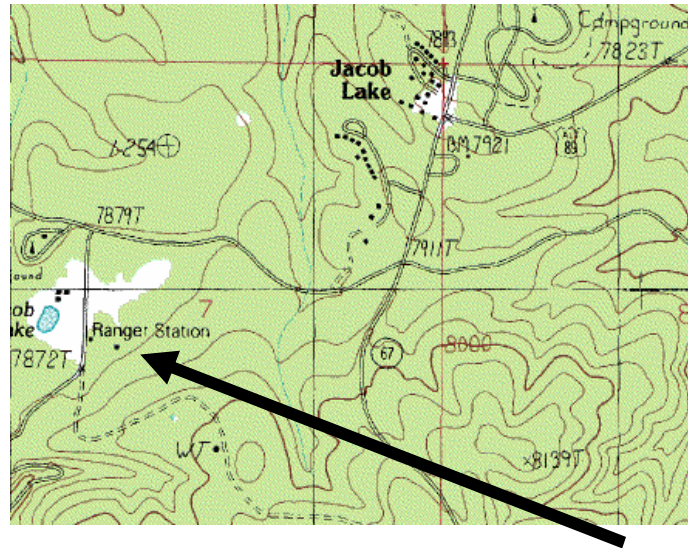
Reservations have already been made for Shoshone Point in 2006, with only one weekend available. Mark your calendar for next year's annual picnic on:

Saturday, June 24

North Rim Campout: July 16



Enjoy the history of Grand Canyon with fellow GCHS members at the North Rim campout at the historic ranger station at Jacob Lake on Saturday, July 16.



To get there, go to Jacob Lake Lodge, have a cookie, then drive south on Highway 67 a short distance. Take the first right (west on FS 462). A sign for the Jacob Lake Ranger Station will direct you to the left (south). Watch for an old ranger station (on the east side of the road) across from a fenced field, which is Jacob Lake. Turn left back behind the ranger station. You will see us there.

Saturday activities and camping will be behind the Jacob Lake Ranger Station. There is a restroom and a hose bib for water.