

# 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

Volume 10 Number 2

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

February 2006

Encore presentation of:

### Film of Guided Cougar Hunt in North Bass Area with Ambrose Means in 1917



STANDING (L-R): Pat Lauzon (great grandson of W.W. Bass), Eagle Means Jones (Ambrose's daughter), Steve Verkamp, Jeanie Lauzon Valentine (great granddaughter of W.W. Bass), Bud Dunagan (Deputy Sheriff and Trail Guide at Grand Canyon), Cindy Pearson (Ambrose's granddaughter)

KNEELING (L-R): Opal Means (Ambrose's daughter), Dorothy Dunagan (wife of Bud, nurse at Grand Canyon Hospital), and Linda Thompson (Ambrose's granddaughter).

[Photo by Gus Scott]

On January 21, a great group of GCHS members and a distinguished group of descendants of Ambrose Means, William Wallace Bass, and Bert Lauzon watched the refurbished film of their ancestors that was returned only recently to Means' daughter, Eagle Means Jones, in a hefty leather box with "L.A. Means" stenciled on it.

After his days of world championship roping and expeditions with Buffalo Jones in Africa, and The Young Buffalo Wild West Shows of Tom Mix and Annie Oakley fame, Ambrose Means guided at the Grand Canyon. His adventures were told in *Lassoing Wild Animals in Africa* by Guy Scull, and *Lord of Beasts* by Robert Easton.



[Photo by Jeanie Lauzon Valentine]

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### 2006 Outings

**February 18 – *The Life and Times of Bert Loper*** by Brad Dimock, a professional boatman and author. Bert Loper arrived on the San Juan River in 1893 and spent the next half century deeply involved with the Colorado River and its tributaries. Until his death at the oars in Grand Canyon just short of his 80th birthday, Bert Loper's tale encapsulates the history of the Colorado itself. Brad Dimock will discuss Loper's life and times accompanied by a comprehensive show of rarely seen images.

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Screening Room A, Cline Library  
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

If you come early, some members will be gathering at Buster's Restaurant at 1800 South Milton Road around 11:30 AM.

**March 25 – *Spirit of the Canyon: a River Journey Through Time*** by Charly Heavenrich, a professional boatman and author. Charly has rafted the Grand Canyon over 75 times since 1978, as a commercial and private boater. His mission is to share the Canyon Experience with the world. He does this on the river as a commercial guide, as a speaker sharing stories of ordinary people having extraordinary experiences, as an author (*Dancing on the Edge*), and as a photographer (*Grand Canyon: A Different View*; *Spirit of the Canyon: A River Journey Through Time*).

Charly's presentation will include showing his newly released DVD slide show, *Spirit of the Canyon*, stories from his 28 years as a guide, and answering questions on the wide range of topics related to the Grand Canyon, including the new Colorado River Management Plan, Adaptive Management, operations of Glen Canyon dam, commercial and private trips, and more.

Program begins at 1:00 PM in the Screening Room A at the NAU Cline Library in Flagstaff.

**April 8 – *Grand Canyon Hikers Symposium***. GCHS members are invited to attend the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association's first Grand Canyon Hikers Symposium, tentatively set to be held at the Shrine of the Ages on the South Rim. The event is free and open to the public.

The purpose of this symposium is to share hiking and backpacking exploits and explorations in the Grand Canyon, as defined by the geographical region from Lee's Ferry to the Grand Wash Cliffs, rim to rim. Each of the 15-minute presentations may include a hike or overnight backpack on the corridor trails and surrounding area, historical trails such as the North and South Bass, Tanner, Grand View, and any number of canyon routes.

Look for more information in the coming months. In the meantime, if you plan to attend, please send a note to:

GCHS at PO Box 10067, Prescott AZ 86304  
or [Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org](mailto:Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org)

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## 2006 Outings ...continued from page 1

**April 22 – A 1914 Journey Across the Kaibab** by Frederick H. Swanson. In the summer of 1914, George C. Fraser, an amateur geologist from New Jersey, traveled by horseback along the length of the North Rim from Cape Royal to the Powell Plateau, crossing to the South Rim via the Bass Trail. Accompanied by his son and the guide Dave Rust, Fraser kept a detailed and often amusing journal of his travels, recently published by the University of Arizona Press as *Journeys in the Canyon Lands of Utah and Arizona, 1914-1916*.

Fred Swanson, a Salt Lake City author and editor, will present Fraser's observations of the Grand Canyon experience in the days before automobile tourism. He will also show photographs of the Plateau Province taken by Fraser and other travelers of the period.

Presentation will begin at 1:00 PM at the Flagstaff City Library Community Room, 300 W Aspen.

**May 20 – TWA/United Tragedy, 50 Years Ago** by Dan Driskill. On June 30, 1956, two airliners collided over and crashed into the Grand Canyon, killing 128 persons in what was then the world's worst commercial aviation disaster. This crash led to the FAA and the modern air traffic control system. Driskill will discuss this tragic mid-air collision, as well as post-crash recovery, investigation and clean-up efforts (which continue to this day) of the airplanes.

Driskill is a writer, attorney and former ambulance service owner who currently works as a flight paramedic in northern Arizona. He is currently writing a non-fiction book on this topic. If you have any personal information on this subject, please be sure to attend or write Dan Driskill at 11 West Oak Avenue, Flagstaff AZ 86001, or email him at medic\_dan\_2000@msn.com.

**June 24 – Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point.** Members from across the country converge at the Canyon's edge for a potluck of good food, friendly faces and lively conversation.

**July 15 – Annual Jacob Lake Campout.** Spend a day (and a night) in the North Kaibab Forest at the historic Jacob Lake Ranger Station with fellow Canyon adventurers.

**August 19 – Community Service Project.**

**September 16 – Havasupai History.**

**October 21 – Annual Board Meeting** held at Flagstaff City Library Community Room, 300 W Aspen from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM.

**November 18 – Seeking Summits Below the Rim: The Stories and History of Climbing in Grand Canyon**, by Mathieu Brown (2005 GCHS Scholarship recipient). *Seeking Summits* is a project to document the stories of early climbing in Grand Canyon. Despite the prolific activity of a handful of climbers little has been publicly written and documented on their pursuits. Like any time period in Grand Canyon history, that of the early summiteers carries its own perspectives and adds value and depth to our collective understanding of the Grand Canyon and its influence on the human individual and regional meaning. Although not publicly documented, the knowledge of early Grand Canyon climbing remains rich. It is held in the journals, letters, photographs, and memories of the individuals active in the pursuit. Luckily, many of these stories have yet to vanish and sit waiting to be uncovered and rediscovered from the climbers themselves on a local and regional scale.

**December – No meeting.**

## Future Outing 2007 Grand Canyon History Symposium January 25 - 28, 2007

The next meeting for the Symposium planning committee will be **February 11** from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Flagstaff Public Library.

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### Pioneer Award

**Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Grand Canyon Historical Society Pioneer Award.**

The Society wants to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of and knowledge about the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in such areas as geology, creation, river running, backcountry hiking, photography, history, administration, etc.; that is, any area that advances knowledge of the Grand Canyon.

Previous recipients of the Pioneer Award: Mike Anderson, 2005; Gary Ladd, 2004; 2003; Gale Burak, Bill Suran, 2002; George Steck, 1999; George Billingsley, 1998; and Harvey Butchart, 1997.

To make a nomination, simply submit the individual's name and their accomplishments and/or contributions that have advanced our knowledge of the Grand Canyon before April 1, 2006, to:

George Billingsley  
P.O. Box 345  
Flagstaff AZ 86002

## Film of Cougar Hunt...continued from page 1

William Bass provided the burros and guide Ambrose Means provided the horses for the 8 people, including Bass' son-in-law Bert Lauzon, who traveled down the South Bass trail, with Rex Beach's Havana cigar smoke wafting into the May air. At the swollen Colorado River a windlass, powered by two Chaplinesque men, propelled the Bass cable cage across the river. The animals were understandably reluctant to enter the cable cage, as evidenced by the tug of war between beast and man. Sadly, one horse bolted from the airborne cage and strangled itself. Bert Lauzon, who was operating the windlass, jumped from the cage, fearing the cage was going down. He was unhurt. Signal fires had been lit on the South Rim to let Jim Owens on Powell Plateau on the North Rim know that the Rex Beach hunting party was on its way to shoot cougars. Rex Beach recounts in his book, *Oh Shoot*, his trip with Fred Stone, the circus comedian and Stone's brother. Books, *Oh Shoot* and *Fred Stone*, were on display as were other artifacts, including Ambrose's scrapbook.



Display of Ambrose Means memorabilia.

[Photo by Gus Scott]

Jim Owens had been hired by the government to kill cougars that were "menacing" the North Rim. More than 450 cougars were eventually killed, allowing the deer population to swell to an unsustainable level. His hounds, including "Pot Hound" and her pups, were represented at the camp fires on Jim Owen's camp on Powell Plateau and later at Swamp Lake and Sublime Canyon. The film included a view of a cougar crouching in a tree.

Their return trip involved crossing Shinumo Creek, even by three non-swimmers.

Eagle Means Jones added that Rex Beach published the trip in the *Cosmopolitan* in December 1917 and January and February 1918 about their trip. She is currently working on a book about her dad, Ambrose. She had operated the Coffee Pot restaurant in Williams for 10 years.

Author's Note: Also attending this event was William Wallace Bass' great-granddaughter and Bert Lauzon's granddaughter, Jeanie Lauzon Valentine from Page, who went to school with Linda. Their moms knew each other. It was so much fun to hear them and the others who grew up at the Canyon talk about old times and old places, like the White House, etc.

[Article submitted by Beverly Loomis – Flagstaff]

## January Outing Attendance



[Photo by Gus Scott]

The room was nearly full for the encore presentation of the Cougar Hunt film presented by Linda Thompson of Williams. Those who attended included relatives of the main characters (Ambrose Means, W. W. Bass and Bert Lauzon), and many GCHS members:

Eagle Means Jones – Truth or Consequences, NM

Vivian Bagley – Page

Jeanie Lauzon Valentine – Page

Cindy Pearson – RimRock

Sandra & Gus Scott – Prescott

*From Williams:* Bud & Dorothy Dunagan; Mabel Hefer; Barbara & Brian Kuckuck; and Opal Means.

*From Flagstaff:* Bill Bishop; Brad Dimock; Julie Fitzgerald; Gene Fowler; Pat Lauzon; Beverly Loomis; Tom Myers; Jim McCarthy; and Steve Verkamp

\* \* \* \* \*

## Welcome New Members

Marvin Rowan – Estes Park CO

Margaret Lee Taylor – Flagstaff AZ

Sally Zettel – West Royalston MA

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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Prescott, Arizona 86304-0067

02-06

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## Reminder – Time to Renew

Membership dues are payable on the 1st of January of each year. The month and year printed above your name on the address label of the newsletter indicates when your membership expires. If you see 2005, please mail your \$20 check today to:

Grand Canyon Historical Society  
c/o Susan Billingsley - PO Box 345 - Flagstaff AZ 86002

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## GCHS Scholarship

The Grand Canyon Historical Society's scholarship supports research involving history, historic or environmental preservation in the Grand Canyon region.

Any Northern Arizona University graduate student doing work in the above fields of research is eligible. Eligible projects include: Any work that results in original research concerning historical individuals, events, sites, organizations, businesses or environmental issues in the Grand Canyon region; or any work that results in original research that supports or leads to historical preservation of any historical site, photographs, documents, or diaries with origins in the Grand Canyon region.

To have the project considered complete, one or more of the following end products must be included: (1) Submission of a paper suitable for publication to GCHS by December 1, 2006. (2) Presentation of a paper at a legitimate conference with a copy of the paper to GCHS. The copy must be presented to GCHS by December 1, 2006, with presentation scheduled at the earliest possible meeting of the conference. (3) A thesis or dissertation of which component parts resulted from the research with a copy of the included work presented to GCHS by December 1, 2006. (4) Historical preservation of photographs, documents or diaries requires at least delivery of a photocopy of the items in question to GCHS by December 1, 2006. Preservation of actual items is preferred. (5) Site research requires a completed nomination or

submission of material to GCHS by December 1 for inclusion in a nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

Papers and/or items submitted as a result of research will become a part of the GCHS Collection in the Special Collections and Archives at NAU's Cline Library for use by anyone doing research in those subjects involving the Grand Canyon region. The author will receive full credit for any material used in publication.

Applications for the GCHS Scholarship must be submitted no later than Friday, February 24, 2006, to:

GCHS Scholarship Committee  
c/o Al Richmond  
50 Adobe Circle  
Sedona, AZ 86351

Submit a letter of application to the above address with a short biography to include: name, address, phone number, undergraduate and/or graduate degree(s), current degree program, department and advisor. Also, describe in a short paragraph the project to which the scholarship is being applied and include a proposed budget of how you will use the \$1,000 award. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in April 2006.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Al at [alrichmond@npgcable.com](mailto:alrichmond@npgcable.com) or 928 606-2781.

**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2006 Outings Coordinator:** Mike Coltrin, 2041 West Brichta Drive, Tucson AZ 85745; phone: 520-624-1831; email: [Coltrin1@cox.net](mailto:Coltrin1@cox.net).

**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](mailto:Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org).