

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 7

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

July 2006

Sun Shines on the Historical Society



Jim Ohlman and Wayne Ranney get their hot-off-the-grill hot dogs from cooks Linda Anderson and Helen Thompson

On June 24, members of the Grand Canyon Historical Society gathered at Shoshone Point on the South Rim for the Society's annual picnic. With the temperature in the 90s and nary a cloud to be seen, the 2006 picnic was a far cry from last year's, held at the ramada by the park's Rec Center due to stormy skies and chilly temperatures. A year ago, we longed for sun, but this time it was too hot and too sunny, as members huddled in two-, three-, or four-person pods under the pinyons and junipers, taking advantage of the shade.

We fired up the grills (gas, due to a parkwide charcoal grill ban) and cooked wieners and brats until no one wanted another. Along with the tubular meat, a variety of side dishes, including potato salad, baked beans, molasses cookies, and tossed salad, left some of us sluggish but happy in the mid-afternoon heat.

GCHS President Mike Anderson, who works for the National Park Service as a cultural resource specialist, told members about many new projects the park service is putting into motion due to the funds made available through the fee-demo program, whereby 80 percent of the entrance fees collected stay at Grand Canyon. The money is to be used for construction projects, and Mike told us that several changes are fast approaching, including expanded parking in Tusayan and next to Canyon View Information Plaza (CVIP), mass-transit (probably busses) from Tusayan to CVIP, limitations on the number of cars allowed in the park, a redesigned Bright Angel trailhead area, and new or revamped bathroom facilities parkwide, among other things. Perhaps some future Shoshone Point gathering of

....continued on page 3

2006 Outings

July 15 – Annual Jacob Lake Campout and Film Festival. Spend a day (and a night) in the North Kaibab Forest at the historic Jacob Lake Ranger Station with fellow Canyon adventurers, and enjoy watching two films: *Monumental*, David Brower's *Fight For Wild America*, produced by Loteria Films, 2004, and *RIVER RUNNERS OF THE GRAND CANYON*, *The Human Story of the Colorado River* produced by Don Briggs Films, 1994. As usual, plan on a festive barbeque on Saturday too. Some members will be there Friday evening, if you're interested in arriving early. For directions, see article on back page.

August 19 – *The Spirit of Grand Canyon* by Interpretive Ranger Bob Audretsch. Bob will discuss his thoughts of how Grand Canyon inspired many writers, artists, musicians and poets, reading from the works of such people as John Wesley Powell, Henry Van Dyke, Teresa Jordan, Carl Sandburg, and Colin Fletcher. Be prepared; Bob may ask us to write an observation or compose some poetry to share (or not) with the group. The program will begin at 1:00 PM at the Shrine of the Ages, at South Rim Village - Grand Canyon. Look for members and the presenter having lunch at 12:00 Noon in the Maswik Cafeteria.

September 16 – available

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.

Grand Canyon Community Book Club

by Nancy Green

We had a great discussion last evening about the May book, *Vanished Arizona* by Martha Summerhayes. This was a true account of a young Army wife fresh from the East Coast and Europe, who married a Lieutenant and was stationed in Territorial Arizona in 1874. There was some initial annoyance with her, as she really was quite whinny about the various situations in which the Army life found her. However, as we gained a greater understanding of her life of wealth and privilege to which she was accustomed, we realized what a shock Yuma would have been to someone who had only been in greener pastures, both geographically and financially. We were totally amazed that she continued to wear starched, white, long (probably heavy) gowns, although she wistfully admired the Mexican women in their light, short-sleeved, off the shoulder peasant blouses. She was a keen observer of the different lifestyles of the various cultures she encountered, from the Native Americans, to the Hispanics, to the Army soldiers constantly shuffled from post to post. Mary Gdula, our facilitator for this book, outdid herself by bringing an enlarged map of Arizona, pinpointing all the locations which the author mentioned in the book. Summerhayes really covered the length and width of the state, long before travel was easy. We got the feeling that her husband was not overly supportive, and left her to work out the details of Army life. But she was severely handicapped by her genteel upbringing, and didn't have a clue about the basics of daily necessities, especially under the rough conditions. She frequently employed soldiers or local women to cook, manage the house & bring up her son. But, after a long career with her husband, a Civil War vet, what she looked the most fondly back on were those early days in Arizona. Her memoir makes a good read.

To keep you on track, here is the list of the 2006 readings and meetings:

July 25: Annual Shoshone Point picnic for fun & book selection

August 28: *Dancing on the Edge* by Charly Heavenrich, facilitated by Dot Bowdish

September 28: *To Live and Die in Arizona* by Elizabeth Bruening Lewis, facilitated by Libby Schaaf

October 24: *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, facilitated by Pam Frazier

November 28: *Through the Grand Canyon from Wyoming to Mexico* by Ellsworth Kolb, facilitated by Keith Green, (if GCA has this printed by then)

December: Pam Frazier will host a small seasonal party at her home so we can select new books for our 2007 reading pleasure!

Keep on Reading!

June Outing Attendance

With perfect weather and ravens soaring, the picnic was enjoyed by all:

From Kayenta:	Jim, Janece & Sarah Ohlman
From Sedona:	Al & Rich Richmond
From Prescott:	Dan & Diane Cassidy
	Ann Reynolds
	Sally Underwood
From Flagstaff:	George Billingsley
	Mary Ellen Hamilton
	Joe Fields
	Bev Loomis
From Grand Canyon:	Mike & Linda Anderson
	Todd & Bonnie Berger
	Keith Green
	Wayne Ranney
	Helen Thompson
	Sally, Erin & Jacob Wahler



historical society members will look back on the way the South Entrance gate used to be, although few will pine for the porta-johns that used to be the only bathroom facilities at Shoshone Point.

When the grills were loaded in the pickup, and all of the leftovers and eating accoutrements had been gathered up and stowed in various vehicles, the annual Shoshone Point picnic, a pleasant afternoon of eating and talking, came to an end.

George Billingsley proudly announced the 2006 recipient of the **GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PIONEER AWARD**...to Al Richmond for:

- his achievements as one of the founders of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society (now called the Grand Canyon Historical Society) and his ongoing work to solicit and select a recipient for the Society's annual Scholarship Award, and his participation in the selection and presentation of the annual Grand Canyon Hall of Fame Award for Community Service;
- serving the public as an Arizona liaison for the National Parks and Monuments of northern Arizona;
- his assistance with the Arizona Culturekeeps, a statewide historical program recognizing those dedicated to preserving the State of Arizona;
- facilitating the construction of the Arizona State Railroad Museum in Williams, Arizona;
- his achievements as the founder of the Grand Canyon Railway Museum in Williams, Arizona; and for his work as the historian and museum curator for the Grand Canyon Railway Museum; and
- his revolutionary research of the development, building and historical accounts of the Grand Canyon Railway from Williams to Grand Canyon Village, Arizona, and the resulting publication of that research into the popular books *Cowboys, Miners, Presidents and Kings: The Story of the Grand Canyon Railway*, plus *Rails to the Rim: Milepost Guide to the Grand Canyon Railway* and more recently *The Grand Canyon Railway: Sixty Years in Color*.

Al graciously accepted and said: *My thanks to all of you for the honor of the Pioneer Award bestowed upon me. Although I feel more comfortable in the place of presenting awards than receiving them, this honor is one I cherish. In the past 20 years, we have come a long way and accomplished many good things together and I certainly appreciate the camaraderie and all that I have learned from you. Your friendship and good will are important to me as is the*



future of the Society. I could not have asked for a better day...surrounded by friends and the beauty of the Canyon at Shoshone Point. Cheers!

The ninth annual **GRAND CANYON HALL OF FAME AWARDS** are sponsored by the Grand Canyon Historical Society and the National Park Service. The following presentations took place during the GCHS picnic. The names of the recipients will be engraved on the permanent plaque housed in the Shrine of Ages. Two awards are made each year to recognize service to the Grand Canyon community. We honor one deceased person and the living recipient receives an appropriate plaque.

The awardees this year are: Sally Wahler and Stanley G. Stephens (deceased).

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

Sally Wahler and her children attended for the honor. Sally more than typifies volunteer spirit. For years she has served the school children and community in a variety of roles. The children know her as a reading mentor, a volleyball coach, a track coach, and a booster. As if this were not enough, Sally has also been active with PTA parenting classes and the school lunch program. Her love for children has also been expressed in service as a Scout leader and camp counselor.

One might think that there would be no more time left over after her job at the school and taking care of her family and these other activities, but she has also found time to work on the Grand Canyon Chamber Music Festival and serve on the new Child Abuse Prevention Council. The youth of Grand Canyon and the community as a whole have most certainly benefited from her dedication and willingness to help make this a better place in which to live and raise a family.



Stanley G. Stephens served for years as Justice of the Peace at Grand Canyon Village. As one who knew him well stated, "If there was something to do for the community the Judge was involved in it." Others remembered him for serving many years as the projectionist at the community building picture shows but this was only the tip of the iceberg. His membership in Rotary and as a Mason naturally lent his talents to community service, and he was always one of the first to volunteer for their projects.

...continued on page 4

Sun Shines...continued from page 3

An avid historian, Judge Stephens also educated legions of visitors through the Fred Harvey lectures on Canyon history and lore. He believed in the community and its people and over those many years never hesitated to donate his time, talents, and money to help improve their quality of life.

We are deeply indebted to folks like Stanley and Sally for helping to make the Grand Canyon Community a better place in which to live and work.

[Picnic article by Todd Berger;
photos by Diane Cassidy]

Note: See the article "Memories of Dad at the Canyon in 1941-1946" in the current issue of The Ol'Pioneer for family stories of Stanley G. Stephens. For a complete list of awardees, see the Society's web pages at www.GrandCanyonHistory.org.



Mom and daughter, Janece and Sarah Ohlman, enjoy a quiet moment together at the edge of the rim.

* * * * *

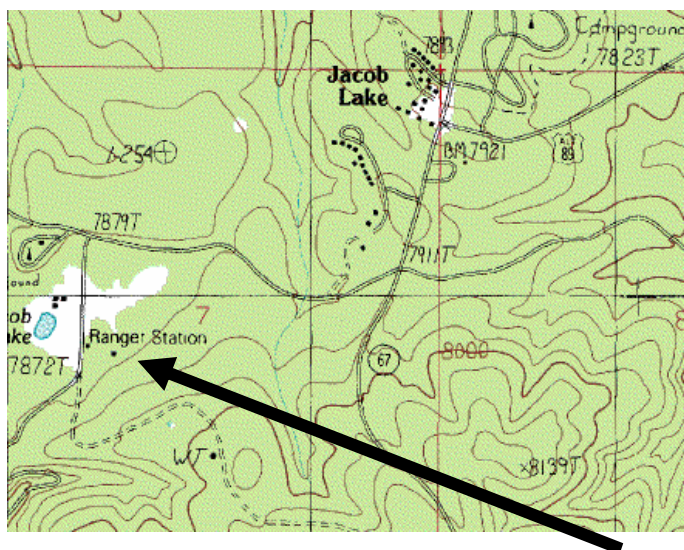
Welcome New Members

Jim & Penny Barrington – Prescott AZ

Jacob Lake Campout: July 15



Enjoy the history of Grand Canyon with fellow GCHS members at the Jacob Lake campout at the historic ranger station at Jacob Lake on Saturday, July 15.



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 on the property and a hose bib for water.

Bring your camping gear, including a camp stove or gas grill (because of the fire restrictions) if you plan to cook; also, if you wish, a dish to share with the group.

See you there!

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.

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.