

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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Don Peterson

GCHS member Donald P. Peterson, of Albuquerque, died on Tuesday, October 19, 2012, surrounded by his family. He was 83. Don is survived by his wife Adair, sons Bradley, Russell, and Brian, and daughter Teri, along with three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Don received his PhD in mathematics from the University of Oregon, graduating with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He was a Distinguished Member of the Staff of Sandia National Laboratories. Don is best known to the Grand Canyon community for his hiking exploits with his beloved Adair. They started hiking in the canyon in the 1960s and were also hiking partners and close friends of George Steck. Don and Adair climbed and hiked into the Grand Canyon to places virtually inaccessible, and to many similar places in Utah and Colorado. Don was a member of the New Mexico Mountain Club, Friends of the Sandias and the Sierra Club. He was well known for his 30 years of service with the Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council where he and Adair helped search for and rescue lost and injured hikers, climbers and victims of aircraft accidents. Don was not a large man but he was strong and tough and always got the job done. A quiet and gentle man, Don seemed to never lose his temper even in the most aggravating and frustrating situation. He loved life, his host of friends, and New Mexico. One of his favorite quotes was from Dylan Thomas: "Old Age should not go quietly into the night, but should rage and fight the dimming of the light." He fought until the end when the light finally went out. A memorial service was held at his home on November 10th. *The preceding includes excerpts from <http://obits.abqjournal.com/obits/show/229952>*

GCHS Conducts First Ever Strategic Planning Session

On February 1, 2013, sixteen members of the Grand Canyon Historical Society (GCHS) Board of Directors, past board members and friends of the organization, met in Sedona, AZ, to conduct the first ever strategic planning for the organization. The meeting was held under the leadership of GCHS president Wayne Ranney, with facilitation by board member Beth Hickey. Other participants included Lee and Shirley Albertson, Al Richmond, Amy Horn, Carol Naille, Richard Quartaroli, George Billingsley, Tom Martin, Mike Anderson, Frank Romaglia, Howie Asaki, Keith and Nancy Green, and Paul Schnur. The GCHS Board would like to thank Lee and Shirley Albertson for opening their apartment in Sedona to the group for this planning meeting.

The meeting included a brief history of the GCHS, which incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1984. At that time, under the leadership of Grand Canyon school teacher Betty Bartlett and Dr. Agnes Allen, with Al Richmond as the first president, the GCHS was made up mostly of Grand Canyon residents. The organization was a very loose-knit, social

organization with monthly outings of around twenty or so mostly Grand Canyon residents who recognized the pioneers who lived and work at the Grand Canyon. Dues were \$10 per year, and there were maybe 50 members.

In the last twenty-seven years, the GCHS has matured into an organization that has fewer outings, but has conducted three Grand Canyon History symposia with resultant monographs, has a number of outreach publications to members, a scholarship program, and community service awards. While still being a community based group, interest has grown in the scholarly side of the GCHS and a global membership has grown out of today's outreach activities, with an on-line web based presence in this century of information technology.

Organizational priorities were reviewed, including identifying the *Ol' Pioneer*, *Bulletin* and website as giving value to members, in both publishing personal historical accounts as well as promoting more scholarly work. It was agreed that there is a need for a publication committee to develop a theme for each *Ol' Pioneer*, with a wide variety of articles for the *Pioneer* and *Bulletin*.

Discussion also focused on the very popular History Symposium. The group consensus is to keep the Symposium at the South Rim of the Park, and consider having the next Symposium in 2016, the same year as the passage of the National Park Service Organic Act. Lee Albertson was tasked with writing a "job description" for Chairman of the GC History Symposium.

The importance of outings was reviewed, and it was agreed that outings fill a role as a social organization, provide opportunities to learn about interesting Grand Canyon history, and allow participants to intermingle with folks who have similar interests. Past president Erik Berg, with assistance from Howie Asaki, would like to do two outings this year. The group acknowledged that the Annual Picnic at the South Rim is a rare opportunity to socialize with other historians and see the canyon, and might be a good time to have a summer Board meeting as well.

The role of GCHS scholarships was reviewed. These came about as a society goal being the preservation of history by encouraging graduate level college students to do Grand Canyon historical research. Al Richmond has been chairing this committee and there was agreement that this vital service should be continued. The Pioneer Award was also reviewed, and Lee Albertson, with Wayne Ranney, Keith Green, Paul Schnur and Mike Anderson, will now all work as a committee on this program.

Given the changes the GCHS has gone through in the last three decades, the Mission Statement of the organization was

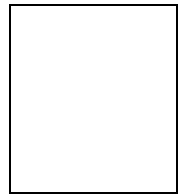
Grand Canyon Historical Society

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reviewed, and a new Mission Statement was adopted as follows: ***“Promoting the study and preservation of Grand Canyon cultural and natural history”***.

Planning also looked at introducing an oral history component to the organization, starting by interviewing the long-standing members of the GCHS board. This would include working with the NPS Museum Collection and Cline Library Special Collections at Northern Arizona University.

A number of additional issues were discussed, and at the meeting's end, Beth Hickey volunteered to draft out a strategic plan including the new Mission Statement, and vision statement that encompasses all that the GCHS does in working toward this mission. The draft will be submitted to the Board for approval, and will provide a snapshot to look at this time next year to see how well the GCHS is doing in staying goal oriented to promote the study and preservation of Grand Canyon cultural and natural history!

Submitted by Tom Martin

History Symposium Proceedings Update

The 2012 Proceedings is in galley form and the publications committee is in discussion with publishers. It will consist of 41 chapters from 39 authors, plus the GCNP superintendent's Welcome, 310 pages and over 275 images, identical in format to the previous two proceedings from 2002 and 2007. Publication will be later this year, so stay tuned for further updates.

Nominations Accepted for Pioneer Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2013 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 areas such as the natural sciences, photography, river running, backcountry

hiking, history, administration, art, etc. - any area that advances the knowledge of the Grand Canyon.

Previous recipients of the Pioneer Award: Earle Spamer, 2012; John Azar, 2011; Brad Dimock, 2009; Lee Albertson, 2008; Mike Quinn, 2007; Al Richmond, 2006; Mike Anderson, 2005; Gary Ladd, 2004; George Billingsley, 2003; Bill Suran, 2002; George Steck, 1999; Gale Burak, 1998; and Harvey Butchart, 1997.

The Pioneer Award is presented to the individual at the Historical Society Annual picnic at the South Rim.

To make a nomination, submit the individual's name and their accomplishments, and/or contributions (submitted as an email attachment, or surface mail equivalent to one side of an 8½X11 sheet - may include material that supports the nomination) **by March 15, 2013** to:

Lee Albertson
12219 South 71st Street
Tempe, Arizona 85284
Phone: 480-838-2710
email: labertson2@cox.net

Renew Now! Keep The Bulletin and OI' Pioneer Headed Your Way!

Thanks to all of the members who've already renewed for 2013, but if you haven't yet renewed visit the Membership page on our website to renew online or to print a membership form you can mail in:

<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/membership.html>

Not sure if you've renewed this year? Contact: treasurer@grandcanyohistory.org

2013 Outings

Saturday, July 20th Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point. Details to come.

Check our web site for outings updates:

<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/>

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **Outings Coordinator** at eoberg@cox.net.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.
Please send them to: kgreig@yahoo.com