



1956 Crash Site Designated Historic Landmark

Commemoration Events June 30th & July 8th 2014

In 1956, a Trans World Airlines Super Constellation and a United Airlines DC-7 collided over the Grand Canyon killing all 128 passengers and crew. The wreckage fell into the canyon northwest of the confluence of the Colorado and the Little Colorado Rivers.

The crash site is most easily seen from Desert View Watchtower. An interpretive sign is there, but over the years the park has removed much of the wreckage and none is visible from the rim.



Chuar and Temple Buttes Crash Sites (K. Greig)

Grand Canyon Vanishing Treasures archeologist, and GCHS member, Ian Hough has been the Project Coordinator for the attempt to get the crash site designated as a national historic landmark. Readers may remember that Mr. Hough made a presentation about the crash at the 2012 Grand Canyon History Symposium.

In May 2011, the nomination was submitted to the National Historic Landmarks Committee in Washington D.C. for review. On April 23, 2014 the site became an official National Historic Landmark. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis signed the designation.

The significance of "The 1956 Grand Canyon TWA-United Airlines Aviation Accident Site" (official title) is its association with the modernization of the nation's aviation practices. By the year after the crash, safer practices were implemented, and the Federal Aviation Administration was created.

Commemoration Events:

Monday June 30, 2014 58th Anniversary

- Interpretive programs at Desert View beginning at 9am and continuing throughout the day.

- Laying of wreaths at TWA Memorial, Flagstaff Citizens Cemetery and at United Airlines Memorial, Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery, 10am.
- Evening Program McKee Amphitheater, Grand Canyon Village, 8:30pm

Tuesday July 8, 2014

National Historic Landmark Designation Desert View Amphitheater, 10am. (Inclement weather location: Shrine of the Ages, Grand Canyon Village)

Submitted by Keith Green

2014 Outings

Saturday July 19th Noon to 4pm. Annual Picnic and Award Ceremony at Shoshone Point, South Rim Food, Friends, Fraternity, Fun! *Details & Map on Page 3.*

Saturday, November 8th 9:00am to 1:00pm, Annual Board Meeting. East Flagstaff Public Library Community Meeting Room, 3000 N. Fourth Street, (near the junction with Cedar Ave).

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

Park to Prepare EIS/Bison Management Plan

The story of bison at the Grand Canyon is complex. There is fossil and archaeological evidence that bison existed in the Southwest and possibly within the current boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) prior to the last Ice Age about 12,000 years ago. Other canyon residents in the late Pleistocene included woolly mammoths, saber-tooth tigers, giant sloths, miniature horses, camels, huge bears, and condors. Pictographs of bison have been found near the Arizona/Utah border and the San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff. Spanish explorers encountered a small herd of bison in northern Arizona, south of the Colorado River in the mid-1500s.

American bison (*Bison bison*) were present in great numbers by the time Europeans invaded the country, but they had been almost eradicated from an estimated 30 million in 1830 to fewer than 100 by the early 20th Century.

In 1906, "Uncle Jimmy" Owens and others brought ten bison from the Yellowstone area down to the Arizona Strip into north rim areas that would later become part of Grand Canyon National Park. He thought interbreeding cattle and buffalo would produce tastier, more robust livestock. The herd was permitted to roam around Bright Angel Point. The experiment didn't work, so Owens' backers left, leaving him sole owner of the herd. Since Uncle Jim was also the Kaibab Forest's game warden, he campaigned against any predators of his herd. From the original ten in 1906, the herd increased

in size and in 1926, ninety-eight of the bison were purchased by the State of Arizona to be the state buffalo herd. Arizona Game and Fish started managing them in House Rock Valley in 1950. Since then, Arizona Game and Fish has interbred the herd with bison from around the country in an effort to strengthen the bison gene pool. Bison currently occupying GCNP lands are considered to be native wildlife within the southern edge of their historic range.

By the late 1990s, fire had destroyed the fencing between the House Rock Wildlife Area and Grand Canyon National Park, and bison began migrating into the park. More than 300 bison now live in the park permanently. Like elk on the South Rim, bison seem to have discovered hunters won't shoot at them inside the park. Bison have been seen on Powell Plateau and are even making their way into the canyon. Bison appear to be impacting prehistoric ruins in the canyon, with evidence that they have trampled artifacts and damaged habitation structures. Some other issues of concern to NPS include:

1. Springs and hydrology – persistent use of water seeps, springs and lakes results in dewatering and contamination.
2. Possible destruction of native plants found only in seeps, springs, and grasslands.
3. The natural distribution of alpine meadow plants on the Kaibab Plateau appears to be impacted by heavy grazing.
4. If bison only graze on certain plants, the loss in plant diversity could allow invasive non-native species to propagate more easily.
5. Other ungulates and wildlife could be diminished due to loss of graze.
6. Cultural resources on the rim could be scattered or destroyed.
7. Human/bison interactions: Vehicle collisions with bison have been increasing.

To address these concerns and develop a bison management plan, the park will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will investigate various bison management alternatives. There are several reasons why an EIS is necessary. First, the present piecemeal approach to the encroaching bison is not working; their numbers and the extent of damage on the North Rim continue to increase. The most important reason is the conflict between the NPS mission and the bison management policies of the National Forest Service and Arizona Game & Fish for the Kaibab Plateau. The Forest Service's multi-use policy allows for hunting bison in the forest. The Arizona Game and Fish management goal is for a huntable, free-ranging bison herd in the North Kaibab Forest at a herd population of about 100 animals. The chance to hunt one of America's most powerful icons, the American Buffalo, is pretty exciting. Arizonans pay \$1,000 for a buffalo hunting permit. Out-of-state hunters pay up to \$5,500.

Comments from the public have been requested by June 6, 2014, with the preferred method being to comment online. Go to http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca_bison_eis for more

details. The draft EIS is expected to be available for public comment in Summer, 2015.

Submitted by Keith Green with input from Tom Martin

GCHS Stages a Tour to Tour a Stage (Line) – A Report of our May Outing

Before the railroad reached the canyon in 1901, most visitors arrived at the south rim by stage along one of several meandering trails from Flagstaff or Williams. One of the most popular routes from Flagstaff ran around the western side of the San Francisco Peaks and across the Babbitt's CO Bar Ranch to reach the cabins of John Hance and the Hull brothers at the canyon near Grandview Point. At its best, the journey required a full day of travel over rough, often dusty, roads including several stops at relay stations along the way to switch horses.

On Saturday, May 24, Kaibab Forest Service employees Neil Weintraub and Margaret Hangan led a tour of 15 intrepid GCHS members and one intrepid dog along the northern sections of this historic route.



At the Arizona Trail, Entering Kaibab National Forest (E. Berg)

The group met along US180 near Red Mountain and followed portions of the original stage line across the CO Bar Ranch to the Kaibab National Forest (detouring slightly to avoid the bad roads of the Tubs Ranch section). Along the way, we stopped to admire the view across the rolling grasslands while Neil shared excerpts of accounts from early travelers (from Richard and Sherry Mangum's excellent book *Grand Canyon - Flagstaff Stage Coach Line: A History & Exploration Guide*). Famous early historian Sharlot Hall made the trip in 1893 and recounted her impressions of this section: "No large mountains are in sight as we have dropped below San Francisco and crossed a hill which hides it from view. We have encamped in a little basin where the horses have very good grass but no water except what we have hauled."

Entering the Kaibab National Forest, we soon came to the ruins of the Moqui Stage Stop. Due to the lack of natural water sources, stage line operators constructed a cement-lined cistern here around 1892 to save rainwater and snow melt for thirsty horses and travelers. Although the accompanying corral and cabin are gone, the deep well of the cistern can still be seen. While stretching our legs and exploring the area, Margaret explained to the group the importance of preserving historic trash and refuse because even the most seemingly

inconsequential item can contain useful information about the time period of a site and the activities of its inhabitants.

From Moqui, we headed deeper into ponderosa pine forests where a brief rainstorm gave us a respite from the dust and a few challenging mud patches. After a short lunch break (in a pretty location where the stages might have stopped for lunch too – if they had gotten lost), we continued on to Red Horse Tank and its associated log cabin ruin. Nearby we examined a mysterious pit blasted into the rock of a dry wash and debated its purpose. The trip ended at the historic Hull Ranch, which was established in the 1880s by the Hull Brothers and their famous partner, Capt. John Hance. Located in a pretty wooded valley, the original Hull cabin has been beautifully restored and can be rented from the Forest Service.



At Historic Hull Cabin (N. Weintraub)

Before continuing on to the Rim Road, some attendees also stopped at the Grandview Watch Tower (a fire lookout tower built in 1936 and still in use today).



1936 Fire Lookout near Grandview (E. Berg)

From the rolling grasslands of the Babbitt Ranches to the dense green woods of the forest, most of the tour was through extremely scenic and picturesque landscapes filled with pleasing vistas, scampering squirrels, chirping birds, and the scent of pine forests after a cool rain. Although the village and rim were packed with Memorial Day weekend crowds, we saw only a handful of other visitors on our back road excursion.

All in all, it was a great outing. The society is indebted to Neil and Margaret for taking the time to share their extensive knowledge and passion for the area, and to the Babbitt Ranch for granting access across their property.

Submitted by Erik Berg

Come to the Annual Picnic!!!

Saturday, July 19th Noon to 4pm Annual Picnic and Award Ceremony at Shoshone Point, South Rim

PLEASE NOTE: As per last year, we'll meet at noon. The Board will be meeting in Flagstaff the night before.

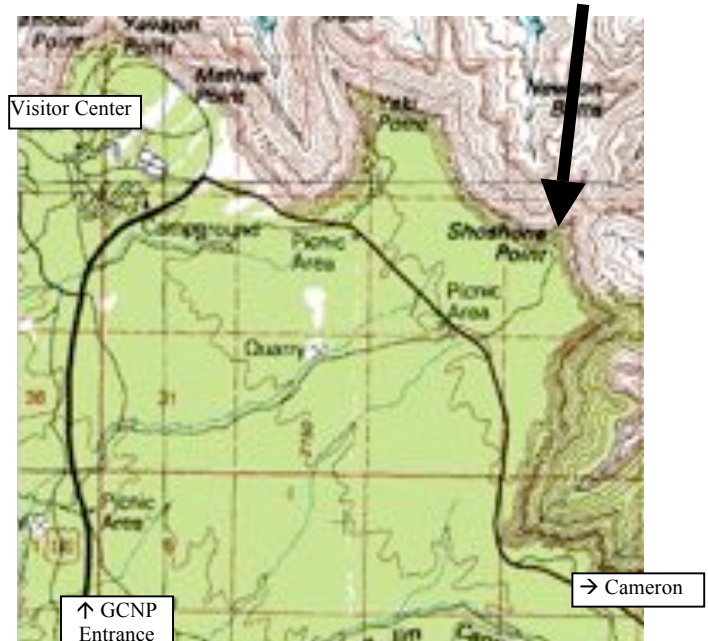
We'll eat around 1:00 then have a short speech about what's up with the Society by our President, Wayne Ranney, and then presentation of the **Pioneer Award** and the **Hall of Fame Award**.

Everyone should bring: a dish to share (casserole, dessert, etc), drinks, dishes/utensils, and something to barbecue.

Parking at the point will be limited; please carpool or plan to walk from the parking lot. There will be volunteer vehicles to help ferry supplies and people as needed.

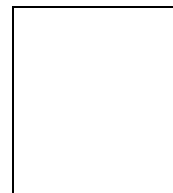
To get to Shoshone Point from the main entrance:

- Take the East Rim Drive.
- About 1.5 miles beyond the road to Yaki Point, turn left into a dirt parking area and look for the yellow gate.



Grand Canyon Historical Society
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Submit Your Stories for OI' Pioneer

The *OI' Pioneer* is the Society's magazine featuring stories, photos, and letters of historical relevance to the Grand Canyon. Submit your stories, photos, etc to the editor, Mary Williams at:

Mary Williams
4880 Weatherford Rd
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Phone: 928-779-3377
mary@marywilliamsdesign.com



Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **Outings Coordinator** Ellen Brennan at ellen_brennan@nps.gov

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