

August 14, 2022

## Grand Canyon History Tidbit by Kim Besom

### July 1932 Superintendent Monthly Report

**So, what was happening here 90 years ago?** According to the **July 1932 Superintendent Monthly Report**, the following were some of the items of note for the month of July:

An outstanding event during the past month was the dedication of the Stephen T. Mather Memorial Plaque on July 4, at Yavapai Observation Station... Assistant Superintendent Lloyd delivered the dedicatory address. This was followed by the unveiling of the plaque by Chief Ranger Brooks and Assistant Park Naturalist McKee. Sonny Lehnert, grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Emery Kolb, Grand Canyon pioneers, and son of Chief Ranger and Mrs. Carl Lehnert of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, next placed a wreath of pine and cedar at the foot of the plaque. Governor George Hunt of the State of Arizona followed with an address lauding the work of Stephen T. Mather and Theodore Roosevelt as the two greatest conservationists of modern times. The exercises closed with the assemblage numbering nearly one hundred, singing the first and last verses of America.



#15078B: ORIGINAL DEDICATION OF STEPHEN T. MATHER PLAQUE, AT YAVAPAI OBSERVATION STATION. SONNY LEHNERT PLACING WREATH IN FRONT OF PLAQUE, JULY 1932. PLAQUE WAS LATER MOVED TO MATHER POINT.

**Weather:** On the South Rim weather conditions were generally clear and warm with precipitation below normal. The North Rim, however, was visited by frequent showers during the past month with three heavy electrical storms... As a result of the electrical storms, a small fire started on Greenland Point.

**Superintendent:** The morning of July 11 was spent on a trip with [NPS] Director Albright and party at Indian Garden, traveling by the tramway used by the Santa Fe in connection with the construction of the water development project now under way, inspecting that project and the work done last winter on rebuilding the Bright Angel trail.

July 21, [the Superintendent] went to the North Rim by airplane, spent the balance of that day and the next on an inspection of the Lindberg road contract work there and on various construction jobs, cleanup, etc., being done by Park forces.

**Labor situation:** The labor force has been limited to a crew assistant with the usual maintenance requirements and the staggered construction arranged to provide a steady flow of work throughout the fall and part of the winter. As usual an employment policy favoring the Havasupai Indians as laborers is in effect and a number are working for the first time in the past twelve months. This tribe of Indians are almost wholly dependent upon the National Park Service for their employment.

There has been little improvement noted in employment conditions in this section. The park operators and the Santa Fe Railroad are using as few employees as possible. Some unexpected difficulty in connection with the pipe line construction from Indian Garden to the South Rim by the Santa Fe Railroad will necessitate additional work with prolonged employment for a group of men who would otherwise be without work.

**Equipment and Supplies:** Two models of the plateau of Northern Arizona and Southern Utah, featuring the geology, were purchased from the New York Museum of Natural History and received at Grand Canyon for exhibit use. Other major equipment included: two Ford 1-ton dump trucks, one Ford 1-ton delivery truck, one floor polisher and one used 5x7 view camera.

Rangers made a string map, mounted it on a long window shade roller so that it can be kept out of the way when not in use, and installed this map at the Bright Angel Fire Tower during the past month.

**Maintenance:** A plug occurred in the outfall sewer line during the month, requiring immediate attention.

**Post Construction:** At Imperial Wye on the North Rim, a cut of considerable size is being daylighted and the large hole in the wye being filled with the surplus material.



#02894: PUTTING IN THE WYE ON THE POINT IMPERIAL AND CAPE ROYAL ROADS, JULY 1932

**New Construction:** The erecting of the Machine and Blacksmith shop on the North Rim progressed satisfactorily.

Progress on the Lipan Point Spur Road has been slow during July due to the necessity of using the men on other work.

On completion of moving the tent cabins from the Bright Angel Camp to the Public Campgrounds it was found necessary to extend our campground street system to give access to these cabins. Sufficient grading and surfacing was done by Park forces to allow cars to get into this area.



02899: OILING AND GRADING PUBLIC CAMPGROUND ROADS, CIRCA 1932

In cooperation with the Santa Fe Railroad, a number of unsightly areas between the wye railroad tracks and the Fred Harvey barns have been cleared of much piles and general debris.

Acting on an agreement between the Utah Parks Company and Fred Harvey, the latter company as represented on the North Rim will take over on August 1, the operation of saddle stock on the North Rim for the rest of the season.

**Status of Authorized Projects of Contractors:** The water development from Indian Gardens to the Rim, progress is reported by the Santa Fe Resident Engineer as follows: Trouble has developed in the patent couplings along the pipe line which will require considerable time and expense to remedy.

**Donations and Accessions of all Kinds:** Upon request, a series of rock specimens, representative of Grand Canyon NP, were sent to the Krakow School of Mines, Poland, and the Northern High School at Detroit, Michigan.

**Ranger, Naturalist and Guide Services:** Naturalists conducted airplane tours over Grand Canyon NP were first inaugurated July 17, and met with instantaneous approval. Two flights are schedules daily, one in the morning, and the second in the afternoon.

**Museum Services:** The Yavapai Station and the Wayside Museum were open each day from 8:30am to 5:00pm with a naturalist in charge. The North Rim Museum was opened on July 15. It is located in a small room in the tower of the Grand Canyon Lodge. This museum was greatly improved in appearance prior to opening this year, due to the rearrangements of specimens on hand and the installation of geological and botanical exhibits.



#08159: ORIGINAL GRAND CANYON LODGE ON THE NORTH RIM, 1932. THE NORTH RIM MUSEUM WAS LOCATED IN THE TOWER.

**Archeology and History:** A history of the development of the Grand View, hotel and mines was obtained from Mr. P.D. Berry of Flagstaff, and recorded.

**Birds:** The following rather unusual bird records were reported from the North Rim: White Rumped Shrike, South Bald Eagles, Band-Tailed Pigeons, Dusky Grouse

**Animals:** Ranger Naturalist Redburn and caravan party saw a mountain lion on the Cape Royal Road.

Kaibab Squirrels appear to be fairly common around the North Rim Campgrounds this year. Ranger Naturalist Redburn has located four litters containing a total of 16 young squirrels.

An authentic record of the native horned lizard shooting blood from his eyes was obtained in early July. The incident was observed on the South Rim.

**Travel:** Records show that 24,804 people entered the Park this month, a decrease of 17% as compared to a year ago. Auto travel was represented by 48 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Canal Zone, Philippines and 2 foreign countries, Canada and Mexico. Cars entered every day during the month.

**Visitors:** T.A.D. Jones, former Yale football coach and a group of Eastern football coaches, arrived on the South Rim in charge of the Yale, Harvard, and Princeton football players who are scheduled to participate in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles... While in the park, Jones placed a beautiful spray on the grave of Robert Bingham, former Yale football player during Jones' coaching days at Yale, who died while on duty at Grand Canyon as a Forest Ranger and was buried in the Grand Canyon cemetery.



#00571: MEMBERS OF THE YALE, HARVARD AND PRINCETON FOOTBALL TEAMS PAY TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BINGHAM, FORMER YALE FOOTBALL PLAYER AND GRCA FOREST RESERVE RANGER, CEMETERY, JULY 1932

The Swedish Olympic Team arrived on the South Rim for the day and while here availed themselves the opportunity to work out at the community recreation field.

**Public Camps:** There has been a greater use of the public campgrounds on both rims of the park this year and every effort has been made to provide additional safeguards for the health protection of the campers.

**Protection:** On July 10, Ranger Graff picked up a party of two women in a Chevrolet coach at Bright Angel Camp. One of the women had whiskey and offered Graff a drink. They were taken to the office and interviewed and were soon joined by their husbands in another car. The husbands also had whiskey. The entire party was ordered to leave the park.

**Fire Protection:** June 21, 12:00 midnight, Community Building. Caused from discarded cigarette lodging between the floor boards on side porch entrance. Fire extinguished by dance guests. No property damage.

**Sanitation:** A total of 2,520,028 gallons of water was reclaimed at the sewage plant, an average of 100,715 per day. Periodical bacteriological examination of the domestic and the non-domestic water supply were made by the sewage plant operators.



#00482: NPS RANGER LOOKING OUT AT ANGELS WINDOW, NORTH RIM, JULY 1932