



The Ol' Pioneer

The Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

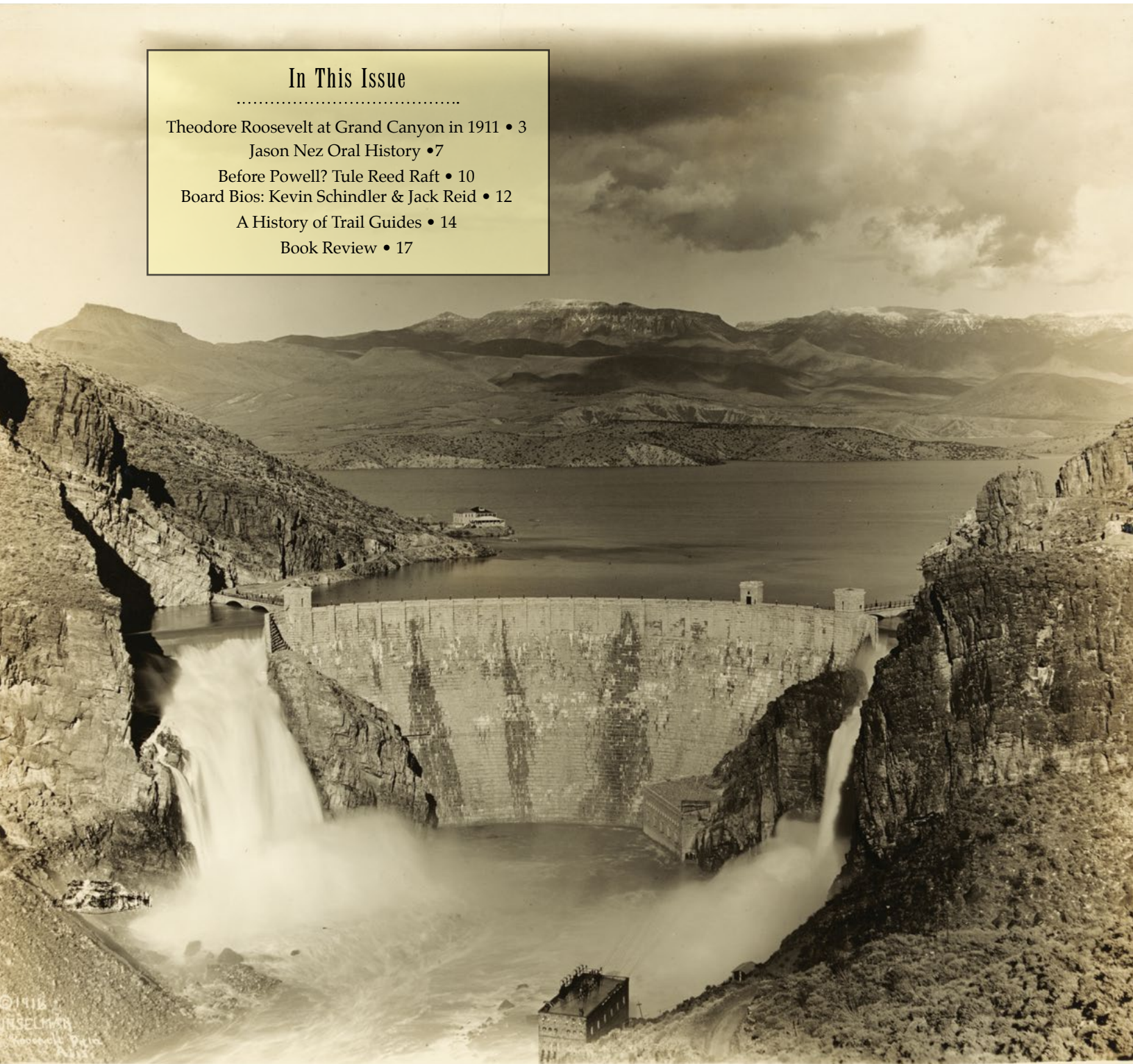
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President's Letter

Grand Canyon Historical Society is an affiliate member of the Arizona Historical Society. In June 2020, we were approved as an AHS-Certified Historical Institution (CHI) – a program designed to support non-profit organizations across Arizona in their efforts to collect, preserve and share the state's rich culture and history. There are two tiers of historical institutions – tier 1 with facilities and museums, tier 2 with no physical facilities. GCHS is one of the first tier 2 organizations to be certified.

We are among 60 active history partners, including Arizona State Railroad Museum in Williams, Sedona Historical Society, and Winslow Historical Society with its Old Trails Museum. Go to <https://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/visit/ahs-certified-historical-institutions/region/> for a complete list of all institutional partners. We are in very good company. The CHI program has links to all member websites, including ours.

As a CHI, GCHS is eligible to submit a proposal for a new program called "On the Road with Arizona History", a series of 45-minute virtual programs by CHI partners. We have proposed to showcase the untold story of our triennial history symposia. If accepted, AHS staff will work with us to promote and present our program to the general public, advertise it across its media channels, handle online registration, and host our program on their Zoom platform.

Another benefit for GCHS as a tier 2 institution is our eligibility to apply for annual \$1,000 grants. These are state-funded appropriations allocated to AHS for exhibit development, oral history projects, and collections management. We plan to apply this summer, and if approved, the grant will help us continue the process of digitizing our historical documents archived at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff through our collaborative initiative with Cline Library Special Collections.

Our affiliation with AHS represents a tremendous resource for us, providing expertise for managing historical archives, developing in-house and public educational programs, and raising awareness of GCHS across the state. Incidentally, AHS is planning a CHI symposium this October.

Back to our association with AHS, it is appropriate to mention that in late January, GCHS board member Haley Johnson presented an AHS-hosted slide show on Mary Jane Colter. This thought-provoking virtual presentation was moderated by Jill Hough, former GCHS board member and current Pioneer Museum curator, and drew over 100 attendees! And past GCHS President Erik Berg, as a member of the AHS Convention Board, is helping with plans for their 2021 virtual convention where Richard Quartaroli, NAU Librarian Emeritus and GCHS Symposium Proceedings editor, is a presenter, and Margaret Hangan, USFS archaeologist and former GCHS board member, is a roundtable panelist.

Clearly, GCHS members have long been involved in Arizona Historical Society conferences and programs. The motto for AHS is "Connecting People through the Power of Arizona's History". As a certified Historical Institution, we are pleased and proud to be a part of this connection and to bring the Grand Canyon into the AHS family.

Yeah History!

Dick Brown, President

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The Grand Canyon Historical Society celebrates and promotes the study and preservation of the Grand Canyon region's cultural and natural history for the education and enjoyment of its members and the public. The Grand Canyon Historical Society is a non-profit corporation under IRS Code 501(c)(3).

The Ol' Pioneer is published by the GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. An integral part of the publication is an informational section, *The Bulletin*, that updates members on Society activities, programs, events, Board actions and discussions. *The Ol' Pioneer* is a benefit of membership and is open to any person interested in the historical, educational, and charitable purposes of the Society. Membership is on an annual basis using the standard calendar; and dues of \$25 are payable on the 1st of January each year, and mailed to the GCHS Treasurer, PO Box 1667, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-1667. *The Ol' Pioneer* magazine is copyrighted by the Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form without permission of the publisher.

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Cover : Roosevelt Dam, photographer Elton Kunselman, c1916 March 18, Library of Congress.

Theodore Roosevelt at Grand Canyon in 1911

Let the Damming Begin

by Cindy Stafford

“Rather to my surprise, the Roosevelt Dam and the last forty miles of the drive there... are as well worth visiting as anything else I know, except for the Grand Canyon.”¹

Most people interested in Grand Canyon history recall Theodore Roosevelt’s 1903 visit to the canyon while president, giving the well-known “leave it as it is” speech² or the 1913 cougar hunting trip on the North Rim with his sons Archie and Quentin.³ But 110 years ago Roosevelt planned a less well-known visit (though certainly well-known at that time) to the Grand Canyon with his wife and two of his children as part of a six-week cross country train trip.⁴ Roosevelt had deepened his connection to Grand Canyon a few years earlier by declaring the area a national monument in January 1908.⁵

The drumming Republicans took in the mid-term 1910 election was another huge motivation for Roosevelt springing into action. Democrats won the House of Representatives for the first time since 1894. And although they did not control the Senate, when allied with progressive Republicans, they accomplished working control.⁹

Theodore (never “Teddy” to his intimates) invited his son Archie who was attending school in Arizona to join the group at the Grand Canyon. In a January 1911 letter, while bemoaning the length of the trip, his father wrote, “When I have finished this, I shall have done my duty, and shall have appeared in nearly every State of the Union.”¹⁰ As noted, however, duty called once again a year later.

Theodore Roosevelt’s oversized persona, writings, speeches, and press coverage overshadowed that of his family and still does. More about them may be of interest, though details of

their canyon impressions are mostly unknown. The former first lady, Edith Kermit Roosevelt (1861 – 1948), grew up as a playmate of Theodore’s sister, later becoming the president’s “second wife and first sweetheart”. They married two years after his first wife died following the birth of his daughter Alice. The family added five children over the next decade; they were devoted to each other and to their family. Mrs. Roosevelt scrupulously destroyed all of her husband’s letters

to her (or thought she did) in order to preserve her privacy. But in the few that have survived, Theodore addressed his wife as “Dear Edie” and signed them “Your Own Love.”¹¹

The Roosevelts mostly lived at Sagamore Hill, their home at Oyster Bay, New York with stints in Washington, D.C., Albany, New York, and Washington again, following Theodore’s career.¹² Edith and her husband rode horses together, took the row boat for picnics, and walked



Edith Roosevelt. Photo: Library of Congress.

three miles each way to church when in Oyster Bay.¹³ She participated in the usual society and charitable events expected at the time and was known for her frugality and organizational skill. Mrs. Roosevelt traveled widely, visiting TR in Tampa, Florida before his 1898 Rough Rider foray to Cuba in the Spanish American War and meeting him in Egypt at the end of his African safari in late 1909.¹⁴

Mrs. Roosevelt supervised the large remodel and decorating of the White House at the beginning of her more than seven years there (1901 – 1909), the longest of any First Lady up to that time. She entertained more than all of her predecessors combined. Described as quiet and reserved, she excelled as wife, mother, and hostess, but dreaded the public scrutiny of her family. The president confided in his wife and relied on her judgment. Mrs. Roosevelt was also admired for her musical ability and fluency in other languages. One newspaper reported, “She maps each day as carefully as a general beginning a campaign” and her “keen humor and unfailing dignity balanced Theodore’s exuberance.”¹⁵

In 1911 Archibald Roosevelt (1894 – 1979) attended the Evans Ranch School in Mesa, Arizona for a year, no doubt pursuing his father’s recommended “strenuous life”. Only 20 students were admitted to this unusual elite college prep school, mostly from the east. Benefits from the “rugged curriculum” included living in tents, caring for one’s horse, mountain hikes, and camping, as well as academic studies and sports. During the warmer months, the school relocated to a ranch near Flagstaff which provided frequent forays to the Grand Canyon and nearby Native American reservations.¹⁶ This curriculum may have appealed to Archie, as he struggled in academics more than his older brothers at the exclusive Massachusetts prep school Groton, having been held back a year and eventually expelled. Tutors later helped him pass entrance exams to enroll in Harvard University.¹⁷

Archie Roosevelt.

Daughter Ethel Roosevelt (1891 – 1977) attended the all-girls National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. and had her “coming out” debut to society at the White House in 1908. One headline read, “The Youngest Daughter of President Roosevelt Officially Launched into the Maelstrom of Society Amidst Flowers, Jewels and Fun.”¹⁸ Fluent in French, German, and Spanish and opposite in temperament to her illustrious, headline grabbing older half-sister Alice, Ethel’s “chief pleasure” was reading, along with watercolor painting and wood carving.¹⁹ Also following in her father’s footsteps, Ethel hunted big game in Montana and took long backcountry camping trips in Glacier National Park with paleontologist Henry Fairfield Osborne and his family. “She is devoted to outdoor sports and is an expert horsewoman.”²⁰

Ethel globetrotted from Canada to Cairo and many places in between. During her 1910 foray abroad, she was presented at the court of King George V of England.²¹ Ethel participated in protests against steam trawlers to protect Massachusetts fisheries, volunteered to work with immigrants in settlement houses, and taught a



Col. Roosevelt’s Party Descending Bright Angel Trail.
Photo: Library of Congress.

boys’ Sunday School class at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, the capitol’s first African American Episcopal church.²² Her father bought both Ethel and himself their first automobiles, Haynes touring cars, in 1910 and she had her first plane ride in France in 1912.²³ Ethel campaigned as a “Bull Moosette” for her father in the 1912 election.²⁴

On the 1911 visit, Territorial Governor Sloan (whom TR had appointed) accompanied the family to the canyon and gave a dinner for them at El Tovar.²⁵ There were no other festivities as the Colonel requested time to rest from his speech making travels. He appeared to be in the best of health and enjoying his sightseeing, though Mrs. Roosevelt was reported as not well, “desirous of reaching the Salt River valley as soon as possible”.²⁶ (In 1927 she traveled to Iguazu Falls in Brazil, which “awed her as nothing else but the Grand Canyon of Arizona”.²⁷) The rest of the family enjoyed a mule ride to the Colorado River with guide John Hance and a picnic next to the muddy, boiling stream, “the first occupant of the White House to make the four-mile round trip (sic) to the most striking sight nature has provided in all the world.”²⁸

Like others of his era, Theodore Roosevelt only imagined the beneficial effects of irrigation in the arid west by not “wasting” water in letting rivers run to the sea, controlling wild spring floods, and creating beautiful reservoirs, not to mention providing lots of jobs and paying for projects through hydroelectric power generation. *The Arizona Republican’s* frontpage story on March 19, 1911 declared, “Life Blood of Valley Turned into its Arteries by Theodore Roosevelt” and included a sketch of him as Moses smiting the rock with his rod to bring water to the people and their animals. An order issued by the commander of the Confederate Veterans’ Stonewall Jackson Camp praised Roosevelt as “greater than Hannibal, Alexander the Great, Caesar or Napoleon” for the monuments of Roosevelt Dam and the Panama Canal.²⁹

As the first major project of the recently created Reclamation Bureau, Roosevelt Dam would be the world’s tallest masonry dam for many decades. Located northeast of Phoenix in the Tonto National Forest, the dam and reservoir have since been enlarged to store 1.6 million-acre feet with 128 miles of shoreline when full.³⁰ In another Grand Canyon connection, John Wesley Powell’s nephew Arthur Powell Davis oversaw design and construction of the Roosevelt Dam as chief engineer of the Reclamation Service (later director).³¹ Roosevelt considered this project a keystone of the new national irrigation policy, his first serious work as president. After giving a dedicatory address, TR pressed the button to release the first stream of water from the dam. That evening, Ethel threw the electric switch to begin illumination of the dam.³²

The years ahead proved challenging and tragic for all of the Roosevelts, unlike happier times at Grand Canyon. TR survived an



TR at Roosevelt Dam. Photo: National Archive, Bureau of Reclamation.

assassination attempt while running as the Progressive Party candidate in the 1912 presidential election, his wife nursing him back to health and tightly controlling access to him and his schedule.³³ His South American exploration of the River of Doubt the following year nearly cost him his life and his robustness never completely returned.³⁴ All five of Theodore and Edith’s children would serve in World War I, beginning with Edith and her surgeon husband Dr. Richard Derby in 1914. They left their first child with TR and Mrs. Roosevelt when Dick worked at a French field hospital for six months, Ethel volunteering as a



Ethel Roosevelt. Photo: NPS.

nurse with the Red Cross.³⁵ They later had three more children. Ethel’s efforts ensured her family home at Oyster Bay, New York would be preserved as Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. She chose to wear her Red Cross uniform when her portrait was painted later in her life (not during her World War I service) to represent her many years of association with this organization.

Quentin Roosevelt, the beloved youngest child, died when his plane was shot down in France in July, 1918. To commemorate his grave there, his mother wrote the lyrics to a song and commissioned a water fountain with benches as memorials.³⁶ A few months after Quentin’s death, the former president endured a lengthy hospitalization and then died at home just after the holidays.³⁷ Mrs. Roosevelt survived her husband by nearly 30 years, as well as all of her sons except Archie. She comforted herself with the motto “Triumphant over pain” and continued to travel, write, and volunteer until the final years of her long life.

Archie held the distinction of being the only soldier to receive 100% disability from wounds received in both world wars, receiving numerous decorations and medals. He married, had four children, and worked in business and investment companies. Archie supported conservation organizations and served as president of the Boone and Crocket Club that his father cofounded.³⁸ His political views skewed rightward during the Cold War years. He advocated against socialism, communism, and civil rights issues, invoking his father’s Victorian era views on white racial superiority. That must have made for interesting family dinners with Ethel who supported African Americans’ civil rights.³⁹

Our Conservation President's prophetic remarks in 1903 came true with an ironic vengeance: "I look forward to the effects of irrigation as being of greater consequence to all this region of the country in the next fifty years than any other material movement whatsoever."⁴⁰ Indeed! The river that carved Grand Canyon was not considered an integral part of the new national park in 1919. The irrigation companies, businessmen, and leaders from bottom to top considered the Colorado River a commodity of "liquid property" and economic development for the west.⁴¹ To be fair, at the time there were very high but naïve hopes for irrigation policy to benefit the little guy and small family farms. Theodore Roosevelt could not have foreseen the battles beginning in five decades with the upstream building and operation of Glen Canyon Dam or the controversies over additional Colorado River dams in the canyon. He could not have anticipated the struggles within the eventually renamed Bureau of Reclamation prior to the 1930s, pitting special interests against public control.⁴² How might President Theodore Roosevelt's admonition to protect the canyon for "your children, your children's children, and for all future generations" inform our policy decisions today?

Acknowledgement: The Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University, North Dakota <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/> is a great resource for primary sources and well worth a "virtual presidential library" tour. They aim to digitize a variety of archival collections throughout the country to make TR's legacy more readily accessible to scholars and interested citizens.

Endnotes

¹ Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Kermit Roosevelt. 21 Mar 1911. Harvard College Library. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o281539>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University.

² Address of President Roosevelt at Grand Canyon, Arizona, 6 May 1903. Theodore Roosevelt Papers. Library of Congress Manuscript Division. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o289796>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University. The Santa Fe Railroad did not heed this admonition, locating El Tovar Hotel on the rim in 1905, though perhaps it could have been even closer to the rim!

³ Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Kermit Roosevelt. 7 Mar 1913. Theodore Roosevelt Collection. Harvard College Library. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o281653>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University.

⁴ "Roosevelt Plans Trip to the Coast". *Washington Herald*, 26 Jan 1911, p 5.

⁵ "Now a National Monument". *Williams News*, 1 Feb 1908.

At less than a million acres, the boundary of the new monument lay about a mile back from each rim.

⁶ All prior presidents had served only two terms maximum, setting a precedent. Roosevelt regretted his premature pledge. Distant cousin Franklin Roosevelt later won four elections, serving 12 years in all. The twenty-second amendment in 1951 officially limited presidents to two terms.

⁷ La Forte, Robert S. "Theodore Roosevelt's Osawatimie Speech". *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, Kansas Historical Foundation. Summer 1966, vol 32, no 2, 187 – 200.

⁸ See 1912 election results in <https://uselectionatlas.org>

⁹ Busch, Andrew E. "Democrats Put Themselves on the Road to the White House". *Ashbrook*, Ashland University, Mar 2006.

¹⁰ Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Archibald B. Roosevelt. 2 Jan 1911. Theodore Roosevelt Papers. Library of Congress Manuscript Division. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o214829>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University.

¹¹ "A Character Study of Mrs. Roosevelt". *Saginaw News*, 24 Oct 1901, p 4. Morris, Sylvia Jukes. *Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Portrait of a First Lady* (1980), p 323-334.

¹² "President Theodore Roosevelt". *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, 14 Sept 1901, p 6.

¹³ "Women with a Hobby". *Evening Star*, 25 August 1906, p 16; "Mr. Roosevelt Resting", *New York Daily Tribune*, 8 Mar 1909, p 3.

¹⁴ "The Day's Gossip", *New York Tribune*, 10 June 1898, p 7; "Mrs. Bwana Arrives". *Daily People*, 26 November 1909, p 2. Grand Canyon pioneers Buckey O'Neill and Dan Hogan fought in Roosevelt's San

Juan "Rough Rider" regiment.

¹⁵ "Mrs. Roosevelt, Pre-eminent Socially, Among the Women who Have Graced the White House". *Evening Star*, 31 Jan 1909, p 48; "A Character Study of Mrs. Roosevelt". *Saginaw News*, 24 Oct 1901, p 4; <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/bios/edith-roosevelt>

¹⁶ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-contributor/2016/06/14/teddy-roosevelts-arizona-obsession/85855566/>

¹⁷ Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Endicott Peabody. 26 June 1908. Theodore Roosevelt Papers. Library of Congress Manuscript Division. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o203114>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University; Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Frederic Thomas Bowers. Theodore Roosevelt Papers. Library of Congress Manuscript Division. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o219062>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University; "Notable Names Appear on Harvard's New Roll". *Washington Times*, 28 Sept 1911, p 10.

¹⁸ "The World of Society". *Evening Star*, 19 Apr 1907 p 53; "Washington News: Miss Roosevelt". *National Tribune*, 31 Dec 1908, p 6.

¹⁹ "Miss Taft's Debut". *Evening Star*, 20 Nov 1910, p 53; "Dinners, Weddings, Teas". *Washington Times*, 11 Apr 1907, p 5.

²⁰ "Washington News". *National Tribune*, 27 Oct 1910, p 6; "Miss Roosevelt to Wed". *Evening World*, 14 Feb 1913 p 7. Osborne was president of the American Museum of Natural History in New York and Ethel and his daughter were friends. In later years, Ethel served as a trustee for the museum her grandfather helped found and that houses her father's many natural history collections.

²¹ "Will Be at King's Court". *Washington Herald*, 17 Apr 1910, p 2.

²² "Miss Roosevelt Enlists". *The Sun*, 10 Apr 1912, p 2; Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Ethel Roosevelt Derby. Theodore Roosevelt Collection. MS Am 1834 (840). Harvard College Library. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o286200>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University; "Paragraphic News". *Washington Bee*; 7 Jan 1911, p 2.

²³ "Atlanta Will Hold Races for Autoists". *Washington Times*, 6 Sept 1910, p 11; "Fashion Now Decries the Perilous Aeroplane". *Sun and New York*, 23 June 1912, p 3.

²⁴ "Bull Moosettes Meet in New York Streets". *The Evening Star*, 14 Sept 1912.

²⁵ "Teddy Greeted by Governor Sloan". *Prescott Weekly Journal-Miner*, 22 March 1911.

²⁶ *ibid.*

²⁷ Morris (1980), p 464.

²⁸ "Roosevelt Balks at Recall Plan". *Oregonian*, 18 Mar 1911.

²⁹ "The Confederates Part in Roosevelt Reception", *The Arizona Republican*, 18 March 1911.

³⁰ <https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/infrastructure/g2837/7-most-serious-dams-us/>; <https://www.srpnet.com/water/dams/roosevelt.aspx>

³¹ <https://snaccooperative.org/ark:/99166/w6vt207r>

³² "Roosevelt Ready for A Long Trip". *Washington Herald*, 7 Mar 1911, p 5.

³³ Sylvia Jukes. *Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Portrait of a First Lady*, 1980, pp 386 – 388; "Will Nurse in Paris". *The Washington Times*, 25 Sept 1914, p 16.

³⁴ <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Learn-About-TR/TR-Timelines/The%20Life%20of%20Theodore%20Roosevelt>

³⁵ "Will Nurse in Paris". *The Washington Times*, 25 Sept 1914, p 16. Dr. Derby later joined the American Medical Corps, serving again in France.

³⁶ "At Chamery". Sagamore Hill Historic Site, <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o276856>, Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library, Dickinson State University; Morris (1980) *op.cit.*, pp 442 – 443. Mrs. Roosevelt and two of Quentin's siblings visited his grave in February 1919 shortly after TR's death. After Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. died of a heart attack following the invasion of Normandy in 1944, Quentin's grave was moved so the brothers could be buried side by side at the Normandy American Cemetery.

³⁷ "Roosevelt at Home Christmas". *Watertown Daily Times*, 24 Dec 1918, p 9; "Roosevelt Dies Suddenly While Asleep". *The Sun and New York Press*, 7 Jan 1919, p 1.

³⁸ "Archibald B. Roosevelt, a Son of Theodore, Dies at 85". *New York Times*, 15 Oct 1979, <https://www.nytimes.com/1979/10/15/archives/archibald-b-roosevelt-a-son-of-theodore-dies-at-85-honorarily.html>

³⁹ Feinman, Ronald L. "Shining Stars and Rogues: Presidential Offspring in American History (Part 1)", 13 May 2020, George Washington University, <https://historynewsnetwork.org/blog/154345>

⁴⁰ *Address of President Roosevelt at Grand Canyon, Arizona, May 6, 1903*. Theodore Roosevelt Papers. Library of Congress Manuscript Division. <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Research/Digital-Library/Record?libID=o289796>. Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library. Dickinson State University.

⁴¹ deBuys, William and Myers, Joan. *Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low Down California*, 1999, pp 11 – 12.

⁴² Gressley, Gene M. "Arthur Powell Davis, Reclamation, and the West". *Agricultural History*, July 1968, vol 42 no 3, pp 241 – 257.

Jason Nez 2019 Oral History

edited by Jack Reid

The following is an edited version of an interview of Jason Nez by Haley Johnson that took place during the 2019 Grand Canyon History Symposium. The transcript of the full interview can be read on the GCHS website along with a link to the video of the interview. At the time of the interview, Jason was working as a firefighter, specializing in cultural resource issues on fires. Jason is now a full-time archaeologist at Grand Canyon National Park.

This is part one of a five-part series presenting Oral History interviews from the 2019 Grand Canyon Centennial History Symposium.

Ya'ah'teh. My name is Jason Nez. I'm Navajo and my clans are of the Zuni Edgewater, born for the Salt Clan. My mother's father is a Tangle people, and my father's father is the Mexican people. And that's just how we introduce ourselves.

I grew up east of here. South of Tuba City, this place called Coal Mine Mesa, and that's where I spent a lot of time with my grandparents, my aunts. Aunts and uncles and different people helped raise me, and I'm still out there whenever I can. We have cattle. We have horses. I've got a big fat horse; a donkey. We're out just working with them whenever we have funding.

My background is actually in environmental science. I graduated from Northern Arizona University, and there was no work. I had an environmental science degree. There was nothing going on anywhere, and one of my professors, she says: "You know, there's a job opening at Navajo

National Monument. You should check it out." And those were the old days, where you could go in, do an interview, and get hired that day at that unit; none of this six-month stuff. And I started there, and I just loved it. I started as a Navajo, strictly not knowing what I was getting into, and over time I realized our cultural connections, our stories, to these prehistoric people. And then my wariness, I guess, fear, I guess is a word I would use, sort of dissipated. And once I realized these connections, I was stronger. I was tougher. I walked around and learned things, and it just sort of turned me into what I am today, able to walk around in these places without fear, without those apprehensions.

I was a backcountry interper ranger over twenty years ago at Navajo National Monument, and I was stationed out at Keet Seel. And that's where I learned a lot of my academic

“As a scientist, as an archeologist, there’s things we learn in school; there’s things we learn in books

archeology, was just being out there for two weeks at a time, reading all the archeology literature we had there at the monument. And then I started working for my tribe as a shovel monkey, just out excavating. And then starting to apply my science background in writing reports, writing site descriptions and all that, and then I got into surveying, more excavations, and eventually I was managing the field projects and managing the lab in Flagstaff. And then I started working for the Museum of Northern Arizona, and then came here to Grand Canyon. Been here since 2011, with one season with the forest service.

Right now, I’m just a regular firefighter, but I also cover a lot of cultural resource issues on fires. So, what we want to do is, when there is a wildfire, we want to plan out how we’re going to suppress it, whether we’re going to let it burn and do its natural thing... And while we’re doing that, we’re also assessing the possible impacts to cultural resources. Because everywhere we go here on the South Rim, into the Coconino Forest, into the Kaibab Forest, there’s people that have been there for 10,000 years. We have lithic scatters, rock art panels. We have old cabins. And the ones we know about, we’re making

those determinations. Is it fire sensitive? Is it going to be damaged? What can we do? What should we do? And can we even do it? Is the fire running toward it? And we try to figure all these things out, and then go out and try to protect or mitigate damage to our sites that are out there. So, it’s a lot of technological work using GIS. It’s a lot of field experience. And a lot of fire experience. And we have a great team here at the canyon and in the forest that were able to come together – put all these minds together and come up with really good plans for taking care of our sites out there.

I think that, as a Native person working with cultural resources, it’s a way to connect to things. We walk around, we’re looking across the landscape, and, oftentimes, we don’t pay attention to what we’re – we’re just out walking. We’re enjoying the scenery. We’re enjoying the sounds. But, growing up on the reservation, I’m always looking down. I’m looking for tracks. I’m looking for where the sheep went. I’m looking for who’s ahead of me and what they’re up to. And as an adult archeologist, I’m looking down; I’m like: “Oh, here’s a flake. Oh, here’s another flake. Over here’s a projectile point. Over here’s some pottery sherds. Oh, here’s a rock

art panel. And here’s a small pueblo out here.” And to me, it’s like this innate nature to find it. I jokingly call it The Force, but I legitimately think sometimes that there’s something out there. I’m walking around, and it’s like: “Come here! Come here! Come here! Come here!” And I go over there, and I think that’s just a part of allowing myself to hear what nature has to tell me. Allowing myself to have learned that language of history and science, and allowing it to communicate this to me. That’s what excites me.

As a scientist, as an archeologist, there’s things we learn in school; there’s things we learn in books about history, time; and things I’ve learned as a Native person through our own oral histories. And one of the things that we talk about is Clovis – people that were hunting mastodons. People that were, according to our scientific way, they came down about 13,000 years ago. And these are sort of things that we don’t really see. We don’t really – from a personal level, we don’t quite connect. And I was out on the Wildcat and the Fuller Fire two years ago doing some post-burn-effects monitoring for the North Kaibab, and we’re standing out there, and this place *burned*. It was fine white ash. And I was out there with my friend and coworker, and I was like: “OK. I want you to just imagine



about history, time; and things I've learned as a Native person through our own oral histories."

everything you learned at NAU – the university. Imagine it in a big box. Now get rid of it. I'm going to show you how we do it." So, we're out there. There's still trees burning up there. We're in a good, safe spot. And I was like: "Do you see this? Hold it out [flexed hand held out in front], and when it gets warm, we're going to go over there." So, we're standing there, and I was like: "Do you feel it? Do you feel it? Let's go over there." And we went over there, and there was a L-shaped pueblo that was exposed by the fire. And my coworker, he was just like: "Oh my god! Did you know that was there?" I said: "Nope. Never been here before." And I was telling him: "Now, I want you to focus. I want you to just let The Force flow." And we're standing there, and I was like: "Stop! Look at your feet!" And he looked down at his boot, and there was something sticking out, and I just reached over, and I was like: "Clovis point." And it was a Clovis point! So, it's one of those ways that you really connect to landscapes and history when you can touch those things, when you know they're there, and when you know the story, the scientific and the cultural stories, behind it. And those stories are out there! And that's why I'm out there.

When we look at the history of most parks, it's not always the story of the we. Sometimes there's a dark history out there, and in modern times, we're trying to work past it. We're trying to work together and manage these places properly. And when we think about the history of somewhere like Grand Canyon, there's 13,000 years of Native American occupation and use. And that's not just people living here, it's people managing. We think of management as: "We have this plan, we're going to write it out, and we're going to do it." But from a Native perspective, these things are the ceremonies we do for hunting. During this time of year, we're going to hunt over here, and what that does, is it helps maintain populations and it helps move animals across the landscape. When we go into the forest

to gather pinyon nuts, there's also the benefit of all those people in the forest who are doing fuel reductions, who are building campfires and were utilizing resources in those areas. So, in that way, it is management. We're encouraging animals to move, we're moving plants, seeds, sometimes not on purpose, across the landscape, but we are changing these things, mostly for the better, and I think that oftentimes we tend to forget there's that long period of occupation when we were doing that.

I just think that there's a bigger story out there that we're getting at. We're working together on telling it, but we have to always remember that this has only been three percent of the human occupation of Grand Canyon started with Pedro de Tovar was out toward Lipan Point in 1540. Even then, there was a long period of time when he was gone, so it's less than three percent, so we need to work together on this other 97 percent to be able to tell that story, and maybe – it's just something to work towards. It's a goal, I think.

We know there's a story out there, but we don't hear it. The park, and parks in general, are working on better relationships with the tribes – the former occupants of these lands. We have the Desert View working with local craftsmen to showcase crafts and arts and all that and a little bit of history, and those are great steps forward. I can see those things expanding and going throughout the park service, not just this park. I think that these are good things that are happening with or without me. That's something to build on. Something to make the world a better place for Natives and non Natives. The more these stories are told, and they are out there and we're aware of them, then we can make better decisions for everyone into the future.

As a Navajo person, [balance is one of] the bases of my culture, tradition, religion, and science. Of those four things; I can't take them apart. They're inseparable. They're all part of the same. They don't exist without each

other. So, I'm always looking to be in balance with everything around me. And sometimes I'm not, and that's just human nature. But I want to know what happened in the past, so I can learn from it. And I learn from these things that happened a long time ago, and it makes me a better person in the present. And being a better person in the present, I'm able to influence the future. I'm able to know what I'm leaving behind. I'm aware of my potential damage that could adversely affect future generations. So I have to be in balance with where I'm coming from and where I'm going. And I have neighbors. I have family. I have different people around me that I have to be in balance with them. So, looking at all these directions – backwards, forwards, sideways, right, left, I also have to be in balance with above. I guess religion is above us, too, and those are things I have to be in balance with. Air, environmental quality. You have to be in balance with water and earth beneath me. So, considering all these things, I'm always trying to balance them out. I'm always trying to be careful where I'm at, and just be aware of what's around me and how I'm affecting it. And that's sort of – I think a lot of us strive for it, it just has a different name, a different label.

It's my belief that the more I can teach other archeologists, the more I can teach other coworkers, the more I can teach other firefighters, the more they'll be able to see what I'm seeing. And when people can see what I'm seeing, they're going to feel how I feel about resources. They are going to love and care for these places and these resources and the people that identify them. So there's a big picture plan, I guess, for me being here, saying these things and educating people in the places I go, on the different fires, and when I talk to school groups and different organizations, it's like I'm trying to help people realize that those connections are there, we've just got to make them.

Before Powell? A Descent of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon on a Tule Reed Raft

by Tom Martin and Peter Brown

Everyone with even a passing familiarity with the Colorado River knows that in 1869 John Wesley Powell and his crew made the first documented river trip from Green River, Wyoming, through to the end of the Grand Canyon at the Grand Wash Cliffs in Arizona.

But was Powell's really the first river trip through Grand Canyon? The Navajo have a river running legend, as do the Hopi. The people of the lower Colorado, such as the Cocopah, Mojave, and Chemeheuvi, were excellent swimmers, boaters, and knew how to catch the river's fish. They constructed beautiful rafts out of tule reed, a giant sedge that is surprisingly buoyant and grows along the river throughout the entire Colorado River basin. Their amazing craft allowed them to stand or sit comfortably well above the water's surface and paddle them similar to a modern-day inflatable kayak or standup paddleboard. It is also possible that the technology for making tule boats was traded far and wide throughout the region, even amongst upper river people not usually known for their boating knowledge.

Given the fact that the Colorado River's indigenous peoples made well-crafted tule reed rafts, did they use them to travel the length of the Grand Canyon before Powell? Could it even be done? Could a tule raft survive the maze of rapids, eddies, and flat water between the official start of the Grand Canyon at Lees Ferry and the end at the Grand Wash Cliffs 278 miles later? Could a tule raft be strong enough to survive pounding by the rapids, yet buoyant enough to still be floating by the end of the trip?

These questions took on new meaning when Grand Canyon Historical Society board member

Tom Martin, a 62-year-old writer and historian from Flagstaff, Arizona, won a Grand Canyon river trip permit with a launch date of December 30, 2020. Tom's been working on river history for over 30 years and recently discovered mention of a reed boat observed in the Grand Canyon in the 1800s. That discovery set him to question whether a Native craft could float through the Canyon with any confidence. In early November 2020, Tom and his wife Hazel Clark harvested tule along the Colorado River near Blythe, California, dried the 10-foot-long reeds in the sun for a few weeks, and then, with another person invited on his river trip, Stacey Davenport, wrapped the reeds into three bundles using lots and lots of sixteenth-inch diameter nylon cord. They affectionately called the craft *Lotsaknots*.

Tom recruited one of the river trip participants, 64-year old Peter Brown, a dendrochronologist and ecologist from Fort Collins, Colorado, to pilot the raft. Pete had been on six previous Grand Canyon trips rowing typical inflatable 16' or 18' oar rafts so he knew the river fairly well. That said, he'd never before rowed a kayak or smaller boat.

Besides reeds, they also put three wooden dowels transversely through the craft to add rigidity to the bundles. This was traditionally done by indigenous peoples using shafts of willow. The dowels also provided locations to tie on a board that provided a location for a seat and backrest out of an inflatable kayak for comfort. It also helped that Pete wore a brand-new drysuit, which kept him warm and dry for the trip. The tule raft joined a fleet of six inflatable rafts, a wooden dory also built by Tom, and three kayaks for their 30-day Grand Canyon raft trip.

The first hurdle for their tule raft

was getting it approved for travel down the river by the National Park Service Law Enforcement Ranger who makes sure all trips launching from Lees Ferry have the correct gear. It certainly helped that the Ranger watched the tule raft actually float (a major step!) and perform well in its initial launch. The Ranger - albeit somewhat reluctantly - cleared it for use on the trip.

The next big question was how well it would do, especially in the rapids. The Grand Canyon is famous for its whitewater, with big waves and deep holes. A quarter mile after they launched the trip, Lotsaknots kicked Pete off in the Paria Riffle - a riffle is not even considered to be a "real rapid" - but he hung on to the raft and his paddle, scrambled right back on, and was paddling again in the tail waves. Since River Old Timers called a run through a rapid a "good run" if one was able to paddle the tail waves, Pete was optimistic this was how the rapids ahead might be run.

Pete started out by trying to balance on the raft using thigh straps from a kayak but found these didn't help. He quickly discovered the way to ride through rapids was to drop his legs into the water and ride it like a horse, exactly like indigenous surf fishermen in Peru do on their tule reed rafts. This allowed for "high-siding" and better balance while the raft plowed through or over the waves. Still, Pete ended up swimming a lot in the next 30 days, like when he spent too much time futzing with his Go-Pro and ended up running the far-right side of Hance Rapid, one of the larger rapids. A few of the larger rapids, like Lava Falls, flipped *Lotsaknots* over, but Pete was always able to hang on to the raft, turn it back over, and climb back on, typically before the tail waves; "good runs" after all. It was a very intimate ride down the river, sitting at water



At Lees Ferry, Lotsaknots passes the “Will it float” test for the Lees Ferry Ramp Ranger.

level and occasionally in it after falling off the boat in a rapid.

The only time Pete lost the boat was in a wicked eddy just below Phantom Ranch. The raft threw him off and, for the first time, departed his company. Tom rowed his dory into the eddy and tried to corral the boat. Meanwhile Pete swam to shore and patiently waited for *Lotsaknots* to spin by his location. He swam out, climbed aboard, and paddled out of the eddy, leaving Tom and the dory spinning in circles.

Day after day Pete and *Lotsaknots* carried on, through rain, sunny days, freezing daytime temps, pounding waves, and rough rocks. Everyone on the trip enjoyed the cold winter weather, the solitude of a winter river trip with few other raft trips, hiking on layover days, and occasionally making up to 23-mile rowing days when on the water. Pete and *Lotsaknots* had no trouble keeping up with the oar boats on those long rowing days, something else they thought might be difficult to do. Every evening they pulled *Lotsaknots* out of the water and stood her on her stern, just like the fisherman in Peru do, to help drain water and keep her buoyant. It also helped on layover days that she could sit in the sun all day. One other joy from a day of drying was reinvigorating the

natural smell of the tule reed, a sweet fragrance that the other boats never could achieve.

During their trip, Tom conducted 14 short oral history interviews with Pete about how the tule reed run through the Grand Canyon was going. You can listen to these and other Grand Canyon Historical Society oral histories here:

<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/oral-history.html>

On January 27, 2021, Pete Brown paddled *Lotsaknots* out of the Grand Canyon after traveling 278 miles in 29 days. The raft was somewhat beat up but still buoyant, structurally intact, and as easy to paddle as the day it was launched. While this is the first documented tule raft to float

Heading into Hance Rapid too far right.



through Grand Canyon, the proof of concept with the success of this trip shows that indigenous peoples most certainly could have made a run through Grand Canyon sometime in the last 10,000 years. Legends often have a strong basis in history and in this case, regional First Nation traditional stories of river travel through the Grand Canyon should

now be seen as both plausible and possible. This is especially true in the fall when the Colorado River water was warm and low. Rather than being the first to traverse the Canyon, John Wesley Powell and his crewmembers certainly could have been following in the wakes of the reed boats made by First Nations peoples.

All photos copyright Tom Martin, and are only to be used with the tule reed raft article in the Grand Canyon Historical Society Ol' Pioneer Newsletter. I do not give permission for these images to be used by anyone or shared by anyone for any other purpose without obtaining my permission first.

Meet Our Board Members

Kevin Schindler

How were you introduced to the Grand Canyon?

Schindler: I studied geology in the mid-1980s at Marietta College in Ohio. During one summer, I participated in a class that saw students and teachers cram into a few vans and drive West, to visit geological sites in Colorado and New Mexico. A highlight of the trip was a hike into the Grand Canyon, where we camped near Phantom Ranch. This was my first visit to the Canyon and it was love at first sight. The tranquility of the trail, the vista of rocks, the refreshing waters of Bright Angel Creek, the aching leg muscles—they all left a permanent impression. Those aren't my only memories of that maiden voyage, however. I also remember with a wince the bad case of poison ivy I was suffering through, picked up when, dipping into hot springs days earlier in Colorado, I realized after the fact that I had thrown my clothes into a patch of the venomous vine. Then there was the skunk that I woke up to as it sniffed my face. I don't know which of us moved faster, but at least I didn't get sprayed.

What activities have you most enjoyed in relation to the Canyon?

Schindler: Like so many people, I cherish hiking and the views, which are never quite the same thanks to



the whims of transient clouds and shadows cast by the Sun. But I also enjoy many other things that are a little more personal. In recent years, my wife Gretchen and I have had the opportunity to team up with rangers/park educators Kate Pitts and Melissa Panter to locate and photograph spots along the South Kaibab and Bright Angel trails where the Apollo astronauts carried out geology training in preparation for their missions to the Moon. Gretchen and I also enjoy visiting the Canyon on Valentine's Day, sipping tea at the West Rim Worship Site and smooching at the heart-shaped

rock in the Rim Walk wall, between Kachina Lodge and the El Tovar.

How did you become involved with GCHS?

Schindler: I became familiar with GCHS through friends such as Kathy Farretta and Don Lago, as well as many other people I've worked with on committees or through activities at Lowell Observatory (where I've worked for 26 years). I meant to get involved for some time and finally did in 2019, when I attended the Centennial Symposium. I found myself in pig heaven. I've attended dozens of professional and avocational conferences and meetings, but this was by far the best. The diversity and richness of activities, the kindness of participants, and of course the spectacular setting, inspired me to not only become involved, but to try to contribute in some way to helping the organization continue its critical mission.

Do you have any favorite historical events associated with the Canyon?

Schindler: Where do I start? Before ever visiting the Canyon I became enamored with John Wesley Powell and his expeditions through the Great Unknown. After moving to

Arizona, I became fascinated with that icon of Arizona history, Buckey O'Neill, and the impact he had on the development of the Grand Canyon for tourism. After I developed a presentation about him, Gretchen and I celebrated by staying in his cabin at the Bright Angel Lodge. From my research about Buckey sprang a captivation with Theodore Roosevelt and his legendary visits to the Canyon. In recent years, I've enjoyed retracing the footsteps of the Apollo astronauts and documenting their training activities at the Canyon.

Jack Reid

How did you get involved in the Grand Canyon Historical Society?

JR: I got to know Jill Hough, a former GCHS board member, by presenting my research over the years at Flagstaff's Pioneer Museum. I did my PhD in History at Northern Arizona University and published an article on the labor migrations of African American lumber workers moving from the South to northern Arizona in the 1930s and '40s. Jill read the article and invited me to do a presentation at the museum. I've been back a couple of times since to do more presentations. At one point she suggested I get involved with the GCHS and now here I am.

Why did you decide to run for the board?

JR: I was interested in getting to know more about the lore surrounding the Grand Canyon and the people who have built their lives there. It seemed like an exciting opportunity to be a part of a great community of people.

When did you first come to Grand Canyon?

JR: I grew up in Illinois and moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, in the summer of 2010 to begin my graduate studies at Northern Arizona University. Upon

arriving, I went with some other graduate students to the South Rim. Growing up, I'd heard a lot about Grand Canyon, but had never really felt compelled to explore the region. So, walking up to the Canyon's rim, I wasn't exactly welling with excitement. Upon reaching the edge, however, I was awed by the beauty in a way that quite surprised me. I love photography, in an amateur sense, and just kept snapping photos of the formations in the setting sun. From there, I took a greater interest in exploring the region.

You mentioned getting a degree in history. Have you done any research on Grand Canyon?

JR: I sure have. Ian Hough reached out to me to do some research on underrepresented populations at Grand Canyon and I readily accepted the offer. I spent a week digging through the special collections housed on the



Canyon's South Rim and enjoyed every moment. It was fantastic driving up each morning and seeing the elk walking through the grounds, doing some research, and then taking breaks on the Canyon's edge. I learned about a 1920s labor camp on the Canyon's South Rim that Park Rangers deemed "Little Mexico," because of all the Mexican laborers that were living there while building the expanding

park's infrastructure. It turned into a pretty lively camp, with people living in box cars and tents. At one point, Rangers had to shut down an illegal liquor still and a brothel. That said, the workers were influential in the park's expansion in the 1920s. I still have a lot to learn about the Canyon, but that research opened my eyes to the layered experiences and history of the park.

What else have you written about?

JR: Well, my book *Roadside Americans* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020) explores the rise and fall of hitchhiking in American culture between the Great Depression and the Reagan Era. It was a fascinating topic to write about because debates about hitchhiking intersected with so many other topics, such as the ebb and flow of civic cooperation in American society, notions of risk and personal safety, and the rise of the modern highway system, among many others. It was incredible reading about the levels of trust among Americans in, say, the 1930s. A hitchhiker would be walking down the road, and a motorist would pull over and ask if they knew how to drive their model of automobile. Before long the hitchhiker would be driving, and the owner would be asleep in the passenger seat. It seems crazy to our contemporary way of thinking, but it was common back then.

Any closing comments?

JR: I am thrilled to help with the oral history project. Specifically, I want to try and get a new generation of people who are interested in hiking and rafting the Canyon excited about its history and the stories of the people that came before them.

Editor's Note: Jack's book, "Roadside Americans" was featured on NPR's 2020 Book Concierge as one of their top 4 2020 books for history lovers. It was also listed as one of NPR's Best Books of 2020

A History of Trail Guides

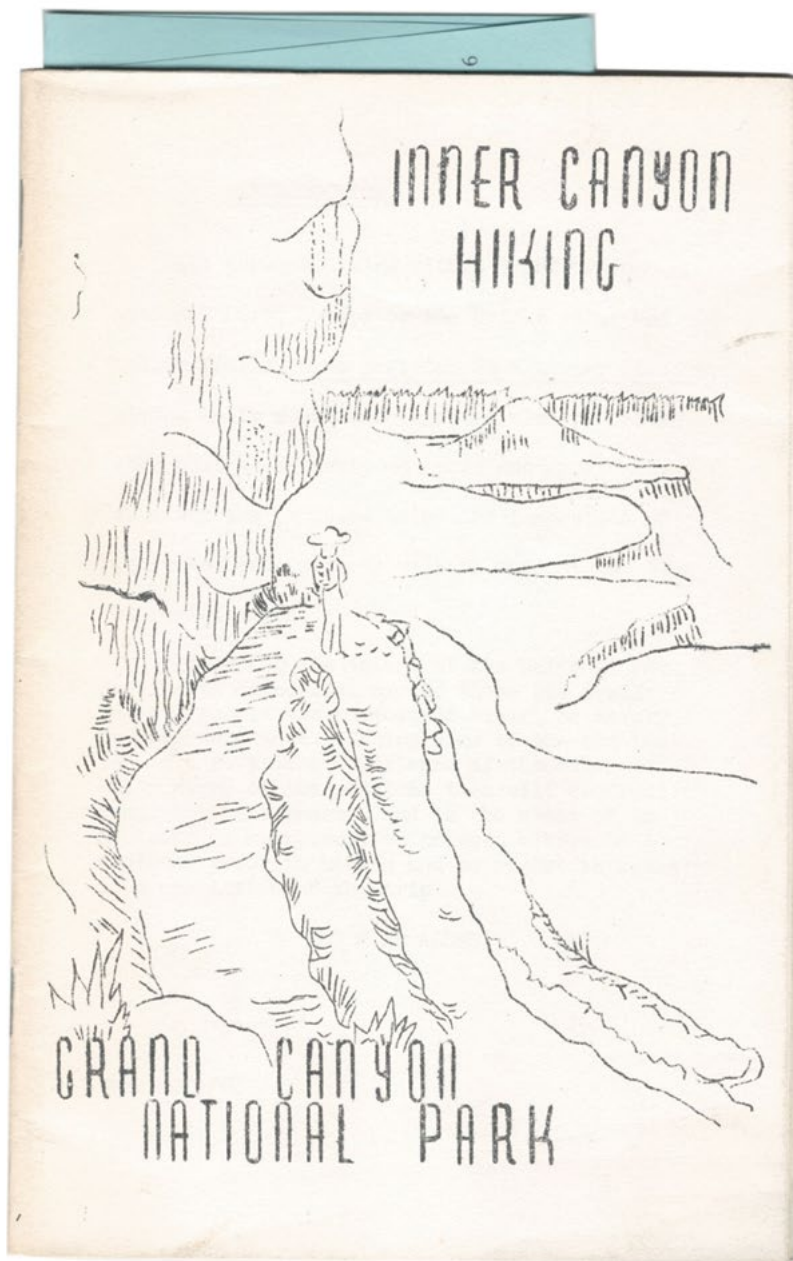
by Slim Woodruff

One advantage to being a packrat is that when one finally cleans out, say a bookcase full of Grand Canyon books, one might uncover a stack of old Inner Canyon Hiking Guides. The oldest I have is 1968; the newest is 2005. Back in the day, every time I applied for a permit, the BCO would mail me the latest copy. One does wonder if they were being generous or just worried about me. Certainly they have stopped sending me freebies.

The 1968 pamphlet is typed, folded, and stapled together with a sketch on the cover of a hiker descending the South Kaibab. Half of the pages are in upside down.

It begins with the exhortation that all persons must register at a Ranger Station giving their route and expected time of return. Until 1972, we could drive up from school, bang on the door of ranger headquarters (located at the junction of Center road and the village loop) until a ranger clambered down the stairs. He would then check all of our gear, bawl us out for not carrying enough water, and give us the permit. No limitations on numbers, camp almost anywhere, and campfires were allowed. The intro warns that hiking in the Canyon is different than "any other hikes you may have done", that the old mining trails have not been maintained in fifty years and (capitals from the original) NO ONE SHOULD VENTURE DOWN ANY OF THE OLD TRAILS WITHOUT FIRST TRAVELING A SIMILAR DISTANCE ON ONE OF THE USED, MAINTAINED TRAILS, THE BRIGHT ANGEL OR THE KAIBAB.

In case of emergency one is instructed to build three fires, and a ranger would scamper down to check on one. I suspect building three fires these days would also bring a ranger, but not a happy one.



1968 guide

There are no maps and no drawings of trails. The Hermit is described as a good intro, except for the slides just above the Redwall that involve "hand-and-knee" descents. The Hance Trail is outlined with a series of six topographical divisions. I remember being handed a mimeographed (!) copy of this

description every time I wanted to hike down the Hance. This described the initial descent from the rim to the Coronado Saddle, the drystream (sic) bed, a series of bad slides in the Supai, the Redwall decent which was marked by two limestone towers, the Tonto slope, where the hiker is warned to beware of confusing

Please complete and return to this office.

For Office Use Only
 Commercial _____
 Educational _____
 Private _____

RECREATION USE PERMIT

1. Permit No. _____ 2. Area(s) Applied for: _____

3. Name _____ 4. Phone No. (incl. area code) _____

5. Address _____

6. Total Number in Group _____ 7. Number of Pack or Saddle Stock _____

8. Vehicle Description _____
(year) (make) (color) (Lic. No.) (State)

9. Vehicle Parked at: _____

10. Trip Schedule:

Starting point _____ Date _____

Camp Sites (if known)

1. _____ Date _____

2. _____ Date _____

3. _____ Date _____

4. _____ Date _____

5. _____ Date _____

Ending point _____ Date _____

I agree to abide by the conditions of use on the reverse side.

(Date) (Signature of Applicant)

Issued by _____ Date _____

burro trails, and the descent into Red Canyon. The route between these landmarks was rather a matter of opinion. The important thing was to get to each landmark before moving on to the next.

The Old Hance is mentioned only to advise against its use. It is warned that the Hance or the Boucher should never be ascended (emphasis theirs) unless a member of the party has been down the trail previously. The "Old North Kaibab" i.e. Old Bright Angel, was accessed via an old fire road. This dramatically shortened the route, as now one must hike four miles of the Ken Patrick in order to reach the Old BA.

The accompanying permit application asks for name, address, entry point, and campsites (if known).

The 1970 guide is printed rather than typed with a grey-scale drawing of a backpacker. It still instructs hikers to build three fires in an emergency

and to carry out all "non burnable trash". The guide now has inserts of topo maps and includes the name of the relevant topo quad (remember topos?). In 1970, the Nankoweap and Boucher did not appear on topos. The descriptions of the trails have not changed, but the Old North Kaibab is now the Old Bright Angel Canyon trail.

By 1974, fires had been banned and permits were more restricted. We had to show up at the Backcountry Office in the new Park Headquarters located next to the Shrine of the Ages during working hours rather than at our convenience. One Friday after this edict, we drove up from NAU to find the building locked and directions to the new location. It was after five, and we wandered around until a ranger showed up and took pity on us. He said he would give us the permit, but warned us from now on to show up when the BCO was open. This office

was a window in the courtyard, and some of the historic boats were on display. These were cool to look at, but it was not very good for the boats. Groups were limited by trailhead: for example, 16 people a day down the Tanner.

The 1980 book has color pictures. This issue includes descriptions of the corridor trails. The Hance trail is now described more simply: no longer are there six topographical sections. The text warns about taking pets on the trails, and there is a new section called "Walk Softly, Walk Safely" concerning minimum impact and what to do in an emergency. Now signal mirrors are recommended over fires. Each trail now has a short paragraph concerning history, and there is a bibliography.

The 1982 permit application asks for the usual info, plus a checklist for trails hiked and a checklist for equipment. Solo hikers filled out a form on the back describing themselves and their equipment, presumably so the body could be identified. Hikers were required to inform the BCO when they returned from the hike, either in person or by phone. This was not required for those on the corridor trails, and I remember checking in from a hike after I had completed a Hermit-Bright Angel. The ranger said if I hiked BA I did not have to check in, and I said, no, I DID have to check in because I had been out of the corridor. She refused to check me in, and I got a call at 6 AM the next morning. I told THAT ranger that I had tried to check in, and she was most apologetic.

I recall asking for a permit at the time, and the ranger wanted to know how many trails I had been on. "All of them." He gave me a Look, and said, "Name some." I took a deep breath. "South Bass, North Bass, Boucher, Hermit, Old Hance, New Hance..." He stopped me and gave me the permit. I imagine most hikers figured that the corridor trails were "all of them".

By 1983 it was decided that limiting numbers via trailhead was not the best approach, because

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK HIKING INFORMATION SHEET

1. TRIP LEADER

Name	Age	Address	Home Phone	Work Phone
Emergency Contact		Address	Home Phone	Work Phone

2. ITINERARY

DATE	TRAIL OR ROUTE USED	CAMPSITE NAME	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

3. VEHICLES

PARKED AT:	YEAR	MAKE & MODEL	COLOR	LICENSE NO.	STATE

4. GRAND CANYON HIKING EXPERIENCE

<input type="checkbox"/> Bright Angel Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Tanner Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hollow Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> South Kaibab Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> South Bass Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Hall Tr. (Monument Pt.)
<input type="checkbox"/> North Kaibab Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Boucher Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Nankoweap Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> New Hance Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> North Bass Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandview Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Tonto Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Apache Point Trail

5. EQUIPMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> Quarts of water per person	<input type="checkbox"/> Trowel
<input type="checkbox"/> Day of food per person	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Maps
<input type="checkbox"/> Stove (NO OPEN FIRES)	<input type="checkbox"/> Guide to Inner Canyon Hiking
<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Canyon Treks
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Medications	<input type="checkbox"/> Signal mirror, whistle

6. OPTIONAL CHECK-IN SERVICE

Upon my request for the check-in service, I AM REQUIRED TO NOTIFY the National Park Service of my safe return from or the failure to do the hike listed above. In the event that I do not advise the National Park Service, I am in violation of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 2.6 (b) 4; Failure to comply with the requirements of the permit, reservation, or registration systems, and that I may be billed for search expenses. I will check-in at the Backcountry Reservations Office or after hours call (602) 638-2411 by: _____

I understand and agree to the above. _____ Date _____ Time _____
 OR Signature Drivers License No. _____
 I choose not to check-in. _____
 Signature _____ Date: _____

Rev. 4/82

everyone tended to camp in the same place, i.e., as soon as the trail hit the River. The backcountry was divided into threshold, primitive, wild, and corridor. Permits were awarded for use areas or, in the more popular areas, individual campgrounds.

The 1994 and 2005 edition has color photos and a cross-section of the elevation change for each trail as well as the topo map. A section on Planning a Safe Trip was added, and Minimum Impact has morphed into Leave No Trace.

All of the guides were authored by Scott Thybony and published by the Grand Canyon Conservancy (originally Grand Canyon Natural History Association). Leave no Trace and Planning a safe trip sections were written by Sam West and Mark Sinclair.

1982 permit application



Old permit tags



Rediscovering a North Rim legend

In 1906, James "Uncle Jimmy" Owens, at the request of Teddy Roosevelt, moved to the remote North Rim of the Grand Canyon to help control the mountain lion population. He earned a reputation as a legendary hunter and guided hunts and tours for the rich and famous. Passionate about wildlife, Uncle Jimmy started out as a quiet, unassuming cowboy on a cattle ranch in Texas before taking a job as a buffalo warden in Yellowstone and meeting the future president, who would change the course of his life. He spent twenty-three years acquainting himself with the cliffs of the Grand Canyon, where one slip could mean instant death, before fading into obscurity. Join author Albert L. LeCount as he delves into the fascinating life of a forgotten man.



THE HISTORY PRESS

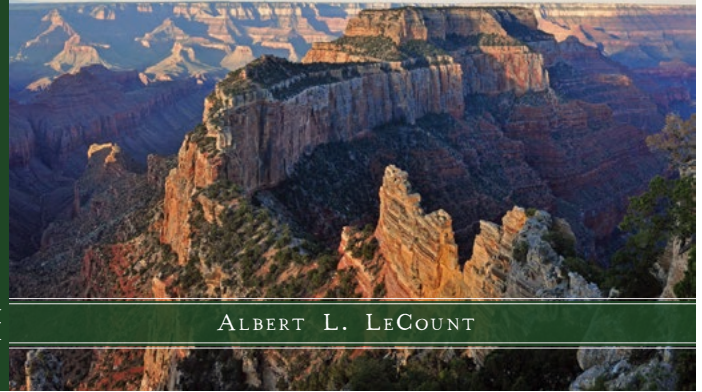
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ALBERT L. LECOUNT

Book Review

by Dick Brown

The Grand Canyon's Uncle Jimmy Owens, Albert L. LeCount
The History Press, 128p. \$21.99
(paperback), c.2021

Thanks to Al LeCount, Uncle Jimmy Owens, a legend on the Kaibab, finally takes his rightful place in the written human history of the Grand Canyon. Owens was a colorful canyon character hunting mountain lion, guiding greenhorns, and tending his beloved herd of buffalo in some of the most rugged wilderness country in the west.

The life-journey of James T. Owens is replete with buffalo wrangling and

wild hunting adventures, and yet he was a quiet, kind-hearted, good-natured frontiersman; nothing like the Old West heroes and notorious outlaws popularized in so many dime novels of his time. This special story has a very special setting – the magnificent Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

One time, while hanging on a narrow ledge, Jim looked up "to find a big cougar staring at him, with only a few feet between them. As it took both hands to maintain his hold, there was no chance to use his .45 pistol. He and the lion just stared at each other, waiting to see who was going to give way first."

Jim often followed big cats up trees,

down cliffs, into caves, and through deep snowdrifts. On one occasion, he guided a gentleman who doubted that "he would climb a tree and rope a lion." When the doubter scoffed and went back to camp, Jim proceeded to tree a lion, climb up and single-handedly rope and tie the big cat, then bring it back alive.

While his beginnings near San Antonio are rather nebulous, the reader quickly picks up his trail at Charlie Goodnight's ranch in the Texas Panhandle, then follows it to Yellowstone, and finally to Grand Canyon's North Rim, encountering buffalo every step of the way.

After working in Yellowstone with the flamboyant Charles J. "Buffalo"

Jones, the two partnered on a “cattalo” experiment on the North Rim, cross-breeding cattle and buffalo to produce a heartier stock. When the venture failed, the two parted ways. Buffalo Jones turned to ranching in New Mexico, Owens stayed in Arizona where he was appointed the first game warden for the forest reserve on the North Rim. His mission was predator control.

In that position he had a significant, albeit temporary, impact on mountain lion and mule deer populations, as the government wrestled with Nature’s delicate balance between predator and prey in North Rim country. Jim’s real legacy was not the number of cats hunted and killed, although the numbers were astounding, but the herd of imported buffalo he managed on the Kaibab and in House Rock Valley; their descendants thriving there today.

Jim loved to daydream with his free-ranging, free-spirited buffalo, one hundred remnants of a bygone era. They often drifted up from House Rock Valley and entered the Park where Jim “always had some around his camp in Harvey Meadow for the tourists to see and photograph.”

The subtitle for LeCount’s book is quite fitting: Rediscovering a North Rim Legend. As the author neared the end of his decade of research for his book, he lost Jim’s trail. It simply faded into obscurity until rediscovered in a southern New Mexico cemetery.

This biography is well-researched, well-written, and well-documented. LeCount vividly describes Jim’s lion chases with his pack of faithful hound dogs, and interactions with President Teddy Roosevelt, novelist Zane Grey and Arizona territorial historian Sharlot Hall. And he crafts beautiful transitions between his nine chapters. If there can be any criticism at all, it is toward the publisher, not the author. Of the nearly 50 or so images and illustrations painstakingly rounded up by the author, a third are not much bigger than postage stamps, barely doing the story justice.

LeCount is the ideal author to tell Uncle Jimmy’s story. He is a retired wildlife biologist holding degrees in wildlife management. He had a 30-year career with the Arizona Game & Fish Department. He is widely published, taught summer classes at NAU, and has won many awards in

wildlife education. No doubt, Uncle Jimmy’s story benefits greatly when told from a professional biologist’s viewpoint.

The book’s Foreword comes from another Arizona Game & Fish Department colleague, Harley Shaw, who carries the same wildlife management credentials as LeCount. Shaw spent many years capturing and radio-tracking mountain lions on the Kaibab Plateau to assess their impact on mule deer and cattle. Both LeCount and Shaw bring a high degree of credibility to Uncle Jimmy Owens’ life and times on the Kaibab, both having traveled the same trails and hunted lions with hounds in the same manner as the celebrated wilderness hunter.

LeCount has raised Uncle Jim Owens to the level of a canyon celebrity, but in a rather back-handed way, this quiet, reserved pioneer deserves a footnote in national wildlife policy. In being such an expert hunter and trapper, Uncle Jim helped precipitate a historic tragedy at the Grand Canyon that guided the nation down a road toward more realistic wildlife management practices. Indeed, striking that perfect balance between predator and prey is history serving as a roadmap to our future.

The book is available from The History Press as well as on Amazon. If interested in a signed copy, send \$25.00 to cover the cost of the book and postage to Al LeCount, 16125 W. Prosperi Ave., Tucson, AZ 85736.

Uncle Jim, on right, with fellow hunter, having just killed a young mountain lion in 1913, GRCA 5279.



The BULLETIN

2021 GCHS Events

(Subject to change, so check our website)

APRIL

SPRING BOARD MEETING

Saturday April 17, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (MST)

Online via Zoom, Instructions sent out via email

MAY

GCHS MONTHLY VIRTUAL OUTINGS BEGIN!

Watch your email and Facebook for updates.

JULY

MIDYEAR BOARD MEETING AND ANNUAL PICNIC

(confirmation pending)

Saturday July 17, 2021

Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., South Rim Community Building

Picnic, Noon to 4:00 p.m., Shoshone Point

Shoshone Point has been booked for July 17th, but we are waiting to determine if there will be COVID-related restrictions. Watch your email for updates.

OCTOBER

COLORADO RIVER BASIN HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

October 13-16, 2021 Kanab, Utah

July 1, 2021: Grand Canyon Historical Society members will be eligible for early registration of up to four individuals. Lodging and dining info will be sent to all registrants at that time. The registration process will be online as has been done for past Grand Canyon history symposia.

FALL BOARD MEETING (TBA)

2021 GCHS News

Pioneer Award Goes to Keith and Nancy Green

Keith and Nancy Green, who kept the Grand Canyon Historical Society viable during an especially difficult time in the organization's history, have been recognized with this year's Pioneer Award. The award is given each year to honor living individuals who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the understanding of, and knowledge about, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River.



Photo: Tom Martin

Keith worked at the canyon for Amfac (Xanterra) at Phantom Ranch for many years and returned later to work for the National Park Service as an interpretive Ranger. Nancy began her career at the canyon working for TW Services on the North Rim where the two met. She later worked at the Grand Canyon School and became a published author with three books to her credit.

An official recognition will occur in July (annual picnic subject to Covid protocols).

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2021 Research Grant Awarded to William Holly

William Holly is a PhD candidate in history at Arizona State University. William's dissertation is tentatively titled "The Mountain is Part of Us: The Legal & Cultural Conflicts Over Development on Arizona's San Francisco Peaks, 1967-1984." This dissertation revolves around three main themes: 1) The importance of tourism, first promoted by the railroad and the city's proximity to natural attractions such as the Grand Canyon; 2) The role of American Indians and Indigenous imagery in promoting Northern Arizona tourism; and 3) The conflict that arose out of the uneasy alliance between Indigenous peoples and the tourist economy, as reflected in the legal challenges to expansion of the Arizona Snowbowl in the 1970s, and into the 1980s.

William will use the \$2000 award to spend part of Summer 2021 in Flagstaff conducting research at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library Special Collections in order to gain evidence to advance his claim that Indigenous culture was as equally important as the Snowbowl to the Northern Arizona

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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tourism economy. Most of the \$2,000 would be used for lodging costs. William believes this work will add an important historiographical contribution to Arizona history, American Indians, and the Northern Arizona-Grand Canyon region.

- Mari Carlos

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Virtual History

Two of our Board members recently presented virtual Grand Canyon history programs for the Arizona Historical Society (AZHS) at the links below. Please consider joining and supporting AZHS; GCHS is an Arizona Historical Society affiliate.

Tom Martin:

Going With The Flow, 13,500 years of Grand Canyon River

Running History in 60 Minutes

<https://youtu.be/SVPzI4998tk>

Haley Johnson, moderated by Jill Hough:

I'll Take Credit for That": A Mary Colter Presentation

<https://youtu.be/VHTQk82QPys>

Seeking Volunteer Webmaster

Do you have website skills and would you like to contribute to the Society's mission? GCHS is looking for a volunteer to maintain our website. While there are several members who currently do some of the work, your role would be to take the lead as the go-to Webmaster.

This position would include: working with the board to maintain and improve the organization and navigation of the site; troubleshooting problems as they arise; adding text and images as they are identified by the board; offering suggestions for improving the site.

This is an unpaid, volunteer position. While it is not full-time, a time commitment would be necessary which may vary with circumstances.

If you have an inclination to help us out, please email Kevin Schindler at kevin@lowell.edu.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Karen Greig at thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org.