

WHERE TWO TRAILS CROSS

A Report On A Field Trip May 18, 1991

The wagon master signaled for the wagons to circle when forward scouts reported signs of Indians in the rocks near Echo Cliffs along Hamblin Wash where the caravan traveled north. The twenty-one pioneers faced the gale-like winds and prepared for a day of excitement and at once discovered evidence of Indians on the rocks at the base of the high escarpment.

The group examined Hopi Clan symbols left by the Hopis over the years as they traveled along the wash toward the salt deposits in the Grand Canyon. Each year the chosen members of the clans made the trip and marked they symbol of his clan in the desert varnish on the boulders, a picture of a stalk of corn to represent the corn clan, a bear paw for the bear clan or and antelope to represent that clan. It was a great honor for these men to be chosen for the hazardous trip through the Little Colorado River Gorge to the confluence with the Colorado at Grand Canyon to gather sacred salt. They made the trip regularly for hundreds of years and stopped on their way long enough to carve these symbols beside what came known as the Salt Trail.

From the Hopi Clan rocks, Val Avery led the members of the Pioneers along the base of the cliffs to the ruins of the old Willow Springs Trading Post and pointed out that the early Mormon settlers used the same trail to make the trip back to St. George, Utah, where they could have their marriage vows sanctified in the temple. These early travelers, seeing the clan symbols, began to imitate the Indians and carved their names in the rocks and on the sides of the cliffs. The wide sandy Hamblin Wash soon became a well-used highway for both the Indians and the white man, who designated it as the Honeymoon Trail.

Al Richmond gave us a quick lesson in geology explaining how the area came into being and Carol Werhan told us about the vegetation before we faced the blowing sand and made our way back to the wagons; The group took a rough Navajo road past the old John D. Lee house and peach orchards at Moenave and on to Tuba City. We drove by the old Tuba City trading post and picnicked on the grounds of the Tuba City Elementary School where the buildings and grass protected us

from the blowing sand (but not the wind). Diane VanCleave surprised Marie with a birthday cake on their in-common birthday and we sang "Happy Birthday" as we shared the cake.

The original plans were to follow the Honeymoon Trail on to Lees Ferry. The wind and blowing sand proved too much. The early pioneers were more hardy than the modern ones so that will come at another time. Our thanks to Val Avery for her splendid presentation and for sharing her vast knowledge of history. It was a wonderful and exciting trip that all enjoyed.

Bill Suran

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President's Message:

Our last field trip was such a success, we have planned a similar trip for July. We almost had a trip planned for the Hopi dances, but the plans didn't materialize. We are still attempting to make plans for that trip which will be announced in the future.

Those attending our last trip to Moenave were; Ron Werhan, Bill Suran, Edwin Druding, Ruth Druding, Nancy Reimche, Sibyl Suran, Laura Cole, Ethel Cole, Harry Cole, Chris Greening, Jack Greening (Boulder City, NV), Jeanne Schick, Fred Schick, Doug Van Cleave, Diane Van Cleave, Marie Maiorana, Paul Maiorana, Carol Furey-Werhan, Steve Verkamp, Val Avery, Dot Reidelbach, Al Richmond and The West Wind.

The West Wind made its presence so well known that we decided not to go on to Lee's Ferry. In fact we felt lucky to find a place out of the wind to have lunch. The visit to the Hopi Clan Rocks and the Mormon inscriptions was well worthwhile and we intend to visit the site again.

NEXT FIELD TRIP

Next field trip will be on Saturday, 27 July 1991. It will be lead by Al Richmond and Ron Werhan.

So many people were disappointed that we didn't make it to Lee's Ferry that we have rescheduled this portion of our last trip. As time and interest permits, we may also visit House Rock Spring, another Mormon Honeymoon Trail campsite with inscriptions, the Escalante Memorial where we will discuss the Dominguez and Escalante Expedition which past though this area in 1776, and Jacob's Pools where John Lee build a home for his wife Rachel.

At Lee's Ferry we will discuss and view the dugway road, ferry location, remains of the old buildings, the sunken steamboat, "Charles H. Spencer" and homestead called Lonely Dell where we will have lunch. Those who wish may be interested in visiting Willow Springs on their return trip to Flagstaff. Carl and I plan to stay over night at or near Lee's Ferry and then visit the south side of the river, hike the dugway and perhaps hike the old trail called "Lee's Backbone" on Sunday. Anyone interested is welcome to join us on Sunday.

Meet in the parking lot of the Cameron Trading Post between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. We will depart from the parking lot not later than 9:00 so please be on time. Go north on Highway 89 out of Flagstaff about 50 miles and it will be on your left past the turnoff to the Grand Canyon and just before you cross the Little Colorado River. If you wish to eat at Cameron's before the trip please make sure you arrive early enough. If you need a ride, call Al Richmond at (602) 779-0640 or Ron Werhan at (602) 635-9380.

(Suggested reading: *Desert River Crossing*, W.L. Rusho and C. Gregory Crampton; *A Crossing on the Colorado*, Lee's Ferry, Evelyn Brack Measeles; John Doyle Lee, Juanita Brooks; *Without Noise of Arms*, W. Briggs; *The Dominguez Escalante Journal*, Chaves and Warner; *The Dominguez and Escalante Expedition of 1776*, Joseph Cerquone; *Land of Living Rock*, C. Gregory Crampton; Map: Lee's Ferry, Arizona, Grand Canyon Recreation map series published by Rainbow Expeditions)

"SINFUL"

or

PACKRAT MIDDEN

or

Coconut Pecan Cookies

Carol Furey-Werhan calls them Sinful; Al Richmond refers to them as Packrat Midden, and the cookbook uses the mundane title, Coconut Pecan Cookies for these filling, fattening, and addictive standbys that are rapidly becoming the Excursion Cookies for our field trips. This is the recipe:

- 1-1/4 cups flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/4 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-1/4 cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix one cup flour with salt, add 1/4 cup brown sugar and melted butter (this is important), mix until smooth. Pack firmly into bottom of well-greased 8 inch square baking dish (larger size will give thinner cookies). Bake 15 minutes.

Prepare topping: Beat eggs, add remaining 1 cup brown sugar. Combine baking powder and 1/4 cup flour, add to egg mix with vanilla, coconut and nuts. Spread over pastry, return to oven for approximately 20 minutes until brown and more or less firm (your tester will come out sticky).

While still hot cut into 1-1/4 inch squares.
Packs well, keeps well, tastes good.

Sibyl Suran

ELOISE FAIN TURNER (1906 - 1991)

A native Texan, Eloise came to Arizona in 1926 after attending the University of Texas. She graduated from Arizona State Teachers College at Flagstaff in 1927 and taught school in McNary until struck down by Typhoid in 1929. A chance meeting with Santa Fe Railway Chief Clerk Sam Turner in Holbrook that same year changed the direction of her life. Married in 1930, they transferred to Gallup, Ashfork, and then to the Grand Canyon in 1940 where they became part of the community for seventeen years.

While at the Canyon, in addition to her role as mother and housewife, Eloise served as a substitute teacher at the grade school, taught piano and worked as a secretary for Fred Harvey—where, among other duties, she kept track of the life history of the mules. In her spare time she wrote for the "Santa Fe Magazine" and "Hospitality," the Fred Harvey publication, and occasionally the United Press picked up her stories. Even with all of this, she also found time to write a book of children's stories.

There are many of the residents of the Canyon who remember her as a grand lady—deservedly so. Eloise has been a long time member of the GCPS and will be sorely missed by all. She is survived by her son, Sam and his family in Tucson.

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Editors: **Ron Werhan** and **Carol Furey-Werhan**

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Grand Canyon Pioneers Society
P. O. Box 14
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Bill & Sibyl Suran
386 Owl Pl
Flagstaff



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