



O' PIONEER

Newsletter of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society

INSIDE

November Meeting	1
Christmas Poem	2
Letter to Gale Burak from Harvey Butchart.....	3
January Tour.....	4
December Train Ride.....	4



It Happened Again

They say lightning never strikes twice in the same place, but that idea does not hold true when it comes to bad weather and the Grand Canyon Pioneers. Yep! You are right. We had beautiful weather up until Friday November 18, then it all broke loose. It started snowing early that morning and continued on throughout the day and into the night. Late Friday afternoon we contacted Caroline Richard who was to conduct our tour through the archives at Grand Canyon and inquired about the conditions there. Her answer boiled down to "You just can't get here from there." The east rim drive was closed at Desert View and the west rim drive was closed at the village. Not only that, but the highway was closed leading up to the canyon for a short time. "It is my opinion," Caroline said, "that it is not worth risking lives to make the trip. We can reschedule the visit later."

The next step was to get on the phone and call those hearty pioneers who usually attend these outings and cancel out. Tom Carmony and his family from Tempe, and Jim Ohlman and his family from Kayenta had made plans to come. Others closer were relieved to know they would not have to travel on the ice and snow covered roads. Edwin and Ruth Druding managed to make it to Flagstaff from Glendale after nearly sliding off the road in Kachina Village near their place there. Gene and Marvel Wendt called from the Canyon late Friday evening advising they were going to attempt to make it back south in time to put some guests on a plane Saturday morning. His original plans were to catch a plane in Flagstaff and return to the Canyon for the meeting.

So that's the way it went.

Even if we had not scrubbed the mission Friday we would have had to do it Saturday morning as the snow continued to fall, and the temperatures stayed below freezing all day. Perhaps we had better obtain a copy of *The Farmer's Almanac* and consult the projected weather on our meeting dates for next year, maybe we could do better. Oh well it was kinda nice spending the day curled up in front of the fire and watching it snow, even though we did miss being with all the Pioneers.

Merry Christmas

Author unknown

Six mules they went down, only three they came back;
And that is my story, alas and alack!

Six loads of good cheer, prepared with great care,
And earmarked for Christmas below, special fare.

Roasted turkey, beefsteaks, plum pudding, oh, my!
The guests they all shouted, "And think of the pie!"

They were mostly from Boston, so that was their theme,
And the night before Christmas that was their dream.

One cowboy in front, one cowboy behind,
And as they set out, the starter said "Mind

You exercise care, take it easy indeed!
And where it gets steep, give extr'ord'n'ry heed."

There were bottles of red wine, likewise of white,
Enough to make any man want to show fight.

And the guests, while they waited, gazed up at the trail,
And thought they saw barrels and barrels of ale.

So the convoy set out on the sheer mile deep drop,
And plodded an hour, then the hind boy cried "Stop!"

The last of the trio has broken a girth,
And unless I do mend it, he won't cling to earth."

So then he dismounted, but the poor mule was scared,
And trembling and shaking into vacancy stared.

For there was the precipice, half a mile deep,
And a plunge overboard would put Mule to sleep.

Yet just that did happen on that fatal ledge:
One mule dragged two more with him over the edge.

But what of the guests at the Ranch down below?
For their grand Christmas meal there was little to show.

Cold cuts and rye bread and nothing to drink,
Since the best of their food had gone over the brink.

The first beasts escaped, but were loaded with hay,
For their comrades below on that sad Christmas day.

Whatever became of the Phantom Ranch meat?
'Twas left for the bobcats and coyotes to eat.

They feasted all night on tender mule-steak,
While the guests of the Ranch were near to heart -break.

The cowboy who let his mule slip, what of him?
His companion forced him to climb to the Rim,

And when he got over his arduous walk,
Nobody could ever persuade him to talk.

The moral is clear, and this is my hunch,
When you travel, take with you a Tovar box-lunch.

April 9, 1947
1A.M.

The following letter from Harvey Butchart was written to Gale Burak October 12, 1993, and is in regards to Gale's story Another Rare Find. (see GCPS Newsletter October 1993) regarding pack rats.

Dear Gale:

I liked your account of finding the scraper in the pack rat midden. It reminded me that I have had just a bit of firsthand dealings with pack rats. On a cold night near Apache Point, I found a neat crack between the mainland and the outliner. Near the bottom there was a good overhang with a smooth place for a bed. It didn't take long to throw down enough dead juniper bows for a fire to last the night. I cooked my soup down there and I must have left the pan out with a light aluminum lid of it. In the morning I still had the little saucepan but not the lid. I didn't find the pack rat's home, so after that I boiled soup without the lid. There was another time when I thought I had lost the whole pan. I cooked rice in the pan in the evening and put it out with a stone on the lid to be ready for my breakfast. In the morning the whole thing was gone. I ate something else and proceeded on my way. I had been camping near the source of Havasu Creek. When I had gone about a hundred yards along the trail leading to the exit I found my little pan without any rice in it, of course. . . .



The first schoolhouse at Grand Canyon in Winter.

GCPS Board of Directors:

Buford Belgard
Harvey Butchart
Ethel Cole
Harry Cole
Carol Furey-Werhan, President
Mary Ellen Hamilton
Marie Maiorana, Vice President
Al Richmond
Fred Schick, Treasurer
Jeanne Schick, Secretary
Bill Suran, Editor - Newsletter
Chris Verkamp
Steve Verkamp
Gene Wendt
Ron Werhan

GCPS Newsletter:

Editor: Bill Suran
Designer: Marie Maiorana
Printer: Kwik Kopy

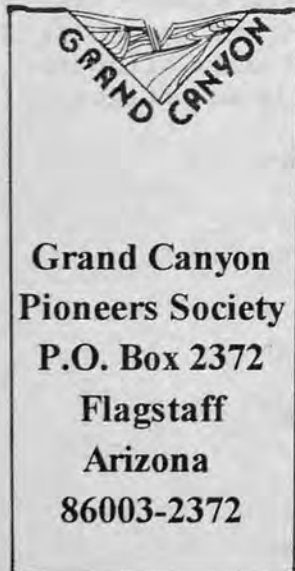
Our first get together for 1995 will be a tour of the Flagstaff main post office on January 14, at 10:00 AM with Postmaster Gary Packer leading the tour. What is historic about the post office? Right off hand we don't know, but it should be an interesting trip. Some of us have not been through the post office at all and those that have probably went through while in grammar school. If that is the case you are certain to find a lot of changes.

Flagstaff's new post office is located on Postal Blvd. a few blocks east of 4th Street in East Flagstaff. Hope to see you there.

Special Outing

The Grand Canyon Railway is offering a special rate during the month of December. We will plan a trip on December 17 for those who wish to go. You must have your reservations in by December 10. The rates are as follows: If you have an entrance pass to Grand Canyon or a Golden age card \$21.65. With the regular park entrance fee \$25.65. Children under 12, \$10.80. PLEASE MAKE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO SIBYL SURAN AND MAIL TO GRAND CANYON PIONEERS SOCIETY P.O. BOX 2372 FLAGSTAFF AZ 86003 -2372. We must make our reservations by December 10 and money received after that date can not be accepted, SO DO IT NOW... before it is too late.

The O' Pioneer newsletter © 1994 by Grand Canyon Pioneers Society, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form without permission of the publisher. To reach the editor, call 602-525- 1863. This newsletter was compiled by Marie Maiorana using Ventura Publisher 4.1 for Windows.



**BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
FLAGSTAFF AZ
PERMIT NO. 174**

**DAN CASSIDY
8540 N CENTRAL NO 27
PHOENIX AZ 85020**