



THE OL' Pioneer

Newsletter of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society

Meditation Walk

by Marvyl Wendt

Up the hills and through the valleys

Desert plants abound

High o'er head in a clear blue sky

Floating clouds are found.

One needs to stop and meditate

To ponder and to see,

The beauty that our God above

Created for you and me.



From a Christmas card 1995

Photo by Gene Wendt

Another Year Comes To A Close

By Bill Suran

It hardly seems possible that 1996 has slipped away, almost before we got the Christmas decorations down from 1994. The year has been a good one, though it had its usual up and downs. We gained a good many new members from various parts of the United States, and lost a few. Our membership list now stands at 265 and we mail out 240 copies of *The Ol' Pioneer* each month to families and individuals.

The Ol' Pioneer has changed along with other things. We have progressed to a more professional looking newsletter. In fact, of all the newsletters I receive in the mail I think ours is about the best looking one of the lot. Of course I am a little prejudiced. Marie Maiorana has gone to great lengths to design and print each issue. While few know it, she prints each copy on her laser and ink jet printers at home and sends them to me to address and mail. We owe more than we

will ever be able to repay for her dedication to the GCPS.

The newsletter has also expanded to the Internet. It is not the same as you receive in the mail each month. If you are online you should take a look at it. The address is:

http://www.kaibab.org/gc/gc_gc_ps.html

This is the first installment and it will improve as time goes on. For this we owe Tom Carmony and Bob Ribokas a great deal of thanks.

The two have done a lot of work getting it put together. Bob also is the editor of the Grand Canyon Page—a very comprehensive reference piece about the Canyon, giving trail and hiking information, maps, weather, history and much, much more. This address is:

http://www.kaibab.org/gc/gc_home.html

This page is linked to our Pioneer page and is easy to find.

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Another Year...from page 1

The whole thing would not be possible if it were not for those members who have submitted articles and letters to help fill up the pages each month. We would like to hear from more of you. A lot of you have stories to tell about things that went on at Grand Canyon. It is funny how many tales you can tell when talking face to face to one of our members, but somehow those stories seem to vanish into thin air when it comes to writing them down. I hear about them long after they were told and mostly forgotten.

Our trips to various places this year have been a great success. All have been well attended and informative as well as fun. The annual picnic had the biggest attendance of any yet with members coming from all over. Gale Burak came in from New Hampshire, about the farthest away, and Marnette Peek Good visited us from Oregon. Others came from closer to home. More good meetings and outings are in the offering for 1997.

Our board has new faces on it this year as you can tell from elsewhere in this paper.

Marie and I are going to take a rest for December and as you will see this newsletter is the November/December issue. We'll be back with you in January. Hope all of you have a great holiday.

Happy Birthday

Mike Gibson

Earl Lewis

Rich Richmond

New Members

We have a first this month. Dr. Robert H. Groves, Sr. of Albany, Georgia was the first to join the GCPS by means of our *The Ol' Pioneer* page on the Internet. Also joining our group are Lew Steiger, a researcher and river runner from Prescott, AZ.; Nancy Nester and Bill Baumann of Tempe, AZ; Richard and Beverly Cole of Newbury Park Ca.; Martin and Peggy Cole of Prescott, AZ and Mike & Kay Ford of Lee's Ferry, Mo. Welcome to all of you.

Books

There is still time to order the GCPS books for a Christmas gift, and at a special price

The Grand Canyon Society's Cookbook \$5.99.

Margaret Verkamp's *The History of The Grand Canyon National Park*. \$5.58.

J.D. Green and Jim Ohlman's *Hiking In The Grand Canyon Back Country*, \$17.35.

Please add \$1.50 for postage on each book. Send your order to

The Grand Canyon Pioneers Society

P.O. Box 2372

Around and About

Flagstaff, AZ 86003-2372

or for faster service you can E-mail your order to

cwsuran@infomagic.com

All proceeds go toward our scholarship and restoration and archival projects funds.

Barry Goldwater

We were sorry to hear Barry Goldwater suffered from a stroke recently. However, according from the reports he is up and around and as feisty as ever. All this goes to prove you can't keep a good man down.

PLEASE

IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS PLEASE LET US KNOW. THE POST OFFICE WILL NOT FORWARD YOUR NEWSLETTER UNLESS THE ADDRESS IS CORRECT. By using a bulk rate non-profit status on our mailing we save considerable money on postage, this is 3rd class mail and is not forwarded or returned so we have no way of knowing whether you receive *The Ol' Pioneer* or not.

Also check your address label and make sure we have everything spelled correctly.

Correction

In the September issue of *The Ol' Pioneer* we credited Thomas H. Oliver for the design of the plaque at Roosevelt Point on the North Rim of Grand Canyon. The plaque was designed by

Greer Price a NPS staff member. Oliver did the sculpture of Roosevelt on the plaque.

Congratulations

Our congratulations to Dr. Garland and Evelyn Downing who have been selected to receive the 1996 Rosenweig Award which honors outstanding service in promoting interest in libraries. Evelyn's work with teacher education at Northern Arizona University had a direct influence on improving Arizona School libraries. Garland has served as chairman of the University Library Committee, chairman of the Arizona Region Three Committee for the White House Conference of Library and Information Services, a member of the Flagstaff/Coconino County Public Library and a founding member of the Flagstaff Public Library Foundation.

The Downings are long time members of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society and deserve the honor.

E-Mail Addresses

We would like to establish a directory of E-mail addresses of our members. This would enable members to keep in closer touch with each other. If you have an address you can send it to the GCPS through the editors address at cwsuran@infomagic.com and we will post it in a special column in *The Ol' Pioneer*.

An Unwanted Christmas Gift

On Friday September 8, 1911 at Green River Station in Wyoming, Ellsworth Kolb wrote in his journal:

"Groceries loaded. 9:30 A.M. started moving picture of start and showing Bridge. 2 miles down Emery Shot a duck. Further down saw several. One little riffle Grounded twice and ran into a tree fallen down. 3 P.M. came to Logan ranch two boys. Camped. Took views."

"All went well ... until Christmas eve."

This was the beginning Ellsworth and Emery Kolb's long dreamed of river trip they wanted to make through the Canyons of the Green and Colorado River. They intended to trace J.W. Powell's trip of 1869, and continue on to Mexico, and be the first to record the journey with the newly invented motion picture camera.

Neither were experienced river runners, but it did not take long for them to learn. By the time they ran the rock-strewn Ashley Falls in Red Canyon in northeastern Utah they felt they could handle most anything the river could throw in their path. They ran rapid after rapid, lined their boats around some they felt too dangerous to run, and dragged their heavy boats along the bank of the river on a few impossible to row through. They were tossed and battered by the rough waters of Cataract Canyon but managed to make it through without mishap.

After that, they enjoyed the smooth glide through Glen Canyon, then braced themselves for the turbulent waters of the Grand Canyon, the roughest of them all.

On November 17 when they pulled to shore at Bright Angel Creek they had run, portaged and lined their boats through the rapids in the Green and Colorado river between Green River, Wyoming and Bright Angel Creek with only a few minor upsets. The worst was Ellsworth's foolhardy risk of running Soap Creek rapid where they nearly lost everything including their lives.

After a break at home on December 19, they continued the trip with a third man, Bert Lauzon, hired to help in portages and to run the moving picture camera while the two brothers plunged through the white water. All went well with only a few minor mishaps until Christmas eve. Then it seemed their luck might suddenly come to an end.

It had turned bitter cold, even at the bottom of Grand Canyon. Ice hung on the rocks along the river bank and their clothes froze on their bodies. Ellsworth recorded in his diary:

"...#4 is full of bad rocks all over. I go first, go over big rock and the water churning in from all sides. I see Emery is hung up on rock at head of rapid. My boat is filled and thrown from side to side finally turns over with me under. I lose hold on the gunwale as the boat is turned completely over. Long time under water In swift current. Come up only to be carried under time and again by the big waves. Waves finally dwindle. I see Bert running opposite on shore (South) boat near him. I try to go that way but current takes me across. Have rubber coat on, high boots, and two preservers. Almost exhausted. More choppy waves then I get to side in still water and just manage to paddle to shore (North shore) before going over another rapid. Bert swims out and catches boat

hurled out of his course almost instantly and being carried for the big drop below. Seeing this I put extra effort to the north side and got mixed up in a nest of rocks which held my boat. I watched Ed as he despaired over the dip. He did not pass but was held by the recoil waters. In another instant the boat went over and still held by the waters but Ed did not come up for quite a while. When he did he was about 50 ft. below the boat which also floated out and righted itself. The rapid was long and I had fear that Ed may drown as the water being ice cold and freezing some along the edges of the river.

I strained every muscle to get my boat off the rocks which I finally did and pulled for the big waves though I knew it may mean my life, but Ed was fast



Emery and Ellsworth Kolb with the wrecked boat on Christmas day 1911. Kolb Photo

in whirlpool. I can hardly drag myself out. . . ."

Emery wrote:

"...we sent Bert below. Ed [Ellsworth] led and was

going toward another rapid

I went over dip but hit rock smashed side of boat and filled to the gunwales. . . . I landed on the N. side just above Ed who just crawled

Unwanted, from page 3...

out in time. We were landed on a bunch of rocks with hardly room to stand. Though inexperienced our nervy Bert rowed Ed's boat over to us. Ed could hardly speak but said I want to shake your hand. . . ."

Bert Lauzon also kept a record of the trip and recorded:

"...I went to the lower end with a long rope to throw out if the boys were upset and came my way. Ed went over a big dip and was upset and went down river for 1500 feet. Just got out at the head of another rapid in time. He was all in and nearly froze. . . . Ed's boat hung up in a whirlpool on my side of the river 100 feet out. Most of our grub and repair outfit was in this boat. I had to swim for it got the boat -bailed it out with my hat and crossed to where Ed was. About this time Emery came in with the crippled boat. . . ."

The three men managed to row across to the south bank of the river where they built a fire to dry their clothes, make a big pot of coffee and camp for the night. Emery worked all Christmas day repairing the big gash in the side of his boat that was big enough for him to crawl through. Bert again wrote in his journal:

"...Xmas morn were all stiff and cold from the day before, got breakfast, rustled wood across the river, made a mesquite rib and got the boat repaired. Took some MPs and photos of smashed boat, painted a (Merry Xmas) sign and got pictures of the camp."

While the river's gift was not appreciated, the three travelers were grateful they lived to write the account in their journals and after a days rest continue on to arrive at Needles, California, on January 18, 1912.

The Debate Goes On

For the past several months there have been a number of comments made regarding the name of an old Supai Indian. The question has been whether the white men, who had difficulty spelling and pronouncing the name called him Package of Coffee or Cup of Coffee.

The whole thing started with an article written by Michael Harrison in our February 1996 issue of *The Ol' Pioneer*. Mike at the time proclaimed he remembered the name to be Pah-ka-cha-kah-ba. The timekeeper for whom the Indian worked had trouble spelling the name on the payroll records and wrote down Package of Coffee. The name stuck.

Gale Burak then wrote in the May issue stating another Supai pointed out a grave and said it belonged to an old Indian whose name was Cup a Coffee.

This prompted Mike Harrison to restate his case in a letter in August that the man deserved a Package of Coffee rather than a mere cup. Then in the September newsletter we received another story from Edna Wolfe Gordon who related a tale about a Supai Indian called A Cup of Coffee, who came by her parent's home when she was a child.

The argument seems to go on. Jeanne Schick presented a paper written by Ethel Metzger where Ethel writes . . . "After a brief visit with Superintendent Loverskild, his wife and son Oscar, Joe (Watahomigie) led us to a nice camp site adjoining Pah-ket-de-koh's little farm (Bert (?) dubbed him Package of Coffee) It was a pleasant spot though sandy. We were on a high bank above Cataract Creek: with peach trees and cottonwoods affording shade. A deep irrigation

ditch was between us and the river bank.

"Pah-ket-de-koh was a friendly and hospitable neighbor. I furnished him some amusement the day I was alone in camp and he brought me some delicious freshly picked peaches and made signs for me to eat them. Not understanding the sign language, I thought he had a toothache (judging from his poor teeth) and was so sympathetic, he left and brought his wife for a repeat performance. Then I tumbled, and we all had a good laugh. They were an elderly couple, he tall and lean; she, short and fat; a happy and delightful pair."

Now! Who is correct? The debate is tied 2 to 2. Whether the man's name was a package or a cup we may never know for sure. Regardless the stories were amusing and made interesting reading.

Our last 1996 Outing

On November 16 Richard Strange, a Photographer of Grand Canyon will give us a show and talk in Flagstaff. Richard has published breathtaking photographs in Arizona Highways as well as in other media. The show will be well worth seeing. Meet at Furr's Cafeteria at 12:00 Noon for lunch and go from there to our meeting place that will be announced. This will be the last get together the Pioneers will have in 1996, so lets make it a good one.

The 1997 meetings will be announced in the January 1997 issue of *The Ol' Pioneer* and on our Web page.

New Board Members

We welcome Dan Cassidy, Lee Albertson, Betty Leavengood, Tom Carmony and Edwin Druding to the GCPS Board of Directors. These members will serve a term of three years. They join Chris Verkamp, Mike Gibson, Jim Ohlman, Marvyl Wendt, Sibyl Suran, Ethel Cole, Mary Ellen Hamilton, Fred Schick, Steve Verkamp, and Ron Werhan as members of the governing body of the Society.

Our thanks to Buford Belgard, Carol Furey-Werhan, Al Richmond and Jeanne Schick who are retiring after long service. We appreciate the work you have done helping the organization grow from a small group to over 260 members. Though now retired from the board you will still be a valuable asset to the group.

School Days

Most of us were a little too old to start back to school Saturday, September 14, and all of us were too young to have attended school at the little log school house, but that didn't hinder nearly all of us from remembering a lot of things that happened back in the early days of the 20th century; say from maybe 1915 on.

Thirty Pioneers filled the dining room at the Strawberry Lodge in Strawberry, Arizona, for lunch and some of the lodge's famous pie before traveling out Fossil Creek Road to the old Strawberry School.

Mike Anderson, a member of the GCPS and resident of the town as well as historian, filled us in on the history of the little log building. The school is the oldest schoolhouse in Arizona, still standing on its original foundation, built in 1885 for the children of the ranchers that settled in Strawberry Valley. Youngsters of the area attended school there until 1916 and after that the

building more or less went to ruin with only the log timber walls, floor and foundation remaining.

Members of the community got to work and restored the structure in the 1960s and in 1981 rededicated it. Enough old timers still lived at the time to remember how the classroom looked inside to replicate the furniture

and fixtures even down to the location of the oil lanterns used for lighting. The one room schoolhouse is now complete with everything including the McGuffey readers and initials carved on the desk tops.

The younger generation (anyone under 70) had fun taking turns pulling the

rope at the back of the classroom to ring the bell perched on the roof outside.

From here we immersed ourselves in



Tom Carmony wears the dunce cap while his daughter, Amanda and Fred Schick, T.J. Ohlman and David Barrow look on. Photo by Vern Ewer

more history of the area at the Pine museum a few miles south of Strawberry in Pine, Arizona. This, like the school has been an ongoing community project with residents



Rich and Al Richmond, May and Tom Rodgers, Mike Anderson, Jeanne and Fred Schick on the porch at the Strawberry School. Photo by Vern Ewer

digging things from their attics and donating them for exhibition.

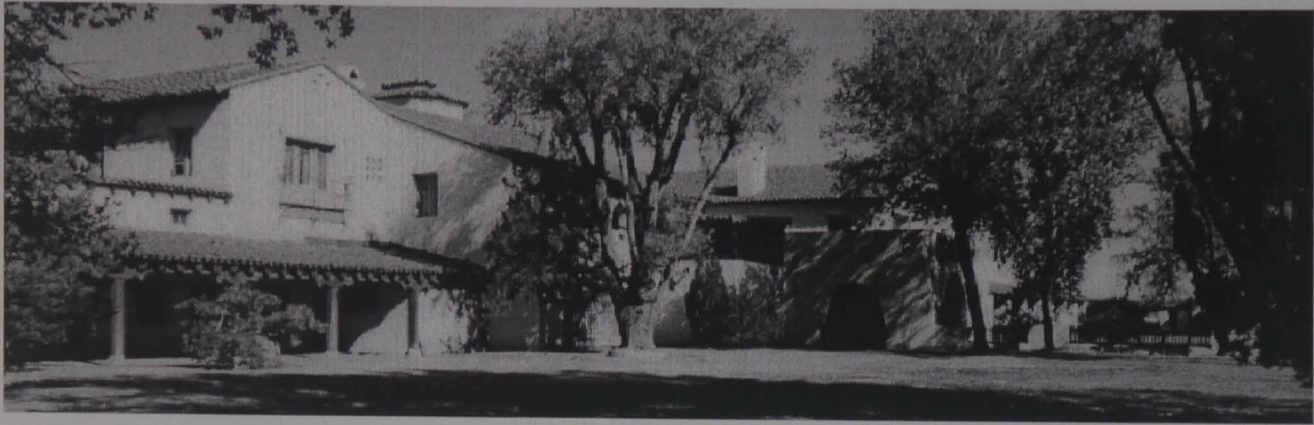
Pine was an early Mormon settlement and the museum is now housed in the 1917 church building that still contains the pulpit and organ. Like the school it brought back a lot of memories when we viewed things now considered old

but that some of us used or remembered having in our homes long ago.

One thing the writer remembered very distinctly was the razor strap that hung by the barber chair in the corner of the building. A similar strap hung behind the kitchen door when I was a child, and I remember well the Sunday morning when I was about five years old and told my dad to shut up when he asked me to blow my nose. He grabbed me up and at once applied the old razor strap to my backside. Needless to say I never told him to shut up again. The strap hung there for years as a gentle reminder of who was boss in the house.

After the visit to the museum some of us traveled down Fossil Creek road around some rather hair raising mountain curves and steep drop offs to view the Irving Power Plant, one of the oldest hydroelectric power plants in Arizona. The plant, built in 1912 to furnish electricity for the copper mines at Jerome, has only one generator powered by water from Fossil Creek and is still in operation today. Saturday the creek was flooded and the gate to the plant locked making it impossible to get across to have a close view.

We owe Mike Anderson a standing ovation for his interesting and informative tour of Strawberry and Pine. It is always amazing how much history one can find in small towns scattered around the countryside. Thank you Mike.



La Posada, Winslow, Arizona

Our Annual Meeting

Every year around the middle of October the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society settles down and holds an annual meeting. It is the only business meeting we have, though we meet monthly for trips or talks to see and hear things of interest in and around the Grand Canyon. We met this year in Winslow Arizona.

Our reason for returning there again this year was because this would possibly be the last time we would have the privilege of viewing the old La Posada Hotel there. The building has been sold and will be restored as near as possible to its original decor. Plans are to open it as a resort hotel. We all hope it will bring new life to the town. The La Posada during the days of passenger trains was the Queen of the Harvey Hotels along the Santa Fe R.R. route to California.

La Posada photos by Marie Maiorana



La Posada's iron grillwork

Due to the possibility of construction in the building we met at the Falcon Restaurant where we were provided with a

meeting room, Coffee, Tea and rolls to keep us from starving before lunch.

As for the meeting itself, we installed the newly elected board members (see page 4 in this issue), and elected Tom Carmony as our new secretary. The

other officers Jim Ohlman, President; Marvyl Wendt, Vice President; and Fred Schick, treasurer;

remained in office for another year.

Following this a motion was made and passed to award our annual scholarship of \$500 to a graduate student at NAU doing research on the Grand Canyon and the surrounding area. As

restoration and preservation is our main purpose in being, we then passed a motion to support the restoration of the Jump Up Cabin that John Azar is currently carrying out on the north rim of the canyon. The amount will be decided upon receipt of more detailed financial information.

The next item of business touches on all of us. Due to the increased costs of

everything the board after considerable discussion voted to raise the annual dues. It is the first time the dues have been increased in the history of the Society. In the past there have been two categories of membership, Individual and Family of \$10 and \$15 respectively. The new dues will be \$20 across the board to become effective in January. This increase will allow us to do more toward our projects, and continue to improve *The Ol' Pioneer*.

After a break for lunch we were given the opportunity to hear an interesting and informative talk by Len Anderson and Greg Deeds of Infomagic on the development and production of a Computer CD ROM. Len and Greg presented us with a proposition to make some money by utilizing the newsletter stories of the past on a ROM disk. The explanation created numerous questions and off the cuff intelligent answers by our guests.

Continued next page...

Dear Editor

I wonder how many alert readers will notice that the picture on the front page of the September Newsletter has an error. Uncle Jim Owens is standing on the right of Teddy as we see him on Teddy's left. The guy on the right is much too young and hasn't Jim's moustache. Other than that I liked this months set up and format better. Loved the letter from Edna Gordon and pleased to see her listed as a member. Enjoyed the



article on Maw Nature's revenge.

Gale Burak

North Woodstock NH

Editor: The caption should have read Theodore Roosevelt (third

from the left) and party at Uncle Jimmy Owens' Cabin on the North Rim of Grand Canyon.

Sure enjoyed the September Pioneer. Gale Burak's article was great. Would be nice to have one of her experiences in each Pioneer!! "Mother Nature Wins Again," was really unique.

Gene Wendt

Vail, AZ.

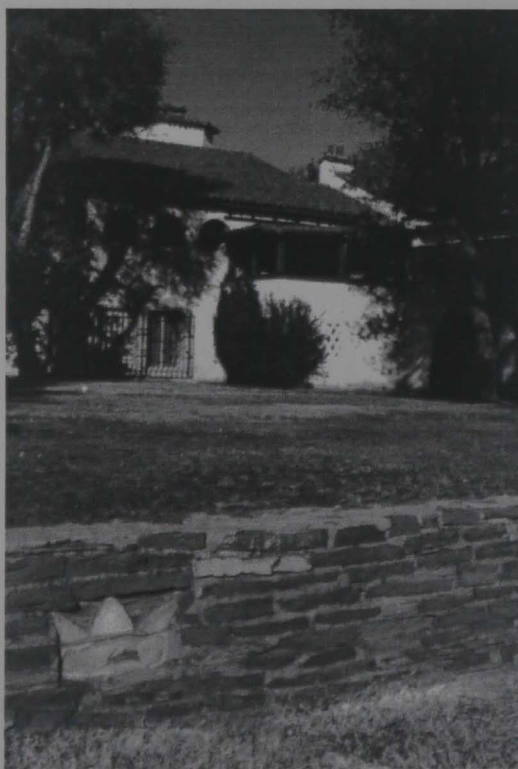
Annual Meeting, from page 6...

The idea will cost us almost nothing to produce in initial cash outlay. Infomagic produces the disk from our Internet page material that Bob Ribokas and Tom Carmony are doing. The disks will be distributed then world wide by Infomagic and we will receive a percentage of the sales. The members present voted to proceed with the project and we hope to have our first disk on the market around the first of the year.

Lee Albertson reported on his project of establishing an award to those who have contributed to Grand Canyon in one way or another. His idea has been batted around for several years and the group voted to proceed

and make the first award at the annual picnic in June of this coming year.

With no further business the president adjourned
Continued on next page.



One of the "hex" designs on the wall between the railroad tracks and La Posada. Photo by Marie Maiorana

Grand Canyon Pioneers Board of Directors:

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Ethel Cole

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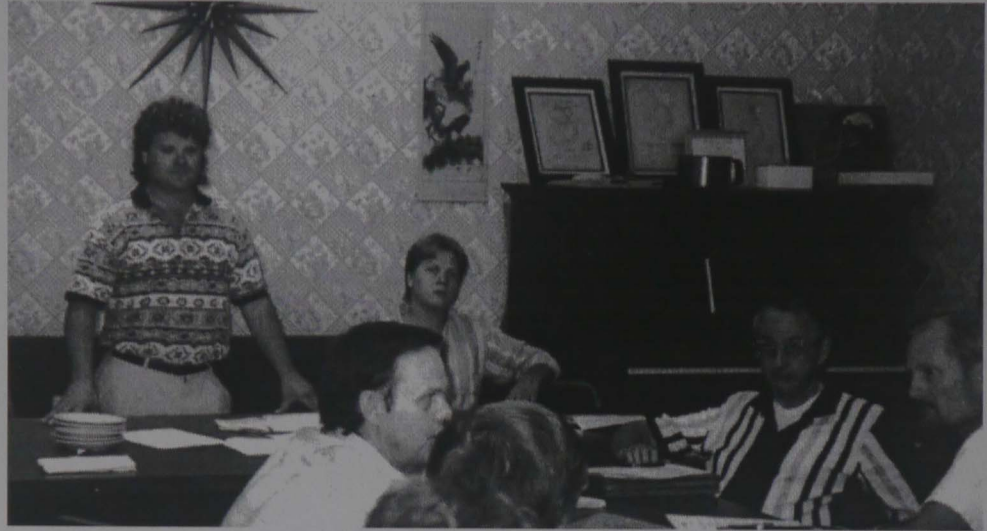
Editor GCPS Internet
Page: Tom Carmony

Publisher GCPS Internet
Page: Bob Ribokas

Annual Meeting, from page 7...

the meeting and we embarked for the La Posada Hotel for a final tour before restoration begins. Steve Parker from the Old Trails Museum at Winslow took us through the empty, dusty building pointing out things that would be restored and showed us photographs of how they looked before the Santa Fe closed the hotel.

By now the group began to break up, but a few of us had to visit the Old Trails Museum and talk with Janice Griffith and view her latest acquisition- a 900 year old Anasazi storage pot



Len Anderson and Greg Deeds listen to questions from GCPS members.

that is in almost perfect condition.

We owe Janice and the La Posada Foundation a vote

of thanks for setting up this meeting at the Falcon and for furnishing the goodies. Also the Restaurant for the use of

their meeting room and service. We appreciate all that Winslow has done.

Season's Greetings



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Grand Canyon Pioneers Society

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