

Footprints

Hooray For the Red White and Blue

By Gale Burak

During the summer of 1919 a survey crew looking into the feasibility of a cross-canyon tramway embedded a 10 or so foot pole in the south end of the Battleship summit. An American flag proudly flew from it for several months

appeared, gaily flapping from the pole. Word spread like wildfire. Consternation reigned rampant, and before long crowds were lined along the rim from El Tovar to Kolb's Studio to see the flagrant sacrilege for themselves.

took down the Red Sun on a field of white. Everyone waited expectantly for Old Glory to replace it. But what's this: a white flag went up instead! A flag of truce? Never!! But there it was.

Mixed feelings greeted the boys when they reached the trailhead. And they, in turn, were very shamefaced. It seems that in their patriotic fervor and anxiety to get

atop the Battleship they forgot all about replacing the flag. And when it hit them there was only one thing they could do, and they did it. One of the boys took off his white undershirt and put that on the pole. It was a good shirt. It lasted a long time before the weather had its way with it. And to the best of my knowledge no American flag has ever flown from the pole since.



The American Flag raised on the Battleship in Grand Canyon ca. 1919.
Photo from the Robert L. Ryan Collection

that summer, but by the time I arrived at Grand Canyon in 1942 it was gone, and few people even knew the pole was still there.

Occasionally a few foolhardy souls would accept the challenge of traversing the shales from the B.A. Trail and climbing the short vertical cliff to the top, but not many nor very often.

However one fine morning in June, six months after Pearl Harbor, horror of horrors; a Japanese flag

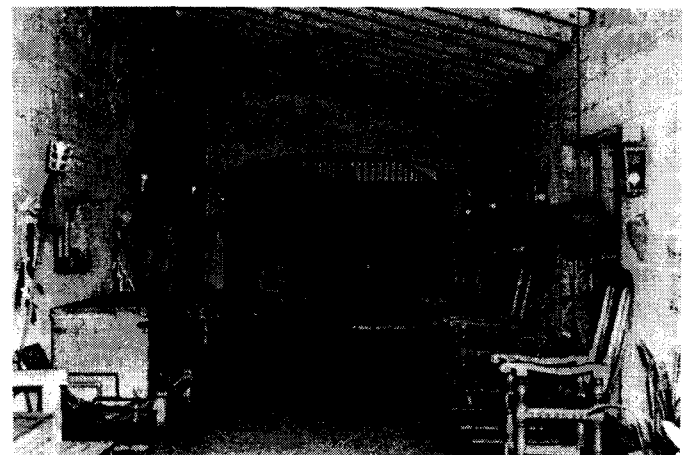
Well——! Something must be done! And it was done, too, by a hardy contingent of Native Americans. A few Hopi bellhops (who later admitted that this was not the first time they'd made the trip) volunteered to remove the offensive emblem, and forthwith set off down the Bright Angel Trail.

Their progress was closely followed by many binoculars, and a cheer went up along the rim when one lad shinnied up the pole and

Scrapbook of Memories

Few of us today have any idea what the interior of the famous old La Posada Hotel in Winslow looked like. Mary Jane Colter and the Santa Fe Railway spared no expense on the interior decoration of the building. The furnishings for the most part were all

specially made and many items were shipped direct from Spain and Mexico to carry out the Spanish motif. Thanks to Bob McPherson of Black Canyon City we have a photograph showing the Cinder Block Court as it looked in the Hotel's heyday.



An interior view of La Posada's Cinder Block Court as it appeared ca. 1944. Photo by Bob McPherson



[The page contains a dense field of faint, illegible text that appears to be bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is scattered across the entire page and is not meant to be read.]

A Walk Through Flagstaff

How often does anyone take a stroll through the downtown area of their town with the sole purpose of delving into its history? I would dare say the count is few . . . very few. That is what the Grand Canyon Pioneers

Society did on Saturday, August 17, when twenty-three of our members joined Dick and Sherry Mangum at the Flagstaff Visitor's Center to hear the town's colorful story.

The tour began at the old Santa Fe Depot where our guides pointed out how the town got its name. In 1876 a group of men from Boston stopped to camp at a spring near where the Museum of Northern Arizona is now. Since it was the Fourth of July, they stripped the branches from a tall pine tree and raised a flag to celebrate. The flagpole soon became a marker to locate water for future travelers. The directions indicated *the spring at the Flagstaff* thus giving the town its name.

As we walked eastward from the depot, Dick and Sherry pointed out where the railway set a box car to serve as the first depot, a good mile from the row of wooden shacks and tents located on a hill west of the spot that served as a town. The disgruntled business men

soon moved east across the street from the train station. As the town grew, the Atlantic and Pacific Railway added a second box car, and then a third. The citizens of Flagstaff figured they deserved a real honest to

brick and only one keeps the porch over the sidewalk.

Our journey continued up Leroux Street past the old Bank Hotel, the first two-story stone building in town, and by the haunted Dr.

Raymond's office building, the only place in town said to have a ghost. Down a bit farther we walked by the original telephone exchange, and then past the Weatherford Hotel that will soon have the porch and balcony restored.

East on Aspen Street, Sherry pointed out the old Babbitts store that recently underwent a

the 1920's. The building was the pride and joy of the growing town.

Farther north on San Francisco stands the Courthouse built after Coconino County separated from Yavapai County in 1891. The old brick building has undergone so many additions that about the only thing left visible of the original is the clock tower.

Our tour ended beside the first building of New Town, across from the train depot (a saloon, one of five along Front Street). Before 1891 the town was a rough and ready place with gunfire, drunken cowboys and lumbermen. At the time gambling and women of the night were the order of the day. It was no place for a

lady to stroll day or night.

The trip was a step back in time. Your mind carried you to the days when horses and buggies lined the dirt streets, and boardwalks resounded to the footsteps of women and men.

From here the Pioneers traveled to the Beaver Street Brewery where we relaxed and visited with delightful fellowship and good food. Our thanks to Sherry and Richard Mangum for a wonderful tour.



Members of the GCPS (from left) Chris Ohlman; a total stranger with son; Jim Ohlman; Amy Frizzel; Fred Schick; Jason Frizzel; Rich & Al Richmond walk north on Leroux St. during our historic tour of Flagstaff. Photo by Sibyl Suran

goodness depot and finally got what they wanted - - the present stone building on the east side of San Francisco Street. It was the second permanent station, the first, constructed of wood, burned to the ground.

Across Route 66 (old time Front Street) our guides called attention to the structures built after the second fire destroyed downtown in 1887. To keep up with the modern trend of the 1920's, the owners tore off the porches and balconies and covered the buildings with stucco. Some now have been restored to the original

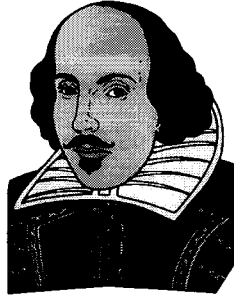
mammoth restoration job returning it to its original appearance including the painted sign that decorated the high second-story wall. She then called our attention to the Monte Vista Hotel across the street, a community project built in



The gang lines up for a photo at Joe's Place where our tour ended. L/R Fred Schick, Tom Carmony, Dan & Diane Cassidy, Jim, Janice & T.J. Ohlman, Rich & Al Richmond, Jason & Amy Frizzel and our leaders Dick & Sherry Mangum. Photo by Sibyl Suran

Dear Editor

I want to thank you for the mention that you gave me in *The Ol' Pioneer* from May. I just love getting the newsletter which always makes me pine for the Canyon and environs, but was delighted and surprised to see a little article about myself and my work in the pages of your great little newsletter. I am still moving along on my dissertation . . . won a summer fellowship from WSU's history department which will help me finish my research [on Oveta Culp Hobby] and writing and speed me toward graduation (keep your fingers crossed) next May. Then its job hunting time. . .



more per issue than black&white; it also took over 5 min. a page to print which was over 20 hours, not counting stops to reload paper or add ink (or eat lunch, etc.) and in addition to time composing the newsletter before printing. The cover of the Aug. newsletter took about 7 minutes each. I do not charge for my time. Bill & I decided we'd save the color for special occasions (as is, I believe, the Shoshone Picnic). Marie Maiorana

Do you know anything about an "Association for a Highway between Grand Canyon and Carlesbad Caverns"? I ran across a letterhead of the Association with a note from Julius Becker to my Dad who were both directors of the Association.

Roy Burriss
Niskayuma N.Y.

Editor: I have never heard of it but maybe someone out there has and can answer the question.

I'd like to thank you for your patience and sense of humor; not many people know that you let me pick out whatever I want to illustrate your **Dear Editor** column. You've taken all the cartoons without a single complaint, which is why last month I used my favorite actual photograph of you (even though anyone who met you recently wouldn't recognize the beard).I think I've captured the real you this month!

Marie Maiorana
Parker, Colorado

Deb Sutphen
Pullman Washington

I have really enjoyed the newsletter lately, especially the July issue with that picture of Grand Canyon. But I would like the pictures just as well in black and white. I can't help wondering what the addition of color is costing the club.

I enjoy the articles, especially Gale's - when do we get more of hers? We joined the Pioneers for such information as well as to contribute to restoration in the Canyon. Are we financing anything there at present? Or are we losing sight of our primary purposes?

Keep up the good work.

Frank Wilson
Verona, VA.

Designer/Printer: If the Editor will let me answer your first question - the color page in July's issue cost the club 4 1/2 cents

Memo on Monte Video

Gene Wendt's question [July 1996] regarding whether anyone recalled seeing the "Monte Video" inscription he found on Spencer Terrace was answered by GCPS member, Bob Euler. In his letter to Wendt, Bob states he saw the inscription May 17, 1980 while walking on Spencer Terrace after locating Mystic Spring. He was able to locate the spring by matching cliff contours with George Wharton James' photo in ca. 1900.

Bob forwarded Gene a well documented packet of information on this sighting including a copy of his archaeological site survey made for the Grand Canyon in 1980. The letters, carved with considerable skill appear to be in late 19th century style, are on a flat rock of the exposed Esplanade surface. A tin corned beef can with a soldered bottom, found in a crack in the sandstone adjoining the inscription could be dated between 1875 and 1920, but no other artifacts lay close by. Thus he dated the site somewhere between these two dates.

Among the other references Bob included an excerpt from John C. Van Dyke's *The Grand Canyon of The Colorado* published in 1920 that reads (after a rather long flowery description) . . . "As you go down to the

extreme point of Fiske Butte overlooking the river (an ancient Canyon-lover has named it Montevideo) . . ."

A third reference is given in Peter Wild and Neil Carmony's article *The Trip Not Taken: John C. Van Dyke, Heroic Doer or Armchair Seer ?* that appeared in the *Journal of Arizona History* for Spring 1993. The article points out that Van Dyke never traveled to the site of the inscription, thus raising the question of how did he know of it. Perhaps he talked to W.W. Bass about it since no doubt Bass had seen the inscription so near Mystic Spring.

As to the meaning of Monte Video, Bob states the most promising translation was from a Jesuit sister at the University of San Diego, a Latin scholar who says the words are not Spanish, but Latin and literally translate "I see the mountain from this place."

Another story relates that Monte video were the words shouted by a Portuguese sailor when he first spotted the hill on which the capitol of Uruguay, Montevideo, now stands. He called out "Monte vide eu" (I see the mountain). Maybe just plain *mountain view* will do.

Santa Is Just Around The Corner

When you read the above title you probably cringed, but it is a fact even though it doesn't seem possible. However, it's time to begin thinking about Christmas gifts for friends and relatives. What better gift can you give than one of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society's books?



For the Canyon hiker we offer J.D. Green and Jim Ohlman's book *Hiking In The Grand Canyon Back Country*, a book that tells about the history, geology and the conditions of various trails in Grand Canyon. The Christmas price is \$17.35.

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

The Grand Canyon Society's Cookbook for those who like to cook is full of good mouth-watering recipes. This attractive book sells normally for \$9.95 but for the season you can buy it for \$5.99.

The Grand Canyon Pioneers Society

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or for faster service you can E-mail it to:

cwsuran@infomagic.com

Margaret Verkamp's *The History of The Grand Canyon National Park* is an ideal gift for the history buff on your list. This interesting book normally sells for \$6.95 but we have reduced it to \$5.58.

The purchase of a book will not only please the recipient but it will also help the Society, because all proceeds go toward our scholarship fund and our restoration and archival projects.

The Ol' Pioneer Goes Hi-tech

If you wish to keep up with what is going on at Grand Canyon you can now take advantage of the Internet and get all the up to date news. We owe all this to our member Bob Ribokas. Bob is an avid Grand Canyon fan as well as a computer buff. He has set up a GCPS page on the World Wide Web that can be read all over the world. If you would like to see what he has done you can reach it at:

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

Bob Ribokas has received a number of awards for his Grand Canyon Page. His work is a very comprehensive guide to the Grand Canyon and has a wealth of information for visitors, river runners, hikers, teachers, geologists and history buffs. This page can be found on the web at:

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

From the looks of things *The Ol' Pioneer* page will be an award winner too.

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Special Program for October 19th

You may consider the annual meeting of GCPS a waste of time because we handle mostly business. But this time we have a speaker you will be interested in hearing. Why? Because he offers the club a chance to make some money! Len Anderson from Infomagic will give us a talk on CD-ROMs and the internet. He will offer us a chance to recuperate our standing financially.

The sale of books has dwindled to an unprecedented low. So few books have been sold this year that most of the income we are

receiving is from the annual dues. Money from dues is slated for the publication of *The Ol' Pioneer*, leaving nothing for our scholarship fund and for money devoted to preservation and restoration of historical sites.

So if it is at all possible, be on hand for Len's presentation. Meet at the Falcon restaurant at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 19th, have lunch with other Pioneers, then listen to this enlightening talk. We hope also to be offered a tour through La Posada afterward.

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Outings

Oct. 19 - Due to the closing of the sale of the La Posada Hotel it has been necessary to move our annual meeting place from the Hotel in Winslow, AZ. to the Falcon Restaurant. We will meet there at 11:30 for lunch and hold our meeting afterward.

Nov. 16 - Richard Strange, Photographer of Grand Canyon will give us a show and talk in Flagstaff. Meet at Furr's Cafeteria at 12:00 Noon for lunch. Meeting location to be announced.

Dec. No meeting this month.

Grand Canyon Pioneers Society

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