

# The Ol' Pioneer

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### SPECIAL INSERT:

2007 Grand Canyon  
History Symposium  
Program

Registration begins  
October 16 !



# President's Letter

Just before sitting down to pen this letter I was devouring a manuscript about the life and times of Harvey Butchart. The working title is *One Who Dared: Harvey Butchart and the Opening of Grand Canyon's Backcountry*, by Tom Myers and Eli Butler. I had trouble putting it down to do my own bit of writing here (I'd rather read than write any day), but I want the entire membership to know that this book is percolating its way up toward publication. I'm only on page 40, but I can already tell you that it is a touching biography, working forward from Harvey's early years in China to his arrival in Flagstaff and many years thereafter spent discovering Grand Canyon's rim-to-river routes. The writing is great; Tom and Eli just keep getting better and better!

The excitement is beginning to build for the second Grand Canyon History Symposium, scheduled for January 25-28, 2007. As usual with this kind of event, the amount of work going on in the background is beyond belief, but once again there are some great people and organizations hitting it head on—like Lee Albertson, project director, the dozen or more people on varied planning committees, the park service, historical society, Grand Canyon Railway, Grand Canyon Association, and Xanterra. You will read more in this newsletter and on the society's website, but here are a few differences from our last gathering nearly five years ago.

First, the registration fee is a fair amount more than last time but in line with or cheaper than most professional conferences. One reason for the increase is the sad fact that we were unable to secure an Arizona Humanities Council grant this time around. Another is our intention, as in 2002, to treat our presenters well with free accommodations while the cost for accommodations has increased significantly. One of our very few complaints in 2002 was that registration was limited to 100, the carrying capacity of the historic community building. For 2007 we have moved the venue to Shrine of Ages, which can accommodate a few more than 200 comfortably. Formal meals with speakers, and participant lodging will be at the Yavapai Lodge (and Kachina Lodge), which is a short walk to and from the Shrine, limiting the need to drive around too much. If the weather holds as it did last time, moving to and fro should prove a pleasant walk in the park.

Participants in 2002 complained (in a pleasant manner) that they could only attend half of the presentations because we offered concurrent sessions. We intended to heed that complaint and present a single stream of talks in 2007, but I and other members of the selection committee received so many good proposals that we had to open it up to dueling sessions once again. Personally, I believe it is better to present as much history as possible, offering choice, but also making more presentations eligible for publication in the proceedings that will follow.

Another change: registration will lack the "personal touch" of the telephone in favor of an on-line registration system. It's not that we have surrendered unconditionally to the internet, but rather, the society simply is not staffed to take calls or register folks by mail. We are suggesting that if you do not have access to the internet, or do not know how to use it, call someone you know in the society who does have access and get their help with registration.

One last thought: This is my last message as president of the historical society, and after two terms as a director, per the bylaws, I am being booted from the board, as well. It has been a privilege serving for six years, and I encourage you all to volunteer to help the society by joining the board, serving a year as an officer, chairing the events committee, organizing a single event during the coming year, or helping to edit the newsletters. A nonprofit organization without paid staff is only as good as its volunteers. It is not as painful as it may appear, and no one gets really mad if you screw up.

*Adios !*

*Mike Anderson*

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EDITOR: Diane Cassidy

Submit photos, stories, and comments to the editor of *The Ol' Pioneer* at: [Articles@GrandCanyonHistory.org](mailto:Articles@GrandCanyonHistory.org) or 2112 Demerse Ave, Prescott AZ 86301.

The Historical Society was established in July 1984 as a non-profit corporation to develop and promote appreciation, understanding and education of the earlier history of the inhabitants and important events of the Grand Canyon and surrounding area.

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# Ruth Stephens Baker

Excerpt from *Grand Canyon Women*, First Edition, by Betty Leavengood

Having a canyon, a train, hotels, tourists, cowboys, and mules near her home seemed perfectly normal to Ruth Stephens Baker. She grew up at the Grand Canyon. Her parents came to the Canyon from San Diego, California, in the summer of 1920 where her father had accepted a three month job with the Fred Harvey to balance the books. He stayed forty years! "Mom had acrophobia," Ruth said, "so it was amazing for her to live at the Canyon. She couldn't look over the rim!"

When they arrived at the Canyon the Stephens family was shown to their new home...a tent house. Ruth remembers the house well. "Our tent house had three rooms with a board floor, board siding, and board struts. Everything else was canvas, the sides and everything. There was a wood fence around it, and just outside the fence, in the back, was the outhouse. Exterior plumbing!" Ruth quipped.

A childhood at the Grand Canyon was like no other. "A big 'do' for us kids was watching the Santa Fe train leave at night," Ruth said. "I learned my alphabet by Pullman cars and my arithmetic by the freight cars."

Thanks to the train and her father, Ruth was reading before she entered first grade in the two rooms school at the Canyon. "Dad used to read me the comics, but he would not read me *The Katzenjammer Kids* because they used the word 'ain't' which was not supposed to be in my vocabulary. I learned to read so I could read that comic strip," Ruth laughed.

Ruth remembers playing house in the caves under the rim. "We used embossed wallpaper to make elaborate dresses for the paper dolls and then wrote great stories about them," Ruth said, "and then wrote great stories about them. We put on plays for our parents. We made our own costumes and charged them ten cents to get in!"

There was no charge to watch the sunsets. "If Dad saw that the sunset was going to be good, he'd tell my mother, 'OK, Lil, forget about dinner and let's go.' And we'd forget about dinner and go to Hopi Point and watch the sunset. Dad and I had fun looking at clouds and seeing animals and objects in the clouds. We'd start talking about the cloud



Edith Kolb Lehnert, Gordon Berge, Ruth Stephens Baker, Ralph White  
on Shiva Temple.

[Photo: NAU PH.568.512 Emery Kolb Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University.]

shapes and pretty soon we'd have the dudes doing it!"

After eight years of living in the tent house, the family moved into one of the new houses on Avenue A (now Apache Street) in town. "We moved out of the tent house in 1928," Ruth said. "I remember it because the next year my sister was born. Mother had toxemia and the doctor sent her on the train to Los Angeles because there was no hospital at the Grand Canyon. If we'd been one hour later, both Mother and my sister Barbara would have died. The baby stayed in the hospital for two months. We had a new house and a new baby."

Just two years after moving into the new house, Ruth graduated from the eighth grade. There was no high school

at the Grand Canyon, so Ruth spent her high school and college years in California living in a home her father's family rented. She looked forward to the end of each term so that she could return to the Canyon and home.

"Summers at the Canyon were wonderful," Ruth said. "I fell in love every day! Every night during the summer we had a dance at Bright Angel Lodge. This was essentially for tourists, but we joined in and danced with the dudes and each other."

Ruth worked for Emery Kolb in his studio during the summer months. Ruth knew Emery well. At age ten she babysat his grandson, Emery "Sonny" Lehnert, and at sixteen she worked in

...continued on page 4

## Ruth Stephens Baker *...continued from page 3*

the darkroom. As she gained experience, she took on more responsibility and learned to operate the equipment during Kolb's lectures. The film projector was a 35 millimeter Bell and Howell Peerless carbon arc projector. "Now that was some kind of monstrosity!" Ruth laughed. "I had to open the side up and line up the carbons just so, make sure I had the right height, and thread the whole thing."

Ruth's favorite time in the studio was during the late afternoon shift. "Nobody would be there around six in the evening and that was the most beautiful time and I had the whole Canyon to myself," she explained. It was a peaceful interlude, except when a late afternoon storm swept across the Canyon. "I was scared to death of the lightning," Ruth said. "One time the lightning came right through the studio. It traveled right across the room. I happened to have the window open in the studio and on the porch where they had the telescope, so it was natural for the lightning to come through. I never made that mistake again."

After a storm the Canyon would look spectacular as the sunlight broke through the clouds. "It was like a stage," Ruth said, "and sometimes there would be spotlights when the sun would highlight Isis, Wotan's Throne, Zoroaster, and Shiva Temple. That's when I began to dream of climbing the mysterious worlds of the Canyon, never knowing that I would get that chance."

Her chance came in the summer of 1937. Dr. Harold E. Anthony of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City planned to scale Shiva Temple that September and set foot where he believed no man had ever been before. Shiva Temple rises 7,570 feet above the Canyon floor land is connected to the North Rim by a narrow land bridge. The press loved the story, calling Shiva Temple a lost world and speculating that dinosaurs might still roam in the isolated forest. Emery Kolb offered to guide the expedition but was rejected by Dr. Anthony and the Park Service.

When the Park Service refused to let him come on the museum's expedition, Emery decided to beat them to Shiva Temple. He made a preliminary climb in midsummer to find the route

and then assembled his crew. Because much was being made of a woman being on the museum's team, he invited his daughter Edith and Ruth to join him.

"We were sworn to secrecy," Ruth said. "If the Park Service found out he was afraid they would ban him from the Canyon." Emery arranged for the group to be flown over to the North Rim.

"We spent the night on Point Sublime," Ruth explained. "We got our gear together the next morning and started our descent at 6:00 AM. We got down easily and arrived in the saddle by 10 AM."

Emery was afraid someone looking through the telescope on his studio porch might see him, so he decided to climb up the north side of Shiva Temple. "The climb was a bit more difficult than we had anticipated," Ruth said. "We did use ropes once. We topped out just before noon and they let me be the first person to be on top of Shiva Temple."

Emery wanted the museum expedition to know they were not the first to climb Shiva Temple. "We went over to a point we knew we could see from the studio, and we found an agave stalk and put a burlap bag on the stalk that would blend in nicely, but if we

wanted to look at it, we could see it through the telescope," Ruth explained. "That was our flag!"

The flag wasn't enough. "Just because we were feeling a little rambunctious and did want people to know that other people had been there and it wasn't such a great thing after all, we left a few boxes of Kodak film, obviously made since 2000 years ago," Ruth laughed. "Also, I had heard that there was going to be a female on the expedition, so I put lipstick all over tissues and left them on a few bushes so it couldn't be missed."

Ruth's time at the Canyon ended soon after her climb to the top of Shiva Temple. She began teaching in a three room schoolhouse in Warner Springs, California, where she renewed her acquaintance with Albert Baker, Jr. "I met him the summer of 1938," Ruth explains. "He was a ninety-day wonder – a temporary ranger who came out for the summer. We married in 1942 and lived all over the United States."

"To me the Grand Canyon is still home," Ruth said. "I never think of any other place but this as home. It was a closeness. I don't think we ever thought of it as anything really special. It was just part of where we grew up."



Back row: Norm Nevills, boy, Dr. Elzada, Ruth Stephens, Lois Jotter  
Front: Lorin Bell, Bill Gibson, Emery Kolb

[Photo: NAU.PH.99.6.72 Nevills Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University.]

# Grand Canyon Entertainment Circa 1931

by Beverly Brown Wilson – Gladstone OR

Beverly is the daughter of Art L. Brown and Olive Brown. She is the granddaughter of Isaac O. Brown who was a ranger on the North Rim for 4 years, and traveled with Powell on various ventures into the Grand Canyon from the North side.

I came across a few photos of the old days at Grand Canyon in my Mom and Dad's photo album and decided I had best send them in while there are still some folks that might remember these people. I remember about half of them as I did not come on to the scene until 1934.

My Dad, Art Brown began his career on the Kaibab in 1921 doing temporary work and became a park ranger in 1925. He and my mother, Olive Shepherd Brown met in 1929, when Olive came down to work for the summer at the Kaibab Lodge, and they were married that year.

Picture No. 1 shows Art in a theatrical pose probable singing "Daisy, Daisy Give me your answer true." The recipient of his attentions is not my mother.

Picture No 2 shows the dancing talents of the male population.

Picture No. 3 was probably a play presented for the community's enjoyment. Identification is limited. Can anyone fill in the Xs?

My early memories of activities include movies once a week at the Community House. The metal chairs were all set up, but we would throw our coats down in front and sit on the floor. And of course, there would be an intermission every time a reel had to be changed...or the film broke. Bingo games, church services, ballet classes and most community functions were held there. A small room, not much bigger than a closet, provided space for a lending library. One event was the birthday celebration for "Old Sammy" (the Hopi Indian), where a huge cake covered with candles, I think a hundred was served. Did anyone really know how old Sammy was? His hair was still coal black; he claimed it stayed that way because he washed it in cold water and yucca root soap.

Mom joined a group of the ladies once a month for bridge held in various homes. I always liked it when the group met at our house, because the refreshments were so yummy. Dad joined the men for poker night. I don't

remember food leaving an impression with the event. But I did get to stack his poker chips as long as I was allowed to stay up. My sister Pat, remembers the annual community or school picnic held at Grapevine. I've seen a picture of it with the Fred Harvey buses parked near the tables making me wonder if we rode out to it in the buses. We also used that site for skiing in later years. Christmas time was celebrated with the dragging of the Yule Log through the town, ending up somewhere down beyond Avenue A, where the log was then set ablaze, and the Indians entertained with dances.

I was surprised to learn from Pinkie or Ethel Moore, a couple of years ago,



Art Brown and unknown

that the big field shaped like a racetrack out beyond the playground at the "new" school house was just that. The Indians used it for horse racing, which would account for the old bleachers that we played under and the ramshackle shed at the south end of the field. The field was later used for "The Victory Gardens", but what happened to the horse racing? Did they come to a stop when it was made a National Park?

The summer employees on the North Rim provided evening programs at the Kaibab Lodge, which were discontinued when the Lodge closed during the war. However when I worked at Zion Lodge in 1949 and 1950 production was back in full swing. They were

very entertaining, written, directed, costumed and staffed by the employees, 90% college students. There were different shows so that guests staying 3 or 4 nights were provided a variety of entertainment. Nothing like that was available in 2003 when I visited the North Rim. Our entertainment was to join everyone on the lodge balcony to watch the sunset. And beautiful as it was it had lost the crisp clarity of my younger years due to the smog encroaching from the West.

My Dad was never at a loss to make things entertaining. He could put 2 leaves in his mouth, making a hissing noise so that I thought there were any

number of creatures under every rock and bush. I think Arts greatest joy as a Ranger at Grand Canyon was interacting with the visitors, escorting the likes of Einstein, Clark Cable (on a lion hunt) and Elliot Roosevelt (son of Franklin Delano) when he married the movie star Faye Emerson. His daughter Chandler, spent the day with my sister and I (see photo) building a snowman.

After Art's retirement, as Superintendent of Lehman Caves Nat'l Monument, Nevada in 1957, he and Olive moved to Kanab, his boyhood home. The hot spot for Hollywood's western movie productions. Art's theatrical inclinations paid off. One day as

he walked onto a movie set as an extra he was whisked over to the make up area, had a moustache and sideburns plastered on and became a bartender for the movie, "Calamity Jane and Sam Bass" starring Howard Duff and Yvonne DeCarlo (of Munster fame)- (Picture No 4, Art standing and Olive seated in the wagon). He worked as an extra in the next 3 years that they lived there. It was a good paying hobby.

It was a wonderful life growing up at Grand Canyon. Spending the summers on the North Rim and winters on the South Rim.

...continued on page 6

# Grand Canyon Entertainment Circa 1931 *...continued from page 5*



Photo caption: "Grand Canyon School Days, Jan. 31-1931" (Kolb Photo)

[Photo: NAU.PH.90.9.109, Metzger Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University.]

Pictured above are:

**Back Row:** X, Naomi Martin (teacher), X, George Scheck, X, Bob Williamson, X, X, Elmer Nelson, Emery Kolb, Clark Carroll, Curley Ennis, Art Metzger, M. R. Tillitson, Art Brown.

**Front Row:** X, Laura Nelson, Mrs. Carr, X, Gertie Dickerson, Emily Scheck, X, Lil Stephens, X, Ethel Metzger, Blanche Kolb.

X = not identified.



Pat Brown (Marlow), Chandler Roosevelt, and Beverly Brown (Wilson)



Movie set: Calamity Jane and Sam Bass.  
Art Brown standing; Olive Brown in wagon.

NOTE: If any one can identify the "unknowns" in these pictures, please write the editor or:

Beverly Wilson  
18515 Dierickx Court  
Gladstone OR 97027

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# Grand Canyon Association Events

The Grand Canyon Association has produced *Canyon Country Community Lecture Series*, a series of lectures held in Flagstaff and Prescott. **Prescott lectures** will be held at Sharlot Hall Museum, 415 W. Gurley (two blocks west of Courthouse Plaza). Space at the Prescott lecture series is limited; please call (928) 445-3122 to inquire about seating. **Flagstaff lectures** will be held at Cline Library, at the intersection of Knoles Drive and McCreary Road on the NAU campus. Parking is available to the west of the library (Lot P13 on Riordan Road). All lectures are free and open to the public. If you have any questions about the events listed on this page, please write Grand Canyon Association at PO Box 399, Grand Canyon AZ 86023 or GCAssociation@GrandCanyon.org or call (800) 858-2808 or visit [www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org).

## OCTOBER 15

***Fire and the Southwest Ponderosa Forest*** by Bryan Bates. Prior to Euro-American settlement, the Southwest's forests would burn every two to ten years. These natural fires would reduce tree density, recycle nutrients and lead to more healthy forests. With economic development, the habitat structure and the fire regime shifted; livestock grazing led to different understory plant populations; lumber harvesting shifted the forest structure and railroads linked otherwise inaccessible markets with new commodities. The combined effects of these events have led to a shift in the ecosystem structure within southwestern forests. Bryan Bates will discuss the human and natural shifts in the Southwest's forests--historically, currently and the projected future. Bryan Bates is best known for his research in the astronomy of the ancient Southwest. He teaches biology, environmental science and natural history at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff. This **Prescott** lecture begins at 1:00 PM at the Sharlot Hall Museum.

## OCTOBER 18

***Flagstaff's "America Tour": Interpreting American Cultural Landscapes in the Mountain Town*** by Tom Paradis. This virtual tour will explore five distinct American cultural landscapes in Flagstaff, Arizona, through their historical development, architecture, and urban design. We will follow a rough transect through Flagstaff's north downtown, the South Side, NAU's north campus, Milton Avenue and the great "Beyond" of west Route 66. A fresh look at the local scene can teach us much about the American cultural landscape as a whole, the forces that have shaped it and the continued importance of cultivating a strong sense of place. Tom Paradis has been a professor of geography and public planning at NAU since moving to Flagstaff with his wife, Linda, in 1997. He is currently serving as NAU's Director of Academic Assessment. This **Flagstaff** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at the Cline Library.

## NOVEMBER 15

***Glen Canyon Dam: Ecosystem Damage and the Scientific Search for Solutions*** by Andre Potochnik. Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River profoundly impacted the downstream river ecosystem in the Grand Canyon. The loss of endangered species, archaeological sites and sandbars initiated studies resulting in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the dam. Completed in 1996, the EIS was guided by the Grand Canyon Protection Act, which requires continued scientific monitoring of downstream impacts to protect the river ecosystem. Andre Potochnik will highlight the state of the river ecosystem, discuss actions that have been taken and present future directions for preserving the natural, cultural and recreational resources in the Grand Canyon river ecosystem. Andre Potochnik, Ph.D., is a Flagstaff-based geologist, educator and river guide. For the past eight years, Potochnik has served on the Adaptive Management Work Group to improve operations of Glen Canyon Dam for the benefit of the river ecosystem in the Grand Canyon. This **Flagstaff** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at the Cline Library.

## NOVEMBER 19

***Life in Stone: The Long and Extraordinary History of Life in Your Backyard*** by Christa Sadler. If you've ever wondered what creatures wandered this area before we got here, you're a paleontologist at heart. Besides being extraordinarily beautiful works of natural art, fossils give us a wealth of information about the landscapes, climate, geography and lifestyles of the past. Join paleontologist Christa Sadler on a trip back in time through northern Arizona and the Four Corners region. Christa Sadler has worked in the outdoors in one form or another for more than 20 years. She is a geologist, educator, writer and naturalist with a serious addiction to rivers, deserts, mountains and, at times, chocolate. This **Prescott** lecture begins at 1:00 PM at the Sharlot Hall Museum.

## DECEMBER 17

***Prickly Plants of Grand Canyon: Agaves, Yuccas and Cacti*** by Sally Underwood. Some of the most conspicuous plants found in the Grand Canyon appear to come armed with a defense system of spears, spines and an assortment of spikey things designed to help them survive in a harsh environment. Yet these same plants were some of the most important sources of food, fiber and medicines for the indigenous people who once called the Grand Canyon home. Grand Canyon Field Institute instructor Sally Underwood will discuss the identification of many of the cacti, yuccas and agave found in Grand Canyon and their fascinating ethnobotanical stories, including an agave mystery that has only recently begun to be solved. After this presentation, you will never look at this group of prickly and pokey plants the same way again, and you will leave with a greater appreciation for our spiny friends. Sally Underwood is a Prescott native and third generation Arizonan. Formally trained as a veterinarian, she fell under the spell of the Grand Canyon and subsequently used her extensive science background as a foundation to study and teach about the rocks, plants and animals that call it home. She finds great joy in learning more about the intricacies of its diverse ecosystems and in sharing that knowledge with others. This **Prescott** lecture begins at 1:00 PM at the Sharlot Hall Museum.

## Kolb Studio Exhibit

**November 2 – February 18**  
***The Power of Landscape***, original artwork by Joella Jean Mahoney. Opening reception at 7PM on November 1.  
Admission is free.

# Grand Canyon Entertainment Circa 1931 ...continued from page 7



Dancing Talents.

Photo caption: "Grand Canyon School Day Follies.

Dierkes, Brown, Merwin, Carr, Kolb, Patraw, Searl, Sullivan, Metzger, Ennis

Jan. 31, 1931"

[Photo: NAU.PH.90.9.110, Metzger Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University.]

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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