

# Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc.

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.

## The Bulletin

Volume 9 Number 2

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

February 2005

### Ambrose Means and the 1917 Cougar Hunt

Ambrose Means was noted for his world championship roping and for accompanying Buffalo Jones on two of his African expeditions. Ambrose and Buffalo Jones, along with roper Marshall D. Lovelace and their photographer, roped and filmed the wild animals of Africa. Former President Roosevelt commended Ambrose on his marvelous roping feats in Africa.



Linda Thompson,  
granddaughter of Ambrose Means  
[Photo by Diane Cassidy]

In 1910, Ambrose went on his first African expedition with Buffalo Jones. On this expedition, they brought back a lion for the New York Bronx Zoo.

In 1911-12, Ambrose performed in The Young Buffalo Wild West Shows, which also headlined Annie Oakley. Tom Mix also performed in this Wild West Show in 1912.

In 1913, Ambrose performed in The 101 Ranch Wild West Show.

In 1914, Ambrose accompanied Buffalo Jones on a second African expedition.

For over 18 years, Ambrose guided hunting trips in and around Arizona, Idaho and New Mexico. He also guided hunting trips for Emery Kolb.

Linda Thompson's presentation about her grandfather, Ambrose Means, was outstanding. She brought several books and historical magazine articles to display as she told the wonderful story of her grandfather's 1917 cougar hunt to the North Rim.



Ambrose Means  
Wild West Shows, 1912  
[Photo courtesy of Thompson  
Family Collection]

...continued on page 2

### 2005 Outings

**February 19 - A Walk In The Park** by Mike Coltrin. In October 2003, Mike and two other park volunteers had the trip of a lifetime. With park ranger Chuck Sypher, they hiked down the South Kaibab Trail to Phantom Ranch on their first day. The next 9 days were spent hiking a convoluted route on the north side of the Colorado River to Kwagunt Creek. Here they met up with a National Park Service river patrol who took them downriver to Tanner Rapid. They finished their trip by hiking out the Tanner Trail.

Getting from one side canyon to the next often involved steep climbs and descents. Sometimes ropes were used. Sometimes flashlights!

Mike will talk about the planning that went into making this trip a success. There will be slides showing of the difficult country they passed through and the interesting people they met along the way.

And then there's the story about Dave's missing spoon.

Place: Screening Room A  
NAU Cline Library - Flagstaff  
Time: 1:00 PM

Several of us will be meeting for brunch/lunch before the program at 11:00 AM at Busters Restaurant, 1800 South Milton Road.

**March 26 - Tour of Lonely Dell at Lee's Ferry.** This historic ranch, near the mouth of the Paria River, was home to the families who operated Lees Ferry. The main ranch buildings are about 700 feet up the dirt road from the parking area. The complete tour of the orchard, log cabins, stone ranch house, and pioneer cemetery is about a 1-mile round trip. There are picnic tables and shade trees at the ranch. Take drinking water with you. Scheduled for the same weekend as the Grand Canyon River Guides' Spring Guides Training Seminar at Marble Canyon for those GCHS members who wish to participate in some of the GCRG programs. (See [www.gcr.org/gts.htm](http://www.gcr.org/gts.htm) for GCRG information.) [Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]

**April 16 - History of El Tovar/Verkamps/Hopi House** in celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the El Tovar, Verkamp's Store, and Hopi House [Keith Green, event coordinator]

...continued on page 3

Perhaps the most interesting part of her talk was the showing of a film documenting the journey across the Canyon on the Bass Trails. However, the films of her grandfather's adventures were almost lost forever.

Eagle M. Means Jones, Linda's mother, heard about the possible existence of a trunk belonging to her father in the area of Salmon, Idaho. She placed an advertisement in a newspaper and, to her delight, the trunk was returned to the family. Inside were several reels of silver nitrate films, mostly of his travels to Africa. But, one was about his 1917 cougar hunt on the North Rim. Eagle found the Film Restoration Studio in Pennsylvania and she was able to get the combustible film transferred to safety film.

Several personalities were involved in the cougar hunt. Rex Beach, a popular novelist of the time, Fred Stone, of music opera fame, and William Miller, the moving picture camera man. Also, Grand Canyon's Bert Lauzon and W.W. Bass who escorted the Means party down the South Bass Trail, and took them, their horses and their gear across the River using Bass' windlass cable car. The windlass was manned by Canyon cowboy Bill Vaughan. During the crossing, an unfortunate incident occurred that compelled Lauzon to leap from the cable car to the river's edge. Ambrose's horse had managed to fall off the car but remained hanging from a rope around his neck. Realizing they could not rescue the horse before it hung to death, they put him out of his misery and cut him free to tumble down the rocks to the river. Luckily, the cable car did not follow the horse. (There is a photo of this horse reprinted in Buzz Belknap's river guide. For many years when Linda rafted down the Colorado River and used that guide book and seeing the photo over and over again, she never knew until the most recent years that that was her grandfather's horse.)

Some of Uncle Jim Owen's men met the Means party on the north shore and took them to Owen's main camp at Powell Plateau. With no cougars to be found there, they moved on to Swamp Lake and Sublime Canyon where they found several cougars. We didn't see them kill any cougars in the film; the cameraman could not keep up with the hounds. Amusingly, it seemed the main feature of the film at their camps was Pot-Hound, "a sad-eyed old canine, a veteran of many battles...the dean of the cougar pack." According to the engraving on his silver-mounted collar, Pot-Hound had "been at the killing of 450 lions."

Two books, one entitled *Lassoing Wild Animals in Africa* by Guy Scull and the other *Lord of Beasts* by Robert Easton and Mackenzie Brown tell of the African expeditions.

The story of this 1917 film of the Grand Canyon trip was told by Rex Beach in his book entitled *Oh, Shoot! Confessions of an Agitated Sportsman*.

[Article submitted by Mike Coltrin]

The Screening Room at Cline Library had been reserved for our use between the hours of 11:00 and 1:00. However, the building was not scheduled to open until Noon because of the Martin Luther King holiday, a fact that did not get communicated to everyone. Fortunately, Richard Quartaroli recognized the conflict and opened the doors allowing Linda Thompson, and those of us waiting in front of the library to enter, before locking the library again until Noon. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing how many folks might have arrived early or late and were unable to get through the closed doors.

If you missed the program, please send us a note and we will see if we can schedule an encore presentation of this magnificent film.

\* \* \* \* \*

**January Outing Attendance**

The viewing of the restored 1917 film was well received, and was attended by Williams' residents Mabel Hefer, Barbara Kuckuck and Adana Vanderheyden, and Flagstaff resident Sueanne Kubicek. Also attending were GCHS members from Grand Canyon, Kayenta, Flagstaff, Prescott and Tucson: Linda and Mike Anderson; Jim, Janece, Jon and Sarah Ohlman; Robert, Sarah and Pat Lauzon, Dave Monet, Glenn Clark, Bev Loomis, Don Lago and Richard Quartaroli; and Dan and Diane Cassidy.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Pioneer Award**

**Nominations are now being accepted for the 2005 Grand Canyon Historical Society Pioneer Award.**

The Society wants to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of and knowledge about the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in such areas as geology, creation, river running, backcountry hiking, photography, history, administration, etc.; that is, any area that advances knowledge of the Grand Canyon.

Previous recipients of the Pioneer Award:

- 2004 - Gary Ladd
- 1999 - George Steck
- 2003 - George Billingsley
- 1998 - Gale Burak
- 2002 - Bill Suran
- 1997 - Harvey Butchart

To make a nomination, simply submit the individual's name and their accomplishments and/or contributions that have advanced our knowledge of the Grand Canyon before April 1, 2005, to:

Todd Berger  
P.O. Box 148 - Grand Canyon AZ 86023  
boddodd@grand-canyon.az.us

## GCHS Scholarship

The Grand Canyon Historical Society's scholarship supports research involving history, historic or environmental preservation in the Grand Canyon region.

Any NAU graduate student doing work in the above fields of research is eligible. Eligible projects include: Any work that results in original research concerning historical individuals, events, sites, organizations, businesses or environmental issues in the Grand Canyon region; or any work that results in original research that supports or leads to historical preservation of any historical site, photographs, documents, or diaries with origins in the Grand Canyon region.

To have the project considered complete, one or more of the following end products must be included:

(1) Submission of a paper suitable for publication to GCHS by December 1. (2) Presentation of a paper at a legitimate conference with a copy of the paper to GCHS. The copy must be presented to GCHS by December 1 with presentation scheduled at the earliest possible meeting of the conference. (3) A thesis or dissertation of which component parts resulted from the research with a copy of the included work presented to GCHS by December 1. (4) Historical preservation of photographs, documents or diaries requires at least delivery of a photocopy of the items in question to GCHS by December 1. Preservation of actual items is preferred. (5) Site research requires a completed nomination or submission of material to GCHS by December 1 for inclusion in a nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

Papers and/or items submitted as a result of research will become a part of the GCHS Collection in the Special Collections and Archives at NAU's Cline Library for use by anyone doing research in those subjects involving the Grand Canyon region.

Applications for the GCHS Scholarship may be submitted no later than Friday, February 25, 2005, to:

Al Richmond  
Northern Arizona University  
P.O. Box 5765  
Flagstaff AZ 86011

Information may be obtained by writing Al at: al.richmond@nau.edu. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in April.

## 2005 Outings...continued from page 1

**May 14 - Carving Grand Canyon** by Wayne Ranney. Geologist, author, Professor of Geology at Yavapai College in Sedona and Research Associate at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Wayne Ranney will describe in words and pictures the story of what we know and don't know about how rivers carve canyons and why it happened in northern Arizona. To be held at the Flagstaff Public Library. [Dan Cassidy, event coordinator]

**June 11 \* - Annual Shoshone Point Picnic.** Members from across the country converge at the Canyon's edge for a potluck of good food, friendly faces and lively conversation. [Linda Anderson, event coordinator]

\*NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

**July 16 - Annual North Rim Campout.** Spend a day (and a night) in the North Kaibab Forest with fellow Canyon adventurers. [John Azar, event coordinator]

**August 20 - Community Service Project** at the Grand Canyon NPS Library. We will assist Librarian Susan Eubank with barcoding the entire book collection, which entails one group that will be physically putting barcodes on books and another group that will be entering those barcodes into the computer. We might also put labels on the books, if necessary. [Nancy Green, event coordinator]

**September 17 - The Bert Loper Story** by Brad Dimock. River runner and author, Brad Dimock will tell the story of river runner Bert Loper, who built the boat "Ross Wheeler" in 1914 for a trip with Charles Russell. The boat was abandoned around the South Bass trail. Loper took his last river trip on July 8, 1949, when he evidently had a heart attack in the big rapid at River Mile 24-1/2. Held in conjunction with the Prescott Book Festival on the grounds of the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott. [Dan Cassidy, event coordinator]

**October 15 - Annual Board Meeting** [Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]

**November 19 - Powell Museum Visit.** [Keith Green, event coordinator]

**December - No meeting**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Note to Members

Old-time resident of Grand Canyon, Dorothy Bosley, passed away in December at the age of 90. Her husband, Dick Bosley, was a special officer for the Santa Fe Railway at the Canyon. Dick passed away a few years ago in Phoenix. Dorothy and Dick had lived at the Canyon for at least 30 years prior to leaving in 1955. They had two girls, who were ages 10 and 11 when the Bosleys left the Canyon.

## Balloon Crossing Plaque

In the July 2000 issue of *The Bulletin*, Tom Carmony described about a plaque he saw in Phantom Ranch.

*To Commemorate the First Balloon Crossing of the Grand Canyon by Capt. J. Gallagher, M. Otoole, Feb 3rd 1879.  
God Bless Ireland.*

Warren Tracy, then Manager of Phantom Ranch, provided a little background about the plaque: "The sign you referred to has quite a history. A member of my staff is from Paris. Her sister found it discarded in a dumpster in downtown Paris and sent it to us several years ago."

Now, we have received another bit of information from a gentleman in the United Kingdom with the same last name that is on the plaque. Here is his email from January 5, 2005:

Hi, I also saw one of the plaques in the UK about the crossing of the Grand Canyon by Capt. J. Gallagher. This intrigued me as I am a Gallagher and on finding your site and the information outlined, I dug a little deeper and found this:

Grand Canyon du Verdon – This is in France at a length of 21km and a maximum depth of 700 meters.

I have not, however, been able to verify Captain Gallagher's balloon exploits. Tom Gallagher  
Tom.Gallagher@BlueYonder.co.uk

\* \* \* \* \*

## Membership Paid?

Please look above your name/address below...Do you see DEC\_2005? Good, that means we received your check prior to the printing of this newsletter. Do you see DEC\_2004? If so, you will be receiving a notice from us in the next few weeks, or you can mail your \$20 membership check to:

Grand Canyon Historical Society  
PO Box 884  
Grand Canyon AZ 86023

---

**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2005 Outings Coordinator:** Mike Coltrin, 2041 West Brichta Drive, Tucson AZ 85745; phone: 520-624-1831; email: Coltrin1@cox.net.

**The Bulletin** welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Diane Cassidy at 2112 Demerse Avenue, Prescott, AZ 86301; email: Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org.

---

Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 10067

Prescott, Arizona 86304-0067

02-05

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Welcome New Members

Eagle Mae Jones – Cuchillo NM  
Pauline Lester – Mt. Shasta CA  
Barbara Kuckuck – Williams AZ  
Linda Thompson – Williams AZ

\* \* \* \* \*

## Scholarship Fund Donations

Scholarship Fund Donations received with membership check as of 1/21. Thank you, all of you, for your generous gift to the GCHS Scholarship Fund:

John Azar – Fredonia AZ  
Todd R Berger – Grand Canyon AZ  
David & Janis Cunningham – Kingman AZ  
Mike Ford – Lees Summit MO  
Nancy & Keith Green – Grand Canyon AZ  
Pat Lauzon – Flagstaff AZ  
Thomas & Becky Myers – Flagstaff AZ  
Richard Quartaroli – Flagstaff AZ  
Gus & Sandra Scott – Prescott AZ  
Steve & Chris Verkamp – Flagstaff AZ  
Richard & Audrey Watts – Tucson AZ  
Gene & Marvel Wendt – Vail AZ  
Frank Wilson – Tucson AZ

## Promotional/Membership Drive Fund

Promotional/Membership Drive Fund Contributions received to date...Thanks to all of you for your generous contribution to the Promotional/Membership Drive Fund:

Peter & Shannon Eno – Phoenix AZ  
Irene Ennis – Walnut Creek CA  
Mike Ford – Lees Summit MO  
Richard Quartaroli – Flagstaff AZ  
Gene & Marvel Wendt – Vail AZ

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PRESCOTT, AZ  
PERMIT #43