

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 12 Number 2

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

July 2008

2008 Outings

August 9 – Historic Red Butte Airfield. Grand Canyon's first airport was established in 1926 and many of the original structures are still there. It is a very interesting historic site that few people know.

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Meet at **Late for the Train** coffee shop, Fort Valley Road, just south of Schrist Elementary School, Flagstaff.

It will take approximately an hour to reach the airfield and we will probably spend about 1-2 hours there. I will have historic photos and other materials during the trip.

Erik Berg, eoberg@cox.net

September 13 – Dave Rust: A Life in the Canyons. Fred Swanson will read from and discuss his book.

Time: 1:00

Place: South Rim, Shrine of the Ages Multi-Purpose Room.

We will meet for lunch at 11:30 across the street at Yavapai Cafeteria.

October 4 - Antelope Canyon/Powell Museum, Page, AZ.

Time: 8:30 AM for carpool from Flagstaff, 11:00 AM if meeting group at Upper Antelope Canyon. Tour starts at 11:30 AM and lasts about an hour.

Place: To carpool, meet by 8:30 AM in the Flagstaff Mall parking lot off Hwy 89 and Marketplace Way near Sears, and park by the Office Max. If not carpooling, take Hwy 98 east before you get to Page on the south side, go about 3 miles and turn right to Upper Antelope Canyon.

Cost: \$20-25 <http://www.navajotours.com/>

Reservations: Please contact **Richard Quartaroli** by **Sept. 27 for reservations:** richard.quartaroli@nau.edu; 928-523-6501.

We will also have lunch at the Dam Bar and Grille in the Dam Plaza <http://www.damplaza.com/dambar.html> and then have a tour of Powell Museum from 2:30-4:30 PM. Tour is free, thanks to their generosity; #6 N. Lake Powell Blvd. (Hwy 89 at the corner of N. Navajo Dr.) <http://www.powellmuseum.org>

November 1 – Annual Board Meeting, 9-noon. East Flagstaff Library. More details to come.

Please check our web site for outings updates:

<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/>

Ruth Stephens Baker Memorial

Ruth Stephens Baker arrived at Grand Canyon when she was a little girl. Her father had accepted a temporary position with the Fred Harvey Company as an accountant. This led to spending the next 40 years at the South Rim. He later became a Justice of the Peace. Like so many of us, the canyon grabs our very souls and gently holds us here. Ruth described her first home there as a tent with "outdoor plumbing." The only buildings on the South Rim were the hotels, the Fred Harvey garage, the school and the mule barn. Her mother, who was terrified of heights, worked at Kolb Studio, with its dizzying views into the depths of the Grand Canyon. Ruth started working for Mr. Kolb at age 12 mopping floors, then worked her way up to working in the gift store and running the projector. The rules in the gift store were that when there were no people around, the black and white photos were to be hand-tinted. But when paying customers came in, that was immediately to be put away.

Ruth described the community as being very close-knit, as it still is today. The Santa Fe Railroad held concerts and dances in what is now Shirley Hall. Deaths were quite shocking in a small and isolated community, as everyone knew everyone else. The deaths of Mrs. Lauzon and Glenn Sturdevant were quite a hardship on the community.

In 1937 Ruth was a college student home on summer vacation from San Diego State where she was working on a teaching degree. Emery Kolb had caught wind of an expedition being sponsored by the Natural History Museum to explore Shiva Temple in September. Not to be outdone, Emery began clandestine preparations for the same expedition - only in August. He recruited Gordon Berger, Ralph White, Edith Kolb Lehnert (his own daughter), and Ruth. Extensive preparations were made, including pilot-dropped parachute bags of supplies, and supplies on the North Rim for before and after the hike. The party camped at Point Sublime the night before (or was it Tiyo Pt?). During the hike, they were fortunate enough to find pools of water. The parachute bag made it, but it got stuck in a tree. There is a great photo of a triumphant Ruth climbing to the top of the tree to retrieve the bag. They chose the most difficult ascent that required ropes so that they wouldn't be seen from the South Rim. However, a yucca stalk was adorned with a gunny sack which could be seen from the Kolb Studio telescope if one knew where to look. Cans were strewn about to confound the museum expedition. Also, Ruth and Edith scattered tissues with big lipstick kisses into the bushes to show that women had been

there before. The entire group was then sworn to secrecy to protect Mr. Kolb, who already had a tumultuous relationship with the Park Service.

On a summer day boasting brilliant blue Arizona skies, a small group of Grand Canyon History devotees gathered in the Kolb Residence to commemorate the 2008 climb to Shiva Temple in memory of Ruth Stephens Baker. A few days before, on Wednesday June 4th, ten people reenacted the 1937 expedition to scatter Ruth's ashes on top of Shiva Temple. Five of the group made it to the top and had a moving memorial service. The five were Steve and Matt Baker (son and grandson), as well as renowned canyon hikers Tom Martin, Sally Underwood, and Jim Ohlman. Betty Leavengood, Betty's son Rodney, Tersh Baker (Ruth's oldest son), Ronni Taylor (Ruth's daughter), Brewer Baker (Ruth's granddaughter), and Hazel Clark cheered from the rim and were with the group of five in spirit. The Baker family came away with a whole new respect and admiration for what Ruth had done long ago. The hike included a surprise storm that pelted this expedition with rain and snow.

Ruth passed away at age 87, feisty as ever. She is remembered as a strong woman with a whole lot of love to give. The canyon meant the world to her, and she passed this love along to her family. The spiritual nature of the Hopi tradition resonated with Ruth. A ceremony was conducted with the Four Directions being honored and called upon. This may have been the cause of the freak storm. Or perhaps it was the smiling and adventurous spirit of Ruth Stephens Baker laughing from above.

Submitted by Nancy Green with contributions by Sally Underwood

Fred Swanson on David Rust

On September 13, 2008, at 1 PM at the South Rim Shrine of the Ages, Fred Swanson will read from and discuss his book *Dave Rust: A Life in the Canyons*, published by the University of Utah Press in 2007, and which recently received the Evans Biography Award from the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies at Utah State University. He will also show slides of historical photographs taken by Rust and his clients.



David D. Rust was a pioneering Utah outfitter and guide who was among the first to call attention to the rewards of backcountry travel in the far corners of the Colorado Plateau. From 1908 to 1941 he led parties of hardy travelers on month-long horseback explorations ranging from the Uinkaret Plateau to the Dirty Devil River, and in 1923 he inaugurated the first river-guiding service in Glen Canyon. He was an advocate of rugged, self-sufficient travel in a little-explored backcountry he called his "wilderness park." His tent camp near the mouth of Bright Angel Creek served

travelers crossing the canyon and was the forerunner of today's Phantom Ranch.

Fred Swanson www.fredswansonbooks.com

A Great Day for the Annual Picnic

On June 15, the weather couldn't have been ordered any better. Shoshone Point was bathed in bright sunshine and light breezes. Alternating between the shade and the sun kept our body temperatures just perfect. The 20 or so Society members found plenty of good food, pleasant company and interesting conversation.

President Keith Green discussed current developments within the Park. There are now 5 condor nests, the most there have ever been. One nest is interesting because there appears to be two female condors tending the egg. The West Rim Drive is closed west of Hopi Point for road construction. This road has not been worked on since the 1960's. Starting on July 6, the entire length of the West Rim Drive will be closed until September or later. A new parking area will be built near Mather Point west of Canyon View Information Plaza. This will eliminate the need to have a pedestrian crossing in between CVIP and Mather. The design will include lots of parking spaces, as well as picnic areas. There is a great exhibit right now at Kolb Studio honoring the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Keith then continued to discuss the state of the GCHS. There was a tremendously positive response to the 2007 History Symposium. However, the effort that it took to produce such an event debilitated the running of the Society. By the outstanding efforts of George and Susan Billingsley (round of applause) the Grand Canyon Historical Society was roused into action. There was a meeting held in October to discuss by-laws and the election of a board. Todd Berger is to be credited for helping to find people interested in running for the board. In January, elections were held, and a new board took charge. There are a number of interesting outings planned for the rest of 2008. There was a special memorial held for Ruth Stephens Baker (see article in this Bulletin). In August there will be a tour of the original Red Butte Airfield. September has an outing planned on the South Rim to hear author Fred Swanson discuss his new book about Dave Rust. That same day has the possibility of a tour of the historic boat collection, if details can get worked out. October's outing will be in Page where there will be a tour of Antelope Canyon and the Powell Museum. November will be the annual board meeting at the East Flagstaff Public Library. President Green noted that we have over 179 members. But what the Society really needs is dynamic, active members. Please consider volunteering to run for the board. Susan Billingsley submitted a treasurer's report:

Financial update for Grand Canyon Historical Society May 30, 2008

Income

Checking account:	\$ 7,836.06
Membership: 2007- 2008	\$ 2,990.00

Savings account:	\$11,369.52
Scholarship money in account	\$ 3,004.48
Scholarship money 2007- 2008	\$ 1,020.00
\$2,020.00 - \$1,000 paid out	
Symposium money	\$ 7,344.15
Interest	\$ <u> 89</u>
Expenses	
Awards	\$ 86.49
Office supplies	\$ 83.41
Publishing	\$ 1,922.01
Printing	\$ 215.13
Postage	\$ 217.33
Fees (annual Report)	\$ 35.00
To Savings	\$ 1,270.00
Internet	\$ 99.00
Scholarship	\$ <u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,922.55

George Billingsley proudly announced the **2008** recipient of the **GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PIONEER AWARD**. The 2008 award was an easy choice, with a unanimous decision for a worthy nominee: **Leland (Lee) Albertson** has been a member of the Society for 25 years. He has been instrumental in the Easter Sunrise Service, has been an avid hiker, backpacker, river runner and historian. He was a volunteer for the 2002 History Symposium, as well as being a presenter about the Kolb Airfield. Lee also helped to establish at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library Special Collections, a section for Grand Canyon Historical Society documents. Lee was the chairman extraordinaire for the 2007 Grand Canyon History Symposium, although he is quick to point out that lots of other people also contributed. Lee established the Pioneer Award after a conversation with Harvey Butchart. Harvey told Lee that it seemed as if a person had to be dead before they got honored. Lee rectified that by making sure Harvey got the Pioneer Award while still living. Lee served on the GCHS board from 1996-2005, and also in 2008. He was secretary from 1997-2001, and also in 2005. He was president in 2002-2004. Lee noted during his acceptance speech that he's not dead yet! Lee was surrounded by his wife Shirley, daughter Charlotte McCullough, and grandsons Everett and Clayton as he accepted his award.

Al Richmond had announced the winners of the Community Service awards, but was unable to attend the picnic due to illness.

The **eleventh** annual **GRAND CANYON HALL OF FAME AWARDS** are sponsored by the Grand Canyon Historical Society and the National Park Service. The following presentations took place during the Grand Canyon Historical Society picnic at Shoshone Point on Sunday, 15 June. The names of the recipients will be engraved on the permanent plaque housed in the Shrine of the Ages. Two awards are made each year to recognize individuals who have shown exemplary service to the Grand Canyon Community. The recipients have made personal contributions of money, time, and/or work over a

period of many years. One recipient is deceased and happily the other one is still with us.

The awardees this year are:

Ronnie Gibson and Bert Lauzon (deceased)

These folks were recommended for their community service by previous recipients of the award and current residents. We rely on their recommendations as they know better than anyone who has been involved in community service at the Grand Canyon.

Ronnie Gibson served the Grand Canyon community not only as an NPS Ranger but also as a very involved resident. Many will remember him sitting astride a horse on patrol around the Village, but for more than twenty years he served the school children and community in a variety of roles. His primary contribution to the children of Grand Canyon came as the DARE/School Resource Officer. In this position he served as counselor, mentor, and role model. In addition to these duties he served for years as coach and referee for youth soccer. The veterans of John Ivens Post of the American Legion will long remember Ronnie for his participation at the annual Memorial Day services held at the Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery. Mounted and in uniform he lent a very impressive presence to honor those who served our country.

The name Lauzon is synonymous with the Grand Canyon and **Bert Lauzon** began that legacy. Although much of his time at the Canyon was spent at Bass Camp and on the trails, Bert found time to literally help build the community. Many of the original community buildings such as the first school were recipients of his labors. He knew the value of these facilities and made himself available to see that they became part of what we now know as the Historic District of Grand Canyon Village. Over the years Bert served the Grand Canyon community as a ranger, Coconino County constable, and assistant on scientific studies. His labors and that of others gave us the trails and access to the inner Canyon that we now take for granted. Although they looked at their work as their way of life, pioneers such as Bert provided an invaluable service to the community that is evident to this day.

We are deeply indebted to folks like Ronnie and Bert for helping to make the Grand Canyon Community a better place in which to live and work.

Note: For a complete list of awardees, see the Society's web pages at www.GrandCanyonHistory.org.

Submitted by Nancy Green, Secretary

Board Elections – 2008

The GCHS Board of Directors continues to build and guide the organization. The strengths of the organization are worth repeating: monthly outings; community service projects; *The Bulletin*; *The Ol' Pioneer*; the Pioneer Award; scholarship of \$1,000 to a student at NAU doing research on Colorado Plateau issues; collection of historical and significant documents to be

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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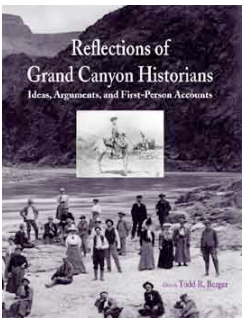
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Board Elections (cont'd)

housed at NAU's Cline Library Special Collections; and organizing the next Grand Canyon History Symposium. Grand Canyon History is alive and well and interesting. But in order to share this information, it is necessary to have people help plan and organize the running of the Society. It is too important to let this information just slip away without being documented and disseminated.

Please think about spending some of your valuable time keeping this organization alive by being an active member of the board. **Don't hesitate to nominate yourself or others** (with their permission) to the board. Elections will be in September. Contact **Keith Green** if you would like to be on the board. Please submit your nominations by **August 20, 2007** to knngreen4@msn.com.

2007 History Symposium Proceedings



The proceedings of the 2007 Grand Canyon History Symposium are now available! *Reflections of Grand Canyon Historians: Ideas, Arguments, and First-Person Accounts*. Order from the Grand Canyon Association at <http://www.grandcanyonassociation.org>.

Submit Your Stories for Ol' Pioneer

The Ol' Pioneer is the Society's magazine featuring stories, photos, and letters of historical relevance to the Grand Canyon. Submit your stories, photos, etc to the editor, Mary Williams at:

Mary Williams
4880 Weatherford Rd,
Flagstaff, Az 86001
Phone: 928-779-3377
mary@marywilliamsdesign.com

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2008 Outings Coordinator** at Outings@GrandCanyonHistory.org.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.
Please send them to: kgreig@yahoo.com