

# 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 13 Number 5

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

September 2009

### 2009 Outings

**November 7 9AM to noon - Annual Board Meeting.** East Flagstaff Public Library Community Meeting Room, 3000 N. Fourth Street, (near the junction with Cedar Ave).

**November 21 - Grand Canyon Anthropology,** Michael Anderson. Mormon Meeting Hall in Pine, Arizona. Details to be announced.

Please check our web site for outings updates:

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

### Bill Suran, Founding Member, Passes On

All of our members are important to us and the Society, but Bill Suran was a bit more unique than most. We all knew him as our long time editor of *The Ol' Pioneer* and *The Bulletin*, and in this capacity he excelled. Unfortunately we lost him to Alzheimer's disease this past July. I came to know Bill in 1981, and spent many enjoyable photographic field trips with him at the Canyon and around northern Arizona, so his loss is a bit more personal. He and Sibyl were not only friends, they were family...to all of us. I believe we all are better off for knowing them. Hopefully they have found peace and enjoyment in their current home.

*Submitted by Al Richmond*

### "Gale Burak Now Hikes the Mountains of New Hampshire"

By Pam Bales, her Daughter

"Mom's (age 93 on Oct. 2nd) doing about the same, core is good, L arm swollen with lymphedema; dementia has its good and not so good days but still the humor and twinkle in her eyes are there. Yesterday (mid August) was a perfect day of 70 temp, slight wind and nicely overcast so when I finished work I took her blueberry picking at a local berry farm. Got her at 12:30 and returned at 5 so had a super outing and she didn't want to stop picking...we each did a gallon. She sat on the seat of her walker picking on the loaded branches. This place saves certain, close to the entrance bushes (high ones) just for the not as nimble pickers. They have about 1000 bushes and we've been going there for maybe 6 years now. I'll bet she slept very well last night. **She loves getting personal mail from friends-a-far...going to the mail is a high point in her day and it's a good day when there's more than just bills or occupant mail.**"

Pam also wrote "I'm going to be driving her up the Mt Washington auto road in the next few days so she can 'feel' the mountains again. I got her the 'GC Trivia book' I read about in the newsletter and she loved it. Of course she had to write her comments and corrections or it wouldn't be Mom. Gotta love her."

### To write Gale:

Gale Burak, c/o Pam Bales  
135 Adams Farm Road  
Thornton, NH 03285  
Phone: 603-726-0001  
hiker@eagle1st.com

*Submitted by Lee Albertson*

### Earth Science Week - Desert View Drive Geology Field Trip with George Billingsley Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate Earth Science Week, October 11-17 by offering special presentations on earth sciences and the canyon's geology, capped by a special field trip on Desert View Drive led by USGS research geologist George Billingsley Saturday, October 17th. The field trip will begin and end at Park headquarters in the Grand Canyon Village and will include stops at Desert View, Grandview Point and Yaki Point. Transportation will be provided by free shuttle bus. Each participant should bring a sack lunch, water, and a light jacket.



Billingsley has spent his career making geologic maps of the Grand Canyon region and was the recipient of the 2003 Pioneer Award from the Grand Canyon Historical Society. He also worked as a boatman on the Colorado River in the 1970s, and researched the mining history of the Grand Canyon region. During the field trip, George will overview Grand Canyon geology and share some of his experiences while conducting geologic research in the canyon.

Some panels from the winter 2008-2009 *Mapping the Canyon* exhibit in Kolb Studio will be on display in Park headquarters during Earth Science Week.

To view the complete schedule of Earth Science Week events go to:

<http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/earth-sci-week.htm>

*Submitted by Kirstin Heins*

## Grand Canyon Historic Boat Project

The Colorado River Fund recently awarded a contract for the Grand Canyon Historic Boat Museum Feasibility Study project to a team led by Pfau Long Architecture of San Francisco. Pfau Long was selected from ten firms who submitted bids, four of which were invited for follow-up interviews and presentations. Selection criteria included prior experience with adaptive use of historic buildings, and specific experience with National Park Service or other relevant museum projects.

Pfau Long is familiar with the laundry building and the other buildings at the South Rim, having been involved in earlier work on the Village Interpretive Center.

Other members of the Pfau Long project team include The Stibbett Group (exhibit design and interpretative planning), Page and Turnbull (historic preservation), Degenkold (structural engineering), Interface Engineering (mechanical systems and sustainability), and Davis Langdon (cost estimating).

Work is to begin this month. During the next six months, team members will study the historic 1926 laundry building in the South Rim village for suitability as a museum for the Park's unique collection of historic river-running boats and related historic items and interpretive materials.

*Submitted by Gaylord Staveley*

## Pasture Wash Ranger Station - July, 2009

For the second consecutive year I teamed up with Grand Canyon Youth for a work project at Pasture Wash. Grand Canyon Youth, a non-profit organization, was established in 1998 by commercial river runners and local educators to allow young people to experience a river trip on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon as a means of personal development. Young adults aged 12-18 spend two weeks in and around the Grand Canyon. The first week they work on community service projects. The second week they either hike down to Phantom Ranch and meet a river party, or hike out from Phantom to the South Rim after a river trip from Lees Ferry to Phantom.



This year during the second week of the project, we had 10 young women and 2 young men; all were wonderful people and hard workers. No whining, no complaining, no electronic gadgets; it was great to have a week with these young'uns. Keith and Nancy Green came on Saturday and camped with the group. Keith had given a talk to the first week's participants, who are visually impaired. Keith has been living with limited vision for quite some

time now. It is amazing how much work the students accomplished during both weeks of this year's project.

Thanks go out to Jacob Fillion, Megan Kohli, Laura, Jessica, Chad, and all the young people that worked so hard to continue the rehabilitation of the station, barn, and rain collection system at Pasture Wash.

Many years ago I wrote an article on Pasture Wash for the **Ol'Pioneer**. In the article I made reference to Pasture Wash as never being used by the Havasupai. I was corrected by one of the tribe members, who informed me that the area had been traditionally used by her tribe. To illustrate her point, the following paragraph, taken from notes by Grand Canyon naturalist Glen Sturdevant, describes coming into Pasture Wash in February of 1928:

“ Before arriving at Pasture Wash Ranger Station, Big Jim's Tank, formed by a dam across a small draw, loomed up at our side. In the vicinity of the tank lives Big Jim, who by the way, is perhaps one of the most interesting members of the small Havasupai Indian tribe living within the park. Among other things Big Jim is third chief of the Havasupais, is the tallest member of the tribe - standing , as he does, well over six feet, and as far as is known he was the only American Indian to have a metal [medal] bestowed upon him by King Albert of Belgium during the latter's visit to the Park in October 1919. When the first white people came to the Grand Canyon, Big Jim was living at the lower Indian Garden near the Bright Angel trail under conditions quite typical of his cliff-dwelling ancestors. Big Jim cultivates a small field of corn and beans near his tank and each autumn brings this picturesque figure with high hat, thin beard, and white coat with silver coin buttons, to the village to sell his produce.”

*Submitted by John Azar*

## Let's Talk - Let's Discuss!

### A Grand Canyon History Symposium in 2012

At the November 2009 Board Meeting an Agenda Item will be:

**“Discussion: Grand Canyon History Symposium, January 2012”.**

- Should we have a 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium?
- Location – South Rim, or Flagstaff, or?
- What other South Rim locations are available for the Symposium?
- Who should the Keynote Speaker be?
- Two-session format or a one-session format?
- Thursday noon through Sunday noon format, or more/less?
- Who wants to be in charge of Weather Control?
- Was the past on-line registration system acceptable?
- Is a location available for authors to sign books?
- Is a Friday night banquet and Saturday night banquet acceptable?
- Putting together a program is the key – any volunteers?
- Other?

**Please plan to attend the November Board Meeting – your ideas are important!**

*Submitted by Lee Albertson*

## Supai Camp Improvements Planned

The National Park Service is planning to use funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

A draft Environmental Assessment is presently being processed. The Park Service wants to:

1. Renovate the five substandard houses that are there.
2. Possibly build 14 more houses depending on funding.
3. Install a new sewer system that connects to the South Rim Sewage Treatment Plant.
4. Other minor site improvements.

Supai Camp was originally built by the Park Service in the 1930's to house those Supai who were working on the South Rim. The building of many new houses for the Supai at Supai Camp will allow many more Supai to move up to the South Rim. The hope is that this will allow the Supai more opportunities for educational and economic improvement.

*Submitted by Keith Green*

## Call of the Canyon by Tom Martin GCHS August 22, 2009 Outing



**Tom Martin with Gem Model**

Tom Martin is a long-time Grand Canyon river runner and the author of two books on the Grand Canyon. Tom has an appreciation and interest in early river runners and their watercraft. Accordingly, he arrived at the August outing with a model boat in hand, a small-scale replica of the GEM. Moulty Fulmer built The GEM in 1951-52 in Muncie, Indiana. It eventually sank in Lake Mead, spent six years underwater, was recovered from Mead, and wound up in the Grand Canyon National Park museum collection.

At the August 22, 2009 GCHS Outing at Cline Library, Tom shared the story of Moulty and the GEM. The centerpiece of Tom's presentation was "The Call of the Canyon", a 16mm video montage by Fulmer of Grand Canyon river trips taken in 1955, '56, '57, '58, and '59.

Stephen Moulton Babcock Fulmer was raised in Indiana. His parents divorced when he was young and throughout his youth, Moulty took train trips to California to visit his father. With each trip, his interest in the Southwest grew. In 1942, he and his wife Janice took their first river trip with Norm Nevills down the San Juan River.

After the trip, Moulty immediately began building boats. In 1942, he built "The Tub" and in 1943 he built the "Domino" from a ping-pong table. Both these boats were modeled after Nevills' flat-bottomed San Juan boats. In 1945, while Moulty was in the

Army, Nevills arranged for him to get leave to row a boat for Nevills in a Fox Movietone Picture on the San Juan.

While he was stationed in Oregon in 1945, Moulty also got the chance to meet with Woody Hindman, who made McKenzie River drift boats. This chance encounter greatly altered Fulmer's boat building.

Once he was back home in Indiana after the War, Moulty continued boat-building. In 1946-47, he built the MOJA (for Moulty and Janice, his wife), a double ended McKenzie River dory. In 1947, Moulty rowed Janice in the MOJA on 7,000 to 50,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Shiprock to Lee's Ferry.

This one boat trip also connected Moulty and the Colorado River with Smoker Oars. Moulty would use Smoker's sturdy solid ash oars for all his river trips. The oars were so strong that Moulty broke his oar locks rather than his oars! The Smoker oar factory was in Indiana at the time and their high-quality oars are still preferred by many Grand Canyon river runners today.

In 1948, Moulty rafted through Grand Canyon as a paying passenger with Norm Nevills. On that trip he met Doc Marston, another river running pioneer. In 1950 and '51 Moulty and Janice took the MOJA down the Yampa and through Desolation Canyon with Marston.

During the winter of 1951-52, Moulty built the "GEM", named for his stepfather George and mother Emma. The GEM was another McKenzie River dory, but wider than the MOJA, and more stable for the big water of Grand Canyon. It was a modified double ender, called a double ender with a transom. Other unique features of the GEM were sealed side boxes in the boatman's footwell, and access to storage compartments through bulkheads instead of through the top of the boat. Fulmer also designed a seat for his passenger. These design changes, along with the steep McKenzie aft to stern curve in the bottom of the boat, are all still incorporated today in Grand Canyon dory design.

In 1952 and 1954, Moulty and Janice took the GEM down the San Juan and through the Gates of Lodore. The GEM worked better than Moulty expected. It was now time to take the GEM through Grand Canyon.

In the early spring of 1954, Doc Marston introduced Moulty to Plez Talmadge "PT" Reilly. Through his work at Lockheed Martin, Reilly was familiar with a revolutionary new material – fiberglass. He had just begun experimenting with fiberglass, and built the first of two boats in the spring of 1954. That year, Moulty joined Reilly at Lee's Ferry for a Grand Canyon run, but the trip was cancelled due to low water (12,000cfs!). The two agreed to try again the next year.

In the summer of 1955, Moulty and Reilly met again at Lee's Ferry. Moulty rowed the GEM, while Reilly rowed one of his fiberglass boats, the SUSIE R. Reilly's second fiberglass boat, the FLAVELL, was rowed by Brick Mortenson. During this trip, Martin and Esther Litton were along as passengers, their first Grand Canyon river trip. As was the practice, the group lined Lava Falls. During their 18 days from Lee's Ferry to Temple Bar, the group rafted on the end of the spring runoff, on 29,000 to 14,000 cfs.

Moulty completed Grand Canyon trips with Reilly in 1956, '57, '58, and '59. Notable among these was 1957, the year of record high water in the Grand Canyon. The group experienced 105,000 to 124,000 cfs on the upper half, with the water rising as they approached Phantom Ranch. They decided to hike out at Phantom, leaving their boats to overwinter at Phantom.

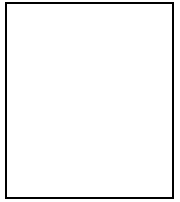
# Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 31405

Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-1405

9-09

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## Call of the Canyon (cont'd)

In 1958, Reilly, Moulty, and their group hiked back into the canyon to continue downstream. 1958 was another high water year, with flows ranging from 63,000 to 96,000 cfs. After Brick flipped and lost the Flavell (the kitchen boat) in Doris rapid, the group decided to hike out at Lava Falls. With heavy hearts, they pushed their two remaining boats (the Susie R and the GEM) into the river and hiked up to the Tuweap Ranger Station. The river runners drove to Temple Bar and rented a power-boat to head upstream from Temple Bar, hoping to recover their boats.

Georgie White had found the Flavell and was towing it down-lake when the uprunners encountered her. Georgie offered to tow the FLAVELL into Temple Bar. After two days of searching the headwaters of Lake Mead, the Susie R was found floating upside down, but the GEM was lost.

In 1959, Moulty joined Reilly to row the Susie R and Flavell down the Grand. After many years of repairs, exposure to the elements, and an unattended lower half run in 1958, the boats were in rough condition - covered with patches and starting to leak. After breaking his final spare oar above Pipe Creek, Reilly decided to scuttle the boats at Pipe Creek and hike out. After filling the boats with rocks, the group punched holes in the boats' floors, and pushed them into the river.

In October 1964, during a historic low-water period for Lake Mead, the GEM was uncovered in the area known as God's Pocket as the lake level dropped. Currently, the GEM resides in Grand Canyon's new warehouse, along with other historic boats. It is awaiting stabilization and will eventually take its turn in the rotating display of historic boats at Grand Canyon National Park's visitor's center.

In 2007 Tom Martin met with Moulty's niece Priscilla Becker in Indiana, while researching Moulty and the GEM. Priscilla had accompanied Moulty on the 1957 high water trip and casually mentioned the existence of "The Call of the Canyon" film. Moulty was a skilled photographer and created this 45 minute film from his 16mm films of his Grand Canyon trips. Moulty's personality shines through in the film. It also offers rare glimpses of historic characters and their boats in action, as well as the Colorado River at amazingly high water. Some highlights were boats navigating treacherous eddy fences in Boulder Narrows, lining the boats down Lava Falls, patching fiberglass boats, and scuttling Reilly's boats at Pipe Creek.

Tom's next adventure will be a bit of experimental history - creating a full-scale replica of the GEM and running it through the Grand Canyon!

*Submitted by Amy Horn*

## 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 **2009 Outings Coordinator** at **TontoWalk@gmail.com**.

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