

April 1, 2022

Grand Canyon History Tidbit by Kim Besom

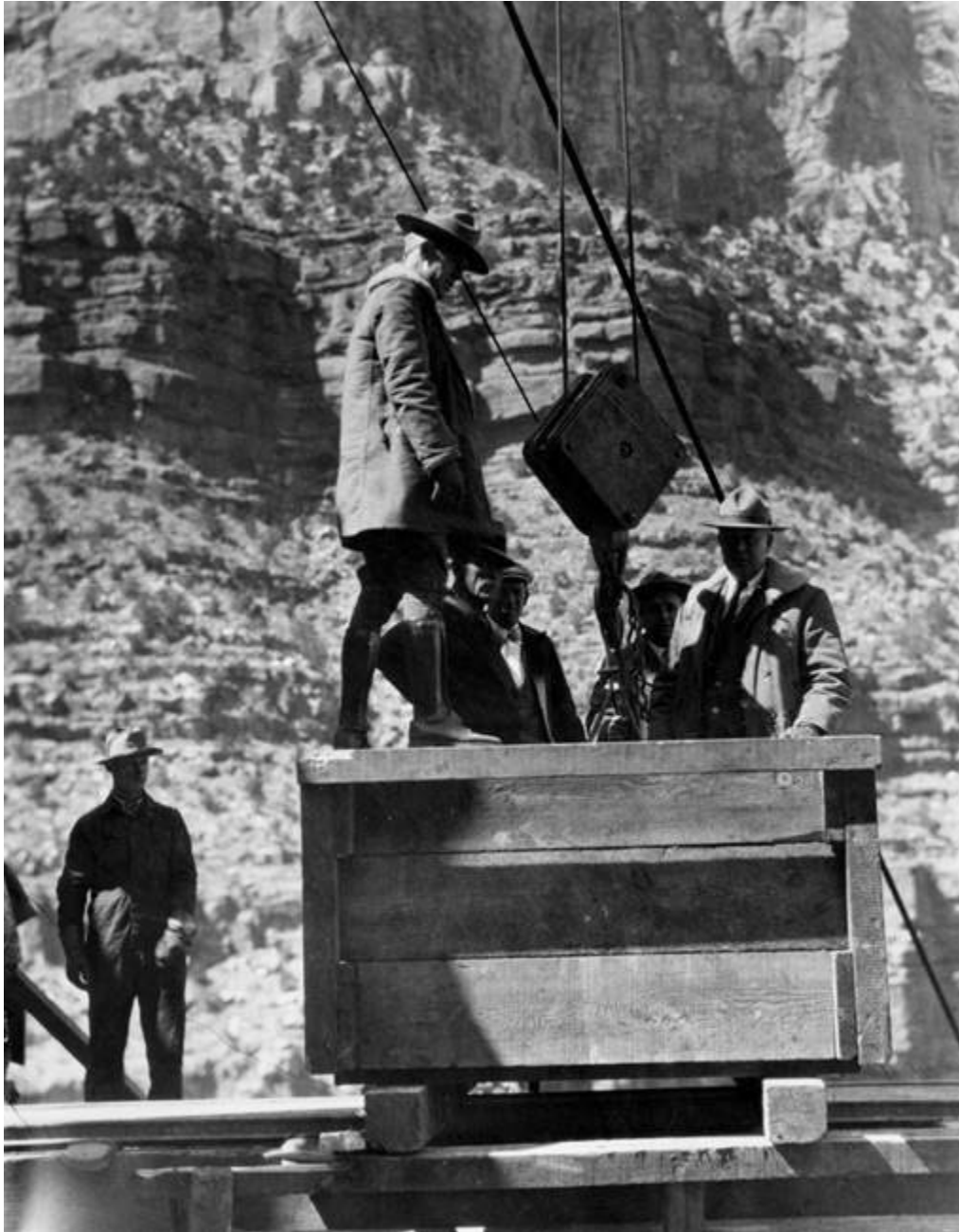
### **March 1932 Superintendent's Monthly Report**

So, what was happening here 90 years ago? According to the **March 1932 Superintendent Monthly Report**, the following were some of the items of note for the month:

***Weather:** Most of March was clear and favorable to travel. Only three days of precipitation occurred during the entire month- a considerable relief to personnel after the long, hard winter. All South Rim drives were open and in excellent condition. In fact, after the last snow disappeared from all roads early in the month, they showed up generally in better shape than was anticipated in view of the great amount of snow removal effected, which necessitated very frequent operation of heavy equipment throughout the winter. Travel by automobile continues to increase nicely.*

*Total snowfall for the month on the North Rim was 13 inches, and on the South Rim, 7.5 inches. This brings total snowfall for the year to 191 inches on the North Rim and 94.5 inches on the south Rim.*

***Superintendent:** Detailed inspections of the Santa Fe water supply project from Indian Gardens occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. On both of these trips the Superintendent went down into the Canyon by tramway. Work has gone along splendidly with improved weather conditions. It now appears possible that the new line will be installed by June 1.*



#00081: PARK OFFICIALS IN INDIAN GARDEN TRAMWAY GONDOLA AT INNER CANYON TERMINAL, CIRCA 1932.



#00085: NPS OFFICIALS AT CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR INDIAN GARDEN WATER PIPELINE, CIRCA 1932.

***Labor Situation:** The labor situation in Arizona has been afforded small relief so far this spring. An increasing number of applications, most of them requesting any sort of work, are being received daily at the Park office. [The country was in the midst of the Great Depression at the time.]*

**Publicity:** *The first issue of our regular weekly Information Bulletin was sent out. The Bulletin affords current park information, also information on highways throughout Arizona which are used by Park visitors. The mailing list includes about 125 hotels, service stations and auto clubs, most of which are out of state. Many commendatory letters have been received since the Bulletin was started. It is simple, yet has a real value to the traveler.*

**Budget:** *Department heads met with the Superintendent for review of the park's financial situation. It has only been through the most careful conservation of funds that the park was able to weather a winter of extremely heavy and unanticipated maintenance expenditures, necessitated by unprecedented snow removal, and still be in a good position to carry on properly for the remainder of this fiscal year.*

**Personnel:** *Several of the appointive force availed themselves of the opportunity for a spring vacation of several days' length.*

*Appointments, effective with entrance on duty, were received from Washington for eight temporary rangers and four temporary ranger-naturalists. This completes appointing our ranger force for the coming season.*

**New Construction:** *New construction included only the work of Everly and Allison on their contract for grading a section of the Desert View-Cameron Highway. This project is getting underway nicely. Progress includes grading between stations 732 and 803, and installation of five metal culverts.*



#02953: DESERT VIEW-CAMERON ROAD CONSTRUCTION, 1932.



#02967f: WORK ON THE DESERT VIEW- CAMERON ROAD, SOUTH RIM, 1932.

***Landscape Work:*** During the month all park employees and employees of the South Rim operator were circularized with a memorandum from the Superintendent suggesting a general spring cleanup around buildings and grounds. Response has been very gratifying thus far. The park enjoys a fine reputation for cleanliness and sanitation even though yearly appropriations do not often permit as expansive work and development as is wished. However, results of this village cleanup suggestion already show what a little friendly encouragement at the proper time can do toward developing civic pride in keeping the home premises most presentable.

***Ranger, Naturalist and Guide Services:*** Routine South Rim ranger duties included entrance checking, operation of the Headquarters Information Office, rim patrol and inspections.

Lectures on the geologic history of Grand Canyon were given daily at Yavapai Station to a total of 525 persons. Special lectures were given on several occasions. A total of 1,812 people visited the Yavapai Station during the month.



#00054: AT YAVAPAI OBSERVATION STATION, CIRCA 1932.

*Flora and Fauna: The Spurred Towhee was recorded from the South Rim . These are the first winter records of this species from the park.*

*Since melting of heavy winter snows, the deer which spent the past winter in the Canyon have almost all returned to the South Rim.*

*Technical Bulletin entitled “Ornithology of the Life Zones, San Francisco to Bottom of Canyon” has been completed and made available for distribution.*

*The two beaver caught by rangers some weeks ago at Phantom Ranch, have returned from the taxidermist. They are very fine specimens and attract much attention as part of Headquarters biological exhibit.*

**Visitation:** Records show that 1,304 entered the park this month [yet 1,812 people visited Yavapai?], a decrease of 46% over last year. Auto travel represented 41 states and three foreign countries, Canada, China and Cuba. Cars entered every day of the month.

**Visitors:** One of the most interesting visits of the month was that of 25 carrier boys and girls, with superior service rights, from the Arizona Republic. The youngsters were taken to the river on muleback through the courtesy of Fred Harvey, and Park Naturalist McKee conducted them on an educational tour.

**Protection:** There is very little aside from routine statements to report under this heading, matters of protection, etc., having been very quiet.

**Sanitation:** A total of 2,539,850 gallons of water was reclaimed at the sewage plant.

**Miscellaneous:** Grand Canyon Air Lines, Inc., brought in several planes and otherwise began arranging for the season's business at Red Butte Airport.