

**June 6, 2022**

**Grand Canyon History Tidbit by Kim Besom**

**May 1932 Superintendent Monthly Report**

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

**Travel:** Records show that 10,335 people entered the park this month as compared to 14,559 for May 1931. In April the figure was 5,698, so it is seen that the season's travel has started in earnest. Cars entered the park every day this month.

Travel to the park for this month was increased considerably on account of the Memorial Day weekend, which brought out hundreds of people. Travel ran to 1134 people, the biggest day so far this season.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> twenty inches of snow was deposited on the North Rim. This made a considerable delay on work of opening the approach and entrance road.

As the month closes all South Rim drives and the South Approach are in excellent condition. On the 21<sup>st</sup> the North Rim approach and entrance road was opened by Park Service, Bureau of Public Roads and Utah Parks Company forces. The Cape Royal Drive opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Labor Situation:** The situation in the Grand Canyon region has been somewhat relieved during the month through opening up of various county, state and federal road projects, and other seasonal work. The policy of hiring only local residents seems to be general among employers, and it is well enough understood by transient labor so that so far at least, there is not a great influx of dependents flocking into the country as the working season progresses. In general there is, however, a great deal of unemployment throughout the state.

**Personnel:** The entire force is going into the summer work with excellent spirit. Housing conditions are better than they have ever been and wages are holding up contrary to the expectations of some of the force.

**Maintenance:** On the north end of the Kaibab Trail, between Roaring Springs and the top of the Coconino Sandstone, post construction work was started by a crew of seven men. A great deal of sloughing off occurred during the winter which carried away the trail almost entirely in places and filled it with a heavy deposit of rocks for long stretches. Re-building the trail where needed and clearing away debris will take some days' work. The crew was delayed considerably on account of high water in Bright Angel Creek, which prevented reaching the work by trail, and also because North Rim roads did not open until late in the month, thus preventing necessary trucking in connection with the project.



#07376: TRAIL WORK ON THE NORTH RIM SECTION OF THE KAIBAB TRAIL. CIRCA 1930's

Work was started on the proposed South Rim footpath connection between Fred Harvey's Lookout building and the eastern terminus of the Powell Memorial footpath. This is a greatly needed improvement as visitors are now forced to circle among Harvey cottages and travel one of the village roads in order to reach the Powell footpath. As the month closed about 250 feet of the new path was roughed in and supporting walls started. The whole connecting link will be about a quarter of a mile in length.



#07395: WORK ON THE FOOTPATH NEAR POWELL MEMORIAL, SOUTH RIM, CIRCA 1930

The old bunkhouse at Park Headquarters has been torn out inside preparatory to reconstruction as a ranger's dormitory. Work on this project will go forward as swiftly as possible in order to relieve congestion in quarters now assigned to single members of the ranger force.

**Landscaping Work:** The Desert View-Cameron road work was inspected with special attention to selection of a site for the future entrance checking station to be constructed near Desert View whenever the road is far enough along to warrant. Also, particular attention was paid to rock work on culvert facing, and such other matters as required expert landscaping advice.

**Ranger, Naturalist and Guide Services:** Naturalist service for the month included routine work at Yavapai Station and Park Headquarters, special contacts with the public, research trips into the Canyon, campfire lectures, auto caravans and preparation of Nature Notes and other papers. Auto caravans and campfire lectures were initiated for the season.

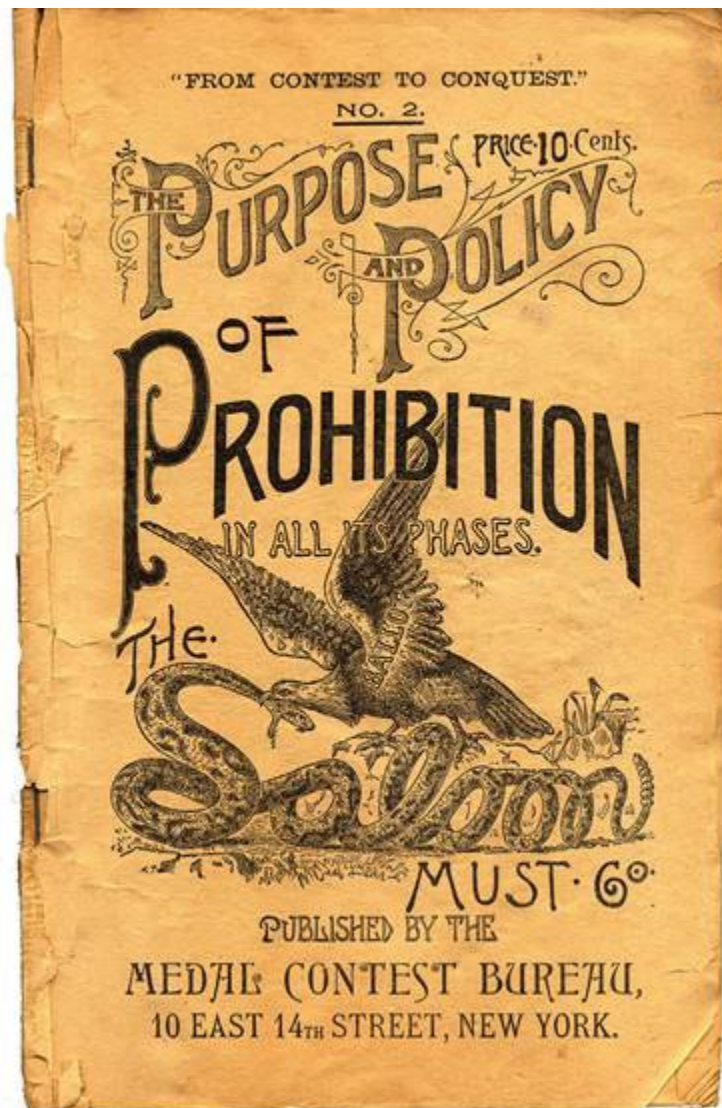
The regular Yavapai lecture on the geologic history and origin of the Grand Canyon was given 34 times for a total attendance of 698 people. A large log bench was constructed on the porch at Yavapai Station. This bench serves the dual purpose of acting as a guide in routing visitors to the first of the series of parapet exhibits, and also as part of the porch seating arrangement. Work was started on the coloring of slides to be used in the Yavapai balopticons.

**Police Protection:** Under this heading there is considerable to report this month. The usual placid condition which obtains in Grand Canyon was broken by more serious infractions of the law than have occurred collectively for many months past.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> Ranger Satterwaite arrested J.F. Butler, cook for the local Fred Harvey dormitory, on a charge of possession and transportation of liquor [this was during Prohibition]. Ten gallons of whiskey and Butler's car were seized. Butler was allowed to go to his quarters until such time as he could be brought before the US Commissioner at Flagstaff. Sometime during the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> Butler disappeared. On the 16<sup>th</sup> the evidence, together with the confiscated car was left with the commissioner at Flagstaff and a warrant sworn out for the arrest of Butler.

It was thought that Butler had succeeded in getting out of the country; but at 2am of the 22<sup>nd</sup> he entered the home of William Joynt, a Fred Harvey employee, in company with an unidentified companion, and held up Joynt at the point of a gun, taking \$20 from him. Within a few minutes of the hold-up, Joynt notified constable Harbin and the ranger force was called out. Authorities of Williams and Flagstaff were notified to watch all roads. An immediate search was started which lasted for several days, and took Park Service and county officers over the entire section south of the Park. No trace of the men could be found, however, and it has been decided that they succeeded in getting clear out of the country.

A check-up of the Fred Harvey dormitory showed that Butler and his companion had made away with considerable food supplies. Some credence is given the thought that the two men may still be in some hide-out close to the park as the food taken was sufficient to last them for some time. As a consequence patrols are visiting all available sources of water supply occasionally to check on the possibility of finding tracks or other signs which might re-open the hunt.



#### GRCA 29242: PROHIBITION MANUAL FOUND AT GRAND CANYON

On the 26<sup>th</sup> a complaint was received verbally from guests at the Fred Harvey auto cabin camp. These guests claimed that an employee of the camp had mistreated them to the extent of foul language when they attempted to turn in their cabin keys somewhat earlier than the regular time of opening the campground lodge in the morning.

An investigation by Chief Ranger Brooks disclosed that Nat Milgram, a camper with no connection to the auto camp, was the man responsible. Milgram is a disabled war veteran of highly excitable nature. He became incensed when the guests sought to arouse the campground manager at such an early hour. While trying to straighten out the situation Mr. Brooks was turned upon by Milgram and made the target for abuse rivaling that directed earlier at the guests.

Milgram was necessarily placed under arrest and ordered to leave the park. Milgram went to Rowe Well where he is at present residing on the property of Justice of the Peace Hamilton. Not

content with this affront, he swore out a warrant for the arrest of Chief Ranger Brooks. Chief Ranger Brooks and witnesses were taken to Rowe Well for a hearing and trial was set for June 4<sup>th</sup>. There is no question but that this case shows the fallacy of having county officers on hand, under authority of state law, to interfere with the practice of enforcing park regulations.

Federal attorney Wheeler of Phoenix will represent Mr. Brooks during the trial. It is hoped that the dignity of the Park Service will not be impaired by the results of this matter.



#19740: CHIEF RANGER JAMES BROOKS, CIRCA 1936

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ranger Williamson on duty at the South Rim checking station stopped three Flagstaff students on account of the intoxicated condition of the driver. One of the other members of the party was ordered to drive the car out of the park, and all three were told to stay out until they could make up their minds to come visiting with a better grace. Rangers have been detailed on night patrol duty all month in a concentrated effort to stem a considerable flow of liquor which has been passing into the park of late. Since the Butler affair evidence of rather

open drinking has not been pronounced as at that time occasion was taken to speak plainly to several members of the Harvey and Santa Fe organizations. It is gratifying to report that, taking the community as a whole, Park personnel stands out distinctly in the lead in matters of good citizenship and decent living.

**Sanitation:** A total of 2,414,023 gallons of water was reclaimed at the sewage plant.

**Miscellaneous:** As a result of a dance sponsored by the Grand Canyon Natural History Association, a fund of about \$25 was cleared and turned into the treasury. The affair was held in the local community building. Decorations were arranged by Ranger Naturalist Redburn.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> word came from the North Rim that the four men stationed there had run out of tobacco. The North Approach Road was still closed in solidly at that time and high water in the Bright Angel Creek made it impossible to get across the Canyon by trail. Chief Ranger Brooks and Rangers Collins and Williamson, all inveterate smokers, were sympathetic enough to arrange with Grand Canyon Airlines, to drop a package on Bright Angel Point. The North Rim boys had been out of fresh meat and cheese since early in March, so the package included a liberal supply of steak and assorted cheeses in addition to smoking tobacco and cigarettes. After successfully dropping these supplies, the plane flew on north of VT Park while the rangers made notes on snow conditions and checked on the work of snow removal.

Memorial Day exercises carried out by citizens of the village included services at the cemetery, in which the local American Legion Post officiated. Also, a wreath was dropped into the river from a Grand Canyon Airlines plane in honor of Glen Sturdevant and Fred Johnson, park men lost in Horn Creek rapids several years ago.

A Memorial Day baseball game staged between Grand Canyon and the Flagstaff State Teachers' College, resulted in a score of 7 to 8 in favor of Grand Canyon.

In accordance with regulations all official flags in the park were raised to the peak Memorial Day morning, then lowered to Half Mast for the morning and again raised to the peak for the remainder of the day.