

# The Ol' Pioneer

The Quarterly Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

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JUL/AUG/SEP 2005

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# President's Letter

It's finally summer and time to get out and enjoy things outside. I hope you made it up to the Grand Canyon for the Shoshone Point Picnic on June 11. Our second outdoor outing of the summer will be on the North Rim (actually Jacob Lake) on July 16.

Jacob Lake is likely to be a lake this year, because it's been such a wet year. The meadows along Highway 67 to the North Rim have big lakes in them and running water and even ducks! In early June, there was still patchy snow around the entrance station. There could still be tennis-shoe skiing when we are there in July.

The Canyon had green grass growing on the Tonto Plateau in June. Pipe Creek is even flowing with waterfalls and everything across the Plateau. Lake Powell is rising, some days as much as 18 inches. That's a lot of water.

We finally got started planning the History Symposium. It will be held the last weekend in January 2007. The committee presently consists of Steve Verkamp (and his two dogs), Todd Berger, Lee Albertson, Jim Ohlman, Carolyn Castleman, Nancy Green, and me. We decided to have its format be much like that of the 2002 Symposium. Our first step, of course, is to start raising money to help pay for it.

A researcher would like to interview anybody who personally knew John Riffey. If you knew Riffey, please write the editor of our newsletters so she can put you in touch with the researcher.

I hope we see you this summer.

*Keith Green*

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EDITOR: Diane Cassidy

Submit photos, stories, and comments to the editor of *The Ol' Pioneer* at: [Articles@GrandCanyonHistory.org](mailto:Articles@GrandCanyonHistory.org) or PO Box 10067, Prescott AZ 86304.

The Historical Society was established in July 1984 as a non-profit corporation 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.

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# The Family Next Door

by Gale Burak

(Reprinted from the September 1995 issue of *O'Pioneer*)

During my tenure in the early 1980s as a seasonal ranger at cottonwood Camp Ground on Bright Angel Creek, my old frame backpack was much more than a receptacle for backcountry camping gear. Near the end of each ten-day period, I'd fill it to overflowing with my washing and trudge up the North Kaibab Trail a mile and a half to my next door neighbors. They had electricity; I didn't. They had a washer and dryer; I had my knuckles and a few clothes lines under the breezeway.

These neighbors were the Aikens: Bruce and Mary and their then-small children Mercy, Shirley and Silas. They were a delightful family; lively, loving and light-hearted, always happy to include me in the day's doings, whether it was a play that Mercy devised, a swim in the creek, or helping irrigate Bruce's vegetable garden. He wasn't painting much then, mainly sketches of views from their front porch (in one of them which he cleverly hid his wife's torso among the Muav ledges across the creek).

There was always lots to show me or talk about; always a cup of Mary's strong French coffee to sip while I watched the children perform their latest acting endeavors, be it "Heidi" with Mercy playing all the parts, or Shirley being the princess in some exotic drama.

That knapsack came into good use, too, when I climbed the seven miles up to the North Rim on my bi-monthly R&R days. It was close to empty when I went up to the old log cabin in Transept Canyon provided by the Park Service. But boy, it was loaded on my way back four days later! At a Co-op set up on the North Rim, based in Hurricane, Utah, I was able to buy homemade products, wonderful fresh garden produce and dairy items that normally would never have been available even at

Babbitt's store on the South Rim. I'd stagger down the trail past the tall Ponderosa and Douglas evergreens, past the scrubby maples and oaks and wild rose patches, through the Hermit Tunnel and down the steep slopes to Aikens' where I'd unload heads of lettuce, eggs, fresh cheeses, a loaf or two of good dark bread, then trot on down to my station under the old cottonwoods for my next tour of duty.

When the kids started their famous lemonade stand out by the trail, they played nearby in order to keep any eye on it. Since they were in a National Park and not official concessionaires, they couldn't charge for the ice-tinkling ade, but they could and did put out a big jar with "bait" inside and a "donations" sign. This got results!

Bruce's vegetable garden lay along the lawn below the trail too. He fenced it against marauding mule deer, and enjoyed long hours weeding and caring for it. I remember one hiking party from North Rim asking me *Who was the Oriental gentleman up tending the garden above here?* Bruce was sporting long mustachios and sideburns then, and with his lean muscular frame and dark hair could have passed for an Asian. He thought that was funny when I told him about it, and played the part for fun once in awhile.

Until all three children were of school age, Bruce and Mary taught

them there at Roaring Springs. They had to send to Kanab for their school material since they were on the

Arizona Strip side of the Canyon. A big framed blackboard held not only the subject material but the daily Bible verse and a thought that Bruce wrote down after his morning devotions, and sometimes hymn verses, sketches, and doodles. Bruce is a good guitarist and taught the children hymns in both English

and Spanish; good icebreakers when they took winter trips to Mexico.

Bruce is also a baseball nut. When it came time in early fall for the World Series to be played, he made sure that he had time to be at home to paint and have an ear to his little radio. Reception isn't good down there, which could be very frustrating during an exciting game.

He'd lean over his easel and the brush would fly, his intensity on the canvas and the game caused his whole body to be rigidly focused on his work, but his mind was on the next batter.

They lived in the old residence when I first knew them in the 1970s; a comfortable, rambling two-sectioned house built to accommodate both their family and the maintenance crew. When the new house was

constructed just upstream, it was made along the same lines as the old one; sweeping porch, low pitched roof and all. A concrete heliport built out front, placed in part up over the creek, was a wonderful place to sleep

*Bruce would play his guitar and the cliffs 'round about resounded with chatter and laughter and song.*

*...the clip-clop of approaching hooves announced the arrival...of the Phantom crew and a gift of a case of beer...half of which had been consumed on the way up.*

*...continued on page 6*

# A Historic Landmark or An Eyesore?

(Reprinted from the August 1995 issue of the *O'Pioneer*)

Ever since the Santa Fe railway brought the first train to the Grand Canyon on September 17, 1901, there has been a question brought before the powers that be concerning just what should be on the rim of Grand Canyon. Before that time, anybody could pitch his tent or build his cabin on the unclaimed land at the edge of the gorge, and no one objected or for that matter cared. John Hance, Buckley O'Neill, J. W. Thurber, W. W. Bass and Ralph Cameron all with visions of getting rich either in mining ore or making a fortune from visitors took advantage of the free land and built cabins or hotels to attract and accommodate the travelers. The power and money of the Railway changed that almost at once. The Railway figured with their investment of thousands of dollars they had the right to control everything and began a campaign to remove the old timers. Their money power influenced the government officials who backed them and appointed personnel who could be swayed to do their bidding.

One by one the old timers were forced to leave--their cabins and hotels were absorbed into the holdings of the Railway or destroyed. The Hance Cabin, Grandview Hotel and Buggeln Hotel were demolished. The Kolb Studio was considered an eyesore and scheduled to be torn down; Congress saved it by passing a law prohibiting the removal of any structure in a National Park over 50 years old. The Studio far exceeded the age limit, but the Grand Canyon Inn did not fare so well.

The idea of removing edifices from the rim of Grand Canyon still is foremost in the plans of the National Park Service--the target now is the old headframe of the Orphan mine located between Maricopa and Powell points. Money is the only thing that has so far saved the structure.

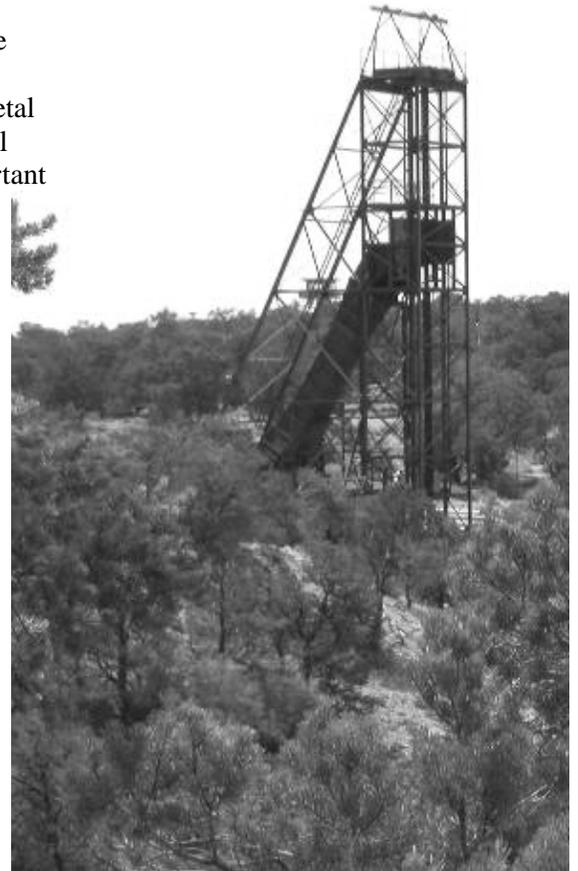
In 1893, Daniel Hogan staked a claim where he discovered a vein of copper on the wall of the canyon 1,100 feet below the rim. It was a slow process to develop the claim because it was necessary to climb down a combination of trail, ladders and ropes to reach the site. Remnants of the trail and parts of his ladders still remain. Hogan was unaware that his most important find was not copper but uranium and at the time of little value.

Many years later, when tourist travel in the area began to grow, the Grand Canyon Inn was constructed on the old claim. The owners could make more money from tourists than from mining. Then in 1953, the uranium ore Hogan cast aside as worthless became quite valuable and the Golden Crown Mining Company acquired mining rights on the claim and began extracting the high grade ore. The company constructed a tramway from the rim to the mine location on the vertical wall to facilitate lifting the buckets of metal from the area. The headframe still standing on the rim was an important part in the period.

Once again the old problem arose when the site with its Inn and mine became the subject of controversy. The government insisted that it destroyed the scenic beauty and legislation introduced in Congress would remove the eyesore. President Kennedy signed the bill in 1963 authorizing government acquisition from Western Equities Inc. The company would transfer title to the government on condition that it could continue mining for 25 years and operate the Grand Canyon Inn until the end of 1966, after which the structures would be demolished.

In 1988, the 25 years came to an end and the Park officials immediately wanted to rid the location of any trace of the operation and return it to its natural state. The cost of this ran far beyond the budget, instead, due to mildly radioactive material, the site was closed to public access.

Granted, the old metal frame adds nothing to the scenic beauty of Grand Canyon, but it is part of history. The earliest white settlers of the Canyon were prospectors and miners; the headframe of the Orphan Mine is the sole remaining landmark of this early phase of Grand Canyon history. It should be preserved as a monument to this early human endeavor.



# Orphan Mine

by Nancy Green – Grand Canyon AZ  
(Reprinted from the September 2002 issue of *The Bulletin*)

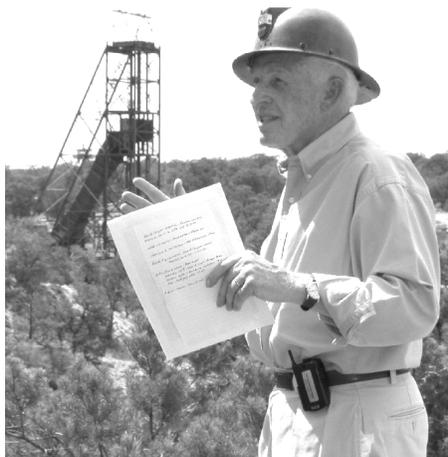
On Saturday, August 17, 2002, the 30 or so Grand Canyon Pioneers once again braved adverse weather conditions. This time it was scorching temperatures and brutally direct sunshine. But listening to Maurice Castagne, former superintendent of the Orphan Mine, was well worth being out in those wilting temperatures.

Maury arrived at the Grand Canyon in 1958. But the mine began its impact on Grand Canyon history in 1903. Dan Hogan had staked a copper claim that year. Being a former Rough Rider, Hogan used his influence with Teddy Roosevelt to obtain a patent in 1906.

The Golden Crown Mining Company took advantage of the nation's craze for uranium production in the 1950s. In 1953 it negotiated for acquisition of the mine, with production beginning in 1956.

The mine operation was impressive and somewhat spectacular due to its unique location. Maury was fond of saying that "Where else could you look at the Grand Canyon **and** go straight down inside of its walls?"

The head frame of the mine was standing over a shaft descending 1,500 vertical feet. There were no pillars or supporting timbers, just a solid rock wall. Two hundred fifty tons of ore were shipped daily to a mill in Tuba City via truck. When that mill closed in 1966, the ore was then shipped 300 miles away to a mill in Colorado by rail. This proved to be more costly than the ore was worth, causing the cessation of mining activity in 1969. In its heyday, the mine was netting \$280,000 per month. Fans kept 42,000 cfm of air ventilating the shaft and work areas to keep the radon gas levels down. It cost \$1,000,000 to sink the shaft. The Hermit shale proved the most difficult to drill, limestone the next



hardest, and sandstone being the most forgiving. High-grade ore was all that was taken out, with the waste being dumped in the Kaibab Forest nearby. All the ore taken from this mine was for nuclear power plants, not weapons. Thirty miners made up each crew. One death occurred during Maury's time. The 49-year-old miner died from injuries sustained in a mine accident, but away from the mine. As Maury said, "You don't go to a uranium mine for your health." The Supai Layer was where the actual mining took place. With the interior of the shaft a pleasant and constant 56 degrees, the miners actually enjoyed being in the mine.

The anecdotal stories Maury told brought to life this timeframe of Canyon history. The tram was the most eye catching and popular part of the operation. Emery Kolb was given a ride in the 1,100 vertical foot drop, 1,800 feet of tram line hoist. His comment after returning to the top was "Boy, I sure could have used one of those!" Maury reminisced that one day the sun shone directly all the way down into the Glory Hole. He was shocked at its immensity since he had previously only seen the interior with

his little miners' headlamp. Tusayan was where the miners and their families lived. Water was hauled from Williams. Maury and his wife Lorraine had six children. They were active in the community through the Rotary Club, PTA, and Cub Scouts. Christmas was celebrated uniquely with the head frame of the mine being lit up with Christmas tree lights.

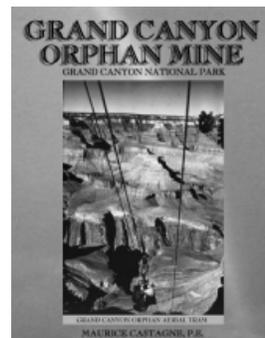
It was a great pleasure and privilege to have Maurice Castagne and his wife Lorraine share with the Grand Canyon Pioneers this interesting slice of Grand Canyon.



*Maury and the Pioneers at Maricopa Point looking down at the mine trail.*

2005 Editor's Note: Lorraine Castagne worked diligently with Maurice to put together a book on the history of the Orphan Mine. Unfortunately, Lorraine passed away before seeing Maurice complete the publication of *Grand Canyon Orphan Mine*, which is available from the Grand Canyon Association or directly from the author at:

Grand Canyon Orphan  
PO Box 438  
Mina, NV 89422  
or [www.GrandCanyonOrphan.com](http://www.GrandCanyonOrphan.com)



## Family Next Door...continued from page 3

on hot summer nights. We would lie on our pads with the babbling water below and twinkling deep firmament above. Shooting stars compete with satellites; and when the starts began to disappear behind clouds with warning rumblings in the cooling distance, we'd still stay out until the first cold drops hit our faces; then: *Run for the porch!*

Periodically, the trail crew worked along the miles above and below the residence and filled their half of the house. The thump of heavy boots and murmur of masculine voices was like a breath of fresh air. In the evenings, Bruce would play his guitar and the cliffs 'round about resounded with chatter and laughter and song. It never seemed far to hike up and join them from my diggin's at Cottonwood after my evening program.

As time drew near for the end of my summer duty in 1983, Mary invited me up for supper one evening. It was October and nippy in the fading day when my camp chores were done, freeing me to run up to the Aikens' house.

### 2005 Editor's Notes:

Bruce Aiken and his family have lived in the Grand Canyon since the early 1970s. When not working the pump house at Roaring Springs, Bruce spends most of his off-duty hours capturing on canvas the many moods and facets of the Grand Canyon. Bruce and his paintings have appeared on television many times and have been featured in publications such as *People Magazine*, *Southwest Art Magazine* and *Arizona Highways Magazine*. For more information and samples of his artwork, see Bruce's website at: [www.BruceAiken.com](http://www.BruceAiken.com)

Imagine my surprise to see long tables spread out on the lawn in front, with balloons and decorations everywhere. The children had out-done themselves. A big poster told me, *We will miss you, Gale*. Mercy had even written a loving poem for the occasion (which I still treasure). And so many people! One friend had even hiked the 14 miles across the canyon to be there. And just as we were sitting down to a feast, the clip-clop of approaching hooves announced the arrival of Bud Rippy, the wrangler from Phantom Ranch, with two of the Phantom crew and a gift of a case of beer...half of which had been consumed on the way up. Of course, the other two packs were needed for the return trip later. Well, it's the thought that counts... A hilarious, anecdote-filled meal ensured, enjoyed by friends who'd shared the vagaries and delights of those lucky enough to have worked at the canyon. What a perfect ending to a fabulous summer.



Gale Burak is currently living in North Woodstock, New Hampshire, and she is one of the women profiled in Betty Leavengood's Book *Grand Canyon Women, Lives Shaped by Landscape*, available from the Grand Canyon Association.

## Bert Lauzon Gets His Man

by Jeanne Schick – Sedona AZ  
(Reprinted from the July 1995 issue of the *O'Pioneer*)

Most visitors to Grand Canyon who encounter a Park Ranger feel intimidated by the uniform, they look upon them as guards protecting the great chasm and making sure you don't get too close and fall in. Some think they are there to explain and answer questions like *Do you know who dug the canyon*, a question once asked old John Hance. These rangers have a sense of humor too; they have their job to do, but like to tell stories also.

One such tale was told a long time ago about Bert Lauzon. The incident showed how dangerous the job of Park Ranger could be. It seems a mentally-disturbed man had taken up residence in a cave above Supai Village in Havasu Canyon. Perry Brown and Lauzon were rangers chosen to go to the scene, and the Indians informed them the man had a rifle and eight cartridges. He had had more, but he had been hunting for food.

Bert and Perry approached the cave with caution, and from a safe distance called out for him to come down. He answered with a shot. Perry drew his gun and prepared to shoot back, but Bert stopped him. *You know Perry, if you shoot him and hit him, we'll have to carry him out of here. I'll wave my hat until he shoots those other seven bullets and then we'll walk him out.* Believe it or not, it worked.

1995 Editor's note: Bert Lauzon was the father of Hubert Lauzon and grand-father of GCPS members Robert and Patrick Lauzon.

# Grand Canyon Association Events

The Grand Canyon Association has produced *Canyon Country Community Lecture Series*, a series of lectures held in Flagstaff and Prescott. **Prescott lectures** will be held at Sharlot Hall Museum, 415 W. Gurley (two blocks west of Courthouse Plaza). Space at the Prescott lecture series is limited; please call (928) 445-3122 to inquire about seating. **Flagstaff lectures** will be held at Cline Library, at the intersection of Knoles Drive and McCreary Road on the NAU campus. Parking is available to the west of the library (Lot P13 on Riordan Road). *During the summer of 2005, lectures normally held in Flagstaff at Cline Library will be held at the Shrine of the Ages at the South Rim.* The series in Prescott will take the summer off and resume in the fall. All lectures are free and open to the public. If you have any questions about the events listed on this page, please write Grand Canyon Association at PO Box 399, Grand Canyon AZ 86023 or GCAssociation@GrandCanyon.org or call (800) 858-2808 or visit www.grandcanyon.org.

## July 13

### ***Theories and Legends of How the Grand Canyon was Formed***

Author of *Carving Grand Canyon*, just released by the Grand Canyon Association, Wayne Ranney will discuss theories and legends about how the Grand Canyon formed. Ranney has authored numerous books on northern Arizona geology and is a professor of geology at Yavapai College in Prescott. Ranney will be signing copies of his new book, which will be for sale at the lecture. This **South Rim** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at the Shrine of the Ages.

## August 24

### ***Lake Powell and Photography***

Renowned photographer of the southwest Gary Ladd will be on hand to discuss Lake Powell and photography. Ladd's published work includes *Grand Canyon: Time Below the Rim*, *Along the Rim: A Guide to Grand Canyon's South Rim from Hermits Rest to Desert View* (published by Grand Canyon Association), and *Gary Ladd's Canyon Light*. Ladd will sign copies of his various books, all of which will be available for purchase at the lecture. This **South Rim** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at the Shrine of the Ages.

## September 14

### ***"Reading" Celestial Objects.***

Archaeoastronomer Bryan Bates will highlight the centuries-old traditions of several Colorado Plateau American Indian tribes of "reading" celestial objects to determine the timing for such critical societal functions as planting, harvesting, and ceremonial gatherings. This **Flagstaff** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at NAU Cline Library.

## September 18

### ***Canyon Flora Resource Management***

Lori J. Makarick, Below the Rim Vegetation Program Manager for the Grand Canyon National Park Science Center, will be joined by Kate Watters in a fascinating overview of resource management issues pertaining to inner canyon flora at Grand Canyon. Their multi-media presentation will include numerous photos that highlight ongoing research projects along the Colorado River such as tamarisk eradication and other high-profile initiatives. This **Prescott** lecture begins at 1:00 PM at Sharlot Hall Museum.

## Kolb Studio Exhibit

### **June 16 - September 25**

***A View from the Mountains***, a collection of photographs taken from Arizona's mountain peaks by Flagstaff photographer Michael Collier with accompanying text by Flagstaff author Rose Houk, showing at historic Kolb Studio on Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim. Admission is free.

# Grand Canyon Field Institute History Classes

Grand Canyon Association, a nonprofit partner of Grand Canyon National Park, established the Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI) in 1993. GCFI's mission is to share the rich cultural and natural history of Grand Canyon National Park with park visitors, employees, residents, and students, as well as non-visiting enthusiasts. Through both on-site experience and outreach programming, participants explore the Grand Canyon and surrounding areas in depth.

GCFI offers guided educational tours at Grand Canyon National Park led by expert instructors. Classes may include backpacking, camping, hiking, and whitewater rafting. Topics include geology, ecology, archaeology, history, photography, and more. For details or to register call 866-471-4435 or visit <http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute>.

These two *Learning & Lodging* classes (lodging and some meals included), co-sponsored by Grand Canyon Field Institute and Xanterra Parks & Resorts, may be of interest to members of the Grand Canyon Historical Society:

## ***Lives & Lore of Grand Canyon Legends***

Aug. 26-28; Fee: \$371

Join Mike Anderson on a tour of historic South Rim sites as he recalls the lives of the visionary pioneers and settlers that were first drawn to the world's most famous chasm.

## ***Women of the Grand Canyon***

Sept. 18-20; Fee: \$371

From maverick architect Mary Colter to the fabled Harvey Girls, women have been making their mark at Grand Canyon since the early days. Accompany Denise Traver as she shares the stories of these hardy souls.

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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