

The Ol' Pioneer

The Quarterly Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

VOL. 17 - NO. 2

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

APR/MAY/JUN 2006

In This Issue

Articles

EARLY ARIZONA CAMERONS
by Alex W. and Burton W. Cameron.. 3

THE GRAND CANYON BRIDGE
by Harriet Chalmers Adams..... 5

THIS DAY IN HISTORY..... 8

THE PAINTED CANYON
by Todd R. Berger 9

GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION
OPENING EVENT AT
BOOK FESTIVAL..... 12

Departments

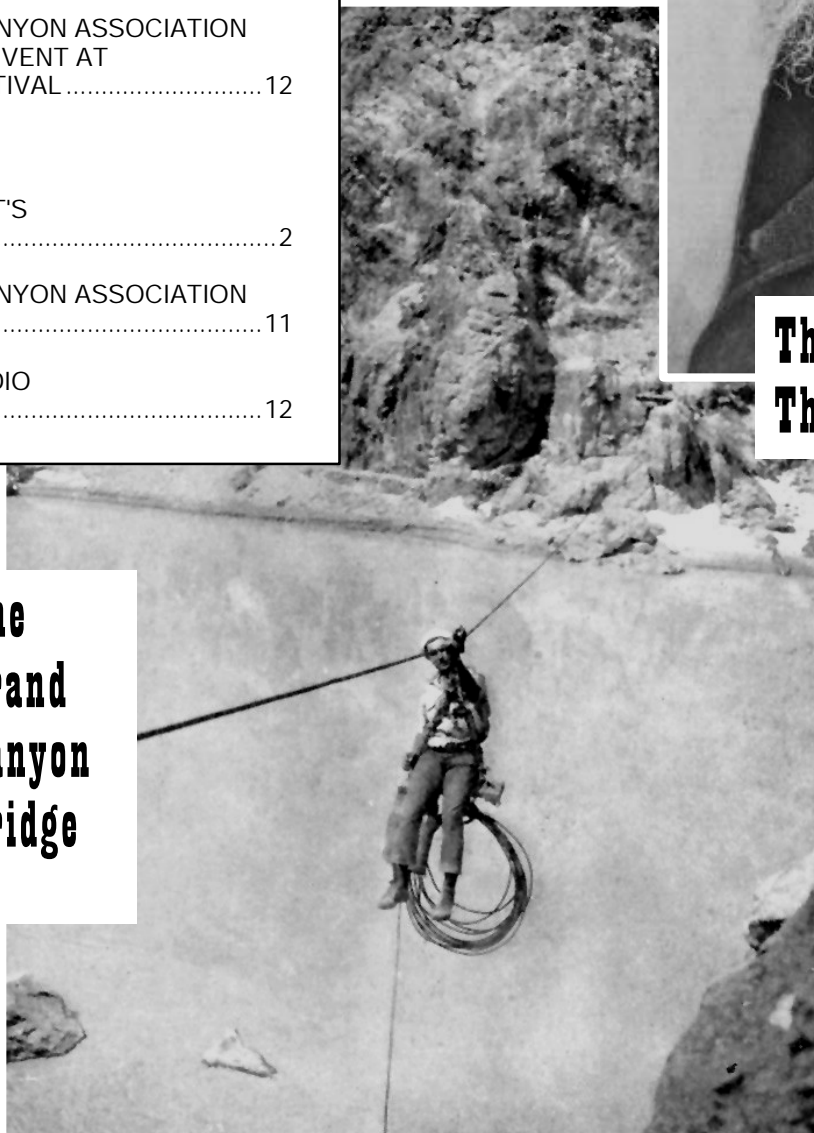
PRESIDENT'S
LETTER 2

GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION
EVENTS 11

KOLB STUDIO
EXHIBIT 12



**The Painted Canyon...
Thomas Moran**



**The
Grand
Canyon
Bridge**

President's Letter

On behalf of Mike Anderson, who is apparently spending more time in the Canyon than not, let me say a few words.

In previous issues of The Bulletin, we told you about the up and coming 2007 Grand Canyon History Symposium. The details are coming together rapidly, and now is time to start the process of selecting the presenters. That means you will be receiving the formal Call For Presentations in the mail very soon. We will also be mailing the Call For Presentations to hundreds of other Canyon enthusiasts across the country. So, we encourage all of you with an interest in Grand Canyon history to submit your proposal today. Detailed information on the symposium and the Call For Presentations are available on the Society's web page at www.GrandCanyonHistory.org.



*Diane Cassidy (editor)
for Mike Anderson*

The Ol' Pioneer

The Quarterly Magazine of the
Grand Canyon Historical Society

VOL. 17 - NO. 2
APR/MAY/JUN 2006

EDITOR: Diane Cassidy

Submit photos, stories, and comments to the editor of *The Ol' Pioneer* at: 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.

The Ol' Pioneer is published quarterly by the GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY who also publishes *THE BULLETIN*, a monthly newspaper. Both publications are a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society is open to any person interested in the historical, educational, and charitable purposes of the Society. Membership is on an annual basis using the standard calendar; and dues of \$20 are payable on the 1st of January each year.

The Ol' Pioneer magazine is copyrighted by the Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form without permission of the publisher.

GCHS Officers/Board of Directors

Mike Anderson, President;
Mike Coltrin, Vice President and
Outings Coordinator
Susan Billingsley, Treasurer
Todd Berger, Secretary
George Billingsley, Chairperson of
Pioneer Award
Dan Cassidy, Membership Committee
Chairman
Beverly Loomis
Jim Ohlman

Web site:
www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

Early Arizona Camerons

by Alex W. and Burton W. Cameron

For distribution at the Clan Cameron Arizona meeting

at the 21st Annual Highland Games, Saturday, March 8, 1986, Central High School Stadium in Phoenix, Arizona.

This article was shared with me by my Uncle Kenneth "Buzz" Cameron and Aunt Gay Cameron of Mesa Arizona. It was written in the 1980s by Buzz's brother, Bill, who is recently deceased, and Alex Cameron, whom Buzz and Gay have no knowledge. Bill Cameron was the owner and publisher of the Verde Independent, an Arizona newspaper. With heartfelt thanks to my Aunt and Uncle, I now share this article with all of you.

Submitted by Traci Schellbach Wyrick – Killeen TX

History of Camerons in Arizona is a proud one, providing many accomplishments and joys, as well as a few tragedies and tales, all of which makes history a most fascinating subject.

Our preliminary research centers around three brothers, Niles J., Ralph H., and Burton A., and their widowed mother, Annie M., who came to Arizona just about a century ago.

Niles and Ralph were brothers. Burton, the youngest, was a half brother.

First to arrive in 1883 at the age of 20 was Ralph Henry, the most prominent, followed in 1886 by Niles and in 1887 by Burton and his mother Annie. Burton was 13 upon his arrival in Flagstaff only five years after the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad reached Flagstaff.

The Cameron brothers came from Southport, Maine. Their father was captain of a fishing vessel and the two older boys fished with him until his death of tuberculosis. Earlier history of the family's arrival in the

United States has not been researched.

Ralph began his career by working in the forest and raising stock. With a partner, he bought and ran a general mercantile business which they sold in 1889 to the Babbitt Brothers, and which provided the nucleus of The Babbitt Brothers Trading Company, today one of the state's largest cattle, land and mercantile establishment. The company's originators were also the forbearers of Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt.

Never still, Ralph became active in the movement to break off a new county from Yavapai County. This was accomplished on February 19, 1891, with the establishment of Coconino County.

A Republican Governor, Irwin, appointed life-long Republican Ralph Cameron the first Sheriff of Coconino County. Ralph started his political climb from here, but was defeated in the first election for the office. Later in the 1890s, he served three terms as Sheriff.

Sharpening his skills as a politician, he served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention at St. Louis in 1906, and served as a member and Chairman of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors from 1905 to 1907.

While he was sheriff, Ralph, assisted by his brothers, organized several posses to put down Indian uprisings. With their help, he also oversaw, as sheriff, enforcement of the law in Flagstaff which was incorporated May 26, 1894. Ralph, Annie, and Niles were signers of the original petition for the incorporation of the town.

In the meantime, the Cameron brothers had been exploring the Grand Canyon where they located and developed the Last Chance Copper Mine in about 1889, one of the richest in the state's history. Transportation of the ore was a horrendous problem, of course, so they located and constructed the Bright Angel Trail, today the best known trail into the Canyon from the

...continued on page 4

South Rim. Niles lived the remainder of his life at the Grand Canyon and was in charge of the trail.

Ralph fought hard to maintain his mining company interests in the Canyon but he lost a feud with Teddy Roosevelt when the Canyon became a National Park, and he is depicted as one of the bad guys in the historical displays at the Grand Canyon.

In addition to working with his brothers at the Grand Canyon, and with Babbitt Brothers, Burton (or Burt as he was better known) served as Coconino County Assessor from 1906 to 1912. He was the last county assessor of territorial days. He also served two terms on the Flagstaff City Council. He was a member of the Masons, a past Exalted Ruler of the Elks, a member of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, and was active in Republican Party affairs. He was survived by three sons, Harold L., George A., and Burton A. Jr., Only George A. is now living.

The Cameron experience in the military of early Arizona involved Burt, who was a Corporal in Company I of the National Guard. His chief claim to fame in this endeavor was in 1892 when the Flagstaff newspaper reported the New Year's Eve Military Ball and he served on the reception committee. Said the paper, "They received the guests in a manner that would have

done credit to the Queen's Own." One minute chasing Indians, the next receiving guests. Just like a typical Western movie.

Ralph continued to climb the political ladder by being elected Territorial Delegate to Arizona in the 61st and 62nd congresses. He served until February 18, 1912, when his term expired four days after Arizona gained statehood, many said largely through his efforts.

In Volume One of the 1913 edition of *Who's Who in Arizona*, the editor reported, "Ralph Henry Cameron, the man who secured statehood for Arizona, is as well known to the miner as he is to the mine owner. To both he is plain Ralph Cameron. He counts his friends by the thousands because he never was known to go back on a friend. He has been a resident of Arizona for the past 30 years, and is perhaps the best known man in the state." This perhaps, was the most glowing biography a man could buy at the time.

In 1914, Ralph ran against Arizona's first governor, George W. P. Hunt, and was defeated after a bitter campaign.

In 1920, Ralph was elected the third United States Senator from Arizona and he served until March 1927 after being defeated for re-election. In the Senate, Ralph was

active in promoting development of water resources, particularly the construction of Coolidge Dam. He was defeated by Carl Hayden, who spent longer as a member of Congress than any man in history (56 years). Ralph was defeated again when he sought re-election in 1928.

Following his defeat, he began spending more and more time away from Arizona. His mining interests took him to North Carolina, Georgia and California. In 1953, he passed away from a heart attack at the age of 89 and is buried at the Grand Canyon Cemetery.

Few people know that the northern Arizona settlement of Cameron was named for Ralph by Hubert Richardson, who began a settlement there in 1911 after Ralph was successful in getting a federal appropriation to build a bridge across the Little Colorado River there. The single lane bridge is still there and is now used to carry the natural gas pipeline across the river.

Later members of Ralph Cameron's family have been successful in business, publishing and governmental work, but the real headliner has always been Ralph Henry Cameron, a true credit to the clan.

The Grand Canyon Bridge

by Harriet Chalmers Adams

Editor's Note: The following excerpt appeared in the June 1921 issue of National Geographic.

The suspension bridge over the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon is practically completed. Late this summer it will be possible to ride from El Tovar, on the south rim of the stupendous chasm, to the Kaibab plateau, on the north rim.

The bridging of the Granite Gorge of the Colorado opens up a new wonderland in the Grand Canyon National Park. From the Kaibab plateau, which averages 1,000 feet above the better-known south rim of the canyon, new and amazing panoramas are presented.

Last month I rode down to the river over a trail not yet opened to tourists, messed with the bridge crew, and spent the night in the gorge. The bridge is 11 miles by trail from El Tovar and 4,700 feet below Yaki Point, on the Coconino plateau. The saddle trail, following the Bright Angel and Tonto trails to the river, and up Bright Angel Canyon to the Kaibab forest, is about 31 miles in length. Rim-to-rim travelers will spend the night in a camp near Ribbon Falls, about eight miles beyond the river.

It was a chilly morning when we started for the bridge camp. The wind surged through the pines and pinyons, and twisted the gnarled cypress trees overlooking the chasm. It is the Rim of the Eternal, to be approached with awe; but people differ.

I heard a stout woman, standing by the lookout, say to her daughter, "Oh! Clara, I'm terribly disappointed. We've come at a time of year when there's no water in the canyon!"

A tall man, with a red face, was explaining to a thin man in a plaid suit that, in contour, the canyon was exactly like the doughnuts his mother used to make.

Springtime on the Trail

Once down the trail it was springtime. Shimmering blue-jays

chattered among the Douglas firs and emigrant butterflies zigzagged by. High in the cliff a canyon-wren piped up a love ditty.

The "expedition" consisted of the Chief Ranger of the Grand Canyon National Park, the wandering lady he escorted, and our two mules. The ranger, whose first love was the Yellowstone, has been many years in the park service and regards our national playgrounds with reverence. He is of the opinion that all those caught carving their names on rocks and trees should be lined up and shot at sunrise.

Down we dropped to the Tonto plateau, the green shelf on the canyon wall lying between the ruby-stained limestone and the gray Archean granite. Here winds a trail of romance.

Once the Highway of the Cliff-Dwellers

In the shadowy past this was the highway of the Cliff-dwellers. Here, in later years, Spaniards whose names are not written on the historic page adventured. There came occasional fur trappers from lands far to the north; the first of those great explorers who dared the descent of the river; hard miners, whose half-hearted workings still border the Tonto trail.

We counted seven wild burros descended from pack animals



The current Kaibab Bridge replaced the original suspension bridge in 1928. Photograph by Todd R. Berger, Grand Canyon Association

abandoned by the miners. Deer were recently seen in this part of the canyon. Mountain-sheep hide on ledges high up the wall. Many other wild creatures still find refuge in this vast wilderness.

The only animals that we saw, besides the burros, were woodrats nearly as large as squirrels. These "trade rats" accumulate great mounds of rubbish. From a camp they walk off with the soap and the spoons, leaving pebbles and sticks in exchange.

The pack-train, carrying the bridge material from railroad to river, made its half-

...continued on page 6

Grand Canyon Bridge...continued from page 5



Blasting in the Inner Gorge at the site of the bridge, 1921.
Photograph by the Kolb Brothers

way camp at Pipe Creek. Here only a lonely black kitten greeted us. The pack-train was "on the job." It has been a tremendous undertaking to move the lumber, cement, and cables down the 11 miles of steep, winding trail to the bridge site. Many are the exciting tales told by the packers. On one trip a horse went over the cliff, carrying two others with him; but a resourceful lad cut the rope and saved the remainder of the train.

Since January these pack-trains have been steadily trudging up and down between the hidden river and the railroad on the rim.

A Rehearsal for Carrying the Cables

The transportation of the 1,200-pound cables alone marks an epoch in bridge-building. The superintendent of the Grand Canyon National Park, who supervises the bridge-work, is an engineer whose varied experience ranges from setting the official height of Mount McKinley, in Alaska, to locating a Patagonian railroad. He conceived the idea of "rehearsing" the carrying down of the cables by estimating, with ropes, just the proper length of line necessary between each mule, as the train swung around the

curves. The cable was then loaded on to eight mules roped together, with the weight evenly divided, a man walking at the head of each mule.

The sun was high in the heavens as we made the final drop down the newly cut trail in the granite wall to the bridge camp by the river. There were three sleeping tents in the camp, a dining-room tent, and a kitchen. The cook played [a] star[ring] role. It is he who makes or breaks a camp. This particular cook put Broadway chefs to shame, in spite of the fact that everything but the water had to be packed down from above.

A 420-Foot Bridge

I was fortunate in having the contractor himself explain the bridge to me.

The completed bridge will be 420 feet along the roadway, with a span of 500 feet from center to center of the bearings. The two main steel cables are placed 10 feet apart and are anchored to the canyon walls 80 feet above the floor level, by means of sections of 80-pound railroad iron set into the rock with concrete.

Hanging galvanized steel cables, clamped to the main lines above, carry the wood floor of the bridge. A

seven-foot wire meshing is strung along the sides as a protection for animals and pedestrians.

The bridge is 60 feet above the river in normal flow and 13 feet above the highest known water-mark in June floods. This is the only bridging of the Colorado above Needles, California, 360 miles to the south by river curve, as you "step it off" on the map.

Now for the bridge crew. Never have I seen a finer-looking lot of men—typical Americans, brawny and bronzed, not a pound overweight. One used to be a lumber cruiser in Alaska; another has mined in southern Chile; a third was a cowboy "before they fenced in the whole bloomin' Southwest." One is an amateur astronomer, who spends his evenings with his telescope under the stars. He says you can see the stars better from the depths of the canyon. Several go in for photography. One has a gift for whistling and can imitate the bird calls. There is a good bit of poetry and adventure nailed into the Grand Canyon bridge.

Night in the Granite Gorge of the Colorado! They gave me the tool and meat tent for an abode. I recalled a game we played in childhood, "Heavy, heavy, hangs over your head!" It turned out to be the bacon. The framework of my tent was formerly the iron cage in which the infrequent traveler crossed the river by cable. Colonel [Theodore] Roosevelt crossed in this way on his ride up to the Kaibab forest [in 1913].

A Deep, Masterful, Sullen River

When the camp slept and moonlight flooded the gorge, I slipped out of my sleeping-bag and walked to the river. The Colorado is a deep, masterful stream, sullen, unfriendly. No habitations border its canyon shores. It has a flow of 20,000 cubic feet per second, reaching a maximum of 200,000 cubic feet. By

...continued on page 7

Grand Canyon Bridge...continued from page 6

day its walls take on a strange, reddish-purple glow, but by moonlight they were softly pink. A weird rock, which they call the Temple of Zoroaster, dominated the scene. Jupiter rode high in the heavens.

Across the river lay the ruins of an ancient Indian village, its broken stone walls strewn with prehistoric pottery—coils and Greek-key patterns—such as are found among the Mesa Verde cliff-dwellings. Perhaps it was never a permanent settlement, only a temporary winter refuge of some peaceful plateau tribe driven down from the heights by the warring Utes. The early chroniclers of the canyon did not mention these Indians.

Who will write the long-ago romances and tragedies enacted within this mighty gorge?

A chill wind swept down the canyon and I crept back to my tent.

Next morning, when the 10 o'clock sun looked over the cliff, we crossed the river in a canvas boat, rowing well upstream and coming back with the current to the landing beach. The boat leaked. It is difficult to swim the river because of the heavy sand and silt; but in case of an

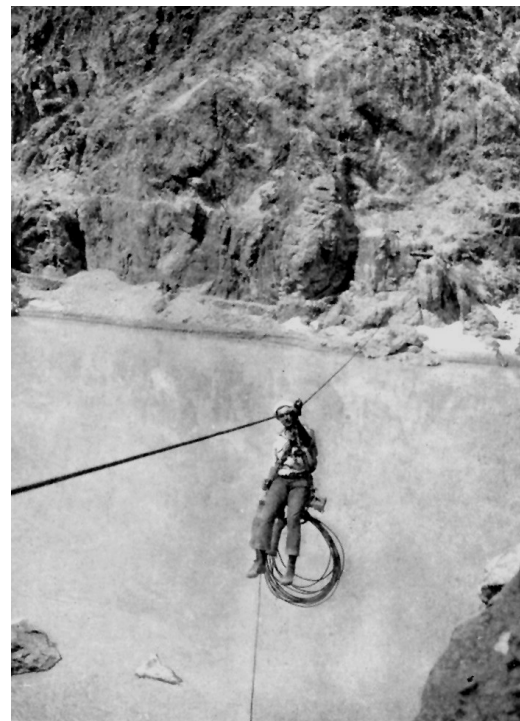
upset one would probably be tossed up on the rocks before reaching the rapids.

Little Bright Angel, the Bridge Mascot

We climbed the bed of Bright Angel Creek, which here enters the Colorado, to the clump of cottonwoods still called "the Roosevelt camp." Here we discovered the bridge mascot, Little Bright Angel, a gray burro who lives in Elysian Fields, with clear water, plenty of grass, and a care-free life. We fed him pancakes sent by the cook, his favorite dish.

There are 113 crossings of the creek on the trail up Bright Angel Canyon to the north rim, and the little burro knows every one of them. Not long ago he guided the foreman of the bridge-crew up to the plateau, showing him just where to cross the stream.

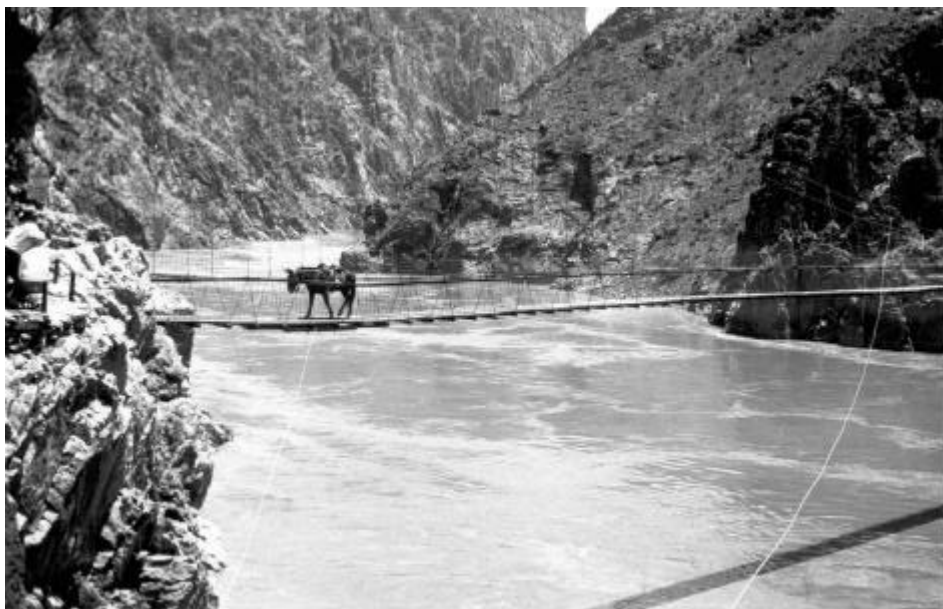
I had heard that a distinguished American from Philadelphia, an enthusiast over the Grand Canyon, was to be the first to cross the Grand Canyon bridge; but the foreman told me, somewhat confidentially, that



The cable strung across the Colorado River to ferry workers and equipment was known as the "flying-machine." Photograph by Harriet Chalmers Adams

Little Bright Angel would be the first fellow across.

"You see," he explained, "Bright Angel has stood so long on the north shore of the river hoping to get across. He can't swim over, and he doesn't like the canvas boat."



A lone mule crossing the Kaibab Suspension Bridge, circa 1927. Photography courtesy GCNP Museum Collection (13103)

Harriet Chalmers Adams was a writer, explorer, and geographer whose work appeared in National Geographic, Harper's, the Ladies Home Journal, and other magazines. She was also the first president of the Society of Women Geographers. Born in 1875, Adams died in 1937. The original 1921 suspension bridge was replaced by the current Kaibab, or Black, Bridge in 1928.

This Day in History

Source: *The History Channel* (historychannel.com)

April 10, 1933

Civilian Conservation Corps created

The Civilian Conservation Corps, a tool for employing young men and improving the government's vast holdings of western land, is created in Washington, D.C.

One of the dozens of New Deal programs created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to fight the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was primarily designed to put thousands of unemployed young men to work on useful public projects. Roosevelt put the program under the direction of his Secretary of Interior, Harold Ickes, who became an enthusiastic supporter.

Since the vast majority of federal public land was in the West, Ickes created most of his CCC projects in that region. The young men who joined, however, came from all over the nation. It was the first time many had left their homes in the densely populated eastern states. Many of them later remembered their time spent in the wide-open spaces of the West with affection, and many later returned to tour the region or become residents.

Participation in the CCC was voluntary, although the various camps often adopted military-like rules of discipline and protocol. Ickes put his CCC "armies" to work on a wide array of conservation projects. Some young men spent their days planting trees in national forests, while others built roads and dams, fought forest fires, or made improvements in national parks like Glacier and Yellowstone. In exchange for their labor, the CCC men received a minimal wage, part of which was automatically sent to their families back home. The program thus provided employment for unskilled young men while simultaneously pumping federal money into the depressed national economy.

The training provided by the CCC proved particularly valuable to the 77,000 Indian and Hispanic youths who worked in the Southwest. Many of these young men left the CCC able to drive and repair large trucks and tractors, skills that proved highly employable during WWII. Likewise, many former CCC enlistees found the transition to life as a WWII soldier eased by their previous experience with military-like discipline.

Despite the rigid regimentation and low pay, the CCC remained popular with both enlistees and the public throughout its history. By the time Congress abolished the agency in 1942, more than two million men had served, making the CCC one of the most successful government training and employment projects in history.

May 29, 1843

Fremont begins his second western expedition

John C. Fremont again departs from St. Louis to explore the West, having only recently returned from his first western expedition.

The son of a French father and American mother, Fremont had an unstable and nomadic childhood, and money troubles often plagued his family. As a young man, he showed an aptitude for mathematics and surveying, and in 1838, he won a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers. In 1842, he received an assignment to make a survey of the Platte River, and set out with 24 companions, including the famous guide Kit Carson. During five months of travel, Fremont crossed the South Pass in central Wyoming and explored the Wind River Mountains.

Scarcely before he had time to recover from his first expedition, Fremont was preparing to depart on his second. On this day in 1843, Fremont left St. Louis on a much more ambitious journey to explore the Oregon country. In Colorado the party met up with Carson, who had again agreed to serve as a guide. On September 6, the Fremont caught sight of the Great Salt Lake in Utah, "stretching in still and solitary grandeur far beyond the limits of our vision." By early November, they arrived at Fort Vancouver, across the Columbia River from the present-day site of Portland.

Having surveyed the Oregon country, Fremont's orders were to return east via the Oregon Trail. Fremont, however, apparently decided this would be an inadequately grand approach, and decided instead to head south and cross the Sierra Nevada in the middle of the winter. The journey was awful and nearly disastrous. Fremont and his men struggled with the deep snow and bitter cold; they often got lost and ate their horses to survive. Thanks to the skill of Carson and amazing good luck with the weather, the expedition eventually emerged from the mountains and limped into Sutter's Fort on March 6, 1844. After resting for three weeks, they returned east by a route that took them through the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains of Utah.

With the help of his wife, Jessie, Fremont wrote a detailed account of his western adventures. The report made some notable errors. Fremont foolishly identified the country around the Great Salt Lake as fertile—a mistake that contributed to the Mormons' decision to migrate to the area. However, Fremont's account did provide the first comprehensive scientific survey of vast areas of the West.

Fremont went on to lead two other successful expeditions to the West. His reports of these and his earlier journeys made him a national hero and he later went into politics. He lived into his early 70s, but the four western journeys he made before he was 40 remained his greatest achievements.

The Painted Canyon

by Todd R. Berger – Grand Canyon

"The Painted Canyon" was first published in the Fall 2005 issue of Canyon Views, published by the Grand Canyon Association (c) 2005 by GCA.

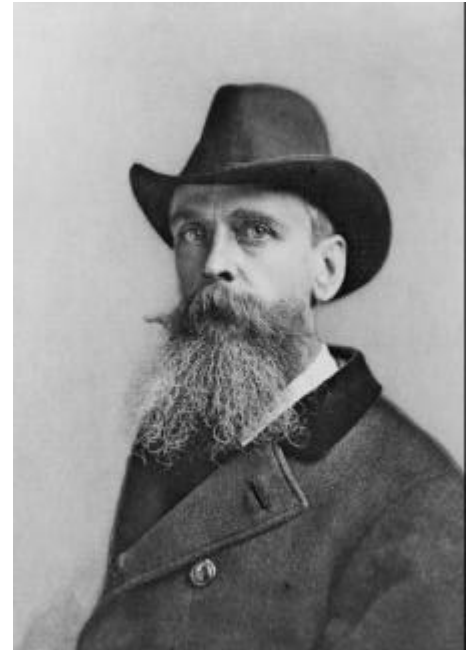
Thomas Moran saw the Grand Canyon for the first time some 46 years before the canyon became a national park. Accompanying Major John Wesley Powell during his 1873 survey of the canyons and plateaus of southwestern Utah Territory and northern Arizona Territory, Moran looked out at the canyon from Toroweap on the North Rim in August of that year. In a letter to his wife, he described what he saw: "The whole gorge for miles lay beneath us and it was by far the most awfully grand and impressive scene I have ever yet seen." As it turned out, the Grand Canyon would change his life.

When visiting the canyon, Moran was already famous for his paintings and drawings of the American West. In 1871 his work had been published in the influential magazine *Scribner's Monthly*, featuring images he had created of Yellowstone based on drawings sketched by two members of an expedition to that future national park.

The *Scribner's Monthly* illustrations gave Moran enough credibility to talk his way onto the expedition of Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden to Yellowstone in the summer of 1871. Moran created watercolors and sketches during the expedition, and he used those preliminary pieces as well as the images of the expedition's photographer, William Henry Jackson, to paint *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*. In 1872 the federal government purchased the monumental oil painting, which measured seven feet by twelve feet, for \$10,000, a huge sum in the 1870s—and not too shabby in 2005. The painting was hung in the U.S. Capitol. Earlier that same year, Congress had created Yellowstone National Park, and many credited Moran's illustrations in *Scribner's* for moving the government to action on the bill.

So, in 1873, the man with the artistic talent sufficient to spur the creation of a national park and the explorer who led the first expedition down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon stood together on the North Rim. In fact, Major Powell's theories on the formation of the Grand Canyon would prove to heavily influence Moran's work. Moran's illustrations are sprinkled throughout Powell's *Exploration of the Colorado River of the West and Its Tributaries* (1875), the famous depiction of Powell's expeditions through the canyon in 1869 and 1871-72. In his book, Powell expressed the theory that erosion, over countless years, had created the Grand Canyon. It would take some time for Powell's ideas to move into the mainstream of scientific thought, but Moran's experiences with Powell and the knowledge gained from the great explorer found expression in the painter's work. In the form of a rainstorm, Moran depicted Powell's erosion theory in *The Chasm of the Colorado* (1874), his equally large companion painting to the Yellowstone piece. Congress also purchased this painting and hung it in the Capitol opposite *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*.

...a torrential downpour
thunders...Rays of
sunshine highlight...dark
shadows...fading into the
misty skies...thin, silver
Colorado River etches a
route...Moisture-laden
clouds...dried-out Douglas-
firs... prickly pear cacti
flourish...Puddles...wink...



Thomas Moran in a photograph from the 1890s. Photograph by Napoleon Sarony, courtesy of the Library of Congress

The Chasm of the Colorado was of biblical proportions: a torrential downpour thunders across the inner canyon from the vantage point of the North Rim (Moran combined features of several North Rim viewpoints to create his painting). Rays of sunshine highlight part of the painting and spotlight other features, while dark shadows on the rim and rock pinnacles surrounding the overlook frame the image. The view seems endless, fading into the misty skies on the distant horizon—perhaps ten miles away or perhaps hundreds of miles in the distance. The thin, silver Colorado River etches a route through the pinnacles near the center of the painting. Moisture-laden clouds squeeze through the spires and buttes of the inner canyon. Two dried-out Douglas-firs wilt on the deserty rim, while prickly pear cacti flourish among the boulders. Puddles from the

...continued on page 10

Painted Canyon...continued from page 9

sudden rainstorm wink from their catchments on the limestone surface.

Many critics were not kind to Moran's painting; one writer, Clarence Cook of the *Atlantic Monthly*, compared it to Dante's descriptions of hell. "The only aim of art is to feed the sense of beauty," Cook wrote. "It has no right to meddle with horrors and desolation."

But others recognized the greatness of Moran's creation. They held more modern beliefs about art, such as the idea that art is about emotion. In this context, *The Chasm of the Colorado* is both an amazing teaching tool and an expression of the occasionally violent forces (as well as the less dramatic ones) that carved the canyon. In fact, the painting likely reveals Moran's own intense emotions about the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

Moran traveled back to the Grand Canyon many times during his career. In 1892 the artist agreed to paint a canvas for the Santa Fe Railway in exchange for free passage to the canyon on the Santa Fe's trains and stagecoaches. The railroad used the resulting painting, *The Grand Colorado* (1892), in travel publications, eventually promoting itself as the "Grand Canyon Line."

Until his death in 1926, many of Moran's Grand Canyon trips were at least partially funded by the Santa Fe. The railroad purchased many paintings and engravings from these trips, and Moran traded paintings and other works of art for railroad passage on several occasions.

Moran's *Chasm of the Colorado*, which hangs today in the American Art Museum at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and

his many subsequent works featuring the Grand Canyon helped popularize the canyon. Although it took until 1919 for Grand Canyon National Park to become a reality, bills were introduced as early as the 1880s to protect the canyon. The canyon was first formally protected in 1893, when President Benjamin Harrison signed into law the creation of Grand Canyon Forest Reserve.

Moran was the first painter to depict the Grand Canyon, and the *Chasm of the Colorado* endures, a striking portrait of one of the most remarkable landscapes on Earth.



Chasm of the Colorado by Thomas Moran. Image courtesy Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection (#20446)

Grand Canyon Association Events

The Grand Canyon Association has produced *Canyon Country Community Lecture Series*, a series of lectures held in Flagstaff and Prescott...and now also in Phoenix, Tempe, Glendale and Tucson.

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).

Phoenix lectures will be held at REI Paradise Valley, 12634 N. Paradise Village Parkway.

Tempe lectures will be held at REI, 1405 W. Southern Avenue.

Glendale lectures will be held at Glendale Foothills Library, 19055 North 57th Avenue.

Tucson lectures will be held at Western National Parks Association, 12880 N. Vistoso Village Drive.

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.

River of Time

by Christa Sadler

Tuesday, April 11 - Phoenix

Wednesday, April 12 - Tempe

Thursday, April 13 - Tucson

Take an exciting expedition through the world famous Grand Canyon, featuring fabulous images and stories of the river. Join veteran Grand Canyon river guide and geologist Christa Sadler for a photographic journey from Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead -- 277 miles through Grand Canyon by raft, dory, motor rig, and paddle boat. Along the way, you will run some of the world's most famous whitewater; discover fossils of creatures that lived in the region millions of years ago; explore ancient ruins; and experience breathtaking waterfalls.

Christa Sadler, author of *Life in Stone: Fossils of the Colorado Plateau* and *There's This River: Grand Canyon Boatman Stories* has worked on rivers throughout the Southwest, Alaska, and Ecuador, and has been a guide on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon since 1988.

The **Phoenix** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at REI Paradise Valley.

The **Tempe** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at REI Tempe.

The **Tucson** lecture begins at Noon and at 2:00 PM at Western National Parks Association.

History of Grand Canyon Trails

by Michael F. Anderson

Sunday, April 16

Many visitors to Grand Canyon National Park take the time to hike portions of the park's central Corridor trails, built or improved in the 1890s – 1930s. Few, however, have the opportunity to become acquainted with the trails built a generation earlier by the canyon's first European-American

prospectors, miners and tourism entrepreneurs. Since the 1970s, these historic trails have been making a comeback among adventuresome backpackers and river runners, and the park service is beginning to maintain some and rehabilitate others to meet demand as well as preserve their original alignments.

Michael F. Anderson is Grand Canyon National Park's trails archeologist and cultural resource specialist. He is the author of *Along the Rim*, *Polishing the Jewel*, and *Living at the Edge*, as well as the editor of *A Gathering of Grand Canyon Historians*, all published by GCA.

This **Prescott** lecture begins at 1:00 PM at Sharlot Hall Museum.

Apaches in the Northland: A Brief Look at the Dilzhe'e People

by Chris Coder

Wednesday, April 19

Before 1870 much of the country around Flagstaff was occupied by the Dilzhe'e, an Athapaskan-speaking people known popularly as the Tonto Apache. These people lived in the region for centuries, but in 1875, the government force-marched the Dilzhe'e, along with their Yavapai neighbors, to a detention camp at San Carlos, east of Phoenix.

Chris has been an archaeologist since moving to Flagstaff in 1980. He has a B.A. in geology from Augustana College and an M.A. in anthropology from NAU. Most of his field experience has been on the Colorado Plateau north of the Colorado River in Utah and out on the High Plains. Chris specializes in field survey, geomorphology and Apache Ethnohistory. He spent 7 years working on the River Corridor Project in Grand Canyon National Park and

has been the Tribal Archaeologist for the Yavapai-Apache Nation in Camp Verde since 1997. He lives with his wife and daughters outside of Flagstaff.

This **Flagstaff** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at the Cline Library.

The Painted Desert: A Lost Landscape

by Scott Thybony

Thursday, April 20

Writer Scott Thybony presents stories and images from Northern Arizona's intriguing Painted Desert. He focuses on a corner of this landscape -- a hoodoo land of wind-carved cliffs and shifting dunes lying at the heart of the desert. He tells the story through the lives of an eccentric anthropologist, a pioneering biologist, a movie star, and a half-crazed prophet who believed he had discovered the construction site of Noah's Ark.

Scott Thybony is an anthropologist by education and a writer by profession. He has written books and articles for National Geographic, and his work has appeared in major newspapers and magazines.

Burntwater was chosen as a finalist for a PEN literacy award in creative nonfiction, and he has a book on the Painted Desert in press. The Flagstaff resident has lived with native peoples in the American Southwest and the Arctic; His extensive travels have resulted in award-winning articles for magazines such as Smithsonian, Men's Journal, and Outside. The former river guide and archeologist brings to his writing an enthusiasm for remote places and the people who inhabit them.

This **Glendale** lecture begins at 7:00 PM at Glendale Foothills Library.

GCA Opening Event at Book Festival

A Gathering of Grand Canyon Historians
Friday, April 21

Northern Arizona Book Festival Opening Event features a panel discussion on Grand Canyon history

In January 2002, nearly two hundred historians, witnesses to history, park employees, and others with a passion for Grand Canyon history gathered on the South Rim for the inaugural Grand Canyon History Symposium. Nothing like that had ever been attempted before, and the resulting presentations, discussions, and storytelling sessions generated lively discussions among the attendees.

In an effort to bring the ideas, arguments, and first-person accounts from that event to a larger audience,

historian Michael F. Anderson, Ph.D., has assembled *A Gathering of Grand Canyon Historians*, a collection of essays based on the presentations at the history symposium.

Join Michael Anderson in a panel discussion with three other Grand Canyon historians who participated in the symposium, Janet Balsom, Ph.D., Tom Myers, M.D., and Richard Quartaroli, M.A.

This event will be at Museum of Northern Arizona at 3101 N. Fort Valley Road in **Flagstaff** from **4:00 to 5:30 PM**.

For more information, visit the Northern Arizona Book Festival's web site at NAZBookFestival.org.

Kolb Studio Exhibit

April 10 – June 5

Arts for the Parks

The one-of-a-kind exhibit showcases artists who interpret the nation's public lands through painting. The reception on April 10 begins at 7 PM.

June 18 – October 15

Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography. The exhibit

features historical modern-day images from the greatest photographers to aim their lenses at the Canyon. A book with the same title will be released to coincide with the event. The reception on June 18 begins at 7 PM. Many of the featured photographers will be on hand for the opening.

Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 10067

Prescott, Arizona 86304-0067

02-06

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PRESCOTT, AZ
PERMIT #43