



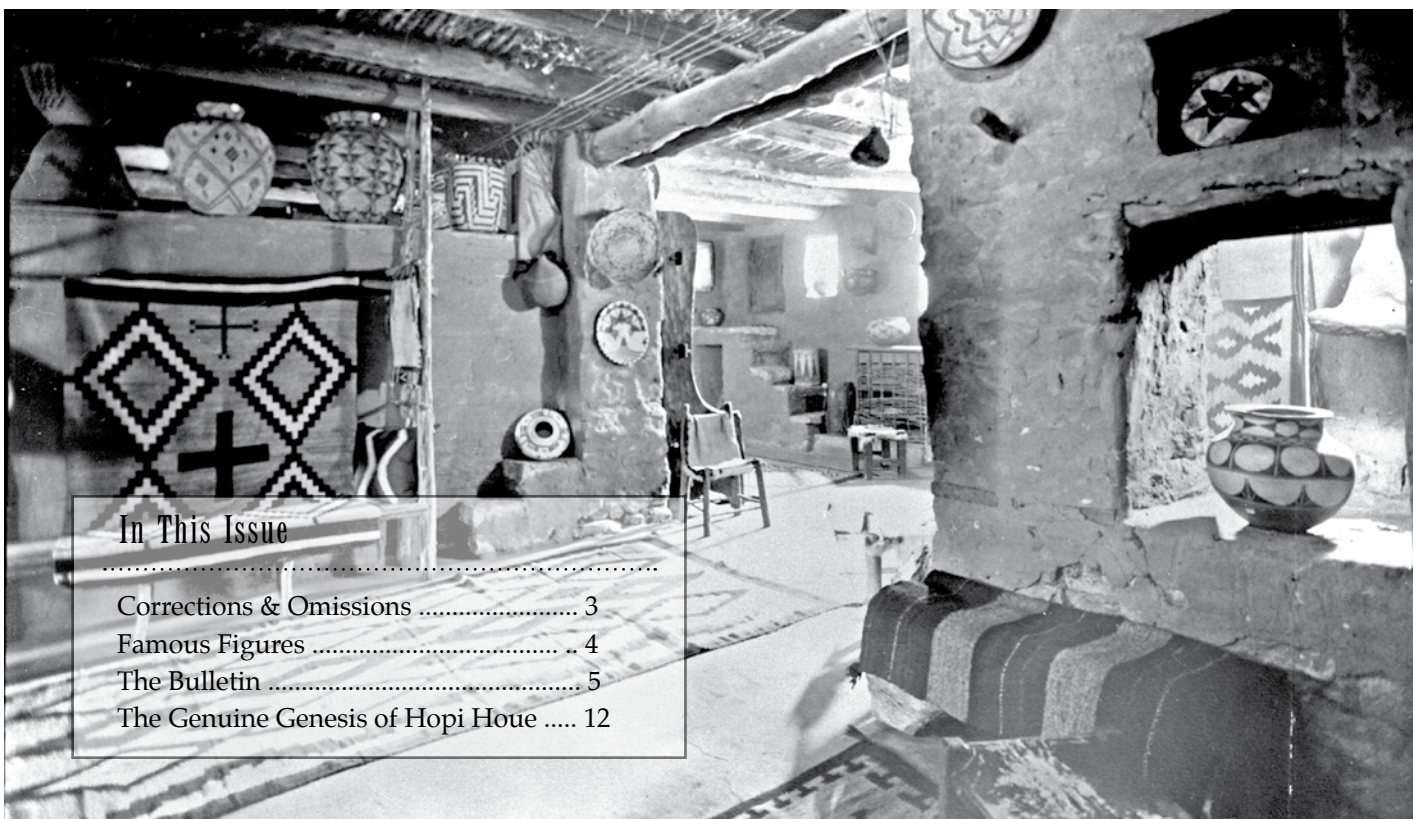
The Ol' Pioneer

The Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

Volume 30 : Number 2

www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

Spring 2019



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President's Letter

In February, our Grand Canyon Historical Society (GCHS) held a very successful 5th Grand Canyon History Symposium. Many of our members attended, and I'm sure they will concur with my conclusion. In this message I will share some observations, frustrations, emotions and even humor from my perspective as Co-chair.

One of our symposium objectives was to offer early registration for GCHS members. We initiated this process with the 2016 symposium. At that gathering, about 58% of the 241 registered were members. At the 2019 symposium, 87% of the 255 registered were GCHS members. We are pleased that this policy allowed so many members to attend. It also provided an extra incentive to join GCHS, and led to a large increase in our membership. I hope those new members will continue as members for many years.

Another of our objectives was to be the kickoff event for the Centennial of Grand Canyon National Park. Therefore, we asked the Park administration to grant us the dates immediately prior to the official anniversary of February 26, 2019. Since there can be snow in late February, we planned the agenda to have activities in the Shrine of the Ages all day, each day. Turned out we had a lot more than "a little" snow, but we were prepared for that eventuality. Those who were coordinating the afternoon tours were the real miracle workers. Co-chair Slim Woodruff and her team of presenters and volunteers did amazing work to keep the tours running. Closed roads, the cemetery covered with snow, a box of uranium ore, and moved locations were all issues dealt with by this dedicated group who would not give up. The same can be said for those who had signed up for the tours and remained flexible.

Had we planned on a possible Federal Government shutdown? Not in February! That always happens in October. As the shutdown dragged on, we were determined not to cancel the symposium and developed alternatives. Registrants had already paid for transportation and lodging and we were going to make this happen! Then the government re-opened with two weeks of funding; great but our event was in three weeks! Frustrating is not a strong enough word, but our team of volunteers stayed totally focused. It was like a game of "whack a mole"! Every time we resolved one issue another would surface

On Wednesday afternoon when I departed the Shrine, I felt we were prepared for the Thursday morning opening. Driving slowly in a blizzard, I was wondering how many or few people would I find at the Welcoming Social Reception. With difficulty, I found a parking space near the Backcountry Office and made the cold and snowy walk to Maswik Lodge. I was overjoyed when I entered the room to see how many people had made it to the South Rim! It was then I finally felt sure this Grand Canyon Centennial History Symposium was going to happen! I felt such pride in all the people who worked to make it all come together, and such respect for the dedicated people who came from all over the country to participate. It was very emotional as I joined the large crowd.

As President, it is a tradition that I open the symposium with a welcome to everyone. At 1:00 a.m., hours before my Thursday welcome, I woke up and concluded that my prepared remarks were just not right. I decided I would just speak from my heart with the emotions I felt walking into the reception crowd. So at 8:00 a.m., I took a deep breath and began by saying, "Good morning. I want to welcome you all to MY Grand Canyon!" The shock and tension showed

Cover Photo Top: Metz car posed on drive in front of the Hopi House. Ladders between levels. Circa 1914. Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection

Bottom: Mary Colter interior decoration in Hopi House. Circa 1905. Detroit photographic. GRCA 15803d

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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.

The Ol' Pioneer is published by the GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. An integral part of the publication is an informational section, *The Bulletin*, that updates members on Society activities, programs, events, Board actions and discussions. *The Ol' Pioneer* is a benefit of membership and 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 \$25 are payable on the 1st of January each year, and mailed to the GCHS Treasurer, PO Box 1667, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-1667. *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.

Editor: Mary Williams

Submission deadlines: January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Submit photos and stories to the editor of *The Ol' Pioneer* at: maryinfo@marywilliamsdesign.com Contact for mailing address (928) 606-9932. Please submit written articles and photos electronically by email if possible. Submissions to *The Bulletin* should be sent to thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org

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Kristen Luetkemeier	Slim Woodruff

by the audience was amazing. The timekeeper immediately held up the "STOP" sign. But I went on to say, "Each of the 250 of you sitting here thinks of this place as YOUR Grand Canyon. All of us here have different experiences and interests defining "their" Grand Canyon. But this event will be for all of us, now part of "our Grand Canyon."

I believe those who attended will agree that we all learned and enjoyed

the presentations and had fun seeing old friends and making new ones. On Saturday afternoon when the sun once again shone on the snow-covered upper canyon walls, I was as moved as my first view at age nine in 1957. This canyon's beauty can't be adequately described nor can my feelings for all who were part of this 5th Grand Canyon History Symposium. All I can say is that collectively "our" Grand Canyon is a special place, but

it was so enhanced by sharing it with all the people who came to this great gathering in late February.

In the Bulletin section of this issue there is a summary with photos of the event.

Dave Mortenson
President

Corrections and Omissions

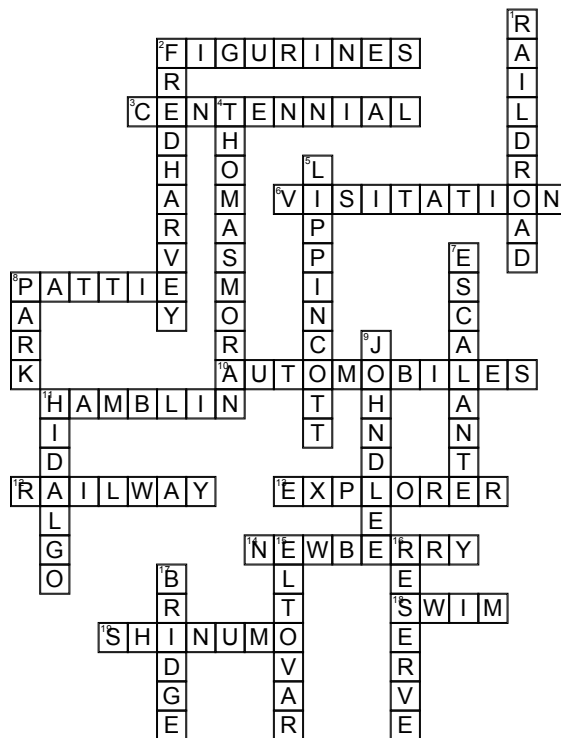
CORRECTION: The photos printed below, in *The Ol' Pioneer* 30:1, were courtesy of Barbara Stephens Odderstol.

L to R: Sonny Lehnert, Christmas 1942 Sonny and parents Carl & Edith Lehnert, Sonny's B-day at Shoshone Pt, 1930s (Sonny is 2nd from L)



The answers to the last issue's "History Timeline" crossword puzzle were left out. Here they are!

.....▶



The BULLETIN



Calendar of 2019 Centennial Dates at or near Grand Canyon National Park

- May 3** "The Cowboy President", Michael Blake, Evening Program McKee Amphitheater Grand Canyon S. Rim
- May 10** Railroad Day and Transcontinental Sesquicentennial, Grand Canyon S. Rim
- May 19** 1:00 p.m. Powell Sesquicentennial Memorial Plaque Dedication Grand Canyon S. Rim
- May 19** "Grand Canyon: Between River and Rim", Pete McBride, Evening Program Shrine of the Ages, Grand Canyon S. Rim
- May 20** John Wesley Powell, Michael Blake, Evening Program McKee Amphitheater Grand Canyon S. Rim
- May 31–June 1** Grand Canyon Wildlife Day, Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza Grand Canyon S. Rim
- June 29** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Centennial Summerfest, Visitor Center Plaza Grand Canyon S. Rim. Explore Arizona food and brews, see cultural demonstrations by tribes native to the canyon, and participate in fun activities that teach you more about this grand canyon!
- July 16 & 17** John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt, Evening Program McKee Amphitheater Grand Canyon S. Rim
- August 8-9** North Rim Native American Heritage Days
- August 23–Sept. 7** Grand Canyon Musical Festival www.grandcanyonmusicfest.org
- October 23–26** Gathering of Colorado River Historians, Kanab, UT
- November 9–10** 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Native American Heritage Month Celebration (South Rim, Shrine of the Ages)
- Check the Park web site for updates to NPS events at: nps.gov/grca/getinvolved/centennial
 - Let us know about other Centennial events: thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org

2019 GCHS EVENTS

APRIL

SPRING BOARD MEETING

Saturday April 27, 2019 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Pioneer Museum - 2340 N. Fort Valley Rd., Flagstaff. Meet in the Gregg Cabin, in the back of the museum property.

OUTING: Explore Bucky O'Neill's Copper Mine

Sunday April 28, 2019 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Forest Service Road 320 and Highway 64.

RSVP by April 21st to Slim Woodruff, outings@grandcanyon-history.org

Join Forest Service Anthropologist Neil Weintraub to explore the Anita Mine area. The Anita Mine was active between 1900 and 1905. We will visit the Anita Mine, the Emerald Mine, and the town site of Copperopolis. For some background, check out this 1933 article from Grand Canyon Nature Notes: http://npshistory.com/nature_notes/grca/vol7-11c.htm

MAY

OUTING: First Ascents Within Grand Canyon – Jim Ohlman **Sunday, May 19, 2019 10:00 a.m.**

Where: Meet at the Shoshone Point parking lot at 10:00 a.m. We will walk to the point for our talk. Note: we have not reserved Shoshone, so if there is an "event" at the point, we'll move to Yaki Point instead.

RSVP by May 12th to Slim Woodruff, outings@grandcanyon-history.org

During the 1960s and 1970s, certain members of the venerable NAU Hiking Club ventured far beyond the established routes and trails. Many were first ascents of isolated buttes below the Canyon rim. Join one of these elite climbers, Jim Ohlman, as he regales us with tales of daring-do.

JUNE

OUTING: Tour of the S. Rim Power House **Saturday, June 22, 2019 10:00 a.m.**

Where: Meet at the train depot at 10:00 a.m.

RSVP by June 15th to Slim Woodruff, outings@grandcanyonhistory.org. Limited to 15 people.

Join Ellen Brennan for an inside look at the iconic power house on the South Rim. Bring a flashlight in case we make it into the dark and dank depths. After the power house we may join a wrangler for a tour of the mule barn and blacksmith shop.

JULY

MIDYEAR BOARD MEETING

Saturday July 13, 2019 8:30 a.m.

South Rim Community Building

ANNUAL PICNIC AT SHOSHONE POINT

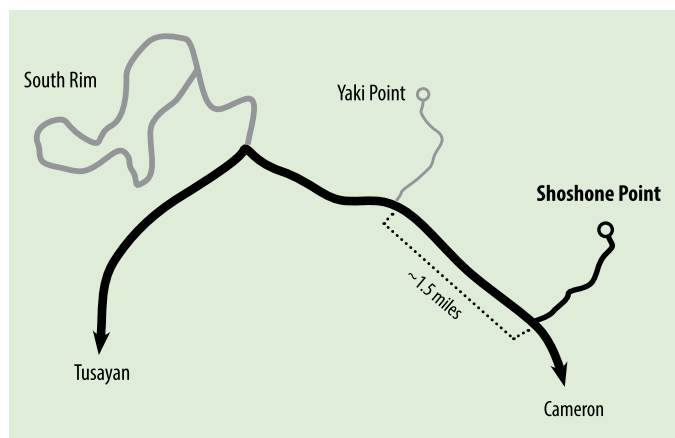
Saturday July 13, 2019 Noon to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will start around 1:00 p.m., followed by a brief Society update. After that will be presentation of the Pioneer Award and Hall of Fame Award.

Everyone should bring: a dish to share (casserole, dessert, etc), drinks, dishes/utensils, and something to barbecue.

Parking at the point will be limited; please carpool or plan to walk from the parking lot. There will be volunteer vehicles to help ferry supplies and people as needed.

To get to Shoshone Point from the main entrance:

- Take the East Rim Drive.
- About 1.5 miles beyond the road to Yaki Point, turn left into a dirt parking area and look for the yellow gate.



GCHS NEWS

Mapping Grand Canyon Conference Presentations Now Online

The Mapping Grand Canyon Conference was an official Grand Canyon Centennial Event that was held February 28 – March 1, 2019. The purpose was to explore the art, science, and practice of Grand Canyon cartography. It was a celebration and critical examination of the cartographic history of a global landscape icon.

The program and videos of the presentations can be viewed at <https://lib.asu.edu/mapping-grand-canyon-conference>

Updated Grand Canyon Bibliography: “The Grand Canon”

Earle Spamer’s Worldwide Bibliography of Grand Canyon and the Lower Colorado River Regions in the U.S. and Mexico has been updated and is available online in pdf form either in parts or as a complete document on Earle’s website <https://ravensperch.org>.

The pdf edition is titled *The Grand Canon* to indicate this is a canon of publications on the Grand Canyon and lower Colorado River covering publications from around the world and over several centuries. *The Grand Canon*, produced in digital format, renews and updates out-of-print editions of the *Bibliography of the Grand Canyon and the Lower Colorado River* by Earle E. Spamer (Grand Canyon Natural History Association, 1981, 1990, 1993).

In addition, *The Grand Canon* complements but significantly elaborates upon the online, searchable database www.grand-canyonbiblio.org sponsored by the Grand Canyon Association 2000–2019 (since 2018 the Grand Canyon Conservancy). The searchable database has not been updated since 2015 and thus *The Grand Canon* is the more up-to-date version and is a fully searchable pdf.

Be sure to read the extensive explanatory material on the website; it will aid in the adventure of tackling this amazing work.

Board Approved at Annual Meeting

As previously announced, GCHS members elected four new board members. They are Nikki Cooley, David Schaller, Jill Staurowsky, and Rich Turner.

Outgoing board members are Donelle Huffer and Arnie Richards. Thank you both for your contributions to GCHS!

At the January 26, 2019 Annual Board Meeting in Flagstaff, the Board was approved. 2019 Board Officers are:

President - Dave Mortenson
Vice President – Haley Johnson
Secretary - Jack Pennington
Treasurer - Brian Blue

New and Continuing board members are: Brian Blue, Dick Brown, Nikki Cooley, Margaret Hangan, Jill Hough, Haley Johnson, Kristen Luetkemeier, Dave Mortenson, Jack Pennington, Doug Rickard, Frank Romaglia, David Schaller, Jill Staurowsky, Rich Turner, and Slim Woodruff.

Farewells

Mary Hoover (12/3/1927-3/23/2019)

Mary Katherine Hoover started her career as a Harvey Girl in Kansas at the age of 15, then came to Grand Canyon in 1946 and stayed until her retirement in 1991. In addition to her years of service with the Fred Harvey Company, Mary spent many years as a member and officer of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 at Grand Canyon from 1946 until she passed away.

Mary was among the first members of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society, now the Grand Canyon Historical Society, and she was among the first recipients of the Grand Canyon Hall of Fame Award for Community Service in 1998. Mary was a regular attendee of the Society's annual picnic at Shoshone Point. Her last picnic was in July 2017; we missed seeing her at the 2018 picnic.

In 2014, Tom Martin conducted an extensive oral history interview with Mary. The transcript and audio recording of all 13 sessions are available on our web site at <http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/oral-history.html>

Mary donated her body to science and when cremated, the ashes will be returned to Kansas for burial with the family. A memorial service has not been scheduled as yet.



Mary Hoover and Jackie Chapman, Harvey Girls 1947.

Mary Hoover's Fred Harvey service pins.



Elchanan Dov (aka Dove) Menkes (1930-2018)

Dove Menkes, another long-time GCHS member, was an avid Grand Canyon hiker and historian who contributed several articles to *the Ol' Pioneer* along with several other history publications. A retired aerospace project manager, Dove was also co-author with George Billingsley and Earle Spamer of the definitive Grand Canyon mining monograph *Quest for the Pillar of Gold* (Grand Canyon Association, c.1997).

Many of us knew Dove through email communications followed soon after by the arrival of a thick US Mail packet filled with articles related to earlier discussions, or sometimes filled with Grand Canyon articles he thought you'd be interested in.

Richard Quartaroli became acquainted with Dove in the mid-1980s through other river historians, and met him a few times in Cline Library Special Collections & Archives (SCA) and also while researching the Dock Marston Collection at the Huntington Library.

Per Richard Q: "He extensively searched archives and newspaper microfilm for anything Grand Canyon and Colorado River, printing everything he could find. As far as I know, he found the earliest mention of the Humpback Chub, that being a news article featuring Ben Beamer: "Up from Colorado Canon; prospector Beamer talks of the chances for good ore," Denver Republican, Morning, July 17, 1892 [reprinted in 1996 in Boatman's Quarterly Review, 9(2):9.]

"He also found Eddie McKee's GCNP report from the 1937 Carnegie-CalTech geology river trip describing the mining camp called the "Movie Set," the one Grand Canyon researchers thought they discovered in the early '90s on their archaeology corridor survey." (You can find citations to Dove's articles by searching Earle Spamer's bibliography described on page 5 in this issue.)

"Dov was always generous with his extensive findings and had been donating his research material to Cline SCA, to join those of Anderson, Reilly, Billingsley, and other Colorado River and Grand Canyon river runners, hikers, and historians. Lots of good stuff for many future topics. Below are two images from a card in the Kolb Collection, a card that Julius Stone had arranged to be sent out after his last run. Nice words for a Dov send off."

WITH a ripple of merry laughter,
A smile and a gay good-bye
To all who made life worth living;
Back to the dust go I.



Highlights of the Fifth Grand Canyon History Symposium!

The 5th Grand Canyon History Symposium, February 20–23, 2019, was the kick-off event honoring the 100th Anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park. The 250 attendees enjoyed a successful three days of individual history presentations, author talks, oral history interviews, keynote and special presentations, and afternoon tours.

Despite the incoming snowstorm, almost 160 people made it to the Wednesday evening social reception at Maswik Lodge. This snowstorm that eventually closed some of the access roads to the Park, was just beginning as the reception kicked off and lasted for over 2 days. Another 70 people managed to reach the South Rim for the opening of the Symposium the following morning. As weather conditions allowed, the number of people attending reached 250. A total of 60 presenters were scheduled and remarkably, only one canceled due to illness, plus two more who were snowed in. Clearly, people who love Grand Canyon history are a dedicated group.

The 26 morning presentations spanning the three mornings covered a range of Grand Canyon topics including the links to Grand Canyon of famous people like Teddy Roosevelt, Charles Lindbergh, and Robert Kennedy. There were accounts of old trails; family businesses; building histories; Park naturalist Louis Schellbach's skunk encounter; mules; mapping the canyon; creation science; long-forgotten hikes and expeditions; and more.

Afternoons were planned to provide attendees a variety of choices either inside the Shrine of Ages or on tours at locations around the South Rim. The snowstorm had a big impact on the tour schedule with some being canceled or relocated. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, twelve different types of tours were conducted with fifteen people presenting. One emphasis was Native Voices tours where indigenous people from around the Grand Canyon shared their history and perspective.

The afternoon Shrine events had three new elements with five author talks, five oral history interviews, and two feature presentations. The author sessions included *Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region*, *Carving Grand Canyon*, *False Architect – The Mary Colter Hoax*, *Printmakers of the Grand Canyon*, and *Images of America: Northern Arizona Space Training*.

The oral history interviews were conducted with Jason Nez–GCNP archaeology and fire; Chris Clark–GCNP trail work and mule packer; Mary Shevlin Ochsenschlager–GCNP childhood; Robert Arnberger–former GCNP superintendent; and Elvera Arnberger–activist and contributor to the health and well-being of the community. Audience members learned of these rich personal histories influenced by Grand Canyon.

Two feature presentations completed the Shrine afternoon programs. 100 Years of Grand, presented by Arizona State University archivists, was about the amazing project that has digitized and made accessible via the Internet archival photographs and documents chronicling the early history of Grand Canyon. This project was featured in the Fall 2018 *Ol' Pioneer*.



Photos: Terri Attridge

The second feature presentation by Jonathan Upchurch related the history of the Kaibab Trail Suspension Bridge, which was dedicated as a National Civil Engineering Landmark during the symposium.

Each evening was concluded with keynote presentations along with presentation of the Lee Albertson Award on the final evening. Each evening was very different, first with author John Ross speaking about John Wesley Powell's life as chronicled in *The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John Wesley Powell's Perilous Journey and His Vision for the American West*. Friday we met Teddy Roosevelt, performed by Gib Young. Saturday was a

powerful presentation and plea for increased protection of the canyon by Kevin Fedarko's *Beneath the River of Shooting Stars*, incorporating Pete McBride's images with Kevin's words.

Prior to Kevin Fedarko's program, the **Lee Albertson Award for Best Morning Presentation** was presented by Lois and Steve Hirst to Bryan Brown and Gary Cascio for their paper: *The Other Lee's Ferry: The Historic River Crossing at Pearce Ferry, 1876 to 1935*. Congratulations Bryan and Gary!

The feelings of the presenters, volunteers and all the attendees were best reflected by the standing ovation when the last words spoken were "WE DID IT!"



Photo: Terri Attridge

Photo: Terri Attridge



Photo: Karen Greig



Photo: Terri Attridge



Photo: Terri Attridge



Photo: Terri Attridge



Photo: Karen Greig



Photo: Karen Greig



Photo: Terri Attridge



Photo: Terri Attridge

Arizona Historic Preservation Conference

June 12–14 at the historic Hassayampa Inn, Prescott, AZ. For the past sixteen years, this conference has brought together preservationists from around the state to exchange ideas and success stories, to share perspectives and solutions to preservation issues, and to foster cooperation within Arizona's diverse preservation community. Information and registration: www.azpreservation.com.

GCNP Superintendent Resigns

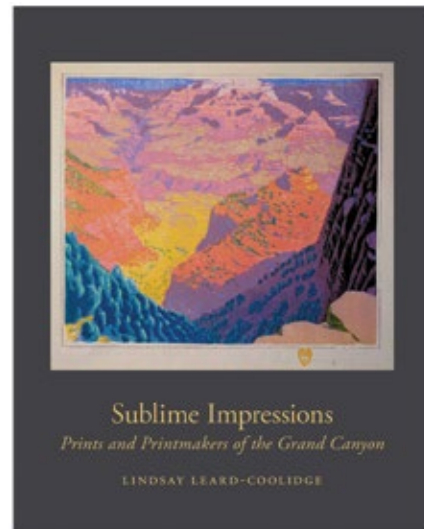
Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Christine S. Lehnertz resigned in mid-March, nearly three years after her appointment to the park's top position. Her resignation came after a several month hiatus where she was temporarily re-assigned during an Inspector General investigation of allegations later determined to be "wholly unfounded" by the Department of Interior. Lehnertz came to Grand Canyon National Park from the superintendent's position at Golden Gate National Recreation Area. She also previously served as Deputy Superintendent at Yellowstone National Park. Lehnertz had been scheduled to speak to the annual Colorado River Guides Training Seminar on March 31st, at Cliff Dwellers. Unable to attend, on that her final day as Superintendent, her farewell letter read to the group closed with these words: "Time in Grand Canyon is long, but our time as people is short. Make the most of every day. Stand up for what you know is right. Encourage the best in people. Take care of the earth, and take care of each other." Lehnertz's legacy includes being the first woman to serve as Superintendent at Grand Canyon National Park.

Submitted by David Schaller

Erik Berg to Receive Pioneer Award!

The Grand Canyon Historical Society is pleased to announce that Erik Berg will be the recipient of the 2019 Pioneer Award. The award will be presented at the Annual Picnic to be held at Shoshone Point on July 13, 2019.

Erik's contributions to Grand Canyon include numerous publications including presentations at three of the five past history symposia. Erik also contributed to GCHS as a past president and board member, re-energizing the Society after the 2007 symposium. A more detailed account of Erik's accomplishments will appear in the Summer 2019 *Ol' Pioneer*. Congratulations Erik!



New Book

Sublime Impressions: Prints and Printmakers of the Grand Canyon, Lindsay Leard-Coolidge, c.2019, Benna Books, 112 pages, \$24.95

Author Lindsay Leard-Coolidge presented an author talk at the recent Grand Canyon History Symposium featuring her book, *Sublime Impressions*. This book traces the history of print-making in the Grand Canyon from the topographical images of the first explorers to the abstracted works of 20th Century modernists, and shows how the medium changed the way Grand Canyon was represented and how the public perceived it. The beauty and variety of the prints in this book make this a unique addition to anyone's Grand Canyon library.

Attention Gmail Users (and others)

If you are not receiving email announcements of outings, membership renewals, or the electronic edition of the *Ol' Pioneer*/Bulletin please check your spam and other email folders (promotions, etc in Gmail). Also, try adding these two email addresses to your contacts so you don't miss out:

thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org
membership@grandcanyonhistory.org

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Karen Greig at thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org.

The Genuine Genesis of Hopi House

This article is derived from Fred Shaw's book "False Architect: The Mary Colter Hoax." Fred also gave an author talk at the 2019 History Symposium; the video can be viewed at this link: <https://vimeo.com/322919890> password is "2019".

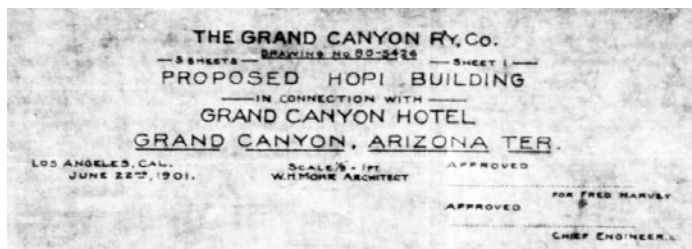
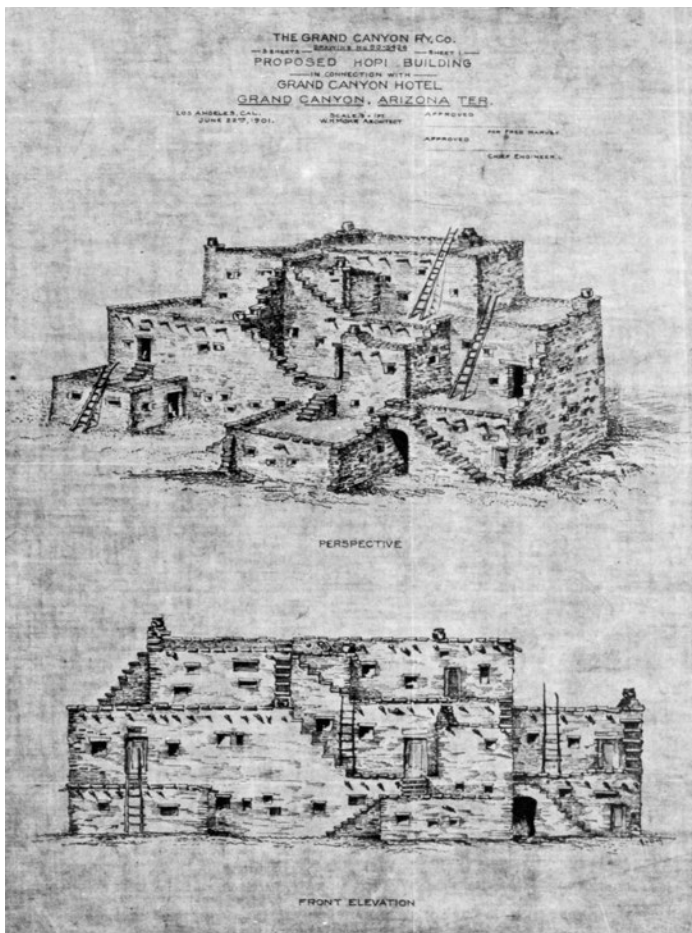
by Fred Shaw

As early as 1895, the organizers of what would become the Santa Fe and Grand Canyon

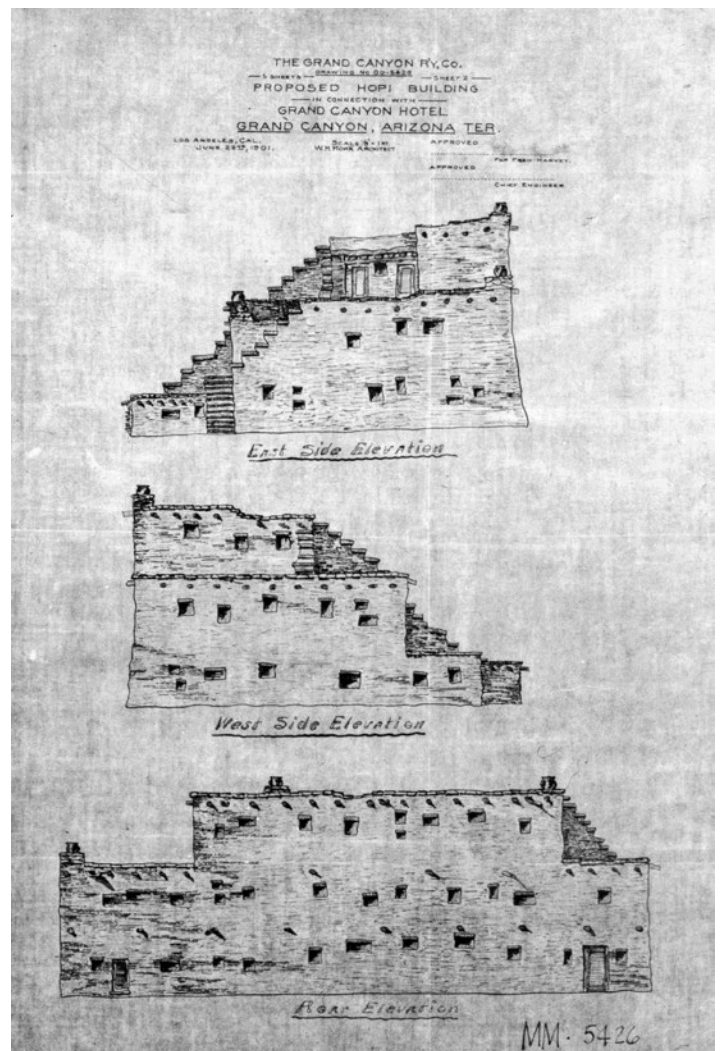
Railway announced construction of trackage from Williams to the south rim of Grand Canyon, envisioning there a large hotel "at the brink of the awful chasm."¹ When funds for the uncompleted railroad ran low in September 1900, it went into receivership, still vowing to erect a "fine Harvey house" at the Canyon.² Reorganized in August 1901 as a branch of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, the renamed Grand Canyon

Railway completed construction two months later.³

Plans for consolidation into the Santa Fe Railway must have been afoot for some time, as the National Park Service's Grand Canyon Museum Collection contains preliminary Hopi House design drawings that predate the August 1901 reorganization. Included are sketches of four elevations and a perspective view, figures 1 to 3, for a



Above: Figure 3 - Proposed Hopi House - Enlarged Legend Excerpt - June 1901 - Grand Canyon Museum Collection, Santa Fe Railway Collection, GRCA



Upper Left: Figure 1 - Proposed Hopi House - Perspective & Front Elevation - June 1901 - Grand Canyon Museum Collection, Santa Fe Railway Collection, GRCA

Above: Figure 2 - Proposed Hopi House - East, West & Rear Elevations - June 1901 - Grand Canyon Museum Collection, Santa Fe Railway Collection, GRCA

“Proposed Hopi Building” planned “in connection with Grand Canyon hotel.”

Dated June 22, 1901 and signed by William H. Mohr (1860-1946), a staff architect in the Santa Fe Railway’s Los Angeles office, the sketches vary somewhat from the final structure, but the differences in concept are negligible.

Mohr’s drawings were further refined to the end result by Charles Whittlesey (1867-1941), figure 4,



Figure 4 - Charles F. Whittlesey, Western Architect and Engineer, March 1908, Frontispiece

architect of El Tovar and Albuquerque’s Alvarado Hotel, who met with Ford Harvey and other Fred Harvey officials in April 1903 to review completed plans for Hopi House. John Stein, general superintendent of the Harvey

system, related the meeting’s primary objective to the *Albuquerque Citizen*:

*However, there is one matter of importance which will undoubtedly be acted upon today. The plans and specifications for the immense museum and curio to be erected at the Grand Canyon, drawn by architect Whittlesey, have been completed and Mr. Harvey and the other gentlemen will inspect the plans today, preliminary to their adoption. There will perhaps be a few changes made to meet the convenience of the business. As soon as the plans have been passed upon the work of construction will begin in a short time. We are all of the opinion that a museum and curio at the Grand Canyon will be an excellent addition to the system.*⁴

Intended to be a mostly faithful recreation of a genuine Hopi abode, Hopi House presented little challenge to an architect of Whittlesey’s skills. In 1903, Whittlesey was also designing buildings for the proposed Fraternal City Sanatorium [sanitarium] at Alamogordo, New Mexico. When completed, this “Climatorium” was to be an entire village “adapted from

Indian Pueblo Architecture” and devoted to treating 5,000 tuberculosis patients.⁵

Although Whittlesey was an extraordinary talent, ensuring Hopi House authenticity required an overseer well versed in Hopi ways. To that end, on September 7, 1908 Fred Harvey executive John F. Huckel traveled to Newton, Kansas to recruit Reverend Heinrich Richert Voth (1855-1931), figure 5, to supervise the imminent construction of Hopi House. The local newspaper reported:

*J. F. Huckel, manager of the Fred Harvey news service, was here yesterday conferring with Rev. H. R. Voth in regard to a Hopi House which the Santa Fe is thinking of having built on the banks of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. This house, it is planned, is to be an exact reproduction of a Hopi house, and no one knows better than Rev. Voth how such a structure should be built. Inside it is proposed to sell curios of all kinds to the tourists. Mr. Voth’s suggestions will probably be carried out in the building of the house.*⁶

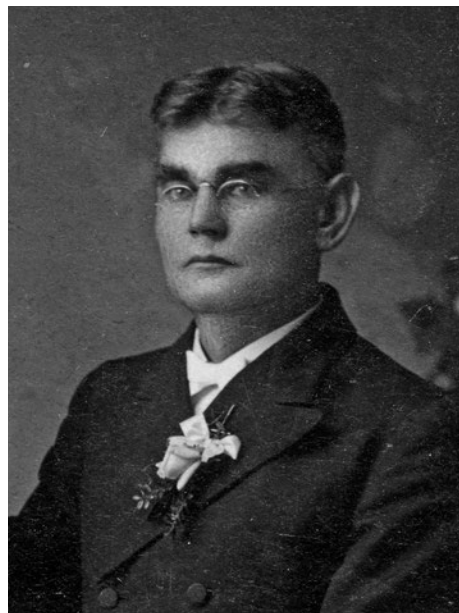


Figure 5 - H. R. Voth, November 1906, Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

Besides an association with Chicago’s Field Columbian Museum, known today as the Field Museum of Natural History, Voth was a Mennonite

minister and ethnologist who had lived with the Hopis for extended periods of time.⁷ The scholarly Voth was reportedly one of the few Caucasians fluent in the Hopi language.

A few weeks before his September visit to Newton, Huckel had sent Voth a letter seeking his assistance. Field Museum archives contain Voth’s August 20, 1904 letter asking the guidance of Dr. George A. Dorsey, Field Museum ethnologist and curator.

*I have been looking for a letter from you in reply to my various communications. I hardly know what to plan or to do. Received [sic] a letter from Mr. Huckel today with regard to the Hopi house at the Grand Canyon. The letter is dated Aug. 18th and at the conclusion of it Mr. Huckel says: “I will know definitely about the matter next week. My impression is that the work will be begun by the 25th of this month.” Can you conveniently arrange to go to Arizona in the near future in connection with this work? Mr. H also says that he expects to pass through Newton the first part of next week and wants to see me. But as I consider myself in your employ and my leave of absence has expired I do not, of course, want to enter upon any other work without having an understanding with you about it. I should, of course, prefer to continue to work out my notes or take up the work in Chicago, but if you prefer to have me help out the Fred Harvey people, I shall consider the matter.*⁸

Voth accepted Huckel’s offer, and newspapers in three states documented his progress constructing Hopi House. The *Albuquerque Weekly Citizen* reported October 8, 1904 that Voth was sourcing suitable stone for the project:

*Dr. H. B. [sic] Voth, of Newton, Kansas, was in the city last night en route to the Grand Canyon of Arizona. Dr. Voth is engaged in geological research work for the Fred Harvey museum.*⁹

Two weeks later, a *Williams, Arizona* newspaper reported:

Rev. H. R. Voth, missionary at the Hopi reservation, is here to oversee the construction of the Indian curio

building. This building when finished will certainly look Indian enough, and is a work of art in its own way.¹⁰

Although Voth had planned to work continuously at Hopi House toward a Christmas completion, in mid-November his son developed a serious illness requiring Voth's return to Newton, where the *Evening Kansan-Republican* reported:

*H. R. Voth was called from Arizona by a telegram announcing the fact his little son has diphtheria. He had expected to stay until Christmas.*¹¹

While he was in Newton, the newspaper interviewed Voth about his work at Grand Canyon. After describing the El Tovar project, the article segued to Hopi House:

*About an [sic] hundred yards from this hotel is located a Hopi Indian house in which Mr. Voth is very much interested. The Santa Fe is having the house built in true Hopi style, to the minutest detail. There is a curio room, a museum, and a sales room where Hopi curiosities of all kind will be sold to travelers. One end of the house is being fitted up for occupancy by a couple of Hopi families, who will live in their native style. The house is nearing completion, the roof only being lacking. Just before he was called to Newton, Mr. Voth had arranged to have a number of the Hopis come from the reservation to put in the fireplaces, the chimneys, the bins for storing dried fruit, corn, and other food products, and the mealing stones. These will be arranged just as they are in the native villages. The Fred Harvey people will have charge of the exhibit and will probably derive considerable revenue from it. Near-by some Navajo Indians are to put up some of the "hogans" or houses, to form part of the exhibit.*¹²

Voth was home about four days before the local newspaper reported his family health crisis had passed:

*The home of Rev. H. R. Voth was released from quarantine today the house having been thoroughly fumigated and the necessary steps taken by the health officer.*¹³

This favorable development freed Voth to resume work at Grand Canyon a few days later, as noted in a Newton paper:

*Rev. H. R. Voth leaves this evening for the scene of his labors at the head of the Bright Angel trail on the banks of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. There he will finish his work in connection with the building of a model Hopi house for the Fred Harvey people. He will have the assistance from now on of a band of Hopi people who are to look after some of the details in the building. Mr. Voth expects to stay in Arizona until Christmas when he will come home for a short stay.*¹⁴

In addition to numerous telegrams communicating arrangements between Huckel and Voth, the Mennonite Library Archives in Newton, Kansas contain mid-December photographs, figures 6 and 7, of Voth working at Hopi House with his Hopi friend, Qömayeshtiwa, a recent convert to Christianity. The Voth collection also contains photographs, figures 8 and 9, of Hopi House under construction.

On December 17, Voth gave a special preview of the Hopi Building to a visiting dignitary:

*Sir Wilfred Laurier, the premier of Canada, and his party were visitors at the Canyon in their fine private car "Violet" last Saturday. Manager Shea escorted them to the different points of interest about the Canyon, and they were all very much interested in what they saw, and especially so in the Indian building, which seemed a revelation to them. Mr. Voth, who has been with the Hopi Indians, explained the building in detail to them.*¹⁵

To furnish and stock Hopi House, two railcars filled with artifacts and inventory traveled from Albuquerque's Alvarado to Grand Canyon, one embarking on December 24 and the other on Christmas Day.¹⁶ Given the distance of over 400 miles by today's automobile, and freight train speeds of that era at 15-20 MPH, it may have taken as much as a day for the trains to complete the trip.

Freehand drawing and literature



Figure 6 - H. R. Voth & Qömayeshtiwa Working at Hopi House - December 1904 - Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.



Figure 7 - H. R. Voth & Qömayeshtiwa Working at Hopi House - December 1904 - Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.



Figure 8 - Masons Laying Stone at Hopi House - 1904 - Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.



Figure 9 - Wooden Gantry Crane at Hopi House - 1904 - Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

teacher Mary Colter (1869-1958) and her sister Harriet (1863-1923) traveled from their Saint Paul, Minnesota home to Grand Canyon over Colter's 1904 Christmas break to decorate and arrange Hopi House interiors. Fulfilling the social media function of that era's newspapers, the *Albuquerque Morning Journal* of Monday, December 19, 1904, figure 10, announced the Colter sisters' presence there:

*Miss Mary Coulter [sic] and Miss H. B. Coulter are guests in the city. This evening the Misses Coulter will go to the Grand Canyon hotel, El Tovar, where they will decorate the Harvey museum and curio rooms.*¹⁷

Although archival copies of the competing *Albuquerque Daily Citizen* for that date are not available, the *Albuquerque Weekly Citizen* of December 24, 1904 reported that the *Daily Citizen* of the 19th had published a near-identical announcement about the Colters.¹⁸

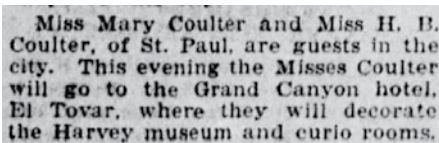


Figure 10 - Colter Sisters in Albuquerque, Enroute to Grand Canyon to Decorate Hopi House, Albuquerque Journal, December 19, 1904, Page 8.j

Voth maintained a diary during this period, and his entry for December 20, 1904, figure 11, confirms these newspaper reports. Mixing English and the Mennonite *Plautdietsch* German patois, Voth wrote "*Zwei Misses Colter gek*," his cursive digitally enlarged in the figure 11 inset. According to John Thiesen, archivist and co-director of the Mennonite Library at Bethel College of North Newton, Kansas, "*gek*" is an abbreviation of the German word "*gekommen*," a past participle of "arrive." Hence, the English translation is roughly "Two Misses Colter have arrived."¹⁹

With Saint Paul schools in session through Friday, December 23, 1904, Colter must have taken that week off to arrive at Grand Canyon by December

20th.²⁰ Voth's diary does not mention the departure date of the Colter sisters. His next entry was December 28, after his return to Newton for Christmas.

For the 1904 Christmas break, Saint Paul public schools closed through January 2nd of 1905, necessitating that Colter resume teaching soon after that date.²¹ With much of the inventory arriving the day after Christmas, Colter and Harriet no doubt hustled to complete the interior decoration in time to return to Minnesota for school reopening.

Design drawings, numerous newspaper accounts, and archival collections clearly debunk the Mary-Colter-designed-Hopi-House narrative believed and beloved by legions of Colter fans. Her legend has become so pervasive, though, that one must ask how so many intelligent and well-intentioned people were deceived into believing she designed this landmark.

At root, the cause seems to have been a matter of trusting too much. Due to previous Colter biographers assuming that eighty-three year-old Colter was truthful in the 1952 "autobiographical summary" she wrote for submission to the Park Service, they never vetted her claims

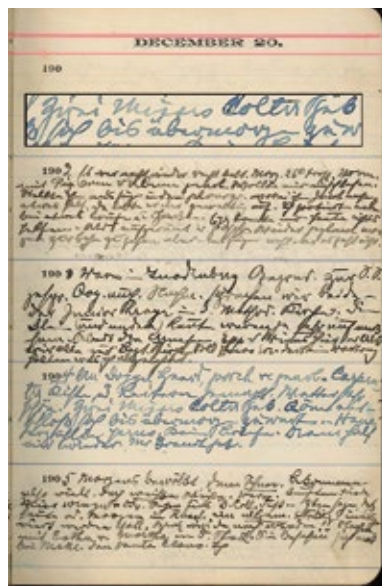


Figure 11 - Two Misses Colter Arrive at Grand Canyon, H. R. Voth Diary Entry, December 20, 1904 - Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

against independent contemporaneous primary sources.²² These omissions had a dire effect upon historical accuracy, as Colter's autobiography was rife with falsehoods that have since metastasized into today's legend.

For example, in her autobiography Colter claimed she "attended St. Paul High School, graduated at 14 years of age," meaning she would have received her diploma in 1883.²³ Although most Colter biographies laud this astounding feat, four June 1888 Saint Paul newspaper articles document her participation in that year's high school commencement ceremonies, proving she was actually nineteen at graduation.²⁴

Colter stated in her autobiography that she "attended San Francisco Art School for four years, studied drawing and decoration."²⁵ Colter actually attended the San Francisco Art Association's California School of Design (CSD). "San Francisco Art School" was a colloquial name Oaklanders gave to CSD across the Bay.

In describing her education at CSD, Colter stretched the truth in several directions, beginning by claiming she had attended for four years. Colter graduated high school in mid-1888, was back in St. Paul in mid-1891 and began teaching in Wisconsin in January, 1892, so her attendance at CSD could have been three years at most.²⁶

This is consistent with the school's course of study during Colter's time there, as CSD's full program was triennial, and not the four years often assumed.²⁷ CSD retained its three-year program even after it affiliated with the University of California and the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art in 1893.²⁸

Colter could not have studied decoration at CSD. The school offered no decoration classes until almost a decade after she attended. The Hopkins Institute's 1900 catalogue proposed expanding the curriculum to include new "Decorative Design" and "Historic Ornament" classes, should sufficient demand materialize.²⁹

Colter's autobiography stated that while attending school in San

Francisco, she “studied architecture in office of San Francisco Architects,” although she mentioned neither an architect’s name nor an apprenticeship. No one has found evidence supporting Colter’s claim to have studied in an architect’s office, yet most biographies state she obtained an architectural apprenticeship.³⁰

Of her teaching career, Colter’s autobiography states that following her fledgling semester teaching at the Stout Manual Training School of Menomonie, Wisconsin, she:

...then taught freehand and mechanical drawing and architecture in Mechanic Art School for Boys in St. Paul for seven years.”³¹

Colter’s characterization of Mechanic Arts High as a “School for Boys” school is puzzling. It was coeducational from its 1895 inception, and never a single-sex school.³² Despite Colter’s statement she taught only seven years in St. Paul, city directories reveal she taught full-time there every year from 1893 through the first half of 1907.

In the summer of most years, the Board of School Inspectors published in the St. Paul Globe the job duties and salaries of the teachers rehired for the following year. The *Saint Paul Globe* discontinued operations on April 20, 1905, making 1904 the last year teacher positions and salaries were posted.³³ In every publication before that, Colter was teaching drawing or freehand drawing, with English or literature added to her duties some years. During these years, an instructor other than Colter was dedicated to teaching mechanical drawing classes.³⁴

Published events of 1903 prove Colter was unqualified to teach mechanical drawing. That year mechanical drawing instructor C.L. Caldwell left teaching for a law career after passing the bar examination.³⁵ No one on staff was qualified to teach the subject, so administrators recruited a replacement from outside the current teachers. The newspaper reported: “It has been found that it will be necessary to send out of the city to secure a teacher of mechanical drawing and a

teacher of joinery at the Mechanic Arts High School.”³⁶

Second only to Colter’s autobiographical summary, Virginia Grattan’s 1980 *Mary Colter: Builder upon the Red Earth* is foundational to the Colter legend.³⁷ Virtually every subsequent mention of Colter treats Grattan’s book as a sacrosanct source, yet most Builder references to Colter as an architect stem from either Colter’s autobiographical summary or Grattan’s June 1977 interview of Alvina Zimmerman, Colter’s late-life secretary and companion.

A Midwestern native, Zimmerman did not move to Santa Fe until the mid-1940s.³⁸ Having witnessed neither construction nor design work firsthand, she could only have repeated Colter’s accounts of events occurring a decade or more earlier.

For instance, Colter’s autobiography did not mention graduation from CSD, stating only she attended CSD for four years. Despite Colter’s silence on commencement, Grattan believed Colter obtained a degree from CSD in 1890.³⁹ CSD did not issue degrees during the years Colter attended. It offered no formal graduation, and did not even award “certificates of proficiency” until 1895, four years after Colter completed her studies there.⁴⁰ Either Grattan assumed four years of school meant a degree awarded, or Zimmerman related Colter’s embellished account of her post-secondary schooling.

Until the late 1930s, Fred Harvey managed all hotel and restaurant construction at the company’s Kansas City headquarters. In 1977 and 1978, Grattan interviewed Harold A. Belt and Charles O. Coverley, and corresponded with Zelma Fowler, Nina Schulze, and Joe Emma Van Noy, all of whom had worked with Colter at Fred Harvey headquarters, some for decades.⁴¹ That Grattan could not quote even one of these Colter coworkers referring to her as an architect gives lie to the notion that Colter was one.

Of her Fred Harvey employment, Colter stated in her autobiographical summary:

FIRST POSITION WITH FRED HARVEY:
1902, JULY.

ARCHITECT AND DECORATOR, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO⁴²

By Colter’s own admission, her first employment with Fred Harvey did not begin until a year after William H. Mohr created the preliminary design drawings for Hopi House. Colter went on to describe her initial temporary job for Fred Harvey at Grand Canyon as:

*First work at the Grand Canyon was the Hopi House. It opened before the El Tovar Hotel, about January 1, 1905.*⁴³

She did not specify the nature of this “first work,” which may be why the authors of 1977’s *National Park Service Rustic Architecture* hedged by stating Colter “probably” designed Hopi House.⁴⁴

Colter’s cryptic description of her role at Hopi House was sufficiently convincing for at least eight biographers and historians to state unequivocally she was its architect.⁴⁵ One account goes further, claiming Colter spent half a year in Arizona studying Hopi culture before she designed Hopi House, despite Colter’s teaching position precluding a six-month vacation.⁴⁶

In addition to crediting Colter with the architecture of Hopi House, some accounts have her superintending its construction as well – an impossible feat placing her in two states at the same time.⁴⁷ Saint Paul public schools opened for the new school year on September 6, 1904, requiring Colter to report to her classroom the day before J. F. Huckel recruited Voth for the Hopi House job.⁴⁸

Some Colter biographers may have misconstrued a March 1915 article in the *Kansas City Star* entitled “A Kansas City Woman Decorated the Hopi House.”⁴⁹ The article states “Hopi House necessitated a long residence in the Grand Canyon before its every detail of construction and interior decoration was completed.” Use of the passive voice implies Colter was that resident, but the article fails to name the person whose long residence was

required. A casual perusal might lead one to believe this statement suggested Colter was on-site in 1904 to supervise construction of the building.

As Colter's brief stay at Grand Canyon in late December 1904 did not constitute a "long residence," the person of such residence could only have been Voth, his supervision at Hopi House well documented. Colter was in a Minnesota classroom throughout the entire period of construction, arriving in late December to decorate the interior.

It appears Colter's tales captivated the *Star* writer, who ended the article with "Many Kansas City people know the hotel at Hutchinson, Kan., designed and decorated by her." The Santa Fe Railway commissioned the design of its Bisonte Hotel in Hutchinson with Kansas City architect Louis Curtiss (1865-1924) in June 1906.⁵⁰ Although Colter decorated the interior of Curtiss's Bisonte, she played no part in its design.⁵¹

William H. Mohr and Charles F. Whittlesey share credit for the design of Hopi House. Heinrich R. Voth supervised its construction with authenticity. Mary Colter's contribution to the Hopi House of 1904 was approximately ten days of decorating the interior of the completed building.

Incontrovertible evidence disproves the decades-old fallacy that Colter designed Hopi House, and the time has come to set the record straight. Ethics dictate that the National Park Service and Xanterra cease attributing Hopi House to her, and properly credit its genuine creators. Similarly, Grand Canyon Conservancy, publisher of *Mary Colter: Builder upon the Red Earth*, may wish to reassess its marketing of Colter's falsities as non-fiction.

Justice requires a swift and long-overdue correction of Hopi House history.

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