

Vanishing Treasurers Preservation of Beamer's Cabin

On Saturday, November 16, we were pleased to have as our presenter, Amy Horn, Park Archeologist for Grand Canyon National Park. Amy is a vanishing treasures archeologist who helped with the preservation treatment at Beamer's Cabin.

First, Amy explained about the Vanishing Treasures Initiative. Beginning in the 1990s, there were many retirements of skilled masons. Ruins stabilization began to suffer, so Congress passed a measure that used skilled seasonal employees to fill positions. Prehistoric ruins were assigned as specific projects to stabilize. The structures targeted were standing structures that were not being used for their original purpose.



[Beamer Cabin – photo courtesy NPS, 2002.]

The Beamer Cabin is slightly upriver on the Little Colorado River past the confluence of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River. In 1890 Ben Beamer, used the rocks from a prehistoric ruin to create a cabin with the cliffside as the back wall. In the two years that he lived there, he only came out of the canyon once. He spent his time there mining, farming, and building trails.

The site where he built his shelter is a site rich with evidence of cultural occupation - human trash dating back 4,000 years. This area has evidence of long use because of the Hopi

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Proposed 2003 Programs/Outings

An informal poll among some of the members regarding the outings for next year have resulted in this tentative list:

January: No meeting

February: Tucson (museum and historical presentation)

March: Lees Ferry (history of Lees Ferry, honeymoon trail)

April: Prescott (Sharlot Hall Museum)

May: Flagstaff (Museum of Northern Arizona)

June: Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point

July: Fourth of July at Jacob Lake (history of Arizona Strip)

August: No meeting

September: Anita Mine (history of railroad, mining)

October: Flagstaff (board meeting, slide presentation)

November: Phoenix (museum or other)

December: No meeting

Let me know what you think of the locations and contact me by email to add suggestions or propose changes.

Hope all is well with you and yours,

John Azar

TontoWalk@aol.com

2003 Outings Coordinator

Beamer Cabin ...continued from page 1

Salt Trail and the Sipapu, both sacred to the Hopi. The Hopi have oral histories about the Beamer Cabin, referring to it as "the white man's store" - which undoubtedly is what it looked like to the Hopi hiking by in such an isolated spot. Also, there are pictographs of hands and amorphous beings to the right of the cabin.

In 1968, the National Park Service removed some of the fragile artifacts. In 1985, some stabilization occurred, as well as some test excavations.

In 1989, there was stabilization work on the dune where the cabin rests. The main problem with the cabin was that it was sliding forward, causing cracks and gaps to form. Sand was eroding and undermining the front of the cabin. Time-lapse photos clearly shows the erosion.

One major part of the work was building a retaining wall, which was built in front of the door to armor it against all the foot traffic. Building a retaining wall involved bringing huge river rocks UPHILL, crushing rocks, and adding

sand and gravel. The trail crew built special "wheelbarrows" for the job - the basin part attached to two boards so materials could be transported by 2 people carrying it like a litter. Chinking was also added to the stones to the left of the door. A dripline was also installed to direct water away from the alcove above the cabin, because there was evidence that the cabin



had been full of water in the past.

Amy explained that now, in any stabilization work, a date stamp is included for documentation to take out the guesswork for future work.

We hope to see Amy again with programs as historic structures get a facelift.

[Article Submitted by Nancy Green]

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A New Name and A New Web Page... Same Old President!

On October 19, 2002, at the annual Board Meeting of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society, the Board voted to change the name of our Society to the Grand Canyon Historical Society. The first reason for doing this was that the new name is a better description of our Society. Second reason was that many people, who are interested in what we do, do not think they qualify to be a member because they are not pioneers. The name of our publication will remain the Ol' Pioneer.

Thanks to Diane Cassidy for creating a new web page for the Grand Canyon Historical Society. This attractive new web page will be helpful for members and non-members who are seeking information about the Grand Canyon.

John Azar, Vice President and Outings

Coordinator, is putting together an interesting and varied 2003 Outings Program Schedule. Bill Bishop, one of the newest members of the Board, will be assisting John with lunch and meeting arrangements plus advertising. Mark your calendar now for the 3rd Saturday of each month in 2003 so you won't miss any of these events.

The GCHS Board has appointed me to be President for 2003. It is an honor and privilege to serve you. I thank them and will continually ask them for their support as we move forward with the activities, publications and outings. With aid and advise from the Board and the Membership, we can make 2003 a year to remember in the history of the Grand Canyon Historical Society.

Lee Albertson

GrandCanyonHistory.org

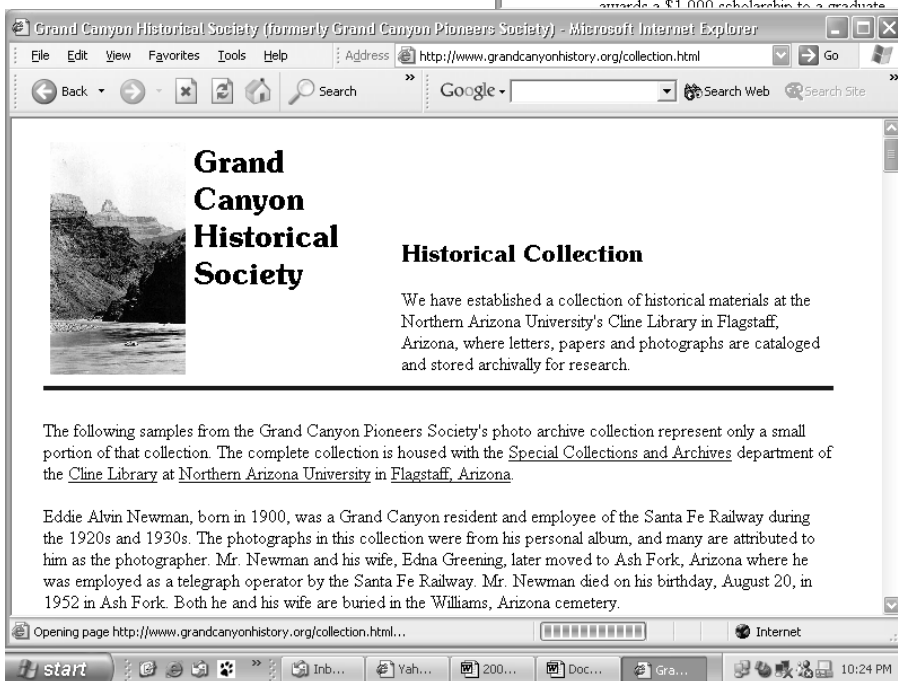
At the annual meeting of the members, it was proposed that the Society improve its web pages and presence on the Internet. Diane Cassidy presented a proposal and the officers approved the registration of the Society's own domain name: GrandCanyonHistory.org

The web pages have a new look that includes a highlight of all the pertinent information (that prints on one page), with links to pages with more detailed information on:

- Historical Collection
- Restoration/Preservation Projects
- Scholarship
- Awards
- Outings/Programs Calendar
- Publications
- Membership

We were extremely fortunate to have had a presence on the internet for many years through the work of Bob Ribokas on his web page at Kaibab.org. [Thank you, Bob.] We are grateful for all the work he has done and all the information he has posted on the web for the Society. We've also added a "Links" page with a link to his page and links to other Grand Canyon sites.

Please send your comments or suggestions to Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org.



Membership Expires 12/31

The \$20 Annual Dues (\$25 for outside U.S.A.) for membership in the Grand Canyon Historical Society are due in January each year. Send your renewal to:

Grand Canyon Historical Society
P.O. Box 10067
Prescott, AZ 86304-0067

[Please note, this is a new address.]

New Members

Gene Fowler – Flagstaff AZ
Chris Littleboy – Grand Canyon AZ
Eleanor O'Leary Bernard – Tucson AZ
Anne O'Leary Wilson – Windham NH
Nan Whittaker – Framingham MA

Season's Greetings !

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2003 Outings Coordinator:** John Azar, PO Box 1121, Fredonia AZ 86022; phone 928-643-6423; email: TontoWalk@aol.com.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Diane Cassidy at 2112 Demerse Avenue, Prescott, AZ 86301; email: Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org.

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