

## THE 1992 ANNUAL MEETING

Wow!!! is the best way to describe the 1992 Annual Meeting of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society held Saturday, October 10, at Val Avery's home just off highway 180 north of Flagstaff. More members turned out for this occasion than anytime before. Seems as though people have a nose for good food and fellowship. Those who attended were **Ron Werhan, Carol Furey-Werhan, Al Richmond, Val Avery, Bernice and Dave Nelson, Marvel and Gene Wendt, Nancy and Mike Gibson, Fred Schick, Marie Maiorana, Ethel and Harry Cole, Donna and Dick Brown, Robyn and Matt Werhan, Eldon and Maxine Roth, Bob and Mitzi Chandler, Bob Euler, Patty Stern, Mary Ellen Hamilton, Diane Van Cleave and Sibyl and Bill Suran.**

After Ron brought the meeting to order we heard the reports from the Treasurer (see elsewhere in this Newsletter) then Al Richmond gave the Secretary's report that included the results of the election for board members for the coming year. The

new board members duly installed are Chris Verkamp, Gene Wendt, Harvey Butchart, Marie Maiorana and Bill Suran. These good folk join Fred and Jeanne Schick, Al Richmond, Ron Werhan, Carol Furey-Werhan, Harry and Ethel Cole, Jim Babbitt, Buford Belgard and Sibyl Suran to make up the governing board for the society. All of the new board sat breathlessly waiting to see if they would be condemned to serve as officers (not really) for the coming year. All but Marie (President), Jeanne (Vice President), Fred

about what might be, would be, and could be done during the coming year.

Val talked briefly about the papers **Mike Anderson**, who received last years scholarship, presented to the society. From the stack of typed pages it appeared we got our money's worth.

Harry Cole suggested that some might like to make a contribution to the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society Scholarship Fund that the board voted to continue this year. While the \$250 we give is not a lot, it is a

help to those graduate students researching various aspects of the history of Grand Canyon. The sale of our cookbooks helps supply the funds for the award each spring, but sometimes this falls short. Any amount you would care to give from \$1.00 to you- name-it, will help carry on this project from year

to year. The recipient of the award is required to present the society with a copy of the results of their

continued on page 2 ...



The Pioneers wait in line and drool in Val's kitchen at the annual Meeting.

(Treasurer), and Sibyl (Secretary) could breathe a sigh of relief, but with a new slate of officers it doesn't mean they will get out of working. Already rumors floated around

## THE 1992 OLD TIMERS REUNION

By Jeanne Schick

When you get a bunch of people together who all have something in common you can bet your life there will be lots of talking and reminiscing and that is exactly what happened September 25, 26 and 27 at the Canyon Squire Inn. Ninety people who lived and worked at the Canyon in days gone by gathered there to meet old friends, some they had not seen in many years, and to make new acquaintances.

Friday afternoon the lobby of the Squire Inn bustled and hummed like a hive of bees as each new arrival came through the door meeting someone they knew standing in line to register for a room. Some enjoyed looking at the pictures Jeanne and Fred Schick placed around the room to see if per chance a photograph of someone they knew or better yet of themselves might be in the collection. A few brought pictures to show and took great delight in laughing about how they looked thirty years ago. The joy and fun carried through the cocktail party in the evening. The Squire decorated the room in a Mexican motif complete with pinatas, sombreros, red chilies and of course a table of delectable hors d'oeuvres.

The real fun began Saturday morning when Ray Stuckey ar-

ranged for a tour of The Canyon Village on a Harvey bus. The gang took great delight in visiting old haunts that brought back memories which in some instances dated back to their childhood. A few managed to take time-out for a rest in the afternoon but most were still going strong in the lobby greeting late arrivals and waiting for the banquet later in the evening. Jennifer Lee cornered some to interview for a project she is doing on Mary Jane Colter, and Maxine Edwards busied herself talking to former Harvey Girls.

Again the Inn outdid themselves with the Saturday night banquet dishing out a meal of barbecued chicken, and spareribs, baked beans, corn on the cob, and hot biscuits served on a huge tray set in the middle of a table covered with a red checkered cloth so each could dive in and help himself. They then topped the meal off with an oversized helping of apple cobbler. Everyone groaned as they pushed back their chairs to listen to Fred Brueck, a NPS employee during the 1930's and 40's, talk about the old times at the village. One by one everyone drifted off to their room and to bed.



Sunday morning started with a buffet breakfast followed by farewells and promises to be back next time and vows to write, a pledge that would most likely be broken.

It is said you can never go back to the "good ole days" and it is best not to try, so the former Grand Canyonites just brought the good old days with them. One could feel the vibes of love and happiness all weekend. Even the employees of Squire Inn commented on the feeling that carried over to them. There was not a single complaint and the staff at the Inn just couldn't get over that.

It all boiled down to the fact this was not an ordinary reunion of people but the reunion of a town—true togetherness.

### ...continued from page 1

labors which is placed in the archives of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society at the Special Collections division of Cline Library, Northern Arizona University. You

might consider adding a few dollars to your annual dues come January.

With the business out of the way the crowd wandered upstairs into Val's kitchen and with paper plates in hand and drooling, served themselves to a sumptuous feast of lasagna, potato salad, cole slaw, fried

tomatoes, carrots, and hot homemade rolls. This Val topped off with banana splits. With all that food and the great chance to visit —Gee, what more can you say besides, WOW, and thanks to both Val and Al for a delightful afternoon?

*Hubert Lauzon submitted this bit of history about the schools at Grand Canyon. It is reprinted here as it appeared in the Williams News February 26, 1987.*

## HISTORY OF GRAND CANYON SCHOOL REVIEWED ON 75TH

*by Hubert Lauzon*

As this year is the seventy-fifth anniversary of Arizona Statehood I thought it would be appropriate to narrate a little of the history of the Grand Canyon School. The first school was started July 10, 1911, one year before statehood.

Ralph and Niles Cameron loaned the use of a building they owned south of the present head of Bright Angel Trail. This building was locally known as "Cameron's Green House". The first teacher was Miss Grace Miller. Miss Miller had contracted to teach the Wickenburg school during the fall of 1911 and spring 1912. A Miss Hammil taught the rest of the term until

April 1912. During this period the county circuit judge was also acting as school superintendent. Judge Layton recommended Miss Mayflower as the next teacher.

William W. Bass had four school-age children and there were enough others to make up the required number for a school. Bass provided funds for lumber and labor to erect another school building.

This school had a classroom and quarters for the teacher. The first teacher in this new school was Miss Minnie Webb from Payson, Arizona. Miss Webb had taught several years in China.

On April 12, 1914 Easter Services were held in the school and the pupils had decorated the school with many varieties of flowers both wild and domestic. This school was completed July 27, 1913.

The 1914-15 school year opened with 29 pupils. Miss Loman from California was the teacher.

In 1916 the next school was built with county funds. This building still stands on the hill south of the Fred Harvey



Cameron's Green house. The first schoolhouse at Grand Canyon

Garage. This location was chosen because of the proximity to water and steam lines. Between 1922 and 1927 this building was enlarged to three rooms and a teacherage was built just west of the school. A P.T.A. was organized in 1920 and did a lot toward providing playground equipment and

entertainment for the school and community.

The playground was a small forest of Pinyon and Juniper trees. The Park Service granted permission to remove some of the trees. Fred Harvey had a large dump truck made by the White Motor Co. which was graciously loaned with a driver to pull the trees. Frank Spencer was

manager of the Hopi House at that time and he permitted his crew of Hopi men to cut up the trees and haul them away.

The rocks in the playground were covered with fine material screened by the park service rock crusher but there was so much fine material that



Grand Canyon Village's first permanent schoolhouse. Bert Lauzon ...continued on page 4  
bought it in 1917 and moved it to his homestead where it stands today.



In our last newsletter we asked if anyone had any comments to make regarding the plane crash at Grand Canyon. It happened near noon on June 30, 1956 when a TWA Constellation and a United Airlines DC-7 collided above Temple and Chuar Buttes near the conjunction of the Little Colorado and the Colorado Rivers. The accident caused quite a stir in Washington and Congress voted to send a delegation to the canyon to investigate.

### Roy Burris' Reaction to the TWA Crash

I really enjoyed Harvey Butchart's write up on the complete story about the Parachutists in 1944.

As for your note about the TWA plane crash in the Canyon, I can offer the following:

The newspapers carried the story about the TWA crash and made a big issue about Congressional interest in the event. Several members thought that there should be an official Congressional in-

vestigation as to the cause of the crash, including a trip by those members to the site.

I immediately wrote a rather irate letter to Sen Barry Goldwater, saying that as a former Canyon Kid I could appreciate members of Congress wanting to visit the Canyon, but I could not understand what they were capable of contributing to an investigation. I also told him that I strongly objected to such an

obvious boondoggle at taxpayers expense.

It sounds today like Congress has not made any improvements in their behavior, but have gotten worse.

We will be leaving Schenectady soon for our home in Rio Verde. Please change my mailing address.

Sincerely,  
Roy Burris  
P.O. Box 31137  
Rio Verde, AZ 85263-1137



...continued from page 3

Several carloads of cinders were purchased and spread on the grounds. There was not much room to play baseball so the rule was, "over the fence is out".

With the cooperation of Senator Carl Hayden and other congressmen and Park Service, funds were secured for the present elementary school which was finished in 1940. It has been enlarged and improved over a period of time. Since 1940 the high school was built and many other additions and improvements have been made. These later events have been pretty well recorded but I thought it

during wet weather the grounds were a muddy mess.

would be in order to document the early history because few if any persons are familiar with this early period.

The building Bass provided in 1913 was purchased by Bert Lauzon in 1917. It was dismantled and hauled by wagon and team to the Lauzon homestead and rebuilt where it still stands as a dwelling.

Hubert also notes that he has never been able to locate the site of the Cameron Green house, the first school building.

For the past two issues we have had articles dealing with aircraft at the Canyon. While on that subject here is an interesting note that few, if any at all remember or even knew about.

## THE FIRST FLIGHT INTO GRAND CANYON

by Bill Suran

In 1920 those who dealt with aerodynamics declared that a flight by an TaeroplaneU into the depths of Grand Canyon would be impossible. They knew this to be a fact for they had checked it out with all the scientific instruments they possessed. They had released balloons at the bottom of the canyon and watched them rise on the air currents to the rim. Before they reached the top the rocks tore them to shredsQan TaeroplaneU thus would be torn asunder in the same manner. Soaring into Grand Canyon would have to remain the undisputed domain of the ravens and eagles. Ellsworth Kolb contacted R.N. Thomas, a daredevil stunt pilot from Kansas and made a deal. He paid Thomas one-hundred dollars to attempt the daring exploit with him in the cockpit to make motion pictures of the flight. The last of July 1922, the two adventurers studied the canyon. Thomas checked the updrafts and the wind currents. From an aviator's point of view he saw no reason why the trip could not be made. Everything ready, Kolb met Thomas in Williams early in the morning August 8, 1922. While Thomas warmed up the plane Kolb began taking pictures. The plane idled so long the spark plugs filled with oil and needed changing before takeoff. Even with the delay the plane traveled down the runway at 9:10

A.M. and at ten minutes to ten flew over the edge of Grand Canyon near the El Tovar Hotel. Crowds of people lined the South Rim waving and shouting as Thomas circled above the gorge, dropping gradually lower. Down and down until a few hundred feet above the landing site that the National Parks Service had cleared for a runway, trouble raised its head. The wind changed 60 degrees making landing difficult. Thomas had specified the amount of space he needed to make the landing and from the air it looked adequate, but the closer he got the more he doubted he could set the

hoped. He throttled the plane, circled over the 1500 foot chasm and set her down on the 500 foot-long strip. The plane rolled to within ten feet of the edge of the plateau and stopped. The wind prohibited takeoff the same day so Thomas chocked the wheels and the two men headed up Bright Angel Trail. As they left a gust of wind caught the aircraft and spun it around breaking the tail skid and damaging a wing. This Thomas repaired with a piece of bailing wire and an old auto spring. The following morning the plane took off at 10:22. ThomasJJJ circled the field until he gained altitude and then

worked his way up and over the rim. The impossible had been accomplished. The superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park telegraphed Washington advising them of the feat. The wire was dated August 8, 1922. Ten days later Fred Harvey Co. hired Thomas to repeat the flight this time with a Fox News photographer to take the pictures. The film Fox made appeared in all the theaters in the country, headlined as the first flight in Grand Canyon. The Santa Fe used the pictures as a Railroad and Southwest promotion. Ellsworth Kolb's achievement was soon forgotten.



Ellsworth Kolb and R. V. Thomas stand by the first airplane to land in Grand Canyon August 8, 1922.

plane down. He called to Kolb and advised him to loosen his seat belt and prepare to jump. Kolb, engrossed in taking pictures had failed to notice any problem. Thomas said his prayers and

## A REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR

Bill Suran

Many of you spent the Holidays at Grand Canyon in years past. Please send me a note of some of the things you did to celebrate those wonderful times. If you feel you are not able to write well enough don't let that bother you. We have about six published authors in the club that can work it over and make you look good. Everyone likes to see their name in print and I know you are no exception.

**F**ROM THE SECRETARY



Photo by Bill Suran

Greetings from your newly elected Secretary!  
Thank you for your confidence in me. I shall attempt to deserve it. My first objective is to try to increase our membership through correspondence with people we feel will be interested in our aims and can contribute historical information. Letters are being sent, including this newsletter, to the Grand Canyon Oldtimers who may like to join us.

I will keep you advised of our progress.

*Sibyl Suran, Secretary*

**F**ROM THE PRESIDENT

Ahhh...it was a proud moment as Ron handed me the "gavel of authority", which I thought so aptly typified the solemnness....dignity, even...of our group (though we didn't check with Val about removing this soon-to-be-historic



**"Gavel of Authority" (Invented & procured by Ron Werhan)**

artifact [twig] from her yard).

I had thought it was only when you didn't show up that you got railroaded...er... chosen for office! It was shocking, don't you think, that our President of Vice, (Jeanne) would choose a political agenda over our lasagna and ice cream...er, I mean, our meeting?! But everyone thought she did such a good job with VICE, that we voted her to be president of it again! (That'll teach her not to come).

I'm a little concerned that Sibyl may drop her role as official "cookie lady" to our group, now that she has duties as Secretary; I hope not!

I think we were all in awe of Val's home - what a lovely place, and what a crazy/foolhardy? lady to volunteer to do all that cooking (did Al help?); I'm only sorry and saddened that I had to leave before any clean-up committee was volunteered...(cough, choke...) (and if there's ever a "next-time", I'm wearing looser-fitting clothes..., no, not to slide down the fire pole again... to EAT MORE!)

I knew I would have a good 50th year - when my son came to work at Grand Canyon for the summer after the Army, - then when he got a job working in the computer room in the Fred Harvey General Offices building where I used to work, wow!

Then I figured cutting my hair short for the first time in 40 years would be something wild and crazy to lend excitement to the year culminating my 1st half-century, but this is icing on the cake! ...to follow in the footsteps of Al Richmond and Ron Werhand - double-WoW! (...not that my petite little feet would ever fill their shoes...hahaha)

Well, folks, this should be a fun year! And I will remember all the good advice I've gotten so far... when I said I didn't remember much of parliamentary pro-

cedure, my "mentor-in-journalism", Bill Suran, said, "With this group, I don't think that matters". And Mike Gibson counseled, "Just remember...delegate!" And Al Richmond pointed out we practically have a matriarchal rule; THAT should be fun! ...with Jeanne, Sibyl and me...

.....and pooooor Fred! (I figure Jeanne can handle Fred...)

I'd better not take up any more room here, or Bill Suran will smack my fingers... you know, that tough-task-master was already threatening me with impeachment!?!? (yeah,...he's tough!)



Photo by Bill Suran

I wish you love, and memorable Splendiferous holidays!

*Marie*



## FROM THE TREASURER

Fred Schick

The financial report of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society Inc. as of September 30, 1992 is as follows:

Beginning cash balance		\$2643.22	
Income			
	Dues	\$ 460.00	
	Books	997.58	
	Int. on C.D.'s	249.51	
	C.D. cashed	<u>2000.00</u>	<u>3707.09</u>
Total			6350.31
Expenses:			
	Postage, Printing, etc	4457.72	
	Scholarship	<u>250.00</u>	<u>4707.72</u>
Bank Balance as of 9/30/92			1642.59
Investment statement as of 6/30/92			
C.D. maturity date 11/21/92			\$2106.80
C.D. maturity date 12/14/92			<u>\$1080.72</u>
			\$3187.52

## W E L C O M E N E W M E M B E R S

Since the last Newsletter we have gained two new members to our ranks. Welcome **John S. Agar** of Albuquerque, N.M. **William Driscoll** of Rockville, Md. and **Joe and Gracie Kleindienst** of Pine Grove, Ca.

### SEND A BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS

Books make an ideal gift for Christmas giving, especially the Grand Canyon Pioneers Cookbook. You will make the one who receives it happy and you will help the club at the same time. In case you didn't know (or remember) the money we earn from the cookbook goes toward the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society Scholarship that we instigated last spring by awarding Mike Anderson \$250 to apply to research on trails in the Canyon. We hope to be able to award another graduate student a like amount every year for studying and researching the area around Grand Canyon. The sales of the book all apply to this fund. Member's price for the book is \$8.95 and non-members is \$9.95. Please add \$1.50 postage. Address orders to Grand Canyon Pioneers Society P.O. Box 14 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023.

**The Kolb Brothers of Grand Canyon** by William (Bill) Suran. Order from Bill Suran, 386 Owl Place, Flagstaff, AZ, 86001. \$5.95 plus \$1.50 shipping.

**Rails To The Rim** by Al Richmond. Order from Al Richmond, 3529 West Lois Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. \$5.95, plus \$1.50 shipping.



**Cowboys, Miners, Presidents and Kings**; the story of the Grand Canyon Railroad by Al Richmond. Order from Al Richmond, 3529 West Lois Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. \$14.95 (paperback) \$19.95 (Hard cover) plus \$1.50 shipping.

**Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith, Prophets Wife, "Elect Lady", Polygamy's Foe** by Linda King Newell and Valeen Tippets Avery. Order from Val Avery, Rt. 4 Box 888, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. Hard cover \$20.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.

**Grand Canyon Intimate Views** by Robert Euler and Frank Tikalsky. Order from University of Arizona Press, 1230 N. Park St, Rm. 102, Tucson, AZ 85719. \$15.95 plus Mail \$1.50 or UPS \$3.30 Shipping. Visa, Master Charge or personal check accepted.

**Grand Canyon Treks** by Harvey Butchard. Order from Grand Canyon Natural History Asso. P.O. Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 \$4.50. **Grand Canyon Treks 2** \$2.95 and **Grand Canyon Treks 3** \$3.95 plus \$4.00 shipping for the first book and \$.50 for each additional in same wrapper. Visa Master Charge or personal check accepted.

All of the above books are written by members of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society.

A request from Marie

I would like to know if anyone is interested in a large print edition of this newsletter; for example,

This is regular 10 point body text.

This is 12 point text.

**This is 14 point bold text.**

**This is 18 point bold text.**

What do you think? Give your opinion to Bill or Sibyl Suran, or to me.



**! GREETINGS!**

*Since the next newsletter will not reach you  
before the New Year, all of us wish each and  
everyone of you **HAPPY and SAFE**  
**HOLIDAYS.***

**This GCPS Newsletter was edited by Bill Suran,**

& compiled by Marie Maiorana, using Ventura publishing software.

All comments, submissions and suggestions are welcomed at the address below.

Membership, including bi-monthly newsletters, is \$10 individual and \$15 family annually.

Grand Canyon Pioneers Society  
P. O. Box 14  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

