

MAR-APRIL 1990

NEWSLETTER



PIONEERS

I hope you've noticed the new Grand Canyon Pioneers Society logo. Our thanks to Marie Maiorana who created it. Marie presented several ideas during the last two meetings, and the new logo was the result of popular choice. Thank you Marie.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GRAND CANYON PIONEERS SOCIETY will be at 4:00 PM on APRIL 21, 1990, at the home of Fred and Jeanne Schick in Sedona. Directions follow. The meeting will include a pot luck dinner. Fred and Jeanne have volunteered to provide a meat dish, coffee, paper plates and silverware. They would like an R.S.V.P. (P.O. Box 127, Sedona, AZ 86336 or 284-2399) so that they know how much meat to prepare.

Jeanne sent the following directions: If you are traveling on I-17 to Sedona, you will proceed on SR 179 for about 7 miles to Verde Valley School Road (bank building on the corner). Turn left on Verde Valley School Road and continue for about a mile to Moon's View where you turn right to Miner Circle. Turn right, to our house - the house on the right - 118 Miner Circle.

If your are coming down the switchbacks from Flagstaff - turn to the left at the "Y" to 179 - proceed on 179 to the Village of Oak Creek. Turn right on Verde Valley School Road (there is a bank building on the corner) go about a mile to Moon's View - turn right to Miner Circle. Ours is the house on the right - 118 Miner Circle.

Jeanne and Fred plan to display several collection's of historic photographs they have received from the widow of George McAlister, the son of Harry Franse, Art Metzger and Eloise Turner. This should be a real treat.

If you need a ride or want to take part in a car pool call the Werhans. Leave a message on the machine and we'll get back to you to make arrangements.

OLD - TIMERS' REUNION. Mark your calendar for September 28, 29, and 30th. This fantastic get-together will be held at the Squire.

NEWSLETTER. I have received a lot of information for a newsletter and will get it out as soon as I can. Right now the important thing is to be at the Schick's on the 21st. See you there!

Our thanks go to Fred and Jeanne Schick who contributed the following information about Art Metzger.

SUBMITTED BY FRED AND JEANNE SCHICK:

Some of you may not know that Art Metzger passed away on January 18. We went down to the funeral on January 21 in Scottsdale at Green Acres Memorial Gardens. Both Ethel and Jessie are there and Art was placed beside them.

When we learned of Jessie's passing, we planned to be with Art on the following Sunday and when we called to talk to him about our coming, his niece answered the phone and told us that Art had died just that morning only a few hours earlier. All the nieces and nephews were still there after Jessie's funeral and stayed on another week to attend Art's funeral and do the necessary at Art's place.

We met all of Art's and Ethel's family and they seemed so pleased that we had come. After the funeral they invited us to be with them at Art's apartment, and we enjoyed getting acquainted with them all. Some of them I had met years ago at the Canyon. They now live in Michigan and California. What a lovely family.

Art's nephew, John Turnbull, presented the eulogy and a Sioux Indian friend of Art's followed with an Indian prayer. If funerals can be termed "beautiful", Art's truly was -- it was fitting to a great man.

Since Art's passing, we have been corresponding with John and he is going to put together a biography on Art's life and has asked us to help. We have saved all the letters Art and Ethel have written us over the years and they contain great stories of their life and times at the Canyon.

We wrote to Jack Davis asking for any information they have there at the Canyon in their Park Service records. Only three days later we received a photocopy of the taped interview done by oral historian, Julie Russell, October 26, 1978 as well as an interview by Dave Beal and Donald Hughes on August 16, 1962. With all this we should be able to do Art's life justice.

John Turnbull was kind enough to send us a copy of the eulogy and Indian prayer:

JAMES A. "ART" METZGER

Was born in Walla Walla, Washington, October 20, 1894, graduating from Broadwa High School in 1912. He spent summers in Victoria, British Columbia, working for his father who was a builder. In 1913 he left the northwest and went to the Grand Canyon to join his brother Mark, who homesteaded there in 1913.

In 1917, he enlisted in the United States Cavalry. Graduated from artillery officers school of fire as a 2nd Lieutenant at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in late 1917. He returned to the Grand Canyon after his Army discharge in January of 1919.

He married Ethel Abbott on August 15, 1927 in Prescott, Arizona. They both worked in the Grand Canyon post office, where Art was Post Master until his retirement in 1963, after 37 years of service. They lived in Mexico for two and one half years and on returning to the states lived in Prescott, then in Carlsbad, New Mexico and Tucson. He lost Ethel in Tucson in 1978 after 51 years of marriage.

On December 2, 1980 Art married a long time friend of his and Ethel's Jessie C Frawley. They were a very happy and inseparable twosome. Jessie with her titillating laughter and Art with his unbeatable sense of humor were a very close and loving couple, to be envied for their devotion and love for each other. Everyone that knew them loved and respected them.

Art was Past Master of Williams, Grand Canyon Lodge No. 38 F. & A. M. in 1945, and a member of John Ivens American Legion Post #42 at Grand Canyon.

Art had two sisters, Effie and Bertha, one brother, Marcus and two half brothers, Will and Leo Cook; all of them having preceded him to their great reward. Art is survived by his brother Marcus's children, Marcus "Brownie", Helen, Jean and Anne and their families. Effie's children, John and Audrey and their families.

Art was a man of great character---compassionate, well read, independent, thoughtful strong willed, knowledgeable and a very hard worker.

On January 11, 1990 the Lord beckoned Jessie, which was a tremendous loss to Art. He had lost a friend, a loving full time companion, one that had shared the real fun and pleasure of each others company. Art had been bothered for sometime with a recurring hernia that couldn't be taken lightly anymore. He went to the hospital voluntarily to have it corrected. In the afternoon when informed the surgery would be done at 6:00 p.m., in his own inimitable way, with a smile on his face, he said, "Why do these doctors like to work in the dark?" Later they took him to x-ray prior to the surgery and were wheeling him through the hospital in his wheelchair and he kiddingly remarked, "they sure take you on a scenic tour!"

Surgery went well, but complications set in and he could fight no longer. At 4:10 a.m. he rejoined Jessie so now they are together helping each other in their new way of life.

The world lost not only a friend, a benefactor, a fountain of knowledge of the early days of Arizona and the Grand Canyon, but a truly caring individual. He certainly left his mark; and those of us whose path he crossed are really blessed for having had that opportunity.

Written and given at the funeral by John A. Turnbull, Sr. (nephew)

SERMON BY AN AMERICAN INDIAN TO HIS CHIEF

You have merely lost the man. You still have the world in which he lived and he enjoyed.

You still have its beauty and its loveliness, and you still have the blue skies to which he looked.

You have the rain and the sun and the moon. The stars will still glitter in the skies at night, the corn will ripen, the deer will still roam the forests and the fish will still leap in the stream.

The Great Spirit has taken to him, the man. You lose only that. He will be happy up there in the hunting ground of his fathers. The Great Spirit leaves all the other things and the memory of this son, he has taken to his "tipi".

In memory and love to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Metzger.

Bee Firethunder



SCALE 1:62500

4 MILES

TUSAYAN 1.6 MI
WILLIAMS 5.5 MI

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON

GRAND CANYON



GRAND CANYON PIONEERS SOCIETY
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