



O' PIONEER

Newsletter of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society

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Another Year Passes

It hardly seems possible that another year has slipped by. Time flies by fast, they say, when you're having fun, and I guess that is what I have been doing with the O' Pioneer every month. Of course none of it would have been possible without the help of those members who have contributed letters, pictures and articles. Marie and I both thank you for taking time out to help us.

Peaceful Solitude

by Marvyl Wendt 1994

Softly falling snow has locked away
The hustle and bustle of our modern day.
Our isolated island seems to be
Encompassed in peace and tranquility.

Cactus decked out in their new coat of
white

Some stately and grand, some lacy and
bright

Trees with their leaves and needles so fine

Take on new splendor, sparkle and shine.

As one looks out on this beautiful view

For a moment in time, everything's new.

God sends these moments so silently

For refreshing and renewing of you and me.

I am sure you have noticed the change in format from our old black and white to the green and cream color with black printing. This has all been possible with the cooperation of Kwik Kopy our printer and because of our nonprofit mailing rate that has cut the cost of mailing more than half. It takes 200 or more pieces of mail to use the new rate and we have been mailing 230 copies each month. By that you can tell the club is growing.

As a rule we add one or two new members each month, thanks to Tom Carmony who has done a magnificent job sending out brochures and sample newsletters to prospective members. We place these people on a temporary mailing list for three months and after that Tom writes a letter to see if they are interested in joining. The job sounds simple enough, but it is time consuming.

Mike Gibson has also been a big help. He takes care of getting the paper mailed each month. With the new low mailing rate we have to sort all the mail by zip code. Here again the job takes time.

Marie probably works the hardest laying out the text and photos so that it looks appealing, and is readable. Recently she has been scanning the photos and we are still

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A Letter From Daddy

The following is a letter written on November 27, 1923 to Roy Burris Jr. in Pasadena California by his father at Grand Canyon.

My dearest and only son:

It is with deep regret that I am called upon to scold you so early in life, but possibly if I make this severe enough I will not find it necessary to take this drastic action again for many years to come.

consequently I do not know when to expect a letter.

Your daddy is trying to get you a house so that you can come out and play with him and the rest of the Canyon Kiddies, but if you don't let your mother have a little more time that she can call her own, I might have to punish you by making you bring your mother out here and live in a tent. It would be most awfully cold for a little boy like you to live in a tent all winter with a

I would like to see my boy and maybe I will by Christmas, but if I don't I'll bet I can guess what I will get for Christmas. But I don't want to spoil everything so I will not tell what I think it will be.

Remember that your Daddy loves you and wants you to be a good boy so that you will not have to live in a tent with snow on it.

You tell your mother to give you a good -night kiss for daddy and that he will write to her tomorrow.

Lovingly your,

Daddy.

According to Roy Burris, Jr, this letter was written when he was two weeks old. He sends a picture of himself in a box sled with the tent house where they lived in the background, and states he must have been a slow learner.

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working at getting better pictures. She sometimes has even drawn illustrations to add an artistic touch.

Then there is the editor's mentor-and wife, Sibyl who proofreads the paper several times during the process of getting it out. Regardless of all her efforts we will find a mistake somewhere after it is printed and too late to make a change.

I guess my job is the easiest. Our writers say that all I do is tear up what they write. Some stories we get are much too long and then I get out the scissors and start whacking. Seldom do I have a problem filling up the O' Pioneer. I wrote an article over two years ago to use in case we needed something and it is still lying in the file. I think that is wonderful and I hope it never gets published.

We will try and keep up the good work throughout 1996 and please let us know if you think we are falling behind in our promise.

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you from all of us.

The Editor

Bill Suran

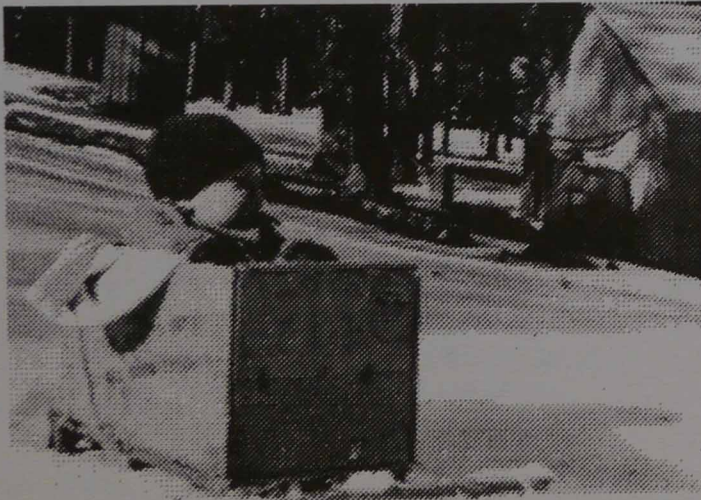


Photo from Roy Burris' collection

Two-year old Roy Burris Jr. in his homemade sled in front of his home at Grand Canyon.

Of course you have no way of knowing the preceding custom of this family, but for your information I will tell you that your daddy used to get a letter everyday; but since you have come into this world you seem to be monopolizing your mother's time and

couple of feet of snow on top of it, so if you don't want to be subjected to any such inconveniences you had better whisper in your mother's ear and tell her you will be a nice boy and let her have plenty of time to write to your daddy.

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We Ring Out The Old Year

The 1995 annual meeting of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society board of directors met Saturday October 14 at La Posado Hotel in Winslow. Those attending were **Mary Ellen Hamilton, Ron and Carol Werhan, Fred and Jeanne Schick, Sibyl Suran, Jim Ohlman, Mike Gibson and Marvyl Wendt.** President Carol Furey-Werhan called the meeting to order and proceeded to introduce Marvyl Wendt, Sibyl Suran and Jim Ohlman as new members of the board. Mike Gibson, and Chris Verkamp were reelected for another three year term. The election of officers followed with a surprise by Carol's nomination of Jim Ohlman as President breaking a more or less standard tradition that the incumbent officers would continue to serve. Jim was elected unanimously and the gavel of authority was passed across the table. Marvyl Wendt became the new vice president replacing Marie Maiorana who retired. Members not on the board that were present were **Alaina Sun, Bill Suran, Gene Wendt, Marie Maiorana, Janice Griffith and Marie Lamar.**

The meeting continued from this point at a fast pace interspersed with;

"when do we eat," and "I'm not on the board"



Marie Lamar and Janice Griffith show plans to President Carol Furey-Werhan and Vice-President Marie Maiorana

but..." The items of business discussed and voted on were:

The treasure's report showing we were in the black so at once spending money became important. Due to the lack of response last year, the



Carol Furey-Werhan hands over the gavel to new president Jim Ohlman

board voted to award only one scholarship, rather than two and increase the amount to \$500.

A motion was made and passed to donate \$250 to

La Posado Foundation for the continued restoration of the old Harvey House Hotel in Winslow. This led to another item concerning restoration. John Azar is making plans to work on the old Pasture Wash Ranger Station in Grand Canyon. At this

point the board agreed to support the project but set no amount for a donation until further information became available.

Other items of business were: (1) The opportunity to place the GCPS on the World Wide Web of Internet was discussed and members voted to pursue the project further. (2) As our brochures are running low and are out of date it was agreed to bring them up to date and reprint. (3) Continue with working toward publishing another book consisting of stories that have through the years appeared in the newsletter. (4) Market a book *Hiking In The Grand Canyon Backcountry* by J. D. Green and edited by Jim Ohlman. This out of the way the meeting came to a halt without a motion, second, or vote, as everyone dived for the lunch boxes.

After eating, Janice Griffith and Marie Lamar presented us with the latest update on restoration of the old hotel showing the architect's drawing of the proposed landscape design and explaining what the new potential owner plans to do with the interior. Janice and Marie bubbled over with enthusiasm, but still seem to keep their head out of the clouds knowing it was not all clear sailing until after the first of December when the papers for the sale of the building would be signed.

Before leaving Janice and Marie had a drawing for door prizes where all of us received a gift. Brenda

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Ring Out, from page 3

Thowe was with us in spirit as she sent some old fashioned hand fans and Santa Fe pins for all of us. These may well be collectors items soon as the Santa Fe will no longer exist by the time you read this as the Burlington and Santa Fe have consolidated.

Thowe was with us in

As promised in the O' Pioneer everyone headed toward the Falcon restaurant for a piece of their famous pie. We shouldn't have ought of done it but we did.



Left side: Carol Furey-Werhan, Sibyl Suran, Mary Ellen Hamilton, Marvyl Wendt, Mike Gibson. Right side: New President Jim Ohlman, Ron Werhan, Fred Schick, Jeanne Schick.

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