

Anita Mine

On Sunday, September 14, six members of the Grand Canyon Historical Society and one dog experienced the absolute delight of a perfect fall day while learning about the former community of Anita. We were led by Al Richmond, author of *Cowboys, Miners, Presidents and Kings: The Story of the Grand Canyon Railway*. We met at the Anita Junction, 6 miles off Highway 64 at a mound with framing remains, which had been used for dumping the copper ore into the boxcars.

Al is a fountain of knowledge about this area, discussing the approximately 25 homes (3 or 4 of which were later moved to Williams/Flagstaff area), the school, post office, Forest Service office, cattle pens (still in evidence) and buildings for the mines which made this a thriving community in its heyday. Ranchers used to bring in their cattle twice a year, which was always an excuse for a big party. Several of the cows never made it onto the train because the whole town would show up for the feast and celebration. There was a big water tower used for the steam engines. The railroad had phones, but the only real way to help in a medical emergency was to put the injured or sick person on the train. When the school burned down, the railroad replaced it with two boxcars. This road was once the main road to the Havasupai Reservation and the Hilltop. This area had three main jobs available: mining, timbering and guiding for mountain lion hunts. Although the big companies pulled out in 1905, locals continued cobbling the ore by hand until the 1950s. The mine produced exceedingly high-grade copper ore – 65% compared with the 2% that is currently mined in other parts of the state. In contrast, the Orphan Mine, within Grand Canyon National Park, had 33 mine-able minerals, while Anita was mostly copper, with traces of silver and gold.

...continued on page 2

GCPS Outings for 2003

October 18 (Saturday): GCPS Board of Directors' meeting, and Riordan Mansion State Historic Park tour.

Meeting

and Lunch: 10:00 AM

Weatherford Hotel

23 North LaRue Street - Flagstaff

Program: 2:00 PM

Riordan Mansion State Historic Park

409 Riordan Road

Riordan admission: \$6 adults

\$2.50 under 13

November 13 (Thursday): Gary Ladd will be delivering a slide show of photos taken on his hikes with George Steck. It will be held at the Grand Canyon Community Center on the South Rim.

Meet in Tusayan for lunch before the event.

December: No meeting

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New Members

Paul "Cal" Callaway – Fredonia AZ

Jeff Cunningham – Kent WA

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Reminder

Return your ballot by October 11 to elect three Board Members for a 2004-2005-2006 term.