



# The Ol' Pioneer

The Magazine of the Grand Canyon Historical Society

Volume 31 : Number 2

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Spring 2020



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# President's Letter

I hope that you and your family are safe and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic. This is a challenging time, both around the world and in the US. For those of us who enjoy visiting, hiking, rafting at Grand Canyon, the canyon is now temporarily closed. As a good friend told me: "The Canyon is still there and since I feel it is aware of all the crazy things we humans do in and around it, the Canyon is enjoying our absence; a peaceful break from being the backdrop for all those 'selfies.' A respite from being climbed all over by hikers. Its river is probably not missing all the commercial and private river runners. Its wildlife and plant life are experiencing a happy, quiet spring. Well maybe not the ravens!" Yet, my friend told me, "It is depressing to not be able to get my Canyon fix!"

For many during this time, mental health will be one of the biggest challenges. In light of that, please safely but often, make time to connect with family and friends. Especially spend time and energy reliving whatever you have done related to our Grand Canyon. Looking at photos and journals you may have is a good place to start. Contact those with whom you shared these experiences and focus on memories of the good times, special things, or even mishaps.

For example, my wife Pam and I laughed when we shared the great salad mishap that occurred on a 30-day Colorado River trip. We have often been responsible for developing the menus, purchasing, and packaging a month of meals for 16 people. One year we included a salad bar that was an amazing success, so on our next trip we decided to go all out. We had a wide choice of salad dressings and condiments. It was going to be great. On our first night on the river, the cook team discovered we had not packed one critical item: Lettuce! Every night the alternating cook teams did creative things with salad condiments, but it just didn't cut it as the month on the river progressed. However, it did become a standing joke that comes up often: "At least I didn't forget the lettuce!"

So in this period of slowing the spread of the virus by social distancing, we at the Grand Canyon Historical Society have canceled or delayed many of our public activities. That doesn't mean we have stopped planning and preparing for future gatherings and activities. We are continuing to prepare for the October Colorado River Basin History Symposium. We are working on our grant programs, our digitization project and our award programs.

In The Bulletin section of this issue, you will see two examples of how our work is continuing; first is awarding of the annual research grant to graduate student Daniel Milowski, and second is the selection of archaeologist Jason Nez to be this year's Pioneer Award recipient.

As this year progresses, we will be following health officials' recommendations and if necessary will cancel or delay more events. But the day will come when we can all return to the Grand Canyon.

Thanks,  
Dave Mortenson  
[President@grandcanyonhistory.org](mailto:President@grandcanyonhistory.org)

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Cover: What you get when you google "Noah's Flood." Artist unknown.

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The Historical Society was established in July 1984 as a non-profit corporation to develop and promote appreciation, understanding and education of the earlier history of the inhabitants and important events of the Grand Canyon.

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# What I Learned About Grand Canyon at Creation Museums

by Randy Moore

Grand Canyon and dinosaurs are the two science-related icons of young-Earth creationism (i.e., modern creationism). Indeed, a vast number of books, articles, DVDs, documentaries, and other media claim that 1) dinosaurs lived with humans after both were created on the sixth day of creation week about 6,000 years ago, and 2) Grand Canyon was created by the drainage of Noah's flood about 4,360 years ago. Although both of these claims were rejected by mainstream scientists decades before John Wesley Powell boated through Grand Canyon in 1869, they remain increasingly popular among young-Earth creationists.<sup>1</sup>

Dinosaurs and Grand Canyon are also mainstays at the more than 20 creation museums throughout North America. Although many scientists and others dismiss these museums as religious, anti-science hucksterism, the public does not. Indeed, *millions* of people visit these creation museums every year.<sup>2</sup> There is also a decades-long, growing presence of young-Earth creationism around Grand Canyon National Park, where various organizations sell books, DVDs, and other products promoting young-Earth creationism. Inside Grand Canyon National Park, Canyon Ministries distributes books and sells "Christ-centered" hikes, train rides, rim tours, and river trips that present a young-Earth explanation of Grand Canyon to thousands of tourists per year. During these events, customers "learn how the global effects of the Biblical Flood of Noah's day, not millions of years of erosion, carved Grand Canyon."<sup>3</sup>

I have visited most of North America's creation museums, virtually all of which feature Grand Canyon. Here's a sampling of what I and millions of other people have learned there about Grand Canyon:

## Creation and Earth History Museum (Santee, CA)

In the early 1980s, the Institute for Creation Research (ICR; est. 1970) began offering river tours emphasizing young-Earth explanations of the geology of Grand Canyon; by the late 1990s, ICR had taken thousands of people on such tours.<sup>1</sup> In 1992, ICR opened its Creation and Earth History Museum featuring a large exhibit claiming that evidence for the deposition of Grand Canyon's strata "favors action of the Flood." Grand Canyon also features prominently in an exhibit titled "The Genesis Flood Explains the Fossil Record," which claims that Grand Canyon is "mistakenly ascribed by evolutionists to long geological ages" and reminds visitors that "Jesus Christ taught that the Flood [that formed Grand Canyon] was worldwide."

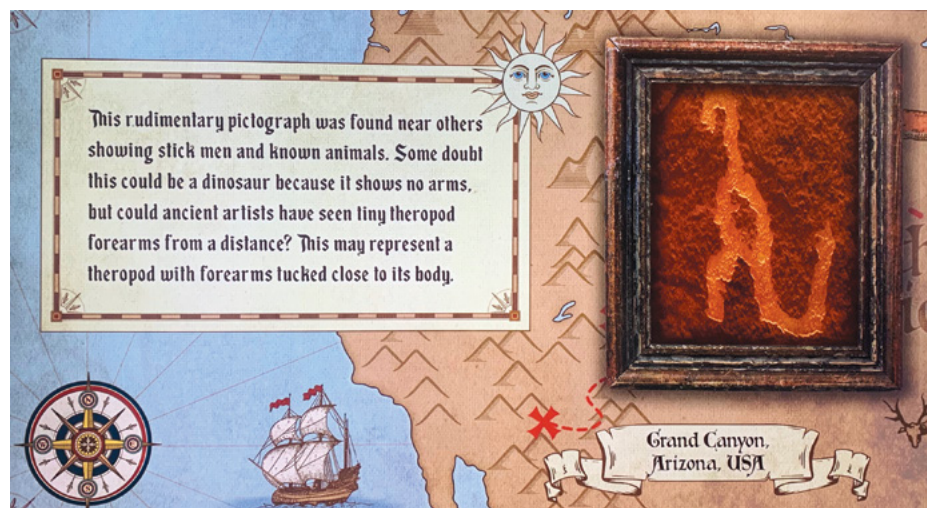
Another exhibit claims that the "folding [of Grand Canyon sediments] occurred less than thousands of years after deposition." Grand Canyon and related formations "provide much better evidence, wherever one looks, for the great Flood of the days of Noah... Grand Canyon stands as a massive monument to catastrophe." Elsewhere in the museum, an exhibit titled "Radiometric Dating Methods: Assumptions, Conflicts, and

Inconsistencies" uses Grand Canyon sediments (e.g., Bass Rapids diabase sill) and lava (i.e., Cardenas Basalt) to claim that radiometric dating is unreliable and that "radioactive decay must have been faster in the past." There is no evidence for this claim.

In 2008, ICR sold its Creation and Earth History Museum to Tom Cantor, the founder of Scantibodies Laboratory. Cantor and his wife, Cheryl, continue to operate the museum through their Light and Life Foundation.

## ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History (Dallas, TX)

On September 2, 2019, ICR returned to the creation-museum business by opening this new \$38,400,000 museum in Dallas. After asking visitors "Why are there no dinosaurs in Grand Canyon?", a two-story exhibit answers that "most [dinosaurs] did not live in that region. Any dinosaurs nearby likely migrated to higher ground in the center of North America." The Grand Canyon exhibit also teaches visitors that Noah's flood "carved Grand Canyon in a matter of weeks." The museum's bathroom sinks, which are shaped like Grand Canyon, likely took longer to make and install than the "weeks" it allegedly took for the



The ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History in Dallas, Texas, claims this petroglyph in Grand Canyon proves that humans lived with dinosaurs. Photo by Randy Moore.



Lavatories at the ICR Discovery Center are shaped like Grand Canyon. According to an exhibit, it took longer to make and install these lavatories than the “weeks” it took for the receding waters of Noah’s flood to carve Grand Canyon. Photo by Randy Moore.

receding waters of Noah’s flood to carve Grand Canyon.

Nearby is an exhibit titled “Dragon Encounters” claiming that “the recorded evidence of extinct reptiles and dinosaurs co-existed with civilizations around the world is compelling.” Among this “compelling” evidence is a “Grand Canyon petroglyph” that “may represent a theropod with forearms tucked close to its body.” This “Havasupai tribe petroglyph” was reported in 1925 by Samuel Hubbard as proof “that some prehistoric man made a pictograph of a dinosaur” and that “prehistoric man must have seen [the dinosaur] alive.” This observation, in turn, “upsets completely all of our theories regarding the antiquity of man.”<sup>4</sup> Although Hubbard’s claims about Grand Canyon (which also included the discovery of petrified, 15’-tall humans) made national news, they were soon dismissed as nonsense.<sup>5</sup> The museum’s gift shop features ICR-branded t-shirts and posters featuring Grand Canyon.

#### **Dinosaur Adventure Land (Repton, AL)**

“Grand Canyon formed in a week or less” because “the Bible is literally true and scientifically accurate.”

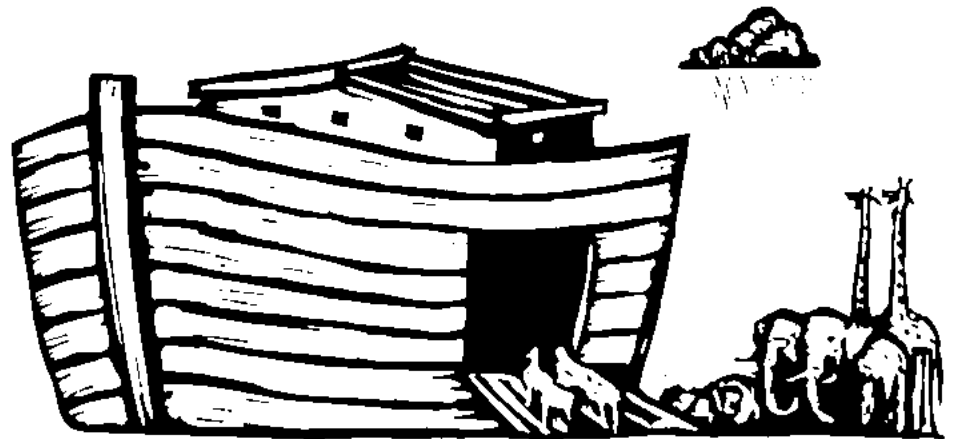


#### **David Rives Ministries Studio and Museum (Lewisburg, TN)**

“Standard geological interpretations (that always involve millions of years) cannot explain many of the strange features of anomalies [of Earth’s geology]... Grand Canyon bears testimony to rapid erosion of the waters left behind by the global Flood... Grand Canyon’s rock layers [were] laid down as a result of the great flood in Noah’s day.”

#### **Ark Encounter (Williamstown, KY)**

This \$100,000,000 theme park, which is based on Noah’s Flood, includes an exhibit titled “Rapid Canyon Formation: The Grand Canyon” that claims Grand Canyon “was rapidly carved by a larger volume of water than what currently flows through it.” Another exhibit



titled “The Grand Canyon: How Was This Famous Canyon Formed?” claims that scientists reject the biblical flood because of “evolutionary biases rather than the actual evidence.”

#### **The Boneyard Creation Museum (Broken Bow, NE)**

The distribution of fossils in Grand Canyon is something that “no evolutionary theory can accommodate.”

#### **Akron Fossils Science Center (Akron, OH)**

An exhibit here asks “Can the mighty Colorado River carve out the Grand Canyon?” and then answers “In short, no... It is, however, quite easy for a global flood to carve the Grand Canyon.”

#### **Creation Evidence Museum (Glen Rose, TX)**

Although this museum features claims of fossilized human footprints with dinosaur tracks, it also advertises “Evidence for a global flood—Grand Canyon” that involved “no slow and gradual erosion.”

#### **Dinosaur and Fossil Museum (Glendive, MT)**

This creation museum emphasizes dinosaurs living with humans, but also includes an exhibit that asks “Can the mighty Colorado River carve out the Grand Canyon? In short, NO... This is flatly impossible.” Apparently hedging its bets on Earth’s age, another exhibit notes that “Even if the

Colorado River had millions of years, it simply could not carve out such a huge canyon" and that Grand Canyon "cannot be explained by normal erosion, even if millions of years are invoked." A worldwide flood "is the simplest explanation" for Grand Canyon. Elsewhere in the museum, an exhibit claims that "Grand Canyon was formed by an Ice Age dam cutting through the layers left by the flood." Sediments of Grand Canyon are featured in an exhibit showing "The Failure of Radiometric Dating."

**Creation Adventures Museum (Arcadia, FL)**

Grand Canyon provides "spectacular evidences contradicting evolution and 'millions of years' and supporting the Biblical record of God's design (Creation), ruined by man's sin (Corruption—Darwinian struggle and death), devastated by Noah's flood (Catastrophe) and restored to new life in Christ."

**Creation Museum (Petersburg, KY)**

At the "Grand Canyon Observation Station" and exhibits such as "Evidence of the Flood in Grand Canyon," visitors learn that there is "evidence of the Flood in Grand Canyon" and that the "biblical account of Noah's Flood is the key to understanding much of the geological evidence of today—including the Grand Canyon." Some of the proof for these statements includes "marine fossils being found in Kaibab Limestone, nearly one mile above sea level." Answers in Genesis, which operates Creation Museum, claims that because "the Bible says that Earth is only 6,000 years old, Grand Canyon could not have been formed millions of years ago."<sup>6</sup>

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**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Carol Hill, Gregg Davidson, Tim Helble, and Wayne Ranney (Eds.), *The Grand Canyon: Monument to an Ancient Earth*. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Randy Moore, "The Grand Canyon as an icon of modern Christian fundamentalism," In Richard D. Quartaroli (Ed.), *Celebrating 100 Years of Grand Canyon National*

*Park: A Gathering of Grand Canyon Historians. Ideas, Arguments, and First-Person Accounts*. February, 2019. (Grand Canyon, AZ: Grand Canyon Conservancy, 2020):In press.

<sup>3</sup> Randy Moore and Kara Felicia Witt, *The Grand Canyon: An Encyclopedia of Geography, History, and Culture*, (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018):78-85.

<sup>4</sup> Anonymous. "Put Man's age back ten million years; Scientists so interpret rude drawings of long-extinct dinosaurs found in Arizona." *New York Times* (April 20, 1925):5; Samuel Hubbard. *The Doheny Scientific Expedition to the Hava Supai Canyon,*

*Northern Arizona, October and November, 1924, with Supplement*. (Oakland, CA: Oakland Museum, 1925):5.

<sup>5</sup> See discussions in Dove Menkes, "Giants and dinosaurs in the Grand Canyon: Samuel Hubbard and the 1924 Doheny Scientific Expedition." *The Journal of Arizona History* 48(1)(2007):53-88; Earle S. Spamer, "About that dinosaur in Havasu Canyon..." *The Ol' Pioneer* 26 (3)(2015):10-12.

<sup>6</sup> Answers in Genesis, "Grand Canyon: Monument to the worldwide flood." *Creation* 18(2)(1996):28.

## Introducing Board Member Nikki Cooley

Nikki is of the Diné Nation by way of Shonto and Blue Gap, AZ, and is of the Towering House Clan, born for the Reed People Clan, maternal grandfathers are of the Water that Flows Together Clan, and paternal grandfathers are of the Manygoats Clan. Nikki received her Bachelors and Masters of Forestry from Northern Arizona University (NAU) with a few years of post-graduate studies at Michigan State University. For her undergraduate and Masters studies, she has worked extensively with the Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina, and has worked with various tribes including the Kaibab Paiute tribe.

Nikki currently works as the co-manager for the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals' (ITEP) Tribal Climate Change Program. Prior to ITEP, Nikki has worked with the Merriam Powell Center for Environmental Research on a Climate Change Education Program, and at NAU Talent Search working with underrepresented, low-income, potential first generation college students at 10 middle and high schools in Northern Arizona. Nikki works on assisting tribes with addressing climate issues across the country.

In addition, as a river guide and

cultural interpreter working on the Colorado River-Grand Canyon and San Juan River, Nikki is the co-founder of the Native American River Guide Training Program and Fifth World Discoveries, was the first Native American President and Vice-President of the Grand Canyon River Guides Association (GCRG), and is a former associate director of the Native Voices Program. She is very passionate about advocating for and education about the protection and preservation of the environment and its resources. Nikki thoroughly enjoys gardening, her Navajo language and culture, and spending time with her large extended family in the southwest and Iowa.



# Aunt Eva Visits Ganado

by Michael Maurer

The story that follows is by George and Partheny Hance's youngest daughter, our beloved Aunt Eva. Bear in mind that Aunt Eva wrote this piece in the early 1970s over forty years after her trip to the Ganado, not "Granada," trading post on the east side of the vast Navajo reservation. Although she refers to the Weatherells (*sic*), her host was Don Lorenzo Hubble and his wife, Lena de Tafoya Hubbell (born Rubi). Eva Hance is buried at the Gardendale Cemetery, Downey, California, near her three siblings. I am glad that they are all together.

When I think of my Great Aunt Eva Hance, I invariably think of San Francisco and its marvelous streets, cable cars, and bridges. Aunt Eva moved to the Bay Area from Arizona before World War II after a stopover in Los Angeles. She found an apartment on Russian Hill on the south side of its notoriously steep Filbert St. Her wonderful apartment had a view extending from Alcatraz Island on the southeast to the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge on the north.

Miss Hance arrived with her familial heritage intact. John Hance, "...the biggest liar in Arizona"; George Hance who talked to himself because he liked to "talk to a smart man and like[d] to listen to a smart man talk"; and the most obscure of

the Hance brothers, Jim of Flagstaff, who put on a dress, bonnet, and apron when sweeping the porch or milking the cow because he was "doing women's work." These three Arizona characters were all part of her upbringing, as was her older brother, Uncle Harvey. Uncle Harvey, an old Arizona cowpoke, said upon learning of his youngest sister's move to southern California: "I'd rather be in hell with my back broke than live in Los Angeles." Aunt Eva brought the Hance legacy with its various idiosyncrasies, vocabulary, and humor to San Francisco, a fine addition to the realm of Emperor Norton.

John Hance is, of course, remembered as being the great storyteller, or prevaricator, of the Grand Canyon. When he died in 1919, his brother George Washington Hance of Camp Verde said that he wished that John would be remembered for something other than "being the biggest liar in Arizona." I was fortunate to have known three of George's four children well. They should all be remembered for their picturesque old-time western vocabularies and storytelling abilities.

The eldest, Aunt Josephine, I hardly knew, as she passed away when I was only eleven or twelve years old. The second, Uncle Harvey, was a classic example of an Arizona cowpuncher. I remember driving

from L. A. to Tucson around 1970, stopping at my grandmother's orange grove in Bloomington, California, for a palaver with Uncle Harvey. I got out of my pickup truck, lit a cigarette, and walked up to greet my favorite uncle. He was sitting on the small porch of his house, made from two side-by-side Southern Pacific cabooses. He had a 22 rifle in one hand and his pug dog at his side. Uncle Harvey looked at me, let out a stream of tobacco juice and said "God, that's a filthy dirty habit."

After the civil, or uncivil, war as my Aunt Eva always called it, the Hance Brothers, John and George, freighted with Lorenzo Butler Hickok (Wild Bill Hickock's brother, nicknamed "Tame Bill") on the Great Plains, arriving at Prescott, Arizona Territory in 1868. "Tame Bill" Hickock and my great-grandfather George were lifetime friends, with Hickok visiting George in Camp Verde in 1901 or 1902. As the two old friends were sitting on the porch of the house, my grandmother, Frances Melissa Ketcherside (nee Hance) opened the door and stepped out. Hickok looked at her and said, "You are as pretty as a posie." Posie became her name for all of her grandkids. As a girl and young woman she was known as a crack shot with a revolver. She said of her father that he "couldn't hit the side of a barn if he walked inside and closed the door."

## Getting Even

by Eva Hance

It was not that we objected to being called tourists. It was the kinds of tourists that he called us and the fact that he was a foreigner sojourning briefly in our State. My companion was not native born as I, she having come to Arizona as a little child. But

she had stayed by choice and vocation. While in Phoenix in connection with work I was doing in the mid-1930's (*sic*), Grace Sparks<sup>1</sup>, then Secretary of the State Chamber of Commerce, and I, were invited by a state official, Mr. Charles Cunningham<sup>2</sup>, to accompany him on a business trip to the Navaho Country in the northern

part of the state. Late in the afternoon of our first day we stopped for dinner at the famous Hubble Trading Post at Granada(*sic*). It was then owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Weatherell.<sup>3</sup>

On arrival Grace and I went into the large "common room" to await the call to dinner. The walls of the room were hung with beautiful Navajo

blankets that we quietly commented on. Seated by the great log fire – evenings are chill in the mountains – were a man and a woman whom Grace had learned were an English novelist<sup>4</sup> and his secretary. We sat across from them and I was surprised that neither greeted us as is usually customary in that friendly country. We sat in silence for a few moments when the novelist, turning to his companion, said “It is getting so that there is no place to go to get away from the goddamned tourists.”<sup>5</sup>

Despite the excessive rudeness of his remark, I found it amusing not only for myself, as I was born and lived for many years not far from that place, but also Grace who was one of Arizona’s greatest “boosters.” Her Chamber of Commerce blood began mounting to her cheeks. She might have said what was on her mind, but fortunately the dinner call sounded. We let the other two guests go first.

When we reached the large dining room there were sixteen or eighteen of us seated at the long table. We were seated at one end, the writer was seated immediately on my right. Our host and hostess were at the far end of the table. We were waited on by two lovely young Navajo girls. When the places were served and in one of those silences that inevitably falls on a group of diners as they take stock of their service and make ready to partake, Grace, doubtless still smarting from the reference to us a tourists, said, “Mr. Weatherell, you should know this girl,” indicating me.

Mr. Weatherell asked my name. When I told him he asked if by any chance I was related to George and John Hance, meaning Captain John Hance of Grand Canyon fame. I answered that George was my father and John, my uncle. With an exclamation of surprise and probably a bit of nostalgia, Mr. Weatherell said that those two were the first persons he met when he came to Arizona as a very young man and that he had always counted them as his best friends. After a few thoughtful moments, he observed that he was sure that I was the only

native Arizonian (*sic*) in the room. I answered that I was sure there were three of us. That brought gracious smiles from the Navajo girls. I couldn’t resist a glance to my right. The diner had his face lower over his plate than is usually dictated by good table manners.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Grace Sparks (1893-1963) was born at Deadwood, South Dakota, and as noted by Aunt Eva, was a well-known booster of Prescott and Arizona in general. She was inducted into the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame in 1983. She died at Prescott in 1963 and is buried there.

<sup>2</sup> I have not been able to identify Charles Cunningham.

<sup>3</sup> The Hubble family operated the trading post until 1967 when they sold it to the National Park Service. It is still in operation and is well worth the visit when in northeastern Arizona. Miss Hance consistently cited “Weatherill” as the proprietor and spelled the name “Weatherell”. Aunt Eva must have been referring to Don Lorenzo Hubble (1853-1930).

<sup>4</sup> I have been unable to determine who this self-important person might have been, and, unfortunately, my aunt exercised her discretion and gave no clue as to whom he was.

<sup>5</sup> In all the years I knew my Aunt Eva I never heard her use a stronger expletive than “confounded.”



From Aunt Eva’s note on the back of the photo:  
Left to right: Dr. Jim, Uncle John, EH, your mother, my mother + Madden. Circa 1900.

#### NOTES FROM MICHAEL MAUER:

“Dr. Jim” was James A. Ketcherside, MD., my maternal grandfather.

“Uncle John” is John Woods of Camp Verde.

“EH” is Eva Hance, my great aunt.

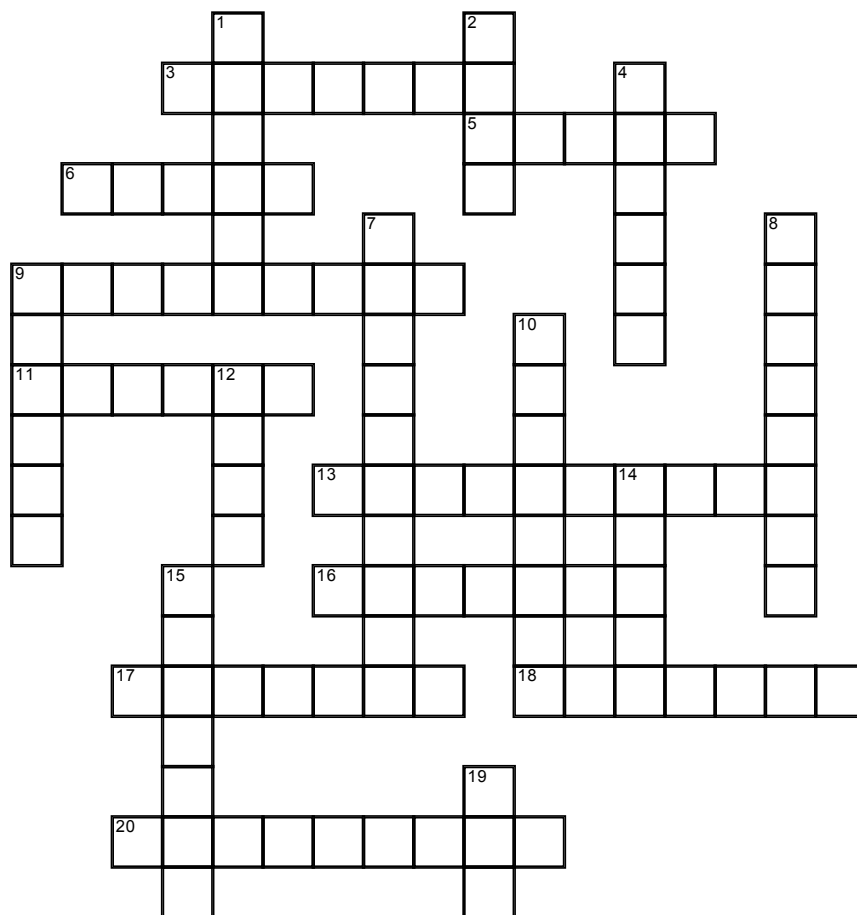
“Your mother” Posie (Frances M. Hance Ketcherside) my maternal grandmother.

“My mother” Partheny (or Parthena) Melissa Rutledge Hance, my maternal great grandmother.

“Madden” Perhaps a wrangler on the S. Rim.

# Crossword : For the River Crew

by Haley Johnson



## Across

- 3 He left after disaster at Disaster
- 5 Rapid named for Mrs. Nevills
- 6 Powell named a waterfall for this Botanist
- 9 In 1939 he was the oldest person to row Lava Falls Rapid
- 11 Powell embarked on his \_\_\_\_\_ trip through the Grand Canyon in 1871
- 13 He may have "rafted" the Colorado River before JW Powell
- 16 Poncho's, on the left
- 17 Rapid named by 1923 USGS expedition when they heard of this President's death
- 18 Alexander "Zee" Grant was Grand Canyon's first \_\_\_\_\_ (in 1941!)
- 20 Rapid lined by Flavell 1896

## Down

- 1 Named Kapurats by the White River Ute
- 2 The youngest, he made it to the Sea of Cortez
- 4 Fang, maybe the Hydes last run?
- 7 Where The Howlands and Dunn departed
- 8 One of the 1955 Colorado River swimmers
- 9 Missing Honeymooner
- 10 Also rowed the Emerald Mile in 1983
- 12 Emma Dean, Kitty Clyde's Sister, Maid of the Cañon and No \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 25mi Rapid also known as Hansbrough-Richards Rapid for Peter and \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Chief engineer investigating route for a railroad line
- 19 Grand Canyon's first decked dory, created by Moulty Fulmer



# Introducing Board Member David Schaller

## **How did you get involved with the Grand Canyon Historical Society?**

A few months before the 2016 Grand Canyon History Symposium I connected with Wayne and Helen Ranney while visiting Marble Canyon after some volunteer work on the North Rim with the Grand Canyon Trust. While sharing common interests and histories in the Grand Canyon they encouraged me to join the Society and to attend the Symposium. It has been a very busy involvement with the Society ever since.

## **When did you first come to Grand Canyon?**

My first visit to Grand Canyon came in June 1966 when I lucked into a summer job as a National Park Service day laborer at the South Rim. I hitched a ride from Tucson to Flagstaff and a bus took me the rest of the way to the Bright Angel Lodge. My first look came on that expansive patio before I had to turn away and search out the operations center for park maintenance so I could report for work. I joined over a dozen university students that summer, living in the Labor Cabins and sharing a menu of jobs that included emptying campground trash cans as well as in the South Rim residential areas, picking up the heavy metal cans of wet garbage from the ET and BA restaurants, driving the east and west rim drives to empty trash cans in the viewpoint parking lots, joining corridor trail maintenance crews, cleaning campground rest rooms and, in those days before OSHA, going over the retaining wall into the canyon along the popular viewing areas to retrieve everything from soft drink cups to Polaroid film rubbish. When I returned

for a second summer in June 1967, I was earning the princely sum of \$2.55 per hour. Pretty nice pay for a chance to see just about every corner of the park, from Rowe Well to the Orphan Mine, Hermit Rest to Desert View, and every campground, trailer park, commercial service, residential area, or NPS facility we served. Those two summers were the beginning of a lifelong friendship with Grand Canyon.

## **What got you back to Grand Canyon after so many years?**

So many years is right. It wasn't until my retirement in 2012 or so that I reengaged with Grand Canyon in a significant way, beginning with a river trip. That experience sealed Grand Canyon into my DNA I think, as from then on I could not get enough of the place. I joined every organization I could that advocated for the protection of the Canyon, its cultural and ecological resources, its hikers and river runners, and of course its history. My wife Joy and I began hiking and backpacking, first the customary trails and then a few of those less well traveled. We began taking river trips as often as allowed. We made a north-south traverse. And we began reading. At my first Grand Canyon Historical Society picnic I remember proudly saying to someone that my personal Grand Canyon library then took up almost three shelves, maybe 60 books. He nodded and said encouragingly: "That's a start." Finally, I had the chance to present at the Society's Centennial History Symposium where I joined a great community of people who love and want to protect Grand Canyon in every way possible.

## **What led to your involvement as a member of the Board?**

After one unsuccessful try in 2017, I was elected to the Board in December 2018. With a keen interest in history, and appreciation for the value

of oral histories in particular, I got involved in the Society's Oral History program. It offers a chance to capture the stories that will be preserved, curated, archived, and subsequently researched in the writing of tomorrow's history of Grand Canyon. The more of these oral histories the Society can help save the more lasting our legacy as an institution. Service on the Board is not the only way to contribute. It simply offers a momentary platform for helping take care of the organization and its mission, one not to be taken lightly.

## **Any favorite Grand Canyon Pioneer?**

As a student of global affairs throughout my career in government, I came to understand how history can easily be shaped, if not written, by those who emerge on the winning side of military, political and economic conflicts. Individuals, events, cultures, and even nations may be wronged by intentional or sometimes just poorly understood characterizations of what really happened at a place and time. It is history's task to sort all this out, no matter how long it takes.

The Grand Canyon has not been immune to inaccurate representations of its past events and pioneers. Thus, my favorite pioneers are those who I believe, for whatever reasons, have been cheated out of proper due for their contributions to Grand Canyon history. I include among those the much-maligned trio of explorers, Ormel Howland, William Dunn, and Seneca Howland who left the first Powell expedition at mile 240. Fate left them unable to ever tell their stories, and they fell easy prey to historians with other agendas. Today's historical signage at Powell Point honoring the first expedition

and its crew reads as if these three pioneer explorers never existed. I believe that's wrong.

Likewise, once original Grand Canyon architects Louis Curtiss, Robert Raney, and Charles Whittlesey had passed away, it became far easier to create an alternative history around who created the plans and drawings for the National Park's iconic structures such as the Watchtower, Hopi House, El Tovar Hotel, Hermit Rest House, Bright Angel Lodge, and others. That alternative history, still in vogue today, continues to deny "pioneer" status and recognition to the true architects of Grand Canyon.

For reasons such as these, I consider the forgotten pioneers as my favorite pioneers.

**Any closing comments?**

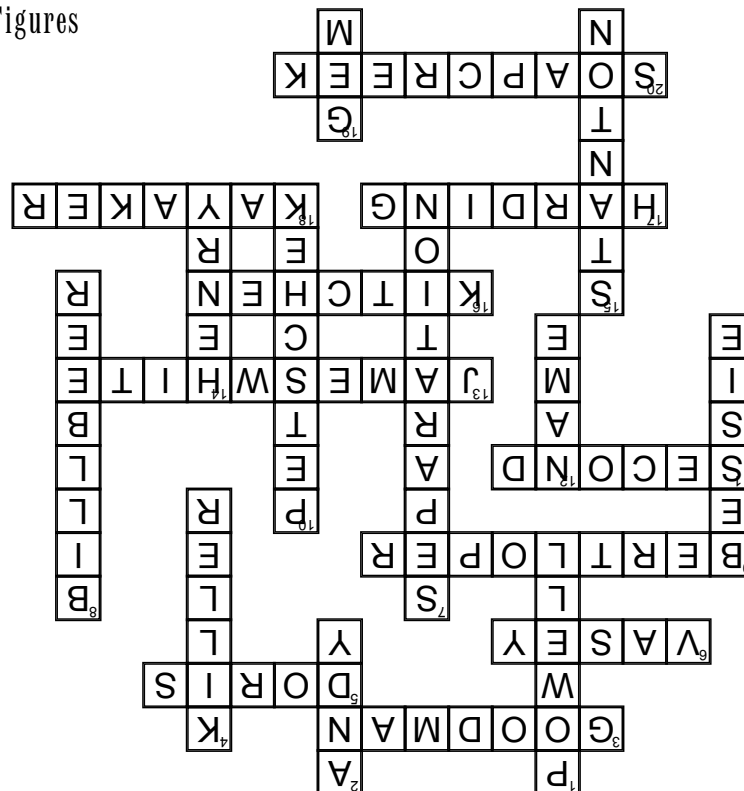
I would just add that, if you are reading this, you have already

been smitten by Grand Canyon and its history. Getting even more engaged with groups like the Grand Canyon Historical Society is a sure way to continue deepening (sorry)

that love affair with a powerful, magical landscape. We welcome your interests, talents and passions. Thanks for your membership.



**Crossword : Famous Figures  
Answer Key**



# The BULLETIN

## Event Updates in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the current uncertainty around the future impact of the Corona virus, the GCHS Board has made some decisions regarding planned outings and events. Our priority will always be to focus on the safety of our volunteers, members and the general public.

### GCHS Outings have been canceled through June 30, 2020:

We will be following the Federal and State recommendations on public gatherings for future activities. Depending on conditions we will be rescheduling or canceling activities planned for later this year.

**Shoshone Point Picnic:** We are keeping the July 11th Shoshone Point picnic reservation for now. If this is cancelled or rescheduled we will notify members and post an announcement on our website.

**Colorado River Basin History Symposium planned for October 14-17, 2020:** We will continue planning, partnering, calling for papers, and promoting this event. Prior to registration opening in early July, we'll make the decision to continue as scheduled or move to the spring of 2021.

**Ongoing In-House Programs:** Our oral history program, awards program, publication of *Ol' Pioneer/Bulletin*, research grant/scholarship program, and symposium planning will continue uninterrupted.

**NAU Digitization Project:** As long as we have workers available and facility access, this project will continue to make progress.

**Board Meetings:** These will be virtual meetings, beginning with our April 25th meeting; as we get closer to the July 11th and subsequent meetings we'll evaluate the COVID-19 threat.

## 2020 GCHS Events

(Subject to change, so check our website)

### APRIL

#### SPRING BOARD MEETING

**Saturday April 25, 2020 Virtual Meeting**

Time and Access Method to be determined

### JULY

#### MIDYEAR BOARD MEETING AND ANNUAL PICNIC

**Saturday July 11, 2020**

Board Meeting 8:00 a.m., South Rim Community Building  
Picnic, Noon to 4:00 p.m., Shoshone Point

### AUGUST

**OUTING:** Tour of Special Collections, NAU Cline Library

**Friday, August 14, 2020 1:00pm**

The Cline library at Northern Arizona University is a treasure trove of historic documents and minutia. Join Peter Runge for a special peek into the hidden halls of the collection.

**Where:** Building 28, Cline Library, 2nd floor, 1001 S. Knoles Drive Flagstaff

Limited to 15 people. RSVP to [outings@grandcanyonhistory.org](mailto:outings@grandcanyonhistory.org) by August 7.

### OCTOBER

**Rescheduled: Fifth Grand Canyon Hiker's & Backpacker's Symposium**

**Saturday October 10, 2020 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NAU Cline Library, Flagstaff**

*Come share hiking, climbing and backpacking exploits and explorations in Grand Canyon National Park, from Lee's Ferry to the Grand Wash Cliffs*

Updates at: <http://gchba.org>

### COLORADO RIVER BASIN HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

**October 14-17, 2020 Kanab, Utah**

### FALL BOARD MEETING

**Sunday October 18, 2020 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m**

Dave Mortenson's House, Kanab, UT

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## Oral Histories Online

Get your Grand Canyon history fix online via the two sites below:

**Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral Histories** - There are currently 192 oral history interviews available, many with transcripts. <http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/oral-history.html>

**Grand Canyon River Runners Video Project** - A unique repository of river running history of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. <https://www.youtube.com/user/epcdvd/videos>

\* \* \* \* \*



A photo of me and Ron Brown with Ranger Lance cardboard cutout back in January, one of the last times Ron and I hung out though we got together a few times for dinner and drinks after that.

### Farewell Ron Brown

It is with sadness that we report former Board member and NPS interpretative ranger extraordinaire Ron Brown passed away in his sleep on February 4th, at his home in Grand Canyon National Park. Ron helped keep the AV equipment going at the first few History Symposia and entertained many with his John Hance performances. Ron was also a mentor, inspiration, and dear friend to many young interpretive and seasonal rangers including Board member Haley Johnson. Ron was preceded in death by his beloved Pat, who he missed dearly.

**“Another Ron rant. And yes of course it’s a little long.”  
– A Ron Brown quote.**

How does one remember a man that can never be forgotten? The passing of Ranger Ron Brown was both a sad event and a cause for celebration. He was a fierce friend, interpretive coach, mentor, neighbor and a well-loved figure in the Grand Canyon community. Ask any seasonal or long time Park Ranger or Tour Guide and they’ll probably recall a moment when they were deeply moved by Ron.

Ron’s equally inspiring wife, Pat, had a childhood dream of becoming a National Park Ranger. Naturally Ron followed her on her journey to reach for the stars and they both became well respected Park Rangers at Grand Canyon. When she passed away in 2014, Ron hung on with his usual zest.

A raw passion could be felt when he spoke about his love for Pat. And if you were one of the lucky people to visit The Habitat or soak in his hot tub you were bound to sense his enthusiasm when any of a hundred different topics popped up. I, personally, was once treated to a particularly vigorous political discussion over a couple Old Fashioneds. I was suddenly much more devoted to my political ideals, and still am thanks to that evening with Ron.

When not deep in political discussion or regaling us with stories of Pat and the birds and the long roads they traveled together, Ron could be found hard at work somewhere in Grand Canyon National Park. Many have referred to him as “The

best darned Interp Ranger the Grand Canyon’s ever had.” You’d be hard pressed to prove this wrong.

Ron brought to life one of the South Rim’s cheekiest characters, Cap’n John Hance. Some folks call this “Living History”, and in a way it was. Ron was the first to admit it wasn’t really living history. He never memorized any scripts, and Hance was never known to have said exactly what the audience would hear during those famed cemetery tours. Ranger Ron would use historic records and letters written in reference to John Hance to create a persona. He captured “the essence” of the man. In an interview Ron said he “started with the premise of what the Captain would say to today’s audience if he could speak from the grave.” In reality Ron used that voice and persona to say what he, himself, would want to say if it were him speaking from beyond the grave.

*“Sooner or later your life is going to flash before your eyes. Try to make sure it’s worth watching. And the best way to make sure it’s worth watching is to try to find something to care about and protect. Find something bigger than yourself to be a part of and then do your bit.”*

-Ranger Ron as Cap’n John Hance

The best way we can each honor the memory of Ranger Ron Brown is to care for one another and lift each other up in times of tranquility, and especially in times of turmoil.

Ron Brown encouraged me to follow my dreams from day one. He said if Pat and I can do it, you can too. His friendship and dedication to love and happiness had a deep impact on my life, and he will not be forgotten. I want to mourn but my heart is bursting with happiness that he has finally been reunited with his beloved Pat. They were, are, and always will be a unique pair of “old canyon birds.”

- Haley Johnson

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### **NEW GROUP: Patrons of the 1956 Grand Canyon Midair Collision**

A small group of us who feel reverent about the 1956 midair collision over the Grand Canyon, in which 128 people lost their lives, would like to announce that we have formed an organization devoted to preserving the history, both documentary and personal, of that tragedy, and to furthering interest in it.

Thomas E. Sulpizio and I both lost a loved one on that terrible day, he his father, and I my uncle. Tom and I are the “front men” right now for the group, with the backing of the GCHS, most actively that of treasurer Brian Blue; and with the backing of former Vanishing Treasures archaeologist for the canyon, Ian Hough; and former GCHS president Wayne Ranney, to name a few.

We are starting what we hope will draw many interested persons, regardless of any prior affiliation with the accident. At some point in our growth we will produce a newsletter,



Above: National Historic Landmark plaque at Desert View. Below: Chuar and Temple Buttes, site of the collision. Photos by Karen Greig.



plan and conduct get-togethers and educational programs, and make efforts to further the Park’s emphasis on this part of its history and the history of our country; the disaster was a world-shattering event and the accident site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2014. Two of the projects we have in mind are the installation of an observation telescope at Desert View, trained on the crash area, and ultimately, the construction of a modest museum at Desert View, displaying

artifacts from the crash and donated by surviving family members. The exhibits would also include a diorama of a few square miles of the canyon, showing the clouds and the two planes in the last moments of the victims’ lives. I might even volunteer to station myself there to answer questions.

For now, we’re just interested in hearing from you. We have a website at [www.1956gcmidaircollision.com](http://www.1956gcmidaircollision.com), which fleshes out who we are; and our email address is [1956gcdisaster@gmail.com](mailto:1956gcdisaster@gmail.com). You can simply “talk” to us, or join us, as you choose. There are no membership fees or dues, and the only qualification for joining is the simple feeling that you’d like to be “in on it.”

- Mike Nelson  
President and Author of *We Are Going In*, a history of the disaster

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## Voices of Grand Canyon – Tribal Members Share Their Connection To Grand Canyon

Prior to Grand Canyon National Park’s centennial, the Intertribal Centennial Conversations group was formed to discuss the past, present and future of the Grand Canyon. Today, eleven tribes are officially affiliated with the Grand Canyon and can still trace their ancestors, cultures, and origins to the canyon. Missing from the story of the canyon was hearing firsthand from these people.

“**The Voices of Grand Canyon,**” a collection of words, video and audio stories from Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Havasupai and Hualapai leaders, launched Feb. 26, 2020, the 101st anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park. It currently features the stories of Jim Enote (Zuni), GCHS Board member Nikki Cooley (Navajo), Leigh Kuwanwisiwma (Hopi), Coleen Kaska (Havasupai) and Loretta Jackson-Kelly (Hualapai). Each of these tribal members share what the Grand Canyon means to them. Hear their stories at the link below or Google “Voices of Grand Canyon”:  
<https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/native-american-stories-grand-canyon>

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## 2020 Research Grant Awarded to Daniel Milowski

Daniel is a PhD candidate in history at Arizona State University working on a project focused on northern Arizona history. His project centers on regional transformation in northwestern Arizona in the twentieth century – specifically the section of Route 66 from Flagstaff, Arizona to the border with California. In the Grand Canyon area, he will examine local communities exploring the interconnections between construction of transportation infrastructure and community development, racial and borderlands issues, and environmental

aspects. The focus will be on the social history of the communities, the degree to which local needs and desires played a role in the creation of roads like Route 66, and how environmental constraints influenced the development of infrastructure and communities in this region. He proposes to use the \$1500 grant to fund research trips to two archives important to his project. These funds from the grant will help him complete his dissertation by spring of 2021.

- Margaret Hangan

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### **Corrections To August Historic Boat Tour Report (Fall 2019 *Ol' Pioneer* v. 30, n.4, page5-6)**

Tom Martin, who was most generous in leading the August 17, 2019 Historic Boat Tour, has provided corrections to misinformation in the August 2019 Historic Boat Tour Outing Report that appeared in the Fall 2019 *Ol' Pioneer*. His corrections follow.

The outing report implied that Georgie White was the first to use inflatable boats in Grand Canyon. In fact, the first rubber boat to travel through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River was piloted by Amos Burg in 1938. Harry Aleson took the next one, an army surplus raft, through in 1949. Aleson took a party through Grand Canyon in 1951 with two rubber rafts. That same year, a young married couple and their best friend took two rubber rafts and ran one through Lava Falls. The rubber boat donated to the historic boat collection by Georgie is one she might have used in 1952, but clearly others had brought them into the Canyon before her and many more continued to use them all throughout the 1950s. That said, Georgie is best known as the first female commercial river runner.

Miner Tillotson did not close the river due to too many deaths; he simply forbade Region 3 NPS employees from boating in the Canyon. Tillotson gave an on-air press event in 1938 about the Clover trip at the South Rim, encouraging the Nation to visit the park in the regular way and not take the river route. The 1938 Clover Expedition used Nevills to get through the Canyon. Without Dr. Clover's hard work, the trip would have ended at Lees Ferry. The patriarchal paradigm of the day stripped her of what was clearly her expedition.

The outing report states that upruns of the river were ended by horsepower limits imposed by NPS. Boats did attempt upruns of the river in Grand Canyon, and were eventually successful at that in 1960. The thought at the time by the uprunning crews was that river flows of 30,000 cfs and above were needed. Those flows were stopped in 1963 by Glen Canyon Dam cutting the river flow to what the pre-dam runners considered a trickle. The NPS banned uprunning in the 1960s. Horsepower rules were introduced in 1979 and had nothing to do with uprunning, but that's another story.

The amazing thing about the tiny kayaks newly added to the collection is that a 12-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy paddled them, not the fact that they're tiny kayaks.

Finally, a photo credit identifies one of David Rust's canvas canoes as being Kolb's. While Kolb used this type of craft, it's not his boat, but Rust's.

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### **The 2020 Pioneer Award Jason Nez, National Park Service**

The Grand Canyon Historical Society is pleased to announce that the 2020 Pioneer Award will be presented to Jason Nez, National Park Service archaeologist and fire fighter. Though the future is currently uncertain, we anticipate that this prestigious award will be presented to Jason at the Annual Picnic to be held at Shoshone Point on July 11, 2020.\*\*

Jason Nez has made unique contributions to the understanding and preservation of both contemporary and prehistoric native cultures of the Grand Canyon region. He has also played a major role in protecting sacred lands of the region.

Jason is Diné and grew up on the Navajo Nation at Coal Mine Mesa. He has spent his life in and around the



Jason Nez at the Confluence.

Grand Canyon region and has over 15 years of experience as an archaeologist in northern Arizona and on the Navajo Reservation. He is familiar with the pioneer stories of John Hance, Ralph Cameron, and W.W. Bass, but contextualizes them within his Native viewpoint.

Jason's cultural demonstrations throughout northern Arizona are a valuable contribution to understanding Grand Canyon's longer-term human history and to preserving often overlooked Native traditions and ways of life. He crafts tools, including atlatls and darts, and demonstrates ancestral native tool fabrication and utilization, including hunting techniques, to audiences around the region.

Jason frequently appears as a speaker presenting a Native perspective, communicating how he connects the past with the present, working diligently to paint a picture of the past and share this "lost history" with others who share his passion for those who came before. As a speaker at the 2019 Grand Canyon History Symposium, Jason presented an intimate view of life as a Diné person living in a mostly Anglo world.

A major life accomplishment for Jason was his role in the fight against the proposed tramway to the confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado rivers in eastern Grand Canyon. To stop the historic pattern of "foreign investors" robbing indigenous people of their lands and culture was no small feat. Appearing both on camera and in front of groups of strangers, Jason was one of the many powerful voices that helped stop this development, a moment in history that will never be forgotten. Jason told the world that the Sacred Confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River is to be revered and respected, that Native histories and the land are connected, and if landscapes and resources are destroyed, the people are destroyed.

Having an indigenous person stand up and tell the truth of their history, both the good times and the hardships, has been a new experience for many; Native histories have not been thought of as equally as important as the Anglo pioneer stories. Jason Nez has dedicated his life to sharing the knowledge of his people's past, so that others may better understand the present.

The Grand Canyon Historical Society is pleased to present this award to an outstanding contributor to Grand Canyon's history.

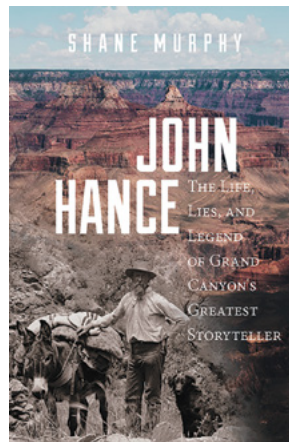
- Wayne Ranney and Haley Johnson  
GCHS Pioneer Award Chairpersons

\*\* Due to Group limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, updated information about the date and location of the Annual Picnic will be forthcoming.

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## New Books

***John Hance: The Life, Lies, and Legend of Grand Canyon's Greatest Storyteller***, Shane Murphy, c.2020, University of Utah Press, 288 pages, \$24.95 paper, \$20 ebook.

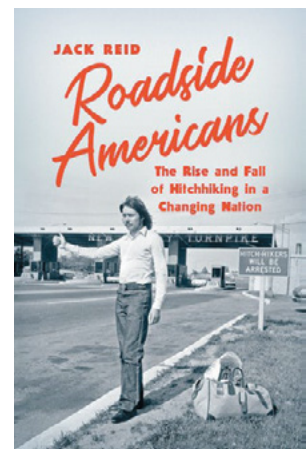


Shane Murphy chronicles Hance's childhood, his service in the Confederacy during the Civil War, his time in Union prisons as a POW, and his later adventures with the Hickok brothers crossing the plains. Settling in Arizona's Verde Valley, Hance farmed and filled military contracts before taking up residence as Grand Canyon's first permanent Euro-American settler, trail builder, guide, and renowned storyteller. Hance left

no correspondence, personal memoirs, or other writings. Only informal portraits from magazines and newspaper accounts remain. Murphy investigated assessors' rolls, rare mercantile ledgers, and mining claims to create a narrative of a man who was once an icon of the American West and a founding father of Grand Canyon tourism.

***Roadside Americans: The Rise and Fall of Hitchhiking in a Changing Nation***, Jack Reid, c.2020, University of North Carolina Press, 264 pages, \$29.95.

Jack Reid traces the rise and fall of hitchhiking, offering vivid accounts of life on the road and how the act of soliciting rides from strangers, and the attitude toward hitchhikers in American society evolved over time. Though this book is not specifically about Grand Canyon history, it is written by a current GCHS Board Member and many people most likely have hitchhiked for their first view of the Canyon.



*The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Karen Greig at [thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org](mailto:thebulletin@grandcanyonhistory.org).*

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Photo by Jason Nez