

**Born in 1900
and reborn in
1989**

Transporting people
from Williams to Grand
Canyon National Park

The Grand Canyon Railway was not simply a mode of travel for tourists to the Grand Canyon, but was also an expansive center of a burgeoning community of all different kinds of people and industries.



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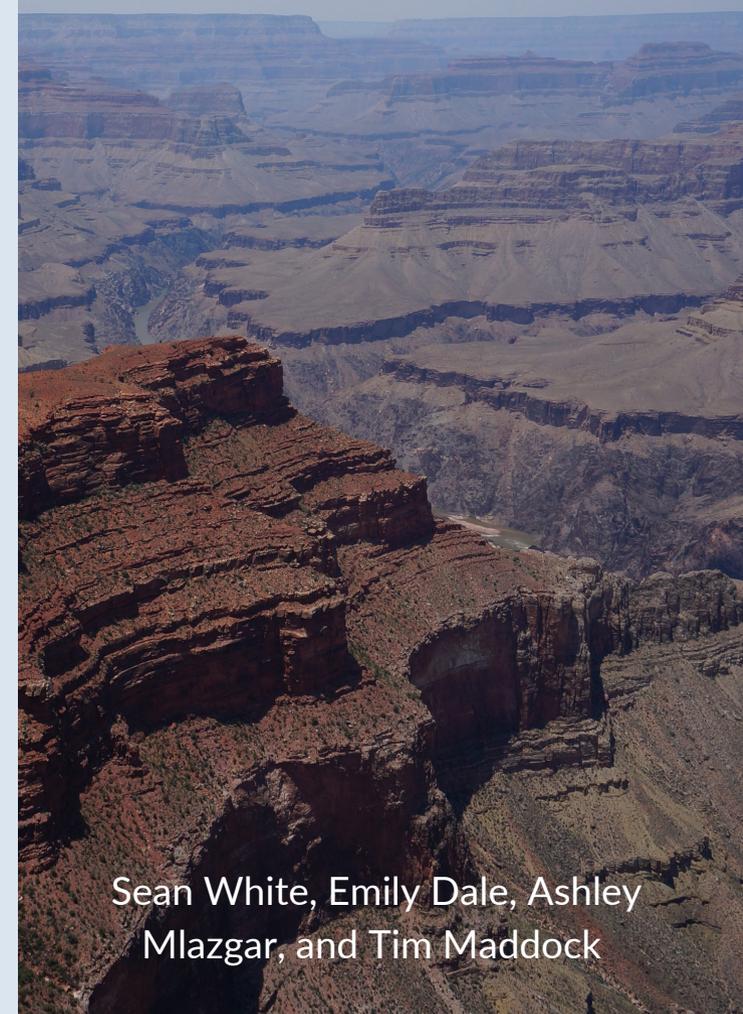
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References:

Al Richmond [Cowboys, Miners, Presidents & Kings: the Story of the Grand Canyon Railway.](#)
Pat Stein [Logging Railroads of the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests](#)

Archaeology on the Grand Canyon Railway

Apex, Arizona
Archaeology Field School



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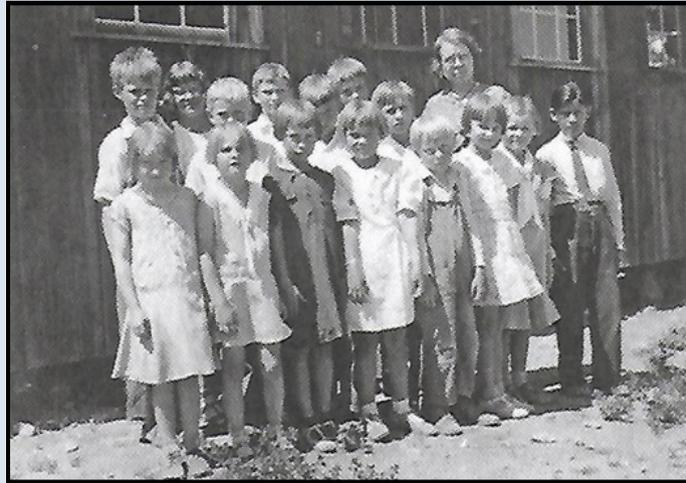
History of the Railroad

The 64-mile long Grand Canyon Railway was originally conceived in 1893 by Bucky O'Neil, who planned to use the line to transport the lucrative copper ore found in the region. Finally completed in 1901, the railway served the surrounding mining, ranching, and logging communities by moving products out and goods in.

The railway also brought thousands of tourists from Williams to the Grand Canyon until the line was discontinued and dismantled in 1968.



Railroad grade and axe head (inset) at Apex.
Photos by Emily Dale.



Rose B. Wilson's 1934 Apex class in front of the schoolhouse. Photo from Al Richmond.

Apex, Arizona

Founded by the Saginaw and Manistee Lumber Company in 1928, Apex was home to their mostly Scandinavian lumberjacks and their families until 1936. The camp contained worker dorms, family houses, and a schoolhouse. Railroad spurs and maintenance buildings helped keep the timber moving.

Mexican and Native American employees of the Grand Canyon Railway worked at the nearby Apex siding. Their children attended the Apex school, one of the few unsegregated schools in Arizona at the time.

Archaeology at Apex

The collaborative Northern Arizona University and Kaibab National Forests Apex Archaeology Project will survey, map, photograph, and excavate the building foundations, trash scatters, and artifacts still at the site to answer questions, such as:

- What was life like at an Arizona company town during the Great Depression?
- What was the relationship between the Scandinavian lumber workers and the Native and Mexican railroad workers?
- What evidence of the lumber industry is at the camp and along the logging spurs?

The Future of the Railroad

Although the heyday of the Grand Canyon Railway is in the past, this cornerstone of the region continues to serve adventurous travelers who choose leave their vehicles, for the comfort of its cars and easy access to the natural wonder of the Grand Canyon.