

The Zane Grey Review

"ROLL THE STONE"

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DON WARREN, Editor

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Our Hero, Zane Grey

OUR HERO, ZANE GREY

by George H. Pittman, Sun Staff Reporter

Zane Grey, Flagstaff, and the old west came very much alive when put into historical perspective during a series of talks given on the second day of the fourth annual Zane Grey's Society Convention held in Flagstaff, Arizona June 9-12.

About 100 Zane Grey enthusiasts attended the four-day session which began on Monday and ended with a banquet Thursday evening.

The meetings and banquet were held at Flagstaff's Holiday Inn.

Grey frequently was referred to as "our hero" by society members and guests attending the session.

People came from the East Coast and Midwest to attend the meeting, which was conducted in Flagstaff this year for the first time since the society was formed a few years ago.

"Eighty years ago, not far from here, the world's perception of the West began," Joe Wheeler, executive director for the group, said in the keynote address Tuesday morning, "The public refuses to give up its perception of Zane Grey's interpretation of the West."

Wheeler talked about some of the interesting men Grey wrote about, including Buffalo Jones who helped save the few surviving buffaloes from extinction on the plains and in Canada and reassemble them into herds which still survive.

"Cowboys, including blacks and Hispanics, were vigorous men. Everything went well for them until barbed wire moved across the West. Barbed wire emasculated the cowboys. The song 'Don't Fence Me In' was indeed appropriate to them," Wheeler said.

He went on to say that Buffalo Bill, Annie Oakley and dime novels marketed the old west, but it was Zane and Dolly Grey who changed the perception of the West.

It was noted several times during speeches that Grey, who had been a practicing dentist and had aspirations to be a baseball player, became interested in writing when he lived in Zanesville, Ohio.

In 1906, he got off a train at the small town of Flagstaff. He traveled to the Grand Canyon and across Northern Arizona from the local community.

Grey fell in love with the beauty of the canyon and later was to write vivid descriptions of the sunrises and sunsets.

In 1907, Grey made a trip to the Colorado River and

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Dr. Phil Rulon accepts a Boyd Steiner painting on behalf of Dr. Eugene Hughes, President of Northern Arizona University. This was presented by Dr. Charles Schissel, President of the Zane Grey's West Society, for the Society, in appreciation to Dr. Hughes and the University for hosting the opening night Western Barbeque at the University.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS

by Dr. Charles J. Schissel

As president, I wish to once again thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Flagstaff Convention. For those unable to attend, I would like to say that the staff of Northern Arizona University could not have been more cordial. From the opening remarks from Gib Stiles to the closing remarks by Bill Close, the convention was what it was meant to be - informative and fun.

Next year's convention is scheduled for Lackwaxen, Pennsylvania with the dates to be announced later - probably sometime in mid June of 1987. This is where Zane met Dolly, this is where he fished the Delaware, where he wrote many of his early (and perhaps best) novels, and where ZG and Dolly are buried. Jim Vickers, a member of the Society Board of Directors, is to be the chairman of the planning committee. He and I welcome any ideas - particularly from the Northeast Chapter members. This is your stomping ground! Help us to make the convention a success.

The 4th annual convention is a thing of the past but many wonderful memories will linger with those who were able to be there. Never was a group more cordially received and treated than at the opening night festivities at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Eugene Hughes and his staff had planned a western style dinner that was outstanding and in his address following the meal, he let everyone know how much the University thought of our group and how much they hoped the association would continue in the future. Dr. Joe L. Wheeler in responding thanked both Dr. Hughes and the University for the glorious evening and made remarks concerning Zane Grey, Flagstaff and the State of Arizona. Dr. Wheeler, the Executive Director of the Society, further commented on the common goal the University and the Society had.

Another highlight of the convention would have to be the bus tour taken on Tuesday. Following a delightful membership breakfast where members who had signed up three or more members were honored, a bus load of forty-three people headed for the Grand Canyon. In route there was a stop at a small roadside church with a scenic view of the San Francisco Peaks. From this point the tour proceeded to the I-Max theatre to see the movie on the wonders of the Grand Canyon. Presented on a seventy foot screen with the seats rising sharply in front of it gave the viewers a feeling of being in the midst of the plot. Some oohs! and aahs! were heard but everyone survived. Onward the bus went to the Grand Canyon and lunch at the Bright Angel Lodge and what a lunch it was. At this stop and at various stops at overlooks following lunch the beauty and glory of the Canyon was apparent. On the return trip stops were made at the Little Colorado River Gorge and at Wupatki Ruins. The road went directly through the Sunset Crater area and as it was late in the day the setting sun made the mineral deposits "glow" and brought out the unique coloring of the area. As an end to a perfect day, Dr. Wheeler held a tribute to G.M. Farley upon our return to the Holiday Inn. Volume IV of *Zane Grey's West* had just arrived and he had dedicated it to G.M. In a short, moving ceremony during which he read the tribute to G.M. from page 3 of the magazine, G.M. was honored and those in attendance received their copy of the issue. One short paragraph from his tribute said it all. "G.M. is a man of total integrity. He cares deeply about those whose lives intersect with his; his friendships are for the 'long haul'."

The membership owes a vote of thanks to many people who played such a huge part in putting this convention together and making it work. Ideas came from many directions and were a big help but space doesn't permit a listing of this type. Rather, I want to publicly thank the shakers and movers of this convention and list their names here: Bill and Joy Close, Gib and Joie Stiles, Boyd and Maxine Steiner.

After months of intermittent work with tax forms and changing our Constitution and By-Laws, our tax exempt status has been reached. This means that the proceeds from the auction are tax deductible for those who donated material and any donation made to the Society is also deductible. To those sending in contributions, please make it out to the Society if that is your desire or if you want it to go to the foundation, make it out that way. Either way it is deductible. As seen in another article, the auction receipts are down so if you are interested, the Society does need some help. Our original budget had planned on receipts such as we had at Payson, \$4400 (we

only received half of that). For the future, ideas have been presented to be involved in a "Books for Students" program and perhaps some type of scholarship to college students interested in ZG. Whatever is decided by the Board of Directors will be for the good of and advancement of the Society. I want to be a part of this. How about you???

Several members of the Society spent the night of June 7th in Winslow, Arizona and others drove in on Sunday morning to hear Reverend G.M. Farley preach the sermon on Sunday morning, June 8th at the Pentecostal Church of God. G.M., as usual, brought the word of God in a clear, easily understood manner and had a message that was well received. The title of the sermon was "Job" and the scripture was Job 1:1-12. Basically, the message was that Job is a prime example of bearing, suffering, loss and persecution, but he is not a precedent; he is an example. Job feared God and shunned evil, he was perfect and upright. Satan caused all his problems for no other reason than meanness, to do something to spite God. Job was rich with a large family but through Satan's action all his wealth and children were done away with. He was afflicted with boils over his body from his head to his feet. Job stood firm in his belief to God and refused to denounce God. His wife couldn't change him and his so-called friends failed in their attempts to get him to confess that he had sinned, causing this situation. He stuck by what he knew was right and as a result, God intervened, his herds multiplied. He had seven sons and three beautiful daughters and the Lord blessed him more than he had in the beginning. Job's faith carried him through and the amazing part of this story is that in Job's time he didn't have a Bible or anything else to lean on, just his faith in God. We learn from this that when we have nothing left but God, God is enough. Thanks, G.M. for a message that in the short time since I heard it has already been a big help.

Following the convention, we, in company with the Closes and the Stiles, headed for Canyon de Chelly and then spent the day Sunday on an all day tour. Majestic beautiful splendor, a cathedral of nature, a memorial to those who came before - none of these words can describe it, but they are the best I can do. If you haven't been there, put it down on your list for the next trip to Arizona. From there we went up through Colorado, visiting some friends and then on back to Illinois. The grass needed mowing, the shrubs needed trimming and the mail was stacked up. In addition to all that - there was still work to be done to qualify for our tax exempt status and other things that the convention had generated. Relatives and friends visiting, family reunion and yes, even just loafing has made this a busy summer. Zach and I even took time to go swimming so rather than get this issue out the 1st of August, I am running a little behind. Bear with us this month and we will be pushing for an October 15 date for the next issue.

NOTICE

Volume IV of *Zane Grey's West* was distributed to those in attendance at Flagstaff. If for some reason you didn't receive one there or by mail, please notify the Secretary as soon as possible.'

the strip area of northwest Arizona.

Transportation around Northern Arizona at that time was still by a few stagecoaches, horses or buckboards.

Grey developed a love for Arizona and reportedly for Flagstaff.

It is reported, but not confirmed, that he wrote *Call of the Canyon* while staying at the old Weatherford Hotel in Flagstaff.

Grey not only wrote western novels, but books about hunting and fishing as well.

White Death, a story of a white shark, was the only novel Grey wrote which he later personally starred in when it was made into a movie. Video tapes are now available of this film.

The author had some lean years as a writer before he began to attain success with his novels.

The life, times and writings of Grey in the Ohio Valley were discussed by the Rev. G.M. Farley. Eventually, Grey was to transfer his interests and writings from the Ohio Valley to the West.

Phoenix TV newscaster Bill Close talked about the history and many styles of bola ties. Close went on to say that the bola tie has become symbol of Arizona and can be worn with formal or informal attire. Close added that there is a Bola Society of Arizona.

In introductory remarks, Dr. Philip R. Rulon, director of the Center for Excellence in Education, Northern Arizona University, said membership in the Zane Grey Society "Is almost like a religion."

Researching the life of the author was anything but boring, Dr. Candice Kant, author of *Zane Grey's Arizona*, said in her talk. Kant did her research and doctoral dissertation of Grey at NAU and later turned the material into a book published by Northland Press.

She noted Grey's novels written about Arizona fell into four categories: the Grand Canyon area and the Arizona Strip, Navajo Reservation, southern Arizona desert and the Tonto Basin forest area. Kant said her research convinced her it is very hard to escape Grey's influence in Flagstaff and Arizona.

Kant gave Platt Cline, former editor and publisher of *The Arizona Daily Sun*, credit for providing her with information about Grey.

She noted that when Grey first arrived in Flagstaff, what is now *The Sun* was formerly a weekly - *The Coconino Sun*. Grey used to stop by the newspaper office and talk to the local editor. Stories would be written about Grey. Those should be published in the weekly edition which Kant was later able to research on microfilm at the NAU Special Collections Library on south campus.

"The heart of Grey's novels was his personal experiences of the land and the people," she said. "His novels gave his stories believability. His settings were vivid and accurate, despite what some people say. Zane Grey wrote historical backgrounds into his stories which were accurate and not erroneous."

She gave Grey a great deal of credit for his accuracy in researching.

Kant admitted that Grey's novels are not classified as "great literature - yet." She said his portraits of the West have come to be absorbed by readers. "He romanticized the West and made great contributions in popularizing the West," she commented.

Through his writings about the harsh land, brave men and valiant animals, he became a part of the West and a myth of the legend he created.

"Zane Grey was his own western hero."

"Arizona had some of the last pioneers of the old

west," Marguerite Noble said when she talked about "Western Women Who Lived in Zane Grey's West."

She noted that western women did "heroic and courageous things which we still don't hear about in western novels. Along with the men he wrote about were the women who lived with them," Noble said.

She cited several examples of the lifestyles which pioneer women had to live on the frontier. She said loneliness and boredom were a part of their lives and some could not accept or take it for very long.

She noted that western women in pioneer days made do with what they had. "If they didn't have it, they did without. Those women did not pity themselves," Noble said.

"The West was hard on men and horses and hell on women," she added.

However, she went on to say all aspects of living in the West at that time were not negative. "This country made the men and it made the women," she commented. "I'm just glad I could be here today to put in my 2 cents worth about the type of lives those women led. I just hope that textbooks of the future will give more credit to the women of that period."

A color slide account of "Zane Grey in the Arizona Strip" was presented by Dr. James H. Vickers, a doctor of veterinary medicine from Ijamsville, MD. Vickers has journeyed through much of the Arizona and Utah country originally traveled by Grey.

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ZANE GREY'S WEST FOUNDATION

As seen elsewhere in this issue the Foundation and its subsidiary, the Committee of 100, have been reorganized and changed. With the appointment of Don Warren, the Society Secretary-Treasurer to the post of Treasurer of the Foundation and Gib Stiles as the Chairman of the Committee of 100, members should send their contributions to one or the other.

The possibility of publishing another *Zane Grey's West* this fall is dependent on contributions from those individuals and organizations that are interested enough to make generous contributions to the Foundation. This is an appeal to those who feel that they would like to see this done. If you are one who feels this way and would like to make a contribution, do so NOW. If you feel this way but are unable to give \$100 or more, feel free to give what you can. If you give and pledge enough for the 100 club, it will be so noted in the records and your name will be added to the list when the goal is reached. This is tax exempt and is sorely needed.

Listed here are the names of those who have already given \$100 or more:

1. Charles J. Schissel
2. Stan and Louise Watson
3. John Gilbert
4. Margaret Sell
5. Eugene Hafner
6. Gib Stiles
7. Wendell Phillips
8. Karl Rothermund
9. Jack Peck
10. Tex Catron

We now show a balance of \$1090.95 and our heartfelt thanks go to those who have helped so far. Will you be next???

AS THE WHEEL TURNS

by Joe L. Wheeler

Society Executive Director

What a splendid convention we had in Flagstaff! It was good to see old friends and make new ones. And Flagstaff really opened its collective hearts to us.

As for next June, it's Pennsylvania, here we come!

CHANGES IN FOUNDATION AND COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

In an attempt to make both Zane Grey's West Foundation and Zane Grey's West Committee of 100 more closely related to, and governed by the Society, the following changes have taken place:

1. The Foundation Board now consists of Joe Wheeler, Society Executive Director (who serves as President); Charles Schissel, Society President (who serves as Vice President), Don Warren, Society Secretary-Treasurer (who serves as Treasurer), and Paul Buening, Texas accountant (who serves as Secretary). Prior to this, the only two officers were Wheeler and Buening.
2. All funds which come to the Foundation, or to the Foundation through the Committee of 100, will be channeled through the Secretary-Treasurer's office, banked by him, and accounted for to the membership of the Committee of 100 by him,
3. Because of the close relationship between the Foundation Board and the Society, the Secretary-Treasurer's office will also keep the Society fully informed as to Committee of 100 and Foundation accounts and expenditures.
4. Gib Stiles, Chairman of the Flagstaff Convention Committee, upon recommendation of the Foundation President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, was offered the position of Chairman of the Committee of 100, replacing Charles Schissel. Stiles, in his new role, will soon be in communication with Committee and Society members.

The recent *Zane Grey's West* listed the Charter Members of the Committee of 100. A number of these have already renewed, some sending checks for both 1985 and 1986. Since the annual Society Auction resulted in an all-time low this year, the fate of this year's Society publications (such as *Zane Grey's West*) rests in the hands of the Committee of 100 members; if the response is generous, there will probably be another magazine printed by late fall. And we certainly hope that a number of additional Society members will join this illustrious and deeply appreciated group.

THE GREAT DIVIDE

At the request of Don Warren, I am hereby capsulizing the Flagstaff Keynote Address for the benefit of those who weren't able to make it to the convention. The full text will be published in *Zane Grey's West*.

The basic premise of the address is that before Zane and Dolly Grey, there was no generally held concept that an Old West had ever really existed, merely that the second half of the 19th Century was viewed as a logical extension of the American frontier. But Grey took the brief cattle period (22 years: 1866-1888) and immortalized it for all time in his canon of books. Before Grey, only the Dime Novels, Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows, and Wister's *The Virginian* prepared the ground.

When Zane and Dolly Grey gazed over the El Tovar Hotel into the depths of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado during their 1906 honeymoon, 33 years and months

lay behind him and 33 years and months lay ahead. It was indeed for him the Great Divide of his life, for after it, unable to shake his love affair with the Arizona-Utah high country, he would - first in fiction, then non-fiction, then literally - move west himself. And during these years, it was the wild frontier town of Flagstaff that served as the jumping-off place his expeditions left from.

POST CONVENTION MUSINGS OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Gilbert H. DeYoung

Gert and I arrived home from another very enjoyable convention. Thanks for this must go to our Secretary-Treasurer Don Warren and our convention committee. We must not forget Dottie Warren who worked many, many hours to help make our convention a success.

One item of the convention bothers me very much, however. That is the book auction. Gert and I have been involved in all of the auctions we have had so far. These auctions are very important to the life of our society. The funds are needed to keep dues at the present level and to publish *The Zane Grey Review*, *The Zane Grey Reporter*, and *Zane Grey's West*. These publications are the life blood of our society.

We count on quality contributions from our members to the auction. Some of the donated books this year were only fit for the Boy Scouts' used paper drive. One book I had to throw in the waste paper basket.

Please, let us for future auctions, only donate quality material. Less pieces - shorter auction - more proceeds. When you donate, ask yourself, "Would I want this book in my collection?" or "Would a book dealer want to have this book in his/her shop?"

I look forward to the coming publications and the convention in 1987. Let us have a most successful year.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At the annual business session of the Society held Thursday, June 10th, several new officers were elected. These are the people who will have the responsibility to guide and govern this organization through another year. Although president Hafner and vice-president Ford each had another year to go on their term, both felt that by having served in their position since the inception of the Society in 1983 in Keene, Texas, that it was time for them to step down. Dr. Charles Schissel, who had been serving as a director, was elected to serve as president for the one year left in the term and Gilbert DeYoung, another director, was elected to finish up the one year term as vice-president. Elected to finish up the terms of Schissel and DeYoung were two new members to the board. Margaret Sell, the curator at the ZG cabin in Payson, Arizona, was one of the new directors elected. In addition, Boyd Steiner, the *Review* staff artist was elected to the other vacancy. Steiner makes his home in Mesa, Arizona and is well known for his western paintings. Both James Vickers and Bob Paulson were re-elected to two year terms as directors. Along with Don Warren, the Secretary-Treasurer; Joe Wheeler, Executive Director; G.M. Farley, Honorary President; Gene Hafner, Past President, this group will constitute the Board of Directors of the Zane Grey's West Society for the coming year of 1986-1987. Other items covered in the business session were changes in the Constitution and By-Laws that were found to be necessary in order for the Society to qualify for a tax exempt status. Finally, the members voted to hold next year's convention in Lackawaxan, Pennsylvania.



Scenes from the Fourth Annual Zane Grey's West Society Convention. Pictured left to right, top to bottom: Banquet speaker, Budge Ruffner; Chuck and Lella Pfeiffer; Toastmaster, Bill Close; Joy Close, Dr. Darold Shutt, Dr. Philip Rulon; Joie Stiles, Boyd Steiner; Annette Rulon; Mr. & Mrs. Bob Paulson, Gil & Gert DeYoung, Paulson's Grandson Tim Suchan; Rita Schissel.

Photographs by Dorothy Warren.



Scenes from the Fourth Annual Zane Grey's West Society Convention. Pictured left to right, top to bottom: G.M. Farley, Charles Schissel, Don Warren, Boyd Steiner; "I wonder what everyone is looking at? - Joe Wheeler; Charles Schissel; Boyd and Maxine Steiner, Joy and Bill Close; Dorothy and Don Warren; Warren's grandson Zach Sparling; Gert DeYoung, Rita Schissel; Stan Watson, Louise Watson, Joe Wheeler, Chuck Pfeiffer.

Photographs by Dorothy Warren.



Scenes from the Fourth Annual Zane Grey's West Society Convention. Pictured left to right, top to bottom: Steve Mindock; Betty Zane Wetherill Rodgers, Wilma and Jack Seeley; Sally Liebig; G.M. Farley; Charles and Marguerite Noble, Zach Sparling; June Mindock, Phil Rulon; Frankie Farley; Gladys Dobson, Marcella and Leo Lemonds; Gary Updahl.

Photographs by Dorothy Warren.

ZANE GREY

COUNTRY LANE BOOKS ANNOUNCES THE THIRD ENLARGED AND REVISED EDITION OF A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CHECK LIST OF THE WORKS OF ZANE GREY

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"86" AUCTION

What can I say? Everything about this convention was what we had predicted except for the auction. To put it simply, the auction **failed**. Paul Leiker, the auctioneer, did an outstanding job of getting what he could out of a lot of books that should have never been sent to the auction. Yes, there were some good items, such as Tom McColister's picture and a small number of good ZG books. Over the past year we have mentioned in other articles the need for quality, not quantity, and it just wasn't so. This is no place for reprints without dustjackets, paperbacks and etc. Here is where you should see some rare, hard to get books and quality items in very good shape at the minimum. Perhaps we haven't been too clear on this, but for next year we need to think this way. The auction raised only \$1875 and with some late arrival books from Dr. Loren Grey, which were auctioned at the banquet, a total of \$2125.50 was raised. Margaret Sell was the big purchaser with a total of \$429.00 or about 1/5 of the total.

We now face a dilemma. Our **TAX EXEMPT** status has been reached and will cover anything donated. Those who donated for the auction will receive a statement showing what their items brought and anyone donating money since January 1 will be entitled to deduct that amount. Our dilemma is that with the auction receipts down, we may be unable to do the things we would like in the future. Very few people donated items and very few people bought those items. If you are one of those who didn't take part, why not take part now by sending an amount that suits your budget to the Society and earmark it for the auction account. Remember, the Society is now **TAX EXEMPT**.



Pictured above is one of the moving moments of the Flagstaff Convention. Zachary Sparling, upon learning that Margaret Sell, Curator at the Zane Grey cabin near Payson Arizona, gave books to children that came to the cabin, presented her with four Zane Grey novels to give to young people. Sparling, the youngest member of the Society, was attending his 3rd ZG convention and rated this convention the best yet. He was heard to say he had never been to Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania and that sounded good for 1987.

ZANE GREY SIGNS AVAILABLE

How about an official Zane Grey Rd. sign for your library, rec. room, or even your yard?

In cooperation with Muskingum County Engineer, Mr. Larry Neff, these signs can now be purchased.

The signs are green with white letters printed on aluminum and measure 6" X 24". With each sign is a letter stating it was momentarily posted at the intersection of Zane Grey Rd. and U.S. 40 (National Rd.) and will be signed by Mr. Neff. (My thanks to Mr. Tom McCollister for his help on the letter.)

Signs are available with lettering on one side only for \$12.00, or both sides for \$15.50. The price includes shipping and handling and **ALL** profits go to the Zane Grey West Society. Deadline is September 30th, and signs will be shipped in mid-October. So send your order now for this unique item to:

Tom Myer
7755 Ridgeview Ln.
Zanesville, OH 43701

MEMBERSHIP

In the May issue in listing the membership, a mistake was made. It was stated that from February 1 through March 8 the rolls increased by nine members. The nine was right but the period covered was from April 1 through May 8. Since then we have picked up eleven new members as of August 1. The bad news is that we were forced to drop fifty-one members for non payment of dues. This saddens one but with the economics of the 80s there wasn't much choice. We now have a total of 250 regular members, 7 associate members and 3 student members. Our new members since the last report are:

1. Rocky Baranowski, reg. member Arizona
2. T. Cornell Berry, Jr., reg. member Virginia
3. Haskell Cannon, reg. member Arizona
4. Nancy Cannon, assoc. member Arizona
5. Patricia H. Christian, reg. member ... Pennsylvania
6. Lawrence M. Davis, reg. member Arizona
7. Harold S. Dobson, reg. member Arizona
8. Larry Ecklund, reg. member California
9. Fred A. Hicks, reg. member California
10. Stephen I. Montgomery, reg. member Arizona
11. Scott Slaughter Smith, reg. member California

The help of each member is needed in signing up new members. Starting in our next issue we will list with each new member the person responsible for signing them up. If unknown, and some are, we will show it as such. We now need to set a goal of having 75 more members by the first of June 1987. In the meantime it is time to start paying our "87" dues. The dues are still the same as last year. Regular member - \$25.00, Associate member - \$15.00, Student member - \$10.00.

Those honored at the membership breakfast held in Flagstaff for signing up three members or more were: Charles Pfeiffer, Cliff Ford, Marilu Ford, G.M. Farley, Dorothy Warren, and Don Warren.

STORY TELLING SESSION

by George H. Pittman

Anecdotes about some of the colorful people who have lived in Arizona in the past entertained the large crowd who attended the final evening's banquet of the fourth annual Zane Grey's West Society Convention in Flagstaff June 12.

Budge Ruffner, a Prescott historian and book review editor for Arizona Highways magazine, did not talk about Grey, but about some of the people who "have provided flavor to the state" when he was guest speaker at the dinner.

Ruffner said that former Gov. and Sen. Ernest McFarland was a "unique person and an astute politician who had a hell of a time remembering faces and names."

"Of course, politicians are always good for humorous stories," Ruffner said with a laugh.

He praised Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., District 2, as "a great guy who has a sense of humor."

"One of the most colorful individuals who ever came to Arizona was Henry F. Ashurst," Ruffner said. "He was a self-educated man who became known as the golden tongued orator when he became a U.S. senator from Arizona."

"In all honesty, there have been many characters in Arizona, but few as articulate as Ashurst."

Ruffner mentioned the wisdom of the Chiricahua Apache Chief Chochise in dealing with his own people and the white people who moved into the Chiricahua land in southern Arizona.

Phoenix TV anchorman Bill Close was toastmaster for the evening's festivities. He called Ruffner one of the best storytellers in the state.

More than 100 society members and guests had assembled in Flagstaff to attend meetings on Grey, the author who lived and traveled in Arizona for many years and wrote novels which helped popularize Arizona and the old West to people throughout the world.

Grey spent time in Flagstaff and traveled throughout many parts of the state meeting people and compiling data which became parts of the novels he was to write during his lifetime.

During the 1920s, Grey used a cabin near Payson from which he wrote some of his material.

Though Grey has been dead since 1939, a large number of people who have collected Grey's books and read many or most of his works attended the four-day session.

"This has been a terrific convention," Close said. "We hope you will hold another one of these in Arizona in the near future."

Next year's convention will be in Lackawaxen, Pa., where the author died Oct. 23, 1939. Grey is buried there.

Reprinted from The Arizona Daily Sun with permission of the author, George H. Pittman.

SOLITUDE

by Ed Myers

It occurred to me this morning while I was out for my early morning run...

I must depart from this early on to explain that I have always loved to be alone. In fact, the presence of another human is often a great intrusion on my personal thoughts and quiet. Only the sounds of nature, birds, insects, the murmur of a breeze through a pine forest and the sound of my own footsteps are welcome.

I can find this (aleness) because I am a bookseller with small ambitions and because I have always had a deep

love affair with nature, handed down to me from my father. Dad was in many respects much like my perception of Zane Grey.

Anyway, I can afford to take entire days off whenever I wish to tramp in the woods, to bicycle through some lonely countryside in the Berkshires of southwest Massachusetts and the northwest hills of Connecticut, and run all the lonely, out of the way dirt roads I can find to explore. It's much more fun to run, exploring, with the senses heightened, pretending I am a child once again, who in turn is pretending to be an Indian Brave with some solemn purpose, alone in his New England forest.

It occurred to me this morning that Zane Grey must have felt a great need for this solitude as well, and his heroes and heroines often find their final happiness by locking themselves in a canyon for all eternity, or living in some secluded valley unknown to others. From my limited reading of Zane Grey Westerns, at least, these central characters would leave us with the feeling that they would never again be bothered by society, which would only be an intrusion on their solitude which they wished to share only with each other.

Romantic! Boy is it! Yet, perhaps this is Grey's way of saying alone is the only way to be. Alone is the only time we are truly happy and at peace with ourselves and nature, the living world around us. I am not aware of Grey's expressing this feeling in any manner. Perhaps in the teens and twenties one could easily take solitude for granted. Perhaps when one reads a Zane Grey Western one needs to be not only aware of the morals and mores of the time, (wasn't it beautiful and why, oh! why can't it be that way again) but one also needs to remember that you did not have to go so far or try so hard to find a place to be alone.

Grey wasn't looking to the future. Instead he was a part of the past as I am now so he did not have to come out and say, "I love solitude." Instead his main characters brought this love of solitude to us with their actions and final resolve.

As I sit here alone on the porch of Zane Grey's cabin in Payson it is even easier to accept this feeling. I wonder if there is some special spot up on the rim behind the cabin where there is a single boulder, once known to Grey, that once dislodged would create an avalanche so tremendous that this lonely spot would be totally shut off from civilization forever.

"WHITE DEATH"

by G.M. Farley

One of the greatest things that has ever happened to Zane Grey fandom is the release of the movie "White Death" on video cassette. The first shipment from Zane Grey, Inc. was waiting for me when I arrived in Flagstaff, Arizona for the fourth annual convention. They sold like hotcakes. It was not until I returned home two weeks later that I had a chance to view the film. What I saw was more than satisfactory.

"White Death" was written and filmed in Australia. The author was Zane Grey and he was also the starring personality. It is a black and white sound film made in 1936 with all the ingredients necessary for a film of that era. It has a heavy touch of humor sometimes bordering on the slapstick side suggesting that a hand other than Zane Grey's may have written the script. The only girl in the picture is seventeen year old Nola Warren, playing the daughter of a fanatical missionary whose wife and other daughter have been killed by a 20 foot "White Death" shark. Nineteen year old John Weston adds the romantic

touch. The action is good, especially for that period before the movie industry had the technical ability to create such scenes as were filmed in "Jaws". The excitement builds as Zane Grey sets out to kill the man-eater that is terrorizing a portion of the coast of Australia. Real aborigines, imported from a nearby island, add a touch of realism, suspense, and humor. Zane Grey fights, and loses, a large swordfish before finally hooking the great white shark. Once, when the rod breaks, it looks as if he will lose the white terror, but the quick action of his crew, including Peter Williams, who was Grey's boatman for a number of years, saves the day.

The great thrill, of course, is to watch Zane Grey act and to hear his voice. As far as I know this film has the only record of Grey's voice. You hear him speaking in sympathy, excitement, anger and impatience - a voice from the past finally made available to us by the perseverance of Zane Grey, Incorporated's president, Dr. Loren Grey.

The cassette (VHS) sells for \$39.95 and to any Zane Grey fan it is worth much more. In fact, Dr. Grey has informed me that very shortly the price is going to be increased. So this price is for a limited time. Anyone desiring to order a copy may do so by sending a check or money order to G.M. Farley, P.O. Box 411, Hagerstown, MD 21741. The cassettes are ready for shipping.

For further information about the filming of "White Death" and the various errors written by critics and reporters see *The Zane Grey Collector*, double issue, Volume 4, Number 4 (numbers 16 & 17), 1972.



Print Offer Extended

The limited edition signed and numbered fine art prints of Zane Grey are now being offered in conjunction with the ZGWS. The ZGWS will receive \$10 from each print sold. The prints are \$30 each. Price includes handling and shipping.

Only 150 of these prints were made. The print is a 16"x20" black and white reproduction of the pen and ink original. Print 1/150 was sold at the 4th ZGWS auction in Flagstaff and was very well received.

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Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Offer expires December 19, 1986.

THE ZANE GREY COOKBOOK

Is it a Zane Grey Collectible?

by G. M. Farley

There will probably always be the debate about where to stop in collecting a particular author. It is merely a matter of personal choice.

Some Zane Grey collectors want only first editions, preferably in dust wrappers. Others are more concerned about dust wrappers than the condition of the book. Then there are, like myself, the completists who want anything and everything by, about, or pertaining to Zane Grey. We would even scrape the dust off his boats, put it in a vial, and add it to our collection. Such people want a copy of anything that has Grey's name on it or in it.

The Zane Grey Cookbook is such an item. It is Zane Greyish in name only and yet it is a much-sought-after item. There is absolutely nothing in it by Zane Grey, not even a favorite recipe. There is nothing worthwhile in it about Grey. Yet when a copy does appear it is always listed at three or four times the original price. But try to get it! Call as soon as you receive your catalog in the mail. "Sorry. That item is already sold!"

According to one book dealer, the book's editors, George and Barbara Reiger, have only one copy.

Is it really a collectible? Again, it is a matter of preference. It is not a necessary item to those who collect only Zane Grey's actual works, but the completist **MUST** have a copy.

Apparently the book was issued in a limited edition which quickly sold out. There are two types of collectors who bought, the Zane Grey collectors and the cookbook collectors, and both breeds quickly (immediately is a better word) become attached to any item they obtain and to get it away from them is "nigh onto impossible." It is more difficult that trying to pry an object out of the hand of a person that has passed beyond the stage of mere **rigor mortis**.

So where does one find a copy? The best possibility is to be on the mailing list of some book dealers. When a new catalog appears, disappear from either home or office and peruse the catalog immediately - even if it means missing a lunch hour. If the book is listed, usually under Reiger, call at once, even if you miss a half-day's work, and you just might be fortunate.

When I was publishing *The Zane Grey Collector* I received a number of letters asking that I keep the correspondent advised, or send a copy, or anything that came out about Zane Grey. I tried this for awhile, because I always appreciated people telling me when something new appears. It isn't always possible to publish such information before it comes on the market and disappears. My advice would be to frequent the bookstores that customarily handle Zane Grey material. Some bookdealers will even call if you ask, but don't depend on this. They may have a dozen people who have asked them to do the same thing.

Which brings me to a thought totally unrelated to a cookbook. I've had several people complain that used book dealers have promised to call them whenever they get a certain, or rare, Zane Grey item and then failed to call them. **It is never fair or proper to impose such an obligation upon a dealer!** Try to consider that there may be from ten to twenty persons making the same demands on that dealer. It is a selfish thing to do. What is the dealer to do? Who can he best afford to neglect? Only one person can have the book. Is he supposed to play favoritism and make the rest angry? My sincere suggestion: take your chances like everyone else, and hope.

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