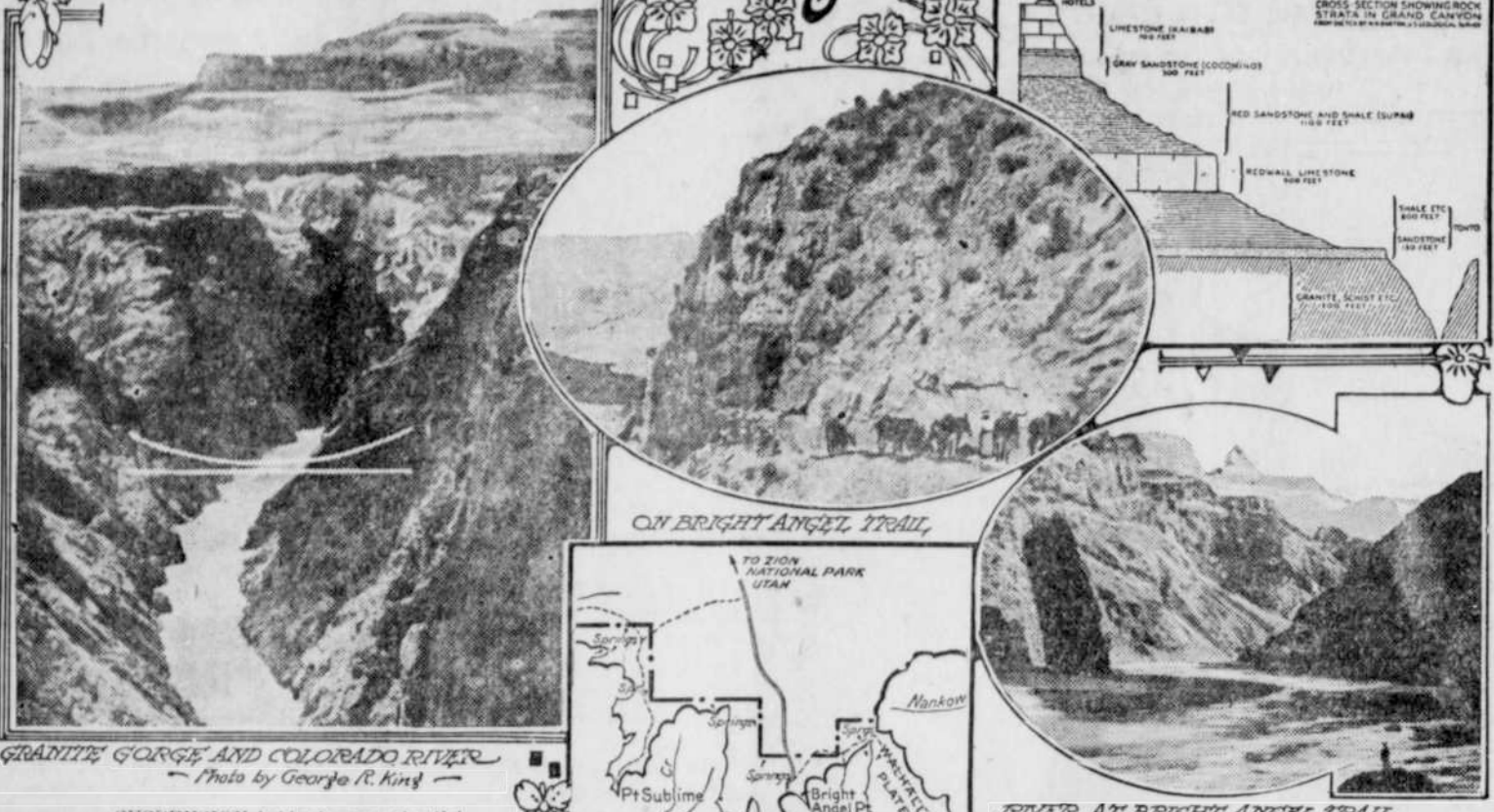


Suspension Bridge in the Grand Canyon

By John Dickinson Sherman



GRANITE GORGE AND COLORADO RIVER
—Photo by George R. King

Suspension bridge across the Colorado river in the depths of the granite gorge in Grand Canyon National park! That means that you and your horse can get across the Grand canyon from El Tovar to the North rim. And that means that you will get some entirely new views of the Grand canyon and of the surrounding country. For the North rim is 1,500 feet higher than the South rim.

Presumably you will be able to use this suspension bridge this season. The national park service is working on the bridge now and has been for some time. But you can easily guess that building this bridge is some considerable job—especially if you have ever traveled Bright Angel trail, down which all the materials and tools have to be packed. Anyway, here's a sample of the kind of things that may happen any minute on that famous trail.

Homer J. Aron is one of the packers engaged in getting stuff down Bright Angel trail. The other day he was taking down a string of animals. Several of them were loaded with TNT for blasting. At one of the sudden turns one of the pack animals slipped. The rest got excited. Pretty soon one animal went off the trail. All eleven in the string were tied together. Before long two more were dragged off the trail. About this time Aron succeeded in getting into the middle of the mixup. He cut the other eight animals loose and they staid on the trail.

Of course all three of the animals that fell off were killed. One fell 1,000 feet—without injuring his pack. One fell 200 feet—without exploding the 150 pounds of TNT in his pack. And that's what getting the bridge stuff down Bright Angel trail is like.

A look at the map gives the lay of the land. Bright Angel trail begins near El Tovar on the South rim and winds down to the Colorado at the bottom of Granite gorge. Hermit trail begins farther to the west and also goes down to the river. Part of the way down, the Tonto trail, running east and west, connects Hermit and Bright Angel trails.

At the foot of Bright Angel trail there is an aerial cable tram, which is used to ferry across venturesome visitors. The cross marks the site of the suspension bridge. The new trail will run north along Bright Angel creek. The visitor will ascend to the North rim at Bright Angel point. It is 10 miles across the Grand canyon here.

The descent from El Tovar to the river is about 4,500 feet. The North river is about 6,000 feet above the floor of the Grand canyon.

The view from the North rim is radically different. The temples lie in its foreground. One looks down upon them at close range. The granite gorge is miles in the background, and the opposite rim presents an apparently straight wall. The observer is twelve or fifteen hundred feet higher than the south rim and sees over it the desert plain for many miles south, with a far horizon of distant mountains. Many who have seen both prefer the south rim view, which has the temples in broad perspective and confines the eye to the spectacle of the canyon. Others prefer the north rim because of its closeness to the temples and its grasp of distant horizons. In the future thousands of travelers will not be content until they see the canyon from both rims.

Building the suspension bridge, once the material is on the spot, will not be difficult. The worst of the job is getting the stuff to the site on mule-back. The material for the bridge will consist principally of steel wire, seven-eighths and three-eighths of an inch respectively in diameter; heavy wooden timbers, strips of flooring of nine-foot length and tools and blasting powder. The matter of getting the long cables down is going to require the harnessing of at least four mules tandem and stringing of the load between them. The main cables will weigh between 700 and 800 pounds apiece. A cable will be gathered into several coils, with about twenty to thirty feet of slack between each coil. These coiled cables will then be put on mules, a coil to each.

Grand Canyon National park was established in 1919 and was dedicated in 1920. The suspension bridge is but one of many improvements planned by the national park service. Concerning the suspension bridge and other things Director Stephen T. Mather says, in part:

"The park is both a summer and winter resort. Though thus far developed by private capital, the results generally have been achieved with refinement and success. The character of existing buildings is commendable, and, although considerable adjustment will have to be done in the location of certain future buildings, this can readily be effected. Our landscape engineer has studied the future layout of all buildings, and construction for both the public operators and the park administration will proceed along well-laid-out lines."

"Although the first appropriation was not large for the amount of work to be done, since it amounted to only \$40,000, these funds were carefully distributed, and some improvements accomplished. In part these consisted in the construction of a stable and garage building, of a mess house, ranger quarters, which are being temporarily used for administrative offices, and improvements to a log cabin now being utilized by the acting superintendent as a residence. These are all at the Grand canyon administrative site. Ranger and construction and maintenance forces have been established, and there is at this writing a competent nucleus for carrying on all the park work under present conditions. The appropriation of \$231,000 for the present fiscal year enabled me to plan somewhat more extensively for actual improvements."

"One important piece of construction is a suspension bridge across the Colorado river at the foot of the south-side Bright Angel trail to connect with the north-side Bright Angel trail. At present the only method of crossing is in a small swinging cage traveling over a small cable, which only the most venturesome persons care to use; animals cannot be transported. Without some means of animal travel from the south to the north side of the park it will be difficult to administer the north rim or provide for its proper development and use by park visitors."

"The north rim, which is, from my own observation this summer, more beautiful than the south rim, is practically undeveloped by roads and trails. As soon as this first suspension bridge is completed across the Colorado river it is planned to reconstruct a portion of the Bright Angel trail on the north side of the river, which will make the north rim easily accessible. Later another bridge across the Colorado will be constructed near the foot of the Hermit trail, which in turn is to be connected by a trail to the north rim as a part of the trail development planned on the north side of the park; also an additional bridge should be placed in the vicinity of the present Bass cableway (about 8 miles to the west). I predict north and south rim travel will constitute the most interesting and popular of all our scenic park trips."

"With the construction of these bridges travel between the north and south rim will cause the establishment of additional camps. One of these camps should be located at some convenient place on the trail, which will be constructed from the Hermit suspension bridge through to the Plateau trail, and as near the north rim as it will be possible to secure water. Expansions into the Indian Gardens camping area are planned for the immediate future. These camps will in a way supplement the El Tovar hotel and the Hermit camp on the south side, and also the present Wylie establishment on the north rim. The influx of tourists carries with it an increased demand for camping space, and also larger hotel facilities, and as quickly as this demand is recognized, the facilities will be expanded."

"Our most important present road project at the canyon undoubtedly is the repavement of the Rim road. Only horse travel was permitted on this road; I directed the opening of the road to motor travel, and the public transportation service was changed from horse to motor-propelled vehicles. Since then the road has suffered a great deal from the heavy travel over it. Eight miles in length, it was paved in 1913 by the Santa Fe railroad in order that an attractive trip might be available for winter visitors. It was practically worn out when taken over by us, and is only single width and not adapted to two-way travel."

"I have also submitted an estimate to commence the construction of a rim road eastward from El Tovar toward Desert View. Upon its completion, within two or three years, we will have a rim-road drive from Hermit Rest on the west of official headquarters to Desert View, a distance of over 40 miles. For scenic beauty it will challenge comparison."

"The estimates also include an item for securing a right of way for the El Tovar-Desert View Rim road. I hope this expenditure of government funds will not be necessary, as I feel that the private holdings which will be crossed by the proposed road will be sufficiently benefited by its construction to make it to the advantage of the owners of these lands to donate a right of way. I feel sure these owners are so public spirited as to take this point of view, and that in donating this right of way they are not only benefiting themselves and Grand Canyon park but also the people who visit the park."

"In addition to the improvement and maintenance work on the Rim road and other upkeep work on the other park roads, the present El Tovar-Desert View road has been widened, straightened, and reshaped for about one-half its entire length. Many dangerous curves and grades have been eliminated and the general condition of the road improved."

"A complete telephone system which will connect the north and south rim of the canyon and the ranger stations that will be built for the ranger force is one of our future needs. This can be postponed until next year, and I have not included it in my estimates to congress. It may be practicable to connect the north and south rims by wireless, either telephone or telegraph, and this question is receiving careful study."

"There are some developments planned by the Santa Fe railroad in Grand canyon, one of which is the construction of a water system which will probably have for its source Bright Angel creek on the north side of the river, and possibly the establishment of a small power plant on that creek. The establishment of an adequate water supply for the south rim of the canyon is a serious problem and one that must soon be definitely solved. Water on the north rim near Bright Angel Point is secured at present from several small springs, that with little improvement will probably be adequate in quantity and quality. On the south rim of the canyon, however, the hotel and railroad have to haul their water by train from Del Rio, about 125 miles distant. Every gallon of water has to come that distance. The tremendous daily cost of this is at once apparent, and the great desirability of installing some system by which water can be pumped either from the door of the canyon, about 1 mile below the surface of the rim, or from elsewhere is obvious. It is apparent that travel may sometime reach a point where with the present method of securing water we will not be able to secure a sufficient quantity of that precious fluid to supply each traveler."

"The organic act creating this park authorizes us to negotiate with the county of Coconino for the purchase of its rights in the Bright Angel toll road and trail, and to report to congress the terms upon which this property can be secured. An effort has been made the past year to arrive at some satisfactory basis of settlement with the county of Coconino for the transfer of the Bright Angel trail, but thus far without definite results. Our engineer department has, however, made preliminary examination of the situation, covering in fact the entire trail situation in the park."

"Probably the greatest problem confronting the service upon its taking over the administration of the park was the existence of the many claims of alleged mineral value. Among these were the claims located by Ralph H. Cameron, which have been in litigation for several years. Twenty-three Cameron claims have been declared invalid: Golden Eagle, Cape Horn, Wizard, Alder mill site, Willow mill site, Magician, Banjo, Millionaire, Sentinel Treasure, Peg Leg, Hill Top, Sunflower, Lime-stone, Gold-moia, Ida May, Buttinsky, Cheyenne, Dakotah, Dancock, Apache, Folly, Hermit, Gorge."

The Kitchen Cabinet

(© 1920 Western Newspaper Union)

It is easy enough to be pleasant. When life goes by like a song; But the men worth while are the men with a smile. When everything goes dead wrong. —Ella W. Wilcox.

TIMELY FOODS.

The fresh green things appeal to the appetite at this season of the year, as well as all growing things such as mushrooms. Vegetables which are boiled lose much of their valuable mineral content because of its solubility. When the water is drained off and thrown away these minerals are lost to the food. It is a good practice to serve the vegetable in a manner that will conserve the minerals. If cooked in water let it be as little as possible and serve it with seasonings as a sauce with the vegetable. Peas, beans, greens of various kinds, should be thus served.

Lettuce, Pepper and Egg Salad.—Arrange a platter of lettuce, sprinkle with finely shredded green peppers and then add three or four hard-cooked eggs cut in eighths, sprinkle with finely minced chives and cover with French dressing. Serve well chilled.

Tomato and Peanut Salad.—Peel the tomatoes carefully and remove the centers so as to form a cup. Fill with chopped cabbage and peanuts, well mixed. Add French dressing, and when serving put a spoonful of mayonnaise on top of each.

Buttered Beets.—Cook small, tender beets, skin them, then chop rather coarsely. Add olive oil or butter, heat them very hot, season well with salt, pepper and a dash of lemon juice, and serve piping hot.

Vegetable Luncheon Dish.—Arrange on a hot platter a pint of freshly boiled seasoned spinach, adding butter and vinegar, surrounding the spinach with one and one-half cupsful of creamed onions, then around this two cupsful of thick tomato. Garnish, if desired, with hard-cooked eggs cut in eighths.

Onion and Cream Cheese Sandwiches.—To one small cream cheese add minced onions spread on buttered brown bread and cut in finger-sized sandwiches. See that the cheese and onions are well seasoned and mixed.

Who said they didn't like June? The month when all flowers bloom; When school is out And we frolic about— Who said they didn't like June.

DESSERTS.

A dessert which is both delicious to the taste and charming in appearance is prepared as follows: Bake an angel food in a sheet, cut it in squares, arrange on service plates, cover with a layer of crushed sweetened strawberries, then top with sweetened whipped cream or a thin slice of brick ice cream.

Macaroon Charlotte.—Cover one-half pound of macaroons with a quart of hot cream and when cool beat and mix well. Add the yolks of six eggs and a teaspoonful of vanilla, fold in the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs and fill buttered mold. Bake for ten minutes or until the custard is firm.

Blackberry Scones.—Take two and one-half cupsful of flour, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, two and one-half tablespoonfuls of milk, one tablespoonful of butter and one tablespoonful of any other sweet fat, one-half cupful of raisins, one-half teaspoonful of salt and seven-eighths of a cupful of milk. Roll into four pieces after mixing well and bake in a hot oven. Split open but do not cut clear through. Fill with jam or crushed fresh fruit.

Mock Goose.—Parboil a leg of pork, skin and stuff, using the usual goose stuffing. Put to roast with a little water and baste with the juice of the meat. When half done, sprinkle with sage, pepper, finely minced onion, salt and pepper. Serve with gravy.

Buttercup Jelly.—Take one envelope of gelatine, soak in one cupful of cold water, add one pint of milk, three egg yolks well beaten and one cupful of sugar. Seal the milk and add the sugar and egg yolks. Cook to a custard, flavor and cool, then fold in the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs and pour into molds to chill. Serve with tart jelly and top with whipped cream.

Mushrooms English Fashion.—After washing and peeling the mushrooms, add salt and pepper and toss them in a saucpan in hot butter until well cooked (five minutes is usually sufficient). Dish up on squares of toasted bread and lay on each two thin slices of broiled bacon.

Baked Stuffed Onions.—Parboil large-sized onions and remove the centers. Chop the part removed, add sausage or other highly seasoned meat, salt and pepper or chopped nuts. Bake, basting during the baking with butter and water, or pour over the onions thin cream. Bake until tender.

Nellie Maxwell

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