

ENTRADA

FRIENDS OF CAPITOL REEF

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Wayne Wonderland to Capitol Reef: The Creation of Utah's Fifth National Park (Part 2)

By the time he became the caretaker of Capitol Reef National Monument in May 1943, Charles Kelly was already a well-known author and outspoken student of history. Trained as a printer and musician, raised in a very religious family, he had left behind both religion and his native Michigan and settled in Salt Lake City after World War I. There, he opened a printing company and began wandering about the West. Throughout the late 1920s and early 30s, he had roamed much of the Colorado Plateau, researching his books on outlaws and Mormon history.

Introduced to the Torrey area by his friend A.L. "Doc" Inglesby, a retired dentist and rockhound who lived at Fruita, Kelly and his wife, Harriette, were soon enchanted. They moved to Fruita in 1941, squatting in one of Inglesby's cabins while Kelly wrote and attempted to save money to buy property there. As it turned out, there was no necessity; he agreed to take the job as caretaker in exchange for an annual salary of \$120 and free rent at the Chesnut house, which the Park Service had recently purchased.

Before he retired in February 1959 at the age of 70, Kelly had struggled, often single-handedly, to preserve the park's resources and improve its facilities. When he retired to Salt Lake City, Capitol Reef lost a valuable on-site advocate. But times were changing, visitation was on the rise, and the sleepy monument was about to undergo a massive transformation.

The late 1950s and early 60s were a time of national park development nationwide, and Capitol Reef was no exception. The road from the Twin Rocks formation, near the monument's west boundary, to Fruita was paved in 1957. East of Fruita, it was decided the road should continue north through the Fremont River Canyon. But before this could be accomplished, the Park Service had to buy out the remaining five landowners in Fruita to establish a right-of-way. This proved to be a difficult, prolonged process when two, Cora Smith and Max Krueger, refused to sell. Eventually, the National Park Service initiated condemnation proceedings.

Attempts on the part of the Park Service to restore Fruita to its pre-settlement state weren't always welcomed by visitors, or by representatives of the National Park Service.



itself. In the mid-1960s, Acting Regional Director Hugh Miller recommended leaving the Fruita inholdings in private hands. Fruita, he argued, "is an 'exhibit in place,' a typical Mormon settlement which has retained much of its early day charm." But Miller was outvoted. The private landowners were bought out. Down the buildings came.

Writing years after the fact, author Wallace Stegner weighed in with his own argument. Doing research for the book *American Places*, he revisited Capitol Reef, a favorite site of his, dating back to the 1920s when his family had owned a cabin at nearby Fish Lake. Stegner had occasionally stayed in the rough cabins Doc Inglesby rented out and had fond memories of the old Fruita. He wrote, "Fruita used to be one of our favorite places—a sudden, intensely green little valley among the cliffs of the Waterpocket Fold, opulent with cherries, peaches, and apples in season, inhabited by a few families who were equally good Mormons and good frontiersmen and good farmers."

During the course of his research, Stegner interviewed Eugene Blackburn, a part-time farmer from nearby Bicknell, who did maintenance work in the park. Blackburn expressed his belief that vestiges of the settlement, particularly the Chesnut store with the hand-cranked gas pump out front, should have been preserved as living history. Stegner concurred: "Capitol Reef would have been richer if the Chesnut store had been kept. The land is not complete without its human history and

associations. Scenery by itself is pretty sterile. The Chesnuts were living folklore, survivors of the frontier. I would go a good way to have one of Mother Chesnut's breakfasts again, with peaches and cream, hot biscuits, corned elk, and eggs baked in the oven in a muffin tin..."

Stegner would have been pleased to see that the park's current superintendent, Chuck Lundy, is largely in agreement with this sentiment. "We're very pleased with the fact that Fruita was recognized in March 1997 on the National Historic Register as a Rural Cultural Land-



Charles Kelly—outsized character, author, explorer, and the first caretaker of Capitol Reef. Courtesy, Utah State Historical Society.

scape," Lundy said. "It's a celebration of pioneer settlement, the unique cultural component of Fruita."

"Over the next few years," Lundy continued, "we plan to put in new hiking trails and interpretive exhibits and handicap-accessible trails. It says to past practices that there are no more ambiguities. Fruita is important and will be protected."

Lundy is also pleased by the advent of the Gifford House, which serves as a sort of adjunct to the official park visitor center. This restored pioneer-era house helps visitors interpret local history through lectures, concerts of old-time music, and the sale of reproduction items produced by local craftspeople.

Today, Capitol Reef faces many of the problems that burden the Southwest's other popular parks: lack of staff (according to Lundy, Capitol Reef has the lowest ranger-to-acre ratio of any park in the lower 48 states), vandalism, theft of resources, and antiquated equipment. The park recently introduced a new general management plan that Lundy believes will address many of the concerns before they become overwhelming. "We want to be ahead of the curve that some of the other parks, like the Grand Canyon and Arches, have been overwhelmed by," Lundy said.

One example of this planning is the park's nascent educational outreach program which is being designed to enrich visitor's experiences. "It's one more way to build a constituency that cares deeply about the park and surroundings environs. We want to reach the thousands of families and kids and help them to understand the natural resources and unique culture of this area."

Capitol Reef at a Glance...

Four key formations make up much of the geology of Capitol Reef National Park:

Navajo sandstone consists of massive white outcrops shaped in rounded domes, fins, and cliffs. It was created from ancient sand dunes.

Wingate sandstone is also composed of ancient sand dunes. It is characterized by nearly vertical cliffs which are frequently orange or red and fractured.

Chinle shale is multi-colored green, purple, yellow, and brown slopes that are frequently slumped. Chinle contains ash, mud, and silt.

Moenkopi sandstone is most often chocolate-colored. The cliffs between the park's Visitors Center and Torrey are Moenkopi. It is often molded into ridges, ledges, and mounds.

Temperatures: Capitol Reef National Park is located from 5,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level. Temperatures may vary between 20° F in the winter and 100° F in the summer. Spring and fall are pleasant times to hike. Beware of sudden late-summer thunderstorms which can be violent and unpredictable, particularly in narrow canyons.

An Entrada Mid-Summer Hello

"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
and summer's lease hath all too short a date."

—Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18"

The winds of spring have indeed shaken the cottonwoods around homes in Boulder, Utah. They have blown constantly from the south, though the Colorado Plateau country was spared the rains that plagued the Wasatch Front this spring. Fields are starting to get the yellow look of summer. But the delights in being able to escape to Torrey or Boulder are the cool summer evenings, the soft breezes that keep all but the most persistent flying critters away, and the great weekend events that have been hosted this year.

The Entrada Institute/Friends of Capitol Reef National Park partnership, entered into this year, has offered visitors to southern Utah an opportunity to experience the beauty of the area, to spend an evening listening to music or poetry, or to learn a new skill. Events have been held both at Capitol Reef National Park and at Robber's Roost Books in Torrey, birthplace and home of the Entrada Institute. To date, over 500 visitors and residents have been entertained with the help of the bookstore, Park staff, and Entrada Board members.

In addition to the events thus far, activities are planned from now well into October. (See the Schedule of Events on the back page.) The "Writing From the Land" workshop, September 18-20, will feature a number of well-known writers and editors as instructors and consultants. Royden Card's "Painting the Desert Land" workshop the following weekend will be equally noteworthy. (See the enclosed flyers.) In October, you can look forward to "Rock Art for Novices," featuring rock art of Capitol Reef and a Dutch oven dinner prepared by the Larry Davis family from Boulder. Events will continue into November, so check with Entrada as to the details of the late-season events, and plan your weekends to include as many of the remaining activities as you can.

Kirkmount at the Park

"Why this is very midsummer madness."
—Shakespeare, Twelfth Night, III, iv

The afternoon of July 18, 1998, was hot in the canyons of Capitol Reef National Park. As the designated emcee for the evening's event, I was to meet Kirkmount, Utah's premier Celtic band, at the amphitheater at six-thirty. I made it, as did the group's harpist and fiddler. The cellist and sound equipment were somewhere else! As guests started to seat themselves, the rest of the group arrived and scurried to set up in the evening heat.

Those of you who visit southern Utah know that time is generally irrelevant on the Colorado Plateau; it certainly was that night. When the three teen-aged brothers who call themselves Kirkmount cranked up with fiddles and reels and music of their own creation, the crowd responded enthusiastically. It rocked! The changes in temperature and humidity raised havoc with their instruments, requiring several re-tuning sessions, but the crowd of about 75 was patient. Around the time that bats were swooping along the creek behind the music stand, their grandfather was coaxed onto the stage by the boys and a very appreciative audience. Grandpa played the bones and then danced an impromptu jig before diving back into the crowd.

The canyon walls of Entrada sandstone echoed with music and appreciative applause. When the concert was over, the Milky Way spread overhead from one rim of the canyon to the other. It was a southern Utah evening; it was indeed midsummer madness!

Writing from the Land

At one time or another, every aspiring writer needs direction: a gentle (or not so gentle) push, encouragement to continue putting one word after the other. Where do you find inspiration? And having found it, what do you do next? Instructors Francois Camoin, Greta Belanger DeJong, Shelly Hunt, Edward Leuders, and Brooke Williams; literary agent Nancy Stauffer Cahoon; and editor Carol Houck Smith will help you answer those questions. The occasion will be the third annual "Writing from the Land" writers' workshop, to be held September 18-20 in Torrey and Capitol Reef. (See the enclosed flyer.) Writers at all levels who write in all styles are welcome.

The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday at Robber's Roost Books and end at noon on Sunday in Capitol Reef National Park. Each day will be spent in workshop sessions, hikes (non-strenuous hikes of 1-2 miles at an elevation of 5,600 feet), and manuscript conferences. Friday and Saturday evenings will feature readings by the instructors and the participants, respectively.

A general discussion on storytelling and writing about the natural and human worlds will occur from 9:00 a.m. to noon Sunday morning at the Ripplerock Nature Center in Fruita. Other topics will be the possibilities of publication, how to present your work, and the nuts and bolts of the writing process in general. The Sunday morning session is made possible by a grant from the Utah Arts Council and the Utah Humanities Council; it is free and open to the public.

If you have any questions, call Francois Camoin or Shelly Hunt at (801) 532-7602. This project is jointly sponsored by a grant from the Utah Arts Council, the Utah Humanities Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.

Painting the Desert Land

A two-day workshop, September 26-27, will feature Royden Card, Entrada's first artist-in-residence and one of Utah's premier artists. This workshop provides a wonderful opportunity to not only be out-of-doors in some of the most spectacular landscape in all of North America, but also to paint and draw with one of Utah's premier artists. Royden's work had been featured in magazines, newspaper articles, and exhibit catalogs. It is held in private and museum collections throughout the United States, including the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. He has taught at Brigham Young University, University of Utah, and Utah Valley State College. During his career, Royden has conducted many painting and printmaking workshops for the Utah Arts Council. For the past two decades, his artistic focus has been on the deserts of southern Utah.

This workshop, which can accommodate the beginner as well as the seasoned painter, will provide an opportunity for our members and friends to paint and draw the historic Torrey area and the red rock country of Capitol Reef National Park. The important thing will be to get into this beautiful land and explore it with the appreciative eye of the artist and to be with other people who enjoy *plein-air* painting.

On Saturday, sketches of several of Torrey's historic sites will be the warm-up for painting and drawing some of Capitol Reef's spectacular desert scenery. Sunday will focus exclusively on sketching and painting in the park. Both workshop sessions will involve non-strenuous hiking.

To hold your place, please complete and send the enclosed form (if more than one person is registering, include a list showing all names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.) and your payment to Entrada, P.O. Box 750217, Torrey, UT 84775—A refund (less \$5 processing fee) is available until the start of the first workshop session (September 26, 1998, 8 a.m.). Sorry, no refunds thereafter. For more information, call Entrada (435) 425-3265 or Royden Card (801) 595-8071.

Schedule for the Remainder of the 1998 Season...

Note changes from the early-season schedule. Call (435) 425-3265 for additional information and last-minute changes. All activities are at 7:00 p.m. at Robber's Roost Books in Torrey unless otherwise noted.

August 21: Steve Lewis, photographer, and Larry Harper, musician, will present an evening of acoustic music and images of the desert and mountain landscapes of southern Utah.

August 22: Big Moose, part-time Wayne County residents and recording artists, will share an evening of folk-rock and grooving dance music on the outdoor stage at Robber's Roost Books.

August 29: Gathering of the Clan—More information will soon be available about this get-together of Entrada/Friends members at Capitol Reef National Park.

August 29: Fred Blackburn, archaeologist and author, will read from his book *Cowboys and Cave Dwellers*, about his "reverse archaeology" project in Grand Gulch.

September 5: Stephen Trimble, author and photographer, will debut his new slide show of southern Utah.

September 12: Don Gomes, singer/songwriter, a favorite with Wasatch Front audiences, will present a concert of humorous songs.

September 18-20: Writing from the Land—Join our esteemed faculty to celebrate all forms of creative writing and the natural beauty of Wayne County during the 3rd annual "Writing from the Land" workshop. See the enclosed flyer. For more information, call (801) 532-7602.

September 25: Dawn Marano, acquisitions editor with the University of Utah press, and Guy Lebeda, the Utah Arts Council's literary arts coordinator, will team up for an evening of readings.

September 26-27: Painting the Desert Land—Join Royden Card, Entrada's first artist-in-residence, for two days of sketching and painting Torrey's historic sites and Capitol Reef's spectacular desert scenery. See the enclosed flyer, or call Frank McEntire at 240-4794 for more information.

September 26: Royden Card will present a lecture and slide show at Capitol Reef National Park Amphitheater at 8:00 p.m.

October 3: Kent Frost, author of *My Canyonlands* and a native of Monticello, will tell stories and read from his classic southern Utah memoir.

October 9: Frank McEntire, an esteemed sculptor and art critic, will give a slide presentation, "Maynard Dixon, Painter of Poetry and Pathos." McEntire will explore how Dixon came to see his life's work as interpreting "the poetry and pathos of life of Western people, seen amid the grandeur, stoniness, and loneliness of their country."

October 10: Rock Art Hike and Dutch oven dinner—Entrada board members Kathy Kankainen and A.J. Martinez will team up with Larry Davis of Anasazi Village State Park in Boulder for a day of exploring Fremont Indian rock art, enjoying a delicious dinner, and storytelling. Don't miss it.

October 17: David Sucec, rock-art specialist and author of *Sacred Images*, will lecture on pictographs and petroglyphs.

October 24-25: Scott T. Smith, photographer, will resurrect the "Fall Colors on Boulder Mountain" workshop, intended for shutterbugs of all levels.

November 7: TBA

November 14: The 1998 season will celebrate its successful conclusion with a wrap-up party and hike (weather permitting). More information will be available in the days to come.

To Date, The Following People Have Been Featured at Entrada/Friends Events:

Alex Calhiero and Trant Harris, Westminster College of Salt Lake City

Perry Jackson, Robber's Roost

Roy Webb, Robber's Roost

Eva Wasilenka, Robber's Roost

Brady Udall, Robber's Roost

Bruce Thompson, Capitol Reef National Park

Utah Poet Laureate David Lee, Robber's Roost

Richard Negri, with Ned Chaffin as witness to the truth of his stories, Robber's Roost

Ty Harrison, foothills of Boulder Mountain and Capitol Reef National Park

Jim Kimball, with special thanks to Shirley Torgerson from the local Natural History Association for helping, Guilford House, Capitol Reef National Park

Ray Wheeler, Robber's Roost

Bobbie Irwin, with special thanks to Linda Chappell of Lyman and the Natural History Association for helping, Robber's Roost

Gina French, Amphitheater, Capitol Reef Nat. Park

Kirkmount, Amphitheater, Capitol Reef Nat. Park

Judy Busk with special thanks to the Wayne County DUP and the Utah Humanities Council, Robber's Roost

