

# Interior



# Shelves

## *Virtual Park Museum Exhibits*

*By Joan Bacharach, NPS*

The National Park Service Museum Management Program, in collaboration with parks, recently introduced three virtual museum exhibits and *Teaching with Museum Collections* lesson plans. New virtual exhibits and lesson plans from Manzanar National Historic Site, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, Hampton National Historic Site and Death Valley National Park are now featured online at [www.nps.gov/museum](http://www.nps.gov/museum). They join 35 other virtual museum exhibits that celebrate park museum collections and share park histories with the public, many of whom otherwise may be unable to visit the parks in person.



Manzanar NHS virtual museum exhibit.  
[www.nps.gov/museum](http://www.nps.gov/museum)

The Manzanar NHS's collections include objects, paintings, historic photographs, and documents that reflect life at Manzanar in California's Eastern Sierra region during three eras: Paiute people inhabiting the Manzanar area; early ranching and farm; and the War Relocation Center, 1942-1945. Multi-media features include a virtual tour of the site today, slide shows exploring the daily lives of Manzanar internees, and oral histories. The Death Valley exhibit tells stories of people drawn to this rugged land, scorching valleys, borax mines, and a grandly furnished castle.

The Maggie L. Walker NHS's exhibit explores the life and legacy of Maggie L. Walker (1864-1934), civil rights activist and trailblazing entrepreneur. The beloved African American community leader devoted her life to defeating racism, sexism, and economic oppression. This exhibit provides an intimate view of Mrs. Walker's personal and professional life.

## *D.C. Booth, Not Your Usual Fish Hatchery*

*By Randi Sue Smith, FWS*

Over 40 years ago, US Fish & Wildlife Service hatchery employees started saving historic hatchery materials. In the 1970s, these were sent to the Spearfish National Fish Hatchery, now called the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, Spearfish, SD. Authorized in 1896, the hatchery had a collection of its own historic materials. Since then, the scope has expanded to include most things fishery related, as well as Service history.

The collection has grown to include roughly 15,000 objects and 160,000 pieces of archival material. The collection contains items ranging in date from the 1870s to 2011. Objects include hatchery and scientific equipment, uniforms, art, vehicles, archeological material, and furnishings. Archival material ranges from handwritten documents to publications, and includes photographs and films.

In accordance with the site's Scope of Collections Statement, fisheries related materials are received from a wide variety of sources. These can include federal, state, local, private, tribal, and commercial fisheries offices and facilities, as well as employees, retirees, family members, and eBay. Materials are transferred, donated, field collected, loaned, and rarely, purchased.



Hatchery building, 1899, in use as a museum since 1982. D.C. Booth, FWS Collection.

The main use of the archives is for historic fisheries research, and trying to untangle the current status of fish in the United States. Early natural resource philosophy and goals involved stocking food fish to benefit the hungry U.S. population. Service employees helped advance scientific knowledge about fisheries resources, water quality, biology, etc., and were proud of their role in increasing food fish populations across the country. Early employees found dams, pollution, and overfishing were causing declines in fisheries populations. Sadly, we still have those problems today, and the collections continue to be used by researchers to study trends in fish populations. For more information visit <http://www.fws.gov/dcbooth/>.

## CSI Grand Canyon

Abstracted from Allyson Mathis, NPS

The Grand Canyon is home to many unsolved mysteries, but with the help of recently donated photographs and documents to the Grand Canyon Museum Collection, one such mystery has been partially solved.

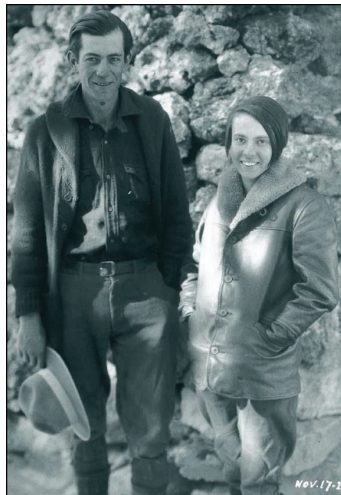
In 1928, Glen and Bessie Hyde attempted to make the fastest trip down the Colorado River on their honeymoon and disappeared in the Grand Canyon. In 1977, a skeleton with a gunshot wound to the head was discovered in the garage of park resident Emery Kolb who had recently passed away. Despite investigators' unequivocal conclusions that it was not the body of Glen Hyde, the myth that it was endured.

In 2006, Bob Williamson, a retired U.S. Forest Service employee, donated some 500 photos and documents kept by his father who had been a ranger at Grand Canyon in the 1920s and 1930s.

In late 2008, Williamson's donation in combination with the interest of retired Grand Canyon National Park Criminal Investigator Joe Sumner led to a breakthrough in the cold case involving the skeleton from Kolb's garage. Sumner, volunteering with the Coconino County Sheriff's Office cold case squad, had been assigned the Grand Canyon cold case and contacted the Grand Canyon Museum program about whether they had old ranger reports. Kim Besom, a museum technician, pointed Sumner in the direction of the photos from the Williamson collection and other park documents and worked with him to match the skeleton a report of an unidentified suicide victim from 1933. The fate of Glen and Bessie is still unknown.

For the complete story go to:

<http://www.grandcanyon.org/canyonviews/CanyonViewsSpring09.pdf>



Glen and Bessie Hyde in 1928.  
GCNP Museum Collection.



(Left) Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection, circa 1935.  
<http://www.nps.gov/grca/historyculture/muscol.htm>.

(Right) Grand Canyon National Park Museum Archives storage today.  
<http://www.nps.gov/grca/historyculture/muscol.htm>.



## World Wide Zoological Collections

By Cindy Ramotnik, USGS

There is a recent trend among museums to put their collections on the internet, making them more accessible to the public. Specimen collections, like the USGS zoological collection <<http://msb.unm.edu/USGS/index.html>> at the Museum of Southwestern Biology on the University of New Mexico campus in Albuquerque, have enjoyed significantly increased use because of their Web-based exposure. For researchers in the fields of genomics and environmental sciences, better access to specimen data is crucial. The specimens represent long-term resources of national significance that are available to support long-term research on climate change, predicting and understanding ecosystem change, evaluating the impacts of hazards and resource utilization on the environment and human health, as well as studying relationships among species. The availability of the USGS collection on the World Wide Web is indicative of a new trend in environmental and genomics research that ties other large informatics resources (e.g., GenBank <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>>, Berkeley Mapper <<http://berkeleymapper.berkeley.edu/>>) to scientific collections. Specimens and tissues are loaned across the country to a variety of researchers, and museum staff hosts a wide array of visitors annually including scientists, K-12 school groups, university classes, and the public.

In Fiscal Year 2011 USGS staff in Albuquerque reviewed 21 frozen tissue requests, 5 specimen loan requests (3 for mammals, and 1 each for fishes and amphibians); and 12 specimen data requests. There were 25 requests for technical information regarding archival museum supplies, labeling fluid-preserved specimens, taxonomic updates, and integrated pest management issues. Twelve museum visitors and one undergraduate art class were assisted in the bird and mammal collections. Outreach activities included identifying a bone for a family, and providing or assisting with tours of the collections to groups that included biology graduate students, undergraduate student museum workers, the new UNM Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Mexico, and the USGS Director.

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