

"GRAND CANYON FILM SHOW"

AFTER FILMING THEIR JOURNEY on the Green and Colorado Rivers, Emery Kolb traveled the United States showing the brothers' "Grand Canyon Film Show" and lecturing to captivated audiences.

By 1915 the Kolbs had expanded their studio on the rim to include an auditorium. On April 15 of that year, Emery gave his first lecture at Kolb Studio. This was the first of thousands of film lectures spanning 61 years, making it the longest-run movie of all time.

Before upgrading to more modern technology in later years, the Power's Cameragraph projector displayed here was the actual projector used to show the Kolb brothers' famous film. Power's projectors were, along with Edison's machines, the first American film projectors produced on a commercial scale. Patented in 1906, it ran on direct current and used Peerless carbon arc lamps for illumination through a Bausch and Lomb lens. The lamps produced so much heat that the projection booth was sheathed in metal.

This projector was discovered in the basement of the Williams-Grand Canyon Masonic Lodge #38 in Williams, Arizona, where it had been stowed more than 45 years ago by Emery's friend and colleague Leo Atherton. Atherton generously donated the projector to the National Park Service and the Grand Canyon Association arranged to have it reassembled in the original projection booth for display.



Emery could often be found standing outside the studio promoting his film lecture. Records kept in 1930-32 indicate that that 15 to 20 percent of all park visitors attended his entertaining program.

Background image NAU.PH.568.934