

# THE KOLB FAMILY

## ELLSWORTH KOLB WAS A WANDERER.

He left his family home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the age of twenty-one to explore the West and arrived at the Grand Canyon five years later. Seeing opportunity for enterprising individuals in the fledgling community, he soon convinced his younger brother Emery to join him here in 1902.

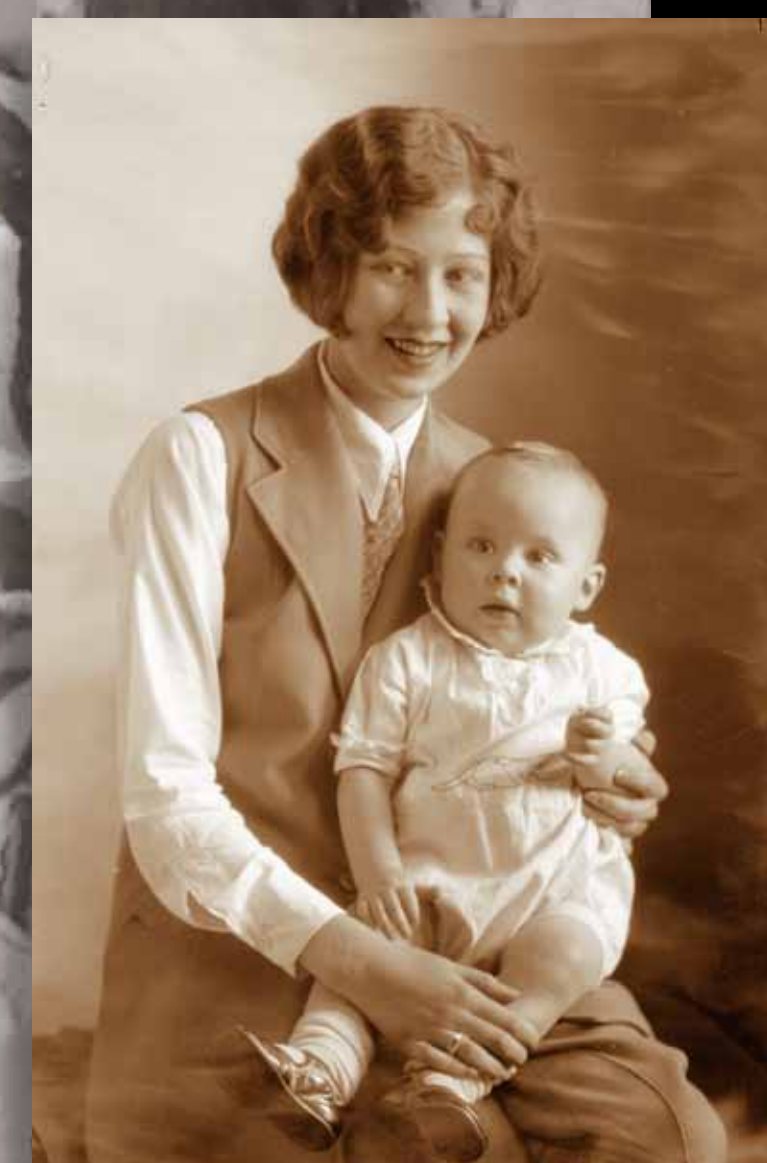
On a visit to Williams, Arizona, 60 miles south of the canyon, Emery spotted Blanche Bender as she stepped off the train; he declared that she was the woman he would marry. In October of 1905, Blanche and Emery established their first home in a tent cabin in the forest at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Their only child, Edith, was born two years later.

In spite of her father's somewhat contentious relationship with the National Park Service, Edith married park ranger Carl Lehnert in 1926, giving birth to son Emery in 1928. Emery Lehnert and his wife Lillian Miller Lehnert provided Emery and Blanche with two great-grandchildren.

Emery and Blanche's first home was a tent cabin in the forest.  
NAU.PH.568.9065



Blanche and daughter Edith, 1907.  
NAU.PH.568.9316



Edith and son Emery Carl Lehnert, 1928. NAU.PH.568.10708



Emery Lehnert with his grandparents Blanche and Emery. NAU.PH.568.10477



Emery with his great-grandchildren, Jennifer (in arms) and William. NAU.PH.568.83



Three generations celebrate Christmas at Kolb Studio. Left to right: Emery Carl Lehnert, Emery Kolb, Blanche Kolb, and Edith and Carl Lehnert. NAU.PH.568.336



Ellsworth was often photographed in the company of women, earning a reputation as a ladies' man. He was briefly married after he moved to Los Angeles, but had no children. NAU.PH.568.231



Always looking for adventure, Ellsworth took flying lessons. Emery anticipated the economic potential of the air tour industry and secured permits from the U.S. Forest Service to establish airstrips on both sides of the Grand Canyon. NAU.PH.568.6380



Edith learned to travel early. She is shown here with her mother Blanche on the trail to the village of Havasu in 1907. NAU.PH.568.10480



Emery, Blanche and Edith crossing the Colorado River on David Rust's tram. NAU.PH.568.322



Blanche and Edith, riding double at top, see Emery and his assistant off on a photographic expedition. NAU.PH.568.9296



Edith was the first person to cross the new Kaibab Suspension Bridge when it opened to foot traffic in 1928. NAU.PH.568.157



During World War II Emery served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He is shown here in uniform with his mother Ella, father Edward, and daughter Edith. Ellsworth attempted to join the military but was deemed too old to qualify. NAU.PH.568.10776

The Kolb brothers' father, Edward, came to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from Austria when he was just five months old. Their mother Ella's Irish-German family had immigrated in the late 1700s. Ella gave birth to four sons and one daughter; their daughter Edith died a month after her birth and was the namesake for Blanche and Emery's daughter.