

Grading the first airport
south of Grand Canyon
National Park, 1926.
NAU.PH.568.6485

THE GRAND CANYON COMMUNITY

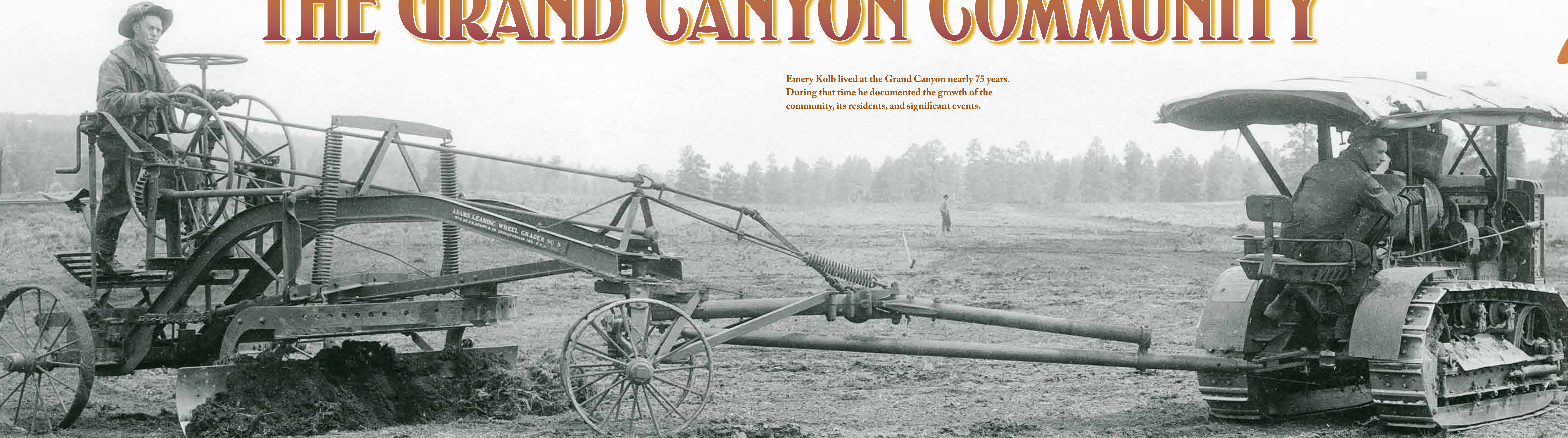
Emery Kolb lived at the Grand Canyon nearly 75 years.
During that time he documented the growth of the
community, its residents, and significant events.

THE KOLB BROTHERS ARRIVED at the South Rim when Grand Canyon Village was first developing. They soon became an integral part of the community, with their studio becoming a focal point of activity. Due to limited entertainment opportunities in the early years, the brothers formed a small band and played phonograph records for dances. They also showed popular motion pictures to entertain local residents.

While Emery was often described as "difficult," Blanche was gracious, generous, and friendly. She contributed to every cause and often hosted guests at tea and bridge parties.

Difficult or not, Emery's presence at the canyon benefited the community in many ways. He was a charter member of both the local American Legion post and the Grand Canyon Rotary Club. In 1932 Emery helped found the Grand Canyon Natural History Association (now known as the Grand Canyon Association) which has supported the park with millions of dollars in aid and in-kind services for 80 years.

Of particular pride to Emery was his promotion of public education. He established an annual scholarship for a graduate of Grand Canyon High School, and shortly before he died, Emery was named Grand Marshal of the Northern Arizona University homecoming parade. "Young people," he once said, "ask me what I would advise them, and I'd tell them to set goals for themselves and stay with those goals until they accomplish them."



The Fred Harvey Company's "Harvey Girls" served high-quality meals to early park visitors. NAU.PH.568.7493



Grand Canyon School's graduating class, 1946. NAU.PH.568.771



Emery (center) and friends entertained village residents at the School Days Follies in 1931. NAU.PH.568.43



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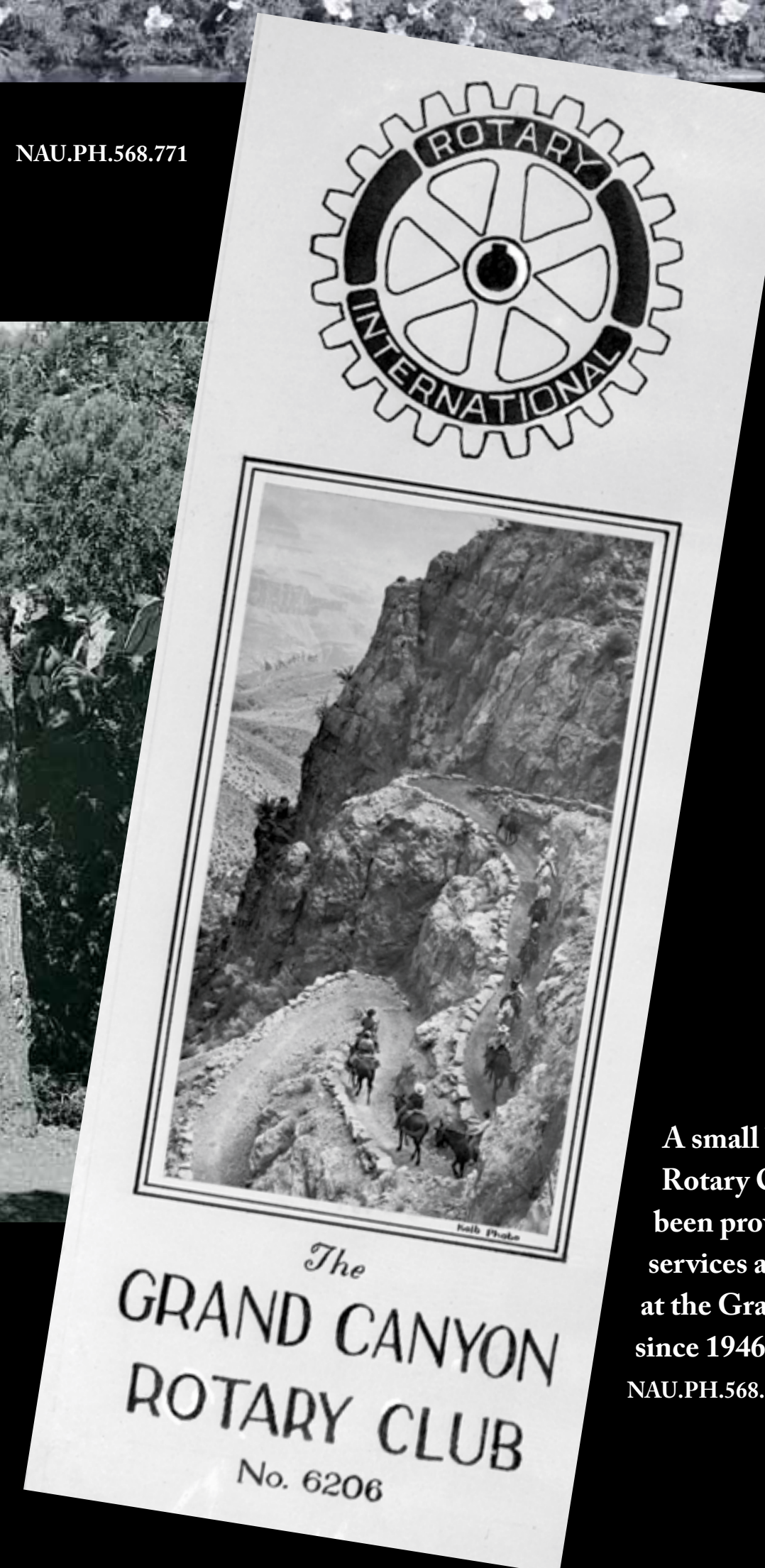
The Kolb brothers met and photographed many dignitaries who visited the Grand Canyon. Left to right: President Theodore Roosevelt, *The Virginian* author Owen Wister, and artist Thomas Moran.



Emery participated in fund-raising events such as the Rotary Club Follies. NAU.PH.568.6982



The a capella choir from Arizona State Teachers College (now Northern Arizona University) sang at the Easter Sunrise Service held at the Rim Worship Site. NAU.PH.568.4221



A small but active Rotary Club has been providing services and support at the Grand Canyon since 1946. NAU.PH.568.9886



The Kolb brothers captured special visitors such as these Shriners who arrived by train for an outing, World War I veterans and Legionnaires. NAU.PH.568.8683



In 1940 Ripley's "Believe It or Not" did a live radio broadcast from the banks of the Colorado River. The broadcast featured Emery Kolb and Barry Goldwater shooting the rapids in "... the most dangerous and exciting feat that man has ever tried." NAU.PH.568.8141