

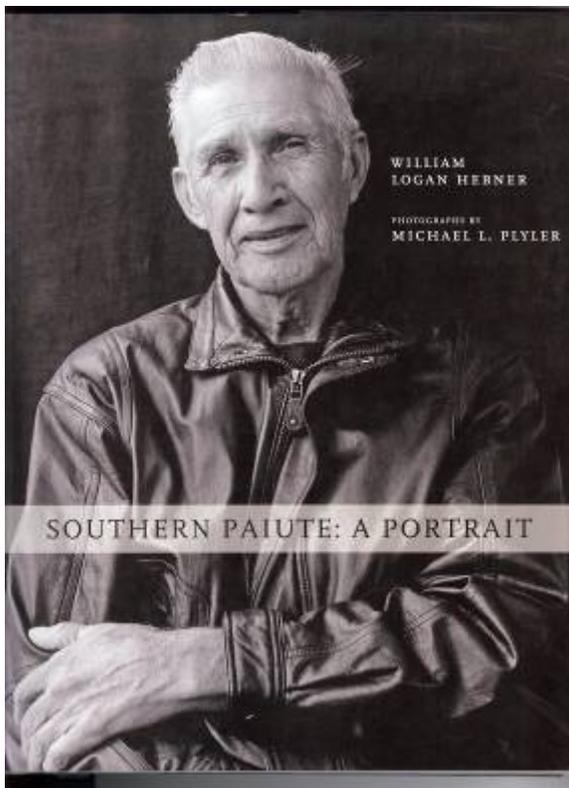
“Southern Paiute: A Portrait”

By

Logan Hebner

Presented to the Dixie Archaeology Society
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Logan Hebner discussed his book, “Southern Paiute: A Portrait”.



“Southern Paiute once inhabited a region extending from the lower San Juan River in eastern Utah to the lower Colorado River in California; from Pahrump, Nevada just East of Death Valley, to what some still call Paiute Mountain but most people know as Navajo Mountain in Arizona; from Capital Reef to the Grand Canyon; from Eastern Joshua Tree National Park to the Western side of Canyonlands National Park. Small communities of Paiute, some, not all, on federal reservations, still reside throughout that vast region, though their neighbors do not always recognize their identity, even their presence. Despite the vast expanse of their native territory and their significance in the history of the West both before and after European settlement, the Southern Paiute are

underrepresented in historical texts and little known or understood by the general public. They have survived a history that included kidnapping of their children for an Indian slave trade along the Spanish Trail; disposition of their territory and resources by settlers, miners and towns consistently built at the Paiute's scattered water sources; confinement on reservation lands that were in significant part lost with the complicity of the federal government; submergence of the Southern Paiute into other tribes; termination of the federal Indian services at the behest of Congress; and marginalization of Paiute communities on tiny holdings within or near modern towns and cities."

"Why in all this time did nobody ask the Southern Paiute for their stories? Logan Hebner did just that, and in doing so he was able to record stories that exist nowhere else in print, interviewing elders who remember tales told to them by their grandparents – taking us back to the nineteenth century. We listen to the full sweep of tragedy and restoration in the life of this often neglected Southwestern tribe as they 'tell their own histories'". The individual stories come alive through the portrait photography of Michael Plyler.

This book presents a history of the Southern Paiute from a unique perspective. The book is a compilation of stories from Paiute elders. These stories relate the oral history of the people and are based on the elders' experiences and what they can have been told by their ancestors.

Aspects that Logan stressed in his talk include:

- The Southern Paiutes should really be considered the "People of the North Rim", because that was their native homeland
- The Paiutes love for their land, which is one reason that the people are settled on many small reservations throughout Utah and Nevada. They would not leave their historical lands.
- The mild, unassuming nature of the Southern Paiutes is one of the reasons that they have fared so poorly with respect to their land rights and status with the government.
- Their religious ceremonies especially their "salt" songs
- The Mountain Meadows Massacre and the Paiute "involvement"

John Mangels

