

In Memoriam

Byrd Howell Granger (1912-1991)

Byrd Granger was always a welcome houseguest in our home. She delighted my husband with the tales of her flying and me with reports of her name research.

She was born October 18, 1912, and given the name *Byrd Howell*; she had it legally changed to *Byrd Howell Granger* in 1940. Byrd lived a varied life. In an early career she was an associate and owner of an advertising firm and was on the advisory committee of the New York World's Fair (1937-40). Her flying career was one of which she was very proud. During World War II she flew with the Air Transport Command of the U.S. Army and was the commanding officer of a Women's Airforce Service Pilots Squadron. And she was a professor and name scholar.

She obtained a B.A. degree from Goucher College in 1934, an M.A. from the University of Arizona in 1955, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1961. She began one career at the University of Arizona as an instructor (1951) and retired in 1976 as a professor. She lectured on folklore and western history and culture. Byrd was president of the American Name Society in 1974, was a member of the American Folklore Society, the American Archaeological Association, the Maya Society, and the Folklore Society of England.

In 1960 she published a revision of Will C. Barnes' *Arizona Place Names* and also a separate volume, *Grand Canyon Place Names*. In 1983 she published *Arizona's Names: X Marks the Place*.

When I first knew her, she was already at the University of Arizona and was deep in the work of the Place Name Survey of the U.S. (PLAN-SUS). She was actively contacting placename enthusiasts in every state, urging them to gather material for publication and to use her system of color-coded cards. When she was elected president of ANS, she gave up PLANSUS, and after her presidency she stayed in Arizona and dropped out of the active life of ANS. Each year we would ask each other if anyone had heard from her, but no one had. In September, at the meeting in Santa Fe, we learned that she had passed away in April. Happy Landings, Byrd.

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