

SOMEONE OUGHT TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT IT



HAROLD AND MARY-RUSSELL FERRELL COLTON
WITH THEIR SON, FERRELL, ABOUT THE TIME OF
THEIR MOVE TO FLAGSTAFF IN 1926. (MNA
COLLECTIONS MS 207-211-3(51-5))

"Someone ought to tell the world about it," wrote Harold Sellers Colton and Frank E. Baxter in a 1932 guide for the northern Arizona traveler. They eloquently described the wonders of the vast region—colors to delight the artist, Native American peoples to engage the anthropologist, traces of human occupation to occupy the archaeologist, an open textbook for the geologist, plants and wildlife to intrigue the biologist and botanist—in short, an area abundant with treasures to delight both scientist and visitor. The authors were reiterating what had already been stated—northern Arizona was definitely worth exploring.

Northern Arizona sits on part of the Colorado Plateau which extends over parts of four western states: Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. The section in northern Arizona features the towering volcano known as the San Francisco Peaks, the

ever-changing palette of the Painted Desert, the unequaled Grand Canyon, beautiful Lake Powell, curious Petrified Forest, lush Oak Creek Canyon, bountiful Verde Valley, and the verdant White Mountains, just to name a few high-

lights. Living amongst these physical marvels are the native peoples who, in the course of maintaining their cultural traditions, acknowledge and celebrate the natural wonders surrounding them. Elevations extend three miles vertically—from the 12,000-foot-high Mt. Humphreys of the San Francisco Peaks to the one-mile-deep Grand Canyon. In between are nearly limitless examples of the Earth's natural history, brought close together in an area that provides an unending laboratory for the inquisitive.

Into this land came Harold Sellers and Mary-Russell Ferrell Colton and their family. Dr. Colton was a zoology professor at the University of