

Grand Canyon South Rim

forest elk flee

park elk stand and stare like caged animals

graze in the full Mather Campground

drink from water fountains

pancakes scrambled eggs sausage

coffee orange juice at Maswik Lodge

purple bus to Tusyan IMAX theater and trail

driver asks *hiking for exercise or pleasure*

both I assure

two coyotes on the prowl noses to ground

above *The Jetson's* swarming helicopters

race roar to the Canyon ledge

lemmings on-the-run

skeet shooting comes to mind

voilà

Coconino forest park boundary

no tree stumps

no burn piles

no muddy cattle tanks

no barbwire

no cow dung

little fanfare at South Kaibab trailhead

a small bicycle tour group

sightseers shuffle car keys tucked in pockets

point cameras at big smiles

scan scenery they'll never set foot on

bus loads come and go

orange bus whisks hiker to visitor center and truck

a General Store turkey wrap chocolate milk

vanilla soft ice cream cone Roaring Springs water

shower shave don clean clothes

guilt-free pleasures

The Arizona Trail: Passages in Poetry

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