

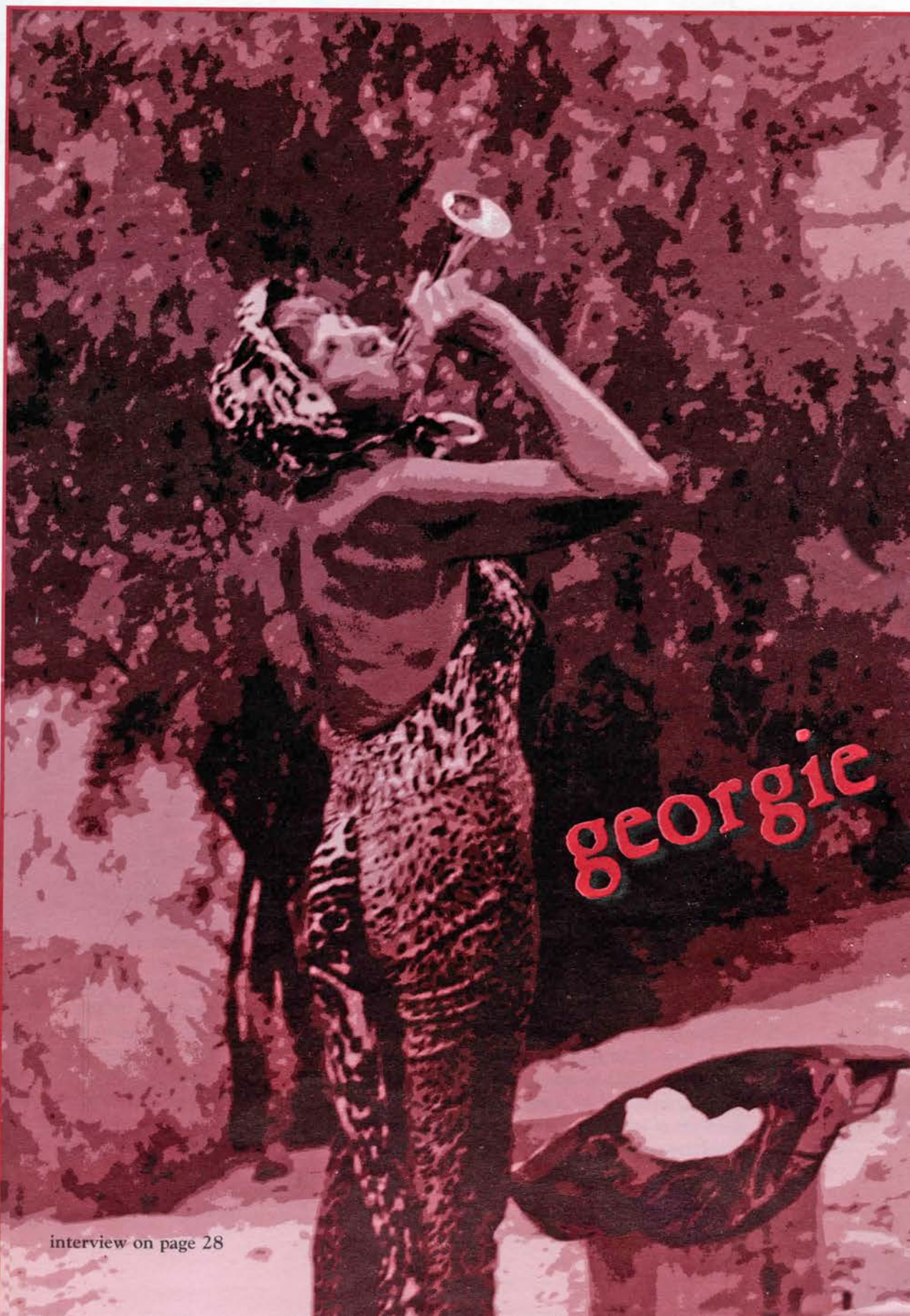


boatman's quarterly review

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Kaibab Stream Caves
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Georgie in full regalia.
Cline Library, Northern
Arizona University
Roz Jirge Collection
#NAU.PH.92.10.12



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The River Tribe

ON THE PHONE the other day with someone from the upper half of the GTS river trip talking about the wind: lining the boats in the flatwater below Paria Riffle, blood blisters on hands, only six miles the first day. He said, "I'll bet you're glad you're not on the river now, eh?" We laughed, but underneath it all I thought, "actually, no." I'm never glad to not be on the River, she's become too much a part of my life to feel completely glad, windy or not, to be up here. I suppose that's part of what we all get out of spending so much time with GCRG: it keeps us in touch with the River even when we're not there. And it's what I enjoyed at this year's GTS land session at the Old Marble Canyon Lodge. This was one of the best GTS's I've been to in a while, made so in part by the energy and imagination of the people who put it together. Next time you see Jon Hirsh, Richard Quartaroli, Bob Grusy, Lynn Hamilton or Laurie Lee Staveley, thank them for all the work. It's not easy putting one of these things together and it's always amazing to see utter chaos and piles of small slips of paper and post-it notes come together into a really terrific, blast of a weekend.

The other reason it was such a good seminar was all the rest of the people involved. I sat out on the sunny (amazing!) Marble Canyon Lodge lawn listening to talks from some incredible researchers, members of several Native American nations, dedicated NPS personnel who have given a good portion of their careers to studying and trying to protect

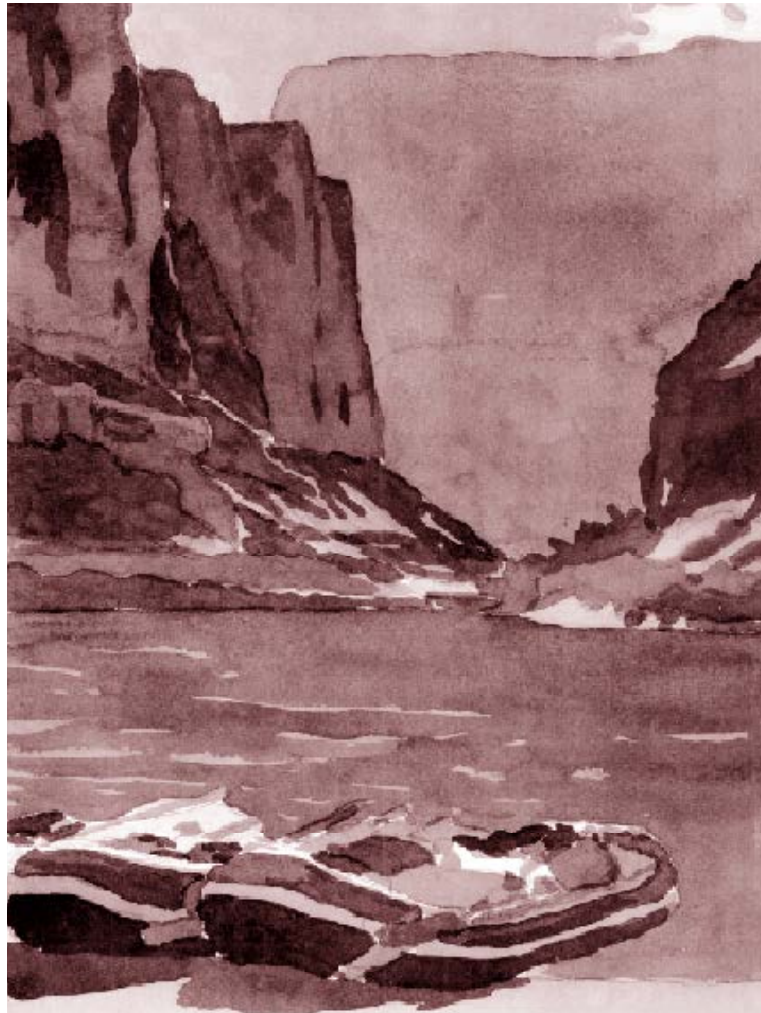
the Canyon, and a whole host of other people who call this landscape "Home" for whatever reason. As I sat and listened, I looked around at the audience: guides new and seasoned, guides long-gone but back for a weekend, private boaters, managers and their outfitters, former passengers-turned-Canyon-lovers, boatmen from other parts of the country waiting for a turn in the Ditch...

This, I believe, is what it takes to make one

of these things successful. This community is where our power and our strength lie. Thanks to all of you who came to speak, listen, party and play beer can golf at odd hours of the morning, who came to learn and teach and soak in the sun in the land of Beginnings. That's really what Marble Canyon is all about for all of us who guide and travel and research on the Colorado River. It's The Beginning Place, the place where we start. A fitting place to start the next season on the river—the future.

At a February meeting in Page, a few of the GCRG Board members got together with representatives from ten

of the companies to discuss the future. We figured it was about the first time that GCRG had gotten together with the outfitters as a group since the days of Tom Moody—long overdue. We talked about places we've disagreed in the past, places we may disagree in the future and places we hope we can agree. We talked about areas where we could put our sizable talents together for the good of the Canyon and the river community. And nowhere do I see a better place to



do this than with the GTS. There will always be things about which the outfitters and guides disagree. In some cases these things are mild enough that we can just have our separate opinions. But in the cases where one side or the other feels threatened, we need to be able to agree to disagree without fear for our jobs or the continued success of incredibly valuable events like the GTS.

The GTS has always been a partnership, between the guides, NPS and the outfitters, and it will always be more valuable as a partnership. Now that a lot of companies run their own training trips and seminars, it seems harder to get participation in the GTS river trip. This year we only had representatives from eight companies on the trip, we could barely fill the 24 spaces the Park gave us. I remember years when we had forty people on the trip and a waiting list. At the land session there were outfitters or managers from eight companies in attendance. It was great to see those companies represented and I thank them for making the effort to come. I'd love to see *everyone* there. I know people have things to do and we can't always get everyone to come, but I can't think of anything better to put your energy into than your own guides' training. So as a partnership, outfitters, come listen to the talks, come hang with the community, be a part of the future of your own guides. They are, when you think about it, the future of your companies.

I hope we can keep the GTS going strong a long ways into the future. Because it's not just the talks, the information, the slides and hand-outs. It's not just the discussion of issues and new policies and concerns and news. It's not just the books for sale or the great dinners cooked by Jennifer, Emily, and the gang, the band howling into the night or even the golf games. It's all of us, from different companies and crews, different canyons and rivers, different backgrounds and approaches and different relationships to this River that makes this so valuable for the future of our community.

We talked a while at the GTS this year about Traditional Cultural Properties on the river, places that have special significance to Native American cultures. Places like the Hopi Salt Mines, and the Sipapu and the dwellings at Nankoweap or Furnace Flats. But we talked about TCP's in a different context this time. We talked about them in relation to our culture, the guides' culture, the culture of the river community. For we are indeed a tribe, a group with a history and traditions, even a language all our own. There are places on the River and in the Canyon that are important to our culture, traditions without which we would lose some of our identity, and a community without which we would not be who we are. As we move into this coming season, think about what places those are.

Think about what's important to you about this River, this Canyon and this community. Think about how we can all make this whole experience even better and this community even stronger. Let us know—in future meetings with each other and the outfitters, we want to be able to bring your thoughts with us to help guide us. Guiding is, after all, what we all do best.

Christa

boatman's quarterly review

...is published more or less quarterly
by and for GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES.

GRAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

- * Protecting Grand Canyon *
- * Setting the highest standards for the river profession *
- * Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community *
- * Providing the best possible river experience *

General Meetings are held each Spring and Fall. Our Board of Directors Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. All innocent bystanders are urged to attend. Call for details.

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Our editorial policy, such as it is: provide an open forum. We *need* articles, poetry, stories, drawings, photos, opinions, suggestions, gripes, comics, etc. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.

Written submissions should be less than 1500 words and, if possible, be sent on a computer disk, PC or MAC format; Microsoft Word files are best but we can translate most programs. Include postpaid return envelope if you want your disk or submission returned.

Deadlines for submissions are the 1st of January, April, July and October. Thanks.

Our office location: 515 West Birch, Flagstaff, Arizona

Office Hours: 10:30–4:30 Monday through Friday

Phone	520/773-1075
Fax	520/773-8523
E-mail	gcrg@infomagic.com

New Toys on the River

AT THE MEETING GCRG had with the outfitters in Page on February 16, we were introduced to the latest technology springing from the minds of those who tinker. Arizona Raft Adventures (AZRA) has produced an electric outboard prototype, which they brought to the meeting to show everyone before taking it down to Lees Ferry to test on a short up-river run. This is part of the industry's attempt to respond to concerns raised about motor noise and emissions even beyond the realm of the four-strokes to which they are now transitioning.

The electric motor was later tested on Lake Mead and on Lake Mary in Flagstaff. It was then launched down river on its first official canyon run in March. By all accounts, it performed even better than the outfitters dared expect. And no one was electrocuted.

Upon entering major rapids, we're told the boat's pilots found themselves constantly checking the electronic gauges that tell how much power the motor uses and how much is left in the batteries. They wanted to be reassured that the motor was actually still running, because they could not hear it. The familiar vibrations and noise are completely lacking with the electric version. The electric motor's power is available at the turn of the throttle, instead of the pull of the cord, which makes it much more convenient than typical outboards. Concerning safety, the motor operates at low voltage so there is negligible risk of electric shock.

Right now, the DC permanent magnet electric motor the outfitters selected for this initial prototype

sits inside the housing of an old outboard. It is powered by a thousand pounds of sealed 12-volt batteries and produces about the same amount of thrust as a fifteen horsepower gas powered outboard. It pushes a snout easily at about four miles an hour with a top speed of about 5.5 mph. When the throttle is released, the motor shuts down completely and is totally silent. Even when running at full speed, only a slight whine betrays the presence of the motor.

With the initial prototype, the batteries need to be recharged every second or third day, depending on usage, by a gasoline-powered generator.

Recharging takes about two to three hours. In the near future, the outfitters believe that advances in fuel cell and battery technology will make it possible to drive even a full size and fully-loaded motor rig all the way through the canyon without having to depend on the gasoline-powered



CHOCOLATE MOUNTAIN

DECEMBER 1908

generator they are now using for testing purposes.

What's clear today is that this emerging technology will change the face of motor boating in Grand Canyon over the next few years. While it will be some time before a final system is designed, proven reliable, and manufactured in the numbers necessary, it's all a positive step in the right direction: getting rid of motor related noise and emissions. We look forward to seeing what comes out of the collective minds of the tinkers next.

Christa, with technical details provided by Mark Grisham

Kaibab Stream Caves—Early Exploration

A CAVE EXPLORER NAMED GEORGE BECK, from Pennsylvania, mounted a couple of caving expeditions into Tapeats Amphitheater in the late 1950s after running across a photo of Thunder Falls coming out of the canyon wall that was published in an Arizona Highways magazine. Beck got into Thunder Cave to where the water gets deep, found Tapeats Cave, and saw the waterfall entrance to the cave behind Dutton Spring in Deer Canyon. His access was first by way of the Thunder River Trail and later the Don Finicum shortcut, a bushwhack down the end of Monument Point long before the Monument Point trail was built. His early attempts to explore Tapeats and Dutton Caves

were foiled, however. On one trip, a guy came down with a fever and they got him out of the canyon just before he became incapacitated with the mumps. On another trip, a fellow slipped on the Bright Angel Shale just east of Thunder Spring, sped down the slope on his back toward a cliff, and stopped himself from going over by

wrapping his arm around a barrel cactus. That mess naturally required another premature evacuation.

Beck enrolled in the University of Arizona which was closer to the Grand Canyon so he could pursue his explorations. He organized a caving group at the U of A in 1959 to help—this is where I got involved with him—and that group sent a couple of teams to explore Thunder and Tapeats Caves. With Beck at the lead, and with a couple of military surplus one-man life rafts from fighter planes, we saw the three-quarter mile accessible part of Thunder on the first try during Easter, 1960. Beck then got drafted into the army and was out of the game for a couple of years. A second attempt was made to reach Tapeats the following year by others in the group but we only got into Thunder again. I made

it over to Tapeats but didn't get past the entrance complex. Beck got out of the army and together we went back to Tapeats in 1963 with some explorers I was running around with at Arizona State College. Using rubber dry suits, Beck and I got to see the 1.1 miles of accessible river passage in Tapeats that trip, but found no signs that anyone had been much past the entrance complex. We also got into Deer Canyon on another trip that year, but found Dutton Cave to be inaccessible due to the overhanging waterFall.

Beck later organized a mule pack trip, laden with five or six foot lengths of steel pipe, to Dutton Cave. I hiked in a day or two later after which we assembled the

pipe into a mast from which we hung a cable ladder. Using the ladder, we climbed up through the waterfall to the entrance. After all that work, we found that the cave only went in a couple tens of feet before pinching down to an impassible crack. An NPS river patrol removed the pipes as trash some years ago.

Another Cave lies behind

Cheyava Falls which cascades from the middle third of the Redwall Limestone some 700 feet to the floor of Clear Creek Canyon. This was first entered by one of the Kolb brothers decades ago when they hauled logs, wire and other materials down from the plateau in order to build a frame that hung out over the Redwall cliff. One of the brothers was lowered from the frame 250 feet down to the cave entrance using a block and tackle. This was an overhung free fall drop. Before reaching the cave, a thunderstorm came over, the brother at the top tied the dangling brother off, ran for cover from the lightning, and after it was over finished lowering the dangler to the cave. This story is recounted in Kolb's book without any exaggeration as far as I can tell, based on the junk they left behind on their route.



Rafting upstream about a half mile inside Thunder cave in 1961, using a surplus life raft from a fighter plane.

For example, when I was climbing out of the canyon, I got cliffed out under a fifteen-foot Supai ledge. I followed it looking for a break and came upon a pine tree that reached more than halfway to the top. It looked promising, so I took a second look and saw that the top branches had been all mashed down years ago. I figured this was the route the Kolbs used, so I climbed the tree. By standing on the mashed down top I noticed I could see and just reach a wire dangling over the edge. With a balanced pull I was up and over.

The second exploration was made by a couple of guys who, if I remember the story right, were respectively an adventure writer and a Swiss climber. In the 1950s they took a spool of goldline rope and starting at the top of the Walhalla Plateau, descended all the cliffs to the bottom of Clear Creek Canyon. They accomplished this mostly by wrapping the rope around a tree at the top of a given cliff giving them a double line down, rappelling down, and pulling the rope after them. In some places, they tied the rope to a tree, threw the rest of the rope and spool over the edge, and rappelled down the single line. Once they were both at the bottom, they cut the rope off as high as they could reach and continued on. We also found their detritus on the old Kolb route, including the spool which was in a ravine somewhere in the Supai. They rappelled into Cheyava Cave, took a quick look around, and went over the edge the next seven hundred feet or so to the bottom of the Redwall cliff. They then hiked out via Phantom Ranch.

In 1964, I got together with Tom Aley and Art Lange who were gung-ho canyon cavers, and another guy, and we followed the route the earlier intrepid folks had taken from the top of the Walhalla Plateau. We used several hundred feet of cable ladder coupled with rope belays for the Coconino, a Supai drop or two, and the Redwall overhang. This represented a pretty modern innovation at the time. The cave has a huge entrance, sixty or more feet high, but in short order we hit a fifteen-foot waterfall that the Kolb brothers claimed they had scaled with a ladder. Their ladder was still there and was made from a couple of nailed together 2x6's with metal straps for steps. Guy wires were threaded vertically through the ends of the straps. The ladder had only been getting spattered for a few decades so we used it. Above this ladder, and maybe a couple of hundred feet further in, the cave pinched down to a flooded crawlway. Too bad. The fun was getting there.

Peter Huntoon



Shawn

*Shawn from poetry writing calls.
"We have a permit to run the Selway.
It's running high. The ranger says it's
dangerous. I'll have to miss a couple
classes. What do you think?"*

What do I think?

I think I am fifty-five years old.

*I think about Currey flipping five out
of six boats on the Selway that time.*

*I think about finding the drowned
man in Cataract.*

*I think about Scott drowning in
flat water at the Moab Bridge.*

*I think about my three flips and
people in the water who depended
on me for their safety.*

*I think of seeing my son disappear
when the tubes separated in Cataract
and John Kingsley grabbing his arm
and hanging on.*

*I think of the gut wrenching truth of
Crystal, the Les Oldham truth of
Warm Springs, and the Shorty Burton
truth of Upset rapid.*

*I think of Thevenin Falls on El Sumidero
and Paul two days on that rock.*

*I think of every lonely night I ever spent
in a sleeping bag by myself, listening to
the sound of running water.*

*I think about what a person gives up for
that, the price one pays.*

*Then I think about Shawn, holding the
phone, waiting for an answer, and I
say, "Hell yes, I think you should do
it. What do you have to lose?"*

Amil Quayle

Grand Canyon Youth

HELLO FRIENDS! Well, Spring is finally here. I know this because all of the freshly washed river gear I had organized in the back yard got buried under about 20 inches of fresh snow on April 1! This is a sure sign that things are moving toward yet another lovely season of unpredictability in Grand Canyon. In order to keep this unpredictability to a minimum, here's a brief update as to the general happenings over the last few months with regard to Grand Canyon Youth (GCY).

First off, we've been making lots of phone calls and scheduling meetings in an effort to establish a Board of Directors and an additional Advisory Committee. The response has been phenomenal and our first organizational board meeting was scheduled for April 15th. These two groups will help to direct the efforts of GCY, and will bring in lots of experience with (among other things) establishing by-laws, addressing liability issues, and writing grants. The level of experience and general public commitment that these folks bring to our organization is incredible! They all deserve a hearty thanks, and we will recognize them individually in the next BQR.

In early March, GCY received a \$5,000 grant from the Colorado River Conservation Fund (CRCF). This gracious gift came at a crucial time for us, and we wish to extend a huge *Thank You* to the folks at the CRCF! Part of the money was used immediately to pay for our Non-Profit Incorporation and to establish our 501(c)3 tax exempt status. The remaining money was used to set up scholarship funds for future Youthkateers. How cool is that?! Yahoo!!

On the subject of scholarships, our Adopt-a-Youth program is up and running and we have already received a couple of responses. The program is set up to allow Canyon lovers like you to sponsor a child for part or all of their river trip cost. This is crucial, as some of the kids are coming to us from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and your gifts could make all the difference in the world to them. Remember, our non-profit status allows you to claim any donations made to GCY as a tax write-off. If you love the Canyon, this is an excellent opportunity to share it with a kid who may otherwise never get to experience the wonder. So go on, sign up and write it off. It's fun!

We also recently received several generous donations of office supplies and river gear. Thank You! This is good because we need lots of it! If you have extra outdoor-type clothing that you don't wear anymore, river equipment of any kind that's clogging up the garage, or outdated computer/office supplies lying around, please consider sending them our way. We

will put them to good use, and again, these donations can be written off of your taxes.

If you didn't make it to the GTS this year, you probably haven't seen the new Grand Canyon Youth t-shirts. The artwork was created by Karen Knorowski, local Flagstaff artist extraordinaire. Thanks Karen! These shirts feature graphics on both the front and back, and are just incredible looking. If you want one, you can write, call, or fax us (see below), or stop by the GCRG office in Flagstaff. The shirts are \$20 each, and they don't just look good; they feel good!

At this point, we'd all like to tip our hats to the folks at GCRG. They have been allowing us to make a "home" out of some of their office space, and everyone there has been really supportive. A special thanks goes out to Lynn for being Lynn, and also to Chris Geanious for setting us up with a link on the GCRG website. You guys rule!

That's it for now. Thanks again to all of you folks who put energy into making dreams come true for young people. If you like the sound of what we are doing and want to get involved, get in touch! We'll be hard at it between now and the next BQR issue, and should have plenty more to share then.

So, now you're poised on the edge of the chair with a desire to sponsor a youth, donate some raingear, or buy a killer t-shirt. Here's how to get in touch with us:

Grand Canyon Youth
Box 23376
Flagstaff, AZ
86002

Phone: (520) 773-7921
Fax: (520) 773-8523
Web link: <http://www.gcr.org>

Jeff Pomeroy



www.gcr.org

Chris Geanious has obtained our own domain name: www.gcr.org and has done some substantial redising of our languishing web site. Check it out.



Westwater Protected From Mining

SOME GOOD NEWS from the lands up north has come our way, care of the Grand Canyon Private Boaters' Association (GCPBA) Newswire and the Friends of Westwater Canyon, a Grand Junction, Colorado-based river conservation group. Pursuant to the March 22 settlement of a lawsuit brought by the U.S. Department of Justice against a mining company, spectacular Westwater Canyon along the Colorado River will be protected from gold mining. This settlement is a triumph for Friends of Westwater Canyon, which succeeded in its four year effort to halt on-going gold placer-mining activities inside of the Westwater Canyon Wilderness Study Area. Westwater Canyon is located on the Colorado River in Utah near the Colorado-Utah border and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The United States Department of Justice, after filing a lawsuit in Grand Junction in late 1998, announced that it had settled its claims against Pene Mining for trespass, non-compliance with environmental regulations, and on-going impairment of a wilderness study area. The settlement includes the relinquishment of all placer and lode mining claims within the Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the immediate removal of mining equipment, backhoe, and trailers. Reclamation of disturbed lands will become the responsibility of the BLM.

Upon hearing the news from its legal counsel, the Western Mining Action Project of Boulder, Colorado, Friends of Westwater President, Greg Trainor, thanked all of those who contributed their time and their money to support this effort. Trainor said: "We could not have done this without the support of the Utah Guides and Outfitters, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Colorado boaters and outfitter organizations, the Mineral Policy Center, and a host of individuals who contributed to save a very special place." Trainor continued: "This is a great victory for a true grassroots organization."

The settlement also closed a long standing dispute over the legality of the mining claims held by Pene Mining. In 1998 the Department of Interior issued a separate complaint against Pene Mining declaring the mining claims invalid. Friends of Westwater (FOW) and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance were parties to that case. This case, pending before an Administrative Law Judge in Salt Lake City, was filed after a lengthy mineral

validity exam concluded there was no economic mineralization at Westwater. Earlier the Interior Department had withdrawn the Westwater WSA from mineral entry for fifty years. The relinquishment of the claims will moot the claims dispute since there are no more mining claims in the area that has been withdrawn from new claims.

The battle regarding Westwater Canyon is not over. Westwater Canyon WSA, part of the Citizens Proposal for Wilderness in Utah and an area recommended by the BLM for wilderness, needs to be officially protected. Until that happens, the Friends of Westwater will be working to help the Utah Wilderness Coalition and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance to achieve its wilderness goals in Utah.

Trainor concluded: "Fow is not against mining, per se. It is against mining when conducted in the wrong places, in the wrong way, and without adequate oversight. The fact that mined land reclamation and environmental repair remains for the public to complete at Westwater is one of the problems with the Mining Law of 1872 and the administration of our public lands."

"It was a shame that the federal government was forced to spend resources and money in their multi-year effort to remove uneconomic and illegal mining," noted Roger Flynn, attorney with the Western Mining Action Project in Boulder, Colorado, which represents Friends of Westwater. "However, the BLM should be applauded for recognizing that some places such as Westwater Canyon are more precious than gold. Unfortunately, the 1872 Mining Law which allowed the filing of the mining claims in the first place is still on the books and continues to hold other special places around the West hostage."

Our thanks to GCPBA Newswire for letting us print this little bit of sunshine. Do not be fooled into believing that our little corner of the world is safe from this type of activity. It's happened before and it could happen again. The South and North Rims of the Canyon are peppered with breccia pipes that contain high-grade uranium, many of which have been explored and developed and are ready to go should the price of uranium rise high enough. Many of these mines sit on tributaries that drain into Grand Canyon. Think about it.

Christa



Whose Experience Is It, Anyway?

IN RESPONSE to comments in the Summer 1998 Boatman's Quarterly Review, I felt obliged to offer another guide's point of view on the CRMP.

First, the "umbrella concept," viewing the Grand Canyon as one big wilderness: it's a nice idea, but not a practical management tool. Dare I say it? I actually agree with the Park Service, and feel the Colorado River should be managed independently from the rest of the backcountry. In my mind, there's a huge difference between the river corridor and the Grand Canyon backcountry. Take visitor use, a key factor in management: we're talking 22,000 folks per year on the River versus perhaps twenty backpackers per year in remote stretches of the western Grand Canyon. In addition, there is already a large community of commercial outfitters utilizing the Colorado River; this is not the case in the Grand Canyon backcountry. Does this call for two separate approaches? I'd say yes. Remember, too, the river corridor is not "pure" wilderness. The ecology of the Colorado River and its riparian habitat has been severely altered by Glen Canyon Dam. In contrast, the zone between River and Rim (with the exception of the Inner Corridor trails) hasn't changed since Anasazi times.

Second, regarding the phrase "providing the best possible river experience," my question is this: What exactly is a quality river experience, in the eyes of a visitor? Too often I think we approach this question using a river guide's criteria, rather than a river passenger's viewpoint.

Through the years I've run all varieties of Grand Canyon trips: rowing, motor, exchanges at Phantom and no exchanges, and take-outs at Whitmore, Diamond, and Pearce. My conclusion is this: longer trips are preferred by the guides, not necessarily by the clients. Yes, spending more time in the Canyon does allow folks to leave behind their thoughts of civilization, and personally I prefer a nine-day or longer trip with no exchanges. However, I've seen people leave at Phantom Ranch on Day four who were genuinely touched by the Grand Canyon. I bet if you asked them, they'd say they had a quality experience.

Some argue it's important for river visitors to see the entire Grand Canyon, not just a segment. If this is true, then all trips should continue to Pearce Ferry, for those taking out at Diamond Creek see only three-quarters of the Canyon, and miss the lower Granite Gorge (in my opinion one of the most beautiful stretches of the river). Furthermore, several river passengers have told me their reason for hiking in or out at Phantom Ranch was financial: they simply

couldn't afford the full Canyon adventure. If we want to keep Colorado River trips open to lower income folks, we need to continue offering partial trips.

And what about crowding at side canyons and campsites? Most agree a quality river experience does not include crowds. Clearly we need better launch scheduling to reduce the problem. In addition, let me suggest that "invasive" technology such as helicopter take-outs at Whitmore and motorized rafts, can increase the quality of a river experience by providing the scheduling flexibility to reduce crowding. Furthermore, motor guides often use the advantage of speedier river travel to space themselves between other trips to minimize crowds at attraction sites, or to leave the nearby camps open for rowing trips traveling at a slower pace. If all river trips are forced to conform to the same mode of travel and the same take-out, we may experience more crowding at key points in the Canyon.

Eliminating Whitmore take-outs seems to be a popular idea with some folks. Again, if the goal is providing the best experience for the clients, the Whitmore take-out is hard to beat. It provides maximum time for hiking the side canyons in the upper Canyon and provides escape from the extreme heat of the lower Canyon in the mid-summer months. Most river passengers tell me an important part of their Grand Canyon trip is the time spent off river, exploring the side canyons. While the lower Canyon is a lovely place to explore in the spring and the fall, during the hot months of June, July, and August it can be a furnace. In hot weather, few groups bother hiking the side canyons below Whitmore—most of the time is spent on the rafts hurrying towards Diamond Creek or Lake Mead. Above Whitmore there are several side canyons with shade and water in which to break up the hot days. Furthermore, running Lava Falls is a climax of many trips, and folks leaving the river after Lava leave the Canyon on a real high note; contrast this to the mood of people leaving at Pearce Ferry after sitting on a hot boat for two days, and then encountering a parade of jet skis and power boats on upper Lake Mead.

The bottom line is this: let's realize "providing the best possible river experience" for all visitors means providing a choice between motor and oar rafts, and a choice in trip length and take-outs. There's more than one way to obtain a quality Grand Canyon experience!

Mary Allen



Educational Use: Don't Forget About Us

It is time for educational use of the river corridor in Grand Canyon to be embraced by the river community and management personnel. When you read about groups that need to be included in the management plan revision, you consistently hear of educational use, youth, and special populations. The park has embraced the concept of evaluating and defining the spectrum of necessary and appropriate outfitted uses of the river. This is one of the guiding principles of the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP, *Soundings 9/97*.) Hopefully all these groups will in some way be included in a revision that provides access to the river for a broader spectrum of outfitted uses. Brad Ilg wrote an excellent piece proposing an educational special use permit for the Perspectives issue of the BQR. Christa Sadler refers to educational use in her great response to the rather slanted article on the CRMP that appeared in the 12/21/98 issue of *High Country News*. Educational use appears as an issue in the *Summary of Public Comment from the 1997 CRMP Scoping Process*. The guide's association commented in support of an educational allocation in their input to the park on CRMP issues published in BQR *Winter 1998*. Kim Crumbo of the CRMP team wrote in favor of educational use and broadening the spectrum in general in BQR *Fall 1998*. It is great to find support for the concept across a range of constituents and see others not affected by the outcome raise the issue. My guess is outfitters don't necessarily object to educational trips *per se* but outfitters feel they have so much at stake in the process they are currently pretty guarded about everything.

Now is a time for change in the management of the Colorado River. But change is going to take a long time at this rate. The park took the first steps in initiating the CRMP revision in 1997. The tentative first steps of the Park in the process have been forestalled by the release of the Wilderness plan. The wilderness/motors question will rightly dominate the process until it is resolved. Other pressing issues for the future of river running in Grand Canyon will wait until then. Scoping was done over a year ago and the public input has been summarized and published. Workgroup areas have been identified and several have formed their membership and met. The river trip simulation project is moving forward and over three hundred trip reports have been entered into a sophisticated data base by Susan Cherry and the research crew at U of A. This project will provide data on how trips move through the canyon and test the affect of proposed changes.

The park has reorganized the team and is getting

the process moving again. It is time to convene the working group on the spectrum of outfitted use. How could a program of educational use of the river be developed? The input of a number of constituencies as a guiding influence would be necessary. Will broadening the spectrum require a portion of the commercial allocation? Perhaps, but not necessarily. If it did it would probably be a very small portion. Educational use could also be implemented and controlled under the administrative use definition. This would create a new venue for resource and service projects if the NPS needed. Any proposed educational trip could partner with the agency and identify one or more work projects that could be conducted during the trip. This could add a service learning component to a student's experience which can be quite powerful and it would provide a valuable return to the canyon.

How would institutions propose courses for the river corridor? As Laurie Domler, the new CRMP team member for public involvement, mentioned at the spring Guides Training Seminar, we are still working on the "whats" of the CRMP and have not gotten to the "how" stage yet. Better to agree on what the desired outcomes are for the CRMP than to immediately get lost in the details. But Kim Crumbo's suggestion of a peer review advisory panel might be a good place to start. Should there be a bid and prospectus process for this new category of use as Kim suggests? That would certainly be the most open and competitive process but there would be a winner and probably a number of unhappy losers in this scenario. If it were to go the bid/prospectus-concessionaire route it would be important to have this new entity act as a service provider for eligible institutions or courses as recommended by some advisory body.

This proposal by no means diminishes any of the excellent work currently done by guides giving interpretive talks and educating clients on commercial trips. Guides are the true experts on the canyon and provide so much to the public. Every trip is truly an educational trip in a very real sense. Guides make a strong case for the value of their work with the public and this needs to be acknowledged. An educational use concept could further build upon this excellent work. Guides might enjoy the possibility of concentrating on interpretation, hikes and resource issues on a trip with an educational focus. An educational river trip would be different because education and interpretation would be a focus of the trip and participants would be enrolled in some form of credit bearing program from an accredited institution.

Prescott College has a modest but colorful history of running educational river trips that dates back to the late sixties. Early trips were Earth Science courses were conducted by Dr. Vern Taylor. Prescott College Archaeology students under the supervision of Dr. Robert C. Euler assisted in research on human habitation in the canyon in the excavation of Stanton's Cave. In more recent times the College has used the river for adventure education courses training students in rafting skills and wilderness leadership. We have run a course titled "Environmental Perspectives and Whitewater Rafting" perhaps a dozen times since call-in cancellations became a part of the non-commercial system in the early eighties. This course integrates environmental studies topics with whitewater skills training.

Educational use of the river was first acknowledged and formally accepted by the park service during the 1988–89 CRMP revision. At this time we came forward and described our programs and our history with the desire that educational use not be left out of management structure entirely. The result of this input was that educational use was placed under the non-commercial definition (CRMP, 1989). This has allowed our programs to gain access to the canyon by the hit or miss process of calling for cancellations. The college would be lucky to run one trip a year under the current system. This system requires any of our

faculty that wish to teach in the canyon to forgo their own chances for a private trip. The dates we acquire from the waiting list provide our access to the river. Occasionally someone may offer us their permit and accompany us on the trip. As many would-be private trip permittees can attest, the competition for call-in dates has become fierce with the park now using an automated system to answer many calls on an hourly basis. It is now unrealistic to plan to get a date for any given time frame. For educational use to be a viable concept, any participating institution must be able to plan well in advance and have a specific date or small window of dates that corresponds to the institution's academic calendar.

At this point the specifics of how educational use is integrated in the CRMP are not critical. It is important that the river community support the concept for future educational use in the canyon. I think it is a necessary and appropriate use that should earn a secure future in this review process. There comes a time in this contentious community of stakeholders when one has to assert one's own interests. I hope the concept of broadening the spectrum of outfitted use is an idea that people will continue to support when the going gets tough.

Steve Munsell



A Passenger's Perspective

THE LAST ISSUE of Boatman's Quarterly prompted me to think and write.

A motorized trip through the Grand Canyon is like going to a dance with a beautiful date and dancing all night long until it is time for each of you to go home.

An oar-powered trip is all of the above, plus getting to sleep with your date.

The first experience is great; the second is so much better. I know, because in the early '70s, for three consecutive summers, I was fortunate to be a guest in my boatman's (and boatwoman's) living room. My first two trips were in motorized baloneys, my third was in a dory.

Importantly, the third never would have happened without the first two.

What is the case to be made for motors? They make a trip through the Canyon accessible to many more people than oar trips. I'm not speaking of the physically challenged. I'm speaking of those city people from New York or Chicago—those who (like I was) have virtually no outdoor experience beyond softball or hoops—who would no more think of spending more than two weeks

in a row boat on some river in the bottom of a canyon than they would plan on going to Mars.

The problem with those who would support a ban on motors is that they already love the Canyon and they've seen the bottom—know that the ride through wildwater is but a small part of the Canyon experience. They cannot really relate to those for whom a river trip might be only part of a two or three week vacation, including a stop in Vegas.

Why should we care about these people? Why not save the Canyon for those really willing to make the effort? The answer (at least one of them) is votes; and letter writing; and voices at "town meetings." There are more Congressional votes in New York City and in suburbs than there are in Utah. Unless the Canyon has a constituency in places like New York, there will be little but small pockets of support for it among "tree huggers."

I know. I was a city person with no outdoor experiences, once.

Guy Blynn



Warming the Water

THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION has proposed installing a Temperature Control Device (TCD) on Glen Canyon Dam, to warm the water sufficiently during certain months of the year (May through September) to help the endangered humpback chub, other native fish and the blue-ribbon trout fishery below the dam. This didn't just come out of thin air; the idea of warming the water has been batted around for a while now. In the Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued what's known as a jeopardy opinion about the humpback chub and BuRec was obligated to respond. The opinion stated that the chub were in jeopardy from continued operations of the dam, and that the temperature of the water was a limiting factor in their survival. Although the chub spawn in warm tributaries (mostly in the LCR), when the young fish hit cold water as they leave the spawning grounds, they are either killed outright or so physically disabled by the cold that they are an easy catch for predatory non-native fish. Sounds pretty simple. Warm the water a little (about seven degrees celsius leaving the dam) when the chub need it and they'll flourish, right? Well, maybe. Then again, maybe not.

There are some problems with this proposal, not the least of which is that the Bureau did only an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposal, instead of a full-blown EIS, which requires a lot more research and time to complete. What's more, their EA was done without the aid of much substantial biological and ecological science. And if you read the EA—something I wouldn't wish on anyone—some glaring gaps in our knowledge become quite clear, gaps that make us here at GCRG a little nervous about just jumping in with yet another major change to a system that has seen plenty of changes already.

When Glen Canyon Dam was put in, three very important physical processes were stopped: sediment flow, wide temperature fluctuations and seasonal floods. No one knows which of these three factors is the most

important for the native fish in the river, but it is very likely that all three are so interconnected that singling one out for a simplified solution is not the answer, and may do more harm than good. For example:

- While warming the water may indeed help the native fish, by BuRec's own admission, it will most likely make conditions more favorable for voracious predators such as channel catfish and brown trout, and for other non-native species that compete with the natives for food and



spawning areas.

- Warming the water may also increase the possibility of diseases such as whirling disease to enter the system, and again by BuRec's own admission, Asian tape worm, which already exists in the LCR, would likely increase after warming the water.
- We do not know if warming the water in this fashion is a reversible process. In other words, if we begin to see decline in the native fish populations, can we just turn the cold water back on again and everything will recover—or have we pushed a delicate balance too far over the edge?
- What are the impacts and consequences of warming up the food base in the river? We know very little about the aquatic food base and the needs of the native fish in the system. Again, are we going to tip a delicate balance too far over the edge to recover if we do this?
- The alternative chosen for a TCD was one of the cheapest and simplest to install, but it lacks a great deal in flexibility. Should we be looking at a different design that will allow for finer detail in range of temperatures during different seasons?
- The proposed design for the TCD draws water from higher in the reservoir, a process that may not be possible to enact in low-water years. What about the consequences of putting this whole thing in motion and then not being able to use it in critical years due to low reservoir levels? Do we set up the native fish to need warmer water and then not be able to give it to them?

These are just a few of the concerns we had in reading the Bureau's EA. In the long run, it is clear

that we know far too little about the intricacies and complexities of this ecosystem, dam-controlled or not, to be carelessly turning knobs and changing parameters. The aquatic and riparian ecosystem of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon are an interconnected web which defy oversimplification. Perhaps we do need to warm the water to help the native species of the Colorado River. We feel that this should be determined through a carefully conducted EIS that considers this and all other alternatives. If it is determined that temperature modifications are needed, we must look very carefully at the proper device and technique to achieve this. Cost effectiveness and simplicity of design may work for bureaucracy, but ecosystems rarely notice those details.

Whether you agree that Glen Canyon Dam should

be decommissioned immediately or left to go naturally (as it will), the beast is with us now and we need to manage its behavior as carefully and mindfully and knowledgeably as possible to protect the ecosystem it has created. Going back to the days before the dam is not possible anymore. There are non-native species, diseases and toxic chemicals throughout the system that have changed it for the foreseeable future. We cannot go back but we can move forward. We can and must begin to effectively and as far as possible restore natural processes, native biodiversity and natural systems and patterns to this river. Only in that way can we let the patient heal herself and once again become a true, living river.

Christa

Just A Suggestion

THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT: It is important to get all the information before you take a stance, to have your own opinion, to at least try to understand someone else's opinion, and it is most important *never* to patronize another person or group that sees things differently than you see them. Everyone has an agenda (no big secret) and, although it is necessary to feel strongly about one thing or another, it is also necessary to make concessions so that positive change is possible...and change is inevitable. We have no control over the fact that things evolve, the whole damn universe is fixed for it, but we do have some say in how it happens...at least right here and right now we do.

I have my opinions, but that's not what I want to write about. Recently, I have been trying to listen to what other people are saying and, although I don't agree with all of it, I can understand it. It is called empathy. Don't get me wrong, I don't think I know everything, and I am not calling for a love-in. I am not *even* suggesting apathy but, now that each side has defined its viewpoints and taken a stance, it is time to look for some common ground.

In case you hadn't guessed, I am suggesting a way to deal with all the issues surrounding the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP). In fact, this suggestion I am making relates to just about *any* controversy. Both sides of an issue are important and, whether or not these are your opinions, there are a few questions we each have to ask about the people involved: Who does not understand why some people are against the removal of motors in Grand Canyon? Who doesn't understand what it must feel like to fear the loss of one's job, and perhaps even that thing which has

defined his/her entire existence since childhood? What if it was *your* business that had been begun by your father or grandfather? Can anyone honestly tell me that these people do not care about Grand Canyon? Does anyone really believe that either oar or motor guides, outfitters or private boaters don't want to protect the ecosystems and integrity of the place, while also enjoying and sharing it? And then I've got to ask, what's up with the issue always being *people* and what *people* need and want? When do we accept that we are actually a part of this planet, and that it does not revolve around the whims of humans? Will we, as a species, ever truly admit the harm we have caused and try to find a way to heal it? *The point* is that each perspective is valid in its own right, and each has its place in figuring out the answer to the question "what do we do?"

Everyone involved needs to realize that inflexibility only hinders one's cause, and antagonizing others neither sways their opinions nor educates them. Besides, who in all this controversy doesn't want what is best for Grand Canyon? This question brings me to another point: what the hell is best for Grand Canyon? Why is it always an issue of human experience versus ecological harmony? We are a race defined by our technological advances, there *must* be a solution. I sure don't have it, but I do have a modest suggestion; take a moment and step outside your brain, try to look at things from a different perspective and, hopefully, you will think twice before you get in the face of someone whose eyes you have looked through.

Nicole J. Corbo

Snakes of the Grand Canyon 1999 Update

IN SPRING OF 1998, I began soliciting photographs of snakes from Grand Canyon, particularly along the Colorado River corridor from Glen Canyon Dam to Hoover Dam. I am hoping to utilize the photographs to gain a better understanding of the distribution and types of snakes within the Grand Canyon region.

My interest in the distribution of snakes in the canyon was sparked by a photograph of a rattlesnake that a colleague took in the canyon in the fall of 1997 (while it was eating a song sparrow). The assumption was that the rattlesnake was a Grand Canyon pink. Yet, when shown to Cecil Schwalbe, a herpetologist at the University of Arizona, he identified it as a speckled rattlesnake. He also mentioned that the lack of documentation of species identification (i.e. specimen or photo vouchers) has resulted in a very incomplete understanding of distribution of snakes in the canyon.

There are potentially 22 species of snakes, including up to six species and subspecies of rattlesnakes along the Colorado River within Grand Canyon (Miller et. al. 1982, C. Schwalbe pers. comm.). There seems to be a general assumption, of which I too was initially guilty, that all rattlers in the canyon are Grand Canyon pinks (*Crotalus viridis abyssus*), a subspecies of the western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*). Most people of the river community I have spoken to regarding the presence of speckled rattlesnakes (*Crotalus mitchellii*) in the canyon were unaware that this species existed there. Even the *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Grand Canyon* (Miller et. al. 1982) considered the speckled rattlesnake to be rare and only had one record for it (Emery Falls, 1975). However, since I started this project in April 1998, I have obtained an additional six records of this species, including one as far upstream as Deer Creek (RM 136R).

The subspecies of the western rattlesnake can be difficult to determine and hybrids may exist. Including the variable coloration, the speckled and the western rattlesnakes can look very similar. The latter was demonstrated by a recent (1998) Smithsonian publication, *Rattlesnake: Portrait of a Predator* by Manny Rubio, where the title page photograph is of a speckled rattlesnake, but was misidentified as a Grand Canyon pink. Apparently, this snake was recently on display at the

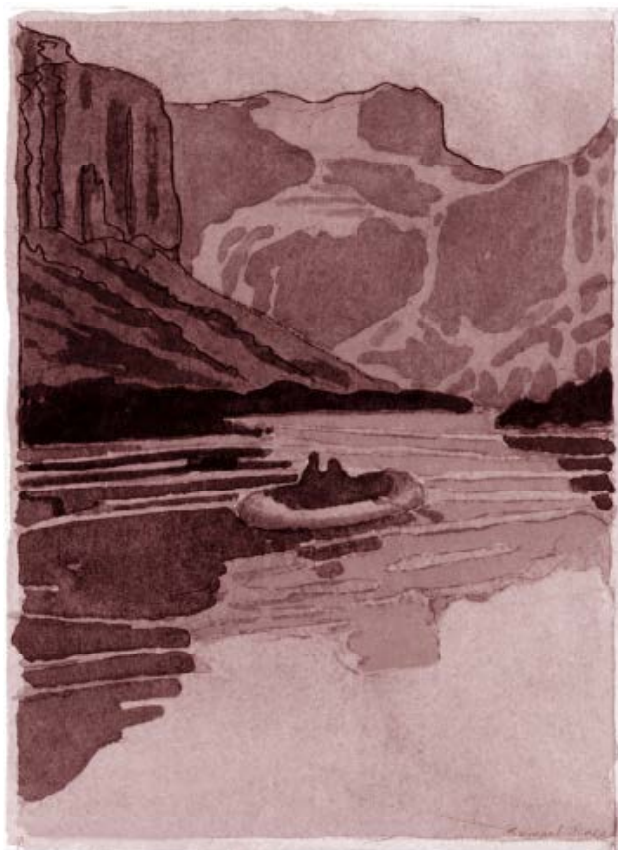
Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum as such.

Because some of these species and subspecies may look similar, photographs are the best tool for identifying the snakes. Photographs allow for a verifiable form of identification. Apparently, this method of documentation was used to gather additional information for the *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Grand Canyon* (Miller et. al. 1982). Since the initiation of this project, I have received photographs and slides of an additional 32 records of snakes in the canyon. These additional records substantially increased the number of known records of a few snake species, such as the speckled rattlesnake.

With your assistance we can learn more about the resources in the canyon. I

would appreciate it if you would assist with the collection of even more records on the snakes and other reptiles in the canyon. I have included a data sheet on the following page, specifying the information of interest. Please feel free to copy and pass the data sheet on to passengers or other colleagues in the field who might be able to contribute to this project.

Nikolle Brown



Snakes of the Grand Canyon Identification and Distribution Project: Information Sheet

I AM INTERESTED IN photographs or slides of snakes observed anywhere in the Grand Canyon region from Glen Canyon Dam to Hoover Dam. (Of course, only take the photos when it is safe and convenient to do so.) An overall body shot from a safe distance would be best.

Helpful Hints:

- There's a better chance of obtaining photographs if you respect the snakes' personal space and move slowly around them.
- The important identification features are the type and color of the pattern/bands on tail, back, sides, head.
- If the snake is seen at night, additional lighting (such as a lantern, a few headlamps or flashlights) may allow for an identifiable photograph.

At the time of the photograph, please fill out the provided data sheet below. If a data sheet is not available or handy, please note the basic information of

river mile, side, and date. If the location of the snake is away from the main river corridor, please note the approximate distance from the river, side of river, and river mile. For example, approximately one mile up the canyon at RM 196.8 L. Provide the best description of the habitat where it was found.

If the opportunity arises, photographs of other reptiles, particularly chuckwallas and Gila monsters, would be an added value to the project. A data sheet should also be filled out for these species.

Please send the photo or slide and accompanying data sheet or specific information to the below address:

Nikolle Brown
7779 N. Leonard
Clovis, CA 93611

If you have any questions or comments about this project please feel free to contact me at the above address or at the following e-mail address:
black-catnik@worldnet.att.net.

Snakes of the Grand Canyon Identification and Distribution Project: Data Sheet

Date (M/D/Y): _____ Time (of observation): _____

Observer(s): _____

Contact address and phone: _____

River Mile and Side: _____

Location name (if any): _____

Type of habitat (i.e. in the tamarisk, under/on a rock(s), on the beach, on the talus, on the trail, etc): _____

Location to river (estimated distance from it): _____

If the location was on a trail, please specify: _____

Provide any additional information below: (such as general color of snake, in case it does not show in photo/slide; layer of rock formation where it was found; behavior, etc.)

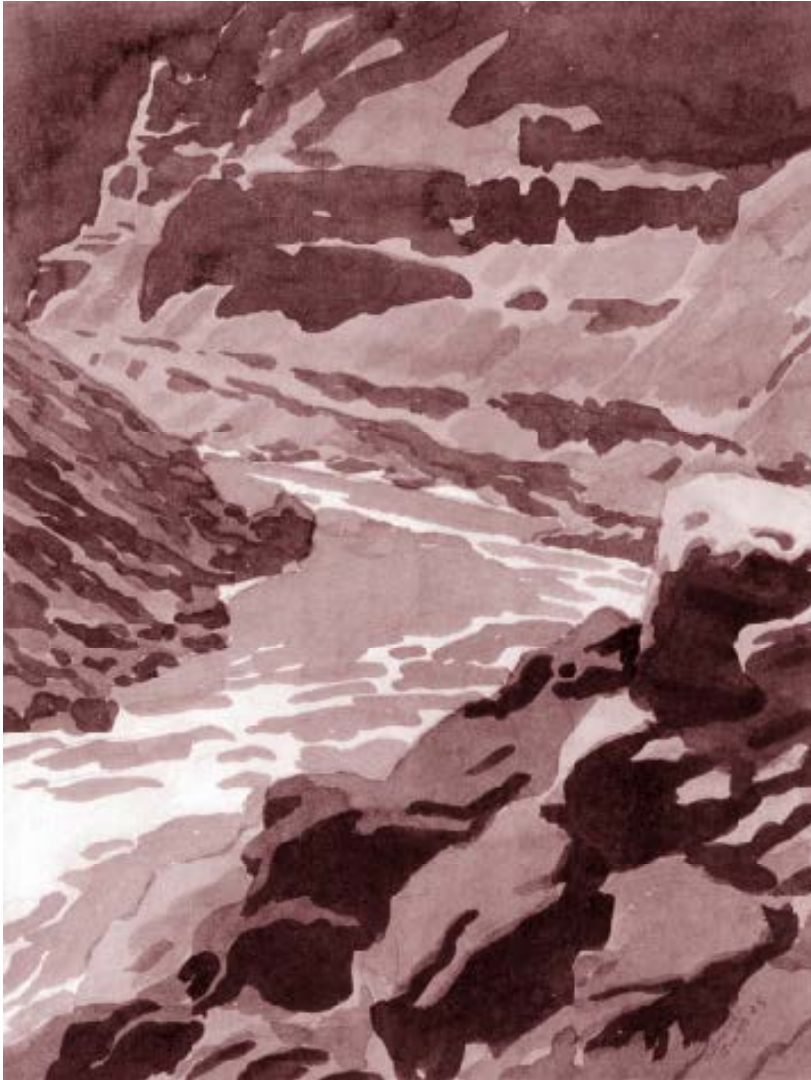
P.S. If you want a response regarding the identification, please just ask and provide a return address (snail mail or e-mail). Thanks for your contribution to our knowledge of the reptiles in the Grand Canyon.

photo by Dugald Bremner

Georgie Rapid ?

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO I wrote to BQR asking for suggestions for a rapid to be named for Georgie. Unfortunately the response was decidedly underwhelming.

One person recommended that, in view of the fact that Georgie loved the giant rapids of the Upper Granite Gorge, I should request a name change for Granite. This was one of her favorites. A few years



before she died I asked her if she would ever want a rapid named for her. She told me, "Yes, Crystal. I love Crystal more than anything. Perhaps it could be named 'Georgie's Crystal Rapid' so that the name doesn't have to be changed completely." Sadly, I believe the guides would never support such a suggestion, nor do I feel the usgs and Grand Canyon National Park would be willing to see such a famous rapid renamed.

Therefore, although Georgie thought of it as nothing more than a "miscellaneous," I will request that 24 Mile Rapid be renamed "Georgie Rapid." I do not believe there are any other claims on this one. 24.5 Mile would have been a bit better—she seemed to enjoy that one, but it is associated with Bert Loper's death. The same goes for 25 Mile, a rapid Georgie tangled with prior to developing her "Big Boat" in 1955. Since it is unofficially named for Hansbrough and Richards, that one is also inappropriate.

My feelings, and those of Georgie's former crew and passengers, are that a rapid named for "Mom" be located above Lava Falls and the Whitmore helicopter take-out. Passengers traveling from Lees Ferry on down would be more apt to appreciate Georgie's unusual talents than those coming in at Whitmore.

Trying to coordinate something like getting a geographical name established is hard to do alone. I have had some help and suggestions from the wonderful people affiliated with the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society. They have decided to help sponsor my request to the usgs and Arizona Board of Geographical Names, although their final approval rests with my putting together a good presentation. I have written a short biography of Georgie and I will also send a copy of Dick Westwood's new book and video clips from Don Briggs' "River Runners of the Grand Canyon" and from NBC Nightly News.

I am also wondering whether anyone would know how to go about getting a plaque put up at the old Navajo Bridge to honor Georgie. In other words, how one designs such a thing, what the cost might be, etc. I assume permission would needed to be obtained from Glen

Canyon National Recreation Area.

Any and all suggestions or comments would sure be appreciated. You can reach me via e-mail at roz@dnai.com. My snail-mail address is 1729 Bishop Drive, Concord, CA 94521. Hope to hear from you.

Roz Jirge

Adopt-a-Beach



February 26, 1996 - Pre-flood photo.



February 26, 1997 - A year later, during the February/March continuous flow of 27,000 cfs. Cutbank formation into high elevation sand deposit.

DURING EACH of the last two summer seasons, river guides have continued to support the Adopt-a-Beach (AAB) program. For all of those who made that stop at their beach, trip after trip, in 1997 and 1998, the program benefited greatly and is still alive and well. As in 1996, guides adopted beaches chosen from the original set of 44, within the three critical reaches—stretches of river where beaches are scarce, highly eroded and/or frequently visited: Marble Canyon (RM 8–41), Upper Gorge (RM 75–114), and Muav Gorge (RM 130–167). Guides photographed the beaches and made observations about their condition. In 1997 and 1998, they were asked questions like: what were the effects of the high, continuous flows of 1997? How was this different from 1998, a season of predominantly fluctuating flows? What exactly happened in these two years following the 1996 beach/habitat building flow (1996 flood flow)? What are the lasting effects of the 1996 flood flow, two years later?

Originally, Adopt-a-Beach was designed as a program that incorporated the interest and on-the-ground experience of guides in contributing to scientific and monitoring work on Grand Canyon sand bars. The impetus for the original study was to observe the effects of the 1996 flood flow. In 1997 and 1998, the methods of analysis stayed much the same. Not only were results of beach change produced for each of the two years, but a new mission for the program has begun to crystallize as a result of the most recent study. Looking into the future, the need was recognized for AAB to assume the role of an annual monitoring study which focuses not only on discrete events such as the 1996 flood flow, but which also observes change to



September 17, 1997 - Fluctuating flows of 18–24,000 cfs.



July 13, 1998 - Stabilization amid lower fluctuating flows. The beach maintained this condition throughout all of 1998.



February 18, 1996 - Pre-flood photo.



August 27, 1997 - Still retaining lots of sand deposited by the 1996 flood flow. Over a year later, camping is greatly improved over the pre-flood condition.

beaches based on the full year of observation (winter and summer seasons). In this way, data can be linked throughout all years of the study, and long-term observations are made possible.

This forward-looking perspective for AAB is important for a couple of reasons. First, as a program designed and run by guides, we all need a way to see the fruits of our contributions. The health of Grand Canyon beaches is something that is important to all of us, and by adopting a beach we each add important data that creates resolution in the whole study, and enables the big picture to become clear year after year. Next, the program integrates the efforts of guides, their investment of time and knowledge, with ongoing scientific monitoring. AAB annual results provide the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) with important information. GCMRC and other interested parties submit recommendations to the Adaptive Management Workgroup, which advises the Secretary of the Interior in questions of river management policy. (The Protocol Evaluation Program of GCMRC gave Adopt-a-Beach a very favorable review in its meeting summary of August 1998.) AAB also provides the public with direct knowledge about the health of the Canyon's beaches. The connection between guides, scientists, and the public helps to increase awareness about a place we're all concerned about.

So what happened to the beaches in 1997-98? We needed to link up the new data to the 1996 results, so both years were observed during four periods: the winter season of '96/'97 (November 1-March 31), the summer season of 1997 (April 1-October 31), and the same periods for the winter season of '97/'98, and the summer season of 1998. Of the original 44 beaches selected in 1996, 40 were adopted in 1997, and 21 adopted in 1998.

In a nutshell, we saw the following trends, which were consistent throughout both years of the study.



May 7, 1998 - Beach still showing far better coverage than before the 1996 flood flow.

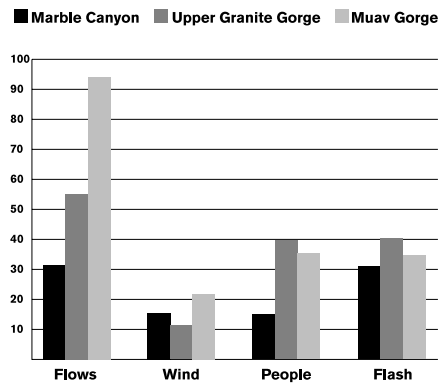
First, very little if any increase in beach size occurred. Guides reported that any new deposition of sand was observed only on the flat bench areas below the fluctuating flow level. This made camping easier at several "low water" camps, such as Zoroaster and Stone Creek; others showed improvement to low level beachfronts and parking areas.

Overall, beaches showed evidence of equilibrating to the various flow schedules imposed on them during the two years. The four periods of continuous, high flows during 1997 appeared to erode sand from beachfronts at the high flow levels, and to deposit sand in the eddy areas. Subsequent lower flows and higher ranging fluctuating flows evidently cut back new deposits, eroding or redistributing sand into the lower elevation eddy areas. The magnitude of visible change was more dramatic during 1997, especially due to cutbank formation. Beaches in 1998 appeared to suffer less impact overall, despite a return to season-long fluctuating flows.

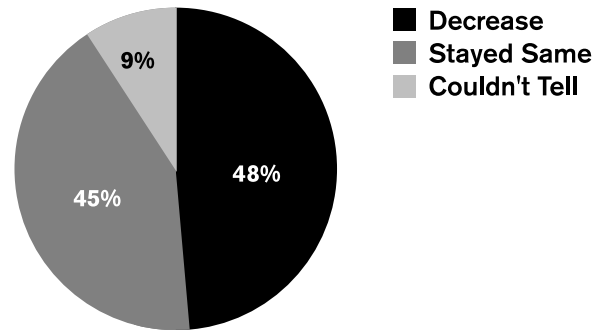
What caused the changes to beaches that guides could see? Far and away, beaches showed either a decrease in size or little change at all. For several beaches, we couldn't tell what happened due to photographic positions that had been moved. In 1997, 65% of beaches showed a decrease in size, while 25% showed minimal change. In 1998, only 43% decreased in size, while 48% remained the same. Of beaches that showed decrease for both years, the leading cause was cutbank formation due to fluctuating flows. In 1997, this impact accounted for decrease in 73–84% of beaches, within the three critical reaches. During 1998, the effect of fluctuating flows was more varied system-wide, affecting 33% of beaches in Marble Canyon, 57% in Upper Gorge, and 87% in Muav Gorge.

Tributary flashfloods and gullying by rainfall were big, visible events changing beaches in both years, especially in 1997. Bishops, Lower Tuna, Garnet, Bass Camp, Matkat Hotel, and Last Chance (among others) all took big hits during monsoon events of 1997. In these cases, campable area was significantly reduced or even eliminated (Upper Garnet), except at low water.

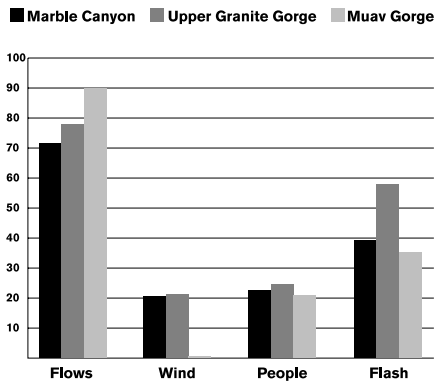
Human visitation and scouring by wind played lesser roles in reducing beach size, but guides noticed that foot traffic appeared to have aided in beach front



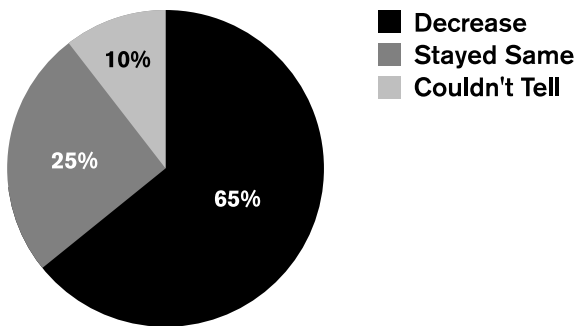
processes that contributed to beach deterioration in 1998



end of season summary—1998



processes that contributed to beach deterioration in 1997

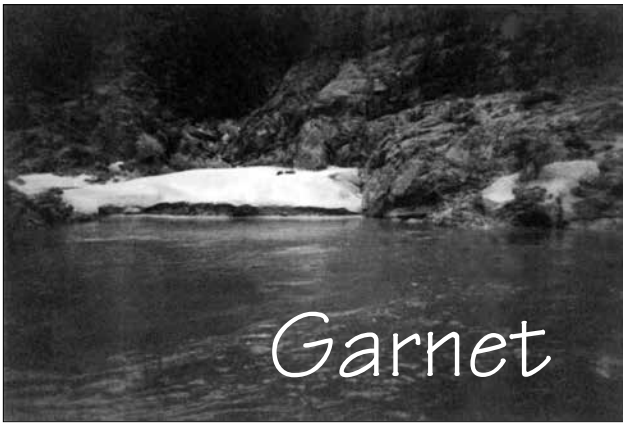


end of season summary—1997

stability over time at several camps.

Some good news: When compared to pre-flood photos taken in March 1996, more than half of beaches (50% in 1997 and 52% in 1998) still showed to be in better shape than their pre-flood condition, at the end of each of the two summer seasons. 28% in 1997 and 38% in 1998 appear to have returned to, or gotten worse than their pre-flood condition. This is based on the amount of sand visible in photographs, which usually shows only the beachfront. The positive long-term effect of the 1996 flood flow may be even greater: due to lack of pre-flood photos for several beaches, or because of switched photo positions, we couldn't determine the condition of 22% of beaches in 1997, and 9% in 1998.

These were only some of the compiled results. Full results will be available via the GCRG 1997–98 Adopt-a-Beach report, available as of this writing. GCRG would like to again thank the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund (a non-profit grant making program, established and managed by Grand Canyon River Outfitters) and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center for funding support of this program. We also wish to express huge thanks to everyone who adopted a beach during the past three years. We're looking for adopters again for the 1999 season. This is an important program—our



February 27, 1997 During the first continuous flow of 27,000 cfs, showing cutbank formation.



July 10, 1997 21,000 cfs just after the second period of constant 27,000 cfs flow, showing lower elevation cutbank formation and steepening of beachfront.



August 18, 1997 Hammered by monsoon rain, and tributary flash flooding.

program. As guides, it's an incredibly effective way that we can contribute to our own knowledge of changing conditions of our river camps, *and* add our voice to the process of ongoing scientific study down there. At this point, it's really critical that we keep the program going. For purposes of data analysis, the more beaches that are adopted, the more credible the study. Participation has dropped off (one final stat!) by over 50% since the first year. It's understandable that since no report appeared (due to funding difficulties) in 1997, and not much talk was heard by GCRG, we all sort of forgot about Adopt-a-Beach. We want to turn this around, and get back on track. Anyone can adopt a beach from the selected study set. You can participate either by making a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 per year, or by volunteering to photograph it. Adopters will receive an annual summary of results including participants. There's no limit to how many people can adopt a particular beach, although our goal is to get as many different beaches signed up as possible. The contribution and/or volunteering show a personal commitment to the stewardship of a favorite place, and to the study. The cameras and information packets are ready to go. Contact the GCRG office to sign up.

Gary O'Brien



Beaches you could adopt

Marble Canyon

Badger Salt Wash 19 Mile 20 Mile
 North Canyon 23 Mile Silver Grotto
 Nautiloid Tatahatso Bishop Buck Farm

Upper Gorge

Nevills Hance Clear Creek Zoroaster Trinity
 Salt Creek Schist Camp Boucher Crystal
 Lower Tuna Shady Grove Ross Wheeler Bass
 110 Mile Upper Garnet Lower Garnet

Muav Gorge

Below Bedrock Galloway Stone Creek Racetrack
 Lower Tapeats Owl Eyes Backeddy Kanab
 Olo Matkat Last Chance First Chance Tuckup
 Upper National Lower National

Thanks to the 1997 and 1998 Adopters

Beach	Mile	1997 Adopters	1998 Adopters
Jackass, left	8.0	Johnny Douglas	
Badger Cyn, right	8.0	Ken Kotalik	
Salt Water Wash	12.2	Kim Claypool, Ginger Birkeland, Lorna Corson	
19 Mile	19.1	Jeri Ledbetter	
20 Mile	19.9	Andre Potochnik	
North Canyon	20.4	Tom Furgason, Charly Heavenrich	Charly Heavenrich
23 Mile	23.0	Mike Campbell	
Silver Grotto	29.3	Kevin Johnson	
Nautiloid Canyon	34.7	Christa Sadler	Christa Sadler
Tatahatso Wash	37.7	Kelley Wilson	Kelley Wilson
Bishop Camp	38.3	Bert Jones	Jeff Pomeroy
Buck Farm Cyn.	41.0	Scott Mosiman, Jerry Cox	Rachael Schmidt, Lynn Roeder
Below Nevills	75.6	Paul Haacke	Paul Haacke
Hance Rapid	76.6	Lynn Roeder	
Clear Creek	84.0	Charly Heavenrich, Jenny Gold	Charly Heavenrich
Above Zoroaster	84.4	BJ Boyle	Jon Hirsh
91 Mile Canyon	91.0	Andre Potochnik	
Trinity Creek	91.6	Bob Dye	Bob Dye
Above Salt Creek	92.2	Steph White	
Schist Camp	96.0	Bert Jones	Bert Jones
Boucher Canyon	96.7	Rob Noonan	
Crystal Creek	98.0	Roger Dale	
Lower Tuna Rapid	99.7	John Littlefield	John Littlefield
Ross Wheeler	107.8	David Brown, Jon Baker	
Bass Camp	108.3	Robbie Pitagora	Robbie Pitagora
110 Mile	109.4	Jerry Cox	
Upper 114 Mile	114.3	Tom Vail	Tom Vail
Lower 114 Mile	114.5	Anthea Elliott, Mary Ellen Arndorfer	
Below Bedrock	131.1	Peg Bartlett	
Galloway Canyon	131.8	Johnny Douglas	
Stone Creek	132.0	Sarah Hatch, Jon Hirsh	Michael Ghiglieri
Talking Heads	133.0	Ed Hench	Ed Hench
Racetrack	133.5	Kelley Wilson	Kevin Johansen
Lower Tapeats	133.7	Kim Bast	Lora Colten
Owl Eyes	134.6	Julie Munger	Jed Koller
Backeddy	137.0	John Toner	John Toner
Kanab Creek, above	143.2	Katherine MacDonald	
Olo Canyon	145.6	Connie Tibbetts	Connie Tibbetts
Matkat Hotel	148.5	Bill Karls, Mike Borcik	
Upset Hotel	150.4	Kate Thompson	
Last Chance	155.7	David Desrosiers, Jon Hirsh	David Desrosiers
First Chance	157.7	Jeri Ledbetter	John Littlefield
Tuckup Canyon	164.5	Mark Piller	
Upper National Cyn.	166.4	Eric Christenson, Rob Noonan	Andre Potochnik
Lower National Cyn.	166.6	Mike Davis	

Clear Creek by Bruce McElya

A Word From the Private Boaters

THE FOLLOWING is a letter sent to Christa Sadler by Richard Martin on behalf of the Grand Canyon Private Boater's Association (GCPBA).

I want to comment on the viewpoints that you expressed in your current editorial (BQR *Winter* 98–99), “And Another Thing,” as well as a response to the letter you co-authored that was published recently in *High Country News*. I hope you'll take a moment to consider my thoughts.

I think most river runners would agree that a trip in Grand Canyon is one of life's finest experiences. No one has the need to pass judgement on the quality of another's presumed experience. I can assure you that I, and the vast majority of those that I communicate with, are not concerned with the question of whose trip is better. As our Mexican neighbors often say, “Que le vaya bien,”—That your trip be good.

I was chagrined to read a quote you picked from our “Letters to the Editor” pages to republish: “I know the quality of my trip far surpassed the quality of a commercial trip,” with no notation that we printed in the same issue a number of letters that both roasted and praised the GCPBA for what other members of the boating community, rightly or wrongly, think our stand or goals as an organization might be. Your selection of a quote is basically out of context, from the entire two pages of letters.

Importantly, I think the inclusion of the quote furthers the process of driving a wedge between the various groups involved in the process of trying to create a fair and useful plan for the accommodation of the wide variety of people that want to share the river in Grand Canyon. I'm sure widening this gap is the exact opposite of what you are hoping to achieve. Your presentation of the quote, in your context, seems meant to verify your conclusion that private boaters' “... *thinly veiled*” agenda is to rid the river of commercial operators.

The cited letter, like many, was printed, not as an endorsement, but as a sharing of opinion. I think it is really valuable to offer all points of view, especially to our members and readers, because to do so serves as a reality check, by which we may measure our thoughts and activities. The inclusion of the forementioned quote in your editorial, to my way of reading it, seems to imply that the GCPBA agrees with the author. Certainly some members of the public agree, and of course many don't.

I'd like to discuss the opinion which you expressed, that the CRMP process is coming down to a get-rid-of commercial-activities movement. These topics are

discussed frequently within the electrohalls of the GCPBA, and I can honestly say that virtually every one of our Board members accepts and respects the opportunity for the non-boat-driving public to have access to the river via commercial outfitters, enjoys the colorful world of river guides, and sincerely respects the outstanding job you guys do in facilitating wonderful experiences for your patrons.

Recently, we held an exhaustive planning meeting, which you and your board were invited to attend. During those meetings, we took a great deal of time to pound out and codify our thoughts on these issues. Our points of agreement are presented very clearly for all to see on page five of the most recent issue of *The Waiting List*. The second point on the page should be noted by you and my fellow members of GCRG; it reads as follows:

“All members of the boating public deserve *fair, equal and timely* opportunity for access to their river, and for that matter to *all* of their National Parks. That includes commercial patrons, as well as private users.”

When you say, “There is a fear that...there is a thinly veiled attempt to do away with commercial boating in Grand Canyon,” you may be right about the “fear” part of the statement, but for most people involved in the CRMP process, attempting to do away with commercial activity is not a factor or a goal we wish to pursue. Most of us recognize that everyone need not share the same desire to experience a trip the same way. Everyone doesn't have to want to row the boat, as a price for their legitimate right to be a trip participant, whether it be commercial or private. You know that quite a number of private boaters began their careers on commercial trips, and are really thankful that they had that opportunity to discover boating and the Canyon, and be led by experts.

We, the participants in this process, have gotten the wilderness/commercial/access/allocation/motors issues all mixed up together, and to some extent that is unavoidable because they are somewhat interwoven. But like the threads of a fabric, they may be separated, and each issue can stand alone. It is obvious that each also needs to be evaluated as part of the greater whole user environment.

Lots of people are really passionate about the wilderness proposals, as your responses to your questionnaire published in the same issue of the BQR indicate. That passion extends far beyond just boaters. We all know that a number of those people see the commercial use of motors, helicopters, and scenic overflights as an impediment to the Colorado River being included in the protection of “designated

Wilderness,” and therefore, they must go. Except for an article published in an earlier issue of the BQR (which the GCPBA declined to publish) rarely have I ever heard anyone express the opinion that commercial operations must, or should, go away. In fact, I myself, within the wilderness context, have tried to make sure on our pages that our readers understand the difference between “wilderness compatible commercial trips” and “non-wilderness compatible trips.”

I want you to be aware that a large segment of the “private” boating population really don’t feel very strongly anti-motor, they are much more concerned with the opportunity to have relatively easy access to the river. On the other hand, there are a significant number that think motor use is totally inappropriate, and not only in the Grand Canyon. We, like GCRG, do not always agree. I think that I can safely say, that as a group, we’ve decided to let the NPS decide that matter. What the GCPBA board has agreed to do is urge “motor use be restricted to levels in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.” The Wilderness Act itself is subject to wide interpretation, and this issue will probably have to be decided in a court, once the NPS has made its recommendations.

To most private boaters the commercial vs. private issue revolves around the way the user pie has been divided up for the past thirty years, heavily favoring commercial activities. This has resulted in an unacceptable waiting period for most potential non-commercial users. Not only that, but the realization by most is that they may never have an opportunity for a second or third trip. There is probably a significant pool of resentment directed toward what appears to be the easy “credit card” access that some people enjoy, in preference to people who have prepared themselves, from their point of view, to get the maximum out of the opportunity. Certainly there are a number of private users, who are often characterized as “abusers of the system,” who have done and will do many trips. And the same can be said of many commercial patrons, some who have done twenty or thirty trips. In essence, the Canyon has become home for the heart for many.

I read with great interest Louise Teal’s book, *Breaking Into the Current*, describing the efforts of women to share their rightful place amongst the world of commercial boatmen in Grand Canyon. I think what we are seeing now is the enthusiastic private, or independent boater going through the same transition—fighting for their rightful place in the Canyon. Just as the male dominated world of commercial boating had to make room for women as guides and leaders, now the commercially dominated world must make room for private river runners who have the skills necessary to navigate, be self-sustaining and the desire to immerse themselves in an exquisite

experience and add their particular flavor, that will ultimately enrich the experience for everyone. Private boaters would like to see what they interpret as an unfair allocation and access system rectified. That doesn’t mean eliminate commercial river trips.

Now we all find ourselves embroiled in a “push push” argument. I’m sure you can recall some of the absurd statements you’ve heard directed towards private river runners at the various meetings you have attended and, of course, that goes both ways. The result is the inability to meaningfully communicate.

The task for all who really care about their fellow man is to figure out how to accommodate the desire of the many that are fit to self-guide themselves and still leave room for the those who have no desire to do so themselves, but wish to experience the richness of a Colorado River trip and the myriad of feelings that such an opportunity sets the stage for. This accommodation is a job that I know the members of the GCPBA are dedicated to, and I am sure that many in the GCRG share that same dedication. I’m positive that you do.

I hope I have clarified to some extent the misunderstanding of intentions that may have imbedded itself in the consciousness of the commercial river running community. Thanks for your time, and the good energy you are putting into this difficult task. It’s kind of like weaving through “rocks of opinion and feelings” at really low water.

Richard Martin



Both articles referred to in Richard’s letter were a response to the fact that for the past several years, whenever the issue of private boater access to the Colorado River is publicized, commercial trips are demonized as the bad guys, the ones keeping all private boaters from easy access to the river, the ones catering to the rich and spoiled, the ones turning the experience into a Disneyland ride. Throughout the country, in the Washington Post, Salt Lake Tribune, High Country News, Arizona Daily Sun, and LA Times, articles are being read by people who have no knowledge of the community here in Grand Canyon. Those articles lump guides with outfitters as “the commercial sector,” with no mention of some of the positive aspects of commercial boating. The articles referred to were in no way intended as a criticism of the private boaters or a negation of their concerns, nor were they intended to imply that the Private Boaters’ Association is attempting to get rid of commercial boating. I apologize if they were interpreted as such. We simply tire of having our craft, our profession and our love reduced to such black and white terms.

Christa



1999 GTS Weather Report

FOR THE FIRST TIME in recent memory, the weather for the March 26–29 land-based portion of the 1999 GCRG Guides Training Seminar (GTS) was wonderful. Although neither hail, nor sleet, nor snarling dogs keeps the GTS from happening, it sure



GTS goes enjoying the nice weather outside for a change.

was nice to be able to sit outside and enjoy the sun without fear of hypothermia. (Notice: beer consumption almost kept pace with the thirst.) The river-based portion experienced all the bad weather we didn't get at the Old Marble Canyon Lodge.

And “happening” is what the GTS event was all about this year. Crowds neared 200 at the peak, approaching levels not seen since the 1995 old-timers gathering. It was still going strong on Sunday afternoon with over 100 people around for the last few talks, thirty-five participants on the dam tour and Glen Canyon float with Larry Sanderson, Rich Valdez, and Barbara Ralston, and about a dozen people still around for the Lonely Dell walk late Monday afternoon with Allen Malmquist.

The weekend began on Friday afternoon with the GCRG spring meeting, and rolled right on into the weekend seminar.

GTS quality was just as impressive as the quantity: from Awatubi to Zoroaster, and all the riffles and rapids around and in between. Many attendees commented on the great variety of topics and speakers which included (our apologies if we missed anyone):

- Nps representatives Patrick Hattaway on regulations, Kim Crumbo on Wilderness, and Linda

Jalbert and Laurie Domler on CRMP.

- Aquatic issues concerning hanging gardens by John Spence, temperature and aquatic ecology by Joe Shannon, age of Grand Canyon spring water by Dave Kreamer, and early exploration of Kaibab stream caves by Peter Huntoon.
- History with Brad Dimock on Buzz Holmstrom, Betty Leavengood on women of the Grand Canyon who didn't get their feet wet, Michael Anderson on Grand Canyon trail builders, John Weisheit on the Powell land survey, and Larry Sanderson's films and narration of early 1960s powerboating.
- Research, adaptive management, and dam stuff by: Barry Gold (GCMRC), Randy Peterson on flows, Ted Melis on BMBF flood conditions, Catherine Roberts on Grand Canyon river trip modeling, and Matt Kaplinski on dirt.
- More dam(n) politics featuring Joannie Nevills Staveley and Steve Ward of Friends of Lake Powell, Katie Lee speaking, reading, singing, laughing, crying, and new Glen Canyon Institute director Pam Hyde.
- Cultural resources—Angie Bullets reminded us that Paiutes were Powell's original Grand Canyon guides, Waylon Honga gave us Hualapai perspective, Lisa Leap on traditional river corridor cultural properties, Lynn Neal with data synthesis, Andre Potochnik on cultural site erosion.
- Nicole Corbo's update on the Youthkateers, Bob Grusy's latest on the Whale Foundation, Adopt-A-Beach by Gary O'Brien, Francis Hill's colorful take explaining who-and-why we are, and Ed DeFrancia teaching indoors about teaching in the outdoors.
- Critters with Jeff Sorenson's weird snails, Nikolle Brown telling us to take only pictures/leave all the snakes (is it a pink or a speckled?), and Larry Stevens going big-diverse.
- And, most importantly, (drum roll please) the entertainment: Bill Gloeckler and group jamming-out-the-kicks; the Gruse on kegs; Katie Lee singing and playing; John Blaustein's "Glory, Gory, Dory Days" slide-show (a bunch of the old dory boatmen crawled out of the woodwork for this one), and the Snow Cap's Juan Delgadillo and family (Robert, Cecelia, and John), in a GCRG tribute to Juan,



Richard Quartaroli posing with the Delgadillo family (Juan, Robert, Cecelia and John) in a tribute to Juan.

goofing around and grilling cheeseburgers with cheese for about 200 hungry river runners. By the way, the Delgadillo kids are itching to work a river trip, so anybody in need of a hardworking helper or three to cook and squirt mustard contact the Delgadillo's other-Brother Jon Hirsh.

The GCRG board, officers, and the GTS Committee would like to extend gracious thanks to all who donated, assisted, and contributed: Jane Foster, Patrick Sloan and the rest of the gang at Marble Canyon Lodge; Grand Canyon Conservation Fund and Teva Sport Sandals for funding and support; Laurie Lee Staveley as our tireless GTS outfitter representative; Grand Canyon National Park; GCROA members; Wilderness River Adventures and crew for the float trip; Lynn Hamilton for keeping us as much together as possible; Jennifer and Emily for the great food; the kitchen help; all the very informative speakers; Allen Malmquist; Canyoneers; Juan Delgadillo and his family; Gloeckler's group; Katie Lee; and Brother Jon and the Gruse for running the show on time (let's hope we got everyone; any omissions are unintended). And, as the Gruse stated at the closing, thanks to everyone for showing up, because it can only be as good as the folks who attend.

See ya at the next one!

Your GTS Committee

Heroes of Summer

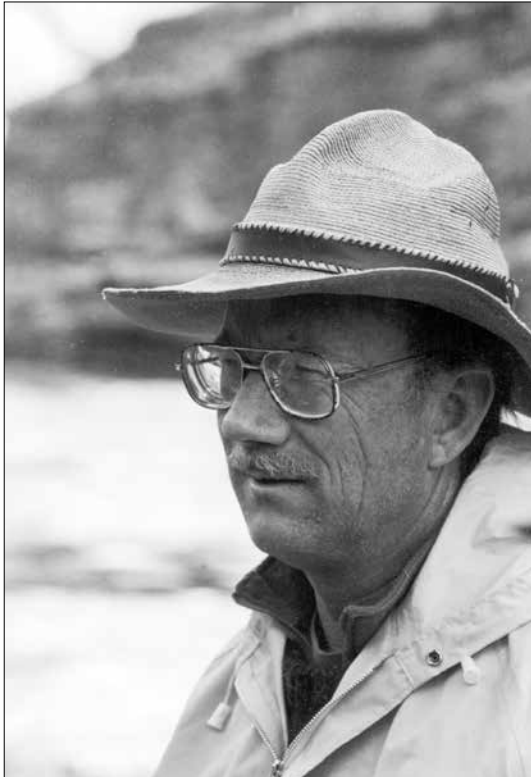
Rollin' Into the River

ONE of the best things about our river is that, despite the dams, the predictable fluctuating flows, the maps, guides, and all the knowns—she just keeps on surprising us. We've got a new rapid in President Harding, according to early season boaters who've seen it. Reports are that a huge boulder about the size of the one already in the main channel rolled downslope and into the right side of the river sometime this winter, effectively blocking that channel at the water levels we've been having lately. In the process of sliding downslope, the boulder apparently took out all the vegetation from the cliff base to the river. Seems the main run is on the left now, handy if you're heading for that camp. That should make the ducky run more exciting!

THERE is nothing better in this world than being a boatman. There is no finer time than late April. The river season lies ahead. By mid-May, with one or two trips behind you, you have most of the bills of a long winter paid off. You just cashed your paycheck and you are going down river so there's no place to spend it. No greater place to be than in Grand Canyon. If only time would stand still or if this life could go on forever. That's the problem; time moves on. It's that "math thing," a two week river trip passes by like a day, the river season feels more like a week, and after twenty years you feel as though you are only a half-year older than you were the first day you showed up in Marble Canyon. That's the regretful reality of the rim world. Time, like the river, just keeps on flowing. We are all dreamers living out a dream. We are the lucky ones, the heroines and heroes of summer. Don't take these days for granted. Take your dreams to Granite, to Hermit, and on into the Gems. It's going to be another great summer. Good runs everyone. See you down river.

Bob Grusy

Dave, We Hardly Knew Ye...



During his tenure at Grand Canyon Dave Haskell was often called upon to interact with the river community.

THE FOLLOWING is a letter on behalf of GCRG—written to be included in a “Book of Letters” being compiled for the retirement party for Dave Haskell, Director of the Grand Canyon Science Center. Much to our dismay, Dave retired in April. We’ll miss him.

Dear Dave,

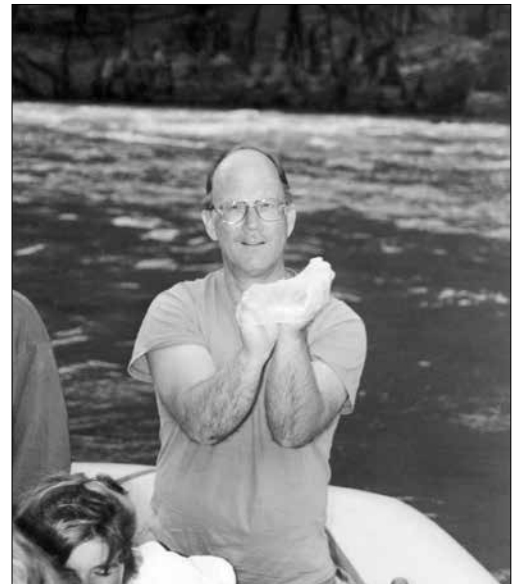
So, you’re retiring. No 11th-hour word from the Governor, no change of heart? Well, it’s only fair; you’ve more than put in your time. But this is sad news both for all of us at GCRG who have had the great pleasure and privilege of working with you over the past several years at Grand Canyon, and for everyone we represent who never had a chance to meet you while you worked so hard on behalf of the Canyon and the River.

You came to GCNP a little over four years ago, and the minute you walked in the door at that year’s GTS, we could tell something was different. Along with the big hat, you brought with you a huge smile, a wonderful sense of humor, and a willingness to really talk and listen to the concerns of the people you

worked with, who were many and varied. Your tenure here at Grand Canyon has been anything but boring: the General Management Plan and Colorado River Management Plan revisions, the Wilderness dispute, the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management process, the overflights battle, discussions about private boater access and the private permit system...the list goes on. In a period otherwise rife with contention, argument, hot tempers and cold shoulders, you always maintained that wonderful smile and calm, cheerful, attitude, even when we’re pretty sure that’s not how you felt inside! You always dealt respectfully with people, from a position of equality and cooperation. And you always, *always*, no matter how politicized the issue, held the interests of the Canyon and the River in first place.

On the river, you were one of the gang—you just slipped into the routine and camaraderie, and everybody always loved having you along (“Haskell’s coming on the GTS? Cool!” “Can we get Haskell to come?” “See if you can get Haskell to come on the river trip.”). Whether it was painting at night in camp, teaching the boatmen new tricks with latex, or swimming the Fifth Wave (and everything after that) in Hermit, you really knew how to, uh, shall we say... *immerse* yourself in the experience.

It is rare to have such a warm and respectful relationship with any member of a managing agency and ours has gone so far beyond that. You will be truly missed here at GCRG, friend. You’re going off to hang



Many of the changes brought on in the nineties had to be conveyed to the boatmen in an on-hands manner.



Here Haskell demonstrates the proper use of a condom.

out by the Verde River, put your feet up on the porch, watch the cottonwoods and the sunset and take it easy for a while. But something tells us you won't be taking it easy for long. You've got too much love for the Canyon and the wild places of this Earth in you to just sit back.

Dave, you're only going to be down the hill a little way. We hope you won't be a stranger and that you'll continue to work in your good-natured and so very effective way for the good of the River and her Canyon. It's been an honor and a privilege. Enjoy your peace and quiet and come down the river again soon. She's always there for you, any time you need her.

Christa



Eager to learn, a boatman (Jeff Pyle) masters the technique.

Condor Protocol

ONE of the California condors released at Vermillion Cliffs was found dead recently, shot within the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park (Soap Creek). This is really sad, because the condors are no threat to anything in the region at all. Whether this was an intentional act against the condor as an Endangered Species, a misunderstanding about the bird's biology and intentions (they don't attack), or simply pot-shots for fun at a big, black target, it is simply unconscionable. While a criminal investigation is underway to explain the shooting, another condor was returned to captivity due to increasing habituation with humans. This is not good.

Condor # 86, released from the Hurricane Cliffs, was spotted by river runners on April 4 at Travertine Canyon. The condor was very tame and approached the river runners without hesitation. This same condor then appeared on the Hualapai Reservation, where it was reportedly contained and fed while the Peregrine Fund was notified. This bird has been returned to Boise, ID, to remain in captivity as a breeding bird.

The recently released condors have been seen on numerous river trips and have approached camps on many occasions. Oddly enough, they appear to be picking up a lot of the behavioral traits of ravens from close associations with those birds. While this may seem clever and charming, it is not good for the condors. Condors are scavengers; they do not kill their own food. These particular birds are young and inexperienced—it has been a long time since their kind were wild in the skies over Grand Canyon and the last time they were, there were no river runners with tasty tidbits for them to scavenge. It is extremely important that condors not become habituated to humans and human food if the reintroduction program is to be successful. If you see condors on the banks of the river, please don't try and get close. If they come near your camp, please try and scare them away by running at them shouting and waving your arms. Under no circumstances should we feed them! For more information on the Condor Reintroduction Program, please contact: The Peregrine Fund at 520-355-2270.



Georgie calling the troops to dinner.
Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, Roz Jirge Collection #NAU.PH.92.10.11

Georgie

Georgie (White) Clark...at Cliff Dwellers Lodge the day after a monster 80th birthday party thrown by Ted Hatch. Fall of 1990.

You can't imagine now, when nobody knew nothing about the Canyon...There weren't trails, there wasn't anything. But I come up with a friend of mine [Harry Aleson, in 1944] on Lake Mead and we looked up this river and he said, "Oh, nobody ever comes down there." And I said, "Nobody!?" He said, "Oh, way back somewhere I read a man went on a trip or two..." And I said, "Well, if he went, I can go."

I talked him into it, that we'd hike in and do it by piecemeal. We'd start on the bottom and work our way up. I said, "We can go each year." I already had plans. "We can take some of it, and then go the next year further." On life preservers, of course, not thinking boat—couldn't afford a boat at that time. So I got him to go. But the hikes were our problem, because there weren't trails—we just went. And boy, some of those

hikes were pretty scary, even for me. So I was glad to get to the river! (laughs) We had our problems, and he almost drowned. So then he got out, he said, "Don't you ever say 'river' to me again, or swimming!" And I said, "I won't," because I hadn't realized just how bad it would be.

Did you get out and walk around any ?

Oh, you couldn't get out then. That's what you don't understand now. Because when I went, it was over 70,000 cubic feet...It was in June, so everything was high. What gave you problems was the big trees, and big whirlpools in those days that you don't have now. Used to have mighty whirlpools, and I'm talking about *mighty* ones. Then when you got in those, you had to go with it. When it popped you out, if you're lucky, it would throw you out of the circle, and you would go on down. But if you came in that circle, you went back down again, and it went around and around

and swooped you right down. And that's how it was, so you need to get your breath to go down again. And you never know how long you're down. If anybody ever says they do know how long they're down, they're lying, because you're not keeping track—all you're doing is hanging onto your breath, and hoping you get up. And even use your hand on your nose if you think there's any chance that you're going to let go. (laughs) All you're looking for is that light when you come up. When you go down in a whirlpool, you're going with that water, and not agin' it. So that's real good when it throws you out.

Georgie White was one in a billion—tough as nails; fearless, fun, friendly...maybe a little crazy. You had to see her to believe her, really, and if you never got to you should check out Don Brigg's movie, "River Runners of the Grand Canyon" for that alone. Like another Canyon swimmer, John Daggett, she came to the river grief stricken, hardly caring whether she lived or died after losing her beloved daughter Sommona Rose in a tragic car-bicycle accident. Unlike Daggett, Georgie stayed. For forty-seven years. With her "share the expense" trips and her big old boat, she opened up the river to the "common man" with thrills, spills, chills and adventure galore. Us newcomers took her for granted through the '70s and early '80s and then, just before she left us, kinda realized what a treasure she was: a true pioneer, the likes of which we'd never see again.

What made you decide to start using a boat?

Well, because they become available. The first boats were the Navy boats. And the frog divers had used them. And they were something you can handle, that you can even turn over by learning how to jump on one side if they upset, so they looked like the ideal thing. I didn't know the Canyon at all, remember, and I just simply started. Had no idea of anything about it. I just simply put in at Lees Ferry and that was that! Everything was learned from the word "go." (laughs) But the thing in my favor was that after swimming, then I felt like I had the "Queen Mary" under me, with this air, you know...why gee, and able to carry some groceries...and a sleeping bag! Because when we swam I didn't have anything—you just sit in a life preserver. When you did get throwed ashore—because you never actually swam to shore, it was only when the current threw you agin' a wall—and this was in a narrow canyon, usually—and you

just parked there...It was full of driftwood and everything...You can't swim in a preserver anyway. And with that kind of current, you sure aren't going to!

When you were swimming, you didn't take much food?

Oh no! We didn't have these bags or nothing! Frog suits weren't out, you didn't have these rubber bags, you didn't have any of this stuff! So the most I could do was a malt can from a drugstore. It had a double lid, so the water wouldn't get in, because I couldn't even think of anything where water wouldn't get in...I put it in a packsack and punched holes in this packsack, just a little tiny one to put on my back so the water would drain out. Then I put in dehydrated soup. But thinking that I could dump this can out, dip up water, and then with all the driftwood I could have a fire and have this soup. And then I had pure sugar candy. The first dehydrated coffee came out in little cans called "Martha Washington," and that was what I had. But then, we discovered of course, that when it threw you agin' a wall, there was no wood. There was lots of wood in the river, but of course it's wet and you're not going to use that. So then you just had the dehydrated coffee if you wanted to use it cold, period. Otherwise, you just had the candy which is pure sugar, and that was the end of that. So you didn't have much of that. And then you didn't have a sleeping bag, because you couldn't carry such a thing...There just wasn't anything. So then you set and shivered and you kept your preserver on...And then it was so cold, we froze to death...We learned that if the water threw us agin' a wall, even at one in the afternoon, you stayed there. Because then you got some sun, and then you might thaw out. (laughs) Because the



Georgie and Harry Aleson floating in the lower canyon.
Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, Bill Belknap Collection #NAU.PH.96.4.115.2

cold was your bitter enemy.

How long would you go, about?

Oh, you had to go until it just happened to throw you agin' a wall. You couldn't get in or out. Believe it or not, clear down on the low part, with the motorboat we had put some food in at Quartermaster Canyon, and thought, "Well now we'll be able to get out here, for sure." And so



1960 Jet Boat Up-Run Boatmen Jon Hamilton and Dock Marston encountered Georgie at Elves Chasm.

Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, Bill Belknap Collection #NAU.PH.96.4.95.66

we had food in there. And do you know that we couldn't even stop at Quartermaster Canyon—there was no way. We did get stopped below it on the same side, and then had to hike to it. But we could not stop at Quartermaster itself—the current there was that fast. There was no way you could get in. We went by Bridge Canyon, and there were men at that time surveying. And so of course they were all excited and we waved that it was okay. We knew they had a camp below, probably, with that many men, but if you think we could get [out], there's no way. So we just had to wave to them that it was okay. We just went like this, because we could see we couldn't get [out]... Never mind going, it was a case of stopping! And then you got in problems when you got down toward Pearce's Ferry and everything, because you had these miles of driftwood. And gosh, you didn't know what to do with it, because you couldn't grab hold of it—it...was just too much of a mess. That's what gave you real problems. The wood really gave you a lot of problem.

When I first got out at Pearce's, then you had a long hike. They didn't have a road then—that was just ranch land...So it was just a trail...And that's a long trail when

you've got to hike it. So first you froze to death, then when you went across this trail to reach this road, then the heat out in June, and then you burned to death! You went from one extreme to the other complete extreme.

That was on the first trip. Then we got out to the highway. But things would stop for you, and we were just like we were, which is probably pretty sad-looking. But we hailed, and the bus stopped. They would do it then, because they didn't see anything like this in those days. And they stopped and we got on and then told them, so they took us right into Boulder then. So then at Boulder City we had some clothes that had been sent there. But imagine those people, they were from the East, and they were looking so horrified, I can remember.

What made you want to get into the river business? How did you go from swimming to...?

Well, I liked it outdoors and I thought, "If I could only get some people, that'd at least pay for the trips," because then I was selling real estate in Los Angeles in the winter to support me... to do all these [trips]...But I always did a lot of crazy things, you know. I mean I biked, I did things other people didn't do...

and just did it if I wanted to do it. I just simply figured I could do it and usually managed somehow (chuckles) because I'm made that way...partially being born in Chicago where you were self-reliant. There, in the tenement district, why, it was up to you to survive, because we didn't know day-by-day where meals were coming from. So I was in that rougher element. But the training was sort of good...because I had a mother who wanted you to have spirit. She'd always say, "You're on the bottom, but everything has to be up from here. So if you keep spirit, you've got good health, why, you're lucky." And so that was her thing, that you're already on the floor, you can't get any lower. So if you keep your health and have a good spirit...She was so terrific...she was something that the average don't have...

How did you start talking people into coming down the river with you?

Well I talked my life away. I was selling real estate, but literally, as well as selling real estate, I [was] selling river trips—trying to sell them. People didn't commit at

first. You had to talk your life away, and then I decided, well, the only way I'm ever going to get anybody is to take pictures...then I had started to take pictures, and the first ones were pretty rough, but they were pictures anyhow. Then I showed them at men's clubs and all that. Even those pamphlets, you couldn't get anybody, because river running wasn't popular, there was none of that stuff, nothing was here in America—everybody went to Europe that had any money. You did have a very small group, who like the Sierra Club, climbed mountains and all, but you didn't have anybody on the river at all. It just wasn't the thing to do. But you know the people I got were the really tough pioneers...I probably got the pick of the crop when it come to that.

The first time you ever ran a commercial trip, what was that like?

...I was always trying to do business, but it didn't turn out that way. It usually was "share the expense," only I was paying the most of it at first (chuckles) with the boats and all. Because it took time—you'd be surprised how long it took. Like Katie Lee told you, when she had even went with the first hard boats there, like Nevills or when [Frank] Wright bought them and all—they just couldn't get passengers...But the ones you did get were real pioneers, and they remained friends for life. Those people were something else: they took care of themselves all the way through. And they come back and back. A lot of them that I got was almost like a club that came back every year. But of course that still didn't make for a business, you know...You'd get 15–20 that'd come back every year. But that only made so much, not what you needed. And that was when I even then started to take the film, and then I showed the film to all the men's clubs and everything, because then you sure weren't getting no women...I showed some colleges. But that didn't seem to get anything then. They liked the pictures, but you didn't get anybody to go. So it was mostly men's clubs that did more good. And you got more the professional type even then, oddly enough, rather than what you would think would be the rugged ones like the truck drivers and that. But you didn't get them at all. And you still don't get those type people that much, is the odd thing, because of course they do physical work when they're going, and they don't need that. So when they go, they go for something different entirely, that is not so physical. And the women you even got then, they were real pioneers. The ones I did have were really rugged. They were rugged for life. And...people laugh when I now say "they don't make them like they used to!" (laughs) Yeah, they don't make people like they used to—they're always telling me this back because I'm always saying it. Even the ranger repeats that, "They don't make people like they used to." But the rangers help do this when they do so many things, not wanting

people to wade out to wash their hands and all this stuff—because it's supposed to be an experience—it's not supposed to be a yacht trip. And if you can't wade out in the water to wash your hands—it's sad, I think, but so it goes.

When you started running commercially, who else was down here doing it ?

Well, the commercial come in with the dam. 'Til then, there wasn't no commercial. And a few got interested when they heard the word of the dam, because then they knew there would be a concession. When a dam come in, it usually meant concessions and all that, and park and all that comes with it. And I, not knowing as much as they did, didn't realize how big it would be. But my brother had said to me, when he was reading, he said, "Well, your day is over, you'd better enjoy it. Because now with the dam coming in, why then it will begin to look different, because it will make the river 50 percent safer, and the Grand, being what it is for scenery, then it will become a tourist highway," was the way he put it. "It will become a tourist highway through the water, because then it will be tamed down and it won't be like now." And he spoke the words so absolutely true, because of course he was an engineer and he was up on everything...So he read it just right, because that's just what happened. And I didn't believe him. I couldn't think it would ever be. When they first paved this road down to Lees Ferry, that was when it really hit me that things were changing...putting that road into Lees Ferry made the big turning point. Because see even here, you



Georgie with her new Johnson.
Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, Bill Belknap Collection, #NAU.PH.96.4.190.214C

used to have to go down, and they took people by truck from Marble Canyon, even if they came by bus out to here, because you had to ford the Paria River. That's the only way you ever got through—there was no other way. You had to ford the Paria River. So you had to know just how to get across that all the time. And when you had floods or anything in the summer, rain showers, sometimes it was a problem. You had people wading, you had them doing everything to begin with, and then they rode down, the dust used to fly if it was dry...So your trips to start with were...ruggedger than they are now.

So the dam really made a difference?

Oh, yeah, the dam coming in, why, then change came fast. And then that's when they got the rangers. First time you ever had rangers of any kind or description, and things really changed then, quick.

Do you think it really did make the river safer?

Oh, naturally! Oh, sure. Now, you wouldn't have many river runners if you changed it back, and the reason being, even when they had the water in 1982 and 1983, all the boats were upsetting and they were flying people out by helicopter and all this stuff. Then you didn't have driftwood. You were only getting the water, and it's not as powerful as it would have been before all the dams, because at least it was slowed down with all these dams. It slows the water. It was a lot faster before you got all these dams. Even your smoother water was faster before you had all these dams in...it just had more velocity to it. So they would not go if it was like it was, because then you had the real heavy silt in the water all the time—it was permanent and forever. And the water was pure, you could drink it, but people had a hard time getting used to drinking that water. It used to be a real test of river rats to be able to just dip their cup in...It was pure to drink it, but because of the coloring of it, and it had wood chips in it, you know, and all. You'd strain them out mainly, but nothing else. Let the wood settle all down and pour it off, and then just drink it.

But I used to drink in the river all the time until the dam come in. Of course, nevermore, with all that civilization up there and you know. Then as it got for sure the lake up there, then you sure wouldn't drink it, with all the boats on the river and everything, because you can't keep from contamination, however you want to put it. And so that changed things in that way.

Oh, no, it's a lot safer. Heavens! And then you never dreamt of a thing like the water you have now at Nankoweap, that slow water. Because then when the water was slow at all, it was not like that; that big volume of water coming down picked up all the silt and kept it moving. You didn't get lakes like you got now in Nankoweap. And...now when any silt is picked up by the up and down river of the peaking power, then it's put down into places like Nankoweap—that's just where it drops it...so that it makes it worse, makes fewer camps...In the old day...water would keep coming up it would pick all the sand up, and it would drop in all these areas, so then it didn't matter that the storms washed it out from above. But it'll never be again, because there's nothing to put silt in, nothing gets back up there where your camps was, so camps will be your major problem. And no matter what they do, there'll still be the big problem, because it isn't as much peaking power as it is flood, and just the fact that a dam's a dam, and the dam's in.

How long do you think it will last?

Oh, the dam will last, but I think you're going to have trouble on camps going down the river, unless they blast



*A classic ride in Georgie's triple rig.
Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, #NAU.PH.93.5.126*

out some camps in the rock that are up higher that you go to. You're going to have problems, because they'll slowly disappear one by one...The dam just changed everything. It's not nature, never will be. You put dams in, well that's just what you got. You can just figure that you change forever...A lot hate it now because of course boatmen might have liked to experienced the day before. But as far as people go, they wouldn't be as interested if they had the muddy water all the time, and if it was that high all the time. Now the average probably wouldn't go, they get very many upsets. And then, of course, no matter where they went, they could upset pretty easy on that high water, as they found out even in 1983, which wasn't high to me. The 70 [thousand cfs] was not high to me, because I was used to having...90,000 all the time. And so to me that was nothing, but to them it was something...So if you put it back now, people still wouldn't go too much on it.

How did you come to design your boat?

Well, to get people to go, I started out with a single boat...After swimming probably, because of my being of the rougher type, I didn't think like other people did. So to me, I didn't think it was that bad to upset and hang onto the boat and ride it and get in. But of course you had to admit all this, and people wouldn't go. So I'm trying to get people. So then I thought about the three boats together. Then I got the three boats tied together and it worked so well with those little Navy ones, I knew I had something. But I still couldn't convince people, because they looked so small, because those boats are small—I mean smaller than the average rowboat now. So then somehow when I got those three, they first come out, those three big ones, why, boy, I didn't hesitate a minute and I put three of them together...I even had the motor on the outside of the middle one, and that was something, because you couldn't get to it. And it would hit everything, all the rocks and all. You couldn't afford to have that. So I knew I had to do something about getting the motor on the inside. So I'm the first one to get the motor on...and to cut the bottom out. You weren't too sure at first about cutting the bottom out of a rubber boat...And just tying a tube in, you weren't sure how this was going to work. So everything was very experimental, believe me—your ties and everything—I didn't have them down right at first. I didn't have them tied together right—a whole lot of things weren't right. And it was just through time that eventually I got it down to where then it was good. Of course now they make the boats without the bottom...But this was all experimental in that high-water day. And then I only used a ten-horse motor to begin with, which is nothing



Yikes!

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with three big boats. I mean, that's a laugh if you think about it. But it's what I had and it's all I could afford. (chuckles) Then I found on the little bitty boats, though, with the oars, I never used a motor up until after the dam. But then I did put a little motor on the middle, and it was real hard because then they hit so much with that motor. But you could use it, and it was good that way, but too expensive to be any good commercially. Well, I used those boats though [the little thrill boats], up until about four years ago...

Have you seen the boatmen change over the years? What kind of people were running the river aside from you?

Well, in the old days, I told you, there weren't many people running—you only had a couple of adventurers that you never hardly seen. So you didn't have other boatmen as such...They just didn't go, and it's hard for you to think now, but this was when they just didn't do these things...They were different. But I don't see that you get that much total change. You mainly get younger kids in now, more college, which you didn't have at all then...It was usually somebody that was a little bit more yet of a pioneer, a prospector, something like that, that

liked to be out...usually about twenty-five or thirty years old, rather than in college...

The passengers: what do you think they used to get out of...You say they don't make passengers like they used to...

Well in those days you went because they liked rapids. It was rough, and it was tough, and your trips were long. They were all eighteen days and there was no way out, and there were no other boats and there weren't helicopters or anything like that. There wasn't anything, so that you were out and totally dependent on surviving yourself and getting through. In so many words, on our boat, we were dependent on one another, and right there, that's what you got. What you're going to do and how you're going to get out...it's up to you to get through anything—rocks or punctures or anything. And what you got is right there, and that's it. And so you do have to improvise on different things. You know, it isn't like you can do now at all. And you didn't have drinks or anything then, either. No way you were hauling beer down or anything in those days, because it was impossible—too long, you didn't have the room, and you kept everything soft, so when you go through these rapids they didn't hit nothing. You didn't have frames, and you wouldn't have had frames, because they can't take it, they don't bend, the boats don't give. The frames take away from the boats giving when it comes to really bending around really terrific rapids. And my rowboats only had little wooden mounts about that high for the oars to go into, because you didn't want some big long thing sticking up there that could kill you if it hit you in the head if the boat turned over. And I still, to this day, personally don't like frames of any kind. I personally just don't like frames up where people are. See, my big boat doesn't have that—it's all soft, so that I am not bothered to this day. I could take that boat across the ocean, actually. I'm positive it'd go right across...If you could keep in gas—no problem. And I wouldn't be afraid of the storms or anything in that boat, because it's one that can survive. It'd take some people to hang on, though. You'd have to be able to hang on, and you'd have to have the heart for it. (laughs) But it could be done. (laughs) That's for sure.

Do you think the river teaches people anything? Even today?

Oh yes, I think it's good for people today, different things do occur. Because people really are so well-spoiled today...I won't say "spoiled," because it's possibly good they have a good life, but still it's good for them to know a little bit about how things are when things don't go right. You know, they have to learn that on the Canyon—it's the person themselves, and not how much money they got or who they are, that counts, if they're

with a regular group. They come in—in so many words, everybody on my boat is the same no matter what they do in life. It doesn't matter to me what they do. So if you're the president or the ditch digger, I don't care. And nobody else cares either. It's just how you get along and all this type of thing.

You do have the heat and cold and you can't predict things...So it's kind of good for them to get out where they can't turn a button and have everything just so-so. (laughs) Once in a while it's good to wake 'em up. Then they know they've been somewhere. If you just go and stay in good hotels and everything, I mean, when you get back you really haven't did anything that different... And where they have problems and all...People used to come out...at the end of the trip they'd laugh and say, "Let's see, what was I worrying about so much?" They couldn't even remember it. (laughs) It had gone so by the wayside, you know, what they were worrying about before—it wasn't really that important. And so that's the thing. If you can make it...I like it a little rougher, because it gets people away from their every-day life.

Did you ever keep count of how many trips you've done?

Oh no! See, I didn't count in my day—you just got who you could take. And I was out there all year. For years, you never thought of such a thing. That came in, really, when they started to make so many trips for a boatman, so many trips for a leader...I never thought of keeping track of anything. And of course, I, much more than the average, don't like to write, don't like any detail. When my sister was living, she handled any business...and I never even wrote a check, because I didn't have to be bothered to sign them. I didn't do any of that. And that was wonderful, because just since she passed away now, of course I do, and pay the bills. But I miss that because I had become accustomed to being—she helped me be very carefree, because I didn't have to do none of that.

I have never claimed to be that all-out commercial—even though the Grand Canyon tries to make me so. (laughs) They're having a hard time, and they know it!

Well, they're kinda trying to make us all...

Yeah, they've been trying to work this. Of course I have to go with them, like the [table argument], because I was a pioneer and I liked my little table down on the ground, my wading pool [what Georgie used for a table in the old days]. I didn't see anything wrong with it. But I had to change, because they told me so. So I got the table, and I really got a fancy one when I got one. I said, "Oh well, if I gotta...And so I got one, you know, that has a place to put all the spoons and everything, to hang them. I had the fanciest little table on the river since I had to go for it...I don't like those big old square tables.

Too hard to handle?

What I have is low, and you have to set it up, have to put pieces together, but it sure is a handy little thing, I have to admit, once you get it up. But I had to change. I never did hear of anybody complain about bending down to the sand. But the park rangers said people didn't want to, so I had to change.

Bet you've seen a lot of changes.

Well, I had to change, because I was told so! (laughs) Not that I wanted to, but I was told to...

The first ranger that went with me, I had to get a special permission out of Washington, and I was trying to do it so they wouldn't sit up and talk about Powell, talking about people drowning with silt in their clothes, because I said that was not true, and I'm trying to get passengers. So I got the first one and had to have a special permit out of Washington, who was Dan Davis. [Sr.] (laughs)

Washington didn't want to let them come down?

Oh, no. No rangers were allowed on the river before the dam. Then when I put in for it, I said flatly, "Don't give me a desk clerk, now, give me someone who is a little rugged." Yeah, I put it flatly, "Don't you give me a desk clerk." But I got the right fellow, he was great! No complaints at all. He was just wonderful. Then he had heart problems, or some kind of problems I think early, and then they sent him back to Omaha and he set up parks. And then I had a good picture of him and this book was coming out and I had his permission, but I wanted to be sure it was still okay. I called back, and somehow they transferred me and I didn't know it, to the hospital. I talked to him, and lo and behold I'm talking to him at the hospital and he's in for a heart operation the next day. So then he said when he was okay, he would call me, which he did. So then, he could take an early retirement or he could have some kind



*Georgie ringing the lunch bell by the wading pool.
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of a job there for some time where he'd get more pension. And his kids were grown and everything, and he said, "I don't know what to do." I said, "Are you kidding?... You were always crazy about Arizona, and you mean to tell me you don't know what to do?! When you don't know—let's put it flatly—how long you're going to live?! Why, boy, what are you hesitating about? Take that lesser money and get back to Arizona, for heaven's sake, and you can pick up part-time something!" So he said, "Really?" And I said, "I wouldn't even think about not quitting, if it was me. You don't have the kids, you don't have that responsibility no more." So then he called about a week later and said, "You know, I decided to go your way." (laughs) And he did! He come out to Arizona... then he got a part-time job in that living museum. So then this was fine too because

he was good at this sort of thing, and it followed with the line of what he had liked originally. And then the main fellow retired, and he's in full charge down there now!

Great!

Yeah, I hear from him off and on. So, of course he's my friend for life, for sure. He said he's so glad. Somehow he was just thinking money. When I told him, "Well after all, when you don't know how long you've got to live," which is what I did, you know, "why, how can you be so foolish (chuckles), not to do what you want to?!"

Is there any one trip that you ever did that stands out as being your favorite?

Well, the one I did, oddly enough, though, is not in the Grand Canyon—it was in Mexico in the Rio Grande Santiago, because I hadn't been there, they were building a dam. And then when I decided to go after the dam was built, then I always went down in August and they were



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having big rains there. And then all the gates were open—a big flood—and they said they were going to close them all, which they did when I come in. And then we got the boats ready to go. But it's a long story to tell. But everything about that whole trip, from the beginning to end, was unbelievable—even to me, and I'm used to everything! And to me, it happened so fast, and with such speed, that you just couldn't believe... As I've said, it's an unbelievable trip. And it was the first trip I ever took women on in Mexico, because of it being so rough and you have the alligators and crocodiles in some spots. And when I went in August, why your landings were not silt—they were like mud. And women didn't like that. And you do have the bugs there... And so then I didn't take women. But after the dam, well of course then it was going to be changed, and so one of the men said, "Georgie, I'm tired of this all-man trip down here. You've been on this so many times now, it's a milk run to you, even before the dam.

So now let's take some women." So okay, this is the first time I had women! (laughs) And then this is when they turned the dam loose on us just when we were starting—we haven't even got anywhere. Before we're a mile down the river we got all kind of problems, right then!— including me, because I'm under with the motor, because I hadn't had the boat pumped up, and we weren't ready to go. A couple of the Mexicans threw the ropes in and shoved us and said, "You've got to go, they're opening the dam." We didn't have the boats tight enough, we wanted to do that the last thing. And I had the little bitty boats, but I had the motor on them I tried to start the motor and thought, "Well, I can get back to land to finish getting rigged here," and then it turned me underneath because it was soft with the motor. And then one boat went up in the air onto the other boat and a girl went off. And this was within the first half mile! We were only 500 feet below the dam!... And of course there are no pictures of a thing like this, because we were just finishing getting ready and they threw the ropes in. And there's no nothing! All you do is hang on for life. So probably the trip that I can think of with no equal, [I have] no pictures, because there was no time, no nothing. And of course the camera got wet and everything else by this time, because you weren't prepared that you were going to have such a fast take-off! Not with the dam on top of you!... I told people on the trip, "Don't tell your grandkids anything about this, because they'll think you slipped a marble!" (laughs) So I said, "You'd just better keep it to yourself, unless you're talking to somebody else that was on the trip," because they can't believe the things that happened... And then I didn't get nobody else that went on that trip, for all they were all old-time river rats—they'd went on the Grand different times with me, and I called the one doctor up who'd been on lots of trips, and I said to him, "You ready for another river trip?" the next year, for he survived just fine. Nobody got drowned or anything—everybody survived. And he said, "Do you know what? When I even take a shower now, I wear a life preserver!" (laughter) But that is quite a long story on that, to really be fully told.

Lew Steiger

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- Vol. 18— "Pageant in the Wilderness: The Story of the Escalante Expedition to the Interior Basin, 1776"

Each county was commissioned to publish their history for the Utah Statehood Centennial. The eleven completed in time to be included are: Cache, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Rich, Salt Lake, San Juan, Uinta, Wasatch, Washington, and Weber counties. Each of these contains about 400 pages and is in-print at \$19.96.

The CD runs on both PC and Mac. Word-search capability makes searching through the material both fast and easy. Suggested retail is \$39.95.

The more copies I order at one time, the less each costs. GCRG members receive discount, and if there is enough interest I will discount them more. Please contact:

Bill Bishop
Canyon Books
PO Box 3207
Flagstaff, AZ 86003
(520) 779-0105

Book Announcement

Dancing on the Edge by Charly Heavenrich will take you on a raft trip through the Grand Canyon where you will learn about the geology and human history of the Canyon as you discover tools for living life as the adventure it is. Through true stories and lessons from Spirit Dancer, you will deepen your understanding and appreciation of who you are.

GCRG members can purchase the book for \$10.40 (a discount) plus \$3 shipping and handling.

If interested please contact Charly Heavenrich at:
2822 3rd Street
Boulder, CO 80304
(303) 545-5414
cheavenrich@aol.com



The Whale Foundation

THE WHALE FOUNDATION is moving into its third year. With the help of a lot of good folks, it is going strong. Once again we would like to thank everyone who has donated to the foundation; without your help we would not be able to keep things running. We are also moving to a new address as of May 4th. Our new address will be: The Whale Foundation, c/o Bob Grusy, 7890 S. Avenida Bonita, Tucson, AZ 85747 or e-mail: thegruse@aol.com. As always we need and are looking for additional financial help to keep this program running strong. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Our Help line will remain the same. If you or anyone you know or love in the river community needs help getting over the long winter call: (502) 773-0773.

Businesses Offering Support

A FEW AREA BUSINESSES like to show their support for GCRG by offering discounts to members. Our non-profit status no longer allows us to tell you how much of a discount they offer, as that is construed as advertising, so you'll have to check with them. Thanks to all those below.

Canyon Supply Boating Gear 505 N. Beaver St. Flagstaff	779-0624	River Gardens Rare Books First editions 720 S. River Rd. Suite A-114, St. George, UT	801/674-1444 84790
The Summit Boating equipment	774-0724	River Art and Mud Gallery River folk art 720 S. River Rd. Suite A-114, St. George, UT	801/674-1444 84790
Chums/Hellowear Chums and Hello clothing. Call Lori for catalog.	800/323-3707	Cliff Dwellers Lodge Good food Cliff Dwellers, AZ	355-2228
Mountain Sports River related items 1800 S. Milton Rd. Flagstaff	779-5156	Mary Ellen Arndorfer, CPA Taxes 230 Buffalo Trail, Flagstaff, AZ	86001 525-2585
Aspen Sports Outdoor gear 15 N San Francisco St, Flagstaff	779-1935	Trebon & Fine Attorneys at law 308 N. Agassiz, Flagstaff	779-1713
Teva Sport Sandals and Clothing	779-5938	Laughing Bird Adventures Box 332, Olga. WA	98279 503/621-1167
Sunrise Leather , Paul Harris Birkenstock sandals. Call for catalog.	800/999-2575	Sea kayaking tours Belize, Baja and Hawaii.	
River Rat Raft and Bike Bikes and boats 4053 Pennsylvania Ave. Fair Oaks, CA	916/966-6777 95628	North Star Adventures Alaska & Baja trips Box 1724 Flagstaff	800/258-8434 86002
Professional River Outfitters Equip. rentals Box 635 Flagstaff, AZ	86002 779-1512	Chimneys Southwest Chimney sweeping 166 N. Gunsmoke Pass, Kanab, UT	84741 801/644-5705
Canyon R.E.O. River equipment rental Box 3493, Flagstaff, AZ	86003 774-3377	Rescue Specialists Wilderness Medicine, Swiftwater Rescue, Avalanche & Ropework Box 224, Leavenworth, WA	98826 www.rescuespec.com 509/548-7875
Winter Sun Indian art & herbal medicine 107 N. San Francisco Suite #1, Flagstaff	774-2884	Rubicon Adventures Mobile CPR & 1st aid Box 517, Forestville, CA	95436 rub_cpr@metro.net 707/887-2452
Mountain Angels Trading Co. River jewelry, call for catalog. www.mountainangels.com Box 4225, Ketchum, ID	83340 800/808-9787	Vertical Relief Climbing Center 205 S. San Francisco St., Flagstaff	556-9909
Terri Merz, MFT 1850 East Flamingo Road #137 Las Vegas, NV Individual/Couples/Family counselling. Depression/Anxiety	89119 702/892-0511	Fretwater Press Buzz Holmstrom biography Discount to guides. www.fretwater.com	774-8853
Dr. Jim Marzolf, DDS Dentist 1419 N. Beaver Street, Flagstaff, AZ	779-2393	Randy Rohrig Casitas by the beach for rent in Rocky Point.	526-5340
Snook's Chiropractic Baderville, Flagstaff	779-4344	Dr. Mark Falcon Chiropractor 1515 N.Main, Flagstaff	779-2742
Fran Sarena, NCMT, Swedish, Deep Tissue, & Reiki Master	773-1072	Willow Creek Books Coffee and Outdoor Gear 263 S. 100 E. St., Kanab, UT	801/644-8884
Five Quail Books—West River books 8540 N Central Ave, #27, Phoenix	602/861-0548	KC Publications: The Story Behind the Scenery Books on National Parks Box 94558, NV	89193-4558. www.kcpublications.com 800/626-9673
Canyon Books Canyon and River books Box 3207, Flagstaff, AZ	86003 779-0105	ERA Conley Realty 123 W. Birch Ave., Suite 106, Flagstaff	774-4100

THANKS to all you poets, photographers and writers; and to all of you who send us stuff. Don't ever stop. Special thanks to Sam Jones and Bill Webster for the phenomenal artwork and Bruce McElya for the photographs. Printed on recycled paper with soy bean ink by really nice guys.

Grand Canyon Creationists Monument to Bureaucracy

April 1, 1995

LE FAIRY, ARIZONA—In a bold move that went unnoticed by all save one, co-superintendents Joe Arnberger and Rob Alston double-handedly created a new jewel in the national park system crown: Grand Canyon Natural Recreation Area.

Thanks to the raven-sharp eyes of Early C. Corax, this reporter was able to get the poop on what ecosystem management specialist Dudley Wegnerd called “just the kind of hydro-astrology that will show the Bureau of WreckThe-Nation that a water molecule flows through us from the headwaters to the golf, of course.”

In one fell swoop, Superintendent Joe Rob Alstonberger combined Glen Canyon National Recreation Area with Grand Canyon National Park. “It needed to be done,” said Joe Rob. “It was an idea whose time had come. Joe Rob and I are nearing retirement. What better way than this to ease into it by sharing a posi-



Whoops!

tion. That way, we only have to be there half the time.”

GCREWA representatives declined to comment, except to say: “As long as it doesn’t affect our quotas.”

A local advocacy group, the Glen Canyon Institution, thinks that this would make *Glen Canyon Dam: A Novel idea*. Leaders David “Beer” Brewer and Jerry Wedbetter state that regardless of what ex-Bureau de-Commissioner Void Dominant wants, fact is sometimes stranger than friction.

Outspoken folksinger Kaylee poses that “maybe we could project some of my *oh, natural* photos or old TV shows on the face of Glen Canyon Quon-Dam, kind of a ‘Joe Rob at the Drive-In.’ And, in their honor, how about that Walt Ditzzy film, *Two Who Dared?*”

Speaking of drive-ins, the Show Hat on Route 86 might have the last laugh: it is now serving the Alstonburger—dead condor with cheese.

C. V. Equusasimus

Care to join us?

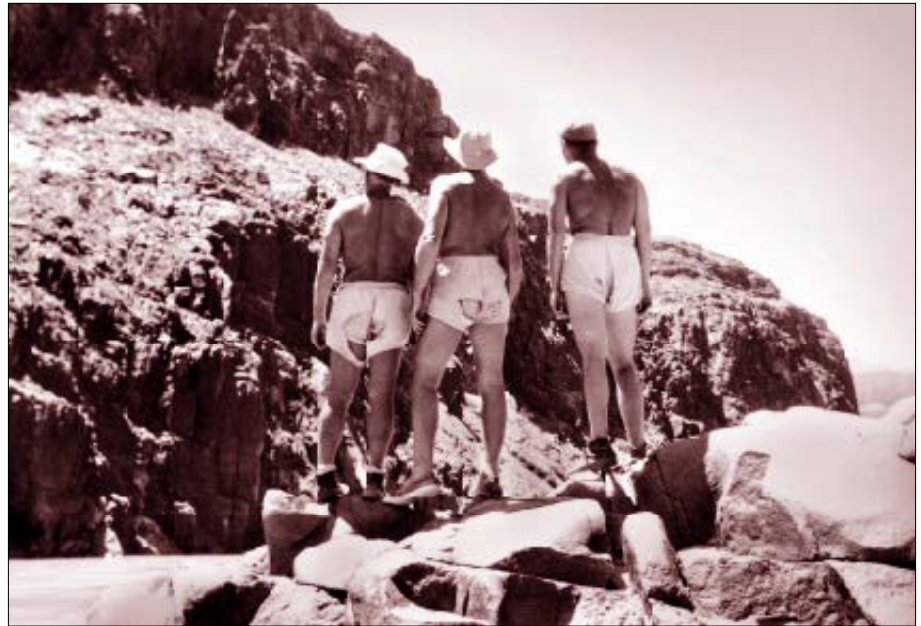
IF YOU’RE NOT A MEMBER yet and would like to be, or if your membership has lapsed, get with the program! Your membership dues help fund many of the worthwhile projects we are pursuing. And you get this fine journal to boot. Do it today. **We are a 501(c)(3) tax deductible non-profit organization, so send lots of money!**

<p>General Member Must love the Grand Canyon Been on a trip? _____ With whom? _____</p>	<p>\$25 1-year membership \$100 5-year membership \$277 Life membership (A buck a mile) \$500 Benefactor* \$1000 Patron (A <i>grand</i>, get it!)*</p>	<p>We don’t exchange mailing lists with anyone. Period.</p>
<p>Guide Member Must have worked in the River Industry Company? _____ Year Began? _____ Number of trips? _____</p>	<p>*benefactors and patrons get a life membership, a silver split twig figurine pendant, and our undying gratitude. \$100 Adopt your very own Beach: _____ \$_____ donation, for all the stuff you do.</p>	
<p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____</p>	<p>\$16 Short sleeved T-shirt Size _____ \$18 Long sleeved T-shirt Size _____ \$24 Wallace Beery shirt Size _____ \$10 Baseball Cap \$10 GTS Kent Frost Poster (Dugald Bremner photo)</p>	
<p>Total enclosed _____</p>		



Above: Merrill Spencer, Owen Clark and Frank Dodge scout Lava Cliff Rapid. Two days earlier, Buzz Holmstrom ran it solo. Dodge's party will now be the last party to navigate the notorious cataract. In less than six months it will go beneath the rising waters of Lake Mead. Eddie McKee photo, NAU.95.48.1245

Right: Moulty Fulmer, P.T. Reilly, and Martin Litton attempt to scout Separation Rapid, some twenty-five years after it succumbed to the reservoir. P.T. Reilly collection, NAU



Rituals

Boatmen scout rapids. They gaze at currents, pick out hazards, search out routes, ponder the probabilities, and are reminded of other rapids and runs which they must now discuss. Arms are waved, fingers pointed; minds wander, eyes glaze; the scenery begins to move of its own accord.

These things are timeless. They do not change. Men and women, old and new—the ritual goes on, whether there is a rapid or not.

phone 520/773-1075
fax 520/773-8523
gcrq@infomagic.com
<http://www.gcrq.org>
Box 1934
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

boatman's quarterly review

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