

THE GRAND CANYON River Runner

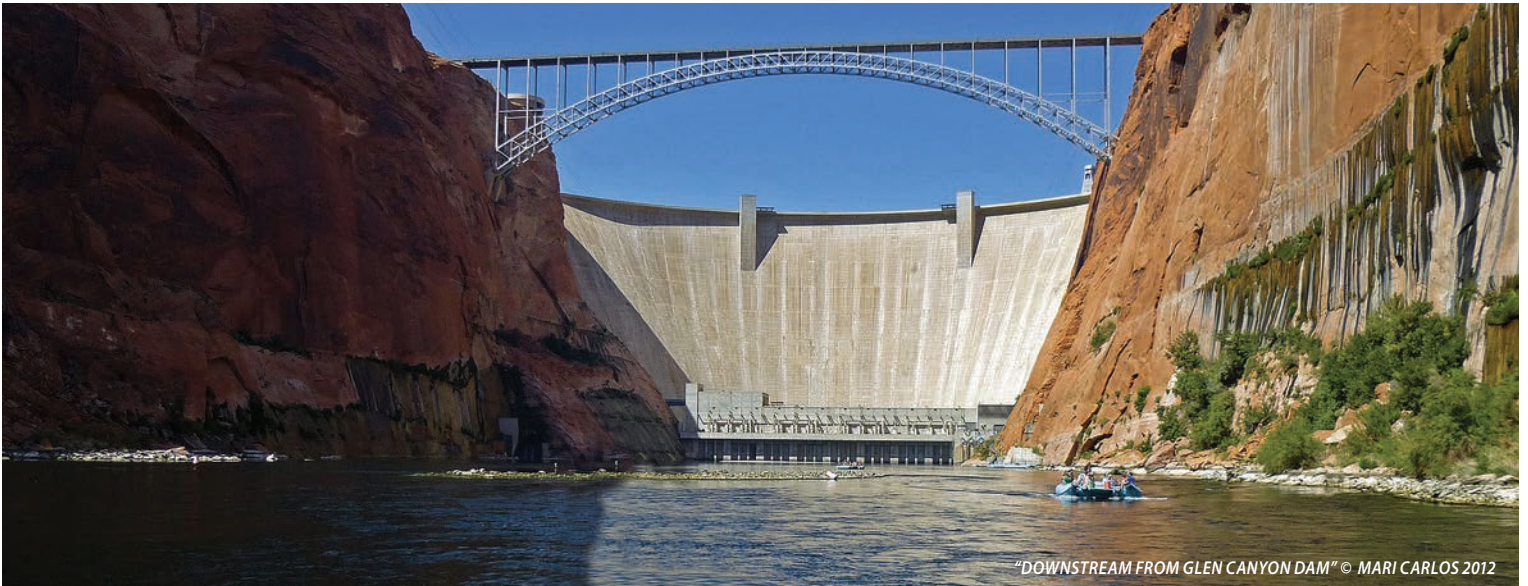
Number Fifteen

preserving public access to the Colorado River

Spring, 2013

THE GRAND CANYON NEEDS YOUR VOICE

The Long Term Experimental and Management Plan for Glen Canyon Dam



"DOWNSTREAM FROM GLEN CANYON DAM" © MARI CARLOS 2012

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Say the words "dam operations" and people's eyes glaze over.

The subject seems impossibly complicated and far removed from our daily lives, or just plain boring. We're here to tell you that they DO matter, that your voice on this subject will be critical, and that dam operations directly affect the health of the place you love - the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. People at the Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and Argonne Laboratories are working hard right now to develop a new operating plan for Glen Canyon Dam. This plan, known as the Long Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP), will determine the fate of the river corridor through the Grand Canyon for the next twenty years—maybe longer. They're doing this through a process called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that allows members of the public to contribute. And they need your voice. This is our chance to make a difference.

The Grand Canyon, that sublime wonder of the world, dream of river runners everywhere, jewel of the National Park System, needs all the help it can get. You might assume that national park status would be sufficient protection, but it isn't. There's constant pressure on the Grand Canyon: to dig up the lands around it for uranium, to fill the skies above with helicopter traffic, to pump groundwater away from springs and into new developments, even to have a tramway and restaurant right down near the river.

So what is this LTEMP thing all about, and what can YOU do?

LTEMP stands for Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan. It will define how Glen Canyon Dam is operated and how the river corridor through the Grand Canyon is taken care of. The plan will be in effect for the next 15 or 20 years.

(cont. p.2)

The story begins a long time ago. For five or so million years the Colorado River flowed freely through what has gradually, rock by rock, become the Grand Canyon. Springtime floods tore through the place, reworking the river bed, uprooting riverside vegetation, and leaving behind millions of tons of rejuvenating sediment in the form of giant sandy beaches. That sediment supported life along the river - plants, birds, and other animals. Wind-blown sand slowed the erosion of archaeological sites. Summer waters were warm, winter flows cold, and native fish thrived.

Fast forward to 1963; the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) closed off the river by building Glen Canyon Dam. The dam is a 710 foot high concrete plug 16 miles upstream of the Grand Canyon. It has eight turbines that can, at their best, generate about 1296 megawatts of electric power. The dam creates Lake Powell, holds back the annual floods that used to rage all the way to the sea, and regulates the flow of precious water between the upper and lower basin states of the Colorado River.

Glen Canyon Dam changed the river profoundly, mainly by making it clear, cold, and calm:

- The dam blocks the sediment. Nearly all the sand and silt that once made the Colorado “too thick to drink, too thin to plow” now settles out in Lake Powell. The only remaining sources of beach sand are the tributaries and side canyons below the dam. They provide less than 5% of the amount that had once pulsed through Grand Canyon.
- The dam cools the river. Water for the turbines comes from low enough in the lake that it runs a fairly steady 48 degrees or so. This is a big change from pre-dam summer highs in the 80s and winter lows down to freezing.
- The dam calms the river. Annual Spring flows used to average around 90,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), with occasional ferocious highs of maybe 300,000. Lows during dry times could be 2000 cfs. Now the normal range is from about 5,000 to 30,000 cfs.

These clear, cold, calm conditions mean it's a whole new river through the Grand Canyon: no annual floods to tear out vegetation and build new beaches; tamarisk trees native to the Middle East have taken over the shores; imported trout eat the native humpback chub; fluctuating flows continue to erode sediment that is critical for the health of many resources



“BEACH EROSION” © MARI CARLOS 2012



“DAM JETTUBES” © LYNN HAMILTON 2012

in Grand Canyon - biological, recreational, and cultural. A new, hybrid ecosystem is developing.

Dam Operations

When the turbines first started spinning, little thought was given to the river corridor downstream of the dam. Financially, the most profitable way to run Glen Canyon Dam is to turn it up during the day, when power demand is high, and back down at night. For years the BOR did this to the fullest extent possible to maximize hydropower revenues. Daily flows generally ramped up from about 5000 cfs to 30,000 cfs, then back down.

By the mid-eighties river runners and scientists were seeing bad effects in the Grand Canyon—especially the devastating erosion of beaches. They decided something needed to be done, and, to make a long story very short, eventually Congress agreed and passed the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992.

This law led to a Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement, the creation of a federal advisory committee called the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) composed of interested stakeholders, a high quality science program, and, in 1996, changes to the way the dam is operated. Daily fluctuations became limited, but monthly flows continue to fluctuate and sediment erosion continues to be a problem.

Research and experiments have continued in the years since. We've tried high flows to mimic pre-dam floods—up to 45,000 cfs or so—and learned that when enough sediment

is available, beaches can be rebuilt. We've tried removing trout, and humpback chub numbers have climbed. After many slow and tough battles, we've begun using science to take better care of the Grand Canyon.

The LTEMP

Some progress has been made, but now it's time for another leap forward. The Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service are working on another Environmental Impact Statement. They're using all that's been learned through more than 15 years of good science work to produce a new plan for dam operations.

They'll incorporate a ten-year experiment to run high flows every Spring and Fall when there's enough sediment in the system. They'll include a long-term non-native fish protocol to protect endangered native species. And they will examine the feasibility of non-flow measures such as a temperature control device and sediment augmentation.

They'll also include...well, we don't know yet. The LTEMP team will produce a range of preliminary alternatives, each with a different focus, and recommend one in particular as the “preferred alternative.” The Draft EIS will be available for public comment early this year.

That's where we come in. This is our chance to join the conversation and have a real impact on improving the way the dam is managed.

The BOR and NPS, co-lead agencies for this EIS, need to know how we want the Grand Canyon taken care of. They have institutional goals and laws and regulations to follow, but in the end it's the will of the people that truly drives them. They need to know that you care about the Grand Canyon, and what you want it to look like in ten, twenty, a hundred years from now.

If you value the long-term health of the Colorado River and want to ensure that the plan meets the full requirements of the Grand Canyon Protection Act, they need to know.

If you value camping beaches, backwater habitats for spawning/rearing of native fishes, native plants and animals along the shoreline, and the protection of cultural sites, they need to know. Flow scenarios should maximize the benefits to all these key resources by bringing in and retaining sediment in the system to the greatest extent possible.

Perhaps you commented before, back in 1996. Do it again. They need to be reminded every time an EIS comes up that river protection is really important to the American public. Over 17,000 people commented on the initial Glen Canyon Dam EIS in the early 90s, reflecting its national importance. We need to generate another huge response this time around by galvanizing the entire river community. That means YOU.

Your Comments

The better informed you are about the relationship between the Glen Canyon Dam and the river corridor, the more useful your comments are likely to be. There are lots of ways to

learn more (see sidebar).

But remember this: If you've been down the river just one time, you know it better than many of the people tasked with managing it. If you've been on a commercial or private trip, you know the place in a way many experienced scientists and managers don't. If you've ever tried describing your trip to someone who's never been, you know how hard it is for them to imagine what the experience is really like.

So, what you have to say really matters. If we fail to speak up for a healthy river and associated resources, the void will be filled by other voices who view the river as a commodity, or as water to be diverted, rather than the lifeblood of the desert and a valuable ecosystem.

This is a pivotal moment for Grand Canyon. Its future depends on decisions being made through this important process. Stewardship starts with people like you who care about this special place.

We urge you to go to the official LTEMP website: <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/involve/index.cfm>, sign up for updates, get informed, and when the comment period opens, let your voice be heard loud and clear.

Sam Jansen
Adaptive Management Work Group Representative
Recreational river running interests

What You Can Do:

Go to <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/involve/index.cfm> and enter your email address where it says “sign me up.” When the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comes out you'll be told how and where to make your comments.

Think about the Grand Canyon, what it means to you, and what it should be like for future generations. Read up to get a sense of what other groups are hoping for.

Then make your voice heard!

A Few Allies for the Canyon:

Grand Canyon River Runners Association
<http://www.gcriverrunners.org/>
Grand Canyon River Guides
<http://www.gcrg.org/>
Grand Canyon Trust
<http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/>
Sierra Club
<http://arizona.sierraclub.org/>
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
<http://www.grandcanyonwildlands.org/>

Know Your Acronyms...

AMWG Adaptive Management Work Group
BOR Bureau of Reclamation
EIS Environmental Impact Statement
LTEMP Long Term Experimental and Management Plan
NEPA National Environmental Policy Act
NPS National Park Service
WTF Who Thinks About the Grand Canyon This Way?

WILD GRAND CANYON

By Amy Kober

"I do not know, really, how we will survive without places like the Inner Gorge of the Grand Canyon to visit. Once in a lifetime, even, is enough. To feel the stripping down, an ebb of the press of conventional time, a radical change of proportion, an unspoken respect for others that elicits keen emotional pleasure, a quick, intimate pounding of the heart."

- Barry Lopez, *Gone Back Into the Earth*

I'm back from seven days floating the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. The President of American Rivers, Bob Irvin, and I accompanied 14 guests on the trip from Lee's Ferry to Phantom Ranch with the wonderful Robby Pitagora from Rapid Creek (www.rapidcreek.com) and fantastic guides from Arizona River Runners.

The Grand Canyon left its mark on me in so many ways. And it's not only the scratches on my legs from rocks and mesquite thorns. This place blew my mind, heart and soul. I guess I shouldn't be surprised - wild rivers do that to me every time.

This is why we need wild rivers like Grand Canyon.

It's the canyon's breath on my face that first evening-- the warm breeze coming off the rock wall and the coolness flowing from the river.

It's feeling my heartbeat in the perfectly still moment before entering Hance rapid, then hitting the big wave head on in Chelsea's oar boat, laughing all the way. It's the vulnerability of a ladybug riding with us on the bow rope in the paddle raft.

It's the California condors at the Navajo Bridges and the lizards and beavers and bighorn sheep and scorpions and herons. It's the ravens that are always watching, who know how to unzip tent doors and unclip dry bags.

It's singing Loving Cup at night with bats swooping overhead. It's bare feet in the cool sand, watching shooting star after shooting star.

It's huge boulders in North Canyon rolled and polished by flash floods, and other ones, angled and blocky and broken, that crashed down from the canyon walls.

It's being humbled by a swim through cold waves, shivering in the canyon shade, then finding delicious hot sun to bake my skin dry.

It's boot prints in powdery pink sand, and shiny dark chocolate mud drying and peeling in a pattern of perfect symmetrical curls.

It's circles and spirals in the currents and constellations. Ringtail cat tracks in the sand next to our sleeping bags and beaver tail trails down sandy banks. The reflection of water and sunlight rippling on Redwall Cavern.

It's standing at the site of Marble Canyon Dam, proposed in the 1960's. Finding the test holes blasted into the limestone for the dam that would have drowned all of this. It's knowing how close we came to losing another wild place.

It's the dams upstream and down - Glen Canyon and Hoover - that are bookends to Grand Canyon. And it's debris flows



and logs lodged high in cracks and rock walls sculpted by potholes and fluting. It's knowing that, given time, water wins.

It's a red handprint on the wall at Saddle Canyon because I cut my finger scrambling up the rocks. It's petroglyphs etched into the rocks near Tanner, men and women and waves and continuity. It's the erosive forces in the side canyons, creative and destructive at the same time.

It's walking up Nankoweap and drinking fresh water from a spring bubbling out of the rock. It's layer after layer, flowing deeper and deeper through a different kind of time.

It's trying to internalize the river's lessons of patience and gratitude, so all of this will sustain me when I'm back at work, until I come back here again.

So far it's working. In the words of the Rolling Stones, what a beautiful buzz...

Thank you, Grand Canyon. And big love and thanks to Robby, Erica, Erika, Jimi, Zach, Walt, Kenny, Chelsea, Bob, Chuck, Dotty, Sheridan, Mark, Brenda, John, Barbara, Rufus, BJ, Matt, Jenny, Ted, Mark, and Tom.

Amy Kober is Communications Director for American Rivers, Portland, OR

Announcing GCRRA'S Wildlife Census Program

Participate in a Research Study!

By Hank Detering

Last spring, several GCRRA board members were fortunate to attend the Grand Canyon River Guides annual Guides Training Seminar at Marble Canyon. Among the presenters were several biologists who reported on animal studies that they were conducting within the Grand Canyon's Colorado River corridor. Their reports were both interesting and informative. We all learned a great deal about some of the canyon's mammals, birds, and snakes. We also learned that the dedicated researchers who study these animals usually conduct their research on "shoe-string" budgets that do not allow them to spend sufficient time in the canyon observing and recording the activities of the animals they study.

We wanted to help, so we devised a plan. We started by contacting three scientists who were conducting studies that monitor animal populations. Brandon Holton of the National Park Service is studying desert bighorn sheep, mule deer and cougars -- the Grand Canyon's mountain lion. Janice Stroud-Settles, who is also a wildlife biologist working for the NPS at Grand Canyon, is studying birds; some well-known like eagles and falcons, some threatened or endangered like the Mexican Spotted Owl and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Geoff Carpenter, an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station, teaches field herpetology -- he studies snakes, and in particular, the Grand Canyon Rattlesnake.

We asked these three scientists what sort of information they needed. Their answers were all the same, they needed records of animal sightings; date, time, location, numbers, and what the animals were doing. We could do that!

So, we created a "Wildlife Census Program" to offer to our members as a possible activity for them on future Grand Canyon river trips. Our researchers need records of sightings, and river runners are making them every day. Everyone gets excited when they see a bighorn, a mule deer, an eagle, or a rattler, so how hard could it be to make a few notes?

This past summer we did a few test runs of our program and we are now ready to offer it to our members, and to anyone else



who is planning a Grand Canyon Colorado River trip. Everything you need to get involved is available on our website. Just go to the GCRRA Homepage <www.gcriverrunners.org> and click on the "Wildlife Census Program" link. Here you will find biographies for our scientists and a description of each of their research projects. You can download this information, including Log Sheets, complete with photographs and instructions. Take the logs with you to record your sightings as you go downriver. When your trip is over you simply mail your log sheet to your scientist at the address provided, red canyon dirt and all!

Sound like a lot of work? Afraid you might miss something? No worry! Our scientists need data - a record of observations, and any and every observation helps. Think about it -- you aren't going to see every deer, or sheep, or eagle that you pass, and hopefully you aren't going to bump into a rattlesnake. If you forget to record a sighting, even if you miss a day or two, it doesn't matter. Any and all information helps. Why not give it a try? Some guides have made over one hundred trips down the river, and most of them have never seen a cougar. If you are lucky enough to spot one, or even to find a footprint, wouldn't you want someone to know?

We hope that people will develop a sense of belonging, of being a part of the ongoing science projects in the canyon by becoming involved in data collection. And hopefully this will translate into our members wanting to stay connected to these projects by supporting one or several of the organizations that sponsor the research that is so important to the preservation of Grand Canyon.

Please, take a minute to visit our website, go to the Wildlife Census Program webpage, and read about the studies we are supporting. If one or more of them interests you, consider becoming a recorder. We think you will enjoy the experience and we know that your contribution will be hugely appreciated by our wildlife biologists. You can help make a difference!

Grand Canyon Reading List - Part 1

by Roy Webb

Recently I did a history-oriented Grand Canyon trip with Grand Canyon Expeditions, and as always, in the course of the trip, I referred to a number of books written by early explorers and residents of the Canyon. At the end, some of the guests asked me for references to those books, and I put together a quick, off the top of my head list of the standard works that I always use to prepare for the history trip. After consulting with some other Grand Canyon historians and aficionados, we came up with the following list.

Before I launch off into that though, I should say that some of these are long out of print; some are rare books even. So they might be a bit hard to find, but like the hike to Nankoweap, well worth the effort. You can find just about anything on Amazon these days, or check your local library; even if they don't have it there is always Interlibrary Loan. The online catalog at the University of Utah (<http://www.lib.utah.edu>) lists over 300 titles, and the catalog at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library (<http://library.nau.edu/>), has many more. In fact, so much has been published about the Grand Canyon that you need a comprehensive bibliography, which, happily enough, is available online: www.grandcanyonbiblio.org. This bibliography by Earl Spamer is so comprehensive that I have yet to scoop him on anything, no matter how obscure; it really is "everything you ever wanted to know," or read at least, about the Grand Canyon. Libraries are fine, but if you do happen to be a book collector or just really want a certain book I've mentioned, there's a great book dealer that specializes in Grand Canyon literature, Five Quail Books. Here's their website: <http://www.grandcanyonbooks.com/>. Dan and Diane Cassidy have a great catalog of titles about the Grand Canyon and the Green and Colorado Rivers, and are a great resource for such books; if they don't have it, it probably doesn't exist.

So now to specifics. The best human overall history of the Grand Canyon is J. Donald Hughes' *IN THE HOUSE OF STONE AND LIGHT*. Published in 1978, it covers the entire range of human experience in

the Grand Canyon, from the ancients to the miners to the tourists to the park managers. Very highly recommended (not to be confused with the song by someone, of the same name; I always wondered if the guy who wrote the song was inspired by the Grand Canyon). Hughes' work is out of print but well worth the effort of tracking down a copy, because it's not only comprehensive but delightfully written.

A basic primer on river running history is David Lavender's *RIVER RUNNERS OF THE GRAND CANYON*, 1985. Again, not to be confused with the DVD by Don Briggs. A lot of the same information, but in Lavender's elegant prose. Lavender drew heavily on the Otis Marston collection at the Huntington Library in California, and it's well worth reading. It has many stories of river trips that don't appear anywhere else, such as the story of Hum Wooley in 1903, the Pathe-Bray film trip in the 1920s, and so on.

Speaking of *RIVER RUNNERS OF THE GRAND CANYON*, the DVD version, the latest version dates from 2002; I found it with a Google search for \$24.95. You have to put in RROTGC video or DVD, or search for the producer, "Don Briggs river runners." Briggs is an old time river guide himself, and it's well worth the search. I enjoy it every time I watch it. There are also a number of other documentaries and films about the Grand Canyon, so many that I can't even keep track of them, from *BRIGHTY OF GRAND CANYON* to *RIVER OF STONE* to *WANDA NEVADA* (an obscure Brooke Shields vehicle that takes place in the Grand Canyon). One way to find them is to go to www.imdb.com (internet movie database), and put in "Grand Canyon" as the search term. I think they even list the "Brady Bunch at the Grand Canyon" (Season 3, episode #50-52, 1971, if you're interested!). Movies are also listed in Earl Spamer's bibliography.

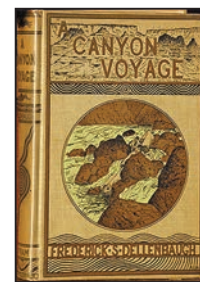
Now for some more obscure sources. Unfortunately, there isn't a single book on Robert Brewster Stanton's experiences in the Grand Canyon. He wrote a 2000-page version

of his experiences, but died before he could get his great manuscript published, so it's been mined, so to speak, by other editors and authors. One of the books that came out of it was *COLORADO RIVER CONTROVERSIES*, edited

by James Chalfant in 1932 (remember, I said some of these might be hard to find!). Another is *THE COLORADO RIVER SURVEY : ROBERT B. STANTON AND THE DENVER, COLORADO CANYON & PACIFIC RAILROAD*, Dwight L. Smith and C. Gregory Crampton, editors. This is an edited version of the record Stanton kept of the railroad survey. Finally, in 1996, Robert H. Webb (no relation) published a book comparing the photos that Nims and Stanton had taken to today, using the same locations: *GRAND CANYON : A CENTURY OF CHANGE : REPHOTOGRAPHY OF THE 1889-1890 STANTON EXPEDITION*. I wrote a long article about Stanton for the *CANYON LEGACY*, a journal published in Moab, Utah by the Dan O'Laurie Museum, that is available through them (*CANYON LEGACY*, Winter 1991)

Of course the opposite is true of John Wesley Powell; I could write—as others have done—a complete historiographic essay just on Powell sources alone. Using our online catalog at the library where I work, there are almost 100 entries with Powell as a subject. So I'll start with his own work. His report, *EXPLORATION OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ITS CANYONS*, first published in 1875, has been through so many editions that I couldn't even begin to count them. It is still in print and should be easily available at just about any bookstore. Then there are the journals; it's one of the most documented exploring expeditions in history, literally. Of the 21 men on the 1869 and 1871-72 expeditions, no less than 17 kept journals or wrote long letters to the hometown newspapers, as was the custom of the times. The journals and letters were gathered and published by the Utah State Historical Society in the 1940s, but those are long out of print and very pricey when you do find them. However, they have recently been reprinted by the University of Utah Press, so they are now easily

available and cheap. One member, Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, became Powell's apologist and hagiographer and wrote an additional two books, *ROMANCE OF THE COLORADO* and *A CANYON VOYAGE*, about his experiences. Then the two best biographies of Powell: Wallace Stegner's *BEYOND THE HUNDREDTH MERIDIAN*, published on the Powell Centennial in 1969,



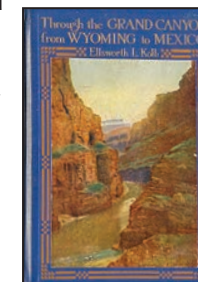
and *RIVER RUNNING WEST: THE LIFE OF JOHN WESLEY POWELL*, by Donald Worster. Stegner's book is worth it for his beautiful writing; Worster's is a masterpiece of the "everything you ever wanted to know" genre. Besides these there have been movies, documentaries, novels, plays, kids books, dozens of articles; really, I can't overemphasize how much has been written about JWP.

If you read about Powell you'll run across the story of James White, who supposedly floated through the Grand Canyon tied to a cottonwood log raft in 1867, two years before Powell's voyage. This has been a subject of dispute ever since, but one who never doubted the story was his granddaughter, Eilean Adams. She wrote *HELL OR HIGH WATER: JAMES WHITE'S DISPUTED PASSAGE THROUGH GRAND CANYON, 1867*, in part to answer the many critics, from Stanton on down, of her grandfather's story.

About the only other Grand Canyon river runner to leave an account about his travels was George Flavell, whose book is titled *THE LOG OF THE PANTHON*. Flavell was a trapper and hanger-on on the lower Colorado, down by the delta, when there was a delta, in the late 1800s. He amused himself by giving himself tattoos. One day he got the idea that he would float the whole length of the Colorado, starting in Green River, Wyoming, down to his home near Yuma, Arizona. So in the fall of 1896 he did so, with a companion, Ramon Montez. He built a small, square-ended skiff he called the Panthon--no clue where the name comes from--and ran all but four of the major rapids on the whole 1000+ mile stretch of the Green and the Colorado, sitting on a box in the middle of the boat. A very engaging and charming book with a lot of wit and humor. Some other river runners, then. One I always like to talk about is Julius Stone, who was an investor in Stanton's great mining scheme in Glen Canyon, met Nathaniel Galloway, and became intrigued by the river. At the end of his life Stone published a book of photos and

his memories called *CANYON COUNTRY: THE ROMANCE OF A DROP OF WATER AND A GRAIN OF SAND*. Galloway, not one to write much that has survived, features largely in Stone's book.

Along the same vein is *THROUGH THE GRAND CANYON FROM WYOMING TO MEXICO*, by Ellsworth Kolb. The book, about the Kolbs' 1911 film trip, is engaging and an easy read. Again, it's been through something like 40 editions, so it's pretty easy to find. The Kolbs had a photo studio on the South Rim, and after hearing about Stone and Charles Silver Russell and so on, decided they wanted to go down the river and make the first motion picture. They did so in the fall of 1911 and the winter of 1912. The two brothers had a falling out in the 1920s but Emery, the elder, stayed on the South Rim and showed that film every day, without fail, until the day of his death in 1976. If you are interested in the film, contact the Cline Library Special Collections and Archives at Northern Arizona University; but the book is well worth reading.



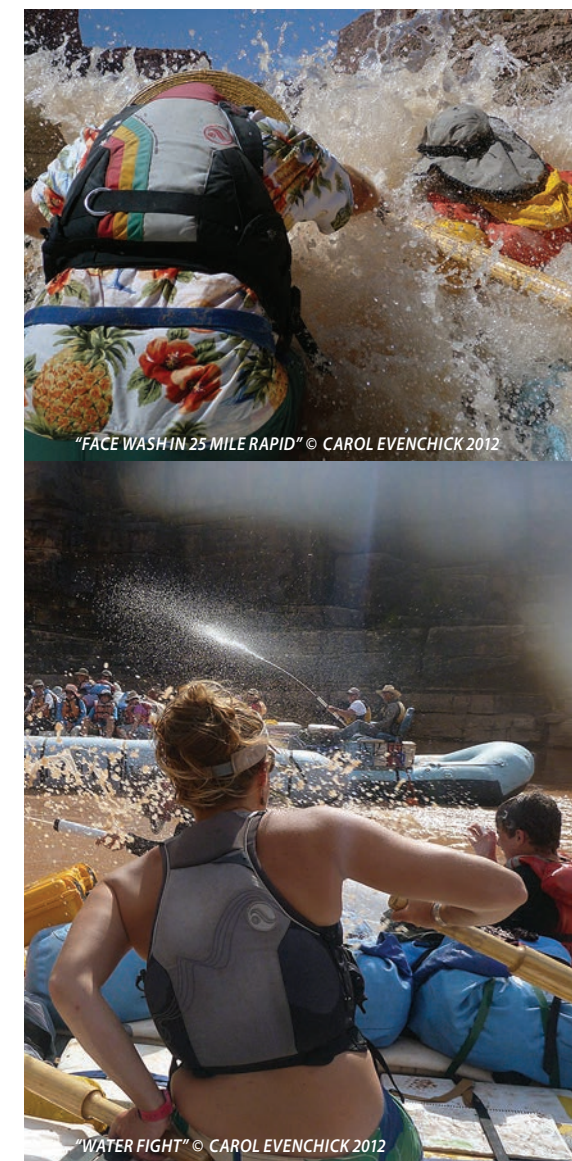
Another that's not specifically river running but about the Grand Canyon is *DAVE RUST: A LIFE IN THE CANYONS*, by Fred Swanson. Rust was the first person to start a tourist camp at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Rust's Camp, which later became Phantom Ranch. This book details his efforts to get a tourist business established, and his love of the canyons of the Colorado Plateau.

Another canyoneer was the unintentionally hilarious Clyde Eddy, whose Grand Canyon voyage in 1927 is documented in his 1929 book *DOWN THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS RIVER*. Eddy was a veteran of the trenches in World War I, and after the war became captivated by the Colorado River. He put together a trip of "pink-wristed collegians" along with Nat Galloway's son, Parley, a ne'er-do-well but a good river guide, and brought along a bear cub and a cur, "mostly Airedale," as human interest for a film he planned to make. Eddy's melodramatic style was meant to convey what a macho explorer he was, but it really is just funny. Read it with a grain of salt, and laugh at Eddy "snapping his teeth in defiance at the raging river."

I always talk quite a bit about the USGS survey of 1923, because it laid the groundwork for so much that has happened along the river since. A good book about it was recently published, *DAMMING GRAND CANYON : THE 1923 USGS COLORADO RIVER EXPEDITION*

by Diane E. Boyer and Robert H. Webb. Both Boyer and Webb are scientists, but this is more than a dry recitation of the facts; they delve into the personalities and events that marked this important expedition. Another participant in the 1923 USGS survey was Lewis R. Freeman, who wrote two books about his experiences: *DOWN THE GRAND CANYON*, and *THE COLORADO RIVER: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW*. One is just about the survey, the other is a general book about Colorado River history. Finally, another member of the survey and many other river expeditions, was H. Elwyn Blake, whose biography *ROUGH-WATER MAN: ELWYN BLAKE'S COLORADO RIVER EXPEDITIONS*, was written by his great-nephew, Richard Westwood. This is another great read about an interesting, and not well-known river runner.

Part 2 of Roy Webb's recommended reading for Grand Canyon will appear in a future issue of *The River Runner*. Stay tuned...



"FACE WASH IN 25 MILE RAPID" © CAROL EVENCHICK 2012

"WATER FIGHT" © CAROL EVENCHICK 2012

River Songs

by Rosie Tomforde

Cremation

(Sung to the opening tune of the old TV show, "Green Acres.")

River Runner Cremation is the place to be!
River running is the life for me!
Grand Canyon stretched so high and wide!
Keep your resorts, just give me that river ride.

New rafter Resorts are where I've always gone,
Sipping cocktails on the hotel lawn.
Clean sheets and air conditioning.
Sleeping outdoors is just not happening.

River Runner The boats!
New rafter Night floats!
River Runner Fresh air!
New rafter Not a care!

New rafter Oh, now I see,
Canyon's beauty!
Cremation, we are there!

Cremation Beach is the beach that rafting parties commonly stay at just before making the transfer at Pipe Creek or at Phantom Ranch for those guests who are only taking the upper river portion of the trip. This is better than not getting to go at all, but not quite as good as taking a full trip. The stop there inspired another song.

Good Hydration

(Sung to the tune of the Beach Boys' Good Vibrations)

I, I love the bright yellow rafts we take,
And the hikes we make when we take a break.
I hear the sound of the water's flow.
Grand Canyon's river's where I want to go.

We're getting our good hydration.
Rafting requires libations.
We're drinking up good hydration.
For river excitations.

Good, good, good, good hydration.

I hear the sound of the conch shell blow;
It's morning now; to the river we will go.
Life's good in the Canyon where we want to be.
Let's float on down with friendly company.

We're getting our good hydration.
Rafting requires libations.
We're drinking up good hydration.
For river excitations.

Good, good, good, good hydration.

Rapids, we first hear and then we see,
You know taking a good line is the key.
I hear the rush of the water's roar.
I love it so and now let's go some more.

We're getting our good hydration.
Rafting requires libations.
We're drinking up good hydration.
For river excitations.

Good, good, good, good hydration.

River Song

(Sung to the tune of Brother Louie by the Stories)

It's a trip of your life.
There's no need to go twice.
Let's take a raft and go through the Grand Canyon.
Only one time will suffice.

Let's go where we've not been.
Let's grab adventurous kin.
Bu there's a danger when you taste whitewater:
You'll go back again and again.

River, river, river rides.
River, river, river time.
River, river, river guides.
River, river, river decides.

There we were on the trail.
Having fun without fail.
We hiked the canyon and we saw some sights.
Took home a wonderful tale.

So now you see us once more.
The river made our hearts soar.
Now the river's gotten in our blood.
Now we'll hear the river roar.

River, river, river rides.
River, river, river time.
River, river, river guides.
River, river, river decides.

River, river, river rides.
River, river, river time.
River, river, river guides.
River, river, river decides.

ONCE UPON THE RIVER

Early morning hours and the sun breaks across the eastern sky.
Clouds drift like cotton candy above us, soooooo high.

An adventure awaits on the shores just below.
A fresh drenching from the cold and mighty Colorado,
takes my breath, our breath as we're tossed to and fro.

With hearts thumping and bouncing; with anticipation we go.
Our voices lifted like the crests' from the rapids to come.
The group in a chorus of gleeful cheer filled us all, everyone.

Yes, exhilaration
without hesitation
or destination
just determination
soon conversation
over lunch time gustation
then more motivation
and great excitation
now what do I do for relief, urination?

Day one is done. It's all in the books.
Dinner (or supper) was great, thank the cooks.

New friends chatter,
while some even scatter
for discovery in the rocks.
Gosh, I need dry socks.

I should be tired but I'm not.
Thanks for my bed, rather this cot.
Night air too, it's terribly terribly hot.
Let me tell more, about what I got,
From day one, tomorrow I'll jot.

— Joseph Guthrie

TWODAY ON THE RIVER

Bronze canyon walls, rose straight from sandy loam with great pride,
as sojourners' grasped one another for safety on this mighty ride.

Over rapids, and rocks and boulders their journey filled with surprise,
in moments of wondrous color, under azure intensely blue skies.
These magnificent buttes, oh brightly coloured spires,
gave us serenity, tranquility, peace, and hope that ours
would not be the last generation so keenly inspired.

Yes, this place is sacred, a storied history revealed,
my spirit touched, I'm humbled yet thrilled.

Mighty forces in a golden chasm through rock continues to pass
re-creating this garden, like Eden in this land of great mass.
Can any other force in nature unmasked,
paint on Earth's canvas something this vast?

A voice speaking softly throughout history, with wisdom and courage
protect our land, this place, our mother ship on her voyage.

There is no other strength that will ever prevail.
o'er the collective life found on these trails.
All mystics, and men and mortals who fail,
in all history, each and all despite their travail.

Always, the monuments will soar
and surely the river shall roar.

— Joseph Guthrie

BACKGROUND IMAGE @ DON HOWARTH PHOTOGRAPHY

Findings

I first saw her at the orientation meeting. She appeared bereft. I didn't really understand what bereft meant until I saw her sitting, lonely and abandoned. I heard that her marriage recently ended and she came to the Canyon to find herself. For some days she paddled, hiked, cooked and sat the evenings alone in her personal reverie.

It came on a stormy morning. She

was in the front of the raft when a surprise wave smacked her down. She leapt back to her seat, grabbed her paddle, let out a long howl and fiercely stroked with cries of release as she pulled the raft forward. In that moment, she found the courage to go on.

They introduced themselves as 3 housewives from Anchorage but became "The Sirens of The Canyon".

For them it came late after the camp had settled one night. They danced around the sleeping forms, signing and laughing until they fell and held each other. They found the joy in their friendship.

The four men were life long friends now in their late 50s. They were worn by their lives and the 10 mile hike. Exhausted, they fell into the pool at Deer Creek Falls and splashed and dunked each other. Under the cascade, they re-found their youth and the strength of their lives together.

He was two years from his heart attack. Big, jovial, gym fit and scared

of his now uncertain biology. As the days and river unwound and the Canyon unveiled its depths, he slowly voiced his fears. On the last day, as the group dissolved, he wept having found comfort with new friends.

And me. What did I find? Well, I observed and found the wonders of human nature up close and personal.

Oh and the Canyon was pretty neat too.

Jim Pensabene
Airmont, New York



"DATURA" @CAROL EVENCHICK 2012

WHOA! Where Did THAT Meal Come From?



LUNCHEON FEAST @MARI CARLOS 2012

The first day on the river is drawing to a close. The guests have run Badger, Soap Creek and House Rock rapids, getting a real sense of what the river has to offer and what lies ahead. The trip leader has completed his camp orientation and all are soon organized for their first night under the stars. As they share a beer with new friends some idly wonder what the meals will be like. Honestly, they are not expecting much of their cooks down in the depths of Grand Canyon. But let's start with the new dawn.

A wilderness breakfast conjures up images that bear absolutely no resemblance to what is routinely delivered on-river. Cowboy coffee beckons as the smells of a hot breakfast waft over camp. Cooks can be heard slicing fresh fruit and preparing an orderly display of all that is on offer that morning. Freshly cooked eggs and bacon, French toast and sausage, pancakes with prickly pear cactus syrup, and chilaquiles are just some of the popular breakfast offerings. Whatever the cooks conjure up in the kitchen, it is always a magnificent accompaniment to a Grand Canyon sunrise.

River lunches are their own dynamic, generally planned so as to require no kitchen or utensils. This equates to minimal unloading and ease of meal

preparation at midday. Sandwich building and pita packing often reach unheralded levels of innovation and sophistication between Lees Ferry and trip's end, with an informal competition spurring guests to ever more impressive creations. Two kinds of bread, three cheeses, purple onion, avocado and sliced tomatoes combine with sliced roast beef, turkey, etc. Peanut butter and jelly is an alternative, and fresh fruit and cookies top it all off. The lunches never fail to excite the guests. As with all river meals, lunches seem to appear on the table effortlessly.

The next days bring a plethora of epicurean delights, and dinners that defy location and logistics. Steaks grilled to perfection, pineapple upside down cake, Thai turkey, fish tacos, brownies, fajitas, ravioli and enough fresh garlic bread to sink a raft. And all of it accomplished with only a propane stove, Dutch ovens and charcoal. How do they do that?

It turns out that those riverside meals are only the tip of the iceberg. Each nightly feast is the culmination of years of evolving menu design, weeks of ordering and timely deliveries of the ingredients. All is then packed to a formula designed to maximize freshness and meet Health Department requirements while satisfying the

palates of up to 35 people for 3 to 16 days.

Each of the river concessionaires has someone in charge of provisions. They know precisely how many boxes of cake mix, jars of pickles and bottles of hot sauce are required for each trip. Likewise they shop for, or have delivered, all of the produce that, in a few days, will beguile their guests at breakfast and dazzle them at dinner. The right number of purple onions, tomatoes and oranges will magically appear at lunch, along with loaves of multi-grain bread, sliced deli meats and bricks of cheese. There is never a shortage of condiments, including the ubiquitous hot sauces.



TRACY BATES PACKING AMMO CANS WITH DRY GOOD FOR AN AZRA DISCOVERY RIVER TRIP @ MARI CARLOS 2012

Tracy Bates, the food manager at AzRA Discovery, provides more



GRILLING WILL PROCEED IN ALL WEATHER @ MARI CARLOS 2012

than 35,000 river meals annually. Remember, three meals per day per guest. As a consequence, she is always on the prowl for recipes that will work in the Canyon. She reads all the trip evaluation forms and pays close attention to "favorite meal" and especially to "least favorite meal". If one dinner is chosen too frequently as least favorite, Tracy does not hesitate to cut it from the menu planner and add in something new. Food managers can also nix a meal because it does not pack well or because it contains too many 'specialty' ingredients. On the other hand, a show stopper meal might not make the cut just because the guides don't like to cook it. Tracy tries out new dinner recipes on the office staff, and their unanimous two thumbs up will move it into contention when the trip menus are reevaluated. Some meals remain dinner standards for years, even decades, so that repeat passengers learn what to expect for dinner on specific nights of the trip.

At Arizona River Runners, provisions are managed by Bill Sims, assisted by Ashley Butts. With over 18,000 user days on the ARR permit, Sims says that translates to a whopping 50,000 meals in round figures. ARR uses a variety of suppliers, each of them filling a different need. Local shopping is accomplished at Safeway and Walmart, and there is also a weekly trip to Sam's Club on the agenda during the season. This allows for quick adjustments if a guest becomes vegetarian the week before launch, or if any last minute items are required for a trip. Sims manages most of his deliverable purchases by telephone and FAX so that only the dry goods are managed on site. Considering that ARR and some of the other larger companies will have multiple trips on the river simultaneously, the volume of meals is roughly equivalent to owning and managing a busy restaurant for half the year. The food coolers require upwards

of 500 blocks of ice every week, and Sims estimates that ARR's annual food bill tops \$400,000.

When asked what dinners the guest like best, Sims replied, "Steak and salmon". There is something magical about food prepared out of doors, but when it is fresh off the barbecue the pleasure is only amplified. Add a setting like Grand Canyon and it would be difficult to find an unhappy customer.

The provisions/food manager works closely with the on-river food manager, called the head cook at some companies. They pack the food coolers the day or two days before the trip loads out at the warehouse. Coolers are organized in such a manner that the river cook crew can work with optimum efficiency. Generally speaking there are separate coolers for meats, dairy, produce, bread, and miscellaneous foods. Frozen items are packed in reverse order, so that the entrée for the last dinner on the river is frozen solid in the bottom of the cooler, while frozen goods for the early days of the trip are at the top. Years of experience have taught the guides when the frozen goods get transferred from the 'freezer' to the 'frig', a cooler that will allow easy thawing. When it is meal prep time, items are perfectly thawed and ready to cook. Thawing time can vary seasonally, with greater care taken in the hottest weeks of summer to make sure that foods remain frozen as long as required.

Produce is generally purchased from a vendor who delivers immediately prior to final packing for the trip. Dairy products are also last minute deliveries to the warehouse food manager. Sometimes meats are



(LEFT) KEVIN GREIF GRILLS STEAKS WHILE CAROL & DON ROBERTS ASSIST © MARI CARLOS 2012

delivered monthly and stored in walk-in freezers until they are packed for a trip. Other companies take weekly meat deliveries to better handle the volume. Working together, the head cook and food manager meticulously store each of the food types in their respective coolers such that even the eggs survive the biggest rapids in the days to come.

Warehouse food managers once did much or all of the shopping for trip foods. Vendors now provide the perishables, especially for the larger companies. Therefore the food manager usually shops only for staples.



"BREAKFAST BAGELS" @ MARI CARLOS 2012

Still one should not underestimate the importance of staples management. Most of us have heard the story of the trip that launched without coffee.

The unexpected quality of river food was appropriately summed up by a 2012 guest named Richard Sedlmeir, a German adventurer who hiked down the Bright Angel trail to join a trip in progress. A self-confessed gourmand, Richard's only misgivings about taking a Grand Canyon raft trip were based on his fear that meals would be comprised largely of what could be extracted from cans. Instead he was blessed each night with a feast fit for a king. One evening he watched the cook turning inch thick sirloin steaks on the barbecue. Nearly numb with anticipation, Richard could only shake his head in wonder and mutter, "It's a miracle".

Grand Canyon's Other Rose and First Botanist

by F. Splendens

Grand Canyon National Park has many hidden treasures, including the cliffrose, a shrub-to-tree-size member of the rose family found on both rims and in the canyon. But Grand Canyon had another rose, the park's first paid botanist, Rose E. Collom. In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. William Burton Collom arrived at the Silver Butte Mine, in the Mazatzal Mountains on Upper Alder Creek, in Gila County, Ariz.

*While Bert did assessment work on the claims, his wife, Rose, "became interested in the varied plant life. . . .By corresponding with scientific men and studying botanical works, [she] came to know the common and scientific names of the beautiful things she was gathering. . . .Gradually she began to contribute to collections all over the world."¹ In 1936, Rose obtained botanical prominence when Dr. J. N. Rose of the Smithsonian Institution named one of her discoveries *Echeveria collumae* (now *Dudleya collomiae*, or *Gila County liveforever*).*

On June 8, 1932, three months after some park residents organized the Grand Canyon Natural History Association (GCNHA), the forerunner of the Grand Canyon Association, Rose inquired of park superintendent Miner R. Tillotson: "I wondered if there was any way in which I could cooperate with you. I am not 'scientific,' nor professional, nor do I claim a complete knowledge of plants in the Grand Canyon National Park." After explaining her "first hand" acquaintance with the Mazatzals' flora, Rose closed with: "I realize, of course, that you have your own selected assistants who have been trained for the special work. Any suggestions from you will be appreciated and your interest and offer of assistance in botanical work." Tillotson replied on June 20: "I do not know just what you might do to help in

this region inasmuch as it is considerably beyond the limits of your present field of investigation. However, if you are at any time in the Grand Canyon region I should greatly enjoy meeting you and making up a schedule of botanical work for you."²

The year 1938 proved to be seminal for Grand Canyon botany. Dr. Elzada U. Clover, a University of Michigan botanist, accompanied by graduate student Lois Jotter, on a Nevills Expedition Colorado River trip. In addition, Mary Vaux Walcott, botanist and widow of the former secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Charles D. Walcott, arrived that year to paint wildflowers, procuring specimens to illustrate a botanical portfolio. On June 23 on the North Rim, Rose collected

her first two specimens for the park's herbarium, *Ranunculus cardiophyllus* (heartleaf buttercup) and *Phlox diffusa* (spreading flox). She added four additional specimens from the South Rim the next day.³ In an undated manuscript Rose wrote "Along some highways the most noticeable flowering shrubs on the North Rim roadsides are Robinia and Manzanita. On the South Rim 'Cliff rose' is abundant along the roadsides. Its blossoms are a light yellow and are fragrant. It blooms in spring and after summer rains it often blooms again."

On October 4, 1938, Rose wrote enthusiastically to Bert that she was in the company of Mrs. Walcott in Washington, D.C. To former park naturalist and GCNHA cofounder Eddie McKee on

March 26, 1939, Rose said, "I must tell you that Mrs. Walcott sent me this winter . . . a set of her books. Words fail me in expressing my appreciation of having for my very own . . . her indescribably beautiful paintings." The five-volume set of *North American Wildflowers* contained 400 reproductions of Walcott's watercolor illustrations. "What Audubon did for ornithology, the most important work yet issued by the Smithsonian Institution is doing for botany."⁴ McKee replied, "Since your visit here last summer I have thought many times of the desirability of obtaining some funds with which to enable you to do botanical work here. So far there appears to be no available source through the Government, so I am still unable to offer a 'job.' On the other hand, I find that it might be possible to obtain, through the Grand Canyon Natural History Association, the grant of a modest sum to assist in herbarium and field expenses should you wish to work here some time for a short period." Rose responded, "Thank you for your letter of the 18th, and it fitted in nicely with a statement made to me recently. May I quote? 'Why don't you collect in the Grand Canyon area? The Kaibab has been less 'prospected' for plants than any other section of Arizona!' She offered to volunteer her services, "It may sound strange, but the financial side of collecting does not enter in the matters, beyond the fact that I cannot afford the necessary expense of getting around. My time and labor are given freely, and if I can arrange for ordinary expenses, I believe I can do some worth while collecting, if I can have the cooperation of the National Park Service."

In September the new park naturalist Louis Schellbach reported, "Twenty-five species of plants not previously listed from the Park and forty-five important replacements for the herbarium were added during the month through the work of Mrs. Rose Collom under a grant from the Natural History Association." Rose's relationship with GCNHA lasted through 1953. She visited the Grand Canyon to collect specimens or work in the herbarium in every month of the year, often multiple times, every year except 1948. In 1947, Rose was only at the Park in May, not returning until February 1949, because her husband Bert had "been so ill." That year she had a new plant named for her, *Galium collomae*, the type specimen she secured on Fossil Hill, Gila County, Arizona. On

January 3, 1951, Rose's husband Bert died, and park naturalist Louis Schellbach and his wife, Ethyl, attended his funeral in Phoenix. In 1951, Rose made four working visits to Grand Canyon, and "presented to the Natural History Association, for the Reference Library, a set of five volumes, consisting of colored plates, of Mrs. Walcott's *Wildflowers of the United States*."

Rose collected six specimens on August 21, 1952, at the Buggeln Tank area, to bring her total of Grand Canyon specimens collected to 826.⁵ In October 1953, Rose, "working on a Natural History Association grant, has finished caring for a number of specimens for the herbarium." This would prove to be her last work-visit to Grand Canyon. The last mention of Rose in relation to the park occurred in the February 1954 Park Naturalist report: "Six plants were cataloged. One, *Elatine brachysperma* Gray (Plant No. 3961) collected by Rose E. Collom, was a new Park record." After a year-long illness, Rose died December 26, 1956, while visiting her sister in Edison, Georgia. A death announcement appeared in *Saguaroland Bulletin*, of the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, where Rose had presented her valuable herbarium five years previously, and a subsequent issue featured a memorial piece, "Woman in a Wilderness."⁶ The canyon remained a major force in her life. As she noted in 1939, "Possibly you know something of my love for the 'Big Canyon'; it has a strong hold on me." In 1954, she reiterated, "The Grand Canyon is my happy hunting ground." She regarded her work at the Grand Canyon as the most interesting,

as she exclaimed "How I love that work!"⁷ *Addendum:* In a 1986 *Saguaroland*, an anonymous author suggested Rose Collom as a possible candidate for the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame, as she was a member of the Arizona Cactus and Native Flora Society in 1937, which founded the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Twenty-five years later, I nominated Rose for such an honor. She has been accepted as a 2013 honoree, and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on March 14, 2013.⁸



ROSE COLLECTING ON THE NORTH RIM, ca. LATE 1940 SEASON EARLY 1950s, COURTESY GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK MUSEUM COLLECTION



A SAMPLE OF *CASTILLEJA APPLLEGATEI* SSP. *MARTINI* (DESERT PAINTBRUSH) COLLECTED BY ROSE COLLOM IN 1944, GRCA 8692, COURTESY GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK MUSEUM COLLECTION

¹ Ernest Douglas, "She's Always Busy: Mountain Gardener Has No Time to Grow Lonely," *Los Angeles Times Garden Magazine*, c. 1930; undated newspaper article in the Rose Collom Collection, *Desert Botanical Garden (DBG)*, Phoenix, Arizona. My thanks of appreciation go to Wendy Hodgson, Beth Brand, and Jane Cole of DBG.

² Rose Collom Collection, *Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection (GRCA 52846)*; unless otherwise stated, correspondence and quotes are from GRCA 52846. Many thanks to Colleen Hyde and Kim Besom of the Museum Collection, and Susan Eubanks and Betty Upchurch of the Grand Canyon National Park Library.

³ On June 8, 1932, Rose inquired of park superintendent Miner R. Tillotson about participating in botanical work in the park. Officially, under grants from the recently formed Grand Canyon Natural History Association, Rose conducted botanical work in Grand Canyon from 1939 to 1953.

⁴ Charles H. Sargent, "An Audubon of Botany: Mrs. Walcott's Monumental Work on Wild Flowers," in the *Boston Transcript*, February 12, 1927; reprinted as a sales flyer.

⁵ Southwest Environmental Information Network, <http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/index.php>, accessed 6/11/2009; specimens total 829, but three attributed to Rose are actually from other collectors; in addition, some of the years for Rose's collecting dates are incorrect.

⁶ "Mrs. Rose Collom Buried At Dickey," *Calhoun County News*, Edison, Ga., Friday, Jan. 4, 1957, stated that Rose had moved to Dickey four years after the death of her husband; *Saguaroland Bulletin*, April 1957 (36) and May 1958 (56-57). Cemetery records have Rose's name as Rosa, but census records have it sounding as Reosie (Rosie) or Reosia (Rosa), with middle initial E., presumably for her mother Eudona, with the last name of Wilson.

⁷ Rose E. Collom to Edwin D. McKee, April 23, 1939; Harold Butcher, "Phoenix Botanist Finds Fame Along With Rare Plant Life," *Arizona Republic*, Sunday, March 21, 1954.

⁸ Arizona Women's Hall of Fame: <http://www.azlibrary.gov/azwhf/>.

2012 GCRRA BOARD MEETING



GCRRA BOARD MEMBERS: CATHARINE COOPER, PAM WHITNEY, MARI CARLOS & JAN TAYLOR

Our 2012 GCRRA Board of Director's Meeting was held on 9th September in Flagstaff & via teleconference. Since our Board members live in far corners of the USA - Washington, Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., California, Arizona - and one in Baja California Sur, it is rare that we can muster the time and the travel costs to generate a face-to-face meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Strategies to expand GCRRA membership opportunities to all commercial river passengers
- Increase Advisory Board members
- Develop Mini-Newsletter / Website Updates
- Donations to Grand Canyon Youth and the Whale Foundation
- Upcoming CRMP revisions
- Park service closure of Deer Creek Narrows
- Highly controversial Grand Canyon Escalade project to build a tramway down to confluence of the Little Colorado and main Colorado Rivers and a restaurant at river level.
- Discussion of 20-year moratorium on uranium mining within the Canyon
- Reviewed Grand Canyon Wildlife DataLogs developed by Hank Detering (and now available on our website : http://gcriverrunners.org/pages/Wildlife_Census_Program.htm) ((SEE ARTICLE ON PG. 5 OF THIS NEWSLETTER))

NOTE : All Directors were in attendance except for Linda Kahan - who was lucky enough to be on the river!

(BACKGROUND) "BLUE & GOLD" © CATHARINE COOPER 2012

FLOAT TRIP : DAM DOWN



"MARBLE SHEETS" © CATHARINE COOPER 2012

"The limestone of this canyon is often polished, and makes a beautiful marble. Sometimes the rocks are of many colors - whites, gray, pink, and purple, with saffron tints."

- John Wesley Powell, 1869

The busy-ness of life had kept me off the river for several years, and the GCRRA Board meeting in Flagstaff provided just enough time for a 1/2 day float trip from Glen Canyon Dam to Lee's Ferry. Pam, Mari, and Jan were keen on the adventure. It was a gorgeous, sunny Saturday afternoon (a trip booked two years ago was blown out by 80mph winds).

After collecting our pre-ordered box lunches and filling our water bottles, we hopped into a van for the long drive down to the river. The only access - a two-mile tunnel that was cut from the rim to water for the construction crews. It was blasted through the sandstone and is now encased in steel. One section has since been wrapped in concrete, because 'seepage' through the sandstone threatened to flood the long passageway and threatened the integrity of the tunnel.

Our 15 mile trip was via motorized pontoon, and we traveled some of the most dramatic stretches of river in the Western United States. Glen Canyon presents soaring sandstone walls, polished to shimmering patina, and sheer rock cliffs that drop precipitously into mirror-like waters. Tiny waterfalls spill from healthy riparian communities, and a plethora of trout swim freely in the crystal blue-green waters.

Josie, our boat captain, provided solid interpretation on the history of the area including former habitation by native cultures, the exploration by Major John Wesley Powell, and the Colorado River's modern role in the Southwest's water and power delivery system. Among the archaeological treasures: 4,000 year old split-twig animal figurines from early desert cultures. We hiked to a large 'talking wall' where ancient petroglyphs show a line of prong-horned animals and symbolic figure-like hunters.

Near the end of our float, we stopped next to a sheer-faced wall with seeping water. TJ, another guide, shared his thoughts about The Geography of Bliss, a book he had just read by Eric Weiner. He read from the introduction, a quote by Franz Capra: "In these days of wars and rumors of wars, haven't you ever dreamed of a place where there was peace and security, where living was not a struggle but a lasting delight?"



He asked the group to share the reasons why we had traveled to the river. Mine was simple : to gain perspective.

How else can we really know the world without touching her, tasting, feeling, hearing, and seeing?

The canyon reawakens our senses - and we leave her with new eyes.

-Catharine Cooper, GCRRA Director

GLENN CANYON DAM SOARS 700' ABOVE RIVER LEVEL. RIVER RUNNERS MARI CARLOS, TONY & JAN TAYLOR ENJOY LUNCH ON PONTON BOAT @ CATHARINE COOPER 2012



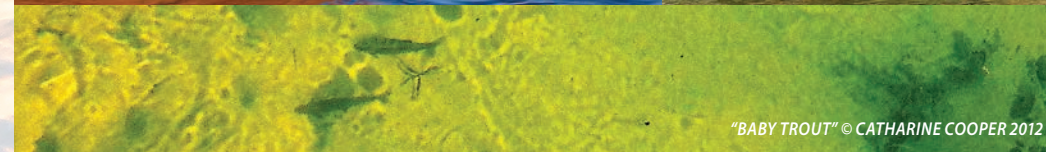
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"PILLARS OF LIGHT" © CATHARINE COOPER 2012



"CHUBACABRA" © DON HOWARTH PHOTOGRAPHY 2012



"NATIONAL CANYON" © CAROL EVINCHICK 2012



"LEE'S FERRY LAUNCH" © CATHARINE COOPER 2012



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"DEER CREEK NARROWS" © CAROL EVENCHICK 2012



KEVIN GREIF © 2012

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JOIN GCRRA

Have you experienced a fantastic commercially outfitted trip down the Colorado River? Are you planning to have one in the future? Do you think that the opportunity to see Grand Canyon from river level should be available to everyone, even if they do not have the skill or strength to row their own boat? Did you know that the Park Service can change its management plan, including adjusting the number of visitors and kinds of trips permitted, from time to time? If you care about these issues, GCRRA speaks for you, with the Park Service and in the courts, helping preserve your opportunities to participate in a commercially outfitted river trip. Have your voice heard! Join us today! Use the membership reply envelope included with this issue, or log on to our website : www.gcriverrunners.org to learn more. We have an online interactive membership form and can accept PAYPAL for your convenience.

Membership includes half-yearly issues of the beautiful Grand Canyon River Runner newsletter. GCRRA is a 501(c)3 organization that has donated a portion of membership dues to Grand Canyon related causes, over \$12,500 through December, 2011.

CALLING ALL RIVER RUNNERS!

YOUR LITERARY AND ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SHOWCASED IN THE NEXT GCRRA NEWSLETTER

Send us your journal entries, poetry, postcards from the canyon, humorous stories, photos, and original art work for publication in the next newsletter or on the GCRRA website. Electronic submissions are preferred. EMAIL materials to : gcriverrunners@gmail.com Technology challenged? Mail your contributions to : GCRRA, P.O. 20013, Sedona, AZ 86341-20013. If you need more information your question will be routed to the Editor.

Submission deadline for the WINTER Issue is March 1, 2013.

Grand Canyon River Runners Association is a 501(c)3 organization