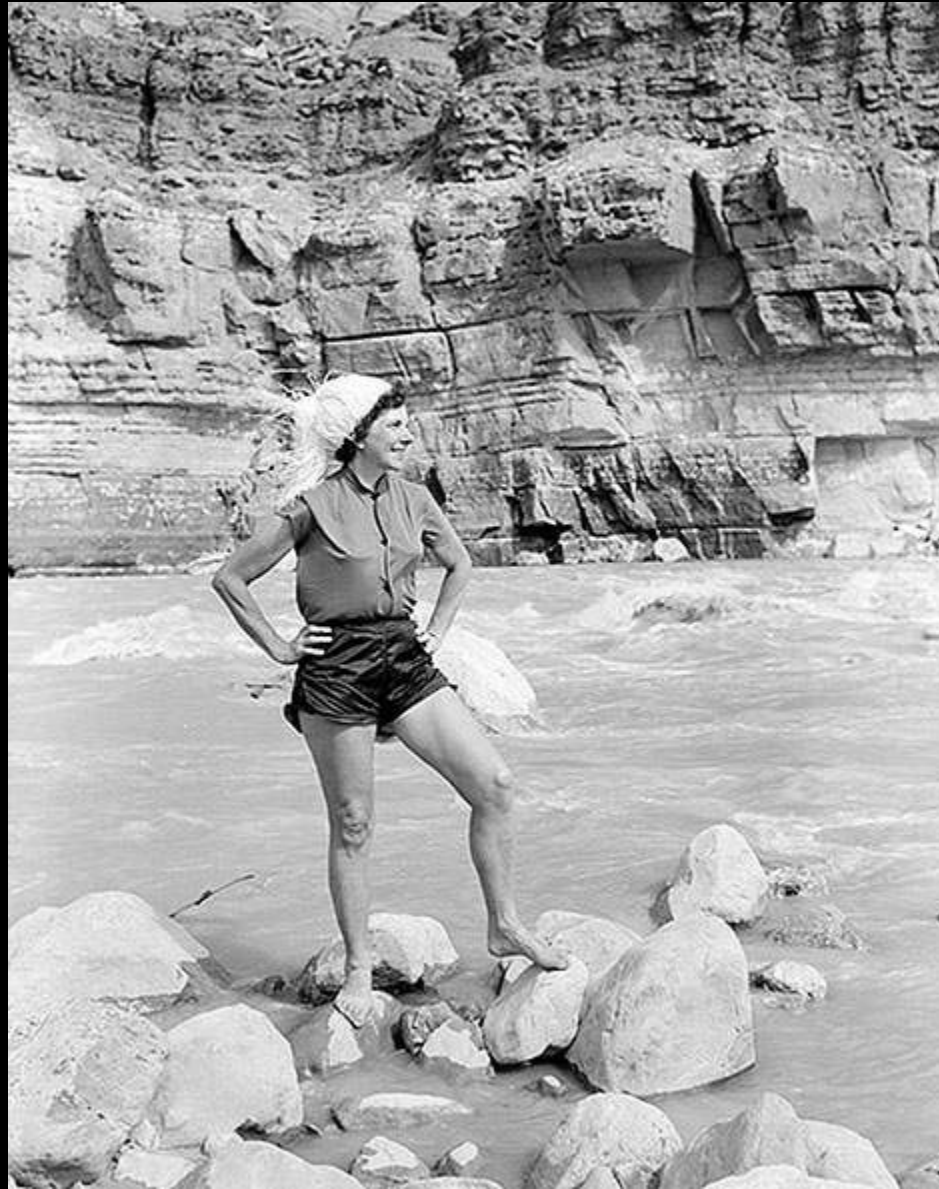


# LINES FROM THE LADIES

*A brief oral & photographic essay of  
influential and pioneering Grand  
Canyon Boatmen*

# GEORGIE WHITE CLARK



# GEORGIE

- June 1945 - first swim with Harry Aleson - Hiked down from Peach Springs, swam from Diamond Creek to Lake Mead
- 1952 - she became the first woman to handle a boat the entire way down the Grand Canyon
- 1953 - first "share the expense" trip in the Grand Canyon - beginning of Georgie's Royal River Rats



# GEORGIE

- 1954 - developed the Triple Rig (3- 37' inflatable boats, 27' wide)



- Between the mid 1960's and early 1970's the number of people running the GC went from approximately 500/year to 10,000/year
- Georgie ran the river until she was nearly 80 and died in the spring of 1992.

1970's

# Marilyn Sayre



# Marilyn Sayre

- Came on her first GC trip as a passenger on an ARTA trip in 1970, fell in love with boatman Allen Wilson and in 1971 started swamping
- 1973 she ran her first boat for ARTA - First woman to commercially guide in Grand Canyon after Georgie
- Ran motor boats and rowing 22 ft snouts for ARTA/AZRA
- Worked for 4 years ~25 trips
- Passed away in 1993

# LOUISE TEAL



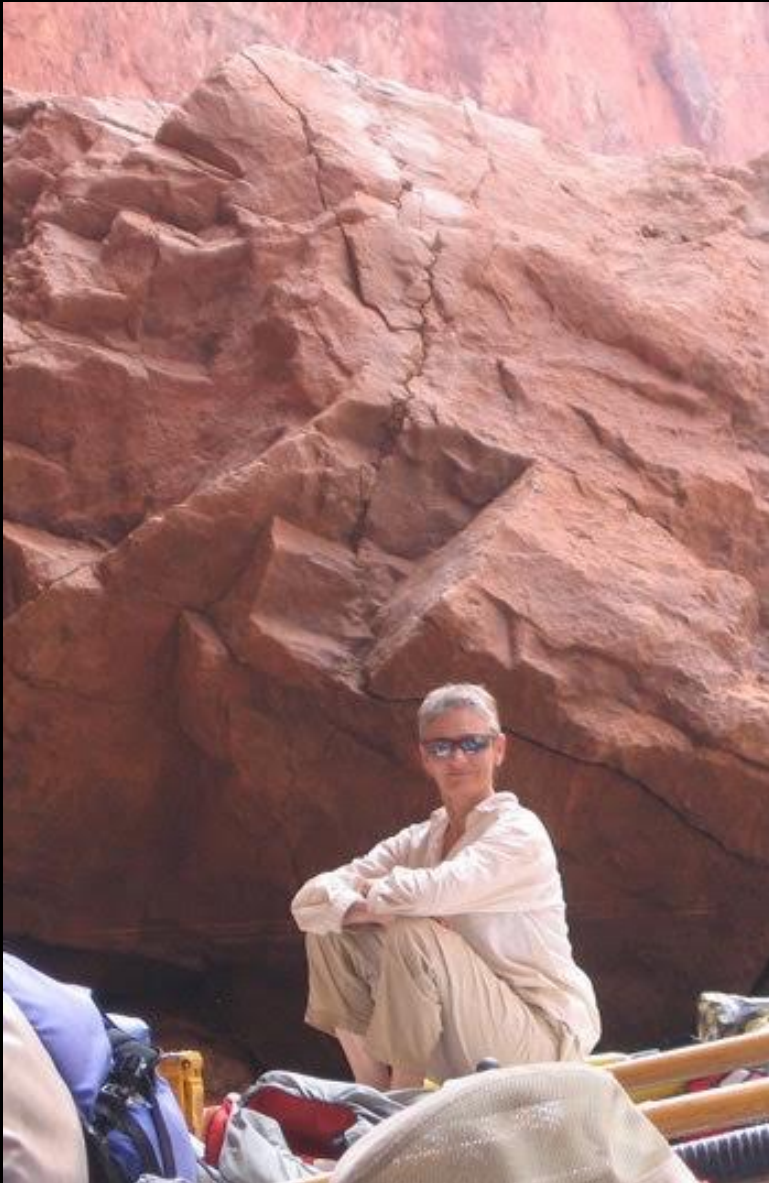


# LOUISE

- Got her start with a canoe trip through Glen Canyon in 1963. Returned in 1970 as a passenger on a Grand Canyon trip
- Began working as a swamper for ARTA/AZRA in 1972, started rowing commercially in 1974.
- Rowed 22 ft snouts and 18 ft oar boats
- In 1979 became the first woman river ranger for GCNP, but returned to AZRA by the end of the summer



# Becca Lawton



“Because being a woman river guide is about not taking no for an answer if it will deprive us of our dreams. It’s about getting to row kick-ass waves and test ourselves against world-class rapids that teach confidence. It’s about learning to handle adrenaline. It’s about pushing our limits way past the point we sometimes believe we can.”

# Becca Lawton

- Was invited as an assistant on an AZRA snout trip in 1976
- Guided for AZRA from 1976 - 1984
- Worked as an NPS River Ranger from 85-86
- Ran 22' snout boats, 18' oar boats and safety kayaked



LORNA CORSON



# LORNA

- Did her first trip with ARTA as an assistant on a snout boat in 1977. Guided with ARTA/AZRA from 1978 to the present.
- Was part of the first all-women's GC trip in 1978 (along with Louise Teal, Jessica Youle and Suzanne Jordan)
- Runs mostly 18' oar rafts but ran snouts in 1978 and a wooden dory in 1979.
- 38 Year continuous career in the Grand Canyon (full seasons until the last 2 years) and as she says "I'm not done yet!"





JESSICA YOULE



# JESSICA YOULE

- 50% owner of AZRA from 1973-1986
- Started running boats in 1977
- Ran 22ft snouts, 18ft Havasus and dories
- Was part of the first all women's trip in 1977
- Most proud of her river daughter, Alex Thevenin



# ELLEN TIBBETTS

“Being in front of people and feeling terrified and remembering that you have something to offer and chances are they are more scared than you are”

# ELLEN TIBBETTS

- First trip in 1973, swamped for George Billingsley
- Started cooking for Grand Canyon Dories in 1975, began to row support rafts ~1976
- “I started rowing in Grand Canyon because of shit!”
- Spring 1979 became first woman to run a dory in Grand Canyon
- Last commercial trip was an all-women’s trip in 1994



LORI COOPER



# LORI

- Did her first trip with Martin Litton/Grand Canyon Dories in 1972 when she was 16 years old, hiked out at Phantom.
- Worked for: Grand Canyon Dories 1972-1980 as a cook, baggage boatmen and support raft for dory trips.
- 1981-1985 finally got a dory!
- Last commercial trip- 1985 when she was 5 months pregnant.





Suzanne Jordan



# SUZANNE

- Did her first trip in 1972 with her ARTA, visiting her brother who was a boatman
- Returned with experience in 1977 and started guiding for AZRA
- Ran paddle boats and oar boats



# Ote Dale



# Ote

- First trip was a private trip in 1972.
- Rowed her first trip in '74
- Worked for Moki Mac (1974), Grand Canyon Dories and OARS/Dories
- Ran oar boats and dories
- In '75 did a 100-day trip in Grand Canyon



# Liz Hyman





# Liz Hymans

- First GC trip in 1972. Waited around Lee's Ferry for 4 days helping rig boats until someone offered to take her downstream
- 1974 started guiding in GC for OARS
- Ran 18' oar boats
- First woman to be hired by a Grand Canyon outfitter on her own, without the backing of a mate

Susan Billingsley



- First GC trip in 1969 - Lower half of a Hatch trip with NAU hiking club
- 1974 swamped for husband George Billingsley with GCE
- Ran own boat in '75 and '76
- GCE motor boats and a few oar boats



# CONNIE TIBBITTS

“That stupid  
Canyon. If it  
wasn't for  
that place,  
I'd be a  
millionaire.”



# CONNIE TIBBITTS

- Hired by Fred Burke to answer phones at Vermillion Cliffs trading post. He sent her on a trip to learn about river trips.
- Started swamping for Whale and Lew Steiger in 1978, at the end of the summer they needed a boatman and gave her the spot.
- During this time, other than Georgie she was the only female boatman running motor boats.
- Has worked for ARR, Can-X, Moki Mac, AZRA, Adventures West and GCE.

Martha Clark

# Martha

- Did her first trip as an Outward Bound ambassador on an AZRA trip
- Started guiding with AZRA in 1978
- Ran oar boats and paddle boats
- Helped found GCY (along with Fritz and Jon Hirsh) in 1998



Sue Bassett

## Sue

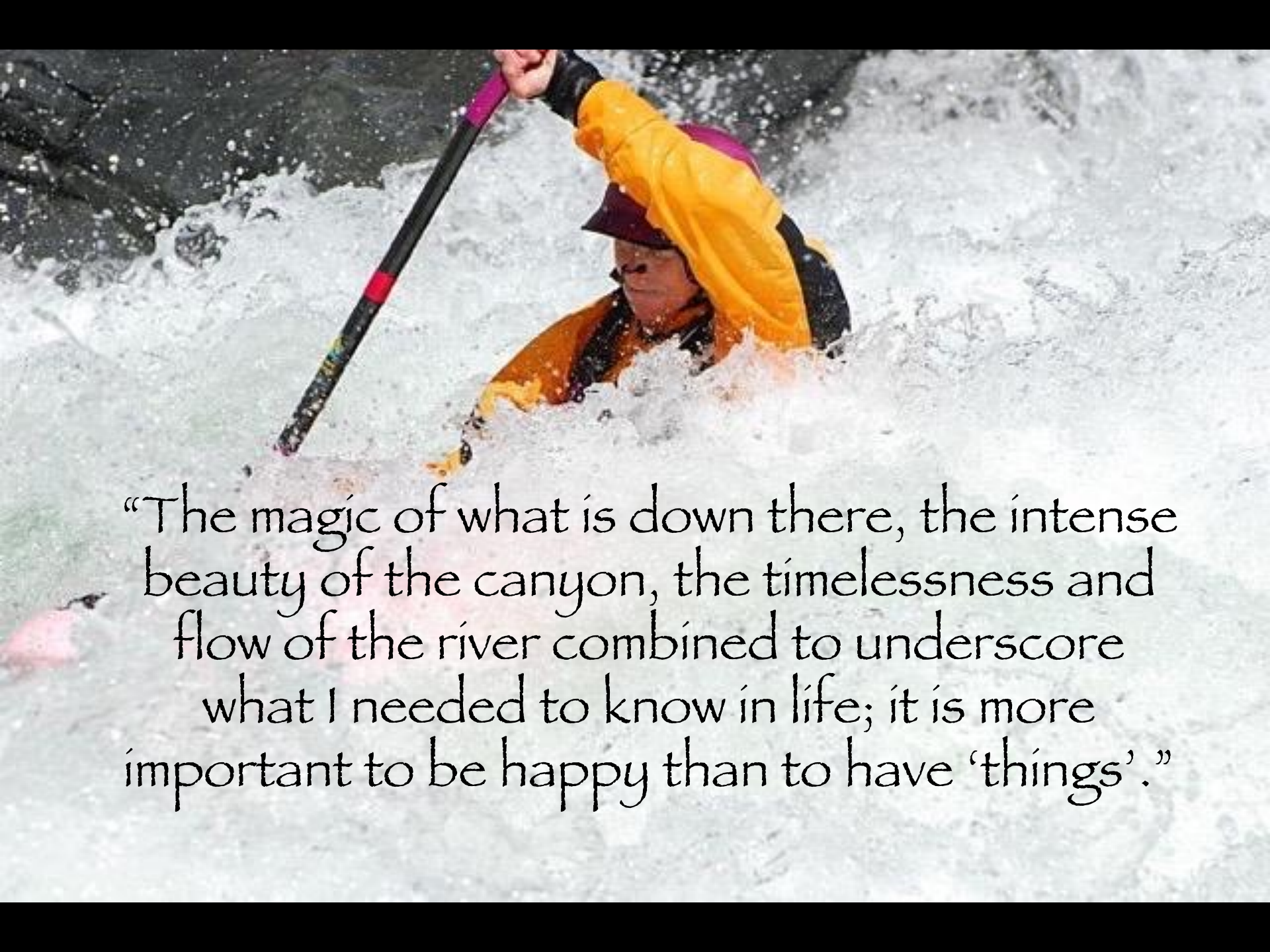
- First trip was in 1972 as a passenger on an ARTA trip
- 1977 started working in Grand Canyon for Wilderness World
- Ran 18' oar boats
- Left guiding in 1982

Hilde Schweitzer



# Hilde Schweitzer

- First trip in 1976 as a private trip.
- Rowed her first baggage boat in 1977 with Outdoors Unlimited
- Runs oar boats, paddle boats and safety kayaks for Outdoors Unlimited
- Hilde still does one or two trips/year down in Grand Canyon



“The magic of what is down there, the intense beauty of the canyon, the timelessness and flow of the river combined to underscore what I needed to know in life; it is more important to be happy than to have ‘things’.”

# Sources

"Connie Tibbitts." Interview by Lew Steiger. Gcrg.org. GCRG, Summer 2000. Web. 23 Feb. 2016.

Elliot, Rob. "Oral History Interview with Rob Elliott." Interview by Lew Steiger. 9 May 1996: n. pag. Grand Canyon River Guides Oral History. Web. 13 Mar. 2016.

Lawton, Rebecca. "Boatwomen." Sweatpants and Coffee. N.p., 19 Feb. 2016. Web. 31 Mar. 2016.

Teal, Louise. *Breaking into the Current: Boatwomen of the Grand Canyon*. Tucson: U of Arizona, 1994. Print.

Randall, Margaret. "WPOH - Women Honored." WPOH - Women Honored. The University of Arizona, 18 Apr. 2012. Web. 31 Mar. 2016.

Steiger, Lew. "Ote Dale." *Boatman's Quarterly Review* 20.4 (2007): 29-41. GCRG.org. GCRG. Web.

Steiger, Lew. "Susan Billingsley." *Boatman's Quarterly Review* 20.3 (2007): 26-38. GCRG.org. GCRG. Web.