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Interviewees: Bryan Tooley (BT)
Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)
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TM: So, today is December 1, 2018. This is a Grand Canyon oral history interview with Bryan Tooley. And my name is Tom Martin. And, so Bryan, thank you so much for your willingness to come to the house today here, in Flagstaff, Arizona. And sit down and talk to me about a river trip that you participated in, where you were arrested. That was a long time ago, so let's start even further back. What year were you born?

BT: 1964.

TM: Where were you born?

BT: Southern California, Whittier.

TM: Okay. What did your folks do?

BT: My dad worked for Northrop, and my mom worked at home, stayed at home.

TM: So Northrop Grumman, as in the aircraft company?

BT: Yeah.

TM: Okay. What was he doing for them?

BT: He was an engineer; he graduated from M.I.T. in geophysics and did stuff through there. And that was actually our introduction to paddling, also, was the, Northrop had a canoe club. And so we went canoeing with the canoe club, with my parents, on the Russian River. And this was late 60s, early 70s.

TM: So you would have been six or seven?

BT: Or eight, yeah, depending on when in there it fell. I can't remember exactly. And paddling with the parents totally terrified us in the boat; they were the ones who hit the one bridge pylon, and, you know, flipped it on the gravel bar. And so my brother and I refused to get in the boat with them, and it was sometime around when the '72 Olympics happened. And we saw the '72 Olympics.

TM: So, older brother, younger brother?

BT: Older brother.

TM: Okay. How many years?

BT: Just about a year and a half older. So the '72 Olympics, which they actually had kayaking as a demonstration sport in the Augsburg, in the Munich Olympics, and they had it at the Augsburg course. So we watched that, and my brother and I were like, that's what we want to be doing, is we want to do the kayaking thing. And so my parents, of course, looked at that and just said, oh, it's another really expensive sport that they're going to move out of, within, you know, six months. But because of the connections through the Northrop canoe club, there's an old company in Costa Mesa called Nona; I don't know if you know the old... They made bad kayaks, and canoes, and paddles and helmets and stuff. But we were actually able to get Nona kayaks, at the canoe club price, through them. So we could kind of get outfitted.

TM: And you were how old?

BT: I think that was '74, so I would of been ten; my brother probably would of been eleven. And then we used to -- my brother got into it, my brother Doug, got into it more than I did. Because now at this time, we live in Orange County, and the closest whitewater is the Kern.

TM: Help me out geographically here: how far away is the Kern?

BT: Three to four hours.

TM: Ah, it's a ways.

BT: It's a ways. And so...

TM: Neither one of you has a driver's license.

BT: No, but my dad was kind of getting into it a little bit, also, so he was into -- and, you know, we grew up camping and doing lots of stuff in the Sierras. So going up there, you know, was not something that

we couldn't overcome. But my brother got into it a lot more than I did.

TM: Were you a good swimmer?

BT: We spent a lot of time -- I would answer that by saying that we spent a lot of time at the beach as kids, growing up in Orange County. So that, yeah, I feel like I felt very comfortable there. There was a guy by the name of... Tom Johnson, who used to be, he was actually the Olympic coach, in '72. And he had, he designed the Hollowform, and was, which was the first plastic kayak made. And he was, actually had a whole coaching thing, up on the Kern River. So we used to go up there.

TM: I'm going to stop you right there. Please tell me everything you remember about Tom.

BT: Crotchety old guy! The story I was going to go into, was one of the reasons I think I went up there... The first Hollowforms that came out were yellow, and yellow Hollowforms were known to be a little brittle. And on doing the little run from above Kernville down to the park, I swam and cracked one of the boats. And Tom was so mad. And I was ten years old at the time, or something like that. And it's funny looking -- and Tom was so mad that I'd cracked one of the boats. But it's funny because I look back now and it's like, well, everybody knew the yellow Hollowforms cracked. And, you know, I was a ten-year-old kid who kind of liked paddling. But because of that, I think I traveled to Kernville less, after that, because I was kind of... And kind of on the side note, it was fun with my oldest son, John Baptiste, when we went back to paddle on the Kern this summer. For the first time, it was the first time in probably -- oh, I'd been there maybe once -- but it was so fun to take him back, and kind of show him where I'd started to paddle, all those years ago. So.

TM: Wow. Did you see any differences between then and now?

BT: Well, now there's just a whole industry; you know, because in the day rafting stuff and because when we were there, none of that existed. But, you know, the park, there's a little park in Kernville, and they have a little slalom course, and they built little weirs from both sides, so there's nice little eddies. So it's actually a nice little beginner's spot.

TM: Cool. So, you're ten, you're starting to learn kayaking from Tom Johnson. Who else was instrumental in teaching you kayaking at the time?

BT: That's probably the only person! And you know, it was a family thing, and, and I would say, I didn't, I didn't progress that much at first. And then, so then, we'll kind of jump forward a couple years, in '77, we moved to Eugene, my parents divorced. Moved to Eugene with my mother, who wanted to go back to school at the University of Oregon. And then met another guy who, guy Gary Stott who was a kayaker and rafter, so he had actually rafted the Colorado in '78, as a 13-year-old, in a 13-foot Udisco with a plywood frame. And we ended up at the same middle school together. So, and, it was this incredibly lucky time for me, so, to have Gary who was also a beginner kayaker, and, but, he had a dad who did all these trips. And so, over the course of the next four or five years, we did Selway, Middle Fork, Grand Canyon, numerous Rogue. And of course I look back on that now -- Illinois... I'm trying to think of what else with him. But, back in the days when it was a lot easier to get permits, the fact that in a three- or four-year period we were basically allowed to do all that; kind of the big, major Western rivers. But to have a dad who did these trips, and allowed, so Gary and I could go along and kayak on all

these trips. So, and then we progressed together.

TM: When did you get your roll?

BT: I got my roll late; I would not say the roll came easy to me. And it, sometime in the late 70s, early 80s, but I was still swimming. So I graduated from high school in '82, and Gary and I went on a big through the West, paddling, in the spring of '83. And, and I swam once or twice on that trip. So I would say I had a roll, but it was still not bomber. So it was sometime after that early 80s. And that was also when we did the first Grand Canyon trip. So I did, my first Grand Canyon trip was fall of '83.

TM: Okay. So, in the fall of 1983, the water was pretty high, and they were releasing, everything was wide open. So...

BT: Right. I think it was 34-, or 36-ish; that's, I don't remember. But that's kind of what I remember, was kind of mid-30s all the way, all the way through. So, and you know we, I think the biggest boat we had on the trip was a 13-foot Miwok. So everything was like 13-foot, smaller. So, and it was like Udiscos, and Miwoks, and things like that. And of course it was all our own gear because, you know, nobody did the rental thing back then. So. And then just two of us in a kayak.

TM: And this is in the fall?

BT: It was fall.

TM: What else do you remember about that trip?

BT: I remember one of the guys missing a line at Lava, and dropping right in the middle of the hole, in a 13-foot boat, and while we were scouting. And that was kind of, that was quite the demolition. Um, I remember it just being a great trip; just being beautiful. And just, it's always kind of a goal, and I think to kind of get down there for the first time. And it was kind of end of September, October, is when we were down there, so it's a beautiful time of year to be down in the Canyon. I remember some of the hikes; I don't remember much of the whitewater. I don't remember any of the whitewater as far as me paddling it... As I say, it's more of that image of, you know, that one guy dropping into the hole. Jim Harang. But I don't know if that... He was an attorney in Eugene. And even afterwards, him with his quizzical look of, what happened! It's like, well, you went right into the middle of a hole! And he's like, no, I was to the left. It's like, no, not so much! But that's about all I, I don't even remember flipping it up.

TM: Did you guys go out at Diamond Creek? Or did you go down to the lake?

BT: Diamond. I've never gone down to the lake; so every trip I've done was out of Diamond Creek. So I also remember, there, too, because we, we had all of our toilet systems and what not. It was definitely a simpler time to take out a Diamond Creek. Is driving up and then asking some of the local natives about where the garbage dump was. And they pointed us to the Peach Springs garbage dump, so we were actually able to dump all the human waste, and all the garbage from the trip, right there. And I don't remember, you know the other thing I remember about it -- it's funny because this is one of my

strong images -- is we pull up to the Peach Springs garbage dump, and you look over and there was like, three dogs, and two cows, and, you know, people'd been throwing like dead, you know. And it's just like, uh-oh; oh, well. But it's great, I remember just dumping it. So even the next trip, it's like, Do we get to dump it in Peach Springs? So it's like, No. That's not a -- that doesn't happen anymore!

TM: So, I can only imagine that your kayaking skills got better on that 1983 trip. They were already good, going into it. Look, if you could do a roll by the, you're 18; by the time you're 19 here, you're still...

BT: I would say it got better, on that trip. But that, and that was the spring after we'd done the two month traveling trips. So we'd done a lot of, we'd traveled throughout the West in the spring of '83, so we'd paddled a lot that year. Between the two-month road trip, just living out of the car, paddling. Most of it in California, Colorado, and then, up in Idaho; little bit in...

TM: Where'd you go, excuse me, where'd you go Colorado, in Colorado?

BT: Most of it around the Arkansas. But we also did, so we did, and I think there's something called Lake Creek that comes in there, around the Arkansas. There's the Blue, the Eagle. but most of it was around the Arkansas. I remember we kind of setup camp on the Arkansas, kind of like camped there at the put-in to the Numbers.

TM: Did you run the Gunny Gorge? I'm sorry, I'm sorry, did you run the Royal Gorge?

BT: Royal Gorge, no. So everything we did was the Numbers, and was Pine Creek, and the Numbers. And...

TM: Did Pine Creek? Good.

BT: And...

TM: Pine Creek is very difficult; it's Class V. It's a challenging; good stuff. Today people do it, they don't think much about it. But...

BT: It was definitely a much more cutting edge in '83 than it is today. So, like a lot of the paddling stuff I did, it was much more cutting edge back then, than it is to this day.

TM: Uh-huh. That gives us a understanding of your skill level. That you were willing to attempt that; that's pretty good. For the time, it was a good deal. I mean, granted, you can run it in the 50s, don't get me wrong here. But for where you are, in your life, in a boat, with the skills that you have, that's pretty good. So after '83, your Grand Canyon trip, then did you think to go to school? Or what are you thinking?

BT: We start school in Oregon. I like to say, and my joke is that I was on the ten-year plan, and I finished three years ahead of schedule. But, and that's kind of where I started doing a lot of paddling. Basically,

it was kind of that, that '83, through almost, right after my oldest was born, John; he was born in '96. And so kind of through '83 through '96, I probably averaged, I don't know, a 150 to 200 days in a whitewater kayak a year. For those 15 or so years. Plus training days. I did the whole racing thing, too, but that was kind of a different... So, you know, spent a lot of time paddling, traveling.

TM: Tell me about your racing. When did you, when did you first get into competitive kayaking?

BT: Well, I started it in '80... I tried to make the team, the US team, in wildwater. And wildwater is definite slalom. When I was doing it, it was about a 20-minute race, as fast as you could go. So, you know, four or five miles. Usually Class III+; maybe easy IV; usually, as I say, III+. And in '89, the world championships were on Savage River in Maryland. And it's the first time that the worlds were going to be in the US. And so I tried to make the team in '89, and didn't make the team.

TM: So, let's go back for just a second. This wildwater classification, you mentioned four to five miles, Class III, the low IVs. What was the time that they were looking for?

BT: Eh, 15 to 20 minutes. Now it's more into, much more rapid racing. Two runs with your times added together. So maybe two minute-and-a-half, or two-minute runs, with your time added together. Because it's more spectator-friendly, and easier to televise. So it's, that's why it's, back then it was a different -- they were much longer races. And, you know, and now it's gone to much more of a shorter, rapid racing.

TM: It's really interesting because it makes me think of the first-through Royal Gorge race in 1949; it was a 60-mile event! With a train track along the entire course, and the train would move the people along as the boaters paddled down the stream.

BT: Was that FIBArk?

TM: What, that will become FIBArk, in the following years. But they shortened the distance up. It's still, today, running from Salida, but you have to move to watch that event, and it's still going, tens and tens of miles.

BT: And are you familiar with Andy Corra? Do you know that name?

TM: No. No.

BT: Andy's, actually, won FIBArk a bunch of times. But he was actually one of the guys I raced wildwater with. So, you know, back when he was doing kind of the competitive side. But, you know, FIBArk was one of the things that he, and there was another guy from Durango, Mike Freeman (?), so Mike and Andy were both guys who, you know, very involved with the whole FIBArk thing.

TM: Yeah, yeah. Nice. All right. The US had a whitewater team; so they had a kayak team. What was the actual terminology for that team?

BT: It was the US team; but, you know --

TM: US Kayaking Team?

BT: Yeah, it was US -- ah --

TM: US Watersports Team? I mean, what...?

BT: Well, the governing body was USCKT, which was US Canoe and Kayak Team; so that was the governing body. And we were on, you know, the US Wildwater Team. So there was slalom and wildwater.

TM: And so explain slalom to me.

BT: Slalom is where you have the gates, that you go through. So much, one rapid you have the gates, and maybe a couple minute race; you get penalized if you touch a gate, or miss a gate. For us, you know, our joke was we didn't need gates to tell us where to go. And so, but it was a similar thing. Whereas we had, we might run 20 rapids, and have to have a specific line; whereas slalom was all about one, you know, one rapid, say 20 or 30 moves as you went through. It was very different, though, because slalom... So as I say, I got into paddling in '72, after '72, because after watching it in the Munich Olympics. And it was being put back in to the Olympics in '92. In Barcelona. And so all of a sudden, kind of all the money and all the prestige, because they were kind of equal, you know, siblings, for a long time. And then all of a sudden, since slalom was being added back into the Olympics, it became, you know, slalom took off. And wildwater, in a way, has kind of floundered since then, just because all the money and sponsorship definitely follows more the Olympic side of things.

TM: Interesting. Okay.

BT: So there's still world championships; they're held every other year. It's still there. But as I say, I think a lot more of it's on the slalom side.

TM: So this is by 1989, you were trying to get into the American team. Now your skill levels are in the one percentile of the people that are kayaking. I mean, we're talking about the best of the best; the people who are going to go out and paddle, and practice and practice and practice.

BT: You know, who knows, on that side of things. But we were doing a lot of, like in the late -- so in '87 - we did a trip to Chile. And did a bunch of stuff. And, like, one of the things that stood out there was -- are you familiar with the river, the Futaleufú?

TM: I've heard of the Futaleufú.

BT: Don't ask me how to spell it! Sorry. But, like, we did the second descent, on the Futaleufú. You know, so I was kind of at a nice time of, you know, doing, maybe not doing stuff for the first time, but being able to do stuff very close to the first time it had been done. So, and the Futaleufú was kind of a

classic, you know, example of that, where some kayakers had done it about two years before. Some people had tried to raft it, but only did about half of it, like the year -- I can't remember if it was the year we did it or the year before. And then we went back, and then we were down there on that trip. Yeah, so we were doing a lot of, you know, a lot of paddling, a lot of traveling. And I think part of the reason for me getting into racing, was kind of getting tired and wanting a different avenue; or different, you know, of expression in paddling. And so, you know, it was kind of the, just to do something different. So kind of went into racing for, you know; and the racing kind of took two different forks. But, yeah, went into racing for this about six years.

TM: Okay. Now you did this, your first trip in Grand Canyon, in 1983. Throughout the rest of the 80s did you come back and do more Grand Canyon trips?

BT: No. So, didn't do any, didn't do any. And part of it was just, time; we weren't on the; somewhere in there I got on the list, but I wasn't on the list at the time. And we were just into doing more harder rivers, probably. So it wasn't necessarily at the top of the list. You know, I remember if I had to say one thing about the Canyon, and I remember cranking through this -- it's just a lot of flat water. Like, when I went back, and did it in 2012, kind of with the family, I was pleasantly surprised by how much whitewater there was. Because I remember when I was a young kid, it was all about the whitewater; I just remembered the flat water. You know, and so to go then, to go back, you know, 20, 30 years later -- because I was, you know, almost 30 years later -- and realize that there was a lot more rapids than I remembered.

TM: Cool, and fun.

BT: Yeah, just, just fun. Of course, I was also in a raft, versus a kayak; but, so.

TM: Okay. And then you started doing some instructing...?

BT: Well, in, through probably mid-80s, through the mid-90s; early 90s, I was teaching in a kayak school called Sundance, which was up on the Rogue. And it was a great school, we did nine-day classes; first five days were based out of a lodge, teaching people the basics. And then the last four days we'd run through the "wild and scenic" stretch of the Rogue.

TM: So you would teach them how to roll, what...?

BT: Catch eddies. Just kind of basic river stuff. And most people -- it takes about five days for it, I would say, is kind of, it's a nice amount of time for it to kind of click. For the average person, you know, and they start to get it. And then we'd... And not everybody, but most of the people. And then we'd run 'em down through the wild and scenic stretch of the Rogue, for that. And so, it was a great, and it was a great summer job for us, because we're nine days on, five days off. And so, we'd go paddling for those five days off, too. So, you know, we could have summers where we would just, where we would be in our boat every day, from when the school started the beginning of June until beginning of September. And it was either teaching, or there's only a couple of places that had good whitewater in the summer. And we'd always kind of do our, our annual trips to those rivers. Which were like Cherry Creek on the Tuolumne, there was a creek called Fordyce Creek in the Sierras, and the North Fork of the Pit; they all

had summer releases for power generation.

TM: So, the Rogue ends in a rapid that, I seem to remember, has a feature on it called "the Picket Fence." And there's a must make move in that rapid, that if you don't do in your kayak, you have a good chance of going swimming. So were you guys kind of, let's see how well our students have done, let's go run -- I forget the name of that -- Blossom Bar, or something like that?

BT: Yeah, Blossom Bar. Which is on the third day of the downstream trip, but it's kind of, it's a nice, it's in a nice place because after that you hit your last camp, and everybody kind of relaxed because they know... It's kind of like Lava; it's a very similar, kind of where it falls on the trip. Because it falls mostly towards the end of the trip, and it's kind of the significant, oh, the whitewater's behind us now. You know, you kind of have that a little bit, when you go through Blossom. So, I mean, we'd take the students out and not all students would run it. And so we would kind of, we would identify some...

TM: You pull over and scout and go look at it.

BT: We'd scout. But even beforehand, we would identify even before we got there. It's like, you know, we'd have a little talk -- okay, we're going to have you walk. And we would run -- you probably don't remember, but there's a little beach down below the Picket Fence. That we would just run their boats to that beach. And then so, as instructor, maybe you might run the boat through four times really quick; on the right side, there's a little creek that comes in there with a beach, and you kind of run back up. And so, you know, as the instructors you'd kind of do the scouting thing, and then like one, so one instructor typically would be talking to the students, and the other instructors would be running laps. And running the boats through...

TM: So the students would be watching you, going okay...

BT: Towards, towards the end, because we had some bad experiences at Blossom. You know, just people having troubles. And finally, it was just like, eh, we're not going to have any more students run it. We're just going to run all the boats through. So towards the end, it's like, it's just not worth, stuff goes bad there. And it's a particularly dangerous rapid because there's so much debris left in the water, from all the people who have wrapped rafts. You know, because it's a, it seems like it's getting worse down there; I don't know if it's a daily thing, but it's definitely a multiple times a week thing, that somebody wraps there. And just, it's ropes and straps and frames and crap in the water; and so, it's just like, it's not one to kind of mess around with, because of that. Because the consequences can go, it can go bad in a hurry there. So.

TM: And then, when we had talked on the phone, you had mentioned a perk for your students was a, like a multi-day, or different trip somewhere else kind of thing...?

BT: Well, so, one of the instructors at the time, Stan Marks, and he started offering trips on the Grand Canyon. He did a Grand Canyon trip, loved the Grand Canyon. And so he would then market, much to the chagrin of the owner of Sundance, he was marketing kind of his own trips, to the Grand Canyon. So he totally would buy a trip from, from somebody. He was doing motorized, because motorized when you're doing kayaks self-support, motorized trips are great, because people get tired. Or if you're doing the Loop Hike at Lava Canyon, or something, you can actually put all the kayaks on to the motor rig and

everybody can do the hike. And then, all the boats are, you know, lined up at the bottom of Lava Canyon, or something like that.

TM: So this would be a charter trip with a commercial concessionaire?

BT: Correct.

TM: Just to get that sorted out. Okay; all right.

BT: That would be filled. And then he would supply -- so Stan would then tap a couple of us instructors, other instructors who'd go down and, you know, so there'd be three or four safety paddlers and maybe 20 students, you know, or just people. And obviously they're paddlers that you've identified as being strong enough to be down there, and to varying degrees of success. But, yeah, so there, you know, you might have 20 people along on the trip.

TM: Nice. And Stan started this when? Roughly, what year?

BT: A year or two before then. He'd done it, probably in the late 80s. Is when he...

TM: So '89, he would have started it?

BT: Yeeeahh, somewhere back in... I don't know exactly, when Stan started doing it. But he ran 'em for six or seven years. And now that, you know, there're still a few companies; there's somebody out of, you know, Dan Trandle, who's in the Bay Area, does it. And there's a guy, Phil DeRiemer, who's actually over there, does two trips a year. And there's a few people who do very similar things, every year they do one or two trips down there, with large groups of kayaks. If you actually go to Google Earth photo of Crystal, and zoom in, there's a kayak trip setting up, which is one of Phil DeRiemer's trips. They actually zoomed in. It's like, wait! that's our trip. So on Google Earth, or at least, I don't know if they've updated it, but the old one is... So it's kind of funny that you can see there's like 20 kayakers all in the eddy, getting ready to run Crystal.

TM: Cool. And so you got invited to go on those trips?

BT: So I got invited to do the trip in spring of '90. So which, and this would've been set up in the fall of '89. And then kinda, it relates to the racing, also. The way the racing worked is, even-numbered years was the pre-world championships. So they had a pre-worlds, in even numbered years. Which was just, it was kind of like a dry run for the site; to kind of bring people in, let people race the course for a time. And then the world championships were in odd-numbered years; so '91. So '90 would have been a pre-world year. The other advantage is that they take six people on the team instead of four; so it's easier to make it. And so, you know, spring of '90 would have been a team trials for the pre-worlds on Socia River in what's now Slovenia; Yugoslavia at the time. So, yeah, so those two things, and what came up was, that the team trials were going to be on the Skykomish River, outside of Seattle. And that the weekend -- the trials were going to be a Saturday-Sunday, I believe in March. It might of been April, but I think it was March. And the put-in for Stan's, this commercial trip in the Canyon, that he needed, was also the same Saturday. So it's kind of this, you know, I hadn't made the team the year before, when the race was on the Savage. And a lot of, and I think because, because of the turnover, also; there were a

lot of people were pointing towards the Savage, so there's a lot of turnover. So there's definitely a better opportunity to make the team now for '90, because everybody wanted to race on the home course. So, so definitely wanted to do that, as it'd been something I'd tried for and, you know, things had not gone well in '89. so that's why, you know, so I really wanted to make, you know, make the team, be able to go travel in Europe.

TM: And, and working out the math here, '64, so, '74, '84 -- you're going to be in your mid-twenties?

BT: Mid-twenties, like 26, 27.

TM: And you're going to be strong like this guy? Meaning you're going to be ripped, you're going to be at the top of your game?

BT: Yeah. Because I'd been training; you know, I was training full time, paddling a ton. You know, and, as I say, that was probably, that was probably close to the peak of our paddling, you know, as my kids have heard a ton. The trip we did the year after that, which was also another significant trip, was in the fall of '91, we did the second-ever, self-supported trip on the Stikine. Which, and the thing that was significant on our trip, was that...It was always thought you had to have -- there was a guy by the name of Rob Lesser, who was kind of a famous old Idaho paddler -- was that you had to have Rob on the trip. Because Rob had done a bunch of filming trips, and had looked at it from a helicopter a lot. So, and that the thought was, that you couldn't do it; and that would of been the next year -- actually, you couldn't do it without Rob. And so that, in that, the following year's when we did that. Which I would probably say was kind of the pinnacle of my, the paddling career, was that trip. Which, and one of the other safety kayakers, Hayden Glatte, was one of the guys who I did the Stikine with. And the other person, actually, who I was referencing, who I did the Stikine with, was the guy who does the Grand Canyon trips now, Phil DeRiemer. Was the other person who we did the Stikine with. So, but as I say, we were probably at the peak of our hard, whitewater paddling, right in that time.

TM: Great. So that answers that issue. But now there's a dilemma. Because you have a -- an elimination event...

BT: Team trials.

TM: A team trial.

BT: A team trial.

TM: Okay. That, if you succeed in, you will then go on to be an Olympic contender.

BT: Correct -- no! Because it's not an Olympic sport. Remember the wildwater's not Olympic. So it's, but, so the thing is, you can have a US team, that's not Olympic. And so I was trying for wildwater, which is not Olympic. Later, I tried for flatwater sprint, because it was Olympic; felt like I had a better chance there than kind of trying to switch to slalom, so I did kind of switch to. But this was not an Olympic; it was a US team, and there's still a world championships, but it's not Olympic.

TM: Thank you. Okay, all right. Yeah, because I'm like, wait a minute, I thought, oh. So this is a world

championship in whitewater. And you were trying for the US team. Okay, got it. And, but the trouble is, now is that, is that Stan's trip, through Grand Canyon, launches on Saturday, and you are going to be at an event on Saturday.

BT: Right, and it was a two-day event, because it's two runs: Saturday, Sunday. So I had to be in Seattle Saturday and Sunday. And Stan's trip started on that Saturday. So sometime in the fall, and I don't, it was fall of '89, I called the Park Service, to try to figure out what my options were. And basically what I learned is, you can hike down and join a trip in progress, but you can't paddle down and join a trip in progress. The problem, the dilemma that I came up with was, from my remembrance, and talking to lots of friends who'd been down, that Marble Canyon's lots of peoples' favorite part of the trip. And so, I didn't want to hike in at Phantom, and miss Marble Canyon. And so, and that's where the dilemma, and that's where I started contacting the guide on our trip, Walt Gregg. And, I believe it's just, it's Walt, and then Greg, GRE, I think, GE, or GG; so two Gs at the end. And started trying to come up with options of how, how I could get into the trip as early as possible. And we were trying to discuss other trails, and what not; because I would be able to fly in to Flagstaff on Sunday night. And so I could be at the put-in by Monday. And so, and kinda what we came up with was, there weren't that many good options, to get down. Because he could carry my boat down, so I didn't need to get my boat down. So that, and actually most of the gear could kind of be down. I just needed to -- because I sent that down with Hayden and his wife, Margie, who was the other safety paddler, along with Stan, was the three other safety paddlers. So all my gear was kind of down there, I just needed to figure out a way into the canyon.

TM: Did you guys think about the Tanner Trail?

BT: I can't remember any specifics, on where else. But Walt had referenced that he'd seen people fishing, at Six Mile Wash. And so that there must be a way in to the canyon, and that, if I wanted to do the canyon, that was a good -- And as far as Walt knew, Six Mile Wash was right below the little Marble Canyon Lodge Airport, and that you could drop in there. And so that was the plan, was that I would catch a shuttle out there, and they would drop me off at the Marble Canyon Lodge. And basically, having never been there before, I'd wander across... And this is now late at night, because I raced Sunday in Seattle, flew down to Flagstaff, caught a shuttle up to, up there to the bridge.

TM: And would've been dark, by the time you got Moab.

BT: Oh, yeah; it was dark and late. And, found the canyon; you know, walked across. And I had a bag with me because I had a sleeping bag and some stuff, so I did have one bag with me. Searched around, found the top of the canyon, got down. But, God, and it was kind of a, it was raining lightly; so it was not a great night to try to be hiking into the Canyon. Got in, I don't know, halfway down, and basically kind of got cliffed out. And, at night, couldn't figure out how to get through this part. But I knew that people, from Walt, that people -- he'd seen fishermen there, so people had gotten down there. But I couldn't figure it out. And...

TM: So I'm going to jump in here, and I'm gonna -- I'm thinking that it's actually Vermilion Cliffs; that is right across from the Six Mile route. There's, it's really hard to climb down into Marble Canyon; but there is a way at the Six Mile drainage. At Marble Canyon, you're going to get wrapped up into the Jackass drainage, and that's...

BT: I came out at Six Mile Wash.

TM: So Six Mile Wash, I'm just going to make sure we kind of get our logistics right. And that is, it's a difficult route to find in the daylight, not in the dark; it's like, forget it.

BT: Well, so at a certain, and because I also searched, as I remember, for several hours; you know, I just had one Nalgene bottle with me; so I only had one bottle of water. Kind of used all the water.

TM: Did you have any food?

BT: Maybe had a little bit. But I don't remember that much. But there came a point, at some time in the middle of the night, as it's raining lightly, that it's like, this is stupid; I'm going to get hurt. It's time to just sleep and wait until dawn. So, you know, I had the bag, though it under a ledge, basically, and just went to sleep. Woke up at first light; was able to find my way down. You know, because you kind of come down the canyon, then just downstream of the wash there's a huge jumble of boulders, on the side there. Kind of base-y; you kind of come down, you kind of traverse across there and then come down those boulders, and drop to the beach. And we'd prearranged that my kayak was hidden in the bushes; kayak and paddle.

TM: That is the Six Mile route that you've just described. That's great.

BT: Yeah, so I found it. And I knew it was there somehow. But it took a, it took a lot longer than I thought. So get down, and then, as I remember is upstream of the wash; but I can't remember. So all my kayaking gear was stashed. So this is now Monday morning, and all the gear had been stashed on Saturday. So I get into my boat, and paddle down. And, and I don't know where the group is, but they were 45 miles downstream. So, you know, I don't know what; and I caught them at lunch on that Monday. So, and I don't know where 51 miles is... But, as I was...

TM: Wow. So you're going 10 miles an hour?

BT: Maybe; maybe. But I would've started early, you know, because I started hiking super early. So I don't know what time I paddled.

TM: But you caught them for lunch and you went 45 miles.

BT: Yeah. No, I covered, we covered some miles. I wasn't on the water that long by myself. Because it had taken so long to get to the water, I drank all my water. You know, my one little Nalgene bottle. So there was a trip, kind of on the side; somewhere on the left, is all I remember. And they were still there when I paddled down. And asked them to, if I could just borrow some water from 'em; and, you know, just get, fill the water jug. Which they did. You know, they filled the water jug, and I was like, thanks, and on my way. And so that was, I think that was the only group I saw, and they kind of come into play later, I think. Because I think that's where the Park Service finds out about me being on the water. So, so what happens is, I join the group Monday, and then Wednesday, we're at Phantom Ranch. And, well, Wednesday, below Phantom, somewhere above Granite, on the left, we were gonna camp. And...

TM: Grapevine maybe? There's a nice camp there on the way...

BT: No, no. Not above Phantom; above Granite. Sorry.

B

TM: Oh, above Granite. I'm sorry.

BT: On the left; kind of a bad camp, on the left.

TM: Maybe Salt Creek?

BT: Yeah, that sounds right. That's Salt Creek is, they fly in a helicopter and -- the Park Service flies in a helicopter there, just as we're getting to camp.

TM: Okay, so let's back up a bit. So it is Monday at noon and you have met your trip.

BT: Correct. And I think -- we all think -- Hoo-hoo!

TM: You're here! And everybody's like really happy.

BT: We did it! Because one of my biggest concerns was passing a Park Service trip. As I was paddling down. Now what are the chances of paddling a Park Service trip? And so the fact that we'd reached the group -- because what I, I knew what I was doing was against the rules. But I wanted to see that upper part of the Canyon. And I was, you know, in my mind, it was like, Ooh, I'll just be on the water for a couple of hours. And I'm not going to even get out of my boat, so what impact am I really going to have on the Canyon, in these couple hours of paddling by myself; so, to join the trip in progress. So we thought I was home free. So...

TM: And then so, regular trip above Phantom, which is -- so you stopped at the Little Colorado River, and...

BT: Yeah. I think the Little Colorado was blown out. It was blown out because I remember when I went back, in 2012, it was the first time I had ever seen it. That's the Little Colorado. So it was kind of this big thing; it's like I've always wanted to see it, as for the Little Colorado. So...

TM: 1990. What was the, do you remember the month?

BT: Probably March; could've been April. So it would've been the end of March, first part of April.

TM: So that's probably snowmelt, coming out of the Little Colorado River. that would make sense. All right.

BT: So, the thing that; so as we're paddling down, so when we get to Phantom -- and again, we have like 20 kayakers. We have a, and we have one motor support raft, with Walt. Walt, for some reason, you know, had to go to Phantom. You know, I don't know why; I can't remember the details. So when we pull in, we pull into the boaters' beach there, at Phantom, our motor rig's tied up, and there's a couple rangers sitting on the beach. All 20 of us -- because I think the plan was for all of us to go down,

including Walt, to kind of go down through Horn, and go on down to camp together. All of us get out of our boats, we all go to the bathroom; we're all kind of waiting around for Walt.

TM: Are you going to go up to Phantom Ranch for lemonade? Have a candy bar?

BT: No, I think it was, I think it was later in the day. And so, we didn't want to take the time, to go up to Phantom. And, because I know we also left after 10 or 15 minutes, because we wanted to get the students, because they were tired, and we wanted to get the students through Horn. So we left, so we left before talking to Walt. And what we didn't know at the time, was that the two rangers who were on the beach, were there for me. And that when Walt had pulled in, they had told Walt that he needed to go up and phone the Park Service from the payphone. So that's where, that's why Walt, and whoever else, they were all up at Phantom Ranch, and nobody was there. But that wasn't in our plans -- so we were kinda confused, of like, where is everybody? You know, where are people? And that's why... And so we left 10 or 15 minutes after we'd gotten there.

TM: Okay, but there's three of you; there's you...

BT: There's actually four of us.

TM: Sorry, meaning, there's you, Stan, and Hayden...

BT: ...and his wife Margie. So there's four of us who are safety.

TM: Which are safety kayakers; and you got the group, and everybody's there. And so, it's getting late, and there's no Walt.

BT: Right. We need to take them down; we want to get them through Horn; and get down. And know that we're camping before Granite. So it's like, okay, we want to get 'em down below Horn because it's just, it's late. I can't remember where we camped the night before.

TM: Did the rangers on the beach ask you, and did they talk to you guys? Or they just sat there and watched, and just...

BT: No, just sat and watched; so, sat and watched the whole thing. We go down, and run through Horn; I don't remember anything about it. Get down to, get down to the camp, river left. And, literally, we've pulled out boats up, we're stripping down, here comes the helicopter. You can hear a helicopter coming. And at river level. And I look at Hayden, and it's like, they're coming for me! And he's like, nooo, they're not coming for you; it's like, it's like... No, I'm screwed, I'm outa here! And he's like, no way! And so this thing comes down, 20, 30 feet off the water; and it comes from upstream, kinda comes around the corner, comes down. Hovers right off the beach. You get the "Kkkkkkk [loudspeaker static], is there a Bryan Tooley in this group?" You know, and I raise my hand. And just looking at Hayden and Margie, it's like, unbelievable. And it's like, "Remain where you are." You know, and so, I kind of sit there. But, but the camp -- you said Salt Creek -- there's no good landing spots at Salt Creek. It's kind of a rocky, not a great spot. So the helicopter kind of flies back up, and there's a gravel bar upstream of there, on the right. Maybe a 100 yards upstream, I can't remember exactly; but upstream. And so, the helicopter's like, "Take, bring all your gear, up to this beach," and the helicopter goes up and

lands on that beach. And so I paddle up, and...

TM: Paddle up there! You didn't walk up, paddle up! Oh, my God.

BT: Well, because it's on the other side. I... Ya gotta paddle up.

TM: Oh, you're on river left?

BT: There on river right. Because that little gravel beach is on river right. There's like a little alcove in there, it kind of cuts back in, there's a... And now it's much smaller; I remember its being bigger than it was. Yeah, I was gonna say, it's something small right now. So I go up, and of course, Hayden goes up with me. And Stan goes up with me. And then of course they don't want anybody else on the beach, besides just me. So they kick Hayden off. Stan is actually a non-practicing tax attorney; so, it's just like, he's my attorney. So Stan was able to stay on the beach, with me. And there's a helicopter; I think there's a pilot, Mark Law, and some junior ranger -- a dude, I don't remember his name. And step out of my boat. Because we'd stripped down, when I paddled back up, I think all I had on, I just put my lifejacket back on. And had all my gear and just paddled back up. So step out of the boat and, step out of my boat, and I've got a pair of Nike Aqua Socks, a pair of Baggylight, which are basically running shorts, and my lifejacket. Take the lifejacket off, and I knew this wasn't going to go well when Mark Law, at this point, said, "Okay, we have to frisk you." And I remember looking down at the Baggylights, and being like, there's not a lot here that you can't see right now. And he's like, "Gotta frisk you." So, they frisked me in my Baggylights, and literally with nothing else on. And determine that I'm totally clean. So they lead me up to the helicopter; I carry the boat up. They tie, they tape -- using packaging tape with kind of the fiberglass fibers -- they tape my boat to the bottom of the helicopter.

And then we're kind of standing around. Because at some point in here, Walt's 'sposed to come down. And he kinda, and I don't know this; so kinda what happens in here also, is Mark Law is like, "Okay, what we know is that, you're racing in Seattle on Saturday and Sunday; you flew down, you catch a shuttle, you hiked in at Six Mile Wash where your boat is." So me not knowing he's talked to Walt, I'm just like, oh, my God, they know it all. I'm screwed! You know, it's like, what happened here? How...? Because of course I'm going to deny everything; I'm going up there saying, I'm gonna say I launched with the group, and they're going to have no idea. And so he lays out this whole, the exact schedule of what happened; and it's just like, oh, my God. I'm totally screwed here. And, and so kind of all this, like, oh, just plausible deniability, just deny it all, kind of gets thrown out the window. And then so I'm standing up there on the beach -- at some point in here, they're like, okay, for safety, when we fly out, you have to wear a flame-retardant suit. So they hand me this yellow suit; and they also hand me these gloves; so these flame-retardant gloves. So I put the suit on, and at this point the junior ranger -- I remember making a joke to him, because I had a little camera -- it's like, hey, can you take a picture of me? It's like, hopefully you only get arrested once in your life, you gotta have a picture of this. And the junior ranger was totally game, and took a picture. Which was great that he took a picture. And this mighta been actually after, because my gear would of shown up by this time; because my camera was kind of in the gear; and for some reason they wanted all my gear off the water. So Walt came down with the boat, and they took my bag off. Can, my ammo can and my bag came off. And then some -- but I wasn't able to talk to Walt. So like I don't know at this point that Walt's, you know, had this long conversation and that's where he was; I don't know any of this. And stuff comes off. Luckily for me, all the clients on the trip -- a bunch of people basically had cash on 'em -- and somehow in here, they're able to, they kinda got the okay from the people, and everybody kind of threw in a bunch of money. So that when I left the

canyon -- because I was a young, poor kayaker at the time, you know -- I left the canyon with like a \$1000 dollars cash. Which was great that everybody kind of pooled all this cash up, and gave it to me. So basically, it's just kind of, they go, Stan goes away, motorboat goes down to camp, which was just right down. And of course, they're, all the students are just watching me, you know; they're just kind of watching this whole show.

And then before they take out, though, they bring out; so I've been given this yellow suit, given the gloves, for safety reasons -- out comes the three-inch big leather belt, with the handcuffs that go through the ring in front. And, and I remember it's just like, Eh, do you really think this is necessary? You know, and I'm kinda like, Do you think I'm gonna make the helicopter crash? And so, so I got the yellow, flame-retardant suit on for safety, and they put the leather belt on, put the handcuffs on. And load me into the helicopter, and fly me up and out, from right there. And one of the saddest images of that day in my life, is looking out the window, at the whole group lined up on the beach. and they're all looking up at me. And I'm just kinda looking out the window, looking down at 'em. And it's an amazingly short flight; because you basically, especially at that point, that their helipad I think is like directly above. So you just, you're in this incredible vertical world, and you just go straight up, up, up, up, up, up. And the next thing you know, you're just over in the trees, pine trees; and then boom! You're at the heliport, within a minute, it seems like; there's a very short flight, put me down. Kind of come out, they take me out of the helicopter, and then the guy Mark Law, I still remember, kind of grabs me roughly by the upper arm. And like leads me over -- and I always joke about it being my Hannibal Lecter moment -- because there's the helicopter hangar there, which is this huge open space, and there's one chair sitting in the middle of this, with like hundreds of feet all around it. And they lead me in, and they put me in this chair. And unfortunately there's a picture of that, too, but that's been lost in time -- of me sitting there in this chair, in my little sunglasses, and this little, and my Nike Aqua Socks and this yellow flame-retardant suit, handcuffed to the leather belt. So I'm kind of there; I don't know if they have to wait for somebody or whatnot. But then they take me to the Grand Canyon holding cell, which is like an old western one-room jail house somewhere. I don't, couldn't tell you where it is; not a very big place. And at this point, too, they; so they put me into this holding cell, and I'm able to change clothes finally, so I'm finally able to, once I'm in the cell, I'm able to take off the little flight suit, get out of the Baggylights; just kind of put on regular clothes.

And they're kind of waiting for transport, because at this point they transport me to the county jail here in Flagstaff. And I remember, too, because I'm sitting in the back, and they handcuff me again for the trip in. So I'm handcuffed, sitting in the van. But it was kind of a classic thing, because everybody I talk to, who wasn't Mark Law, was all, like everybody was very serious because this was a big thing; you know, it's a big thing to fly a helicopter in there, arrest somebody. And, but even the guy who drove me in -- nice young guy -- he was very serious; and then, we start kind of talking about what happened, and then he kinda kept getting confused, as did kind of the junior ranger, who took the photo of me, at the base of the canyon. Was kinda getting confused, about like, wait, you were on the permit? And you just put-on late? And I was like, yeah! And he's like, and we flew a helicopter in to get ya. And it's like, yeah. And he was kinda like, huh? And so it was interesting on that, however long it takes, that hour trip or whatever it is, from the South Rim to Flagstaff. How his whole demeanor towards me changed. Because, as I say, it was very business-like at the beginning, and then... And you probably never been to the Flagstaff County Jail, but they have the old, double-door system; you know, that one door goes up, the van drives in, the door goes down, now you're in there; and they lead me in. And luckily I have money at this time, because all I'm thinking is like, ooh, you know, I'm just going to get thrown into jail for the night. But I get led in, still in handcuffs...

TM: I'm going to jump in and ask you, did you appear before a magistrate at the South Rim, at all?

BT: Not yet, but I do. So this is on Wednesday, remember; so it's like a Wednesday afternoon, Wednesday evening.

TM: Five, well, it'll be six o'clock now, six thirty? It's...

BT: Probably. It might be, when I get out of the jail, it's dark, I remember, but that's about all I remember.

TM: Okay. So let's back up; now you're, the doors close, you're...

BT: They lead me in. Sheriff's there, or a deputy -- you know, not sure -- deputy's there. Looks at the ranger and says, "What's the charge?" Ranger says, "Failure to obtain a permit." And, and the deputy kind of looks at me, looks at the ranger, looks back at me, and says, "I think we can take the handcuffs off him now." And it was kind of like, thank you, you know. And he says, "Can you pay the \$500 bond?" And it was like, "Yes." And he's like, "I'll have you out of here in five minutes." And so, kind of the experience was the non-Park Service personnel were kind of like, what is up? You know, why are we doing this? So within -- because I'd been able to collect money at the bottom, I had the 500; from the other people on the trip, I had the \$500. Paid the bond right there, and they fingerprinted me and photographed me, and boom -- I was out on the street in Flagstaff. With an order to appear before the magistrate, up in the Park, on Friday morning.

So now I'm dumped on to the streets, get a hotel someplace; someplace I can walk to. You know, just walking around with my little drybag, in Flagstaff. Totally bummed; just kind of the reality of this whole thing. And kind of get dropped into this, you know, find a little cheap hotel and kinda hang out; and basically, and have to figure out how to get back to the Park, back to the Park on Friday morning. Which, I think I just took a tourist shuttle -- I don't know, it was some sort of a tourist shuttle back up there. You know, I just kind of hang out in the hotel, don't do anything. Wish I would've called some more people and gotten advice; because there's lots of, because I actually have friends who are arrested on the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Who I could've learned a lot from, if I would've called them. Having, them having dealt with being arrested with the Park Service; which could have greatly changed kind of the outcome at the magistrate; what happens in front of the magistrate.

So Friday I go up there, can't remember what time; basically it's me and the four or five other people. And basically everybody else there, are basically seasonal workers, who are underage and got drunk. And so I was the big fish, because it's all these poor 18-year-old kids who drank a beer and got caught; and are having to appear before the magistrate. And they're all, I don't know, it's like, I can't remember, it's all these little, it's like, okay, 30 days, don't do it again; and whatever. So I come up, and they lay the case out to me, and I'm being charged with two things. I'm being charged with failure to obtain a permit, and failure to comply with a lawful request. And at this point, and you know I don't have any representation at this point. And how do I plead? And it's kind of like, and to the failure to comply with the lawful request, it's kind of like, what's, what's this about? And it was, in some ways, it was kind of my loss of innocence with police forces, and telling the truth; because the two rangers, who were at the beach in Phantom, had reported that they had tried to call me, and our group, to the side, and that we had sprinted by, without complying to their request. Even though there was 20 people on the trip who would testify that we stood around on the beach for 10 or 15 minutes with the ranger sitting right next to us, not saying a word. So I was kind of like, ay!

And then, so basically it gets laid out that I can plead guilty; my two choices are to plead guilty, or come back to Phoenix in, like, sometime that summer, like July; and have a case. I'm not informed at the time, which I've learned later -- which is why I wish I would've called my friends -- that I could have had, because it's a federal court, technically, I could've had it transferred to my home district. And so I could've had it tried in Eugene, at any time. So, and, yeah, it would've been thrown out, or a little slap on the wrist. So I... And the problem is, you -- 'cause I don't think it's going to be that big of a deal; you know, it's like how big's the penalty going to be here? And the problem is, the kayak school I work at is nine days on, five days off. You take a weekend off, you're taking a week off, because you're taking one school off. So you have to take a, so basically you almost end up with a two-week window with no work. Which is a \$1000. You earn approximately \$1000, plus the cost and the expense of coming to Phoenix to fight the thing. So it's like, well, I don't want to do all this. And he's laid out the case at the bottom, which was a 100 percent correct; I don't know that they don't really have any evidence of this. But to me it's like, well, they know the case, and I am guilty. I did put-on late, and I knew it was against the rules. You know, this whole failure to comply to a lawful request was kind of a different thing; but this other stuff was like, well, I am guilty. So it's kind of like, it's like, why fight it? I minds well just plead guilty. So I plead guilty, at that point, and it's, the penalty's passed down then, and it's a \$750 fine. And then it's a five-year ban from the Park, and three years' supervised probation. Is the penalty that's passed down. Which I'm kind of shocked by, all of this; because it's like, oh, that's so much more than what I thought. So I leave the -- it's funny, but there's all these other stories here -- so...

TM: Like what?

BT: Oh, no -- I'll get to it in a second; so -- the one good thing that came out of it. So I leave and it's like, oh; because of my racing -- and I qualified for the team on the Skykomish; it's like, oh, I'm flying to Europe in like a month. You know, or six weeks, something like this, to race. And so it's like, ooh! I have to get my case moved from Phoenix to Eugene, to get a new probation officer.

TM: Did you know you could do that? Or did you learn...

BT: Yes, maybe I'd learned it there. That I'd have to transfer it home; because I needed to do this, to get approval, now, to leave the country. And I'm just like, oh my goodness -- I can't believe that this might sacrifice... So I call my probation, and I'm given a probation officer's number, name and number. And it must be mid-day now, and so I call him, down in Phoenix. And it's like, okay, I've just been assigned to you, I need to get permission to leave the country. And he's like, "Well, I don't know about you leaving the country." And it's just like, I'm just like, oh. He's like, "Tell me about your case." So I give him the quick run-down -- it's like, I have no, I've never been arrested before, I'm a college graduate, I put-on two days late, they arrested me; failure to obtain a permit. And he was just like, "Grr, why do they give me people like you!" It's like, "Do they have any clue what my job is?" He goes, "My job is not to watch people like you." And he goes, "I'll make you a deal. He goes, "I'm keeping your case here, and I never want to hear from you again." So, that was my entire experience with being on probation, was that. So.

Okay, so the other story I thought of, which is the, I would say the only good thing about this happening, is that before I put-on, I'd heard there'd, there was a drown, not a drowning but a heart attack victim, below Crystal, that'd been evacuated. And it turns out that the person who I, Gary Stott -- who I went on the two-month trip with -- he was on the trip in front of me, and it was his father. Had had a heart attack and passed away, right below Crystal. And so, and his services -- so this was on Friday, and his services are actually that next Saturday, back in Eugene. So, because this happened, I

can't remember if I flew home that Friday, or that next Saturday, but I was able to go to my best friend's father's, who'd taken me on all the trips, and was the guy who took me on the '83 trip. Was able to go to his services there. So, which was kind of the, as I say, if there's one kind of bright spot in the whole thing, it was that I was able to make those services. So.

TM: Nice; yeah. Yeah, that's important.

BT: Yeah, it was; kind of looking back. So. So then what I learned after the trip, because then, two weeks after the trip, or whatever, my friends get off the trip. And I get the back story of, well, kind of what happened; and that Walt had been -- the two rangers were there to meet him. Told him to go up and call the Park Service. The Park Service had threatened to pull the entire trip off the water and, unless he fessed up. And it turns out what had happened is, that, they had tape recorded my call in the fall. And so they actually had a tape record of that. And that chances are what had happened was the group that I'd gotten water from, on the paddle down, had somebody in their trip who'd broken their leg --and they were waiting for medical evac -- mentioned to the Park Service that they'd seen a solo kayaker go by. They checked their records, and realized that they had a phone call, a taped phone call from me, from six months earlier, asking for details about how to join a trip in progress, around that time. And figured that the two were related, but didn't know how. So that they had threatened Walt; and so all the information that I was confronted with, but from Mark Law, had all come from Walt. And so the thing is, they -- and what I kind of assumed, from the fact that they had the failure to comply with a lawful request -- was, the plan was to apprehend me at Phantom Ranch. And they kind of had all the information at that time, but that they wanted to fly the helicopter, to pull me out. Because they could've apprehend, they could've had me stopped there. They kind of had all this information there, or they could've delayed our trip. But they wanted to fly. So, the story got changed, that we didn't stop at Phantom; they tried to, and then they got to fly the helicopter in and pull me out. So.

TM: Okay. Did the Park do a press release on that, do you know?

BT: Far as I know, there was nothing. You know, it kinda became a story in Eugene, a little bit. Some friends -- I used to work for a rafting, kayaking store called Cascade Outfitters. So I kinda knew a lot of the local rafters and kayakers. Somebody was down there doing a Grand Canyon trip, and actually went and -- because I didn't get my boat back; they, the boat was kind of impounded. And so like, they actually stopped by, without even requesting, and picked up the boat. Which was great; so was able to get the boat back home, and I think the paddle, too. Because they had the boat and the paddle for a while. And then, so I used to teach -- kind of backing up a little bit -- I used to teach kids' kayaking classes, in Eugene. And it turns out one of the kids, who was kind of really getting into kayaking, his dad was an attorney in federal court. So they knew the story. And a lot of people, everybody kind of in the river running scene in Eugene, knew the story. And it turns out that the federal judge, I think, was a rafter. And so this, the father of this kid -- I can't remember his name -- asked me, he's like, "Oh, hey, I'm having lunch" -- this is like a year later -- "...having lunch with a federal judge. Do you want me to see about getting this expunged?" And it's like, love to! Great! So he, you know, talks to the judge; the judge knows the story. It's just like, oh, God, I'll do this, I'll look into this. Calls the Park Service, and it was, it's interesting to me because the Park Service had no objection to it being expunged. So it turned into a very simple case; and this is, as I say, a year to 18 months later, that; and as I say, they didn't object. And the whole thing was expunged, off the record. It was probably a year or two after that, because I was working for Cascade Outfitters, we have a catalog; we were trying to do kind of a master

list of how to get permits, how to apply. And I was the one phoning around to all the different agencies; 'cause, you know, couldn't do it online back then. And trying to figure, kind of gather the information. And when, I remember when I called the Grand Canyon -- so this would've been, say, '85, '86 -- get this woman...

TM: '95, '96? Sorry.

BT: Yeah, sorry, sorry, sorry. Right. No, no, so then it would've been -- I'm sorry, I was going off the '83 thing. So it would've been like '93, '94. Couple, couple years later. I call the Park Service, to get all the information 'cause we're trying to publish the permit information. Talking to this woman, tell her who I am, and kind of we go through all this thing. And she gives me all this information, or agrees to send it to us. The end of the phone call, it's kind of like, so how's your kayak racing going? And it's like, wow! I must be kind of an infamous person down there, that here it is, several years later, this woman in the river, on the river team, obviously knows who I am.

TM: Would that have been Susan Cherry?

BT: No idea. No clue. But you could ask, if you know her.

TM: I do know her, and she was the river permits office manager. An incredible woman, who was in that seat, at that time. And she would have known your name from that event.

BT: Right. So, but yeah; and then so that's kind of... And then it was, I hadn't been... So then the next time, I had the opportunity, so, got on the waiting list -- took forever; had kids, kids were too young to go. And finally when my youngest was getting old enough, they transition off the waiting list, but I didn't get on; I had, you know, whatever the bonus points were. And we kind of entered this window of, like, ooh, my youngest is old enough, and my oldest is still at home. Now's the time to start applying, and so this would've been 2011. And we got one the first time. And I can't remember how many bonus points I had; but we got one the first, I don't know, our first attempt. And so we were able to, kind of go back, in 2012. Which was kind of the next time, and it was kind of an emotional experience! Because you get down there, 'cause it's, you kind of realize how much had been tied up with that. And how it just kind of, kind of the defeat of being arrested and flown out of there. And so, yeah, it's a long time; you know, 20-something years later; to kind of finally get back down there. And then it was great to be able to do it with family and friends. So. And then been lucky enough to do it several times since. So.

TM: And today, the first of December in 2018, you're here in Flagstaff with your son. And drove up to our house with a kayak on the top of the truck, and a dory behind the truck. Is that your son's kayak on there?

BT: No, John actually decided to ride in the dory; that he'd rather ride in the dory with me than be by himself.

TM: Well, how cool is that?

BT: And so, but he may, since we're all a little bit older now, so he may end up kayaking, if some of the other kayakers have sore backs, he'll hop in, hop in the boats. But he made the decision to ride with me,

and also I wanted a high-sider. You know, that's one thing I heard talking to people, it's like, you want a high-sider in the front of the boat. So my son John, and then there's actually another person who's coming to join; so I'll have two passengers in the front. It's kind of fun because it's a boat that I built a couple of years ago; so I get to row a boat, row a dory down that I built two years ago. So, which is kind of; and I think as a kayaker, who's kind of turned to much more family rafting, recently; it's like, oh, okay, well this is as close as you can get to kayaking. And the thing that I'll enjoy, which I don't have in rafting, is I don't get nervous rafting. Because in all the paddling we did, and the hard stuff we did, nothing's that difficult. So there's not that much nervousness in there; whereas, I'll be feeling it a lot more on this trip in the dory, than I have in years.

TM: 'Cause you built it...

BT: Built it, and there's consequences. You know, in different places. And I've never done a winter trip, so it's; I've done three summer trips; I've done, basically: a fall trip, arrested on the spring trip, and I've done three summer trips. So it'll be a totally different water level. So it's also; I have a great memory for rapids, but I know the summer higher water level lines; I don't know any of the, you know; and it'll be a challenge for me because none of the kayakers, on their previous trip, even stopped to scout anything. So, on the ones I want to scout, it's gonna have to be the really quick rundown, take a quick, the quick look, and just run back up as fast as I can.

TM: My suggestion to you is take your time, to get your craft down the river safely. They won't mind.

BT: Yeah. We'll figure, it'll be, we'll be able to; it sounds like there's a few, you know, Hance, Horn, Crystal, probably.

TM: You wait, they'll be playing in their little play holes down there. You take your time.

BT: We're all old; we're not playing in the holes down there! It's going to be cold.

TM: This has been a wonderful interview. Bryan, is there anything else about this event that you would like to bring out before we wrap things up?

BT: Um, I think, you know, kind of covers it; I think I was, that was actually a pretty thorough telling of the story. Yeah, I think that covers it. So, I don't know if you have any questions for clarification on it?

TM: I don't. Bryan Tooley, thank you so very, very much for allowing us to do this Grand Canyon oral history. My name is Tom Martin. Today is December 1st, 2018, and I just want you to have an incredible trip.

BT: Well, thank you. Thank you, Tom.

TM: Thank you.

END of Bryan Tooley interview.