

**Transcription:** Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral History

**Presenter(s):** Tom Martin (TM); Steve Grossman (moderator (SG); Chuck Graf (CG) and Dave Ganci (DG) with Glenn Rink (GR); Alan Doty (AD); Bob Packard (BP); Sean Peters (SP); Bruce Grubbs (BG) and Chauncey Parker (CP); George Bain (GB); Stan Mish (SM) and Bill Hatcher (BH)

**Subject:** Granitica – Rock climbing in Grand Canyon

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**Keys:** Grand Canyon Climbing History

(TM): Today is March 5, 2016. We are at the Museum of Northern Arizona at the first ever Grand Canyon Granitica with Steve Grossman. This is the afternoon session of the first day, Saturday.

**Steve Grossman introduces Chuck Graf (CG) and Dave Ganci (DG) presentation. Glenn Rink (GR) also speaks (14:37)**

All right everybody, back for the second half of day one here. Next presentation's gonna be on Angel's Gate which is a quadruple summited formation. The first pair of people to come up and talk about this is gonna be Dave Ganci again and...

Audience comment: Oh, no! (laughter)

...Chuck Graf. Chuck Graf's lifetime love of the Grand Canyon began in 1965 when his Coronado High School, which is in Scottsdale, geology teacher led an overnight Kaibab to Bright Angel backpack trip, camping at Burro Springs. He immediately caught the Canyon Virus, which started a long succession of Canyon backpack trips and a smattering of river trips over nearly every major holiday during his university years and beyond. On a trip to Clear Creek in 1968 he became mesmerized with Angel's Gate having just joined the Arizona Mountaineering Club in November of '67 to learn rock climbing. Chuck now relishes living in Tucson after too many decades of living in the Phoenix heat island, where he's a hydrologist with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. So let's bring to the stage with a round of applause Chuck Graf and Dave Ganci. (applause)

**Start Chuck Graf (CG) and Dave Ganci (DG) presentation on Angel's Gate**

CG: Thanks very much. I'll just speak from the floor, I'll wait till Dave gets up here. It is a pleasure to be here today and it's really a pleasure to meet some people that I haven't seen in many, many decades. So, yeah, this is Angel's Gate from the window of a small plane. I'll get into that in just a moment. As Steve mentioned, Angel's Gate is really four separate summits in the Coconino Sandstone. The main highest summit on the left side there. Then the three summits have been called Snoopy for years and years and years. They have the stomach and the feet of Snoopy, which you can't quite see in this picture. Probably most everyone knows where it is, but it sits on the end of the Cape Royal promontory below Wotans Throne between the Clear Creek and Bishop Creek drainages. For those of you who are sort of Canyon place name geeks, who named Angel's Gate? At least hear something (audience laughter). I have a prize if you guess the right name. (audience comments) Who?

Audience: How about me? (laughter)

CG: Well, Art Sabriner, but he knows who it is. Who is it, Art?

Art: George Wharton James.

CG: George Wharton James. Art gets the prize here. (laughter, applause) He named it in the book *In and Around the Grand Canyon* in 1900, and said "Standing between these great structures and ourselves are the buttes that make up the interesting Angel Gate (which was singular) which I so-named on account of the following legend which is an Indian legend." Actually the first photo of Angel's Gate, where it's named, is in that same book here. That would be Angel's Gate right there. I mentioned the backpack that I made in 1968. It just sort of mesmerized me because from almost any angle Angel's Gate towers up over you. A couple years later I started working for Dave Ganci at High Adventure headquarters in Phoenix, a backpacking and climbing shop there, and found out that he was also mesmerized by Angel's Gate. So we kind of hatched a plan to go and climb Angel's Gate. 1970, Harvey Butchart had his first volume and this is the sole mention of Angel's Gate in his first volume of *Grand Canyon Treks*, "Deer trail goes down the bed of the ravine heading northwest between Howland's Butte and Angel's Gate." We figured, well, we probably needed a little more information than that. So we did an air reconnaissance, which we could do then. Gary Robertson was the pilot and Dave Ganci, myself, Mary Loveless and we flew in the Camp Trails Beech Bonanza. Circled around Angel's Gate a couple times, as I remember, trying to snap pictures through the window. There is Snoopy laying on his doghouse and the main mass of Angel's Gate to the right. Then we kind of end up flying toward the west past Holy Grail Temple and Mount Sinyala and flew back up Havasu Creek actually in time for a late breakfast back at Sky Harbor airport in Phoenix that morning. A couple months later, we headed down into this, the beginning of our adventure into our seven-day backpack to Angel's Gate. Jim Strickland, who accompanied us to the base of the climb, and then our well known actor (laughter) Dave Ganci. In those days we were carrying incredibly heavy loads, we felt like Sherpas. Angel's Gate beckoning out there. In our air route, it looked like we had found this route up the Redwall there out of Clear Creek. We did go up that and actually it was not anything to even really challenge us very much up to the saddle between Angel Gate and Wotans Throne. Here we make the saddle up between Angel's Gate and Wotans Throne. We actually established the camp there at the saddle.

DG: That's that George Bain to the right. (laughter)

CG: So there's a map of it and where our camp was at the saddle. We had come out of Clear Creek that morning and made it up to the saddle and then we're going to reconnoiter and walk up to the base of Angel's Gate if we could get to it. Harvey Butchart in his 1984 [*Grand Canyon*] Treks III does mention this route through the Redwall we found, that we scored the first ascent of. Climb was not too difficult but for a few yards there's a feeling of exposure. Frankly, I don't even remember that. Do you, Dave? I mean, it just seemed like a little short climb up. So there we are walking from the saddle on up. This is Dave contemplating an earlier first ascent he did. We kind of circled at the base of the Esplanade in the Supai trying to find a route up. We actually weren't very picky. We didn't spend very much time really trying to find a walk up. We just figured let's just find something quick and easy. We found an area where you could make it up most of the way and then actually a pretty simple pitch up to the very top of the Esplanade. Had to smash through a bunch of old branches, I think that was a pinyon tree up there, to get through it. Throwing the rope back down. We made it up onto the Hermit Shale near the base of Angel's Gate. Jim Strickland, myself. It was quite impressive. Really you can see this from everywhere in the Canyon. Just very impressive.

This is Dave. Whose idea was this anyway (laughs)? Then looking back toward... That was Snoopy, of course, this is the main summit with that kind of breaking wave of Coconino Sandstone over the Hermit Shale there. What we did, actually, is we kind of circled around and we found a good place to rappel back off the Supai, sort of a direct, full-length, rope rappel off the Supai, and came back down to our camp at the saddle. The next morning we got up and Jim Strickland headed back to the South Rim and Dave and I jumared back up our ropes that we left coming down off the Supai, right at that corner right there. This is starting to jumar back up the Supai. Dave coming up. (pause) Finally over the top. We decided in looking at those three summits of Snoopy, that we would try to look at the easiest one which is Snoopy's stomach. Kind of racking up here to go up that. You can see the 'cutting edge' equipment back in that day. I brought these three incredibly heavy sort of aluminum angle iron chocks, right there. Just huge and heavy. And had a whole rack of big Chouinard angles and large angles and bongs.

So anyway, we start the climb up Snoopy's stomach. Up, up and away. Then looking up from the bottom. Glen was talking about these planar surfaces and this is just an incredible climb with planar surfaces. It fell off to the left vertically, fell off to the right vertically. Then there's just sloping surface just going on up there and then the crossbedding was at another angle. It's just a really, really spectacular pitch. Looking back down at Dave coming up with Snoopy's nose in the background. We made it to the top. We actually took a couple tries of actually reaching Snoopy's toes from the top of Snoopy's stomach. We made a couple of tries. Dave rappelled down and I decided I wanted to make maybe one more try at getting across to Snoopy's toes. So Dave put me on belay and tried to make the stretch over there (audience wows and talking). But, alas, it was not to be. I then rappelled down. It was two rappels down all the way to the bottom. This is us looking. Well, we at least got that one done, Snoopy's stomach. The big one/the main peak, which was our next objective, behind us. We actually ended up bivouacking that night right below the main peak up there. Spectacular bivouac. An incredible sense of remoteness up there. Under a full moon.

The next day we were going to attempt the main peak. This is my recollection of the route, at least the first pitch. The first pitch started somewhere in there and climbed this wall up here to somewhere there. Then the second one, which I remember better since I led that one, goes up this crack essentially all the way to the summit here. Here I am belaying Dave on the first pitch with Snoopy behind us. On the second pitch I carried those things all the way and finally got a chance to use one of them, one of those heavy ones. This is Dave following me up past the crux and we made it to the summit. Then our rappels off. Then the last rappel back down right off that sweeping wave of Coconino Sandstone.

Harvey Butchart in his article in the *Journal of Arizona History* in spring '76 did mention the climb. Said "it took patience and hard work for Chuck Graf and his companions" meaning Dave (laughs) "to approach Angel's Gate before they could use their expertise with the tools." Presumably our picks and shovels. (laughter) So, this is our trek back. It was incredibly heavy packs. I think we were exhausted, crack a smile. The climb was covered, I think Steve mentioned, or someone mentioned, that there's just really only been a few articles on climbing in the Grand Canyon. There was one in *Mountain* '77 that had this one picture and featured this one picture of climbing Angel's Gate. It said something, or maybe someone knows about this, "it's a first ascent of a difficult to reach from either Angel's Gate and otherwise attracted the Coconino Sandstone Temple that had repulsed a group of Colorado climbers two years earlier." I did not even know that at the time of the article. I still know nothing about that. Does anyone know anything about that?

Who's climbed Angel's Gate? Great. Was there a hand in the back? Okay, couple hands out there. That's kind of the end. We had a great trip back. It was the end of a great trip. With that I will end. (applause)

Or maybe not. So we were at the top of Snoopy's stomach and we're looking over at Snoopy's nose going this is not going to happen this trip. Neither did Snoopy's toes happen this trip. We were on the summit, we called the Woodstock Summit because you remember in the Peanuts cartoon Woodstock always used to sit on Snoopy's stomach on the doghouse. That leads me to the next slide and that's finishing the job with Glenn.

Glenn Rink (GR): Well, I ended up over there with John Mattson and Mike Lake. Michael was a old climbing partner of mine from Yosemite, we'd done a route on Half Dome together, and Madsen was my neighbor so these guys got wrangled in. I was kind of the ringleader of this thing.

George Bain: You might clarify which Mattson that is.

GR: Oh, yeah. Well, there'll be a picture later, I'll talk about that then. (laughter) There was a John Mattson that lived in Flagstaff that was an extremely good climber. Very clean living Christian man who climbed 5.12 pretty regularly. This is not that guy. (audience laughter) Anyway, our main intent on this trip was actually to go climb that southwest face of whatever that was called.

GR: The one George talked about, and Zoroaster. Then I just thought, shit, we got all this crap down here, let's go back down to Clear Creek, hike across, go up this thing and go fool around with this deal. So we got up there, the three of us. We climbed the doghouse first then we ran around the corner to the right here. We just went around that corner and we were able to go up between the toe and the stomach and summit the stomach. Then I looked down and I saw that bolt down there. I knew that was Chuck's bolt. I was so disappointed because that looks like such a stunning thing to climb up that thing. It was just like, wow, we did this crappy little thing to get up here. But we were able to swing across that gap and get over to the toe, which was good. At that point in time, we went back down to our camp which was in the saddle. The next morning Mike Lake had had enough. This was his first experience in Grand Canyon. He didn't really get the virus. (audience laughter) But that was good cause we were low on water. Me and John were still psyched so we went up there and I really wanted to climb Snoopy's nose. There's a picture of me and Mike Lake. Our route on the thing, I can point it out, goes up this corner right here. It's kind of interesting, somebody asked me recently, "What was your favorite climb in the Grand Canyon?" Always a dangerous, bad question, right? But this thing comes to mind. It was really a fabulous route. Some classic Grand Canyon choss, really nice corner with hand crack, a little bit of offwidth, one of my favorites. There was a big overhanging offwidth at the top that really scared the crap out of us. I won't tell you how we got around that but we did have to climb that. That's one of the great things about climbing is the unknown. On this particular climb we didn't know if we were gonna be able to summit till we actually got there. That's one of the parts of a really good climb as far as I'm concerned.

Yeah, so John Mattson, this guy is a North Dakota farm boy that ended up in Aspen. Ski bum, just total fun hog. He's got some models in life that I can tell you about later. He's been very successful at having a lot of fun in life. I think that's all I really had to say about this thing. Let's see if there's another picture. No, that's it. End. Thank you. (applause)

Oh, maybe I do have one more thing to say. Since this was such a great climb, I've been waiting all these years for somebody else to go do it and tell me what they thought. It's never happened. A lot of people have actually been to Angel's Gate, they typically climb the doghouse or maybe they climb the stomach. Even somebody that just emailed me recently, I was so eager, I said "What happened, what'd you do,

what happened?" They wrote back and said, "Well, we climbed the doghouse and then we climbed something else." This route has not had a repeat as far as I can tell.

Audience: What's it rated?

GR: It's 5.9. (audience laughter) Well, there's Dave Ganci's rating.

DG: Just one more quick note from Uncle Dave here is I think the reason might be the same reason that a lot of these buttes waited a long time to be approached, at least for us/for me, was the canyoneering part of it. Getting there, finding the route. I actually went and talked to Harvey Butchart, my only time I got to talk with him, up in Flagstaff about going up that canyon to get up the Redwall. When it's unknown like that, everything is kind of like slowed down cause you're not sure. When you know, you go like hell. When you're not sure you're kind of hesitant. I think personally that unless you have water there, and I'm speaking to people probably that haven't done things in the Canyon, water's still that key. If you've got water somewhere, on the ground somewhere, to me that's the key. To future climbers. I encourage, again I'm sounding like this is kind of the end of the line as I'm preaching to people, but my time is short and I would like to say the Canyon my first love. I'd like to see young people go in and do things. Even if they don't climb, just the adventure of getting there is a whole adventure. I think a lot of people would agree. Even if you're not a climber, just getting to the base of these things is really neat and I'll leave you with that.

**End Chuck Graf and Dave Ganci presentation (00:37:53)**

**Steve Grossman introduces Alan Doty (AD) presentation (00:38:01)**

Thanks guys. Scott Baxter was supposed to introduce Alan Doty but unfortunately his father's dealing with some health issues and he got pulled away from this event, so I'm gonna introduce Alan a little bit. He came up to NAU in 1966, got involved in the hiking club and started looking around to the places that were off-trail like a lot of people do. I think a lot of us kind of had that evolution. We walked around and we started thinking about getting up things. He has done quite a bit of climbing and in my research for this event a mutual thing about Alan is that a lot of these summits he reached solo, which takes a particular kind of individual. Misery loves company but apparently misery does not require it. (audience laughter) On that note let's bring to the stage with a warm round of applause, Alan Doty. (applause)

**Start Alan Doty (AD) presentation on Isis Temple, Thor, Hancock, Wallace, Tyndall (00:39:07)**

AD: Thank you very much. Well, I was asked to talk about Isis Temple. I climbed Isis back in September of 1970. There were four of us that started out on the trip but unfortunately I was the only one that made it to the top. One almost did. I was trying to encourage him to come on but he decided not. But anyway, I'm gonna start talking about the route. This is the Tiyo Point. Some people pronounce it Tee-o, I've always pronounced it Tyo Point. Tiyo Point is actually kind of right over in there. There's a road out to the point. You can park there and then you can walk the forest over this direction. There's a nice route down into a ravine and then you can traverse the Toroweap out to somewhere about right in there, kind of a game trail. Then there's a nice little break in the Toroweap there and you can climb right on down through the Coconino to Sheba Saddle. Sheba Temple's off to the left. The best way, for those of you that have not been off the Tiyo Point route, really the best way to approach that is not go all the way to the point but rather there's a little road that branches off, right before you get to the point it kind of goes off and to the west. You go out there then you don't have to go down across a big ravine, you just

go straight on up right into that ravine that leads you down off and into the canyon. That's definitely the best way to do that. This is getting off of Sheba. (technical pause) The route that we used is kind of over to the left here, to get down through the Esplanade. It was not difficult, everybody scrambled down. There's the route off. This is Jan Jensen, by the way. Jan Jensen, Ellen Tibbetts and Jim Sears was with me on this. That's Jan shimming down through someplace on the Esplanade. This is looking out toward Isis.

We made several mistakes on this whole journey, which is typical with me. (laughs) Made a lot of mistakes. Mistake number one, we should have left later on that day and maybe camped right there. That way we would have had the whole day to climb the peak and come back. But as it turned out we didn't do that, we kept going so we got caught out after dark. There's a little closer up of Isis. This is kind of the northwest corner, you can see the summit up there. This is a view taken from, I think I took this from the Colonnade and I just put it in here to show you a different angle of Isis. Unfortunately, I don't have any photographs of the route going up Isis itself so I'll have to kind of show you what we did. We traversed the top of the Redwall all the way out to here and then climbed up through here on this little cliff right there. Apparently, according to Harvey Butchart, this was the cliff that stopped Merrill Clubb. We found a break right there almost on the end, a little break going up. Then this was mistake number two, second mistake. We traversed to the right to get through the Esplanade and that was the wrong way to do it. I understand that the better route is to the left. But anyway, we traversed to the right and somewhere right in there we found a terrible route up through the Esplanade. In fact, it was bad enough that I remember Jan had to kind of give me a boost, kind of stood on me, took his hands like this and I reached up and grabbed a limb and pulled myself up. That's where Jim and Ellen decided to call it quits. They stayed there. Jan kept going with me and I lowered the rope down for him. He came on up and... This is another view of Isis, this photograph was taken from the top of Cheops Pyramid, different time. I just put this in here to kind of show you that's that little middle cliff there that supposedly stopped I think Merrill Clubb. The route is somewhere right in there. The route that we used to get up the Esplanade was, I think, just around this next corner. This is a view from the top of Buddha which is a pretty decent view of Isis. There is the traverse all the way down. Climbed up through here somewhere. There's the little middle cliff, and then the route through the Esplanade goes right in there. Anyway, bad choice, should have gone the other way.

Here's another mistake we made. Jan and I got this crazy/dumb idea that we would climb the lower summit first and then walk over to the high summit. (laughter) As you can see from here, it doesn't look very promising. Anyway, the climb up the lower summit was a nice, easy walk up but the climb or traverse over to the saddle there was terrible. There was one place that we had to drop down. I had to lower myself down and I let myself fall onto a sloping ledge and that's where Jan said, "This is it, no more." So he left and went back. I kept going and I was able to get down to where I could see this rockslide down into the Hermit. I hollered at him, I said "Jan," I said, "go on back down the way we came up and traverse around and come up here. I'll wait for you cause it goes." He didn't, he chose not to do it. So that's kind of a disappointment cause I wanted Jan to make it cause he made it all the way to there. Then the next one is up that ridge up to the summit. There's the cairn that I built, ridiculous tall cairn. This is from the summit looking north to the Colonnade and Oza Butte over to the right of that. Then looking back to the south. That's looking down that ridge to the south summit and over to the South Rim. This is just from the summit again, this would be looking straight east over to Angel's Gate, Zoroaster, Brahma, Diva, and Wotans Throne.

We made it back to... Here's another mistake. As I mentioned earlier, we made a lot of mistakes. We should have camped here and then we would've had all day to get up to the summit and back and camp

at the same spot. But, no, we chose to keep going, and as a result of that we were hiking back in the dark. It was no moon and here's the clincher, we had no flashlights (laughter), yeah. I didn't remember that until I read my notes, no flashlights. So we were just stumbling along the top of the Redwall in the dark. Going from juniper tree to juniper tree, hoping we wouldn't fall off the Redwall. It was just really, really dark. This was the next morning. This was eastern sun coming up on the Tower of Set. That's it for Isis.

There should be one of Thor. You asked that I talk about Thor. Unfortunately I only have one picture of Thor. This was taken much later. Scott Baxter took this picture. Scott and I climbed Thor I think it was 2000, '99 or 2000, somewhere in there. Unfortunately, when I climbed Thor, I climbed it back in '77, a friend of mine from Page, I lived in Page at that time, a friend of mine from Page joined me for a ways and then he let me continue on. But anyway, that's back when I was a pilot. I had an airplane and I flew... That's back before the corridor days, before all the flight routes and so many pilots. I just talked to some of you pilots earlier who remember those days. You could fly anywhere you wanted in the canyon. You didn't have to fly down these special corridors at certain altitude. You could fly anywhere you wanted. So I flew over the Walhalla Glades there for the main purpose to see if I could find a way off the rim to go climb Thor, and I did. I found what looked like a pretty good route off. This is Honan Point here, by the way. I think this is the ravine, yeah, this would be it, this little ravine right here. It goes pretty good. We went off the north side of the Kaibab, dropped into the ravine, then just a walk down in the Toroweap. Walked down all the way in the Coconino. Steep, steep slab walk down but still it went fine. Then when we got to the bottom of the Coconino, we had a nice little spring waiting for us. Looked like it was a pretty healthy spring, one that could be counted on most of the time. Then it was a little bit of a scramble getting down into the Hermit. Then we traversed all the way out here, found quite a few breaks that weren't too bad to get down into the bottom part of the Supai. There's the saddle right there. That's where my friend, Steve Shouse was with me, decided that he would wait, he'd stop there. So I continued on. Dropped down, I had to use a rope there, it was real steep. I'm glad I had a rope because I don't think I'd want to try without. Climbed down there and traversed all the way around here, top of the Redwall, all around the other side. I couldn't find a break through the lower Supai until I got around the other side. Then about right there, where that point sticks out, is where I found the first break and also the second break and also the break in the Esplanade. Break in the Esplanade... The Esplanade is not easy. It was a bit of a slab climb and it looked like a good crack. But it wasn't too long, thank goodness it was only like maybe 40 feet or so. From there on up here, right on over into the Hermit. You're on the Hermit when you get up there. And that's it. Then went back and found Steve there waiting and hiked on back out.

Audience question: You walked all the way back down that traverse, you didn't have a rope?

AD: Yeah. Actually, no, actually I didn't. I went around the other way. You look on the map, the other way is almost the same distance. Yeah, I just went the other way just to go the other way.

Audience member: We went straight off towards the saddle and just dropped a rope.

AD: Yeah.

Audience member: It saved so much time.

AD: Yeah. Yeah. Oh, he did...

Audience member: ...off the summit and just straight back to the saddle.

AD: Oh you did?

Audience member: We did your route.

AD: Okay, you went off the summit, did you rappelled off the summit?

Audience member: Oh, yeah, okay, yeah, that would have saved a lot of time. I didn't have a rope with me, so.

George Bain: It was four or five rappels. They were all pretty short, but there was four or five of them.

AD: Yeah, the only rope I had with me I left there at the saddle tied.

Audience member: No Egyptian artifacts on Isis? (laughter)

AD: I haven't seen any.

Audience member: When was that?

AD: For Isis or Thor? Isis? September 1970.

Dave Ganci: A hot season, too. Did you find any water pockets at all?

AD: On Isis? No, none. I found a nice one going down on the rim on Thor. Nothing on Isis, no water. Okay, I was asked to talk about Wallace and Tyndall and a little bit about Hancock but unfortunately my pictures... I got them onto the disk and I looked at them at home. They looked great and then coming up here for some reason this didn't want to read it so I don't have any photographs of those others, just mine.

Audience member: You can talk about it anyway.

AD: I can talk about it, yeah. Hancock was kind of a neat little summit for the ones that have not done it. One thing that's interesting about it, it's a nice little route off the rim. When you're going out toward Point Imperial, you see this little break and just see a little glimpse of Solomon Peak. Right there is where you go down. There's a little pullout there, or used to be, I don't think the Park Service likes pullouts anymore. I think you probably have to go all the way to Point Imperial now. Anyway, it's a pretty steep, brushy climb down. As well as I remember, it was pretty steep. I think we even had a little rope with us. It was a friend of mine from Page went with me on this one, too. We used a little rope for like the last 30 feet or so in the Coconino. Then it got really brushy. For those of you who have not been out there, there's some of the worst brush. It's all manzanita and it's so bad that there're times you're literally walking on top of the manzanita. Sometimes it crashes through, breaks through up to your neck. It goes for about maybe a hundred yards or so, and then you go by Solomon Butte and then it opens up. We found kind of a steep route off of the Esplanade there. I think we had to use a rope to get down, short rappel. Then went out and found a route up the west side of Hancock. It's not a difficult climb. I think the rating is like 5.2 or something. Stan was not a particularly... He liked hiking, did a little scrambling, but he gave me a belay there. He came up according to my notes. I was thinking he stayed

down, but according to my notes he came up with me on that first pitch. Then, that's where he decided to stop because from there I had to crawl on my hands and knees on a little ledge that had a roof. He looked at that and he says, "No way, I'm going to do that." Anyway, that went to the north, the little ledge went around to the north. When I rounded the corner it was just a walk up to the summit. That was Hancock.

Wallace and Tyndall, those two I did together back in '72. That's when I was living in Williams. Drove up in a day. Got an early start. Got all the way to Bass Camp and according to my notes I got there like at 8:30 or so in the morning so I must have left way too early. Then hiked down Bass Trail. Got down to Wallace. According to my notes I went all the way around Wallace and then went ahead and went up a route that I thought looked possible kind of on the southeast side. I remember there being a mantle, jumping up and grabbing a mantle, pulling myself up. Today I couldn't begin to do something like that. But that was then. Pulled myself up on the mantle and I got up. After that I don't remember it being difficult.

Tyndall on the other hand was a little different story. You know when you do things way back, sometimes you start forgetting how things were. I keep thinking back and I've had people call me, "How did you do Tyndall?" I thought, well, I don't remember it being so difficult. Then I pulled out my notes and according to my notes it was really bad. (audience laughter) So my memory's not too good. According to my notes it was one of the worst things I've done. It was a real steep, *real* steep down-climb in the Redwall where you look down, I could see the saddle. I just took it very, very slow. Checked every handhold, every foothold and take it very slow. I just did one little ledge, little tiny ledge at a time until I got to the saddle. That's just the way I remember doing it. Came back up the same way. But mainly got back sometime late that night to Williams. That's all I have. All right, thanks. (applause)

#### **End Alan Doty presentation (00:56:51)**

SG: All right, let's take a little 15-minute break and we'll come on back in after that.

#### **15 minute Intermission**

#### **Steve Grossman and Paul Davidson (PD) introduce Bob Packard (BP) (1:17:03)**

SG: Our next speaker is Bob Packard and in order to introduce him I need to get Paul Davidson (PD) up here. Where is Paul?

PD: I'm coming. (pause) Steve, so when I heard that you had talked Bob into talking I told Steve let me introduce this guy because I have sort of a unique relationship. I doubt anybody else in the room has had to do their orals in front of Packard (laughter). His first question was, "Can you get me up Buddha." (laughter) Bob, he has quite a history in northern Arizona. For years he would go off and set 10k national age group records. Year after year he would set it. One year him and Ken got trapped on the North Rim, it was quite the event in Flag. There was a rescue sent out for them. They tromped through the snow, came back, Bob spent two weeks in Phoenix in the hospital, a week?

BP: I think it was about four weeks in Flagstaff.

PD: In the hospital. Lost toes, was told he'd never run again, came back, set more records.

BP: I lost a few toenails.

PD: Toenails? (laughter). Later they were running and you ripped a calf muscle, right?

BP: Yep.

PD: Totally ripped it. Was told he wouldn't run again, came back and set more records. What do you have, five, six thousand miles in the Canyon?

BP: Umm hmm, something like that.

PD: Pretty amazing stuff, and now he's into doing 2,000 foot promontories. He's the... What did you tell me, the world leader with 912?

BP: That's the U.S. leader with 912.

PD: We'll call it the world leader, I like that better (laughter). I don't know if anyone else had Dr. Packard as a math professor at NAU but he was one of the top four professors I've had in the years, I would say. He taught mu undergraduate school analysis and he was just a stunningly good teacher. He knew how to present the material in a way that led you to the proofs and made you learn how to understand the mathematics. That takes a very special kind of person, I think, to understand how to teach people like that. So it's my pleasure, this is the second time I've been able to introduce somebody who I think is a legend, and I believe this is the man who really deserves to stand in Doctor Butchart's footsteps because he's the only other math professor... (laughter and applause). ...thousands of miles... Bob Packard.

### **Start Bob Packard (BP) presentation**

BP: Well, first let me say that it's exciting for me to be here rubbing elbows with real, honest-to-goodness climbers like Ganci and Al Doty and people like that cause I do not consider myself an expert technical climber. I consider myself a hiker and a scrambler and I have done quite a bit of the Grand Canyon. I did my first thirty hikes with Harvey Butchart so I kind of consider myself a bridge between Harvey and the people that are climbing in later times. By the way, I came here not to talk, I came here to listen. I am unprepared, I have no slides, so bear with me and I'll try to continue for a few minutes. I took some notes during the prior talks and one of the things I remembered is there are at least three summits in the Grand Canyon where the climb has changed quite a bit since I arrived in Northern Arizona. One of them was on Zoroaster. That's why I was the one that asked about how that has changed. Now, when the climb changed does that make the climb harder or easier? Do you know?

?: Harder on that one.

BP: Harder on that one. Now, another one I think is Newton Butte.

?: Yeah, harder.

BP: Much, much harder. Now, when Ken Walters and I did Newton Butte, there was this gigantic slab that leaned right up against... You probably friction up that slab and then getting to the top was easy. After Ken and I climbed Newton Butte, that thing cracked in the middle and completely collapsed. I don't know how hard Newton Butte is now but I'll bet it might even be aided.

?: It went from 5.0 to 5.8.

BP: Went from 5.0 to 5.9?

?: 5.8.

BP: Yeah? Have you climbed it since that?

?: Both before and after, yeah.

BP: That's Jim Ohlman right there and I have a big, long history with Jim Ohlman. The other one I know about which is even more dramatic is Ehrenberg Butte. Now, I think it was Ohlman and Kirstring, who is here by the way, and myself and Ken Walters went up to do Ehrenberg. We got up there and there's this big, giant flake that was lying up near the wall and I swear I thought they could not make it. They got into this crack between the big flake and the wall and they kind of chimneyed up in there and they dangled a rope down and they said, "Packard, get on the end of that rope cause we're gonna make it." I said, "No, you're not gonna make it." I lost my chance right then and there on Ehrenberg. I stayed down below and son of a gun those three other guys made it. Now, Jim Ohlman later on promised to take me back and get me up there. Jim and I went back there and we got up there where that flake was and the flake was not there (laughter). In other words, there was no crack to shimmy up. I don't know, has anybody climbed Ehrenberg since that?

?: Yeah.

BP: Who has? And how is it rated now?

?: It's pretty scary. I just remember shimmying up some really loose stuff.

BP: Yeah, but I mean, you had no...

?: We had gear.

BP: You had what?

?: We had gear, a light rack.

BP: So that shows you that erosion is occurring in the Grand Canyon these days (laughter). There's at least three summits or three buttes that perhaps you know about that have changed character and in each case the climb had gotten much more difficult. I don't consider myself a big technical climber. I have done plenty of buttes in the Grand Canyon, though. I've done about 166 of them but I haven't done the real hardest ones. For example, I haven't done Zoroaster. I haven't done the Dome. I haven't done Geikie. There's about 10 of them I haven't done. The very first one I did was Pollux Temple. I did that with Harvey Butchart. Al Doty, who talked to you just a little while ago, he also mentioned Tibbetts and Sears, they were along on that trip. Of course, I've been helped by lots and lots of good technical climbers have helped me have a lot of success in the Grand Canyon. I think I've been up every butte that has been mentioned so far in this talk except for Zoroaster and Angel's Gate. Ken Walters got me up Sinyala and Akaba. Ken got me up Isis. Alex Judy got me up Hancock and Hattan. I could go on and on

and on about the technical buttes I've done because of somebody else's expertise. (laughter) My very, very first hike in the Grand Canyon was with Harvey Butchart. Went from Salt Water Wash to Tanner Wash. I didn't know it at the time but that was the first loop of many, many, many loops. I am one of three people who have walked the full length of the Grand Canyon all the way from Lees Ferry to Pierce Ferry on both sides of the river. The first person to do that, perhaps a lot of you must know, was Robert Benson, the illegal alien from Germany. He did both sides, river left and river right, as continuous hikes, and when he finished he committed suicide. (laughter) Don't want to get too much into that (laughter). I can tell you how he did it. He took a tube from the exhaust pipe, put it in the window of his car, made sure the gas tank was full, turned on the engine and went to sleep. The reason for that, we feel that he was in some sort of legal trouble back in Germany and he was being forced to go back to Germany. Then I was the second person to finish both sides. While Benson did both sides as continuous hikes, I did both sides as little pieces over many, many, many years. That first piece, the very, very first hike in the Grand Canyon from Tanner to Salt Water Wash, was with Harvey and somebody else's name I can't remember right now. But I ended up finishing the north side, Surprise to Separation. Jim Ohlman was the only person there to actually witness the actual finishing of the Grand Canyon. Remember that?

Jim Ohlman: I do remember.

BP: Yeah. A very emotional moment for me in my life. See what else I jotted down here. I did both sides piecemeal, but since then Andrew Holycross has finished both sides. He kind of mixed it up. He did the north side as a continuous hike and he did the south side piecemeal. So you have one person who did both sides as continuous hikes, one person who did both sides piecemeal, and one person who did one side one way and one the other. George Bain who talked to you here earlier, there he is right there. It was a real hard technical climb. I could always talk to somebody else and I mentored somebody else to help me up. By the way, that was an aided climb. I think it's the only aided climb I've done in the Grand Canyon. Simple aid, it was just about a 12' section. The rest of it was Class 3 at the most. Mount Hayden is probably the hardest climb I've done in the Grand Canyon. I think its rated 5.7 or 5.8. But, again, I had help with that. I don't think anybody here will know these people that helped me up. Bob Martin, anybody know him? He is the guy that has climbed 3,000 peaks in the state of Colorado and he's climbed the highest 1800 summits in Colorado. Along with him, helped that he was along, was a guy that really got us up was Jody Ross who you also don't know because he's a summiteer from southern Arizona. Anyone here know him, remember Jody Ross? Good technical climber.

And then let's see here. Oh, Sinyala. Everybody who's talked about Sinyala so far has gone in through Supai. Ken and I didn't do it that way. Ken and I did Sinyala and Akaba on the same trip, in a 10-day backpack trip all the way around the thumb. But we came out Supai, that's for sure. Another major hike that I can think of is Siegfried Pyre. Went up there with Harvey and a couple other people. One of the interesting things there is there were four of us and we got up to this certain point on Siegfried Pyre. These other two really cracker jack climbers, Harvey and I decide we can't do it, it's too tough. So we let these other guys go up there and they're working their ass going up this hard place. I look around the corner and I was, "Hey, Harvey, come over here." (laughter) We got to the top before they did. (laughter) That shows that route finding is a big deal.

Another thought to keep in mind has been mentioned by you, I think it was, about the water business. He's true most of the time but there are times when you have to carry water in spite of that. I will never forget the trip to Rah and Set and Osiris. We had to lug like four gallons of water up into that area to do all of those. Boy, talk about hard work. Whew. Let's see. I have 2 first ascents in the Grand Canyon, Dupper and Swilling. Of course, Harvey has 28. I think there was a slide up there that said Harvey had 28.

So Dupper and Swilling was with Harvey. Harvey had lots more first ascents than I did. There's little or no first ascents left except Grays Tower if somebody wants to go do that. But of course, I ended up with like 166 summits and Harvey ended up with about eight. So, yeah, I'll take kind of credit for standing on Harvey's shoulders and kind of basing my career, Grand Canyon Career at least, on his.

Oh, yeah, I got frostbitten in the Grand Canyon. The story there starts at NAU. It was the week before Thanksgiving week and there were trenches all across the NAU campus. It turns out that the heating piping, or whatever it was, needed to be repaired so the construction crew were in there digging campus all up. The contractor actually went to the administration of NAU and said, "Look, we got a dangerous situation here. We're afraid of explosions. I think we've got to get all the students off the campus." When I heard that I went over to Ken Walter, who was teaching photography there at the time. I said, "Ken, this is the time we've been looking for." (laughter) We already had the whole of Thanksgiving week but, of course, we had the weekend before and the weekend afterwards. So because of all that vacation time we went in to do all these buttes. Now, it might take me a minute here to find it, its 1981. (pause) Here we go. We went in the Nankoweap Trail and we climbed Awatubi, Chuar, Galeros, Temple, Carbon, Chuar Lava, Lava, Cochise, Gunther, Chiavria, and Poston all in one trip. When we climbed Poston we were in a blizzard and we were on the North Rim, course the North Rim was closed at the time. We managed to do Poston but the next one there was so much snow and ice we just completely bypassed it and we got off...is it, at Topo Point. Yeah, we got off at Topo Point. Now, it's not all that easy to get out of Topo Point even in good weather. We are in a blizzard, let me tell you. The night before we get out there... By the way, we had no tent, this is a 10-day backpack. Everything's going fine until Poston. That first night we went out to the rim and we had a tarp which we put underneath a tree. During the night I told Ken, "There's something wrong with my feet." It took three days after that to get out. So we got out to the rim and we tried to signal airplanes. That didn't work. We finally got back to my truck, which was...what's the name of that trailhead? My feet, of course they're kind of numb, really they don't hurt all that much but I can tell something's wrong with them. Okay. We get to the truck at something like 10 p.m. It's dark. There's an airplane flying overhead. I get into my camper, turn the lights on, and the plane takes off. The people back here in Flagstaff they tell me that's when they learned that Ken and I were alive. I'll never forget the drive out. 40 miles through two feet of snow on that road that goes out to the Jacob Lake Road. I'll never forget killing rabbits. It's dark, there's these ruts in the road, two feet of snow and there's ruts in it. The rabbits would just get in the rut and they would stay in the rut because it's dark on both sides and then, of course, they'd get tired. But I didn't dare slow up because I was afraid of getting stuck. (laughter) I didn't have four-wheel drive. I did have chains on. So that's one of my major stories. I was in the hospital here for something like four weeks. I had to get colleagues to teach my classes. I would make up exams and I'd grade them and stuff like that, but I did not lose any toes. I did come back from that and still set a few U.S. running records, if that. Now, there's probably lots of other things I could mention but since I wasn't prepared for this I don't have any notes.

GB: How many rabbits, Bob (laughter)?

BP: I probably only killed three or four. (laughter) Must have been 20 or 30 running down the road. Course when I got out to the highway, paved road, the Jacob Lake Road, my heater was heating up my feet. Boy, it began to hurt like holy hell, so I had Ken drive. Left Ken off at his home. I drove the truck to the hospital, it was 2 a.m. I went into the emergency room and I knew the intern for some reason or another. I said, "I think there's something wrong with my feet." He says, "Okay, Bob, stand up here, we'll take your boots off." He took my boots off and he was looking, course he saw ivory stuff. He says, "Bob, you're gonna be in the hospital for a while." He called in Doctor Hildebrand the local expert on frostbite.

He was delighted, he brought in a camera, took pictures (laughter), make himself famous or something like that. The thing there was as long as I was in the hospital I was on a continuous IV antibiotic. Eventually he told me, "Okay, you can go home now. I think we've got the infection taken care of." It was kind of disheartening when the scab fell off of my right big toe. Because when the scab fell off there was no skin under there. Hildebrand told me that he might have to take a slice of my thigh and graft it on. But I went home and three or four months later, the skin that was alive at the bottom of my toe grew sideways, up around the sides and over the top and covered it all up. I came back, I still set two or three U.S. records after that, running records.

I don't think I have any more notes. Let's see here. Oh, yeah, another little thing, somebody was talking about how you can prove that the Indians got all over the place in Grand Canyon. You know, with the ropes and stuff you found. There's another way. If you do much hiking in the Grand Canyon, or in the southwest for that matter, you'll find in lots of places Moki steps. These Indians, my God they were brave people. Because if you try to duplicate going up those Moki steps... They're not built like you could shove your foot in. They're built rounded like this. When you put your foot in there there's a tendency for your foot to fall out. So that's another little thing I noticed.

Okay, another thing, those jumar ascenders. Somebody showed a slide of Harvey's stuff. His canteen, his boots, backpack, and the jumar ascenders. I believe they're in a case up at the historical building at the Grand Canyon. Well, I owned those jumar ascenders for several years because after Harvey had this... He was alone on that trip when he was hanging upside down with the jumar ascenders holding his feet up in the air. He was swinging, his body was just swinging down there, overhung. The only reason he got out, he told me, is that he would swing back and forth until his shoulder hit a piece of ground and then he was able to actually get himself out of the jumar ascenders and get his boots out, too. He got his boots out. But, of course, after that he didn't dare try to go up again, so he left the rope there and walked all the way around to the Nankoweap Basin and so forth. I can remember Roma calling me up, that's Harvey's wife. I lived only two houses from him. There was only one house between my house and his house. We're both in the math department at NAU, that's how we met. Roma called us up and said, "Bob, you know where Harvey is? He was supposed to be back yesterday." He did show up the next day all covered with bruises and cuts from brush and rocks and everything, but he made it home. A week later he and I went out to get that rope. After that he gave me the jumar ascenders cause (laughter) he didn't figure he was gonna try that stunt too many more times. I had them for several years and it finally dawned on me that is a pair of historical jumar ascenders. People didn't come to me, I actually went to the... There's an office here in town where Grand Canyon had an office, I believe it is. I went to those people and I said, "These are the jumar ascenders that Harvey was upside down with in the Grand Canyon. Would you like to have them?" They said yes. Does anybody know, are they in that case?

? Yes.

BP: So there's another little story. Let's see. Anything else I wrote down here? (pause) If I had time and went through my notes I could go on for hours, but I think that's good enough for now. (applause) Oh, yes, during the emails going back and forth about this event, I might say this as well, Ken and I did get an email asking us to talk. Well, I sent an email to Ken and said, "Look, you are the climber I'm the follower. You do the talking." Along with that came a request for the wall map that has the routes on it. Could we send a digital photograph of it. Well, I never bothered with it. I called Ken up about three days ago, I said, "When are you talking? I want to come when you talk." You know, he's not here. He didn't come up with a digital thing so I thought when I came over here in case anybody asked I would bring my wall

map. Over there is my wall map of the central part of the Grand Canyon. It doesn't include the western part of the Grand Canyon, so that's really only a third of the Grand Canyon right there. But it does have in it my routes. Of course a lot of them will be Ken Walters route. Listen, Ken Walters is the guy with whom I hiked more than anybody else. He and I have been on over 200 hikes together, 100 in the Grand Canyon and about 100 climbing the big peaks of the west. On that map of my routes, somebody asked me what about the colors. Red, blue, and stuff like that. I said, "Whatever pencil I happened to pick up when I came back from a hike." (laughter). But what is significant on there are the little pins. The red ones are the buttes that I have climbed, and the blue ones are the buttes I have not climbed. So if you want to go over and take a look at it over there, you can be my guest, take pictures of it or whatever. Harvey had one like that. Ken has one like that and I have mine. Jim, you got one like that?

BP: It's so great to be at a meeting like this where I can see all my old pals that I used to go hiking with. Jim Davidson and Kirshner. Brings back memories. What else can I say. Thrilled, especially to see these like Ganci and his crew. I never met them before. The real hard core climbers have done the real bad climbing at Grand Canyon. Thanks. (applause)

#### **End Bob Packard presentation (01:47:55)**

SG: Well, thanks Bob, you did an admirable job for an impromptu assignment, I'd say. (pause) 1984 Dick Long and Al Steck decided they could bite off a little piece of a Grand Canyon adventure for themselves. Neither one of them were able to make this event but Dick did prepare a little presentation here and I'd like to go ahead and roll through that and then I'll introduce Sean Peters to come up and talk about the second ascent of this route done not that long ago. Some of these summits wait a long time until suitors come again to call. [1:49:28] (showing Steck slides)

?: Steve, is that Al Steck of Yosemite fame?

SG: Yeah, yeah. He and his brother, George, actually George got Al interested and Al gets the credit cause he is a better known personality out in the mountaineering world. Those guys did a lot of big, long endurance hikes and kind of got the canyoneering thing going to a certain extent. I haven't had a chance to talk with them about that at length but basically... Is that the whole show? Let's go ahead and go through it. (pause) That's Al Steck back there looking down.

#### **Steve Grossman introduces Sean Peters (SP) presentation (01:50:40)**

SG: I'd like to introduce Sean Peters now. He works as a ranger down in the Phoenix area and is one of the people out of his generation that is now out there getting as much as possible out of the Grand Canyon. He's agreed to come in and talk a little bit about his adventures and we can cue up his presentation. I'd like to welcome to the stage with a big round of applause Sean Peters. (applause)

#### **Start Sean Peters (SP) presentation on Scotty's Castle**

SP: Well, there's two things that I'm not very good at are putting a PowerPoint presentation together and public speaking. So you've got me on both accounts. My wife last night at the last minute said "Babe, you better put something together just in case." So she helped me with this. As all good adventures start, it started with an email in my case through a friend that said, "Hey, there's something called Scotty's Castle, would you like to climb it?" I said, "Yeah, never heard of it." I had no idea even where it was, but why not. So this is looking down off the rim as we are getting ready to drop off. One of

the first things we encountered on the approach was this horrendously scary looking thing where you get to cross. We figured if the goats can do it we can do it (laughter). We crossed midway up high cause we figured if we were gonna fall maybe we could stop. You wouldn't stop, though. (laughter) It's definitely as bad as it looks, and with heavy packs. That's coming in off (laughs). My buddy convinced me also, our first attempt to do it in June. He said its three miles. I said, "All right, three miles, not too bad, June." I live in Phoenix, its 110 already, it's gotta be cooler in the Grand Canyon. Nope. (laughter) The rock literally just comes right off the rim and drops quickly, steeply and at times, dangerously until you pick up the Esplanade and into the drainage. That hiking up there was awful. The next section of hiking my buddy also tried to tell me that we'd be swimming and wading and carrying our packs, so a whole 'nother adventure began. Heading down towards Kanab Creek. Water was, I don't know, I thought it was kind of cold (laughs), but refreshing.

SP: Yeah. Going down to Kanab Creek. My buddy might be able to talk a little bit better on that whole, if you have any questions. So that's our first glimpse of Scotty's Castle. We ended up climbing two different peaks. That's the first lower part, and then the other part you can't really see. That one's Scotty's Nipple, I guess. Just some more awful hiking, geez look at that. (laughter) That guy in the front is the seldom pictured, seldom seen Mr. Pernell Tomasi. So he does exist. Mother and child chuckwalla committed suicide when we were hiking down. There's the mom and the baby. We revived the mom, the youngster was gone. Our first real true glimpse of Scotty's Castle. The nipple on the right and then the true summit on the left. That first time we went down there, good Lord, it was hot. We ended up sleeping for a couple hours in the shade down by Kanab Creek and started our climb like at 6 that night cause it was just so stinking hot.

Our first pitch. I guess they didn't use ropes, which I don't know, it blows my mind how they do that but we roped up and I was happy. That's what I was wishing the climb was like. That was not how it was. (laughter) The rock was nothing like that. That's just kind of, just looking around, really trying to find a way up on our first attempt in June. I think we circumnavigated Scotty's Castle a lot. I'm sure there's more than one ways up it. We tried all sorts of tricks and finally ended up coming back and trying another route. Just walking the ledges. That was on our first trip (laughs). It looks like my buddy's getting ready to tip off the ledge and, again, it's as steep as it looks. That was pretty hairy, but super neat. And the rock was really good. Just some more checking it out. This is after the first pitch. We kind of just unroped and kept climbing. It was actually quicker going up. Kanab Creek all dirty back there. This picture was taken right after, this is going up Scotty's Nipple. It's kind of out of place but I had just... Keith had been climbing and a hold broke, I had thrown in a, thank goodness, a good belay cause he pulled me off. I was standing up, I was belaying, I went face first. He was hanging on the rope and I was headfirst down towards him. Our other friend quickly built a (laughs) nice anchor and I was able to get upright. That was probably my scariest time climbing the canyon to date, and our closest call cause we would have been swimming down there. This was the headwall we encountered, the difficult crux getting up to Scotty's Nipple. It was probably, I don't know, it felt 5.9ish, I think. It was kind of overhung a little, too (laughs). I don't know how I drew the short straw on that, but it worked. Getting up at the top. I think that's going up near, I think, in the back on Scotty's Nipple, a little pseudo summit. We rapped off Scotty's Nipple down to the saddle. You can kind of read how we did that. We had a rope and the gear but on this section I think we just roped up once up near the top where it got a bit steep. Me laughing like "Oh, boy, look what's above." (laughs) We did a chalkstone rap off the pseudo summit. This is going up near the top, really loose and sharp but the rock was pretty solid. That's a little of Scotty's Nipple over in the background, really cool, super tiny. We found, I guess it was Alan Steck and Dick Long, they built a little three-tiered cairn up there so we're like whoop, they did it. (laughs). This is on the actual summit of Scotty's. All happy, wondering how we're getting down and glad we had ropes. I think

they down-climbed everything which, again, is kudos. One of our raps down low. I don't know what that is. (laughter) But I do know the last slide, we were really happy, giddy as schoolgirls, let's get through this thing. That's how we felt. (laughter) Success. Yeah, I was happy. We were planning on doing the Steck route in '70 so we said if it's this good we gotta climb Scotty's Castle. It was awesome, it was a super trip. So thank you. (applause)

?: Sean, how many summits in the Grand Canyon do you have?

SP: Just over a hundred, making my way through.

#### **End Sean Peters presentation (02:00:34)**

SG: Alright, let's take a 15- minute break or so and get ready for the last presentation of the day. Go on and stretch your legs and come on back in in 15 minutes or so.

#### **Intermission**

#### **Steve Grossman introduces Bruce Grubbs (BG) and Chauncey Parker (CP) presentation (02:17:21)**

SG: All right, we're down to the last presentation of Day 1. Buddha Temple. Bruce Grubbs wrote the following about himself: He has a serious problem, he doesn't know what he wants to do when he grows up. Meanwhile, he's done such things as wildland firefighting, running a mountain shop, flying airplanes, shooting photos, and writing books. He's a back country skier, climber, figure skater, mountain biker, amateur radio operator, river runner and sea kayaker. But the thing that really floats his boat is hiking and backpacking. No matter what else he tries he will always come back to hiking, especially long, rough, cross-country trips in places like the Grand Canyon. Some people never learn. But what little he has learned he's willing to share with you via his books, of course, and also via his website, blogs and whatever works. Chauncey Parker, I just had the pleasure of meeting up at the City of Rocks back in October on a climbing trip. Chauncey started climbing in Phoenix with the Arizona Mountaineering Club in 1970, same year I started climbing and quickly became infatuated with the sport. Soon it was more likely that a climbing magazine was on his school desk than a text book. After finishing high school, barely, traveling to climb was the main priority in life. Living in a '63 Dodge panel truck, Guthro, and when that was not running or gas money was low, hitchhiking and hopping freight trains around the country. He's been living and working in the Truckee area. His aim was exploring all the chapters in *The Book of Mountaineering* from bouldering to ice and alpine climbing. With early mentors Larry Treiber, John Bird and Kenny Cook, Chauncey began to assume first ascents in Arizona and California. Longstanding partnership with Peter Nobels led to many road trips around the country and an expedition and crew in 1979. Chauncey was involved in the first 5.10 routes in the Phoenix area. His first grade 6 was a first ascent on Weaver's Needle, 1973, heavy boots on, 5.10 8.3, with Kenny Cook. Other significant first ascents include a solo ascent of the south face of Ranrapalca and Cordillera Blanca, Peru in 1979. Then after, Yosemite Falls with Rick Sylvester, the waterfall in 1988, 5.9 8.4+. It was through his active climbing careers Chauncey was always involved with mountain rescue and through the '70s and '80s he was an expert at technical rescue, backcountry navigation, avalanche assessment and control. So let's bring to the stage with a nice round of applause for Bruce Grubbs and Chauncey Parker. (applause) [02:20:29]

#### **Start Bruce Grubbs (BG) and Chauncy Parker (CP) presentation on Buddha Temple (02:20:29)**

BG: All right, thanks everybody. I lost touch with Chuck and Chauncey and didn't see them again till now. So that's why there's Chuck up there because that's how I know him, as Chuck. I want to thank everybody that put this together. It's been incredible getting back in touch with people that I haven't seen for decades and just getting this recorded historically and getting it out there. I'm gonna give away a little bit of a secret here. Sometimes my non-Canyon friends ask me, "So why do you do this stuff? Why do you climb this stuff in the Canyon? Why do you do all this hard, stupid hiking?" I could say, well, yeah, because it's there, Malory, and all that. But that's not the reason. Almost all of us that do this kind of thing have these maps. Some of us have gone to the dark side and gone digital. But we have all these maps with lines on them and that's the secret. I'm stealing this from one of my hiking buddies but that's the only reason we do this stuff is to put another line on the map. (laughter) Just jump in if you...

CP: Okay.

BG: Okay. I was pretty wet behind the ears back there in '72. I'd just done a little three or four day, can't remember how long it was, backpack trip with Chuck Graff and Scott Cronenberg. It was in my early Canyon stage. I'd been hiking in the Canyon for just three or four years, I think, so I was still doing the trails. I hadn't gotten off into cross country hiking. We were actually headed up to the Navajo reservation to do something but I had some car troubles and decided I didn't want to be on back roads. So we decided to do a Canyon trip as an alternate. We hiked from the Old Hance Trail to Shoshone Point, which Chuck had just found during his job at the South Rim. So we were hiking along and, of course, on the Tonto Plateau there you're right below Angel's Gate on the South Rim. Chuck had just done the first ascent, so he's telling me all about that. For being wet behind the ears I had no idea that anything in the Canyon hadn't been climbed. It just didn't occur to me. I guess it was above my level of thinking or whatever. He says, "Oh, yeah, there's a lot of stuff that hasn't been climbed. Mostly the technical stuff like Buddha Temple." Ah, okay. (laughs) I had the winter off cause I was firefighting in the summer so I had plenty of time. A couple days back in Phoenix, I turned right around, went on a solo trip and decided to do a recon, find my way in to Buddha Temple. I wasn't in touch with anybody like Harvey at that point so I really didn't have any resources to go on other than just figuring it out myself. So I figured out the best way from the South Rim. This is winter so the North Rim is out of the question. In fact, if anybody remembers this winter it's the snowiest winter in Flagstaff to date. So the North Rim was already out of the question by far. Anyway, I did a recon hike to figure out a way to get in to the summit block. Then Chuck and Mark and I came back in a few days later and climbed it. Which was pretty amazing. Thanks to Chuck and Mark. They got the hard leads for sure.

CP: So Bruce, remember one comment you made when we were heading in. It was the first technical Temple done without an air reconnaissance. That seemed to be a point of pride of yours. It's like we're just gonna go in and figure this out.

BG: Oh, I'd forgotten that. I don't know if that's true or not but (laughter) it could have been. I'm not sure it would have helped. (laughter) Now that I'm a pilot I think flying around Buddha Temple trying to find a route, nah, I don't know. (laughs) Could be.

CP: So, yeah, interesting.

BG: Good point. Yeah. So let's see here. This is a list of first ascents that I've been lucky enough to be involved in. Unfortunately Larry Trieber is no longer with us. Jim Haggart's gonna talk tomorrow about the ascents that we did together, the Butte Fault Butte, so that'll be all of those. That last one there Sazzy Nasgut, that doesn't actually have a name. It's an unnamed butte and it isn't that hard so I just

kind of considered that a first recorded ascent. Actually after the introduction and where all the places we see Moki steps and leaning logs where the Anasazi or whatever obviously had gone. You know, they lived out there all the time. Stuff that's a big deal to us to do without a rope was probably a rite of passage or something for them. So first modern ascent, I guess. Then the last one I just couldn't resist throwing that in because I was just blown away when we did the climb in '90 of Vishnu Temple. It was still only the 14<sup>th</sup> ascent. But that just proves most people aren't that crazy, they stay away from this stuff and do funner things. This is just to give you an idea. This was the Esplanade band, the upper band of the Supai group, and our route. Correct me. (laughs) I did look at my notes but... Goes up this slab here and basically up this left-hand dihedral. This summit block, which looks formidable really isn't, we just walked around the end. But we did end up in a bivouac cause why did we underestimate this? I guess we all do that and end up sleeping on these things. We had a beautiful bonfire right up in there in a snowstorm. The second ascent party, by the way, found a much easier route. We did walk all the way around the summit block looking for a better route. We saw a lot of possibilities but we couldn't tell for sure that any of them would actually go. I think you're the one that said we'd can that, let's just do that, cause it was a clean line and we could see it went so that's what we went for. We rated it 5.8, we used a little aid.

CP: Yeah, a little bit of aid.

BG: Yeah. I think the second ascent called it 5.9 maybe, I'm not sure. We just didn't have the right protection. But anyway, so there is an easier way to the summit but this isn't it. Okay. The route in. You could come in from the North Rim but, again, there was a ton of snow up there and it was something we were gonna do now so we hiked down the Kaibab and up Phantom Creek, which is where the red line starts there. Just basically hiked right up Phantom Creek and then up the canyon south of Buddha and on up the Redwall and camped up on the Supai, which you'll see pictures of. This is leaving the Kaibab trailhead bright and early. Down in Bright Angel Canyon on the North Kaibab. We walked a little ways up Phantom Creek. Days are very short that time of year so probably camped by 4:00 or so. That's Mark Brown there and Chauncey in back. (laughs) We were just pups. Amazing. Then worked our way on up Phantom Creek which some years you can't do, depends on what the floods have done and how they've scoured out the pools. I've been up there other times where short of swimming and floating your gear, we didn't have any way to float anything, you wouldn't get up it. We were lucky, we were able to get around or through all the pools and get all the way up it. Course we knew that cause I'd just been up it a few days before. Another product shot for Camp Trails. (laughter) I worked for Dave Ganci at High Adventure Headquarters, by the way.

CP: So did I. (laughter)

BG: And then I went to work for the competition and went to the dark side, Kelty. (laughs). This is climbing up the side canyon toward Buddha Temple. Just about to top out on the Tapeats. Hiking up the ravine on up toward...actually the Redwall ascent. We saw how low the sun is already. This is just looking out toward the South Rim. Look how much snow there's already on the South Rim in mid December, late December. Can't see anything of the Redwall that we're climbing. It was just sort of a scramble, third class, yeah. This is actually taken the next day when we started our recon of the summit block to find our way around. This is the Supai saddle right here at the head of the side canyon and that's the yellow tent in our camp and you can't really see my blue one. But anyway, that's our base camp right there. So the first order of business is to find a way up the Esplanade band, 200 foot band at the top of the Supai. I don't think I even knew that there is a walk-up route further along. I don't know if I knew that then or not. But in any case, like a lot of climbers, our attitude was if you find something to

climb we're gonna go for it, we're not gonna traverse across all this stuff for miles just to take down a rope. So sure enough we found a short break that looked like it would go. I guess Mark, it looks like he's doing a little bit of aid, a few aid moves and then you took over, I guess. Cause the other shot I have is you finishing it at the top of the crack. Yeah. It was a pretty good traverse around the north side, though, snowy and frozen and nasty. Now we're up on the Esplanade and there's the base of the Coconino summit block above us. What we decided to do is just walk all the way around. We actually spotted the route that we ultimately did. We spotted that from camp but, oh, come on, there's gotta be a easier, shorter way to do this thing. No, there wasn't. At least we didn't find if there was. We didn't find it. So we walked all the way around it, that's what we spent the short day doing. That's Zoroaster in the background on the right and Brahma to the left of it. Around on the north side, the cold, snowy side. Then we walked out on that little red hill there, you can see on the lower right. Looked back at the north, I guess it was kind of the northeast ridge. That was impressive. It looked like bows of two or three ships stacked up one after another. Chuck was talking about the breaking wave of Angel's Gate, this looked like bows of ships just stacked up like that. Then we walked back around to the side of the Esplanade above our camp and then did two long rappels down and left the ropes so we could jumar up the next morning so we didn't have to do that cold, nasty slope ever again. That's you. I think we left two ropes and then the lower, the last one, it was like 30 feet, we just pulled the rope on that. Next morning would be the, let's see, fourth day of the trip, jumaring up the Esplanade cliff. I can't tell, the first pitch was actually very short, only about 30 feet or so. I didn't get any pictures of that cause I was still coming off the talus or something. I can't remember. You guys went ahead and climbed that first pitch. I can't tell who this is actually. I think this might be Mark but I'm not sure.

CP: I think so. He had dark pants on.

BG: Yeah, I think so. (pause) The route basically just goes up this dihedral and slightly left and out of sight. It's very straightforward at least.

CP: Yeah, I remember it being a good climbing.

BG: Yeah. It was good rock. Yeah. I laugh anytime somebody says the Coconino's good. But it can, it actually can be. So that's the belay ledge at the top of the second pitch. Yeah. There's Chauncey leading the third. Notice the white sky. This is the stormiest winter on record in northern Arizona and we're about to find out. It was already cold. (laughs) That's Mark.

George Bain: Bruce, the city of Flagstaff had over 250 inches of snow during the course of that winter.

BG: Yeah. I don't think its hit over 225 since. The winter in 2000 is number two I think, if I remember right. So there's Chauncey's foot. (laughs) One fighting foot right there. (laughter) If I recall right you ended up using a little bit of aid up there just cause we didn't have the protection that would fit with us. We had pretty light racks cause we thought it'd be a lot easier than it was. We had no idea it would be this hard. We were clueless, I tell you. Had you hiked through the Canyon before this?

CP: Yeah. Yeah, I hiked quite a bit.

BG: Okay. I don't know if Mark had yet or not, but none of us had done any climbing. We got to the top of the last Coconino pitch, four pitches in all, if I remember right. One very short one and then three longer ones and we were out of light so we decided to bivy. We found a overhanging spot in the Toroweap Formation above the Coconino. Unfortunately a very steep sloping ledge but it was starting to

rain after it got dark so we knew we needed some shelter. Unfortunately the ledge sloped but there was lots of firewood so we built a huge campfire. That was a saving grace. Didn't get a lot of sleep but...

CP: I remember melting snow in our plastic water bottles for water. (laughs)

BG: Yeah. Because we didn't plan a bivy so the stoves were back down camp. It's funny how many of these climbs we didn't plan to do any bivy. (laughter) My attempt at Brahma Temple, which is a hike basically, ran out of water. We were looking at a waterless bivy and we all looked at each other and said "Nah, we're going back down to Bright Angel Creek," cause we could hear the water, "Nah, we're not staying up here." So we spent the night on that sloping ledge and then morning's just a walk up to the summit but you can see how stormy it is. It kind of rained and snowed off and on all night, it hadn't turned to snow yet. There was pretty nasty weather in the morning and then it kind of broke up later in the day. I'm afraid my climbing partners are just silhouettes, in spite of everything I can do in Photoshop. (laughs) This is after the epic descent. It was snowing and blowing horizontally and our ropes were freezing. We actually lost a rope. It got jammed in a crack and there was just no way we could pull it so we ended up cutting off part of it and leaving the rest. Anyway, worked our way back down to camp. It took us a big chunk of the day to get back down to camp. That's the rappel off the Esplanade again. Looking over at Isis and big wall of storm clouds coming in. Oops. (laughter) Okay, I got ahead of myself there a little bit. Okay. This is the tent that Mark and Chauncey were using. This is Mark's tent. It's one of those Stephenson's double walled, maybe it was single back then, but anyway it was a waterproof tent. No breathability at all. My tent was a little homemade, one-man tent. I remember thinking should I put the fly on before we go up for the climb. Nah, this is winter, it's only gonna snow. Well, it rained off and on all night so I opened up my tent and my bag is floating in an inch of water. Luckily deep down it was just sort of didn't really get that wet. Actually, your gear was just about as wet in this thing cause the condensation. Luckily the weather cleared out a little bit the afternoon we came down from the bivy and we were able to dry ourselves out, which I don't have any photos of, but we got our gear dried out pretty good. And in the morning of the next day we woke up to this. We didn't know there was another storm coming in after this, but we got out before the next one hit.

CP: Is this the sixth night?

BG: Let's see. Two days, three, four, five, yeah, six days. It was a seven-day trip, yeah. I don't think we'd be climbing it now. (laughs) A little bit iced up. I went in years later with some friends to climb that and then we were gonna go do Zoroaster. We actually got up to the base camp, took one look and it looked like this, only worse. It was even more iced up and I, "Guess not." (laughs) Yeah, it was cold. Mark, who took the picture, was having trouble with his knee. He had chronic knee problems off and on. It had been hurting a little bit on the way up but once we didn't have to carry the heavy packs he seemed to be getting better. But this descent really did him in, in the snow and everything. So not a whole lot of shots of the epic descent in the snow. I know that Chauncey and I ended up carrying Mark's pack down some of the really steep stuff, that just takes a load off his knee. So it took us a long time to get down and we ended up at Phantom Ranch. That's all the crap we hauled in there, minus...

CP: Part of a rope.

BG: ...part of the blue rope. You can see the cut end right there. We had two 9s and one 11mm rope. We left part of the 9 up there that a later party recovered. More gear drying at Phantom Ranch. And the victory photo. (laughter) I don't remember why I was so unhappy there. (laughter) Yeah, yeah, we climbed it. Back on the South Rim. I know Mark's happy cause he's not gonna have to hike on that bad

knee anymore. Then, no pictures of course, but we had an epic drive back to Flagstaff. After this storm the temperature plunged to like 25 below zero in Flag. Remember Mark's truck had a huge hole in the floorboard in front of the driver's side (laughter) so you could only drive for like 20 minutes and then your legs were starting to go numb so we had to keep switching off. We ended up staying in Flagstaff cause we just couldn't face driving all the way back to Phoenix. So that is it. (applause)

Bob Packard: What was the ranking on the climb?

BG: The rating, the rating?

Bob Packard: The rating, yeah.

BG: I think we rated it 5.8a-something, like .a2 or .a3.

CP: Yeah.

BG: It was easy 8.

Bob Packard: It is a 5.3 now.

BG: Yeah. The second ascent probably found an easier route. One of the things you can see on the south side is a lot more complicated route. The reason we did this is had this guy along to do the hard stuff. Me and Mark both said we can do this and we didn't want to get hung up on Coconino. But the second ascent party took a look and then tried all these other routes. I think its 5.4 maybe? Yeah. All right, thank you everybody. (applause)

**End Bruce Grubbs and Chauncy Parker presentation (02:42:02)**

**Steve Grossman introduces George Bain (GB) presentation (02:42:12)**

SG: A few years later George Bain and Joe Sharber came out to do the second ascent of this which turned out to be the first free ascent but obviously it involved a long section of aid to be pre-climbed. We got George here so I'd like to have him come and talk about that second ascent of .

**Start George Bain (GB) presentation on Buddha Temple (02:42:45)**

GB: Google Earth got grumpier on my computer. I wasn't even supposed to say that I stole this cause you could probably go to jail, but anyway, the Colorado River, the North Kaibab, Phantom Creek, the same kind of gully that Bruce just showed a map of. I can't remember now if it is this one or this one. I don't think we got any route info from him. I don't remember, cause Joe and I just did the same later basically from approach. I remember having a feeling at the time that we were just figuring it out as we went. This is also that same program you're not supposed to steal stuff from but I think the routes somewhere over here, Bob? Is it that or is it out here? I don't know. Anyway, we have some real pictures coming up. I'm not sure where I took this from, maybe this is one of Glenn's, but Buddha's the coolest thing. It's one of the best named summits in the Grand Canyon cause it's kind of like a fat guy sitting on a chair and there's these two arms of Redwall that come out to the south. It's like he's sitting in a chair with his hands on his knees and he's got this great big pigtail. This north ridge on Buddha's really cool looking. Bruce said one thing incorrectly. Joe and I were the second ascent and we did the same exact

route they did. It was a later ascent, Scott Baxter and some other guys, found the 5.3 or 5.4 route up this, I think it's like the east side. There's another view of the thing. There's that really cool north ridge out there, kind of like Buddha's pigtail. Manu Temple is off over here somewhere south. Phantom Creek where we came is over there. This is Phantom Ranch. Steve Carruthers at the museum could get us a discount on this one brand of backpacks that was called Lowe Alpine System. We were like starving hippies and river guides, didn't have any money, so a real frameless backpack for half off, that was a hell of a bargain but they... Woops (laughter), that's another story, we'll get to that in a minute. The first generation of these Lowe Alpine packs, they didn't put any padding down here and they could like literally chew a hole in your ass. See, I got a piece of that blue Ensolite foam in there. We're walking bent over like that cause these things were ridiculously heavy. Was one of the heaviest packs I ever carried. I know it doesn't look like it in this view but we really did walk bent over like that a lot. Then with pools, and this was in 1980 I think, pools in Phantom Creek that Bruce talked about were like ice water up to parts that you didn't want dipped in ice water. So Joe took his pants off. Don't remember if I did. That's Joe Sharber, the character who had the ideas for all these routes but you could hardly ever get him to go on one. This one he actually did. There we're wandering our way up Phantom Creek and there's Buddha peeking up over the horizon there. Similar picture to what Bruce had. I don't remember Joe and I having to rope up, though, as we got through the Esplanade layer. We base camped on top of it. I'd have to look on my map, but it looks a lot like that one, but I didn't bring it today. As I recall we went around to the left and found our way up. So we base camped up on top of the thing, on top of this Supai arm. This is the view from probably just below camp. I think we slept up there somewhere, but I could be wrong. Anyway, from Bruce's photo, you probably remember where the route was. It says out on the cardboard frame of my slide there's a bunch of little like first pitch, second pitch markers, you know, like X and Y like engineers do. It might have been that thing. Bruce, you still here?

BG: It's just to the left.

GB: Okay. So there we were getting up closer. Again, I look at these now and I can never pick out where the hell we actually went. Maybe it was that, or is it this?

?: I think it's the one on the left, but I'm sure now. (laughter and several talking at once)

GB: Oh, there was another thing, Joe and I did walk around a little bit figuring out where Bruce had gone. There was something over here we called the pantlegger-roof route cause there was a roof up here somewhere that looked like a pair of pants. Joe and I had a company, we called it Theoretical First Ascent Specialists. For a fee we'd bring lawn chairs and alcohol and binoculars. If you wanted to climb something we'd put a route up for you. We never had a single customer (laughter) so the company folded. Now we're getting closer. I think that definitely looks like the thing we climbed. I think that's what Bruce just showed pictures of. Think that's my butt, not Joe's, leading up. Luckily since our Zoroaster experience I've picked up a few actual hex's, we didn't have to use those chocks anymore. We called this 5.9 cause I was a 5.8 climber so when I led this thing it was harder than hell. I thought well it must be a 5.9. Must be the difference Bruce talked about. Mescalito is off on this a little bit, too, so that made it a really interesting lead. Bruce had the pitch numbers. Looking from the ground up it doesn't look that big but I think we also managed to make four pitches out of that. Because we camped up pretty close and weather was much nicer, we were able to round-trip the thing in a day. We did retrieve Bruce's blue cut rope. I think there's a piece of it in my boat shed today but I didn't get around to digging it out last night. There's Joe coming up one of the final pitches. We had nice sunny weather. It was cold. There's Joe. Joe used to like to torment Larry Coats. How many of you guys knew Larry Coats? Larry Coats was a real purist. He didn't like people who smoked cigarettes, and especially Joe has a

talent for parking himself upwind from anyone he knows doesn't like cigarettes. He and Larry went in one time on the narrow gauge railroad to climb I think one of those arrow shaped peaks up in the San Juan's, Vesper or something. Joe would sneak out of camp and hike a few miles up the trail and then he'd sit there on his pack waiting for Larry. Larry would wake up and realize he was alone, and he'd get real mad. Joe timed it so when Larry came into sight Joe would be taking a drag of his cigarette. He just loved to torment poor Larry. Anyway, that's looking back down the rock the next day. Here's another photo where, I don't know... Here we are in base camp, all that heavy crap we used to carry. The title of this slide is Tortilla Day 5. (laughter) These were a pair of Chouinard's climbing pants before he founded Patagonia. I was surprised how fast the butt blew out of them. They went on to make much better stuff. There's Buddha from a distance on a snowy day. I don't think that was the same trip. I think that's it. (applause)

Bob Packard: That 5.4 route is on the southeast corner of the thing. I think it was Ken Walters who found it. He's here now.

GB: I first heard about it from the Alpineer guys, from Scott Baxter.

#### **End George Bain presentation (02:50:54)**

#### **Steve Grossman introduces Stan Mish (SM) and Bill Hatcher (BH) presentation (02:50:56)**

SG: All right, now for something completely different. Stan Mish, who you all know, was a hang glider pilot for quite a while and got the hair brained idea to see if he could glide on down to the depths of madness. Bill Hatcher was a part of this story. I'll introduce him tomorrow when he talks about his role in a climb doing the presentations there, but let's hear one final story today from Stan Mish and Bill Hatcher. (applause)

#### **Begin Stan Mish (SM) and Bill Hatcher (BH) presentation on paragliding off Comanche Point (02:51:29)**

SM: Well, we didn't plan on doing this, we don't have any pictures. I do have one on my cell phone. I've been climbing for about a little over forty years and I've done a number of these things on the Canyon. Spent a fair amount of time. I used to really want to climb Comanche Point Pinnacle which you'll see tomorrow. And, I have not climbed that one. I was climbing pretty serious at first, then I got into kayaking for about 10 years. Then I got into hang gliding for 10 years. Then I taught up here in Flagstaff. The way I learned how to hang glide was you've all heard John Middendorf Ducey's name. Well, he came to town when the very first paragliders were made, wild things

BH: Bouchard.

SM: Bouchard. John didn't really know how to fly paragliders and I didn't really know how to fly anything but we taught each other how to fly. We went out to the craters. I said, "Well, I think you do it like this." Then we went up and we flew off some cliffs up by Mexican Hat and damn near killed ourselves. After that I got into hang gliding seriously. I went and got some lessons and John continued paragliding, even injured himself doing it. It was somewhat later when I got this great idea. I wanted to go on a river trip. I'd been kayaking and I couldn't start on a river trip cause I was working over at Gore and I just couldn't get away. I thought, well, why don't I fly in. (laughter) So I convinced this other friend of mine, who is a kayaker, to boat my boat down to Tanner and then I was just gonna fly in to Tanner and pick up my boat and finish the trip in a kayak. It all sounded good except I didn't really... So we went out and cased the

place the weekend before. I got to Commanche Point and saw where I was gonna launch and, okay, this will work. Then it was a matter of weather. Am I gonna have weather that will support a flight? I kind of killed time while I waited for it. I called Bill and I said, "Bill, would you be up for this?" Bill, as you have all come to know, is up for anything. But I had one other problem and that is this was a cliff launch, just a real severe cliff launch, and I needed a wing man, a wire guy, to help me get off the cliff. I had hired this young engineer at Gore, a man named Jim Slocum, who was a really game guy and I taught him how to hang glide. I never taught him before, but I convinced him to come along as the wire guy.

So here's how it goes. We get out to the cliff. There's this little scrawny tree over the edge of the cliff and I take the climbing rope and I tie it on that tree. Then down below the ledge about 20 feet down the edge of this cliff, about 20 feet below us, maybe 10 feet below us, there's a ledge down there. Kind of sloping, horrible ledge, rubbly. I dropped the rope down to that ledge, tie a figure 8, pull it back up, tie it onto Jim. I said, "Jim, get down there." So he goes down the ledge. Oh, by the way, it's like this breathtaking 2,000 foot cliff, okay? It's one of those cliffs like when you go to Yosemite, you walk up to the edge and you hear it before you get there, then oh, that's a good cliff. So anyway, Jim, he's not a climber but he's game. He goes down to the ledge tied into this rope. I go down it and I lay this tarp out on the edge and I lay the paraglider really nicely on the edge of the cliff. I dropped the rods down to the ledge. I go down on the ledge and I've got a little, short tether that I clip myself into Jim and I put the risers on me. So this is all looking good. Jim's like "Yeah, I've launched..." He's wired guys off... So he was all set except we weren't really that experienced with paragliders. We were hang glider pilots. But I had done something like this before (laughter) and there was a nice breeze coming up the cliff. It was about 5 mile an hour streaming up the cliff. I thought, you know, this is gonna work. So Jim's ready and I'm ready. "Okay, Jim, let's go."

BH: I'm taking photographs and I'm standing back because I've seen what happens (laughter) when the wind catches a very large sail.

SM: So when Jim's ready and I'm ready I pull on the front risers and this thing comes over the edge. It immediately inflates cause there's this nice updraft. It inflates and what I want to do is look up at all the risers, all the lines, and make sure there's no twigs in them. That there's nothing tangled or knotted, that this is a clean deployment cause that's what you do when you launch a paraglider. You look up there and you go okay, good. As soon as I was gonna see that it was all clean and ready to fly I was gonna yell "Clip clear" and Jim was gonna unclip me. Except, the miscalculation was that that was a vertical air current, okay, and it's going straight into the bottom of this wing. Anybody that knows aviation and aerodynamics knows that a relative wind blowing straight up into the wing is a stalled wing. So that wing did exactly what it was designed to do. It flew out straight in front of us till it wasn't stalled. It sucked me off the cliff and it sucked Jim off the cliff (laughter) and there we were. The wing was way out there, I'm hanging off this cliff, Jim's tied to me, and then we're tied back to that tree and there's Bill Hatcher, who dropped the camera (continued laughter) going, "Oh, my God, my friend's gonna die."

BH: What was very interesting is that it was like the Wile E Coyote (laughter) because the wing just launched straight them straight off the cliff, the rope went tight, and they just disappeared. (laughter) I was like oh, how long is that rope again?

SM: I think at that point I was probably about 25 feet off the cliff, just straight off. So anyway, the wing did what it does. It just did a figure 8 (laughter) and crashed us into the cliff below. The thing is is at that instant I knew... I mean, the whole time this is going on I'm just going "I know what's going on. I know what I did wrong. I know what I need to do." So the next thing I had to do was scrape Jim off the ceiling

cause I needed him for the next launch. (laughter) So I'm down there stuffing and all this paraglider into my arms and we're trying to get a foothold and get back onto the ledge. We get back up to the ledge and I go, "Jim this is gonna work." (laughter)

BH: Jim is shattered.

SM: Yeah, it took a while. It took a while to put Jim back to peace and put the pieces back on Jim but finally I said, "Now Jim, I'll tie you on shorter (laughter) and this won't happen again." So the second time I tied him on shorter, laid the paraglider out, pulled the risers and it inflated. This time I got deep on the brakes cause I should have known that. If I'd have been an experienced paraglider pilot I would have, but I was a hang glider pilot. Anyway, so I got really deep on the brakes, looked up, and I could see that this thing was just trembling up there in a full stall. It was inflated and it was behaving. I said, "Clear," and he cleared me and I flew off.

George Bain: Hey, Stan?

SM: Yeah, yeah.

George Bain: Did the Park Service know about this?

SM: Well, no. (laughter)

BH: So, yeah, the Park Service didn't know about this, I don't think they did. But we're within view of Desert View Tower and Stan has this amazingly bright and colorful paraglider. The sun was still up when we got up there and set this thing up. I came up with the brilliant idea of, you know, maybe we should wait until the sun sets because as soon as you clear the cliff everybody at Desert View Tower who is looking at this beautiful sunset panorama and is gonna say, "What is that?"

SM: All those quarters are going to drop into those view scopes. (laughter). Anyway, it all worked out very well except for the one thing was, again, I wasn't a very experienced paraglider pilot. I botched the landing and sprained my ankle. So then I had a bucket of cold river water that I stuck my foot in and had a beer. My friend walked out and I went on with the kayak trip. (applause)

#### **End Stan Mish (SM) and Bill Hatcher (BH) presentation (03:00:50)**

SG: All right, guys, thanks for that. That was an amazing story. All right. Well, everyone, see you back tomorrow, 10:00, for Day 2 here. Have a good evening, have a safe drive home. There is a party at the main climbing gym, not the Main Street Boulders but the main climbing gym on San Francisco Street from 6:00 to 9:00. \$5 donation to NATCHA gets you a glass which we'll fill with beer and wine till it's gone. There's snacks which Tom Martin is gonna hustle on over there and get in place. Please come on over. Plenty of time to ask questions and socialize. We will see you over there. If not there, we'll see you back here tomorrow morning. (applause)