

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

**Interviewees:** Gus Scott (GS) with Hazel Clark (HC), Jerry Becker (JB), Sandra Scott (SS)

**Interviewer:** Tom Martin (TM)

**Subject:** Gus recounts his river trips through Glen Canyon in the 1950s.

**Date of Interview:** May 21, 2014

**Method of Interview:** Sitting on the banks of the San Juan River

**Transcriber:** Dannie Derryberry

**Date of Transcription:** November 2020

**Transcription Reviewer:** Tom Martin

**Keys:** Lynchburg, Virginia, Willys Jeep, Rainbow Bridge, West Phoenix High School, Hog Canyon Springs, Bears Ears, Barry Goldwater, Mike Goldwater, Glen Canyon, Johnson Hotel, Richfield, Harry Aleson, Dick Sprang, Batman, DC Comics, Laura Sprang, Dudy Thomas, Elizabeth Sprang, Sedona, Music Temple, Willis Peterson, Tapestry Wall, Ticaboo, Cass Hite, Bert Loper, Sky Y Camp, Hanksville, Utah, North Wash, Forgotten Canyon, Terry and Renny Russell, Stanford, Tahiti, oar boat frame, Robert Robertson, Bridge Canyon, Navajo Mountain, War God Springs, Charlie Eggert, Wahweap, Abacos, Palau, Tom Schoemaker, Cane Creek, Glen Canyon Dam, San Juan River, Mexican Hat, Frank Wright, Piute Rapid, John Wesley Powell Museum, Jeff Silverman, Lake Canyon, Wasp House, Shock Trail, Katie Lee, Dottie Aleson, Lost Eden, Ken Slight, Otis Marston, Bill Wells, Flying Bishop, Dick Griffith, Dr. John J. Terrell, Rock Castle Farm, Jack Curry, Western River Expeditions, Cathedral in the Desert, Amos Burg

TM: So today is Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 2014. We are at Pour-over Camp on the San Juan about five and a half miles upstream of Mexican Hat. On my left in the Peanut Gallery is Hazel Clark, and on my far right in the Peanut Gallery as well is Jerry Becker and his sister, Sandra Scott, and in the hot seat is Gus Scott, and my name is Tom Martin, and this is an interview that I have been trying to do with Gus Scott for decades. I have been trying to track this man down and get him to tell me stories of what running Glen Canyon was like way back in the days when it was still the paradise that it was. So there will be interjections from people, I am sure, because they will not be able to help themselves, so we will expect that. So, Gus, what year were you born?

GS: October 7, 1934.

TM: Where were you born?

GS: Lynchburg, Virginia.

TM: What were your folks doing there at Lynchburg, Virginia?

GS: My father was running a lumber company, the Menefee-Scott Lumber Company, wholesale lumber business.

TM: Hardwood?

GS: Hardwood. So

TM: How did he meet your mom?

GS: Oh, gosh, you gotta go way back, huh? You may need to help me, Sandra. My father was born in 1897 in Lynchburg, one of five brothers. And he went to high school there and he went off to college in Ashland, Virginia, Ashland College in Ashland, Virginia and went to the University of Pennsylvania, and during World War I he was in the Navy, and sometime in the '20s he worked on Wall Street. I don't know the dates. And then Mr. Menefee asked his parents to, if he would come help him with the lumber business in Lynchburg in the early, probably 1930/31, and he met my mother there. She, her name is Phyllis Horner, and she was born in Lynchburg also. So they dated a few years and married in June of '33.

TM: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

GS: I do. So (laughs), all three of us were born in Lynchburg at a little place called Warwick Lane where my parents built a pretty good size brick home on a bunch of acreage, probably 20, 30 acres at least and had a, out of town about five miles, and he had a dairy. So he had chickens and cows and

SS: Besides the dairy on the side it was somewhere along in those years he had a little bakery going, besides the lumber company.

GS: Yeah.

TM: The bakery was in town?

GS: Yeah. And my sister was born 14 months later, December '35, and my brother was born about five years after I was in September '39.

TM: So did you work on the farm, on the dairy a lot? Did you milk cows and

GS: I did some. I used to go out on the milk run sometimes where they would, they had a truck where they'd do home deliveries.

TM: So you guys were grading milk then? I mean, this was quite the deal.

GS: Yeah, and they, people put the bottles out where they wanted, you know, milk or cream or

TM: So were you, were you washing bottles and rebottling and resealing and all that?

GS: I don't remember much about that, I guess. We had

SS: Yeah, he was still pretty, they moved from there when he was still fairly young.

GS: a Negro man, or as we called them then a colored man who helped us and

SS: Bozo? He and his wife helped in the home with the cooking and

GS: Yeah, we called him Bozo. He was, last name was Wright. He had three girls and I grew up with these three Black girls, playing a lot with them and they, they lived

SS: They were the only neighbor kids.

GS: They were the only neighbor children around.

TM: Cool. But then you guys

GS: They went on to lead pretty interesting lives that I won't go into. (laughs) The girls.

SS: But you, your family moved from the farm and

GS: Yeah. So I lived about the first year on this place in town, then we moved out about September or October '35 to the Transferry Road, the place out of town. And we were all born there and played around the farm, played in the, had forests, you know, had a big old shed down there that we put up quotes guns, put up pipes and pretend we were attacked by pirates and some of us would be the pirates and some would be the (laughs)

TM: Did you learn to swim then?

GS: Learned to swim.

SS: They had a swimming pool in their back, behind the home.

GS: Had a swimming pool.

SS: Umm hmm.

GS: I did. And

SS: They had a playhouse. You had a playhouse...

GS: Yeah, built a playhouse, so.

SS: that you painted it all by yourself when you were

GS: And big oak trees, you know, oak leaves, played in the leaves, played, run around through the forest, be gone half the day.

TM: So, so by the time you were 10, 11, 12, were you spending a lot of time outside, out of doors, out running around in the woods?

GS: Oh, yeah, at that place. About the mid '40s we bought a place at Myrtle Beach.

TM: Were you camping out at Myrtle Beach?

GS: No, just day trips, but we had a home down at Myrtle Beach we bought sometime toward the end of the war, and we'd go down there and spend a good bit of the summers there, swimming and the beach and

TM: So was there ever any pretty good surf there that would knock you about a little bit?

GS: Oh, we probably didn't go out if it was really bad, but moderate surf. And then we used to go down just on the Rappahannock River and do some swimming and canoeing on the Rappahannock. I was in boats by the mid '40s, I'm sure.

TM: How old were you then? So... 14, 15, 16?

GS: Oh, I was 10 to 12.

TM: Okay.

GS: Canoeing or whatever. So, yeah, I swam. Swam in the pool and they had a lake out near town, Timber Lake, I used to go up there and swim.

TM: Did you swim in high school as a, as competition?

GS: I didn't. No, I didn't. So

SS: You moved into town, though,

GS: Huh?

SS: how, what age were you when you moved into town, back into (? , both talking)?

GS: Mother thought the home, the Transferry Road home, was too far out so she wanted to move into town, which she forever regretted but she'd usually drop me off at the bus and I'd take the bus to elementary school and to junior high. I was fairly independent. I know she sent me out once when I was like in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to take, take the bus clear across town on some errand. Like that, she felt comfortable I'd come back. So anyway, we moved in town about 1946 at a place near a country club. I used to golf a lot at the country club, used to caddy a lot. And we still went down to Myrtle Beach for the summers, had a Whizzer bike at that time.

TM: Did you like school?

SS: Did you like school?

GS: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah. And so, so we left there in 19-, about Christmastime 1950, December of 1950.

SS: Did you say how old John was? His young, the brother, came along in

GS: Yeah, I said my brother was born in '39.

SS: '39.

GS: And he had bad asthma so they sent him to school in Phoenix one summer, place called Judson School and he did better until we decided, the family decided to move out to Phoenix, which we did in 1950. Dad was still at the lumber company and he travelled around a lot. I did an airplane trip out west in 1948. We flew to San Francisco, Portland, and Washington and Idaho, Salt Lake City. He had a Beech, Dad had a Beech Bonanza.

TM: So your father flew? He flew, he piloted his own planes?

GS: Yeah. Had an Air Coup and a Beech Bonanza, and for the trip out west he hired a pilot to take us out there. So it was the pilot and a couple, a man and wife who were in partnership with my dad, and I, just the four of us in the Bonanza.

TM: So it was kind of a business trip?

GS: Business trip, checking on mills and stuff like that and supplies. So that was '48.

TM: So what did you think? What was your thoughts of Phoenix when you, when you first got there?

GS: You know, I think I was, it wasn't long before I really appreciated and enjoyed the southwest. In, cause I was going out, so I had a Willys Jeep, an old Willys Jeep and used to drive out in the desert and go up on the Navajo Reservation, Grand Canyon, and took that up and did a hike in to Rainbow Bridge and

TM: What year was that to Rainbow?

GS: 1952, I think.

TM: Did you drive the Willys up from Phoenix for that?

GS: Yeah.

TM: Okay.

GS: Yeah. It was dirt road from Tuba City on at that time.

SS: He had a friend, a high school friend, from Lynchburg who came out and the two of them

GS: Yeah. I, I moved to Phoenix in the middle of my junior year in high school so I graduated in Phoenix from West High School, West Phoenix High School in '52, and a friend I had back at Lynchburg came out and we spent several weeks driving around the Four Corners area primarily.

TM: Did you come through Monument Valley?

GS: Came through Monument Valley.

TM: Did you drive through here Mexican Hat?

GS: Yeah. I don't, on the old bridge?

TM: Yeah.

GS: Yeah, old bridge and

TM: Okay.

GS: camped out at a spring up on the Bears Ears that I don't think I can even find anymore. It's on the south side of the Bears Ears. And we just,

TM: How did you get up there?

GS: we just camped out.

TM: The road, the road, did you go all the way up to Blanding and then drive down toward Hite?

GS: Yeah.

TM: Was that, was that Hog Canyon Springs?

GS: Where we, yeah, maybe. Well, it's on the south side. I'm not sure the name of it. I don't think we went all the way down to Hite. I think the Bears Ears we came back over Cedar Mesa and Moqui Dugway and, again, back through

TM: Would the Dugway been built?

GS: Yeah.

TM: It would have been, been pretty new then with the uranium.

GS: Yeah, yeah. And then came on back through Monument Valley.

TM: Okay.

GS: A friend made a film of that somewhere I've got. (laughs)

TM: Do you? That'd be fun to see. Have you had it digitized yet?

GS: No. I should.

TM: That would be fun to see, just to see the lay of the land then in '52.

GS: Yeah, yeah.

TM: Yeah. So what did you think your first time driving over that bridge at Mexican Hat looking down at that Sandi Juan River? Did you think anything about that?

GS: (laughs) I thought it was, I thought it was pretty neat. I remember going over the bridge at Cameron, too, the old bridge at Cameron. And we did a long trip in the, my parents, in '53. After school, they were going to Yellowstone ostensibly. So we left Phoenix and that first night was in Richfield, Utah. We stayed at Topsfield Lodge. Went into the Johnson, Johnson Hotel in Richfield for dinner and there were all these Glen Canyon pictures around the lobby. This is August '53 and I'd, I'd been through Glen in June or July of '53 so I recognized all the Glen Canyon pictures, and on the desk was Harry Aleson. I think this is August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1953. So that's how I met Harry.

TM: Did you like go up to the desk and say "Who took these pictures?"

GS: Yeah. Harry said "I did," and he found out we were from Phoenix and he said "I have a good friend name of Dick Sprang lives in Sedona and since you're down that way you ought to go up and see my friend Dick Sprang." So Harry would hang out at the desk there when he was off the river or from similar adventure, at the lobby. So anyway we went on through Yellowstone and came back through Bluff, I have a photo of the car, we were in and the bluffs, sandstone cliffs just west of Bluff, near where you turn down to Sand Island. So I know we came down this, through this way and went over that bridge and I remember my mother was really startled (laughs) and a little anxious going across that bridge, and then down the old dugway and out.

TM: So tell me a little bit more about that '53 Glen Canyon trip. How, so, so were you, were you in college by then? Cause you'd graduated from high school in '52?

GS: Yeah, '52, and in '53 I went to the University of Virginia for my freshman year in Charlottesville.

TM: Did you, did you know, did you have an idea then about what you wanted to get a degree in, what you wanted to do career wise?

GS: I think I was gonna be premed.

TM: So right away you had that idea?

GS: Yeah. And so I went there and I roomed with a first cousin at, who was my age and from Lynchburg, and I spent my freshman year there. And my dad sent me this newspaper clipping about the YMCA was doing a river trip. The YMCA sponsored a Glen Canyon river trip with Barry Goldwater, that Barry Goldwater spearheaded in 1951 where they went up and did a trip from Hite down to Lee's Ferry, and then they had another trip in '52. I don't, I don't think Barry was on that trip but his son, Mike Goldwater, I think was on that trip. Anyway, Dad sent me this article. They were looking, signing up boys to go on a trip in '53 so I signed up. That's how I got to go the first trip.

TM: And you would have been 18?

GS: I would have been 18, right.

TM: And what did you think?

GS: Well, I loved it.

TM: Why?

GS: Oh, it was so beautiful and so tranquil and just the walls were so beautiful. The side canyon, it was just peaceful. There weren't any big rapids. There were some small rapids and it was kind of a lark all of us boys going down the Glen Canyon on a raft so it was really a nice... I really enjoyed that trip, I think, and I probably fell in love with Glen Canyon at that point, but not to the depth of later, you know. It was a special place then but I came to probably appreciate it more later as I explored it more.

TM: Did you go into Music Temple on that trip?

GS: Went into Music Temple on that trip, yes.

TM: And did you go up to Rainbow Bridge?

GS: Went up to Rainbow Bridge, signed the register. There was a photographer from the Republic Newspaper in Phoenix who had been assigned to go on the trip and he, he had been, he had been married two or three weeks (laughs) and so his honeymoon they sent him up to do a trip.

SS: Without his new wife.

GS: His name is Willis Peterson and he was a professional photographer for the Republic. He's, I think he lives in Cottonwood, Arizona. He specialized in nature photography and has done a lot of Central America, Mexico ruin photography, and he's been published quite a bit in Arizona Highways. He's a good photographer. Anyway, he went along on the trip and so he took a bunch of photos of us. Took a photo of all of us under Rainbow Bridge, for instance. And so that's the only trip he ever went on, I think. So anyway then in '53, yeah,

TM: Before we jump away from that trip,

GS: Okay.

TM: anything else you remember special about that trip, fun things that may have happened,

GS: I remember the camp at Tapestry Wall especially probably. It was

TM: Just, just above the wall on the right there?

GS: At Warm Springs, in the ledges, on the ledges upstream there. You probably

TM: I've seen photographs only.

GS: Yeah. That was, I remember that place especially, and I remember we stopped at Ticaboo, went up to Cass Hite's cabins, or stone chimney, and the two graves were there, Cass Hite's grave and a man named Delue. We walked on upstream a ways and there's a spring, seep, up there, I remember that. We also, we stopped, that first day we

stopped down at Bert Loper's Hermitage, Left Bank. It was kind of a cloudy day, kind of like this. I remember that. Of course, going, the hike up to Rainbow, very memorable. I don't think we went into Hidden Passage on that trip. And we didn't do a lot of off river hiking except going up to Rainbow Bridge on that trip. I remember a lot of the boys would float on air mattresses on the water.

TM: What, what, what month was that again? That trip, was that June?

GS: Yeah, it was either June or July, I think toward the end, I think maybe the first part of July of '53.

TM: So the water was warm?

GS: Yeah. And we had the old neoprene assault rafts that we took.

TM: Were they, were they motored in the back or did you paddle them?

GS: Paddled. We paddled and oared and rowed, paddled and rowed.

SS: Well, didn't they bring you up. Black Canyon Freeway was not there at the time so they had to come up through Wickenburg and Prescott and

GS: Oh, I do, yeah, that trip we went, first night we went to the Sky Y Camp, this was a YMCA sponsored trip, so the first night we went to the Sky Y Camp in Prescott and stayed there. I remember that. And anyway, they had a big truck that we drove. So we went

SS: They had all their equipment.

GS: I remember that part of the trip and all their

TM: Like a big stake-bed truck and you all were piled in the back.

GS: Yeah, yeah, right.

SS: Yeah. Right.

GS: Rained on us going through Flagstaff. (all laugh) And we went to, through Richfield, I guess, and then went down through lower Torrey, Capitol Reef, went

through Capitol Gorge at Hanksville and camped somewhere south of Hanksville that night. And the next day went down North Wash.

SS: There was a real road there cause how many times did you have to cross the creek?

GS: I forgot how many crossings there were.

TM: Twenty, thirty, sixty. It's,

SS: Yeah.

TM: there's a, wasn't there a sign saying you were gonna be crossing this creek a gazillion times, be careful or

GS: Yeah. Yeah. And somewhere down there somebody had car trouble, tire trouble, and so we had to stop and help somebody with a bad tire. So I remember that. I'm trying to think, upper river, where else we may have stopped special. We stopped at, across from Forgotten at the big petroglyph panel. What's the name of that canyon? (laughs)

TM: White Canyon? Henry Fork?

GS: It's on the right bank. Down below Tapestry Wall. So Dick Sprang, my friend Dick, and Harry were the ones that named Forgotten Canyon so I knew about Forgotten Canyon. That's a long story, but anyway they went down the river and on the U.S.G.S maps it's just a little line going back, no indication it was a major canyon so that's why they called it Forgotten Canyon.

TM: So when you met Harry in August of '53, he said "My friend Dick is there in Sedona," so did you take him up on going to visit with Dick?

GS: Yeah, I saw Dick that fall probably.

TM: How did, how did you meet? You mean you, you called him up and said "Hey, I'd like to come visit you cause I met this guy Harry and

GS: Yeah. And I drove up from Phoenix, drove up from Phoenix to see him, and we had a, we had a wonderful time.

TM: Did Harry tell you at the time, did Harry tell you at the time that Dick was an artist?

GS: Yeah, I think he did. He drew Batman. Dick moved to, this is a side, side tale, Dick moved to Sedona in about 1946 with his first wife, seems like most of his wives had two names (laughs), Laura. We called her Laura but she had another trade name for the work she did, and Laura stayed there for a while and then didn't like Sedona. She liked, she came from New York City. Dick was born in Fremont, Ohio, graduated high school there, did drawings for the local newspaper and went to New York City to further his career, met people at DC Comics and started drawing Batman in the late '40s. So he was drawing Batman at that time. So he would get a script and a description was in the balloons and then he would decide how to portray the action or whatever's going on and, and he could do that anywhere so he'd bring his script up and float through Glen Canyon with Harry and do hikes and then sit around camp and draw. When he got off the river he'd ship them back to New York.

TM: How many Glen Canyon trips did he do? By the time you met him in '53, how many

GS: Well, I'm not sure. I think several, and one of those of course the way he met, he was on a river trip, just he and his second wife, Dudy, and that's not her real name either but Dudy Thomas, and they were doing a river trip and they were just floating down Glen above the Escalante and they were doing echoes—hello, hello—and pretty soon they get a hello back (laughs) and so, so they, and anyway they landed at the mouth of the Escalante and that's, Harry was camped there and that's how they originally met. And then they did trips at Glen almost annually in, in the fall, October typically they'd come up and do trips in Glen.

TM: How, how much older was, was Dick than you?

GS: Dick was about 19 years older. He was born July 29<sup>th</sup>, your birthday.

SS: 28<sup>th</sup>.

GS: July 28, 1915, I believe, couple years older. But he had this wonderful place in Sedona with lots of books and lots of river stuff, had boats and, you know, collections of things they'd collected over the years. So I stayed there and we, we talked til after midnight just about Glen Canyon and so he gave me a lot of information that I didn't know, from his knowledge, so had a wonderful, it was a wonderful place to stay so we stayed there overnight. Dudy died about, I want to say about '69 and Dick married a gal

named Elizabeth and they lived, well, let me back up. Dick and Dudy moved from Sedona to Torrey/Teasdale area, Utah, in 1957, and Dudy died a couple of years after they were there, and Dick met a gal named Elizabeth. So he did a river trip with Elizabeth and they, she wrote a book. You have that book?

SS: Have you ever heard of the "On the Loose"? That was Elizabeth's nephew.

GS: Terry and Renny Russell. Elizabeth's maiden name was Russell. Terry and Renny Russell are her sister Phoebe's sons. Terry, of course, died in an accident at Steer Ridge up in Desolation, and the two of them wrote "On the Loose" published by the Sierra Club. So ultimately Dick and Elizabeth divorced. Elizabeth moved to Santa Fe. Dick moved to, to Prescott, went to Prescott, and would have been about '72, and then he ultimately married a former girlfriend from Sedona, Marian. So he lived in Prescott till his death in May 10, 2000, in Prescott.

TM: Okay. So let's, let's go back to '53, '54

GS: Okay, let's go back.

TM: Now, you had met Dick and he had a lot of river stuff and you're thinking Glen Canyon, but you're also thinking med school, pre med, but you're going to school back east.

GS: Now, that year, '53, I changed. I went to Stanford. It was closer. And they had a good medical school (laughs). Anyway. So I switched that year. And that summer the YMCA was going again through Glen Canyon, '54, and so they contacted me and wanted to know if I wanted to be boatman, take one of the boats through, so I did. The trip, they kind of merged the '53 and the '54 trips in my mind cause they were both YMCA trips so the same age kids and (laughs) all these teenage kids and they're all doing floating and they're all camping. So the two trips merge a lot but went up, of course, Music Temple both trips, went up Rainbow Bridge both trips and so on. Without looking at those slides that I have (laughs) it'd be hard to go into a lot of detail probably on those trips. We didn't do a lot of lower river. We spent most of the time up Rainbow above, Forbidding and above so the lower river was mostly spent just floating and getting out at Lee's Ferry. Both those got out at Lee's Ferry.

TM: I'm assuming at '54 there was no indication of Glen Canyon dam work yet.

GS: No, not yet.

TM: Okay. All right. So in the, in the winter, in the fall and the spring you're at med school, pre med anyway, and in the summer you're back home again and running Glen Canyon, '53, '54.

GS: Yeah. '55, '53, '54 I roomed at Stanford in what they call The Village with a fellow named Robert Robertson, who had just come to Stanford from Tahiti. His father was British and had moved to Tahiti from England. Found out it was difficult to make a living as an Englishman in French Tahiti so he, about '52 or '53 moved to Abaco, Oak Town, Abaco, Bahama Islands and Robert moved to Stanford University. We roomed together that first year. So that summer I bought a raft, my own raft, and we spent a month on Glen, Robert and I.

TM: What kind of raft did you buy?

GS: It was 10-man neoprene, kind of a basket style. It had the big inflatable tube on the outside of the other tubes.

TM: How much did it weigh?

GS: (laughs), Oh, a lot. (laughs).

TM: Hundreds of pounds?

GS: Probably a hundred and something. (laughs) So, so yeah, so that's the way we did that trip.

TM: Did you build a frame for that boat for the oars?

GS: I did.

TM: Okay.

GS: I kind of modeled it, Dick had a frame he built for his,

TM: He did?

GS: and I had modeled it, he had a drawing, artist, he had a drawing, it was framed so I modeled it after his frame. A wood frame built upside for oarlocks and stuff like that so, yeah. So that summer we did Glen, more about that except I

SS: Robert Robertson who went with him for that long period of time was in the science, science classes, as was Gus of course but Robert was, at least he ended up in majoring in sea shells, Ph.D.

GS: Robert ultimately got a PhD in malacology and

SS: It was their science interest and background when they went through Glen Canyon. They collected plants, I don't know what all.

TM: Did you have a plant press? Were you pressing plants?

GS: Yes.

SS: Yes. And they documented

GS: Robert was especially interested in botany so it was mostly botany. We didn't collect many other specimens at that time except for plants.

SS: And those were later donated to the Museum of Northern Arizona, which they had never seen again.

GS: They can't find, but anyway. So we spent a month, and I don't, we hiked up a lot of canyons. Hiked up what they called Crystal Springs to the end of it. We called it Beaver. We hiked up Forgotten to the end of that. Smith Fork is the one that I couldn't remember, across from Forgotten. We hiked up Smith Fork a long ways, hiked up Warm Springs by Tapestry to the pool at the very end of it. Beautiful pool there. And we decided to hike up Navajo Mountain from the River.

TM: So did you plan on an overnight for that or were you thinking you were gonna just knock that out in a day?

GS: Yeah, we planned an overnight. We planned an overnight. We had a, old army blankets that we rolled up some cans of food in and tied off the ends of it and swung it over our shoulder.

TM: What time of year was this?

GS: (laughs) This is June.

TM: So it was nice and cool, right?

GS: (laughter) So we, no, I knew we couldn't do it in a day. It's about, it's a little over, it was over a 7,000 feet climb.

TM: Where were you thinking you'd get water? I'm just curious.

SS: They ran out of water.

GS: In Forbidding. Somewhere around 33 or 3,400 and the top was almost 10,400 plus. So the first night we spent at Rainbow Bridge.

TM: Now, was it Wilson's Camp was in there? Did you go over to that camp? There were beds, there was some food.

GS: Yeah, right, over there.

TM: Is that where you camped for the night or no?

GS: No, we stopped at a cedar tree, cedar, juniper tree just downstream from the right bank of Rainbow Bridge.

TM: And there was water there?

Gs: Oh, there was water in the creek and

TM: Yeah. Okay.

GS: And the second night we went up Bridge Canyon, second night stayed on the north side of Navajo maybe 800 feet below the summit probably. Ran out of water (laughs). So the next day we summited the ridge to the west and then climbed one of the ridges to the actual summit of Navajo. There was a wooden structure up there and we didn't go down to War God Spring cause we wanted to go back by Rainbow Lodge so we headed down the southwest side and we saw some sedges, plants, that associated with water on the, on that southwest side so we went there and got some water. Then went down to Rainbow, to Rainbow Lodge, basically came down south of it, and went to Rainbow Lodge and camped there the third night, and then the fourth night went back to the river.

TM: Twenty miles?

GS: Yeah. And found out that Charlie Eggert and his group had stopped there while we were up on Navajo Mountain, left us a note, which unfortunately I had not saved. I probably didn't, had no idea who Charlie Eggert, and actually they left us some canned food, I think, at that time. (laughs)

TM: How did they know you guys were on the water?

GS: Well, I had a note there that we were going hiking to the top of Navajo so they knew we were gone and would be back. Missed them by one or two days when they came back. So I remember that, of course. And then we stopped at a number of places in the lower river. There was a Wetherill inscription we stopped to see and some other inscriptions we stopped to see. And, of course, stopped at Wahweap where it drains out.

TM: Did you hike up Wahweap up to the sandstone country up above?

GS: No, we just went up a little ways, stopped at Warm Creek, the mouth of Warm Creek, and there was an arch there in the mouth of Warm Creek and stopped at Wahweap and camped there right near the pinnacle that's at the mouth and stopped at the border to see the Arizona/Utah sign at the border and went on down to Lees Ferry. My brother came up to pick us up at Lees Ferry that year. After that trip we went to the Bahamas with Robert in Abacos and we sailed a lot of that summer. His father had recently sailed a 26-foot sloop from England, made a landfall at Elbow Key where his home was, solo across the Atlantic, but he had another, he had a, so he had this boat and we sailed a lot in that area and did a lot of diving. Robert was interested in marine biology because of his seashell background. So we collected specimens then at various locations throughout the, primarily throughout the Abacos, spent most all summer, the rest of that summer of '55 there.

SS: And you sent them back to somewhere and now have, each of you had one, a new shell named after you.

GS: That's another trip.

SS: Oh, I thought it was that one.

GS: (laughs) You're getting ahead of things, Sandra. So what next? So what next, Tom?

TM: At this time you're a junior in college.

GS: And I'm getting more into marine biology.

TM: Are you? Cause I was thinking, I mean, you've, you've spent a month in Glen Canyon, this is your third Glen Canyon trip. After that trip were you like, well, I'm done with Glen, I've seen enough of it, or was it just biting into you deeper?

GS: Yeah, I think it was a matter of, when can I get back to it, but I didn't know when I could plan another trip with education and everything else cause in '56 I was, of course, back at Stanford that year and taking more marine biology, taking some premed, but not taking every prerequisite maybe. And so in the '50s I started working for the George Vanderbilt Foundation, marine biology place there at Stanford.

TM: So Robert really was, was introducing you to the world of malacology and ocean ecology?

GS: Well, well, yeah, marine biology environment, and so I worked with them on fishes primarily. I had, I was gonna do, I was gonna go into Ichthyology, I think, and I was doing a lot of research on fishes, and I started having some asthma problems, breathing formalin,

TM: Like your brother?

GS: They were packed in, yeah, they were packed in formalin and I had to go to the, go to the clinic there several times for treatment so I decided maybe I should try something else (laughs). But anyway, because of that contact, the George Vanderbilt Foundations had gone out to the Pacific to a group of islands called the Palaus, which are in Western Micronesia, and they had done a trip the year before, they asked if I wanted to go along, in '56. So right after school was out I got on a MATS, Military Air Transport Service, plane as a lieutenant JG (laughs), they gave us so that we, so that we had to have a rank to fly. If somebody had a higher rank they would bump you and you couldn't get on the plane. So they gave you a rank so you'd know where you stood. So we flew to Hawaii, flew to Honolulu, took a taxi into Sears and got some Hawaiian shirts (laughs), went to the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, got on the plane and flew to Guam, and from Guam down to Palau and spent six months in Palau.

TM: So sort of set school aside?

GS: Yeah. So in Palau till December '56.

TM: Were you diving?

GS: Yeah, we were going, we had a captain's gig I guess you'd call it, a little motorboat that we would take out to go to the reef or go to an atoll. Had a water pump break one time so we had to patch up a tube to put water in the, while we were out in the reef. But they were doing poisoning, rotenone poisoning of the reef and then we'd collect the specimens. The reason for that was one, for the ichthyological/biologic interest in the specimens. But the trip was funded by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Office of Naval Research. So the AEC and ONR wanted us to collect specimens in the edible food chain because they were doing testing in the Marshalls at that time. So this was downstream. (laughs) So they wanted us to collect the specimens, desiccate them, and send them to Hanford, Washington to check the radioactivity in them. And never found out for many years later, that was all classified what, what the results were, but I did find out some time later after it was declassified that the Tridacna, the giant clams, had the highest, the livers of the Tridacnans had the highest level, which makes sense cause they filter a lot of water. (laughs) Anyway, so I got, I was more in marine biology during that time. Back to the U.S. thinking, both from what I'd seen medically probably in the Palaus and the fact I had the premed background that I would then go into medicine instead of pursuing the marine biology. But I didn't have all the prerequisites. I didn't have I think qualitative analysis, organic chemistry. So that next fall of '57 I went to the University of Arizona to get the rest of the premed requirements.

TM: Did you run Glen in '57?

GS: Yeah. So in '57 I didn't and I'd like for you to ask me why cause I don't know why. I don't know why

TM: Well, in '56 you were in Palau.

GS: Palau, in, I spent a lot of time, I came up to see Dick who was that time at, in Wayne County, Utah, at Fish Creek Ranch was the name of his ranch, and I came up there and spent a good bit of the summer there.

TM: In '57?

GS: '57.

TM: Okay.

GS: Most, well, I wasn't on the river but I had a boat, a raft, you know, and I could have gone. I don't, I don't know whether there was a chance of, I don't know, money, or what, why I, logistics, why I couldn't get somebody to go. Anyway, I didn't go. But in '58 I did go, as you know. Took my father and a man named Tom Schoemaker who I had met at the University of Arizona, a geologist. And Dad and I, Dad, I and Tom drove up, down White Canyon this time and put in on the left bank at Hite instead of going to Hite where we'd put in before. And the water was high. It was a real high water year, 30,

TM: What time of year was this?

GS: 35,000 cfs, something like that.

TM: June?

GS: Yeah, it was, again, end of June, first of July.

TM: I mean, the river peaked in '57 at 126,000.

GS: Yeah. Oh, did it? I know, we might have had 60,000. I know it was a really high water year. The water was way up in the willows where we launched at White Canyon, so. I could, I have a diary that

TM: Let's look. That'll be fun.

GS: Cause it gives it exactly what the water, but I know it was really high water, yeah, that year, so. And it was a real pleasure taking Dad. Let's see, what, '58 Dad was 59 years old, I guess, yeah, at that time. And nothing special about that trip. I guess, we went to Rainbow, went into Music Temple but didn't do a lot of other exploring.

TM: Okay. So I'm, I'm confused, let me back up. So '57 you did the trip with your father?

GS: No, in '57 I didn't do a trip.

TM: In '57 you didn't do a trip? Okay.

GS: Yeah.

TM: '58 the water was high but it wasn't as high as '57. Got it. Check. Okay.

GS: Yeah. Yeah, it was '58, so I don't think it was as high as the real high water. Maybe that's one reason I didn't go, the really high water in '57.

TM: That could have made sense. That, that, it would have made sense.

GS: Yeah. Okay, so that's '58.

TM: And that was with your dad and so you came in on the south side and headed down. Did your dad have a good time?

GS: That time we had to take out at Cane Creek (?) cause something's going on down at the dam. (laughs)

TM: And were you guys talking about that? Was, was anybody thinking, you know, there's a dam going on downstream, this'll be nice, what a good idea?

GS: I think, I'm 22 years old, 23 years old.

TM: Was your father saying anything about this, was Dick Sprang saying anything about it?

GS: I don't think we fully realized what it really meant, you know. We thought this was gonna be here forever. (laughs) I mean, as a dam what's this gonna, I'm way up here in Hite or (laughs), no, I don't think we had any, realized how far upstream the lake was gonna go, the reservoir was gonna go, so. And, and they had, they had started some work on the dam at that time. They had the coffer dam in, had started explosives for the bridge abutments, so there was some work going on. Yeah, I remember that. So that's '58. So '58, I finished up my premed then I have to apply for medical school.

TM: Did your dad

GS: and the first class available is January '59. So a friend that I knew at the University of Arizona and I applied for several different medical schools, and we both got in the University of Tennessee so we decided to go there. Do you want to go into that? So

TM: You know, before we go there...

GS: Yeah, maybe you better wait til you get to, for that. Let's talk

TM: Yeah, but I do want to go there cause it's important but, but I'm thinking this is, it's the summer of '58 and you invite your dad "Hey, Dad, come on, let's go on this river trip." Did your dad jump at the chance?

GS: Yeah, he thought it'd be a good idea. He knew I'd been on it and he felt comfortable I

TM: Dragging you guys up to Yellowstone, flying around the Pacific in a plane. Your parents seem like they were, they were explorers a little bit.

GS: Yeah.

TM: Yeah? Okay. So you offered him a chance to get on this little boat and go sleep in the sand for a while,

GS: Dad was all for it. He thought it was great, I think, yeah. I think he really enjoyed the trip and I really enjoyed having him on the trip, and in retrospect I enjoy it more than I probably did at the time, you know. It was really neat. Okay. So '59 I apply and get accepted to the University of Tennessee, which is in Memphis. The Medical Units are Memphis, Undergraduate is up in Knoxville. Morris has a little Austin, a little green Austin, has the little turn signals that flip up and down, so (laughs), so we drive back to Memphis. Who has a meeting the first week, first weekend they have a social gathering one

SS: The Methodist Church youth group was called MYF, Methodist

GS: And that's where I first see Sandra, but it's just kind of across the room.

TM: But she saw the Austin with the green turn signals.

GS: Yeah. So it wasn't, it wasn't love at first sight. It must have been second sight. So (laughs), so

SS: I thought he was too old and he was 24 years old and I'm 20 or something like that.

GS: So, so I was a couple years behind a lot of them in age because of spending the time on the Pacific and then having to get up and catch my premed. So I was older than some of the other kids in there. But Morris met this nurse that night, and that

SS: X-ray tech.

GS: X-ray tech, yeah, I'm sorry, x-ray tech. So Morris and x-ray tech wanted to drive around Memphis. He had his pilot's license, Morris did. He had an instructor rating pilot's license so they wanted to go around and look at all the little air strips in Memphis.

SS: This was their first weekend they arrived and school didn't start till Monday.

GS: First weekend, first weekend, first, so, so he asked the x-ray tech lady if she knows anybody that go with Gus. Well, she knows Sandra. So Sandra gets in the, goes with us on that date looking at little air strips all over the county. Well, so we started dating, but the problem was Morris had the car.

SS: So Morris was driving and Sandra's in the middle and the guest was over here.

GS: So the three of us would go out on a date but then one day Morris called Sandra up, says "You want go to a movie?" (laughs)

SS: I thought he was calling some reason for Gus and I said I didn't have any plans and he said would you go to the movie with him and, anyway, the next thing I knew here I, here we are, Gus was, Morris is driving, I'm in the middle but I'm on a date with Morris and Gus doesn't have a date. That went on for quite a while.

GS: Till she came to her senses and realized she'd have more fun dating Gus than Morris. (laughs)

SS: So then, but then, so then I'm dating Gus again and, and Gus still doesn't have a car. So Morris driving and Sandra's in the middle and Gus is (all laugh). There's still the three of us.

GS: Anyway, I got, I got my best grades that quarter that Sandra was dating Morris. (laughter) So anyway, back, back on the river, so summer of '59 my father and I go up and do a trip on the San Juan River from Mexican Hat, not from Bluff but Mexican Hat bridge.

TM: To Lee's Ferry?

GS: No. Again, we have to take out at Cane.

TM: Oh, took out at Cane. I'm sorry, I'm sorry. And was that the first time you had travelled the San Juan Arm?

GS: That was the first time I'd been to San Juan Arm.

TM: Okay. What were your thoughts of that versus Glenn?

GS: It didn't have, the walls weren't as sinuous curves as, as Glen, side canyons weren't as pretty as Glen. They had a, I met Frank Wright on that trip I think at Piute Rapid. We pulled over on the left bank to scout Piute Rapid and Frank is there with a party, and the main rapid on that trip is 13 Foot, which is a pretty good rapid. So I remember 13 Foot definitely, but it got your attention. But we didn't do a lot of side canyon hikes partly cause just, it's just my dad and I so mostly camped on the river on sand bars.

TM: So this is the second trip for your dad then.

GS: Yes.

TM: The second trip to Cane anyway, just a different part of the river. Did he enjoy it as nicely as much he did the first, do you think?

GS: Oh, he did. I think so. I think more so, yeah. It was a break from college, a little break from the grind, medical school. We didn't have much of a break. They did the quarters system at the medical school but they did it year round so the only break we had was between quarters. It's not like we had the summers off. So we just came out for a short, short time.

TM: And what did you think, Sandra, when Gus said "Well, I'm gonna go run this river, I'll see you later"?

SS: Well, I didn't know him for, he'd already run the river in '59 when I

GS: No.

SS: Oh, no, no, we didn't have, couldn't have, that's right. I guess I didn't

GS: You, you were there dating Morris. (laughter)

SS: Maybe that's why I didn't (noise from laughing interferes here).

TM: He's gonna split out east, west, I'm gonna hang out with Morris here. This is fine, go ahead. (laughter)

SS: Oh, I guess it didn't impress me cause I didn't really know, I'd never seen any of the rivers, never been out west. I obviously wasn't dating you that much at that time.

GS: So that was the last trip with, the name of the raft was the Glen, and the Glen is now at a John Wesley Powell Museum in Page. It has done more trips. A friend, a friend borrowed it and did trips.

SS: Oh, yeah.

GS: Yeah. The Glen did more trips than

TM: The Glen did more trips to Glen?

GS: Yeah. It went, went through Grand.

TM: Through Grand?

SS: Not, not

TM: When, when was that? When did it head out through the Grand?

SS: Well, we, we moved to Richfield in 1963 and, oh, well, and then '69 we were ready, decided to leave but we got a new minister in named Jeff Silverman and even though we knew him a really short time cause we moved from Richfield in, what, April of '70, we started running rivers with Jeff and so he

GS: He would borrow the

SS: He borrowed the, that's the only boat he used and we did all kinds of rivers with this—Middle Fork of the Salmon, Split Mountain, and eventually Grand Canyon, we went through Grand Canyon with this, that was probably the boat's last trip.

TM: So, so let's head back to '59, you and your dad go from Mexican Hat down to Cane Creek. Anything new on that trip that you did that you hadn't seen or done before on the other trips?

GS: Of course, that was my only trip down the lower San Juan pre-dam and down the, and the, get to Rainbow Bridge you're usually short on time so mostly just ran out from there. I remember the '58 trip I especially remember Dad sitting in the pools up in Lake Canyon in Glen and we hiked up to that ruin in Lake Canyon which was called the Wasp House.

TM: Square, very squared off,

GS: Yeah, yeah.

TM: little cube of a ruin.

GS: Right. Yeah, right. We went up there but I especially remember Dad enjoying those pools that were near the mouth of Lake Canyon. So. And I remember enjoying the pools up in Bridge Canyon at the narrows where you

TM: So did you ever find a ruin in Glen Canyon that had craniums in it?

GS: No. Where was that?

TM: Okay. Well, I don't know, but Kathleen Weiss was our next door neighbor when we first moved into the house on Navajo Street in 1996 or 7 in Flagstaff. She was in her late 80s at the time and she had gone through Glen Canyon a number of times pre-dam and showed us her slides, which I gathered up on her, on her death and gave to Richard Quartaroli at NAU and I have never looked them up since. I'm assuming that they're there, but she showed us her slides and she said "You know, in that ruin up there there were skeletons" and I was like, oh, rolling my eyes, yeah, sure. The next picture there's a couple craniums just laying on the ground there.

GS: Hmm. Wow.

TM: And so I,

GS: I remember one thing Robert and I did in '55, went up the Shock Trail and just downstream from Lake Canyon, right bank, and there was a cave up there with lots of historic inscriptions, modern, but just kind of interesting, different.

TM: So how would you, how would you describe Glen Canyon to me? What, what did it smell like, what did it look like? What, what happened when the moon came up? What

happened when you woke up in the middle of the night on a moonlit night and looked around?

GS: Oh, there's stars everywhere. The moon was bright, reflecting off the water against the cliff wall, and it was quiet, maybe a few birds but that's what it was like. It was beautiful walls, some sculptured, some rounded, some sensuous, almost sexy.

TM: What colors were they?

GS: Light tan, dark tan, varnished walls, streaks of varnish here and there, especially on the vertical walls, rounded domes in the background. It was, Navajo sandstone, predominantly upper canyon, and then, then Kayenta Bench, and then the lower river was in the Wingate. So especially the upper river had these beautiful curves and bends off into the river, into the canyon.

SS: I think he wasn't dating anyone. I think these are fantasies (laughter).

GS: It was part of my fantasy. So I fell in love with everything, the water,

TM: Well, I think Katie did, too.

GS: the walls. Huh?

TM: I think Katie did, too, Katie Lee. She tried to write about that in a way of sort of making love to this canyon and, in her way.

JB: Did you have to have permits and could you have campfires and could you, did you have to have porta potties?

GS: The closest thing I had to a girlfriend then, I guess. It was beautiful and warm and inviting, lovely. (laughs) And all these alcoves, and there was light reflecting off the water underneath them, you know, dancing on the water, but on the walls, all the dancing flashing lights, and the quiet camps and the water just going by like it is right here, lapping the shore, sitting around the fire, talking, telling about the day's plans of tomorrow. And that's it was sort of like in general, Tom. There were interesting sights both prehistoric and historic along the way. Historic sites were miners, cabins, stone, chimneys, graves, implements that they'd left. There was that aspect. And then there was a lot of rock art, both Basket Maker and Anasazi, mostly Glen Canyon, linear style as far as that. And as I mentioned, it's a little hard to think about in detail cause all that is gone, that you cannot, there's no way you can see that anymore, and it's sad. So I

think, think about the beauty of it and talk about that but sometimes I think about, you know, that beautiful spot that you really loved that's not there anymore and that's, almost makes you want to weep because it's sad. Cheers. (laughs)

SS: Did you see, did you see many others on the river that either were camping or passed you or you passed them?

GS: We didn't see many people on the river. Surprising cause there were, if you look in the Rainbow Bridge registry there were people almost daily.

TM: Almost daily.

GS: going down, varying size, variable sized parties, maybe two, three, sometimes a dozen or commercial outfits, Frank Wright's or Nevills', earlier and Frank Wright's, the Soctaw, the Boy Scouts out of Salt Lake, out of Cottonwood area.

TM: South Cottonwood?

GS: Yeah. So there were groups going down but as a rule you didn't see a lot of them passing. You're all sort of going on about the same pace.

JB: What about the River inspectors? (laughs) Were they checking you to see if you had your, your, your vest zipped up?

GS: Yeah. Nobody checked if I had the life vest up.

TM: Were you even wearing life jackets? Were you even wearing life jackets then?

GS: No.

TM: Okay.

GS: I think we took them but they were just laying on, on the raft.

SS: Did you, most of the cooking done on the campfires, just wood? Did you gather it?

GS: No. Wes had some Bernard dried food packs and some canned food (laughter) and I guess we cooked, I think we must have cooked over a stove. We had campfires but we probably cooked on a stove.

JB: So you were pooping in the bushes and, and burying the trash?

GS: Oh, gosh, I don't think we carried the porta potty.

SS: You think you carried any of the cans out or everybody just buried?

GS: Buried. Buried, yeah. Glen Canyon, Part 2.

TM: So it, I mean, it almost sounds like, you know, you're talking about a good friend that has passed away,

GS: Umm hmm.

TM: and when you think about that, I mean, when I think about people that I love dearly and

GS: Yeah. You know, you know the people you've loved and cared for and,

TM: And, and yet you only were there for, well, one month then, you know, some weeks on other trips. So a short time to become so close to a place.

JB: Yeah, I know. That's what I mean. Can't think of any other place that you've spent such a relatively short time that was so meaningful in your life. Well, I can't think of any other, anywhere else for that amount of time that impressed you so much and meant so much to you.

TM: And so when was the first time you took Sandra on a river trip?

SS: Oh, not until after we moved to, to Prescott, you know, as far as our, our own boat and

GS: Well, the girls, our daughters were born in January, when did we get married (laughs), we got married in December '61

S: (?) was born in January

GS: Born in January '62

SS: 3.

GS: '63.

SS: '63.

GS: And Tricia was born in August '64, and we took them on a San Juan River trip when they were 4 or 5 years old?

SS: Umm hmm. Yeah.

TM: From Bluff down? Okay.

GS: From Bluff down.

TM: Had you ever run that section yet, that section from Bluff to Mexican Hat?

GS: No. I think we went from Sand Island Dam, didn't we?

SS: Yeah, I think so.

TM: There's a little motor boat coming down the river.

SS: Must be the commercial for one-day trips.

GS: Oh, one day run.

TM: It could be, couldn't it?

GS: Wild Rivers. So that was, would have been our first, our first trip with the girls when they were about 4 or 5.

SS: Western Rivers one hundred days things just

GS: Well, we did it, just us.

SS: Just us, but as far as

GS: With our own, with our own boat.

TM: Yeah, right.

SS: But that was from, that was from '69 or '70 to five years, I guess '74 or whatever, so it wasn't till after that that we, I assume, or maybe we did

GS: No, we did trips before that cause the girls would have been 10, 11 years old then. We did trips with them when they were quite young on the San Juan.

SS: Yes. Well, that's true, that's true, we did, we did.

GS: That's another, another diary.

SS: One, I guess one regret he probably had, he says he regrets and I, I do, is that he graduated from medical school in March of '62 and we could have, if we'd have had any money or any sense, we could have come out, his boat was in Phoenix, come out and,

GS: Could have run Glen.

SS: and done Glen, at least the upper part and taken out at Cane.

GS: That's probably my one big

SS: But we were, you know, you're penniless, you

GS: It's my one big regret that Sandra and I didn't run Glen.

SS: We, we stayed in, in Memphis and he was, he had a

GS: I externed at St. Jude's Research Hospital for a month or so and

SS: And I had a full-time job.

GS: then I came out to Richfield and, and for the month of June, and I started internship first of July that year. But we could have gone in June.

SS: Yeah. Yeah, if we'd have just

GS: Don't remind me of that or I'll weep again.

SS: There's Marcus.

GS: Hey, Marcus? Hey, Marcus.

?: Who is that?

SS: Gus. Tell him your name.

GS: Gus, this is Gus. Hi, Marcus. (laughs)

GS: See, he saw us last week, he'll think we're commercial. (laughter)

SS: He brought the boat down yesterday, or yeah, yesterday.

JB: I wonder how much of his prop is still on that boat? I bet he's ground that down a bit.

TM: He knows where the deep water is. He's had, he's learned buy props.

GS: He's learned, he's learned. He probably knows where that sandbar is right below Comb Wash.

TM: That's right.

JB: There's another one.

SS: Yeah, they were, they were gonna have two boats.

TM: Were they?

SS: You know, they brought the one down while we were there,

TM: Oh, that's right.

GS: There's another one.

SS: Yeah, they were, they were gonna have two boats.

TM: Were they?

SS: You know, they brought the one down while we were there,

TM: Oh, that's right.

SS: and they said they're going to get another one.

TM: To get the other one, yeah.

GS: Well, Harry, I met Harry

SS: That's that other kid that brought the boats down.

GS: Harry Aleson and his wife Dottie who married at Lost Eden, remember that? They lived at a home in Teasdale up near where Dick had Fish Creek Ranch so when I go over there I'd often see Dottie and see Harry if he was there. But they

TM: So I, I was confused because I, I, did, did Dick marry a gal named Dottie?

JB: No, it was, it was Harry.

GS: No, Harry Aleson married a girl named Dottie.

SS: He and Doodie. His number two wife was Doodie.

GS: He married a gal named Doodie, Doodie.

TM: Doodie? Not Dottie.

JB: Well, there's a third boat.

SS: Oh. Must have been a tour group of some kind. I don't know.

JB: Maybe that's the YMCA.

TM: And I say, I say how are you. They say how are you; I say yes, good.

?: That was the name of my outfit I had there at the lower ranch for 10 years, Wild River Ranch.

GS: So I knew Harry

TM: So there's Dottie and Dody and

GS: Dody.

TM: Dody.

GS: Dody Thomas.

TM: How did, how did Harry meet Dottie?

GS: On one of his commercial trips and they got married.

TM: Through Glen or was this

GS: Through Glen.

TM: Through Glen? Okay.

GS: And you heard, you know about their wedding? It was in Lost Eden, Ken Slight was there and Otis Marston was there and Ken got there late. Marston [Harry actually] had a bottle of bourbon or something that he'd gotten out of Bert Loper's boat in Glen Canyon [Grand Canyon]

SS: And they were gonna celebrate.

GS: and saved it so they were gonna use it to celebrate Harry and Dottie's wedding.

TM: Bert Loper's Red Cabin Ranch or out of Bert Loper's boat in Grand Canyon?

GS: That's what I understand, somebody took it out and it ended up at Marstons.

TM: The boat named The Grand Canyon,

GS: Right.

TM: which, which Bert drowned in in 24-and a half mile,

GS: Right. Right.

TM: and the boat was drawn up on the shore there

GS: Right.

TM: above President Harding on the right by Bert's Canyon, and Marston [Harry] got a bottle of hooch out of that boat.

GS: And ended up, ended up with a bottle of hooch out of that somehow and so he was bringing it in to celebrate with Harry's wedding there, and Ken Sleight got delayed or something. I think he, I think Bill Wells, the Flying Bishop in Hanksville, flew Ken in but he got there a little late and Marston and Aleson had drank all the hooch before Ken got there (laughter) so he was quite upset. You can probably ask Ken about that. So they lived in Teasdale, had a home in Teasdale.

TM: So, so it was just, it was just Harry and Dottie and Ken and Otis

GS: Marston.

TM: Marston, and, and the Flying Bishop.

GS: Bishop, Bill Wells, and

TM: So six of them only?

GS: He probably did the ceremony, I guess. I don't know.

SS: Didn't, was Dick Sprang there?

GS: I don't know. There's a writeup of that by, that Helen Farley did.

TM: Yes. I, now I saw a series of photographs of, of that. There's some photographs.

GS: Is that, yeah, okay. Yeah.

TM: People are still standing but you can't tell how well.

GS: Yeah. So I got to see Harry off and on occasionally. And then I moved to Richfield.

TM: Did, did Harry ever say what we're talking about, meaning the loss of place?

GS: No, he didn't.

TM: Ever talk about what Glen Canyon meant to him?

GS: I don't think so. I almost think that Dick said he was kind of in favor of the dam

TM: Some people were. Some people were.

GS: and nobody, Dick couldn't figure out why.

TM: Is that right?

GS: But, yeah.

SS: Dick sure wasn't. He would never,

GS: Dick sure wasn't.

SS: he would not even put a foot on Lake Powell reservoir.

GS: Yeah, yeah. So when I was in Richfield one time, this is a Harry Aleson story, Harry, well, Dick and Elizabeth were eventually married and lived in his home at Fish Creek Ranch but before that Elizabeth was living at what she called River Rock Ranch down at Fruta in Capitol Reef, which is still, the building is still there. It's that natural history building. She was living down there and Elizabeth got, they got married and Harry would come down there and live. This would be, yeah, this time. So anyway, Harry periodically had ulcer problems, as you probably know. He, he blamed it on the mustard gas exposure, first world war, but he'd also go out hiking and take a can of grapefruit juice and that's what he would carry for fluids. But anyway, periodically he would have a bleeding ulcer and he had a bleeding ulcer also down there once so I drove down from Richfield to Capitol Reef and picked him up and took him back to Richfield and then flew him up to Salt Lake City, flew with him. A guy in Richfield had a commercial airline R&R, a flying service, actually piloted the plane and I went with him up to the, and took him to the VA Hospital cause he was eligible for VA coverage.

TM: Was, was he pretty ill at that time?

GS: Yeah. He was pretty, he was pretty ill, weak, weak in terms of his blood loss. But he had a home over near Carlsbad, California, too and, anyway, Harry eventually got

quite ill in the early '70s, had colon cancer, as you probably know, and Dottie brought him to Prescott for me to take care of him, and he died in Prescott, what, '71 or '72. Anyway, old Harry. Dick Griffith did trips with Harry. Did he talk to you, yeah? Okay.

TM: So I wanted to back up a minute and just capture something that Sandra had said here about the history of health care professionals in your family. You mentioned your father worked for a lumber company and yet that goes deeper than that.

GS: Yeah. My great-grandfather was a physician, Dr. John J. Terrell in Lynchburg during the Civil War. He was a Quaker so he was listed as a surgeon in the Civil War but only served as a medical surgeon, not involved in any, any battles or anything. So he, he had a family practice out of, had a little building for his office up near where his home was outside of Lynchburg, and he was very prominent. He was probably the first one in that area to ever use a hypodermic syringe. He treated a lot of infectious disease like smallpox and typhoid fever. So the mortality rate was quite high in those, like 80+ percentage, and he did

SS: And by being innovative and using clean procedures

GS: Yeah. So he, so he started cleaning, a clean place, the straw on the floor that they would change every day and keep it clean and not let whatever fluids mix between the, which was, and he reduced the mortality rate to something like 20% instead of 80%.

TM: Wow, wow.

GS: He was well known in that area. His former office is now a museum at the old cemetery there where there are a lot of both Confederate and Union soldiers.

TM: Did you hear these stories as a child about him?

GS: Well, we used to go out to, his place was called the Rock Castle Farm, and it was out in the country.

TM: Was in the country then. It is now surrounded, properties now surround it.

GS: Was in the country, yeah. And we used to go out there and heard tales about it. He wasn't, of course, living so I never knew him. His daughter was my grandmother and I never knew her. She died Christmas Day 1932, and I was born in '34. Only one of my cousins was alive at the time and knew her. But Dad was one of five children, five boys.

Two became physicians, one became an internist and a cardiologist and the other one became an ENT physician, taught a lot. He went overseas sometimes. He taught at the University of Majorca from Spain and the Mediterranean but did also have a private practice in San Diego. He, he and my father were the only ones that left Virginia and were written out of the wills of all of the older folks that were there. (laughs)

TM: Because they left?

GS: Cause they left the Old Dominion State. (laughs) Nobody left. They stayed in the same house forever. They didn't move around.

TM: Were these people instrumental or inspiring to you? These two renegades?

GS: Yeah. I think I must have caught some of that wanderlust. (laughs) Okay, so there were physicians in the family.

TM: Okay. So, so then moving on (laughs), just thinking again about, about the first river trip that you took with Sandra and the girls sounds like down the San Juan, 1971?

SS: Maybe it was before that. They were just 4 and 5 years old, it's true, and they were born in '63 and '64 so

GS: Had to be late '60s.

SS: we must have, we must have gotten

GS: Had to be late '60s.

TM: What were your thoughts on this section cause you hadn't run above the Hat before so you get in the water at Bluff and you come around by River House and you make this bend and you go in, pop out through the narrows, and that was a, must have been a little different than the downstream journey.

GS: I don't think we knew a lot of what was on the banks, like River House or petroglyphs or, you know, we were just

TM: But even just looking at this scenery,

GS: Yeah, just looking at the river, yeah. So do you remember much more of that?

SS: I was probably busy with the kids, watching them fall off the boat.

TM: I was gonna say I bet you have photographs of that river trip, you think?

GS: I think I do. (laughs). So now you've got me to thinking about doing something else,

TM: Like what?

GS: digging out some more photos. (laughs)

TM: Good. When was the first time you guys ran Grand Canyon? Tell me this, this Jack Curry story. How does that work again, what year was this?

GS: What, the Jack Curry story?

TM: Yeah.

GS: Well, that was, I had a laminectomy, back surgery, in November 1968 and we'd been on a river trip with Western River Expeditions, I think Lodore and so we were on their mailing list. Well, they were

TM: In '68 or '67 with those guys?

GS: Yeah, yeah.

TM: Okay. Did you bring the girls on that trip?

SS: No.

GS: No. So then in late fall sometime we got a, Jack Curry was trying to raise some funds for, to expand his equipment so he had an offer, and Sandra, what was that offer?

SS: One hundred days for a thousand dollars. That was a lot of money.

GS: A hundred days on any scheduled trip for 1,000.

JB: And it had to be used in five years.

SS: Five years was it, was the, was the only thing you had to consider. Oh, and plus, where did you get the money.

GS: So where'd you get the money, Sand?

SS: I don't know where the money came from. I didn't

GS: (laughs) And I said "We gotta do this." Sandra said "We don't have any money. You're out of work for at least six, eight weeks."

SS: Got two little kids.

GS: They, I was paid salary the first four or five years. After that it was prorated based on how much income you brought in. You didn't work, you didn't get paid. So I'm out of work. I mean, I'm not salaried, had no income during this post op period. Sandra said "We can't afford this."

SS: Yeah. And Gus says "Well, we gotta, we'll have to borrow the money if we have to, but we gotta do this." So we did so we must have, obviously we had five years so we had to start right away then and we, you know, we ran the Selway, Middle Fork, Yampa,

GS: And Salmon, Jack, Jack and his, his at that time wife went with us on the Main. We

SS: No, not the main, Middle Fork. Wasn't it the Middle Fork?

GS: The Main. And then we did the Yampa. We took my father down the Yampa. Took

SS: Our minister friend, Jeff Sillman, who then used our old boat.

TM: The same Jeff, the Flying, the Flying Bishop?

GS: Yeah.

SS: No.

GS: No, no. This is a Presbyterian minister. We'd just got to Richfield about six months before we left, seven, eight months before we left.

SS: And he used Gus's original raft.

GS: That, that was backing up, so that would have been February of '70 I had 18 OBs due, one of which was the new minister's wife, one of which was my nurse's first grandchild and, anyway, so, so we agreed to stay till April to get everybody delivered. So it was that, that Jeff, Sillman. And we, we went, took them down Grand Canyon with some rivers.

SS: Well, we took him through Cataract.

GS: Okay.

SS: Our youngest brother was graduating

GS: We took Steve through Grand?

SS: Phantom Ranch down, yeah.

GS: That was '69, probably '69.

SS: No, no, no. He finished up the fifth year with Steve, graduating from medical school and then

GS: What other rivers? That's all the rivers we did? Hmm.

SS: Sellway, Lodore....

GS: Did Deso on that, with those days. Anyway, so,

TM: So you got your, you got your hundred days in.

GS: Yeah.

SS: We used all one hundred days, yeah. And then started doing most

JB: Call him up and see if he needs any more equipment. (laughter)

SS: Then we started doing, generally did all those trips again with our own boat. Except for the Selway. We never did get back up to do the Selway.

GS: But we did the,

SS: We did Lodore several times.

GS: Middle Fork and the Main Salmon, the Lower Snake, did lower Salmon and Snake, did Yampa, Lodore,

SS: Delores.

GS: Desolation, Delores, Rogue.

TM: Deso Gray.

GS: Rogue, Deso Gray.

TM: Labyrinth Stillwater, Cataract.

GS: Rio Grande, Deshutes, the Stanislaw, California.

TM: Grand Canyon.

GS: Grand Canyon.

SS: Grand Canyon, yeah, a number of times.

JB: Did Jeff ever take your boat down the Grand Canyon when you weren't with him?

SS: No.

GS: No.

SS: That one trip he

JB: He just took the one trip?

GS: Just did a one trip.

JB: And is that boat he had then is that the first boat

GS: That was '84. That was '84.

JB: Was that the first boat you had?

SS: Yes.

GS: Yeah.

JB: Okay.

SS: Yeah, we never had

TM: So he took that boat, that hundreds of pounds military boat with a little extra tube around the side to deflect the bullets or whatever it was

GS: Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

JB: It was a flash tube all the way around it.

TM: Yeah.

GS: Yeah.

JB: It went, it went down the river like a snake.

GS: I know. It'd crash through the waves like a submarine.

JB: And it was, it was almost nonsteerable, it slithered through the water. I remember that part.

GS: You remember, you were on that trip.

JB: Yeah.

TM: What year was that?

GS: It was '84.

SS: '84, yeah, Jerry was on that trip. It was in '84,

GS: It's a 50-, 60,000 cfs, yeah.

SS: you know, right after the big water.

TM: And they, they left that, that at max release from the dam for a long time trying to bring that water down.

GS: Right. Right. Yeah.

SS: Jerry was on that, he had a boat, raft, and then our younger brother, the two of them were in a boat. We had both of our girls on the trip. One of them would ride with either Jerry.)

GS: And Sandra most nervous with so many family members and that big water.

JB: We had a daughter's boyfriend and here she is, with too many people to worry about.

SS: Oh, gosh. And we flipped in

GS: Crystal.

SS: No, no.

JB: No, no, no. It was early on.

GS: Oh, oh, no, that was another, yeah, I flipped twice in Grand. I flipped in Crystal in

SS: In '74.

GS: '74, and then I flipped in Mile 61 in

SS: That high water year.

GS: I tried to cut across the lateral at Mile 61 above the LC.

TM: Interesting.

GS: And flipped. That's the only time I flipped in '84 (laughs).

TM: Is that right?

GS: I just flipped twice.

SS: The younger daughter was with us when we flipped and Elizabeth was with,

GS: Jerry when he flipped.

SS: with Jerry when he flipped down in

JB: It was way down, way down. We were just about

GS: To, to

SS: It was down past, past Lava.

JB: It was just about to the takeout.

GS: That was 200,

TM: 205? 217?

GS: 215. 215 is it, 2-something, 220.

JB: You dive off in these big holes, you know, and you're just going for the joy ride cause you're almost to the end of the trip and, well, we made it up over the top, went down, and then we went up and then the boat started going backwards (laughter). It did, and it fell off to one side and when it did the next wave caught it and poor, poor Elizabeth

GS: Elizabeth got an oar, got an oar in her eye.

JB: That's the only boat I've ever turned over. You, you turned over at the end of that same, of that same trip, but it was way up there, way up there towards the beginning and No Name, I think he just wasn't, he was distracted or something because he had the two girls on the boat with him.

SS: No, I, it was just Tricia.

JB: Was it just Tricia was in the boat with you?

SS: Yeah.

GS: Yeah.

SS: Elizabeth was riding with somebody else.

JB: Okay.

JB: So did you get those two, where did you get that boat that I had, cause we both got boats from you.

GS: Yeah, that was one

SS: Those were all Harry Aleson's.

GS: Harry Aleson gave us.

SS: He was trying to get rid of.

JB: Those were boats that, those were World War II machine gun boats.

GS: They still had the

JB: Yeah. Wooden plugs.

GS: To put in the bullet holes.

JB: You could just shove them into fit the caliber of the hole. Had an outboard motor mount...

GS: Mount, had an outboard mount on it.

JB: Had an outboard mount. I didn't get the outboard mount on, with mine but... it kind of rot and that one I did I kept good care of it and that's the one I just gave to the Boy Scouts cause it's so heavy I couldn't move it by myself. It was, it was a Goodyear, manufactured from World War II. It was so heavy. Big. I blew it up out there in the parking lot and it would hold the air real good. I had to go, I had to go get a machinist to remake a valve on it that somehow or another got, I don't know what happened to it but... Before I could give, before I could give it to the Boy Scouts I had to make sure it would hold air, you know, and that it would, I don't want the kids to get hurt.

GS: I need to go back and look at my other San Juan trips so we can be to, to be continued.

TM: I'm gonna turn this off but I, sure, I agree, I agree, absolutely, yes, that, that'll be a good, that'll be good. I learned my lesson before, don't turn, don't turn the machine off, just leave it run cause as soon as I turn it off all the good stuff comes out. Turn it off and they're like "Oh, and you should ask about," and I'm like "Wait a minute." You know, one thing I did want to ask you about because it, you guys have run so many rivers in the west, north and south, west of the Mississippi, and the span of that river running here we are today is, is 65 years almost of western river running. What's good about it, what's bad about it? What's changed, what's changed for the better or what's changed for the worse? What, what have you seen?

GS: More regulation, of course.

SS: Permits and regulations.

TM: Is that a good thing? Has it helped? Has it worked?

GS: It works good and bad, I think.

TM: How?

SS: It did once. It did work

GS: Limits, limits the number of people, I think.

SS: Yeah. It does, it does now because so many people.

GS: It keeps the river, keeps the river corridor cleaner with the regulations.

SS: Yeah.

GS: It makes it hard to get a permit. Some of the beaches don't be as big.

JB: The beaches are cleaner.

SS: The beaches are cleaner and I've definitely noticed you don't have the ants you used to have and you don't have the mice problems that you used to have when people

were not careful with... So, yeah, I mean, definitely there are good points there but, but if there had not been so many people using, you know, running the rivers, using those same campsites, those problems probably wouldn't have been there and wouldn't have been, had to be regulated but now that they are....

GS: We were up in the Rogue one time and were camped on the right bank and we're looking across the left bank, there were deer over there and a little bear cub would run over there. We thought this is so cute. Went to bed and got up the next morning and a bear had gotten on the raft

SS: Gotten in our cooler.

GS: Ate all my Oreos. (laughter) And had about pulled some of the patches off from the pressure

SS: That was the old boat and those old World War II surplus boats were black. They would be so hot.

GS: They were hot.

SS: Not only were they heavy, yeah. But so hot. Of course, you're running the rivers in the summertime and the, particularly in the west in Arizona with the sun.

GS: I think

JB: That, that boat, that boat, you never turned over in that boat, that first boat, did you, cause

SS: Yeah, we did.

GS: Yeah.

SS: In Crystal. '74.

GS: Yeah, Crystal.

SS: I mean, we, we went straight up, straight up and over. The hole in Crystal at that time, it was monstrous.

GS: Yeah. It was bigger than it was, it is now.

JB: Oh, I tell you what, if you could turn that boat over, if you could turn that boat over, I mean, I would have bet that you couldn't because it sat so low in the water.

GS: So heavy.

JB: And it would immediately take on water so you were bailing it all the time, and the minute you put water in it now you gotta anchor.

SS: Well, Gus went through in '72 in that boat with somebody else, the four guys in two boats. They, when they got to Lava, did you purposely put water in there or just, it just

GS: Probably. I don't know. You just fill up in the first wave down the tongue and you're full of water.

SS: And it gets, the whole thing was full and they never, it didn't lift because it was heavy.

GS: One thing, I think the information is a lot better than we used to, with guidebooks and information on rapids and what there is off the river, all that is a lot better now than it used to be. Some people write guidebooks. (laughter) So that, that has changed. It wasn't hardly, wasn't much information.

TM: And I've heard that from other people. It's, it wasn't, the data wasn't there.

GS: Yeah, well, data wasn't there and I probably even wasn't aware of much more than I've heard the name of exactly where Cathedral in the Desert was when I went through Glen the first time.

TM: But you guys were data mining. I mean, you went and hang out with Dick Sprang.

GS: Yeah, so I found out.

TM: and I'm assuming you guys talked, looked at the maps and

GS: The Boys, the YMCA group didn't make that hike up there, and I could have been aware of some information but I don't think some information like those places, didn't know about, yeah.

JB: Did, did you get out and scout rapids back in those days?

SS: Well, there weren't any in Glen Canyon.

GS: Glen didn't have any major rapids. It had some little ones at Oak Creek and a few places but...

SS: Little riffles. You may have, when you took your dad down the San Juan you must have.

GS: Oh, the San Juan, yeah. We had 13 Foot in Piaute and they were pretty, Piaute's full of a lot of rocks and long, and 13 Foot was a pretty big rapid. Scouted those but generally you didn't scout.

SS: Look at the shade. It's clear out to just

TM: We'll be almost to the boats now, yeah.

GS: Yeah, it will be.

TM: This is good.

GS: We'll be looking for sun here pretty soon.

TM: Right over there you can see there's a patch of it right there.

GS: We can camp over there in the sun.

SS: We haven't had the wind, thank goodness.

TM: Well, is there anything else you'd like to, you'd like to say as we

GS: Like I said, this wasn't as painful as I thought it was gonna be.

TM: Good. (laughter) That's good. Well, and I, I'd like to say that I've really appreciated your, your energy for, for river people and river places. I don't know where you got that disease but, but it's a wonderful disease to have and to see somebody have.

GS: Thank you.

TM: And, and I, I just kind of keep

GS: Maybe, maybe Glen, I don't, I think Glen and Dick history started, we are talking about places cause, you know, then I got involved in river history, went to see Amos Burg and we were in Alaska, went to see Marston when he was over in Berkeley, went to see Holmstrom's family, stuff like that that you just through interests in river history.

TM: And you got that interest early on.

GS: Yeah.

SS: But he has that interest with a lot of things, I mean, not to take away from the river, but he does, he'll read a book of something of interest and he'll either write or email the author and say, or call them...

GS: That's not common...

SS: ...can I stop by and meet you sometime when we are coming through and things like that.

TM: Then I should ask you about Marston, because I am curious about the man, I hear so many conflicting things, did you visit him once or a couple of times?

GS: Just one time, down in the basement, downstairs, where he had his...

TM: Was he at the Bohemian Club at the time or his house?

GC: No, at his home in Berkeley.

TM: Alright. And did you meet Maggie?

GS: Yeah, I don't remember much about her, she stayed upstairs and we went downstairs and chatted about my...

TM: Sandra, were you on that trip as well?

GS: No, so this was like at Stanford, pre Tennessee so probably would have been 1955, maybe.

TM: So you were in your late 20s maybe?

GS: Yeah. Of course he was obviously the historian of the Colorado River.

TM: Was he approachable enough, was he friendly?

GS: Yeah, he was approachable, we didn't spend a lot of time, I didn't know whether it felt like we had been going on long enough, or whether I had to get back to school, I drove over there and drove back.

SS: Gus corresponded with him quite a bit.

GS: Oh, I corresponded with him a number of times.

SS: Many times.

GS: But I only went to his house one time.

SS: People say in his papers at The Huntington people have said there are a whole...

GS: Some of my letters.

TM: Oh yeah, all of them will be there, every letter you ever wrote to Dock, and his answer back will be there. It's a wonderful archive of give and take, everything is there. So that is very helpful, but I always wonder what was he like as a guy. Well, thank you very much and ponder this for Glen and what would you like to pass on to those of us who have never seen Glen that don't know Glen, that really have never seen or known a Glen OR a Grand Canyon without a dam, you know the dam just regulates the water but it controls everything, it destroyed upstream but it destroyed downstream as well, what of free flowing rivers would you want to pass on to us...

GS: I'll think about that.

JB: You didn't tell him, you gotta tell him you floated the Yukon.

GS: Oh, did I tell you about that trip? That's an interesting story!

TM: Alright, well hold that thought.

SS: Oh, you hadn't heard that story?

TM: No.

SS: Oh my gosh!

GS: I was going to get a picture of those rafts but I think it's too late.

End of interview.