

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewee: Keturah Pennington (KP)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Recounting her explorations of Glen Canyon Part 8

Date of Interview: May 14, 2019 Part 8

Method of Interview: by phone

Transcriber: Laura Weade

Date of Transcription: Completed September 26, 2019

Transcription Reviewers: Sue Priest, Tom Martin

Keys: Novinger, Missouri, Devils Tower, Iowa State, U C Berkeley, UC Berkeley Hiking Club, Phil Pennington, Glen Canyon, Mystery Canyon, conchoidal fracture patterning, Twilight Canyon, Navajo Point, Eye and the Needle, Wishbone Canyon, Oak Canyon, Forbidding Canyon, Aztec Creek, Bridge Canyon, Rainbow Bridge, Driftwood Canyon

TM: Today is May 14, 2019, it's a Tuesday and this is a Part 8 oral history interview with Keturah Pennington. My name is Tom Martin. Good Afternoon Keturah, how are you today?

KP: Wonderful! And you?

TM: Very good thank you. This has been such a pleasure and such a treat to tour Glen Canyon with you and may we have your permission today to record this interview over the telephone.

KP: Most certainly.

TM: Thank you very much. We are now at Mystery Canyon, also called Anasazi Canyon at mile 73.6. There is a stunning photo... is that a down stream view?

KP: Yeah.

TM: With what looks like a shark's fin on the distant horizon.

KP: Yes and I am sure that Phil [Pennington] could have swept his eyes briefly across it and said "Oh yeah, that's so and so's butte" but I don't know which one it is. It's possible the maps would tell us though.

TM: Yes and it is just gorgeous! The foreground is this deep blue water and cliffs 800 ft high or so. Is that the mouth of Mystery Canyon we're looking straight at?

KP: Yeah. If you look at it to see the sunlight is hitting it and making part of it lighter colored. And there's a little dome just above the light colored part and slightly to the right and if you look down to the picture down below; you have to know the little dome you're looking right at the edge of just before you can get into the canyon. But, if you're paying attention to what's there, I think you can see the various parts of it. The higher rounded dome to the left on the little dome I

was talking about is in the center, slightly to the left of center of that big alcove just as you go into the canyon.

TM: Were you able to get all the way through Mystery Canyon and get up on the Slick Rock Country up above?

KP: I don't think we ever did go all the way up to the Slick Rock Country on any of the boating trips because it wasn't interesting after a while and we were eager to get down to what we weren't going to be able to see on some later trip. But especially on the Slick Rock Country we knew it was going to be around for a while. I don't know if one could, but we didn't.

TM: And the next picture is the entrance from the air. The text says "the alcove in the upper left is just above the jump up that prevents easy access to the rest of the Canyon." So what can you tell me about Mystery Canyon?

KP: The mystery is where the Anasazi went from there. Because obviously they didn't come down from the top and I don't even know why. But it... our exploration of it was very short because we were eager to move on and we couldn't get up over a jump up and we just didn't want to put in the time in to fighting for it then. If this had been higher up stream and we had come back to it in a year or two and it was still there, we might have fought harder to get up but it just didn't seem worth it in the moment.

TM: OK. The aerial view shows a sharp and very thin, thin sandstone and it looks like the side canyon, mystery canyon is carving around this very delicate fin here.

KP: Yeah.

TM: How far up could you walk before you got to the big jump up?

KP: Huff! Not jolly far...I don't know whether to...I couldn't think about it in minutes, so I don't know.

TM: It looks like it goes right into a bowl there that that...

KP: Yeah, that's it! It goes right into a bowl and there's a waterfall there. And, um, if you look at the one that says entrance from the air on the left side, at the center left, it looks like a little spot there with a slope goes up and left. I don't know quite how to describe it.

TM: Yes, I think I'm following you.

KP: OK, I think we were down much lower than you can see here. But climbing on that wall in one of the further pictures. I'm sure Phil has a picture of us trying to climb up. And I think it's that slope. So that shows you, with all the twists and turns, it wasn't very far, probably less than a

half mile. Those are big alcoves. But the Anasazi had come in.... cut their way in so we know there was something up top.

TM: Oh, interesting! Was there like a toe hold route coming down?

KP: Moki, we called them moki steps. Yeah right, I'm just sure we must have seen them some where. Yeah, here at the bottom.

TM: There's a link here that says see more here. Oh run down to the bottom, there you are? "Keturah attempting the climb to the upper reaches of Mystery Canyon." Oh that looks nice and exposed.

KP: Uh...the exposure isn't all that great, but yeah.

TM: I wouldn't want to slip out of there.

KP: Um, I think um farther, there's a shadow that runs from down near my knee and hand off to the left side of the picture. I think if you follow that shadow up you see a dark blob that is a moki step. And, you know, they went at me. If I could have gotten over that little bit to my left there I probably would have made it, but as you said exposure was such that I didn't feel like I wanted to do it and nobody else wanted to do it right then either so we just moved on.

TM: OK. This is a gorgeous series of photographs. The next picture says "we could boat under fallen chalk stone just after the first turn in the canyon". So you can actually take your boats up into the canyon depending on the water level of the river?

KP: Yeah.

TM: OK. That is a wonderful striated wall with some conchoidal fracturing quite a ways up it and the picture below that it says a "memorable wall" is looking up at this. It's gorgeous!

KP: Isn't it?! There are a lot of walls like that.

TM: Wow! That's just gorgeous. It's a conchoidal fracture patterning, kind of arched fracture patterning on the sandstone wall with streaks coming down it like uh, just amazing dark and light colored bands covering the sandstone.

KP: Yeah, that shows where the water runs when it's wet.

TM: That's just gorgeous. And then the picture below says "The mystery of Mystery Canyon was that we would find if only we could get above this plunge pool the climb to the upper parts was formidable and few canyon explorers accepted the challenge."

KP: Uh yeah, I'm sure that some climbers would come in with their bolts and get their way up. And there was no reason not to do that as it was being drowned in my opinion. I can imagine that somewhere in the country or the world there are people that have bolted their way up and gotten there. But this picture is very typical, you can see where the water table is a good part of the year. Right at the top of that line of greenery around there and you can see water running from the high part right now, running down into the plunge pool. Um, almost all of the canyons that ended with a jump up that we couldn't get over had that row of greenery above a beautiful pool often with a sandy beach around it and then a big alcove arching out...far far out. One of them was 400 ft around the, yeah, to the back of it.

TM: The vegetation on the wall there, is that Monkey flowers?

KP: Um, Monkey flowers, Bingham fern, uh poison Ivy.

TM: Ok, so tread with caution.

KP: Um, know what you're looking at, yeah.

TM: Yeah. At the bottom of this page it says "Go to upper Mystery Canyon." And I'm going to click on that. Now, how did you get up there? Was this after the reservoir was starting to fill and you were able to boat up into this upper section above the jump up?

KP: You know that's very likely the case because we did that a lot. We went down after we could get over - In fact the picture that Phil and I both like best of all of Glen Canyon came to us that way. We haven't passed it yet.

TM: Ok. Well let's go through this page then its-

KP: Oh, yeah here he says "Upper parts were made more accessible by Lake Powell for several months." There's a person in that one.

TM: Yeah, is that you with the white hat?

KP: Yeah. Right.

TM: OK, it says these are the pink sand dunes. Wow! So the...the sand was pink in there.

KP: Yup the walls were pink and so was the floor.

TM: Wow! There's a huge wall here, it says "For scale note Keturah with the sailors hat in the bottom right of the picture." You look mighty small against that big wall there!

KP: Yes! Absolutely.

TM: So, was there a little path you were following there? Or were you just out on your own?

KP: No, Phil kept saying move a little side then forward. Move a little to the left, get out of the shadow. So I just kept following his directions until he got the picture he wanted. He was very good at composing pictures.

TM: Well, it's wonderful to have you in here for scale.

KP: He always tried to get a person or a boat or something in there for scale because who would believe it otherwise?

TM: Right that it was that big! These are huge cathedrals!

KP: Yes they are. They're wonderful! They were amazing.

TM: Yeah, stunning! Then there's an aerial photo that says "Aerial view of the above section of the canyon looking upstream." and it is a fairly twisty little canyon, it looks green down there. Looks like there's water.

KP: Uh, yeah this is the upper section I don't know if there was standing water all the time or not, but if there's greenery obviously there was water.

TM: Well yeah, it might not be standing. Is a good point. And there's another aerial picture "June 1964 during a flight over Mystery Canyon's upper sections we spotted a small natural bridge in the upper reaches of Mystery, so we circled back and photographed it."

KP: Yeah.

TM: Can you point that out for me because I can't quite see it in that photograph.

KP: Well, if you move down to the next one below and see what shape you're looking for. Then we will move back up and I'll show which shadow to look into for that shape. The natural bridge is very close to the center of the picture.

TM: To the junction of these two canyons here. There's two arms of this canyon come together.

KP: Right! And it's in the one that's reaching from near the center down to the left towards the left hand corner. So fix that little complex of things and where the dome on the left and the brownish part and the sort of a dome on the right and then move back up. And you can see the dome on the left easily, it has a little grayish knob at the back of it, like a pom-pom on a hat. And then to the right of it is that little complex of uh bridge stuff that you can see.

TM: Did you get in here hiking or were these just...

KP: No. That's just aerial.

TM: Alright

KP: Uh, but the natural bridge there is the part that goes mostly horizontal but leaning up towards the upper left hand corner. Uh, you can see there's a shadow slightly triangular looking shadow with a lighter block near the bottom left corner, bottom right bottom right corner of the shadow. That block you're looking through, under the bridge at the wall on the far side of it.

TM: Wow. Ok, nice and delicate and small down there.

KP: So, that's the natural bridge that we think we discovered, but suspect that maybe others have too.

TM: I'm going to go now back, it says "Go back to lower Mystery Canyon." so I'm going to do that. Yes, because there's a link that says "See more here."

KP: Oh, yeah! That's stuff from his older website. I wonder what's on there.

TM: Ok, so we see this photo is "Banana boats just at the mouth of the canyon and walk around that first curve to the left. A head looms an imposing over hanging clamshell wall just before the canyon turns to the right." Ok, that makes sense. Oh and then here are these other two pictures that we've already looked at. Yeah, "That wall is stunning," it says. "The sort of rock Katie Lee would call sensuous and it's much larger than it had seemed when we first saw it." Yeah, no kidding! "The walk Keturah is on is under the shadow of that big alcove we face a high waterfall and jump to the left of Keturah's climb. I've heard a few people have done the climb and explored further. We decided not to try it without better protection." Yeah, make sense.

KP: Ok, now I'm not sure how we get back to where we were?

TM: Well, on my browser in the upper left is an arrow pointing to the left. And if I click on that arrow, it takes me to the page we came from.

KP: Yeah, I think I'm going to have to go all the way back. Oh brother, I hate computers.

TM: Oh, no worries.

KP: See where you get to next and I'll try catch up with you.

TM: Ok, where am I going to go, lets see. Go down to "Twilight Canyon." You know what, I'm going to go to the middle map for a minute and at the middle map I'm going to scroll down to look at Mystery Canyon and there's an interesting point called Navajo Point. Off the Kaiparowits Plateau and I wonder if Navajo Point was the sharks fin of rock that we saw up on the skyline at the downstream view of Mystery Canyon.

KP: I'm still trying to navigate this. Ok, middle section map, uh Twilight...

TM: It doesn't quite line-up right, but it might be.

KP: Now tell me again where you are, I'm finally back on the same page. What picture are you looking at?

TM: So I'm in the "Middle Map."

KP: Oh, you're on the map?

TM: Yes, I'm at the map looking at the middle map now.

KP: Ok, middle map...got it.

TM: And I'm looking at the mouth of Mystery Canyon as the canyon heads north and intersects the Colorado River on river left on the south side of the bank there as the rivers curving around. And I'm thinking about the shark's fin in the photograph at the mouth of the canyon up river. And I don't think Navajo Points in the right place to be that sharks fin we were looking at, so I was kind of curious about that. What I'm going to do now is click on Twilight Canyon, also called Navajo Canyon or Boulder Canyon, at mile 70.7.

KP: Ok, we're back together again. Finally.

TM: Ok great. So, this first picture...Gosh! There's a tiny little boat in the lower right hand corner as it moves past a giant set of walls on river right. This looks like the waters pretty high, it's up in the vegetation on the left.

KP: Uh, yeah. This was probably April of '62.

TM: Ok. It says, "Twilight Canyon is up ahead a little past the corner. This grand wall contains the Eye of the Needle."

KP: Yeah, there in the next picture down.

TM: Ok. Wow! So way at the top is this very delicate little arch called the Eye of the Needle at 72.2.

KP: Yeah, the needle is the thing on the right.

TM: Oh! Look at that! On the right is a standing tower and on the left is the arch...Oh, it the Eye AND the Needle not the Eye OF the Needle. Oh that's my mistake. Wonderful. Hmmm...that's just gorgeous. And then below that is a picture, is that you?

KP: Yeah. That's the winter trip, I can tell because of the coveralls.

TM: Yeah. You look like you are all bundled up maybe even with a scarf.

KP: Oh, absolutely with a scarf!

TM: OK, it looks like some of these you are in the face of a sandstone cliff with a bunch of six foot or four foot diameter holes that go- How far do those holes go in? Just a little ways or a couple feet?

KP: Yeah, uh...my right shoulder is touching the back of the one I'm in.

TM: Ok, kind of little hobbit holes.

KP: Right. There you go.

TM: Gosh! How fun. Were there lots of those?

KP: No, that's why we paused and wasted a film on me. They were somewhat unusual, but obviously they've been some sort of a swirly-thing with boulders in them eating those holes out at some time.

TM: Yeah it's curious how the water would have- well, so just curious below your feet there, it looks like there's sand.

KP: Uh, very likely - they weren't very high up.

TM: So there kind of in the water shed for a flood? OK. So that could cause that swirling out there? The water would wash rocks up in there and knock that sandstone out, for a good flood. So this was cold, um, what do you remember about that? That would have been a January trip or February?

KP: Uh, must have been the January, excuse me, December one.

TM: Ok. So December of...

KP: Of '62.

TM: Alright.

KP: Right.

TM: Was that just you and Phil?

KP: No! That was a big trip.

TM: Was it?

KP: Actually there were two trips out one was I believe over on the San Juan we all hit cold weather and the river froze up. And it was really very lovely. It's pretty down there in the winter. We had snow, the cliffs were all covered in white. We learned how comfortable the Anaszi could be. On Christmas eve we camped in one of their temporary camp alcoves and it was nice! We didn't have a very big fire because there wasn't...no...we wouldn't have had a big fire any way. There wasn't very much firewood around, but a very small fire warmed the alcove up really nicely. It was a great time to be there and boating when the river had ice on it was an interesting experience too.

TM: How so?

KP: When the ice started clumping in big lily pads, BIG lily pads, some of them you know 10, 15, 20 feet across. And our boats were floating along and the lily pads were floating along and the banks were moving, uh you know to our rear, but if we got caught on one of the lily pads suddenly everything changed! You know the relative motion of the banks, the lily pads, and the boats all seemed to come to a sudden halt and change direction. It was fun! We'd ram our boats up onto the lily pads just to ride them along just for the different visual experience.

TM: How thick were they?

KP: Well, uh...

TM: A couple of inches or?

KP: Several inches, I'm thinking with my hand, maybe 10 or 12 inches above the water. And you know they say 90% or 85% of it is under the water. So they must have been pretty thick.

TM: So these were big blocks of ice?

KP: Yeah big blocks of slush. I don't think I would have dared to step out of my boat onto one of them. I fear that I would have sunk in and then have been in real trouble.

TM: Do you think they could have been coming down from quite a ways up basin and were sort of going through freeze thaw kind of times and breaking away and flowing way down river? Like from Cateract or far up Labrinth or Still Water even up in the Uinta basin because they'll get ice dams up there.

KP: Well, they'd of had to hustle to get down there. We didn't have any ice on the river when we put in at Hole in the Rock. And we didn't have any ice on the river for a while after that. It

probably would have been several days after that thinking about it. Because we were there for the Christmas vacation and that was 2 weeks, and we didn't encounter them until nearly the end. We always thought the river was just freezing and little pieces would bump into each other and just cling and they formed that way, but I hadn't thought about them coming from way far up. I suppose they might have. The hiking club had two trips out during that same 2 week period and another trip had gone I believe they came down the San Juan and took out, I don't know where they planned to take out, but wherever it was the river froze bank to bank on them and they ended up having to pull their boats all the way down.

TM: Over the ice?!

KP: Oh no no not all the way down, but from where the river started to freeze they had to get out and walk and drag their boats. So we had much the better trip.

TM: Wow! I'll say. Jeez!

KP: It was pretty.

TM: So, it says "Twilight Canyon's about 500 feet deep for the first few miles!" Wow!

KP: Yup! You can see the person but you can't see the top...well I guess further along you can

TM: Very tippy tip on the upper left. Yeah you can see that's a wall there.

KP: Yes, very big.

TM: There's 3 people walking along, it's got a gravel bottom and just a carved out sandstone. It says, "Much is dark, sunlight never reaches much of the floor!"

KP: Well you can see how the slot in the canyon angles off to the right in that next picture. There's 2 little people just about the word "and-" there and yeah the sun would have to be just so it could shine down at that angle in order to reach the bottom there. So it was always dark in most of that canyon. I was going to jump to the map, was twilight coming in from the south or is it north canyon?

TM: Uh, Middle Map... It came from the North it's a right bank canyon. It came in from the river's right side as you're facing down stream.

KP: Ok. I suppose it probably collected water off of Mt. Hopewhite up there somehow.

TM: Right! Right. And this this slide here shows the two people in the lower left walking on a cobbled sandy canyon bottom. And it says, "Great depth and parallel walls was this canyons signature." Really really gorgeous. And another picture is, "Tight canyon huge cliffs. We walked very far up this canyon. It looked like we could get to the plateau above but we never had the

time to walk that far. Also, the only rattlesnake we saw in Glen was in the boulders of this canyon. A very young rattlesnake which had apparently been washed down from above.” Wow!

KP: Yeah, he probably starved the poor thing.

TM: Yeah! Sure.

KP: Not very much down there.

TM: There’s no water, no frogs, there’s no mice uh it would be very uh short pickins’. Gosh. Plus the fall from above, if it did tumble down from the top.

KP: Well, I’m afraid I didn’t consider rescuing him.

TM: Yeah, no, understood.

KP: We did rescue some chuckwalls and insects during the flooding, but - no a rattlesnake I don’t feel that much empathy for. So where are you going from here?

TM: Well, where are we going? We are going to go across to Wishbone, Oak Canyon. So, I’m assuming to go across is to go across the river and now we’re on the south bank. Wishbone is coming in from the southside.

KP: Oh, I’m on the left bank. It twists so much I hesitate to say north or south, but its a left bank canyon. It’s on the left side of the Colorado River as you’re facing down stream.

TM: Alright. And the page for Wishbone Canyon says Katie Lee’s name, so she would have named this canyon. Oak Canyon is either the same canyon or one nearby at mile 70.8. But “see below,” it says. So this photo here, “the canyon swings very close to the Colorado but then veers away and enters the Colorado 2 miles further on.” Not too many centuries, the cutting action and the flash floods would have spectacular waterfall here.” Run this past me?

KP: Um, on picture right, near the center vertically you can see a bit of the Colorado River and then up at the top of the picture you can see the top of the wall above the Colorado River and a very narrow little slot that sort of curves in and out sort of like scallops there. And then more of the flat surface up at the top.

TM: I am totally confused. So this is the wishbone canyon, the first photo. The bottom of the photo shows some rock cobbles, some washed rocky cobbles. And then there's what looks like a very sinuous tight little canyon, um, going off in the distance in mid-field of the photograph and there's a little peek up on the skyline in the mid-field...

KP: No, we’re not on the same page. OK, you’ve got the one that says “this canyon swings very close to the Colorado River, but the veers away, and enters the Colorado 2 miles farther on?”

TM: Yes and I'm looking at that picture right above it.

KP: OK, you can see the Colorado River water on the right side of the picture.

TM: Oh! I see! Over there. OK, thank you! Because I was looking and going "I don't see it," I do now.

KP: Ok. That's the Colorado River and you can see the big wall that you're looking straight on to and well there is a similar big wall back here where we are standing.

TM: OK. How did you get up there?

KP: I'm trying remember but it must not have been very hard because when I remember who was with me, um, they weren't climbers. And I don't think we even had the rope.

TM: So, could you have just walked up the canyon, right up to the top?

KP: This canyon was where we coined the term, "Not Even Glen Canyon Spectacular." I don't really remember a lot about it except for this fact that it came back far and that ridge that's between where we are standing the river is...what...18-20 feet wide?

TM: So this creek is about ready to bust through that ridge and tumble down to the river?

KP: Yeah, that is exactly what Phil was trying to show with this.

TM: And if it's not "Glen Canyon Spectacular" that means it's a run of the mill, ho-hum drainage except that, you can walk it right up to the Slick Rock Top.

KP: Yeah, as I say I don't remember all that much about it because it just wasn't that interesting.

TM: But I'm like, yeah but look at...

KP: I walked it with Phil at the time and the three people I was with at the time weren't that interested either... (laughing) And I think that one of them, the better climber of those three, went on. But I turned around and got in my boat and went to see something better.

TM: OK. Well then let's go down and look at the rest of the photographs here. There's a wonderful picture, course it's as you say it's not spectacular, but to me it looks great. It's got a nice gravel bottom, with big boulders...

KP: If we did that in Iowa it would have been a state park.

TM: Exactly! Yeah! There would have been a zillion people in there! Um...

KP: And I couldn't even waste very much time on it.

TM: So the third photograph down, it looks like an aerial photo, the Colorado River is snaking its way, looks like away from us...

KP: Yes.

TM: The caption says, "Wishbone Canyon is in the lower left just before it comes its closest to the top of the wall overlooking the Colorado. The island in the right center is "Firelight Island" in the right center...OK. It looks like there's an island in the middle of the river! Around the left side of the river?"

KP: I-I think it's the one closest to us. The one farthest up the river. Uh, you can see a branch of the Colorado is going to the right of it, a wide branch, and a narrower branch going running to left running right up against that wall.

TM: Against the wall, yeah.

KP: But if you look down at the green tip the upper tip of that island you can see white um, roughly water, where that narrow stream is coming out with little bubbles and I won't say rapids, but I'm pretty sure that green is an island. And that's the Fire...

TM: OK. That would make sense. And it says, "The Keyhole is in the right bank canyon wall in the shadows, just downstream from Firelight Island."The Keyhole, Oh... you mean, is that the "Needle and the Eye?" or is the Keyhole-

KP: No! No, there's an alcove that dips right into the water or right down to the water that shaped like a keyhole. It's round at the top and then comes in and slopes out again in what we think is a typical keyhole pattern. And we always called that- there must be a picture of it somewhere.

TM: There is! I scrolled down and it says, "The Keyhole alcove" look at that!

KP: Ah, there, yeah, right. Um, and when the water had risen up above the narrowest part of it and fairly high up into that circular top, I boated in under there and there's probably... I-I know there are pictures of me in there when the water has come up that high, but here it was just an interesting thing.

TM: It's just gorgeous this third picture down, which shows the river snaking along and, as you say the Keyhole Alcove is on the right and Firelight Island is on the right. So, this must be um, then Wishbone Canyon on the left snaking along just the other side of the wall I suppose. Gosh! That's some convoluted country.

KP: Oh! We should go back up to mile um, 69.4. It's the one just above the Keyhole Alcove. It has Firelight Island across the river there. Phil and I had camped there the night the Italian came down drifting and singing Italian folk songs and we were camping in this little alcove.

TM: So, up to Twilight Canyon? Or?

KP: No, I may have said Twilight, it's Firelight Island. Get the Keyhole picture and it's the picture just above it.

TM: Got it. So, you were at Firelight Island when the guy came by.

KP: Well, we were camped in this alcove, and he came drifting down after dark singing Italian folk songs.

TM: Awww. Did he know you were there, tucked away in the alcove?

KP: I'm sure not. It was dark and we were quiet. There were others camped hither and yon, there may have even been someone even camped on Firelight Island over there, I don't remember.

TM: It says, "This part of Glen Canyon was exceptionally spectacular because the immediate walls were beautifully decorated, virtually continuous vertical sandstone, camping sites were abundant including sheltered riverside alcoves." Below that, is a photograph of mile 69.4 "A beautiful small campsite alcove with a spring for fresh drinking water. That's Firelight Alcove across the water. The night had a full moon and one of our party had decided to float a bit in the moonlight."

KP: Oh yeah, he did write that about - I mean he did write that out! Very good.

TM: -He, an Italian priest, was singing Italian folk songs as he passed the alcove." Wow, so the Keyhole alcove, mile 69.2 and the picture above it, 69.4, is-are they the same place or is that two different alcoves?

KP: Ah! I don't think... I

TM: They look different...because...

KP: ...Um, just let me get them both...they're two different alcoves, that's what I thought. Uh, the Keyhole Alcove has greenery on its upstream side.

TM: Yeah, like a tree or something...

KP: Yeah, and the one we were camped in didn't have.

TM: It looks like a gorgeous camp like there's water in there and sandy bottom in that alcove.

KP: Of course! We pulled in for drinking water and decided to camp there. That was what we did.

TM: Did it look like others had camped there before you? Could you tell?

KP: Uh, none of our party had and you can tell by the, uh, water line there on the sand that the river was dropping fast. So probably nobody had recently, but, uh, none of us ever left any. You know three weeks after having been there you very well couldn't tell anyone had been there at all. If the water and wind had come in and erased our footprints, we never left any junk or fire pits or anything. No I couldn't tell, but none of our party had.

TM: There's a link here that says "The Next Two Years" and I'm going to click on that. Oh wow! These are aerial photographs showing the filling. So that one picture where we could see the Firelight Island and the Keyhole the next picture shows that is all buried as the reservoir is filling. That caption says, "June 1964, Twilight Canyon in the foreground the ridge just the other side is the river path is ridge above Firelight Island seen in the picture above. The shell shaped rock that looks down on the entrance of Cathedral Canyon is just to the left of the river path a few miles down stream. A full reservoir puts almost all of the spectacular canyon underwater. It does give slightly easier access to the upper parts of some of the spectacular side canyons, but the cost of that slight convenience is the loss of virtually all of Glen Canyon and including both the River Canyon and lower parts of the side canyons where the gigantic stream alcoves were." Wow!

KP: Yeah, in the bottom canyon you can see two points that reach out. One from the left- the lower one from the left and the other from the right. And, uh...in the upper picture you can see...uh big walls they come to points, one from the left and the other from the right.

TM: Right. I can identify the same streaking varnish on the cliff face.

KP: Yeah, right! Good for you!

TM: On that left fin coming out. It's amazing to see that.

KP: And when you're thinking about what we had just seen in the pictures above this and look at what we're seeing in this one with flooding. I mean if you just come from New Hampshire, (higher toned voice) "Oh, isn't that beautiful the river flowing between all those lovely rocks!" But it isn't beautiful, no...it's a mess.

TM: Yeah, it's very different, very different. I really wonder what that's looking like today. Be fascinating to re-match some of these aerial photos.

KP: Well, the river got a lot higher than this and it was all one big broad lake for a while and the wind came sweeping up it. But I think the river has gone down and I don't know what this is like now.

TM: Quite a bit right now, that's why it would be interesting to rematch some of this.

KP: If it has gone down, instead of having slick rock up there you'll have mud...until the rains wash it off. We're going to come to some mud I think. After only a few weeks the mud was ten twelve inches deep.

TM: Oh! So this is the stereoscopic photograph is here; "June 1964 Hidden Passage... for those with cross eyed viewing."

KP: Can you cross your eyes?

TM: oh no and do anything focally with them. (laughing) I'll get sick....So no, we won't do that. But again this would be an interesting- it would be a photo that could be rematched, um aerially. Wow.

KP: Yeah, I really wish we'd done more stereoscopic photos.

TM: OK. So, I'm going to return to Wishbone Canyon. And...the "Last Two Years" ok and these were the alcoves we were looking at. And then the last picture is really fascinating. It shows an Ibis on sandbar near the confluence of Wishbone with the Colorado. Was it rare to see Ibis there?

It wasn't common and we would usually tell each other "Oh, I saw an Ibis or I saw a pair of Ibises." We saw their tracks more often than we saw them, uh but they weren't uncommon while there was greenery around. I never ever saw one once the greenery got covered.

TM: No, it would have been the end of that. So you showed that there were pictures in here of herons in a rookery...

KP: Right.

TM: Were there Peregrine falcons, could you hear any falcons screaming up in the cliffs at all?

KP: I don't think any of us ever commented on any of them and there were several biologists that would have.

TM: Ok. Swallow, cliff swallow or violet green swallows?

KP: Um, not swallows. Morning doves were very common and of course the toads.

TM: Right, uh ravens? Lots of ravens or not?

KP: Not lots, but um...I don't think we would have commented on the ravens. I meant they were common enough that I don't think we would have said "Oh, a raven" like we say "Oh, I saw an Ibis."

TM: Right, I'm just trying to equate what we see in Grand Canyon today herons, ravens peregrines, um...but Ibis are rare.

KP: I imagine everyone on our trip saw at least one at some time or another, but the morning doves you would hear a great deal and we never saw them, we heard them.

TM: Uh, canyon wrens of course? I'm assuming.

KP: Canyon wrens, right. Yes, we rescued a canyon wren, I don't know if it will be in one of the flooding pictures or not. But, um, when the water came down, it would break up all sorts of bits and pieces into things uh, an inch or so long and somewhere between the thickness of a toothpick and the thickness of maybe a very thin pencil. And the stuff would get blown, washed or whatever into fairly thick mats, mats maybe an inch and a half or so thick. And obviously this little bird had come down and tried to land and drink and it fell in and got covered with all these little bits and that inch long and pencil thick would be the big pieces and they'd go down in size from them. And the bird was just covered with it and they were clinging to it, um water was holding it. And Phil and I had hiked up a canyon and come to the end of it and there was this sort of bubbly ruffling in the debris at the end of the canyon. And so I waded out and gently slid my hand under the inch or so of debris on top because I didn't know what was there and I was kind of afraid it was going to bite me. I knew it was going to drown if I didn't rescue it, so I lifted my hand up and felt little claws cling around one finger and I lifted that up and there was this little bird. And at first it just hung on to me. It was too exhausted to do anything else. But after a little bit it shook itself and it shook itself free of all the stuff and walked up- I had turned my hand so it could sit on the top of my hand and it rested for oh maybe as long as 4 or 5 minutes. Then it flew off and seemed to be just fine. But I wonder how many other poor things drowned. You know, lured by this seemingly innocent looking stuff... But uh, that was a canyon wren. I'm pretty sure. I didn't have a bird book.

TM: Well, this is a great picture of an Ibis. It's launching into flight here, with long spindly legs and a long nose, black, black plumage against the river with sandstone cliffs in the distance... Well, should we go up to Rainbow Bridge next, to Forbidding Canyon and Aztec Creek.

KP: Oh, ok Forbidding Canyon and Aztec Creek, ah yes, the Kolb Brothers.

TM: 68.6, so the first picture is of an inscription. It shows a little bridge and says "Bridge" with an arrow then "6 miles and Kolb". Um, Kolb signature pointing up Aztec Creek toward Rainbow Bridge. Probably one of the most visited canyons in Glen Canyon before the reservoir boat trips were made up the river to visit Rainbow Bridge. And so that picture right there shows a pool of

water, is that river level - the Colorado River level there at the mouth of the canyon is that what that's showing?

KP: You can even tell by the color its green, so yes.

TM: Ok, so there must be a place to pull the boats to shore there?

KP: Oh yeah. At low water there was plenty of landing space. Even for big parties.

TM: Alright. Then the next picture below is "Then it's about 5 miles walking to the bridge from the river. The Navajo Nation also conducted horseback trips from the base of Navajo Mountain - a 2 day trip."

KP: Yeah, you'd come in from the otherside.

TM: And there's water in there! Was there permanent water in the creek bottom?

KP: As I recall there was water all the way up and under the bridge. And I didn't take time to go farther than up the bridge. So yeah. Oh! There was a spring there up by the bridge.

TM: Oh, ok. Walking up this canyon, walking up Forbidding Canyon there was a creek coming in that said, well it was Bridge Creek and that's where Rainbow Bridge was, was up Bridge Creek and there's this wall, this kind of sharks fin wall that I've seen before in other collections of Glen Canyon pictures. It must - was that close to the junction of the...two creeks?

KP: Yeah. Uh, huh.

TM: So, then hiking up Forbidding, would you hang a left then to go to Rainbow Bridge? Is that how that worked?

KP: Oh, I'm very bad with left and right.

TM: I'm going to go down and look at the map and see if I can...

KP: Yeah, that what I was going to...look at the map (laughing)

TM: (To himself) Middle Map, ok.

KP: Phil's always telling me, "No, Your other left." When I say turn left here-

TM: Oh! It is to the left. It's Rainbow Bridge and (?) Aztec Creek in Forbidding Canyon, I always get confused with the names there. Then Rainbow Bridge up Bridge Creek. Ok, let's see, did I get the right...(reading to himself) "Aztec Creek approaching Bridge Creek." Ok. Anything else you remember about the walk up there?

KP: So I remember there was a cairn there. I suppose that's for the big boat parties that come with 20 or 30 people and want to mark where to turn so you don't end up going on up Aztec Creek. And the spring under the bridge, nice greenery, very pretty! And then you'd come around a corner and there's the bridge!

TM: Wow! Well, let's go see. It says "Go on to Rainbow Bridge" so I'm going to click that..."Mouth of Bridge Canyon", it looks pretty small. Really pretty, well there's no one there for scale so it's hard to tell.

KP: I was probably the most obliging one of the party to stop, move to your left a little, get out of the shadow, come back. And Phil and I were not together on our, I guess our only trip together up there. And as I say the others weren't that obliging. Probably eager to get moving.

TM: Starting up Bridge Creek. It's a very gorgeous, tight walled sandstone canyon.

KP: Yeah, um, it's not narrow, I mean you can't reach out and touch both sides like you can in many of them. But yeah, I can see why people would come up and push.

TM: And then of course there's the bridge it's uh, "Some suggested the Capitol building in Washington D.C. would fit on the bridge." Really? "It is the largest natural bridge in the US. And Gregory Natural Bridge was the second largest." Ok, then there's a picture of Rainbow Bridge from the air.

KP: Yeah, and I think somebody from down there had flown under it. One of the aviation folks had flown under it, I don't think I would.

TM: Eeee...that's tight. No.

KP: I mean look at how close the cliff on the other side is and how close the cliff on this side is.

TM: Well, if you could go low and slow and had a small little plane, you know?

KP: Yeah, and if you could angle your way out. Coming either from lower right to upper left or the other way around and get around those walls and get out. But I don't know. Anyway, no one offered me a chance. (Both laughing)

TM: Wow really gorgeous! What else do you remember about Rainbow Bridge the first time you saw it? How did you feel?

KP: Well, we had already seen so many wonderful things that I thought it was wonderful, but I don't suppose I was as impressed as people who had seen three or four of the major canyons and then this. Uh, I had been hearing about it and seeing pictures about it for so long that it fully met expectations, but I wasn't surprised by it as one might. Because we had been in many

many canyons with no big bridges in them and then there's this and it's terrific. I also remember that the route up to it, to the top of it, involved a thick rope and, you're a climber and I'm sure that you have healthy respect for treating ropes and here was this fixed rope that had been there for God knows how long? Pecked at by how many birds who wanted nesting material and chewed at by rats and things and that was the way up! (Laughing) And that did give me pause I must say.

TM: So, the aerial photo and photo just above it, show both sides of the bridge....What was the route to get up to the top?

KP: Um, not the free standing end. You climbed up onto the ridge that's the other side.

TM: So on the aerial photo would it be on the right side?

KP: Uh, let me get back to...uh, yes. And then when you got up there, that's where the fixed rope was.

TM: Oh, to come down onto the bridge buttress proper?

KP: Uh, yeah. I guess that would be a good way to put it. And I really looked very carefully to see if there was a way to avoid using that somewhat dubiously treated rope. (Both laugh) But then there were quite a bunch of us out. It's very broad on top and there were 7 or 8 of us out there at the same time and the view was wonderful, uh the ambiance was wonderful. I'm glad it didn't get flooded. I think the Sierra Club did well to try and save it from being flooded. (Sigh) If I had to trade, if I could give up this bridge and get back all the other canyons the way they were, I think I would take the other canyons. This was marvelous, but the others were so fabulous!

TM: Wow. Wow. That's a stunning statement because that's an incredible bridge.

KP: It is. It is.

TM: That says a lot for the rest of Glen.

KP: Yeah. And we should have it all. We shouldn't have had to give up any of it.

TM: Sure.

KP: Sorry. (Laughs)

TM: No no! Understood. Wow!

KP: But yeah, it's marvelous country.

TM: Shall we go to Spring Pool Canyon? I'm going to jump back to the map, to the lower map here and the just...there's Twilight Canyon. There's Wishbone and so there's Aztec Creek on the far right side of the lower map. Ok, um and so below that is Spring Pool Canyon which comes in from the north, the bottom of Navajo Point. Ok. And that is at mile 67.8, so I've clicked onto the Spring Pool Canyon Page. That looks like you! I'm learning how to recognize it, there's someone standing in the photo that must be Keturah out there.

KP: Right. (laughing)

TM: "Spring Pool Canyon is among the most spectacular but surrounded by many of the most interesting canyons of Glen. Especially Forbidding Canyon. It was seldom visited." Oh my gosh! Because everyone wanted to go to Rainbow Bridge and wouldn't go up Spring Pool, how about that? So look at the cobbles, the first picture has, I'm assuming that's you down there in the bottom of the draw.

KP: That's right.

TM: And to the right and above you looks like a debris flow of rounded cobbles that look like they're all giant river cobbles.

KP: Right! They absolutely are and imagine the flood that brought them there.

TM: Wow!

KP: The floods plural, I'm sure that many floods brought them there. There must have been a big source somewhere upstream and they got tumbled into rounded cobbles by the time they got down there. They were big!

TM: That's stunning. But I guess you could also make the argument: Well, they were perched up there when the creek bed was higher and its cutting down so fast that um, I don't know. But, boy you gotta wonder, gee!

KP: Well, but they're only right there at that turn.

TM: Ok.

KP: They're not farther upstream and they're not further downstream.

TM: Interesting.

KP: I expect they were left there by really moving water!

TM: Well the next picture down again shows “The woman who is looking away from us in the white sailor’s hat and the giant boulder in the foreground,” so there’s a force that comes down through here.

KP: Yes, very impressive! Makes you watch the sky when the clouds start moving in.

TM: Oh, this is great! So it says “We are approaching the base of the southernmost tip of the Kaiparowits Plateau, Navajo Point” and that’s a clickable link. I’m going to click on that to go to Navajo Point. 1972 Ok, so that’s the reservoir down there. So this is not...um uh the oh wait oops...Cathedral Canyon from Klondike Bar it doesn’t say what’s up on the sky line there. Is that Navajo Point up there? So it might be. Remember, um, we were looking, we started off today’s chat and we were looking down at Mystery Canyon with a skyline rock on it...

KP: Yeah, right.

TM: And at the bottom of this page on Navajo Point from the river looking up it looks like that same point almost, not quite, but close.

KP: Yeah it doesn’t quite so I suspect not. I suspect that the one you’re talking about from early on today is much bigger than these. It was very far away and...

TM: Might look big, yeah.

KP: But I don’t know. With a map you could probably, you know, line things up and sight along them and figure it out.

TM: So this Navajo Point, Kaiparowits Plateau, Navajo Point is the southern most tip of the Kaiparowits Plateau the long canyon just this side of the reservoir is Twilight Canyon. At the far right the reservoir partially covers the hills around the big sweep of Wishbone Canyon. Ok. And then the next picture below that shows uh that’s Navajo mountain across the reservoir and that’s on the left skyline the first big canyon to the right of the left edge of the photo is Forbidding Canyon and that would be going to Rainbow Bridge up there somewhere. The route to Rainbow Bridge of course from the reservoir. Spring Pool Canyon is directly below. Ok, what a twisting little canyon is this Spring Pool Canyon. Gorgeous Country! Cathedral Canyon 1972 and then the bottom picture is Cathedral Canyon ‘62 from Klondike Bar Sheep Trail. See the reservoir move in. What I’d like to do is see more of Sheep Trail, but before we do that let’s see the reservoir move in. 62’ to 72’...oh wow! That’s quite a rematch photo. And you talked in earlier interview that you thought there were some really good rematch photos in here.

KP: Yeah. And you know these are fine, but they’re not the ones I was thinking of. He has others that are much better.

TM: Really? Well, this is stunning because it’s of 1962 of September shows the mouth of Cathedral Canyon.

KP: Yeah, in the upper picture at the curve of the alcove you can see two dents there in a more or less horizontal line and down you can see the same two dents down there below in the bottom picture.

TM: Yes.

KP: Right and that's what's gotten covered.

TM: Yeah. Yup, really shows it very well, what's happening there. My! Spectacular entry way to the narrow canyon is underwater. The huge stream alcoves are now all gone! "Watching Cathedral drown was a wrenching experience for those who explored this unforgettable and irreplaceable canyon." Wow! I can't imagine.

KP: In the picture below that you're looking out from the airplane and the alcove that you can see from the window of the airplane with the struts on the left and whatever. You can just see the top of it and the one below that.

TM: And in the bottom picture it says "From 1972 from Navajo Point we can see that nothing is left of the lower part of the canyon the part which had the gigantic stream alcoves and sharp twists and slot canyons hundreds of feet deep the reservoir now extends far up the canyon and into the part we found relatively uninteresting just run of the mill Glen Canyon spectacular." This is the part in which motor boats can readily reach and it is more spectacular than most all the world's spectacular canyons but here the reservoir gains us nothing except a little easier access but its access in what, to us, was boring after to what we had traveled through in those lower reaches. And then it says the reservoir did greatly increase its accessibility to very few of the upper parts of the canyon such as Mystery and Music Temple, but it added nothing that wasn't already there and the climbing challenge was always an accessibility option." Yeah. That's really stunning because that bottom picture from Navajo Point shows that same wall there in Cathedral Canyon that the um, that the earlier picture shows. It's a really stunning rematch series. My. Wow! I'm going to go back to...this is Cathedral Canyon, Navajo Point, I'm going to go back again. Back into Spring Pool Canyon... And there is a woman in the sailor's hat.

KP: Uh, you went to Cathedral Canyon?

TM: I went back to Spring Pool.

KP: Oh.

TM: Yeah. So if you go back out to um, go up.

KP: There we go Spring Pool...Oh come on thank you! Ok, um.

TM: Then the last, the lowermost photo shows you looking at the erosional features of the sandstone. These wonderful little fist sized cubby holes all across the rock there, face. Tons of these little delicate erosional features.

KP: You know we never did even discuss what caused those, but there must have been something that seeped in that made the sand in the sandstone tougher and more resistant to erosion in those little spaces. I don't know what.

TM: That's right, there's a whole science behind that and I'm not that versed on it, but I've heard people talk about it before. Yeah, it's a wonderful sandstone erosional feature. What else do you remember about Spring Pool Canyon? Do you know how far you went?

KP: Uh, I'm pretty sure we got back to one of those beautiful spring pools with the clear deep water at the bottom and the ring of greenery around the top and the sand between the two. The waterfall down was too steep to get up. We tried them all, but we didn't make too many of them. It seems to me that we did get up Spring Pool and went farther on. Uh, those lower canyons were all beautiful! And I can't really pick out anything that I can say 'Oh yeah, this is Spring Pool, this was Dove, this was...and so forth.' They were all lovely.

TM: That's just gorgeous, just absolutely gorgeous.

KP: Driftwood, on the other hand, was on a big alcove and we went a long ways up.

TM: Well, let's go there. I'm going to click on it. Oh my gosh! This first picture "This is Driftwood Canyon mile 66.5 and Klondike Bar." It's a giant pile of driftwood it is the sort of thing you could get if you took a Home Depot and attacked it with a football field sized blender. It's a giant mass of wood. What are we looking at here?

KP: Uh, all the stuff that came down in the floods from up above. Um most of it you can identify is definitely trees. And they're almost certainly mostly tamarisk.

TM: So has this material come down from the Colorado River or has it come down Driftwood Canyon? I mean is this an entrapment point for the driftwood in the Colorado that just kind of gets sucked off somehow by the hydraulics of the river into the mouth of this canyon?

KP: That's what I've always thought. We didn't encounter any up above and this is very near the entrance so I just have always assumed that and never thought about it until you mentioned it.

TM: That's a lot of driftwood! Wow! "Driftwood Canyon was named for the huge deposit of driftwood that the river currents packed into the mouth of the canyon. What you see here is floating on a few feet of water, an interesting challenge for the explorer in a kayak or raft." No kidding! I had no clue this amount of wood was actually floating there! "See entrance" it says. So I'm going to click on that link... Look at that! "Driftwood Canyon mile 66.4 on the right bank. Driftwood backs up densely into the entrance of this canyon as spring runoff brings it down from

Colorado and Wyoming. At perhaps 60,000 cubic feet per second, many times the maximum amount the river flow allowed by the bureau of recommendation in 1998. The short distance up Driftwood is a series of gigantic alcoves.”

KP: Yeah, I'm back in the older website. But do you see a link on that page you were on that will take you farther along this website.

TM: I think so. Where should I go?

KP: Click on it and you'll get to the page that I'm on. And to get back here I have to go clear back and start with www.explorepdx.com

TM: It says “A world wide web tour of Glen Canyon” is that the right page?

KP: Yeah. Right.

TM: Ok.

KP: You might find this interesting. This was Phil's first, uh attempt at a web page.

TM: Ok. Oh fun! So, “explore Glen Canyon on the web from the Marriot Library Archives at the University of Utah...”

KP: Oh, I'm sorry now that I read it it's not what I thought it was. Well...(laughs)

TM: Ok, no worries.

KP: ...it'll take me a little while to catch up to you because I have to clear back to find Safari again and start over. I just don't know how to use the computer very well.

TM: No worries. You're doing great! You know enough to get by and that's perfect.

KP: (Laughs) Barely. Ok, uh here we come...take a trip. Um, upper map, middle map and now we want...oh...uh...we're on Driftwood. Got it! Ok, I'm back to Driftwood Canyon now.

TM: So the first photograph in Driftwood Canyon shows a giant pile of driftwood. The next picture...shows a chunk of sky framed entirely by sandstone and the text reads, “The deepest stream alcove in Glen Canyon. We needed about a half hour of dune climbing to get through it when we boated in after the flooding started we realized the overhang was about one quarter mile.” Can you explain this to me?

KP: Uh. Well, when he says we needed about a half an hour of dune climbing to get through it. Um, there was a monster monster sand dune in this humongous alcove! And to get up and over it, it had branches unfortunately that led around both the left and right side of the dune and if

you didn't luck out and hit the right one then the logical thing was to go up and over the dune. Um, didn't quite work that way. You couldn't get up the dune; you took a step up and the dune came towards you, took another step up and dune came towards you. Uh, we had a couple of us that fancied ourselves as climbers and the guy was ahead of me and I could see his tracks going up and I could see where the dune had slid down on him several times. But he'd already come back around and gotten out of there and I thought to myself , 'You know if he got up there, by golly I can get up there!' And I worked at it until I did! And I got up and fairly high up the dune and then the whole thing just started moving. And I tried all the foot maneuvers to think to stop it from moving and I could see I was going to slide right over the lip. So I planned where I was going to go, where I was going to hit the far wall, how fast I was going to get out from the sand that was going to come down on me. Finally, something worked and I was able to walk myself out of it. And went down and came up the other arm, where everybody else by that time and later on, uh I was asked by this guy '...and where did you come up?' and I said, 'Oh, same place you did, up the left bank.' He says, 'I didn't come up there, I turned around and went back!'

TM: Oh my gosh!

KP: He was much smarter than I was! (laughing) But, uh, it was the biggest dune I have ever seen!

TM: So, was this dune in the alcove then?

KP: Yes! Uh, huh.

TM: Ok, so the creek went past...

KP: The creek, uh, the water course...

TM: Yes, the water course...

KP: ...went on both sides of the dune and at the left branch, the dune reached over to the wall and in order to get back to the branch you could go on, you either had to go back down and take the other branch or you had to go over the dune. And like an idiot I decided if he got over the dune, by golly I was going to get over the dune. And I wasted a lot of time there.

TM: I'd love to see more pictures of this because I have a real hard time getting a sense of the size of this alcove you're talking about here. It just looks absolutely gigantic.

KP: Well, if Phil says it was a quarter mile it was probably jolly close to a quarter mile.

TM: Wow!

KP: He's a natural map maker and surveyor and I'm sure that he was impressed enough by this to do it. At that time he and I weren't all that close, it was our first trip together. We had

somewhat different interests. But, the dune I'm trying to estimate how high it was...maybe 80 feet? And it didn't go anywhere near to the ceiling!

TM: No? Wow! Gee!

KP: But once you got around and went up the right bank where all the smart people and the water went, when there was water. It was, I must admit, a more major branch of it, why then you could get through and walk on up and get out the other side and go on up stream.

TM: There's a photograph, is that you walking up the sun drenched bottom of this canyon with deep shadow behind you?

KP: No. That's Helen McGinnis.

TM: Ok. And there's no water in here, is this main stem of...

KP: No. Oh, yeah.

TM: OK.

KP: Yes, once you got in and up the right branch, uh why, it went and went and went. But there wasn't any water.

TM: So then the next picture is a picture it's you and you're hand over hand maybe repelling down a rope in a...

KP: No, no that's Helen also...

TM: Is it? Ok.

KP: Uh, I'm at the top end of the rope.

TM: Oh, it says "Keturah's ubiquitous quarter inch nylon rope with knots to grip for those with lesser climbing skills. That was most of us in our party." It looks like that person's legs are coated in mud. So I wonder if...

KP: That could be...

TM: ...wonder if there's a muddy pool at the bottom of this little drop?

KP: Ok, yeah. That's true. Uh, that could be the case. Helen is the one who ends up swimming in the mud. I mean not in the water. Only the top 3 inches or so of her is swimming in water, the rest of her swimming in mud that's about as thick as pancake batter. So, she could be coated in mud. But, we would get up something and then toss down the rope with knots or sometimes we

would have loops in it. I think those have loops, but anyway, and then everyone else could pull themselves up that way. And this is getting over one of the jump ups.

TM: The picture below that shows uh, is that you standing...?

KP: That's me.

TM: Ok. Um, facing away from the camera, a little white sailor's hat there. Looks like you're standing on a chalk stone, um "There were a lot of fluted walls and driftwood," is the caption. Uh, did that canyon keep going or was that toward the end of it? Wow!

KP: I'm quite sure Driftwood was one that went and went and went. And we could've probably gotten out on the top, but uh, we quit after a while because as they say there's too much else to see and the top will still be there.

TM: I mean this looks like Antelope Canyon, a classic tight narrow slick rock slot canyon.

KP: Yes! A lot of it was.

TM: Wow, that's gorgeous.

KP: It is. Uh, and that's just one of the boulders there, it's not a chalk stone exactly.

TM: It's just one of the boulders in the bottom of the drainage bottom.

KP: Right.

TM: Wow! Gosh! Anything else you remember about this canyon?

KP: Well, that and Cathedral and Catfish had the biggest and the most of the big alcoves. Uh, beautiful things and then from these humongous alcoves it came into places like this and it would go for long distances where you could almost reach either side of the canyon. Almost, not quite, it'd probably take two of us joining hands to span that canyon. So it was just a wonderful variety of things. Some of the big alcoves had the greenery around above the pool; some of them were dry and full of sand. Uh, marvelous country and it all got covered.

TM: Yeah. No kidding. It's just stunning stunning stuff. We've been at this now about an hour and a half. Should we go to Cathedral Canyon and explore there or should we come back...to Cathedral Canyon next time?

KP: If we get into Cathedral Canyon we may be there awhile too so, how is your time?

TM: Let's stop it here. I'll make a note of this and we'll start Part 9 at Cathedral. Anything else you'd like to mention?

KP: No, but it's been great from the start down to here and now it gets really good.

TM: (Laughs) OH! A little teaser there! Oh my gosh! Well that's great!

KP: We're getting into the Glen Canyon spectacular business.

TM: Oh my gosh! I thought it was spectacular to here! What you just said, gee wiz this is amazing!

KP: That's it. And when I meet young people who have seen some of these pictures once a long while ago I said to one, "You know if I were you I would be really angry that all this was taken away before I grew up enough to go there." And I can stir up some real animosity towards the people who took it away before these young people ever had a chance to see it. And I'm hoping that it's come back to the point where everything except maybe the European history- well, the Anasazi History too- the human history, maybe all of the Natural History will be restored to them in future generations. At least we can hope.

TM: Absolutely. Nature bats last and um there will be some fascinating things happening in the future. It's just a wonderful series of photographs here in Driftwood Canyon and so, I guess this will conclude Part 8 of Grand Canyon Oral History Interview with Keturah Pennington.