

**Transcription Grand Canyon Historical Society**

**Interviewee:** Michael St. Clair (MSC)

**Interviewer:** Tom Martin (TM)

**Subject:** Michael recounts his legal action against the Park Service river trip allocation system in the 1970s and some of his river trips

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TM: Today is Saturday, January 13th, 2018. This is Part 2 of a Grand Canyon Oral History interview with Michael St. Clair. My name is Tom Martin. Michael, good morning.

MSC: Good morning, Tom.

TM: Would you be willing to let me record this conversation, since we're doing this over the telephone?

MSC: Absolutely.

TM: Thank you very much. Yesterday, in our Part 1 interview, we'd gotten up into the mid-1970s, sort of 1966/'67, with you and Dick Hertzler and Fred Eiseman looking at legal action against the Park Service over inequitable allocation. Can you pick that thread up there?

MSC: Sure. I know that I had been turned down, lost the lottery, at least twice, maybe three times by '76, and Dick Hertzler had also. We'd been sort of entering together, getting used to the rejection letters in those days [laughs]. And Fred, I believe, had also lost. But, we were sort of getting more and more incensed against the backdrop of being able to whip out your credit card and go with an outfitter anytime you wanted. In those days, there were more outfitters, 21, I think, actually 22 for a period of time. They didn't have the customer base that they have today, but they still had a pretty good one. Nonetheless, you could call them up and book a trip 3 months out or 2 months out where, if you wanted to do it yourself, you had about a 1 in 14 chance of winning the lottery. So that was the driver behind getting together and trying to decide if we could do something about this.

TM: Okay. Do you remember when you filed that litigation?

MSC: I believe it was in May of '77. We had a series of meetings with Bruce Meyerson from the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest during '76, which we were trying to... Well, we were trying to fit our arguments into a legal framework to challenge the allocation system.

TM: Do you know if Bruce is still alive?

MSC: I know Bruce went on to become a justice on the Arizona Supreme Court, so he must have been a fairly decent lawyer [laughs]. I don't know if he's still alive. I haven't had any contact with him for 30-plus years. But I believe he might be. If so, he'd probably be in Phoenix. That's where his family was from.

TM: Yeah. Yeah. It might be interesting to talk with him about that time. By 1977, the Colorado River Management Plan—the first large planning effort by the park for river management—had been underway since, I believe, 1972. Had you guys been looking at that management and following it as it went along?

MSC: Oh, yeah. And Fred had obtained... Fred was a lot more respectable than Dick and I [laughs] and probably because—and not to mention 20 years older. But, I think, through connections that he had made for decades, really, with park people, he was able to obtain sort of...I'm hesitant to say *drafts* of proposals, but he did know where the park was leaning on a bunch of different issues that affected the river, the main one being wilderness designation for the river corridor. Again, in sort of brainstorming with Barry Goldwater and others, we knew that if the river was designated wilderness and motors were phased out or eliminated, that this would drastically alter the outfitters' use of the river. I'm not going to say "allocation." I'm going to say "use" because, all of a sudden, instead of running 3- and 4- and 5-day trips to Phantom and 10-day trips all the way through, they were going to be forced to run much longer trips that would not be as luxurious and possibly not as appealing.

TM: How was that seen? Was that seen as a good thing to actually help the change in allocation? Or was that seen as a bad thing that might... I guess I see the point that that was absolutely a concern if you phase out motors. And it's interesting because what happened later was the motor trips got faster and faster which brought in yet more people.

MSC: Right.

TM: So, in that framework, how was that seen with Goldwater and Eiseman and yourself?

MSC: Well, it was an unknown. But the one certain thing was it was going to piss the outfitters off to no end because it would force a change in their operations. And...you're right. The history of motor trips down there is that they've gotten more efficient and faster. The ban on two-stroke motors was kind of a slap to the environmental lobby. I'm not a motor boatman by any means, but I will argue that there are two-stroke motors today that are just as efficient, if not more so than four-stroke. But, it was a politically popular thing to say, "Yeah, we're sensitive to environmental concerns, so we're going to ban two-stroke motors in the Grand Canyon" instead of taking the full step of saying, "We're going to ban motors."

TM: Right.

MSC: Now, this is, again, against... In the 70s, the science...it hadn't gelled and, quite frankly, wasn't very good or extensive, let's say. I'm not going to evaluate the validity, but... Carothers hadn't gotten going.

TM: Who was Carothers?

MSC: Steve Carothers. Actually, he was a Prescott College alumnus but was gone before my time. He basically made a fortune off of environmental monitoring in the Canyon, which didn't really come into fruition until the 80s. So, in the 70s, we were arguing... I mean, basically, nobody but the Park Service could afford to do their own studies. What the Park Service studies consisted of was pretty [laughs]

nebulous. It wasn't very open or public. There were some very primitive... I remember getting a survey at one time with a bunch of questions about the experience on the river corridor and, you know, "Would you be upset to see another trip how often during the day?" You know, questions like that.

TM: Social science.

MSC: Yeah, what Fred would call touchy-feely nonsense. But the fact of what was happening on the ground... Because the use had already exploded in terms of the past. When they froze in '72, I think they were freezing at somewhere around 100,000 user days/98,000 user days, which may or may not have covered all the use, including science trips and celebrity trips, that kind of thing. But it was certainly several orders of magnitude less than the use today. I guess what I'm trying to say is we didn't think that we could argue credibly that the resource was being damaged and allege that as a cause of action for our lawsuit. We, in discussing it with the attorneys, felt that we basically had to attack the proposal from the Park Service to keep the use at 92 percent commercial-8 percent private as arbitrary, unfair, and basically that it discriminated economically as well.

TM: Right. Okay.

MSC: I think Joe and Wilderness Public Rights Fund filed their lawsuit in late '76.

TM: That was Joe Monroe?

MSC: Yeah, Joe Monroe. Our attorneys advised us that it would be best, from a legal standpoint, to attack, or sue, on the basis of a proposal from the Park Service. So we waited until the park actually announced the draft management plan, which, I believe, was either April or May of 1977. We had our suit ready to go, and, as I recall, the day they announced, we went into court about three days later and filed. Fred did a press release with the attorney's input. I had a copy of it for a long, long time, but it sort of fell apart. [laughs] It was, in some ways, typical Fred. It stuck to the facts pretty rigorously, but it makes kind of what other people might refer to as highfalutin arguments about the fact that it was unfair to discriminate against people who had the knowledge to run a trip but not the credit card, the financial means. So that was one of the things that was announced in the press. As soon as that lawsuit was filed, the press picked up on it, maybe partly because of Fred's efforts. But I recall a reporter from one of the local news stations in Phoenix coming out and interviewing me in the park across the street from my house. And then that night, when the segment aired on the news, Gay Staveley had been asked in Flagstaff to give his views. Gay basically said, Well, these are a bunch of yahoos who don't know what they're doing and if the park gives them what they want, there's going to be disaster and tragedy and deaths and destruction. [laughs]

TM: Interesting.

MSC: That's sort of the background. As far as the arguments we made in the lawsuit, we cited the third section of the Organic Act, which created the Park Service in 1916, which says that the government will not lease, grant, or provide access to public lands, national monuments, et cetera, on any terms that interfere with free access by the public. That became sort of the focal point of the legal challenge as it moved through the court, certainly at the hearing in the federal district court in Phoenix later.

TM: How did that free access argument shake down? Do you remember?

MSC: Yeah [laughs], unfortunately. The outfitters—and this is an argument that sort of presages some of the stuff that's being said about public lands here in Utah right now by people who I have a pretty low

opinion of but happen to occupy positions of power. The outfitters said, “Look. We’re the ones that are providing access to the public, and what these folks are is a small group of elite,” [laughs]—I’m biting my tongue to not characterize our political orientation, but—“basically rich hippies who have the time and money to acquire the equipment and go down the river. And we are providing access to the working man.” [laughs] Interesting. Fred immediately picked up on this and would frame questions about how many people...basically, trying to get a profile of the clientele of the outfitters at the time.

TM: Sure.

MSC: Which then wasn’t very much different than it is today; overwhelmingly from upper-income folks who happen to also mostly be white and basically the folks that run the country. So [laughs] we didn’t have Jeffe Aronson. He wasn’t around in those days. Of all the characters who I got to know following Grand Canyon history and access issues and stuff like that, Aronson is the one that actually went out and took—well, got the park to give him a permit to take people with disabilities and low-income folks down the river. But he wasn’t active until the late 90s. I think Dick McCallum and Jeffe got together from Grand Canyon Youth.

TM: Yeah, and Dick McCallum had started Grand Canyon Youth, which as an educator, he was a teacher, he was trying to get kids on the river, but eventually sort of transitioned over into that high-paying customer bracket.

MSC: Yep. Although Grand Canyon Youth continues to this day.

TM: Right. Reorganized. They’re not a concession.

MSC: Right.

TM: The name is there, but you can’t really [record] anything else to it.

MSC: Yeah, I mean, that’s a sidebar to the allocation issue, but there was always a fairly significant, I’m going to say in the low thousands of user days, segment that was educational/scientific. You know, at one time, I told Fred what we ought to do is start our own religion and apply for a religious permit because we were being denied the chance to see our sacred tribe, little knowing that later that would result in closing the Patio or at least restricting access down there [laughs].

TM: Yeah, the administrative use of the river is Park Service controlled, kind of unlimited amount of trips there for scientific research, for university study.

MSC: Members of Congress.

TM: You bet. Park Service trips as they deem necessary. Sure. So that was there in ’77. I had another sidebar question. Seemed as though, maybe 10 years ago or so, an organization put out some materials saying that Fred did not get involved in this litigation. Did you see that? Were you aware of that?

MSC: Nope. Absolutely.

TM: We’ll talk about that later, because I...

MSC: Okay.

TM: ...I just found that curious why they would attempt to do that, given...

MSC: I don't think I would've been able to articulate the legal justification for the lawsuit without Fred. So that's a very suspicious claim [laughs]. I think I can hear Fred rolling around.

TM: At this time in 1977, were you still working for the law firm there in Phoenix?

MSC: No. I got back to Phoenix... I actually looked up some dates yesterday after I talked to you, just to get a general sense. I actually got back to Phoenix in late '74, went to work for the law firm in '75 and '76. In '76, in October, I came up to Moab and ran a Cat trip with Hertzler and another guy from Prescott, Calli Simpson and we went out for three weeks down Cat. I think it was the end of September and the first two weeks of October. I decided on that trip I didn't really want to continue my errant ways in the legal profession. So, when I went back, it was sort of a mutual parting of the ways with the law firm, and I got a job with the Forest Service for the 1977 fire season and moved back to Prescott. But, by then, the lawsuit was well on its way, and it was a matter of waiting for the park to announce their plans and sort of trying to generate some more support and interest locally.

TM: Okay. Another question I had for you at this time. You had done some Diamond Down river trips or at least one with Prescott College there. I believe it was in '69. Is that right?

MSC: '70.

TM: '70. Okay. And, then, had you done other Grand Canyon river trips actually starting at Lees Ferry and heading downstream toward Phantom Ranch?

MSC: No. I went up and rigged one of Vern Taylor's trips at the Ferry in probably '71. He usually went in the winter for whatever reasons. I remember driving up there and helping inflate all the boats and pack everything and stuff like that, but I didn't go from the Ferry. I was interested in the area, and I would volunteer to drive and then spend a night or two at the Ferry and walk around/poke around. I remember once being ferried across to walk up on the other side where the old trail used to be.

TM: Yeah, Lee's Backbone over there?

MSC: Yeah, what they call Lee's Backbone, I guess. And it was still fairly—I mean, even to this day, you can see that somebody has improved it. But it was a neat area to poke around in. But I did not actually run the whole Canyon until '77.

TM: So that was after your Cat trip?

MSC: Right. Yeah. And I had run the Salt in a kayak, and the Verde several times. There was a Forest Service guy in Phoenix named Pete Weinel, and he was the guru of the Salt. He published, I think at his own expense, a two-page map of the Salt with the significant rapids on it and stuff, and you could get it through the Forest Service. So I got ahold of one of those, and then the ranger or volunteer who sold me the map saw Pete walking by and said, "Hey, this guy just bought one of your maps." And Pete goes, you know, "Are you planning to go?" and I go, "Well, I was thinking about it." And he goes, "Well, you know..." And then very graciously took me aside and said, "You know, you better be prepared to carry your boat" because, in those days Quartzite was a major obstacle.

TM: Right.

MSC: So we did. Actually, I went down there with another guy named Chuck Carpenter, who's a semi-famous dirtbag kayaker from the 70s. I think we took 4 days and did a kayak trip in probably '77.

TM: Can you tell me more about Pete and Chuck and that four-day trip on the Salt?

MSC: [laughs] Well, I never went on a river trip with Pete, but he was well-known as... He felt like the Salt was his baby, very protective and very... He didn't want to see fatalities out there. The Salt was a fairly significant experience at that time. The first plastic kayaks came out in '77, I think. "Hollow tubs" we called them, Holoforms. That changed river running. But, until then, with fiberglass boats, when you hit rocks, if you hit them hard enough, then you had to fix your boat. So you tried not to hit rocks compared to today, where some of the basic moves involve splatting and doing all these things. So, anyway, I remember going up...it was probably April, because the Salt season isn't very long [laughs]. I remember going up with Chuck and we ran the daily section of the Salt and camped and then drove back to the top and put in, and somebody came... Oh, somebody from Globe shuttled our vehicle down to the dam, or to the lake, to Roosevelt Lake. And then we spent the next three nights going down the canyon. Quartzite, we did carry Quartzite on the left-hand side. There was a nice portage. But we ran everything else. And, later on, probably in 1979 and '80, I ran a couple more trips with a fellow named Bob Miller from Chino Valley, another old Prescott College alumnus. Bob was more of a mountaineer and stuff, although a good kayaker. He actually ran Quartzite when it was still a falls and lived to tell about it, but just barely [laughs]. He got sucked over into the wall on the left and just hammered for about two or three minutes.

TM: Wow.

MSC: I thought I was going to watch my first fatality on the river when I saw that, but he came out. There was a big gravel bar down below Quartzite that he could wash up on before the next rapid, which was called Corkscrew. He got there and dried out on the gravel bar and got his breath back, and we ran Corkscrew. But, in those days, I would say less than a hundred people ran the Salt because you had to catch the season. Now, I mean running the canyon, not the upper part, what they call the daily section on the Salt. We used to joke that if you wanted to buy a kayak, the big eddy under the bridge was where you went because people would buy kayaks, go up there, and run the first the rapid, swim, and then there would be...

TM: Call it good.

MSC: [laughs] Yeah. There would be everything going around in that eddy. So, if you made an offer quick, you could probably get a kayak pretty quick [laughs]. But the Salt, that daily section of the Salt had some significant drops on it. I actually later on in '83, I think, separated my shoulder there at a rapid called Maytag and had to go into Globe to get it reset. That was with John Annerino. I don't know if you know that name.

TM: Yep.

MSC: John's a pretty famous wilderness runner. He came way after me at Prescott College, I think in the 70s, the late 70s. He organized food caches and then ran the whole Tonto and got into wilderness-running as a avocation. He's published a guidebook on the Grand, which I still have. And he's lately, in the last decade or so, published a bunch of, maybe two or three books about immigrants crossing the desert from Mexico to southern Arizona. If you search his name, you'll find plenty of articles and things that he's written. John was a good guy.

TM: We actually converse every couple years.

MSC: Ah. Cool.

TM: So I'm familiar with John. What else can you remember about Chuck, Chuck Carpenter, on that four-day Salt trip?

MSC: [laughs] There's a profile of Chuck written by Bob Miller. I think it's called "Mr. Quarter-to-Two." The name of the article, or the biography, comes from the fact that he called up to order a pizza once and the guy wanted his name. Chuck was paranoid about revealing personal data; I don't think Chuck ever filed a tax return. He got into this conversation with the pizza guy about, "Why do you need my name?" Finally, in order to get his pizza, he looked at his watch and saw it was a quarter to two, so he said, "Just call me Mr. Quarter-to-Two" [laughs]. Chuck was a pretty famous, like I say, dirtbag kayaker. He lived out of his VW van and traveled between Alaska and Mexico for maybe 20 years or 25 years, just doing whatever he wanted, climbing. He went up to Alaska in the early 60s, '64 or '65, along with some other folks from Prescott and Phoenix, and got hired to build the pipeline and made a ton of money, as did most of them. And he hung onto it [laughs]. He was famously cheap. But he was a real character and just completely competent in the outdoors. I don't know if you know Thumb Butte in Prescott.

TM: Yes.

MSC: Chuck went out and was climbing at Thumb Butte in 1970. When I was at Prescott College, he was out there climbing at Thumb Butte with Miller and a rock rolled on him and pinned his foot. He started screaming, and there was no way that Miller could move the rock. It weighed about a ton. So Miller ran down the trail back to Prescott and got the fire department to come out. And they, in those days, didn't have a clue what they were doing. So, they sent five or six husky guys with come-a-longs and all kinds of stuff to go up and move the rock off of Chuck. And [laughs] the story was... I didn't have a phone, or maybe they would have called me. But the story was that when they came running down the trail, they could hear this screaming about a mile away [laughs]. As they got closer and closer, the screaming got more and more intense. They moved the rock off of Chuck, and it had crushed his foot, of course. They said, "All right, well, you're going to the hospital." And Chuck said, "No, I'm not." They said, "Why not?" He said, "Well, I can't afford the hospital." [laughs] He got somebody to help push the bones back where they were supposed to be, and he never did go to the hospital. They never put a cast on it.

TM: Wow.

MSC: But, you know, it healed up somehow. Chuck was quite a character. He was good friends with Hertzler. They did a bunch of trips together. They did a descent with Miller from Sullivan Lake, which is the headwaters of the Verde. They claim it was the first descent of the Verde all the way down to Horseshoe Lake. I went out and helped them lower their boats below the dam because Chuck was a purist, so it wasn't a through-run if you didn't paddle your kayak up and touch the wall of the dam on one side and then carry it up and touch the wall on the bottom of the dam on the other side. I always thought that was a little bit foolish, but he claimed you couldn't rightfully say you ran the whole thing if [laughs]...

TM: If you didn't touch the barrier. Wow. On both sides [laughs].

MSC: So, yeah. I wasn't in their league paddling. I was going to tell you yesterday. I got better later in life, but kayaking was just the one thing that I never got very good at, but I enjoyed it more than anything else that I did. And, so, I flailed. I mean, the first Grand trip, I swam—Jesus, you know, two/three times a day, I swam. I used to say, "If there was a gold medal for swimming with your kayak, I could win that one." But, as a kayaker [laughs], I was pretty poor.

TM: So let's talk about that first trip. This was 1977, is that right, for Grand Canyon?

MSC: Yeah, 1977.

TM: Who was on that trip? How did you get invited? How did that all work out?

MSC: Well, when we went up to Moab in '76, I had this old Udisco raft that... I don't know if you've heard the name Mark Jensen or Bart Henderson or those guys.

TM: Yeah. Marv, Marv Jensen?

MSC: Yeah.

TM: Yeah, you bet.

MSC: Well, Mark was running the exploratory on the Tatshenshini in '76.

TM: Oh, this is Mark? Not Marvin?

MSC: No, not Marvin Jensen. No, not the Park Service. No, this is Mark.

TM: Yeah. Got it.

MSC: Okay. So Bart is Royal Bartley Henderson III. He's from Vernal. Long family history in Vernal. He went to high school and grew up with the Hatches and that whole crowd. Both Mark and Bart went to work, actually, I think in '68 or '69, running motors in the Grand.

TM: For Hatch?

MSC: For Hatch and for others. Mark, Fort Lee, Tony, all those guys. Mark mostly transitioned over to rowing and in the 70s and 80s, ran over a hundred Grand trips that were specialized as photography safaris. You could get more money if you [laughs] sold that there was going to be a photography pro along. Bart's probably one of the better guys on the sticks I've ever seen, but he came to rowing a little bit later. I remember, when he was running back in the 80s, he would run a sliding seat oar rig, like a...

TM: Nice.

MSC: Yeah. Anyway, when we went through Moab in '76, I didn't have any oars for my Udisco, which I had bought from a guy named Tupper up in Idaho. Tupper had gone on Mark's exploratory on the Tatshenshini, as had Hertzler. I had wanted to go, but the timing just didn't work. So, anyway, when we went through Moab, Hertzler said, "Don't worry. We'll go see Wano [sp]." I said, "All right, who's Wano?" He said, "Well, Tag-A-Long." So we pull into Tag-A-Long in September, late September of '76, and we talk with Wano. He says, "Sure, I'll give you some oars." So he gives me these 11-foot oars; wood oars, 11-foot. Now, the Udisco was about 6-foot-10 wide [laughs].

TM: And how long?

MSC: 17 feet, 15 feet maybe.

TM: Okay [laughs]. All right. So pretty narrow.

MSC: Well, I didn't have a frame either, by the way. But I had a brace and bit and a saw. So I drove to Green River and went into the True Value Hardware there and bought bolts for the frame. And I had a couple of four-by-four pieces of oak that had come off of an old pallet. So I sat on the banks at what's

now Green River State Park—at the time, it was a little bit downstream of where it is today—and built the frame while Hertzler and Calli ran the shuttle down to Hite.

TM: So hang on a second right there. I've got a bunch of questions. Where you built that frame was much closer down by the train bridge?

MSC: Right.

TM: And there was a water structure. There was a house there to pump water out of the river. Is that right?

MSC: Yep. Yep. Exactly.

TM: Just making sure I know where you were. And, then, you mentioned Wano. Was that John Williams?

MSC: That's John Williams. Yeah.

TM: Okay. His parents ran Tag-A-Long, is that right, at the time?

MSC: Well, his parents started Tag-A-Long, yeah. Mitch and Mary.

TM: Yeah. Right.

MSC: Yeah. And his granddad basically started Moab. I mean, he was the town doctor.

TM: Right. And had a ranch just down below the portal there.

MSC: Yep. Yep.

TM: Okay. So let's take it from the top here [laughs].

MSC: [laughs] Well, it's hard to tell the top.

TM: I know. There's many different ways to go here. What do you remember about John Williams there in 1976?

MSC: Well, like yesterday, I mean [laughs]... This is the first time I'm going to raise anybody with a substance abuse problem, but John was pretty heavy into drinking in those days. It wasn't manifest unless he was on a bender, but those were fairly frequent. He wasn't when I came through Moab. It was the end of the season. He was packing up Tag-A-Long for the year, kind of shutting everything down. It was what later led to a split with his dad because his dad didn't leave him Tag-A-Long, his dad sold it. Mitch tried everything he could to get John to get his drinking under control, but it didn't work. I think it kind of broke John's heart a little bit when Mitch decided, okay, I'm going to sell it instead of passing it along, because John had worked there since he was 12 years old. But John now has NAVTEC in Moab.

TM: Right.

MSC: And, as far as I know, has been sober for decades.

TM: Yeah. We had a great conversation last year, talking about boat design, talking about Otis Marston. Just a lot of fun.

MSC: Yep. Yeah. John and I go way back. [laughs] He's quite a character. The other one missing from this discussion but just about to come into it is Greg Williams and Sidewinder.

TM: Okay. Tell me about Greg.

MSC: Greg's still in Moab, living in Steve Bathens's [sp] trailer.

TM: So is Greg related to John?

MSC: No. Greg's from Pasadena. His dad was a nuclear engineer. I don't know how Greg got into river running, but he was the organizer of the first Grand trip I went on with a kayak in '77.

TM: Okay, so hang on right there. Let me make sure this is the right Greg Williams I'm thinking about, just because there's so many Williams [laughs]. Was Greg married to a woman named Suzanne for a while?

MSC: No. No. But he had a girlfriend named Suzanne for a while but they never got married.

TM: Ah. Okay. So that is... Because I wasn't sure whether they were married or not. But now we're talking about the right Greg. Okay.

MSC: Yeah. So, by virtue of coming through Moab and meeting John and some of the Tag-A-Long folks, spending the night, and running the Cat trip... The timing of the Cat trip was to run into the boatmen's rendezvous down in Cataract that year, which was on the full moon in October. In those days, you could still take a dog. So Hertzler had his Doberman. It was me, Hertzler, Calli, and the Doberman in this Udisco and two kayaks.

TM: Wow.

MSC: So two of us would kayak, and the third one would row and we took our time getting down to Cataract. By the time we got there, we pretty much knew how to row a boat. At least make it go where we wanted it to, as much as you can make a boat that's less than 7 feet wide with 11-foot oars go, anyway. [laughs] It was a good lesson in physics.

TM: Yeah.

MSC: But the frame was just two-by-six redwood, bolted at the corners with these pieces of four-by-four oak for oar locks that were bolted in the center. I kind of cantilevered them out a little bit so that I could use some of that 11-foot oar. Then I just drilled holes and dropped the oarlocks through the holes in the four-by-four and pinned them on the bottom. It was amazing to me that it worked, but it did. So, anyway, we went down. We got to Big Drop 1, and the boatmen's rendezvous was there with characters that I had never seen or heard of in my life.

TM: Like who?

MSC: Vern [Verle] from Green River, and I'm desperately trying to think of his last name. He was a county sheriff for San Juan County who also ran river trips and owned, I think, at one time, Wild Rivers down in Bluff, or he was instrumental in getting it started. He was a local boy, San Juan boy. Jack Mormon, liked to go on a tear, which he did.

TM: How old was he when you met him?

MSC: Oh, jeez. Vern [Verle] Green, that's what it was. Vern [Verle] Green. He was probably 50. I have this clear recollection of he was driving a snout onto the beach at Big Drop 1, and Wano was on the beach sort of directing him, and Vern [Verle] was taking a pull from a bottle of whiskey. As he drove the boat up onto the beach, he fired the bottle right at Wano. Wano caught it and took a swig and said, "Welcome to the party." There was probably, I'd say 30 people there that night.

TM: Hey, Michael?

MSC: Yeah.

TM: I'm going to jump in and ask a question about Vern [Verle] still.

MSC: Sure.

TM: Did Vern [Verle] live at Bluff?

MSC: Yes, for a while.

TM: For a while. When? In the 60s, 50s/60s?

MSC: Well, I didn't meet him until '76. I know that he did. I mean, he had family there. He was kind of the black sheep of the family, from what I heard later. I know that he had some connection to starting Wild Rivers, whether he bankrolled it or whether he got the permit or whether he... And I know he had family there in Bluff.

TM: Well, this is interesting, because there was a letter I read from Moulton Fulmer to Pat Riley. And I believe this was the 60s, late 50s or 60s. He's trying to launch a boat for a San Juan run, and the deputy sheriff comes by and tells him he can't do it. [MSC laughs] I was always curious why was the deputy sheriff involved? It didn't make sense until right now.

MSC: Maybe. Maybe. It's about the right timing. Vern [Verle] was the... He was the deputy sheriff, and I think later he was the sheriff for, like, 20 years down there.

TM: Okay. And that would make sense because Fulmer, of course, had run the San Juan in the 40s so he was well-versed with the river. He just went ahead and rigged and ran. But I found that very curious. It was like, why was this guy saying that? Okay. And, so, that's a good match. Who else was there for the rendezvous?

MSC: Well, basically, it was boatmen from Moab with their girlfriends and whatever.

TM: So Greg Williams would have been there, possibly Suzanne.

MSC: Greg was there. A guy named Bob Dudek from Moab who just died last year. Oh, boy. I'd have to think.

TM: That's right. Dudek was John Williams's partner. Is that right?

MSC: Yeah. Dudek was a jack of all trades. He actually started a couple of little sort of newsletters in Moab. John was more of the outfitter mentality and side, and John ran Jeep trips and river trips and, you know, everything. Dudek was more of an artist. I'm going to distinguish that from being an artiste.

TM: Wasn't Dudek the one who ran with Williams and John Weisheit through Grand Canyon, attempting a motor speed run in the 90s?

MSC: I think so. Yeah.

TM: Okay. Thank you.

MSC: That sounds like Dudek. Yeah. But, anyway, we were there on the beach, it was probably the first week of October, at Big Drop 1. I remember, in terms of water levels, walking up to Ben Hurt and being able to walk across the left channel—well, channel—the left side of Ben Hurt, which is a gravel bar, out to the island.

TM: Very low water.

MSC: Yeah. Pretty low water. I mean, I've got more Cat trips than anything, and I guessed, looking back, we were at maybe two grand or a little bit over two grand.

TM: Okay, two or three thousand cubic feet a second. Okay.

MSC: Anyway, so I sort of looked at this ragtag bunch of people and thought, well, I don't have a lot in common with them but, you know, they're pretty interesting folks. The night before, we had stopped at Spanish Bottom and camped there. Calli had gotten out at Water Canyon and hiked over from Water to Spanish Bottom. But he'd never done it before, he'd never been there before, and he got lost.

TM: [laughs] Not surprising.

MSC: So, instead of coming down the trail from the Doll's House, he just started coming down one of the drainages that's sort of on the northwest end of Spanish Bottom. Hertzler and I are down there in camp with his 90-pound Doberman, and we see this light up in the rocks, way the heck up. Hertzler goes, "I'll walk out across the Bottom to lead him to camp." I said, "Well, he can see the fire. You know, he's going to make it fine." I think Hertzler just wanted to stretch his legs, so he whistles for his dog and takes off. About five seconds later, I hear this, "Oh, shit," and Hance got into a porcupine. So, we spent the next hour holding the dog down and pulling quills out of his muzzle with channel locks.

TM: Isn't it fascinating that there was a porcupine at Spanish Bottom?

MSC: Oh, yeah. They're all over the place there.

TM: Huh.

MSC: There's also ringtail cats at Spanish Bottom.

TM: Oh, yeah. That I would expect. But a porcupine, that's interesting.

MSC: Yeah. So, the dog would hold still. The dog was amazing dog, really smart dog, named Hance after the rapid or John. Hance would lie down and let you pull two or three of them out, and then he would just shake you off he was in so much pain. But he'd just get up and walk a few feet away, and then he'd sit there and kind of look at you. And then he'd come back and lay right down and let you get back to work again. It took a long time to get all the quills out [laughs]. And he had some up inside his mouth.

TM: So, Michael. So Water Canyon—you guys were coming down the Green? Is that right?

MSC: Yeah. Yeah.

TM: Okay. I got confused. I thought, for a while, you were coming down Meander Canyon from Moab.

MSC: No, no.

TM: Which reminds me, have you ever heard of the section of river from Moab down to the confluence on the Colorado River called Orange Cliff Canyon?

MSC: Nope. I have not.

TM: I just read that in an old journal from the 40s, and I was like, "Hmm. That's curious."

MSC: Yeah, I've got about 60-something Cat trips, and probably 45 of them have always been on the Green side. It's longer, it's prettier, and less congested.

TM: Yeah. Yeah. So there is Hertzler with his dog.

MSC: Right.

TM: And Chuck is...

MSC: Calli.

TM: Calli, I'm sorry...

MSC: Yeah, that's right.

TM: ...is trying to come down the hill, and you guys are pulling spines out. So Calli makes it into camp?

MSC: Oh, yeah. He makes it into camp, foot-sore and a little beat. The point being that the next night when we got to Big Drop 1, we were a little bit tired from being up [laughs] way late, having to deal with all this stuff. So I kind of just went to bed and let everybody else continue to party on into the night. They built a big old sauna. In those days, you could still get away with that. Basically, everybody's tarp in camp would be confiscated, and then there was more than enough driftwood around to make a frame. So, you'd make a frame with wood and cover it with tarps. Then the most critical part of the sauna business was making sure you selected the right rocks, because if you got the wrong ones they could explode.

TM: Sure.

MSC: You built a great big fire, heated the rocks, took a shovel, put the rocks in the bucket, got inside the sauna, closed the flap, and commenced to sweating, [laughs] which I thought was pretty cool. But after round one, I wasn't ready to continue so I just went to bed. Got up the next morning and flipped the raft in Big Drop 2, which was my first flip. Didn't lose anything, with the exception of the... I had one of these prototype sleeping bags, which I think Big Agnes now has the design on, but the bottom half was a foam pad. So, you could unzip the foam pad and use it to lounge around on and then zip the sleeping bag onto the top and have a sleeping bag. So I had one of those and I lost the bottom half. That's the only thing we lost in the flip, and we got it back before Big Drop 3. I made the slot run in Big Drop 3 on the left, the gut, and then we went on out onto the lake, which in those days was up above Ten Cent, or close to Ten Cent.

TM: Yeah. Quite a ways up.

MSC: Yeah. That's where I got to know Dudek because he and his girlfriend asked if I was okay. I told them that I'd lost the bottom half of my bag and they took an old lifejacket, a kapok Mae West, that had been holed, and they basically sewed me a new bottom [laughs] onto my sleeping bag, and all the time just sitting on the beach...

TM: Oh, that's nice.

MSC: ...drinking a beer. Yeah. Yeah. They were really nice folks, both of them. So that night I could sleep. Then the next day we just ran out on the lake with this whole flotilla of pirates. I was, what, 23/24 years old and meeting folks that were definitely interesting characters, and I sort of decided, you know, I wouldn't mind doing this. So I went back to Prescott. The next summer I worked doing fire for the Forest Service. I was stationed out at Palace Station, which was really cool. It's the oldest log cabin in Arizona.

TM: Where was that?

MSC: It's called Palace Station. It's on the General Crook Highway. I think it's 17 miles south of Prescott. You go out to Green Creek and you keep going. That was my duty station. We had a pumper truck out there. So I rode my motorcycle out every morning and hung around waiting for fire. It wasn't much of a fire season, but... We talked about this earlier, employment was not easy to come by in Prescott and the forest was a big source of jobs, particularly for guys under 30. So I got a little bit friendly with the forest supervisor just because he would come out to Palace Station to "inspect it," but mostly just to sit on the front porch and take in the view. There were still some fruit trees. There was a well.

TM: Wow.

MSC: It's a beautiful little place. He finally decided to extend all of us on the contract into October. I remember going into his office in Prescott and saying, "Hey, I'm sorry, but I've got this Grand trip I'm going on." He looked at me and he said, "Well, won't there be other Grand trips?" I said, "I don't know, but I'm not willing to [laughs] work for \$3.45 an hour when I could be down there." He said, "So you're telling me you're quitting?" and I said, "Yep." He said, "Well, you know what that means," and I said, "Yep," which was that I wouldn't be hired for the following fire season. I said, "Yeah, I'm sorry, but, you know, it's more important to me to go down the Grand than it is to work for another three weeks." So I quit. I was the only one to quit that whole year, I think. All my buddies in Prescott thought I was crazy, but I...it's just... I went down the Grand. And Greg had organized this trip using Mark Sleight's permit.

TM: Oh, so he was using Sleight's user days as a commercial permit?

MSC: As a commercial trip, yeah. I think we launched on the 28th of September. I wrote a letter to my mom about it, and I had the letter that she left me, but I threw it away somewhere. Anyway, we launched right at the end of September, and we ran a 33 with no side tubes because there was not much water.

TM: So that's a 33-foot long oval tube with no side tubes. That's what Hatch would call a tail-dragger.

MSC: Right.

TM: It was a very common and popular used design by Hatch, very unstable if you entered big things sideways...

MSC: [laughs] Yes, very.

TM: ...but otherwise was workable.

MSC: Well, it was billed as a kayak trip. Greg had drug a bunch of folks from Aspen down for the trip, including Kirk Baker, who ran Aspen Kayak School, and some of Kirk's instructors; a little guy named Danny Roman, that was a ferocious boater. And I want to say Peter Hershorn, who was one of the first million-dollar lawsuit babies against the ski industry. He had severed his spine in Colorado at, I think, at Aspen, and settled and got all this money but also got confined to the wheelchair for the rest of his life. But he had taken up kayaking and he basically belted himself into the boat, so if he turned over, he couldn't get out of the boat. He had a personal attendant along to push... He had this wheelchair with these great big sand tires.

TM: Wow.

MSC: And he had a guy named...I think it was Kevin Padden. Yes, Kevin. Kevin was along to help him. Peter paid for Kevin's way in return for Kevin helping him out in camp and getting him in and out of his boat and, you know, blah, blah, blah. Kevin later was murdered in Tibet along with his wife. Way later, like 1990s, early 90s, and it made international news, because I remember reading about it and thinking is this the same Kevin Padden? I was in touch with some friends, and it was. I think it was just bandits, but they were both murdered in their tent in Tibet. Which was very unusual for Tibet.

TM: Yeah. No kidding.

MSC: That's why it made the news. But, anyway, Hershorn was pretty impressive as a boater, less so as a human being but, you know, I'm not going to make value judgments about what would happen if I couldn't walk anymore.

TM: Right. So did Peter have somebody kayaking, like, nearby or with him, to help him if he...

MSC: Yeah. Kevin.

TM: Oh, okay.

MSC: And we were all instructed. When we started off from Lees, we all agreed we would stick around Peter if there was something that looked like it would be hard for him. He got stuck a couple/three times in holes and always rolled out of them. But I was close to him once and watched him, and he was really determined. I mean, he would just hang in there, hang in there, and keep feeling around until he got water and then he'd pop up. So he was impressive. There were some great paddlers on that trip—Kirk Baker.

TM: When did Greg get into Grand Canyon?

MSC: Well, he ran trips, mostly for, I think, Fort Lee and Hatch, different outfitters. I mean, in those days, boatmen were kind of mobile assets [laughs].

TM: Sure.

MSC: You know, you worked for whoever had a trip that would give you a boat. I didn't get a boat. I didn't run my own motor rig in the Grand. I swamped and cooked and did menus, because I was always sort of pretty good with food. At least, people thought I was pretty good with food, and I wasn't going to

tell them otherwise. But, you tell me how many people were going and for how long, and I could figure out how much groceries you needed. I got on some trips later on just because that was my calling card. But I never had my own boat, my own motor rig, whatever. But any swamper will tell you that if your lead boatman is any good at all, he's going to turn the tiller over to you and make sure you know what to do [laughs]. I mean, to be honest with you, I didn't like the responsibility of having all those lives and all that gear in my hands. It bothered me. It didn't make me tentative and I wasn't scared, but I just didn't like the prospect of if I screw up, the whole trip's going to come to a halt, you know. That's still something that bothers me when I run passengers [laughs].

TM: You know, Michael, I kind of want to back up for a minute here because here you are in litigation with Fred and Dick to try to deal with this inequitable access allocation issue.

MSC: Right.

TM: And you're hanging out with a lot of commercial guides whose jobs rely on that allocation being the way it is.

MSC: Yep.

TM: Did that topic ever come up?

MSC: Oh, yeah [laughs].

TM: Can you expand on that?

MSC: Well, I mean, there were people that didn't want me anywhere near their operations; Fred and Carol, Gay Staveley. You know, when you're driving your truck from Quonset hut to Quonset hut to try to find work or a trip... I mean, I never really cared that much about making money, but I wanted to get down however I could and do whatever needed to be done to get down, including driving. If they needed somebody to drive a rig to Pearce or to Lees, I would drive in return for, "When you have a vacancy, will you let me go on another trip?" "Sure." Sometimes that would work out. Sometimes it didn't. I always got paid to drive, so that was all right. But, yeah, amongst the outfitters, there were people who... You know, it wasn't like my fame preceded me, but if I came in and I said, "Hey, I'm Mike St. Clair. I'm looking for work," if the immediate reaction was the head-jerk and somebody goes, "St. Clair? Oh, the St. Clair?" and I go, "Yeah," then they'd say, "Well..." [laughs] But there were... The boatman community was different than the owner community.

TM: How so?

MSC: I don't think there were that many boat folk who were wrapped up in the issue of access. I think, if they even thought about it, they thought, well... I wasn't seen as a threat. Let's just put it that way. I was just seen as this sort of kook. And if I could hang around for a day or two and show them that I actually could do a few things, then that was fine. It was very much a merit-based hierarchy. I watched Joy Ungricht come into the boating world or, you know, become a factor in the boating world. I don't know if you know Joy or knew Joy, but...

TM: No.

MSC: ...she was one of the first lady boatmen. She's a Salt Lake girl, a skier. She was about 5 feet tall, might have weighed 98 pounds. And she was Bart's girlfriend for a while, but they had a bad breakup. She basically got it in her head she wanted to row a boat, and she was one of the very first to row boats

in Cat and in the Grand Canyon. And she organized the ABC... I watched her organize the ABC special with LeVar Burton on running the Zambezi back when the original *Roots* was a big sensation on TV. She sold ABC on the idea of taking LeVar Burton back to Zimbabwe/Rhodesia and running the Zambezi, which hadn't been run very much [laughs]. She might have even been the first. I watched her put that whole trip together out of Sidewinder's office, or garage, in Moab in '79 that would have been, I guess.

TM: Okay.

MSC: This might be interesting to you. There was always an exchange of boat folk coming through Moab from the Grand, from Flagstaff. That's how I met Pete Resnick. That's how I met Mark Jensen. That's how I met Bart. Because even if these guys were working regularly running the Grand, every once in a while, they'd want to let off steam early in the season or late in the season, and they'd come up to Moab and run Cataract. One of the reasons, one of the appeals of Cataract is it's still free-flowing, if you don't count the dams at Flaming Gorge and... [laughs]

TM: Right. No, very much so. And you were mentioning Big Drop 1, where the rendezvous was. That's a giant, sandy beach today, full of driftwood. There's river otters there. It's much closer to a pre-dam environment, even with Flaming Gorge up on the Green and a number of diversions here and there.

MSC: Yep. Exactly.

TM: And late-season Cataract is survivable, meaning you make the slot in Big Drop 3 and hang in down the middle of Big Drop 1. I'm surprised you flipped in Big Drop 2, but it can happen.

MSC: Right.

TM: So I look at Cataract, and I think anything over 20,000, even at 20,000, Cataract...there's nothing in Grand Canyon to compare to that.

MSC: Hmm, I'd bump that up to 40s, but I'm...

TM: Well, you're a better boater than I am [laughs].

MSC: No, I'm not a better boater, but I'm comfortable in Cat because I know it.

TM: Right.

MSC: But, yeah. I mean, I think there was the challenge of the water that the boatmen enjoyed. But I think also there was something else, and it could be that it just wasn't as tightly controlled and regulated as the Grand. It wasn't the canned experience, if you will.

TM: Interesting. Interesting.

MSC: I've recently, in the last year or two, taken to describing the Grand as a channelized ditch. And I don't apologize for saying that. I mean, back in the 70s and 80s, before the science started being implemented, I remember 7-, 10-foot variations down in the Grand. You tie your boat up, and you'd better tie the bow line to your foot because you're going to be getting up in the night, or else you're going to be high and dry the next day.

TM: You bet. Quite a lot of water-level-related variability due to the dam fluctuations.

MSC: Yeah. The fluctuation in releases just isn't there anymore. I mean, today we think 8- to 15,000...people think 15,000 is high water. But 15,000 in the 80s was medium. It was a good flow, but, you know, it wasn't big water. I've run the Grand at 45-, which is the easiest trip I've ever had down there because basically you just get out in the current and ship your oars and away you go [laughs].

TM: Yep. Yep. So, hang on. Let's hold onto this for a minute because I'm looking at our time here, thinking this might be a good place to kind of cycle this back around, and then we can drop back in again on Part 3 if you're willing.

MSC: Sure.

TM: You mention Grand Canyon now is a channelized ditch. Can you expand on that a little bit?

MSC: Well, yeah, and I'm going to tie it to the use. I mean, there were trails, there were established camps, there were... It was a pretty well-known place in the 70s and even the early 80s. It was by no means what I would call a wilderness experience anymore, but it was still pretty raw. Let's put it that way. The difference I see today from the threefold increase in people that are down there, is that the trails are now hammered. I mean, they're... [laughs] I don't want to say they're ruts [laughs], but some of them are. I like the challenge of not knowing what's around the next bend and of having to decide, "Hmm, maybe I should pull over here and take a look." Today, it's pretty obvious where you pull over to take a look, anywhere. A lot of the thrill is, quite frankly, gone in terms of surprise or having to deal with a situation that could be threatening to at least the safety or health of your trip. It's become more and more like Disneyland. There's a lot more people. You see a lot more people on the river. I don't care where you go, unless you go in the dead of winter or, I mean from mid-November to mid-March. The competition for camps is probably friendlier than it used to be, but it's still there. A couple years ago, I was rowing as fast as I could row, trying to get to Hot-Na-Na. I got around the bend from Hot-Na-Na and heard the motor rig coming.

TM: Oh!

MSC: I just shipped my oars, and the people on my boat said, "Why are you quitting?" And I said, "Because I can't outrun that thing." They looked at me and, yup, he beat me by 50 yards. And he never looked at me. He wouldn't look at me. It was a Hatch trip.

TM: So I'm going to jump in and ask a question here. Do you think that the... You're talking about some very interesting points, which is: use has increased threefold, there's much more trailing now, trails up to scout locations, and campsite competition. But have you, as an individual, become much more understanding of Grand Canyon and how it works? Hence, that early thrill may be gone. Do you see my question?

MSC: Yeah. Oh, I'm sure.

TM: I mean, how has your vision of Grand Canyon changed over time? Because I run with a lot of young people who kind of remind me of a fellow named Michael St. Clair from back in the early 1970s, who have big eyes and they see the Grand Canyon the way we might have seen it 30 or 40 years ago. And, so, I kind of wonder about that, and I'm sort of...

MSC: I'm sure that's true. I mean, it's not that familiarity breeds contempt, but it's that... Today, I get my biggest kick out of taking my kids and their friends and watching their reaction.

TM: Nice.

MSC: I think I met you at the Patio in 1990.

TM: That's right.

MSC: Just for a minute. You were coming back from a hike or something. That's also in 1990 is when I last saw Georgie down there. But in 2001 I got a permit, and I took my 8-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter and my wife and they hiked out at Phantom. I mean, a 13-year-old is hard to impress [laughs]. But they both... My daughter's been down four times now and my son four times. So, I mean, we've gotten lucky. One year, my son got drawn for a permit. And two years... Or, one year I got drawn, 2014 I picked up a cancellation. In 2016, he got drawn.

TM: Nice. Wow. Lucky people [laughs].

MSC: We were. Yeah. Or you might put that against the backdrop of the only evacuation I've ever had to call in was my son separated his shoulder in Crystal.

TM: Just like his dad, separating his shoulder. You guys, hmm, okay.

MSC: [laughs] Yeah, it's a St. Clair trait. We have weak shoulders [laughs]. But, yeah, I mean, I think you're entirely right. I go for different reasons today than I did in the 70s. My reasons are personal, and I don't know that they're worth examining so much as the fact that in terms of the experience/the use, it's definitely changed over the years.

TM: Yes.

MSC: As you pointed out earlier, the trips have gotten faster. The clientele has gotten more luxurious. Somebody told me on a trip a few years back that she'd been swamping for the dories on a trip and that one of her jobs was to collect the pee bottles in the morning outside of people's tents and empty it. I just looked at her and said, "You know, there's no amount of money [laughs] or..." And I'm not squeamish, but, you know, I just wouldn't consider that part of the job, much less the experience. If you can't be bothered to take care of your own body waste, then I don't think you should be there. But, it's changed.

And I'll finish this part off. If you want to talk again, that's more than fine with me, but I will say that my views on the park have changed quite a bit from that there was an "us versus them." There was an antagonistic relationship. I wondered why all these folks couldn't see what we were trying to say and support it and whatever. Maybe because I was a fed myself for 26 years. I worked for the State Department. I worked all over the world. I worked with Hillary, the 'enemy' [laughs]. Maybe because of that, I have more sympathy for bureaucrats. But it's also, I think, that the people that are in the park have changed. Not just the people on the ground, not just Peggy or the river rangers that you encounter, but I think also up in the ranks there's some kind of an attitude shift from the old-boy network of, "Hey, the outfitters are fine. Slap them on the back, they'll buy you a drink," whatever, to a lot more sort of... They're overrun. The parks are overrun, all of them.

TM: Right.

MSC: Maybe there's a few that aren't, but... And I had to make the same decisions in my career. I basically ran embassies. I was a foreign service officer, but I was not a diplomat. I mean, I *was* a diplomat. I had a diplomatic passport. I was accredited to every country I served, but my job was to run the embassy. And, a lot of the time, I didn't have the resources to do it the way people wanted it done [laughs]. So, when you have people in your office who want something and you can't give it to them,

you learn that there are ways that you can send them on their way at least understanding, or you can piss them off. And I think back in the 70s and 80s, a lot of the process, for reason or another, ended up in a lot of pissed-off people, just not satisfied with how it was handled, regardless of the outcome. And I think the 2006 CRMP is a great step in the other direction. I mean, I don't know that they're ever going to have three million dollars to spend on it, but at least it got people heard. Whether they made the right decisions, we can talk about.

TM: Yeah, it is interesting. And, you know, the Park Service has a very important and powerful mandate...

MSC: Yep.

TM: ...to keep the lands in their protection in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. That's a very powerful mandate and so...

MSC: I'm not sure they're fulfilling that mandate. I...agree with you.

TM: It reminds me of the statement, well, the Park Service is the best thing we have, warts and all.

MSC: [laughs] No, I think the *parks* are the best thing we have [laughs]. My wife and I were lucky enough to go up to Yellowstone last winter, and it was an amazing experience to be there. Our anniversary is the 22nd of December, so we went up there for our anniversary and spent a couple of nights. It was amazing. But I wouldn't set foot anywhere in Yellowstone from May to September. I mean, it's just a zoo.

TM: Well, as you mentioned, the parks are being overrun. Our populations are increasing, while funding for the agency is not, has not; you know, maintenance backlogs, et cetera. And yet demands by the public to visit our national treasures...

MSC: Yep.

TM: What's the park service to do? They're really caught in quite an intolerable bind. I look at the Park Service and go, "Oh my gosh, this is the best thing we've got going." But they need a ton of help and they're not getting it.

MSC: Yep.

TM: How are we going to sort this out?

MSC: Well, we're going to get involved. That's how we're going to sort it out [laughs]. Until people wake up and start participating we're going to get more of what we've got. There are a few people who are really happy with the way things are. But I think there's a lot more of us who are not, and we'll see. I don't want to steal Donald's line, but we'll see [laughs].

TM: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Well, let's conclude Part 2 here of a Grand Canyon Oral History interview with Michael St. Clair. Today is January 13, 2018. It's a Saturday. My name is Tom Martin. And, Michael, hold the line for a minute. But thank you very much for this interview today.

MSC: Sure. Thank you.