

# The Sportyak II Expedition

## Grand Canyon, August 5 - 31, 1963

### The Journal of Otis "Dock" Marston

Transcribed by Rosalyn Jirge  
Edited by John Weisheit

**Note:** This article will be beneficial to researchers who monitor Grand Canyon National Park. Brackets indicate editor's comment. The Colorado River measurement in cubic feet per second (cfs) originates from the gage above Bright Angel Creek near Phantom Ranch.

#### Sunday, August 4 [1,590 cfs]

Bill Belknap & I left Boulder City early & checked in at Grand Canyon [National Park] with [rangers Charles] Shevlin & Lynn Caffair. Bill [received an] order from Park Service for pix [a goal of this expedition was to provide photo documentation of the low water conditions resulting from the initial filling of Lake Powell reservoir]. We got report of heavy flood down Pipe Creek that had drowned Merrill Clubb's [or Chubb] son and grandson.

Away about 2 PM & stopt [stopped] to look over at Lipan [Point]. Hance was muddy but further down Canyon was not.

Arrived at CDL [Cliff Dwellers Lodge] about 5 PM & ran down to LF [Lee's Ferry] to look for crew, most of whom were at CDL.

Mack was with boats & reported them in good shape.

At CDL met Lynn Roberts who rented to me the chopper [helicopter] for the Anasazi trip. Forcier was with him - had been blocked out of return to camp at Mile 40 by heavy flood in Houserock [sic].

Many fishermen at Paria Riffle - half clear & half mud.

The boys slept with boats.

Met Chuck Richey at CDL.

Good dinner.

#### Monday - August 5 [1,530 cfs]

Early to River & cleared at 10:15 with 7 boats. Bill & Buzz Belknap - Clif, Tick, [and] Robin Segerblom, Mack [Miller].

Ran onto sand flats about Mile 1 and broke 3 oarlocks & 1 block which was more than our spares. We rigged a nylon cord lock for Bill which did the job. Coasted down to [Navajo] Bridge & asked Wriun Wreno [unclear what this means; see last sentence of the entry for August 7] to get equipment at Page [Arizona] & meet us at Jackass Canyon.

We moved down to Badger [Canyon] which was a mess of rx [rocks]. Bill & I walked out & then a mile to cars just as a storm hit.

We took equipment & waited for some of Wriun to return from a branch canyon.

Bill & I started down & were [stopped] by a flood in Jackass running about 30 cfs. We turned back & walked to [Navajo] Spring where the [Navajo] Police drove us to CDL. We took hamburgers with us & drove to rim over Badger [Rapid] & reported set-up to Mack. The boys had



Otis Marston and his Sportyak II. Photo by Bill Belknap.

walked up Jackass in dark to look for us.

We returned to CDL to sleep.

Sighted a small beaver at Mile 6.

#### Tuesday, August 6 [1,580 cfs]

Drove out to Jackass and walked down. Just enuf [enough] water running to wet center of course. We lined the drop & were 1 hr. getting down.

Wrimmers [family and friends on the rim communicating via two-way radio] watched from above.

Buzz & Tick had each a capsized in run of lower end of Badger - A dent in Tick's boat stayed in.

Away at about 8:30 and stopt to photo 10 mile rock [published in the Belknap River Guide] which was at left bank & moved to head of Soap [Creek Rapid]. Two good riffles between Badger & Soap.

Soap was a nest of rx & we portaged.

In middle of operation four lads from Albuquerque arrived enroute back to Jackass. They had reached Mile 18 with 1 mans & air mattresses.

Wrim crew left about 1 and we were hit by a thunder storm about 2 PM [referring to family and friends who are monitoring the trip via two-way radio from the rim country]. We moved down & found no water action worth a mention at Browns Riffle. At Mile 12 the rock was on right shore & the rapid demanded a portage.

We camped under overhangs at head of Shearwall [Sheer Wall Rapid] as rain hit hard.

Just as we finished supper Ryan dropt in with the chopper.

Warm night & no more rain.

Soap Creek was running less than 1 ft of red mud.

#### Wednesday, August 7 [1,890 cfs]

Up at 5:30 but we did not clear until 7:40 - ran Shearwall hitting a few rx lightly. Clif & Robin lined. At the side canyon from left about a 1/2 mile below foot of Shearwall, there was a good riffle. At the nnext from left, there was virtually none. Houserock [House Rock Rapid] was nothing but rx but there was a sporting course. We portaged. A discharge of a second foot of red water was in the creek.

Several good riffles between Houserock & North Canyon gave good runs & some looksee.

North Canyon was flowing less than a foot of red mud.

Virtually no course was open but a possible kayak run could be made. We lined.

21 Mile was impossible, the closest course we had seen. We lined.

22 Mile was lined.

23 Mile was the worst next to 21 Mile & we lined. It could be run. There was a riffle below which we ran.

24 Mile was a short lining & the same at 24.

We pulled in for camp at Hansbrough - Richards Ledge. There was a beach 40 [feet] wide. Current in the River here. Lynn Roberts dropt in just before dinner & had two passengers with him - one who was a friend of the Segerblom's. The Wriun party had been at this camp & left before dinner.

#### **Thursday, August 8** [2,660 cfs]

*[Note: Post-expedition corrections were made by Marston for the entry of August 8.*

- *It is probable the 26 Mile Rapid was 27 Mile Rapid at Mile 26.7.*

- *The rapid described at 27 Mile Rapid was actually 29 Mile Rapid at Mile 29.1.*

- *There has been some confusion in the location of points in the section from North Canyon Rapid at Mile 20.5 down to Vasey's Paradise. Tanner Wash which is 24.5 Mile Rapid has become defined in recent years and some clarification has developed in establishing Cave Spring and the trail to the River at Mile 30.4.*

- *Plate XXVI in Water Supply Paper (WSP) 556 establishes Mile 29 Dam Site while Plate 81B in Stone CANYON COUNTRY was taken from a point upstream from it. The Kolb photo in National Geographic Magazine of August 1914 on p.166 is close to the WSP photo. Plate 4 of WSP 556 shows the area of Mile 30.4]*

Since a day of hard work yesterday had moved us only 11 miles & we were scheduled to be at Nancoweap [Nankoweap Canyon], a change of plans was discussed this morning. The consensus seems to point to going out at Whitmore but no decision was reached other than the need of more food.

We were away at 8:30 and ran the upper riffle of 25 Mile, then lined the lower part. We moved to Cave Springs. The spring was running about a half second foot of cool water but would be covered at 50,000.

The cave contained a number of the traps & tools found in 1923 which had been left there in 1888 . Auger - ax - coffee grinder - traps - plate - sauce pan.

The rapid was lined & would rate a 10 - possible to run but probable capsized.

26 Mile Rapid was lined but it was not as difficult.

27 Mile Rapid was lined and was as difficult as we had seen with a sharp drop of 8 [feet] in about 150 [feet]. A small stream was running in the canyon & a large plunge pool was at the head of the bar. Lunch in the shade near the pool with 2 miles gained for the morning.

There was a riffle near Mile 28 and a rapid at 29 Mile Canyon. The stream was flowing less than a foot but there had been a sizable flood.

The mouth of 30 Mile presented a rapid of about a 2

rating.

At right bank the spring was running into the River and three large springs gushed out near River level on left bank. We ran this rapid altho [although] there was lining by some near the head.

Springs in the next mile added about 10 feet to the River when added to those near 30 Mile.

One small rapid at about Mile 31 was run & we took a looksee before running Vasey's [Paradise]. No water was running from the main opening of the spring & probably would not have been flowing when [James] White claims to have been there.

We ran the rapids down to Mile 37 where we camped on LB [left bank]. There was a small rapid here & a stream with small flow - probably the trailing of a flood.

At the end of dinner Lynn dropt in with the chopper and Fran [Belknap] & Gene hopped out. Visits all around.

We arranged for food at Nancoweap for the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Friday, August 9** [2,220 cfs]

Up at 5:30 - Beautiful night just cool enough for sleep bag.

Yesterday Tick's boat foundered while lining & some gear was washed out including plastic jug which broke apart.

Bill was careless in closing an Aquasafe & got some water in it.

Some lined & some ran 37 Mile Rapid which was not too difficult but required close running.

At Mile 39 we met the survey party who were working on the LB so we stopt for a coffee break. Lynn dropped in with the chopper at the beach below.

At the rapid at Mile 39, I hung on a rk briefly but the others ran clear to make a good show for the survey crew. Buzz rode down to the dam site drilling where the chopper lands on a dock near the edge of the River.

We went in the tunnel & took many pix.

One tunnel runs back about 300 [feet] and then at approx. right angles both ways for several hundred feet. The problem is a possible power house location in the rock wall.

On each side of canyon are scaffolds up about 50 - 60 feet to entrances of short tunnels. There is also a tunnel near the River level. The bottom of the River has been drilled. The camp is on the River on RB [right bank] & all equipment was dropt in by chopper.

Lynn flew Buzz & me to look at a formation near Mile 45 - 46 RB but it does not seem to be a granery [sic].

We left about 11:30, stopt at the [Bert] Loper boat & I checked for water in the canyon just below. A small spring was running. We moved to the first of The Royal Arches for lunch.

A few riffles down to [President ] Harding [Rapid] were featured by the chopper over our heads & two men taking pix.

Harding's left course was closed & the right side provided one short pitch.

Just below were two springs at RB flowing about a second foot total but the water was too salt [y] to drink.

A few riffles & some current pushed us along & we landed at the mouth of Little Nancoweap at about 6:15.

There was a float, a table & an alum. boat at LB about a 1/2 mile up River.

### **Saturday, August 10** [2,670 cfs]

A cool, quiet night. An early wind died down at dark.

We now estimate 4 days more for arrival at BA [Bright Angel Creek].

Clif talks some of his going out there & Robin with him.

Repairs to oar locks which are loose in the blocks.

Lynn Roberts put the supplies on the beach at 9:30 as his program had been changed. He hurried off.

Clif had the opportunity to make two sketches.

We were away about 10:30 and ran Nankoweap. The picture we thot [thought] was up to Nankoweap didn't fit [Belknap was interested in matching historic photos]. There were two riffles below to complete the rapid. All the signs at the back of the beach were gone.

The stream was flowing 1 - 2 cfs of clear water.

Riffles down to Kwagunt [Rapid] where we lunched & lined down the left. After a looksee we ran the lower rapid. At 58 Mile Canyon was a good mild rapid with a few runs. We spotted the missing pix in this area between Malgosa Canyon & 58 Mile.

60 Mile Canyon gave a rapid for lining down left & 2 riffles.

In one of these riffles between Kwagunt & Little Colo. [Colorado] I hung on a rk barrier at the foot. The Little Colo. was noisy and I found a 300 cfs mud flow out of it & up the Colorado's left bank to join it. A small flow went below the main island & a larger flow between the 2 islands. The flood was dropping & had been at least 3 ft. higher at the mouth of the canyon. I took a water sample.

We camped & by dark the flow was down to about 200 cfs.

Storm up River & shifting to the Cameron area made us check camp. A few sprinkles following a wind was all we got.

### **Sunday, August 11** [2,070 cfs]

Warm night & no further rain.

The Little Colo. had sustained the same flow of about 200 cfs insuring our running on mud as far as BA Ck [Creek]. It might be as much as 400 - 500.

I got word I was needed in [Salt Lake City] Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> which gives time to finish this cruise but the head of [Lake] Mead presents problems [reservoir sediment].

After much photography we dropt down stream at 10 and had some nice riffles to run. We stopt at the Hopi Salt [Mine]. One nail in the ladder was wire but the others were all square. The cliff barred passage further upstream. Downstream was a half mile of salt on the cliff but no cave was particularly marked. There were overhangs & two small caves which might qualify.

We stopt at the usual tree at Mile 65. There was water about 150 yards up the creek. No gas was left in the tunnel but the cans were left under the tree [gasoline stash from a previous motorized trip].

Radio communication with Desert View [Watchtower] was immediate & clear.

Clif & Robin have decided to leave at BA & the remainder will run to the end.

We were told some unknown woman authority had stated the River could not be run at this stage.

Chuar Rapid would not rate a 1 nor a 1 bucket rapid for the Sport-Yak, but a short drop at 65 [Mile] required lining altho it could be run. My boat was near to foundering in the process.

We ran everything down to 67 [Mile] where there was a boulder dam across the whole river except for a narrow chute right of center. We nosed this on the right & ran the remainder down to camp at the mouth of Cardenas Ck. where we arrived at 4:30. We talked with the Wrim Crew who were at Lipan [Point].

Just at dark a short storm took over but precipitation was not heavy. After that a fine night but there were mosquitos - the first I had seen in the Canyon.

We plan arrival at 4 PM of Tuesday.

### **Monday, August 12** [2,210 cfs]

Beautiful clear morning. Tick picked up two moderate sized toads.

Beaver were busy in the area.

Buzz reported a dead bass.

Mack moved down to the broad white wash a 1/2 mile below on RB & reported a wall of a ruin 5 [feet] high & running back in wash 40 [feet].

Bill & I climbed above Unkar to reproduce 2 pix. Unkar is now 4 rapids which accounts for Stanton's list. We stopt at the fort [Hilltop Ruin].

Clif made sketches from across the River.

We moved down about 11:30 & ran a riffle at Mile 71 near LB. Lunch stop at head of Unkar [Rapid].

We lined first 2 drops in Unkar. Both could be run but involved some hazard. The third drop was a boulder dam which seemed a lining job but Mack spotted a course which he & Buzz ran without serious difficulty.

The fourth drop gave fine running down center with no rk hazards.

At a small side canyon LB was a riffle which we ran after looksee.

Just below was 75 Mile which was a long run with much rk dodging.

A good chute below this ended the day's runs & we pulled in above Hance.

While we matched pix, the other lined the left side of Hance. Hance was a mass of boulders about as [Robert Brewster] Stanton pictured it and in line with the comments of [George] Bradley & [John] Sumner [regarding] White's travel on the River.

Radio connection came in from Shoshoni [Point] & the Wrim Crew shifted to Lipan.

Mack checked the RB half way down & found clear water with slight alkalinity so we all crossed for a fine camp.

Weather is hot.

**Tuesday, August 13** [1,960 cfs]

Warm & clear. The Lower Hance Rapid will require lining 1/2 way & we will run a short 1/4 mile below that. Radio tied in again this morning.

The upper end of Lower Hance was a little too tough & we lined it before running out the lower half.

A half mile below we sighted the transom & motor of the boat wrecked in Hance last year. It was jammed in the rx in a small alcove just upstream from where the boat was pulled up on a talus. This shows obvious inadequate structure of hull.

We ran a couple of riffles and had a looksee of Sock [Sockdolager Rapid] from the right. It proved a fine rk dodging run with no accidents.

A separate lower end rapid made up for this record as its drive against the left wall capsized Robin & Bill. Robin lost her glasses.

A few good riffles and a looksee at Grape [Grapevine Rapid] from the right showed us a lining job. We lined the first 5<sup>th</sup>; ran about 1/3; lined another fifth; swam a short distance with the boats; a short portage & run out at the end. This was the toughest lining job to date.

A short distance below Robin dropt into a hole & capsized again which shook her a bit.

83 Mile Rapid required a short lining.

Clear Creek was running clear but there was no lagoon.

We reached Zoroaster [Rapid] at 5:30 & it looked somewhat rough so we decided to camp on RB at mouth of stream. Up 100 yards was a pool 10 [feet] across & the water was mildly alkaline.

**Wednesday, August 14** [1,740 cfs]

Last night on radio Fran [wife of Bill Belknap] expressed shock we had not rushed into Phantom [Ranch] for our dinner date.

The night was very warm. The younguns are the cold ones of the party as they sleep under covers.

We lined the rapid below camp at Mile 85 and in running out the lower end, I didn't keep an eye out - hit a rock & rolled. Lost my cap & nothing else. Broke an oar.

We ran in to BA arriving a little after 10.

Radio communication with the Wrimmer was immediate. We unloaded & the Park man Jack Field came down & invited us to use his cabin.

Tick decided to pull out.

Brot [brought] load down from Phantom. Had lunch at Park house.

Worked out new schedule.

16 - Fri - Boucher - 96 Mile -	9 miles
17 - Sat - Shinumo -108 -	12
18 - Sun - Elves - 116 -	8
19 - Mon - Spectre - 125 -	9
20 - Tue - Tapeats - 134.5 -	9.5
21 - Wed - Kanab - 143.5 -	9
22 - Thu - 153.5 -	10
23 - Fri - 164 Mile - 164 -	10.5
24 - Sat - 174 - 174 -	10
25 - Sun - - 184 -	10

26 - Mon - - 194 -	10
27 - Tue - Spring - 204 -	10
28 - Wed - - 214 -	10
29 - Thu - Diamond-225.5 -	11.5
30 - Fri - 234 Mile R-234 -	8.5
31 - Sat - Gneiss - 237 -	3

which makes no allowances for delays.

Bill used diplomacy to establish good relations with Dottie Patrick & we had dinner there at Phantom. The place was full of dudes [tourists].

There were extensive plans under development for contacts down River.

Warm night. A little rain before dinner.

**Thursday, August 15** [1,580 cfs]

Slept on the beach - fine cool sleeping. Breakfast at Phantom.

Oarlocks were worked over & gear sorted. L. Miller [wife of Mack Miller] flew over in sightseeing plane and Mack was able to talk to her.

We have lined up one of the Bonanza pilots to fly the lower end of the Canyon.

George Barnett, the gager [US Geological Survey gage], reported the flow at 1700 cfs [not consistent with the published report].

Dinner at Phantom. The dudes were coming in again.

The Segerblom trio were packed and ready for a hike out.

**Friday August 16** [1,490 cfs]

Segerblom trio cleared at 5.

We had trouble getting up. Breakfast at Phantom. The blocks for oar locks arrived and the holes ran the wrong way. At the beach, the packing of much food delayed the start until 9:40.

The first lining was the lower Pipe Creek Rapid. There were two more before Horn [Creek Rapid] which was a heavy drop thru great boulders. Lining down the LB was difficult. Many pictures.

There were two riffles between Horn & Mon. Ck. [Monument Creek] which we ran with one giving a rock bumping.

Mon. Ck. was heavy lining. A small stream of clear water was running. We talked with Wrim. Clif reported a 5 hour walk out & one boat got a small puncture from a rk by the trail.

We moved down to Hermit [Rapid] & camped above at 6 PM. - one mile short.

During the night, rain came down hard for an hour and continued some rain until 6 AM.

**Saturday, August 17** [1,470 cfs]

Overcast, warm & some sprinkles.

The River is up. Hermit Crk. is double in volume but clear.

Buzz got wet but others slept dry.

We were away at a slow start at 9:20 & lined Hermit & Boucher [Rapid]. There was about 2 cfs. running in Hermit & 1/2 cfs. in Boucher. Some burro sign at Hermit & much

at Boucher. There were Bighorn [sheep] tracks at both places.

Crystal [Rapid] was flowing about 3 cfs. of slightly red water. Buzz located 3 - 4 rooms on top the gravel bench below the creek. Size was about 10 [feet]. One was round & walls run to about 2.5 [feet] high. We lined half way down the right.

We also lined Tuna [Rapid]. This is the point where we camped with the crippled Esmeralda [*Esmeralda II*, a motor boat from a previous expedition in 1949 with Marston as a crew member]. We lined half of right side of a rough rapid just below Esmeralda Elbow & immediately above the pyramid rock near Mile 100.

We camped at 6:15 at RB at what appears to be Sapphire [Rapid]. The side canyon LB has a small beach & a drop a short distance back. The rapid is full of boulders. The Canyon makes a swing to the R. A rk which appears in one of Stanton's' pix is near RB.

### **Sunday, August 18** [1,430 cfs]

Fine night. All prepared for rain & there was none. Fog hangs on top of the plateau down River.

We started on the River at 8:30 and lined Sapphire and Turquoise [Rapid]. A very sharp drop which may have been Ruby [Rapid] was lined on the right but it is probably up River.

We stopt for lunch at the cross canyons suggesting it was Ruby. There was a small run of water. We ran this rapid thru a tricky course.

Bass Rapid was run on the left.

Shinumo [Rapid] was run down center and tending left. We lined a short distance along LB at about 108.5 & then ran riffles to camp just below the [Bass] cable. There is a moderate rapid just below.

Weather has been somewhat threatening but is clearing at 7 PM.

Shinumo is running about 20 cfs.

We have seen ducks along the River.

There was burro sign at Serpentine [Rapid] which we ran.

### **Monday, August 19** [1,760 cfs]

Fine night & all slept well except for my worries over Hakatai [Rapid].

All side canyons have shown signs of recent flood & some small flow was running in Hakatai Creek. We checked Hakatai Rapid & were it not for Bucket-head's [Leslie Jones, a river map maker and boater] warning, it would get no mention in the log. For safety, we lined a short distance on the boulder bar on RB.

"Of course we are all deeply concerned about Hakatai as I am sure you are also" were the words of Shevlin to Bill. This concern is now over. There was no cause for concern.

We lined the RB of Waltenberg [Rapid] & ran a series of riffles below. Mac[k] capsized in one of them but losses were limited to some wetting of food.

We pushed along on slack water & landed at Elves [Chasm] at 11:55 for a lunch stop. A good flow in the creek with mild cloudiness showing little sign of flood. There was

a pool 3.5 feet deep at the foot of the rocky slope. A small rapid was run. We ran everything down to Forster [Rapid] which meant many riffles, one or two would rate a 1.

Forster was rough. We lined my Yak from the shelves of the RB & the other three boats were dragged up & along the platform.

A storm hit but gave us litte rain but it did give a help by supplying a down River wind.

We landed at the head of the major drop of Fossil [Rapid] at 5:55 after running two riffles above. We camped RB just below the outlet of the canyon & used the ledges of Tapeats [Creek] for shelter.

Checking showed I had erred & we were now on schedule with a run of 14 miles for the day. My error was in placing Spectre [Specter Rapid] at Mile 125.

It had been overcast and comfortably cool. We slept under ledges but the sky cleared at midnight.

The rains have washed the slime from the rx.

A burro has just left this bar.

### **Tuesday, August 20** [1,680 cfs]

Warm, clear morning. Warm. Buzz spotted a small scorpion in the ledges.

Buzz set the letters LL on the beach as ALL WELL signal & had just started a fire on the bar when the Hudgin plane flew quietly over at 7:45. About 10 minutes later he came down Canyon & about 5 minutes more & up Canyon again. This time he indicated he had seen us. He later circled at a higher altitude.

We cleared at 8:30 & nosed the upper end of the bar. The rapid could be run with some risk. We lined part way of 127 Mile Canyon Rapid & same at 128 Mile Canyon.

Spectre was a fast, rough drop & we lined & pulled in RB at 130 Mile Canyon for lunch in the shade.

All these canyons showed recent flood signs but 130 Mile was not large. All had small flow of water. We cleared from lunch at 1:15. Buzz sighted a Desert Bighorn buck & 2 ewes on the LB.

Bedrock's bed rock offered a boulder bar approach except for 10 - 15 feet & Bill & Buzz went out to it. The rapid was mild & we ran it going to the left. The channel was 25 - 30 wide & quiet.

About 1/4 mile below was a rough, boulder rapid which could not be run & we lined the whole way.

Dubie [Deubendorff Rapid] was open only in the left channel but a small flow was going thru the boulder island. We lined half way to two thirds & ran out the end.

Stone Creek showed signs of a recent major flood with greenery & trunks of small trees scattered down the beach.

133 Mile was run without a looksee. The creek at Tapeats was cloudy & flowed into the River at the rock point. There must have been a recent flood & large tree trunks are on the boulders near the River. Half the old camping beach was cut away.

We pulled the boats up the creek & out onto its left bank for camp.

The night was warm & storm clouds disappeared so sleeping was good.

**Wednesday, August 21** [1,580 cfs]

Up at the usual 5:30.

All thru this section the building of dams by the side canyons is starting. The beaches which the River put at higher levels are being cut away & some are completely gone.

Buzz measured depth of River near Mile 119 & found in excess of 90 [feet].

Bill climbed to the shovel which wasn't there & photographed the beach. Photography kept us at camp until 10:20. The rapid was a mass of boulders & required lining. We also lined of the three drops in 135 Mile Rapid.

There was no current in Granite Narrows.

We stopt at Deer Creek Falls for pix & lunch.

There was a small rapid just below the spring.

We lined Fishtail Rapid & another short one, both requiring lining half the distance.

The pull down to Kanab Ck was first hindered by a head wind & then helped by a tail wind. The head wind put water into the two Belknap boats.

Kanab Ck was running about 10 cfs of slick mud & we pulled boats up 50 yards for camp on the beach.

Just at dusk, a storm hit & poured down rain. Getting beds set & into them became complicated. The electrical activity & some rain continued until midnight.

**Thursday, August 22** [2,200 cfs]

In lining Dubie, Mack fell among the rx, lost control of lines and his boat capsized. Yesterday, I broke an oarlock when beaching the boat.

Some mild breeze continues this morning. While we were at breakfast Kanab Ck. rose about 2 - 3 inches. It then dropt & was down about 2 inches when we pushed the boats in and ran down to the mouth at 9:30. We lined 100 yards at the head of the rapid altho it provided a sporting run. The rapid was a full half mile long & gave us some fancy rk dodging. We ran a series of riffles below & lined a short stretch of Matkatamiba Rapid.

Upset was heavy & full of exposed boulders. We had lunched just above & watched a brief thunder storm, then stood under an overhang at the head of Upset during a heavy downpour. One small fall went to work on the left bank. While we lined Upset a red flood of about 5 cfs came out of 150 Mile Canyon.

We photographed the spring at 152 - 3 RB but decided to go ahead as we had a 1.5 mile current & a down River wind.

We ran a half dozen riffles & small rapids down to Sinyala Rapid. A fresh rk fall had added much broken rk to the talus at RB and the rapid was as rough as we had seen. The big boulders called for extra lines.

Current & wind helped us down to Supai [Havasu Canyon] plus a few good riffles.

Supai was running red & we rowed inside the lagoon. [Estimate] of flow was about 150 - 200 cfs. Many pix in the fading light.

When lining Sinyala the River had risen about a foot & drift increased.

The River was rising at 6 - 7 PM at Supai.

Buzz found clear rain water in pools on the ledges.

**Friday, August 23** [1,660 cfs]

Warm night with no storms threatening.

The River was down 1.5 - 2 [inches]. The color had changed to red but not quite as red as Supai Ck. Flow in Supai was about half of the previous night. Many pix & we cleared at 9:30. We ran the first half, then pulled in at the lower end of the bar & dragged boats 25 [feet] & ran out the lower half.

We had a good current. A lining job was demanded at about 157 and another at 158. Current & a light tail wind gave us a speed of about 4 mph. We ran 164 Mile & stopt for lunch, a half day ahead of schedule.

We ran Stairway [Rapid], but Gateway [Rapid] had a rk nest at the foot which meant an easy lining. There was a small flow of water in Gateway.

Current kept us rolling & between Gateway & Red [S]lide we were doing 7 mph. A number of good riffles helped speed & gave good runs. One boulder barrier was at about 176.

At 5:50 we pulled in at the [Vulcan's] Anvil a day ahead of schedule plus 4 miles.

We have seen many ducks, 2 grey heron & some beaver sign.

**Saturday, August 24** [1,940 cfs]

Perfect night & good sleeping. The River was down a foot which probably means slower speed. Color continues red & it settles quickly.

At 6:15 a plane passed over which looked like Riffey's [John Riffey].

We traveled 22 miles yesterday.

The plane returned at 7:40 but was north of the rim & probably did not sight us.

We had fired some drift. We wrote on the beach 1 - AHEAD and increased the size of the fire.

We were away at 9:40 and pixed the Anvil, then floated down for a look at Vulcan.

Mack had sighted an orange parachute which was found to be a red rock.

Vulcan was a short three drops. We pixed it from both sides of the River & from mid-stream below. We lined down the left & pulled under the travertine caves for lunch. The coloring in the caves is worth the price of admission.

We cleared at 3 PM and, after a looksee, had a sporting run of lower Vulcan.

We had good running with riffles, down-River wind & current to push us along.

At Mile 181 LB were two clear springs at about 2 [feet] above River level & running about 2 cfs. At Mile 183 were several springs along LB adding about a cfs. We sighted a APA BM [bench mark] at [Mile] 183.65.

We arrived just above the trail beach at 5:45 at about 187.5. Briefly we had a head wind & for about 3/4 mile there was no current.

**Sunday, August 25** [2,190 cfs]

Warm clear night with a constant down River wind blowing. Camp was in sound of a small riffle. The camp at the Anvil had no sound of the River. Most other camps have

had rapids music. A third cheese bomb [canned cheese?] has exploded suggesting they should be avoided.

The River had dropt about 8 [inches] night before last & seems to be down more this AM. The color is Colorado.

Mile point of our camp is 187.25.

We cleared the beach at 9 AM and found Whitmore [Wash] a riffle easy to run. We ran the three drops without a looksee & continued with a series of riffles that kept us moving. At Mile 194.5 - 195 we found three springs RB running about 1/2 cfs. from about 1 [inch] above River level so we filled buckets & ate lunch in the shade LB. We moved on at 12:55 & passed Parashont [Parashant Wash] about 1:50.

There were four or five places where the River was divided by islands.

At 3:45 we stopt for camp at Spring Canyon - about 204.25 RB for a 17 mile run in about 6 hours. This was the first day we had not lined or portaged nor made a looksee. We are now 2 days ahead.

Beaver signs are along this section.

Burros are recent on the bar.

Flows of the spring & creek give plenty of water.

There are small rainbow in the creek.

We waved to a plane before leaving camp this AM but got no recognition.

Buzz reports 6 burros at the lower end of the bar.

Mack went up the creek and found about three springs coming out of the base of the wall at the left bank about a half mile from the River. Above that, the creek was dry and the bottom of the Canyon a boulder field.

The M & M chocolate maintains a melted state. The chicken hash is OK but could stand fortifying with chicken.

### Monday, August 26 [1,730 cfs]

Warm night. The wind blew up River & there were a few sprinkles of rain about 1 AM. Some overcast this morning.

The River is up over a foot and is Colorado. We probably have over 3000 cfs which means more of the favorable current. We should be in at Gneiss Canyon by Thursday with allowance for many pix.

Mack counted 27 riffles yesterday.

We were away at 8:20 and the run of Spring Canyon Rapid was mild.

205 Mile had a possible course, but we lined half way then ran lower end for pix. There was a very narrow chute at the bottom which supplied some good pix. I filled full & Mack sat on top of a wave for 3 seconds.

Below the beach on LB good water was flowing from a cave at less than a half second foot.

Run down to Granite Park was thru a number of shallow riffles. We stopt for lunch under a willow. Beaver had been active.

Granite Park Rapid was all water hazard & Buzz ran two highly pictorial courses after Mac & I lined. Buzz water load was small.

We found a heavy rapid at Fall Canyon at Mile 211 1/2. There was a possible course at extreme RB but we portaged.

There were a half dozen bass showing fins in a pool



Marston at Diamond Creek

half way of the rapid.

Stopt at the great bowl of travertine at LB near Mile 212 for many pix. The cave under was open & the water salty. The pool was warm & about 15 [feet] in diameter.

Continued down to Three Springs Canyon where we camped RB above the riffles. There is an arch on skyline RB visible from River.

Mack counted 23 - 24 riffles & rapids for the day.

Buzz crossed for water in Three Springs Canyon &

found mescal pits & artifacts.

Light storm hit when we were at Fall Canyon.

### Tuesday, August 27 [1,600 cfs]

Warm, quiet camp & good sleeping. Clouds are scattered this AM.

We figure a run to either Diamond or Travertine [Canyons].

Recent burro sign is extensive on this bar.

River is down about 8" overnight.

Many jets overhead.

We crossed for a look into Three Springs Canyon & found springs within 200 [yards] of the mouth making a flow of less than a half second foot.

We cleared at 9:30 & 2 jets celebrated our departure by breaking the sound barrier. Several riffles were run down to 217 which required a looksee. Many pix were taken in some good runs. The rapid would rate 4 - 5 at this stage.

The rapid at 217.5 was almost as big but offered a fine sneak left. Bill ran the sneak for pix & the other boats took the tongue on the far right for more pix. We landed at 218 for lunch. Harry's [Harry Aleson] sign seems to be gone. The rapid here would rate a 2 - 3.

Many riffles down to 224 where we stopt to looksee. The course was rocky but there was a good sneak left.

Head wind slowed us to Diamond Ck. where we camped at 4:20 PM - 2 days & 2 miles ahead.

Mack tallied 19 rapids for the day.

Diamond Creek Rapid is just a rocky riffle.

### Wednesday, August 28 [1,690 cfs]

Fine night but the wind blew some.

We have lost 200 - 300 cfs & the color is Colorado.

At 8 AM we heard a plane south of us & at 8:35 an orange tipped plane flew slowly & low over us. We waved red tarps & Mack was on the radio but we got no recognition.

At 10:15 the same plane [notation by Marston written above and encircled: NO] flew up the Canyon over the RB but showed no sign of having seen us. We waited until 11:45 to watch for a return & embarked.

The Diamond Creek Rapid was a series of three riffles. At 228 Mile Canyon we ran four lively riffles. We pulled in at Travertine Canyon for lunch & made many pix. We were

just above the riffle at 12:45 & left Travertine C at 2 P.M.

Buzz saw a rattler about 30 [inches] long.

We moved down to Travertine Falls & spent an hour at pix.

A half mile below a long riffle started at a canyon at RB & ended with a heavy short pitch at a small canyon LB - probably 231 Mile Canyon. We lined the top of the riffle, crossed & portaged the short drop.

We pulled in LB a half mile below at the great travertine spring. There is a steep gully [sic] LB and a steeper one filled with talus RB.

A crease in the bottom of Buzz' boat has opened about 1.5" due to the portage at 131.

Warm & clear.

There was a 4" bass in Travertine Ck.

We appear to be camped at 231.2.

Flow in Diamond Ck. was normal and about 1 - 2 cfs. Flow in Travertine Creek was about the same. Travertine Falls had more water than usual & might run 1/2 cfs. At the travertine spring where we are camped the total flow might run a 1/2 cfs.

Mack has an ear ache.

#### **Thursday, August 29 [2,050 cfs]**

Warm nights & the hot rx added some temp. A slight up River breeze.

The springs increased their flow because of the reduction in evaporation.

An old tire casing & an old tread have been sea-gulled from the Canyon to use as a smoke signal.

At 7 AM we saw the plane down canyon & waved the ponchos. The plane circled & Jim Jordan came in on the radio. They had missed us yesterday & had run as far as Supai. Jim reports Pierces [sic] Ferry bars boat travel above. He will try a small boat above there. We may be able to get there by Saturday night or Sunday if the current runs on the upper Lake.

It seems we are at Mile 232 as we are more than a quarter mile below 231 Mile Rapid. There is a riffle here and it appears there is a side canyon RB about 1/2 mile down. We cleared at 8:30 and landed right at the head of 232 Mile Rapid at 232.4. The side canyons on each side created boulder bars & the rapid was too hazardous for running. The jut of current drove into the water-carved alcoves at RB. Many pix. We crossed to LB & lined an easy course. There was a minor riffle at Mile 233 & we landed LB at 233.7 at head of 234 Mile Rapid. We lined the left side. We landed 234.2 at the head of the rapid without name. After many pix we ran it & got wet.

Bridge Canyon Rapid was 2 riffles at Mile 235 & at Mile 235.1 was a rather rough rapid. Three of us lined but Buzz took on a fine sporting course in the heavy water. It was close to the limit for the Sport Yak & Buzz was at 45° at one point.

We moved down to Gneiss Canyon at 235.8 & it was quickly recognized as the rapid used for tests. It had some good water & provided a good running course. Water was lower than the 2,700 when tests were on.

We stopt for lunch & pix.

Bill grabbed front stage by capsizing in the last wave

in this last rapid.

Bill pointed out the dam site at 236.3 & also the site which was drilled near Mile 237.

Current stayed with us and we were slowed by only a little up River wind so pulled in opp. Spencer Creek at 4:50 for camp.

#### **Friday, August 30 [2,420 cfs]**

Warm night with Lightning all around but we did not get sprinkled except a slight touch at dinner time.

Slow rising this AM with no rapid to tune us in to the day.

Bill & I took in the site on top of the lava cap.

We cleared at 8:50 & picked up current right away. We had current with us most of the time but twice we ran in slack water. Current & wind at one time gave us an estimated speed of 7 mph.

We noted the Reference Fault which the River follows about 3 miles to Salt Creek.

Stopt for lunch about Mile 258 LB - O'Bannon Bays - at about 12:15. A storm moved in and worked the area over thoroly [sic]. All streams, gullies & crevices were running & we spotted one fine fall off the rim. Cameras wait to work & the storm continued.

Triumphal Arch is open at the back with a window which appears to be open about 25 [feet].

We ran three very mild riffles between Quartermaster [Canyon] & the Bat Cave & three more before Scorpion Cove where we camped high on the shale. Buzz got some good water from the creek.

Mack had been losing a day & thot it was Saturday so was pushing for the flood lights of Pierces Ferry. Debate whether to continue Pierces before or after dinner was resolved by decision to camp at Scorpion ["Island"]. The wind blew hard & a storm moved in right after chicken hash dinner. It quit about 8 PM & the wind moderated so sleeping was good & some what cool.

#### **Saturday, August 31 [1,990 cfs]**

Fine morning with some breeze.

We cleared by 8:20 and had a good current to move us along at 4 to 6 mph.

Below Emory [Emery] Falls we were passed by by an outboard with a 75 HP [horsepower] & another with [two] 35 HP motors.

As we approached end of Canyon an outboard stopt at Mack's Yak about 1/2 mile ahead of us & then came up to us. Jim Jordan was ordering his crew into position so he could get pix - Young Jim & Spence.

After coffee & yakking he took us in tow & we picked up Mack. The running into the lagoon at Pierces was tricky due to a sand bar & many channels. We landed on the beach at about 11:30 - had lunch - loaded boats on Mack's truck & gear in Bill's Volkswagen & were in Boulder City at 4 PM.

Some concern had been felt over our safety & we have had some reporting to do to clear the record.

End of journal