

River Bed Case Testimony

Edited by John Weisheit

John Galloway

Resides 1984 View Street, Salt Lake City, Utah; age, 49 years. Has boated the Green River from almost its starting point to its mouth, and the Grand (Colorado) from Westwater Canyon to Moab; from the junction of Green and Grand to Moab; the Colorado from mouth of the Green to Lees Ferry. Boated on other rivers. First river trip as a boy 13 with his father, Nate Galloway, designer of Galloway type of boats.

First trip from Westwater Canyon to Moab on the Colorado was made in Spring of 1926 or 1927; middle of April to 12th of May. Boat as near Galloway type as possible. 16 ft. long, 4 ft. wide at top, 36 in. at bottom, draft 4 inches loaded. Hard granite [actually schist and gneiss with igneous intrusions] formation in Westwater Canyon; tremendous fall, rapids have 2 to 4 feet fall, straight drops; continual mass of rapids; back suction under falls makes difficult and dangerous proposition; some places steep smooth walls; could not line boats. No room to make a bed so made bed in crevices of rocks.

Below Westwater Canyon the river is sluggish and slow; shallow over little riffles; had to row or wade back in places and pull boat back to find channel. Never attempted to take boat up Colorado from Moab to Westwater; thinks he could by towing.

Has been upstream on Colorado between mouth of Green and Moab; down Green River to the mouth.

Took trip in February or March 1925 from mouth of Green River to Moab; same boat as Westwater Canyon trip. Rise in water made progress difficult; it took five days to go from Junction to Shafer No. 1 well [downstream of Potash boat ramp]; from there went to Moab on Moab Garage boat. Rowed in places; towed in places; good many cases on sand bars; water shallow so far out boat would not tow; would have to drag on bottom; wade fifty or sixty feet to get line enough to get boat in current.

Two miles [one mile] above junction place where good many rocks lying on bank and in river [The Slide]; narrow current. Rowed around it, threw tow line around ledge where could not pull with oars; shoved boat with oar; heaved and pulled above the rock. Towed two-thirds the way between junction of Green and Colorado rivers and Well No. 1.

Loaded rowboat on Moab Garage boat; trip from well to

Moab consumed five or six hours. Boat stuck on a sand bar within sight of Moab; reversed engine and backed up and went ahead.

A second trip was made in December 1927, up Colorado from mouth of Green to Moab; unable to take boats all the way; left them at Lockhart camp; no permanent channel to row in; water cool; trouble with floating ice. Walked across the trail to Shafer No. 1 well; took Moab Garage boat to Moab. Delayed by sand bars for short intervals on trip.

In February 1928, got his boats and trapped upstream from Lockhart to Moab; sand bars about the same—interchangeable; shifting current; change in 24 hours good many cases; try to keep in channel but find you have to go back one hundred feet until you find a point, then go around and find channel; sand bars not in the same place every day; condition of rising and lowering of water changes the current on most any sandy formation. Finished trapping, left boat at Lockhart; took Moab Garage boat back to Moab, leaving sometime latter part of March. Boat stuck on sand bars many times for several minutes at a time.

Made three trips from Greenriver down to junction with the Colorado, but no trips up Green River.

First trip on Green River was in 1911; second, Spring of 1926; third, Fall of 1927. River conditions not the same. In 1927, going down noted the river had moved; noted in particular as to camping places; would have to unload boat way back on a sand bar and carry stuff three or four hundred feet to get to where wanted to camp. Noted current was not in place where it was when there before. Noted beaver dams, were on dry land; beavers selected deep water for winter food supply.

Green and Colorado Rivers do not freeze except in places where river is shaded by ledges.

Material for building boats and supplies hauled overland from Greenriver to North Wash. Country is desert in character. Saw one ranch on San Rafael but no settlements. First trip in 1911 from Green River, Wyoming to Dirty Devil. Returned with pack outfit leaving boat at mouth of Dirty Devil. Did not see any one boating on this trip.

Has not seen boats on Green River carrying freight or passengers.

Trip from Green River, Wyoming, to Dirty Devil made in September; trip from Greenriver to North Wash, where boat was built, in March or April of 1927. Third trip from Greenriver to Glen Canyon by river made in 1924. Went out from Lees Ferry to Kanab overland.

Same difficulties from end of cataracts to Lees Ferry on Colorado; only difference more water; river wider and boxed in places. Where river crowds against ledge, there is a great big whirlpool.

Only boats he saw were some tied along river; did not see any ranches from mouth of San Rafael to Lees Ferry; no fertile or plowed lands. One old prospector, named Carpenter, below cataracts. Hite ranch deserted.

In his opinion, impossible take a boat from Greenriver to Colorado line. 120 rapids in Desolation Canyon; 30 rapids in Split Mountain Canyon.

Cross-examination [abridged]:

His father was Nathaniel Galloway, did considerable trapping on Green and Colorado Rivers; boated down the rivers and designed type or boat known as Galloway; never used motor boats.

More water in Green. Going up Colorado River is hard work.

If he had a permit to trap beaver between Moab and the junction of the river, and was coming back and could get to Moab, why should he not want his boat to be at Moab? Then he could float down the river. He was in floating ice when he left that boat at Camp Lockhart.

Jensen, on the Green River, is a town of possibly five or six hundred people. Supplies to Jensen are brought in overland with team either from Mack, Colorado, or from Price, Utah. They are not brought in by way of the river.

Ouray, on the Green River, is a town of probably two hundred fifty people, counting Indians. Supplies to Ouray are brought in overland and not by way of the river. There is a ferryboat at Ouray used for the purpose of crossing the river back and forth. The Ute Indians who live at Ouray, use the ferry for crossing back and forth but so far as he knows, they do not use boats of their own in any way on the river.

Recross-examination: [abridged]

He is acquainted with the fact that there is a tribe of Indians in Idaho known as the Blackfoot but has never known of them to use boats on the Snake River and does not know whether or not they are more civilized than the Indians in Utah.

Further examination: [abridged]

Hanksville, Utah, is a settlement of about three or four hundred people who engage principally in the sheep business.

He came down through Cataract Canyon twice. The first time he went down there he was alone.

The supplies would not exceed five hundred pounds, camp and all.

When he went down Cataract Canyon first time had only

knowledge from what his father said in regard to the condition of the canyon. He had no maps or charts or surveys.

Redirect examination:

In going through Cataract Canyon he made portages. He carried the duffel in Cataract Canyon pretty near from one end of it to the other. Just at intervals of rapids he would tie up, and take most of his equipment below the rapid; then either run the rapid or line it, whichever he thought he could do the easiest. The rapids were lined by himself alone and if he came to one he thought it safest to line, he would do so.

In going through these rapids a map is of no assistance at all, as he can see. The only thing a map might tell you, was what the rapid is, the name of it, or where it was located. He was looking at one of the maps and he couldn't see that would help him any in going through that canyon.

When he comes to a rapid his procedure is: The first thing is to stop before he gets too close, so he can stop; in the still part of the water above the rapid there is always a still space of water; stop and go down and look the rapid over, see if there is a possible channel or way a man can navigate a boat through it without hitting a rock or striking waves so high that there is danger of putting you underneath, filling your boat with water, or something like that.

You know about what your load is; you know about what your boat is carrying, and about what kind of waves you can battle with. If there is any possible way you can see that it looks like it is safe enough for a man that is in there alone, or two parties—that he can get through without losing his outfit—you would naturally get in your boat and go and pick down through where you had sized it up and looked it over and thought you could make it, as near as you could possibly.

In running rapids, every rapid you run, you run the rapid only after a personal examination.

Further examination:

He doesn't know of his own personal knowledge whether or not rapids are run on the rivers in the west as they are in the east, by guides and Indians poling the rapids, one man at each end of the boat.

Recross-examination:

When he lived in Vernal he didn't know whether there were other trappers than his father who lived there. He would judge there were probably six hundred people in the whole Vernal Valley.

He left Vernal when he was about seventeen years old and his father died at Richfield, Utah, after he had left.

Parley Galloway

For Complainant

He is a farmer, stock raiser, and trapper, is forty years of age. He has had experience boating on the Green and Colorado rivers and has run the Green River from as far up in Wyoming as it is possible to boat, and the Colorado River to Needles, California. He has also boated on the White River, the Bear River and the Yampa River. He has made four or five trips through Flaming Gorge, Red Canyon, and Desolation Canyon on the Green River and has been on the river in those sections at other times.

It would be possible, in his opinion, to take a boat up the Green River from the City of Greenriver Utah, to the dam, about eight miles above the town.

He has never seen any other boats than his own in operation on the section of Green River north of the town of Greenriver, Utah.

He has made four or five trips down the Green River to its junction with the Colorado from Greenriver, Utah. In that section of the river he always found the location of the sand bars to be the same but had a good deal of trouble with them. This trouble occurs nearly all the way along that stretch of the river. There were some stretches of the river where he didn't have quite as much trouble, but others were bad enough to pay for it.

He has been through Cataract Canyon twice. One of the trips especially remembered by him was with the [Clyde] Eddy party in 1927, when he acted as guide for the party and operated the boats as head boatman. Considerable trouble was had on the first part of the trip because none of the party except himself had had any experience in navigation. The first rapids they came to were run. Ran them with all their loads in the boats. These boats were well decked boats that Mr. Eddy had, so they could run in waves where they were pretty big.

They were there in high water, so didn't have so many rocks to contend with as he would in lower water. At about the fifth rapid in the cataracts is where they had their most trouble. Had to unload everything and line boats around the fifth rapid. [Probably Rapid #7 or the North Sea]

From there on ran the rapids until he got to the last rapid in the cataracts; that is Dark Canyon rapids; lined that one. Always unloaded some of their duffel, not all of it every time, but nearly all the heaviest part of equipment.

Prior to the Eddy trip he (Galloway) had been through Cataract Canyon with his father when he was a boy but does not remember the month or year when the trip was made. He has been through Glen Canyon three times.

Did not have a great deal of difficulty in taking the Eddy party through Glen Canyon, found sand bars, but had real high water, and the sand bars were more covered up. Stuck on the sand bars though. Nearly every day the boats would hang on a sand bar.

The other trip he took through Glen Canyon was when he left North Wash with his brother and Mr. Howland and difficulty with sand bars and riffles was encountered during that trip.

On his trips between Greenriver, Utah, and the mouth of the Green River, he did not see any other boats empty

or carrying freight or passengers.

There have been some ranches in that section of the country but everything is abandoned now. From the mouth of the Green River down to Lees Ferry there is one old abandoned ranch that has been abandoned for some time, in as much as the cabins have fallen down. He remembers a place called Hite but there was nobody living there.

He met no other boats either light or carrying freight or passengers during the times he was in Glen Canyon and from there on down to Lees Ferry.

The trip he made with his brother and Howland from North Wash was made late in March, 1928, and the Eddy trip was made in June, 1927.

The Howland trip started from the mouth of North Wash with two boats loaded with camp outfits and supplies, the load amounting to five or six hundred pounds to each boat. The lumber and supplies were purchased at Greenriver, Utah.

Didn't build boats in Greenriver, Utah, and go on down the river, because wished to avoid the Cataract Canyon. Could make the trip quicker by going overland.

From the mouth of North Wash down to Lees Ferry there are a great number of riffles, some of which would be considered rapids, were encountered.

He never tried to bring a boat from Lees Ferry up the river.

He has boated on the Colorado from Westwater Canyon, near the Utah State line, as far as Moab, four or five times, but has never boated down the Colorado from Moab to its confluence with the Green. All of his trips, on that section were made up the river.

Many difficulties were encountered on his trip through Westwater Canyon, the rapids there being as bad as they are tiny place in the Grand Canyon. Sand bars and gravel bars were also encountered on this trip.

It is his opinion that boats could not be taken up the Colorado River from Moab to Westwater, but that they might be taken up a distance of about fifteen miles, although it would be necessary to do considerable towing in that distance. It would be impossible, in his opinion, to row a boat that far up the river.

He has never seen any boats on the Colorado River between Westwater and Moab.

He has been up the Colorado River between its confluence with the Green and Moab three or four times.

The difficulties encountered in going up that stream are always bad enough with a row boat; some of it you row, some of it you tow your boat the best you can. Had the sand bars; running behind a sand bar, sometimes would have to turn and go back, hunt around and find some little channel that you could get your boat up through.

One trip made on the Colorado River between the mouth of the Green River and Moab was in March of 1926, when he was accompanied by his brother. Very little equipment was carried on the trip and it consisted principally of camp equipment and a very little grub.

In places where a sand bar or bank was found that could be walked along, the boat was towed, one man walking along the bank with a sixty foot rope tied to the boat, the other man using the oars to hold the boat in the river.

From some place above what he believes to be oil well No. 2 [John Shafer well; petrified log area], they took the Moab Garage boat into Moab. The Moab Garage boat hit sand bars in a place or two but was always able to back up again and then go ahead, making the trip without losing a great deal of time.

He made another trip on that section of the river with his father a good many years ago but does not remember the date. He has also made two or three other trips, one being made in 1927 with a young fellow by the name of Zerber.

This last trip was from the mouth of the Green River to Moab. The boat was not taken all the Moab but only as far as well No. 2, where it was loaded on the big boat and taken on up. The same difficulties were encountered on this trip as were encountered on the other trip. After reaching Moab the boats were taken to Greenriver, Utah, by truck.

Didn't go on down the Colorado River and then up the Green to Greenriver, because of the hard labor of getting up there is something fierce; wouldn't want to undertake it with a pair of oars.

He can not tell how long it would take to make the trip from Moab to Greenriver City by boat but in his best judgment it would take about a month's time. By truck it takes not over eight hours time.

He has never been over that section of the country by boat between Moab and Greenriver. He has been from Greenriver to Moab, of course, by boat.

Between Moab and Greenriver there is a ranch house somewhere on the road but he doesn't remember just where it is.

The land in the surrounding country is mostly bad land, cut considerably with deep washes. The land does not look like farm land to him.

Cross-examination: [abridged]

There are two years difference between his age and that of his brother, John Galloway. He is forty years old and his brother 42.

When he took the trip with his father through Cataract Canyon he was 15 or 16 years old. No one else accompanied them on the trip. As he remembers, some of the rapids on the trip were lined, but he has no distinct recollection of it.

The trip ended at Lees Ferry. From Lees Ferry they went back to Kanab and from there they went to Uintah County, Utah.

The purpose of the trip was for trapping and prospecting; prospecting being down in Cataract Canyon.

On the Green River in Wyoming he has boated up from the mouth of the Fontanelle and doesn't know whether a boat could be run any further than that. The water was real shallow in lots of places on the stretch of the river he boated up.

By boating water he means sufficient water to carry a boat, man, and provisions.

He has always avoided going up stream as much as possible with a rowboat.

When rowing upstream he attempted to keep in the quiet water as much as possible and to keep away from the swift current and in doing that he boated in the shallower portions of the river.

But when rowing up stream, and seeking the quieter water, over where it is more shallow; boat much more frequently touches ground of necessity.

On the Eddy expedition no one besides himself had had previous experience with boats, or with the river and therefore encountered quite a bit more trouble than would otherwise have been encountered.

As a boy, he made many trips with his father, but only the one trip spoken of on the Green and Colorado Rivers to Lees Ferry.

Except when he was a boy and he was with his father, when a rowboat was used, his only experience on the Colorado River between Moab and Shafer No. 1 well has been on the large Moab Garage boat.

A contract was made by him to take Mr. Howland over the Colorado River from North Wash down to Lees Ferry. He was paid the agreed compensation and the boats used were built for that purpose.

He has never operated a power boat on the rivers. The reason boats were built at the mouth of North Wash when the trip was made with Mr. Howland, was because Mr. Howland did not specifically desire to go through Cataract Canyon.

As near as he can remember, the trip from North Wash down to Lees Ferry consumed about three weeks. On the trip down, some prospecting was done and some exploration of the river was made. They did not stake out any claims.

There was a man by the name of Richmond who went with his father the first trip that he made through the Grand Canyon and he started about Flaming Gorge and went clear through to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. He was just a boy and he remembers the man Richmond. He doesn't just know how old he is, or whether he is dead or not, but his father is dead. He remembers of the two of them being at their home in Vernal but he didn't see the boat arrive or depart.

Redirect examination:

On the trip back to Vernal, Utah, from Lees Ferry, after his trip on the river with his father, they went by stage and train.

The trip made with the Eddy party ended at Needles, California, and he returned home by way of Salt Lake City.