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COLORADO RIVER CHRONICLES

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Canyoneer Sim

That was tough about the late arrival of my letter but your comments help a great deal.

I have just returned from a trek around the Southwest and went down that side canyon opposite SPANISH BOTTOMS. It is impossible for a horse to come down the main canyon at that point but the walking involves no danger.

I know the open flat is known as SPANISH BOTTOMS. I can add a simple question to that and ask "Why?" I wrote to A. A. Baker, USGS asking why he used the name on his maps of that section and his reply was that it was generally known by that name. That leaves my question unanswered.

I think that side canyon was gyp for about a mile from the River. There is an uplift that tilted the strata up toward the River. I will be interested in the observations of the Survey crew.

About a mile from the River there is a drop-off of about 500 feet but it is not difficult to get up and down at several places on the right side of the drop. Further on there is a drop of 30 feet and this is easy to by-pass on the left. A little beyond this drop, the drainage swings into the graben to the south.

The horse angle at Gypsum is pertinent. There is a way to the River by a trail above Gypsum Canyon. We also found horses had been in the side canyon we traveled and Kent Frost (who was with me) knows of the man who had his horses down there.

I am guessing there is a route to the River from that group of side Canyons on the left about 2-3 miles below Spanish Bottoms. We walked down to a point between the first and second rapids and could see some sign of trails in these canyons.

I look forward to the opportunity to study your notes. I would also like to borrow slides which you might have made so I might get prints showing your operations, crew and equipment.

The best answer on Denis Julien is to send the enclosed copy of Kelly's article in the Utah SHQ. Did you get anything on Julien during the Cat run? What were you looking for in reference to him?

Cheerip