

§ U. S. G. S. - P. O. Box 360
Grand Junction, Colorado
April 15, 1957

Dear Dock,

I have been waiting to write until the Cataract Canyon Slide Set was assembled. This has taken somewhat longer than anticipated, but has now been done. The slides are making the rounds of several interested people, and there is one ahead of you in the list who may have a few duplicates made. It is hard to predict just when they will reach you, but if it is longer than four weeks, drop me a card and I will prod the delinquents. The slides will reach you from Charles D. Campbell, Geology Department, The State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington. After you are through with the slides would you please forward them along with the short commentary to Richard Resak, Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch, U. S. Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center, Denver 2, Colorado.

You will note that some of the slides are duplicates. As duplicates made from duplicates seem to suffer as much as duplicates made from originals, this cumulative affect can be avoided by using only originals to make duplicates. So if you would like to secure the originals for some of the slides I will be glad to run down the source.

In response to your long unanswered questions:

(1) Uncle Sam has done a lot of mapping on the Colorado Plateau as a result of the uranium quest and financing by the AEC. Dick Lewis has mapped six or seven 7½ minute quadrangles about Elk Ridge, Dark Canyon, etc. Dick's location at Kigalia is due to his own preference of camp sites for convenience and comfort.

(2) I do not know whether or not the 7½ minute topography sheets are yet available beyond the the advance sheets issued to mapping parties. You can probably find this out by contacting a Federal outlet for maps in your area. The origin of the names used can be something of a mystery. Usually the names are applied after all of the old-timers have been talked with. In this case there are only a few ranchers on the south side to whom reference can be made. To hazard a guess I would say that the names used were made up by the local cowpokes, and that the few names which have been passed down by mouth will largely remain a mystery.

(3) I do not believe that the stranded prospector got any publicity. If memory serves correctly he was hung up at the junction from one to two weeks. He apparently conserved both his food supply and energy very well for he seemed to be in pretty good shape.

(4) We did not note the two stone monuments near the mouth of Red Lake Canyon nor did we see others which indicated age.

(5) The interest at Cross Canyon as in several others was to determine whether or not the Paradox member of the Permian formation was exposed.

(6) About Yakta; this could take a small volume. I think that they are the best all-around camera made. Unfortunately, the Yakta is a precision instrument, and like many precision instruments has to be treated carefully. Under such rigors as river trips the Yakta does not stand up as well as some other camera types, and I would expect that a Leica would better fit the bill. Specifically, beach sand seems to get into the shutter winding and cocking mechanism in spite of plastic bags and air tight containers. Also, on all but the most recent models there is the danger of the winding cogs stripping out the film perforations and an entire sequence of pictures lost due to the film not winding (this is not unique to river trips).

(7) Cape May... (ugh)... Your winter of 1917-18 sounds much like the one I spent there in 1944-45. If you were in Cape May for the same kind of reason that I was this would make you about 60 or 61 years old which though not old in these days is still a respectable age for such active interest in the Colorado River.

I am currently preparing "Nicholas McElfoot" for some new adventures. Uncle Sam is transferring me to Brazil for a two year stint of mapping iron deposits (July 1). There are some canyons in the highlands near Belo Horizonte where we will be living, and I hope to find some white water on the headwaters of the Parana, The River of Old Men, and some others whose names I cannot recall or pronounce.

Regards