

U.S.G.S. Slick Rock Camp
% Egner, Colorado
June 27, 1976

Dear Dick

Hope you are having a summer full of interesting boating activities. It looks as if the season will be a good one from this end of the line.

There is a little more news about the Proposed U.S.G.S. mapping party through the Cataracts which might be of interest to you. In your last letter you mentioned that there were some things which you would like to have looked up. Well, you can dig out the questions for the trip originally planned for July 1st will be made later, toward the end of the same month.

You may have been informed previously, but I'll repeat it here. Three 10-man neoprene boats have been secured for the voyage. The party will consist of six men. Two of the men, Dick Lewis and Frank McKeown are in charge of mapping projects which include parts of Cataract Canyon. Dick Lewis has organized the trip, and most of the planning has been under his direction. Russ Campbell, geologist and assistant to Dick Lewis will also do some mapping in the canyon. The other three members of the party will be a U.S.G.S. paleontologist (I can't recall his name) whose chief function will be to keep the weight of fossil specimens at a minimum, a ranger with the U.S. Forest Service from Monticello (I can't recall his name either), and my self. I have been loaned from the mapping project in the Slick Rock district to advise the boating group in things waterwise, and will be the only one in the group with white-water experience. It may sound peculiar to have three boats and one boatman, but from what I have seen and heard of the others I expect to be the weakling of the party.

Made two short trips on the Dolores River last month and am including three pages from my note book and one color slide, all of which I would like returned when you are through with them. The earlier of the two trips was made near maximum runoff which is the best time for boating on the Dolores. The trip was a very enjoyable one both from the point of view of scenery and boating. The only incident was a broken aluminum car which was repaired by the good whittling of my companion, Bob Gant. The two rapids to which we applied names received their titles from what happened at their locales. The later trip though only two weeks later was in rather low water. The prevailing southwesterlies pushed us well all day until the river took a bend which made the last two miles a two hour experience. We also garnered two holes in the bottom canvass when the bottom canvas became sandwiched between rocks and a water proof metal ammunition case. Two portages were made on the second trip: one for a fence line, and the other for a large jack pine which in falling had completely blocked the river. At one other point the river was over lain by a pine, but by hard upstream rowing were able to asc into the tree and work through the branches.

Many of "us river-rats" appreciate all of your efforts on behalf of things conservations^{ist} are supporting.

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