

**Third Trip**  
**20 May, 1956**  
**Bridge over river in Gypsum Valley (Mile 63.6) to**  
**Bedrock (Mile 96.8)**  
**33.2 miles**  
**Clyde Duren, Bob Gant, and George Simmons in The Waters of Lodore**

We took no pictures on this trip and my recollections are two-fold. One of them is the sinuosity of this segment of the Dolores River. I know of no place where one can travel such a long distance and end such a short airline distance from his origin. Entering Slick Rock Canyon at Mile 63.6, the river twists and meanders as if it were on a flood plain for nearly 30 miles until reaching La Sal Creek (Mile 92.7). If the river were a road, and a car drove down it at night, the driver would run down his battery honking at his own tail light. My other memory is the navigation of Clyde Duran. I rowed the first ten miles, and Bob the second. What we didn't know until after he commenced his turn was that Clyde had not previously rowed a boat, and his ride was like playing "bumpo cars" in the park. He was unable to miss rocks unless so many were present that smacking all of them was impossible. He could paddle neither forward nor backward and every stroke carried us to where we shouldn't be. We tried to educate him, and then to demonstrate by example, but he was too stubborn to be talked out of his seat, and insisted on completing his turn. So we laughed and laughed from one ricochet to the next and thought of naming a dance step for his maneuvers, The Dolores River Waltz.

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