

"I think the best pictures you can get of the ecosystem of Glen Canyon and the Colorado River system are from the rock writing. It isn't rock art, it is storied rock. My ancestors recorded or documented on the rock. . . the good times, bad times, things to do. . . things not to do. The Paiute word for rock writing is *Tumpituxwinap*. The rock is the camera. If it was written on rock it was important. The rock writings are the most original pictures of Glen Canyon."

-Charley Bulletts, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians; Cultural Director for the Southern Paiute Consortium; Representative, Adaptive Management Work Group/Glen Canyon Dam



Smith Fork, mile 132.
Photo by Louise Dawson,
Ken Sleight Collection.

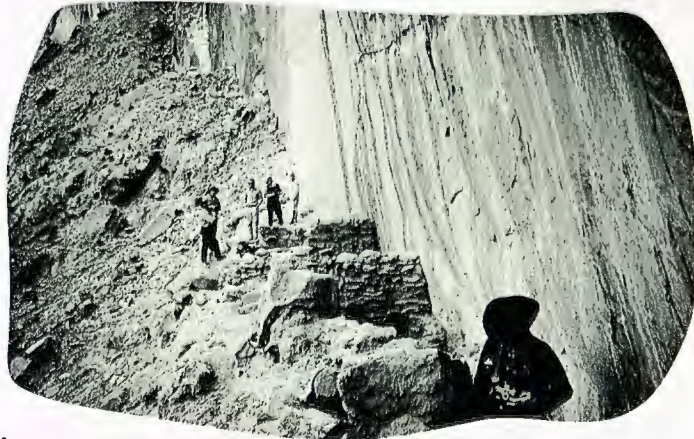


Photo by Vaughn Short,
courtesy of Carolyn Short.



A River Guide Remembers



GLEN CANYON

Many say the true Glen Canyon begins at the Dirty Devil River and ends at the Paria Riffle. Early river trips traveled this full stretch of 162.3 river miles, from Hite to Lees Ferry. After dam construction began in the late 1950s, trips could only go as far as Kane Creek, just 121.8 miles. And with the completion of Glen Canyon Dam in 1963, there was no river left to run.

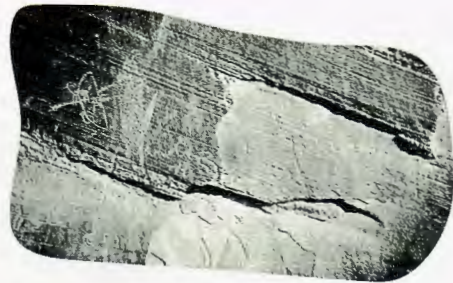
Ken Sleight ran many trips through Glen Canyon, but the trip that inspired this exhibit happened in early June, 1959. Although camps weren't chosen in advance, this journey mirrors this trip's stops and camps. The photos below are courtesy of Ken Sleight, taken on trips between 1955 and 1963. The Glen Canyon river map is based on Ken Sleight's hand-drawn version from the late 1950s and courtesy of Buzz Belknap, 2018.



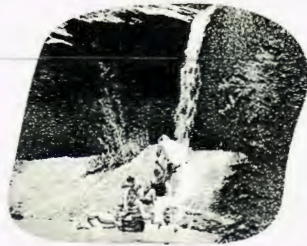
Day 1: June 5th, 1959
Richfield - Hite



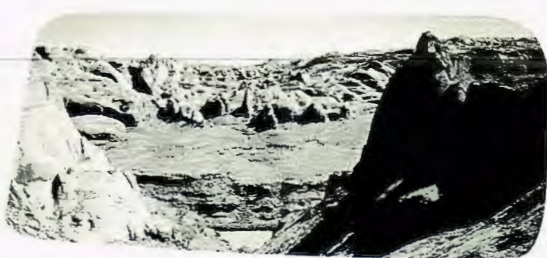
Day 2: June 6th, 1959
Hite - Tapestry Wall



Day 3: June 7th, 1959
Tapestry Wall - Lake Canyon



Day 4: June 8th, 1959
Lake Canyon - Hole in the Rock



Day 5: June 9th, 1959
Hole in the Rock - Forbidding Canyon



Day 6: June 10th, 1959
Layover Day, Forbidding Canyon



Day 7: June 11th, 1959
Forbidding Canyon - Kane Creek



Rest stop in lower Glen Canyon, 1961. Photo by
H. Severinghaus, Ken Sleight Collection.

Tranquil did the river flow
Where once I used to drift and dream
Down a high-walled canyon stream.
That's the Glen I used to know
Before they dammed it down below.

Each day was a new delight
Floating on the water calm,
Drinking in the healing balm,
Thankful for this brief respite
From the world's mad headlong flight.

Drifting under heavens blue
Where high in the red walls above
Trilled the canyon wren of love.
Simple were your needs, and few,
A chance to mend and start anew.

Should you feel the urge to stray
Into side canyons deep and cool
That harbored many a pleasant pool,
There you could splash and play
And while away a perfect day.

But now no longer does it please.
Somewhere fled the quiet and peace,
Somehow the tranquility did cease.
Gone the grasses, gone the trees,
No river riffling in the breeze.

But fond memories will never die,
For now at night it always seems
There're sandstone canyons in my dreams,
Placid river floating by
Reflecting red walls and blue sky.

There're many places I have been,
Many more that I will see,
But nothing like this river free.
How glad I am that way back then
I took the time and floated Glen.

-Vaughn Short



Please add your name to our Glen Canyon Exhibit Register as you depart from the exhibit. Here, Ken's son, Jeff Sleight, signs the Rainbow Bridge Register in 1962 at river mile 68.

"Song of Glen" from *Raging River, Lonely Trail: Tales Told by the Campfire's Glow*. Used with permission from Glen Canyon Natural History Association.

Ken Sleight began his river-guiding career in Glen Canyon in 1955, just as the Glen Canyon Dam blueprints jumped from the drawing board to the remote canyon Ken would come to know so well.

Now 88 years old, Ken has collaborated with a team of writers, photographers, and river runners to create a museum exhibit: *Glen Canyon: A River Guide Remembers*, as simple, gritty, and rich as a trip through Glen Canyon with Ken once was. Within the walls of the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River, Utah in 2018 and 2019, Glen Canyon lives again.

www.glencanyonexhibit.com

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This program has received funding from Utah Humanities. Utah Humanities enriches our cultural, intellectual, and civic life by providing opportunities for all Utahns to explore life's most engaging questions and the wonders of the human experience.

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