

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral History

Presenters: Steve Grossman (moderator), Glenn Rink, Tom Martin, Dave Ganci/Rick Tidrick/Jerry Robertson, George Bain/Dave Ganci, Jerry Robertson/Dave Ganci

Subject: Grand Canyon Granitica, Climbers recount their climbing adventures in Grand Canyon

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TM: Today is Saturday, March 5th, 2016. We are at the Museum of Northern Arizona for a two day event on Grand Canyon climbing. The Temple Horizon put together by Steven Grossman. I'm going to set this recorder up on the podium and we're going to see if that can capture today's presenters. Again, today is Saturday, March 5th, 2016.

[Audience chatter]

Steve Grossman introduces conference and Glenn Rink presentation (start 00:53:00)

All right everybody, welcome to the 4th annual Granitica Festival. [applause] My name is Steve Grossman. I am, as well as a long time Arizona climber, the executive director of a nonprofit called The North American Climbing History Archives, or NACHA. I'll talk a little bit about that in my introductory remarks tomorrow but right now our theme for 2016 is the Temple Horizon, Grand Canyon Climbing. You guys all know why you're here, to hear wild tales of adventure and exploration and near misses galore in climbing in this amazing place.

Most of my interest in history has been wrapped around adventure climbing. Nothing really counts as adventure climbing more than climbing in the Grand Canyon. Between the heat and the cold, the lack of water, lack of food, lack of easy ability to figure out where you're going or how you're gonna get there all makes for a tremendous amount of uncertainty, which is what adventure really is. You don't know what's gonna happen when you head out there.

Before getting into the programming I need to thank a lot of people that have contributed and helped make this program possible, specifically our sponsors. The Museum of Northern Arizona for making this lovely hall available for this event. Flagstaff Climbing, who have helped with ticket sales. They're actually having a party this evening from 6 to 9 at their main location, not the bouldering gym. So I want to thank them for their support and help in this event. The next few sponsors have either contributed cash or contributed product. The first of them is Kahtoola, who makes crampons and various footwear accessories. So I want to thank Danny Giovale and Kahtoola. They have contributed two pairs of running shoe crampons, which basically allow you to go out and stay fit during the winter and not land on your ass on an ice patch. So I'd like to thank them for their merchandise and I'd like to thank them for their cash support and interest in this event.

We will be having a raffle. Back in the far left corner Crusher Bartlett, who gave a wonderful slide show last night, Steve Crusher Bartlett has copies of his Desert Towers book and if you would like to buy raffle tickets. We will be giving away some items that I'll describe here at the end of the day on Sunday, and you need to be here to collect them. This is our way of keeping you prisoner. The raffle tickets are

basically a buck each and buy as many of them as you'd like. Please support the event that way cause we need to pay the bills associated with this.

So the next sponsor I'd like to thank is Blue Water Ropes. Thanks to Albert Newman they have contributed two brand new 60 meter, 10 mil climbing ropes and a pair of rope buckets, what they're calling their cauldrons. So those will be available as raffle items also.

Adidas has contributed three gift cards. Two of them at \$200, one of them at \$100, redeemable wherever Adidas gear is sold. Clothing, footwear, whatever that is.

I'd like to also thank several of the specialty groups, interest groups, in the Grand Canyon who have contributed to this event and supported it. Specifically River Runners for Wilderness, the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association. I have a table for them outside and they're gonna have a presence here at this event. If you would like to join or find out about them, please come and talk to them once we get situated. The Coalition of American Canyoneers, I'd like to thank them. I'd also like to thank the Arizona Historical Society. We've been partnered up with them for the last several events and support each other's work. I also need to thank my wife, Mimi deGravelle, who's patiently waiting behind the computers here, dealing with the image side of all this, this festival event which is no small task. [applause] Without her steady moral and financial support, basically all the work that I'm doing through NACHA wouldn't be possible. It's really as simple as that. So we're here on account of, account of her help and support. So definitely I appreciate that as well as being my fine wife.

I'd also like to thank a lot of folks who have contributed to the photographs and images you're gonna see during this festival. They've generously allowed me access to them. Specifically this is Bill Hatcher, who is gonna be speaking also on Sunday. He has a photo situation set up right outside the door here. If you're speaking please go over. He's been taking portraits of speakers at these events and they come out wonderfully. He did so at the Baboquiveri event last year and he will be doing so this time. So please make the time to go over there and have him, have him take a portrait of you. I'd appreciate that if you're a speaker.

Peter Nobles, well-known Tucson and Phoenix photographer has contributed images to this, as well as being one of my long-time friends and solid partners.

Pernell Tamazi, who unfortunately had other plans and could not be here, really dug into his image files and produced a lot of photographs to help speakers in this event and to gain interest and allow people to talk about some of their climbing that didn't necessarily have the camera along cause not everybody did.

Tom Martin also has contributed images to this event, posted online on the SuperTopo thread. He's been an enthusiastic supporter and I'd like to thank him.

Bill Wright from Colorado, lives in Boulder, contributed some images, as did Sean Peters and Larry Coats. George Bain's long-time partner Joe Sharber went out and went digging around in his files. He's down in Costa Rica right now or he'd be here also.

So many thanks also to speakers who have taken the time and dedication to prepare the presentations you're about to enjoy. As I like to say, I set the table but these guys are the ones that are cooking the food.

And thanks to all of you in the audience who have taken your time and spent money to come in here and support this event. We really appreciate it. Without community support directly, these events can't happen. So it's as simple as that. [applause]

This is the fourth annual Granitica Festival, started in Prescott four years ago. This will probably be the last Arizona Granitica Festival for a while. So I'm glad all you folks who are here made the time to come out and check this out cause it'll be a little while before I do another one back in this state. The Granitica Festival is named after the Sindicato Granitica, which was a loosely knit climbing club started by Scott Baxter, Karl Karlstrom, Dave Lovejoy and a lot of northern Arizona climbers way back in the day. They started a tradition of getting folks together from all over the state and having banquets on a regular basis so people from Phoenix and Tucson could meet the folks up here in the north. We have a really special thing in this state in terms of how we socialize and how we interact and mingle with one another. It's a really a cool thing. I've moved away to Seattle where it's hard to find community and I really, looking back, have grown to appreciate what we have. So it's really an important thing and I'd like to acknowledge that.

The first speaker... Go ahead and advance to Glenn's images. {[reaction] Glenn Rink, in addition to be a member of the infamous Banditos, a loosely knit motorcycle and climbing club who ravish all across Arizona and the west in search of fun and leaving behind a few bullets here and there and lots of crazy stories and fun times with these guys. He has been climbing in the Grand Canyon since the late 1970s. Got a geology degree from NAU and very enviably has managed to craft his professional life to where he gets to spend an awful lot of time outdoors poking around doing research. So I'd like to welcome to the stage Glenn Rink. [applause]

Begin Glenn Rink presentation (01:02:35)

I just want to say first of all that the Sindicato kind of passed the torch or maybe you guys took the torch, but the folks in Tucson who carried that torch on with the Bean Fest... Can everybody hear me okay? It was great. The Bean Fest went on for what, 15 years?

Audience: Still going on.

Still going on. It's an amazing party. People from all over Arizona show up and there's wild debauchery and a great time.

Okay, Grand Canyon geology. Steve asked me to talk about...

[Setting up pointer]

So in 15 minutes we're gonna talk about how geology relates to Grand Canyon climbing. It's not very much time but Crusher last night really showed us the limits of what you can climb, maybe there aren't any. Just someone standing up sort of semi vertically to like climb up it. You know, people will devise a way and that's what people have done in the Grand Canyon. It's hard to believe that anybody would consider climbing this particular thing. This is the north face of Dox Castle. Most people have always considered that climbing in the Grand Canyon is not possible, but actually it has been. It's possible and it's been a lot of fun through the years. Let's see, this hasn't advanced... [audience laughter]

As non-geologists, we think of rock and then we think of dirt, but actually there's a continuum between the dirt and the rock and we're playing with that continuum all the time. What happens in that continuum, what makes the difference is compression, cementation, and lots of times lots and lots of time. Time is really important to understanding geology. Turns out that most of the people in the audience are Grand Canyon climbers and so you may not realize it but you're all geologists. You have studied a part of geology that most academic geologists miss. Academic geologists are really concerned with how rocks are put together. [audience laughter] Tom Meyers has put together this great book on death in the Grand Canyon. None of you are in it. [audience laughter] and none of our brethren are in this book. A lot of people have died in falls in the Grand Canyon but no technical rock climber has died in the Grand Canyon. It's because we've become really good geologists. We've learned how to interact with the rocks. In fact, we learned to interact with the rock in ways that geologists don't even have a clue about. You know, you push on stuff, you don't pull on stuff. [audience laughter] You spread your weight around. There's a lot of little tricks that we've learned.

Okay, the real focus of this slide show is planar elements. So first of all you need to think about what a planar element is. A point, defined by a point, right; a line, two points; a plane, three points. So piece of paper, that's a planar element. A disk, that's a planar element, right. So we all got what planar element is. How do we interact with these planar elements? There's three planar elements that come to my mind—bedding planes, faults, and foliation. I need that little thing. [audience laughter] Okay. Rocks are made up of particles. Sandstones and siltstones are made up of little round particles. Shales are made up of planar elements. Wow. This makes a big difference. We climb on sandstones and we enjoy climbing on sandstones that are really well cemented. Sometimes the grains of the sand actually start communicating with each other over time. They start holding hands, talking to each other, before long molecules are being exchanged. There's little reorientations of crystals and the grains can actually become connected. Those rocks make really good climbing. On the other hand, shales... Well, I just want to talk about sandstone a little bit more. Sands get cemented by cements that are carried by water typically through the rock. There's a lot of force based in those round grains so they get cemented pretty well. Shales, on the other hand, there's not as much porosity. In fact with shales, when water contacts the shales the shales swell and make it so that no more water can come through so the water doesn't have a chance to carry the cements through the rock. So shales are not very well cemented and we don't really like to climb on shale as much

Here's a big pile of shale on the right that, you know, nobody's climbed on that stuff yet that I know of, but there's easy ways to get up that thing. You can see bedding planes throughout that shale. On the left hand side you can see bedding planes in that Supai Sandstone there. Also, you can see a huge fault line, the Butte monocline. In this slide you can see the Coconino Sandstone which is made up of little round particles that are cemented together. We pick out the places where they're cemented well together and climb on it and it's a great rock. The Hermit shale down below is made out of all these little planar elements, little clays, that fall apart. Not good to climb on. This is a fault up in Marble Canyon. Faults usually are also a planar elements. You can see that there's two different things here. This is a little graben, a place where the rock has fallen down in between as the crust has spread. Faults make really good places to gain access to our climbs but they usually do not make good subjects for climbing. Here's a picture I just took a week or so ago of some fault-broken rock. It isn't very appealing to climb on.

Then this is the most challenging geologic concept of our talk today, which is foliation. This is in the lower Grand Canyon in schist. You can see that there's a lot of planar elements in that schist. Does that make sense? Can you see those lines? Those are three dimensional and go all the way through the rock. Typically when people see this stuff they think it's bedding planes that have been tilted up on end but

that's not what that is. What's happened there is the rocks have been compressed from the side horizontally and the little minerals that make up the rock have all decided that it would be more comfortable if I moved over into this position over here in relation to those greatest pressure directions. The molecules inside those crystals have reoriented themselves according to the greatest pressure directions to create this huge feature of foliation that we see. It makes a really horrible thing to climb on. Nobody climbs on the schist that I know of. Too many planar elements.

Let's see if we've talked about this. Now I'm gonna go up from the bottom. We'll just go through each of the geologic layers and talk about how planar elements relate to our climbing. In the older rocks there are some younger rocks that are still really damn old, that don't have foliation in them, don't have planar elements too much. For instance, the Ruby Buttress on the left and then Grapevine Buttress, that we'll have a presentation on later tomorrow I think, the reason these things become the subjects of our climbs is because they don't have a lot of planar elements through them. They make for good climbing. To get down from the Grapevine Buttress people have rappelled off through the schist and everybody's always commented on what a dangerous experience it was, much more dangerous than the climb.

This is in the Tapeats Sandstone, which is the first sedimentary layer on top of the older rocks. It's a little dark but you can see that these rocks here are not very well cemented together and they're falling apart. There's a lot of salt in the Tapeats Sandstone and it makes for real crap. But here what I'm climbing on is really good, solid rock. The grains in the rock have actually grown together a little bit. There's some planar elements that are bedding planes that make really good handholds and footholds but it's not falling apart.

This is the Monument in Monument Canyon. I think we'll get another talk on this sometime. You have to climb a little bit through the schist, which is really a bad situation to get into the decent rock under the Tapeats Sandstone. This is a place down along the river where you get really good handholds and footholds underneath this overhang. You can do some great bouldering. Really nice landings.

As we go up we get into the Bright Angel Shale, which is what the Great Castle is made out of, which is still, I believe, the last named butte in the Grand Canyon that has not been climbed. There's a really good reason for this, [audience laughter] it's got too many layered elements in it. It's messed up. [audience laughter] But we keep going up a little bit higher and the rock gets, well, slightly better. This is on, I think this is on Dox Castle and, again, it just looks like something you really wouldn't want to climb cause there's too many planar elements in there. Too many bedding planes and it's just broken up and falling apart. But as you go up a little bit higher and you get into the Muav it's a lot limier, you don't get as many planar elements in it. A lot of the loose material's been washed away in these side canyons and you can do some pretty amazing climbing. Some of the really great bouldering is in the Muav. This is me and Bill working our way up to 164-mile canyon.

Then we get up into the Redwall Limestone, which doesn't really fit into my program about bedding planes cause there's not really a lot of bedding planes in the Redwall, at least not ones that affect us for climbing. The rock's just really brittle and they fall apart readily. But at the same time, it makes incredible rock climbing because there's a lot of roughness to the rock, really good holds, but there's also a lot of loose crap laying around. You could get hit on the head very easy.

I've done aid climbing in really extreme situations on the Redwall where you could use extreme aid devices— bird beaks, sky hooks, rurps—all kinds of stuff that you would never dream that you could use in the Grand Canyon, and they worked marvelously.

So Coconino Sandstone. I skipped the Supai, didn't have a good slide of that. Coconino Sandstone has bedding planes that are up at an angle and sometimes you get big blocks that want to slide down that angle and fall off the cliffs, but generally it's really damn good rock to climb on.

Then, in the Kaibab Limestone you get a whole different situation cause we do have bedding planes. These things are really bizarre. You can see that Ducey's actually using a bedding plane here to walk across this ledge, which is made out of mostly silica, so it's really resistant to weather and it makes a really nice ledge. Then that area in between these ledges is made out of limestone so it gets eroded more quickly and that allows the space for John to be out there making way.

So to answer the first question, [audience laughter] just fools for climbing the Grand Canyon, right? All the people in this room. But by paying close attention to the rocks, by being really good geologists we've managed to stay alive, we've made it cognitive and fun. [audience laughter] And that's all I have. [applause]

End of Glenn Rink presentation (01:16:12)

Steve Grossman introduces Tom Martin presentation (01:16:30)

Alright, thank you Glenn for confirming all of our madness in the room here. As soon as it became announced that this event was gonna happen Glenn immediately got to work sending me contact information for people and making sure that stuff didn't fade to make sure this event happened. The other person that was profoundly enthusiastic about this is Tom Martin. Same sort of thing, as soon as he heard this was going on he wanted to make darn sure that it didn't die on the vine.

Tom has been getting blisters on his feet and hopelessly lost while hiking in the Grand Canyon from river trips ever since 1969. Martin's claims to fame include spending a rainy monsoon night sleeping in the sawdust incinerator at Peach Springs and to have smoked 20,000-year old Shasta ground sloth dung. [audience laughter] One of these old days, he says, that buzz is gonna arrive but I bet it's kind of slow. [audience laughter] He's worked for 20 years as a physical therapist at the Grand Canyon Clinic at the South Rim and wandered around enough in Grand Canyon to connect a line from Lees Ferry to Pearce Ferry through the Canyon. Beside helping other hikers get miserably lost in the Grand Canyon with his book *Day Hikes from the River*, Martin has written *Big Water, Little Boats* which involved building a life-size 1954 replica dory affectionately called The Bloody Boat. With co-author Duwain Whitis, Martin has sent many an unsuspecting river runner into the ledge hole at Vulcan Rapid [audience laughter] with his *Guide to the Colorado River in Grand Canyon from Lee's Ferry to South Cove* which some wise wizards on a misty mountain decided should win the 2007 National Outdoor Book Award. Then he got the real bright idea to awaken the sleeping giant on a 30-year doze and published Otis Marston's book on the first 100 river runners in Grand Canyon, *From Powell to Power*. Martin co-directs River Runners for Wilderness, one of our sponsors at this event, and a very steep uphill struggle to recognize Grand Canyon National Park as the wilderness it is. Hazel Clark is the voice of reason in this otherwise crazy life and after 25 years of exploring together has recently introduced Tango to this otherwise danceless dude. [audience laughter] So, let's bring to the stage with a warm round of applause, Tom Martin. [applause]

Begin Tom Martin presentation (1:19:00)

You know, I just want to shout out to Steve Grossman and Mimi once again. History is important and Steve and Mimi, thank you again so much for doing what you're doing. [applause]

So Steve says, "Yeah, you really kind of like this kind of stuff. Why don't you give this presentation on 10,000 years of climbing in Grand Canyon and bring people up to speed?" I'm like, "Really, I got how many minutes?" He says, "Thirty." I'm like, "10,000 years, 30 minutes, really?" Well, let's see what we can do.

This is a pretty amazing place. The Park alone, Grand Canyon National Park gets to manage over a million acres of land with no roads and no power lines. I mean, it's just, it's amazing wilderness country. It's a place where Martin Litton said "God lost his boots." I think, no, no, God lost her boots. It's just out there. It's just amazing, amazing country. It's big land where we can feel really, really small and understand our place in a bigger world. But since we Europeans showed up, you know, and we like to kind of categorize things and you understand, of course, this area has got a huge, huge chunk of northern Arizona. Goes from Lees Ferry in the east off to your right and the Grand Wash Cliffs in the west. When we think about this, if you were here 5,000 years ago and you wanted to walk across from the right to left across the screen or another way, one thing you need is food, you got that down, and the other thing you need is water. And there's a river there and none of this junk was up here, Lake Powell and the dam, it wasn't there. So what it meant was there was a lot of sand here along this river. And at low water in the fall when the water was warm, you could walk along the river and it was this amazing highway. And so those of us that have been playing around in this crappy rock land, we realized that every mile or two there's gonna be something that's gonna show us that somebody was there before us. The First Nation people were in this place for 10,000 years. Now, it kind of begs an interesting question, did they climb? [audience laughter] Did they climb? What do you know, I don't know. What do you think? Did they? So I look at this picture and I was like trying to Photoshop this one thinking how could I do this, how can I like just like manipulate this poor person with a pack into somebody with woven sandals and a little woven backpack, cause they didn't pile that pile of rock there to help up this person here in wonderful Tapeats sandstone.

So let's talk about another kind of weird route. This is at Specter Canyon. This is a Redwall route up this nose. Harvey tried a long time, Harvey Butchart, I'll talk about him in a minute, to get through the Redwall in Specter. He missed this little route here and at the top of the route is this really cool rock, this big chunk of Supai sitting up there, and well, by golly, right under that rock is this wonderful arch [archaeology] site. Huh. Well, you know, I think about First Nations people, they're just like you, they're just like me, they're curious, they lived there, the lucky people, and they go climbing. Now, how cool is this? Well, did they go climbing? Hmm. They did? Well, why wouldn't they when they had a lot of rope floating around. They just had to make it. That's a little bit of woven sandal from an arch site here in Grand Canyon. I got a question for you the audience, time for your show of hands, has anybody gotten their weight off the ground on a yucca fiber rope? [audience laughter] There's one hand over there, there's another hand there, there's another hand here. So a few of us have actually gotten off the ground with this stuff. It is the coolest thing cause once you realize, hey, I'm off the ground, wow, the climbing horizon, the temple horizon has suddenly opened up and who was the first summiteer? Well, speaking of Ducey since we're dropping names here, you gotta get in some crazy places. Just crazy. This is where you might want one of those yucca fiber ropes [audience laughter], you know. But this is where those transcanyon routes, the sorts of things that climbers, oh, yeah, I'm gonna get in there and get that little fault block graben kind of thing to get in there. Huh. Okay. So, show of hands. How many of you have been on some ridiculously difficult wall where you suddenly see some wood jammed in there and a little rockwork? [audience laughter] Amazing. A couple more hands have popped up now. All right, all

right. So we weren't the first. No, no, no, no, no. But this is cool. When you're out there and you to find this kind of stuff you're like, "Hmm." At that point you need to remember yucca fiber rope. [audience laughter] Really cool stuff. (01:24:33)

Well, so let's look at some summits. There's Wotan's right there and I will talk about Wotan's in a bit. There's an arch site up there. Hmm. That's Shiva Temple. Oh, yeah. Hmm. There's an arch site up there. Isn't that cool? Well, so we know that First Nations people were there. They did some amazing stuff and if you did it with a rope but no, you didn't, you didn't set any pieces, there's a good chance that the First Nations people, sorry, they got there first. They just didn't write it down. So we're gonna roll forward here in 10,000 years of climbing history, we're gonna shut that door, and now we're gonna open up the door of the people that kept written records. The first guy was this guy. The first recorded, first ascent would have been Dutton, and they went out on Powell Plateau. Well that was pretty easy, okay. They did it in 1878. Wow, all right. And there's Powell Plateau way over there. Julius Farley, Farley was an interesting guy. You know, he hadn't figured out where the South Rim was but he wanted to develop the South Rim. He didn't want to develop the South Rim, he wanted to develop tourism. So he built a hotel. Oh, my God, talk about fighting black flies, not much to do down there except, huh, maybe we could climb Diamond Peak. 1883, 1884, somewhere in there he climbed Diamond Peak. Hmm.

So Glenn was very kind to say no climbers have died, but climbers have gotten injured badly. You all know who this, right? Somebody got it. This is Franklin Nims. Nims had already taken a bad fall on the Stanton trip and hurt his knee badly, probably took out his ACL, as a physical therapist could figure. He didn't give up. He climbed up there with his little box camera and he was scrambling up there on the rocks and his knee gave out the last time, he fell about 20 feet, and went to the hospital. This is the hospital they made for him here. The first of the year, happy New Year, and then they got him out of there. But Robert Brewster Stanton was a pretty plucky guy, Bob Stanton. You all know this here, it is your climbing team that gets you to the top. Stanton was lucky because he had a badass guy named Elmer Kane. I mean this is, you can rely on that guy. You want somebody who's been to the top to go climbing with. Here's this guy, John Hislop, with a six-shooter on his hip. Okay, you want these people on your climbing team and did he or didn't he, in January of 1890, climb the Tower of Ra. Well, you don't quite know. Maybe he did, maybe he didn't. What we do know is that from a one-day layover on the river at Crystal, you can get up to Ra and back. A number of people in this room have done that. So could Stanton have done it in two days? Well, we don't really know, but he could have and that starts the great, well, was it or wasn't it, did they or didn't they, I don't know. But in Grand Canyon for a good hundred years people were out there in these odd places building this odd stuff, climbing around, doing oddball stuff.

Let's talk about Matthes and Evans, mapmakers. Evans, this guy over here, worked for 50 years for the USGS. Try to find a photograph of him on the web, it's really hard. Never mind. So these guys were out there 1902, 1903, climbing around. Oh, yeah, Oza Butte on the first ascent there. Well, the first recorded ascent, thank you very much. These guys, the Kolb brothers, climbing around all over the place. Where did they go? First ascent, rush, rush, hurry, hurry, we're gonna get out to Shiva Temple before the New Zealand naturalists, or whoever it is, is gonna get out there and find dinosaurs, right? So they run out there and what do they do? They leave the lipstick on the tissue in the canyon for the other guys to find and they put that in the little archeological site right there where they're gonna find it. Then they leave. Hey, first ascent, rah, did it. [audience laughter] Really? Hmm. Really? Okay...

You gotta talk about the cable people and I'm probably the only person here that's gonna talk about cable people. David Rust, you know the cable across the river. Bass, of course, Bass Camp. This guy, the

whole survey people that were really trying to put this tramway across Grand Canyon, they went nuts with hemp rope. Were they smoking that stuff, I don't know, [audience laughter] but first ascent of Dana Butte, 1919. Thank you very much, Jim Ohlman. Ohlman is great for figuring this stuff out. The cable people... Probably the most amazing cable was in Marble Canyon coming down off the rim. These guys built these cables that would go from the rim to the top of the Redwall, and then from the top of the Redwall zip down to the river. Crazy stuff. I'm not gonna talk about that at all.

But I'm gonna talk about some embarrassing stuff. Jim Ohlman's a great guy, an incredible Grand Canyon climber, and he's helped me save my butt so many times. I learned about a lot of you people in this room by finding the little notes, little bits of paper that you left on top of the summits you were climbing, and I would write down in my little notebook everything that I found up there. So at one point I called Jim Ohlman cause I couldn't figure this out. This is Vishnu Temple and University of Idaho Vandal Mountaineers, the Los Alamos Mountaineers, the UofA Ramblers, the Wasatch Mountain Club and the Merrill Clubb. I was just like trying to figure out, well, who are these clubs. I called Jim and I said, "Hey, Jim, I think I got this figured out but the Merrill Clubb, who was the Merrill Clubb, who were these people? Where were they from, what city were they out of?" He says, "No, you idiot, it's the Mister." "Who?" Yeah, Mister Merrill Dare Clubb, [audience laughter]. So I was like really? There's somebody named Merrill, Merrill Dare Clubb? And he said, "Yeah." This guy Clubb, you know, we owe a lot to him as the first sort of explorer extraordinaire and summiteer in Grand Canyon, that we know of in recorded history. He would put a couple gallons of water in his cryptic little backpack and head out into the back country. I wanted to know a little bit more about him so my hard-suffering sweetie and I tried to figure this out. Vishnu Temple, of course you know, is 7,533 feet high, a 1,813' high shoulder, and was climbed the first time by Merrill and his son, Rogers. That is supposed to be there with Rogers. Shoulder you understand, from the top of the mountain to the shoulder before the next mountain takes off, that's shoulder in Grand Canyon. On our bucket list we wanted to go to Missoula, Montana, so we loaded up the car and boogied over there where we got to talk to these wonderful people, Valerie and 82-year old Merrill Dare Clubb III, AKA Junior. I mean, you talk about a difficult family to get your head around. Junior's dad, Merrill Dare Clubb II began hiking in Grand Canyon in the late '30s. This is great, the first summiteer to climb Wotan's Throne, right, what's he standing on? He's standing on a little house up there. [audience laughter] Did he build that house? He didn't build that house. No, but he's got the first ascent, right. Wait a minute, really? So Merrill and his son Rogers, the first whites known to summit Vishnu Temple. They did that July 13th, 1945. We know that from this article in the *Coconino Sun* from 1945, July 20th. That's pretty cool. By all accounts it was just this incredible adventure. What kind of climbing equipment did they use back there? Well, it was really important to have a pith helmet. [audience laughter] That's really important. That was part of climbing gear then and a huge hemp rope. That's all you got. But look at the smile. I mean, look at that smile. That guy's just like "Whoo, this is so cool." And there he is on top of Vishnu Temple. How about that!

Andy Bates and I went up there to try to do a 60th anniversary summit photo reconstruction. What's kind of cool is this little ephedra here is a little ephedra over there. This rock is gone, but a lot of the other stuff is still there. So you know, huh, hmm, interesting. Oh, well. Merrill had such a good time that he summited it again up there with his son Will in 1946. So that's pretty cool. Unfortunately tragedy struck the Clubb family when a moving van caught fire in the late 1940s and destroyed all their summit photos except the one we rematched. It was really bad. They lost an Anasazi pot. I won't say how they got it, I don't know. Nobody was out there climbing before Clubb. No, no, no. And some 14th Century manuscripts. Clubb was a professor teaching that kind of stuff. It was pretty devastating for the family. It got worse because Merrill's son, Rogers, and his son Rogers Junior, would both die in a flash flood in

Indian Gardens no less. That was when Clubb basically came apart. It's a sad, sad story but Merrill Dare Clubb lit a fire under someone.

This guy, John Harvey Butchart met Clubb and really got inspired by him to get into the Canyon and to blow Clubb and his three first ascents right out of the water, or two, whatever it was. There's Harvey down by the river. He has 82 Grand Canyon summits, 28 first ascents. Harvey's first "first ascent" was at Lava Chuar Hill, June 11th, 1959. Harvey's second first ascent was the Tabernacle. There it is in the middle right there, September 2nd, 1961. His third first ascent was Juno Temple, September 3rd. His fourth first ascent was Freya, right next to Vishnu Temple, June 24th. His fifth first ascent. I'm gonna start slowing this down because you're like "Oh, wait a minute. How many first ascents did he do?" His fifth first ascent is Krishna Shrine. This is as close as Harvey ever got to the top of Vishnu Temple. Hmm. Jim David. Jim here today? No. Jim David and Harvey, 18th first ascent, September 19th, 1965. Harvey tried to bring climbers around him. June 4th, 1969, Gunther Castle, first ascent. This is the first butte named after a first ascender. Jim Haggart has this excellent idea. Hey, Harvey gets up to Gunther here and says, "Wow, look at that ugly butte view over there. Hmm, that's kind of interesting." Jim Haggart said, "We're gonna name that butte after Harvey." It took a long time. Jim's here today? Where's Jim?

Jim David: Right here.

Yeah, right there. Thank you very much. We have Butchart Butte here, this wonderful little butte over here, a butte named after a first ascender. Mr. Gibbs is here today. Thank you very much, sir. You recognize these? Those are Harvey's ascenders. So what happened to Harvey is he's trying to play around in Saddle Canyon and he boofsd what he's doing and he does this amazing head down fall, sweeps right past the ground, sweeps back. He's upside down in his shoes, those are his shoes, those are his ascenders, he's upside down in there. He undoes his shoelaces, falls down on the ground, kerfunk, and his shoes are up there but he's down here on the ground. Yeah, it was a painful walk home. I think Bob Packard's here today who remembers going back next week with Harvey to pull the rope and get his shoes. [audience laughter] Harvey didn't like this kind of stuff. He didn't like Excalibur, no, no thanks. And, of course, Gray's Castle hasn't been climbed yet. Well, Glenn explained why. It's got something to do with those little, oh, never mind. You know, the Dome, Harvey, nope, not going there.

So you guys are going to talk to us about first ascents on this hard stuff and I'm gonna talk to you about the last documented unclimbed butte with a shoulder over 1,700 feet in 2003 by Aaron Tomasi and I. So if you line up shoulders in Grand Canyon from summit to shoulder, Vishnu Temple's right on the top. The second one down is this unnamed sky island way out west. I don't know who it was sent me this email saying, "Hey, have you climbed that?" I said, "Climbed it? I never heard of it." But my elder brother is an engineer with a computer and he's a highpointer just like crazy Bob Packard. I said, "What do you know about this," and he said, "Go climb it." I was like, "I don't know where it is." I got a friend with a plane and I puked my guts out all the way out there. Stuck the camera out the window as we flew around this thing. Has not got a name. Unknown, unnamed, western Grand Canyon, but from the plane we saw that little edge there in the Redwall. Glenn Rink said it best, "Redwall's good stuff." This is Elmer Kane in a new body. His name is Aaron Tomasi. You want to surround yourself with strong, strong climbers. If you're not a good climber yourself, you need to get somebody who's stronger and better than you that says, "Yeah, I'll go climb with you," and it works really, really well. So this is it, we called it Clay Tank's Castle. This is all the Temple Butte stuff, the lower chunk you gotta get through. You come through that up there, you get around in here and you come way across to that notch and that gets you to this ramp here to go up that nose. The nose doesn't look too bad from that side, it looks worse from this side. But the cool thing about this nose is when you look at it end on, well, that's not bad. So a little

bit of free solo and there you go. We didn't see any signs of anybody else up there but I bet you we didn't even need any hemp rope on that. Maybe we weren't the first, but sadly with a 1,700 foot shoulder it was probably the last unclimbed butte in America with that much shoulder in 2003. That's this century, and there's a bazillion firsts yet to do in Grand Canyon, lots of them. 10,000 years of Grand Canyon climbing, on belay! No, I guess I was supposed to say belay on. What am I doing up there? "Climbing," and you say?

Audience: Climb on!

Thank you very much. [applause]

End of Tom Martin presentation (01:40:00)

Steve Grossman: Thank you very much, Tom. All right, folks, we're gonna take a short break, about 10 minutes or so. 10/15 minutes and get everybody back in here. So when you hear me barking at you come on back in and get situated. We'll hear about Zoroaster Temple. (01:40:37)

Intermission

Steve Grossman introduces Dave Ganci, Rick Tidrick and Jerry Robertson presentation (01:53:40)

All right. Major technical climbing in the Canyon really kind of got its start with the first ascent of Zoroaster Temple in 1958. Really fortunate here to have Dave Ganci and Rick Tidrick here. These guys, along with Jerry Robertson, are gonna be talking about the first three ascents of Zoroaster. Then Dave Ganci and George Bain are gonna talk about some subsequent ascents that were done after that and additional routes on the peak.

Rick Tidrick was an early pioneer in old school 5.10, climbing hard technical routes with not the greatest gear in the world at all. He was mountaineering during his college years, 1955 to 1960, doing a first ascents along the way in there. He was a member of the Stanford University Alpine Club '55 to '57. He was a leader but he was a student elsewhere. He was at the University of Arizona from '57 to '58, Colorado College from '58 to '60. Some of his favorite climbing areas include Yosemite Valley, the Bugaboos in Canada, the Cordillera Blanca in Peru, the Garden of the Gods, which has a route named Tidricks that's quite popular and well-loved in that area, El Dorado Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Park. His notable lifetime career climbing partners have included John Harlin I, Nicholas Clinch, Harvey Carter, and the great one, Layton Kore.

Dave Ganci is a '50s generation coyote-faced desert dog who has spent a whole lot of his life pursuing thin-edged escapades in the lands of low water, where plant life, animal life and sane humans are few and far between. Along with various nefarious friends and usually after drinking too much cheap beer, dust, windblown sand, solar radiation, mind numbing heat, dehydration in places like Arizona, California and Texas, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Sinai, and Peru have left him seeking refuge in Prescott, relaxing under cool shade trees surrounded by green vegetation during the summertime dips in the surrounding reservoirs and drinking expensive local brews.

Jerry Robertson's a long-time Arizona resident who has made his career as a commercial pilot. He is part of this team of three that I was first made aware of at the Baboquivari Granitica event last year. They wandered on up the hill and climbed the first ascent of the Southeast Arete on Baboquivari which was

the second route done on the peak beside the Forbes route. And strangely enough we determined their original route has never been repeated. Most people come in, cross Lion's Ledge, which hadn't been discovered at that point in time, they just looked up and said, "We'll go there." Marched up the hill and climbed the full Southeast arete. So they're second ascents in the most likely places you can imagine. So let's bring them to the stage with a warm round of applause—Dave Ganci, Rick Tidrick, and Jerry Robertson. [applause] Will you guys please pass the microphone back and forth as you want to talk and hold it close.

Begin Dave Ganci (DG), Rick Tidrick (RT) and Jerry Robertson (JR) presentation (01:57:25)

RT: Well, first of all, I have a lot of gratitude for being invited to be here. This is quite an adventure. I've really enjoyed the presentations up to this point, learning a lot more about Arizona and the Grand Canyon cause I grew up in Arizona so I've been a long-time resident here in my early years. To begin with, about 10 years ago Dave Ganci called me up and the first words out of his mouth he said, "We're famous." [audience laughter] "What's that mean?" He said, "Oh, because we got this big mural up at the west entrance of the Grand Canyon with our names on it, first ascenders of Zoroaster's Temple." I said, "Oh, that's impressive." Four million people a year look off from the South Rim and you can see that. That's not quite like Hillary climbing Everest, is it. I'd like to, before we get into Zoroaster, just give a little background of how the three of us came together, which to me is kind of interesting. We all graduated from North Phoenix High School the same year, in 1955. Before that, Jerry and I got together since 10th graders. I had moved back from California to Arizona and I was all about adventuring. I signed up for *Sports Illustrated*; it came out in August 1954. I've been taking *Sports Illustrated* all that time. Also National Geographic came out with the '53 expedition to Everest and I got really excited about adventures in climbing, just in my mind. Jerry and I got into climbing but we went down instead of up. We visited a lot of mines/mine shafts [audience laughter] north of Phoenix with, you know, wooden ladders going down and tongues going off in this direction and that direction.

JR: And bats.

RT: Yeah. Bats and throwing things down and listening to how long, you know, how deep is it. [audience laughter] A pretty exciting time for us. A lot of the adventuring for us was out in the desert. Another adventure for me was the wildlife. I was just talking to someone a couple minutes ago about the Arizona desert, outside of the tropics, is the most prolific plant and animal world ever. Most of them come out at nighttime in Arizona. So I really fell in love with the fauna and flora and particularly snakes. Another one of my side adventures was when I was a senior in high school I got involved with an alligator farm up in Mesa, Arizona. [audience laughter] It was the greatest job I ever had. I got to wrestle alligators, milk rattlesnakes and cobras for show. My father found out about that and got a court order [audience laughter] ...that it was too dangerous. But it's like climbing, you know. You know what you're doing and you were very good at it but it takes practice. I never got bit, never got bit, so I was in good shape there.

Right after I graduated from high school and I just barely gotten out of high school, got sent off to Menlo Junior College next to Stanford University in California. I got sent there for summer school to see if I could make it into school. I graduated like 526 in a class of 550. I barely [audience laughter] got out of school. Lucky me. Well anyhow, that summer I got accepted into Menlo for the fall so I went over to Stanford University cause I'd heard about the Alpine Club. I said, gosh, I'm not a student there, can I come and be a participant? And sure enough, they invited me with open arms there. So that's where I started climbing and developing my passion for climbing, which lasted five years during my college years. I got a lot of 'em in so that was fortunate for me. But when I came back I think January 1st, 1956,

Jerry and I, we went to climb Mt. Humphrey's and we were on the summit of Mt. Humphrey's that year. Neither one of us, I don't think, had been on skis before. [audience laughter] That was quite an adventure coming back down [audience laughter] wearing all of our little...\$10 surplus mountain tent from the Army surplus store. We started venturing early on. I think I'll let Jerry talk a little bit about how we got involved and how he got involved with Dave Ganci cause that came a little bit later.

JR: With the experience that I gained from Rick's and his alpine club, we got into how to use a rope and pitons and so forth. Dave and I go back, actually, Boy Scout days. I don't know if he remembers but we both went to the National Jamboree in Valley Forge. We didn't get to be friends until college years and Dave had become aware of the fact that I was involved with some of the rock climbing and approached me about it. We went out to Papago Park and did a little bit. We went on from there to do more things. Pinnacle Peak out in the North Valley and so forth. Somewhere along the way Rick showed up, so the three of us started doing things together and Zoroaster came along. I'm gonna let Dave talk about Zoro.

DG: First I'd like to thank the folks that made this possible, too, in terms of history, climbing history, any history. Mr. Tom Martin here who is collecting information for future generations. I hope everybody here will think about collecting images, stories, anything from the past that you've got, putting it together. I'm starting to do that now, at a rather advanced age but life is short and these things get away and they're lost. That's what I'm starting to recognize now so I encourage everybody else to follow this line of thinking and put your history down somehow.

Climbing, my first experience, my first rappel was with Jerry Robertson on the Monk, [audience laughter] a little pinnacle on Camelback Mountain. We were desert rats, basically. That's why we talk funny sometimes, there's still dust in our throats from all the time we spent out there. My first rappel and climb was in a straw hat, work boots and shorts and happened to turn into an overhanging rappel. I still have the scar to show it. [audience laughter] So that was my introduction to climbing. Jerry got along with it and got real interested in it. Then met Rick and we started doing things together. Jerry and I climbed together and then Rick came up with this crazy idea of climbing this thing in the Grand Canyon. That's me up there on the screen with, as Harvey Butchart mentioned, the first, he described as the first technical climb in the Grand Canyon. Well, you can see our technical gear there. [audience laughter] This consists of secondhand clothing and a nylon rope tied around our waist three or four times. So that was kind of our technical climbing. We did actually use some pitons and ropes on the climb. So I guess that qualified us as the first technical climbers. I would echo what Tom Martin said here about who knows, who knows in the past what kind of climbing things were done. But we were the first, I guess, modern climbers, you might say, to go and start climbing these things beyond what Harvey Butchart and these really unbelievable early climbers did. (02:06:14)

So we looked at this thing in Grand Canyon and said, "From the rim/the South Rim, doesn't look that far." [audience laughter] You're looking blindly and we didn't look down, basically, till later. It was like... And to this day, whenever I go to the rim and look over, I think there's something in your eye or your brain that automatically is like a total lens, brings things up closer. You say, "Well, it isn't that far." But it is because you have to go down and up. [audience laughter] Which I found out. My first hike in the Grand Canyon was before I met Rick. It was right after high school. As a real novice I went down without water and food and coming back up, I can do this. I collapsed at the Coconino Sandstone, just at the snow line. Somebody came by, gave me a cheese sandwich, and brought some snow down which got me back up. [audience laughter] Something I don't know, till I started reading about it, thinking more about it. When Rick proposed his crazy climb in the Grand Canyon I said, "Yeah, let's do it. We can give it a try. It's not that far." Well, the thing about these temples in the Grand Canyon at that time was the

temples themselves were just fascinating to look at and you really didn't think about getting to them. I think most of the adventure, at least for me, was getting to the damn thing. You know, it's a long way. For us it was a long way. Modern day speedsters run to some of these things, but we didn't do that because we carried things like... [audience laughter] Brought down military fuel cans that we carried to the top of the Redwall, I can't even hold it now, [audience laughter] to collect water which was supposed to come whenever those storms were moving in. We didn't carry a whole lot of water cause you had so much other junk we were carrying that was heavy. We depended... We thought for sure the forecast, they forecast rain when we got up on the Redwall of this thing. It didn't and we paid the price. We did scout a route to it and again it's like Glenn was talking about the good stuff to climb on, the Coconino you're looking at, that stuff you can put your foot on it and it stays on there. It's all that 4,000 feet of the rest of the damn stuff, the shale you go through, slop your way up there. And this is for the benefit of those who haven't done this in the Canyon; those that have know what we're talking about. So by the time we got there, we're already tired. [audience laughter] I'll let Rick tell you about our provisions that we took with us. (02:09:46)

RT: I have to go in my hard drive for that one. Hard to remember. I think we took two gallons actually for the two of us, a gallon apiece, hoping to catch rain water because there is no water. We were exhausted right away getting up the Redwall, up to chock stone, hauling all of our gear up to the top there. And we perhaps made a mistake. The next day we decided to go around the whole base of Zoroaster to see if there was a better route possibility because Dave and Jerry and Dick Ernst had been up the year before and gotten up the Redwall and found a route to the base where we actually started the climb. So we spent an extra day touring all the way around the base and couldn't find an easier way to get started. Particularly because the Coconino Sandstone was, of course, above whatever that schist formation...

Audience: Shale.

RT: Shale. Okay. But it didn't look very inviting. So one of the problems is dehydration. I'll just tell you up front. What do you call it when get too hot? Hypothermia, yeah. Hypothermia was really setting in at the beginning. When we got through with the trip I weighed myself. I'd lost 15 to 18 pounds in six days. That was tremendous. We had not enough water to go around. So we started on the fourth day on the climb itself and we were pretty tired, definitely. I know starting up right at the base we had a Grand Canyon rattlesnake, which is a subspecies. There's 14 or 15 rattlesnakes in Arizona. He stayed right there at that spot through the climb. We got down, he hadn't moved [audience laughter] the whole day. It was great example of bivouacking. But the hypothermia was a really important element for us. It was a real learning opportunity.

DG: This was September.

RT: Yeah. It was hot. Starting up the... I understand the first pitch no longer exists. Somebody was telling me that. It disappeared. But what I would remember was the second and third rope lengths cause there was no protection, it was real high angle friction. I had climbing shoes. I don't remember what you were wearing at the time, but I know, cause I was leading with no protection and getting up to the very steep part on the second lead going across on the diagonal, it was pretty... I was stepping very gingerly, very upright. [DG phone rings] Anyhow, I know Dave said it was really sketchy for him at the time. We'll go on and talk about other things. I think we want to tune in and share about our first, second, and third ascent cause we've all...

The second ascent I did with six people from Colorado College about a year and four months later, in the end of January. That was a whole different kettle of fish. After we got around on the north side, was all ice and snow. I will talk about that a little bit later.

JR: As has been said I was only really involved with climbing the ridge at the base of the final pyramid. We went in there and ironed that all out. But then later Dave and I did the third ascent after Rick had done the second with his Colorado friends.

DG: I'm interjecting a question here that just popped into my mind when Rick was talking: how do you practice wrestling alligators? [audience laughter]. This peak on the right, Brahma Temple, Diva Temple on the left. Here's a better shot of the route. The original route is kind of on the left skyline there. Good old days and the gear. Getting ready for the third ascent Jerry Robertson and I did. We only had images basically of the third ascent. That first one you saw is the only one, but we have a couple more from the first ascent but that's it. So repeating myself, why didn't we take photographs of that and make that part of the history? That's what maybe hopefully we'll do. A little bit close up of back here at that time. You can see the advanced hiking/climbing boots here. Real super stick stuff. One step up from Cat work boots. Because we had little access here, back then, other than European gear which we got through catalogs, Army surplus stuff, angle irons, a few pitons here and there that we would get from mainly ordering them from Europe. We were basically, as I term it, kind of the freaks of our generation in that people would say, "You're gonna do what?" and, "Naw, you guys are crazy." At that time, that's what climbing was kind of considered. Just kind of getting a feel for those days. It was a whole new thing and that's what made it exciting for us, is it was all new. We were exploring things. Made it fun and exciting. This is after we'd climbed down 5,000 feet and then climbed back up to the top of the Esplanade, across Bright Angel Canyon, Bright Angel Creek. You can see that Jerry and I are not carrying a whole lot of gear. This is again the third ascent. We're looking up at Zoroaster and the break in the Redwall for those of you that haven't been there.

JR: How many of you have been to the summit?

DG: Yeah, good question. Oh my gosh. So this would be another view of it I guess from pioneer climbers, what Harvey Butchart called us. Pioneer climbers. Do it before you call it a climb, pioneer climbing. [audience laughter]. This is coming out of the Redwall up on top of it. This is another climb. I put together kind of a composite of slides. Now we're getting up higher between these shale layers and other sandstone layers that take so much of your energy getting up these things, as you know if you've climbed in the Canyon. By the time you get there you've already expended a lot of energy. The original route, up this ramp, I think, yeah, went up this ramp, there's a blank face in here, I'm not sure exactly where we got on it. This was the friction pitch that kind of freaked us and others out. Up here more or less on this skyline, this is the great face here. This is the rock that we bivouacked on, Rick and I bivouacked on. Rick is gonna tell you this quick little story. I'll just go across... Here's the little traverse and there's the chimney and there's the final pitch. (02:18:34)

RT: I'm gonna share about the bivouac. We had moved off of that ledge to the bottom of this chimney and we came back to sleep on the ledge that night. It's a huge ledge, for those of you who have been up there. The next morning I woke up and Dave was nowhere to be found. [audience laughter] I thought, normally we would tie in but this is a huge ledge. I looked all over. It scared the hell out of me frankly. I thought he'd fallen off in the middle of the night or something. There's a crack between the rappel face and the ledge and he fell into the crack, sound asleep. [audience laughter] And he just suggested to me, thought maybe he took a sleeping pill cause he was so tired.

DG: I had something like that. [audience laughter] It wasn't what some of you people might think it was, [audience laughter] but it did put me to sleep for a little while and when I woke up I had no idea where I was. I was delirious. I was as scared as Rick was, wondering where am I. [audience laughter] But it was a combination of dehydration, lack of food. We were pretty stressed out.

RT: Okay. So the final pitch goes across as I said in the first slide show, an open chimney and the final pitch at the top. This goes back now to the...this is the first pitch again. This is the first pitch from the top looking down and you can see those blue boots. Those were the Royal Robbins blue boots. I remember Royal Robbins when we were in the Valley in Yosemite in the '50s, when the golden age of climbing kind of started in the Valley. Those guys would wear Royal Robbins. Launching are Tom Frost, Chuck Pratt, Warren Harding. Things were just starting to cook in the Valley. Jerry and I both worked for Camp Trails Company years later. I ran at retail stores and I remember when these blue boots first came out. They were just stormed upon. People I never knew before came into the store to buy Royal Robbins blue boots. This is Jerry. We're still trying to determine where this is on the climb. My memory fades a little bit on this. Somewhere. This is Jerry, I think probably just before going across this friction pitch. This was a pitch that we really didn't have any protection for so we relied on this little agave cactus. [audience laughter] You can see it how we deftly placed the rope at the base of the fall. But in those days you had a hundred and twenty foot nylon rope. You tied into it. That took up quite a bit of rope, all people tying in, but then you're tying into the belay anchor so there's not a whole lot of rope left. So a lot of our leads were short. So a lot of times we didn't put in protection, because we didn't know any better in those days, where now we probably would. So that was just the way it was. It was all new. Trying to give you a feel for that it was all new. We didn't have much to go on. Climbing shoes... We learned through stark terror to climb on granite in Yosemite Valley. We made some of the longest ascents with short climbs ever recorded because of that. The desert rats come over to Yosemite and try to climb slick granite in mountaineering boots and get scared to death. But we learned enough to know that the sandstone was, as Glenn said, really kind of neat to climb on. You stuck to it.

This is Jerry up further on that pitch and there's a little cactus right there. And there is Jerry way up there. This is the pitch. In today's climbing it'd be simple to do, I'm sure. In those days it was scary because we didn't have any protection, we didn't think that much about protection, putting in bolts and things unless... We had kind of an ethic back then, I did, I'm not sure what Jerry...that if you used artificial things you really weren't climbing. That's how primitive we were. If you used slings and things, you weren't climbing. You couldn't do it. Our rating system was you can either do it or you can't. [audience laughter] Until Rick came along and told us about Yosemite.

This is after the first pitch coming up the little rib. Beautiful view. This is Jerry going across the same little pitch, that first line that he was. This is very exposed, as you can see a long drop down there, into a pitch that goes across the little ledge into the bottomless chimney. This is a picture from inside the chimney looking across at Brahma Temple. This is the final pitch up to the little limestone cap on the summit. I'll let Rick tell you about this because Rick led this. It was a daunting pitch. (2:24:59)

RT: That was a sort of daunting pitch but, I don't know, I think in those days we had a lot of confidence. One of the things I was taught early on was that the leader never falls. [audience laughter] In the '50s that's the way it was. But that didn't happen to be the case on our second ascent. [audience laughter] Before we got to the corner we had three ropes of two. All these people had experience in Garden of the Gods. That's not great sandstone, Coconino Sandstone is much nicer, much better. But they all had experience. But when we got on the friction pitch, all of a sudden our three ropes of two turned into

two ropes of three. When we got around on the north side all of a sudden we had ice and snow. That whole pitch there was ice and snow. All the ledges were covered and all of a sudden we had a rope of six. [audience laughter] Things changed dramatically. In fact, I remember I had put in an expansion bolt, I think for protection for the lead and somebody put... One of the belayers was tied into the expansion bolt. It was Gary Zigler, who went on to become, climbing some of the desert spiders and things we saw in the '60s last night. Somebody fell in the chimney, just fell right out of it, in the ice. Pulled him off his belays so both of them were hanging off this one belay anchor, which was the drilled in expansion bolt. So that was really nice. But the problem still lay ahead and that was getting up this last wall, 120 foot or something like that lead. I could not get started. There was no way to start cause it was a sheet of ice. I don't know if those who've been on that ledge when it's covered with snow and ice... I had to stand on someone else's shoulders in that precarious position to get a piton in. I don't remember what it was I got in, but I got something in. Fortunately I brought a ladder with aluminum steps in it and put the ladder in there so the rest of the people could get up over that section once I got on up to the top and was able to belay. But it was pretty freaky. In fact, Gary Zigler wrote an article in Timberline about our second ascent. He says something about the fact that was the craziest lead he had ever seen in his life. That was the way it was in those days. It was pretty, pretty freaky. (2:27:34)

DG: This is that same pitch from the top looking down.

RT: I might say something about that. When Dave and I made the first ascent we built that cairn, it was four and a half feet high. Looks like it's a little higher now. When we got back to the ranger station we actually asked the ranger to put a scope on it, he had a 35-power scope, so he could see that there was a cairn on top of it just to confirm somebody had been there.

DG: This is Jerry again sitting on the top of...Brahma in the background. Rappelling off. This is a step up from the boulder-assist rappel which we used for a long, long time before we got smart to the weight of it. It hurts when it was over your shoulder, hurts when it goes through your crotch. What is it about this we don't understand? [audience laughter] For Jerry it's climbing, in his language, a false climb because it hurts. You got to put something under your shirt or shoulder for the friction. Those assisting against the wall is one thing [audience reaction], free position is another. That's myself, we finally got smart, put a little sling over my waist. The rope goes over your shoulder. Those of you who haven't ever boulder-assist rappelled before, do it [audience laughter] so that I can laugh at what you might feel going down. A lot of times you went down in jerks. A little bit, little bit, oh God, little bit, little bit. [audience laughter] You can see the entire rope we had. This is Jerry. All this garb here is basically from a second-hand store. Those are baker's pants that I'm wearing, by the way. And the first shoes that were actually climbing shoes we actually used rather than hiking boots or work boots, or in some cases tennis shoes. This is a shot, a picture of actually John Annerino gathering water from a little water pocket cause I didn't have enough water. Rick and I kind of lived off these when we made our first ascent cause we didn't have enough water. It didn't come in the nice little can here for us. So these little water pockets we used along with various and sundry other little bugs and green things. That's kind of what allowed us do climbs after rainfalls and things, as far as I'm concerned. Certainly, at my senior age now I won't go anywhere unless there's water there. I don't want to carry it anymore. Or know I can get it. That's one thing we learned in the Canyon is go when there's water so you don't have to tote that damn stuff. It adds up as the years add up. That's a fun shot. The route...up here, up here, across and up there, final pitch over there. I guess there's lots of different routes on Zoroaster now.

Audience question/Bob Packard: Where's the first pitch that is now different than you did.

DG: Good question. I don't know. That was the first pitch, that little 45 degree angle. Somebody here stand up and tell me what happened, where does the first pitch go now?

Audience: To the right. Right where you guys started it just goes straight up.

DG: Straight up here?

Audience: Yeah, just right on the nose. Yeah.

DG: Okay. You get on that little friction pitch?

Audience: No, you get to avoid the whole route. [audience laughter]

DG: I hate young small climbers. [audience laughter] First thing they say, "Are you still here?" [audience laughter] "Yeah, we are." I was hoping I could see the picture of that agave cactus to see how it had grown. So that's about it on Zoroaster and I'm sure other people will be talking about other things. Thanks very much. [applause]

End of Dave Ganci, Rick Tidrick and Jerry Robertson presentation (02:32:21)

Steve Grossman: All right, everybody stand tight here. Dave's gonna stay onstage and Rick and Jerry can head over. So everybody hold tight for a second here. I've gotta go switch a tape and I'll be back to the podium in a minute. [pause]

Audience comment/Glenn Rink: I might just mention as a little addendum to what Tom was saying that one really remarkable find that I made in the Grand Canyon on one of these ancient routes is an ancient canyon device. It was made out of wood and if you pulled down on it it made a great handhold and then it made a great foothold when you got high enough. But you could lift up on the thing and pull it right out of the crack so I didn't have anything on those guys. [audience laughter]

Audience comment: You can use that down on the Spire didn't you LB?

Glenn Rink: What's that?

Audience comment: You can use that down on the spires.

Glenn Rink: Well, those weren't actually coming devices. We used some weird stuff.

DG: And then to say addendum, the first time we went up to explore a way to the base of the climb of all this damn shale, we found a piton in one of the formations. I have no idea who put it there, why it was there. Somebody had maybe tried and I've always asked since then if anybody ever heard of anybody. I guess Brahma Temple had been climbed before that. Does anybody know that history? Brahma or Diva Temple was probably... May have been climbed from the North Rim by somebody. But we didn't see any other evidence of people or early Americans up there, but we did find a piton. What a strange place to find it, stuck in a rock. Somebody had tried something.

Audience question: So I saw in your gear pile, looked like a sparkplug wrench.

JR: Oh, that's a bolt tool. Pretty useful.

Begin Steve Grossman introduces George Bain (GB) and Dave Ganci (DG) presentation (02:35:10)

Steve Grossman: All right. George Bain and his family have a long history in the Flagstaff area. After being born in southern Illinois, he spent a lot of time in the water and climbing on rocks early on in his life in Oregon. He basically got a B.S. and an M.S. in mechanical engineering from NAU and ASU, spent a little time as a river guide and a little bit of time in the oil business and then had to do a 32-year stint as a medical device industry with W. L. Gore, which has employed a lot of folks that I know in the Flagstaff area, from 1984 to the present. He is very close to retiring, which I think will be a blissful thing and something to be respected these days. He also has been a ski patrolman from 2000 to present up in the Snowbowl. So he is a person who stays busy. His wife, Jane, and he have a son, Wesley, and a daughter, Lena, who grew up running wild on the rivers and mountains of the Southwest. Joe Sharber and George switched from motorcycles to rock climbing in the early '70s on the theory that bikes are noisy, dangerous and expensive, and rock climbing was just dangerous and expensive. [audience laughter] He says, "The first time I saw the Grand Canyon was in 1969 or '70. I tried to take a picture and it wouldn't fit into the lens. A few years later when I hiked to the bottom for the first time, Joe Sharber and I were cited by the NPS for building a fire in the campground at Phantom Ranch and given a court date on the South Rim." His first Grand Canyon summit was Zoroaster Temple, which we just heard about, in 1976, followed by Mount Hayden, Buddha, Brahma, and Vishnu, and 101 more summits after that. To this day it's what he calls a 'grand obsession'. So I'd like to welcome to the stage to talk about another route or two on Zoroaster, George Bain along with Dave Ganci. [audience laughter]

Begin George Bain (GB) and Dave Ganci (DG) presentation (02:32:21)

GB: Oh, watch out, this thing wiggles. Man, that's like a sobriety test, isn't it? [audience laughter] Wow, I'm glad I didn't fall down. Well, we mentioned Joe Sharber. He was a character I met riding motorcycles when I was a kid and Joe taught me how to use ropes climbing. That was a new thing cause I'd climbed a lot of rocks as a kid. Joe and an African American friend of ours named Nate Watkins and Mike Kuntzleman, who was a Vietnam vet going to NAU, and another fellow, they had made three or four attempts on Zoroaster. The first time I think it was too big, the second time they tried to come in from the North Rim and that was a bad idea. The third time they got snowed off. So it may have been the fourth time they took me with them. It was my first Grand Canyon summit. It was the first time they got to the top of the thing. It was the first Afro-American ascent of Zoroaster that we know of. A year and a half later, well, Joe was really good at cooking up ideas. He wasn't real good at being available to go on climbs. He and I had some adventures. He got me excited about the southwest face of Zoroaster so many times and then he cancelled that I talked a kid who didn't know how to rock climb into going with me. Luckily he cancelled. And then along came John Annerino. I met him through a climbing friend in the '70s and Annerino said oh, he was really excited about this thing. [working out the remote] Anyway, you guys know where the southwest face is. That's it looking at us there. You'd never know I was a mechanical engineer with 40 years of experience, would you? [audience laughter] Southwest face. So Tony Mangini introduced me to Annerino, Annerino got excited about this. Annerino said, "I know this old goat named Ganci and he's climbed it before so we'd take him along." I'd never met Dave before. I'd done one climb in Sedona with Annerino, but these guys wanted to go on this southwest face thing. This is another view of it from out the east there. That's our buddy Jeff Bowman who's a whole 'nother story. [audience laughter] That's the southwest face profile from the east. Dave, you can take the microphone away from me any time you want to.

DG: Well, as long as you know how to use it...

GB: More views of the southwest face. Finally I got someone to go with me. Joe got us excited about it, wasn't available that weekend. Here's John Annerino. This is at an Indian ruin down on the river in a different year. Here's Dave. This is actually on the trip. So I've been up Zoro with the boys, my first Grand Canyon summit, 1976, by a variation on that northeast arête that Dave and the boys climbed earlier. Here we're actually heading down the North Kaibab Trail. The weather is cooperating in the fact that there might be some water there. This is also on the trip. We brought along a base camp manager; Chris Keith is a really nice gal friend of Annerino's. There's Dave and we're hiking down the trail. Oops, I used to have a bigger beard and I was skinnier back then. We realized these things on our backs are kind of like small Winnebagos. They're full of water and the gear was heavier then. We had brass Svea stoves and steel cans.

DG: And who really looks like the old goat? [audience laughter]

GB: I still have that hat but it smells so bad I, I bought a new one. But I still have that hat somewhere. That's John doing a little bouldering. You guys all know that on the South Kaibab Trail, everybody stops at that boulder. We're getting closer to the southwest face. Our route generally... We made a false start somewhere over here, we finally got on it here, and we sort of went up there. You hear about the bullshit, but the bird-shit wall. There's the midnight crack up there as well. We'll get some closer views of that. There's the Redwall gully you've all heard so much about. Bradford Washburn from the Boston Museum of Science flew around a bunch of these summits in the '70s, did a bunch of measurements and made a map. This is just a shot of his map. You guys have probably all seen this, too, cause I think that we've got a roomful of Canyonologists here. Phantom Ranch is down here somewhere. There's the crack in the Redwall. There's Sumner Butte. Zoro up here. I think that's Brahma back there, so there's a little view of the neighborhood for you. Here's Dave doing what he does best. You point a camera at Dave, he's really cool, what's happening. [audience laughter] I heard a term in a talk a few weeks ago, he's a charismatron. [audience laughter] Here we're walking up those shale ledges with all those planar features that LB loves so well. Dana, little Dana out there, Dana Butte in the background. Getting closer. There's the bird-shit wall up there. We'll see that but it'll be much dimmer light by the time we get there. I think that's our midnight crack squeeze chimney. Dave, I'm hogging the microphone. Do you want to jump in here at any point?

DG: Go ahead.

GB: Okay. Just really cool light on Brahma. Storm like, promising to bring us some water which it really didn't deliver much of. More storm light on Brahma. More groovy silhouette shots going up the ridge. Somebody asked earlier how the first pitch had changed on the old route. When we got up to the base of that first pitch there's this huge new rock fall in 1978 that wasn't there in 1976, like massive chunks of Coconino Sandstone that had just come off that northeast arête. So, the variation we did in 1976 doesn't exist anymore. We stayed to the right of the arête. When I climbed it in '93 we went up that way and it was... That same rattlesnake was still at the base of the climb. [audience laughter] Here we are. This is not staged, you know, people really do kind of sit around and scratch their legs like that. Looking up the route there's our midnight crack squeeze chimney and here's our twilight traverse to get out of this cave and over there to where we could get up. If you climb the original route, you end up on that summit plateau in the limestone chimneys up there. The limestone summit blocks up here on the top, there's just real easy third-class chimneys, but when you come up from this side there's no easy way to traverse around so most people do this as five or six pitches on the northeast arête. We ended up

making eight pitches out of it. This is me and I really hated off-widths. Friends weren't invented yet or if they were we didn't have any, the camming devices. So I'm trying to throw a tube chock at this crack [audience laughter] and I got a little under-cling there to keep me on these little footholds. These EB climbing shoes weren't as sticky as what we have today but they were good enough. I tried and tried and tried and I finally just took sort of a controlled little pendulum and said the hell with it because at that point somebody was exploring around the corner and they found this other pitch further to the right and it sort of... We had disregarded this one earlier because someone known wanted to climb off this awful roof. But turns out you get up in there and you get on your belly and you slither like a reptile out and stand up and you don't have to climb that roof at all. That was kind of the key in getting on the southwest face. Was that you or John?

DG: That was John. That was him.

GB: John always finds a sneaky way. There's John. So at the top of the first pitch, there's this nice big ledge. There's Isis calling to us out in the background, and Sheba. And there's John. John takes some great hero shots, too. Guy knows how to strike a pose for a camera just like Dave. Here's some of, I don't know whose creative protection this is. That's that same tube chock I was playing with earlier and then we were worried about it levering out cause it really is not in there very well. So a little counter-weight action going on.

DG: Did you film that? [audience laughter]

GB: Yeah, I think, I think... Yeah, here we are. It's May but it's kind of cold. We don't wear things like that when it's warm out.

DG: You'll notice I'm the person on the right with that ill-fitting helmet and that look on my face because I was from the old school, we don't need no stinking helmets. You know, only for motorcycling kind of thing. I didn't like it cause it fit too tight and I always felt I was constricted. So that's old school. That was real. I didn't like helmets. Earlier, when we were earlier climbing, we did wear helmets. At that point, girls wore helmets. The girls wouldn't climb with you.

GB: That helmet was really kind of a little bit too small for him. I think we had to tease him about it a little bit the way it made his eyes bug out. [audience laughter] This jacket's in Mongolia now. Dave Edwards had a charity for a long time where he was taking clothes to people in Mongolia where apparently it's really cold, so that was the last the world ever saw of that, at least in Arizona. Here's, I think our, yeah, there's the rope there and there might be somebody up there, but this is how we got started on this next thing. That would be the second pitch. There's Dave growling like he does when he's getting ready to grip the thing and really, really tear it up. I think this must be on a higher pitch. That's probably John leading, on the start of the third. These things were all this primitive invention called colored slides, and colored slides had the advantage. In place with memory they had this cardboard frame around them and you could write on the cardboard frame. So if you want to know some more of the details about where the rock really goes, you can come to my house and read the little cardboard frames but I can't remember right now. There's my old helmet. I bought that used in 1977 from a guy in Colorado who later became famous. You see his name in magazines and stuff. Looks like I'm belaying John up there in the orange. And there's Dave. We actually made... We got up pretty high on the thing, maybe halfway up the face, and it was getting late in the day, and at some point we ran into kind of a dead end crack system. Dave traversed out there and came back. I think this is where I traversed out and got in one of these seams. It looks really low angle here but it felt really, really steep when I was out

there. I think he went out and came back, I went out and came back. Looks like we still have plenty of daylight but for some reason we decided to like split from somewhere up here. I think this was still on the first day. I got up to that. I had this old... The first chock I ever bought was an old MOAC. I bought it in that climbing store in Tempe, what they now call Sin City where all the ASU students live. But I slotted this chock. That little roof is only a foot or two feet. It wasn't that hard but I was kind of freaked out so I thought, well, I'll just cheat and rest on that thing and it popped right out and this is where I landed. [audience laughter] I had my camera with me and I thought, well, you know, I won't have to climb up there again if I pretend I'm taking photos. So I had to psych myself up, had another go at it.

DG: A quick aside. I was on this climb originally. After a few too many Dos Equis in the Bright Angel Lodge bar, John Jorbek talked me into going on this climb. I hadn't climbed in a long time so it was let's see what the old-timer could do kind of thing.

GB: I didn't know you almost chickened out. [audience laughter]

DG: So I went along likely that I got injured. I was the slow man on the rope, if you will, so probably slow things down getting back on the rock. It had been a number of years. I was scared at first just, you know, I hadn't been on the rock in a long time. Once we got going, it kind of came back. So one of the reasons it extended into midnight was because my steps were a bit slower than everybody else's on this climb.

GB: This is the first really long lead fall I'd ever taken. In the '70s there were people around who could climb 5.10 but we didn't really know any of them. We were sort of figuring this stuff out ourselves. The local Flagstaff guys on there would. We were pretty solid on 5.7 and 5.8 but this was definitely kind of a challenge for us. There's the end of my first really good 25-foot whipper. There's that little island of schist. There's a little Tapeats nipple right in the mouth of Clear Creek. There's the Colorado there. In contrast to a lot of other stuff we did, somebody actually did have a bolt kit along on this trip. I think it was John. This was at the top of the 4th pitch, maybe. John drilled an anchor there. There he is belaying Dave up the 5th. This red rope's coming up to me because if you look at the southwest corner of Zoroaster there's this ledge up there in the sky, a couple hundred feet up. I had led the pitch before and ended up on top of that. When these guys came up, the ledge I was sitting on over here, it was like, whoa, that's off into space. But it was a nice place to belay. So John drilled those bolts and we decided to go that way instead. And there's something, that's John.

DG: I think that's John.

GB: Yep. You can see why we needed to do a twilight traverse. We ended up up in here and everything out there was pretty ugly looking but there was this crumbly thing here. We're now at the top of the Coconino Sandstone. That's not really bird shit. I think it's some kind of mineral staining. That twilight traverse we went out, there was some cracks. We could get pro in here and out onto this ledge. But as Dave said, we were moving kind of slow here for a variety of reasons. You can see the light is getting to that nice rich afternoon full-tone sunlight thing. This is probably the top of what we call the 6th before we did that twilight traverse. You can see the just dramatic effect. There's that little nipple in Tapeats there at the mouth of Clear Creek and the shadows are getting even longer. Dave's looking even colder, he's got his hood on. He seems to have lost that helmet we were making fun of. And then this is a ruse. I wanted to create the effect for artistic flare that the sun is going down, down, down, but if you study the geometry here that's the shadow of Zoroaster and there's Buddha out to the west. Well, this is a sunrise shot. So, okay, there you have it. [audience laughter] So I was trying to fake you out but you get the feeling. This is another one, obviously a sunrise shot. There's Isis in good shadow out to the west. This is

one of the things Dave wants to do. He's waiting till he gets into his 80s, though. He doesn't want to ruin his 70s by doing something that's too easy.

DG: Need a little more experience. [audience laughter]

GB: Yeah. And Sheba up there, that a whole 'nother chapter. But the sun really was going down. There's Isis. The sun is going even further down. We're almost ready to start the twilight traverse but we're waiting for the sun to get all the way down [audience laughter], and it did. I'm fooling you again. I took this with a tripod on a river trip a couple years before. Anyhow, we didn't take any more pictures cause it was really dark, but we got across that twilight traverse. We ended up pulling the rope through and leaving the protection. Russ Hardwick and the other guys on the second ascent were nice enough to give us our chocks back. And anyway, this is... Darn, these buttons are tricky.

Bradford Washburn from the Boston Museum of Science, we saw his map earlier, he flew up here in a helicopter. Apparently he had a bag of cement. He knew really accurately how high Zoroaster was. When we woke up in the morning this is what we saw. There's another funny story here. I was the third one to come up the squeeze chimney in the midnight crack. I actually got that blue helmet stuck if I turned my head a certain way and I could hang by my chinstrap. Anyway, when we all got to the top...there's Dave, and John had this little tiny fire. It was like he had built it in a tuna fish can. It was this dinky little twig fire. They would lie on one side and the other side of it they're lying there shivering. I said, "Well, hey, you guys, I was just here a year and a half ago, on the lower summit below the limestone summit rocks there's this rock wall to break the wind, there's a dead juniper tree that's a huge pile of firewood, and some climbers bivowac." I said "Let's go down there. We'll build a big roaring bonfire then we can sleep warm." Dave grumbled and rolled over and snarled at me. So I went down there and I built this huge roaring bonfire. My biggest worry was that rangers would see it and come with helicopter gunships and haul us all off to Guantanamo Bay [audience laughter] or something, but they didn't. So I went up the next morning and we took some more photos. Here's looking down the route. That bird shit wall traverse would be, I think, oh, gosh, maybe under this lip right here. There's the dead-end ledge I ended up on. Then the top of the 4th there and all the way down to the ground. But we rappelled off the other way. Oh, here's a little, there's the thing we wrote. John Annerino had this can of beer in his pack. It was one of those little Coors cans that's like half high, you know, like half a can of Coors, but he hauled it up there full. We wrote something in the register about "No fair helicopter pilots, leave this for the next climber," cause used to be a lot of helicopter pilots. That looks like Dave scribbled notes from the first ascent, is that right?

DG: I think it was. Yeah.

GB: Maybe can you zoom in on that a little.

DG: Can't read that. These are in the archives which I encourage everybody to visit. The Grand Canyon History Museum right on...which very few people even know about. I didn't know about it.

GB: Okay. No worries. More scribble notes. Here's their note from the 3rd was still up there in 1978. Here's Jerry and Dave. Some of their reminisces there. Here's Washburn. Bradford Washburn is now deceased. He lived to be in his 90s, so did his wife Barbara. But, as I said, they had this project where they flew around in helicopters and did a bunch of measurements and drew that nice map we saw earlier. Here's one of those helicopter guys. On our ascent in 1976, a year and a half before this the helicopters flew multiple choppers per hour through the Zoro/Brahma saddle. After a few of those they

saw us, so they'd come in and hover. It was getting so loud that the belayer and the lead climber couldn't talk to each other. And, of course, we were pretty grip not climbing to the level that that route commanded but doing it anyway. We were pretty puckered. To show them we were puckered some of the guys pulled down their pants and mooned the helicopters. After that the helicopters kept a more polite distance. [audience laughter] They didn't hang around and hover. Here's the first guy to solo it. Davidson and Suthers. I think, one was a ranger, the other one was a Phantom Ranch dude I think. There's that jacket again that's in Mongolia now, but rappelling off. Notice knickers. I'm surprised that knickers have gone out of style cause they're really practical. They don't bind over your thighs when you're hiking uphill. Do you have a knicker comment for us?

DG: No, I have a down jacket comment.

GB: [chuckle] Oh, well, it's not down.

DG: Well, whatever.

GB: It's a fiberfill thing, it weighed a ton.

DG: This is the type of jacket or the same one that George wore at the base of the midnight crack on our first ascent of the southwest face, which I was the third on the rope. I had to jumar up to the base of the midnight crack cause it was dark. I wasn't about to try to go across that thing at night. It was cold. There was wind and snowflakes starting to come over the north rim. We weren't prepared to bivouac out there, we were gonna do it in one long day, right? So, John went up with a flashlight in his mouth. Had the cord around his neck. Heard him in the crack calling out, "...Damn." Stuff coming down, falling down. Some stuff came down and kind of fell on me, loose stuff that was kicking out of the crack. We could gradually see this light coming out of the crack as he was going up. George is over underneath a boulder, inside kind of a little alcove of boulder huddled up in the only warm piece of equipment either of us had brought on the climb, and I was standing out there whaa, whaa, whaa in the cold.

GB: Whaa, whaa, whaa, that's exactly how he does it. [audience laughter]

DG: Belaying from a rock belay and I had the first signs of the giardia bug, that I have no idea, from a water cache that we had broken into earlier in the climb that George had put up there a couple years earlier. So that was complicating matters, you might say, on our belay. I just can remember it was so dark, so black cause cloud base came. You couldn't see any of the lights of the South Rim. I had a cigar I was smoking at the time. The only light I could see was from the end of that cigar [audience laughter]. I was in this dreamland.

GB: Who was smoking a cigar?

DG: I was. George went up and then there was so much drag on the rope going up that you said, "You got caught, too much drag, you gotta untie and I'll throw it back down to you."

GB: I don't remember that.

DG: Well, I do. [audience laughter] So George went on up and then all of a sudden I'm on this ledge. Completely black, all I can see is this light from the cigar. I was off in some sort of a dreamland. I was like, wow, this is something. I felt totally marooned. What happens, then all these things went through

my mind. What happens if we get stuck and we can't get up? All these things are going through my mind as I'm stranded on this ledge. Kind of funny how things like that happen in the middle of the night when you're fatigued. So when he did throw the rope down to me, first it missed me over to the side, then it got to me and then I went on up, finished the climb. There was a little fire on top, I remember, then we went down to where George had built a bigger fire.

GB: You guys didn't, you stayed up top with the twig fire.

DG: For a while. Didn't we come down to...

GB: I don't think so.

DG: ...where you were? But anyway that coat brought that memory back when I was asking George, "Give me that coat, you're warm down there." It was like, "You and the horse you came in on..." [audience laughter] Because you didn't bring something doesn't mean I should give that to you." George being the mean soul that he is with keeping warm.

GB: Well, I was a really skinny kid, without that coat on I'd have been really cold. There's the bivouac ledge that Jerry, Rick and Dave were talking about earlier. That's that lightning bolt crack off the rappel. Bolts for the rappel take you down that overhang there where Dave was dangling as a demo. I think that crack's since been climbed, I heard, in later years. There's Dave. Notice he got rid of that ugly orange helmet, he's got this nice stylish afro hat there now. Here comes John. Trotting on down. There's Sumner Butte out there in all its glory. Russ Harbuck and I climbed that years, no, Mike Stamps and I were out there years later. This had about four inches of snow on it that took a fairly easy day for a lady and made it quite exciting. Down at Phantom Ranch. There's Chris, our base camp manager. We didn't get too many photos of her cause she stayed on the ground. But, yeah, here's the state of the art steel can you can carry Coleman fuel in to fuel this heavy little brass Svea. All the cool junk we towed around. Dave, do you remember, was this your ice axe with our base camp manager or was it this guy? He's not someone we knew, we just...

DG: No, but you would wonder why I wanted to carry an ice axe. In the early days, this was a little bit later, I would carry, like when I was hiking in the Grand Canyon I would carry an ice axe cause that's what mountaineers carry, right? When you're walking down the canyon it's a signature. "What is that?" "Oh, that's an ice axe." Plus, then you could identify yourself as a mountaineer. [audience laughter] Didn't do much good in sandstone, but. Those were the days. How many folks here have actually climbed the southwest edge of Zoroaster? Oh, not a whole lot. Well, that's a good one for you to do. I encourage you to do it and encourage everybody here to do more climbing in the Grand Canyon. Now it seems that climbing is such that very few traces are left as we used to leave traces of our cairn and stuff. So free climbing has become such a great thing I hope that continues.

GB: There are a few gravelanche hazard situations in the canyon where that axe would come in handy for self-arrest. Anyway, I think we're getting to the end of the slide deck here. There's our buddy Sumner and there's the crack in the Redwall and here's the approach and Brahma hiding back behind. I think that might be, oh, this is something I think I plagiarized off the internet, I didn't take that. That's a Google Earth shot that doesn't really help at all. There's a topo of the southwest face up there on the right. That was in Rock and Ice a few years ago. I could probably be charged with copyright crimes for putting that up there, too.

Audience comment/Bob Packard: No way is that 5.10.

GB: Well, that's a different route that Paul Davidson...

Audience comment/Bob Packard: Oh, a different route.

GB: Yeah, that's a route that these guys called Pegasus. It just happened to be in the same magazine as this Zoro southwest face topo. I'm pushing the button and nothing happens. I think that means we're done. [applause]

End of George Bain and Dave Ganci presentation (03:05:44)

Steve Grossman: All right. I need to switch tapes here but in the late 1960s Jerry Robertson and Dave Ganci got interested in climbing Mount Sinyala, this beautiful formation you'll see from his slides and just basically he screamed at you to go climb it. So I'd like to bring to the stage Dave Ganci and Jerry Robertson to talk about that once I give them a go after switching the tape.

Begin Jerry Robertson (JR) and Dave Ganci (DG) presentation (03:06:44)

DG: Is there anyone else here that has climbed Sinyala? Then maybe you could accompany me. Maybe you could accompany on Jerry on this because you're probably tired of listening to me I've been up here a couple of times and there I am again. We were thinking this was gonna be another first ascent and were unpleasantly surprised after three tries.

Steve Grossman: Hold on, Dave.

DG: Okay.

Stage comment: Don't want to miss your monolog.

Audience question: Hey, Dave, what happened to Annerino, John Annerino?

DG: He lives in Tucson and has written a number of books, has two boys. We had a lot of desert escapades together over the years. John was one of the first really long distance trail runners before trail running became the thing. He ran the route of the whole South Kaibab, well, not the trail but what's the...

Audience comment: Tonto.

DG: Tonto. Thank you. The Tonto Trail, ran it from one end of the canyon to the other. He did the same thing, repeated it, on the north side of the canyon. We did some crazy running things in the desert together, very, very strong gut. He ran most of the way up the Arizona Trail, 800 hundred miles, over a period of time. That was before trail running became a thing. I haven't seen John in a long time but he has done a lot of photographs, published a number of books, some of them in Mexico. His wife is from Mexico so they travel down there a lot. He couldn't make it up for this show. Jerry, where's Jerry, Jerry Robertson? We saw Mount Sinyala, actually Jerry has a story and wants to tell that. He's seen it from the air as a commercial pilot. I saw it in Colin Fletcher's book *The Man Who Walked Through Time*, which is

one of my favorite all-time books. Of course, never walked through the whole Grand Canyon. Fantastic book. That was new, that was new. "Walk through the Grand Canyon. My God." You know, Harvey Butchart. One photograph of him is on Zoroaster with Mount Sinyala in the background and so he thought, wow, this looks so neat, let's go out and climb that. It's accessed by way of Havasu Canyon which I'm sure most of you have been different ways. Our first attempt... Jerry here?

Steve Grossman: Can't find him so go ahead and have a seat and start.

DG: Okay. I'll put on a nose and glasses and be someone else. First, what's really neat is going down through Havasu Falls and Havasu Canyon. That itself is an adventure. A fun thing to do. So we went down, again these heavy packs, we were gonna go up on the Esplanade and try and get over to Mount Sinyala. My recollection and, again, people's recollections are different as you well know, what happened was we started up Carbonate Canyon which is an access. It's actually an old trail that goes up to Carbonate Canyon up to the Esplanade, which leads over to Mount Sinyala. I heard a little rattle over here, little rattle over here, this was summertime, little rattle over here. Ah, rattlesnake. Freaked me. I said, "How many more of these are we gonna run into before we get out on the Esplanade." As I recall that was the main reason we backed off right then. Wrong time of year, plus we're carrying, as usual, a lot of water. We're saying, "Why don't we wait, why don't we just start the route until winter when, after the snow melt, we should be plenty of water up on the Esplanade." Here comes Jerry. What up, bud?

JR: A call of nature.

DG: I only told a few lies about you. I just told them a lot of fun at this point where we had this wonderful climb Mount Sinyala. Our first trip was, at least to me, stopped by a rattlesnake.

JR: I'm not sure exactly what Dave has presented with. Moving back up a little bit just to advise you how we became aware of Mount Sinyala by flying over the area and showing some of the passengers on my planes there. Airline flights from Grand Canyon airport over to Las Vegas we would often deter to fly over Havasu by the village and the falls, and so forth. I saw a mountain from there and said to Dave, "Hey, we better go check this out." So we did. Anyway, our first venture in, we had family, wives, girlfriends, what have you. My young daughter who was, what, about... Mary, how old was Tommy?

Mary: A year and a half or so.

JR: Year and a half old. Mary carried her on her back. Our son, Darrin, came along. He is an outstanding sport rock climber. He was in her tummy at the time. Anyway, we were looking for a way to get up to Sinyala primarily from the village of Supai. It wasn't till our second trip in that we actually found what we had to do to get up there. There is Sinyala, the scenic. We actually made three trips in there before we finally accomplished the climb. This one was a winter, our second trip. One of the lovely things about it was all these pockets of water, coming into the water. There's Dave imbibing on some of that water.

DG: This is a product shot. We both worked for Camp Trails at the time. How many people here remember Camp Trails? [applause] Great. That was one of the early pack manufacturers actually. I think as big as Kelty at the time but not that well known. Jerry and I both worked for Camp Trails in Phoenix. Jerry worked in research and development while he was flying on the airlines. I ran the retail store. This is an obvious product shot for Camp Trails cause he had sponsors and gear and stuff where we set a number of these things out trying to look innocent. So that's how that happened. And we had plenty of

water. That's the key. People who haven't climbed in the Canyon that much, you'll be told over and over again water is the key. And far as I'm concerned, the only time personally to climb in the Grand Canyon is after snow melt or monsoon storms and there's water everywhere. Then it's really fun, it's not so much work.

JR: The one thing about getting to Sinyala, how many people here have climbed Sinyala? Pretty light handful. Anyway, getting to it from Supai, the village, it's a long, around many, many little side canyons before you ever get to it. That's one of the things about most of the climbs in the Grand Canyon, as most of you know, is just getting to them. It's not a matter of driving your car to the foot of the rock like a lot of sport rock climbers can do. So just undertaking the effort to get to these places was a big part of Grand Canyon climbing. This is our second venture where we actually got to the climb itself. You can see snow and ice. Neither of us were really prepared for that kind of condition. [audience laughter]

DG: This is a pause from the climb—hey, what the hell are we doing here? We didn't see any snow until we got around to the north side.

JR: And then there it was and we backed off. We said no, we're not ready for this.

DG: That's me hollering up to Jerry, "this is crazy." Slipping and sliding on sandstone that was no longer stickable. We were slipping off this thing. So I think we were like one pitch from the top on the second try and came back and on the way back said, "Well, we'll be back." Which we did. We came back the third time, summertime. This was the one tree that I remember seeing, first stepping on the Esplanade, between us and Mount Sinyala. That became kind of a goal for us to get to. I remember on this climb I was gonna cut weight down. Instead of wearing hiking boots in I was going to wear shoes in which were tight. I'll save the weight. When I walked out of this climb both my feet were totally bandaged up with white adhesive tape and I was limping the whole way. Lesson learned. Now we're coming in again. You'll notice these are Jerry's hiking boots. Again, the modern climbing stuff and hiking stuff being what it was. That was it for the "day". Military stuff, a lot of military stuff. You see these bottles over here, these are bottles that Jerry put together. He was the culinary chief on our climbs and things because Jerry is a prodigious eater and can eat his way through groceries and never gain an ounce. Anyway, he would put these things together we called swill.

JR: He called them swill. [audience laughter]

DG: I called them swill. It was fruit mix and then oatmeal mix and stuff that just... We wanted to cut down weight so...

JR: Didn't need a fire or a stove to eat that stuff.

DG: Yeah, yeah. You needed a very strong stomach. I'm not sure what order that got in, that was gonna be the last slide but that's Jerry towing that stuff back up. [audience laughter] We set that out...

Moderator: You skipped some, Dave.

[adjusting for skipped slides]

DG: Okay, here's the water. That, as I recall, was a martini [audience laughter] though I'd prefer it over swill. Horses up there on the Supai. Let their horses run up on the Esplanade. I guess they still do. This is

coming around to the route again. We'll stop there for some pretty flowers. Again the Camp Trail's pack product shot. Looking at our route now in sunshine. Skirting around and here we're on the climb.

JR: You're the one that remembers these things. We found one piton there and that's when we first realized that we weren't the first. I was told that somebody would be here who was on the first ascent. Is that correct? Is anybody here from that first ascent?

Steve Grossman: No, neither one of them could make it.

JR: Oh, that's too bad. Well.

Audience question: I heard a rumor a Havasu kid climbed that and got the first ascent on it but I have no idea of any of the details.

JR: Well, no cairn, no reason to stop. [audience laughter] Well, that pile of rocks was there when we got there. [audience laughter]

DG: After three tries coming up over the edge we said maybe this is the first ascent. Then we see that pile of rocks and UCLA Hiking Club? [audience laughter] Might as well have said Boy Scout Club. What is UCLA Hiking Club doing in the Grand Canyon? That's what I want to know. I was hoping somebody would be here to tell us. That's Jerry drinking some of that stuff. I let him drink most of it.

Audience/Bob Packard: What year was this by the way?

DG: This was '60. No, that was our second ascent. This was '69.

JR: '59.

DG: '59, I'm sorry. No, no, '60. It was '60.

JR: In between my ascent with Dave on Zoro, 3rd ascent, I put in a stint with the Air Force and time in Vietnam, so forth, and it wasn't till after I was with the airlines, flew over and saw Sinyala. We have to do something. So we did.

DG: So my climbing history memory is very spotty. Different times between climbs, it was never career climbing. My whole motivation just the adventure of it. Being in the Canyon is an adventure. I'm not sure whether the term Grand Canyon climbing or should be canyoneering.

[Note: Online audio recording ends abruptly at 03:22:53. Presentation finished with a possible short gap from third downloadable file]

DG: ... So even the people who aren't on the climb I think it's neat to get to these places anyway.

JR: I mentioned the airline and so forth. Within that 10 year period, I also had the opportunity to go to climb in the Alps with John Harlin, who was there for about a month. On one of the climbs, the first ascent had been accomplished. I found this piton that says LT on it so we can guess who put that in.

Audience: Wow. That's great.

DG: That's all folks. [applause]

End of Jerry Robertson (JR) and Dave Ganci (DG) presentation

Steve Grossman: So Mike Sherrick unfortunately and Bill Amborns both were on the first ascent of Mount Sinyala. Jerry, or not Jerry, but Mike sent me some slides and images with a little bit of notes on them. His note for this one is looking down Havasu Canyon. Havasu Village from the trail in.

JR: See, it's a long ways over there.

Steve Grossman. Havasu Village. Which you could see the horse down in the lower part in the trees. This is the start of the Apache Trail. There it is off in the distance, Mount Sinyala from the Apache Trail upon reaching the plateau. This is Sinyala from the southwest. Just looking down one of the canyons on the plateau once they got up there. This is relaxing at a spring in the Canyon. Left to right is Wilkerson, Meyers, and Bitchin' Bill Hamblin as he's known to his friends. And this is Mount Sinyala from the southwest. This is looking up toward the summit once you've gotten past those lower rock bands. This is the view from the summit looking toward the northwest. And the view from the summit looking toward the northeast.

JR: Did they have a different approach than we did?

Steve Grossman: If you were on the Apache Trail. I don't know, without having those guys here, you know, I'm just a mouthpiece for them so I'm not really sure of the details. Clearly these guys found a fixed pin, they climbed the same route, which is a little bit up in the air. And this is looking from the summit toward the northeast, see the river in the bottom. That might be the end of the shared slides. Put the Amborns ones on. These ones have got narration so I don't have to do it. These were taken by Bill Amborns who was a part of the group of four. Everyone's full name will show up in a slide or two here. Sinyala's interesting cause I've come across at least three different spellings, including the Spanish spelling with a tilde on the end. [pause]

So let me see what time it is here. Okay. Go ahead and set up the Pat Littlejohn. Pat Littlejohn? So a little bit of background on these guys. In 1976 Pat Littlejohn and John Mothersele took a tour of the U.S. and Grand Canyon happened to be one of the places they stopped. They also came and climbed down in Tucson and did the first ascent on Entrance Dome on the Cochise Stronghold on a route called Wishbone. They actually named... It's called Entrance Dome now, they actually called it Dappled Dome, so that could be the name that sticks as things move forward cause they were the first one to do anything on it. Both these guys are extraordinary climbers, especially Pat. He's quite well known in Britain for climbing all manner of terrain and all manner of conditions, just an all-around solid guy. These guys actually got back from their travels and wrote an article about this climb, which appeared in *Mountain Magazine*, which is really, you know, one of the few early mentions of Grand Canyon climbing other than Dave Ganci's article about climbing Zoroaster and one or two other ones. He's captioned this. I had the exquisite pleasure of watching Pat walk up Butterball's on a rack of axes and stoppers back when that was a really big deal. I got to run into these guys a couple of times along the way. While John was sitting in his orange jumpsuit dithering around with a rope, you know, Pat was just walking up a C crack. It was pretty impressive. So let's just go ahead and roll through Pat's presentation here. He was nice enough to put this together at my request. Wait a little longer if you can. Funny thing is they show up and they were walking around sightseeing and saw something they wanted to do so they went over

immediately and started talking to the ranger on the Grand Canyon who was on duty at the time, trying to convince them that they were capable of taking this on. It was well within their scope, but basically the guy was a climber and he just said, "We can't rescue you. We have no way of doing anything about this." After they finally got their credentials straight and wore him down he gave them permission to go give it a go. [about 3 minutes of slides being projected, no narration] Alright. [applause]

Steve Grossman: I need to add Pat Littlejohn, Mike Sherrick and Bill Amborns onto the list of photographers that I thanked early on in the show.

Lunch break

End of March 5, 2016 morning session