

## Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

**Interviewees:** Jorgen Visbak (JV)  
**Interviewer:** Tom Martin (TM)  
**Subject:** A look through Jorgen's photos of a 1964 Cataract Canyon Sportyak rafting trip.  
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Keys: Lake Mead, Trona, Al Culp, Moab, Sport Yak, Bill Belknap, Otis ("Dock") R. Marston, Buzzy Belknap (Bill's son), Steamer *Major Powell*, 1893, Rapid Number 7 & 23, Garth Marston (Dock's son), 1953 rafting trip, wetsuits, 1964, Cataract Canyon, Mile 209.6, Kent Frost, Stanton photographs, 1891 Best Expedition, swimming trips, Harvey Butchart, Boyd Moore, Chester Bundy, Separation Canyon, Gien (in France), lining boats down, Culp inscription, Ben Hurt boat, Red Lake Canyon, Dark Canyon, Dirty Devil, Hite, Bill Wells, skunk flag, Glen Canyon Dam, Narrow Canyon, Denis Julien inscription 1836, Lava Falls, Vulcan Rapid, Vulcan's Anvil, North Rim, South Rim, Phantom Ranch, Angel Creek, Little Colorado River, Marble Canyon, Soap Creek, Page, Bryce Airport, jet boat, turbocraft, Confluence, Hite Ferry, Paria River, Lake Mead, Explorers Club, American Potash company, Weishauple, Indonesia trip, Denmark to Bay of Biscay sailing trip.

TM: Today is the 26th of December -- thank you very much! See! We're in Boulder City, Nevada, with Jorgen Visbak, at Jorgen's house.

JV: Does it work?

TM: Yes.

JV: It's a little small. Too far away, maybe, uh?

TM: Well, it seems all right, for just being able to see the photograph? Okay. That's better.

JV: A little better.

TM: Yeah. Sit up here... There we go. This looks like Lake Mead.

JV: Yeah, well, these are... Well, let me say, when we planned the trip up there, a friend of mine, who was in Trona, he was a pilot. He's dead now; but he was a pilot and had a little airplane. And he picked me up after my trip, after our trip up there, and we flew back from -- what is the name of the city of Hite, Hite?

TM: Yes.

JV: We flew back to Trona along the canyon, and took some pictures, along the way there.

TM: Nice. What was his name again?

JV: Culp. Do you know him?

TM: No. What was his first name?

JV: Alex.

TM: Al Culp. Okay. So then this picture of the lake is of flying home? Or did he...?

JV: Flying home, yeah, I think it is. I'm not quite, I can't remember. I flew a couple of times with him.

TM: Did he fly you up there?

JV: No, I think we drove up there. Bill and Buzzy, and then Dock came out; we met up there. I don't ... Is that name, is it Hite there?

TM: Yes.

JV: Yeah, it's Hite there; there's another city further upstream, is that...?

TM: You get to Moab if you go way up above Cataract.

JV: Well, I think we couldn't put the boats... Now how was it? I think we met in Moab, then. That's a bigger city, isn't it?

TM: Yes.

JV: And because we, we hired a jet as a, a jet boat, going along the river, you know that. And we loaded our little boats on that jet boat, and drove up to the junction. Sailed up to the junction with the...

TM: With the Green River?

JV: Yeah. And then we...

TM: At the confluence? Okay?

JV: Yeah, Confluence, yeah. And that's where we started our trip.

TM: And you were with the Sport Yaks?

JV: Yeah, we were using, each a Sport Yak. That we loaded on that jet boat in Moab; I think it was Moab.

TM: That would make sense.

JV: And sailed up to the junction, and that's where we unloaded the boats, and then we started our trip there.

TM: And just the four of you?

JV: Just the four: Bill, and Dock, and Buzzy and I. Yeah; that's right. This is now -- of course, I... Dock wrote captions on all these pictures. On the sides. And he would mention what the camp is, and where it is, and what mile it is, and... He did that for me.

TM: And this is a Sport Yak, is upside-down, for the table?

JV: Yes, upside down.

TM: That's kind of low, but. And there's a fire going, and a couple people standing around.

JV: We had a fire, sleeping bags...

TM: Those are great; look at that.

JV: Yeah, it's a pretty neat picture. There's probably a lot of pictures there that are no good.

TM: And so this looks like breaking camp in the morning?

JV: Yeah, and it may be the same place; I'm not sure.

TM: Uh-huh; Sport Yaks are there, and... So that looks like Bill Belknap (sp?); is standing.

JV: Yeah, I think it's Bill.

TM: It says...

JV: And that's one of his -- H -- what does it say?

TM: Well it says, Major Powell, in the middle line; it says...

JV: Major. Yeah, and S-L-E, Sleit, or Sleitle... I think when we check the pictures out, we can see the, maybe we can read Dock's writing better. So, because... Is it 1824? That's a long... No, no; maybe it's '84.

TM: It would of been either 1869, or 1871; but it would've been August; or sometime, July, August, there.

JV: I don't know.

TM: We can look it up in a book.

JV: I do have a remote thing. If it works, I don't know...

TM: Oh, I can just keep hitting the button. But now you've got me curious, so I'm gonna pull out this last slide -- what we just saw -- and see what it says here.

JV: Can you see it there?

TM: Yes. So this is the steamer *Major Powell*, March 24, 1893! 1893. This is at Mile 213. Nice.

JV: Here it's so nice Dock wrote these things on there; because I...

TM: Of course, in his very good handwriting, was Dock. And so this looks like camp again, here, but there's a little bit of rapid...

JV: Ah, that's another camp, I think; there's a rapid out there. And he mentioned the name of that rapid, too.

TM: Yeah. Let's see what he said about that. So this is camp at Mile 209.6, on the right bank, Rapid Number 7.

JV: Number 7.

TM: Okay. Yeah; great. And so these were all numbered. Excellent.

JV: Yeah. He put those on there. Here, he's -- I don't know what he's reading there. 'Cause he knows the history about all these trips, the old trips. What's that? Oh, it's in there.

TM: This is his book. That he was working on. So, it seemed as though...

JV: When was that issued? When was that...?

TM: Last week.

JV: Oh, so it's a brand-new book?

TM: Brand new. It's brand new. Yeah; so.

JV: And how come? -- Dock is dead long time ago.

TM: Yes.

JV: But he left his writings, and then somebody picked that up and... You did?

TM: Yes.

JV: Oh!

TM: There was a restriction on his manuscript until 2012. And his son Garth put that on. And I don't know why; Garth is dead now.

JV: Yeah; he's dead long time ago.

TM: The Huntington has his collection.

JV: Yeah, I know he had... And he has a copy of all these; of course, he made copies of all his pictures. All the pictures I took in the Grand Canyon, I sent to him, and he made copies.

TM: Nice; good. So, this manuscript, that he's working on, in this picture.

JV: Oh, is that right; that's kind of interesting.

TM: That's it right there; it's right there. It only goes up, this only goes up to 1953 -- does this; the first 100 people through Grand Canyon. But he talks about the inscription that the Stanton trip saw. And so, can you tell me a little more of the background of how this trip came together, 1963.

JV: Yeah. This is 1964.

TM: '64. Thank you. Did Dock say, hey, Jorgen, we need to go boating? We need to find this inscription. How did that come about?

JV: I don't know. I was, of course, that was in '50 -- '54 -- on the river trip. And I think I was number 100.

TM: You showed me those photographs, and you had kept a hand-written notebook. And we had transcribed that; and I gave that back to you. That was wonderful; yeah, that was wonderful. That was really nice. Yeah, I'm just kind of wondering how... I know Dock, because the lake, the reservoir behind Glen Canyon Dam was coming up...

JV: Yeah, it must be; yeah, that's right, it would beginning to come up, yeah.

TM: And Dock wanted to find this before it was buried, before the water covered it up.

JV: Course we had low water some parts, in the '54 trip. We hit bottom a couple times.

TM: There's pictures of the boat up on its side, getting...

JV: Yeah, made repairs on it. Yeah, sure.

TM: Yes. So this is a nice picture. Dock is sitting next to a fire. It looks cold, Jorgen; he's wearing a jacket!

JV: Well, it's kind of; it's not summer, it's in April, I think March, March - April, or there.

TM: So cold still.

JV: So it's cool, yeah.

TM: And the water was low, in the river?

JV: This one, no, this one. The low water I talked about, that was at Grand Canyon. No, we had -- I don't know -- it was probably normal on this trip.

TM: So I'm gonna go to the next picture, and I'm going to look at this last picture -- the one of Dock sitting by the fire -- and just see what he says. He says, C. K. (sp?) of old print, camp at 209.6. What's the date? Doesn't say what the date is.

JV: I don't have the lights on here because we use...

TM: Because we use the power -- okay, okay. No worries. It'll be fun to figure out. Oh, wait, I went too far.

JV: Oh, yeah, that's overlooking a rapid.

TM: Okay, so this is in Cataract Canyon, and maybe looking upstream. There's Dock standing on a boulder pile, there. Oh, oh.

JV: We had a little problem there.

TM: What happened?

JV: I don't know, we must've hit something. That's Buzzy and Bill there.

TM: And Buzzy has a torch; he's got a butane torch and maybe some plastic. And he's trying to glue...

JV: Glue something on there.

TM: Yeah, putting something on the bottom of the Sport Yak, which looks like maybe hit a rock. And now here they're wearing shorts, and now shirts; so looks like it's warmed up, temperature, again. So cold in the morning, nice in the day.

JV: Nice in the daytime, when the sun is shining. Course later on we had wetsuits on, too.

TM: Really? It got very cold.

JV: Yeah, we used wetsuits part of the trip.

TM: So Buzzy is now here using a screwdriver to mold the hot plastic on to the bottom of the Sport Yak. And there's a picture of...

JV: Yeah, I don't know -- is that me? Or no, I don't; yeah, I don't know, I don't know...

TM: Well, it looks cold enough -- that's a stocking cap.

JV: Yeah, that's not me. It may be Bill; I don't know. Course he may say that on the...

TM: Let's see. Yes, that was Bill; Bill and the Sport Yak at Mile 209.6.

JV: And this is me, I think.

TM: So there's Jorgen in a red cap, and a yellow Sport Yak. And just above a rapid there.

JV: Yeah, just getting into the rapid; I guess Dock has that written on there.

TM: So that says, Head of the Rapid Number 7 at Mile 209.6. And this says, March 30, 1964, but that's a stamp on there.

JV: And that's a, you can see the boat going into the rapid there.

TM: So this is looking downstream; there's a small -- boy, that's a small, little boat -- going into a rapid there, Cataract Canyon.

JV: That must be me there.

TM: This is 209, the rapid at 209, so be Number 7, I guess.

JV: Yeah, here we met somebody, who was hiking in there. And it says the name on there, too; I can't remember the name.

TM: Let's see who that is.

JV: Dock -- they knew each other. I think it says there...

TM: [Reading] Yak party meets Kent Frost party at Y Canyon.

JV: What's the name of the guy?

TM: Kent Frost.

JV: Kent, yeah. Oh, Kent Frost, that's right, yeah.

TM: Did you ever take any trips with Kent?

JV: No, I did not.

TM: [Reading] Rapid Number 9, Mile 208.65, left bank; March 30, 1964. Nice. And this looks like...

JV: I know it's another camp.

TM: Camp, seeing here again it's cold; people are wearing jackets; there's a fire going; maybe a coffeepot on the...

JV: Maybe it's cooling down.

TM: Cooling a little bit.

JV: Oh, here's warm again.

TM: This is Bill; he has a hat on; he's got a...

JV: Yeah, he's got a funny hat...

TM: He's got his hat on.

JV: You want to sit here?

TM: I'm good, I'm good.

JV: You all right there? I can sit over there.

TM: No, no; I'm good. So this looks like loading up the Sport Yaks, here.

JV: Yeah, that's loading up in camp there.

TM: And this red Sport Yak has nice painted oars; blue oars with gold chevrons there.

JV: Oh, yeah. I think that's Bill there. Must be. Oh, this is some old pictures, that Dock had. From a book or... I mean, some of the real old stuff.

TM: Okay, so, Dock by this time, had done enough research to find the Stanton photographs. So this is 917CTCN 204.25.

JV: What does that mean?

TM: Let's find out, Jorgen; let's see.

JV: I wonder what that means; yeah, must... See, you see the rock there; that's the same rock out there.

TM: Excellent; okay. Ah, this is a picture of the Best Expedition, in July of 1891. And this is a photo rematch. So now let's go back and let's look at that. So this is -- wait, Jorgen, that looks like a person out there! What are they doing out there?

JV: Yeah, I don't know how we got out there; but it looks like a person, all right. That rock, the big rock to the left, is the same as in my picture there.

TM: So then, if we go to the next one -- wow!

JV: Yeah, the big one out there.

TM: Oh, quite a difference in water levels, huh, then. My, that's very fun. So it wasn't just like a race down to find the inscription, but you were doing other work on the way; or Dock was doing other...

JV: Yeah, Dock; yeah, sure. Still the same place. I don't know what that says, that inscription there.

TM: It looks like Dock on the left, with his camera; Bill Belknap -- or is that you, Jorgen?

JV: No, that may be me.



TM: With your red hat. And it looks like you're trying to highlight the inscription, here?

JV: Yeah, something like that. I can't read it...

TM: Nice. Let's see. Oh, this is a different inscription.

JV: Same place, I think.

TM: Let's go back a minute. Okay, let's see if this one can say. You know, it has nothing written on it, this one. There's nothing written on that; huh; all right.

JV: Maybe there's something written on the other one.

TM: Well, this one is the -- let's see. Well, it says, Wrecked, 18...

JV: Something wrecked, yeah.

TM: Yeah, July 22nd, 1891.

JV: Oh, yeah, 1891. So that's, that might be that Best Expedition, no?

TM: Yes, that would be back... Yes. So let's see what Dock says about this one; has it got anything written on it? No, there's nothing written on it. Hmh. Well, okay then. Now this looks like the same place, Jorgen.

JV: It's the same place; see these rocks out there.

TM: And, so the water is low; that makes sense that you can find these inscriptions then. Huh; okay. What does this one say? Let's see. Ah, so this has some writing on it here.

JV: You want a flashlight?

TM: No, I got it; it says, Dock and Buzz, Best inscription, upper right trapped boat, Mile 209.5, right bank. This is the 31st of March. So, March -- it's cold; it's low water.

JV: It's still cold. I think there that's Buzzy sitting there, on a rock.

TM: And this is another inscription here. Same place, though, isn't it? With the same big square rock in the background.

JV: Oh, yeah, it was the same place, all that. And this's still the same place, I think.

TM: [Reads] F - G, Fats, 1892.

JV: That I can read, but I don't know -- the name I don't know.

TM: [Reads] W - H - E. So that would be an expedition, W. H. Expedition.

JV: Oh, yes, something like that, yeah. And is that '91 there, too, or '92?

TM: Looks like '92; huh.

JV: '92, I think, huh? No. August, is it August? August, too, isn't it? Let's see, here we have wetsuits on.

TM: So there's a picture here of Jorgen, a camp scene; there's some cooking on. Jorgen is wearing a wetsuit with a helmet, with a wetsuit cap top.

JV: That was the one I used; you know, we did a couple of swimming trips. You know that, don't you?

TM: No, tell me.

JV: Oh. Oh, well, we did couple of them; swam through all these rapids; it was wonderful.

TM: Was that in Grand Canyon? Or up in Cataract Canyon?

JV: In Grand Canyon. Harvey Butchart did one, couple of those swimming trips, too; with somebody else. He did it with somebody else who died. He drowned in there. Or disappeared anyway.

TM: Yes, yes. He -- that would've been Boyd Moore. And he would've drowned. Yes. So, did -- your swimming in the canyon, did you hike in, and swim? Or did you start at Lees Ferry?

JV: In the Grand Canyon? Well, we did a couple of... The most interesting trip, we drove out on the North Rim, and we got hold of a, one of these ranchers -- what's his name again, out there? Oh. I forget, I forget names.

TM: Was that, ah, John Riffey? Or the Bundys?

JV: No. I think it was the Bundys, maybe.

TM: Maybe Chester Bundy, or...

JV: Well, anyway, he drove us out, or he led us out -- in his car -- and we had Bill's car. There was three of us. Now, out to what he said was Indian Canyon. And, so we hiked down there, with our wetsuits and everything. And that was a long trip; I think we camped along the way. But then when we came down, it wasn't Indian Canyon. It was another canyon, upstream from there, I think. Because we could see the, right across we recognized a canyon, across. Which a-- I don't remember names.

TM: So it wasn't Whitmore?

JV: No.

TM: Further down. Okay.

JV: I have a description of that trip, anyway. And then we started the trip there, and we swam down, through the rapids, and all the way down to Separation Canyon. We took about four or five days, or

something, camped along the river.

TM: Who picked you up?

JV: Well, we -- you know, the car; we had left that up there by the head of Indian Canyon, or whatever canyon it was. And then Separation Canyon, we hiked out there, up to the car. Yeah. We hiked the way that the three men -- Powell went the same way. And there was one place where was a fork, and we didn't know which one to take; we took the right one. It appears we were lucky; we got the right one. We got up on top there.

TM: Nice. That's quite the hike, though. Down to the river...

JV: Yeah, it's a long hike; it's a long hike.

TM: And then back up again. Wow.

JV: I have pictures from all that trip, too.

TM: That'd be fun to see. Well. We'll get through these first.

JV: You'll have to stay a little longer. I don't know if I have those on the... I may have them on, oh, Kodachrome; I'm not sure. I think I do. Going on the computer, see if they're there.

TM: [Advances slide] So, fire is going; this is camp scene; looks like Dock and Jorgen; the boat's there. Looks maybe morning; cup of tea, there; against the fire.

JV: [Slide advanced] Oh, look at upside down.

TM: That one's upside down; so we're gonna just flip it back. We can read it before it goes back in. No, there's nothing written. It's a little bit of pencil work there, but... Oh, hang on a second.

JV: What happened? Is it stuck in there?

TM: No, I put it in the wrong one.

JV: Here it is. Yeah. That was the time, I was still smoking, you know?

TM: I was gonna say -- Jorgen! That looks like a cigarette!

JV: That must've been; I can't remember; yeah, that was sometime in the 60s I stopped. Because I stopped on one of my trips with France; you know, I worked in France. We're going back and forth, but I worked with a company over there in Gien. And I got a sore throat, or kind of a flu; I had to stay in bed. And I went to a doctor and I got a whole brown bag full of medicine; and I was busy taking all of that medicine. And it cured me in a couple of days, but then, of course, having had that, I still had a sore throat. And I thought, well, I better stop smoking now. So I stopped right then and there.

TM: Good for you.

JV: And then I gave all my cigarettes to my French friends, and they liked it. But that must've been just a few years later than this period.

TM: [Advances slide] This picture's more camp scene. Now here, the three -- it looks like Buzzy and Dock, and maybe Jorgen -- they're all wearing these sort of frogman...

JV: Yeah, maybe Buzzy took this picture.

TM: ... wetsuits there. It looks like it's rained; or it's, maybe...

JV: No, no; I don't think so. Maybe showered. [Slide advanced] That's Dock and Bill.

TM: And they're standing by the fire; trying to warm up, maybe.

JV: [New slide] Oh, there's a big rapid.

TM: Big rapid; lots of rocks sticking up there. And this is sort of at the bottom of the rapid, here; there's three people there.

JV: That name is probably on there.

TM: Let's see what it says. [Reads] Mile 202.1, Rapid Number 23; upriver from Rapid 23. The next picture's same, Rapid 23.

JV: Yes, looking up there; yeah.

TM: I wonder if this is Big Drop #3? One of the "Big Drops." Not sure; but it's very rocky in there.

JV: There was one place, I don't know, where we lined the boats down. Oh, yeah. [New slide] Oh, here's Dock reading something.

TM: Well, here's Dock, and there's a note, which looks like it was in a bottle. And there's a bottle there; and he's got a note. Yep, let's see what the slide says. It just says, April 1st, 1964.

JV: Oh, he doesn't say what it was.

TM: It doesn't say. We're going to have to find the trip log for this, to fill in the details. [New slide] Oh, look! There is a note in the bottle, and Dock has a stick; and he's fishing the note out of the bottle, with his stick there.

JV: I don't even remember that.

TM: So it says, Dock with the Hatch party, record, Mile 202.25, by the Culp (sp?) inscription; April 1st, 1964. So the Hatch party must have left the note in the bottle. And Dock's working really hard to get it out to read it.

JV: That must be the Culp; yeah, that's -- you see it way up there? -- Culp; the inscription.

TM: And now look at this. Culp inscription, Mile 202.25, April 1, 1964. So you guys have hiked up a ways from the river here, and are getting a picture of this. Nice view downstream. [New slide] Back at the river, with the boats. Look at this last one -- see; again, Culp inscription, 202.25.

JV: Yeah, now some of the pictures here -- I don't know what happened to them.

TM: This is a picture of a boat called *Ben Hurt*.

JV: Yeah, I think there's an inscription on that; oh, yes, written on that. But the picture's... I don't know, what could have happened there?

TM: Somehow the developing on the film is failing, and there's a lot of purple streaks in here.

JV: It must have happened as the film got old, because it was okay when it was new. It's too bad.

TM: This is the wreck of the *Ben Hurt*, at 203.0; March 31, 1964. There is a nice shot of, looks like Dock.

JV: Yeah, that's Dock.

TM: In the rapid, in the Sport Yak there. But the slide, the condition of the slide is failing.

JV: Yeah, there's some...problem there.

TM: ...green there. Yep.

JV: On this slide, too, they're all pretty bad. That's too bad. these are, in the rack it's too bad that they're...

TM: Might be able to save that... Let's think about this. With the...huh.

JV: It's just this, these slides here, no?

TM: Yeah. there's -- looks like Dock; he's working through a boulder field, with the Sport Yak. [New slide] And there's Buzzy, he's coming through a tight little chute, there. Got his oars shipped up. [New slide] And there's Bill taking photographs of Buzz, as Buzz goes by. Bill is standing on a big rock. [New slide] Okay, so let's see; this is an upstream view, three boulders; let's see where this is. [Reads] Upper part of Rapid Number 22, Mile 202.5, April 1, 1964. And then there's a "64-4-1," so that's the date, and then "C-T-C-N;" that'd be for Cataract Canyon; "2002-23," and that might be the mile location.

JV: Yeah, that's probably the mile, yeah. Here's we're lining the boat down. See, Bill is holding the line?

TM: Yes. And there's another line going up around the boulder, to the other side.

JV: No, I don't think so.

TM: No? Okay.

JV: No, I think just the line. There's nobody out there.

TM: On the backside, with a rope?

JV: Oh, on the back; no, I think -- yeah...

TM: Is that a rope maybe going up?

JV: I don't know if it was a rope, a rope in front of that rock or not.

TM: So instead of taking the boat up above, and hiking it along, you just kept them down in the water?

JV: Yeah, yeah, yeah. What is -- oh, that must be in the airplane.

TM: Yeah, suddenly this is a picture from the air. But, boy, where would that be, Jorgen?

JV: Well, he probably says on the... You know there's a bunch of air photos there.

TM: [Reads] Mouth of Red Lake Canyon, Mile 213. Oh, this says April 4th, 1964; okay. So, at the end of the trip then, did you guys, you must have flown around, in Cataract a little bit?

JV: Yeah, I flew back; yeah, I think so. We flew back, and I took some pictures; quite a lot of them.

TM: That's looking straight down into Cataract, at one of the rapids there. It's dark down in the canyon, and very light up on the rim; so it's really kind of hard to see the rapid. What does the slide say? [Reads] Upper and Lower Rapid Number 22, and Upper 23. [New slide.] Aerial photos here. Oh, I wonder if this is Dark Canyon? Let's see what the slide says. It's got a pretty hard bend in the middle of it, Jorgen; it could be, but... It could be. [Looks at slide's note] Yes, Dark Canyon, Dark Canyon Rapid, at 182.5, here; okay.

JV: What is that...? Oh, that canyon come in from -- no, that was the other picture.

TM: No, this is different; now, let's -- this could be Hite, it could be an air strip; let's see what it says.

JV: Cause if it isn't, than that's the IA we used.

TM: That's the mouth of the Dirty Devil.

JV: Is that Hite, then?

TM: Well, it's gonna be very close.

JV: Cause the airstrip that we used, I think that had a bend like that.

TM: Then that's it, Jorgen. Well, then, that would be it. That's a wicked little airstrip.

JV: Yeah, it is, isn't it?

TM: That's a hard bend; wow. [Next slide] This is an aerial photo looking into the Canyonland country,

with the river winding its way through the canyons below. And let's see what that...

JV: There's a plane; that's not; I don't know if that... I'm a little confused here. See, Bill would fly in to pick me up, the flight.

TM: Well, maybe he picked you up at the Dirty Devil there.

JV: Nah, I think he flew in, and spent the night with us, in a motel there.

TM: Okay, let's see what -- huh. This is [Reads] Bill Wells coming in at Hite -- no? At "H-A-T," something; April 4. Ah, the magnifying glass to the rescue. Well, it says, it looks like it says, H-A-T-A; H-A-T-A. That's not right. Hmh. Okay, so at this point, down here, you've already found the inscription, and have come way downstream then. And the reservoir has not come up this far, yet. [New slide] There's a picture of Dock, in the Sport Yak, and he has his little skunk flag.

JV: Yeah, there with that little flag, yeah, sure. And now, would that be after that trip? After that picture with the airstrip?

TM: Maybe just before it; maybe just before it.

JV: Maybe they're not in the right sequence.

TM: It could be. Did Dock ever talk about that little flag?

JV: Yeah, but I don't remember what he said.

TM: Okay.

JV: Did you know about that little flag?

TM: Yes, but I've never heard Dock talk about it. That'd be fun to find; I mean, the Little Stinker...

JV: Yeah, Little Stinker; yeah, that's right.

TM: Picture of the Sport Yaks on the river; the river's very calm here; flat water. The boats look pretty heavily loaded, Jorgen; there's a lot of gear in there.

JV: Yeah. That's Bill, with the hat on there; and the fancy oars.

TM: Yeah, nicely painted-up oars.

JV: There's Dock with a Yak again.

TM: And he's got a blue oar...

JV: It looks like a lake here, doesn't it?

TM: It does; it does. But a lot of that section down there, toward the Glen Canyon, and Narrow Canyon,

it got pretty calm.

JV: Yeah, pretty calm; yeah.

TM: Dock's got a blue oar on the right, and a red oar on the left; sort of port and starboard kind of thing. Huh. Little bathtub boats. [New slide] Canyon picture with a river at the bottom, and steep canyon walls either side. Let's see if it says where that is, Jorgen. [Reads] Narrow Canyon, up from camp, at...

JV: I think they're not in sequence here, because this is not the stream here.

TM: Yeah, that would make sense. So the boats are down by the water's edge, and there is a giant pile of sand, and a huge log. Twenty...

JV: Does the pictures have written numbers on them?

TM: They don't, but a lot of them have stamped numbers on them. So we might be able to work it out. See, this has a stamped number; it'll say 31.

JV: Yes, that's from the... film.

TM: Yeah. And that would help line them up.

JV: Yeah, that would help line them up.

TM: [Reads] Camp at Narrow Canyon. Now this says April 14, 1964. If the numbering's right; it might not be. Did you guys come back again? Or was it just that one trip?

JV: No, just that one trip.

TM: Just that one trip; so maybe that's April 4. There's a picture...

JV: So here's the rope again.

TM: ...Jorgen, and he's wearing his neoprene frogman suit, with a lifejacket. And he has a lot of yellow rope. This is part of that lining operation, was it?

JV: Maybe that's the lining operation we had there, yeah. So that's out of order there; oh, yeah -- here, see.

TM: Ah -- so there's lots of rope, and a little boat, and people on shore. Jorgen is trying to climb down over a rock. It says Mile 184; now this is written in pencil. This is April 3rd.

JV: Oh, now we're back in earlier days, there. Yeah, I got to get those organized a little bit.

TM: So here is lining the boat...

JV: Looks like quite a wild rapid there.



TM: Yeah! It's a little, steep little drop there. Water is clearly low; Jorgen is holding a rope, watching the boat go, make it through the drop there.

JV: Oh, here's an inscription -- 18... something.

TM: So this is the Denis Julien inscription. And this is the -- well, we'll have to look in the book. It's either a '36... It looks like it's '56, but I don't think that's right. I think it is '36, 1836. [New slide] There's a picture of Dock, and the inscription.

JV: That's the same inscription?

TM: Uh-huh. So let's see what this says. [Reads] 183.6 mile; actually, 185.6 -- it is 1836, D. J., D. J.; for, it'd be Denis Julien.

JV: Oh, I see; yeah. Way further upstream here.

TM: April 3rd, 1964. [New slide] And here's a picture of where the inscription is, in an alcove; there's two people standing, looking at the inscription, on a view of the canyon, downstream there.

JV: [New slide] I don't know why the boat is turned up, there.

TM: I wonder if it's going to get fixed; if it's, or it's drying out. Let's see what the slide says; there's one...

JV: [New slide] Oh, now we're getting up in the air again.

TM: [Reads] So this is the head of Rapid Number 38; this is April 2nd; it's a lunch and boat repair, at Mile 194.2.

JV: Okay. so that's probably the same where we saw Buzzy working on the boat.

TM: That could be.

JV: Yeah. Now we're back in the air.

TM: Now we're back to Lava Falls; this is a picture of Lava Falls from the air, with a...

JV: Is that Lava?

TM: Yeah, yeah. (That's a little out of focus; let's see if I can tighten it up a bit.) With the, canyon comes in on the left, the river makes a bend, goes into the rapid; and then down below there's a big white beach down there, on the right-hand side. Let's double check that, see what it says on the slide. Yep, it says, Vulcan Rapid. And this is, again, aerial view; that's...

JV: Is that Lava Falls again? There's a rock there. Oh, yeah -- upstream from, upstream from the falls.

TM: Vulcan's Anvil, is that right? That rock sticking up. Yeah. [New slide] There's the rapid; looking straight down, straight down. [New slide] Ooh, nice snow, up on the North Rim there. Aerial photograph of a side canyon I do not recognize. [New slide] Snow again. [New slide] Snow on the high

country. Now this looks like the South Rim, development there; there's a bunch of roads there, and... That's a -- yeah, that's gonna be the South Rim. And the canyon off in the upper half of the film; a little bit of airplane wing, there, on the upper left.

JV: [New slide] Oh, that's Phantom Ranch.

TM: South Rim, it says; yes. I wonder if that's Havasu, Jorgen? Oh, it could be Phantom Ranch.

JV: It's Phantom Ranch.

TM: Is that the swimming pool?

JV: Yeah. I don't think that's... there's the bridge.

TM: Oh, there's the bridge. That's right. Yes, it says, Phantom Ranch, on the slide. And there's the black bridge.

JV: There's the bridge; yeah.

TM: [New slide] Bet that's the same, Jorgen; I bet that's, by Angel Creek there, coming in. And that would be Phantom, and the river's making its little bend there.

JV: Yeah, maybe.

TM: [New slide] That's the Little Colorado River junction.

JV: Yeah, and that's muddy...

TM: Yeah, the Little Colorado River's muddy, isn't it? Coming in, with the big island there. [New slide] Hmm. That looks like the bottom of Soap Creek, or... Yeah. Something like that. Let's see what it says. Oh, yeah, it's Marble Canyon there; sure enough, Soap Creek; yes, okay. That's a nice shot of Marble Canyon, with the river there. The plane is probably 5-, 600-feet above the level of the landscape there, and the entrenched Marble Canyon; very nice picture. Looks to be Soap Creek Rapid there.

JV: Oh, is that Soap? Yeah.

TM: [New slide] This looks like Badger; two rapids coming in together here; up in Marble Canyon.

JV: [New slide] Oh, here's the bridge up there.

TM: Yeah, that'd be the Marble Canyon Lodge, with the one bridge.

JV: Yeah, now there are two bridges. [New slide] Oh, this must be... I don't...

TM: So this is an interesting picture, cause it's the picture of the dam.

JV: That's the picture of Boulder Dam, isn't it?

TM: Well, no, I think that's Glen Canyon.

JV: Oh, Glen Canyon; with the bridge right by Glen Canyon?

TM: Yes; it has a bridge right up front. And the bypass tube looks like it's still open there. And you can still see, there's a little bit of debris in the front of the dam; like the powerhouses, the turbines aren't making water to blow that all out. Let's see what that slide says; let's...

JV: [New slide] There's Buzzy.

TM: Huh -- flying a plane!

JV: No, not Buzzy; that's Culps' boy; in the airplane. Yeah, he's nine-years-old, in that time.

TM: You know, this just says, April '64; so this'd be the dam then.

JV: [New slide] And that must be Page, huh? The city up there.

TM: I guess, Jorgen. Yeah. I think so; I think so. [New slide] And now the reservoir is backing up; starting to put water up into the side canyons here. Did Dock ever talk about this, at all? Did you guys ever talk about this?

JV: About what, the dam? No, no; I don't remember talking to him. But what is this side canyon; is this a side canyon there?

TM: Yes, let's see if it says. It could be the Escalante. I don't know; let's see what it says. Yes, it says, Escalante river.

JV: Escalante coming in there, yeah. Oh, here's the landing; I remember the weather got bad. So we landed at Bryce. And this is Bryce; I think it's the airport here.

TM: And just waited... Oh, and get some gas, too. [Reads] It doesn't say there. Yeah, there's a little Willys Jeep Carryall, and the guys are pouring gasoline into the plane.

JV: [New slide] Now this is -- now we're way -- this is the beginning of the trip; I think that's where we got on the river up there by Moab.

TM: So there's a boat here, and there's a sign on the side of it that says "Lake Powell Ferry Service." So...

JV: Yeah, I think that's what we got; I think that may be Moab. Don't you think?

TM: Well, it could be Halls Crossing, too. I don't know; let's see what it says.

JV: Let's see what it says about...

TM: Jorgen, there's nothing on the slide!

JV: Oh, there's nothing on there?

TM: No. It just says "Dock has print."

JV: [New slide] And now we're up in the air again.

TM: [New slide] It looks like the reservoir's backing water up into the canyon country here.

JV: Yeah, I don't know; maybe these are some of the earlier photos, from the air. I think it says on that one.

TM: This one is not... No. April '64, Number 99. But what we could do, Jorgen; most of Dock's photographs are on the web now, at the Huntington Library website. And if we can figure out the right question to ask the search machine, on the computer, it would go try to go look for that.

JV: Yeah, we have to try that; yeah.

TM: And I bet we could do it by date; I bet April 1964 might bring all these up. This looks like the river with some amazing sculpture...

JV: Doesn't it say, on the text on this picture?

TM: Let's see. That's just some really amazing sculptured land there. Yes, it says -- hmm -- what does that say? "S. in... Southeast of the mouth of the Green River." Southeast of the mouth of the Green River, in Syncline (sp?) Canyon? No, that's not -- yeah! No; doesn't make sense. "SYCLOUG Canyon; April 4. Southeast of the mouth of the Green River." It's almost like it's kind of the Needles area.

JV: April 4th, is that in the writing?

TM: No, that's stamped on here; and some of these have, nicely, the date stamped on them; very well.

JV: Yeah, because those stamped on, that's not the time they're taken.

TM: No; yeah, I think it is. I think that's the date of the actual day the picture was taken. There's a generic April '64, that's the development date. But then there's another stamp of the actual day. So, I think it; that's...

JV: [New slide] There's the Junction there.

TM: Yeah; from the air.

JV: From the air. [New slide] Here's, now we get to where we, from Moab; that trip from Moab to the Junction.

TM: This is a jet boat, says "Tex's Tex;" "Tex's..."

JV: There's some more pictures of that.

TM: Okay. [Reads] Colorado river cruisers.

JV: So that's before the trip. [New slide] Yeah, that's going up there.

TM: So here's a picture on the jet boat: there's Dock on the far right; there's a number of people in the boat that are all bundled up.

JV: Yeah, there's some other people along there, on the trip.

TM: And all the little Sport Yaks are all piled up. [New slide] It says "Daily, 9 - 4." [New slide] And the jet boat, jet boat captain. [New slide] "Jet propelled" is another boat here.

JV: It's a small boat there.

TM: Says "Jet propelled turbocraft." Small boat. [New slide] And here the turbocraft is passed the bigger boat. [New slide]

JV: Oh, yeah -- that's a potash plant.

TM: Which is still in business today.

JV: Is it?

TM: Yeah. [New slide] Potash plant, here. [New] Jet boat on the water. [New] Jet boat, again, on the water.

JV: [New slide] Ah, I guess he's stuck on the sand, there.

TM: Yeah, it looks like you've unloaded the little boats, the little Sport Yaks.

JV: Oh, maybe that's what's happened.

TM: And now trying to get the big jet boat back on its float again.

JV: Yeah, that must be right by the Junction there. Yeah. [New slide] Ah, now -- see, these are not in sequence, either.

TM: So there's a bridge in the background here; and that would be at Moab then, the highway bridge, going across the river there. Yeah, let's see. [Reads] Below Moab bridge. And this says "March 28, 1964;" so that would make sense.

JV: Yeah, that's right; that's before we started.

TM: Yes; okay. [New] Loading up the jet boat, it looks like. [New slide] And here's the jet boat, and the, loading up the Sport Yaks. And there's the bridge, just downstream. Actually, that's...

JV: There's the bridge in the background there.

TM: It's not a railroad bridge; it must be the highway bridge. I'm trying to remember -- what bridge is that? Cause I'm not even sure that bridge is there, anymore.

JV: [New slide] Hmm, now we're back in the air.

TM: It looks like the Confluence again, huh. Maybe? What -- something's coming in on the left, there.

JV: Yeah, that's right; there's a U-turn there, in the river, huh.

TM: Big U-turn, yeah. Let's see what that says. Yep, junction looking down the Green River; so, Confluence. [New] This could be Dark Canyon. Nicely lit up from...

JV: That's the rapids on there.

TM: Yeah. [New slide] Looks like Cataract Canyon, some? It's a wonderful flight. [New] I've seen a lot of that country. [New] Aerial picture. [New] Now this looks like...

JV: I don't know; there's a side canyon coming in there.

TM: That may be White Canyon; and this might be Hite. There's an airstrip, it looks like, right there in the back here; canyon there. And it looks like the a...

JV: There's a road...

TM: The ferry crossing...

JV: And there's some houses there, is that?

TM: Yep, that's right. So that would be -- well, that would be the Hite Ferry, the Hite Crossing. Great picture.

JV: [New slide] Oh, here we come again on the...

TM: That looks like the Bryce Airport.

JV: Yeah, that's Bryce Airport; that's where we landed.

TM: In the snow; with the, the airstrip is melted away, but there's a lot of snow, either side of it.

JV: [New slide] Yeah, this is Bryce.

TM: Bryce in the snow; very pretty; Bryce Canyon.

JV: [New slide] Now, where is that?

TM: High country; snow; up on the highlands. And not so much down below.

JV: Is that a river down there, or...?

TM: You know, it's a river, a drainage; this looks like some of the badland country near Bryce; a little south; maybe the Upper Paria River drainage area. [New slide] Aerial photo; looks like the Paria again, there. And that would make sense; if you guys were at Bryce, and you...

JV: Yeah, we ended, so that's...

TM: And you got a picture of the dam at Page; you would of flown over this country, this lower Paria, badlands kind of country, like this. [New slide] And there's the reservoir, filling in.

JV: Where's that? That's Lake Mead?

TM: That's Lake Mead.

JV: Yeah. I don't know if we flew way down by Lake Mead? We must of done that. [New slide] Is that the end?

TM: That's the end. Let's see what this last one says. It just says "March 27." So it looks like you flew up, flew around a little bit, got on the jet boat, got dropped off, took the Sport Yaks, and then flew back home; somehow in that journey.

JV: No, this is March.

TM: Yeah, but late -- 27; so this would of been on the way up there. Maybe. I don't know, it's the 27th of March.

JV: Nah, I don't think I flew up with... Or maybe I did; I don't know. I don't remember how I got up there.

TM: I'm gonna put these... Put that lock back on there, so that we don't lose that. I'm just gonna...

JV: How 'bout a cup of coffee?

TM: Yes, sir. I'm gonna let this run for a little bit, to just cool down. And that'll be good. Thank you; that'd be nice.

JV: All right.

[01:09:36] - [01:1102] Coffee making time, with Tom and Jorgen a bit muffled, and chit-chatting. Then:

TM: So, I was just thinking, it's the 50-year anniversary of that trip; it was this last March - April.

JV: Yeah, 50; yeah, that's right. You know, I have the 50-year anniversary notice.

TM: I'll just open this back up to the...

JV: ... 50-year membership.

TM: That's amazing; that's wonderful. [Reads] "No ye all, by these presents, that Jorgen Visbak, 1965, has adhered to the principals and advanced the purpose of Explorers Club; exemplifies our collective dedication to the enhancement of man's knowledge of the universe, through exploration and inquiring" ...

JV: All these good sayings.

TM: [Continuing] ... "and in 2015" ... Wow.

JV: You know, I never did any exploring, when I was a member. But I -- we had a club -- I mean, had a section in Los Angeles, and I went to all the meetings there. And I was very interested; of course, we had all these very -- I met Hilary there! Oh, yeah; he was our President. Yeah. And I met some of the astronauts; they came and made talks on the occasion, in the club down there in Los Angeles. But when I moved up here, there's no section here; and there's really not much I can do. So I was, I really wanted to resign, from the club. But then when I wrote to them, about that I moved to Boulder City and all that, they said, No, we don't want you to resign; you can get a -- a what do you call it? Yeah, you would act as an associate; and I've since become a member emeritus; emeritus, and that's what I am now.

TM: [Reads] "We are pleased to present you with the enclosed 50-year member certificate." Wow.

JV: So I still... I pay about \$35 dollars a year; so, for this membership. And they send me certain things.

TM: Nice. So, if you held this, I could take a picture of you, and we could email it to them.

JV: Oh, yeah. Well, I... [Reads]" We invite you to send you a photograph and a brief" ...

TM: ... "response to, Why I joined the Explorers Club fifty years ago."

JV: Yeah; I don't really have a good reason for that...

TM: [Continues reading] ..."for the next edition of Explorers Log; and the publication in our program." Oh, come on, Jorgen -- we gotta do this!

JV: [Laughs] We gotta do that?

TM: Yeah! They just sent this to you.

JV: Yeah, that's just now; yeah, that's right.

TM: Okay. I'll take a picture of this; I'll take a picture of you with, we'll use this backdrop, with some interesting stuff on the wall. And we'll email it in. It'll be fun. Say, here we are, the adventurer's still making adventures.



JV: Hmm; okay; we'll do that. But I have to tell a little bit about why I joined, huh? I had a friend in American Potash, when I worked for them, and that's why I made all the trips to France. And our geologist, his name was Weishauple, he was a member. And he insisted that I become a member.

TM: Spell his last name.

JV: Weishauple: WEISHAUPLE.

TM: The little recorder is capturing all this, so I'm gonna type all this up. So...

JV: Okay! Now, anyway, he -- so I joined, at that time. And I remember one time, we were planning on doing an exploration trip; but it never panned out. So I never did any trip, but...

TM: Where were you gonna go?

JV: That was in Africa some place. But I have, of course, been on a lot of exciting trips. And some of those I have pictures on the Internet. I've went to -- did I tell you about that? -- I went to Indonesia, to visit with the Asmat people? And the Kamora people? And the Dani people?

TM: I don't think so. When was it?

JV: These are cannibals.

TM: What year was this?

JV: These are -- that was in... Yeah, when was that? That was...; around 2000, something like that.

TM: So, recently?

JV: Yeah, not too long ago. I can show you pictures on the Internet on that. And one of them, we hiked in the rainforest there, and, to meet some of these people in there. And they had a dance. Sometimes they get together and the people from the neighboring villages, they hike in -- several days hike! -- into, for this meeting, where they dance back and forth. I have pictures of that. And when some of these people came in from the villages, and they saw us, they ran away. And they say that they were scared, because they had never seen a white man before. And then our leader -- he was a Swedish guy -- we had been out there several times; and he said to us, We might go out, and we might find them out in the forest. But we have to be clad like they are. Which means nothing. So we stripped! And we were about 20 people in our group; the girls didn't want to strip; they had to put little skirts on. But they didn't want to do that. But two or three of the boys, we stripped, of course, and our leader stripped. [Laughs] And the first thing the girls did, they were taking pictures of us! So we walked out; we hiked for about half an hour, or an hour, something like that. And then we did meet a little group out there. And we went out to, a kind of; we couldn't talk well, of course, the language was different... But at least we made contact with them. And they looked scared first, when they saw us, but then, they were too curious; they had someone... So we made contact with them.

TM: Nice. And so, in the vein of still being an explorer, this spring, you got on a steamboat, on a steamer -- well, an oceangoing boat -- and went to Europe?

JV: When -- oh.

TM: So that was just this year.

JV: Oh, yeah, I went there; I've done about three or four trips by cruiser.

TM: Now, was this a tour ship, or was this a container ship? What kind of boat is this?

JV: No, a tour ship.

TM: Tour ship.

JV: I can't get on the freight boats, because I'm too old. They have no doctor. So that's why they don't -- if you're more than 75, they won't take you. Most of them is that way, anyway.

TM: I see. Okay; okay. So, well, was the cruise ship...

JV: But of course these cruise trips, I mean, that's no big deal, anyway. It's kind of a nice way to, instead of flying; to go over there. But I made an interesting sailboat trip, in Europe. I had a friend in Denmark; he's dead now; and he had a big sailboat. And I was in Denmark visiting with him, and then he wanted to sail to America. In his sailboat. And I couldn't go along with him, because I didn't have enough vacation time. But I did go on a boat with him, from Denmark; and then I was going to take off, at some islands there; and then flew back, and then fly from there to America. So we went along, we sailed in the Channel, and we stayed in Dover, a couple of days. And then we sailed along in the Channel; and then we were going on the Biscay Bay, south. And we were kind of wondering, because there's some rough seas there, once in a while, you know, there. But then when we sailed over there, it was so calm that we had to use a motor. Yeah. But then we came in through Spain there, late at night, and it was dark; and we didn't know the landing, and the country there. So we figured we would wait until the daylight, and go in. So we just cruised around -- out, way out in the sea there, at night, to wait for daylight. And then, in the middle of the night, I was down below in my bed, and Heinrich was up -- no, he was writing something down, because we weren't really moving that much. Then we were run down by a freighter; he hit us. And I was lucky I got out, because everything was breaking down, and all stuff like that. I got out, and he did, too. And we could just see him -- this freighter -- and we were wondering if he was going to help us at all, something like that. And then, he did turn around, and came back towards us; and then when he saw we were out, he kind of talked to us. In English, of course. And -- if we were hurt? No, we were not hurt. And could he tow us in to Vigo? Which is a town there, along the strait. We said, Yeah, we would like him to do that, of course; because we couldn't sail by ourselves. Fortunately, our boat was still floating; the hole was above seawater, sea-level. So we were floating all right. So, anyway, we got a rope, and tied on, and then he started to haul us in. And we were kind of wondering who that freighter was? And we couldn't see it, of course. And we had talked to the captain

there, in English. But then, when it started to get daylight, finally I could see the name of the boat. He was from Denmark! Yeah! And when the morning came, he came out, and asked if we would like to get some coffee? And then we answered him in Danish; well, he was surprised! So, we got a cup of coffee.

TM: Oh, my gosh. He must have been very embarrassed, to have run you over.

JV: Probably; yeah; that was bad. Well, of course, I don't know how he got the insurance, and all that stuff. Because he got the boat repaired in Northern Spain, so he could sail it back home, to Denmark. So, anyway, so we got into Vigo, and we stayed -- I spent a couple of days with him, there. While he started to repair the boat. But then I had to go back, so I took the train from Vigo, and I made a stop in Madrid, just to sightsee there, a couple of days. And then I think I flew from there, to Denmark.

TM: What year was this?

JV: It was in 19... hmmm. It must a been, maybe the 70s; sometime there.

TM: Okay; roughly.

JV: I don't know. I think I have it written down some place.

TM: Well, I'm gonna get my camera.

JV: Well, I'll get the coffee. Oh, yeah. Yeah, well we can... If you can find a place to sit over there.

TM: Yeah. You know, we can put this away, now.

JV: Yeah, we could put that away. Well, unfortunately, that has broken, there.

TM: Is it the other way around? No.

JV: I'll just set it all...

TM: Do you want me to put it away for you? Or you got it? Okay. Okay.

JV: Let's see if you can just put this away, here.

TM: Yes. Let me help with that. Come all the way out here, and make a mess of your house! The least I can do is... Let's see; so we're gonna have to turn -- I've goofed it up here. We have to turn it on, just a little bit. Oh-oh. Did the electric...

JV: Yeah, I took it out.

TM: Oh, you did? Okay, let's see; if I push this down -- there we are. That turns it there; that goes there. Okay, very good. Jorgen, may I scan these pictures?

JV: You sure may.

TM: And bring this back to you.

JV: Yeah, you sure may.

TM: Thank you. So this comes out here, and there's the box. I was like, where's the box? It's right there. And I used this as a little prop here. [Things being moved.] That'll be fun; we'll send that in to the Explorers Club. That'll be fun.

JV: Yeah, I have to write up a little bit about how, when I joined and all that stuff. Oh, I thought we had it in. [Wrestling with stuff!] Doesn't that go inside there?

TM: Well, if I do, I have to bring it back around, and then I have extra cord. So I thought I would just leave it, just tightened up like this. And then that'll just go inside like that.

JV: Yeah, but it's very narrow space in there.

TM: Let's see if it will do it. Ah. What do you think?

JV: And you got the lens in there?

TM: Right there.

JV: Okay.

TM: Yep. There. Oh, this one comes down first; there we go. Perfect. Now let's... Well, we messed up with the handle there.

JV: Yeah, that's right.

TM: Where should we go?

JV: Oh, set it on the floor there, and I'll get it away.

TM: Okay; okay. Thank you. So the tape recorder's still going; I'll bring over a chair and you can tell me about the Explorers Club.

JV: Why don't you sit over there some place.

TM: Okay; I'll sit over there; sure. I'll put this up on the table. Like that.

JV: I used to sit over here.

TM: Nice. Thank you; thank you.

JV: You know these? A little bit like sudoku.

TM: And we do a lot of sudoku.

JV: You do, huh?

TM: Yeah.

JV: I think these are better.

TM: These -- they're harder.

JV: You know 'em? Yeah. You heard about them?

TM: Yes. Yes. These are harder.

JV: Yeah. Here, I've got part of this solved.

TM: Ah! You've done the easy bits! Then it gets really hard, in here.

JV: Yeah, it's hard. You have to start to -- certain way, and work your way up. And there's some tricks to it. And the only help I do, is those where they only have one solution. The numbers.

TM: Yes. The numbers; right. It's like the two- and three-letter cheat sheets in Scrabble, Jorgen. That's what this is!

JV: Yeah. No, these are, see, they're numbers; they're up in the 90s. I get them on the Internet. And the higher the number -- they're up to 100 -- the more difficult they are. So these are the most difficult ones.

TM: Good for you.

JV: You start with an easier one, and then you work your way up.

TM: They're supposed to be very good for brain.

JV: I hope so!

TM: Well, I think you're clear evidence that it's working very well.

JV: Yeah, well, just the memory goes a little bit.

TM: What do you remember about the, joining the Explorers Club -- 1960s, in Los Angeles. What else do you remember about that?

JV: Well, I told you, I just remember I joined and I went to these meetings. We had a meeting -- oh, maybe four times a year, or something like that. And that was very interesting, cause there was these very interesting speakers, presentations.

TM: Did Dock come to those?

JV: No, no. Dock, unfortunately, lived in San Francisco. He was not a member.

TM: Hmm. That's right; he was further up, in San Francisco.

JV: Yeah; he was not a member, I don't think. Course they have sections in Europe, too. But I didn't go to any meetings over there.

TM: Okay. How long were you in Europe this summer?

JV: Oh, couple of months.

TM: Okay. And you try to go every year?.

JV: Yeah, I hope to go every year. But I don't know; I hate those airports. And, you know, coming back -- I sailed over. Course I had to fly to Fort Lauderdale, and sail from there to Copenhagen. That was nice. When I flew back -- and I flew back on a German airline, starting in Frankfurt -- going non-stop to Las Vegas.

TM: Lufthansa?

JV: Yeah. No, no -- that was Condor; or some kind of name. And anyway, the trouble is these airports; you have to go through this security stuff. And, I did that in Denmark. And then you have to do it -- of course, you change plane, or you change company, in Frankfurt. So then you have to go through all that stuff again, same day! And then I got onboard, and I had the ticket there, and I had paid a little extra -- quite a lot extra -- to get some extra-big legroom. (Course that's your problem, too, I guess; more than me.) Okay. So the flight was all right; it took too a long time, but it was all right. Then in Las Vegas, you have to go through Pass Control. And here was a mile-long queue to get through the Pass Control; and I simply couldn't walk, or stand, or walk that long time. So I asked them if I could do anything to get me by -- because sometimes they can do that. No, they couldn't do that. And I said, I can't stand any more, here. So then finally, when I complained enough about it, they said they would get a supervisor over. I said I would like to talk to the supervisor. And the supervisor came, and there was no problem; he took me right through. Very nice. So, but, these lines -- I have a friend in the airport -- he says those lines are a lot of planes coming in at the same time. They may last as long as two hours; I mean, standing in the

line in two hours! I mean, that's not acceptable; it's awful. And I read in the papers, *Financial Times*, and stuff like that, Las Vegas is maybe the worst airport in the whole country.

TM: Is that right? For passport control?

JV: Yeah, for waiting and crowding, and all that kind of stuff. So...

TM: I wouldn't be surprised; it's a, the number of people coming to Las Vegas, every year, all year long -- huge.

JV: I don't know; it's amazing a tourist town, like Las Vegas, you can't even go here by rail. There's no train. Other big cities have trains.

TM: With the train crosses...

JV: In fact in Europe, all the big cities, they have trains right in to the airport. So that's easy there. But here, I have to have people take me to the airport. There's no way there. You can go by bus; you have to change a couple of places, and it takes forever. So that's no good. And I can't remember, I can't understand how a big tourist town, like Las Vegas, that they can afford to do that!

TM: You know, America's just not set up for that...

JV: America's way behind. We don't have any fast trains in this country, like in Europe.

TM: The bullet, fast; yes.

JV: Or, I've been on a couple of fast trains, for years, in France. You go from Paris to Lyon in two hours, I think.

TM: And you watch the fast cars, on the highway, you pass them by. You're going so fast. Yeah; yeah. No, it's funny. But I will say...

JV: No, we're way behind on these things.

TM: But, driving over here from Flagstaff today, I didn't see a single highway patrolman. And the traffic is moving at 80 miles an hour. I mean, just the flow of traffic, just -- not... And fast people are passing us; and occasional slower people, we're passing.

JV: Yeah, yeah. But it's not quite so bad in this country, as it is in Europe. With people going fast; and in and out, things like that; it's a little more civilized, here in this country, as far as the cars go. There are, of course, a few sometimes that'll do this; but it's worse in Europe. I don't like to drive in Europe; I don't drive in Europe anymore. I can't do that.

TM: Yeah, it seems like it's harder.

JV: And the streets are so narrow, in Denmark, you know. I find sometimes, I go with my friends there, in their cars; and then they have -- to slow traffic down, in the houses where people live -- then they have made, they have these box sunk places. That's okay. But, then other places, they have made so that you have to go in and out, like this; they're places where you can't pass.

TM: Ah, to slow the traffic down?

JV: And then when you come out to one of those, then you don't know whose going to get there first. I think it's awful.

TM: Well, it's trying to slow the traffic down?

JV: It does slow it down, but, I mean, I don't notice; it's just too bad, I think, the way they do it.

TM: Jorgen, I'm going to turn this recorder off. But, before I do -- because the next thing is, we should maybe go to lunch?

JV: Yeah, we could have some lunch here?

TM: We could; or I could take you; we could go to Mexican food? My treat; I'll buy.

JV: Okay, okay.

TM: I wanted to ask you, though, while this machine is still going, about this 1964 river trip; were you excited? Was Dock excited, when you found that inscription?

JV: In 1954?

TM: '64; in Cataract Canyon. When you found the 1836 "D. J."

JV: Well, not particularly.

TM: It was just another inscription.

JV: Yeah, there are so many of 'em, in the Grand Canyon. Course, there's an inscription there that Dock found. Brown, I think it was; who drowned. Yeah; and Dock found that inscription; I have pictures of the rock. And that was exciting, to see that. But, of course that Brown story is kind of interesting. Brown drowned there, although they put the inscription on, the other guys. And then they went on, down the river, further. And then they -- ooh -- two more guys drowned, I think. And they made an inscription of that, further down. And then they left the river. But then they came back later on, of course. They wanted to build a railroad. Oh, yeah; It's in there. Oh, that's really wonderful -- you want to give that to me? I'll pay for it.



TM: It's a gift; please. Please. Thank you. I mean, you were there; you were there. No, I'm just trying to find out a little more about Dock; about what -- and I'm gonna have to find out some more about the flavor of this trip, because he clearly had gone through the Stanton material. Stanton talked about the inscription; and I think the Best Expedition even talked about it, as well. After that, nobody even mentioned it. So it was kind of a re-discovery, that you did, to find this inscription: 1836!

JV: That's a long time ago!

TM: That's a long time ago! I mean, that's it. And Julien was amazing, for his explorations of the river there.

JV: But that was up at the Cataract Canyon?

TM: Yes. His inscriptions are up in, up near Grand Junction; they're in, up the Green River, a little bit. So he got, explored around in there; in that country. It's a pretty amazing job. And, of course, just before the reservoir, then, was coming up. And that's all buried now; it's all buried up.

JV: I've been on two of these -- what do you call them? -- G. T. S. trips?

TM: Yes, the Grand Canyon river guides training trips; yes.

JV: They invited me along because I was so old! And I could show these old pictures; and I showed them up at the meeting up there, before. They took me on two years'; and on both occasions, it was the beginning of April; so I had my birthday down there. So I think it was my 92nd birthday, I had down on the river there. And they, of course, wrote little stories, and sing to me. And congratulated. But you know what I would dearly like to do, and I don't if they will take me, being that old. I would like to spend my 100-year birthday down there. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

TM: Absolutely; why not? Why not? No.

JV: If I can still do it.

TM: Absolutely; plan on it, Jorgen.

JV: Course I don't walk. I can't hike much anymore, stuff like that.

TM: But you just need to get on the boat, and off the boat.

JV: Yeah, and they have to help me on the boat.

TM: Life jacket; you know. That's okay.

JV: Yeah. Because I go in the big boat. On one of them it's easier; I did do one of the rapids in a little boat. That was okay.

TM: Yeah. Good; good for you. Good for you. No, plan on it. I'm sure they would be very glad to have you for that; that would be lots of fun. Yeah. That would be fun. No, the...

JV: Would you have time? Little later in the afternoon, to go on the computer?

TM: Yeah. Yeah; absolutely. Let's do that.

JV: What are your plans here?

TM: I'm gonna go back to Flagstaff today.

JV: Today?

TM: Yeah; yeah.

JV: Oh, you want to go back today.

TM: We're going to Tucson tomorrow. So. But I wanted -- we had talked by phone, early this year -- in the spring. And you said, "Well, you caught me today. I'm just leaving now, I'm going to Denmark, and"...

JV: Yeah, that's right.

TM: And I was like, okay -- I really want to see these pictures; and I want to see if there's a nice picture of Dock, which there is. And, then the time goes by, you know. And this book has been just 100 percent of our life -- day and night. And finally it's done, and I'm like, "Jorgen, let's visit now." So thank you for letting me come over.

JV: Oh, that's really wonderful.

TM: But - and the questions was, it's just about this...

JV: I have a couple of books by Harvey Butchart; but you know those books; you already have them.

TM: I also wanted to ask you, Do you have any correspondence with Dock? Do you have copies of that; do you still have that correspondence?

JV: I think I may have some of that, yeah.

TM: I'd love to see that; if there's discussion about this trip. And I'm gonna have to look in Dock's collection, as well. To see what the flavor was -- I mean Dock clearly knew he didn't have much time; to find this inscription. The reservoirs coming up. And so, you found it; got some nice pictures there. And then the reservoir took it over. So. That's quite a special discovery; to find Denis there.

JV: I do my blood pressure measurement here.

TM: Good. I'm going to turn this off.

END of Jorgen Visbak interview.