

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society

Interviewee: Dr. Joseph Brazie (JB)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Dr. Brazie has done a number of commercial river trips in Grand Canyon in the last four decades, including a 1973 river trip with Emery Kolb and Otis 'Dock' Marston

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Transcriber: Susan Seibel

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Transcription Reviewers: Sue Priest, Tom Martin

Keys: Emery Kolb, Otis Marston, Meribeth Riffey, John Sohrweide, Wayne McAllister, John Hoffman

TM: Today is the 15th of June, 2015. This is the home of Tom Martin and Hazel Clark and we are at the kitchen table with Joe Brazie. Joe, how do you spell your last name?

JB: B-R-A-Z-I-E.

TM: And how old are you?

JB: 88, 87.

TM: Eighty-seven, great. Where were you born?

JB: Ames, Iowa.

TM: Okay. What did your parents do?

JB: My father was a poultry scientist and sold nutrition products for poultry.

TM: How was it that you got to Grand Canyon? What was your first visit to Grand Canyon?

JB: Well, my first visit to Grand Canyon was unfortunate because I went to the Little Colorado River overlook and there had been - I don't remember when this was - but there had been a car parked there the day before that went over the cliff with two kids in it. They got out of the car, and it was in overdrive. And so, that my introduction to the Canyon. However, in around the late 60s a friend of mine and I went camping at Havasu. We were there for a week and got down partway in Havasu Canyon and I said, well, I want to come up from the river to meet where we were then at the top of Beaver Falls. So the next summer we went down halfway because some other friends wouldn't commit to the whole week. I would have killed to stay on the boat and so we went back again the next year for the whole trip. I've done many trips since.

TM: And that was 1970, '69?

JB: Around '69, I think. But I haven't gotten back to those slides yet to document it to the degree that I have them.

TM: Okay, so that gives us... Then just for the record here, you were on the 1974 river trip, Grand Canyon Expeditions, with Otis Marston and Emery Kolb.

JB: Yes, indeed.

TM: Okay, we'll ask about this in a bit. Now, Joe is spooling up his computer here. You've digitized some of your slides but not...

JB: I digitized the ones that I have in those two boxes so that they are easy to see. I have three more boxes at home. They aren't as full as these are, but I have a few more trips there.

TM: These boxes here, this one's labeled 1981, 1983, 1995. Just looking at the years that these would be for Grand Canyon. This other box here is 1982, '83, '84, '86, '83, '84, '82, '85, '73, and '86. There is a 1973 trip, so that's getting back there. Okay, and these you have scanned?

JB: Yes, these two boxes are scanned.

TM: Okay, great.

[Setting up computer to view scanned slides]

[Start of computer slide show]

JB: Okay, this is what I have. These ones were done in a Nikon scanner. That's Grand Canyon. Then the next number has to do with the scanner keeping track of the particular slide. Then this is the month and year of the slides, so the trip could have been the previous month or something like that. I don't have that documented, I am sorry to say.

TM: No. That would make sense because the year, this is '71, there's '73, there's '73, so there's a '73, there's a '74 right there. So it would be interesting to look at your '74 images. At least there's one there.

JB: Yes, well now, see this 6.74 and there will probably be... Not apparently the whole rest of them, but let's go to that one. [Parsing photos] So that's John Sohrweide.

TM: So can you... is there a way to make that bigger?

[Trying to refine computer slide show]

TM: So, who's the woman in the back with the red bandana?

JB: I don't know who that is. It's not Dee.

TM: Is that Sandra Jones?

JB: It could be.

TM: Do you remember that name? Do you remember her?

JB: No, but I'll find out if she was on the trip. I'll let you put those there. Well, I'll tell you about this then. This is what I turned in to Cline Library and it has my index to it. Then here's the location, and I made one mistake there that I made it several times, and people and here's a list of the people. So let's see.

TM: That's Meribeth Riffey, so she was on the trip. Otis 'Dock' Marston, unidentified persons, Wayne McAllister...

JB: There's supposed to be one more page that has a list of everybody that was on the trip. [Shuffling papers] No, that's not it. Well, I think I have that some place. I'm not sure.

TM: Okay, we'll let it go by for a while here. I think it'll show up.

JB: Well, let's move on with this. But anyway, there's that and there's several comments here that I've made.

TM: Let's see. I'm going to read this list. This is Wayne McAllister, M-C-A-L-L-I-S-T-E-R. It says boatman in the second raft. There is Otis 'Dock' Marston, M-A-R-S-T-O-N. There's Meribeth Riffey, R-I-F-F-E-Y. It says botanist. John Sohrweide, and he's a boatman. John's last name is spelled S-C-H-R-W-E-I-D-E [sic]. And then there's Emery Kolb. The photographer was Joe Brazie and then Dee Schaberg, S-C-H-A-B-E-R-G, and she was later Sohrweide. So, maybe that's Dee?

JB: No. Well, I think not. But you'll see her in a minute. Okay, all right.

TM: So in this picture John is looking at some photographs, so it looks like on that trip maybe Marston is...you guys might be looking for something. That looks like a photo album right there, maybe. And y'all are looking, there's some information on the back of the photographs. Do you remember Marston doing that? Do you remember 'Dock' trying to rematch photos of things?

JB: No, I'm afraid I don't. But if those are 'Dock' Marston's stuff, they are presumably at Huntington.

TM: Yes.

JB: Yeah, okay. [Parsing photos] Come on!

TM: It's thinking about it. There it is.

JB: There we are. That's Dee.

TM: Okay, and who's this?

JB: I don't know who that is.

TM: Okay, someone with a necklace that looks like a fish. It says "Pete" on the cup.

JB: [Parsing photos] That's probably McAllister, he's back there, the boatman. He was assisting on the trip perhaps or perhaps he was on the other boat/the boatman for the other boat. I just don't know that. And I don't recognize that person.

TM: So, there's three people here in the back of the boat. McAllister's standing, the two other people are sitting. The person on the right has long, blond hair. It looks like a man there in jeans. Do you know who that would be?

JB: No.

TM: Okay. Has a cup clipped on his lifejacket. Another person in a cowboy hat. [Parsing photos] Another picture of the same gentleman, same back of the boat here. McAllister is turned around, facing backwards. [Parsing photos] This is a picture looking upstream from about 60.5 mile. That's Malgosa Crest up on the skyline. We're looking up into Marble Canyon here and that's 60-mile rapid about right there.

JB: See, that's why I thought the slides would be useful because there are people who can identify where it is.

TM: So, what's interesting about this photograph is there's very little riverside vegetation. There's some coming in, but there's still a lot of wide-open beach here. There's still some sand here. This is pre-1983, so there's still a lot of sand in the system. The dam's in place, but there's some sand in the system.

JB: Why do you say its pre-'83?

TM: Because the '83 event of up to 90,000 cubic feet a second for a couple days energized all that stuff and got a lot of it out of there.

JB: Okay. Right. That was just summarized in the local paper a couple days ago.

TM: Nice. Okay. Oh, fun. [Parsing photos] This is the same. This is that travertine flow just above the Little Colorado River. There's some pretty heavy vegetation coming in here. There's a big run of beach there that's got a lot of grass on it and some tamarisk, of course, are coming in pretty strong now. [Parsing photos] This is the Little Colorado River stop here. You can see the Tapeats Sandstone and a lot of gear is laid out across the sandstone. You can see the boats. There's two boats here, Expeditions, lots of red ammo cans all lined up. There's a woman here wearing glasses with her hair, blonde hair in a bun, just see her head. [Parsing photos]

JB: I'm sorry this is so cumbersome.

TM: Oh, it's wonderful. There's that gentleman again with the long blond hair. He's sitting on a rock here. Now, there's Comanche Point in the background, and so this may be somewhere near Tanner where this person has parked, just given that view there. [Parsing photos] This picture shows the waterfall just above Bedrock Rapid on river right. It looks normal, don't see a lot of extra water there. It's not dried up. So that's good. [Parsing photos] Same waterfall.

JB: [Parsing photos] John and Dee. Other boat, although I don't see the name on the side. It may be another company. Photoshop or something else would be able to rescue this.

TM: Yes, this is a little overexposed here, it's a little whited out, but yes, it would definitely sharpen that up.

JB: I don't know why just several of the slides are really like this and others... No wonder Kodak when under. [Whispers, laughing] [Parsing photos] Now, you can tell me, could this be Tuna, where there's a place for the helicopter to land? This is where he went out.

TM: It could be. I'm going to describe this picture for the tape recorder. There are four people in this photo. There's a person in the middle with a blue shirt and to the right of that person, there is a person in a white looks like t-shirt holding onto his waist. There's a person on the far left without a shirt and that person is holding on to the arm of the person in the blue shirt who also has a cap. Down below those three people, off to the right, is another person. They all have their backs to us. They're climbing up a slope.

JB: Is that a helicopter back there or are those just shadows? Is that 'Dock' Marston or Emery?

TM: This looks like it could be 'Dock' wanting to go look at something and people are helping him up the hillside.

JB: That's what I think is happening.

TM: It could be at Separation even.

JB: His clothes and his cap look familiar.

TM: Did you stop at the plaque, at the big plaque at Separation on that trip? Do you remember?

JB: We may have, I don't remember. Could that have been it?

TM: That's kind of looking like where they're going. It's that type of schist rock. So that could be what's happening here. And y'all are having to scramble up there through the silt deposits of the lake. That could be what's going on there.

JB: And there will be more silt deposits of the lake around now, won't there?

TM: Well, right now it's very fascinating because the reservoir's been low so long, a lot of that silt has been washed out of there.

JB: Oh, really?

TM: Separation Canyon is coming in and has made a big gravel fan out into the river and there's some pretty fast water in this restricted channel now.

JB: So there may be a good rapid someday. [Laughing] Very good. [Parsing photos]

TM: That's a nice picture actually of 'Dock' still in '74 wanting to go look at something, wanting to get out and go...

JB: Sure, sure. [Parsing photos] That one, can you tell more about the location?

TM: Yeah, that's probably it. There's a bunch of people climbing up, now, this hillside. It just looks like that's the place and y'all are going to need to go up onto this bench way up there. So, let's see if you've got a photo of the plaque.

JB: That would be very nice, but I don't think I do. [Parsing photos]

TM: Okay. Quite the series of the people going up this hillside.

JB: See there's Pete, the one that had the coffee cup. That looks more like 'Dock.'

TM: It looks like Marston, doesn't it? Blue shirt, blue pants white cap. [Parsing photos]

JB: There they go.

TM: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten people here in this picture, all working their way up a pretty rugged hillside of schist with barrel cactuses. It would make sense that they're going up to the plaque at Separation.

JB: And I'm down on the beach taking their picture. [Laughing] [Parsing photos]

TM: A new picture now of the same people working their way up the hillside. There's a new person coming in up the bottom, coming along.

JB: [Parsing photos] Well, sorry about that.

TM: No worries. The picture's a little out of focus, but it's the Little Colorado River, isn't it?

JB: Sure is. [Parsing photos]

TM: As is this picture, which shows two people walking along the shore side of the Little Colorado River. They're coming out toward the camera, toward the mouth of the junction, looking upstream. The water's blue-blue there.

JB: Now, when I go through these I will recheck the slide itself and make sure that the date is correct. Because somehow with these slides, this one looks different. So I just to be sure of that and I can't tell... [Parsing photos]

TM: Quality is great, though. These are great shots. [Parsing photos] Oh look, there's someone in the background swimming there.

[Technical difficulties with the computer mouse.]

JB: I just wondered if I could figure out who the...

TM: They're looking down.

JB: Now, it would be easy in Photoshop to lighten that and maybe get enough detail that you can tell who it is. [Parsing photos] Okay, that's that one, and we don't have any more '74s here. But we do here in the scrapbook.

[End slide show] [Start scrapbook photos]

TM: Did you keep scrapbooks for every trip?

JB: No, I wasn't really a photographer and I didn't log information about the trips. I kept some files and some trip lists and things and I didn't keep others because I not only did these trips, but I did a number of trips on Desolation Canyon, too. Somewhere along the way I decided the pictures are really nice but I can't do all of that recordkeeping. So, I wish now I had. In any case, these are the ones that are at Cline Library. And this is Meri doing her botany work.

TM: Meribeth Riffey.

JB: She did that every evening. During the day she would go out and wander whenever we stopped on the beach. Then she'd come back and deal with them when she got back to the beach in the afternoon. Let's see, do you know what? Do you have a flashlight or something like that?

TM: Yes, right here. Right here.

JB: Okay, we can use a little more light on these. Get new batteries after we're done before you go on the river. [Laughing] That's 'Dock,' obviously. There's Dee in the background. There's Pete and here's McAllister. That may or may not be John Hoffman. That's the Little Colorado River, wouldn't you say?

TM: Yes, absolutely. This is a whole series of the Little Colorado here.

JB: Two people are...I don't know what they're coming down on. They look like they're sitting on something, don't they?

TM: Mm, hmm. There they go.

JB: There's another one. Well, maybe it's just their life preservers as diapers. [Laughing]

TM: Yeah, yeah. And then here comes a helicopter. Here's a series of photos of a helicopter coming in. And people are at the helicopter. There's Emery, right there maybe. Coming down the hillside...

JB: That's John Sohrweide there.

TM: On the right in the blue? To the right of Emery?

JB: In the blue shirt.

TM: In the blue shirt?

JB: Yeah.

TM: Coming down. There's 'Dock' and Emery shaking hands.

JB: That's where they meet. And they chat a while. They were immediately talking, I mean, I assume they'd met before, probably many times.

TM: Quite a bit, quite a bit.

TM: And, so that was great fun.

TM: Dock's wearing a little windbreaker here. It almost looks like it might be cool. But there are some young kids in just shorts and no shirt.

JB: This was in May and at night it did get cold.

TM: Okay.

JB: That's John. I don't know for sure...

TM: Is that Meribeth, maybe?

JB: It doesn't look like her to me, but I can't be sure.

[Telephone rings – recorder paused] [Recording resumed]

TM: So there's a woman here in a bikini. Do you know who that would be?

JB: No.

TM: Okay. So there are some people on this trip and we're going to need to try to find out where they are. So this is John?

JB: Yes.

TM: And Emery and 'Dock'.

JB: Yes, and this is the identifier.

TM: A B-36, okay.

JB: So I decided to record that.

TM: Fun. I'm glad you did.

JB: And there are the three of them talking. 'Dock' Marston...

TM: Now, this looks like a table.

JB: They had a table and put an oilcloth on it, and uh, that looks like my hat.

TM: It says "cat" on it.

JB: I know. I had a cat. We'll see in a minute. McAllister and John Sohrweide. This is John Hoffman. So I must have gone up there.

TM: You did, didn't you? You went quite a ways up and looked down on the boats at the Little Colorado River.

JB: This is the helicopter pad.

TM: C-10, okay.

JB: And this... Okay, we stayed in Furnace Creek. You might be, uh... Furnace Creek, that's another place, isn't it? In the Fiery Furnace area. It did get cold that night. I remember Emery yelling out in the middle of the night, "I'm cold! I'm cold!" So everybody got up and we built a very big bonfire, very big. Biggest one I've ever seen in the Canyon. So he got warmer and he got through the night okay. But we did... There was a lot of talking that went on during this time. The two of them... I like this photo particularly since he's by himself and relaxed.

TM: So, that's Emery. He's sitting on an ammo can with what maybe is a lifejacket on the can as a chair for him. C-14 is the call number.

JB: This is me with my cat cap on and 'Dock'. So this is Doctor Brazie and 'Dock' Marston in front of the Paradox Formation.

TM: Ha ha! And it's a pair of docs! That's great! How fun!

JB: Okay. I guess that's a nice one for me, isn't it? To be next to them.

TM: So that's you in the cat hat, and then there's Emery, and then there's 'Dock'.

JB: And John Sohrweide.

TM: And John in the back behind you. You guys are in the back of the boat here. Another picture there. You're smiling a little bit there, that's good. Emery is wearing a poncho. 'Dock' has a camera. Great. There's you and Emery and 'Dock' again sitting in the back of the boat there. Then there's a series of rapids here.

JB: Now God-willing, that's Crystal.

TM: I think it's actually Hermit.

JB: Actually what?

TM: Hermit.

JB: Oh, okay. He would have been on when we were at Hermit since we went between Little Colorado River and Tuna okay. Well, I appreciate you identifying the rapids because I can't.

TM: No worries. Yeah, I just...I'm trying to double-check and make sure that's indeed what we're looking at. That would be my guess right now is what that is. Let's hold that thought and let's keep looking at the slides here. Now there's a picture of Emery that's really washed out. There's a picture of Emery and 'Dock'. E-1 and E-4, pretty washed out here.

JB: Now those can be rescued pretty well, I think.

TM: They can, they can. That's right.

JB: From what I understand.

TM: Now we went back up river, didn't we?

JB: Yeah.

TM: These are the ones we saw, isn't it?

JB: Well, more or less. But they're probably different. They're probably different.

TM: 'Cause there's the Paradox.

JB: Well, the Paradox, um...

TM: Did we repeat this page? No. Something happened. How did we go backwards? That's curious.

JB: Now, wait a minute.

TM: Maybe we just went the wrong way for a minute. So some of these are repeated. Okay, that's fine. 'Cause that's a nice... Oh, you know, it's bigger. It's been enlarged.

JB: Oh, I see. They're blown up, blown up.

TM: These are nice pictures that have been blown up. Yeah. Great shot. So this is fine. It's pretty clear that these men are close. They're sitting next to each other. They're talking with each other. They seem to be very comfortable with each other.

JB: Is that the end? Oh, here's what I was looking for.

TM: "Pioneer River Men Kolb and Marston Relive early adventures." Do you mind if I use my camera and just take a picture of this?

JB: That would be fine.

[Camera clicking]

TM: There they are, sitting there together. This is great. How nice! Sorry. Back in a minute.

[Time out]

TM: Don't move. Put that back up there.

JB: Oh. [Laughing]

[Camera clicking]

TM: Thank you. Just want to get...

JB: Okay, here's the list. It turned out to be hidden. There's not a Joan in there. Wasn't that the name you mentioned earlier?

TM: Sandra.

JB: Sandra?

TM: Sandra, yeah. She may not have been...there she is. Sandra Jones. And there's her address in Florida. I'm trying to see if she's still around. This is great. It's very helpful. Kathleen Krashinsky from Sparks, Nevada. Hmm.

JB: Did you have any luck finding Hoffman?

TM: I have not found Hoffman.

JB: Did you find any trace of him at all to speak of? Because what's that series of books that were put out that are the picture books? He did the one on Arches back then.

TM: I did contact someone who had worked with him on that project, but they had lost touch with him decades ago. So I kind of ran up an alley there.

JB: Yeah, did that means he didn't...

TM: No, it means I haven't succeeded yet, that's all.

JB: Well, it may mean something more, too.

TM: It might. [Camera clicks] Now that is really slow. Let's speed that up.

JB: Now, you'd probably be able to track that down in Moab.

TM: Yes, that's right. That's right. I'm going to get this page one more time, too. [Camera clicks] Thank you. These are your negatives, aren't they?

JB: Yeah. I took some with slides and some with negatives and my question is, are there more negatives at home. I will know that eventually because I not only have three more boxes of slides, I have a whole wall full of boxes with pictures in it. I'm intending to go through them and I will look for 1974 in particular.

TM: Was that the only trip you did with 'Dock'?

JB: Yes. Yes, and the only one I did with Emery, too. [Laughing.] Now...

TM: So how was it...Oh, I'm sorry.

JB: Well, Kim and I talked about this, as well, since its Cline Library. [Pause recorder] When I moved to Groveland, California, in '95 or '96, two other friends and I bought the Nikon scanner for too much money. So we were doing stuff. I did these then and they did some other things but I ended up with the scanner. And I still have it. The problem is that that was '95 and this is '15, so none of the hook ups and probably the operating systems and stuff... I have tried to be in

touch with Nikon to ask them specifically can I use that scanner in my current stuff. I wasn't even able to connect with them. They said this account is blocked or something. So I've not pursued that again, but I am going to.

TM: The term would be the drivers. Can you download from Nikon website the drivers for your laptop to connect?

JB: Well, there is one but it's a few years old, too, and there have been some major changes. They'd have to tell me whether there's a current driver that would work.

TM: The new scanners are two to three hundred dollars. They're pretty good. They're pretty fast.

JB: Oh, yeah.

TM: You know, you have to ask yourself...

JB: I'm thinking of that and Kim also said that they would be glad to do that and provide me a copy.

TM: I would go that route because they're very good at that.

JB: My problem is I have other slides.

TM: They will have to fish out what they're after. If you can identify that for them and or at least give them a list. Are your slides labeled? Are they marked?

JB: Yes.

TM: Great. So if there's a log, then they can pull out what they want, scan them and put them back.

JB: Yes.

TM: So, how did you get wrapped up in this trip with 'Dock' and Emery in the first place?

JB: Good story. I've known Art Gallenson since I first started running the river. For some reason, I... He did work for Grand Canyon Expeditions, but I've also seen him related to the airplanes in Boulder, Nevada. So, early on before the trip I lived in Denver and I got this phone call from Art Gallenson, saying—I was signed up for the history trip already—and said that Emery Kolb was going to come down and join the trip for a night. Since I was a doctor—although I was a neonatologist, which made me question what good I would be—but in any case, I said sure I would do that. So we had a little discussion about it. That's my great memory of Art Gallenson, who died this last year. But in any case, that's why I was alerted to Emery and knew about 'Dock'. And my question, of course, was, well now what should I take on the trip? The only thing I could think of that would make a difference is...so I took catheters. [Laughing] 'Cause if he had a heart attack or a stroke, you know, there wasn't any special thing that I could do. But in any case, as we mentioned, it was cold that night and we got.... John Hoffman was particularly

careful about looking after him because of his interest in him and so I went back to bed. John was responsible for the rest of the night. [Laughing] So, that was kind of fun.

TM: What were your thoughts when you were sitting around the fire with Emery in the middle of the night?

JB: I was enjoying it a great deal because here are these two great river people on the whole trip. My only problem is that I'm not a person who was interested enough to keep track of what we were saying and how it was going and so...

I should back off now and tell you that now I live in Cottage Grove, Oregon and I'm involved as a volunteer with five museums in this town of 10,000 people. I'm going to tell you this story because it's significant locally. When I got interested in helping with history activities there, based at the city library, we decided it would be a good idea to have the museums prepare exhibits in the library during the year. Ask each one of them to prepare an exhibit for a month or two and that would fill the year. So I got to meet all these people. Well, unfortunately, the exhibit activities were successful. That got underway, but I also got involved with all five museums. So that took over my life. But the thing that impressed me was they didn't tend to talk to each other and they're all interested in the same things. So we gradually worked toward that problem and we developed an informal group that was never organized or anything called Partners in History. So the yearly exhibits were based on... With the Partners in History activity meeting, we'd meet once or twice a year and plan the next year's exhibits and so forth so that the people got together. They were already friends, you know, but the museums weren't working together. So now they really are beginning to do that. So I suggested to Kim that I move to Flagstaff. [Laughing]

TM: Yay! When are you moving?

JB: We agreed that things had to be accomplished here. So maybe this will help.

TM: Maybe it will.

JB: You never know.

TM: Yeah, that would be good. That would be good. What else do you remember about that river trip from 1974, besides sitting up with Emery around the campfire in the middle of the night down there at Tanner somewhere?

JB: Well, I think it was my last trip with John Sohrweide 'cause he died shortly after.

TM: Did you get a sense that he was troubled in any way?

JB: Yes.

TM: How so?

JB: The neonatology group decided to... Another story. We had a group based in Denver but organized for especially the western part of the United States. But there were also people from the east that came to this group that met once a year, usually at Aspen, to have a week-long

conference about neonatology and to get to know each other and so forth. Well, this particular year we were going to have the meeting in Park City. John just lived down the street in I've forgotten what town. What is that town south of Park City going toward Provo? But anyway, it's that town. They lived there with his wife Linda. So I asked him if he would get the film from Grand Canyon Expeditions and show it to the group during dinner one night, which he did. He came over. Pause. [Recorder paused] He was getting a little bit on the drunk side before the evening was over. In fact, the presentation was kind of tough for me to handle because he wasn't doing too well.

TM: Was that before the river the trip?

JB: This was after one. I'm not sure if it was this one or not. In any case, he was drunk. He got so drunk that I forced him to stay in my room in that night and not drive home. So, yes, I knew he was having problems, but I didn't know they were that kind of problems. Well, after that happened, he divorced Linda and married Dee. Dee was on this trip and maybe one other while he was still married.

TM: Okay. It's interesting because there's an organization called the Whale Foundation, if you're familiar with them.

JB: Yes, I know about that.

TM: This issue's been going along for a while. This is happening in the '70s, '80s, and '90s.

JB: That was developed after him. Dee was his wife, by the way, on this trip, I think, because I gave her a copy of this and met her for dinner in Concord, California, to do that after John died.

TM: Nice.

JB: So I say he was married on that trip. That was 20 years before, so I can't tell you that. So anyway, I knew he was having... And then after that, the next trip I went on, I went with OC. And that's where I got to know him.

TM: In 1975, or was that still '74?

JB: Well, I can't tell you that for sure. Well, it was seventy...no, I can't tell you that for sure. I went on several trips with him. In fact, I swamped for him for three times. The most interesting... Well, we did a lot of stuff, but in 1983 we went down and got on the river the last day when the river was closed after we.... We didn't see the Emerald Mile people because they got there, I think, the night before we did. But in any case, we took a lot of pictures. I took some pictures then, but that trip was really interesting for obvious reasons. When we got to Crystal, I don't have any pictures of that because all the passengers had to get off, but he and I were able to go through Crystal together.

TM: Oh, that's fun.

JB: Since we were the boatmen. Then, in September, we took another trip to see what the river was like afterwards. Now I have pictures of that, too.

TM: What did you see in the differences?

JB: Well, the water, of course, was close to 100,000 cubic feet per second. And differences? You know, we spent a lot of time on the beach because we made such speed to any place. We stopped all sorts of places to hike and things like that. Of course, probably one exciting thing other than Crystal was to go into the back end of Red Wall Canyon and study the roof from the boat.

TM: Yeah, which you motored right into and stood up and touched on the front of the boat?

JB: We sat down and touched, could reach it.

TM: Right there. Wow. Wow.

JB: There's some pictures in there.

TM: I'd like to see those. Before we leave 1974, because I would like to see your '83 photos, that would be fun if you got them scanned. That would be fun. You mentioned drinking and I'm trying to learn about 'Dock'. Some people tell me he had a problem with drink and some people say he didn't.

JB: Oh, I can't help with that. I don't have any recollection of that at all. There wasn't any serious drinking on that trip that I was aware of. Even John Sohrweide was... You know, he'd have a beer or two, but I think everybody was pretty careful. That was before... They had beer all over the place. But there wasn't wine and people didn't bring out... I don't remember anybody bringing out a bottle of whiskey or something back in those days. Maybe they did and didn't offer me any. [Laughing]

TM: But clearly you didn't notice anyone on that trip in '74 being drunk as you noticed John being drunk at that presentation.

JB: I knew on the river that John was drinking a lot of beer, but you know, I didn't think anything about it back then. It just seemed like everybody did, including the women. But they stopped doing that.

TM: That's right. Yes, they did. Okay, 'cause again I'm just trying... Before we leave '74 again, is there anything else about 'Dock' or Emery that you would like to capture with this machine?

JB: There isn't anything I can think of right now. If something comes as I'm reviewing the slides again, I will make a specific note of it.

TM: Okay, thank you. Just curious what else you would remember of that trip. Yeah, I'd like to look at your '83 photos, if you wouldn't mind.

JB: We could do that. They next time they appear they'll be a little more organized.

TM: No worries. You're doing fine.

JB: Turn that off for a minute. [Recorder paused]

TM: Turn this back on?

JB: Yes, if you want to. I went through a couple in '83 and indicated, to the degree that I could, where it was and who was on it.

TM: Great.

JB: That's what I'm hoping I can do. I know that you and other people can fill in the blanks.

TM: I'd be honored to help in any way. That'd be fun.

JB: But yeah, I did that with two of them, I guess. Just to see what was on them. There's another one. But I was more interested in '83 at that point.

TM: Understood, understood.

JB: Now, I have also done a really quick review of these slides. Just to highlight to me things that would help me find slides to do particular things with on here. But you can see there's some leftover with my stroke. My writing... I decided the stroke was centered in my cursive brain.

TM: And there it went.

JB: My handwriting and even my computer stuff is very awkward.

TM: You're doing great with this computer.

JB: So anyway, I've gotten started on cataloging these. So, that's my plan. I hope to do it in the six weeks after I get home 'cause I'm going to Colorado.

TM: That'd be great. Can we look at your '83 photos?

JB: Oh yeah. '83. Oh, I wanted to show you the beginning of that trip, which I just spotted. That's one.

TM: There's an '83 right there. Is that them? Okay. 7.83...ah!

JB: Okay, now I'm going to put on a slideshow because then we don't have to do all that stuff.

[Getting computer slide show going]

TM: Okay. Is it going to open up all the river trips? It is! This is great, we're going to be here a while!

JB: Oh, that's terrible.

[Still getting computer slide show going]

TM: Here's '83. That's an '83. 7.83. That's right. There it is.

TM: There you go. There we go. No, that's all right. Isn't it?

JB: No. Oh, come on. See my hand is awkward. That's my problem.

[Start computer slide show]

TM: You're doing good, though. This is typical computer frustration. I do it all the time. So, this is the Little Colorado. The island is not quite submerged there. Here a lot of the island is submerged. This is looking downstream at the confluence with the blue-blue water of the Little Colorado. There's the island, just the tamarisks are sticking up there. There's clearly a channel down here on the left of the island with a little of the island there.

JB: So you think these slides would be worthwhile?

TM: Absolutely. Absolutely, yes. This is looking up the Little Colorado, which is a clear lagoon. A quite, a quite, just quite the run. Oh, you stopped at the Hopi salt mines. Here you are here. I don't see the....

JB: That's OC.

TM: There's OC. Yep, a young-looking OC there. You're trying to get into shore somewhere. There's a tamarisk right there you're driving over. Oh, it's the Hopi Salt Mines!

JB: I think that's where that picture is, 'cause there's these two pictures.

TM: Almost up to the mines. Look at that. Oh, and there's the Silver Bridge now. It's kinda hard to say how high the water is in this one, but clearly it's high. There's the Silver Bridge, there's the Phantom Ranch buildings up there. The mule corral.

JB: No beach.

TM: Yeah, no beach at the mouth of Bright Angel Creek. This is Phantom again. There's the Black Bridge there. Okay.

JB: Okay. Look what I...

TM: Yay, it went right back there.

JB: Let's just find the next '83.

TM: There's the 9.83, unless there's an 8.83.

JB: Yes, let's find 7.83.

TM: There's a 7.83 right there.

JB: Okay. Let's make sure we didn't pass one.

TM: That's a GC1, that's a GC2.7.83. Okay, that makes sense.

JB: Oh, I did that again.

TM: So GC2.7.83 is there. Oh, I see how it's working. Okay. Is there a way to slow the slides down a little bit, easily? Oh my gosh, here we are at the ramp. This is a great shot of chaos at the ramp.

JB: I just don't know how to do it. When I started...

TM: That's fine. We'll just talk it through here. Big sign says 'Danger: Extreme high river flows'. Chaos at the ramp. 'River flow trip rigging area. Down river boatmen: exercise extreme caution when running Crystal Rapid. It appears to be safe running far right in the tamarisk. Use your own discretion'. Great.

JB: It was a little bit of a wait, so we ended up having lunch. Guess where? [referring to photo].

TM: I'm not sure.

JB: That's Marble Canyon.

TM: That's a nice shot of the motorboat on... Look, there's another little oar boat over there under the bridge. Bank to bank water.

JB: There's Emerald Mile.

TM: It might be. That's 10-mile rock. Look at that. It's hardly sticking out! That's great shot. There it is. Oh my gosh, look at that. It's just two feet up, sticking out of the water, is 10-mile rock. This is above Shear Wall. There's hardly anything there.

JB: One tamarisk.

TM: One little, lone, scared-looking tamarisk. This is the Fence Fault right here, looking downstream toward South Canyon. And that's up Fence Fault camp right there.

JB: Very little beach.

TM: This is South Canyon right here, the mouth of...all that's buried under water is the South Canyon fan.

JB: We spent a day at that beach once.

TM: Did you?

JB: That's it, isn't it?

TM: Right there, you bet. You bet. Here's the beach in the back, getting rebuilt now by this high water, trying to drop some sand in there wherever it can. Great shot. Mouth of South Canyon again, a little postage stamp chunk of beach there. Nobody could get to it. There's Stanton's Cave. Vasey's Paradise right around the corner. Look at the chop here, big waves now. This rapid perks up a little bit. Look at all the water coming out of Vasey's. What a wet, wet year. Look at that, both tubes are discharging water here. The water's high enough you can boat right up

there in the poison ivy. Vasey's Paradise. There's Red Wall Cavern, no sign of beach, no sign of sand. Nice. And that ends that series. So now we're looking at 03.83. We may have to scroll down a little bit. There's 3. There's 03.9.83.

JB: No.

TM: We want 03.7.83.

JB: Yeah.

TM: There it is, right there.

JB: Okay. That and that.

TM: Great. Downstream view from Nankoweap is a little fuzzy.

JB: This is a little early in the morning, so I wasn't cleared up yet. [Laughing]

TM: Maybe you took another one. Let's hope. Oh, back to Red Wall Cavern and it's just...there's a boat motoring into the cavern there. It's all full of water. Boat in the cavern, shadowed silhouette.

JB: Should all be beach.

TM: It should all be beach, yep. Boats should be way down there. There's a picture of the motor rig in the back of Red Wall Cavern. Great shot. People are touching the ceiling. Downstream, around the corner.

JB: All those rocks are gone.

TM: All where the fossils are, that's just underwater. That's a nice picture looking back upstream with the boat back in the back wall and a couple of these rocks in the front here.

JB: We went way back there.

TM: Down by Willy Taylor...Willy Taylor's camp there. Downstream looking toward Saddle Canyon. That's flash flooded there recently. It looks it's just above Willy's.

JB: I'm just wondering if there's a sheep there, I can't tell.

TM: There might be, yeah.

JB: I wondered why I took it.

TM: There's the Nankoweap granaries.

JB: Looks familiar.

TM: There's the downstream view!

JB: We had plenty of time for hikes. [Laughing]

TM: There's another Nankoweap downstream view, and it's basically wall-to-wall water down there. It's a great shot. There's even another better one.

JB: Yeah. I enjoyed that because that should be all beach.

TM: That should be all beach, and look some boats are pulled up in there.

JB: Yeah, maybe us.

TM: Another downstream Nankoweap view. Here's a picture of the Nankoweap delta. Here's a motor rig right there. You might have pulled into the middle camp here.

JB: A little sand.

TM: Hmm. Everybody's hiking back down to the river. Great shot.

JB: I like that area of the Canyon, obviously. I have probably a picture like this on every trip.

TM: Downstream view again. High water. That's a nice series.

JB: A little sun.

TM: So that was 3 and now we're going to look for 4, aren't we?

JB: Yeah.

TM: GC4.7.83. There it is. Blue-blue water at the Little Colorado River. Wow. And you motored up quite a ways to take that shot. Look at that blue water. My, my. Quite the lake.

JB: The thing that I thought would be interesting here – people could identify those rocks and figure out how far up the river...

TM: That's right. That's right.

JB: ...the flood was.

TM: The 1957 flood went up to 126,000 cubic feet a second.

JB: Did it?

TM: And that's amazing pictures of these guys in the Little Colorado.

JB: Yeah. You know, during this entire trip, it never occurred to me, it probably did to OC, but never occurred to me that the dam might go. But the Little Colorado River was beautiful.

TM: That's a gorgeous picture there with, that's Chuar Butte there in the background. Very pretty.

JB: There's right at the change.

TM: End of flow, yep, yep, where the backwater meets the creek. So you hiked up quite a ways because there's the boat way down there. Nice to have a lot of time there to hike up and hike around a little bit.

JB: Yeah, we had to. [Laughing]

TM: People are walking out across the Little Colorado River gravels there.

JB: I just like the river-right, the Colorado River there. And here they are walking on rocks. I don't know how far up, but it was way up.

TM: There's the boat pull in. Looking back out toward the main stem there. It impounded quite a lot of water, didn't it?

JB: Yeah.

TM: The blue-blue water.

JB: Well, onward. All right, that was 4.

TM: We'll look for 5. There's 5.7...let's see.

JB: 5...6

TM: 5.7

JB: Here's 9. There isn't necessarily one for every number.

TM: Oh, okay. So we would look...there's a 6.9.83.

JB: Okay.

TM: But that's 9.

JB: That's 9.

TM: That's later on, isn't it?

JB: That's 9. That may be it.

TM: 7.9.83.

JB: 80...

TM: There's an 8.9.

JB: That's it.

TM: Okay. Wow. Fun. Thank you.

[End of slide show]

JB: Now, it seems to me... Oh, I have pictures of Lake Mead overflowing down the spillway.

TM: Going over there at where you drove across it?

JB: I think that may have been after the September trip.

TM: Yeah, yeah, that would make sense. I'd like to, if you're willing, I'd like to look at this bank of photos right here. This is 06.9.83.

[Start new slide show]

JB: How's that?

TM: Well, this is folks in a rapid. Looks like it's Lava Falls. Not sure though, maybe it's not. Picture of the sandy beach. Let's see... Oh, this is down near Deer Creek. This is Tapeats Creek Rapid. Oh, it's a little bit of clouds up there. Looking back upstream, this is Owl Eyes camp right here. Some sand there deposited. Here's the Granite Narrows. Again, Granite Narrows. A little bit of Fishtail Mesa in the distance there. Looking back upstream at the narrows, way up toward Steamboat Mountain up there. Pretty picture.

JB: You'd like to play with these photos and lighten them up and see detail here.

TM: Do the contrast a little bit there.

JB: It's all there.

TM: You bet. You bet.

JB: That one shows it a little better.

TM: Nice picture of OC there with his beard, contemplating life in his ratty life jacket. How'd they pass that life jacket? [Laughter]

TM: The foam is showing. And there's Deer Creek. Water's still up quite a bit here, okay.

JB: At 40,000...

TM: Okay, 45,000.

JB: ...is the number I remember.

TM: Yeah, yeah. Look at all this sand that's been built up here. That's pretty. Deer Creek Falls.

JB: We were at Deer Creek once, I've forgotten the date, but we hiked up and as we got past the narrows just as you enter the canyon part up there, we were reminded that a rock fell down and killed somebody just recently. We were very happy, of course, to find that out. [Laughing]

TM: It wasn't you! There's a 3.9.83. Let's look at that one.

JB: That interests me because that's recently eroded sand.

TM: Yeah, and the Little Colorado River is running brown now.

JB: Yeah. You think I was intrigued with the Little Colorado River? [Laughing]

TM: No, not at all. Not you. This is looking out to the confluence and there's the island now. So the water's come back down. The island is exposed out here. Looking downstream towards Temple Butte. There's a little science camp or somebody there studying. Maybe a backpack. No, that's quite the tent there.

JB: I think they were doing chub studies.

TM: Oh, it's the gauge people, out there running the gauge 'cause the cables up and the cable car's there. Downstream view toward the Little Colorado River from below 60 mile and we just... This is a view from camp here. It looks like Nankoweap. Here you guys are camped on river left here. Sun's coming up.

JB: Just sand all over the place. I was intrigued with the sun but the picture didn't turn out very good.

TM: It's so hard. It's so hard.

JB: Yeah, this is a little better. I kind of like this.

TM: Fire in the morning. Nankoweap. The big wall on Nankoweap there in the sun.

JB: I was up at the rim yesterday and stayed for sunset. Nothing. Not a damn thing. It just went down.

TM: Downstream view of Nankoweap there. Little Nankoweap is what you're going through. Little Nankoweap riffle here with the big eddy there. Thank you.

JB: See, was that the last one? We did that one.

TM: We did 3.7.83, .84...

JB: Let's see. There should be some...

TM: We did that one 1.7.83. We didn't do 2...no, that's '84, sorry. 2.7.8, we looked at that one. Then scroll down and see what's down below here. There we go. There's a 5.9.83. No, that's not...

JB: Oh, we looked at that one. 7...

TM: 4.7.83. I think we saw that one.

JB: Here's one. Did we do 4?

TM: No, let's look at that.

JB: Ah!

TM: This log is still there. You know that. So, this is up in the LCR. The LCR is running mud. There's a lot of new sand up in there, isn't there? Backed up in there, yeah.

JB: People would love to look at these pictures just to see what it was like when they had sand. [Laughing]

TM: That's right. That's exactly right.

JB: Sometimes I wonder why I took the pictures.

TM: Well, it's a fascinating collection you've got here because it shows a lot of the same places but from different years. This is the USGS camp. It's called the science camp now. It's on river right across from the mouth of the Little Colorado River. And that's, again, where that gauge is. That's upstream looking down at the Little Colorado River. That cable, you're going right around that cable right there. Back upstream, looking down toward the Little Colorado. Yeah, okay. This is a kinda popular camp on river left, so we're probably looking upstream there. Yeah, that would make sense because the sun's coming up and this wall on the left is getting lit up.

JB: Well, nowadays you can solve that problem of exposure by doing...it's called ASTR right?

TM: It's pretty amazing stuff where they bracket low, correct, and high and pull it together.

JB: Have you been doing...?

TM: I haven't, just 'cause I've been beating my poor photos with Photoshop. To get out of them what I want. [Laughing]

JB: Well, I believe there's cameras now, digital cameras, that do it automatically...

TM: That's right.

JB: ...as the basic. I mean, pretty soon you won't even have to go on a trip. You can just send your camera.

TM: I hope not!

JB: Or send in a drone.

TM: Yeah! Yeah! Oh, the drone things. Oh my gosh. [Laughing] Well, Joe, thank you so very, very much for letting me look at these.

JB: Okay, I think that's all of those. Well, you're very welcome. Now what I'm going to do is go through these and do what I can as far as documenting. Then I'm going to send them to Kim and then she'll send me the paperwork and all this sort of stuff. That was okay. Then you'll have them available so you can go through the whole bunch. I'll probably send her a copy of the flash drive, too, just to make it easier for everybody.

TM: That's would be excellent. Yes, yes.

JB: Then I'll gradually work on the rest of the stuff that I have. The first thing I'll do is to search out 1974 so that if there is anything more there you will have it.

TM: Great. That would be fun. Yeah, I'd like to see that.

JB: I wanted to ask you one other thing. I went on Desolation Canyon many times. I helped with a boater, big bighorn expeditions. I don't know if you know that and Joan Bacon?

TM: No.

JB: Anyway, she ran individual rafts for passengers on the trips, five-day trips.

TM: Was it in Sportyaks, the tiny, little boats?

JB: Well, she was Bill Belknap's assistant. Then when he quit, I don't remember why this happened, but in any case, she started her own businesses. Originally it was Sportyaks perhaps, I don't quite remember that part, but then everybody had rafts. Probably 12' or 10'/12'. They weren't little. They were good sized rafts so that the people who came on it all learned how to row and maneuver. It was always fun to come up to steer rapids. The first big rapid, I went down that in a Sportyak. I was very anxious, but I went down it. When I got down there, they said somebody doesn't want to run, do you want to go up and run the other one? [Laughing] Yes!

TM: Off you went! Oh my gosh. How fun is that?

JB: I probably have been on Desolation Canyon more than 50 times.

TM: Wow!

JB: So in any case, I have slides.

TM: Of Desolation as well.

JB: Yes. Now, who would be interested in Deso slides? It's become very interesting because of the droughts.

TM: You know who you might want to check with is the University of Utah, Salt Lake, Special Collections. Okay? Because there's not really an agency, that's BLM that manages, I believe, that part of the river there and they really don't have an archive, per se. So for that section of the river, who's kinda really cornered that market, if you will, is Special Collections of University of Utah.

JB: And what department would that be in?

TM: That would be the library, the Special Collections. Just like Cline Library here, except the University of Utah. Those guys have a massive collection of Glen Canyon and the Yampa and Deso-Gray and that whole Green River arm as it sweeps through Utah, they've got that...

JB: Oh, that's very good to know.

TM: Yeah, yeah. Very well.

JB: And they're an agreeable group, are they?

TM: I think so. They're pretty friendly folks. Well, I'm going to turn the tape off here. Joe, thank you very, very much for your recollections here. This has been a lot of fun. Thank you.