Steven Hughes

Rock Art Behind The Glen Canyon Dam

In January, 1963, the gates on the Glen Canyon Dam closed and the waters began to rise. When the full pool level was reached, scores of rock art and other archaeological sites were flooded. Archaeological surveys were made of many of the sites before flooding, but little is now publicly available to view them. Over 200 color slides of the now flooded rock art were taken at 24 of the inundated sites in 1960 and 1961 on Colorado and San Juan River float trips organized by Howard F. Hughes. This presentation is by his son, Steven Hughes, who also photographed on those trips. The slide show will present a sampling of the better rock art at many of those sites. The site locations will be shown on pre-dam topo maps, topo maps showing the full pool elevation and on Google Earth satellite images. The link to the website where they can all be viewed and downloaded will be given: www.glencanyonrockart.org
All 24 of the Rock Art sites displayed in this presentation have been destroyed by the waters of Lake Powell, which began to rise in January, 1963 behind the Glen Canyon Dam. This presentation is not meant to be a catalog of the rock art sites on the rivers. Its purpose is simply to publish the rock art photographs taken on two float trips, one in 1960 from Hite to Kane Creek on the Colorado River and one in 1961 from Mexican Hat on the San Juan River to its confluence with the Colorado River.

The general location of the rock art sites can be viewed on the slide of the Utah State Highway Map.

The photographs of the individual rock art sites are preceded by slides showing their location on a 1950's pre-dam topo map, a 1980's topo map showing the location under full pool level, and by an aerial view showing its underwater location a few months ago.

Howard F. Hughes, of Hillsboro, OR was an avid rock art enthusiast from the mid 1950's until his death in 1967. In 1959 he contacted Harry Alson, a well known Colorado River Guide, about organizing a float trip through Glen Canyon to photograph rock art before it was flooded behind the Glen Canyon Dam. The float trip through Glen Canyon from Hite to Kane Creek took place from April 22 through April 30, 1960. Also on the trip were Emory Strong, author of "Stone Age On The Columbia River" and "Stone Age In The Great Basin"; Dale Ritter, MD, an avid rock art enthusiast from Chico, CA; Don Martin, a rock art enthusiast from Santa Rosa, CA, and Steven H. Hughes, the son of Howard F. Hughes.

The photos shown here were taken by Howard F. Hughes and his son Steven H. Hughes using Kodachrome ASA 12 color slide film, shot with a 35mm Nikon SP Rangefinder camera and a 35mm Zeiss Ikon Contaflex camera. The slides have been stored in complete darkness in a cool location since they were taken. They have been through a projector only a few times. The slides were scanned into jpg format by Steven H. Hughes in March, 2016.
The Lost Rock Art of

Glen Canyon
From Hite to Kane Creek
San Juan River
From Mexican Hat to the confluence
www.GlennCanyonRockArt.org
Smith Fork Bar
from petroglyph wall
The petroglyph wall
Howard F. Hughes at Forgotten Canyon, petroglyph panel to the left.
Harry Aleson leads us up moki steps in Forgotten Canyon.
Emory Strong crests the moki steps
A well looted ruin
Petroglyph panel on cliff face in shade. Note Howard F. Hughes standing to left of shadow.
Where, at 17, I learned not to like slickrock
Gold Dredge “road”
Lake Creek Canyon Rapids
Lake Creek Canyon
Isn’t chalking wonderful?
Who knows what it was before it got chalked.
Harry Aleson
Dale Ritter, MD on Moki steps
Mouth of Escalante River
Looking downstream from the upper end of bar at River Mile 59.5
Looking across from lower end of Meskin Bar
“Newspaper Rock”
This is truly “right side up”
THE END

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