

ORIGINAL

2647-12 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257
June 7, 1996



~~96-002 - 003~~

~~SALT RIVER~~

State of Arizona
Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission
1700 West Washington Street, West Wing
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Ms. Waddell:

In the matter of the navigability of the Salt River from Granite Reef Dam to the Gila River Confluence, I hereby resubmit for the consideration of the Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission the enclosed evidence. This evidence was previously submitted to the Commission on December 16, 1993.

As a recreational boater in Arizona it is of extreme importance to me that my right to recreate on the rivers and streams of our state be preserved and protected, as well as my right to portage rapids or other obstacles which may exist in the river or stream.

Please note the Boating Survey of Central Arizona Paddlers Club members conducted in 1992. As described in their own words several members recreate on the segment of the Salt River from Granite Reef Dam to the Gila River Confluence when water is available in this segment.

Please contact me or Central Arizona Paddlers Club if you require more information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy Lees Riddle".

Dorothy Lees Riddle
(602) 941-6010

Central Arizona Paddlers Club
P. O. Box 45344
Phoenix, Arizona 85064-5344
(602) 271-4012
1996 CAPC President--Paul Michaud--(602) 942-3021

Maricopa County, Lower Salt River
03-005-NAV
4/7/03
Evidence Item No. 003

ORIGINAL **RECEIVED** 6-10-96

SALT RIVER

BEFORE THE
ARIZONA NAVIGABLE STREAMBED ADJUDICATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE) ADMIN. DOCKET NO. 94-1
NAVIGABILITY OF THE SALT RIVER)
[From Granite Reef Dam to the) NOTICE OF APPEARANCE AND
Gila River Confluence]) INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

A. NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF RESPONDENT

Name: DOROTHY LEES RIDDLE
Address: 2407 N. PALOMINO COURT.
CHANDLER, AZ. 85224
Telephone: (602) 963-2030

(Please check Box B and provide the requested information if you intend to participate as a party in the above-captioned matter. See Commission Rule R12-17-108(A)-(C). Please check Box C and provide the requested information if you intend only to testify before the Commission or to file documents with the Commission, or both, but do not want to participate as a party. See Commission Rule R12-17-108(E). If more room is needed to respond, please attach a supplemental statement identified by paragraph number.)

B. APPEARANCE AND INTENT TO PARTICIPATE AS A PARTY

1. The person named in Section A above intends to appear as a party in the above-captioned matter.

If represented:

Attorney Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____

2. Concise statement of position as to whether or not the Salt River was navigable as of February 14, 1912.

Arizona
State Land Department
1616 WEST ADAMS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

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1 3. Concise statement as to the public trust values
2 associated with the Salt River from the Granite Reef
3 Dam to the Gila River confluence if found navigable.
4

5 4. List of witnesses, including address and telephone
6 number, and for each witness a brief summary of the
7 testimony that witness will give.

8 Name: _____
9 Address: _____
10 Telephone: _____

11 Brief summary of testimony: _____
12 _____
13 _____
14 _____

15 Name: _____
16 Address: _____
17 Telephone: _____

18 Brief summary of testimony: _____
19 _____
20 _____
21 _____

22 Name: _____
23 Address: _____
24 Telephone: _____

25 Brief summary of testimony: _____
26 _____
27 _____
28 _____

5. Index of Exhibits to be offered at public hearing
attached and made a part hereof. Two bound and indexed
copies of documentary exhibits have been filed with the
Commission this date.

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C. INTENT TO TESTIFY, FILE DOCUMENTS, OR BOTH, WITHOUT FORMAL APPEARANCE AS A PARTY

1. The person named in Section A above intends to testify before the Commission in the above-captioned matter about: _____

Please notify me of the date and time the Commission will hear testimony from the public.

2. The person named in Section A above is submitting the attached documents for the Commission to consider. (Please briefly identify each document submitted.)

REMARKS TO COMMISSION
SURVEY RESULTS OF CENTRAL ARIZONA PADDLERS CLUB - 1992
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

DATED this 16 day of DECEMBER, 1993.

Dorothy Lee Riddle
(Signature of Party, or Attorney, if represented, or of interested person)

February 14, 1994

Mr. Chairman and Commisioners:

My name is Dorothy Riddle. I have served for the past two years as Conservation Coordinator of the Central Arizona Paddlers Club. Our club was formed in 1987 and today consists of about 150 members who enjoy rafting, kayaking and canoeing the rivers and streams of Arizona and throughout the Southwest. Most of our members are in the Phoenix area, but we also have club members in Tucson, Flagstaff, and other areas of the state. Our adventures frequently take us to the Salt, the Verde, the Gila, and the Colorado. Seasonally, depending on rainfall and snowmelt, we are able to paddle many other streams and rivers in our state. Such has been the case for the last few years. Water conditions have enabled us to paddle reaches which are classified by some as "normally dry". We return from our river trips renewed and refreshed, and thus better able to cope with the stresses of everyday life. We like to "get away from it all". We really love the great outdoors of Arizona. When we are not boating, our club members can be found hiking, climbing, backpacking, biking, hunting or fishing. Often these recreational pursuits occur alongside a river or stream. Aside from the thrill of a whitewater rapid, we also appreciate the solitude, scenery, plant and animal life, geology, history and culture we encounter on our river trips. We believe conservation of these values to be in the public interest and certainly desire to protect these values. Particularly, we wish to protect our access and our right to recreate, and explore for the sake of adventure the rivers and streams of our state. Access to, recreation upon, and conservation of our state's rivers, streams and riparian areas are certainly public trust values worthy of protection.

During the summer months of 1992 our club conducted a survey of its membership to find out what rivers and streams in Arizona our members had boated. Approximately 20% of our membership responded to our survey efforts which are summarized in a listing that has been submitted to the State Land Department and CH2M Hill. Had a larger percentage of our club membership responded, the list of reaches boated would be even longer. The survey indicates that many of our members have boated the Salt River in the area from Granite Reef Dam to the Gila River Confluence. Recent high water years in Arizona have put water into this reach of the Salt for extended periods of time, upstream dam systems notwithstanding. Newspaper articles, television news programs, and so on, attest to the amount of water flowing in the Salt River through the Phoenix Metropolitan area. It is our opinion that since this segment and other reaches can be boated with the boats and equipment existing today, that surely they could have been navigated at the time of statehood with the boats and equipment of that day. (Recall that John Wesley Powell and others had explored the canyons of the Colorado well before 1912.)

Central Arizona Paddlers Club has the following concerns:

1. We are concerned that our right to use the streams and rivers of our state for recreational purposes be protected, as well as our right to portage rapids or other obstacles which may exist in the river or stream.

2. We are concerned that projects which may be authorized to occur in the riverbeds not interfere with our ability to navigate the waterways of our state. We hope that those in charge of such projects recognize not only the right of the public to recreate on the waterways of our State, but ensure that such projects not interfere with the public's access to and safety upon the waterways. We urge that the public be given notice well up-stream of any obstruction in the riverbed which may be associated with such projects.

Central Arizona Paddlers Club intends to follow with interest the progress of the Commission as navigability determinations are made. We urge that the public trust values of access, recreation, and conservation be given high priority in the decision making process.

Thank you.

Dorothy Lees Riddle
2407 N. Palomino Court
Chandler, Arizona 85224
(602) 963-2030

Central Arizona Paddlers Club
Boating Survey of Arizona Rivers
1992

(Approximately 20% of our membership responded to the survey.)

River	Segments our members have boated
Salt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ K&M Mine to Hwy. 60→ Alma School Rd. to Mill Ave. (Mesa/Tempe)Hwy. 60 to Roosevelt Lake→ Granite Reef to McKellips Rd. (Past Tri-City Landfill)Saguaro Lake to Granite Reef (Tuber's Run)Hwy. 60 Bridge to Hwy. 288 Bridge (Bridge to Bridge)Upper SaltLower SaltHorseshoe Bend→ 100% of Salt River including normally dry & lakes→ All Sections→ Country Club Rd. to 35th Ave.→ Source to Phoenix→ Granite Reef to Gilbert Road→ Lower Salt through town→ Upper, Middle, Lower, and In Town
Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Perkinsville to ClarkdaleCamp Verde to ChildsBeasley Flats to ChildsChilds to Horseshoe LakeRio Verde to Salt RiverCamp Verde to Sheep BridgeNeedle Rock to Beeline Hwy.Lower VerdeUpper VerdeCamp Verde to BeasleyNeedle Rock to Salt RiverHorseshoe Lake to SaltAll of Verde from Camp Verde downAll SectionsCamp Verde to Horseshoe LakeClarkdale to Horseshoe LakeBetween Horseshoe and Bartlett and below Bartlett
East Verde	Doll Baby to Verde to Horseshoe Lake
San Pedro	Palominas to Hereford Rd.

Agua Fria

Black Canyon/New River Area
Black Canyon City to above Lake Pleasant

Gila

Gila Box
115 Ave. in Phoenix to Estrella Parkway
91st Ave. in Phoenix (Salt River) to Estrella
Mineral Springs to Ashurst Hayden Dam
Old Bridge (near Clifton) to Safford (Gila Box)
Confluence of San Francisco to Safford
San Carlos Dam to Ashurst Hayden Dam
10 miles above Winkelman to Winkelman
Most of the Gila (dry parts too) through Arizona
Winkelman to Ashurst Hayden Dam
Winkelman to Kearny
Gillespie Dam to Painted Rock Dam
Below San Carlos Dam
Clifton to Solomon, Arizona (Gila Box)
Clifton to Safford
Christmas to Winkelman

San Francisco

New Mexico to Clifton
Clifton to Confluence of Gila

Colorado

Lee's Ferry to Phantom Ranch
Diamond Creek to Pierce's Ferry
Lee's Ferry to Pierce's Ferry
Grand Canyon
Below Hoover Dam
Through Topock Canyon
Hoover Dam to Yuma
Parker to Lake Havasu
Topock to Lake Havasu
Below Hoover Dam (Black Canyon)
Parker Dam to Martinez Lake
Glen Canyon to Lee's Ferry
All Sections

Little Colorado

Blue

Black

Bonita Creek to Black River Crossing
Point of Pines to Salt River
Source to Salt

White

Indian Reservation to K&M Mine Road
White River Crossing to Salt River

Sycamore Creek

Hwy. 87 Bridge to Sugarloaf Mountain

Tonto Creek

Gisela to south of Jake's Corner
Rye Creek to Roosevelt Lake
Gisela to SRP Gauge
Gisela to Roosevelt
Tonto Box
Rye Creek to Jake's Corner

Bonita Creek

Tonto Creek to Black River

Cherry Creek

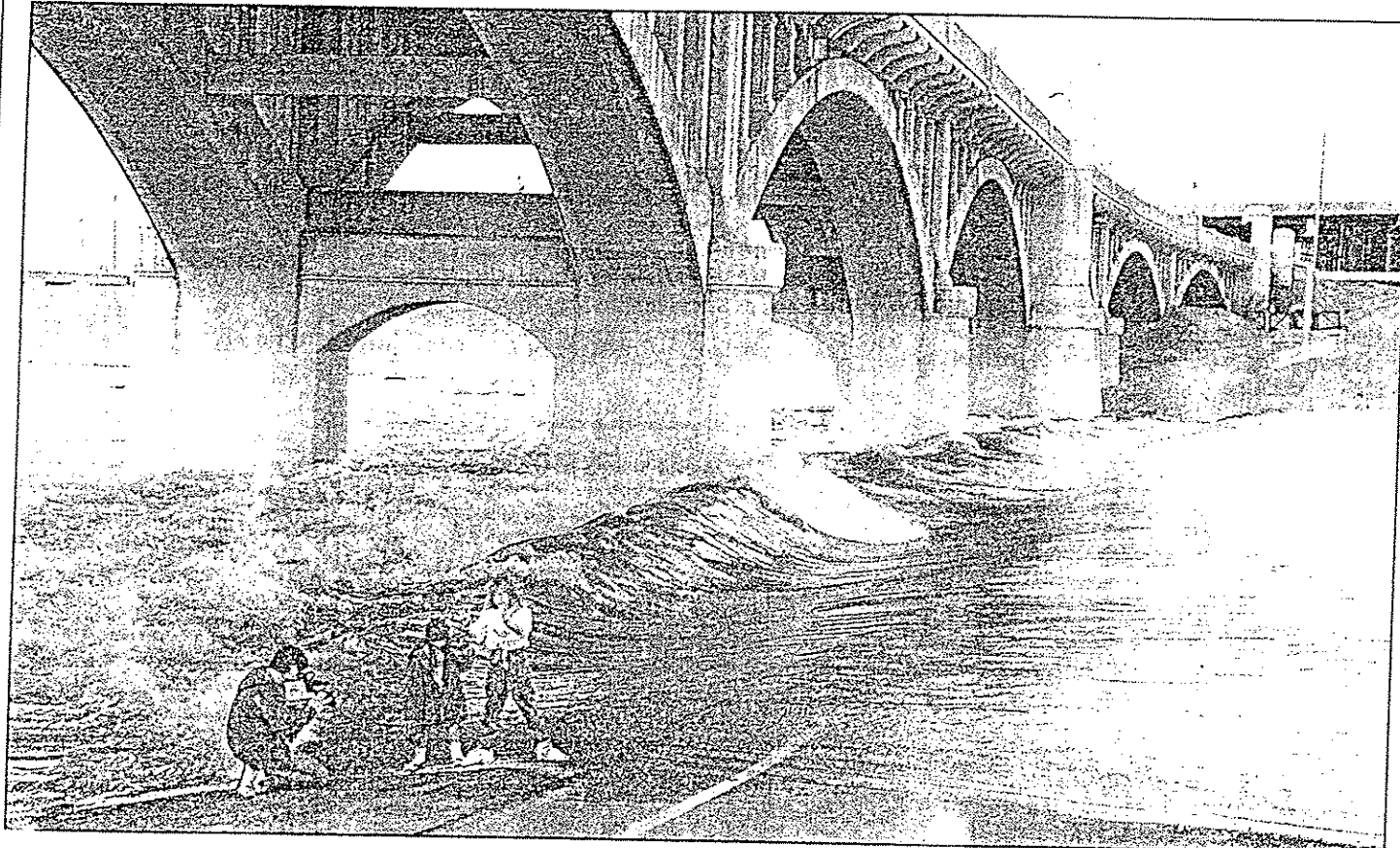
Fish Creek

Burro Creek

Indian Bend Wash

Water under the bridge

2/20/92



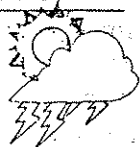
Pat Lynch of Chandler videotapes his daughters Madyson, left, and Morgan at the Mill Avenue bridge in Tempe. The

unusual sight of water in the normally dry Salt River was caused by Salt River Project releases after recent rains.

IRWIN R. DAUGHERTY/Tribune

Forecast

Low tonight:
Near 51
High tomorrow:
About 70
Chance of storm
Details / A12



Weather update
271-5656 #3333

THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

Midday

Thursday

March 5, 1992

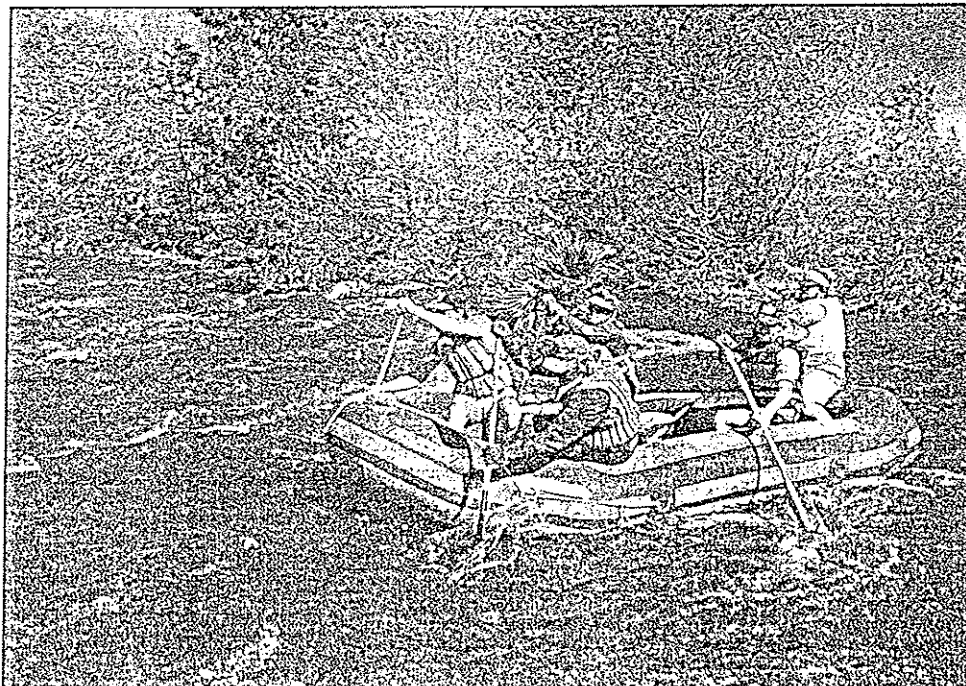
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Volume 112, Number 111

LATE NEWS

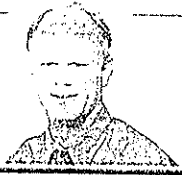
*"This may sound crazy, but can we raft
the Salt River through Phoenix?"*



Russell Gates / THE PHOENIX GAZETTE
A paddle-raft crew led by Clay Baldwin (far right) Street in Phoenix. The rafters put in at 56th Street and floated the river to Seventh Avenue.

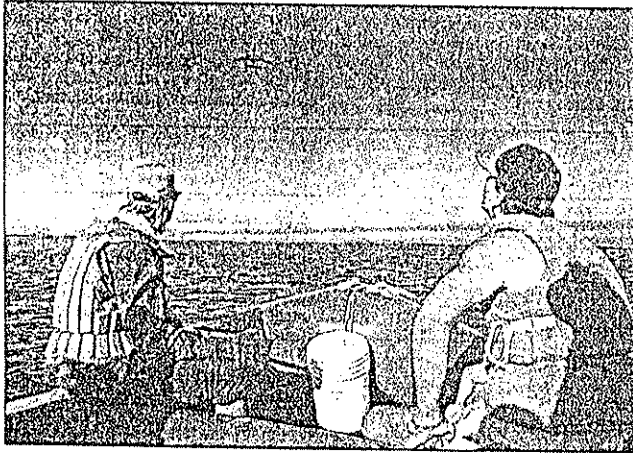
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River Phoenix

I survived Buick Bumper Rapid on urban brown-water voyage



THE PHOENIX GAZETTE
Billy Sims (left) and Dale Stewart watch a plane pass overhead near Sky Harbor International Airport. The Salt River water was about 2 feet deep and flowing at about 3 mph.

Years ago I went to a party and met a rude man who, like myself, argued about virtually anything.

Conversation turned somehow to the Salt River, and I allowed how it would be fun to ride a raft through the middle of Phoenix.

The rude man declared that would be impossible because the Lower Salt has no water. I insisted that the river was once a navigable waterway and could still be sailed in wet years.

This elicited such a spate of condescending laughter that I left, remarking to my wife that I never wanted to encounter that arrogant fellow again. But I have changed my mind. Once more I'd like to meet that jerk and say, "Hey, pinhead, I sailed the Salt through Tempe and Phoenix."

Yes, thanks to a moist winter, SRP has been dumping water through Granite Reef Dam, making conditions perfect for an urban voyage.

See **RIVER**, Page A8

PHOENIX
Ser
for
6-15
PHOENIX

RIVER

From A1

The legalities were in question, however, so I called SRP spokeswoman Terri Morris. She had no idea who owns the river, but suggested I contact Bill Silvey, a fisheries management guy at the Game and Fish Department.

"I don't know who could answer that," he said. "It's such an unusual event when water goes through there."

Silvey directed me to Howard Kopp, legal counsel at the Department of Water Resources, who declared the law on Arizona rivers is a bit murky. The water belongs to the people, but the flood channel belongs to the federal government unless the river was navigable in 1912, in which case it belongs to the state.

"What about rafting it?" I insisted.

Kopp said something like, "Har-rumph," which I interpreted to mean "Yeah, go ahead. Sounds like a great idea."

So I called Clay Baldwin at Salt River Raft Trips and said, "This may sound crazy, but can we raft the Salt River through Phoenix?"

Baldwin, it turns out, is a pump-ho dude undeterred by gravel pits, garbage dumps or unidentified slime. He even brought along pals from the rafting outfit.

Not my first trip

I should interject that this wasn't my first trip down the Lower Salt. Five years ago, while Valley voters were mulling the \$3 billion Rio Salado Project, I hiked 20 miles of riverbed from Mesa to west Phoenix. The Pima Indians kicked me off their reservation. A colony of illegal aliens shared warm beer with me. And I caught a mutant bluegill in a pea-green pool.

I was hoping to raft the same, idyllic stretch. But by last week the flow had dropped to a laconic 1,900 cubic feet per second. Expecting slow water, we shortened the trip and cast off from 56th Street in Tempe, planning to haul out at Seventh Avenue in Phoenix.

It was 8:35 a.m. The sky was blue except over Phoenix, where it was dirty yellow. The water, meanwhile, was brown and 50 degrees. It rolled along, averaging about 3 mph and 2 feet deep.

Baldwin, our skipper, sat in the rear of a 14½-foot raft barking navigational commands and cracking jokes while using an oar to steer or maintain discipline.

"Forward paddle," he'd call. "Stop. Left paddle. Rear paddle. No splashing."

Not that paddling was all that important. Tempe has bulldozed a flat, wide channel through river

"There's a jagged piece of metal . . . We'll call that Buick Bumper Rapid."

rock. It is not what you'd call a pristine riparian area, but at least the water doesn't meander.

Our professional crew, accustomed to scenery and whitewater, grew bored and began reminiscing about stupid things people say on raft trips. Their favorites: "Do the rocks go all the way to the bottom?" And, "Will we come out where we begin?"

Near the Hohokam Expressway, there was general agreement that a Jolly Roger flag was sadly lacking. We floated past several submerged tires. Jet bellies soared overhead from Sky Harbor. A couple of mallards took wing.

Whitewater ahead!

Finally, someone observed a ripple ahead. Baldwin soberly judged it to be a Level 1 rapid and, as we scraped bottom on a shoal, began singing: "If not for the courage of the fearless crew, the Minnow would be lost."

Near the Maricopa Freeway overpass I pulled out my fishing rod and began casting a spinner. There weren't any fish, but I snagged a rock and the lure popped loose, creating a crew hazard and a welcome stir of adrenaline.

At the 24th Street bridge we encountered rough water — Level 1.5 at least. "Uh-oh, a sleeper," Baldwin said, using rafter jargon to describe a treacherously hidden object. Then, as our vessel began spinning in a whirlpool, he cried out, "Forward paddle. We got the back-eddy blues."

The excitement was such that Baldwin became giddy. "Cool, man. This is marketable. I know it is."

Someone decided to name the chute "24th Street Rapid," starting a trend so that, with one exception, all rapids thereafter were dubbed for the nearest bridge.

The exception was at a blind bend near 16th Street. "There's probably a jagged piece of metal around that corner," Baldwin joked. Sure enough, a twisted automobile bumper protruded from the ripples. "We'll call that Buick Bumper Rapid," he decided.

Next we encountered a gravel mining operation. A trestle over

the river carried rocks on a conveyer belt from quarry to crusher. A man waved, the first human we'd seen in a city of 1 million.

Scenery? Forget it

I haven't mentioned scenery to this point because there wasn't any. Just rocks, water and trash. But at Seventh Street we entered The Swamp. Red-wing blackbirds scattered. Bushes protruded from the water, each decorated with paper and plastic trash like hobo Christmas trees.

We also observed a curious liquid flowing into the river from a nearby industrial complex. Baldwin proved his leadership mettle once more, exclaiming: "Ooh, I wonder what's flowing in here. Uh, don't wanna know. Wouldn't be prudent."

Far ahead, a man appeared along the bank, then vanished like a phantom. We began noticing cardboard shacks and tents. There was a sensation of being watched. And I requested to go ashore as we neared the the domicile of Sergio Escarsega, a 36-year-old homeless man.

Sergio seemed rather confused by the sudden appearance of a man in swim trunks and neoprene booties.

"Sabes Ingles?" I inquired. "What? Oh, yeah. Sure," he said.

Sergio's home is a cave along the bank. The walls are laced with old tires and other garbage — remnants of an old dump. Bedding lay on the dirt beside a bucket of food.

Sergio said he came to the river a month ago from a halfway house. "Weed, crack and alcohol," he said. "It'll really screw you up. It almost took my life away."

"I got my Bible and I got the radio," he added, gesturing to both. "I pray a lot and listen to music. Classic rock."

Sergio said high water wiped out a lot of huts. Only a few men remain from the homeless village. "Most of the guys know each other," he added. "We watch each other's backs."

"Do you drink from the river?" Sergio's eyes flashed at the insult. "Are you crazy? No way, Jose."

The voyage resumed through a marshy maze beneath Central Avenue and past more quarries. A motorist crossing the Seventh Avenue bridge honked his appreciation.

We survived the Seventh Avenue Rapid. Then, under the stern watch of an industrial security guard, we headed for shore — and civilization.