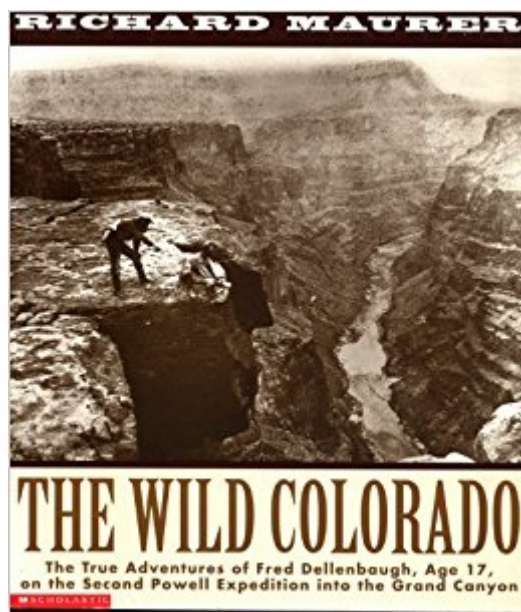




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# The Wild Colorado: The True Adventures Of Fred Dellenbaugh, Age 17, On The Second Powell Expedition Into The Grand Canyon



## Synopsis

Recounts the adventures of seventeen-year-old Fred Dellenbaugh, the youngest member of the second Powell expedition, which explored the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon in 1871-2.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9-A fascinating account of Major John Wesley Powell's 16-month journey down the Colorado River, as seen through the eyes of a teenaged crew member. The author traces Dellenbaugh's trip from his hometown of Buffalo, NY, when he first read about Powell in 1869, until 1873, when he created the first map of the Grand Canyon and the territory around it. The young man joined the team as a crewman, but he was asked by Powell to document the voyage with pictures and maps. This artwork is used to illustrate the book, along with remarkable black-and-white photographs taken on the expedition. The trip is truly an exciting one, full of mishaps and near disasters. Dellenbaugh continued traveling and writing throughout his lifetime, even producing a book about his time on the Colorado. As he did in *Rocket! How a Toy Launched the Space Age* (Crown, 1995), Maurer offers a well-crafted, exciting book about exploration and adventure. Carol Fazioli, The Brearley School, New York City Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nice book and clear story. Written for young people which I didn't see, but I enjoyed it anyway.

Very happy, no issues exactly what was described

Richard Maurer's new book chronicles Powell's second expedition through the eyes, words, and illustrations of Fred Dellenbaugh - a 17-year-old boy from Buffalo, NY who, along with some rowing experience on the turbulent Niagara River and a facility for drawing, had the gumption to make his dream come true. This story is very well written and quite compelling and will appeal to those who love adventure stories set in the Old West. The photographs and illustrations are remarkable. My hats off to the author!

I read Dellenbaugh's reprinted "Canyon Voyage" (the much abbreviated title) as a young man in the flatlands of western Kansas in the 1960's. The romance of the period of Dellenbaugh's youth, and the Powell Expeditions in particular (1869-72), stimulated in me an ongoing interest in the history of the region. I have read the edited and published diaries of most of the participants of the two expeditions, and continue to invest in an array of scholarly and coffee table books that even remotely address the subject. My annual crossings of the Colorado and Dirty Devil rivers to pursue research interests in southeastern Utah never fail to regenerate my own wish to have participated in such an epic adventure. Thus, when I saw the notice of publication of Maurer's book about Dellenbaugh on the second Powell expedition, with the expression in the title "the true adventures," I was expecting something on the order of D.D. Fowler's book about Jack Hiller's, another expedition participant. That is, a pretty serious biography of the man and a pretty faithful reproduction of the daily diary kept during his time in the field. Well, it might be the former, but it is certainly not the latter. Unlike the other expeditioners who kept diaries, Dellenbaugh's original diary has never been published. Perhaps this is because his 1908 "Canyon Voyage" was a timeline-based (albeit compressed) narrative and researchers may have believed there was nothing more of value in the original diary. While Maurer read the diaries of all the participants, including Dellenbaugh's, as well as Dellenbaugh's "Canyon Voyage" and the earlier "Romance of the Colorado River," Maurer's timeline is even more compressed than Dellenbaugh's. Consequently the book lacks the rich detail of Dellenbaugh's diary and earlier publications. For example, unlike the present book, the consecutive daily diary entries of "Looked for the Major today but of course he did not come; carried the rations over," "Looked for the Major again," and "Still waiting," conveys a real sense of frustration at being in the same camp, on the bank of the Colorado, day after day, laying up under a boat to avoid the oppressive August heat, with nothing to do, waiting for the Major and Prof to come in so the party can continue the trip down the river through the Grand Canyon. Maurer acknowledged that in the writing of the book he "sometimes resorted to the methods of historical

fiction to flesh out some of the stories" and that "footnotes would be out of place in a book like this." Thus despite having the best possible materials at hand from which to draw, this book was never intended as a scholarly work. In that context, the writing was a success. Maurer did locate some great historical photographs and drawings not published elsewhere, and that alone is an important contribution. More than that, though, the book was a really entertaining read. I can well imagine some person, like me once, never having heard of either Powell or Dellenbaugh, picking up the book and just marveling at what they did. And, interest aroused, they have an avocation.

good product . he love it, Light weight, super sharp, looks great. These shears are very durable and made of high quality material. good product with high quality.

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