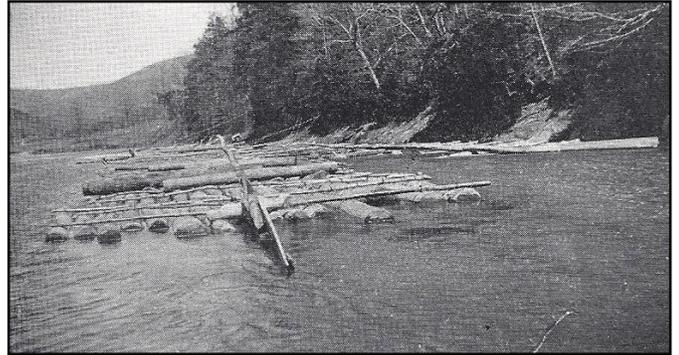


Herm Hoops

Herm Hoops' grandparents were a rugged and independent people who made their homes on the wild, heavily timbered, steep mountains along the Beaverkill and East Branch of the Delaware River. Those "Delaware County Indians" lived on small subsistence farms, hunting and trapping and cutting timber. In the spring my then-young grandfather, like his fathers before him, supplemented their meager incomes by driving the log rafts down the Beaverkill and Delaware to near Trenton, and at times Philadelphia. A trip could last for weeks and it was a dangerous profession. The log rafts were often over two-hundred feet long and sixty feet wide, with one or more layers of logs piled on top, pegged together by logs running crosswise. It was a rough and tumble, dangerous way to make a living, but was better than working the high iron and water tunnels in New York City, and it makes today's river running seem a child's play.



Herm's life has always been associated with water: from bucolic farm ponds and awe-inspiring rivers to the endless ocean, and he's always had an interest in history. He is the son of Vermont farmers, and grew up on a large dairy cattle and Morgan horse farm. He attended the University of Vermont, and taught Forestry in Northern Vermont.

Herm has been running rivers for over 50 years. In 1972 Herm left Vermont and headed West for the better part of a year to run rivers, any rivers he ran across. In 1975 he began a career with the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His specialty is looking at the natural world from a unique perspective.... one of self-discovery. He retired from Dinosaur National Monument in 1996, but he has continued following his love of rivers as a guide, naturalist, historian, and he is proactive in protecting the river canyons of the Colorado Plateau. The rivers have been good to him, and perhaps, he has been good to them.

Herm and his wife Valerie live in Jensen, Utah.

