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Lake Powell

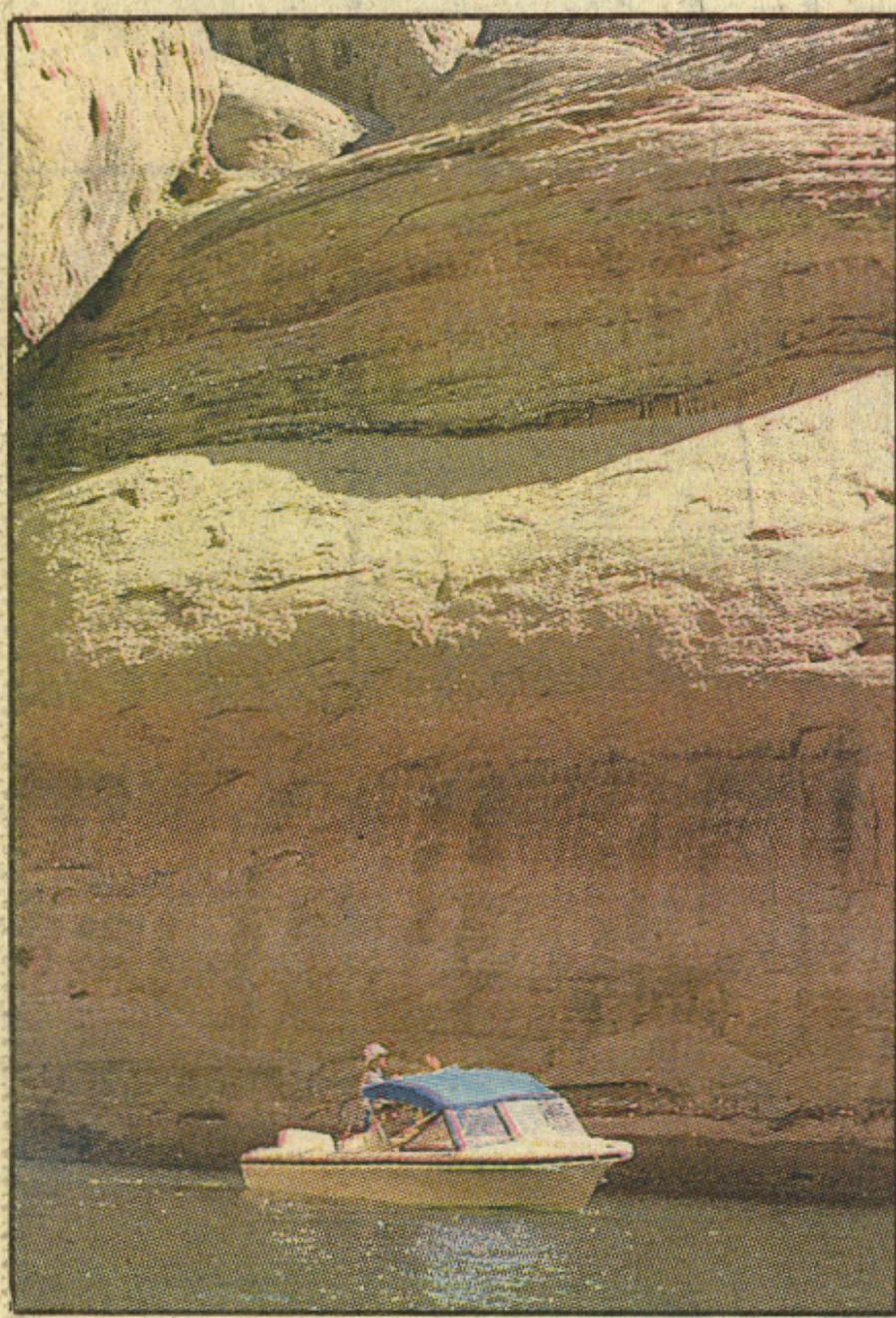
■ A houseboat is the perfect
■ way to relax and explore

By Gerry Wingenbach
Special to the Review-Journal

Flying north out of Phoenix the scenery unfolds like a Zane Grey western — desert sage, red rock towers, noble saguaro cactus and even the Grand Canyon.

Our destination is Page, Ariz., gateway to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Lake Powell — the place in the desert to houseboat.

Multicolored towers, tapestried walls of half-sunk canyons and the shimmer of brassy waters under the sun. Such is Lake Powell.



Many vacationers rent a powerboat to use for exploring and fishing.

Fresh-caught bass in the morning, boating into crooked little grottoes that wind back into the underworld of stone, waterskiing along the reflections of ancient pastel sandstone, cruising into old layers of the earth's crust, campfires and glittering Orion blazing overhead while falling stars slash across the sky, a great horned owl calling up the wind. This too is Lake Powell.

Stretching from northern Arizona into southern Utah, 300 kilometers (200 miles) long with more than 3,000 kilometers (2,000 miles) of twisting, playful shoreline, Lake Powell is a ruggedly scenic water-filled landscape of the great American Southwest, created in 1963 by the controversial completion of Glen Canyon dam.

Submerged 300-400 meters (1,000 feet) beneath spreading waters lies the old channel of the Colorado River, the original Glen Canyon, a once lovely wonderland of grottoes, alcoves, Indian ruins, cottonwood groves and hanging gardens of ivy.

They say the current of the ancient Colorado River continues to flow hundreds of meters down, a ghost river still bound for the Sea of Cortes and the Pacific Ocean, a thousand kilometers away.

But the flooding of Glen Canyon has made the inaccessible accessible. It also served as the spark plug that ignited a generation of environmentalists back in a time when the Sierra Club was the only cry for the wild.

The absolute best way to enjoy Lake Powell is from the comfortable and sun-drenched quarters of a houseboat. More than 300 of these easy-to-handle floating recreation vehicles are available to

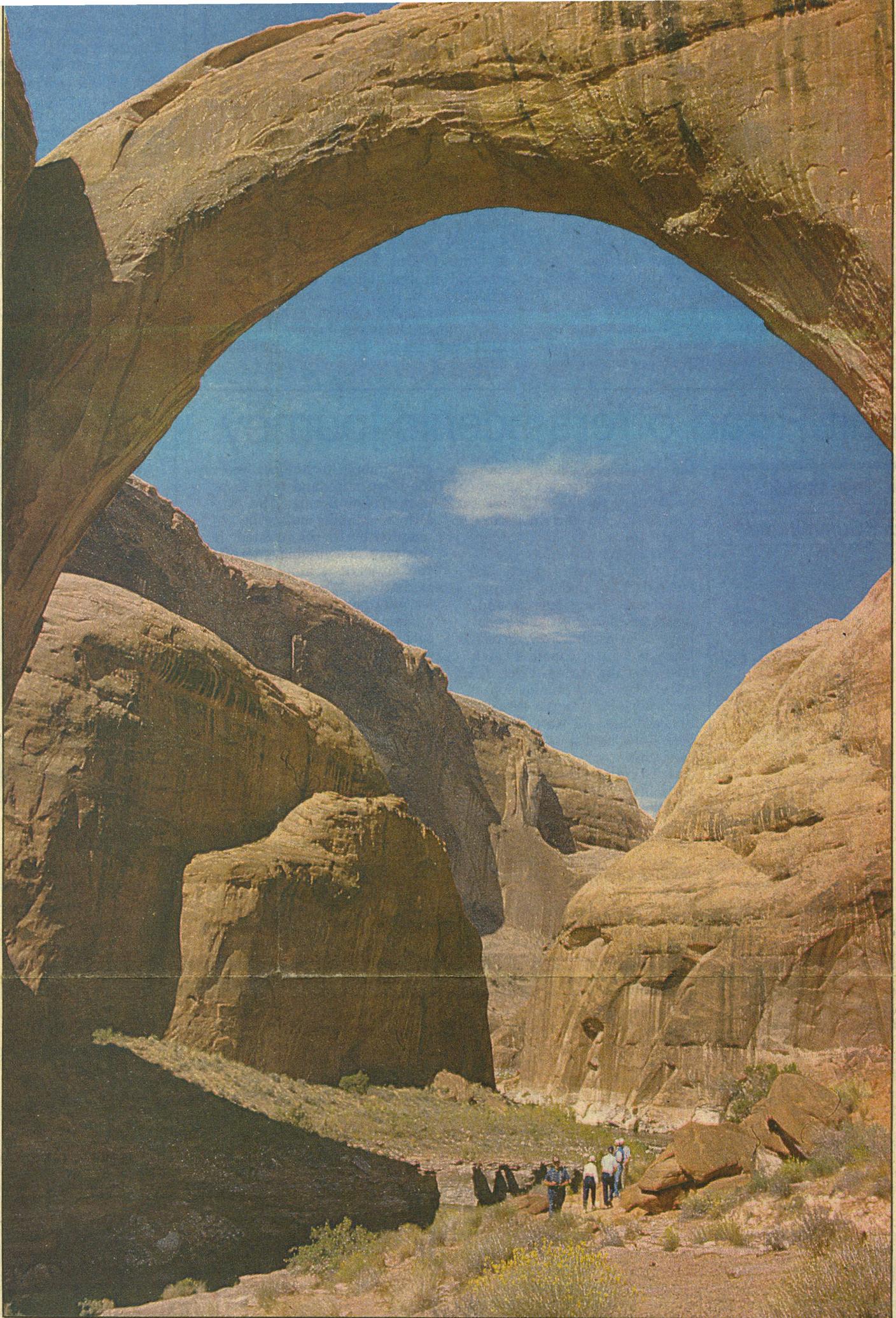
rent at the Wahweap Marina near Page. Many vacationers also rent a powerboat to tow along and use for exploring, fishing or skiing.

Houseboating is a delightful family vacation, a private getaway for couples,

or a pleasure shared with friends. Can you think of a better way to explore caves, inlets and secluded fine sandy beaches on one of the world's largest manmade lakes? And teeming with bass and trout, to boot. After a rain, ephem-

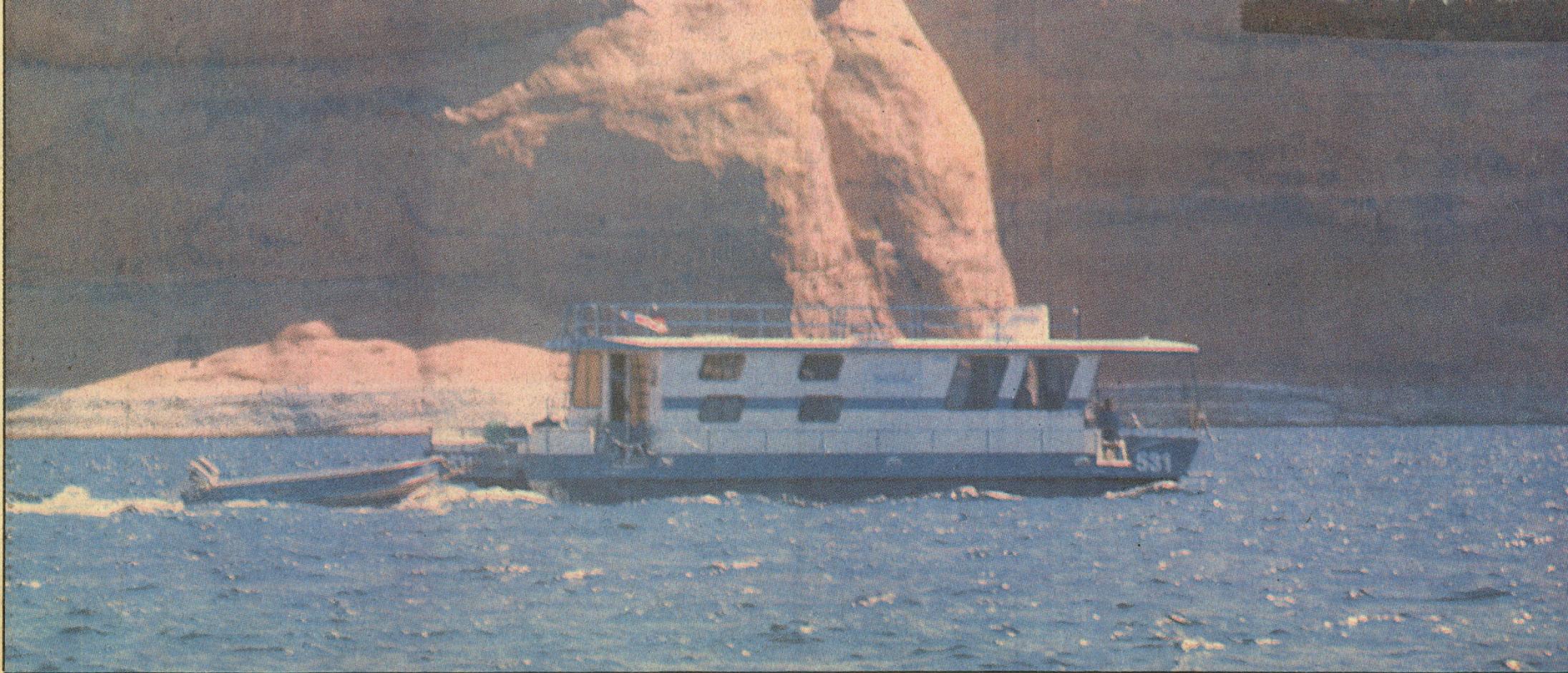
eral waterfalls pour down from high ledges. The winters are warmed by desert sun while the summer temperatures remain considerably cooler than the surrounding plateau.

Among the stunning geological sights surrounding Lake Powell is Rainbow Bridge, the largest natural stone bridge in the world. Carved over centuries by streams flowing down from Navajo Indian lands, the soaring ribbon of salmon-pink sandstone is considered sacred ground by the Indians. It's also believed that the tapestrylike walls of the surrounding canyons provided the inspiration for Navajo rugs.



Gerry Wingebach

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