

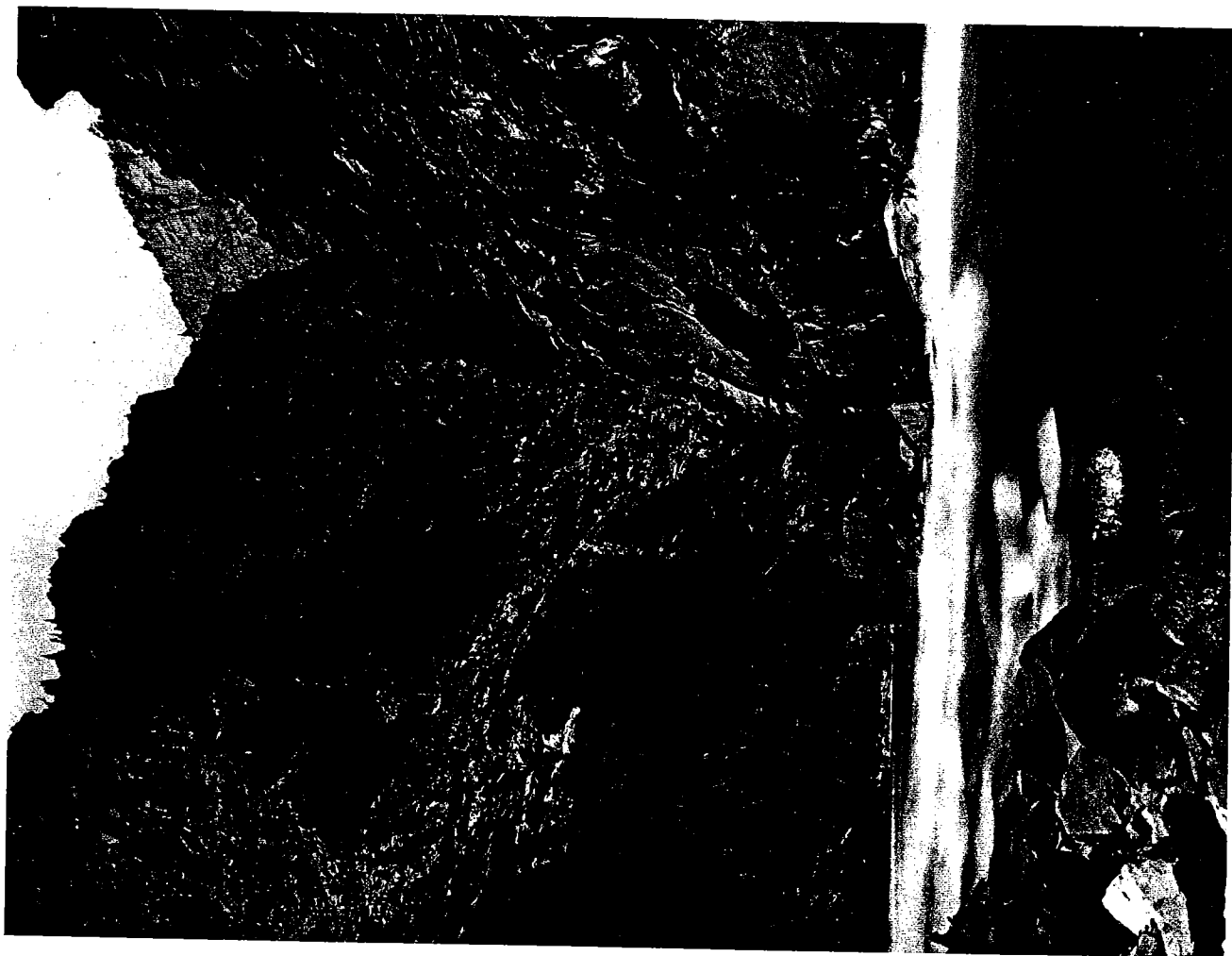
Canyon of Lodore

Camera Station 601

These pictures were taken at Triplet Falls from the east bank of the river. The view is downstream, across the lowermost of the three rapids. Our camera station was located precisely in relation to the pile of foreground boulders, which today is obscured by box elders. Almost all the rocks are in exactly the same positions today as when Beaman photographed them, although the water was then four to five feet higher and covered more of them.

Most of the foreground boulders are dark-reddish-brown quartzite of the Uinta Mountain Group, with a few light-gray limestone boulders, probably from rocks of Mississippian age, scattered among them. The darker cliffs in the middle distance on both sides of the river are Uinta Mountain quartzite. The sunlit cliff along the skyline, framed by the nearer canyon walls, is Lodore Formation.

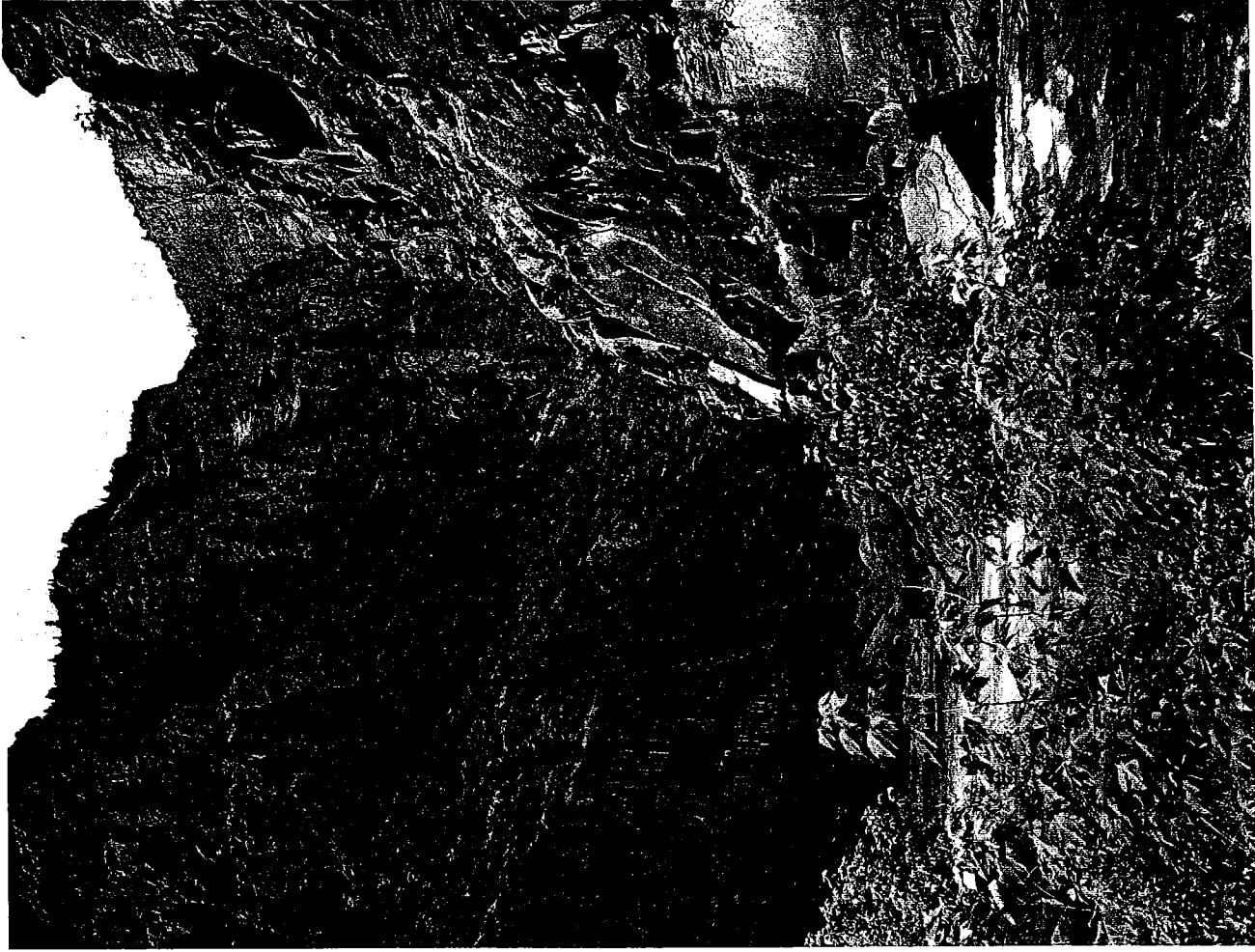
Most features of the canyon walls today are identical with those in the Beaman photograph. However, one light area in our picture, high on the canyon wall slightly to the right of center, may be the source of a post-1871 rockslide. Near the river, the drapery patterns of desert varnish on the cliff to the left of center appear identical today with those shown in Beaman's picture. Prominent Douglas fir and pine trees along the skyline occupy the



June 22, 1871, 10:00 A.M.

same positions but have changed shape. The juniper framed by the overhang on the upper right canyon wall has grown considerably.

The figure reclining against a rock at the extreme left in the 1871 picture is probably Clem Powell. His journal for June 22 says, "The Major, Professor, and Captain started out for an all day's climb while Beaman and myself went down to the river to take views of as grand scenery as the sun ever shone on. Took seven views of Triplet Falls and vicinity, I being in some of them."



July 22, 1968

Canyon of Lodore South 7 1/2' quadrangle, Colorado

Yampa River Canyon

Camera Station 649

These pictures were taken from the south bank of the Yampa River at the foot of Warm Springs Cliff, directly opposite the mouth of Warm Springs Draw. (We found a good flow of water from springs in the area.) The view is across and upriver (to the east), showing the promontory behind Gardner's Cabin. An open, park-like area on the opposite side of the river, out of sight to the left, was named Grizzly Park by Powell but is called Warm Springs Cedars today.

The promontory is composed of the upper part of the Morgan Formation of Pennsylvanian age. The peak just behind and to its left is Weber Sandstone, which also forms the distant bright cliff framed by the canyon walls. The base of the Weber is a little below the alcove framed by the shadow and the box elders. The visible part of the dark cliff on the right is Morgan Formation.

This camera station is the site of one of the most sudden, dramatic changes in the canyons that human beings have ever witnessed. One night in early June 1965, some campers at Warm Springs were alarmed by a flash flood in Warm Springs Draw. It deposited a fan of very coarse boulders on the right bank of the draw, just upstream from its mouth. This fan forced the Yampa against its left bank at the foot of Warm

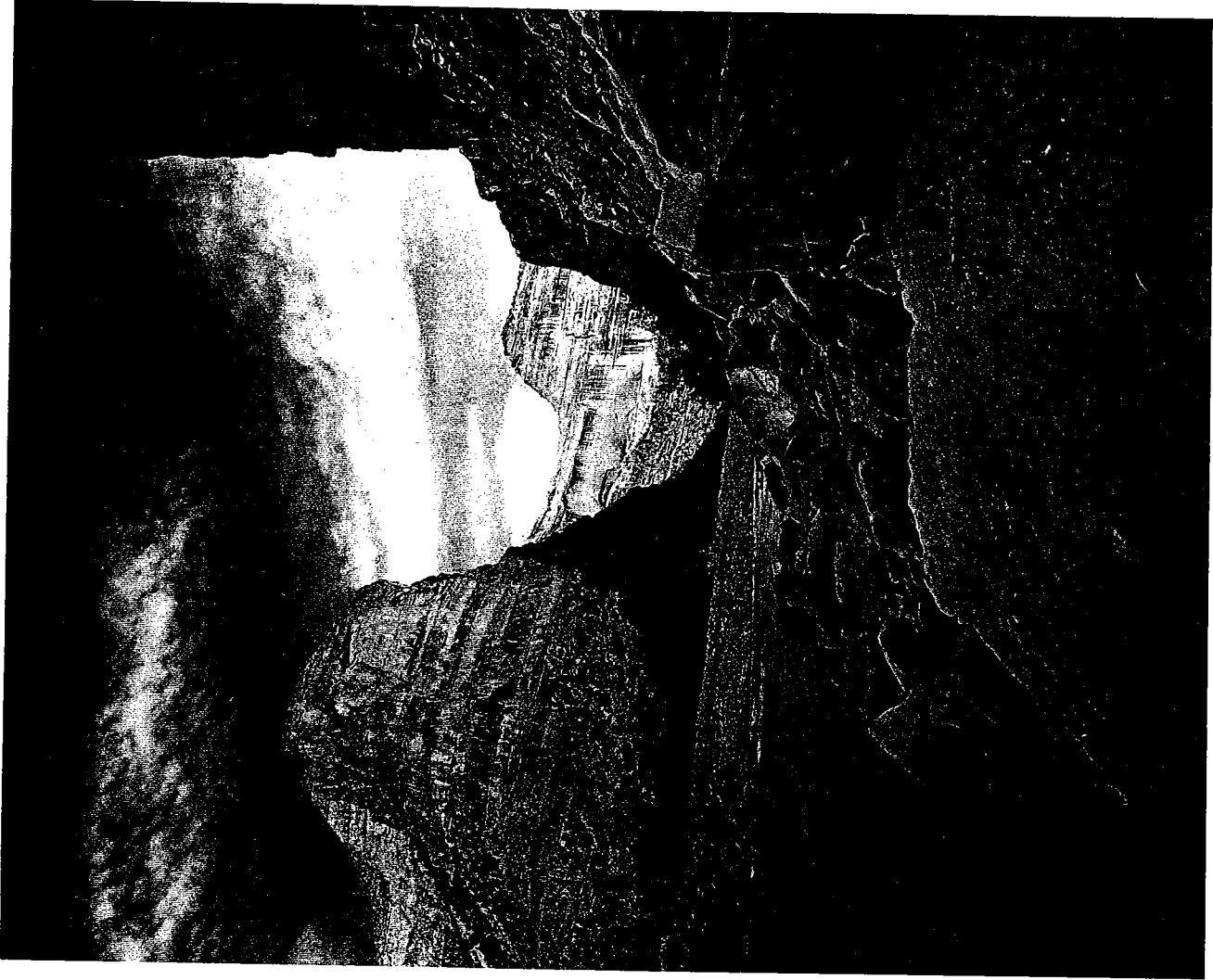


June 27, 1871, late afternoon

Springs Cliff and completely changed the character of Warm Springs Rapid. The following day, a professional boatman lost his life in the transformed rapids.

The river has since cut away part of the fan and scoured out the left bank. All the foreground rocks are gone, including the huge one behind Powell's chair. The exact camera site could not be occupied because it is now in the river, about ten feet from the bank. Stephens's photograph shows part of the recent fan across the river.

No obvious changes were observed in the distant background.



July 24, 1968

Canyon of Lodore South 7 1/2' quadrangle, Colorado

