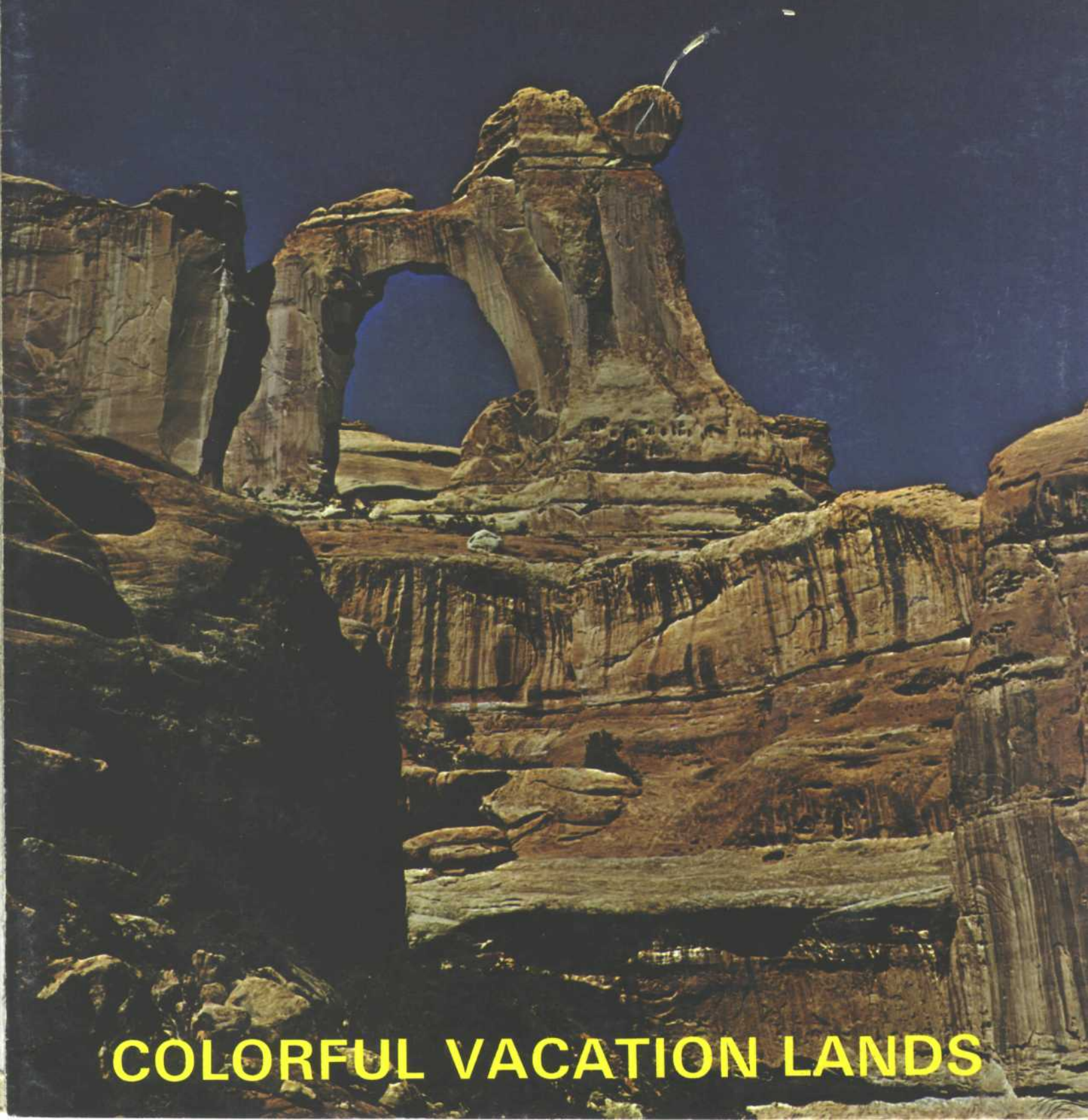


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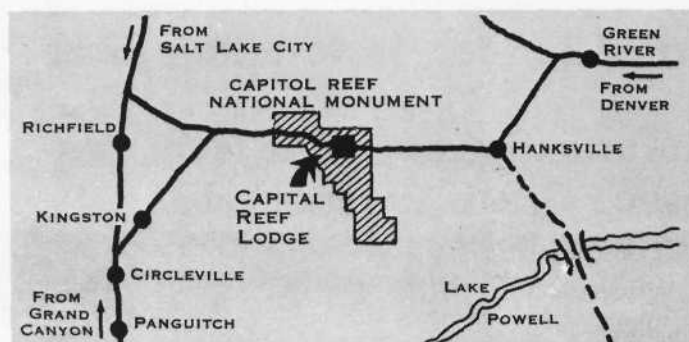
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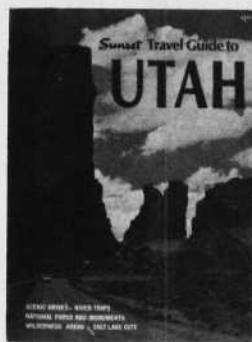
ROUGH RIDING by Dick Cepek and Walt Wheelock. Two veteran travelers have compiled an excellent book on how to drive and survive in the back country. Although based on driving through Baja California, the information is applicable to all areas of the West. Strongly recommended for both amateurs and veterans. Paperback, 36 pages, \$1.00.

LOST MINES OF ARIZONA by Harold Weight. Covers the Lost Jabonero, lost mines of the Trigos, Buried Gold of Bicuner and others of southwestern Arizona. Paperback, \$2.00.

GHOSTS OF THE GLORY TRAIL by Nell Murbarger is a fast moving chronicle of Western boom-camp and bonanza. Rich in human interest as well as authentic history, this book covers ghost towns of Nevada, western Utah and eastern California. Hardcover, 291 pages. Price \$6.75.

LOST MINES OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST by John D. Mitchell. The first of Mitchell's lost mine books is now available after having been out of print for years. Reproduced from the original copy and containing 54 articles based on accounts from people Mitchell interviewed. He spent his entire adult life investigating reports and legends of lost mines and treasures of the Southwest. Hardcover, illustrated, 175 pages, \$7.50.

MEET THE SOUTHWEST DESERTS by Philip Welles. Lots of good photos and easy-to-read text about cacti, birds, reptiles, and desert wildlife. Paperback. \$1.50.



TRAVEL GUIDE TO UTAH

By the EDITORS of SUNSET BOOKS

Just published, this is a complete and up-to-date travel guide on the Beehive State. The editors have divided the state into sections, each of which contains detailed information on what the traveler should see, wear, photograph and where to stay or camp. Special features include rockhounding, Indian dances, trees, rocks, etc. Well illustrated with excellent maps. Large 8 x 11 format, heavy paperback, 80 pages.

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LOST DESERT BONANZAS by Eugene Conrotto. Brief resumes of lost mine articles printed in back issues of DESERT Magazine, by a former editor. Hardcover, 278 pages. \$7.00.

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LOST MINES & BURIED TREASURES ALONG THE OLD FRONTIER by John D. Mitchell. The second of Mitchell's books on lost mines which was out-of-print for many years is available again. Many of these appeared in DESERT Magazine years ago and these issues are no longer available. New readers will want to read these. Contains the original map first published with the book and one pinpointing the areas of lost mines. Mitchell's personal research and investigation has gone into the book. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$7.50.

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NEVADA GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS by Stanley W. Paher. Covering all of Nevada's 17 counties, Paher has documented 575 mining camps, many of which have been erased from the earth. The book contains the greatest and most complete collection of historic photographs of Nevada ever published. This, coupled with his excellent writing and map, creates a book of lasting value. Large 9x11 format, 700 photographs, hardcover, 492 pages, \$15.00.

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FOUR WHEEL DRIVE HANDBOOK by James T. Crow and Cameron Warren. Packed into this volume is material gathered from actual experience and presented in a detailed manner so it can easily be followed and understood. Highly recommended for anyone interested in back country driving. Paperback, illustrated 96 pages, \$2.50.

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CONTENTS

FEATURES

UTAH! INSTANT IMPACT STATE!	10	E. C. Howard
FOUR-WHEELING ON A CINDER CONE	12	Bill Knyvett
GEM FIELDS IN THE SAN ANTONIOS	14	Mary Frances Strong
ESCAPE TO ESCALANTE	17	Little-known Recreation Area
IN A BUGGY TO A BRIDGE	20	Jack Pepper
LOST SAN JUAN RIVER GOLD	23	George A. Thompson
LAKE POWELL—FISHIN' AND FUN	26	Jack Pepper
A CANYON CALLED MULEY TWIST	28	Oscar Olson
GRAND CANYON BY HELICOPTER	32	Bill Knyvett
CANYONLANDS COUNTRY	34	Jack Pepper
MOAB ON THE MOVE	40	Entrance to Scenic Wonderlands
CANYONS FROM KAYENTA	42	Bill Knyvett
DRIFTING DOWN THE COLORADO	44	Jack Sheppard
UTAH'S GREAT COMB RIDGE	46	E. C. Howard
TONOPAH—A TOWN WITH A SILVER LINING	50	Mary Frances Strong

DEPARTMENTS

A PEEK IN THE PUBLISHER'S POKE	6	William Knyvett
BOOK REVIEWS	8	Jack Pepper
RAMBLING ON ROCKS	60	Glenn and Martha Vargas
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	66	Reader's Comments
CALENDAR OF WESTERN EVENTS	66	Club Activities

ELTA SHIVELY, *Executive Secretary*

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THE COVER:

Although Angel Arch is one of the largest natural rock formations in the world—190 feet high with a span of 160 feet—visitors to Utah's Canyonlands National Park are more awed by the majestic beauty of "The Angel" as, with folded wings, she looks down on Nature's creations below. Photo by Jack Pepper.

EDITORIAL, CIRCULATION AND ADVERTISING OFFICES: 74-109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, California 92260. Telephone Area Code 714 346-8144. Listed in Standard Rate and Data. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: United States, Canada and Mexico; 1 year, \$5.00; 2 years, \$9.50; 3 years \$13.00. Other foreign subscribers add \$1.00 U.S. currency for each year. See Subscription Order Form in this issue. Allow five weeks for change of address and send both new and old addresses with zip codes. DESERT Magazine is published monthly. Second class postage paid at Palm Desert, California and at additional mailing offices under Act of March 3, 1879. Contents copyrighted 1971 by DESERT Magazine and permission to reproduce any or all contents must be secured in writing. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs WILL NOT BE RETURNED unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

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A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

THIS ISSUE of DESERT Magazine expounds some of the most colorful, from the standpoint of both color and history, parts of the West.

From the mighty Colorado River at Moab to the Grand Canyon we have tried to package an informative issue displaying the various ways this wonderland can be enjoyed. We hope it will be of great assistance in planning your vacation, and it doesn't matter *when* your vacation is scheduled. Most people do not realize that the areas covered operate year-round and some of the best fishing on Lake Powell and the streams of Utah is in the fall and winter months.

For those who want a fun-time over the Memorial Day weekend, the DESERT Safari to Tonopah should fill the bill.

For those planning the Tonopah trip, be sure to see next month's article on the *five* ghost mining camps in the area complete with map. The newsstand buyer can pick up a copy when he reaches Tonopah.

Due to page limitations, two of our regular contributors are missing this month: K. L. Boynton's nature story and Hans Baerwald's *Desert Life* will be back with us in June.

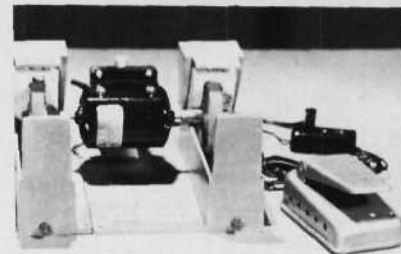
The increased usage of wilderness areas in California has brought about new controls by the Forest Service effective this year. In order to preserve the wilderness and assure that these areas do not turn into mass recreation districts, all visitors will be required to obtain permits before entering wildernesses.

Eventually it is expected that the wilderness will be available on a reservation-only basis.

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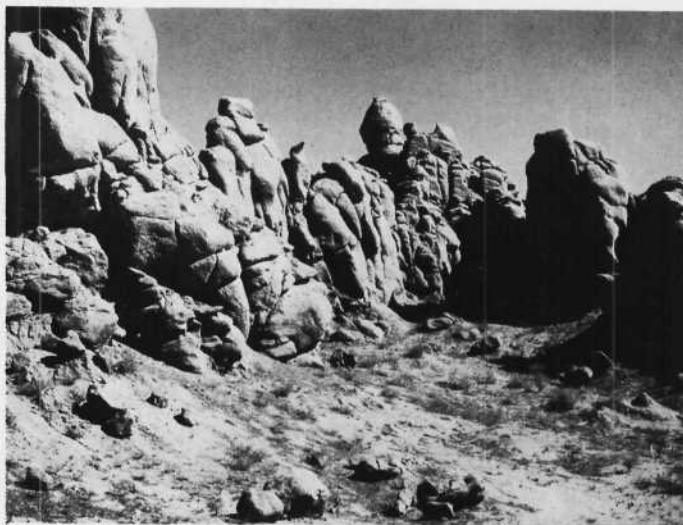
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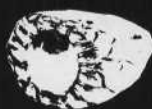
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Book Reviews

by Jack Pepper

THE OVERLAND STAGE TO CALIFORNIA AND THE PONY EXPRESS

By Frank A. Root

Long out-of-print since first published in 1901, this large book is both a first-hand account and a detailed history of the overland stages which connected the East and the West during the period when it took a month to cross the continent.

That is, it took a month if passengers and stage hands did not succumb to Indians, road agents (later called highway robbers), drowning, heat, freezing or just plain exhaustion before they reached San Francisco.

Actually, the overland stages' primary functions were to carry mail; but the economy-minded Federal government in Washington would not subsidize (they probably didn't even know the meaning of that modern term re public carriers) the private companies who obtained their contracts through competitive bids.

As a result the overland stages carried not only mail, but gold from Wells Fargo, freight and passengers.

Since most overland stages carried a maximum of six to eight passengers, there

wasn't much income from this source—even if it cost "one hundred dollars in gold" for a one-way ticket.

The Overland Stage to California was written by Frank A. Root, a newspaperman who abandoned the Fourth Estate for two years to become a "traveling mail agent." From 1863 to 1865, he made 32 overland stage trips between Atchison, Kansas and Denver, Colorado.

Root's book is not only an account of the overland stages and their crews "who seemed to have the spirit that an army does in battle" to reach their destination, but of the history of this dramatic era of the settlement of the West.

This is not a book you read in bed and hold with one hand. It is a 9 x 11 format, hard cover, and about the size of a dictionary. Heavy stock, full-page artist illustrations, two 1800 maps, and an up-to-date index are included in the 645-page volume. \$15.00.

TRAVEL GUIDE TO UTAH

By Editors of Sunset Books

Covering an area of approximately 85,000 square miles, Utah contains three national parks, eight national monuments—of which Capitol Reef and Arches will soon be national parks—a national historic site, nine national forests and two national recreation areas.

Within the state is every type and kind of recreation imaginable, plus being a tremendous workshop for geologists, archeologists and anthropologists. It attracts hunters and fishermen from throughout the United States who hike through its forests and fish in its hundreds of lakes and streams.

The Utah Chamber of Commerce calls it the "Wonderful World of Color."

The main areas of the southeastern part of the Beehive State are covered in this issue. For a complete picture of the entire state, we recommend Sunset Books' *Travel Guide to Utah*, which can be used as a reference book or as a guide during trips through the state.

The editors have divided Utah into various sections and have presented special features such as rockhounding, trees, rock formations, Indian dances, etc. It lists all information needed by tourists, along with maps and mileage. Large Sunset 8 x 11 format, heavy paperback, well illustrated, 80 pages, \$1.95.

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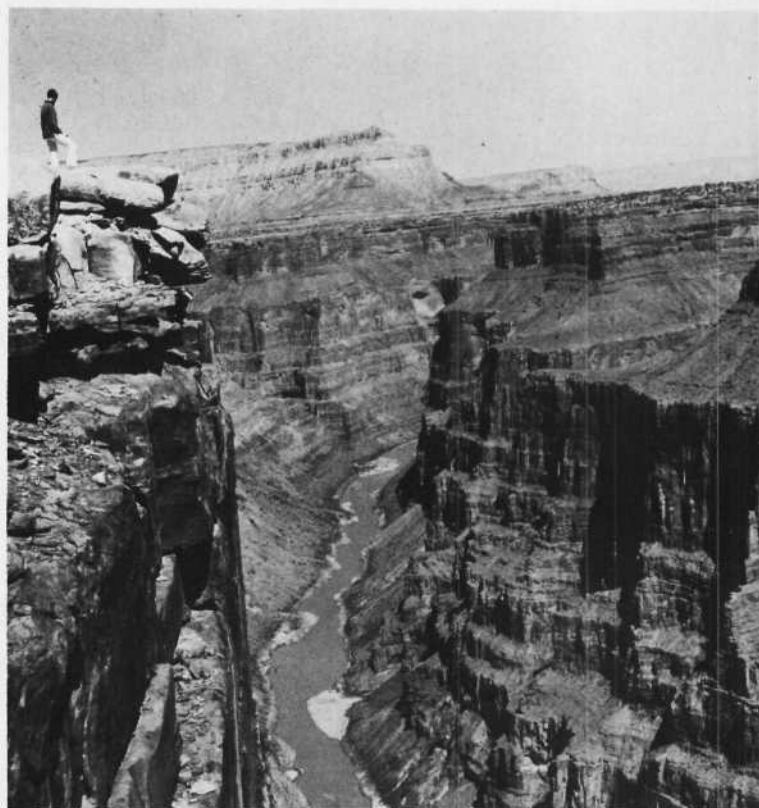
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*Chimney Rock is one of many
fantastic formations in Capitol
Reef National Monument.
Photo by Robert Campbell.*

Utah! Instant Impact State!

by E. C. Howard

THE STATE of Utah has exploded like a comet into the travel picture within the last five years. This delayed fuse blast-off is due in part to the persistence of the Utah Travel Council, aided by Utahns who have become aware of the hidden treasures within the boundaries of their state.

Utahns lived so close to these hidden assets for so long they accepted them as part of the every day routine of living. Farmers tilled the soil, grazed their cattle on the low rangelands in winter and in summer pastured them on the beautiful and remote high country. Thousands of out-of-state hunters invaded the deer ranges each fall, then returned home with their prize. Their eyes saw nothing beyond their gunsights.

Utahns have always referred to the back country canyons and wilderness areas as, "Just a bunch of rocks and scrub trees

to lose cattle in," and were too busy to look at all the color and beauty.

That is until tourists seeking new horizons made timid advances into Utah looking for new pictures to snap, off-the-beaten-track camp grounds and things to buy. They "discovered" deep awesome canyons, red rock formations, shelves and fortresses of sandstone soaring up to the mesas, arches, dinosaur bones and tracks, ghost towns and the billion-year geological time clock exposed for all to see and study.

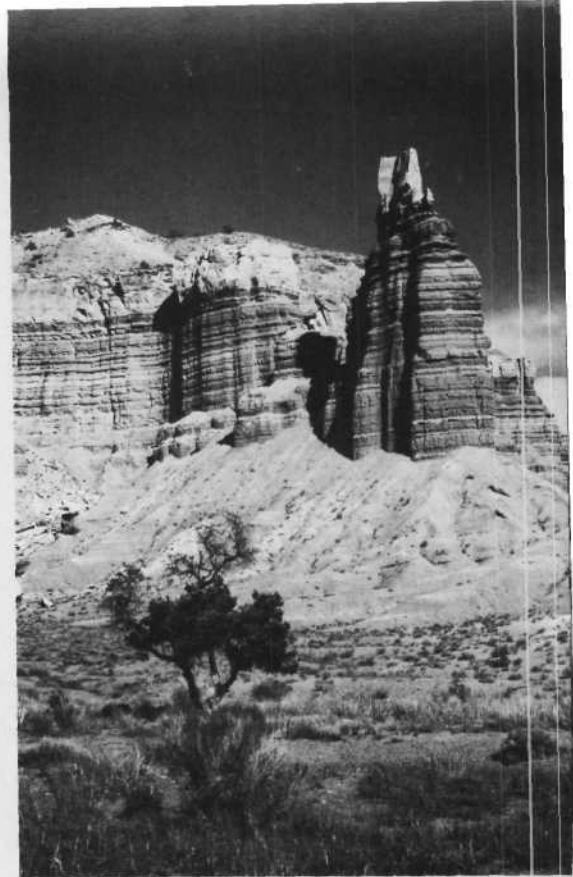
Today, that "bunch of rocks" has acquired glamour and sophistication. The bedazzled visitors talked long and loud to their home town friends about the fabulous, fantastic, colorful, unbelievable state of Utah. They talked so loud Utahns heard the sound.

The loudest drum beater of them all is the Utah Travel Council, State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114. The Travel Council can supply you with maps and brochures covering every corner of the state and the land between; information on tour operators, fishing and hunting areas, wilderness guides, hiking country, jeeping country, national parks, national monuments, state parks, camping facili-

ties, river and river country, lakes, boating and marinas.

Information on type of accommodations at all recreation areas is available also. The Travel Council's state of mind is a happy one and makes the prospective visitor feel like he has just been told, "if you don't see what you want, ask for it. If we don't have it, we'll make it."

Communities all over the state are joining the spit and polish movement. Work-



*Four-wheel-drive vehicles
are used to explore the rugged
back country. Tour guides are
available throughout the state.*

Photo by the author.



ers are swinging hammers, sawing boards, nailing things down, building and remodeling, while they sing the song of happiness and prosperity. Utahns have discovered that tourists are fun to have around, and have an insatiable curiosity about how Utah got that way. ("Why are the rocks red? What caused those funny shaped rocks that look like swirls of chocolate pudding?")

Utah's State Highway Department joined in the frantic race to keep up with the influx of campers, trailers, boaters and sleek sportsters. More new highways are planned with an eye to directing the flow of traffic to the most scenic areas. Hard surface roads now lead visitors to the brink of spectacular canyon vistas or historic ruins, and introduce them to ancient cliff dwellings, natural bridges, arches, and the grand and glorious Lake Powell.

One hundred eighty-six miles long, the lake is deep and cool; a fisherman's dream come true. Boaters can laze away sunny days fishing or sunning in their own private cove. Exploring on Lake Powell is a novel experience as boats pass through brilliantly colored sandstone canyons and inevitably arrive at the landing where a short walk leads to magnificent Rainbow Bridge.

Excellent highways lead also to the beauty that is Flaming Gorge and its en-

vions, the color and form that Bryce and Zion National Parks, Cedar Breaks' 2000-foot deep amphitheatre, and Capitol Reef's massive temple. The new Interstate 70 will, in the very near future, give access to the rugged desert country around and in the San Rafael Reef, a wild and untamed region of colored cliffs, buttes and canyons. In this area will be found Goblin Valley, where weird chocolate colored formations by the hundreds fire the imagination with pictures of goblins dancing their wild gyrations.

Jeep tour operators buzz into the back country with camping parties for week-long trips up and down the old sheep and cattle trails. Into deep canyons they point with pride to tapestries of Indian paintings, hung for eternity on sheer flat walls of delicate sandstone; all guaranteed to furnish a thrill a minute as the four-wheel-drive vehicles claw their way forward.

Then there are the rivers—the Colorado, Green, Escalante, San Juan and San Rafael. All are complete with boat tours and bronzed boatmen of skill and daring, who laugh at sand waves that toss the boats about, and rapids that put butterflies in the stomachs of the passengers.

A large amount of the tourist activity centers around southeastern Utah's new, 257,000 acre Canyonlands National Park, created in 1964. A part of the Colorado Plateau Province, the new Park is truly a unique concentration of Nature's constantly changing earth forms. Here is exposed the history of the creation of the Colorado Plateau. Geology, ecology, botany, zoology, anthropology are all evident here in the erosional chasms and land forms. Much of the region still remains a near wilderness.

The vacationing tourist who writes to the Utah Travel Council for statewide maps and brochures for information, will have a difficult decision to make when he comes to the meat of the menu that Utah has spread before him—what to see first. The first trip into this Instant Impact State will whet the appetite, and each year the traveler can take one or more delicious bites, a new and tantalizing flavor each time.

So, happy blast off Utah! Beat your drums with pride. Beauty is not beauty if it can't be seen, a joy is not a joy if it can't be shared. ☐



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Four-Wheeling on a Cinder Cone



by Bill Knyvett

Photos by Tom Vaughter

ONE OF THE MOST exhilarating experiences in the mushrooming world of outdoor recreation is off-road travel in a 4-wheel-drive vehicle. The areas that can be explored and traversed vary in each part of the country, but there is one particular place that sticks in my mind that separates it from the above average adventure outing.

Situated 16 miles north of Flagstaff, Arizona is the 3000-acre Sunset Crater National Monument. Sunset Crater itself towers 1000 feet, and can be explored from a central parking area by way of a trail that climbs rather steeply up its sloping shoulder.

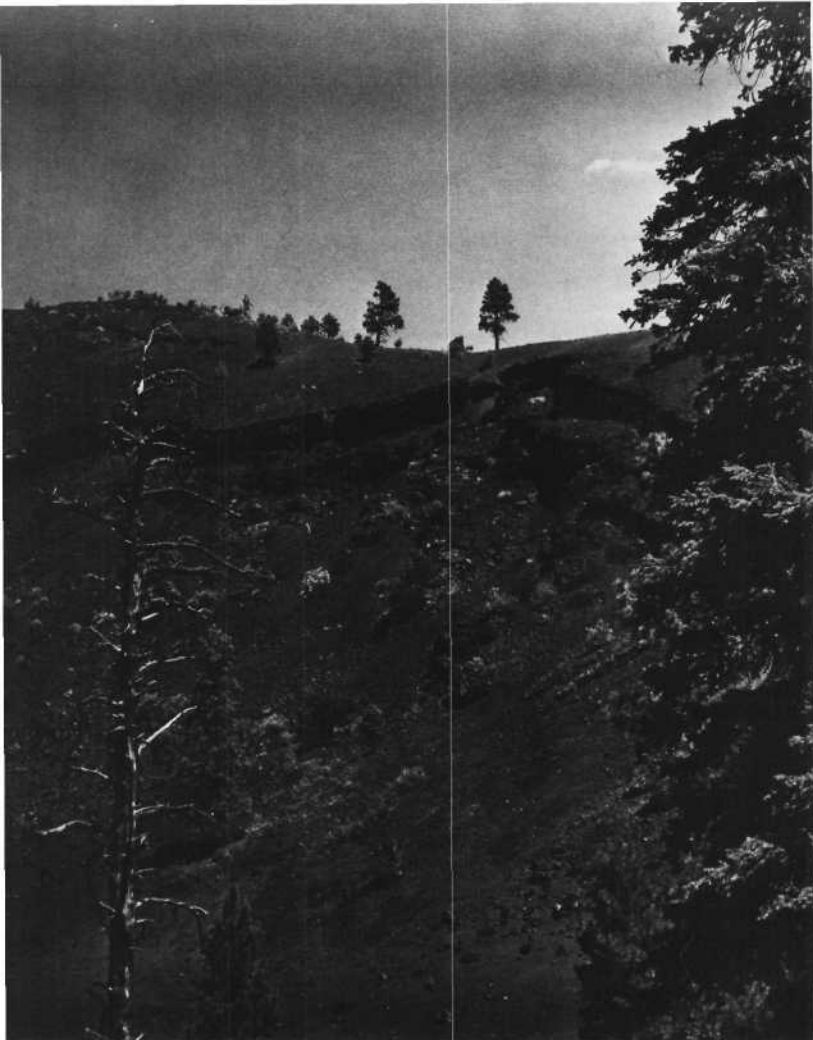
Sunset is but one of the more than 200 cinder cones in the area and when Tom Vaughter, owner and franchised operator of Tom Tom Tours, suggested I do a little four-wheeling on the cones I jumped at the opportunity.

Taking 89 North from Flagstaff, we left the paved road and crossed through an area of pinyon pine and scrub until we reached the base of the cones. This area, at certain times of the year when precipitation is heavy, is impassable in ANY vehicle! The little pieces of charcoal-black cinders combine with the water to create a substance that provides no traction whatsoever.

Tom pointed out a fenced-off area and explained that the U.S. government had used this particular spot as a training area for astronauts who were moon-bound. And a better place to train in I couldn't imagine, the mind not having to expand too much to vision the similarity to the moon's surface.

Past the training area our Toyota

Down the side of a cinder cone where vegetation is limited, but thrills unlimited.



Typical of the many cinder cone craters in the area, trees struggle to survive in an eerie setting with little sign of wildlife.

Below: A view of Sunset Crater from the east side accessible only by four-wheel-drive or pickups with positive traction.

home of the Kachina people. Looking the other way Sunset Crater loomed ominous in the distance reminding us of Nature's hidden violence that in days long gone had created such an area. We inched our way through the heavy clouds that shrouded the mountain top and down the twisting road to an overlook providing an excellent view of the monument.

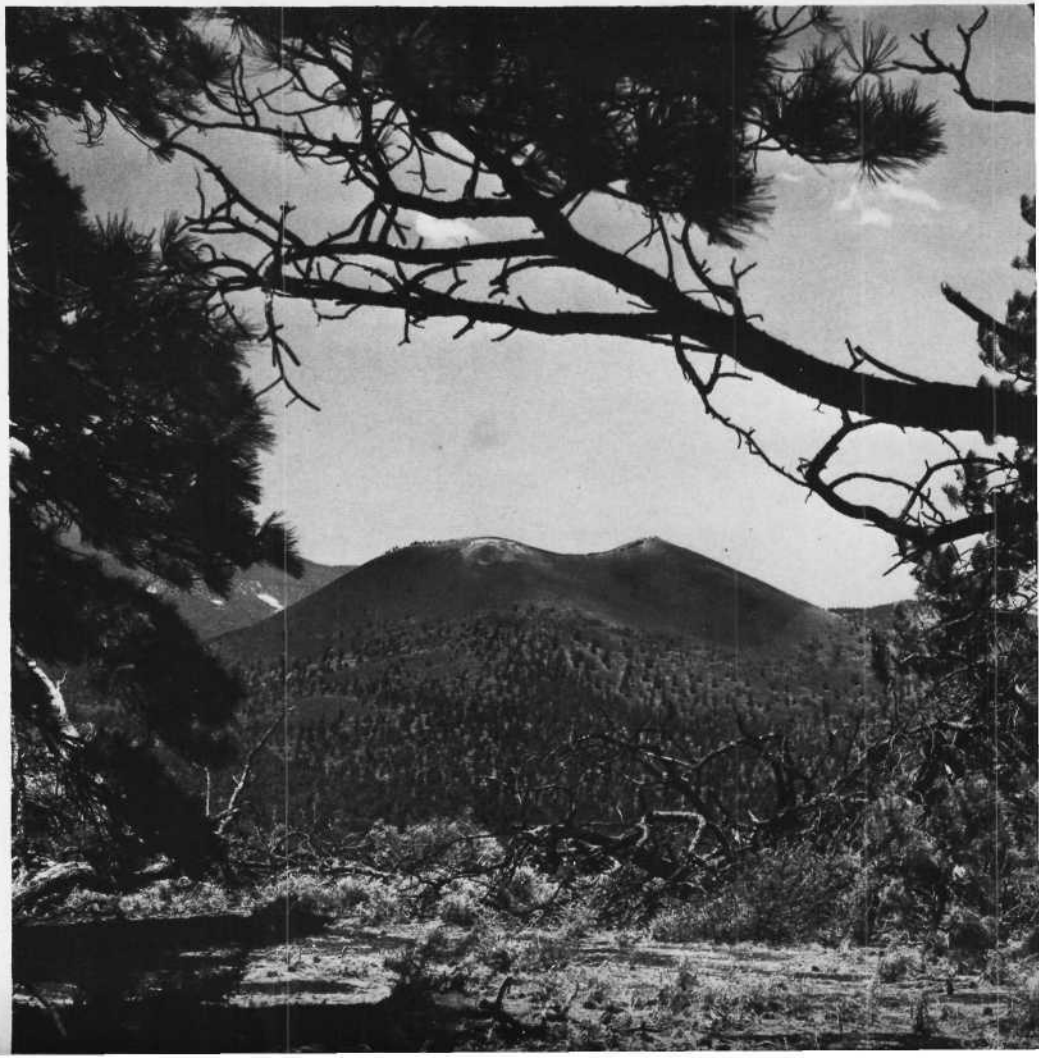
The monument headquarters and campgrounds are a good starting place for the passenger-car reader. Here one can garner information on how the cones were formed and discover other geological highlights such as the Bonito Lava Flow and the Ice Caves where snow remains year-round. The view of the lava flow can best be appreciated from high above on the crater itself.

After a day of fun, it's always sad-denying to leave, but on the way home Tom related to us the various four-wheel-drive trips that are available in the Flagstaff area and we left with a sense of anticipation. The colorful aspens in the fall, the Schnebley Hill trip to Oak Creek. I can't wait! □

really proved its ability to scramble as we literally clawed our way up a huge cone. The cones vary in size, with some having craters and others being nothing more than a large mound of ashes. These ashes were the result of volcanic action more than 1100 years ago when an enormous explosion covered a wide area with their glass-like fragments. If you anticipate doing any walking in the area, be sure to have a sturdy boot as the sharp edges of ash fragments act like little knives.

With our rugged vehicle I saw little sense in walking, so Tom turned the day into one of ups and downs as we crested one cone after another with the fun being divided between whether or not we could "pull the cone," or the "bottom dropping out" sensation as we went down what appeared to be almost perpendicular slopes.

After leaving the cones behind we wound our way up a very steep mountain to a fire-tower. The clouds swirled in around us as we looked across at the San Francisco Peaks which, according to the Hopi Indians, is the



GEM FIELDS IN THE SAN ANTONIOS

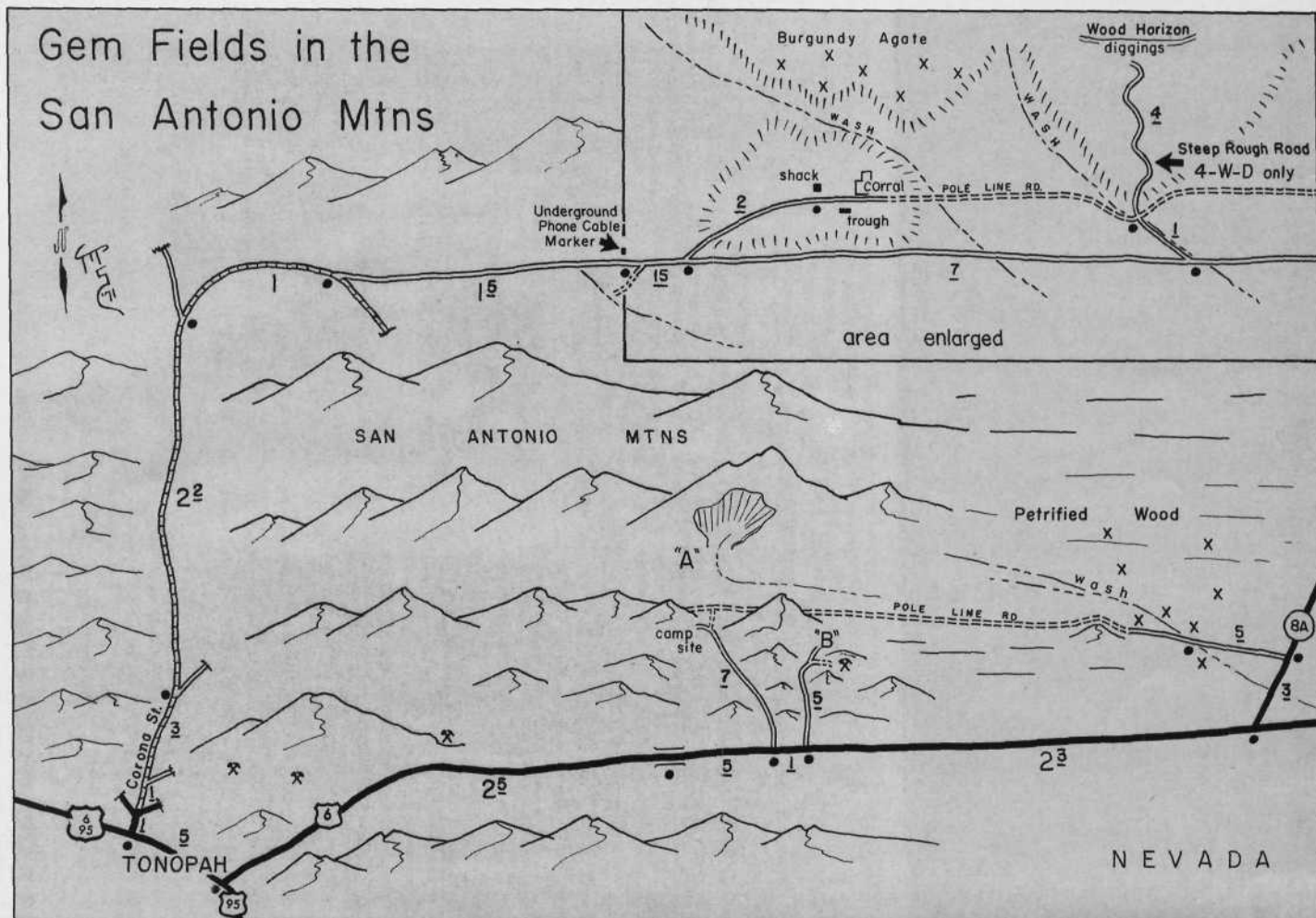
by Mary Frances Strong

Photos by
Jerry Strong

TONOPAH NESTLES in a saddle at the southern tip of Nevada's San Antonio Mountains where the discovery of rich silver and gold deposits gained world-wide fame. Lesser known, but just as important to the rock collector, are the deposits of petrified wood, jasp-agate, chalcedony, opalite, chert and a new field of outstanding material called "Burgundy Agate." Two locales providing this wide assortment of cutting material are located only a short drive from Tonopah.

The gem fields east of town are immediately north of Highway 6 and encompasses an area of several square miles. Opalite, jasp-agate, chalcedony and chert occur as float. There is a seemingly endless variety of patterns which include lace, moss, plume, frost and fortification. The colors run the gamut of the spectrum—from deep, rich red to soft, muted tones of lavender. There are small specimens for cutting a cabachon or tumbling, as well as larger chunks which may be slabbed.

Collecting area "A" cannot be reached by car, but it is only a short hike from the suggested camp site. Cross the pole-



line road and walk to the wash. Follow the wash to the base of a huge slump area on the mountainside. The latter is readily visible from the highway and acts as a landmark for the collecting area.

Area "B" lies just a half-mile from the highway. It is easily reached via dirt tracks which curve around a small hill and climb up onto a broad desert pavement. Collecting is good to the north and east.

A VERY INTERESTING collecting area lies west of Highway 95, approximately 24 miles south of Tonopah. This privately owned claim produces an amazing variety of colorful cutting material. You will find bright vermilion opalite; jade-green plasma; fortification agate; wonderstone and "bull's-eye agate" in a rainbow of colors.

Earl and Clara Neeser are the owners and you will find them most cordial hosts. Visitors are welcome to explore the claims, study the geology and camp, without obligation.

Rockhounds may be selective in collecting and pay only for the specimens they wish to keep. The rate is 10¢ per pound over 40 pounds, 25¢ a pound for lesser amounts.

Camping is in open country with only primitive rest rooms provided. There are no hookups or water. You are welcome to stay a day or a week at no charge.

The turnoff on Highway 95 is well-posted (2.4 miles north of Goldfield) and a graded dirt road leads to the claims. □

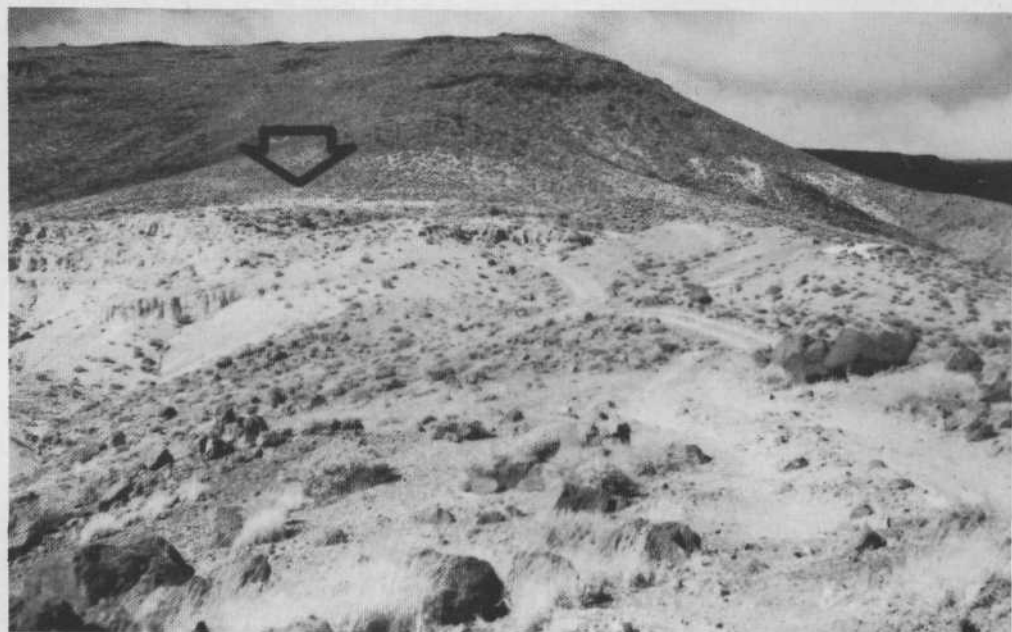
No petrified wood was found at the above locations, although it was quite plentiful less than three miles east.

Turn north on State 3A for three-tenths of a mile, then turn left onto the pole line road. Five-tenths of a mile will bring you to a wash which crosses the road. Petrified wood is found as float in the wash, along the road and on the alluvial fans to the north. Specimens range in size from two to ten inches in length. They are found in various shades of brown—from light beige to almost black. The wood is both agatized and silicified and takes a fine polish. It will tumble beautifully.

The second gem locale lies northeast of



Park at shack, hike to hill in background where agate occurs as float in white tuff.



Arrow points to petrified wood diggings (above). Trail is NOT passable by passenger cars. Petrified wood location (below) east of Tonopah. Wood is found in the wash and on bajadas to right of road.





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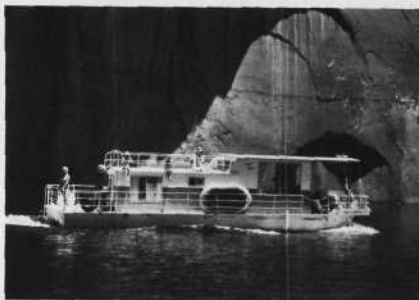
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Tonopah and includes the "Burgundy Agate" field and a deposit of petrified wood. Turn north on Corona Street and follow the map. You will be traveling along the water line road. Watch for the marker "Telephone Cable Underground," approximately 6.2 miles from the highway. Car mileages can vary considerably so note the other check points along the route. Just under two-tenths of a mile beyond the marker, turn left onto dirt tracks.

Park at the shack, then hike north across the wash to the slopes of the hills. Gem-quality, burgundy-colored agate occurs as float in the white tuff. It is evidently vein material that has been displaced. The agate is highly translucent. The rich burgundy color produces beautiful cutting material of exceptional quality, as well as often causing a "misty effect" in the agate which will produce outstanding cabochons.

It is not often these days the rockhound comes across an area where fine material is locally plentiful as float. It is quite obvious there has been little collecting here. The best material will be found in the white horizon below the center of the hill.

The easy collecting is now over. If it is fine petrified limb sections you are after, you will have to dig. Seven-tenths of a mile beyond the agate turnoff, dirt tracks again lead up into the hills. All vehicles, except trail bikes and four-wheel-drive vehicles should park at the pole line road. The last four-tenths of a mile to the wood diggings is up a steep, rocky ridge. Take your favorite hardrock mining tools, lunch and water along. You won't want to leave your "hole" if you have a good specimen exposed.

The wood is worth the hard work. The specimens are well agatized and it does not occur in float. The only chips to be picked up are the "leavings" of earlier collectors.

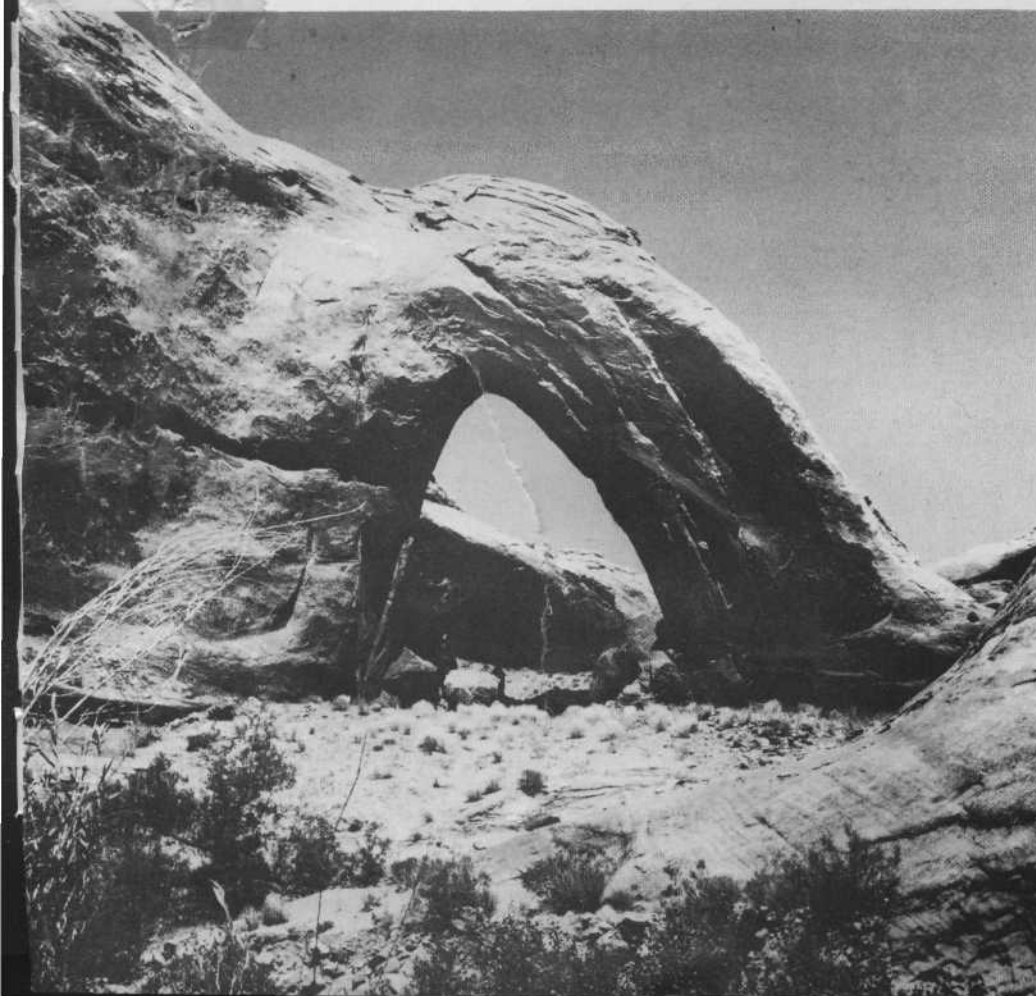
A few days spent in the gem fields of the San Antonios should add some fine cutting material to your collection. It is hoped that all rockhounds will limit themselves to a few pounds of the best specimens collected. With thousands of rock collectors roaming the West, it is only restraint on everyone's part that will leave material for the next generation of rockhounds to find. □



Escape to Escalante

by Jack Sheppard

Hole-in-the-Rock, 62 miles southeast of Escalante, where Mormon emigrants crossed the Colorado to settle near present-day Bluff.



ALTHOUGH ESCALANTE'S principal economy is agriculture and livestock, it is in the center of a vast and still unspoiled wilderness in Southern Utah and is just now being "discovered" by both summer and winter vacationists.

Nestled in picturesque mountains at an elevation of 5,000 feet between the Dixie National Forest and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Escalante was first colonized by the Mormons in 1875.

They originally called it Potato Valley but the name was later changed in honor of the Franciscan padre, Silvestre Velez de Escalante, who came through the area in 1776 looking for a new route from Santa Fe, New Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.

Escalante is best known historically as the jumping-off place for the stalwart group of Mormon pioneers who were ordered to find a direct route from Escalante to the San Juan River and to settle the area around the present community of Bluff, Utah.

Leaving their Potato Valley homes in 1879 they blazed a trail between the Escalante River and the Kaiparowits Plateau to the Colorado River where they made their now famous "Hole-in-the-Rock" crossing.

That same trail is one of the many around Escalante which are being "discovered" today by four-wheel-drive enthusiasts and leading into areas which are less known but just as spectacular as those in Utah's national and state parks.

The people of Escalante and its sister community, Boulder, are fighting to keep their scenic country out of the "Wilderness Area" or park status. They maintain such classifications restrict the freedom of residents and visitors who live and come to the area to get away from "being told what they can or cannot do."

And there is lots to do in the Escalante-Boulder area. The communities are located at the end of paved Utah State 54 which (from U.S. 89) winds through Bryce Canyon National Park and the Dixie National Forest Area. *Continued*

Broken Bow Arch, in Willow Gulch, 45 miles southeast of Escalante.

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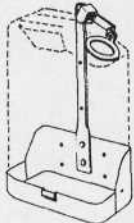
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A good gravel road from Boulder crosses the Waterpocket Fold over the Burr Trail, and connects with paved Utah State 276 to Lake Powell. (See other articles in this issue.)

In addition to the four-wheel-drive trails which lead into the back country around Escalante, there are hundreds of miles of excellent passenger car gravel roads leading to the dozens of lakes and trout streams.

Posey Lake, just north of Escalante, is an uncrowded summer resort area with good fishing and water sports in addition

to having beautiful hiking trails through the surrounding forests.

Between Escalante and Boulder is the Calf Creek Camp Grounds where the paved road goes through the cool, clear waters of Calf Creek and where you can camp so close to the stream, you can fish for trout out of the back door of your camper.

The Escalante Petrified Forest, Anasazi Ruins, State Park, Escalante Arch, Long Canyon, Velvet Hills, Devil's Garden, Green Fern Grotto and Hell's Backbone are only a few of the dozens of different places to explore.

For rockhounds, the area is loaded with moss agate, jasper, calcite crystals, petrified wood and dinosaur bones, to mention only a few. And, as the local rock shop owners, Bob and Pat Sorensen, point out, there is no restriction on collecting as there is in national or state park areas.

There is unlimited camping in the area and the community of Escalante has several good motels and stores for all needs. Here you can also arrange for jeep or horseback trips with local, experienced guides into the back country for one day or a week. Or, you can take off on your own.

As they tell you in Escalante, "as long as you respect our area and do not destroy, no one is going to tell you what you can or cannot do—ours is a free country and we intend to keep it that way." □



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— A COLORFUL WORLD OF ADVENTURE —



IN A BUGGY TO A BRIDGE

by Jack Pepper

Scenic Little Valley (above) is near the Gemini Bridge (left) being photographed by Lin Ottinger. Valley around Moab (right) as seen from on top of a mesa. Photos by the author.



UTAH is truly a scenic wonderland, but the visitors who just watch the blue skies and the colorful cliffs and do not examine the ground over which they travel are missing part of the wealth of our country."

And that "wealth" is a bonanza for rockhounds, according to Lin Ottinger, who was showing me his vast collection of gems and semi-precious stones in his shop in Moab, Utah. He also has a free nightly slide presentation for visitors.

Lin came to Moab in 1955 and was one of the first tour guides in the area. Today he uses comfortable Volkswagen busses and dune buggies to take people into the spectacular — and little known — back country around Moab. One of his principal tours is over the White Rim and along the Colorado River.

Another of his trips above Moab is to the Gemini Bridge through Little Valley and Bull Canyon. This trip is not for the faint-of-heart as it rises over the sheer cliffs above Moab and winds through some of the most rugged country in Southern Utah.

However, in addition to its spectacular scenery, it is a rockhound's paradise as most of the area covered is not within state or national parks so collecting of gem stones is permissible . . . and they are plentiful as I discovered when I took the one-day dune buggy excursion.

After climbing the mountain above Moab, which from the highway appears insurmountable, we arrived in Little Valley and traveled into Bullfrog Canyon, stopping at the bottom of Gemini Bridge which towered hundreds of feet above.

From here Lin backtracked through

Little Valley and expertly maneuvered the dune buggy—when he has larger groups he takes his Volkswagen bus—past giant boulders and cliffs and onto the mesa where we arrived at the top of the Gemini Bridge.

En route home we stopped and collected pertified wood, agate and smoky quartz—all of excellent quality.

So remember, when traveling through Southern Utah, look both up and down to discover its "wonderful world of color." □



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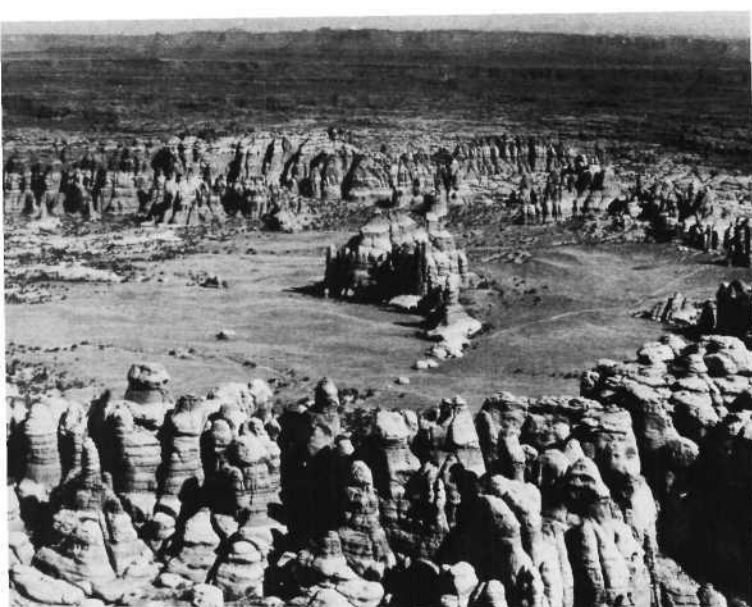
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Coronado's soldiers, led by Captain Cardenas, entered what is now the desert wastes of Utah's San Juan River basin as early as 1540. They searched for the fabled seven golden cities of Cibola, but found only hostile Indians, a wasteland of waterless desert, and a maze of seemingly bottomless canyons. After Coronado, three centuries passed before placer miners began panning for color along the red sand bars of the muddy San Juan River.

In 1883 Cass Hite and his brothers made camp on the Colorado River near its confluence with the San Juan, and discovered gold in the sands of Dorothy Bar. Near where he built his cabin at the mouth of Ticaboo Creek. Hite panned out over \$600 in coarse gold. His finds caused a rush of miners to the river, and by the following year more than 175 claims were being worked.

The stampede to the Colorado and the San Juan brought fortunes to a few, and gave birth to at least five mining camps. In addition to Hite, which soon blossomed into a rough camp of rock cabins and board shacks, there was Camp Jackson, Zahn's Camp, Spender's Camp, and Eagle City. Prospectors traced "colors" from the river up side streams into the Blue Mountains, just north of present day Monticello, where they found gold in quartz outcrops. There they located over 300 claims, among them the Gold Queen and Dream Mines. Stamp mills were built, and for a few years Camp Jackson hummed with activity, but its day in the sun was destined to be a short one, for southern Utah was an isolated place where mining operations could be pursued only with the greatest effort and highest cost.

The excitement of 1892 built Zahn's Camp, a placer camp deep in the rocky canyon gorge of the San Juan, west of the little Mormon settlement of Bluff. Named for the five Zahn brothers, Zahn's Camp was a cheerless place at best, with only a few rock houses, tents, and rough dugouts, but men did find gold. Most of the "color" was as fine as flour, but a few lucky miners uncovered pockets of nuggets.

When Zahn's Camp began failing,

Lost San Juan River Gold!

by George A. Thompson

Photo Courtesy Utah Historical Society



San Juan River placer miners.

Spencer's Camp, three miles downstream, sprang to life. Few of the miners who lived there thought of its sun-scorched, boulder-strewn canyon bottom location as home, but while it lasted it was "A tough nut to crack," Salt Lake City's *Deseret News* warned, "30 to 50 miners pass through Bluff each day, all bound for the gold fields. Those who are equipped to stay, and who can take care of themselves, may be able to get along quite well, but the poor man who plans on getting work there had better stay away!"

The Salt Lake City *Tribune* was more optimistic about the gold prospects on the San Juan. During January, 1893, the *Tribune* reported, "There are 7,000 men along the river already, with 200 more arriving every day. 'Poker' Johnson has announced he intends to open a gambling hall at Bluff City and the Rio Grande Southern Railroad plans on building an extension line to the river."

During the late 1880s, two old-time prospectors, Jack Sumner and Jack Butler, followed traces of gold from the river up Crescent Creek into the Henry Mountains, where they found rich gold ore at Bromide Basin. The Bromide Mine which they located was soon being rivaled by Kimball & Turner's Oro Mine, and the Ida and Ada properties. The mines at Bromide Basin boasted ore valued at \$300 to the ton in gold, and the rush of miners they attracted started Eagle City, a wild and lawless mining camp, perched like an eagle's nest, high on the pine-covered slopes of 11,000-foot Mt. Ellen.

But though the mining camps spawned by the gold of the San Juan and Colorado were wild and wooly places, they were short lived, and meanwhile the real treasure of the river remained untouched.

Jim Douglas was a hard luck prospector. When others struck it rich, he panned hardly enough gold to buy beans. Year after year he faced the searing heat of summer, and the icy blasts of winter, always just a little too late to get in on the big strikes, but he still believed that somewhere along the river there was a mother lode bar, rich in gold, just waiting for him.

Douglas watched a miner named Chaffin pan \$3,000 in yellow nuggets from the sands of Moqui Bar, and witnessed equally rich finds at the Klondyke, Olympia, and Rothchild bars, but he was always just a little too late to cash in on



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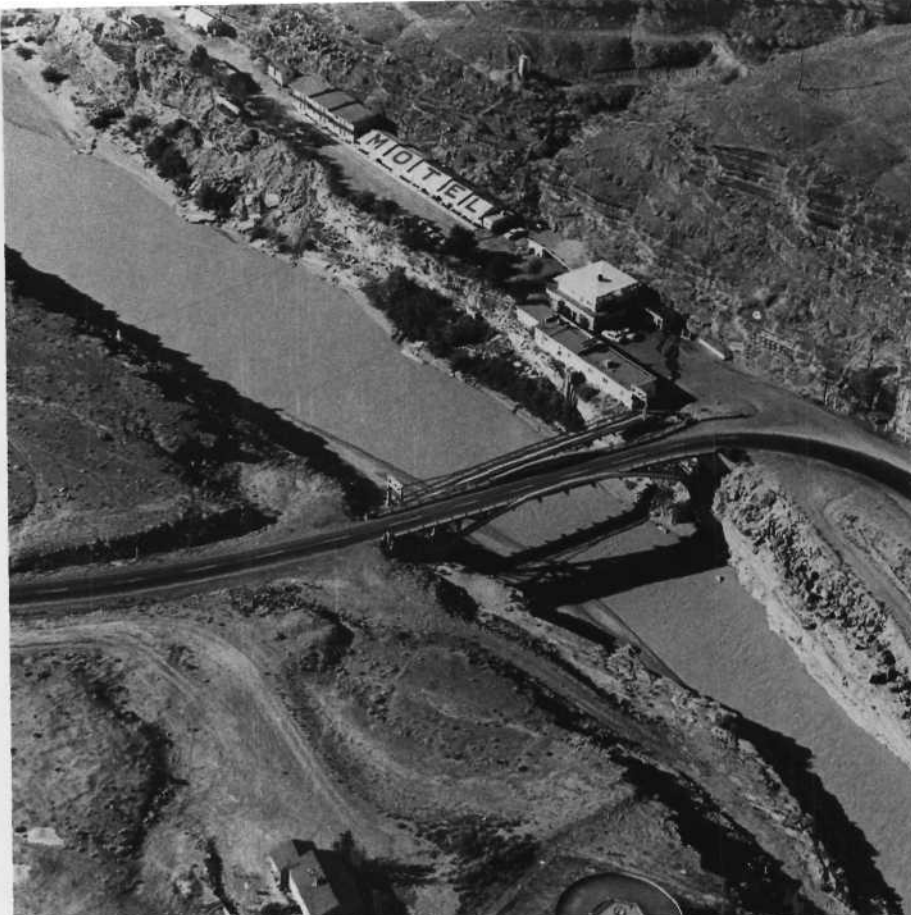
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San Juan River showing possible location of lost bonanza. Douglas jumped from old bridge next to new highway span across the river.

them. And, he was too late again when miners, using only crude rockers, took \$30,000 in gold from the famed California Bar. Then, unexpectedly, his luck changed, and his days of being too late were over, for Jim Douglas found his long dreamed-of bonanza bar at last.

During the low water year of 1909 on the San Juan River, Douglas was prospecting not too far from Mexican Hat, a small Indian trading post on the river, when he discovered a bonanza bar as rich as the mother lode itself! Working alone during the winter months, while the river was at the lowest level it had been in many years, he recovered a small fortune in gleaming gold dust before the rising water from the spring runoff covered his El Dorado. Douglas marked the location of his fabulous find well in his mind so he could be sure to find it again. But he had seen it for the last time, for he did not live long enough to see another low water year on the San Juan.

Douglas never strayed far from Mexican Hat after his discovery. He had saved enough gold to live on, and, year after year, he haunted the river, waiting for another low water year. For 20 years he wandered the San Juan country, always

dreaming of his bonanza bar. Perhaps the thought of the yellow gold waiting there preyed too heavily on his mind, or maybe being so close to fortune but unable to touch it was too much to endure. Whatever it was, something inside him must have snapped, for one day in 1929 he walked out onto the narrow cable bridge which spanned the deep canyon of the San Juan at Mexican Hat, and jumped to his death in the roaring river below.

Five years after his death winter snowfall was light in the San Juan country, and another low water year came to the river, but Douglas had not shared his secret with anyone. Miners from all along the river, and prospectors who had heard the story of his bonanza bar searched for its golden treasure. Perhaps the ever-changing currents of the silt laden water had covered the bar, or maybe the river was only hiding its treasure, waiting for Douglas to return. The river kept its secret well, though, for no man has ever seen the lost bonanza bar again. Today, Jim Douglas's bonanza bar is still there, somewhere on the San Juan, not far from Mexican Hat. It only waits for another low water year, and for another lucky prospector!

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Lake Powell... for Fishin' 'n' Fun!

by Jack Pepper

ALTHOUGH ONE of the largest man-made lakes in the world with 1800 miles of picturesque shoreline, Lake Powell is not just a massive body of water, but rather a series of small, odd-shaped lakes connected by the now peaceful Colorado River.

For 186 miles the serpentine waters cut through Southeastern Utah's "wonderful world of color" from below the untamed Cataract Canyon on the north to the Glen Canyon Dam just below the Arizona border on the south.

Lake Powell started forming in 1967 with the completion of the \$325,000,000 Glen Canyon Dam, latest of the giant concrete structures built to curb the once turbulent river and provide flood control, irrigation and electrical power for communities throughout the Southwest.

Since 1967 the waters have slowly backed up behind the dam inundating hundreds of canyons — many of which have never before been seen by white man — until today it has reached its level of 27 million acre feet of water.

There's nothing fishy about the above figures, but there is about the water content. For underneath the surface, there are millions of large mouth bass, trout, catfish, crappie and bluegill—all hungry for the lures of anglers who fish the year-round.

The word *colorado* in Spanish means "red" or "colored" which is the muddy hue of the river when it is running rampant. But in the lakes behind the dam, the silt has settled to the bottom and the waters are so clear you can watch the fish strike your bait.

In some places along the lake the waters of the Colorado are confined within the narrow and brilliant red-colored Navajo and Wingate sandstone cliffs which rise hundreds of feet above the boats below.

But in the wider sections the water has filled the valleys, creating the odd-shaped lakes and lagoons with unsurpassed recreation areas for water skiing and swimming, sandy beaches for camping, boating into mysterious canyons and entrances to dry canyons with miles of hiking where prehistoric Indian ruins are still being discovered.

This section of Southern Utah is sparsely populated and due to the rugged terrain of the geological formations—created when the earth erupted millions of years ago—there are only a few roads into Lake Powell and therefore only a few marinas.

The marinas are concessions under the National Park Service and offer both commercial and public facilities, including free boat launching pads and camping sites. Majority of the owners and staff of the marinas are former Colorado River guides who literally "grew up with the lake" and therefore know every mile, both below and above the waters.

In the northern section of the lake there are three marinas, two of which are located across the peaceful waters from each other; Hall's Crossing on the east and Bullfrog Marina on the west.

The third and most northern concession is Hite Marina, located just south of Paved State 95 and the Hite Bridge, which in 1968 won the architect's award

Waters of the Colorado River have inundated the canyons, creating odd-shaped lagoons and excellent fishing areas.



of the year. For a while it was inoperative, but now it is under new management with new buildings and other facilities. Like the other marinas it has complete services including charter trips, houseboat and equipment rentals, general store, free launching and campgrounds.

Hall's Crossing Marina is reached by either turning west from U. S. 163 just south of Blanding on State 95 or north from U. S. 163 at Mexican Hat on State 261. Both 95 and 261 are scenic routes winding through verdant valleys and between colorful cliffs and mesas. They join just before entering the Natural Bridges National Monument.

A paved road with many vista points goes around the edge of this small but impressive geological formation of the White Canyon and is well worth the hour's trip, including a stop at ranger headquarters for free maps and information.

After your trip through Natural Bridges turn south on scenic State 263 to Hall's Crossing. State 95 from Natural Bridges continues west along the historic White Canyon to the new bridge crossing the Colorado River at Hite and connects with State 276. Portions of State 95 from Fry Canyon to the Hite bridge are, although easily passable by passenger car, unpaved and reduced speed in these gravel road sections is recommended.

Bullfrog Marina is located at the end of paved State 276. To the north, State 276 connects with highways to Salt Lake City and (for California and Nevada tourists) with State 24 which goes through Capitol Reef National Monument and eventually connects with Interstate 15 to Las Vegas, Nevada.

The two marinas are directly across the bay from each other and are connected by a small ferry which can carry passenger cars and pickups, but NOT vehicles with trailers.

Since on this trip we had been exploring the Canyonlands National Park and the areas around Moab, Utah, we decided to go north from Moab to Green River and then south to the Bullfrog Marina,

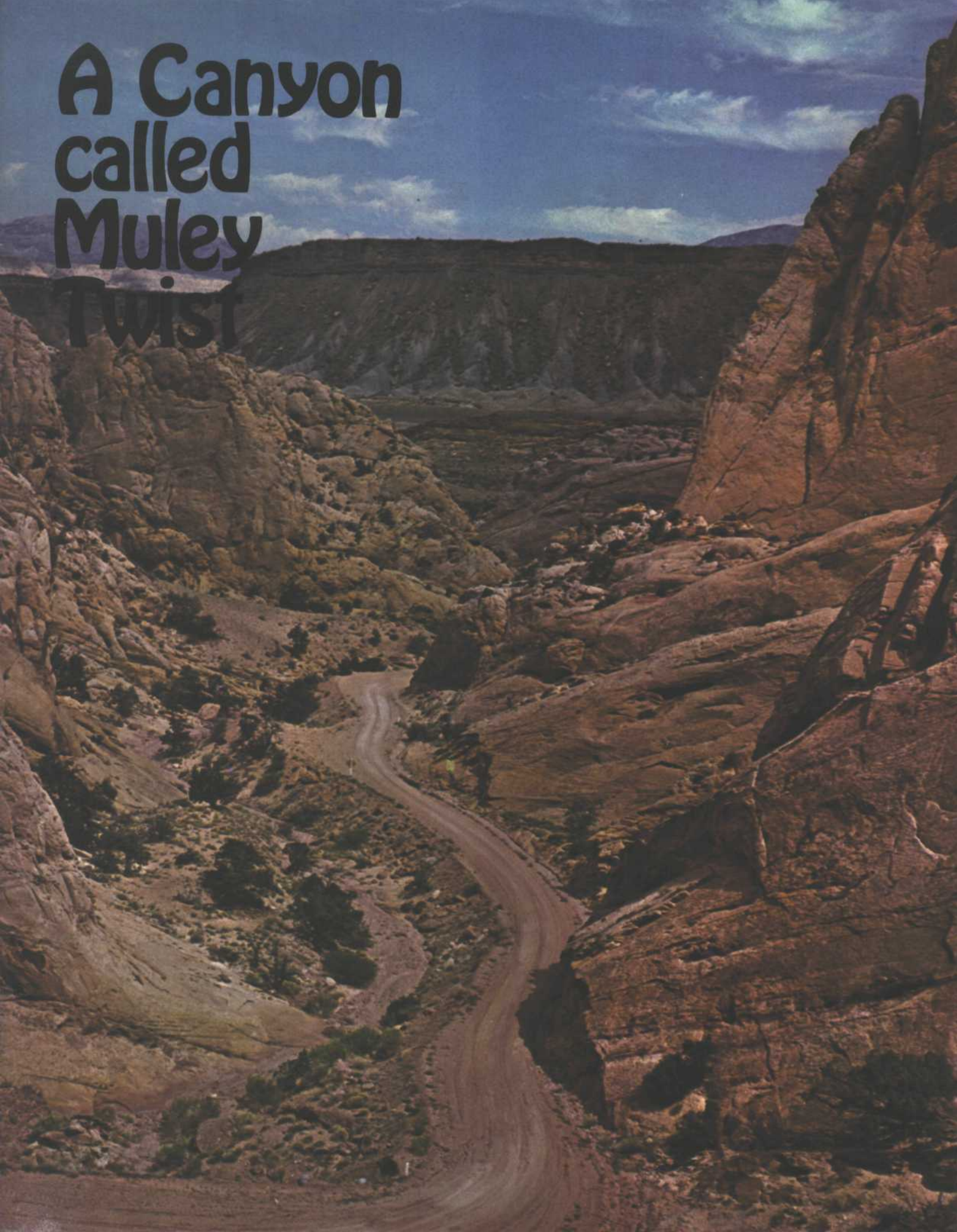
continued on page 56

*All types of boats are used
to explore the canyons, many of
which are just being discovered.*

Photos by Patricia Sager.



A Canyon called Muley Twist



by
Oscar
Olson

MILLIONS OF acres of Southern Utah have been set aside as national parks and monuments so the scenic areas will remain unspoiled and be preserved for the enjoyment of people throughout the world and for future generations.

One of these areas is Capitol Reef National Monument whose boundaries three years ago were increased from 39,000 to 254,000 acres, extending the public domain for 100 miles south of the Monument to the tip of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Lake Powell.

Included in the new area of the Monument is a spectacular monocline which was a natural barrier to pioneers and could only be crossed in a few places by horseback. Known as the Waterpocket Fold, the brilliantly colored rock layers were formed millions of years ago by a doubling of the earth's crust.

Even today passenger cars can only cross the main escarpment over the Burr Trail, a spectacular drive which winds from the desert floor hundreds of feet below to the top of the Fold. Within the Fold are many arches and little-known canyons, one of which is Muley Twist Canyon.

The name "Muley Twist" dates back to pioneer times when a lower section of the Canyon was used for a wagon trail. With the abandonment of the famous Mormon Hole-In-The-Rock Crossing on the Colorado River (now Lake Powell) after 1880, Charles Hall established "Hall's Crossing" about 35 miles upstream from the Mormon crossing. Muley Twist Canyon led to Hall's Crossing. The area is so narrow and winding it barely permitted the passage of wagons and mule teams, hence the name "Muley Twist Canyon."

I had read an article which mentioned several natural arches hidden in the Canyon, so I decided to explore the area. I enlisted the aid of my friend, Clair Bird, who owns and operates Capitol Reef Lodge and Tours located only a few minutes from the main park headquarters of Capitol Reef on State Highway 24. As a result of our trip we were able to photograph two sets of double arches and three



One of the many spectacular natural arches (above) which the author found in Muley Twist Canyon. Extending 100 miles from Capitol Reef to Lake Powell, the Waterpocket Fold monocline (below) started forming 125 million years ago. Burr Trail (opposite) cuts through Waterpocket Fold. Color by Patricia Sager.





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single arches, which, to my knowledge, have not been published in a magazine before this.

Some of these "arches" could be natural bridges cut by prehistoric rivers, instead of actual arches which are formed by weathering action. Regardless, they are in a natural and beautiful setting which provided our group of explorers with photographs we will treasure for the rest of our lives.

To travel to the Burr Trail and Muley Twist Canyon, we left Clair Bird's lodge on State 24 and just east of the Capitol Reef National Monument turned south on a good gravel road to the ranching area of Notom.

The story goes the area received its name from a rancher's daughter who was being courted by a local cowhand. But she rebuffed him, repeating, "No Tom, No Tom."

En route you can see the Henry Mountains on the left, an isolated laccolithic range which, according to geologists, are the most recently formed mountains in the West and are still rising from pressures below the earth. Also along the



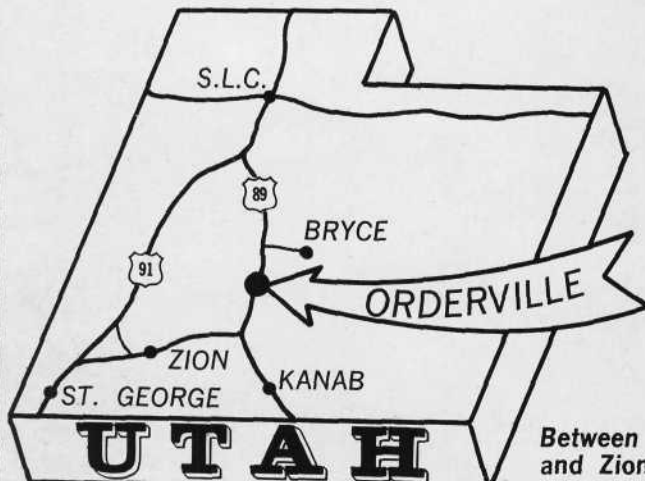
way is the Oyster Shell Reef where you can find sea shells from the days when the area was under salt water.

Approximately 30 miles south of State 24 is the junction and turnoff to Burr Trail. The good gravel road over Burr Trail continues on to Boulder and joins

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Four-wheel-drive vehicles are needed to follow the wash into Muley Twist Canyon.

and Halls Creek and joins a paved road at the border of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The paved road connects with State 276 and continues on to the popular Bullfrog Marina on Lake Powell.

As we approached the Burr Trail Junction, Clair pointed out an arch high on the Waterpocket Fold which is called "Peek-A-Boo Arch." We would see it later from the entrance to Muley Twist Canyon.

Just south of the junction a jeep trail goes into Hall's Creek and the lower section of Muley Twist Canyon—the route used by the pioneers. However, we were in search of the arches and the upper part of the Canyon so headed over the spectacular switchbacks of the Burr Trail.

Just beyond the top of the Trail, but before the country opens up, we crossed a wash, which is part of Muley Twist
continued on page 63

paved State 12, only a few miles from Escalante, a recreational area only recently being discovered by summer vacationists and rockhounds.

Continuing south from the Burr Trail Junction our gravel passenger-car road continues along the Waterpocket Fold



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The Grand Canyon by Helicopter

by Bill Knyvett

FOR THE more than 2½ million people who annually visit the Grand Canyon South Rim, the first sight of this seemingly bottomless chasm is a memory that will linger as long as life.

Being typically average, my previous

trips to the canyon consisted of visiting the various viewpoints, gazing down over the railings and wondering what it would be like to be IN the canyon. Although there are several ways this can be accomplished; hiking, on mules, taking one of

the river trips or by air, my having had a respiratory problem since childhood, and being allergic to most animals and dampness made it impossible for me to ever go into the canyon except by air.

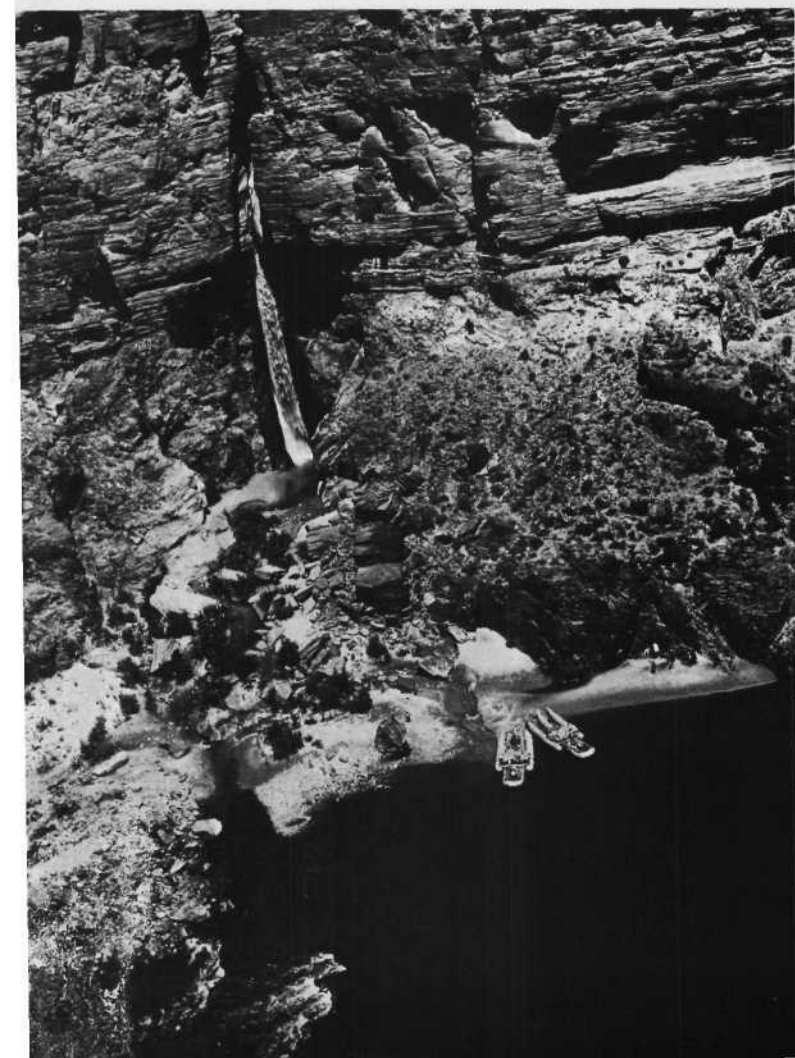
You can fly the Grand Canyon two ways: by fixed wing aircraft or by helicopter. Since this was a family outing and our four-year-old daughter, Sharlene, has a fascination for "choppers," I had only to convince my wife that this was *the way* to see the canyon.

Our pilot, Bill Meares, an ex-service-man who has been flying helicopters since 1959, was most attentive and took special care of the plexiglass covering for clear picture-taking—and plenty of pictures I intended to take as long as I had a chance to actually go into the canyon.

The lift-off from the heliport was so gentle it was difficult to believe we were airborne. But suddenly, like a hummingbird, we moved horizontally and headed toward the rim at 100 mph.

To describe in words the sensation one experiences as the "bottom" literally drops from beneath and you are engulfed in the immense vastness of the canyon is impossible. In fact, we were all speechless and spellbound as we became individually lost in the beauty and majestic wonders surrounding us.

It was a photographer's paradise as Bill hovered at any chosen place for special shots of the many falls, inner canyons, Indian ruins and other breathtaking views



Above: The Holy Grail Temple as seen from helicopter. Right: Dramatic view shows how helicopters put you "in" the canyon. Left: River runners taking a break at Deer Creek Falls.



that cannot be seen from the rim of the canyon. Bill always kept us informed as to the exact areas we were in so we could compare them with the map later.

The hiking trails were clearly visible as they switched back and forth, descending

to the river bridge near Phantom Ranch. As we passed over the Indian village of Supai, Bill told us of the many flights he and his fellow pilot, Fred Maurer, a Viet Nam war veteran, had made there bringing aid and medical supplies to the little band of Havasupai Indians that call the canyon-bottom home.

The helicopters have been used at times to bring out river runners after their arduous river run. As beautiful as it must be to "run the river," many have stated the helicopter ride out was the highlight of their trip. It sure was ours!

Needless to say, our daughter was entranced. What a way to see the Grand Canyon for the first time! She is still talking about the "next time" we see the canyon.

Rumor has it that there is a possibility the helicopter and plane flights over and into the canyon may be discontinued. What a catastrophe this would be for the many, many people like myself with respiratory problems or smaller children, and those with other afflictions that would perhaps prevent them from ever seeing the canyon except from the rim without the air flight services.



Bill Meares, our genial helicopter pilot-guide and gifted photographer, whose work accompanies this article.

Due to tremendous operating expense and the rigid regulations of the FAA, I was pleasantly surprised at the fares. These vary according to the flight time involved and are geared to fit any kind of pocketbook.

Regardless of what trip you choose, if you haven't seen the Grand Canyon by helicopter, you ain't seen nothing yet! □



Even after you have explored Utah's Canyonlands National Park, you will find it hard to believe this fairyland.

CANYON LANDS COUNTRY

by Jack Pepper

AS WE MADE camp in a giant amphitheater overlooking Squaw Valley in Canyonlands National Park, I watched the setting sun as it played a silent symphony of colors on the sandstone formations surrounding the grasslands below our natural cave. The night shadows gradually subdued the sunset and disappeared under a rising full moon.

The smoke from our campfire curled upward to the thick soot on the ceiling of our cave which was first blackened more than a thousand years ago when Indians cooked their corn here and also watched with reverence as the sun set behind the vermilion cliffs.

It was the end of our first day in the Canyonlands which covers more than a quarter of a million acres in Southeastern Utah and was described in 1950 by former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall as "acre for acre the most spectacular area in the world."

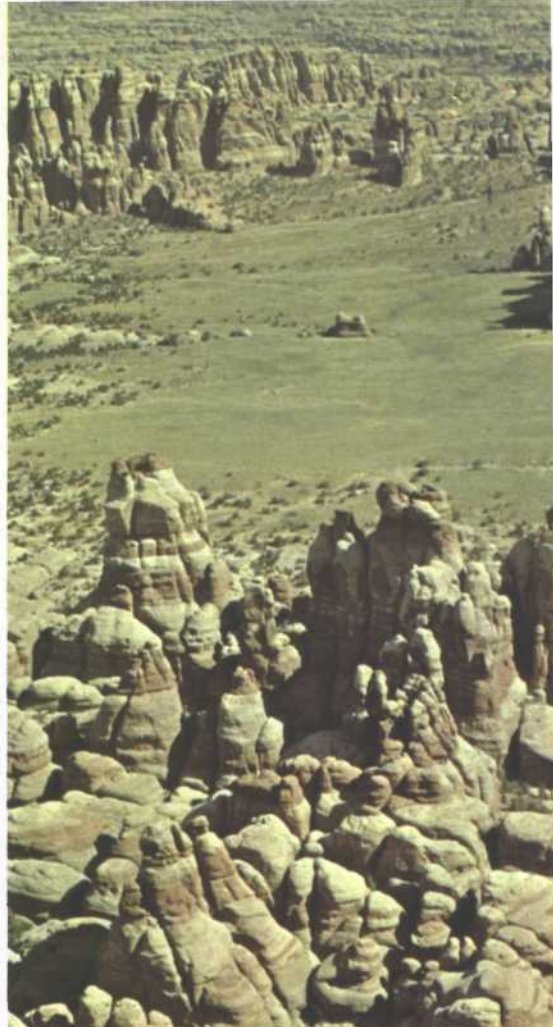
Superintendent Bates Wilson, who saw the area ten years before Udall and at

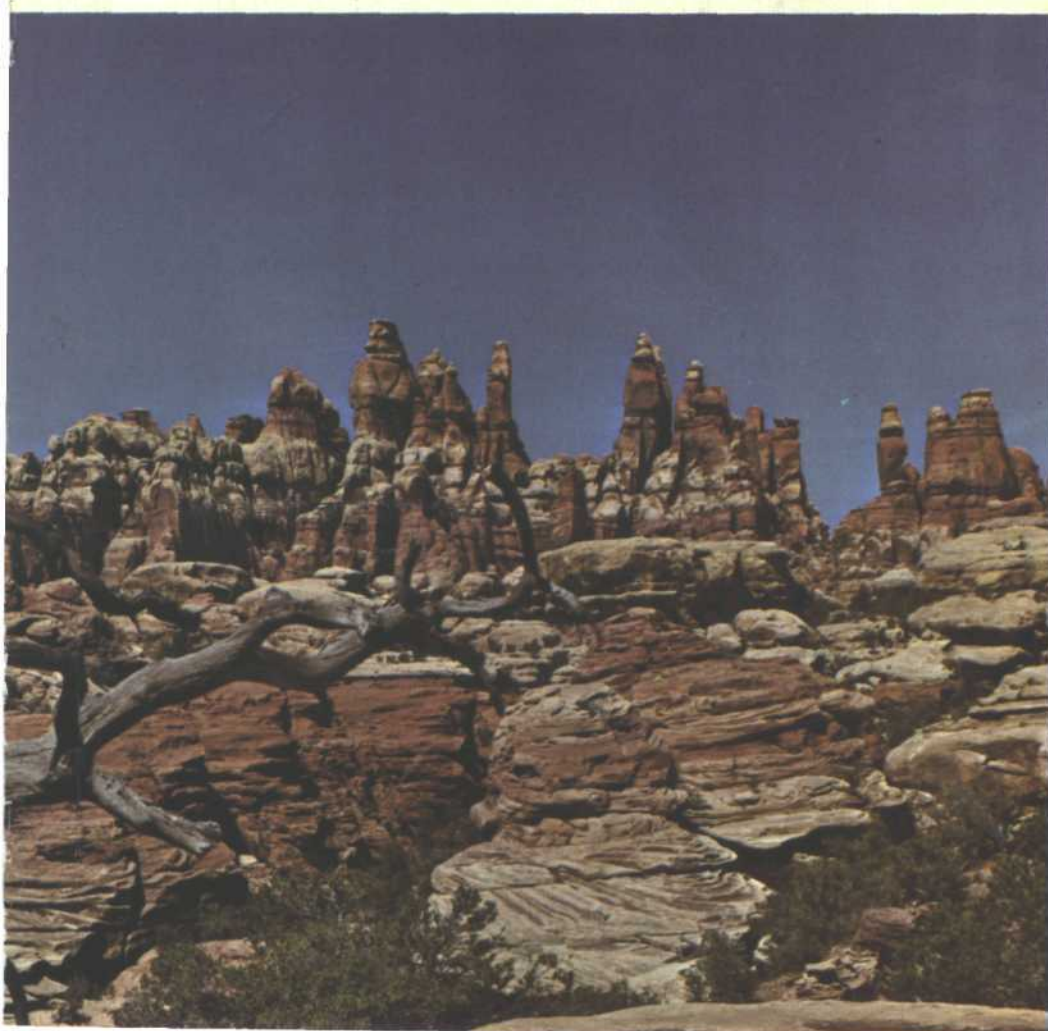
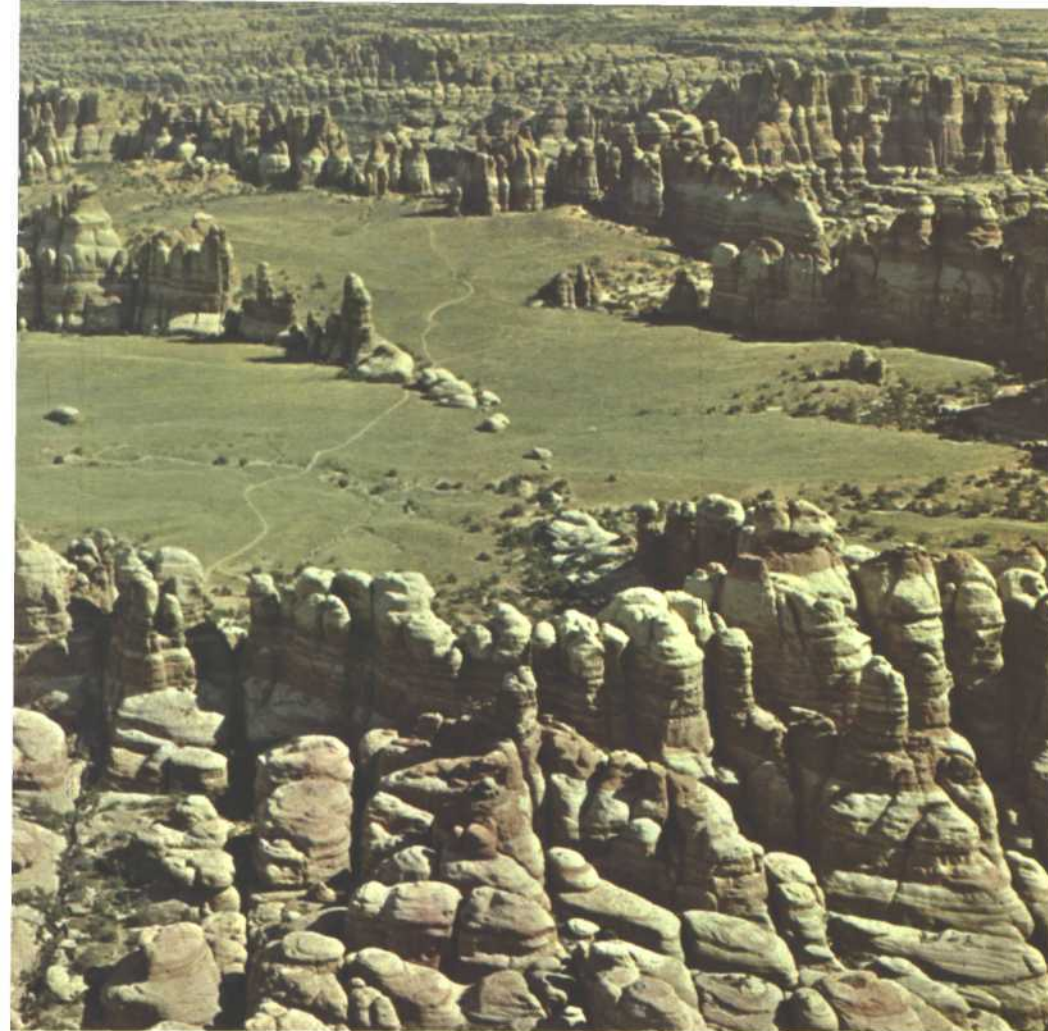
whose invitation the former Secretary became interested, was also overcome at his first sight:

"I found myself looking down on the most fantastic colored jumble of natural wonders I had ever seen. There were arches, spires, rugged canyons, crevasses and fins, stitched together with little green grabens (valleys). A large number of still-intact prehistoric Indian ruins were visible . . . to a park official, it was a pot of gold."

As a result of Udall's trip, former President Lyndon B. Johnson set aside 257,640 acres and established Canyonlands National Park on September 12, 1964. (Only one other park, the Redwoods in California, has been established since then.) One of the officials on the Udall trip was Kent Frost, former Colorado River runner who hiked through the Canyonlands for years before starting his four-wheel-drive Canyonland Tours.

We had joined Kent the day before at his headquarters in Monticello, Utah —





gateway to the southern entrance to the Park. In his comfortable Toyota station wagon we spent eight hours on the first day of our journey through what one member of our party described as "I wouldn't believe it if I hadn't seen it and when I get back home they won't believe me."

Others in our party around the campfire that night were John Long, a guest from San Francisco; Kent's assistant Joe Lemon, former cowboy turned tour-guide and spinner of tall tales; Dick Smith, pilot and operator of Canyonlands Aviation, and Tex McClatchy, former Texan turned Colorado River guide.

Our giant cave overlooked Squaw Valley which is the passenger car terminal for the southern entrance to the Park and where Dick Smith operates Canyonlands Resort, including a general store, gasoline station, trailer park and airfield from which he takes passengers on scenic flights. Plans call for enlarging Canyonlands Resort with a motel, restaurant and other facilities.

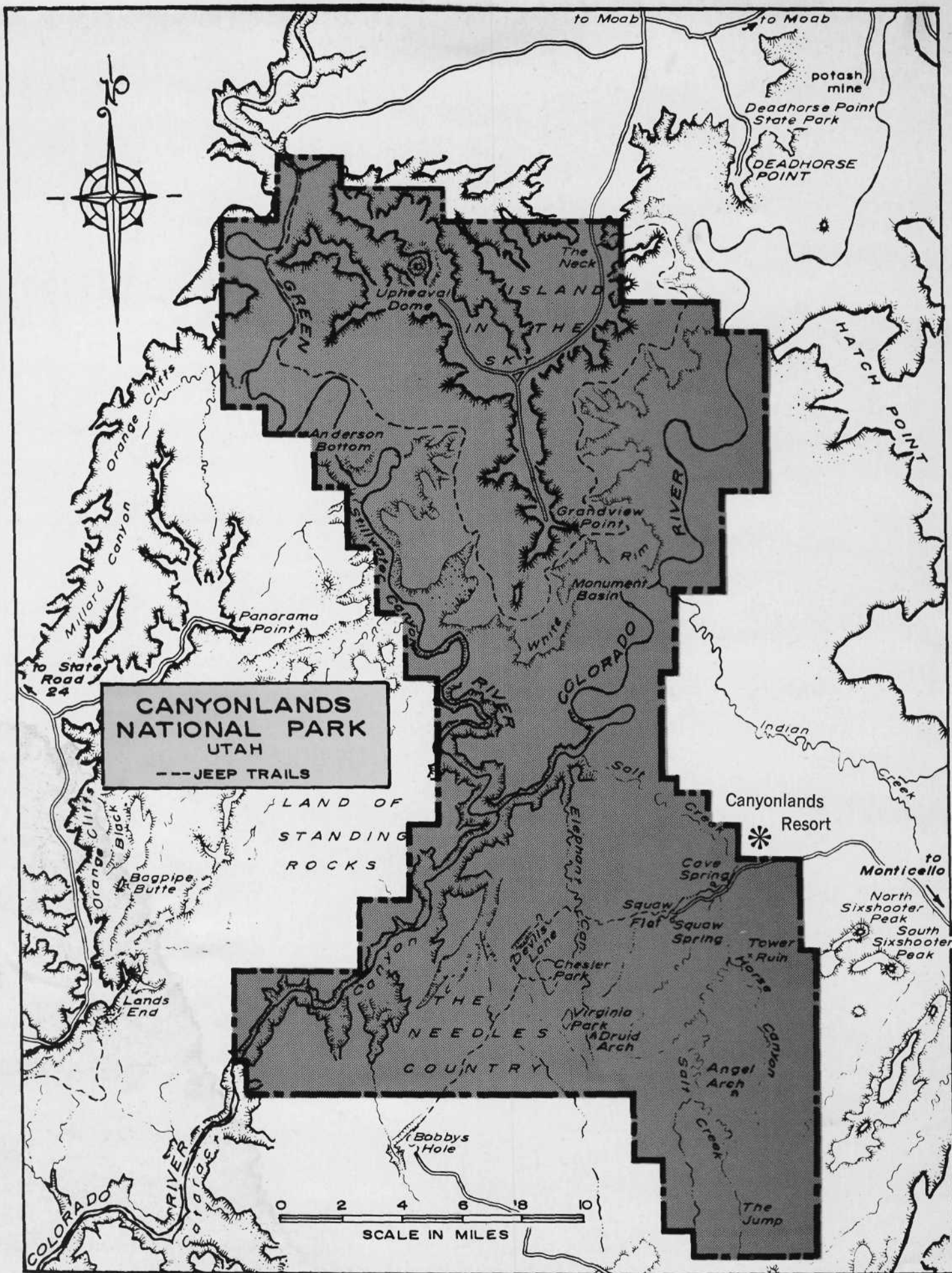
Also in Squaw Flat—I prefer to call it Squaw Valley—is a Ranger Station and public campground with 28 units set in picturesque coves giving campers privacy, water and pit toilets. Wood is extremely scarce so campers should bring their own fuel supply. Camping is limited to 14 days.

It is from here—called the Needles Area—that four-wheel-drive vehicles, dune buggies or trail bikes are needed for extended exploration of the interior of the Park. However, for those without this type of equipment there are excellent hiking trails and scenic vistas in the Squaw Valley area.

The northern entrance to the Park is from Moab, Utah, where good gravel passenger car roads lead to panoramic overlooks of the area and the Colorado and Green Rivers. Here, too, there are only limited and primitive camping facilities. A map and information on the Park can be obtained at Moab or at either of the two entrances.

Continued

Chesler park (above) looks like a fairyland when seen from an airplane. From the ground the spires and mesas of the Park reflect a myriad of colors to challenge the photographer. Photos by the author.





John Long examines a prehistoric Indian ruin under a cave.

Before starting our four-wheel-drive trip the first day into the Chesler Park area, we flew over the Canyonlands with Dick Smith. Dick is not only a veteran pilot, but has a wealth of information about the history and geology of the country which he describes over a microphone during the flight.

That night around the campfire I asked Dick where he had gained all his knowledge about the country. He grinned and pointed to Kent Frost. "Where most of us learned, from him."

To comprehend its grandeur and majesty, Canyonlands National Park should be seen both from the air and from the ground; it is like being in two different worlds.

From the air it appears as a fairyland of spires, arches, canyons and rivers all blending into one giant pastel painting so overwhelming you think the artist created the masterpiece from his imagination. You know it's there, but you still don't quite believe it's real.

From the ground, the aerial picture of a tiny fairyland changes to one in which you are dwarfed by the massive sandstone cliffs, mesas, buttes and monuments towering over the arroyos slicing through the deep canyons. The soft pastel shades seen from above change to brilliant reds, oranges, greens and yellows as your land vehicle slowly moves through the maze of igneous rock formations which had their beginnings 300 million years ago.



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During our air reconnaissance over all of the major areas within the Park, we photographed the many arches and giant rock formations, including Upheaval Dome, Island-In-The-Sky, Monument Canyon and Chesler Park. One of the most spectacular views is the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers whose waters meet to form one of the wildest rivers in the world. Farther south the Colorado is calmed by a series of dams but here it is still untamed by man.

We also flew over a spectacular area just east of the Park boundary which includes the Maze, Land of Standing Rocks and Robber's Roost. Over the latter, Dick pointed to a small cabin which was one of the hideouts of Butch Cassidy and his gang of outlaws.

Returning to Squaw Valley, we started our two-day land tour of the Park. Our destination the first day was Chesler Park. Between Squaw Valley and Devil's Lane, which leads to Chesler Park, there are two obstacles: Elephant Hill and SOB Hill. When I asked Kent what "SOB" meant, he winked and said, "Can't tell you with ladies present."

During my 20 years of jeeping throughout the Southwest and Baja California, I have driven over some rugged country, but these two "hills" are equal to any four-wheel-drive challenge I have ever experienced. Despite the switchbacks and steep terrain, Kent maneuvered the vehicle easily.

As we drove down Devil's Lane — stopping frequently to take photographs



Despite the steep downgrade of Elephant Hill, Kent Frost easily maneuvered his four-wheel-drive over the rough terrain.

Jim, today operates the San Juan Trading Post in Mexican Hat, Utah) to store water for horses and cattle. Cattle and horses were herded through the area as early as 1870.

Before the cowboys, however, the area was populated by Indian tribes. Archeologists believe the first occupants were the Fremont Culture which started around 850 or 900 A.D. They were followed by the Pueblo Cultures whose people roamed the land and grew small crops from the 11th through the 12th Centuries. The land was finally abandoned by the Indians—possibly due to drought—and today only their ruins and rock writings remain.

(Warning: Under the Antiquities Act of 1906, the removal or destruction of any Indian artifacts on public lands is punishable by fine and imprisonment—so enjoy, but do not destroy.)

The Needles area of the Park is considered by many, including Kent Frost,

to be the most spectacular and colorful. When I asked him what caused the range in color from vermilion to delicate shades of pink and then harsh blacks, he explained in one word: iron.

To demonstrate, he took his knife and scraped it against a brilliant red sandstone formation. As he cut deeper into the sedimentary rock, the red coloring disappeared and finally the rock became a pale yellow. He then picked up the red-colored sand at the base of the cliff.

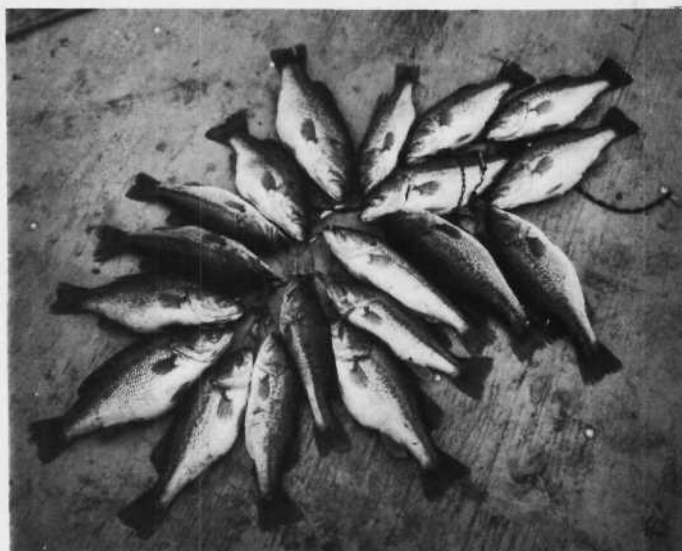
"This sand is merely particles of the sandstone eroded from this formation," he explained. "It contains iron pigment which makes it red. You will notice the closer to its parent rock, the redder the sand. As the wind blows it away it also destroys the superficial coloring, leaving it more in its natural colorless state."

A small amount of iron in chemical combinations with water and oxygen, he said, creates the colors ranging from red, yellow, brown, green and pink. It is the iron-colored flakes from the sandstone which are blown by the wind that make the colorful sandstorms.

continued on page 62

of the fantastic formations, Indian ruins and petroglyphs—Kent regaled us with the history, geology and legends of the country.

He pointed out several small dams which he said were built in 1948 by Emery Hunt (who, with his brother,



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MOAB ON THE MOVE!

DURING TOURS through the immediate vicinity of Moab, Utah, guides invariably point out a large mansion overlooking a verdant valley and the Colorado River below.

"That's the former home of Charles Steen who discovered a huge uranium deposit near here in 1953 and became a multi-millionaire overnight," they explain.

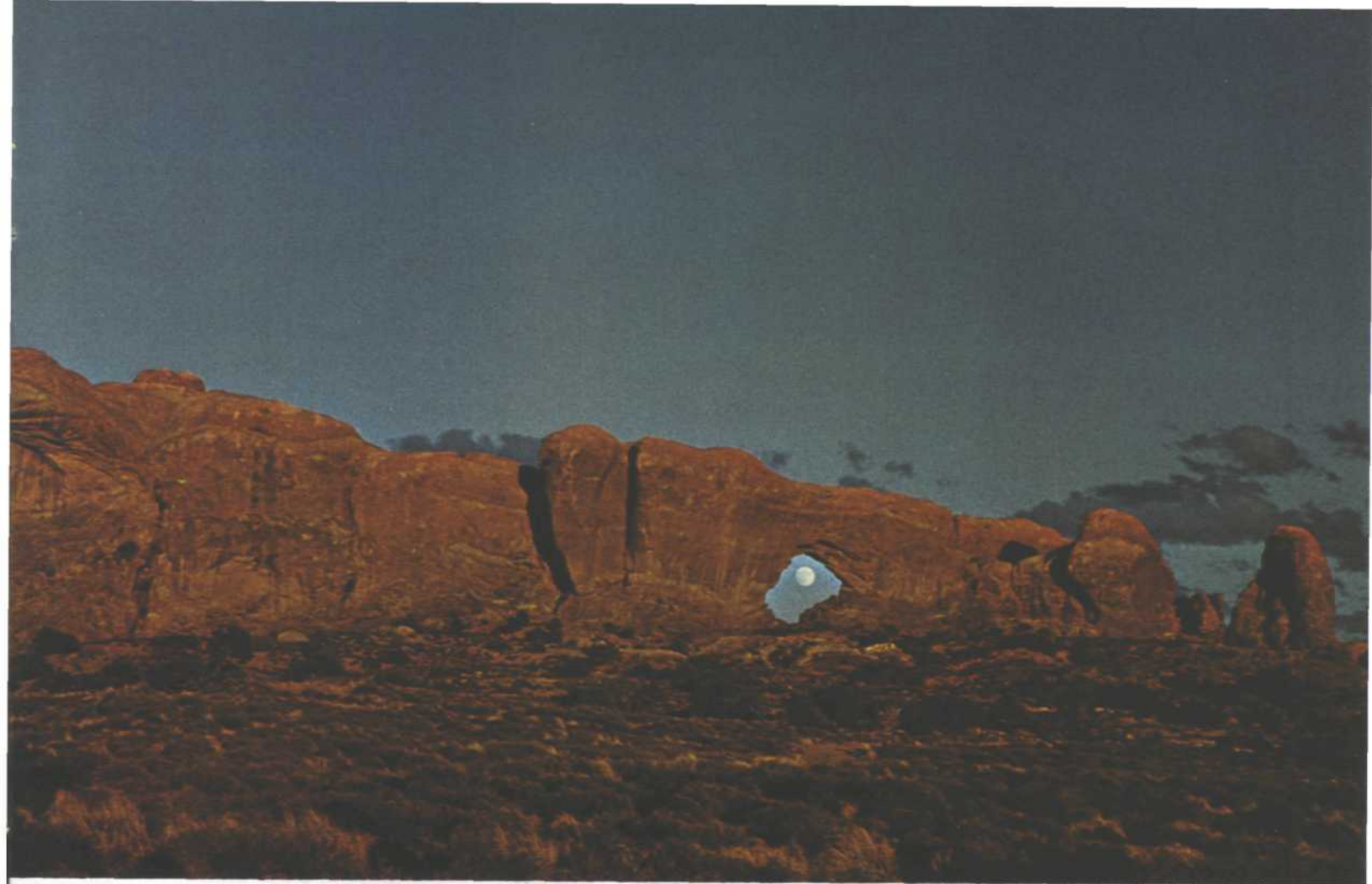
In those days the natural beauty of the

area was overshadowed by the mining craze. Today, however, Charles Steen and uranium are a thing of the past, but the eternal beauty of Moab remains and is being promoted by the townsfolk who cater to the ever-increasing number of visitors.

Tourists are finding the friendly community is a central headquarters for trips into the surrounding national parks and

Although from the air it appears as only ripples, Cataract Canyon is a challenge to Colorado River runners.





A rising full moon is seen through Window Arch in Arches National Monument in this timely photo by Patricia Sager.

monuments, rockhounding fields, mountains, deserts, rivers, lakes and remote wilderness areas.

There are guides galore. Trips range from rugged hunting and fishing pack trains into the nearby LaSal Mountains to leisurely float expeditions down the peaceful Colorado River.

One of the most spectacular of the float trips is "Canyonlands By Night." The moving theater is a giant open boat in which the audience drifts down the river under the Utah stars. The stage consists of the cliffs on either side on which kaleidoscopic lights play as the musical symphony and voice of the narrator enraptures the audience during the two-hour presentation.

Since the Colorado River at Moab is peaceful, it is the launching site for all types of river trips, either by individuals or under the direction of experienced guides. The float trips—including rubber rafts—go down as far as the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers in the heart of the Canyonlands National Park.

South of the confluence, however, the Colorado goes on a ranging rampage through Cataract Canyon. Only veteran river runners conducting charter expeditions are allowed to penetrate this wilderness. Typical of these Cataract river runners who launch their boats at Moab are Don and Ted Hatch who have been boating the Colorado since 1929—and who learned their skill from their father.

Moab is the headquarters and the northern entrance to Canyonlands National Park. Just north of the community is Arches National Monument, covering 53 square miles and containing 88 arches and windows, including Landscape Arch, believed to be the longest natural stone arch in the world.


South of Moab and on the way to the entrance to Canyonlands Park is Deadhorse Point, a Utah state park. One of the most spectacular vistas in the world—many people believe even more so than the Grand Canyon—Deadhorse Point overlooks the Colorado River 2,000 feet below. The river can be seen as it winds

through the massive rock formations—presenting a graphic lesson in erosion which took place through millions of years.

Also near Moab is Castle Valley where the red sandstone monoliths tower thousands of feet above the valley floor. All of the above mentioned parks and monuments are within a short driving distance of Moab and easily accessible by passenger car over good paved or gravel roads. Best camera shots in all areas are during early morning or late evening.

To explore the more isolated back country around Moab you may either bring your own four-wheel-drive or dune buggy or enlist the services of the back country guides. Daily tours and excursions are conducted throughout the year.

There are camping areas along the Colorado River and many excellent motels in Moab—whose merchants are finding that catering to tourists is actually more fun than when Moab was the "Uranium Capitol of the World." They are also convinced that beauty and tourism are more lasting.



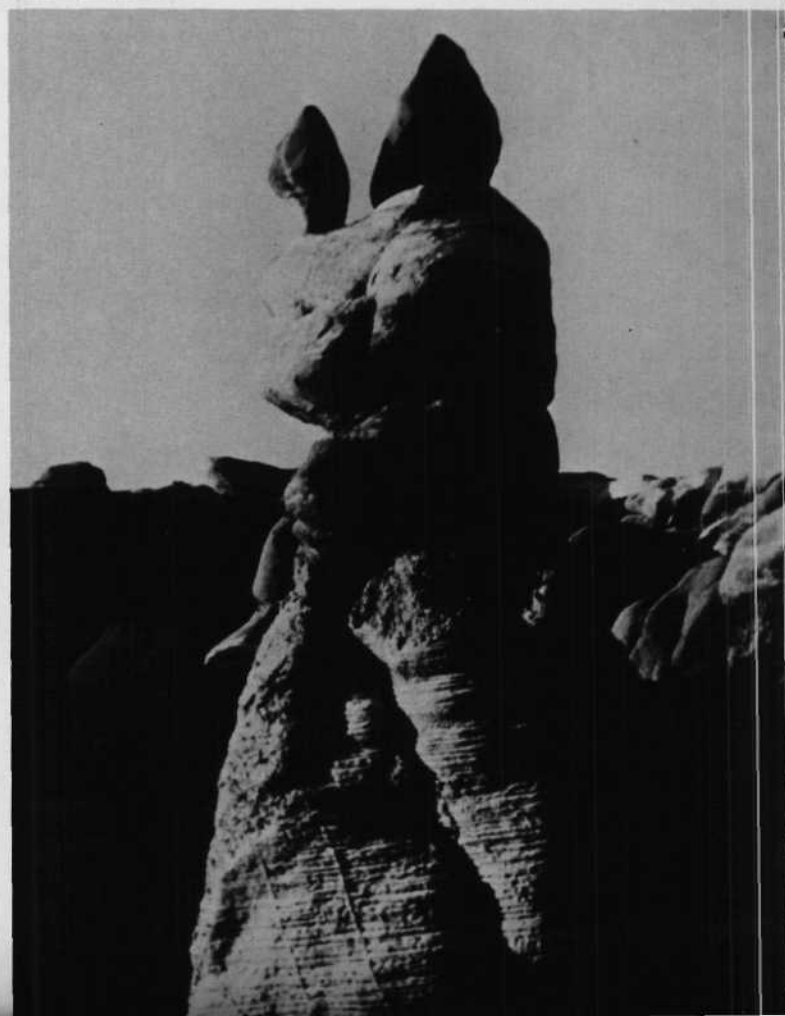
THE AREA SOUTH of Kayenta, Arizona abounds with canyons with such intriguing names as Dot Klish, Tsegi, Sour Water, Blue, Coal, Bat and Ha-Ho-No-Geh. It was the spotting from the air of a possible northern entrance to Ha-Ho-No-Geh that started a canyon safari I won't soon forget.

Led by Bill Crawley and accompanied by his brother-in-law, Bill Cornford, my wife, Joy and myself, we set out to "find" the trail into Ha-Ho-No-Geh. Traveling south on U.S. 164, we went through Marsh Pass and the Tsegi Canyon Trading Post, through Kletha Valley, past Cow Springs Trading Post and followed the Navajo Trail to Red Lake where we left the paved road. Crossing grazing land, with the cattle giving us a scarce glance, the trip became more rugged by the moment and we came upon our first canyon of the day, Blue Canyon. We paused here to photograph the strange spires and shapes that bordered the canyon on our left. Evidence of the ancient ones was

Left: The crumbling remains of long abandoned boarding school. Below: "Mother and Child" captured in sandstone in Blue Canyon.

CANYONS FROM KAYENTA

by
Bill Knyvett





Ha-Ho-No-Geh Canyon raises its strange formations to the sky.

found by Bill Cornford in small pieces of potsherds, but a keen eye was needed.

Crossing the flatland we came upon Moenkopi Wash which, due to a heavy rain, had cut the banks so steeply it had taken whatever semblance of the trail that existed downstream. We all got out and watched as Bill Crawley inched the vehicle down the wash bank. But with his many years experience in back country driving operating Golden Sands Tours, he made it appear easy as he roared across the stream bed and up the other bank.

Our next stopping point was the site of the old Blue Canyon Boarding School, abandoned in 1929. Some remnants of the old school still remain but a major portion overhangs the ever-changing course of the wash and is doomed at the next flash flood. A short distance from the school water has created a twisting canyon through the sandstone and visible in the water about 40 feet below was a perfectly round object. Both Cornford and I felt it was an olla, but Crawley insisted it had to be a boulder. No access, other than being dropped over by a cable, was available so the controversy was never

settled.

We made relatively good time across the mesa top to the edge of Ha-Ho-No-Geh, and our search for the elusive trail began. Our task was made even more difficult as the day had become overcast and a chilling wind whipped up at us from the canyon below. Repeated efforts at various points along the canyon edge proved, to me at least, there was just no way down from our side!

Crawley is a determined cuss and he had promised to take us to Ha-Ho, so back we went to State 264 and west to the Coalmine Canyon road where we stopped for lunch on the edge of the canyon and huddled in a cove from the blasting winds.

After lunch we wound our way down into Coal Canyon and then at last to Ha Ho-No-Geh. It was here that back-country driving was beautifully demonstrated as we picked our way past boulders, through marshy low lands and at any time I expected us to grind to a halt. But progress was not to be denied and we took the vehicle to the farthest reaches of the canyon.

By some miracle, the sun appeared just long enough to capture some of the canyon's magnificent scenery on film and just as suddenly it was gone! The clouds grew greyer by the minute and as any desert buff knows, the one place you *DON'T* want to be when it rains hard is on the bottom of a canyon! Lady Luck was also along on this safari and it turned so cold that the rain turned to hail and then snow. This seemed an appropriate time to depart and what a sight it was with the snow flakes falling against the myriad of colors that form the canyon walls.

The return trip home featured some picture taking of dinosaur tracks just a bit south of the Hopi village of Moenkopi which clings to the edge of Moenkopi Wash.

It was now late afternoon with the snow falling harder, and as we passed Black Mesa it was a combination of red rock, pinyon green and snow white.

For the rugged adventurer who likes back country travel and has an eye for photography, the canyons from Kayenta are a must!

Drifting Down the Colorado

by Jack Sheppard



AS WE GLIDED over the shallow and placid waters of the Colorado River in the jet boat, First Mate Pepe peered over the bow. With his legs braced against the motion of the boat and ignoring the spray of water in his eyes, he watched for possible sand bars and driftwood. Occasionally, he would scan the shoreline for traces of deer or other wild animals.

Five miles south of Moab, Utah the skipper of the boat, Tex McClatchy, suddenly stopped the engine and let the giant craft slowly drift downstream. He walked forward and picked up First Mate Pepe who then quietly snuggled into the skipper's arms and licked his face. First Mate Pepe is a poodle.

Speaking in his soft, southern drawl—Tex actually came from Texas—our skipper said: "Don't underestimate my First Mate . . . he can actually spot sand bars and driftwood. If he doesn't have time to bark, he flaps either his right or left ear, showing me the direction I should turn the boat."

Pepe really doesn't watch for sand bars, but he is a great straight man-poodle for Tex's show as the latter enthalls his audience with the history, legends and geology of the Colorado River during the fifty-mile boat trip into the Canyonlands National Park.

A former Lone Star State teacher, Tex decided school rooms were too confining so he resigned and toured the West before selecting Moab, Utah as his home and base of operations. He describes his philosophy in one sentence: "Go where you want to live and then find something to do."

Since moving to Moab he has found many things to do. He is an expert pilot with his own amphibious plane which he sets down on the Colorado to check his boating operations; he runs daily jet-boat trips down and up the river; he organizes and conducts group rubber raft and canoe trips down the river; he runs a colorful land-going "boat" in which he picks up clients from their Moab motels for his daily river trips—and he raises poodles. He also has other activities too numerous to list.

Tex combines his fascinating flair for showmanship with his mechanical ability and boating enterprise. He designed and built his unusual crafts which skim over the shallow parts of the river, and he



After checking ahead for sandbars (opposite page), First Mate Pepe goes back to the stern of the boat to check with Skipper Tex McClatchy. Photos by the author.

knows how to spot and maneuver between the ever-shifting sand bars.

The fifty-mile trip into the Canyonlands ends just above the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers where you can either return by the same boat, or board a bus for the return to Moab. With his high-speed boats, the trip can be made in less than an hour.

Instead, the regular one-way tour takes several hours as every few miles—at strategic points of interest and good photographic angles—Tex turns off the engine and allows the boat to drift downstream at an average speed of three miles an hour. As the boat drifts, he tells about the legends and history of the area and points out places of interest. He even suggests what exposure you should use to shoot the spectacular scenery.

At noon he stops at a small cove where a short walk takes you to a giant, cool cave where he has permanent tables, an ice box and other conveniences for the hour's rest. While eating lunch you are kept busy photographing the chipmunks which appear out of nowhere and are so tame they eat out of your hand.

The trip is still another way to see the

spectacular scenery of Canyonlands National Park—plus being entertained by a former Texas school teacher turned river guide and who—with his straight man-poodle Pepe—could also have made a success on the vaudeville circuit. □

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UTAH'S GREAT COMB RIDGE

by E. C. Howard

IN AN AREA of vastness—open skies, uninhabited land masses, chromatic landscapes and soaring mesas—the eye catches a titanic formation that stands alone and dominates the region.

Such is Utah's great Comb Ridge. This weathered and polished natural wonder looks like a dinosaurian lizard with naked backbone exposed. Its top-most edge has the jaunty ripple of a cockscomb, and the brilliant red of the Wingate walls adds to the illusion.

The Ridge's length alone is stunning—one hundred miles in its entirety. Somewhat more than half its length lies north and south; the remainder curves westward at Kayenta, Arizona. The monocline formation of the Comb has its northern beginning approximately ten miles west of Monticello, Utah, in San Juan County, in the southern edge of the Manti-LaSal National Forest. It is slightly east of a terraced mesa called Milk Ranch Point. Whiskers Draw cuts east and west in this area and here the land begins to show the first uplifting of the Ridge.

As it plunges south its top arc rises to the highest point west of Blanding, then subsides till it meets the San Juan River, west of Bluff. The San Juan has managed to breach its crest. Once the Ridge passes the river it begins to lose its identity and flattens into the surrounding country. It is the section paralleling Monticello, Blanding and Bluff that acts as a natural barrier to the east-west traveler.

Gene Foushee, who operates a motel and conducts tours at Bluff, Utah, is a graduate geologist from the University of North Carolina. He spends his spare time among Utah's gaudy rock formations pursuing his hobby, geology.

Gene explained Comb Ridge this way.

"Lay an ordinary sheet of paper flat on the table, then push both sides together until you have a rounded hump running the length down the middle. This is a monocline formation. It has been formed by pressure from the sides, or sometimes from below, or even by both.

"Then, imagine this rounded ridge of

soft sandstone exposed to wind and rain for millions of years. The top is gradually worn through layered formations to a harder layer of rock that resists erosion; in this case the Wingate formation. The layer just below the Wingate is Chinle, a soft, easily dissolved deposit that melts away quickly under constant water



action and undercuts the harder Wingate sandstone above it, causing great blocks of the upper layers to fall. This results in the high sheer walls that make up the west face of Comb Ridge."

Comb Ridge has two companions on its north-south course: Butler Wash on the east, and Comb Wash on the west. They exist because of the forming of the Comb Ridge Monocline, and the resulting erosion pattern.

Butler Wash is a canyon of agonized scoring and cutting into the Navajo sandstone that overlies the Wingate deposit, and caps the top of Comb Ridge. It is a fascinating place to explore, for there are ruins of cliff dwellings, and majestic rock forms in colors from pink to white, and buff to light reds that invite the photo enthusiast. This is wilderness back country, and a knowledgeable guide is needed to penetrate its twisting canyons.

Comb Wash is an entirely different breed of cat. The west side of the Ridge is an awesome thing, a formidable wall that plunges straight down 800 feet to the wash. It is as though a giant had wielded a knife to cut the west face of the Ridge, then, as if to appease the traveler for this impassable barrier, soothed the surface of the wash with a meandering stream, coloring it with the soft green of cottonwood trees and grassy slopes that nestle against the ruffled talus at the foot of the burnished red walls.

The four scouts sent by the Mormons in 1879 across the rugged country east of the Colorado River, must have felt dismay when they first sighted the west face of the great Ridge. Their decision to turn south and follow Comb Wash was a wise one, for they eventually came to the San Juan River, where they crossed the ridge to see the river valley that became Bluff, Utah.

If the white man could see no way up the stern face of Comb Ridge, not so the Indians who lived on the mesas and in Butler Wash on the east, and those who lived across Comb Wash on the west.

They made foot trails down its stony face. The history of the Indians around the Ridge goes back to the Anasazi, and, as near as can be determined, it is the ruins and cliff dwellings of these "Ancient Ones" that dot the canyons and mesas in this area. The archeological work accomplished all around the Ridge has added invaluable information to the knowledge of how these Indians lived in their times.

There were two main trails on this fifty-mile section of the Comb. One led through what is now called The Notch, and is the present Utah Highway 95 east and west from Blanding, Utah, to Hite at the Colorado River. The other was about three miles south and down a seemingly impossible cliff wall. When the Indians acquired horses, these two passages became horse trails and were used by the cattlemen as they moved into the area. The south trail is still in existence as it was hundreds of years ago. It is steep, and the horseman may still ride down its switchbacks if he and his horse don't panic. It is much safer to walk down the path of the "Ancient Ones."



Leave Wahweap by boat at 9 a.m., going into various canyons before reaching colorful Rainbow Bridge. Visit more canyons before camping for the night. Next day, proceed up Lake Powell and enter San Juan landing at Nokai Canyon to be met by Harry Goulding's overland vehicles, and pass through red rock country enroute to Gould-



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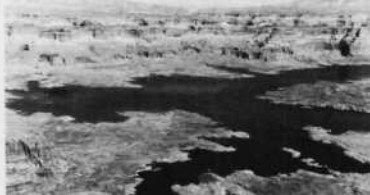
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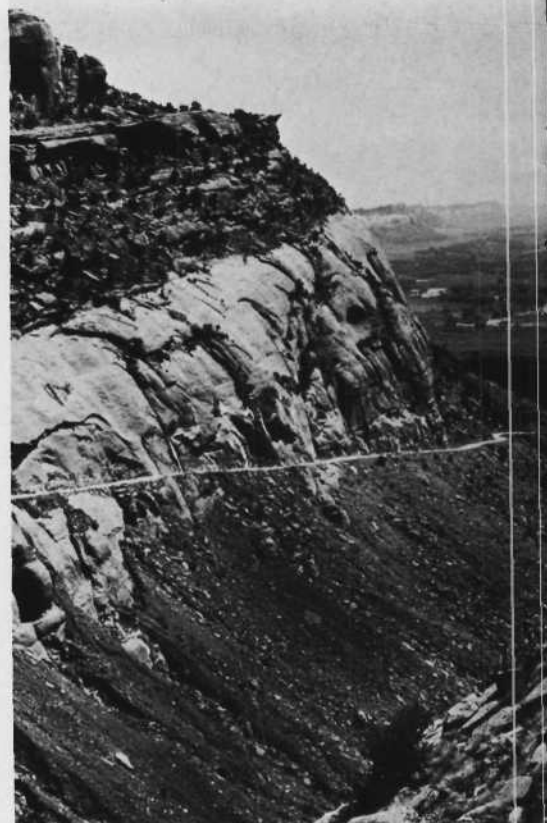
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The Ridge played a bizzare role in the settlement of San Juan County. Stories are told of the Ute raids on the livestock of the settlers. Most prized by the Indians were the horses the white men brought with them, and the Utes became experts in spiriting away the animals put out to pasture. The Ute's unethical behavior caused angry accusations and frequent shootings by both fractions. The Utes resented the encroachment on their hunting lands as the settlers moved more and more cattle into the territory.

It took fifty-seven years to bring this boil of trouble to a head, but it finally blew its top. It was the year 1923 when Comb Ridge was the scene of the last shooting confrontation between the Indians and the settlers in the United States.

Comb Ridge today is crossed by four highways, the San Juan River, and Chinle Creek in Arizona. Travelers passing west through The Notch on Utah Highway 95 may park at the first curve before starting down the winding road to observe, exclaim and photograph. Be sure to put your car in gear and set the brake before leaving it.



Like a thread strung along the brilliant red Wingate cliff, the steep road down the west face of Comb Ridge has been in use for hundreds of years.

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The west face of the ridge is the beautiful red Wingate sandstone, and with a little care for correct exposure and reflected light, pictures taken from this viewpoint are usually spectacular.

After crossing Comb Wash, rest or lunch in the shade of the big old cottonwood trees at the designated rest stop at Arch Canyon where the water ripples out of the secret places of the earth.

Comb Ridge stands aloof, its naked backbone disappearing in the distant mist of morning and evening. The secrets of the lives that passed its way stay safe within its craggy silence. ☐

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T O N O P A H



Photos
by
Jerry Strong

by
Mary
Frances
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A Town with a Silver Lining

THE ROOM was unusually quiet as our elderly host settled into his chair. There was a note of sadness in his voice when he finally remarked, "This is the anniversary of the terrible fire in the Belmont. It burned for four years and caused the closing of the mine."

Though 31 years have gone by, Fred Steen, former auditor-controller at the Tonopah-Belmont mine, has not forgotten that dark day. Great mines seem to have their own personalities and live on in the hearts and memories of those who worked in them. Such is the case at Tonopah, Nevada, where a modern town has developed among the historic remnants of the 1900 silver boom.

A few of its pioneers are still around to recall the early days.

Two-hundred million dollars in silver and gold were taken from the Tonopah hills in the two decades which followed the initial discovery of May 17, 1900 by Jim Butler. There are different versions of the events leading up to this great silver strike, although historians agree the discoverer was James L. Butler, Belmont rancher, former district attorney and superintendent of schools for Nye County.

Jim was en route to the Klondyke mining district, 55 miles south of his ranch, when he found the silver ledge.

Whether he threw a rock at one of his burros—and found the rock to contain silver—or was keeping his eyes open as an man interested in mining would do—is not certain. In view of Butler's many years of prospecting and his reputation as a geologist, it would appear the latter story to be most likely.

At Klondyke, Butler offered Fred Hicks, the local assayer, a quarter interest in return for an assay. Hicks declined saying the samples were of little value. On his return trip to Belmont, Butler took further samples from the ledge and gave them to Tasker Oddie of Austin; offering the same deal for an assay. The results, showing silver ore running several hundred dollars to a ton, were soon known and Nevada's depressed mining industry was electrified by the news. The boom was on!

Butler and Oddie took Wilse Brougher into partnership and began the develop-

ment of their claims as hundreds of fortune-seekers headed for Nevada's new silver strike. The first shipment was a little over a ton of ore and brought \$600.00. From this beginning, the rich mines paid their way without outside financial assistance—a feat unheard of in mining annals. Claims were divided into small sections and leased on a 25% royalty basis and during 1901 the leasees took out over \$4,000,000 in ore!

The original partners sold their property to the Tonopah Mining Company in 1902 with Wilse Brougher remaining on as general manager. Development of the claims continued at a fast pace. In 1904,

the high-grade ore from the rich claims. Arriving to help the miners spend their hard-earned money were the gamblers, con men, prostitutes and merchants. Conditions were extremely primitive with tents predominating the scene. New Year's Day, 1902, was ushered in by some 1200 happy citizens. Little did they realize that disaster was on its way.

An epidemic of sickness struck the town and within ten days the population was reduced to 350 souls. Make-shift hospitals were filled with the ill and dying. The people were panic-stricken and fought to crowd aboard the out-going stages. Hundreds of others simply left everything



Modern Tonopah nestles among the old mines and tailings as seen above and on the opposite page where a headframe is a reminder of the silver bonanza.

a sixty-mile, narrow-gauge railroad was constructed to haul the ores to Sodaville for final delivery via the Carson & Colorado Railroad.

During this period, prospecting had uncovered rich ore veins beneath the andesite which caps the region. New companies were able to obtain holdings and the famed Tonopah-Belmont, Extension and West End Consolidated were developed. A rosy future for the district seemed assured.

The camp, known as Butler City, was experiencing growing pains, as it proved itself more than just a brief strike. In January 1901, ninety people were mining

and walked out of town to escape the peril. The epidemic lasted 30 days and took the lives of more than 50 people. The cause of the illness was not known, but only men who had worked underground died; not a woman or child was affected.

Following the disaster, the population grew to 3,000, permanent houses were erected and a substantial business district rose. Two newspapers proclaimed the new town of Tonopah was destined for a place of honor in Nevada's history. How right they were!

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*Howard Butler holds a maroon
and beige specimen of Tonopah
wonderstone, one of the many
gemstones found in the area.*

Tonopah could be called the savior of Nevada, since its mines pumped millions of dollars into the sagging economy and brought an about-face to the state's declining population. Jim Butler and his friends became millionaires and Tasker Oddie went on to become Nevada's twelfth governor.

Although the disastrous fire of 1939 closed the Belmont mine and World War II stopped mining in the Mizpah, a resurgence of mining at Tonopah is a strong possibility. Rich ores still await exploitation. The current high price of silver, coupled with the purchase of the famed mines by the Howard Hughes Corporation could mean renewed activity.

Today, Tonopah is a blend of the old with the new. Along the main street, modern buildings stand side by side with impressive structures of early 1900 vintage. Many store windows contain displays of items from yesteryears; and their owners enjoy reminiscing with visitors. The Tonopah Club has an interesting exhibit of mining mementos and a fine display of local gems and minerals will be found in the lobby of the Sundowner Motel. There are bottle shops and an antique shop all containing many early-day treasures.

Tonopah is a mecca for the vacationer interested in historical Western Americana, outdoor recreational activities or just plain relaxation in a western atmosphere of luxurious comfort, good food and gaming (legal in Nevada). There are excellent motels and a hotel to fit any budg-



et; and two trailer parks offer overnight facilities for recreational vehicles. Sunday buffet dinners are featured at Gabriel's Table (the restaurant at the Sundowner Motel) and in the Mizpah dining room. The Tonopah Club also specializes in dinners. The latter two restaurants are open 24 hours daily.

The fact that Tonopah began as a mining camp is never doubted. Huge mine lumps embrace the town with homes and businesses built on and around them. At the western edge of Tonopah, a great river of mill tailings flows down a ravine then spreads out into a huge, beige-colored fan covering several miles of the valley floor. Approaching from the east another tremendous deposit of tailings will loom into view. On the hills above are seen the ruins of the Belmont silver-cyanide mill—

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*The Belmont Mill ruins and
its tailings are located above
the town.*

considered one of the country's outstanding mills of its day.

Many of the old mines and mill sites may be visited. They are all private property and souvenir collecting is prohibited. A stop at the District Ranger's office on the main street will provide you with a map and information about interesting side trips. You might also drop in at the Central Nevada Newspaper office. You will enjoy reading a copy of the Tonopah Times-Bonanza, which has been published regularly since 1901. Mining news and a western flavor are intermixed with current events. Editor, Gerald Roberts, also has a good stock of books on the lure and lore of Nevada.

Over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 29, 30, 31, Tonopah will host its First Annual Jim Butler Days. A wide variety of events are planned to suit the interests of everyone. A Rockhound Roundup with rock swapping, tailgating and guided field trips will be included.



A "Gay Nineties" party on Friday evening, a barbecue on Saturday and a Sunday sunrise breakfast are also being planned.

The Chamber of Commerce Information Center is located at the Sundowner Motel with maps and information available free of charge.

The Antique Bottle Show will be held for the fourth year in the convention center, with exhibits by well-known collectors, dealers, bottle games and trading.

Dune buggy enthusiasts will be able to attend the Second Annual Dune Buggy Races at Crescent Dunes, 10 miles northwest of town. Events for men and women will include hill climbing and the obstacle course.

There is no admission charge for the Rockhound Roundup, Bottle or Dune Buggy Races.

Other events planned include a parade, street dance, trophy awards and western

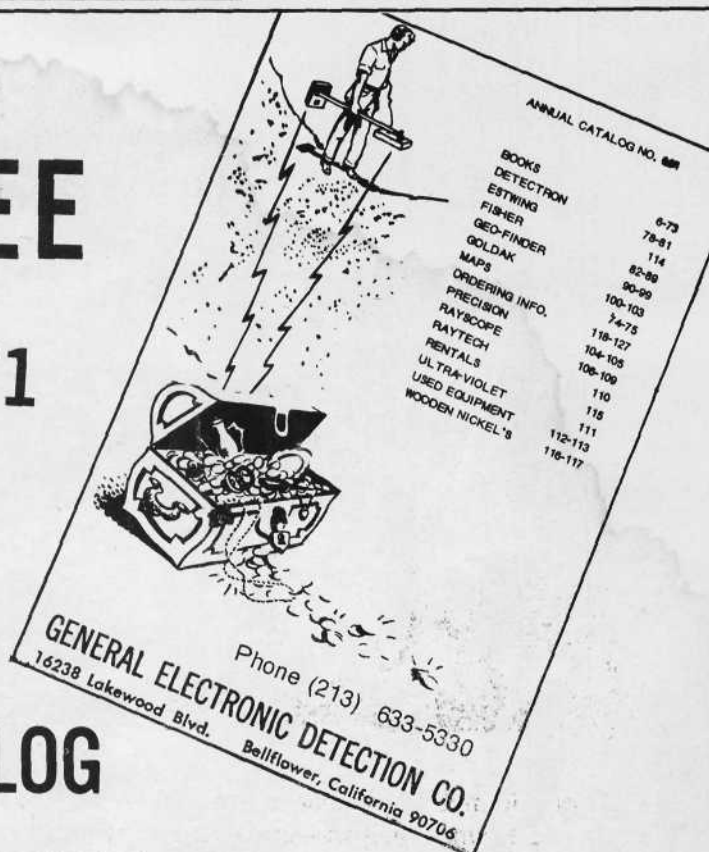
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Jim Butler Days will be reminiscent of the "good old days" in Tonopah when a celebration meant at least three days of wild fun. So plan to head for the Nevada hills in May! ☐



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LAKE POWELL *continued from page 27*

returning to California via the scenic route through Waterpocket Fold and Escalante. (See other articles in this issue.)

Last year we had spent four delightful days on the southern part of Lake Powell, headquartering at the Wahweap Marina, located near Glen Canyon Dam and the recreation community of Page, Arizona.

Since our last visit to Wahweap (see Desert, May '70) Art and Bill Greene have added 42 more motel units and are completing a large convention-dining room which seats 600 for meetings and 500 for dining in their spacious motel overlooking the bay. Imagine attending a convention and during coffee breaks running down to the lake to catch a few large mouth bass!

They have also additional houseboat rentals, boats for charter and enlarged their slips and camper and trailer village.

This time we were anxious to explore the northern section and to see if the bass and trout were as plentiful as around Wahweap.

The sun was just setting as we crested the last mesa and saw Lake Powell; its clear blue-green waters contrasting sharply with the vermilion cliffs across the bay. Within the hour we were storing our fishing and camping gear aboard one of the spacious houseboats which can be

*Living on and
fishing from a
houseboat is "the
only way to live."*

*Bullfrog Marina
(below) and village
on hill as seen
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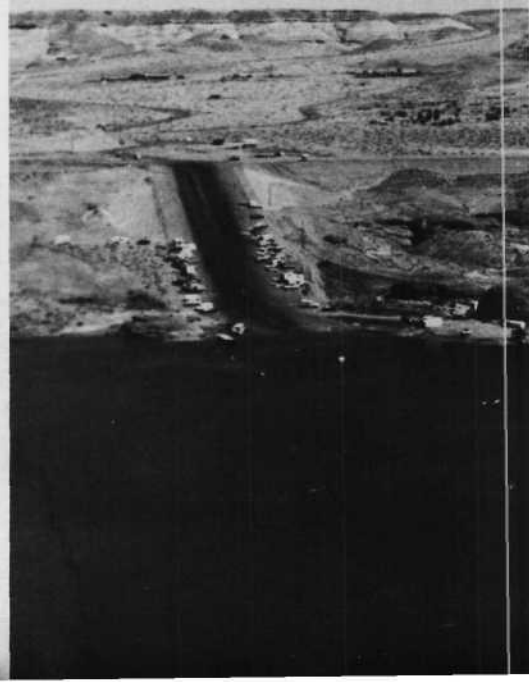
rented at the Bullfrog Marina—this was our "home" for the next three days during which we explored the upper reaches of Lake Powell.

Since it was dark we stayed at the dock that night and the following morning accepted an invitation from Dick Reuling, president, and Lou Mallory, general manager of Bullfrog, to accompany them on



Walking Rocks in Canyonlands

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a trip to some Moqui Indian ruins in nearby Lake Canyon. On the way, Lou piloted his boat under a little known horizontal arch across from Lake Canyon—appropriately called Through-the-Hole.

At the water's end of Lake Canyon a short hike took us to the Moqui ruins, built under an overhang above the creek



bed. The cliff dwellings of the Moqui—there are various spellings such as Moki—are believed to be more than 600 years old. Their physical size, where they came from and when they departed is still a matter of conjecture. An interesting article on these prehistoric Indians by Gene Foushee appeared in the May, '65 issue of Desert.

Back at the marina, Lou drove me to the airfield so I could obtain aerial photographs. Many fishermen and vacationists fly into Bullfrog in private planes. It has a 3500-foot paved runway with 500-foot runoffs on both ends. Using Unicom 122.8, pilots can check in with the marina office ten minutes ahead, then buzz the marina, and they will be picked up at the airport.

After our flight we drove to the park public campgrounds and through Bull-

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Moqui Indian ruins (right) are found in the canyons. It is believed many more are still undiscovered. The fissure (below) is appropriately called Through-The-Hole. The sandstone is laced with brilliant colors.

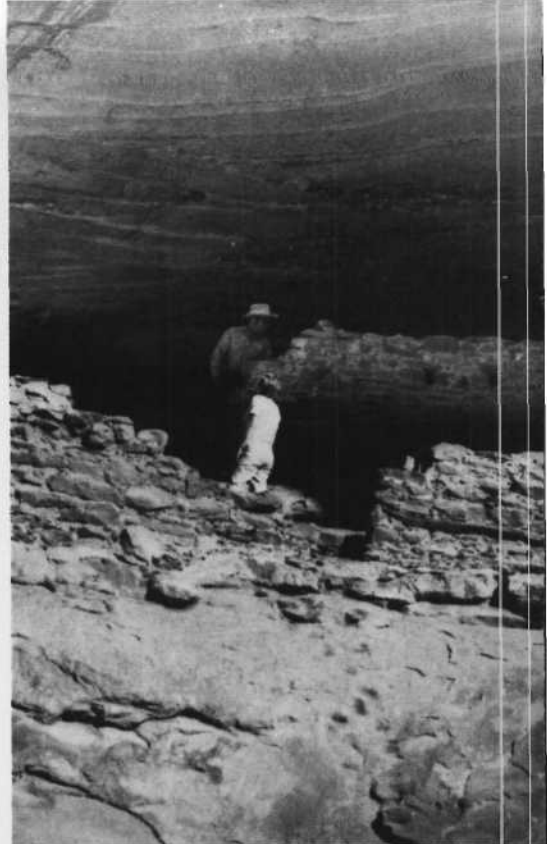
frog Village where mobile home overnight and weekly rentals are available. Permanent homes for the Park personnel and marina employees are also on the mesa overlooking the lake.

Bullfrog also has the smallest school in Utah with 19 students. Children from Hall's Crossing are brought across the lake every morning on the ferry and then returned after classes. That's one way to get kids to go to school!

After stocking up on supplies at the fully-equipped marina—plus a good supply of water dogs—we headed for three days of exploring and fishing and two nights of peaceful sleep under the Utah skies.

I had previously toured Lake Powell in a smaller and faster boat which enabled me to cover more territory and get into smaller coves and canyons. But for just plain relaxing and complete comfort a houseboat can't be beat. Many families rent a houseboat and tow their own smaller craft along for exploring and water skiing.

The following three days blended into each other and passed all too quickly as



we leisurely sunbathed, swam, fished and hiked—all depending upon the mood and hour of the day.

It would take this entire issue to describe the many canyons—and an artists' palette to show the ever changing colors—we visited. Among them were Lost Eden Canyon with its giant amphitheater; Ticaboo Canyon where old Cass Hite and other miners placered for gold during 1800; Moqui Canyon where we en-



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countered eight beautiful deer which, instead of running away, watched us curiously as they continued foraging.

And how can you resist exploring canyons with such names as Warm Spring, Blue Notch, White, Trachyte, Scorup, Cedar, Slick, Iceberg and one whose name we couldn't figure—Annie's Canyon?

Our favorite is Forgotten Canyon where we arrived during the early after-



noon and hiked over some steep cliffs and into a verdant valley, along a spring and then to Defiance House Ruins, one of the larger Moqui developments.

The hike to the ruins had been long and the day was warm. So, instead of hiking back, we tied several logs together, put our cameras in waterproof bags, and floated back down the creek through the driftwood to the main lagoon.

We tied the houseboat to the trunk of a large tree, which had been partially covered with water, caught two beautiful bass and, as we relaxed with wine and dinner on the outside deck, watched the sun paint designs on the Navajo sandstone cliffs.

As I fell asleep I could hear the gentle lapping of the water against the hull of the boat, the distant cry of a coyote, the splash of fish as they broke the surface of the lagoon and—was I mistaken?—the soft chant of Moqui Indians drifting through the canyon walls.

They must be saying this is the "Country of the Gods" I thought, as I drifted into oblivion. ☐

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Rambling on Rocks

by Glenn and Martha Vargas

PEGMATITE DIKES: Nature's Jewel Boxes

THE MOST prolific producers of gems are pegmatite dikes which are found in many parts of the world. A pegmatite dike is a seam of coarse-grained rock filling a crack in granite, or a granite-like rock. It might be likened to the seam of mortar that lies between building bricks. The word pegmatite is from *pegma*—framework, and *ite*, the suffix meaning resembling. The name refers to the criss-cross pattern sometimes shown by pegmatites.

The granite, called granitic rocks, are intrusive igneous rocks, having once been molten, and intruded into another rock formation. The word igneous is from the Latin *igneus*—fire. This molten mass was forced upward with great pressure, but never reached the surface. If it had, it would have spilled out onto the surface as lava. Intrusive formations are usually large, sometimes forming great mountain ranges. The Sierra Nevada Mountains of California are such a range. The name granite is from the Latin *grano*—seed, and alludes to the grainy structure.

Granitic rocks are made of a number of types of mineral grains, with some varia-

tion, but the two most common constituents are quartz, the white, almost clear particles; and feldspar, the slightly off-white opaque portions. The dark flecks in granite are biotite mica, the easily flaked pieces; and hornblende, which is usually very brilliant black.

Like all things, when granite cools, it shrinks in size, and cracks begin to form in the upper and cooler portions. These cracks, when forming in very large masses, may become a number of feet wide. They continue to extend downward as the lower portions cool until they reach very near the molten region.

At this point, the crack will begin to fill with gasses of many of the lighter weight elements. Chlorine, fluorine, boron, lithium, aluminum, phosphorous and others are either normally gasses, or have been vaporized by the extreme heat. When the crack finally reaches the area of molten rock, some of the rock is forced up into the crack. This new molten rock is much like the granite that made up the original mass, but now some of the heavy elements that stayed behind origin-



Baja California pegmatite dike.

ally also will find their way into the crack. These may be tin, tantalum, iron, manganese and others.

The filling material begins to cool soon after entering the crack, but the rate is slow as the surrounding granitic mass is still warm. The gasses and vapors mix with the cooling material, and bubbles are formed. These bubbles may be only a fraction of an inch across, or many feet in width, depending upon the width of the original crack. Finally the filling cools to the point where the minerals within it begin to form as crystals. These grow from the sides of the wall toward the center, the crystals becoming larger as they grow inward. The first crystals to form are feldspar which crystalize at a high temperature. There is much feldspar

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in the mix, thus the walls of the new dike are nearly pure feldspar. In the mass, the feldspar crystals intermingle into a solid rock, but in the bubbles they become individual crystals attached only at the base.

With further drop in temperature, other minerals begin to crystalize; usually the gem minerals. Most of these are known as the silicates, a combination of a metal, or a number of metals, and silica. Silica is derived from the plentiful supply of quartz, which at this stage becomes a raw material for this process. Here, also, is where the vapors of the lighter weight elements come in. Boron, with other metals plus silica becomes tourmaline. If lithium is present, the tourmaline is pink. Chlorine with aluminum and silica becomes topaz. Beryllium, aluminum, and silica becomes beryl.

If there is an abundance of oxygen, it may combine with beryllium and aluminum to form chrysoberyl (an oxide). Apatite forms from fluorine of chlorine, plus calcium, phosphorus and oxygen. Manganese, aluminum and silica become spessartite garnet. Iron, aluminum and silica become almandite garnet. Tin, tantalum and oxygen combine to form stibiotantalite; or without the tin, it becomes tantalite. These last two are not gem minerals in the usual sense and are very rare.

These minerals, as well as others, now festoon the walls of the bubble, which is known as a pocket. Many of these grew upon feldspar crystals, as well as each other. When the temperature drops to 1350 degrees F. the silica that was not previously used forms into quartz, and becomes a sort of a frosting for the cake. It will grow upon many of the others, and also grow simultaneously with others, such as tourmaline. If the quartz crystal is clear, the pink or green tourmalines may be seen within it. Other minerals may be seen within it also, or in late stages, some minerals may grow upon the quartz. We will discuss some of these in our next column.

Early in the process, before the pocket begins to fill with gem minerals, lithium became part of a mica known as lepidolite. This pink mica does appear in the pocket also, but most commonly it is locked within the massive feldspar that makes up the outer wall of the pocket. After the dike has cooled, waters will seep downward from the surface. These may be alkaline and will alter some of

the minerals. Feldspar alters to a fine clay that now seeps into all crevices and openings, and very often completes the filling of the pockets.

When erosion has removed the rocks that held the granite beneath the surface, the pegmatites spill some of their contents out onto the surface. When these dikes are opened by miners, two things become the indicators of an approaching pocket. First, the lepidolite mica can be seen locked in the massive feldspar. Next follows the clay embedded in the small cracks. When the miner breaks into the pocket, he carefully wipes away the clay, and the treasure that has long been locked within is revealed.

Many gem pockets are about a foot or two across, but an opening of this size may contain a small fortune. Consider



Tourmaline on quartz.

the value of a pocket that the miner can walk into; these have been found. Most pockets usually contain much that is of little value as gems, but most of the wall of the pocket makes excellent display specimens. Some of them, combinations of quartz, tourmaline, mica, and perhaps other rarer minerals can give the mineral collector the thrill of a lifetime.

Probably the best known of the pegmatite areas are in Brazil, where many rare and unusual gems have originated. Madagascar is also famous. Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire contain a fine series of pegmatites that have produced fine minerals. There are some very excel-

lent pegmatites in Riverside and San Diego Counties in California which extend into the desert portions. These also continue into Baja California, Mexico. □

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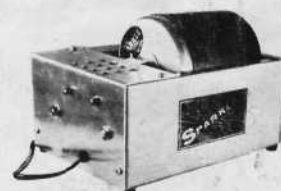
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Prehistoric Indian ruins are found under caves and high above the valley floor.

CANYONLANDS

continued from page 39

Settling on the ground, the red flakes create a picturesque background for the pinyon pine and Utah juniper trees and the wildflowers which pop out during the short rainy season. Along the moist canyon bottoms can be found Fremont poplars, willows and tamarix.

These we observed on the second day of our trip as we drove through Salt Creek en route to Angel's Arch—one of the largest stone structures in the world. It rises 190 feet into the blue sky and has a span of 160 feet. But statistics have little meaning when you first see this buff-colored formation which seems alive as the Angel, with folded wings and bowed head, watches over her realm below.

John Riis, in his book *Ranger Trails* describes the Canyonlands:

"It is a land to dream over, for in some indefinable way it seems to present the story of creation; to hold locked in its rock fastness tales that have been lost among the centuries . . . Dead it is and has been for thousands of years, yet it seems to me that here the Creator has painted a vivid picture of time eternal that is good for man to see. A picture that has lived for centuries and will live for centuries more." □

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MULEY TWIST *continued from page 31*

Canyon. However, to enter (or to travel the entire length of Muley Twist Canyon) we would have either had to hike or go on horseback. Instead we continued on and about a mile after reaching the summit arrived at Circle Cliffs, turning right on a jeep trail, which can be easily missed, especially if rains have washed out the previous wheel tracks.

The jeep road soon entered Muley Twist Canyon and we saw the back side of Peek-A-Boo Arch. (A word of warning: although usually dry, during the spring snow-melt and during the rainy season, Muley Twist Canyon should not be entered.)

The walls of the Canyon are of two distinct colors; on the right are the light-colored Navajo Sandstone and on the left are the reddish Wingate Sandstone. We saw evidence of much wildlife and Clair said on his previous trip he had sighted three mountain lions.

We continued winding our way through the formation and as we turned a bend we saw them: a pair of natural stone arches! And on our right was another single arch! We spent the following hour photographing these magnificent creations of Nature.

Clair finally stopped us by saying there were other arches down the Canyon, and, sure enough, less than a quarter of a mile further we found a second set of natural arches. We were surrounded by arches!

Farther down the wash giant boulders prohibited further travel by jeep so we started hiking and soon came upon the most magnificent arch I have ever seen. Even so, Clair said, there were probably other arches hidden within Muley Twist Canyon.

In my business I travel throughout Utah and have seen most of its spectacular scenery, but I have never seen so many arches and such colorful rock formations concentrated in one area.

You, too, can visit this area. But due to the remoteness of Muley Twist Canyon (not the Burr Trail which is traveled by passenger cars) you should contact local residents, park rangers or schedule a trip with tour guides who are familiar with the area. ☐



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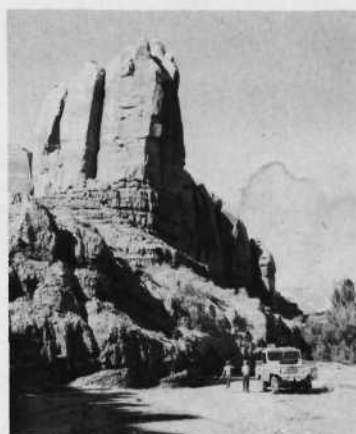
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Motorcycle Rebuttal . . .

My friend and I have been subscribers to Desert for many years and enjoy every copy.

In the April '70 issue you published a letter entitled "Motorcycle Rampage" written by John D. Hansen. I was in the area he mentioned and found the tank near where they camped. I have never seen a cleaner campground; not a paper, can, bottle or cigarette. A strong wind had also wiped out their tracks.

Why doesn't someone give the cycles, jeeps and dune buggies some credit? They outnumber the other desert campers, and if we are as bad as they say, there wouldn't be any place decent left to camp in the desert today.

I am 48-years-old, born here, and have spent many years roaming the desert. I have found many campsites left by campers who could have learned from dune buggy and cycle groups how they should be left.

JAMES W. RILEY,
Downey, California.

Editor's Note: Desert Magazine certainly is NOT against the use of any type of back country vehicle, including trail bikes and motorcycles. Many "campers" also own trail bikes. We constantly maintain it is not the vehicle, but the driver of the machine. A person who is going to litter and destroy will do so, regardless of the vehicle he is using. We will continue to try and educate people to respect the desert.

Good Trip . . .

Recently we went to the Alvord Hills for a rockhounding trip in our new camper, taking our two small grandchildren. We made the trip after reading the article by Mary Frances Strong in the April issue.

We followed the exact instructions and got there exactly like she said. We met other folks that did not know one rock from another, but really had a nice collection. They also had your magazine along.

Thank you for giving us Mrs. Strong. Would she help us find thunder eggs?

MRS. M. C. PETKOW,
San Pedro, California.

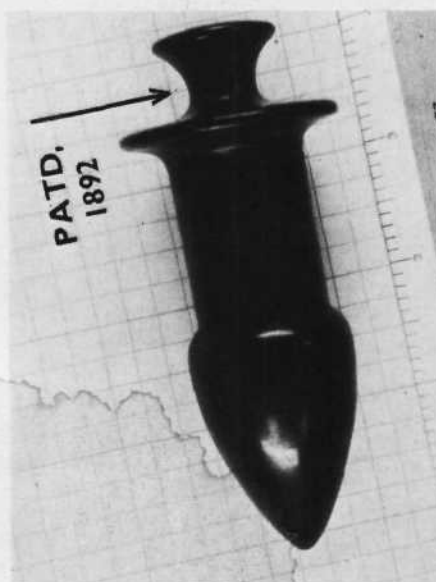
Editor's Note: Mary Frances Strong may go thunder egg hunting during the Easter vacation.

Food For Thought . . .

My wife and I certainly enjoy your magazine's current presentations. I would like permission to print the article "The California Desert—An Environmental Challenge" by Al Pearce, which appeared in your March issue, in our monthly bulletin *The Agatizer*.

I think it is a sound article. We are all heavy desert users and our code of ethics agrees with this line of thought. However, there are new members and guests continually becoming part of the scene, and the advent of the motor bike and dune buggy has filtered into our own "family" picture.

RON WOOD,
South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society.



Strange Object . . .

Enclosed is a picture of an article found at the site of the town of Brown, north of Inyo-kern in Kern County, California. It is dark brown in color and resembles present day plastics. It is hollow and sounds like a small amount of liquid is inside, or possibly powder. The patd. 1892 is stamped or formed as shown.

Innumerable people have seen it, local boondockers, oldsters, etc., with no one able to identify it. Could you, or possibly some of your readers identify it?

B. W. CLARY,
China Lake, California.

More Faces . . .

We have joined the "find the faces on Desert Magazine covers" crowd. Look about two-thirds of the way across and near the bottom of the February cover and you will see a woman's face near the right, bottom corner. She is between spikes of ocotillo. Turn magazine crossways to see her.

EMELINE RENDON,
Stockton, California.

Calendar of Western Events

MAY 1 & 2, JOSHUA TREE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY'S "Tailgating Event" in conjunction with the JOSHUA TREE ANNUAL TURTLE RACES, Joshua Tree Sports-mens Park, four blocks north of Highway 62. Write Les Lesaulnier, Star Rte. 1, Box 25, Joshua Tree, California 92252.

MAY 1 & 2, TOURMALINE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY'S 21st annual show, Helix High School, 7323 University Ave., La Mesa, Calif. Non-competitive, no dealers. Write Russ Bope, 7263 Blackton Dr., La Mesa, California 92041.

MAY 15 & 16, SAN JOSE ANTIQUE BOTTLE COLLECTORS Fourth annual show and sale, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose, Calif. Admission free, overnight camping. Write Louie Pellegrini, 145 Pine Lane, Los Altos, Calif. 94022.

MAY 15 & 16, GLENDALE LAPIDARY & GEM SOCIETY'S Festival of Gems, Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 N. Verdugo Rd., Glendale, California. Complete show, free admission and parking.

MAY 15 & 16, ANTIOCH GEM AND MINERAL SHOW, Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, Calif. Complete show. Admission 50c. Write P. O. Box 91, Antioch, California 94509.

MAY 8 & 9, JUNIPER HILLS INVITATIONAL ART EXHIBIT, Community Bldg., 106th Street East, 4 miles south Highway 138, near Pearblossom, California. Admission free.

MAY 20-31, ALL ROCKHOUND'S POW WOW CLUB OF AMERICA, Lebanon, Oregon. Campgrounds at River Park, Daily field trips. Write Louis Nees, 118 41st Ave., N.E., Puyallup, Wash. 98371.

MAY 23, TURTLE AND TORTOISE SHOW sponsored by the California Turtle and Tortoise Club, Rosemont Pavilion, 700 Seco Street, Pasadena, Calif. All turtles and tortoises invited for competition. Free admission.

MAY 22 & 23, NATURE'S TREASURES, 22nd annual show of the South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. Admission and parking free.

MAY 28-30, CALICO DAYS RODEO, Yermo, Calif. Rodeo at 2 P.M. Saturday and Sunday, dances, gymkhana, contests, parade, Saturday 10 A.M.

MAY 29-31, JIM BUTLER DAYS, Tonopah, Nevada. Rockhound Roundup, Antique Bottle Show, Dune Buggy Races, guided gem trips, rock swaps and other family events throughout the weekend. Free camping, free admission. For detailed information write Howard Butler, P. O. Box 606, Tonopah, Nevada 89049.

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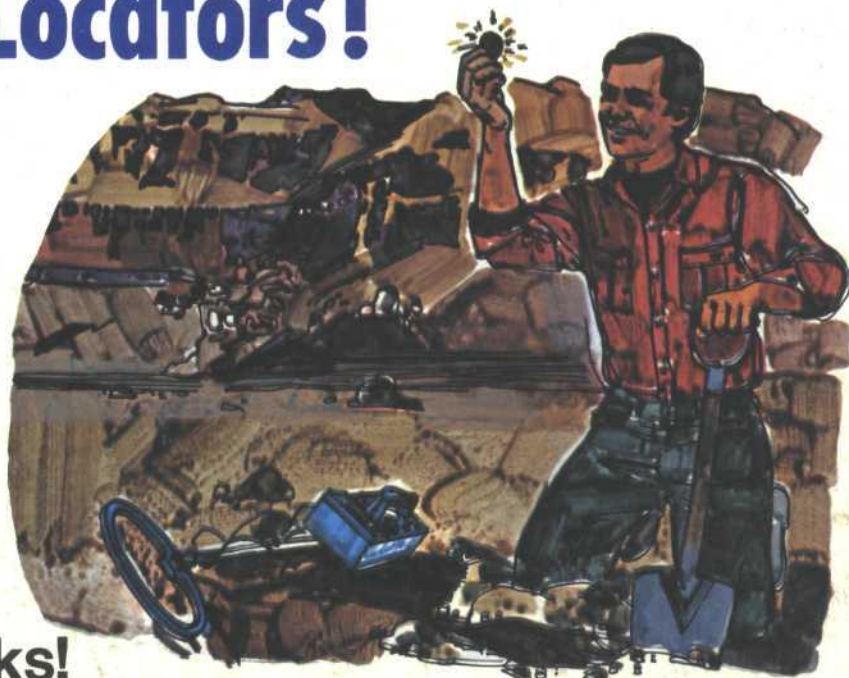
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