

THE TELLIN' TAKES ME HOME

REMEMBERING THE CANYON COUNTRY...#4

photographs by BILL BENGE

Thirty year Moab resident BILL BENGE died in 2006, but I just recently discovered an old box of his color slides. I've started scanning them and am pleased to share the first batch with Zephyr readers. You may spot some familiar faces among the red rocks...JS



Bill, in deep thought, above the Colorado River. The guy immediately to his right may be IZZY NELSON.



A young and skinny world-class climber BEGO GERHARDT



*And I'll sing about an emptiness the East has never known,
Where coyotes don't pay taxes and a man can live alone,
And you've got to walk forever just to find a telephone.
It's sad, but the telling takes me home.*

* "THE TELLIN' TAKES ME HOME"

By Utah Phillips

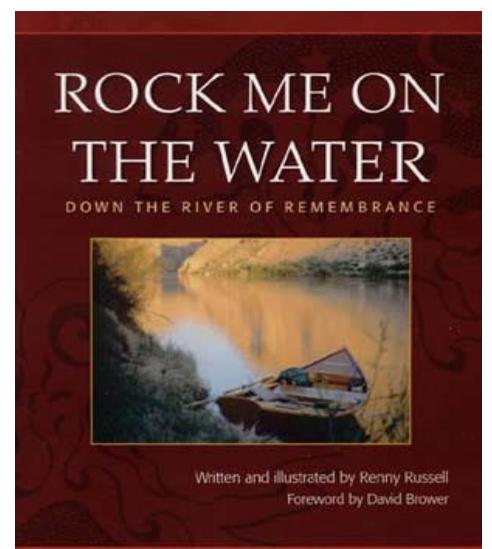
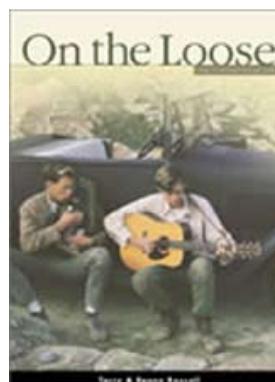
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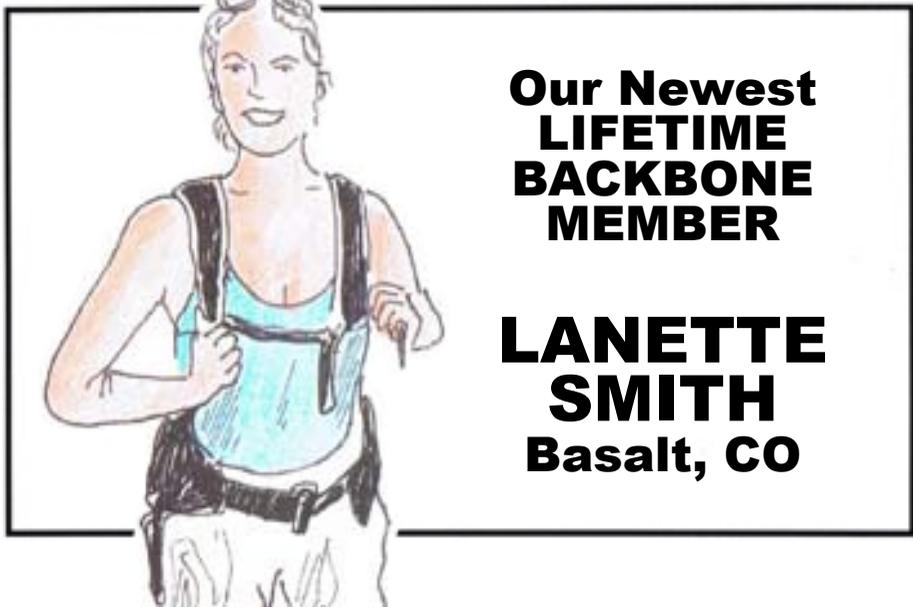
"Renny Russell's *Rock Me on the Water* is at its heart courageous. To return to the same power of nature that took his brother thirty years previous—to be with it, to confront it, to take solace in it, and to be inspired and healed by it—is remarkable in itself. His book is, as well, a testament to the evocative rhythms of the wilds. In this complicated dance, this profoundly personal journey, Renny Russell also gives us an amazingly spirited tour of one of the truly great landscapes of the American West and a keen understanding of its power to shape a life."

Robert Redford

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From Renny Russell,
the author of...





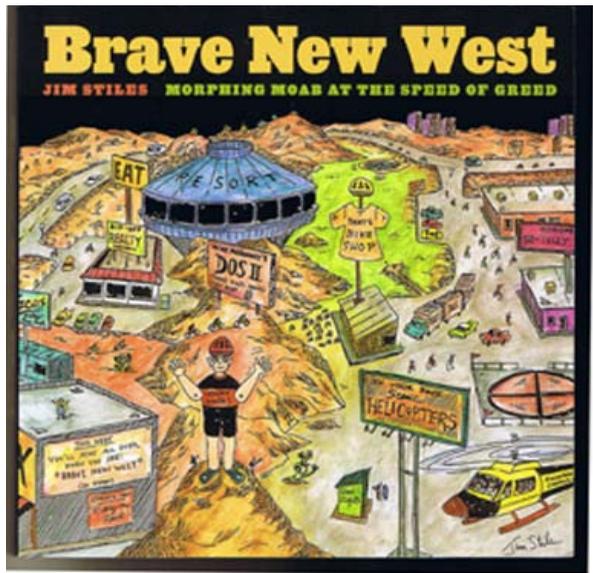
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“Jim Stiles holds up a mirror to those of us living in the American West, exposing issues we may not want to face. We are all complicit in the shadow side of growth. His words are born not so much out of anger but a broken heart. He says he writes elegies for the landscape he loves, that he is “hopelessly clinging to the past.” I would call Stiles a writer from the future. Brave New West is a book of import because of what it chooses to expose.”

-- Terry Tempest Williams

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