

“THE TELLIN’ TAKES ME HOME”

REMEMBERING THE CANYON COUNTRY... VOLUME I

By Jim Stiles

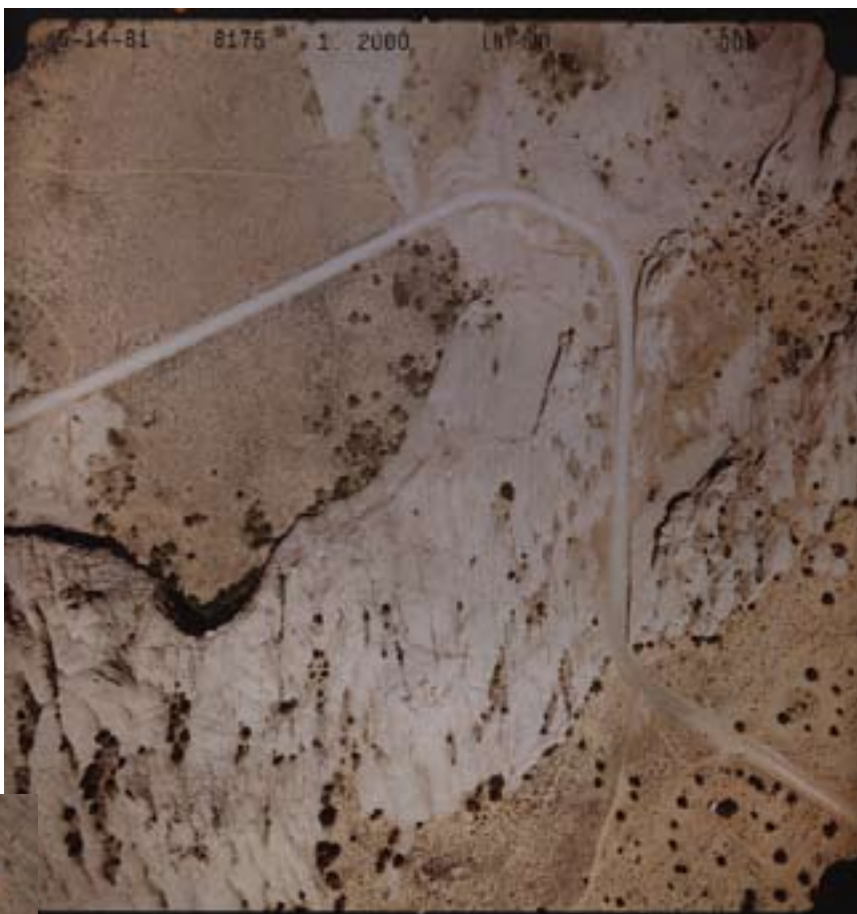
NOTE: While The Zephyr may have moved to the internet and gone global in its perspective, Moab...the way I remember it...will always be the center of my life. I was recently playing an old tape, the Ed Trickett version of Utah Phillips’ wonderful ballad, “The Tellin’ Takes Me Home.” It reminded me of my old home, of Life the way it used to be...of a West that is fast disappearing. So...this is a new regular feature....memories of people and places. Of old friends and almost lost memories...JS

The Telling Takes Me Home (Bruce “Utah” Phillips)

Let me sing to you all those songs I know
Of the wild, windy places locked in timeless snow,
And the wide, crimson deserts where the muddy rivers flow.
It’s sad, but the telling takes me home.

Come along with me to some places that I’ve been
Where people all look back and they still remember when,
And the quicksilver legends, like sunlight, turn and bend
It’s sad, but the telling takes me home.

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**THE SAND FLATS FROM ABOVE...
1981 & A DECADE LATER**

For decades, the Sand Flats was a vast uninhabited tableland above Moab that provided grazing for a few cattle and a quick escape from “town” for the Moabites yearning for access to some high desert hiking, without having to sneak past the entrance station at Arches. When musician and former resident Bob Greenspan’s old dog “Queenie” died in the mid-70s, he buried her in the quietest place he could think of. So he took her to the Sand Flats. The aerial view in 1981 (above) shows the now familiar horseshoe turn, now the trailhead for the Slickrock Bicycle Trail. A decade later (left) the changes were already underway.



TOM TOM ARNOLD

He was one of the first Moabites I met when I came to town. He spent many hours under my old VW micro-bus. And one of my first cartoon ‘portrait’ victims. I called it: TK ARNOLD...Volkswagon mechanic/philosopher.

He was also ED ABBEY’S personal pilot and one hell of a poker player. More than anything, TK was “cheerful in all weathers.” Our friend died in 2007 and had one hell of a life.

[click here to read more about Tom Arnold:](http://www.canyoncountryzephyr.com/oldzephyr/aug-sept2001/tomtom.htm)

TK ARNOLD..ONE OF ABBEY’S PALS/Aug-Sep 2001

<http://www.canyoncountryzephyr.com/oldzephyr/aug-sept2001/tomtom.htm>



**ED McCARRICK...
WWII MEDIC with PATTON
"ARCH HUNTER"**

Ed McCarrick grew up in New Jersey but became a Moabite in his 50s. For a decade Ed was a seasonal ranger at Arches NP and one of the renowned "arch hunters." He also served valiantly in World War II, and was a medic at the Battle of the Bulge. Ed passed away in 1993.



We did two stories about Ed over the years...here are the hot links to both of them...

AN ORAL HISTORY of WWII with ED McCARRICK

<http://www.canyoncountryzephyr.com/oldzephyr/feb-march2001/edmccarrickwwii.htm>

ARCHES STORIES...

<http://www.canyoncountryzephyr.com/oldzephyr/oct-nov2004/archesstories.htm>



YOU COULD ONCE GET YOUR OIL CHANGED AT ANDY NETTLE'S BOOK STORE.....

While most Moabites today know the building on North Main as the Arches Book Company, there are some of us who remember when it was the Sears store, run by Tom Balsley, one of Moab's pioneer families. And originally? From its construction in 1920, until 1970, it was the MOAB GARAGE...This photo was taken in the late 1960s...

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