

“THE TELLIN’ TAKES ME HOME*”

Remembering the Canyon Country...#4



THE DELICATE ARCH VIEWPOINT ROAD AT SALT WASH BEFORE....AND AFTER

Until the 1990s, the road to the Delicate Arch Viewpoint was still dirt and gravel, and the “bridge” at Salt Wash was frequently flooded by late summer storms. Tourists who found themselves on the wrong side of the flash flood sometimes spent the night there.

Rangers ferried sandwiches and sleeping bags to the stranded...

It was often the highlight of their summer vacation.





THE LITTLE PARK on MAIN STREET

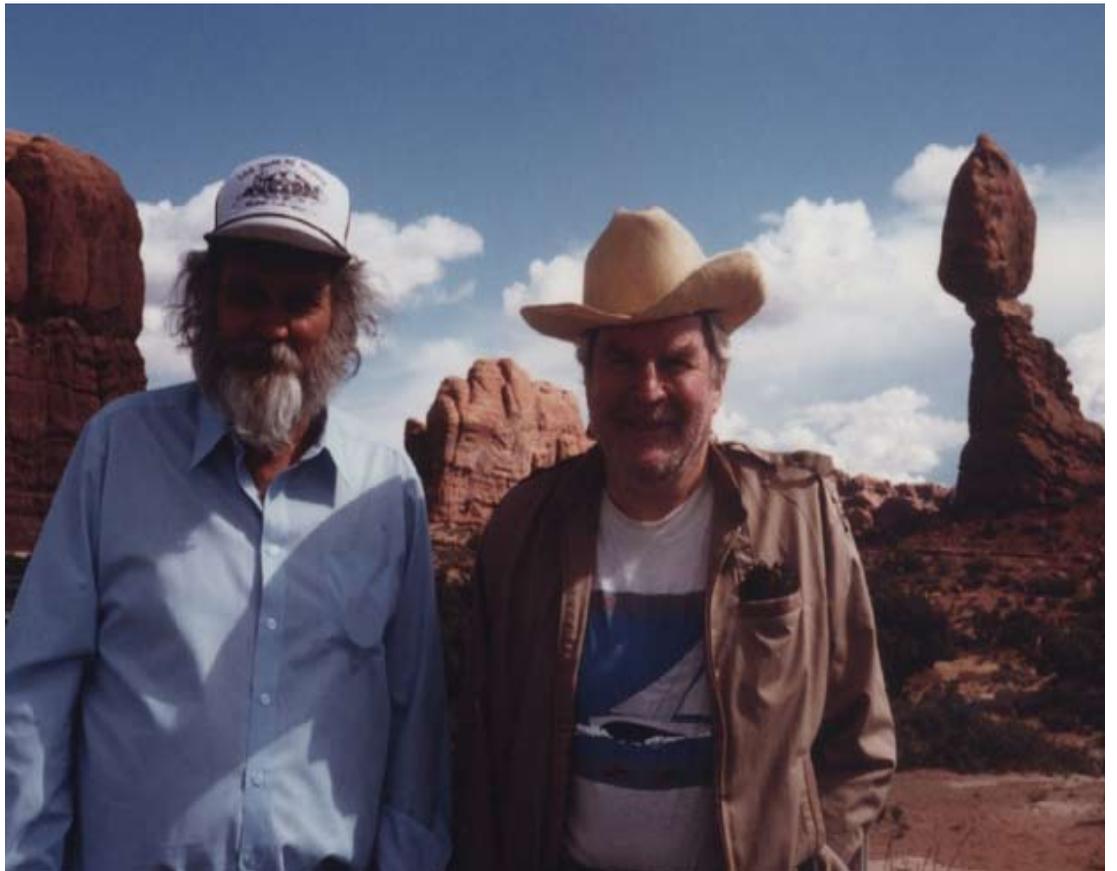
Until the mid-90s, this little patch of green survived on Main Street, next to the SUBWAY store. Upstairs were (and still are) the offices of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Scott Groene's office was just to the left of that lovely tree and on one of the branches near his window, hummingbirds built a nest, year after year. Watching the progress of the young hummers was a tradition that ended abruptly when the tree was cut down and the green space replaced by yet another building.

The whereabouts of the hummers is unknown.



DUST DEVIL BREEDING GROUND

In the late 1970s, the north end of Salt Valley was one of several sites being considered as a nuclear waste repository. The Department of Energy denuded the landscape and did its drilling, but all that loose dirt and the neverending wind made a perfect storm for dust devils.



A CORNUCOPIA of CHARACTER ACTORS for a VAMPIRE MOVIE?

In 1988, a low budget horror film called, "Sundown: The Vampires in Retreat," was shot in the Moab area and featured a very young Moabite, Vanessa Pierson, in one of the lead roles.

Though the film itself was awful (it never made it to the screen and was released direct to video), its cast included some of the greatest character actors of the time....the real actors who never attain 'stardom' but who make films great. You know their faces but you can never recall their names.

"Sundown" included John Ireland, M. Emmett Walsh, Dabs Greer, and two of my favorites (above)...Sunshine Parker and Bert Remsen. I got to know Sunshine when I spotted him ambling down Main Street and pulled over to say hello and to compliment his work in "Cannery Row," a film that starred Nick Nolte.

Just the fact that I knew him by name impressed Sunshine and we shared many meals at the Main St. Broiler.

Both Sunshine and Bert died in 1999.

* "THE TELLIN' TAKES ME HOME"

By Utah Phillips

<http://www.utahphillips.org/>

*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.*