

Can you tell me about Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth and the time you stopped there on your way to Moab?

Marie Ogden came here from New York or Florida, or maybe both, and she started this religious organization and supposedly had visions. Anybody who joined her organization had to give her all their worldly possessions and then they came to live with her. They lived like communists, but it wasn't a communist belief, it was a religious belief. She saw in her vision that the desert would turn green and the fertile fields would turn to desert. So she was looking for a vast desert and she found it.

When we went down there, one of her people had just died and she wouldn't bury her. At the time there was no burial law, just a sanitary law. I remember our Doc Allen was sent down there to check it out, and he said the longer he looked at that woman, the more alive she became. She was perfectly embalmed and under the sanitation law there was nothing to do but let her keep it.

And why wouldn't Marie bury the body?

She thought the woman was going to come back to life. Finally, the story is, they gathered a lot of sagebrush and cremated the body. Marie said the woman didn't want to come back and live with her husband anymore; she preferred to move on.



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And you got to know Marie Ogden?

Oh yes. For years she ran the San Juan Record and my dad had the grocery store, so we knew her. During the war years, when I was roaming around the country, I would write home with descriptions of the places I had been, and Marie would publish it in the paper. She was a very nice old lady, quite pretty and always well-dressed. She finally died in the nursing home in Blanding, maybe ten years ago.

Who were your first friends in Moab?

Well, my husband. He had just returned from the war. I met him at the Hole n' the Rock. It used to be a restaurant. Albert Christensen and his brother Leo built it. They had a dance hall and a restaurant, and it was really the only honkytonk anywhere nearby. There was nothing like it in Monticello or Moab, so we'd all congregate and meet down there. It was in San Juan County and was too far away for the San Juan Sheriff to patrol, and Grand County wasn't interested because it was just another burden on them and it wasn't in Grand County anyway. So it became the wildest place and finally somebody got stabbed down there and they had to take away their beer license. And that's where I met my husband Hub.

Jumping back a bit, tell me about World War II.

I was living in Monticello and working in a government office there.

I'd gone to college in Gunnison but came home on a vacation and got this job so I never went back to school. I took a civil service exam and received a notice that I'd been offered a job in the State Department. I had never been any farther from home than Salt Lake without my parents with me. So I got on a train and went to Washington, D.C. I was 20 years old and I stayed there a couple of years. Then I heard we were building a road to Alaska that they called the Al-Can Highway at the time. We thought that would be pretty exciting so another girl and I applied for the job and off to Edmonton we went. We were there until the last year of the war and the project was winding down, so we transferred to San Francisco. That's where I was for V-J Day which was pretty exciting. And then I came home where I met Hub at the Hole n' the Rock.

But you didn't know Hub before then.

No. Moab kids were pretty wild. My parents made them off-limits and we couldn't date them. But I married one. He was a good friend of Donna Loveridge and her husband had grown up in Moab too. So he used to come up to see them all the time and I just managed to capture him.

MAXINE NEWELL still lives in Moab, Utah.

NEXT ISSUE: Maxine remembers uranium, boom days in Moab, and Charlie Steen.



the footprints TOP 10 LIST

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Top 10 Reasons to Ignore the Presidential Campaign

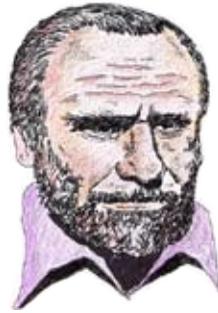
10. Repubs dislike of ObamaCare = RomneyCare produces headaches
9. You're probably part of the 47%, right?
8. The good ol' electoral college votes for us anyway -- well don't they?
7. SCOTUS can always change the outcome if needed
6. My mind's made up, don't confuse me with pseudo-facts
5. Political campaign "facts" do not contain any actual facts
4. If you want to hear lies, talk to any 5 year old, they're more believable
3. Mitt Romney's tax returns remind you where you fit in the 99%
2. We'll have start ignoring again in just 3-1/2 years - or less.
1. You might have missed pictures of Kate Middleton top-less!



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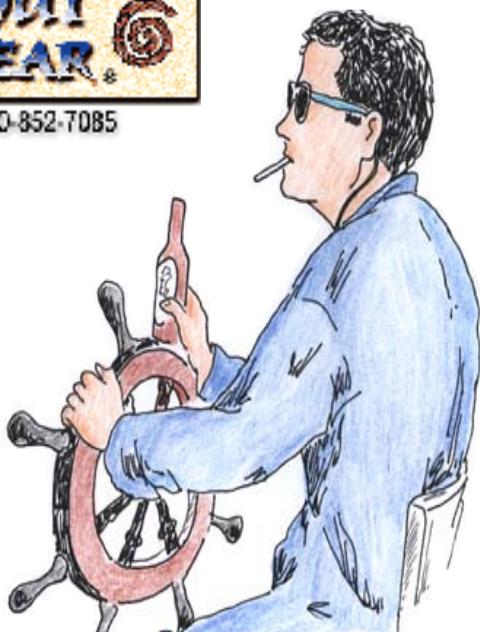


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The Desert Rat's FASCINATING FACT OF THE MONTH!!!

Reefs in the Caribbean and Florida Keys have lost most of the colorful corals that feed a rich ecosystem and made the region a diving and snorkeling mecca, a major conservation group reported Friday. On average, reefs have live coral on just 8 percent of their surface area, down from more than 50 percent in the 1970s.

Impacts including warming seas and human sewage have contributed to a steady decline that shows "no signs of slowing," the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said in releasing its report, which was based on new data compiled by 36 experts earlier this year. NBC News

http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/07/13707186-coral-in-caribbean-florida-in-sharp-decline-no-signs-of-slowing-report-finds?lite



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