

# 'LONELY ARE THE BRAVE' REVISITED

the irony here. Had it not been for its national monument status, parts of this area might have been developed commercially, or for more residential sprawl. But even with the protection, Burns would have found himself in even more legal hot water for entering a national monument closed area---pursued, not just by the sheriff, but by eager law enforcement rangers from the NPS.

### SCENE 3...The Mystery Highway

If there is one scene in the film that stumped us, at least while we were there, it was the highway crossing by Jack and his horse. Pulling stills from the film, we could identify a busy four lane highway, the Sandias in the background and a truck stop in the middle distance. A prominent irrigation ditch bordered the highway and it appeared to bend right as it went north. We considered both 2nd and 4th streets as possibilities, but could never get the foreground to align properly with the Sandias.



We pursued one clue that offered an interesting side note. As Burns attempted to cross the highway, a billboard is visible in the background. We could make out the words 'Cavalier Motel,' and a Google search found an image of an old post card of the motel in its heyday. The card provided us an address and we discovered that the motel had long ago been torn down. But as we looked more closely at the business that resides there now, we incredibly found a remnant of the original sign.



**But as we looked more closely at the business that resides there now, we incredibly found a remnant of the original sign.**

Another clue to the location was a cemetery that appeared in the same scene, adjacent to a dirt road that Burns followed after he'd made his dangerous highway crossing on Whiskey. But we could not find the cemetery. Later, after we were home, I may have found it after all, via a Google street view. We've included a Google image of the cemetery and a still from the film for comparison. If they're one and the same, it may be that our mystery highway was once US 85 and has been so completely consumed by I-25, that no trace of the original road survives.



**If they're one and the same, it may be that our mystery highway was once US 85 and has been so completely consumed by I-25, that no trace of the original road survives.**

### SCENE 4...The Bondi Hacienda

To find the location of the Bondi home, we realized it was far closer to the Sandias than we'd first imagined. In fact, the small adobe home was near the Tramway Road. Someone once told me that the tram was under construction during the filming and the crew was able to gain access to several film locations that would have previously been impossible to reach. The area, like most of ABQ is fast filling with new subdivisions. The 'before & after' view we offer here is as close as we could get, though the actual spot might very well be in the middle of somebody's Great Room. We could find no trace of the little Bondi home as it appeared in the film, but we did spot one adobe home, very near the "Bondi place," that bears some resemblance to the original, though it has been greatly expanded and 'improved.'





**SCENE 5...The Foothills & the Abandoned Cabin**

This is where things really got depressing. In the film, Burns escapes from jail, after breaking in to it and is unable to convince his pal Bondi to escape with him. Hearing the news, Sheriff Bondi stares east to the Sandias and speculates, "Cowboy, I bet you're above the foothills already." And that's exactly where Burns rides to make his escape—up the foothills to the top of Sandia peak, where "a carpet of pine needles, all the way to Mexico," awaits him.

In the 1961 production, Burns and Whiskey ride across open land and pinyon-juniper forest toward the mountain. The view is wide-open and in the distance, Albuquerque clings to the river valley below.



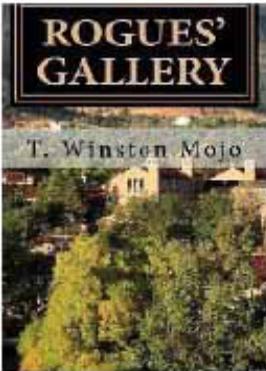
Today, the open space is disappearing fast. The open plain, the long rise from the river to the rugged terrain below Sandia Peak, is a maze of homes, and clearly many of them have been built in the last five years...Albuquerque's east side is exploding, almost as rapidly as the sprawl to the west.

**The area, like most of ABQ is fast filling with new subdivisions.**

**The 'before & after' view we offer here is as close as we could get, though the actual spot might very well be in the middle of somebody's Great Room.**

But while the topography of the long sloping plain toward the mountain offered little resistance to development, the complicated, boulder strewn geography below the peak should have made the construction of new McMansions more difficult...

next page...



## ROGUES' GALLERY

My 27 years at Rocky Mountain University...

**T. WINSTON MOJO**

*In the tradition of literary bureaucrats Kafka, Bukowski and Miller, T. Winston Mojo takes the reader on a journey into the abyss of institutional smallness. Everybody knows that politics at the university are so vicious because the stakes are so small. Mojo's real-life gauntlet of villains at Rocky Mountain University in Big Rock, Colorado, is an exploration into just how small those stakes can be.*



AVAILABLE FROM









**CARNIVORES! HERBIVORES! OMNIVORES!!**

We offer ethnic and traditional cuisine and emphasize the use of high-quality, organic ingredients and fresh seasonal produce.

**ALL MENU ITEMS TO GO**  
352 N MAIN ST 259.6896

and we're on facebook!!!

