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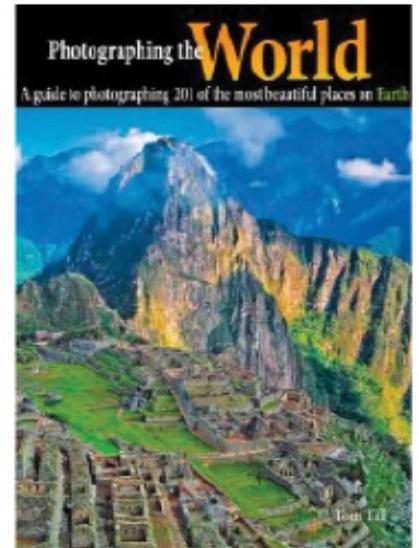


Tom's latest book...

**Photographing the World: A Guide to Photographing 201
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A highly inspirational guide to 201 of the world's most majestic landscapes. Famous world locations, as well as many lesser-known photogenic spots, with first-hand information about how, when, and where to photograph them. A wonderful reservoir of ideas for your future travel adventures. Chock-full of insightful first-hand accounts by renowned photographer Tom Till. Photographing the World is a must-have resource to expand your travel horizons and image portfolio beyond the United States.

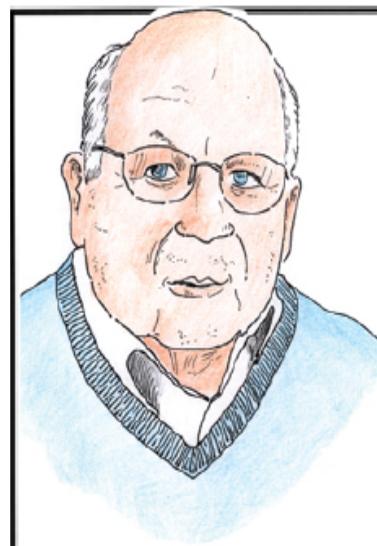
It will take you on a highly-inspirational journey of discovery to all five continents, exploring some of the world's most beautiful mountains, deserts, lakes, rivers, coastlines, wetlands, forests, archeological sites, cityscapes, and tourist attractions. Photographing the World is the culmination of Master Photographer Tom Till's twenty-five+ years of exploring and



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IN REPLY TO...

DARCEY BROWN

And the Insularity of the Erudite...part 1

Jim Stiles

Last year, I became aware of a new (at least to me) environmental/progressive activist in Moab named Darcey Brown. She's become a voice for "New Moab" and has been a frequent contributor to the Letters section of the Moab weekly, the Times-Independent; I read, with curiosity, her inflammatory public comments. And when a few Moabites told me she'd come from a prominent family in my favorite New West town Aspen, Colorado, I decided to respond to some of her remarks via a short essay in The Zephyr.

LINK: <http://www.canyoncountryzephyr.com/2015/06/01/take-it-or-leave-it-on-the-facts-darcey-brown-moab-then-now-by-jim-stiles/>

I didn't get angry or call her names. In fact, I even suggested that she probably "meant well." But I took issue with Brown's claim that grassroots environmental groups lived in semi-poverty and offered some hard financial numbers (via the IRS) for the likes of SUWA and the Grand Canyon Trust. I also noted that, coming from a very powerful and wealthy Colorado family--her father played an influential role in the Aspen ski industry--- it might be difficult to relate to the issues and concerns of working class people in Grand County. And I noted that she manages a non-profit foundation herself, with assets of almost \$5 million.

In response, Ms. Brown went through the roof. In an email labeled, "A reply to your personal attack," which we posted on the Zephyr Blog...



(LINK: <http://www.canyoncountryzephyr.com/blog/2015/06/02/update-darcey-brown-responds-to-zephyr-story/>)

...she wrote that her, "voice will also be silenced by your personal attack. I am stunned and hurt by not only your misrepresentations but that you would dig into my history and distort it." She insisted that she'd lived in Carbondale all her life, and implied that she'd led a simple ranch life that in no way resembled the "hatchet piece" I'd perpetrated against her. And she complained, "I'm not sure what your problem is, but you have some issues, and I hope you address them before you undermine, polarize, and do further damage to this community."

The fact is, it was Brown's on-going "polarizing, undermining" comments about many of her fellow Moabites, via her ubiquitous T-I letters, that inspired me to write my essay in the first place. In one of her diatribes, she proposed that Moabites find "common ground," but it became clear the only common ground she could accept was the ground she was standing on. In one letter after another, Brown hurled a string of insults. Here's a sampling...

"There appears to be an organized campaign to refer to environmental organizations as 'powerful, special interest groups.' If the intention weren't so misleading and dishonest, it would be laughable."

And she added, "Their anger seemed to be fueled by the intentional spread of false claims." In so many words, she called a large segment of the community a bunch of liars.

In one apocalyptic diatribe, she proposed that the approval of two of the Bishop land plan options might destroy Grand County altogether. Darcey predicted, "One has to only read last week's paper to see what lies ahead if any of the alternatives proposed are passed: graffiti, vandalism, raunchy homosexual personal ads in the man camps, sky-rocketing rents, earthquakes from fracking, letters of concern from tourists and so on. ..Is this the future we want for Grand County, and more importantly, is this what the rest of the U.S. wants for their lands?"

"Raunchy homosexual personal ads in the man camps?" Seriously?

She singled out longtime Moabite Bill Cunningham for criticism. She wrote, "It was interesting to see Bill Cunningham's poorly informed letter to the T-I juxtaposed to a 'High Country News' opinion piece on the opposite page." Her remarks were dismissive and condescending. They weren't overtly insulting, but were still meant to demean and marginalize Mr. Cunningham's concerns.

And then this letter from Ms. Brown truly brought her message home. She wrote, "There is lots of common ground for many of our problems, but if conscientious citizens' ideas are mocked because they haven't lived here long enough, then we're going nowhere. I found that longevity has little to do with expertise, world experience, and imaginative solutions. Moab could use some new blood."

"New Blood" is the keyword. Implied was the idea that it's time for the old blood to step aside. It has been the message of New Moabites for more than a decade.

Compared to the generally dismissive and insulting tone of her letters, my references to Ms. Brown seem quite mild. Still, she accused my short article of being a "hatchet piece" and "yellow journalism." And she insisted that I distorted her family history. In another email to Grand County Councilman Lynn Jackson (which she inexplicably cc'd to me, making it open to scrutiny too) she complained, "When I write letters then in defense of environmental organizations dealing with changes, I do not expect to be in-



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Compared to the generally dismissive and insulting tone of her letters, my references to Ms. Brown seem quite mild. And she insisted that I distorted her family history. ..she complained, "When I write letters in defense of environmental organizations dealing with changes, I do not expect to be investigated, castigated, and intimidated. Stiles wrote a hatchet piece, much of which was wrong and warped. Stiles, not me, misrepresented my family."

vestigated, castigated, and intimidated. Stiles wrote a hatchet piece, much of which was wrong and warped. Stiles, not me, misrepresented my family."

What I did was to disagree with Ms. Brown, something she clearly has no tolerance for. And she has a family history for this kind of intolerance. But Brown insists she was just a ranch girl and that her family was of modest means and hardly a powerful influence in her home state of Colorado.

THE FACTS FROM THE COLORADO PRESS

So okay, to avoid the accusation of "yellow journalism" again, let me offer some excerpts from various respected Colorado news sources--facts that have been available to the public, via the world wide web, for years and have gone unchallenged, as far as I can tell, by Darcey Brown or her family.

Her mother and father, Ruth and D.R.C. were, to be sure, a fascinating pair. They both shared long and colorful, if sometimes controversial, lives. D.R.C. Brown (Darcy) was a larger-than-life figure who, by many accounts, wielded great power and influence in the Colorado Rockies and was either loved or loathed. For sure, he became the stuff of legend.

According to *Colorado Central Magazine*, the Brown family made its fortune in the late 19th Century, improbably--considering Ms. Brown's position these days--via the mining industry. The senior D.R.C. Brown, "became a millionaire mine owner-- with properties on Aspen Mountain, where the ski area is now-- and he was wise enough to diversify prior to the silver crash of 1893." Ruth Brown, "was a descendant of the Boettcher family from Denver, whose wealth was derived from the silver mines of Leadville. The Boettchers used their fortune to create the Ideal Cement and Great Western Sugar factories that were so important in Colorado for much of the 20th century."

Colorado Central continues, "The Brown family's ownership of a mine on Aspen Mountain became the conduit to D.R.C.'s involvement with the skiing company. The family leased the hundreds of acres to the ski company, and Brown, who lived in Carbondale, became the managing director and then chief executive."