

BEFORE & AFTER

Southeast Utah...Then & Now

THE DEVILS CANYON/US 191 ROAD PROJECT... 2004-05

Over the last 30 years, many sections of US 191 between Crescent Jct and the Utah/Arizona state line have undergone upgrades and reconstructions. A four mile section of highway between Monticello and Blanding, however, remained much the way it was 50 years ago, when the road was re-aligned. But politicians love highway money and they lobbied for highway funds to "improve" Devils Canyon for years. Finally, in 2002 the project gained the attention of the legislature and the governor and work, in earnest, on rebuilding the road began.

A year later, UDOT presented its Environmental Assessment for public scrutiny. The EA must address not just the environmental concerns, but also justify the need for the project and the expense.

While the old road was relatively narrow and winding, it had in most regards served the traveling public well. The EA tried to justify the project by showing that the road could not handle the traffic flow. But a traffic capacity survey showed that, in terms of traffic numbers, the road was adequate until the year 2025!

So the EA tried to prove that deer-related accidents in the project area necessitated the reconstruction. But all the documented accidents occurred on the rims, not in the canyon itself, where 80% of the project costs would be incurred. Despite all of this information, the road reconstruction began in October 2004 and was completed in 2005 at a cost of about \$10 million.

A decade later, nobody even remembers the old road...JS



US 191 at Devils Canyon. 2003



UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 2004-05



DEVILS CANYON & US 191... A DECADE AND \$10 MILLION LATER



In Notes on Paper, Falke walks us through the landscape of one man's mind, which contains both his past and an awareness of our common future. From within private memories the narrator reaches out to us with 'we' and 'you', and each spare line invokes the hope that we, like him, are worthy of return to our most longed for places. And if to return is not our fate,

and really it never can be, the narrator bids us survey our own memories, taking time in the present for the winds, and the words, that move the world.

NOTES ON PAPER DAMON FALKE

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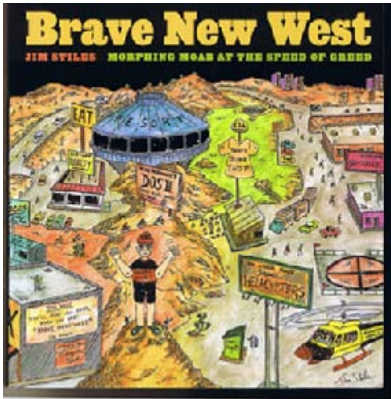


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I would call Stiles a writer from the future.

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Terry
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435.259.6670 info@reveg.org

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