

Instant Moab....

Terry Knouff

I happened across a quote the other day. It was by a hipster musician named Gabe Saporta, lead singer of the band "Cobra Starship", and it surprised me, not just because it represented a coherent opinion, but because of the effect it had on me. He's reported to have said "Nostalgia is the failure of true emotion". Maybe if Mr Saporta had posted his thought on Facebook he would have just used the parlance of the times (or media) and said "Nostalgia FAIL ! ".

Either way I take exception with the thought that nostalgia is a failure. I've spent many happy hours immersed in nostalgia, and it has always felt like a valid emotion to me. Really who hasn't wanted to step back in time to "the good ol' days", even if those "days" are just an ambered amalgam of the best of times, and a repudiation of the worst.

I went searching for a counter-quote to the Nostalgia/Fail and found what I thought probably nails it for most people these days. It's attributed to another rocker, Lou Reed, late of the proto-Alt band, "Velvet Underground" and goes like this "I don't like nostalgia unless it's mine". Can't say that I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Reed either, because I do relish the nostalgia of others, not ALL others mind you, but some.

Mr Jim Stiles is one of those whose nostalgia I do enjoy considering. Stiles and I have some common interests, the Canyon Lands being chief among them. His recollections of "better days" in the heart of the redrock desert country have been a source of enjoyment to me, and no doubt to you as you took the effort to come to the Zephyr website and maybe do some of your own "emotional failing".

I realize the Zephyr isn't just about the past, and as Jim has graciously allowed me to share some photos here, I'm mindful about looking at presenting some "modern" views of the area as well. But for now, I'm beginning these photo essays with a nod to things "gone by". Which brings me to the quote I really wanted to use, by British writer Margaret Barber "To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it the more fit for its prime function of looking forward."

So till next time, from Moab
yours, Terry Knouff
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(U/L) Eye of the Whale Arch, near Moab, Utah. Manipulated Polaroid SX70 TimeZero film. Now defunct.

(L/R) The Square Tree, Cahone, Colorado. This fabled topiary once flourished on former US Route 666 (don't worry, it's a 'man's number'). Manipulated Polaroid SX70 print

(U/R) When the angle is just right, this sign will point you to some Entrada Sandstone. Arches National Park. Manipulated Polaroid SX70 print.

(L/L) Junction of old US 163 and UT 211, the so-called 'Church Rock'. Manipulated Polaroid SX70



Movie set gas station. North of Moab, Utah. From the "film", "Sundown, A Vampire in Retreat". My brother and sister painted and aged this set. People stopped to buy gas, and beer. Polaroid P/N film. 1988

To see more of Terry's photographs, check out his online gallery
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tknouff/>



(R) Green River Utah melon stand, best in the west. Gelatin silver print from Polaroid P/N negative. 1988

(L) Back when a Cafe sign implied nothing more than a cup-a-joe, and a hearty helping of grease. No Wi/Fi, no Grande, no Foursquare (look it up). The former Canyonlands Cafe, was on Main Street, Moab, Utah. Polaroid SX70 print.



The old Robber's Roost Motel sign, Main St, Green River Utah. Replaced several years ago with a new yet unimproved version.



Park Service sign-shop fail. North of Arches National Park. Polaroid SX70. (Don't go looking, it's long gone)



Old movie set, north of Moab, Utah. 1988. Polaroid Positive/Negative film

Terry Knouff has been loving the Canyonlands country since 1979, and living in it since 1987. But his first love (not counting Claudia Fancier in the 4th grade) is photography. Especially instant photography, the kind the Polaroid Corporation once provided to the world. Those days are past, Polaroid went belly up, and the Canyonlands have , by some estimations, been loved to death. But life goes on, and Terry continues to find enjoyment in the Canyon Country near his home in Moab, Utah, and in the art of Photography. He has since found some satisfaction in digital photography, but of late he's yearned for the "good-old-days" of his instant photography youth. He is currently exploring instant films offered by other companies and former employees of Polaroid, under the banner of the "Impossible Film Project". And building his perfect instant photography beast, The Frankenroid. You can find his photography online at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tknouff/>

