Then and Now: Memories of Places in Washington County and Surrounding Communities

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For questions, please contact Trevor Cox at trevor.cox2@utahtech.edu or (435) 879-4552

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What location does this material highlight or represent? *

Arizona Strip region, Arizona

What location would you like to share a memory about? (Please focus on one location per entry) *

Arizona Strip region, Arizona

This location is associated with which of the following regions:

- [ ] Washington County, UT
- [ ] Kane County, UT
- [x] The Arizona Strip Region, AZ
- [ ] Big Muddy Region, NV

Share with us a memory of the location: *

April 28-29, 1977 Arizona Strip camping trip for two turns out to be a fun exploration day on the Colorado River for four

By Loren Webb

When my buddy, Bruce Sullivan, and I went on an overnight camping trip to the Arizona Strip on April 28, 1977, a next day chance encounter with a stranded Dixie College field trip class turned out to offer an escape outlet for two female class members.
It all began on Friday afternoon, April 28 when I drove my green and white-colored, two-wheel drive 1974 Chevrolet pickup truck from my home on 200 East 600 South to pick up Bruce at Rocky Mountain Company where he worked as a Wonder Bread delivery truck driver.
I brought him back to his Talbot Apartments' residence on 600 East directly east of the St. George City Cemetery where he picked up his camping gear, which included bringing his .270 rifle, a .22 Ruger rifle and a .22 pistol to shoot rabbits.
We filled up my gas tank for $17.70, then headed south on River Road towards Mt. Trumbull or Bundyville as locals liked to call it, 65 miles away. Once we reached the Arizona State line, the road turned into gravel and dirt.
It was rough.
Up to that time in my life, I couldn't recall a worse stretch of road, particularly the three-mile-long Moki Dugway with an 11-percent grade.
When we arrived at Mt. Trumbull town, at an elevation of 5,331 feet around 7 p.m., there wasn't much around - a few houses that were mostly abandoned, so we kept going south toward the Grand Canyon on a Mohave County road.
About 10 miles north of the canyon we decided to camp about 9 p.m., along a level spot by the side of the gravel road surrounded by lava flows. We built a campfire, then cooked up potatoes, hamburger and carrots in aluminum foil for dinner.
That night, Bruce asked me if I thought there was anyone very close to where we were camped, and I said there's probably no one for 20 or 30 miles.
I was wrong.
The next morning, Saturday, April 30, after a breakfast of bacon, eggs and Tang, we packed up and took off around 9 a.m.
When we got within about 1 ½ miles from Whitmore Canyon point, 40 miles south of Mt. Trumbull town, we caught sight of what looked like a stalled vehicle along with another vehicle parked nearby.
I said to Bruce, "I'll bet you anything that it's somebody we or I know, and sure enough, it was!
We met Dr. Andrew Barnum, Dixie College natural sciences professor, and his field biology class of students. They had also left Friday morning from St. George and camped overnight near the top of Whitmore Canyon. While returning to St. George, Barnum's four-wheel-drive Dodge truck quit and wouldn't start up again. Along with Dr. Barnum, nine students were on the field trip.

Andrew Barnum, Dixie College Natural Sciences Professor, whose truck stalled in Whitmore Canyon on April 29, 1977. 1977 Confederate Yearbook.
They had another four-wheel drive Jeep that student Karen Walbom was driving, but they didn't have any chains, and of course, neither did we, so Karen Walbom, driving the Jeep, took off with four students to go for help into St. George or try to get somebody to help along the way.
Meanwhile, the remaining four students figured it was going to be a long time before they would get back

home, so two of the college students, Kay Lynn Kendall and Tarryl Anderson, said they wouldn't mind going back down to the Colorado River with us (where Barnum's group had earlier participated in mud fights on the sandbar and caught a rattlesnake) and go swimming.
So, Bruce and I took Kay Lynn and Tarryl in my truck and headed down the road into Whitmore Canyon, since Bruce and I wanted to see the river as well. At the end of the road in the canyon, I parked the truck and we got out and walked down a rocky dirt path to the Colorado River where we went swimming.
Bruce and I took off our shoes and socks and our shirts, but kept our garments and pants on. The water was pretty cold but invigorating. It was so much fun splashing around in the water and talking and laughing, and then listening to the sounds of the river as it flowed down the canyon.
While we were drying off, three guys in three separate canoes floated down the river, then two guys in separate kayaks also floated by.
We talked to the two kayakers for a while and learned that they operated a business out of Hurricane.
The four of us then started back up the trail to the truck, taking pictures along the way, then drove up the steep lava road headed towards home. When we got where the other truck had stalled, the Dodge truck and Jeep were both gone.
We learned later that about 10 minutes after we left sight of Dr. Barnum's truck that Jeep driver Karen Walbom, and those riding with her, ran into a man named Leo Prisbrey who was headed south and he produced a chain they could use. So the Jeep retraced its path back to the stalled Dodge truck. Students then hooked onto Barnum's truck and towed it 85 miles back to St. George.

Dixie College student Karen Walbom, participating in a college biology field trip led by Dr. Andrew Barnum, went for help to find a tow chain to tow Dr. Barnum's stalled vehicle back into St. George. 1977 Confederate Yearbook.
On our way back, we stopped in Main Street Valley to visit an abandoned two-story wooden cabin and take a few pictures. I then hopped back into the driver's seat of my truck, Tarryl climbed into the middle seat and Bruce took the passenger seat. Kay Lynn willingly rode in the rear truck bed all the way home to St. George where we arrived at 5 p.m.
After I dropped off Kay Lynn and Tarryl at their apartments, then dropped off Bruce at his apartment, the first thing I did was take the truck to a car wash and wash and clean it.
As I reflected on what transpired that weekend, I thought how a great camping trip with one of my best friends, Bruce Sullivan, was made even better by enjoying the unexpected female company of Dixie College students Kay Lynn Kendall and Tarryl Anderson, who helped us share in our enjoyment of the magnificent Colorado River in Whitmore Canyon, along with the rugged beauty of the remote Arizona Strip.

You're welcome to upload any material here, such as photographs, videos, and/or artwork that you created. Please submit any videos in MP4 format. Maximum file size is 100 MB.

Stalled Truck Sta…
Bruce Sullivan an…
Left to right, Dixi…
Loren Webb jum…
Dixie College stu…

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Loren Webb took the pictures on April 29, 1977. The story was written by Loren Webb in November 2024 based on April 28-29, 1977 journal entries by Loren Webb. I have owned the photos since I took them with my camera.

Please describe any uploaded materials here. Names, dates, etc. are appreciated.

(1) A May 5, 1977 Dixie Sun news article published in the student newspaper at Dixie College written by Sun Staff Writer Loren Webb (all handwritten notations were made by Loren Webb) includes a photo by Loren Webb that shows a stalled vehicle with its hood up on the right and a Jeep on the left and college students milling around. The event took place on April 29, 1977 based on Loren Webb's journal entry and interviews with those stranded.
(2) Tarryl Anderson, left, and Kay Lynn Kendall, center, and Bruce Sullivan, right, enjoy the views in Whitmore Canyon, including the Colorado River. April 29, 1977. Photo by Loren Webb
(3) Dixie College student Tarryl Anderson looks southward from this abandoned two-story wooden shack located in Main Street Valley on the Arizona Strip. April 29, 1977. Photo by Loren Webb
(4) Bruce Sullivan (left) and Loren Webb take in views of the Colorado River in Whitmore Canyon from a canyon overlook. April 29, 1977. Photo by Kay Lynn Kendall or Tarryl Anderson.
(5) Loren Webb, left, runs towards a splash down in the Colorado River while Kay Lynn Kendall, center, and Tarryl Anderson, right, look on while soaking in the cool waters of the river. April 29, 1977. Photo by Bruce Sullivan.

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