

10-6-07
My comments for
your meeting with
B.L.M. on Oct. 24th & 25th.

This was written a
couple of years ago but
it still shows my
feeling, thought and
memory. Use if you want
Ed Harley

OCT 11 2007

THE RAPE OF A BEAUTIFUL SISTER

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This "Beautiful Sister" lives in the Red Desert. She has lived in "no mans land" forever. The first rape occurs when someone comes in wearing a George Bush mask and takes advantage of her. This creates another line on her face and another pock mark at the end of the line. Now this is happening time after time and each time there is a new line and a new pock mark. The Sister we are talking about here will live forever out on the Red Desert. We know this is going to keep happening to her so what can we do. I suggest she charge for it. You have to charge them first, then let them do their thing. The point I am trying to make here is that our Beautiful Sister needs protection. This is very important to me and it should be to all of you. She is your sister too.

This Beautiful Sister has been known to the locals as "Adobe Town" and Monument Valley. She is a long way out in the country and has not had much traffic because of it. That was until the last few years. Now she is being raped time after time. Each time brings another line or two (road and pipeline right-of-way) and another pock mark (drill site location).

Some of you locals have been to Adobe Town and a lot more of you have heard about it. If you have not been there you should go there soon. I guarantee there is no place like it and not very many places even similar. It is like Utah's Moab or Bryce Cannon, only not quite so colorful, or big. What did you expect? It is made of adobe clay and rocks. But the shapes and forms are phenomenal. At sunrise or sunset the shapes and shadows stir the imagination. Take your camera and lots of film, oops, discs. Get your pictures before the bulldozers put in another line and pock mark.

Adobe Town is bordered on the north by Haystack Mountain. Haystack is a very rough and rugged mountain, a prehistoric wonder of its own. Very little of the sides of this mountain have ever felt man's foot steps. There are two, two track roads going up from the north but nothing going down the south side into Adobe Town. Soon a bulldozer will change that! A gas well location will need to go in there someplace. Another Rape!

The west side of Adobe Town is called Adobe rim. By the way that is said with a silent a, or "Doe-be". If you come from the west, going east, it is just some more flat country with rolling hills and sand. All at once you come to the edge of the rim and you get your first look down in to "Adobe town". And what a view it is. My first trip there was in the 1940's with my Dad and Roy Eversole. Roy was the owner of the Eversole ranch that is just north and west of Adobe Town. Dad and Roy started talking about how that formation looked like the Rock Springs National Bank and the one with spire of rock was the old city hall. I was only eight or ten years old and they were just joshing me, but it made a memory. So did the awesome first view of Adobe Town.

The south side of Adobe Town is Powder Rim and the Powder Mountain country which is on the Colorado border. All of the Powder country is wonderful deer and elk habitat. Also historically significant is the "Butch Cassidy" hideaway, and the "Mat Warner" dugout.

Adobe Town from the east is vulnerable because it is readily accessible. The oil and gas fields south of Wamsutter are expanding to the west and the lines (roads) are increasing on our "Beautiful Sister's" face. When they need a location on the pristine rugged slopes of Haystack Mountain or Adobe Rim, you and I both know another line

and pock mark will be forever cut into that rough but beautiful face. The bulldozers will not have any trouble plowing through the rock topped spires of adobe that holds that balanced rock at such a precarious angle. But you have your pictures of that balanced rock, right? My words cannot begin to describe what else that bulldozer will take out on its way to the next pock mark.

Adobe Town was once on the Bureau of Land Managements "Wilderness Study Area" program. B.L.M. probably turns a lot of you folks off when their signs say "no motorized vehicles beyond this point". Well it did me to, but I had to turn my head clear around to read the first one I saw as it was telling me not to enter where I had just come from, in my truck, (and the motor was still in it). What I am trying to say here is that the B.L.M. thought it was worth trying to preserve at least thirty or forty years ago. Now the B.L.M., from political pressures, wants the gas that is under all this area. It does not matter now that the surface has such an odd but beautiful face.

One spot that we found only two summers ago is what I call Horse Shoe Spring. It is U shaped and the water comes from under the thirty foot cliff of rocks that make up the U. It is about fifty feet wide and a hundred yards long with the sides' straight up so the animals have to go up the box canyon for a drink. Imagine the possibilities here. An Indian could set up on top above the spring and wait for a deer, antelope or buffalo to come in for a drink. Shoot straight down on them or come in from the bottom and have them boxed in. Would there be an arrowhead here?

If you could ask our "Beautiful Sister" about some of her unusual characters she would probably tell you about Tex Love. Tex was a recluse who lived in Adobe Town in the 1930's and up till the early fifties. We always wondered if he wasn't hiding from the law or maybe he just did not like to live with other people. His past remains hidden, but his license plates on the shell of an old Plymouth were from Idaho. We have found his summer camp site but not his winter cave. Old timers (older than me), tell me he had rocked in a door in one of the many caves on haystack mountain. But the one thing that is amazing about Tex is his ability to catch wild horses all by himself. Oh, I suppose he could get a lariat on one every now and then. But the unusual part of his trade was his one man horse trap. It was in a semi-box canyon. Semi here means there were a few places wild horses could get up and out of the canyon. Tex had fenced all these off with what ever he could find; rope, wire or cable. This canyon had an S turn in it that was just above a small spring. Tex built a round corral right where the horses came out from around the top of the S. When they got there it was too late, they were already in the trap. But what kept them from turning around and running back out? After Tex got in behind the horses at the watering hole and started them running up the bottom of the canyon and as they approached the S turns, Tex cut across the S turns to a small rise where he could see the horses as they entered the corral and he would pull on this wire that would pull a tarpaulin (tarp) over the gate area. He could pull on the wire and make the tarp move enough so the horses would stay away from that area of the corral. I remember Tex bringing two wild horses into Bitter Creek [town] on a short lead rope behind his Plymouth. By the time they got that far they were "broke to lead". But to teach them about "leading" he would also put a stitch of baling wire in their nostril so they could not get enough air to put up much of a fight. That stitch came out in Bitter Creek and the horses got a rest before he took them on to Rock Spring to sell for five or ten bucks each.

What Tex did to the wild horses will be small stuff compared with what will happen to our Beautiful Sister by the time the gas and oil wells are done with her. Each road and pipeline that is cut into her face will be there forever. They don't go away because they get abandoned by the oil companies. If there is a road it will get used. Pipe line right-of-ways will get driven on too, even if they get "reclaimed". Reclaimed means roughed up and hopefully planted with grass seed. Sometimes they forget the seed.

So what can we do to make our Beautiful Sister stay as beautiful as possible? The drilling will happen. The roads will be there. They will get used. People will go see what is left of the unusual face of this part of the Red Desert. They will also see all the antelope and wild horses. They might see some deer or an elk or two. What this country would be good for is buffalo! Yes it would be hard and expensive to have buffalo in the area. But remember we should charge them first, before the rape. If we could set up a fee to the gas companies for each location, road or pipeline that marks the beautiful face. Or maybe it should be a small tax on the gas and oil produced. The gas will be taken out of Wyoming anyway. How much gas will Sweetwater County use? We will see very little of the severance tax that goes into the state coffers and even less of the federal tax. Or do we need a county tax? Another tax? I hate the thought of it, too. So do we just sit here on our duffs and do nothing. There is a possibility that we could have buffalo in the area. The area would have to be bigger than just Adobe Town. Maybe from Rock Springs to Wamsutter to Baggs, west on the Colorado border to where 430 highway crosses into Colorado and back to Rock Springs. That should get a lot of the peoples' attention! If you live in that area please forgive me. My logic is, where else can so much country be saved as a wildlife preserve with any less disruption to the general populace. If you live there or ranch there we don't expect you to just go away. We could have tax \$ on the gas and oil to help you put up with the buffalo or maybe buy you out, if you wanted out. We would have to buy out enough Rock Springs and Rawlins grazing association permits so we could get most of the livestock out of the area so the livestock companies coming in from Colorado would have to find some place else for winter range.

There is a fence on the Colorado boarder and on I-80. There is a fence on highway 430 and from Creston Junction to Baggs. Would this be the final border? It would be nice but it is not written in stone.

Twenty years from now and our small herd of buffalo have developed enough in numbers so you can go out in different parts of that country and see wild, free ranging buffalo. How awesome is that? Notice here I said "our". Yes they would belong to all of us.

NEWS FLASH---NEWS FLASH: on the radio this morning, March 27, 04; Jim Gerring, our Governor, said he wanted a .01 cent tax on every Million Cubic Feet of gas taken out of Wyoming to go toward Wyoming's Fish and Wildlife. Hooray! State wide is much better than my Adobe Town only or Wamsutter to Baggs to Hiawatha to Rock Springs area. A penny for a 1,000,000 cubic feet of gas? That should not hurt your heating bill much. It should not raise Denver's, or Chicago's or Lincoln's or Salt Lake's heating bills much either. Would they rather be cold or pay the penny? What we need is our own penny. Then we could buy fences, grazing permits and soon get a few buffalo.