

# Rocky Mountain Outdoors

the newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers, Inc.

September - October 2021

## White Sands Welcomes RMOWP

Text by Don Laine ~ Photos by Don and Barb Laine

RMOWP's annual conference is just a few weeks away (Sunday-Wednesday, September 26-29) with a good time for all planned in sunny Alamogordo, New Mexico.

In addition to photographing the glistening white gypsum sands of White Sands National Park, we'll discover the real Wild West at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park. A must-see in the area, that we hope you'll explore on your own, is Three Rivers Petroglyph Site, with more than 21,000 ancient petroglyphs. Other local attractions include the New Mexico Museum of Space History for a glimpse of the beginnings of America's space program, the Tularosa Basin Museum of History, and of course the Toy Train Depot. Due to the ongoing pandemic, some of these attractions may have limited hours when we're there, but we'll try to get current information closer to the conference.

Headquarters will be the Holiday Inn Express, 100 Kerry Avenue (575-434-9773), with nightly rates for RMOWP conference attendees of \$135 plus taxes per night, which includes a hot breakfast.

Although New Mexico is relatively safe from Covid-19, with one of the highest rates of Covid-19 vaccinations in the country, the state, White Sands National Park, and RMOWP are being cautious. At this time, the state requires that masks be worn at indoor gatherings (except for medical and religious exceptions and while eating and drinking) so please bring your mask. Masks are also required in crowded outdoor gatherings in the national park. We will have extra face masks and face shields available. We also plan more outdoor activities than usual and we'll practice social distancing as much as possible.



*Bald Eagle at Alameda Park Zoo.*

See the latest conference schedule on page 7 of this newsletter.

Visit [www.nps.gov/whsa](http://www.nps.gov/whsa) for information on White Sands National Park, and check out [www.alamogordomttrue.com](http://www.alamogordomttrue.com) for more information about Alamogordo and the surrounding area.



*Playing in the dunes*



*Nike surface-to-air missile outside the New Mexico Museum of Space History.*

### Announcing

**What: Conference 2022**

**Where: Golden, Colorado**

**When: June 22-25, 2022 (Tentative)**

Your conference committee has scheduled the next conference closer to the heart of the Rocky Mountains. After all, that's our namesake. And since Golden lies on the northwest edge of Denver, access will be a bit easier.

*Stay tuned.*

Jack's Jaunts

# Travels and Travails of a Magazine Photographer

By Jack Olson



[Ed. Note: This article was first printed in the April-May 1996 issue of Rocky Mountain Outdoors.]

I recently had a magazine assignment which I thought might be of interest to members who are aspiring photographers. It seems pretty funny now that some time has passed but it didn't tickle me too much at the time. Experienced photographers in RMOWP will probably recall similar stories of their own.

The magazine was *Historic Traveler*. Members who attended the Keystone, SD Conference in 1995 may remember I spoke about that magazine as a potential market. Although it's no longer published, I haven't changed my mind; it was an excellent magazine. And it fit one of my specialties – historic locations.

I was called in late October 1995 and asked, on a couple of day's notice, to photograph Mesa Verde National Park for the cover for the March 1996 issue. They had lined up a couple of models from the Ute Mountain Ute tribe who would meet me at one of the ruins. I chose the Spruce Tree ruins because we could work there at will and suggested a 3:00pm time to meet in order to get the best light. The magazine arranged for a permit from the Park Service. I was excited.

So far so good. I drove down to Mesa Verde, close to 400 miles from Denver. But at 3:00 the models weren't there and I watched with increasing unease as the shadows began to creep into the ruins. The models, a man and his young son, showed up near 4:00 and there was precious little light left in the ruins. I chose about the only structure left with good light and fired off two rolls of film in 15 minutes. I was pretty happy that I'd salvaged the shoot. Wrong!

I Fedexed the slides, which appeared very good, with excellent light on the one structure and the models. The next day I got a call from the editor, who I had not dealt with before. He said he understood that I'd had a problem with the models' late arrival, but that the pictures weren't working. My heart sunk. He said he didn't want to insult me but the structure looked like a bridge abutment (sigh). He asked me if I would go back down to Mesa Verde and do it again. And he wanted me to use the Cliff Palace this time. I guess he wasn't upset with me or my photography, or he wouldn't have asked me to go back, but his demeanor couldn't be confused with warm.

This time I asked the models to show up at 2:00pm, hoping for 3:00. The magazine got me another filming permit. And back down I drove in perfect weather. As I got to the Cliff Palace my heart sunk. I was getting used to that feeling. A large cloud bank was moving in and it looked like

it would stay for the day. And the magazine wanted good light. I sort of prayed.

Lo and behold, the models showed up right at 2:00. The park ranger guide held things up a bit and gave me time to instruct the models. They went down into the ruins and I got photos with a telephoto from the overlook in the last dwindling light. Then the ranger arranged for me to go into the ruins with the models, with no other people around and make additional images. I felt pretty good, but was concerned about the light quality.

It was a nervous time waiting to see what the magazine would think about my photos. A week passed and I finally broke my rule about not bugging editors. I called. And to my relief I was told the pictures had worked out well. I would have the cover and several photos in the article. Jubilation!

We've had concerned discussions about photographing in national parks and other federal lands, so I'd like to briefly address that point. Since I was going to be bringing a tripod into the ruins and requesting consideration in allowing me some unobstructed photography, I asked the magazine to arrange for permits on both occasions. Those permits were faxed to me within an hour or so from Mesa Verde. The rangers on duty in the ruins could not have been more cordial or helpful.

The issue came out and I was very happy with the way the cover looked. I also had five photos inside. *Historic Traveler* was one of the best customers I've worked with. The art director and associate editor were great. The problems were no one's fault. Just the mischievous Photo Gremlin that keeps our lives from ever being perfect.



Laine motorhome at picnic pavilion in Roadrunner picnic area, White Sands National Park. © B. Laine

## TABLE of CONTENTS

Announcing .....	1
<i>A Bad Man But a Great State Park</i> .....	4-5
Conference Schedule .....	7
Jack's Jaunts .....	2
<i>Denizens of the Desert</i> .....	5-6
<i>Masks for all in National Parks</i> .....	8
President's Column .....	8
RMOWP Loses Long-time Friend .....	3
<i>White Sands Welcomes RMOWP</i> .....	1
Writer's Corner .....	3

## Crikey! It's National Punctuation Day!

By Virginia Parker Staat

*"England and America are two countries separated by a common language."*  
~ George Bernard Shaw



I recently edited a children's book written by a Glaswegian friend of mine (aka, a native of Glasgow, Scotland). I quickly recognized that editing his book would take a bit more effort on my part than I originally anticipated. I had forgotten about the many differences between American versus United Kingdom styles of spelling and punctuation.

For National Punctuation Day, I thought it might be fun to look at some of those differences between these similar, yet sometimes very diametric, variations of the same language. We often forget that here in America, we don't speak American. We speak American English. And since many of us were taught by teachers and professors from the United Kingdom, these differences often show up unexpectedly in our own writing. As an example, one of my very British English teachers taught me to spell endeavor as endeavour, color as colour, traveled as travelled, and center as centre (particularly if it's a theater). I still prefer those spellings.

Why do Americans spell these words so differently? Evidently we can blame Noah Webster, the man who wrote many of our first grammar schoolbooks and the Webster Dictionary. He called it spelling reform. Some consider it American cultural independence. In England, many consider it word butchery. The official Merriam-Webster website had this tongue-in-cheek explanation: "The spelling reform... was based on the author's combined vision of logic and aesthetics. He changed the -ce words like defence, offence, and pretence to -se; abandoned the silent 'l' in verbs such as travel and cancel when forming past tense; dropped the 'u' from words such as humor and color, and dropped the 'k' from words such as publick and musick. The 'publick' readily accepted many of these changes and just as readily rejected some of the others."

During our travels, we have learned that American versus United Kingdom patrons even have different words for the same thing... and occasionally those words can offend. As an example, I discovered that it is quite rude to say fanny pack. Instead, it should be called a bum bag. Other words are simply confusing. Our cookies are their biscuits. Canned goods are tinned. Diapers are nappies. Underwear are knickers. Flashlights are torches. Windshields are windscreens. Shopping carts are trolleys. Fries are chips. Umbrellas are bumbershoots. And cattle guards are Texas gates.

As I edited my friend's book, his punctuation also sent me scurrying to my style manuals. I had to confirm that the

British version of punctuation left periods and commas outside the quotation marks rather than inside. (I learned along the way that English typesetters did this as a practical step to protect the delicate punctuation metal type from wearing out during printing.) I also learned that Brits don't use periods after Mr and Mrs. They do use a period, however, to mark time between the hour and minutes such as 9.30 in the morning rather than 9:30. Of course, I had no problem with my friend's Oxford comma. I, too, had learned to place a comma before the last item in a list of three or more things.

I am happy to report that my Glaswegian friend wrote to say he had accepted all my editing changes save one. He said he preferred his English spelling of fulfil to my American fulfill. I had to chuckle... fulfil is the only English spelling I recall that uses fewer letters than the American English version.

This September 24th Americans will celebrate National Punctuation Day once again. It is interesting to note that in spite of the United Kingdom's obsession with punctuation and grammar — after all, they are the same folks who established the Apostrophe Protection Society — it is only in America that we have moved to provide punctuation with its own personal holiday. Bloody amazing.

---

## RMOWP Loses Long-time Friend

**Dusty Lee Fullinwider**, of Apache Junction, Arizona, and



*Jay & Dusty Fullinwider  
at the 1984 conference,  
Pahaska Teepee, WY*

South Fork, Colorado, passed away March 5, two months before her 87th birthday. A member of RMOWP since 1974, Dusty wore many hats during her years with us, and will be remembered not only for the hard work and dedication she put into the organization, but for her cheerful personality. Dusty was fun to be around.

Over the years, Dusty served the organization as president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, board chairperson, three terms on the board of directors, conference chairperson, and supporting member liaison. She was always the first one there to do whatever needed doing.

Dusty worked closely with her husband Jay in RMOWP. Jay, who died in 2006 at the age of 77, was also an RMOWP president, vice-president, and board member, as well as the group's first executive director. Both Dusty and Jay were freelance writers and photographers, with work published in numerous magazines and newspapers. Dusty also organized RMOWP's 1980 conference at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, and was honored with RMOWP's Spark Plug Award in 1984.

---

## A Bad Man But a Great State Park

Text and photos by Don Laine

General Francisco "Pancho" Villa was not a nice person, but the Mexican bandit-revolutionary, certainly without meaning to, played a major role in helping the United States prepare for its entrance into World War I.

Today, those traveling in southern New Mexico can drop in to Pancho Villa State Park in the border town of Columbus to learn about Villa and see some of America's first mechanized military equipment. If your timing's right you might also see blooming cactus in spring and do a bit of bird watching in winter.



*The first grease rack — made of concrete.*

The story begins in the early morning hours of March 9, 1916, when guerilla revolutionaries, under Villa, crossed the border from Mexico and attacked Columbus, New Mexico, looting it and setting it on fire while killing 18 Americans and wounding another 12. This is generally recognized as the last armed invasion of the continental United States.

A small garrison of U.S. troops at Camp Furlong, on the south edge of town, mounted a defense, and by dawn, the Mexicans were back across the border. Initial reports said there were 2,000 attackers, but later estimates put that closer to 500. Estimates of Mexican guerillas killed ranged from about 100 to more than 200.

A likely reason that Villa attacked Columbus is that he wanted to punish the United States, and especially President Woodrow Wilson, for recognizing and helping his political rival, Mexican President Venustiano Carranza. Villa also wanted the supplies he got from looting the town and Camp Furlong.

If nothing else, the raid did get the attention of President Wilson, who sent General John "Black Jack" Pershing on what was called a "punitive expedition," in which thousands of U.S. troops chased Villa for 11 months, traveling some 400 miles into Mexico. Although there were a number of skirmishes with Villa's men, in which 75-to-100 Mexican guerillas were killed, Villa was never captured.

However, documents unearthed in 1991 indicate that the U.S. tried to assassinate Villa — and came very close to doing so — in 1916. According to the reports, written by an Army intelligence officer, the Army hired two Japanese, who made their way to Villa's camp and went to work as cooks. They brought with them a poison, supposedly odorless and tasteless, and after a few days put some in Villa's coffee. Always cautious, Villa poured half of it into another man's cup, watched him drink it, and then drank the rest himself. The Japanese quietly left. While it is not known if Villa and the other coffee-drinker suffered any ill effects, Villa did not die at that time. He was finally killed in 1923, reportedly by Mexican enemies with no connection to the U.S. Army.

Although Pershing's trek through Mexico in search of Villa did not attain its goal, it was a success in another way. It was a training ground for World War I, which the United States was about to enter.

Industrialization had brought changes to the world, and to war. Pershing's punitive expedition was the last time the U.S. would use mounted cavalry, and was also the first time a U.S. military operation would use motorized trucks and planes. Ironically, fuel

for the new internal combustion engines was carried by mules.

Visitors to Pancho Villa State Park today can see the ruins of the camp, including the adobe shells of the judge advocate's office and jail, and also the first grease rack installed to service U.S. military vehicles. Also remaining is



*Camp Furlong Recreation Hall.*

the camp's airstrip, used by the Army's First Aero Squadron, which consisted of eight biplanes. The old U.S. Customs Service building, constructed in 1902, serves as the park's visitor center, and contains artifacts, historic photos, and exhibits describing Villa, the attack on Columbus, and the U.S. military's incursion into Mexico.

Despite this park's name, however, it has another side that has absolutely nothing to do with Villa's attack. The park is home to extensive botanical gardens, filled with more than



*Judge Advocate's office.*

30 varieties of cacti and their drought-resistant brethren, including cow tongue and beavertail prickly pear, tree and cane cholla, claret cup, horse crippler, long mama, yucca, agave, ocotillo, sotol, and Joshua trees.

Birders have catalogued more than 50 species in the park, including American kestrels, red-shafted flickers, Inca doves, mourning doves, starlings, western meadowlarks, scaled quail, Brewer's blackbirds, brown-headed cowbirds, cactus wrens, roadrunners, red-tailed hawks, ravens, and an occasional sandhill crane. The park also has jackrabbits, coyotes, javelina, rattlesnakes, and bullsnakes. Every once in a while a bobcat is seen.

Trails are short and easy. A 130-yard nature trail has identifying signs on cactus and other desert plants. The Coote's Hill Trail — about 0.5-mile total — is a series of interconnecting trails that wind through a botanical garden and up to the top of Coote's Hill, providing a good view of the surrounding countryside, all the way to Mexico. The park's only paved trail, it was named for a soldier who was stationed here. There is also a 1-mile exercise loop trail that is convenient for getting to and from the campground and other park facilities. There are RV hookups, restrooms with showers, and a dump station.

*"Keep close to nature's heart and break clear, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." ~ John Muir, American naturalist, 1838-1914*

## The Denizens of the Desert ~ Flora and Fauna of Southern New Mexico...

Photos by Don and Barb Laine

*A bee feasts on the nectar of an unusual shade of cholla bloom.*



*Sneaky snake winds around the underbelly of an agave.*



*In it's last - and only - burst of bloom, the agave reaches for the heavens.*

*Cont. on pg. 6, "Desert flora and fauna..."*

Desert flora and fauna (from pg. 5)



*A few varieties of prickly pear blossoms... yellow being the most common.*

*Cow's Tongue Prickly Pear in bloom*



*Kit foxes give the photographer a beady eye.*



*The ocotillo — those spindly sticks lined with thorns — boasts magnificent blooms and small round leaves after a rain.*



*The cholla's flower is most often this hot pink.*

# RMOWP 2021 Conference — Alamogordo, New Mexico

## Sunday-Wednesday, September 26-29, 2021

Sunday & Wednesday meetings, workshops, and meals are in the meeting room at Holiday Inn Express; Monday until 3pm: Alameda Park Zoo; Tuesday am: Oliver Lee Memorial St Pk, pm: White Sands Nati'l Pk.

### Sunday, September 26

- 2:30pm Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)
- 6:00pm Registration, Opening Reception, Happy Hour and Light Buffet (included in registration fee)
- 7:30pm Presentation of Contest Submissions

### Monday, September 27

Head to the pavilion at the Alameda Park Zoo (admission fee included in registration fee).

Lousy weather? We'll be at the Holiday Inn Express meeting room.

- 9:00am Welcome, Announcements, and General Membership Meeting – President Virginia Staat
- 9:45am Break
- 10:00am Self-Publishing – A Panel Discussion. David Staat, moderator
- 11:15am Break
- 11:30am Show vs. Tell – a Writing Workshop with Virginia Staat
- 12:30pm Deli Sandwich Box Lunch (\$15)
- 1:00pm Anne Sullivan Writers Forum. Kenita Gibbins, moderator
- 3:00pm Free time to explore the zoo or head to other local attractions on your own, such as Three Rivers Petroglyph Site (35 miles north of Alamogordo via U.S. 54), New Mexico Museum of Space History, or Tularosa Basin Museum of History, with dinner on your own

### Tuesday, September 28

- 9:00am Carpool to Oliver Lee Memorial State Park (14 miles south of Holiday Inn Express via U.S. 70, U.S. 54, and Dog Canyon Road)
- 9:30am Meet at state park visitor center, explore museum, get car passes (included in registration fee), and caravan to restored Oliver Lee Ranch House for guided tour. Return to main area of park to see historic buildings, a riparian nature trail, desert scenery, and wildlife
- 12:00pm Meet at the state park's group picnic area for a Pinwheels Box Lunch (\$15)
- 1:00pm Carpool to White Sands National Park (14 miles southwest of Holiday Inn Express via U.S. 70), explore the visitor center, watch the video, and head into the dunes
- 4:30pm Meet at the White Sands Roadrunner Picnic Area (look for the Laines' Chateau motor home) for a Barbecue Supper (\$22)
- 6:00pm Meet at the "Sunset Stroll Meets Here" area in the sand dunes to join the park's leisurely sunset walk with a park ranger. (Sunset 6:51pm, park closes 8:00pm)

### Wednesday, September 29

- 6:00am Sunrise Photo Shoot, location to be determined (sunrise 6:56am)
- 9:00am My Best – And Worst – Moments Behind the Camera. A Group Discussion led by Don Laine
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am Photo Critique
- 12:00pm Turkey Cobb Salad Lunch (\$18)
- 12:45pm Power of Place – a Workshop for both Writers and Photographers with Virginia Staat
- 1:45pm Break
- 2:00-5:00pm Auction
- 6:00-9:00pm Banquet – Chicken Cordon Bleu (\$30), and Awards Ceremony

From the President

## Will You Join Us?

By Virginia Parker Staat

RMOWP is just a few weeks away from its 2021 conference. Are you making plans to attend? I do hope so.

After a year with the pandemic, you may have trepidations about your safety. Your RMOWP staff and Board share your concerns and want to assure you that we are taking precautions at every level. Meals will be boxed or plated. Social distancing will be encouraged. We have also planned more outdoor activities than usual, including a visit to the Oliver Lee Memorial State Park and workshops in an outdoor pavilion at the Alameda Park Zoo.

What are other reasons for you to attend? Our RMOWP conference offers each of us the opportunity to connect with friends, both old and new. We'll be sharing our year's best work with contest entries and critiques. We'll hear about new techniques in an Independent Publishing Panel and writing and photography workshops.

Perhaps most importantly, when we connect with folks who share our passion about the outdoors, it can revitalize our energy for our craft and creativity. Being around like-minded people is both inspirational and validating.

This year's RMOWP conference will be filled with fun, good food, informative workshops, photographing and writing events, an opportunity to explore one of our nation's newest national parks, and lots of networking opportunities. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you there.

*"All animals, except man, know that the principle business of life is to enjoy it."*  
~ British Poet Samuel Butler, 1835-1902



*"Strahan Train Engine Turn, Tasmania, AU" © David Staat  
Honorable Mention, Historical Category, RMOWP 2020 Contest*

## Masks for All in National Parks

In an effort to ensure the safety of national park visitors, employees, volunteers, and others during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the National Park Service (NPS) is requiring that everyone wear masks inside all NPS buildings, public transportation, and also in crowded outdoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status or location.

"Keep in mind," the park service said in its press release, "even in the outdoors, some park areas, overlooks, or trails may be crowded or narrow and physical distancing may not be possible. Be prepared with a mask if you cannot keep six feet from others."

The park service said that individuals who violate the requirement may be subject to citations. Additional information and updates are available at individual park websites and [www.nps.gov/coronavirus](http://www.nps.gov/coronavirus).

### Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Published bi-monthly by

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

Editor: Don Laine

Layout/Design: Barb Laine

Send editorial materials to Don Laine, [info@rmowp.org](mailto:info@rmowp.org); or snail mail to 76 Eototo Road, El Prado, NM 87529.

Opinions expressed in articles in Rocky Mountain Outdoors are those of the articles' authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, its officers, board of directors, and staff.

© 2021 by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the author or editor.

#### RMOWP Officers

President, Virginia Parker Staat, The Woodlands, TX  
Vice President, Linda Haehnle, Aurora, CO  
Secretary, Diane McKinley, Bryn Mawr, PA  
Treasurer, Maryann Gaug, Silverthorne, CO

#### Board of Directors

Kit Horton, Boulder, CO (2022)  
Barb Laine, El Prado, NM (2022)  
Peter Kummerfeldt, Colorado Springs, CO (2023)  
David Staat, The Woodlands, TX (2023)  
Ron Belak, Kittredge, CO (2024)  
Joanna Gray, West Frankfort, IL (2024)