

Notes on De Chelly/Del Muerto photography

Side A

- Shot of Kokopelli with hands, in cave just above pool, both black and white and color.
- shot of basketmaker pictographs consisting of a triangular man human figure with smaller figures to the right and a whole series of repeated elements, possibly migration group, just below. This is about one mile up ^{the} canyon, right across from the Charleson Gorman farm ((??)), just below Cottonwood Canyon.
- This is the horses, horsemen chasing a deer, right at the Crow Trail area, metal sand color. Note that the horses here have balls on their feet.
- Up past sleeping buck rock.
- First Ruin. Directly across from First Ruin is the zigzag line that Laura has in a photograph --- a pictograph shot that she took last year.
- T'saneenodej ((??)). It's kind of like a rock that's kind of jagged. You know, it goes up and down jagged.
- Junction Ruin at Junction Rock, four miles in from the mouth of De Chelly.
- Okay. Row one of the 35mm for today was finished up at Junction Ruin.
- Down-canyon view from near Johnny's property. At the mouth of Canyon Del Muerto.
- Up canyon view in Canyon Del Muerto. Cottonwoods in the foreground. Just above Johnny's property.
- She was taking a lot of pictures and she'd ask me "Johnny, what's the name of this?" And she was writing down all the stuff I was saying. She'd say "What's the name of this ruin?" And I'd say, "Well, there's no English name for it. But ~~in~~ Navajo ^{we} have a name for it." She said "Well, that'd ^{be} alright. I'd like to know the Navajo name." I said, "Well, we call this one Diz Deen Nova Hah Tah." And she said, "Hey, you know, that's a real reasonable sounding name, what's that ~~mean~~?" I said, "Oh, that's number forty-six."

-And what did you say the ^{place for} name of this area is?

-- That's Teh Yah Toe. Good spring. There's a good spring of water that comes out from under the rocks ^{over} here. Teh Yah Toe. And it's good for drinking. Very good water. T'seh Yah Toe.

-T'seh Yah means under the rock. And water, Toe.

--Pictographs of a Navajo YahBahChe ceremony. They're almost obliterated and off but that's what it was originally supposed to be. See the figures standing there ~~in~~ in a row and the medicine man standing ~~at~~ the end, ~~over~~.

-At the right?

--Yeah, at the right ~~there~~ ^{right} That's the YahBahChe ceremony ^{right} there.

-Black and white shot of horses.

--This is just at the base of Baby Trail. WhyHajaLow. Just above, in a northeasterly direction toward Antelope House. ^{from the base of Baby Trail}

-This is a Navajo site as well as the red figures, Basketmaker figures, along with some yellow outline drawings. The Navajo figures are those of cows. There's a small Navajo storage bin also on this site, right near Baby Trail.

-Roll 3 of the medallist finished up at the site of Navajo petroglyphs. Finished up at the shallow shelter site ^{re} above Baby Trail, the one with the Navajo storage bin.

-35mm color shot of Antelope House about one o'clock in the afternoon.

--Ah, this is the Antelope House ruins here. The Navajo name for it is Judahdeejahhey, that means like the running antelope-- the antelope running along the ledge of rocks. The man that done the drawings was, as far as Navajo stories go, Manuelito, one of the Navajo leaders that was during the ^{time of the} long walk ~~at~~ ^{here}. He done the pictures of the colored antelope. his Navajo name was Pay yah Dje Nez, ^{I mean} the little long lamb,

^{this shot a table right at the back of}
--Baby Trail. The Navajo name is Way Hady Hee Low, meaning where they pulled the babies up by ropes during the time of fighting with the Utes around 1803.

-Striped Rock area. There is, on the north face a good many Navajo pictographs, or look like Navajo and one very small ruin, very minute in that whole face. No pictures were taken.

- Yellow and color shot at Rock Sticking in the Water area.
- Also known as the slow danger area.
- Hosteen Bedjah Begay's ((??)) area, with the Spanish and Hopi
- Navajo ~~xxx~~ plus Anasazi stuff in a single cave. And then
- just 35mm shots of the basketmaker ~~xxxx~~ things in a high cave
- just downstream a bit from Hosteen Bedjah Begay's land.
- Standing Cow Ruin. The military expedition photographs.

Side B

E - What I want to know is about the four parts of the Canyon De Chelly Book, the way you see it.

L - Well, the way I've been thinking about it, I think that part one should be the environment, the air shots. I have quite a few of those. And part two ^{the} landscape of the canyon. Part three should be the ruins in the canyon. And part four would be the people. If that makes sense to you. There's this buisness of whether it has to be divided into parts or not, I don't know. We can decide that later, But that is the way I've thought of it anyhow. (Said very firmly)

E - Well, let's start with the first one. If you were going to talk about why you wanted to do the air shots--what was the point of it?

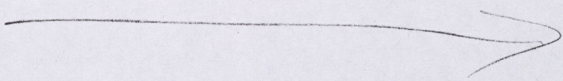
L - The point of it was to see the general formations of it and see what it looked like from the air. The chief characterist of De Chelly to me -- and the more I think of it, the more I think this is true -- it is the one canyon in this country, as far as I know, that is perpendicular. I mean, the Grand Canyon is measas stepped back. And Canyon De Chelly is just perpendicular and you get that feeling in certain sections of the canyon to really an almost overwhelming extent. Of course, there are areas ~~where~~ that have been eroded and that's one of the things that gives you these beautiful vistas of one kind and another, but it's general effect is one of being very precipitous.

E - Do you know how the canyon was formed?

L - I'm not sure I do know what the geologists have had to say about it. There's every kind of geology you can imagine. I'm told that geologists just go crazy over there because there's just so many diff. kinds of formations. And apparently at one point there was a push up of one kind of thing. For instance, that whole area that they call the petrified sand dunes. It looks just like sand dunes somewhere, and yet it's hard rock. Then you'll find a completely diff. kind of substance in other areas. There are things that make pictorially -- from my point of view -- for great interest in the landscape of the canyon.

E - Also on some of the air shots you can see some of the mountains that are sacred to the Navajo? And the way it's situated on there?

L - Yes, Black Mesa is sacred to the Navajo and also the sacred mountain of the north is visible. And also, if you look in another direction you can see the Francisco Peaks which are the sacred mountain. But the Navajo have only been there about two hundred years, and the whole extraordinary part of Canyon De Chelly is that it has been inhabited for over 2000 years. That is why Mr. Bernofsky picked on that as the one place in North America that he wanted to related to, because of the continual occupation of that place by one people or another. The first people there were the early so-called Basketmakers. They date from perhaps just the beginning of the Christian ~~era~~ down to about 350A.D. Then came the Cliffdwellers, the early Cliffdwellers, who were up to about 1000, 1100. They were the Cliffdwellers of the ruins of the White House and Begay. Those are the Anasazi. And then the Navajo may have stayed in there all winter in early winters, I don't know, but now certainly they come up out of the canyon in the wintertime, because of the difficulty of getting across the area of the canyon, the floor of the canyon, which can be so very treacherous.



(2)

There's water very close to the surface and I have made one picture ~~which~~ ^{that} I hope will illustrate this. I found a young fellow who had a bucket and he'd taken the bottom out of it and just sank the bucket down in the sand and it filtered in perfectly good drinking water, so ~~it~~ he filled his drinking water for household use right there from ~~that~~ bucket. So I've got a picture that we can use in some way to illustrate that which is an important phase of the canyon.

And the thing that makes it so treacherous is that there can be a cloudburst way up the canyon and if you're down in the canyon you don't even know it's rained somewhere and then all of a sudden a 3 or 4 foot wall of water can come tearing down the canyon and ~~then~~ ^{that's} that's trouble.

The thing that I feel about this particular book that I'm working on is that I don't want to do the kind of a book that I did for ^{the} Maya ruins, which got into history and technicalities and so forth. While there can be a certain amount of history ~~and~~ ^{that} we can easily include just in discussion, the main thing I think is to make a picture book out of it more than anything else. ...and impressions. What I have tried to do and I think I've got most of it, is to do it at all times of year