


# The Jackalope Desert Gazette

Voice of the Patriot, Dome to Dateland  
August 2010 ☆ Volume 1, Issue 1  
Always Free



**- COLLECTOR'S ITEM -  
FIRST ISSUE OF  
NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE**

Sky Report  
Shooting Stars &  
Midsummer Meteor Showers

Desert Folklore: Lost Treasure Tales  
"220 Gold Bars Stacked Somewhere in the Desert"

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Online Edition: <http://lifeloom.com/jackalope.htm>



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About the Editor: Starting as a journalism major at AWC, Rosalie Stafford went on to become a writer, college English teacher, internet magazine publisher, & mystery novelist (the comic Flora & Shamus series). As a civilian teaching college courses onboard Navy ships, she was fortunate enough to travel around the world, seeing blue icebergs, green tropical



*The Jackalope Desert Gazette* exists to fill the East Yuma County's need of an excellent local news-magazine. *The Jackalope* will serve natives, new-comers, & winter visitors with news & features on water, crops, feed, animals, gardening, hunting, guns, 4-H, frugal recipes, society, obituaries, local businesses, local history & folklore, as well as . . .

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islands, & the drab deserts of the Persian Gulf. Trained in architectural history, historic preservation & folklore, in 1985 she did the work which put Mohawk Valley School on the Historic Register. Now, after teaching English in too-crowded San Diego for 20 years, she has returned to the old Davidson homeplace on the banks of the sandy Gila.

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## Sky Report Shooting Stars & Midsummer Meteor Showers

Every summer, August brings us the shooting star display called the *Perseid meteor showers*. For a few days, the night sky is brilliantly alive with shooting stars. ★ The climax of the Perseids this year will be August 12th. The new moon occurs August 10th, so the sky will be almost optimally dark and will offer excellent viewing. Go out after midnight, look toward the northeast,

All meteor showers are born of comets.

and make a wish upon a shooting star. ★ The Perseid meteor showers we enjoy every hot August are born from the comet known as Swift-Tuttle, whose orbit brings it near

This yearly celestial spectacle peaks around August 12th, when the desert star-gazer can see 100 shooting stars per hour streaking across the midnight northeast sky.

the Earth every 130 years. The shooting stars you saw last August were caused by bits of comet debris left in the icy trail of Swift-Tuttle: as it hurtles thru the cosmos, a trail of frozen dusty debris streams behind in the comet's path, like a trail of dust behind a truck on a dirt road. When, at the same time each year, the Earth passes thru the track of the comet ... see p 4

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Sky Report Shooting Stars & Midsummer Meteor Showers

orbit, the Earth's atmosphere is

Shooting stars are tiny, not much bigger than alfalfa seeds.

b o m - barded by the debris

Fireballs The brightest fireball ever recorded exploded in the atmosphere three miles high, over Tunguska, Siberia, in 1908, destroying 800 square miles of forest. To

trail left by the comet, unleashing a spectacular fireworks display. The last time Swift-Tuttle passed by the Earth was during the Fall of '92; the meteor showers August '93 were a once-in-a-lifetime display. ★★

As the Earth sweeps through debris that the comet has shed, the tiny bits of cosmic dust, themselves traveling at speeds approaching 50 miles per second, flame out 30 to 80 miles above the Earth, vaporizing by searing air friction in a white-hot inferno.

The bits of comet debris ranging in size from grains of sand to pebbles are called meteoroids, while meteorites (fireballs) are those space rocks which survive their plummet to Earth. ★★

envision destruction of that magnitude, imagine drawing a bead from Antelope to Dateland, finding the midpoint of that 30 mile-long line, and then using a compass to draw a circle with both communities just inside the perimeter of that circle:

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Imagine all of the acreage enclosed by that 30-mile circle devastated. ★ That's what a fireball can do! Far from the Tunguska epicenter, the shock waves twisted solid iron. ★ Russians who lived 100s of miles from the crash site were knocked off their feet, ...p6

The energy released by the Tunguska fireball was 1000 times the energy released by the Hiroshima atomic blast .

## Lost Treasure 220 Gold Bars Somewhere in the Desert

WWII. Soldiers slated to join Gen. Patton's forces in North Africa were trained in desert survival techniques in the rough ranges of the Mohave Desert. These tough young men were routinely dropped off in the middle of nowhere, miles from base, and expected to make their own way back to camp. One day four soldiers showed back up at camp with a shared secret, a tale they told no one: in the middle of the desert, in the shadow of a sandy bluff, the four soldiers had stumbled upon a fabulous lost treasure hoard.

The gleam of gold, 220 gold bars, had caught caught the amazed eyes of the soldiers and they had eagerly promised one another that they would tell no one of the dazzling hoard but that, after the war, they would return together and retrieve the wealth, share and share alike.

Two of the band of brothers did not survive the war. Their broken bodies remained across the ocean,

Let us never forget the debt that we Americans owe these heroes of the Greatest Generation: freedom is not free.

two of countless brave sons of America scattered across the globe from the shark-infested waters of the South Pacific to the sere deserts of North Africa to the dark forests of Europe, all sacrificed in the noble cause of freedom.

Neither these boys nor their grieving families would have any share of the gleaming stacks of gold bars they had stumbled upon in the desert northwest of Yuma. Of the two soldiers who survived combat, one suffered a serious head injury and was condemned live out his days in a VA hospital. The fourth soldier, immediately after the end of the war, returned to retrieve the lost ... go to p 8

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## Sky Report Shooting Stars

some even flung through the air into trees by the concussion.

Even larger objects have hit the third planet from the Sun. About 50,000 years ago, an iron asteroid fragment hurtling through space at 26,000 miles per hour slammed into Earth, scooping out the big hole ... nearly a mile across & 550 feet deep ... now known as "Arizona Meteor Crater."

Sixty-five million years ago, an asteroid six-miles-in-diameter is thought to have crashed into the Yucatan Peninsula, instantaneously releasing the energy of 100 million megatons of TNT. Scientists think that the sky was red-hot for hours. That fireball is thought to have ended the long reign of dinosaurs, as the "heat pulse" would have instantly reached around the entire globe, igniting fires and burning up all animals not sheltered deep in burrows or in water.

On Swift-Tuttle's very next swing-by, 116 years from now, the meteor showers should be extraordinary. And hopefully, we'll see a pretty good sky show this month! Enjoy the shooting stars! ★

## FRIENDS OF THE WELLTON LIBRARY BOOK NOOK NEWS

The Friends Store: our prices are the lowest anywhere. Hardbacks, paperbacks, magazines, books on tape, Harlequin & Silhouette romances, movies (DVD & VHS), USB flash drives (2,4, & 8 GB) candy, chips, & water. Here are a couple non-fiction books recently sold by Friends for only \$1 ...

Allen, Bud. *Games Criminals Play: How You Can Profit by Knowing Them*. Rae John Press, 2002. Describes in detail the "set up" (series of steps) used by criminals to manipulate their victims, and by prisoners to manipulate wardens.

Maxwell, John C. *Your Road Map for Success: You CAN Get There from Here*. Thomas Nelson Press, 2002. Explains that the keys to true success are (1) knowing your purpose in life, (2) growing to your maximum potential, & (3) sowing seeds that benefit others. Inspirational.

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## BOYCOTT ARIZONA? Should Rep Grijalva Be Calling for a Boycott of Arizona?

Congressman Grijalva:  
For you?  
Or *against* you?

Guest Editorial by Ruth McClung

Congressman Grijalva has shown once again that he is out of touch with his constituents in **calling for a boycott of Arizona**. If he were in touch with his district, he would understand how much Arizona is hurting. He should know that, in Yuma County, 1 out of every 4 persons is out of work: there is a 26% unemployment rate in Yuma County.

If Rep. Grijalva would listen to you, his constituents, he would hear how hard you are struggling to make ends meet.. Yet your Congressman calls for a **boycot of Arizona**..

I firmly believe that a Representative should look out for the best interests of his constituents, but Congressman Grijalva is working against you, urging businesses across America to **boycott Arizona**.

Rep. Grijalva's attack uses the people of Arizona as political pawns. And the people of Arizona are hurting! I have heard your stories about the hard times that we are living through. I have driven down our streets to see familiar family businesses disappearing, swallowed up by empty storefronts. I have

In *addition* to attacking SB1070,  
Congressman Grijalva is  
*attacking* the people of Arizona.

As your Congressman,  
Rep. Grijalva has  
*no right* to demand  
a boycott that  
hurts you.

**He is supposed  
to be on your side!**

seen the worry in the eyes of unemployed Arizonans, who wonder when they will find work, who wonder how they will get by until then, who worry about how they will pay their bills, put food on the table, buy shoes for their kids. Like you, I understand first-hand the dire effects of the reckless spending of our former governor and the job-killing legislation that Washington is piling on our backs. Like you, I know that we need solutions that bring power back to the local level. I will be a Representative who *listens to you*. **As your Representative, I will stand up for the people of Arizona.**

## Lost Treasure 220 Gold Bars in the Desert

treasure all by himself. He believed that he had a pretty good idea of the location of the two stacks of gold bars: it was one of the thoughts which had sustained him through the war years. Resolutely, he struck off into the desert to claim his fortune.

But the harsh desert jealously guarded its golden treasure.

Although the veteran searched for years, he never found the stacks of gold bars which he had spotted gleaming brightly in the slanting light, had hefted, had reluctantly put back in the grey shadows of the overhanging bluff, and had longingly dreamed of during his hard years of

combat in the deserts of North Africa. Perhaps the two stacks of gold bars are there still, gleaming in the dark shadows of the bluff, a fortune in gold waiting to be found. Perhaps ...

Many thanks to local historian Vince Breit, Curator of the Wellton Pioneer Museum, for sharing this tale of lost treasure with the Editor of *The Jackalope*. Do you have a tale of lost treasure or desert folklore to share?

Send your comments & advertising requests to Rosalie

[editor.of.the.jackalope@gmail.com](mailto:editor.of.the.jackalope@gmail.com)

or leave voice-mail message at

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**Spotlight on Service** Every month *The Jackalope* will spotlight a local owner-operated business which provides excellent service to the people of this area.

To suggest outstanding businesses for this column, phone or email the Editor.

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