

Fun FACTS

MORLEY AND HAZEL

From the mis-identification department: One of the few vintage Painted Desert Trading Post photos features the front of the building, the gas pumps, and a middle-aged couple standing in the doorway. The man is tall and wearing a cowboy hat. The gas pumps are newer versions of those showing in the 1945 postcard view, and Dotch's name has been added to the front of the building. One might assume that the two figures are Dotch and Alberta, even though this would date the picture



The couple in the doorway of this rare photograph, assumed to be Dotch Windsor and first wife Alberta, were actually friends of the Windsors.

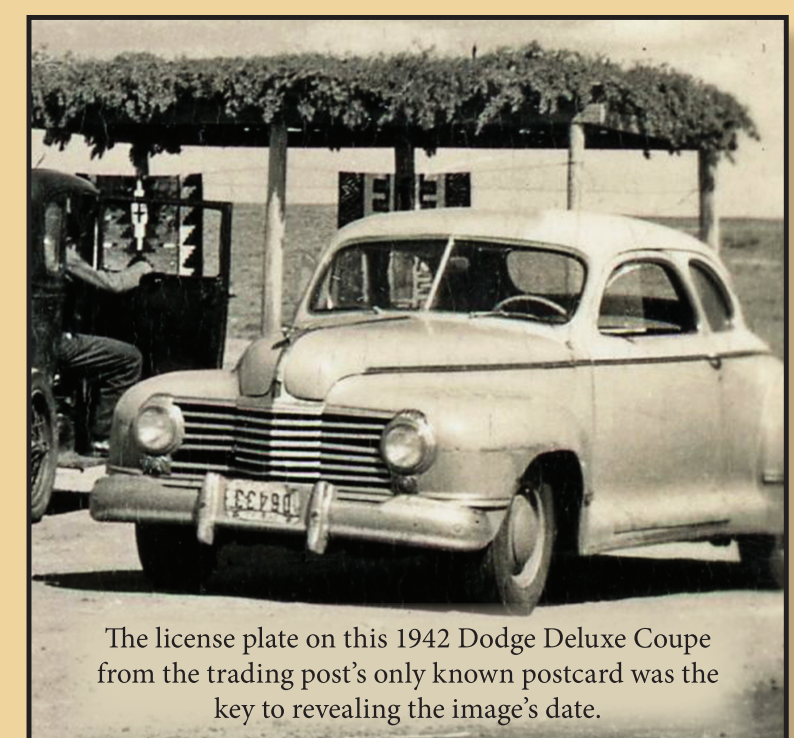
prior to their 1948 divorce, a tight timeline when considering the newer pumps. The case was solved, simply enough, when Dotch and Joy's daughter Adela paid a visit to the site during the rescue effort. While browsing documents and images with members of the Co-Op, she was quick to point out that the couple in the photo was actually Morley and Hazel, friends of the Windsors who lived with them for a time. Their last name is unknown, and Adela remembered little else about them. Whoever they were, they have the distinction of being forever immortalized in the lore of the trading post.

RUNWAY NO. 66

In the early 1950s, a man piloting a small plane appeared over the trading post, tipping its wings. Having trained with the Women's Air Service Pilots during WWII, Joy Nevin recognized this as a distress signal. She sent a hired hand out to stop traffic one direction while she went the other, and the pilot made a safe landing. Nearly out of gas, he topped off his tanks with high test at the pumps, had a nice chat with Joy, then returned to the roadway and took off to resume his cross-country journey.



A pilot low on fuel made a forced landing at the trading post in the early 1950s. This image is a still from a home movie taken at the time.



The license plate on this 1942 Dodge Deluxe Coupe from the trading post's only known postcard was the key to revealing the image's date.

POSTCARD MYSTERY

The only known postcard of the Painted Desert Trading Post, though undated, was shot in 1945. Route 66 car enthusiasts determined that the newest automobile pictured is a 1942 Dodge Deluxe Coupe. The year and state name are not visible on the tag, and the car's front bumper is inexplicably mounted upside down, but further investigation revealed that 1945 was the only year that GRAND CANYON STATE did not appear on Arizona tags, and the rounded corners and white background, along with the numbering font, all match 1945 Arizona tags.



Gallup Daily Independent

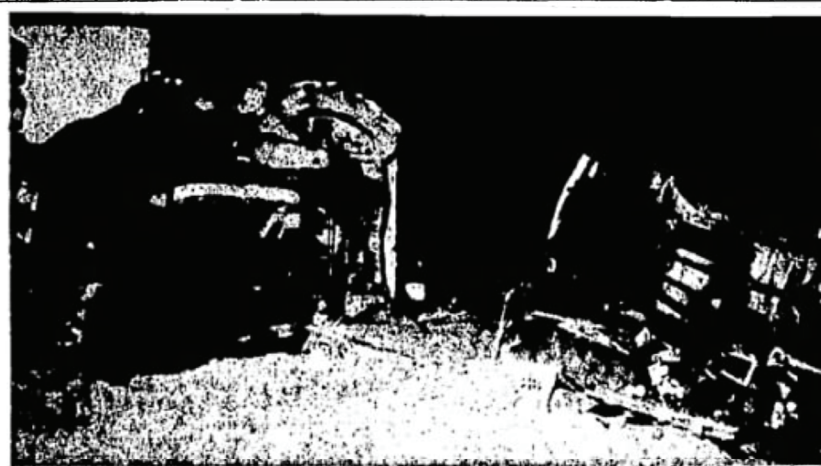
High yesterday 44
Low last night 17
Noon today 37

Volume 69 Number 30 Full Local Wire Service Daily From New Mexico Newspapers, Inc. Gallup, New Mexico Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1957 Price 7 Cents

A RUDE AWAKENING

A refrigerated truck packed with beef, ham, and bacon blew a tire while barreling westbound down US 66, skidded through five hundred feet of mud, crushed a pick-up truck, rolled over, and banged into Dotch Windsor's Trading Post as the truck's trailer landed on top of his car. Neither driver Floyd Austin nor the truck's other occupant were seriously hurt.

The accident occurred on the afternoon of February 4, 1957, demolishing Dotch's truck and automobile, and causing between \$500-\$1000 damage to the building. Relief driver Larry Keller, who was dozing in the bunk area of the truck when the crash occurred, said he "had never been awakened so rudely."



A PICKUP TRUCK LIES BESIDE THE CAR of an overturned refrigerator truck that demolished the pickup, a passenger car, and damaged the Dotch Windsor Painted Desert Trading Post building Sunday afternoon on U. S. Highway 66 ten miles West of Navajo, Ariz. (Daily Independent Photo)

YOU CAN'T CHOOSE THE TIME OR PLACE

Heart Disease Caused Painted Desert Death

HOLBROOK, Apr. 8 (AP) — Coroner Charles McDonald reported today that heart failure was the cause of the death of Mrs. Alma Lanore Mae Shelnutt, 69, of Colorado Springs, Colo., who was stricken Sunday night at the Painted Desert trading post, about 40 miles east of here. Mrs. Shelnutt and her husband, A. B. Shelnutt, were en route to Pasadena, Calif.

According to newspaper reports, Alma Shelnutt, age 69, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, passed away due to heart failure at the Painted Desert Trading Post on the evening of Sunday, April 6, 1947. She had been traveling to Pasadena, California, with her husband and their son and his

family at the time. Tragic, yes, and no doubt a stressful event for all concerned. What the newspapers failed to report, graciously saving the family embarrassment, was that when poor Mrs. Shelnutt's ticker ground to a halt, she was seated in the customer privy.

Arizona Daily Sun, Flagstaff, Arizona, April 08, 1947.