

4725 E. Sunrise Drive, #131
Tucson AZ 85718
March 12, 1991

Dear Seymour,

Thanks for your letter of 2/21 with the notes of sites in the Tucson area, I'll look for them. We have just come back from a windy trip to Carlsbad Caverns, passed "The Thing" with disdain because of its dozens of huge billboards polluting the desert scenery for miles outside of Tucson. Next time, we'll go in.

Enclosed are photos of the Home on the Range Motel, in Bowie, Arizona. It was probably a nice motel until it was bypassed by Interstate 10. When we were there ^{in October 1989} ~~a year ago~~, the Indian Shop was open, run by an elderly lady who could tell me nothing of the motel's history except that it was built in the 1940s "when materials were scarce." I suppose that was meant to explain why the kachina and totem pole figures are of wood instead of something more durable. When we were there a few days ago, the Indian Shop was vacant (except for a few mannikin feet in what was the moccasin case), some of the totems were rearranged in front, precariously; new manager is a pleasant young woman who also knows nothing of local history. Motel is for sale of course (few if any tenants besides the manager). Owner is not local:

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I'm not sure this is as significant a site as the Old Trapper Motel; in a way it's just another commercial structure with some rather interesting advertising signs. If you think it is appropriate for SPACES registry I could try to find out some of its history. If you want to contact the owner that's fine with me; if I do, it will probably be to put out feelers about buying one or two of the medium-size figures in better condition. That is perhaps a conflict of interest? "Save and preserve" them so I can buy them (but I wouldn't repaint them!).

Bowie also has a wigwam-shaped bar/cafe, and a Liberty Market, devoid of windows or ornament except for a (cast-iron?) Statue of Liberty on the roof, holding a large white globe-light instead of a torch. Bowie is a rather dreary has-been of a town.

I received the French newsletter, so I didn't miss any. Let me know what you think of the motel --

Best regards,



Ted Wimmer