

THE CHARBONNEAU OBSERVER



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Ogden, UT – SUNDAY, December 9th, 2018

price: this doll

A Hot Springs Ghost Story

“I had gone to the hot springs on my birthday for a healing soak in the minerals,” said Creamy of Ogden, when recounting her mysterious visit with, perhaps, the most (urban) legendary soul of Northern Utah.

“He walked up to me in the mist, fully dressed, and then he bent down and asked if I had seen his flip-flops in the pool.” She couldn’t see his flip-flops, but they talked of life and small-town hot pots and how weird it is to get dressed in the dressing rooms with strangers.

Creamy continued, “Then he tossed me a dime telling me to head to the Idle Isle Café for a cup of coffee when I finished up. I just knew he must be a kind spirit from another age that probably returns to this site on the anniversary of his death.”

Creamy told of how he whispered to her, “Tell ‘em Big Claude sent you”, and then disappeared again into the mist.

Later, at the Idle Isle Cafe, the waitress just shook her head and hollered to the back, “Big Claude is telling people they can get a 10 cent cup of coffee again!”.



Disappearing Knowledge

Joe has a preoccupation with what he calls “disappearing knowledge.” It’s that idea that certain TERMS or NOTIONS were once very, very commonplace and popularly bandied about... but, now, for some reason, have faded into obscurity. This bugs Joe quite a bit.

Here are a few of his latest concerns:

“**Bandied About**” - who says this anymore??

Melba Toast - used to see this at restaurants, on every table, as a snack before your meal

Butcher, Baker, [fill in the blank] - would kids these days know how to complete this set? Ours doesn’t.

Grand Poobah - we NEED terms like this!

“**Take my wife, [fill in the blank]**” - 7 out of 10 whippersnappers would probably answer: “for instance.” Grr.

And, how about any of these precursors to margarine: oleo, tallow, suet, ghee, schmaltz, speck? Ghosts, all.

It’s a disappearing world. Or, Joe’s just becoming one of those “in MY day...” grumpy old men. He’s so L7.

Local man buys 86 pounds of butternut squash

That man was Joe’s brother Kevin. Hardly breaking news, but y’gotta love Kevin!

Our First Visit to the... “CAMELOT INN”

“There’s a perfect little getaway just down the road from Crystal Hot Springs.” Or so the website for the “Camelot Inn” says. But, then again, the website says a LOT of things (*we came to find out*).

From the moment you book the room, all communication is done over email or text. In fact, direct person-to-person phone calls are explicitly discouraged: “You can call us if you need to, but email is preferred, as it allows us to give you faster[?] and better[?] service. If you need to call, please email first.” *Hmmm...* okay. Moreover, there’s no staff on the property! Ever. It’s a self-service situation. Kinda weird. But the pickings up in Honeyville are extremely slim. So we bit.

Four days prior to our stay, they emailed us a special 4-digit Building Entrance Code. The Inn is always locked, and can only be accessed by punching in the latest Code into a keypad mounted on the front door. (*Make sure to write this down!*) Once inside, you’ll need to power up the self check-in computer and type in your 11-digit booking number (*also emailed earlier in the week*). If successful, your room number and a “key box code” will appear on the screen. The key box is a locked key safe - each room has its own. Locate your safe, enter the code, listen for a click, and then slide off the lid to reveal your key!

And, if you DO have any trouble... don’t worry. Everything at the Inn is monitored by surveillance cameras. Someone’s watching. And help is just an email away!

“A lot of people get confused about the self check in system. Be sure to watch the how-to video online, and have some patience. It’s a bit tricky, but unique, and easy in fact - once you’ve mastered the technique! I could do it without problem. I was surprised.” - *true believer*

Other than that, you can expect a pretty typical hotel experience. For instance, stated rules such as: “Keep your undergarments out of common areas so we don’t have to take them and donate them.” ***Pretty standard stuff.*** “Felons need not apply. No refunds after check-in. Kids need to be approved by management before coming onto the property. No visitors. English only.” ***The usual.***

Also: an added **\$1.50** booking fee, in EUROS! (*that’s just how Honeyville Utah rolls*). Requesting a receipt: **\$6**. Cancelling within 48 hours of your stay: **\$63**. Checking IN before 3pm: **\$6**. Checking OUT after 10am: **\$6 to \$40, at their discretion**. Towel fee: **\$1, per person** (*whether used or not*). ANY missing items: **\$200** “room recovery fee.” Pets? **\$200**. Smoking within 25ft of the building (*the camera will know!*): **\$200**. “Disturbances”: **\$40**. Not putting your key back in the safe when you check out: another **\$40**.

NOT THAT THERE WEREN’T ANY PERKS. You like bunk beds? They’ve got ‘em. Exclusively. “Free” washer and dryer access (*which costs \$1 per load, oddly enough*). Free sheets on your bed (*not to keep... but “freely” put there for you*). Free parking. And free “Easy Mac” (*or whatever food was left from the previous guests, over in the check-in room*) - maybe that’s what the website meant by the “free continental breakfast” we never saw. Also advertised: “No chores”[??] and “No curfew” (*although there was a strict “Quiet after 10pm!” rule posted*).

But hey, we’re not fancy. We just needed a bed. The hot springs, afterall, were the main attraction. Oh - wait - I forgot... the Inn’s website also advertises: “Two free passes to the hot springs.” Turns out though, they discontinued that perk 3 years ago. Just never updated their website. ㄟ(ˉ▽ˉ)ㄟ

In all honesty though, we Charbonneaus LOOK for this kind of “quirk.” This kind of charming, off the beaten path, adventurer’s find. We had a great time, and enjoyed every last weirdo moment of it. It probably should be renamed “CameLITTLE,” but oh well. We’d go again in a heartbeat - and recommend that all our readers do as well. ♡

Oddball (but, TRUE!) Camelot Inn TESTIMONIALS

"Thanks for an awesome getaway. It reminded me of a hotel I stayed at, in Ghana. It truly felt like a home away from home!"

"I liked the small touches of having a stool in the bathroom (always nice to sit when you put socks on!)"

"This bungalow is a perfect stay for anyone transitioning."

"I only hope that this wonderful home you've provided may bring rest to the weary, strength to the weak, and a chance to relish in one's inner peace. Because of this home of refuge, my family may smile. I give this true statement to you, the reader of all things good."

"Perfect for the autonomous, self-respecting traveler."

"I didn't come across any homeless people."

"It was better than waiting at the Greyhound."

"I met one foreigner making soup at the stove, and said hello."

"As a teenager my baby sister was quite ill and needed hospitalization. We were directed to the Ronald McDonald House, which caters to families with children in the hospital. I was amazed such a place existed. The Camelot Inn extends all of the same warmth I felt there."

"A true standout in a world of dwarf hives."

"I was delighted in the mature age and quiet nature of myself and the other residents."

"My point is to strongly endorse Camelot Inn. On par with a place I stayed at once - in Krakow, Poland."

"I did use your iron. If you need to charge me another dollar, please do so. It would be an honor. I'm going to work looking crisper than I have in weeks."

"It's the best place for travelers who don't need extra comfort."

"Automatically, traveler can stay from arriving to leaving without seeing one staff. Opening key is fun. It is a place you can choose."

"It's so safe. Like a bunker."

"It's nicer than I thought."

"I never have to worry about people smoking hash in the TV room."

"I've been in rich people's homes that aren't this nice."

"Charming eccentric decor: dragon rug in the lobby, movie promo Obi Wan Kenobi cutout, suit of armor, fish tank."

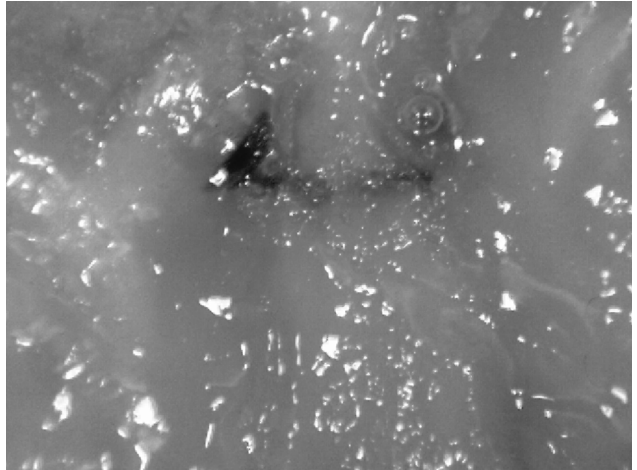
"Someone helped us figure out the check-in process. I am sure we would have done OK. Lots of informative signs. Good advice pleasantly told. Good idea to label everything. I put my bedroll down under the window, and slept really well. Hardwood floor, very pleasant and clean."

WHAT IS IT? microscope photos (by Simon) of ordinary household items

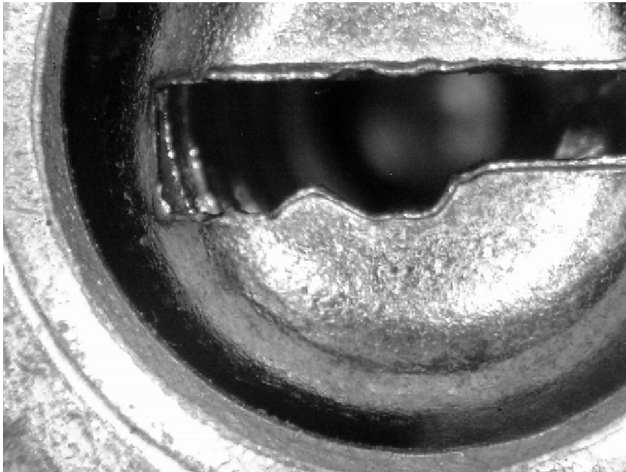
1. (answers will be listed in next week's edition)



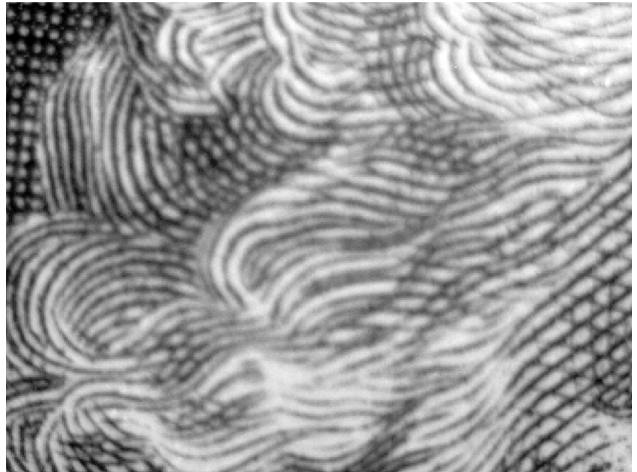
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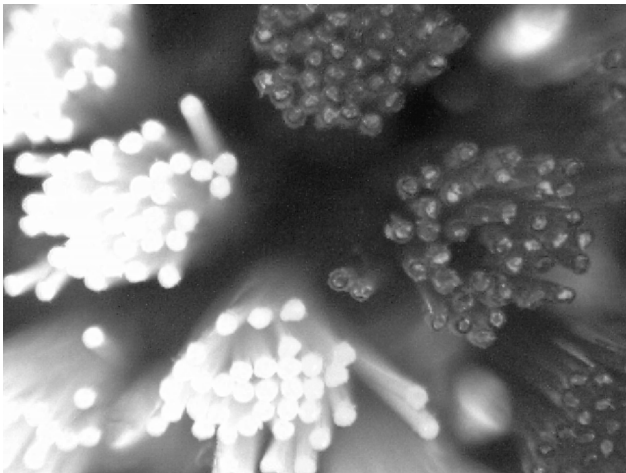
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