

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION 1962

As much as I hated the desert, when my parents moved out to Tucson, in 1961, I quickly learned that there were some really neat things about it. The one big thing, that I grabbed on to, was hunting, all the wild game, that the Sonoran Desert had to offer.

I spent endless days, hunting whatever was in season and learning how to cook everything possible, because everything was oh so good!

The two wild game, that I like the most, was Cottontail rabbits and Quail and after that it was Morning Dove and Rattlesnake.

All are particularly very good eating, but my favorites were the rabbits and quail.

While visiting a Salpointe classmate, Mike Stilb, on occasion, who lived up Sabino Canyon way, I found a really neat piece of land, where I really enjoyed hunting.

It was very much of a riparian area and a Mesquite Bosque and obviously located on one of Tucson's many dry riverbeds.

At least once a week, I would get on my Lambretta Scooter, along with my pellet gun and slingshot, and hike over to my own personal hunting preserve. I really thought it was cool that I never saw anyone there and I thought it was one of the prettiest places, the city of Tucson, could offer.

So comes this one day, I load up my hunting gear and hop on my Lambretta scooter and take off, to see what I could put on the dinner table that night. Well, this one day, I pull up and I see a whole lot of people and trucks around and on, **MY** personal and private spot!!

I turned off my scooter and grabbed my hunting gear and started walking towards a bunch of people, to see what was going on. A group of three of the "*interlopers*" saw me and started walking toward me. When they reached me, I asked what was going on. Before they were able to answer me, another person joined them and they asked me what I was doing there.

I proceeded to tell them that this is where I hunted.

One of the group told me, they were filming, a movie there, and the area, would be off-limits, for several weeks. This person, also apologized to me and asked me what I particularly liked hunting and eating. I told him and he smiled and he said he also enjoyed, that type of food. I could see they were really busy, and I did not want to be a bother, and I really did want to go somewhere else to hunt.

So, I told the group, that I would be leaving and I turned to the one gentleman, who was so nice to me, and said goodbye.

A few feet away, I turned around to this gentleman and I said "Sir, I really did like your new movie last year". The man smiled and again thanked me and I turned around and I waved goodbye.

The last thing I remembered, seeing that day, before I rode off into the sunset, was the smiling face, of Sydney Poitier, who was there filming the "Lilies of the Field" !

P.S. What goes around comes around and in this case it was 35 years later! That piece of land, that I thought, was my own private little hunting preserve, is the riparian area on the southeast corner of Sabino Canyon and Cloud Rd.,right on the Tanque Verde Wash.

The very spot, where I had my chance meeting, with Sidney Poirtier, is no more than 100 feet, from my back patio, since 1997!!