



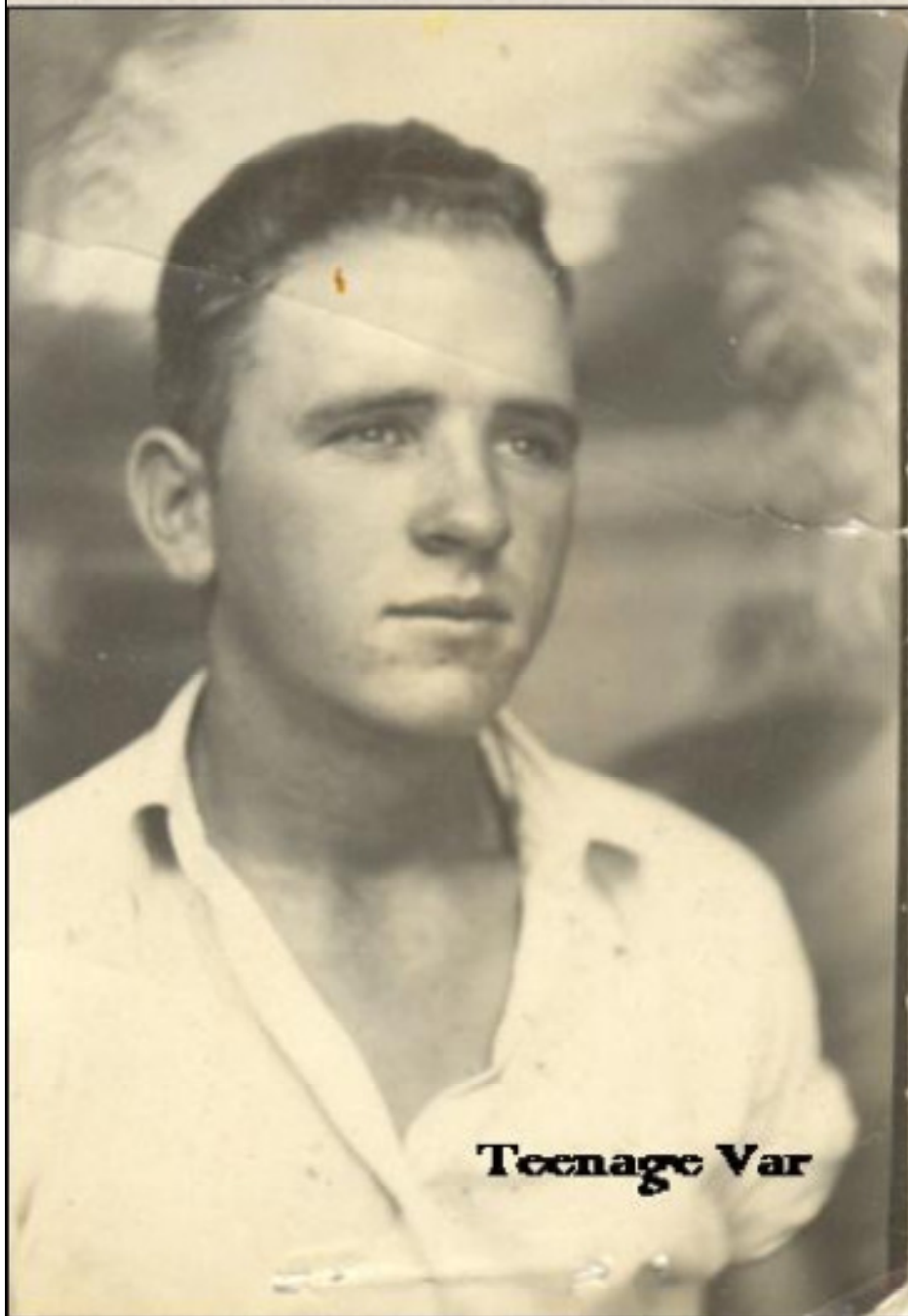
# **Var Haws Rowley, My Dad**

**21 Aug 1921 – 23 Dec 2001  
by April**

**Var  
Haws  
Rowley  
About  
7 or 8**







**Teenage Var**



*Var*

# Wedding Day June 1940





**Dad built  
Fishponds  
at all the  
houses he  
built.**

**First  
married**



**Gurys  
and  
their  
Cars**

**1940+**

**1932  
Ford?**



**Var  
about  
1949**





# Var & Buena





**Var &  
Buena  
Ken,  
April &  
Gordon**



We took trips to the river all the time.  
April almost drowned on one of these trips  
Daddy, Var, jumped in in all his clothes to rescue her.





# **Var & Buena's Young Family**



**Var &  
Buena,  
About 1953,  
Kenny,  
April,  
Gordon,  
Chris, and  
Penny**

**Var  
about  
1960**





# Var, single again

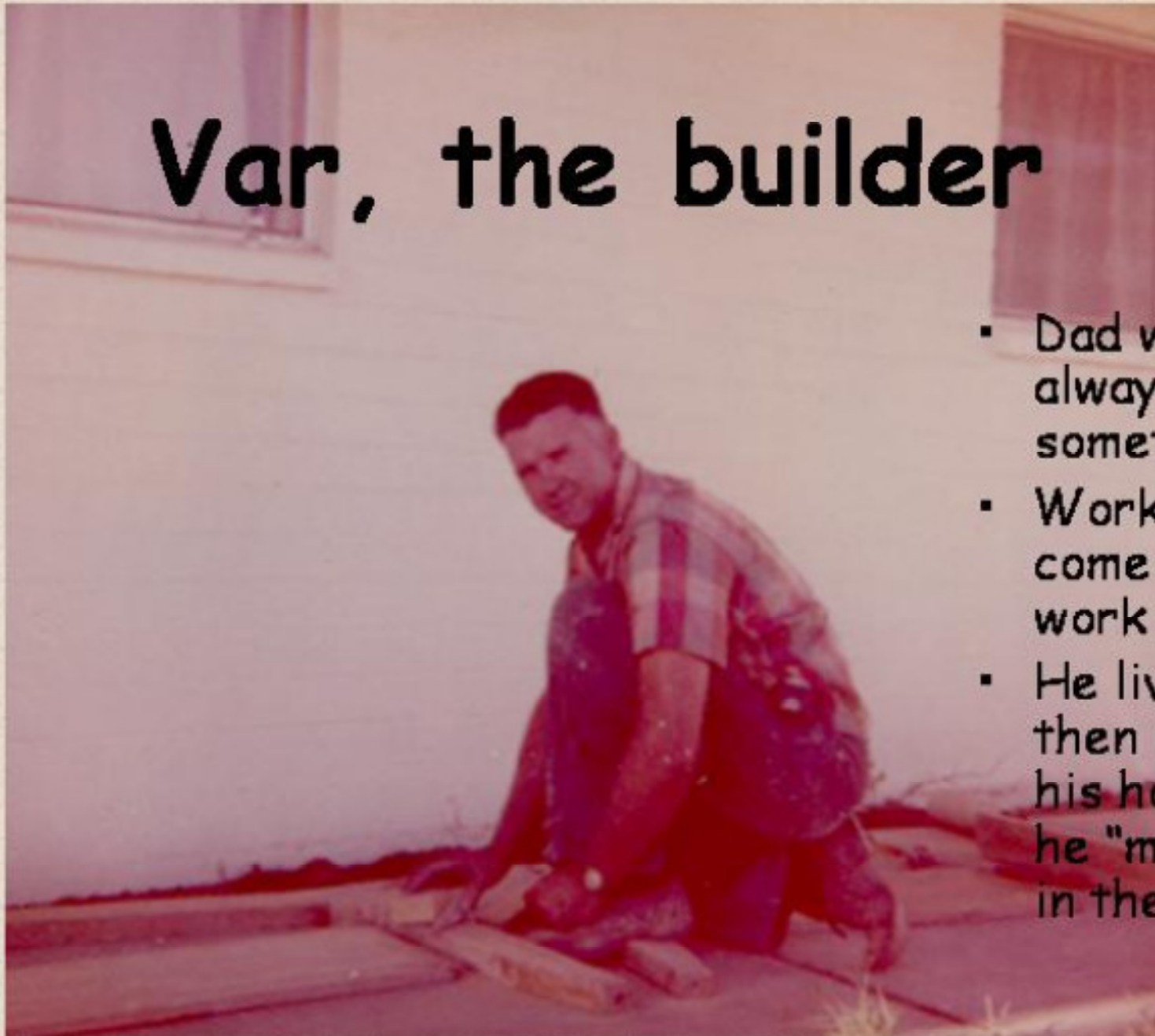
Var - 1962

At Grandpa's apartment  
on South Olive, **Mesa**

Var lived in one of his  
parents apartments  
between his marriages.  
He always could fix  
anything. He started  
out very poor and  
ended up worth more  
than a million.



# Var, the builder



- Dad was always building something
- Work all day, come home and work
- He lived in and then rented his homes as he "moved up" in the world.



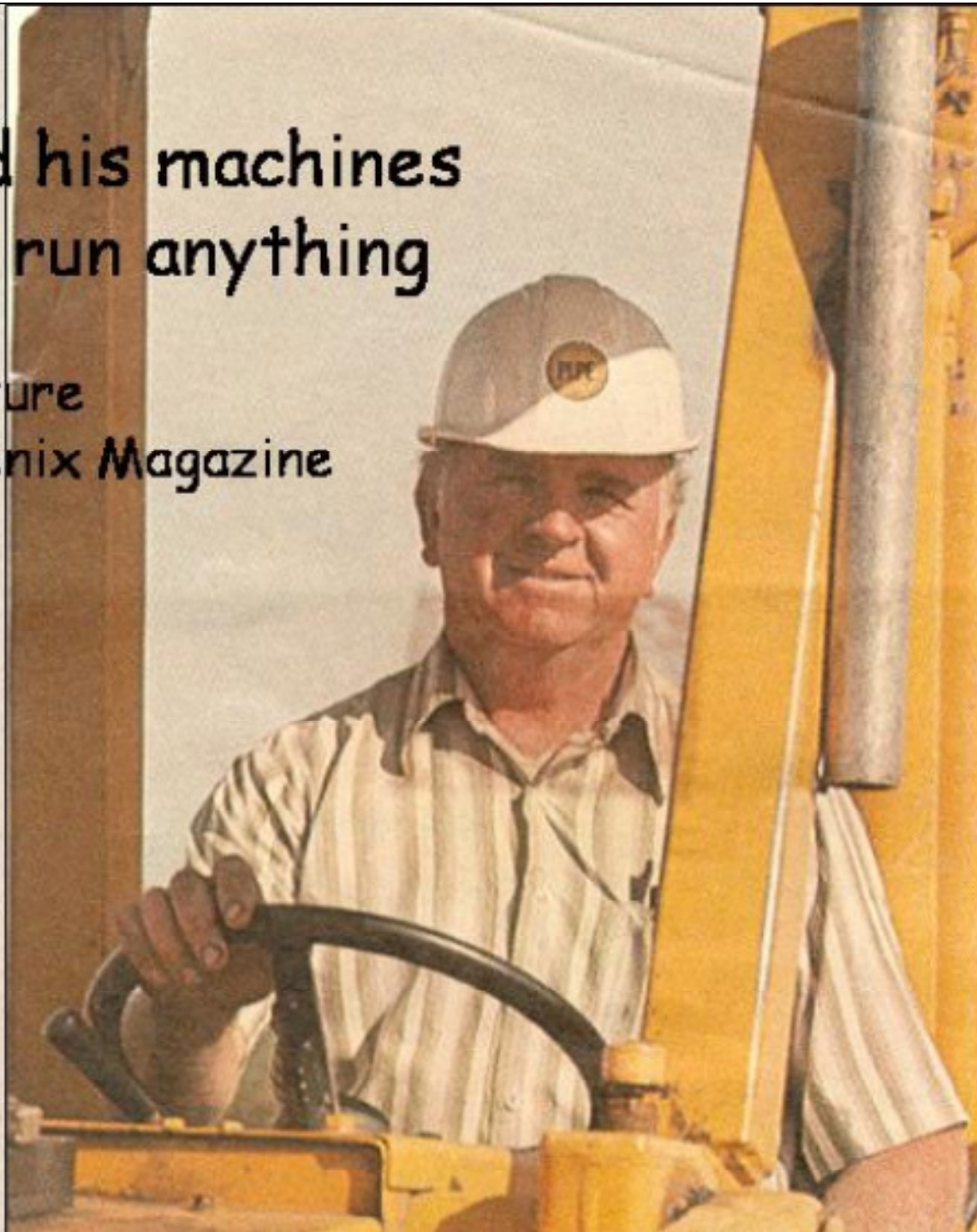
# Var & Zeltha Rowley

- Var married  
2) Zeltha in 1962
- This gave them  
a family of  
10 children
- His: Ken, April  
Gordon, Chris, Penny
- Hers: Gerry,  
Sandra, Ronnie,  
Rena, Roger



Var loved his machines  
He could run anything

A cover picture  
From a Phoenix Magazine







# Grampa



# Papa


- With 1. Jessica,  
2. Penny, Zeltha,  
Veronica & April  
3. Daniel & Jerry  
4. Jerry



The  
handsome  
mature  
**Var Haws  
Rowley**





A color photograph of a man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing a brown leather jacket over a light blue shirt and blue jeans. He is standing in front of several deer carcasses hanging from a wooden frame outdoors. The deer are skinned and their heads are hanging by antlers. The background shows a white building with a corrugated metal roof and some trees. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Var and his  
brothers  
love to hunt  
... and his  
sons did, too.



**Var &**  
**his sons**  
**found**  
**some**  
**dinosaur**  
**bones -**  
**right here**  
**in Mesa.**





**The Rowley men found some dinosaur bones. So they called the University...**

**The "experts" came out to dig them up and broke the best specimen... Dad tried to get them to create some kind of support before trying to life the bone.**

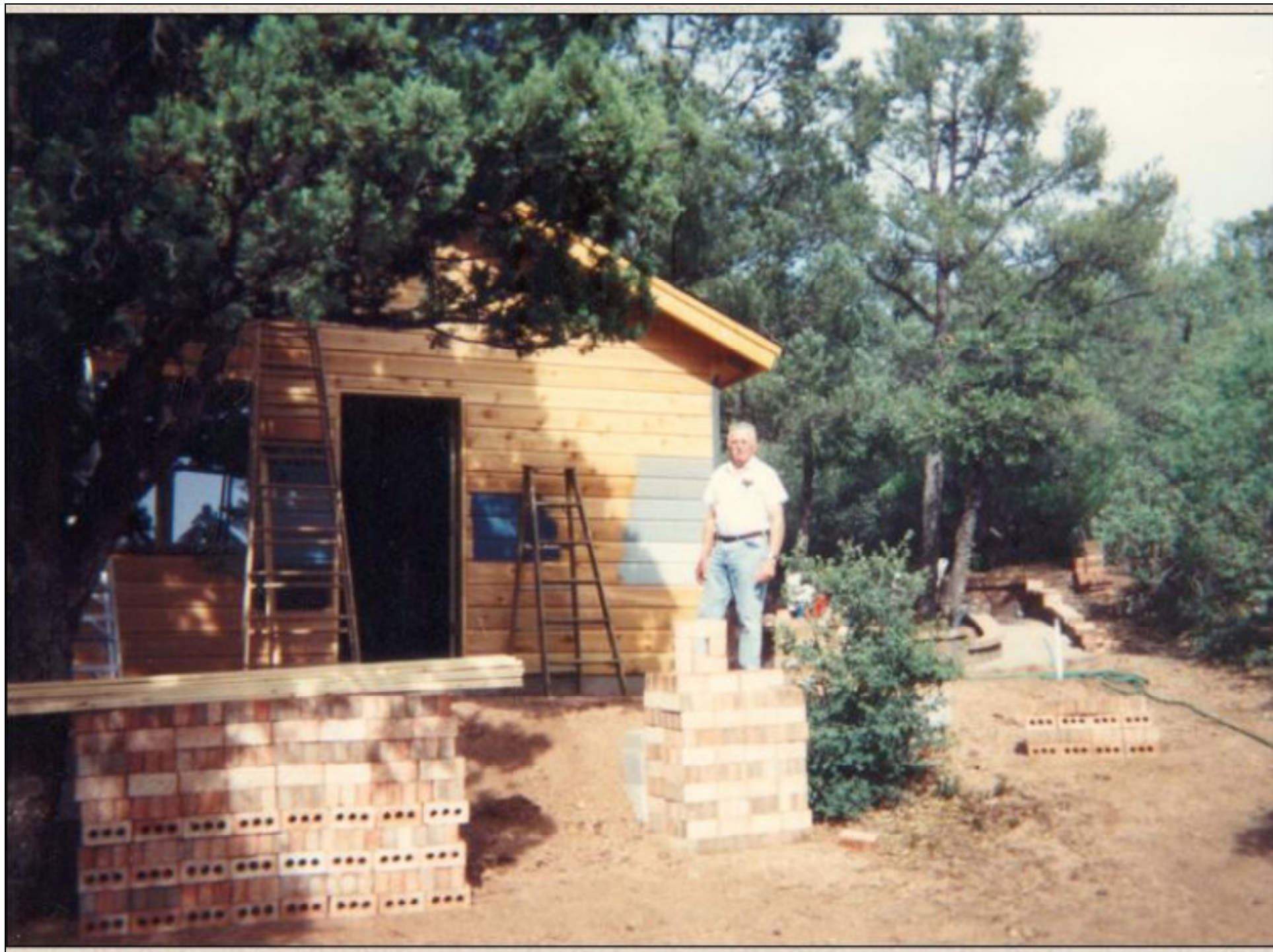
**Sooo... the next time Dad & sons found bones they dug around the bones and poured a cement support first before calling anyone. This bone survived the move.**



Var & his  
dinosaur  
bone









# General Springs

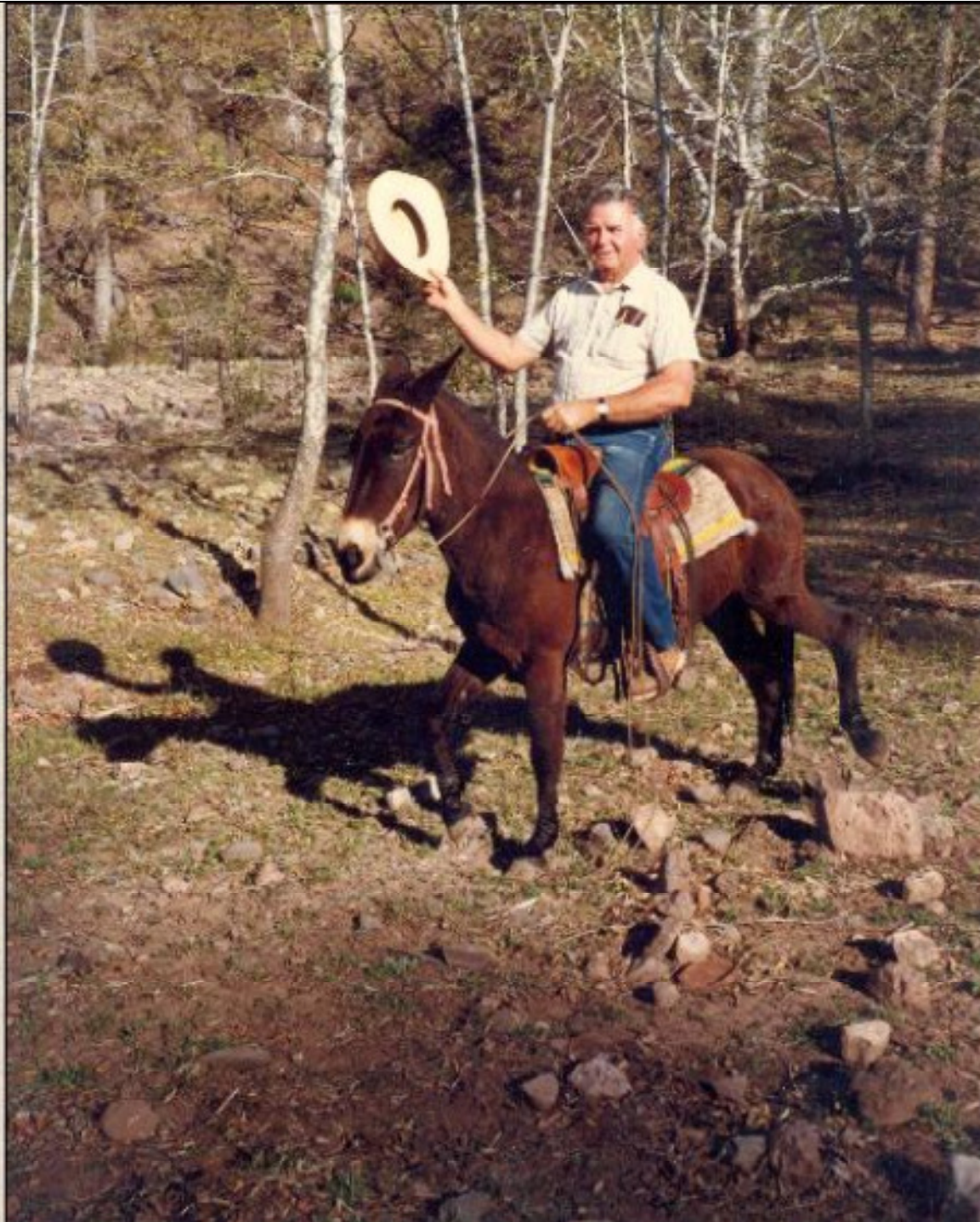




## Mushrooms at General Springs.







Var and his sons and their sons went on horseback into Chihuahua, Mexico to visit the area where his mother, Martha Haws Rowley, was born, in the Mormon Colony of Pacheco.



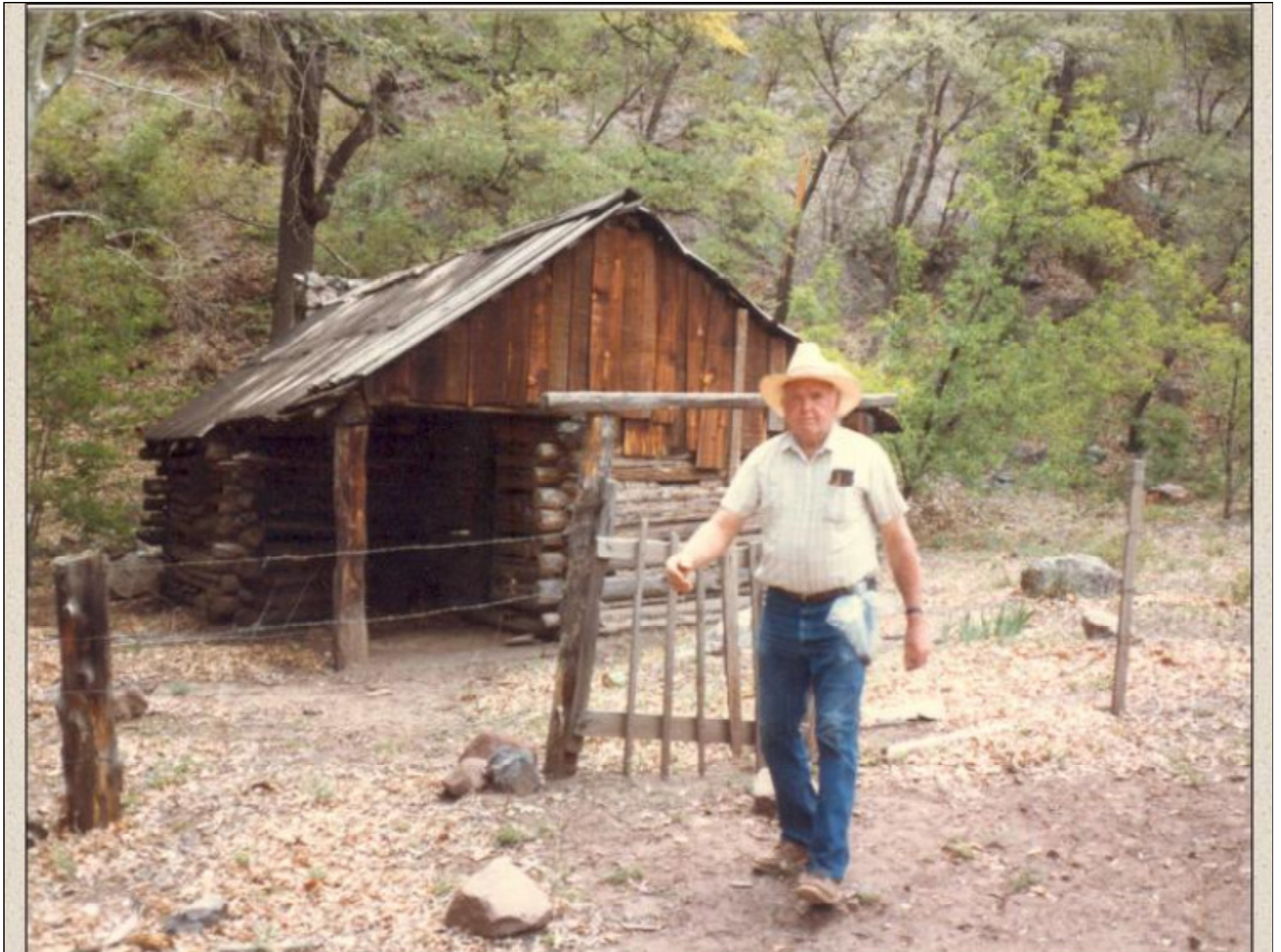


Let's see who is more  
stubborn...



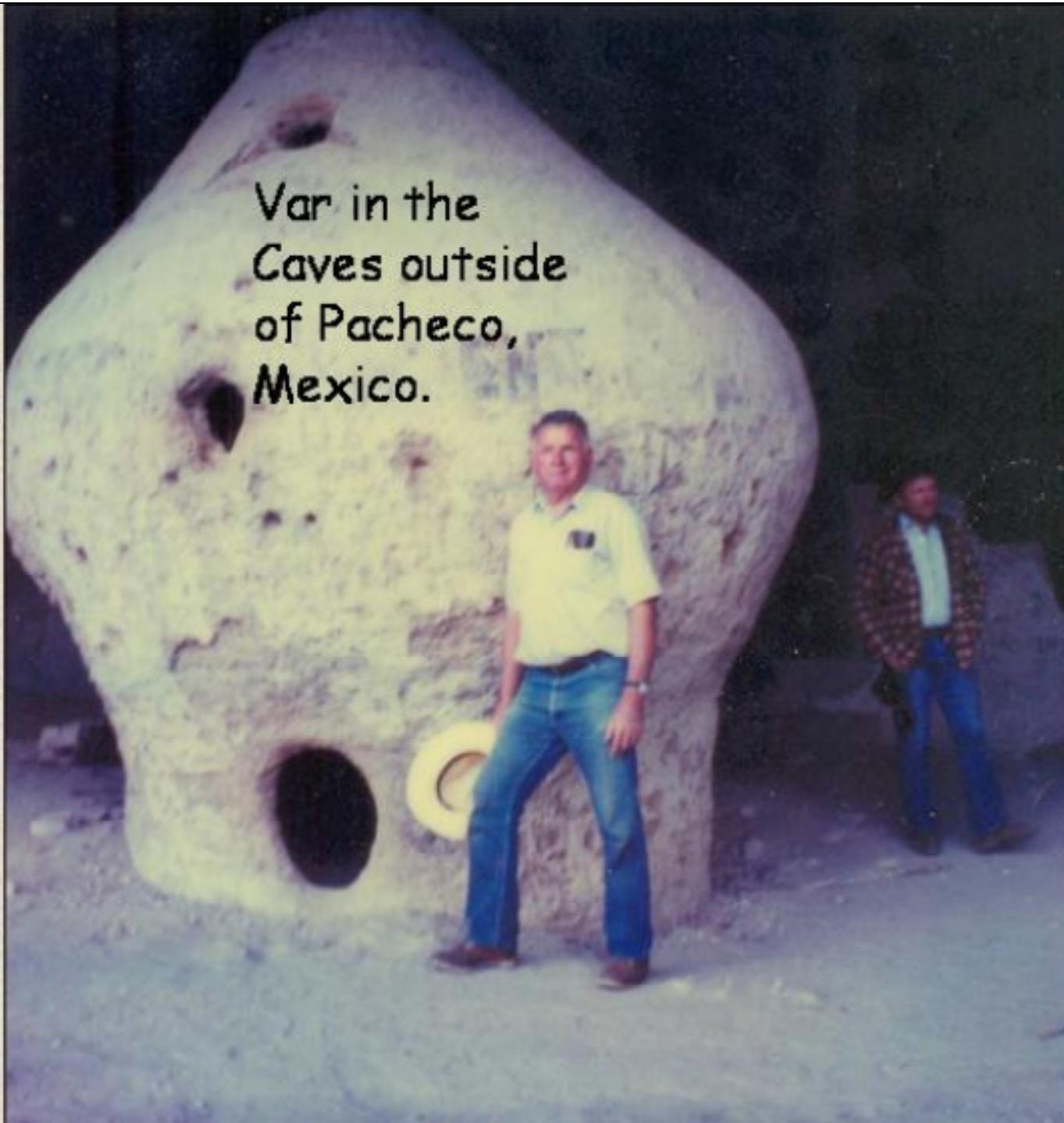




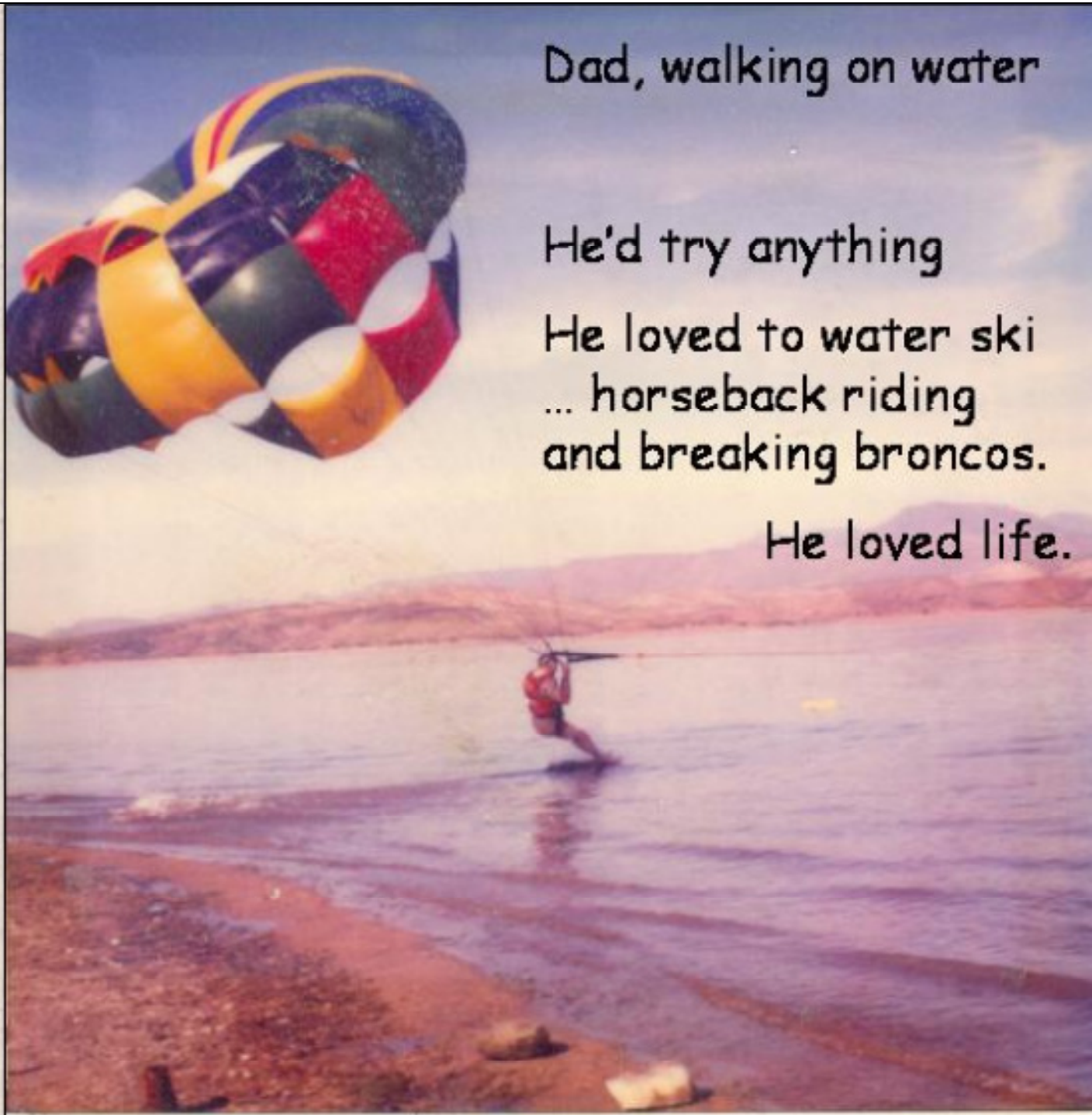




Var in the  
Caves outside  
of Pacheco,  
Mexico.







Dad, walking on water

He'd try anything

He loved to water ski  
... horseback riding  
and breaking broncos.

He loved life.

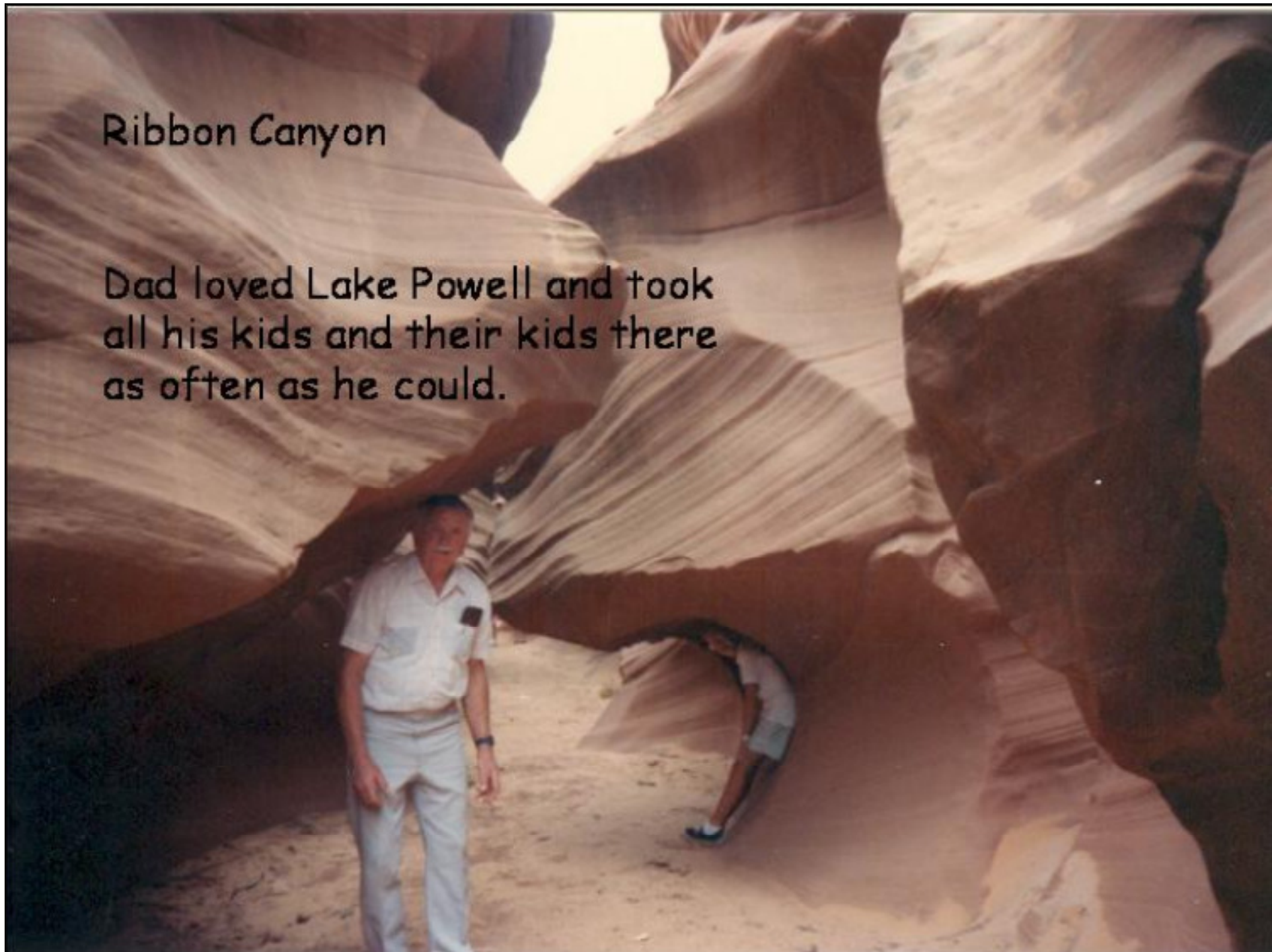
Dad with some of his Coleman kids... Daniel, Jessica & April





## Ribbon Canyon

Dad loved Lake Powell and took  
all his kids and their kids there  
as often as he could.



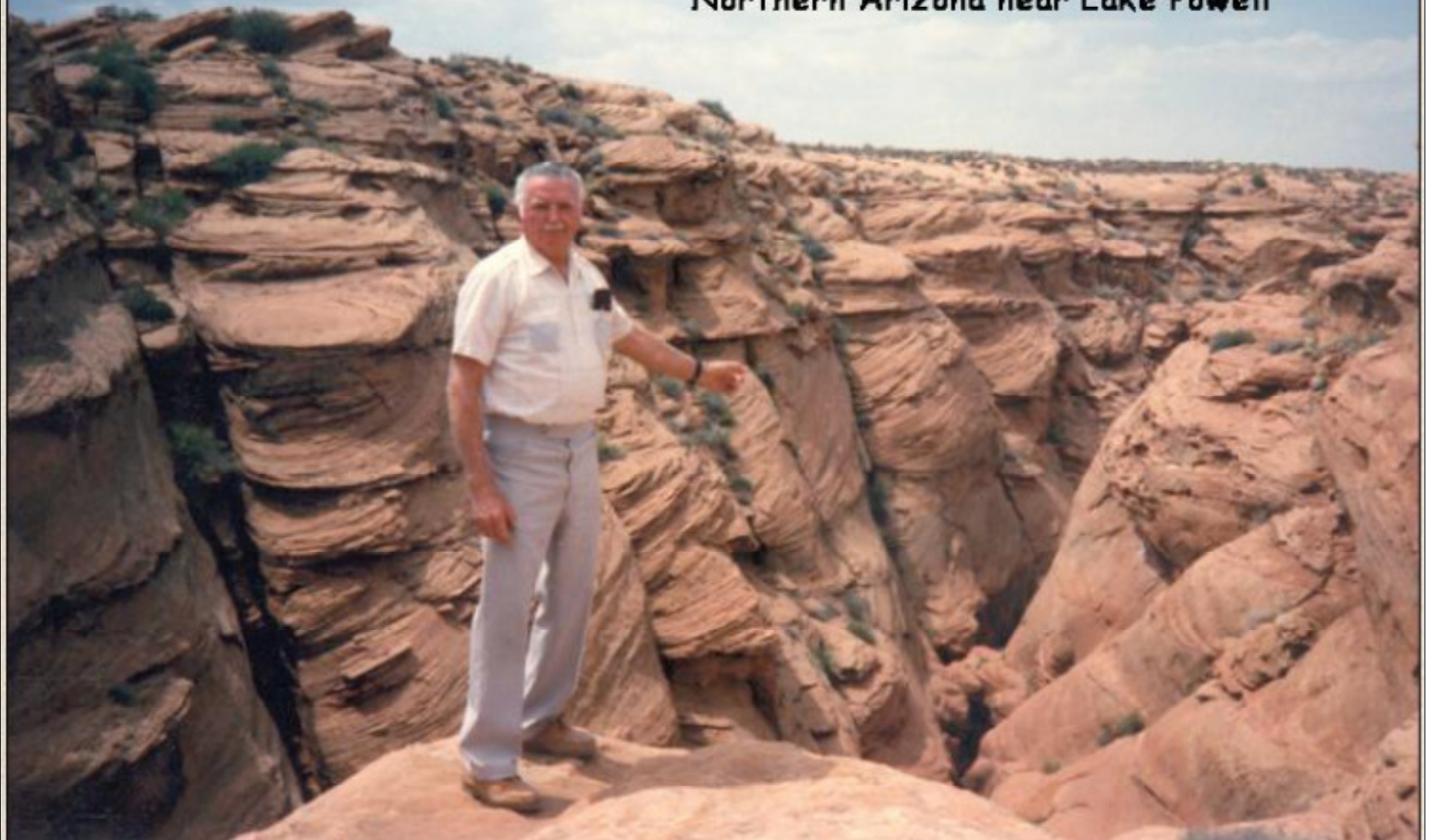
# Trips with Dad.



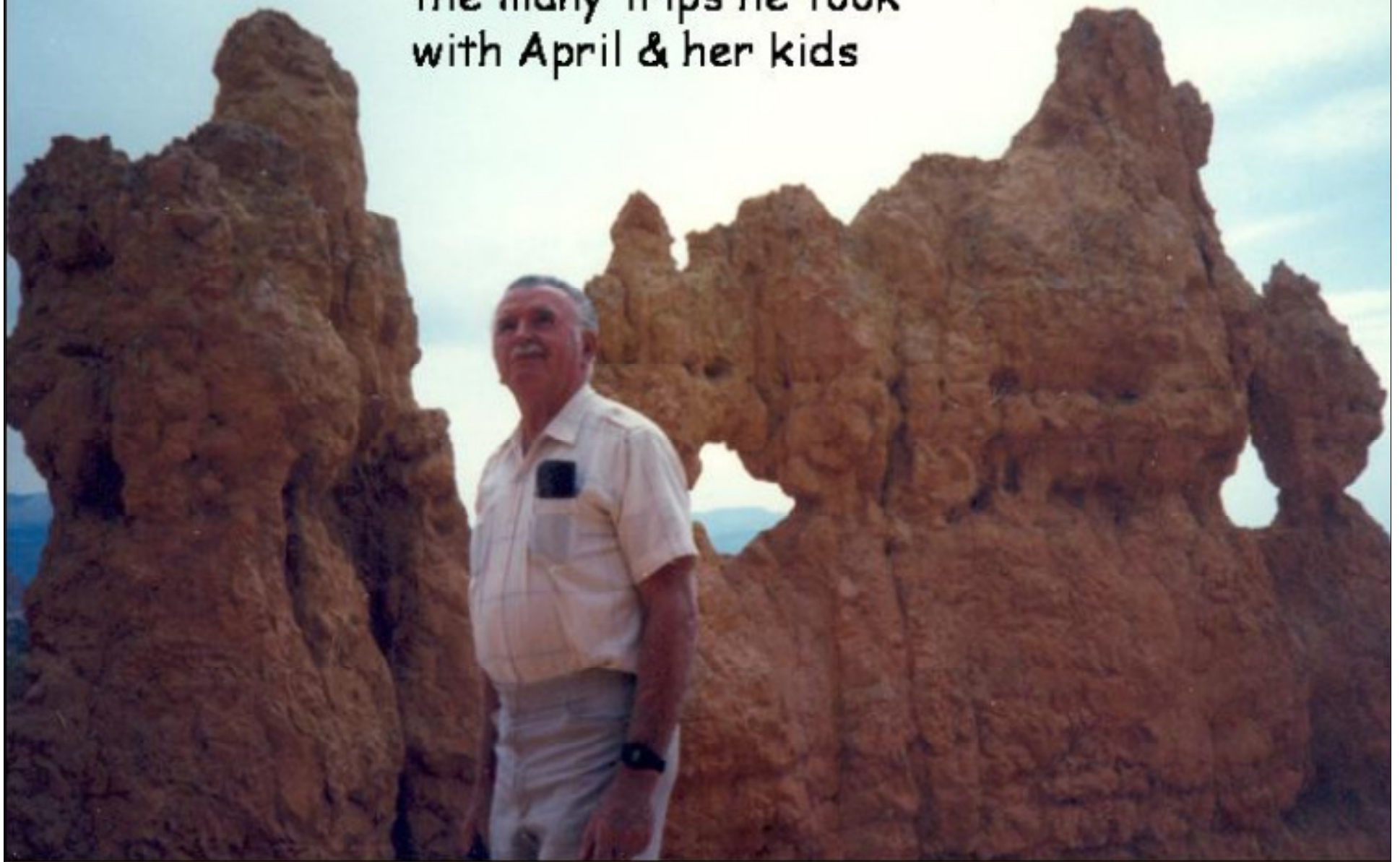


**Ribbon Canyon**

**Northern Arizona near Lake Powell**



Southern Utah - one of  
the many trips he took  
with April & her kids



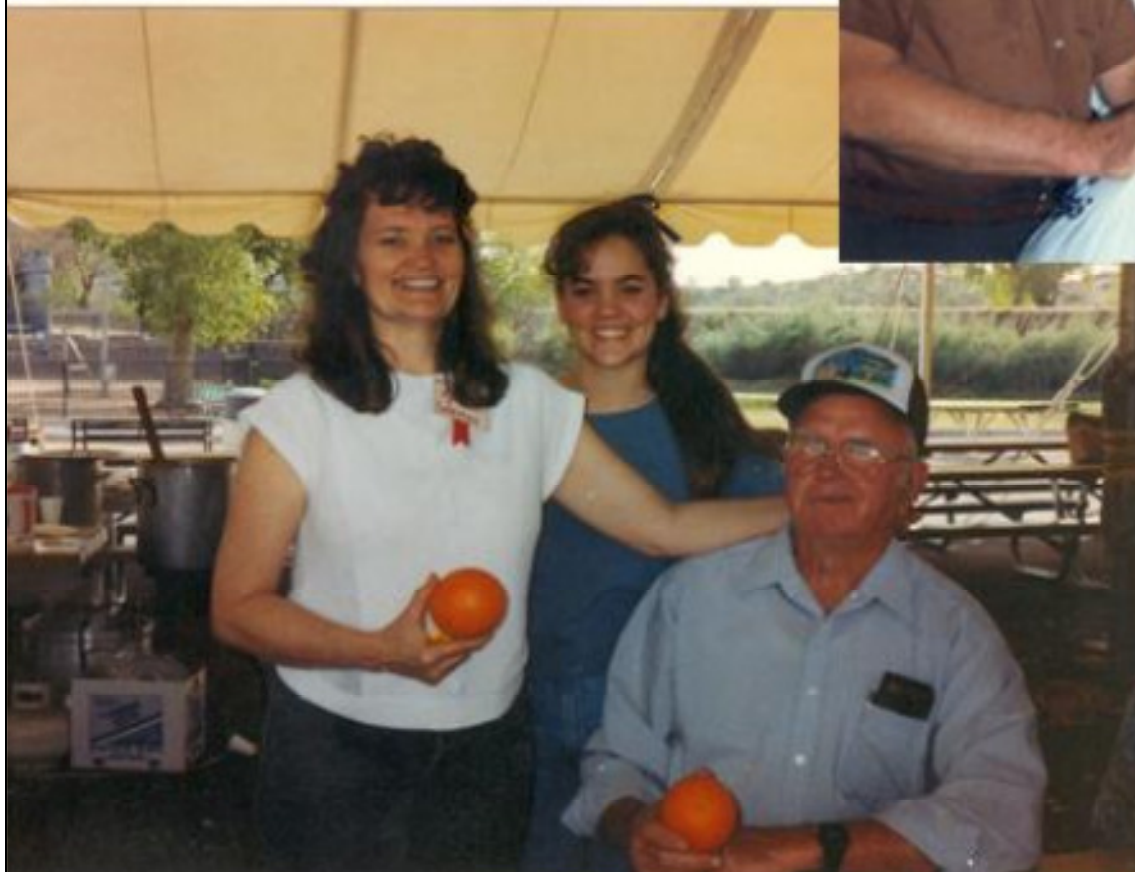


Lake Powell Fish



Jerry Cancer  
Surgery

Papa; Var and  
Nonnie, buena



April, Veronica &  
Var at reunion



# Thanksgiving



Dad's backyard was always an adventure...





Dad was  
proud of his  
Pipelines  
Company



Dad's accident changed his life.

He was never the same after spending six weeks in a coma.

## **Police/fire**

# **Man critical after fall**

From staff reports

A Mesa man was in critical condition Tuesday after falling through a skylight while watching fireworks, officials said.

Var Rowley, 70, was watching fireworks from a rooftop in the 6200 block of East Orion Street when he fell through a skylight, Mesa fire Capt. Cliff Puckett said.

Rowley fell 15 feet before hitting concrete and suffering head injuries, a broken leg and possible internal injuries, Puckett said. He was flown to Scottsdale Memorial Hospital-Osborn.



Dad in his recliner...

He spent a lot of time in  
it after the accident





# A 15-foot fall, 6-week coma and 1 amazing recovery

By Paul Matthews  
Tribune writer

In one second, Var Rowley lost six weeks of his life.

The 73-year-old east Mesa man remembers standing on his roof in the 6200 block of East Orion Street last year watching a Fourth of July fireworks show with his teenage grandson, Ryan.

His next memory isn't until September, when he recalls being wheeled out of Scottsdale Memorial Hospital-Osborn and into an ambulance which took him to a rehabilitation center in Mesa.

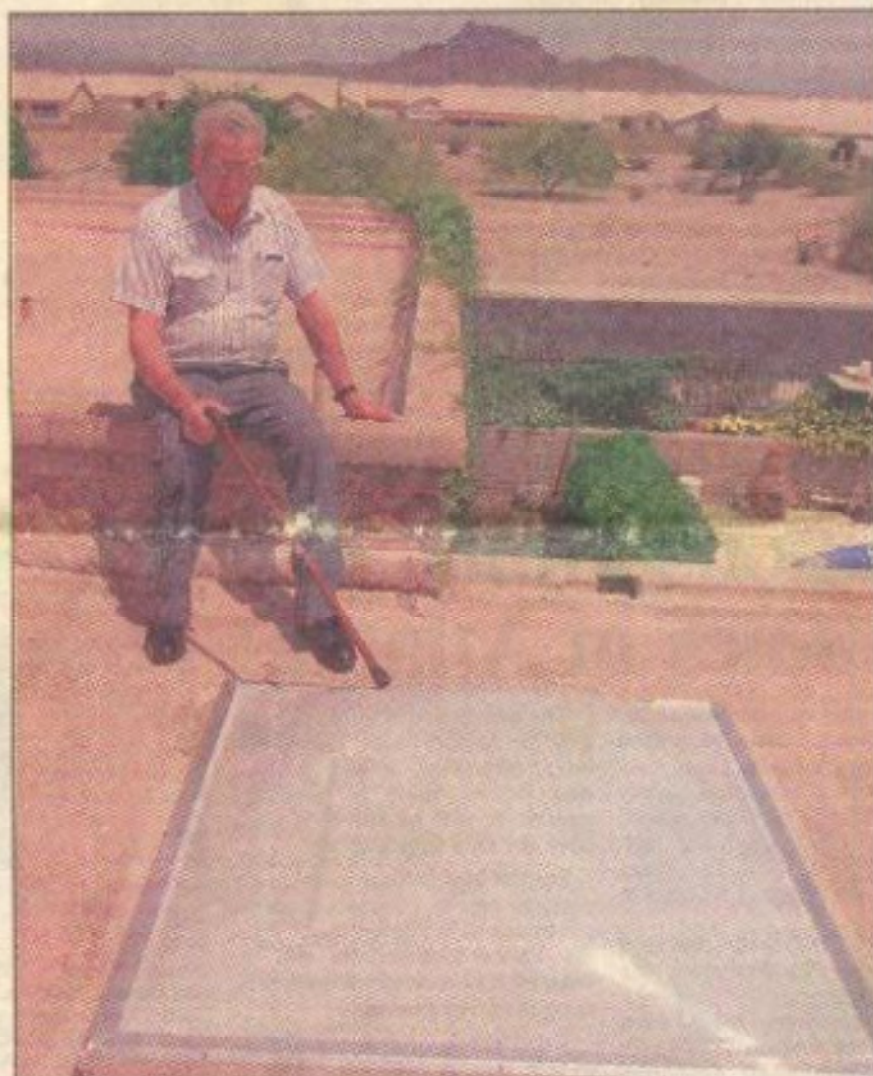
He doesn't remember falling 15 feet through a skylight onto a concrete patio. He doesn't remember being flown to the hospital. And he doesn't remember spending six weeks in a coma during which his wife was told she may have to decide whether to remove him from life-support machines. "There must have been something up there I tripped on," Rowley said, still searching for an explanation to his fall. He said he doesn't drink alcohol and still isn't sure how he fell.

Rowley's story is scheduled to air on *Rescue 911* at 7 p.m. today on KPHO-TV (Channel 5) in an episode dedicated to miracle recoveries.

Eric Mathis, a segment producer for *Rescue 911*, said a film crew was shadowing AirEvac on the Fourth of July when Rowley fell.

"We got everything as it happened that night," Mathis said. "From what we were told, it didn't sound like he was going to make it. . . . It turned out to be a very good story."

Doctors weren't that optimistic in



PAUL O'NEILL/Tribune

Var Rowley, 73, sits on the roof of his east Mesa home near the skylight he fell through last July Fourth while watching a fireworks display. His story is scheduled to air on *Rescue 911* at 7 p.m. today on KPHO-TV (Channel 5).



After the  
accident,  
and 6  
weeks in a  
coma... dad  
had to  
learn how  
to do  
everything  
all over  
again even  
walk and  
eat, ... but  
he did!



Dad on his back porch.





Dad

April

Zeltha






She's got the whole world in her hands...  
or at least a very heavy rock.



- Dad & Zeltha took April on vacations with them both as a teenager and later as a single mom with her kids.
- We climbed every mountain between home and each destination.





LaMar, Narvel, Gene, Dixie, AlvaJean, Melvin, Brenda, Var, Robert, Weston,  
Velma, Luana, Zeltha, Lela

# The Jesse Rowley Family

## Var and siblings



A photograph of two men, Chris and his father, sitting on a green and black Honda ATV in a wooded area. Chris, on the left, is wearing a light blue t-shirt and khaki shorts, smiling at the camera. His father, on the right, is wearing a green and white plaid shirt and dark pants, with his hand on Chris's shoulder. The background consists of dense green trees and a dirt path.

Var  
Haws  
Rowley

Chris and  
Dad on his  
ATC

80 Years Full of Life  
1921 - 2001