

# Zion Lodge Stories

## The Biologists

The kids who worked at Zion Lodge worked pretty hard. A six day work week was the standard and some of us worked extra hours as bus boys or bell hops just for the tips. There wasn't a lot of free time and working a shift from ten at night to six in the morning made it even harder because I was either working or sleeping when most of the other kids were doing things. Getting to know any girls was out of the question for me. It may be unfashionable to admit it today, but only my mother had kissed me when I started working at Zion Lodge. Even the boys I knew were just the other guys on my crew.

So, I was about the last to know when stories began drifting around about what was going on in the room just down the hall from mine in the men's dorm. The guys who lived in that room were veterans who worked as cooks in the kitchen so they were above my social level anyway. Actually, they didn't seem to have much to do with anybody because they spent all their spare time hiking in the back country.

The rumors were that they had some pretty strange stuff in their room like rattlesnakes, scorpions, tarantulas and other wildlife. The word was that these two were biology students back where they came from and the main reason they came out here to work was to be close to their chosen field of study.

I only managed to get one peek through the door before the boss, "the man from Paragonah", came down and had a few words with them. It looked to me like a biology lab, all right. The boss assured the rest of us that all the wildlife was gone, but I know I slept uneasily for a while after that.