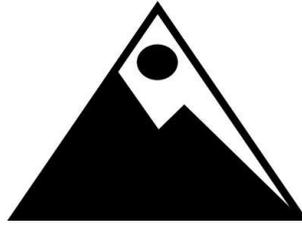
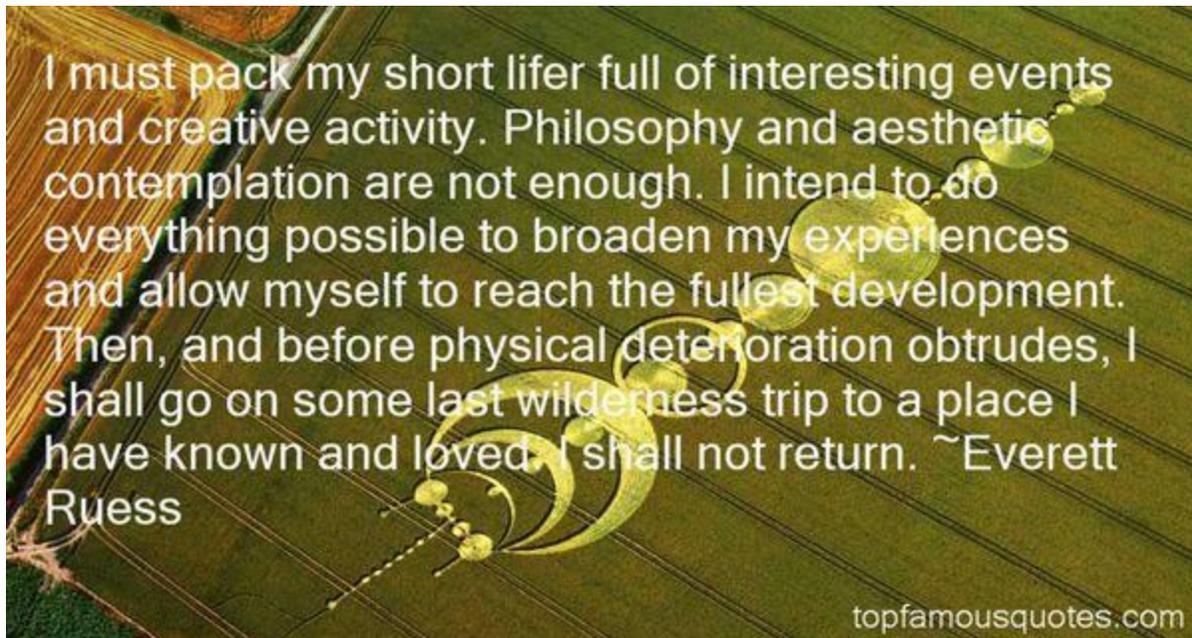


Outdoor



Loyalty

## Everett Ruess: The Unknown Outdoorist



For those who are wondering what an Outdoorist Blogger is thinking by taking on a Biography of the legendary Everett Ruess; Well, this is not a biography, it is a 21st Century "Biography". As we write this story, there still exists an unsolved mystery surrounding Everett Ruess' disappearance November 1934 in the rugged wilderness areas in South-Central Utah.

Everett Ruess was born March 28, 1914 to Christopher and Stella Ruess in Oakland, CA. They were self-proclaimed Bohemians. Christopher graduated Summa Cum Laude from Harvard becoming a Unitarian Minister and married Stella in 1905. They travelled extensively across America with Christopher following the "Word of the Lord" and Stella, being a patron of the fine arts, absorbing writings, art, poetry and historical events that she cherished at the spiritual level.



SQUARE TOWER HOUSE  
MESA VERDE

6/50

Their children, Everett, Waldo, Christella and Kathleen, came on the scene between 1906 to 1914.

The Ruess Family's passion was to take road trips to National Parks and Historic Places across the Country exposing their children to the great wonders they took time to experience. Everett discovered, at a very early age, the beauty and mystery of the Great Outdoors. The Ruess Family settled in Los Angeles and called it home for the family.

Fast forward to 1929, where Everett, at the age of 15, left Hollywood High School and decided to explore the Outdoor Wilderness which became his life's passion. He hitchhiked alone from L.A. to Carmel and Big Sur continuing across the state to Sequoia N.P. and Yosemite N.P. returning home to his family in L.A. for a brief respite for a few weeks. Everett then trekked alone back to Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks on to San Francisco. He spent a month meeting artisans such as world famous

photographers Edward Weston and Ansel Adams known for their depictions of National Parks and famous landmarks across the country. Everett attracted famous people to him because of his emerging gregarious, outgoing and intelligent personality.

Upon his return to his family early in 1931, Everett announced that he was leaving again for the primitive Southwestern desert region in Northeast Arizona (four corners area) around the town of Kayenta. He purchased a Burro that he named Pegasus for \$10.00 and hiked, climbed and foraged the many canyons in the area meeting Navajo and Hopi Indians, ranchers and farmers as he continued down to Chinle where Canyon de Chelly National Monument totaling around 180 miles. Everett continued on to Flagstaff AZ, another 200 miles, spending some time exploring in the San Francisco Peaks Mountain Range just north of the town.

Everett left the Flagstaff area heading northwest toward Zion National Park (another 180 miles), spending time exploring the slot canyons in the area. Turning south, Everett headed for Grand Canyon NP returning a decade later reflecting on his journey with his mother when Everett was 8 years old. Those memories of his Mother riding a Burro down the canyon to the Colorado River which Everett reenacted with fondness of her. Leaving the area heading down to Prescott, AZ and dropping down into the Sonoran Desert arriving at Mesa, AZ where he took a bus back to his family. His travels totaled up to 850 miles. During this time, he wrote many letters to Waldo as well as his daily journal thoughts and feelings. Everett described in his letters about his encounters with Mother Nature and the many people he met along the

way. Everett also created many wooden tiled etchings and paintings on parchment and canvas.



By the Spring of 1934 he returned to Kayenta, AZ. feeling more balanced in mind and spirit. Everett decided to retrace his steps from his first journey to this area. This time he purchased two Burros naming them Leopard and Everett and was also given a "Rez-Dog" which he named Curly for his tail. Curly gave him companionship when exploring the very isolated canyons. Leaving the Kayenta area, Everett traveled Southwest to Flagstaff then North into Southern Utah exploring the very unique landscape of Bryce Canyon NP and on to Escalante where he spent a month reenergizing his body and soul. This respite in Escalante ironically was his last contact with civilization. Everett, Leopard, Everett and Curly headed south to parts

unknown. It was late October in 1934 and the temperatures were starting to change. While in Escalante, he was offered winterwear clothing by some residents he had befriended during his stay. To this point he had travelled 650 miles and had told those in Escalante that he was planning on spending the winter months in the most extreme area he had visited in his life.

The first leg of the journey took them to the "Hole-In-The-Rock" trail. This trail leads to the V-notch gap where in 1880 Mormon Pioneers, with their 80 travel wagons and supplies, attempted to cross the Colorado River. The Gap included a precipitous drop-off of 900 feet. The caravan actually took heavy ropes and chains letting each wagon, and even their mules, descend to the river shores. Everett spent time exploring this historical area. The next and final segment was south about 30 miles to Davis Gulch where Everett was enthralled with the Anasazi Indian Culture's artifacts and petroglyphs relatively untouched. He set up a temporary campsite and built a corral for the Burros and began exploring the surrounding area. That was the final trace of Everett Ruess.

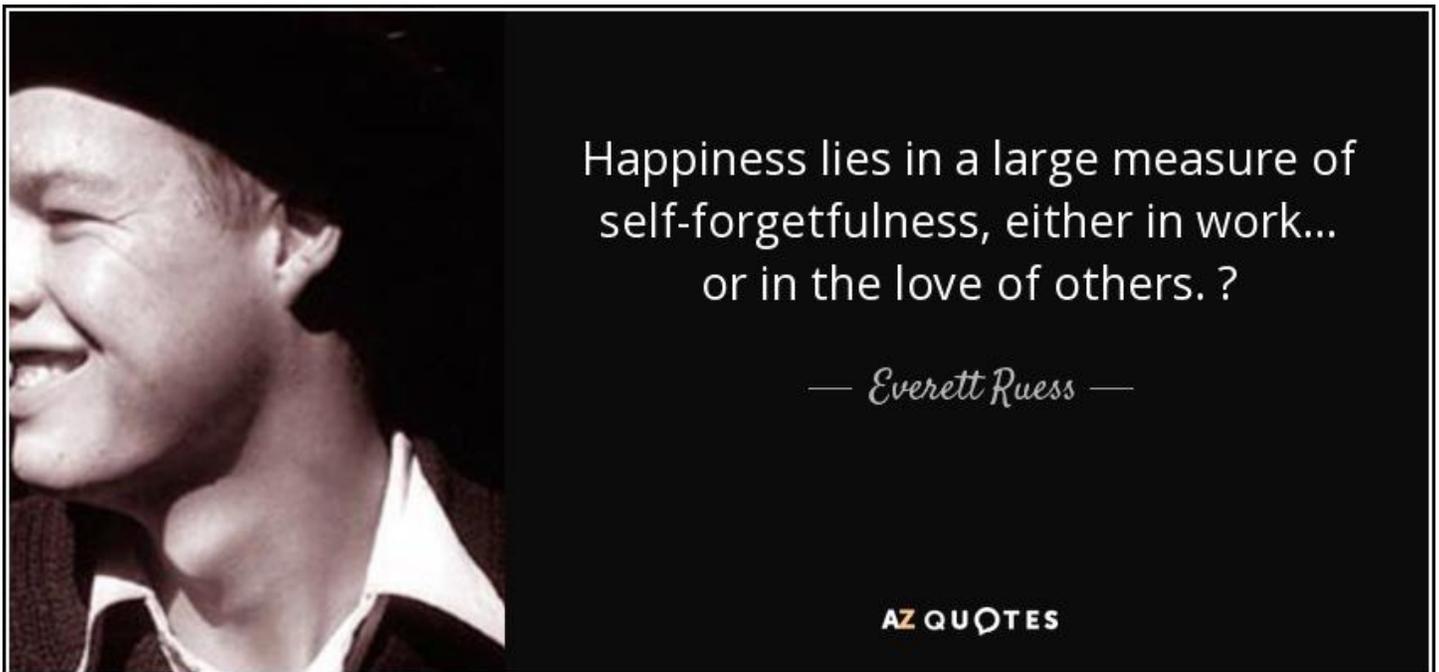
In March 1935 Rescue Teams made up of Ranchers, Farmers and others from Escalante working in concert with National Park Rangers, searching for Everett's venture into Davis Gulch. They discovered a recent campsite with the Burros in their makeshift corral having survived the wintertime's harsh weather. The rescue teams went further than the



campsite in the gulch till they reached the Escalante River.

The rescuers could only speculate where signs of Everett existed due to the lack of evidence beyond the river. Today, this whole area is underwater due to the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam creating Lake Powell in 1957.

Everett has become a. Legend of worldwide (The Ruess Cult) passion to know what Everett Ruess would have become if he survived. At the age of 20, he was an accomplished artist, poet and writer. He was an explorer, trekking the undeveloped Southwest's mountains, canyons and deserts. The fact there is a glimmer of hope that Everett had survived and lived amongst the Navajo and Hopi Indians till he passed loving the life he envisioned throughout his journeys.



Outdoorists, who explore and cherish the World around us, have great respect and embrace the life and times of Everett Ruess. It is a tragic but beautiful life he lived. Everett's story has touched the hearts and minds of people living throughout the World and many have ventured to the area where he disappeared from so long ago.

Below is a link to a video that captures the passion for many who to this day continue to search for the final chapter of Everett's life and times...

[http://youtu.be/vSa15\\_-8u4I](http://youtu.be/vSa15_-8u4I)

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