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Questar Productions
Encounter Video

"The Story of America's Canyon Country"

Final Script

"The Story of America's Canyon Country"

This script sample includes only pages 12 through 19

To see the complete 64-page script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com

beginning with Page 12, Scene 10

10. BRYCE CANYON INTRODUCTION

a) A wide shot, from an overlook, showing a panoramic expanse of hoodoos.

NARRATOR: (voiceover)

BRYCE CANYON IS 120 MILES
NORTHWEST OF MONUMENT
VALLEY, IN SOUTH CENTRAL
UTAH.

b) Long, slow pan across an expanse of hoodoos.

WHEN THE PAIUTES FIRST
VIEWED THESE FANTASTIC
HOODOOS, IT WAS WITH A
SENSE OF REVERENCE.

THEY CALLED THEM "UNKA-
TIMPE-WA-WINCE-POCK-ICH"
... WHICH MEANS, LITERALLY,

"RED ROCKS STANDING LIKE
MEN IN A BOWL-SHAPED
RECESS."

c) From down in the canyon, looking up at the hoodoos.

SFX: Drumming UP AND UNDER

11. BRYCE IN WINTER

A scene with heavy snow falling and already covering the ground.

12. BRYCE HOODOOS

a) An expanse of hoodoos, like the Silent City.

b) A different shot of an expanse of hoodoos.

c) A time lapse of one section with shadows overtaking the scene.

THERE'S A PAIUTE LEGEND
ABOUT HOW THESE
SCULPTURED ROCKS CAME
TO BE:

THEY BELIEVED THAT LONG
BEFORE THERE WERE ANY
INDIANS, THE LEGEND
PEOPLE LIVED IN THIS PLACE.
BUT INSTEAD OF LOOKING
LIKE PEOPLE, THEY TOOK
THE SHAPE OF BIRDS, AND

ANIMALS.

ONE DAY THE POWERFUL
DEMI-GOD SHIN-OWAY
BECAME ANGRY WITH THEM
... AND TURNED THEM ALL
INTO ROCKS.

MODERN GEOLOGY
DESCRIBES THE ORIGIN OF
BRYCE CANYON A LITTLE
DIFFERENTLY:

13. BRYCE CANYON GEOLOGY

a) A darkly overshadowed scene of a big lake.

MUSIC: A richer sound that includes some
drums UP AND UNDER

60 MILLION YEARS AGO, THIS
AREA WAS COVERED BY AN
ENORMOUS LAKE.

b) A darkly overshadowed scene of a closeup of slightly rippling water.

AS THE CLIMATE DRIED,
SMALLER LAKES APPEARED.

c) A stream running across dry desert land; see some sand deposited.

STREAMS RAN ACROSS,

DEPOSITING SAND AND
GRAVEL.

Quick cuts:

- d) Closeup of dried landscape.
- e) Closeup of compressed rock.
- f) Closeup of hardened rock

OVER EONS, THE ONCE-HUGE
LAKE BECAME COMPLETELY
FILLED WITH SEDIMENTS ...
THAT COMPRESSED AND
HARDENED INTO ROCK.

- g) (to be staged) A chunk of earth lifting up and splitting.

THEN 16 MILLION YEARS
AGO, THE COLORADO
PLATEAU DRAMATICALLY
ROSE ... UPLIFTED BY
GEOLOGIC FORCES ... RIPPING
APART THE LAND AND
BREAKING IT INTO MASSES
OF ROCK.

- h) Closeup of river rushing along desert bank.
- i) Cracked rock; a chunk falls off.

THE RUSHING OF THE PARIA
RIVER AND THE RELENTLESS

FORCES OF EROSION

TRANSFORMED THE ROCK ...

j) A longer shot of the cracked rock.

k) A longer shot of the whole hoodoo, with others in the background.

... INTO THE HOODOOS WE

SEE TODAY.

l) If possible, an aerial that shows how Bryce Canyon is eaten out of the plateau.

BRYCE CANYON ISN'T

REALLY A CANYON ... IT'S AN

AMPHITHEATER, CARVED

OUT OF THE SURROUNDING

PLATEAU ... WHICH STILL

BEARS ITS PAIUTE NAME:

PAUNSAGUNT.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

SFX: High wind

14. BRISTLECONE PINES

a) Beauty shot of the famous bristlecone pine, at the edge of the cliff.

b) Closeup of branches moving in the wind

MILLIONS OF YEARS AFTER

THE HOODOOS WERE

FORMED, THIS BRISTLECONE

PINE SPROUTED ...

... AT THE SOUTHERNMOST

END OF BRYCE CANYON, ON
ONE OF ITS MOST EXPOSED,
WINDSWEPT CLIFFS.

c) Shots moving around the tree and closeups of its bark.

BRISTLECONES ARE BELIEVED
TO BE THE OLDEST LIVING
THINGS ON EARTH.
ONE ANCIENT BRISTLECONE,
IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS
OF CALIFORNIA, IS MORE
THAN 5,000 YEARS OLD.

SFX: Moos of cows, baahs of sheep

15. EBENEZER BRYCE

a) Background scene of the canyon, with simple patterns but rich colors.

b) SUPERIMPOSE in layers of montages old photographs of Ebenezer and Mary, an old ranch, cows and sheep.

THE NAME "BRYCE" OF BRYCE
CANYON ORIGINATED IN
THE LATE 1800s.
THE SCOTTISH EMIGRANT
EBENEZER BRYCE AND HIS
WIFE MARY MOVED TO THIS
REMOTE SOUTHERN UTAH

VALLEY TO RAISE SHEEP AND
CATTLE, AND HAUL TIMBER.

PEOPLE STARTED CALLING
THE PLACE AT THE END OF
HIS TIMBER ROAD, "BRYCE'S
CANYON," AND THE NAME
STUCK.

BRYCE DIDN'T STICK
AROUND FOR LONG,
THOUGH. FIVE YEARS LATER,
HE LEFT FOR ARIZONA.
EBENEZER'S COMPLAINT? HE
TOLD EVERYONE, "IT'S A
HELL OF A PLACE TO LOSE A
COW!"

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