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**INSIDER #49 WAS A BLAST** for this old timer *Star Wars* fan! I have been on board since the fifth issue of *Bantha Tracks*, in 1979. I thought I had seen it all over the years from you guys. But I *loved* the format, and this issue was chock-full of interviews. I especially loved the article on the Bounty Hunters—BRAVO!

**CURT VIGNERI** Dover, NJ

**I LOVED YOUR SPECIAL** Episode V 20th anniversary issue. *The Empire Strikes Back* is my favorite movie of all-time. Since I got the magazine, I have read the whole thing cover-

to-cover five times. I loved the Lost Scenes part the most out of the whole magazine. Since I read the magazine, I have watched *The Empire Strikes Back* six times, catching all the details. I am now looking at my favorite movie in a whole new light. My love for *The Empire Strikes Back* only increases every time I watch it.

**PAUL GEISLER** Phoenix, AZ

**I THINK WHAT MAKES *EMPIRE*** so special is that it forever changed how people viewed the *Star Wars* saga. Suddenly, Darth Vader isn't just an evil villain—he's the father of Luke Skywalker!

*Empire* changes everything. It makes you realize what the saga is all about and creates a much more complicated mosaic. I can't believe *Empire* is 20 years old. It looks like it just came out yesterday.

**JEREMY AULT** Chillicothe, OH

**I WANT TO COMPLIMENT** Marco Nero for his depiction of Boba Fett surfing on Han Solo while frozen in carbonite (*Insider* #49). That painting really depicts the heartlessness of Fett—how cruel can one be? Fett surfing on Solo is like dancing on a person's grave. I also see that picture as Fett taking a

quick vacation on the Outer Rim as a reward for his diligent labors in capturing the mighty Captain Solo. Mr. Nero, you have a great imagination—keep up the good work!

**BRYAN KELLOGG** Mesa, AZ

## An Empire of Questions.

**FIRST OF ALL**, I must say how deliriously happy I was when I saw an entire issue of *Insider* devoted to a segment of the classic trilogy, seeing as how much of the focus right now is on the prequels. Could there possibly be *A New Hope* and *Return of the Jedi* issues

# WHAT A LONG, STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN

Apparently, our *Star Wars Road Trip* adventure struck a chord—while the prize for finding the location of "Artoo's Arroyo" has already been claimed (*Insider* #49), the journey still beckons. Many fans, most of whom already happen to live in California, have made at least part of the Road Trip. Here are some letters from a few of those hardy travelers and those that will follow in their footsteps. We'll print more next issue and we're still waiting to hear from fans who visit the other locations—or better yet, take the entire Road Trip.

**I VERY MUCH ENJOYED** the *Star Wars Road Trip* article in *Insider* #48. Ever since I became a fan, I've contemplated the thought of walking along in the sand dunes of Tatooine, or the forests of Endor. Visiting Death Valley, Yuma, or the Redwood forests in Northern California would make that fantasy finally come true for myself, or any other fan. I have read the article over and over quite a few times, and I must admit, I've gotten out the trusty

old road map and planned out how my "damn fool idealistic crusade" would take its course. Imagine looking over the same ledge as Luke and Obi-Wan did in *A New Hope*—what a blast that trip will be when I am finally able to take it!

**DANIEL HORTON** Belgreen, AL

**YESTERDAY (MARCH 25, 2000)**, after receiving *Star Wars Insider* #48 in the mail, I grabbed three of my friends and lots of water, and headed to Death Valley in search of Artoo's Arroyo. After checking out the sand dunes in Stovepipe

Wells and getting some lunch at Furnace Creek, we went to check out Desolation Canyon. On our way, we ran across a spot called Golden Canyon. It looked somewhat familiar, so we got out. Looking around, we spotted what looked like an old road! I can only hope we were the first!

**LAUREN WILLIAMS** Trona, CA

*Lauren, you were the first—but unfortunately, you didn't find the correct location. In fact, when the Insider team went to Death Valley, we hiked the very same canyon as you did, and we also became very excited, thinking we had found Artoo's Arroyo. But, thanks to the expertise of Dr. David West Reynolds, we realized that we were sadly mistaken. It turns out the actual location of Artoo's Arroyo is located in a part of Death Valley called Artist's Palette—very close to Golden Canyon, but no cigar. Still, I congratulate you for your determination and spirit of adventure. Hope you had fun!*

**HEY, WHAT'S UP?** A few friends and I went to Death Valley this Saturday (April 8th) and did indeed find and document Artoo's Arroyo! We took lots of pictures and also documented it on video. It was a lot of fun too! I'm not sure if we're the first but we definitely gave it a try! You can see one of my pictures at [www.geocities.com/o2th/dvmeabovearroyo.jpg](http://www.geocities.com/o2th/dvmeabovearroyo.jpg)

**PETER GENOVESE**  
Granada Hills, CA

*Peter, for the record, the win-*

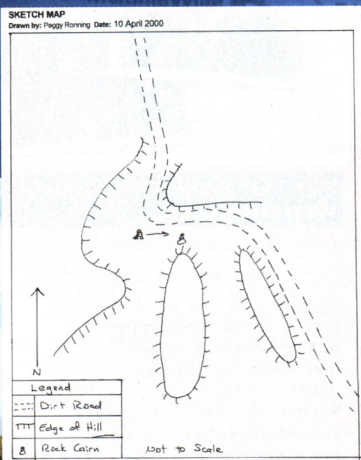
*ning entry was sent in by Dana Keithly, postmarked April 1, 2000. Great work, though!*

**FOUR TRIPS TO DEATH VALLEY** and 10 canyons later, I think we found Artoo's Arroyo—either that or heat stroke had set in. Before reaching this moment of triumph (or exhaustion), the challenge of the scavenger hunt had inspired my sister Carrie, my father Arleigh, and my mother Pam to join me in the odyssey. Thanks for all the fun!

**PEGGY RONNING**  
Tehachapi, CA

*Peggy sent in an impressively detailed journal of her exploration, but unfortunately she didn't find the correct location. But that won't stop us from printing her photos! We also got an awesome trip/photo diary from Sue Dawe Underwood, who undertook her own challenge: finding the Death Valley location of the road to Jabba's palace in *Return of the Jedi*. At last report, Sue and her friend Eugene King are still looking—anyone care to help them?*

**THE INSIDER IS A PURE JOY** to read and experience. I look forward to every issue. I decided to write to you the minute I saw the Road Trip cover art [by Jay Stephens] of *Insider* #48. It's absolutely fantastic! I especially liked the way Yoda—looking a bit disgruntled—clings to C-3PO for dear life. The hitchhiking Jawas are a cool touch, as well—I wonder if they will make it all the way to Tatooine, or end up at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas scavenging



PEGGY RONNING (below) of Tehachapi, CA sent in this sketch map of Artoo's Arroyo.

