

Bill's FLICKR Picture Gallery

William Fechteler

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These pictures are of a visit made by Wayne and Patti Eastep to the Al Murrah tribe of Saudi Arabia. Bedouin hospitality is renowned and they were made to feel that they were one of the family though there naturally some adjustments to be made in this environment. Getting used to the heat was a challenge. "Our thermometer went up to 125 F and by late May it burst." Another was having some privacy. "The Bedouins do not go in for solitary activities. The desert is very large and the Arabs are relatively few. Something in that expanse seems to push them together."

The Bedouins are very inquisitive, they love to talk and have a good sense of humor. They also have an assured self-confidence that perhaps comes from the knowledge that they succeed in such a difficult landscape where others could not.

Camels are very important to the Bedouins and without them, life in the desert would be impossible although they often use pickup trucks for transportation. Wayne & Patti even saw camels riding in pickup trucks.

For all the discomforts, the lack of modern "necessities" and always the heat, the Easteps' would like to return. "...life is pared down to the essentials. What is cherished and nurtured is what is necessary for survival - friendship, hospitality simplicity."

