

What do You Say to a Randy Elephant?

Jan 5 - 23, 2015



D-d-d-d-down R-R-Randy. D-d-d-d-d-down b-b-b-boy. The terrified woman in this car also blurted to the media that his other, uh, trunk was "the size of my arm!"



The last time I was at Khao Yai National Park in 1982 Thai Tourism drove me to do a story. I had the thrill of being charged by a bull elephant in the jungle. I see the little rascals are still up to it. Well, at least when they're in "musth." Deer go into "rut" and lock horns. The primitive members of our species get "horny," head to the bar, get drunk and into fist fights. This one seems interested in buying the jeep. At least he's kicking the tires.





You know that thing dogs do to your leg...?





It's kinda humorous until you learn that a British woman a year ago was stomped to death in a park up the Kwai and a monk in Sri Lanka was recently greeted to an early reincarnation....



We visited friends Slash and Hot Lips at their retirement home backing onto the park. This is their *sala* in the backyard. Cool place to cool out with a scotch. And keep an eye out for Dumbo who's gone Jumbo and randy....





They live in Thailand's wine country, very reminiscent of the Napa Valley. Nice to look at, not so nice to drink. Pretty awful actually, but I'm sure it'll improve.



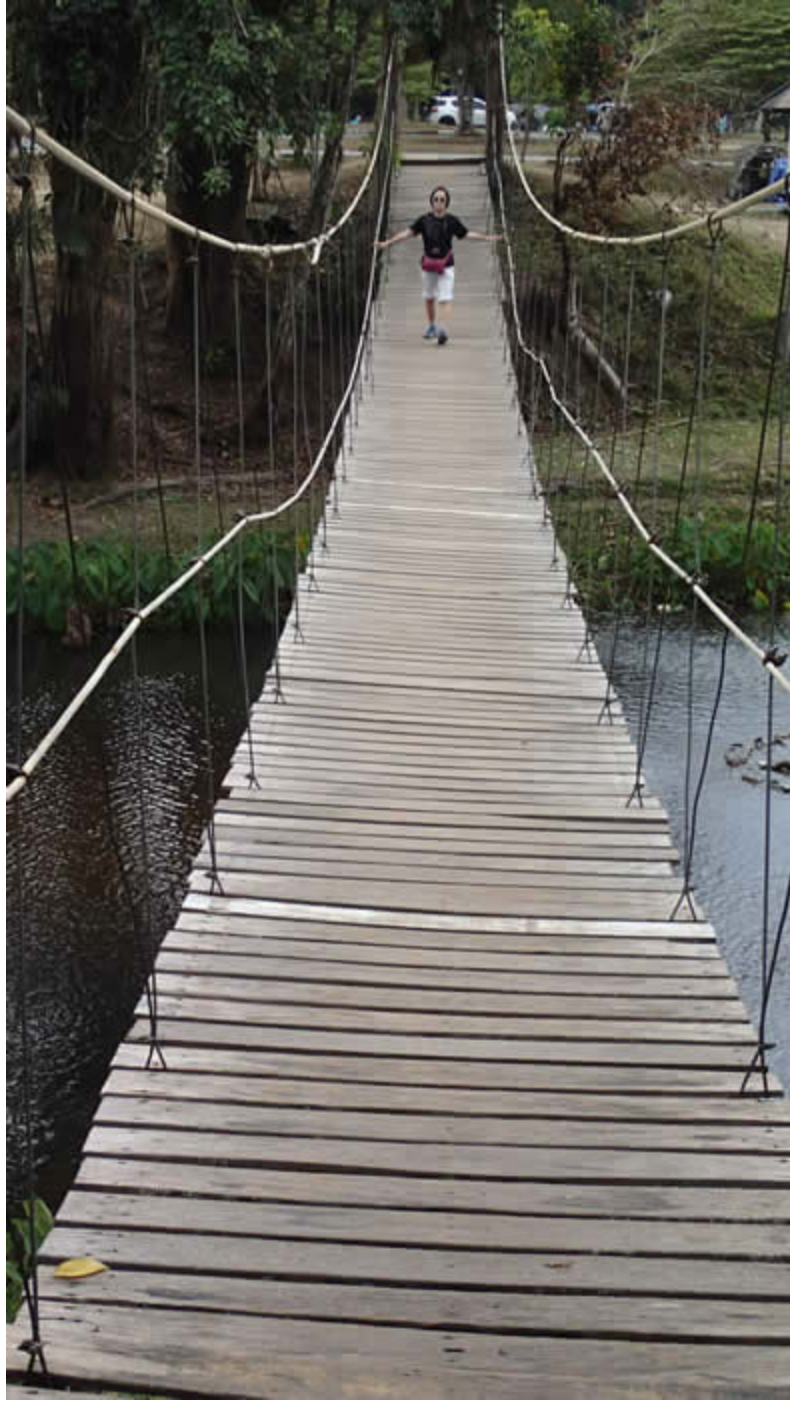
They joined us paddling the Reindeer River in Saskatchewan a few years ago. We had to be the first to have Thai cooking in the north! And massages. She was Oprah's masseuse when they lived back in the States.



I don't want to say Slash is immature but my gawd, he's a PhD in bio-chemistry and over 60, and here I'm forced to go along with him playing on silly rocking horses.



We toured the park. The waterfall used in *The Beach* was shot here though it wasn't this one. Gorgeous park.





They also generously drove us to the Angkor ruins at Phi Mai, a few hours away. You Hindus will recognize Shiva's dicks lining the grand entrance. Gotta love a religion that adopts a happy time symbol.



The Dragon Lady trying to give another iphone away, like she did in Buenos Airies when a jerk on a bike grabbed it outta her hands.





In the continuing series of humorous Thaisms....



I'll pass thanks. But I'm sure Bangkok friend, cannibal and author Jerry Hopkins, who diced and sauteed his son Nick's placenta in London and served it to friends, will go for a case. If you don't believe me, read his *Strange Foods*. It's a classic, and why Anthony Bourdain had him on his show when he ate his way through Bangkok.



I'll pass on this too, thanks.



But I'll go for this. Thailand has a seemingly endless parade of unique culinary delights.



Then we jumped down to the Kwai and Kas and Preecha. Preecha's been my landlord for 20 years. Was with the Asian Development Bank. We're at a horticulture faire near Kanchanaburi.



Here you add your own caption....



Kas's home is on the river and one of the two most beautiful I have seen, with Pat and Rosemarie Keough's on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. New traditional Thai architecture is rare; she built hers entirely Thai, by constructing three houses together. 5,000 square feet of creative, posh, Thai comfort. She has a great eye for aesthetics.





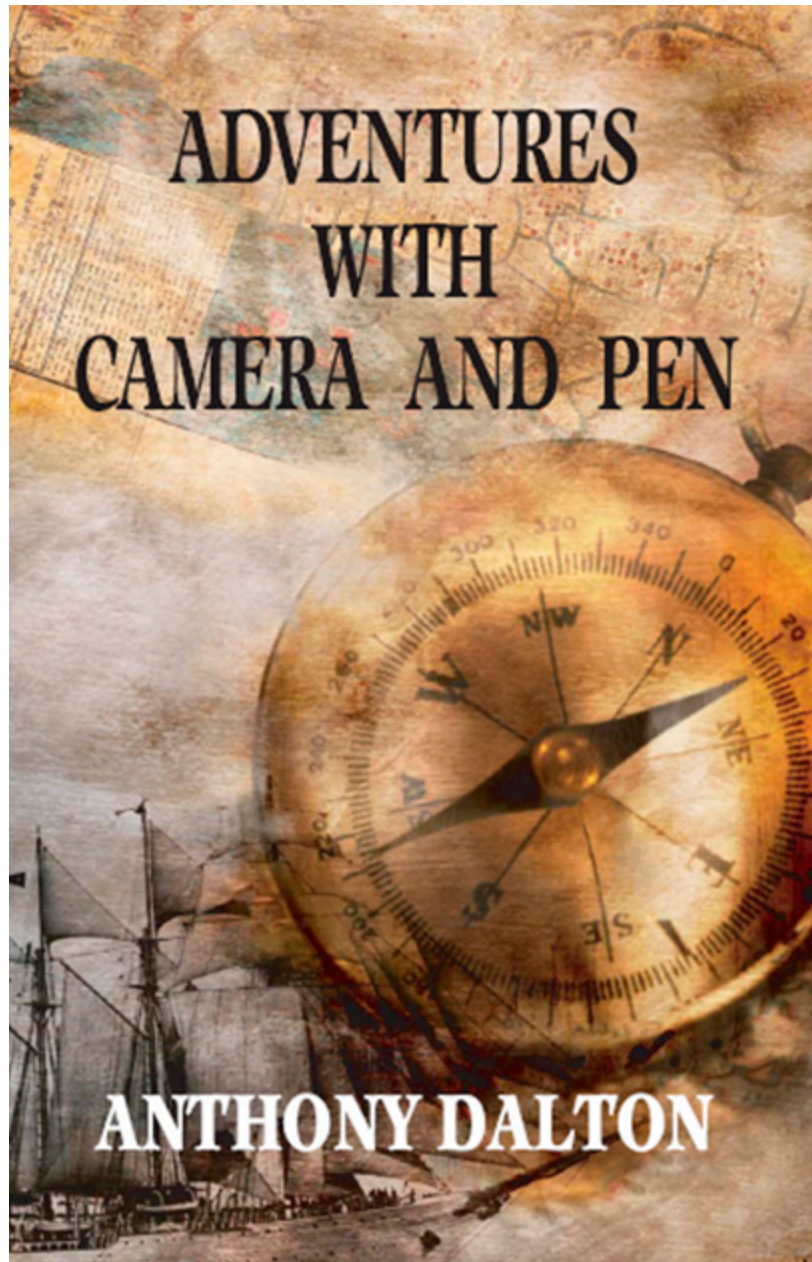








Shooting this place would challenge an *Architectural Digest* photographer. It's hidden behind so much jungle. I'll plug more friends' book instead.



I wrote the back cover blurb. *Adventurers are rare, unique individuals who follow their dreams. Tony Dalton is one—and a great writer too. He brings his adventurers to life with a crisp, clean clarity that not only reminds me of my own but gets my adrenaline percolating like I was right there with him. Exciting stuff.* http://www.amazon.com/Adventures-Camera-Pen-Anthony-Dalton/dp/097843952X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1420489430&sr=1-1&keywords=Adventures+with+camera+and+pen



AN OCEAN OF INSPIRATION

The John Olguin Story



BY STEFAN E. HARZEN, BARBARA J. BRUNNICK
AND MIKE SCHAADT

EDITED BY XAVIER HERMOSILLO

I had the pleasure of penning a blurb for this one too: *The best kind of inspirational book is one whose subject has not only achieved great things but also overcame great obstacles. The book is a tribute to a life well lived, a life worth emulating. The greatest tribute is that the book leaves you wishing you had known the man.* http://smile.amazon.com/Ocean-Inspiration-John-Olguin-Story/dp/1926855809/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1420645418&sr=8-3&keywords=Ocean+of+inspiration Anyone buying through Amazon Smile can

choose a Foundation they'd like to support and Amazon will send a percentage. Stefan suggests the Taras Oceanographic Foundation (www.taras.org).



I'm throwing this in to prove that I don't dress in khaki *all* the time. But if you spend as much time as I do in jungles, archaeological, geological and paleontological sites, it's practical. Doesn't show dirt. Why, I can go for weeks without changing clothes!



Next Blah Blah we're back dumpster diving into the Paleolithic and Sir Rodney and I finally, with a documentary crew, got back into the Death Cave that's stymied us for three years because of dangerous CO2 levels.



Plus I'm back to polishing that non-fiction book to a high sheen but I keep finding rich tweaks to add! I guess it'll be done when it's done...but I do want it fini by the time we fly back to civilization March 3.



Finally, if you're this close to a wild elephant, you're too damned close.... (Madame Su took this, good shot, but then all Japanese are born with little cameras in hand, which makes the birth process somewhat painful and explains that permanent squint.)