

# OUT ON THE RANGE

# **Alone and Forgotten**

*Abandoned homesteads in Utah, Nebraska and Arizona.*

*Words & photos by David Muench.*



*ABOVE: Table Cliff Plateau catches early morning light above a 19th century homestead in the Escalante Mountains near Henrieville, Utah.  
TOP RIGHT: A sod house built by settlers in 1862 on what is now the Oglala National Grasslands in the remote northwest corner of Nebraska.  
BOTTOM RIGHT: Storm surrounds a rustic cabin and lightning-struck ponderosa pine in the White Mountains, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, near Showlow, Arizona.*



**R**emote and lonely places in the landscape capture my imagination, engage my art. I see them as the soul of the West. Especially at dawn, when I see both light and life as primal. These are places where survival was once a skill. Still is. Daybreak becomes the crossroads between night and day, the moment when past and future join. This is the crossroads of time, the Timeless Moment, the moment that is mine to photograph.

Wild and lonely places, sunrise and storm, the necessity of nature and the magnificence of our place in it. This is my subject.

To immerse myself in it, I've spent countless nights camped in these places. I wait for dawn. I eat a donut. I think about coffee. I wonder what the clouds will hold. And all the while the thing I know best is that the great sunrise only happens if I am there. ■

*More than 50 books allow David Muench "to share in depth the landscapes that inspire me. I photograph as I see. I care that my photography speaks for the wild beauty I treasure. I care that my children, Zandria and Marc, both photographers, continue that legacy."*

