

# de Stolfe Journal **Candid**

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August 2012

Robert-George de Stolfe, Publisher

## Mid Summer's Activities

Well, it has been over 2 months now since I moved from Lubbock. Life in Colorado Springs has been good. My construction/remodeling job has been a huge blessing financially, and it has also given me something to do that is constructive (no pun intended!)



Over the past month, I made a new planting bed in the front of the house (see story elsewhere in this issue) and planted various flowers.

In mid July, I went back to Lubbock for a week to teach a class for the Summer Youth Classes at the National Ranching Heritage Center (see story elsewhere in this issue).

**RG de Stolfe**

My job moved on to other projects. One finished project of note, building a storage shed in Gleneagle near Black Forest (see story elsewhere in this issue).

On July 17th, I turned the big 40! I was in Lubbock at the time and generally had a good day, but nothing really exciting. Mom sent me a card that said "Red rover, red rover... your thirties are over!" Ha :-\, ha :-/, ha :-| (That is really sort of cruel! :-)

## Great Summer Youth Classes

The week of July 16-20, I taught a class during the Summer Youth Classes at the National Ranching Heritage Center. This class was called *Let's Rodeo*. This was actually a class I created in 2006 for the SYC. I taught it that first year and other people taught it afterwards. In 2007, 2008, and 2009, I taught leather working classes.

I had nine great students and many helpers, which made the class run smoothly! One helper was in my class from 2006! The kids learned about rodeo and the many events and circuits. The class was a physically active class where they learned about barrel racing, pole bending, flag racing, dummy roping, and a buck out. They actually competed for ribbons and the all around winner won a cool pop-up book about rodeo. The kids had a great time in all the classes!



*The 2012 Summer Youth Class, Let's Rodeo, with the 2012 Texas Tech University Masked Rider, Ashley Wenzel, and Midnight Matador! (The horse, sort of hidden in the back.)*



*Mid afternoon on July 22, 2012 while traveling back to Colorado Springs after spending a week in Lubbock. This is the same rest stop and tree along Highway 87 as in the photo from the last issue. I needed to pick up the last of my stuff I had to leave behind.*

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## The **Old Ranch Road**\*

As I travel around the city of Colorado Springs and surrounding areas, I have noticed quite an array of interesting street names. For instance, How would you like to live on *Wonderful Place*? Or how about on *Happiness Drive*? Perhaps you would like living on *Harmony Drive* or *Inspiration Drive* or *Whimsical Drive*. Maybe you are one to live on *Lonesome Road* or *Sleepy Hollow Circle*. If you are a kid, you would love living on *Hide-N-Seek Lane*. If you

are a teen, perhaps you would rather live on *Smoochers Circle* (is that actually at the top of a hill?)

On a different note, your ranch could be on *Sagebrush Drive* or on *Tumbleweed Drive*. What if you lived on *Gold Claim Terrace*. Would you be rich? And what exactly does living on *Kissing Camels Drive* mean? You could be driving on *High Country*

*Road* to get to *Creek Crossing*. Perhaps you left your *Leather Chaps Road* while on the *Ranch Drive*. I don't know. This is a *Roller Coaster Road* that has led me to *Out of Bounds Court*. My *Undimmed Circle* just tells me to go to *Nevermind Lane*. So I just take *Franciscan View* to *Popes Valley Drive* instead and stay on *Quiet Circle*!

*\*All the names in italic are actual street names in Colorado Springs and surrounding areas.*

## Bees Loving Russian Sage

In the front yard of one of my job locations were a bunch of mature, flowering Russian Sage plants (even bushes). The honey bees were all over these plants, buzzing around endlessly for hours! They had no interest in anything but the flowers. I could practically get as close as I wanted, and the bees didn't care!



## **America's Got Talent**

Another program I have watched since moving to Colorado Springs is *America's Got Talent*. As of this writing, all the divisional rounds are complete except for the two semifinals and the final round. This show has been amazing to watch! With the triumphs and the heartbreaks, the judges' squabbles and contentions, and the effort brought forth by all of the contestants, the semifinals and final rounds will be attention grabbing! I truly have no clue who will win this year's competition, for the variety and strength of the talent is awesome! We will soon see!

## New Batch of Cedar Picket Crosses

Just recently, I finished making a huge batch of wood crosses from some old cedar pickets. I have several sizes made and have them available for sale! Just contact me to buy one (quantities limited).

Large, \$22; Stepped, \$12; Medium, \$10; Small (magnet), \$4



Large



Stepped



Medium



Small

## My New Front Yard Planting Bed

Since my dad owns the house we are living in, I decided to have a planting bed in the front of the house this year instead of a garden in the back yard. After buying many plants and plant sharing with a neighbor, the plants are established and growing away! Here's a photo sampling. (More photos in another issue)



1. Purple Pixie Stokes Astor
2. Powwow Wild Berry Coneflower (Equinácea)
3. Denver Daisy, Rudbeckia
4. Celosia (red)
5. Perfectia Scabiosa
6. Empress Burgundy Charme Verbena
7. Serenity Rose Magic Osteospermum
8. Carpathian Bellflower, Blue Uniform
9. Camelot Foxglove

## Job Continues with Other Projects

As I continue to work my remodeling job, some jobs need something made from scratch (which is usually easier). For this project, we built an 8x10 storage shed to match the house. This project was in Gleneagle near Monument, north of Colorado Springs. (And by the way, a really pretty site to work at!)



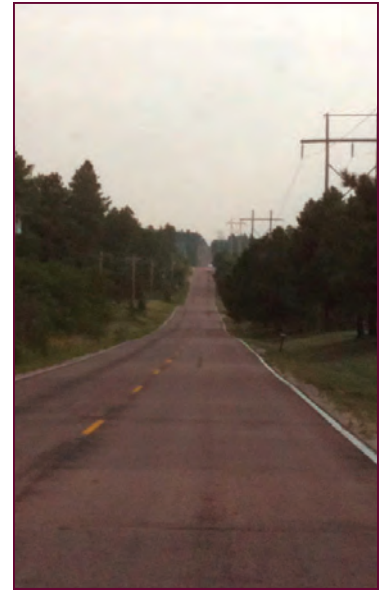
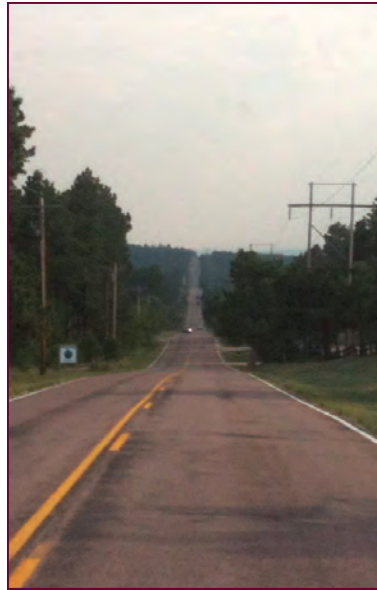
Framing the shed.



The finished shed.

## Roller Coaster Road

In Black Forest, there is a road that follows the contours of the hills. This road is aptly named, Roller Coaster Road! It's fun to drive, but the speed limit is only 35 and difficult to maintain!



## Vending Up An Idea

In late June, I posted on my Facebook page and unusual question, "Let's say you go up to a vending machine for a snack. What are your top two choices if whatever you wanted was in it?"

My friends posted many responses that were helpful. I bought a mechanical vending machine for snacks. This is the kind that you put quarters in and turn a knob. I got a really good deal at Goodwill and even bought it half off because it was that day's color! I then bought the appropriate snacks. Right now, I'm still trying to find a place to put it. But once I do, it'll be a nice source of some extra income! (If I don't eat all the snacks first!)

Find my working page on Pinterest!  
<http://pinterest.com/cowboyrg>



Find me on Facebook!  
<http://www.facebook.com/rg.destolfe>

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## London 2012 Olympic Games

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

Congratulations to the United States Olympic team for finishing number one in total gold medals, 46, and total overall medals, 104! Also, US Olympians won 29 silver medals and 29 bronze metals! Congratulations to all the athletes for an awesome summer Olympics games! (2016 Summer Games are in Rio de Janeiro!)

**London 2012 Olympic Games**

[Visit official site](#)   [Watch Online](#)



london2012.com

The 2012 Summer Olympic Games, officially the Games of the XXX Olympiad, also known informally as London 2012, began in London, United Kingdom, on 27 July and will continue until 12 August 2012. The ... [Wikipedia](#)

**Dates:** July 27 – August 12

**Medal count**

Leaders				Total
1 <a href="#">United States</a>	46	29	29	104
2 <a href="#">China</a>	38	27	23	88
3 <a href="#">Great Britain</a>	29	17	19	65
4 <a href="#">Russia</a>	24	26	32	82
5 <a href="#">Korea</a>	13	8	7	28

## Panda Loves Playing with Her String!



Dad's cat, Panda, loves playing with string and especially chasing the little red dot! Lately, she's liked sneaking outside to roam the wilderness on the other side of the window!

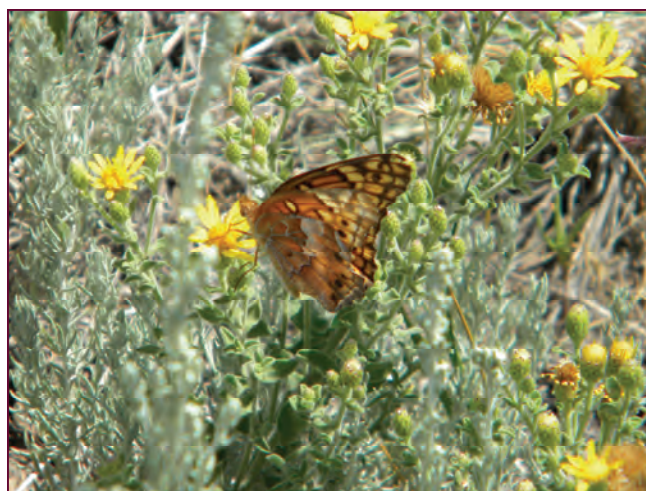
## Photos of The Month



*Left top: Along I-25 in Colorado while driving north when traffic was at a standstill because some construction workers spilled debris on the road from the railroad overpass they were working on! (June 2012)*

*Left middle: Found hibiscus while near Lake Palestine, Texas (May 2012).*

*Left bottom: The squirrels are always getting water in dad's back yard. (June 2012)*



*Above top: Unusual wild flower on side of the road near Capulin, New Mexico. (The entire plant is prickly! Also, not sure if the bee was alive or dead!) (July 2012)*

*Above middle: Colorful moth near wild flower from above photo. (July 2012)*



# BACK PAGE LITERATURE

## 40 Years of RG in Photos

In July 2012, I turned 40! (ho, hum.) Here is a selection of photos of me throughout the past 40 years (most from the 1990s and 2000s).



Late 1970s



Early 1980s

I was ring bearer for dad's cousin's wedding. ->



Early 1980s



Early 1980s

^Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine



Early 1980s



Summer 1988



1988

<- Mini golf in Key West with my Nike high-tops!



1989, for 1990 yearbook



1990, for 1991 yearbook



October 1993

More about my cousin Shawn in next issue ^



1997



1999



1999



2001



2001



2003



Ranch Day, October 2002



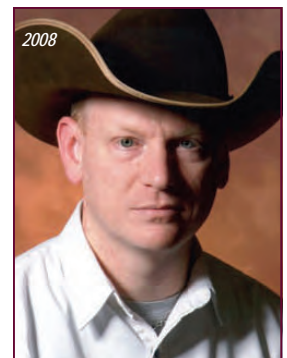
December 2003



Hawai'i Gala, May 2006



September 2008



2008