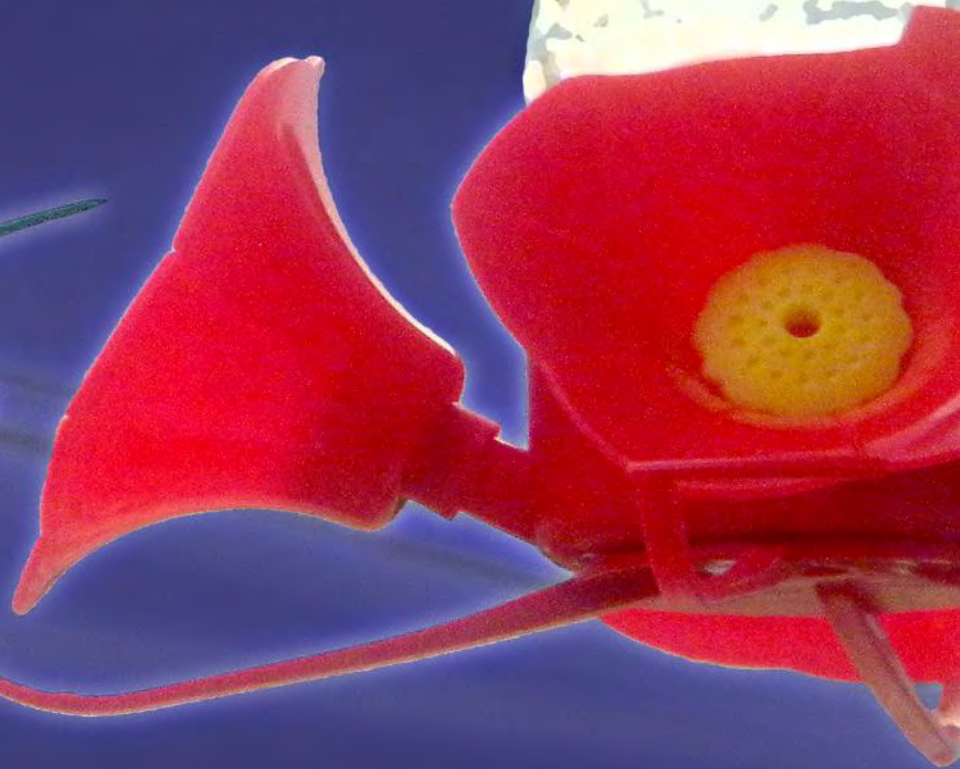


# de Stolfe Journal

August 2015 | 4.8

Candid



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# Candid Comments from the Producer



## Another Seasonal Transition

We are now right at the point between summer and fall. Fall is not technically here for another nearly three weeks, but summer is basically over for most people. What that also means is that we are in that gap before the fall-winter holidays. In addition, school has started, football season has started, and summer fun, activities, and vacations are over. The fall leaves will soon be here along with the harvests and the various activities that come with fall. It seems like a natural transition and a timely transition that we are ready for it to arrive.

August has been a steady month of work, time off, and little things. Leadville had many activities like Boom Days and various running and bike races that kept the town full and busy during the last rush of summer tourists and outdoor seekers. Attendance to the museum has waned considerably just like it did last year and

will likely continue with a slow decline until the museum closes. The hours were extended to Sunday, November 1, 2015, which is only a few days longer than last year.

In relation to the museum closing, I have big plans starting in early November after the museum closes. I am still working out details, but the news is such that most of you readers will likely be ecstatic about hearing! But for now, that news will have to wait until at least the September issue!

I hope you like this issue. There is no overt theme to this issue, but I wanted to put in a variety of stories and interesting topics.

Throughout a month, I compile a list of random subjects I want to include in the next journal. The ones I don't use often go into the next issue or the one after that. Enjoy!



## On the Cover

Finally! I was able to get some decent photos of a hummingbird by the feeder! I put the feeder in a different place this year and at a good vantage point for photos, outside a window. As a result, I got many photos of some hummingbirds (and bees) (although, I suspect it was only one or two that kept coming back).

## Word for Life

Here is a comparison of Psalm 91 with a NKJV Bible version and an 1895 Union prayer book (Jewish) in English and Hebrew. They are virtually the same except for some of the working that is different.

### Psalm 91:1-16

*"1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."*

*3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.*

*7 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.*

*9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.*

*14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."*  
(NKJV, New King James Version)

### PSALM 91

Dwelling in the shelter of the Most High, abiding in the shadow of the Almighty, I call Adonai my refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust. God will save you from the fowler's snare, from deadly pestilence. God will cover you with His wings; in His shelter you will find refuge. Fear not terror by night nor the arrow that flies by day, the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the plague that rages at noon. A thousand may fall by your side, ten thousand close at hand, but it will never touch you; God's faithfulness will shield you. You need only look with your eyes to see the recompense of the wicked. You have made Adonai your refuge, the Most High your haven. No evil shall befall you; no plague shall approach your dwelling. God will instruct His angels to guard you in all your paths, to carry you in their hands lest you stumble on a stone. You will step on cubs and cobras, tread safely on lions and serpents. "Since you are devoted to Me I will deliver you; I will protect you because you care for Me. When you call to Me, I will answer. I will be with you in time of trouble; I will rescue you and honor you. I will satisfy you with long life, and lead you to enjoy My salvation."

### ההלים צ"א

ישב בסתר עליון בצל שדי ותלונן. אמר ליהוה מחסי ומצודתי אלהי אבטחבו. כי הוא יצילך מפח יקוש מדבר היות. באברתו יסך לך ותחת כנפיו תחסה. צנה וסחרה אמתו. לא תירא מפחד לילה. מחץ יעוף יומם. מדבר באפל יהלך. מקטב נשור צהרים. ופל מצדך אלף ורבבה מימיןך. אליך לא יגש. רק בעיניך תביט ושלמת רשעים תראה. כיראתה יהוה מחסי, עליון שמת מעונך. לא תאנה אליך רעה ונגע לא יקרב באהלך. כי מלאכיו יצוה לך לשמרך בכל דרכיך. על כפנים ישאונך פנתגן באבן רגלך. על ששל ופתן תדרך, תרמס כפיר ותנין. כי חשק ואפלטוהו, אשגבהו כירידע שמי. יקראני ואענהו. עמו אנכי בצרה. אחלצהו ואכבדהו. אך ימים אשביעהו ואראהו בישועתי. אך ימים אשביעהו ואראהו בישועתי.

# Saddle Break Reads

## Facebook Posts—August 2015

*Note: These are only a curated selection of my posts I made on Facebook.*

### August 3

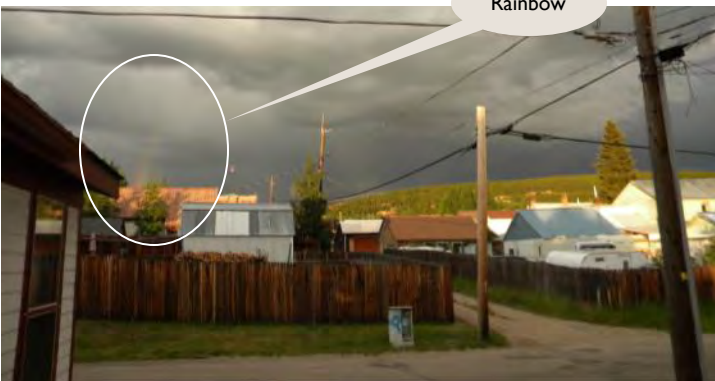
First time I've been here. Seems like it should be good. [breakfast] — at Golden Burro Cafe and Lounge.  
[Note: the biscuits and gravy were good.]

**August 10 • Leadville, CO**  
The sunset tonight.



**August 13 • Leadville, CO**  
Downtown Harrison Street looking from Capitol Hill, Wednesday evening. One street light. [See photos to the right.]

**August 13**  
Tonight's mean looking rain clouds.



**August 13**  
Small sample of today's photo excursion to the far east side of town near the mining district. [See page x for photos.]

**August 19**  
It's mid August, and that means the black eyed susans are in full bloom from Texas to Arizona and across the West. Why don't you post here your picks of the flowers that are so characteristic of the West!  
[Note: no one posted any photos.]

### August 24

My boss is sort of learning Texan. However, all he can guess is a phrase like "hasta la mañana", which is just basic Spanish. (Oh, and he's originally from New York.)

RG de Stolfe shared a memory from August 30, 2013.

**August 30 [2015]**  
Two years ago, I was in Florida visiting mom to do some painting. Most of the trees (the Live Oaks) in northeastern Florida look like this.



*Looking south down Harrison Avenue from the base of Capitol Hill in Leadville: day, dusk, and night.*





# Summer Youth Classes—What I Did

## *Ranch Drawing and Painting*

### at the National Ranching Heritage Center

I created this class last year as a sort of retooling of a similar class someone else taught in previous years. I wanted to focus on drawing and painting and the various structures, techniques, and creative ways to draw and paint.

**Day 1**—I used this day to lay a foundation of drawing using basic shapes, squares, triangles, and circles, to draw a simple cow. The other project that day was a free form drawing using a line I drew on the paper and the students had to create some sort of image using the line as part of the drawing. My only rule was that it could not be a snake (because that would be way too easy!)

**Day 2**—This day, the students drew one of several options using a grid. I gave out blank grids and told them that they needed to draw the image upside down and only one row of squares at a time. I wanted to show them that they could draw more complicated images by breaking it up into a grid.

**Day 3**—This day was plein air day! I took the class out into Proctor Park to have the students learn about drawing outside based on what they see. This year, they really seemed to like the concept. (Last year, the students had a hard time taking it seriously.)

**Day 4**—This day was more experimental. I had the students get leaves from the trees. Then, they did rubbings of them with chalk and conté. After that, they enhanced the edges of the leaves and tore the rubbings to extract the leaves from the paper. They glued them onto large pieces of watercolor paper, then used watercolors over the whole thing to finish the work.

**Day 5**—Because of the potential of having the Masked Rider appear, I needed a project that would not take the entire time. This day was focused on small works. I had the students do two postcard sized watercolors. The back was a regular postcard, and the front was the drawing/painting. (As it turned out, the Masked Rider did not come.)

Another thing I did over the days was to stress the importance of writing their names on their works, putting their finished works in their folders, and cleaning up after every class. In addition, we did critiques where each student went up to talk about their work and have the other students make comments. I was pleased that they were mostly respectful in the process.



## *They Live in a What??*

### at the International Cultural Center

Last year was the first time the International Cultural Center did a summer day camp like what the NRHC does. They did it in cooperation with the NRHC and it turned out to be a huge success. They needed teachers, and it turns out that I was the only one that taught at both venues. Depending on what the parent wanted, many students started at the NRHC in the morning, had a lunch break, and took classes at the ICC in the afternoon. In addition, they needed to create classes too. I proposed an idea, and that is what I did last year and repeated it again this year. My class was PowerPoint heavy last year, and so I lightened it some to allow for more craft time and activity time.

**Day 1**—This day was to lay a foundation about houses and to explain the various needs and styles of houses. With PowerPoint, I showed many examples (and did all week). The craft was to decorate a wood birdhouse.

**Day 2**—This day I majorly altered from last year and focused specifically on houses found in Texas. The craft was to make a Texas themed collage using photos from various house and Texas magazines.

**Day 3**—This day was focused on indigenous house around the world. I started out in North America talking about the various houses of Indian tribes around the country. Then moved to other countries to show what houses look like there. The craft was to make cylinder house using a large diameter cardboard tube and construction paper to make a cone shaped roof.

**Day 4**—This day was dedicated to modern houses and the various 20th and 21st century house styles. The activity was to design a house on the moon and learn about the limitations of doing that.

**Day 5**—This was game day! First, the students caught up with the previous projects as needed. Then I sent the students with the helper out of the room while I rearranged the room. When they came back, we were ready to play Family Feud! I found puzzle answers that were kid appropriate and I found an awesome PowerPoint template that made the Family Feud game very easy to modify. Unfortunately, because of the small class size, the game was not quite as fun as it could have been.

Overall the kids had fun, but I can still see where I need to improve some things for future classes. Also only having four students had its advantages, but also some disadvantages, too.



# Leadville Boom Days 2015

The largest event Leadville has is the annual Boom Days. This festival celebrates the mining past of the town. This year, the event was a week later on August 7-9, 2015. This Friday through Sunday is packed full of events and activities. Personally, I only got to participate in a small part of the weekend's activities since I had to work all three days. Here's a summary of the activities.

## All weekend

- Many food booths of various types of food (I liked the gyros)
- Many booths of crafts, retail goods, and other fun things
- Miner's competitions of different events
- Gunfighters and skits

## Friday

- Motorcycle games (various obstacle courses with motorcycles)
- Boom Days dance

## Saturday

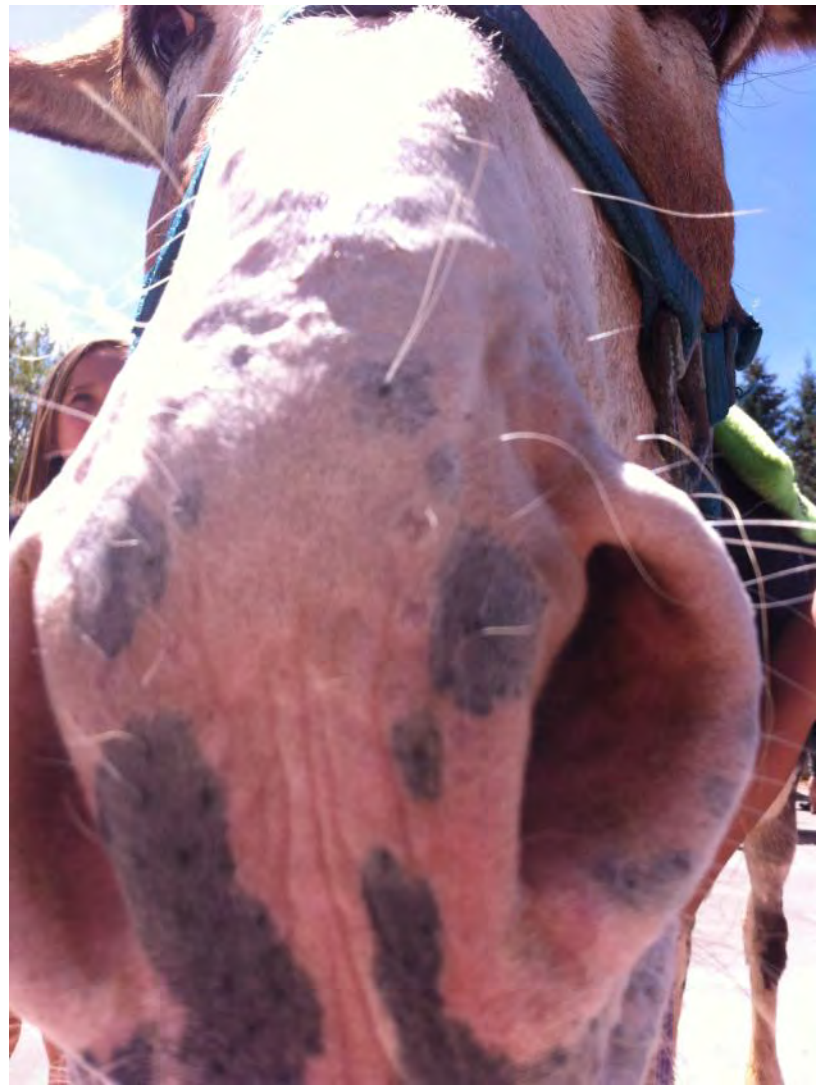
- Pancake breakfast
- Softball tournament
- Weightlifting competition
- Boom Days parade
- Auto show
- Boardwalk competition (four people a team walking with two boards on an obstacle course)
- Teen festival and party

## Sunday

- Cowboy church
- Pancake breakfast
- Softball tournament (continued)
- Mosey (people in Victorian period clothes competing in a mosey)
- Men's and women's burro race through the historic mining district

## Other events included

- Annual rod and gun show
- Various kids events, including a kids hand mucking
- Costumed events
- Pie eating contest
- Egg toss



*Here's the face of the winning burro, named Pandora, of the women's division and the owner Louise Kuehster.*

*Before and after of the big rock used for miner's drilling competitions. several other events took place on this plot of land.*



# 10 Years Since Living and Working in Branson



Okay, don't let the title fool you! Ten years now passed since I was in Branson, Missouri. I was in Missouri for about three weeks in September and very early October 2005. At the time, I worked for Flint Boot and Hat Shop in Lubbock. This is a store that repairs and resoles boots and makes custom felt hats. The business was looking to attend more out of town events to help expand the sales area for the custom hats, along with selling various retail goods.

The sales location they chose was at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. One worker went there in late August to set up the booth and establish his living arrangements (which was a 5th wheel trailer at an RV park). He decided a week or two into the event that he needed some additional help since the crowds were large many of the days and especially weekends. The owner of the store decided that I was the only one who he could send and still keep the shop running smoothly. As for me personally, I was in an extended rough patch of low pay and higher basic expenses. I ended up moving out of my quadplex (which is a whole other story in itself) and storing my truck (the gray one) and a flatbed trailer of my stuff in my boss's old chicken (or maybe it was ostrich) barn that he converted for storage literally the day before I left. He paid for my ticket to take a Greyhound bus that left very early in the morning on a route to Amarillo. From Amarillo, I took another bus that went through Oklahoma to Joplin, Missouri (basically following I-40 and I-44) then to Springfield, where the other employee picked me up. The last hour of that ride, which was dark, was full of heavy rain. From Springfield, we drove south to Branson.

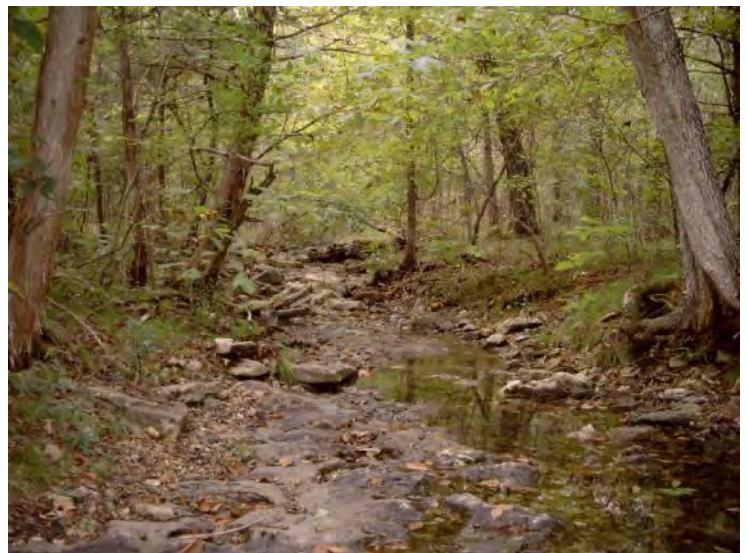
Silver Dollar City is a theme park attraction in southern Missouri with a heavy Ozark/hillbilly/frontier theme and is packed full of rides, shows, and themed food vendors, among much more. Throughout the year, they have various themed festivals. At that particular time, Silver Dollar City had a cowboy/western themed festival for two months in September and October. However, our booth was only scheduled for September in 2005. (In 2006, they went again and stayed the full two months.) The themed festival had many aspects, but one concentration of the festival was contained in what they called the Frisco Barn. In this barn were various booths that included us (felt hat makers) and others like a boot maker, leather worker, western furniture, etc. The main attraction was Buck Taylor (of Gunsmoke fame) and his watercolors. (By the way, he is quite the accomplished watercolor artist! Several custom watercolors of the NRHC's structures are part of the museum's collection.)

After I got there, I was basically a sales rep in the booth selling the various retail goods while the other employee concentrated on hat orders. For me, it was a reasonably peaceful time among the chaos of lack before and after.

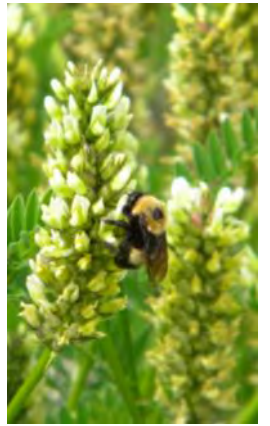
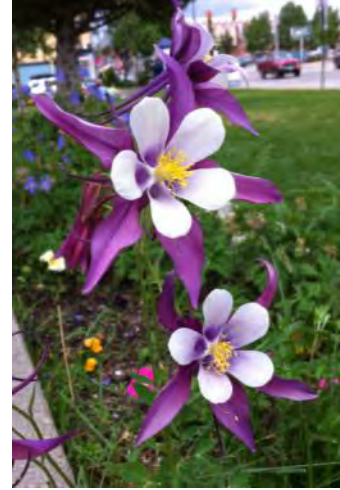
At about September 25 or 26, the remnants of hurricane Rita (category 5 at landfall on the 24th) drenched through Missouri during the night (which by that point downgraded to a heavy rain storm). Interestingly, the next day had rather nice weather, although everything was very wet. During our days off (we had two days off based on when the park was open and closed) to do whatever. Two or three times we went up to Springfield to do different things. We visited the largest Bass Pro Shop. (And by the way, that place was huge and went on and on and had a stream, fish tanks, live animals, etc.) One particular time, I went to the Henning Conservation Area in Branson, while the other employee played golf, and I walked the trails through the native Ozark forest. →

In early October at the end of our half of the festival, we packed up the booth and headed back to Lubbock the next day. I'm sure we were quite the sight! We had a dually pulling a long fifth wheel RV pulling a large

storage trailer behind that! We got back to Lubbock at about sunset. Near the end of October, we left again with a whole new setup to Las Vegas for a booth at the PBR Finals. Our booth was one of probably hundreds in a convention hall at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center.



# Summer Flower Wrap Up: Collection of 2015 Summer Flowers



Here is what the front garden at the museum looks like as of late August. Some of the plants are still flowering, while others are done for the year.

# 100 Years of Styles

In the June issue, I showed 100 years of hair styles. Another unrelated group took the idea further to include the entire style for men and women. And so, here it is.

Men: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaSkMWVIFUU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaSkMWVIFUU), Women: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4z90wIwYs8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4z90wIwYs8)



1915



1915



1925



1925

**1915**

**1925**



19



1935



1945



1945

**1935**

**1945**



195



195



196



1965

**1955**

**1965**

# 100 Years of Styles

Men: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaSkMwVIFUU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaSkMwVIFUU), Women: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4z90wIwYs8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4z90wIwYs8)



1975

1975

1975



1985

19

1985



1995

1995

1995



2005

2005

2005



2015

2015

2015

## More 100 Years of Beauty Series Videos



1920s

1980s

Italy: <https://youtu.be/MWX5793xu58>



1910s

WEST (FRG)

1980s

EAST (GDR)

Germany: [https://youtu.be/MEdEVJ\\_HOFU](https://youtu.be/MEdEVJ_HOFU)



# Boobies!

## Blue Footed Boobies (*Sula nebouxi*)

The blue footed booby is a marine bird in the family Sulidae, which includes ten species of long winged seabirds. Blue footed boobies belong to the genus *Sula*, which comprises six species of boobies. It is easily recognizable by its distinctive bright blue feet. Males display their feet in an elaborate mating ritual by lifting their feet up and down while strutting before the female. The female is slightly larger than the male and can measure up to 90 cm (36 in) long with a wingspan of up to 1.5 m (4.9 ft). The natural breeding habitats of the blue-footed booby are the tropical and subtropical islands of the Pacific Ocean. It can be found from the Gulf of California down along the western coasts of Central and South America down to Peru. Approximately half of all breeding pairs nest on the Galápagos Islands. Its diet mainly consists of fish, which it obtains by diving and sometimes swimming underwater in search of its prey.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue-footed\\_booby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue-footed_booby)

# The Texas Report

## Epic Texan Project

Wyman Meinzer is a Texan who lives in Benjamin, Texas. He is an official state Photographer of Texas. He lives in an old stone jail from 1887 that he long ago converted to a house. When he is not on photo shoots or helping his wife Sylinda at her shop, he takes photos of various miscellaneous things or does one of many projects that he has. In January 2015, he and his brother Rick decided to take on a project of epic—but very Texan—proportions! They created a dugout! In Texas, a dugout (or half dugout) is a structure partially underground. Most of the time it is made of wood or stone and wood that sometimes has a sod roof. It was most often used as a line camp on ranches in the 1800s. With the help of some modern day tools, namely a bobcat as one, they dug out the spot they wanted out of the side of a small hill. Then they used old railroad ties and telephone poles to make a support structure for the walls and roof. The entire process of building this dugout was fully documented on his Facebook timeline. The next few steps were to finish out the inside, firm up the dirt roof, stabilize the outside and finish, and finally build a raised deck near the dugout. Needless to say, they worked on it off and on for nearly 8 months between projects, snow, rain, and blistering heat! I've personally kept up with his posts and photos showing the particular steps they've done over time. When they finally said

they were done, they took this really cool photo in the front that later was used as the cover of the Fall issue of The Land Report magazine.

Features of the Antler Creek Dugout (named for the historic antler they found in the dirt) include a completely sealed interior with walls lined with wood planks, a stone floor, a wood fired stove (for heat and to cook on), two lanterns, and a door and small window. Outside, there is a continuation of the stone as a sort of patio and a raised wood deck off to the side perfect for grilling and lounging in the coolness of the days.

<http://landreport.epubxp.com/t/26512-the-land-report>



## More Texas Facts

- Texas is the only state to have the flags of 6 different nations fly over it. They are Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, Confederate States, and the United States.
- Although six flags flew over Texas, there were eight changes of government
  - Spanish 1519-1685,
  - French 1685-1690,
  - Spanish 1690-1821,
  - Mexican 1821-1836,
  - Republic of Texas 1836-1845,
  - United States 1845-1861,
  - Confederate States 1861-1865,
  - United States 1865-present
- The King Ranch in Texas is bigger than the state of Rhode Island.

- More wool comes from Texas than any other state in the United States.
- Texas is the only state to enter the United States by treaty instead of territorial annexation.
- Texas boasts the nation's largest herd of whitetail deer.
- Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.
- In 1836 five sites served as temporary capitals of Texas: Washington-on-the-Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco, and Columbia. Sam Houston moved the capital to Houston in 1837. In 1839, the capital was moved to the new town of Austin.

## You Know You Are From Texas When...

- You only know of five spices: salt, pepper, Ranch dressing, BBQ Sauce, and ketchup.
- You design your Halloween costume to fit over Wranglers and boots.
- You have more miles on your tractor than your car.
- You've taken your kids trick-or-treating when it was 90 degrees outside.
- You think sexy lingerie is wearing tube socks and a flannel nightie with only 8 buttons.
- You owe more money on your bulldozer than on your car.
- The local paper covers national and international news on one page, but requires six pages for local sports.
- You can write a check at Dairy Queen for 2 Hungr-Busters with fries.
- The most effective mosquito repellent is a shotgun.
- Your leaf-blower gets stuck on the roof.
- You think the start of deer season is a national holiday. (Note: some colleges will actually have a "student holiday" or have Veteran's Day as a holiday that happens to be about the same time as the start of deer season! Otherwise, they know that student attendance will drop anyway!)
- You frequently clean grease off your barbecue so the coyotes won't prowl on your deck.
- The major county fundraiser is sausage making.
- You find 70 degrees a little chilly.
- You attend a formal event in your best starched jeans, starched shirt, and boots.
- You know of four seasons: almost summer, summer, still summer, and deer season.
- You actually get these jokes and share them on Facebook to all your Texan friends.

# A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like A Medicine...

(Proverbs 17:22)

## Udderly Bad Cow Jokes, Mooove On...

What did the mama cow say to the baby cow?  
It's pasture bedtime.

Why did the cow jump over the moon?  
Because the farmer had cold hands.

What do you call a cow you can't see?  
Camooflauged.

What does a cow put on his French toast?  
Moooolasses.

What job is a cow most suited for?  
A baker, because they make cow pies regularly.

What do you call cattle with a sense of humor?  
Laughing stock.

What do you call a sleeping bull?  
A bulldozer.

What are cows' favorite subjects in school?  
Moosic, psycowolgy, cowculus...

What do you call a cow jumping over a barbed wire fence?  
Udder-catastrophe.

What are the spots on black and white cows?  
Holstains.

What do you call a cow with a twitch?  
Beef jerky.

Why are cows so soft?  
They are made out of leather.

What do cows wear in Hawai'i?  
Moo-moos.

What do you call a cow that just had a calf?  
Decalfinated.

What do you call a cow that doesn't give milk?  
An udder failure.

What do you call a cow on the barnyard floor?  
Ground beef.

What do you call a cow with full armor?  
Sir loin.

What do you call it when one bull spies on another bull?  
A steak-out!

Why can't the bankrupt cowboy complain?  
He's got no beef.

What newspaper do cows read?  
The Daily Moos.

Where do you find a gallery of cows?  
The mooseum.

What do you get when you give pasta to a cow?  
Beefaroni.

## So You Have a Computer Problem...

Here are a few jokes about when a person contacts tech support for some sort of computer "problem" (Note: some of these refer back to even nearly 30 years ago.)

Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one...

Tech support: Click on the "my computer" icon on to the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says "Can't find printer". I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it...

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.

Tech support: Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?

Customer: No. I can't get behind the computer.

Tech support: Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.

Customer: Okay.

Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?

Customer: Yes

Tech support: That means the keyboard is not plugged in.

Customer: I can't get on the Internet.

Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?

Customer: Five dots.

Tech support: What anti-virus program do you use?

Customer: Netscape.

Tech support: That's not an anti-virus program.

Customer: Oh, sorry... Internet Explorer.

Customer: I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.

Tech support: How may I help you?

Customer: I'm writing my first email.

Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem?

Customer: Well, I have the letter "a" in the address, but how do I get the little circle around it?

A woman customer called the printer company help desk about a problem with her printer.

Tech support: Are you running it under windows?

Customer: No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine.

Tech support: Okay Bob, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter P to bring up the Program Manager.

Customer: I don't have a P.

Tech support: On your keyboard, Bob.

Customer: What do you mean?

Tech support: P... on your keyboard, Bob.

Customer: I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT



## Influential Surfers of History

Believe it or not, in the 90s, I had a mild interest in the sport of surfing. I did not want to surf myself, I just liked various aspects of it and of the lifestyle. I really could not tell you much about it, the history of it, how it works, major players of the sport, etc. But living in Florida at the time, it is one aspect of the Florida lifestyle, especially near the beach.

On August 24, Google had its search icon that day of Duke Kahanamoku and his 125th birthday. He lived to be 78 and died in 1968. Then, I came across a list of the top 25 most influential surfers of all time. This isn't a list of the best surfers, this is a list of the most influential surfers. Here is the top 10 of that list, which spans many decades.

### Top 10 most influential surfers of all time

*As determined by Tim Nunn (2013) of Mpora (an outdoor sports website)*

*Rank, Name, born-died, (years competing)*

10. John John Florence, 1992-, (current)
9. Dane Reynolds, 1985-, (2000s-current)
8. Andy Irons, 1978-2010, (2000s)
7. Laird Hamilton, 1964-, (1970s-current)
6. Miki Dora, 1934-2002, (1950s-1960s)
5. Simon Anderson, 1954-, (1970s-1980s)
4. Bruce Brown, 1937-, (films: 1950s-1990s)
3. Tom Curren, 1964-, (1980s-current)
2. Duke Kahanamoku, 1890-1968, (1910s-1930s)
1. Kelly Slater, 1972-, (1990s-current)

<http://mpora.com/articles/most-influential-surfers-of-all-time>

No doubt that surfing has a culture all to its own, but has its influence over many decades in pop culture too (remember bright neon clothing in the 80s? That came from surfing clothes, "board shorts").



*This is a large oil painting I did in my painting class at the community college in the early 90s (1994?). The title is Chris in Tahiti. Chris Malloy is the surfer who was actively surfing and competing at the time I made the painting. (These colors are a little off, there are more blue-greens in the water.)*

# Ranching and Farming— A New Series

No doubt that ranching and farming are vital for the eventual stocking of our grocery stores, to provide food and nonfood products and goods. In this new series for the next few issues, I will explore and provide insight to some various topics related to ranching and farming. This first topic is about corn and harvesting.

Imagine you are somewhere in the middle states of the country from the panhandle of Texas to the Midwest and you drive on some rural road away from major cities past some corn fields. The corn stalks might look like they are ready to harvest or that the corn might even be turning brown. You might be wondering why the farmers haven't harvested their corn! The answer to that question has to do with the purpose and use of the corn! Contrary to popular belief, most corn produced is not for you to cook for your dinner! Instead, most corn produced has other uses than human consumption.

I found this interesting website called Agriculture Proud created by Ryan Goodman of Helena, Montana. He had a guest post in early 2014 on his site from Brian who has a corn farm in Indiana. Brian talks about why people think his corn is dying in the fields. He says,

*"I imagine this question is spurred by the idea many people believe when they drive through areas of the country, like Indiana where I farm, they are looking at endless expanses of sweet corn. This is not so. The vast majority of corn spotted in rural America is not sweet corn. And when I say majority I mean like 99% of it is not sweet corn. ...more than likely the corn in question is yellow dent corn. Dent corn feeds livestock, fuels cars, and makes plastics, starches, adhesives, and a huge array of other products. Sweet corn is harvested at what would be considered very early in the season..."*

He goes on to say that the corn that people think is dying in the fields later in the season is actually DRYING.

*"After pollination, kernels appear. Sweet corn is harvested shortly afterwards. When the kernels are formed and full of liquid it's called the milk stage because if you squeeze a kernel the stuff that squirts out has a milky consistency. After milk, we go to dough where the kernel gets a bit more solid. Eventually we hit black layer, which signifies physiological maturity. Black layer refers to a black layer at the tip of the corn kernel. So now, the corn is physiologically mature and dent corn is maybe a month further along than harvested sweet corn. Time for harvest, right? Nope."*

*"Corn can be safely stored for long periods at 15% moisture. Black layer is around 35% moisture in the kernel. 15% is a level at which the risk for developing storage issues is very low..."*

He continues to say that the corn needs to be at the 15% dry stage before selling to grain purchasers. If it's not, the corn must be dried, usually by using drying silos (which not all farmers have).

*"Dryers are generally powered by propane. Our dryer actually looks like a normal grain bin, but the top section has a floor to hold wet grain to be dried in batches. A large burner fan pumps air, sometimes over 200 degrees F, to dry the corn. Traps in the floor open after a specified period of time, and another batch enters."*

*"If we let corn dry all the way to 15% in the field we would likely lose more money in grain loss than what we'd pay for drying. I believe this is where the idea of dead corn comes into play. (Fields full of browning plants sitting in fields for weeks as compared to green sweet corn.) I want the corn to look dried up, but when the time is right, I want the corn out of the field as fast as we can harvest."*

<http://agricultureproud.com/2014/01/09/ask-a-farmer-why-do-farmers-leave-dying-corn-in-fields/> (Also, watch the video on this page.)

## Scientists recently discovered a new breed of hummingbird! They have named it *Equetrochilidae*



## Chris The Sheep

This is Chris the Sheep. He is the woolliest Merino sheep (ram) ever to be recorded. He escaped the flock—and hence shearing—for 5 to 7 years and has wandered the Australian bush ever since. Once found by some hikers (besides the confused kangaroos), he soon got help because that much wool causes health risks and even potentially death. A four time national champion sheep shearer named Ian Elkins came to do the job of shearing (sheep shearing is a major competitive sport in Australia!) before any medical attention could be given. The short cut of it is that 89 pounds of fleece came off! (That would make 30 sweaters just from that one fleece!) That is approximately eight times the normal sized fleece, which usually would range ten to twelve pounds. Chris the Sheep is now much lighter and cooler for the summer months in Australia (which is opposite of that in the northern hemisphere).

[www.cbsnews.com/pictures/the-shear-bravery-of-chris-the-runaway-sheep](http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/the-shear-bravery-of-chris-the-runaway-sheep)



*Chris the Sheep before shearing and after shearing 89 pounds of wool! (The reddish spots are antiseptic applied by the vet.)*



*No word about what will happen to the fleece, but the Canberra Times (Australia) suggests that it might go up for auction or could go to a museum.*

# English, Irish, And Scottish Breakfast Teas... And Just What Is The Difference?

## Breakfast Tea

A rich black tea blend meant to drink with a hearty breakfast. Since this tea is stronger than other teas later in the day, milk added to the tea is good. Also, breakfast teas tend to be higher in caffeine.

## Okay, so what's the difference?

According to the referred website, this is the explanation about **English breakfast tea**: this tea “would originally have been a China black tea. Over time tea blenders incorporated teas grown in India and Sri Lanka as well as Africa and Indonesia. The English started importing Chinese tea in the 17th century and then it really kicked into gear in the 18th century. For all intents and purposes the first English breakfast tea was a China congou tea... Then, during the Opium Wars, China imposed an embargo on tea. Around the same time, the British East India Company started producing tea in Assam, India. For awhile the old stocks of Chinese tea were dwindling and the new stocks of Indian tea started coming in, and they were blended together. Jump ahead to the end of the 19th century and tea was beginning to be produced in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). You started to have a stronger and stronger Ceylon component in English breakfast tea.”

**Irish Breakfast Tea**—has a strong Assam component, which gives it a more robust, malty flavor and reddish color. [This tea could] have been growing in popularity in Ireland around the time that the British East India Company was producing tea in Assam...”



**Scottish Breakfast Tea**—“tends to be the heartiest of the bunch, possibly due to Scotland's soft water. Back in the day, teas were blended specifically for the water conditions in the areas in which they were marketed and consumed... perhaps the water in Scotland demanded a stronger tea.”

## Summary

- **English breakfast:** Full-bodied and rich. Originally a China black tea but now frequently includes a strong Ceylon tea component. May also include teas from Assam, Africa, and/or Indonesia.
- **Irish breakfast:** More robust than English breakfast. Generally has a strong Assam component, giving it a malty flavor.
- **Scottish breakfast:** Typically the strongest of the three. May include teas from China, Assam, Ceylon, Africa, and/or Indonesia.

# Upcoming Issues

The next issue is the September 2015 issue (4.9). Here's a preview of topics to come in future issues.

## + Historic Ads

Another round of interesting and fun ads from the 1800s!

## + Coffee Basics

Time for a recap of the basics about coffee! Learn about the simple things of coffee that will make it better.

## + Chicken Series

More info about having back yard chickens.

## + Carpenter Gothic

A little more information about this style that I reported about in the September 2014 issue of the journal.

## + TTYL <3 U

Ever wonder about those groups of letter and symbols are that people text? (Talk To You Later, Love You.)

## + More Ranching & Farming Topics

For the next few issues, I will include more topics about ranching and farming.

## + Historic Fire Hydrant

More about this in coming issues.

## + Early Names & Symbols for Jesus

After Jesus came, some groups didn't like Him! For centuries after He ascended, Christians had to create symbols to identify themselves to avoid execution!

## RG de Stolfe



806.470.5867  
[rgdestolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:rgdestolfe@yahoo.com)

[Interim Leadville Address]  
PO Box 734  
Leadville, Colorado 80461

# Back Page Literature

## *The Texas Republic* by William Ransom Hogan

*In the summer of 2002, I took a Texas History course while I was a grad student at Texas Tech University. It was a summer course of only about five or six weeks in July and August that covered an intensive, condensed version of the regular Texas History course. Part of what we needed to do for the class was weekly book reviews. These reviews only needed to be a few pages of a review of whatever books that relate to Texas history of any time period and subject. Here is another book review of the four I did.*

In the preface, the author reveals two reasons for writing this book. First, the coverage of Texas history as a Republic was all too often blurred: simply neglected or underdeveloped. Second, to address the modern (as of the date of book 1930s-40s) "Texan myth" or social aura ("a Texan way of life") during the Republic period and find out if the myth was actually true. These chapters are divided by subject. Therefore, a summary will be given chapter by chapter.

Chapter one discusses how emigrants left from states in the south to trek to Texas by land, river, and sea, in detail much like how the gold rush brought people from all over the east to California 10-20 years later. The author goes into much detail describing the routes by land, river, and sea and the various levels of luxury (or lack thereof) in travel, particularly with the steamboats and schooners. He described how the population during these waves of newcomers swelled the population of Texas from about 25-30 thousand to about 142 thousand not including slaves and Mexicans. He talks about land settlement with the Texas land grants and the distribution of such based on the people being granted. He talks about the German influx as part of the land grants. Clear titles of the land was an important issue with the coming settlers due to fraudulent land certificates issued by corrupt local boards. Settlement of Texas lands became slow and conflicting. After the revolution, Texas needed to economically recover. The growing and selling of cotton became an issue for financial gain along with other agricultural products despite market conditions and the weather. The author goes into great detail telling about Texas' main economic source, cotton. Hogan also briefly mentions about the herds of wild cattle, and how raising cattle was some people's livelihood.

The second chapter describes the daily lives of the Texan people. Hogan spends pages describing the various types and styles of building construction and decoration in relation to the climate, the people, and the availability of building goods. He briefly talks about fire control and city counsels' attempts to make the cities livable. The author spends much time in great detail discussing the various foods and cooking of the people in the early Texas Republic. Colorful, primary examples are used in talking about the use of tobacco (chewing) and the consumption, making, and serving of alcohol. In addition, a long discussion of

liquor establishments and occasions for drinking were colorfully described. The last part of this chapter gave a wide range of detail regarding clothing of the Texans.

The third chapter talks about the roads in the Republic. When wet, the roads were basically untravelable. While dry, they were fine, but often because of a drought, to farmers' dismay. Travel in the Republic was uncertain at best. The weather basically dictated how well travel will occur. Crossing rivers often required the use of a ferry. The postal system of this time was inefficient and often unreliable because of what the weather did to the roads. When the governmental mail system almost completely broke down, private mail handlers started forming. Steamboat navigation filled the remainder of this chapter.

Chapter four. In 1837, a worldwide panic (the great convulsion), that caused major shutdowns of banks in the United States, also affected Texas. Texas money became practically worthless. Land ownership was under strict control of the government and made many restricting and even counteractive laws. Because of the economic slump and inflated money, land became extremely cheap and people even had to sell it for slim fractions of what it was worth just to get some money. During much of the Republic period, despite economic slumps, town booms were a craze. Houston was made the capital of the Republic of Texas because of this. By the end of 1841 when Sam Houston started his second term, the Texas treasury didn't have a cent and the debt was into the millions of dollars. Businesses resorted to the barter system just to be able to operate.

Hogan spends a full chapter (chapter 5) dedicated to the Texan's ways of leisure. Among some of the most discussed kinds were barbecues, dancing, hunting, watching plays and circuses, gambling, and horse racing.

The rest of the chapters in this book cover topics of education, frontier humor, religion, disease and medical care, laws and lawyers, and cultural individualism (chapter 12 is a book summary chapter).

The Texas Republic: A Social and Economic History by William Ransom Hogan accomplishes exactly what the title states. This book was written in easy to read language in a way that is immediately understood without needing much prior knowledge about this subject. Since the Republic of Texas only existed for fifteen years, the subject classification of the chapters is more appropriate in the understanding of the people's lives and the economic history of this country. The chapters themselves were not terribly long, but were written with extensive detail that did seem to be never ending sometimes. Twenty-four illustrations were included (about two per chapter).

Though books made during this time period did not typically have loads of illustrations, if a modern version of this book were made, much more use of illustrations and diagrams and photos will greatly add to the dynamic nature of the reading. Hogan includes a preface that he calls Afterthoughts, which apparently was written before the third printing. He offers a candid and amusing interpretation of how he wrote this book and even included excerpts from critics who he then commented on. He even went so far as to critically analyze what he would do different to the book if he were to write another version. This book includes an acceptable index of 11 pages and provides an extensive bibliography. This bibliography is 27 pages long and is divided by the type of reference. He includes sources of manuscripts (personal, business, organization, and governmental), newspapers, books, pamphlets, periodicals, and theses. Each one of these sections has a large number of sources listed. Needless to say, Hogan used and synthesized enough varied sources for this book to be a leader on this topic.

Considering the publication dates of this book (1946, 1969), the visual learning aspects are meager. However, if a new version of this book was created using the same text material but with added maps, charts, photos, et cetera (along with a few dated statements), the dynamic of this reading will be greatly enhanced. The value that Hogan contributed is significant because of the fact that very few books are available about the Republic of Texas as its own country. As a learning and research source, The Texas Republic is an invaluable resource worthy of a copy to a historian (or anyone really) for even basic knowledge about Texas.

