

de Stolfe Journal *Candid*

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Happy New Year!



RG de Stolfe

Well, here we are again celebrating another change of years. And of course, we again say things like, "Where did this year go?" or "This year went by fast!" But—as we should understand—time goes no faster or slower, we just pay less attention to it, and so it appears like it disappeared faster.

Anyway, I digress. For me, I have had much significant change, as you may or may not have had. In this issue, I will report the things of December and have a year in review of what I did and such.

So, Happy Old Year while we also celebrate Happy New Year!

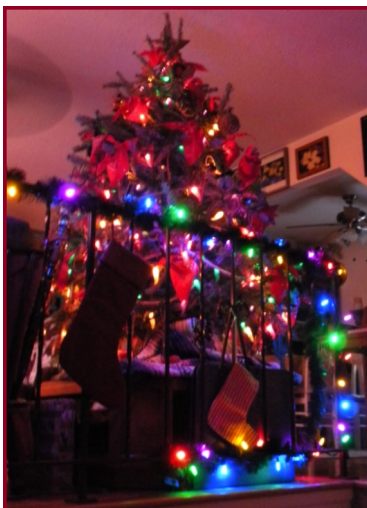
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Whirlwind of Christmas Activity

First Steps

Since moving to Colorado Springs, I've had most of my stuff still stored away. But I intended to celebrate Christmas just the same as if I was in my own place. I waited until after Thanksgiving before I even thought about anything Christmasy. Then the first step was to put lights outside on the various trees and shrubs. Then into December, I bought a



Christmas tree and decorated it in my usual style. With this, the Christmas feeling was started!

Pacing Until Christmas Weekend

The rest of December continued as a pace of figuring out presents, baking my favorite goodies, and getting ready for visitors. For me personally, I've rarely had visitors come to my house for Christmas. I usually went somewhere else. We knew for a while ahead of time that some of dad's friends would come to spend Christmas with us this year. So with that, we made various preps to be

ready for Christmas guests. In addition, we knew of various activities that were planned everyday they were here for us to do.

What's that? And dogs too?

Our Christmas guests have two dogs, a relatively small white Westie and a Black Lab, both with pretty high energy as I found out back in April, when we visited them on our way to Vegas. We did know this ahead of time, but we wondered how our cat would react to them once they got here. They have a cat too, so the dogs are like whatever, but our cat isn't used to having any other animals around since dad got her. Okay, so they arrive in the late afternoon on December 22. Pretty quick as they were bringing their stuff in, the cat seems to disappear with no idea where she is. Even the little trick of shaking the cat treats, which usually has her appearing instantly, didn't work. Okay, so we just give it some time. Meanwhile after they got somewhat



Sunday, December 23, 2012

This is Christmas Eve Eve and the only day we didn't have some planned dinner to go to. This is also the day that was dad's 70th birthday. Two weeks prior, I bought a semi-custom birthday cake and some presents. So, that morning, we had pancakes and had planned to go to Cripple Creek for some short photo shooting, dinner, and light gambling on the slots (mind you, them mainly since they had the spare money, not me). Before we left, I picked up the cake, and we had the cake and presents. Then, we packed everyone and everything up and headed to Cripple Creek.



Cripple Creek

The weather was pretty cold with a forecast of snow before Christmas, another reason going on this day was best. Cripple Creek is a little higher in elevation and likewise cooler. We stayed in the jeep mostly while taking photos. We got there a little later than planned, so the light was fading fast, especially at the darkest time of year. So, we got some photos of a few things, then decided just to go to dinner. The place we've been to a few time was a nice little restaurant called, Maggies. We had a nice dinner, then went upstairs to the casino.

Okay, brief description of Cripple Creek. This was a gold mining community during it's hey day. Then it became a near ghost town until gambling came in recent times and turned all the old store fronts into small casinos. Like casinos go, the names change, but they brought in tourists and so brought in a source of economy for the dying town.

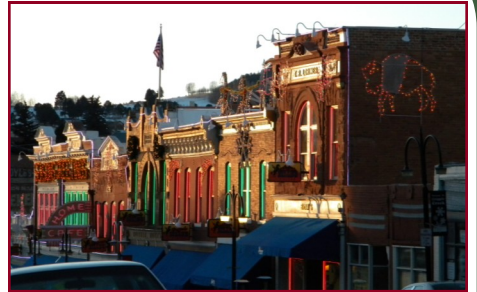
After a little gambling, we then left and came back to the house.

Christmas Eve

The main activity of this day, Christmas Eve, was a party that friends of our guests had at their house. I personally didn't know any of them, but had a very nice evening of fine food and conversation. While we were there, the snow started lightly falling. Yeah! Christmas snow! I went to bed with a thankful heart of what Christmas means and how I relate to it.

Christmas Day!

I woke up later morning and before long, we all went over to our guest's daughter's house (who also lives in Colorado Springs) for Christmas dinner and gift exchange. There were a bunch of people who came, and most interestingly, also with all their dogs, too! There were a total of 10 dogs of all sizes and breeds! Pretty wild! Also while we were there, the snow started



For more photos of Cripple Creek, go to page 3.

falling again. We had a good dinner and a generally good Christmas day.

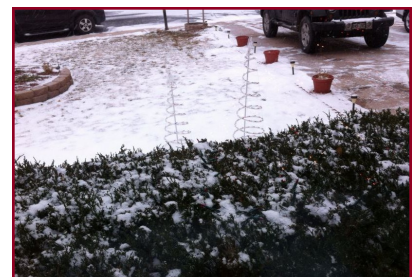
Rounding Up

Our guests left the day after Christmas in the morning to try to get back home while the roads through the mountains were in good shape.

Oh, and about the cat. Dad decided it was time for the cat to meet the dogs. So, he picked her up and brought her to the dogs, who were in their cages for the night. The dogs just looked at her and were quiet, but the cat, however, growled and hisses and swatted at the dogs! The dogs didn't do anything which is what made the whole thing very funny!



Christmas Eve snow

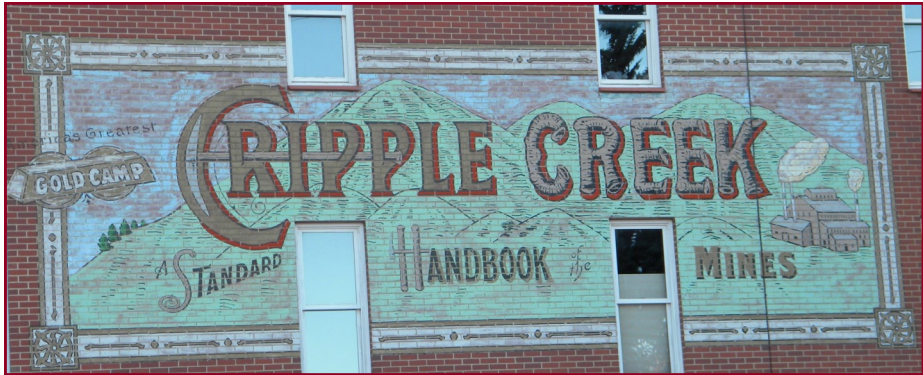


Christmas Day snow

Photos of the Month

Cripple Creek, Colorado.

This once old gold mining town is now a haven for tourists with it's history and casinos.



2012: Year in Photo Review

Jan



While living in my duplex in Lubbock, I had two favorite things, photographing my fires in the fireplace (above) and photographing with my phone through the fisheye lens of the front door (below). I have many photos of each!



My second "term" of working for Steak Express as a delivery driver started in December 2011 and continued until May 2012. (My first "term" was October 2007 to January 2009.)

Feb

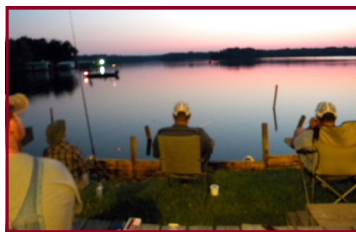


On February 18, I went again to the Rock and Worship Roadshow 2012 when it came to Lubbock at the United Spirit Arena. Fun!

Mar



At my church in Lubbock, I was somewhat a regular with my singles group (we never could come up with a good name). Some of the "regulars" threw me a good party at On The Border!



As a sort of last Texas hurrah, I drove down to see my friends in Cisco after I put all my stuff in storage and turned in the keys to the duplex. We then drove to Tyler to meet up with his family for a cabin weekend on Lake Palestine in East Texas. Nice and relaxin!



Apr



For several years, dad has gone to this trade show in April called Cinemacon, which is right in line with his industry. So I decided that I would go this year for a sort of vacation. As it turned out, it was very interesting in showing the latest technology that is coming to a theater near you!



May

Jun



Although it didn't affect me directly, the Waldo Canyon fire in late June was a big deal for the people who lived in or near where the fire was! This summer, the Pioneer Museum in Colorado Springs is having an exhibition about the fire.



On June 3rd, I saw Lubbock in my rear view mirror as I headed to Colorado Springs. I stayed the night at a rest stop near Des Moines, New Mexico and drove in to CS on June 4th. I ate breakfast at Denny's in Raton.

2012: Year in Photo Review



I drove back to Lubbock in mid July as part of my agreement to teach the Summer Youth Classes 2012. I taught the class I started called Let's Rodeo. Here is my class with the 2012-2013 Masked rider, Ashley Wenzel, and horse Midnight Matador, who is now officially retired.

Jul 40

As of July 17, 2012 I turned 40 years old (sigh.) This was while I was in Lubbock, and I didn't really do much. I did go to my favorite restaurant, Rosa's Café!

Aug



Same spot near Des Moines, NM on my way back. Had a few last things to pick up and take back with me.



At the end of August, we went to the Colorado State Fair. At the front door was a spin-and-win contest and I won free tickets to see the Steve Miller Band. I wasn't very familiar with them but did recognize many of the songs. Overall, it was a good concert and the fair was interesting.

Sep



Summer 2012, I carved out a strip of land near the house to have a flower garden. Many of these will grow again next year.



Oct



I had a job that started in late June and continued until late August when it suddenly ended. After that time, I really didn't do much for several months, except for various miscellaneous things. I did focus on getting products together for my newly named product line, Cows Chewin' Cud, knowing that I needed to start making stuff for Christmas sales. In addition, with the holidays soon to come, I started baking and decorating.



Small Business Saturday (after Thanksgiving)

tophandgraphics.com

Nov



12.12.12 12:12:12 !

Dec



Homemade pumpkin pie!



Apple Pie

Sour cream banana nut bread



Old Colorado City during the last First Friday Art Walk of 2012. Similar to the First Friday Art Trail in Lubbock.



Back Page Literature

Into the 20th Century, trains transformed. First, cars shifted to all steel construction instead of wood and steel fabrication. Then, the Santa Fe along with other rail companies made a bold move at the height of the Great Depression that revolutionized rail travel with the introduction of the "Superliner".

This completely new style and travel concept brought rail travel into its golden age. These gleaming new trains were lightweight, futuristic, and streamlined. They featured bright color schemes and themes represented in their names, like Chief, Super Chief, El Capitan, and California Limited. Along with sleepers and coaches, a variety of dining and leisure options existed with various combinations of dining cars, café cars, lunch counters, lounge cars, snack cars, and observation cars.

Dining was still relatively luxurious but updated, and it was affordable to most passengers. A 1949 Super Chief promotional brochure stated:

"For more than half a century, discriminating travelers have recognized Fred Harvey dining car service on the Santa Fe as outstanding in the transportation world. Fred Harvey food has always meant food well chosen, attractively prepared, and carefully served. This famous service reaches its fines expression in the beautiful 'dining room on wheels' of the new Super Chief, with its carefully chosen personnel, its gleaming silver and glassware, snowy napery, and especially designed china."

As the use of airplanes and automobiles increased during post-war decades, railroad travel gave way as a primary choice for travel, especially after establishment of the National Highway System. By the late 1960s, several of the largest railroads were facing bankruptcy.

The United States Congress intervened and created the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. All passenger rail service was taken over and Amtrak service was started on May 1, 1971. Amtrak survived despite a wobbly transition, but by the late 1980s, Amtrak service was at least acceptable if not outstanding.

The Santa Fe Railway still exists, but as a freight line. The Santa Fe merged with Burlington Northern in 1995 to form the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF).



Interior of the Super Chief dining car.



Super Chief train line with its "war bonnet" paint.

Continuing from November's issue of de Stolfe Journal Candid is the second half of the article I wrote called Dining on the Santa Fe that was featured in the Summer 2007 issue of the Ranch Record magazine.

Brief Timeline of the Santa Fe Railway

- 1859 "Atchison and Topeka Railroad Company" started by Cyrus Holliday
- 1863 Name changed to Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad"
- 1868 Ground broken to start laying tracks
- 1876 Fred Harvey and AT&SF agree to establish Harvey House restaurants
- 1888 AT&SF started carrying their own dining cars, Harvey provided the service
- 1892 California Limited line started
- 1895 Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company incorporated
- 1911 Santa Fe de-Luxe line started
- 1914 First all steel passenger cars
- 1916 The Scout line started
- 1917 Santa Fe de-Luxe line ended
- 1926 The Chief line started
- 1930 First air-conditioned cars used on Santa Fe diner #1418 of the Chief
- 1935 The Super Chief line started (1935-1971)
- 1938 El Capitan line started
- 1954 The Scout line ended (after multiple reassignments)
- 1954 San Francisco Chief line started (1954-1971)
- 1958 El Capitan and Super Chief lines consolidated into one line
- 1967 California Limited line ended
- 1968 The Chief line ended
- 1971 Amtrak started, taking over all passenger rail service
- 1996 AT&SF freight railway merged with "Burlington Northern Railroad" to form "Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway"



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