

de Stolfe Journal Candid

February 2013 — Issue 2-2

Robert-George de Stolfe, publisher

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As the World Turns...

No, I'm not talking about a soap opera! I'm talking about how we are now 1/6th of the year finished. Easter is in a month, spring in less than that, and we can now go home after work with some daylight! It won't be long before the flowers will start blooming and the days will be warmer, even if the nights are still cold.

The main idea here is that things are 'a'changin, as it does throughout the year, every year. I have now been in the Springs for 9 months. As you recall, I came up here in the beginning of June last year, then not too long after that, started this newsletter. I remain hopeful and expectant for a turnaround of my job/career very shortly.

As I mentioned briefly in the last issue, I am sorta working for a saddle/tack shop in Falcon, Colorado (just northeast of the Springs a few miles). I started working there after I took some stuff to them for consignment. They needed someone to help them with eBay and Craig's List postings for they just didn't have enough time to really focus on it. I am not paid hourly, but by commission. I spend quite a few hours weekly, which is fine. The more work I can put in, the more availability for items to sell and therefore to get a commission! And besides, it gives me a means to get out of the house and actually feel useful by doing something.

Next month—the end of March—into April, I will be



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doing some traveling. I applied and got a scholarship to attend a conference! So, that confirmed me being able to go and so I'm planning now the details of the trip. Refer to an article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

So far this year, I've felt much better about various things than I did back during fall, when I did not have much going on. Happy Reading!



<http://pinterest.com/cowboyrg>



<http://www.facebook.com/rg.destolfe>



<http://myworld.ebay.com/cowboyrg>

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Front Range Sunset

Photos of the Month



Snow on February 20, 2013 at night. Not color corrected!



The next morning on February 21, 2013, back yard.



Hmmm... Seems appropriate! (Falcon, Colorado)



Taken on February 20, 2013 in the morning before the big snow, but did have some very light snow to cover this branch.

A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like a Medicine (Proverbs 17:22)

Here's an oldie but goodie!

Two sisters, one blonde and one brunette, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble. In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they need to purchase a bull from the stockyard in a far town so that they can breed their own stock.

They only have \$600 left. Upon leaving, the brunette tells her sister, 'When I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul it home.'

The brunette arrives at the stockyard, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it. The man tells her that he will sell it

for \$599, no less. After paying him, she drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram to tell her the news. She walks into the telegraph office and says, 'I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch. I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home.'

The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help her, then adds, 'It's just 99 cents a word.' Well, after paying for the bull, the brunette only has \$1 left. She realizes that she'll only be able to send her sister one word.

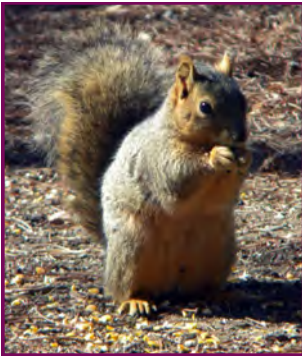
After a few minutes of thinking, she nods and says, 'I want you to send her the word 'comfortable.'

The operator shakes his head. 'How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send her just the word 'comfortable?'

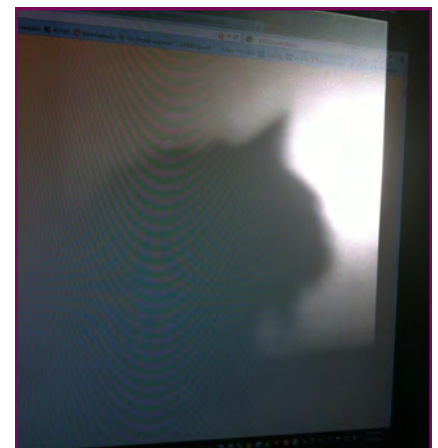
The brunette explains, 'My sister's blonde. The word's big. She'll read it very slowly ... com-for-da-bull.'

They keep on entertaining!

The squirrels and birds



The kitty cat, Panda



Left: Kitty by light of my iPhone 4 flash. (and getting cat hair all over my blanket!)

Above left: Kitty sleeping where she shouldn't be: on my dirty clothes in the closet!

Above right: While working on my computer, the sun came through the window in the late afternoon casting Panda's shadow, from sitting in the window, on my screen.

My Trucks



1992 GMC Sierra 1500 extended cab, 8 cylinder. This was my first truck that I got in Flagstaff in 1999 until 2006.



1997 GMC Sierra 1500 regular cab, 6 cylinder. I got this truck in Lubbock in 2007 until I traded it in 2009 for the truck below.



2008 GMC Sierra 1500 regular cab, 6 cylinder. I got this truck also in Lubbock in 2009 when I traded in the above truck.

Romans 8:6

“
For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.
”

Psalm 13:5

“
But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
”



Some friends decided to find a place to put a tumbleweed after a windy day. Guess where?



"Doc, hey Doc? We gotta get back to the future!"
This was taken in the summer 2010 at my apartment in Lubbock. I was about to leave and there the DeLorean was! (minus the time machine features, of course!)

Artist Corner—Jackson Pollock

The following bio comes from Wikipedia.

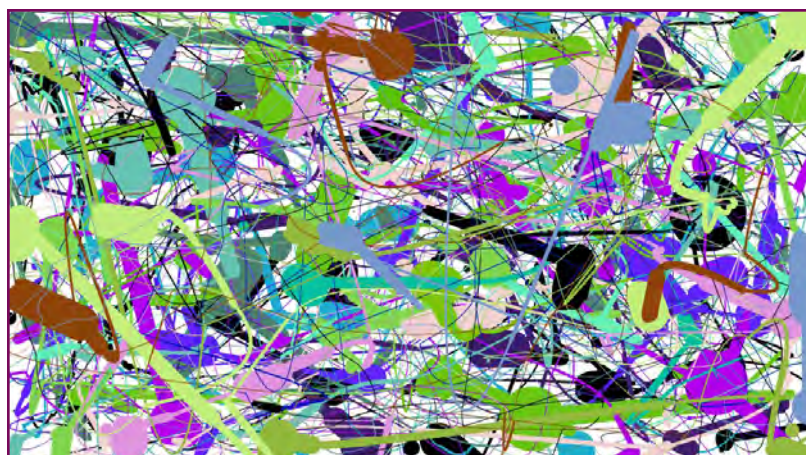
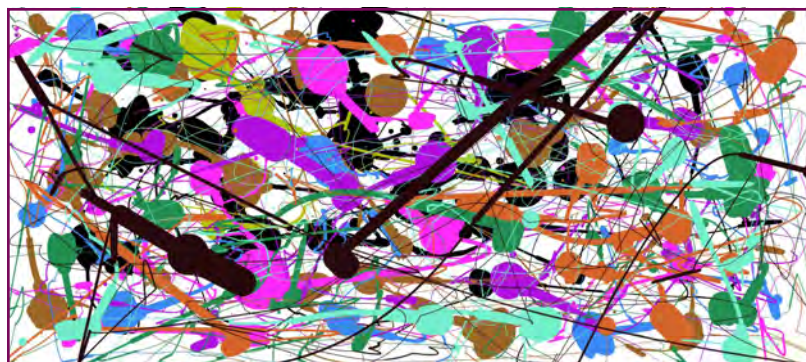
Paul Jackson Pollock (January 28, 1912 – August 11, 1956), known as Jackson Pollock, was an influential American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement. He was well known for his uniquely defined style of drip painting.

During his lifetime, Pollock enjoyed considerable fame and notoriety. He was regarded as a mostly reclusive artist. He had a volatile personality, and struggled with alcoholism for most of his life. In 1945, he married the artist Lee Krasner, who became an important influence on his career and on his legacy.

Pollock died at the age of 44 in an alcohol-related car accident.



The images to the right I created on a special website where you too can make your own Pollock style “paintings”! Just go to: www.jacksonpollock.org.



Museum Conference

For those of you who don't know by now, I have a Master degree in Museum Science that I got in 2003. Museum Science, or more commonly called Museum Studies most elsewhere in the world, is a program for teaching the many, many aspects of working in a museum. (There's a WHOLE LOT more to it than this grossly simplified statement, but this article is not the time or place to go into details.) Like with most professions, there is a trade association. The national one is called the American Alliance of Museums, but there are also state and regional associations. The largest state association is the Texas Association of Museums, which is of course based in Texas.

They have annual conference meetings in various cities around Texas. I first attended the 2002 meeting which happened to be in Lubbock that year and hosted by the very museum where I was taking my classes. We attend free as a volunteer, which was also required for our classes. I didn't go to a meeting again until 2010 when it was in College Station. I've tried to go since then, but just couldn't financially make it work. Well, this year I said that somehow I was going to go so I didn't become disconnected from my profession again. Well, TAM was offering several full scholarships by way of their affinity groups. Well, I applied to one of the

group scholarships and found out a couple of weeks later that I got it! So, that confirmed that I was going to be able to go. The meeting this year is in Beaumont, and the \$375 value of the scholarship fully pays for me to attend the sessions, the meals, and the evening events! It is for about 4 days in early April. All I need to focus on now is getting gas money together. Driving from Colorado Springs to Beaumont is not a Sunday drive! I am planning to go to Lubbock and to Cisco. I'll be in Lubbock for Easter and am planning to spend time with friends both in Lubbock and Cisco. I'll have lots to tell in the April issue!



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

Various Candids of Me



The photos in this column are from the National Ranching Heritage Center during Candlelight at the Ranch held in December. Above: Taken within the Pitchfork Ranch Cookhouse in 2008 and representing the 1950s. Below three: During the same event in 2007. Yes, that's me dancing! In the case of the two, the dance is a waltz variation called *Coming Through the Rye*.



Top left: Standard mirror photo taken with cell phone in late 2011.

Top Middle: Taken during the Lubbock Centennial (1909-2009) Kickoff in 2008.

Top Right: Taken in 2011.

Far Left: Front camera of iPhone in early 2013.

Left: Early 2006.



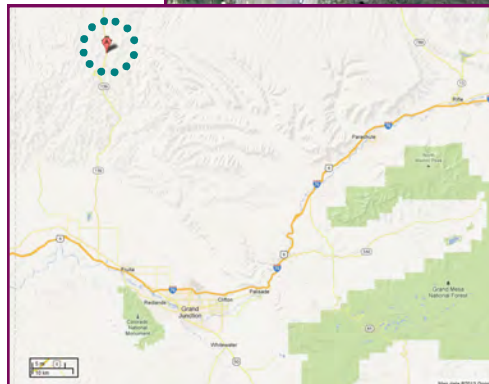
Here is me with my little brother during his graduation in 2009. His name is Matt Hawthorne. He is currently deployed somewhere in the world in the US Marine Corps.



This photo was taken in 2004 during the dedication of the renovated Pitchfork Ranch Pavilion at the NRHC. This guy is Kris Wilson who now works I think as General Manager of the Bell Ranch in New Mexico.

The Remote Ranch On Douglas Pass

Way out in the middle of nowhere—and I mean way out in the middle of nowhere—on Douglas Pass Road in Northwest Colorado is this abandoned ranch. We went through there on an impromptu photo shoot to somewhere else in April 2012 when we came across this. As you can see, it's right on the road and we stopped and took some photos. These photos and map show you just how remote this place is! Some of my own photos are below.



The map, overhead photos and street view photos by Google Maps.



Back Page Literature

This is a page scan of the article as it appeared in the Ranch Record, Fall 2007 issue, published by the Ranching Heritage Association.

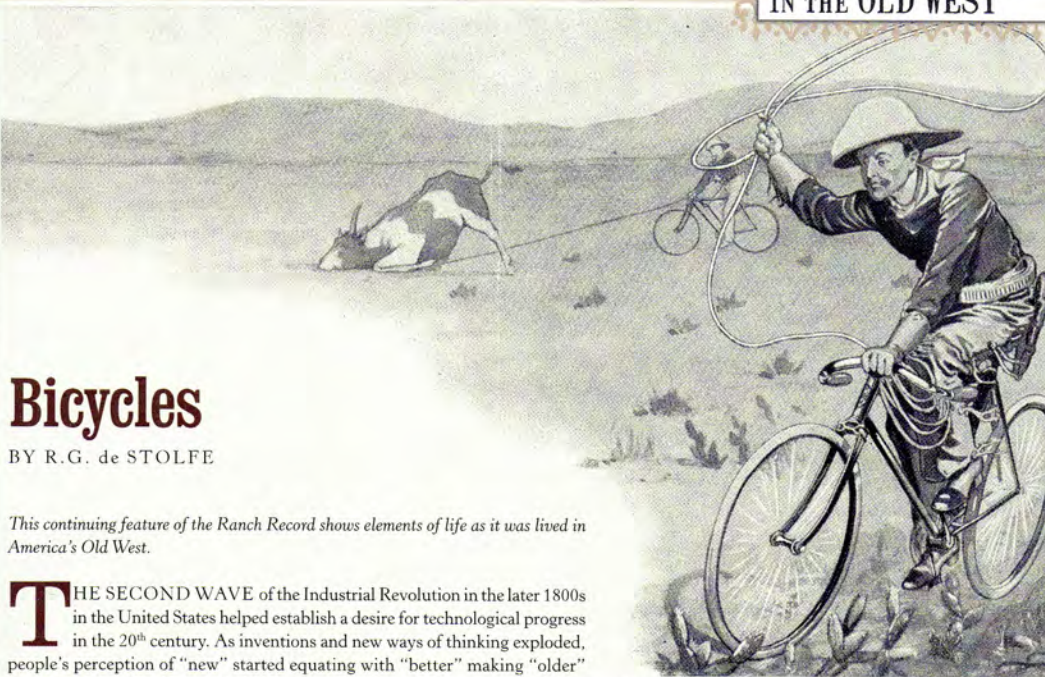
This issue features an article I wrote for the Fall 2007 issue of the Ranch Record magazine by the Ranching Heritage Association. While working in the collections of the museum, I came across a promotional brochure by Mead Cycle Company from 1911. In it was a drawn illustration of a cowboy riding a bike while roping to illustrate the durability of their product! Well, as "fictional" as that concept was, I found it interesting enough to write an article.

Bicycles

The second wave of the Industrial Revolution in the later 1800s in the United States helped established a desire for technological progress in the 20th Century. As inventions and new ways of thinking exploded, people's perception of "new" started equating with "better" making "older" equate with passé and less desirable. This was noticeable in the advertising of new products, such as bicycles. Mead Cycle Company of Chicago, Illinois implied that bicycles could replace horses, even to rope steers! This image [to the upper left] was used in their 1911 promotional catalog to illustrate that their Ranger bicycle was durable and reliable.

The Mead Cycle Company focused on producing high quality bicycles from the best possible parts and materials available, which proved to be an excellent manufacturing decision and marketing strategy. They sought first rate parts made in the United States and England. According to their philosophy, a better made part might be more expensive but will last much longer. Mead backed their products with a 10 day trial offer and upon customer decision to keep the bicycle, a five year promise where "every part is covered by our binding guarantee."

The catalog mainly focused on the refinements and improvements Mead made for their 1911 Ranger bicycle. "Nothing heretofore shown has approached its elegance of style and beauty of finish." In Mead's "One Thousand Endorsements" promotional booklet, Charlie S. Harter of Canyon, Texas said of his bicycle: "Gentleman: Received my Ranger Special all right and in good condition. The people say it is the prettiest wheel in town. It is the finest



IN THE OLD WEST

Bicycles

BY R.G. de STOLFE

This continuing feature of the Ranch Record shows elements of life as it was lived in America's Old West.

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"Gentlemen: Received my Ranger Special all right and in good condition. The people say it is the prettiest wheel in town. It is the finest wheel in Canyon. I am more than thankful for your kindness. I was offered more than I paid for it before I got it uncrated."

Also in this booklet, S.T. Grissett of Stephenville, Texas, wrote:

"Dear Sirs. The bicycle ordered is a dandy. I wouldn't take \$50.00 for it if I could not get another. The Ranger is the one for Texas as the roads are poor and hilly. The Hedge Thorn tires do not puncture. I would not give up the Coaster for anything."

MEAD CYCLE CO.

Mead Cycle Co. artifacts were donated to the NRHC by Yvonne and Jim Bob Swinney.

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Mead's belief in the quality of their workmanship was likely the reason behind a drawing on page 12 of their 1911 catalog. The drawing (shown on this page) illustrates two fully attired cowboys (without spurs) where one has roped and "felled" a full-grown steer while on the back of a Ranger bicycle, as another cowboy rode through dense prickly pear. This certainly would be a true test of Mead's "puncture proof" Hedge Thorn tires.

Though inspiring a sense of "Yeah, right" this drawing was likely meant to be a visual metaphor for the durability and toughness of Mead's Ranger bicycle, especially since the catalog notably has no textual reference to the drawing.

The aggressive approach by Mead Cycle Co. toward quality, reliability and customer satisfaction proved that Mead was stoutly confident of its products, even to suggest that cowboys could rope off the back of them. ★

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