

de Stolfe Journal Candid

*February & March 2014
Issue 3.2 & 3.3*

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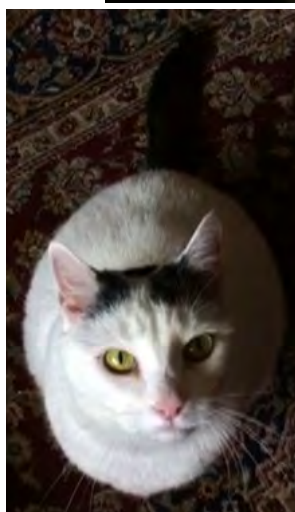
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I can't fit it all in
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On the cover is a photo I took in March 2010 of some early Bluebonnets in the Texas Hill Country. Read more on page 9.



Panda (or just Kitty)



Back on Track



At the end of February, I was trying to get some things done and just decided to wait on the Journal until March rather than throw together a substandard Journal. Hence, this is a double issue of 21 pages jam packed with goodies for the February and March 2014 issues!

Spring is technically here, but the weather is all screwy. One day will be nice, clear, and sunny while the next is cloudy, windy, and snowy. Generally, the weather here has been pleasant, even with the occasional snows, but that is not the case everywhere. But we

know that soon enough, we will be complaining about the hot miserable weather too!

In this issue, I have a nice mix of history, technology, photos, comics, stories, et cetera. I hope you like this issue.

Enjoy!

Here are finally some decent, updated photos of me as a middle aged man!



[These are the same scriptures as in the last issue, but they are worth repeating!]

Psalm 31:24

“Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart,
All you who hope in the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 4:18

“...we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Luke 1:37

“For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Proverbs 10:28

“The hope of the righteous will be gladness,
But the expectation of the wicked will perish.”

Jeremiah 17:7

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
And whose hope is the Lord.”



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Saddle Break Reads

Daylight Savings Time

We are now in Daylight Savings time. At 2 AM on March 9, we turned our clocks forward one hour, unless you live in Arizona, Hawai'i, the Hopi Reservation, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or Guam where you needed to do nothing!

Texas Independence Day

In annual tradition, Texas celebrated its independence from Mexico on March 2. On this day in 1836, Texas residents declared independence from Mexico. However, this was just the start and it did not come instantly! Read more on page 8.

More Baked Goodies

In February, I made some more goodies! I made something again that I made in November last year, Sour Cream Coffee Cake. Then I made something I have not made before, Chocolate Biscotti with almonds! See more food stuff on page 18.

Request

Every year, I get a Chick-fil-a calendar and take advantage of the free items every month. I was too late last fall to get a calendar for 2014 before they ran out. Let me know if any of you have a spare 2014 Chick-fil-a calendar that you don't want. (Along with the coupon card-this is the most important part of it!)

Videography

I'm in the very early stages, but I'm working on creating new videos, where I use my iPhone to record video, then edit it, and post it on Facebook. Right now, I have one video made. If you have any ideas, let me know.

Polar Vortexes and the Pineapple Express

What a crazy winter! It started early back in November and almost hasn't let up. It's snow dumping on snow dumping on snow in the north and eastern parts of the country, but then strong enough to go as far south as Atlanta, enough to shut down the whole city all just because of an inch of snow. And I haven't even mentioned the temps! Lows into the -30s in some places is simply ridiculous and certainly is atypical.

All while that's going on, the multi year drought on the west coast got a slight relief, but not in a good way. A narrow channel of heavy moisture from Hawai'i to California brought rains, aka "Pineapple Express", but only for it to wash off like a duck creating mudslides, especially in the areas where hydrophobic ground exists as created from various fires in the state.

What might have seemed originally to be a mild winter has been anything but! Even now as we near the official start of spring.

The Tonight Show

As 2014 seems to be a year of changes, so another major change in a long standing institution, The Tonight Show. After the Olympics, the Tonight Show moved from Los Angeles back to New York to the original studio it started in. The new host is Jimmy Fallon of Saturday Night Live and Late Night fame. Here are all the hosts:

Steve Allen (1954–1957)
Jack Paar (1957–1962)
Johnny Carson (1962–1992)
Jay Leno (1992–2009)
Conan O'Brien (2009–2010)
Jay Leno (2010–2014)
Jimmy Fallon (2014–present)

How many of these hosts do you remember?

Colorado Springs Horseman's Day

On Saturday, February 23, Dad and I went to a celebration called Horseman's Day. This was my first time to go, but it started in 2009. The event was at the Norris-Penrose Event Center in southwest Colorado Springs. The event was in a pavilion, which is also a covered arena (they just packed down the dirt and put rugs over it). The trade show was the largest part, but they also had speakers, riding clinics, and a kids play area with kid's stuff. While small by Texas standards, the turnout was probably over 1000 people over nine hours. While walking around, you can get all the candy you wanted and plenty of equine literature and other various goodies.

Comics Time

I'm not talking about stand up, I'm talking about comics! In the last issue, I included a whole section of a 1950 comic book called the B Bar B Riders. In this issue, I have included some mid 1910s newspaper comic strips from the same source. These comics are almost 100 years old and the copyright is expired. These comics are unrestricted and completely free to use however I want. Go to pages 12-14 for this issues comics. (For your own free account of public domain comics, go to: www.comicbookplus.com.)



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



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



<http://pinterest.com/cowbovrg>

30 Years of Mac



In 1984 on January 24, a new wave—a new generation, if you will—of computers premiered.

This computer was called Macintosh.

Many people heard of a computer, but did not know how to use one nor owned one.

The release of the Macintosh computer empowered people.

The user interface was visual and intuitive and familiar.

Now thirty years later, the Mac is as strong and popular as ever!

For me personally, my first self owned Mac was in January 1997 while I was attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. The college bookstore there had a computer department. I took out a loan from my credit union there to buy the computer! As I recall, I paid off the loan in two years! As I reported in the original Journal, Winter 1998 issue, my computer was the Apple

7200/120 Power Macintosh complete with 32M of RAM, a 1.2G hard drive, and featured a 8x CD ROM drive. I had a 15" multiple scan display in color. Additional hardware included an Iomega Zip drive, modem, Apple Color Stylewriter 2500, Altec Lansing multimedia speakers with subwoofer, and a UPS system. My, how things have changed!

2014 Winter Olympics in

Сочи, Москва

Sochi, Russia



The winter Olympics came, then went, from the opening ceremony to the closing ceremony. Sochi proved to be an unusual place to have the Olympics with the unusually warm temperatures and the not quite completed infrastructure. None the less, the games was memorable from the falls on the snow to the perfections on the ice, from the red eyes of Bob Costas to the color of the tap water. You have to admit though that the opening and closing ceremonies were fantastic with mind blowing levels of detail and cutting edge technology!

Curling Event

Curling is an event not exclusive to the Olympics, but most people only know of it from the Olympics. The Olympics website describes Curling as “a team sport played by two teams of four players on a rectangular sheet of ice.” Well, that’s pretty vague! Curling is like a cross of shuffleboard and bocce ball played on ice. There are two teams of four players. The teams play 10 rounds of eight stones each. The stones are a rare type of granite mined from Ailsa Craig in Scotland and each weighs 38 to 44 pounds. The stones each have a metal handle and are numbered and color coded for each team. (The Olympic event uses 19.1 kg pound stones and the colors red and yellow.) The event gets its name based on the fact that the stone skews, or curls, as it slides on the ice by a slight rotation established by the slider. Like with anything sliding on ice, rarely does it go in a straight line. One player slides the stone, while two others use special brooms to scrub the ice as the stone slides toward a target under the ice. The ultimate goal is to get stones on the very center of the target, being mindful of which team gets the last stone in each round.

www.olympic.org/curling-equipment-and-history

<http://sportsnscience.utah.edu/curling-friction-in-depth>



Below is the medal summary of the participating countries. Not all countries won medals, but no doubt everyone had a great time!

The Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics Medal standings 

Country				Total
1  Russia	13	11	9	33
2  Norway	11	5	10	26
3  Canada	10	10	5	25
4  United States	9	7	12	28
5  Netherlands	8	7	9	24
6  Germany	8	6	5	19
7  Switzerland	6	3	2	11
8  Belarus	5	0	1	6
9  Austria	4	8	5	17
10  France	4	4	7	15
11  Poland	4	1	1	6
12  China	3	4	2	9
13  South Korea	3	3	2	8
14  Sweden	2	7	6	15
15  Czech Republic	2	4	2	8
16  Slovenia	2	2	4	8
17  Japan	1	4	3	8
18  Finland	1	3	1	5
19  Great Britain	1	1	2	4
20  Ukraine	1	0	1	2
21  Slovakia	1	0	0	1
22  Italy	0	2	6	8
23  Latvia	0	2	2	4
24  Australia	0	2	1	3
25  Croatia	0	1	0	1
26  Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1

www.olympic.org/sochi-2014-winter-olympics



Left to right: gold, silver, and bronze

Just for Laughs

You assume too much!

“A boy walked into a pharmacy and asked the pharmacist to give him something to cure the hiccups. The pharmacist leaned over and whacked him on the back.

The boy said, “Why did you do that?”

The pharmacist said, “You don’t have the hiccups anymore, right?”

Then, the boy said, “No, I don’t have the hiccups. But, my mom in the car does!”

A wife commented one time, “When we were first married, you took the small steak and gave me the larger one. I guess you don’t love me anymore...”

Then, the husband said, “Nonsense! You cook much better now!”

One Liners

- Why do you never hear father in law jokes?
- If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why the stupid song?
- Round pizza, square box. What the heck??
- If it’s called cured ham, what was wrong with it?
- Isn’t sleeping like a baby meaning that you are up all night crying, fussing, and whining?
- If you are buck naked, why aren’t you in a corral jumping around?
- Why do we get mad and slam at the remote when we know just to change the batteries?
- We keep checking the fridge only to find that it’s still the same stuff as the last time we checked!

Out on the Farm

- They are outlawing the big round bales of hay because the cows aren’t getting a square meal.
- The horses that only run in the late evenings are nightmares.
- A cow that doesn’t quite get over the electric fence is up for utter destruction.
- A dolphin decided he needed therapy because he felt like his life had no porpoise.
- When the farmer found that his tractor was missing, he said, “Where’s my tractor?”
- A weaned cow’s favorite coffee is decalfinated.
- When a pony is sick, he’s a little hoarse.
- A horse neighs whinny wants to.
- The cross of a cockerel, a poodle, and a ghost speaks cockapoodleboo!
- An Amish mechanic is a veterinarian.
- The turtle crossed the road to get to the Shell station.
- This winter, you wash your clothes in tide because its been too cold outside.

Olympic Bitstrips!



The de Stolfe twins aim to hit the target.



Oh no! The snow is like mashed potatoes!



Rg only drinks Sochi water.

Texas Independence Day—March 2, 1836

The historical significance of this declaration reached further than a local grievance. I shall not attempt to give a complete history, but a basic, broad overview. You can simply type Texas Independence on Google if you want more details or click on the provided references below.

Texas as a political division was originally part of New Spain and was sparsely populated besides the local Indian tribes and Franciscan missionaries. The Spanish crown wanted settlement to colonize the territory. The Commandant General in Monterrey granted permission to Moses Austin of the United States for 300 Catholic families to settle in the Tejas region. Unfortunately, Moses Austin died before the immigration could start. However, his son, Stephen F. Austin reestablished the idea after Mexico became independent from Spain in 1824.

Immigration started initially with up to 300 families the first year who would confess Catholicism, be of good moral character, and agreed to abide by Mexican law. After that, no maximum was established and immigrants flooded into Texas. By 1827, 12,000 people of US citizenship lived in Texas, which was more than double the Mexican citizenship. By 1835, the population was about 30,000, nearly 400% higher than the Mexican population of the area. Mexico basically assumed that all the immigrants would convert to Catholicism and learn Spanish and integrate into Mexican culture. However, the people did not.

Conflict from the clash of cultures and ideals soon became grievances by the settlers. One issue was that Texas was combined with the state of Coahuila politically, but that region had nine times the population, and Texas was often outvoted on important issues by Coahuila representatives in the Mexican legislature. At the same time, Mexico had fears that the United States was encroaching on Texas to gain the territory for itself.

Mexican politicians understood that the Texas situation seemed far out of Mexican control and decided to take action. One

action was to restrict immigration and establish tight rules for future immigration, in addition to establishing more Mexican citizens in Texas, among other actions. Eventually, Antonio López de Santa Anna, took Mexican government into his own hands and became a dictator. For the Texans, that was enough. In late 1835, Santa Anna moved north with 6000 troops. However, due to continuous difficulties, Santa Anna did not get near San Antonio de Bxar (San Antonio) until early March 1836.

Knowing that Santa Anna was coming and not with good intentions, earlier in 1836, 54 representatives were delegated from all of the Texas settlements. They came together on March 1 to meet for the Convention of 1836 in a town called Washington located on the Brazos River. They elected Richard Ellis to be the president and Herbert S. Kimble to be the secretary. All the while, a garrison of Texans from various US states and backgrounds took refuge at the old Franciscan mission of the Alamo with William Barrett Travis in command. With Santa Anna's assault on the Alamo, many people died defending the Alamo for the freedom of Texas like Colonel James Bowie and Colonel Davy Crockett.

With the assault becoming worse every day, the convention immediately established a committee of five of the representatives to literally draft a declaration of independence overnight. The five delegates were George C. Childress, Edward Conrad, James Gaines, Bailey Hardeman, and Collin McKinney. After review it, the delegates of the people of Texas signed the document on March 2, 1836. Then over the next two weeks, they wrote up a constitution and established an interim government, which served until a general election could take place.

Santa Anna continued his attack and the death toll on both sides was high and proved that a peaceful resolution was impossible. The battle at the Alamo was not the only battle during this fight. Another battle at Goliad was much more political. Colonel James W. Fannin with a group of troops

surrendered to General Jose Urrea in order to preserve human life by right as prisoners of War, as compared to the mass slaughter from the Alamo. However, Santa Anna's attitude was that they were pirates and that they should be killed. Unfortunately, they were.

The general thought by the Texans and those in the United States was that the Mexicans were ruthless and were not looked upon favorably. Supplies and additional people poured into Texas to help. By late April, Sam Houston felt confident enough to stand ground. On April 21, they caught Santa Anna's troops off guard near the San Jacinto River and caught Santa Anna himself two days later. As a prisoner, Santa Anna signed agreements with Sam Houston to retract Mexican troops, exchange prisoners, and end hostilities, among other requirements. Later on the Mexican government had huge disagreements about the status of Texas and its independence from internal political convulsions.

The Texans maintained themselves as the Lone Star Republic from 1836 to 1845. In December of 1845, the United States annexed Texas as the 28th state.



For nearly ten years, Texas was literally an independent country. Texas was mainly the area in yellow, but also claimed the area in green, between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande River. This total area became parts of six states: Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming. Washington (also known as Washington-on-the-Brazos), is the site for the creation and signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

References

Convention of 1836: <http://www.lsjunction.com/events/conv1836.htm>

Texas Declaration of Independence: <http://www.lsjunction.com/docs/tdoi.htm>

The Alamo Defenders: <http://www.thealamo.org/history/the-1836-battle/the-defenders/index.html>

Book: *The Course of Mexican History*, Michael Meyer, William Sherman, Susan Deeds, Oxford U P, 1999

Texas History

From the establishment of New Spain in North America to the modern day state, many political leaders had control of Texas. Here is an exhaustive list of leaders from 1691 through 2014.

Spanish Governors of Tejas

1691-1692, Domingo Teran de los Rios
1692-1697, Gregorio de Salinas Varona
1698-1702, Francisco Cuerdo y Valdez
1703-1705, Mathias de Aguirre
1705-1708, Martin de Alarcon
1708-1712, Simon Padilla y Cordova
1712-1714, Pedro Fermin de Echevers y Subisa
1714-1716, Juan Valdez
1716-1719, Martin de Alarcon
1719-1722, Joseph de Azlor
1722-1727, Fernando Perez de Almazan
1727-1730, Melchor de Media Villa y Azcona
1730-1734, Juan Antonio Bustillos y Ceballos
1734-1736, Manuel de Sandoval
1736-1737, Carols Benites Franquis de Lugo
1737-1741, Prudencio de Orobio y Basterra
1741-1743, Tomas Felipe Wintuisen
1743-1744, Justo Boneo y Morales
1744-1748, Francisco Garcia Larios
1748-1751, Pedro del Barrio Junco y Espriella
1751-1759, Jacinto de Barrios y Jauregui
1759-1766, Angel Martos y Navarrete
1767-1770, Hugo Oconor
1770-1778, Baron de Ripperda
1778-1786, Domingo Cabello
1786-1786, Bernardo Bonavia
1786-1790, Rafael Martinez Pacheco
1790-1798, Manuel Munoz
1798-1800, Jose Irigoyen*

**Reportedly, Irigoyen was appointed governor, but never took office.*

1800-1805, Juan Bautista de Elguetzabal*

**Elguetzabal became interim governor in 1797 because Munoz was ill, and continued in this post following Munoz' death in July 1799.*

1805-1808, Antonio Cordero y Bustamante

1808-1813, Manuel Maria de Salcedo*

1811-1811, Juan Bautista Casas*

**On January 22, 1811 Juan Bautista de las Casas and his supporters arrested Governor Manuel Salcedo. The revolutionary government later appointed him as interim governor of Texas. Casas' government was overthrown in March of 1811, and Salcedo returned to power.*

1814-1817, Cristobal Dominguez

1817-1817, Ignacio Perez

1817-1817, Manuel Pardo

1817-1822, Antonio Martinez

Mexican Governors of Texas

1822-1823, Jose Feliz Trespalacios
1823-1824, Luciano Garcia

Mexican Governors of Coahuila y Texas

1824-1826, Rafael Gonzales
1826-1827, Victor Blanco
1827-1830, Jose Maria Viesca
1830-1831, Ramon Eca y Musquiz
1832-1833, Juan Martin de Veramendi
1833-1834, Juan Jose de Vidaurri y Villasenor
1834-1835, Juan Jose Elguetzabal
1835-1835, Jose Maria Cantu
1835-1835, Agustin M. Viesca
1835-1835, Marciel Borrego
1835-1835, Ramon Ena y Musquiz

Provisional Colonial Governors

1835-January 1836, Henry Smith (impeached)*
January 1836-March 2, 1836,

James W. Robinson, acting governor*

**The executive council of the provisional government deposed Governor Henry Smith on January 11, 1836, and named Robinson as his successor. Smith, claiming that there was no quorum present when he was deposed, refused to relinquish the office, and as a result both Smith and Robinson claimed to be governor*

Republic of Texas, 1836-1846

Presidents

Mar. 16, 1836 - Oct. 22, 1836, David G. Burnet
Oct. 22, 1836 - Dec. 10, 1838, Sam Houston
Dec. 10, 1838 - Dec. 13, 1841, Mirabeau B. Lamar
Dec. 13, 1841 - Dec. 9, 1844, Sam Houston
Dec. 9, 1844 - Feb. 19, 1846, Anson Jones

Vice Presidents

Mar. 16, 1836 - Oct. 17, 1836, Lorenzo de Zavala
Oct. 22, 1836 - Dec. 10, 1838, Mirabeau B. Lamar
Dec. 10, 1838 - Dec. 13, 1841, David G. Burnet
Dec. 13, 1841 - Dec. 9, 1844, Edward Burleson
Dec. 9, 1844 - July 3, 1845, Kenneth Anderson

Governors of Texas, 1846-present

February 19, 1846-December 21, 1847, J. Pinckney Henderson
December 21, 1847-December 21, 1849, George T. Wood
December 21, 1849-November 23, 1853, Peter Hansbrough Bell
November 23, 1853-December 21, 1853, J. W. Henderson
December 21, 1853-December 21, 1857, Elisha M. Pease
December 21, 1857-December 21, 1859, Hardin R. Runnels
December 21, 1859-March 16, 1861, Sam Houston

Governors of Texas,

Confederate States of America

December 21, 1859-March 16, 1861, Sam Houston
March 16, 1861-November 7, 1861, Edward Clark
November 7, 1861-November 5, 1863, Francis R. Lubbock
November 5, 1863-June 17, 1865, Pendleton Murrah

Reconstruction Period, Surrender on April 9, 1865 until Readmission

June 17, 1865-August 9, 1866, Andrew J. Hamilton
August 9, 1866-August 8, 1867, James W. Throckmorton
August 8, 1867-September 30, 1869, Elisha M. Pease

Fully readmitted to the United States on March 30, 1870 and Local rule reestablished on January 14, 1873

January 8, 1870-January 15, 1874, Edmund J. Davis
January 15, 1874-December 1, 1876, Richard Coke
December 1, 1876-January 21, 1879, Richard B. Hubbard
January 21, 1879-January 16, 1883, Oran M. Roberts
January 16, 1883-January 18, 1887, John Ireland
January 18, 1887-January 20, 1891, Lawrence Sullivan Ross
January 20, 1891-January 15, 1895, James Stephen Hogg
January 15, 1895-January 17, 1899, Charles A. Culbertson
January 17, 1899-January 20, 1903, Joseph D. Sayers
January 20, 1903-January 15, 1907, S. W. T. Lanham
January 15, 1907-January 17, 1911, Thomas Mitchell Campbell
January 17, 1911-January 19, 1915, Oscar Branch Colquitt
January 19, 1915-August 25, 1917, James E. Ferguson
August 25, 1917-January 18, 1921, William Pettus Hobby
January 18, 1921-January 20, 1925, Pat Morris Neff
January 20, 1925-January 17, 1927, Miriam A. Ferguson
January 17, 1927-January 20, 1931, Dan Moody
January 20, 1931-January 17, 1933, Ross S. Sterling
January 17, 1933-January 15, 1935, Miriam A. Ferguson
January 15, 1935-January 17, 1939, James V. Allred
January 17, 1939-August 4, 1941, W. Lee O'Daniel
August 4, 1941-January 21, 1947, Coke R. Stevenson
January 21, 1947-July 11, 1949, Beauford H. Jester
July 11, 1949-January 15, 1957, Allan Shivers
January 15, 1957-January 15, 1963, Price Daniel
January 15, 1963-January 21, 1969, John Connally
January 21, 1969-January 16, 1973, Preston Smith
January 16, 1973-January 16, 1979, Dolph Briscoe
January 16, 1979-January 18, 1983, William P. Clements
January 18, 1983-January 20, 1987, Mark White
January 20, 1987-January 15, 1991, William P. Clements
January 15, 1991-January 17, 1995, Ann W. Richards
January 17, 1995-December 21, 2000, George W. Bush
December 21, 2000 to present, James Richard (Rick) Perry

From: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ref/abouttx/prerepub.html>

Bluebonnets

The Bluebonnet is the state flower for Texas, five varieties of them. The flowers are of the Lupine family, and I'm not quite sure why they are called blue when they actually are a purple of sorts. I took these photos of early Bluebonnets in the Texas Hill Country in mid March 2010 on my way back from a meeting in College Station.



25 Years of the WWW—the World Wide Web

25 years ago in 1989 on March 12, a man named Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the concept that became the World Wide Web (www). Now don't misunderstand, the www is NOT the same thing as the internet! The internet was a preexisting system already in place. What is now known as the internet was created nearly 20 years earlier in 1969! At that time, it was a series of different networks by different names and operations. By the late 1980s, these networks eventually consolidated through a means that I really don't understand and shall not attempt to explain. The World Wide Web became the means to share information across the internet that all computers could access. While Berners-Lee invented the idea in 1989, it wasn't until late 1990, even into 1991 that the movement began. He also created the language the www used to run and even created the application in which to make the pages that computers could access. HTML, HyperText Markup Language, is the language used to create the pages while HTTP, HyperText Transfer Protocol, was the publishing format and URI, Uniform Resource Identifier, was the "address" you would need to find a specific page and is unique for each page (not unlike a serial number). Not only that, he also created the first browser/editor in which he called "WorldWideWeb". If you remember the

Netscape browser back in the 1990s, it also had a version with a webpage editor. As the development continued, CERN announced in April 1993 that the www technology would be available royalty free to the world. And so from there, it exploded to be what we know it to be today!

You probably have recently heard about the potential "give up" of domain name management by the United States. The URI I mentioned above is the literal "serial number" of each website, usually written as a series of numbers and dots. The domain name is a layer above the URI known as a URL, Uniform Resource Locator, that is a text form created in 1985 made to be easier to remember, use, and promote, such as <http://www.myname.com>. The URL system was standardized in 1994.

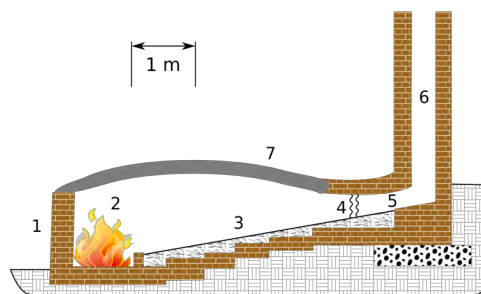
My personal experience with the internet and the www was not until mid 1996. After about a year, I really got the hang of how it generally worked and how to make webpages. For a time, I even taught classes to the public in 1997 or 1998, as I recall, as part of a USWest Widening Our World grant awarded to the College of Education of Northern Arizona University to teach free public classes about the internet (please note, I had nothing to do with applying for or being awarded the grant! I was just asked to be part of teaching the classes and created printed literature for the classes.)



20 Years Since Planning of Trip

20 years ago by this time, I had knowledge of and intent to participate in an extended studies trip, one of several that my community college was offering during the summer. The particular trip I was interested in was the one that went to Flagstaff, Arizona. Two classes were involved. The first and primary class was a pottery class, while the other class that year was an Indian literature class. At the same time, the pottery class was also dual enrollment with Northern Arizona University, a non-credit type of class. The trip was structured as such. The first three weeks was at the community college doing the class like any normal class. Then, we spent several days traveling to Flagstaff from Jacksonville. Half of us took a Greyhound, while others either drove themselves or went by plane. The next two to three weeks was in Flagstaff. The activities there varied. However, there was some miscommunication and some tensions of personalities, but we got through it.

Anyway, we spent the bulk of the time in Flagstaff at the pottery studio. There, they had several wood fired kilns. We took the pottery we made in Jacksonville along with everyone else's pottery and loaded the Anagama kiln. This kiln is a particular style of Japanese kiln that was a long tube-like chamber where the wood fire is in the front and the chimney in the back and the chamber gets smaller toward the back. Here's a generic illustration of the kiln.



People will design the kiln with many variations from this generic one. The brick steps are where the pottery went all the way up to the ceiling. The temperature often gets to cone 12 (well over 2000°F), but if it get too close to cone 13, the pottery will melt! Other activities included touring the campus, sightseeing downtown and nearby areas, and taking longer trips to see the Grand Canyon and the Painted Desert, along with some Indian ruins. More info in future issues!

- 1: Door about 75cm wide
- 2: Firebox.
- 3: Stacking floor made of silica sand. The unfired pots are placed here.
- 4: Dampers, two - one for firing, the second to tightly shut the flue.
- 5: Flue.
- 6: Chimney 3m high.
- 7: Cast arch, made of heat resistant cement (castable).

Lesser Prairie Chicken

In a small region originally including the extended Texas Panhandle area, Eastern New Mexico, western Oklahoma, southeastern Colorado and southwestern Kansas, lived a species of bird called the Lesser Prairie Chicken. While not an actual chicken but similar looking to one, this bird is related to the Greater Prairie Chicken, where the differences are very subtle. During mating season the birds flock to a mating ground called a Lek, where the dominant males will flare out and “perform” for the females to win them over.

In these states where the birds historically existed, legislation continues back and forth whether or not to place the bird on the threatened list, which of course threatens economics, politics, and the never ending tug-o-war of power and political advantage.

All that aside, the birds are very much like other species of birds in how they live and mate and some of these states have viewing areas of the Lek when open to the public.



Male Lesser Prairie Chicken

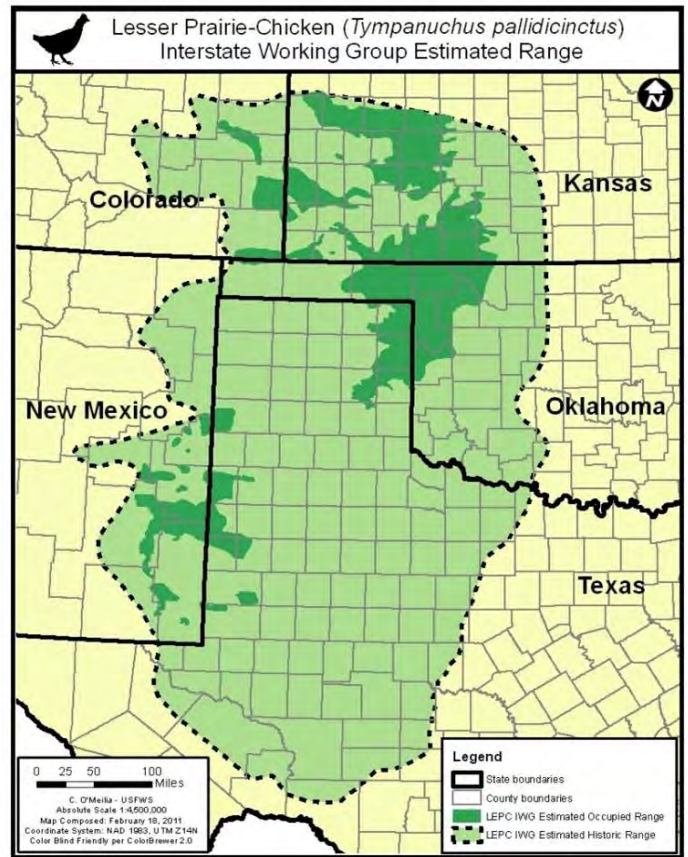


Female Lesser Prairie Chicken



Greater Prairie Chickens

<http://birds.audubon.org/birds/lesser-prairie-chicken>



Crack the code!

To the right is a commonly known sentence, but it is in code! Can you crack the code?

Find the answer on page 15.

Yafro yagdo yaso yaldevo yahte yawdlro yahtta
 yahe yageva yahsi yanoyl yabnettoqe yasno, yahtta
 yahwreveo yabseveile yani yahmi yahsdluo yanto
 yaphsire yabtu yaheva yavegnitsalre yalefi.



Squirrels

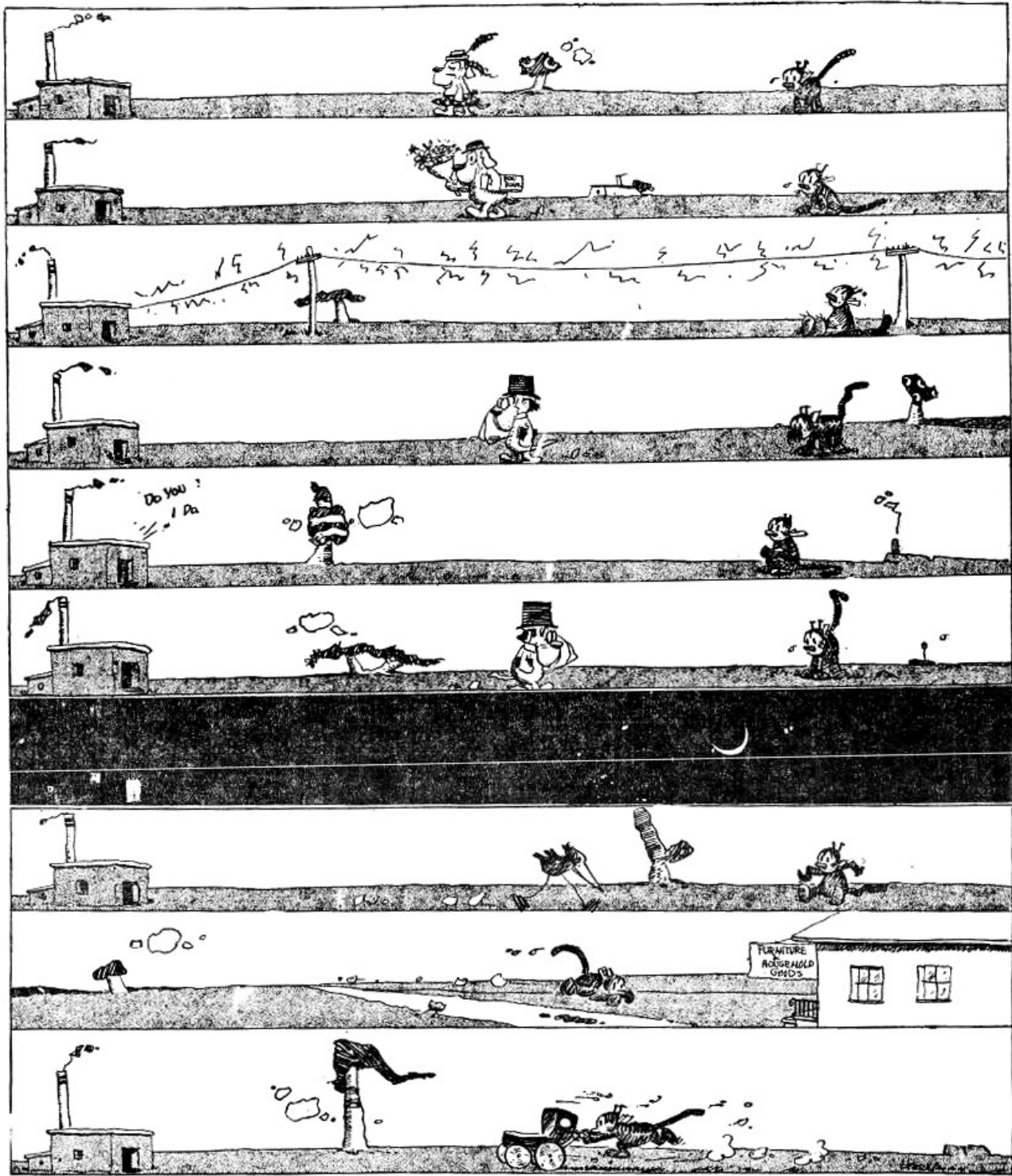
Squirrels like to sun too!

Sometimes, a squirrel just has to chomp on a plastic cup!



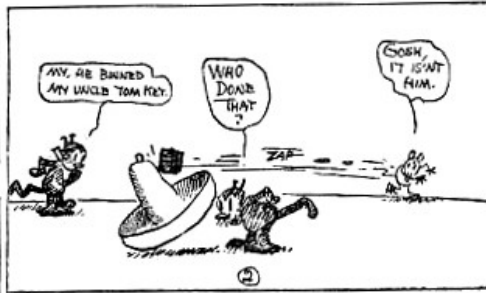
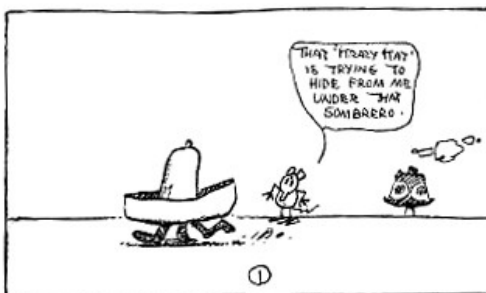
Krazy Kat

By Herriman



KRAZY KAT

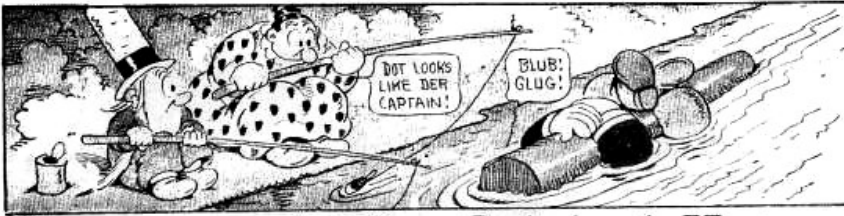
Copyright, 1919, by International Features Service, Inc.



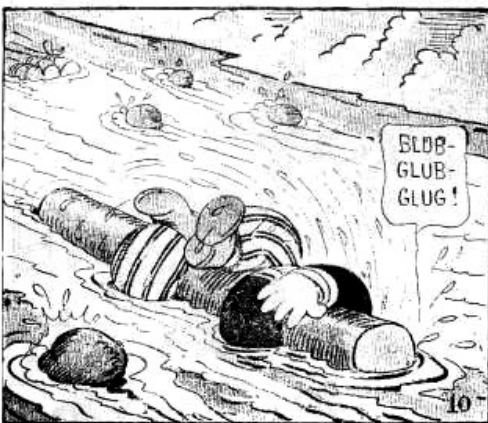
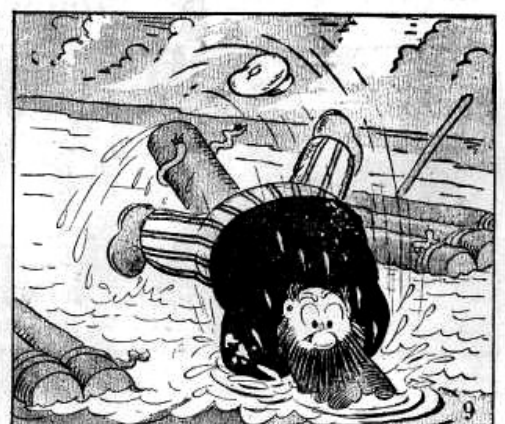
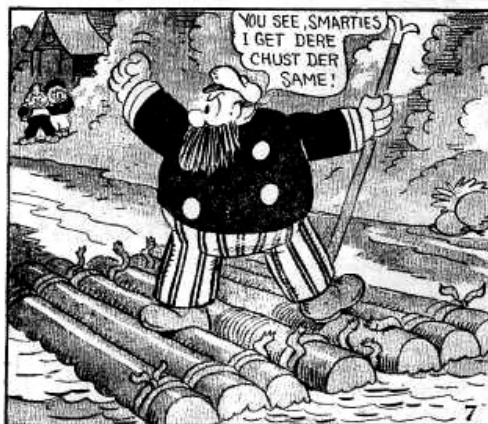
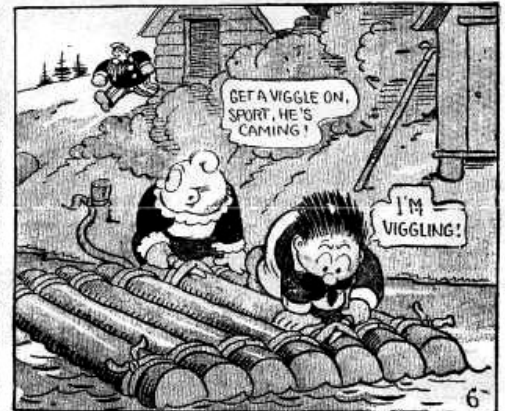
COMIC SECTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

December 5, 1915

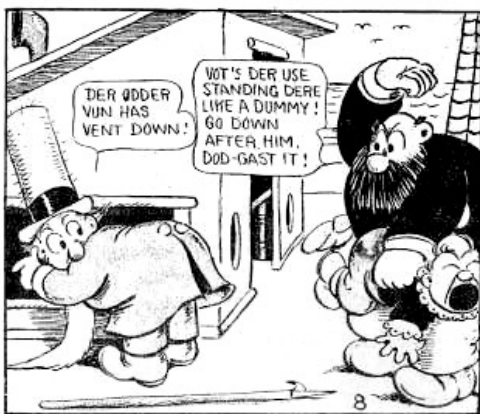
Copyright, 1915, by Rex Crockett. Great Britain Rights Reserved.



The Original Katzenjammer Kids



The Original Katzenjammer Kids



Grandmother, 20 Years Ago

It was 20 years ago on March 1, 1994 at age 81 when my grandmother died. My grandmother on my mother's side was Lydia Ingram who lived in Jacksonville, Florida. She moved from New Jersey to Florida sometime in the 1950s, where she lived for around 40 years in the same house. Her husband was George Ingram, the same person where I got the other half of my first name, Robert-George. He died sometime in the late 1970s. I was quite young at the time.

Crack the Code Answer

If you detected Pig Latin, you are right—but with a twist! (Did all the ya's give it away?!) I took the below phrase and turned it into Pig Latin, but then squeezed together each Pig phrase, then made it backwards! For example, let's use the word happy. Turned it into Pig Latin appy hay, then appyhay, then yahyppa!

Answer:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16 NKJV

What is a Lemming?

Okay, if you ever wondered what a lemming is, then that makes two of us (or more!) They sort of look like colorful, cute hamsters, and I'm sure you've heard about the lemming leaps to death through comics. However, that's not quite accurate. These rodents live in the Arctic or near arctic cold climates. Lemmings do not hibernate, but live in the harsh, cold climate year round, but seem to do just fine. Their migration is their problem. Generally, they will go over cliffs while migrating, but they don't die like portrayed in the comics but rather slide down the cliffs. Then, they will cross water to get to the other side. They are good swimmers, but their problem is that their hopes to swim to the other side of the water far outlast their strength, and so they eventually lose strength and drown, thus dying. Sad, huh?



Lemmus lemmus: Lemming

Even More Bitstrips!



Rg's heard of Spyware, but this is ridiculous!



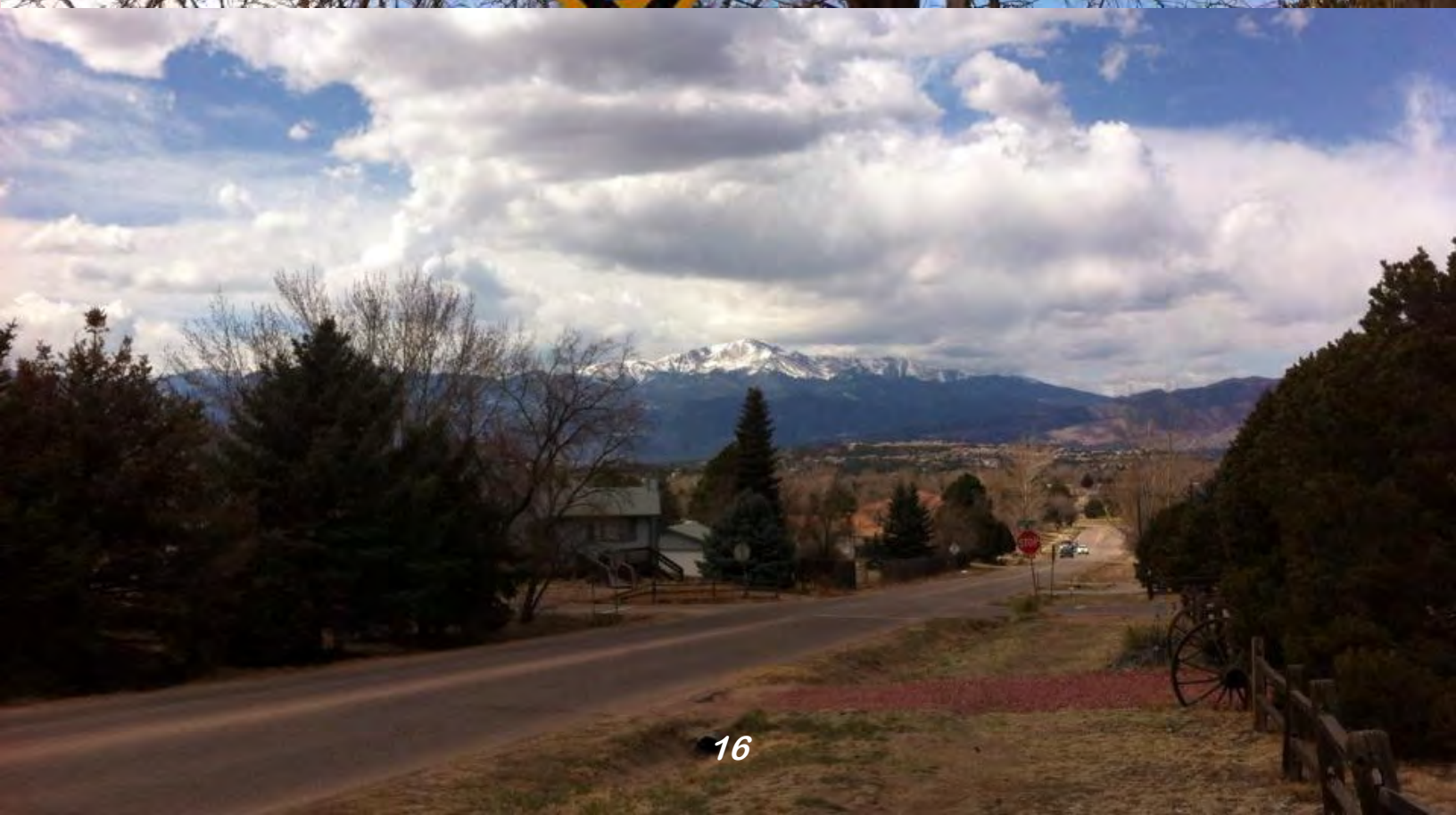
Can we say boom, boom, scratch, scratch, rippa, scratch, scratch...



1000 channels and there's nothing on TV!!

The photos below were taken about a quarter mile northeast of dad's house. This area has houses a little more spread out (but still close together) with some of the residents having barns with horses. As you can see by the second photo, this particular area also gets a little hilly,

as is the northeast part of the city. These photos look like country, but they are still right in the middle of the city! (It gets more suburbia, then urbanite, the closer you get to downtown. But there are various pockets of natural landscape with city and suburbs flowing around them.



Florida Azaleas, Late March 2010



Cooking for Fun!

I've had people wonder at various times over the years about why I never became a chef, for how well I can cook and like cooking. Well, that's exactly why I never did! Because I like doing it. As soon as you convert something you like doing into an actual job or a career, it's no longer a fun and enjoyable activity! I never want to ruin cooking by trying to make it into a profession!

Moving on. I thought I'd start a new section about cooking and include recipes. So, for my first one, here is a recipe about apples.

Pie In An Apple

5-6	apples* (make sure they can stand up straight)
1 tablespoon	cinnamon
1/4 cup	sugar
1 tablespoon	flour
	little bit of lemon juice or lemon extract (flavor)
dash	salt
	pie crust (homemade or pre-made)

**Get apples that are not too sweet nor too tart and are fairly crisp and ones large enough that you can core out.*

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Cut off the tops of 4 apples. Remove the inside of each apple and from the tops with a spoon or melon baller, making sure not to go through the sides. Try to save as much as you can, minus the core.
3. Peel and core the remaining apples. At this point, you can coarsely or finely chop the pulp, chopping additional apples if needed to make enough filling for the four apples (or more!). In a bowl, mix together the apples, sugar, cinnamon, flour, lemon juice, and salt. The sugar should be enough just to coat the apples. Then, fill up the apples.
4. Whether homemade or store bought, roll out the pie crust and cut into 1/4 inch strips. A pizza cutter works good for this. A good idea is to add a small circle of crust just inside the apple on top of the filling. Then lay out the crust strips in whatever pattern you'd like on top of the apple, letting it go over the sides.
5. Put the apples in an 8x8 pan (or a larger pan for more apples). Add a small amount of water to the bottom of the pan, enough to coat the bottom to keep the apples from burning. Cover with foil and bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake for an additional 20 minutes or until crust is golden brown and the apples are soft.

Note: If this doesn't work out very well the first time, just make some more and adjust things as needed.

Makes 4 or more apples



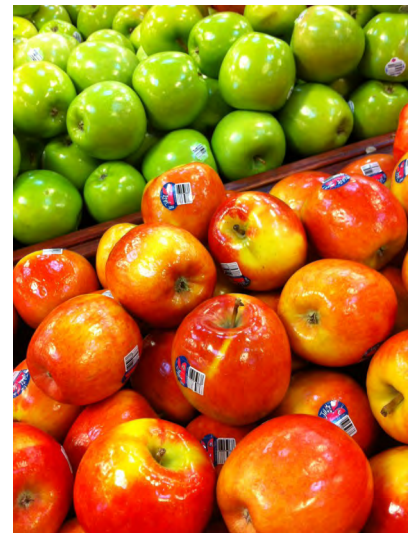
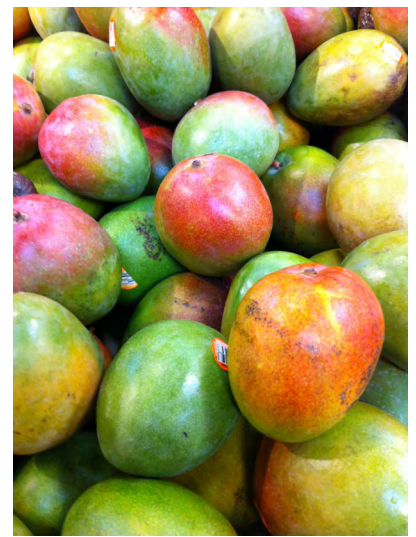
Right Top: Another batch of sour cream coffee cake.

Right Bottom: Chocolate almond biscotti.

All In The Foap

During the ABC World News with Diane Sawyer, she did a regular segment called Real Money. On the March 5 broadcast, she reported about how your Smartphone can make you money. I immediately thought that was interesting and so I watched it. They were talking about how people downloaded an app called Foap then used it to upload photos they took with their phone. Foap is a company that collects peoples photos to make available as copyright free stock photography.

This is how it works. You download the app and create a seller account. Then, take photos with your phone or use ones you already took and upload them one at a time using the app, assigning titles and subject tags. You must then rate at least five photos by other people for your photo to be put in line for rating. Once five or more people rate your photo (usually within 15 minutes or less), your photo is ready and available for purchase. All photos cost \$10, where Foap gets \$5 and you get \$5. After you sell some images and are ready to payout, you just transfer the money to your PayPal account! The best part of the process is that the same image can sell multiple times and you still get \$5 for each time it sells! The only consideration is that you must release all copyright and credit rights upon acceptance of the image in the system. With that in mind, I wondered what photos I could upload that I didn't care about copyright. I found some I already had, but then I had an idea! I went to the grocery store and raided the produce department with my iPhone! I took so many photos that I maxed out my memory! I currently have 81 photos uploaded and accepted, with most of them rated with a 3 or 4 out of 5. People can buy photos through foap.com with a buyers account, but to sell photos, you must download the app and set up a sellers account through the app. I am waiting to see what image will be the first to sell!



Left to right, top to bottom.

Artichokes, Mangos

Portobello Mushrooms, Bananas

Radishes, Granny Smith & Jazz Apples

Back Page Literature

Road Trip to the 2010 TAM Meeting

In 2010, I went to the Texas Association of Museums annual meeting. The meeting was in College Station, Texas. So, for this month's Back Page literature, the writing is about my travel to and from the meeting, along with details about the meeting in a daily journal format. Enjoy!

Friday, March 12, 2010

I left a little after 10 AM to drive to Cisco, Texas. The TAM meeting is next week, but I decided to leave early to spend some time with my friends in Cisco. The meeting is March 16-19 in College Station. So, I'll leave Cisco on Monday and drive back that Friday. I arrived in Cisco about 1:30 PM. My friend wanted me to help paint his kitchen that he was remodeling. During the time, we had dinner and worked until dark. The Dairy Queen in Cisco had quarter ice cream cones on Fridays, so we went and got some.

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Today, I spent the day painting by myself while my friends went to a preplanned seminar in Dallas. All this painting will help partly pay for my gas and motel during the meeting. Except for an hour for lunch, I painted for 8 hours straight! The trim looks good, but man, you have no idea how much time it takes to paint until you are doing it and trying to do it well! My friends came back a little after I finished, got cleaned up, and was about to go eat. So instead, my friend and I went and got dinner. This particular weekend is the Daylight Savings time change, so time to sleep.

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Since it is Sunday, we went to my friend's church, then ate lunch afterwards. Not long after, I painted some more. Later, we went to Eastland over to Tractor Supply to buy some

chicks, since it's chick season. However, they were out. We also went to a nursery to get seeds and fertilizer. We came back and painted some more! For dinner, we grilled some steaks and watched Night at the Museum II. Tomorrow is my travel day, and I will have no rush to get there since my part with the preconference activities starts Tuesday.

Monday, March 15, 2010

My friend paid me for the painting, and I got some gas, got some coffee and doughnuts at the local doughnut shop, then went on my way. I took Texas Route 6. I stopped in Dublin to get some Dublin Dr Pepper. I think I went crazy! I bought \$50 of bottles and cans and some syrup. The weather was cool and cloudy until I got closer to Waco, which was warmer and with less clouds. This particular road through the Hill Country is pretty. The overall drive wasn't quite as long as I thought. College Station seemed to have every restaurant you could want. I ate at Rudy's for dinner and went to Rosa's Cafe for dessert. I spent the evening going through some information and getting ready for the next day's activities. I am staying at the Econo Lodge, which is right next door to the Hilton where the meeting's activities are.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

This has been a good day! The preconference activities were today. For me, I took part in a workshop about exhibit development. The workshop was most of the day with a lunch in between. I didn't actually sign up for the lunch, but there was a problem with the tickets and so everyone got to eat! The firm Toxey and McMillian presented the workshop and did a great job of getting across basic information. We all sat in tables and each table made a group to do the

projects and exercises. We started out working on themes and titles through to gallery design. I got a bundle of handouts! The trade show also opened this afternoon, so I started getting literature, samples, and lots of chocolate! I didn't sign up for Tuesday's evening event. So, I went to Rosa's Cafe for taco Tuesday for dinner.

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

What a good day! Today was the first full day of the meeting. We had sessions starting at 8:45 AM and various breaks throughout and a lunch. So far, the sessions I've attended have been really good. Most of the sessions apply to my Professional Development Certificate. The lunch was good and the keynote speaker was interesting along with her session after lunch about "Museum 2.0". I signed up for tonight's evening events, which included different venues in Bryan. It was pretty cool to see the different venues, of which were art galleries, a science museum, and a local history gallery. And man, did I eat a bunch!

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Today is the second full day of the meeting. It's been another good round of sessions! I missed the breakfast, but still made it for the morning sessions. For lunch to save some money, I decided to drive around and went to McDonald's over near the campus of Texas A&M. The third session was cool because it talked about the Night at the Museum series, which I just watched a few days ago! Later in the afternoon was the business meeting, and the trade show was packing up. Then, the evening event. This was fun! We took busses and traveled a little while to Barrington Living History Farm. This was a neat little farm and house originally owned by the last

Back Page Literature

president of the Republic of Texas, Anson Jones. After that we went a short distance to the Star of the Republic Museum, which I've wanted to see for several years. This was a really neat place! Nearby was a banquet pavilion where we had dinner: BBQ and the fixins and Blue Bell ice cream. I wasn't interested in the dancing, but I did have some good discussions with various people I've met during the conference.



The Barrington Farm had a new crop of piglets in 2010.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Today was a half day for the conference. In the past, many people leave and don't attend the last half day of the meeting, but I decided to stay. The morning session was a round table discussion. The closing dinner was great! Barbara Bush was the guest speaker! She was a delight to listen to, very funny and very personable. The meal was delicious. I had already checked out of the motel and was ready to leave when the meeting was over. Before I left College Station, I went to Blue Baker Bakery and Restaurant to pick up some of the delicious muffins and cookies that I had from vendors at the trade show, along with getting some gas. I'm glad I got to go to the meeting, and I would like to go the meeting in Irving next year [2011]. I drove back to Cisco, stopping on the way to get photos of the early bluebonnets along with another stop in Dublin at the Dublin Dr Pepper plant.



Barbara Bush was guest speaker at the closing dinner.

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Today was rainy and cold that came in during the night. The weather was cold and spitting snow all day (not a big deal though). My friend and I drove to Abilene so he could buy some things and we had lunch at the Rosa's Cafe in Abilene. Later, we went to Eastland to Tractor Supply and Walmart. This time, Tractor Supply had some chicks and he bought some (he has a chicken coop not far from the house). After we got back to the house, he set up a warm spot for the chick to keep them warm for the night. We had a good dinner and watched a movie, Cars. Overall, it's been a good, easy Saturday.



These are the chicks my friend got. The red coloring is from the heat lamp



Early Bluebonnets in the Texas Hill Country in 2010.

Sunday, March 21, 2010

We went to their church again then came back to the house. My friend and I went back to Eastland and had lunch at Chicken Express. After, we went back to Tractor Supply to get chick feed and to the nursery for me to get some vegetable seeds for mom and a friend of hers. We also drove to Ranger to look at the town. In the evening, my friend made a big bon fire to burn off some brush while it was still cold outside until it died down.

Monday, March 22, 2010

Today, I drove back to Lubbock. My friend and I went to a Mexican restaurant in Cisco for lunch, and I left soon after. I stopped in Abilene to visit the Grace Museum, but they were closed on Sundays and Mondays. (Well, rats!) So, I looked around at some nearby shops and continued on. I got back to Lubbock about 6:00 PM and went to church and dinner afterwards, to Rosa's Cafe, I think.