

# de Stofe Journal Candid

January 2014

Issue 3.1

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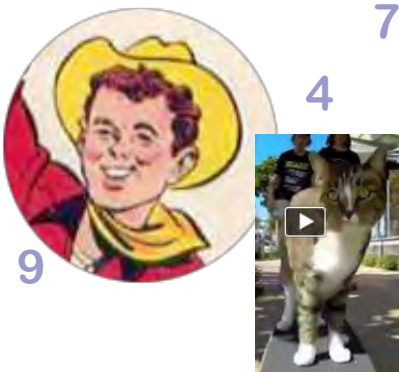
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Above: Late afternoon 1.23.14

Below: Always hungry squirrels!



# Editorial



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## Reflection

### Reflection

Over the past year, and especially over the past six months or so, I realize that I have been increasingly more negative and critical of myself, of others, and of various situations, which were then reflected in the Journal. While some of the features were of my usual flavor, others and some of the writings were quite sharp and frankly just plain rude, and potentially offensive. While I can not apologize for having an opinion nor for how others react to my journals, I can apologize for making the journals come across as sour and angry! When someone has a rough time, one after another, after another, after another, that person justifiably can be more and more angry and bitter! However, I do apologize for making the journals not pleasant to read! One thing I want to do—as I've said in past issues—is to make these journals a desirable read and to keep them relatively detached of the trash of the current world. So, that's what I plan to continue doing, starting back with this issue!

### Pending Stuff

As you know, we are in a new year, 2014. Now one month into it (1/12th), I have some developments that are currently in progress that I hope to be able to report about in the next issue. At this point, you will just have to wait until the next issue to hear more about them in hopes that they come to pass.

### February Events

February 2014 comes full of different events. On February 2, we start with Super Bowl XLVIII (48) where the Denver Broncos face the Seattle Seahawks (and just what is a "sea hawk"? Is it anything like a sea gull?) Anyway, some years I might watch it casually, and other years not at all. But when I do watch it, I mostly want to see the commercials! They are the best! And for the millions of dollars that companies spend on them, they better be!

Another event is the 50 year anniversary presentation of the American debut of the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show (February 9, 1964). A show will be on at the exact day, time, and network that the Ed Sullivan show was on to remember the start of the Beatles' influence. →

# 2014

The next event is a big one, the Winter Olympics! This time, the Winter Olympics is in Sochi, Russia. Read more about this year's Olympics on page 5.

February has Ground Hog's Day on 2.2.14. We will have to see if Punxsutawney Phil there in Pennsylvania sees his shadow!

President's Day on 2.17.14 to honor George Washington's (22) and Abraham Lincoln's (12) birthdays.

And finally, we have a February favorite, Valentine's Day on February 14.

*(Just a side note, I hated working on Valentine's Day when I worked for Steak Express! It was absolutely crazy! While some drivers' tips were awesome, mine was only the same as a good, regular day, but with a lot crazier work and driving! I do not miss that part about the job!)*



## Word for Life

### 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."

# Saddle Break Reads

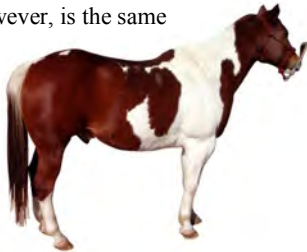
## Culinary Quest

Recently, I tried my hand at making homemade egg noodles! First time in many years. They turned out pretty good for not having a pasta machine!



## Paint Me A Horse

In the last issue, I included a graduate writing about one of my Animal Science classes (in the Back Page Literature). I talked about several horses I rode and learned training with. Here is a photo of me and one of the horses named Charlie (Yes, I know! Charlie Horse!) This photo, taken at the end of the course, was from a different class I took in the Fall 2003 term, a general horsemanship course. Charlie, however, is the same horse as mentioned in last month's writing.



## Need A Shoe?

How's this for an idea! I did not make these nor did I have the idea, but if you are handy with a forge and with a welding torch, try making these great handles for gate latches! They are safe since there's no blunt end and are easier to grab while horseback. In addition, once a horse is done with them (and you'll have plenty), they're recycled!

## Facebook Snippets—January

**January 3 via GoRecommend**, "If you've never been to Smashburger (if you have one nearby), you don't know what you're missing! Best burger around, hands down! And they have a great grilled chicken sandwich too! You have to try their rosemary and olive oil fries (they call them Smashfries), they are the best!"

**January 13**, "Is there anyone else out there who is fed up with "word fluff"? What I mean by that is that many people say a lot of words that sound great and might be appear to be helpful and good, but it means nothing and contributes nothing. If there's one thing I understand firmly is that words spoken without corresponding actions mean nothing!"

**January 19**, "Hello all! I am currently accepting new graphic design projects. Do you need new business cards? Stationery? How about a trifold redesign? As an extra incentive, I'm offering 15% off new projects!\* \*For a limited time."

**Super Cat goes for a walk on a skateboard !!**  
Super Cat goes for a walk on a skateboard !!



**January 23**, "How cool is this cat video! (And wouldn't you like to have that weather today!)" [Malibu, California]

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=202088189990147>



Just a reminder, anywhere you see a blue link to a website, just click the link to go there!



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



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



<http://pinterest.com/cowbovrg>

# 2014 Winter Olympics in

## Сочи, Москва

### Sochi, Russia

Starting in about a week, we have the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. The 2014 Games' opening ceremony is on Friday, February 7 and the closing of the Games is on Sunday, February 23.

As you know, each season Olympics is every four years with the summer and winter Olympics offset by two years. Sochi is a city in Russia right on the Black Sea, literally next to Georgia. It is about 900 miles due South of Moscow and about 500 miles Northeast of Istanbul. (See the map to the right.) For more info about the history of the Games, take a look at [www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games](http://www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games).

The winter Olympics includes the events of Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Cross Country Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Ice Hockey, Luge, Nordic Combined, Short Track Speed Skating, Skeleton, Ski Jumping, Snowboard, and Speed Skating.

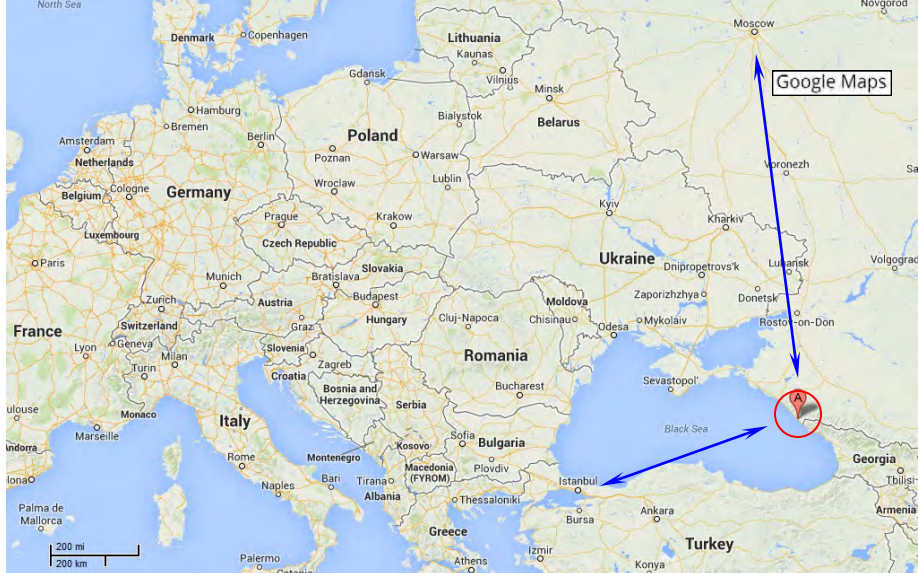
For me, my favorite by far is Curling of all the events! According to the Olympics website, "Curling is a team sport played by two teams of four players on a rectangular sheet of ice." For more info about Curling, go to: [www.olympic.org/curling-equipment-and-history](http://www.olympic.org/curling-equipment-and-history) which gives much more detail of the history and tools of the event. You really need to watch it while it's on to get a sense of how the game works. It is sort of like an ice version of bocce ball.

Apart from years ago, the medals today are much fancier and intricate as shown below. Even the ribbons are fancier.

*From left to right, the medals are gold, silver, and bronze.*



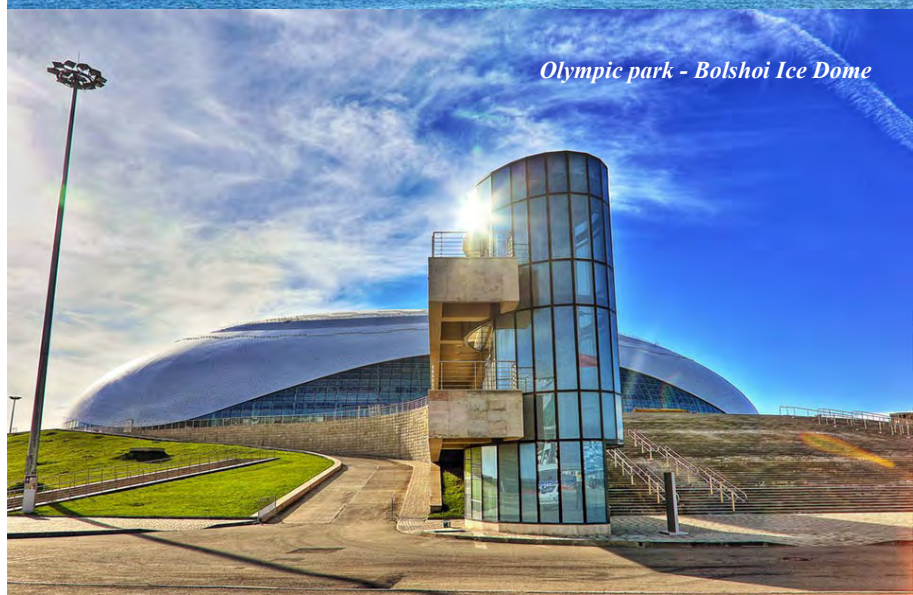
[www.olympic.org/sochi-2014-winter-olympics](http://www.olympic.org/sochi-2014-winter-olympics)



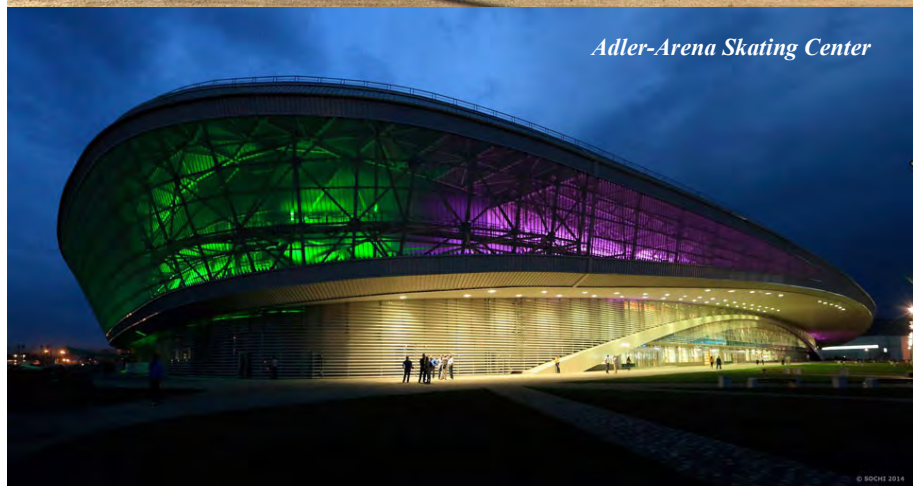
Photos by [www.olympic.org/photos/sochi-2014](http://www.olympic.org/photos/sochi-2014)



*Olympic Park showing the Bolshoi Ice Dome, Fisht Olympic Stadium, and Shayba Arena*



*Olympic park - Bolshoi Ice Dome*



*Adler-Arena Skating Center*

## Naiſſon Liuras

While researching for a writing, I came across some interesting dialects. The general area of my research is in the Riviera area of the Occitan region known as Provençal, where the sub dialect is Provençal. While French is widely known and spoken in various countries around the world, some of its dialects are not as well known. I noticed that this region has influence from Italy and Spain, making the culture appear like an unusual blend of French, Italian, and Spanish. In terms of language, they all have root in Latin (along with Portuguese and Romanian) and are not as different structurally as they might appear after you strip away the cultural type words.

Besides these five main romance languages, some dialects rooted in Latin are: Aragonese, Arpitan, Catalan, Aromanian, Asturian, Catalan, Emiliano Romagnolo, Galician, Corsican, Friulan, Ladino, Leonese, Lombard, Mirandese, Neapolitan, Occitan, Romansh, Sardinian, Piedmontese, Sicilian, Venetian, and Walloon. You can see that some of these names also refer to specific regions or countries like Cataluña, Corsicana, Lombardy, and Sicily. To make things more confusing, the Occitan dialect has sub dialects of: Auvergnat, Gascon, Languedocien, Limousin, Provençal, and Vivaro-Alpine. Whew!

Here are some examples.

English: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.\*

French: Tous les êtres humains naissent libres et égaux en dignité et en droits.

**Provençal:** Totei lei personas naiſſon liuras e egalas en dignitat e en drech.

Languedocien: Totas las personas naiſſon liuras e egalas en dignitat e en drech. Son dotadas de rason e de consciéncia e lor cal agir entre elas amb un esperit de frairesa.

Spanish: Todos los seres humanos nacen libres e iguales en dignidad y derechos

Italian: Tutti gli esseri umani nascono liberi ed eguali in dignità e diritti.

*\*This phrase comes from Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations.*

To read more dialect examples, go to: [www.omniglot.com/writing/occitan.htm](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/occitan.htm)

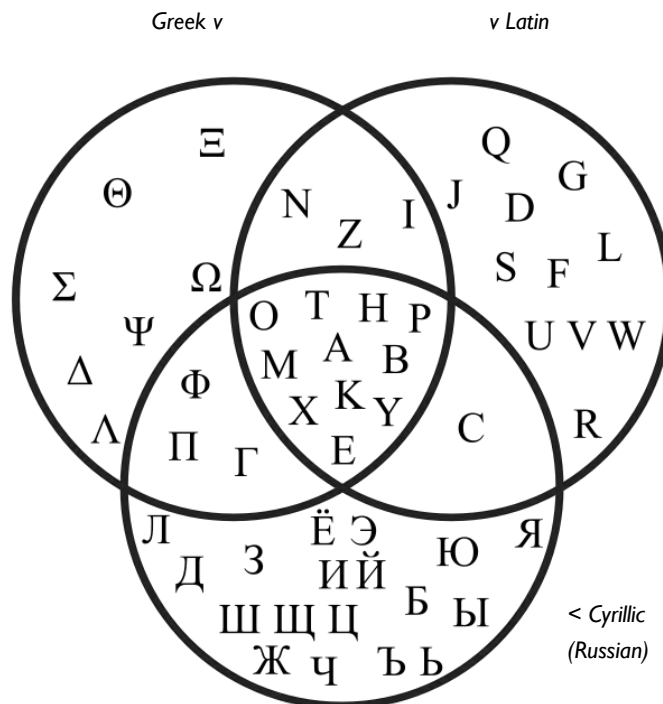


## More Language Fun

Ever wonder why or how languages are so different? No? Well, me neither until I come across something that brings up the question or a thought of something different. Not long ago, I was searching for something else, and I came across this neat little Venn diagram after following some rabbit trails. (You know, you get on Google to search for one thing, then all the little trash distractions and reference links scattered all over the page lead you through a whole web of other stuff you weren't looking for! And by the way, that's how I find much of the miscellaneous stuff I put in this Journal!) Well, this fit in great along with some other things I was planning to include.

So, this diagram shows the intersections of the same letters of three common alphabets. And by the way, the word "alphabet" comes from the first two letters of the Greek one, Alpha and Beta, hence alpha-bet.

The three alphabets are Latin (which includes most of the European languages minus accents and English), Greek (which is used heavily in math and science notation), and Cyrillic (the alphabet of Russia and most of the former USSR countries, in Russian as СССР). As you can see, about a third of the letters of each alphabet are common. Now be aware, just because an alphabet letter is common to another that does not necessarily mean it has the same sound! Some of the letters in one can actually be vowel in another! For example, A Y in English is a consonant, while in Russian it's a vowel. Also the R in English is shown backwards in Russian and is a vowel, pronounced like "ya".



For a little more information, go to:

[www.languagetrainers.com/blog/2012/06/12/common-characters-between-latin-greek-and-cyrillic-alphabets/](http://www.languagetrainers.com/blog/2012/06/12/common-characters-between-latin-greek-and-cyrillic-alphabets/)

# Corporate Greed Slaughtered Longstanding Icon

In Dublin, Texas since 1891, the Dublin Dr Pepper plant produced Dr Pepper using Imperial cane sugar instead of corn syrup. For well over a century, the people of Texas, especially central Texas, knew of and visited this pastime company. However, in January 2012, the corporation that now owns the brand Dr Pepper that started in Waco, Texas decided out of its corporate greed and to cause as much damage as possible through legal means, shut down the plant from producing Dr Pepper of any sort or recipe, disguising the lawsuit as "trademark infringement". Suffice it to say, the outcry of sensible people was of utter shock and disbelief!

Now a year later, the plant still exists, but rebranded itself as the [Dublin Bottling Works](#) and now has its own line of soda flavors like Sweet Peach, Ginger Ale, Vanilla Cream, Blueberry Breeze, Cherry Limeade, Cheerwine, and Black Cherry. They still have the soda fountain and gift shop. If you ever get near that way (and it's almost in the middle of nowhere), it's worth a visit!

Here are some photos I took when I visited the place in January 2009 and toured the bottling plant. Note: I have visited the place several times over the past 8 years or so.



# My Desert Rose

To catch you up on some other flora-fauna interests, I first bought a plant in February 2010 from United Supermarket in Lubbock that they had as a Valentine's Day promo. I thought the plant was interesting with its unusual shaped leaves so I bought it (although paying way too much for it!). The plant was called Desert Rose (*Kalanchoe thyrsiflora*, although I recently understand that the correct name is actually *Kalanchoe luciae*. Whatever.) See photo 1. Well, I liked the plant so much that after some searching (and another year), I went to Lowe's in the Spring 2011 and finally found and bought a six pack of them! See photo 2. Okay, so eventually I transplanted all of them into separate clay pots by the summer 2012, having to use bamboo sticks to hold them up since they were getting long and lanky. Some of them starting growing offshoots in the same pot. See photo 3. By mid 2013, I started noticing that they were getting kinda weird looking because

they were starting to grow really high. Eventually, I figured out that they were going to flower. Having no idea what the flower of a Desert Rose looked like, I figured it would be some nice bright, colorful flower like a lot of other succulents. Since the Kalachoe flowers you can get at the store have lots of different colors, I figured this would be similar. Well, the buds finally started to form and eventually the flowers appeared. To be honest, it was a huge let down! Take a look at photo 4 and you will see what I mean. They were these itty bitty yellow stamens and white petals on a base much bigger than the flower. There were many of these flowers in clusters, but I was expecting something overall much flashier, I guess. In any case, flowers or not, I still like the plant but wish it would get more of the red color it should have on the leaves.



Figure 1

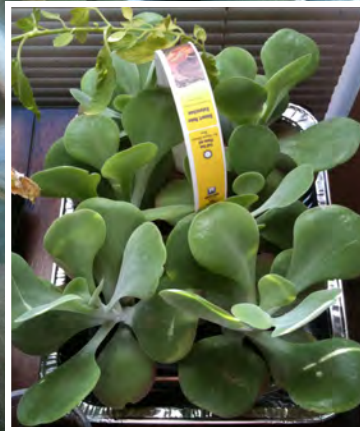


Figure 2

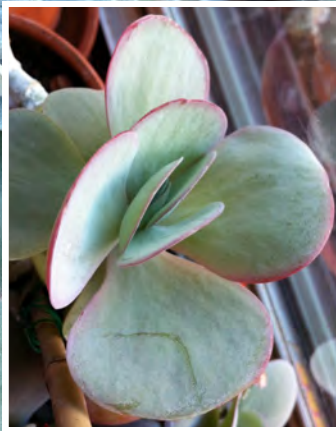


Figure 3

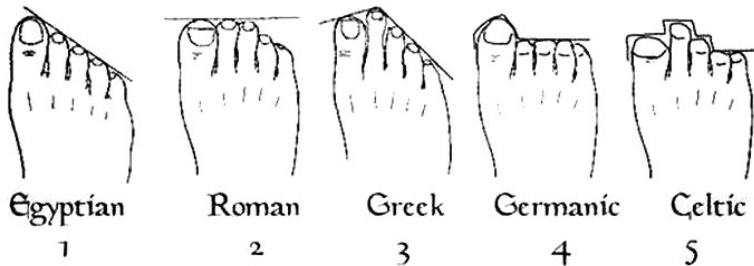


Figure 4

## Foot History

I found this floating on Facebook. Who ever noticed that feet were different?!

BASED ON THIS,  
WHAT ARE YOUR ROOTS?



## To Find A Comic

To make this Journal a little more light hearted, I did some nonspecific searching and eventually came across a cool site that publishes expired copyright comic books! And best of all, it's free! Now, I'm not a huge comic book person, specifically of vintage comics, but some of them seemed really cool. Since there is no copyright and since I can freely download and use them how I please, I am creating a several issue feature (and possible a permanent feature) of a vintage comic.

Without further ado, I present to you a full subsection from the premier issue of Bobby Benson's B-Bar-B Riders, May-June 1950 issue!



Listen to the Cowboy Kid Coast-to-Coast on the Mutual Network!

BOBBY BENSON'S *M 94124-195a.*

No. 1

# B-BAR-B RIDERS

10¢



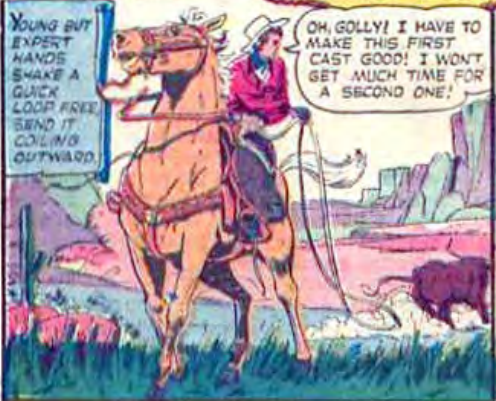
BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS

# BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS



**LOCOWEED** — THAT TINY LESUME THAT IS THE BANE OF ALL RANCHERS — CAN TURN A HALF-TON STEER INTO A MADDENED FURY OF DESTRUCTION. AND AS BOBBY BENSON MOVES ACROSS THE WEST BASIN OF HIS B-BAR-B SPREAD, A HOOFED AND HORNED STEER TURNS FROM A PATCH OF LOCOWEED, EYES RED AND FLAMING, HOOVES SPURNING THE GROUND, AND THUNDERS AT BOBBY WITH THE LUST TO KILL! AT THE LAST MOMENT, BOBBY'S PONY SWERVES, AND THE BOY RANCH-OWNER REACHES FOR HIS LARIAT, ONLY TO LEARN THAT HE IS ROPING HIMSELF A LOOPFUL OF TROUBLE AS HE CASTS HIMSELF INTO THE THRILLING ADVENTURE OF "THE LIGHTNING TRAP!"

LIKE A LIVING THING, THE LARIAT COILS UNDER THE STEER'S HOOFS...LIFTS AND CATCHES THEM!



YOUNG BUT EXPERT HANDS SHAKE A QUICK LOOP FREE, SEND IT COILING OUTWARD.

OH, GOLLY! I HAVE TO MAKE THIS FIRST CAST GOOD! I WON'T GET MUCH TIME FOR A SECOND ONE!



GOT HIM! HOLD HIM, AMIGO! I WANT TO FIND OUT HOW COME ONE OF OUR CATTLE GOT THIS FAR OUT OF THE BASIN! THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY PECULIAR ABOUT THIS!

**BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS**

AFTER TYING A QUICK-SLIP ROPE AROUND THE STEER'S HOOFS, BOBBY WALKS TO THE BARBED-WIRE FENCE, ONLY TO FIND THE STRANDS CUT AND PULLED DOWN!

HMMM... SOMEBODY DROVE A BIG TRUCK IN HERE! CAME OUT LOADED, TOO, SEEING HOW DEEP THESE TIRE MARKS ARE!

I HAVE TO TELL TEX ABOUT THIS! HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

CUT CLEAN ACROSS! PROBABLY WITH A WIRE-CUTTER! NO WONDER THAT STEER WANDERED OFF AND INTO A PATCH OF LOGWEED! BUT—HUH! WHAT'S THAT?



IN FRONT OF THE B-BAR-B RANCH BUNK-HOUSE, WINDY IS BREAKING IN A NEW PAIR OF BOOTS...

FORTY BUCKS THEY COST, AN' I'LL BE DOGGONE IF I'M GONNA LET 'EM THROW ME!

HA! HA! YUH LOOK LIKE YUH'RE STEPPIN' ON EGGSHells, WINDY! I HOPE BOBBY BRINGS THAT NEW CAMERA HE ORDERED BACK FROM TOWN, I WANT A PICTURE OF YUH LIKE THAT! HA! HA!



HOLD EVERYTHING, BOYS! LOOK AT BOBBY HIGHTAIL-IT! SOMETHING'S WRONG! WHAT'S THAT HE'S SAYING?

FENCE DOWN BY THE WEST BASIN! TRUCK'S RIDING AROUND INSIDE THE FENCE....!



—TRUCKS LOADED UP WITH SOMETHING, TEX— BUT WITH WHAT?

STEEERS, BOBBY! B-BAR-B STEERS! IT'S THE MODERN RUSTLER'S TRICK— LOAD THEM INTO A TRUCK AND DRIVE AWAY! BUT THEY CAN'T BE TOO FAR OFF, YESTERDAY THAT FENCE WAS STILL IN PLACE!



KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED, BOYS! IF YOU SIGHT ANOTHER BRBAK-THROUGH, GING OUT! THOSE HOMBRES MIGHT HAVE HIT US IN MORE THAN JUST ONE PLACE!

FUNNY I DIDN'T NOTICE THEIR TIRE-MARKS ON THE ROAD COMING FROM TOWN WHERE I GOT MY CAMERA, TEX, MAYBE THEY WENT THE OTHER WAY...?



**BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS**

THEY *DID* GO THE OTHER WAY, BOBBY, INTO THE HILLS! BUT THERE ARE SO MANY PLACES AND ROADS UP THERE IT'D BE LIKE TRYING TO FIND A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK, IF WE WENT AFTER THEM.

'SPECIALLY WHEN TIRE TRACKS DON'T SHOW ON A ROAD!



THUNDERATION! RUSTLERS IN GAS-BUGGIES! WEREN'T LIKE THAT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER! HUH! SHORE WILL BE A CINCH TO KETCH THEM!

CINCH, HUH? I SPOSE YOU GOT IT ALL FIGGERED OUT, WINDY!



YUH JEST BET YORE BOTTOM DOLLAR I KIN KETCH EM! I WILL, TOO, COME THUH NIGHT, YUH WAIT! I'LL SHOW YUH THESE CAR RUSTLERS ARE JEST TENDERFEET!

WATCH OUT WITH THAT THING, YUH CRAZY GALOOT! YUH ALMOST HIT ME WITH IT!



SOME MINUTES LATER, AS WINDY EXCUSES HIMSELF TO RIDE OFF, HE DROPS HANDFUL AFTER HANDFUL OF TACKS ALONG THE FENCING—

IT JEST TAKES BRAINS, THAT'S ALL! NOW WHEN THEM TRUCKS COME ALONG, THESE TACKS AND NAILS WILL SURE 'NUFF BLOW OUT THEIR TIRES! BE A CINCH TO CAPTURE THEM!



THAT NIGHT, AFTER A HOT MEAL, BOBBY STATIONS HIMSELF BESIDE TEX, AS WINDY AND IRISH TAKE POSITIONS FARTHER DOWN THE FENCE...

BOBBY—HEADLIGHTS! DU YOU SEE THEM!

I SURE DO, TEX! AND I HEAR THE MOTOR NOW. IT'S A BIG VAN COMING, MAYBE THE RUSTLERS!



YOU STAY THERE, BOBBY! THESE ARE TOUGH CHARACTERS!

I CAN HELP TEX—I HAVE MY LARIAT!



**BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS**



AND I'VE GOT YOU!  
WHAT THE—?



A KID! I'LL JUST MAKE SHORT WORK OF HIM, ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON THAT GUN AGAIN! WHOOPS!  
GOT TO... TRIP HIM UP... KEEP HIM BUSY!



NOW I'LL JUST ADD A FEW 'FINISHING' TOUCHES!



AS TEX AND BOBBY SLAM INTO THE RUSTLERS, WINDY AND IRISH LEAP TO THEIR FEET EXCITEDLY...  
I HEAR 'EM! COME ON, WINDY!



I... OWWW! OWWTCH! YEEOWW! TACKS! NAILS!



ME AN' MY FOOL IDEAS! OWWW!



AT THAT MOMENT —  
GOT TO... GET AWAY! NOISE WILL... BRING MORE MEN... GOT TO... GET AWAY!  
NOW I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, YOU LITTLE SMART-ALECK!

**BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS**



HOMBRE... LEAVE THAT BOY ALONE!  
I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!  
FORGET THAT KID! COME ON! IT'S TOO HOT HERE!



YOU ALL RIGHT, BOBBY?  
SURE, TEX. THE ONLY THING HURT IS— MY FEELINGS! I GUESS I MESSED THIS UP!  
WASN'T YOU, BOBBY. IT WAS WINDY!



HE SET A TRAP OF NAILS AND TACKS TO PUNCTURE THE TRUCK TIRES, THEN FELL INTO IT... HIMSELF!  
BUT TRUCK TIRES ARE SOLID RUBBER! THEY NEVER GET A BLOW-OUT BECAUSE THERE'S NO AIR-FILLED INNER TUBE!  
NOW YOU TELL ME! DOOH, MY POOR ACHIN' FEET!



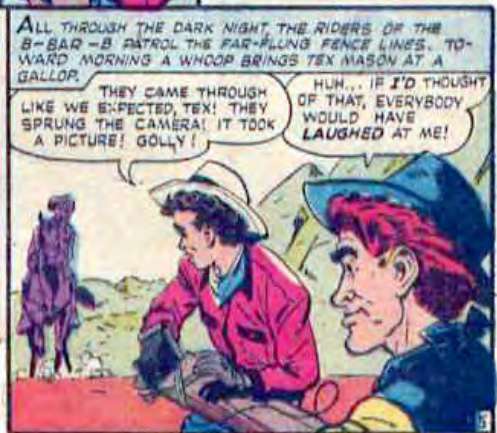
BET THOSE OWLHOOTS WILL MAKE ANOTHER TRY TONIGHT, BUT WE CAN'T PATROL THE WHOLE RANGE!  
MAYBE NOT, TEX, BUT A CAMERA COULD! WE COULD BORROW ALL THE CAMERAS AROUND HERE AND RIG THEM TO A TRIP-STRING THE WAY THEY TAKE THOSE WILD LIFE PICTURES!



NEXT DAY A THUNDERSTORM ROLLS IN OFF THE ARROWPOOT MOUNTAINS BY NIGHTFALL, AS THE RAIN SLACKS...  
EVS...  
'COURSE, WE COULDN'T USE FLASH BULBS, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH LIGHTNING, IT WOULD GIVE ALL THE LIGHT NEEDED! THEY WOULDN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING— A CAMERA CLICK DOESN'T MAKE MUCH NOISE... AND MAYBE WE'D GET A PICTURE OF THOSE MEN'S FACES!



SOME HOURS LATER...  
THERE! THIS IS THE EIGHTH CAMERA. MAYBE—WITH—LUCK, SOMETHING WILL DEVELOP!  
WAAA... IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A PUN, TEX?



ALL THROUGH THE DARK NIGHT THE RIDERS OF THE B-BAR-B PATROL THE FAR-FLUNG FENCE LINES, TOWARD MORNING A WHOOP BRINGS TEX MASON AT A GALLOP.  
THEY CAME THROUGH LIKE WE EXPECTED, TEX! THEY SPRUNG THE CAMERA! IT TOOK A PICTURE! GOLLY!  
HU... IF I'D THOUGHT OF THAT, EVERYBODY WOULD HAVE LAUGHED AT ME!

**BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS**



LATER, IN BOBBY'S CELLAR DARK-ROOM, THE NEGATIVE IS DEVELOPED—



I'LL RIDE TO ALL THE RANCHES, TEX. I'LL LEAVE PICTURES OF THOSE BAD-HATS. IF THEY SEE THEM IN TOWN OR ON THE RANGE—THEY'RE TO CALL US AND LET US KNOW!



THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, AS BOBBY AND TEX ARE SHOPPING IN TOWN...

WHY, SURE! I WAITED ON THOSE HOMERES JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO. THEY RODE OUT OF TOWN LESS'N FIVE MINUTES AGO, HEADED NORTH!

THAT'S ALL WE WANT TO KNOW! LET'S RIDE, BOBBY!



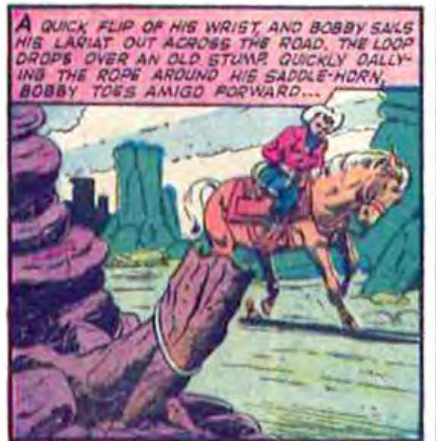
THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW THAT ROAD FOR TEN MILES BEFORE IT FORKS! WE OUGHT TO REACH THERE BY A SHORTCUT AHEAD OF THEM!

I LEFT WORD FOR WINDY AND IRISH TO FOLLOW US. THIS TIME WE'LL GET THOSE RUSTLERS!



BOBBY! HERE THEY COME! THEY MUST BE HITTING SIXTY MILES AN HOUR! THEY'D RUN US OVER LIKE TENPINS AT THAT SPEED IF WE TRIED TO STOP THEM!

TEX...THOSE HEAVY RAINS LOOSENED THE SIDES OF THE GULLY ACROSS THE WAY! MAYBE...MAYBE...I CAN STOP THEM!

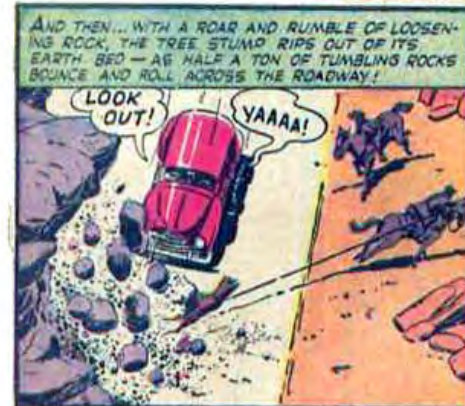


A QUICK FLIP OF HIS WRIST, AND BOBBY SALS HIS LARIAT OUT ACROSS THE ROAD. THE LOOP DROPS OVER AN OLD STUMP, QUICKLY DALLYING THE ROPE AROUND HIS SADDLE-HORN, BOBBY TOSSES AMIGO FORWARD...



NO USE, BOBBY! IT WON'T WORK! THEY'RE HERE NOW... AND THEY'LL GET AWAY AGAIN!

**BOBBY BENSON'S B-BAR-B RIDERS**



AND THEN... WITH A ROAR AND RUMBLE OF LOOSENING ROCK, THE TREE STUMP RIPS OUT OF ITS EARTH-BED—AS HALF A TON OF TUMBLING ROCKS BOUNCE AND ROLL ACROSS THE ROADWAY!

LOOK OUT!

YAAAA!



YOU AGAIN! COWBOY—THIS SURE IS YOUR UNLUCKY DAY!

TALK FOR YOURSELF, HOMBRE!



MAYBE THIS JOLT WILL PUT YOU BACK ON THE RIGHT PATH, MISTER!

I GOT HIM, ED!

AAA!!!



UNABLE TO FREE HIS LARIAT LOOP OF A WIND-AND-SUN-HARDENED PIECE OF TREE STUMP, BOBBY WHIRLS IT IN BOLO FASHION...

GOT TO USE THIS THE WAY—SOUTH AMERICANS SWING THEIR BOLDS!



AT THE APEX OF HIS SWING, BOBBY CASTS LOOSE THE WOOD-WEIGHTED LARIAT LOOP—WITH STUNNING RESULTS!



HEY TEX... ARE WE IN TIME?

BOBBY AND I HAVE THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND, WINDY. BUT JUST AS A MATTER OF CURIOSITY, WHAT KEPT YOU? LOSE YOUR SHOES AGAIN?



NO, I DIDN'T... BUT MY BRONC DID! LOOK!

HA! HA! HA!

Panda!



# Back Page Literature

## Greyhound Bus Trip: Colorado Springs and Lubbock

On page 5 of the 2.7 (July 2013) issue of the Journal, I mentioned that I took a Greyhound bus to Lubbock and back. I also said that I would eventually do a "little writing" for the Back Page Literature. Well, here it is finally!

This writing is based on my journal notes and is written informally in a date/time format, where I note the more interesting parts of my bus trip. Enjoy!

### Colorado Springs, July 11, 2013

**8:30 AM:** Arrived at the Greyhound bus station in downtown Colorado Springs.

**10:00 AM:** On the bus and now leaving the station. The bus appears to be about half full with every pair of seats with someone. Taking the Greyhound bus was plan B, mainly because of the truck issue. The bus seems to be clean, but I don't think it's one of the new buses. However, the bus does have plugs to plug in phones, laptops, etc but no wifi. We're almost an hour behind, but it might offset the hour layover in Amarillo.

**10:18 AM:** Loooooong coal train on a bridge over the road. Then a short time later, another coal train going in the opposite direction to the north.

**10:53 AM:** Arrived at the Pueblo station. This station is rather nice. A few people got off and no one got on. After we left, we did not get back on the interstate, but on Highway 50 going east.

**11:14 AM:** We are out past Pueblo a ways and the land is relatively flat. I see spots of farming with pivots and cattle. We crossed over a river, the Arkansas River I think, that has a good water level near Avondale, Colorado. The Arkansas parallels the road for most of the way to Lamar.

**11:19 AM:** Passed a cornfield to the right (south) and a few other fields of hay, I think. Further down were some buffalo gourd vines with their yellow/orange flowers. We also passed by the Huerfano River which was bone dry! Most of the land is scrubby with very slight waves.

**11:53 AM:** On the way to Rocky Ford, we passed a feedlot of Holstein cows and a feed mill. We stopped in Rocky Ford and one person got off. I saw the motel dad and I stayed in one time when we were travelling in the 2000s, the High Chaparral Inn.

**12:02 PM:** More Holstein cows in another feed lot and also passed Timpas Creek, where there was a little bit of water.

**12:04 PM:** Passed the town of Swink. I saw a smokestack that had printed Holly Sugar, along with various farmer markets and, of course, a Walmart.

**12:08 PM:** Came through the town of La Junta, where I saw the motel we stayed at earlier in that trip with dad. We stopped at the Amtrak station in La Junta. East of here towards Las Animas is Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site where we visited one time.

**12:20 PM:** The land seems a little more wavy, but still fairly flat. It's all scrub and grass except for where the Arkansas River is where there's a lot more green.

**12:56 PM:** We passed by an old stone building that apparently was a school, but that's a much as I could get as the sign whizzed by. [Google Maps later revealed that it is the Star School near McClave, Colorado and built in 1898 from the dismantled stones of Bent's Old Fort.] Shortly later, we passed another feedlot, but the cattle were a different breed (not Holsteins), probably beef cattle. Saw various horses grazing and brown cows grazing, along with little farm like areas.



**1:07 PM:** Arrived in the town of Lamar, 3622 feet. Lunch time!

**1:34 PM:** Since we were running late originally, lunch was more of an order and go situation. Most of us went to the McDonald's where we parked behind, but a few went to Sonic or the quick stop at the gas station. As we went through downtown Lamar, we crossed some railroad tracks and went by the Chamber of Commerce. The building was an old train station that looked like it is set up partly as a visitor center or "museum" with train cars, an Eclipse windmill, and water tank out front along with a blade of a wind turbine on the ground.

**2:00 PM:** I noticed that along this stretch, the cell signal goes in and out, depending on the elevation. We are nearing a wind farm that appears to have maybe 50 to 100 turbines, all turning steadily.



**2:31 PM:** In this general area, there's only short grass, except near the houses, where there are trees and shrubs. The land is still flat with only slight waves. I see various windmills dotting the land and a little pivot farming. The grass is very dry with only occasional green weeds.

**2:45 PM:** Passed the town of Campo, the last town before Oklahoma. There's not much around these parts!

**2:54 PM MT/3:54 PM CT:** We are now in the panhandle of Oklahoma on the way to Boise City.

It's hard to believe that 80 years ago, this was the heart of the Dust Bowl! The roads here in Oklahoma sure are crappy!!

**4:02 PM CT:** Finally!! We are on some concrete roads! The landscape suddenly changed to show some formations sort of like very small mesas or buttes. The land became sort of hill and valley like with a river nearby.

**4:05 PM:** Well, now we are completely flat again!

**4:15 PM:** Now at Love's truck stop in Boise City.

**4:30 PM:** More nothingness as far as the eye can see! Just railroad tracks, grass, cows, windmills, sky, and a few scattered, grazing horses. I can only imagine what it must have been like for a lone rider to traverse these parts back in the day!

**4:35 PM:** Back in Texas! (and with better roads!)

**4:50 PM:** We are in the town of Stratford, the first town in Texas from Oklahoma or Colorado. Also, saw the first oil pumps in a while.

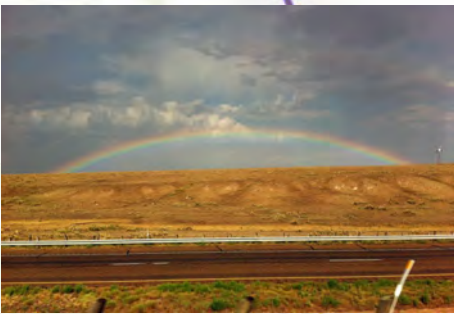
**5:10 PM:** Arrived to the town of Cactus. Hmm... I don't see any! Been seeing more oil pumps, pivots, windmills, and small towns, but still with vast emptiness in between. Also have seen more farming equipment, metal barns, cedar posts, and Alsups!

# Back Page Literature

## Greyhound Bus Trip: Colorado Springs and Lubbock (continued)

**5:34 PM:** Just left the stop in Dumas near Big R. We had a slight shower of rain for a few seconds. Also, we passed by the Window on the Plains Museum at the south end of the town.

**5:57 PM:** Since we had a little rain and rain clouds near Dumas, I saw a full rainbow off in the distance. The landscape is hilly like I've seen near Amarillo, along with more scattered oil pumps.



**6:25 PM:** In Amarillo. This is the fourth time I've been at this Greyhound station in Amarillo. The first time was in July 1994 and again in August 1994 on the return trip. The third time was in September 2005 to catch the bus going to Springfield, Missouri. On that trip, I only needed the bus one way. And today in July 2013 to go to Lubbock. Of course, I'll come here again when I head back to Colorado in a couple of weeks. The station looks like it went through a partial remodel a few years ago. Other than that, it looks very similar as it was in 1994, nearly 20 years ago! And it still looks pretty crummy! The station had wifi, just not on this particular bus.

**7:50 PM:** We finally left the station. We boarded thirty minutes ago. We got on I-27 to Lubbock, which is now about two hours away.

**8:22 PM:** Back in familiar territory! We passed the Whataburger and Love's off Hollywood Road that I would stop at when I drove. On the way to Plainview, the sun is still up, but starting to get that pre-sunset like glow starting.

**8:39 PM:** We passed the Tulia exit and the sun is behind some clouds and starting to get sunsetty.

**8:54 PM:** Dark orangy sun just above the horizon, which, of course, is flat!

**9:00 PM:** In Plainview, home town of Jimmy Dean.

**9:45 PM:** Now at the Lubbock station. Home!

**Later Evening:** The bus trip went quickly and smoothly today and was overall quite pleasant. The route through southeast Colorado was not one I had taken in several years (not since 2008, I think.)

It was definitely good to have a positive Greyhound experience!  
**Lubbock: July 12-24, 2013**

The main purpose of going to Lubbock was to teach the week long Summer Youth Classes. But, I wanted to get there a few days early and stay a few days later so I could see some people and visit some places. I had not been back in Lubbock since this time last year when I came to teach the 2012 Summer Youth Classes (of course, I drove last year). I stayed with some friends for the two weeks, and fortunately, they helped me with transportation. Also while here, I had my birthday (like last year), and despite feeling yucky for part of the day, I had a nice, low key birthday.

**Lubbock, July 25, 2013**

**6:32 AM:** If you can believe it, I'm on the bus and ready to go. I woke up around 4:15 AM and my friend drove me to the station. It's still dark outside, but the sky is starting to get that early morning dark blue color. We are getting on I-27 north.

**6:40 AM:** Getting lighter, but it's pretty cloudy. This bus must be newer since it has the on board wifi.

**7:37 AM:** We are north of Plainview, and I saw some cornfields. This area is all farming and flat land.

**7:50 AM:** There is some rain off in the distance and clouds everywhere. A little rain hit the bus. Some lightning bolts hit off in the distance against the gray sky. The sun is up, but you can't see it for all the clouds.

**7:53 AM:** Going through a very rainy patch. This is definitely very good for the land!



**9:58 AM:** Now leaving the Amarillo station. We arrived at the station about 8:30 AM. While there, I got some breakfast at their little grill (which wasn't bad), then chilled for a while and played games on the phone, checked email, etc.

**10:20 AM:** The landscape north of Amarillo a little ways off is hilly with reddish dirt and lots of mesquites and shrubs and grasses. We passed by a small river that looks like it had more water than two weeks ago.

**10:27 AM:** There are mesas off in the distance and slightly hilly land and lots of short, green grass, probably from all the recent rain. There's a nice cloud pattern in the heavily clouded sky.

**10:50 AM:** We are in Dumas for a very quick stop. From here to Pueblo is where we diverge going north from when we came south. We are going the route from here to Dalhart through New Mexico to Raton, then north on I-25, much like the way I went when I drove.

**10:58 AM:** We passed by a corn field that is starting to tassel out. There are stacks of big blocks of hay and various fields of crops mixed with fields of various animals. This road is a two lane to Dalhart.

**11:17 AM:** Just went through Hartley. I saw big shiny steel silos, rather nice to see.

**11:27 AM-11:34 AM:** Going through Dalhart

**11:40 AM:** The landscape here in the northwest panhandle of Texas near New Mexico is lush and green with pivots and waving green hay blowing in the wind, even the weeds look good.

**11:49 AM:** We appear to come to the edge of the clouds and it looks to be clear from here on for a good ways. I see many cattle of various colors grazing and chewing cud in the fields. This area is mainly flat with a very slight wave and fields with pivots. Nearby is Rita Blanca Creek.

**12:05 PM CT/11:05 AM MT:** Just over the state line into New Mexico past Texline.

**11:14 AM MT:** We are at the Clayton weigh station. Not far away is a restaurant that appears as if it was an old style Sonic. The building later became a restaurant called Maxine's. A few years ago, I had a really good grilled chicken sandwich there. They have since closed. Shortly later, we stopped at the Clayton bus stop.

**11:30 AM:** This part of New Mexico has the start of rolling hills and mesas in the distance. This area is a lot more green than I have seen it in the past.

**11:35 AM:** Herd of antelope in the pastures near the road.

# Back Page Literature

## Greyhound Bus Trip: Colorado Springs and Lubbock (continued)



**11:57 AM:** We just passed the rest stop where I slept in the truck last year (6.4.2012) with my U-Haul trailer while on the way to Colorado Springs.

**12:03 PM:** Just went through Des Moines. This is a really small town in the vast nothingness of this area, which is hilly with small mountains in the distance. This is definitely pure, unspoiled cattle country with only minor developments in spots, besides the road itself. (This road has been in various states of construction over the past many years!) To the north is the Capaulin volcano, the culprit that created the various lava flows of this area a long, long time ago.

**12:21 PM:** As we are nearing Raton, we have more clouds and looks to be cloudy well north of here. The Springs did show a forecast of rain in the afternoon. We passed the TO Ranch. The mountains here are more pronounced as we near the Raton Pass area.

**12:38 PM:** Arrived in Raton, Time for lunch!

**1:12 PM:** Like before, we had enough time to get lunch and take it back on the bus. Also like before, it was McDonald's. We are going north on I-25.

**1:19 PM:** As we start climbing through the mountain pass, I noticed many burned trees on both sides of the road. I don't know when this fire happened, but there is new growth.

**1:24 PM:** We just stopped on the side of the road while the driver ran across the interstate to go to a bus going in the opposite direction that was stopped by the side of the road. The bus was a different name, Americano's, but might be operated by Greyhound or a parent company of Greyhound.

**1:34 PM:** Just crossed over the state line into Colorado. As we continue to go through the pass, the clouds are rather dark all over. Past trips through the pass proved to have crazy weather, particularly hail.

**1:49 PM:** We are at the weigh station just outside of Trinidad on the north side of the pass.

**2:16 PM:** The area is still cloudy, but no rain as of yet. While going north, we have mountains on the west side and wavy plains on the east side.

**2:34 PM:** We just crossed over some train tracks in Walsenburg to the bus stop, and just in time too since a train just came with lots of cars, many with graffiti.

**2:44 PM:** We are in an area where there are rolling, wavy plains with nothing but grass, no trees or shrubs, but there are cholla cactus scattered about. The only trees are by the rivers and creeks. Very close by the road are some Sony wind turbines being installed by the interstate. At the point of this writing, I only saw four of them, but they might be installing more. There were none here last year when I drove by.

**3:28-3:34 PM:** Arrived and left the Pueblo Stop. Here is where we pick back up from when I went south two weeks ago.

**4:25 PM:** Back at the Colorado Springs bus station. Today has been long, but a good day.

### January 2014

I have made this trip between Lubbock and Colorado Springs by way of Raton many times since 2007, just not by bus. The two weeks in Lubbock were great, but not without a few logistical challenges. After the truck was repossessed in early July 2013, all means of transportation, other than walking, came to a screeching halt. Living in Colorado Springs is and always was temporary, a short term means of refuge from financial crisis building up over several years. Transportation or not, finances or not, I am standing that I will get back to Texas some where quickly (and not "quickly" in the Biblical sense, but actual quickly as in weeks).

## Round Trip Plane Ride to Jacksonville, Florida

August 27, 2013

We left the house about 7:30 AM and got to the Denver airport about 9:00 AM. I checked in one bag outside then walked over to the security checkpoint. The line was long but went smoothly and, surprisingly, quickly. Past the security checkpoint, everyone boarded a train to one of three terminals. I got to my gate about 9:40 AM MT. I was one of the last to board into the very full plane, and we got into the air about 10:50 AM, a little late. A little while into the flight, they gave us snacks of cheddar Cheez-Its and honey roasted peanuts, and I had ginger ale. We arrived in Nashville about 2:15 PM CT, which was also late, but at least it cuts down the wait time at the airport before the next flight. I went to the Burger King in the food court then piddled for a while. Now I can say that I was in Nashville! We left about 4 PM on a plane that was about 3/4 full, and arrived in Jacksonville about 6:30 PM ET. The flight was smooth and uneventful. After getting my bag, Mom picked me up.



September 10, 2013

Over the past two weeks, I spent time with Mom doing different things. The main reason I was there was to repaint the front porch, which had not been painted in over 20 years. Also, we did a few other things and ate at a few places, and I did get to see a few people. Okay, so I woke up before 6:00 AM ET and left the house around 7ish. We got to the airport just before 7:30 AM and it was very empty. I got through security quickly and went to the gate. The plane arrived about 8:40 AM and boarded not long after. This flight was nonstop, so I spent my time reading some magazines I brought. We came near the Denver airport a little early and had to fly in circles through the clouds for a while somewhere out in eastern Colorado. We landed a little after 11 AM MT. I got my bags and dad picked me up, and we went back to Colorado Springs.