

JANUARY 8, 2018 | 7.1

# de Stolfe Journal

*Candid*



2017 — Year in Review



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Squirrels are great for photographic subjects! As long as you have a camera that can zoom in enough, you can get really neat photos of them!

This is called a fox squirrel (*sciurus niger*), also known as the eastern fox squirrel or as the Bryant's fox squirrel.

It is the largest species of tree squirrel that is native to North America.

*(I've noticed them to be the kind of squirrels that have the tannish color to them. The squirrels I've seen in Florida are all gray with no brownish tones at all.)*



# Candid Comments from the Producer



## Year in Review

### Happy New Year 2018!

Well, as you have noticed, I have not had many issues out in 2017. The last one out was a special edition for President's Day way back in February 2017. In June of last year, I started working on another issue. I was over halfway done when something blipped on the computer, and it was all gone, both the stuff I had saved earlier for that next issue along with the new stuff I was adding in June. So with that, I said hell with it, and dismissed the Journals entirely! That didn't mean, however, that nothing happened in 2017!

To understand my 2017, we have to go back to 2016 and even a few months into 2015. After I moved back to Lubbock in November 2015, I started a job with a technology installation company. While I was still in Leadville in 2015, I had a friend who started working there and was slowly telling them about me and the work I did in years prior. I definitely appreciated the referral since I was moving back to Lubbock without a job. From the beginning, the arrangement was a little strange to which I really had no understanding of that meaning, but I had high hopes for my future there as anyone in a new job would have. Well, that was my first biggest mistake to think that! Long story short, I found myself without that job at the end of September 2016 after many months of frustration and continual disagreement with the owners (and really almost from the start). Frankly, I was ecstatic to finally end the job for it became rather toxic to me in many ways! However, finding another job proved to be a fruitless search. Some of this you might have picked up from my Journals at the end of 2016 and early 2017. It wasn't until May 2017 that I started working back at Temple Israel in Leadville for the summer, much like I did in 2014 and 2015. This arrangement was agreed upon earlier in the year. I worked there from May through October.

As it turned out, 2017 ended up being a big travelling year of sorts. In March/April, I went to Colorado Springs and to Las Vegas for CinemaCon. Then in April, I went to Jacksonville, Florida to see Mom. Then in May,

I went to Leadville, Colorado for the job. This being the first time in Leadville where I had my own car, I did some short distance travelling of sorts during those six months. I drove to Lubbock and back in July to check on my apartment and take care of some things. After the Leadville job was done, I went back to Colorado Springs in early November before going back home to Lubbock. After that, I went to see some friends who lived in central Texas I haven't seen in a while for Thanksgiving. Then finally, I went back up to Colorado Springs for Christmas and back to Lubbock for New Years. My overall mileage for 2017 was just under 9000 miles. Now, that might not be very high for the year, but my six months in Leadville did not require much driving because of how small the town is. So, my driving was such that either it was very little driving or it was long distance driving. So, that balanced each other out.

This issue contains highlights of my activities throughout 2017. I still can't promise any kind of regularity of these issues through 2018, but I hope not to forego the entire year this year! And speaking of this year, I am still seeking employment, but I do have an interesting development from the past couple of months.

Out of curiosity, I contacted the local arts center about how to have a community class for art. Well, rather quickly, it evolved into establishing some community classes that I'll be teaching in February and March! I'll be teaching two rounds of two classes. One class is called Abstract Art and the other class is called Art Foundations. The Foundations class is a single class while the Abstract class is a block of three classes. Each class I'll repeat a second time. So, a pair in February and a pair in March. In addition, the center installed a show in January of work by the teachers teaching the classes in the Spring. By no means is this a job nor is it any major income, but it is a good opportunity and something fun I can do! Likewise, if anyone could benefit from the information I give, then all the better!

Have fun looking through the past year's worth of happenings!

RG

## On the Cover

I have no clue why I keep photographing this windmill in New Mexico! But, it is an easy stop and I usually get some nice photos of the windmill, barns, and sometimes animals. P. 29.



# Word for Life

## Spreading the Good News

We went to In-N-Out for lunch one day we were in Las Vegas in March. I had heard about the rumors of them putting scriptures on the packaging. So, I needed to see it for myself. Sure enough, there they were, on the cups, burger trays, and fry envelopes. There also could have been other scriptures on other packaging I did not have. I had also seen on Facebook posts about satanic comments on the packaging. But those were clearly Photoshopped manipulations meant to disrepute this California based company!

So here are the scriptures on the packaging of the food I had (see the photo to the right):

John 3:16

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.

Proverbs 24:16

For a righteous man may fall seven times  
And rise again,  
But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

So, what can we learn from this? For one, not to be afraid to spread the Good News! These scriptures are not particularly hidden on the packaging. We cannot afford in this time we are currently living in to hide who we are in Christ, nor does God want us to keep it private! The "world" will always say that you should never talk about religion with other people. Except that their understanding is flawed! A relationship with God is NOT a religion! It never was and it will never be. That was an invention by man, not God.



Therefore, speak forth! Speak boldly! Speak loudly! People cannot be saved by His believers mumbling, complaining, or worse from not speaking at all! God wants ALL to come to the knowledge of Christ. Many will still reject God's offer of salvation, usually from believing lies they accepted about God. However, they will still be accountable to God for their lives, no matter what they believe. In the Judgement Day, their belief holds zero weight to God's Word and will be judged by God's Word. That is why we need to speak forth the truth of God's Word so we can do our job. Once we tell people about the Good News, the responsibility then transfers from us to the individual to decide what to do next. Hell is a real place, and it is no party that many falsely believe! The facts about Hell can scare even the believer! Imagine what a non believer would think (if they would believe it all)! Let's make a difference that truly saves people's lives!

### John 3:16 NKJV

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.

This internationally known scripture is simple: God loved man. God did not want man to be eternally separated. God sent Jesus to save man.

### Proverbs 24:16 NKJV

For a righteous man may fall seven times  
And rise again,  
But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

This tells us that no, we are not going to be perfect, but that we have God's grace to try again and again. However, the wicked will perish by their own invention or by causes they cannot control..

### Revelation 3:20 NKJV

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

This goes along with John 3:16. Jesus is the ONLY door to salvation. Invite Him and He will save you and spend eternity with you.

# 2017: Year in Review

## January



In early January 2017, Lubbock got a little bit of snow, which is not untypical to get snow in late December and January. This ended up only being about an 1".

Now while January had snow, by late February into March, we had blooming trees. Sometimes even then, we'll get a cold snap. But usually by March into April, we are done with cold weather. This flowering tree is a Bradford pear. It is not an actual pear, but it does have small red cherries in the fall, and these flowers don't smell all that good either.

## February



# 2017: Year in Review

## March



On our way to Las Vegas from Colorado Springs, we took the Four Corners route. We went by these rock formations on the way to Page,

Arizona before sunset. We were on the northern edge of the Navajo Reservation not too far from the Utah border.



This is Glen Canyon Dam just north of Page, Arizona. It is one of many dams along the Colorado River (the same river that goes through the Grand Canyon).



Another attraction we stopped at was Zion National Park. We went here once before in the 2000s (2004?). From here, we ended up going into Las Vegas a few days early.

# 2017: Year in Review

## March



Here is the more famous dam, the Hoover Dam. As you can see here and with the Glen Canyon Dam, the water levels are much lower than in the past. After 9-11, they built an interstate level road a little further south of the dam and much higher up. The dam is now just an attraction. It is not a through road.



After we got to Las Vegas a few days early, we basically toured the area and saw whatever we wanted to see. This is Red Rock Canyon

National Conservation Area. There is a visitor center we wanted to go see, but for some reason, it was blocked off by police.

# 2017: Year in Review

## March



We walked through the Fremont Street Experience and walked around seeing the restored historic lighted signs, among other things to see.

Dad

*Crazy motorcycles, huh?*



# 2017: Year in Review

## March



One stop I wanted to make in 2016, but didn't have time was The Neon Boneyard Park. This is a museum that preserves and sometimes restores the old signs from historic Las Vegas. The front of the



museum is the lobby of the old La Concha Hotel that was moved from the original location to the current location.



The main reason for the trip to Las Vegas is for dad to go to CinemaCon and where I just tagged along. The convention lasts for about four days. The actual convention costs way more than most people can afford, but they have two very large trade shows as part of it, projection & sound and concessions. Dad gets passes from MTE (Magnatech Electronics, Inc) who he used to work for. So we only really get to see the trade shows.



Photo from Julio Urbay

# 2017: Year in Review

## April



So, then in April, I went to Florida for Easter. Mom got a new front walkway. I got these monster carrots at a local farmer's market.



Visited with my aunt and uncle for a picnic in Palatka, Florida.



Visited the Cummer Museum and Gardens. This is the Italian garden.



Both of these water shots is of the St. Johns River, the one in Palatka and this one in Jacksonville.

# 2017: Year in Review

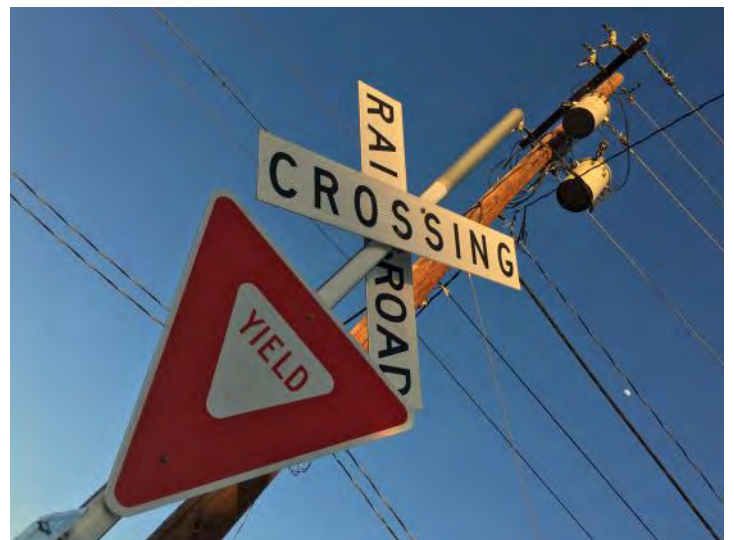
May



Near my apartment is this field that grows winter wheat that harvests around June.



Some rat rods I saw one afternoon over at West End.



Took this in downtown Lubbock during the May First Friday Art Trail.

# 2017: Year in Review

## May



Well... It worked out that I needed a job and that Temple Israel still needed another person to work the summer. Soooo... I went back up to Leadville for the summer 2017! The second week in May, I went back up to Colorado Springs for a few days, then to Leadville with a very packed car. The situation was such that for half of the summer, I would be living in an apartment provided by the museum until the current occupant at the museum would leave in August. At that point, I would take up residence of the unit behind the museum. For the first nearly three months, we both worked at the museum. The apartment was one block away, so it was easy to go to work.

Since this was the first summer in Leadville where I had my own transportation (I did not have a vehicle in 2014 and 2015), I wanted to make sure to see more of Leadville and surrounding areas that I could not see in previous years. At the end of May, I decided after work to see Turquoise Lake that I had heard about so much about in the past. I only went to where the dam was, but I did see the lake and the relatively low water level.



# 2017: Year in Review

## June



As I did in previous years, I went and got plants and mulch to refresh the front garden at the museum to make it ready for the cemetery cleanup weekend at the end of June. Most of the plants were still from the first year I planted them, but there were always replacement plants needed.

The Hebrew Cemetery cleanup weekend was June 24-25, 2017. That Saturday was a Shabbat service with an oneg, and the cleanup was on Sunday. The other guy's birthday was Saturday. So, I surprised him with a cake. (It turned out to be a lot of trouble considering the limited resources of Leadville, but I got it worked out.)



# 2017: Year in Review

## June

Near the end of June, I took a drive up the east side of Leadville after work. This was through the old mining district and increased in elevation by around 1000 or 1500 feet. The views were awesome!



# 2017: Year in Review

## July

July started out with the usual Independence Day. As before, I worked that day; we were open. But, small town Leadville always has a Fourth of July parade down Harrison Avenue, one of two major parades during the summer. Since it was before we opened, I went to watch it. It was about 30-40 long and had all variety of small town entries you could expect and not expect! Then, once it got dark, they had a fireworks display. (Now understand that it's just fireworks going off, no real effort for a "spectacular" display!)



One of many old vehicles in the Fourth of July parade.



You never know what you will see in the annual Fourth of July parade!



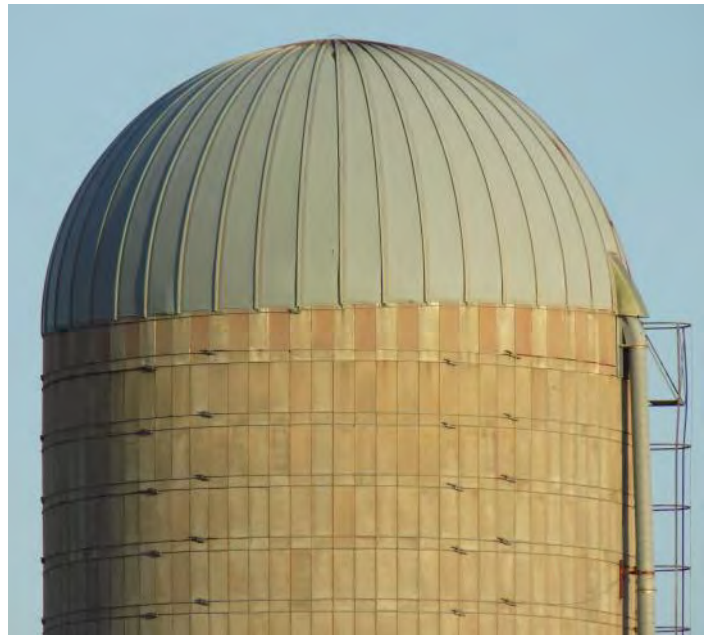
Not overly spectacular fireworks, but they have them every year.



# 2017: Year in Review

## July

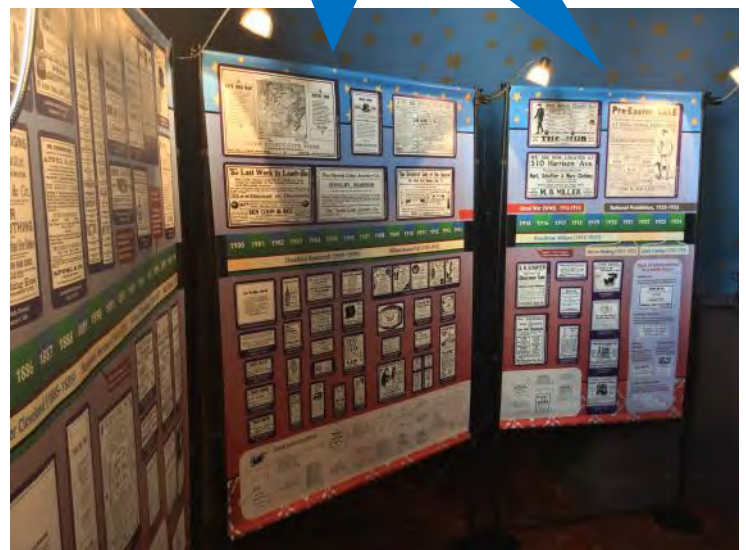
In years past, I drove to Lubbock in mid July to teach the classes for the Summer Youth Classes at the National Ranching Heritage Center as I did for most years since 2006. But in 2016, they moved the classes to early June. And so in 2016, I taught the classes in June. However, I had planned to delay going to Leadville until after the classes. But they decided not to use me because of some changes they made in how to teach the classes. So, that is why I went to Leadville in early May. Well, since I still had my apartment in Lubbock, I drove down to Lubbock near the end of July partly to check on my apartment, partly to take care of some various things, and partly to pick up a print job for the museum.



There's this neat old WOOD silo right next to the interstate near Tulia, Texas. (The road actually diverts around the silo and nearby barn.)

The print job for the museum was an expansion of the exhibition I created in 2015 called *Selling History*. I added two more panels (and updated and reprinted one panel) in order to complete the timeline for the exhibition. (When I originally designed the exhibition, I built in a future expansion, but didn't think I'd actually get to do it!)

New Panels



# 2017: Year in Review

## August

August proved to be a busy month! Boom Days was the weekend of August 4-6. The other guy finished up his work and moved out of the back unit a few days later to go to school soon after in Indiana. I then moved in. The museum hired another guy who then moved into the apartment I was in. In mid August, I had a booth at a craft show at the Healy House (a historic house museum in Leadville). Later, I took a drive to Cañon City in order to take care of a bill (long story) and then drove to Silverthorne/Dillon the next day. Both trips were scenic and overall pleasant. Shortly thereafter in very early September, I revisited Turquoise Lake, but drove the road that went around the lake (more on that in the September page).



Here is my booth setup for the craft fair at the Healy House.



Robert-George de Stolfe specializes in graphics and museography.  
Photo by Marcia Martinek

I got into the Leadville paper, The Herald Democrat, after the craft fair, less than a week later.



This parade entry was Mountain High Pies, my favorite pizza place.



One of the burros after finishing the burro race.



The annual rock to drill during the miner's competitions as part of the regular Boom Days events.

# 2017: Year in Review

## August



The well flowing Arkansas River on the way to Cañon City, Colorado.

One of the views you will see along I-70 through the Rockies in Colorado. (This is Summit Pass.)



# 2017: Year in Review

**September**

So, after work, I decided to take a drive on the road around Turquoise Lake. It was also nearing sunset, so I got to see the sun setting behind the lake.



# 2017: Year in Review

## September

September is when the leaves change in this high country. All the aspens start turning bright yellow and sometime shades of orange.



I set up a small exhibit of souvenir china from the TI museum's collection in the Leadville Room of the Lake County Public Library.

# 2017: Year in Review

## October



If you are familiar with the show Fixer Upper on HGTV hosted by Chip and Joanna Gaines, then you know that they do and have a whole lot more than just the show! In very late September, Chip Gaines proposed a contest to submit a video of a person's dream, a contest he was calling ChipStarter. So, I spent a few days to record and edit a video as my submission. [Click here to see the video I submitted.](#) Also, [see outtakes here.](#)



With less than a month left of being in Leadville, I had a bit of work to finish at the museum, but also a short time left to see the sights. One sight I never got to see was the Leadville National Fish Hatchery. This area southwest of town always raises two types of trout, Rainbow and Cutthroat, to supply ponds.

*(I really had to bump up the contrast and coloring to show the fish in this photo.)*

# 2017: Year in Review

## October



A nice and cold view near Tennessee Pass.



This is what's left of Camp Hale and the 10th Mountain Division. As you can see, no buildings, but the grid of the roads is still visible.



An awesome old abandoned log cabin. This is a large cabin by the standards of log cabins. It had at least one addition off the back.



This isn't too far from the town of Minturn, which is south of I-70 and close to Vail. This site near Gilman in Rock Creek is called Eagle Mine, an EPA-shut down zinc mine that also had company housing.



A nice peaceful fishing lake in the high country.



"In the name of progress" is what caused this long standing sign to be torn down at the end of 2017. A sizable development is going in this area previously known as Poverty Flats.

# 2017: Year in Review

## October



As one of the final projects at the museum before I left, I nearly completed this new exhibit with a title not yet determined. The exhibit features portraits of the Jews who lived in Leadville. It turned out that I had many more portraits than previously thought! The exhibit was designed to be expandable, but ended up being nearly full right from the start! (All six panels!)



A dusk view from Capitol Hill at the North end of Harrison Avenue. (RG's Instagram photo)



Even by the end of October, Leadville was getting ready for Christmas! (They have to do it before the heavy snow comes!)

# 2017: Year in Review

## November



We had this very nice sunset in Lubbock on November 9. Compared to Colorado, Lubbock had very nice, pleasant weather and temps!



Went to Target to see the new Hearth & Hand Collection with Magnolia by Chip and Joanna Gaines of Fixer Upper!



All ready for Thanksgiving! (By the way, that candle is called Fireside by WoodWick, and it is awesome!)

# 2017: Year in Review

## November

So, after spending a few days with dad in Colorado Springs after leaving Leadville, I came back to Lubbock. I was definitely ready to come home and be home for a while! Well, it turned out that with Thanksgiving and Christmas still to come, that I would be doing a little more traveling! For Thanksgiving, I spent a few days with friends who used to live in Cisco, but then moved to Waco in 2016,

then just moved to DeLeon a few weeks earlier. I had not seen them at home since 2012 when we had a camping weekend in Tyler and Lake Palestine. (You can read more about that trip in my 2012 Journals.) Although I did see them at various time both in Colorado and in Lubbock since then. One of the guests for dinner works for Magnolia in Waco! He was nice enough to bring a bunch of their cupcakes!



At my friends' house, these "wild" guineas took up residence on their property. One of them is pure white! They just roam around at will and roost in the trees at night.



*J W James 1848 1906*



*Effie James 1891? 1904*

Down the road from my friends' house is a small historic graveyard. These are very simple stone markers.



After leaving DeLeon, I went to Abilene on my way home and stopped for a few hours. I had lunch and visited the Frontier Texas! Museum there. This is a giant bison skull sculpture.

# 2017: Year in Review

## December



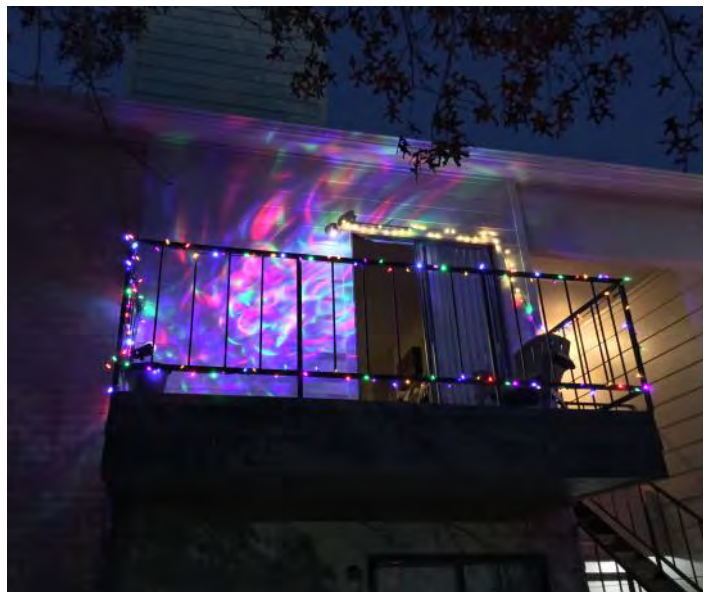
Watching Fixer Upper with my cupcake from Magnolia! (This one was coffee icing and chocolate cake.)



I was very busy before Christmas making cookies! Shown here are: Jumbles (late 1600s recipe), chocolate chocolate chip, chocolate chip shortbread, and Colorado honey peanut butter. I also made Rice Krispies Treats!



The first weekend in December, I had a booth at the craft fair at the Lubbock Garden and Arts Center. Sadly, my sales were meager.



Got my balcony decorated for Christmas, including a new feature, a LED light show projection.

# 2017: Year in Review

## December

A few days before, I drove up to Colorado Springs for Christmas. I decided to take an alternate route than I usually take. I decided to drive up to Santa Fe in order to spend a couple of hours before getting to the Springs. Well, that didn't work out too well. But the drive from Lubbock to Clovis to Encino to Clines Corners to Santa Fe was a nice scenic drive. I got to Santa Fe much later than I needed to considering the very early sunset and looming threat of cold weather. I did get to see a little more than I did previously, but not enough to justify the detour. I then took I-25 up to Raton and on to the Springs after dark. While still in New Mexico, I did see 5 semaphores along the tracks running besides the road! You rarely see them in use anymore!



Semaphores!



In the town of El Dorado just outside of Santa Fe, there are obviously many who pleasure ride!



On the first day after Christmas dinner, my favorite meal will be delicious club sandwich turkey!

Here are two variations of LED projection lights we put up on dad's house in Colorado Springs.



# 2017: Year in Review

## December

With a new camera, I can REALLY zoom in on the moon with detail and resolution!



Counting down the seconds to the new year in the Central time zone with my glass of Martinelli's. Happy New Year!



# 2017: Year in Review

## The ol New Mexico Windmill

2017 had me travelling up to Colorado several times! The first was in March and back to Lubbock in April. The second was in May to go to Leadville to work at the museum. Then in July, I went from Leadville to Lubbock for about a week and back up to Leadville. After Leadville was done, I came back to Lubbock. Then finally, I went up to Colorado for Christmas and back home to Lubbock. That's a total of 8 separate runs one way or the other. At least half of those times, I cut through New Mexico to Raton, passing this windmill and barn in Capaulin, New Mexico. The first time we passed by this windmill was in 2004 on the way back to Lubbock.



Here's that first photo from 2004. The Capaulin volcano is in the back.



March 20, 2017



November 4, 2017



July 19, 2017



December 30, 2017 (near sunset)

# 2017: Year in Review

## National Food Days

Any time I can get free food, I'm all over it! Well, on national food days, many restaurants will give you free or discounted food for that day! Here were a few of them.



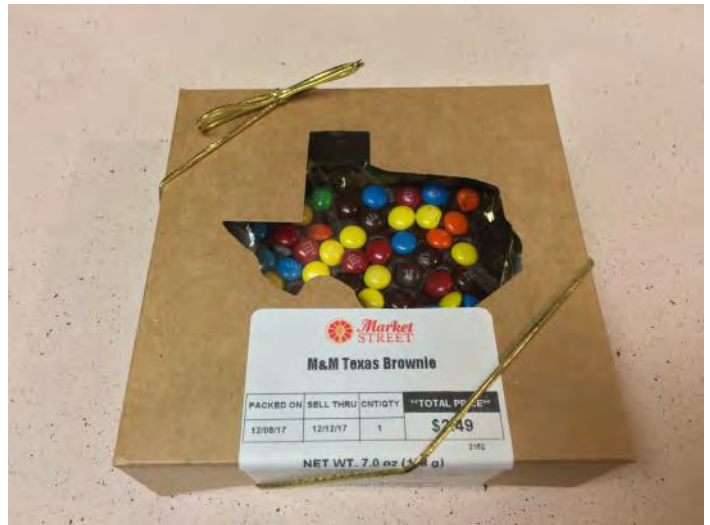
National Croissant Day, January 30, 2017 (from La Madeleine).



National Doughnut Day, June 2, 2017 (“&” doughnut from Kum N Go).



National Coffee Day, September 29, 2017 (from Kum & Go).



National Brownie Day, December 8, 2017 (from Market Street).



National Cookie Day, December 4, 2017 (from Chick-fil-a).

# 2017: Year in Review

## Various Food



Made some rustic cast iron biscuits. March.



New M&M's, White Chocolate. July.



THIS is a banana split! Crazy! (Burger joint, Pagosa Springs) March.



Tried the Mexican food truck. Carne Asada, beans, rice, Mexican Coke.



Migas! May.



New biscuit recipe for the new year. (Very good!)

# 2017: Year in Review

## Various Animals



Horses



Bison (These suckers were LOUD!)



Hogs



Rooster



Hummingbird (Leadville has lots of hummingbirds!)



Turkey

# 2017: Year in Review

## Miscellany



Dramatically lit "stampede" at Frontier Texas! Museum.



Nice gas firepit at the new restaurant in Leadville called Treeline.



No clue what kind of vehicle this is.



Pioneer Woman merchandise at Walmart.

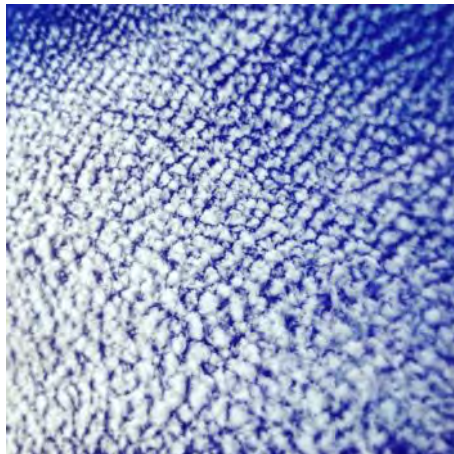


First year I've ever seen  
thistles in Lubbock.



Electric car charging station in Florida.

# RG's Instagram Photos



# Upcoming Issues

*These are exactly the same topics as I posted in the issue a year ago.  
I am still planning to include them in a future issue!*

## Historic Archives

### The Wild West.

A well known young gentleman of this city received a letter from his mother, who resides on a farm in Vermont, yesterday afternoon, which contains some startling intelligence concerning the ways of the "wild and woolly west." The young man in question is known by his mother to possess a roving disposition, and she undoubtedly supposed he would be attracted by the flaring reports in some of the newspapers regarding Creede and Cripple Creek, to visit those points. One paragraph, especially, is particularly astonishing. "My son," it proceeds, "for your mother's sake, do not go to Creede or Cripple Creek. Why, the papers back here say that a person can almost pluck gold coins from the trees, but that the bad men of those camps are lynching half a dozen tenderfeet every day and are shooting men down on the streets as they would so many dogs."

Whether or not the young man will heed this parental admonition, remains to be seen.

*Leadville Evening Chronicle [Leadville], March 15, 1892*

### The Wild West.

A well known young gentleman of this city received a letter from his mother, who resides on a farm in Vermont, yesterday afternoon, which contains some startling intelligence concerning the ways of the "wild and woolly west." The young man in question is known by his mother to possess a roving disposition, and she undoubtedly supposed he would be attracted by the flaring reports in some of the newspapers regarding Creede and Cripple Creek, to visit those points. One paragraph, especially, is particularly astonishing. "My son," it proceeds, "for your mother's sake, do not go to Creede or Cripple Creek. Why, the papers back here say that a person can almost pluck gold coins from the trees, but that the bad men of those camps are lynching half a dozen tenderfeet every day and are shooting men down on the streets as they would so many dogs."

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## XIT Ranch

What does the XIT Ranch in the Texas Panhandle have to do with the state Capitol building in Austin over 500 miles away? Learn some basic facts and see some interesting photos of this famous ranch that was sort of an afterthought at the turn of the century.



## Route 66 (continued)

We covered Texas and New Mexico. Next we move into Arizona with a possibility of concluding with California at the Pacific shore in Santa Monica in the issue after that.



## Texas Independence

Texas declared independence from Mexico March 2, 1836. However, much happened before and after this date, and it wasn't all pretty.

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