

de Stolfe

Journal ●●●●●●●●





Contents

July 31, 2019 | 8.2

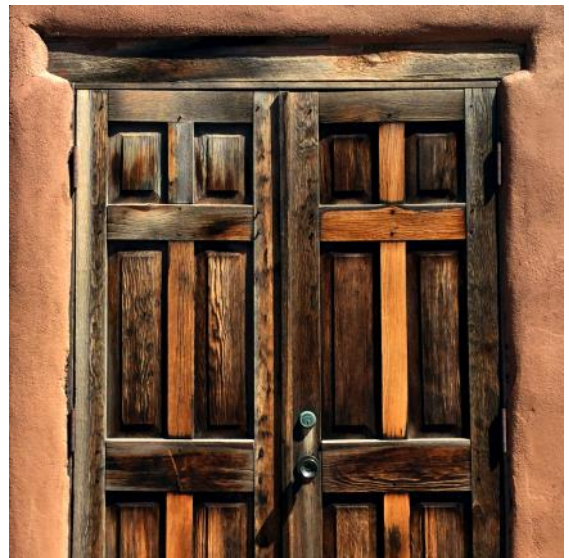
Covers activities happening in March through May 2019

These page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.

- 3** Comments by RG
- 4** Word for Life
- 5-6, 30** Saddle Break
- 7-30** Trip to El Paso (bulk article)
- 9-21** TAM Meeting Activities
- 22** My Experience with AirBNB
- 23-27** Santa Fé Visit
- 31** 2019 Garden
- 32, 35** SCM Happenings
- 33-35** The Smoky Years—Part 3
- 36** Let's Talk ASMR!
- 37** Final Thought—Dictionary Entry, "fish"
- 37** The fine print
- 38-40** Back Page Literature

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On The Cover



All over Santa Fé are adobe buildings having inset wood doors with a wood lintel. Because this area is really dry most of the year, the wood preserves quite well and ages to various deep weathered tones of patina.

We live in the 21st century! Anywhere you see a web link like this, click it to go automatically to the webpage that it references! (Try it now!)

www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals



Comments by RG



Producer, RG de Stolfe

Happy Summer!

I know, I know... it's now August, and I'm just now getting out the second issue of this year! It was going to come out at the end of March, then at the end of April, then at the end of May... well, you get the general idea! Most of this issue's content will be based from March through May.

So, I've been doing a lot this year, mostly related to work. Many people expect to hear about a life outside of work, especially as it would relate with other people. But there is little to say about my life outside of work, and I am perfectly fine with that! I live by myself by choice, and I rarely do any kind of social things by choice, and I am perfectly happy to be by myself doing whatever.

Now in my upper 40s, I suppose that other people by now would be very disappointed to find out that I am not married (never married), no kids, and have no plans for any kind of relationship like that whatsoever. It has nothing to do with "finding the right person" or "when circumstances are right" or any of that kind of BS. It is all by my own personal choice, having already factored all of the stupid "what if's" and "suggestions" that people feel compelled to ask, as if that would somehow change my mind and give them some sort of accomplishment like I somehow forgot about something!

It is amazing how other people would try to project their ideals on someone as to what they think that a person is "supposed to do" with their life, like get married, have kids, cater to their parent's desires, etc. While these stereotypes of other people might be a little harsh, they are also very true.

There is so much trash I have been spared of experiencing simply because I decided to stay to myself! People don't have to agree with me, and frankly I don't care and am glad if they don't agree with me! That way, I don't have to prove anything to anyone. Many people would want to ask stupid questions like "Don't you want to... [fill in the blank]" While I spend a lot of time at work, my identity is not with my job, but rather my identity is in Christ and His image. That's why I don't have to prove anything to anyone about what I do or what I don't do, or about what I want or what I don't want.

Okay, so now back to describing what I have been doing at work. I have been at my new job now for about 9 months, and it has been great! I quit Duluth Trading Company and moved miles away from Lubbock to a new town because of this job. Frankly, it was time for a change despite thinking that my new career was with Duluth. There is much to say about what I do as the job, what I have been doing, and the plans for the future there. But, I can't just condense all that to a couple of sentences, so I'm not going to! What that does mean is that you'll just have to come visit me to get a first hand view of everything, which is a whole lot better than me going, blah, blah, blah...

I will state here, however, that at the beginning of April, I went to El Paso for almost a week to attend the Texas Association of Museums annual meeting and conference. It was fantastic, and that will be described in detail for most of this issue.

So with that, I'll leave you to this issue!

Enjoy!

RG

Important Notice:

The contents of this issue includes things up to the end of May 2019. Things happening after this time will be in a future issue.

Word for Life

God Provides for our Needs

*14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the service of man,
That he may bring forth food from the earth,*

*15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man,
Oil to make his face shine,
And bread which strengthens man's heart.*

I was reading through the book of Psalms recently and came across these verses. The point of these verses is that God provides for our needs and takes care of His people, not out of any sort of obligation placed upon Him, but rather out of His goodness and good pleasure to do so!

This writing is short, but needs no further explanation!



(Google searched image)

Saddle Break

The Lone One

A lone white iris outside of my apartment in mid April. I knew it was some sort of bulb.



When It's Hot

This photo was from June 2018 in Lubbock, but it is a good photo to show how even the cattle try to find shade when it's hot!



Jackrabbits

In Lubbock, the jackrabbits are out and about in different parts of town. When it's hot, they line up in whatever shade there is even if it is just a sign post!



Suspected Critters

I suspected for a while but didn't see it, but now I got it! Here is a ground squirrel, a 13 striped one I think, that has residence near my apartment. It turns out that there are several holes, and I have seen two critters at this point. They are welcome to be around, but they better stay away from my peppers!



These two photos show the same critter.

Saddle Break

Blooming Bradfords

March brought forth the blooming of the Bradford Pear trees. Refer to my previous spring issues for more information about these blooming trees. This photo was in Snyder on March 23, 2019.



H-E-B and BBQ

After work on Friday, March 1 (payday!), I decided to take a little road trip from Snyder down to Big Spring, which is about 45 minutes to the southwest. I went mainly to go to H-E-B (the sign is visible at the bottom in the background), but also decided to get some dinner at this BBQ place nearby. It is Al's & Son Bar-B-Q Burgers etc. The food was good, and when I left since it got dark, I saw this cool sign.



What Shall We Have for Dessert?

This question arises in the family every day. Let us answer it to-day. Try

Jell-O,

a delicious and healthful dessert. Prepared in two minutes. No boiling! no baking! add boiling water and set to cool. Flavors:—Lemon, Orange, Raspberry and Strawberry. Get a package at your grocers to-day. 20 cts.

In true fashion for Whataburger, I made this very custom: a grilled chicken sandwich on Texas toast with bacon and avocado! Yum!

*The Herald Democrat
(Leadville).
June 5, 1904.*



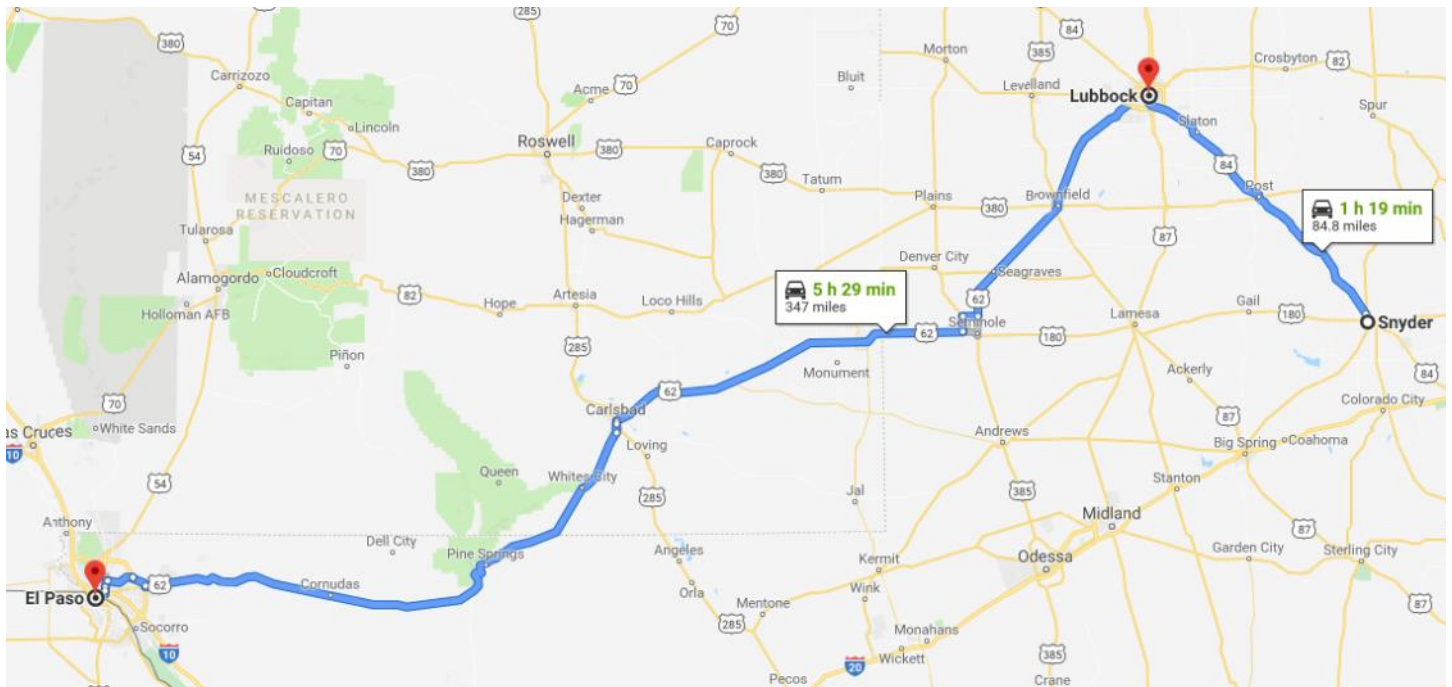
Trip to El Paso

One of the stated benefits of my new job at the Scurry County Museum was that “professional development” is offered to offset the benefits that the museum can not offer. This can be any number of things, but for me it includes being able to attend the annual meeting for the Texas Association of Museums. TAM is a state specific museum organization, the largest in the county, to provide resources for Texas museums. This is a non profit organization. Every year, they have an annual meeting that includes the organization’s member meeting, of course, but also several days of informational sessions and various activities before, after, and in the evenings. So, this is a convention. If you have kept up with my journals from when I restarted them in 2012, then you know that I’ve tried to go to these meetings several times over the last many years but could not from no funds. The last time I went was in 2010 (in College Station) and before that, not since 2002 when I was a Museum Science student and when the meeting was in Lubbock that year. As you can tell, the meeting moves all around Texas as each city successfully wins a bid to host the meeting in a particular year. For 2019, the meeting was in El Paso, Texas. That last time the meeting was in El Paso was in 2009. Since I now live in Snyder, El Paso is about 5 to 6 hours drive away. I had two ways I could go, to take two interstates right to the town or to cut through New Mexico there. I originally thought to make a big circle where I would first cut through New Mexico to El Paso, then afterwards take I-10 to I-20 back. Well, as you will find out later, part of that trip did not quite happen that way! My director

insisted that I get a rental car rather than drive my own car. Since I wasn’t paying for the trip, I had no problem with that! However, I needed to pick up the car from somewhere else since Snyder is a really small town. I could have gone to Abilene, but decided to go to Lubbock instead since I was much more familiar with it. I would leave on April 1 to pick up the car and drive to El Paso going through New Mexico. The general range of activities was April 2 through April 5 and I would leave El Paso on April 6 to head back. The annual meeting usually has arrangements with host hotels, but since they are also usually expensive—even besides the “special rate”—I decided to try staying in an AirBNB.



Snyder To El Paso



The first step in the trip was to pick up my rental car. The director insisted on me getting a rental car instead of driving my own vehicle. Okay, great! I could have gone to Abilene or to Lubbock, but going to Abilene was sort of backtracking so instead I went to Lubbock. That way too, I could leave my car at a friend's house. I got the rental car, had lunch with my friend, then went on my way by about 3:00 PM. Figuring about six hours to get there and gaining an hour for the time difference, I'd be there about dark. The route through New Mexico was one I have not taken before past Hobbs. This route would go through Carlsbad and part of the far West Texas

desert. Around Carlsbad, I stopped at a historical marker, then got gas in town. For some reason, I thought that Carlsbad would be a more interesting town. But it turned out that there wasn't much there that I liked! However, I will say that the town does have the coolest courthouse I have ever seen! It was an adobe looking structure that was quite interesting. I found it when I made a wrong turn through part of the town and ended up making a very large circle backtracking to a point where I was earlier! Outside of the town a few miles is the tourist attraction, Carlsbad Caverns. It was much further away from the town than I would have expected. After I got back into Texas after about 30 minutes, I was probably about two thirds of the way there. To get to El Paso, the road had to go through the southern tip of the Guadalupe Mountains through Guadalupe Pass. It was here where I stopped at another historic marker that talked about the Butterfield Stage stop that was there. The structures are there but in stabilized ruins along a hiking path. I arrived in El Paso probably by 8:30 PM, but I was going around in circles trying to figure out the roads and the various exits, especially considering that the area was hilly. Finally, I got to the AirBNB by 9:00 PM.



My snazzy rental car for the trip.

TAM Annual Meeting

The overall structure of the week was this. On Tuesday, I had the preconference workshop with an evening activity. Wednesday and Thursday were the sessions with evening activities. Friday had a half day of more sessions, the annual meeting, and some postconference activities. More on the evening and postconference activities later.

I signed up to earn a professional development certificate, like I did in 2010. The program has several requirements. One of the requirements was to attend a workshop, which did not have to be during the annual meeting but was convenient to include it at that time. This year, I chose the Collections Management focus. (I chose the Exhibits focus in 2010.) The annual meeting had three available workshops, and I chose the one on paper conservation. It started in the early afternoon at the El Paso Museum of Art that was across the street from the El Paso Civic Center, where the sessions would be. It lasted about three hours and we did some hands on activities along with some discussions. It was a really good workshop that had some good information to bring back to the museum.

The main core of the convention was the informational sessions that met mid morning to mid afternoon with plenty of breaks and lunch periods. Along with the sessions was a main room with trade show vendors, booths of companies selling their services and products. In the late afternoons, there were other specialized groups and meeting before the evening activities. Each night from Tuesday through Thursday had some planned events. Most of them involved getting in busses to go somewhere.

When I signed up, I had enough of a budget for one evening event along with the post activity and the workshop. It turned out that three of the four post activities canceled except for the one going to Juárez, Mexico. I don't have a passport, so obviously that was out. Ultimately, they gave me all three evening activities to compensate for the canceled activities! I'll tell you later about one other change that happened.



The workshop I attended was about paper conservation. It was a hands on workshop that included some problem solving activities. There were maybe 20 of us, and we broke into four groups each with a special collection of items to sort through and determine conservation needs and requirements. There were also four leaders for the workshop.



Tuesday Evening

The first evening activity was on Tuesday. A little while after the workshop ended, people would meet up at the bar at the DoubleTree Hotel. From there, we got on busses to go about a mile from downtown to the evening site. The site was the Magoffin Home State Historic Site. For convenience, here is what Wikipedia has about the house:

“The Magoffin Home, built in 1875 by pioneer Joseph Magoffin, who lived there with his wife, Octavia (MacGreal) Magoffin until their deaths, is a combination of the local adobe style combined with Greek revival details and is an example of the Territorial style. The thick adobe walls keep the house cool in the summer heat and warm in the winter. The house consists of three wings, each built at a different time, the last being built in the 1880s as the center that connected the two previous wings. There are 19 rooms, 8 fireplaces, and 14 foot ceilings. Members of the family lived in it for 109 years, and many of the original furnishings are still displayed, including a 11.5 foot tall half tester bed.” Frankly, it was a luxurious home for the time full of historic charm (see the photos).



Tuesday Evening

The evening was full of food, history, and entertainment. One interesting piece of entertainment was a fencing demonstration by a local fencing school. The culture in El Paso is definitely a mix of several cultures in an environment that is basically desert. For the entire time I was in El Paso, this would prove to be true. The house had a small garden of rose bushes and flowering trees.

Read More

- [Magoffin Home State Historic Site](#)
- [Salle de Long Fencing School](#)
- [Wikipedia Information](#)



Conference Activities

If you have been to an annual conference for any type of organization, then you have a general idea of what I went to. The main thrust of the conference is to attend a series of topical sessions about a wide variety of subjects. These daytime sessions were Wednesday, Thursday, and half day on Friday. Over the three days, there were 8 sessions. On Wednesday and Thursday, there was an optional keynote lunch. But to save money, I did not attend them but had lunch somewhere else. The conference included an exhibit hall where companies set up booths to promote their businesses. One thing new to me were something called flash sessions. These were done by the exhibitors, but not as sales pitches but rather as product demonstrations; the sales pitches were not allowed during the flash sessions. Not all of the exhibitors participated, but about a third of them did and each exhibitor had 10 minutes before we would then rotate to the next booth.

On Wednesday, I decided to see what restaurants were downtown and picked one. There was one I decided on that was several blocks away, easy to get to by street car. So, I caught a street car and rode it to the restaurant. El Paso restored three of their street cars, one from each decade—50s, 60s, and 70s—that run in a loop downtown and along one street that goes by the university. It was only a dollar, so it was a cool, short ride. The restaurant was an Italian restaurant, Luigi's Homestyle Pizza, that had a lunch buffet. Based on how packed it was, I'd say it was a very popular place for the downtown lunch crowd! I thought the food was fine, but was a little more than I wanted to spend. I waited to catch the street car back to the convention center, but after 30 minutes, I figured it was held up or something and walked back. Since street cars travel on rails in the road, if the rails get blocked for some reason, the car cannot pass nor detour. Also to note, the wind was out in full force through downtown! It was quite strong!

On Thursday, I decided to wait and skip lunch knowing that there would be food at one of the late afternoon events and at the evening events. Also, during the days in El Paso, I ate breakfast or late dinner at Whataburger eating items that I did not typically get at home.

Read More

- [El Paso Street Cars](#)
- [Luigi's Homestyle Pizza](#)
- [Whataburger](#)



El Paso restored their street cars from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. They travel in two loops, one downtown and another that goes to the campus. They are modernized a little but still have that general feel of the mid century.



Wednesday Evening

After a full day of the convention, there were some activities in the late afternoon and more evening activities. The late afternoon activities were the affinity group meetings. Like in past years, I joined an affinity group when I renewed my membership with TAM. I added the Collections Managers Committee group. So that meeting was at that time for about an hour. While it says Collections Manager, many of the people in the group are also curators. (Many times, if a museum cannot pay for a curator title, they often have a collections manager position instead who pretty much does the same thing, usually at a lesser pay rate.) After that, the evening event was at two museums right across the street from the convention center. I started at the El Paso Art Museum, the same place where the workshop was on Tuesday. I was quite impressed with the upscale quality of the museum! It was on two floors, massive and voluminous. They had live music and outstanding ethnic food. Besides the museum itself, they had a hands on activity with a local artist, Francisco Delgado. People got to ink one of the artist's works and run it through the roller press. After that, he signed it, and we got to take it home!

Read More

- [El Paso Art Museum](#)
- [Artist Francisco Delgado](#)



Getting to ink and press some carved art made by artist Francisco Delgado.



The back wall of this gallery in the El Paso Art Museum is arranged in what is called the "salon" style.

Wednesday Evening

I then walked over to the El Paso Museum of History and walked around that museum for a while looking at what was there. It had a completely different feel and very different arrangements of exhibits. One cool thing they had there was just outside of the museum called DIGIE. This technical interactive is a “2012 Quality of Life Bond Program project that began as the Digital Wall. Shown on touch sensitive TV screens, DIGIE is a vast collection of images and videos exploring El Paso’s past and present interpreting our region through time, neighborhoods, and themes.” It is basically like gigantic touch screens where you can swipe, scroll, zoom, etc.

Below is my screen shot with the DIGIE wall and an embedded image from a camera by the screen.

Read More

- [El Paso Museum of History](#)
- [DIGIE Wall](#)

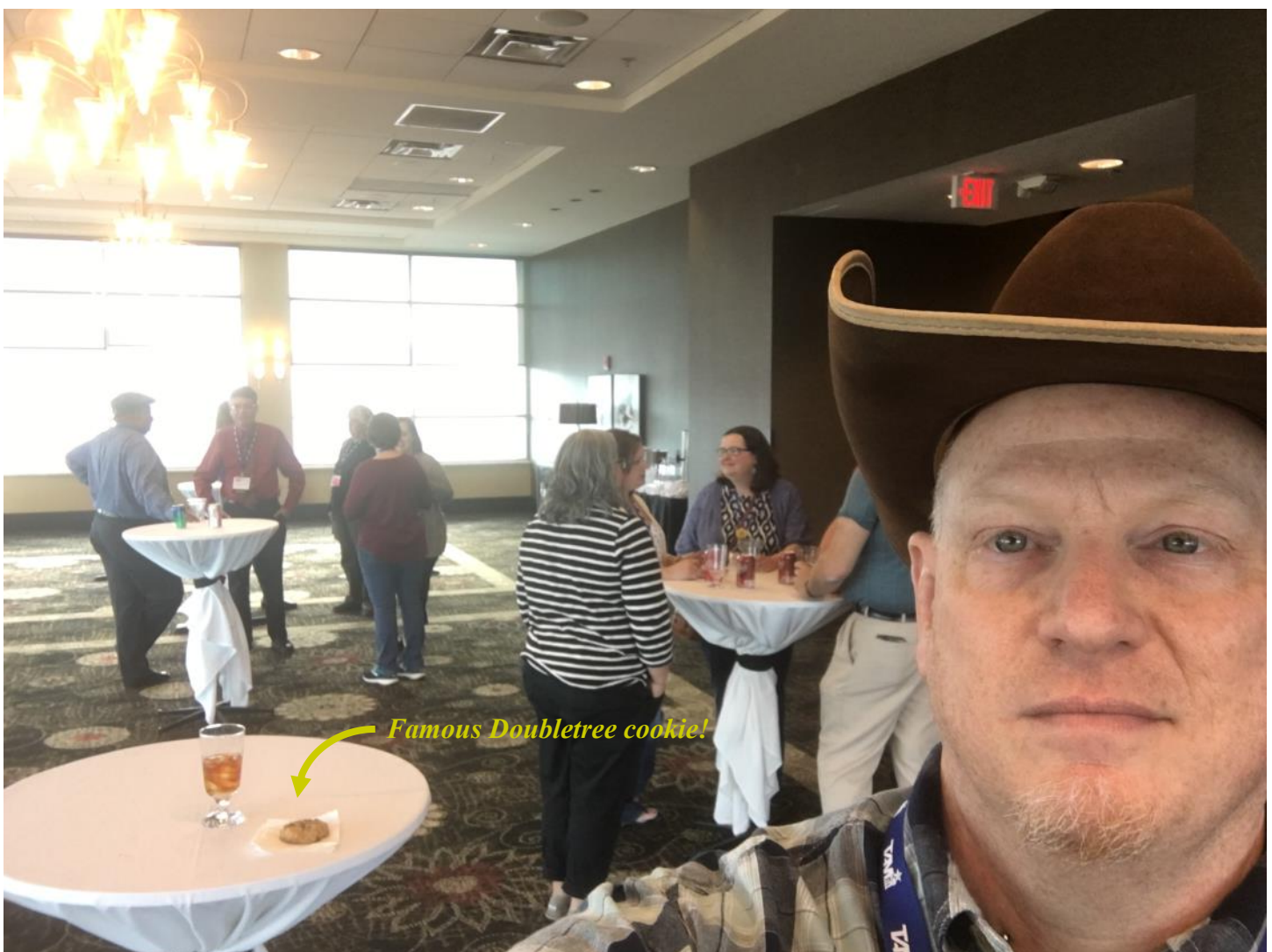


Thursday Evening

By mid afternoon, the main part of the conference was done for the day. Also, the exhibit hall closed for the conference. The Doubletree Hotel was one of two host hotels, and several events here held there along with it being a jump off point to evening events. At the hotel, I went to the Texas Tech Alumni reception, which they have every year. I graduated from Texas Tech University with my Master degree in Museum Science. The program started in the early 70s and has since produced a lot of alumni. This allows for an annual means to have

alumni get together. The reception was near the top floor of the hotel in a meeting room. The room had windows all around and you could get a nice panoramic view of El Paso and Mexico beyond. The reception had the usual munchies of chips, salsa, vegetables, and the like, but also had the famous Doubletree chocolate chip cookies! Frankly, there were very few of the alumni I knew. I think most of them were graduates after I graduated and probably from within the past ten years.

In one of the upper floors of the Doubletree Hotel in El Paso was the TTU Museum Science alumni reception before the evening activities started. This reception is every year during the TAM meeting.



Thursday Evening

The evening activity was to visit the campus of the University of Texas, El Paso and the museums they had there. After a short bus ride from the hotel to the campus (which was not far away from the AirBNB I stayed in), we arrived for the evening to the campus. There were several buildings to see of different themes. The campus provided a really high quality experience, especially since the university president was the keynote speaker at one of the lunches. The first stop was the Centennial Museum & Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. First off, I have to state that the UTEP campus is beautiful and was clean and full of unique architecture and desert plantings. The gardens were around the museum building and were quite lush with a walking path and several places to stop. It was basically spring there so the flowers were in bloom and the bees were busy. In the museum, they had several galleries each with different permanent and temporary exhibitions on two floors. All of the evening's venues were within walking distance. I did not get to all of them, but did see most of them. They had a Bhutan temple, Lhakhang, a gift from the Kingdom of Bhutan. I didn't see it, but it did have unique architecture that

Read More

- [University of Texas, El Paso](#)
- [Centennial Museum & Chihuahuan Desert Gardens](#)
- [Lhakhang Cultural Exhibit](#)
- [Sabastián—Quantum Sphere](#)
-

a lot of the campus buildings were modeled after. While walking along, there were people to guide the visitors to the different venues. There was one spot where there were cultural food samples and another area of live cultural music. I came to one area where there was a large orange abstract sculpture that was interactive and dynamic; basically, it turned when people pushed it. Titled, Esfera Cuántica Tlahtolli (Quantum Sphere [Language]), it was created by renowned Mexican sculptor Sabastián (Enrique Carbajal González) and gifted to the University of Texas, El Paso. [Photo below.]



Thursday Evening



Here are a couple of photos of the desert gardens. They surround the outside of the Centennial Museum on the UTEP campus. The bees were busy and the flowers quite colorful! (These photos don't do the gardens justice!)

Evening shot of Mexico. The UTEP campus is about a mile from the Mexico border. Here is the view from campus in El Paso of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.



Friday Activities

Friday was a half day of the conference. The trade show was already closed and there were only two sets of sessions in the morning. After that, the conference itself was done and transitioned into post conference activities. Quite notably, there were fewer attendees on Friday, probably favoring to go home instead. There were a couple of activities before the post conference activities. With importance was the TAM membership meeting, which was like most formal organizational meetings, that was held at the historic and restored Plaza Theatre. The meeting was in a small theater to the side of the building. After the meeting, the schedule had a tour of the historic theater showing its restoration. Many of the original elements are still in the theater and it is and was quite luxurious!

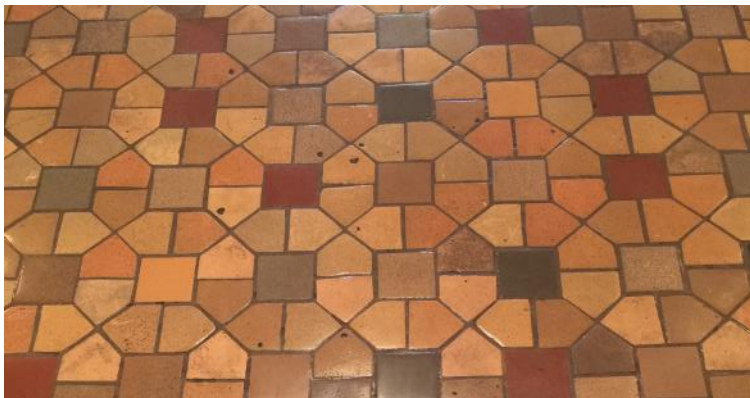
Read More

- [Plaza Theatre, El Paso, Texas](#)
- [Texas Association of Museums](#)



Friday Post Activities

Historic and restored Plaza Theatre, El Paso, Texas



Friday Post Activities

So, as I mentioned before, because the post conference activities had canceled. The one that did make was one going into Mexico. At that particular time, the borders were questionable as to whether they would become closed. Out of caution, the conference committee shuffled the post conference tour to reinstate the one I was going to take originally for all people who planned to go on a tour. The committee had already decided to just give me the tour in addition to all of the evening activities. The bus was to leave from the Doubletree hotel. But, a number of us were still on the tour of the theatre. Two of us were going to take the bus tour. So, the bus came around and picked us up. They provided box lunches from Jason's Deli for us to eat while we headed to the first location. We had enough time to visit three locations, Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site, the National Border Patrol Museum, and the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, which is right next door to the Border Patrol Museum. As we travelled on I-10, the national border was right there. The "wall" as people refer to is updated to what is clearly seen below, while a border fence has always been along the border, but was not as secure.

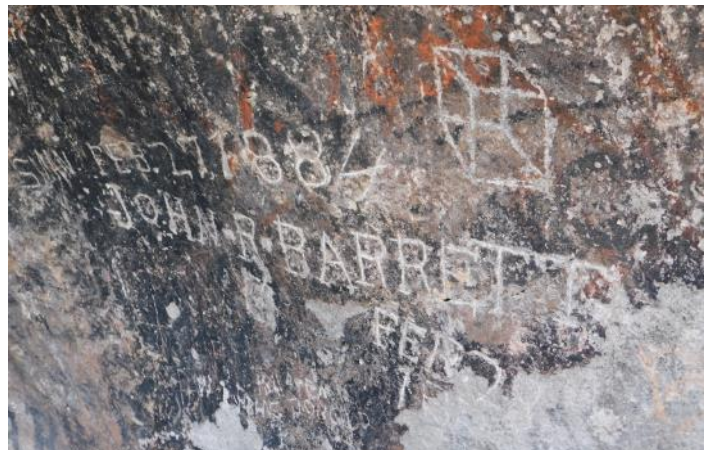


Mexican sculptor Sabastián (Enrique Carbajal González) created this sculpture located in Ciudad Juárez. "The X" or "La Equis" represents the merging of two cultures in Mexico: the indigenous Aztecs and the Spanish.



Hueco Tanks

I didn't particularly take any photos of the two museums, but I did take photos while touring Hueco Tanks. There was a lot to see, and a lot to explain, but I will just leave it here with a few photos.



Read More

- [Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site](#)
- [National Border Patrol Museum](#)
- [El Paso Museum of Archaeology](#)

First Experience of Airbnb

The TAM annual meetings usually arrange for a host hotel or sometimes two for the attendees to stay. However, even at a special rate for a room block, they are often still quite expensive!! While it would have been nice to stay at the DoubleTree Hotel, I wanted to stay five nights, which would have been half my budget! So instead, I opted for an alternative. At first, I thought about staying at a local historic hotel in downtown El Paso. But, something seemed odd about it that I could not put my finger on. I also looked around at various usual chain motels. But instead, I opted to try AirBNB.

I have been aware of the system for two or three years but knew very little about it. AirBNB is a unified system where common people can join the network offering room arrangements that range from a simple room in a person's house to a full bed and breakfast arrangement. Some options are part of a person's home while some are a whole place to yourself. AirBNB has strict requirements for a host to be part of and stay with the network (although, I am not as familiar with this part as I was just being a customer).

To find and book a place to stay, you need to use the AirBNB app on your phone or you can also do it on your computer, but the phone is more convenient while you are travelling to keep in contact with the host.

So after I decide to go this route, I made my choices and scrolled through the matching options and found one that was a mile from the convention center and within my budget. I paid less than \$300 for five nights!

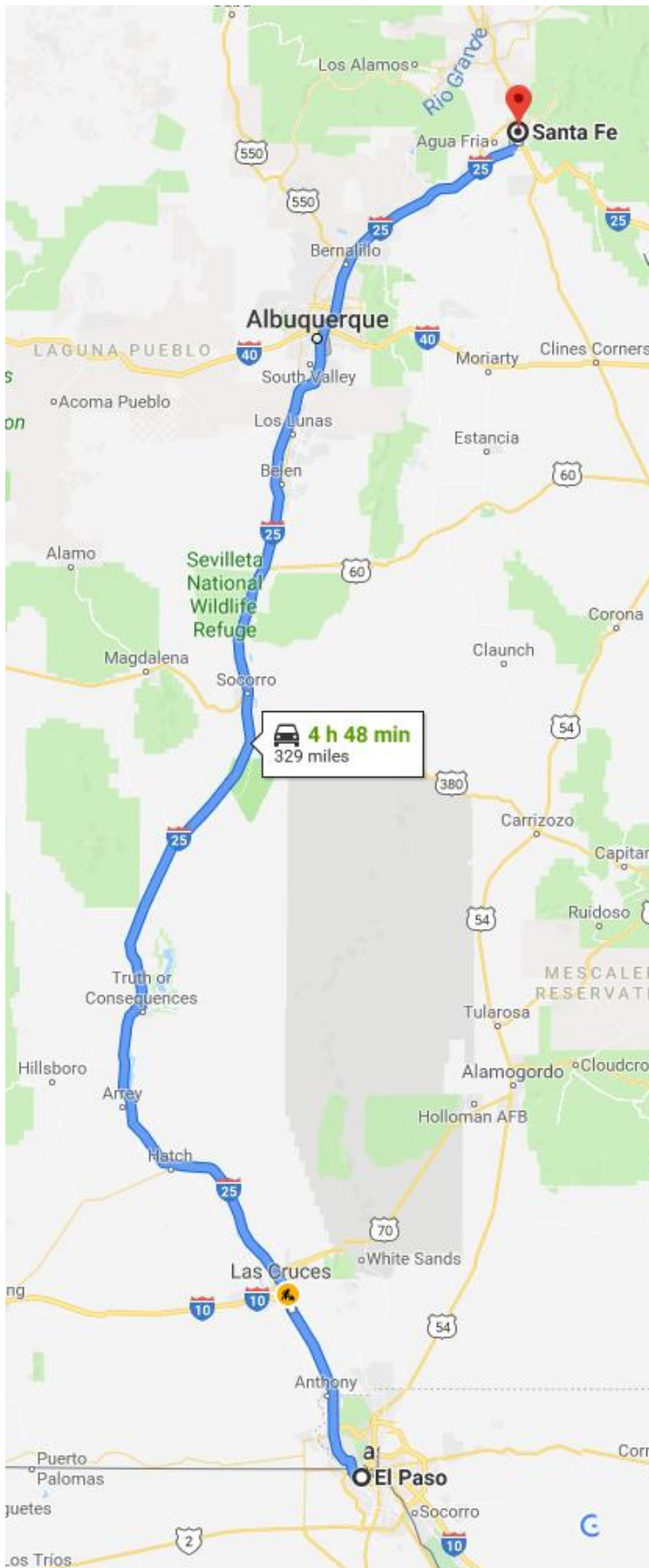
The particular host I went with was near the UTEP campus, and it was a separate building behind the owner's home. It was a small place, but easily rivaled any motel I could have stayed in and was frankly more homey than a motel. I only saw the host once during check in, but kept in contact through the app. The place was a good place to stay the night in a safe neighborhood, and from the available dates on the calendar stayed very busy with bookings. That tells me it was a very popular place, especially for the price!

When searching for a host, the results provide a long range of information along with photos of the place so that you are never going into the arrangement blind. The website tells you all of the amenities and features of the host. While in my case, food was not part of the room, other hosts provide a full experience to cater to the needs of the customer. I have a friend who is now a part of AirBNB and does offer a true bnb experience with a separate building on their property.

While I was a little uncertain about how I would like or not like the idea of this, I did find it quite pleasant and certainly affordable considering my other available options. There are many people who will never go back to chain hotels/motels and will only stay in these personable arrangements. And while not everyone wants to go this route. If you have ever considered it, try it and choose a host that has the amenities you are comfortable with having! I will plan on trying it again the next time I travel.

Learn more: www.airbnb.com

El Paso To Santa Fé



Originally, I had planned to leave El Paso and take I-10 to I-20 to Midland. In Midland, I wanted to go back to the Petroleum Museum I had briefly seen in October to see the museum and tour it. However, after seeing what the stupid costs were of motels all along I-20 because of the oil boom there, I decided to scrap that route all together! So instead, I decided to take I-10 to I-25 to Santa Fé! I had never driven that route before and thought it would be a good drive and to finally get to see more of Santa Fé than I had the past three failed times I've tried to visit there before. I intended to stay the night and see what I could that evening and the next day before heading back to Lubbock. El Paso to Santa Fé was around five hours of driving through the very center of New Mexico. I did make a few stops from El Paso to Santa Fé and so the total time was about 7 hours. Once I got to Albuquerque, I stopped for lunch/early dinner at the Rudy's BBQ there and stopped at Costco for gas. Less than an hour after that, I was in Santa Fé. I knew that my trip there would only be for overnight and a good chunk of the next day. After I got my room at Motel 6, I wanted to go explore a little. At one point because there was a Trader Joe's, I stopped there to look around and get a few things. I did drive around the town unintentionally because I really had no idea where I was going! Eventually, I got to the town square. It was dark by this point, and I parked and wanted to walk around for a little while. I never felt unsafe, but I kept aware of strange people being around. The Plaza was nice with red ristras on all of the lamp posts. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi was all lit up a couple of blocks from the Plaza and where I parked. I only walked around for a little bit then went back to the motel.

Read More

- [City of Santa Fé](#)
- [Santa Fé Plaza](#)
- [Palace of the Governors](#)
- [Loretto Chapel](#)
- [Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi](#)
- [Santa Fé Trail](#)
- [Trader Joe's](#)

Santa Fé Visit



Above: Ristras hanging from lamp posts in the Plaza. The Palace of the Governors is in the back.

Corner: One shop building in the adobe style near the Plaza.

Right: A bandstand gazebo near the center of the Plaza with the Palace of the Governors in the back.

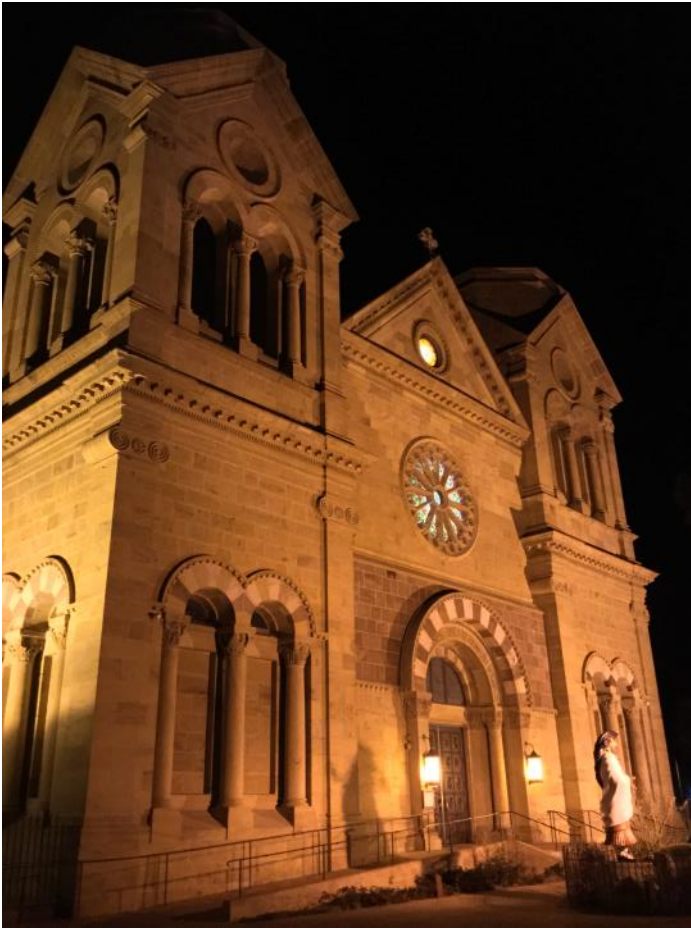


Santa Fé Visit

While this looks like some old pueblo that would be iconic of Santa Fé, it is actually a fairly new structure containing a very high end spa and with hallways of very expensive shops. On the other side of this complex is the historic Loretto Chapel that connects to this building.



Santa Fé Visit



Above: A nighttime shot of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

Below: Some doors along a side street. Notice the door in a door. These lead into the courtyard of the Palace of the Governors.

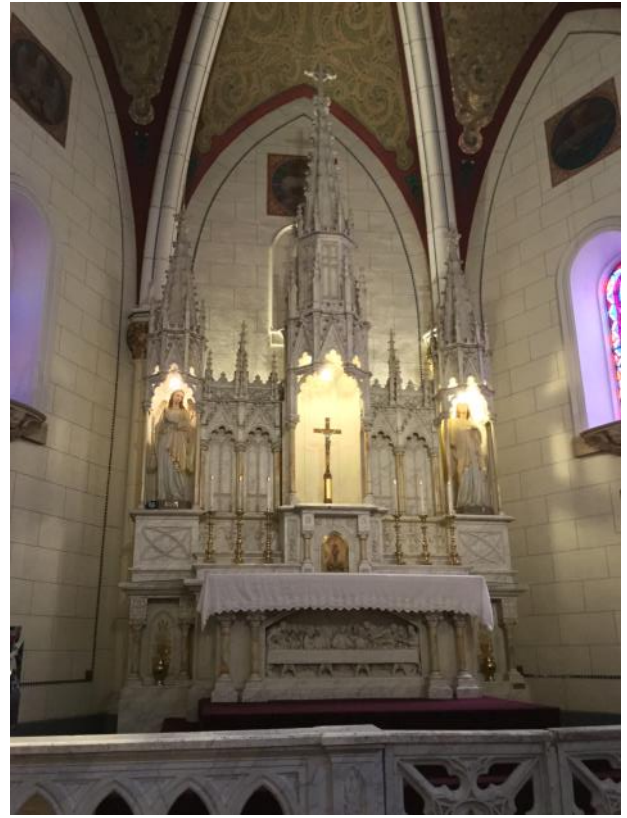


Above: Stone marker showing the end of the Santa Fé trail (taken at night).

Below: This is the Santa Fé River. Not very big is it?



Loretto Chapel



These photos are of the historic Loretto Chapel. It is a museum now instead of an operating chapel. When I visited, it was crowded with people so I could not get an overview shot without a bunch of people in it. I was most surprised by how small it was. The engineering marvel spiral staircase was closed off from people walking on it.



Horsey Short Stop

By 3:00 PM, I left Santa Fé to make my way back to Lubbock, which would be a straight drive of about 5 hours as the crow flies. But of course, I made various stops. From Santa Fé, I would make my way to Clines Corners then take I-40 east to Santa Rosa. From there, I went southeast to Fort Sumner and then again east to Clovis. From Clovis, I went southeast to Lubbock.

About halfway to Clines Corners, I passed this nice little area where there were a few horses and a colt lounging by a large water tank and windmill. I had gone past it a little ways, then I turned around and went back to that spot. I got some photos and videos before turning back around to Clines Corners.

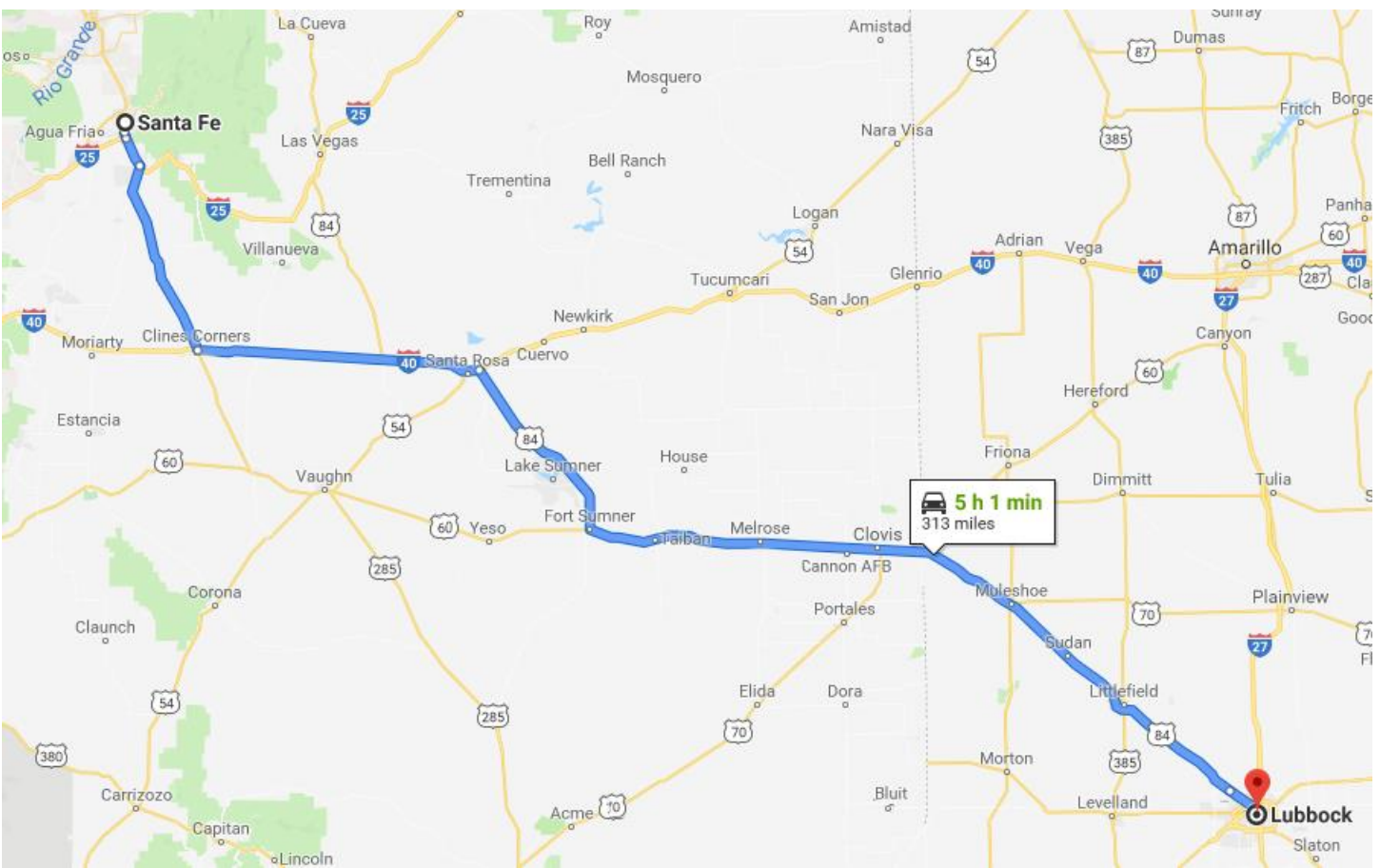


Santa Fé To Lubbock

After I left the spot with the horses, I went my way to Clines Corners. Once I got there, I stopped for a little while to look around and bought a couple of things of New Mexico style. If you have never been there, it is today a travel center. It was originally established in 1934, but moved in 1937 to where it is now when Route 66 got shortened to go between

Santa Rosa and Albuquerque instead of going up to Las Vegas and Santa Fé to Albuquerque. Over the years, it has expanded a bunch and is full of trinkets, food, souvenirs, a quick store, and diner. They also have an RV Park and a gas station.

Read More: [Clines Corners](#)



Santa Fé To Lubbock

The rest of the drive from Clines Corners to Clovis was straight and nonstop. I left about 4:45 PM. I have gone this route several times over 20 years with the first time in 2001 when I went from Flagstaff to Lubbock in July one week before I moved to Lubbock. (The route was identical from I-40 through Santa Rosa to Fort Sumner to Clovis to Lubbock. The week later, I drove the same route again with a U-Haul, except that I stayed the night in Santa Rosa before arriving in Lubbock the next day.)

I got into Clovis a little before 7:30 PM MT (which would be about 8:30 PM CT since Clovis is right along the border between New Mexico and Texas and Mountain time and Central time.) It was dinner time, so I stopped and ate at K-Bob's Steakhouse. A little over an hour later, I was on the road again for the basically easy drive to Lubbock, about 90 minutes. While I got to Lubbock at about 11:15, it

took 45 minutes to find a decently priced room to stay the night. I found one cheap enough, but decided that I would never stay there again. I had stayed there before one or two times over the past several years, and it was as crappy then as it was crappy now.

The next day, I returned the rental car, had lunch with the same friend as before I left, then got back into my car and drove home after doing a few errands. I got back to Snyder after dark, and needless to say, I had a lot of stuff to unload out of the car into the house.

Overall, the trip to El Paso was greatly needed and filled me with ideas, adventures, and hope for the museum where I worked and for something to write about in these many pages of the de Stolfe Journal!



Saw this blooming thistle on the side of the road in Snyder. April 26, 2019.

Spring time means baby chicks and baby ducks! March 8, 2019.

2019 Garden

As in previous years, I have a garden, a container garden. Most of these pots were from the Lubbock apartment on the balcony with a few new things added. These photos were from late March, the bottom two from March 22, and the one to the right from March 29 after I rearranged them. Since this point, I have further expanded the garden and added a bunch of new plants. You'll need to wait until the next issue to see the progression of the garden, especially with the addition of the vegetables!



SCM Happenings

The local newspaper, Snyder Daily News, is usually pretty good to report things about museum happenings on the front page, usually in the lower half of the front page.

Museum revamps Middle of Nowhere art exhibit

By Brittni Clemons
SDN Staff Writer

The Scurry County Museum has revamped its annual Middle of Nowhere art competition exhibit, which opened to the public on Thursday.

New museum curator Robert-George de Stolfe described some of changes.

"It's a very neat exhibit and I am very pleased with the amount of entries this year," he said. "I just thought I needed to make some changes to condense the art show and make everything run a bit smoother."

In the past, the show was only held at the museum, but Stolfe said he decided to put the college artwork at 1818 Arthouse this year so students would have the experience of setting up their own exhibit.

Stolfe also decided to condense the categories from seven to four.

He said that it will make it easier for the artist to choose how they would like to be represented. The categories are professional, amateur, college student and youth.

Participants this year were allowed to submit two entries.

This year there were more than 70 entries, with 17 in the youth category.

He said guests who visit the show will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite artwork.

Two winners will receive a monetary people's choice award at the end of the exhibit.

An artist reception will be held in May for winners to receive their people's choice awards and the announcement of the first through third place finishers in each category.

The exhibit will run through May 3.

Snyder Daily News.



Snyder Daily News. Friday, March 15, 2019. Page 1.

Snyder Daily News. Weekend, March 16-17, 2019. Page 1.

New museum curator seeks community involvement

Brittni Clemons
SDN Staff Writer

After being named curator at the Scurry County Museum in October, Robert-George de Stolfe said he loves his position and has two new exhibits in store for Scurry County.

"I really want to just get the community involved," he said. "And bring new ways to teach the community something they don't know or ever thought about."

He is currently preparing the Eating History: Assortment of Food and Presentation exhibit, which will be

held in May.

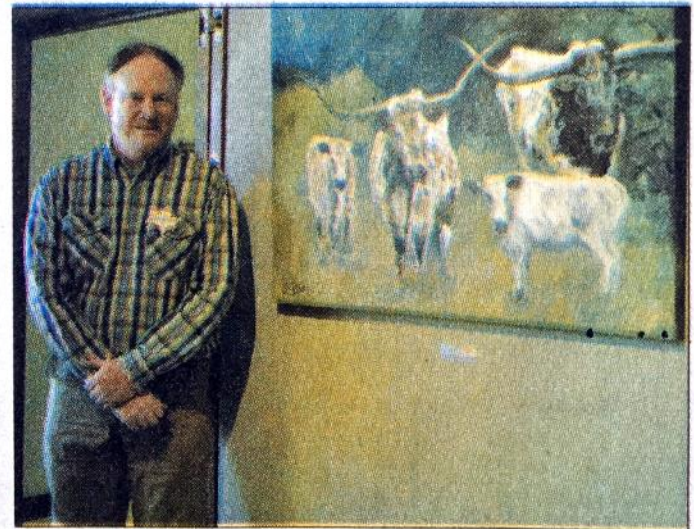
He said he wants to showcase different fine chinases from various time periods along with assortments of food that are associated with Scurry County.

The idea came about after talking to an anonymous donor who volunteered to pay for the exhibit, de Stolfe said.

"I'm excited about the upcoming projects," de Stolfe said. "I really hope the community enjoys them just as much I creating it."

Another exhibit in the works that is also planned for

See Curator, Page 2A



Robert-George de Stolfe



INSTALLMENT 3

The Story So Far:

Dusty King and Lew Gordon were joint owners of the vast King-Gordon range which stretched from Texas to Montana. When building up this string of ranches, they continually had to fight the unscrupulous Ben Thorpe. Thorpe rivaled King-Gordon in power and wealth, but he had gained his position through wholesale cattle rustling and gunplay. Their opposing interests came to a showdown when the Government announced the auctioning of the valuable Crying Wolf land in Montana. King bid high to beat out Thorpe. Bill Roper, King's adopted son, raced home to tell pretty Jody Gordon the good news. A rider soon brought the news that Dusty King had been killed.

CHAPTER IV

They buried Dusty King five miles south of Ogallala, beside the Great Trail which he himself had pioneered. They thought he would want to rest out there in the open plain, near enough to the cattle trail so that the rumble of hoofs would sometimes come to him through the ground.

Over his grave they piled boulders, after the fashion of the prairie men. Bill Roper himself fitted a cross of railroad ties, the most durable and massive timber available at Ogallala.

After that was all done, and night had come on, and everybody had gone back to town, Bill Roper went back to that lonely cross and squatted on his heels against the pile of stone.

After a while a ridden horse came toward the cross at a walk; and Bill Roper remained motionless, unseen against the stones, as the horseman came up. The rider stepped to the ground and walked slowly toward the cross, the reins of his pony on his arm.

"Quien es?"

Roper said, "Oh, hello, Dry Camp." Dry Camp Pierce came and sat down beside Bill at the foot of the stones. "Find

out anything, in the town?"

"Hell, no."

"No," Dry Camp repeated after him.

"No, and they won't."

"You talk mighty sure, Dry Camp."

"I talk mighty sure because I am mighty sure. Nobody saw Dusty killed except the three men that done it; and one other man."

Bill Roper's hand shot out and caught Dry Camp's lean arm in a grip that bit like a trap. "Who was that?"

"Me."

There was a silence, sharp and hard, before Bill said. "How is it you haven't told anybody this?"

"Haven't had any chance to talk to you," Dry Camp said. "I'm telling you now. Ain't I?"

"Who was it?"

"Cleve Tanner; and Walk Lasham, and Ben Thorpe."

Dry Camp took a match out of the pocket of his cowhide vest and chewed the end.

"You see—" he searched for his words painfully, after the manner of men who are much alone—"Dusty, he tied his horse out back of the Lone Star Bar, in the angle of the wagon shed. There's a kind of a corner there, like you can't see into it from any place, hardly; and what with it getting dark—"

"Where were you?"

"I was in Bailey's Harness Shop, next door. I saw Dusty turn off the walk, and walk back between the buildings. I'd been watching for him, because I wanted to speak to him a minute. I went back through the harness shop, and I was just going out the back door. And then hell bust in the wagon shed angle."

"The time it happened," Bill Roper said.

"there must have still been a little light."

"Enough to see by, all right. These three varmints steps out of the shed quick and quiet. Dusty knew what he was up against, all right. His gun come out; but Walk Lasham grabs his gun arm with his left hand and bears down like he was wrastling him. Then the whole works seems to blow up, as all three of 'em let loose. They just stood and throwed it into him, and it seemed like he was never

Honest Bill Roper turns outlaw. Or so it seemed. There was a reason. There is also a girl you'll like in

The Smoky Years

By Alan LeMay

Start Reading It Now

going to fall. Ben Thorpe pumped two more shots after Dusty was down, and dead."

That was all the story. Both of them seemed to recognize that there were no questions to ask, nothing to add.

"I promise you this, Bill:" Dry Camp said at last. "I can't go up and testify against these men. You know why. If I let it be known that I'm here, that's the finish of me. But that would be all right. Only, what court, that we got, would believe me against them?"

Bill Roper said. "There isn't anything you can do, I don't suppose."

"Oh, yes, there is. There's one thing I can do. I'll have to kind of bide my time, and make it sure; but—I'm going to get me these three men."

"No, you ain't," Bill Roper said. "We're going to go at this thing a different way. Trouble with you, you're figuring these three men as just three men. They ain't. They got the biggest string of tough outfits in the country, and they spread all the way from the Rio Grande to the Rosebud, and beyond. We got to bust up the whole works, if we want to get any place."

Dry Camp was silent for several minutes. "What you aim to do?"

"I aim to start in Texas, where Cleve Tanner runs Thorpe's breeding outfits, in the Big Bend; I aim to tie into him piece by piece, till Ben Thorpe is smashed out of the West."

THE SMOKY YEARS

By ALAN LE MAY

W. N. U. Release



"Lew Gordon will never stand for—"
"Then, by God, King-Gordon has come to its split-up"
Silence again before Dry Camp said.
"And I suppose I'm expected to just kind of stand aside and stay out of it and see how you work it out. huh? Well, I won't do it, Bill."
"You're in this. Dry Camp."
"How am I in it?"
"I've got to have me an outfit. It's got to be made up of boys that aren't afraid of Ben Thorpe or all hell; boys that haven't got anything more to lose. I'll need near fifty men. But to start off with I want Lee Harnish, and Tex Daniels and Tex Long; Nate Liggett—Dave Shannon—"
"Wow!" said Dry Camp.
"You get those four or five in the same bunch, they'll eat each other alive."
"That's the kind I want." Bill Roper said. "I want a wild bunch such as the West has never seen before."
"And me—what am I supposed to do?"
"You — you're heading south. You're going back to Texas and you're going to start rounding 'em in."
"What you offering these boys?"
"Horses and grub, and what other stuff we'll need. Not another thing."
They sat silent for a long time more.
"All right," Dry Camp said. "I'll go."
In the starlight Bill Roper swung down in front of the little shack which served King-Gordon as a loading-foreman's office at their Ogallala pens. Within, Bill Roper found Lew Gordon sitting alone.
"I just talked to a man," Roper said, "that saw the killing."
Gordon was instantly alert. "Who was it?"
"He's a man that can't come forward. because he's already an outlaw in his own right. But Dusty was killed by Ben Thorpe, and Walk Lasham, and Cleve Tanner, the three working together. Walk Lasham bore down Dusty's gun."



"You're in this, Dry Camp."

They looked at each other for a long moment.
"This man that told you this—we've got to get hold of him; his story has to go to the authorities. Bill."
Roper shook his head. "He'll hang it they lay hands on him. Anyway. nobody would believe him against these three."
Lew Gordon made a gesture at once impatient and weary. "Wherever we turn we hit some snag of lawlessness," he said. "There's too many men afraid to stand forward and face out the law. Seems like nothing is done open and above board any more."
"Never was. since I remember," Roper said. "I've got a couple of ways in mind right now. I'm going on the Warpath, Lew."
Gordon had been fiddling with a pencil, and now he threw it on the table in front of him. "We're figuring you to take over the Crying Wolf, Bill. Dusty's half of King-Gordon naturally will stand in your name now; Dusty never paid any attention to any other kin. But the Crying Wolf was where he figured for you to go and work; and there isn't any call to change that, now."
"You can count me out of the Crying Wolf, Lew."
"What do you want to do?"
"We're going to branch out a new way," Roper said. "We're going to have a warrior outfit. And I'm its new boss."
"I don't get you."
"We're going to carry the war into the other camp, Lew. For every outfit that Ben Thorpe has grabbed by force of arms, he's going to lose two; for every head that has come into his herds by rustle and raid, two head of his are going to be missing when he makes his roundup count. First thing, I'm going to break Cleve Tanner down in Texas. After that—"
Lew Gordon looked Bill Roper hard in

the eye, smiled a little, and shook his head. His voice was slow and deep, stubbornly emphatic, as a granite cliff is emphatic. "No. We've never gone outside the law yet, and while I live we never will. We play the straight game always; and if we lose—that's in the hands of things beyond us."
Bill Roper angered. "I know how you feel about it," he said, keeping his voice down. "You swayed Dusty that way always. If you'd looked at it different, the guns would have been out years ago—and it would have been Ben Thorpe that went down. As it is—Dusty King is dead. Now you want me to drift on as we always drifted on. and I'm supposed to forget that Dusty's out there under a pile of stones. Well, I'm not going to play it that way, Gordon."
"While you're with King-Gordon." Lew said slowly, "you'll play it as I say you'll play it."
"If you want to buy me out," Roper said, "you can do it at your own price. Because I'm going to do exactly what I tell you I'm going to do; I wouldn't run a sneak on you, Lew."
"You figure," Lew Gordon said incredulously, "that you, one youngster on horseback, can smash up Ben Thorpe? You wouldn't last forty seconds longer than a celluloid collar on a dead gambler."
"There'll be a few go with me," Roper said.
"Who?"
"Dry Camp Pierce for one; Lee Harnish, Tex Daniels, Tex Long; in all, maybe fifty men that I think I know where to get."
Lew Gordon looked as if he would explode. "You're naming the most vicious outlaws on the plains," he said. "If you ever get those men together, it will be the most infernal wild bunch that ever—"
"By God," said Bill Roper, "I'll show you how to clean a range or break a range: I'm telling you I don't care which."
Lew Gordon slapped his hand on the table; it fell with a dull and heavy wallop,

but so hard it seemed the top of the table would split.
 "No. No, by God! Not under my brand. Not in a hundred years..."
 "Then draw up the terms of the sale."
 Gordon was silent again, for a long time. He seemed very old, very tired. "Reckon you're man enough to make your own decisions, Bill."
 "Thanks, Lew."
 "But do me one last favor—will you? Don't decide here and now. Take a couple of days to think it over. It's for your own good. But I'm asking it as a favor to me..."
 Bill Roper dropped his eyes, and for a moment or two he hesitated.
 "I'll take an hour," he decided in compromise.

CHAPTER V

Bill Roper walked slowly to the Gordons' tall house, on its rise at the edge of the town, and let himself in softly. He wanted desperately to talk to Jody Gordon; but it was nearly midnight, and he couldn't make up his mind to wake her.
 As it happened, decision was unnecessary. In the fireplace some lengths of cottonwood log still burned, and before the fire Jody lounged upon a buffalo robe, wide awake.
 "You've been a long time."
 "I know." He stopped beside her, half raised her in his arms, and kissed her lingeringly. Her arms and her lips clung, making it difficult for him to think of the road he had chosen. But presently he sat beside her on the buffalo robe, and turned his eyes to the coals.

"There's some stuff we have to talk about, Jody."
 "I can think of better things to do with firelight than just talk."
 "Jody — King-Gordon is splitting up." Jody brought herself up on one elbow. "Why, Bill—what do you mean?"
 "Dusty's share comes to me, as you know. I—I'm taking it out."
 "You're—Bill, you must be loco!"
 "Maybe. I'm going against Ben Thorpe."
 "But—but—" Jody was at a loss for words.
 "Since the trail began, he's stood for everything we're against. Four of the biggest rustling gangs in the country are directly hooked up with him, if it could be proved. He's stopped at nothing, and where he couldn't force his way he's bought his way. But now—he's gone too far."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

**Scurry County
 Historical
 Commission**

On February 27, the first meeting of the Scurry County Historical Commission, a local subset of the Texas Historical Commission, had their first meeting of 2019. It was also an open meeting to get new members. I was nominated then confirmed by the county judge.

New commission seated



SDN Photo/Brittini Clemons

The Scurry County Historical Commission held its first meeting of 2019 on Wednesday. Members of the commission are (l-r) Cole Herring, Scurry County Judge Dan Hicks, Thomas Strayhorn, Lynn Fuller, Jean Everett, Keisha Dugan, Brooke Proctor, Drew Bullard and Robert-George de Stolfe. Not pictured are Paula Hatfield and Sandra Salinas.

Let's Talk ASMR!

First, the question is, “What the heck is ASMR??”. Well, it is an acronym that stands for Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response. Okay. So what does THAT mean?? Wikipedia defines it as “an experience characterized by a static-like or tingling sensation on the skin that typically begins on the scalp and moves down the back of the neck and upper spine”, or sort of like the good feeling you get when someone does something audibly that you like and makes you feel good. Unless you experience it, it is sort of hard to explain, but I’m certain that you have experienced it but had no idea that it has a name and that it is a big “business”, if you will.

This definition defines the effect, but does not particularly define the cause. The cause is simply hearing something you like that gives you a pleasant physical feeling of doodads on your head and neck. It is a sort of translation of sound into feeling by way of your brain. Wikipedia also describes it as a sort of “low grade euphoria”. On YouTube especially, you can find thousands of these type videos that range from relaxing to even vulgar, and from mundane to intense. Depending on what the source is, it tends to be a good relaxation tool that often can help to slow the heart rate and let you relax, even to go to sleep. It is no substitute for needing actual medical help, but it is a great tool to destress!

For a little over a year now, there are some videos I’ve watched that sort of unintentionally got me started with this, but I did not know at first what it was. It was ASMR. I started out watching certain channels that showed getting a haircut and/or shave where the process was recorded only with the sounds of the process, absolutely no talking. Usually, these videos were recorded when no one else was around and recorded with special mics to pick up the sounds. This type of recording only works when it is very quiet without background distractions and without the subjects themselves talking. What this does is that it forces the listeners to hear the sounds that they usually ignore or can’t hear from all the other noises.

From barbering, I migrated to watching shoe shining, particularly those in shoe shine stands like at airports or similar. I found several channels that recorded at airport stands, and I found another source that I liked. There is this guy in Mexico City who has recorded shoe shines at portable shine stands since the start of 2018. Apparently, shoe shining is a very big business in Mexico! I’ve been watching these videos for about a year now and have really learned a lot about shoe shining, at least the way they do it in Mexico. I found another shoe shine guy who works at a major department store in Denver who records his shoe shining. In his videos, he focuses on explaining how he shines shoes, but also he records the actions in heavy ASMR with several camera angles, both in a stand and in his workshop in the back room of the store (where he shines shoes for customers).

While I have not personally watched them, there are many other channels that purposely record sounds with very high sensitivity mics to pick up every nuance of sound of some particular action. While this concept of recording sound and video in this way is not new, it has been getting wildly popular over the past couple of years, possibly longer.

I do think that YouTube has allowed the common person to publish a plethora of whatever they want, especially after the iPhone and digital cameras that record video were invented to allow people the technical means to do it. Also, having wifi and cell internet has allowed people to have the most flexibility with uploading the videos. Before all of this, a person would have to either spend a lot of money and time to learn professional equipment or hire a professional crew to record and edit video, which is stupidly expensive.

In many cases, you are already experiencing mild ASMR without even realizing it. The main effect of it is a state of relaxation and pleasantness caused by sight and sounds that are pleasing, even to say when someone does something that makes you literally feel good and special!

Final Thought

de Stolfe Journal.....

Merriam dictionary entry for "fish"

ˈfɪʃ \ 'fɪʃ \ *n, pl fish or fishes* [ME, fr. OE *fisc*; akin to OHG

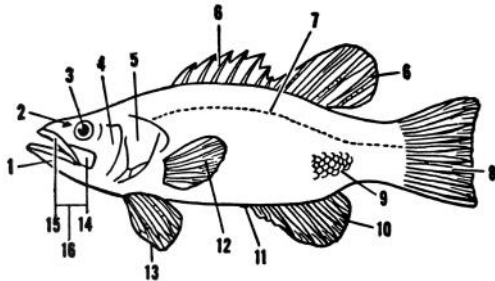
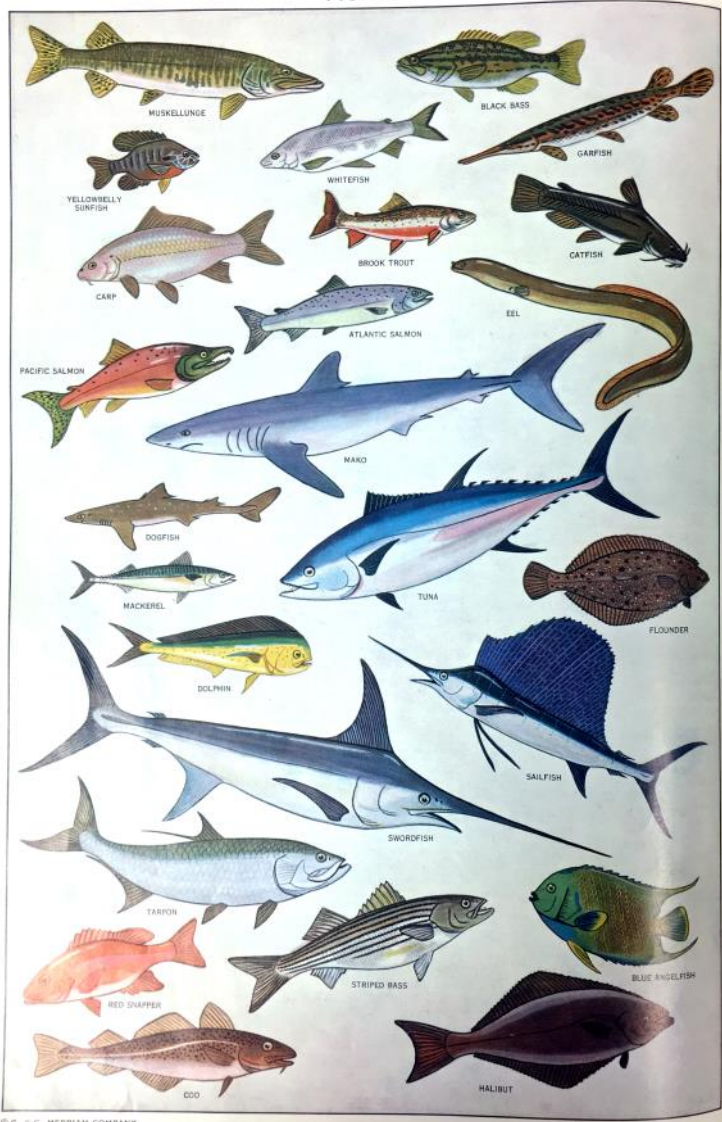


diagram of a fish: 1 mandible, 2 external naris, 3 eye, 4 cheek, 5 operculum, 6, 6 dorsal fins, 7 lateral line, 8 caudal fin, 9 scales, 10 anal fin, 11 anus, 12 pectoral fin, 13 pelvic fin, 14 maxilla, 15 premaxilla, 16 upper jaw

fisc fish, ON *fiskr*, Goth *fisks*, L *piscis*, OIr *fasc*] **1** : an exclusively aquatic vertebrate or invertebrate animal — usu. used in combination. <starfish> <cuttlefish> <jellyfish>

FISHES



The de Stolfe Journal is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production of over 60 regular and special issues, with now the *Candid* dropped from the name. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals

Publisher/Owner/Editor

Robert-George de Stolfe

Graphics/Layout*

Robert-George de Stolfe

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Back Page Literature

This issue's Back Page Literature is an article I wrote for the member newsletter of the Scurry County Museum. The image to the right shows the printed article. The article included here is the original, longer article that I had to shorten in order to fit it on one page! The photo of the historical marker in the article is where the text below in the article is from.

The O.K. Wagon Yard

By Robert-George de Stolfe

Scurry County has a large number of Texas historical markers within its square, 61 of them according to the Texas Historical Commission, with 49 of them in Snyder alone. At least a dozen of them are located on or near the courthouse square of downtown Snyder. One particular marker was dedicated on April 19 of 1971 and is located on the northeast corner of 24th Street and Avenue R. This text describes the local color of Snyder in its early days:

Site of O. K. Wagon Yard
(Formerly on Jackass Avenue)

Stopping place for travelers in early 1900s, rented rooms and horse stalls for two bits (25¢) each. Provided blacksmithing and harness repair and kept a horse, jersey bull, and a "Missouri jack" (donkey) as stud animals. With right contact here, a cowboy could also buy a jar of "white lightning" (home-brewed whiskey).

On Saturdays citizens "passed the hat" to finance a rodeo at the yard. In later years "first Mondays" were held here, where farmers, ranchers, mule skinner, and the curious met to swap or exchange produce, livestock, and other goods. Yard closed in 1930s. (1971)

The information on this sign is packed with a variety of details that clearly is modeled after an article written by John Portis and published in the Snyder Daily News on April 19, 1970. The content and wording of the marker are nearly identical to what is shown in the article. The article was also a near exact copy of a writing made by Mr. Portis in a self-published booklet. In it, he stated that the OK Wagon Yard was owned by brothers Bill and Drew Taylor.

History in Scurry County

The O.K. Wagon Yard

By Robert-George de Stolfe

Scurry County has a large number of Texas historical markers within its "square" borders, 61 of them according to the Texas Historical Commission, with 49 of them in Snyder alone and more than a dozen on or near the courthouse square. One particular marker of interest was dedicated on April 19 of 1971 and is located on the northeast corner of 24th Street and Avenue R with the title, Site of O. K. Wagon Yard. The text on this sign describes the local color of Snyder in its early days and is packed with a variety of details that is clearly modeled after a writing by John Portis that was published in the Snyder Daily News on April 19, 1970. He stated that the O.K. Wagon Yard was owned by brothers Bill and Drew Taylor. But what exactly is a wagon yard?

A wagon yard served as an overnight stop for people traversing by horse drawn wagon well before the widespread use of automobiles as transportation. Being a much slower method of transportation, wagon travel could take a day just to go from one county to another. A wagon yard could be described as similar to what an RV park is today. Portis added in his writing that "cow boys would come into town and stay here in the not so modern cabins" that "were furnished with a cot and a coal stove" costing two bits (twenty-five cents) a night and that the horse boarded for an additional two bits. A short article in the Snyder Daily News on April 21 of 1971, stated that Dean Cochran had a memory of spending the night at the wagon yard in 1924. He stated that there was someone on duty all night to take care of the horses, but also vividly remembered smelling the smoke from the mesquite stump fire glowing in the midst of the yard every night while people took advantage of the yard's conveniences, often whittling and talking.

One reliable way to establish how the wagon yard was laid out is by maps made by The Sanborn Map Company of New York who created maps to document towns for fire insurance. A Sanborn map in 1911 showed Snyder having at least five wagon yards within a couple blocks radius of the courthouse square with one at the site of the O.K. Wagon Yard. The 1911 map and another one in 1920

show the previous street names: Church Street became Avenue R, Borden Street became 23rd Street, and North Street became 24th Street. Jackass Avenue (in reference to a male donkey) for Church Street is likely an early informal name for the road before the first formal names were assigned. Another Sanborn map in 1936 showed the location as basically empty except for two structures that were different from the earlier maps, confirming that the wagon yard was demolished sometime between 1930 and 1936. Portis wrote that "in the early thirties, progress overtook the wagon yard and it was torn down" which he thought was because "the automobile replaced the wagon".

In a general letter written in 1970, Hugh Boren Jr described the First Mondays. "During the years 1932 through 1936, the O.K. Wagon Yard became a place where First Monday was held. This was THE DAY... throughout the county and elsewhere... when all people brought in their wares to trade. Farmers, ranchers, hoos traders, mule skinner, women, children, or anybody brought anything they had that they wanted to swap for something else. This was mostly done on a barter basis." Another name for this is a "swap meet" or a " flea market" or today would be simply called a yard sale. It is possible that the First Mondays continued for several years on the same lot even after the wagon yard itself was gone.

Another very popular activity on the wagon yard grounds by the livery and pens was the procedure of riding a rodeo. Organized competitions did not start until 1920 with the creation of the Rodeo Association of America. Before then, cowboys would gather and simply edge each other in friendly dashes of skill. In the letter by Hugh Boren Jr, he stated, "possibly as early as 1916, I remember my first rodeo. The place... [was] at the O.K. Wagon Yard... The show started with a banner of one cowboy saying to the other that he could not ride a certain "brunk", meaning an unbroken horse. The bantering, betting, and arguments went on for several minutes, until the one cowboy said, "If you will raise \$1.50, I will saddle and ride him." This in itself was quite a show, which led to the passing of the hat around to



Historical marker at the NE corner of 24th Street and Avenue R in Snyder.

the spectators, some 15 or 20 people." Boren stated that he put in '76 and while only 75¢ was collected, the show continued. Portis stated, "a cowboy would get down [get ahead of] a bronc, saddle him up, and top him off [ride him] or vice versa [get bucked off]." Boren also provided paragraphs of outstanding detail of what happened with the catching of a horse, riding, and the "tucking, bellering, and bowling" of the bronc. He even identified this specific rider as Booger Rad. Another interesting point he stated was that there were no women around watching the action, which allowed Booger, "a rather expressive sort of cowboy", to cuss his way through the ride!

Today, the southwest corner of the lot where the marker is and where the livery and pens were has a building that was the old post office, while the northeast corner where the wagon yard itself was is the Snyder Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center. An article in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal in January of 1976 stated, "When excavation began for the new [Chamber] building, workers unearthed relics of that past including horsehoes and harnesses from the famous OK Wagon Yard where the action was in early day Snyder." Indeed, the OK Wagon Yard saw much action in the span of its existence.

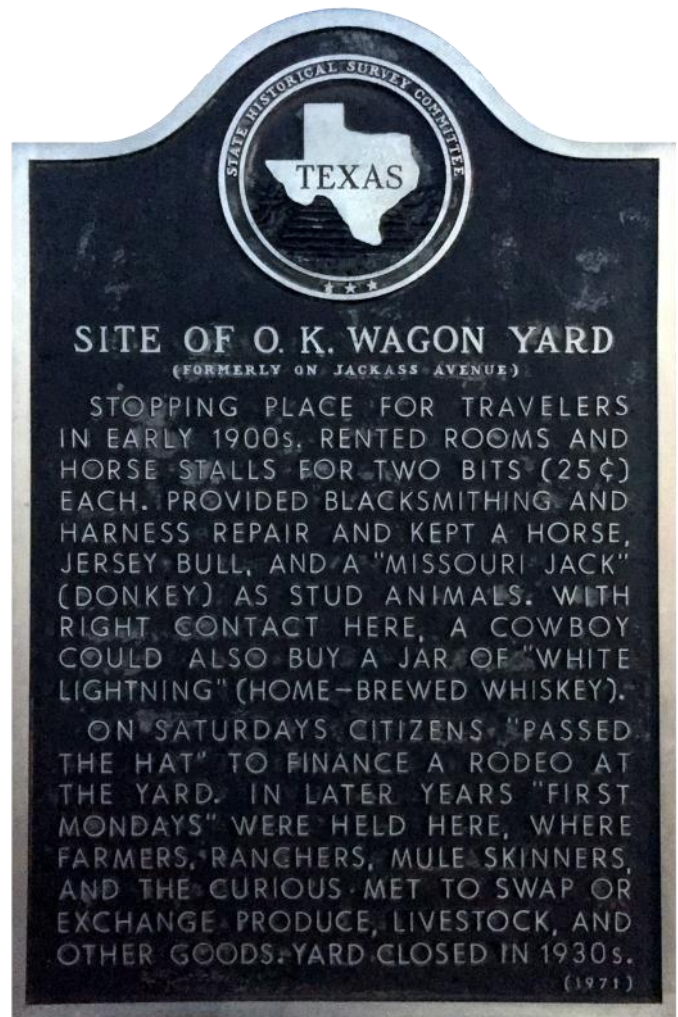
A wagon yard served as an overnight stop for people traversing by horse or horse drawn wagon before the widespread use of automobiles as transportation. Being a much slower method of transportation, wagon travel could take a day just to go from one county to another. A wagon yard could be described as somewhat similar to an RV park of today. Portis added in his writing that "cow boys would come into town and stay here in the not so modern cabins" that "were furnished with a cot and a coal stove" costing two bits (twenty-five cents) a night and that the horse boarded for an additional two bits. A short article in the Snyder Daily News on April 21 of 1971, stated that Dean Cochran had a memory of spending the night at the wagon yard in 1924. He stated that there was someone on duty all night to take care of the horses, but also vividly remembered smelling the smoke from the mesquite stump fire glowing in the midst of the yard every night while people took advantage of the yard's conveniences, often whittling and talking. With this memory being nearly fifty years after the fact (and now almost one hundred years after 1924), extracting the meaning of "conveniences" is difficult to determine.

Back Page Literature

One reliable way to establish how the wagon yard was generally laid out is by viewing maps made by The Sanborn Map Company of New York. They created maps to document towns countrywide for fire insurance. A Sanborn map in 1911 showed Snyder having at least five wagon yards within a couple blocks radius of the courthouse square with one at Church Street in between North Street and Borden Street, which is the site of the O.K. Wagon Yard. The 1911 map and another one in 1920 show the previous street names: Church Street became Avenue R, Borden Street became 23rd Street, and North Street became 24th Street. Jackass Avenue (in reference to a male donkey) for Church Street is likely an early informal name for the road before the first formal names were assigned. The 1911 map also showed the wagon yard spanning nearly the entire western half of its block with several vaguely identified structures. On the north end of the lot, a long, thin building possibly served as the “cabins”, perhaps in a motel-like arrangement. In the very middle of the lot was another large structure that the 1920 map identified as a wagon shed with a feed shed directly to the west. South of these structures was a barn that served as a livery and probably also the location of the breeding barn for the stud animals. A livery was usually a separate business where a person could rent a horse, not unlike today’s idea of a rental car business. A small extension on the south side of the livery could be the blacksmith shop. A thin structure to the east of the livery is unidentified. The “blank” area south of the livery was likely the location of the pens. The 1920 map no longer shows the livery or the structure to the east of it, and the long, thin structure that were likely the cabins appeared to be converted to a stable.

Another Sanborn map in 1936 showed the location as basically cleared out with two completely different sized structures, a camp shed about where the wagon shed was, and a grain shed about where the feed shed was. This suggests that the wagon yard was demolished sometime between 1920 and 1936. Portis wrote that “in the early thirties, progress overtook the wagon yard and it was torn down” which he thought was because “the automobile replaced the wagon and the blacksmith shop is being replaced by the machine shop”.

In a general letter written in 1970, Hugh Boren Jr described what First Monday was. “During the years 1932 through 1938, the O. K. Wagon Yard became a place where First Monday was held. This was THE DAY... throughout the county and elsewhere... when all people brought in their wares to trade. Farmers, ranchers, hoss traders, mule skinnners, women, children, or anybody brought anything they had that they wanted to swap for something else. This was mostly done on a barter basis.” Another name for this is a “swap meet” or a “flea market” or today is simply called a yard sale. Mr. Portis commented, “If you knew the right person you could also buy a fruit jar of white lightning”, which the historical marker stated was home-brewed whiskey. It is possible that the First Mondays continued for several years on the same lot after the wagon yard itself was gone.

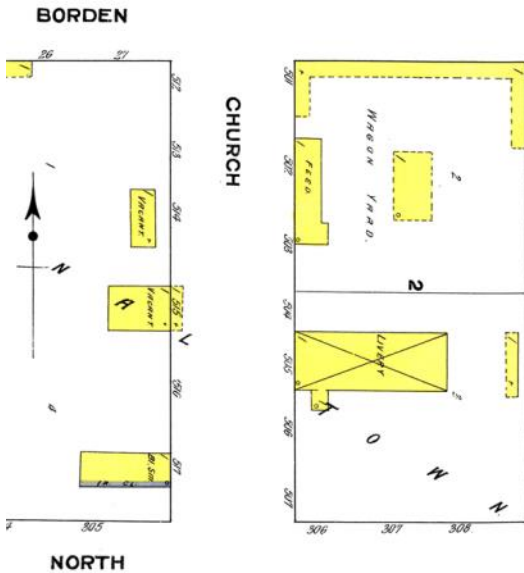


Another very popular activity on the wagon yard grounds was a precursor of today’s rodeos. The rodeos of today did not become formally organized with competitions until 1929 with the creation of the Rodeo Association of America (and what eventually morphed into the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) of today, albeit through several twists and turns). Before 1929, cowboys would simply edge each other in friendly dares of feats of skill as recreation or fun. In the letter by Hugh Boren Jr, he stated, “possibly as early as 1916, I remember my first rodeo. The place... [was] at the O.K. Wagon Yard...” He went on to state, “The show started with a banter of one cowboy saying to the other that he could not ride a certain “bronc”, meaning an unbroken horse. The bantering, betting, and arguments went on for several minutes, until the one cowboy said, “If you will raise \$1.50, I will saddle and ride him.” This in itself was quite a show, which led to the passing of the hat around to the spectators, some 15 or 20 people.” Boren stated that he put in 7¢ and while only 75¢ was collected, the show continued. Portis stated, “a cowboy would ear down [get ahold of] a bronc, saddle him up, and top him off [ride him]

Back Page Literature

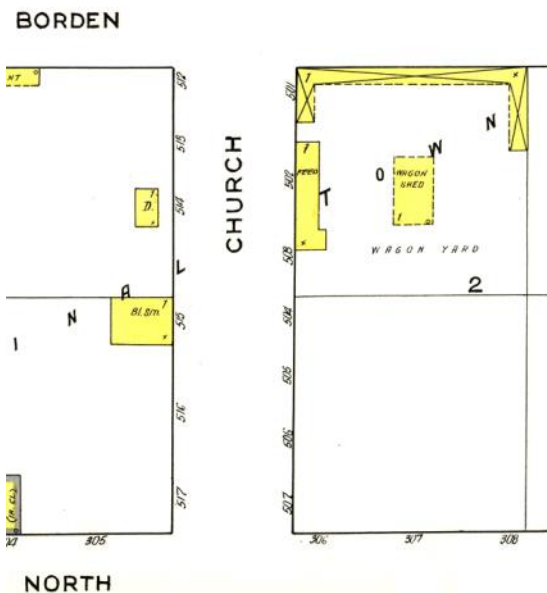
or vice versa [get bucked off].” However, Boren provided paragraphs of great detail of what happened next from the catching of a horse, saddling, and the bucking, belling, and bawling of the bronc. He even identified this specific rider as Booger Red. Another interesting point he stated was that there were no women around watching the action, which allowed Booger, “a rather expressive sort of cowboy”, to cuss his way through the ride!

Today, the southwest corner of the lot where the marker is and where the livery and pens were has a building that used to be the Snyder post office and is now an air conditioning business, while at the northwest corner exists the Snyder Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center where the wagon yard itself was. An article in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal in January of 1976 stated, “When excavation began for the new [Chamber] building, workers unearthed relics of that past including horseshoes and harnesses from the famous OK Wagon Yard where the action was in early day Snyder.” Indeed, the OK Wagon Yard saw much action in the span of its existence.



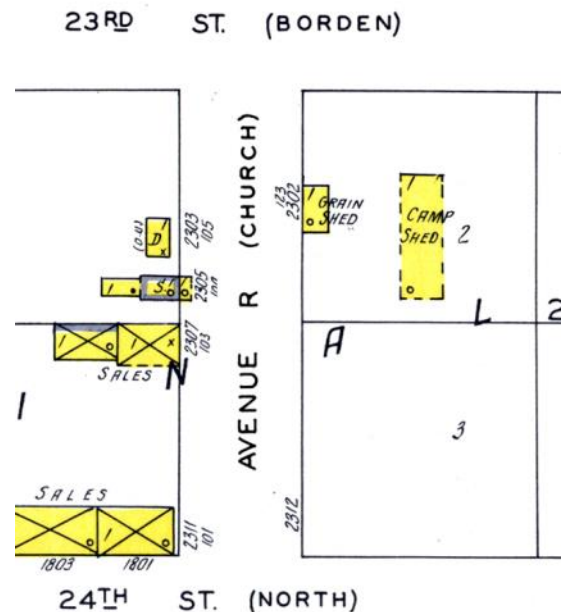
Left: 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the wagon yard and livery.

Right: Key for explaining the shorthand symbols on the map of all the years.



Left: 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing a slightly different wagon yard and without the livery.

Right: 1936 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the wagon yard basically gone with different structures of a camp shed and grain shed. Also, the streets were renamed by 1936.



24TH ST. (NORTH)