

de Stolfe

Journal ●●●●●●●●

Summer 2 | July 31, 2020 | 9.3





Contents

Summer 2 | July 31, 2020 | 9.3

Covers activities in July 2020 and some earlier months.

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On The Cover



This stairway goes to the second floor of a historic building in Canton, Mississippi that was used in a film.

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



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Comments by RG



Producer, RG de Stolfe

Happy Summer!

Well, here we are in the middle of summer and already shifting to back to school and the things that come with fall. Summer has seemed to go by fast even though we have not gone through August yet!

As for me, since getting back home in mid June, I mostly stay at home and only go somewhere when I need to do something or to get something. (I do go outside, though!) And by far, this is a much cheaper way to live! However, with the utter madness, ignorance, hostility, and hypocrisy running rampant in the world and in this country right now, the so called “social distancing” comes extremely easy to do! Nonetheless, we should never become hermits because of a temporary situation.

In my last issue, Summer 1, I provided a major section of it about our first trip to Florida and all the interesting things we did. I did say that we had to go back to Florida a second time and therefore we made a second trip. This issue presents the second trip. The overall content of this issue runs similar to the content of the last issue.

While most of the content is focused on the trip and the many things we saw and did, I still have a few things typical of most journal issues. Enjoy this issue and be on the lookout very soon for a special surprise of a special issue!

RG

After I got back, I had predecided that I wanted to start having fresh flowers on my table again. Here are a couple of the sets of flowers I bought. The tablecloths are ones Mom had on her table.



Word for Life

I continue with the series of ancient Biblical cities. The first one was Ephesus, the last one was Philippi, and the next one is Colosse.

Oddly enough, when searching Google for “Colosse”, I get a “Did you mean...” result! What I mean is that Google corrected my search term to “Colossae” instead. That is the spelling today for the ancient city, but the Bible clearly shows the spelling as “Colosse”. Even MS Word wants to say that the spelling is wrong and that it should be either “Colossae” or “colossi”, the plural of “colossus”. (I am making no reference to an X-Men character!) Colossus, by the way, is a Latin term used in art, particularly for sculpture, to mean much larger than life, coming from the Greek word, kolossos.

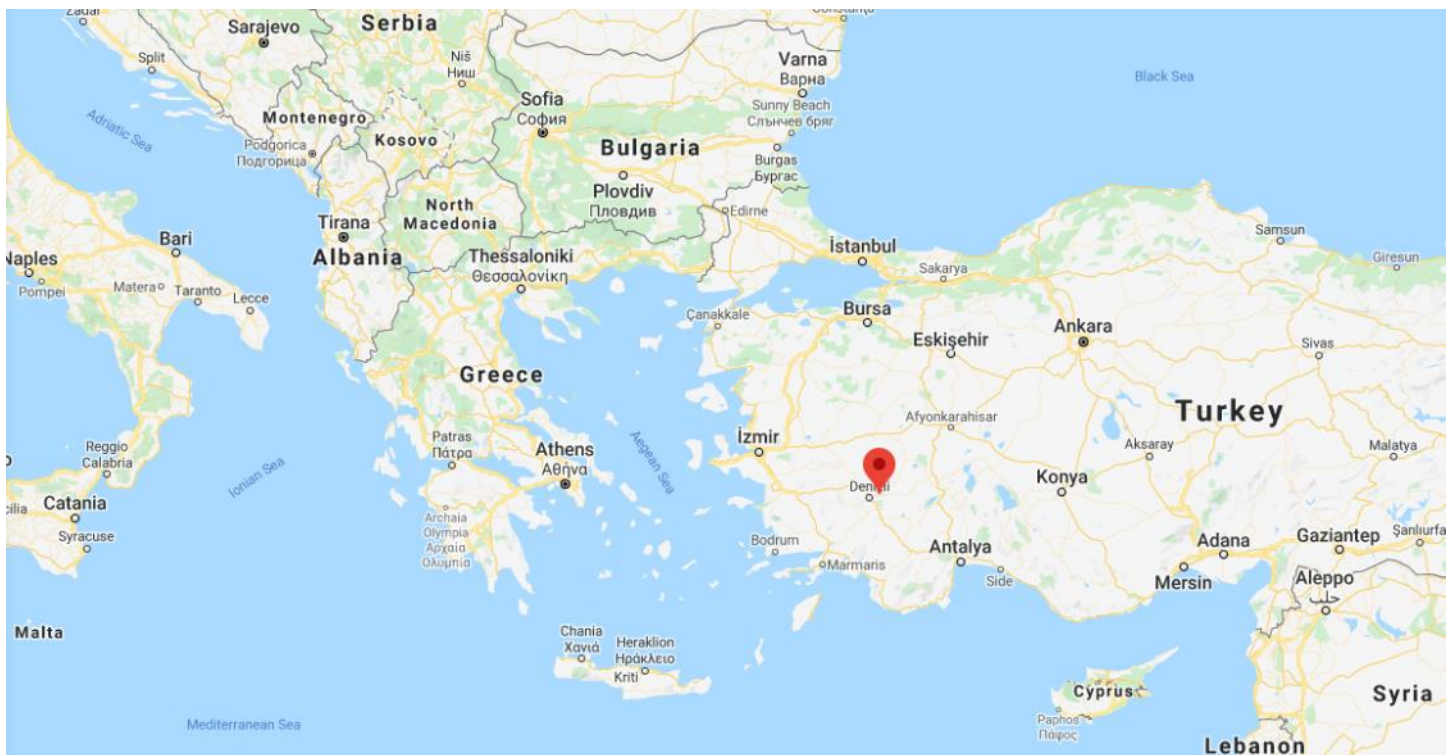
The ancient city of Colosse was in Asia, today referred to as Asia Minor, or Turkey. It is in the southwestern end of Turkey between Izmir and Antalya, and about 120 miles from the Mediterranean coast.



Source: Wikipedia

Ruins at the site of Colosse, February 2020.

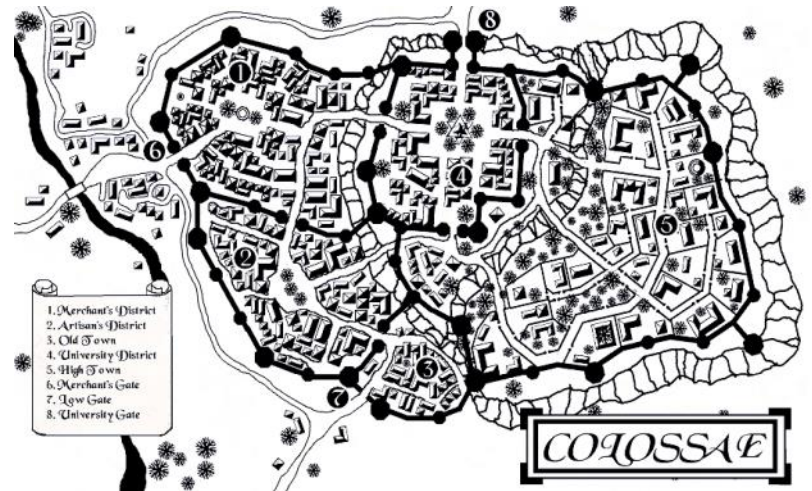
Map showing the location of Colosse in modern Turkey. (red pin)



Map source: Google Maps

Word for Life

At the time, the city was nearly in the middle of the Roman Empire and so would be heavily influenced by Roman architecture. Unfortunately, there is very little left to see! This satellite view from Google shows that the area has long been in decay and is covered in dirt and grass. Despite that, a few details stand out. To the middle right in the photo is clearly an amphitheater. At the top left is a large raised oval. In the Southwest, it would be called a mesa, but it is actually a tell, a mound of layers of ancient ruins covered by earth. This is where the city of Colosse was.

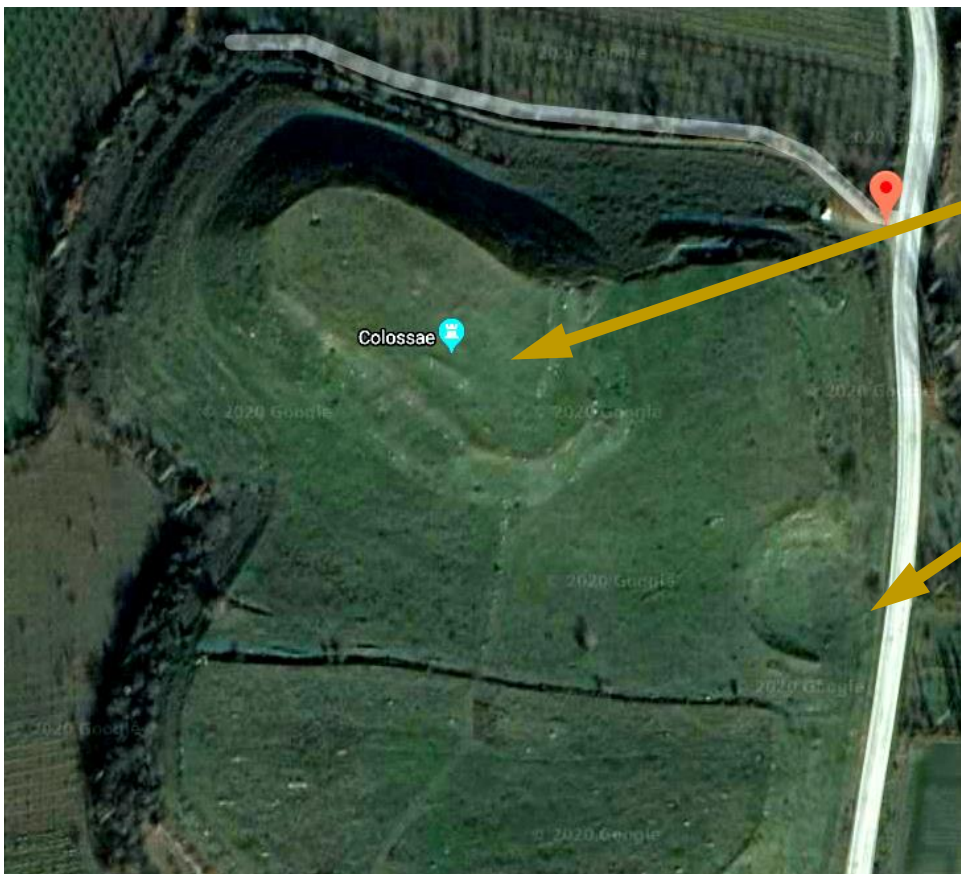


Source: Denizli Hotel

There were apparently several minor levels of the raised city, as the illustration shows. Of course, this illustration is only a general idea of the city's layout since we cannot know for sure of its layout without a thorough excavation of the entire site.

Map Drawing Key

1. Merchant's District
2. Artisan's District
3. Old Town
4. University District
5. High Town
6. Merchant's Gate
7. Low Gate
8. University Gate



The tell where the city of Colosse was.

This clearly looks like an amphitheater, as most Greek or Roman cities had one.

Source: Google Maps

Word for Life

The reference of Colosse and Colossians in the Bible is with the book of Colossians, the letter Paul wrote to the people there. While Paul did go through that region, it is hard to say if Paul ever went to Colosse directly. However, he did want to go but was imprisoned in Rome at the time of his letter (Colossians 4:10 and 4:18, "Remember my chains.")

Colosse apparently survived a severe earthquake in 61 AD, a few years after the church started there, but Paul wrote the letter likely a year or two before the earthquake. Paul's issue with the church in Colosse was the mixing of pagan practices and worship with the Christian doctrine. In this case, heresy snuck into the young church making its establishment.

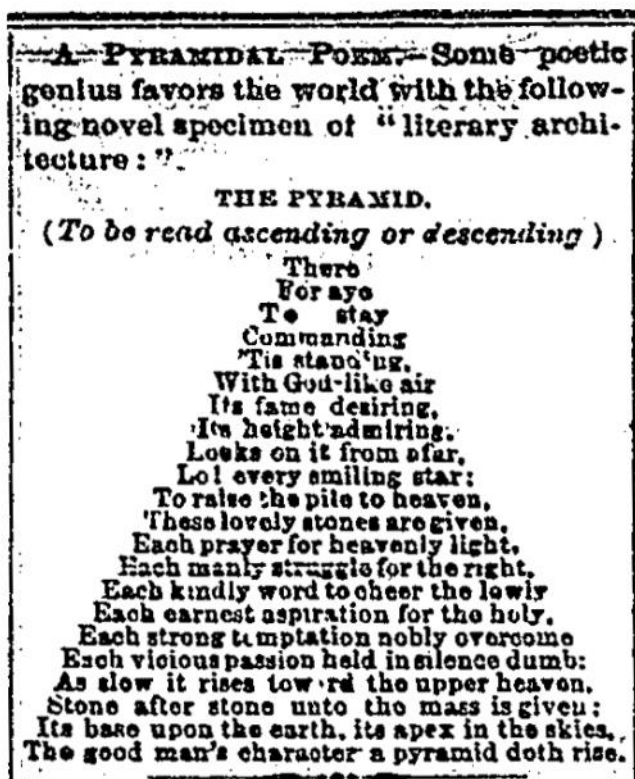
Paul says in Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." He also said in 2:18, "Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which

he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind..." In 3:5, he also added, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." In 3:17, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Paul wanted to make sure that the Colossian church was not being led astray by worldliness trying to corrupt the Word of God.

A good message for us today even amid fear, anxiety, and assaults coming from every direction.

Read More:

- Bible-Colossians - www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201&version=NKJV
- Denizli Hotel - www.denizlihotel.com/colossae-ancient-city
- Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colossae>



A PYRAMIDAL POEM.—Some poetic genius favors the world with the following novel specimen of "literary architecture:"

THE PYRAMID.

(To be read ascending or descending)

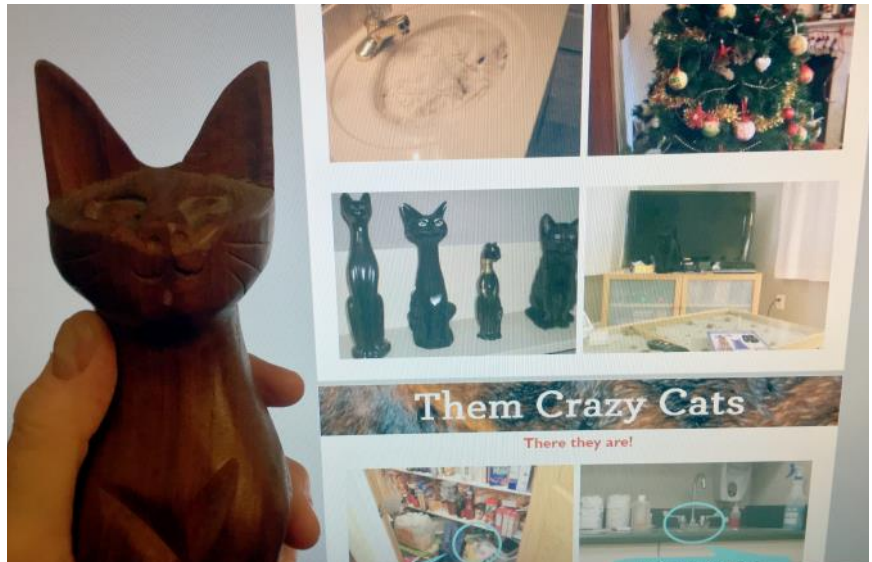
There
For aye
To stay
Commanding
'Tis standing.
With God-like air
Its fame desiring,
Its height admiring,
Looks on it from afar,
Lo! Every smiling star:
To raise the pile to heaven,
These lovely stones are given.
Each prayer for heavenly light,
Each manly struggle for the right.
Each kindly word to cheer the lowly
Each earnest aspiration for the holy.
Each strong temptation nobly overcome
Each vicious passion held in silence dumb:
As slow it rises toward the upper heaven.
Stone after stone unto the mass is given:
Its base upon the earth, its apex in the skies.
The good man's character a pyramid doth rise.

Random Things



Neat dragonfly I saw.

Fun with odometer numbers!



I thought Mom's little cat figurine looked familiar! (See the May 2015 issue of journal.)



Who decides in the middle of a second Great War to start a global spice trade??

Dog Update

Here is an update on the photo of the three white German shepherd dogs. Here is what my aunt provided.

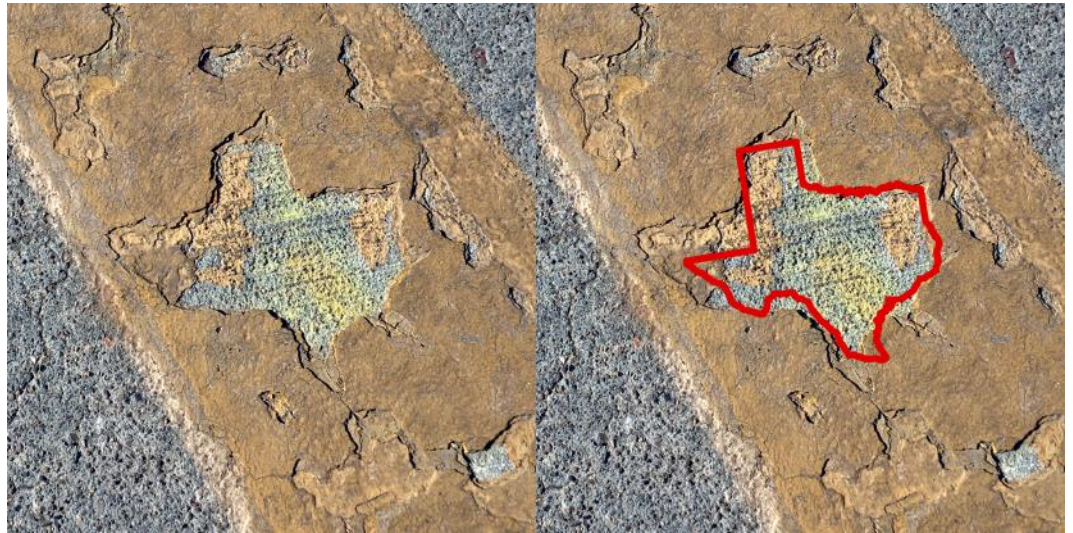
Vim is the mother dog and had one litter of puppies, 1 male and 2 females. The owner of the sire chose to keep the male pup. The two female pups were then *Rimmad* and *Winnie* (the Pooh). My mom had *Rimmad* and my aunt had *Winnie*. She said, "They were wonderful dogs."



Random Things

Odd Thing

I was walking to the entrance of the grocery store when I suddenly saw this chip in the parking lot striping! It looked familiar so I took a photo of it. Now, I can see what it reminded me of!



Pet Portraits

For Christmas 2019, I decided to create my own pet portraits like those that was all the rage last fall! Since I am a graphic artist, I came across a tutorial that showed exactly how to make them like those websites that promoted them. Of course, now in

hindsight, I realize two things. First, the heads of the animals should be purposely larger in scale to the body. Second, Rimmad was actually a female dog! (For some reason, I remember Rimmad being a male dog! Oh well.)



Master Rimmad



Princess Panda

Random Things

“Worst Kept Secret”

In early March of this year, I drove by the spot where Lubbock’s “worst kept secret” was coming to fruition! Rumors swirled for nearly a decade! Lubbock is getting its first H-E-B grocery super store! Based in San Antonio, they have already long been in various other parts of Texas. But now, they will be in south Lubbock at 114th Street and Quaker Avenue. I drove by the spot again in late June and it is well on the way to opening sometime in the fall of

2020. The Lubbock store will include a gas station with a car wash, a Texas Tech collegiate shop, and a *True Texas BBQ*, H-E-B’s lauded barbecue restaurant. In addition, the store will have *Texas Backyard* (featuring plants, pottery, grills, and outdoor essentials), live cooking demonstrations, and all of the other H-E-B branded products and features that Texans have come to expect from H-E-B.



At The Store??

According to their press release, Chick-fil-A has started retail sales of their sauces as a pilot run at grocery stores in Florida and with catering orders. Starting in mid March, they would give 8 oz bottles of sauce with catering orders, along with selling the bottles in the restaurants. These sauces include Chick-fil-A, Polynesian, Barbeque, Honey Mustard, and Garden Herb Ranch. By April and May, 16 oz bottles of Chick-fil-A and Polynesian sauces would be available at Florida stores of Publix, Target, Walmart, and Winn-Dixie for \$3.49.

See their press release for more info: <https://thechickenwire.chick-fil-a.com/news/sauce-fans-rejoice>



Random Things

Ladybugs?

Here is something I have not seen before! We were at Lowe's in Colorado Springs and saw containers of live ladybugs for sale! It looked like there were probably a couple hundred perhaps of them with some straw. For the most part, they looked alive and moving around. In case you don't know, ladybugs will eat aphids! If you have any aphids on your plants, put some ladybugs on them, and you won't have them anymore!



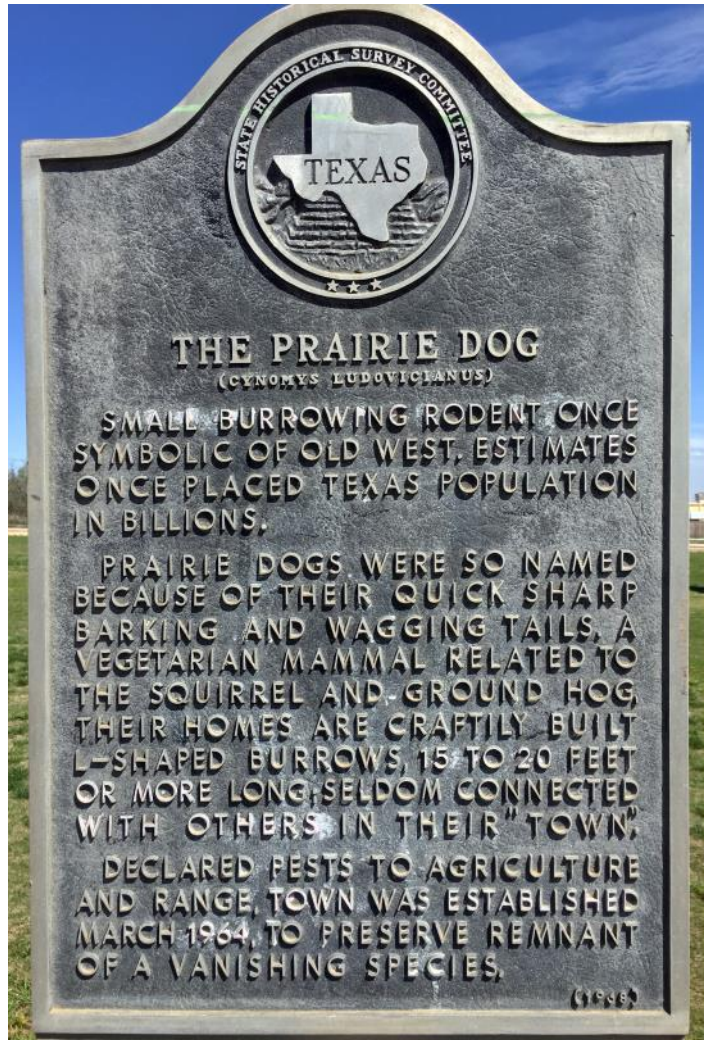
Fourth of July

After being away from home for so long, I just stayed home for the Fourth of July, like in 2019. I can also see the Snyder fireworks from the front porch of my apartment. So, that is what I did. I watched fireworks with my iPad in hand.



Oh, Really?

In early April, I was in Towle Park in Snyder eating some Whataburger on a slightly windy day when I noticed a historical marker near the picnic table. While the marker was made in 1968, I don't think "vanishing" is quite the right word to use!



RG Birthday

My birthday was in mid July. With so many things screwed up right now and with little money in hand, I just stayed home and cooked some food and made some cupcakes for dessert.

Random Things

I Was Today Years Old

I was today years old when it clicked what this expression means! "When it rains, it pours." has nothing to do with rain but with humidity! Those living in very high humidity climates (typically near water or along the coasts), the salt (and sugar too) clumps up if not in a sealed container. So, of course, they're saying that they process their salt to be free flowing even in 100% humidity (rain)! I KNOW I'm not the only one who did not put the connection together! It's a very clever worded expression. There. There is your history lesson to today! (Along with the correct uses of the words they're, their, and there!)



Summer

I have a weather station with a little fob outside and a central panel (shown below) inside to monitor the weather and see current temps. Well, the day was July 13, and the below temps are not that far off from normal. (However, it was drier than typical.)

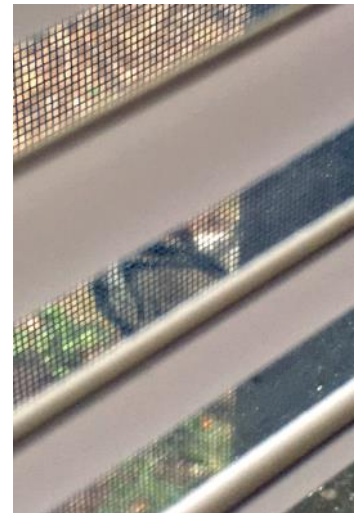


Anything wrong in this photo?



Ratta Tat Tat

One morning I awoke to the rattatating on my bedroom window frame by a woodpecker! This very crappy photo was all I could get before it flew away. It looked much like the bottom photo of one at Dad's house in 2012.



Second Trip To Florida

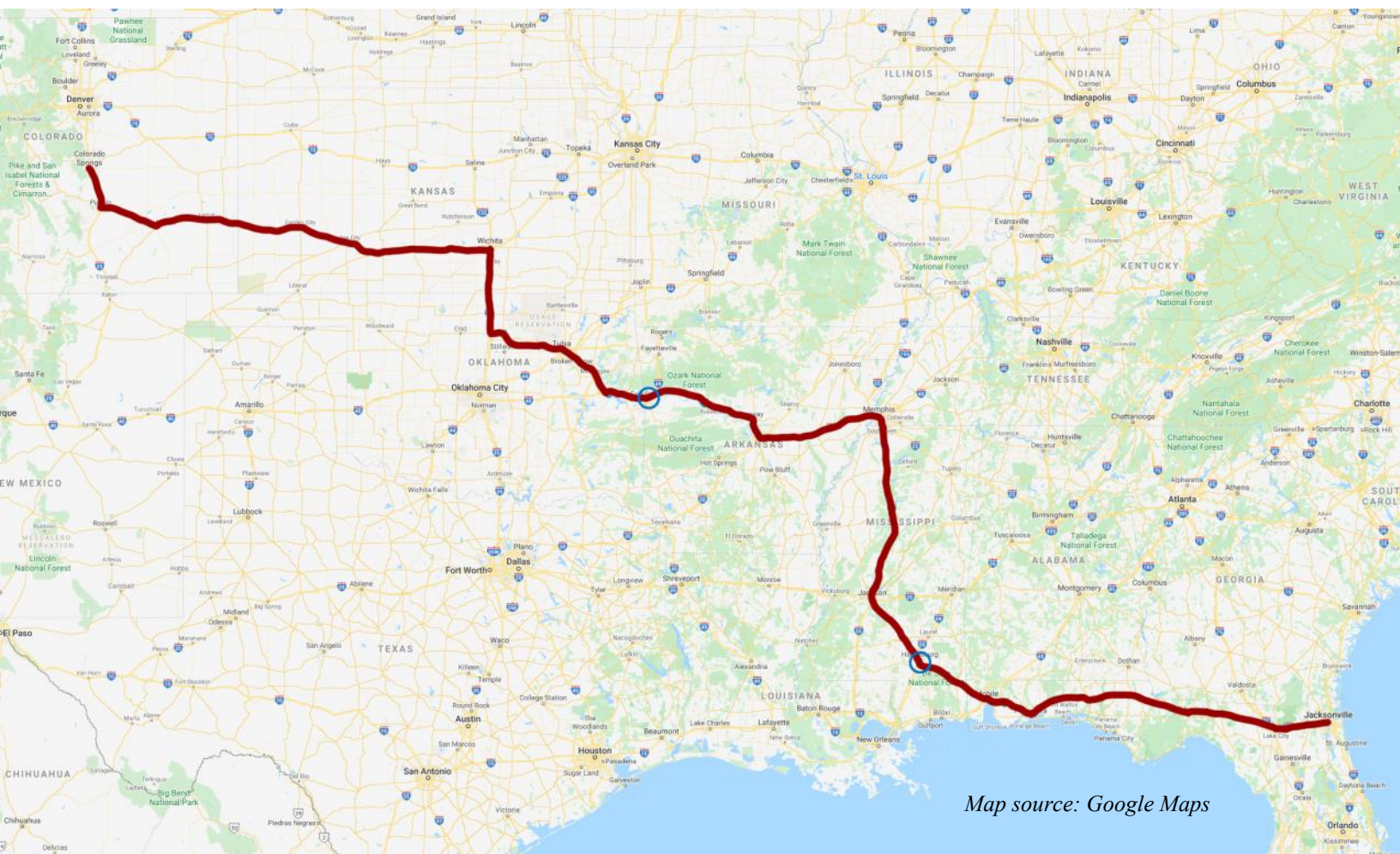
Early May to Mid May 2020

After we got back to Colorado Springs from having driven to Jacksonville and back, we took care of some things about what we would need to do about the house and some other details. Rather than go back home, I ended up staying in Colorado Springs for nearly two weeks while we sorted out things and tried to get more information about what we needed to do next. By mid May, it became clear after obtaining some much needed information that we were going to have to go back to Jacksonville, which we knew. Originally, we wanted to fly to Jacksonville, pack up the house, and drive a U-Haul back to Texas or to Colorado with the items I would keep from the house. However, after calculating the costs involved, it was clear that driving again would be the cheapest and really the only option. In addition, I also decided that putting the items I wanted to keep in storage to retrieve later was a

better idea for the short term (knowing that I would eventually need to go back to Jacksonville for a third time). So that meant, we would do a second cross country trip much like the first!

For this trip, we would drive Dad's car again and take turns driving like before. However, we decided to go a slightly different route from the first trip to change it up while the other part of the route would be nearly the same. Dad obtained a custom route mapped out by AAA. From Colorado Springs, we would go through southern Kansas to Wichita to Tulsa to Little Rock to Memphis. From there, it was nearly the same as before to Jacksonville. (See map)

The blue circles represent the locations where we stayed the night. The writing is broken up by day and shows a relevant map for each part of the trip.



Map source: Google Maps

Second Trip To Florida

Thursday, May 21, 2020

We left Dad's house at the ungodly time of a little after 4:00 AM! (Which he insisted on leaving that early!) We drove I-25 down to Pueblo, then we went east on US 50 towards Lamar. Starting at about Fowler for around 30 minutes, road construction detoured the route onto CO 96, which was a road just to the north. A little later, we stopped in La Junta at a Safeway to get breakfast. However, it was a little after 6 AM, and the store did not open until 7:00 AM. We continued on until we got to Lamar. It was about 7:30 AM by the time we got there and stopped at another Safeway. After we left, it was about another 30 minutes until we got to the Kansas border and a time zone change. When we got to Garden City, we stopped at a Sam's for gas and continued. We got to Dodge City around noon and realized that we would want to stop here on the way back, if we could, to check out the town and its history. We kept driving through the similar landscapes that is Kansas and got to Wichita and went south on I-35. We had the Kansas turnpike to go on again. At one point, we got off the turnpike to get gas and found ourselves driving and driving wondering if we made a bad choice. We finally got to a quaint little town called Mulvane after crossing over some very active train tracks. We thought about eating lunch there, but there were so few options. We stopped at Casey's General Store for the gas and decided to continue driving until we would find

somewhere else with better options. We crossed the active train tracks again and drove the long road back to the Kansas turnpike. Even after we got into Oklahoma, that state had its own turnpike tolls. However, instead of getting a slip and paying where you exited, Oklahoma just had hard toll stops periodically along the road. (I detest toll roads!) Once we got to Tulsa around 6:30 PM, we had dinner at Cracker Barrel, since we were able to eat in the restaurant. The tables were blocked off, but otherwise eating there was much the same as it usually was. We had the Thursday turkey dinner. From Tulsa, we took a road that connected us to I-40 by way of Muskogee. We went as far as Fort Smith, Arkansas before staying the night. It was a little before 10:00 PM, and the motel was cheap enough, but it was not the best option for quality!



Casey's General Store in Dodge City



Map source: Google Maps

Second Trip To Florida

Friday, May 22, 2020

We left the motel about 9:00 AM and headed east on I-40 after getting some breakfast. After an hour and a half or so, we stopped for some gas near Conway, Arkansas and stopped at a place called David's Burgers for a snack that ended up being much more filling. The burgers and unexpected fries were good but much more food than the snack that dad was wanting (and much more expensive!). After about another hour and a half, we stopped at a rest stop. About another hour later, we got to the Arkansas-Tennessee border. We crossed over the Mississippi River on an old metal bridge into the outskirts of Memphis but did not go into downtown Memphis. Along I-55 in Mississippi, we stopped for gas in Horn Lake just over the state border and went to Dairy Queen. This was the same general area where we stopped at Chick-fil-A on the first trip. We went back to I-55, but soon arrived at a backed up interstate caused by an accident down the road a ways. We decided to get off and detoured our way around the accident to a point further south past the hold up by going to I-269 and back to I-55. We went to a rest stop later and got off the interstate for a bathroom break. Little did we know just how far off the road we would need to drive to get to a little town! The choice of gas stations we stopped at was not the best of options! Let's just say that we were quite out of place and the place was very dirty! After we left there, we saw a sign about a historic school and briefly went over to see it before leaving. We arrived in Jackson around 7:15 PM and continued to Hattiesburg, arriving a little before 9:00 PM. We drove around the town a little bit for a snack, but we ended up stopping at a Stucky's for gas and whatever we could find in the store.

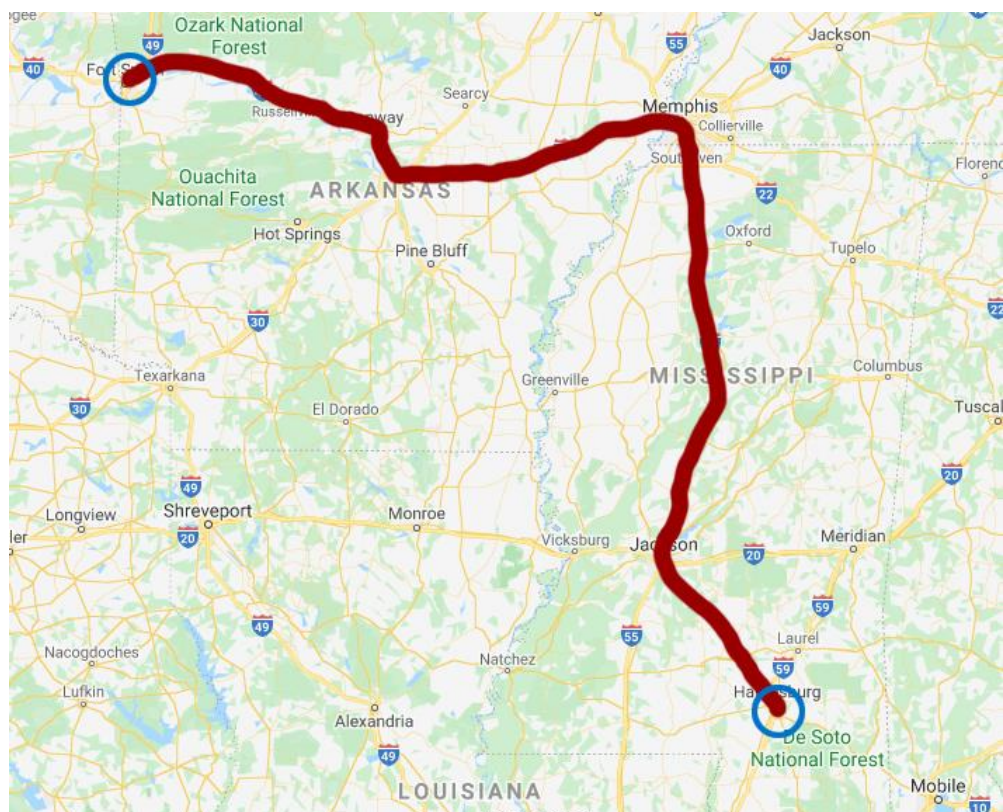
Map source: Google Maps



We stopped at David's Burgers for a snack that ended up being a full meal!



When in the South, you're going to find boiled peanuts! Here at the Stuckey's in Hattiesburg, you have two sizes of original and Cajun!

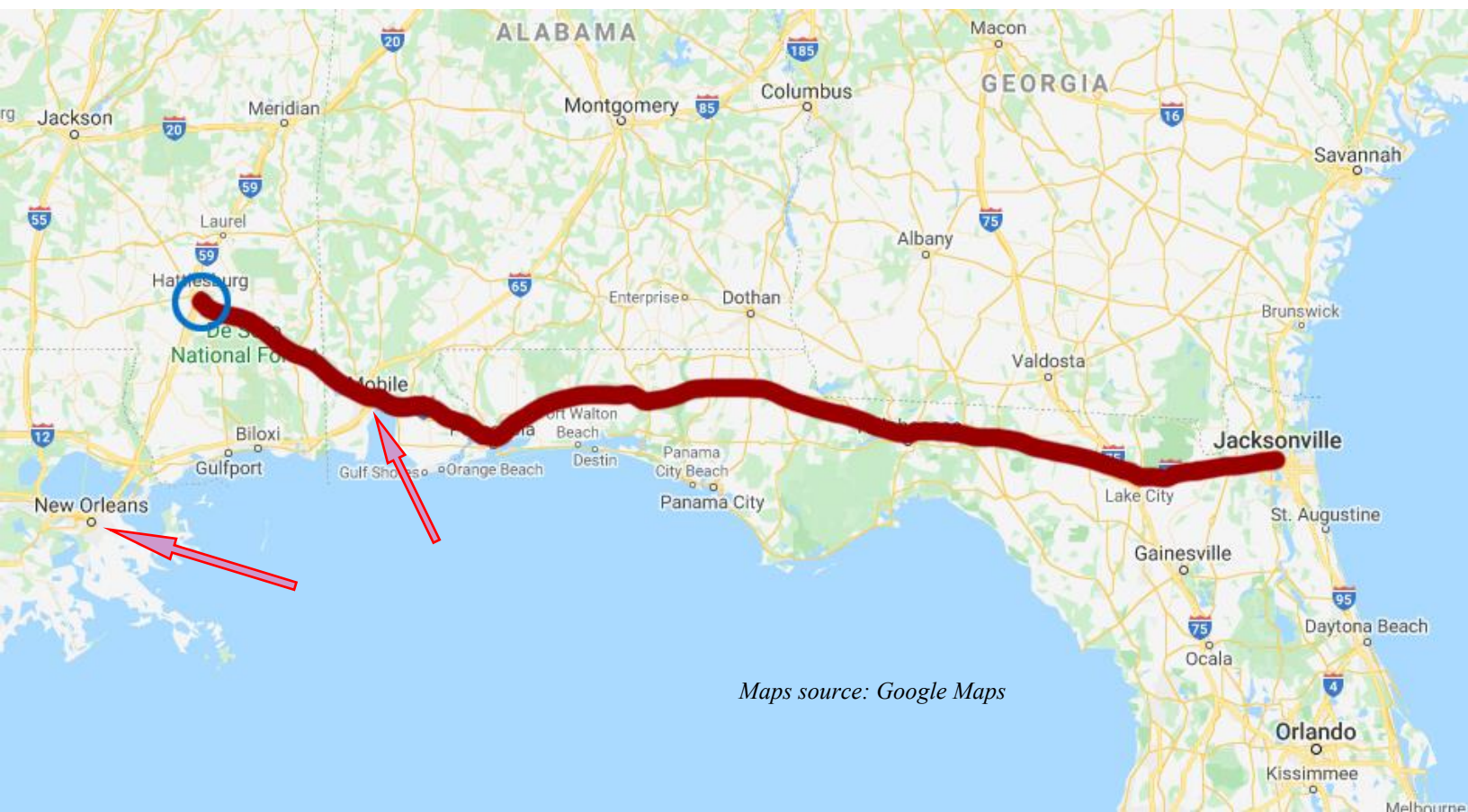
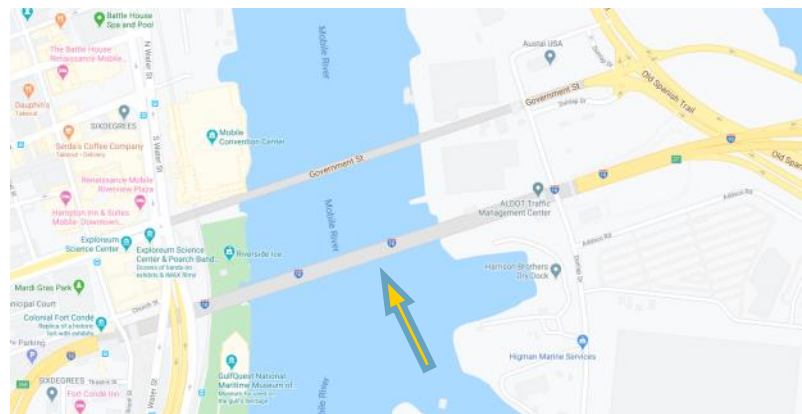


Second Trip To Florida

Saturday, May 23, 2020

Once again, we left the hotel around 9:00 AM and made our way to Mobile. We passed by the spot where the tornado hit (as I've described before about "snapped toothpicks") and noticed that the residents were improving their housing situations. As before, there was no clear distinction where we crossed from Mississippi into Alabama until I looked at a map. It turns out that the spot where we saw an abandoned bridge next to the bridge that we drove on was approximately where the separation point was between the two states. It is the Escatawpa River. We stopped at a Winn Dixie in Semmes, Alabama. We arrived in downtown Mobile about 30 minutes later, driving on a road that looked very similar to driving along Park Street in Jacksonville. We ended up going on some roads through downtown Mobile noting that the downtown looked very similar to downtown New Orleans. (The two cities are only a little over two hours apart. See map.) We got on

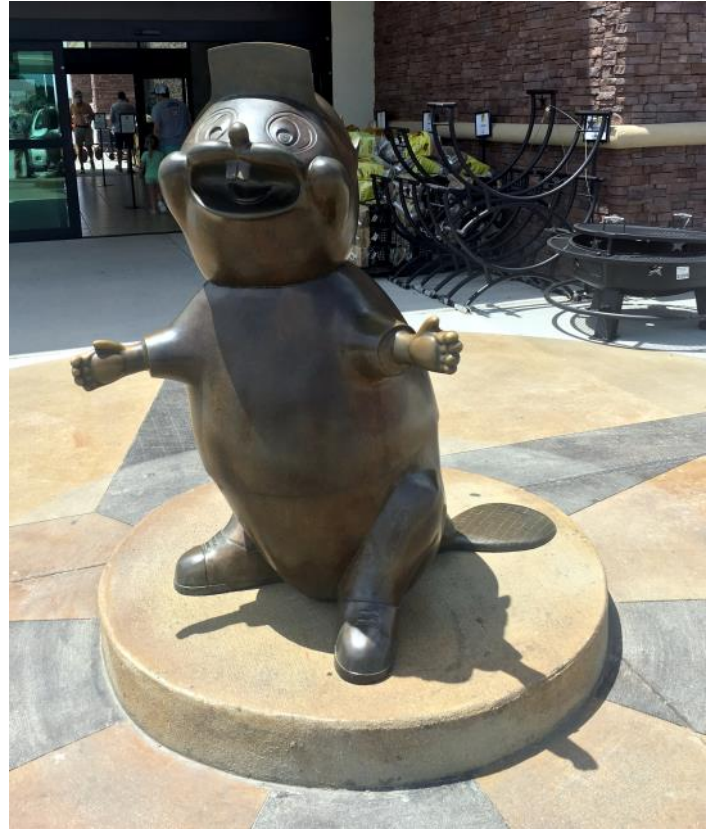
I-10, went through the tunnel under the Mobile River, and went on the long bridges over Mobile Bay. (There are two tunnels that go under the Mobile River next to downtown, one is I-10 and the other is Government Street. See map.) About 30 minutes later, we arrived at Buc-ee's again and spent about 30 minutes. After about 15 more minutes, we arrived at the Florida border. This time, the state condensed the traffic to one lane and had people drive slow, but they did not divert the traffic or stop the traffic like before.



Maps source: Google Maps

Second Trip To Florida

After about another 30 minutes, we went to a rest stop and ate the food we bought from Buc-ee's for lunch. We passed the area where the fire was that held us up on the way back during the first trip. It was very much burned up right to the interstate. About an hour and a half later from eating lunch, we went through an area that looked like it was where a hurricane eye might have landed in recent years. Around 3:15 PM, we hit the Eastern time zone (so then, 4:15 PM) and arrived in Tallahassee about 30 minutes later. After we went through the Tallahassee area, we came to an area with patches of rain that I never want to drive through again! It was the heaviest rain I have ever had to drive through and through at least four separate points with regular rain in between! I looked on the radar and saw several major red spots along I-10 around the time we would go through! We stopped in Live Oak for some gas and tried some chicken sandwiches at Zaxby's. We finally arrived in Jacksonville a little after 8:00 PM. Fortunately, the sun was still out, and there was no heavy rain in Jacksonville.



*Buc-ee's was a huge store with lots of stuff!
See the last issue for more photos.
This is their mascot, a buck-toothed beaver.*

ZAXBY'S



Second Trip To Florida

May 23 – June 4, 2020

For several days after we arrived in Jacksonville, there was scattered rain and clouds, but the weather was overall decent. It ended up being mostly sunny or cloudy the rest of the time we were there. We planned to be in Jacksonville for a week but ended up adding another five days. We started out staying at a hotel in Orange Park (different one from before) for the first week and changed hotels to a different one along I-295 in West Jacksonville after that. We basically spent most days sorting and packing up the house. During the time, we got to see some family and some of Mom's friends. It took a while, but we got things done the things we needed to do.

We ate at various restaurants, some local places and some chains. These places included Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q, Whataburger, Culver's, Church's Chicken, Cracker Barrel, The Loop, Krystal, Golden Corral, Bob Evan's, Jersey Mike's, Sonny's BBQ, Publix, and a couple of small places near the house, Dreamette and The Brick. A few of these places we ate at on the first trip. I'll highlight a few.

Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q

Mom and I ate here a few times in the early 1990s. On this visit, we only ate here once, but was stuffed when we left! I thought the food was good and good in the quantity. On the wall near our table, they had this timeline of their history.

www.sonnysbbq.com



Culver's

On the first trip, I was pleasantly surprised that there was a Culver's near Jacksonville. It was actually near Middleburg, but whatever. Between the two trips, we ate there twice. www.culvers.com



Cracker Barrel

Between the two trips, we ate here several times, often for the Thursday turkey feature. In the Back Page Literature of the last issue (June 2020), I refer to Cracker Barrel in driving back after we ate. www.crackerbarrel.com



The Loop

This is a restaurant I used to eat at when I was in high school. Mom and I often went there in the early 1990s. We ate there twice between the two trips. They are in a different spot from where they used to be. We ate there when I last visited Mom in 2018. The photo show the specific restaurant we ate at. Style wise, it is quite fun! www.thelooprestaurant.com



Brick Restaurant

This is a single restaurant located on St. John's Avenue in Avondale that is more upscale but that had good food. We went with our prospective realtor as an initial thank you for the help he has given us. www.brickofavondale.com



Second Trip To Florida

Krystal

Any time I would visit Mom, I wanted to go to Krystal at least once. They are known for their small, square burgers. You never buy one, but buy a bunch, usually as a combo pack. Yum! We ate there a few times in the two trips.

www.krystal.com



Bob Evan's

This was sort of a random happening. We had to go across the river to Mandarin and figured to eat while we were over there. We wanted to go to Sonny's BBQ (which we never went to). But a nearby restaurant was Bob Evan's. I had never eaten there before, but we tried it. The best way to describe it is of Ohio farmhouse comfort food. They were good, but simple. I had an unusual dish of a biscuit topped with a scoop of mashed potatoes and covered with chicken and noodles. It was pretty good actually, but I would have never thought of that combination. From their retail items, I did get a mason jar candle, "Farmhouse Linen", that's been a nice fragrant candle to burn here at home.

You can buy their frozen meals in the grocery store.

www.bobevans.com



Jersey Mike's Subs

In Lubbock, I had only eaten here once years ago. They were good, but with all of the restaurant options in Lubbock, I had just never been back. During the entire six weeks I was away from Texas, we ate there a bunch of times. It was a really good sandwich they make fresh in front of you with good quality items. Mom was born in New Jersey.

www.jerseymikes.com



Dreamette

This is a little ice cream place in a tiny building you walk up to. It's probably been there since the 1940s or 1950s, and Mom might have even gone there when she was a kid. We only went there once, but the line was nearly always around the building and almost down the street! The prices were reasonable, and they loaded up the ice cream!

www.facebook.com/Dreamette



Sonny's BBQ

This was another place that Mom and I went to on occasion in the early 1990s. Of the many BBQ places in Jacksonville, this one is actually my favorite. I like it because they have many different sauces of Southern style to mix and match the flavors and the food has always been good.

www.sonnysbbq.com



Publix

Okay, so this is a little unusual for putting down a grocery store in a list of restaurants, but Publix knows how to do things right! Like many grocery stores, they have a hot food section. But, they also have a deli where they make sandwiches fresh according to your specs. We would get the special Boar's Head sandwiches. Between the two trips, I think we ate there three times. The entire time I was growing up, Publix was the main grocery store we shopped at for groceries.

www.publix.com



Second Trip To Florida

Giant Palm Tree

In the last issue, I showed a photo of the front of Mom's house. Part of the text with that photo was, "You can see the shadow of a giant Sabal Palm in the front yard". I thought you might want to see what the palm tree looked like. It is giant! It goes much higher than the other trees around it. In the early 1990s, I made a planting area around the base of the tree edged with bricks. Originally, I had daylilies and Easter lilies (that would bloom once a year). Well, that was nearly 30 years ago. Today, there are amaryllis plants and Mexican petunias (which are actually an invasive plant that grows like weeds).



As the tree keeps growing, the lowest branches die off and fall off or get blown off. We were constantly picking up the fronds that fell off. They were anywhere from five to seven feet long on average. And just as the tree keeps growing, so have the plants at its base!



*Mexican Petunia
ruellia simplex*

Second Trip To Florida

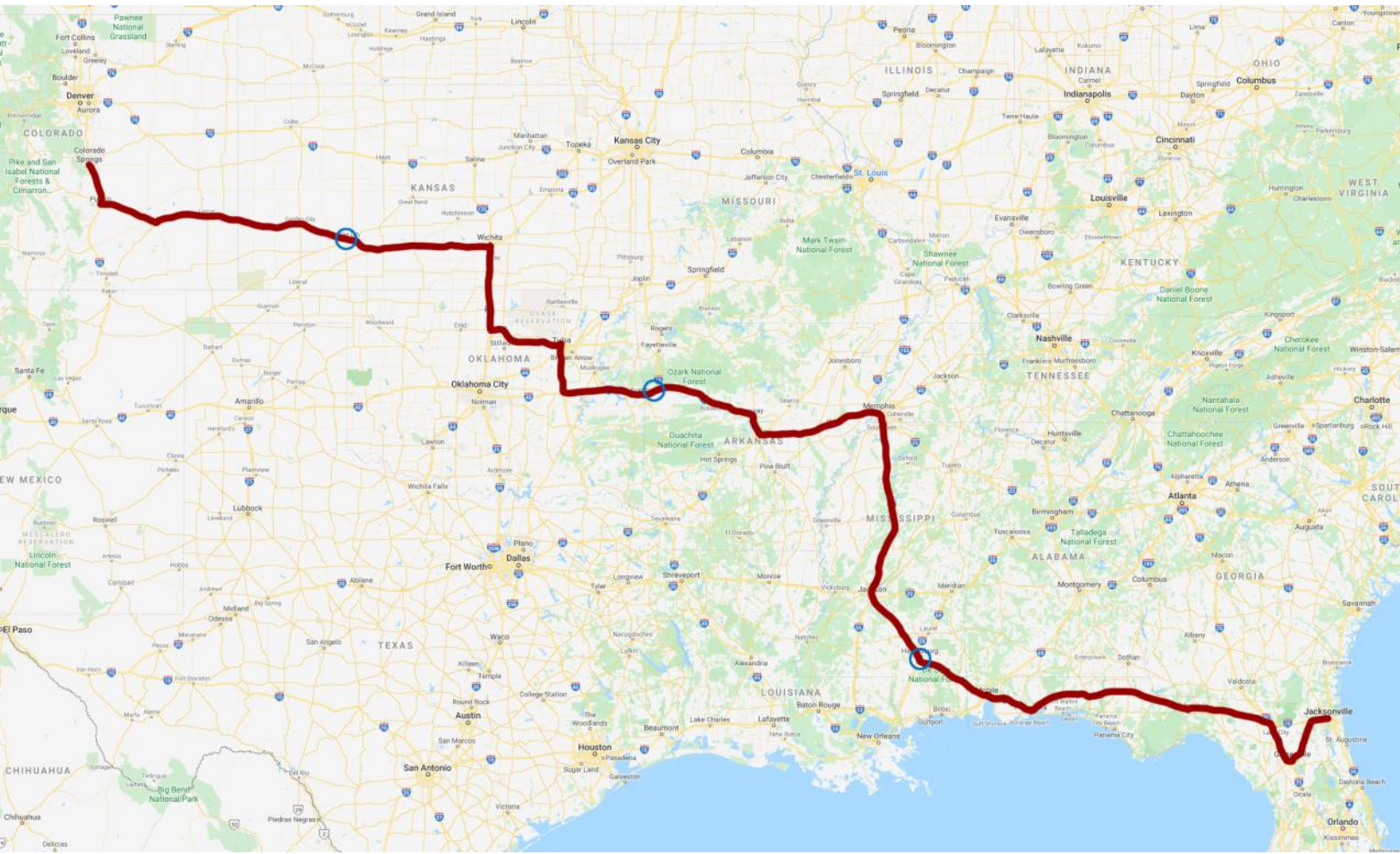
Early June - Back Home

By the time we were done with what we could do, we were ready to leave. We had already been in Jacksonville for just under two weeks, around 12 days. We had originally planned to be in Jacksonville for a week with a possible day or two more. We did the packing ourselves mainly, so we just took it a little at a time, typically roughly a room a day and did a few other things. (Frankly, I'm being vague on purpose since these sorts of things really are no one else's business, to be blunt but honest.) The route we took back was basically the same but with a couple of notable differences. First, we took four days to go back instead of three. Second, after we left Jacksonville, we wanted to stop by Gainesville to meet with our lawyer. Third, we did take an unexpected detour through Oklahoma (we weren't paying attention and missed our turnoff).



Downtown Mobile near sunset.

Map source: Google Maps



Second Trip To Florida

Thursday, June 4, 2020

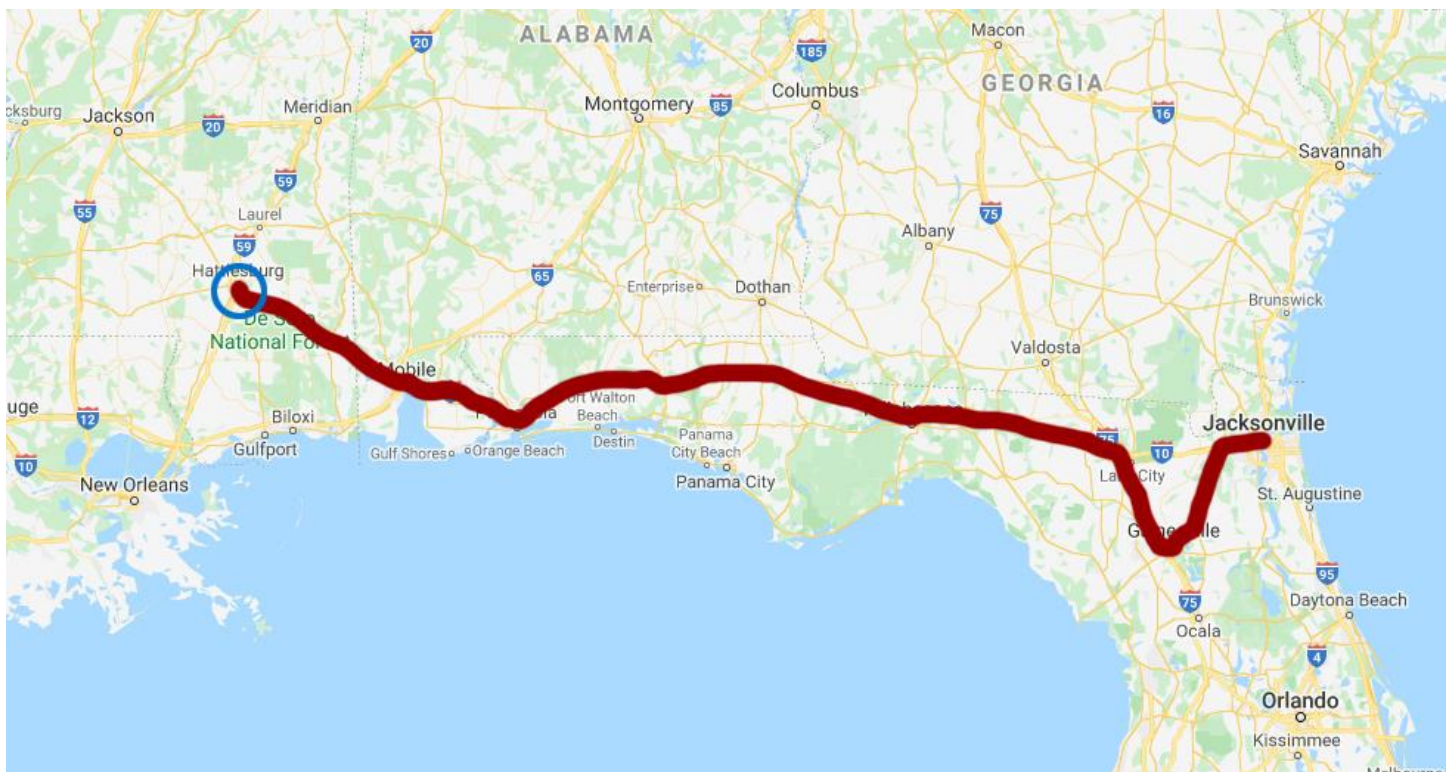
We planned to drive to Gainesville after leaving Jacksonville to see the lawyer handing our probate. We got gas in Jacksonville and took I-10 to Baldwin that then took us on the road to Gainesville. We stopped at a Publix there then met with the lawyer for about an hour. We continued and stopped at another Publix to get some custom sandwiches (like the other times we had them) and drove on I-75 to a rest stop where we ate them. We arrived to I-10 a little while later. The Suwannee River is west of Live Oak a few miles and by the bridge over the river, there is a sign that has musical notation of the song about the river. Of the four times we went over the river, it came up suddenly and traffic was too heavy to stop, besides there being no real place to stop, to be able to get a photo. Stephen Foster wrote a minstrel song in 1851 called *Old Folks at Home* that has part of the lyrics as “Way down upon the Swanee River...” (which is what the musical notation is shown on the sign). Florida made it the

official state song in 1935. We changed drivers, went to another rest stop, and crossed over the time zone later while on I-10. We stopped at Buc-ee’s again on the way back for the bathrooms, food, and gas then left a little before 6:30 PM. Not quite three hours later, we arrived back in Hattiesburg and stayed at a different hotel from the one before.



E D C E D C C G C

Way down up-on the Swan-ee Riv-er

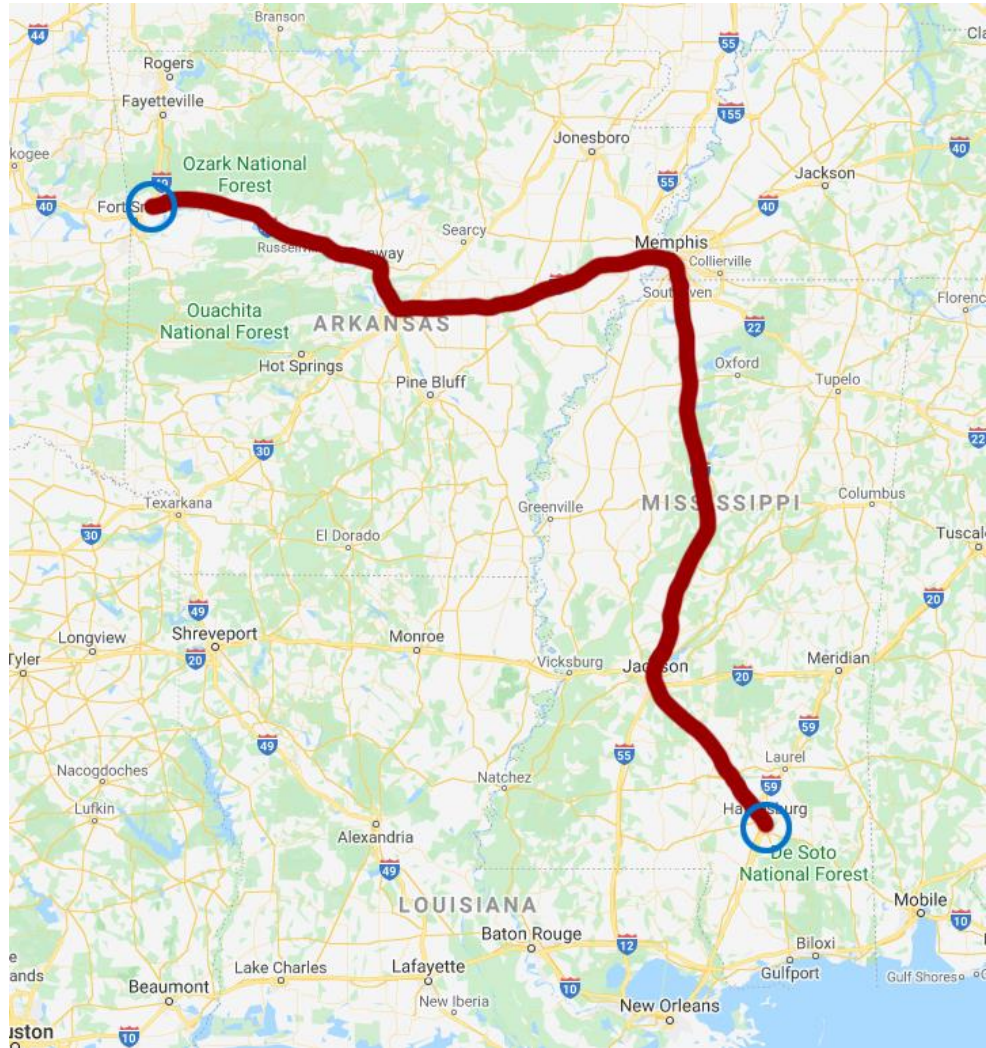


Map source: Google Maps

Second Trip To Florida

Friday, June 5, 2020

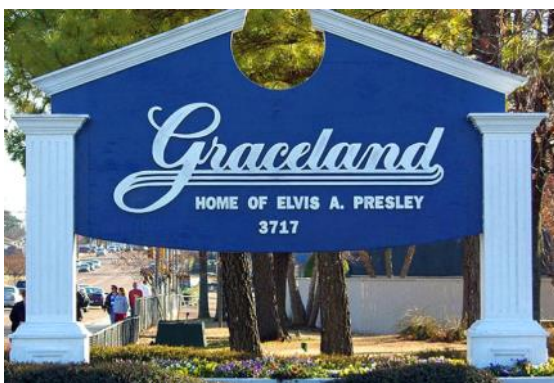
We left the hotel around 7:00 AM and went to Kroger in Richland just outside of Jackson around an hour later. We got on I-55 and headed north to Canton, about 30 minutes later. Dad wanted to go to downtown Canton, and we ended up staying there well over three hours! Canton was the site of a film production, *A Time To Kill*, where Dad was the dailies person. We walked around the town square with the courthouse in the middle and stopped at the tourism office. We talked with a nice lady there who gave us a very nice tour of some of the important buildings related to the several films shot in that little town. We also looked through their local museum that presented the history of the town itself. It was quite a nice visit (despite being ridiculously hot and humid!) and the personal tour was awesome. We got gas at another crummy little gas station and went our way on I-55. A little while later, we stopped at McAlister's Deli for lunch in Grenada. A little south of Memphis, dad got to drive through a really heavy patch of rain similar to the ones I had to drive through between Tallahassee and Jacksonville. The rain was only at that one point, and there was no rain the rest of the



*The Canton Tourism office posted this photo on their Facebook page. Here is Ms. Charlotte Wilson (Tour Coordinator), myself, and Dad sitting inside the coffee shop set used in *A Time To Kill*.*

Second Trip To Florida

trip back to Colorado. As we were getting to Memphis, we thought about stopping to see Graceland, but with the rain and the unexpected high price for a tour (that I found looking up on their website), we decided to pass visiting the hunka hunka burnin' love's house on this trip! (Visiting Graceland costs between \$41.50 and \$180.00 depending what level tour you want!) We got on I-40 west of Memphis and a few miles down the road had a brief slow down over a bridge crossing the St. Francis River. As we were on the bridge, I could feel the bridge bouncing! They were apparently building a new bridge right next to it. As we were going through Arkansas, we saw lots of fields of a crop we weren't quite sure what it was. We found out later that the crop was rice, particularly because the fields were wet and irrigated. On this trip and with the last trip through Arkansas, I noticed signs for restaurants of catfish and BBQ! While Texas has separate restaurants for catfish and BBQ, I had never heard of a single restaurant specializing in both catfish and BBQ! I guess that is just some of the regional differences among the states! We stopped at a Kroger in Conway for gas, a bathroom break, and some water before continuing. We made a wrong turn onto a ramp that took us to a different interstate instead of the town I thought we were going to. But fortunately, we were easily able to circle back around and arrived in a little town called Alma a little before 9:30 PM where we stayed at a rather nice hotel. There was a nice full moon that evening.



This is the Madison County courthouse located in Canton, Mississippi. Historical marker below.



We thought about stopping to see Graceland, but with the rain and the pricey tickets, we decided to skip it on this trip. Their website states that they require reservations anyway.

Second Trip To Florida

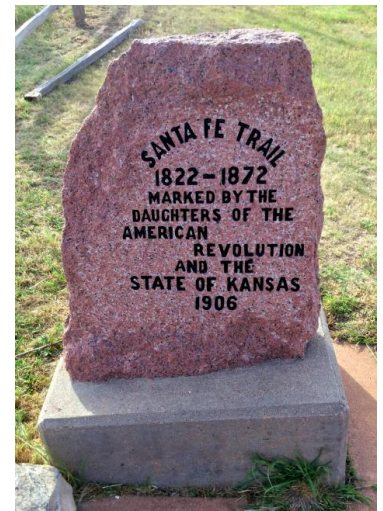
Sunday, June 7, 2020

We left the hotel around 8:00 AM and wanted to see a few things before leaving town. Since it was Sunday, most places would either not be open or would not open until the afternoon. We went by the local museum and took a few photos even though they were closed. We also took some photos of a locomotive and the depot nearby. As we were getting the hell outta Dodge, I saw a sign about some tracks 11 miles west of town. I misunderstood the sign as saying there were original railroad tracks, but it was actually referring to wagon tracks (or wagon ruts) along the Santa Fe Trail! We spent about 20 minutes walking along the boardwalk seeing the

prairie and interpretive signs about the trail. We got back on the road and continued to Colorado with making a couple of stops along the way. After a couple of hours, we got into Colorado and back into the Mountain time zone. After another 30 minutes, we got to Lamar and another short stop. After another hour, we came back to the detour we took on the way out that lasted for about 30 minutes like before. We arrived in Pueblo around 1:15 PM. After another short stop, we took I-25 back up to Colorado Springs and got back to dad's house a little after 2:00 PM. We decided to go to Boston Market for lunch. They were still closed to eat in, so we took the food back to the house.



Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe locomotive #1139 by the depot across from the museum in Dodge City.



Eleven miles west of Dodge City is a spot where the wagon ruts are visible along the Santa Fe Trail.



Map source: Google Maps

Second Trip To Florida

June 8-11, 2020

I stayed in Colorado Springs for a couple more days to finish up things, do laundry, and rest before leaving to go back home. After nearly six weeks away from home, I was quite ready to get back! I decided before I left that I would get to Lubbock the first day and stay the night and leave the next day back to Snyder. I left Colorado on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. I made a couple of stops in the Springs then got on to I-15 a little after noon. After several stops along the way, I would arrive in Lubbock a little after dark around 10:30 PM. I stayed at a nice hotel on the west side of town. (I remember when they built it!) Then on Thursday, I did a bunch of errands in Lubbock and would get back to Snyder in the early evening well before dark. It was good to finally be back home, but it did feel a little strange at first because of how long I was gone!

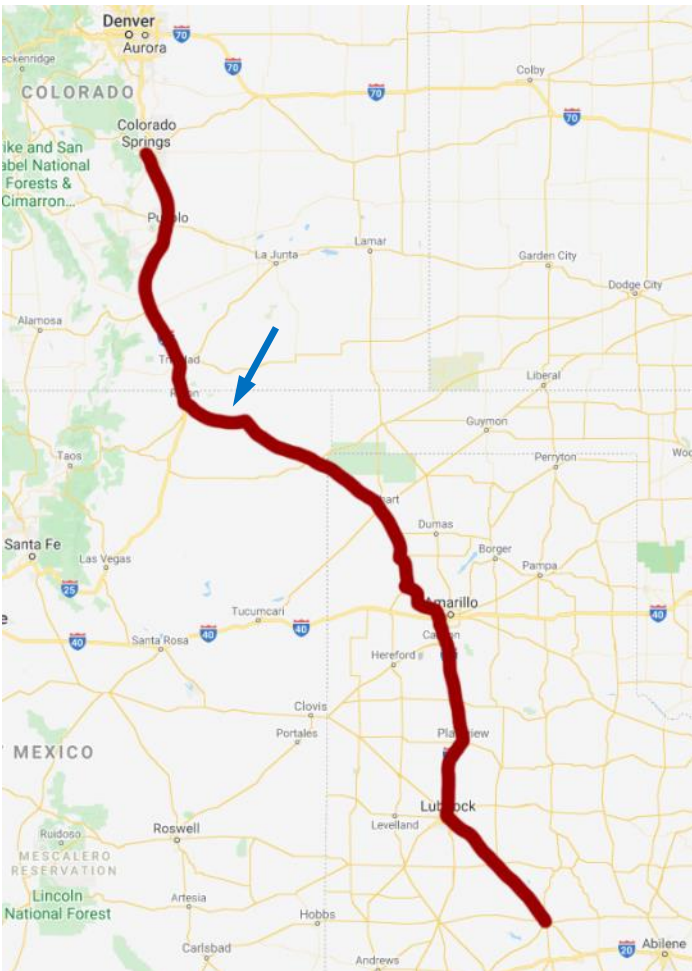
Second Trip Summary

- Nearly 4500 miles round trip
- Drove through 8 states: Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.
- Seven days of travelling, three going out and four going back
- Eighteen days gone total
- Seventeen nights in hotels

Refer to other pages in this journal for specialized topics covered in this overview writing.

RG Full Trip Summary

- Nearly 9750 miles travelled
- Went through 12 states: Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.
- 16 days of travelling
- 6 weeks gone total (44 days)
- 26 nights in hotels
- 17 nights at Dad's house



The windmill and barn near Capulin, New Mexico with the Capulin Volcano in the background.

Canton, Mississippi

As with most towns of the late 1800s, Canton is centered on a square with a county courthouse in the middle. Lining the square on all sides across each street is the commercial area, rows of buildings containing businesses, and usually extending a block or more down each street. This idyllic little town in Mississippi with its great buildings and long history is also home to something a whole lot more modern. That “something” is the modern filmmaking. This is because several films were shot at various locations in this town including *Mississippi Burning* (1988), *A Time to Kill* (1996), *My Dog Skip* (2000), *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000), and many others.



South side of the square.

South side of the square.



Canton, Mississippi

*East side
of the
square.*



*East side
of the
square.*



*North side
of the
square.*



Canton, Mississippi



Above: These two streetlights are the only ones not modern for they are historic in that they have been in various films.

Below: This building on the west side of the square houses the Canton Tourism Office, which is also the Convention & Visitors Bureau & Film Office.



Canton, Mississippi

This corner building is historic, however, part of the outside and the inside are fake! The outside porch was added for a film and is not original to the building. Both floors contain sets for the film, *A Time To Kill*. The bottom photos show the coffee shop set. The set of stairs is real and accessed from a door outside (as is typical of historic buildings), and the middle photo shows an office set.



Canton, Mississippi



One of the dramatic scenes in *A Time To Kill* is the burning of a house. Ms. Charlotte Wilson (right), who is the Tour Coordinator for Canton Tourism, holds a model of the building used for the set.

She was a delight to show us the film sets, the Willie Morris & My Dog Skip Movie Museum, and the Canton Museum of History.

Dad says that the grassy area below is where the house was that was burned in *A Time To Kill*.



Canton, Mississippi



Lovely decorative iron work!



Lots of great details!



Old style hydrant (modern painting).



Courthouse gazebo.



What's funny about this hexagonal floor is that the exact same floor is in my Mom's bathroom.

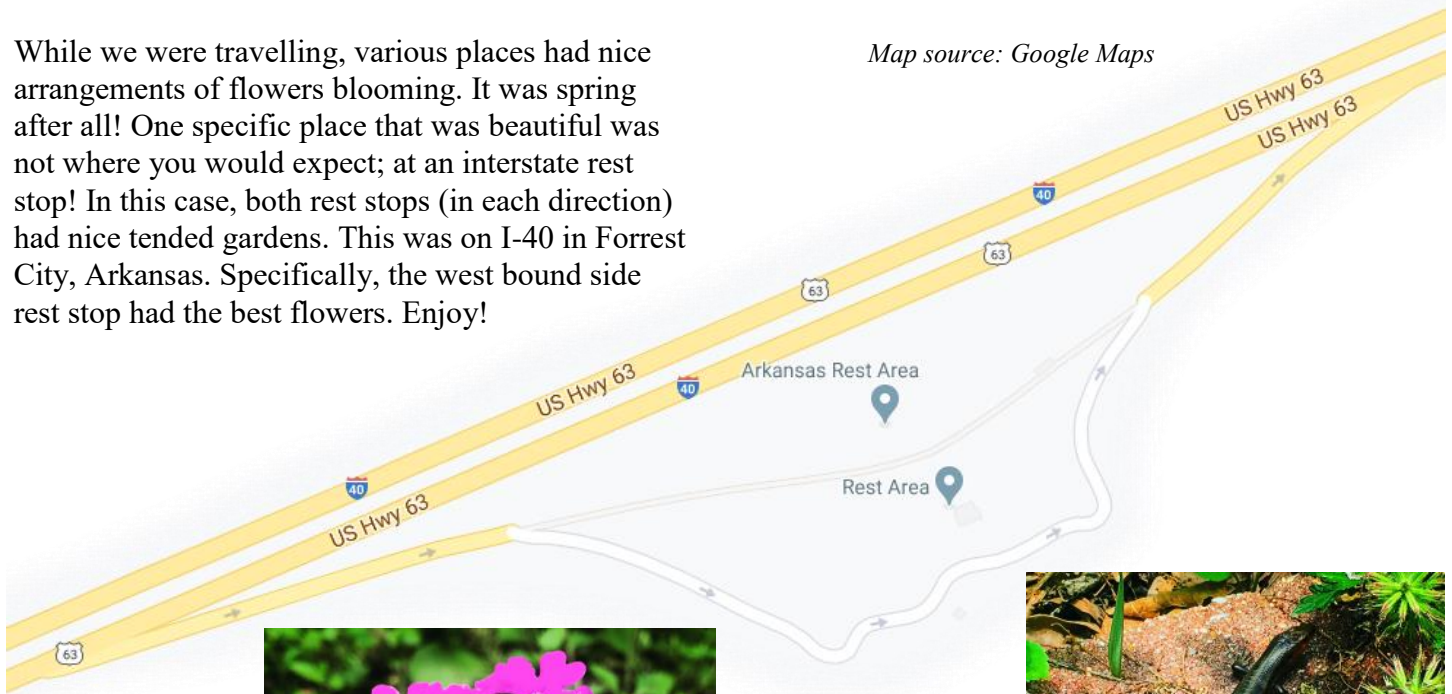
This cemetery was a few blocks from the square.



Flowers While Traveling

While we were travelling, various places had nice arrangements of flowers blooming. It was spring after all! One specific place that was beautiful was not where you would expect; at an interstate rest stop! In this case, both rest stops (in each direction) had nice tended gardens. This was on I-40 in Forrest City, Arkansas. Specifically, the west bound side rest stop had the best flowers. Enjoy!

Map source: Google Maps



Verbena



*Dark green lizard
(not a plant)*



Tiger Lilies

Flowers While Traveling

This west bound rest stop was by far more beautiful! It also had different bugs and birds too.



Map source: Google Maps



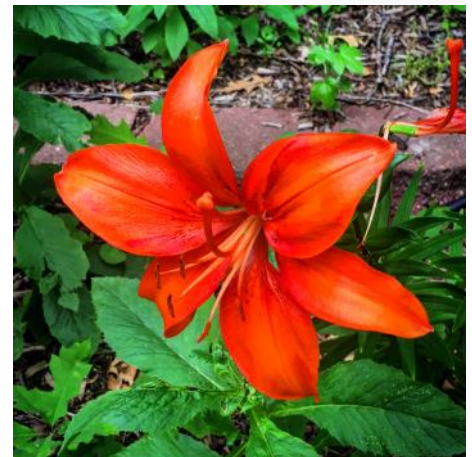
Tiger Lily



Purple Coneflower



Coreopsis



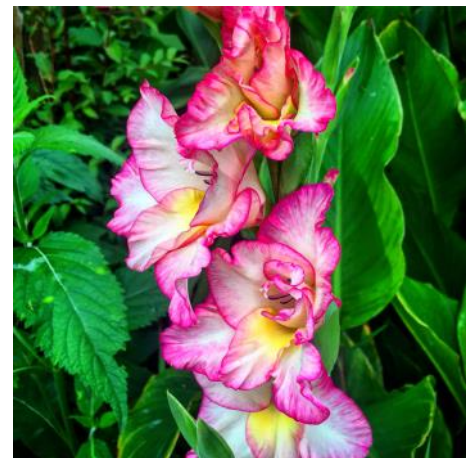
Tiger Lily



Daylily



Daylily



Gladiolus

Flowers While Traveling



Lilac at Dad's house, Colorado Springs, Colorado



Field Bindweed near Capulin, New Mexico



Hogweed near Conway, Arkansas



Winecups with bee on Santa Fe Trail, Kansas



*Last iris in
Canton, Mississippi*



*Engelmann daisy on
Santa Fe Trail, Kansas*



*Prickly Poppy on
Santa Fe Trail, Kansas*

Dodge City

Before we left Dodge City to go home, we wanted to see the train and the museum we saw the day before. However, it was eight o'clock on a Sunday. Even if the museum was open on Sunday, it would not be until the afternoon. So we just stopped by Boot Hill and the train depot to take photos before leaving.



Boot Hill used to be a cemetery, but all of the interments were reburied elsewhere only leaving the figurative cemetery which is now a museum.

The museum was open on Sundays, but we would be back in Colorado Springs by the time it opened. Looks like a place I'll have to come back sometime to visit in the future.



Dodge City

What a delight to see a nicely restored depot in Dodge City! I think I missed seeing any interpretive panels, but I am certain that this depot is not in an original location, nor is the locomotive. I do not know where this structure originally was.



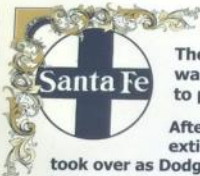
The inside of the depot is full of nice details! I simply put the camera right up to the glass of the windows to get these photos.



Dodge City



THE BOOT HILL SPECIAL NO. 1139 STEAM ENGINE



The railroad played a significant role in the prosperity of early Dodge City. When the railhead was established here in 1872, Dodge City became the ideal location for shipping buffalo hides to points east on the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway.

After the buffalo herds were hunted to near extinction in the mid-1870's, the cattle industry took over as Dodge City's major source of income. With a quarantine line just east of here, this became the easternmost location for shipping longhorns herded from Texas by boxcar. In 1885, Kansas was cut off from the cattle drives when the quarantine line was moved west to the Colorado border.

Specifications on no. 1139

This engine was built in 1903 by Baldwin Locomotive Works at a cost of \$19,846.98. Specifications include a boiler pressure of 200 lbs per square inch, heating surface of 2,864 square feet, water capacity of 8,500 gallons and an oil capacity of 3,300 gallons. It weighs 305,200 pounds and has traveled approximately 1,000,000 miles.



Boxcar used as the 1872 Depot

Colina de arranque especial Motor de vapor #1139

El ferrocarril jugó un papel importante en la Fundación y florecimiento de la antigua ciudad de Dodge. Cuando la cabeza del carril se estableció aquí en 1872, Dodge City se convirtió en el lugar ideal para el envío de Búfalo esconde a puntos al este de Atchinson, Topeka y Santa Fe Railway. Motor de vapor # 1139, el arranque especial de Hill, fue construida en 1903 por Baldwin Locomotive Works a un costo de \$19,846.98. Pesa 305.200 kilos y ha viajado aproximadamente 1.000.000 millas.



Train and Museum in 1955

Moving the Engine

On July 7, 1954 the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company donated the engine with the coal car and tender to Boot Hill Museum.

E.R. Kemper moved the engine on tracks ten blocks to where the Great Western Hotel replica now stands. Kemper took out a million dollar insurance policy through Lloyd's of London before beginning the five hour task.

In 1978, the engine was moved to the east end of the museum next to the Front Street replica using railroad tracks. This made room for the Great Western.

Early in 2000, during a two day operation involving a complex set of dollies and wheels, Ball & Son movers of Belleville, Kansas relocated the engine 200 feet to its present site.

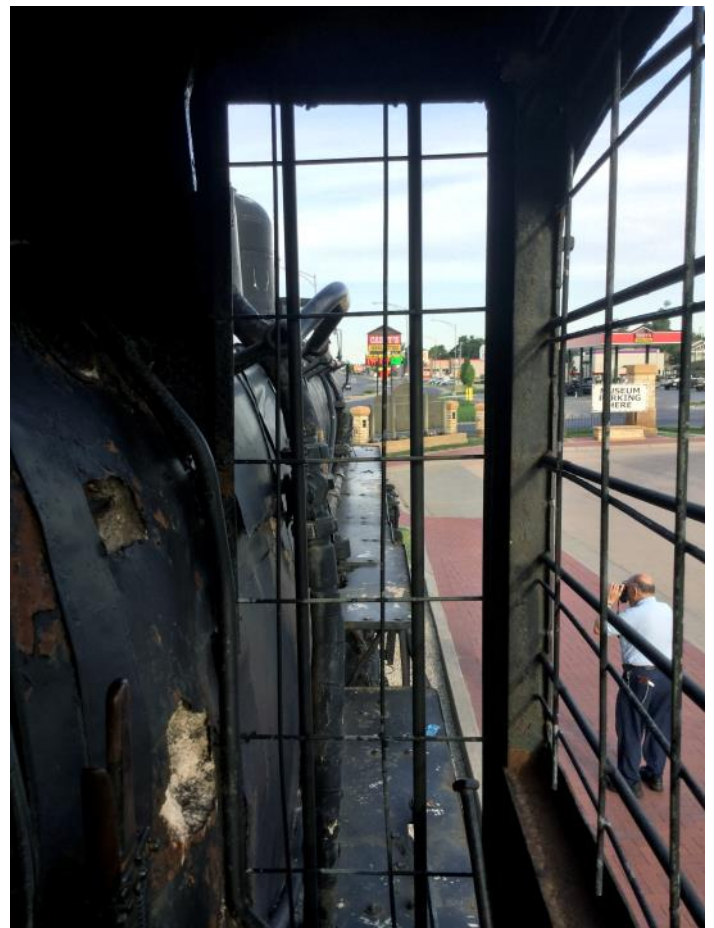
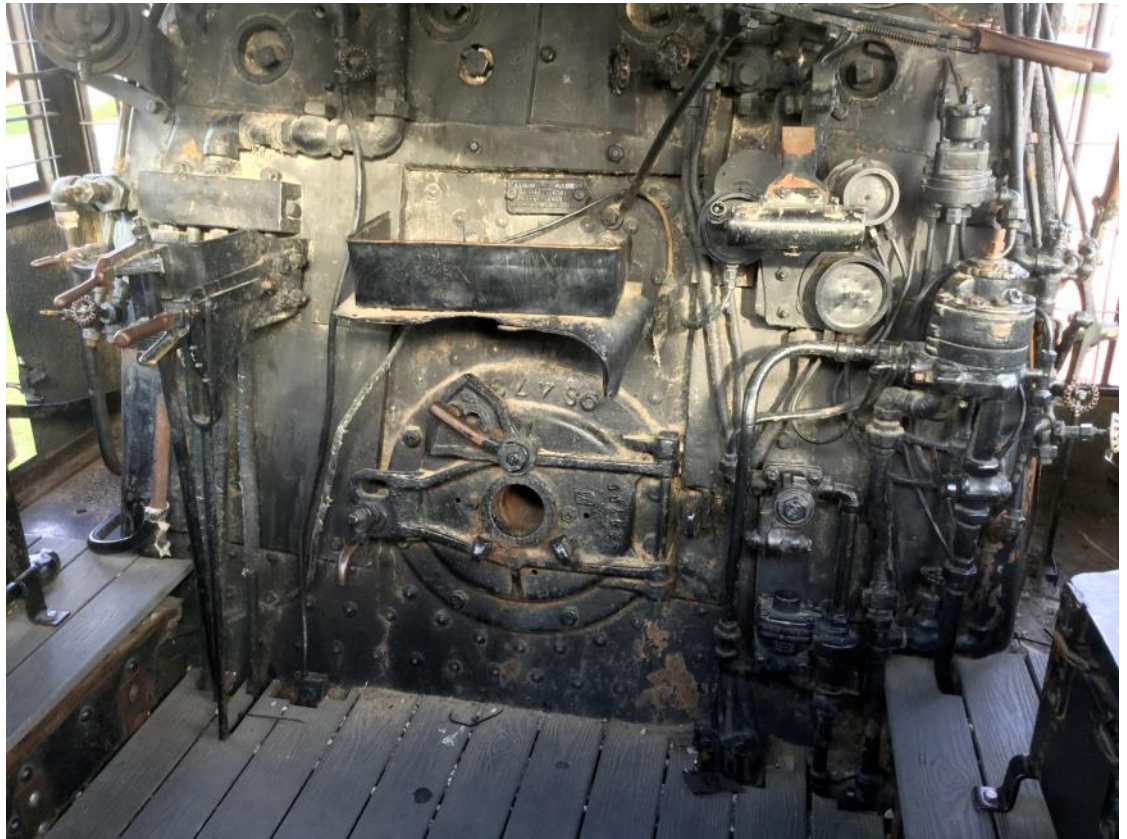
**PLEASE DO NOT CLIMB ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE TRAIN
POR FAVOR NO SUBIR EN EL EXTERIOR DEL TREN**

Dodge City

Steps right up and into the locomotive allow a visitor to see the rarely seen inside of a locomotive.

Here, the outside of the boiler has a lot going on! The round door is where the engineer would shovel in the coal.

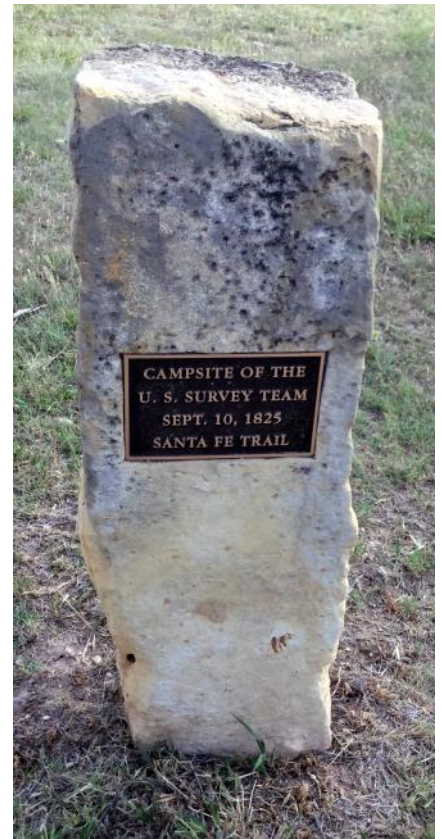
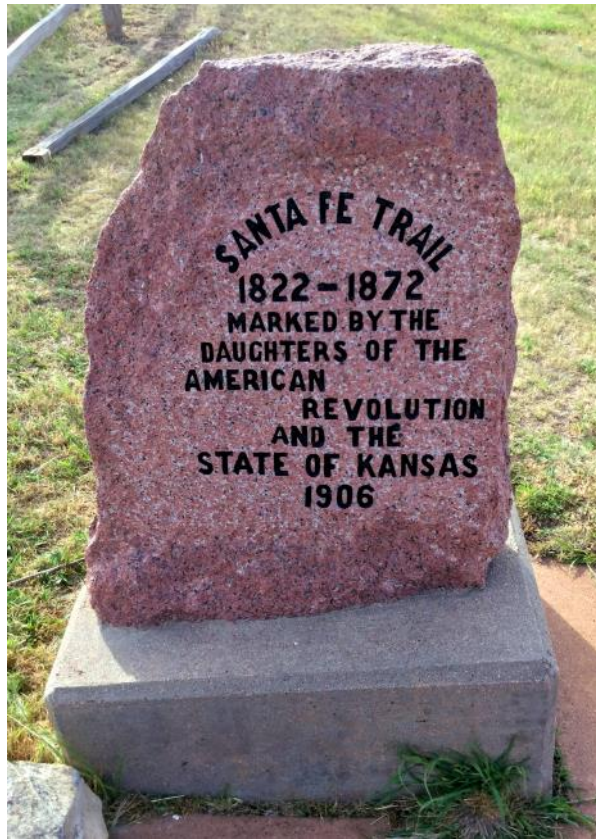
The two photos below show the view from inside the locomotive, the left side and the right side. I think the metal grid is for safety of visitors.



Santa Fé Trail

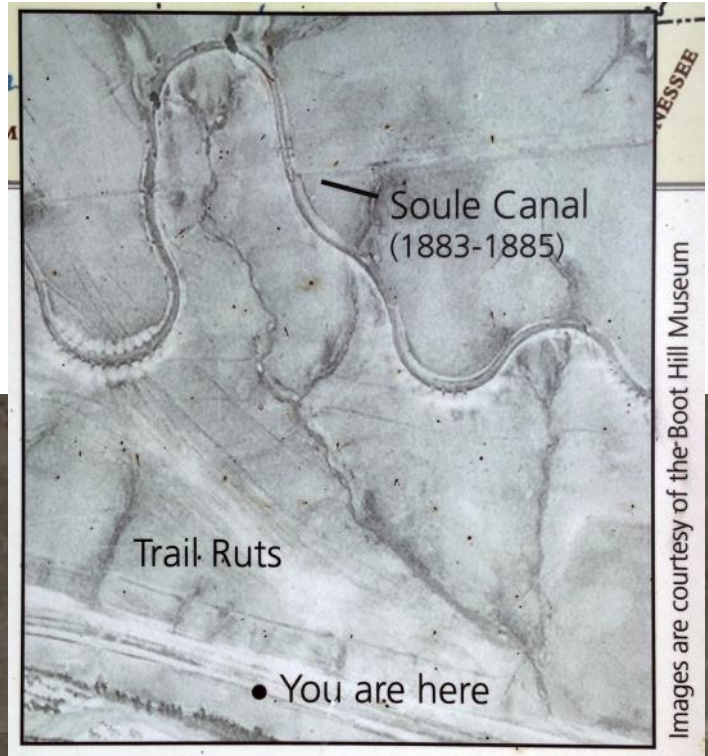
I saw a billboard stating that historic tracks were 11 miles west of the city. I misunderstood the sign to mean original train tracks when it actually was referring to wagon rut tracks of the Santa Fe Trail! We stopped and there were many interpretive signs and a concrete path out a little ways to view the prairie.

The map below is a little off because in 1840, Texas already broke off from Mexico to stand independent (as of 1836) but shows here as still part of Mexico! The trail is in Kansas Territory.



Santa Fé Trail

These fantastic photos show overhead views of the Santa Fe Trail that clearly show the varied paths the pioneers took while crossing the territory. The modern day stop is shown on the map below and where the concrete path is to view the prairie. Parts of the concrete paths turn into decks to preserve the ruts where the path crosses.



Images are courtesy of the Boot Hill Museum

Santa Fé Trail



Boardwalks over ruts

Covered area with interpretive panels

Santa Fe Trail Tracks

U.S. Route 400

U.S. Route 400

Santa Fé Trail



Modern Windmill



Lovely rolling Kansas prairie. Lots of varied vegetation.

About the Mater Sandwich

Rediscovery

It is the middle of summer. And what is plentiful in the middle of summer is corn and tomatoes. But today, I am taking about tomatoes. So this all started with watching a YouTube video last year about taste testing mayo brands. The channel is called It's a Southern Thing, and I've been watching their videos for two or three years now I guess. They've been doing more live stream videos. So back to the mayo. The way they tested the mayo brands was with the classic tomato sandwich that requires mayo. The three at the table blind tasted the brands to get a consensus of the top brands. Personally, I rarely use mayo except for tuna salad, chicken salad, or pasta salad. Otherwise I rare use it. You can see the ranking of the eight brands with no surprise about the one brand, which is not actually a mayo anyway! So recently, I decided to buy a jar of one mayo I've hear about good things (Duke's) and tried the tomato sandwich! To my surprise, actually, it was quite tasty! I've made them several times! All you need is sandwich bread, good ripe juicy tomatoes, and mayo. Good snack!



It's A Southern Thing is a YouTube channel dedicated to presenting usually funny Southern scenarios.



They did a live stream on August 21, 2019. They were taste testing and ranking eight mayo brands.



Words Southerners Get Wrong

Very often, pronunciation in the South is not as clear and crisp as it should be! Because of that, many people grow up hearing words pronounced wrong

and never know the correct spelling of a word or phrase! Here are a some of the most commonly misheard and therefore misspoken words.

“Farmer John cheese”



Parmesan cheese

“Chester drawers”



Chest of drawers

“lawn more”



Lawnmower

“hammy downs”



Hand me downs

“rasslin”



Wrestling

“spicket”



Spigot

“prolly”



Probably

“rod iron”



Wrought iron

“holler”



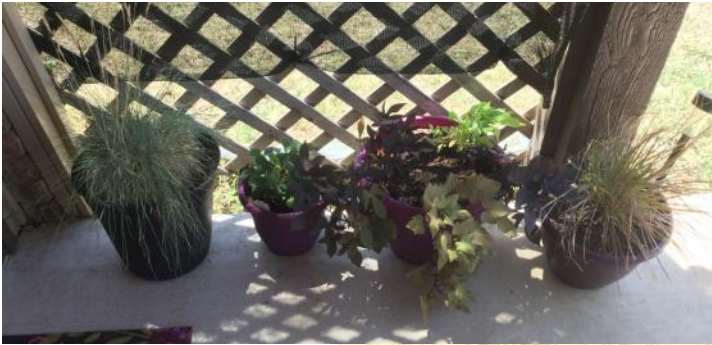
Hollow

“wheel barrel”



Wheelbarrow

Snyder Garden



July 14, 2020.
Not much different from the June photos. I did some minor harvesting of peppers, and you can see the sunflowers sprouted, but only the one variety. Also, with temps in the 100s, I moved the mint and mums to a more protected spot.



Garden Harvests



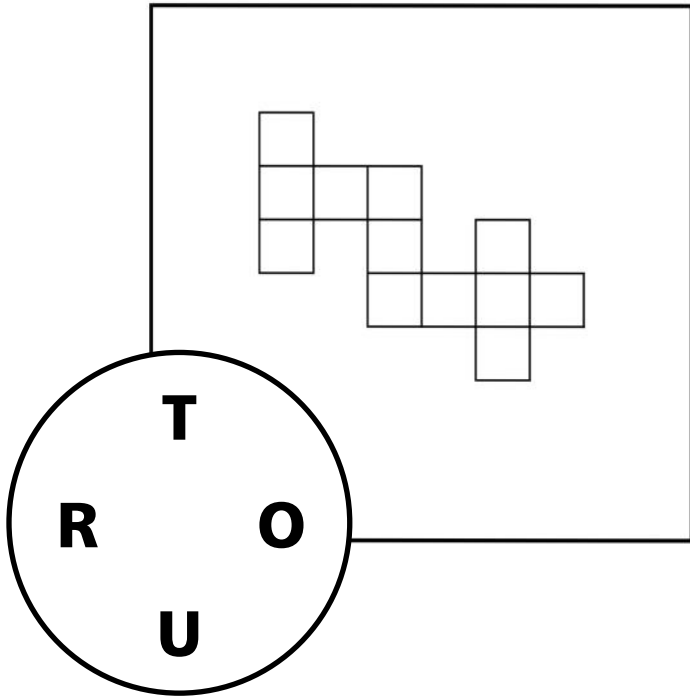
This was my first harvest on July 4, 2020. Shown here are: purple bell pepper, banana peppers, poblano pepper, pepperoncini peppers (with one red), and radishes. I had more radish plants, but they never quite got to where they should have.



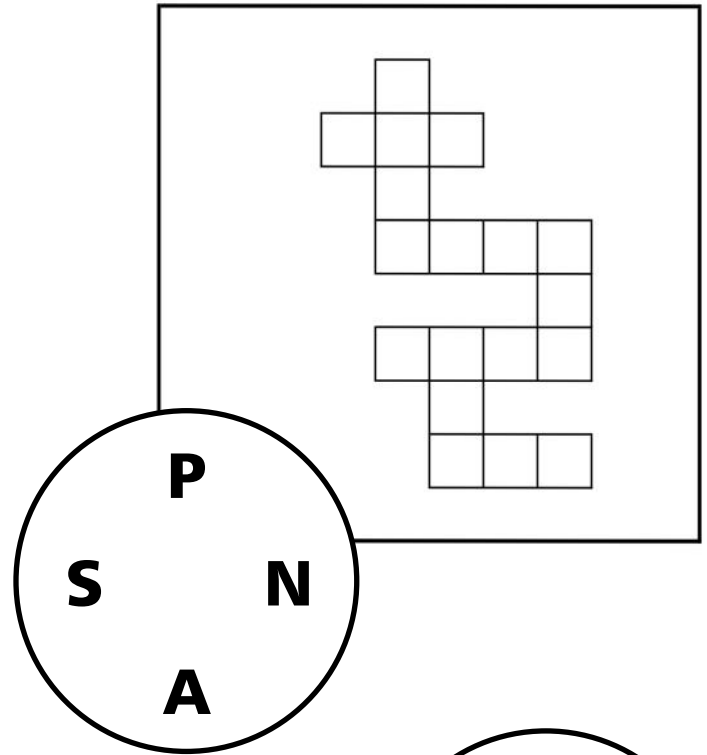
This was my next harvest on July 11, 2020. These are: red pepper flake pepper, banana peppers, and pepperoncini peppers that I've let turn red (normally, they are left green and pickled).

Word Wheel

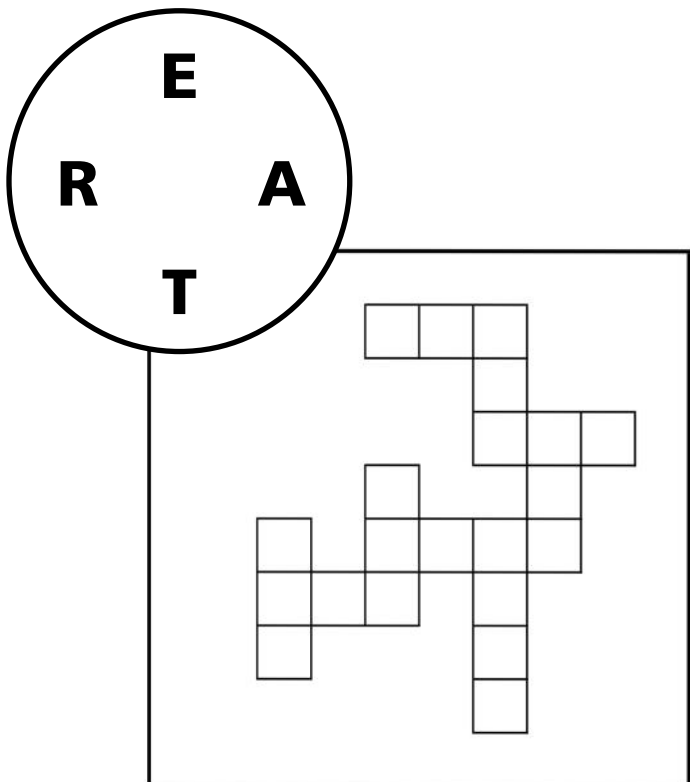
Like with the last issue, print out this page to have some fun with word games! Within each wheel are four letters. Use the letters to form words that fit in the jigsaw squares. There are more words you can form than will go into the squares. Answers are on the Final Thought page.



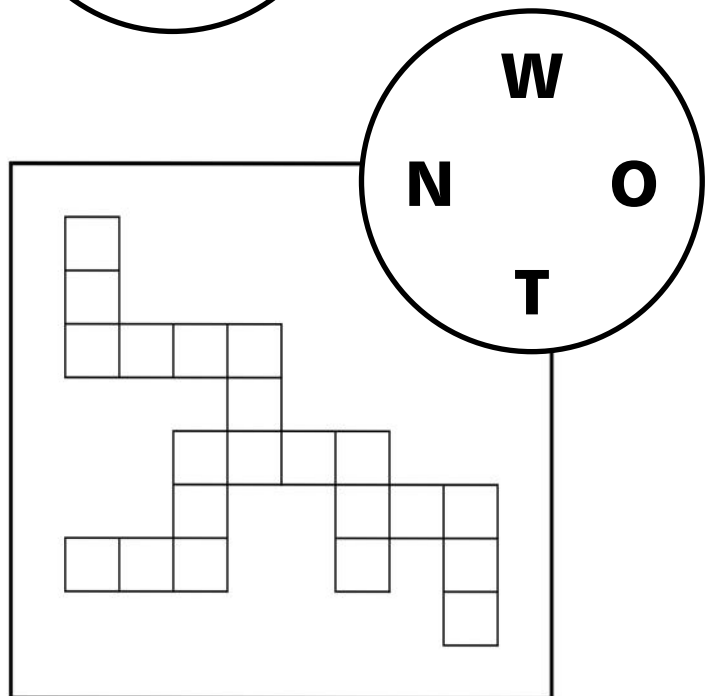
A square frame containing a jigsaw puzzle made of 12 squares. The puzzle is composed of three separate pieces: a 3x1 vertical bar, a 1x3 horizontal bar, and a 3x1 vertical bar. A circular wheel is attached to the bottom-left corner of the puzzle. The wheel contains the letters T, R, O, and U arranged in a circle.



A square frame containing a jigsaw puzzle made of 12 squares. The puzzle is composed of three separate pieces: a 3x1 vertical bar, a 1x3 horizontal bar, and a 3x1 vertical bar. A circular wheel is attached to the bottom-left corner of the puzzle. The wheel contains the letters P, S, N, and A arranged in a circle.



A square frame containing a jigsaw puzzle made of 12 squares. The puzzle is composed of three separate pieces: a 3x1 vertical bar, a 1x3 horizontal bar, and a 3x1 vertical bar. A circular wheel is attached to the bottom-left corner of the puzzle. The wheel contains the letters E, R, A, and T arranged in a circle.



A square frame containing a jigsaw puzzle made of 12 squares. The puzzle is composed of three separate pieces: a 3x1 vertical bar, a 1x3 horizontal bar, and a 3x1 vertical bar. A circular wheel is attached to the bottom-left corner of the puzzle. The wheel contains the letters W, N, O, and T arranged in a circle.

Final Thought

de Stolfe Journal.....



THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I want to thank those who have sent their condolences about the death of my Mom. Thank you for your words, prayers, and kindness as our family moves forward.

RG

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

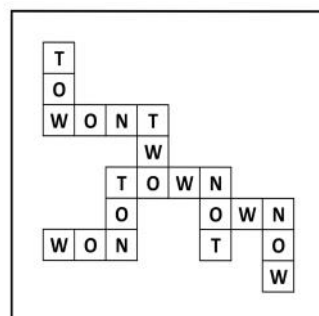
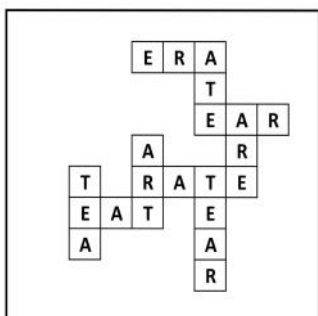
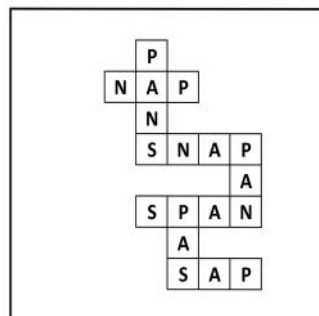
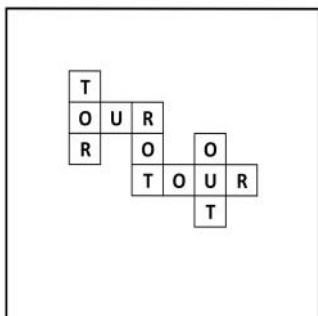
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Word Wheel Answers



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Back Page Literature

Favorite Restaurants

As we were cleaning out Mom's house, I eventually came across my stuff from childhood and the time when I lived in the house (which was 1989 to 1996). In 1991 and 1992--my first year in community college--I was taking the foundation college classes. My first term included Composition 1101. I had a really good teacher who was structured and really helped students understand the various forms of writing and the differences among them. Even to this day, I use much of what I learned from these two classes. (The other class was Composition 1102.) Favorite Restaurants is the last paper assignment for Composition 1101 for the Fall 1991 term. I turned in this paper on November 25, 1991. Since this was a class, the professor did return the paper with notes and corrections. The writing included here is specifically what I turned in, errors and all! (By the way, I got a 93 for this paper!) I have included thought bubbles for areas I want to add commentary.

Some days I do not want to cook. I do not like standing in a hot kitchen cooking dinner and washing dishes. Therefore, Mom and I like to eat out. We like to go to certain restaurants when we want certain foods. For instance, when we want tacos, we go to Taco Bell. The same is true for cost. An inexpensive restaurant is our choice when we can spend only a few dollars. Once in a while, though, we like to celebrate an event or special achievement-or just have a variation of food-at a more expensive restaurant. Because of this reason, three of my favorite restaurants are the Loop, the Olive Garden, and the Melting Pot.

Remember that these are 1991 prices! So, five or six dollars was still a little pricey.

First, I like the Loop because of the atmosphere, the food, and the price. The atmosphere at the Loop is casual mainly because of its location by Fishweir Creek at the Little Landing. This creek makes a relaxed setting for me as I wait for my food; I watch the cranes, pelicans, and jumping fish. My three favorite foods here are the charbroiled chicken sandwich, the fabulous Loop burger, and the Chicago deep dish pizza, all of which are the Loop's specialties. Another reason I like going to the Loop is because of the price. The chicken sandwich and the burger cost about five dollars each with a dollar-off coupon. This also includes fries and a drink. And the pizza costs about nine dollars for the medium with two toppings. Overall, the atmosphere, the terrific food, and the affordable prices make the Loop my usual favorite.

Another one of my favorite restaurants is the Olive Garden. The atmosphere here seems to echo the outdoor cafés of Italy with the Roman arches and the murals painted on the walls. Also, divided "rooms" give privacy while large windows display scenery outside. The food at the Olive Garden is great. The salad is delicious, zesty, and colorful with the

Yo quiero Taco Bell! Ha, ha... I don't remember eating at Taco Bell very often.

Well, not really, but I needed some filler!

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I don't like black olives, and I really don't eat the "hot green peppers" (pepperoncinis).

red onions, black olives, and hot green peppers. The breadsticks with garlic butter and parmesan cheese are also tasty. My favorite dish, though, is the chicken parmigiana. The breaded and fried chicken breast is smothered with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese and baked until golden. All of these I think foods are reasonable. The salad and bread sticks are provided with the meal (with free refills), while the dinner entrées vary with what is ordered. The Chicken Parmigiana I had cost about nine dollars. In brief, The Olive Garden is a good restaurant for the romantic atmosphere, the rich Italian food, and the reasonable prices.

"Italian"

From where we lived, it was a trek to go over to where the Melting Pot was!

My most favorite restaurant is the Melting Pot. I go here only during certain occasions like my Mom's birthday or my French club socials. The atmosphere at the Melting Pot is cozy. This restaurant is split into several levels divided by short walls. On top of the walls is a collection of wine bottles. There are also wine bottles hanging from wooden boxes which are used as lights. The food, however, is what makes this restaurant unique. The first course is cheddar fondue. Vegetables, cubed bread, and apples are given for dipping. Afterwards is a salad then the main course, oil fondue. This fondue is similar to deep frying in that chicken, beef, shrimp, fish, onion rings, and potatoes are batter dipped and cooked in the oil. After the meats and vegetables are done, they are dipped into various sauces. The last course is chocolate fondue. With this fondue are marshmallows, cake, cherries, bananas, and pineapples. The overall price is fifteen dollars for the cheddar fondue, salad, and main course. The chocolate fondue, however, is an extra five dollars for two people. To summarize, my special occasions are celebrated at the Melting Pot because of the cozy atmosphere, the delicious food, and the acceptable prices.

My French Club went here a couple of times in High School. It was fun!

YUM!

Now, I want to have fondues again! (Look for more about this in a future issue!)

On the whole, the Loop, the Olive Garden, and the Melting Pot are my favorite restaurants each for different reasons. First, I like the Loop for the atmosphere, the food, and most of all for the low price. Next, the Olive Garden is great for Italian food and ambiance. Last, the Melting Pot is my favorite restaurant for special occasions because of the unique fondues and cozy interior. These restaurants, and many others, are part of my various "Places to Eat" list. When I want a certain food, Mom and I hop in the car and go to the restaurant for that food. As a result, we are happy and we do not have any dishes to clean.

The "many others" is more accurate for we did not eat at these places as often as it might sound.