

# de Stolfe Journal

*Candid*

**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2015**  
**4.11 & 4.12**

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November & December 2015 | 4.11 & 4.12

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Wishing you  
a happy,  
healthy, and safe  
New Year  
in 2016!

# Candid Comments from the Producer



## Leadville, Springs, Lubbock

Well, I'm really late with getting this issue out! But at the same time, a LOT has happened within the past three months or so! So here goes a short description. The contents of this journal goes into more detail about what I'm summarizing here.

I left Leadville on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 and went back to Colorado Springs. The next day, we travelled to Lubbock for a couple of days to take care of some details before I would move there. We got back to Colorado Springs on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Then I spent the next several days packing up stuff and putting it in the garage. I got a U-Haul truck on Thursday, November 12 and loaded up the truck. Then I left on Friday, November 13 leaving in the morning and arriving in Lubbock later that night. I put my stuff in storage that Sunday and started my new contract job on

Monday. The day before Thanksgiving, I finally signed a lease on an apartment and slowly moved in over the next two weeks. After that, I could breathe easier knowing that I was in a place and working on getting settled. For the rest of the story about the past few months, refer to the next many pages in this issue for more details. I am focusing this issue mostly on the move. I'll pick up more entertainment style articles in the January issue, which at this point will come out within about two weeks.

**My PO Box that I had in the last issue is no longer valid. My only valid address is:**

RG de Stolfe  
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## On the Cover

Winter storm Goliath after Christmas brought heavy snow and blizzard conditions to the Panhandle and West Texas along with New Mexico and parts of Oklahoma and Colorado, among other storm related problems in other areas. Here is a calm view of the snow the next day or two later.

## Word for Life

### Psalm 23:1-6 (NKJV)

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters.*

*3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

*4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever."*

While Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, (Hebrews 13:8) we can rest assured that while we go through change He is our stability and our resource!

# Saddle Break Reads

## Facebook Posts —November 2015

*Note: These are only a curated selection of my posts I made on Facebook.*

**November 1, 2015**

Left Job at Temple Israel Leadville  
Gallery Manager  
Leadville, Colorado

**November 3, 2015** • Leadville, CO

Well Leadville, it's been a good two summers. But now it's time to move on. Thank you for a great experience!

**November 3, 2015** • Colorado Springs, CO

I am back in Colorado Springs now. We leave in the morning for a preliminary trip to Lubbock for a few days before the move the next week. See some of y'all soon!

**November 4, 2015** • Des Moines, NM

Guess where I am?



**November 4, 2015** • Lubbock, TX

Here at Whataburger in Lubbock! Evening snack.

Checked in to Slaton Bakery.

**November 5, 2015** • Slaton, TX

Yum, yum!

Checked in to Costco.

**November 6, 2015** • Lubbock, TX

Just checkin it out.

Checked in to Buddy Holly Center.

**November 6, 2015** • Lubbock, TX

One stop at the FFAT!

**November 6, 2015**

These few days have been good. I think I've gotten what I needed done for this trip. I'll be moving next week.

Thursday, we ate at Furr's. While there, this guy came up and said he'd pay for our meal! Not because he was a Christian or anything like that but because dad was a veteran and they were too. I'm really looking forward to coming home despite some people thinking I'm a fool for doing so.

**November 7, 2015**

Okay. So back in the Springs. Got here about 5:30. Time to pack over the next few days. ...I'll be back in Lubbock in a week.

Checked in to Applebee's Colorado Springs, CO - North Academy.

**November 11, 2015** • Colorado Springs, CO

[Veteran's Day] Lunch.

**November 12, 2015** • Colorado Springs, CO

Any clues as to what I'm doing?



Checked in to Kum & Go.

**November 13, 2015** • Colorado Springs, CO

Got my pumpkin spice coffee, a doughnut, and a full tank of gas... Now I'm off!

**November 13, 2015** • Lubbock, TX

Hello all! I am now back in Lubbock! (Yea!)...

Checked in to Rosa's Cafe & Tortilla Factory.

**November 14, 2015**

Finally!

**November 16, 2015**

If this was real, it wouldn't fly today!



**In The 1950s, Women Were Expected To Do THIS For Their Husbands. This Is Crazy!**

It's so fascinating to learn about how people used to live — especially when we discover that not much has really changed. However, sometimes you come across...

LITTLETHINGS.COM | BY ANGEL CHANG

Started Working at Hi-Fidelity

**November 16, 2015** — Graphic Designer/

Production Artist (Contract)

Lubbock, Texas

Checked in to Rosa's Cafe & Tortilla Factory.

**November 17, 2015**

Finally! Taco Tuesday, it's been a long while.

Checked in to 50th Street Caboose.

**November 24, 2015**

Food and games!

**November 26, 2015**

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Have a great day!

**November 27, 2015**

Today is International Buy Nothing Day. What did you not buy today?

**November 27, 2015**

Nice little fire on a freezing Lubbock evening.



**November 28, 2015**

Today is Shop Small Saturday! Choose to shop at more local small businesses to keep money flowing locally!

**November 28, 2015**

Another frozen evening for a lovely fire.



# Saddle Break Reads

## Facebook Posts —December 2015

*Note: These are only a curated selection of my posts I made on Facebook.*

**December 2, 2015**

...Here's a new decoration for Christmas.



**December 5, 2015**

Don't know about other parts of the country, but round here, it's pretty darn nice!

**December 6, 2015**

I found this relic while unpacking!



**December 9, 2015**

This Friday and Saturday is Candlelight at the Ranch. So, who's going with me??

**December 12, 2015**

Got to see a few structures anyway before we had to leave. First time that I know of that fairly extreme weather had to cut short a Candlelight at the Ranch event. It wasn't that big a deal to me, but you do have to think about overall safety, though.

**December 13, 2015**

I've heard, but can't confirm, that Blue Bell is back in Lubbock!

**December 16, 2015**

I graduated from Tech 12 years ago around this time. Seems like a long time ago from now!

**December 17, 2015**

at 8:43am Today's Google video doodle about Beethoven is awesome!



**December 17, 2015**

Well, it took a few tries, but here is my first fire in the fireplace of my new apartment. Too bad there's no gas starter. I guess I'm going to have to figure out the best way to light the fire so I don't waste matches and newspaper.



Shared Engineering World's video.

**December 18, 2015**

No matter your position about wind turbines, these are some interesting facts!

**December 18, 2015**

Well stocked!



**December 18, 2015**

A nice little fire and some Blue Bell with pecans. It don't get too much more Texan than this!

**December 23, 2015**

"Wishing general, nonoffensive winter holiday greetings" Says noone ever! Merry CHRISTmas!



**December 23, 2015**

Happy birthday to dad who is now 73.

**December 24, 2015**

Christmas tamales and cheese ball! Merry Christmas!



**December 26, 2015**

Happy Boxing Day! (Whatever exactly that holiday is.)

**December 26, 2015**

Had an interesting sight today. I was walking somewhere and as I was walking along the sidewalk I saw this very large tumbleweed, about 4' or so in diameter (up to the hood of a truck) rolling in the parking lot then out onto the street into fairly heavy traffic. One truck had to stop short, but the other cars seemed to dance around it! Typical west Texas sight on a windy day.

**December 26, 2015**

Nice little fire on a cold evening.



**December 30, 2015**

I went to the store after work today to get a few things. And holy mackerel was the parking lot crowded and the store crowded and the check out lines crowded! Even now a couple of days after the crazy blizzard, everything and everywhere is still in relative shambles, but getting better, especially as the snow melts and the roads get cleared.

**December 31, 2015**

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year in 2016!

# Saddle Break Reads

## January 2016 Calendar

- 1.1.16—New Year's Day (Happy New Year!)
- 1.5.16—National Bird Day
- 1.16.16—National Nothing Day
- 1.17.16—Ditch the New Year Resolutions Day
- 1.19.16—Martin Luther King Day
- 1.19.16—Robert E. Lee's Birthday
- 1.21.16—Squirrel Appreciation Day
- 1.23.16—National Pie Day
- 1.25.16—Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
- 1.26.16—Spouse's Day
- 1.27.16—Chocolate Cake Day
- 2.1.16—National Freedom Day
- 2.2.16—Ground Hog Day
- 2.3.16—The Day the Music Died  
(*Death of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper from a plane crash.*)

## Texas Open Carry

Starting in 2016 on January 1, Texas has a new law that Texas governor Greg Abbott passed earlier in 2015. It is to allow open carry of handguns. No, this is not a modern return to wild west days and no, you cannot have your hand gun any which way you want! Current laws allow for concealed handguns, but this new law allows for them to now be visible. The only allowed ways for open carry is in a holster and either on your belt or in shoulder holster.

So far, I've only seen a small few people carry openly. Concealed carry continues to exist.

## Blue Bell Back On Shelves

Called "the drought" in Texas, Blue Bell ice cream is back on the shelves in most locations after being pulled in April 2015 for issues of listeria. While unusually extreme in measure to completely shut down all production of the ice cream, Blue Bell wanted to make sure that all aspects of the production were thoroughly cleansed. Despite the threats of listeria, previously and currently (not in the ice cream, but in the plants), Blue Bell is still the favorite ice cream in Texas and nearby states.



## New Outdoor Shopping

In what was a large open field for many years is now the newest large development, an outdoor mall. While indoor malls are losing interest with people generally, outdoor versions have been quite popular in recent decades. This development is called West End, which is also the name of this part of Lubbock, called West End Place. While still in development, the current occupation includes Costco, Cabela's Outpost, Marshalls, Homegoods, Nike store, Gap Outlet, Banana Republic Factory Store, among others, and a few restaurants. One restaurant I've really liked is called Pie Five (shown in photo). This is a pizza place where you create your own personal pizza and salad.

## Pie Five Pizza

Pie Five (shown below) is a pizza place where you create your own personal pizza. Start with a particular crust, add a sauce, top with cheese, and add any variety of toppings or choose one of the named pizza. Then, the pizza is baked within a few minutes. You can combo the pizza with a drink and a salad or dessert. I have not had the desserts yet because they look way too good! But I have had the salads. And just like with the pizza, you can custom make the salad or have one of the named salads. Very good!



# Fall Transition

*As I mentioned in the last issue, the October 2015 issue, I told of moving to Lubbock and a few details about how I was planning to do that. As of the end of December, I am now in Lubbock and have been here for many weeks. However, some details became different from what I originally told, which is why I didn't want to provide too many details in the first place because things can always change from what you plan. So, here's a summary of how the past two months have been.*

## Leaving Leadville

I started about a week before leaving Leadville to pack and get my stuff together. I worked it out for dad to get a truck from Enterprise and come out to Leadville, which he did on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. After he got here, I showed him the museum, then we packed up my stuff with very little room left to spare. We had a very current black Dodge Ram that was quite large and smooth to drive. We made a couple of stops, then left Leadville. The route we took was a little different from other times of travel. We went down to Buena Vista along 24 and typically, we would just take 24 back to Colorado Springs. But instead, we continued on 285 where it splits off from 24. This route took us through Fairplay, Jefferson, Grant, Bailey, and Conifer to the southwest Denver area and onto the 470 loop road. From there, we got gas had dinner at Chick-fil-a and went to I-25 and south to Colorado Springs. Back at dad's house, we unpacked the stuff into the garage and spent the night.



*This is the big black Dodge Ram we rented from Enterprise to bring my stuff from Leadville back to Colorado Springs.*



*Southwest of Leadville a few miles is this old schoolhouse. I've been wanting to photograph it since summer 2014, but never really had the chance. We stopped here before leaving Leadville. The schoolhouse had a new coat of paint a few months earlier. Unfortunately, the building and surrounding land is privately owned and is not available to see the inside.*

# Fall Transition

## Previsit to Lubbock

Part of my move planning involved going to Lubbock before I moved there to find an apartment, see the place where I would be working, and take care of a few other little details. The next day, Wednesday, November 4, we returned the truck to Enterprise and exchanged it for a car that would obviously be cheaper and better on gas mileage. We got a bright red Ford Focus. We did a couple of errands in the Springs, then went on our way to Lubbock. We went the typical route I took many times before, down I-25 to Raton to Dalhart to Amarillo to Lubbock. I planned to be there for two days and leave Saturday, November 7. While in Lubbock we took care of business and did some fun activities. I originally planned to get an apartment at one complex where I lived before in the early 2000s. However, that changed which I will tell about in the next section. Otherwise at this point, I was planning to move into this complex and got to the office what additional paperwork they needed. We went to the business where I would start working and saw the place, met a few people, and worked out some initial details about the job. The main initial detail was that I would be working as a contract worker, basically like for a trial period. Since this was the case and I am still currently working as a contract worker, I am leaving the job details to the next issue with an assumption that an official hiring would take place perhaps in January. Some of our leisure activities included seeing the new James Bond film Spectre a day before its official release (!), driving around town to see what was new and different, and going on the First Friday Art trail to different museums and galleries. In the middle of our time in Lubbock we got a low tire and went to Enterprise to report it. They took care of it, but it became low again. So for safety, we traded it for another vehicle. We ended up getting a white Toyota Yaris. (The car got us back to the Springs with no problem, but I do not recommend ever renting or buying this type of vehicle! Not because it was a bad car, but because it was very basic and really too stripped of features.) On the way back, we stopped in Raton to eat at K-Bob's Steakhouse to eat of the salad wagon. I have never been to a K-Bob's that I can recall, so I wanted to try it since I had heard of it before. We just wanted the salad wagon to save money and eat a little better (especially because of some of the less than healthy food we had in Lubbock). We got back to the Springs by dark.



*We started the trip to Lubbock with this Ford Focus. But, an issue with a low tire and a rough transition transmission had us change vehicles.*



*So, we traded the car for this vehicle, a Toyota Yaris. It was not an equal trade, but it did not have any issues with the tires.*

# Fall Transition

## A Few Days of Packing

I moved the date to get the moving truck to Thursday, November 12 to give me a couple of extra days to pack since we spent a few days to go to Lubbock. Also, I changed who I was going to get the rental truck from and reserved a U-Haul truck instead, which I felt much more comfortable with getting. I had about five days to pack with one of those days for loading the truck. I figured to leave to Lubbock on Friday, November 13. Yes, Friday the thirteenth! We had the rental car for a week, which took us to Wednesday and so we returned it in the morning. Since it was also Veteran's Day, I figured to go with dad and a neighbor to Applebee's because they were doing the free meals to veterans. I planned to pay for my meal, but the waiter gave me the meal free anyway. They also got free sandwiches from Arby's. I picked up the U-Haul truck on Thursday, November 12, got some gas, and went over to the house. I was extremely cautious because I had never driven that big a vehicle before. I was surprised at just how easy and smooth it was to drive though! I then spent several hours that afternoon and into the evening to pack the truck to be ready to leave in the morning. While packing, I got a call from the apartment complex where I was trying to get final approval, and ended up having the approval be denied because of a particular detail that they could not get past. Then with that, I was moving to Lubbock with nowhere to live and nowhere to unpack! I did find out though before I left the Springs that I did get a free month's use of a storage unit with the truck rental. I supposed that if all else failed, I could put the stuff in storage. But that really was the last possible resort. I could not waste the time, energy, and effort to unpack the truck into a storage unit just to repack it again to move it and unpack it again in an apartment. (More about that in the next section.)



*During the few days I was in Colorado Springs, it snowed a little bit. I got a few photos of a squirrel, which will likely be the last for a while.*



# Fall Transition

## Moving to Lubbock

I left dad's house by late morning on Friday, November 13. I decided to take the plains route to save on gas and spare having to drive through hills and mountain passes. I had a route I planned to take, but I missed the one turn I needed because I couldn't tell where it was! I ended up making a large circle around the Springs and ended up back to I-25. Oh well! It was no big deal. I just modified the route by driving I-25 to Pueblo, then took 50 east. I eventually caught up in Lamar with where my original route would have taken me. From Lamar (and after getting gas and lunch), I went south basically for the rest of the route. The trip went smoothly and easily, and with the low gas prices, it wasn't all that expensive for gas, even though I did only get 8-10 miles to the gallon! I got gas and some dinner in Amarillo, then arrived in Lubbock in the late evening.



## The First Few Weeks

I stayed with some friends for two to three weeks while I was on the search for a new apartment. That first weekend was a mostly relaxing one. But, I did take the truck that Sunday to U-Haul and unloaded the truck into my free storage unit with the help of some other friends. I was glad to be done with that part because I only had the four days' use of the truck, and at least I knew my stuff was finally secure and that I had some time to find an apartment. I started the new job on Monday, November 16 and so that started my regular 8 to 5 office job of which I am quite happy to have! I would have still moved to Lubbock no matter whether or not I had a job lined out, but I am glad that I didn't need to try to find one! We got the office arranged and my computer setup that first day. To start with, I worked on various projects, then really got going with the website redo. The rest of November went smoothly and regularly. With Thanksgiving, I got my first break. But also just before Thanksgiving, I finally signed a lease for an apartment. I ended up getting an apartment back at the same complex where I lived in the late 2000s (2006 until late 2010), except that the specific apartment I got was more like the one I wanted back then. It was a similar price as compared to five years ago and it was a larger unit that included a fireplace. I spent Thanksgiving day with the big boss of the company and a few others and had a really nice Thanksgiving. Surprisingly (or not surprisingly), Starbucks and 7-11 were open! That weekend, Lubbock had a major ice storm right during the busiest time of the year. Because of that, I could not move anything into my apartment. Although, I did move a few items that Sunday. I stayed another few days, then finally spent my first night in my apartment on Wednesday, December 2. It took about 20 days, but I finally got to be in my own place again! I had very little in the apartment to start with until I got an initial load of stuff out of the storage unit. A few days later, I got the rest of it. With everything finally all in one place, the next major task was to sort and unpack! This process will be done over weeks and even months as I have time. As of the end of the year now, I have enough unpacked to be functional, but by no means do I have everything unpacked and organized how I want. At the same time, I really have no rush to do it either.



*I rented a moving truck from U-Haul. This was a 14' with a Mom's Attic (the small section above the cab). I had the rental for four days getting it on November 12, 2015.*

*Yes, I took a photo of my storage unit where I put my stuff out of the truck!*

*Once I got my apartment, I found this real green wreath at Costco for \$15! I couldn't pass that up for getting my apartment decorated for Christmas. (As it turned out, I did very little decorating, so this wreath and a few other things was all I put up.*



# Fall Transition

## December and Christmas

December saw more of simply working a regular job, but also a few other little things mixed in. (See my Facebook notes to get a summary of it.) On Saturday, December 12, I went with a few others to Candlelight at the Ranch. This is an annual event at the museum where I worked in the late 2000s that has a lighted path of luminarias around the historical park. In select structures, Ranch Host volunteers recreate in historical nature of what Christmas was like in the time period for the historic structure (see photos elsewhere in this issue). However, a strong storm literally blew in right when the event started. Ultimately, the event was cancelled for the night within the first hour of it. I heard, however, that the Ranch had record attendance on Friday (the event is two nights every year). I suppose that could have made up for the shortfall on Saturday considering that Saturdays were usually the higher attended of the two days. Finally living back in Lubbock after 3+ years feels great, but having to walk everywhere does greatly limit what I can do. Fortunately, I have most things I need nearby in relative walking distance. They might not be the place I really want to go, but they are available. I had the Christmas weekend off and the weekend after New Year's off as well. Also, much like after Thanksgiving, West Texas and other areas had the biggest storm hit in a long time. Winter storm Goliath brought very heavy winds and very heavy snow—blizzard conditions actually—to all of West Texas and most of New Mexico. It was enough to shut down the areas for an extended period of time. I saw many photos on Facebook that people posted of the crazy results. Many had power outages and the snow drifts created mounds as high as the rooftops. And this is not even to mention about the severe weather in East Texas, Oklahoma, and other nearby areas that had tornadoes flooding.

With New Year's Eve and Day, I can honestly say that I have hope for positive change that I have not had in many years! The past few months saw many changes and finally a partial restoration of what I lost a number of years ago which has been far too long in coming! Now in January of a new year, I have some happy news beyond all this about the move. However, that news will wait until the January 2016 issue to arrive in the next few weeks!



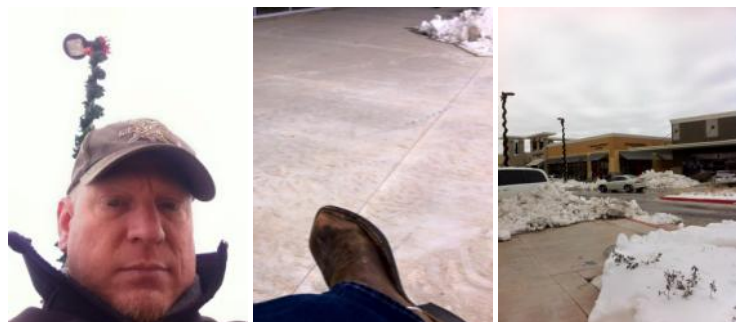
*The view of the snow from my apartment around 11PM.  
It was really bright outside!*



*The view of the snow from my apartment around 11:50 AM.  
The snow here wasn't nearly as bad as in various other places.*

←.....→  
*In the time I've been gone from Lubbock, a new outdoor shopping center was built and opened called West End (about half a mile from my*

*apartment). Here I am at the mall on Christmas Eve and again nine days later. You can still see major snow from the post Christmas blizzard.*



# Candlelight at the Ranch

On Saturday, December 12, I went with a few others to Candlelight at the Ranch. This is an annual two night event where people walk a lighted path of luminarias around the historical park. In select structures, Ranch Host volunteers historically recreate what Christmas was like in the time period for each structure.

*Living room of the Box and Strip House (1903, 1907)*



*Dining room of the Pitchfork Cookhouse. (1950s)*

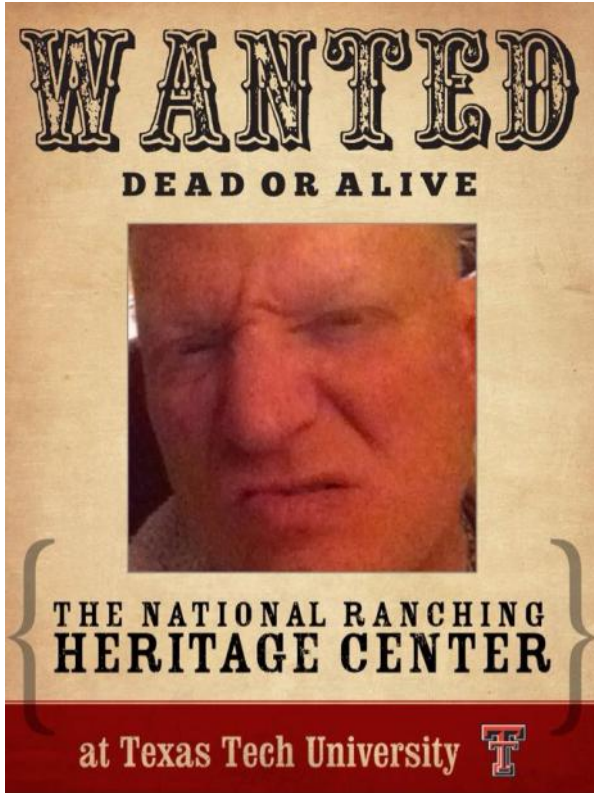


*Four photos of different rooms in the Barton House. (1909)*

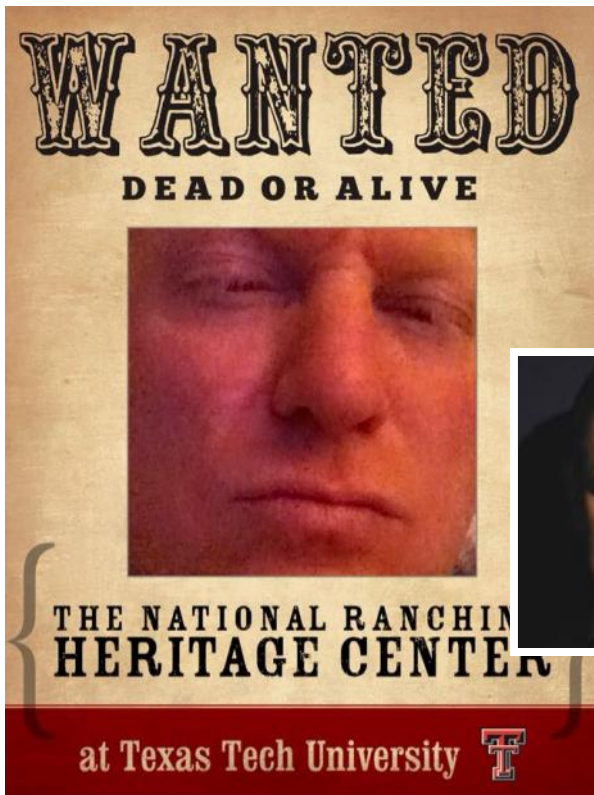


## New NRHC App

The National Ranching Heritage Center has a new app! This app is similar to the content of their website, but more fun! Plus, visitors can use it to guide themselves as they tour Proctor Park. One feature under the Fun Stuff section are these Wanted posters using your camera!



*Rough looking bandito, huh?*



*Here's my Daniel Craig/James Bond look.  
(Though not nearly as good looking!)*

## New Mexico Windmill

Twice in one year! We drove by this windmill once again that I've driven by, photographed, and reported many times before in previous issues. This windmill and barn seem to be photogenic! The mound in the background is Capaulin Mountain of the Capulin Volcano National Monument.



*While photographing the windmill, down the road was this rainbow.*



# Winter Storm Goliath

Lubbock had a blizzard the weekend after Christmas that was part of winter storm Goliath. While the snow was moderately heavy, the biggest effect was blowing snow! That's why it was a blizzard. For days, I saw people's photos on Facebook in Lubbock and surrounding areas of the

snow drifts that were sometimes as high as the rooftops! It was truly like blowing sand, but instead snow. Other areas were more flat. Most of Lubbock had about a foot or more of snow, which is much heavier than the snow Lubbock would occasionally get. For days, travel was rough, slick, and dangerous! All over town, you would see "snow hills" where the snow piled up from cleared parking lots and cleared roads. The snow hills lasted for weeks.



## Horse Reinterpreted

At a used tack shop where I occasionally worked near Colorado Springs, they always had this plastic horse out front, known as Blackie (which was repainted by this photo). When I went for a visit after returning from Leadville, I noticed that the horse had a cart. And in the cart was a scarecrow sort of figure with one of my stick horses as the head! Pretty sharp, huh?! (I call this particular variety of stick horse, Red Roan. I make four “breeds” which are still available for purchase.



## Upcoming Issues

*The next issue is the January 2016 issue (5.1).  
Here's a preview of topics to come in future issues.*

### ◇ More Ranch Photos

I'll show you some more of my recently acquired photos of ranch scenes.

### ◇ Catio, What is it?

A catio is a cat patio. I'll show you some.

### ◇ When You Work at a Museum

This is a blog about various circumstances that occur while working at a museum.

### ◇ Coffee Basics

Time for a recap of the basics about coffee! Learn about the simple things of coffee that will make it better.

### ◇ TTYL <3 U

Ever wonder about those groups of letter and symbols are that people text? (Talk To You Later, Love You.)

### ◇ Farming: Cotton!

Discussion of cotton farming in West Texas.

### ◇ Early Names & Symbols for Jesus

After Jesus came, some groups didn't like Him! For centuries after He ascended, Christians had to create symbols to identify themselves to avoid execution!

## RG de Stolfe



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