

de Stolfe Journal *Candid*

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Fall for the Holidays



RG de Stolfe

This time of year is one of my favorites! The weather is basically very nice and very comfortable and pleasant! Since I'm in Colorado Springs, I've been able to see the seasons with more distinctions than when I was in Lubbock. Spring was still somewhat cool but warming with many flowers starting to bloom. Summer was hot at times, but still mild and lots of trees and flowers everywhere. Now fall is cooling with temps even as low as freezing at night, but still mild during the day. For the past month or so, the leaves started changing colors and dropping off.

This is also the time of year that I start with my annual decorating spree. I start with leaves and harvest type stuff, along with pumpkins and gourds, through Thanksgiving. Then, I switch to Christmas stuff through sometime in mid January. Of course come January after all the decorations are put away, there seems to be a void!

Besides decorations, I tend to bake. My standards are pumpkin pie, cookies, and sometimes candy. For Thanksgiving, I'll usually make something turkey, if not a whole turkey, and all the various sides, and likewise also for Christmas. Just recently, I made an apple cobbler with a homemade crust (and real apples). Very recently, I made an apple pie,

"I refuse to let whether I am by myself or with a group determine how I should feel and act during the holidays!"

again with a homemade crust and a woven top crust, but with canned apples.

October through December is a wonderful time of year no matter whether by yourself or with a large group. I often have been by myself during the holidays, but I refuse to let whether I am by myself or with a group determine how I should feel and act during the holidays!



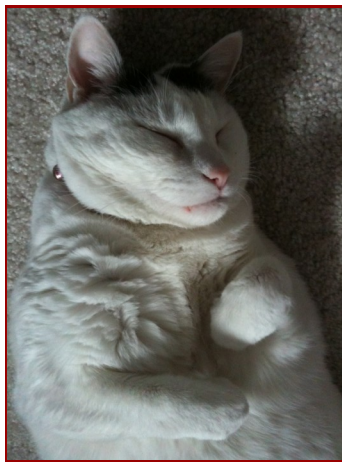
Apple Pies for sale!

You can have one of these delicious, homemade apple pies for four easy payments of \$29.95 plus shipping and handling! But wait, there's more! Order now and you get a stylish shipping box! But that's not all, order in the next five minutes and you also get rush shipping absolutely free! Operators are standing by. Order today!*

**Orders may take 3 to 5 days to arrive.*

Our Little Panda

I've posted this cat on Facebook and in this newsletter. This cat is Panda, an almost all white cat with black splotches on her head and a black tail. She was adopted by dad sometime last year from PetSmart. She is declawed, but she doesn't seem to know it! She's a big, heavy cat with lots of loose skin. She's plenty friendly, but is not a lap cat. However, if she is on the bed when you want to sleep, you just have to get in around her! She does like to play with the dangly string on the floor and really gets wild chasing the little red dot! Her favorite places to be are in my window or lying under our feet when we try to walk by. (And, of course, we sometimes hear a screeching meow!)



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The Necessaries

In my last issue, the Back Page Literature included an article I wrote, *The Necessary of Life*. In the article, I mentioned that "workers built 2.3 million outhouses in the rural areas of the United States between 1935 and 1943". To the left are some privies built in 1941 for Farm Security borrowers in Greene County, Georgia and built by the Farm Security Administration. As I mentioned in the article, I'm glad we don't have to use these anymore! (Of course, the idea of a port-a-potty isn't much different other than made with more modern materials.)

*Library of Congress, LC-USF34-044312-D
Photo by Jack Delano, May 1941*



50 Years of Warhol's Campbell's Soups

One of America's most recognized food icons is Campbell's Condensed Soups, that very recognizable red and white label with the gold medallion in the middle. But wait! Where's the red and white label?!

For a limited time, Campbell's made a special limited edition of their Tomato Soup labels in honor of Andy Warhol who made them famous in 1962 by painting many paintings of these iconic products. The limited edition products were only available in Target in September.

Right: Here's my photo of the cans of soup I bought. Campbell's made 5 label designs that I have been able to identify. Here are four of them. The image on the phone is the image Target use to promote the products.

Bottom right: Here are some of the paintings that Andy Warhol made of the Tomato Soup that inspired Campbell's promotion.

Below: This is Andy Warhol's series of many of the soup types as seen in the gallery of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



Photos of the Month



Rare Mammatus Clouds on September 25, 2012



Unexpected, nasty hail storm on September 27, 2012



The signs of fall that will soon lead to...



...another upcoming holiday!



Fierce red maple tree on 10.13.12



*These are pretty flowers.
No idea what they are.*

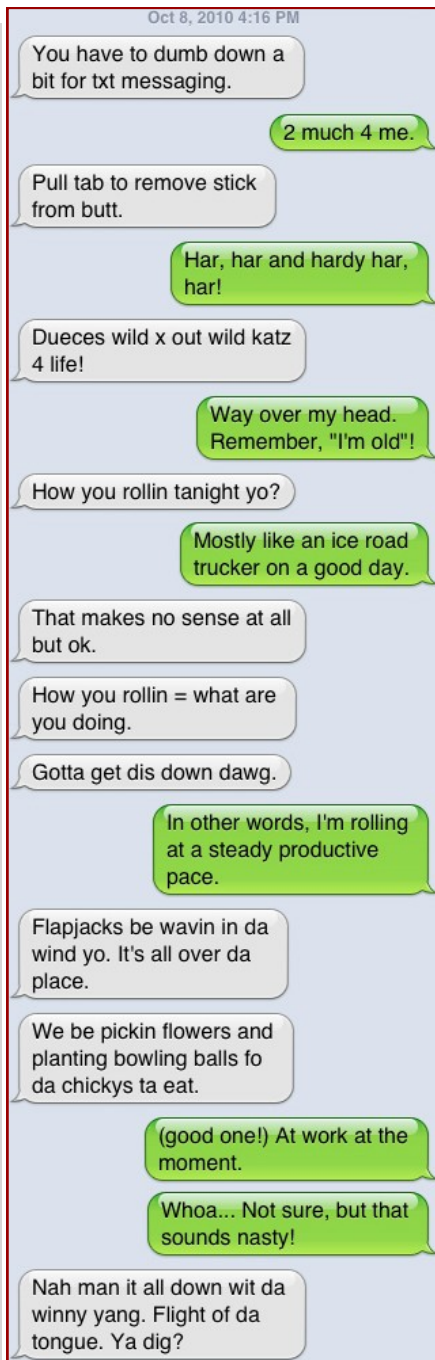


The full moon on September 30, 2012

Recently Rediscovered Archive

Two years ago this month, I had a text conversation using my then recently obtained iPhone. I texted before on my RAZR phone, but was never able to have a record of the texting conversation, just the last text. Anyway, this particular

conversation, lasting almost an hour, was particularly crazy and funny. I removed the evidence of names in order to keep it anonymous. I am in green and the other person is in gray. Enjoy!



From Russia with Love

No, this is not a Bond, James Bond movie. But, this is Russian! I took a Russian class in 1997 just because I wanted to! The Russian language is not as difficult as many people think. The alphabet, Cyrillic, has roots in Greek and Hebrew, while the language itself is Slavic with influences of Latin, Greek, French, German, English, and others. So, I thought I'd give you a small sampling of the Russian language.

А а	'ah'
Б б	'beh'
В в	'veh'
Г г	'geh'
Д д	'deh'
Е е	'yeh'
Ё ё	'yo'
Ж ж	'zheh'
З з	'zeh'
И и	'ee'
Й й	'ee krAtkayeh' (И краткое: ee short)
К к	'kah'
Л л	'el'
М м	'em'
Н н	'en'
О о	'oh'
П п	'peh'
Р р	'ehr'
С с	'es'
Т т	'teh'
У у	'oo'
Ф ф	'ef'
Х х	'khah'
Ц ц	'tseh'
Ч ч	'cheh'
Ш ш	'sheh'
Щ щ	'scheh'
Ъ	'tvYOrdi znak' (твёрдый знак: hard sign)
Ы	'eigh'
Ь	'mYAKee znak' (мягкий знак: soft sign)
Э э	'eh'
Ю ю	'yu'
Я я	'ya'

Here are some words you might recognize from other languages.

Да (da) : yes

нет (nyet) : no

чай (chai) : tea

кофе (cohf-e) : coffee

метро (met-ro) : subway

Привет (pruhv-yet) : hello

до свидания (duh svee-dahn-yah) : goodbye

мать (maht) : mother

отец (uht-yehts) : father

мама (mAH-ma) : mom

Папа (pAH-pa) : dad

бабушка (bah-boosh-kah) : grandmother

Here are some common phrases.

How are you? : Как дела? (kakh dehla)

Good, thank you! : Хорошо, спасибо!
(hara-shO, Spuhseebuh)

Do you speak English?

Вы говорите по-английский?
(vih guh-vah-REE-t'eh puh uhn-GLEEY-skee)

I'm lost. : Я заблудился
(yah zah-blued-ils'a)

How much is this? : Сколько это стоит?
(skOHl-kuh ehtuh stOH-it)

Find me on:



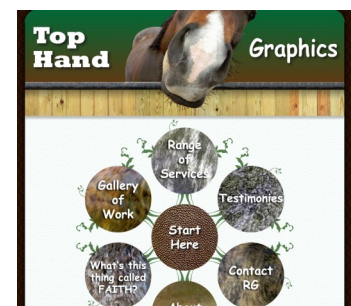
<http://www.facebook.com/>



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<http://www.tophandgraphics.com/>

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Back Page Literature—Poetry

I wrote these poems in the 1990s. Some of them are not very good, but that's okay!

The Flowers

The sea raged by
In a big haul
Crashing
On the sea wall

Peacefully calming down
Into a gentle mist
Spraying the growing flowers
Carefully not to miss

The flowers grew tall
Beautiful and strong
So pretty they are
The ground is where they belong

The wing blew harder
And the flowers swayed
Moving in a pattern
Like a big parade

The wind was strong
Fierce but quiet
The flowers strained
Then broke out in riot

The flowers were uprooted
By the blowing wind
After dying down
The flowers came to their end

New Orleans Streetcar

Grinding, scraping
Vibrating
Ding, ding

Pushing, moving
Flickering
Ding, ding

Almost there

Clacking, clicking
Bumping
Ding, ding

Rattling, jerking
Shaking
Ding, ding

I get off

Ode to a Cactus

Cactus, oh cactus
How prickly you are
Very protected
From any harm

Cactus, oh cactus
You are of many kinds
Too many to mention
In a short time

Cactus, oh cactus
Some standing tall
Did you reach the sky
Since you don't fall?

Cactus, oh cactus
What can I say
You're too painful to touch
In a strange way

Cactus, oh cactus
Large or small
How do you stay alive
Without rainfall?

Ode to a Tumbleweed

Tumbleweed, oh tumbleweed
Rolling in the wind
Where are you headed
Where have you been

Tumbleweed, oh tumbleweed
Of what are you made
I've heard Russian thistle
You fearless unafraid

Tumbleweed, oh tumbleweed
Don't get stuck in a fence
Keep on moving
If that makes any sense

Tumbleweed, oh tumbleweed
Stay with your friends
For they could help you
Through to the end

The end of which
Is easily defined
Getting stuck in a valley
That keeps you confined.

Tornado

Whirling and spinning
Buzzing and wooshing
On you go
To scare more living

Fierce and loud
Busy and fast
Blowing up trees
And houses in a blast

Turbulent and wild
Windy and dark
Twistedly moving
To make your mark

You trashed our trees
And littered our lawns
Because of a cold front
That was coming on

Why did you
come?
To make us
pay
For
otherwise
having
A very
nice
day?

Wise Man

One day during the making of pottery while in Flagstaff, I took a break and walked around the ceramics building. My pottery teacher gave me an old, rusted railroad spike after he used it to score a pot of his.

An old Indian wise man is like an old railroad spike. He is well weathered but still strong. The rust of the spike resembles his leathery sun worn skin. Because he is old and seemingly fragile, one may think he is as good as dead. But on the contrary, the wise man is still strong and capable of keeping things in order just like a rusted railroad spike keeping the rails from shifting.

Texas Canyon

On a train trip to Phoenix, Arizona, we were riding through South Texas when we went over a narrow part of the Amistad Reservoir, which was the inspiration of this haiku.*

A Texas canyon
Colorful and water carved
So beautiful

**In case you didn't know, a haiku is a nonrhyming Japanese style poem of three lines: first line 5 syllables, second line 7 syllables, and third line 5 syllables.*