

de Stolfe Journal *Candid*

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September 2012

Robert-George de Stolfe, Publisher

Keeping You Up To Date



RG de Stolfe

This is my 3rd issue of the de Stolfe Journal *Candid*. My focus for this newsletter is to simply write about whatever is going on in my life every month, along with whatever else I want to include. At a time in our world where so much is at risk and so much change—often not for the better—is threatening our very existence, I want to focus on things that are positive, encouraging, and good. I also started this newsletter to inform my friends and family about me, since most apparently had no clue! (I had no idea!)

August and September was not real busy. Dad went to Florida for about a week, and

after he got back, we went to the Colorado State Fair (see article in this issue). I am no longer working the job I had for two months. So, I've stayed home more.

Colorado Springs has finally been getting cooler, more in September than in August. The trees are just starting to change color, but won't be apparent for a few more weeks. I'll likely post photos in the next issue.

I'll be happy to hear about any comments you have about this newsletter along with any ideas of what to include.

I hope you like this issue!

Tracking a Windmill

You know how sometimes you do or see something then do or see the same thing other times later? Well, that was the case for this stupid windmill we saw while traveling along Highway 87 near Capulin, New Mexico. Here are three photos showing the same windmill (and barn) at three different years. The strange and stupid things we do sometimes!



June 2004. We were just ahead of the wicked storm that caused softball sized hail in Amarillo!



January 2009



July 2012

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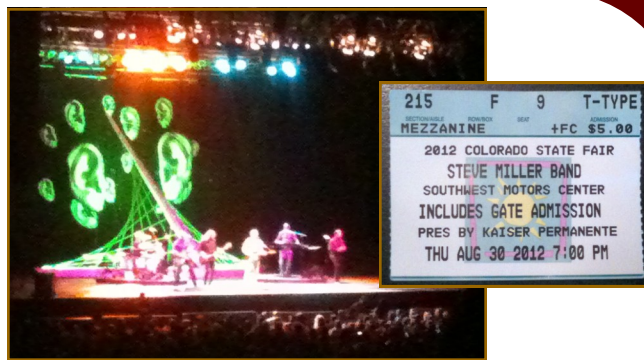
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Colorado State Fair

Dad went to Florida for a week and had some coupons for a BOGO on admission to the Colorado State Fair. I wanted to go to the fair to see what it was like in Colorado as compared to other state or county fairs that I've been to (specifically, the Dade County Youth Fair [Miami, Florida], Coconino County Fair [Flagstaff, Arizona], and the South Plains Fair [Lubbock, Texas]). The day dad came back was the last day the coupon was good. So a few hours later in the mid afternoon, we drove down to Pueblo where the Colorado State Fair was. Once in downtown Pueblo, we started smelling and seeing a nasty smoke. Once we realized that it was coming from the van, we stopped to see what the problem was. Apparently, the air conditioner condenser overheated and started burning. (More like charred from the heat, no flames. A note here, dad did not have refrigerant in the system--had long not been working.) Apparently, the air conditioner was flipped on. Well, whatever. We drove for a little while longer until we came to a point where the rattling was likely going to cause damage. (It had already flipped off the oil cap!) We parked in a residential area that was fortunately only a few blocks away. Undaunted, we walked the rest of the way to the entrance, a short walk. Just outside the gate was an oldies station setup with a wheel of fortune game to win something. So we thought what the heck. Dad spun... free Frosty. I thought, okay, I'm cool with winning that too. I gave it a good whirl (the kind that would make it fly off the spoke!) After about a minute (almost literally!--kept spinning and spinning), it landed on free concert tickets to see the Steve Miller Band that night! The best part too was that it also included free admission to the fair! So far, so good!

First order of business, food! Dad has been to the fair in the past and knew of a decent place in one of the buildings for a cheeseburger. Afterwards, we walked around one of the buildings for a while. Then it was close to time for the concert. Our seats weren't too bad, well enough to see the



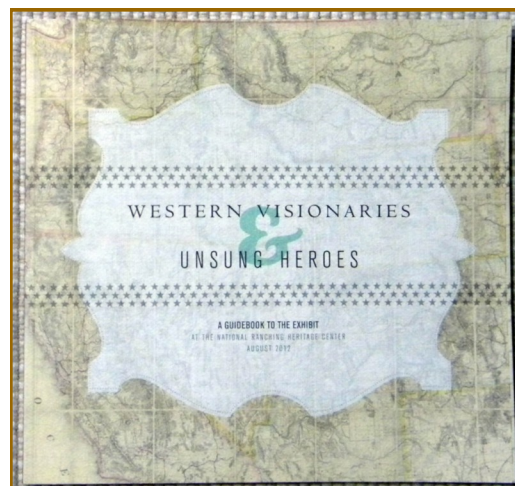
On August 30th, Dad and I went to the Steve Miller Band concert at the Colorado State Fair free! Won the tickets after spinning a wheel of fortune game just outside!

concert. The tickets were worth \$40 each. Over an hour and a half later, the concert was finished, not too bad for a fair concert. Steve Miller really puts on a good show! Afterwards, we decided to walk the midway and see the booths. We walked around the fair, toured the exhibit buildings, and walked through the midway. Some of those rides were crazy! We watched the expressions of the people as they came down many of the rides, almost like pure terror! I was happy to see that the game booths did not heckle us as we walked by. The fair must have had specific rules about not doing that. (In similar manner, the South Plains Mall in Lubbock passed a similar rule a few years ago that the cart booths could not do the same thing to the people in the mall as they walked by.) One thing I noticed about this fair was how expensive the food was! I wanted some fried Oreos, which I found. They were \$5 for 4! At the South Plains Fair, I was able to get three for \$2! Roasted corn on average was about \$4 an ear. Frybread was \$5 just for plain bread, higher to make it a taco! Fresh lemonade was \$4! Very few items were less than these prices! Needless to say, we left with cash in our pockets! We walked back to the van, and after a while rode back in the truck that towed the vehicle back home. We were home about midnight.

Visionaries and Heroes

In my continuing effort to provide quality, researched writings (mostly as articles), I finished writing a biography that is included in an exhibition titled, *Western Visionaries & Unsung Heroes*, that is now available to view at the National Ranching Heritage Center. The exhibition also includes a rather thick guide as shown to the right. The exhibition includes

over 20 people who have "made a difference in ranching—its establishment and growth—in the American West. These people vary widely in what they accomplished and contributed to ranching development and history. My biography was about Daniel Webster "80 John" Wallace who was a black rancher born in 1860 and died in 1939.



More info at: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ranchhc/WesternVisionaries.html>

Where's the Bug?

Somewhere in the photo to the right is a bug. What is it, and where is it?

Hint: It's NOT an ant.

The answer is on another page.

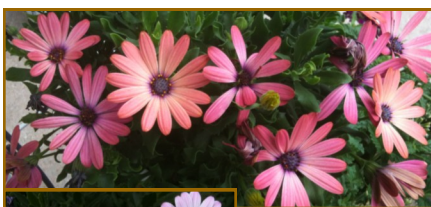


Programming Notes

What little TV I watch has been rearranged by the ending of shows and the starting of other shows. I started out watching *Longmire* and *Dallas* (as I noted in a previous issue). Well, season 2 of *Dallas* doesn't start again until January and season 2 of *Longmire*, who knows when. In addition, I started watching the latter half of *America's Got Talent* through to the final round results. I do have to say that the finals and the finals results shows were fantastic! So with all these shows now over, I'm sort of in a void. But, as for new shows, dad's been watching *Hell on Wheels*, but I'm not exactly into that much violence. But I have been watching the miniseries *Into The West*, which so far has turned out to be a really interesting series! (even though it's several years old.) Also, I just started watching *The Voice*, which has been very interesting with its similarities but mostly differences with *America's Got Talent*. Also the premier of *Revolution* was actually quite interesting, but a little unsettling as to the apocalyptic undertones of the show.

Growing and Growing

The plants I planted in the front yard have continued to grow and flower, and here's an update.



1. *Osteospermum*, Serenity Rose Magic
2. *Osteospermum*, Summertime Pink
3. *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, Russian Sage
4. *Gaillardia*, Gallo Red Blanketflower
5. *Gaillardia*, Gallo Dark Bi-Color Blanketflower
6. *Rudbeckia*, Denver Daisy

Products I make For those who have wondered, here is an expanded list of products that I make.



Large Picket Cross, \$22



Stepped Picket Cross, \$12



Medium Picket Cross, \$10



Small Magnet Picket Cross, \$4 each



Barbed wire Cross, \$10



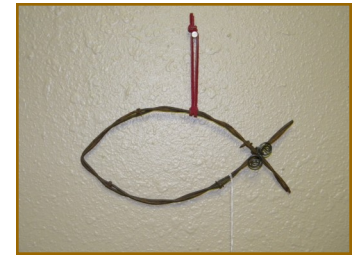
Barbed wire star, \$6.50



Barbed wire Texas star, \$10



Barbed wire heart, \$6



Barbed wire fish, \$6



Leather saddle Cross, \$10



Green



Red



Blue

Horse nail Cross ring, \$5 each, choice of red, green, blue, purple, yellow, gold, or copper



Cat toy, good yarn, \$3 each

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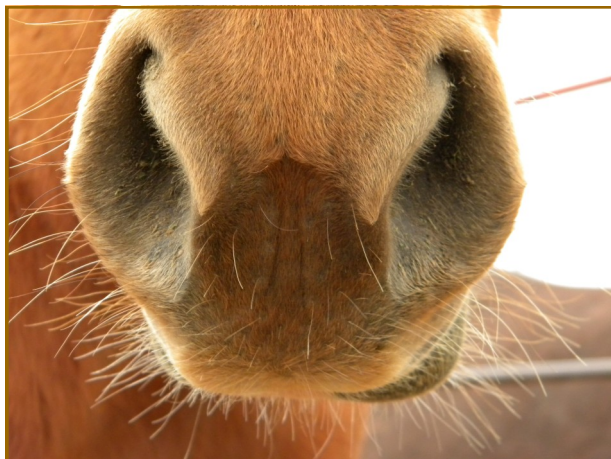
Photos of The Month



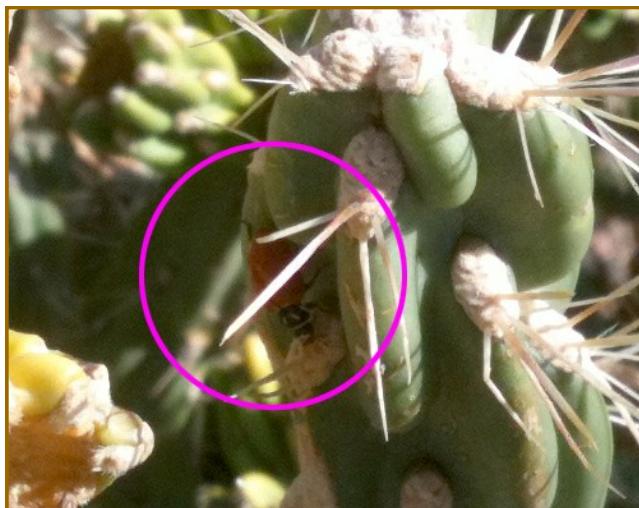
This is my replacement African Violet after my other three were sunburned before I left Lubbock. Pretty color. (and too many cat hairs!)



What part of this thistle doesn't have thorns?! (Also, cool bugs!)



One afternoon a few years ago, I went to the Dub Parks Memorial Arena (the historic rodeo grounds for Tech Rodeo located on 4th Street and Quaker Avenue), and photographed the horses there. Here are two shots.



Find the Bug. The answer: a ladybug!



"Latte. Jed?"

**The Far Side®
May**

1668
Coffee is introduced into America. (Tea becomes the official drink of "sissies.")



Friday 5

One of my favorite Far Side comics! "Lattè, Jed?"

BACK PAGE LITERATURE

I wrote The Necessary of Life for the Winter 2007 Ranch Record Magazine. This was my first full article for the magazine.

The writing below, I wrote nearly ten years ago. I was involved with a volunteer program called the Ranch Hosts that provided outfitted interpreters to give life to the historical structures of the National Ranching Heritage Center. This letter was never published but reminds me of a time that I fondly remember.

Letter about the Ranch Hosts

I started with the Ranch Host program in August 2001. Since then, the ride has been one of sheer awe and respect for what the Ranch Hosts do and what they mean to the museum and to the public which the museum serves. I have rarely been with an organization that is so grateful just for you being there and providing your time and effort to provide a better quality experience. In my just less than two years of being a Ranch Host, I have gained so much personally at the same time that I have provided to everyone else. It was as a Ranch Host that I learned to dance, in general and also historic dances. I just followed the steps and danced away with Angie Burkes. I learned how to make rope, how to show kids how to rope, and how to make crafts with rope. I learned about the star in the cottonwood from Jim Rymer and how to braid leather and modify clothes from John Levecy. I have watched the jackrabbits play and scatter, listened to the wind blow and the creaks of the windmills, and felt the temperature difference of shade and sun during the summer. I have eaten "authentic" cookies, biscuits and bacon, campfire coffee, and roasted peanuts. The dressing up into period clothes and being a part of Ranch Day, Candlelight, Sunday Host, and other special events has helped me to mentally escape the all to often difficult realities we all face in this modern life. The many times I have sat at the porch of Las Escarbadas, shot the breeze with John Levecy and Bob Wilson at the JY Bunkhouse, sat by the fire drinking coffee by the chuckwagon on a chilly night, and exploring a cool stream during an appreciation picnic have all given me many great escapes and memories that I'll always fondly remember. I just wanted to say thank you for the great experiences and the unending support and guidance that this program has provided me.

The Necessary of Life

The night is cold with the wind blowing fiercely. The chamber pot is near the bed, but that is not the problem. The rancher grudgingly gets out of bed, puts on his coat, and heads to the outhouse. Since the privy is a good distance away from the main house, the walk seems long. After fighting the wind to get the door closed, finally he can take care of business. However, since the outhouse needs repairs from being built years ago, the wind blows through the cracks like water leaking through an old windmill tank. Only little light comes through the crescent moon shaped opening in the door while he fumbles with some newspaper. After fighting the wind again to get back to the main house, the rancher is happy to be warm under his quilt and blankets to sleep soundly the rest of the night.

Modern conveniences have just about eliminated the need for this once commonly--and regularly--used structure. Before the advent of indoor plumbing, the outhouse was the primary location to take care of "personal business". Upon the creation of the Works Progress Administration by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, workers built 2.3 million outhouses in the rural areas of the United States between 1935 and 1943. This fact alone gave evidence of the need for outhouses well into the 20th century.

At the National Ranching Heritage Center, two outhouses have been preserved in the historical park. One privy matches the Box and Strip House, while the other is located near some trees between the Bairfield Schoolhouse and the two story Barton House. While the NRHC outhouses are of lesser value to the topic of ranching specifically, as part of western history and personal habits, they are certainly worthy of description.

Often nicknamed privy, earth closet, can, and johnny, among other names, outhouses in the West were typically a tall wood box with a door and slanted roof. They were usually located 50 to 150 feet away from the main house with the door facing away. Inside was usually a bench with a hole cut in it, and underneath was either a can or a pit in the ground. Though most outhouses had one hole, some had two or more holes suggesting use by adults and children (with different sized holes) or use by several people at once.

People in rural areas considered toilet paper a luxury; therefore, they usually used newspaper, paper bags, leaves, or pages from a catalog. To help neutralize odors, users regularly threw calcium carbonate (lime) down the pit after use. When the outhouse became full, someone simply emptied the can of "night soil" or dug a new pit. After moving the building to the new hole, the dirt from the new hole filled in the old hole. In later years, people actually dug up pits where outhouses once stood. The pits apparently doubled as a trash can since old, unbroken bottles, pottery, and even the cut out wood "holes" that formed the seats were often found.

Newer outhouses had a crescent moon cutout in the doors. However, older outhouses were gender separate. The crescent moon designated the women's privy while another outhouse with a sunburst cutout (looking like a star) designated the men's privy. These symbols served as a way to identify the privies during a time when few people could read. Over time, the men's outhouses fell into disrepair more often than the women's outhouses. A specific reason to explain this may be lost to history, but one can safely interpret the men started regularly using the women's outhouses instead of their own.

Fortunately, the luxury of an indoor bathroom in the past has become a standard feature in homes today. The simple, rural rancher of the Old West could have only imagined that someday a privy and a bathhouse would exist together indoors as a standard home feature.

I wrote many articles in the Ranch Record magazine of the Ranching Heritage Association. Over time, I'll post them on this back page.