

de Stolfe Journal

Candid

September 2015 | 4.9



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Candid Comments from the Producer



Closings, Openings, Positive Changes

We are now into October, and my summer job at the Temple Israel museum is weeks away from ending. I mentioned briefly in the last issue that I had some plans after this job ended. Well, here is the news.

After leaving Leadville, I will get back to Colorado Springs. I will stay there for about a week, just long enough to pack all of my stuff into a moving truck and head out. From there, I am leaving to go home. This has been a long time in coming, and now is the time get back home. While Colorado Springs, and even Leadville, were interesting and beautiful places to be, they can never replace home. In addition, these places were always temporary. At this point, I will be in Lubbock by November 10 or 11, 2015 and I'm planning to be in Texas for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. I'm working out the rest of the details, and will report them in later issues of the Journal.

As for this issue of the Journal, I am featuring a lot of historical elements, nature elements, and

some agricultural elements. With this being the harvest season, it only made sense to include these features at this time.

I am starting a little earlier this year to feature my handmade products. Some of the items are completely new while other items feature new colors or styles. Please give some serious consideration to purchasing any of my items for they are an additional source of income for me and they would make great stocking stuffers, even for your cats! *(See page 10.)*

My next several issues are going to be on a slightly different timetable to work around my move and the holidays. The October issue will arrive in shorter time from this issue for that reason, and probably the same for the November issue too.

I hope you like this issue, and as always, if you have a suggestion for something to include, please send me an email, give me a call, send me a text, or even send something snail like.

On the Cover

The fall colors of the aspen trees in Leadville are spectacular! What is a little more unusual is that a number of trees showed more yellow-orange to orange range than last year. But there are also many trees all over town that are a bright yellow making the trees glow in the sun!

Word for Life

Mark 4:3-8

3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Ever wonder about how some people just seem to always have things working for them? Usually, that is because they are doing things in a private, quiet manner known as sowing seed. Just as in the physical realm where a farmer plants seeds of a particular type in the spring then reaps that harvest in the fall, just the same does planting seeds of a non physical type reap a harvest in our lives. Okay, so what am I talking about with "seeds"?

Physical seeds planted produce the same type as the seed planted. So if you plant sunflower seeds, you can only get sunflowers. If you plant corn, you will only get corn, and only that particular variety of the seeds. In the non physical realm, if you plant love, you will harvest love. If you plant hate, you will harvest hate. You can only harvest the same seed sown. You cannot plant the seeds of doubt and expect to harvest certainty. You cannot plant the seeds of deception and expect to receive honesty. Do you get the point here? What you plant is exactly what you will get. In addition, you will receive 30, 60, or 100 fold of what you planted! Do you really want to plant the seeds of hate, then harvest 100 fold of hate in return? To quote Paul, certainly not!

So let's put this in the positive direction. If you plant the seeds of love, wouldn't you be ecstatic to receive a 100 fold return of love? Or if you plant the seeds of finances to reap a harvest of a 100 fold return of finances? Understand that our job is to plant the appropriate seeds, then water the seeds. God will take care of the growing and the harvest potential. That is not our job. In addition, we need to make sure that our heart is right when sowing otherwise the seeds become dead and produce nothing! Watering is also important. Physical plants need water to grow and not wither away. In the nonphysical realm, neglect is what will cause our seed to wither and die!

Saddle Break Reads

Facebook Posts—September 2015

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

September 3

A small sign of things to come in a very short while! *[see right]*

September 3

The rain clouds cleared out and left a clear evening.

September 5

This is my first weekend off since I started working back here in May! I have all the weekends off this month. Perhaps a sign of a normal work schedule to come later this year! (Of course, I'll be back to the other schedule in October.)



September 6

Hello all in Facebookland! I make and sell these paracord key fobs (military spec cord) that are about 5" long (the single cord is about 48" long). I currently have 7 colors with four more just recently added. The ones shown in order are turquoise, hunter green, purple, chocolate brown, multicam camo, red & black, and desert tan (photo is approximate, actual colors are a little darker than photo). The four new ones (not in the photo) are Woodland camo, blue camo, hunter orange, and yellow. (Note: the red and black is good for Texas Tech!) *[See more about these items on page 10]*

September 7

Interesting thing I just saw.



September 9

Just a thought. Leadville has a very short summer season, and even during the summer, the temps and climate rarely get to 80 degrees. Now in September, I am seeing signs that fall is here. With an old mountain mining town like this, you can imagine the lovely season surrounded by rustic 1800s buildings with the cool evenings, the aspen leaves starting to turn yellow, and the smell of wood burning in fireplaces. Fall last year was rather nice. But, I will be glad to be out of here before any real snow comes!

September 10

Don't leave out your cats, whether barn cats or house cats! Get them presents too! I have eight colors (see photo): High Sierra, Morning Sun, Green Camo, Night Watch, Blue-White-Red, Cranberry, Rouges, and Techsan (red and black). Please specify what color(s) you want. Made from high quality acrylic yarn, they average about 2.5" in diameter. They sell: 1 for \$3.50, 2 for \$5.50, 3 for \$7.50, 4 for \$9.50. Shipping is \$2 (any quantity), first class. (Contact me for more than 4 toys.) *[See more about these items on page 10]*

September 15

There's a fresh dusting of snow on the mountains. *[See right.]*



September 19

Today's trip on the Leadville train to see the golden aspens. This video and many more to be posted! *[Go to page 7 to see some photos.]*

September 22

Here are some photos from midday Monday. Beautiful skies at this time! *[Go to page 11 to see some photos.]*

September 23

Happy first day of fall!

September 27

Tonight's Blood Moon, Sunday night, September 27, 2015 (the last in the current tetrad). (Once the light faded out, my camera just couldn't focus on it.) Currently (About 9:15 PM MT), the moon is fully in the earth's shadow. *[Go to page 5 to see the moons.]*

September 29

On Saturday, I walked around the east side of Leadville to go to one of the mines that is open as a museum. Along the way, the trees were in top fall form! Enjoy! *[Go to page 11 to see some photos.]*



Saddle Break Reads

October Calendar

- 9.19-10.4.15—Oktoberfest
- 10.4.15—National Frappé Day
- 10.5.15—World Teacher's Day
- 10.12.15—Columbus Day
- 10.12.15—Thanksgiving (Canada)
- 10.16.15—Boss's Day
- 10.17.15—Sweetest Day
- 10.21.15—National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day
- 10.31.15—Carve a Pumpkin Day
- 11.1.15—All Saint's Day
- 11.3.15—Election Day



AAM Membership

As with any profession, professional organizations or associations provide memberships as a support mechanism for that particular profession. My degree is in Museum Science (or often called Museum Studies) and therefore my profession is museum work.

In the museum world several associations exist at multiple levels: state level, interstate level, national level, and international level. I am a member of two: the Texas Association of Museums (state level, since 2010) and the American Alliance of Museums (national level, since 2015). Most states have a state specific organization and most regions of the country have regional organizations. In addition, the international level is called International Council of Museums (ICOM) / Conseil International Des Musées.

Leadville Fire Truck

Here is the Leadville Fire Department's fire truck. Well, actually, this is an old, restored one they use for parades and discussions! I don't know the specific details about this one, but Leadville had many fire departments in the 1800s (or some called them unofficial drinking clubs!) See page 6 for a brief discussion about Leadville's fire hydrants.



Free.Bible

www.Bible.com has another new website. It is called www.free.bible and this special is for you to download the Bible app for your smart phone, tablet, and computer. Take a look!

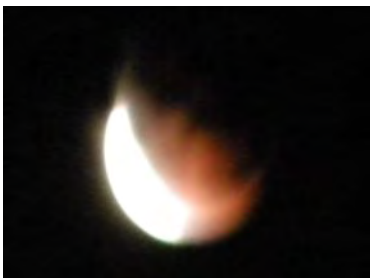
The Future is Here

Marty McFly and Doc Emmitt Brown went into the future from 1985 to October 21, 2015 to alter future history. Once they got there, the world was full of flying cars, hover boards, self belting shoes, self drying jackets, and relics from the 1980s. The Café 80s even featured Pepsi. For a limited time, Pepsi is offering exactly what Marty ordered at Café 80s! They are calling it Pepsi Perfect, and it will be a sugar based Pepsi in the same container as shown in the movie. In addition, Universal Studios will release a 25th anniversary version of the Back to the Future trilogy. Take a look at Pepsi's [promo video](#).

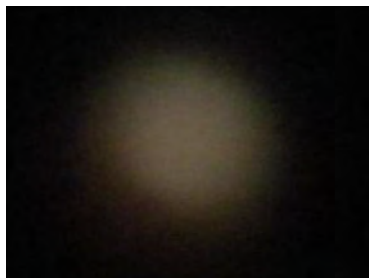


Blood Moon Tetrad

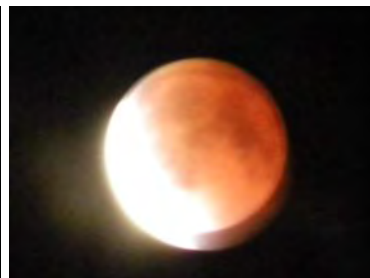
**I did not get a photo of this blood moon.*



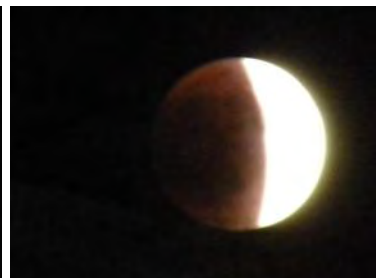
April 15, 2014



October 8, 2014



April 4, 2015*



September 27, 2015

Oktoberfest

The following passage and photos are from Wikipedia.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oktoberfest>

Oktoberfest is the world's largest Volksfest (beer festival and travelling funfair). Held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany, it is a 16 day folk festival running from mid or late September to the first weekend in October, with more than 6 million people from around the world attending the event every year. Locally, it is often simply called the Wiesn, after the colloquial name of the fairgrounds (Theresienwiese) themselves. The Oktoberfest is an important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since 1810.

The Munich Oktoberfest originally took place during the 16 days up to, and including, the first Sunday in October. In 1994, the schedule was modified in response to German reunification so that if the first Sunday in October falls on the 1st or 2nd, then the festival would go on until October 3 (German Unity Day). Thus, the festival is now open 17 days when the first Sunday is October 2 and 18 days when it is October 1. In 2010, the festival lasted until the first Monday in October (October 4), to mark the 200th anniversary of the event.

The festival is held in an area named the Theresienwiese (field, or meadow, of Therese), often called the Wiesn for short, located near Munich's centre. Large quantities of Oktoberfest Beer are consumed, with 7.7 million litres served during the 16 day festival in 2013. Visitors may also enjoy a mixture of attractions, such as amusement rides, sidestalls and games, as well as a wide variety of traditional food such as Hendl (roast chicken), Schweinebraten (roast pork), Schweinshaxe (grilled ham hock), Steckerlfisch (grilled fish on a stick), Würstl (sausages) along with Brezen (pretzels), Knödel (potato or bread dumplings), Käsespätzle (cheese noodles), Reiberdatschi (potato pancakes), Sauerkraut or Rotkohl/Blaukraut (red cabbage) along with such Bavarian delicacies as Obatzda (a spicy cheese-butter spread) and Weißwurst (a white sausage).

Oktoberfest 2015 was September 19 through October 4, 2015.



Main entrance to the Historical Oktoberfest



The Oktoberfest fairground (Theresienwiese) in Munich .

Historic Fire Hydrant

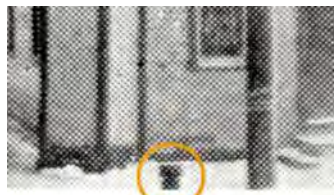
One feature of the Temple Israel building in Leadville that has stayed with the building is not even a part of the building! That object is the old fire hydrant. This hydrant has stayed despite changes of the buildings, the telephone and power lines, and the addition of paved roads and sidewalks!

The writing on the bonnet states:

B. HOLLY'S PATENT SEPT 14 1869
HOLLY MFG CO. LOCKPORT N.Y.
OPEN >----->

The Holly Manufacturing Company was established in May 1859 and "by 1881, over 100 cities in 35 states in the United States were using the Holly System of Water Supply and Fire Protection."

www.lockportcave.com/holly-manufacturing



*Temple Israel
1894*



*Temple Israel
1929*



*Temple Israel
Circa 1940*



Leadville Train for Leaf Watching

On Saturday, September 19, 2015 I went on the Leadville tourist train again this year to see the golden aspens! The train left Leadville, and traveled close to the Climax mine north of town a few miles. The entire trip took about three hours, half the time up and the other half back on the same tracks. Here are but a few photos I took with my iPad Mini.



www.leadville-train.com

I was here.



Leadville, Colorado: Marvel of the Present Age (1879)

In the late 1800s, towns did not have phones, therefore, they could not have phone books. However, many towns did have city directories, which was basically a precursor to a phone book, but without phone numbers. In Leadville, the first city directory was in 1879. In this little book was an introduction to Leadville, which only existed as an incorporated town for only about a year at that point. (Leadville had developed several years before then, however.) This introduction greatly explains the feel of this town even as early as 1879, while much of the town was still to develop in the next few years.

LEADVILLE.

The city of Leadville is one of the marvels of the present age. Two years ago it had no existence, while to-day it has its long streets and broad avenues many miles in extent, with large and handsome buildings on every side. Recently as August, 1877, only six rude log cabins were to be found, where to-day well designed edifices can be counted by the thousand. The numerous and well stocked business houses, the many elegant and well furnished private residences, the commodious hotels, theaters, churches and schools, together with the broad and well graded streets, give the city a decidedly metropolitan air. Hundreds and thousands of citizens and strangers are constantly passing and repassing through its crowded streets, a fact familiar to all residents, but a surprise to the new comer, who, upon his arrival here, finds himself reminded of Broadway [New York] or Canal street [New Orleans]. The city owes its existence, as well as its prosperity, to the numerous and rich discoveries of carbonate veins in the valley of the Upper Arkansas. To the residents of Leadville, who are familiar with the facts which we set forth in this chapter, upon their young, handsome and progressive city, the observations may seem somewhat digressive, but it must be borne in mind that our extensive circulation abroad, where all are desirous of obtaining accurate information of this prolific section, is our excuse for giving data which must not only interest but induce additional capital and immigration into our midst.

Leadville is situated in the valley of the Upper Arkansas, in a natural park or basin near the mouth of California Gulch, in Lake county, Colorado. It presents one of the most picturesque sites which can, be viewed anywhere in our youthful and prosperous State. The grand old mountains surround it on every side, whose numerous snow clad peaks tower majestically up in the far off distance, lending beauty and enchantment to the scene. The early history of this section is not devoid of interest. Following the Pike's Peak excitement of 1859 in the subsequent year, rich placer diggings were discovered in California Gulch which brought to this locality thousands of adventurous miners. For a few years this was one of the most prosperous mining camps in the west, yielding millions of treasure. As soon as these placers had been worked out the gulch became almost deserted, remaining so until 1874, when carbonate ores were discovered and their true quality determined. It was not, however, until about two years ago that the furore broke out regarding the camp, which gives strong promise of being the richest silver producing section in the world. Already millions have been extracted from the mines, and the yield of the present year is estimated at twelve million dollars. Ample smelting and sampling works are dotted around on every side, running and night, transforming the ore into bullion. Fully a dozen of these establishments are in operation, and others are fast being completed to meet the rapid increase in the production of ore.

There are at least a hundred paying mines contributing to the wealth of the country, while the rich prospects are almost innumerable. The camp has been, frequently the "poor man's camp" on account of the numerous rich strikes which have been made with comparatively little exertion and expense, and which have speedily enriched their owners, whose only outlay, in many cases, has been a brief period of well directed labor. Prospectors continue to delve on

every hill-side with success, and for many years to come extensive rewards remain in store for those who have willing hands and strong arms to aid in the development of the country. To give an idea of the extent that mining has assumed, it may be stated that one local company is operating upon a capital of twenty million dollars, and its properties promise to yield largely upon the investment. Other and numerous corporations and private individuals are doing proportionately as well with claims which have been but a short time under development.

The health of a country frequently elicits considerable inquiry. In this connection it can be stated that the city has an altitude of 10,200 [10, 152 specifically] feet above sea level, which occasions some new comers slight difficulty in respiration, but this is soon overcome by a brief residence. No contagious or infectious diseases exist, and the greater number of deaths thus far have been from pneumonia; this, however, must not be attributed so much to climate and local causes as to the careless manner in which many persons have lived. The pioneers had but little shelter other than their blankets, and many of them not being used to the rigors of a mining camp, succumbed to the fell destroyer. This has now all changed. Large and well furnished hotels, the accommodations of which are second to none in the State, are numerous, while cottages and cabins, contiguous to the business portion of the city, can readily be purchased or rented by those who come into our midst. A full supply of pure crystal water is distributed to the dwellings and public places through an extensive system of mains underlying our streets, while the security of the city is assured by an efficient fire department. Good sanitary regulations prevail under the supervision of a vigilant and well informed police. A regular city government exists, having a board of Councilmen, at the head of which is a Mayor, under whose direction all municipal matters are controlled. In point of law and order the city compares favorably with any of similar size in the Union, despite some reports having been circulated abroad to the contrary.

For bustle, liveliness and rapid progress, Leadville has not her compeer, and all indications point not only to a continuous, but to an increased prosperity. Building continues with unabated vigor, banks, hotels, stores, residences, churches and manufacturing establishments are springing up as though erected by the hand of magic. Businesses of all kinds are increasing daily. Aside from the purely local trade of the place, an extensive and lucrative business is being done with the many rich and prosperous mining camps within a circuit of twenty miles.

At present the city is reached by one day's travel, partly by rail, and partly by coach, from Denver, Canon City, Colorado Springs, or Georgetown. Three lines of railway are rapidly pushing for this rich goal, and ere a few months shall have elapsed, the shrill whistle of locomotives will wake the hitherto silent echoes of the Upper Arkansas. Everything in the way of business has been established upon a solid, though extensive basis. The merchants and the miners alike evince a meritorious enterprise, which is fast developing the country and giving it that importance to which it is so justly entitled. Already a Mining and Stock Exchange is in successful operation, while three well conducted daily newspapers furnish mental pabulum for extensive circles of critical readers.

Without proceeding into the statistical details of individual enterprises, which is hardly within the scope of such a work as this, the reader can form a pretty accurate idea of the extent and character of the business carried on in Leadville, by scrutinizing the list of names with their occupations, which at great labor, and with much care, we have prepared and set forth in this work.

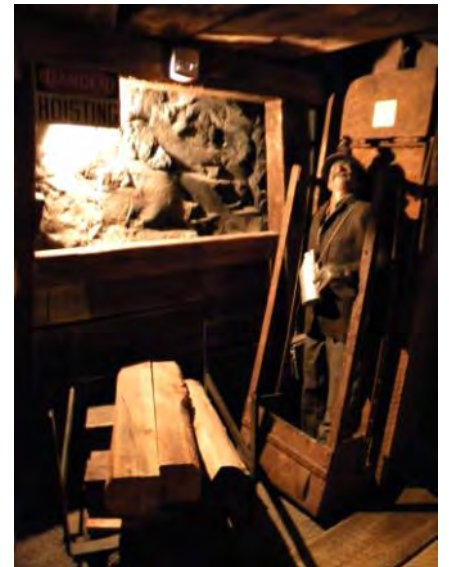
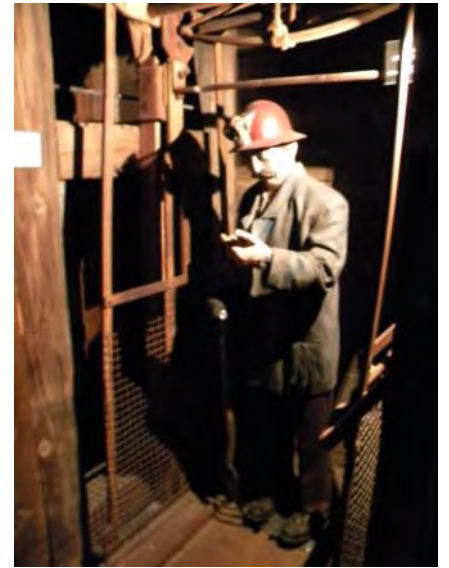
The field in and around Leadville for judicious investment is still quite extensive, and opportunities are frequently presenting themselves to be taken advantage of by the sagacious and energetic capitalist. In conclusion we can safely reiterate that Leadville is one of the marvels of the present age.

Museum and Exhibit Spotlight—Mining Museum

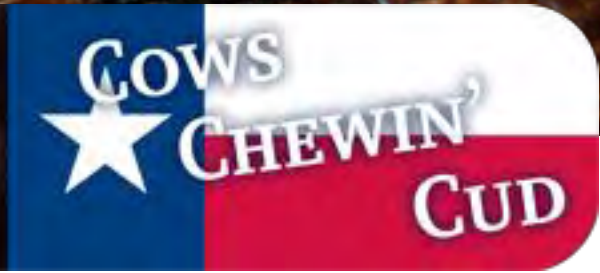
Occasionally, I will post some photos of a museum or exhibit. Well, I'm making that now an occasional feature!

For this issue, I am featuring a walk through diorama from the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in Leadville. This diorama features what an active mine shaft looks like from the late 1800s!

[National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum](#)



Christmas Gift Ideas!



Christmas is less than three months away. You can never be too early to consider gifts for those you love! Why not consider handmade items made in the United States? I'm talking about my handmade items! Here a few of the items I currently have available. Please contact me to purchase any of these items. rgdestolfe@yahoo.com, 806.470.5867.

Horse Nail Cross Keyring, \$7.00 each, shipping included!
Colors: Red, Green, Blue, Purple, Yellow, Gold, Copper, Bronze, Black, Silver



Paracord Key Fob, military grade, about 5" long, \$9.00 each, shipping included!
Colors: turquoise, hunter green, purple, chocolate brown, multicam camo, red & black, and desert tan.
Not shown: Woodland camo, blue rattler, hunter orange, and yellow.

Saddle Crosses

These Crosses are good for saddles, as Christmas tree ornaments, or even just to hang on the wall.



They are varying leathers, conchos, and colors with the Cross itself about 4.5" long. Your choice for \$10.00 each with free shipping!

Hairon soft leather

Available Colors



Yarn Ball Cat Toys, high quality acrylic yarn, \$5.00 each, shipping included!
Colors: High Sierra, Morning Sun, Green Camo, Night Watch, Blue-White-Red, Cranberry (one color), Rouges (two tone red), and Techsan (red & black)

Shiny rodeo chap leather, different colors on each side, with or without rowels. (Ones with rowels have them on both sides.)



Beautiful Early Fall Day

Around 1 PM September 22, 2015 the skies were just beautiful with crazy wind swept clouds high in the sky. The cool clouds only lasted for an hour or two before regular clouds and rain came in. I took these photos with my iPad Mini.



In Town Fall Tree Foliage

On Saturday, September 26, 2015 I walked around the east side of Leadville on my way to visit the Matchless Mine that is open as a museum. Along the way, the trees were in top fall form! (The cover photo is one of them.)



The Texas Report

10 Chicken Fried Steaks Worth Trying

By Travis Erwin

(Take a look at this site where I got this for the writer's version)

www.wideopencountry.com/10-chicken-fried-steaks-you-need-to-try

Pounded tender. Floured and deep fried to a golden brown. Served under a warm bed of gravy alongside a hearty pile of mashed potatoes. Few things are as all-American as a well-prepared chicken fried steak. Here are some of the best restaurants to try this ultimate comfort food.

10. Cowtown Diner

– Fort Worth, Texas

Go big or go home. You can attempt the Full O' Bull Platter: four pounds of gravy-smothered chicken fried steak, along with six pounds of mashed taters and 10 slices of Texas toast. It's free if you can eat it all by yourself.



9. The Brooklyn Star

– Brooklyn, New York

The Brooklyn Star is the Big Apple's best southern fried dining spot, and it's home to a delicious chicken fried steak. They call it a "country-fried steak", but you'll call it delicious.



8. Jongewaard's Bake-N-Broil

– Long Beach, California

The food is much easier to swallow than the name. This joint offers the best chicken fry in the Los Angeles area. Add the bonus of fine pies served at the in-house bakery and you'll waddle away mighty dang happy.



7. The Blue Plate

– Dothan, Alabama

At this delectable Alabama eatery, you can choose from the standard cream gravy, but try the meatier and richer brown gravy.



6. Relish Café & Bar

– Raleigh, North Carolina

Chicken fry and gourmet go hand-in-hand at this Raleigh hotspot. After you've had your fill of the tasty chicken fried steak, scope out the restaurant's market and take home some of the flavor home.



5. The Mason Jar *

– Colorado Springs, Colorado

The Mason Jar is down home cooking close to the mountains. The Mason Jar claims to have sold over a million of their chicken fried steaks and if so there are a million happy diners out there.



4. Rooster's

– Jackson, Mississippi

There's plenty to crow about Rooster's chicken fried steak. Try the red beans and rice for a savory side dish and the banana pudding as a sweet ending to a cock-a-doodle delicious meal.



3. Clanton's

– Vinita, Oklahoma

This legendary Oklahoma café has served up chicken fried steaks since 1927 and has been featured on TV shows and in countless magazines.



2. The 5 Point Café

– Seattle, Washington

The 5 Points Café serves up a delicious chicken fried steak, and they have brown gravy. This is the kind of place that takes multiple plates to serve your meal.



1. Gristmill River Restaurant

– Gruene, Texas

Under the water tower and nestled right next to the river this scenic place is just up the road from the famous dancehall Gruene Hall in central Texas. Dance the night away after you've satisfied your taste buds.



Okay, so most of these restaurants are not in Texas, but the whole concept of chicken fried steak and chicken fried chicken are as much Texan as the Alamo!

**I've been to this restaurant a few times since 2007, and I have had the chicken fried steak before. As I recall, it was tasty and their sweet tea was pretty good too (made with clean Rocky Mountain water!).*

The Texas Report

Oliver Loving

Oliver Loving was a cattleman and rancher in the 1800s. He was born in Hopkins County, Kentucky on December 4, 1812. His father was Joseph Loving and his mother, Susannah Mary Bourland. In 1833, he became a farmer in Kentucky and also married Susan (Doggett Morgan) Loving. Also during this time, they had seven children: Sarah Loving, James C. Loving, William Loving, Sue Loving, Joseph Loving, Annie Loving, and Margaret Loving. Then ten years later in 1843, he moved with his brother and his brother-in-law with the families to the Republic of Texas. In Texas, Loving received 640 acres of land in three patents spread through Collin, Dallas, and Parker counties (NE Texas). He farmed and hauled freight during these early years as a Texan.

In 1855, he moved his family to the future Palo Pinto County, Texas (Panhandle) where he ran a country store and ranched on Keechi Creek. By 1857, he owned a thousand acres of land. To market his large herd, he drove his cattle out of Texas up the Shawnee Trail, which made a profit of \$36 a head. On August 29, 1860, together with John Dawson, he started a herd of 1500 to Denver, Colorado to feed the miners of the area. They crossed the Red River, traveled to the Arkansas River, and followed it to Pueblo, Colorado where the cattle wintered. In the spring, Loving sold his cattle for gold and tried to leave for Texas. However, the Civil War broke out, and the Union authorities prevented him from returning to the South until Kit Carson and others interceded for him. During the war, the Confederate Army commissioned him to provide beef and to drive cattle along the Mississippi River. After the war, the Confederate government reportedly owed him between \$100,000 and \$250,000.

In 1866, having heard about the probable need for cattle at Fort Sumner in New Mexico, where eight thousand Indians were settled on a reservation, he gathered a herd and combined it with the herd of Charles Goodnight and began a long drive to the fort. Their route later became known as the Goodnight-Loving Trail. The two cattlemen sold beef to the army for \$12,000 in gold, and then Loving drove the stock cattle on to Colorado and sold them near Denver, while Goodnight returned to Weatherford (Parker County) in Texas, with the gold and also to get a second herd. The two men were reunited in southern New Mexico, where they went into partnership with John Chisum at his ranch in the Bosque Grande, about forty miles south of

Fort Sumner. They spent the winter there in 1866-1867 and supplied cattle from the ranch to Fort Sumner and Santa Fe.

In the spring of 1867, Loving and Goodnight returned to Texas, ready to start a new drive. This third drive was slowed by heavy rains and Indian threats. Loving went ahead of the herd for contract bidding, taking Bill Wilson, a trusted scout, with him. Although he told Goodnight that he would travel at night through Indian country, he pushed ahead during the day. A Comanche attack seriously wounded Loving at Loving Bend on the Pecos River. The weakened Loving sent Wilson back to the herd, eluded the Indians, and reached Fort Sumner with the aid of Mexican traders only to die there of gangrene. Before he died Goodnight assured him that his wish to be buried in Texas would be carried out. Loving then died on September 25, 1867. After a temporary burial at Fort Sumner, Goodnight drove the herd to Colorado. On the return trip, he had Loving's body exhumed, and they returned to Texas. Stories differ as to who accompanied the body back to Weatherford, but he was reburied in Greenwood Cemetery on March 4, 1868.

Loving was inducted in 1958 in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum). Loving County, Texas is named in his honor as well as the town of Loving, New Mexico. In addition, Loving Bend on the Pecos River is also named for him.



Oliver Loving, 1812-1867

His death was borrowed by novelist Larry McMurtry for his Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Lonesome Dove*. In the book, Augustus "Gus" McCrae is injured by Indian arrows and sends his companion Pea Eye Parker to retrieve Woodrow F. Call. McCrae makes it to Miles City, but dies of blood poisoning, despite having one of his legs amputated. Call, like Goodnight, brings him back to Texas to bury him.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Loving

On Facebook 6 Years

I first got on Facebook in July 2009. My first post was on July 25, 2009 and was about my then recent trip in June to Casper, Wyoming to attend the College National Finals Rodeo with the Texas Tech Rodeo Team. My post said,

"I recently went to Casper, Wyoming to go to the College National Finals Rodeo. Here are some photos of the Platte River I took while walking along the River Walk."



A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like A Medicine...

(Proverbs 17:22)

Funny Words from Arkansas

Chunk-floater

(n.): a heavy rain

Rain's coming. Yup, looks like a real chunk-floater.

Frog-strangler

(n.): an even heavier rain

Had a real frog-strangler last night that washed away all the seed.

Clumb

(v.): past tense of the verb to climb

I clumb up to the roof to patch the shingles after that frog-strangler we had.

Posties

(n.): the plural of those stakes you drive in the ground to run a fence on
I been out driving posties for the new fence all day.

Yo-yo fishing

(n.): a type of fishing in which you hang a device called a yo-yo from a tree limb over the water

Got about a pound and half of catfish per yo-yo last night. Good fishing!

Like to

(adv.): nearly, just about

Eagle's like to come get your fish if you leave them hanging there on your yo-yos all day.

Tarpoleon

(n): No, not Napoleon covered in tar, though that's what it sounds like. This is one of those plastic sheets you use to cover wood or haul leaves.

Danny, pull that tarpoleon up so it covers the hole in roof I couldn't fix.

Registration

(n): What you need for your car or to vote

What do you mean my registration ran out ten years ago, officer?

Bowed up

(adj.): You know when someone says something offensive or stupid and you kind of pull your head backward in recoil and your shoulders pull inward? That's bowed up.

Now don't get all bowed up about it, you know registration is expired.

Cattywampus

(adj.): Askew, off-kilter

You set the posties all cattywampus. How are we supposed to hang anything from them now?

Tump

(v): what happens when you turn around real fast and knock your coffee mug off the hood of your trunk and it spills out

My damn coffee tumped over!

www.wideopencountry.com/15-funny-arkansan-words-may-require-explanation

How to wash a cat

1. Put up both lids of the toilet and add a few squirts of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him to the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close the lids. You might need to stand on them.
4. At this point, the cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this!
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a power wash and a power rinse.
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that no one is between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand back behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will lick dry himself off.
9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.

(Take a look at the [Top 10 Photos of Wet, Angry Cats!](#))



Carpenter Gothic Architectural Style

In the September issue of the *de Stofje Journal Candid*, I had an article about Carpenter Gothic. This is the architectural style of the Temple Israel building where I worked in 2014 and 2015. This article expands a little more about the style and provides more examples.

Carpenter Gothic is an architectural style that was popular in North America. It was a Folk/Stick Style offshoot of the Gothic Revival movement specific to smaller, more rural wood framed structures instead of larger brick or stone buildings. Although the American Gothic Revival movement ranged from the 1840s through the 1860s, the Carpenter Gothic style extended later into the 1890s, particularly in the western United States.

Carpenter Gothic architecture features some combination of pointed arch windows, circle windows, tall square towers (usually with narrow pointed spires), minor buttresses, vertical board and batten walls or horizontal clapboarded walls, vergeboards or bargeboards, and steep pitched roofs (often with cross gables), among other details. Carpenter Gothic structures tended to be adorned simply as compared to the original Gothic style. However, some structures included more extensive decoration and trim.

Most Carpenter Gothic structures are houses or buildings of worship, especially Episcopal churches. Similar wood Carpenter Gothic structures are also in Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand.

For more general information about the Carpenter Gothic style, visit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carpenter_Gothic

The photos on this page show other examples of Carpenter Gothic structures from around the United States.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Prairieville, Alabama



Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo,
California (originally a Methodist church)



Grace Episcopal Church
Georgetown, Colorado



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Cahaba, Alabama



St. Paul's Chapel, Crownsville, Maryland



St. John's-In-The-Prairie Episcopal Church
Forkland, Alabama



Artist Grant Wood used the Dibble House in Eldon, Iowa as the background model for his famous painting *American Gothic*, 1930.



First Baptist Church
Methuen, Massachusetts

Classifieds

Blacksmiths, Horseshoers, and granary advertisements in Leadville, Colorado newspapers in the 1880s and 1890s.

HAY AND GRAIN.
HALLOCK & BURNHAM
 AT
 406 W. SECOND ST., SOUTH.
HAY & GRAIN
 AT
 STRICTLY WHOLESALE PRICES.
HEAVIEST STOCK IN LEADVILLE
 L. M. SMITH, Proprietor. L. J. SMITH, Cashier.
MERCHANTS AND MECHANICS'
BANK
Leadville, - - - Colorado.
 TRANSACTS
A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS

E. NUCKOLLS
 DEALER IN
HAY AND GRAIN,
 Common Sense Bob Sleds,
 All kinds of Mining Timber and Wood
 Furnished at Wholesale Prices.
 ALSO DEALER IN
Horses, Mules and all kinds of Wagons
 Cor. Chestnut st. and Lellier av.

RENTE & PERKINS,
PRACTICAL HORSESHOERS.
 Carriage and Wagon Blacksmiths.
 The best of work and satisfaction guaranteed.
 The best blacksmiths and horseshoers
 in the city.
Kitson Robinson,
 Wheelwright, Coach and Sign Painter
 322 EAST FIFTH ST., LEADVILLE, COLO.

L. B. MOW & CO.
 Hay, Grain, Flour and Feed
 VEGETABLES, BUTTER AND EGGS.
 NOW IS YOUR CHANCE FOR A BARGAIN!
 328 East Sixth Street.

BECKER BROTHERS,
 (Successors to Munser & Bernhart)
Wagonmakers,
Blacksmiths,
Horseshoers
 All kinds of Manufacturing and Repairing
 Horseshoeing a Specialty.
120 East Fourth Street.

CHAS. LEITZMANN,
Wagon Maker
 -AND-
BLACKSMITH.
 Heavy Ore Wagons and Hard Wood
 Sleighs Made to Order and
 Repaired.
ALL WORK GUARANTEED.
 Corner Elm street and Lellier Avenue
 Branch Shop, 502 Main Seventh st.

I. W. STEELE,
 117 East Fourth Street.
 Formerly of the St. Louis Bar ar.
 DEALER IN
 Horses, Mules, harness, Pack
 Saddles, Blankets, Etc.,
 Has just received a car load of
 first class heavy draft and driving
 horses and One of Saddle Horses
 and Pack Mules direct from Iowa.
 The stock is in first class condition
 and for sale.

**HORSESHOEING DONE WITH THE LEAST
 PAIN TO THE HORSE**

DAVID MOORE

I have returned to Lead-
 ville, and from this time on
 can be found at the stand
 formerly occupied by Hill
 & Perizo,
122 E. Third St.
 I make a specialty of
HORSESHOEING.

M. J. KILKENNY,
 Cash Dealer In
Hay, Grain and Flour.
 Goods retailed at wholesale prices. Prompt de-
 livery. Telephone no. 1000.
223 and 225 W. 3d.

LEA & PERRINS'
SIGNATURE

 is now
 printed in
 BLUE, diagonally
 across the OUTSIDE wrapper of every bottle of
LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE
 The Original and Genuine WORCESTERSHIRE, as a further pro-
 tection against all imitations.
 Agents for the United States, JOHN DUNCAN'S SONS, N. Y.

The Leadville Hardware Co.
 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
Hardware
 POWDER, CAPS and FUSE, IRON,
 STEEL, NAILS, PIPE, BRASS & IRON FITTINGS
 STOVES AND TINWARE.
305-307 Harrison Ave.
 All mail orders receive prompt attention.

J. H. KELLEY,
CARRIAGE AND WAGON MAKER
 Light work a specialty. Second hand vehicles always on
 hand for sale or exchange. Wagon and carriage painting.
 201 West Third Street, Corner Pine, - Leadville

Common Sense Horseshoeing
 Means no Hot Shoes put on Horses' Feet, that
 is What Geo. Burke is Going to do at
CORNER THIRD AND PINE STREETS.

GEORGE BURKE
 Has Removed His
HORSESHOEING BUSINESS
 From 203 West Third St. to
122 East Third St.
 Where He will be able to do all kinds of horseshoeing and blacksmithing to the sat-
 isfaction of his customers.

JACK TAMMANY. JACK HILL.
TAMMANY & HILL,
PRACTICAL HORSE SHOERS
 130 Chestnut St., Leadville, Colo.
 We have opened a First-Class Shoeing Shop, where
 we will treat lame horses with the greatest of skill.
 Truck and interfering horses a specialty.

Carson's Stage, Mail and Express Line!
 Shortest and Best Route to
 Twin Lakes, Everett, Independence, Aspen and Glenwood Springs.

 Direct connection with Eastern Trains at Granite, meeting the morning coach from Leadville
 at Twin Lakes. Stage leaves both the Leadville and Aspen office at 8 o'clock a.m.
GENERAL OFFICE, 118 HARRISON AVENUE.

HEADQUARTERS
 -FOR-
Groceries
 -AND-
PROVISIONS!
C. P. Basye
 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
GROCER.
 Third and Poplar
 STREETS.
 Everything Is Sold at
 Bed Rock Prices!
MAIL ORDERS
 SOLICITED.
 Proprietors of Hotels,
 Boarding Houses and
 Restaurants can SAVE
 from 15 to 25 per cent by
 buying of
C. P. Basye
 Teas, Coffees,
 and Sugars
 Direct from First Hands.
 The largest stock of
 Fancy and Standard
 Groceries in Leadville.
 Agent for the genuine
CREAMERY BUTTER,
 The Best Table Butter
 in Use.
IMPORTED
DELICACIES!
 Canned and Bottled Goods.
Third & Poplar
 STREETS.

Ranching and Farming— Growing Pumpkins

The pumpkin market is very much seasonal. Late summer and fall is when fresh pumpkins are ripe. However, most pumpkins produced in the United States are for food products and specifically for canned pumpkin or pie mix. Only a small percentage of the pumpkins produced is what you find in the stores in October. The top states growing pumpkins in 2012 was Illinois, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan. Approximately 90% of all pumpkins grown in the United States are within a 90 mile radius circle of Peoria, Illinois.

“The town of Morton, near Peoria in central Illinois, is the self-proclaimed Pumpkin Capital of the World. Morton is the location of a Libby’s® pumpkin processing plant (owned by Nestlé Food Company), which cans more than 85 percent of the world’s pumpkin each year.”

“Pumpkins can range in size from less than one pound to more than 1,000 pounds. Miniature-sized pumpkins weigh less than one pound and typically are used for decorative purposes. Pie pumpkins range in many sizes. The 5- to 10-pound pie pumpkin varieties are most often grown. Pumpkins in the 10- to 25-pound range are primarily used for jack-o-lanterns and can also be used for processing. Pumpkins above 25 pounds are called giant. Giant pumpkins typically range between 25 to 75 pounds in size.”

www.agmrc.org/commodities_products/vegetables/pumpkins



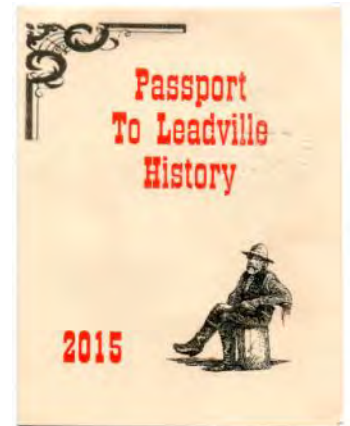
You're in a Movie, Charlie Brown

A new movie, *The Peanuts Movie*, is set to open on November 6, 2015. As part of the promotion, you can Peanutize yourself with a special web app to design yourself into a Peanuts character! Below is the closest version of myself I could get. It sorta looks like me. Why don't you try it for yourself?! www.peanutizeme.com



Leadville Passport Program

Every summer, Leadville has a passport program where someone can buy a passport and visit a range of museum for that one price. Despite being a free museum, Temple Israel was part of the passport program this year. I was able to obtain a free passport and so I visited all 7 of the museums and got my stamp (or signature) from each of them. The train was not part of the passport, but I got a stamp anyway and even got a free brass ornament!



Misc Photos in September



That's one BIG horseshoe!



The last of the summer flowers, California poppies.



Recent Bakings

I found this recipe on the internet that said this was the best brownie recipe. Okay. I tried it. I thought they were good, not necessarily the best, but still good.



These are "authentic" British scones (NOT biscuits!) sans the currants. They were really good, especially warm with butter, and maybe some jam. (Yeah, there are some missing the photo! And yeah, I ate them!)



Chicken Series: Winterizing

Winter will soon be here and that means you need to get your coop ready for cold weather (otherwise you will have lots of frozen chickens for winter meals). Nutrena has some steps for you to do to get your coop ready for winter and avoid issues that would put your chickens at risk of getting sick or death.

www.scoopfromthecoop.nutrenaworld.com/how-to-winterize-your-coop

Clean and disinfect feeders, waterers, and perches

- Healthy birds require a clean environment. Wash away microorganisms that have grown happy in the warm weather.
- Don't forget the perches and laying boxes! They are often forgotten during cleaning. Birds spend a lot of time in these places and bacteria is plentiful!

Muck out and deep bed your coop

- Remove the bedding you use in your coop and replace with a thick layer of pine shavings, sawdust, or straw.
- Pile the bedding up against the walls or leave a few bales of straw in your coop so if you need to remove some bedding during the winter during cleaning, you don't have to haul fresh bedding in.
- Piles of straw provide a warm place for chickens to cuddle through the coldest weather.
- Don't forget to place straw or other bedding in the nesting boxes. Soft, dried grass makes a great (free!) nest that protects eggs from cracking.

Feed and supplement your birds correctly

- Chickens need a source of calcium all year, so don't neglect providing oyster shells in winter.
- To stimulate the scratching instinct and keep birds entertained, provide scratch grains periodically.
- To beat boredom, consider adding a Scratch Block to the coop for a healthy distraction!

Check for drafts

- Drafts can cause respiratory problems and sickness in your flock.
- Check for drafts where your chickens roost and spend most of their time when in the coop.
- Make any repairs to your chickens' house while the weather is still fair.

Set up heat lamps and water heaters

- Develop a plan so your chickens have access to fresh, unfrozen water 24 hours a day.
- Frozen water is no fun. Set up your heating devices early so you're prepared and safe.
- If you use a heat lamp, make sure you have a spare bulb.



I want to be warm too!

Upcoming Issues

The next issue is the October 2015 issue (4.10).
Here's a preview of topics to come in future issues.

+ Back Page Literature

I'll include the last of my Texas History book reviews.

+ Ranch Photos

I recently acquired a group of historic photos of ranches, cowboys, and farms. I'll include some of them.

+ Leadville Wrap Up

My job in Leadville comes to an end. I'll provide a summary of my time in Leadville.

+ Cats, Horses, and Comics

Time to include some more fun animals.

+ Farming: Cotton!

Discussion of cotton farming in West Texas.

+ Coffee Basics

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

+ 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!

+ TTYL <3 U

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

RG de Stolfe



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only until Nov 2, 2015]

PO Box 734
Leadville, Colorado 80461

Back Page Literature

Texas and Texans in the Civil War by Ralph Wooster

In the summer of 2002, I took a Texas History course while I was a grad student at Texas Tech University. It was a summer course of only about five or six weeks in July and August that covered an intensive, condensed version of the regular Texas History course. Part of what we needed to do for the class was weekly book reviews. These reviews only needed to be a few pages of a review of whatever books that relate to Texas history of any time period and subject. Here is a third book review of the four I did.

Ralph Wooster retired in 1991 as a professor at Lamar University teaching history (?). He is a member of or a past president of several Texas-based historical associations. Another book he wrote became an official state textbook for Texas history for seventh grade. This book is meant to summarize the contribution of Texas and Texans during the Civil War and show how they made a contribution or major impact to every aspect of the Civil War. First is a summary.

The southern states of the United States declared that if Abraham Lincoln was elected president during the election of 1860, those states would secede from the Union. Lincoln was elected. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina seceded followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana in January 1861. Governor Houston opposed Texas from seceding but eventually called for a special legislative session, which later organized a Convention of Texas to address the issue of secession. Slavery was a major issue in the presidential election of 1860 and started causing major polarization of views. The slave population in Texas exploded between 1836-1860 (By 1860, 30.2% of the Texas population were slaves. The Convention of Texas discussed, voted on, passed, and signed on favoring secession by a vote of 166:8. Texas was the only state in the south to actually let the citizens of Texas vote whether or not to secede from the Union. On March 2, 1861, Houston officially declared Texas separated from the Union. Oath of support to the Confederate States of America by the Texans was required by noon on Saturday, March 16. However, when Governor Houston and Secretary of State E. W. Cave did not respond, the convention passed an ordinance that the two positions were vacant. Houston then sent a letter to the people of Texas as well as to the convention stating that the convention abused the power granted to them and so he considered the actions by the convention null and void. Houston did later resign as Governor of Texas.

The next Governor of Texas under the Confederacy was Edward Clark. He moved quickly to meet Texas' military obligations. He divided the state into military districts and appointed heads for each. Many Texans enlisted to the Infantry, but most enlisted to the Calvary. Twenty five thousand Texans were recruited with two thirds of them in the Calvary. Governor Clark himself stated, "The predilection of Texans for Calvary service, found as it is upon their peerless horsemanship, is so powerful that they are unwilling in many instances to engage in service of any other description unless required by actual necessity." Recruitment soon became more difficult as the months continued in 1861. In the beginning, the Confederate uniforms varied like the plumage of a parrot, especially with the coats and hats.

Similarly, the firearms varied as a result of the need for the individual enlistee to provide his own firearm. Upon leaving for war, many Texans were loaded down with stuff. Half of present day New Mexico was part of the Texas annexation and Texas wanted the land to become part of the confederacy. The southern half of the territory (called Arizona) was in favor of the Confederacy because they have wanted recognition as a separate territory since 1854. On August 1, 1861, Lt Col John Baylor proclaimed the southern half of the New Mexico Territory to be the Confederate Territory of Arizona. Henry Hopkins Sibley convinced President Davis that he could easily take over the rest of the New Mexico Territory. After some successes but then a lost supply train forced the confederate forces to retreat because of limited supplies and potential Union forces from California. This ended the confederate control of the entire New Mexico territory as well as the existence of the Territory of Arizona. Francis Lubbock was elected the next governor of Texas by an extremely close margin with Edward Clark.

Mr. Wooster continues with chapter two and three discussing the details of specific battles and the particular maneuvers of each battle. He talks about the attempt of the Confederacy to obtain Missouri with the battle of Pea Ridge and the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, the battle of Sharpsburg with Hood's Texas Brigade. The war came to Texas in the fall of 1862 with the raid of Sabine then the takeover of Galveston. The Confederates recaptured Galveston in January 1863. Texans were sent to Louisiana in waves to help save Vicksburg and Port Hudson, but without success. Both towns were surrendered to the Union forces. The battle of Gettysburg proved to be a major defeat for the Confederacy while the battle of Chickamauga was a victory but with a heavy price, high casualties. Other areas of south Texas were again threatened as battles continued through 1863.

All of the other chapters in this book deal with the different phases of the war except chapter four which discusses life in Texas during the war. Wooster starts by talking about the Texas and Confederate debts and the need for more revenue by the state. Consequently, the revenue was collected from ever increasing and new taxes. Also, the creation of the State Military Board was authorized to exchange bonds to purchase needed supplies, among other responsibilities. Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri held the Marshall conference to express concerns to President Davis that these states feared being neglected, especially after the Union capture of New Orleans and Memphis along with Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, and Port Hudson. With these areas under Union control (thus controlling the Mississippi river), the western confederate states held a second Marshall conference to discuss what can be done in order for these state to remain in the Confederacy. After Lubbock, a "wild race" for governor took place with Pendleton Murrah winning. Also three new Texan members were elected to the Confederate Congress. Governor Murrah did have his dealings with the Confederate military as well as creating confusing new laws. Murrah wanted to maintain Texas sovereignty over increasing confederate needs, especially with military recruitment. Another issue occurring at the same time was with the Cotton Office and the buying and selling of cotton to the state

with the State Plan. Murrah had quite a dealing: quarrels about conscription, cotton, states' rights, and Confederate Unionists, people who were opposed to secession from the beginning but did give support to the Confederacy. These Texan Unionists were a force to reckon with as many did flee Texas and serve in Union forces. Those who did not flee stood ground not to participate in Confederate forces, such as the Germans in the Hill Country.

Another major concern for the Confederacy and Texas was increasing and constant shortages of supplies and food. Some items like salt could be obtained locally, while other items required often creative substitutes, though not all the substitutes were acceptable. Texas beef was a good source (almost 3 million head), but movement of the cattle proved difficult, especially after the Union control of the Mississippi river region. Texan women very often took a huge roll with food and supply substitutes and with businesses and professions. Slaves often continued to be loyal to their respective family, often because no other opportunities existed. Texans tended to continue living life in much the same ways as before the war. Churches continued and provided some comfort. Many Texans served in the confederate military with many of them wounded or dead due to combat or disease. The Texans continued to be successful and influential in the postbellum south as pages and pages of the last chapter are dedicated to telling what happened to a variety of people after the war.

Texas and Texans in the Civil War includes seven chapters (a total of 203 pages of text) with a 2.5 page preface, 51 pages of endnotes, 33 pages of bibliography, and 17 pages of index. The chapters were not too terribly long with the longest chapter at 37 pages. The endnotes were organized by chapter and seemed extensive for most of them in the addition information they gave. The bibliographic sources used include primary sources of manuscripts (letters), articles, books, and newspapers. The primary manuscripts were obtained mainly from the University of Texas Archives and the Texas State Library. Secondary sources used were mostly books along with articles, dissertations, and theses (with 9 of the articles written by Wooster).

This book seemed to be easy to read and written with simple language. Mr. Wooster makes great use of details and facts, but does tend to be over explicit about each battle and the specific actions made during that battle. When reading this kind of detail—unless a person was a military historian—the purpose of a particular discussion becomes lost. Another slight problem was that the information was not strictly in date order, therefore events and battles were slightly mixed in order, which became confusing. The material seemed to be objective but focused mostly with Confederate issues then sub focused with Texan issues. The second half of chapter four seemed to be the only part of the book that was not about military issues or political issues. More discussion of the non military, non political issues of Texas seem needed to make the book more rounded of information, despite the all consuming nature of the Civil War during that time. In a more positive light, this book is great for discussing military history in Texas during the Civil War and is a great resource for this type of strategical information.