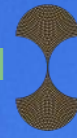




de Stolfe Journal



12.6 : EARLY FALL 2023



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12.6 : EARLY FALL 2023

Covers activities from September to early November 2023.

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ON THE COVER



This is the dome of the Idaho Capitol building in Boise taken after sunset just before the skies turned into black night on Friday, September 22, 2023. We were in Boise to work a marathon event.



This is an old postcard I bought off eBay after visiting this site called Tree Rock, which is now I-80 in southeastern Wyoming.

We live in the 21st century, not the 1920s! Wherever there is a web link like below, click it to go to the webpage it references! (Click it now!)

www.destolfe.com





Robert A. de Stolfe
1942 - 2023 (80)
Dad

COMMENTS BY RG

Happy New Year!

Well, I'm not exactly known for being on time or even for being near punctual, and so it is with this issue of the journal! But at the same time, I have had quite a few things happen over the last few months! Let me back track just a little bit.

I started a new full time job back in mid June, and that job also included some occasional travelling, which you have already seen posted in my last two issues. This issue includes another major travel for another event where we went to Boise, Idaho at the end of September! At least half of the pages in this issue covers that trip.

Another major reason for the delay of this issue is also from a bit of sad news that most of you already know. My dad unexpectedly died at the end of October, and I have already taken two separate trips in November and December to Colorado Springs to deal with the estate and with the many things that go along with that. The next issue of the journal will include some details of those two trips, and I will also include more information about Dad. This issue has one page prior to this one that announces his death.

Besides all of that, I also travelled to see friends for Thanksgiving and did a day trip on Christmas day. These are more things I will cover in the next issue. And speaking of the next issue, I am likely not going to have it out before the end of 2023, but I will still include it as a 2023 issue even if it comes out in the middle of January! That is just what I am going to have to do, so I request understanding as I try to get caught up!

I have many topics I want to include in this issue, but to keep is a reasonable length and to be able to get this issue even finished, I have reserved those other topics for future issues of the journal as I have room enough to keep the journals within a reasonable 25 to 35 page length. I am not particularly lacking in interesting content, but some of it also requires some research and writing out first.

This has been a busy fall with these things I have already mentioned, but also with the events my job has worked. We worked the regular home football game tailgates in September, October, and November for Texas Tech University here in Lubbock, Southern Methodist University in



Dallas, and University of Houston in Houston. Along with that, we worked some of the TTU womens soccer games and worked marathons in Boise, Chicago, and New York City, among many other events in various cities in various states, as well as in Lubbock. I should also note that Dad was excited for me to start working this job and for the various travel opportunities that would arise. I personally did not go to every one of these events as we have several people who each went to different events in their respective locations either singly or in pairs. I was usually a second person if the others did not work the events alone.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

RG

WORD FOR LIFE

Revelation Topics - Being Kings and Priests

Did you know that when you accept Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord, He has not only forgiven you of your sins and cleansed you of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9), He has also upgraded you to be a king and a priest for God the Father? While you might consider yourself unworthy or even unable to be a king or priest, Revelation 1:5-6 states in part, "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father..." To be more clear, Revelation 5:9-10 states that the 24 elders sang, "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by

Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Now what does this mean that "we shall reign on the earth"? Well, it means exactly that! In this current life on earth, we have authority and victory over the enemy in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:57) and by His shed blood and we are ambassadors of Christ on the earth (2 Corinthians 5:20). However, at God's appointed time, He will rapture His church from the earth to be caught up in the air with Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). For those who are left

behind, it will be a long and scary seven years of tribulation on earth until Jesus returns to the earth followed by His saints (Revelation 19:11, 14, 15). We are those saints, those who were raptured! With Satan sealed in the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3), Jesus will rule with the saints on earth for 1000 years, a millennium (Revelation 20:4-6). That is what the 24 elders were singing about in reference to reigning on the earth. We in our glorified forms (Philippians 3:20-21) will corule with Jesus (Revelation 20:6) for those 1000 years.

Now, Revelation 20:4-6 provides some clarification. Of those who are left behind,

God does allow for those people to get saved, but at risk of being executed for belief in God during the reign of Satan. For those who are left behind, He warns of them not to take the mark of the beast nor to worship the beast or his image! Those who do die standing for Jesus during the tribulation period, they will also reign with Jesus during the millennium, referred to as the first resurrection. For those who are raptured, they do not actually die but transition from an earthly form to a glorified form in a "twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).



WORD FOR LIFE

Revelation Topics – Being Kings and Priests

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 Corinthians 15:57

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:20

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ...”

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 19:11, 14, 15

11 Now I [John] saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

14 And the armies [saints] in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 ... And He Himself will rule them [those left on the earth] with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Revelation 20:1-3

“1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished...”

Revelation 20:4-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Philippians 3:20-21

“20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

“51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

RANDOM THINGS



I brought back out my fall wreath.



Had some hail at the house on October 4, 2023.

The proper way to eat pumpkin pie.



Photo Contest

In the late summer, I submitted some photos for a calendar contest sponsored by Gebo's. In recent years, they have created a calendar with photos submitted by customers. A good while went by before I finally heard back about my submission, but I eventually found out that they chose one of my photos for the calendar! Besides the photo being included in the calendar, I also got a gift card for \$25 as a winner! I held on to the gift card and spent it on Black Friday after Thanksgiving.



*This is the photo they chose to be in the calendar.
This is the gift card I got as a winner.*



RANDOM THINGS

60 Years, Kennedy Assassination

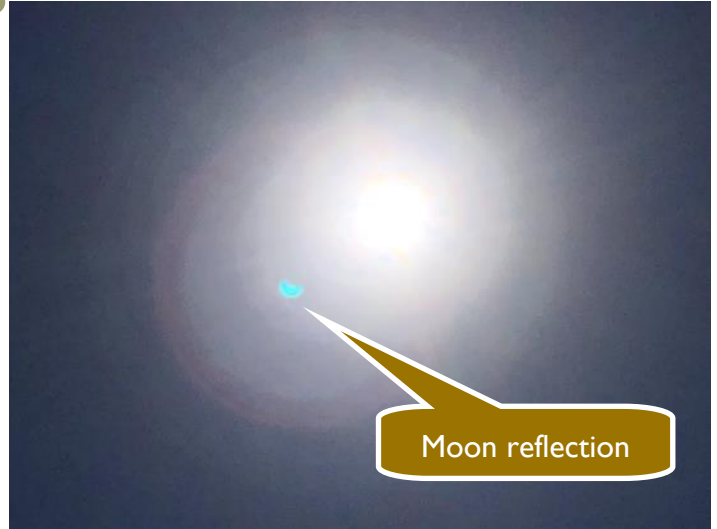
John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was fatally shot on Friday, November 22, 1963 while in a presidential motorcade going through Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. He was only in office for less than three years at the time of his death.

I went to Dealey Plaza in Dallas while on a Fourth of July weekend trip with mom in 1998. I

did not know about the Sixth Floor Museum at the time.



*John F. Kennedy
35th President of the United States*



*Solar eclipse on October 14, 2023 about noon.
(This was the best that my phone could get.)*



Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas. July 1998.



*While at Raider Alley during Parent's Weekend on
September 30, Vanilla Ice was the headliner!*



*I saw this billboard, an
electronic billboard with
rotating ads, showing about
praying for Israel after the
war there started in
September 2023.*

RANDOM THINGS

20 Years at West Texas Church

On October 22, my church celebrated its 20 years of the current pastorship. Pastors Ted and Jan took over the existing church in early 2003, just a few months prior to my first time attending. The church itself had existed for nearly 10 years (I think) prior to that time. With different leadership. The church was originally started by Glenn and Ann Smith. We met at the Lubbock Stockyards building until getting our own building in 2005, which was expanded in 2009.



Some crazy skies during the day of October 22 followed with a nice sunset later in the day.



I drove by these guys on October 22, 2023. I stopped and walked over to get photos of these Texas longhorns all sitting and probably chewing cud. This area is at the northwest corner of 19th Street and Milwaukee Avenue and is called the Lazy S Rock Ranch.

HUB CITY BBQ COOKOFF

On Thursday, October 5, I went to and worked at the Hub City BBQ Cookoff. They hired us to work the event with two of our screens. Once the screens were set up, the rest of the event for us was basically free to roam. It was at the South Plains Fairgrounds. The cookoff had many entrants with each having a tent set up and their means of cooking. They competed in whatever categories they wanted and had the awards ceremony before it was open to the public to graze. This event has been going on for 24 years, but somehow I had never gone to it! We were up and running by about 4:00 PM, and the private awards ceremony was before 5:00 at which point they let in the public. The large open area near the fairground buildings was where there were many rows of tents of people and businesses with their food. Once you were in the area, the food was free, but the public did have to buy tickets to attend. All of the food and drinks were included with admission.

After a while, we walked around, and there was plenty of food to eat! We certainly did not go to every booth to try everything, but I went to several booths in several rows to get some yummy food! I had gotten sausage, sliced brisket, chopped brisket,

pulled pork in several booths, and pulled pork tacos on wheat and corn tortillas. Many booths also had some desserts for as long as they lasted. I had a sample of Sopaipilla cheesecake, banana cake, and brownies. But I didn't eat much of the desserts because I went back to get more of the various meats. There were also several sides I got including beans, coleslaw, and salsas, especially for the tacos.

Once I was happily full, I did not do a second round, but drinks were also free and found at drink tents. Most of what they had were alcoholic, but they did have one booth with sodas and water. I went with the lime Topo Chico, which interestingly tasted like an unsweet Sprite. For the rest of the time, I just kind of sat in the shade near the screen watching everyone else chow down on BBQ and playing games that were nearby. There was a lot of food available to eat, and if anyone left hungry, it was their own fault!

This was the first time I had ever been to the Hub City BBQ Cookoff, and I thought it was pretty good. It was dark by the time we got things shut down and packed up. We will be working the event again next year, so I'll be able to go again next year.



PUMPKIN HUNT

Apple Orchard and Pumpkin Patch

On Saturday, October 7, I decided to go get some pumpkins like I did the last two years. On the way, I also stopped by an apple orchard. I left in the early afternoon towards the town of Idalou located to the northeast of Lubbock. Further east of there, I stopped at a place called Idalou Harvest Company, a long standing apple orchard that was there when I moved to Lubbock in 2001, but has recently changed hands several times the last few years. I looked around, and ultimately bought some apples before moving on. The main destination was to the Assiter Pumpkin Ranch just south of Floydada in the county northeast of Lubbock. It's about 45 minutes from my house. Not having a whole lot of money this year, I focused mainly on getting one bag of little pumpkins and a few other miscellaneous pumpkins. While there, I looked around at the various little attractions they set up for photos and fun. I looked at the animals in particular. I was only there for about 20 minutes before heading back home.



My small stash for 2023.



Alpacas and sheep were in the pen nearby.

The Assiter Pumpkin Ranch is just across the Floyd County line on Highway 62.



WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO

Another event my job had was for the St. Luke's FitOne marathon in Boise, Idaho. We needed to go from Lubbock to Boise, which took us three days to get there so we could set up for the race that started in the early morning on a Saturday. Our part of the race was done before noon. We then left Boise after we packed up and took three days to get back home. Our time in Boise proper was very short, but we got to see many things along the way and go to places we had not gone to before.

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Once we got everything loaded up from the shop in Lubbock, we headed to I-27 and made a stop at the Flying J truck stop for fuel and snacks before getting on our way about 10:45 AM to Amarillo. We went over to Soncy Road as I usually did when I would go that way. We stopped for gas and a break, but we ended up going a few businesses down and had lunch at Firehouse Subs. I thought we would go a little further before stopping for lunch, but it was lunch time, so we ate. Once on the road again, we made our way over to Tascosa Road to get to US 385. From Soncy, there were various levels of construction until we got to US 385. From there, we went north and except for a little bit of construction most of that road was clear. After we got to Dalhart about 3:00 PM, we stopped at a small gas station further west of Dalhart not realizing that just a little further down was a

Love's! That would have been better, but okay. From there, we just drove straight through the corner of New Mexico to Raton as I have done many times before. We stopped at a truck stop on the east side of I-25 for gas and a bathroom break. Just before we left, we saw a very large vehicular contraption of multiple sections totaling 18 tires on 9 axles! It was long and quite heavy driving slowly. Not quite sure what it was or how it is used, but it is obviously used for heavy hauling. We then got on I-25 and continued north through Raton Pass, which seemed very quick and easy this time. We did not make any other stops between Raton and Denver. By this point, it was getting sunsetty, and our goal for this day's drive was to get to Denver. Our hotel was at the very south end of the Denver metroplex in a town called Englewood. Our hotel was a Drury Inn located right next to the interstate just off Dry Creek Road. A light rail tram system went right past the hotel above the hotel. We got there a little after 7:30 PM, and it was pretty much dark. We checked into the hotel and saw that there was a Bono's BBQ right next to the hotel, which sounded good. Their website showed that they closed at 9:00, and we got there a little after 8:00. But they said that they were only doing to go orders after 8:00. We wanted to sit and eat, so we skipped it and ended up just having a pizza from Pizza Hut delivered to the hotel, much like we did in Louisiana with that trip to Tampa. We did gain an hour after getting into New Mexico, and we piddled until we were tired, around midnight.



We stayed at the Drury Inn & Suites in Englewood, Colorado.

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO

Thursday, September 21, 2023

This day was the travel beyond where we have been before. We left the hotel around 10:30 AM and drove through the middle of the Denver metropolplex. There was some traffic in the downtown area, but it thinned out as we went further north. It only took about an hour and a half to get to the Wyoming border, getting there about noon. A short drive further, we stopped at a Love's for a little while for gas and a break. We were not in Cheyenne proper, but in an area just southwest of it near the I-80 turnoff, about a mile further north. About 12:30 PM, we got on I-80 going west. Most of this drive across southern Wyoming on I-80 was vast nothingness as far as the eyes can see! After a couple of hours, we went over the Continental Divide at an elevation of 7000'. The landscape was mostly flat and level on the eastern

side near Cheyenne, but as we went further west to the other end of the state, the landscape got more rolling and hilly until we got to the mountainous areas in the west, the Rocky Mountains. We stopped at a Love's in Wamsutter in the middle of Wyoming, and we also stopped at a Pilot in Evanston near the Utah border. In this area, there were some very dark clouds and rain and the temp dropped to 39°. We got to the Utah border a little after 6:30 PM and continued on I-84 after a short rest stop. After about 30 minutes, we got on I-15. We decided to go to the nearest Culver's for dinner, which was a little south of the hotel, getting there before 8:00 PM. After dinner, I went to the nearby Smiths grocery store just to see what they had before we left to the hotel. Once at the hotel in Ogden a few miles away, we checked in and rested until going to sleep.



A field of large square bales of hay in northern Colorado on the way to Cheyenne.



In this area of northern Colorado, this would be part of the central plains

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO



I saw this interesting wind device north of Denver.



Saw this metal truss bridge while on I-80 in Wyoming. It is the Old Highway crossing over the North Platte River near Fort Steele.



This was on the cover of the last issue. These are wild sunflowers I saw just outside of Cheyenne while at a rest stop.

This was the Fakawee's Family Restaurant & Bar with a Sinclair station in Wamsutter, Wyoming. It is now across from Love's.



This is the Green River Tunnels located right at the edge of the town of Green River, Wyoming located by the Green River. The tunnel is 1138' through a rock ridge.

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO

Friday, September 22, 2023

We had a good night's sleep and left the hotel around 10:30 AM. It was a cloudy and cool morning and looked like rain for part of our drive. I wore my flannel shirt for the first time since spring. We got to the Idaho border in about an hour around 11:30 AM with a temp of 48°. After about 45 minutes, we crossed over the Snake River. A few minutes later, we stopped at Love's in Burley. We stopped at another Love's about an hour later in Bliss. This Love's was larger and more extensive with a store, bathrooms, showers, 2 restaurants, a dog park, big truck area, even more parking, and a repair shop, along with CAT scales. This was probably a newer location. We continued on and crossed the Snake River again around 2:30 PM. A short time later, we had a slowdown for about 10 minutes from construction. We got to the hotel in Boise about 3:40

PM. Right next to the hotel was a Cracker Barrel, and we decided to eat there first since we had not eaten much today. After we ate, we checked in to the hotel and rested for a very brief time we needed to head over to the venue to set up. We got to the venue about 6:00 PM which was our scheduled time, but the downtown area was only starting to block off the roads. The starting point of the race was right across from the Idaho Capitol building. Eventually, the area got set up step by step, and we got our trailer in place. We ended up being there to about 10:00 PM before we got to leave. Most of our time was waiting while other areas got set up by other people. On our way back to the hotel, we stopped at McDonald's for a late dinner. It was quite late by the time we got back to our room knowing that we had to be back at the venue by 5:00 AM. Fortunately though, that time was only when we needed to be there and not when the race started as I originally thought!



Between Ogden and the Idaho border, the skies were cloudy and it was much colder than yesterday.



I think I'll skip this exit.

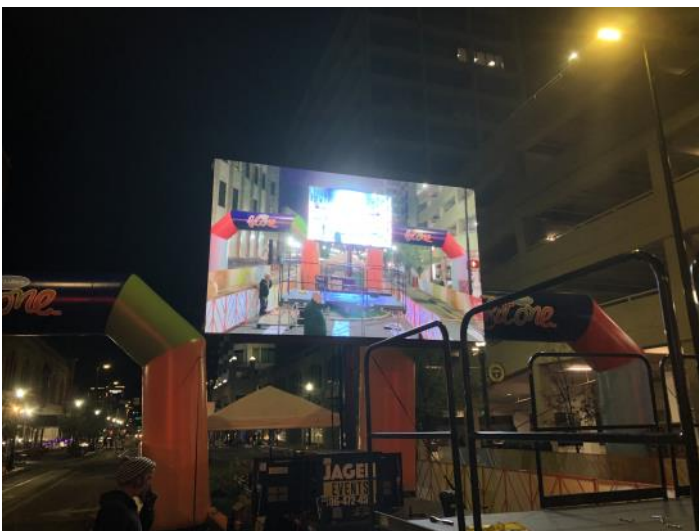


Abandoned barn near Tremonton, Utah.

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO



This is the Capitol building for Idaho in Boise near sunset. The marathon started near here.



This is our 17'x10' LED screen positioned in between the start lines. This was the night before while getting everything set up.

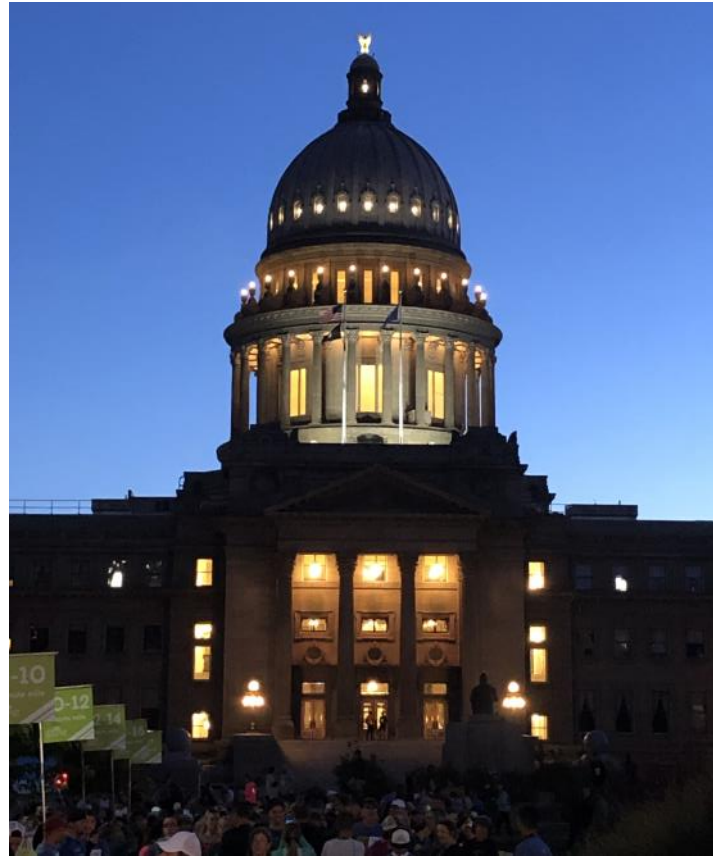


Before going back to the hotel, we stopped at this unique McDonald's for a snack.

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO

Saturday, September 23, 2023

I only got about three or four hours of sleep before we needed to wake and leave to the venue by 5:00 AM. I ended up not getting cleaned up because we just did not have enough time. What sucked about this stay was that the hotel was really nice and we were not able to enjoy it for very long because we were going to leave by noon. We got there a little after five, which was the time the crew was also there. We got things up and running and just had to wait. There were apparently several races and started at staggered times. The waves of races started between about 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. I took video and photos before and during each wave. After the last wave around 10:00 AM, the crew started tearing down because the end of the races was in a different location. Our process to tearing down and packing was quick, but we had to wait on everyone else around us to pack up before we could leave. Sometime around 11:30, we were able to finally get our trailer out. We needed to do a few little things before leaving, and I went around the area briefly to get some photos. We were finally on the road a little before noon. After about 15 minutes, we got on I-84 heading back to Utah on the same route as we came. The distance we needed to travel was relatively short, and so we were not in a huge rush to get back to Ogden.



The Idaho Capitol building before sunrise.

The first wave of the St. Luke's Fitone marathon started about 7:30 AM. Here are the runners ready for the countdown.



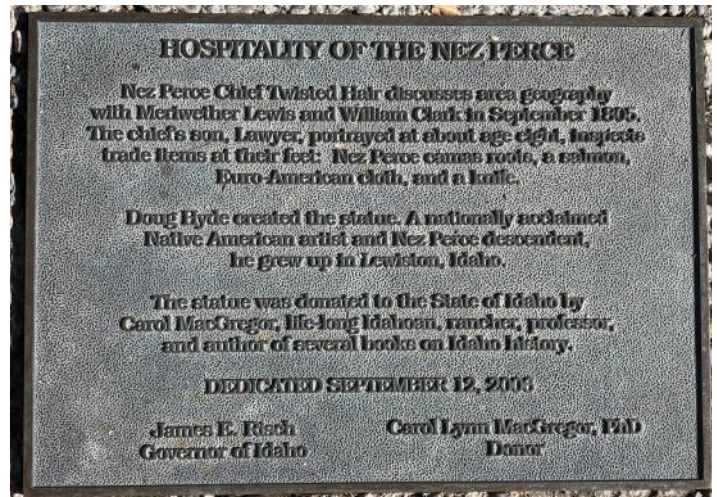
WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO



A different view in the late morning of the Idaho Capitol building in Boise. The park out front is called the Cecil D. Andrus Park. There are several sculptures in this park.



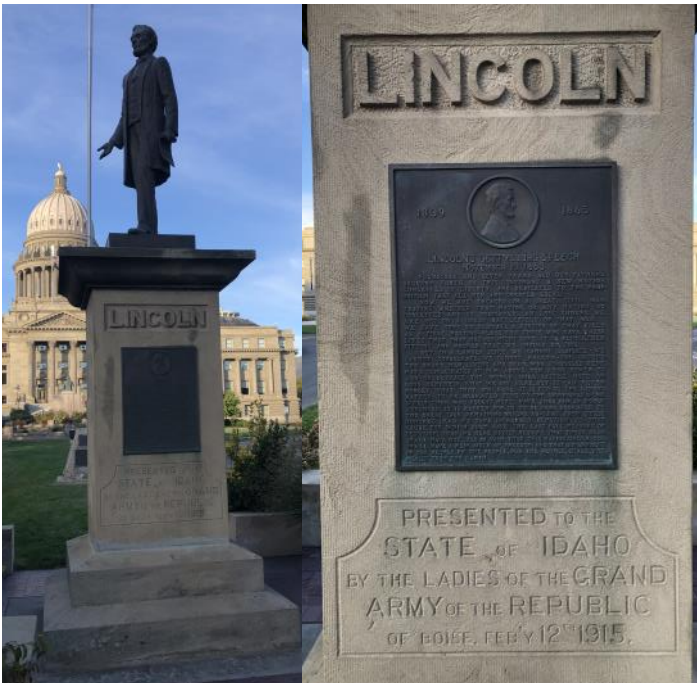
Bronze sculpture, The Hospitality of the Nez Percé



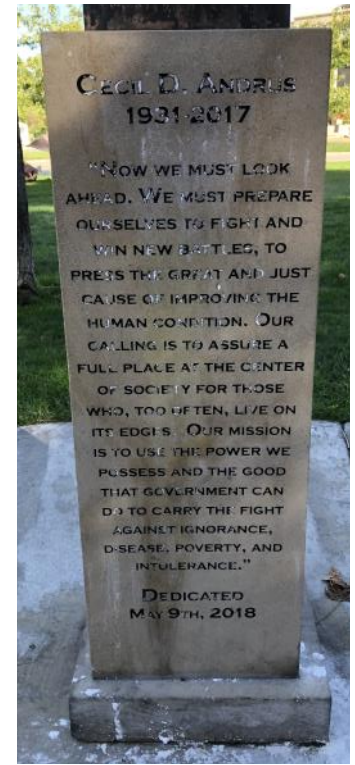
*This plaque states in part:
Nez Percé Chief Twisted Hair discusses area geography with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in September 1805.*

The sculpture was made by David Hyde and dedicated on September 12, 2006.

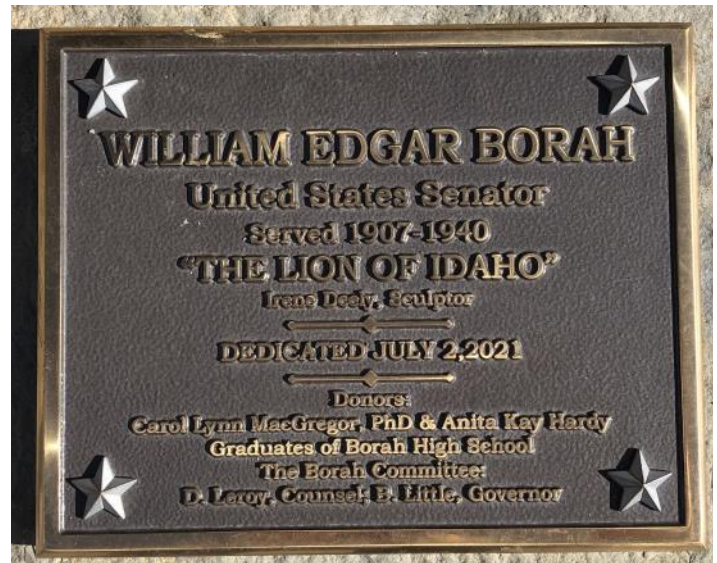
WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO



Sculpture of Abraham Lincoln "Presented to the State of Idaho by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic of Boise. Feb'y 12th 1915." All sides of this monument have plaques. Sculptor unknown.



Bronze sculpture bust of Cecil D. Andrus, 1931-2017. Governor of Idaho: 1971-1977, 1987-1995. US Secretary of the Interior: 1977-1981. Sculpted by Benjamin Victor, dedicated May 9, 2018.

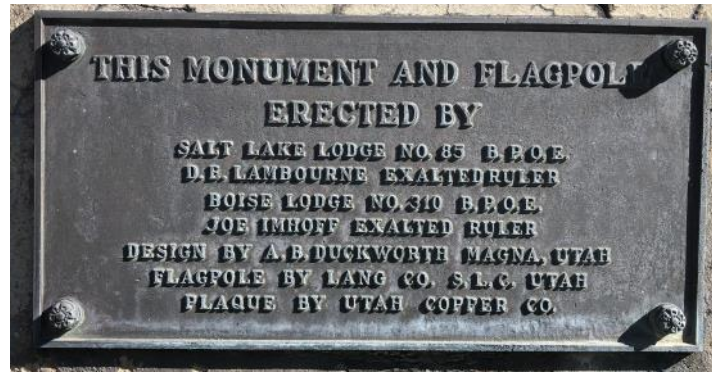


Bronze sculpture of William Edgar Borah, United States Senator, 1907-1940, known as "The Lion of Idaho". Sculpted by Irene Dealy.

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO



Flagpole monument erected by the Salt Lake Lodge of Elks and dedicated to George Washington.



Unexpected little marker at a crosswalk with a surveyor elevation marker, but with no marked elevation! "This benchmark preserved in recognition of Abraham Lincoln Land Surveyor 1834-1836."



Honey Bee

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO

We went back to a rest stop we stopped at before called the Blacks Creek Rest Area for about 20 minutes before continuing. While there, I saw a marker about the Oregon Trail. We made another stop briefly at a place called Glenn's Ferry. In going through this part of Idaho, I noticed plenty of large farms. From what I could tell, I mainly saw crops of corn, alfalfa, grass, and potatoes, of course. By about 1:30 PM, we came back to the Snake River, then again crossed it five minutes later. We stopped at the Love's in Bliss again for lunch and ended up being there for a little less than two hours. After we left, we crossed over the Malad River that was not very wide but the land around it was really steep dropping off to the river. Near 4:00 PM, we came to a place called Jerome for a rest even some sleep for about 30 minutes because we had so little sleep and needed the rest for safety! After leaving this area, I noticed that the landscape had lava flows, but I did not see any mountains or volcanos where they could have come from! We crossed over the Snake River again for the third and final time. This part of the river was rather wide. About 6:00 PM, we got to the Utah border and stopped briefly at the Pilot in Snowville, Utah. We got to I-15 a little before 7:00 while also crossing over the Bear River. We continued until getting to Ogden. Since we had not eaten much, we ultimately decided that we would go to Texas Roadhouse for a good meal. We got to the hotel a little before 9:30 PM. We rested, and I got a nice shower before going to sleep a little earlier than we had been since we were really tired.



If this leaf looks familiar, it is because I saw it once before in central Tennessee on our May trip in 2022! It is called Ginkgo Ginkgo biloba, or also maidenhair, and there were several of these trees in downtown Boise. The leaf below is the one I swiped off a tree before leaving town.



Two markers for the Oregon Trail found at the Blacks Creek Rest Area.

WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO



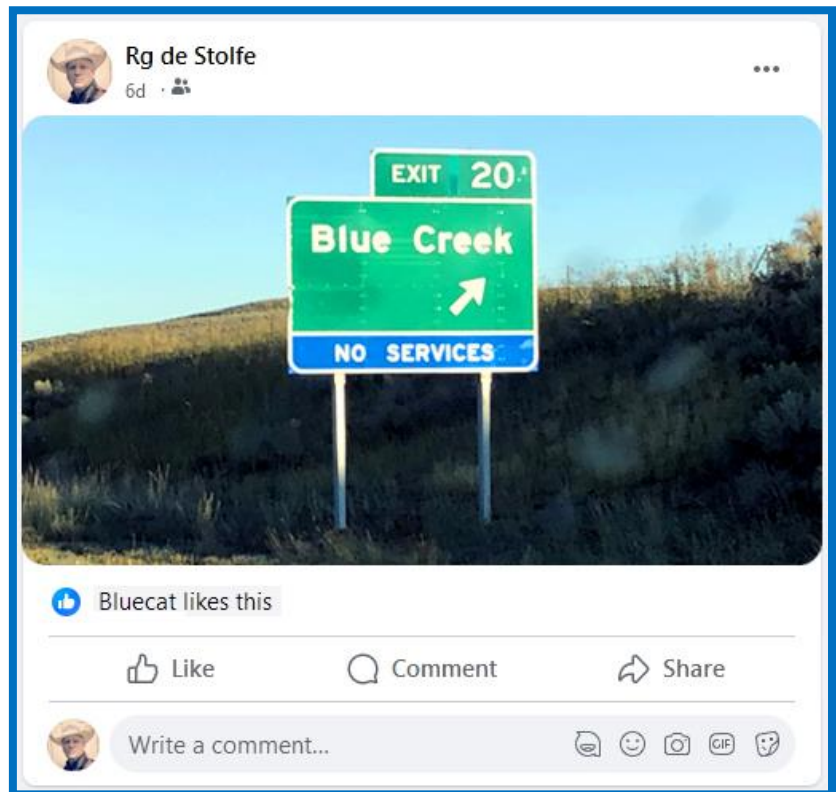
Crops of alfalfa?



Crops of potatoes?



Still a big NOPE!



Bluecat likes this.

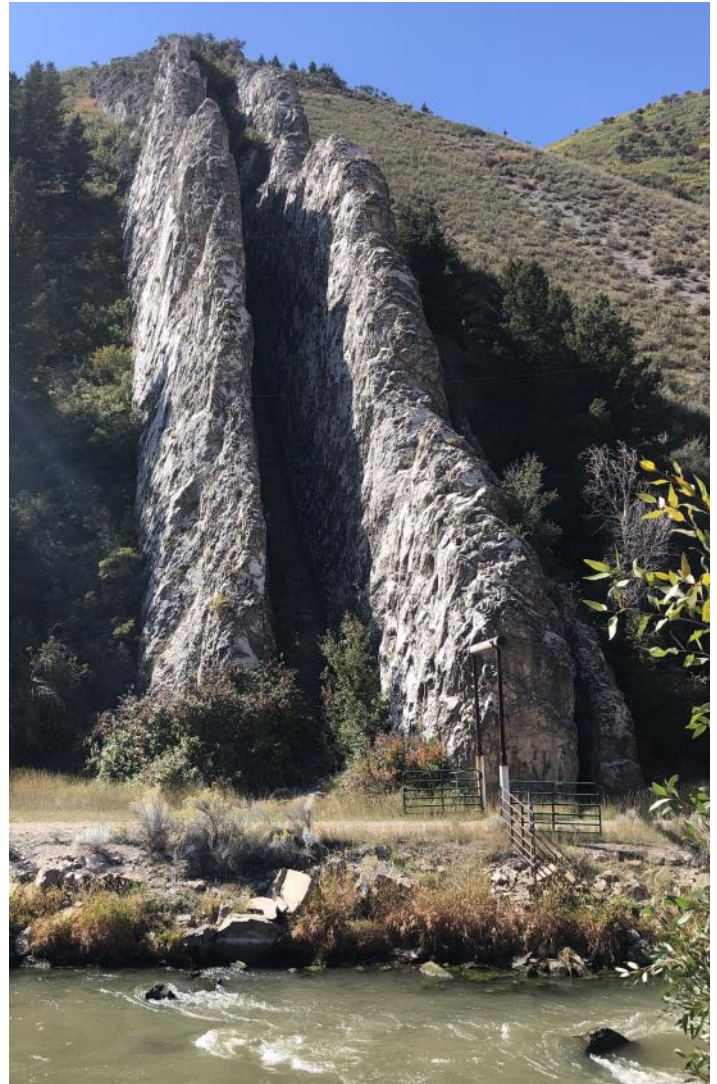
WORK TRIP TO BOISE, IDAHO

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Today was the day for a long drive back in the same direction as we came through southern Wyoming. Fortunately, we got a good night's sleep and left a little before 11:00 AM from Ogden. After we got gas, we got on I-84 headed east. We came to a town called South Weber and stopped at a Maverik for snacks. This small area of Utah was surrounded by mountains, and the store was in a western style and had a gas station. They had triangle doughnuts! I guess that way, there is no waste of dough! Once on the road again, we came to a natural attraction about 30 minutes later that we saw coming out but did not stop to see before because of the bad weather. It is a natural geological feature near the town of Croydon called Devil's Slide located in a narrow valley pass with a creek. We spent about 20 minutes looking at this scenic view, taking some photos and talking with some bikers who were there. We soon came to I-80 and continued until we got to the Wyoming border a little after 1:00 PM.



A mountain pass near South Weber, Utah.



Geological feature called Devil's Slide near Croydon.

Honeybee loving some rubber rabbitbrush.



Triangle shaped doughnuts found at a Maverik in South Weber, Utah.



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We stopped in Evanston at the Flying J for about 20 minutes. Then once we left, we crossed over the Bear River a few minutes later. As we went, we drove through towns like Fort Bridger, Carter, Mountain View, Lyman, and Bridger Valley, also crossing over the Black Fork River. We did have a slow down for approximately 10 minutes and for about 8 miles from road work. We came to an area we saw before called Little America that was literally out in the middle of nowhere Wyoming! Now, I am vaguely familiar with Little America because Flagstaff had one when I lived there in the late 1990s. It had all of the typical amenities and features that Little America has even

to be its own little town. We also could not miss it for all the billboards in both directions that went for miles even before you got to it! We crossed over the Black Fork River again and stopped at a Love's in James Town at about 2:45 PM, spending just over an hour for gas and lunch. The next town over was Green River located next to the Green River that had the tunnel through the mountain. The Green River is the same river that goes down through Utah that Dad and I crossed over on I-70 several times on our trips to Las Vegas. The river dumps into the Colorado River in the Canyonlands National Park in the middle of eastern Utah.



Rock formations on I-80 east of Echo, Utah.



Formations near Green River, Wyoming.

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Rock formations near James Town, Wyoming.



These are the tunnels going through the mountain in Green River, Wyoming.



Formations on the east side of the tunnels near Green River, Wyoming.

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This area of Wyoming has rolling hills and hardly any trees.



The speed limit is 80!

We crossed back over the Continental Divide around 5:24 PM, and as it turned out, there were two spots where we crossed over the Continental Divide in Wyoming. This was the western one with the other one a little further east. As we travelled through these areas, we came across various small herds of antelope scattered throughout the lands and rolling hills. We crossed over the North Platte River near Fort Steele and over the Medicine Bow River near Elk Mountain before stopping at the Wagonhound Rest Area for a break. This rest area was located next to the Wick/Beumee Wildlife Habitat Management Area and was a very scenic viewing area. A little after 7:00 PM, we got to Laramie and crossed over the Laramie River. From there, we went through a pass, possibly called Telephone Canyon Pass, at an elevation of 8640 feet.



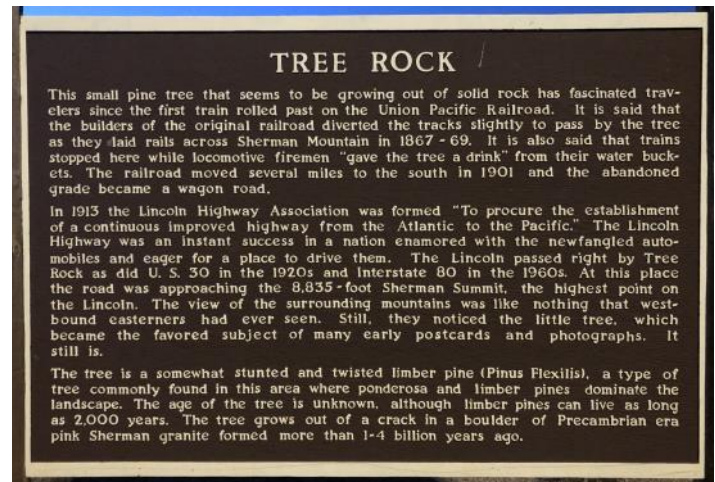
A sign for the Wagonhound Rest Area.



View from the Wagonhound Rest Area, a wildlife habitat management area.

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A little further down the road, we came across a point of interest we saw on the way out but did not stop to see. The sun had set and was getting dark, but there was just enough light to see a natural attraction called Tree In The Rock, which was designated a historical landmark near Buford. It was in the middle of the interstate with each direction going wide around it. There was a light pole giving some light onto the site. There were several markers around the rock and we took some photos. There was a fairly large tree growing out of the middle of some granite outcrops. I have no idea where these rocks came from considering that the rest of the area is smooth. There was a fence around it with an original marker set into the granite along with a more modern marker and paved sidewalks around it. It was a really neat little feature to see. We spent about 20 minutes there.



*One marker telling about the tree growing out of the rocks. The tree is a limber pine, *pinus flexilis*, growing out of pink Sherman granite consisting of pink feldspar, glassy quartz, black mica, and hornblende.*



Overview of the tree growing out of the rocks at sunset with a light on a pole shining light. There are several markers around this interesting attraction. The fence was there at least a hundred years ago.

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At about 8:00 PM, we got to I-25 and stopped at the Flying J just outside of Cheyenne, a different stop from the one we stopped at before. We continued on I-25 getting to the Colorado border a little after 8:30 PM. We made our way straight down through the northern part of Colorado and through the middle of Denver until we got back to the Drury hotel a little after 10:00 PM. Because of how late it was, we knew that very few restaurants would be open. So, we did as before and got delivered a simple pizza from Pizza Hut. Eventually, we went to sleep and had a good sleep for the night.



I quickly got this photo of these double train tunnels with truss bridges in an area east of Ogden, Utah.

Monday, September 25, 2023

After a pretty good night's sleep, we got cleaned up and left a little after 10:00 AM making our way south on I-25 to Colorado Springs. After going through Castle Rock, Monument, and the northern part of Colorado Springs, we made our way to Dad's house. Once at Dad's house we spent about an hour just talking and discussing the trailer we were pulling and such things. Dad wanted to go eat, but we knew that would not work out for time, but mainly for no room. It was a fairly short visit, but we did get to see Dad and he got to see the trailer in person. Unknown to me at the time, that would be the last time I saw him, even though I had talked to him various times after that. (More about this in the next issue.) Before leaving town, we stopped briefly at a little gas station near I-25 and left around 12:20 PM. We got to Pueblo about 1:00 PM crossing over the Arkansas River near downtown at an elevation of 4679 feet. From there, we just continued down I-25 through Colorado until we got to Walsenburg and stopped at Love's there for gas and some lunch. After about an hour, we continued but suddenly stopped at another rest stop after 30 minutes mainly to check the trailer and make sure things were still okay. We continued on through Trinidad and through Raton Pass. We then turned on to US 64 / US 87 going east about 4:00 PM to go through the northeast corner of New Mexico but also stopping briefly at a gas station in Raton. We stopped at the Love's in

Clayton for about 10 minutes, then crossed over back into Texas a little after 5:30 PM MT / 6:30 PM CT. By the way, Texline has a population of 507. Once you get into Texas, the city signs stop showing elevations and instead show populations. We just kept going and went through Dalhart, Hartley, and on to US 385 south continuing to Channing. We decided that rather than turning onto Tascosa Highway and dealing with the road construction we went through before, we would instead just keep going south on US 385 to Littlefield, then on to Lubbock. We got to Vega around 8:00 PM, and it was dark by this point. We stopped at the Pilot Travel Center that I've stopped at before several times for about 30 minutes for a break and a snack. Vega has a population of 879. We continued on to Hereford, Littlefield, and got back to the shop a little after 10:30 PM. We unloaded the truck of our stuff, parked the trailer, and got our own stuff in our vehicles before closing up and leaving. As for me, I stopped at the Whataburger near my house to claim a free burger they gave me which expired today. The free burger was the southern double bacon cheeseburger, which was a huge and filling burger but really good! Once home, I unloaded the car and somewhat put things away before sitting on the couch for a rest but falling asleep for a few hours until eventually going to bed.

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Closing Thoughts And Summary

There were several states I had not been to, had not been to that part of, or had not been to in a long time before this trip, not to mention the many towns I had not been to. Of course, I had been to Texas, New Mexico, and the parts of Colorado we travelled. But, I had only been north of Denver and into Wyoming once in 2009, but not west from Cheyenne like we went. I was interested to see what southern Wyoming would look like along I-80. Dad went that way one or two times since moving to Colorado, but I had not. Likewise, I had never been to the northern part of Utah, just the middle and certain southern parts. I had never been to Idaho at all and was surprised that much of it was at a lower elevation than even Lubbock. Most of the route from northern Colorado pretty much all the way to Idaho was either flat or with rolling hills and very little to no development except for where the large cities were. There was a lot of development in the northern part of Utah where the cutout is between Salt Lake City and the Idaho border and that's probably the bulk of the population for all of Utah. Idaho seemed to be mostly agricultural and fairly flat. With these northern areas we travelled, you can see how it is prime cattle land and farm land in the fertile areas.

The crops grown varied a little and hay was growing in most of the places. The structures varied a little along with the silos. I had thought about trying to get some Idaho potatoes while I was in Boise since Idaho is known for their potatoes, but I never did get to a store to buy some! For most of the areas where we traveled, the weather was mild and somewhat warm during the day, maybe upper 70s or low 80s, but it was much cooler at night. I was glad to bring and wear my flannel along with wearing my jacket in the evenings and mornings. This was the first time since late Spring I had gotten to wear them. Overall, this was a good trip, and it was a good experience, and if we had to go to Boise again for a job, or some other reason, I would be glad to go, but not in the winter, particularly to travel through Wyoming! I would also want to plan an extra day to keep the travel from being so cut short, especially in Boise.

Trip Summary

Total Miles Travelled	2860
States Driven Through	6
Days Travelling	6



Denver has a light rail commuter train of several routes going all over the Denver metroplex. This is the Lincoln Station in Lone Tree with a cool truss pedestrian bridge.

BLUECAT TRAVELS



This is Bluecat. This is a blue stained carved wood figurine that I bought in the early 1990s from Pier 1. It was made in Thailand, and the purchase price was \$7.99. I gave this little figurine as a gift to Mom at the time. After Mom died and we went to tend to the estate, I saw this in Mom's bedroom sitting on the window sill. Forward to Thanksgiving of 2022, I started taking photos of the cat in different places where I travelled as a fun way to document the different places I would go from a slightly different perspective and in a sort of first person format from the perspective of a travelling blue cat!



Stopped for gas in Amarillo.



Stopped at Love's in Bliss, Idaho.



Wild sunflowers outside of Cheyenne, Wyoming.



Going through Mountain Home, Idaho.

BLUECAT TRAVELS



Idaho state Capitol building in Boise.



At a Love's in James Town, Wyoming.



Sculpture of Abraham Lincoln.



At the Tree Rock near Buford, Wyoming.



Post office building near the Capitol.



At a rest stop in Trinidad, Colorado.

GARDEN ROUNDUP

There's not a whole lot to report with my garden activities mostly because I've been a lazy, partly negligent gardener this summer! Between working full time and having a hot summer that dried out things, I just let the garden fend for itself and only did a few things as I had the energy to tackle them.



This is basically my vegetable harvest this year. Not too bad actually for only a few plants. The green beans are a Blue Lake variety, and the peppers are about five varieties. The grapes are in the corner.



This is a Moonflower vine I planted from seeds. I planted three seeds at the base of the dead peach tree, but only one seed sprouted. It took about three months of the vine growing before any flower buds appeared. I never did see any of the buds when they were open before a freeze killed the vine!

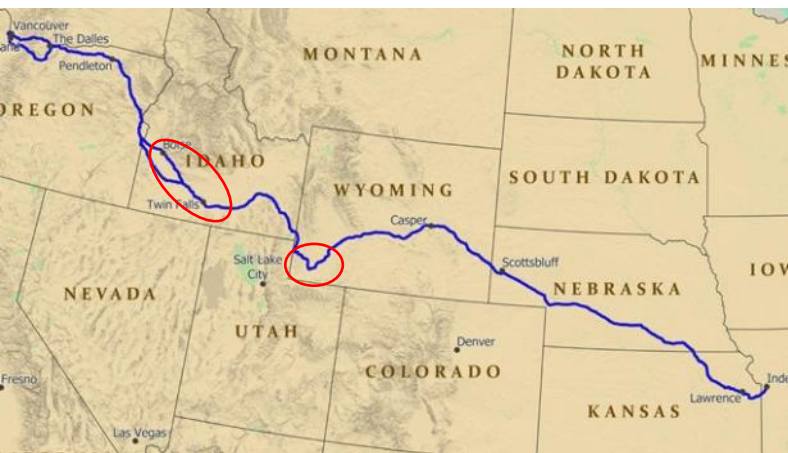
October 28, 2023



FINAL THOUGHT

The Oregon Trail

As we travelled through Wyoming, Utah, and Idaho, part of our route overlapped with the old Oregon Trail! I covered one rest stop we were at that had a historical marker about the Oregon Trail. In past travels, I have crossed over the Oregon trail in eastern Kansas and in Casper, Wyoming.



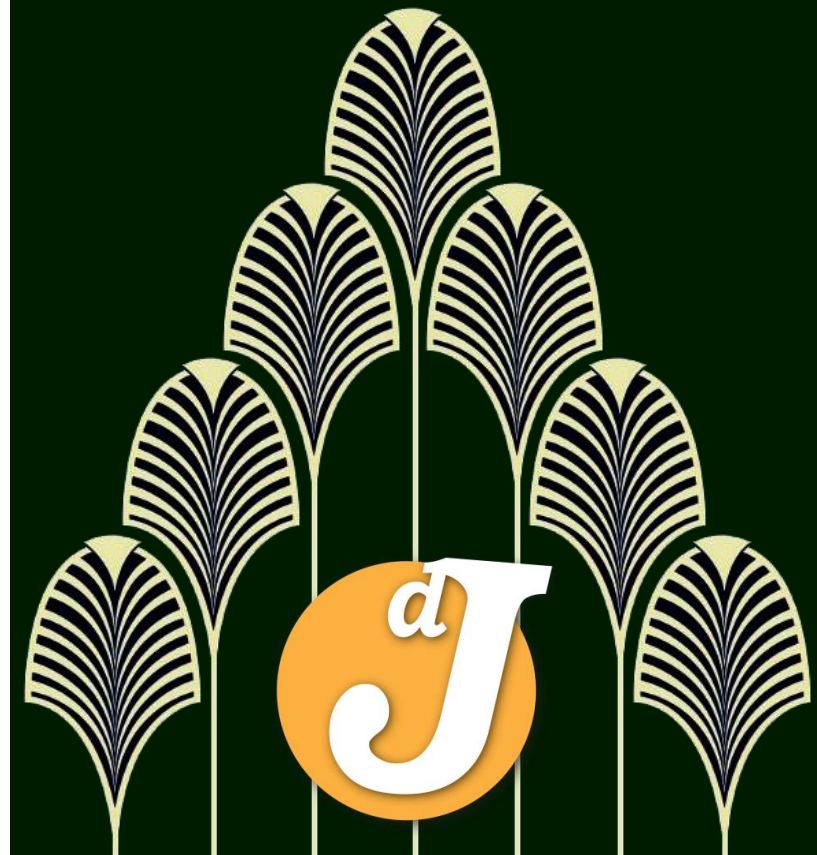
The red ovals show where we overlapped on our route with the Oregon Trail route.



Medallion found on the Oregon Trail Memorial at a rest stop southeast of Boise along I-84.



Remember this game from the 90s? Who didn't end up dying from dysentery!



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