

de Stolfe

Journal ●●●●●●●●



Fall 1 2022 | 11.10

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*Covers activities in September and October 2022.
The page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.*

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On The Cover



Along US 550 in western Colorado, the road winds and curves through rugged mountainous terrain. Through that drive, grand views and vistas are everywhere! Fall is a great time to see beautiful colors and even snow!

We live in the 21st century! Anywhere you see a web link like this, click it to go automatically to the webpage that it references! (Try it now!)

www.destolfe.com



Comments by RG

Leaf Hunting In Colorado

After the May Trip that went from early May to early June, I got back to Lubbock and basically did not do very much or even go anywhere for the rest of the spring, the summer, nor even into the fall. However, Dad was already planning for what the next trip would be. He did want to keep the trip much closer to home and thought that he might want to go elsewhere in Colorado to look at the fall leaves. Now fall in Colorado comes earlier than in other places in the country, often starting as early as early September in the high elevations. We ultimately planned to leave in late September assuming that the leaves would be changing further down the elevation. So in my usual manner and like with the May trip, I planned out where to go and figured out routes to take. Since the locations were just on the other side of the state, everything was easily within a day's drive. Some of the things we wanted to see and do were to take the Durango and Silverton railroad, go to Telluride, go to Mesa Verde, and see the sights and towns along US 550, known as the Million Dollar Highway. Both the railroad and Mesa Verde we did before back in 2006. At

that time, the train was still coal fired. We got to do the main attractions we wanted to do on this trip. But about halfway, we needed to basically cancel the second half of the trip for reasons I will not explain in this journal. However, that did open up the time for me on my own to go to Leadville earlier than I had planned, having planned to go to Leadville on my own anyway. This issue covers the entire fall trip so you don't have to bear the burden of waiting six months for a seven part issue about my trips! This issue will be necessarily longer to accomplish that purpose.

In other news, I did several other things mainly in November that I will cover in the next Fall issue, with this issue being the first Fall issue. I'll give you a hint, think pumpkins, rodeo, and Thanksgiving, to name some of them. Those activities and places I went will all be in a single issue as well, hopefully to come out by the end of the year.

So enough chit chat, I hope you enjoy this issue!



Producer, RG de Stolfe

RG

Word For Life

Walk In Love and Avoid Deceivers

Continuing the series of non chapter books of the Bible, we cover the fourth of five books, 2 John.

Second John has 13 verses arranged into four subheadings. While the book has the name “John”, we do not know with certainty that it was written by the apostle John as we easily assume by the name. We do know that it was not John the Baptist for he was beheaded while Jesus was on the earth (Matthew 14:6-12, Mark 6:21-29). He does refer to himself as Elder in verse 1. Regardless of who the author is, this short book has a simple message. The letter is written to “**the elect lady and her children**”, although not specified by any name nor a location. The greeting is in verses one through three.

Verses four through six simply state to keep true to “**walk according to His commandments**” and to “**love one another**” and “**walk in it**”. We can make some assumption that the lady might have slacked in walking in love requiring this letter. However, her children were apparently “**walking in truth**”.

The next subsection includes verses seven through eleven and discusses and warns about antichrist deceivers. This section is most likely the heart of the letter to the lady. John basically states that the deceivers “**do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh**”, meaning that Jesus came and lived on the earth. John says that these deceivers do not have God, while those “**who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son**” and therefore do not deny that Jesus lived on the earth. John warns not to greet or receive deceivers into their homes.

The last two verses are a farewell with the note that he wants to meet face to face and say the many things he did not want to write specifically but rather say in person so “**that our joy may be full**”.

Be Generous and Do Good

Just to finish up the five books without chapters, here is the fifth of the five books, 3 John.

Similar to 2 John, Third John has 14 verses arranged into four subsections. The general structure of the letter is nearly identical and suggests that John wrote it at the same time as 2 John. Again, he refers to himself as Elder, and this letter is written specifically to Gaius, though the location is not specified. The first four verses are the greeting, with one well known verse being “**Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.**” (2) He said that he has joy to hear that his “**children walk in truth**”. (4)

In the next subsection, the Elder commends Gaius for treating strangers with the same love and generosity and truth as he treated fellow brethren. Also, the strangers bore witness of the love they received to others where they went. He also said that “**we therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth**”. (8)

The third subsection talks about a man named Diotrephes. The Elder states that he “**loves to have the preeminence among**” his church group and that he “**does not receive us**”. (9) Apparently, Diotrephes uses malicious words against them and refuses to “**receive the brethren**” and “**forbids those who wish to**” even to put “**them out of the church**”. (10) These actions seem to resemble the actions of a tyrant. The Elder then states for a believer not to “**imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God**”. (11) He finished this subsection to say that “**Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself**”. (12)

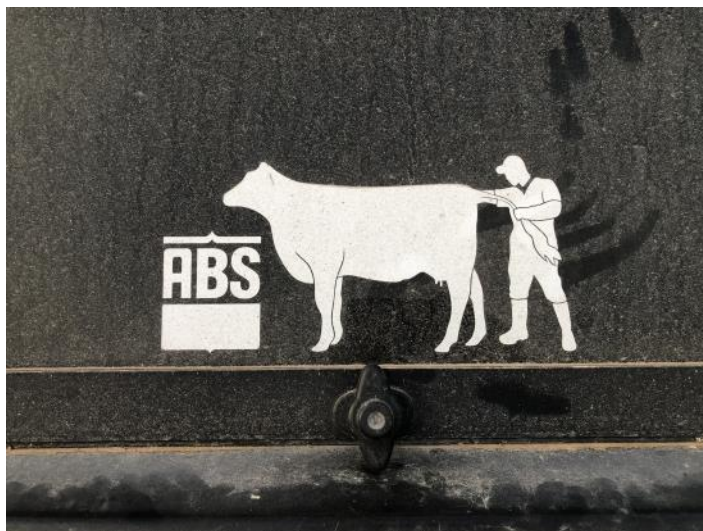
The farewell in the last subsection is an almost identical farewell as in 2 John in that he had much more to say but wanted to say them in person and hopes to see them shortly. The last few words include: “**Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name**”. (14)

Random Things

Daylight Savings Time in the Fall



From Facebook (floating meme)



Saw this on the back window of an ABS vehicle. If you know, you know. If you don't, don't worry about it!

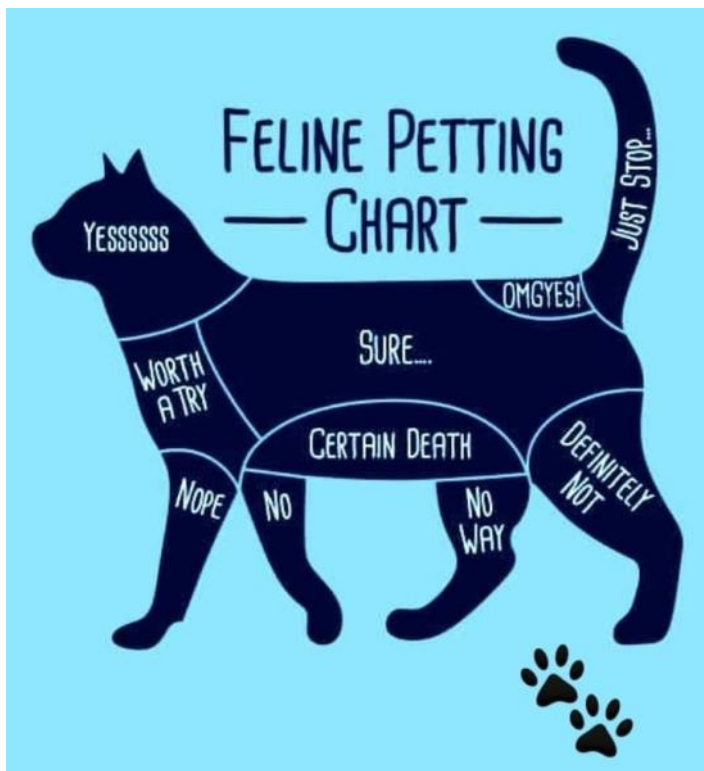
Never heard of Crumbl Cookie until September 7, and whoa, they are expensive! This one is a chocolate peanut butter cheesecake cookie.



The Hunter and faithful companion show the fruit of the hunt.

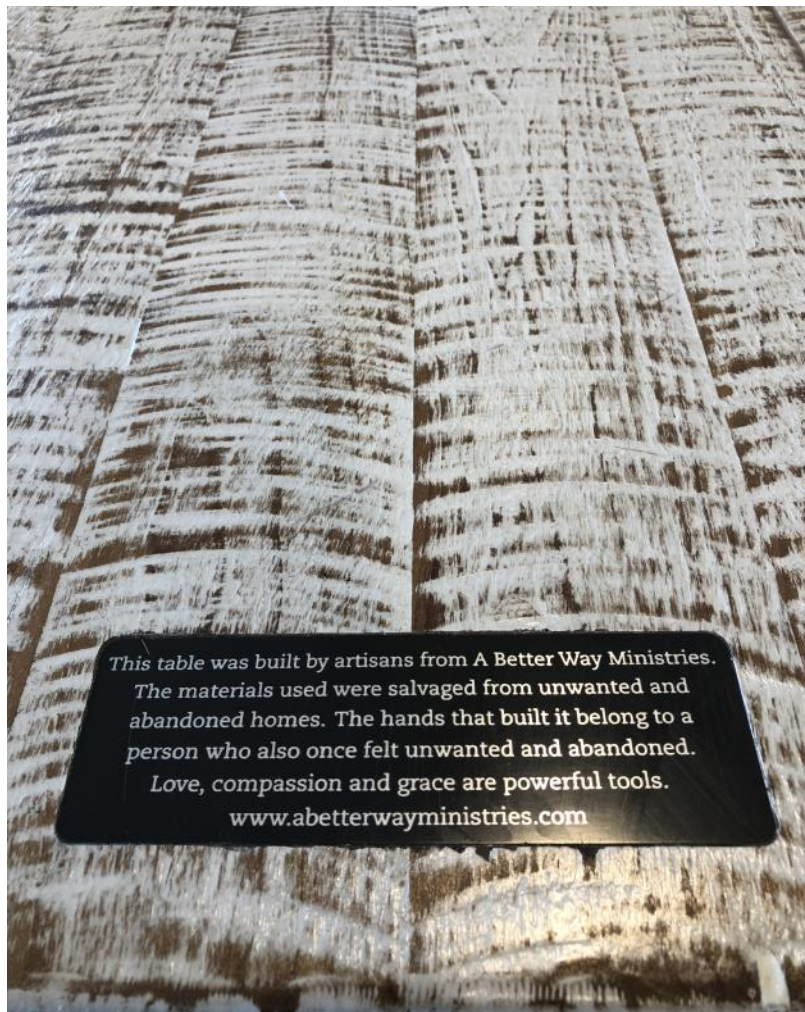
From Facebook (floating meme)

Random Things



From Facebook (floating meme)

If you have been to a newer or remodeled Chick-fil-A, you have undoubtedly seen a large table in the restaurant with a Coca-Cola lamp above it. This rustic table with the white sanded finish has a story that you likely have never noticed! At the end of the table is a small marker with a short story. Here is what is on the little marker.



*This table was built by artisans from A Better Way Ministries. The materials used were salvaged from unwanted and abandoned homes. The hands that built it belong to a person who also once felt unwanted and abandoned. Love, compassion, and grace are powerful tools.
www.abetterwayministries.com*

I was at Cracker Barrel in early September waiting on a rocking chair when I saw some things flying around the yellow lantana in the landscaping. I got a closer look and saw a whole mess of these insects. They are called hawk moths or hummingbird moths (Sphingidae). They are very large. I first saw these insects in Leadville a few years ago not having ever seen them before.



Random Things

What is Horsebread?

At one point while watching something, the term “horsebread” came up. I wasn’t sure that I ever heard of the term and thought it might be related to some other term I had heard. So, I went over to Wikipedia. It turns out that it related more to bread than it related to horses. It was also a much older word than I could have guess, relating back to Medieval Europe! Here is what Wikipedia mentions.

“Horsebread was a type of bread produced and consumed in medieval Europe. At the time, it was considered to be of low quality, made from a seasonal mix of legumes (such as dry split peas) and bran along with other non wheat cereal grains such as oats, rye, along with maize, and acorns. It was one of the cheapest breads available. As the name suggests, it was allegedly fit only for horses to eat, but for many of the poorer people, as well as in times of famine, this bread sustained them. It was associated with poverty, since those who could afford white bread (which was the most labour intensive, and therefore expensive, bread) considered horse bread and other breads like rye or barley breads unfit for their position in society.”

To note on white bread, the labor and expense of producing white wheat flour was cost prohibitive to those of lower economic means. That is why white bread was more expensive and only affordable to those of better financial means. It would not be until well into the 1800s with the Industrial Revolution before the mass production of white flour would make things like white bread more available and cheaper to purchase. Today, it is nearly flipped

where white bread is the least desirable and cheapest to buy while the heartier grains—which were previously considered unfit to eat—are more expensive and sometimes more desired!



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horsebread>

Milk Made The Difference

So if you have ever been in a Cracker Barrel, you know that they have “old stuff” all over the inside and outside of their restaurants. I saw this piece that I thought was clever advertising to promote the drinking of milk for the following three animals.



Random Things

I found a nice fall wreath for my door at Home Depot of all places.



There is a little story about what is in this photo. This is a golden lizard (or maybe a gecko). The photo is not very clear because it was taken at night by the light of the front porch. Most of the time, the critter does not stay in any one place long enough for me to get a photo. It lives in my garden, and it hitchhiked in my garden from Snyder where I lived before. I first saw the lizard at my apartment in Snyder in about 2019, and I would occasionally see it when I was sitting in my chair on the front porch. After moving back to Lubbock, I was surprised when I saw it and knew that it was the same lizard. Over this past summer, I saw two of these lizards with one much smaller. But I have only seen the two of them.



You will need to wait until the next issue to find out what this is all about!

Random Things



Do you remember these? These are tomato pin cushions. I found them at Dick's 5 & 10 store in old Branson when we were

there. Here is a new one, and the other one is from Mom's sewing kit and is probably 50+ years old!



I saw this on Facebook and was just as surprised by it as the text stated. There are several vegetables we eat that are all related to each other and were "bred" to form different vegetables. While they are man made, or rather man altered, they are not genetically modified. These vegetables were formed from a wild cabbage called *brassica oleracea*, which is native to coastal southern and western Europe. Wild mustard is actually a slightly different plant from wild cabbage, although still related.

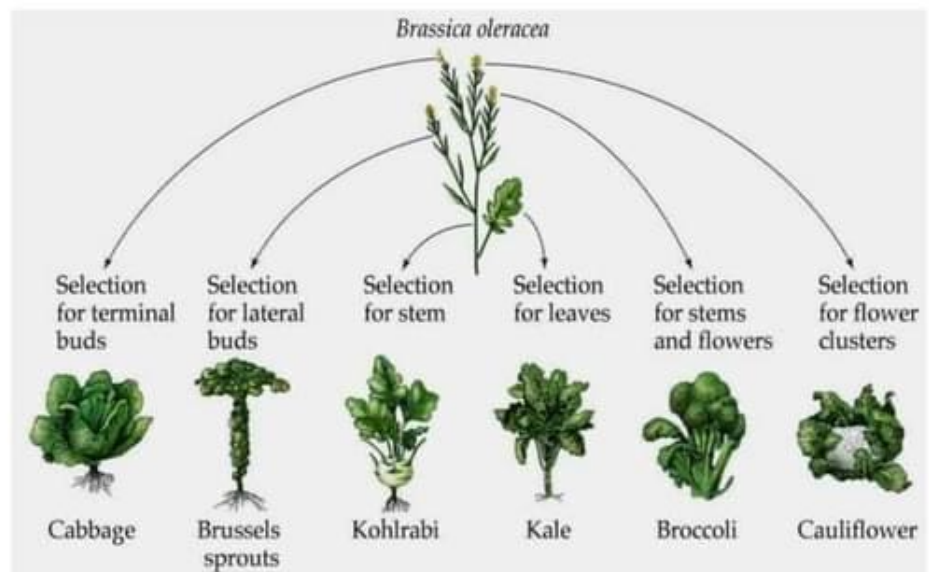
- Cauliflower
- Kale
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Kohlrabi
- Collard greens
- Gai lan (Chinese broccoli)
- Seakale, sea kale
- Savoy cabbage



Vance Crowe
@VanceCrowe



That surprised look when you show someone that broccoli didn't occur "naturally" humans bred it from wild mustard *(Actually wild cabbage.)*



Learn more here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brassica_oleracea

Random Things



The weekend of October 15-16, I was driving home from Leadville to Santa Fe, and from there back to Lubbock the next day, and I was listening to KLOVE where I had reception for it. I found out that it was their 40th anniversary weekend and that they were playing a planned mega mix of Christian music from the 80s through the 2010s on this weekend 40 years later from when they first aired on October 15, 1982. Many of the songs they played I had never heard before, while other songs I have not heard probably since the decade they first came out! (I first started listening circa 2004.) It was an amazing time to hear so many songs, very old and not as old, all mixed together.

KLOVE started as a single station, KCLB, in 1982 located in Santa Rosa, California (north of San Francisco and west of Sacramento). Now in 2022, the KLOVE headquarters is in transition of moving from Rocklin in northern California to Nashville, Tennessee. At first, I was surprised about the move, but it really makes sense to be closer to where the various artists live. They have almost 600 local signals, while also being able to stream online and through their app.

When Dad and I were in Nashville in May, there was a Sunday when KLOVE had rented (I guess) the Grand Ole Opry for the 2022 KLOVE fan awards! We did not go to it, but we did go to an Opry performance a few days earlier (see my May Trip series issues to read more about that).



www.klove.com

Fall Trip

Fall Trip Introduction

From September 25 to October 16, I went on a fall trip. Months earlier, Dad wanted to go on another trip almost as soon as we got home from the May trip! I had planned for months of putting together a schedule and making reservations. I made a list of the main destinations where we wanted to go. One of the main aspects of the trip was to see the fall leaves, particularly in Colorado. The leaves in Colorado change early in the fall as compared to other place in the country especially in the higher elevations. We decided to leave late September. Now, I left home a few days earlier to head to Colorado, and we left on the trip on September 30. Our main destinations included Durango, the Durango & Silverton railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, Million Dollar Highway, and Telluride. Another planned part of the trip was for me separately to go to Leadville, in this case, for the second time this year with the first in May during the May trip. Now the trip started out as planned as we went to Durango, but the second half of the trip ended very differently from the planned schedule. I will not include the reasons for those changes, but I will include some of the things I did as a result of those changes. Also because of those changes, this issue will highlight the different things we did rather than to provide a journal style report of the trip like I did with the May trip. I did keep a daily journal just as I did with the May trip, but I will only include the relevant sections of each of the places we visited, along with any other interesting tidbits worth mentioning and whatever other journal entries needed for continuity.



Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad



Mesa Verde National Park



On the way towards Durango, Colorado



Downtown Telluride, Colorado

Fall Trip

September 25-26, 2022 – Drive up to Colorado

On Sunday, September 25, I started the drive up to go to Colorado Springs. I decided that I would again break up the trip over two days instead of driving 8 or 9 hours to do it all in one day. I ended up leaving Lubbock really late at around 6 o'clock. But, I was only planning to go as far as Dalhart before staying the night. The route was as I have taken before going on I-27 to Amarillo and taking Tascosa Highway to US 385, which goes right to Dalhart. I had only made one stop in Amarillo to get gas. By the time I got on Tascosa Highway, the sun had set, it was already black dark out. I finally got to the motel about 930 and checked in. One thing I noticed at the motel was just how full it was. In the parking lot were two large school busses, and the motel was full of Mexicans who appeared to be staying at the motel for an extended time. I found out later that somewhere near Dalhart was a large pumpkin farm, and the people were in town to harvest the fields. Apparently, the entire town was full of these seasonal workers as nearly all of the motels were full. The next morning, I left the motel in the late morning, but I did hear the busses honk the horns in the early morning to call the workers. I'm guessing they soon loaded up and left after that since the parking lot was completely empty when I left. Before leaving Dalhart, I did get gas again so I would not need gas until I got to Colorado Springs. From Dalhart to Raton would be probably a little less than two hours so I just drove straight there with only one

stop, which was the usual stop near Capulin at the windmill and barn I have stopped at so many times before. I stopped there for a few minutes and took my usual array of photos on the pretty clear sunny day. Once I got to Raton, I stopped at a gas station I've stopped at before but only for a quick break and to get some ice. I soon left and made my way on I-25 north. I thought about exploring downtown Raton as I had driven through it once before a few years ago, but I decided just to keep going. For the next 2½ hours, I drove up to Colorado Springs on I-25. The drive was good but did have heavier traffic through the towns but was otherwise good the rest of the route. The weather was decent in being basically sunny and clear, which I am always glad to have, versus rain or even worse snow and ice! I got to Dad's house around 4:00 PM. After a while, I unpacked a few things then left to go get dinner since Dad had already eaten. Guessing that this was the case, I predecided that I would go over to Culver's for dinner since there are none in Lubbock with the closest one being in the DFW area, many hours away. I got there right about sunset, which for Colorado Springs in late September was around 6:00 PM. I decided to get the pot roast sandwich (and would several more times!) because it is really good! Along with it, I got coleslaw, a drink, and some free custard with a coupon. I did a few more errands before getting back to the house.



Capulin Volcano

Fall Trip



Here is that old abandoned homestead with the windmill and barn I've photographed since 2004!



The main spot where I get these photos is a large gate. Here is an old latch there.



The same metal Aermotor windmill that's been there all of this time.

Fall Trip

September 27-29, 2022 – A Few Days in Colorado Springs

For the next several days before we would leave to go on the actual trip, Dad had several things he needed to do, and I had a few casual things I wanted to do. Through these day, Dad had various appointments and some errands he wanted to do, along with some projects around the house.

Dad mentioned about getting some lunch at a spaghetti place he had been to but could not remember the name. It turned out to be the same spaghetti and pizza place we had been to several times before, especially in the early days after Dad moved to Colorado Springs. The place was called Fargo's, and it had been closed the last few years from the whole lockdown thing, but had recently reopened. It is an Italian type of place but with the look of a turn of the century saloon. Quite frankly, the place is really cheesy with an 80s style of "old west" which really bears no resemblance to what the time period actually looked like! But whatever, the food was decent but rather expensive. I got a trip to the salad bar and a fettuccine Alfredo with garlic rolls while Dad got a sandwich and the salad bar.

I gave Dad this bird feeder that looks like a picnic table. However, I gave it to use as a squirrel feeder!



Fargo's Pizza Company restaurant in Colorado Springs.



Dad had an appointment in the VA clinic, and outside near the building were these large raised beds of flowers and plants with a sign showing it to be a monarch waystation. This was a protected area where various butterfly friendly plants grew so that butterflies like monarchs can sleep, eat, and whatever along their migration in the spring and fall. Some of the flowers here I could quickly identify are cosmos, butterfly bush, dill, and possibly milkweed.

www.monarchwatch.org



Fall Trip

By the late spring, it was obvious that some large plant was growing on the edge of Dad's driveway. It turned out to be a sunflower plant. More than likely, some of the birdseed Dad put out had lodged its way in between the driveway and the front yard, a sunflower seed from the birdseed. So by the time I was there in late September, the plant was nearly done flowering and had gotten too big and Dad wanted it cut down. I took a few minutes first to clip off the many branches then got to the thick stem. I had to use a saw to cut the thick stem flush to the ground, which was too big to uproot. The main stem had gotten to 2" in diameter!



*This was the sunflower plant in early August.
It was FULL of blooms*



*After I cut down the plant, the
stump measured 2" across!*

As we left the VA clinic, we saw this double rainbow!



Fall Trip

September 30, 2022 – Driving to Durango

The day before we left, I wanted to preload whatever I could so we could leave whenever without delay. We had some delays. While we wanted to leave around 9:00 AM, it ended up being more like 11:00 AM. But even then, we drove over to Costco to get gas first before actually leaving. From Costco, we drove down Powers Boulevard as far south as it went before getting on I-25. From there, it was a direct drive to Walsenburg, which took a little over an hour. We then went west on US 160, which is the road that would take us to Durango. By a little after 2:30 PM, we got to Alamosa and stopped for lunch and to rest for a little over an hour. From there, we continued on and was getting to the more mountainous areas of the route.

*I went to check on the success of my bank! Ha, ha...
Actually, this is a local bank of three branches in southern Colorado (Pagosa Springs, Alamosa, and Monte Vista) and stands for Rio Grande Bank because of the Rio Grande that flows through the area. (The Rio Grande originates just a few miles east of Silverton, Colorado!) This photo was from the branch in Alamosa.*



This is from an overlook of a beautiful valley near South Fork, Colorado.



Fall Trip

We made several stops for photos along several passes and valleys. We went by several old barns west of Pagosa Springs but did not end up stopping with the idea that we might or might not back track tomorrow to get photos of them. We finally got to the hotel around 7:00 PM as it was getting dark. We

checked in and brought in some of the bags before leaving to go the Freddy's next door for some burgers and frozen custard. Our plans for Durango were to spend the next day going to Mesa Verde National Park, and the next day taking the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

October 1, 2022 – First Day in Durango

This hotel is only two years old and is nice and clean, very similar to the hotel in Jacksonville we stayed in last year after we sold Mom's house. I got up and cleaned up, but I think everyone in the hotel was taking a shower at the same time! There was no water pressure at all! I had enough water to get wet and rinse and that was about it! After breakfast, we did a couple of errands in town including seeing where the depot was for the train tomorrow. Downtown was busy with a couple of apparent events. One was a Saturday farmer's market while the larger event was some sort of cowboy days. I also went ahead and got our printed souvenir tickets.

Once we left, we took US 160 west to Mesa Verde. From downtown, the drive was about 35 miles, or 40 minutes. It was a beautiful drive through some passes and valleys to the park entrance. It was cloudy, cool, and raining part of the time.



Entrance sign for the Mesa Verde National Park.

This spectacular view is actually outside of the park looking on the road we drove to arrive to the park.



Fall Trip

We first went to the visitor center, and I looked around a little while Dad stayed in the car. Once I left the visitor center, the rain had stopped and was starting to clear. We then got in the park and started driving. We made a first stop to get photos of the mesa that the park was named after. We then went a while along the narrow curvy roads up and down the elevations. We made a couple of stops for photos, but we mainly wanted to see the “star attraction” which was the Cliff Palace.



This is the interpretive center near the park entrance.



This is the mesa (Spanish for table) the park is named after. Verde is Spanish for green, referring to the vegetation.



From the interpretive center, I got these guides.



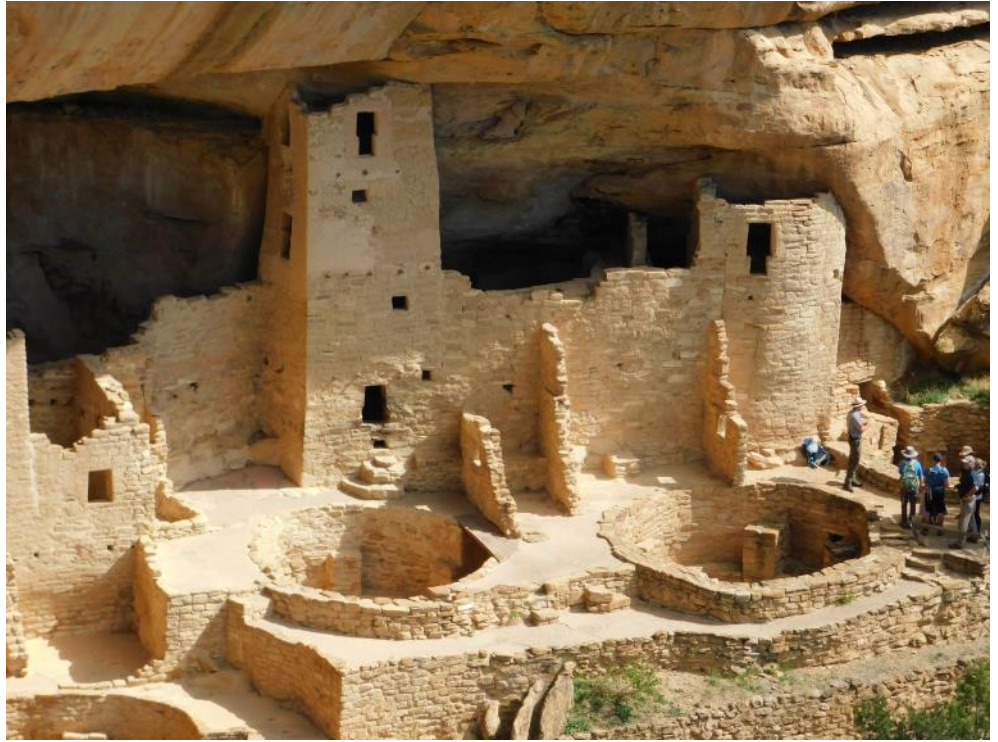
Dedication to Pueblos and Tribes

Mesa Verde would like to thank the following Native American pueblos and tribes for their continuing support of the park's mission.

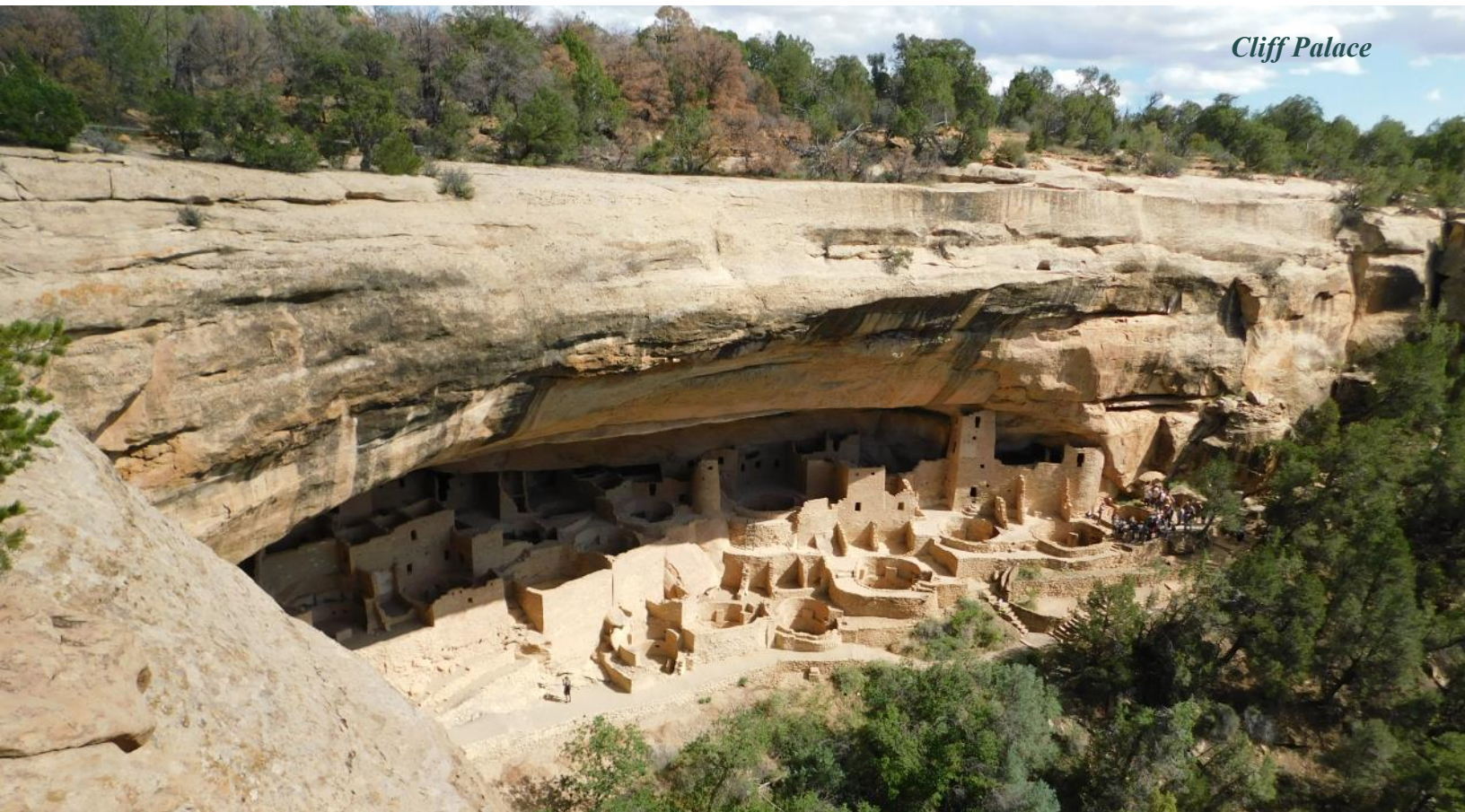
- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Acoma Pueblo | Pojoaque Pueblo |
| Cochiti Pueblo | Sandia Pueblo |
| Hopi Tribe | San Felipe Pueblo |
| Isleta Pueblo | San Ildefonso Pueblo |
| Jemez Pueblo | Santa Ana Pueblo |
| Jicarilla Apache Tribe | Santa Clara Pueblo |
| Kewa Pueblo | Southern Ute Tribe |
| Laguna Pueblo | Taos Pueblo |
| Nambé Pueblo | Tesuque Pueblo |
| Navajo Nation | Ute Mountain Ute Tribe |
| Northern Ute Tribe | Ysleta del Sur Pueblo |
| Dhkey Owingeh Pueblo | Zia Pueblo |
| Picuris Pueblo | Zuni Pueblo |

Fall Trip

Because of the steep path and the stairs to get to the lookout, Dad could only go so far and had to wait on a bench. I went down to the lookout first and told Dad about it. We had seen it before in 2006 when we were last there. Dad gave me his camera to get some photos for him since he could not get them himself. From there, we went in a circle to get back to another lookout in that area I wanted to see. We then headed back on the narrow curvy roads to a café we saw earlier for lunch. But the café was closed because it was getting late, so we left headed back to leave the park, stopping one more time to a photo of the entrance sign. We then headed back to Durango getting back downtown at about 5:00 PM.

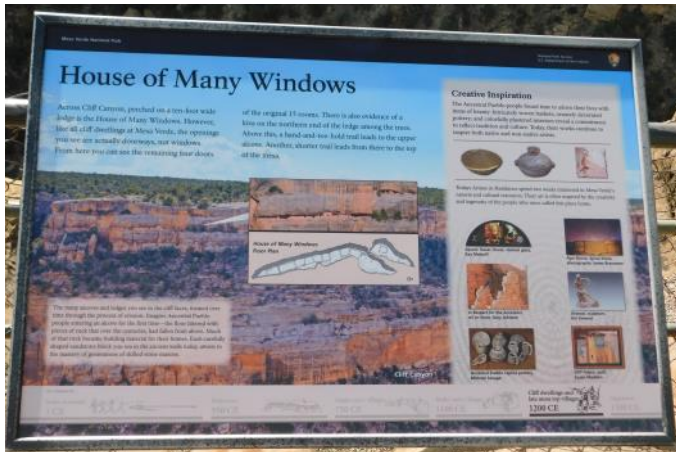


For an additional cost, you can take a ranger guided tour through the ruins. But, there are a LOT of steps to walk just to get down there! (And it is easier to go down than it is to go up!)



Cliff Palace

Fall Trip



There are other smaller cliff dwellings.



Fall Trip

October 2, 2022 – The Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

The train started boarding at 8:30 AM with it leaving at 9:00 AM. We got to the depot around 7:30 AM to get things sorted out and to gather together what we wanted to take and load it up having just a few minutes left to settle before the train left. The first 30 minutes of the ride was just to get out of the developed part of town. The ride to Silverton is about 3.5 hours (as opposed to driving there in around an hour!). The conductor said that the average train speed was about 15 mph. The official distance from Durango to Silverton by tracks is 45.2 miles. The train was a narrow gauge and the

conductor made certain to tell us that the ride won't be like Amtrak and that it will feel like a train from 1882! Ha! Overall, the ride was good and had the expected and continual rocking and jerking side to side typical of that type of train. Many have said, men and women, about the experience of using the bathroom under such conditions! The other interesting experience was going between cars, especially with small children! We ended up being 30 minutes behind which shortened the time we had to be in Silverton, which was fine because it still gave enough time.

Narrow gauge, narrow path through the mountains!



Fall Trip



Fall Trip

We got to Silverton at about 1:00 PM. We unloaded only what we needed and basically walked to the first building we saw. The train was literally parked right in the middle of town, so it was not very far to get to any building. As compared to when we left Durango, Silverton was really cold and very cloudy with rain. However, the views were still fantastic! We stopped at what was basically a coffee shop that also served food. They had a very large, hot fire in a big stove in the middle of the place with couches and chairs around it. It was almost too hot, but it still felt good as compared to the bone chilling cold outside! Even some of the train guys (brakemen) came in to warm up and dry their clothes! We decided just to eat there instead of looking around town like we wanted to do if the weather was more mild. Dad got some chicken strips with fries, while I got a loaded pork chimichanga. (Which was really good!) We had a good hour to eat before needing to reboard. While we were there, the weather got more cloudy with heavier rain. Even after we were loaded up and was

leaving, there was more rain with lightning. (Imagine if you will that this was the 1880s on the same train with the same weather conditions! Of course, people then wore a whole lot more layers of clothes as compared today!)

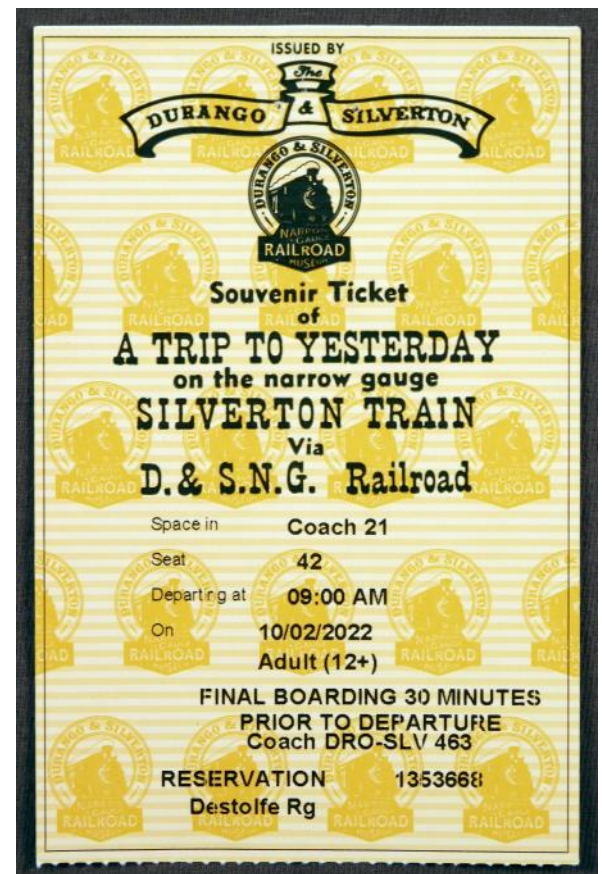
For a good while after we left, the train was cold and everyone had the windows closed, which made them fog up! The ride back was about the same scheduled 3.5 hours, but most everyone was quiet and many fell asleep on the slow lazy ride back. A little less than an hour before getting back to Durango, people woke up and got a little more active again. Durango was warmer than Silverton was! Once we got back to the depot, we unloaded our various stuff and got it loaded back up in the car. I wanted to go over to the Roundhouse Museum before we left, and Dad waited in the car. The museum was only open for a little while longer, so I took a short tour of the place. The museum took up half of the roundhouse while the other half was still used for repairs and such.



Fall Trip



With only about 15 minutes before they closed, I quickly went through the Roundhouse Museum. There is A LOT there to see, and I barely saw a small percentage of it!



This is my souvenir ticket for the D&S train.

Fall Trip

October 3, 2022 – The Million Dollar Highway, US 550

Today, we left Durango and headed north to the next overnight destination going the way through the Million Dollar Highway, also known as US 550. We got the car loaded up and did a few errands before leaving town on US 550 at about 11:00 AM. Our destination was Delta, Colorado because it was the only motel option I could find that was available and affordable. It was a little ways off to get to Telluride for tomorrow, but it was going to have to work.

About 20 minutes after we left Durango, I drove past but then double backed to a hot spring that was literally right next to the road. I took a few photos and read the informational panel that was there. From here until we got to Silverton, we stopped about every ten or fifteen minutes to get photos of scenic views and of the changing leaves, which after all, was the whole point of the timing of the trip!

One of many, many spectacular view along US 550!



Fall Trip

We left Durango and were headed towards Silverton on US 550, also known as the Million Dollar Highway. We were driving along for a little while maybe about a third of the way to Silverton when I saw but drove past a small but unusual hot spring literally right next to the road. I quickly doubled back and stopped to look at it and get some photos. The informational panel



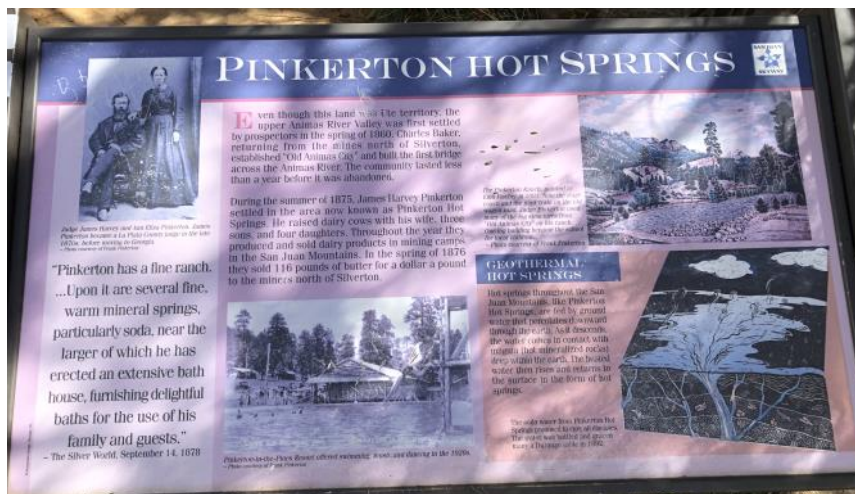
identified it as the Pinkerton Hot Springs and provided a lot of information about it. Here is part of what is on the marker.

Even though this land was Ute territory, the upper Animas River Valley was first settled by prospectors in the spring of 1860. Charles Baker, returning from the mines north of Silverton, established "Old Animas City" and built the first bridge across the Animas River. The community lasted less than a year before it was abandoned.



During the summer of 1875, James Harvey Pinkerton settled in the area now known as Pinkerton Hot Springs. He raised dairy cows with his wife, three sons, and four daughters. Throughout the year they produced and sold dairy products in mining camps in the San Juan Mountains. In the spring of 1876 they sold 116 pounds of butter for a dollar a pound to the miners north of Silverton.

I felt the water, but it was not very warm and must have cooled off spilling down the sides or was not that hot anyway.



Fall Trip

As we neared Silverton, we passed by a good overhead view of the valley, but we kept going. Once we got to Silverton, we drove up and down the Main Street just to see, but we did not stop anywhere. The weather today was much nicer than yesterday when we got off the train! We then went back up the mountain south to find that overlook we passed to get photos of the valley. We ended up missing it but finally found the spot we remember seeing to get the photos. Then, we went back to Silverton, but just kept going.

*I just had to include this photo!
(I wonder how much these plots cost?)
I tried to find it, but to no avail.)*



In a valley among the San Juan mountains lies the little town of Silverton.

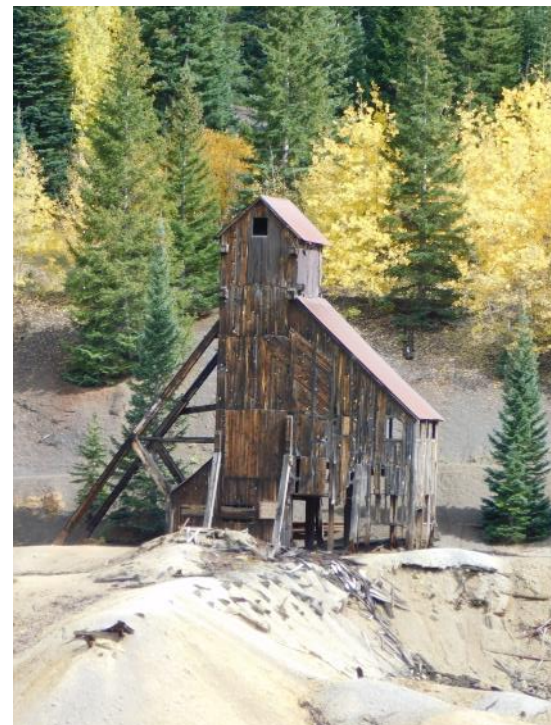


Fall Trip



Train

Silverton, Colorado



Abandoned mine.

Fall Trip

The aspens turn a bright gold in the fall. They can also turn orange or even reddish with the right conditions.



Fall Trip

The next town was Ouray. Back in 2006, we had stopped in Ouray, the Switzerland of America, and remember liking the little town. We drove over some more steep curvy mountain roads with a few photo stops until we got to the famous Ouray lookout. We again got some more photos. Once we got down into Ouray, we drove the length of the town and back to find somewhere to get lunch, especially since it was well after 3:00 PM. Based on a recommendation from a random person on the street (literally!), we went to a place called Red Mountain Brewing, a micro beer place that served food. By this point, we were tired and hungry. We sucked down water and rehydrated (something you must do regularly in the high and dry elevations!) until we got our food. Dad had a couple of burger sliders with fries, while I had a grilled chicken sandwich with coleslaw. The food was really good and everything handmade there, even the beef and the chicken were raised in Montrose just to the north. Once we were no longer tired, thirsty, and hungry, we continued on with the last stretch to Delta.



Ouray, Colorado. Switzerland of America.

Valley showing Ouray, Colorado.



Fall Trip



Red Mountain Brewing is the restaurant where we had lunch. Really good!

Throughout the mountain towns of Colorado are these ore carts used as planters. A very common sight.



The road to Montrose was much easier past Ouray than the previous roads. We did not really make any more stops. Once in Montrose, Dad had a few errands he wanted to do, including to get some dessert. We ultimately went to Culver's for frozen custard. When we left, we saw the tail end of a nice

sunset as we headed to Delta, which was a little less than an hour away, and it was dark when we got there. The hotel was at the very north end of Delta. One notable thing about this motel was that they had fresh baked cookies on their counter! I did partake of that option several times while we were there!

October 4, 2022 – Time for Telluride

Today is the day that the whole trip centered around in planning. Today we went to Telluride. This was the main location Dad wanted to visit, besides also going on the train from Durango. By late morning, we made our way down US 50 then US 550 to a town called Ridgeway. Because Telluride is so

isolated from any main roads in Colorado, there is no direct way to get there, especially with a bunch of mountains in the way! Once we got to the turnoff in Ridgeway going west, the landscape got a lot nicer. We stopped several times for photos, including one spot where a large herd of elk were moving.



Fall Trip

Just before we got to Telluride, we stopped at a gas station for a break and drinks. I also bought some really nice wood postcards. Just outside of the gas station, there was a thistle growing which had a lovely bud that was about halfway open. Telluride had no outlook over the town because we arrived to the town from about river level instead of through a high mountain pass. As we came into the town, we were on the main downtown road. We stopped for a bit, then we drove the road all the way to the end, which was at the base of the mountains of this particular valley.



A wonderful thistle flower!

A gas station sold these very high quality wood postcards I have never seen anywhere else.

Downtown Telluride.



Fall Trip

We got a bunch more photos. While there, I saw a helicopter hovering the valley near the mountains with a long cable and what might have been a container for water. We headed back up the road to see about getting something to eat. But Dad wasn't yet hungry, and I figured to wait until we got back to Montrose knowing that the food options in Telluride would likely be expensive. As we got back to the area near where the elk crossed, I stopped at a roadside vendor selling honey I saw earlier. I stopped for a few minutes to get some wildflower honey and a beeswax candle before heading back to Montrose. I stopped at Culver's, the same one we stopped at before, for a late lunch. Once I was happily full on a burger, fries, coleslaw, gravy, tea, and a free chocolate custard, we left to go back to Delta to the motel.

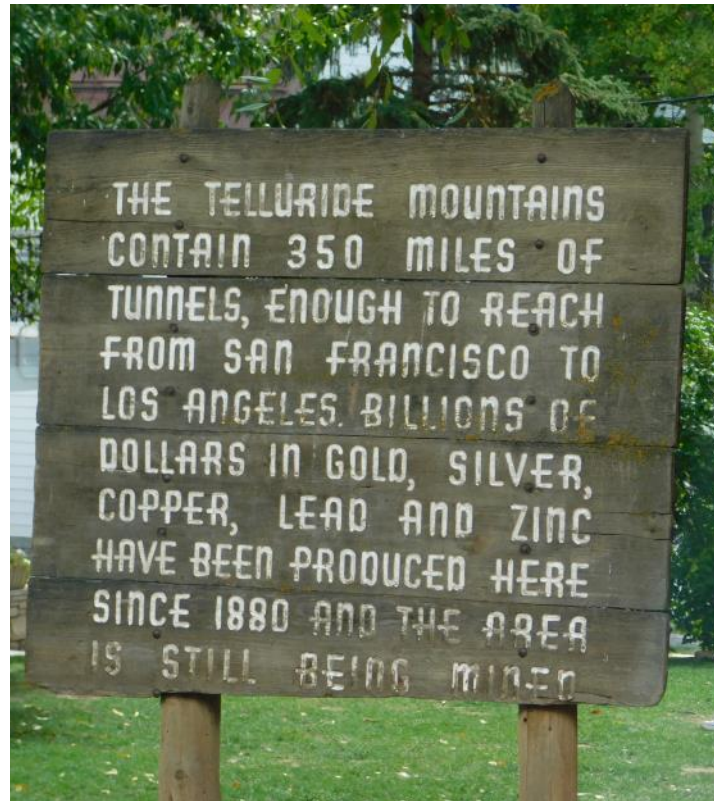


Some sort of rescue helicopter.



The valley of the former ghost town of Telluride.

Fall Trip



A couple of markers telling about the history of Telluride.



Colorado wildflower honey and a poured beeswax candle.

Do not feed the wildlife!

Fall Trip

October 5-8, 2022—An Abrupt Change of Plans

Without going into the details or the reasons why, we drove back to Colorado Springs and had to cancel the second half of the trip where we were going to go to Grand Junction for a few days. I spent several days back in Colorado Springs before abruptly needing to leave again from Colorado Springs on October 8. I packed up my stuff, then drove north on I-25 to Denver get on I-70 going west. My destination was to Frisco for the night, getting there at about 10:00 PM. The next day, I would visit the area and stay another night and head to Leadville, which was less than an hour away, on Monday.



View from the hotel in Frisco.



*Gaillardia
(Indian Blanket Flower)*



Bachelor Buttons (blue)



Cosmos



*Probably some variety
of sunflower*

In an area previously used as a parking spot in front of Dad's house, a neighbor scattered wildflower seeds in the grass. After a few months, here are some of the wildflowers that came up. Most of these flowers should come back next year.



*Proso millet
("birdseed")*



*Possibly green foxtail or
green bristlegrass*



*Looks suspiciously like
hollyhocks, but could
also be a mallow*

Fall Trip

October 9, 2022 – A Day In Frisco, Colorado

I planned to stay two nights in Frisco so that I would have a full day to explore Frisco and the surrounding area before leaving to Leadville on Monday. That way, I had no rush to get anywhere. I slept in and left the hotel a little after noon. Since the hotel did not provide breakfast, I first wanted to get something to eat. I recall seeing yesterday somewhere that had pancakes. I decided on that option instead of some other options I was considering. I drove over to Silverthorne. Frisco, Silverthorne, and Dillon are all within two to three miles of each other and nearly blend into each other. They also all surround Lake Dillon. I went over to Silverthorne and stopped at Murdoch's before looking around to find the restaurant. It took a little while of searching, but I finally found the restaurant. The place is called Sunshine Café, and their reviews show that they had excellent pancakes. I found a parking spot sort of near the entrance and walked into the restaurant. The place was packed, very busy even with people waiting outside to be seated. There happened to be one seat available at the counter, so I was seated immediately. The counter only had six or seven seats, so that worked out really well instead of having to wait a while for a table. I already decided that I wanted pancakes, but I looked at the menu to see what else they had. But, holy smokes the food was expensive! But, I figured just to go ahead and get whatever I wanted. I ordered two pancakes, eggs, and bacon, along with some iced tea rather than coffee. Just the main food was \$14, with another three something dollars for the tea. But, I tell you that they did not skimp on giving you a lot of food! The pancakes were huge, and they gave many slices of bacon and plenty of eggs. Despite the cost, I was not disappointed by the food!



I had a late breakfast at Sunshine Café.



They gave you plenty of food that tasted really good!



Fall Trip

After breakfast, I decided I would go back to Frisco, but that I would stop first at the scenic overlook on the westward bound side of I-70, which is a little higher up than eastward bound side. The scenic overlook faces Lake Dillon and the mountains in the background. The lake is also used for boating with a marina. Yes, a marina in the Rocky Mountains! I took a few photos before heading back to downtown Frisco. In the middle of town is an outdoor museum of historic structures of the town with most of them moved to the grounds. The one building still in its original spot was the schoolhouse. I went to the main museum building, which is the schoolhouse, and found out that it originally opened as a saloon for a short time before becoming a schoolhouse. It was a rather large building to serve as a school. I talked briefly with the docent before walking around the rest of the park. One cool feature they had was a passport where you can get the pages embossed at each location. The passport is actually for kids, but it was still fun to do! I ended up being at the park for about two hours looking through all of the buildings and reading the signs. I got a few more photos outside before leaving. I got a snack in Frisco before going back to the hotel and did various things the rest of the night.



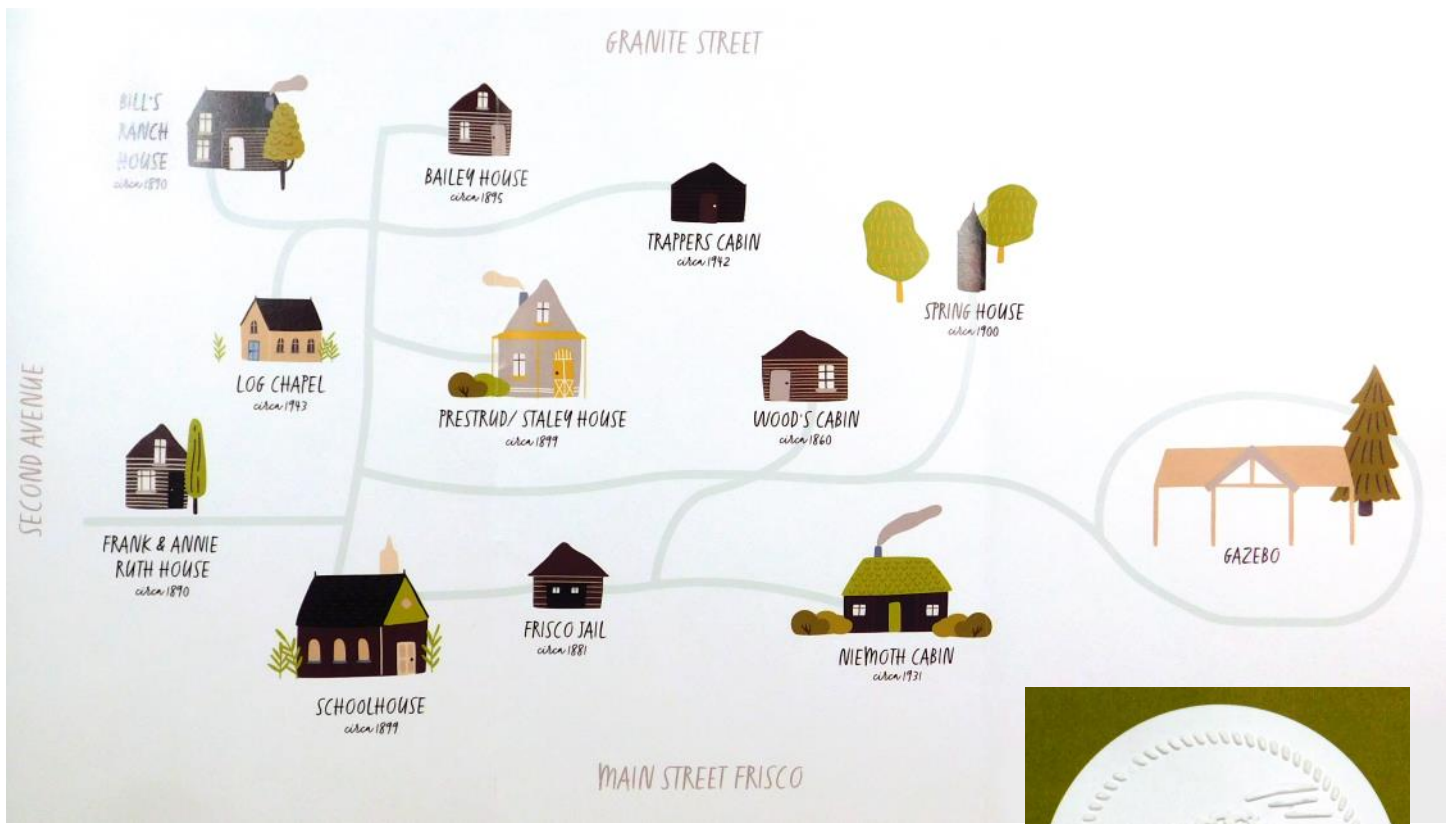
Lake Dillon. You can see that the water level is really low.



I-70 going through the town of Silverthorne.

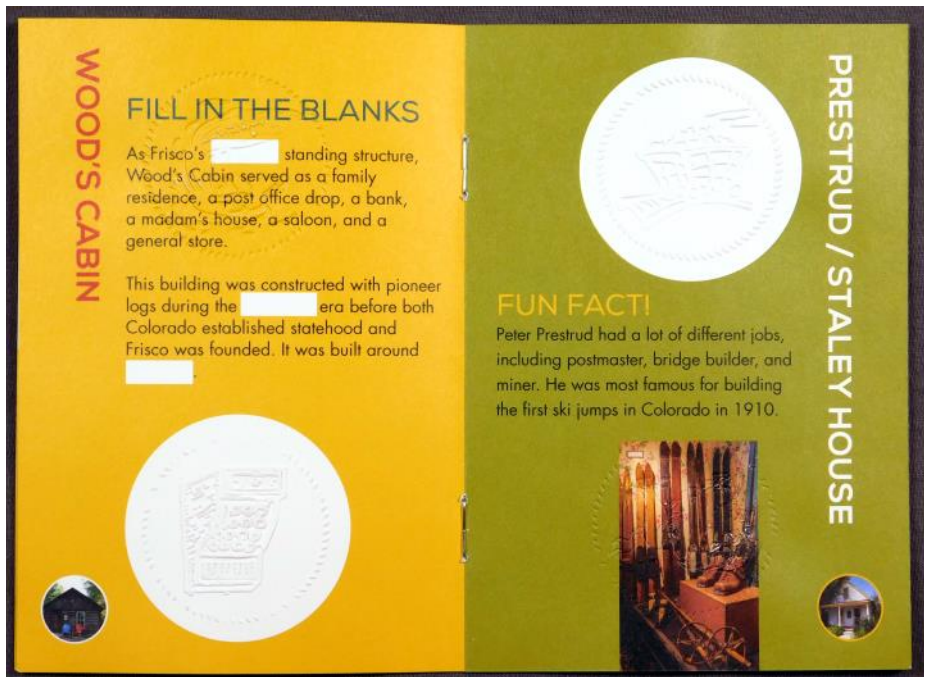
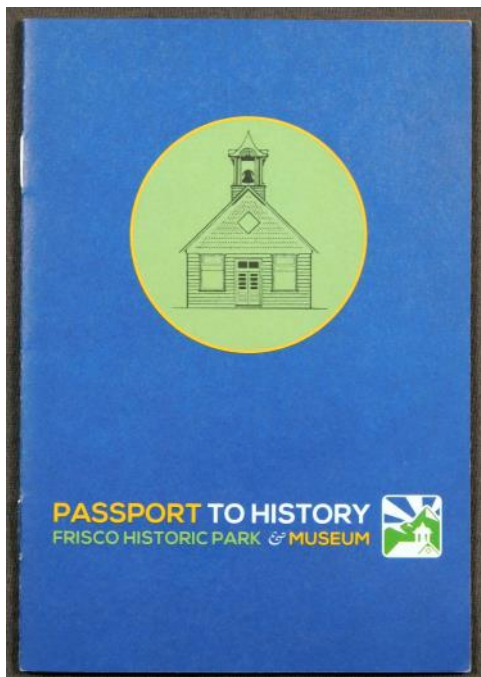


Fall Trip



Map showing the structures in the park.

The passport allowed kids to learn more about the structures.



Fall Trip

October 10, 2022 – Travelling to Leadville

I had no rush to get to Leadville, figuring to get there sometime before dark. After I checked out of the hotel, I took the dam road over the dam to Dillon. I went over to Murdoch's, which is actually in Silverthorne, to get something I wanted, then headed back over to Dillon to get a light meal knowing that I would get dinner in the evening after getting to Leadville. I ended up going on a wild goose chase trying to find a restaurant that I thought had closed, but actually did not, which was Smashburger. Okay, so whatever. After a while, I was on my way towards Leadville. One thing to note, this part of Colorado was very expensive, which is probably a combination of it being a tourist area along with the inflation from the last two years. On I-70, I drove a few short miles over to a rest stop near Copper

Mountain. I like this rest stop because there is a little creek and pond with a small bridge that is picturesque. Also, the pass through here is rather narrow making for great views. A short drive further took me to the exit on to Colorado 91. As I made my way south, I stopped a couple of times for historical interest, including a stop where the old town of Kokomo was, and another stop across from the Climax Mine where they had an outdoor exhibit. Once I got to Leadville, I went straight to the motel and checked in. After a while, I went over to the Temple Israel Museum for a while. After the museum closed, we went over to Quincy's Steakhouse, a local restaurant I had eaten at many times before. Then, I eventually went back to the motel for the night after a few errands.



I-70 through a narrow pass between Frisco and Copper Mountain in central north Colorado.

◀.....▶

October 11-14, 2022 – My Time In Leadville

My time in Leadville was mostly to do some museum work for the second time this year (since I had also come in May). However, my time in Leadville this visit was much leaner and uneventful than in previous times. But over the several days I was there, I processed new artifacts using the process I developed for that purpose and got everything in order, among whatever other projects I needed to do for the museum. I also made my rounds to several

places I like going to. But, because the town was in its post tourist season, many places were closed for an extended time. So, I did not get to go to some of the places I normally would have if it was earlier in the summer or fall. In any case, I did go to City On A Hill, the local coffee shop, most mornings for breakfast and did various available options for dinner, mostly by myself.

Fall Trip

October 15, 2022 – Leadville To Santa Fé, Halfway Home

Since I would not be returning to Colorado Springs before going home, this made for a great opportunity to go home by way of Santa Fé from Leadville. I have never taken the road from Salida to Santa Fé before and have heard that it was an interesting route (but not in the winter). I had gotten cleaned up and packed up by around 11:30 AM and had a few errands to do in Leadville before leaving. I stopped again at City On A Hill for breakfast, then I headed over to Western Hardware, an antique store, to look around and see what historic photos I could find. Anytime I'm in Leadville, I stop there to look for historic photos for my collection and sometimes other things. After about an hour, I checked out and left with it being about 1:30 PM. I stopped by the museum to see who was there after the event they had earlier. I stayed around an hour and finally needed to get going as it was almost 3 o'clock! I then headed straight out of Leadville down to Buena Vista, about a 30 minute drive. I stopped briefly for gas and to stop at the grocery store there. Now typically, I would go just south of Buena Vista to the road that went east to Colorado Springs. But this time, I continued south to Salida, but then kept going south from there, which is the new part of the drive I do not recall ever having driven. There were some nice little houses and other nice landscapes once I

got through some narrow areas south of Salida. Then, the road opened out onto a big wide valley for many miles called the San Luis Valley. The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is on the east side of the valley, but I was travelling on US 285 on the west side of the valley until it got to Monte Vista. From here, there is a small overlap of the road we took on our way to Durango at the start of the trip, and passed by the same RG Bank we saw on the way out along with the Arby's we ate lunch at. Once I got to Alamosa, I continued back south. A few miles south from there was a town called La Jara, and I only mention it by saying that I saw an Amish buggy sign which indicated that there must be an Amish settlement there, even though I did not see any buggies. I found out later that this settlement is the second largest Amish settlement in Colorado, with Monte Vista being the largest.

La Jara has the second largest Amish settlement in Colorado.



Google Maps Street View

This is the San Luis Valley in southern central Colorado.



Fall Trip

As I was nearing the state border, it was getting dark, and there were some weird turns that I almost missed for the road to continue to Santa Fé. After I got into New Mexico, it was pretty much black dark out! About the only light was from my car and the other cars! And when I say dark, I mean you couldn't even see a tree next to the road dark! The moon had not come up yet or else it was clouded over and so there was no light from the moon. The drive from the border to Santa Fé was much longer than it seemed from looking on a map! The drive took about another two hours! I could tell that if it were daytime, I would be able to see some pretty and interesting landscapes especially with how the road went up and down and made various bends. Another thing I noticed was that spaced out every so often were these signs to watch for roaming cows on the road! I'm wondering if this area does not have fences along the sides of roads that allows for cattle to wander! It was

way to dark to know! There were also some other signs to watch out for elk crossing areas! Fortunately, I saw no animals (at least that I could see by how dark it was) and so had no issues from animals. However, there was one area of construction that was reduced down to one lane for about three or four miles, but fortunately that delay was minor. Once I got closer to Santa Fé, I had to get my bearings and try to figure out what road I needed to take to get to the hotel. I finally got to the hotel a little before 10:00 PM. Since I had little to eat today, I went out to find somewhere that was still open to get some food. Ultimately, I ended up going to Denny's, not because it was what I wanted, but simply because it was open! It was starting to rain and a cold front was forecasted to come in through the night. I also went to get some gas after running around trying to find a decent price. Finally, I went back to the room for the night.

October 16, 2022 – Last Leg of Drive Home

Today is the last day of the fall trip and really is just the last leg of driving back home. The hotel was stylized with the typical Santa Fé type decoration outside and within each room of clay tile floors, wood, and adobe like accents. It was neat looking hotel, though somewhat small. I was ready to go little after 11:00 AM. It probably rained all night for the parking lot and the cars were completely soaked. The forecast also showed cloudy and rain for most of the way home and into the next day, even for Lubbock. I went over to Panera to get something to eat. The last time I was in Santa Fé, I also stopped at this same Panera. I finally left Santa Fé a little before 1:00 PM. I went north on I-25, which is odd because the road actually goes south for many miles before it makes a turn to the north because of some large mountains that are in the way! I only had to go a few miles until I got to US 285, a continuation of the same road I drove from Leadville. This stretch of the road goes right to Clines Corners and crosses I-40.



This is the hotel I stayed at in Santa Fé. It was an Econo Lodge, but it looked like it might have been an independent hotel at one time (like so many other old hotels before they got sucked up by corporations!)

Fall Trip

Just as I was driving on this road, I passed by the stop lights at a couple of intersections I've passed before that have horseback buttons, pedestrian signals that are at normal height and another set higher up for those horseback! The drive to Clines Corners had off and on rain for the roughly 30 minute drive. The route is very scenic through the northern New Mexico country. The clouds hung low and were quickly moving across the sky. I stopped at Clines Corners to go see all of the kitschy stuff they sell there. It was cold, wet, and very windy! The high was only 43° in mid October! It was the kind of weather where you want to curl up in front a of a fireplace for the night! It was miserable to walk through. I left after about 30 minutes and got on I-40 east to Santa Rosa.



Double crosswalk for those horseback. (2017)



Fall Trip

The drive to Santa Rosa is always longer than it seems like it should be. So after about an hour, I finally got there to the exit I needed. If I wanted to spend more time, and that's besides the cold nasty rain, I could have gone into the actual town because it is a Route 66 town and probably has neat things to see relating to that. But, I really just wanted to get back home. Interesting side note, when I was moving from Flagstaff to Lubbock back in July 2001, I got as far as Santa Rosa before staying the night at some sketchy Route 66 motel! I then got on US 84 going south to Fort Sumner. Now, if you know anything about that road between Santa Rosa and Fort Sumner, then you know that the road bounces because there are a lot of waves in the road. You are

driving along, and you go up and down, up and down bouncing with the waves of the road! The rain was still around but varied between very light and occasional heavy downpours. The drive was about 45 minutes before arriving in Fort Sumner. Just before getting to the town, the road goes under a restored 1938 railroad bridge, a historic bridge that was rehabilitated in 1998. From there, the road goes east to Clovis. About 20 miles down the road, I got to a little town called Taiban. If you remember seeing my journal last year, you know that I stopped in Taiban to see an old abandoned church building. I stopped for a few minutes to get some photos, but the weather was still cold, rainy, and wet, though the rain stopped for a little while as I took the photos.

This old church is located in De Baca County of New Mexico in the unincorporated town of Taiban, east of Fort Sumner. It was the First Presbyterian Church of Taiban located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Pecan Street and Munger Street. It was built in 1908.



Fall Trip

A little further down the road, some train tracks follow along the road all the way to Clovis. These are normally very active tracks, and I wondered why I had not seen any trains. But not much longer after I thought that, I did see the first train. This train had eight locomotives in the front and none in the middle nor at the back end. This train was not even all that long. I did see a total of four trains on the way to Clovis. The other three trains were shorter and each had three locomotives with none in the middle nor at the end. I stopped for a break at a nice Pilot just outside of Clovis. From Clovis, I was only about an hour and a half or less away until I would be home. Clovis is interesting in that it's right on the border of New Mexico and Texas—well actually it is the town of Texico in New Mexico and the town of Farwell in

Texas that touch each other—that is separated by some wide train tracks cutting in between. I had to stop for a few minutes while another train went by. As soon as I went over the tracks, I was in Texas, but I also instantly lost an hour by changing time zones! So with the new time being close to 7 o'clock, I figured that I would be home sometime after 8:00 PM. I did get home at about 8:05 PM since I live in the northwest part of Lubbock. No sooner than I got home, I needed to do a few planned errands and to get some dinner since all I had was the Panera many hours earlier. I went over to Rudy's for a feast. By the time I got back home, I unpacked only a few things I needed to bring in and left the rest to unpack the next day. Frankly, I was too tired and too cold to mess with it!

Fall Trip Summary

This concludes the fall trip. I was gone for basically three weeks leaving near the end of September and getting back in the middle of October. A number of things did not work out for various reasons, and I seriously question whether or not this trip should have happened at all. It was a very mixed bag of activities of some pleasant things and some extremely unpleasant things (which I did not explain in this writing). We did get to see a few of the main things we planned, which included seeing some fall leaves, going on the Durango and Silverton railroad, going to Mesa Verde, driving the Million Dollar Highway, and going to Telluride. I did get up to Leadville partly as planned, but even going there proved strange as compared to past visits (and again,

I did not explain very much about what I did in Leadville). In any case, this journal issue records some of the many things we saw and did.



Miles Travelled, RG's Car

1366 miles

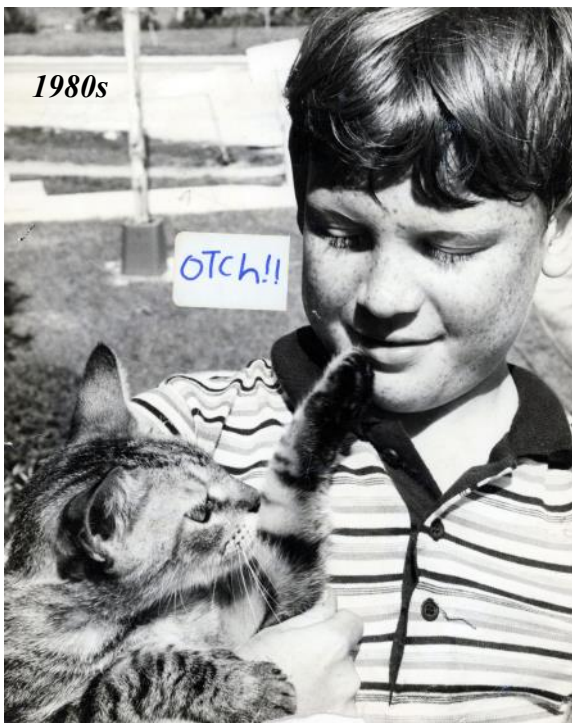
Miles Travelled, Dad's Car

1260 miles

Total Miles Travelled, RG driving

2626 miles

Gator Journal



Birthday Gift

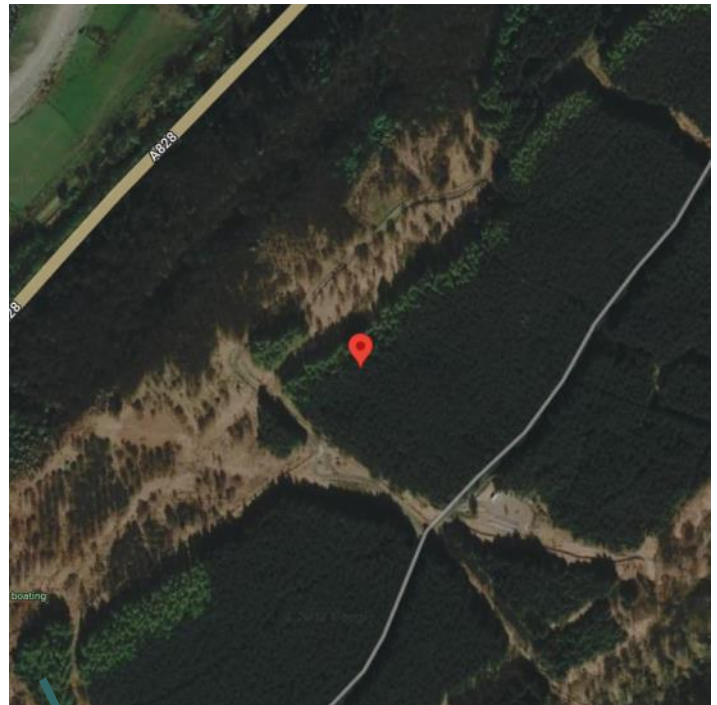
Souvenir Plots in Scotland

As of July 2022, you can now call me Lord Robert-George de Stolfe!
(of Kilnaish and Glenceoe)

As a fun gift to myself for my 50th birthday, I “purchased” some plots in the Scottish Highlands! I went with an organization called HighlandTitles.com that sells souvenir plots of land in the Highland Titles Nature Reserve in Duror near Glenceoe, Scotland and in the Kilnaish Nature Reserve in Argyll. While I do not legally “own” the land in the traditional sense, I do have rights to it and can visit the plots as I so choose! When I got the plots, they were running a special where if I bought a plot at the one location, I would get another small plot at another location. So, I got a 10 ft² plot in Kilnaish and also received a free 1 ft² plot in Glenceoe. After a few weeks, I got this very nice packet of information about the company, information about my plots, and a nice certificate looking much like a college degree certificate. They also gave me the exact coordinates for my plots, as shown in these photos. The size of the plots are likely smaller than the red pin.



HIGHLAND TITLES
THE EVERLASTING GIFT OF SCOTTISH LAND



This is the bonus plot of 1 ft² in Glenceoe.



This is the main plot of 10 ft² in Kilnaish.



Final Thought

Cute Little Fluffs of Fur

I got an email at the end of October from the Highland Titles where I bought my souvenir plots providing updates to the nature reserves. In this particular email, they told about some new kittens that were unexpectedly born with some video of them. A few weeks later, they posed a vote of what to name the new kittens, and I sent my suggestions. Aren't they some adorable little fluffs of fur! (And ones that can probably scratch your eyes out!)



Watch the video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K_134qhAtI



Community Vote: Name Our New Arrivals!

Write Your Name Suggestions for the Kittens Below!

Kitt, Angus, Blotches, Highley

*The names I submitted were
Kitt, Angus, Blotches, and Highley.*

de Stolfe Journal

The de Stolfe Journal is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production of over 60 regular and special issues, with now the *Candid* dropped from the name. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.destolfe.com

Publisher/Owner/Editor
Robert-George de Stolfe

Graphics/Layout*



Robert-George de Stolfe

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Robert-George de Stolfe
PO Box 16156
Lubbock, Texas 79490
806.470.5867
rgdestolfe@yahoo.com