

de Stolfe *Journal* ●●●●●●●●

Late Spring 2021 | 10.3



Contents

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*Covers activities in April through part of June 2021.
The page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.*

- 2** Contents & On The Cover
- 3** Comments by RG
- 4** Word for Life
- 5** Anniversaries
- 6-34** Unexpected Trip to Colorado
- 9-13** Pueblo Activities
- 19-28** Leadville Side Trip
- 29-30** Can't Forget the Squirrels!
- 32-33** Memorial—Miriam de Stolfe
- 35-43** RG's Garden
- 44-45** Found a Letter
- 46** Authentic Find
- 47** Website & Ways to Support the Journal
- 48-51** Lockdown Posts—Part 3
- 51-52** Snyder Wildflowers
- 52** Final Thought
- 52** Fine Print

*Make sure to check out
the most recent special issue about
Shark Week!*



On The Cover



This is a schoolhouse. Located a few miles west of Leadville, the Malta school was built in 1902 and was in continual use to 1945.



Prickly pears bloom with these lovely roses in the spring. By the fall, they have these very red fruits that are often made into jelly.

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

Roller Coaster Spring

Hello all! Well, since the last issue, a whole lot has happened! And by extension, the entirety of spring!

As you know from the last issue, we went to Florida for the third and final trip to finish up the last things relating to Mom's death from 2020. We came back to Texas in late March, and that is where I left off in the last issue. Well, almost immediately, I had to turn right around and be gone again for what ultimately was another five weeks until early May. You can read more about this unexpected trip in the following pages.

After I got back home and was actually back home, I could redirect my thinking about what I was going to do next. With the probate settled, the house sold, the trip to Florida done, and the unexpected trip to Colorado finished, I could finally look into and decide what options I had of what to do next and where to go. The where to go part became a bigger priority. I had been looking into what options there are for many months prior. I had ideas of moving to various possible towns mostly in the central part of Texas. What I knew without a doubt was that Snyder was a failed move and staying there was a foolish option. After looking at all of the options and ruling out what made no sense, I ultimately decided that moving back to



Producer, RG de Stolfe

Lubbock was the best option and what made the most sense, especially after the very expensive risk I took by moving to Snyder in the first place that ultimately failed and removed nearly three years of my life with little to show for it. With that settled, I could then determine the where. I had been planning since last summer that I wanted to build a house and had one specific affordable option in mind. My intention was to pay for the entire house outright so that it was paid for and that no one could take it away from me because of some failure to pay the mortgage. I've heard of too many horror stories about people forced to lose their houses because of financial problems! From the time I first inquired about the house I wanted to build to now, construction costs bloated the price by \$40K

above the price of the plan I was wanting. I was already struggling to make the numbers work to fully pay for the house before, and with the extra expenses along with the price increase, and the housing market in general utterly exploding in bloat, I canceled buying a house completely. If I was going to move at all, it would have to be by moving into a rental, and as far as I was concerned, I was done with living in apartments. For several weeks, I looked into select apartments and other housing options not entirely satisfied with what I was finding, often because of the lack of space. I also looked at houses and duplexes to rent at the same time. I came across one option I liked, but the price was a good bit higher than I really wanted, actually almost double of what I was paying for the apartment in Snyder. However, I knew I needed to find something big enough for my stuff and the stuff I brought back from Mom's house. So, I looked at the place and talked with the owner and hoped that maybe I could pay a little less. But, there were already several other offers to rent. But, I had an "ace in the hole" that I was pretty sure no one else had! I said that I would pay the asking price for an entire year up front. Badda boom, badda bing, and I got the rental! (That is called the favor of God!) So read more about that later in the journal. Enjoy!

Word For Life

Outward Expression

There are some companies in the United States that are openly Christian based. Probably the most well known one is Chick-fil-A. But there are others, of course. Notably, others include Hobby Lobby, Mardel, and In-N-Out Burger. Now, that last one might be a surprise, especially considering that it is a chain based in Irvine, California just south of Los Angeles. But the proof is literally on their packaging! As you might know, In-N-Out Burger has a very small menu of items (excluding their “not so secret menu” items), and so their packaging is streamlined to just a few basic items. So, on their items, on the bottoms or the sides, are scriptures. They are not particularly hidden, but they are not conspicuous either. Here are the scriptures they have:



I went to one in Colorado Springs. I had a drink, fries, and a Double-Double. Shown above are the corresponding scriptures.

- John 3:16 on the drink cups
- Proverbs 3:5 on the milkshake cups
- Proverbs 24:18 on the fries tray
- Revelation 3:20 on the burger wrappers
- Nahum 1:7 on the Double-Double wrapper

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;

Proverbs 24:18

Lest the Lord see it, and it displease Him,
And He turn away His wrath from him.

Revelation 3:20

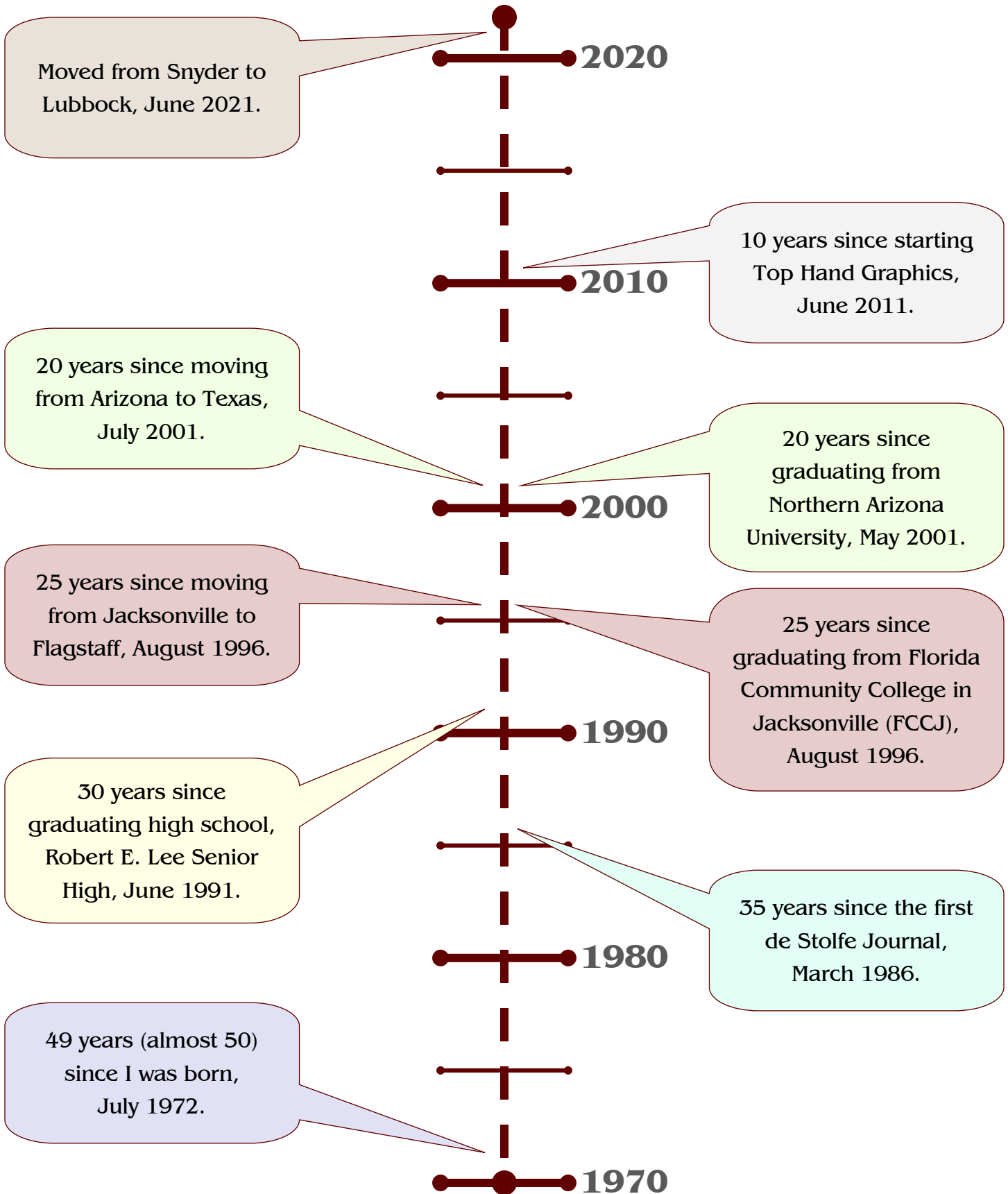
Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Nahum 1:7

The Lord is good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.

Anniversaries

2021 marks some major milestone anniversaries.



Unexpected Trip To Colorado



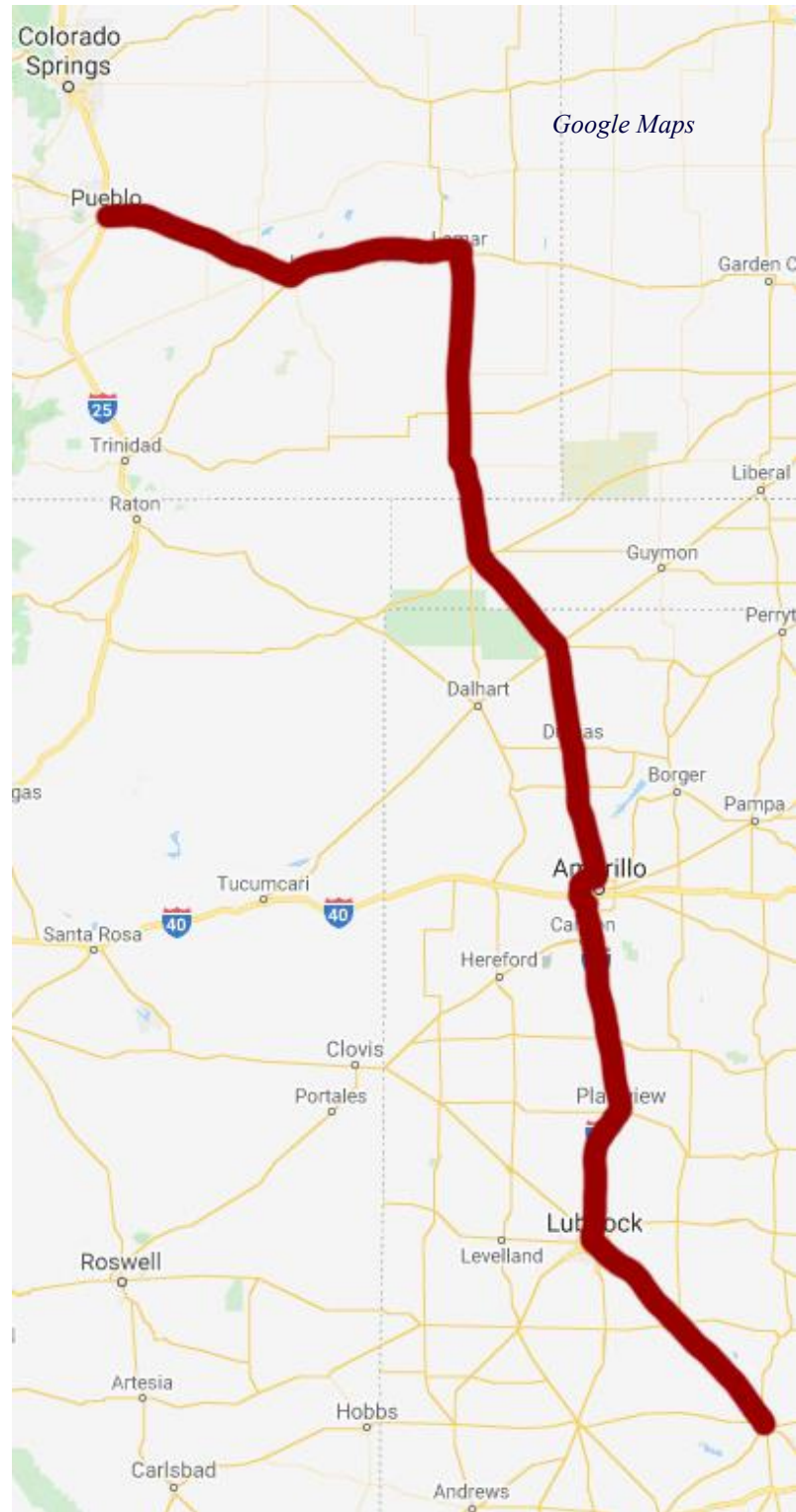
To catch up from the last issue of the Journal, Dad and I went to Florida in March for the third time to finish up loose ends after Mom's death in April 2020. We were gone about 13 days with March 29 being the last day. Dad stayed the night at my apartment on March 28 and we drove to Lubbock with the trailer the next morning. I drove dad's car with the trailer, while dad drove my car since he would not be going back to Snyder. We took care of

business with the trailer and with putting items into storage. Then, we had a late lunch (or early dinner) and Dad settled into a hotel. I spent the rest of my time in Lubbock doing various errands before going back to Snyder. So I left off in the last issue to state that after being gone for two weeks I was finally back home and could start doing the things I had planned to do after Mom's estate was all finished. Weeeeeeeelll... that was a BIG understatement!

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Okay, so I started the day at home in my usual manner as before the trip trying to decide just what I was going to do for the day after finally being back. From the title of this writing, you can guess that I instead went somewhere! The reason for the unexpected trip was just as unsettling as the unexpected need to go. Dad stayed the night in Lubbock and decided to leave very early the next morning, something like 2 AM or 3 AM. He basically drove half the night and into the next morning going the route through New Mexico and Raton like I have gone many times before. In the late morning, I got a call from Dad where he told me that he was in an accident and that the car was totaled and he wanted me to come up to take him home! Well, I also found out a little later that he was in a hospital in Pueblo. Obviously, to drive up there would take some time! I had not even unpacked yet from the Florida trip, but I gathered what things I would need or want (most of it still already packed) figuring I'd be gone for a week or two. (Another understatement!) I would finally get going to leave Snyder around 5 PM. I decided that I would take the plains route instead of the Raton route to get to Pueblo. Obviously, I would not get there until sometime in the early morning. The hospital authorized me to be able to stay in the hospital room for that night. I left Snyder and got to Lubbock around 7 PM where I got gas then continued on to Amarillo on I-27. Once in Amarillo, I stopped to get gas again at Love's then briefly stopped at a Dairy Queen just before they closed for some quick food since I had not yet eaten. From there leaving a little before 10:30 PM, I continued on US 87/US 287 to Lamar. It was already dark and most of the drive was quiet and rather boring. Getting to Lamar a little before 1:00 AM, I stopped at the Pilot to get gas and a couple of other things before heading west to Pueblo on US 50. I finally arrived at the hospital a little after 3:30 AM. The head nurse at the St. Mary Corwin Medical Center gave great directions to get to the hospital. Compared to Texas or to Florida, Colorado was much more closed about health safety.

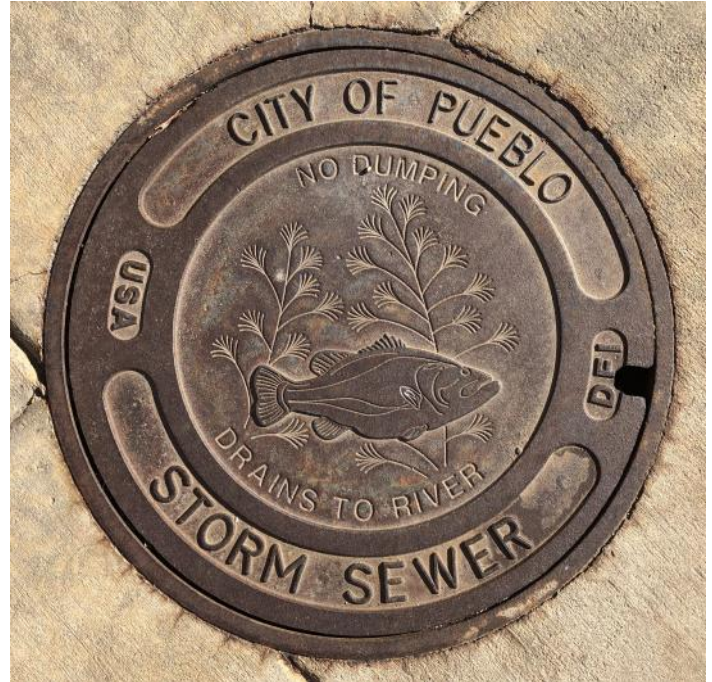


Therefore, being at the hospital was doubly tensionous (yes, that's the word I'm going with!). So, I stayed the rest of the night not particularly sleeping but just reclining in a chair in the room with my blanket I brought from home.

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

Wednesday, March 31 to Sunday, April 4, 2021

By the morning, I had not really been able to sleep but rested what I could. It was obvious that Dad would be at the hospital for a few unknown number of days. For the rest of the time we were in Pueblo, I stayed in a motel. For most of the days, I would stop by the hospital in the morning for a while, go and do something for a while, and come back for a while until leaving to go to the motel for the night. This arrangement worked good so that I would have some space and Dad would have some space. The first day, March 31, I did not do much other than stay around the hospital until going to the motel. The next day, April 1, I decided to explore something in Pueblo since I had never been to Pueblo proper, just passed through it. I went to visit a historical house museum called the Rosemount Museum. It was a guided tour of the three floored mansion from the late 1800s beautifully restored! The next day, April 2, I went to explore the downtown area and the historic Arkansas Riverwalk park. I mainly stayed by the northwestern part of the park. This part of the Arkansas River where the park is was an old route of the meandering river (much like with the Mississippi River also) and is not directly connected anymore to the rest of the active Arkansas River. I spent a few hours on a very pleasant day looking around. That was a Friday. Saturday, April 3, I drove to Colorado Springs to check on the house (since it had been over two weeks since Dad left for the Florida trip) and to see if I needed to prep anything before Dad would go home. I then drove back to Pueblo with the mail. The next day was Sunday, April 4, which was Easter. The hospital finally determined that he could go home (with a bunch of extra things). And so in the morning, we loaded up in my car and I drove back to his house. The hospital kept Dad for the six days to monitor his vitals and to watch the effects of the accident for improvement. They determined that no surgery was necessary, but in going home, they wanted him on a monitor, on continual oxygen, and to wear a special brace around the house and if he would go anywhere. It was Easter, but we did not do anything.



Pueblo has some of the fanciest (maybe prettiest?) manhole covers I've ever seen! This notation about no dumping is common across the country so not to pollute the rivers, lakes, and oceans from trash poured down the drains!

The fish depicted on the cover is likely a bass. Also, I like that the design includes aquatic plant life!



*Largemouth Bass
(Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife)*

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

Rosemount Museum

On April 1, I visited the Rosemount Museum in Pueblo. The museum states,

“Built in 1893, this 37 room mansion was home to the John A. and Margaret Thatcher family and was named for Mrs. Thatcher's favorite flower [rose]. It remained a family residence for 75 years. Designed by noted New York architect Henry Hudson Holly and two years under construction, the mansion was completed in 1893. Nearly all furnishings, accessories, decorative arts, paintings, custom woodwork, wall and window treatments are original to the home.” Photos were not allowed inside the museum.

Read More

- Rosemount Museum—www.rosemount.org



The Rosemount house has 37 rooms over three floors for a total of 24,000 ft²!



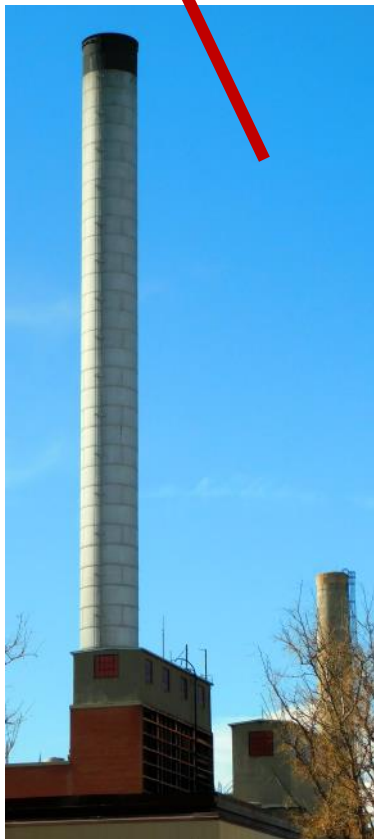
What time is it? (Adjust for Daylight Savings)

The time shows 3:30 PM, but it was actually 3:50 PM.

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Park

I took a couple of hours to walk around the park and water areas to take photos and just see what was there. Photos on the next few pages.



Unexpected Trip To Colorado

Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Park



Unexpected Trip To Colorado

Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Park



I can't say that I have ever seen this variety of prickly pear before. Quite unusual!



And in a normal year, you too can paddle in a ducky!



Birdie in the pines.

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Park

The two photos below are unaltered and taken with the same camera at the same time. The first one is a regular photo, while the second one is at max zoom!

The camera is a Nikon B500. It's not a particularly expensive or fancy camera, but it does have a fantastic zoom range!



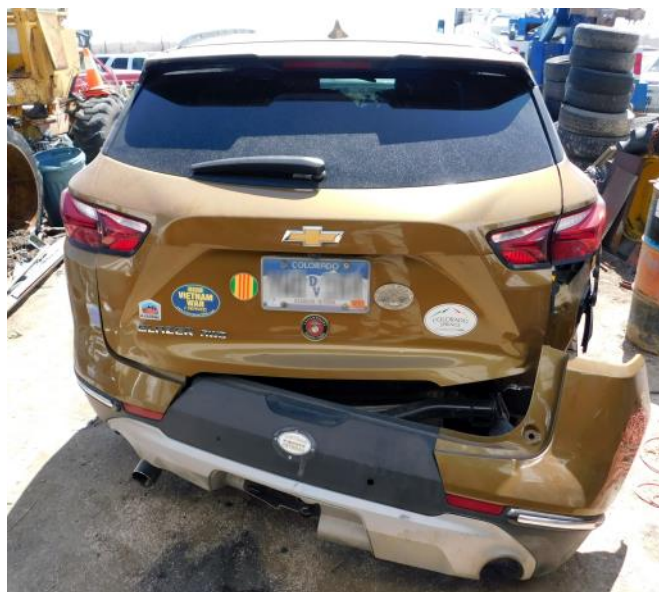
"No, not at all! No dogs have ever gone in these waters! Not a single time!"

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

April 2021

The first few days back at the house were good but rather rough until Dad could get readjusted to being back home. As for me, I had no idea how long I would need to or should stay before I would go back home myself. So we took it by the day and by the week. Several days later, we rented a vehicle to go back to Pueblo where the car was stored to clean out the car before the insurance people would determine how they would handle the damage claim. For me, it was the first look I saw of the car since I drove it from Snyder to Lubbock and the first look for Dad since the accident over a week earlier. The outside of the car looked okay except for the obviously damaged areas, but the inside looked like a tornado

slammed through it! Stuff was obviously and violently thrown everywhere! It was all stuff we had while on the trip since Dad had not yet gotten home at the time of the accident. We, well basically me, stripped the entire car of everything, which is why we needed a rental to get it back to the house. The rental was a truck, and it was all they had available! Since the insurance was paying for it, I kept it for several days to do errands and such before returning it. I also took advantage of having the rental to get my own car worked on to fix a few things. I have to admit that it was fun driving the big truck! After we got back to the house, I unloaded the stuff into the garage until I could sort through the things sometime later.



This was the vehicle we rented. It was basically all that was available! Look how you have to shift gears.

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

April



This was the first time I have ever had avocado toast, in this case at Dunkin' Donuts and without the seeds. It was very tasty, actually (but a little expensive)!



Another place I ate at while in the Springs was Borriello Brothers New York Pizza. There were a bunch around the city. But now, there is only the one.

While I was in Colorado Springs for a few weeks, I went to various restaurants as well as to bring food back for Dad.

Right: This is the Double-Double from the In-N-Out Burger in Colorado Springs, the first one in the Springs. They are building some more there.

Below: One place I like going to while in the Springs is Culvers. They have a good variety of food options along with the frozen custard! Try the pot roast sandwich! Really good!



Unexpected Trip To Colorado

April



By mid April, the Springs got some snow! Believe it or not, this was at 1:30 AM!



These are the same bushes as above after blooming. This photo was on April 30.

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

April



I was leaving a restaurant and drove passed the Lowe's when I doubled back and parked. I saw these beautiful tulips in the garden area. As it turned out, they were on clearance for \$1! That was \$1 for the whole pot, which had about a dozen bulbs in each! I got two pots, but I should have grabbed a few more at that price!



I stopped by the Duluth Trading Company in Colorado Springs to see what is new since I had not been in one for quite a while.



More of these charging stations are showing up in places. This one was in downtown Pueblo. (I have seen variations of this in Colorado, Texas, and Florida over the last five years.)

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

April

For the next couple of weeks, I stayed and just did various things with getting food, doing laundry, and other menial things as necessary, while I would occasionally go and do my own things. Over that time, Dad was doing much better but nowhere near 100% and certainly not well enough for him to be by himself just yet. By the third week in April, I decided that I wanted to go to Leadville for a few days to do stuff for the Temple Israel Museum and to visit Leadville, especially since I had not properly visited there since June of 2019, even though we did stop for a brief (several hours) visit in September of 2020 on our way back from Grand Junction to Colorado Springs. (You can read about that visit in the September 2020 issue of the journal.) I figured that this would be a good test as to how well Dad would do on his own. I rented another car while also having my car worked on to fix the air conditioning. This rental was a nice one! It was a Volkswagen Atlas. I left to Leadville on April 22 and would return back to the Springs on April 27. Refer to another place in this journal to read more about the Leadville visit. I wasn't quite sure what I would return to when I would get back, but for the most part Dad did fine. But, it would be about another week before I would leave to go home.



While on the way to Leadville, I stopped in Woodland Park, about 15 miles west of Colorado Springs on the other side of Pike's Peak, to look around in The Cowhand, a store selling Western wear and many other things. I've been there before and saw something I wanted the last time I was there.



With renting a vehicle while my car was being worked on, this was the only car they had available! It was much fancier a car than I've ever rented before, but it did drive nice and had lots of features. However, it was not a car I would get for myself, but it was a nice car for a rental!

Leadville Side Trip

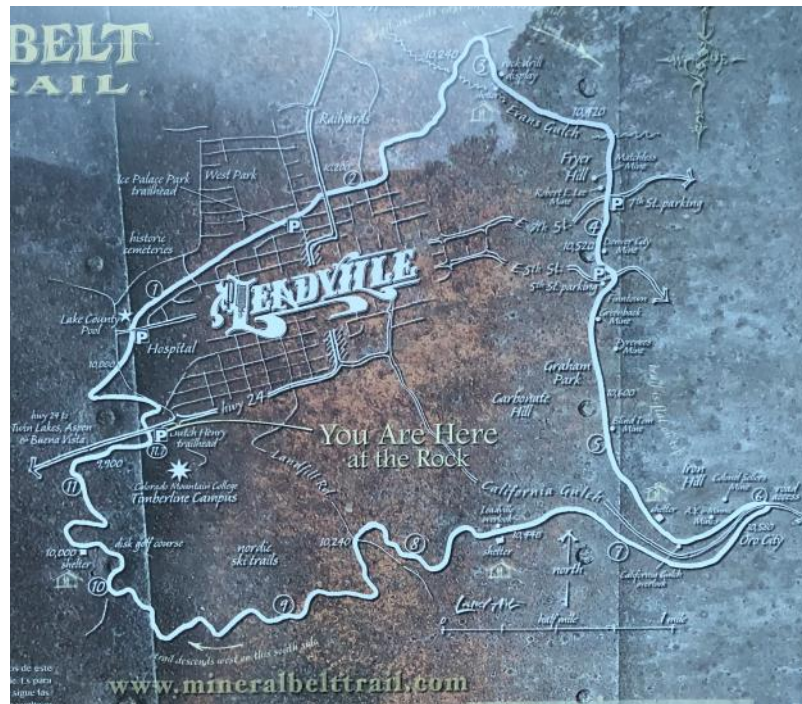
I went to Leadville for about five days over a weekend. My intent was to get a way for a mini trip and to catch up on some small projects at the museum. In addition, I did a few other things. I stopped at: Turquoise Lake, the Leadville National Fish Hatchery, part of the Mineral Belt Trail, the Malta schoolhouse, and the Western Hardware antique store, besides some of the restaurants. I decided to stay there at the only chain hotel Leadville has so I could get some more points for my frequent nighters account! That way too, I would not be a burden to stay with anyone. It was an easy time being in Leadville since Leadville's tourist season doesn't start until late May, typically Memorial Day. The weather was still quite cold but in transition with a few pleasant mid days. There were a couple of times of light snow. I spent most of the mid days at the museum, while the mornings, lunch breaks, and evenings were free times when I went around to see other things. Very few visitors came to the museum, which is typical for the off season. I has glad to see the things I have seen many times before.



Leadville Side Trip



The Mineral Belt Trail is a paved, non motorized trail that goes around Leadville. Part of the trail historically used to be railroad tracks. As you can see by the map below, at least three quarters of the trail is out in the “wilds” and the old mining areas of the town. As for me, I have only ever walked the northwestern parts of the trail in the years I have worked there (since 2014).



So many things about these stairs! And the pattern of the carpet is the least of the them! This funhouse ride are the original stairs of the Western Hardware building from the late 1800s. That means wear, and that means very few of the steps are flat, straight, or level! In fact, the carpet helps to add traction!



Leadville Side Trip



The only grocery store in Leadville is Safeway. I hadn't noticed before, but the aisles have names of the streets in Leadville! The streets are: Sawatch Drive, Prospector Drive, Poplar Street, Pine Street,

Mt. Elbert Drive, Mountain View Drive, Highway 24, Harrison Avenue, Evergreen Drive, and Front Street. These are the ones in the photos above. There are more not in the photos, of course.



Photo from Jeff

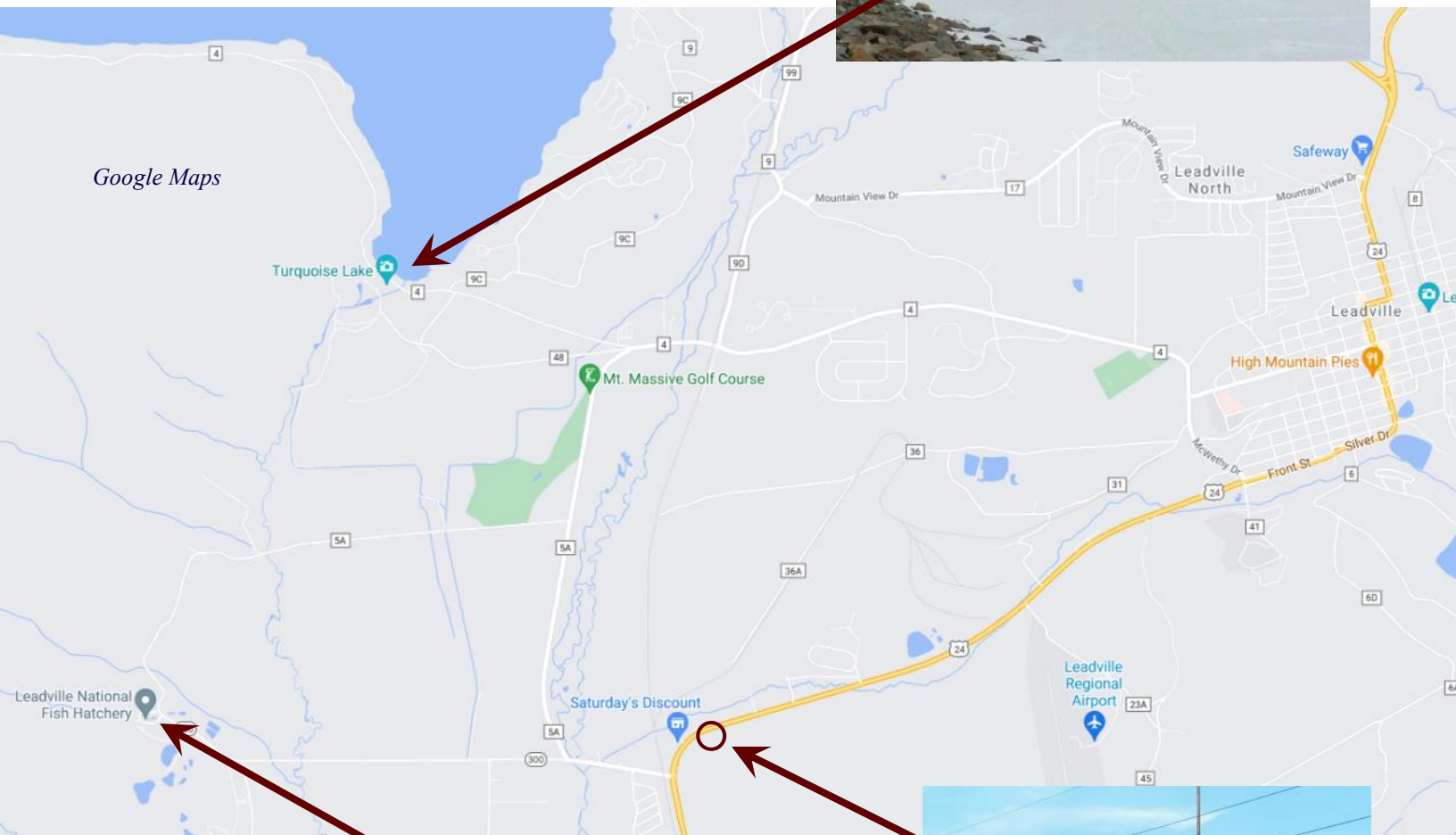
The town has done these flowerbox planters as a fundraiser for several years. This year, I decided to sponsor a flowerbox in my name but in honor of the Temple Israel Museum where I have worked.

Leadville is at 10,152 feet above sea level. Oxygen is thinner the higher in elevation you go. Stores sell these cans of oxygen where you pull a lever and have the oxygen flow out of the top. The can has to state that the oxygen is weightless and that is why the can is very light! The "flavor" is "natural" because some places have flavored oxygen (think of the oxygen bars like in Las Vegas that have flavored oxygen!



Leadville Side Trip

To the west of Leadville, I went to several places I have been to before when I worked in Leadville. For this trip, they included: Turquoise Lake, the Leadville National Fish Hatchery, and the Malta Schoolhouse (which is not an attraction, but is frequently photographed). I also drove on some of the roads of the relatively flat lands between the lake and the hatchery, which gave great views of the mountains!



Leadville Side Trip

Leadville National Fish Hatchery



Cutthroat Trout

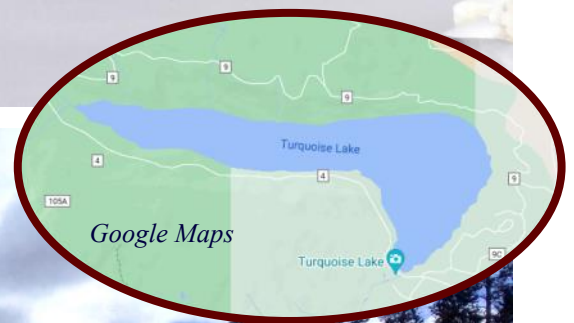
Leadville Side Trip

Turquoise Lake



April 23, 2021

Not long after I got to Leadville, I wanted to visit Turquoise Lake to see the nice clear waters. Well, the lake was still frozen over from the winter! I visited the day I got there on April 23 and again on April 27 before I left. It hadn't changed much! Turquoise Lake is northwest of Leadville a few miles and is a lake formed by a dam that looks like an upside down Nike swoosh!



April 27, 2021

Leadville Side Trip

Malta Schoolhouse

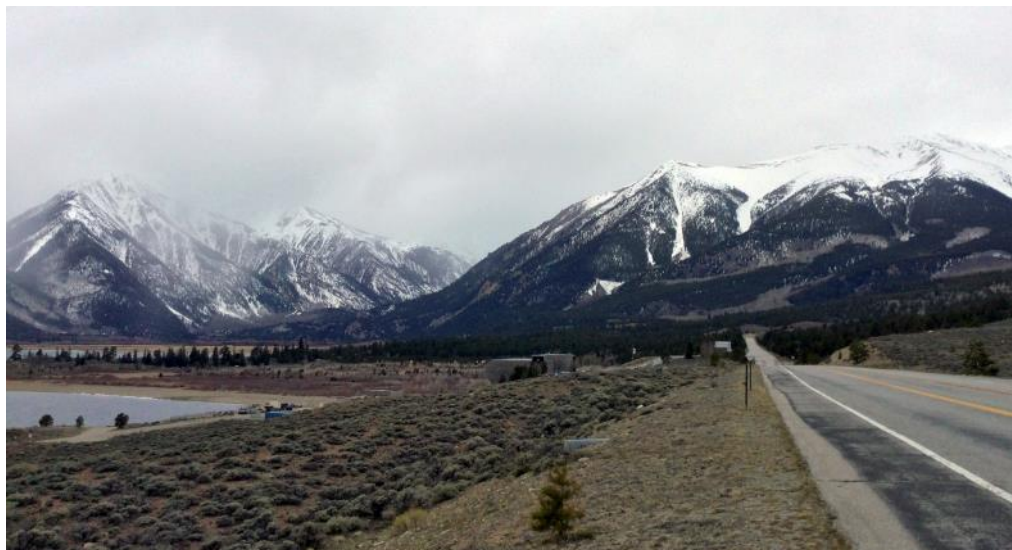


Leadville Side Trip

Twin Lakes



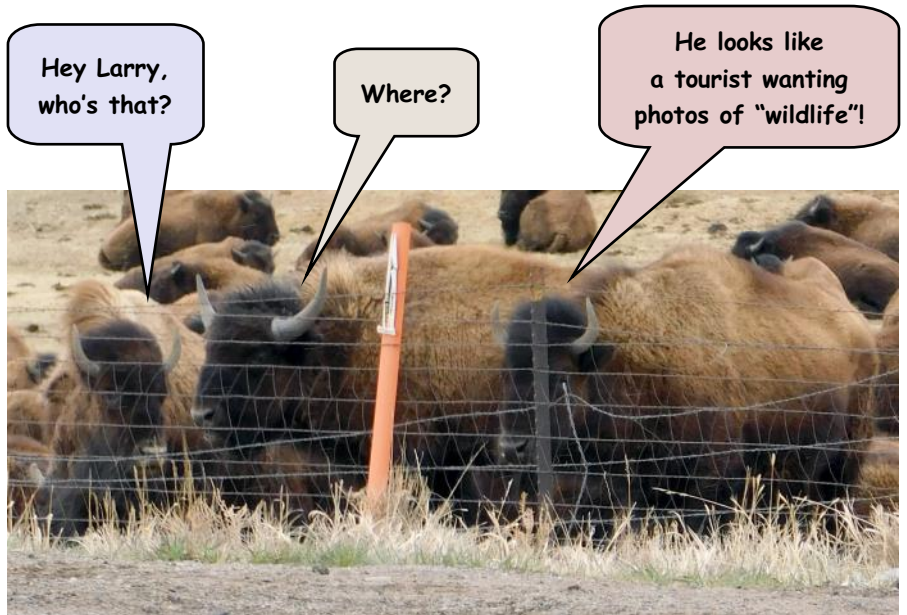
This is Twin Lakes, located about 15 miles south of Leadville. It had always been two lakes (hence the name), but looks much like one lake with a narrow isthmus splitting it in half. The day of my visit, the water was partly frozen, and it was lightly snowing. But, the water level does vary throughout the year. In all the years I had worked in Leadville and drove by the road to them, this was the first time I had ever seen the lakes! I still have not been to the actual town of Twin Lakes, however! (a little more west.)



Leadville Side Trip

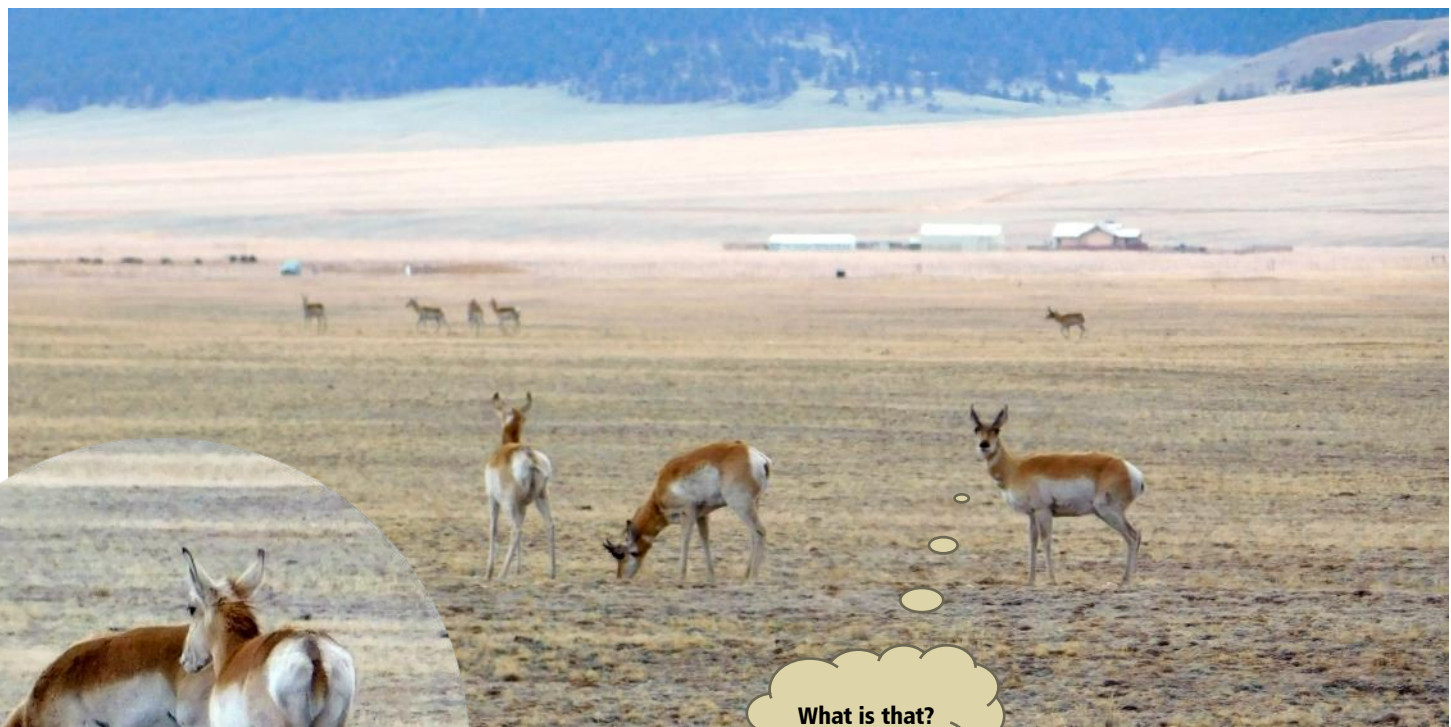
Wildlife in South Park

South Park is a large valley, relatively flat with low hills, right smack in the very center of Colorado between major mountain ranges. It is an idyllic, mostly unspoiled scene of beauty between Colorado Springs and Buena Vista. If the name sounds familiar, it is because it is what the fictional adult cartoon of *South Park* is based upon. (Kenny, you are safe here!) On multiple occasions, I have seen herds of bison (domesticated) and wild antelope.



Leadville Side Trip

Wildlife in South Park



Multiple times I have seen many antelopes through these areas of South Park. Also, as I was going through these areas, it was lightly snowing.

Can't Forget the Squirrels!



Can't Forget the Squirrels!



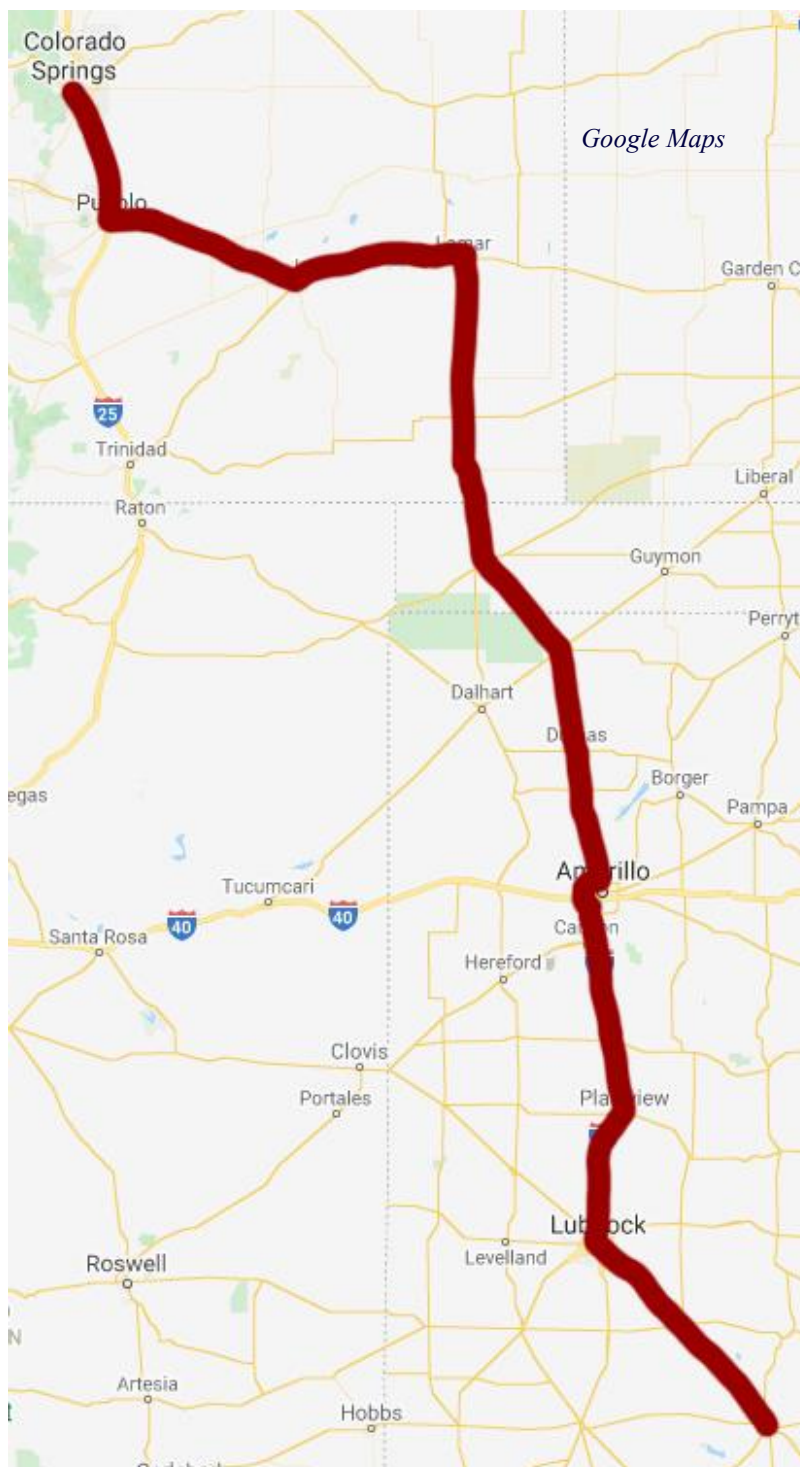
Unexpected Trip To Colorado

May 2021

After being in Colorado for well over a month, I determined to go home on May 4, 2021. May the fourth was with me and the trip was smooth and easy. I got things in order to leave, but I did accumulate a lot of extra stuff I had to load up into the car. Eventually, I got it all to fit, but it was not quite as packed as it was last year after the two trips to Florida! (Not a spot to spare on that trip back home!) Before leaving the Springs, I stopped at Dutch Brothers for an iced mocha decaf with almond milk and the grocery store for flowers. I also stopped to visit Mom's grave before leaving town. It is the Pike's Peak National Cemetery.



While still in the Springs, I went to Big R to see the spring chicks and ducks.



The route home was almost exactly the same other than I left from Colorado Springs.

Memorial



Pike's Peak



The grave is at

*Pikes Peak National Cemetery
10545 Drennan Road
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

*The grave is in section 6 right
next to the road.*

Memorial

Miriam M. de Stolfe passed from this earth April 6, 2020 at the age of 73. She was born at Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital in Riverside, New Jersey on November 9, 1946 to George W. and Lydia M. Ingram. For nearly a decade, she lived there in Camden, New Jersey with her sister Kathryn Ingram (now Kathryn Alexander). In the mid 1950s, the family moved from New Jersey to Florida and settled in Jacksonville. After living in several places in the city, the family bought a house in late 1957, which belonged to the family well into the twenty first century. Miriam graduated from Robert E. Lee Senior High in 1965 and continued to live in Jacksonville until her marriage to Robert A. de Stolfe on February 17, 1968. From Jacksonville, the couple eventually moved to the South Florida area where they lived in various places before settling into Southwest Miami in the very early 1970s. On July 17 in 1972, the couple gave birth to a son, Robert-George de Stolfe. The living arrangement in Miami was quite unique in that the dwelling was part of the main building of a drive in theater named Tropicair Drive-In Theatre with what was a cozy apartment style living arrangement on the second floor of the building. The family lived there through the 1970s and 1980s. Through most of the 1970s, both Robert and Miriam worked at a photography studio in Coral Gables until Robert went out on his own as a self employed photographer and Miriam

left to work part time as a greeting card merchandiser, a job she did with various companies to her death. After Miriam's father George died in early 1978, that left her mother Lydia as a widow through the 1980s. However, while Robert-George was starting High School, Miriam would go to Jacksonville in the late 1980s to care for her mother Lydia after a diagnosis of dementia, which later changed into Alzheimer's Disease by the early 1990s. Miriam and Robert-George moved to Jacksonville in early 1989 (into the same house where she was raised) while Robert stayed in South Florida. Sadly, Lydia died in early 1994. By 1996, Robert-George moved for college, and Miriam lived in the family house through to her death. All through her years, Miriam had a love of the family's pets: various dogs, cats, and once a parakeet. She also had a love of doing surveys, refunding and couponing, watching game shows and forensics types of programs, doing mystery shopping, growing her various plants, and eating at her favorite restaurants.

She was preceded in death by her parents George and Lydia Ingram and she leaves behind her sister and husband Dave and Kathy Alexander, her husband Robert de Stolfe, her son Robert-George de Stolfe, and various cousins, nephews, and other extended family by blood and by marriage, along with close friends, neighbors, and various coworkers.



Go to:

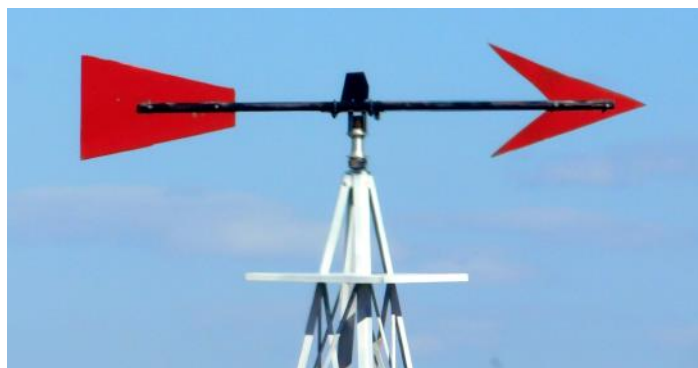
www.never-gone.com/memorials/miriamdestolfe

- Read life summary
- View photos in gallery
- Share your own photos
- Share your memories
- Submit condolence or tribute
- Light a candle
- Sign the guestbook

Unexpected Trip To Colorado

May 2021

I predecided that I would go as far as Amarillo and stay the night. Then the next day, I would go to Lubbock to do various errands before heading back to Snyder. After leaving the cemetery, I tried a different route to get to Pueblo, but ended up circling around a bit before getting to I-25 at the very south end of the Colorado Springs area. But once I got on I-25, I went straight to Pueblo. I stopped briefly at a Wendy's for a snack to tie me over until I would eat dinner at some point down the road. The drive home was basically the same route as when I came up in late March where I would go through the plains of Colorado and down through Oklahoma. From Pueblo, I simply went east on US 50 until I get to Lamar. The only stop I made along the route was just a little ways before Lamar to get a photo of a wind vane I saw last September when I took the route. Once in Lamar, I got gas at the same Pilot as when I came up and decided that I should eat there since it would be a good three plus hours before getting to Amarillo. I ended up going to this local drive in joint that had burgers and Mexican food. They also had an area inside to eat, but I just drove in and ate food there in the spot. I made it simple by getting their burger and fries deal. It was really good actually and a better option than the few other fast food places in the town. Plus, I was eating locally to help the local businesses. I continued south on US 385 which would take me right to Amarillo. At this point, it was still sunny out, but it would get dark soon. By the time I got to Amarillo, it was dark. The hotel I booked reservations was the Comfort Inn & Suites right along I-40 and Soncy Road. Remember, I was wanting to get points for my stays. (As it was, all the hotel stays from last year and the additional ones from this year has put me at Diamond level status!) I got to the hotel after 10 PM. The next day, May 5 (the revenge of the fifth!), I left the hotel in the late morning and headed down I-27 to Lubbock, a little under two hours away. I got to Lubbock in the early afternoon. I planned to do a bunch of errands there before going back to Snyder.



Located west of Lamar a few miles, I saw this interesting wind vane last year across from the old stone schoolhouse, but I did not get a photo of it.



While I was gone, spring arrived in Lubbock. I was amazed by how prolific the rose bushes were all over the town! The freeze from February must have done something to cause them to bloom so heavily! They stayed blooming for weeks!

RG's Garden

The last time I left off about the garden here in the journal, it was mid March. MUCH has happened with the garden since then! So, I'll need to break it down into sections. The garden was looking bare as of March, but since we needed to go to Florida, I didn't want to do too much with it until I got back. Even while on the trip, I ended up buying a few plants in addition to the plants I planned to bring back from Mom's house! Be that as it may by a plant hoarder, I knew I did not want to really get into the gardening mode until we got back from Florida and even not until after I moved. We unloaded all of the plants onto my front porch after we got back home. It was quite crowded! Now fast forward five weeks after Dad's accident and the trip to Colorado, the garden was an absolute mess! Now mind you that while in Colorado, I ended up buying a whole bunch of plants that I almost couldn't fit into the car on top of the already crowded porch. After a few days of rest, I knew what I would do. One day, I stripped the entire front porch of plants, and everything else on the porch, and put them out on the grass. I then gave the porch a good sweeping and even hosed it down. Now, with a blank canvas, I could put the plants back into some order. With some new pots and old pots, bags of dirt, and a few

ideas, I totally repotted and rearranged nearly all of the plants and reorganized the placements of them back onto the porch. When it was all done, it looked very nice! So, that is how it stayed until mid June. It was then when I moved from Snyder to Lubbock and likewise the plants too. I had a full service moving company do the move and nearly to the end, they were only able to load up about half of the pots of plants. We got them unloaded at the new place later that day. It took me two more days to move the rest of the stuff, including the leftover plants, before everything was fully moved. At first, I had to put all of the plants out on the grass to leave room on the sidewalk for the movers. Once everything was all done and no more moving, I reestablished an arrangement of the plants at the new place. The new front had a porch area at least as big as the previous apartment, but the area got full sun for most of the day since it faces west. I needed to keep that fact in mind when placing the plants. For the most part, I quickly arranged the plants to what looked nice and would work for the amount of sun. Of course, I've bought even more plants, for outside and for inside, and did a minor bit of repotting and rearranging.

Now, let's look at some photos!

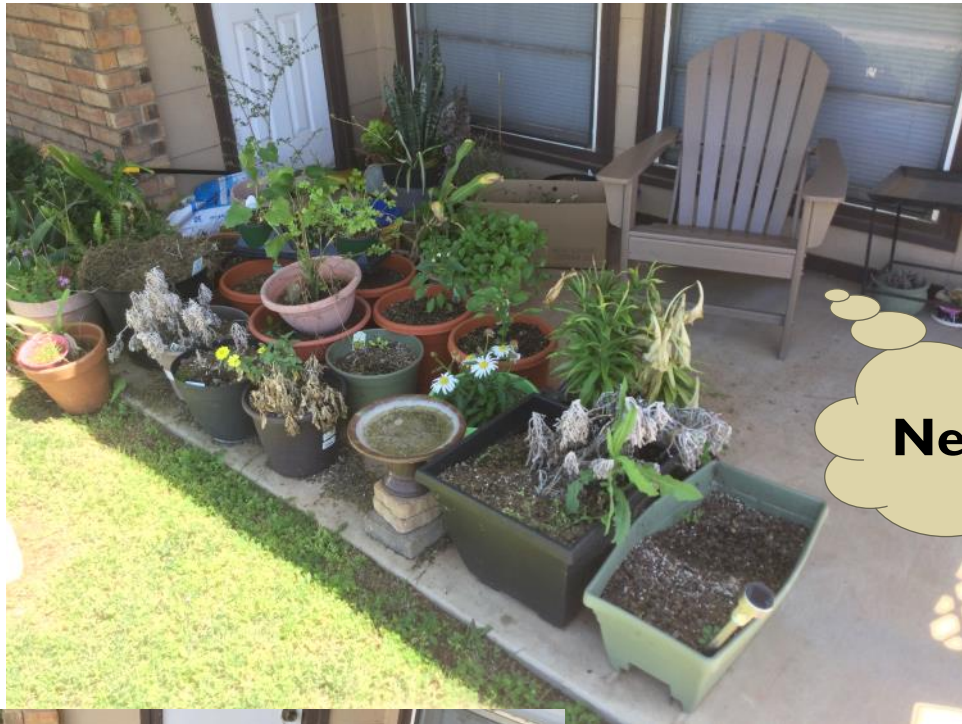
Snyder - before Florida trip (from the Winter issue)

March 15, 2021



RG's Garden

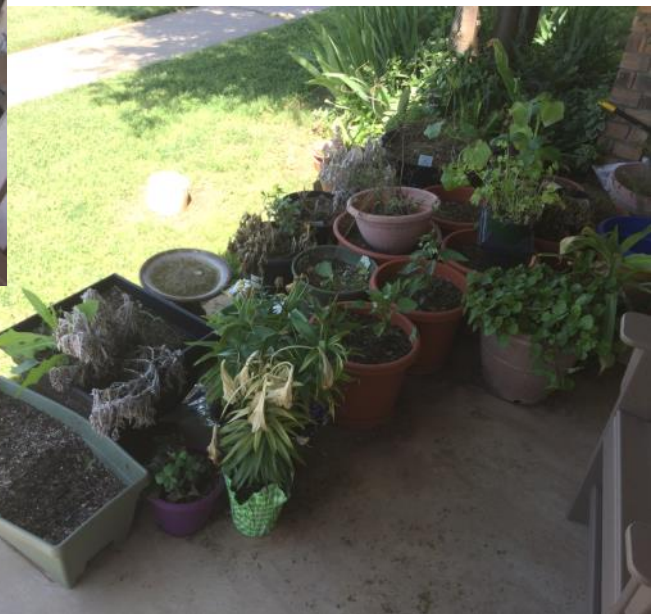
Snyder - after getting back from Colorado (total mess!)



New chair!



May 7, 2021



RG's Garden

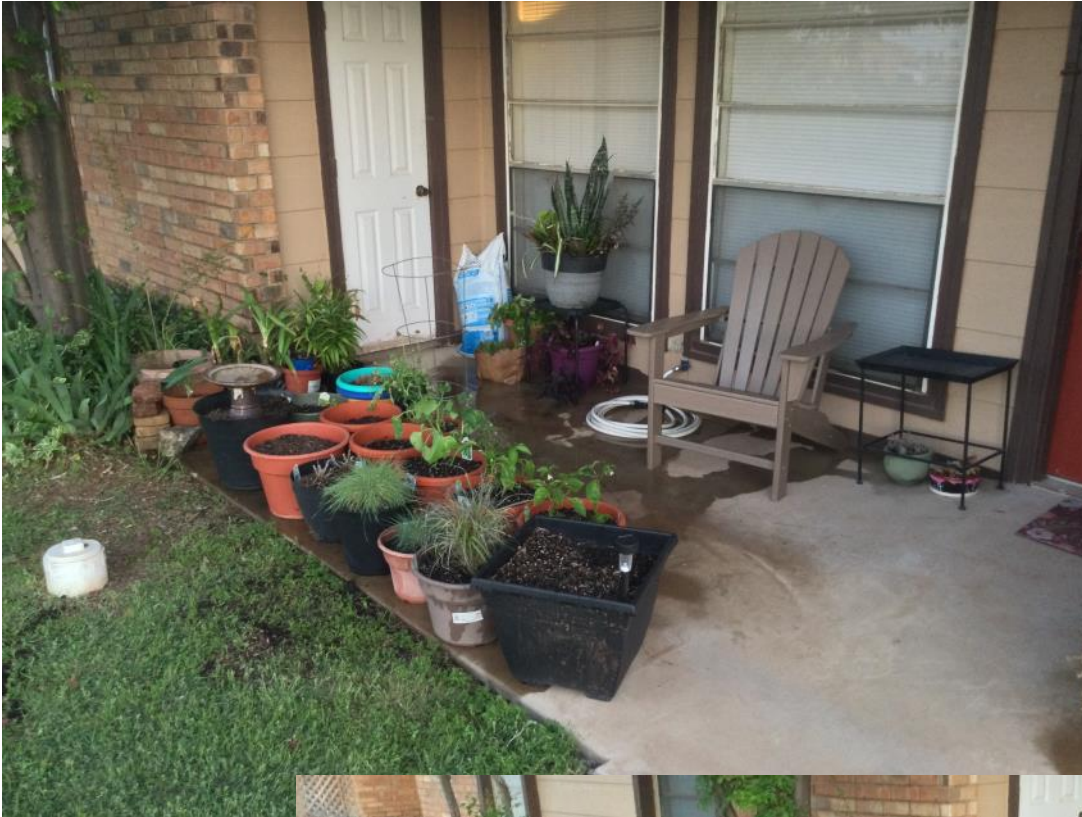
Snyder - stripped porch to redo the garden

May 8, 2021

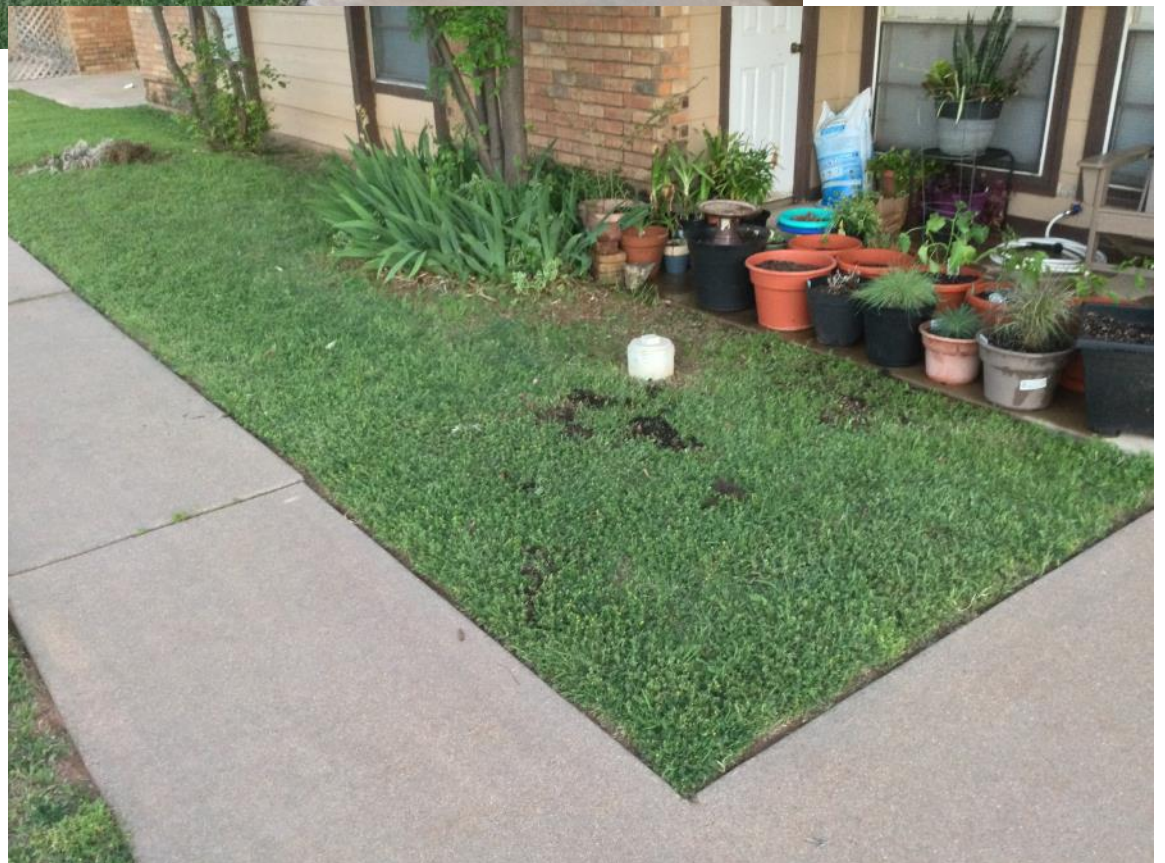


RG's Garden

Snyder - garden reconstructed, phase I



May 8, 2021



RG's Garden

Snyder - phase 2

May 10, 2021



Snyder - phase 3, after major increase!

May 21, 2021



RG's Garden

Snyder - garden moved, porch completely empty



June 19, 2021



Lubbock - before garden moved, empty



June 8, 2021

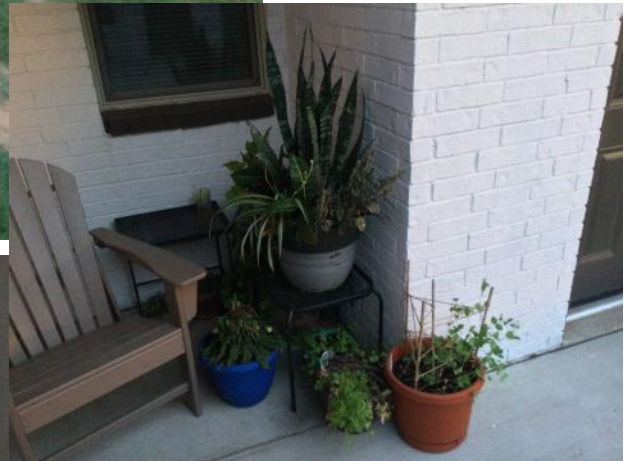


RG's Garden

Lubbock - after move in and initial arrangement



June 20, 2021



RG's Garden

Lubbock - after move in and initial arrangement

June 20, 2021



RG's Garden

Lubbock - about a month after move in



Weather station

↑ The duplex already had these shrubs out in front of the wall and courtyard from the previous owners. The freeze in February basically killed them. But, they came back with a vengeance! So, I mulched around them and added solar lights. The lush green carpet is Bermuda grass started from seeds.

July 12, 2021



First harvest of peppers



Found a Letter

While going through some stuff from Mom's house, I came across this letter, among other postcards and photos. This letter started out like a letter then turned into a multi day journal of sorts. The letter was from FPB [name made obscured] to my grandmother. The person's name sounds vaguely familiar, but I can't say that know who the person is. The letter was four pages, all written by hand with a pen. I've made a few notes in the margins.

The lake referenced is Conesus Lake, which is part of the finger lakes area of New York just south of Rochester and Lake Ontario.

This was a common nickname for my grandmother since she had blond hair.

August 31, 1985

Dear Blondie,

It's wet – finally – foggy (I am barely see across the lake, and, if its not my imagination play tricks with me, chilly. It suddenly seems like “Fall”.

I don't know where the summer went, even though “I didn't go any where and didn't do any thing”.

The puppy is throwing a hand ball, about the size of a pin-pong ball, around the room making a heck of a racket. (They'll both make a racket when I don't take them to work with me in a little while.)

Basically, I go into work about 6:30 [was scratched out from 7:00] worked in the cool morning, though the hot noon, until 12:30. Then I come home and gulp a large mug of ice tea, then go down in the yard and sip a large mug while I relax. Then I come up and eat lunch (or go out on the dock or back to the yard) then I read about an hour and then its' 4:30 so I make dinner (sometimes a wedge of cabbage with dressing) then I watch the lake, the people, the sunset, then I watch T.V. for an hour then its 9:50 or 10:00 and time for bed. (I take short naps during all this time.)

At 5:00 AM I'm up making coffee which I sip till 6:30, then I start all over again.

A month ago I began working on the yard and house, but the last 2 weeks I have really begun to do things (jobs I should have done 3 months ago like the annual cleaning of the back room downstairs), but I just didn't feel like it.

Last Tuesday I was butchering shrubry and removing large limbs from trees, obstacles that hampered views of the lake or just looked out of place on the small yard. It's also time I butchered the hedge (a job done every 8 years)

I'm going to Mich over Labor Day, then work 5 weeks, then go back to Mich for 8-10 days then head south.

If you look at a map, the easiest way to get from the lake to Michigan is through Canada, and even then, it looks like a good day's drive!

Found a Letter

It's suppose to turn to partly sunny all day today but the clouds don't know that yet; they're getting thicker by the minute. I can just see the white houses against the green hills across the lake. Boy this place feels cozy and warm.

Gotta go to work now.

10:45

Very few visitors to the park last night with all the rain – so I worked only 2 hours.

11:58

I've been puttering around the house looking for items, one after another, so I've interrupted the writing. I'm warming up what's left of my potato soup from last night for lunch. Potatoes have been expensive and the weather is too hot for soup so its been 4 or 5 months since I had it. It tastes delicious. Just turned off T.V. and turned on Swan Lake, - which I love to listen to.

School taxes are due up here so I know what I'll be doing with my income for the next three weeks.

I got one puppy curled up on the rocker and the other on the floor gnawing on a rib bone. It's amusing watching these 3 or 4 pound dogs carry the 8" long bone around – which they have no problem doing – along with all the other entertainment they provide. I don't know what I'd do without them.

The air has cleared and the sky has thinned some. There's light penetrating the cloud cover now. A southerly breeze is rippling the lake's surface but there are still the long narrow pancake surface areas running down its length. I can't figure out what causes them to exist. They never seem to change unless the wind changes course.

This lake is fascinating to watch, anytime of day, any day of the year, one reason why I like coming up here.

Record changed. Right now I'm listening to side a of the musical sound track from "Gone with the Wind". (I put these on last June, play them once, and am listening to them for the second time so I don't know what to expect, except, the last 2 are the sound track from "The Ten Commandments".

I'm waiting to see if a good movie's on today. I have all my home work done and its too wet to sit outside. Yesterday I had breakfast outside while watching the lake, listening to fish jump, etc.

If I had the Franklin Stove I bet I'd have it going right now. (It broke; I have to get a new one.)

Sept 7, 1985

Today is hot and humid, (in the 90's) everything's sticky, and its like a day in August. I've been to Michigan; left Monday at 8:00, got back for work Friday at 2:30, came home, swam, ate peanut butter and jelly, watched T.V. and lake, then went to bed.

I went into work at 7:45 today but had only about 2½ hours of jobs. The lake is busy due to the heat and humidity.

Dogs and I are relaxing. Take care.

Love,
[name]

*Remember the shell stamps?
Remember when postage was 22¢?!*



Authentic Find

Job Posting for a Cowboy

I came across this job post in a cowboy/ranching group on Facebook. (If you don't know what a Facebook group is, you probably won't understand how I came across this post.) The post is way too true for both its explanation and its nuances! This is most definitely a job posting for a real and experienced cow hand!

Head and heel branding is much like team roping in rodeo, but without the competition. The animal is held on both ends with the ropes while the branding happens, and any other necessities like "cutting", vaxing, ear tagging, etc. Many ranches today do these activities using a chute.

Okay, so cowboys are often averse to mares as opposed to geldings!

I'm thinking that if they could get a guy to train horses, he could just about be guaranteed to have a full time job!

Branding wagon/day help needed in [removed], Idaho. We go to camp right after the 4th of July, will be out at least two weeks. Could result in full time employment for the right individual. MUST be able to shoe your own horses, rope, sort cattle in a rodear and corral and must be able to read cattle. This is a riding job in big, rocky country, we head and heel brand, and 99% of the cow work is horseback.

You'll need a good bedroll and a tipi, unless you like sleeping in the open in the sagebrush, then the tipi is optional. We have a camp cook, so meals are provided in camp.

For the sake of both of us, please be honest about your abilities. If you're incapable of doing this job, DO NOT call. We are fairly remote and there is no cell service at the ranch.

Personal horses welcome and encouraged (mares okay, but not preferred). If you're willing and able to ride young and green ranch horses, that's a big plus (though not expected of part time help). Horse feed, horseshoes and nails included.

Call [removed] with any other questions [phone removed].

Rodear in Spanish means to encircle or to enclose. Basically, the cattle are surrounded by riders and often also with cowdogs. Sorting then is done in the open with the hands and dogs keeping the herd contained, as opposed to the corral where a fence contains the cattle.

Reading cattle is basically to say that you are "cowy" in that you can sense and predict what the cattle will do.

Cowboy tipi:
(Made by J bar D Canvas and Leather of Idaho.)



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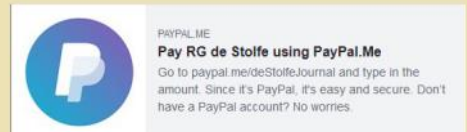
** Another similar platform is [Patreon](#). Currently, I am not a creator on Patreon. However, I do have an account since I am currently supporting other creators. [2 Corinthians 9:7]

As part of my new website for viewing and finding the archive of journals, I have established a means for people who like reading them to contribute financially. Currently, I have two ways to do it online.

"**Buy Me A Coffee**" is a simple platform to support creators through moduled amounts called "coffees". "**PayPal.me**" is an even easier way to donate whatever amount you wish. Go to destolfe.com for more info.

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PayPal.me is part of the PayPal system for sending funds directly to a person. The only cost to me is a small fee PayPal deducts. You can give any amount you wish. Click the graphic below to go to my PayPal.me page.



Lockdown Posts

In the last two issues, I included a portion of daily lockdown posts I made on my Facebook page from March 20 to April 30, 2020. The posts showed vintage photos with descriptions from my personal collection. A third and last portion of the posts is included here. The brown Rafter Heart watermark is my own to show ownership.



Here we have another carte de visite, also known as CDV, which translates as visit card, or today would be considered like a business card. These were very common forms of photographs in the late 1800s. This photo taken at the Martin photo studio in Boulder City, Colorado is of a young man and woman that I would guess might be married or perhaps in a serious relationship. They are wearing common clothes for the time that are not too formal but perhaps a little dressier than everyday clothes. If you have ever wondered why people rarely ever smile in these photos, it is not because they didn't want to, it is because of the photographic technology at the time. In order to take photos, the camera had to have several seconds for exposure onto glass plates. If you have ever tried to hold a smile for ten seconds, it's probably painful and would eventually creep down to a smirk. By that point, the photo would be blurry and ruined! The people had to hold completely still to get a clear, crisp image. That is why sometime certain parts of a photo could be blurry from moving ever slightly.

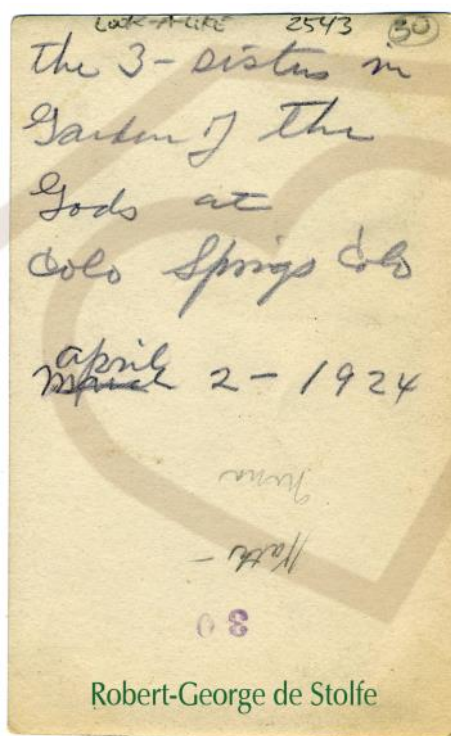


These two photos show a street parade in Port Arthur, Texas in the 1920s. These are some great photos to show a time that no longer exists! The street cars are a nice feature that go in each direction right through the middle of the road. The poles in the middle are covered in decorations and we can see a band playing in the one photo and elaborately decorated cars in the other photo. Port Arthur is not particularly that large but identifying where these photos were taken is uncertain. It is likely Proctor Street, but the where is uncertain. Later photos of this street show the poles in the middle gone but the rails were still in the road. Can you imagine the jazz playing? The occasional aahooogahs from the cars? By the way, toggery is a slang reference to clothes and a place to buy clothes.

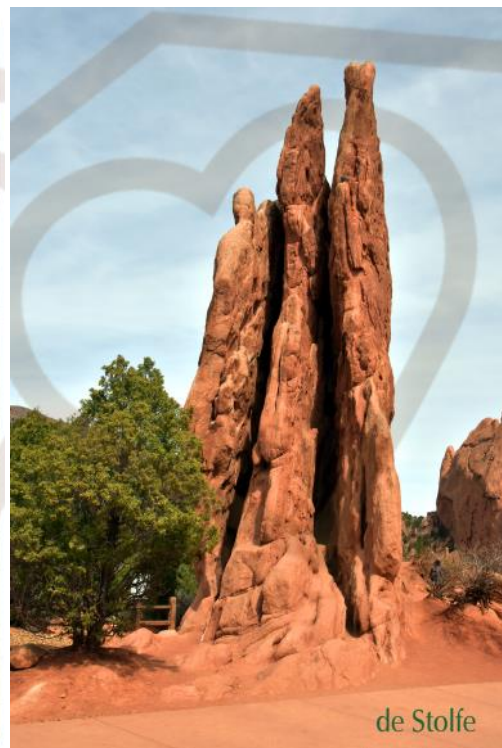
Lockdown Posts



Robert-George de Stolfe



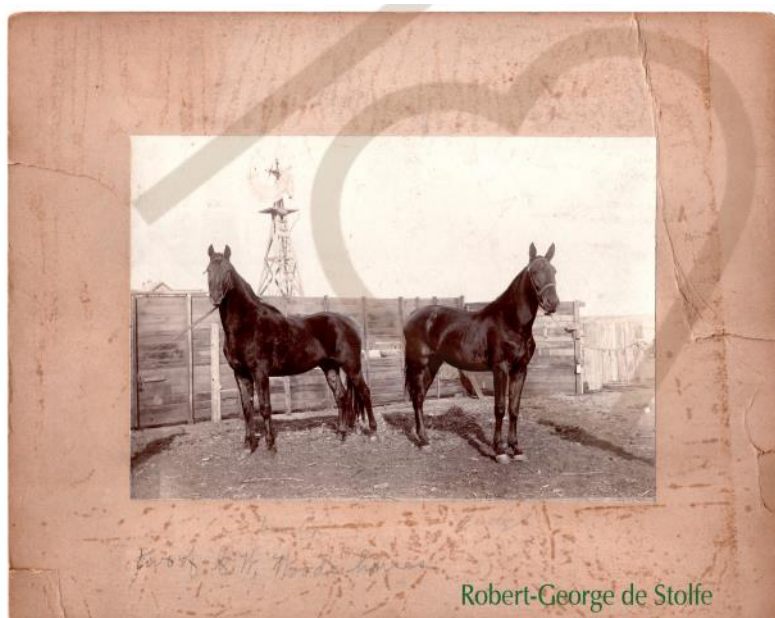
Robert-George de Stolfe



de Stolfe

Here is another photo from Colorado. This photo taken on April 2, 1924 is in the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs near the base of the Rocky Mountains. It is still cold (you can see snow and mud on the ground) but this awesome shot is of some tourists by the rock formation known as the Three Sisters. You have to like these cars—three rows of seats! And there are spare tires in the back.

The car appears to be an Oakland Motor Car Company (of Pontiac, Michigan) six cylinder, 60 horsepower, seven passenger touring car. (That's a mouthful!) I am guessing it is from the late 1910s. The third photo in this group is of the same rock formation taken by Dad in 2017 (at a slightly different angle and a little closer).



Robert-George de Stolfe

This cabinet card is from circa 1890 of two horses near a fence with a windmill behind it. Someone outside of the photo frame is holding the lead rope of each horse. Written on the bottom of the cardboard frame is "Two of S.W. Wood's Horses" The name of each horse is written under each one, but the writing is difficult to see. It looks like the right horse is named Judge and the name of the left horse is undecipherable, cannot tell. If you know your windmills, you can guess what brand this one is!

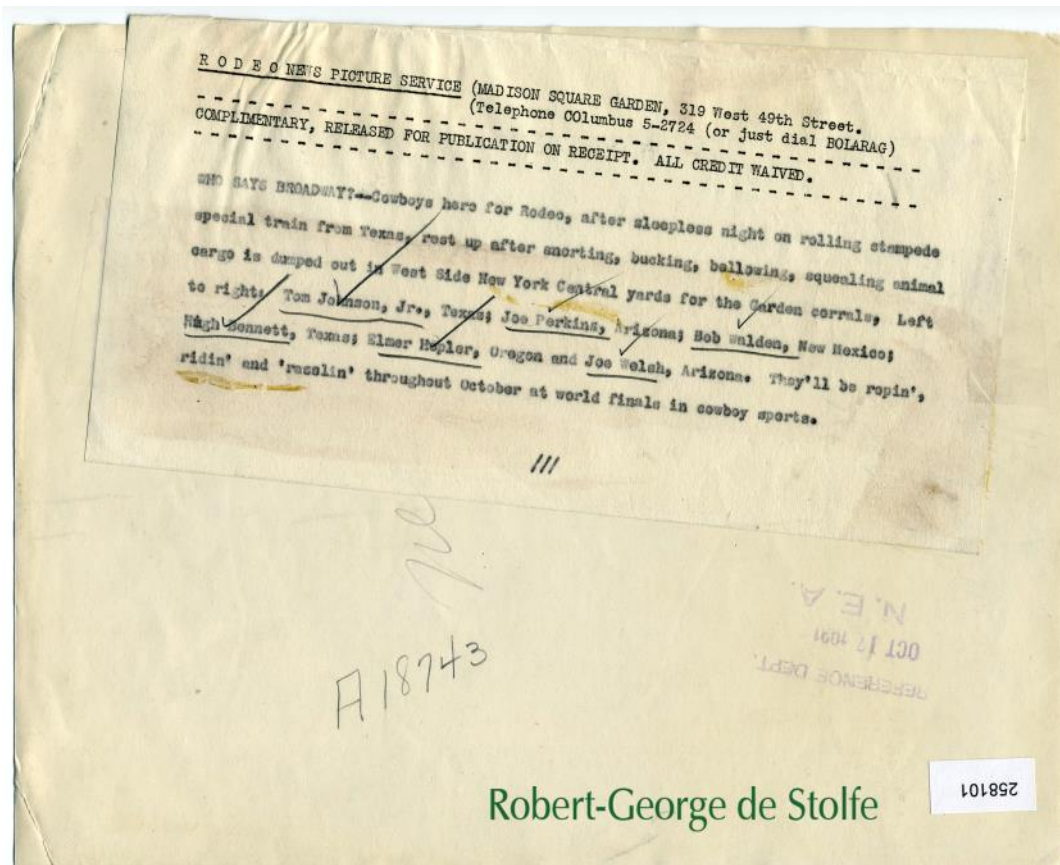
Lockdown Posts



This awesome photo is a press photo from October 17, 1931! This was for the finals rodeo at Madison Square Garden in New York City! Here is the text that goes with the photo:

“WHO SAYS BROADWAY?—Cowboys here for Rodeo, after sleepless night on rolling stampede special train from Texas, rest up after snorting, bucking, bellowing, squealing animal cargo is dumped out in West Side New York Central yards for the Garden corrals. Left to right: Tom Johnson, Jr., Texas; Joe Perkins, Arizona; Bob Walden, New Mexico; Hugh Bonnet, Texas; Elmer Hepler, Oregon, and Joe Welsh, Arizona. They’ll be ropin’, ridin’, and ‘rasslin’ throughout October at world finals in cowboy sports.”

They are standing inside one of the stock rail cars as obvious by the hay. You can look at each of these guys and accurately guess which state they are from without knowing it beforehand! Awesome photo!



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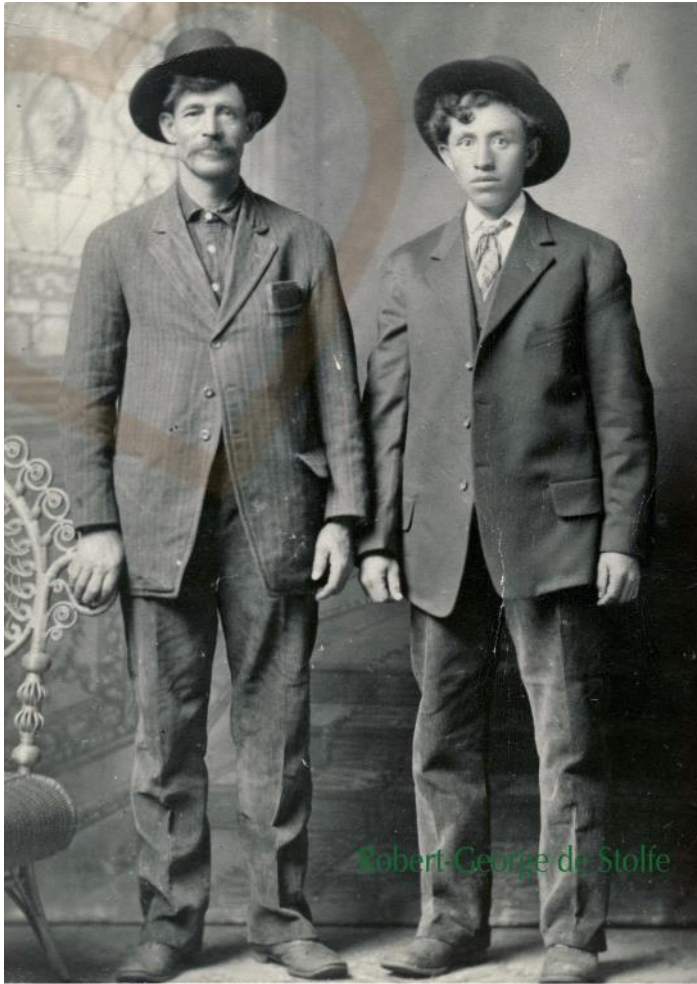
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Lockdown Posts



Here is another studio photograph. I bought this photo from an antique store, and the photo also came in a metal frame! (Not original) The date of this photo is unknown but seems like somewhere in the 1890s. This is of two gentlemen who I am thinking are probably a father and son. They are dressed in their good clothes for the photo. Their pants are even starched with crisp lines! The concept of starched clothes is more of a twentieth century thing because it is more cosmetic than functional. Ironing at all would be costly if not done at home because fire ironing does not go quickly! Like most studio photos, there is a backdrop image with a chair and sometimes other props. This is a really cool photo.



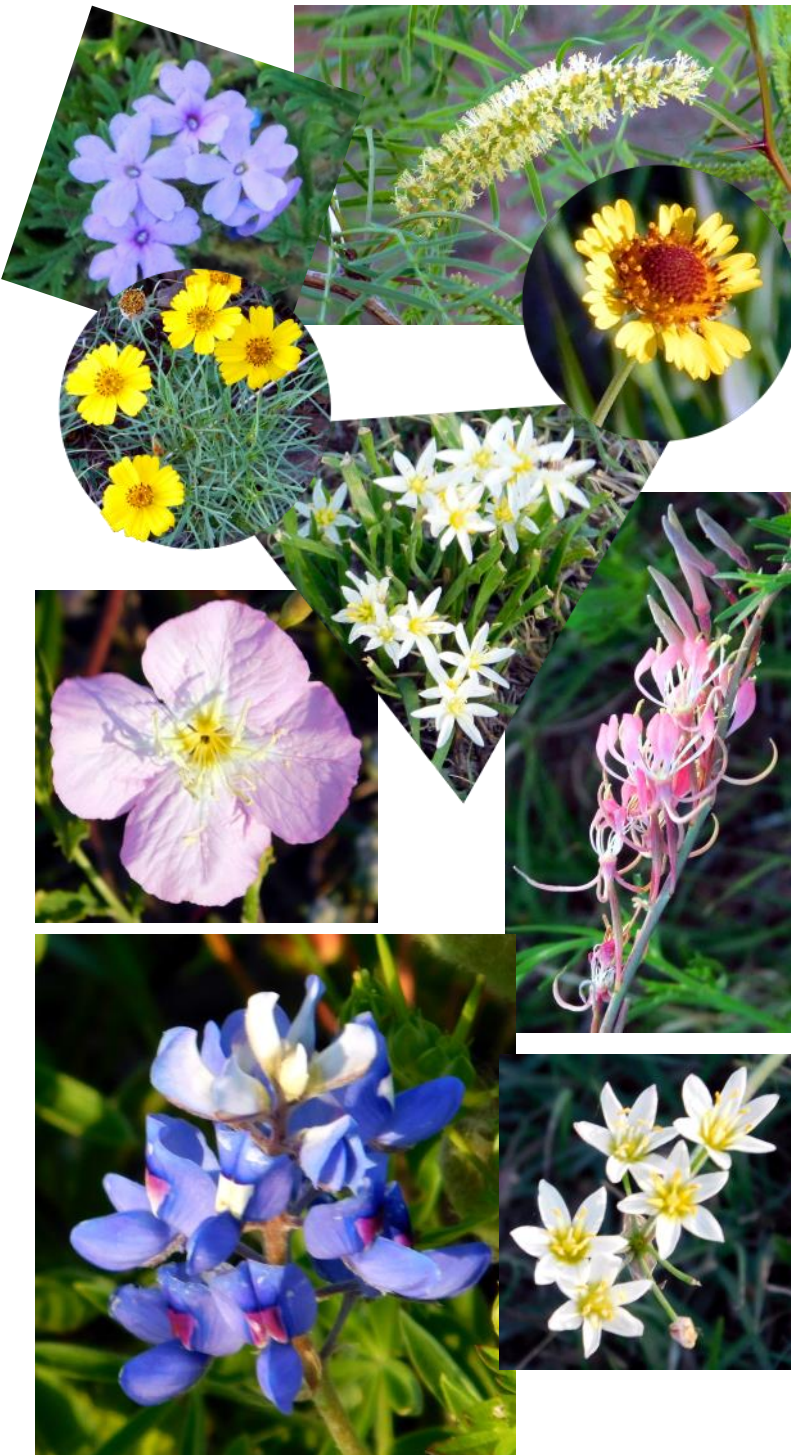
Lovely evening primrose one early evening in early May.

These are harvester ants. They are good ants and means you don't have fire ants!



Final Thought

Last year in April (and during the lockdown), I was able to see the wildflowers in Snyder in full bloom, including a small area of bluebonnets. However this year, I was unexpectedly in Colorado. After I got back in early May, I was able to see the very tail end of the wildflowers in the same places. Last year and this year, they were right by my apartment and in a field about a block away. These are not the best photos because it was breezy.



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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