



de Stofe Journal



12.5 : LATE SUMMER 2023



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Covers activities from August to September 2023.

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ON THE COVER



Nothing says late summer quite like sunflowers, in this case, wild sunflowers or black eyed susans. This photo was taken on September 21, just before the first day of fall. This photo was also taken on a trip that will be covered in the fall issue of the journal, the one right after this one!



This is Bluecat. Literally, a wood blue cat figurine that I bought way back in the early 1990s from Pier One. I use this figure for individual photos of places where I've gone. See page 22 for more.

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

www.destolfe.com



COMMENTS BY RG



Happy Fall!

This issue covers the activities that happened the second half of summer in August and September, even though there are plenty of other things that happened since the start of fall!

For fun, and because I had the room, I included a very large section of Random Things of all various topics for you to peruse, including a subset of old South Florida things.

Since we are still in the 20s, I have included another 1920s Prohibition topic along with keeping the Roaring Twenties theme of the journal generally.

I included a section of when I went on the First Friday Art Trail, something I have included in the past, even a few issues ago.

For work, I went on a small trip to Houston and talk about the things we saw and did there and during the trip, including two unexpected and much delaying issues.

The rest of the journal has smaller features throughout the pages.

The next issue is going to be a little bigger in that it will include several things I have done so far, along with some unexpected things. The cover of this issue actually gives a small preview of that next issue. So stay tuned for it probably to come out in early December.

At the time of this issue, we are in November and heading towards Thanksgiving in about three weeks. I plan to include those activities also in the next issue.

I have some other things I could include here, but I will save them for the next issue so that I don't get ahead of myself.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

RG

WORD FOR LIFE

Have Faith In God

I'm going to divert from the Revelation topics series for this issue and discuss a topic found in the gospels.

One day while I was reading a devotional, it included one verse of the story about when Jesus was sleeping in a boat during a storm. So, I looked it up and realized that I thought there was more to the story than what I read. Well, there is more because that story is told in Matthew, Mark, and Luke with each giving some details not necessarily in the others. Here is a summary from all three books.

The title of this section is the same for all three: Wind and Wave Obey Jesus. Jesus had spent the day healing people and telling parables. By the end of the day, He left the multitudes and got into a boat with the

disciples following, and they intended to cross the sea, likely the Sea of Galilee, to the other side. Mark says that there were some other little boats as well. They sailed off, and Jesus went to sleep on a pillow in the stern, which is the back of the boat. Sometime while they were out on the water, a storm quickly developed and caused the boat to fill up with water as it was rocked about on the rough waters. The disciples being in fear rushed to Jesus and woke him up declaring that they were perishing! I can imagine that He was probably annoyed, but He arose and spoke to the wind to be still, and the winds stopped creating a great calm. He then questioned them about where was their faith, why were they fearful! But the disciples became afraid again over Jesus stopping the storm and wondered who

this Man was that He could stop the winds and the sea with simply a word!

It does seem ironic that the disciples were fearful of the storm and went to Jesus for help, but when He stopped the storm, they were fearful again because the storm stopped and wondered who this Man was! The main idea of this story is the lack of faith, particularly in a time of trouble.

So, what is faith? Hebrews 11 tells us what it is. In verse 1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1) We don't need faith in something that we can see and that is tangible. So, faith becomes the means to believe in the existence of something we cannot yet see or is tangible. We do not see God, nor can we

tangibly notice Him, but Jesus said, "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22). Then, we choose by faith to believe that God exists even though we do not see Him. The "substance" becomes what we are wanting to be tangible, while the unseen in faith becomes our "evidence". By having faith, eventually it will become tangible, a reality, in order to finally justify our faith. Romans 10:17 tells us, "...then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". We activate our faith by reading and hearing the Word of God, the Bible. Colossians 2:6-7 states, "...walk in [Jesus], rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." Being thankful plays a big part in getting and keeping faith active.

Mark 4:35-41

Wind and Wave Obey Jesus

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Matthew 8:23-27

Wind and Wave Obey Jesus

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Luke 8:22-25

Wind and Wave Obey Jesus

22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out.

23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.

24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"

Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?"

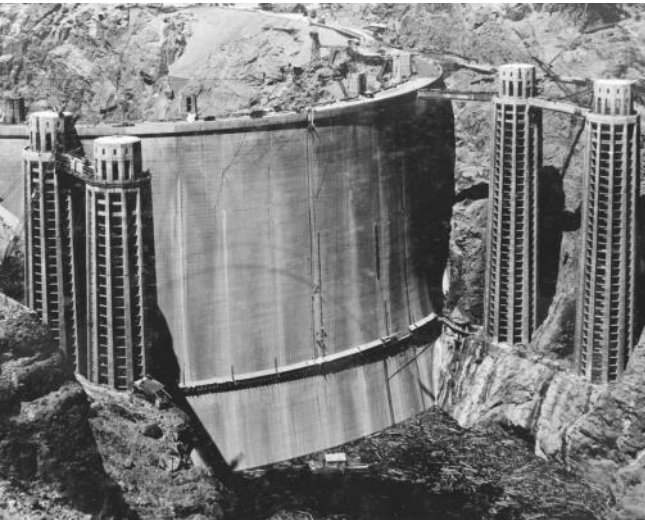
And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

RANDOM THINGS

Boulder Dam Before Lake Mead

This photo shows Boulder Dam in 1936 before the water filled the valley on the north side to create Lake Mead. The dam was built between 1931 and 1936 and is located in Black Canyon in between Arizona and Nevada. The United State Congress renamed the dam to Hoover Dam in 1947.

This photo was posted by the Sin City Las Vegas account on Facebook, dated July 20, 2023.



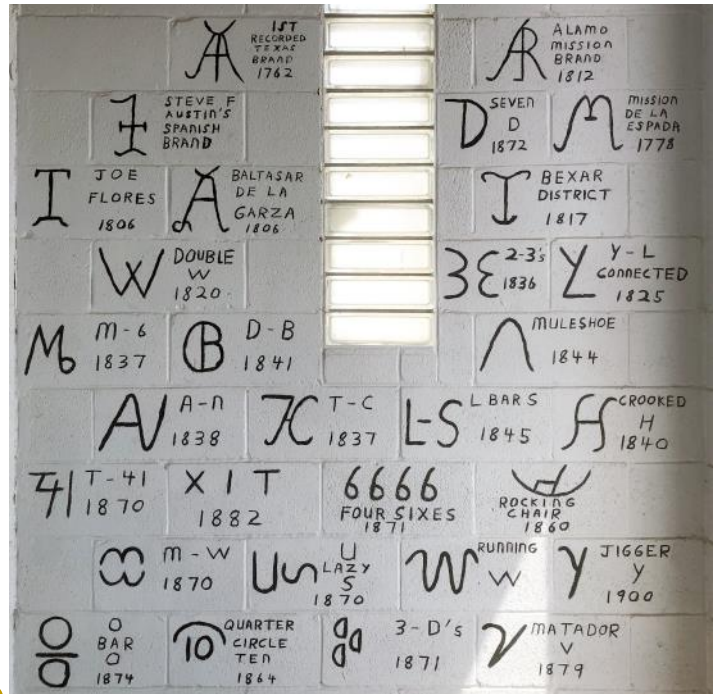
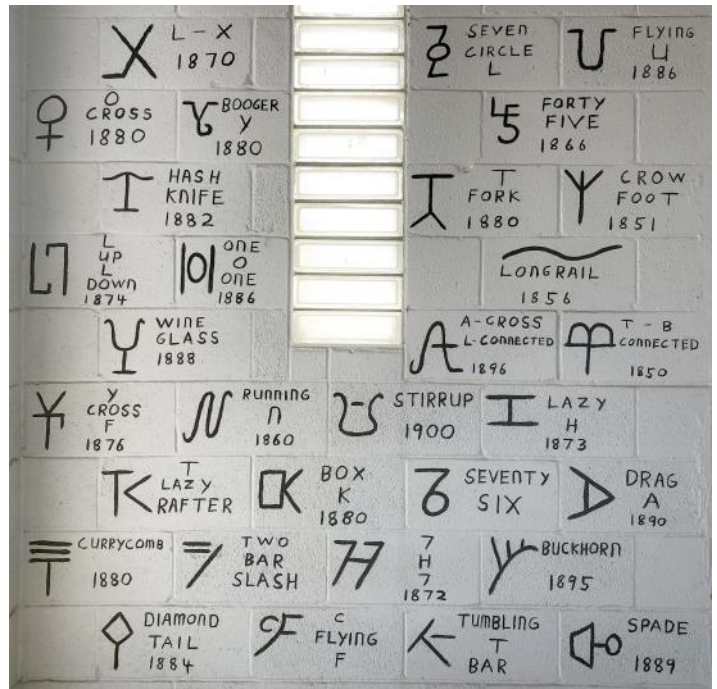
This photo below is by Ansel Adams taken sometime from the late 1930s to 1941. This shows the south side of the dam downstream.

Public Domain photo, found on Wikipedia.



Historic Brands

In the entrance foyer of a local business named The Branding Iron, there are these brands painted on the cinder blocks with the symbol, brand name, and date.



RANDOM THINGS



I have shown this before, this wild flower is called Prairie Verbena and is usually this light purple color.



This is about the newest photo of me taken in March 2023 as my updated profile photo for Facebook.



These photos were given to me a few months ago. I vaguely remember them being taken of me. The one on the left was probably in the fall of 2004, while the one on the right was taken in January 2005, as shown by the calendar on the wall. While I might be smiling in the photos, this was a very sad and frustrating time of life for me as I was technically homeless and was living with several guys from church for about five months.



RANDOM THINGS

Back this last January, I came across this unusual list from an unrecalled book about the rules for teachers in 1872. I was struck by how strict these rules were for those hired as a teacher. I do not know if this was meant as a parody or if this was a real set of rules for teachers somewhere. Here is the image and the text by it. My personal notes are shown in colored italics.

Rules For Teachers 1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
Lamps of the time were oil lamps and chimneys were metal ducts attached to pot bellied stoves that burned wood or coal in this case.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
The water was to drink using a water dipper.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
More than likely, these were dip pens made of feathers, even though other styles of pens were being developed at this time.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours of school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books. *Ten hours is a long school day!*
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
There definitely seems to be a slight disparity of expectations between men and women!
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
Today, we call this retirement savings and is usually deducted for us out of our paychecks. At that time, the employee was responsible for his own future welfare.

RULES FOR TEACHERS 1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
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6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
The School Board apparently expected strict upstanding people as teachers! Pool is the game similar to billiards and a public hall is a place for entertainment, probably of the lower class kind.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.
Today, this would not fly! Most employees today would expect a pay increase every year or sometimes more often! The increase of 25¢ in 1872 would roughly be equivalent to an increase of \$5 to \$6 in the early 2020s (not factoring recent over inflation).

RANDOM THINGS



The first sign of pumpkins I saw on August 30, 2023.



This tree is called Vitex. It is sometimes called a Chaste Tree. It has these nice clusters of purple flowers when blooming.



A man hole cover in Lubbock, Texas.



Full moon, end of August.



Saw a hawk moth, or hummingbird moth, by my house on September 14, 2023.



My car showed 121° on August 11, 2023.



Got a free drink from Dutch Brothers on August 25, 2023.



Saw this bug on the side of a wall. Looks like a dragon fly, but looks weird.

RANDOM THINGS

From Facebook Group: FLASHBACK South Florida - Memories and Memorabilia

The historical images on these pages were found on Facebook groups and are NOT my own photos.

When I lived in Miami, I lived on SW 40th Street, also called Bird Road. Here is someone else's photo of the place where I lived, the Tropicaire Drive-In Theatre. After the theater stopped showing movies, it became a full time weekend flea market. We lived on the second floor, shown covered by the shrubs.



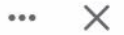
This is a place called Stiltsville where structures are built out on the ocean on stilts. The only time I went was with a group in the mid 1980s. Hurricanes have since mostly wiped the structures away.



Down the road on Bird Road was a place I remember passing all the time but never went there as I recall, the Bird Bowl. Bowling has since mostly faded away.



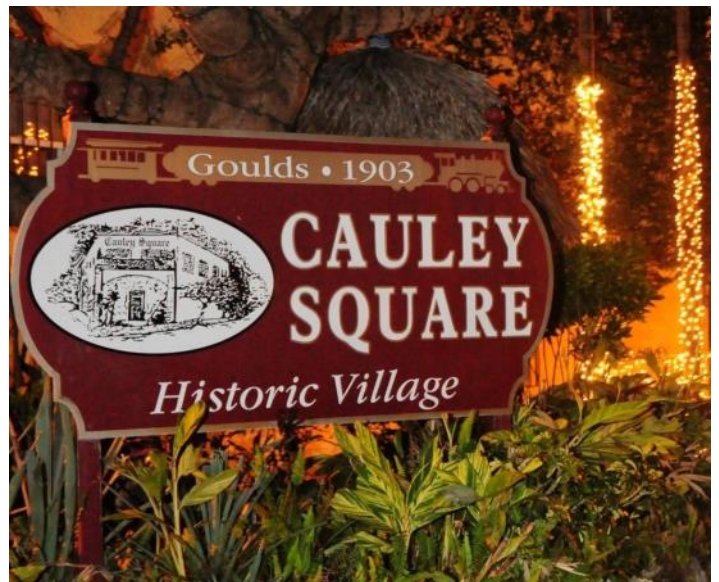
FLASHBACK South Florida -
Memories and Memorabilia



Bird Bowl 9275 SW 40th St, Miami, FL. Officially opened on Thanksgiving Day 1956!



Cauley Square was a place I went to one or two times with Mom back in the early 80s. I remember that they had these old train cars. I don't remember much else.



RANDOM THINGS

From Facebook Group: FLASHBACK South Florida - Memories and Memorabilia

Down the road on Bird Road was this Mexican restaurant called Taco Viva. I liked it for the variety of sauces to put on the tacos and burritos! This was in the late 1970s to mid 1980s I remember going.



TACO VIVA
When you say Taco, say Viva.

South Florida has a large Cuban population and likewise has many Cuban restaurants. Lila's was a fancier Cuban restaurants that had these very thin steaks either by themselves or as a sandwich on Cuban bread and served with a mound of shoestring fries cooked in lard! Delicious!



“Original Key Lime Pie”, “Sunset Cove Tea Room” located in Key Largo, Florida.



Farm Stores sold dairy products: milk and ice cream. Dad often went and asked for a gallon of vanilla!



Speaking of ice cream, another place I went to as a kid on occasion was Swensen's. Not unique to South Florida, but had yummy ice cream. They had something called The EarthQuake, which had 8 scoops of ice cream and a bunch of toppings!



RANDOM THINGS

Something Called Sphere™

By now, you probably have heard about something big and new in Las Vegas! (When is there not something big and new in Las Vegas?!) This new thing rivals the Fremont Street Experience and is located behind the Venetian. It is called Sphere™ and is a new LED experience larger than anything else in Las Vegas. The outside LED display debuted on Independence Day of this year. However, the venue itself, which is on the inside, opened on September 29, 2023 with a concert by U2 and will remain through the rest of the year. The external display continuously varies throughout the day and night with spectacular images, even taking advantage of the spherical shape in the image, such as showing the moon, an eyeball, the Death Star, Emojis, etc. This is basically spherical shaped video. Here are some facts about the structure.

- 366 feet (112 m) high
- 516 feet (157 m) wide (diameter)
- Diameter sits higher than the foundation level
- Largest spherical building in the world at 875,000 ft² (81,300 m²)
- Has seating for 18,600 people
- Equipped with a 16K resolution wraparound LED screen, measuring 160,000 ft² (15,000 m²)
- The exoskeleton

has an array of individual “pixels” that are the size of a hockey puck or a baseball spread apart about a foot, and each LED unit has 48 individual LEDs.



*Reddit post by
Damnthatsinteresting*



sphere



*Before the lights were turned on, this shows the exoskeleton of the Sphere as well as its scale!
Photo by Tomás Del Coro.*



Sphere oThe many looks of the Sphere in Las Vegas which opens Sept. 29, 2023. (KLAS)pens Friday, Sept. 29, 2023. (KLAS)

*My favorite video is of the smiling emoji that varies through the social media emojis in video form.
Photo by KLAS.*

Read more: www.thespherevegas.com

PROHIBITION PICKINGS

If you know anything about the 1920s, you know that Prohibition was the big topic over the decade. Originally, the general population was in favor of a national prohibition from the successful lobbying of groups like Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti Saloon League. The main idea of their claims was that outlawing alcohol would clean up the country and make it wholesome. Except... that it didn't.

What ultimately happened is that alcohol distribution and consumption just went underground and was controlled by mafias and rum runners, and paid off police and government officials just looked the other way, thus causing the assumed pure and wholesome effect of prohibition to become fully criminalized with no legal means to control it! That's not to say that the national government did not try to control it through busts and monitoring. But, there simply were not enough Prohibition officers to cover the vast population of the country. Even once the

Volstead Act took effect, many were over the disillusionment and realized early on that Prohibition was not going to achieve the desired effect as they first believed. Once such person who felt this way was Pauline Sabin.

Pauline Joy (Morton) Sabin was a wealthy, elegant, socially prominent New Yorker who was politically well connected. She was born in Chicago to Paul Morton and Charlotte (Goodridge) Morton. (April 23, 1887 – December 27, 1955) And as a side note, her uncle, Joy Morton, brother of Paul Morton, was the founder of the Morton Salt company. She first married in 1907, but divorced in 1914, but married again in 1916 to Charles H. Sabin. Now he was a democrat while she remained a republican. Pauline was very active in the Republican party and with women's groups. Through the 1920s, she supported small government and free markets. She originally supported Prohibition believing the lobbying, "I felt I should approve of it because it would help



Pauline Sabin



Portrait of Pauline Sabin as shown on the cover of Time magazine, July 18, 1932.

PROHIBITION PICKINGS

my two sons. The word pictures of the agitators carried me away. I thought a world without liquor would be a beautiful world.”

For many, this successful propaganda sounded amazing on the surface for people to be willing to support it and freely give away their individual rights! However, a few years in, Pauline realized that Prohibition was not being taken seriously. Wikipedia states well what happened next. “She grew increasingly disenchanted with prohibition but worked on behalf of Herbert Hoover in the election of 1928 despite his uncertain stand on the issue. In his inauguration speech, he vowed to enforce anti liquor legislation. After the enactment of the Jones-Stalker Act in May 1929 drastically increased penalties for the violation of prohibition, she resigned from the Republican National Committee and took up the cause of repealing prohibition.” This is where she is best known for her anti Prohibition activities.

Wikipedia continues, “The hypocrisy of politicians who would support resolutions for stricter enforcement and half an hour later be drinking cocktails disturbed her. The ineffectiveness of the law, the apparent decline of temperate drinking, and the growing prestige of bootleggers troubled her even more. Mothers, she explained, had believed that Prohibition would eliminate the temptation of drinking from their children’s lives but found instead that “children are growing up with a total lack of respect for the Constitution and for the law”.”

Having moved back to Chicago, Pauline then founded the Women’s Organization for National Prohibition Reform in May 1929. She had a core of solid support of her society friends of well known ladies. “The Women of the WONPR were considered smart and sophisticated women of the era. Their high social status attracted press coverage and made the movement fashionable.” This group lobbied to do basically the opposite of

what earlier groups like the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union did to enact Prohibition. While she supported Hoover in the election of 1928, Hoover drug his feet about enforcing Prohibition despite his political promises in addition to the onset of the troubles of the Great Depression. By the election of 1932, she and her supporters switched to endorsing Democrat Franklin D.

Roosevelt for president, who quickly did something about ending Prohibition, starting with the Beer Permit Act, and fully ended Prohibition by the end of 1933 with the passage of the Twenty-First Amendment repealing the Eighteenth Amendment. Pauline Sabin lived for well over another 20 years still involved with politics to her death in late 1955.



For a more broad view of Prohibition in the United States, watch this video on YouTube by the channel OverSimplified about Prohibition:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAGli62-sAU>

READ MORE

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pauline_Sabin
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prohibition_in_the_United_States
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-first_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution

FIRST FRIDAY ART TRAIL

I have covered the First Friday Art Trail before. I went to the one in August, which was Friday, August 4, 2023. It had been several months since I last went and wanted to go with today working out pretty well to go. My first stop was at the Buddy Holly Center because it always has parking available and usually has good snacks. The Art Trail started at 6:00 PM, but I got there about 6:30. Still being early, there weren't many people there yet, but that is also a nice time to go. I looked around at the temporary gallery, which is the old train station part of the building, and they had these shadow boxes of various musical groups from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. I didn't recognize maybe half of the band names, but I did recognize a few of the individual names. The shadow boxes had photographs, ticket stubs, canceled checks, album covers, and whatever else relevant to each band. Then I went over to the Buddy Holly Gallery, a permanent gallery dedicated to the life and career of Buddy Holly. This gallery does not change much, so I just quickly went through it since it was free and normally is a paid exhibition.



Sign for the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock, Texas.

I went outside and after a few minutes got on the "trolley" (a bus wrapped to look like a trolley, but the city does have actual motorized trolleys) to head to the next stop on the route. The trolley only stops by a few of the venues. The rest of the venues you have to drive to yourself. The next stop was a place called Glassyalley, which is an art studio in an old downtown brick building. I briefly walked around and went out the back door to another venue in the building behind them called Livingston Forge. There, they make hand forged items out of wrought iron and were doing demonstrations. The owner I knew as a kid, or perhaps as an early teen, twenty years ago from when I was a student at Texas Tech University. He is about age 35. I watched for a little while, but it was still really hot being August and not yet sunset. Then I walked back out through Glassyalley and waited for the bus to come, which was a few minutes later.



Front sign for the Glassyalley Art Studio Gallery.



Louise Hopkins Underwood Center For The Arts

FIRST FRIDAY ART TRAIL

There were a few other venues downtown, but I wanted to go next to LHUCA, which is the Underwood Center for the Arts, and the creator of the First Friday Art Trail. The bus stopped about a block away because that venue has grown to cover a full downtown city block, which they call a campus. It used to be just the main building, but they expanded outside to various other nearby buildings. I stopped at a gallery called the Charles Adams Gallery, a building all to its own. I like stopping at this gallery, which is usually packed with people, and has art exhibits that usually change every month.

In recent years, the LHUCA campus added a parking lot full of garage sale tents and the entire outside of the campus was lined with about every type of food truck you can imagine! I knew about the food trucks from past visits and planned to visit one food truck, and I found the one food truck I wanted to go to. This one had little mini doughnuts. I was hoping to find a food truck that had little mini donuts. I can remember going to the Dade County Youth Fair in the 1980s and getting mini doughnuts. These were not as good as ones I've had in the past, but they were fine. I had the cinnamon sugar ones.

From there, I headed over to the pottery studio and just quickly walked through the pottery studio. Not much was going on there. I then went to the main LHUCA building to see the different exhibits they had in the several galleries, at least four of them I recall. From there, I went back outside to the courtyard. There was live music on the stage and people were everywhere! They had some band playing while I walked along the streets to see what else was there. I came across an area that had some century plants that had stalks of flowers. I got a few photos of them along with whatever else I took notice as I walked my way back to the bus stop. At this point, it was about 8:45 PM and while the venue did not look even close to wrapping up, I went over to the bus stop to go back to the Buddy Holly Center. Also by this point, the sun had just set and was getting dark, and it was totally dark once I got home later.



Mini doughnuts I got from a food truck.

Charles Adams Gallery on Mac Davis Lane and Avenue J.

WORK TRIP TO HOUSTON

Driving Down To Houston

I had another work trip at the very beginning of September, but this trip was only to Houston, besides other events in other places handled by other people. Going to Houston only takes a day to get there, and a day to get back, and however many days needed to be there for working the event. In this case, it was a one day tailgating on the campus of the University of Houston the afternoon before the home football game. So, we only needed one day to get down there, the day of the event, and one day to get back to Lubbock, a long weekend. This event repeated several times during football season. Lubbock to Houston takes about 8 or 9 hours of normal driving, especially with a dually and heavy trailer!

We left Lubbock on Friday, September 1, 2023. There is no direct route there, and most of the drive was on federal or state roads and a short drive on the interstate. I got a quick breakfast before getting to the shop, and we left in the late morning after getting everything loaded up. We took US 64 south, the same road I used to take between Lubbock and Snyder when I lived there. We drove almost an hour and half and were almost to Snyder when we heard a pop. One of the tires on the trailer exploded! In short distance, we pulled to the side of the road, but there really was little room on the shoulder. The road followed along some railroad tracks in this area and

were a little distance away from the tracks. Long story shortish, it took a while to get help. Noone of the help we called was willing to come! We tried a local option in Snyder, limping our way to town. The trailer has two axles and three good tires. Despite the other places we checked, the one place in Snyder was able to help us and we ended up getting two new tires put on the one axel and having the remaining good tire as a spare. Once done, we went over to the truck stop on the east side of town to get food at the Burger King there. We finally got going again by about 6:00 PM, over 5 hours later from the time of the pop!



The tire popped in a very strange way.



As we were by the side of the road, one of the many trains that travel these tracks came.

WORK TRIP TO HOUSTON

We got to I-20 after another 20 minutes, and continued until we got to the east side of Abilene before we got off onto Texas 322 for less than a mile to get to Texas 36. We made a very brief stop in Cross Plains at about 7:45 PM, and another short stop in Comanche to check some things. By this time, it was getting dark. This drive on Texas 36 goes right through the Hill Country of Texas. We stopped in Gatesville at an Allsup's for gas around 10:00 PM. We made several more stops for gas and for a break before getting to the outer ranges of Houston. We finally got to the hotel a little after 2:00 AM, 13 hours later after we left!



The Houston skyline as we were driving to campus.

was busy with people going everywhere wandering around. We just stayed in the truck most of the time in the air conditioning, and I went out a couple times to get some photos and videos for the record. We kept things set up until about 6:30 PM when started tearing down. Packing up was a lot faster and smoother than was the setting up!

Day of the Event

Because we got in so late, we did sleep in a little later than we wanted to. We had enough time to get breakfast as the time we needed to get to campus was delayed. Apparently, the logistics of the tailgating people was not very organized! Once we got to where we needed to be, we had to wait a little while before we could park where we needed to set up. However, once in place, it took us a while to get everything finally up and running, much longer than it usually did! Being along the coast, the humidity was high, and the temps were around 100° with few clouds. We got drained of energy quickly and had to take it slow and cool off in the truck often. We arrived about 12:30 PM and were fully up and running around 3:00 PM. Even at this time, the tailgating was slow but picked up about two hours before the game started. Once people got there, it



While we were waiting to get access to the blocked off area, this vintage cop car was also waiting for the same access!



Vintage Houston Police cars. Left: 1996 Chevrolet Caprice, right: 1980s Chevrolet, model unknown.

WORK TRIP TO HOUSTON

We left the campus about 7:15 PM and got back on the crazy busy Houston roads. We had not really eaten much since breakfast. So, we decided where we would go to get some food. We decided to go to Rudy's. It took us about 20 or 30 minutes to get there because Houston is a very large city metropolis! Once there, though, we had absolutely no rush to eat or get back to the hotel. We left about 9:00 PM and took the long drive back to the hotel, a Home2 Suites by Hilton, which was located near the access road of I-10. Across the street from the hotel was a nursery called Moon Valley Nursey which had just about every type of tropical tree, shrub, and plants you can think of! It looked like a very nice nursery and reminded me of the types of plants I would see in Florida. We were glad to be back at the hotel! I rested and stayed up for a while before going to sleep around midnight.



After the job was done, we went over to Rudy's BBQ.

Drive Back To Lubbock

The event was on Saturday, and we drove back to Lubbock on Sunday, September 3, 2023. We woke up whenever we wanted since we were in no rush to leave. We left the hotel around 11:00 AM. Once we left, we knew that we wanted to stop at Buc-ee's before leaving Houston since there were several. We drove west on I-10 and made our way to Katy where a large Buc-ee's was. We got gas and went inside but did not stay a long time unlike with other stores previously. We were there long enough to get some snacks and look at a couple of things. We left a little more than 30 minutes later. One thing to note about this Buc-ee's as I found out is that this location has the world's record longest car wash as declared by the Guinness Book of World Records when it opened in 2017, a whopping 255 feet long that takes five minutes to go through! For comparison, most car washes tend average around 120 feet. As of 2023, that record still stands. Because we had a dually and a trailer, we could not go through the car wash, of course.



Buc-ee's in Katy, Texas.

WORK TRIP TO HOUSTON

We continued on I-10 until we got to Texas 36 around 12:30 PM, then went north. This part of the route was different from how we came in, having turned somewhere onto a different road outside of Houston. We eventually got back to the same part of 36 we drove on the way down. We passed Belleville, which has a population of 4206, and several other small towns that we passed through before but was dark when we went by. Once we got to a town called Milan, we stopped at a CEFCO for gas. We went through a few other small towns for over another hour until we got to Gatesville and stopped at that Allsup's again. By this point, we were definitely hungry. We looked around for a place to eat. We settled on getting a pizza from Little Caesars and ate in the truck. We ended up being in Gatesville for well over an hour before leaving.

Along this stretch between Temple and Comanche, the road crossed over the meandering Leon River four times. All four times, I looked at the river, and it was dry, dry, dry! In addition, the further north we went, the river got smaller and smaller. The last time we crossed over, it was called the South Leon River. We also went through a small town called Flat, and it wasn't. We went through a very small town called Rising Star, which has a population of 756. We finally got back to I-20 on the east side of Abilene around 6:40 PM. We stopped briefly at a Quick Trip. A little after 7:30 PM, we got back to US 64 near Roscoe. We were just outside of Snyder around 8:00 PM when we heard another pop. This time, the other tire on the same side as before gave out. The sun was going down and it was getting dark quickly. We were near the same truck stop with the Burger King we stopped at on the way down. We ultimately moved over to the parking lot next door of the Tractor Supply, which was clean, flat, and wide open. This tire looked completely different from the first tire that blew; this one stayed mostly whole. Since it was Sunday evening, and we knew getting help just was not going to be an option, we determined that we would just have to change the tire ourselves. In this case, we only needed to take the old tire off and to put on the spare. We only had hand tools, but the trailer did have built in corner jacks. The hardest part was basically getting the lug nuts off and trying to



We passed by this place called The Last Drive-In Picture Show in Gatesville. It even has a well weathered mini golf course.

get the spare tire out from under the triangle part of the trailer by the hitch. The process was slow, but we got it done step by step. Once done, we went over to the truck stop for water and for the bathrooms before leaving. After these two hours, we made a bee line back to the shop in Lubbock, getting there a little before 11:30. We unloaded our stuff and got things back in the shop and went home. I was finally home just before midnight. No doubt I was glad to finally be home! I got the car unloaded and eventually sat on the couch, where I fell asleep.



Another tire on the trailer popped.

WORK TRIP TO HOUSTON

Post Trip Notes

After the expensive and time wasting issue of two tire blowouts, we since outfitted our rigs to have impact wrenches and sockets specifically for dealing with changing tires, along with having blankets to put on the ground and any spare parts we would need. We also fixed some other small issues we found with the tires and hubs.



These are some of the truck stops or convenience stores we stopped at: Love's, CEFCO, Quick Trip, Pilot, and Allsup's



This Buc-ee's in Katy has the longest car wash as declared by the Guinness Book of World Records when it opened in 2017, a whopping 255 feet long that takes five minutes to go through!

READ MORE

- <https://us105fm.com/buc-ees-in-temple-tx-adding-a-carwash-soon-have-the-nicest-bathrooms-for-your-vehicle-too/>
- <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/59936>
- <https://www.carwash.com/guinness-book-world-records-names-katy-buc-ees-longest-carwash>

BLUECAT TRAVELS



In Scurry County besides the railroad tracks.



At the Rudy's in Houston for delicious BBQ!



A train came by on the tracks as we were waiting.



Stopped at the Buc-ee's in Katy near Houston.



Viewing wild sunflowers near Cheyenne, Wyoming.



This was at the start of the next trip...

HISTORICAL ADS

MINERS' STORE.

THE undersigned would respectfully inform the miners, and other citizens of this vicinity, that they have and will keep constantly on hand a full and complete assortment of

**GROCERIES,
PROVISIONS,
& CLOTHING,**

which we offer at the

LOWEST CASH PRICES.

Gold dust taken at highest rates.

PRICE & HARRIS.

Golden City, J. T.

FLOUR constantly on hand and for sale by

PRICE & HARRIS.

BACON constantly on hand and for sale by

no i tf PRICE & HARRIS.

LIVERY & FEED STBLE.

SADDLE PONIES & PACK animals to let on reasonable terms. Hay and grain for sale.

J. R. GILBERT,

no ii 6m Platte street, Golden City.

BOGGS & St. JAMES,

Blake st., Denver city,

DEALERS in Provisions, Hard Ware, Crockery and Glass Ware, and Miners' Supplies.

THOS. O. BOGGS. L. B. ST. JAMES.

no l sm

LAST TRAIN FROM THE STATES !!

BY WHICH

A. P. VASQUEZ & CO.

received their stock of

WINTER GOODS,

consisting of


**CLOTHING, GROCERIES,
QUEEN'S WARE, NAILS,
TEA, SUGAR, DRIED
AND PRESERVED
FRUITS,**

and a No. 1 article of

FRESH FLOUR.

Also for sale a large lot of

DEER AND ANTELOPE SKINS.

 Gold will be taken in exchange for these articles at the old prices — Quicksilvered at 16 and gulch at 18 dollars per oz.

Auraria, Dec. 6, 1859. no i thm

*The Western Mountaineer. Golden City.
Wednesday, January 4, 1860. Page 3.*

*The Western Mountaineer. Golden City.
Wednesday, January 4, 1860. Page 3.*

HISTORICAL ADS

LEAVENING POWER

Of the various Baking Powders
Illustrated by actual tests.

- ROYAL (Pure).....
- GRANT'S* (Alum)....
- RUMFORD'S* (fresh)...
- HANFORD'S (when fresh).....
- CHARM* (Alum Powder)...
- DAVIS'* and O. K.* (Alum).....
- CLEVELAND'S.....
- PIONEER (San Francisco).....
- CZAR.....
- DR. PRICE'S.....
- SNOW FLAKE (Gross's).....
- CONGRESS.....
- HECKER'S.....
- GILLET'S.....
- HANFORD'S (None Such), when not fresh.....
- PEARL (Andrews & Co.).....
- RUMFORD'S* (Phosphate), when not fresh.....

Reports of Government Chemists.

"The Royal Baking Powder is composed of pure and wholesome ingredients. It does not contain either alum or phosphates, or other injurious substances.

"EDWARD G. LOVE, Ph. D."

"The Royal Baking Powder is undoubtedly the purest and most reliable baking powder offered to the public.

"HENRY A. MOTT, M. D., Ph. D."

"The Royal Baking Powder is purest in quality and highest in strength of any baking powder of which I have knowledge.

"Wm. McMurtrie, Ph. D."

*All Alum baking powders, no matter how high their strength, are to be avoided as dangerous. Phosphate powders liberate their gas too freely, or under climatic changes suffer deterioration.

Jack Lambert's

Bill of fare for dinner, at the fair grounds, this week:

- Soup.
- ROASTS.
- Beef.
- Pork, cranberry sauce.
- Pork and beans.
- Corn beef and cabbage.
- VEGETABLES.
- Mashed potatoes.
- Green peas.
- Green corn.
- Onions, tomatoes, slaw, cold.
- BREAD.
- White, Graham, Corn.
- DESSERTS.
- Pudding.
- Pie—two kinds.
- Fruits
- Tea and coffee.
- Meals, fifty cents.

Rocky Mountain News.
Sunday, September 26, 1880. Page 8.

—For the past few days, a number of persons have returned to the States, diseased and disheartened. For the most part, they have remained from 3 to 10 days, and they do such a "good deal," to emigrants on the road, that they make their appearance in our midst with a face like this:

On His Arrival!



After He Has Prospected.

After He Has Prospected.



On His Arrival!

Cherry Creek Pioneer. Denver City, Kansas Territory.
Saturday, April 23, 1859. Page 2.

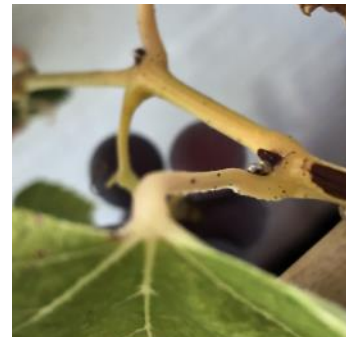
The Herald Democrat.
Thursday, October 31, 1889. Page 7.

GARDEN ROUNDUP

In the mid summer, I decided to make my vegetable trough into a single crop. I planted some Blue Lake green beans. I planted four seeds per square, but only half of them sprouted. However, from this photo, you cannot tell!



In 2022, I bought a grape vine from Lowe's. That summer, the plant grew and made leaves, but that was it. In 2023, the plant grew back and showed clear evidence that it would also have fruit on it. However, the very hot summer caused them to turn into raisins on the vine!



A volunteer mystery plant (one that grew that was not planted) popped up in my side yard. It looked like some sort of squash. I think it was a seed from the mini pumpkins I grew last year. (I threw it on the ground after it went bad.) By September, it dried up and disappeared with no pumpkins.



The clematis I bought from Costco in April 2022 and thought was dead stabilized and grew in 2023 once I put it outside. It produced a single flower in August.

FINAL THOUGHT

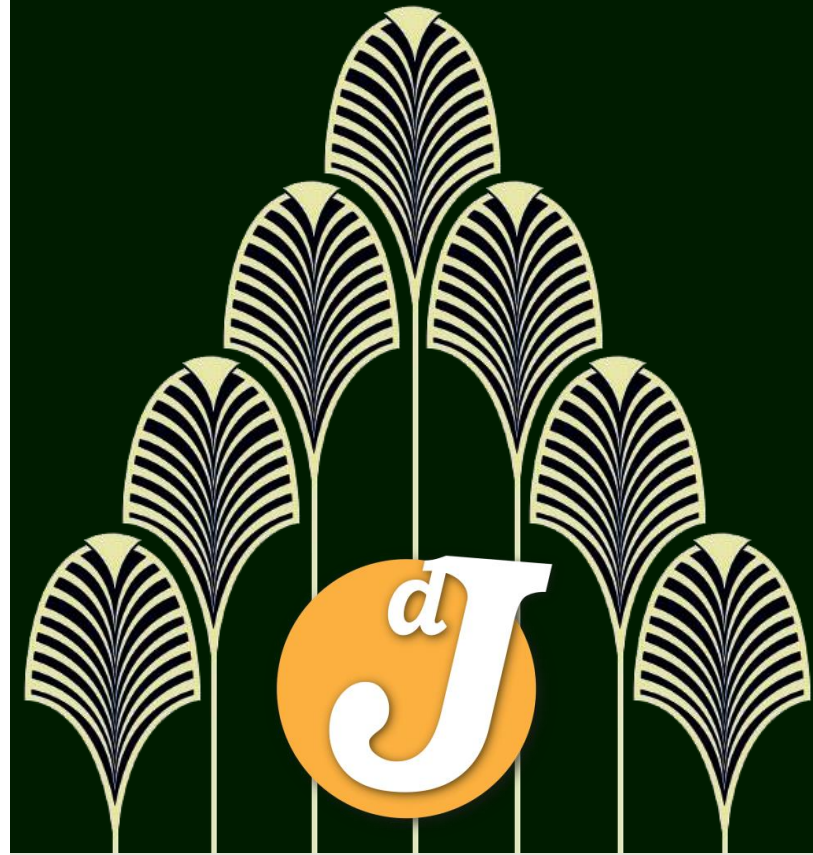
Some Fun Things

"How to Write Big Books" by Warren Peace
"The Lion Attacked" by Claude Yarnoff
"The Art of Archery" by Beau N. Arrow
"Songs for Children" by Barbara Blacksheep
"Irish Heart Surgery" by Angie O'Plasty
"Desert Crossing" by I. Rhoda Camel
"School Truancy" by Marcus Absent
"I Was a Cloakroom Attendant" by Mahatma Coate
"I Lost My Balance" by Eileen Dover and Phil Down
"Positive Reinforcement" by Wade Ago
"Shhh!" by Danielle Soloud
"The Philippine Post Office" by Imelda Letter
"Stop Arguing" by Xavier Breath

Can You Imagine This Cake?!

CAKES OF THE OLD SOUTH.
One pound of flour, one and one-half pounds of sugar, one pound of butter, twelve eggs, two pounds of citron sliced thin, one large or two small coconuts grated, two pounds of blanched almonds cut fine and one tablespoonful of mace. Cream the butter and flour, beat the sugar with the yolks of the eggs, add the stiffly beaten whites, then add all to the butter and cream, stir in the citron and almonds, and lastly the coconut. Twelve eggs, their weight in sugar, half their weight in flour, the juice and grated rind of two lemons and one saltspoonful of salt. Bake in jelly-cake plates. To two and one-half pounds of sugar add the juice of four oranges and the grated rind of two, and the juice of two lemons. Mix all, and spread between the cakes when quite cold; also spread over the top. This quantity makes two cakes of three layers each.

The Yuma Pioneer. Friday, April 14, 1905. Page 3.



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