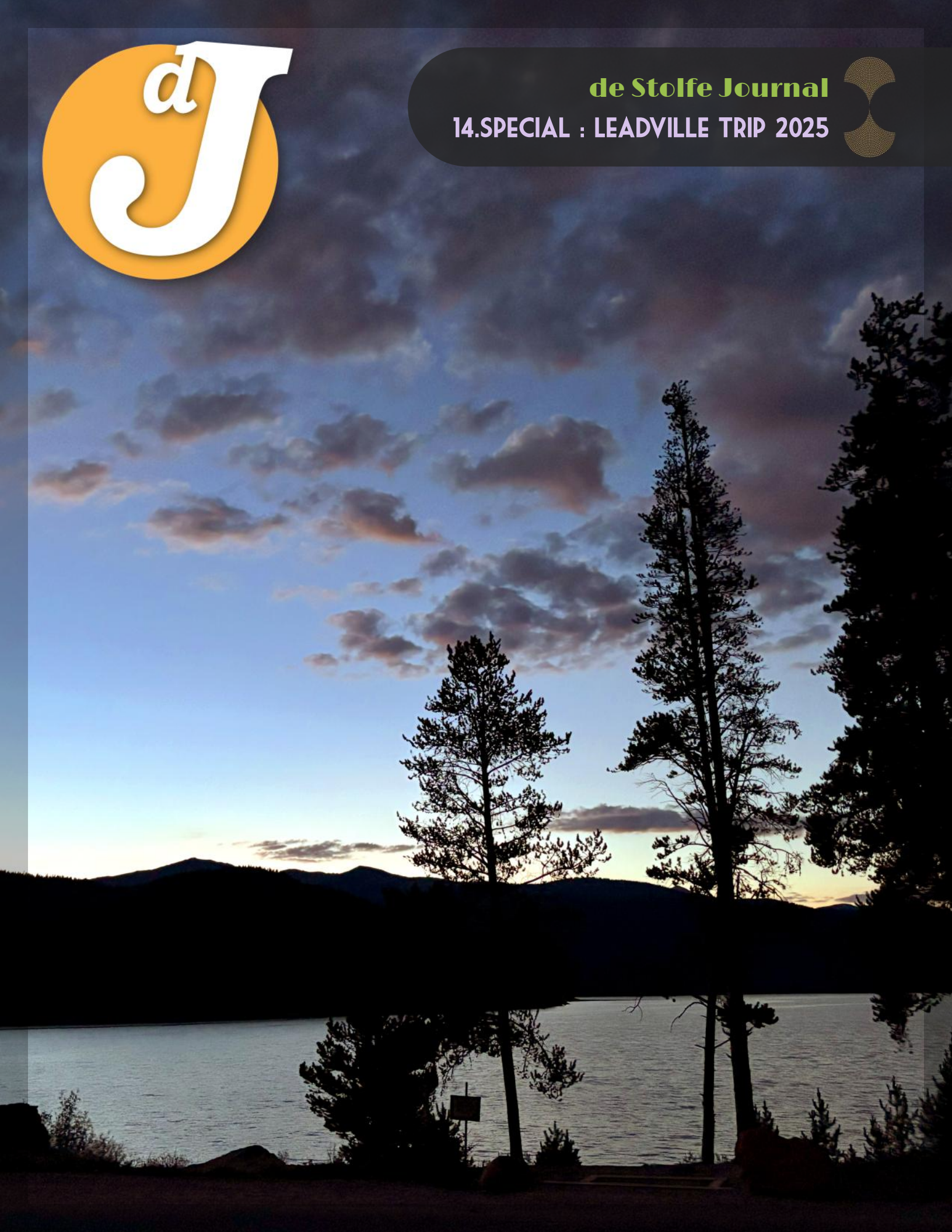
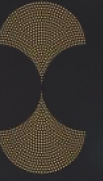




deStolfe Journal

14.SPECIAL : LEADVILLE TRIP 2025



# CONTENTS

## 14.SPECIAL : LEADVILLE TRIP 2025

(Page numbers correspond to the PDF page numbers.)

- 2** ... Contents & On The Cover
- 3** ... Comments by RG
- 4-5** ... Change of Employment
- 6-47** ... Leadville Trip
  - 6** ... A Visit To Leadville
  - 6-11** ... Travelling A New Route
  - 11-19** ... A Day of Historical Sightseeing
  - 20-30** ... A Week In Leadville
    - 21** ... Random Photos Around Town
    - 22** ... Leadville Wildflowers
    - 23** ... Notes About My Work In Leadville
  - 25-27** ... Notes About Leadville's Restaurants
  - 28** ... Collection Personal Artifacts
- 29-30** ... Visiting Turquoise Lake
- 31-38** ... The Trek Back To Texas
- 39-47** ... A Leisurely Day of Sightseeing
- 46-47** ... The Drive Back To Granbury
- 48-49** ... Travels of Chatbleu
- 50** ... Final Thought
- 50** ... The Fine Print

## ON THE COVER



*This is Turquoise Lake at dusk located northwest of Leadville a few miles. It was formed by a dam. It is a nice, peaceful lake with very cold water! I have shown this lake in my journals many times since 2014.*

We live in the 2020s, 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](http://www.destolfe.com)



# COMMENTS BY RG

## An Almost Impromptu Trip

Because of some unexpected changes that happened in late July, I was able to carve out some time to finally get back to Leadville after nearly 27 months! I usually try to go annually, but it was just not feasible until recently. I was planning to include this work trip within the next regular issue. But, as I was putting it together, it kept getting longer and longer until it outgrew a regular issue enough to be its own special topic issue! And even then, this issue is long for a special issue.

The unexpected changes happened the last two weeks of July, which gave me some time in August to go to Leadville unhindered. I left on Wednesday, August 6 and came back on Monday, August 18, 2025. Those nearly two weeks were greatly needed, and I was able to get a bunch of things done and see a bunch of places I have wanted to get back to.

I hope you like this long and detailed look of my work trip to Leadville!



Producer, RG de Stolfe

RG

*Turquoise Lake in Leadville, Colorado.*



# CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT

## Visit to Andrews and Lubbock in Late July

The end of July and early August was quite a bizarre time! It became an unexpected, forced transition of employment. As it turned out, the change was very good! I will not go into the details of the employment nor about the why of the change, but rather I will just tell about the facts of the situation.

The company I worked for and the reason why I moved to Granbury had suddenly chosen to close the Granbury shop as the explanation told us and wanted everything packed up and moved back to Lubbock. There had been a lot going on over the prior few months, of which I'm not going to go into any details. But, just know that it was an unexpected shock of the decision to everyone in the company. Ultimately, however, the company itself shortly thereafter basically fired everyone and went into a process of disassembling the company. Through this process in late July, several of us would change to another company that did

similar work. To meet with the owner of this other company, two of us took a trip from Granbury to a tiny town called Andrews located north of the Midland and Odessa area.

My old immediate boss and I drove from Granbury to Andrews on Monday, July 28, 2025. We went to meet with the owner of the company regarding the hire and for me a possible hire. We were already vaguely familiar with this other company having used them on occasion over the past two years. In the mid morning, we got gas and stopped at Chick-fil-a for a quick breakfast. Our route of travel was basically straight down I -20 almost to Midland where we took another road straight to Andrews. We got as far as Big Spring in the mid afternoon and ate lunch at the new Chick-fil-A there (yes, for the second time). It was about another hour later when we got to the company shop, which also had their home that was attached. We were there for several hours while we took a tour of

the place, met different people, and talked about other business details. Part of that talk was about whether or not to hire me. By early evening, he invited us for dinner, and we went to downtown Andrews to a place called Amore Italian Restaurant. After dinner, we went to the

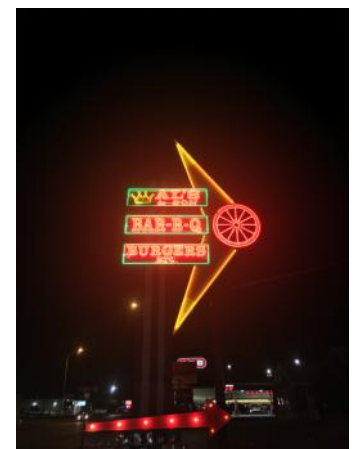
Cobblestone Hotel to check in where we stayed the night in some nice suite rooms. In case you are wondering, I was hired along with the other guy, but I would not start until mid August. In addition, this new company took over leasing the shop we were already in.



*By the end of July, the shop was almost empty.*



*July 28, 2025*



*March 1, 2019*

*When we went through Big Spring for gas, I saw this restaurant sign again for Al & Son Bar-B-Q, which had closed. I ate there once years ago.*

# CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT

The next day, we checked out and went back to the owners place to do a few things to get a truck and trailer to take back to Granbury. So, my previous boss drove that truck and trailer while I drove his truck, the one we came in. From there, we needed to go to Lubbock to drop off some last items to return to the previous company and to pick up my personal stuff I stored at the Lubbock shop that did not fit in my storage unit after I moved out of my duplex in late January. It took about two hours to go from Andrews to Lubbock. For reasons I won't go into, we tried to take care of our business at the Lubbock shop as quickly as possible before leaving. Then, we went over to Circle

K for gas. From there, we drove separately and did our own things. I had a few errands I wanted to do, and I went over to my storage unit to get a few things. For lunch, I went over to La Madeleine, then I wanted some iced tea and went over to Lonestar Tea Company for their happy hour special, along with stopping at Market Street for a few items. From there, I made my way back to Granbury as we were not going to stay the night in Lubbock. I took my usual route down Highway 84 and I-20. I made a stop in Merkel at the Iron Horse truck stop for a break, where I also found and bought some wood postcards. Once I got back to Granbury, I put the truck in the shop, waited

around for a little while, then got back in my own car and went home.

This change in employment gave me the open option to go to Leadville before I officially started working for the other company, where I did not have to ask for permission to have time off since I was technically unemployed! Working at the museum in Leadville gave me some additional intermediary money to help with the loss of income. Also, my mental state was a lot better knowing that the previous job arrangement had finally ended making the change for the better! This new job option seemed promising for a much better working arrangement. I still kept

coming to the Granbury shop during the gap time as it was where my computer was, and it gave me something to do until I left for Leadville. I officially started with the other company the next full day I got back to Granbury from Leadville. For this other company, it was a major expansion, and it took some time to work out details of various things. As for the other employees of the other company, most of them ended up coming on board, and they opened a different shop in Lubbock for the one employee who maintained the previous Lubbock shop. We knew come late August that we would be thrust into a busy time through November.



*Stopped by my storage unit again in late July.*



*Iron Horse Travel Center in Merkel, Texas.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

## A Visit To Leadville

The last time I was able to go to Leadville so I could work at the Temple Israel Museum was in early May 2023, well over two years ago. At that time, I was not employed, but was looking for employment, which started over a month later. Now fast forward to July 2025, and I found myself, among others, in a weird

employment situation that left us short changed and unemployed. We did have another employment option lined up that was available as soon as I was able to start. (This scenario alone is a whole separate writing, not to be included here.) The key thing here to note is that I had a small window of time I could

go to Leadville, especially since it was 27 months since my last visit! (My visits to Leadville are typically annually.) After some back and forth consideration on whether or not I could feasibly go despite some financial shortages, I concluded that I just needed to get there as my lodging, food, and gas would be taken care

of once I got there. So ultimately, I planned to go. My trip consisted of two days to go from Granbury to Leadville, seven days of being in Leadville, and another four days of making my way back to Granbury by way of Lubbock. I would start my new employment option shortly after I got back.

---

## Travelling A New Route

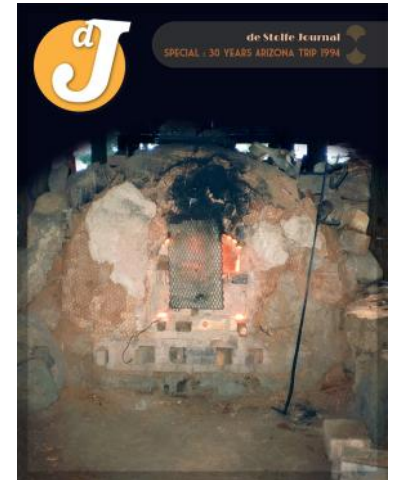
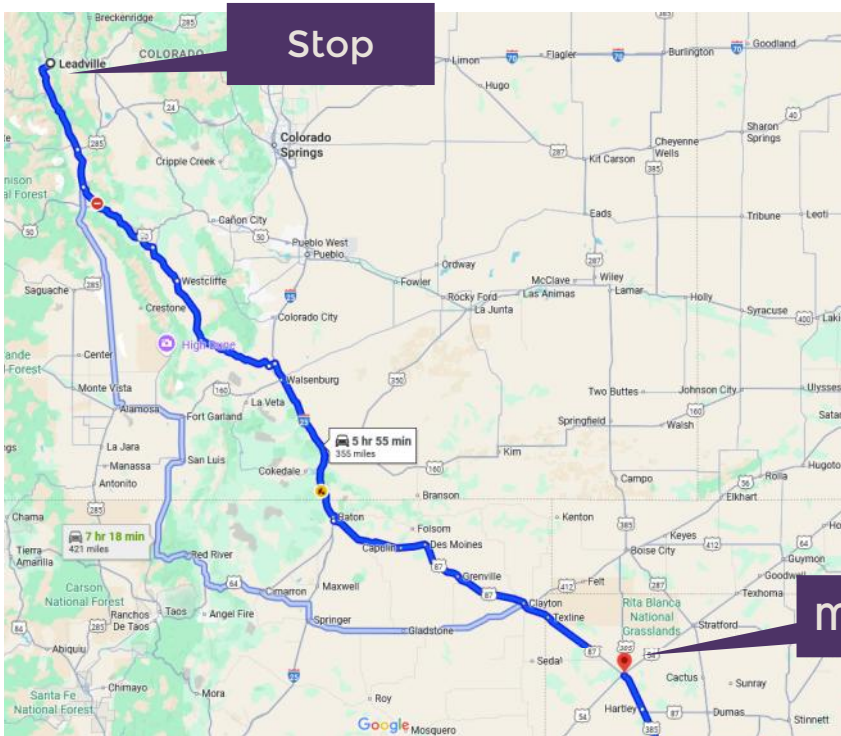
I left Granbury in the late morning on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. I decided to go a route I have never taken before where I would go basically north from Granbury to Wichita Falls then west over to Amarillo. I made reservations at the Econo Lodge in Dalhart, a cheap motel I've stayed at many times before on my way to Colorado, and used my rewards points so that it would not cost me anything. I made my way towards downtown Granbury and took the Loop 567 road to get to Highway 4, known as Lipan Highway, which

got me to Highway 281. This road took me straight to Wichita Falls going through the towns of Mineral Wells, Jacksboro, and a few other very small towns. Mineral Wells seemed like a really cool looking town that might be a good place to visit in the fall or around Christmas. It took a little over two hours to get to Wichita Falls, and it was a very smooth drive. The landscape was somewhat hilly with trees and shrubs and a few minorly windy roads.



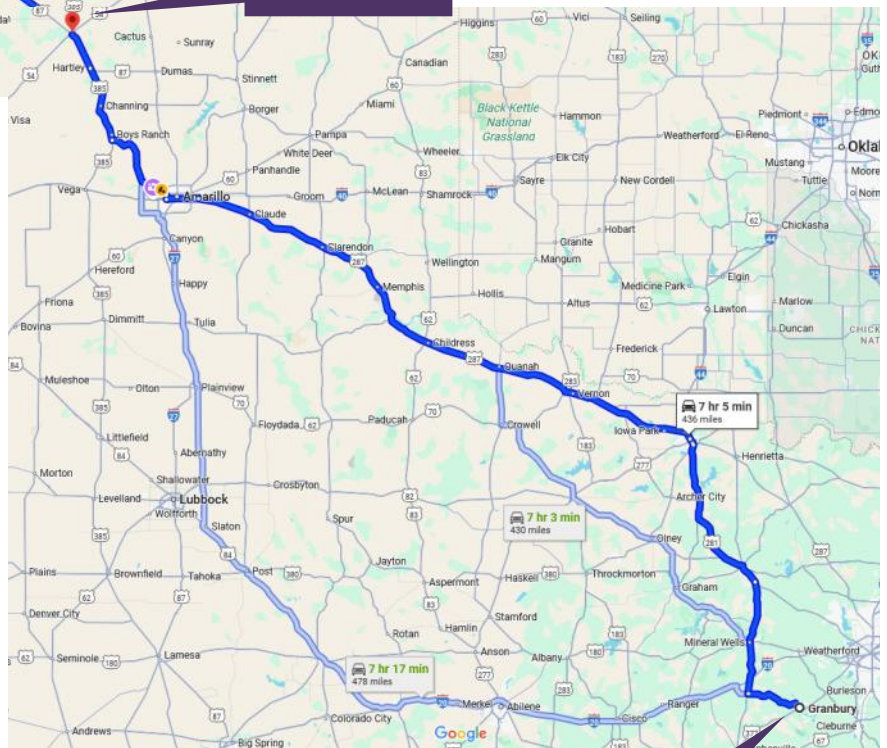
*I saw this cool metal truss bridge north of I-20 crossing over the Brazos River.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT



*In 2024, I put out a special issue remembering my trip from Jacksonville to Flagstaff.*

Wichita Falls was a rather large town with several main roads, and so I had to make sure I paid attention to the signs so I could find the exit I needed. I got on Highway 287 going northwest. This road would take me right to the outskirts of Amarillo dumping into I-40. This route, located several miles to the south of the Red River that separates Texas and Oklahoma, more or less runs parallel. Also, this route from Wichita Falls to Amarillo was similar to or maybe even the same as the route the Greyhound bus took in July 1994 when I went from Jacksonville to Flagstaff for my extended studies trip. (See my special journal issue I did last year about the 30 Years Arizona Trip, 1994-2024.) This highway took me through many small towns, with the more notable ones being Electra, Vernon, Quanah, Childress, Estelline, and Clarendon.



Google Maps

Start



# LEADVILLE VISIT

Once I got to Childress, about 90 minutes later, I decided to stop and get some iced tea, particularly because I saw several billboards along the way for HTeaO and thought it sounded good as it was really hot being early August! They were having their daily BOGO happy hour

special. I only wanted one cup of iced tea, but I ended up getting two since the second one was free! Before I left, I saw a billboard in Childress for Buc-ee's saying that it was only 1000 miles away and almost there! I'm kidding of course about the distance, but they definitely worked the

billboards! After driving another 15 minutes, I stopped briefly in Estelline. This was the little town in 1994 where the bus stopped for breakfast at the café that was once in that old building. I got a few photos of the café and of some nearby buildings. (I last stopped by this building in April

2022, the first time since 1994, and I noted this building in the last issue on the page about YouTube channels.) The only other stop I made before Amarillo was near a little bitty town called Washburn to look at a historical marker located right by the side of the road near some railroad tracks.

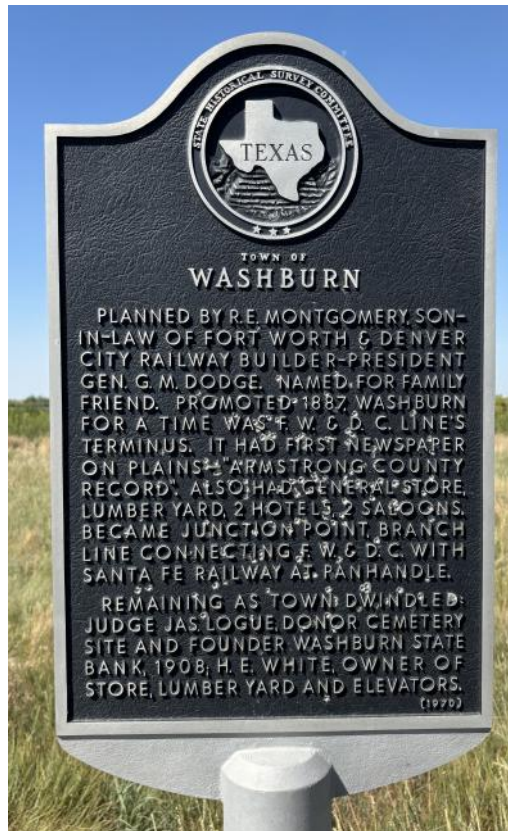


*If you are not from Texas or have not lived in Texas for any length of time, then a store just to buy iced tea might seem strange to you! HTeaO is one of many places that mainly sells iced tea.*

*This chain has about three dozen flavors of iced tea, along with coffee.*



*Buc-ee's in Amarillo is only 107 miles away!*



*Town of Washburn*

*Planned by R. E. Montgomery, son-in-law of Fort Worth & Denver City Railway Builder-President Gen. G. M. Dodge. Named for family friend. Promoted 1887, Washburn for a time was F.W. & D.C. Line's terminus. It had first newspaper on plains — "Armstrong County Record". Also had general store, lumber yard, 2 hotels, 2 saloons. Became junction point, branch line connecting F.W. & D.C. with Santa Fe Railway at Panhandle.*

*Remaining as town dwindled: Judge Jas. Logue, donor cemetery site and founder Washburn State Bank, 1908; H. E. White, owner of store, lumber yard and elevators.*

*(1970)*

*Historical marker about Washburn*  
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=96646>

# LEADVILLE VISIT



*This is the Olive Oil's 24 Hour Truck Stop Café in Estelline, Texas. Our Greyhound bus made its regular stop here for breakfast in the morning of Saturday, July 16, 1994. (As I told about it in the special issue, the food was so greasy that I could not eat all of it!)*



*Screenshot of YouTube video by Chris Attrell when he visited the old building in November 2024. The video was uploaded in March 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGti1-zEjdo>*



*I stopped by the old café on Saturday, April 23, 2022.*



*I stopped by the old building on Wednesday, August 6, 2025.*



*Front of building as of Wednesday, August 6, 2025.*



*Side of building as of Wednesday, August 6, 2025.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

Once I got on I-40 and reached the outskirts of Amarillo about ten minutes later, I made my way to the new Buc-ee's. I had not gotten to the place since it opened. (The last time I saw it was in the early stages of construction in December 2023.) I first

thing I did was park and visit the ultra clean bathroom! After all, I had two cups of iced tea a while back! I went back to the car and got gas, having about a quarter tank left, which was pretty good milage from Granbury to Amarillo (about 350

miles). I went back into Buc-ee's to look around. I knew on this leg of the trip I would not be able to buy very much. I did get a brisket sandwich and a few items for a gift. I went back to the car and ate the sandwich, since Buc-ee's is known for

not having any tables. The sandwich was good and full of meat but was rather expensive at nearly \$9. (Although that seems to be consistent with the higher cost of beef generally.),



*I got the chopped brisket sandwich from Buc-ee's. I had never had it before that I can remember. They are constantly pumping out these brisket sandwiches!*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

Once I left Buc-ee's, I made my way around Amarillo to Tascosa Road (FM 1061) until it dead ended into Highway 385. The sun was still well above the horizon when I got to Dalhart. Dalhart is almost right on the western edge of the Central Time Zone and so this region has the latest sunset in the time

zone. I checked into the Econo Lodge then set out to see where I could do laundry since I did not have enough time for laundry before leaving home. The motel was too small to have laundry, and I checked at what few other options were available. But, I ultimately went with the laundry facilities at the

Love's truck stop west of town. They were affordable, clean, safe, and took quarters! I spent a good 2½ hours washing, drying, and folding my clothes. Once done, it was after 11:00 PM—but at least my clothes were clean!—and I made my way back to the motel.



*Love's is a national chain of truck stops. Others include Pilot, Flying J, and CEFCO.*

---

## A Day Of Historical Site Seeing

The day was Thursday, August 7, 2025. This was the part of the drive I knew I would have many stops to see specific sites to get content for these journals! Some of these sites have been on my radar for several years for when I would next be in the respective areas, while a few of them I discovered in planning for this drive or even in stumbling upon them during the drive. I left the motel in the late morning, got gas at the same Love's, and made my way northwest to New Mexico.

Clayton, a town at 5050' elevation, was my first stop to see a couple of places. First, I went to the Clayton Cemetery. I discovered online that the grave for Thomas Edward "Black Jack" Ketchum was there. It took me a little time to finally find it, only to find out that it was actually very easy to find, being not far from the cemetery entrance! I got a few photos and went off to the next site I wanted to see.



*Thomas "Tom" Edward "Black Jack" Ketchum*

# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Entrance to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery in Clayton, New Mexico.*



*The grave was literally straight into the cemetery about halfway and in the median. From what I could tell, it was the only grave located in the median of the cemetery.*



*The shadows make the stones hard to read. The top one has:*

*Thomas Edward "Black Jack" Ketchum*

*Oct. 31, 1863 - Apr. 26, 1901*

*And how his audit*

*stands who knows*

*save heaven*

*William Shakespeare*

*Bottom stone has:*

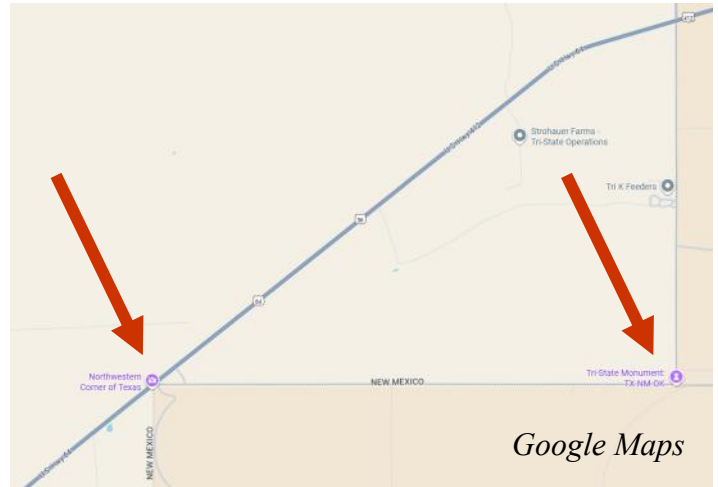
*Tom and brother Sam chose the outlaw trail and paid the ultimate price. Sam was shot by a posse and is buried in Santa Fe. Tom was hung in Clayton and is buried here.*



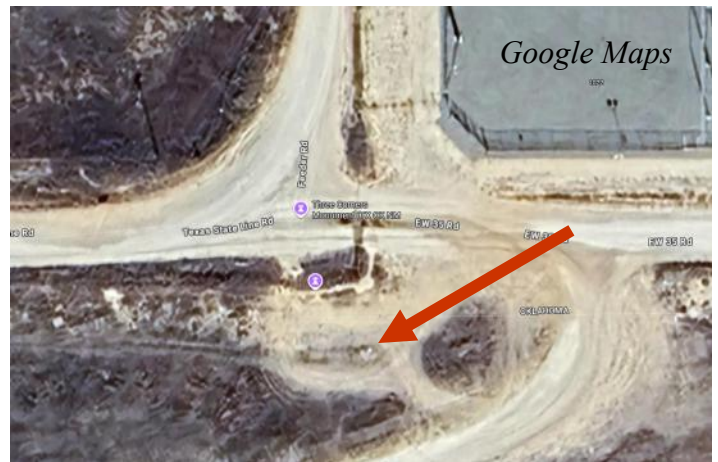
# LEADVILLE VISIT

From the cemetery, I made my way to Highway 56/64 and went northeast. I knew the next time I was in the area that I wanted to stop at the tricorners area of Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. It turned out that there were three markers the map showed. Because Texas pushes inward to New Mexico a little, one marker denoted the northwest corner of Texas. Then, I went down a dirt road that paralleled the northern Texas border called Texas State Line Road (but was in New Mexico) until reaching the Oklahoma border. When researching this, Google Maps showed

the spots of two markers, but I could not find any actual markers. They might have been there, just covered in sand and weeds perhaps. I did get photos of where the map showed they were supposed to be according to GPS and called it good. It was really hot by this point, around 100° by Noon! (I would find out later that there was an obvious marker there just beyond the fence, I just did not see it. Also, the Apple Maps showed something different from the Google Maps that seem to have disappeared when looking for those spots later on the phone. Okay, moving on.)

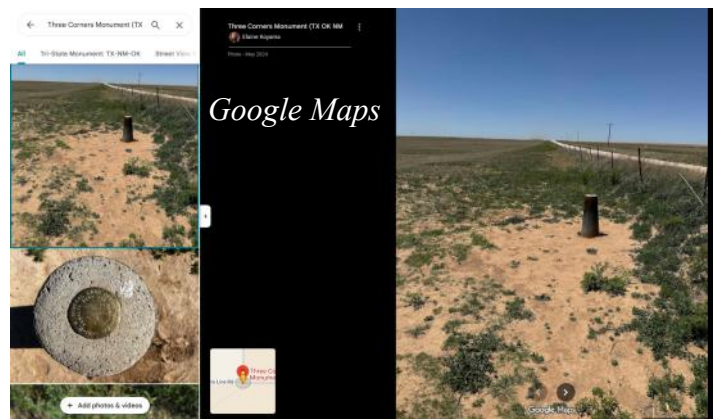


*This little bump out of Texas into New Mexico is about two miles wide. There are technically two border markers. One is at the northwestern Texas corner, and the other where Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma meet.*



*While apparently disguised by weeds and getting way too hot to keep looking, Google shows it here.*

*NW corner of Texas by New Mexico.*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

I headed back to Highway 56/64 and back to Clayton. On my way, I found a few historical markers on the side of the road. I did not spend much time at them, partly because it was so hot, but also because they looked like topics to pursue in the future. I got back on

Highway 87 and went through downtown Clayton and went over the bridge. I only made one other stop before getting to Raton. I had to make my obligatory stop at the windmill and barn near Capulin. To my surprise when I got there, the windmill was gone! Only the base

posts that held the tower still seemed to be there. At first, I thought maybe someone removed the windmill to repair or replace it, perhaps being damaged in a storm. I have no idea. But, it did look like the windmill was gone for a while. The barn and the rest of the

area still looked the same. I have been photographing these for about twenty years now. Maybe the windmill will return at some point, only time will tell with the next time I come through the area.

## Current



*Thursday, August 7, 2025.*



*Thursday, August 7, 2025.*

## Before



*Wednesday, April 19, 2023.*



*Thursday, September 13, 2018.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

Once getting to Raton, I got on I-25 north and went through Raton Pass into Colorado. For this trip to Leadville, the only interstates I ended up driving on was a small part of I-40 and a short distance of I-25. I stopped at the Love's in Walsenburg (6182' elevation) to get some gas and maybe something to eat. I got the gas, but when I saw the prices of the food and saw that they were more expensive than I wanted to spend, I decided it wasn't worth the money and just went back to the car and just ate a few things I had with me. From Love's, I did not have to go very far on I-25 before I turned off onto Highway 69 in Farista. The last time I was on this road was in early May 2023 when I was returning from Leadville to Lubbock, the last time I was in Leadville actually. I remembered how scenic the road was and how there were some interesting sights that I wanted to see again the next time I needed to go to Leadville. This was the reason why I wanted to take this particular route on the way up.

While driving on Highway 69, which was a narrow two lane, a car was often behind me when I wanted to stop to see something. If I did not think it was safe to stop, I just kept driving and figured I would get back to it whenever I was next in the area. Otherwise, I made many stops. One stop was at a spot referred to as Highway 69 Stories, which was a series of three historical markers that apparently replaced an earlier location of markers just off to the side. All along this highway were several fancy ranch entrances I remember seeing the last time I came through. I stopped to get photos of as many as I could. I also stopped to get photos of the Amish buggy sign just south of Westcliffe, one of the few Amish areas in Colorado. However, I did not see any Amish driving buggies. While I did not stop there, a place called Yoder's Furniture was in the area, a place I would like to visit in the future.

*A universal symbol for Amish in the area and to watch out for horse and buggies!*



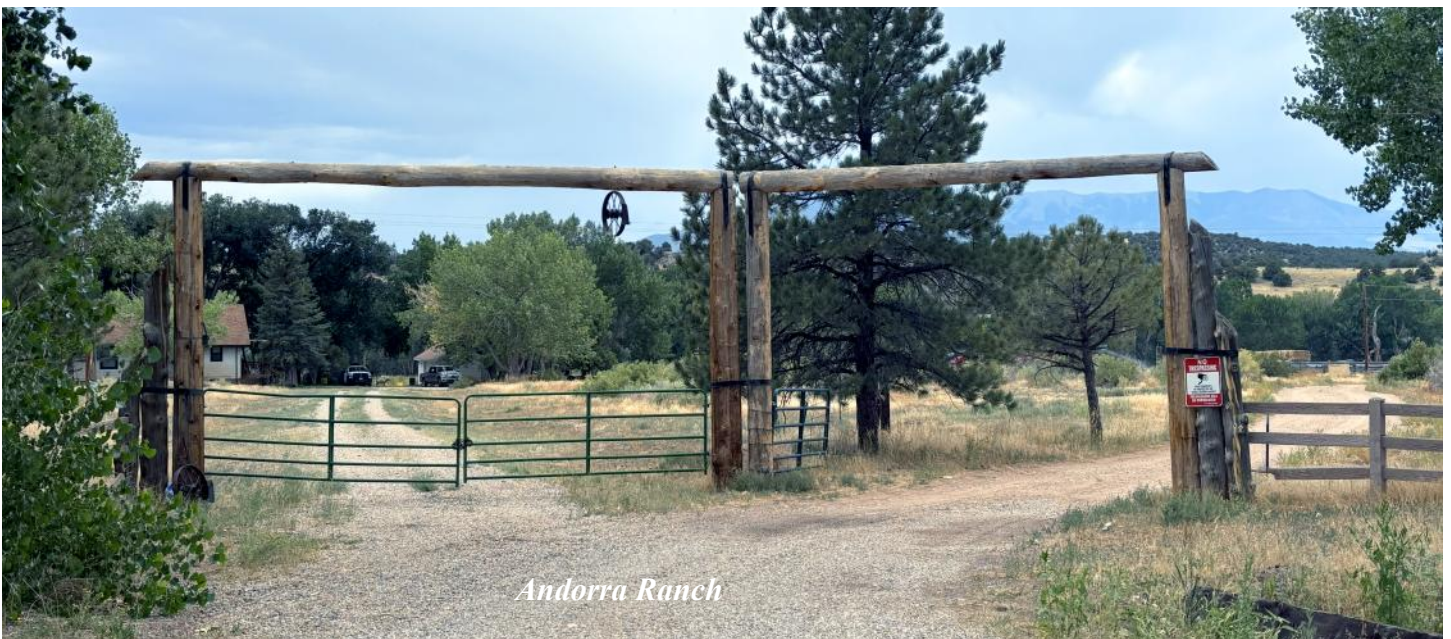
*This spot is referred to as Highway 69 Stories on the map. The above three historical markers apparently replaced some older markers that were off to the side as shown in the below photo.*



# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Wolf Springs Ranch*



*Andorra Ranch*



*Ranch of unknown name*

# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Aught Six Ranch 06*



*5 Star Ranch*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

While driving along Highway 69, I came across this rather weird looking ranch, I guess it is. At first, it seems abandoned, but there were security cameras. It seems like some collection of metal items decorated around some old pens, as shown in the overhead photo below. There was a small sign by flags showing J B West, but I could not find any other information.



# LEADVILLE VISIT

By the time I got north of Westcliffe (7867' elevation), I was running short of time based on my estimates of when I would arrive in Leadville. So, I focused less on making stops and focused more on getting to Leadville. I did take a shortcut road from Highway 69 on to road 1A that took me to Cotopaxi that probably saved me at least 15 minutes and many extra miles. However, I did end up behind a truck and trailer the entire way that was going way too slow! Even once I got on Highway 50, I still ended up behind him for a while. Despite this, Highway 50 from Cañon City to Salida is a very pretty drive with the Arkansas River on

the north side and mountains on the other side, making the road very narrow in spots! Once in Salida, there was another road I took through Salida that went north to avoid having to go to Poncha Springs further west. This road 291 ended onto Highway 285 a few miles north of Salida. While going through the town of Salida was very pretty, it had some detours from construction. I did stop at this nice scenic overlook near downtown of the mountains in the distance. From there, I just kept going to Buena Vista, then to Leadville, and to the museum, about another hour of driving.



*Windmill and tank near the weird ranch on last page.*

*Panoramic view from the west side of Salida looking west.*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

## A Week In Leadville

The museum was already closed by the time I got there. So, I called the director, the one who I stayed with while in Leadville, and made my way over to his house. While I could write pages of text talking about what I did every day during my week in Leadville and the details of it (which I already have in my raw notes!), I will instead just cover some of the more interesting points. But first, a few things to note.

Part of the reason why I went ahead and went to Leadville was because it was paying work, just like in years past when I visited. Very often, I would get paid additional funds for gas,

besides the pay for the actual hours I worked. In addition, I usually stayed with my boss at his house, and he provided meals most of the time. He gave me a small advance after arriving that would be deducted at the end of my stay so I could have some spending money. At the end of the week, I had a sizable check that easily made up for the difference of the gap from the change in jobs and for my expenses in going to Leadville.

One thing to note about Leadville is that it is at 10,152' elevation! It had been a while since I was last at that high of an elevation. Lubbock is only at 3200' elevation and Granbury where I

had been for most of 2025 is only at 735' elevation. So needless to say, I needed to get used to the high elevation again. My week in Leadville had varying levels of bad to good sleep and of feeling decent to not feeling well, partly from elevation fatigue and partly from what I ate. Many times, I had no energy, while other times I felt fine. I just had to make sure to take it easy and to make sure I drank plenty of water and occasionally breathed in supplemental oxygen from the sports oxygen bottle I had. (Yes, it's a thing you can get in Colorado!)



*This is Boost Oxygen. According to the company, "Boost Oxygen is Pure Oxygen in portable, easy-to-use and completely recyclable canisters."*



*Old manhole covers are very interesting! Here are two in Leadville. There are several like the one to the left around town. The little circles originally had glass to let in light to the underground. Both have the name of the manufacturer around the edge.*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

## Random Photos Around Town

This was an abandoned building that had been in Leadville for a long time. When I visited in 2025, the building was gone! Apparently, the structure was destroyed over five years ago according to timeline photos on Google Earth. The building was a series of commission companies over the years.



*July 29, 2006*



*September 3, 2014*



*July 27, 2015*



*August 9, 2025*



*Cat in a shop window.*



*This sandstone slab in the sidewalk looks like Utah.*



*This small stained glass window is in the Wild Bill's restaurant.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

## Leadville Wildflowers



*Columbine*



*Bindweed*



*Fireweed*



*Blue delphinium*



*Spike speedwell*



*Rain lily?*



*Potentilla*



*Icelandic poppies*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

## Notes About My Work In Leadville

I first started working for the Temple Israel Museum in Leadville the summer of 2014. I went there again to work the summer of 2015. I would also work again the summer of 2017. Starting in 2016, I did remote work from home that eventually led to getting a regular check every month. After those summer years a decade ago, I typically went to Leadville an average of once a year for a several days to do things within the museum.

For this trip, I figured out a game plan of what projects I needed to work on once arriving. I

averaged working four to six hours every day as it was not necessary for me to work in a full time capacity since there was also another person working who greeted visitors. During the week, we had wide range of visitors from various places coming to the museum, and it was fun to talk to them and tell them about the museum, its collection, and the history of the Jews in Leadville.

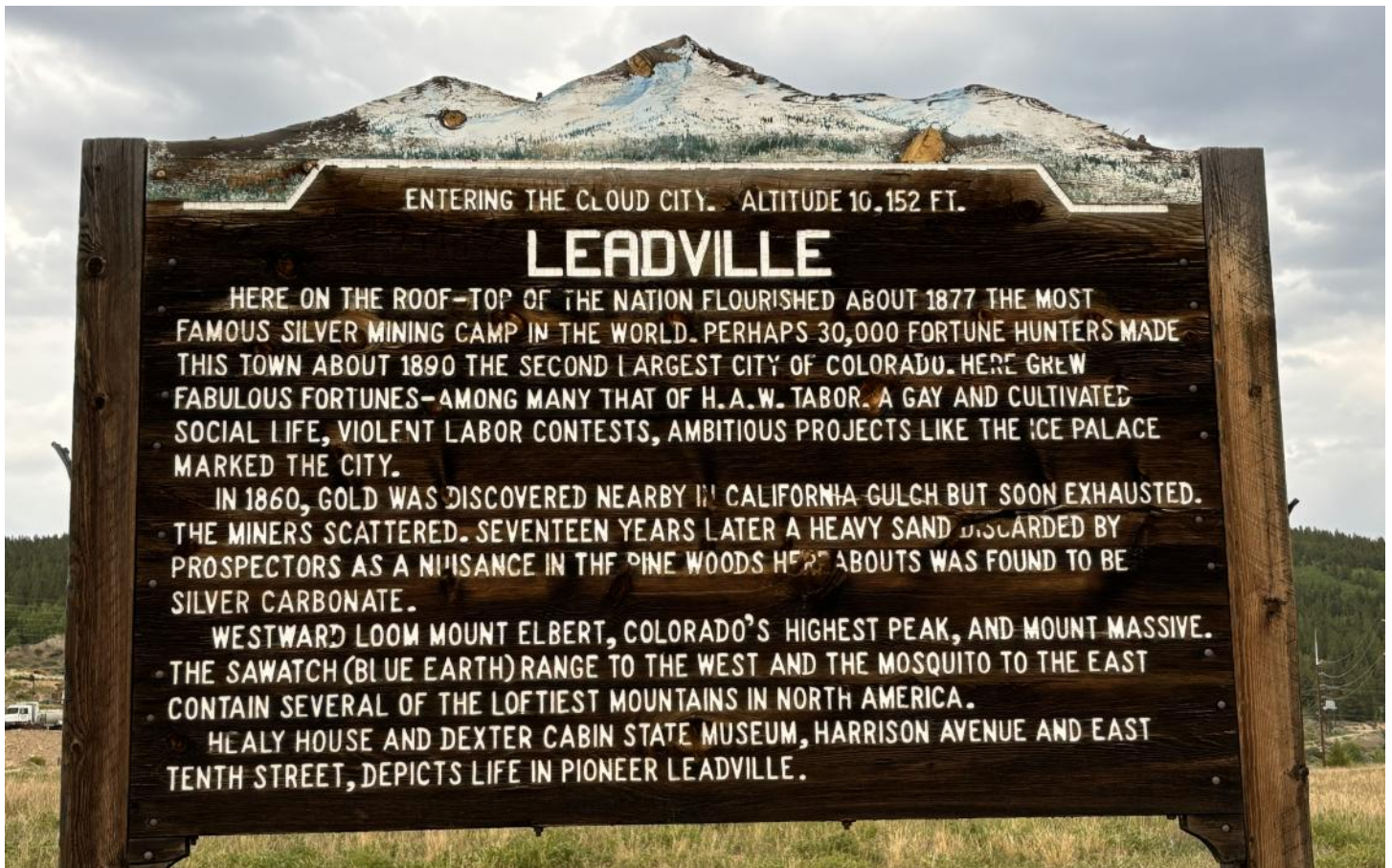
Generally knowing what I needed to do, I brought my own computer, scanner, camera, and lighting setup. Some of the projects I needed to do were to process a

few new artifacts by photographing them, taking measurements, assigning numbers, and recording data into the collection database. I also processed a returning loan of artifacts that was at another local museum. In addition, I rephotographed some existing artifacts with the camera or by scanning them and updating the information in the database. During that time, I noticed that the collections closet was rather dirty, and I did another project of cleaning out the closet, taking inventory, and rehusing artifacts that

were more prone to being affected by dust and light. We ordered some archival boxes for those items. Of course, they did not arrive until after I was gone, but I left a good diagram of what artifacts I thought would best fit for each box. This project took several days, but the closet was in much better shape after I was done. I also needed to do a minor update to one of the exhibit cases. By the end of the day Thursday, I got my setup torn down and everything put away, along with loading up my stuff in the car, which left the place in good shape.



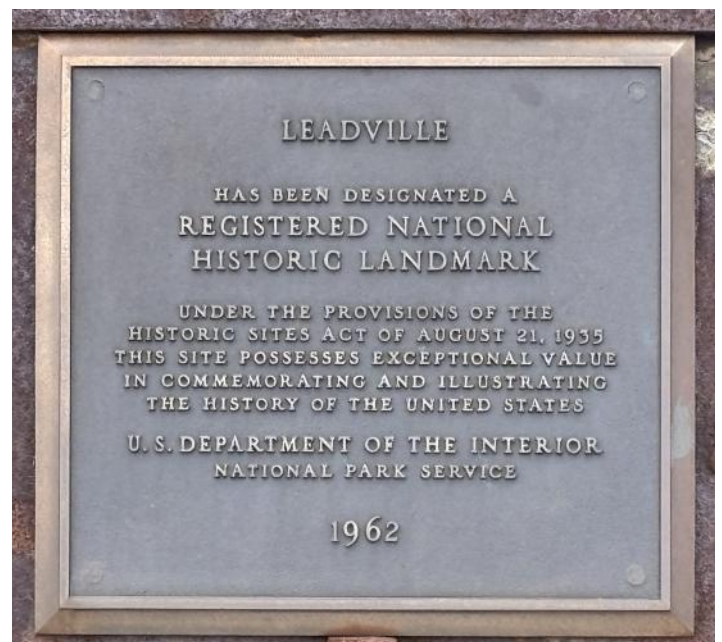
# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Historical marker about Leadville, Colorado. Located at 10,152' elevation and known as the Cloud City.*



*Marker about John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro. The Evergreen Cemetery is north of town.*



*Leadville is a registered historic landmark as of 1962.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

## Notes About Leadville's Restaurants

Compared to ten years ago, Leadville has grown in options for restaurants, and with nicer restaurants! Even since I was in Leadville over two years ago, the restaurant scene changed with several restaurants being new, remodeled, or with different ownership. While fancier for

Leadville than in recent decades, they were not exactly highbrow fancy restaurants, but they did have higher prices. (To note, some of the restaurants in the Leadville of the late 1800s probably were just as fancy or more fancy for the time as the ones of recent.) Also, Colorado is generally

more expensive than Texas, but Leadville is even higher as it is more distant from the larger cities. Fortunately, because most of my food was provided, I did not drain through the money I had for food. If I had to buy my own food every day, my funds would have only lasted a couple of days.

The restaurants were generally higher in price than what I was used to paying at home. However, I noticed prices in 2025 were creeping higher as the year progressed anyway! Here are the restaurants where I went, in order by name.

## ~~BEFORE~~ AFTER

### Before & After, Coffee & Cocktails

We went to this restaurant my first full day for a quick breakfast to go. I got some coffee and a pain au chocolat. I think the idea of the name is a place to have coffee before work and cocktails after work! This building used to be the old High And Tight Barbershop I went to in the past. The barber shop apparently moved down the street. Years prior, the building was a restaurant with a counter.



### Casa Blanca Restaurant

A museum coworker invited me for dinner here with some of her friends. She regularly has dinner with her friends at Casa Blanca or at other restaurants. I was wanting to go there at least once during this visit. It was a nice evening. It is a Mexican restaurant specializing in New Mexico style food. They have good sopapillas!

### City On A Hill

City On A Hill is a coffee shop that has various baked goods and sandwiches besides coffees. I went there nearly every day for coffee and/or some baked goods. I have eaten there many, many times since 2014! My favorite item is their bacon cheddar biscuit, but they often sell out early! That was no exception on this trip! I was only able to get the yummy biscuit one time, and I think it was the last one that day! I forgot to place a special order to get some before leaving town like I did in the past.

The Saturday of the bike race weekend was busy, and they said they opened at 4:00 AM to



accommodate the bikers. So needless to say, they were out of most of the pastries by the time I got there! I ended up getting a slice of banana nut bread and a "shot in the dark" with chocolate, which is basically a shot or two of espresso in regular brewed coffee, along with some chocolate syrup. Most of the times I went, I ordered this coffee or plain brewed coffee. Other baked goods I tried were some pumpkin bread, chocolate chip coffee cake (basically a

# LEADVILLE VISIT

chocolate chip bundt cake), frosted brownie, banana bread, croissants, and some éclair cake, sort of like a deconstructed éclair made in a pan and sliced.

## The Famous

We had dinner at place called The Famous. This was basically an Italian restaurant referred to as a sports bar. This building was previously a Mexican restaurant I ate at 10 years ago that had closed. The building was sold and completely remodeled. The inside had a sort of modern industrial style with various seating arrangements. There were open areas with tables and small high tables. There were smaller rooms with large tables. There were couches and chairs in a more lounge arrangement, and there was a bar, along with tables outside. It was a very interesting restaurant actually, very cool and different for Leadville. The place was busy. I had a woodfired pizza. The Famous historically was a Jewish owned shoe store called the Famous Shoe Company.



*To the left is The Famous restaurant, while the Silver Dollar Saloon is on the right.*



## High Mountain Pies

The very first place we ate at when I came to Leadville to interview for the job at the museum in April 2014 was at High Mountain Pies! So needless to say, it is one of my favorite restaurants to go to when in Leadville. I went here twice this trip. The first meal was by myself, and I debated between getting my favorite sandwich or a pizza. I ended up going with the sandwich, called Monte Vista, that came with a salad and balsamic vinaigrette dressing. The sandwich was really good and

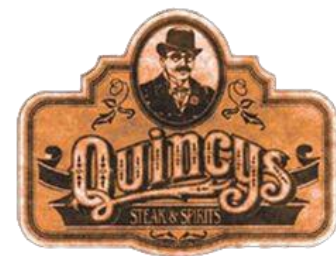
filling. I also got one of their really yummy brownies along with some ginger ale. (They only have container drinks.) And of course, I drank plenty of iced water. This place has not changed much since a decade ago besides a slight remodel. The second meal was with the director and we each got custom small pizzas along with drinks. You really get a sense of the local flavor of people there! (Also at City On A Hill.)



## Leadville Grill and Cantina

We ended up eating twice at The Leadville Grill and Cantina. This was previously owned and called “The Grill”,

but I had never eaten there before. For the first visit, we were there for a while. I had a chicken chimichanga, beans, and rice, along with some iced tea and the endless chips and salsa, and some guacamole. For the second visit only two days later, I wanted to get something different. I tried the birria quesadillas, which was basically like a birria taco/quesadilla mashup that came with beans and rice, and course the chips and salsa. I did get some guacamole again, and of course some iced tea.



## Quincy's Steak & Spirits

On my last night in Leadville, we went to Quincy's Steak & Spirits. This is another place I went to many times since 2014, but they changed the menu a bit in recent years and no longer have some of the things I liked ordering. In any case, their very limited menu is based on what day it

# LEADVILLE VISIT

was. Since it was Thursday, we had the filet mignon with a loaded baked potato and salad and bread, along with iced tea. I thought it was still very good, like I remembered it. They used to have sirloin with two gravies on Fridays and Saturdays that I really liked, but have since gotten rid of it.

## Silver Dollar Saloon

We had lunch at the Silver Dollar Saloon. This is another place I had never eaten at before and had never really seen the inside of either. Historically, this was a saloon, but the modern recreation of the saloon bears no real resemblance to the original. To me it was quite kitschy, but it did have a lot of interesting objects inside. The place was quite popular as it was very busy. The food was actually pretty good. I could not complain about it.

## Tennessee Pass Café

We were going to eat at Tennessee Pass Café, a place we had been to many times. But, after we got there and finally got a table, the place was in disarray and appeared to struggle keeping up as it was

understaffed.

Unfortunately, this was not an unusual situation for this restaurant. We arrived within 30 to 40 minutes of closing, and we decided to leave, and we instead went back to The Leadville Grill.

## Treeline Kitchen

We had dinner at the Treeline Kitchen where we ate with another guy. I have eaten there several times, but only with my boss buying, as it is a little over my normal income range. Their menu is all individually priced, and you just order what items you want. I started out with their house salad, which I have had before, consisting of romaine, carrots, and parmesan cheese with a light dressing and some fresh ground pepper along with some iced tea. For the main course, I had the roasted chicken breast with a side of a very interesting potato dish. To describe



*The Treeline and another storefront next to it came out of the collapse of the old Sayer-McKee building. In some ways, this restaurant paved the way for newer and nicer restaurants to arrive in Leadville.*

it, it was like small new potatoes that were boiled, then smashed, then deep fried until lightly crunchy. They were really good, and they gave me a mound of them! I was stuffed, but not too stuffed to get dessert. I got a chocolate mousse with whipped cream that many others also got.

## Wild Bill's Restaurant

For dessert after a meal, I wanted to get some ice cream. I knew just where to go. I went over to a burger place called Wild Bill's Restaurant. I have eaten there before, but I had heard that they closed for a while but apparently had remodeled and reopened, possibly with different owners? I don't know. While it was a little expensive, I got some soft serve. It tasted good, and it was just what I wanted.



# LEADVILLE VISIT

## Collecting Personal Artifacts

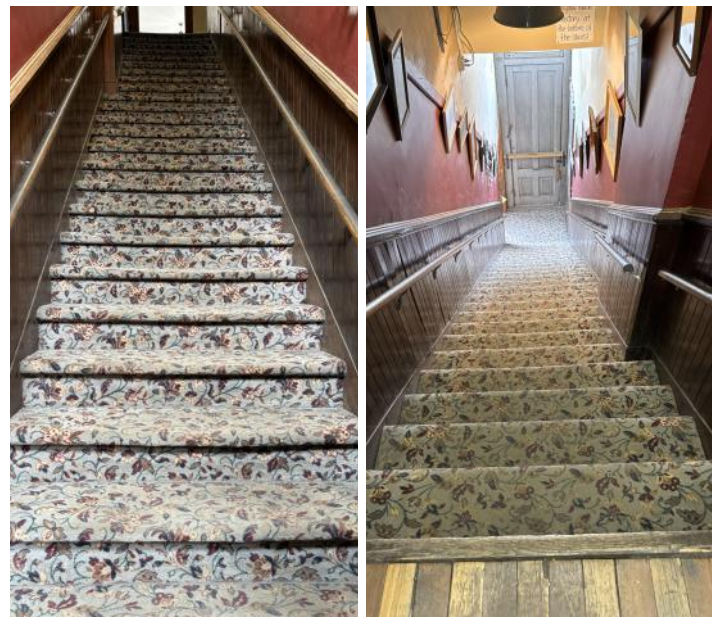
Over the last 12 years, I have specialized in collecting old photographs and other objets d'histoire (objects of history). I bought many items on eBay, but I also bought many items from one specific store in Leadville called Western Hardware. Currently, this is an antique mall with rentable booths on both floors, but historically, the original business was a hardware store on the first floor with offices on the second floor that were

accessible by a now sealed up exterior door from the street and a long flight of stairs. The interior still mostly reflects the old hardware store despite having changing hands over the years. The stairs are also quite janky, feeling much like a funhouse walk!

During this visit, I walked there to browse. I always like to see what kind of photos and other stuff I can find. I bought 13 stereographs, a couple of vintage

cookbook pamphlets, and an original 1912 copy of the Zane Grey book *Riders of the*

*Purple Sage* for \$12, although only in fair condition.



*Western Hardware Antique Mall & Gifts. Historically, The Western Hardware Company.*

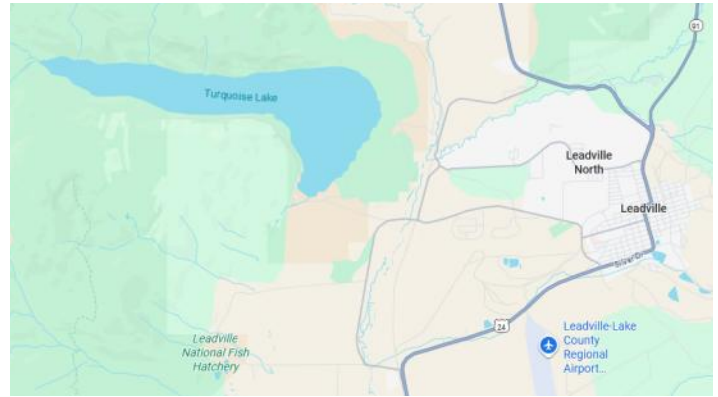
*The "funhouse" stairs to the second floor.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

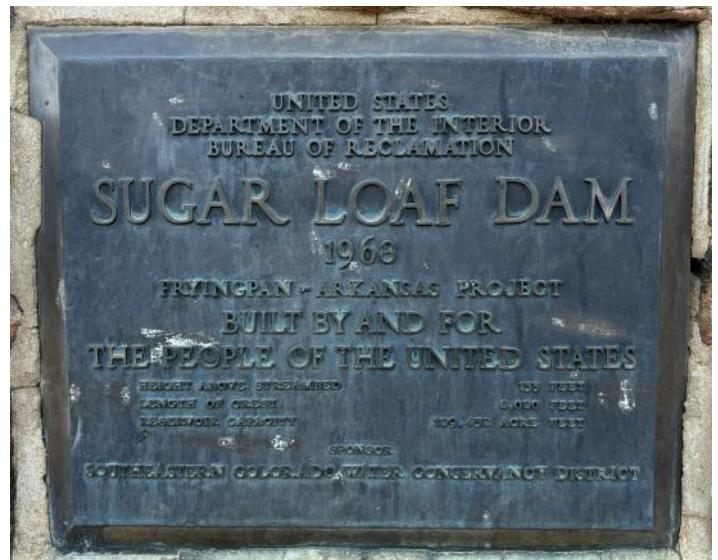
## Visiting Turquoise Lake

One of the weekday evenings while in Leadville, I went over to Turquoise Lake, located to the northwest of Leadville. I like visiting the lake as it is peaceful and beautiful. It was formed by a dam and is not very large but is rather deep. It looks like an upside down Nike swoosh! I knew I could not go to the lake over the weekend because of the bike race that was routed on the road around the lake. I drove over to the lake while it was not quite sunset. But once I got there, the sun had already gone behind the mountains by the lake, but it was still plenty bright enough to

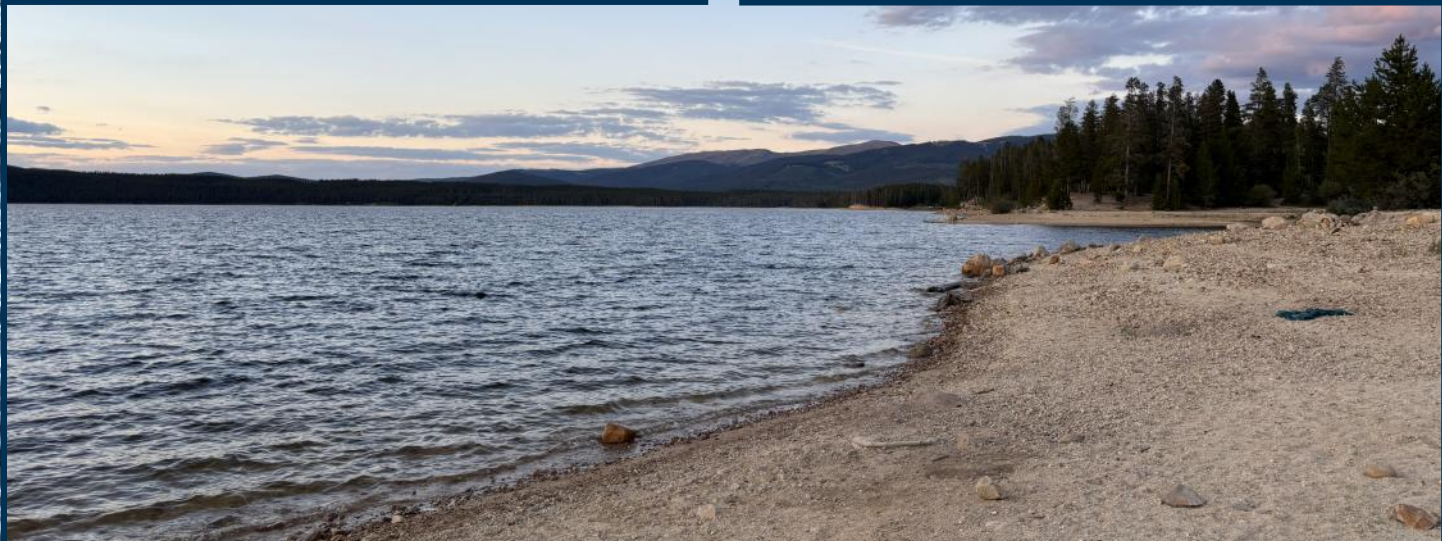
see the water and beach. The lake was very peaceful with slight waves of the water lapping along the shore. It was also getting very cold! I could only imagine how cold the water was despite being August! I stayed a while and got a whole bunch of photos and some videos along with just enjoying the peace of the lake in the sunset. By the time I was about to leave, it was much darker, but there was still just enough light to have nice silhouettes of the trees against a not quite blue-black sky. The cover on this issue of the journal is of the silhouetted trees.



*Turquoise Lake is a manmade lake northwest of Leadville formed by the Sugar Loaf Dam in 1968.*



# LEADVILLE VISIT



# LEADVILLE VISIT

## The Trek Back To Texas

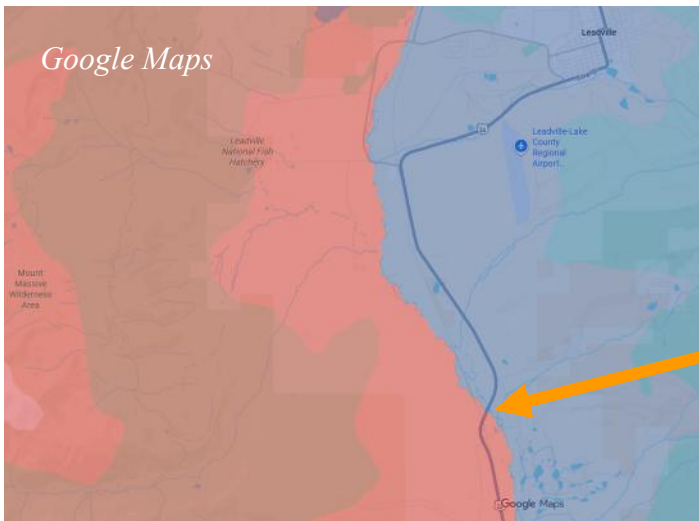
I determined that Friday, August 15 was the day I would leave to go back to Texas having finished the work I needed to do with the museum. That morning after a few quick errands, I went to the museum to sort of

finalize any last details and to say my goodbyes. After a short visit, I started my trek south back to Texas.

I drove down Highway 24 and made a brief stop about 15 miles south of Leadville by the bridge

that goes over the Arkansas River. Looking north on the map, the right side (east) of the river was part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, while the left side (west) was part of the Texas Annex in 1845. This boundary

along the Arkansas River is generally regarded as the borders of those two landgrabs. However, I would not say that the river was a hard line, but just the generally regarded boundary.



*The area in red shows the Texas Annex of 1845, while the area in blue shows the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.*



*Arkansas River in Central Colorado.*

From the bridge, I went straight to Buena Vista where there were two things I wanted to do. First, I needed gas and stopped at the Love's on the north end of town. Second, I wanted to stop at City Market at the south end of town for a few items I have not found in Texas grocery stores. (The bakery has Telera rolls I cannot

find anywhere else, and they also had something called shepherd bread that is really good.)

Just south of Buena Vista, the road continues straight but turns into Highway 285 as Highway 24 turns east at a light. Of course, I continued straight towards Salida.

However, this highway goes to Poncha Springs with Highway 50 going to Salida. However, about ten miles north of Salida is Road 291 that goes directly to Salida. This is the same way I went when going to Leadville. Along Road 291 a few miles, I found a stand of cattails. I always thought they only grew in warm, wet

climates. I still had to take the construction detour through town to get to Highway 50. While I did not stop to get a photo, I noticed a striking building as I was going through town that was the Salida Firehouse. It seemed like a very cool building architecturally for a firehouse.

# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Saw another truss bridge near Salida.*



*Google Maps Street View*

*I was surprised to see cattails in the high elevations of Colorado!*



*Google Maps Street View*

*This is the Salida firehouse. It has some unique architecture which caught my attention.*



*Cotopaxi Store in Cotopaxi, Colorado.*

Once I got to Highway 50, I turned east to get to Cotopaxi. This turn seemed much further away than I realized, and I had almost turned around thinking I missed it! But I kept going. This section of Highway 50 between Salida and Cañon City is a very beautiful drive that follows along the Arkansas river, as I stated before. I did want to stop for another photo of that railroad bridge I saw a few years ago, but there was no safe place to stop with the many cars behind me. Once I got to the 1A road by Cotopaxi, I turned but did not continue until I got a photo of the interesting store at that intersection. I did not go in the store, but I just might need to the next time I go through this area!

The 1A road shortcut took me right back to Highway 69, and I made my way to Westcliffe.

While on this route back, I intended to stop wherever I wanted to get photos of anything interesting or that I missed on the way up.

North of Westcliffe, there was a ranch I passed, but thought that I might stop there the next time I am on this road. It was called the Beckwith Ranch. A bunch of flags were out front showing that it was open, which rather confused me as to what it was. I don't know of any ranches that openly want visitors to stop by! But apparently, this is a historic ranch going back to 1869 and today operates as a nonprofit museum of sorts that gives tours and allows event rentals, along with having their own events throughout the year. That explains the flags, and frankly, I did not have enough time to stop for a tour even if I wanted to.



*I drove past but did not stop at the Beckwith Ranch near Westcliffe, a historic ranch going back to 1869.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

South of Westcliffe, I drove past an area where a whole bunch of large eagles were on the ground! (Maybe a dead animal?) Further down, I stopped by a sign that showed “Promontory Divide” with an elevation of 8579’ marking the line between Custer County and Huerfano County. I got photos of the wide open space, but it was also very windy. This area is known as the Wet Mountain Valley of

Colorado with the Sangre de Cristo mountains to the west. This valley has a bunch of cattle ranching and where lives a sizable Amish population, one of seven such settlements in Colorado. (In 2022, I unknowingly went past an Amish settlement in Monte Vista on the way to Durango, and also went past another settlement going through La Jara on my way to Santa Fe a few weeks later.)



*Promontory Divide between Custer County and Huerfano County*



*Sangre de Cristo mountains west of Wet Mountain Valley in Colorado.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Wet Mountain Valley in Custer County and Huerfano County in central Colorado. (It was very windy!)*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

I refound some unusual red sandstone formations I saw on the way up that I could not stop previously to get photos. They are located well north of Gardner along a slight curve making them visible from both directions. As far as I know, these are the only group of them in the area. A sign nearby clearly stated that the land was private property with no fishing, no hunting, no trespassing, and that they will prosecute and that it is controlled by land and by air! (This really makes you wonder what they are trying to hide by being so stringent!)

Much further along Highway 69, I stopped briefly again at the old, abandoned church in Farisita (not to be confused with Farista!) where I stopped in 2023 when I was last on this road. I have wanted to research and write a story about Farista since that first trip, but it requires much more research than I have been able to dedicate to it!



*Unusual rock formations near Gardner, Colorado.*



*This was my photo on May 6, 2023.*



*This abandoned building across from the old church building is part of the history of the area known as Farisita. I think it was a store.*



*This was my photo on August 22, 2025.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

Just a few miles further, I stopped again at an unusual group of ruins. On Google Maps, it shows this area named as Long Saddle. But with some quick research, the only information I could find is that this spot was probably where the Long Saddle Mine was with these ruins being part of the old operation. Between the road and the fence were some large buffalo gourd vines. I grabbed a

few of the dried ones, which must be from 2024, while I left the green ones alone! If you know anything about buffalo gourd vines, they stink to high heaven! There were many other places where I wanted to take some photos but ended up not stopping for one reason or another. I guess this just gives me another excuse to come back this way in the future!



*Overhead view of the area called Long Saddle.*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

One thing I noted on the way up and saw again on the way back was how the small bridges over shallow creeks in

the miles closest to I-25 had side railings made of painted wood. I wanted to get some photos, but I just kept

going knowing that by this point, my aim was just to get to Amarillo by dark. I have some screenshots with Google

Streetview of these wood railings.



*These are some screenshots from Google Streetview of the small bridges that have railing made from painted wood, which I found interesting as most railings are concrete or metal. There are a couple of places west of Leadville that have these type of railings.*



# LEADVILLE VISIT

As I got near I-20 by Farista, I apparently made a wrong turn and found myself going to downtown Walsenburg. Well, since I knew it would still take me to I-25, I just went with it. (Dad and I turned off I-25 and went through Walsenburg on our way to Durango in 2022, the same route that took us through Monte Vista, Highway 160.) Downtown Walsenburg looked very interesting, as it seemed similar to downtown Salida or Buena Vista. The Love's was just over the interstate from Walsenburg, the same one I stopped at a week earlier, so I stopped for a break and light bite to eat figuring that I would

eat dinner once in Amarillo. From there, I went straight down through the pass to Raton, then got on Highway 87 towards Clayton. I did not make any more stops. I thought about stopping by the barn, where the windmill was missing, but did not see any point in stopping there again. From Clayton, I went to Dalhart, then to Hartley, then past the Boys Ranch to get on Tascosa Highway.

By this point, it was past sunset but not quite dark. I assumed it would be dark by the time I got to Amarillo, which it was. In Amarillo, I made one stop then went to the hotel and

checked in. (This was the same hotel I stayed in when I went to the Ranch Rodeo Finals in 2022.) There was a Cracker Barrel next to the hotel, so I went there to get some food as it was convenient and open despite it being rather late. I decided to

get breakfast food, as I knew it would be usually fast and fresh, of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits and gravy, and grits, along with iced tea. It was really good. I forgot how much I like breakfast at Cracker Barrel!



*Breakfast for dinner at Cracker Barrel in Amarillo.*



*Baling hay is a common sight throughout the summer. Westcliffe, Colorado.*



*Deer are almost everywhere in Colorado.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

## A Leisurely Day Of Sightseeing

It was Saturday, August 16, 2025. Once I got cleaned up, I checked out of the hotel and first made my way over to Buc-ee's just down the road for the return trip visit. On the way, I saw a wind turbine blade turning onto one of the

side roads off of I-40. This is common to see them travelling down the road and sometimes on train cars. Once at Buc-ee's, I got gas and went inside to look around for a while. This is always a very dangerous thing to do as

almost no one leaves Buc-ee's without overspending! At least I have never heard of anyone not spending money there during a visit! I got a few things I was not able to get when I was there a week earlier. It is always fun

to roam Buc-ee's and see what they have. I did get a little cup of chocolate Bluebell ice cream that came with the little wood spoons. Remember those from decades ago? They are still around.



*The iconic Buc-ee mascot.*



*The Buc-ee's in Amarillo has 108 gas pumps.*



*Buc-ee's merch is everywhere!*



*I got a mini cup of chocolate Bluebell ice cream.*



*On the way to Buc-ee's, I saw this wind turbine blade turn off onto this side street.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

After leaving Buc-ee's, I made my way to The Big Texan. I went here for Christmas dinner in 2023. I wanted to get some photos to send to a coworker in Leadville because we had talked about the place before I left. This is the restaurant that has the free 72 ounce steak dinner challenge promoted on billboards even hundreds of miles away. I got a few small items from the gift shop before leaving.



*Billboard for The Big Texan in Dalhart, Texas.*



*The Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo, Texas.*



*The 72 oz steak with potato, salad, roll, and shrimp ONLY free if ALL eaten within 60 minutes!*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

I only had to go a few blocks for the next stop, the Slug Bug Ranch. If you remember, I showed in a previous issue that I visited these Volkswagen bug cars that were half buried by an abandoned gas station a few miles east of Amarillo. I also told just a few issues back about their transfer to Amarillo for a new park. The new park is down the road from The Big Texan, who now owns them. Since my last reporting of it, the park was finished and dedicated, and I finally got there to see them.

Many additional vehicles were added, like the old Big Texan limos with longhorns formed into limohenge. The place was full of graffiti and general spray paint on everything, which was allowed and encouraged, and was crazy! Not just the vehicles but also all over the sidewalks, posts, even the rocks and some of the grass, even though posted signs told not to do that. But of course, people are going to ignore rules! This park is reminiscent of the

Cadillac Ranch on the other side of Amarillo with the half buried vehicles covered in spray paint. I got a bunch of photos of the vehicles and photos with Bluecat. The park is right next to The Big

Texan RV Ranch. This same group also bought an old abandoned water park across the street and was in the process of revitalizing it into a different use, I think for an outdoor venue, that was not quite done yet.

*Overhead view of the park for site layout.*



*Full view of the new Slug Bug Ranch in Amarillo.*



*I think these are the five original cars from the original site a few miles to the east.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Old Big Texan limos with longhorns made into limohenge!*



*This sign says not okay to spray paint plants, sidewalks, nor Route 66 signs.*



*This is across the street from the Slug Bug Ranch and the Big Texan RV Ranch. It is some sort of event center.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

From there, I decided I would take the 335 loop road around to I-27 going past Buc-ee's and south. This would take me to Hollywood Road where I have turned many times before. I stopped briefly at the Whataburger there before continuing. I wanted to stop at a place called the Jack Sisemore RV Museum that was a few miles south on I-27, but I somehow missed the exit I needed from confusion with construction in the area. I just kept going and did not bother to go back and find it. The next time I'm in Amarillo, I will try to make a point to go and see the museum.

I only made three short stops between Amarillo and Lubbock as the distance is only about two hours. The first stop was at the large silo near Tulia, Texas. I stopped here before in years past. When I got closer to the silo during this visit, I found out that I was mistaken about a specific detail! I had always thought the silo was made of wood all these years. But, it turns out that the silo was constructed of long narrow concrete blocks stacked end on end and held together with many

bands of metal. From a distance, they looked like weathered lengths of wood. That was an interesting update of that silo! The second stop was at a historical marker a few miles south of the silo talking about an old air strip called Finney Field. The third stop was at the highway rest stop in Hale County where I have stopped before. They have an exhibit inside one of the buildings showing the agricultural history of the area, which I have included in the past.



# LEADVILLE VISIT



*Historical marker south of Tulia about Finney Field.*

*Welcome sign for Tulia, Texas. (Might be time for a major revamp of the sign!)*



*Exhibit of local agricultural history at the rest stop in Hale County along I-27.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

I drove to Lubbock instead of driving back to Granbury so I could do a few things. I had not been back to Lubbock since leaving in early February (except for a brief overnight stay in mid

May and for a few hours in late July). I checked into the hotel, a nicer hotel than some I've stayed in Lubbock, and rested for a little while before leaving again to do various errands and get dinner for the rest of

the night. I stayed a second night in Lubbock and spent the next day doing other errands after church and went to my storage unit to get a few things I wanted. I also did laundry again, but at the

hotel laundry room so I would not have to go anywhere, while a storm system was going through Lubbock with dark clouds and rain.



*I saw this along I-27 between Tulia and Kress. Not quite sure what happened here!*



*Got my free birthday drink from Dutch Brothers.*



*Beef camp fire meal, Cracker Barrel.*



*Full meal from Rudy's BBQ.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT

## The Drive Back To Granbury

I checked out of the hotel in the late morning and had a few last errands I wanted to do before leaving Lubbock. I took my usual route from Lubbock by getting on Slaton Highway and going to I-20. I made a brief stop at an old house near the road in a cotton field in Nolan County southeast of Snyder. The house had finally collapsed, but I did get photos of it a few years ago when it was still standing. Once I got to Abilene, I wanted to go to the Steak Express in Abilene, which was the first one of the regional chain. The rain had been heavy and there was a little flooding around town. Once I got there as it was still raining, I got a burger, one of the most common items I

bought when I worked for Steak Express. I ate it in the car in the parking lot before leaving again. From Abilene, I decided to take a completely different route I have never taken before. I took the 322 loop road to several state roads before getting on Highway 36. From here, I have taken this highway before, which took me through Cross Plains and Rising Star on my way to De Leon.

I stopped at various historical markers on my way home. In Cross Plains, I stopped at the Pioneer Cemetery where there were several markers along with a covered pavilion near the edge of the cemetery. A few miles down the road, I

stopped in Rising Star to see another historical marker by a memorial park. A few blocks from there, I stopped by an old United Methodist church with a historical marker. I also saw a nice mural on the brick wall of a business. I stopped briefly in downtown De Leon to visit a friend before leaving again. From there, I was about an hour away from home,

but I did stop at a couple more historical markers I saw before getting back to Granbury. One marker was just north of Bluff Dale and the Paluxy River talking about The Denny Cemetery, while the other marker was by a picnic area between Tolar and Granbury talking about The Colony Cemetery. I was a short distance from home after this.



*I have no idea what you call this! It is frankensteined together no matter what it is called!*



*Historical Google Street View photo in January 2019.*



*My photo on August 18, 2025.*



*Overhead photo of structure from Google Maps.*

# LEADVILLE VISIT



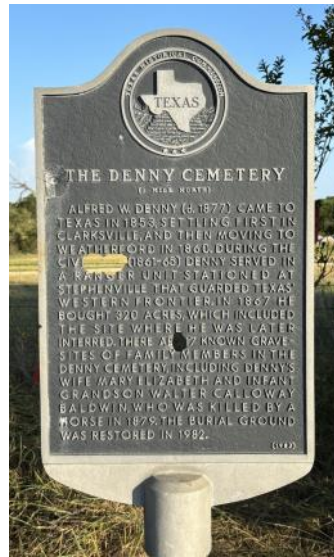
*Historical marker at the Pioneer Cemetery in Cross Plains, Texas.*



*Historical marker at the Colquitt Williams Memorial Park about Rising Star, Texas.*



*The First United Methodist Church with historical marker in Rising Star, Texas.*



*Historical marker about The Denny Cemetery.*



*Historical marker about The Colony Cemetery.*



# TRAVELS OF CHATBLEU



*On the Bemah.*



*On a pump organ from the 1880s.*



*Lovely garden out front.*



*Lovely garden out front.*



*Lovely garden out front.*



*Lovely garden out front.*

# TRAVELS OF CHATBLEU



*The windmill is gone! 8.7.25.*



*Capulin Volcano. 8.7.25.*



*Slug Bug Ranch in Amarillo. 8.16.25.*



*Slug Bug Ranch in Amarillo. 8.16.25.*



*Slug Bug Ranch in Amarillo. 8.16.25.*



*Slug Bug Ranch in Amarillo. 8.16.25.*

# FINAL THOUGHT

## Trip Stats

Like I have included with past trips and vacations, here is a summary of trip stats.

### States Travelled

3 states: Texas, New Mexico, Colorado.

### Total Days of Trip

13 — August 6-18, 2025

### Total Miles Travelled

1775 miles

### Stops For Gas

8

### Total Gas Bought

≈ 88 gallons

### Total Spent For Gas

≈ \$243



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* version of the Journal started in July 2012 through December 2018 (over 60 regular and special issues). Now back to the original name starting in 2019, archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: [www.destolfe.com](http://www.destolfe.com)

### Publisher/Owner/Editor

Robert-George de Stolfe

### Graphics/Layout\*

Robert-George de Stolfe

*\*Unless otherwise accredited, the graphics and photos are by Robert-George de Stolfe. Some images are from the public domain or from an original source that cannot be rightfully determined.*

This publication is published solely as a digital format. All content—unless attributed to some other source, including web sources, or from public domain sources—is original content by Robert-George de Stolfe. Public domain and undeterminable sources might or might not be specifically attributed.

The reader of this content has right to download and view the content for personal enjoyment. However, if one wants to use the content for any other purposes, permission must be requested in writing and approved by Robert-George de Stolfe.

Copyright © 2025, Robert-George de Stolfe

ROBERT-GEORGE de STOLFE  
PO BOX 31  
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048  
806.470.5867  
[rgdestolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:rgdestolfe@yahoo.com)