



**de Stolfe Journal**  
**14.3 : THE REST OF 2025**



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## 14.3 : THE REST OF 2025

*Covers activities from August through December 2025.  
(Page numbers correspond to the PDF page numbers.)*

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## ON THE COVER



*Christmas in the downtown square of Granbury is really pretty. This year, they strung lights to the top of the courthouse. This was something they apparently did the past, but not in a few years from what I understand.*

*At night, I could see them from two or three miles away. The courthouse lights stayed up even into February 2026.*

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

## Happy New Year 2026!

While we celebrated a new year into 2026 and all of January, this issue of the de Stolfe Journal has now just finished! Welcome the last issue of 2025 to cover the rest of 2025! (August to December)

I don't like having excessively long issues, but I was getting further and further behind just to get a single issue together and necessitated this very long issue so I could get it out of my hair! Over the last few months, I have spent hours upon hours upon hours to get this issue together, and all the while more kept happening as I was trying to get it finished! And instead of reporting about something six months after the fact, I shoved it ALL in this issue (and even then, I left out a few things!) so I can move on!

I am planning a bunch of special issues of the journal in 2026 to cover various milestones happening this year.

So, buckle on up buttercups! It's time for the long haul! Here are 72 pages of my activities from August through December.

There is so much I included in this issue, I don't even know where to start with highlighting them.

I have a large section of Random Things that span the months.

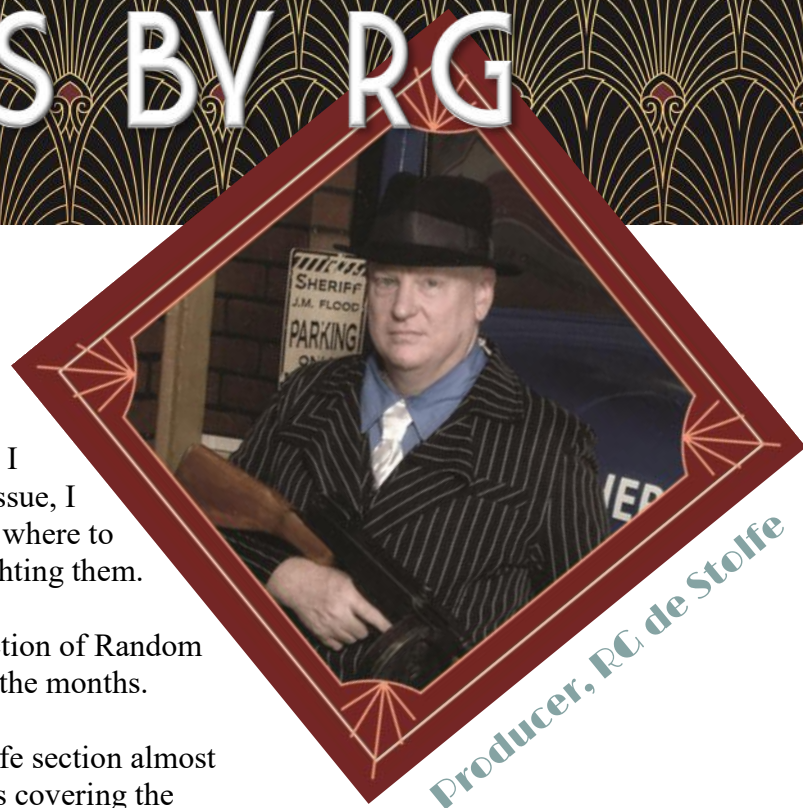
The Word For Life section almost finishes the series covering the book of Revelation, but covers the most glorious part of Revelation!

Many sections refer to places I went as part of my job, perhaps half of this issue. I went back to Green Tree Country Club for another golf tournament, but also went to places like the Dallas Athletic Club, Circuit of The Americas, Texas Motorplex, along with working various tailgates at several universities.

Another large section covers the various late year holidays and the things I did during each of them, including a few side treks.

Of course, I cover some other miscellany like the Travels of Bluecat, flowers, animals, etc.

Buckle up and enjoy!



Producer, RC de Stolfe

RG

# WORD FOR LIFE

## Revelation Topics - "The End Times" - Part 7

In the last issue, I discussed chapters 19 and 20. I talked about the return of Jesus and the binding of Satan into the bottomless pit, along with his release and his rebellion against Jesus after the millennial reign. I also said, "I have purposely left out Revelation 20:4-6 that discusses the millennial reign by Jesus as this section ties better with the last section of Chapter 20 and with the wonderful things that are mentioned in Chapters 21 and 22! This will be reserved for the next issue." So, we are now in the next issue, and let's pick right back up with the part in chapter 20 I skipped.

The millennial reign is mentioned very briefly in Revelation 20:4-6, which seems very short to describe something so significant that spans 1000 years! However, like with most of the New Testament, prophecies fulfilled in the New Testament were told in the Old Testament. The prophesy of the millennial reign by Jesus was told in Daniel 2 with a dream by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I have already discussed this dream in part 5 a couple of issues back. Verse 44 is a clear Messianic prophecy showing the reign of Jesus during the last millennium of this current world. Daniel 2:44 says,

*And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

At this point in Revelation, this seems to be exactly what will happen upon Jesus returning being "*the stone that struck the image [representing the world] became a great mountain and filled the whole earth*" (Daniel 2:35).

Now, here is what John wrote in Revelation 20:4-6,

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

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

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

John is saying that he saw thrones of people who were granted judge status. It is unclear who these are, unless they are the same 24 elders sitting on thrones in God's throne room (Revelation 4:4). The souls who were beheaded are the people who were left behind after the rapture and had to face the seven years of tribulation. But, they did not take the mark of the beast nor worship his image. As a result, the wicked beheaded those who rejected the enemy making them martyrs for God. For that, God gave them the right to live and reign with Jesus, along with those who were previously raptured, during the millennial reign. They were the first of two waves of resurrection. Note the difference of words, being raptured is where people were physically translated directly from live humans to eternal beings, while resurrection required a physical death first. The dead who are left were unbelievers and will remain dead (held in the temporary Sheol) until the Great White Throne Judgement after the millennial reign. The second death refers to a slow, painful death of the spirit in the lake of fire and brimstone. Jesus also said in chapter 21,

*6 ... "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

*7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*

*8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*

This was to give a warning to those who read Revelation ahead of the tribulation to take heed of what is acceptable and of what is not acceptable. The last section of Revelation 20 discusses The Great White Throne Judgment. For too many people, this is what scares them the most! However, understand that this judgement refers to those who rejected Jesus while living on the earth! Believers have already been judged and forgiven! Believers have an evaluation, or approval, to receive the crown of life (James 1:12). Here is what this last part of Revelation 20 says,

# WORD FOR LIFE

*11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.*

*12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.*

*13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

*14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Father God sits on the throne as He always has. So great is the righteousness of God that the sin ridden earth and heaven flee from God as there was no room for them, and God cannot look upon them just as He could not look upon Jesus when He was on the Cross. 2 Peter 3:10-13 tells what happens to them. They are melted with a great heat, basically burned out of existence. The dead of all statures stand before the throne while various books are opened. There are two types, the first type is a great many books that recorded every detail of every person's life on earth. The second type is a single book called the Lamb's Book of

Life in which the name of every forgiven child of God's name is written. This is the most important book. If a person's name is not found in this book, they are judged to eternal separation into the lake of fire and brimstone. Because some people died in the waters, the seas gave up the dead within them along with the dead found within Death and Hades (Sheol). Since these two are instruments of the death brought in with the original sin in the garden, they too are cast into the lake of fire so death can never happen again. For the Beast, False Prophet, Satan, Death, Hades, and those not found in the Lamb's Book of Life, this is the second death and eternal torture. Now on to chapter 21 that reveals the eternal glory of God!

Chapter 21 and the first part of chapter 22 reveal the final eternity that is different from the one now in that the current world is destroyed and remade completely new to be sinless and completely holy for God Himself to live directly among His people (2 Peter 3:10-13) much like in the original garden that was in the east side of Eden (Genesis 2:8). After everything with the old world was done, all judgements completed, the existing world thoroughly destroyed (Revelation 20:11, a very disguised way of stating that the world was melted with a great heat, 2 Peter 3:10), God then made a new heaven and a new earth. Then, New Jerusalem

adorned as a bride for her husband came down out of heaven to the earth. Then a loud voice from heaven said,

*3 Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. (Genesis 21:3-4) Also, Behold, I make all things new. (5).*

The tabernacle is not a portable tent like in the days of the wandering in the desert, nor a great structure made of stones like Solomon had built, but that which dwells within each person living in this new world where God the Father is at its center.

Before I say what the New Jerusalem has, I'll list what the new world does not have first. The new earth does NOT have:

- ~a sea (Revelation 21:1)
- ~a temple (Revelation 21:22)
- ~a sun, a moon (Revelation 21:23, Revelation 22:5)
- ~night (Revelation 21:25, Revelation 22:5)
- ~within it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie (Revelation 21:27)
- ~curses (Revelation 22:3)
- ~former things have passed away (done away with) (Revelation 21:4)

The rest of Revelation 21 describes the New Jerusalem, the bride, the Lamb's wife, along with its glory. Here is a summary of the details.

- ~great and high wall, 144 cubits (between 17" and 20" for a cubit, or at most 240' high), made of jasper
- ~twelve gates, three on each side, with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel
- ~twelve foundations with the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb
- ~city laid out as a square, a cube, twelve thousand furlongs (about 1500 miles cubed)
- ~city made of pure gold, transparent as glass
- ~wall foundations adorned with twelve foundations of precious stones (in order: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, and amethyst)
- ~twelve gates with each one as a single pearl, always open, never closed
- ~streets made of pure gold, transparent as glass, just like the rest of the city
- ~pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- ~on either side of the river, the tree of life
- ~tree of life bore different fruits, one each month\*
- ~leaves of the tree are for healing of the nations

# WORD FOR LIFE

~the glory of God illuminated the land, the Lamb is the light  
~the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple  
~the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it

\*Contrary to popular belief, eternity does not mean an absence of time, but an absence of aging, decay, and death! Time still exists as proven by the monthly fruits from the tree of life.

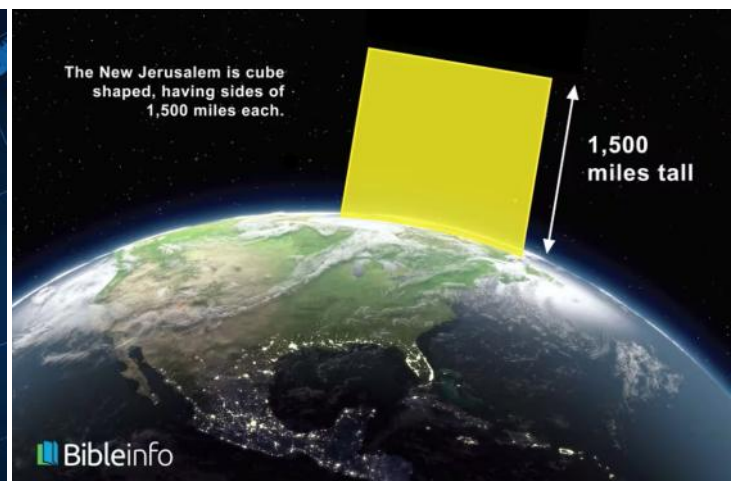
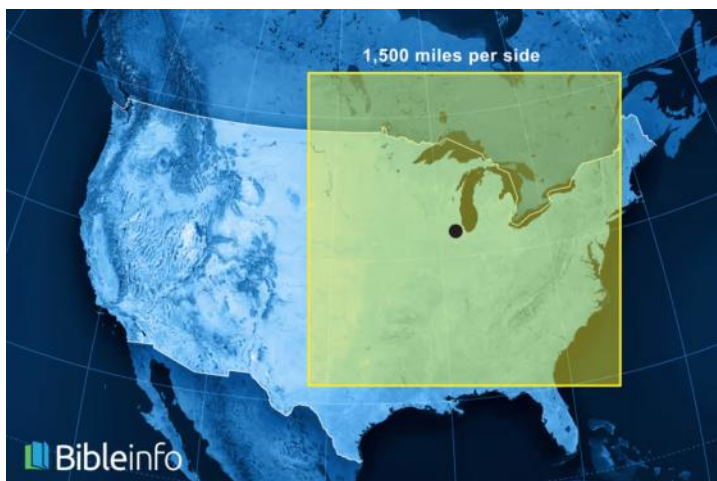
And about the people dwelling in this New Jerusalem, Revelation 20 and 21 include:

~God will wipe away every tear from their eyes  
~no death, sorrow, crying, nor pain  
~Jesus will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts  
~shall inherit all things  
~the nations of those who are saved shall walk in the light of God and Jesus  
~kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into the New Jerusalem  
~those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life  
~His servants shall serve Him  
~they shall see His face  
~His name shall be on their foreheads

The rest of Revelation 22:6-21 refers back to the present time of John having this vision. To do it justice, I will wait until the next issue to include this part and wrap up the entirety of this series about Revelation. But, I will leave one more message for here and now, “*...behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*” (Revelation 22:12)  
This is not salvation, but the crown of life given to the believer running the race as Paul mentioned (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Hebrews 12:1, James 1:12).

I found it difficult to find any images about the New Jerusalem that actually paid attention to the details specified in Revelation! But even with those details, we will not know what the New Jerusalem will look like until we are there. Also, note that the New Jerusalem will likely be in the same location as the old Jerusalem, but knowing that there will be no seas and that the old earth was destroyed. We have no idea what the new earth will look like apart from the New Jerusalem. I did find these diagrams giving perspective to just how large 1500 miles cubed looks like compared to the current earth. The site where I found these images also gives some more information about some of the other details, as to the best anyone is able to determine.

<https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/new-jerusalem>



# WORD FOR LIFE

## Bible References Used

### **Genesis 2:8**

*The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.*

### **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

*24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

### **Hebrews 12:1**

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

### **James 1:12**

*Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

### **2 Peter 3:10-13**

*The Day of the Lord*

*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

### **Revelation 21:1-27**

*All Things Made New*

*21 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God*

*Himself will be with them and be their God.*

*4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

*5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

*7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*

*8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

*The New Jerusalem*

*9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God.*

*Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.*

*12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:*

*13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.*

*14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

*15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.*

*16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.*

*17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.*

*18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.*

*19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,*

*20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh*

# WORD FOR LIFE

*chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.*

*21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

*The Glory of the New Jerusalem*

*22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

*23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*

*24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.*

*25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).*

*26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.*

*27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*

## **Revelation 22:1-21**

*The River of Life*

*22 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

*2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

*3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*

*4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.*

*5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

*The Time Is Near*

*6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.*

*7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

*8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.*

*9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*

*10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.*

*11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."*

*Jesus Testifies to the Churches*

*12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

*13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*

*14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.*

*15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and*

*idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*

*16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."*

*17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

*A Warning*

*18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;*

*19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

*I Am Coming Quickly*

*20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."*

*Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

*21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

**READ MORE**

- Bible Gateway—[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

# RANDOM THINGS



*On the first day of summer, I went to HEB that evening. This is at 8:45 PM before sunset. It was not dark for about another 45 minutes to an hour later. 6.20.25.*



*It must have been fall when they poured this parking lot at HEB. 7.17.25*



*These were certainly jumbo mangos at HEB! 8.21.25*



*Thought this was a cool mural at a meat market. 7.30.25*



*I kept wanting to buy this watermelon cake at HEB, but it would be gone when I wanted it, or I did not have enough money when it was there! It costed about \$30! This seasonal cake only looked like a watermelon, not watermelon flavored. 9.2.25*



*Someone put googly eyes on this double ice cream cone when I went to Braum's. ¡Ay, caramba! 8.26.25*

# RANDOM THINGS



*Was about to leave the parking lot when this ratrod came up! I had to get a fast shot of it before it left. 10.19.25.*



*Saw this beauty in the HEB parking lot! Not sure what it is, but it definitely goes way back to the early days of automobiles! Looks like a nice restoration! 7.17.25.*



*Well, at least he is honest! 10.1.25*



*Doggy going for a ride!  
(As my Mom would say.) 12.27.25*



*I saw this Cactus Jack's in Alvarado. I do not know if it is related to the Cactus Jack's that used to be in Lubbock and in Amarillo in the early 2000s. 8.26.25*

*Cool table at the Whataburger. 9.8.25*

# RANDOM THINGS



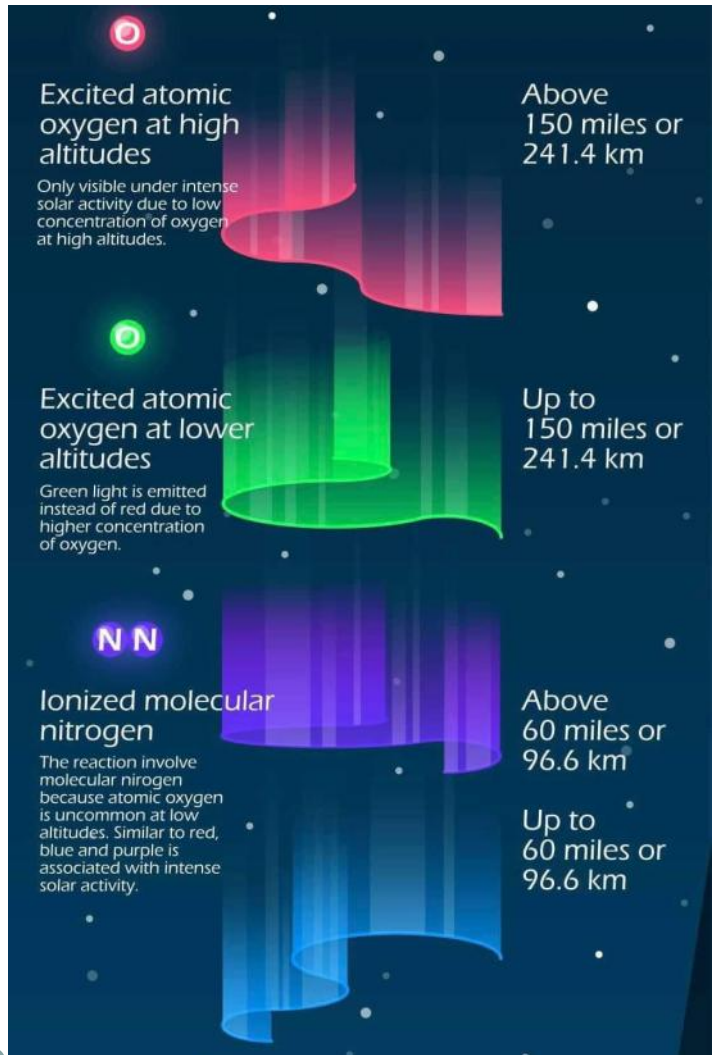
The post office has this nice mural of Granbury. It apparently is covered to prevent damage. 7.12.25



This was the best I could get of the Northern Lights that was visible in Granbury the evening of 11.11.25.



I was driving home on 377 when I saw this, a minnow sign at Bubba's Bait Shop that looks much like the minnow sign in Granbury before a winter wind storm blew it away. It's not likely the same sign. (above: 7.26.25, below: 2.23.25)



# RANDOM THINGS



*I was sitting outside having dinner. I had my lamp on my table and thought it had a lovely glow in the night. It is LED.*



*Another one of the old signs found on the walls of Cracker Barrel. Derr Brothers was based in Boonville, Indiana since 1889 and made concentrates and extracts for snow cones and sodas. This sign shows liquid concentrates in two sizes for a fruit ade in orange, lemon, lime, grape, grapefruit, and 7-fruit. With a 1:6 ratio, that is a lot of drink!*



*I saw these at a gas station. Thought they were funny. 7.25.25*

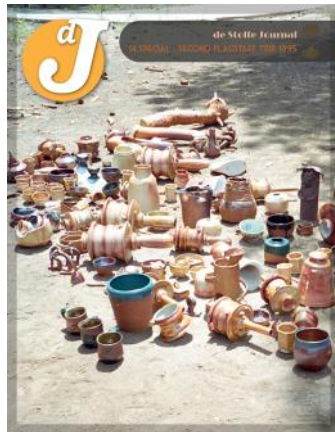
# RANDOM THINGS

## Special Issues in 2025

In case you missed them, here are the special issues that came out in 2025, available on [www.destolfe.com](http://www.destolfe.com).



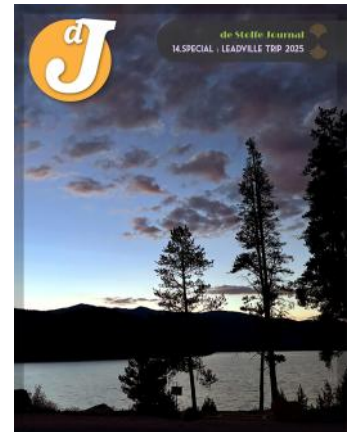
*Pink Flamingo Day  
June 23, 2025*



*30 Years Arizona Trip  
1995-2025*



*Talk Like A Pirate Day  
September 19, 2025*



*Leadville Trip 2025  
August 6-18, 2025*

## Ron Dimenna Died

You might not recognize this name by itself, but he is the founder of the Ron Jon Surf Shop, which you probably have heard of. He started the popular surf shop in 1959 in Cocoa Beach, Florida. There are now 13 locations in Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, New Jersey, Maryland, and one in Mexico.



*Ron Jon Surf Shop, Cocoa Beach*

## Wizard of Oz In Sphere

The premiere at the Sphere in Las Vegas of a readapted version of the Wizard of Oz started on August 28, 2025. This special version is in 16k and in 4D. It will be shown throughout 2026.

Learn more: [www.thesphere.com/shows/wizard-of-oz-experience](http://www.thesphere.com/shows/wizard-of-oz-experience)



# RANDOM THINGS

## *The Golden Girls*



*The Golden Girls* premiered 40 years ago on September 14, 1985 on NBC. The main cast featured Bea Arthur (as Dorothy Zbornak), Betty White (as Rose Nylund), Rue McClanahan (as Blanche Devereaux), and Estelle Getty (as Sophia Petrillo). The show was set in Miami, Florida.

As summarized in Wikipedia, “The show, featuring an ensemble cast, revolves around four older single women (three widows and one divorcée) sharing a house in Miami while navigating their “golden years” with humor, friendship, and occasional chaos.”

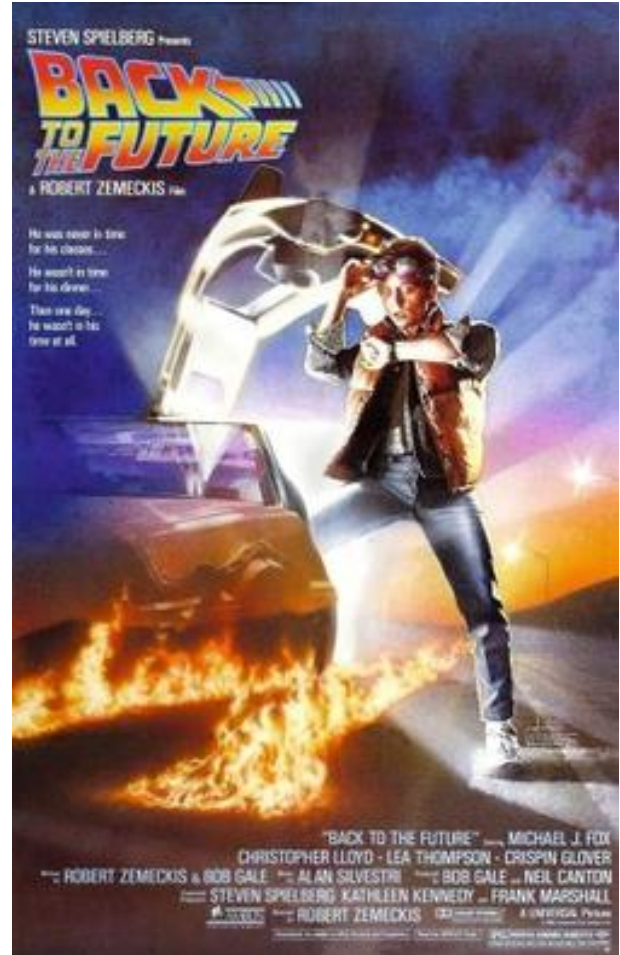
“The owner of the house is a widow named Blanche Devereaux, who was joined by fellow widow Rose Nylund and divorcée Dorothy Zbornak after they both responded to an ad on the bulletin board of a local grocery store, a year before the start of the series. In the pilot episode, the three are joined by Dorothy’s 80 year old widowed mother, Sophia Petrillo, after the retirement home where she lived burned down.”

*The Golden Girls* ran from the fall of 1985 through the spring of 1992. By the fall of 1992, the general premise continued as a new show called *The Golden Palace* on CBS, which only lasted for one season. *The Golden Girls* spawned two other spinoffs, *Empty Nest* (1988-1995, 7 seasons) and *Nurses* (1991-1994, 3 seasons). *Nurses* was actually a spinoff of *Empty Nest*.

## 40 Years Since *Back To The Future*

For about a week from October 31 and into November 2025, the film *Back To The Future* was rereleased roughly during the days coinciding when Marty was stuck in 1955, which was for about a week from Saturday, November 5 to the night of the Enchantment Under The Sea dance on Saturday, November 12, 1955. The film was originally released on July 3, 1985.

I was planning to go see it in the theaters, particularly an IMAX presentation, but my schedule did not work out for me to see it. The original film was not altered, just reshown in the theaters.



# RANDOM THINGS

## Grand Ole Opry Turns 100, 1925

The first presentation of what would become the Grand Ole Opry was on Saturday, November 28, 1925 on the new station WSM Radio. The National Life and Accident Insurance Company established WSM Radio in Nashville, which went live on Monday, October 5, 1925. Originally called the WSM Barn Dance, the show was hosted by George Dewey Hay along with a 77 year old fiddle player named Jesse Donald "Uncle Jimmy" Thompson. The show would soon be renamed the Grand Ole Opry. Incidentally, this first presentation was two days after Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26, 1925. Last year, 2025, celebrates 100 years since that first presentation, and the centennial celebration continues into 2026!



*WSM Radio, 650 AM*



*Photograph of the radio show, WSM Barn Dance, with the host George D. Hay (left) and fiddle player "Uncle Jimmy" Thompson (seated right).*

[www.tnmagazine.org/the-show-that-made-country-music-famous](http://www.tnmagazine.org/the-show-that-made-country-music-famous)



## National Coffee Day

National Coffee Day was on Monday, September 29, 2025. Here are a few of my coffees from late 2025!



*10.15.25*



*10.27.25*



*12.11.25*



*12.21.25*

# RANDOM THINGS

## Poésie Française

*(En Français)*  
*(In French)*

Mon Petit Chat

J'ai un petit chat,  
Petit comme ça.  
Je l'appelle Orange.  
Je ne sais pourquoi  
Jamais il ne mange  
Ni souris, ni rat.  
C'est un chat étrange  
Aimant le nougat  
Et le chocolat.

Mais! C'est pour cela,  
Dit tante Solange,  
Qu'il ne grandit pas.

Maurice Carême  
(1899-1978)

*(En Anglais)*  
*(In English)*

My Little Cat

I have a little cat,  
So small.  
I call him Orange.  
I don't know why.  
He never eats  
Mice or rats.  
He's a strange cat,  
Who loves nougat  
And chocolate.

But! That's why,  
Says Aunt Solange,  
He doesn't grow.

Maurice Carême  
(1899-1978)



*Granbury is along the Monarch trail. Pretty lights!*



*These were the  
Christmas  
decorations in  
Post, Texas.  
Saguaro cacti  
don't even grow  
in Texas!  
(11.23.25)*

# RANDOM THINGS



*The Goodyear blimp in Austin, UT tailgate.*

*Smiley face on electrical box, also in Austin, of course!*



*I saw this entrance on September 21 just off I-20 in Santo before getting on Highway 4. It is unknown if this has anything to do with Taylor Sheridan. However, I understand that he lives somewhere in the area between Weatherford and Granbury as he uses the little Granbury airport in his private plane!*



*First signs of pumpkins on September 2, 2025.*



*This neat old building is owned by the Rudy's in Round Rock, Texas.  
This Rudy's also used to operate a car wash!*

# RANDOM THINGS

La lune est très belle! / The moon is very pretty



*Crescent moon with planet. 9.19.25, 7:09 AM. Midland.*



*Three quarter moon. 10.3.25, 6:57 PM. Ennis.*



*Full moon. 11.4.25, 5:43 PM. Granbury.*



*Half moon. 12.28.25, 12:36 AM. Granbury.*

# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB

## Working Green Tree Country Club Event

For the third time, I worked an event at the Green Tree Country Club in Midland, Texas. I first worked this event in July 2024 and again in May 2025. The golf tournament this time was in September 2025. Because we had others working other various events, all I had to do was to drive from Granbury to Midland to work this event for a few days, while everything else for this event was set up by others. My job was basically to start, stop, and “baby sit” our equipment during this multi day golfing event, much the same as I did before.

I left on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. The route was easy, I simply took Lipan Highway from Granbury to I-20 and just went west until I got to Midland. I made one stop in Sweetwater at the Love’s for gas and a quick bathroom break. I got to Midland around 8:15 PM and first went straight to the country club. By this point, it was already dark but not pitch black. There are plenty enough lights in Midland to make the sky a dark gray instead of black. The setup was good and was basically ready to go except for a few things I would need to do in the morning. My

company booked me at the Tru in Midland. I have stayed at a Tru before, but I do not like them as much as the other hotels in the Hilton chain. One thing I noticed different at this hotel that I had not seen at the other hotels was that they had stacks of plastic ice buckets in the lobby that looked much like the cups casinos used to have for coins.

For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, I had to get to the country club around sunrise these three days to turn on the equipment and basically monitor the equipment during each day and make whatever changes or adjustments as they



requested. For the most part, this was not often as once I set it, it just kept running during the day. The tournament went from sunrise until late afternoon each day, and the evenings had some sort of activity. Also throughout the day, the dining room served breakfast, lunch, and dinner, which I once again took full advantage of. Rather than give an hour by hour breakdown of each day (which you know I can do!), I’ll instead summarize things.



*A golfer teeing off at Hole 1 of the West Course.*



*One of their typical sand traps.*

# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB

## Scenery And Grounds

The courses and the grounds generally were well maintained and very consistent still looking pretty much the same each time I've been there with just minor differences. This country club is known in Midland to be more family friendly. The sunrises and sunsets on the golf course were rather beautiful. Each morning, the sun would be a beautiful glowing orange and yellow, and even better when there were clouds. The sunsets were also beautiful, looking very similar. All through the

morning on Saturday, it was very cool and cloudy and rained a few separate times. After that, it was done and did not rain again after midday, though it did get a little warm in the afternoon. But it was cool again with a slight breeze in the evening.



*Green Tree uses the Trackman system to provide the golfer play statistics.*



*One of the nice sunrises at the Green Tree Country Club. This was on September 18 at about 7:05 AM.*

# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB



*I've included this clock tower in the journal before, even on the cover. It is near the clubhouse.*

## Meals

Because this was a special tournament at the country club, they do special catering during these events that they don't normally do the rest of the year. This included having breakfast, lunch, and dinner on each of the tournament days.

Now, on the Wednesday night I got to the country club, I noticed in the main building that they had a small pasta bar for dinner. I thought it was part of the golf tournament weekend, but it turned out that the food that night was unrelated, perhaps a regular Wednesday night meal? Either way, it worked out for me to be able to eat even

though I am not a member. I did want to go to Rudy's for dinner after arriving to Midland, but they closed at 9:00 PM.

For the breakfasts, the food was similar each morning, and I got a custom omelette, bacon, cantaloupe, honeydew, fried potatoes, and coffee. I especially liked the omelettes since I rarely get them anywhere else and they had a lot of options for fillings like bacon, ham, cheese, onions, scallions, peppers, chilis, mushrooms, etc.

The lunches varied each day with some sort of theme. Thursday had a sandwich bar with soups

and a salad bar. I made some open faced sandwiches with rye pumpernickel swirl bread, cheese, turkey, and roast beef, just to do something different. On Friday, they had Mexican food, and I just focused on meat with some beans and rice and a single tortilla. On Saturday, they had southern fare, where I had mac and cheese, beans, cornbread, a wedge salad, and some little cups of banana pudding along with some ice cream. I was not hungry enough to eat the other fried food they had.

The dinners were the fanciest of the meals as they typically were.

Because there was no evening activity on Thursday, there also was not a buffet. I ended up just eating a few things at the hotel since many restaurants were closed. But the evening meal on Friday night was fancy! Since it was Friday, they focused on seafood. In the one dining room, they had a big setup of king crab, shrimp, and various other seafood. For decoration, they had a large shark figure with glowing eyes that I thought was creative. While I personally did not eat any of the seafood, I did go to the other dining room where I got some chicken, potato wedges, carrots, herbed rolls,

# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB



*Friday night was seafood night, while Saturday night had beef tenderloin.*

salad, and tea. I went a little crazy with the dessert bar having some cheesecake, chocolate cake, brownies, and grabbed a bag of puppy chow. (Note that these were sample sized desserts, not large pieces!) Now the dinner on the final night was the fanciest of all where I had some tenderloin

with wild rice and gravy, garlic knots, and a Caesar salad. I went back for a second plate. I somehow missed the potato wedges the first time and grabbed a few of them. For dessert, they had cobblers and ice cream. I was not interested in any cobbler, but I did get some ice cream.



## Evening Events

Along with food, the country club usually provided some sort of evening activities. It turned out for this tournament that there were no specific activities on Thursday night nor Friday night other than to have the open bar and letting people lounge inside or outside. But on Saturday night, they had a big series of activities

similar to past times. After dinner, people would play games to win prizes. The games included a type of mini golf of nine holes with various wine bottles marking out the mini holes (over a hundred bottles), an inflatable football catch, another football for a field goal, and a glass break on the driving range. Some of these games were a little

different from the past times I worked these tournaments. The Saturday evening

activity continued late until the very last people left. I finally left around 12:50 AM.



# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB



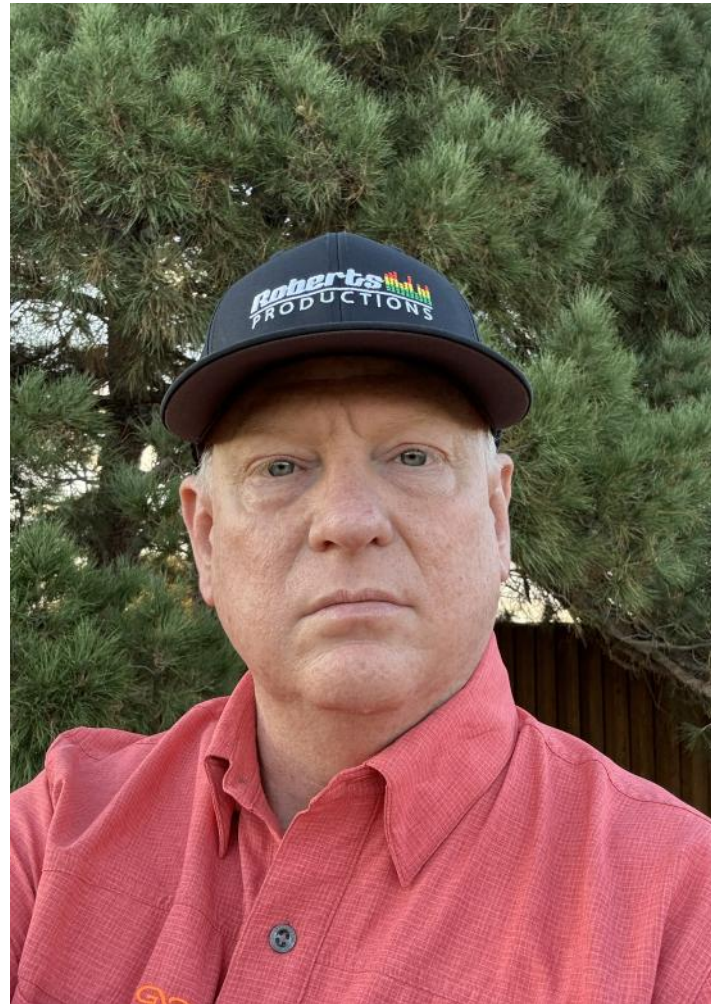
*On the putting green, they set up a mini golf course outlined with wine bottles*



*A football throw pass game*



*A football field goal game*



*One of several photos I took of myself while on the Green Tree Country Club grounds.*

# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB

## Other Miscellany

While I needed to be onsite during the event for any issues or changes, that did not mean I had to be stuck there. Part of the time, I did leave to do errands in Midland. While I was there, I would move around to different spots and sit for a while just resting or working on my computer (which this time around gave me great trouble to where I really could not do much on it), or I would walk around just to have some movement. In addition, I would regularly check the equipment and make any changes as requested.



*Part of the time, I sat by this fire pit. (Too hot for a fire, though.)*

Now on Friday night as I was going back to the hotel, I noticed that the police had many roads blocked off where I needed to turn. I was wondering what was going on. I ended up having to go out of my way but looping back around and ended going a different way back to the hotel. Once I got in the hotel, I looked out the window of the hallway and saw what was going on. The Scharbauer Sports Complex was across the street from the hotel,

and there was apparently a Friday night football game going on. That's Texas for you on a Friday night in the fall!



# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB

Sunday, September 21, 2024

I slept in for a few hours longer than the time I had to be at the country club in the early mornings. So once I got up and with no particular rush, I got cleaned up, packed up, and checked out of the hotel a little before noon. I did not need to go by the country club as others in the company came to pick

up the equipment.

I knew there were a couple of things I wanted to do before leaving Midland. First, I went to HEB for gas and went in the HEB for a couple of things. Second, I wanted some lunch. I drove over to Rudy's. It had only been open for less than two weeks in Midland, and

boy was it crowded!

The line was throughout the store and outside and down one side of the building! I should have expected that since Rudy's has the best BBQ for a chain. I would say it took a good 15 to 30 minutes standing in line before I finally got to the counter to order. I got my usual Rudy's meal, a brisket

sandwich, potato salad, tea, and chocolate pudding. I will typically alternate between getting brisket and turkey depending on what I want. The feel of the place was familiar, but the layout of the restaurant was quite different from other ones I've been to. I was happily full, so I then left.



*The HEB in Midland is quite large!*



*The new Rudy's in Midland, Texas.*

# GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB

I had considered going to Lubbock and leaving for Granbury on Monday, but I decided that it was best that I instead just go back to Granbury on this trip. I took the loop road around to I-20 then just took it straight east until I got near Eastland several hours later. As I was close to Eastland, a rather large storm loomed ahead. So, I stopped at a gas station on the east side of Eastland for a bathroom break and briefly looked around before leaving. I looked at my weather

app to see where the rain was, and it turned out that as I was about to leave, the storm cell had already crossed over I-20 and was further south. I likely would have had to drive through the heavy rain if I did not stop. I've driven through heavy rain before, and it is no fun! I did see an rainbow before I left and for a little while after leaving. I considered going a different route back to Granbury from Eastland, but decided instead that I would just

continue on I-20. Then I got on Lipan Highway back to Granbury. There

was a very nice sunset to the west a little while after I got back.



*The rainbow I saw in Eastland lasted for several miles down the road, even to a double rainbow.*



*A nice sunset on Sunday after getting back to Granbury.*

# DALLAS ATHLETIC CLUB

In mid October, I worked an event at the Dallas Athletic Club located in southeast Dallas, Texas. This was a golf tournament over two days that had a lot of the same features as other golf tournaments I have worked. It looked like a beautiful course, from the clubhouse anyway. They had evening activities along with several meals. I liked the gas fire pit.

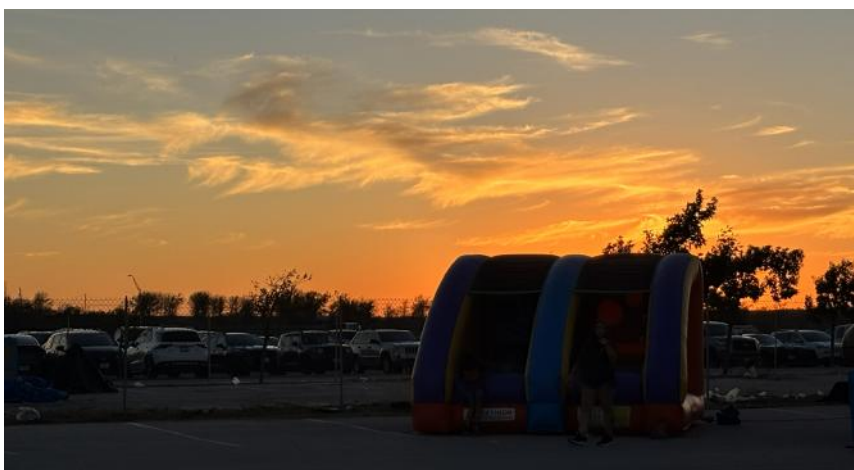


# CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

In mid November, I worked another event at the Circuit of the Americas located in Austin, Texas. There was a small private event sponsored by Coca-Cola called Fun USA that was focused on kids. The activities were free and even the food. The place was almost finished in decoration for Christmas.

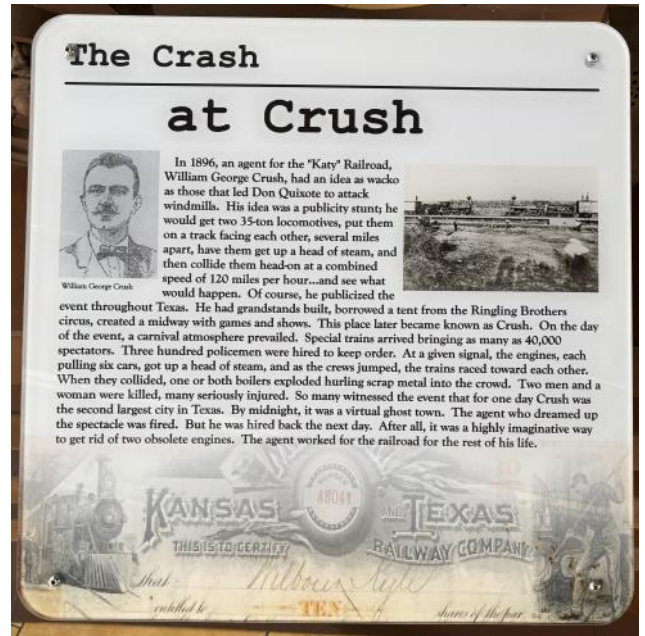


*One of the food vendors had mini doughnuts! I don't see them very often!*

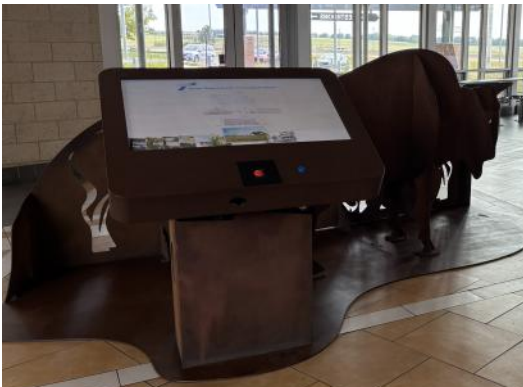


# HILL COUNTY REST STOP

While on our way back from doing the first University of Texas tailgate in Austin, we stopped at this federal rest stop called the Hill County Northbound Safety Rest Area in Abbott, Texas (north of Waco). While for everyone else, it was just a bathroom break, for me, it was a mini museum having two specific things that got my attention. One was a historical exhibit inside the building, and the other was the waystation for monarch butterflies.



*The Crash at Crush: A marketing nightmare!*



*Monarch Waystation*



# STARS OF TEXAS – ENNIS

## Stars of Texas Music Festival

I moved to Granbury in February 2025. I returned to work for the previous company I had worked for but stopped in August 2024. Even besides the unexpected change of employers in July 2025, I would occasionally help with one thing as part of my job. When needed, that one thing was to work events, whether with others or solo. I had worked events solo like with the Green Tree events and with other events as included in this issue of the journal. Another event I mostly worked solo was at the Texas Motorplex in Ennis, Texas. It is about 75 miles to the east of Granbury and south of Dallas. In early October, the Texas Motorplex hosted the annual Stars of Texas Music Festival, a three day event of various activities, but especially with concerts on a big stage. Our company was subhired to use two of our screens. The festival was Friday to Sunday, October 3-5, 2025.

Like with any large event, setup was during the days before. One of our guys took one screen to the Motorplex

on October 1, and he and I took the other screen in the morning of October 2. We got the screens in place and partly set up so that the rest of the stage could be finished. After we left there, we went to Waxahachie to find a place for lunch. We ate at a Mexican place called El Trebol Taqueria, a very family run Mexican restaurant that had really good food with plenty to eat! We left stuffed and went back to Granbury.

The next day, October 3, I drove my car from Granbury to the Motorplex and would work our screens for the event by myself. I had never worked that big of an event by myself, but I had worked other smaller events by myself, so I was a little nervous. My company booked a hotel in Waxahachie, about 15 miles away to the west.



*El Trebol Taqueria in Waxahachie, Texas*



*Stars of Texas Music Festival*



*The 2025 lineup included:*

- 10.3—Pat Green with William Clark Green, Colby Lee Swift*
- 10.4—Chris Young with Ashley McBryde, Ned LeDoux, Coffey Anderson*
- 10.5—Clint Black with Mark Chestnutt, Mark Wills, Gary P. Nunn*

# STARS OF TEXAS - ENNIS

So for the three days, I would arrive sometime before noon to turn on our screens that would run for about ten hours. The concerts started in the mid to late afternoon with the smaller acts and worked up to the headliner acts by the middle of the evening. During the day, the drag strip would also have some races. At the end of each night, I turned things off and drove back to the hotel, usually getting back near midnight.

One of the nice perks during a multiday event was that there was a dedicated hospitality tent behind the stage and the workers of the event got special passes to go basically anywhere we wanted. The food in the hospitality tent was good and similar each day, but there were



*The stage for the concert looking from the VIP area.*

more drinks and snacks than anyone could ever need or want. There were even nice mobile bathrooms, much better than the blue outhouses!

In the evenings of the last two nights, the concerts paused to let off fire lanterns into the air, something that would last for about 30 minutes, even while the music continued. There were probably thousands of lanterns that went up into the air those nights! It made for a



*Texas Motorplex in Ennis, Texas.*

# STARS OF TEXAS - ENNIS

really pretty scene, though! Fortunately, I did not hear of any incidents with the lanterns.

After the last night, one of our guys came to help tear down and pack our stuff. Likewise, the

other subhired companies did the same. Our guy took one screen back to Granbury Sunday night and came back on Monday to get the other screen. I stayed at the hotel Sunday night as planned. After checking

out on Monday, I went to Dutch Brothers again for coffee, then went back to Ennis. I drove past the Motorplex, where another event was going on, specifically to Ennis to the Buc-ee's along I-40. While there, I got gas

and bought various items in the store. From there, instead of going straight back to Granbury, I detoured and made my way to Benbrook where I had a late lunch at Hawai'ian Brothers before going back to Granbury.



*Buc-ee's in Ennis, Texas.*



*Huli Huli chicken with pork, rice, and macaroni salad.*



*Strawberry and pineapple Dole Whip.*

# STARS OF TEXAS - ENNIS

## The Performers



*Coffey  
Anderson*

*Clint Black*



*Mark Chestnutt*

*Pat Green*

*William Clark Green*

*Ned LeDoux*

# STARS OF TEXAS - ENNIS

## The Performers



*Ashley McBryde  
(Being cheeky with a  
Dolly Parton bra!)*



*Gary P Nunn*



*Colby Lee Swift*



*Mark Wills*



*Chris Young*



*During his performance, Mark Wills announced that Randy Travis (along with his wife, Mary) was in the house just off stage to enjoy the performance. Chris Young, Mark Wills, Clink Black, and Ashley McBryde, along with Randy Travis, are Grand Ole Opry Members.*

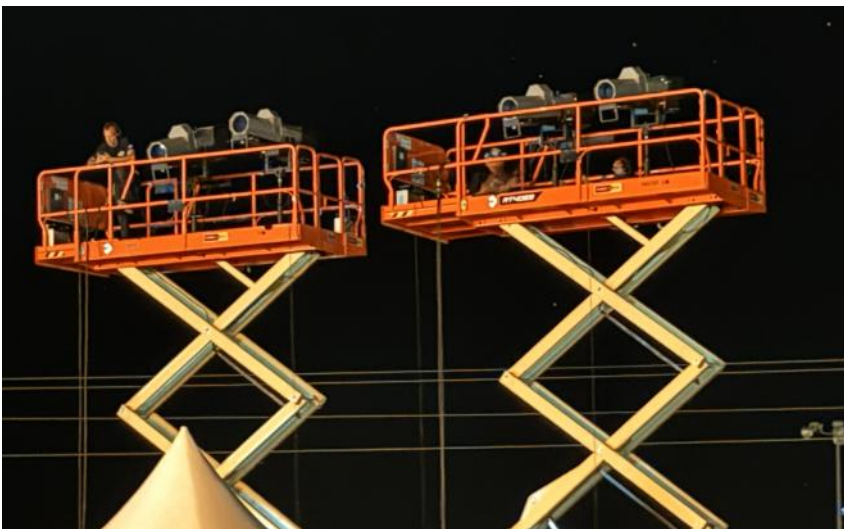
# STARS OF TEXAS - ENNIS



*Behind The Scenes!  
Screen showing live feeds for the IMAG editor to determine what feeds to show on the LED screens.*



*Late sun lit guitar case.*



*Scissor lifts for the spotlight operators.  
(They are stuck up there the whole time! I think.)*



*Evening fires for light, I think.*



*Tour bus for Coffey Anderson*



*Several tour busses for artists unknown.*

# STARS OF TEXAS - ENNIS



*Good lighting will make or break a concert! This was great lighting!*



# STARS OF TEXAS - ENNIS

*Saturday, October 4, 2025*



*Sunday, October 5, 2025*



# UNPLANNED SIDE QUEST

## Focus Group Failure With Unplanned Visit

In early November, I got an email inviting me to participate in a focus group for La Madeleine “where you’ll sample and share feedback on exciting new product innovations we’re developing”. If you have kept up with these journals all these years, then you will know that I like the food at La Madeleine ever since I first discovered it in 2016. They are a chain of French country restaurants mainly in Texas, but also in a few other states, with their headquarters in Dallas. The focus group was on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. It was also on a first come, first served basis for each of two time slots. I registered but heard nothing more about any confirmation. Making no assumptions, I intended to go to the restaurant for my time slot, which was at 4:00 PM.

Because the location was a little north of Dallas, I wanted to allow two hours to get there, even though technically it should be less than that. But... this is Dallas after all! I ended up leaving a little

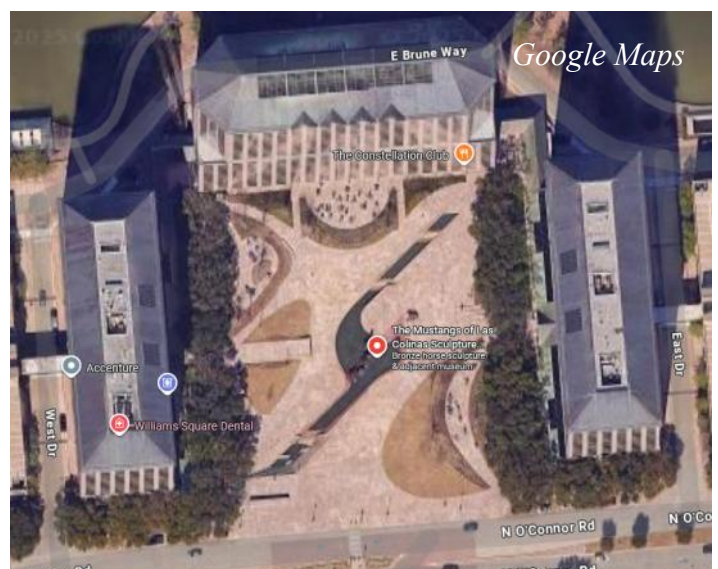
# la Madeleine

after 2:00, running a little later than I wanted, especially since I needed to get gas. It took me a while to get there, and I tried using my phone’s GPS for directions. But, it made no sense and had me going weird routes, including having to go through the middle of downtown Dallas! It ended up taking quite a bit longer than it should have, and I got there a little later than 4:00.

It turned out that after I talked with the person who was receiving the people for the focus group that they got an overwhelming response to the email of way more people than they needed. (My guess was that it might have only been maybe a dozen people they intended per time slot?) They had to turn away so many people! Besides that, their registration system was way too weak to handle the quantity of interested people. That is why I did not know

whether or not I should have gone! Since I did not get to participate, I figured to go ahead and get some dinner while I was there. I also got some bread and some pastries as I often do. The group had finished by the time I was done eating, and I sort of snooped around to see if I could get any information about the new products, but without snooping too aggressively. I did not find out anything, but I did tell them about how I have liked their food over the past decade.

The whole deal ended up being a waste of time, but instead of making the whole trip a waste of time, I thought I might try to find something to do while I was in the area. I recalled that I did want to see the mustangs of Las Colinas whenever I had time and was in the area. Las Colinas is an area to the northwest of Dallas right near the DFW airport. The mustangs are a series of bronze sculptures within a plaza surrounded by tall office buildings on three sides. Mom and I went to this plaza during a Fourth of July weekend to the DFW area in 1998. (Even in 1998, Mom did not like driving in the DFW area



*The Towers at Williams Square featuring a plaza.*

# UNPLANNED SIDE QUEST

as she continually got us lost with wrong turns!) Once I got there, I parked close by and walked to the plaza.

As best as I could tell, it looked exactly the same as it did nearly 30 years ago! It did not look like it had changed at all. The only new thing I noticed was it looked like they put in some special LED lighting near the water. I stayed there for a while and got a bunch of photos and just kind of looked at everything. It was a nice perspective seeing it at night since it was late afternoon when I was there in 1998. There was enough overall light to be able to get reasonably good photos, especially with how iPhones take photos. While there, I briefly talked with a guy who mentioned that right across the street was an area where some water was and a short boardwalk that had some good views. I thought I would like to see that, and so I walked over there once a got a few more photos.

Across the street from the plaza was a place where there were some apartments and various restaurants right on

Lake Carolyn. All around the lake were various apartments, businesses, and restaurants. This particular area was set up to be inviting for visitors. It was very pretty as it was decorated everywhere for Christmas. It was crowded too, people were everywhere, especially in the restaurants, mostly higher end places. There were a lot of foreign people from various countries. On the water, I found the boardwalk and got some nice urban like views at night with the lights reflecting in the water.

From there, I went back to the car and headed back towards Granbury. I also figured since I was near the area, I stopped at Trader Joe's to get some things for Thanksgiving and a few other things I wanted. I was gone probably around six or seven hours, but it was nice to get some food at a place not in Granbury and to see a place I've wanted to get back to in a long time!

According to **The Towers at Williams Square** website:

*Completed in 1985, The Towers at Williams Square was created to give Las Colinas, the premier business and residential community adjacent to Dallas / Fort Worth International Airport, a sense of place. The 1.4 million-square-foot, Class A office complex is anchored by a 26-story central tower and two 14-story towers, all connected by copper-roofed arcades. Adjacent is a five-story office building. The project sits on a beautifully landscaped 18-acre site on Lake Carolyn, in the heart of the Las Colinas Urban Center. Williams Square's towers define three sides of a massive pink granite plaza, with the iconic bronze sculpture "The Mustangs of Las Colinas" at its center. Together they capture the openness of the land and independent spirit of Texas.*



According to the Gables Water Street website: *Welcome to Gables Water Street, an exceptional mixed-use development situated on the picturesque shore of Lake Carolyn in Las Colinas, Texas. Our vibrant community offers unparalleled access to boutique shopping, exquisite dining, and entertainment options, all within a beautifully designed setting. Gables Water Street features sophisticated amenities and top of the line finishes, providing a relaxing and upscale living experience.*



# MUSTANGS OF LAS COLINAS



# MUSTANGS OF LAS COLINAS



*Robert Glen (1940-2023)*

Read more: <https://www.artistsforconservation.org/news-media/articles/remembering-robert-glen-1940-2023-27134>

# MUSTANGS OF LAS COLINAS



*In these two above photos, you can see the attention to detail that Robert Glen put into the sculptures to show every little feature on the horse. The photos below left are my own taken in 2010 showing live horse muzzles with the same details.*



*From my visit to the plaza in July of 1998*

# GABLES WATER STREET



# GABLES WATER STREET



# WEEKEND TRIP TO LUBBOCK

The weekend before Thanksgiving, I made a short trip to Lubbock to take care of a few things “needing doing”. I had been trying to figure out when to go for many weeks. But there was one pressing thing that if I did not take care of it by this weekend I would run out of time to do it at all. Here is the short description. I watch a small channel on YouTube about a guy who started a Christmas tree farm from scratch in 2020 (pre Covid) who lives in

central Kansas. The channel is called Watkins Tree Farm. In 2021, I proposed an idea of him selling my leather Crosses while he sells his pre-cut trees. (It would be years later before his planted trees were large enough to sell, maybe by 2027 or 2028.) I sent him my ornaments in 2021 and in 2022. I ended up skipping 2023 and 2024.

Because I had to move out of my duplex in January 2025 relatively quickly. I did not have

the luxury of sorting through things before putting them into storage. I just needed to get things moved out of the duplex. That meant I had no idea where things were in the storage unit. The two other times I went to the storage unit in 2025 were to get other things I knew I needed or wanted up to that point. This was the core reason I needed to get to Lubbock: to sort through the storage unit to find stuff and to get an express package

mailed to Kansas before Thanksgiving, only a few days away. I needed to make sure he got them by the Wednesday before Thanksgiving so he could have them for Friday when he started selling the trees, which was probably the weekend he sold nearly half of his trees! In addition to going through the storage unit, I also wanted to do a few other miscellaneous things while in Lubbock.

## Friday, November 21, 2025

I wanted to leave Friday afternoon, but the owner of the company was in town so that determined when I would be able to leave. We got lunch at Grumps where I got a bacon cheeseburger with onion rings and some tea. I ended up working pretty much until 4:30 PM. I finally got going after 5:00 PM and right into going home traffic. Either way, I made my way to Lipan Highway which would get me to I-20. The sun was below the horizon but not quite dark yet. I kept going on I-20 until I got to Abilene where I got

some gas at Allsup’s but drove further down until I got to Tye where I decided to have dinner Denny’s. The Flying J truck stop had a full sit down Denny’s inside. I wanted breakfast, so I got pancakes, scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, and turkey bacon along with some tea. I was glad to have a good breakfast like that, something I don’t get very often. After about an hour, I kept going on I-20 until getting to Highway 84 to Lubbock. I got to the Sleep Hotel about 10:45 PM.



*Grumps Burgers*



*Allsup's (Yesway)*



*Flying J*



*Denny's*

## YOUTUBE HIGHLIGHT

- YouTube: [Watkins Tree Farm](https://www.youtube.com/@watkinstreefarm6880)  
[www.youtube.com/@watkinstreefarm6880](https://www.youtube.com/@watkinstreefarm6880)



# WEEKEND TRIP TO LUBBOCK

Saturday, November 22, 2025

After a good night's sleep and getting cleaned up, I first went to Costco since it was right there by the hotel. I picked up a few things and got some samples. The place was really busy especially being the last weekend before Thanksgiving! I also went to get a haircut. By this point, it was mid afternoon, and so I decided to skip lunch and go over to the storage unit. After all, that was the reason why

I made a special trip to Lubbock. It took me around three hours to move, sort, and look for different things I had on my list to get. The leather Crosses were the main item, but I had quite a few other things I also wanted to find. I got most of the items, but some items were just not findable, and it was not worth tearing out half the storage unit like a Jenga puzzle to try to find them at this point. I did find a few

other things that were not on my list that I grabbed. But overall, it was a process! I got everything else repacked into the storage unit, having a little more room than before.

By this point, it got dark and the storage unit lights were on. I got everything packed up in the car and finally left maybe around 6:30 PM. So of course, I was really hungry, even

hangry, by this point! I had already decided on Rudy's for dinner. I made a quick stop at Mardel, then right over to Rudy's. I had a chopped brisket sandwich, a single slice of turkey, potato salad, creamed corn, iced tea, and chocolate pudding. From there, I went to Market Street then back to the hotel for the night.



*When I started.*



*After I finished.*



*Costco Wholesale*



*Mardel*



*Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q*



*Market Street*

# WEEKEND TRIP TO LUBBOCK

Sunday, November 23, 2025

After another good night's sleep, I got cleaned up, checked out, and went to church. It was nice to be back and to see everyone. The service was great. By the early afternoon, I went back to Costco to get a couple of other things I wanted and for gas. From there, I was obviously hungry. So around 2:00 PM, I went over to La Madeleine. I got a croque monsieur with pesto pasta and tea. I also got some items from the pâtisserie and particularly a mini tiramisù. I leisurely ate my lunch.

Since it was pushing 4:00 PM, I left and took FM 1585 to Slaton Highway and started my way back to Granbury. While it was rainy along the way, the rain had stopped before I got to Snyder. I decided to stop in Snyder to see the town where I used to live since I had not been back after moving to Lubbock in 2021. I drove down the main

road to downtown and through the areas over to where I used to live and on to the campus of Western Texas College where the museum is where I used to work. Being Sunday, they were closed of course, but I just wanted to get a look at it and look through the windows. There were a bunch of very young stray cats all over the front that the museum was apparently feeding with the food and water dishes out front. After a little while, I drove back down the main road and stopped at an HTeaO that had apparently been build in the years after I left. I got some tea. Most of the places still looked the same with a few things different. I turned at the courthouse Square and drove the other main road east back to Highway 84.

I pretty much drove straight back to Granbury with only one stop east of Abilene for a bathroom break. I got

back to Granbury around 9:00 PM, a little later than I planned, but it was all good. I got the leather Crosses together and boxed to mail out on Monday. The rain caught back up a while after I got back to the trailer, and it rained on and off through the

night. I did get the package mailed out on Monday at a stupid high shipping cost. The guy got them on Wednesday and even featured them on his Facebook page. (He did that for all of the other people's wares he was selling.)



*A post on the Watkins Tree Farm Facebook page about my leather crosses available for sale.*

*laMadeleine*

*La Madeleine*

**HTeaO**<sup>™</sup>  
TEXAS BORN & BREWED

*HTeaO*

# SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM



*I had not been back to the Scurry County Museum in Snyder since my employment there ended in July of 2019!*



# SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM



*The museum apparently was fostering some cats that must have been born there. They are all obviously related!*

# WEIRD BUGS!



# SUMMER/FALL FLOWERS



*Common Sunflower (Texas)*



*Gaillardia/Indian blanket flower*



*Purple Fountain grass*



*Thornless prickly pear*



*A variety of celosia*



*Croton*

# SUMMER/FALL FLOWERS



*Royal Poinciana flowers with bumble bees.*



# FALL LEAVES

The first sign of fall in Granbury was in late October, well past other places in the country. But the leaves turned beautiful through November and December!



*October 27, 2025*



*December 19, 2025*



*November 13, 2025*

# TRAVELS OF CHATBLEU



*Leaving Austin, 9.13.25.*



*Leaving Austin, 9.18.25.*



*In Round Rock, 9.13.25.*



*In Midland, 9.21.25.*



*At Rosa's Café in Mansfield, 9.30.25.*



*Getting gas before going to Austin, 11.14.25.*

# TRAVELS OF CHATBLEU



*At Trader Joe's in Fort Worth, 10.17.25.*



*At the Hyatt Regency in Austin for Thanksgiving, 11.27.25.*



*Christmas day in Fort Worth at the Saltgrass Steakhouse, 12.25.25.*

# LAST DAY OF OCTOBER

The last day of October, that is usually called Halloween, is now a reminder of the date when I found out Dad had died in 2023. Despite that reminder and being Halloween, I wanted to do something enjoyable. Now the place where I work had several events going on with several other employees designated for them that weekend. I was not specifically needed to work any of them. However, they did need me to do one errand for one event that was altered from the original plan. I was tasked with simply taking one specific item to the place of the tailgate to a specific person and that it. Afterwards, I was basically free to do whatever.

For quick background information, we had a series of regular events working regular home game tailgates for several universities in Texas from late August through November. These universities were Texas Tech University (football and soccer) in Lubbock, Tarleton State University in Stephenville, University of Texas in Austin, two tailgates for the Houston

Texans at the NRG Stadium in Houston, and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, which was where I needed to go on the last day of October.

I drove my own car, and they gave me money for gas and food. I got gas before leaving Granbury and left in the late morning with the needed item towards Dallas. When I got to Benbrook, I made a short stop at the Black Rifle Coffee Company for a frilly coffee drink (something I do once in a while). From there, I tried to use my phone's directions feature, but it took me on a weird, obscure route that I did not trust in the horrible traffic zigzagging through the middle of the DFW metroplex and downtown Dallas to the SMU campus! (This is actually how driving is normally in the metroplex!) Making no other stops, I got to the campus around 1:00 PM! Granbury to the campus is about 75 miles.

After I took care of the short business, I was pretty much free for the rest of the day. I did notice that the SMU campus was really

pretty having many mature trees, especially since the campus is about 100 years old. One road I took through campus went past a museum where out front was a really cool kinetic wind sculpture sort of thing above some water. I took a road to the north as the GPS suggested and went through an older rich neighborhood. Since it was Halloween, all of the landscaping companies were out front of many houses preparing the various lights and inflatables to get ready for trick-or-treaters. There were so many of them that I almost had to play dodge ball so not to hit any of them!

I knew before I went back to Granbury that I wanted to get a good dinner. So, I decided to go to Texas Roadhouse.

But I first wanted to go to the Buc-ee's that was located north of Fort Worth. So, I made my trek through the horrible afternoon traffic to Buc-ee's from Dallas, about 40 miles. This was the same Buc-ee's I stopped at in 2021. There, I got gas and got a few other items before leaving taking I-35W and Loop 820 around to Benbrook where the Texas Roadhouse was. I got a good meal of sirloin, loaded baked potato, salad, their yummy rolls with cinnamon butter, and tea. I did not have dessert this time around. I also went to Trader Joe's to get a few items, including some items for Thanksgiving. After that, I went back to Granbury. I had a nice, pleasant day. I don't think Dad would have wanted me to be sad or depressed.



*Buc-ee's north of Fort Worth.*

# THANKSGIVING

For Thanksgiving this year, I was originally planning to go to a friend's house as I have done in past years. But, as we got closer to Thanksgiving, some arrangements had changed with some events for the company and I was needed to work an event the day after Thanksgiving. I did go over to my friend's house on Tuesday evening for a regular dinner and to drop off some rolls for their Thanksgiving.

The event we needed to work was the final tailgate for the UT game. For the other five tailgates we have worked, we usually got there the day before on Friday to do an initial setup for the tailgating on Saturday. But instead, we had to do the initial setup on Wednesday for the tailgating on Friday and with Thanksgiving on Thursday.

On Wednesday, I went with one of our guys in one truck from Granbury while the owner of the company and his family came from their place, and we met that evening in Austin where we needed to set up by the stadium.

Once we got that done, we all went to get some dinner. We went to Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen. I'm not a big seafood person, but I found something I thought would be good. I ended up having a salad with strips of fried chicken. It was really good, but it was huge, as big as a mixing bowl! Between that, the appetizers, and the bread, I could not eat all of it! I hated having to leave half of it! From there, we went to our hotel. We got separate rooms and stayed at a Hyatt Regency. It was a very tall indoor hotel right by the Colorado River in downtown Austin.

As for Thanksgiving day, one of our guys had worked out an arrangement where our group could have Thanksgiving dinner at the UT Country Club. On Thursday morning, we left the hotel around 9:30 AM or 10:00 AM, something like that, for an 11:00 AM Thanksgiving meal at

the country club, which was located a good ways to the west of Austin in the hills. I had no idea that meals at country clubs were reserved, instead of people arriving whenever. Once we got there, they seated us at a large round table that sat eight, and we sat there for a few minutes before

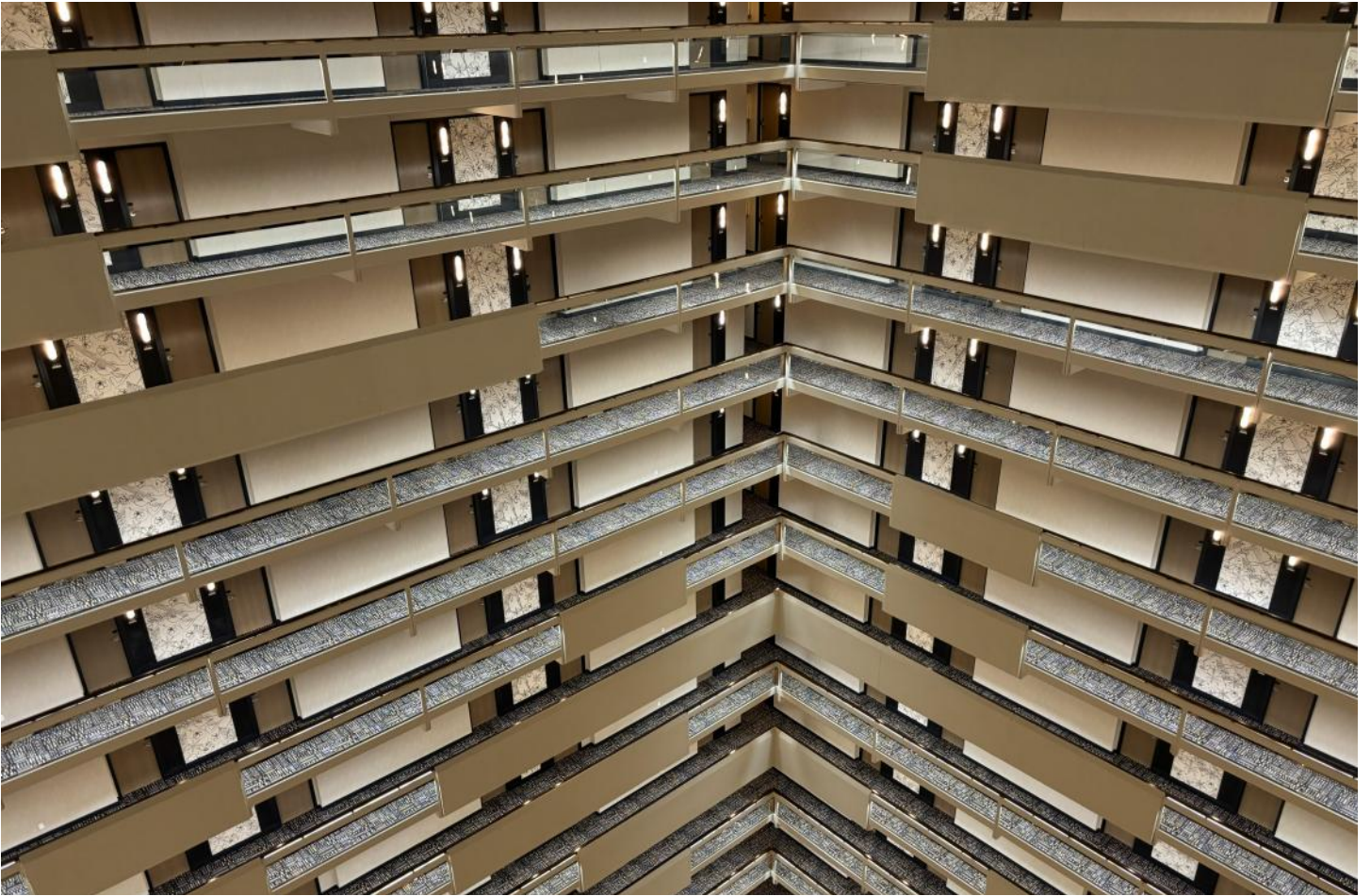


*Happily full after Thanksgiving at the UT Country Club.*



*The outside of the UT Country Club in Austin.*

# THANKSGIVING



*Out hotel was the Hyatt Regency in downtown Austin, Texas.*



# THANKSGIVING

they asked what we wanted to drink. The 11:00 AM time slot was the start of the series of meals throughout the day. The food was set up as a buffet. On one side was a brunch setup with breakfast type food, while the other side had the more typical Thanksgiving food options, along with a dessert area. Overall, it was really good. I did not get a photo of the food, of course, but I had some of most of the food and even got seconds. We were there maybe an hour. Before we left, we stopped shortly in their pro shop to look around. We also got some photos out in front of the country club entrance.



After we left the country club, there was not really anything else we did since it was Thanksgiving and most things were closed. So, we went back to the hotel. For the rest of the day and night, we each doing our own things. I did wander the hotel for a while as my room was being tended to, but went back to my room for the rest of the afternoon and evening. It was rather boring in

that I had very little to do. (In writing this long after the fact, if I had known that the hotel was right near the Austin bat bridge, as the hotel was right next to the Congress Avenue bridge, I might have tried to look at the bats leaving the bridge around sunset! Maybe another time.)

On Friday, we needed to get to the stadium in the mid morning to get everything set up for the tailgate, which went until about 6:00 PM. Since this was the last tailgate of the season, this one was even larger than the other five. There was the addition of a food truck court that was not at the others. At one point in

the afternoon, I walked most of the length of the tailgate area and back and went over to the food trucks. I got some pizza from one food truck, and a brisket empanada from another one.

Once over, we needed to get everything packed up. It was also dark by this point. We eventually got everything packed up and cleared out, which took a little longer than we expected. The owner went back to his place, while we went back to Granbury. Well north of Austin, we stopped for fuel and a break in Leander. I saw that there was a Culver's a couple of businesses down and quickly went over there to get some food. I have not had any Culver's in quite a long time! I got a burger, fries, drink, and some frozen custard. I took it back to the truck and ate it while we drove back to Granbury. It was really good, just what I wanted.

We got back to Granbury pretty late, somewhere around 11:00 PM, but that still left us with the entire weekend free!



*The hotel had this large screen cycling through various photos of Austin.*

# CHRISTMAS 2025

## Christmas Eve

Here is a summary of the things I did for Christmas 2025. I was originally planning to go from Granbury to Amarillo for a couple of nights and go back to The Big Texan for their Christmas buffet and to do some sightseeing like I did in 2023. But after figuring the costs and the necessity of it, I cancelled that idea and tried to determine what else I could do. I called around to see what restaurants would be open in the DFW area as it would be easy to drive to and costs would be minimal by comparison. I found that a few places would be open. I had thought about going to Fogo de Chão, but I had only gone to a Brazilian restaurant once about ten years ago (for one of those info meetings at a restaurant that come with a meal). But, I also knew that it would likely be more expensive than I wanted to budget to spend. A few other options I considered were Black Bear Diner in Burleson and a small local place in Glen Rose called Loco Coyote Grill that would have a Christmas

buffet, but it seemed to me that it was more like a local honkytonk with food. Ultimately, I decided to go to Saltgrass Steakhouse in Fort Worth once I found out that they would be open.

For Christmas Eve, since tamales is standard fare for Christmas in Texas, I went to a nearby tamale store where I got a tamale meal of brisket tamales, rice, and beans, along with an extra order of chips. I then went over to HEB to get some sour cream and guacamole for the chips. I was rather stuffed after eating all of that! (Nothing but carbs! Beans, rice, masa, tortillas...) I then watched a video by K-LOVE called Virgin Birth that focused on Mary's experience of the Jesus story. For the film and other reasons, it was somewhat an emotional roller coaster for the evening. Around midnight, I decided that I wanted to look around at the Christmas lights near downtown. There were three specific areas near each other I went to. The first place was

an area that might be called Langdon Park that was a square block with a few historic buildings and some greenspace. The buildings were decorated nicely and had various other Christmas lights and figures around the park. It was very pretty. Then, I drove a block over and parked in the courthouse parking lot. I wanted to take a leisurely midnight walk around the courthouse square since I had yet to do that Granbury! I walked around and got various photos of the streets and of the courthouse as I walked around. There

was no one else around, just me. An occasional car would drive by, but that was it. Then, I got back in my car and drove a couple blocks away to a park, called Shanley Park, that has a river or stream that goes through it. The elevation changes within the park with the walkways. The park was full of Christmas lights and more Christmas figures. I took some time to walk around and see everything. Lastly, I was going to stop by City Hall to look at the lights there, but they were just more of the same ones as the other places, so I simply skipped it.



*A trend I've seen the last couple of Christmases is for cars to be fully covered in Christmas lights. Usually, they are kits specifically made for vehicles, but some people just took regular Christmas lights and taped them to their cars!*

*(That might be what someone did here!)*

# CHRISTMAS 2025



*The area maybe called Langdon Park.*



*Hood County Courthouse square.*



*Christmas scenes in Shanley Park*

# CHRISTMAS 2025

## Christmas Day

On Christmas day, I planned to get to the steakhouse around 2:00 PM. I did not have a reservation, as they were not taking any more reservations when I had called to see if they would be open. The Saltgrass Steakhouse is over near Benbrook in South Fort Worth along I-20. It took about 45 minutes from home to get there. So, I left a little after 1:00 PM and got there at about 2:00 PM. There was a little traffic, but nothing like if it was a regular day. I put my name on the list, and I ended up waiting about 60 minutes, which I did not think was too bad for as busy as it was! They were even behind with reservations, so I did not think it was even necessary to get one. I got a booth around 3:00 PM. I had a very nice waitress, and I wanted to get whatever I wanted within reason. In my usual fashion with steak restaurants, I got the 10 ounce sirloin medium well with loaded mashed potatoes and a house salad with honey mustard. I did not get any appetizers, as I usually don't, but the

salad was the appetizer. They also brought out some beer batter bread along with some tea. After about 15 minutes of eating the salad, they brought out the main meal. I just leisurely ate my meal enjoying the afternoon. Before I left, I got a cheesecake to go as I knew it would hold up for a while before I was ready to eat it later in the evening.

After the great meal, I did not want to go home just yet, so I thought I would go over to the historic stock yards since I had not been there since 1998 and I did not think there would be many people there as most everything was closed. It took about 20 minutes taking I-20 and I-35W and a few side streets. The stock yards are a good distance north of downtown Fort Worth. I managed to find a parking spot fairly close. I walked along Exchange Avenue for part of the way for maybe 20 minutes. I had no intention of spending a lot of time at the Stock yards as much as just to get a look at it. I plan to visit again for a longer

time maybe later this year. I got some various photos. The place was quite crowded! There were a lot of people for almost nothing being open. I did see some sort of little ice skating rink thing near the Stock Exchange. I did notice a bunch of Mexicans driving their low rider trucks with loud, booming Tejano music and LED lights cruising up and down Exchange. I guess that is a thing there! What is interesting was that the whole vibe was very similar to Broadway in Nashville, but with a more western theme. While closed, there were various bars and saloons and old restaurants. I would

purposely want to go back just to see the place, to go to the museum and go in some shops, like Leddy's boot store. It was sunset, and I knew that it was going to be dark soon, I left.

Now, when leaving the place, I must have been really turned around! I looked at a map on my phone, but ended up going the opposite direction. I ended up doing this several times before ditching the phone and just tried to get somewhere familiar. I did eventually and got on the road I needed to get back home! By the time I got to 377, it was already dark. Later in the evening, I ate the cheesecake.



*Inside the Saltgrass Steakhouse in Fort Worth.*

# FORT WORTH STOCK YARDS



*The old entrance sign to the Fort Worth Stock Yards on East Exchange Avenue.*



*Fort Worth Livestock Exchange building (the "Coliseum", 1908).*

# FORT WORTH STOCK YARDS



*East Exchange Avenue and North Main Street.*



*Entrance to Mule Alley.*



*Looking east on West Exchange Avenue from Ellis Avenue. (From Main Street, it turns into East Exchange.)*

# FORT WORTH STOCK YARDS



*Fincher's White Front*



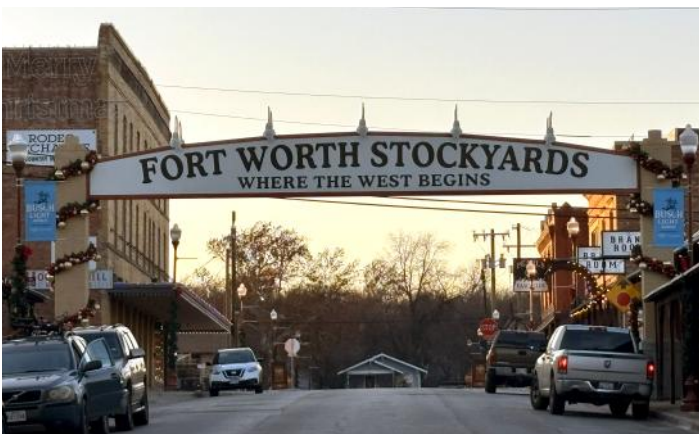
*Stockyards Hotel*



*Star Café*



*Longhorn Saloon*



*Newer welcome sign west of the stockyards.*



*Cattlemen's Steakhouse*

# FORT WORTH STOCK YARDS



*The General Store*



*The Cantina Cadillac*



*Risky's Steakhouse*



*Maverick Fine Western Wear*



*H3 Ranch Restaurant*



*Leddy's Boots & Saddlery*



*1998—From my visit to the Stockyards in July of 1998*

# FORT WORTH STOCK YARDS



*Leddy's Boots & Saddlery on the northwest corner of Main Street and Exchange Avenue*



# FORT WORTH STOCK YARDS

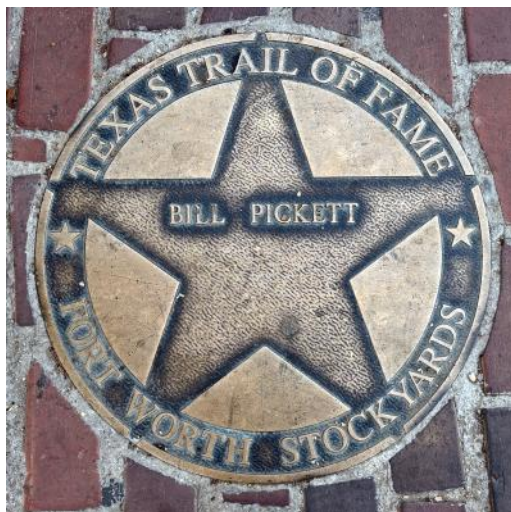
## Texas Trail of Fame, Fort Worth Stockyards



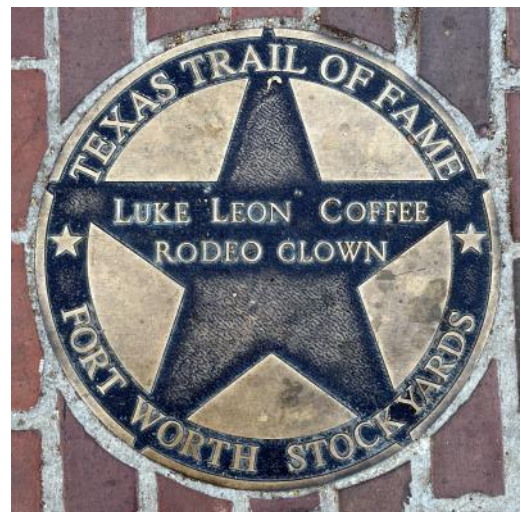
*Theodore Roosevelt*



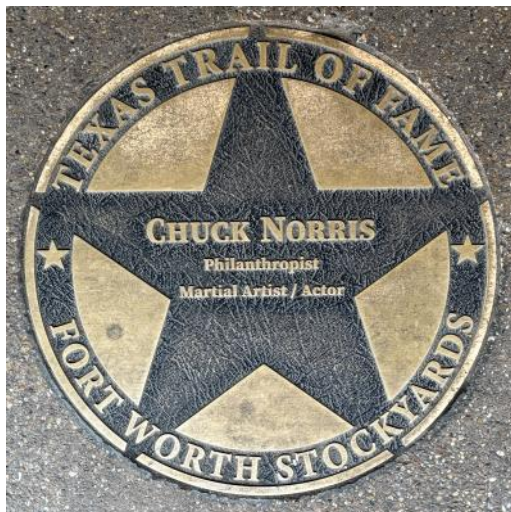
*Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo*



*Bill Pickett*



*Luke "Leon" Coffee*



*Chuck Norris*



*Zane Grey*

# NEW YEARS 2026

## Celebrating The New Year 2026

Happy New Year! I knew that on Christmas day, pretty much everything would be shut down and closed, like it usually is. But for New Year's, I knew many places would probably be open, but close early New Year's Eve and may be open later on New Year's Day. I did not have to work any events for New Year's, so I just stayed in Granbury, unlike most of my other coworkers. I did want to get a good lunch on the eve, so I went over to Cotton Patch Café, not unlike I also did before Christmas. Since it was Wednesday, I had their Wednesday special of meatloaf. It was good and filling, as their food usually is, and left happily full. I stayed at the shop for a while in the evening, but because people can be crazy with setting off fireworks and the whole celebration drinking thing, I went back home before it got too late.

I piddled doing various things until midnight. I bought a bottle of my favorite Martinelli's, the apple grape flavor this time, and got it ready.

Like I did the last several years, On my iPad, I watched live on YouTube the fireworks presentation at Reunion Tower in Dallas. This was apparently their tenth anniversary of doing it. Not only did they have the fireworks off the tower, they also had a very nice drone show that would cycle through various songs for 10-15 seconds each with the drones reshaping into something relating to the song. While the entire presentation was only about ten minutes, it was really well done and looked very cool. This was one of the few New Year's Eves where I was not sad or emotional, unlike in recent past years.

For New Year's Day, I knew I wanted to go to Cracker Barrel. I also went to Cracker Barrel on New Year's Day last year when I was still living in Lubbock. I had not eaten at Cracker Barrel since August. I drove to Benbrook and first went to one store to pick up a few things. I was going to go to a couple of other places, but they ended up being

closed for New Year's Day. So, the only other thing I did was to go to Cracker Barrel for dinner. Since it was Thursday, I got the turkey dinner with stuffing, gravy, hashbrown casserole, and a side salad, along with the usual biscuits and tea, of course. It turned out that I had

enough points with my app to make the meal free, so I ended up eating there for very cheap! A nice surprise! (I thought I still needed more points before I would get the free meal.) After that, I went back to Granbury and did not do much else. Overall, it was a nice, pleasant New Year's.



*Waiting until Midnight!*

# NEW YEARS 2026



*Live fireworks presentation on YouTube at Reunion Tower in Dallas.*



# NEW YEARS 2026

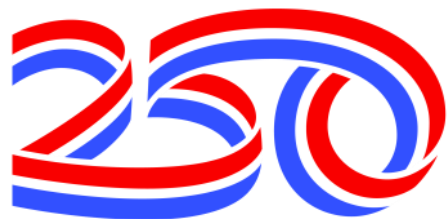


*Live fireworks presentation on YouTube at Reunion Tower in Dallas.*



# FINAL THOUGHT

## AMERICA



This summer, the United States turns 250 years old with the Declaration of Independence, dated on July 4, 1776.

The US Government is planning a series of events throughout the year, especially the first half of the year, to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the country. (We should just call it a quarter millennium!) Some of the events are ongoing, while some are on specific days of single events. Go to this website to find out what will be near you.

[www.america250.org/calendar](http://www.america250.org/calendar)

One particular event I noticed and thought was interesting was the official opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medona, North Dakota. It will be part of the presidential library system, which was authorized and started with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in 1941 while FDR was still president. Currently, there are 13 of these libraries/museums officially open, up to President George W. Bush, that are part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Six additional presidential libraries are operated separately from NARA by other entities.



*President Theodore Roosevelt*



The [de Stolfe Journal](http://www.destolfe.com) 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)

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Robert-George de Stolfe

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