



de Stolfe Journal

13.2 : SPRING 2024



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Covers activities in March through May 2024.

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*Saw this on May 31 at the McDonald's window.
I have so many jokes I can make!*

ON THE COVER



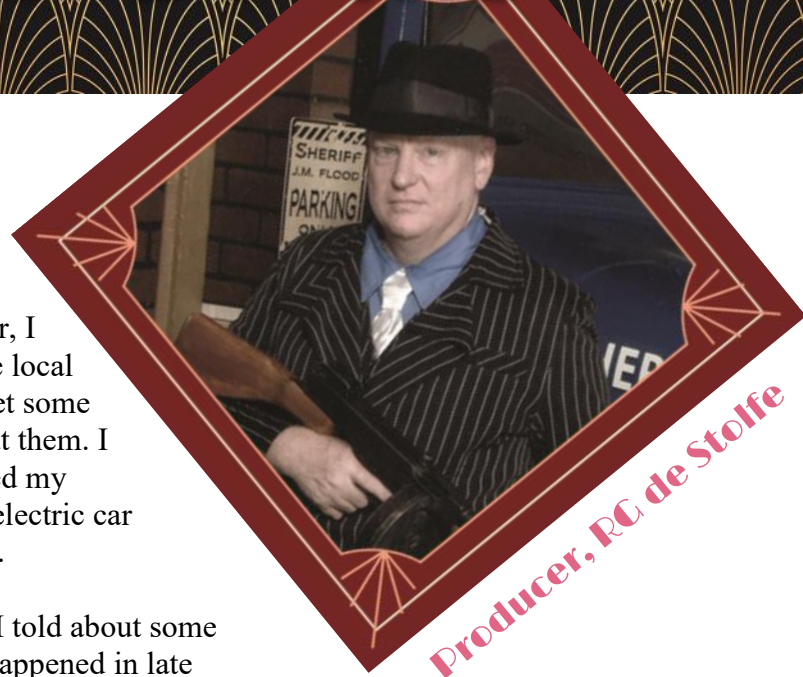
*On the cover, I have a photo of a unique screensaver/desktop pattern on my iMac that is animated and slows to a stop after logging in. This is a unique and fascinating school of fish called Bigeye Trevally, *caranx sexfasciatus*. I have never heard of this variety of fish, but they look really cool being a slick silvery color with black stripes, especially in a large group like this. This is actual underwater video recorded for Apple by Roger Munns, an Emmy™ and BAFTA award winning underwater Cameraman.*

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



COMMENTS BY RG



Producer, RG de Stolfe

Wide Variety of Content

Happy Spring!

As we have now just flipped into June, we are nearly done with Spring! The cold weather has completely faded away into either very comfortable days and nights or much warmer days with mild nights. At least that is how the weather pattern in the panhandle West Texas has been over the last couple of months. Your area of the country might be a little different based on your climate.

If you can believe it, I'm getting out the next issue of the de Stolfe Journal in a timely manner, just a little over a month since the last issue! For some reason this time, the issue was very easy and quick to put together.

I have no travel stories to include in this issue. So, I have included many other features that I have backburnered for many months that finally I get to include. I have a variety of topics in various directions and time ranges.

We had a well covered eclipse in early April. I took photos and made some notes about how it looked in Lubbock. Likewise, I made notes about the aurora borealis superstorm in mid May.

Back last summer, I made a trip to the local Tesla dealer to get some information about them. I have also included my encounters with electric car charging stations.

In the last issue, I told about some major fires that happened in late February and early March in the panhandle that happened just before my trip to Colorado in March. I refer back to that to give more information about where it was. Partly related to that, I have included a brief history about the Turkey Track Ranch that was hard hit by the fire, along with a short history of Adobe Walls on the same property.

I have included my first garden update since last year, including a story about one particular plant.

Historical ads return spanning various years and locations and topics. These are always fun!

Finally, I bring some family history to the journal with Dad. Dad was in Vietnam in the late 60s, and there was an interesting thing he did there, which I tell about in photos. In addition, I tell about one place where he lived during his younger years that is surrounded by water.

I wanted to include a variety of topics for this issue as I think it makes for a more interesting read even though there is no continuity of the topics.

As Spring will soon transition to Summer and any coolish weather turns to hot, I will keep bringing more cool content of family related things and of non family related things.

Enjoy!

RG

WORD FOR LIFE

“Due to...”

There is a sign at my post office above the boxes that says something to the effect of “Due to theft, box holder must use key.” (I forget the exact wording, but this is close.) Now, at first thought, it seems like a solid, valid message. And perhaps for the post office it is. However, how many times in our own lives do we make the same excuse with seemingly “good” reasons? The 2020 years have provided abundant examples of this, especially in 2020 and 2021. I won’t go into those contentious topics, but let’s look at some other examples.

How many times have we acted in the following ways: “Due to lack of money, I can’t buy any groceries.” “Due to feeling tired, I won’t play with my kids (or spouse or dog or cat).” “Due to ‘the circumstances’, I must allow (this or that).”

“Due to ‘the circumstances’, I cannot (do this or have that).” And there are MANY other examples like these.

While they might seem true and valid, they are actually lies! They are lies that you stepped right into the bear trap, and it solidly grabbed hold of you! You are in terrible pain from it, but you cannot even feel it beyond the deception. The lies have gripped you so tight that you are hobbling around trying desperately to “make do” with it even though it is a crutch you cannot bear and cannot afford to continue.

This description might sound like an overinflated, hysterical reaction to something “miniscule”, but that is exactly what this deception is! The idea is to make you believe that something is so far out of your control that you have no choice but to just accept it and be helpless. Is that true? Absolutely NOT!

Let us see what the Scriptures have to say about this deception. Let’s look at Psalm 10, titled A Song of Confidence in God’s Triumph over Evil

2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor...

“Wicked” here refers to anyone who seeks to do evil, but also refers to the wicked one. “Poor” here refers to lack of finances, spirit, hope, joy, needs not met, etc.

8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.

9 He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; He lies in wait to catch the poor; He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.

10 So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength.

Verse 9 is similar to the concept I stated about the bear trap. “To catch” refers to the lie you might want to believe. “Fall” in verse 10 basically means to be caught in the trap, or the net as shown in verse 9.

The wicked one thinks what verse 11 says, “*God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see.*” The idea here is that the wicked thinks that with the victims in their traps, they will assume God has ignored them because they got trapped or that God won’t help them at all.

But, here is where we find the hope. Verse 14 says, “*But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless.*”

The “fatherless” here does not necessarily mean that a person has no human father, but that the person has no spiritual guidance of

WORD FOR LIFE

Godly things, or literally not to have the Father.

So in verses 17 and 18, we see,

17 Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear,

18 To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

The hope of change here requires an action. That is, to become humble before God (17 & James 4:10) and to commit yourself to God (14). Then, God will do justice (18), to be the Helper (14), and to help you get out of the trap and set your feet on solid ground, on the rock (Psalm 40:2).

Psalm 10

A Song of Confidence in God's Triumph over Evil

1 Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?

2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord.

4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

5 His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; As for all his enemies, he sneers at them.

6 He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity."

7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity.

8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.

9 He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den;

He lies in wait to catch the poor; He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.

10 So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength.

11 He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see."

12 Arise, O Lord! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble.

13 Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account."

14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You;

You are the helper of the fatherless.

15 Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; Seek out his wickedness until You find none.

16 The Lord is King forever and ever; The nations have perished out of His land.

17 Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart;

You will cause Your ear to hear, 18 To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,

That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

Psalm 40:2

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

WORD FOR LIFE

Bonus Entry: Protection In A Wicked World

Life on earth has never been more dangerous than in the 2020s AD! I'm not talking about physical danger in as much as I am talking about spiritual danger. Far too often we neglect the spiritual aspects of our lives and just let the spiritual world shove us around while we helplessly let ourselves get spiritually slaughtered and even physically abused. We must recognize that what we don't see is actually more real than what we do see! The spiritual world is what we don't physically see but has a direct impact on our lives, and specifically the success in our lives. The danger we are facing is wickedness in places of authority, power, and control. We might physically see a human, but the spirits around, or even in, a person is what is controlling the actions and therefore controlling the outcome. The

excellent news we have, however, is that we have complete authority over those spirits to shut down their destructive, wicked activities! Luke 10:19 tells us that Jesus Himself gives us "*the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy*", where "*serpents and scorpions*" can be literal but mainly means demons. In doing so, "*nothing shall by any means hurt*" us!

More importantly, we must speak the Blood of Jesus over our lives every day as the Blood is our victory and our safety! In wicked times and during destructive activities, we must also stand upon Psalm 91 for our continual protection and peace. Every day read and confess Psalm 91 over your life, your family, and everything in your possession, authority, control, and influence!

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Psalm 91:1-16

Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God

91 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.

8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;

I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

I will deliver him and honor him.

16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

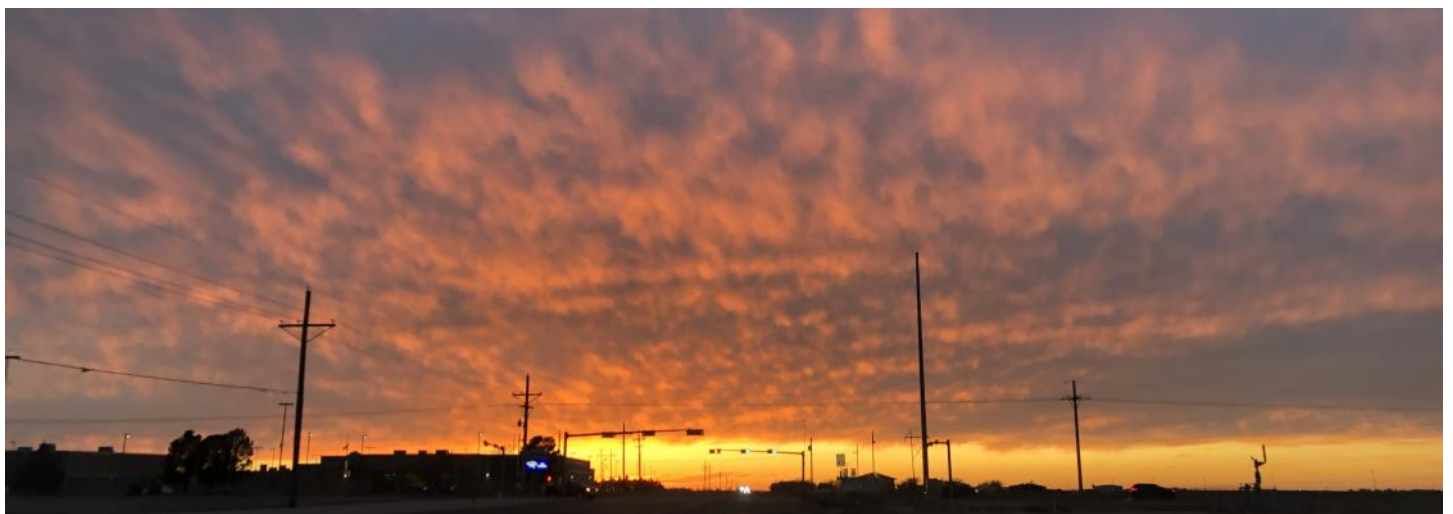
RANDOM THINGS



So, on Friday, May 3 around 9:40 PM in Lubbock, I looked up in the sky and saw this mysterious string of spaced out lights moving at the same time across the sky to the north. At first, I was wondering if it was some sort of secret governmental project that no one was supposed to see or if it was the mysterious and elusive “Lubbock Lights” I have heard about. But in fact, the truth is much simpler, but still rather interesting. These are the Starlink internet satellites! During the solar superstorm of the weekend of May 10, they reported that the internet service was severely degraded because of the solar flares.



A beautiful sunset on February 15, 2024.



A beautiful sunset on February 28, 2024.

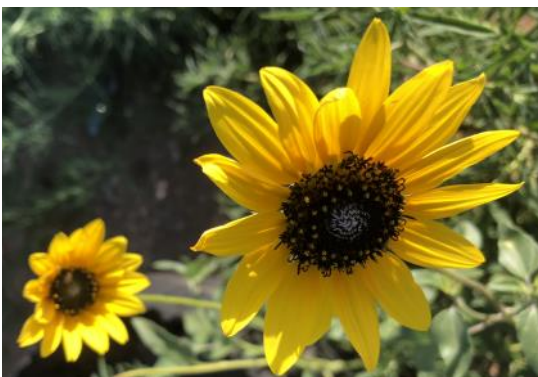
RANDOM THINGS



Thompson's Yucca (flowering)
yucca thompsoniana



Prickly pear rose (no clue on variety)



Wild Sunflowers, helianthus annuus



Two colors of Desert Willow.
chilopsis linearis



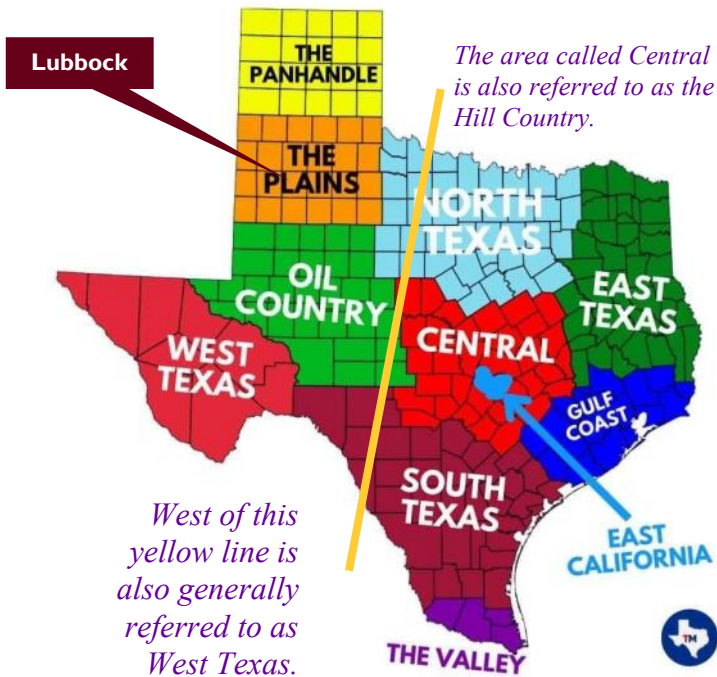
Cholla rose
cylindropuntia versicolor



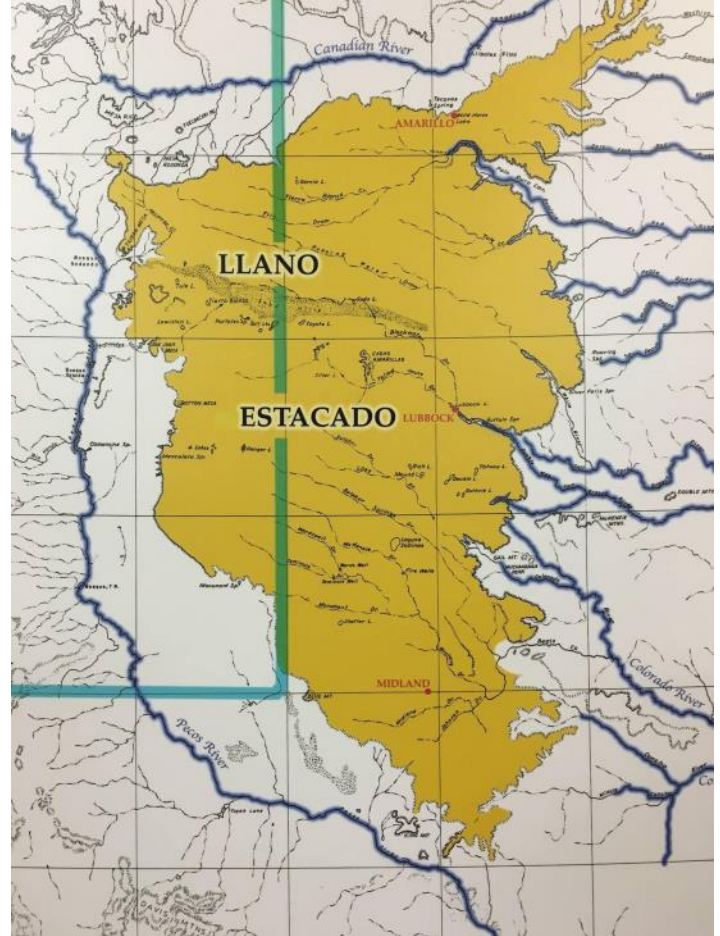
I was on an evening walk in my extended neighborhood in an area just built in the last two or three years and saw this sidewalk! Apparently, a dog didn't care where it walked nor a worker to smooth it back out!!

RANDOM THINGS

THE REGIONS OF TEXAS



Texas is a large state that has quite distinct regions of culture, features, and history. This map gives a pretty good breakdown of the general regions. Source: Texas Proud and Free Facebook page.



The western Texas panhandle and eastern New Mexico has a plateau called Llano Estacado, which is Spanish for “staked plain”, literally “plain is down”. This area is completely flat. Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland, and Odessa are the major cities.



In the early evening on Wednesday, May 1, a “wicked stawm” came through Lubbock from the southwest to the northeast. On my way going north, I saw this faint double rainbow.



Saw this lovely bunch of flowers called Gaillardia, gaillardia pulchellaor, also called Indian Blanket Flower.

RANDOM THINGS



The Texas Panhandle has natural features called playas. In Lubbock alone, you cannot go more than two miles in between playas. Many of them have been reshaped because of roads crossing right through the middle of them, while others are more of a dry bottom, while others are relatively untouched. In this photo from Google Maps, a person had a small playa on their property way south of Lubbock and reshaped it into a heart pond. But make no mistake this shaped playa is over 300 feet across!

I went to Long John Silver's recently because I had a hankering for hushpuppies. While waiting, I saw this fish on their wall and really liked the shape.



If anyone from Florida remembers Hurricane Andrew, the Miami Metro Zoo suffered quite a loss, especially of the bird habitat. Dad went through the hurricane living in southwest Miami.
Source: from Facebook, account unknown.

In 1992, to protect them from Hurricane Andrew, 30 flamingos were moved to the Miami Zoo's bathroom, resulting in an iconic photograph.



A HOO'S HOO OF COFFEE DRINKERS



For those hoo like coffee, this will make sense!
Source: Coffee Society Facebook page.

RANDOM THINGS

SEPT 1958

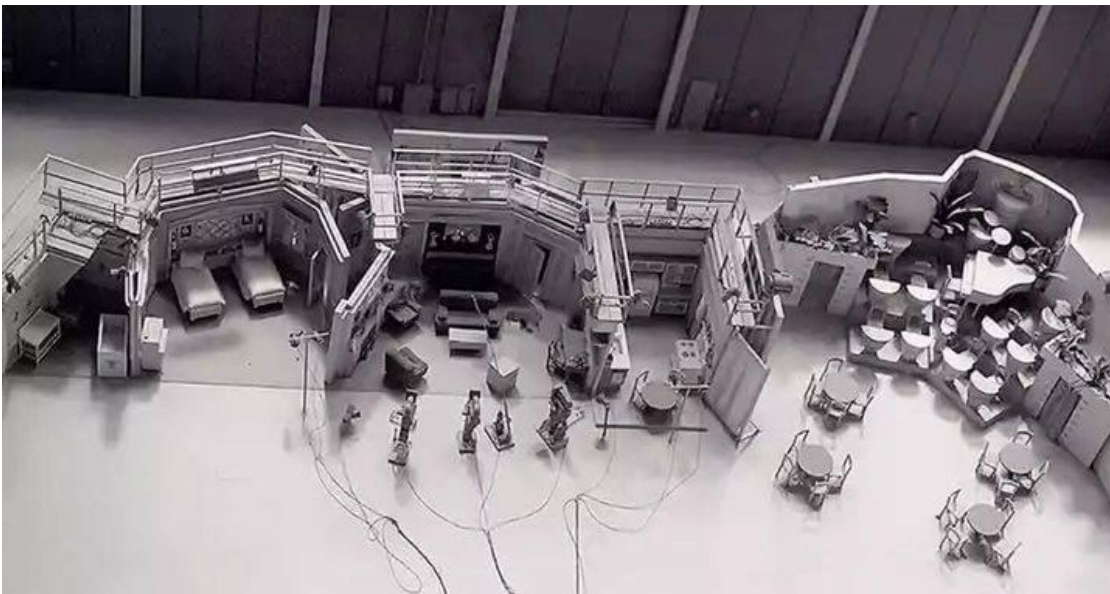


Tree



Okay, so this comment is a little obscure with multiple details. I lived in the house in Jacksonville from 1989 to 1996. When I would put clothes on the line to dry (yes, even in the early 1990s, we dried clothes outside in the sun, but mainly because we did not have a working dryer), there was a strange dip in the middle of the yard that would also fill up with water after a heavy rain. I had always suspected that maybe there was a tree

there that was long since removed. When going through old photos, I found the evidence that indeed there was a tree in the very spot where the dip was! The black and white photo on the left is from September 1958 and shows my grandmother, my mom's mother, washing the family dog named Sugar. The color photo on the right is another photo of Sugar taken just a few years later in February 1961.



This is an amazing photograph taken from up high in a sound stage of the various sets of the TV show I Love Lucy! The current setup appears to be for a living room scene. This photo was likely taken in the early 1950s as the apartment appears to be the first one. The show had at least three residences.

SOLAR ECLIPSE, APRIL 8, 2024

I went to work knowing that the eclipse was going to be sometime midday and around lunch time as it went over Texas from the southwest going northeast. Lubbock was far away from the line of totality to cause a full night effect, but our area was estimated to be around 85% coverage. A little before 1:00 PM, I got my camera set up with my tripod and a chair. The eclipse had already started and was maybe about a quarter covered. I assumed to take a photo about every ten to fifteen minutes. I had gotten some free

pairs of eclipse glasses from La Madeleine a few days earlier, and it turned out to be very useful for the camera. While I could see the eclipse with the glasses, the camera had trouble focusing and it just blurred white. So, I put the glasses over the lens, and the camera was able to focus on the sun enough to get okay photos. But it did keep trying to blur even then. I also tried putting the glasses over the camera on my phone and it also worked okay, but it too still had trouble focusing. It was obvious that without the tripod,

the camera would not be able to focus at all. The skies were a little hazy with high clouds in our area even though it was clear when I left the house in the morning. Between 1:00 and 2:00 PM, the light level outside was obviously much dimmer, but it would not get black dark in Lubbock like those areas further south and east. I had to keep shifting the angle of camera as the earth was also rotating. The temps did get quite a bit cooler, which is exactly what I remembered experiencing with the eclipse in 2017 when I

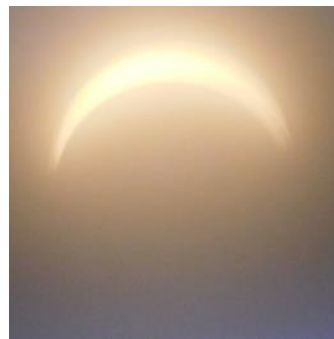
was in Leadville that summer. In the short time I remembered to measure the temps, it had dropped at least 6°. It did feel cooler, which was accentuated by a slight breeze. The whole eclipse took somewhere around two to 2½ hours although I did not watch it that whole time. The overall effect of the eclipse went from full sun to a sliver along the top of the sun and back to a full sun. The moon did not look like I went in a straight line, but rather more in a gentle arc over the sun.



12:51 PM CT



12:59 PM CT



1:16 PM CT



1:26 PM CT



1:33 PM CT



1:45 PM CT

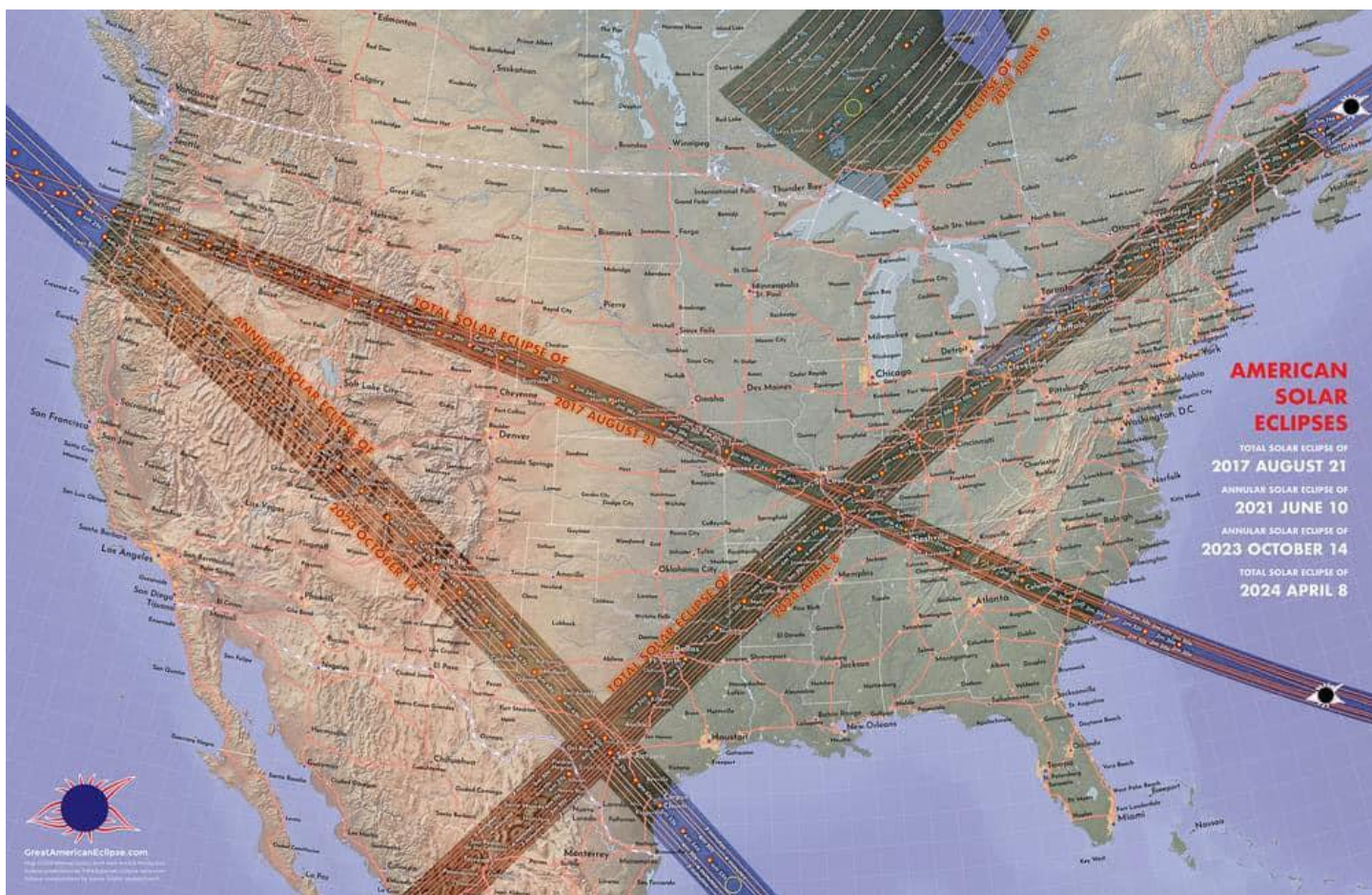


1:56 PM CT



2:03 PM CT

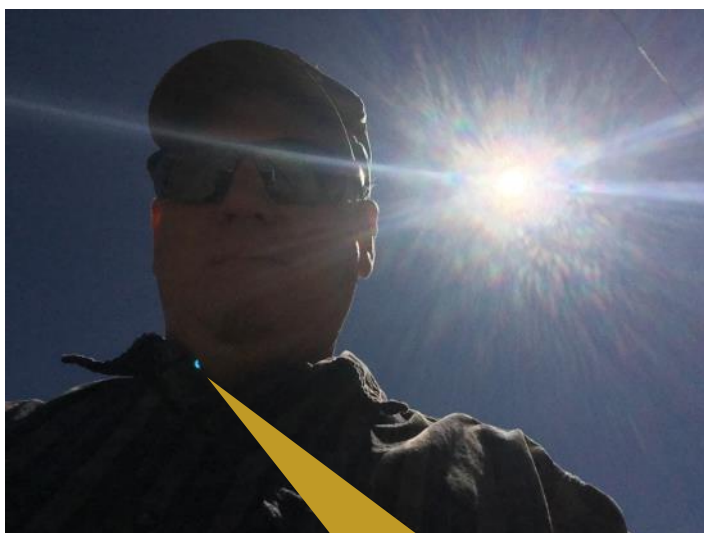
SOLAR ECLIPSE, APRIL 8, 2024



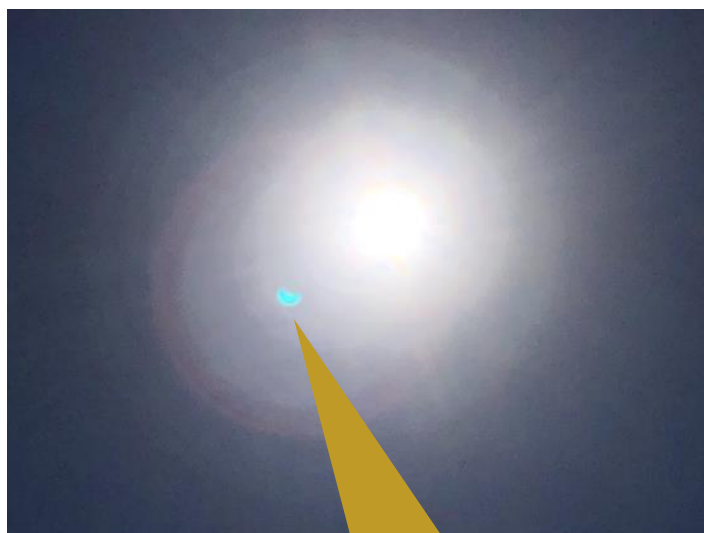
This map shows the three solar eclipses and their routes: August 21, 2017; October 14, 2023; April 8, 2024.

Eclipse on August 21, 2017. Leadville, Colorado.

Eclipse on October 14, 2023. Lubbock, Texas.



Eclipsed sun ghosting



Eclipsed sun ghosting

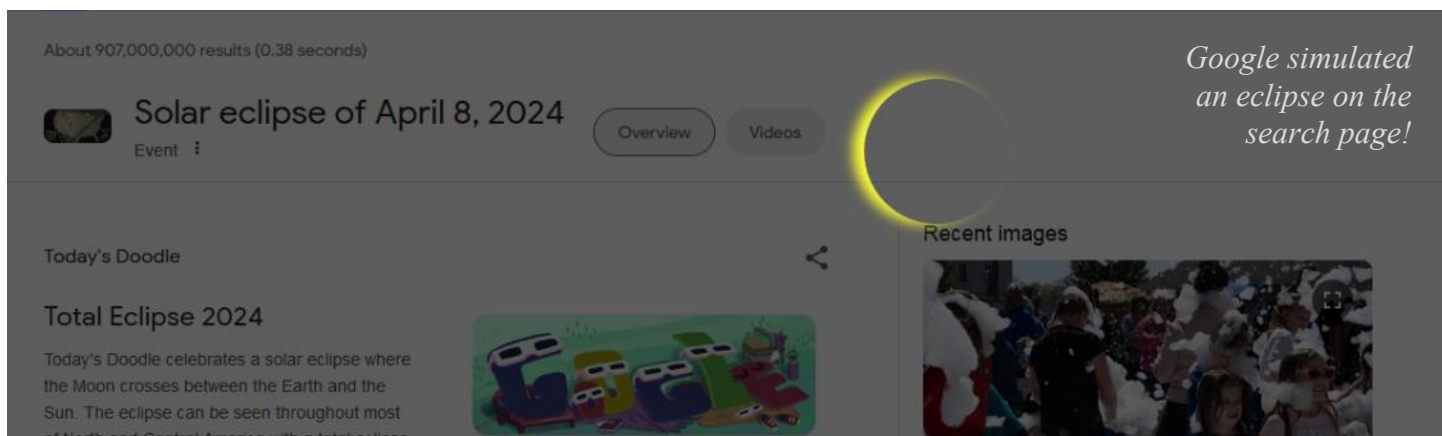
SOLAR ECLIPSE, APRIL 8, 2024



My setup to get photos of the eclipse.



My camera getting the eclipse with eclipse glasses.



Arora Borealis / Northern Lights Superstorm, May 10, 2024

While I was able to get decent photos of the eclipse, I cannot say the same for the superstorm of the aurora borealis! In fact, in short, I was not able to see it at all! First, I did not even know about it until the afternoon of Friday, May 10 that it was happening that night after I saw some posts about it on Facebook! The forecast showed to be cloudy Friday with rain Saturday and Sunday. The posts were stating that the northern lights would be visible much further south

than normal because of some solar flares. (At least that is the best I was able to understand what was happening.) In any case, I thought cool, I'd be able to see something that normally would only be visible many states further north and Canada.

In short, I saw nothing Friday night! No movement of color or anything else, just a dark cloudy evening. I did not know how long it would last and hoped that maybe I would be able to

see it Saturday night or Sunday night, but in all cases, I checked several times over the hours each night and saw absolutely nothing to the north and northwest skies! I figured I either missed it or that it was just was not visible in my area. On Monday, the day was completely clear, and the night was completely clear. The evening was much darker than the other nights, but darkness was all I saw. Again, nothing, no hint of

color not even a glow, just nothing.

I looked at many photos people posted on Facebook, and there were many great photos around Texas, in other states, and in other countries. Some of them were spectacular showing a pink glow with the blue and green shimmering! It was crazy to see photos from places like Tampa, Phoenix, SoCal, and Dallas where you would never see such a thing.

VISIT TO THE TESLA DEALER

Back in mid September last year (and yes, it has taken me this long to include this in the journal!), I decided to stop at the local Tesla dealership. Lubbock has a Tesla dealership located on 82nd Street in an old auto dealer lot that closed years ago. Ever since the Tesla store opened, I have wanted to stop there just to get more info about their cars. I never had any plans of ever owning one, I just wanted to know how they work as compared to regular cars. On Wednesday, September 13, I finally stopped when a salesman was there. (I stopped on Monday, but no one was there.) The lot is large, but they had very few cars outside, maybe eight to a dozen. I did not count them. The inside was obviously remodeled from how the previous dealership had it, and they had several models on the floor and a desk in the back. It looked rather sparse inside, but perhaps that is their way of doing things. Apparently, Tesla has four types of vehicles and various options within each type. One is a sports car, two were SUV types, and a model more like a



Lubbock Tesla Dealership

regular car. I had to wait a few minutes before someone noticed that I was even there. A guy came to the desk and asked if I needed any help. He was professional and courteous, but not exactly overly friendly and seemed a little snobby or pretentious. He could probably tell that I was not going to be someone in the “economic range” to buy a Tesla, but he did answer my questions without being too snobby about it. I asked a whole bunch of random questions I have wanted to know about how an electric car works, even if it seemed obvious what the answer was.

My first question was how did the car run without an engine! He said basically that it has batteries, and the various gears were run by the battery power to make the wheels turn. Now, I am not particularly mechanically minded about vehicles, but apparently the many parts in a combustion vehicle are simply not needed for a battery powered vehicle. The batteries obviously also power things like the air conditioning/heat, radio, dash screen, etc. He popped open the hood to show me that about half of what is normally under the hood becomes open and is used for storage like a trunk. The

other half closest to the inside contained mechanicals for said electric powered items. The inside of the vehicle was streamlined and clean as there really was not much inside except for the steering wheel and a large computer screen. There was a long groove where the air came out of instead of regular air vents. The seats, and the inside in general, were an all white luxurious leather.

I asked him about charging the vehicle, and he said that when the battery is at say 10%, the charge time is about 30 minutes until full, and so that is why Tesla charging stations have popped up all over

VISIT TO THE TESLA DEALER

the country. How the charging works is to go to a real Tesla charging station and plug in to the car. An app on phone recognizes who you are and the vehicle you are in apparently through the VIN number of the vehicle and the charges for the charging time is made to the stored credit card in the account.

It takes about 30 minutes to go from nearly empty to a full charge, with one full charge going about 300 miles. That's not too bad and generally means that you can go several hours in between charges. But obviously, for a trip, you would have to route it to where you can stop where Tesla charging stations are. I would have no doubt if the app or the car's screen would alert you to where the stations are. In fact, you cannot even open the car without having your phone on you! The car somehow automatically recognizes the app on your phone, and I think will unlock the doors for you. So likewise, there are no keys to the vehicle. (That would suck for you if you forgot your phone or

could not find it!) It is also by this same means to be able to drive the car. I guess in some ways, that is a good anti-theft feature!

I asked him about charging at home since most houses do not have the high capacity electrical output outlets. If a house does, it will charge faster. But a regular outlet will work too, but he said it would take about 24 hours to fully charge! There are adapters to be able to plug into a dryer outlet, which is a higher amperage and would of course take less time to fully charge. (This could work for those who have laundry in the garage.) I don't know how long a charge like that would take, though, as compared to a normal house plug, but I imagine that it would be faster than a regular plug.

He did mention that there is a new Tesla truck of some sort coming out in about a month. (At the point of that visit, it would have been perhaps mid to late October 2023.) He also said that there is a sports car type vehicle, which is what they originally started with but stopped

production for a while. But it is back in production with an updated version. I did not get in a vehicle, and I did not plan to test drive one, even though I could have scheduled one.

It was interesting to go to the place and just kind of get an idea of what they had. I did ask him about some wireless charging option that can be installed underneath the vehicle that I remember watching on one episode of This Old House, but he knew nothing about that technology I guess since it was not a Tesla specific feature. Also, I do not know if I explained it quite right either. The Tesla vehicle can be charged by other means, but it would not

run through the app and paying for it would be by other means. I have taken photos of various types of charging stations, including Tesla stations, over the years.

I have no plans to ever buy a Tesla nor even to consider buying one. I doubt that they are even in a price range I would consider! In all fairness, though, these really are luxury vehicles with luxury interiors and nice streamlined exteriors. However, the exteriors do look very similar to many car shapes already on the road. I'm sure there are various other questions about the vehicles I could have asked and details that he told me that I am forgetting, but I wanted to get a better idea about them just out of pure interest.



Saw this in Brentwood, Tennessee on May 28, 2022.

EV CHARGING STATIONS

Over the last seven years, I decided to take photos of the various charging stations where I saw them in the various places where I went. Here is a collection of them. Many are Tesla specific charging stations, while the others are more general charging stations.



4.20.2017, Jacksonville, Florida.



4.2.2021, Pueblo, Colorado.



4.23.2022, Shamrock, Texas.



9.23.2018, Lubbock, Texas.



1.13.2022, Lubbock, Texas. "error message"!

EV CHARGING STATIONS



5.10.2022, Leadville, Colorado.



5.10.2022, Buena Vista, Colorado.



5.10.2022, Woodland Park, Colorado.



5.24.2022, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.



6.2.2022, Lamar, Colorado.



4.28.2023, Parachute, Colorado.



9.2.2023, Fairbanks (Houston), Texas.

TEXAS PANHANDLE FIRES

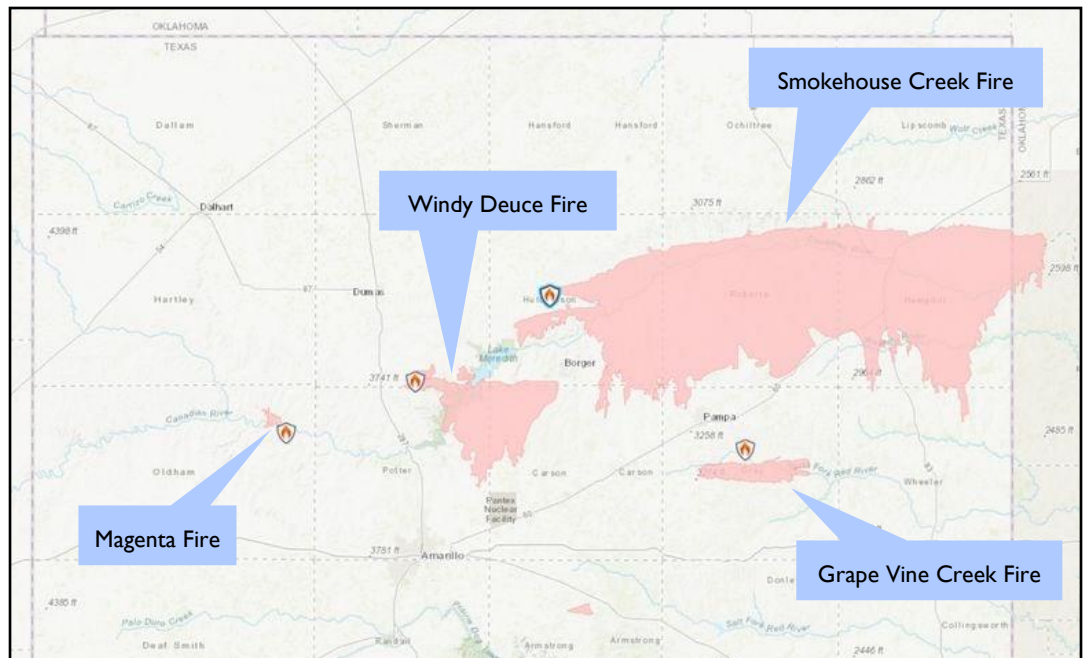
Back in late February and early March just before I was going to leave to Colorado Springs, the Texas Panhandle got hit suddenly with several fires. One fire, the Smokehouse Creek Fire, resulted in extreme destruction to most of two counties and had spread into neighboring counties and even slightly into Oklahoma. The Magenta Fire, a relatively tiny fire compared to the others, was the burn scar I drove past that I mentioned in the last issue when I drove on US 385 past the Boys Ranch/Tascosa area. The fire was literally across the street to the west from the Boys Ranch! Winds were gusty, but had changed directions. When the wind was coming from the north, I could smell the fires in Lubbock! Later, snow and some rain helped to control the out of control fires.

Smokehouse Creek Fire
Burned over 1.078 million acres

Windy Deuce Fire
Burned 142k acres

Grape Vine Creek Fire
Burned 30k acres

Magenta Fire
Burned 3.3k acres



*Four fires in the upper Texas Panhandle as of mid morning of March 1, 2024.
Map from the Texas A&M Forest Service via The Texas Tribune.*



This is a screenshot from a video produced by the Texas A&M Forest Service via The Texas Tribune. I am not certain as to which fire this represents, but it clearly shows the apocalyptic scene that the residents faced!

TURKEY TRACK RANCH

Turkey Track Ranch And The Historic, Devastating Winter Fire of 2024

As previously described, the Texas Panhandle fires of late February and early March proved devastating for two particular counties, Roberts and Hemphill, in that more than three quarters of each county was burned. This area of Texas has small towns, but most of the lands are used for ranching or farming. One particular historic ranch in the area is the Turkey Track Ranch. Here is a excerpt condensed from the Handbook of Texas by the Texas State Historical Association. The entry is "Turkey Track Ranch" written by H. Allen Anderson in 1995 and updated in 2019.

The Turkey Track Ranch began in 1878 when Richard E. McNalty arrived to the Texas Panhandle from Colorado with a herd of cattle bearing a brand that he called Turkey Track. The brand was also often called Rafter I. He chose a rolling expanse of free grass on Moore Creek for his new range in what is now Hutchinson County. He had 6500 head of cattle and 55

horses on 7000 acres of pasture by 1879.

In 1881 before moving back to Colorado, McNalty sold this ranch to Charles W. Word of Wichita County, Texas and Jack Snider of Snider Brothers in Kansas City. Word and Snider built up their herd, and in 1882, they helped other Panhandle ranchers construct a 200 mile drift fence to save their grass from the cattle drifting southward and to control the spread of tick fever.

In January of 1883, they sold the Turkey Track to a new Scottish syndicate, the Hansford Land and Cattle Company whose founder, Scottish born James M. Coburn, began combining several northern Panhandle herds buying out Thomas S. Bugbee's Quarter Circle T for \$350,000 and William E. Anderson's Scissors Ranch near the Adobe Walls. With this expansion, the Hansford company adopted the Turkey Track brand for all of its cattle. After several arrangements of employees, Coburn obtained the services of

Caleb B. "Cape" Willingham, former Oldham county sheriff, for General Manager of the ranch who quickly won the respect and loyalty of the cowhands and caused the outfit to prosper for twenty years. By 1890, the Hansford Company owned 85,000 acres of land and leased an additional 350,000, with an average cattle count of 30,000 head. Among the ranch's prominent employees were Tom Coffee, former range boss of the Quarter Circle T, and his six nephews. Woodson Coffee later succeeded Willingham as manager. Another noted resident of the Turkey Track was William "Billy" Dixon, who became postmaster when the Adobe Walls post office was established in 1887.

In 1893, Willingham purchased a tract on the Pecos River near Roswell, New Mexico, formerly a part of John S. Chisum's range, and commuted back and forth. This arrangement became too difficult to maintain, and Coburn sold off a large part of the Panhandle herd sending the remainder

to the Pecos range. Also, this Panhandle land was sold to Mart Cunningham, a longtime Turkey Track employee, who paid \$5000 for the headquarters and buying 7280 acres at \$3.00 an acre, along with 500 high grade Hereford cattle. By 1903, both Cunningham and Dixon sold out to the partnership of Price, Patton, and Hyde with Price later buying out his partners to become the sole owner.

Then by 1916, the ranch had become the property of William Thomas Coble, a rancher who had settled on Moore Creek in 1899 and expanded his herd. The Turkey Track brand, which Coburn and Willingham had taken to New Mexico, was closed out by 1916, along with the Hansford Company. Coble adopted the Turkey Track brand for his cattle and over several years continued buying several small ranches and farms, accumulating a sizable spread of thirty two pastures and hay meadows, totaling 100,000 acres including the same land that

TURKEY TRACK RANCH

McNalty started the Turkey Track in 1878.

The Adobe Walls post office remained in operation until 1921. By the mid 1980s, the Turkey Track Ranch was owned and operated by the descendants of Catherine (Coble) Whittenburg, W. T. Coble's only surviving child.

Since the writing of the history of the Turkey Track Ranch for the Handbook of Texas, recent developments have happened. In 2021, the Coble & Whittenburg Families stated, "It is with careful consideration and great emotion that we announce that, after 120 years of stewardship by our family, we have decided to sell our historic Turkey Track Ranch in the Texas Panhandle." According

to Bernard "Bernie" Uechtritz, the founder and realtor of Icon Global Group, "Jay O'Brien and Dale Smith, are the well recognized and respected cattlemen who own and operate the Adobe Walls Cattle Co. They have run their cattle on the Turkey Track for several years, managing and caring for the ranch, its fences, pasture viability and overall stewarding of this side of the operation."

With the recent fires, the Turkey Track Ranch was 80% burned according to the Coble & Whittenburg owners. "The loss of livestock, crops, and wildlife, as well as ranch fencing and other infrastructure throughout our property as well as other ranches and homes across the region is, we believe,

unparalleled in our history." They also stated that they were thankful to the firefighters battling the fires and helping to save the ranch's homestead and several other homes and buildings on the property. Despite the fires, the owners

remained hopeful, "The Turkey Track ranch will recover and regenerate growth, habitat, ecosystems, and wildlife. Nature mends after fire and will grow again all the natural grasses, vegetation, and tree cover in our beloved ranch oasis."

Adobe Walls

This information about Adobe Walls is from The Handbook of Texas and written by H. Allen Anderson in 1952 with an update made in 2020.

Adobe Walls was the name given for several trading posts, then later a ranching community, located seventeen miles northeast of Stinnett and just north of the Canadian River in what is now northeastern Hutchinson County. The first trading post in the area was probably established in early 1843 by representatives of the trading firm of Bent, St. Vrain, and Company (of Bent's Fort in Colorado), which hoped to trade with the Comanches and Kiowas. Company traders worked originally from tepees and later from log structures. While no real fort structure was likely built on the site before 1846, sometime after September 1845, William Bent and Ceran St. Vrain arrived with Mexican adobe makers to replace the

log structure with Fort Adobe. This building was eighty feet square with nine-foot walls and just one door. Occupation of Fort Adobe was sporadic, and by 1848, Indian hostility resulted in closing the fort. In spring 1849, Bent made a last concerted effort to revive the post. But after more Indian attacks, he ultimately blew up the fort's interior with gunpowder and abandoned the Panhandle trade. The adobe ruins thus became a familiar landmark to both Indians and Comancheros and to any White man who dared to venture into the heart of Comancheria. (This was portrayed in the film *Lonesome Dove*.) Much later, the area would become part of the Turkey Track Ranch. Today, Adobe Walls is on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a Texas state archeological landmark managed by the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum of Amarillo.



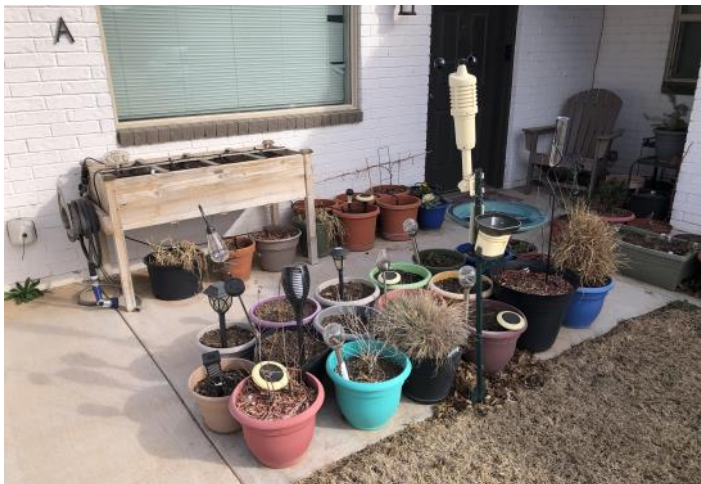
The modern Turkey Track brand, also called Rafter I.

GARDEN UPDATE

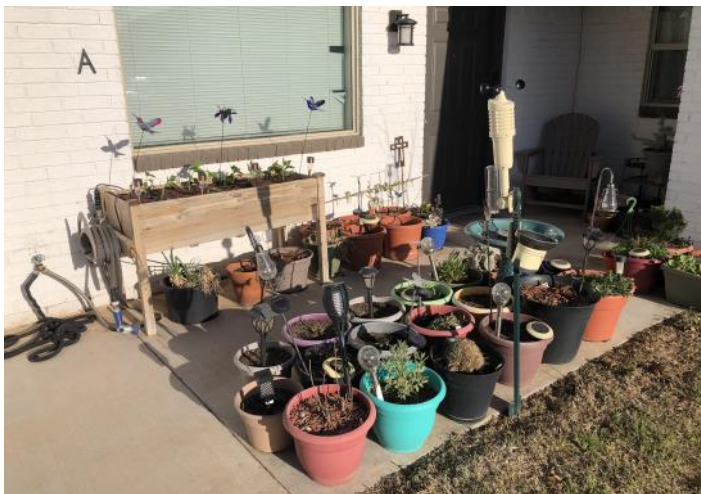
February 10, 2024



February 25, 2024

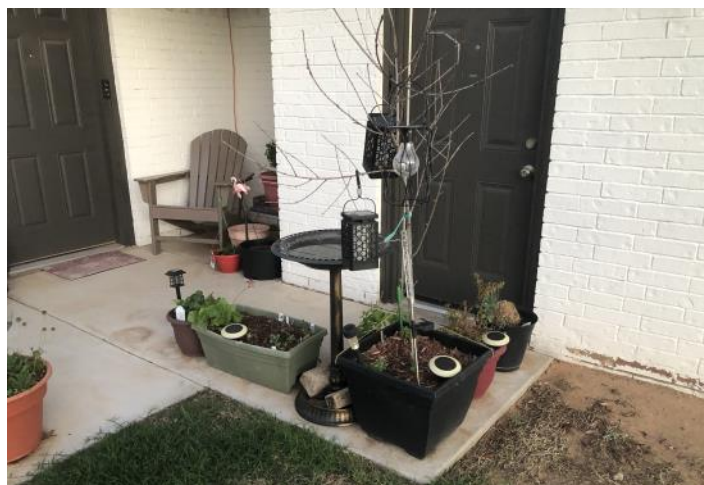
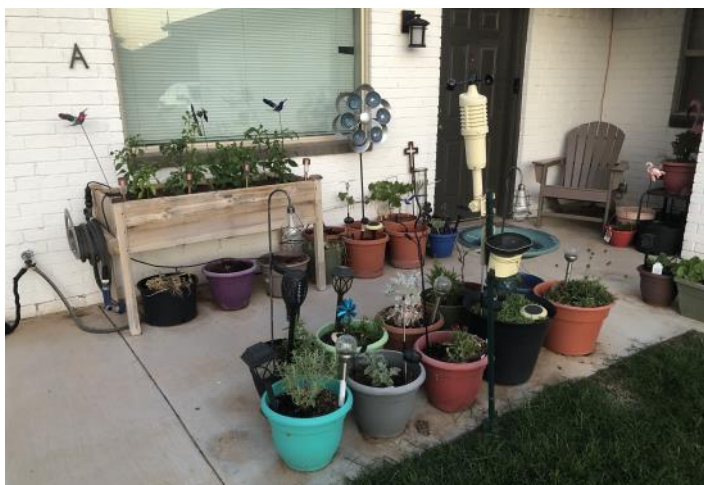


April 7, 2024



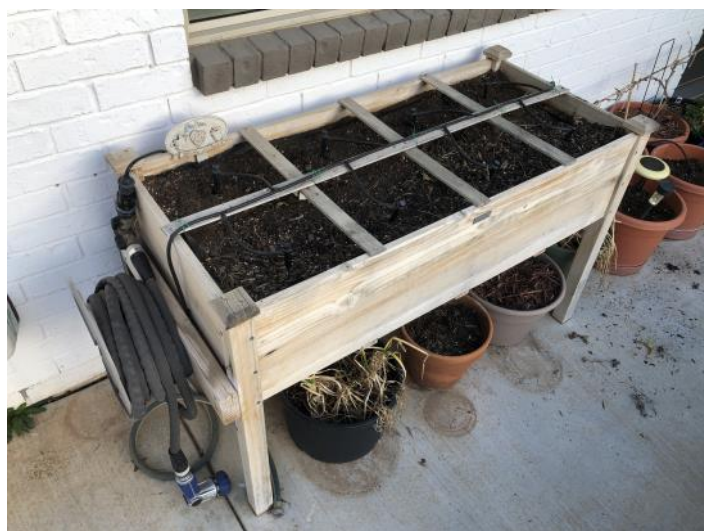
GARDEN UPDATE

May 24, 2024

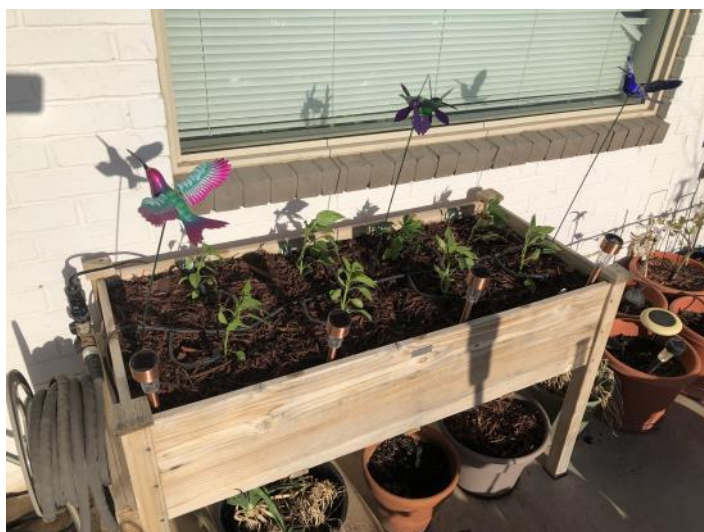


Vegetable Trough

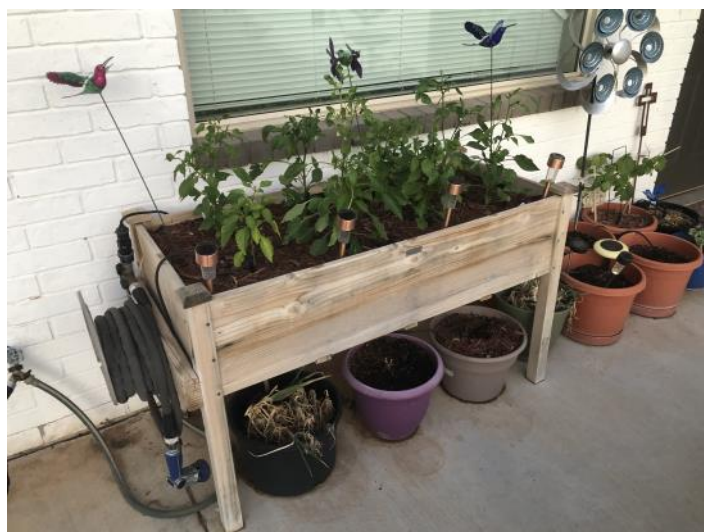
This year, I decided that I would plant one type of vegetable instead of a whole bunch of stuff in the vegetable trough. I went to Lowe's one day in early April, and they had a large variety of pepper plants as they usually do. I decided on seven varieties of sweet peppers. I bought eight plants, two of one variety. I usually plant peppers in the deep orange pots, but I knew that the peppers could stand the direct sun better even in the more shallow vegetable trough. I will eventually plant other types of vegetable in the orange pots.



Over winter 2023-2024 (February 25, 2024)



April 7, 2024



May 24, 2024

GARDEN UPDATE

Texas Sage Hedge

So when I moved into the duplex, there were some plants in front of the brick wall that were existing, even before the current owners bought the place. The deep freeze of 2021 inevitably killed off the plants, and they were also trampled upon when repairing and lowering the brick wall. (It was higher, but the new owner cut it down a few rows of bricks.) The owner did not think any of it would grow back, but it

had already started growing back when I moved in. So now every year, I will cut it back in the spring to cut away the overgrowth and let new growth take its place. There are three plants of Texas Sage alternated with three plants of Gregg Salvia/Autumn Sage. Both seem to grow and flourish with no watering other than whatever rain there is. I am guessing that these plants have been there for many years!



Over wintered growth from 2023.



By April 7, the Gregg Salvia was filled in and the Texas Sage was not too far behind.



On February 25, I cut away the entire growth from 2023 and pruned it back even further to make it more bushy instead of tree like. I also put out fresh solar lights to light the sidewalk.



This photo is from May 24, 2024. You can see that the plants did not take long to grow back full and dense, even to spill over the sidewalks!

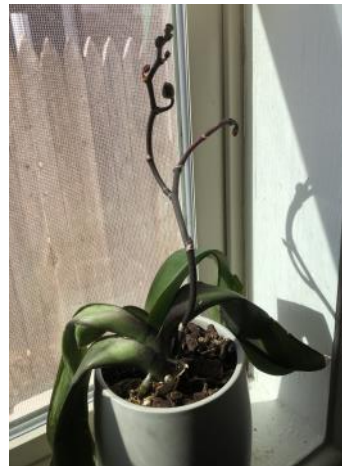
GARDEN UPDATE

Tough Orchids

So, Dad had some old orchids in a planter in the kitchen window. Every so often, he would buy new ones to replace the ones that had died for some reason. Anyway, after Dad died, the orchids, and indeed all of the houseplants were not watered for about two months. When I was in the Springs in December, I brought home most of the houseplants, as many as I could fit in the car anyway. However, I stayed the night in Raton on the way back and the night ended up being in the mid 20s. That means the car and the plants in the car also got into the 20s! Most of the plants suffered cold damage along with the fact that they had not been watered in at least two months! Well, there were three orchid plants that seemed like they were still alive. So, I eventually took them out of the large planter and planted them into individual pots and of course watered them. They eventually stabilized and seemed like they were doing okay. Now, in short time, two of the three orchids put off a stalk that formed flower buds. The first orchid produced five white flowers and the other orchid started to have several buds, but only ended up with one flower of white and purple. The third orchid never put forth a flower stalk as of yet, but it is stable and growing.



The five flowers of the white orchid opened sequentially over several days



While several buds formed on the second orchid, there only ended up being one flower.



This extremely zoomed in photo was the only photo I could find of the orchids in situ in the kitchen window before I took them home. Dad had several of them, dead and alive, in the long narrow planter.

The third orchid stabilized and was growing fine. No flower stalks as of yet, and so no clue as to what color the flowers will be.



PHOTO COMPARISONS

A trend over the last couple of decades is to recreate an old photo or to compare photos of the same place distant apart. Here are a couple of ones that I have.

Painted Desert, Arizona



July 1994.

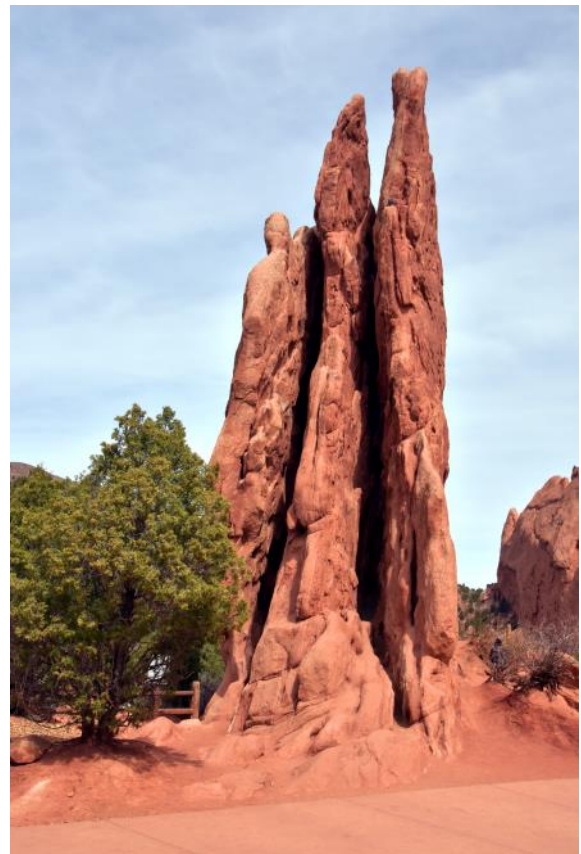


April 2017. (Different area, but same desert.)

Three Sisters, Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, Colorado



Historic photo, April 2, 1924. (Have to like those cars!)



April 2017. Photo by Dad.

HISTORICAL ADS

Peerless

SILENCE COMFORT

Model 31 Four-Cylinder Thirty Horse-power Close Coupled Car

Whatever is luxurious and esthetic in motor car construction, whether in mechanical arrangements, smoothness of operation, or beauty of design, reaches its highest expression in the Peerless

The Peerless Motor Car Company
East 93d Street, 2 Blocks South of Euclid Ave.

The Peerless Motor Car Company. Model 31. The Cleveland Blue Book, 1911.

ARE YOU GOING TO

EUROPE

CRUISES AND TOURS
AROUND THE WORLD

ALL LINES REPRESENTED AT

COLLVER'S

OCEAN STEAMSHIP AGENCY
7 Taylor Arcade

D. Jay Collver
Casper J. Miller

PHONES
Main 910 Cent. 8624-W

Collver's Ocean Steamship Agency. 1911. The Cleveland Blue Book, 1911.

BICYCLES

All leading makes. New Rapid, Humber Club, New Mail, etc. The best Safety made only \$120. Boys' Ideal Bicycles and Safeties sold on easy payments. Repairing and renting a specialty.

G. E. HANNAN

1427 Sixteenth Street.

Rocky Mountain News. August 26, 1888. Page 5.

GAS AND ELECTRIC FIXTURES

Sole Agents for the Mitchell & Vance Co., New York.

Combination Fixtures
—FOR—
Gas and Electric Light
New Designs Arriving Daily

Electric Window Brackets
—AND—
REFLECTORS.
New Designs Arriving Daily

TELEPHONE 470. ★

1625 and 1627 Curtis St.

Sanitary Plumbing, Hot Water and Steam Heating

THE HUGHES & KEITH SANITARY SUPPLY CO.

1625 and 1627 Curtis Street.

Rocky Mountain News. August 26, 1888. Page 18.

HISTORICAL ADS

GATHER WISDOM!

By reading what we offer each week you are sure to keep posted as to what is really desirable in Groceries. But don't wait too long before coming for the good things, such as our:

10 bars Swifts Pride Soap 25c
 Carnation Cream, can 10c
 2lb can Seal Brand Tomatoes, 10c

1 lb loose Cocoanut 25c
 1 lb W. H. Baker's Chocolate 35c
 3 cans Columbine Pork and Beans 25c

MEATS

You can buy from others but you will not get the Best Corn Fed Meats at the prices we offer you. We handle only the Best Quality and you also get quantity.

Round Steak, lb - 12 1/2
 Sirloin Steak, lb - 17 1/2
 Sauer Kraut, 4 lbs 25c

Shoulder Steak 10c
 Shoulder Roast, lb 10c
 Shoulder Pot Roast, lb 8 to 10c
 Flank Boil, 7 lbs 25c
 5 lbs Rib Boiling 25c
 Shoulder Veal Roast, lb 12 1/2c
 Veal Rib Roast, lb 15c
 Veal Stew, per lb 10c

Veal Chop off Loin, lb ... 17 1/2c
 Veal Cutlets off Leg, lb ... 20c
 Whole Fore Quarters of
 Lamb, lb 12 1/2c
 Lamb Stew, lb 5c
 Lamb Chop off Shoulder, lb 15c
 Lamb Chop off Loin, lb 20c
 Leg of Spring Lamb, lb 20c

Ham ends, lb 10c
 Spare Ribs, lb 10c
 Pig Pork Sausage, link or
 loose, lb 12 1/2c
 Bologna, lb 10c
 Wienerwurst, lb 12 1/2c
 Chipped Beef, lb 30c
 Boiled Ham, sliced, lb 30c

You get Cash Coupon Tickets on all Cash Orders. They are good for Chinaware, Havland and other makes

328 East
 Sixth Street

SHERIDAN & GREGORY

Telephone
 32-B.

The Herald Democrat. Tuesday, October 2, 1906. Page 8.

7 Bars SOAP, 25c

Denver Best, Water White, White Russian or Diamond C.---Per Box, \$3.60

POTATOES

10 pounds of the very best Red Me-
 Clares \$1.25

RANCH EGGS

Strictly Fresh per doz 20c
 Per case \$2.00

CANNED GOODS

Two-pound can Pork and Beans ... 10c
 Where can you duplicate this price?
 Viney Peas, 3 cans 25c
 Case \$2.00
 12 cans \$1.00

RHUBARB

6 pounds 25c
 12 bunches Green Onions 10c
 New Beets, bunch 5c
 New Turnips, bunch 5c
 Radishes 5c
 Lettuce, bunch 5c
 New Cabbage, pound 5c

CANNED FRUITS

1 gallon Blue Berries 6c
 1 gallon Peaches or Pears 6c
 1 gallon Apples, solid pack 6c
 24 pound can Grapes 5c
 24 pounds Plums 5c

HAMS, per lb 14c

PICKLES

Sour plain, quart 12 1/2c
 Sour Mixed, quart 15c
 Sweet plain, quart 15c
 Sweet Mixed, quart 15c
 Olives, bulk, quart 25c
 Bottled pickles, per bottle 10, 15, 20c

BUTTER

Keystone Creamery, pound 20c
 Blue Hill Creamery, pound 20c
 Cedar Springs Creamery, pound 20c
 Rose Creamery, pound 20c
 Daisy Butter, pound 25c

Liptons No. 1 Yellow Label Ceylon
 Tea, pound 6c
 You will pay everywhere more than
 this.

HOME BAKERY

Our Large Three-Layer Cakes, each 25c
 Four 10-cent Loaves Vienna, Cream or
 Home Made Bread 25c
 Two Loaves 25c

QUEEN COFFEE

The Celebrated M. and J., pound 35c
 We are the exclusive agents for this.
 Prunes, 2 pounds 35c

FREE

Coupons on all cash purchases. A
 very fine line of Hand Painted Japane-
 ese China just purchased will be in
 about May 1st.

328 East
 Sixth Street.

SHERIDAN & GREGORY

Telephone
 32-B.

The Herald Democrat. Thursday, April 19, 1906. Page 6.



The Cat's Out of the Bag

EVERYONE HAS CAUGHT ON TO THE FACT THAT WE SELL THE BEST COAL. GET IN THE PROCESSION BY JOINING THE LARGE ARMY FAVORING US WITH TRADE. WE ARE CONSTANTLY OFFERING OUR CUSTOMERS THE BEST IN VALUE.

CANON CITY COAL
 \$6.00 Per Ton

ANTHRACITE COAL
 \$9.50 per ton.

W. A. YOUNG
 Telephone 162,
 Leadville, - - - Colorado.

The Herald Democrat.
 Tuesday, October 2, 1906.
 Page 2.

HISTORICAL ADS

Fruit and Vegetables
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Concord Grapes, per basket...25c
 Fancy Plums, per basket...20c
 Fancy Apples, per box....\$1.25
 Fancy Apples 8 lbs for....25c
 Belflower Apples, per box..\$1.45
 Canteloupes, 8 for.....25c
 Canteloupes, per crate....\$1.25
 Yellow Egg Tomatoes, box.\$1.25
 Hubbard Squash, lb.....4c
 Small Pickles, "Gherkins"
 per 100.....30c
 Dill Pickles, 4 lbs for.....25c
 Pickling Onions, 3 lbs for...25c
 Pickling Onions, extra small
 per lb10c
 Sweet Potatoes, 5 for.....25c
 Sweet Corn, per doz.....25c

Our fruit and vegetables are the best and our prices the lowest.

The Colorado Fruit House
 112 E. 6th St.

The Herald Democrat. Tuesday, October 2, 1906. Page 2.



Leadville Undertaking Co.,
 206 HARRISON AVENUE,
 Undertakers, Embalming and Shipping a Specialty
 H. W. HALLERT, Manager

The Leadville Herald. Sunday, October 5, 1884. Page 2.

VALIEN & MANSON
 132 E. 6TH ST. **UNDERTAKERS** PHONE 231-B

YOU CAN EAT

With a relish when you can buy Groceries at these prices:

Bluing, dozen	25c	25 pounds Ralston Flour	70c
Werdner Soups, dozen	25c	12½ pounds Ralston "	35c
Pepsalt, bottle	5c	4 pounds Preserves	25c
5 pounds of Mince Meat	25c	Our high-grade Teas and Coffees at cost are a great bargain.	
Impt. Malt Vinegar, per quart bottle	15c	Best Potatoes, red or white	90c
Amole Tar Soap, 6 for	25c	Gilt Edge Creamery Butter, 10 lb	\$2.50
Fairbank's Tar Soap, 5 for	25c	Ranch Butter, 10 lb..	\$2.25
Mackerel, 10 for	25c		
Seven large Mackerel	50c		
Salt Salmon and Halibut, per pound	5c		

Two New Awnings for Sale

MONARCH GROCERY,
 609-611 Harrison Avenue. A. Van Camp, Administrator.

Interesting ad placement!

The Herald Democrat. Monday, May 7, 1900. Page 6.

The Herald Democrat. Thursday, April 19, 1906. Page 8.

ASK YOUR GROCER FOR

HOLLY FLOUR

MADE OF CHOICEST COLORADO WHEAT

HISTORICAL ADS



McKibbin is all
HAT.

You don't
pay extra for "name" or
"reputation". You pay
for HAT only. Pay "the
other fellow" another two
for the name if you WISH.
If you want to SAVE it buy

**McKibbin
Hats**

The Herald Democrat. Tuesday, October 2, 1906. Page 7.

John C. Howell
UNDERTAKER
Coroner's Office
108 E. Fifth St. Telephone C

The Herald Democrat. Tuesday, October 2, 1906. Page 2.



PROTIVA & TENNANT,
Boot and Shoe Makers
112 West Chestnut Street.

All Styles of Boots and Shoes Made to Order. Large Assortment
of our own work kept constantly on hand.
Repairing Promptly Done.

Leadville Daily Herald. Saturday, July 29, 1882. Page 2.

The Herald Democrat. Thursday, April 19, 1906. Page 8

FOR SALE

ORE WAGONS.
FOR SALE—Cheap' three ore wagons.
Inquire F. E. Brown.

GOOD RANCH.
FOR SALE.—160 acres, 4½ miles from
Rifle; Beaver creek flowing through the
ranch; also about 70 head of range cattle,
hay, machinery, etc. For further partic-
ulars address or call on W. T. Soule,
Rifle, Colo.

HORSE.
FOR SALE—Horse 1,000 lbs. Call 504
East Fourth street.

BROKEN HORSES.
FOR SALE—Carload of broken horses
at Opera House stables. Must be sold
quick.

COWS.
FOR SALE—Fresh cows. Dunn's ranch.
Inquire at Malta.

VIETNAM ENTERTAINMENT

Some of you know that Dad was a Sargent in the US Marine Corp. He also did two tours to Vietnam during his time between 1966 and 1970. The place where Dad went was rather quiet as compared to other locations. Dad had plenty of slides of his time there as I can attest from the many times that guests over to the house for dinner in the 70s and early 80s were sabotaged into watching long slide shows for the evening! These photos here were scanned from the slides by Dad and are a little contrasty. But in all fairness, scans from slides are a finicky process. Dad had a hand in establishing an outdoor movie theatre for movie nights. He did not build the place, that was the job for another branch! However, he did set up and run the movies. During the day, the theatre had a stage for other types of entertainment.



The stage with a curved screen.

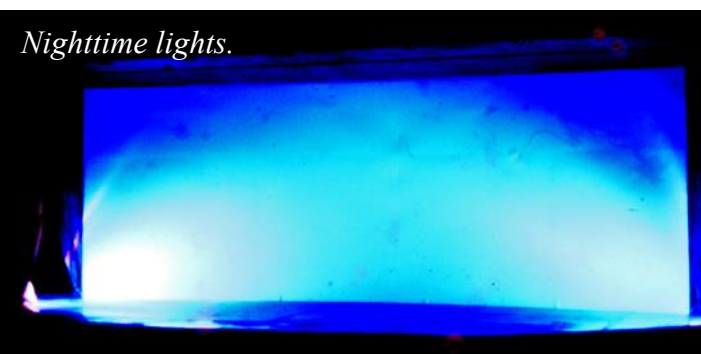


(Sand, not snow.)

A large gathering for daytime entertainment.



The projector booth set up for two projectors.



Nighttime lights.



Apparently, a small painting of Mom!

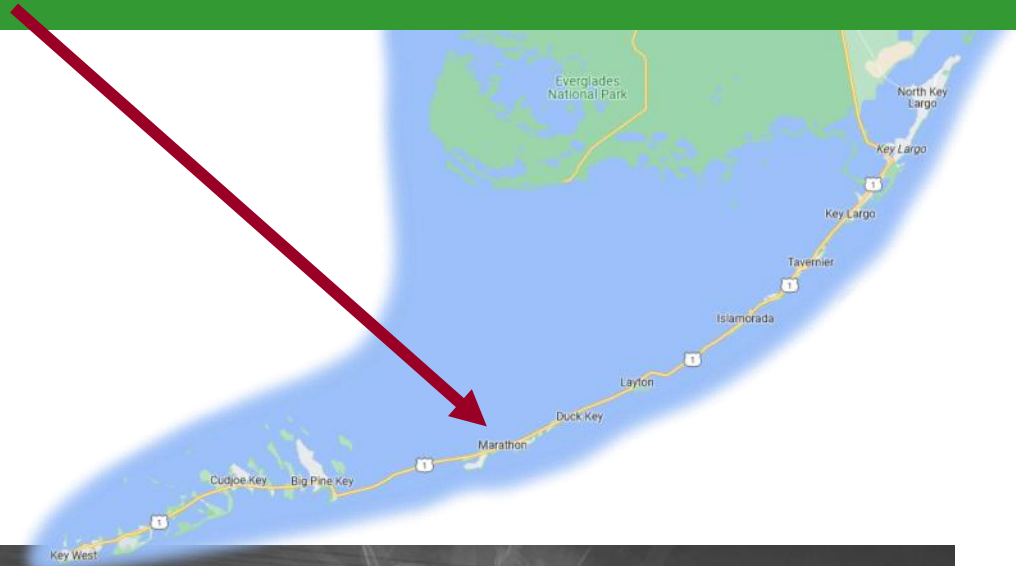
The projectors inside the booth with additional audio.

MARATHON KEY, FLORIDA KEYS

So here is a quick history of Dad's early years. Dad was born in Miami in 1942. In July 1945, the family moved to Marathon Key where they stayed until 1952. For about a year from 1952 to 1953, they lived in Kendall, which is still basically greater Miami. But then moved back to Marathon Key until about October 1955 when they moved to a small town in central Florida called Howie-In-The-Hills.

So, Dad's mother was a nurse, and Dad's father ran this place called the Coral Springs Variety Store, which also had a Firestone gas station, motel rooms, and a dock. Dad once told me that he was rather "forced" by his dad to be the gas boy, where at the time an attendant filled the gas, washed the windows, checked the tires, checked the oil, etc. The variety store was basically a gift shop where tourists could buy typical Florida touristy stuff.

In September 2016, Dad went back to Florida for an extended visit and went down to Marathon and Key West. The next page shows his photos of this place in 2016.



*Firestone gas station and Coral Springs Variety Store, February 1952.
On Flickr, #MM00021446. Florida Keys History Center.
Photo from archives of Edwin O. Swift III.*



Google Street View, 2023. Is now a turtle hospital.

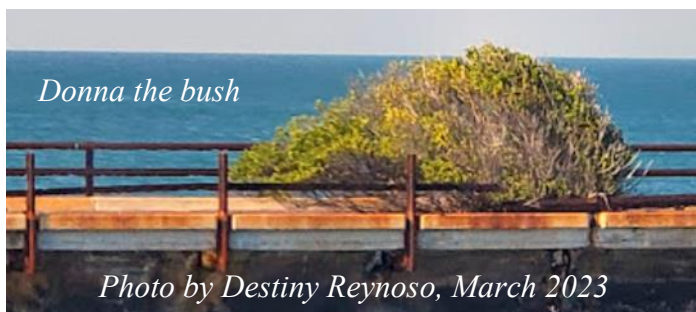
MARATHON KEY, FLORIDA KEYS



FINAL THOUGHT

On The Old Bridge

Going west from Marathon Key will take you onto the Seven Mile Bridge where basically, there are no islands to build the road on. The newer road is US 1/A1A and was built parallel just to the south of the original road. About three fourths of the way to the next island is a tree that is growing right out of the concrete of the old road (which has long closed to motorized traffic and is not actually in great shape). This tree is so well known that it has a name. Its name is Fred. Not far away slightly to the east is a smaller bush also growing in the concrete. Its name is Donna. By the way, “key” is just another name for “island”. “Cay” is also another word for island.



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

Publisher/Owner/Editor

Robert-George de Stolfe

Graphics/Layout*

Robert-George de Stolfe

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