

de Stolfe *Journal* ●●●●●●●●

Summer 2021 | 10.4



Contents

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

- 2** Contents & On The Cover
- 3** Comments by RG
- 4** Word for Life
- 5** 10 Years Old—Top Hand Graphics
- 6-9** Random Things
- 10** Introducing de Stolfe Journal Broadsheets!
- 11-17** Recent Travels
- 18** Talbot Tales
- 19-21** Building a Stable
- 22** Diary of a Lady of Gettysburg
- 23, 26** Time to make your brain hurt!
- 24-25, 19-21** Historical Newspapers
- 26** Gator Journal
- 26** Final Thought
- 26** Fine Print



Cool manhole cover in Fort Worth.

On The Cover



*On a somewhat impromptu run to Albuquerque,
we stopped at this old abandoned church in
Taiban, New Mexico.*



*The Herald Democrat.
April 3, 1891. Page 3.*

We live in the 21st century! Anywhere you see a web link like this, click it to go automatically to the webpage that it references! (Try it now!)

www.destolfe.com



Comments by RG

Summer Changes Bring Good Options!

In the last issue of the Journal (Late Spring 2021), I brought to you the emergency trip to Colorado and the eventual trip back home, which happened after we got back from the Florida trip (which was in the Early Spring 2021 issue). Okay, so what happened after that? I got back home to Snyder after being gone for those five weeks. At that point, I had no firm plans as to what I would do next. I did know that I wanted to move since Snyder no longer worked out as a viable option for a reasonable place to live. I was researching many different places where I could move originally with the intent of buying a house or even better to build a house. However, after working out the costs of what money I had available and the ever increasing prices of available houses, it was crystal clear that buying or building a house was no longer an option and I scrapped the idea. Another option was to wait a year or two or longer to see how the housing market looked before I would reconsider buying a house. That basically left one option left, and that was to rent a place. Now, I knew I was not going to be able to rent a place as low as where I was already living, but I definitely underestimated what the going rates were even for renting! The only logical option was to move back to Lubbock where I had long been living before, not that many circumstances were necessarily



Producer, RG de Stolfe

any different there, but that my own circumstances allowed for breathing room that I never really had before! With all of that decided, I went on the hunt for a place to live. It took a while and looked through various listings and walked through various potential options. But none of them seemed quite what I needed, wanted, or was looking for. What I really needed was SPACE! And while many of the options looked fine, they were just too compact for what I knew I had. I was tired of living like I was in a storage unit. And with the additional things I brought back from Mom's house, it was space I was going to get or none at all. I came across one duplex listing I had seen before but ignored because of the cost. But after not being satisfied with what else I saw, I called to take a look at it. There

certainly is no obligation just to look at a place. So, I went and looked at it, and it was quite nice. It offered nearly everything I was needing and wanting except for the price. However, there were already several people who had put in offers to rent, and I knew that if I wanted that place versus having to keep looking, I was going to have to make an offer the owner could not refuse! Bada boom, bada bing and voilà, the owner accepted my offer! I'm not going to say what I did, but it wasn't something most others would have done! (Don't worry, nothing illegal or unethical!) So in early June, I got the place to move to. Let me tell you about it. It is a duplex where my unit has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, one car garage, and a small back yard. The current owner bought the place a few months earlier and started remodeling in March, I think it was. The entire duplex was remodeled inside and out. New appliances, gutted bathrooms, new water heater, new HVAC, new roof, new waste system, new doors, fully repainted inside and outside, and various other little things. In a lot of ways, it is like moving into a newly built house, but with some of the original house charm, particularly with the cabinets. So, the following pages will tell more of how my June through August has been. Enjoy!

Word For Life

Will You Choose Fear Or Peace?

Proverbs 3:5-6 (AMP)

5 Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

6 In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].

So the last 12 months since the 2020 election—and really even the last 21 months as a whole—have been full of upheaval and conflicts after conflicts, with them compounding one upon another. These certainly can make you wonder just what the heck is going on and will it stop! In short, probably not anytime in the short term, but we need not let it destabilize us! There is a BIG difference between not liking something versus letting that same something grip us in fear or hatred!

For a time such as now, you have the choice either to live in fear or to reject fear and live in peace no matter what is going on around you! Our Heavenly Father even tells us what we should choose! (Deuteronomy 30:19)

To put this into concrete examples for today's understanding, are you

- Fearing sickness, getting a virus, or death?
- Fearing your freedoms being stripped away from you for a perceived “larger cause”?
- Fearing a backlash for wanting to stand up for what is right when it is not the popular opinion?
- Fearing the future of the United States?
- Fearing what other countries might do?
- Fearing that the United States is past the point of no return?
- Fearing that you are expected to do something you do not want to do?

These are all legitimate concerns. These are not, however, reasons to cause you torment! Once torment enters your life, it is truly like Hell on earth!

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

So what is the answer to fear and torment? That answer is PEACE! But, I know what you are thinking! There is no peace right now! I am not talking about external peace or worldly peace, I am talking about internal peace, peace within yourself! Peace within yourself is completely independent of what is going on around you. No external circumstances can ever take away your inner peace once you have it. So where does it come from? Let's look back at the scripture at the start, Proverbs 3:5-6. The Amplified Bible give a little more clarity. In verse 5, we see a reference to confidently trusting the Lord God. We see to turn away from our own understanding because it is minute, limited, and deceiving as compared to God's view. In verse 6, we see that we need to call upon God as the Creator and Lord of our lives and in doing so He will show us the clear path He wants us to walk by making it ready to walk without barriers and stumbling blocks. What this also means is that He gives us peace and confidence to walk in the direction He laid out for us. (John 16:33)

In short, God is the antidote to fear, because God is Love, and Love casts out all fears! (1 John 4:18)

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer [be encouraged], I have overcome the world.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

10 Years Old!

Top Hand Graphics is 10 Years Old!

In case you didn't know by now, ten years ago on June 1 of 2011, I started a business, *Top Hand Graphics*. It was right on the heels of a major job change I had and shortly later found out that I no longer had. In practicality, it has been a freelance business for supplemental income and never was meant to function as my primary business.

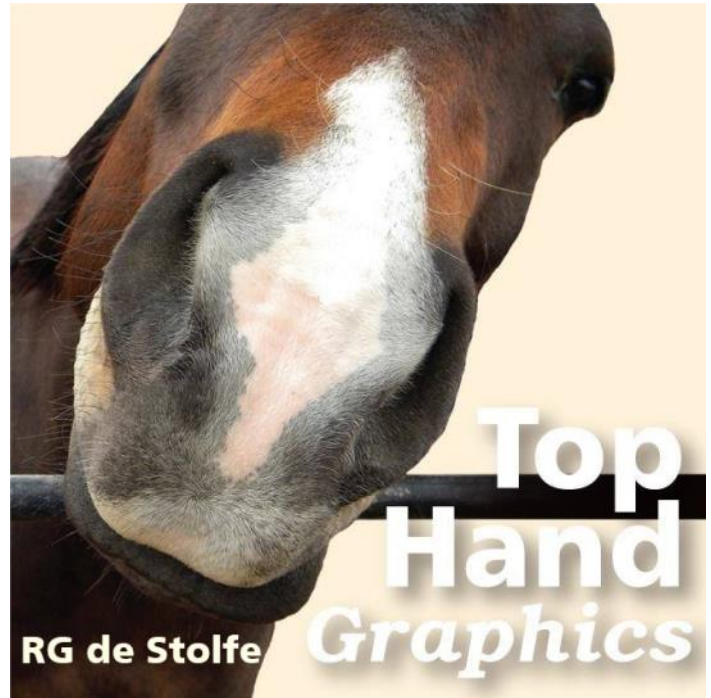
The horse in the logo was from a photo I took in the late 2000s that was taken at just the right timing while he was turning his head in between the bars of the pen, probably expecting that I had food for him. (Horses are always hungry!) I thought the photo would make a good logo.

The name of the business comes from a simple, long standing tradition in the ranching world. A "top hand" of a ranch is in many ways the best and most skilled cowboy on the ranch and often has perks the other cowboys do not have. So the idea is that with my experience and skills in graphic design, I provide a top quality skill in my graphic design services.

So to celebrate my ten years, I have created some things that I want to offer at no cost to you! (To note, if you have ever done business with me in the past ten years, I am planning to send you these things already.) Here is what I have currently :

- THG stickers (look to the right)
- THG postcards
- THG 2022 cowboy comics calendars by the awesome A.W. Erwin!
(He calls them Cowtoons!
www.hooves-and-horns-cowtoons.com)

I am still waiting for the calendars, which I should get just before Thanksgiving. The stickers and postcards I have now. Simply email me with your name and address if you would like some!



www.TopHandGraphics.com

Random Things

Sponsored Flowerbox

As I mentioned in the last issue, Leadville puts out flowerbox planters as a fundraiser of the Leadville Main Street organization flowerbox program. For this year, I decided to sponsor a flowerbox in my name but in honor of the Temple Israel Museum where I have worked. However, they didn't get "Israel" quite right! Here is the box in June and in August. The plants I can tell in them are red ornamental kale, pink petunias, white Alyssum, orange gazania, some sort of yellow petaled flower somewhat similar to chamomile, and a green long leafed plant in the center (don't know what it is called).



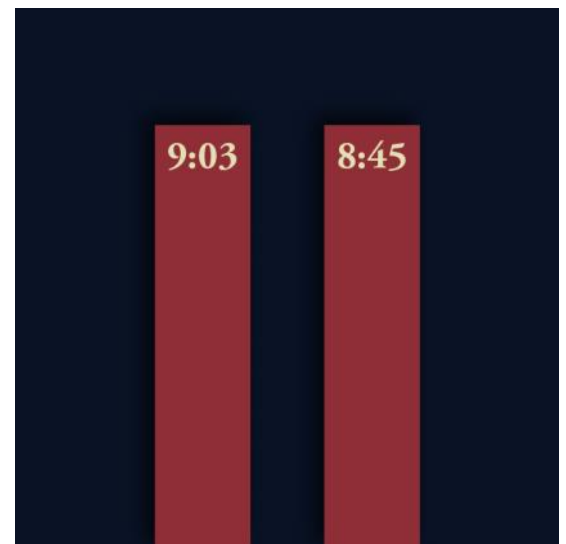
June 24, 2021. Photo by Jeff



August 7, 2021. Photo by Alice.

20 Years Ago

That horrible morning on September 11, 2001 when we first did not understand what was happening in New York City but soon found out that the United States was indeed being attacked by a radical group led to multiple plane crashes. The two towers of the World Trade Center eventually came crumbling to the earth after one plane hit one tower at 8:45 AM ET and a short time later another plane hit the other tower at 9:03 AM ET. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington DC while yet another plane ended up crashing in a field in Pennsylvania that was probably intending to crash into the Capitol Building or the White House. Now 20 years later, we choose to keep remembering about how pure hatred made a public spectacle of itself, but also how we fought back with caring for others.



Random Things

New HEB and Regional Coffee

Referred to as Lubbock's worst kept secret, HEB announced in August 2019 that they were indeed building a H-E-B store in Lubbock! They opened on October 28, 2020. I was still living in Snyder at the time and waited 4-6 weeks before I would set foot in the place! My first shopping of the store was actually a grocery pickup because of the whole, you know, pandemic thing. But I did go in the store by early 2021. One thing I did notice is that H-E-B's line of special coffees, Cafe Olé, now includes a "Hub City Blend", which is a direct reference to

Lubbock (known historically as the Hub City), but without having Lubbock in the name. The line also includes other regional blends with the names of: Taste of San Antonio (my favorite), Houston Blend, Taste of Austin, Rio Grande Especial, Taste of the Hill Country. These particular blends have various single and multiple flavor combinations of vanilla, caramel, cream, pecan, cinnamon, orange, coconut, and chocolate. The Hub City blend is described as having vanilla and sweet cream flavors similar to a tres leches cake.



Real Key Limes

Okay, so "real" Key limes were basically wiped out decades ago by hurricanes. But you can find what is described as Key limes in the store in the produce section. I was at United when I found a small bag of these limes. They were about \$5, so I got them. As you can see, they are about the size and shape of golf balls and are a pale greenish yellow of the skin and the inside. The skins are quite thin and should juice well. Of that bag of limes, I got about 1/2 cup of strained Key lime juice. I froze the juice to have for the winter, when I might want juice or a pie!



Random Things

Loading Puzzle

If you have ever shopped at Hobby Lobby, you know that products for any holiday are almost always going to be on sale for 40% off most of the time. Now that I'm in a larger dwelling as compared to past places I've lived, I wanted to get a tree for Christmas this year. Now, I much prefer a real Christmas tree for obvious reasons. But the cost of real Christmas trees in recent years practically make no sense to buy! I looked on their website first to see what I wanted and went to the store to buy it. I decided on a tree called Alpine in the 7' size. The box was 6' long. However, I drive a Buick La Crosse and wasn't sure if the box would even fit! (Much easier though than those trying to fit a 77" flatscreen in a SUV!) I realized that I could lay my power front seat almost flat and open the window and be able to slide the box through the window and diagonally to the back seats! And that just fit fine! If the box were any longer, it would have been much more interesting to figure out how to load the box!



Metal Sculptures

In the just under three years I lived in Snyder, I drove up and down the main road many times over. Along that main road within several blocks were these metal sculpture like things. The steer I showed in my journal in early 2019, but I never got a photo of the other one, which is a rooster. Well finally, here is a photo of the rooster when one day I suddenly stopped and got the photos!



Random Things

New Clock

Now that I have a fireplace with a mantle, I decided I needed to get a mantle clock! This clock is made by Howard-Miller. It is a quartz clock because the key windup ones were very expensive!

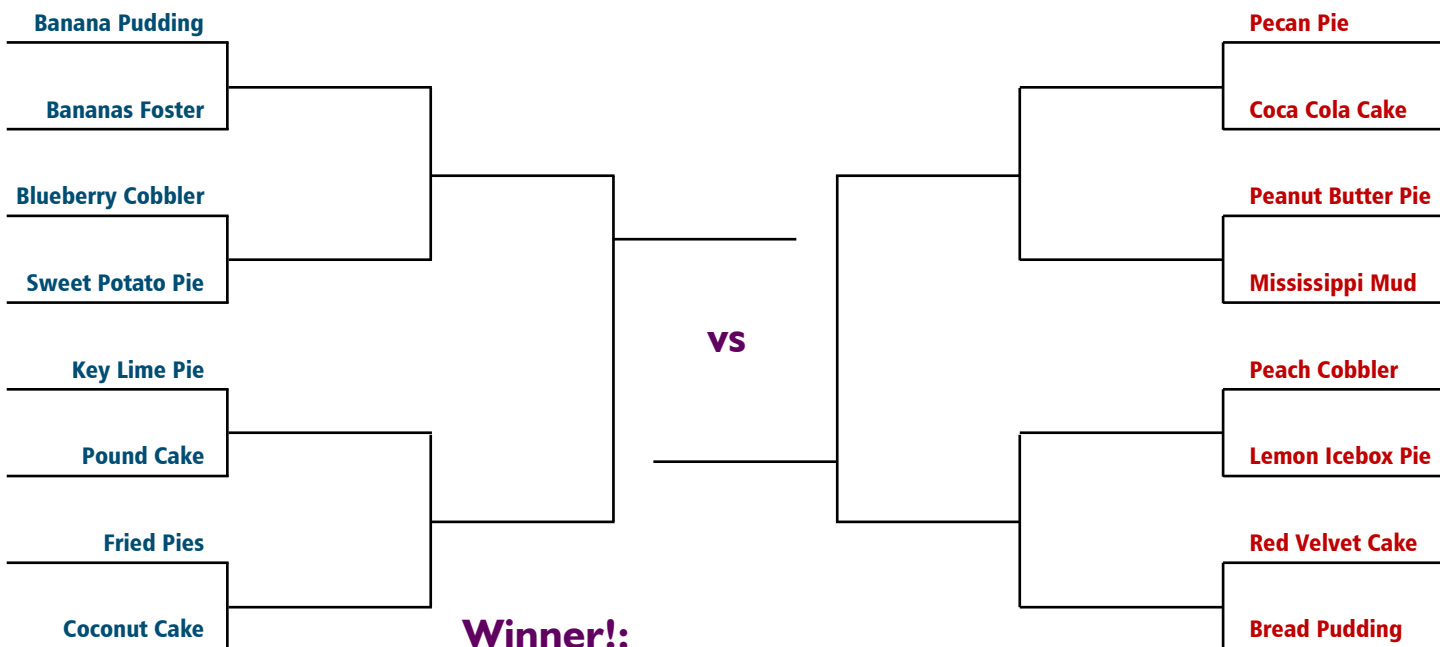


La Madeleine Reopens!

After being “permanently closed” after June 2020, La Madeleine suddenly reopens its doors on September 15 of 2021! It turns out that I’m not the only one who was happy it was open again as the place was busy well into the evening!



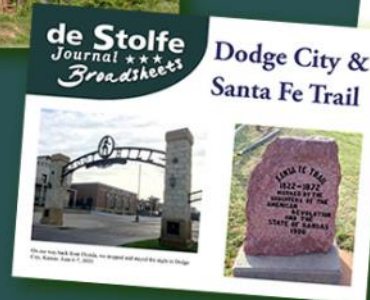
Your Southern Dessert Bracket—What will be your “chosen one”?



Introducing

de Stolfe Journal Broadsheets

de Stolfe Journal ★★★ Broadsheets



They are finally here!!

Many of you have indicated that the regular journals have gotten far too long. Well, I certainly agree that they were too long, especially since they took forever for me to finish a single issue! So, I fixed this little problem by creating a totally new concept. These are the NEW de Stolfe Journal Broadsheets.

My broadsheets are single topic issues in a horizontal format that are generally restricted to about ten pages (plus or minus). They are meant to give you more information about a topic separate from the summaries in the regular journals. The regular issues will now be limited to about 25 pages to be more manageable. Currently, 17 issues are up, and more will be added on an irregular basis.

Recent Travels

Starting with this issue, I am departing from how I previously reported about my travels. Instead of having crazy long journals of 50+ pages that included large sections reporting single travel destinations, I am instead summarizing the trip here (like before) with only a few pages and referring the single travel destinations to my new **de Stolfe Journal Broadsheets** for greater detail about the individual topics. These new Broadsheets are available on a dedicated page of the de Stolfe Journal website, www.destolfe.com, and I'll notate in the writing what destinations have a broadsheet. Enjoy!

After getting back from Colorado in early May, I had generally stayed home in Snyder until I moved back to Lubbock in mid June (except for the back and forth driving between Snyder and Lubbock, about 90 miles each way). Even after I moved, I did not go anywhere until the end of July. At that point, I had two weeks where I travelled to a bunch of places!

Albuquerque Run

A friend needed to go to Albuquerque and asked if I would go along, mainly for the company, but it was also a good idea for safety. He lives out of town and arrived at my house in the late morning of Wednesday, July 28, 2021. He had a truck pulling a flatbed loaded with another truck that he needed to return (long story in itself that I won't go into). Albuquerque is about five hours away from Lubbock, and we would get there in the late afternoon. Our route was to go to Clovis then to Fort Sumner, Santa Rosa, and I-40 over to Albuquerque. We made one stop by my request to a little town just east of Fort Sumner called Taiban where a well photographed old church was. This old



The old Presbyterian church in Taiban, New Mexico

church was long abandoned but is still privately owned and is at least one hundred years old. (See **my broadsheet** AND see my **YouTube video** about the Taiban Church: <https://youtu.be/tEzc2IWcxTU>) We continued on to Fort Sumner, then on to Santa Rosa to get on I-40 west. We travelled for a while until we got to a point where construction and an accident slowed us down with intermittent moving and slow spots for over an hour. Despite the slowdown, but we made it to Albuquerque with plenty of time for him to take care of his business. Before we left the big town, we had dinner at a nearby Cracker Barrel along I-25. We originally intended to get back to Lubbock where he could stay the night at my house. But it was already dark by the time we got back to Santa Rosa, and we only made it as far as Fort Sumner before deciding to stay the night at a motel. The next day, we left the motel about 8:00 AM and made the easy drive back to Lubbock with no stops. We got back to my house about 11:30 AM. After he dropped me at my home, he quickly left to back to his house, and I prepped for my next activity.



After the business, we stopped at Cracker Barrel for dinner before heading back.



Recent Travels

First Run to Fort Worth

I had already planned to go to Fort Worth the same week as we went to Albuquerque. The day we got back was in fact the day I planned to leave to go to Fort Worth, Thursday, July 29, 2021. I needed to go to Fort Worth because it was the closest official Singer repair shop to give maintenance to my Mom's sewing machine, which probably has never been serviced. While I did have some local options for the repair, I thought it was a better option to go to an official Singer location instead to get the machine fixed. That was my personal preference, and it would allow me to do some regional travel. I almost delayed the trip by a day, but decided to go ahead and go, especially since I had a hotel reservation I could not cancel. I left Lubbock by 1:30 PM. Fort Worth is approximately 5 hours away from Lubbock and the shop closed at 7:00 PM. I arrived at the shop with only about 10-15 minutes to spare! (I did stop briefly in Abilene for lunch at Chick-fil-A around 4:00 PM.) I dropped off the machine and planned to do a couple of other things. I drove over to I-35W and went to the Costco there for gas. Just a block away was La Madeleine where I had dinner! The one in Lubbock closed in June 2020, and so I feasted while I was able to go there! Part of why I went to Fort Worth was also to include a side trip to Waco before going to a friend's house. I wanted to finally visit the Magnolia Silos! I took I-35 straight down to Waco as it was getting dark and got to the hotel a little less than two hours later before 10:30 PM.

Waco Side Trip

The next day, I checked out of the hotel and planned to spend the entire morning and afternoon exploring the various Magnolia sites. There were three main locations: the Silos complex, the original shop on Bosque Avenue, and the restaurant. I started the day going to Magnolia Table for breakfast in the late morning. There was an hour wait, so I put my name on the list and decided to sprint over to the original shop on Bosque Avenue. I briefly looked there and bought something and got back to the restaurant just a little after my name was called through their texting system. No problem, they had a place for me to sit, a counter with some mirrors as the wall. After being stuffed from breakfast, I went to Indian Spring



This is the old bridge in Waco. It was closed undergoing an extensive restoration.



I started out my tour of Magnolia eating at Magnolia Table! Yummy food!



I zipped over to the original shop while waiting for a table.

Recent Travels

Park where the old Waco suspension bridge is. Before getting to the bridge, there were a series of large bronze longhorn steers called Branding the Brazos by Robert Summers. The bridge itself was closed for what looked like an overhaul restoration. I walked down to the river edge, their river walk, where there were some ducks and geese and a river view of the bridge. (See my [Broadsheet for more about the Waco Bridge](#).) From there, I went over to the main Silos complex, which fills two full blocks. (See my [Broadsheet for more about my Magnolia visit](#).) As expected, the place was full of people. I stopped at the Magnolia Press Coffee Company first which led me right into the connected Magnolia Home. Outside of there, I went to the six Shops at the Silos with the green space in the middle and went in the restored church at that same location. I went around the whiffle ball field and over to where they had the food trucks. I decided to get some iced tea from the Alabama Sweet Tea Company, which came in specialized quart mason jars. There was one at the original shop on Bosque Avenue that I would have gone back to if not for this one. They had several varieties, but I got the Mason-Dixon (half and half of sweet/unsweet, my usual). This was the only time in my life where I spent \$8 for iced tea! I have to admit that it tasted good though! I then headed over to the Magnolia Seed and Supply. They had a beautiful garden with a small building of items for sale. Then, I headed to the main attraction, the Magnolia Market by the silos. Let's just say that I spent way too much money there! The place was outfitted with the summer theme of lemons. My last stop was at the Silos Baking Company where surprisingly I did not have to wait very long before getting to the counter to order the obligatory cupcakes! I left Magnolia around 4:00 PM. (See my [Broadsheet about my Magnolia visit](#).) However, on my way to Highway 6, I somehow either made a wrong turn or missed my turn and went in a completely opposite direction around Lake Waco. It would be almost an hour later before I got back where I needed to go because of traffic. Once back on track, I leisurely drove along Highway 6 to De Leon where some friends live and where I would stay the night.



The silos! The grounds of the Magnolia Silos spanned two square blocks!



The old church, restored.



The new Magnolia at the Silos.

Recent Travels

Hill Country Touring

The next day, the last day of July, I left my friend's house in the late morning and had an unstructured day to go visit a few places. I started by driving to Stephenville to go back to the Chick Elm's Grand Entry Western Store I went to in March. From there, I took Highway 87 over to Glen Rose. There is a well known, well photographed remnant building made of petrified wood that was a gas station and speakeasy. At first, I missed it and stopped at some small shops at the edge of town. They told me where it was, and I found it. It was a really hot day, but I took some time to photograph the building and some other remnants nearby. (See my [Broadsheet for more about the Glen Rose Speakeasy](#).) I ended up taking the same road back to Stephenville and decided to stop at a BBQ place called Hard 8 for a late lunch. After lunch, I wanted to take a different route back to the interstate. I took Highway 281 to I-20. I discovered that this road went right by a store that has the world's largest rocking chair. I visited this place before, called Texas Hill Country Furniture, over 10 years ago. I stopped to look around and bought a few things. (See my [Broadsheet for more about Texas Hill Country Furniture](#).) A few minutes later, I got to I-20. After about another 20 minutes, I arrived in Thurber. I wanted to stop and photograph the smokestack there. (See my [Broadsheet for more about Thurber](#).) While there, I also went to a small shop and stopped in the restaurant there to look at the old photos on the walls. After about 45 minutes, I left. After that, I basically went straight back to Lubbock except for a gas stop in Abilene. I was back in Lubbock after 9:30 PM.

Second Run to Fort Worth

On Monday, I got a call from the sewing store to find out that they were already finished with the sewing machine! However, I knew that I would not be able to get back for about a week. I decided to leave the day before to get a head start on the driving. On Sunday, August 8, I left in the late afternoon and beelined to Fort Worth where I had hotel reservations. I did make a brief stop in Nolan County to get some quick photos of an old, abandoned farm house that was close to the road.



Glen Rose speakeasy gas station.



Hard 8 BBQ in Stephenville.



Large rocking chair at Texas Hill Country Furniture.

Recent Travels

Hours later, I got to the hotel a little before 10:00 PM. After I checked in, I went to a Whataburger that was around the corner from the hotel for a late dinner since I had not eaten. The next day, I checked out of the hotel and with a mapped route of activities, I started going to the places I planned. I first zipped up I-35W to the Buc-ee's that was way north of Fort Worth. I did not have enough time to go there the week before. I got gas and briefly shopped the store. **(See my Broadsheet for all of the Buc-ee's locations I've been to.)** Then I took a series of roads to loop around to the sewing shop to pick up the sewing machine and get some other supplies. Then, I went over to Zoë's Kitchen, a Mediterranean restaurant I like that is in Jacksonville and that used to be in Colorado Springs. Lubbock never had one, and the closest one is in Fort Worth. Not far away, I again went over to La Madeleine for some pastries before heading back. Once getting to I-20, I continued until I got to Highway 281 to Stephenville, the same road that went by the big rocking chair. I stopped at the Circle H for a bathroom break, but also to look the steer sculptures that were out front. (They were very basic, nothing like the well sculpted steers in Waco.) Once I got near Stephenville, I didn't know exactly where to turn and ended up going through the middle of old downtown Stephenville before getting back to the road that headed towards Dublin and Highway 6. By that point, I knew where I was and went to De Leon to meet up with my friend again. We did some things in Stephenville and De Leon, and I spent the night.

I-20 Destinations

The next day, Tuesday, August 10, I left in the late morning and took State Road 16 north to I-20. A short way away, I stopped at a historical marker about Fort Blair. Once to I-20, I went west to Thurber. This stop to Thurber was to go to the W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History of Texas, a museum that was closed when I was this way the last time and was closed on Monday. I spent a good two hours going through the museum and seeing what there was to see. **(Again, see my Broadsheet about Thurber.)** After that, I went a couple blocks away to the nearby restaurant called New York Hill



Buc-ee's in Fort Worth.



Steer sculptures at a gas station by Highway 281.



Smokestack in old Thurber.

Recent Travels

restaurant. This was the other restaurant in Thurber, not the one by the smokestack I visited a week earlier. I left a little after 3:00 PM and travelled about ten minutes before stopping at a new rest stop on the interstate. You can tell it was new by how clean everything was, but also by how there was still some last construction going on to finish the project. I stopped here because my friend's wife had something to do with its design. Being more than just a place to pee, this rest stop included a mini museum of sorts with interpretive panels and artifacts, including a 1925 Model T! (See my [Broadsheet about the Eastland County Rest Stop](#).) Less than thirty minutes later, I arrived in Eastland and got gas and wanted to visit a garden center I had visited before over ten years ago called Meghann's Market for some seeds and some produce. After that, the trip back to Lubbock varied greatly from how I drove out.

Back Roads Home

Originally, I was going to take some more rural highways to go to Fort Worth. However, time and lack of knowing the route made me default to taking I-20. But since I had no specific time frame to get back other than wanting to be near home before dark, I thought why not! I went this way one time before years ago, but didn't remember much about it. I took Highway 6 from Eastland to Cisco and continued from there on Highway 6 to Albany. On the way, I stopped in Moran at a historical spot of three markers about the Great Western Trail, Cottle No. 1 Gas Well, and Moran. Once arriving in Albany, I stopped at the town square to photograph the awesome courthouse and gazebo. Many historical markers surrounded the courthouse, and some neat old buildings were around the square.

(See my [Broadsheet about the Albany Courthouse Square](#).) After I left there, I stopped at another spot about 15 miles west for another historical marker. This spot had a little more than just a marker in that it was the Bud Matthews Switch of the Texas Central Railway. There was an old wood cattle car and a loading chute with sorting pens and windmill privately owned by the Chimney Creek Ranch. (See my [Broadsheet about the Matthews Switch](#).) I would continue on Highway 6



New York Hill restaurant in Thurber.



Inside the Eastland County Rest Stop.



Historical markers on the way to Albany.

Recent Travels

to Stamford, Sagerton, and Old Glory to Highway 380. Well, those last few miles were off Highway 6 as a shorter route that went northwest. Highway 380 west goes all the way to Post. I only made one more stop before getting to Post. And interestingly, I went past this certain spot by a couple of miles before I decided to turn around and go back! This spot is about 12 miles east of Post on Highway 380 and was a place where a couple of abandoned houses stood in an area on the northeast end of a matrix of pumpjacks. What caught my attention and what made me turn around was at the larger homestead. There were double windmills!, two probably 8' Aermotor windmills right next to each other looking like they once both pumped into a now gone water tank in the middle. The entire assembly was made of steel. (See my [Broadsheet for Double Aermotor Windmills](#).) The abandoned homesteads both seemed a little creepy, but they also seemed like they were once grand rural houses. I would get to Post around 8:00 PM and back in Lubbock before 9:00 PM, or just after sunset.

For the rest of the summer, I did not go anywhere else. The travel to Albuquerque and back, the first run to Fort Worth and Waco and back, the second run to Fort Worth, and all the little travels within those main runs totaled just under 2500 miles that I travelled, with nearly 2000 of those miles in my own vehicle! Albuquerque to Waco is nearly 700 miles apart.



Shackleford County courthouse in Albany.



Double windmills found on the way to Post.

Matthews Switch west of Albany.

Talbot Tales

After going through some boxes of stuff we kept from Mom's house, I came across some interesting papers. There was a small group of papers called *Talbot Tales* from 1959. But first, some background information. Mom was 12 years old nearing to be 13 years old in 1959 as of the date of these papers. The family of four (the mother, father, and two daughters) had just moved into the house on Talbot Avenue in Jacksonville in December 1957. They moved to Jacksonville from New Jersey just a few years prior. There were three of these *Talbot Tale* issues, just 20 months after moving to the Talbot Avenue house. They were all typed in an italic type that appears to be blue. I am guessing that blue carbon sheets were used to type onto several sheets

of paper at once. Mom was the editor, but it appears that my grandmother did the actual typing as noted in one of them. The content of these issues would be typical of the mindset of the time, but would be considered a violation of privacy today! The first issue was on August 27, 1959 with three sheets, September 10, 1959 with four sheets, and September 24, 1959 with two sheets. It appears that the idea of this publication is to keep the various neighbors on Talbot Avenue informed of what other neighbors are doing. For the sake of privacy—even though most of the people mentioned in these publications are no longer alive (over 60 years ago!)—I will only highlight ones of our family or of a general nature. (More will be in future issues.)

From August 27, 1959

- This is our first try in bringing our good neighbors little items of interest....we hope to better each issue and hope you bear with us in the "tales" to come!!
- [the editor's sister] is attending the junior Red Cross Training Camp in Tuxedo, North Carolina, and is flying home this afternoon...incidentally, her sister certainly did miss her!)
- Your editor's mother returned recently from visiting her mother in New Jersey, and I am glad to report that "Mom-mom" will be down here with the Ingrams for the Christmas holidays!
- Have you heard???
- That there are as many as four homes in the 1300 block of Talbot avenue that have reported trouble with their TV sets; this is practically a catastrophe!!!!
- That Miriam Ingram expects to spend Saturday at Gold Head Park with members of the M.Y.F. group.....by the way, have you noticed that our editor has lost her "pony tail"?

"TALBOT TALES"
August 27, 1959. EDITOR: Miriam Ingram

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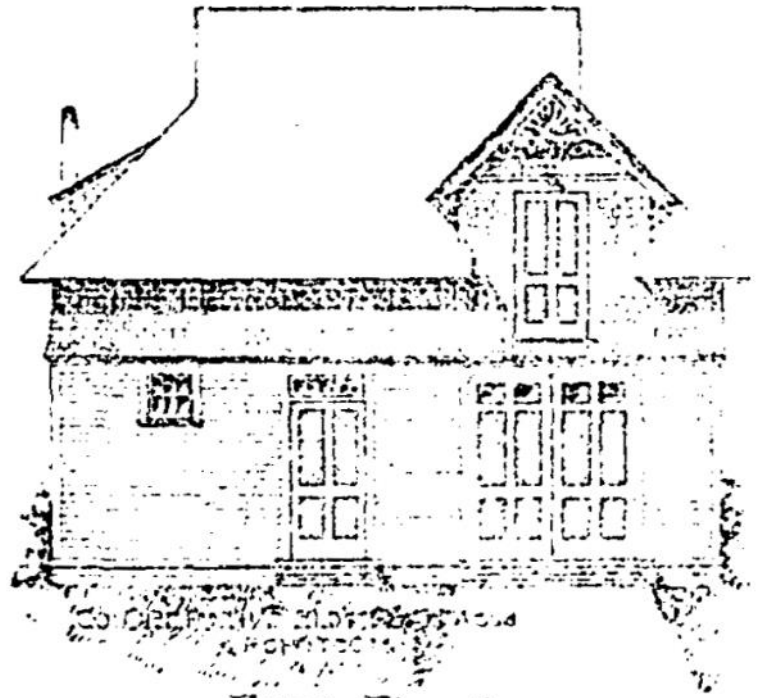
That Miriam Ingram expects to spend Saturday at Gold Head Park with members of the M.Y.F. group.....by the way, have you noticed that our editor has lost her "pony tail"?

That [some neighbors] have been taking care of a parakeet for a friend? (I'd like one, but Mother says "no".)

-That [some neighbors] have been taking care of a parakeet for a friend? (I'd like one, but Mother says "no".) *[More on this later!]*

Building a Stable

As I look through historic newspapers, I find an amazing array of articles, advertisements, and various other interesting or odd features included in those old newspapers! Here is one such unusual feature I found. It is a nearly full column article showing how to build a stable for horses complete with general floor plans! This was on page 10 of The Herald Democrat for July 28, 1895. A note in the article states that the article was "prepared especially for The Leadville Herald Democrat" by the Co-operative Building Plan Association, Architects located in New York City. I'll include the text since the scan of the newspaper makes the text difficult to read fully.



Front Elevation.

HOW TO BUILD A STABLE

Some Valuable Suggestions as to
the Erection of a Home
for the Horse.

IMPORTANCE OF VENTILATION

Full Description of a Model Stable and Carriage House, With Plans, Specifications, Materials, Colors and Cost.

[Prepared Especially for THE LEADVILLE HERALD DEMOCRAT. Copyrighted.]

Stable atmosphere has an injurious effect on the varnish of carriages and harness, therefore it is better to have separate building plots. The additional cost involved and the smaller and less attractive structures that must be planned are reasons that usually influence the owner to place them under one roof. There is not much objection to the combination when there is good ventilation, and when there is a thoroughly tight partition between the stable and carriage-room.

The stable should not be placed where prevailing winds will carry odors and firebrands (in case of fire) to the residence or to other important buildings.

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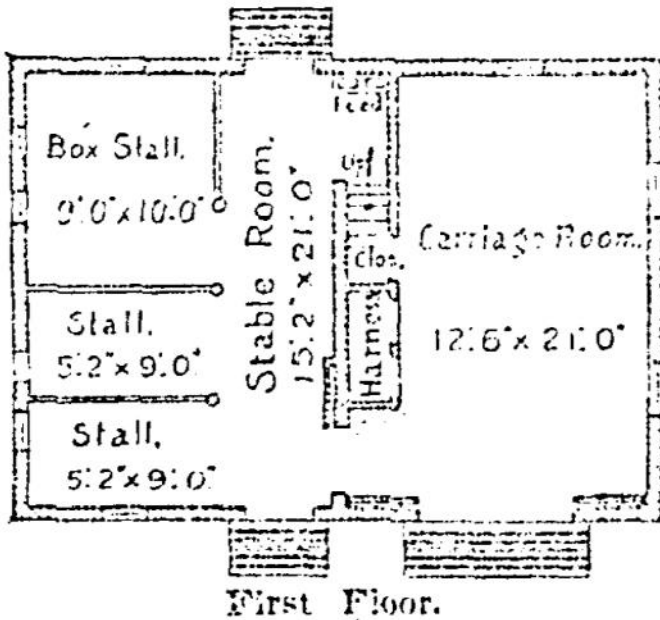
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The stable should not be placed where prevailing winds will carry odors and firebrands (in case of fire) to the residence or to other important buildings.

Building a Stable

Warmth, good ventilation and avoidance of cold draughts are necessary for the health and comfort of horses. Sheathe the structures with both boards and paper. If there be near-by high buildings, or any other obstructions to ventilation, add a roof ventilator. The doors should face the south preferably, or at least a direction from which the coldest blasts of winter will not rush in when they are opened. Windows at the heads of stalls should be hinged at the bottom and swing inward at the top to a limited distance, to avoid exposure of animals to direct air draughts. If these windows admit a glare of sunlight to the horses' eyes they should be properly shaded.

The hay loft floor should be a double floor with paper between to prevent dust and seed from sifting through it. When the under floor is smooth on the under side it forms a neat ceiling for the room below.



Feed-boxes should be made of non-absorbent materials and be so constructed that they are easily cleaned. Care should be taken that the proportions of stall fixtures do not invite injuries to the animals when rising from sleep. All wood work edges that give opportunities for cribbing should be covered with zinc or galvanized iron. Stable fittings, like house furnishings, may be expensive or inexpensive, without affecting utility.

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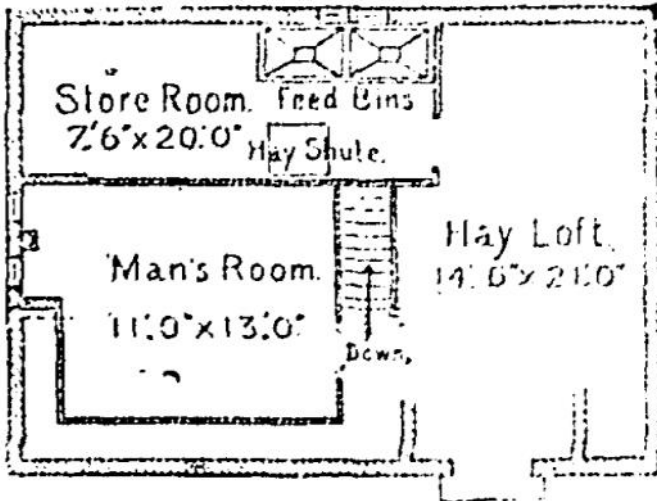
Not sure if this a good idea for the 2020s!

Building a Stable

The stable floor should be laid with close grained, non-absorbent wood, and should be blind nailed. Before laying, the edges of the flooring should be lead painted, which will make the cracks nearly water tight. The surface of the floor should be so inclined as to carry all water to a stall gutter.

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No!
Definitely not!



Second Floor.

Here is a description of the design illustrating this article:

Size of Structure—Width (front), 31 feet 6 inches; depth, 22 feet.

Height of Stories—First story, 9 feet 4 inches; loft, 4 feet at side walls, 14 feet 10 inches up to the ridge.

Materials for Exterior Walls—Foundations, posts; first story, clapboards; second story, shingles; roof, shingles.

Accommodations—Room for three horses as planned, but four horses may be accommodated by making two ordinary stalls of the box-stall; room for four carriages; man's room, hay loft and storeroom for feed.

Cost—Nine hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$925) in the vicinity of New York.

Special Features—The exterior is simple and attractive, a becoming style for an outbuilding; the interior arrangement economizes space to the best advantages, and fully answers the requirements of health and comfort for the animals as well as the requirements of convenience for the attendants.

The Co-Operative Building Plan Association, Architects, 106-108, Fulton street, New York.

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Cost—Nine hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$925) in the vicinity of New York. [and probably less if built locally of local materials.]

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Diary of a Lady of Gettysburg

Gettysburg.

Several layers led to me discovering this little diary. I first heard the reference to this book by watching a particular video on YouTube about the Civil War. The channel is called Oversimplified, and they had a video about the Civil War where they summarized the entirety of the war between two videos. The level of detail despite the oversimplification is simply amazing. At one point, the video gave a small detail about a man picking “a mess of beans” while the war raged around him in

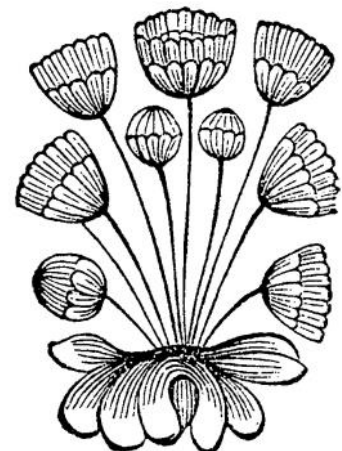
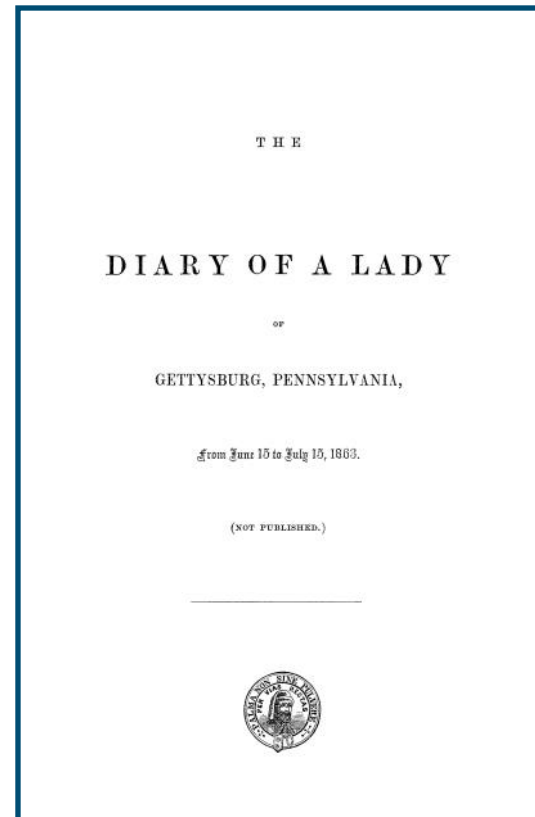
Gettysburg Pennsylvania. The video did not include the direct source, so I went on the hunt. Ultimately, I found the source to be this little diary of the daily events that happened within a one month period from mid June to mid July. I found that I was able to buy a copy of the book, and so I did. This small book only had about 30 pages, but proved to be a fantastic primary resource first person account from a civilian perspective of the Battle of Gettysburg! Here is the specific part about the beans:

JULY 2.—The cannonading commenced about 10 o'clock, and we went to the cellar and remained a little while until it ceased. When the noise subsided, we came to the light again, and tried to get something to eat. My husband went to the garden and picked a mess of beans, though stray firing was going on all the time, and bullets from sharpshooters or others whizzed about his head in a way I would not have liked. He persevered until he picked all, for he declared the Rebels should not have one. I baked a pan of shortcake and boiled a piece of ham, the last we had in the house, and some neighbors coming in, joined us, and we had the first quiet meal since the contest began. I enjoyed it very much.

After I got the book, I leisurely read it over two or three days. The first half of the book was fairly straight forward and simple. But by the middle of the book to the end, the details and the gruesomeness of the Battle of

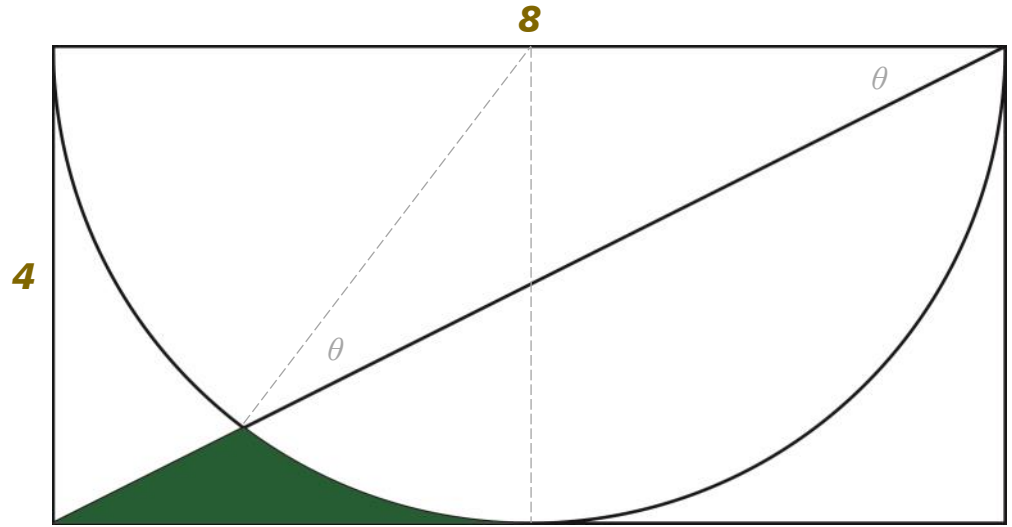
Gettysburg became clear and almost painful to even read! The level of detail and heartbreaking accounts she wrote showed just how destructive the battle was for both the Rebels and the Yankees. At the end, she notes:

JULY 14.—It is now one month since I began this Journal, and little did I think when I sat down to while away the time, that I would have to record such terrible scenes as I have done. Had any one suggested any such sights as within the bound of possibility, I would have thought it madness.

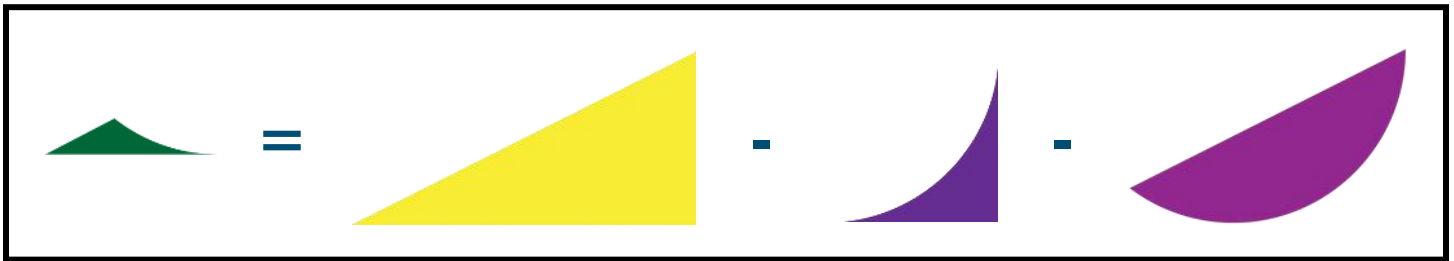


Time to make your brain hurt!

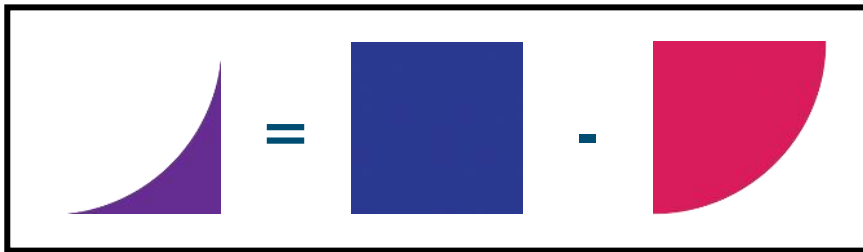
Okay! Time to make your brain hurt and get those rusty, frozen brain gears moving again! In this diagram to the right, what is the area of the shaded area in green? (Don't worry about units.) Use algebra, geometry, and trigonometry to solve the problem. To help you out, I organized the general master equation to deduct the answer. Have fun!



Answer Guide



$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} b \cdot h$$



$$\text{Area} = b \cdot h$$

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{4} \pi r^2$$

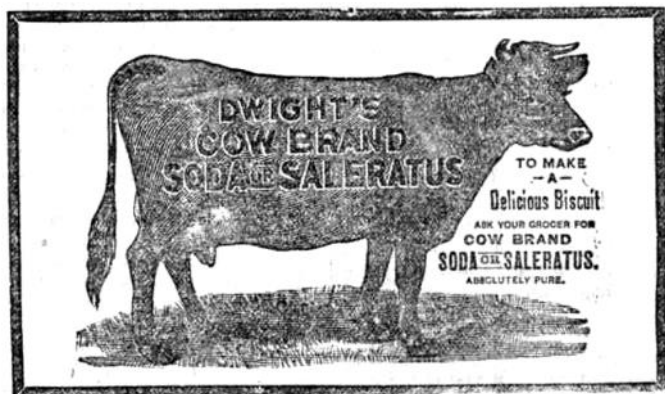


$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} r^2 (\pi - 2\theta)$$

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} r^2 \sin(\pi - 2\theta)$$

Answer on last page.

Historical Newspapers



The Otero County Eagle. December 27, 1889. Page 3.

The Leadville Hardware Co.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

Hardware

IRON, STEEL, NAILS, PIPE, BRASS & IRON FITTINGS

Stoves and Tinware,

305-307 Harrison Ave.

All Mail Orders Receive Prompt Attention.

The Herald Democrat. July 28, 1895. Page 9.

MANY MEN FIND THAT



Storms, snows, drenching rains, and furious winds are a part of the regular routine of life. Two-thirds of the sickness through life is caused by colds; you cannot be too well protected in stormy weather to avoid them. A man having a "Fish Brand Slicker" may be exposed to a storm for twenty-four hours at a stretch, and still be protected from every drop of rain, besides being shielded from the biting winds. No matter what your occupation, if you are liable to be caught in a rain or snow storm, you should have on hand a "Fish Brand Slicker." It will surely save your health, and perhaps your life. Beware of worthless imitations, every garment stamped with the "Fish Brand" Trade Mark. Don't accept any inferior coat when you can have the "Fish Brand Slicker" delivered without extra cost. Particulars and illustrated catalogue free.

A. J. TOWER, - Boston, Mass

Home Made Bread

Just like your mother baked. All kinds of pastry and a select line of confectionary and groceries.

THE CLOUD CITY BAKERY.

We will make a specialty of catering for balls and parties. Ask your grocer for "The Cloud City H. M. Bread." WEBER & CLEMENTS, Props., 416 East Sixth Street.

The Herald Democrat. July 28, 1895. Page 6.

MISCELLANEOUS.

JERSEY COW STRAYED.

STRAYED—Black Jersey cow, dehorned, with holder on. Reward for return to 111 East Eleventh street.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.

If you want to double your money every year, send address to Columbia Poultry Co., limited, 23 Duane street, New York.

The Herald Democrat. March 19, 1898. Page 4.

It's useless to call the cat when you spill the milk of human kindness.

The Erie News (CO). September 29, 1905. Page 6.

The Otero County Eagle. December 27, 1889. Page 3.

Historical Newspapers

Denver Directory

**A \$40 Saddle for
\$25 C.O.D.**



For a short time only we offer this saddle, steel horn, double cinches, wool-lined 28-inch skirts, 2 1/2-inch stirrup leathers, steel leather-covered stirrups, warranted in every respect, and equal to saddles sold for \$40 everywhere. Catalog free.

**The Fred Mueller
Saddle & Harness Co.**
1413-1419 Larimer St.,
Denver, Colorado.

THE COLORADO TENT & AWNING CO
Hammocks, Camp Furniture, Flags.
1621 Lawrence St., Denver, Colorado.

THE FAMOUS J. H. WILSON STOCK SADDLES
Ask your dealer for them. Take no other.

BLACKSMITHS' and wagonmakers' supplies,
wholesale and retail. Moore
Hardware & Iron Co., 15th & Wasee, Denver.

The Colorado Saddlery Co.

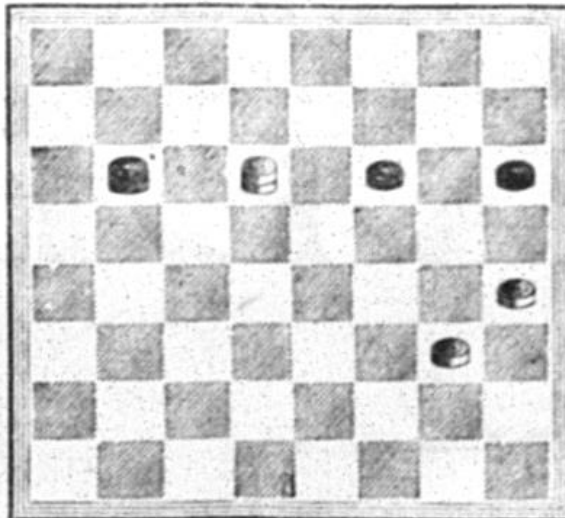
Wholesale Manufacturers of Harness and
Saddles of every style. Ask your dealer for
our goods. If he does not keep them we will
put you in touch with one who does.

THE
DENVER TENT & AWNING CO
ALWAYS READY TO SERVE YOU
 PHONE 155
1428 LARIMER

The Erie News (CO). September 29, 1905. Page 6.

CHECKERS AND CHESS.

Checker Problem No. 105—For beginners.
Black—9*, 11, 12.

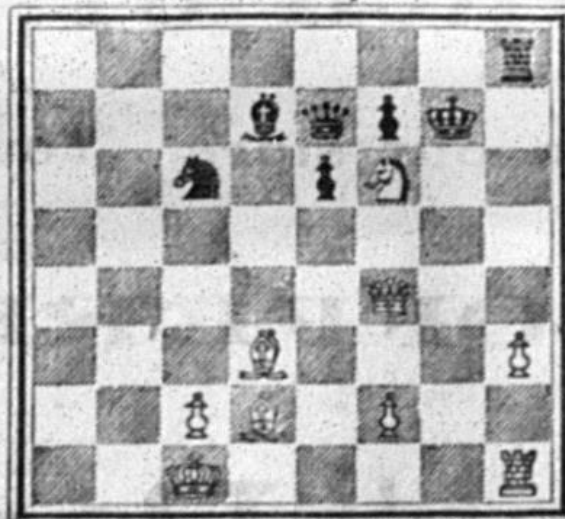


White—10*, 20, 24.

White to play and win.

Chess Problem No. 105—By W. Donnisthorpe.

Black—Seven pieces.



White—Nine pieces.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS.

Checker problem No. 104:

White.	Black.
1.. 14 to 18	1.. 22 to 15
2.. 21 to 17	2.. 12 to 3
3.. 17 to 14	3.. 15 to 8
4.. 7 to 11	4.. 8 to 15
5.. 14 to 9	5.. 5 to 14
6.. 6 to 2	Drawn

Chess problem No. 104:
Key move, R to K 1

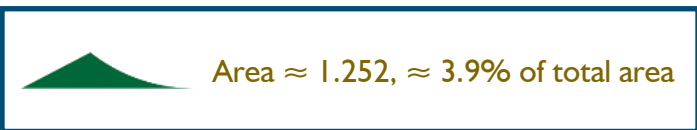
The Herald Democrat. April 3, 1891. Page 6.

Final Thought

“These vexatious, gory-minded, musical-winged, bold denizens of the shady forest, were more eager to hold their carnivorous feasts at twilight or in the night than any other time.”

The Bark Covered House by John Knowlin, 1876.
Chapter 2, page 33-34.

Stay tuned for more in a later issue!



Gator Journal

This is Gator. She was a gray tabby we had in the 1980s and 1990s. I think we got her about 1980 or 1981 as a stray, and she died I think in 1998 a year or two after I left to go to college in Arizona. About half of her life was in Miami until early 1989 and the other half in Jacksonville. She slept wherever she wanted and however she wanted! I have LOTS of photos! This is a new regular feature!



Gator. Circa mid 1980s, Miami.

de Stolfe Journal

The de Stolfe Journal is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production of over 60 regular and special issues, with now the *Candid* dropped from the name. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.destolfe.com

Publisher/Owner/Editor
Robert-George de Stolfe

Graphics/Layout*






Robert-George de Stolfe

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