



de Stolfe Journal

13.4 : SUMMER 2024



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Covers activities in July and August 2024.

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ON THE COVER



At a paths crossroads of the east and west courses at the Green Tree Country Club is this four sided clock tower. When it is dark, the clock face lights up. I understand from one of the golf managers that this clock tower was installed within the last ten years. This time of nearly 7:00 is in the morning.

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



Busy, Hot Summer Activities

Happy summer! These have sure been some hot months this year for the summer! I am hoping for a cool, mild fall along with a mild winter.

Since the last regular issue, I put out two special issues. The first one was celebrating Shark Week in early July, while the second one showed in depth my extended studies trip 30 years ago that happened in July and August of 1994. I'm working on another special issue to come out in mid September. You'll just have to wait and see what it is!

This regular issue basically covers activities in July and August, and I had quite a few things I did and a few places where I went during that time, especially in July. I had several job related events out of town to several places within a two hour circle of Lubbock, especially to the east and to the south. You will see that I went to Midland two times over two weeks for separate events. I went to Floydada, known as the pumpkin capital of Texas, along with a trek to the Four Sixes Ranch in Guthrie. I also went to a small island in the middle of a lake inside a canyon a few miles east of Lubbock.

The rest of this journal covers a lot of misc things and random things that I noticed, had part of, or saw on Facebook. I can make a whole issue just of various, random things I saw on Facebook and thought was interesting! If you would like to see a special issue of interesting, random things found on Facebook and some other places, send me a message!

Besides this year being 30 years since I went on an extended studies trip in 1994, it has been ten years since I first worked for the Temple Israel Museum in Leadville, Colorado! In 2014, I worked from the end of May to the end of October. I did end up working again the summers of 2015 and 2017 at the museum.

For future issues, I have a bunch more family "historical" things I keep finding as I go through things and as I go through various photos of my own and of what Mom had and of what Dad had. You will see these things in future issues as I get them together, photos scanned, and get more background information about the time, location, and reasons. (In museum terms, we call this provenience information! Another word used is provenance, though

don't get an archaeologist and an art historian discussing the meaning of these words!)

Finally, I had a birthday in July, just like every July, and I am now age 52. I always take advantage of getting free birthday things from restaurants and other places that offer clubs by email or through their respective apps. You would be surprised what you can get free for your birthday!

I hope you enjoy this issue until the next one!

RG

WORD FOR LIFE

Revelation Topics - "The End Times" - Part 2

For most people, if you mentioned anything in reference to "the end times", you likely would get a response that you are a freaking nut! People in the 21st Century have been drifting away from Godly things and even of caring about God entirely! This became very clear in 2020 after the shutdown. Instead of seeking God about what was happening, many, too many, simply walked away from God and have never looked back. But those truly in Christ Jesus should not be surprised, God's Word said exactly that this would happen! Jesus Himself even said it, "*And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man*" (Luke 17:26), and "*But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*" (Matthew 24:37). Sadly, those not in Christ Jesus will be taken by surprise and will find themselves in a very difficult, painful place. "*For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away [killed them], so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.*" (Matthew 24:38-41)

This is specifically referencing the End Time rapture of God's people where, as Paul said, "*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead [asleep] in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain [on the earth] shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...*" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). This is referred to as the first coming. What people often refer to as "the coming of Jesus" is actually the second coming when Jesus and the saints come down to the earth at the end of the seven years of tribulation to establish rule upon the earth.

Do you not understand why we are in such a critical time for you to take immediate action to make certain you have a true relationship with Jesus? You literally might not have tomorrow to do it! You definitely do NOT want to be on the earth after the rapture!

God said that every person is appointed to him to die once (Hebrews 9:27). What most people do not understand is that there is a second death, and some will taste it while others will not! This is tied directly with salvation in Christ Jesus. Those in Christ Jesus escape the second death. "*Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first*

resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:6) Those who rejected Jesus will most certainly taste the second death. "*But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death*" (Revelation 21:8). The first death is the death of the body, while the soul and spirit live on in the spiritual realm. The second death is the slow dying of the soul and spirit, a truly horrible way to die!

Now while the rapture of the church is when believers leave the earth, those left behind do have the true mercy of God for a limited time to get right with Him and be saved. Those saved during the tribulation will have their own resurrection, the second resurrection, after being martyred, killed for standing with and defending Jesus in the wicked world of the tribulation.

3. UPDATE: The rapture of God's people is most certainly going to happen, but Bible scholars do not all agree as to exactly when the rapture will happen. Some say that the rapture is what kicks off the seven year tribulation period, while

others debate to say that it will happen sometime during the tribulation before the wrath of God is poured out onto the earth. The antichrist will rise and will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem as his place to "reign" over the earth. God warns about not taking the mark of the beast, which would be on the forehead or on the right hand. If the only people who are left on the earth after the rapture are the worldly, then maybe that warning refers to those who will be saved during the tribulation. For this writing, we will assume the rapture is what starts the tribulation and societal collapse.

Preface to previous sections 4 and 5, The Seven Year Tribulation

In searching for scriptural references, it was increasingly clear that the seven years of tribulation has a specific order of things that happen. But what is not as clear is the timing and lengths of each of these things! The one part that is exactly specific is that two witnesses will prophesy for 1260 days (Revelation 11:3), which is 3.5 years based on months of 30 days. However, Revelation also specifically places these two witnesses in between the sixth trumpet and the seventh trumpet. Up to this point, there were seven seals loosed of the scroll and the reactions those caused, along with the six of the seven trumpets and the

WORD FOR LIFE

reactions those caused. What is not clear exactly is if the seven years of tribulation are evenly divided in half or if the tribulation simply has the 3.5 years for the witnesses just somewhere in the middle, which is seemingly more like what it is. I was going to split the seven year tribulation into two parts, but that frankly won't do justice to what it contains. Instead, I'll provide a summary, or outline, of what Revelation shows will happen during the tribulation. The apostle John records what he saw while in Heaven and of the things to come in the book of Revelation.

Because millions of people suddenly disappeared from the earth, normal functions and processes are immediately disrupted and will cause worldwide panic and chaos for those "left behind"—those who are not saved in Christ Jesus—and they will not understand what happened nor will they be able to explain it. No doubt that will try to fabricate their own explanations of what they think happened! I have not found any specific Biblical references of what exactly happens immediately after the Rapture of God's people, but we can easily decipher some ideas from how people reacted to other major tragedies! (Remember what happened in early March of 2020 when people panicked about a virus with grocery stores running out of food for weeks from the chaos! Also remember what happened by

mid day on September 11, 2001 after the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City and with how people reacted to that, even with a scare of gas gouging!)

Let's start with Revelation 5. Jesus is found worthy to take the scroll and loose its seals. He then takes the scroll with seven seals in the Throne Room (Revelation 5:7). Jesus then breaks each seal, with each broken seal causing extreme reactions upon the earth (Revelation 6:1-17). Seal 1, Four horsemen. First horse: white horse, conquers on the earth
Seal 2, Four horsemen. Second horse: red horse, remove peace, cause conflicts
Seal 3, Four horsemen. Third horse: black horse, scarcity
Seal 4, Four horsemen. Fourth horse: pale horse, famine, death, Hades followed
Seal 5, Cry of the martyrs under the alter.
Seal 6, Cosmic disturbances: earthquakes, sun darkened, moon to blood, stars fall, sky rolled up, mountains and islands removed out of place, all people hide to the caves wanting death.

Regarding the four horsemen. The people on the earth will unlikely see the horsemen, but they will definitely see the effects of their actions! While the fourth horseman will cause death, by the time that people flee to caves, people will want to die instead of withstanding another act of tribulation!

After the loosening of the sixth seal, Revelation 7 states that four angels hold back the four winds and harm upon the earth temporarily halts while 144,000 Jews are sealed, 12,000 from each tribe. This is part of God's covenant protection of His chosen people as He swore to Abram, later renamed Abraham.

After this, John states his witness of the appearance of a great multitude of people of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues. An elder stated that "*These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*" with an additional note of "*God will wipe away every tear from their eyes*". With the order of these events, it sure seems like God's people will go through a part of the tribulation, specifically the loosening of the six of the seven seals! I certainly could be misunderstanding the order or timing of this, and I certainly pray that God's people do not go through any part of the tribulation! This possibly could refer to the people saved after the rapture. But the quantity of people sounds more like the rapture.

Seal 7, prelude to the seven trumpets, silence in heaven for about 30 minutes, then an angel throws down fire from the alter to the earth causing "*noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake*".

Continuing with Revelation 8 and 9 after the seventh seal, seven angels each blow a trumpet, with each causing a reaction.

Trumpet 1, hail and fire mingled with blood, one third trees burned, all green grass burned
Trumpet 2, one third of the sea became blood, one third of sea creatures died, one third of the ships destroyed
Trumpet 3, a third of the waters became wormwood (bitter water) causing many to die from drinking the water
Trumpet 4, a third each struck (darkened) of the sun, moon, and stars
Trumpet 5, scary, armed locusts come out of the bottomless pit to cause harm and torment, but not to kill, for five months any person not sealed by God. The Word says, "*In those days, men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.*" This is the first woe.
Trumpet 6, four bound [fallen] angels from the Euphrates are released and are commissioned to kill a third of mankind, 200 million horsemen cause plagues of fire, smoke, and brimstone, the remaining two thirds of the people do not repent

Revelation 10 covers a section about John seeing a mighty angel with one foot on the earth and one foot on the sea with seven thunders uttering, but told John not to write those utterings and stated "*in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to*

WORD FOR LIFE

sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets” (Revelation 10:7). Then, John was commanded to eat the little book that was in the hand of the mighty angel and that he was to “prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings” (Revelation 10:11).

Before the seventh trumpet, God will have two witnesses wearing sackcloth in the temple courtyard in Jerusalem for 1260 days prophesying. “...if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that

no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.” At the end of the 1260 days, the beast will make war against them and kill them. Their dead bodies will lie in the street for three and a half days. The people will rejoice over their deaths. God then resurrects the two witnesses, and they come to life with God calling them up to heaven to where they ascend. Then a great earthquake made a tenth of the city fall with 7000 people killed. This was the second woe.

While the Bible does not specifically state who these witnesses are, some Bible

scholars think that the two in sackcloth are Enoch and Elijah. These two never died but were taken up into heaven alive in a whirlwind and a chariot of fire. “*And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*” [“not” refers to being raptured] (Genesis 5:24) “*Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*” (2 Kings 2:11) However, Hebrews 9:27 states that “*it is appointed for men to die once*” (“men” means all people, not just the male gender). And with these two dying at the end of the 1260 days, that fulfills their first death requirement.

Trumpet 7, the kingdom proclaimed, the temple of God was opened and the ark of His covenant seen with “*lightnings, noises, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail*”. While these things have already been happening, they happen multiple times throughout the tribulation.

At this point, there are several visions and scenes that happen prior to the bowl judgement which follows. To do the rest of Revelation justice, I will cover the things stated prior to the bowl judgements, the bowl judgments, and the many other details of the tribulation and post tribulation events in the next one or probably two issues.



Four Horsemen of Apocalypse. Viktor Vasnetsov (Віктор Васнецов). Painted in 1887.

WORD FOR LIFE

Bible References Used

Luke 17:26-30

26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Matthew 24:37-41

37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

Matthew 24:36, 42-44

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Hebrews 9:27-28

27 And as it is appointed for men [understand that this means all humans, male, female, child, adult] to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Revelation 20:6

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

Revelation 21:8

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

Revelation 20:7-10

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 11:3

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Entirety of Revelation 5, Revelation 6, Revelation 7, Revelation 8, Revelation 9, Revelation 10, Revelation 11

Revelation 5:7

Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Revelation 9:6

In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Revelation 10:5-7

5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven
6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,
7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Revelation 10:10-11

10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Genesis 5:24

And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

2 Kings 2:11

Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

RANDOM THINGS

10 Years Since Temple Israel Job

For those who have been following this journal long enough, you will remember my special announcement in early May 2014 that I had gotten a full time summer job working for Temple Israel in Leadville, Colorado. Well, I worked for the museum that summer and again in the summer of 2015 and again in the summer of 2017. That is just working on site at the museum. From 2016 on, I continued to work for the museum in a remote arrangement going to the museum for a few days usually once a year to do things in person. I still do this arrangement and going to Leadville once or sometimes twice a year as I am able to arrange for it.



Temple Israel in Leadville, Colorado. Photo from 2014.



That first year, I planted a garden of various flowers (and rocks) that would grow in an alpine environment.

Birthday

Like every July, I had my birthday. It was rather non-descript like most years, but I always have a few perks. The biggest perk—or rather to say, series of perks!—is the various free things I get from restaurants. Most restaurants have apps now to get points with your purchases and occasional free things. Most of them will also include a birthday perk of some sort of free item. Many times, it will be a free cookie, drink, cake, or dessert. But others are much more substantial! Several restaurants will give you free sandwiches! These are the ones I like best especially since they are more filling and otherwise usually cost more! I have about two dozen free things that I'll get every year, not that I necessarily use all of them every year, except for the good ones!



Even Google will wish you a happy birthday!



Dutch Brothers Coffee shops will give you're a free drink on your birthday! You'll need to have their app established and you can get whatever you want! I got a blended drink with chocolate and caramel. They even wrote Happy Birthday on the lid!

RANDOM THINGS

5.1 Earthquake in Scurry County

I mentioned in early 2022 that Scurry County had a sizable earthquake. On July 26, there was another sizable earthquake of 5.1 with some smaller quakes. These quakes are all a result of oil production in the area, but they are not usually that strong.

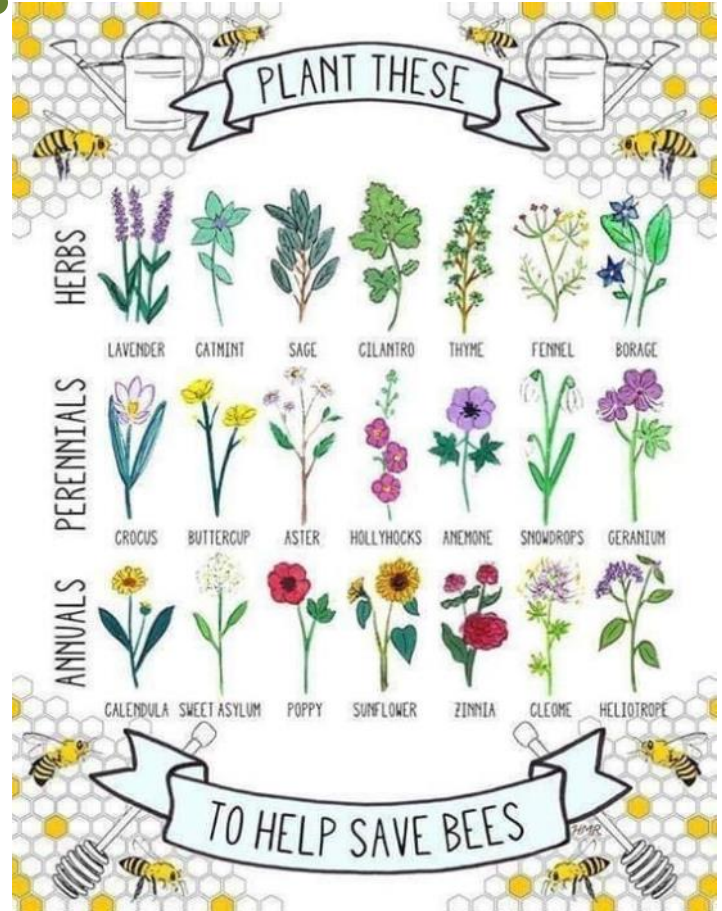


Shake map from the United States Geological Survey.

Paris Summer Olympics 2024 Results

July 26, 2024 – August 11, 2024

Team	1	2	3	Total
1 🇺🇸 United States	40	45	41	126
2 🇨🇳 China	40	27	24	91
3 🇯🇵 Japan	20	12	13	45
4 🇦🇺 Australia	17	19	16	52
5 🇫🇷 France	16	26	22	64
6 🇳🇱 Netherlands	16	7	12	35
7 🇬🇧 Great Britain	14	21	30	65



Bees are important!



Honeybee on Texas Sage, July 2024.

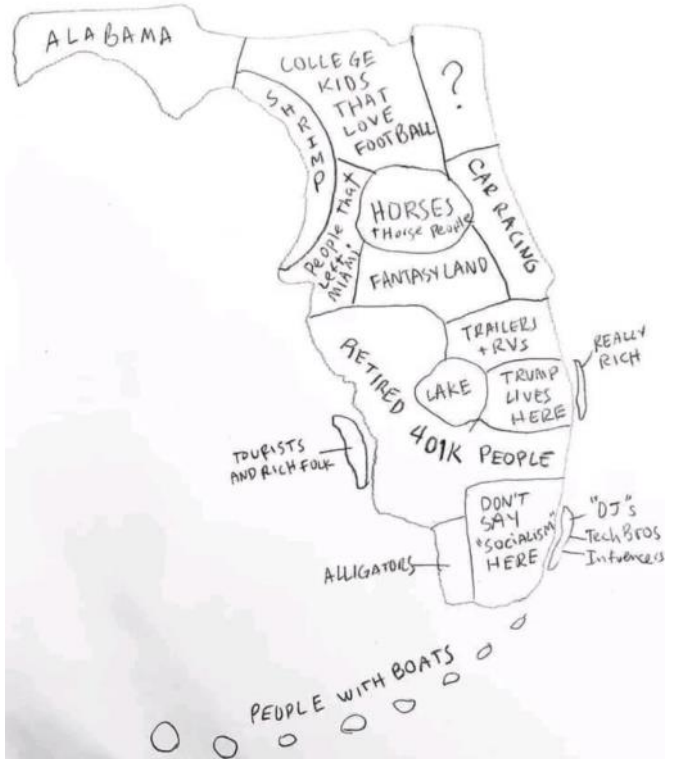
RANDOM THINGS



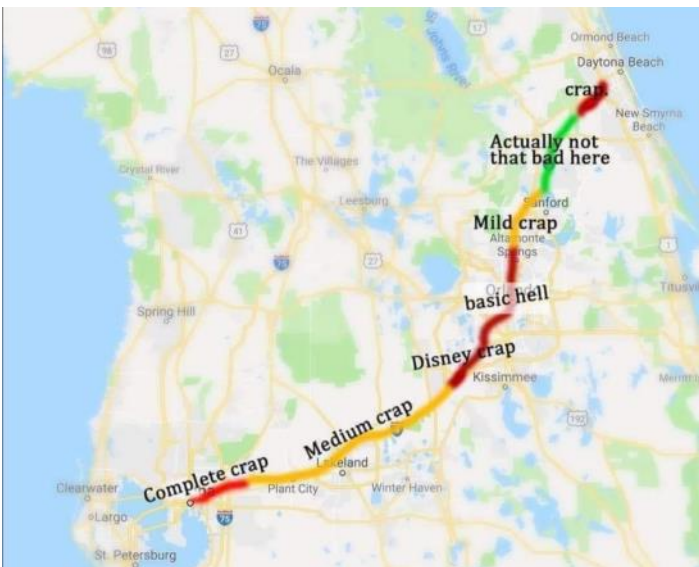
This is the life cycle of a cotton plant from bud to boll. It has these pretty whiteish flowers that eventually turn into a cotton boll by the fall. We are in cotton season right now with plants currently flowering and starting bolls, about halfway.



*These are the eggs from various breeds of chickens creating a range of natural colors!
Facebook: "Happy Gardens".*



*For those still in Florida, how accurate is this?
Facebook: "Florida History 103".*



*Guide to I-4 in Florida.
Those in central Florida will understand this!
Facebook: "Floridiana Humor".*

RANDOM THINGS



Costco has pumpkin pies again! Still \$5.99! (8.19.24)



Rare double blue moon at about 9:15 PM in Lubbock, Texas on August 19, 2024. (The other one is a streetlight.)



Pretty sure my car skewed the temperature! August 7, 2024. 4:44 PM.

I was at a hotel for the night while at a job event and saw this on the ceiling. My first thought was how many times did this happen to require a notice??!



I had no idea Costco sold hay! My first thought was, "Who goes to Costco to buy hay?!" What does "high altitude" even mean?



Saw a hefty dog print in the mud in mid August.

RANDOM THINGS



*Did you know there were so many giraffe patterns?
And that they are each named!*



Facebook: Chef Vicky Bisht. (He posts lots of cooking things.)

A different era! I found this on a 1955 form among Dad's old papers. The Cold War era lasted from the end of WWII to circa the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and when the Eastern Bloc crumbled by 1991.

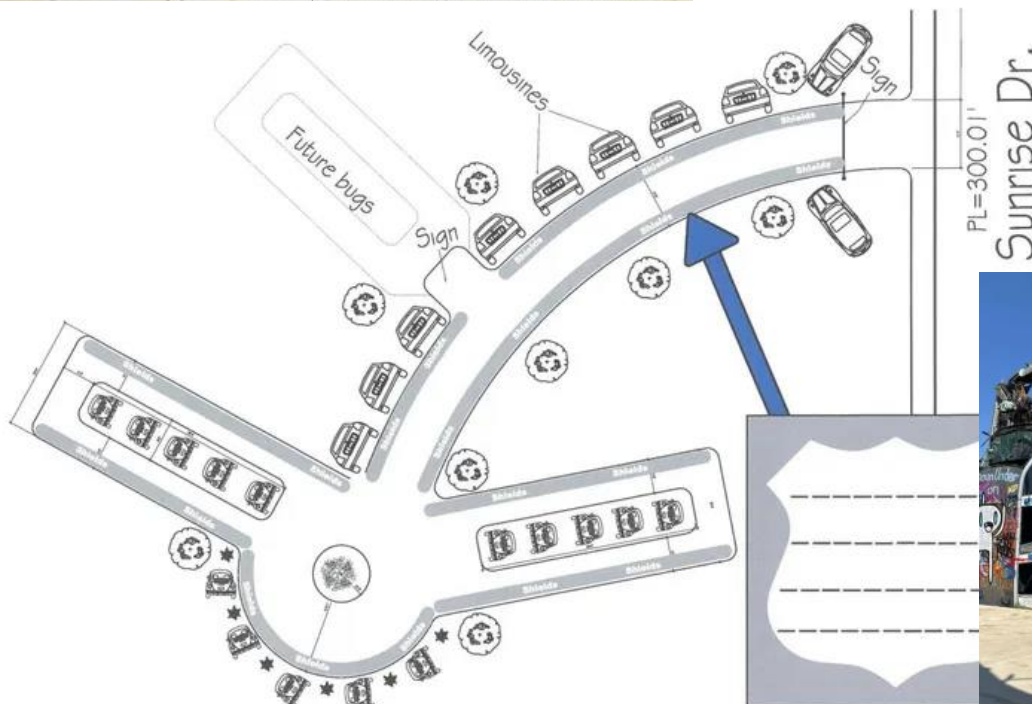
YES	NO	
		ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY U. S. A., OR ANY COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS ANYWHERE?
		ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF A FASCIST ORGANIZATION?
		ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF ANY ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION, MOVEMENT, GROUP OR COMBINATION OF PERSONS WHICH ADVOCATES THE OVERTHROW OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT, OR WHICH HAS ADOPTED THE POLICY OF ADVOCATING OR APPROVING THE COMMISSION OF ACTS OF FORCE OR VIOLENCE TO DENY OTHER PERSONS THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, OR WHICH SEEKS TO ALTER THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY UNCONSTITUTIONAL MEANS?
		ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN AFFILIATED OR ASSOCIATED WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED ABOVE AS AN AGENT, OFFICIAL, OR EMPLOYEE?
		ARE YOU NOW ASSOCIATING WITH, OR HAVE YOU ASSOCIATED WITH ANY INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING RELATIVES, WHO YOU KNOW OR HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE, ARE OR HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF ANY OF THE ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFIED ABOVE?
		HAVE YOU EVER ENGAGED IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES OF ANY ORGANIZATION OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED ABOVE: CONTRIBUTION(S) TO, ATTENDANCE AT OR PARTICIPATION IN ANY ORGANIZATIONAL, SOCIAL, OR OTHER ACTIVITIES OF SAID ORGANIZATIONS OR OF ANY PROJECTS SPONSORED BY THEM; THE SALE, GIFT, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANY WRITTEN, PRINTED, OR OTHER MATTER, PREPARED, REPRODUCED, OR PUBLISHED, BY THEM OR ANY OF THEIR AGENTS OR INSTRUMENTALITIES?

SLUG BUG RANCH

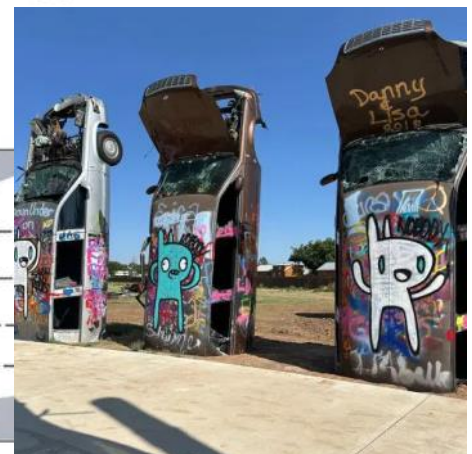
If you recall in my Fall 2 2022 issue, I reported about going to the Bug Ranch a few miles east of Amarillo. Developments over the last 6 months brought changes to the Bug Ranch that ultimately relocated them closer to Amarillo, specifically a short distance to the west of The Big Texan by another of their properties, the Big Texan RV Ranch and the Starlight Ranch Event Center. You remember The Big Texan, I went there this past Christmas along with several times before over the last few years. They had a “christening” of sorts on Friday, June 14, 2024 unveiling the new location of the bugs and in conjunction with the Texas Route 66 Festival. You can see their new logo and the architectural drawing of the new park in the images on this page. They have added more cars to the original five, including the old limos of the Big Texan. I’ll include more about this new park once I get to see it for myself in the future.



These images are from the Slug Bug Ranch Facebook page until I can go and take my own photos!



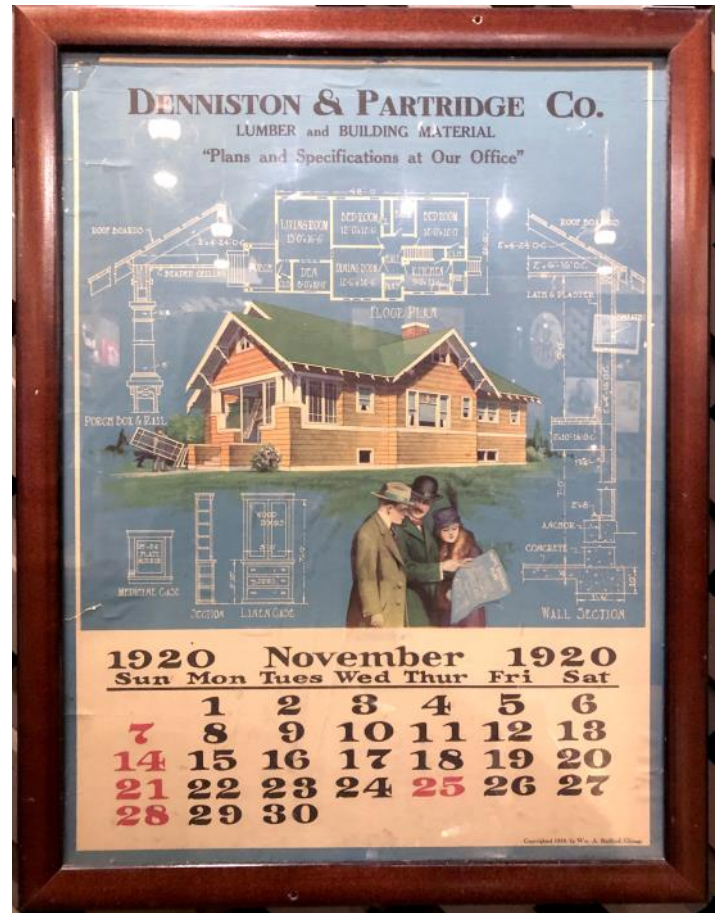
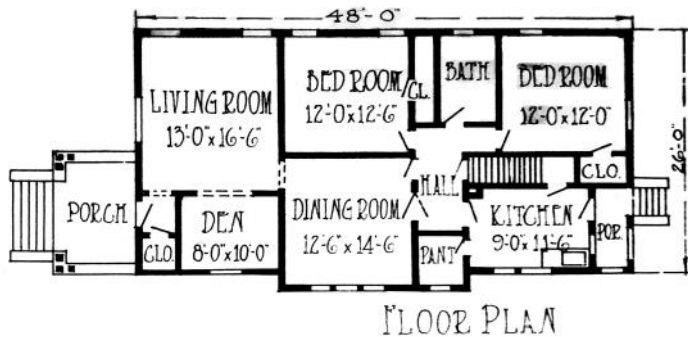
“Limo Henge” is what I am calling these old Big Texan limos buried vertically.



OLD ARCHITECTURE

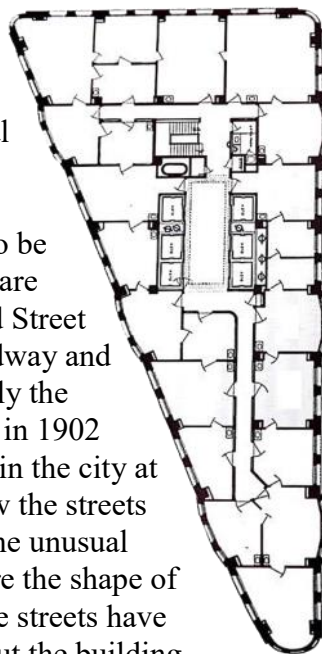
1920 House Plan

If you have ever been inside a Cracker Barrel (and frankly, who hasn't?), you then know that they have historic objects all throughout the store and restaurant. Every so often, I find one that I find particularly interesting. This item is a calendar page for November 1920 that shows a house model from Denniston & Partridge Company. This is likely from a larger calendar set with each month highlighting a different house. This month shows a color drawing of the exterior along with a floorplan and details of its construction. While the information does not include a model name, it does provide a time capsule of sorts as to what a "modern" house looked like 100 years ago!



Fuller/Flatiron Building

I saw this floating on Facebook in several places and thought it was interesting. There is an unusual triangle shaped building in New York City across from Madison Square Park (not to be confused with Madison Square Garden!) in between E 22nd Street and E 23rd Street and Broadway and 5th Avenue. Called originally the Fuller Building, it was built in 1902 and was the tallest building in the city at the time with 20 floors. How the streets intersected is what caused the unusual shape of the lot and therefore the shape of the building. The flow of the streets have long since been modified, but the building remained the same. It later became called the Flatiron building. Here is plan of one of the floors.



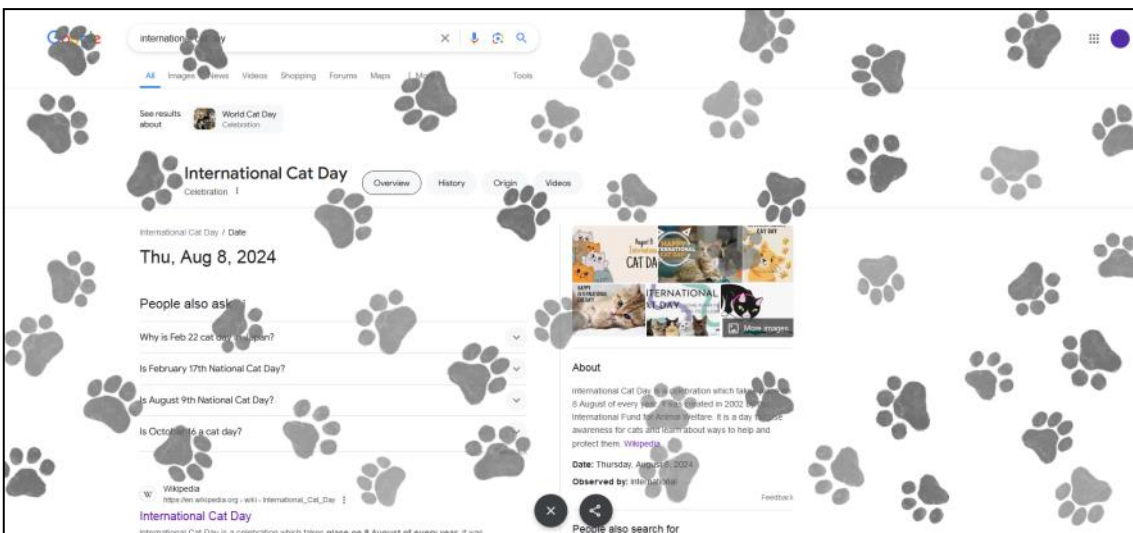
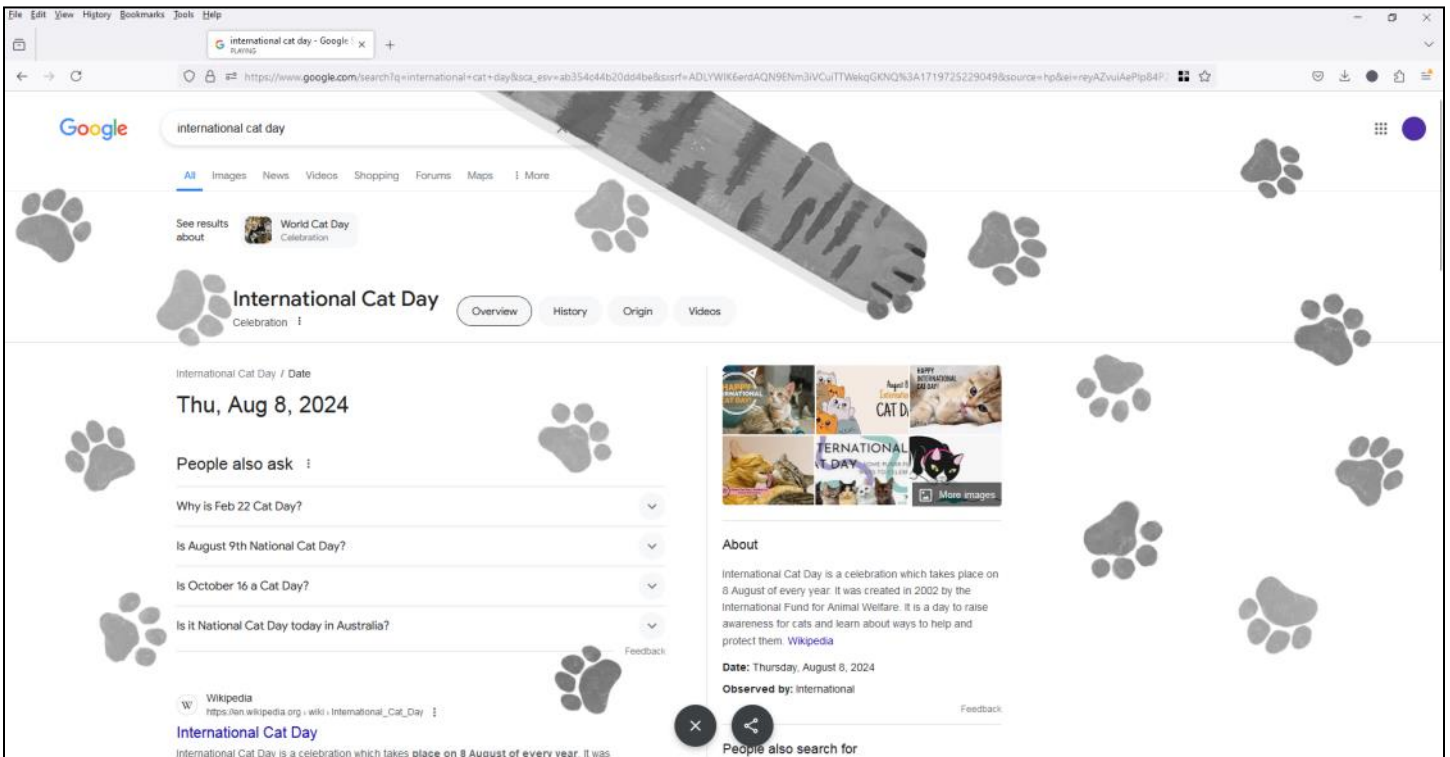
Here are two photos of the Fuller building. Unfortunately, I do not have any dates. Source: Facebook - "Explore USA" and www.traveller365.com

INTERNATIONAL CAT DAY

International Cat Day

International Cat Day was August 8, 2024. While looking up some information about the day beforehand, I saw this unusual cat paw button in the upper left with an animated cat paw that touched the button. I ended up clicking on it since it was clickable but not knowing what it meant, and after a minute, I realized that it was an animated feature on the Google results page! After clicking the button, anywhere on the page you clicked a cat paw reached

over to that spot and made a paw print! There were various colors of cat paws and various meows that went with them! Such a fun feature! Take a look: [Google Result: International Cat Day](#)



Obviously, I went a little crazy with this one!

HARVESTER ANTS

Over the years of living in Lubbock and going around the West Texas Panhandle, one thing you see everywhere besides jackrabbits, prairie dogs, and prickly pears is Harvester Ants. The ones found in this area I think are the *pogonomyrmex barbatus* species. Unlike most ants, these ants are very large, about 5-7 mm, roughly a quarter inch, and really have no interest in humans! They have their own distinct recognizable patterns to know that “yes, that is a harvester ant pile”! Well, actually, they really don’t have a “pile” like regular ants but rather just a hole in the middle of a very cleared out, flat spot on the ground. From that cleared out area are very distinct trails, cleared lines that spoke out from the hole. These ants are very orderly and travel a lot! The trails typically connect to other holes in the ground with similar cleared out spots on the ground. So they look big and scary and one might think that they are similar to a carpenter ant, which eats wood often in homes, but they are not related. Harvester ants collect and eat seeds, although I personally don’t usually see the ants actually carrying anything. Harvester Ants are a food source for horny toads.



Harvester ants entering and leaving their nest.

Horny Toad, or Texas Horned Lizard



FOURTH OF JULY IN MIDLAND

For the next several pages, I had some job related locations where I worked. They were interesting enough to include almost like mini trips.

A Midland Fourth of July

Like last year in 2023, the place where I worked had a job in Midland, Texas on the Fourth of July to work an event. The event was very similar to last year, but with a few technical and staffing differences. The Midland Chamber of Commerce calls the event the Star-Spangled Salute. This was also the 100th year of the existence of the Midland Chamber of Commerce (1924-2024).

We left Wednesday evening to drive down to Midland. There were three of us, and we each were driving. I drove my own vehicle, while the other two people drove our equipment. We stayed the night at a hotel, as we usually do for out of town events.

Thursday morning was the first event of a series of events throughout the day, but the first of two locations where we would be at. The morning event was the 61st Annual Children's Sidewalk Parade. They were on the street specifically, but the roads were blocked off for the day. By noonish, we moved and set up at the second location that would remain for the rest of the day. It was a very hot day like last year, and by early afternoon, we went to have lunch at the local Rosa's Café just like last year. We went back to the site of the activities and stayed in the truck with the air conditioning. We ended up sleeping for a couple of hours. Meanwhile the activities slowly got more full of people and the concert started by early evening. Also by this point, the clouds were coming in making it cloudy but also windy. It did cool off the area by quite a bit, but there were some severe storms to the west that appeared like they might or might not head in the direction where we were. But, the frontal winds reached the area anyway. There was a little rain just before it got dark, and many people had left already. However, once it got dark and was close to fireworks time, there were more people who came back. The fireworks were delayed about 30 minutes but then

went on as planned. Now, there was a drone show that started when the fireworks started, but it was obvious that the drones were not functioning as planned, especially as they were defaulting back to home base in the middle of the show. The fireworks stopped and after maybe 15 minutes, the fireworks continued, but without the drone show. Once done, we shut down and packed up our stuff and headed back to the hotel. We stayed the night, planning to leave on Friday.

Now the reason I drove my vehicle separately is because the other two needed to drive to a location near Dallas for another event on Saturday, while I would be working an event near Lubbock also on Saturday. It was just how the staffing worked out for a string of several events. They left, and I left taking I-20 west to catch a road that would take me to the HEB in Midland I remember going to several years earlier. However, before I knew it, I was halfway to Odessa having missed the road I was looking for! I ended up taking the long scenic route back around to the HEB. I ended up being disappointed at the HEB not finding what I was wanting. But I did drive over to the Dutch Brothers for some coffee to eat with the doughnut holes I bought from HEB. Once I left around 12:20 PM, the road was basically a straight shot back to Lubbock. I did make a stop along the way for photos of some oil pump jacks, as there are a lot of them in this area. I got back to south Lubbock a little before 2:30 PM. Once back in Lubbock, I did a few errands, including lunch at Chick-fil-A, before going home.



The kids parade started in a parking lot this year and made a big circle around the block.

FOURTH OF JULY IN MIDLAND



The mounted police were present again.



A bunch of food truck options.



Dust, wind, and storm clouds coming.



Had a little rain in the early evening.



The finished fireworks after the delay.

AN ISLAND WEDDING

Wedding Event in Ransom Canyon


Because of scheduling, I needed to work an event by myself with a driver. It was a small wedding event on Saturday, July 6, 2024. This wedding was scheduled since January and the other staff were working other events. The wedding was on a little island on Lake Ransom Canyon in a community called Ransom Canyon, a few miles east of Lubbock. I went with the driver getting to the little island around 4:00 PM. After some troubleshooting, I got things up and running by 6:00 PM when the casual wedding part started. We would be there until about 11:00 PM when we packed up and left. The ceremony itself was at 7:00 PM for about 30 minutes with the reception after that for the rest of the night.

The afternoon was hot as was expected for early July, but as the sun went behind the edges of the canyon, it cooled off just a little enough to be bearable. We did stay in the truck with the air conditioning for much of the time. This little island had an event center they called the Ranch House, and the island is maybe 600 feet at it's widest point by maybe 400 feet in the other direction and has a narrow road connecting it to the "mainland" with a

few docks on one side. Most of the wedding reception took place inside the building, but they did have tables outside along with some games. It turned out that the city had their Fourth fireworks that evening at 10:00 PM, and the little island was a perfect viewing point to watch them. They went on for about 20 minutes.

After we packed up, we slowly made our way off the island and out of the canyon and onto the main road (which is east 50th Street) to go back to the shop. The traffic was crowded with people leaving after fireworks and we ended up having to take a couple of detours, but we eventually got back to the shop around midnight.

Because of some difficulties, it took a little while to get everything back in the shop and closed up. By that point, it was around 1:30 AM in the morning and I said screw it because I was hungry for we did not end up eating at the wedding. I then drove over to the Whataburger near my house and decided to have breakfast getting the big pancake meal with some iced tea. Once home, I stayed up for a little while before eventually going to sleep.



*Nice views from the island of the canyon.
Skiers and houseboats would appear later.*

AN ISLAND WEDDING



Deer tracks.



Some blue dragonfly.



Duck tracks.



Mostly clear sunny day for a wedding on an island.



Seeing dusk from the little island on Lake Ransom Canyon.



Fireworks just after dark.

KCBD TRAVEL WEEK

KCBD Travel Week, July 8-12, 2024

The second week of July was the scheduled KCBD Live Community Coverage Tour where every day the newscast is live from a different city. The station is KCBD News Channel 11, and this was the 22nd year of the tour. Our company was chosen to be a part of the tour over the five days. Monday was in Sudan, Tuesday was in Floydada, Wednesday was on the Four Sixes Ranch, Thursday was in Levelland, and Friday was in Slaton. The first stop on Monday was in Sudan, but our participation got rained out and the station went with their plan B indoors. But, we did work the rest of the week. I helped on Tuesday and Wednesday but was then diverted for another job elsewhere. You can read more about that on a later page in the journal.

On Tuesday, we went to Floydada, which is the pumpkin capital of Texas, and located about an hour to the northeast of Lubbock. The setup was in Floydada Park. We got there in the early afternoon, and there was a small remote weather clip at 4:00 PM, a full live remote news broadcast at 5:00 PM, and again at 6:00 PM. We got to see the behind the scenes view of how they did the news when they travel on the road. After the news finished at 6:30, they gave away hotdogs, chips, and drinks, and had games of bingo for those who came. By about 8:00 PM, we were packed and left.

Wednesday's live location was a highlight as it was on the Four Sixes Ranch in Guthrie, Texas. This location was the furthest away at about 90 minutes. We got to the horse division and headquarters of the ranch at about 2:00 PM, but we did make a stop on the way. We wanted to get lunch at an apparently well known local BBQ joint in Dickens, about 30 minutes before getting to Guthrie, called TC's Ponderosa. We had a short lunch there before continuing to the ranch. One thing I did know about ahead of time was that we hired a drone operator to get drone footage over the afternoon. I first noticed the drone as we were a short distance away from the entrance to the ranch. The drone followed us as we arrived. All while setting up, the drone took many video clips and throughout the afternoon. The news

part was much like when we were in Floydada with the same format and timing and the same activities after the news.

I walked around to a few different areas of the ranch out front where we were allowed to go. However, I did get to see the guesthouse beforehand that most people don't normally get to see where the resident cook, Susie Hurt, had made the crew several desserts and iced tea. During the afternoon, I walked over to the front fence by the street to see the horses grazing across the street, along with looking at the racehorse sculpture and ranch entrance out front.

The Four Sixes Ranch started in 1870 with Captain Samuel Burk Burnett when he bought cattle that had a brand of four sixes on them from Frank Crowley of Denton, Texas. (Contrary to popular belief, the brand has nothing to do with a poker game!) The ranch stayed in the family until Burnett's great grand daughter, Anne Marion, died in 2020 with her will ordering the sale of the ranch after her death. By May of 2021, the ranch was officially sold to Taylor Sheridan, the creator of the very popular TV show *Yellowstone*, and its many spinoffs, including one called *6666* currently in development, as well as the ranch featured in episodes of *Yellowstone*. The current General Manager of the ranch is Joe Leathers and the Foreman of the horse division where we were at is Nathan Canaday, DVM.

As stated before, I got diverted to a different job elsewhere while the other guy worked the last two locations in Levelland and Slaton, both much closer to Lubbock.



KCBD TRAVEL WEEK

Tuesday, July 9, 2024—Floydada



KCBD set up in Floydada Park just SW of downtown.



Karin McCay and Abner Euresti reporting live.

Wednesday, July 10, 2024—6666 Ranch



Here is my photo just before going back live.



Screenshot of the live broadcast with me in the background.



The 6666 brand on the rock wall of the entrance.

KCBD TRAVEL WEEK

Wednesday, July 10, 2024–6666 Ranch



Went to TC's Ponderosa Mesquite Smoked Bar-B-Q for lunch before going to the 6666 Ranch.



The restaurant had this cool decoration.



This is one area inside the guesthouse.



One of the horse barns with the 6666 brand on the side.



Sculpture of Dash For Cash with rider.

KCBD TRAVEL WEEK

Wednesday, July 10, 2024—6666 Ranch



Four Sixes horses in the pasture across the road.



This rig looks like it holds eight horses and pulled by a dually.

The entrance to the headquarters of the 6666 Ranch.



This is just the front lawn of the headquarters.

KCBD TRAVEL WEEK

Wednesday, July 10, 2024—6666 Ranch



Screenshot of drone footage of the road going towards the Four Sixes Ranch, looking to the northwest.

Screenshot of drone footage of the main headquarters barns, pens, and horse breeding facilities.



MIDLAND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Unexpected Diversion To Midland

While in the middle of working another event, I was diverted to a different event in another city, not that day, but the next day. This event was at the Green Tree Country Club in Midland, Texas. I was just in Midland the previous week for the Fourth of July event. Everything was already set up and running, I just needed to work the event by myself for several days while another guy would come and pick up things a few days later.

I left Lubbock to Midland on Thursday, July 11 about 10:30 AM after doing a few errands. Midland is a little under two hours, and the country club is on the north side of town. Once I got to town, I ended up first going to the wrong country club! I had no idea there was more than one! Either way, I got to the right one, but ended up driving through a residential part of it before I realized where the clubhouse was where I needed to go. In any case, I got to place I needed to go, and the other guy showed me the things that they were doing there. The event was a major golf tournament they called the Jamboree, and the country club had some things that they don't usually have as I'll explain later. We had their buffet lunch before we left, then we took care of the hotel arrangements before the other guy left. I stayed at the hotel for about an hour to cool off and just kind of settle down before heading back to the country club. I remained there until about 9:00 PM. They also had a dinner buffet, which I definitely took advantage of!



Wonderful clock tower at crossroads of the grounds.



The start of the west course of 9 holes.



The clubhouse near sunset.

MIDLAND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Unexpected Diversion To Midland

On Friday, July 12, I needed to be there around 6:00 AM to get things ready by about 7:00 AM. Because of the tournament, they also had a breakfast buffet! Up to this point, the food has been really good. So I got a fresh omelette with some fillings along with a few other things from the buffet. I stayed for a little while, then had a lunch buffet of a salad and some grilled chicken along with some desserts. After that, I left for a while to do some errands I wanted to do while in town. I went over to a different HEB and went to get a haircut as I was overdue for one and was planning to get one sometime soon anyway. I looked and felt much better after the haircut. I stopped briefly at the post office and right by it was a wonderful patch of thornless prickly pears, so I had to get some photos. From there, I went back to the country club and sat at a table in the dining room to work on the computer for a while. In the evening, the main golfing tournament was over for the day, and it was time for the evening activities. I had the dinner buffet that was also really good, and the club had some golfing games for people to play, specifically a driving game to break some glass, and a golf simulation game. It was fun to watch. By about 11:00 PM, I shut things down and went back to the hotel.



The sunrise on Friday just before the sun came up.



Everything ready to go in the early morning.



Golf course grass is like no other type of grass!

The practice driving range.

MIDLAND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Unexpected Diversion To Midland

SCHEDULE	
FRIDAY, July 12th	
6:30-9:30	Breakfast (19th Hole/Couples Lounge)
6:30-9:30	Free Stretching by WTX Stretch (Great Lawn)
6:30-9:30	IV Stations Open (Great Lawn)
7:30 - 9:20	Second Round Tee Times (Championship - 4th Flights)
11:00 - 3:00	Lunch (19th Hole/Couples Lounge)
11:00-3:00	Free Stretching by WTX Stretch (Great Lawn)
11:00-5:00	IV Stations Open (Great Lawn)
12:40 - 2:30	Second Round Tee Times (5th-10th Flights)
7:00 - 11:00	Dinner, Music, Games (Great Lawn/Range)
9:45	Putt for a Truck Contest
10:15	Game Finals on the Range/Putting Green
SATURDAY, July 13th	
6:30-9:30	Breakfast (19th Hole/Couples Lounge)
6:30-9:30	Free Stretching by WTX Stretch (Great Lawn)
6:30-9:30	IV Stations Open (Great Lawn)
7:30 - 9:20	Final Round Tee Times (5th-10th Flights)
11:00 - 3:00	Lunch (19th Hole/Couples Lounge)
11:00-3:00	Free Stretching by WTX Stretch (Great Lawn)
11:00-5:00	IV Stations Open (Great Lawn)
12:40 - 2:30	Final Round Tee Times (Championship - 4th Flights)
7:00	Dinner is Served
8:00	Awards Ceremony
8:30	Diamond West Performs
11:00	Bar Closes

The Jamboree was Friday and Saturday.

Cool thornless prickly pear cactus near the post office in Midland.



New Facebook profile photo after a fresh haircut.



Evening activities on Friday.



The "Putt for a Truck" simulation contest. The device on the bottom tracks direction and speed.

MIDLAND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Unexpected Diversion To Midland

On Saturday, July 13, I needed to be back at the club to have things ready again by about 7:00 AM, while only having less than five hours of sleep. For both of these mornings, I was there while still dark and watched the sun rise casting a nice orangey morning light. For this day, I did not leave to go anywhere. I just stayed the entire day until everything was over. So, I had breakfast once again of an omelette, bacon, and a few other things. After that, I went to sit on the covered patio for a while and fell asleep for a while. I then had a later lunch, maybe around 2:00 PM. They had a Mexican theme. So, I had a shrimp taco, fajita chicken burrito, beans, rice, tres leches cake, and fried ice cream, which was really good. Through all of these meals three times a day, I really paced it out to eat just enough to be full without overeating. It was really hot outside, and I needed to stay out of the sun, especially since I had already gotten a pretty good sunburn over the several outside activities of the week. Fortunately, the club had coolers of cold water bottles available everywhere. For the rest of the afternoon, I worked on the computer again for a while until the evening activities, of which they were setting up through the afternoon. During the evening, they had another party with some live music along with an awards ceremony. I just kind of sat in my chair and watched everything as there really was not much for me to do, but I stayed again until about 11:00 PM before shutting things down. I did take advantage again of the last buffet for dinner, and I splurged with the wonderful food and desserts, of which they had prime rib, chicken, a whole seafood bar, and various hot vegetables, and salads, with a large dessert bar of cakes and ice cream! (They were large cakes!)



Green Tree Country Club



Not sure what you call a bank of pumpjacks like this, but they were everywhere!



I would say that this is like the Cadillac of golf carts!



Saturday evening entertainment with Diamond West.



Almost made a pig of myself with the Saturday dinner buffet! I went with the chicken and several of the cakes!

MIDLAND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Unexpected Diversion To Midland

On Sunday, July 14, I got up in the mid morning instead of rooster crow early, got cleaned up, and checked out. One of our guys arrived from Lubbock to take the equipment back to Lubbock. We had some interesting obstacles to overcome, but once out of the country club, he left, and I left and did a few errands before leaving Midland. I went over to HEB to get some mini croissants, as it was Bastille Day after all! I then I drove over to the road that would take me to Lubbock and stopped at the Black Rifle



All throughout the Texas oil region, you will see these torches burning off unusable gasses. (To be specific, these areas do not have the facilities to refine the gas into a usable product.)



I bought whole beans of the "Just Black" coffee from the Black Rifle Coffee Company. This roast has the description of: "Just Black features an aroma that's a mixture of cocoa and vanilla, bold tasting notes, and brings it all home with a smooth buttery finish."

Coffee Company coffee shop. I saw it the week before but did not stop there. I got an iced coffee and ended up also buying some beans. They had a lot of roast options. From there, I finally got on the road about 3:00 PM. Once I got to Lamesa just under an hour later, I stopped at the Toot N Totum there to eat lunch at Mitch's BBQ and to cool off for a little while. I finally got back to Lubbock around 5:30 PM. I did an errand and went straight home. It was hot outside, too hot!



The guy with the grounds who is from Scotland said that this clock tower was installed in the last ten years.



This flower is Globe Amaranth, gomphrena globosa.

GARDEN UPDATE

Rather than give a full garden update, I'm just going to give an item update from the garden. (There's not much to say about the garden actually.) In early April, I bought eight pepper plants of seven varieties from Lowe's. (So yes, I bought two plants of one variety.) I planted them in my vegetable trough, or perhaps pepper trough, as the sole vegetable in the trough this year. By the

end of June, I made my first harvest of peppers of at least five of the varieties. All of the varieties are sweet peppers. They turned out really nice!

Made a support structure tripod.

Seminole pumpkin plant



The pepper plants as of June 12, 2024.



The pepper plants as of June 23, 2024.



- Shown here:*
- *Giant Marconi*
 - *Banana*
 - *Purple Bell*
 - *Red Snacking*
 - *Orange Snacking*
 - *New Mexico*

I made my first harvest on June 25, 2024.



My second harvest was on July 20, 2024.

GARDEN UPDATE

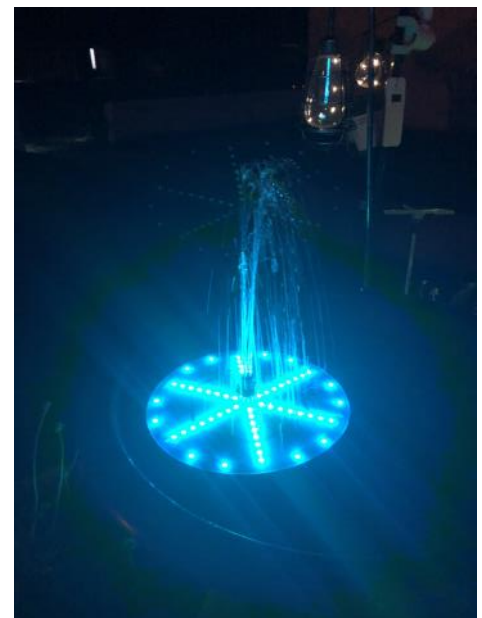


A black bird enjoying a shower in the birdbath.



This birdbath and this interesting solar powered fountain was from Dad's house. He bought the ceramic birdbath several years ago, but the fountain he got from Amazon just a few months before he

died. At the same time, he got paired with it a plastic (but looks like it's metal) birdbath (not shown). I did not know until a few months later that the fountain also had LED lights that changed colors at night!



TRAVELS OF CHAT BLEU



Fourth of July in Midland, Texas.



Midland is known in Texas for oil production.



Fourth of July in Midland, Texas.



At Dutch Brothers for coffee before leaving Midland.



On the way to Ransom Canyon, Texas

TRAVELS OF CHAT BLEU



Warm, sunny day at the lake.



Lake Ransom Canyon at dusk.



On a small island in the middle of Lake Ransom Canyon. It has an event center called the Ranch House.

TRAVELS OF CHAT BLEU



Stopped for BBQ at TC's Ponderosa in Dickens.



Too early in the morning!



Horse sculpture on the 6666 Ranch.



Lunch at the country club club house



At the entrance of the 6666 Ranch in Guthrie, Texas.



Lovely green grass on the country club golf course.

FINAL THOUGHT

Upcoming Holidays

August 26 (Mon) - National Dog Day
September 2 (Mon) - Labor Day
September 11 (Wed) - Patriot Day - Never Forget
September 14 (Sat) - Quanah Parker Day
September 16 (Mon) - National Guacamole Day
September 17 (Tue) - Constitution Day, Citizenship Day
September 19 (Thu) - Talk Like a Pirate Day
September 22 (Sun) - First Day of Fall
September 26 (Thu) - National Pancake Day
September 27 (Fri) - Native American Day
September 29 (Sun) - National Coffee Day
October 1 (Tue) - National Homemade Cookie Day
October 2-4 - Rosh Hashanah (starts in the evening)
October 11 (Fri) - Yom Kippur (starts in the evening)
October 14 (Mon) - Columbus Day
October 16-23 (Wed-Wed) - Sukkot

New Business Sticker

I created an update to my sticker for my business. I still have my previous round one, but I added a new square one. I also still have plenty of ear tag keyrings as well. Simply contact me if you would like some of these! rgdestolfe@yahoo.com



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

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BACK PAGE LITERATURE

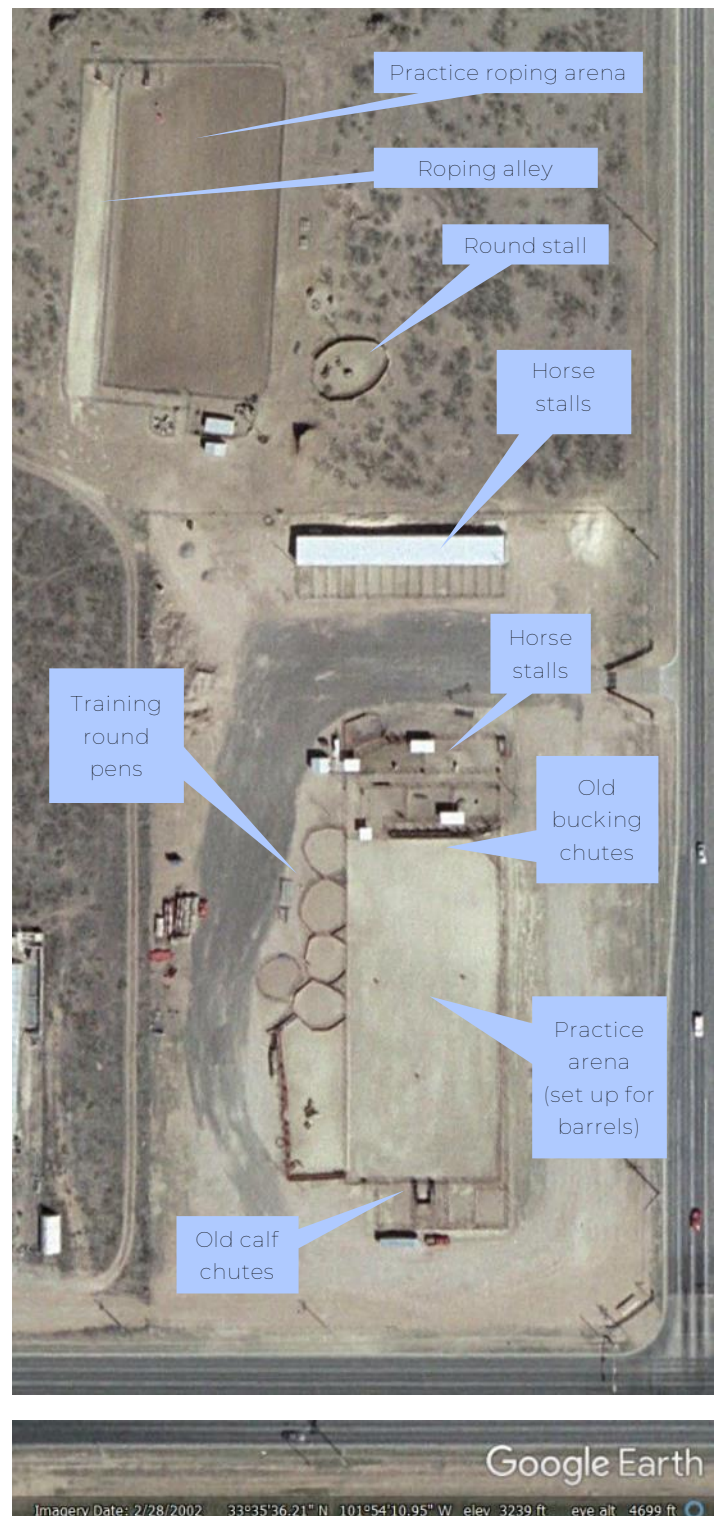
ANSC 5001-09 Daily Journal – Part 2

In the last issue of the journal, I started the first half of a journal I kept for a self study graduate class in Animal Science, class ANSC 5001, Problems in Animal Science. Without further delay, we pick up the next class date from where I left off.

Thursday, March 7, 2002

I arrived around 2:00 PM today and first went around and checked and filled the water troughs so I could finish digesting my lunch. Just as I was done, I went over to the calf roping practice area since I saw a few people down there practicing. When I got there, they were practicing groundwork, throwing and tying. Who was there were a few people [the coach] knew from his [previous] college coaching days who are in the ABC rodeo this weekend (the perms start tonight actually). I then helped [the coach] for a short while, while he roped a few calves. [He] took care of unsaddling and all while I then took Peanut to get a bath. I hosed him down and almost took a bath with him. I then soaped him up real good and [he] rinsed him. I took Peanut back to the shed where we squeegeed him and combed his mane. Apparently, Peanut just got sold, which [the coach] was talking about but then happened very quickly. So we took some time to make him look nice and clean and such. After that, [he] was taking a break and we started talking for a bit. He recommended that I wasn't quite ready to actually take the horse training class specifically yet but that I should take the Introduction to Riding class that [another professor] will hopefully get offered in the Fall. If nothing else, though, I could do another Special Problems class and use that to learn the riding. Apparently, [he] thinks that I am close but not quite there yet to being a horseman (I think that is what he said). I actually don't think that I'm anywhere near that, but [he] said I wasn't giving myself enough credit, for he says that I have learned a lot in a short period of time. That was a good thing for me to hear, I really didn't know how or if I have progressed in anything specific. I helped unload some oats then hydroed Blue's leg for the sore he had. [This means that I took the hose and watered down Blue's leg.] We fed and that was

This is the Dub Parks Memorial Arena. I used Google Earth Pro and their historical imagery feature to zip back to February 28, 2002. This was right during the time I took that class.



Google Earth Pro. February 28, 2002.

BACK PAGE LITERATURE

really it. We have Spring Break next week and I don't know what I'll be doing as far as going out to the grounds.

Saturday, March 9, 2002

I went over in the mid afternoon and helped [the coach] doctor the calves. We came back later and we fed. We went to the ABC Rodeo and got to sit real close to the roughstock chutes. We stayed and watched the whole rodeo. I thought it was pretty cool to get a more closeup perspective of the riders that what you normally see on TV or even live.

Sunday, March 10, 2002

Stayed the night at [the coach's house] so that I could help him feed and water in the morning. That was basically the first time I've fed in the early-mid morning. I can see how it might be pretty cool to get up early in the morning when it is cool and feed and water then go get breakfast. It would be nicer if I didn't have to hear all the cars driving by; in other words, if it was quiet.

Spring Break – March 11-15, 2002

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

I went out in the late afternoon to help [the coach] and he suggested that I go to the horse auction tonight. I've wanted to go since he first mentioned it some months ago. So I went. It was passed 98th St. on I-27 and it was called Auld's(?). I got there around 7:00 PM and stayed there until about 9:00. It was interesting to see what they auctioned and how they did it. I realized after a while that this was a good place to get my saddle when I will need to get it. Also, I could get a bridle, reins, bits, etc from the sellers outside. It was pretty cool to see how they auctioned the horses. They did go extremely fast; I think there were 40 horses. It is just too bad that some of the buyers were also "gluers" (those who buy horses just for "products") [this means, slaughter horses]. I should be able to get a decent used saddle for \$100-200 or less. [Remember that this was in 2002!]

Wednesday & Thursday, March 13 & 14, 2002

I went both of these days to help for a short while with feed and water. I hydroed Blue's leg and just helped hold him while [the coach] did the doctorin'. I saw someone outside the gates take a picture of me while holding Blue when [he] was washing his leg. I wonder if it was someone from the UD [University Daily, the school newspaper] or Lubbock paper or just a tourist or someone else.

Tuesday, March 26, 2002

Today was a good day! I got there around 2:00 PM, then after a while, I went and got the palomino and hydroed her flank which apparently had some sort of whelp. Hopefully the cold water helped. I then took her back and brushed her down. It is definitely spring because all the horses were brushing cakes of hair off. I tied her up and [another student] had already gotten one of the therapeutic riding horses (a huge paint) saddled with one of his saddles and warmed up. [He] helped and guided me while I rode in the round pen. I started with a walk then tried the trot. I did have split reins and a snaffle bit, which I didn't have before. I also tried the lope, which is smoother but certainly faster. I mostly needed to try to keep balance while reining and smoothing out the bouncing. Definitely something I need to work on! I walked the paint into the big arena then walked around there before getting stuck in a corner. I had a little bit of a problem with the commands. [The coach] explained about the holding until action then release and about establishing control. He had me interweave cones for practicing the reining, which helped. We then rode the horses to push the calves down the alley to give deworm medicine. We helped with that then basically ended with that. I did stay a while and helped push calves to have [a rodeo student] practice his calf roping.

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Thursday, March 28, 2002

Like Tuesday, this was another good riding day. I started out by getting Charlie, the paint from Tuesday. I brushed him, hoofed, and put on the saddle after changing out the cinch. Before I actually put on the saddle and started riding and while the saddle was on the rack, I sat in the saddle while [the coach] explained in detail about how the reining and the reaching for the reins worked. This helped a lot for I now better understand what I was doing wrong and what to do to get a certain result. Also, he showed me what to do if the horse tries to take control. While I sat in the saddle and held onto ropes as reins, [he] acted like a horse while I needed to do the response that corrects it, specifically, to correct the head moving astray or by the will of the horse. I then walked in the round pen trying out the reining and corrections as needed. After, I went into the big arena again and practiced walking the cones. Did that for a while to try out the reining and get used to how to do it. We then went into trotting and loping and body and feet position when riding and coming to a stop. After practicing the trotting and loping on both days, I can say that I am a lot more comfortable and confident with going faster than a walk. We then walked over to the calves and pushed them down to the roping chute. I helped pull the chute for a while for the calf ropers to get their practice.

Friday, March 29, 2002

I went over to the arena since Tech closed at noon. I did a bunch of miscellaneous stuff and also helped pull the chute for [a rodeo student] to practice his calf roping. It is supposed to rain tonight and tomorrow, so I don't know if I'll be helping out tomorrow. I did talk to [the coach], and I am considering buying a saddle and halter soon (perhaps this Tuesday at the auction). [I did not end up going to the auction on Tuesday.]

Thursday, April 4, 2002

...I got [to the arena] about an hour before everyone was to leave for the rodeo. There are [college] rodeos for the next three weeks, so I already know that Thursdays are going to be shot. Maybe, I'll get to do something here on Tuesdays.

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

I rode a horse today that I knew I would ride someday, but haven't seen yet, Rick. Rick was about 20 and was a Therapeutic Riding horse. When I first started riding him, I didn't feel like I really had any control of him and therefore didn't like him. He didn't seem to understand the direction commands nor the speed commands therefore he easily went from a walk to a lope or run. Also, when I would say easy, he actually sped up. I tried the technique of spinning him down, but he kept going that speed anyway. I think he may have been a barrel racer horse originally for how quickly he was able to go around corners. I walked around the arena and walked around cones. I did that for most of the time. I did realize though that I might not actually be ready for the riding part of horse training. I did feel edgy the whole time because I couldn't tell what he would do next with the command I would give. So, I basically didn't do much other than the walking. The rodeo guys were around for practice.

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Today, I went to the facility in New Deal, which is just north of Lubbock. The Tech horse breeding facility is located here. We left Dub Parks about 12:30 PM then stopped to get a soda then left. We made another stop to a person's very large house near New Deal to get a donation of 20-30 bales of hay. After we got to the New Deal facility, most of the time was spent doing the process outlined next. I wasn't trained in any of the activities done, so I mainly watched everyone. Besides me, there was [the professor and five students]. Today, they needed to check and see what mares were ready to breed (palpating?), then collect from the stallions, then artificially inseminate. Here are the steps taken in

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more detail. [*Please note that this explanation is rather graphic and direct in its detail!*]

Check the Mares—First the mares (and colts if any) that needed to be checked were brought and tied. The anal/rectum regions needed to be cleaned out of excess fecal matter (scoop the shit out). Then a sonogram type of machine was inserted along with the person's arm almost to the shoulder to get a visual indicator and measurement of follicle size (shove arm up butt with a hose). This determined if the horse was ready to breed if the follicle was at least a certain size (35cm?).

Collect from Stallions—If enough mares are ready, then the next step is to collect from the stallions. This requires the use of an artificial vagina (AV), which is a large rubber simulator filled with warm water resembling a large condom. A container is taped to the collection end and a stiff, leather holder goes around the whole thing for support. A horse is brought in who is obviously ready and willing and allowed to sniff a mare. While making extremely strange facial features, the horse becomes more aroused. The horse's penis is washed off [by an unfortunate guy with wet towels] and the process continues quickly from here. The horse's penis become extremely stiff and he then jumps onto a padded dummy. At the same time, one of the helpers directs the penis into the AV and holds it while the horse humps away. [Another unfortunate guy!] Three people are usually needed for this, to hold the horse into place until he ejaculates. At this point, the collection is made and the horse turns flaccid extremely fast while become very tired and calm. The bottle of semen is then taken into the lab where a sample is taken and put under the microscope to check for activity and a rough, visual sperm density. If appears good, then an extender is added to the semen which apparently extends the life of the semen as well as creates slightly more volume. The collection is placed into a fridge and more collections are made as needed.

After all collections are taken (we took two, but three tries with one horse), the mares (and colts) are brought in and tied up. The anal and vaginal areas

are cleaned three times with soap. The tail is also wrapped and tied out of the way. The semen is put into a syringe (no needle) and a tube with the arm is inserted into the vagina and the collection (a portion) pressed through the tube. This process is done with all the mares and stallions as needed and planned.

After, we loaded up the therapeutic horses and came back to the Dub Parks arena.

Thursday, April 18, 2002

This weekend is the Big Spring rodeo. This town is about two hours south of Lubbock. [The coach] and I left mid afternoon (about 2:30 PM) and headed there. We got there around 4:30-5:00 PM. Thursday night was slack for roping, barrel racing, and steer wrestling. It lasted until about 10:00 PM (7:00-10:00). We will stay through the short go Saturday night then probably come back to Lubbock afterwards.

Friday, April 19, 2002

On Friday, we had slack again starting around 9:00 AM. As something different, they tried having all calf roping on Friday, including the short go for calf roping. So, no calf roping was done during the performance Friday nor Saturday. The morning slack ended about 2:00-2:30 PM. After several hours of rest, the Friday performance started at 7:00 PM and lasted to about 9:30-10:00 PM.

Saturday, April 20, 2002

Saturday morning was the rest of the slack and was fairly short (9:00-11:30 AM). The short go was Saturday night and went about 7:00-9:00 PM. We stayed afterwards for the records to be tallied and the checks made by the rodeo secretary. The one thing I noticed about this rodeo was that almost everyone did crappy. Most everyone got "no times", penalties, or got long times or low scores. Also, the sand in this arena was very deep, although well watered, but was not good for running. Some of the time, I did stand down in the arena a few times, but only for the roping events. I spent a lot of time sitting and a lot of

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time thinking and talking and such. I also ate fairly well too! [The coach] and I left around 10:00-10:30 PM and got back about 12:30 AM. I had a good, relaxing time (as I needed) and was glad to go.

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Got to the arena today around 3:00 PM. No one was around yet, so I got Charlie and picked his hooves. I couldn't find my brushes (I think I left them a couple of weeks ago), so I went around and filled water troughs. After [the coach] came, I saddled up and started walking Charlie in the big arena. During the about two hours I rode, I realized that Charlie was being a real bastard! The biggest problems I had were with steering (and straight) and speed control. For most of the time, I could not get him to lope. All he'd do is trot faster. Apparently, horses have several trotting speeds. Near the end of riding, I finally got him to lope, but the lopes as well as the trots were extremely rough and had me bouncing all over the saddle (enough to make me saddle sore!). Charlie just seemed to have an attitude problem, which I think I may have overcome but only to a certain extent. I rode Charlie over to the roping arena and helped with the calf roping for a while then later with the team roping.

Monday, April 29, 2002

Went by the arena just to see what was going on. No one seemed to be there. So, I went around and made sure all the water troughs were full. I plan to continue riding this week and possibly next week even if I do not need to for class purposes. I have learned a lot from this class as the summary report states. Thank you [to the coach] for giving me many opportunities to learn!

Summary of Horses Mentioned 2

- ◆ Peanut, male, 4 years
- ◆ Blue
- ◆ Name not known, female, light palomino
- ◆ Charlie, male, large paint
- ◆ Rick, male, about 20 years, ex therapy horse
- ◆ Various mares and stallions at New Deal farm



(This photo was taken during a class I took during a much later term and is not related to the class described in this writing.)

This horse is Charlie! He is a big, fat, lazy paint horse. While I used him a few times in the class described in this writing, he was my primary horse I rode during a class I took in the Fall of 2003. This was an undergrad level class of "Special Problems in Animal Science" that was a predecessor to the modern class called "ANSC 3312, Horsemanship I: General Horsemanship". He was easy to ride, but sometimes bullheaded to direct!