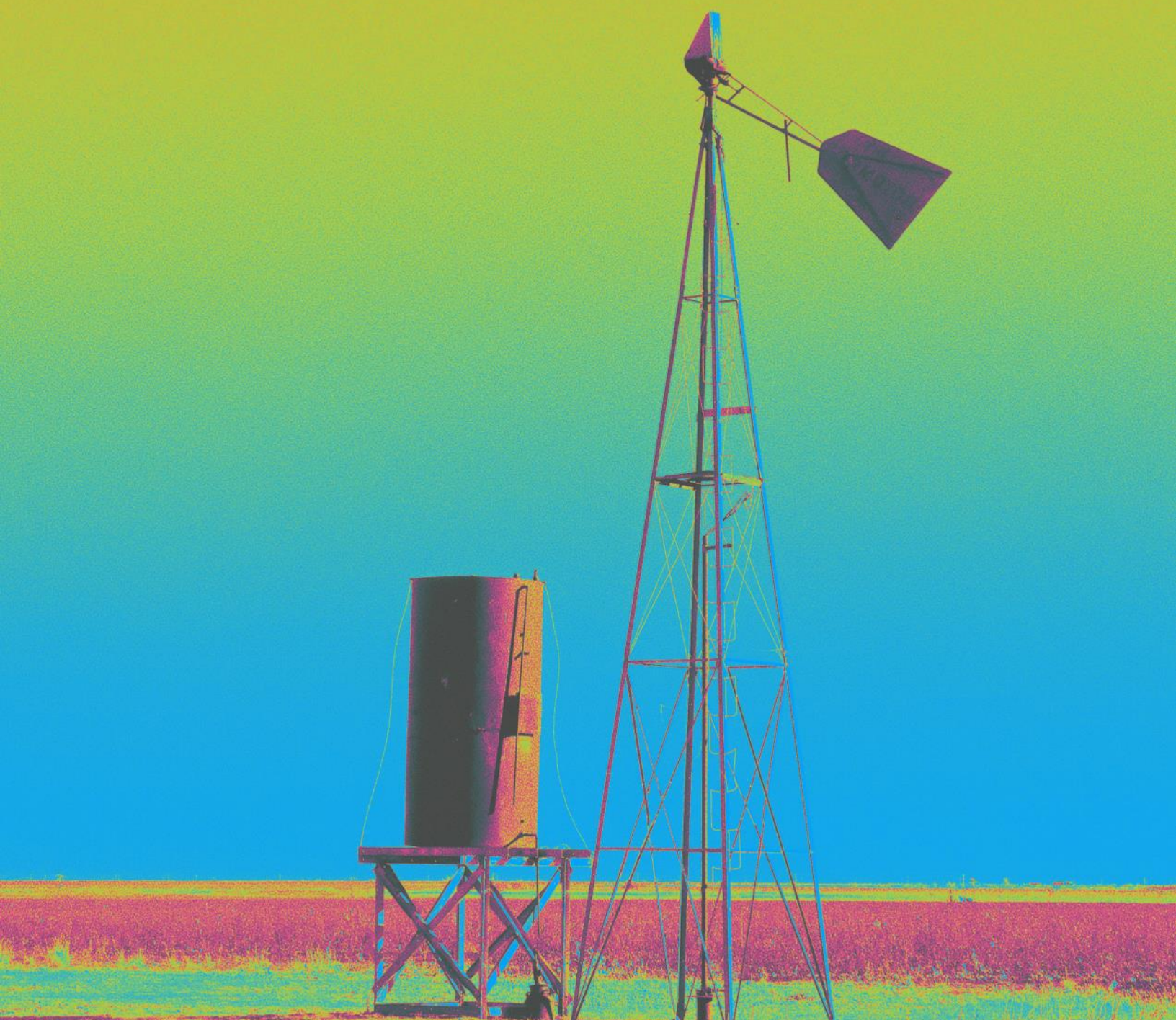


de Stolfe

Journal ●●●●●●●●



Contents

Winter 2022 | II.I

The page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.

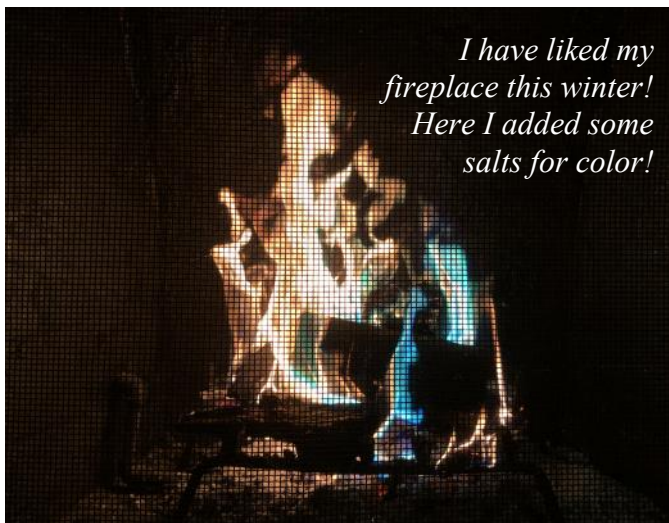
*Covers activities in January and February 2022.
The page numbers correspond to the PDF pages.*

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On The Cover



While on a remote rural road in Crosby County, I drove by, then drove back to, this long abandoned windmill and an unusual tank that were left from what looked like an old homesite. This was also in an area of some cotton fields.



*I have liked my
fireplace this winter!
Here I added some
salts for color!*

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

Activities of First Season of 2022

Here we are now three months into 2022. I had a quiet Christmas and New Year at home after the many activities of 2021. This quiet time continued into 2022. I have worked on little projects of getting more settled at home, planning my 2022 garden, and thinking about what to do in 2022

Settling at home started after my move in June 2021. As previously explained, Snyder no longer worked out as a viable place to live after my job ended in mid 2019. Those two years after only highlighted how disconnected I was from what I had before I moved to Snyder in late 2018. So, I knew the move was inevitable. Once I decided that moving back to Lubbock was the best choice for the time, I did, in June of 2021. It took several months to get some things in order after moving, and I still have a bunch of things still to sort through and get into better order. It is a slow process as I feel like doing it. After all, there is no rush and no good reason to be rash through it.

My 2021 garden year was good, both in starting in Snyder and finishing in Lubbock. I had an increase of my garden after coming back from Florida and with buying more plants. That trend continued after I moved making the garden probably twice the size it ever was in Snyder. That was not necessarily a bad thing since I did have more room,

inside and outside. But, I did and do have more direct sun for half of the year. I still garden in containers because I rent, and it is the best way to garden without damage.

Okay, I did do something in the fall that I kept vague and now want to explain. Starting in September last year, I became an intern with the Lubbock Master Gardener Association. The association is in association with the Texas Master Gardener, a part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Every state and DC has some sort of state run Master Gardener program, usually through an agricultural department of a university. To become a Master Gardener in Lubbock County, I needed to go through the internship program. The first requirement was weekly classes for two months, a total of 50 education hours. Most of the classes were classroom format with a few other planned activities of special guests and field trips. You might remember when I reported going to the Amarillo Botanical Gardens at the end of September. That was the first field trip our group took. The formal education is half of the requirements. We also need to have 50 volunteer hours within one year to formally become a “Master Gardener”. The membership is annual and required to maintain that status.



Producer, RG de Stolfe

The title “Master Gardener” is not a degree and cannot be used for profit or personal gain, only for official activities related to the AgriLife Extension. Right now, I am over halfway with the volunteer hours from the several activities I’ve been doing. I will tell more about those activities and about my own gardening efforts in the next issue.

As for 2022... Right now, I am in a position where I can take some time to evaluate what I want to do and to figure out the means how to get there. I also understand that I cannot be careless about it either. I have been in very crappy, lean positions before and want to never let myself get to those points again. But I also know that I cannot make things happen by my own force either.

This issue has some varied topics that should be of interest to everyone. Enjoy!

Word For Life

What Is Your Expectation?

Acts 3:1-10

- 1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
- 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;
- 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.
- 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."
- 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.
- 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."
- 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.
- 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.
- 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.
- 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

By the time of Acts 3, Jesus ascends to the right hand of God the Father, the eleven apostles who were left choose Matthias as the replacement for Judas, the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, Peter gave a great sermon, and great Grace was upon the first Christians as the church continued to grow.

In Acts 3, Peter and John go to the temple for the hour of prayer according to Jewish traditions (the apostles were, after all, Jewish). At the gate of the temple, which had a name called Beautiful, they found a man lame from birth, meaning he could not walk. Unknown people (more than one) brought him daily to the gate to beg for "alms", which is basically financial charity. So the story continues where Peter looked at the man, said he did not have "silver and gold" nor a denarius nor any mites, but rather that he had Jesus' gift of healing. Peter then grabbed the man's right hand and pulled him up to where the man's feet and ankles suddenly became healed and normally functioning. In immediate response, the man walked, leaped, and praised God for his healing. The three of them then went into the temple where everyone saw the man who had always been crippled at the gate.

So, to me the most striking of this story is with verse ten:

"Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

It's that last part of verse ten we should pay attention to. I have so many questions and comments about that last part!

Sadly, we, us, today, have this same mindset! We are surprised when we see someone healed of something who had always been crutched with, instead of expecting that the person will be healed. We live life as if a person's dysfunction is their permanent fate! Just like those other people in the temple, we expect that person to always be crutched. They had always seen the man, lame, sitting by the gate and brushed it off as his fate and permanent crutch. They did not even think of or give consideration to helping the man. And we think that occasionally throwing some money at someone like him is supposed to somehow make everything better. I imagine the man probably was reduced to thinking the same way. However, Peter took notice of him and gave him more than money, gave what he actually needed... healing!

Random Things

Restored Church from Spur

The photo below shows the inside of the Trinity Mission church from Spur, Texas. It is now removed and restored to its 1920s look at the National Ranching Heritage Center. I took this photo of the inside with the lovely blue and red lighting from the tinted windows. Here is a clip from the NRHC website about the structure:

Rural Churches were an integral part of ranching communities and also served as social centers, schools and shelters. The congregation of Trinity Mission in Spur, Texas, led by Carl and Kate Senning, began in 1910... it was not until sometime in the 1920s that the church was built. The Spur Ranch donated a lot at the corner of 2nd and Burlington in the new town of Spur as a mission location... When the small church building was finally completed, it seated about 50 people...



Fiona, the Premie Hippo

The photos below are of the internet sensation Fiona. Fiona is a hippopotamus at the Cincinnati Zoo. Here is what their website provides about her: Fiona is “a baby hippopotamus that was born 6 weeks premature at the Cincinnati Zoo. She is the smallest hippo ever to survive.” Well in 2022, Fiona turned 5 years old! The Cincinnati Zoo gave her a birthday party on January 24, 2022. You can see more photos and especially videos about Fiona and the other animals on the Facebook page for the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden: <https://www.facebook.com/cincinnati-zoo>



Fiona today on February 18, 2022 (5 years old)



Premie Fiona on January 30, 2017.

Random Things

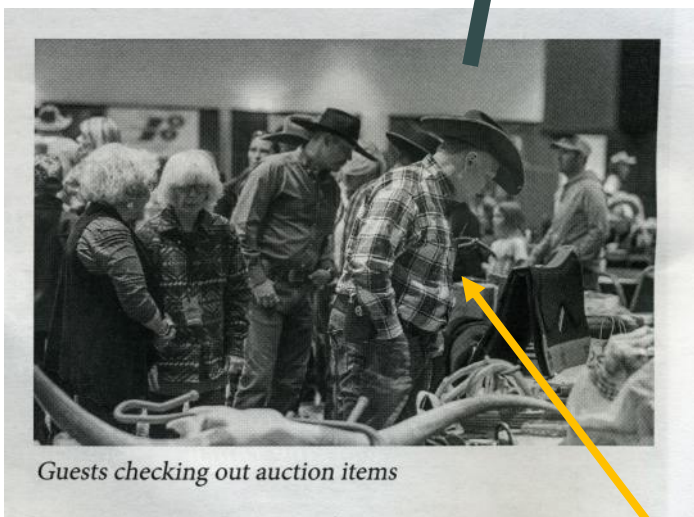
Auction Capture

As a member of the Working Ranch Cowboys Association, I get the publication, *The Hungry Loop*. To my surprise, I found a photo of me when I was at the live auction. (I did not bid on anything however.)



Keep On Stampin'

In the last main issue, I shewn the photo below with the caption of "What is this?" to be explained later. Well, now it is later for the explanation. This is called a "maker's stamp", specifically for leather. This is the smallest one you'll find at a size of less than an inch in width but shown much larger (about 3x) in the photo than it is at actual size. This stamp now give me the means to provide a permanent mark of who made the leather item. We tried several ideas of how to lay it out, settling on the minimalist option of just the RG, Lubbock, and the Texas shape.



Guests checking out auction items

Random Things

Olympic Games Beijing 2022

February 4, 2022 - February 20, 2022

Country	1	2	3	
1 Norway	16	8	13	37
2 Germany	12	10	5	27
3 China	9	4	2	15
4 United States	8	10	7	25
5 Sweden	8	5	5	18

More stats on olympics.com



The way they used to seal letters.

Instagram



texashumor

Now introducing:
the Texas charcuterie board



PALINDROME WEEK

EVERY DATE THROUGH THE END
OF THE MONTH WILL READ THE
SAME FORWARD AND BACKWARD

2/21/22 2/25/22
2/22/22 2/26/22
2/23/22 2/27/22
2/24/22 2/28/22

Also 2/20/22 and 2/29/22

NEW LIVERY STABLE.

MESSRS. SUMMERS & DORSETT take pleasure in informing the public that they have just opened a new Livery Stable on Cherry street, between Third and Fourth, Aurora, where they will be happy to attend to the wants of their customers, and in so doing, believe that they shall be able to give entire satisfaction.

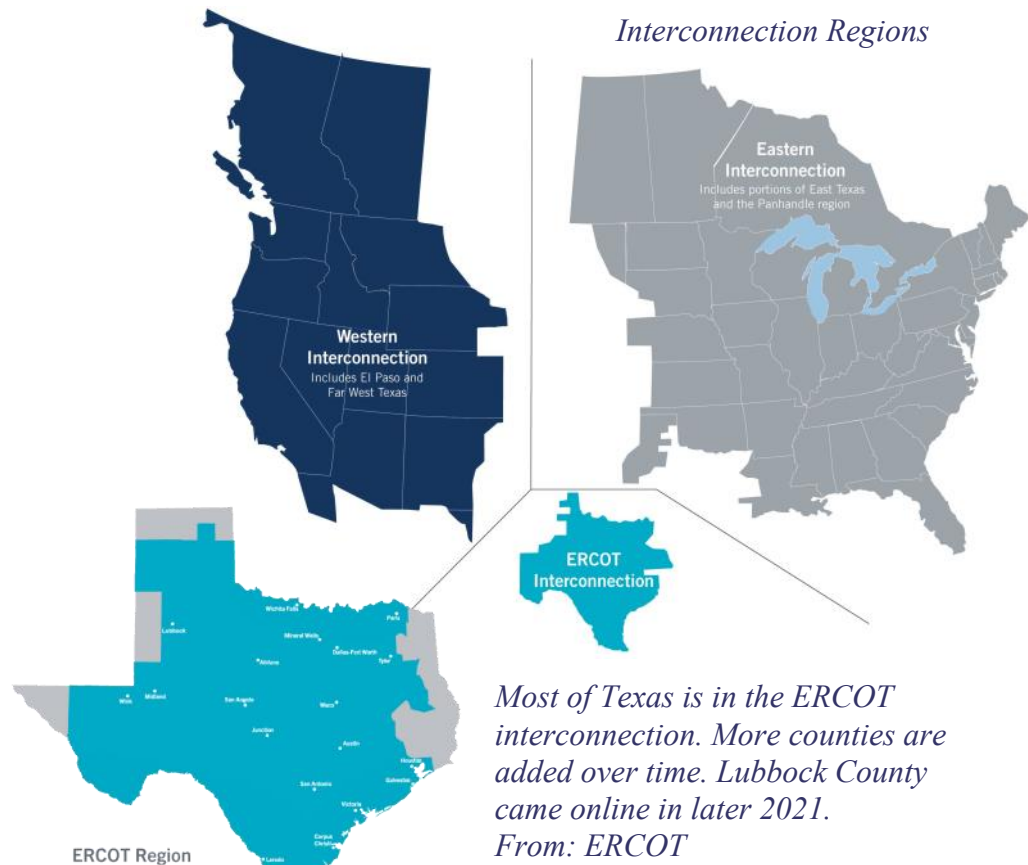
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*Rocky Mountain News.
Wednesday, March 14, 1860. Page 3.*

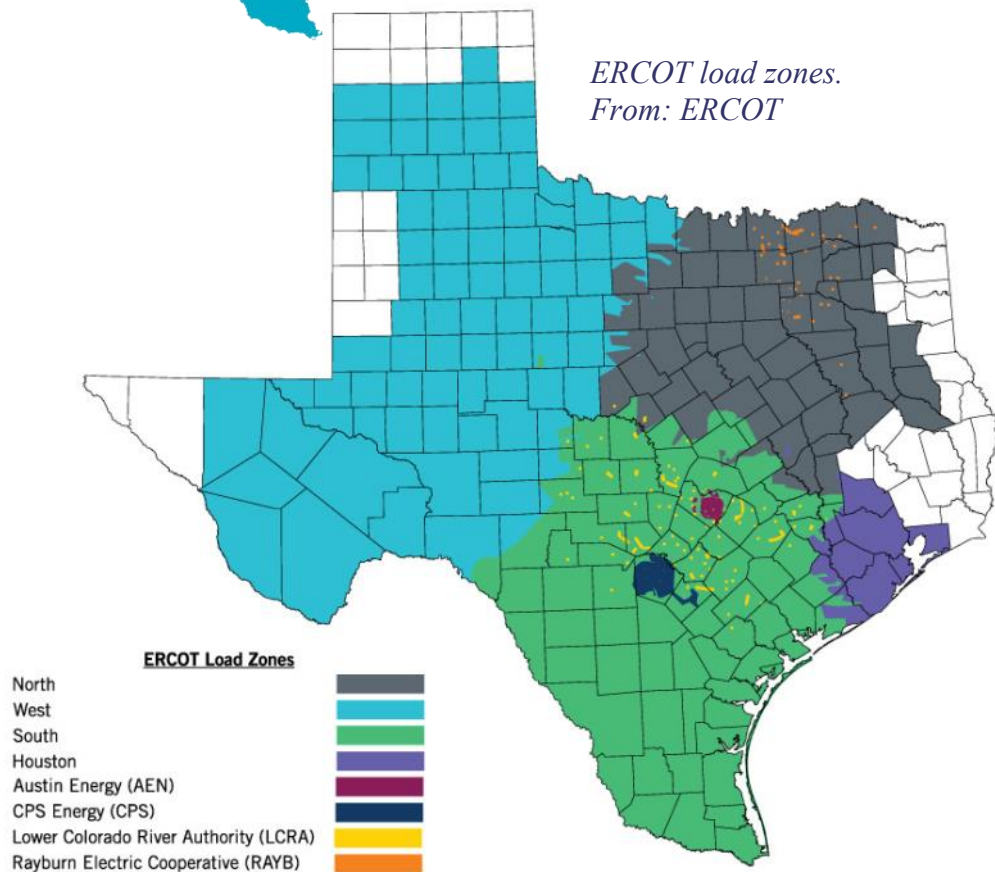
Polar Vortex—1 Year Later

One year ago in mid February 2021, the mid part of the country was hit with an unusual deep freeze that lasted approximately ten days of never being above freezing, with most of the highs even being in the 20s. In the midst of that, large parts of Texas has major strains on the power grid that resulted in cutting off power for many of those days. Other areas had intentional rolling blackouts to prevent a total power collapse like in those other areas. And that is besides water outages because of the power failures. Frankly, it was bad. Really bad. So what happened? I watched a video by *Practical Engineering*, a YouTube channel run by a guy who lives in San Antonio. So he lived through that freeze and the blackout. About a month later he [released a video explaining what happened](#). There are many technical details, so I'll try to give an Oversimplified version of his video the best I can.

The United States has three main and separate power grids. Most of Texas is on one grid while the eastern and western halves of the United States and parts of Canada each have a grid. The Texas grid is called ERCOT and is managed by the state of Texas. Within the grid, there are load zones. Not all of the load zones collapsed or had failures during the freeze, but the ones that did affected larger population areas. The main thing to understand about AC electricity—which is what the power grid is—is that it cannot be stored like DC power can (like batteries)! The demand for electricity must be met at the same time as electricity it is being produced. Therefore power



Most of Texas is in the ERCOT interconnection. More counties are added over time. Lubbock County came online in later 2021. From: ERCOT

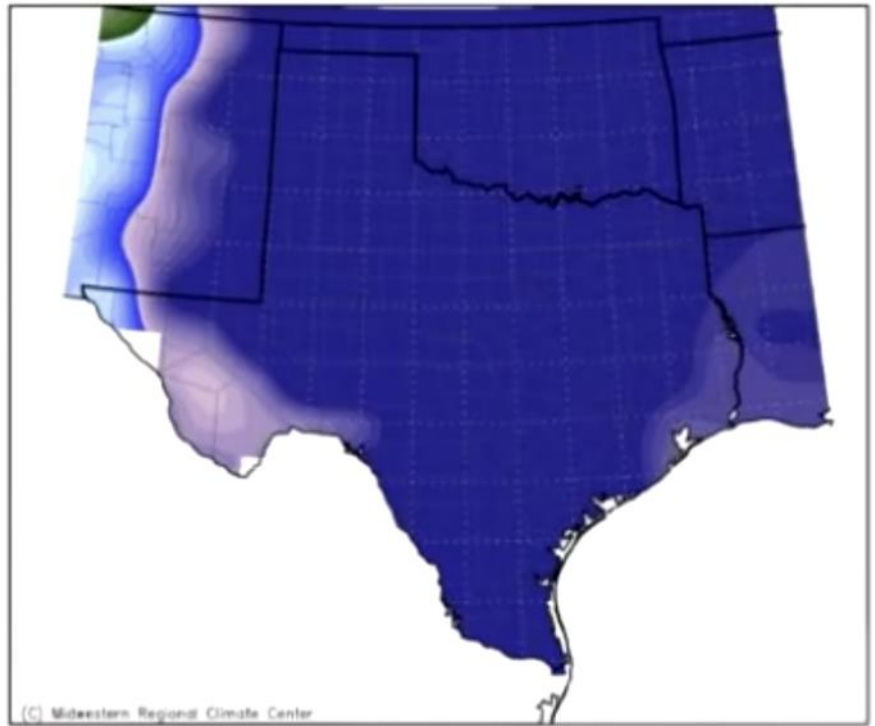


ERCOT load zones. From: ERCOT

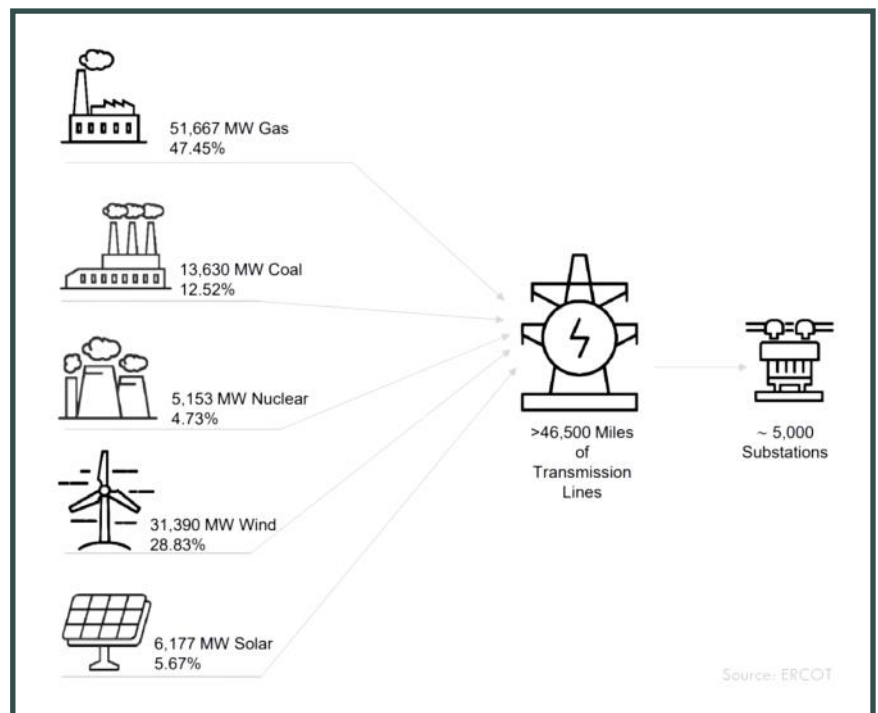
Polar Vortex—1 Year Later

generators have a capacity to produce more when needed, and they normally operate at a lower level. The normal spikes and lows of electric demand are regularly managed for a smooth supply. This happens through the interconnected electric grid. (Ever heard of “living off the grid”? That simply means that someone can live without the power supply of the grid systems through self produced supply systems of electric, water, etc.) Standard electric supply, at least in the United States, is 60 Hertz, a unit of measure in cycles (or rotations) per second. That is 60 turns each second called frequency. Electric generators must continuously increase or decrease production in relation to demand to maintain relative frequency of the 60 Hertz. Otherwise, the equipment can damage themselves from the excess rotations. As a safety measure, these generation facilities have breakers, similar to the electric panel of your house, that will flip if the frequency goes past an acceptable range. The Texas electric producers already knew about the unusually cold weather coming and prepared for it. The really cold weather hit starting on Valentine’s Day. This event was very different from previous extreme cold events in that nearly the entire state was plunged into deep cold as opposed to only certain regions as with the other events. In addition, the extreme cold lasted for more than seven days as opposed to only a few days. Texas hit a new winter peak of nearly 70,000 megawatts, but did meet the demand. However, as the demand kept on through use of heaters and other things to keep warm, aspects of electric generation tripped off line one by one. Texas has a more diverse portfolio of power generation by having: natural gas (47.45%), coal (12.52%), nuclear (4.73%), wind (28.83%), and solar (5.67%).

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
February 12, 2021 to February 18, 2021



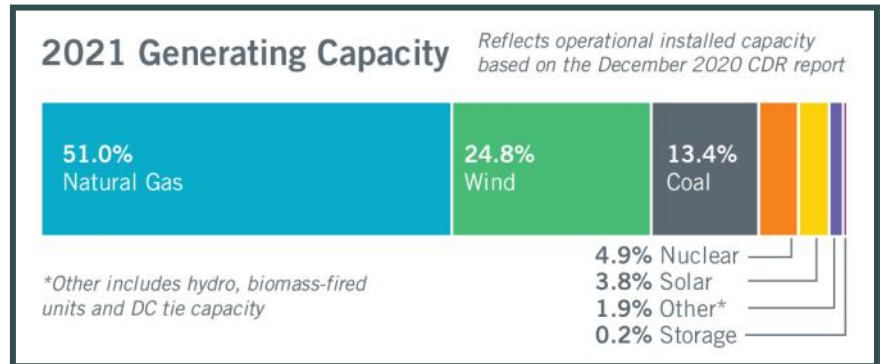
*Temperature map showing how much colder than normal.
From: National Weather Service Operations Center.*



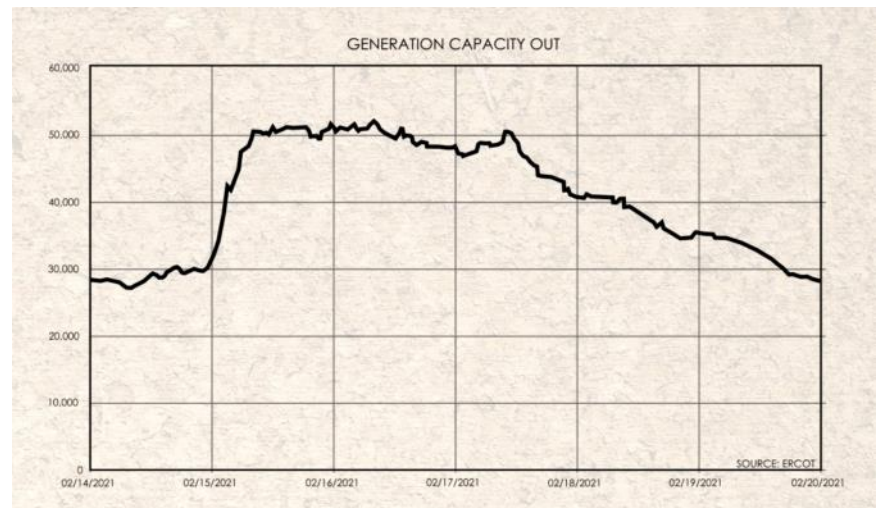
*ERCOT sources of power generation by type.
From: ERCOT (as of March 2021)*

Polar Vortex—1 Year Later

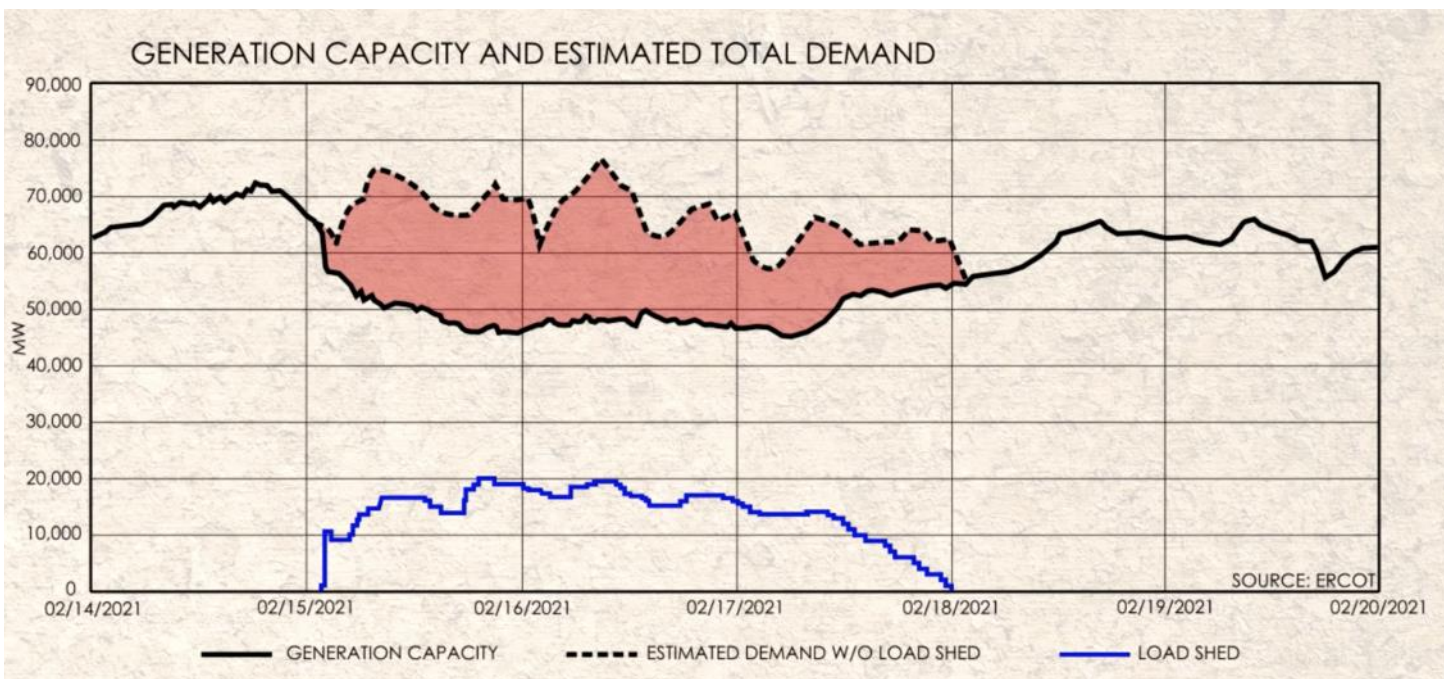
Natural gas and wind make up three quarters of the generation with a significant sliver of coal. An ERCOT fact sheet also showed “Storage” and Other that includes hydro, biomass firing, and DC tying, which probably explains the “Storage”. All of the types of generators were slowly tripping off line for various reason. The wind turbines basically froze from icing, natural gas partly had issues of the gas freezing (which also contains water vapor) and partly because they were also competing with home use for heating and cooking, the nuclear plant could not bring in the supply of water as it was frozen, solar panels were covered in snow besides there being very little sunlight. Whatever other options left simply were not enough to meet supply. Texas electric generation was not prepared for a massive storm like this. Texas is not in the kind of climate like in say Canada that would have infrastructure to handle annual extreme weather like this on a regular basis. The only option left was shedding of the load to meet what was left of the capacity to generate. While a complete grid collapse was thwarted, it still caused a human crisis including loss of life.



*ERCOT sources of power generation by type.
From: ERCOT October 2021 Fact Sheet*



From: ERCOT



Coldness in 2022

We got a few minor cold snaps in January and February, and even into March, bringing snow. The first was on the very first day of the year. The next one was about a month later for a few days, February 2-4, 2022. There were a few other very minor colds with nearly no snow that was not worth photographing.



Evening of January 1, 2022



Afternoon of February 2, 2022



Afternoon of February 3, 2022



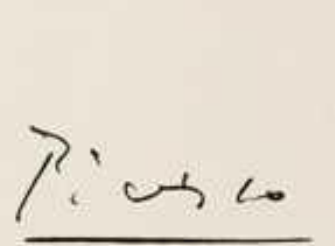
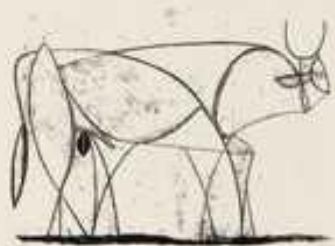
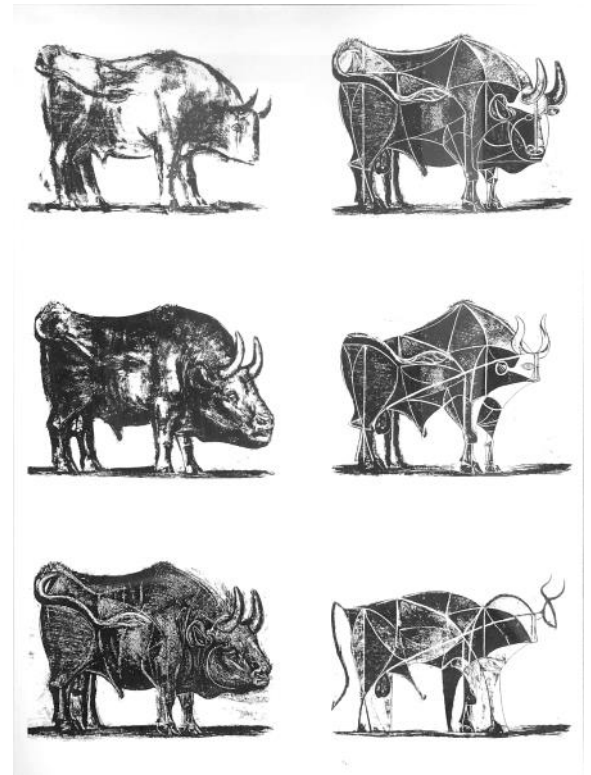
Morning of February 4, 2022

Picasso's Bulls

You might remember that on page 2 of my 2021 Review issue (the last regular issue), I showed the photo to the right with the text:

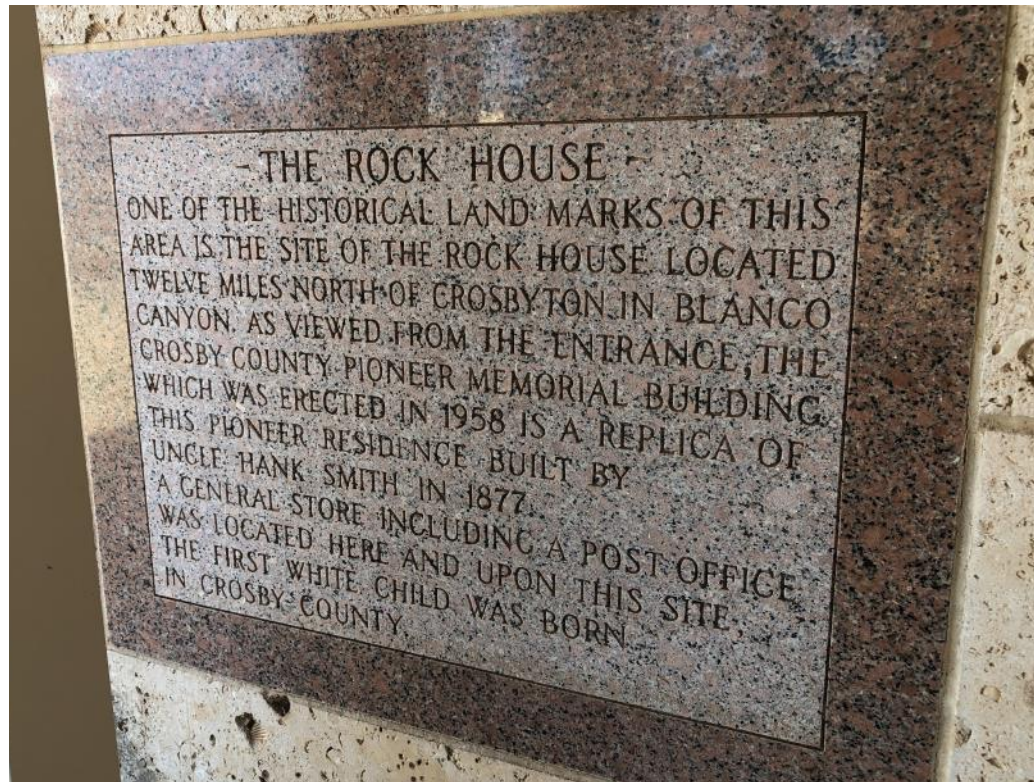
When I was at a motel for Thanksgiving, the "stock art" on the walls had this print. It wasn't labeled, but the drawing looks very much like the style of Picasso!

Well, the Picasso part was obvious! But this was a portion of the larger piece that Picasso did with the title *The Bull* (1945). It became an iconic work that showed a study of cubist simplicity starting with a relatively gestural drawing of a realistic bull and progressively cubizing and simplifying the shape to its most basic form that still gives the idea of a bull, you know, those "bull parts"!



Exploring Crosby County

So, on sort of a whim I decided the day before, I wanted to go over to Crosbyton, Texas. This is in the next county over to the east of Lubbock County. Crosby County was my destination. First, I wanted to go to the Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum. I have known about this museum for nearly 20 years but never went there. I spent some time there looking at the various galleries and exhibits. From there, I drove a little further east to a little place called Silver Falls Park that's been there since the 1800s. I stopped at several historical markers in the county and went on the search for the Hank Smith house. While out and about, I saw several things on the very remote county roads!



Marker on the Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum building.

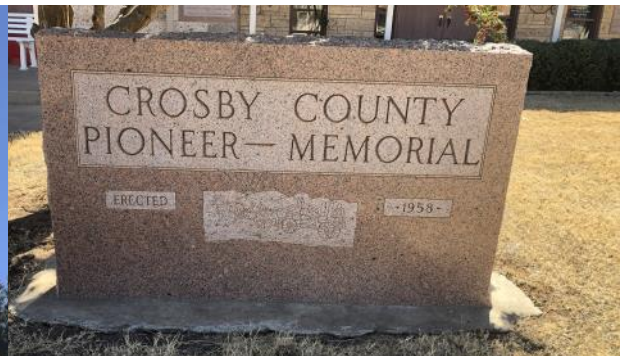
Lubbock is in Lubbock County. The next county to the east is Crosby County, my destination on Thursday, February 10, 2022.



Google Maps

Exploring Crosby County

Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum



Various historical markers in front of museum.



Exploring Crosby County

Silver Falls Park

Silver Falls Rest Area

“Since the 1800s, travelers have found Silver Falls a scenic, pleasant place to stop. In 1935, the National Youth Association, part of President Roosevelt’s Work Project Administration, built the park’s stone facilities. In 2004, the federal Transportation Enhancement Program and the Texas Department of Transportation spent \$2.7 million renovating Silver Falls. New restrooms, a visitor information center, and new shaded picnic tables were added. Park visitors now enjoy hiking, backpacking, and picnicking by the beautiful waterfall.”

(That is, when there is rain, there are the waterfalls!)

www.cityofcrosbyton.org/site/city/silver-falls-park

Background: Years of scratched in names and designs.



Saw this mangy po'pine in a tree.

Some sort of fountain.

Exploring Crosby County



A series of five Texas historical markers in about the area a short distance from Silver Falls Park .



Must have been a wild night! Drove right into the sign cracking it quite good and full of bullet holes!

Exploring Crosby County



I was driving around to find a historical marker and saw this! I stopped to take these photos.



Google Maps overhead view

There was obviously a trailer on this little piece of property at one time.



Aermotor windmill with long lost wheel.



Unusual fabricated steel tank.

Exploring Crosby County



*They always like to stare at you!
These cattle kept mooing and freaking out!
I decided to leave pretty quickly so they
would not start stampeding.*

Exploring Crosby County

I saw this sign on the way looking for the Hank Smith house (which I never did find). It was an interesting story about a historical topic that had a failed history:

The community of Big Four lies a few miles north of Crosbyton. The W.H. Hames and M.A. Reynolds families moved here in 1902 and 1909, respectively, and four houses were built on land owned by the Morrison brothers around one windmill which supplied water for all four houses. With the coming of settlers, the Parker and Fowler families soon called for a school house. In 1909 Hames and S.K. Freeman built a one-room school house. In 1916 a new two-room school house was built for the growing big four community. In 1936 an auditorium was built on the school grounds to be used as a community center.

Big Four School was one of five rural schools that remained in Crosby County in 1953. Critical problems confronted the rural school, including lack of financial resources, poor facilities, difficulty in maintaining students, and inability to secure qualified teachers. Rural schools existed for a specific purpose, and when the big four school could no longer compete with larger schools, it closed. The two-room school building was moved in the mid-1950s to be used as a school for the Crosbyton Independent School District's African American students. The school building later burned to the ground. The school district gave the Big Four School auditorium building to local residents with deed stipulation for use as the big four community center. The wooden building was last utilized around 1980, when it was used for Big Four club meetings. The building was turned back to the school district in 1981. With the poor condition of the auditorium building and lack of funds to restore it, the property and building was sold in 2011, resulting in the demolition of the auditorium and the erection of a new home.

Google Earth overhead view, 1996.



Google Earth overhead view, 2008.



Soda Springs, Colorado

The Soda Springs.

The Soda Springs.

At eleven o'clock yesterday morning a reporter for THE CHRONICLE was invited by Colonel Goodell to take a seat in his buggy for a drive to the Soda Springs across the Arkansas. There could be no more pleasant day selected for the drive. The distance from Leadville is just five miles, and the route taken was down through Main street until its termination is reached in the suburbs of the city, where we bore off a little to the right, ascended the hill over a newly made road, and then down through Strawberry gulch until the Arkansas is reached. From this point on across the beautiful valley the drive is the best and most inviting to be found anywhere about Leadville. The passage over occupied but forty-five minutes.

At the springs is now being erected a splendid log building twenty-five by fifty feet in the clear, which is to be used as a hotel, and will be opened with appropriate ceremony on the first day of July. One-half of the lower floor will be devoted to a dining hall and the other half to a reception and refreshment room. Dividing these two apartments will be great folding doors, so that the entire lower part of the building may be used by dancing parties. The upper floor is divided up into ten fine rooms for guests. Within a few rods of the hotel are located springs of iron, sulphur and soda, whose cooling and curative waters will in time attract to this spot hundreds of health-seekers. Both houses will be in operation by the time the hotel is completed, and several neat log cottages are being erected for the accommodation of families and guests.

There is no place in all Colorado which has more grandly picturesque surroundings than the Soda Springs. They are situated at the base of massive mountains, and standing at the hotel looking down the valley a fine view of the Sangre de Cristo range, eighty miles away, is had. There is also good fishing in the Arkansas on the route over and in the north fork of the river which flows directly in front of the hotel, where lunches are provided for visitors.

At eleven o'clock yesterday morning a reporter for The Chronicle was invited by Colonel Goodell to take a seat in his buggy for a drive to the Soda Springs across the Arkansas. There could be no more pleasant day selected for the drive. The distance from Leadville is just five miles, and the route taken was down through Main street until its termination is reached in the suburbs of the city, where we bore off a little to the right, ascended the hill over a newly made road, and then down through Strawberry gulch until the Arkansas is reached. From this point on across the beautiful valley the drive is the best and most inviting to be found anywhere about Leadville. The passage over occupied but forty-five minutes.

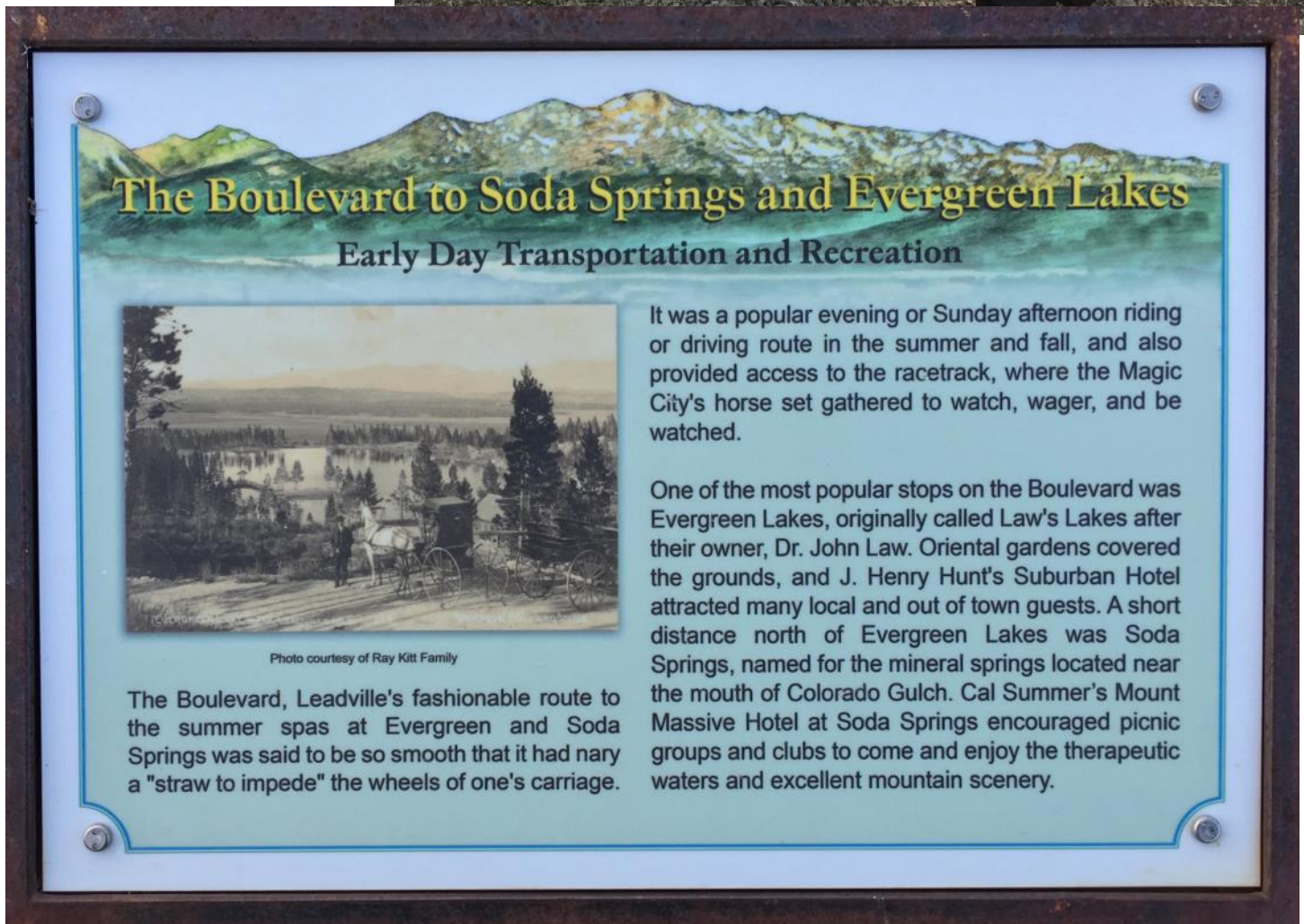
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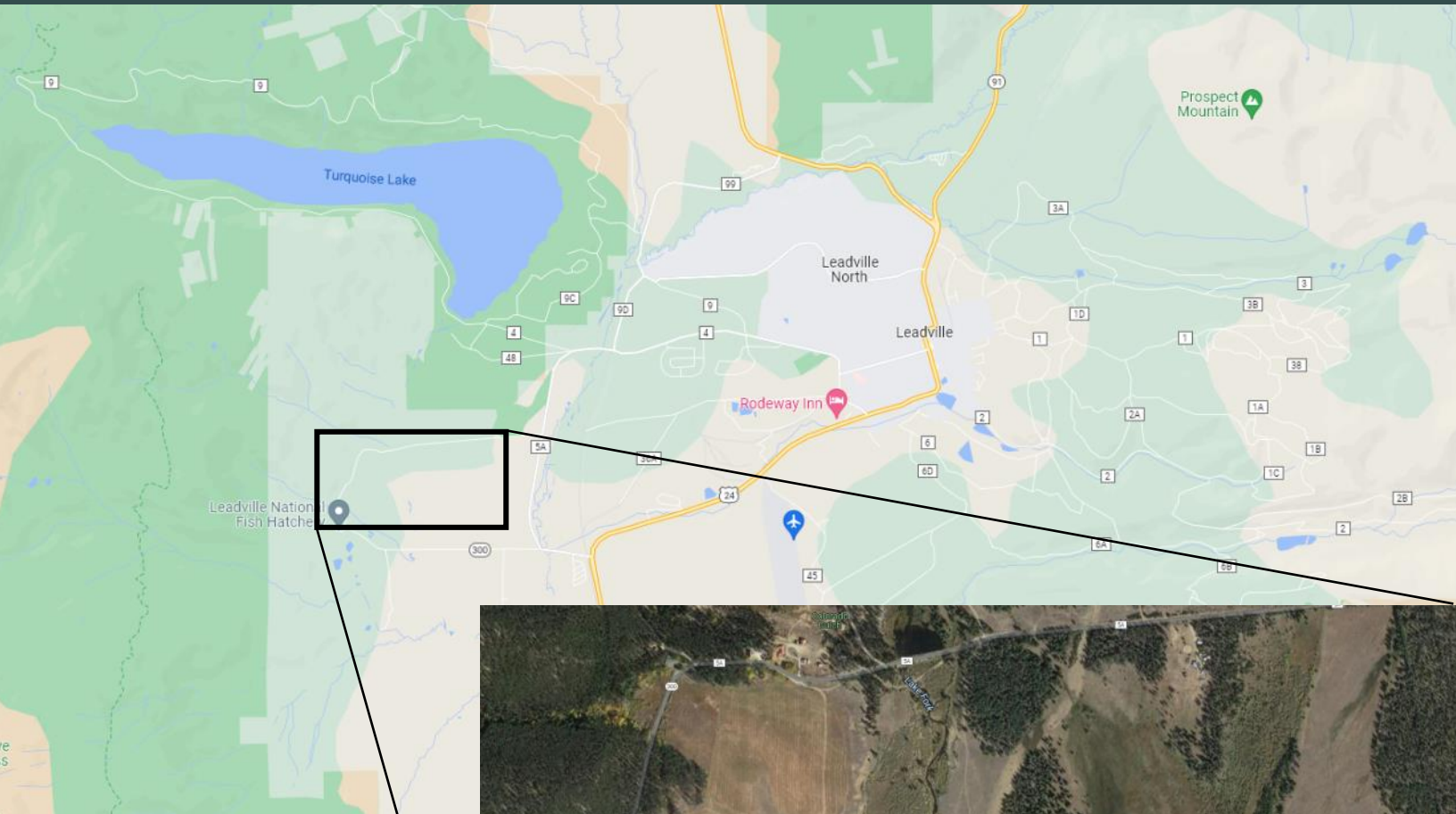
Soda Springs, Colorado

In different places along the Mineral Belt Trail that runs around Leadville, historical markers tell about historical topics related to each area. While I was walking on the trail along the western part, I saw this small sign telling about Soda Springs.

Evergreen Lakes is a raised area at the base of the mountains with several small lakes. The Fish Hatchery is now in that area.



Soda Springs, Colorado



This is the view while on Road 300 towards Soda Springs. The Rocky Mountains are in the background.



This is the actual soda spring.



Battle of Widow McCormack

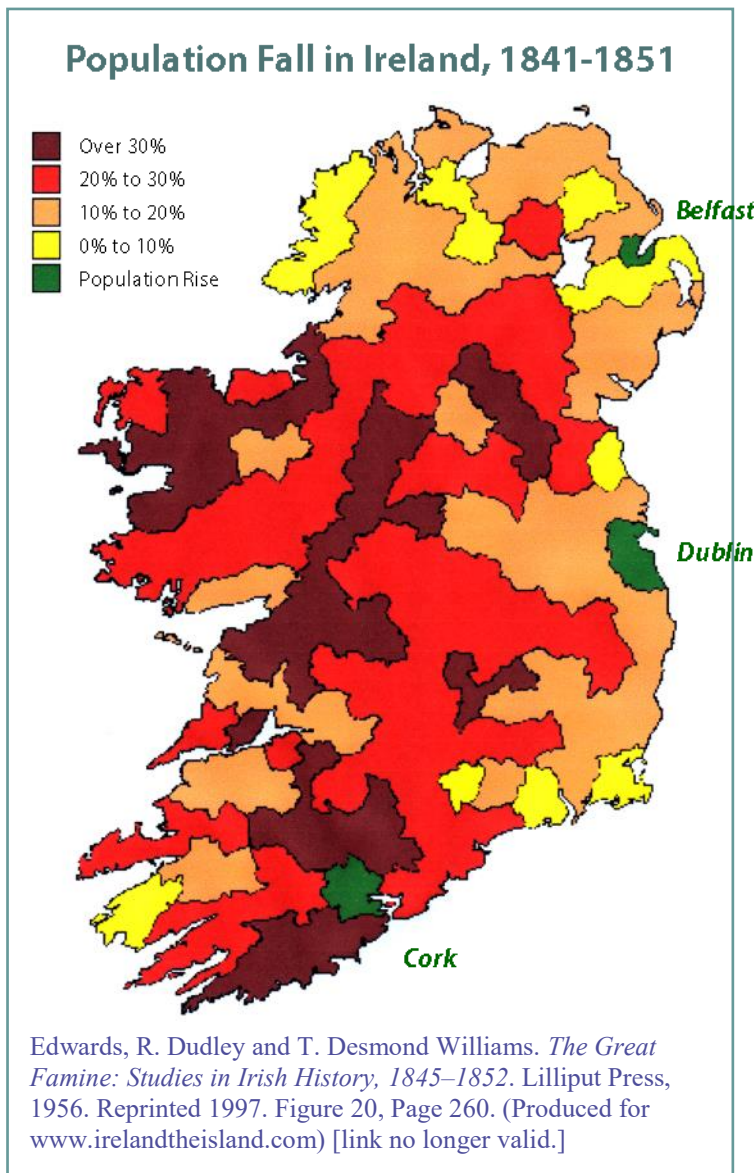
The full title is actually:

The Battle of Widow McCormack's Cabbage Patch

Okay, so in case you don't know or don't really understand, Ireland is a separate country and culture from Great Britain. They have, however, been under their rule in the past. Under rather vicious rule in fact. This is none the more exemplified than during the potato famine that hit Ireland in 1845. This famine would drastically alter the makeup and size of Ireland's population, particularly in a population decrease. The potato famine ultimately caused a decrease of one third of the total population within a decade because of death and emigration. By 1845, the Irish population was at about 8.2 million people. However, the famine directly caused about 1.1

million people to die, while another nearly 2 million people emigrated elsewhere, especially to the United States. Today, the population of Ireland is only a little over 5 million people, nowhere near the numbers it was prior to the famine, over 150 years! The potato famine in Ireland—and which was in other European countries as well—is rather complex, even convoluted, with many layers, but here is an “Oversimplified” style of it.

By the mid 1800s, the Irish people as subsistence farmers were dependent on potatoes (which as side note, originally came from Peru). The potato blight was caused by a fungus that started in the United States, of all places, in 1843. But in 1845 when it hit Ireland—and indeed most of Europe as well—it had a devastating effect in multiple waves for several years. Through all of that, the government of Great Britain would force its ideals and morals on the people of Ireland, especially with using religion as a means of manipulation, a major friction point between Catholics and Protestants. About 80% of the Irish population was Catholic, while Great Britain was predominately Protestant, specifically Church of England. (See the source of conflict? Especially if you know about English history with the Pope.) Oliver Cromwell was particularly brutal with his invasion to reconquest Ireland for British rule. Estimates suggest that 10% of the population died with his invasion and subsequent starvation. Around this time, about 45% of agricultural holdings were on plots of less than 5 acres, which was not very large for the Irish subsistence farmers to survive a multi year crop failure! By the late 1840s, the waves of potato famines and cruel land management practices by English landowners made the famine severe and desperate enough to tear apart the people of Ireland. There were different movements to cast off the British overlords that ultimately proved unsuccessful. But, this would also sow the seeds for Irish independence in the future, namely the Irish War of Independence just after the Great War.



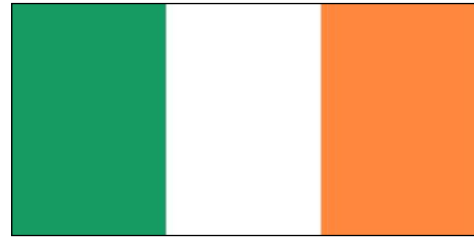
Battle of Widow McCormack

One attempt for the push for independence came in 1848. A powerful political party in Ireland at the time, the Repeal Association, split because of differing opinions among its members. The split brought about the Young Irelanders apart from the Old Irelanders (I know, very original names!) The Old Irelanders held to non violent changes (mostly), while the Young Irelanders became more in favor of outright rebellion. At a time when other countries were experiencing their own revolutions or other conflicts, the Young Irelanders thought they really stood a chance to bring Ireland into its own independent nation out from under British rule. They went to France to witness the changes happening there. They returned having created a new tricolor flag similar to that of France but with the colors of green, white, and orange. The possibility of change seemed promising, but the Young Irelanders had no long term plan of how to obtain and sustain independence. However, the British did have a plan, and knew how to squelch the efforts for independence. For the most part, the British had relatively easy efforts to shut down the movement. Here is what the website, IrishCentral states:

“In 1846, [William] O’Brien Smith, alongside John Mitchel, had formed the Irish Confederation with the Young Ireland movement which was dedicated to direct action against the British. Two years later and they were already calling for open rebellion, despite the fact that Ireland was now in the third year of the devastating famine which had left millions of the country’s people in brutal starvation.

Whereas the mistreatment of the Irish people by the British had rightly led to an increased radicalism in Irish nationalist movement, without the general Irish population able to think of anything other than staying alive, it seemed doomed to failure...

On July 29 of 1848, O’Brien Smith launched his rebellion but was quickly brought to heel in Co Tipperary, where a brief skirmish in a cabbage patch saw the attempt crushed by a government police detachment. He was also sentenced to death for treason, but his sentence was commuted to transportation to the penal colony in Tasmania.”



The green part was designed to represent the majority Catholic residents of the island, the orange part to represent the minority Protestant residents, and the white in the middle to represent the peace and harmony between them.



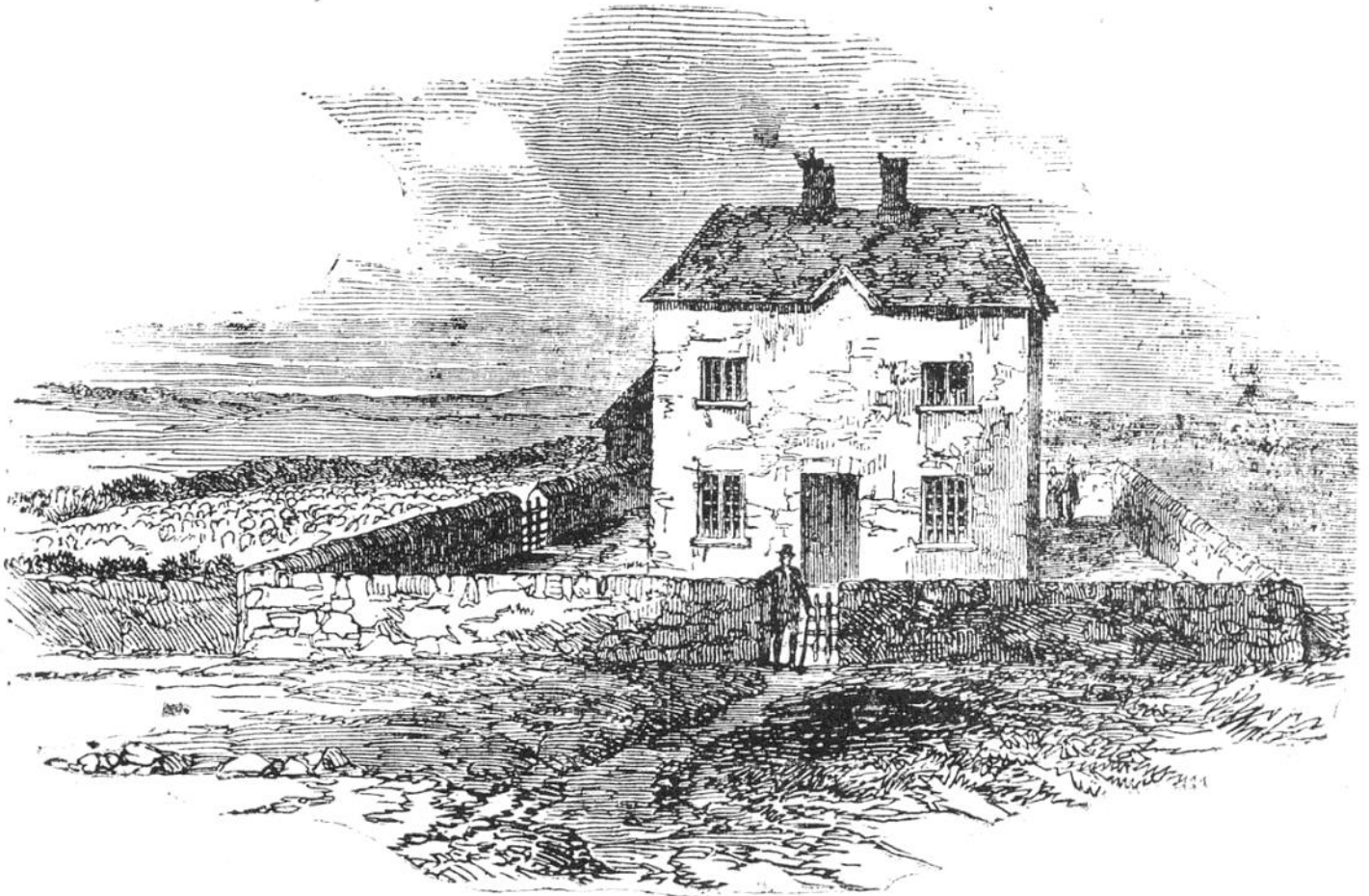
William Smith O'Brien

an Irish nationalist who was arrested at the end of the short lived Young Ireland rebellion.

Learn more about the Irish Potato Famine from Extra History’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAnT21xGdSk>

Learn more about the Battle of Widow McCormack’s Cabbage Patch at Your Irish Culture: <https://www.yourirish.com/history/19th-century/battle-of-widow-mccormacks-cabbage-patch>

Battle of Widow McCormack



The Widow McCormack's House, near Ballingarry



Brief Notes About Taiwan

If you have been wondering—like I have—about what is all the talk about Taiwan, let me tell you about some information I discovered. I first want to preface that Wikipedia is never considered an official source of information, but it does give a good place to start to find more reliable and trustworthy sources. Also, please note that this explanation is greatly Oversimplified.

First, some back history... Taiwanese indigenous peoples were thought to arrive to the island around 3000 BC and practiced agriculture calling their new home Pakan. Between the 1200s and the 1600s, Chinese people from what is now mainland China slowly started settling on the island. The Portuguese were on the island at one point noting the island as ilha formosa, meaning beautiful island. But it was the Dutch (and specifically the Dutch East India Company (VOC)) who colonized the island by the 1600s. Additional influxes to the island included the Hoklo people and Hakka immigrants from Fujian and Guangdong areas of China. The Spanish were on the island briefly until the Dutch basically kicked them out in 1642. Wikipedia states, “In 1662, Koxinga, a loyalist of the Ming dynasty who had lost control of mainland China in 1644, defeated the Dutch and established a base of operations on the island.” (Note: this is called foreshadowing!) The Qing dynasty defeated Koxinga’s forces and

incorporated the island into the Qing empire. In 1895, the Qing ceded the island to the Empire of Japan. However, for a mere 152 days, the island became an unrecognized country called the Republic of Formosa until the Japanese seized the island on October 21 by the Treaty of Shimonoseki.

The Japanese occupied Taiwan for the next 50 years through World War II using it as a base for the invasion of Southeast Asia and in the Pacific theatre. After the WWII hostilities ended in 1945, “the nationalist government of the Republic of China (ROC), led by the Kuomintang (KMT), took control of Taiwan”. Apparently, there was no transfer of territorial sovereignty. According to the Cairo Declaration (created by the Cairo Conference, November 22-26, 1943 in Egypt to make decisions about postwar Asia [interesting choice of places to have this conference!]), one of three main clauses included that “all the territories Japan has stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Formosa, and The Pescadores, shall be restored to the Republic of China”. Other arguments state that the Cairo Declaration is nonbinding and that Japanese surrender was of its forces not of its territories. In any case, the Republic of China established the Taiwan Provincial Government, proclaimed on October 25, 1945 as “Taiwan Retrocession Day”, the day that Japanese troops surrendered.



National Flag of the short lived Republic of Formosa in 1895. Reconstructed image of flag to the right.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Formosa



Brief Notes About Taiwan

Now speaking of the Republic of China, the current conflicts between China and Taiwan stem from what was happening with the Chinese civil war since 1927. After Japan's surrender, the Republic of China repatriated 90% of Japanese people living in Taiwan back to Japan, leaving Taiwan in the rule of mainland China. However, the Kuomintang (KMT) administration's repressive and extremely corrupt treatment of Taiwan (much more so than from Japanese occupation) led to much discontent among the people there. Sadly, a flareup by "anti mainlanders" led to the February 28 Incident where the Kuomintang killed or arrested tens of thousands of people.

The Chinese Civil War was between Chiang Kai-shek's Republic Of China government and the Communist Party of China with the People's Liberation Army led by Mao Zedong. After the Communist party gained complete control of mainland China in 1949, "two million refugees, predominantly from the Nationalist government, military, and business community, fled to Taiwan" establishing Taipei as the capital, and Chiang Kai-shek declared martial law on the island. (Recall the foreshadowing of when Koxinga fled China to Formosa?) Then on October 1 in 1949, the victorious communists founded the People's Republic of China (PRC). The KMT ruled Taiwan as a single party state for forty years, until democratic reforms in the 1980s led to the first presidential election in 1996.

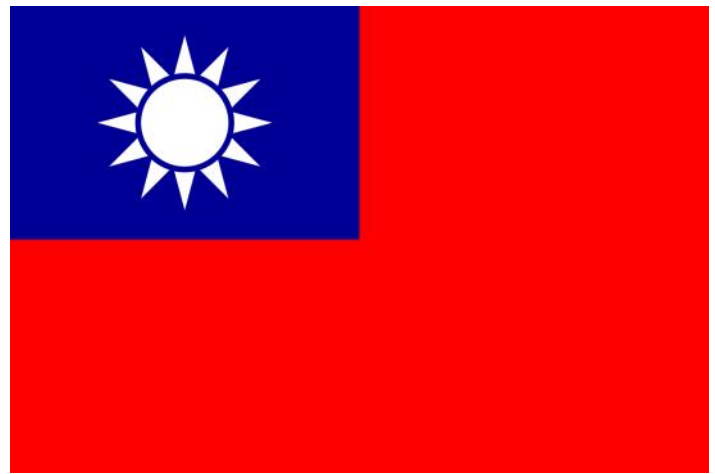
I have two ideas of what the current conflicts between China and Taiwan are probably about. One idea is that the real Chinese government originally led by Chiang Kai-shek has been in refugee mode since the 1940s and is the rightful ruler of China. While the other idea is that the Communists legitimately took power over China and that Taiwan is an outcast that rightfully belongs to the People's Republic of China. It is very likely that each side believes its respective idea of who is the real legitimate ruler of China. But one little caveat to this is with how Taiwan converted from a marshal law state to a truly democratic entity, making it now different from the original dictator states by Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong. What are your thoughts about China and Taiwan?



Mao Zedong (1959)



Chiang Kai-shek (1945)

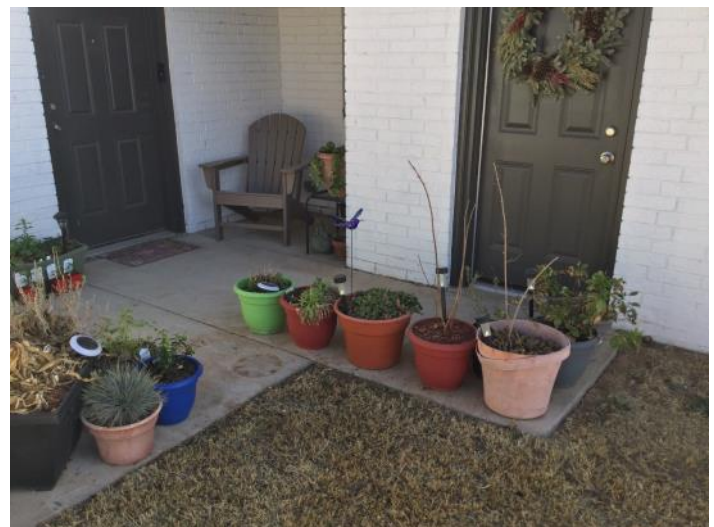


*Flag of the Republic of China
Since 1895 and currently in Taiwan.*



Gardening 2022

These photos are of my garden as of March 2, 2022. Once the potential for hard freezes passed, I started the cleanup of my garden and brought back out of the garage the more freeze prone plants. I have since made additional changes and additions which you will have to wait until the next issue to see!



My newest gardening adventure is with this wood box on stilts. Basically, it is a raised bed on legs rather than raised on the ground. I have this because I rent. Therefore, I don't have to rip up the front or back yards nor clean it up after my residence. The bed is going to be my "vegetable trough" using the square foot gardening method. It is 4" x 2" and will give me 8 squares to plant. I am planning to grow radishes, two types of carrots, green beans, turnips, black eyed peas, and either butter lettuce or celery.

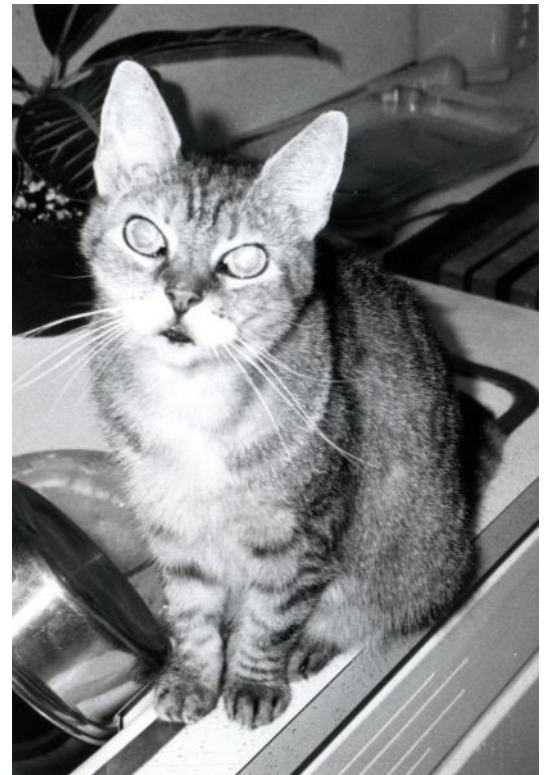
Gator Journal

All photos except for two are from Miami in the 1980s.



Jacksonville
Early 1990s

Gator Journal



Top photo: Miami, 1980s.

Right and below: Jacksonville, early 1990s.



Final Thought

Benjamin Franklin

I believe I have omitted mentioning that, in my first voyage from Boston, being becalm'd off Block Island, our people set about catching cod, and hauled up a great many. Hitherto I had stuck to my resolution of not eating animal food, and on this occasion I consider'd, with my master Tryon, the taking every fish as a kind of unprovoked murder, since none of them had, or ever could do us any injury that might justify the slaughter. All this seemed very reasonable. But I had formerly been a great lover of fish, and, when this came hot out of the frying-pan, it smelt admirably well. I balance'd some time between principle and inclination, till I recollected that, when the fish were opened, I saw smaller fish taken out of their stomachs; then thought I, "If you eat one another, I don't see why we may n't eat you." So I din'd upon cod very heartily, and continued to eat with other people, returning only now and then occasionally to a vegetable diet. So convenient a thing it is to be a reasonable creature, since it enables one to find or make a reason for every thing one has a mind to do.

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin.

Benjamin Franklin

January 17, 1706 [O.S.* January 6, 1706] – April 17, 1790. Originally written from 1771 to 1790. Various republics by various publishers. Now Public Domain.

*O.S. "Old Style". Until 1752, calendar dating used the Julian system. The Julian system started in 1582 and would create a sort of double dating notation after the Gregorian system started as not all countries adopted the new system right away. An act of Parliament in England in 1752 formally switch the calendar system to the Gregorian calendar. I suppose for at least a generation or two, this double dating would continue until long past 1752 or after all people born before 1752 had past and the calendar change would be long forgotten as history.



Benjamin Franklin Coat of Arms

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

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Robert-George de Stolfe

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