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JOURNAL



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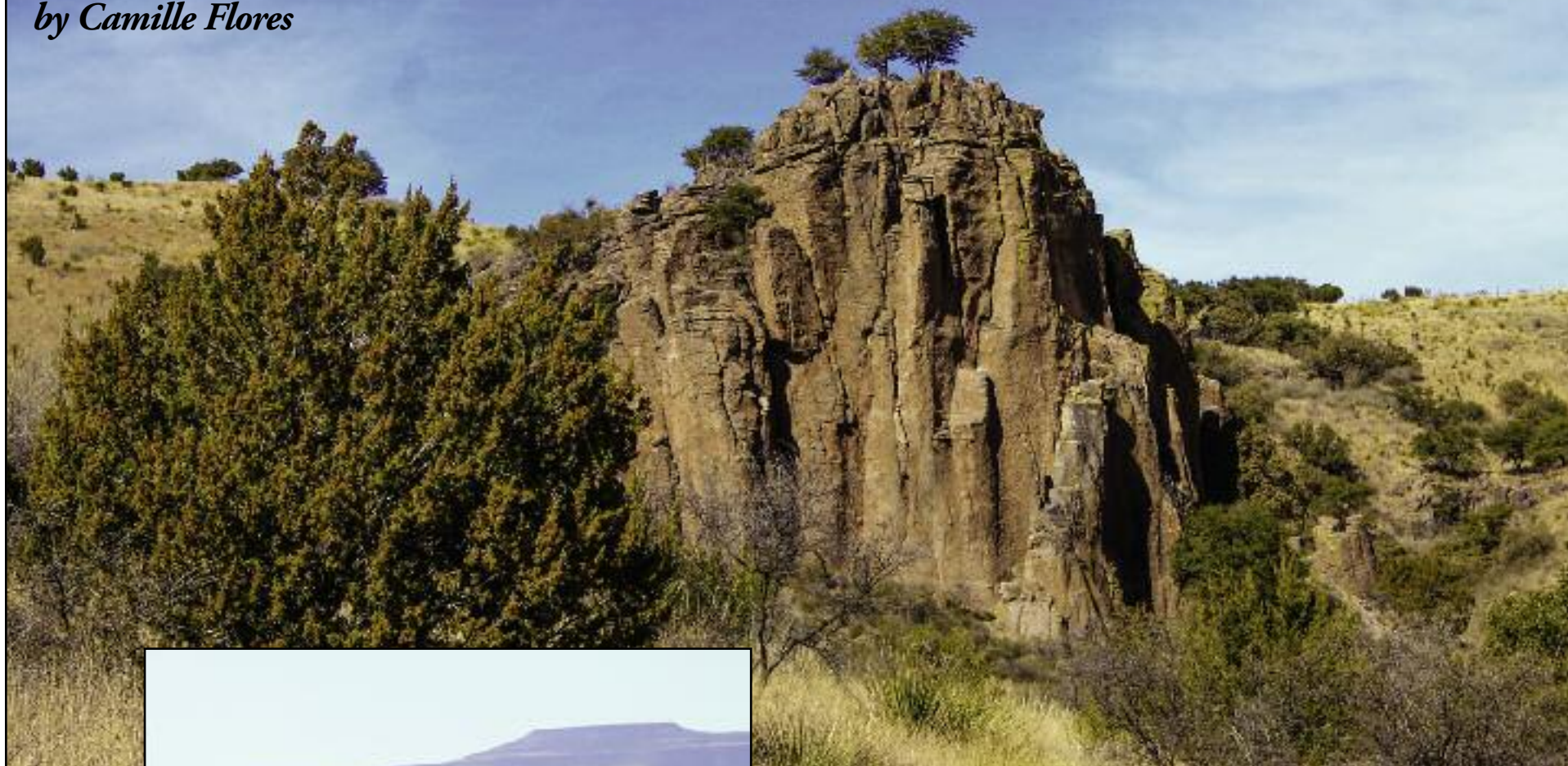
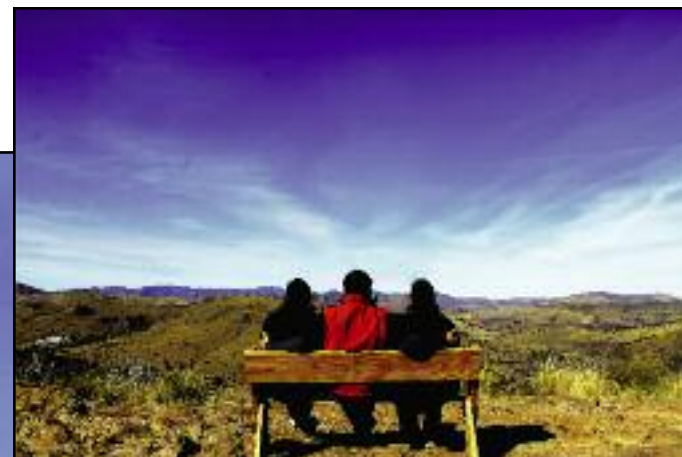
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A Few of My Favorite Things

by *Camille Flores*



During my childhood, most of my time was spent in the Big Bend, where my family came from. We were most fond of Fort Davis due to the small-town feel it gives to everyone who comes to visit. One place was especially dear to our hearts, the

Indian Lodge, as many countless hours were spent there in July for our big family reunion we have every year. During that time, we

continued on page 26



Table of Contents

6

4 Camille Flores A Few of My Favorite Things

Carolyn Brown Zniwski Cenizo Notes
Danielle Gallo

8 Shawna Graves The Celebratory Road of Art
Leads to Zacatecas

10 Danielle Gallo The Big Bend's Other Residents

Carolyn Brown Zniwski "Beannachd leat" Jim Glendinning

12 Howdy-Nocona Fowler Jesse James Slept Here?

14 Matt Walter Photo Essay

18

17 Carolyn Brown Zniwski Big Bend Eats

Maya Brown Zniwski Folkways

19 Rani Birchfield The Soul of Selling

20 William MacLeod From *Davis Mountain Vistas*

22 Dennis Baker Poetry
Anonymous

24 C. W. (Bill) Smith The Tale of Diamond Dick

28 Carolyn Brown Zniwski Trans-Pecos Trivia

MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

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Cenizo Journal

Volume 10 Number 3

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Dennis Baker, like many others, has developed a great love of the Big Bend country over the years. Back in the early 1970's he worked for a train derailment service extensively between Del Rio and El Paso on the Southern Pacific Line (now Union Pacific). He has been making trips back to the area as often as possible ever since. *e-mail: zunidgb@gmail.com*

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Copy editor: Rani Birchfield

Correction: Our apologies to Jeremy Gonzalez for crediting his story in the January, 2018 issue, *The Mystical Horned Lizard*, to Jeremy Garcia.

Cover: Our cover this time calls for some explanation. This is where stars are made, right here in our galaxy! The photographer, Coyne Gibson, has this to say: This is M20, or Messier 20, also known as the Trifid Nebula. The catalog number is NGC 6514. The image was acquired during an observing run in March of 2015 using the 0.8-meter, or 30-inch telescope at McDonald Observatory. The 0.8m system is a prime-focus telescope with a field of view of 46.5-arcminutes square (about 1/2-degree). M20 is an H II region - a huge cloud of ionized hydrogen gas, in which star formation is taken place. M20 is located in Sagittarius, toward the galactic center of our Milky Way galaxy. It was

continued on page 27



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SUBMISSION

Deadline for advertising and content submissions for the Fourth Quarter 2018 issue: August 15, 2018.

Art, photographic and literary works may be e-mailed to the Editor-in-chief at editor@cenizojournal.com or the Associate Editor at aed@cenizojournal.com.

For business questions contact the Editor-in-chief. For advertising rates or to place an ad, contact the Editor-in-chief or the Associate Editor. For all other questions contact either the Publisher at publisher@cenizojournal.com or the Editor-in-chief.

Cenizo Notes

by Carolyn Brown Zniewski, Publisher and Danielle Gallo, Editor-in-Chief



With this issue we have some big changes happening. Lou Pauls is riding off into the sunset. She has been our business manager since January 2013. I'd like to thank her for the five years of keeping our finances rolling. Rani

Birchfield has been Advertising Editor for several years now and she is moving up to Associate editor. Danielle Gallo has been Editor for five years and will now be Editor-in-chief and in addition to editing she will do advertising and the lion's share of business. Wendy Lynn Wright will continue doing all the Art and Design, Maya Brown Zniewski will still be our Web Master and I will continue as Publisher. Some of our email addresses have changed so check them out. We will still be the same *Cenizo Journal* of the Big Bend. No change there!

Our cover and Photo Essay in this issue are all about the sky. It's high summer here and the days are long and the nights are shorter and our darkness is filled with the most incredible stars. I love to lie on my back on the earth and look up at that amazing celestial firmament, letting all the tiresome worries of 21st century America dissolve into the eternal energy of the universe. I hope you will get out there, too, and appreciate the best the Big Bend has to offer.

Again, our apologies to our contributor, Jeremy Gonzalez. Please watch for future contributions from Jeremy and read his work in the *Fort Stockton Pioneer* where he is Managing Editor.



I don't usually think of the summer as a season of changes. The soft, humid mornings, blazing days and mild evenings that stretch seemingly to infinity follow one after the other in a stately progression that seems to last a good nine months. Change in the Big Bend summertime comes from the human side of the equation, as Nature languidly plods along.

This year, the human changes here in the Trans-Pecos are rapidly piling up. With the indefinite closing of Balmorhea due to structural damage, a summer tradition as old as human habitation falls by the wayside. All we can do is hope the spring will be strong enough to survive the march of human progress.

The loss of our scholarly gentleman and dear friend, Jim Glendinning, is perhaps simply the normal march of the generations, the passing of a torch from the old guard to the new, and yet I can't envision the Big Bend without him. It's hard to imagine a voice as gentle, humorous, loving and mischievous as his emerging to fill the void he leaves behind.

I believe that change is good, even if the process is a little disturbing. Change causes us to contract for a moment, to contort as though to duck a blow. But those are the movements that make us strong, and flexible, as individuals and communities.

While the seasons roll predictably through their quiet paces, enjoy this issue of the *Cenizo*, and the shifting human tapestry it chronicles.

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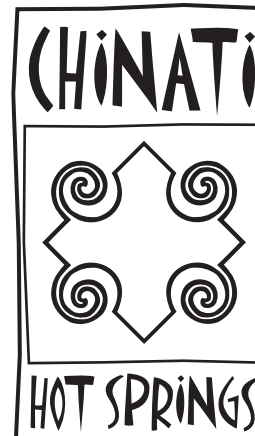
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The Celebratory Road of Art Leads to Zacatecas

by Shawna Graves



Laurie completed this mural across from the Santa Teresa de Jesus Catholic Church in Presidio, depicting the first celebration of Christmas in Texas.

Presidio-based artist Laurie Holman has painted on everything, from traditional paper and canvas, to skulls, car hoods, trailers, walls, the “Welcome to Presidio” signs – you name it. If a surface could be embellished, then she most certainly put her brushes and talent to work on it.

After completing a degree in art education at Texas Tech, Laurie began applying for jobs as a high school art teacher. “I love this area. I’d been coming down here camping, and wanted a job in this area,” she said.

The job search ended when she was offered a position as Presidio High School art teacher in 1994. The landscape and people of the borderlands have lit Laurie’s art flame ever since.

She has had many opportunities to explore the countryside on horseback as a trail guide with Big Bend Ranch State Park and on cattle drives. “Honestly, those are some of my happiest and best memories,” Laurie said.

It’s natural for this rural borderland

life to figure prominently in her work, which depicts cattle drives, horses, scenes from Fort Leaton Historic Site, adobe houses, desert landscapes, and recognizable locals – from vaqueros to the legendary Burro Lady.

“The one painting of Judy, the burro lady, is probably the most popular one for around here. She was eccentric and was so mysterious!” Laurie said, elated, adding, “The people are what makes this place. And you can’t beat this scenery.”

But Laurie is a harsh self-critic. “Everything I’ve done is not that great because I don’t have time,” she concluded. She’s been busy living life, raising a son in Presidio. “This is his time to shine. He’s graduating. He’s such a great man,” she bragged.

What energies aren’t focused on the home front have been dedicated to her teaching career, which extended into offerings of free evening art classes for community members. It left little time for her to develop a portfolio, but it did a lot to foster a community-wide appre-

ciation for fine art.

She has long channeled her passion into cultivating an eye for art in her students and is a great cheerleader of everyday scenes unique to Big Bend and Northern Mexico. What some take for granted, Laurie recognizes as extra special.

She has exceeded the expectations of a high school teacher by tirelessly promoting public shows of her students’ work, helping students set goals and showing off their talent.

“They LOVE having their work on display for the world to see,” Laurie said. Taking part in shows builds self-esteem and gives students an active role in community beautification, she added.

In Fall of 2009, 11 of her students had work displayed at the Saatchi Art Gallery in London, England, with their art representing the beauty of Big Bend.

More recently, Laurie’s classes participated in Big Bend Comicon with colorful illustrations of comic-book characters and superheroes brightening the exhibit

halls at Sul Ross State University library. There have been countless other shows.

All of this has made Laurie the go-to contact for artistic talent in Presidio.

“Laurie is probably best known for her promotion of the arts scene in Presidio with the annual Arts Festival. With very modest financial support and facilities that seemed to vary from year to year, she was able to pull off events that attracted top local artistic and musical talent, as well as art-lovers from all over the region,” Presidio Mayor John Ferguson said.

The history of the Presidio Arts festival began innocently enough. Laurie saw some of the empty old buildings in downtown Presidio as perfect locations to showcase art. One year, she and some other teachers took it upon themselves to informally close down the road through town – the only paved road at the time – and have an art party. Texas Department of Transportation put a quick end to the festivities and that’s when Laurie learned there were a few



Laurie championed student artwork at the 2017 Big Bend Comic Con. Many of the students were new to art and this was their first show.

more steps involved in throwing a block party, like securing permits and permission first.

She soon learned the ropes and continued to make the Arts Fest happen. It's all student driven, she explained. Students work on posters, flyers and decorations, and they display their own works for sale. "The kids sold food and cleaned up – everything was student-generated," she emphasized. Laurie doesn't exactly remember the year of the first fest, but said it's been going strong since 2006 and has become a reflection of the area to a wider audience.

Last year, the food competition featured asado, a regional specialty that is not well-known outside of West Texas and Northern Mexico. Several cooks competed for bragging rights of whose recipe was the best.

It also brings in great bands – there's cumbia, mariachi, norteño, conjunto and dancing in the street. The city of Presidio has even begun to offer some financial backing for the undertaking.

"Because of Laurie's work, Presidio has an arts scene that reliably draws upon excellent home-grown talent, while also encouraging young local artists to go on and study art and enter careers that are art-related," Mayor Ferguson remarked.

"It brings life back to downtown," Laurie beamed of the festival. But last year's may be the last one organized with Laurie's leadership. Since her son plans to fledge off to college this fall, Laurie saw an opportunity to do something she always wanted to do: focus on her own art.

So, after over 20 years of living and loving in the area, Laurie is packing up for Zacatecas, Mexico to make a new start.

"I want to live very simple," Laurie stated. A move to Zacatecas is her chance to start fresh at the drawing board.

"Why do we accumulate so much stuff?" she mused. Laurie is getting rid of everything in preparation for the big move, set to happen around the middle of June.

"I'm bringing all art supplies, clothes, and a bed, one pot, one pan," she said. Her desire is to slow down and allow room for her art to bloom. "It's time to reinvent myself," she said.

She has a couple friendly contacts and a place to land when she gets there. She is not entirely sure what to expect, and she knows it will be a challenge, but she says all her years in Presidio have prepared her for it.

"Zacatecas is a huge, colonial, very beautiful city, almost like stepping into Europe, with cathedrals, architecture, galleries. It's also plagued by cartels," Laurie conceded, but she thinks the city is making a comeback. Besides, with the changing dynamics at schools here, and the growing concerns for student and teacher safety, Laurie wryly reasoned that she might as well take her chances with the cartel. The recent school shooting in an art classroom in Santa Fe, Texas made Laurie feel particularly vulnerable. She hated having to talk through possible "what if" scenarios with students. "It's dangerous everywhere. Everywhere," she maintained.

She doesn't want to look back and

regret not taking this chance.

"Instead of being mad and brooding over how life didn't work out how you wanted, move! Go start again. You're not a tree, you can move," Laurie ascertained.

The same applies to her new life in Zacatecas. She jokingly admitted that friends were taking bets on how long she would last before returning. Six months? A year? Their doubts only fuel her desire to make the transition work, but she can roll with the jokes. "We're gonna have to see if Laurie has any self-discipline at all!" she roared back.

It's not a permanent goodbye to Big Bend. Laurie will be back frequently to

visit her son, who will be attending classes at Sul Ross State University; and to visit friends, and possibly even have an art show or start some international commerce.

Zacatecas is filled with beautiful clothing and other crafts that, who knows, may find a market here one day, Laurie suggested. For now, she only knows for certain that she is looking forward to a different pace of life in a new place while focusing on her own art. "I am really eager to have time to work on my own work. I hope to improve greatly," she brimmed.

Another thing Laurie knows? "Presidio will always be my home."



Virgen de Guadalupe is one of several public artworks on display in Presidio, painted by Laurie.

THE BIG BEND'S OTHER RESIDENTS

By Danielle Gallo. Illustrations by Kevin Bishop.

Often when we talk about the Big Bend it's with a focus on its human inhabitants, their history, cultures, clashes and idiosyncrasies. But far outnumbering the human populations past and present is a rich diversity of plant and animal populations, some of which exist nowhere else.

Here is a summary of a few of the lesser-known species of plants, reptiles, birds and mammals that grace the Trans-Pecos region, many of them threatened, endangered or simply non-existent elsewhere on the globe. We are fortunate to live in an ecosystem that so many species can safely call home, and doubly fortunate that our large system of national and state parks and forests offer them the protection they need to survive the 21st century.

To begin, here's a checklist for plant lovers, a scavenger hunt of species great and small in the Big Bend region.

Texas Quaking Aspens *Populus tremuloides* While aspen trees are widespread throughout the mountains of North America, Big Bend National Park

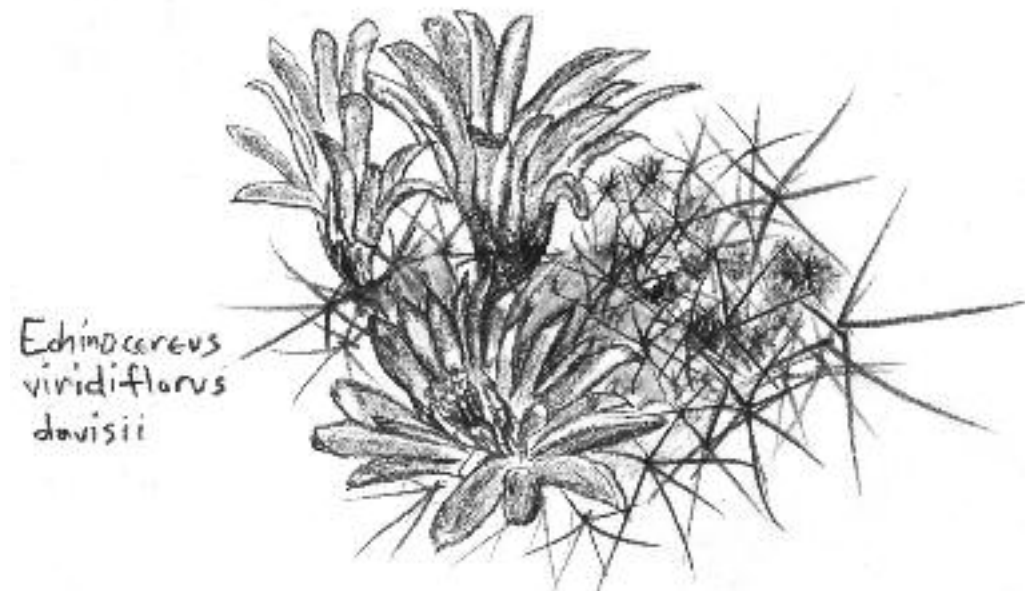
hosts the southernmost stand of them in the United States. They live on the southwest slope of Emory Peak. Quaking aspen groves are considered to be a singular organism, each tree sharing identical genetic markers and a single root system.

Chisos Hedgehog Cactus *Echinocereus chisoensis* This low-growing cactus is found only in the shade of other plants at low elevations in the Chisos Mountain area. It blooms with a unique orange blossom. It is endangered, and listed federally for protection.

Terlingua Creek Cat's Eye *Cryptantha crassipes* This flowering perennial has been found only within a radius of a few miles of Terlingua Creek, north of Hen Egg Mountain. It has low-growing, fuzzy grayish leaves and five-petaled white flowers with a yellow center on a tall, slender stalk.

Bunched Cory Cactus *Coryphantha ramulosa* This spiny beauty has a single unbranched stem and sports delicate purple flowers with a gold and white center. It occurs within an eight mile radius of Marathon.

Lloyd's Mariposa *Cactus Neolloydia mariposensis* Named with the Spanish word for 'butterfly,' Lloyd's Mariposa occurs in Brewster County within an



area south of the salt grass draw to an area just east of Highway 385 at Dove Mountain Ranch Road, to just north of the Rio Grande. It is found in elevations between 2,600 and 4,600 feet. It grows as a delicate whitish sphere of interwoven spikes, topped with a cluster of long-petaled flowers ranging in color from deep fuchsia to white.

Davis's Green Pitaya *Echinocereus viridiflorus* var. *davisii* This federally endangered cactus is tiny, often projecting above ground only three to six centimeters. Its single green flower has been studied to determine how it reflects UV light to attract bees and other pollinators, and has been found to reflect UV light toward the outer part of the petal, helping it to stand out against the background landscape and direct the pollinator toward the center of the flower. It occurs only in Brewster County, primarily within a ten-mile radius of Marathon.

Nellie Cory Cactus *Coryphantha minima* Another endangered cactus that lives only in Brewster County, primarily in the Marathon area, the Nellie Cory Cactus is taller than it is wide at the base, occasionally branching and growing about four centimeters tall. It boasts delicate purple flowers that make it a favorite among cactus collectors.

Giant Dagger Yucca *Yucca carnerosana* This massive yucca is found primarily in Dagger Flats in Big Bend National Park, though the species is widely distributed in Northern Mexico. It can grow to be 40 feet tall, its trunk often branching, and is topped with large cascades of white blossoms during

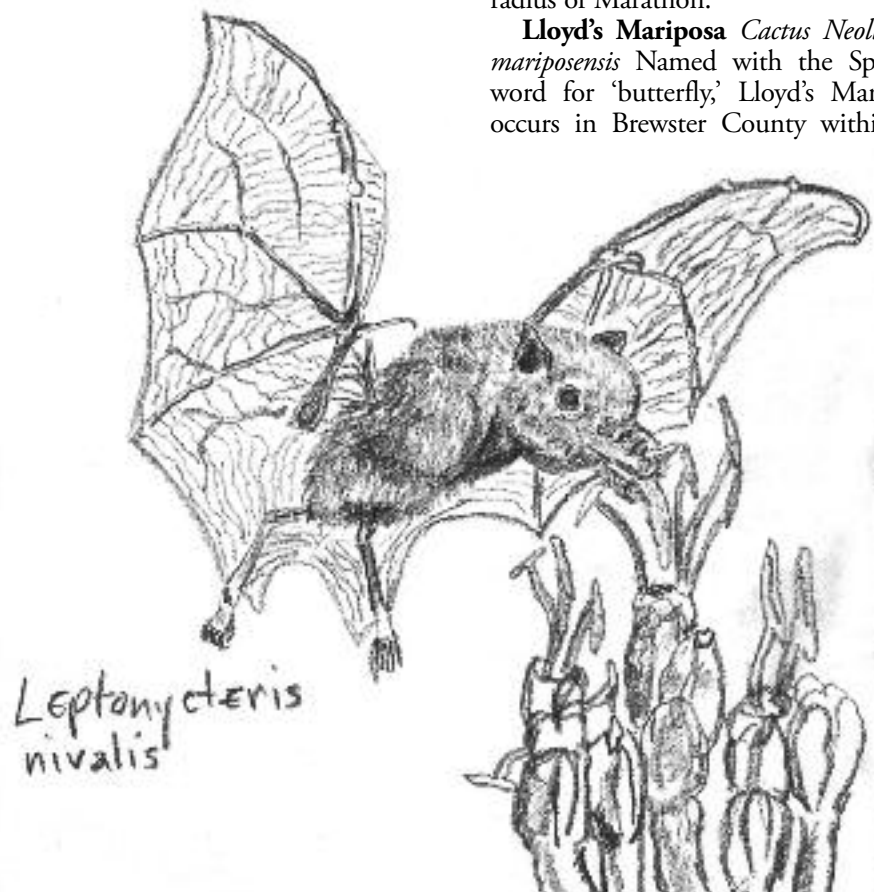
blooming. Taller than most native trees, it is an impressive specimen.

For animal lovers hoping to spot some rare Texas species, here are a few furry, feathered and scaled friends to be on the lookout for.

Del Carmen Whitetail Deer *Odocoileus virginianus carminis* The Del Carmen Whitetails are the smallest species of deer in Texas, with males averaging around 100 pounds and females a mere 66 pounds. Their range is limited to the upper elevations in Big Bend National Park and the immediate area, including the Chisos Basin and the Rosillos Mountains. They are frequently seen grazing around the Lodge and visitor's center in the Basin area.

Colima Warbler *Oreothlypis crissalis* This highly-sought songbird, a favorite for birdwatchers, nests in wooded canyons above 5,000 feet in the Chisos Mountains. Though it is found in Mexico, southern Brewster County is its northernmost range, and Big Bend National Park is the only place to find it in the United States.

Mexican Long-nosed Bat *Leptonycteris nivalis* This endangered species feeds on nectar and pollen, including from the agave or century plant, using its elongated snout to drink from the long, deep flowers. Agave harvesting for tequila production is partly responsible for this bat's status as an endangered species, and the Chisos Basin is the only place where it occurs in the United States, where a single colony



continued on page 27

Beannachd leat Jim Glendinning (Blessings to you)

by Carolyn Brown Zniwski

I am sorry to say we have lost a wonderful and talented member of the *Cenizo* staff. On May 21, 2018, at the age of 80, Jim Glendinning passed away, heading out on a journey to the next life. After more than 33 years of travel and living on both the east and west coasts of the United States, Jim Glendinning settled in Alpine, Texas, where he lived for the next 24 years. He started and ran a Bed and Breakfast until 1999. With the new millennium he quit his B & B to do more traveling, conduct tours and write. We called him the galloping Scot because of



his travels throughout the west. You can read all about him in his memoirs, *The Footloose Scott*.

His column, "Voices of Big Bend," ran in the *Cenizo* starting with the first issue, April 2009, until January, 2018. He authored five books, and introduced us to hundreds of friends and neighbors in West Texas. He traveled to 136 countries, guided tours all over the world and was a good friend to everyone. We will miss him, as will anyone who knew him.

Cheerio, Jim.



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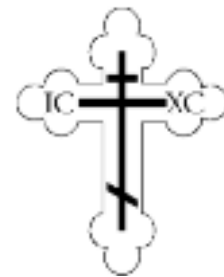
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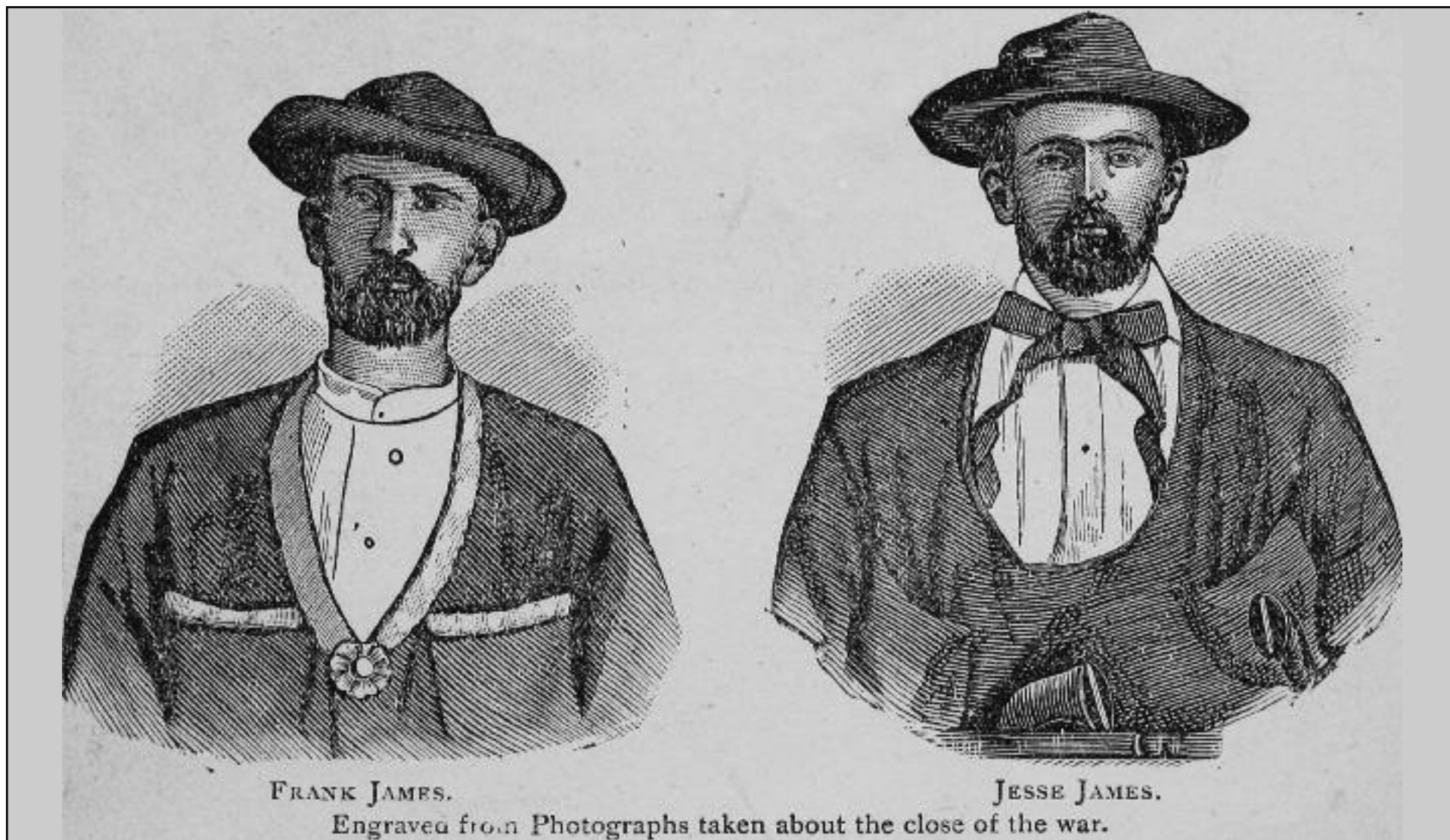
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Frank and Jesse James, courtesy Wikimedia Commons

JESSE JAMES SLEPT HERE?

by *Howdy-Nocona Fowler*

Every small town and rural community has a collection of old wives' tales, legends, and half-truths about the Old West. Most of these are inspired by boredom, whiskey, and folks eavesdropping on conversations in which only half of the conversation was actually heard. These stories involve anything from lost gold, pony express trails (where there was none), Indian attacks, outlaws, train wrecks, a whole host of subjects. Most make for a good evening's entertainment, but rarely hold up under real investigation. But every so often one of these stories pops up that has a small grain of truth. This article started out as an effort to disprove

a local story involving Alpine, Texas and the famous outlaw Jesse James' wife, her sister and their children vacationing in Alpine, Texas.

Take the house located at 807 West Sul Ross Avenue in Alpine, Texas. Four or five years ago Old West historian Joe Richardson (deceased) mentioned to me in conversation that some folks claimed Jesse James' wife and her sister used to vacation at a house located here in Alpine. Having a pretty good idea of when Alpine, Texas was established my first thought was, who dreams this stuff up? Not that I doubted Joe relaying what he had been told. But I sure had some doubts about the person who had

originally told the story in the first place.

Jesse James was reported to have been assassinated by Bob Ford in 1882...coincidentally about the same year that Alpine (then known as Orville Ville) was officially recognized as a place in Texas. The later renamed "town" of Murphyville only existed as a collection of tents along the railroad tracks at that time with no permanent structures, certainly not the Texas vacation destination it has become today. It wasn't until 1888 that the "town" officially changed its name to Alpine, six years after Jesse James was reported to have been gunned down by Bob Ford.

I kind of filed this information Joe

had told me as useless and went on about my business. It wasn't until a few years later that I even felt the need to locate the "James House," as I called it. But with a recent change of events, and evidence mounting that history as we have been taught may not have been entirely correct, I decided to look into this local myth.

Looking at this story from the outside and having done absolutely no research on the subject, the one question I could not answer was, "Why would any of the James clan even come here? Coming to Far West Texas back then was equal to making a trip to Mars." Even today, in 2018, it takes some effort

and planning just to get here. We are still a long way from anywhere else.

So I started looking into the possibility of Jesse James or his wife having ever been to Texas. As it turns out, in 1874 Jesse James and his new bride honeymooned in Texas. While on his honeymoon, which he and his bride had spent in and around Galveston, Jesse James had robbed a stage coach at San Antonio, Texas. I guess Honeymoons were costly even back then, and lacking ATM machines Jesse knew where he could withdraw some quick cash. As I continued to research Jesse James in Texas, that's where history as we know it starts to quickly unravel.

While on the dodge, Jesse and Frank James stayed with a distant cousin, Belle Starr, south of what is now Dallas, Texas in 1866. We find Jesse James in Texas again in 1869 at Macey. Coincidentally he was staying at his uncle's place, William Macey. Getting a little closer to the Big Bend Country in 1870, Jesse James and his brother Frank had a place located on Sterling Creek just south of where Midland, Texas is located today. I had read once that an ex-lawman had spotted Jesse James getting off of a train in Stanton, Texas. Longtime Marathon, Texas resident Red Wagner told me he understood the incident had taken place in Sanderson, Texas. The Sanderson train depot had been built in 1881 and was the only place train passengers could get a meal at the time.

Captain King, owner of the famous King Ranch in Texas, purchased two horses from Jesse James. One horse was a red stud called "Red Fox." The other was a "fast break" mare (the old term used before the designation Quarter Horse came into common usage). Jesse had purchased the mare from none other than the famous outlaw Sam Bass, who died in a shootout in Round Rock, Texas in 1878.

In 1884 it is a well-known fact that Jesse James gave Captain King of King Ranch fame a fine-bred iron gray colored stud horse, in exchange for Captain King's generous hospitality when Jesse had stayed at the ranch. Note that this took place two years after James was supposedly killed by Bob Ford.

But with all this information that I had gathered on the subject of Jesse James in Texas, my question of why the James clan would be coming to Alpine, Texas to vacation, still hadn't been answered.

So I loaded up and headed to Alpine,

Texas. Thinking Jesse or Frank James may have actually purchased the house using an alias, I hit the newspaper, real estate offices, the court house, tax office, county clerk's office, and numerous other places looking for information and history on the house in question. The county clerk told me she needed a date to search the deed records, I said give me a minute and I will be right back. I then



Photo courtesy of Jim Westermann

drove to the house where the James wives were supposed to have vacationed. It is on the national register for historic homes. I figured there would be a date on the bronze plaque attached to the wall on the front porch that would help us get started. To my surprise I was greeted by a young lady who wanted to know what I was doing on her front porch. I then relayed my strange story to her. To my surprise, she invited me in and to my further surprise she showed me all sorts of historical documentation on the "James House," which is actually known as the "Townsend House." I was pretty overwhelmed and asked her if I could take notes? She then told me I could take all of it to the library and make copies of everything. I left my pickup parked out front as insurance of my return and headed across the street to make copies.

I had hit pay dirt for sure! I had the history on the original owners who had built the place: a very prominent Texas lawman, William Wallace Townsend. But it was the second owner on the record of deeds who was the icing on the cake, as they say. He was none other

than Allen H. Parmer, who owned the Townsend house from 1915 till his death in 1927 (sometimes misspelled as Palmer). This cat was none other than Jesse and Frank James brother-in-law! He had been married to the James brother's little sister Susan James, who had died in March 1889 during childbirth in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The bond between Parmer and the

Steve Sederwall, founder and investigator with Cold West, a group who investigates unsolved cases of The Old West, tells us that very few people know Jesse James and Billy the Kid were amigos and involved in an elaborate counterfeit money scheme during the Lincoln County War in New Mexico between 1878 and 1881. The whole scheme revolved around "Knights of the Golden Circle's" efforts at refinancing and rearming the Confederacy.

Billy the Kid got caught passing some of the counterfeit money. Jesse James had personally introduced Billy the Kid to John Hayes, one of the counterfeit ringleaders. Jesse James and Billy the Kid were very good friends and had met many times throughout their lives. Dr. Tunstill has personal correspondence between the two, with Jesse James using the alias "Frank Dalton" (Jesse James used over 30 aliases in his lifetime) and Billy the Kid going by the name of "Brushy Bill Roberts," dated between 1949 and 1950.

There ya go, approximately 45 years after Jesse James was reportedly killed by Bob Ford, Jesse James under the name "Frank Dalton," his brother Frank and their wives (mentioned in the letter as the Dalton Girls) and children were visiting and staying with their brother-in-law in Alpine, Texas!

If you're not convinced yet, try this on for size: Frank and Jesse James both attended their sister's funeral and burial in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1889, seven years after Jesse James had been reported killed.

If you still don't believe that Jesse James wasn't assassinated by Bob Ford in 1882, or that he was alive and well vacationing in Alpine, Texas 45 years after his reported death, the infamous Calamity Jane states in a letter to her daughter that "I met up with Jesse James not long ago. He is quite a character--you know he was "killed" in '82.... he is passing under the name of Dalton, but he couldn't fool me." Susan Stevenson found Jesse James and his wife Zerelda listed under their real names in the Kansas City, Missouri phone book four years after Jesse James was supposed to have been killed.

It appears that Jesse James had successfully faked his and his wife's deaths... Jesse living to a ripe old age of 103. Now I am wondering if Jesse and Frank James happened to have stayed at The Chambers Hotel or even the Gage Hotel in Marathon, Texas when they passed through on their way to Alpine, Texas?

Photo Essay

Shooting the Moon by Matt Walter



Whenever I post photos of the moon on Facebook – which is often, because I love to share – I am invariably asked about my equipment, with comments and questions such as, “What kind of lens did you use?” or “You must have some expensive equipment!” Well, these photos were all taken with a decades-old Olympus SP-820UZ camera, with a built-in 40x zoom lens, which cost me \$250 when it was brand-new!

While Olympus no longer makes this camera, many other manufacturers do make super-zoom “bridge” cameras, including Canon, Nikon, and Panasonic – some with built-in 60x or 80x lenses! The secret is to mount the camera on a tripod, use a 2-second timer delay to reduce vibrations, and use a low ISO setting, since the moon is quite bright. Have fun shooting the moon!





The streak in the sky is a time lapse of the space station





Big Bend Eats

By Carolyn Brown Zniewski

I landed in the Big Bend Regional Medical Center last winter with both the flu and pneumonia. I stayed about 11 days so I got to know many of the folks who work there. I got great care from everyone, from the aides, therapists, and maintenance workers to the doctors and nurses. It was quite an international community, bringing together local people whose families have been in Big Bend for generations and medical personnel originally from Brazil, India and the Philippines.

After I went home, Agave Home Health came for several weeks. I collected recipes from some of the staff at the hospital and at Agave. This collection of international recipes will make a great dinner menu, or pick one to try. Thanks to the very fine crew of medical personnel that makes up our local community of healthcare: the medical center, doctors and dentist offices, clinics and home care in Big Bend. I tip my hat to you all. Thanks for being here for us.

DELICIOUS ICE TEA

Lupe Tavaréz - Big Bend

- 1 ½ quarts water
- 8-10 Guanabana leaves
- ¼ - ½ cup honey

Bring about 4-6 cups water to a boil. Remove from heat. Add a handful of guanabana leaves and let steep about 10 minutes until it is a deep golden color. Stir in ¼ - ½ cup local honey. Refrigerate until cool. Delicious anytime.

"I like to take it to work with me on a hot day in a water bottle. I think of it as a 'Fountain of Youth'."

LUMPIANG SHANGHAI

Spring Rolls

Maris Imallin Aguilar - China

- 1 lb. ground pork
- ¼ cup finely chopped green onions
- ½ cup grated carrots
- ½ cup finely chopped onion

- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 Tablespoon sweet pickle relish
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 25 spring roll wrappers
- 3 to 6 cups cooking oil (depends on pan size)

Combine all the ingredients with the pork starting with the onion, carrots, green onions, salt, ground black pepper, soy sauce, sweet pickle relish and 1 raw egg. Mix well. Wrap about 1 to 1½ Tablespoons of the mixture in a spring roll wrapper. (This should make 25 spring rolls.) Cover rolls to keep them from drying out. Using either a deep fryer or a large frying pan, heat the oil to medium high, 375°. Deep-fry the lumpiang, a few at a time, for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from fryer and drain on paper towels. Transfer to a serving plate. Serve with sweet and sour sauce.

"This is how I usually cook this dish. Share and Enjoy!"

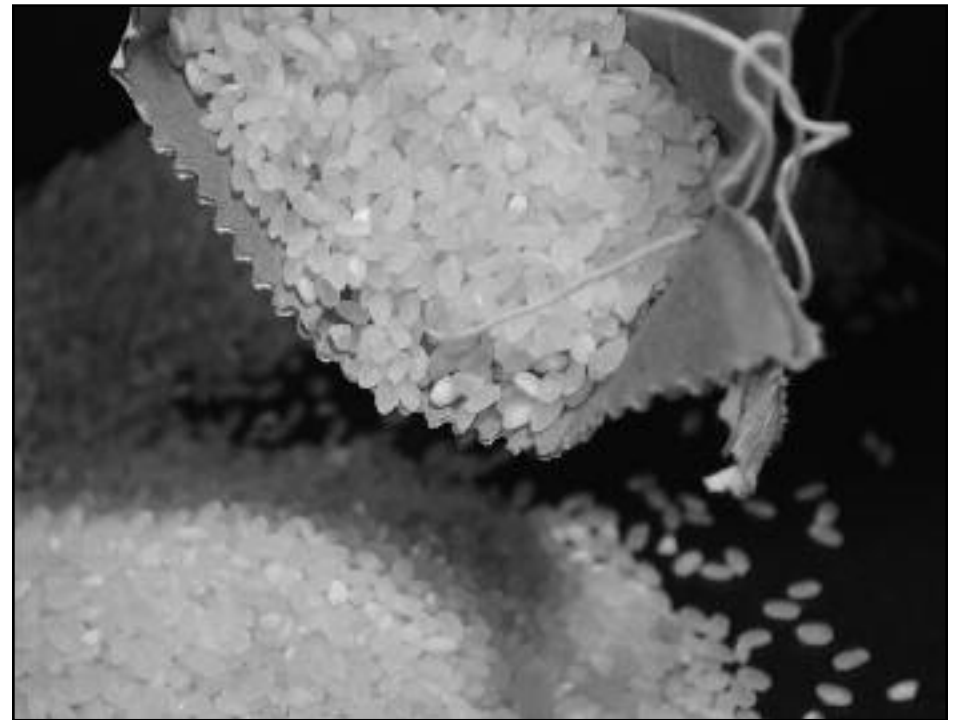
CILANTRO RICE

Amy Struthers - India

- 1 cup basmati rice, rinsed and soaked 30 minutes
- 2 Tablespoons diced garlic
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 whole cloves
- 4-5 black peppercorns
- 1/2 stick cinnamon
- 3 whole green cardamom seeds
- 1 thinly sliced onion
- Pinch of turmeric
- 1 potato, peeled and diced
- ½ cup frozen peas
- Salt as required

Cilantro Paste:

- ½ cup cilantro
- Green chilies to taste
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger
- 2 Tablespoons grated coconut (unsweetened)
- 3-4 garlic cloves



- ½ teaspoon cumin seeds
 - ½ teaspoon fennel seeds
 - 2-4 Tablespoons water
- Blend well to make a paste.

- 12 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- ½ cup white sugar

Heat 2 Tablespoons oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add garlic, bay leaf, cloves, black peppercorns, cinnamon and cardamom. Sauté until spices are fragrant. Add onion and sauté until onion is golden. Lower heat and add cilantro paste and a pinch of turmeric, stirring. Add potatoes, peas, any other vegetables you like (diced carrot is good), mix well, cover pan and cook another 15 minutes or so until potatoes are done. Add drained, uncooked rice, sauté for a minute or two, add 2 cups water and ½ teaspoon salt, stir well. Cover and cook about 15 or 20 minutes until rice is done. Check to make sure there is enough water for the rice.

"This is good served with Raita. A favorite."

LECHE FLAN

Rheena Mae V. Ruiz - Philippines & Mexico

- 1 can sweetened condensed milk

Preheat oven to 350°. Separate the yolks from the whites. Place the egg yolks in a big bowl, then beat them. Add condensed milk and mix thoroughly until completely combined. Add vanilla. Put the flan mold/Llanera on top of the stove on low heat. (if not available, use 8-9" round pan). Put the granulated white sugar in the Llanera mold, mixing constantly until sugar turns into liquid (caramel, light brown). Spread the caramel evenly to sides of the Llanera mold. Let cool until sugar hardens. Pour the yolk and milk mixture into the mold. Cover with aluminum foil. Bake at 350° for 45-60 minutes until center is barely firm. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. Just before serving, loosen sides, place a large plate over flan; quickly flip so mold is upside down. Remove mold.

"Here is my Leche Flan recipe. I know you'll love this. Enjoy!"

Folkways

by Maya Brown Zniewski

HAND MADE PINE SALVE

I think among my favorite things as a kid was to sit among the trees in the grassy area of the school yard. Nothing was better. Here in the north the trees were mostly pine, so that is what we'll be concentrating on, although the procedures and skills are the same for all trees from which we can use resin, sap, and pitch. The abundance and usefulness varies from species to species.

We all know pine trees. Glorious pine. You can tap a pine tree for the sap, though tapping is probably overreaching for what we are doing, and makes it sound far more complicated than it is. For our purposes here, you will be basically collecting the sap just like you would collect the needles or the cones. Anytime a tree gets injured, sap (or pitch or resin) oozes out, covering the wound on the tree and healing the tree. This sap prevents bugs, molds or "tree viruses" from further harming the tree.

You can use Pine sap in much the same way. To collect sap find a tree, then find the sap; it's sticky and thick, much like molasses. Take a small twig from the ground around the tree and scrape off some, but not all, of the sap from an existing wound, as this is a band-aid for the tree, so you don't want to take it all from one spot.

Smoosh the sap into an old metal coffee can or glass jar, or some other container. Just know you will not want to clean this afterwards and you should dedicate the can to pine sap. So, fill the can or jar as much as you want.

You can use the pitch in a few ways: one is right off the tree, sans moss, needles and twigs, as a wound cover and healer, much like a band-aid. The second way you can use it after you've cleaned it of moss, needles, twigs, etc., is as pine sap-infused oil, so add some pine sap to a jar and cover with olive oil or any other kind of edible oil. Use what you like. Cover the pine sap with olive oil and let it set for six weeks or six months, or double boil it for a few hours, until the sap has dissolved into the oil. Strain through a paper coffee filter or be willing to clean a fine strainer really well to get everything back out. You have just made an infused oil. Be very careful with flame around sap, it is really very flammable.

Next, you can make a salve by adding beeswax to the oil. In a double boiler, heat the pine oil and beeswax together until the beeswax has melted. I use about an ounce of beeswax for four ounces of oil. I make salves with more beeswax in the summer because people don't want melted salves all



Spruce resin photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons

over everything.

Pine salves have traditionally been used as a drawing salve, like for splinters and such. I also use a pine salve for blisters and it is very good at preventing infection. Pine draws circulation to the wounded area and can help

with boils, and can be used to help with painful joints and sore muscles. You really should consider making pine oil and then salve at least once—think of the wonderful gifts you could give in the winter and how useful pine salve is!

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The Soul of Selling

by Rani Birchfield



ADVERTISING: Is it the bane of our existence? Or can it serve a higher purpose? The word brings to mind a multitude of things: money, information, youth, lies, hot rods, cool girls, style, travel, bright colors, light beer, scams, savings, P. Diddy, misinformation, glitz and glam.

Advertising works (or so they advertise), answering questions, oftentimes (and in my opinion, most importantly) around travel: What's the name of that inn where I've been meaning to stay? Where's the dog groomer so I can take Fluffy to get his paws done? How do I make reservations to camp on that island in that lake in Minnesota next summer? Which exit is the next restaurant for French fries and coffee?

We are inundated with advertising - do this, do that, wear this, wear that, go here, go

there, if you buy this it will make you that, this will lead you to the fountain of youth but may kill you on the way, etc. It does have its negative points. However, it also has positive sides, especially in this region where businesses come and go on the dusty winds. An ad can show you that new restaurant or food truck you didn't know existed, remind you of an historic hotel you'd like to visit, or help you find a dentist or a realtor. It could introduce you to the newest boutique or art gallery. An ad can lead you to an event coming soon that you weren't aware of or help you find your next good read.

Four years ago, I was hired for the position of Advertising Editor with the Cenizo Journal, which is a fancy way of saying "ad sales." I interviewed for the job because I'd always

pick up a copy of the Cenizo when I visited the area to read the locals lore and plus, I actually liked the ads - there was no charlatanny here. (I also thought they might let me write a thing or two.) I am a huge supporter of small business, having had one or two most of my life, and I wrote copy (more advertising) for many in Dallas, where I lived in a previous life. As I transition from Advertising Editor to Associate Editor, I am grateful for the opportunity to have met so many of you busting your butt out here in the West. The Big Bend region is full of interesting places and rugged beauty, and I enjoyed helping others find both through advertising.

I think I can speak for all of

continued on page 27



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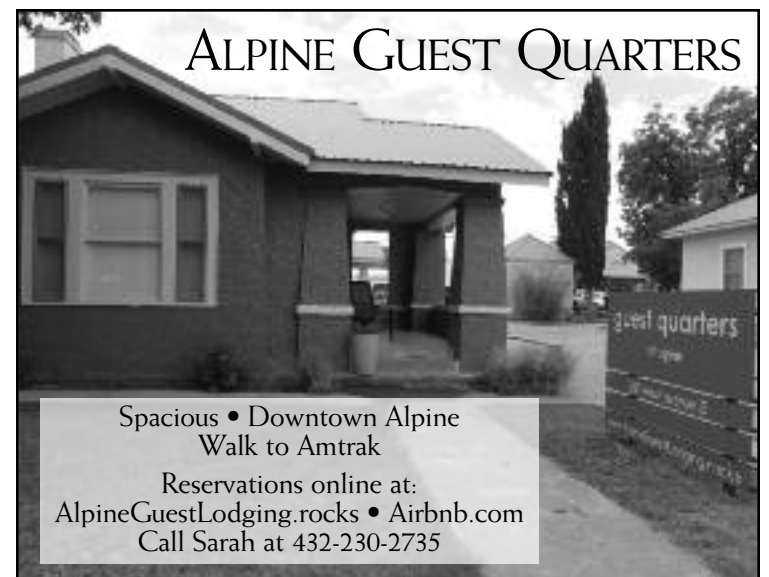
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From Davis Mountain Vistas

by William MacLeod

Books on geology always have to begin with a table such as the one pictured here to introduce the general reader to the geological time scale and the terminology involved. The time scale or geological column begins with the creation of the Earth, about 4.6 billion years ago and ends at the present day. The basic unit of time is one million years or m.y. Events are described as having occurred or taken place so many millions of years ago, abbreviated as Ma.

The time scale is divided into the Precambrian, Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras, which in turn are divided into periods. Periods are further divided into epochs. Rocks are tabulated into formations, bodies of rock that can be identified in the field by their physical characteristics and position in the geologic time scale. A formation is sometimes subdivided into members or combined with other formations to form a group.

Volcanic activity in the Trans-Pecos of Texas developed in two episodes, one between 47 and 27 Ma, the other between 25 and 18 Ma, as part of a volcanic arc roughly parallel to the west coast of northern Mexico and the southern United States.

The arc developed because the North American plate, the section of the Earth's crust on which North America sits, began over-riding its neighboring Farallon plate at the west coast of the continent. As the Farallon plate descended into the Earth's interior below North America, it carried with it vast amounts of water and water-saturated sediments from the sea floor. Once this water-laden mate-

rial reached 75 miles or so below the Earth's surface, if began to melt from the combination of high temperature and pressure.

The molten rock or magma rose in the crust under the force of gravity and formed pools or reservoirs in magma chambers, typically 20 to 60 miles underground. Eventually, magma reached the Earth's surface through vents and fissures, creating volcanic eruptions.

Geologists have identified several vents in the Davis Mountains, none unfortunately visible from the highways, but you can see rock-filled fissures in the Paisano Volcano between Alpine and Marfa, where erosion has uncovered many vertical rock bodies or dikes that originated as magma in fissures.

Some magma, especially the magma first erupting, contained water vapor and exploded into clouds of small droplets with the drop in pressure at the Earth's surface. The droplets instantaneously solidified into volcanic glass and, depending on their size and the strength of the explosions fell to the ground locally or rose up into the atmosphere. All eventually fell to earth to form volcanic ash.

Over time, minerals such as calcite, silica and iron oxide came in with groundwater and cemented the volcanic ash deposits into a soft rock called tuff. In some cases, the hot ash partially re-melted as it accumulated and created a rock called welded tuff. All degrees of welding, from slightly-welded rocks to

rocks almost identical to lava, occur in the Davis Mountains.

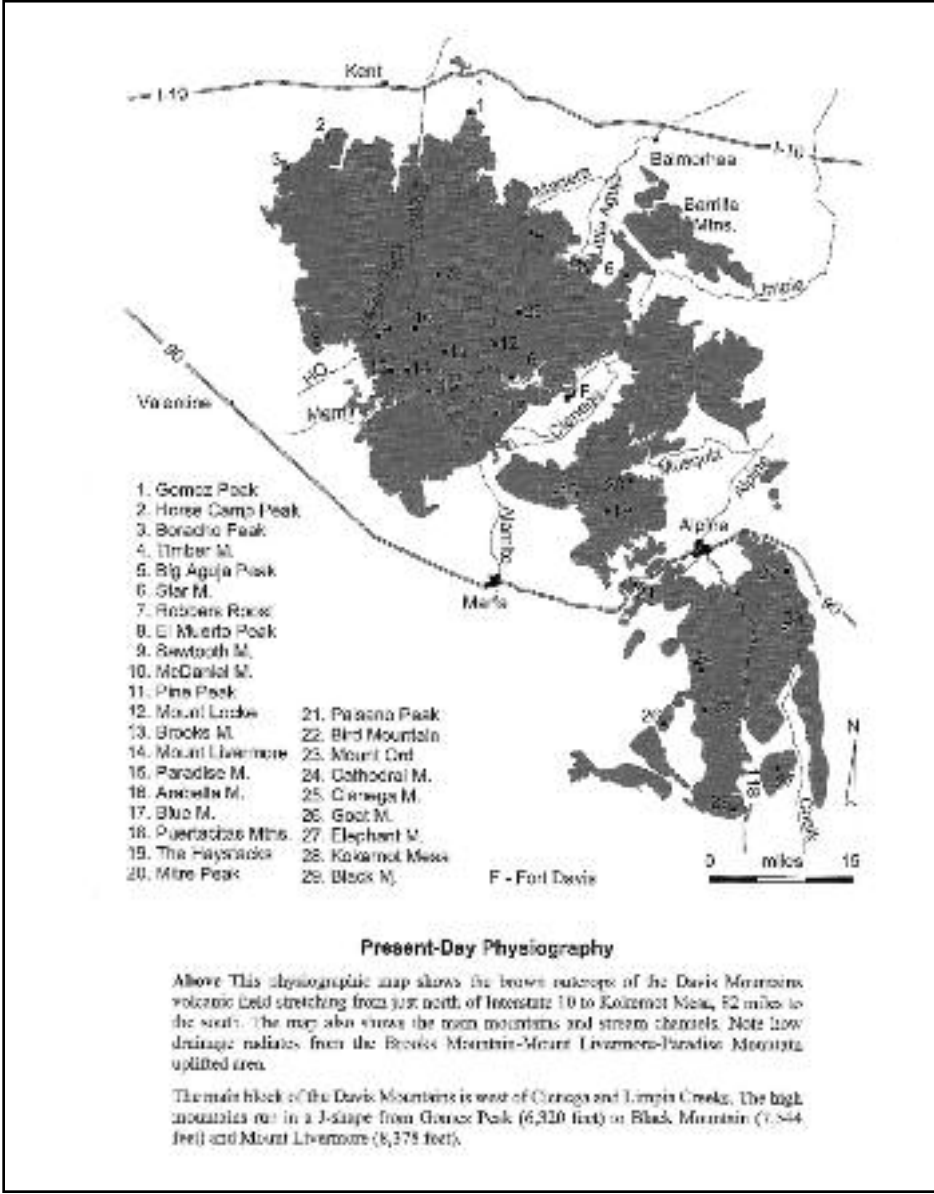
Magma that lacked water vapor or other volatile matter oozed out as lava on to the Earth's surface. Some were basalts that flowed freely but most were silica-rich rhyolites or trachytes that were viscose when hot, having the consistency of oatmeal, and that tended to form thick, stumpy flows near their vents or fissures.

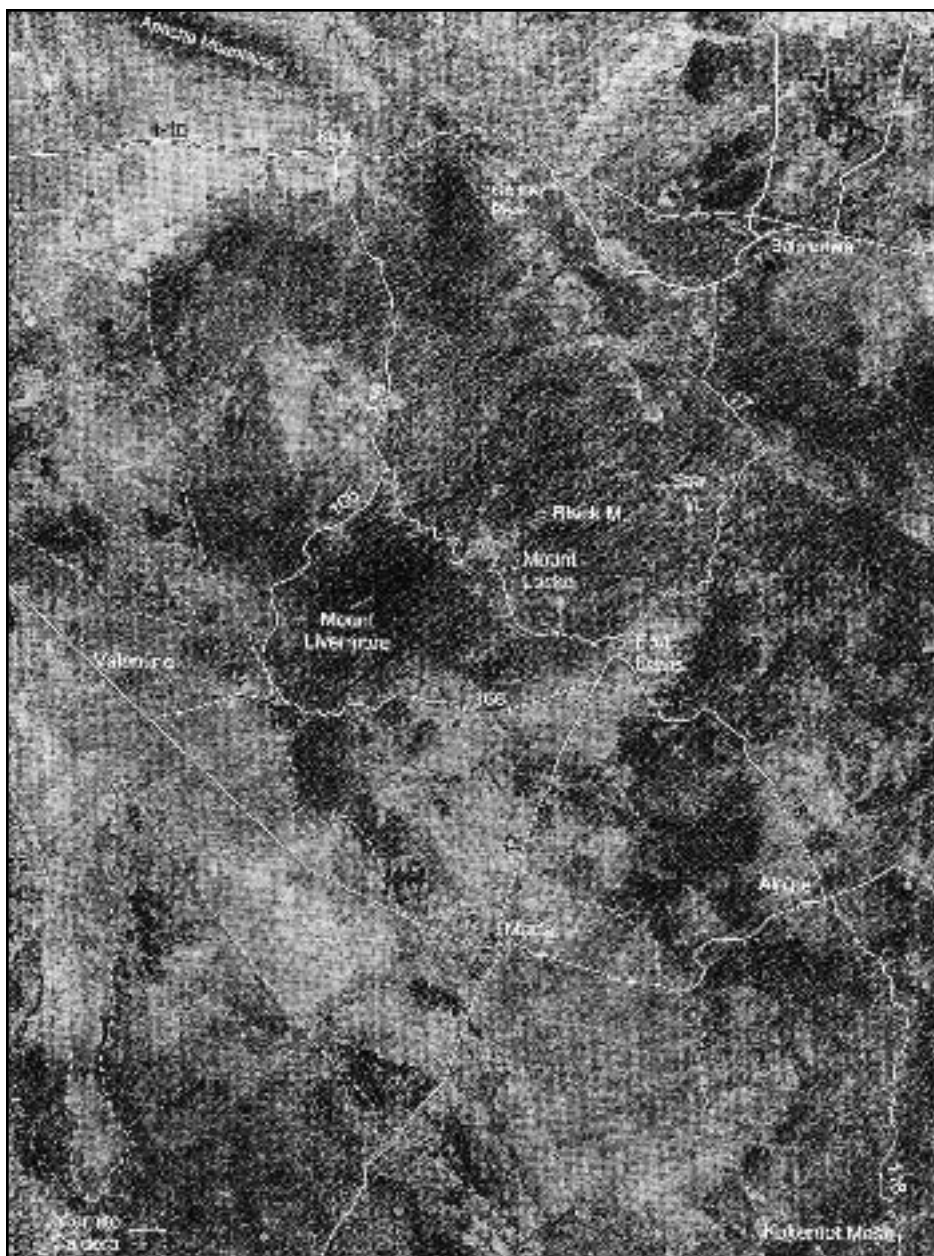
In places, a circular or oval depression on the surface known as a caldera developed as the of a magma chamber collapsed after some or all magma had erupted. Some calderas, such as the

Infierito Caldera, are visible at the earth's surface. Geologists have identified several calderas in the area, marked on the geological maps by black dashed lines.

A large number of volcanic and intrusive entities have been identified in the Davis Mountains volcanic field; some are area-wide, others more local. Younger volcanic rocks are absent south of Alpine; volcanism died away there much earlier than in the high mountains.

Volcanic action began with the eruption of a thick blanket of volcanic ash with occasional basalt lava layers. The ash





This satellite photo shows the entire area, with towns, roads and some landmarks identified

consolidated to form a tuff called the Huelster Formation in the Davis Mountains and the Pruett Formation further south. Similar tuffs occur throughout the Big Bend and northern Mexico. A cobble found near the base of the Huelster Formation was dated at 38.4 Ma and gives a starting date for volcanic activity although no one knows how long it took for the Huelster and Pruett Formations to accumulate.

Two million years later, the main volcanic sequence in the Davis Mountains began. It lasted 1.5 million years and consisted of six main lava eruptions interspersed with explosive ash eruptions.

A certain amount of magma solidified underground to form igneous intrusions, several of which have been uncovered by erosion. Geologists classify intrusions by shape, and to some extent, size.

A sill is a tabular or sheet-like body

injected parallel to the bedding in its host rock. The shape of an uncovered intrusion depends partly on the shape of the original intrusion, so sills, being parallel to the beds in which they were injected, are usually horizontal or near-horizontal, and often create mesas when uncovered.

A laccolith is a mushroom-shaped sill that domed the beds above it. Lacoliths are common in this area and tend to produce mushroom-shaped mountains, Sawtooth Mountain, for example.

A dike is a tabular-shaped intrusion that crosscuts the bedding of its host rock. Dikes are usually nearly vertical. They tend to be harder than lavas and stand up above the surface, an example of differential erosion, creating ridges with coxcomb or iguana lizard profiles.

A plug is a vertical, pipe-like body, sometimes a volcanic neck or solidified intrusion feeder. Plugs narrow toward

their peaks when eroded. A good example is Mitre Peak north of Alpine.

The greatest concentration of intrusions is in the Sawtooth Mountain-Mount Livermore area where a sill extends across Highway 166 and a series of intrusions caps Mount Livermore. These intrusions have been eroded into a craggy ridge culminating in the high bare Baldy Peak, the highest peak in the mountains. The volcanic rocks around Mount Livermore have been uplifted by as much as 2,000 feet, most likely because of a large intrusion underground. None of these intrusions have been dated.

Four intrusions between Fort Davis and Alpine create distinctive domes. Two of these, the Western Intrusion and the Barillos Dome, are 32.8 million years old. A series of sizeable intrusions occurs south of Alpine and several large sills outcrop west of Balmorhea. The group of small intrusions occurring in the Paradise Mountain Caldera near Highway 166, are thought to be part of a dome that rose up when all the lava in the caldera had erupted, a resurgent dome as such bodies are called.

In parts of the area, forces deep in the crust have raised the Earth's surface up, creating uplifts. One such uplift that began in the Permian period has exposed ancient Precambrian and Ordovician rocks north and west of Van Horn and another in the Marathon area east of Alpine has exposed Permian strata.

The central North American continent began being uplifted along a ridge roughly coincident with the Frontal Range of the Rocky Mountains about 25 million years ago, soon after the main volcanic phase ended. This uplift affected the entire United States, most of Canada and northern Mexico. As a result, Cretaceous limestones in the Kent area, for example, are now some 4,500 feet above sea level although they originated below sea level.

Just before the uplift began, a rift zone began to develop along the crest of the uplift about 27 million years ago, a zone known as the Rio Grande Rift that is now followed by the Rio Grande from Colorado to the Big Bend. In this zone, the Earth's crust was stretched or extended and broke into fault blocks. Some blocks stayed high while others sank down into grabens (the German word for ditch). Basalt lavas erupted through the faults and spread over the landscape in thin flows from about 25 to 18 million years ago.

South of Socorro, New Mexico, the zone branches out into multiple seg-



The Rio Grande Rift Zone

Above To produce this shaded relief map, the U.S. Geological Survey compiled the National Elevation Dataset of elevations every 10 meters (about 33 feet) in the United States and plotted it so that, by computer wizardry, it has been made to appear as a three-dimensional representation with the sun shining across the terrain from the west.

The advantage of this method is that topographic features show up with great clarity, even better than in satellite photographs.

ments. One of these segments, called the Salt Basin Rift after the salt basin north of Van Horn, runs southwest of the Davis Mountains. Another segment runs along the Rio Grande Valley and joins the Salt Basin Rift at the Big Bend to continue into Mexico as the Sunken Block.

The Davis Mountains volcanic field

continued on page 27

DESERT RIVER

Rushing through canyons
Slick rock and high walls
Gliding round rock slides
And navigating falls

The sun beats upon me
The wind slams my face
Muscles scream for mercy
Exhaustion slows my pace

Now rolling slowly
And later quite fast
I want it to end
Yet I want it to last

Digging deep on my right
Forcing water to my rear
Moving quickly past rocks
Supressing my fear

Adrenaline rushes like
A drug through my vein
Go this way... or that way
Slip next to the cane

Studying the Red Tail
As she soars on the breeze
I am spooked by the gar fish
As before me he flees

Make camp on a sand bar
No solace I find
Wanting for real food
And a bed that is mine

Look up to a dark sky
Filled with stars and moonlight
Peace and quiet engulf me
What a wonderful night

Nothing quite like this river
Always flowing ever changing
Carving canyons and creating
Life abundant.... life sustaining

A bend in Desert River
Too quickly passes by
Leaving placid thoughts
Floating memories high

by Dennis Baker

SCOUT

A storyteller is here.

Oh, lover! Take her warm hand!

a library alive with children's laughter

long walks through lost cities

of adventurers and thieves—

like you and me

We shall be scouts together

as life unfurls a frontier from the toes of our boots

to a blue azimuth

Come!

We'll be the tale ourselves—

We'll be the lyrics, the music and the dance

a simple tune, a harmony of voices

barefoot on wet sand

we'll step in time to decades' waves

We'll sing an adventure, a love story

made of many dawns

with refrains of home—we shall come home

to our own vast blue

Once upon a time—come sit by me—

the mountain magnets tugged at us

and hastily we grabbed a box of matches,

a thin jacket, and a sandwich

Zephyrus blew us far away

We had to go! We had to meet

the awake who live along the beaches

These Masters of Heed found us fast asleep

and we thought we were the wise—the scouts!

Bewitched we were

a spell cast over us

like a net of carelessness!

Can you hear the sirens that lured us here?

Look back, my comrade, my own scout

to see yourself that led you—shoved you—

toward your story, your poem

Tell me, tell me what you see!

Teach me your music

with all its tears and hurry

each smile and surprise

so we can tremble here together

healing

and singing your song

My song? Oh, most often they call me Mother

I like that!

It's a hymn that echoes in my ears

Outside the circle of that life and beyond the last page of this book

I am an acronym: scout, your friend,

lover, walker, listener

and a child myself

It's all a gift, the masterpiece we find

this human heart

where animals walk together with us

and trees have voices

We'll climb up high, OK? We will sit together in God's almighty lap

to hear his stories straight and unenchanted

by angels' promises of gold

and pirates' maps to lost and bloody booty

There is Oneness in Relationship

I have seen this

I am Scout

by Anonymous

The Tale of Diamond Dick

by C. W. (Bill) Smith

As a writer of local history, I often deal with persons who were larger than life, who had achieved legendary status in their own time. Ernest St. Leon, aka “Diamond Dick,” was just such a man. He worked all over West Texas, including a stint as a railroad watchman at Sanderson.

St. Leon earned his nickname because of a prominent diamond stickpin that he always wore. He was not a sentimental man when dealing with perpetrators and suspects, but he had a soft side indicated by wearing the stickpin given to him by his mother. It was a charm for him and he was never without it.

St. Leon was born to French Canadian parents who brought their family to Texas. When his parents died, a San Antonio judge was appointed guardian. He was sent to college to prepare for a life of commerce.

But, as so often happens to young men, the lure of the military enticed him to drop out and join the U. S. Cavalry, where he eventually attained the rank of sergeant.

His military career was illustrious, having fought during the turbulent peri-

od of Texas history when settler incursions on Native American lands caused a serious threat to the health and safety of all.

At his discharge from the service, St. Leon eventually joined the famed Company D of the Texas Rangers, under the leadership of Captain John Hughes.

There, he served throughout the late 1880s.

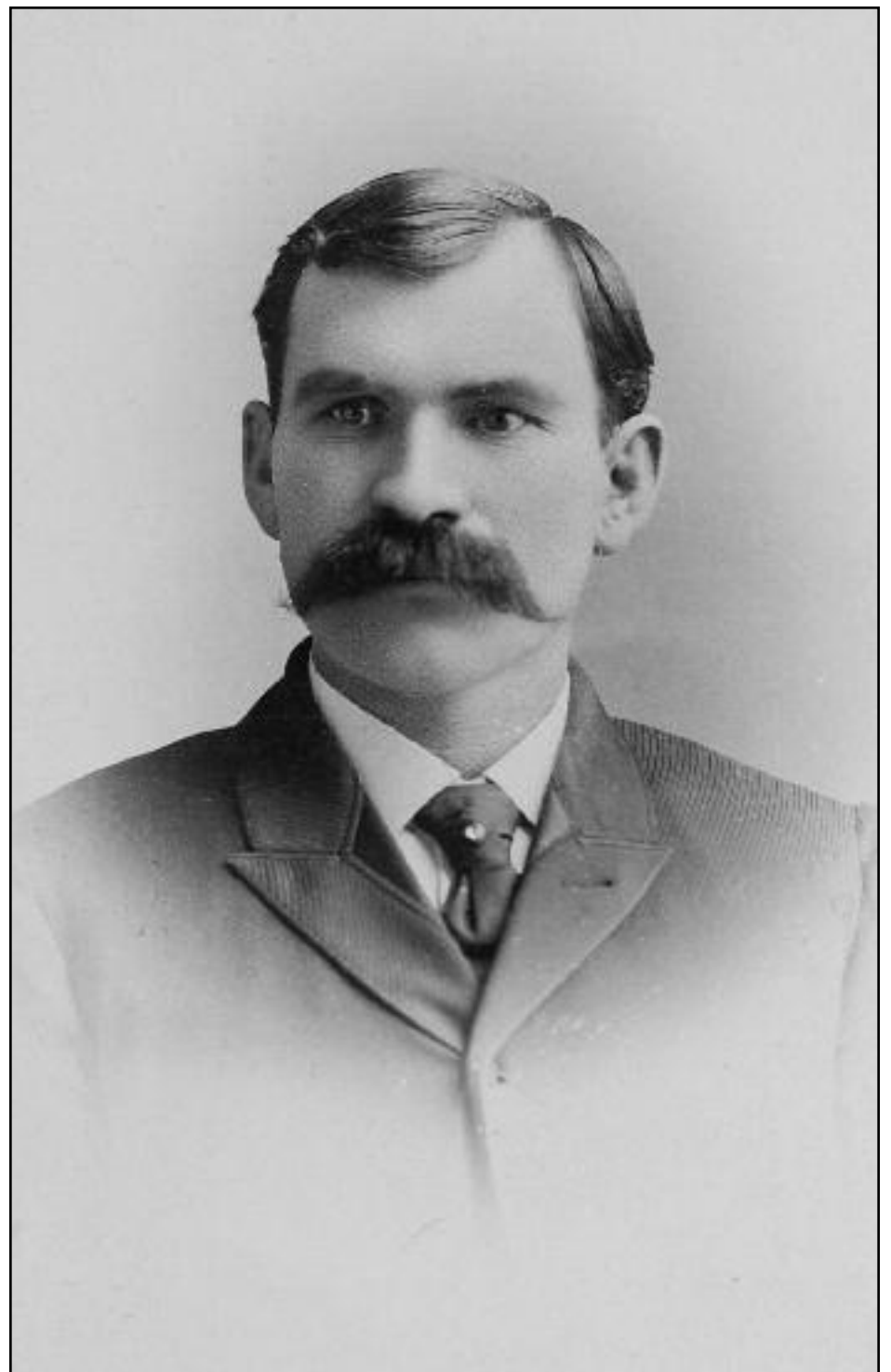
Unfortunately, his love for alcohol got him dismissed from the Rangers, but Hughes wisely kept him on a contingency basis as a covert, free-lance operative.

He became widely known along the border regions, and assisted in the capture of the Carrasco Brothers, infamous silver thieves who heisted a load of silver ore from the Fronteriza Mining Company outside Shafter, Texas.

In 1890, St. Leon was reinstated to Company D of the Rangers and remained to the end of his life.

Diamond Dick had a tough reputation. He was not afraid to use his guns, and his devotion to duty was legendary.

Chasing a man who had stolen a horse and buggy in El Paso, St. Leon



boarded a train and got ahead of the man, three times, eventually bringing him to justice out of pure “doggedness.” When Diamond Dick got on your trail, you might as well give up because he certainly wasn’t going to let you get away.

He was instrumental in arresting Inez Gonzalez, who at the time was the most-wanted fugitive in Texas. He did the detective work, discovered Gonzalez’ whereabouts, then simply went to Gonzalez’ father-in-law’s ranch without back up (certainly enemy territory for St. Leon) and arrested him.

The El Paso district attorney summed

up the feelings of many when he said, “‘Diamond Dick,’ who made the arrest, is one of the most diligent Rangers in the Service, and there is not a man better liked by his brother officers. It was he who broke up the big gang of thieves which had for so long a time been robbing the Mexican Central box cars down between Chihuahua and Torreón.”

Another time, he brought two miscreants to justice, catching them in the act of trying to wreck trains outside of Sanderson.

The infamous “Baxter’s Curve” near Sanderson was named for the engineer who lost his life when train wreckers

loosened the rails and caused a terrific derailment.

These two, however, were stopped by Diamond Dick before their mischief turned deadly.

As with most strong-willed persons, Diamond Dick was opinionated and would argue a point, sometimes with disastrous results.

While working as a watchman for the GH&SA Railway at Sanderson, he got into a heated argument with an old track foreman.

The foreman contended that he could defend himself from attack with a simple wooden chair, faster than Dick could with a firearm.

Of course, Dick, who was quite a gunman, begged to differ. The words became heated and insults were exchanged.

Without warning, Dick stood up and went for his gun. The old man leaped to his feet and made a grab for his chair. To Dick's horror his pistol went off and when the smoke cleared he saw that he had wounded the old man in the leg. He could not explain why he shot the

man, except that it was a terrible accident.

When the doctor arrived, he said there would be no lasting effects for the old man, and soon all were laughing at the suddenness of the turn of events.

Under normal circumstances, Dick used just the amount of force that was required to take control of a situation. Sometimes the outcome was lethal, but that was not usually the case.

When he and another watchman caught a man in the GH&SA El Paso yards with what was believed to be stolen goods, they had to become very forceful. As the reporter commented, "The fellow showed fight, and the officers had to wipe the earth with him before he would surrender and allow himself to be taken to county jail."

It is said that he who lives by the sword, dies by the sword, and that was the case for Ernest "Diamond Dick" St. Leon.

While chasing three horse thieves outside of El Paso, Dick's newly-sworn deputy, a New Orleans medical doctor named Breaux, was killed instantly in a

gun battle, and Dick was mortally wounded. He still managed to bring the thieves into custody and to justice, but he succumbed to his wounds on Aug. 1, 1898.

Dick's death caused a small scandal that threatened to tarnish the Texas Rangers' name.

It was reported widely in the El Paso press that St. Leon was to have a pauper's burial.

The public was outraged and a subscription was taken up to give him a proper burial.

In reality, St. Leon's wife arranged to have him buried, and Captain Hughes promised her that she would be reimbursed.

Still, the controversy raged. Adjutant General Wozencraft, head of the Texas Rangers, had to publish an article in the papers discrediting the rumor and assuring the public that the Rangers took care of their own, while they lived and after they died.

But, for years there was no marker at St. Leon's grave in Concordia Cemetery in El Paso. Only in recent times did a

hand-crafted cross appear on his grave, and in the last few years, his great-grandson erected a marble headstone, paid for by the Concordia Heritage Association and the El Paso Historical Society.

As his friend and fellow officer Deputy Sheriff Ten Eyck said, "Diamond Dick was a good officer. He took altogether too many chances, I think, in most cases... I have known him for some time, and a more persistent traveler after criminals I never met in all my life. Running them down seemed to be his only hobby and he seemed to enjoy the chase after them. He was in the field most all the time and ever and always had his eyes peeled for offenders against the law."

As with most stories concerning Sanderson in the early days and the characters that drifted in and out of our timeline, truth is often better than fiction. Folks, you just can't make up this stuff!

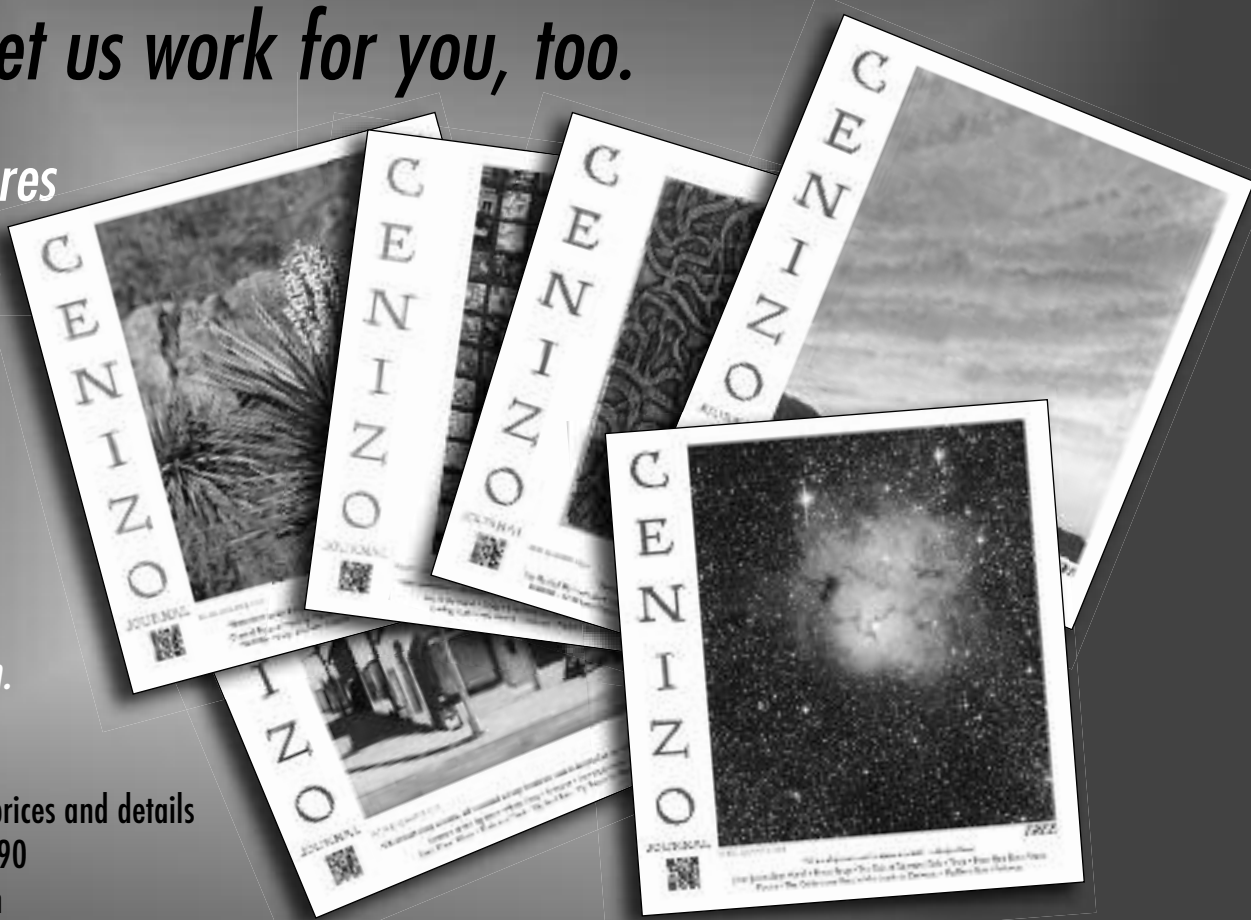
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continued from page 4

would venture out into the mystery of the Marfa Lights, as we would try to figure out what was the cause of those lights.

We also loved to look at the great big Texas sky which would sparkle in the moonlight. I can recall one time while we were looking up, and many fireflies came out like a perfect dream.

Not only does my family come here for our reunions, we also enjoy the Fourth of July festivities in Fort Davis, The Marfa Lights Parade, and just the towns themselves, since each is unique in its own way. On a recent trip I took

pictures of some of my favorite spots and images.

The photograph of the drive from Balmorhea to Fort Davis was taken to share my experience of that beautiful road. This sight always excites me as I know I'm getting closer to the famous Scenic Loop, which begins and ends at Fort Davis.

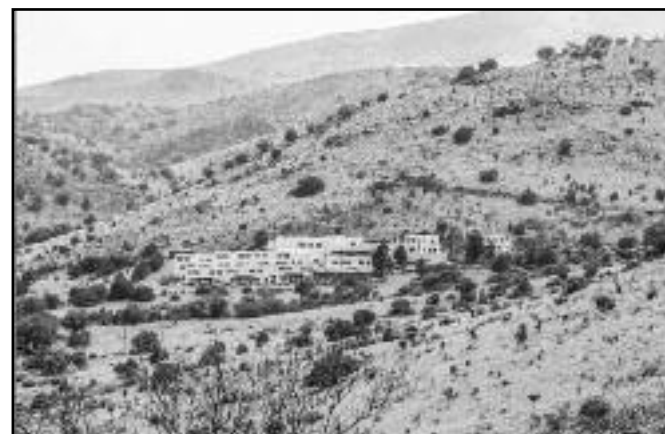
This year before heading to Fort Davis we drove down to the Calera Chapel. It is a good place to pause from reality and spend some time in prayer. This chapel, in the middle of nowhere, is one of the most beautiful and serene I've ever been in.

My next stop was The Indian Lodge at Davis Mountain State Park, my

childhood favorite place to stay. Stopping at the entrance, I immediately saw the beautiful agave posing perfectly for me. At the lodge I looked around and took a photo of the magnificent beauty surrounding the lodge.

My last shot felt so wonderful. After driving up Skyline Drive, it was necessary that my family and I take a photo overlooking the great mountain views that the area

provides. I hope my photographs excite and invite you to my happy place. Don't forget your cameras!



continued from page 6

discovered by Charles Messier on June 5, 1764. Its name means 'divided into three lobes.' The object is an unusual combination of an open cluster of stars; an emission nebula (the lower, reddish portion), a reflection nebula (the upper, blueish portion) and a dark nebula (the apparent 'gaps' within the emission nebula that cause the trifurcated appear-

ance; these are also designated Barnard 85).

The 0.8m telescope mounts an instrument, the Prime Focus Camera, or PFC, and a science detector, or camera known as LF-1. The PFC contains five filters, from the Johnson-Bessel photometric set, U, B, V, R, and I, or Ultraviolet, Blue, Violet (green), Red, and Infrared respectively.

The image was formed using a series of exposures in the B, V, R, and I filters, 600-seconds in

each filter, and three images in each wavelength. These images were then mapped into what is known as the LRGB color-space - L for luminance, R for red, G for Green, and B for Blue. The images are individually processed with a series of flat frames, bias frames, and dark frames, then aligned, and "stacked" together to produce the color composite - the LF-1 detector is a monochrome imaging device.

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continued from page 10

lives. Their migration between the Chisos and their southernmost range in Latin America coincides with the blooming of the flowers in their diet.

Black Capped Vireo *Vireo atricapilla* Listed as an endangered species in 1987, the Black Capped Vireo is native to northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. This tiny, adorable bird, smaller than the average human palm, has been a subject for study among ornithologists who are attempting to determine its dis-

tribution and numbers. From 1987 to 2009, the highest number of black-capped vireos counted in the park was 41, in 2009.

Big Bend Slider Turtle *Trachemys gaigeae* This species of turtle, considered vulnerable, lives primarily in the Rio Grande in West Texas and western New Mexico, as well as northern Mexico. It can be found in the riparian ecosystems of the Big Bend area and occasionally strolling across the desert from one wet spot to another during rainy times.

If you're looking to spice up your visit to the Big Bend, or

for a new focus to your frequent excursions to the park and around Brewster County, making a checklist of rare native species to seek out can lead you to new discoveries and rare sightings. In light of the delicacy of the ecosystems and the rarity of these species, it's more important than ever to act as stewards of the landscape, and to take only photos and never collect samples of plants or animals. With that in mind, these and the many other rare species native to the Big Bend can flourish for generations to come. Happy hunting!

continued from page 19

us at the *Cenizo Journal*, that we are still interested in making those connections – introducing people to you and your business, knowing your thoughts through your writing,

and viewing your perceptions via the lens of your camera. Ad sales help supplement many incomes from the magazine staff to the contributors, helping us do things we love to do, whether that's photography or design or sharing things about the area and its peoples. For us,

advertising is a respectable enterprise, not a brainwashing exercise. I thank you for letting me get to know you and your business over the last four years – even if you turned me down – and thank you for advertising and helping a few more people live on in the region.

continued from page 21

stretches from just north of Interstate 10 to Kokernot Mesa south of Alpine, a distance of about 82 miles.

The main Davis Mountains are west of Highway 17, south of Interstate 10 and north of Highway 90. The high mountains run in a J-shape from Gomez Peak (6,320 feet) to Black Mountain (7,544 feet) and Mount Livermore (8,378 feet). The map shows the main mountains and stream chan-

nels. Note how drainage radiates from the Brooks Mountain-Mount Livermore-Paradise Mountain domed area.

The Davis Mountains evoke cool, airy expanses of mountainous terrain much appreciated by Texans in the summertime. They are the first of the southwestern mountain ranges you see when traveling west across Texas, standing on the edge of the great North American cordillera, but not part of it, on the boundary between the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains.

For those who want to delve more deeply into the reasons for the volcanic and tectonic activity that convulsed Texas 35 million years ago, our website www.texasgeologicalpress.com now includes an account of research on the subject under the title "Uplift of North America."

William MacLeod wrote several books about the geology of the Big Bend area, available at various locations including Big Bend National Park, Fort Davis State Park, and discerning shops in the area.



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page six.**

TRANS PECOS TRIVIA

THE BIG BEND DROUGHT

by Carolyn Brown Zniwski

- 1) In the last 500 years, according to studies of tree growth rings, what was the period of greatest rainfall in West Texas?
 - a) 500 years ago
 - b) 10 years ago
 - c) 100 years ago
 - d) 200 years ago
- 2) How many years of less-than-average rain fall creates the definition of "extreme drought?"
 - a) 20 years
 - b) 7 years
 - c) 25 years
 - d) 10 years
- 3) How much has the volume of water in the Rio Grande dropped in the past 20 years?
 - a) 25%
 - b) 70%
 - c) 15%
 - d) 50%
- 4) What is the greatest contributing factor to the present drought?
 - a) Lack of rain
 - b) Changing weather patterns
 - c) Rise in global temperature
 - d) Increased wind
- 5) For how many years has the low rainfall in Big Bend created drought conditions?
 - a) 13 years
 - b) 19 years
 - c) 11 years
 - d) 7 years

Bonus: What is the geographic extent of the present drought?

- a) Entire Southwestern USA
- b) Texas
- c) Chihuahuan Desert
- d) Along the Rio Grande

Answers: 1-c 2-a 3-d 4-c 5-b Bonus-a

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