Western Road Trip Newsletter



The start of my Walking tour of Dodge City, KS

Hello to my Family and Friends!

I started the day with my free breakfast here at the Dodge House Hotel. Unfortunately, the kitchen is the same one that served my steak last night. Need I say more?

I did a little research on the net and then headed downtown. I found the Visitor's Center, parked, and stepped inside.



The lady inside gave me a brochure for the Historic Dodge City Walking Tour, talked about a few other things, then she gave me advice on where to shop for cowboy boots.

I had shopped around home, but decided I would get a better

selection, and probably a better deal, right down here in the heart of cowboy country. I also signed the register for which I received a push pin to stick in the part of the country where I came from. If you look closely at the map below, you can just about see my yellow push pin. You have to look real hard now. <u>Day 3</u> Monday October 28th Another day in Dodge City, Kansas

Stats

35.1 miles 1038 total miles this trip MPG:

<u>Weather</u> High Temp: 78 Low Temp: 45 Conditions: Sunny & windy

"I thought it was going to be a cheesy tourist trap!"



The Classic Wooden Indian



My first stop was the 1903 Santa Fe Locomotive







This is the plaque by the engine

This is the interior view of the cab

Next stop: the tour of Boot Hill and Old Front Street starts here, at the Great Western Hotel. Inside was a gift shop, a short movie on the history of Dodge City, and then on to Boot Hill Cemetery.

The plaques below were in the Hotel and seemed interesting enough to put here.



The Great Western Hotel

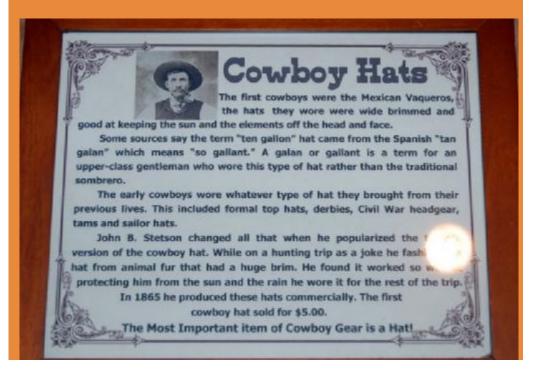
It was built in 1875, by a young Hungarian Jewish couple, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Galland. It stood on the other side of the railroad tracks and faced the north. At first, Dr. Galland's Great Western Hotel started as two small buildings set upon his empty lot. However, he had a wave of good fortune and won \$2,500 in a Louisiana lottery, which allowed him to begin financing a grand hotel. The Galland's property was located near other well-known Dodge City hotels, such as the Wright House and its chief competitor, the Dodge House. While the Great Western did not serve a feast as elegant as the Dodge House, no guest would walk away hungry after they were served choice delicacies of Mrs. Galland which included venison, buffalo humps and other wild game. The Great Western saw many changes. At first it was lit by candle light, which soon changed to kerosene lamps, before being equipped with electric lights. A Prohibitionist, Dr. Galland closed the Hotel's doors at 10:00 pm sharp. id not care how important the guest might be. If a guest wanted to sleep in their nice warm bed, they had to be in at a decent hour. Many famous and important people boarded at the Great Western. Examples were Bat Masterson (Second Sheriff of Ford County), Wyatt Earp (Assistant Marshal), William (Bill) Tilghman (Frontier Marshal), R.M. Wright (Pioneer Merchant), G.M. (George) Hoover (Pioneer Merchant), H.B. (Ham) Bell (Merchant and Marshal), Eddy Foy (Famous Comedian), A.B. Webster (Mayor and Merchant), Governor Glick (Governor during Saloon Wars), and Drs T.L. McCarty and A.S. Choteau. The original Great Western Hotel was torn down in June 1942.





There were several small branding irons for sale on a display next to the plaque. I checked, but the "S" was all sold out.

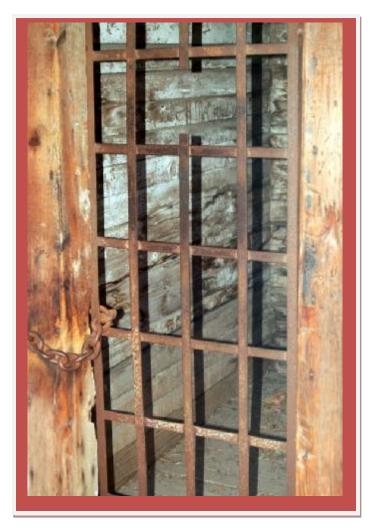
he most important item of Cowboy gear is a Hat! Hmmm. skipped getting a regular cowboy hat for my ride and im sticking with my Kangaroo kin hat I wear for golfing. It will et me apart from the crowd. and probably look stupid also)



After the movie you are directed upstairs to a rear door, basically on a level with the cemetery, and follow a concrete path to the sign pictured below. I continued left towards Boot Hill. We will visit Front Street after paying our respects to the dearly departed.







The Fort Dodge Jail dates back to 1865 when Fort Dodge was established five miles east of present day Dodge City. The Fort was built to protect travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. I don't think I would like to spend any length of time in here. Note the hole in the floor? Not a pretty site for doing "your business".



Now we get to the heart of the matter, Boot Hill Cemetery. I hope you can read the plaques, so no commentary. I will say that the different ways in which people died, or were killed, can sometimes make you laugh.



BOOT HILL

Imagine standing on this spot in the year 1874. . .you are standing on the highest point in Dodge City. It was a lookout, a point to observe wild game, buffalo and to detect their enemies, which were ever present. This was the original location of the Boot Hill Cemetery.

Imagínese que situación en este punto en el año 1874...que usted están estando parados en el punto más alto de la ciudad del regate. Era un puesto de observación, un punto para observar el juego salvaje, búfalo y para detectar a sus enemigos, que estaban siempre presentes. Esta era la localización original del cementerio de la colina del cargador.

Boot Hill only existed as a burial ground for about six years. Boot Hill in its original state, as the white man first saw it, was a sand, gypsum, rock, clay, buffalo grass and soap weed mound, one-half mile north of the Arkansas River. Its bulging nose projects to the south and is the end of a small watershed between two draws. It was a lookout, an observation point, used by all living things to view the river's lowlands, the floods in season, the wild game, the buffalo and to detect their enemies, who were ever present.

The hill extended to the west beyond the restaurant and to the east where the Front Street buildings are located, as well as to the north where the First Christian Church sits and south to Wyatt Earp Boulevard. During the late 1870s, if you looked to the south you would see the Arkansas River as it extended to just south of the railroad tracks. The river was a mile wide and provided water and life to the City of Dodge.

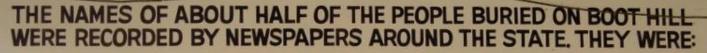
La colina extendió al oeste más allá del restaurante y al este donde se localizan los edificios delanteros de la calle, así como al norte donde la primera iglesia cristiana se sienta y sur al bulevar de Wyatt Earp. Durante el último 1870s, si usted mirara al sur usted vería que el río de Arkansas como él extendió al sur justo de las pistas del ferrocarril. El río era una milla ancha y con tal que agua y vida a la ciudad del regate.

There were wonderful herds of antelope, deer, elk and wild horses. There were big gray wolves and coyotes by the thousands. There were great numbers of waterfowl and amphibious animals, otter, beaver, muskrat, weasel and mink. The beaver and otter were soon wiped out of existence because of the trappers. Our lakes, streams, ponds, and rivers were covered with wild fowl - ducks, geese, swans, pelicans, cranes. . .every species of waterfowl known to this continent. There were countless numbers of turkey and quail. While you looked around the vast prairie you would see enormous herds of buffalo almost completely hiding the grasslands beneath them.

BOOT HILL CEMETERY

One of the first questions asked here at the museum is always "Is this the real Boot Hill Cemetery and are there any bodies still buried here?" The answer is yes and possibly, we like to think so. The fame of the Boot Hill Cemetery has lasted for over a century. That fame is rooted in a brief period of Dodge City history. From 1872 to 1878 there was no regular burial ground in Dodge. During the town's first year, it saw nearly 30 killings, an alarming rate since the population was only about 500. Boot Hill began as a resting place for the departed who did not have enough money to be afforded the luxury of being laid to rest at Fort Dodge. Few had ceromonies, none had coffins, and since most died, and were buried with their boots on, the cemetery gained its name.

The Boot Hill Cemetery is located on the northwest corner of the original cemetery. I was closed in 1879 and the remains movec to a new cemetery northeast of town. It was never an official burial ground, but was usec primarily for bodies of buffalo hunters, drifters and others who had no family in the area No one famous was ever buried here.



ALICE CHAMBERS MAY 5. 1878 BELIEVED TO BE THE ONLY WOMAN BURIED ON BOOT HILL. HERS WAS THE LAST BURIAL HERE

EDWARD HURLEY JANUARY 1873 KILLED IN A SHOOTING SPREE IN A SALOON

A BUFFALO HUNTER Named MCGILL SHOT MARCH 1873 JACK REYNOLDS SEPTEMBER 1872 THE FIRST RECORDED KILLING in DODGE CITY. HE WAS SHOT SIX TIMES BY A RAIL-ROAD TRACK LAYER

FOUND HANGING FROM A TREE WEST OF DODGE CITY

ELLIS Shot By DAVID BURRELL, A BARTENDER IN THE DODGE HOUSE, JULY 1873

FIVE BUFFALO HUNTERS WHOSE FROZEN BODIES WERE FOUND NORTH of DODGE CITY on FEB. 2.1873 FOLLOWING a BLIZZARD



PLUGGED' FEB. 1873 BY CASEY, A FRIEND OF EDWARD HURLEY

CHARLES WHEDON A BUFFALO HUNTER. SHOT ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1876 J.M. ESSINGTON NOVEMBER 1872 A CARPENTER AND PART OWNER OF THE ESSINGTON HOTEL, SHOT BY THE COOK

JOHN WAGNER DIED APRIL 1878 of WOUNDS DURING SHOOT-OUT With ED MASTERSON

Charley MOREHOUSE A GAMBLER BY TRADE, DIED DECEMBER 1872

A RAILROAD EMPLOYEE WHO WAS KILLED DURING A SHOOTING SPREE IN A SALOON



JACK REYNOLDS SEPTEMBER, 1872

contemptible desperado, got into a quarrel at Dodge City with one of the track-layers and without any ifs or ands, he put six balls in rapid succession into Jack's body. The desperado fell and expired instantly." September 8, 1872 - Kansas Daily Commonwealth



EDWARD HURLEY-JAN. 17, 187.

Ed was killed in a shooting spree. "Another terrible shooting affair occurred at Dodge City last Friday nigh As usual, the affair took place at one of the Woodhullen that infest so many of the temporary outposts of a neraliroad. There were some five or six men engaged in melee. and all had been drinking more or less. How th trouble commenced our reporter could not learn, but results are sufficiently deplorable. Two men named Barney Cullen and Edward Hurley were killed on the sp and another named Southers was wounded so dangerou that is believed he will not recover." January 23, 1873 - The Kansas Dally Commonwealth Note- the papers have been carrying much news of Victorie Wood hull who advocated free love, se it is supposed an

Woodhullery would, therefore, be a brothel.





This one is ready for you

There were several displays in The Boot Building about Hill the history of Dodge City, its Hollywood influence, tools, furniture clothing, and all those types of things you see in a normal museum. There one was unique spot. As I stood looking at the full size buffalo to the right, several monitors above talked about the history of the buffalo, Indians and the white man.



As the monitors showed the buffalo hunt scenes from *Dances with wolves*, and the sounds of the thundering hooves, the floor began to vibrate as if I was really standing on the prairie and watching the buffalo thunder by. Really cool. The effect of the building itself was similar to *The Streets of Old Milwaukee* section of the Milwaukee Public Museum, and my girls know that is my favorite area of the museum. There was also the same feeling in the buildings of Front Street pictured below. I thought it was going to be a cheesy tourist trap, but it was very enjoyable.



A full size stuffed Longhorn



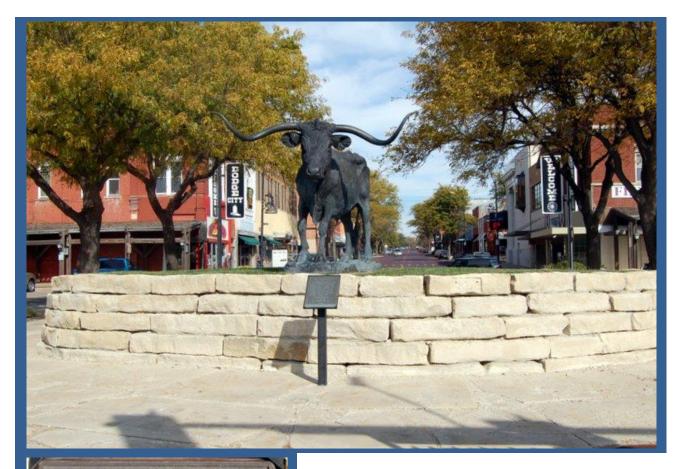
The old wooden buildings are connected inside with displays and artifacts from the 1870's.

I bought some homemade mint fudge at the General Store, which I just finished eating as my midnight snack.





The bar at the Long Branch Saloon



EL CAPITAN

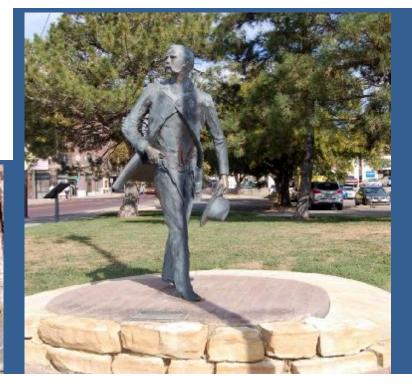
THIS STATUE CONMEMORATES THE TERAS LONGHORN THAT GAVE DODGE CITY ITS PLACE IN HISTORY AS QUEEN OF THE COWTOWNS." THE LONGHORNS ARE DESCENDANTS OF SPANISH CATTLE BROUGHT TO MEXICO IN THE 16TH CENTURY BETWEEN 1875 AND 1886, OVER 4 MILLION HEAD WERE DRIVEN UP THE TRAIL TO THE SANTE FE RAILHEAD IN DODGE CITY.

THIS IS A PROJECT OF BOOT THEI MUSEUM, INC. CO-GRAIRMEN GENE GURINER & RON LONG

1980

After leaving Front Street I started my walking tour of downtown Dodge City with the statue of El Capitan.

The statue of Wyatt - Buffalo hunter, Teamster, lawman, gambler and saloon keeper he served as Assistant City Marshall 1876-1878. Briefly was Ford County Deputy Sheriff under "Bat" Masterson in 1878 before leaving for Las Vegas, New Mexico, not Nevada.





Erin, this one is for Flynn. Erin's collie is named after Errol Flynn. He co-starred with Olivia DeHaviland in the 1939 movie Dodge City, the first movie ever to premier outside of Hollywood. The film premier brought over 40 Hollywood stars to Dodge City. This medallion is placed in front of the Dodge Theater where the premier took place. At my visit the theater was kaput.

Below is a plaque I saw on a building.

PUBLIC EDUCATION I

SOUTHWEST KANSAS HAD ITS PEGINNING HERE IN 1873 WHEN THE FIRST PUBLICSCROOL OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER WAS

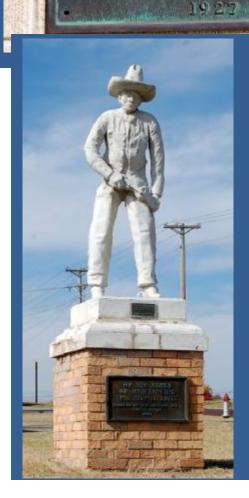
> THIS MARKER PLACED BY HE SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

RECTIN ON THIS SITE



NORLD PREMIERE

DODGE CHI



Dodge City's "skyscraper" of five stories is graced with a massive mural painted by Sam Herd. The mural is modeled from Fredrick Remington's "The Old Stagecoach of the Plains" painting.

In 1927, early day pioneer dentist, Dr. O.H. Simpson, sculpted the Cowboy statue to commemorate the Dodge City cowboy era and the cattle drives. Simpson used a live model, Joe Sughrue, to form plaster of paris molds for his sculpture. Sughrue was a former cowboy and later a Marshall of Dodge City.



Yeee Doggies!!! That's right folks, those are the famous cattle feedlots from an overlook east of Dodge City. The plaques state that millions of head of cattle pass through here every year on their way to your table. There is a processing plant to the right which has the traffic of 1000 semis each day, 6 days a week. Enough beef to feed 16 million people every year. The cattle enter the feedlots weighing 600-700 lbs and are fed to a weight of 1000-1200 lbs in just 140 days.

You are standing on a bin flabow (no Ariganus River, an intermational boundary between the United States and Motion during the early years of the Same Fe 2nd 4. This area was present to flooding and the rubsoffer an era-fleet d'harmits a of how the freighters worked with the trends on a lot the

Trails on the Prairie

Matching Tener Way Depression function of some film high general to avoid the ferritry converting to a solution from the solution of the ferritry between the basis Characterize a Farth Pharmad system /, a faint an interword of fairs. The fair of the sysorthon the Attachman Review or followed By Clarkershi Review restandards: there converses:

SANTA FE TRAIL

TRACKS

1822 - 1872

We want came to the Canaerson Priver), where everything looked hole and genes, but nor a tree or a bash. The transt. Area a mathing more than a dirty pool of angeant water.



Tracks of the original wagon trail used by pioneers from 1821 to the 1880s located nine miles west Dodge City. There is a nice overlook and a trail down to the tracks. You can stand on a bridge over the tracks and get a close view of one of the most visible tracks left from this historic trail. The area is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. I could not really tell there were any tracks at all. I was disappointed. From what I had read it seemed like you could almost go down and step in the grooves left by the wagon wheels. Oh well. It was desolate and windy on that plain. No trees in sight and the wind at about 30-40 mph.

WHA FE TA

MARKED BY THE

DAUCHTERS OF THE

STATE OF KANSAS

REVOLUTION

AMERICAN

After all that I ran a few more errands. Bought some cowboy boots. Took a nap back at the hotel. Then decided to walk to Montana Mikes and get a real steak. Mike says they are the best in Dodge City. So I trekked the 1.7 miles to Montana Mikes. They are closed on Mondays. This is what keeps life interesting. Ended up at Arby's across the street. Finished up this newsletter. Hopefully this is the longest and most elaborate one I will have to do, because it took me about 6 hours. I enjoyed it, but the battery died in my mouse and the thunderstorms finally hit, so I could not get another battery from the truck. Working the laptop mousepad with my fingers is something I am not used to.

Tomorrow I should end up in Colorado. Enjoy!