



First RV Trip - Fall 2018



Day 14

Tuesday

October 9th

Big Bend
National
Park
To
Artesia, NM

Weather

80's to 40's
Sunny
Dry

Hello to Family & Friends

Not too many photos from today, mostly drive time.

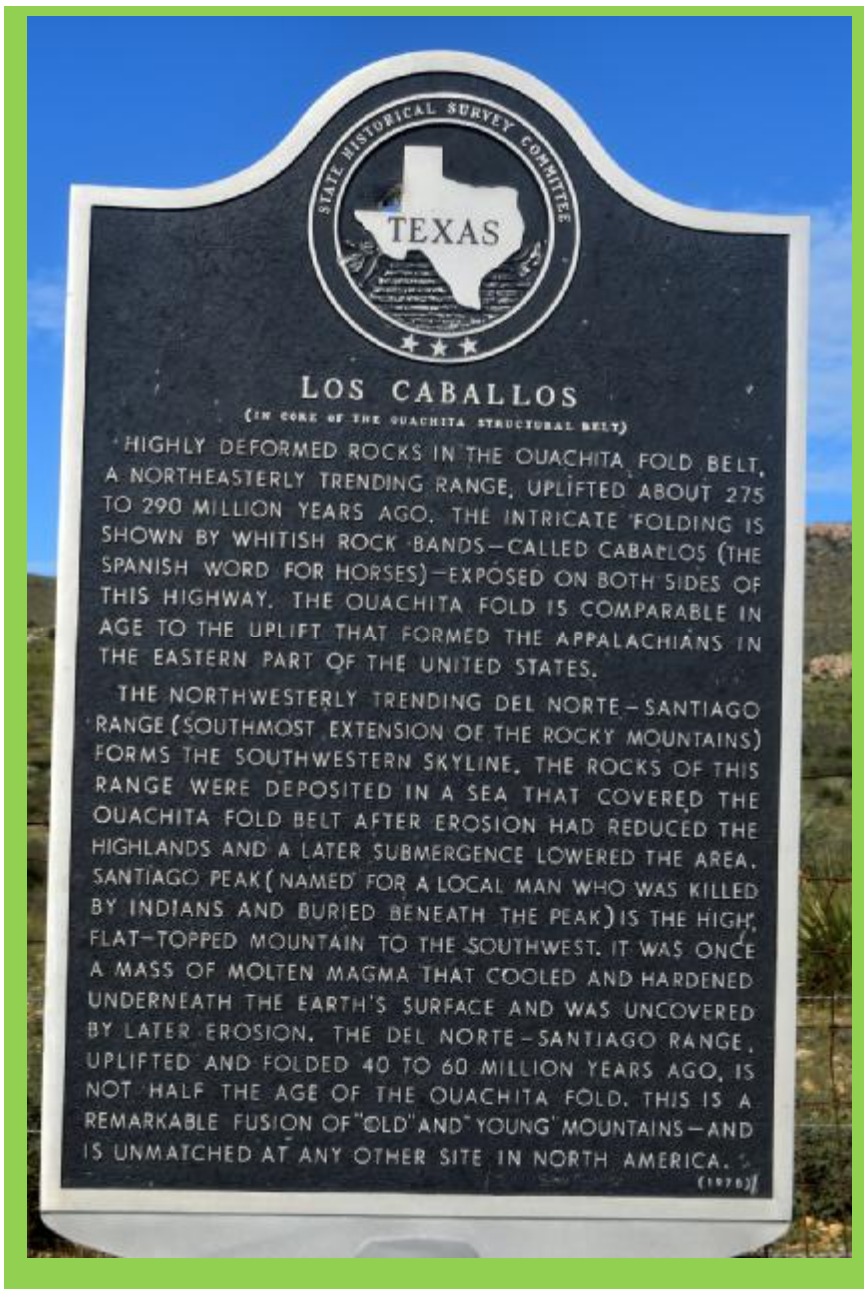
Morgan and I arose later than normal today, maybe because we were up late watching the lightning show, maybe because we did not want our long weekend to end. In either case, we decided to hit the road and stop for breakfast along the way, which we did at the Persimmon Gap Visitor Center. Just some pinwheels, butter, milk and water.

Along our route we crossed through a gap in the hills, most of which we did not see on our way in Friday due to darkness and rain, and saw some fantastic rock formations that stuck out of the side of the hills like a sea serpents back rising out of the waves. It was quite a sight. Shortly we saw a sign for a Texas Historic Stop up ahead.

We pulled in and read the plaque below. Strangely enough, the view of the ridges from the placement of the plaque was the worst view of them along the entire road. Seems better planning could have been accomplished here.

We continued on towards Midland Spaceport.

Not much of significance before Morgan's flight. We stopped at a McAllister's Deli in Midland for lunch



I'm sure you've all seen the videos of what happens when a vehicle gets stopped by the Border Patrol?

I slammed on the brakes, the RV doors flew open, and a bunch of Polak's leaped out and ran for the hills.

Sorry, could not resist. Needless to say they let us through.

Ok, I'll say it, West Texas is about the most boring place to drive through you can think of. Worse than Indiana; worse than Nebraska; even worse than Illinois. Mile after mile after mile after mile of scrub brush as far as the eye can see, no matter which way you're looking, all the way to the horizon, which is about 10-20 miles in every direction. The only things that break up the view are the oil well pumps, most of which seem to not be working. They stand there like skeletal T-Rex, all interconnected by electric cables hung from wooden crosses. A sad monument to our countries loss of natural resources and dependence on foreign oil.





A thunderstorm rolling in



I saw these strange mounds? Hills? Slag heaps? Not sure what they were, along NM 360. As I got closer I thought they might be natural. As I passed by I thought, because of the shape, they must be manmade. I checked the web but could find no description for them. Anyone have an idea? Mine tailings of some sort?



I could not resist. Had to include this one again.

I arrived in Artesia, NM to get the last available campsite at the RV park. Whew. I needed electric after 3 nights of primitive camping. Good news is I did not need the A/C. Bad news is I did need the heat. Low's in the 40's.

As for gaining 2 days as I mentioned yesterday. My original plan was to leave the airport and arrive at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, do some hiking, spend the night, then drive to Carlsbad Caverns National Park and spend a day and night, then over to White Sands.

But Morgan and I thought we might save those two parks, since they are only 30 minutes apart, for another long weekend vacation. Maybe next October or November. So I am heading straight to White Sands National Monument, gaining 2 days along the way.

I am looking forward to it.

Goodnight