



# In Search of El dorado

A daily journal of my travels and adventures in my.....Search for Eldorado

Hello to Family & Friends

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 Day 28



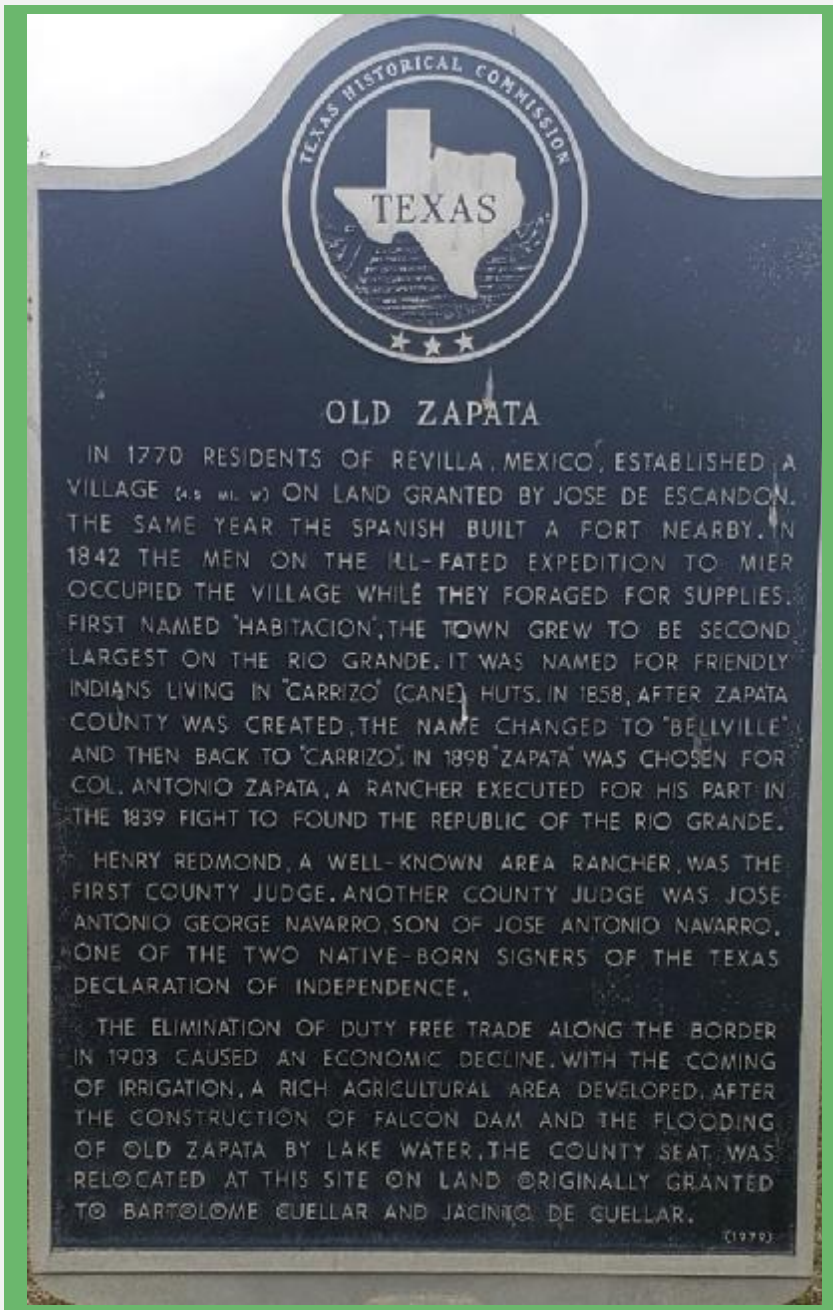
Happy Valentine's Day everyone! I know the weather sucks back home just like it does here, so this is going to be a short one.

Still looking at battery issues I decided to try the O'Reillys in Zapata for batteries. Two different employees ran the tester and determined that the batteries are still good. They just don't hold enough charge to keep the furnace running all night when the it's running almost constantly. For that reason I decided to try and get the night at a Boondockers Welcome member just a couple miles out of town. It turned out they are available so I am parked there for the night, and maybe tomorrow too since it will be even colder, plugged in to electric. I will have to give them five dollars a night, but I would probably spend the same amount in propane running the generator all night.



I couldn't 'check in' until after 4 p.m. to I had time to kill in town.

I already knew this museum was closed, it said so on the website. Thank you very much. Too bad, it looks like it might have been interesting.



There is some history here that I have not seen mentioned in any other town along the Rio Grande. The following is from the Texas State Historical Association website –

**Republic of the Rio Grande.** *The Republic of the Rio Grande was an effort on the part of Federalist leaders in Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Coahuila to break away from the centralistic government of Mexico in 1840 and to form a new confederation. Since 1835, with the ascension of Antonio López de Santa Anna, then a Centralist, to the presidency of Mexico, Federalist leaders throughout the nation had attempted to force a return to the Federalistic Constitution of 1824. This feeling was particularly strong in the northern states of Mexico, and, when they failed to achieve success in that enterprise, the northern Federalists worked to win independence from the Mexican Republic. Contiguity with Texas, recently successful in winning de facto independence, in all probability influenced their action. After much Federalistic flurry in the northern frontier Mexican states, leaders of the party met at Laredo, Texas, in convention on January 17, 1840. The convention declared independence from Mexico and claimed for its territory the areas of Tamaulipas and Coahuila north to the Nueces and Medina rivers, respectively, and Nuevo León, Zacatecas, Durango, Chihuahua, and New Mexico.*

Antonio Canales Rosillo with his force took the field against the Centralist army under Gen. Mariano Arista, and on March 24–25, 1840, met Arista in battle at Morales, Coahuila, and was disastrously defeated. Col. Antonio Zapata, cavalry commander of Canales, was captured and executed. Canales with his few remaining troops retreated to San Antonio, while Cárdenas and the provisional government fled to Victoria, Texas. Canales then toured Texas in an effort to raise interest and aid for the continuance of his campaign. The army at this time consisted of 300 Mexicans, 140 Americans, and 80 Indians, the number increasing daily. The principal leader of the Americans was Col. Samuel W. Jordan. Jordan and ninety men took Ciudad Victoria without a battle and marched towards Saltillo. There, on October 25, 1840, he was attacked by Gen. Rafael Vásquez, the Centralist commander at Saltillo, but in spite of the desertion of part of his command, managed to defend himself and return to Texas. Early in November commissioners of Canales and Arista met, and Canales capitulated at Camargo on November 6, 1840. He was taken into the Centralist army as an officer, and Federalism was dead for the time being.





The Zapata County courthouse – Fairly new and looks very nice. You can't see the full dome from this angle. I thought I pulled forward and took one so you could, but I must have hit the wrong button or something.



Searching Google maps for any other sights to see I came across the 'Frontier Ranch', listed as a tourist attraction. I don't know the criteria for getting your business listed on Google Maps, but I don't think this one was a personal observation of the sight.

St. Valentine's Day – Why is it? Who was Saint Valentine? The following website gets a little long-winded, but the first few sections are rather interesting. Check it out if you want.

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>



Not bad for five bucks a night, right? The owner, Sharyl, spends summers in Wisconsin in a small town just south of Rice Lake, I didn't recognize the name and I can't find it on the map. I will ask her tomorrow. We go golfing every summer at 'Uncle Tom's cabin' near Rice Lake.

The wifi connection on my phone is not the greatest here, but I was able to watch a movie, eat dinner, write the newsletter and watch another movie.

I am looking forward to the heat running all night tonight. Did I mention it was only 48 in here when I woke up this morning? I was warm under the covers.

Not sure about tomorrow, as I mentioned earlier it would cost me the same amount in propane to park at a truck stop in Laredo with the generator running all night. So I just might spend the day here.

Although, Laredo, I have not found out why yet, holds a month long celebration of Washington's Birthday in February, and tomorrow is President's Day. Not the official name. I will get into that tomorrow.

Anyway, tomorrow's newsletter will probably be pretty short also (I can hear those cheers), as tomorrow night is supposed to be the coldest, maybe down to 20 degrees here. Then it starts to warm up, Laredo will hit 80 next Sunday.

Until next time.....