

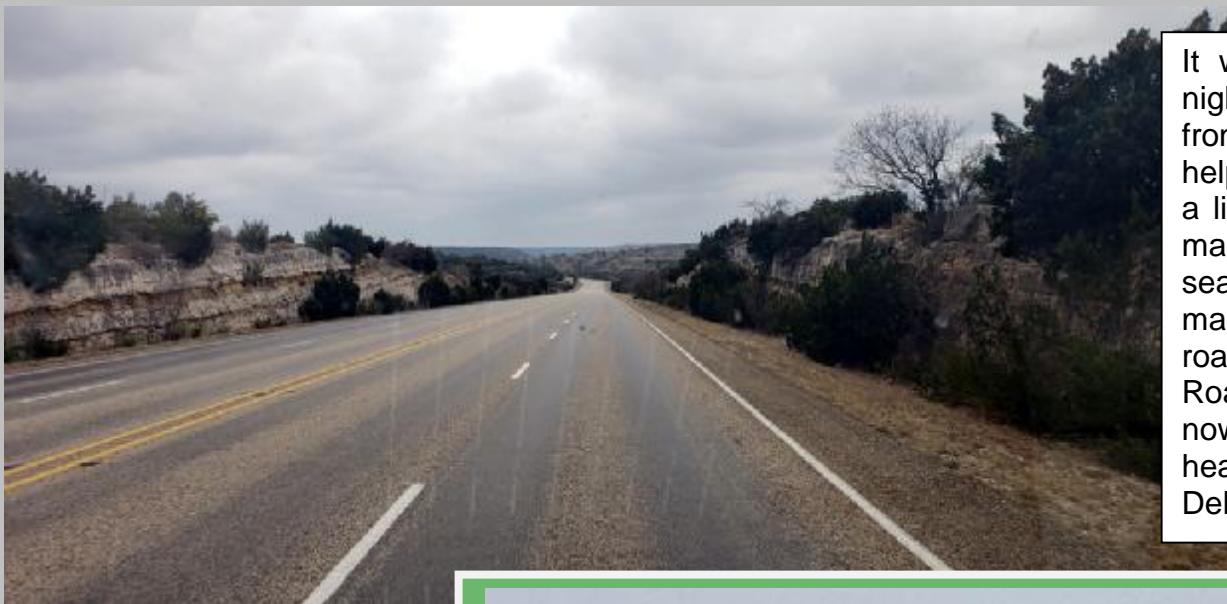


# In Search of El dorado

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

Hello to Family & Friends

Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 Day 53



It was another windy night, but I parked in front of a semi which helped block the wind a little. This morning I made a fruitless search for a 'muffler man', I think the dirt road mentioned in Roadside America is now gated, than headed south towards Del Rio.

I stuck to the main highway, and as you can see above, the scenery began to change. The desert began to creep in again, the gently rolling asphalt made its way through cuts in the limestone hills, S-curves became more prevalent as I followed the winding Devils River, the bed as dry as a bone, even after the snow and rains of a couple weeks ago.



I spotted this hawk, I think, while I was searching for the muffler man. He was very large. Did you ever try following a bird with your camera on full zoom? Not an easy thing to do.



My reason for Del Rio is to the right, the U.S. portion of the International Amistad Reservoir. Amistad, the name comes from the Spanish word meaning friendship. There is some minor hiking here for today and tomorrow. There is a spectacular display of ancient pictographs, but they are only accessible by boat, and with the reservoir down 45 feet, are not accessible at all right now.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



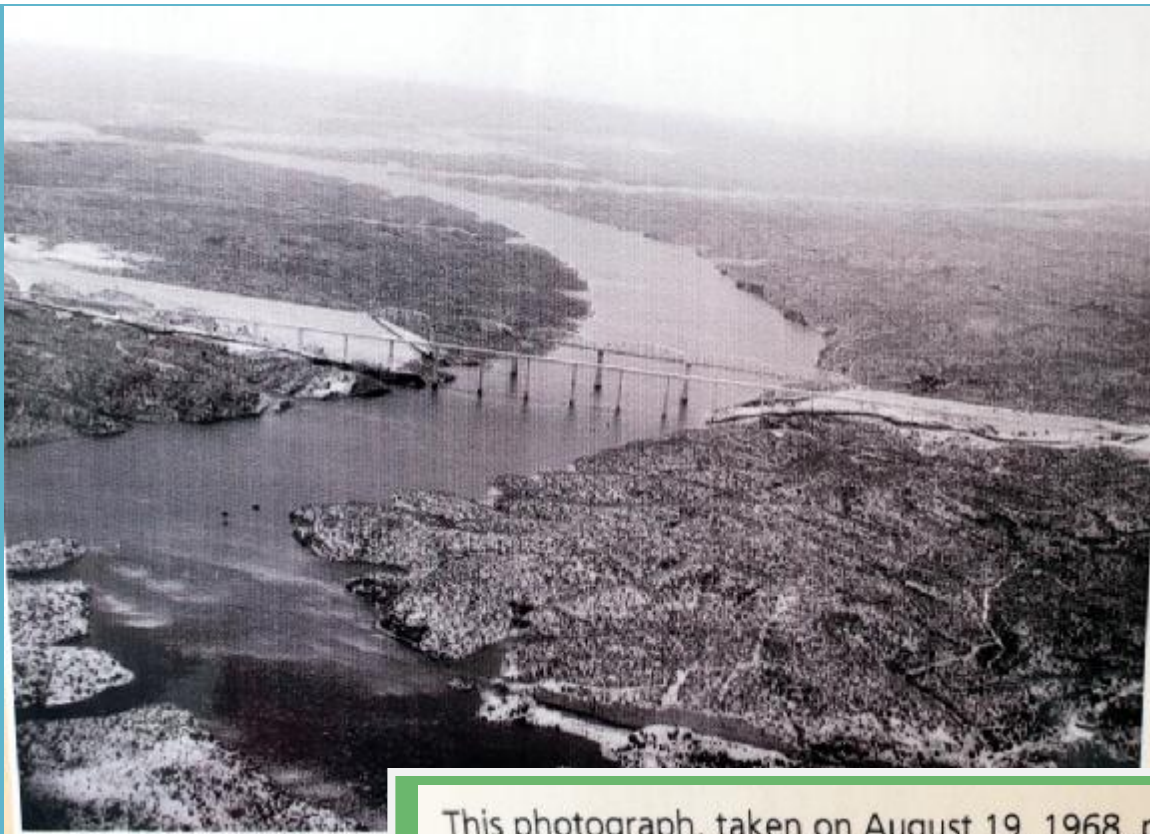
# Visitor Center

Amistad National Recreation Area



This photograph, taken on June 23, 1966, provides a view of the Devils River looking downstream towards the confluence with the Rio Grande. The newly constructed U.S. Highway 90 and Southern Pacific Railroad bridges are visible in the center of the photo.





This photograph, taken on August 19, 1968, provides a view of the Devils River looking downstream towards the confluence of the Rio Grande. The newly constructed Amistad Dam is visible in the upper left corner. Amistad Reservoir has started to fill, and the water is already visible filling the Devils River Canyon.

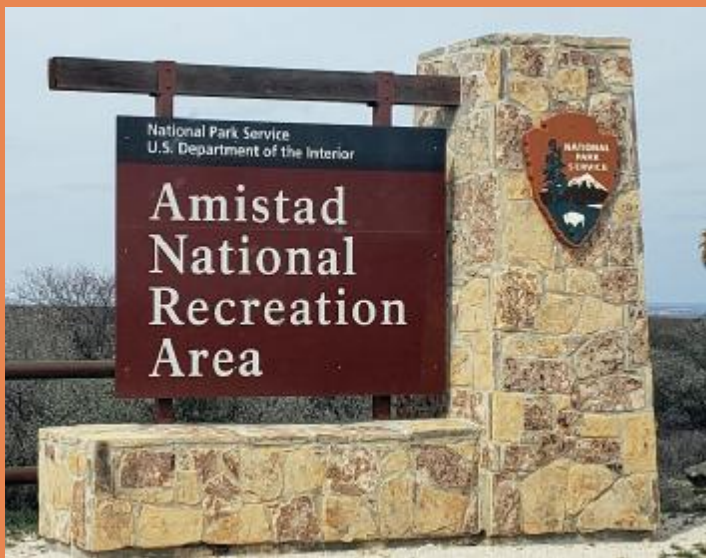


This photo, taken on April 19, 2012, provides a view of the Devils River looking downstream towards the confluence of the Rio Grande. The Diablo East boat ramp and harbor are visible on the left side of the photograph.





The Rio Grande, Pecos and Devils Rivers feed the reservoir.



Yup, definitely back in the desert. This is the short nature trail.





# LIMESTONE

You are standing on 100 million-year old limestone. It was formed when the land was under the sea and the shells of billions of tiny marine creatures built up on the ocean floor.

Truthfully, I was standing on a gravel path. It might be limestone, but it could be just about anything.

## SHIFTING SHORELINE

Notice how denser vegetation forms above a "bathtub ring" at the high water level of the lake. Since Amistad Dam controls the reservoir, lake levels vary throughout the year. Most of the water stored in the lake is used for irrigation downstream.



That is one pretty nice houseboat. Probably somewhere between 40 and 50 feet





There she is, the Amistad Reservoir, aka, Lake Amistad. I think with normal water levels these spits of land would all be covered.



This shot includes the Hwy 90 bridge over the reservoir. I will be traversing that one tomorrow.



Below – Those are huge tractor tires filling the inlet. They are tied in place so are intentional, but I have no idea what they're for.





I just looked it up. The tires are used for a floating breakwater near marinas. I believe at this time, in this case, they are being used to prevent ground erosion.

The photo above is from the Sunrise Trail. Between the two locations I did about five miles. As you can tell by the number of photos taken, it was not very scenic.

Amistad has a free dump station and water, so I will take advantage of that tomorrow.

The three connected trails for tomorrow, the Figueroa Trail System, equal about nine miles, so I am getting in shape for Guadalupe Peak next Thursday.

The Walmart here in Del Rio has designated RV/bus/semi parking spots. Low tonight is supposed to be 69 degrees, so I hope it won't be too noisy to sleep with the windows open.

Saturday I am hoping to hike around Seminole Canyon. It's a state park that has about twenty miles of trails and a canyon rim trail labeled as challenging. Anybody remember my trek on the Grand Canyon Rim Trail? Whenever I get asked about hiking, I always mention that one. It was fantastic.

Between Sunday and Monday Fort Stockton and maybe Pecos. Then El Paso Tuesday and pick Morgan up for her Christmas present.

Now you know as much as I do. Stay tuned to see if the plan holds together.

Until next time.....