

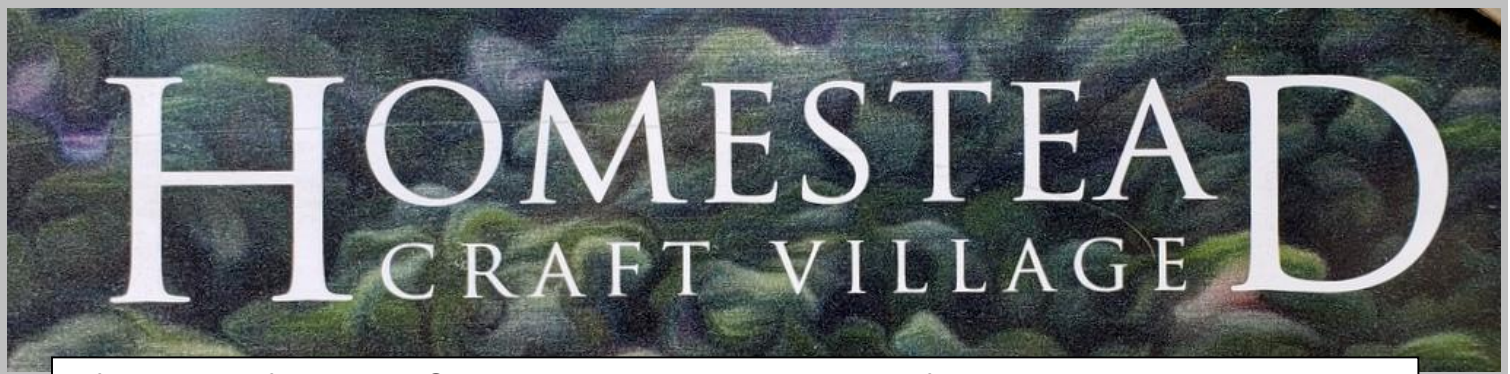


# In Search of El dorado

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

Hello to Family & Friends

Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 Day 50



After a peaceful night at Sam's I went in to buy some breakfast items then drove up the road a couple miles to Walmart and finished my shopping there. Then I was off to the Heritage Homestead Craft Village, somewhat along the lines of Old World Wisconsin, but with a religious flavor. The artisans live and work here, and of course practice their faith. I heard one employee telling a family that they visited this place six times in four months, then went back to California, quit their jobs, sold their home and are currently living in a travel trailer in their friend's front yard. I wouldn't call it a cult, yet. Ha ha.

Not really utilizing the force of a stream, their water for the mill is Recycled from this well, down to the wheel and into the millpond and back to the well.

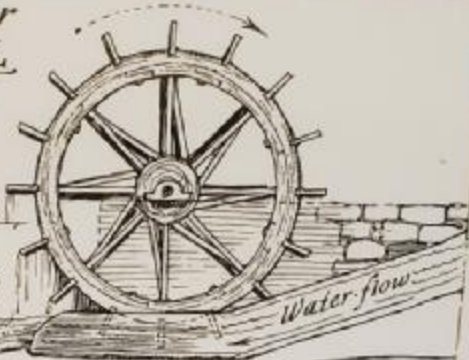




*Simplified plan of our*  
**EARLY WATER-WHEEL**  
*Types*

*The* **UNDERSHOT** *Wheel*  
*turned by stream's*  
*Speed*

30% EFFICIENT



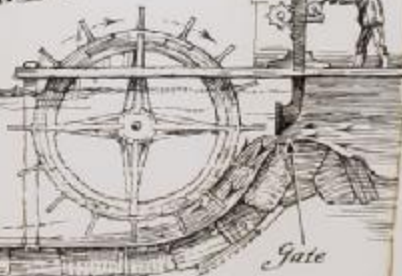
*The* **OVERSHOT** *Wheel*  
*turned by weight*  
*of water*

75% EFFICIENT



*tide*  
*The* **BREAST** *Wheel*  
*turned by mass of*  
*water*  
*through a lock*

65% EFFICIENT



## Did You Know...

Before 1850 in America, over 23,000 small village gristmills dotted the countryside. Today, about 200 remain, of which only a handful are operational. Our Homestead Gristmill is one of the 2 working mills in Texas, and it's the only one producing flours, meals and mixes for sale.



Learn to make cheese, soap, bread and more-visit

**SustainLife.org**

INSPIRE · INFORM · INSTRUCT

This is an amazing building for being 260 years old. Of course it has been excellently refurbished,

## The Teeter Gristmill

circa 1760 - New Jersey

**B**uilt around 1760, the Teeter Mill came from the hilly area of north western New Jersey, which was settled by German Moravians and known as the Long Valley.

"Beginning at a large white oak marked for a corner standing near a small swamp on the southwest side of the brook below the mill . . . ."

This is one of those 'George Washington slept here' stories.

Not long after the Mott brothers bought the gristmill, the American Revolution began and the American Army under George Washington camped at nearby Morristown. This was the bitter winter of 1780—81, when the soldiers were reduced to boiling their leather shoes for food, and the Mott brothers alleviated their suffering by providing them with flour.

The property stayed in the family until 1800 when Robert Emiley purchased the mill and thirty acres for \$213.30. In 1814 John Teeter acquired the mill and property. By then, the mill was the business and social center of a village that included a second mill and six residences and became known as Teetertown. The Teeter family operated and maintained their mill until 1881.

In 1908, Philip Sliker purchased the mill, constructed a miller's residence and began to process flour under the brand name of "Teetertown Brand Flour." But in 1918, after ten years of operation, Mr. Sliker retired and closed the mill. After its last ground grain in 1918, the Teeter Mill went through a series of owners, most looking for a quiet getaway from the bustle of New York City. Left neglected for decades, by the turn of the twenty-first century it needed either demolition or restoration. In 2001 we moved the Teeter Mill to Texas where it once again grinds grain for the local community as it did over two hundred and forty years ago.

Mr. Philip Sliker was the last miller to operate the mill before its move to Texas, circa 1908.





The millstones grinding away. The millstones are from France. Look out the window and you can see the water wheel. I had a picture of the many belts being turned by the drive wheels, but I deleted it by accident.

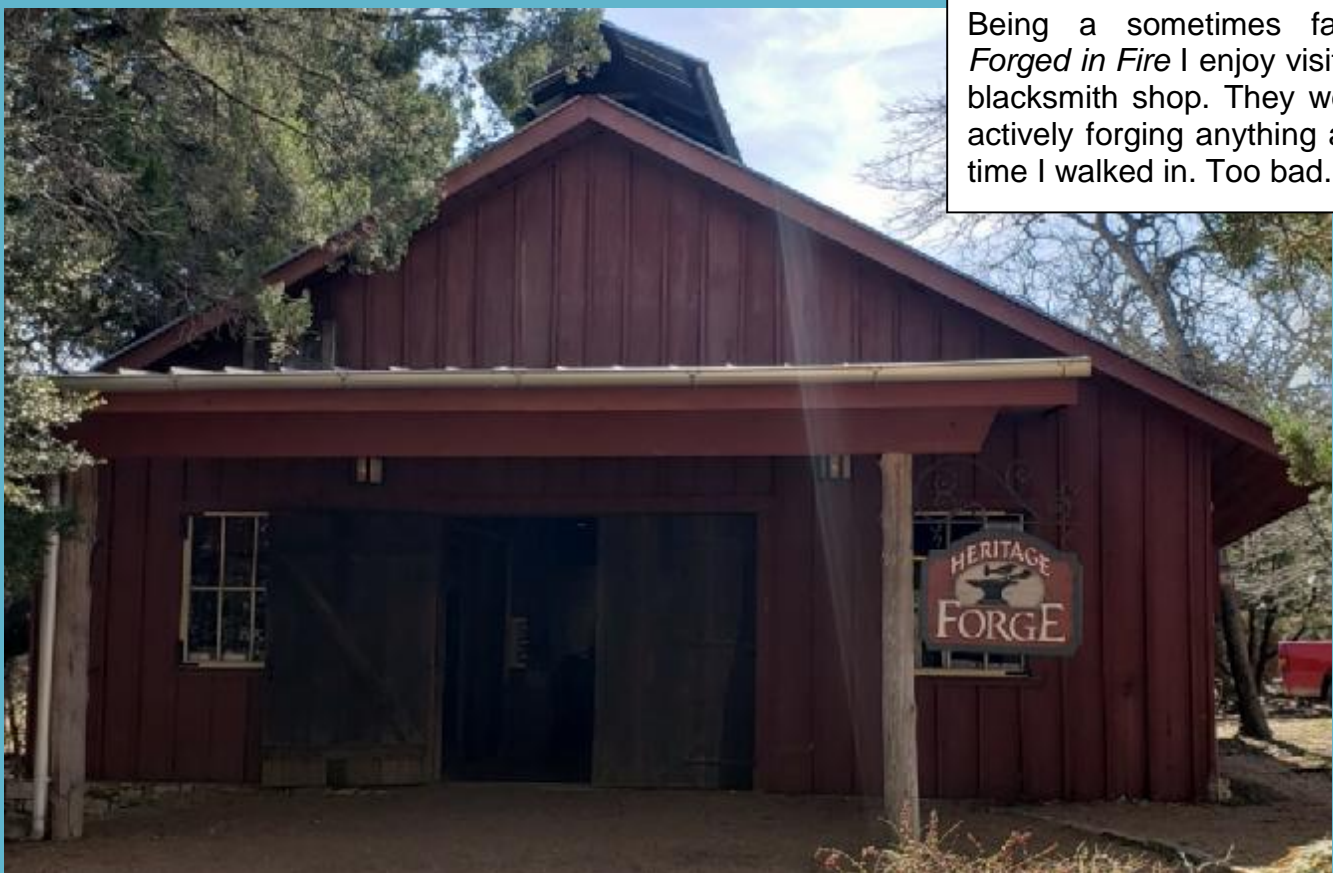
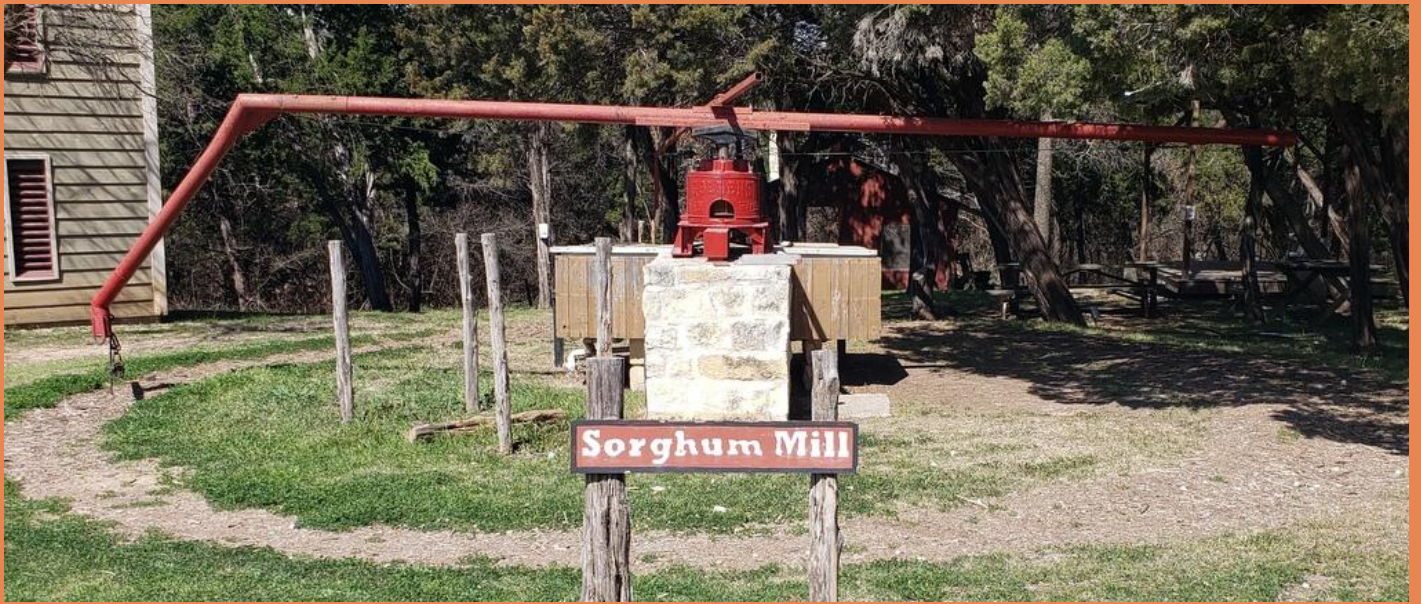
Below is a great picture of the grist mill, the water wheel, and the water trough







I made another stupid mistake today. I took short videos of the turning millstone, the weaver in the fiber crafts building and the potter using her wheel, maybe about 5-10 seconds each. But I forgot to download them before downloading the photos and then deleting everything from the camera. Aarrgh



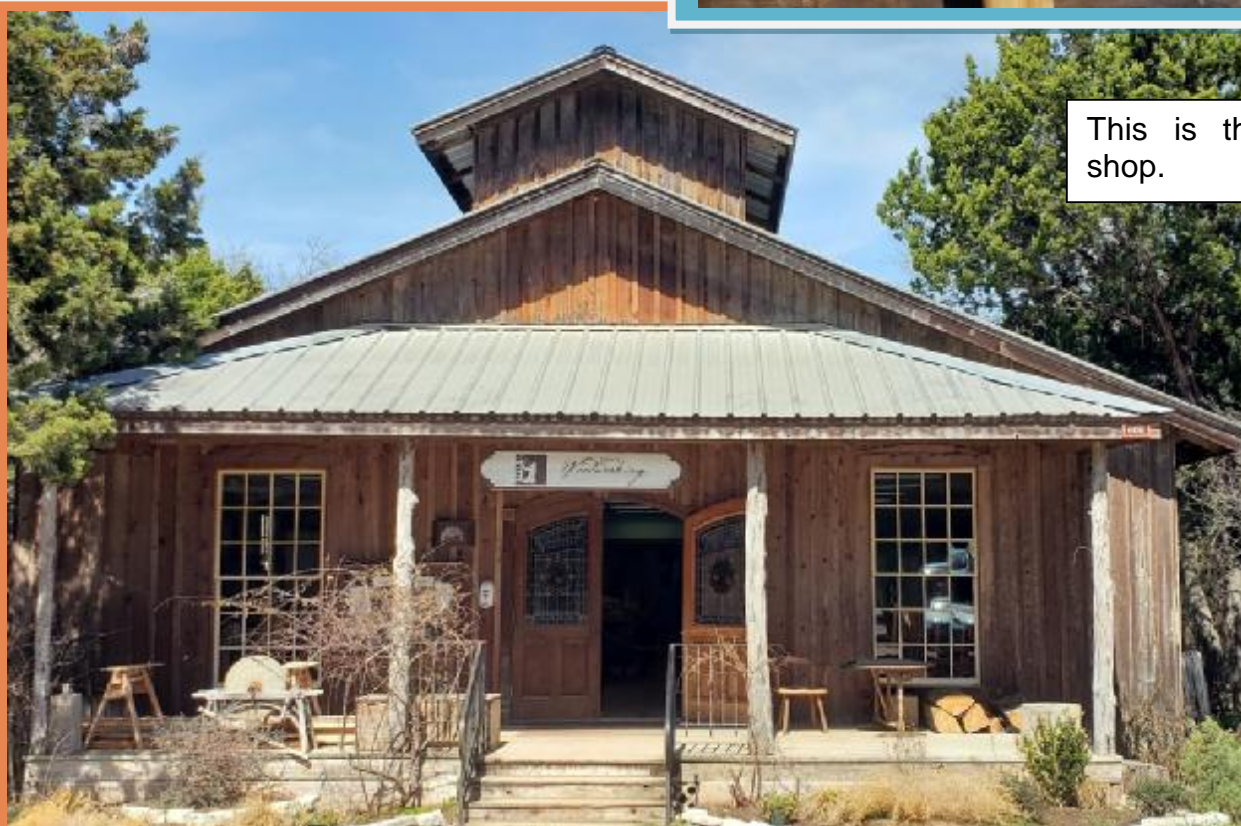
Being a sometimes fan of *Forged in Fire* I enjoy visiting a blacksmith shop. They weren't actively forging anything at the time I walked in. Too bad.





If you look closely down the middle you will notice nine forges with nine anvils spaced out behind them. Heritage Homestead is a teaching facility. You can take classes in smithing, weaving, pottery, woodworking, and a couple others.

Right - I guess like most handmade items, they don't come cheap.



This is the woodworking shop.

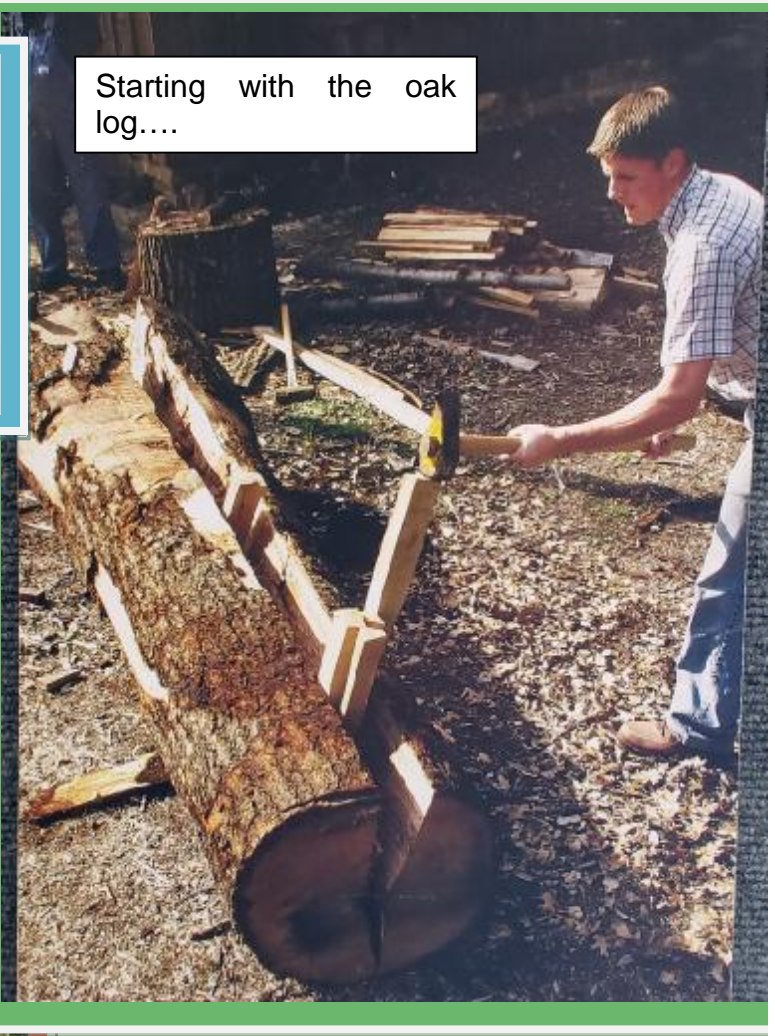


# Build this Windsor Chair in 6 Days

You will start with an oak log  
and finish with a chair!

Prerequisite: Joinery I Course

Starting with the oak  
log...



...and finishing with a chair.  
All made by hand and  
without screws or nails.

Right - I wish I had talent to  
carve like this.

Could be you're  
looking at the next set  
of chairs.







This is similar to the items she is working on.



- Hand Turned -  
PIE SERVER  
\$27



*Lily Burst Quilt*  
King/Queen 100% Cotton  
Pieced and Hand-Quilted  
by Crissa Lancaster  
\$2,900

A beautiful quilt, but  
YOWSA! \$2900





Look at what I bought for Erin.

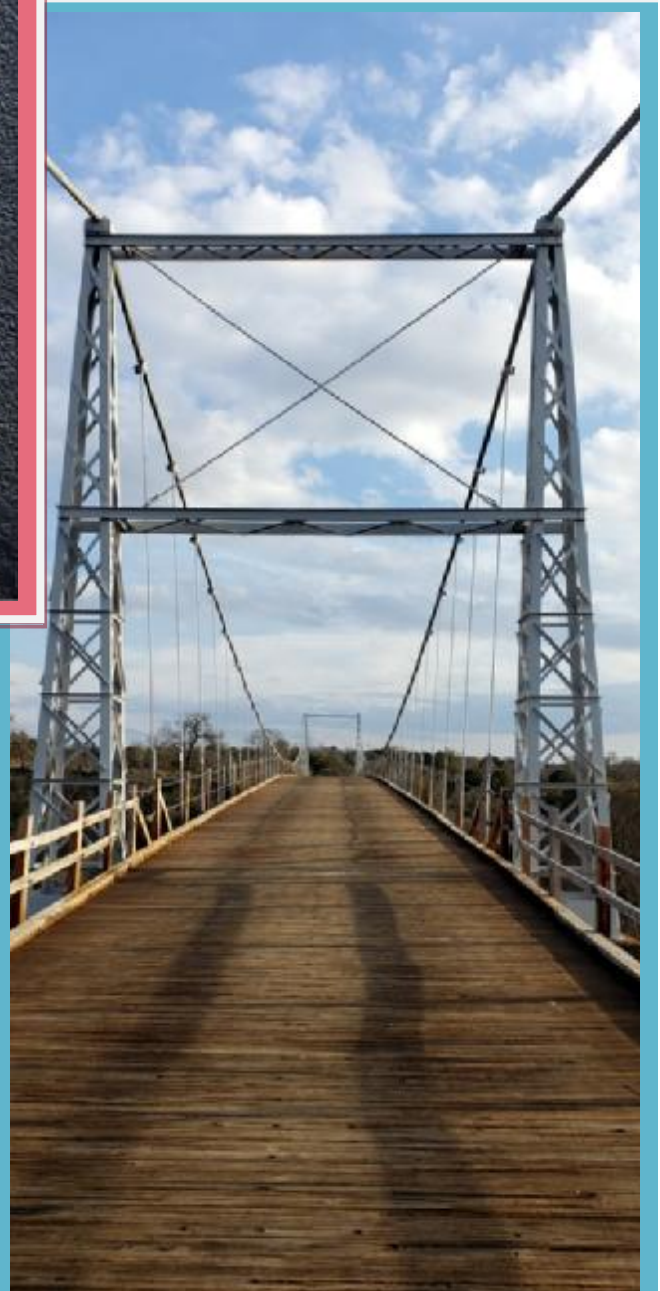
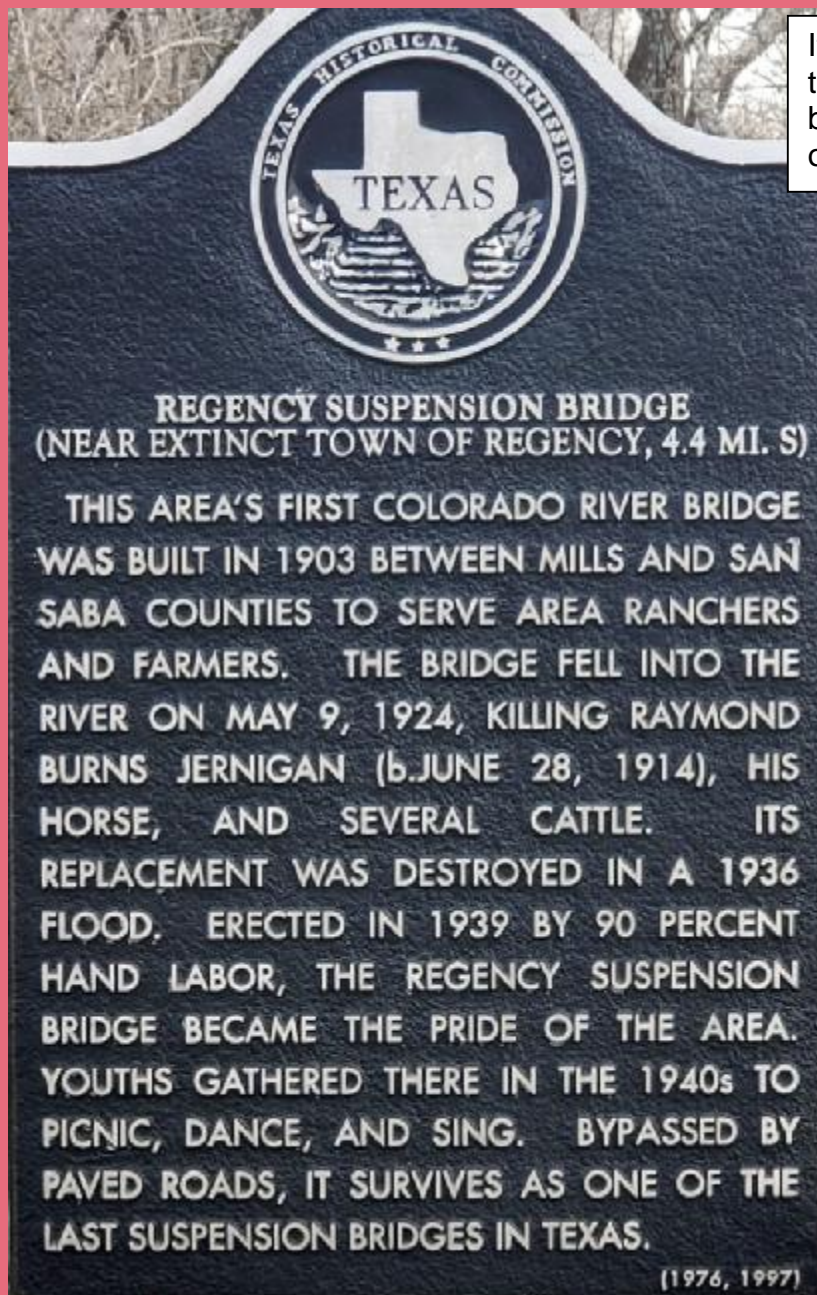


My visit above did not take as long as I expected so I started my back country road tour of Texas. As I crested a hill and started down into Meridian I could see this building, especially the clock tower, standing above everything else in town. This is the Bosque County Courthouse, and the date above the center windows states 1886.





It was 4.4 miles of dirt and gravel road to get me here, The RV really needs a bath pretty soon, before it just looks all one color.

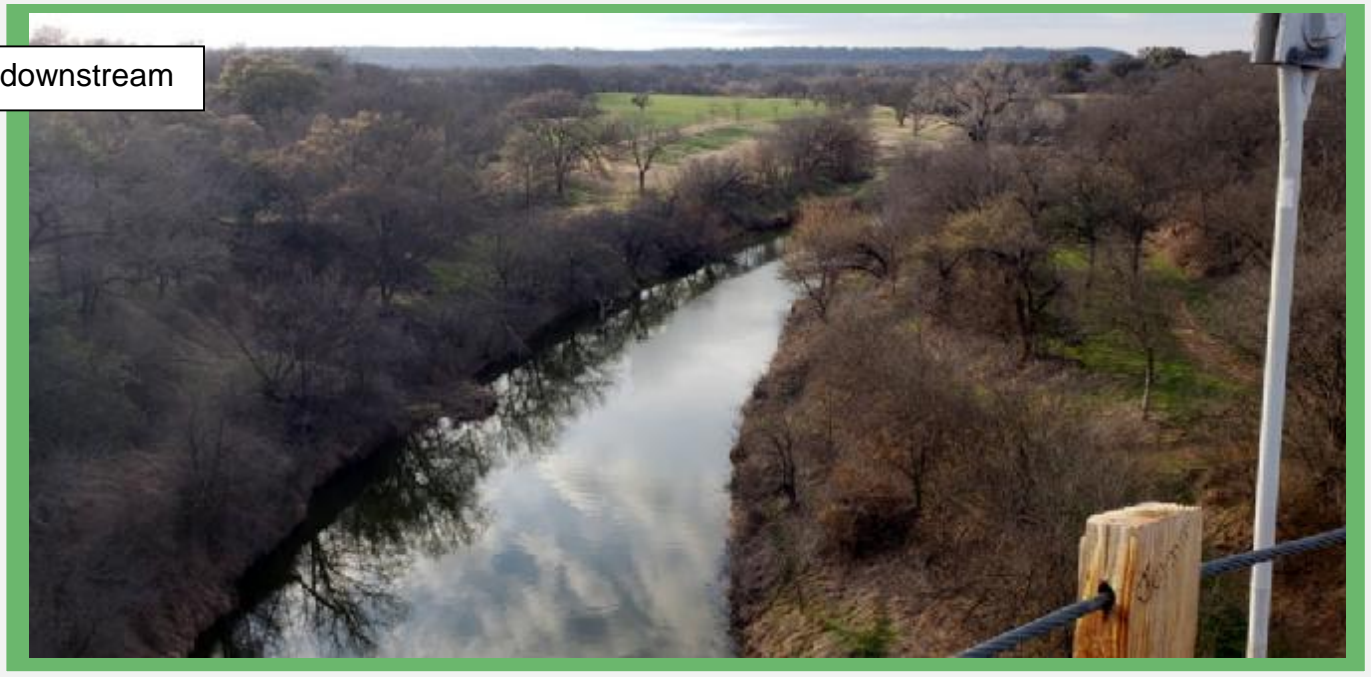


I found this on Roadside America. There's more info on this plaque than what they had online. I took a walk across and met a motorcyclist on the other side. He was hoping for a sunset photo but that was still over an hour away and he wanted to put a few more miles on before dark. It would be difficult to get a sunset photo here, because you can't get very far off the bridge to take a picture, private property and fences on both sides. I gave a thought to sending up the drone, but apart from the wind there is the same problem, private property. I would have had to keep it over the road or the river, and I'm not that good a pilot yet. It would be just likely, in a backwoods burg like this, where someone would blast a drone with their shotgun.





The (Texas) Colorado River looking upstream



Looking downstream

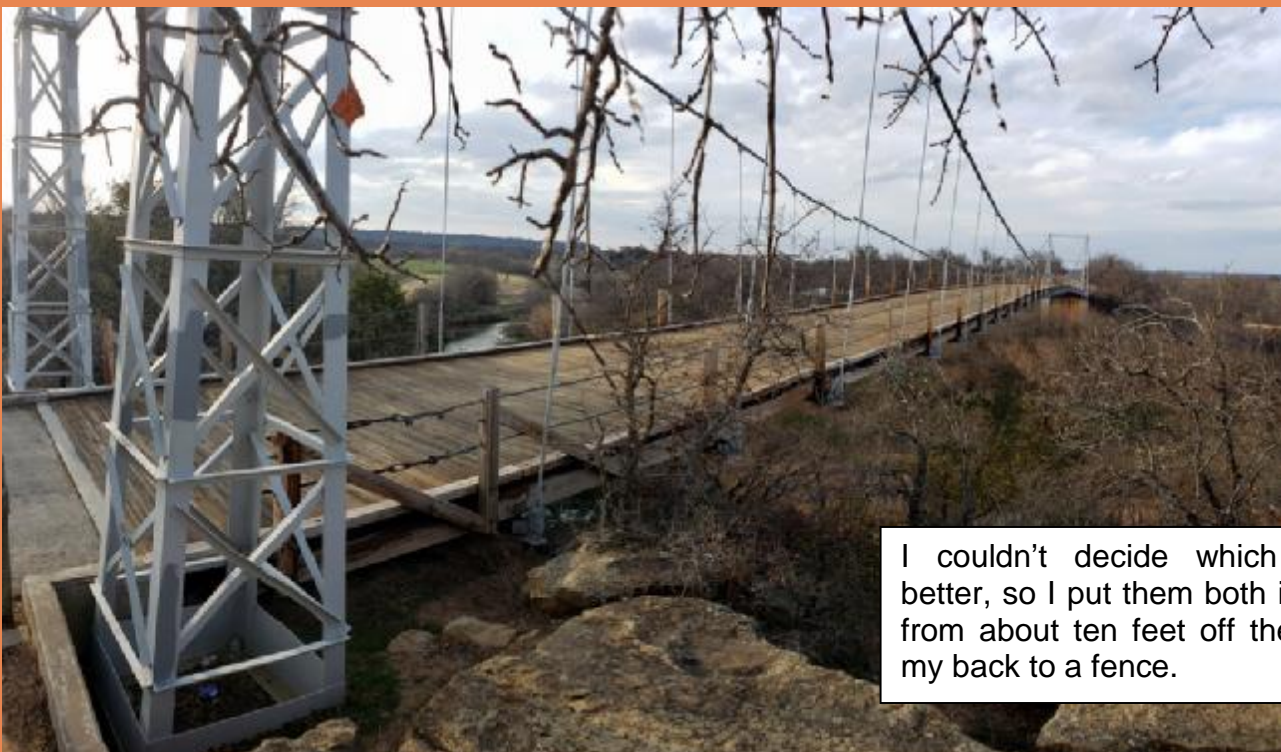


The suspension cable anchors





Each of those eight cables is made up of many hundreds more, smaller cables.



I couldn't decide which photo was better, so I put them both in. These are from about ten feet off the bridge with my back to a fence.







What it doesn't mention on the plaque is that Regency is now a ghost town. All the homes out here are mostly ranches. The Trading Post is no more.

I must have driven through a couple more county seats because I saw a couple more large courthouses. None of them were as good as the one in Meridian pictured above. A little more weaving here and there and I hit the center of Texas just as the sun was setting.



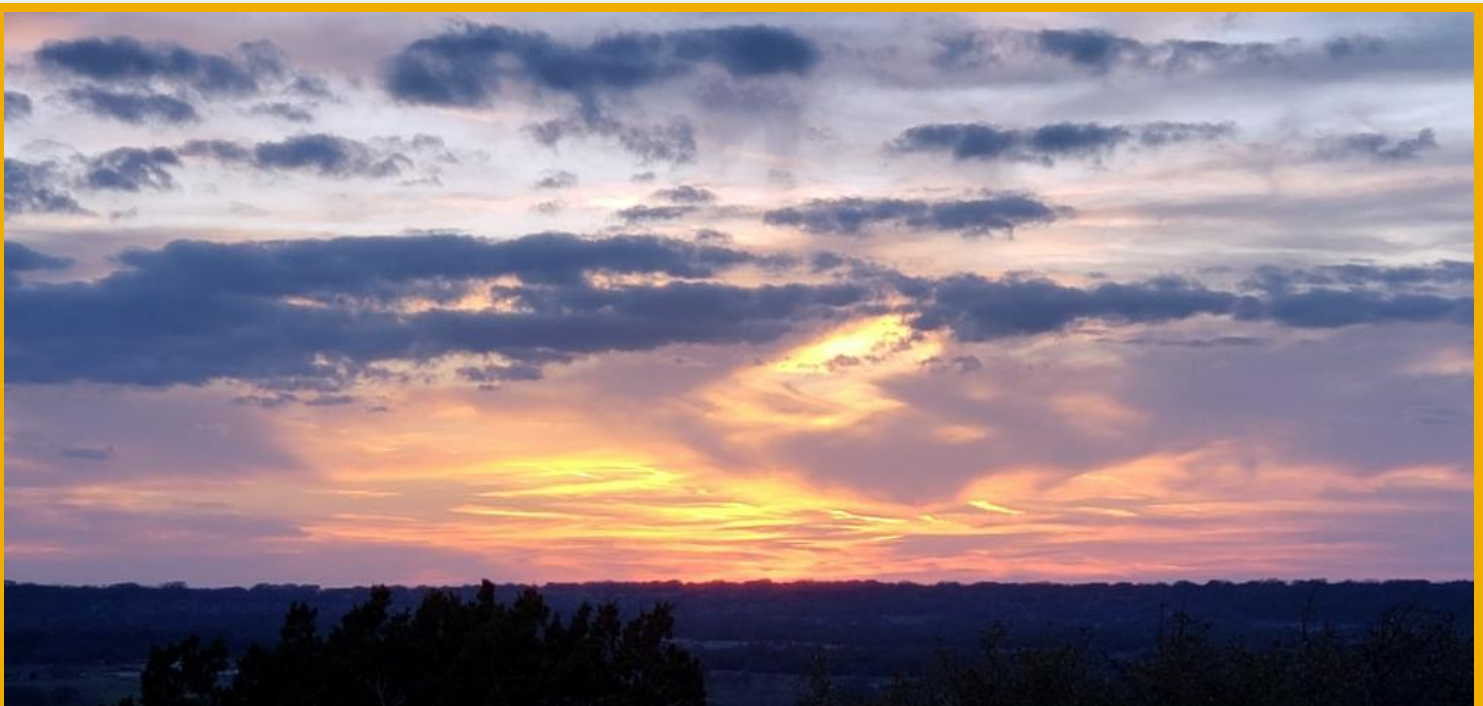
FIVE MILES NORTHWEST IS THE GEOGRAPHIC CENTER OF TEXAS, AN IMAGINARY POINT WHOSE CO-ORDINATES DIVIDE THE STATE INTO FOUR EQUAL AREAS. IN STRAIGHT-LINE DISTANCE IT IS 437 MILES FROM THE STATE'S MOST WESTERLY POINT ON THE RIO GRANDE RIVER ABOVE EL PASO, 412 MILES FROM THE MOST NORTHERLY POINT IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE PANHANDLE NEAR TEXLINE, 401 MILES FROM THE MOST SOUTHERLY POINT ON THE RIO GRANDE BELOW BROWNSVILLE AND 341 MILES FROM THE MOST EASTERLY POINT ON THE SABINE RIVER NEAR BURKEVILLE. MAXIMUM BORDER-TO-BORDER DISTANCE IS 801 MILES FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND 773 MILES FROM EAST TO WEST.

Well, then again, maybe it's not really the geographic center of Texas. Roadside America tells me the real center is on private property, so the Texas DOT put the marker here. There is also the Heart of Texas picnic area about 500 yards down the road from the marker. Installed here is a lookout tower, maybe twenty-five feet high, that provides a nice 360 degree view. I doubt I can see five miles from up there, but maybe tomorrow morning I will check it out. Yes, tomorrow morning. This picnic area is where I'm parking for the night.



ENCLOSED WITHIN THE 4,137-MILE PERIMETER OF THE STATE ARE 267,339 SQUARE MILES OR 7.4 PER CENT OF THE NATION'S TOTAL AREA. FIFTEEN OF THE 50 STATES COULD BE READILY ACCOMMODATED WITHIN TEXAS' BORDERS - WITH MORE THAN 1,000 SQUARE MILES LEFT OVER. BREWSTER, IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS, IS THE LARGEST OF THE STATE'S 254 COUNTIES WITH 6,208 SQUARE MILES, AN AREA LARGER THAN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT. SMALLEST COUNTY IS ROCKWALL IN NORTHEAST TEXAS WITH 147 SQUARE MILES.

TEXAS ELEVATIONS RISE FROM SEA LEVEL ALONG THE 624-MILE COAST OF THE GULF OF MEXICO TO 8,751 FEET ATOP GUADALUPE PEAK IN THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS. ALTITUDE AT THIS POINT IS 1,545 FEET. TERRAIN VARIES FROM THE SUBTROPIC RIO GRANDE VALLEY TO THE TRACKLESS GREAT PLAINS, FROM THE LUSH FORESTS OF EAST TEXAS TO THE RUGGED TRANS-PECOS REGION WHERE MOUNTAIN RANGES THRUST 90 PEAKS A MILE OR MORE INTO THE SKY. BUT PERHAPS NOWHERE ARE TEXAS CONTRASTS MORE PRONOUNCED THAN IN AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL: FROM MORE THAN 56 INCHES ALONG THE SABINE RIVER, NEARLY AS MUCH AS MIAMI'S, TO LESS THAN 8 INCHES IN THE EXTREME WEST, AS LITTLE AS PHOENIX'S.





I leave you with a sunset photo from the tower mentioned above. It's an ok sunset, nothing to get excited about.

I was just connecting to the internet. A very slow signal so I might not be able to send this until tomorrow morning sometime.

I crossed three items off my list today and I am hoping to average two per day. I think I will exceed that again tomorrow, but then I might be into some hiking.

The wind picked up considerably while I have been writing.

The Heritage Homestead. I think it would be fun to stay in Waco for a couple months, they have a campground right here on the property, and take classes in blacksmithing, woodworking, guitar, making pottery, and who knows what else.

Fritz, I think the woodworking classes are right up your alley.

Just as I thought, I am sending this Tuesday morning from Cross Plains.

Until next time.....