

Nancy's News 2018

JANUARY 2018...FREEZE!

Well, we don't have this often down here in Texas, but, we actually had an ice freeze with a tad of snow on January 17th.



My maple tree out back is not used to being frozen!



Even had ice on the back patio!



Icicles hanging from the gutters! It was an event that doesn't happen often!



Texas is so beautiful in April. The Bluebonnets just COVER the hills!

April Bluebonnets

Around about the end of March into the 1st 2 weeks of April, the Texas hill country turns into a VERY beautiful place! When I first moved here to Texas, I traveled out to the Texas hill country, because everyone said it was to DIE FOR! And they were pretty close to being right.

This year, Judy Beard, Leah Blasingame and Jean Norris accompanied me on a bluebonnet trip up near Bellville. Unfortunately, we didn't pick a very good day weather-wise! It was cold and cloudy and damp!



We also have other wildflowers blooming at this time!



Judy and Leah look pretty cold while they took pictures!!

Blanco Lavender Festival

In June, the hill country has a Lavender Festival. I had never been to that; so, Mary Blain and I decided to go to the Blanco Lavender Festival. This was very near to the Wenmohs Ranch and Dena Wenmohs! We hadn't been out the Bunkhouse for years! 😞 So, we decided to contact Dena about staying at the Bunkhouse and going to the Lavender Festival with us! That made the



The Bunkhouse looked pretty good for a place that had been built in the 1890s!



The horse thought we were wieners that we couldn't stand the damp and cold!



Old Texas Windmill



whole trip well worth it! We arrived at the Bunkhouse and spent some good time with Dena checking out if things on the ranch had changed! Dena had a BIG sign on the gate—"Beware of Dog!" and I had to agree...the dog would probably lick you to death!! HA! To the right, Mary and Dena pose for me!





Beware of Dog! Roscoe's sleeping! Ha!

Above is a picture of this vicious dog, Roscoe!

Roscoe is a Blue Lacy dog which is Texas' State dog!

Official State Dog Breed of Texas

Texas designated Blue Lacy as the official state dog breed on June 18, 2005. The Blue Lacy dog breed was developed in the mid 1800's by the Lacy Brothers of Burnet County, Texas (Frank, George, Edwin, and Harry Lacy). The family is said to have used greyhound, scent-hound, and coyote stock. The Blue Lacy is officially recognized by the National Kennel Club (NKC).



Cool, huh?! The picture below left is the view from the Bunkhouse. If you go out there in May, it is really great, because all the cactus is blooming. Well worth a trip out!



Dena had some pretty blooming bushes at her house.



Pictures around the Bunkhouse.



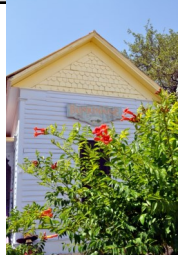
Dena's Tuesday art group painted the side of the barn!



Down by Dena's creek. It looks a LOT less rough than the last time I saw it. Dena said she rented the facilities for a wedding, and they cleaned up the creek area.



Mary and Dena down by Cypress Creek.





Downtown Blanco and the Festival crowd!



Mary and Dena at the Lavender Festival. They were giving out maps of the farms for lavender in the area at the courthouse building, but the line was LONG...so we opted out of that. We never did find one to stop by. Bummer!



One of our first stops was this Rescue Ranch booth. They were rescuing llamas. Dena was talking to them about getting a couple llamas for her ranch. They ARE cute!



They had lots of Artisans' Booths. It was great shopping around! These were some pretty lawn decorations.



The very nice lady was giving the llama some earrings!



The llama was very cute! Mary and I gave a donation. Dena wanted to provide a home for a couple llamas. Ahem...to the right, Mary found some Lavender Wine products!



The festival had some concerts during the day...mostly country music! It was a nice place and people seemed to enjoy it!

We had a lovely day at the festival. Started back to the ranch. We thought we would see some lavender farms, but never saw any along the route...so...no lavender farms...boo-hoo...OH..OH...that means we have to go back next year! Yeah, that's the ticket!



Blanco Courthouse



This was one of Dena's neighbor's longhorns!



Festival Crowd.



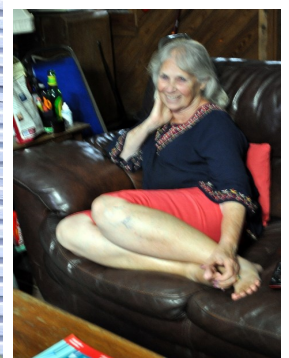
We got back and had some quality time lazing around the ranch!
We had a very fun time! I grabbed a cowboy hat Dena had at the Bunkhouse and tried to look like a cowboy!



Back at the ranch, Dena's artistic front yard!



One of Dena's more scenic trees! AND some pretty flowers.



Dena relaxes at night!

Mary took the cowboy hat and tried to look like a cowboy...I think I did a better job! HA!

Galveston with Randy and Kay

Well, cousin Randy and Kay came down from Dallas one weekend in July. They wanted to see Galveston; so, Mary and I did our best to give them the "grand tour"!

We went out to the west at first to see the beaches. Then we came back into town to see the East Beach.

This is where all the big ships come and go to the Houston ship channel. Then we moseyed down the Strand which is where any good knick-knacking tourist would go! BUT...first we stopped at the Fisherman's Wharf restaurant. I think it has the best seafood outside of the Maine coast! Especially red snapper! Yum!



This is where the ships come in to the channel and can go up to Houston.



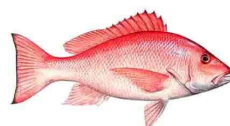
Dena's back yard.



We got to meet Dena's new beau, Pete. He was helping Dena redo one of back bedroom's bathroom which was all torn up! We usually stayed in that bedroom, but, no problem, we stayed at the Bunkhouse!!



To the left, Dena, Pete, and I were checking out the pictures that I had taken so far.





After lunch, we travelled up to tour the Bishop's Palace:

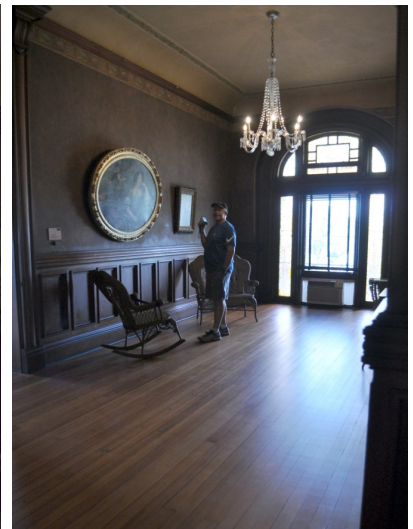
Galveston's grandest and best-known building, the Bishop's Palace is an ornate delight of colored stone, intricately carved ornaments, rare

woods, stained-glass windows, bronze dragons and other sculptures, luxury materials and furnishings, and impressive fireplaces from around the world (including one lined with pure silver!).

Built by lawyer Colonel Walter Gresham and designed by Nicholas Clayton, Galveston's premier architect, this Victorian castle was cited by the American Institute of Architects as one of the 100 most important buildings in America. The home was built from 1886 to 1892.



One of the upstairs chandeliers.



Randy in upstairs hallway .



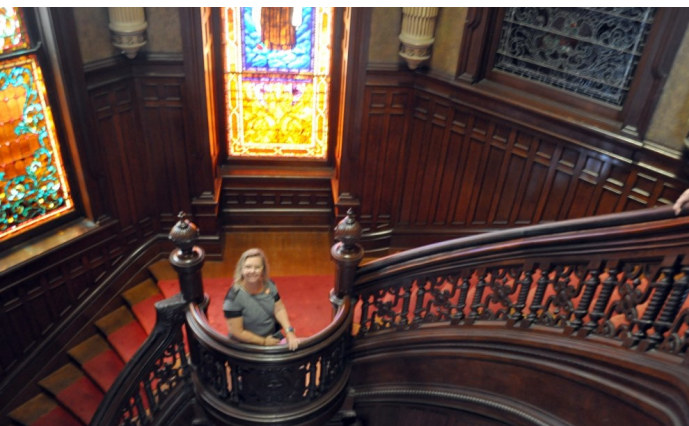
Beautiful master bedroom's bathroom sink.



Randy and Kay on the front steps.



The lady of the house was an artist. She painted this screen of cherubs. She used her own children as models!



Kay on the beautiful staircase!



Upstairs Skylight.



We found out pretty fast that finding a parking place in Galveston was hellish! They have a new system of solar powered meters now that you have to sign into and give a credit card. It has Wi-Fi capability. It also will alert the police if any meter is overtime and delinquent...great, right?! You can pay more for your space via your cell phone, but it is extremely perplexing to figure out! To the left is a picture of these "cutting edge" meters which ALL tourists HATE! After all our touring, we decided to go

on a Moby Duck tour of Galveston Bay. It's pretty cool, but also pretty POPULAR! They even had several Ducks which are amphibious and , after you tour the Strand, it has a launch pad that the Duck drives down and goes right into the ocean!! Welllll, we couldn't reserve a seat until the 7 PM Duck



Moby Duck.

ride. Geesh! AND...trying to find a parking spot along the seawall was ALMOST impossible. Finally Randy found one not too far away. I think that ding-dong Pleasure Pier attracts too many tourists!



The Pleasure Pier. It has rides the kids like and a great restaurant. It costs \$35 entry fee and has made parking along the seawall a nightmare!



Randy and Kay on the Moby Duck. Mary and I were on the other side. Of the boat.

And that about ended our tour of Galveston. We missed a whole lot, but maybe Randy and Kay can come down again to get more. The Moody Gardens are great. They have an Aquarium Pyramid, A Rainforest Pyramid, and a 3D MAX theatre where the seats move, etc. We headed for home after a good day of tourism!



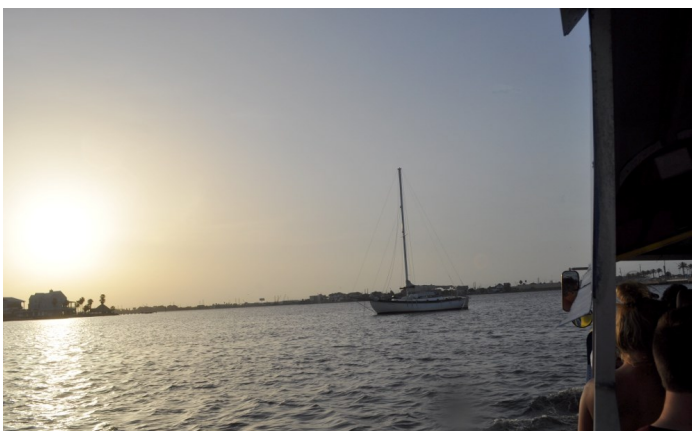
This cool shark was opposite where we parked. I tried to get Randy and Kay to go pose for me in the shark's jaw, but they declined...bummer!



Here we hit the water and started our tour on the boat portion! Galveston Bay is on the backside of Galveston Island...away from the beaches.



You can barely see the Moody Gardens Glass Pyramids to the right end of the coast above. They go a lot closer on off season when they don't have as many tourist, but not today!



Sunset showed the Saharan Dust quite well! Texas and along the Gulf of Mexico sometimes gets a LOT of dust from the Saharan Desert. I suppose that's better than the hurricanes they usually send!

The next day, we decided to go to the Houston Museum of Natural science. That is pretty much downtown Houston. It was great having Randy drive for us!!!

As we went in the front door, there was a boy riding a dinosaur (right). I asked Randy to get on that after the



Mary LOVES telling people where to go!



It has a beautiful entryway.

boy finished, but he was no fun and refused the opportunity!

They also had prehistoric creatures dangling from the ceiling...Oooooo...creepy!

We spent a lot of time looking through the



dinosaur exhibit.

Randy and Kay were very diligent about reading all the tags! They were a lot better than Mary and myself!





Look out, Randy you're about to be a dinosaur snack!
Randy doesn't look very scared, does he?!!

trip should be to Randy and Kay's Place in Murphy, and then we could all go over to visit the Ft. Worth Stockyards. They have 8 million knick-knack shops, gunfights, and a museum. At noon, they have a longhorn steer drive right down the main tourist street!

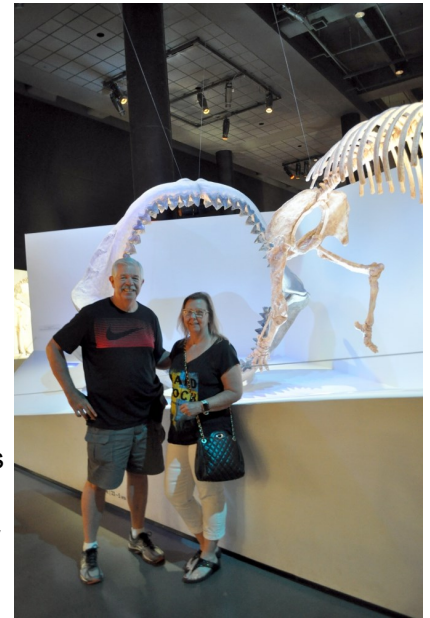
And afterward, we always visit the water gardens which are not too far away and very impressive!

They have a rodeo at night. THAT is ALWAYS a fun day!

The rest of my year I was working for my old boss John on some software that he

hopes to sell to a company that was interested. EnSoCo went bust last year (sadly), but he's still working on things at his house.

I also joined the Art League of Ft Bend and have some of my paintings in their gallery. They are a fun group and keep me occupied! AND...rarely, but they do sell some of the paintings. Mostly, though they sell small stuff like handmade jewelry, small handmade art icles and some antiques.



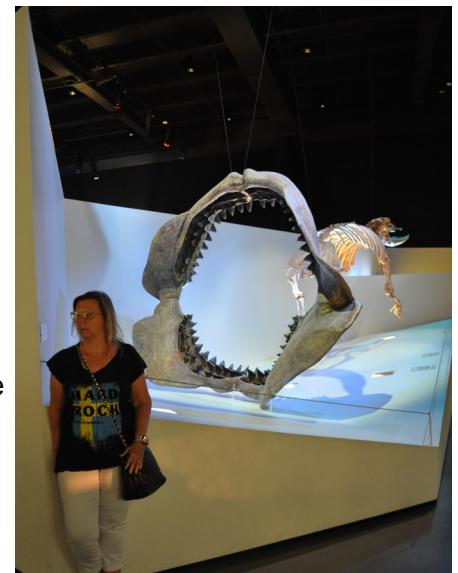
The most fun exhibit, though, was the real-time video screen that they had set up in the entrance way (above). You could see yourself. AND, much more exciting...they would project a dinosaur onto the video screen and you could reach out and touch it (or so it seemed one the

video display! Here's Randy patting a dinosaur. The kids were having a great time and got some good videos of the kids hugging dinosaurs, etc. It was fun!

And that was a great day too! Mary and I figured our next



Beware the creatures of the air! They hung some dinosaurs above the guests!



Lookout, Kay, you're about to be chomped by a shark !

