

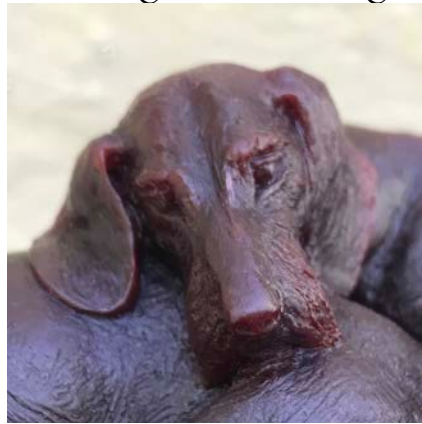
JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!

NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. FIFTEEN, NUMBER ONE :: FEBRUARY 2019

I hope my first news of 2019 finds you healthy and happy!

Meet my latest "Cozys"



"Cozy" Wire - Detail shown in wax for bronze. ©2019



"Cozy" Long - 1:6 scale, palm-sized. Shown in wax for bronze. ©2019

DEC. 22, 2018: Happiness is an order and, a deposit, for “Cozy” with a long coat! Thank you, John! It’s really nice to know someone will buy my hard work. Order yours today!

The holidays were a blur...

DEC. 24, 2018: I attend the visitation of my distant cousin Cherlyn Meek, see relatives I hadn’t seen for decades, met new relatives and their children. The baby I last saw in Cherlyn’s sister Kathy’s lap is now 30 years old!

DEC. 27, 2018: We drive to Louisville to attend the memorial party for Gerald Tyrrell whom we met in San Miguel about fifteen years ago with his wife Betsy. It was good to be with Betsy and meet the family.

Now, come with us to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

DEC. 31, 2018, 8:20AM: We leave for San Miguel de Allende where we will spend January and February.

10:44AM: Brian could not be happier! He’s driving southwest from Ft. Leonard Wood with a pickle in one hand, a sandwich in the other, a bag of chips at his crotch, and a hand on the steering wheel!

4:03PM: The sun shines brightly as we head south on US-69 through Oklahoma. We warmly greet these sunny skies after a drizzly day of rain and clouds. Our goal tonight is Sherman, TX.

5:05PM: We are 17 miles from Sherman TX. The sun still shines brightly - in our eyes! Gas is \$1.72 for regular.

Have you ever tried to get dinner at the last minute on New Years Eve? We eat at Texas Roadhouse.



At 9:47pm, locals are dressed with their favorite hats.

Happy New Year!!!

JAN. 1, 2019, 8:53AM: We pass through Dallas where “Fancy Cakes” next to “Caskers” has been joined by “Condom Sense” along the west side of I-35E. “Condom Sense” is an “entertainment store” that advertises nine stores in the area with 35000 items in each store! If these are sold in 10-packs, that is still 3500 entertainment packs per store!

I talk with Betsy in Louisville and learned her granddaughter works for Texas Roadhouse headquarters in Louisville where the founder lives. Small world.

A German friend writes from Santa Barbara that last summer Tab Hunter died at the age of 87.

Back in Texas, highway and overpass construction abound. In many places the right of way for the interstate is five lanes each direction and, with the outer roads, the highway presence is two football fields wide!

11:52AM, 50 DEGREES: It is momentarily sunny enough for sunglasses. We gas up and indulge in a bag of Jack Link's original beef jerky. Yum!



Stretching his neck, Beau thinks he deserves some too.



2:17PM: In Cotulla, TX, a rest stop is beautifully appointed with a sun protected play area and an adjacent miniature golf course. Ahhh, simple pleasures.

JAN. 2, 7:51AM: We cross Bridge Number Two into Nuevo Laredo. Many lift gates, twists and turns and topes (speed bumps) keep traffic moving very slowly. Next, we turn around and go back to immigration. It all seemed so easy until we had to go back to immigration to register our vehicle and ourselves.

The northbound vehicle lines to get into the States are very long, maybe a mile?

7:59AM: Only seven persons are in front of us in line to have our papers stamped,

8:09AM: We are at the fourth step of getting into Mexico: get the vehicle importation sticker for our car.



I find the Baño. (Bathroom.) Remember to get paper as you walk in!

8:28AM: We are on our way!

Brian's Note: When coming home on Mexico-85, turn right onto the frontage road to get to immigration: It is 6.7 miles from Mexico-85 to turn right onto Avenida Reforma. You have to turn right on the frontage road or you will end up on a bridge to the States. The frontage road is parallel to another two-way road to your left.



8:47AM: Steel animals leap in the median!

9:14AM: Mexico is building new bridges adjacent to the northbound lanes of Highway-85, in preparation for a new highway. We believe the southbound lanes on which we drive will become an outer road. Highway-85 is a Libre, free, highway. Mountains of fill dirt and road building equipment line the median.

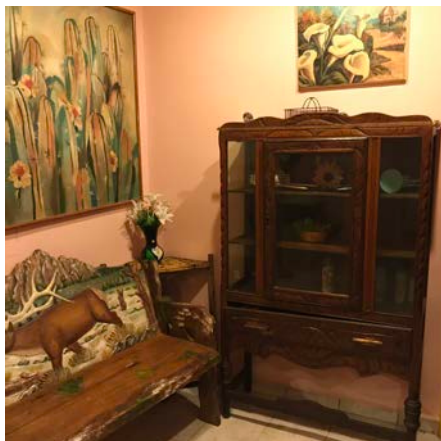
We are now on LN-100, Mexico Quota. This is “Nuevo Leon” Autopista, or, toll road. It is smooth and actually has a narrow shoulder on the right side.



9:26AM: Breakfast Mexicanos! Our favorite corn muffins are back at one of our favorite rest stops! The entrance is charming.



9:49AM: Musicians play salsa on accordion and guitar. Live Music brightens this drizzly day; it is even piped into the charming ladies room!





10:21AM, 51 DEGREES: Fog lifts and reveals a forest of Spanish dagger yuccas.

11:21AM: The exit to Matehuala is a washboard!

11:27AM: Suddenly there is no fog, the wind is blowing like crazy and it's 64 degrees.

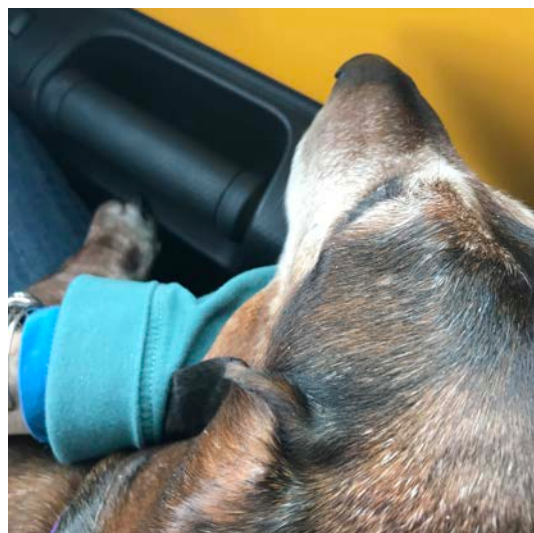
12:40AM: Brian states the altitude of the pass above this valley is 7100 feet. A sign says: Ruta de Mariposa, (Route of the Butterflies) Migration de Mariposa Monarca. (Migration of the Monarch butterflies) Let's all work to save Monarchs from pesticides; please plant native plants and milkweed in lieu of lawns.

12:05PM, 58 DEGREES: At a simple gas station rest stop I am reminded I should always carry papel (paper) as there is none in the ladies room. A kind lady shares some from her roll. If I had change, I'd give her a propina (tip).

12:25PM: We are in the land of cebollas, onions! I see no field. But, small bags of onions are stacked along the highway, waiting for their vendors to return. Trust. Trust is the name of the game here.



12:40PM: Vehicles are backed up a long way to get through inspection. Brian suspects many are going back to the States. We are on a Libre highway that is full of lumps and waves with occasional washboards thrown in to keep drivers awake. Speed limit is 80km/hr. We finally are on smooth new road again. Yay!



Beau is oblivious resting on my arm.

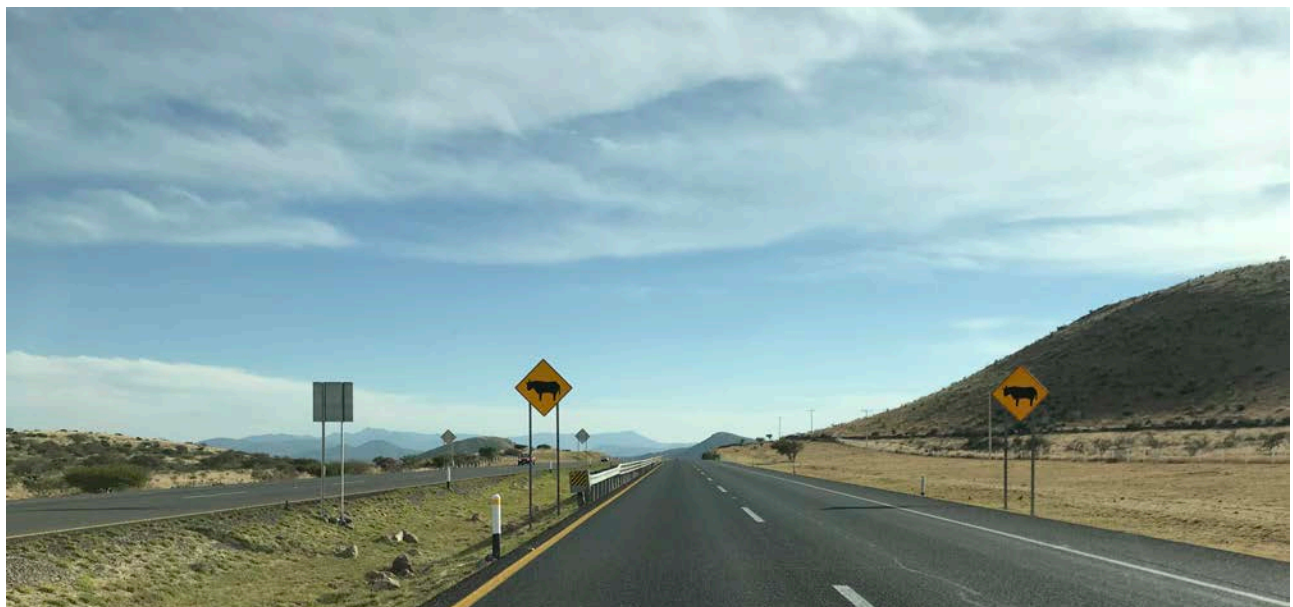
12:52PM: A Vulcan con Pistola garage is beside the highway. This is a tire repairperson with an impact wrench to remove nuts on a wheel in order repair a tire. I have not heard of that before, but Brian assures me he has a pistola in our garage.

3:13PM: High clouds give way to blue skies and 72 degrees! Yay! Eucalyptus trees line the road.

3:19PM: After passing several gas stations with long lines Brian decides to detour through San Luis Potosí to find a Pemex station with only one vehicle in front of us. Yay!



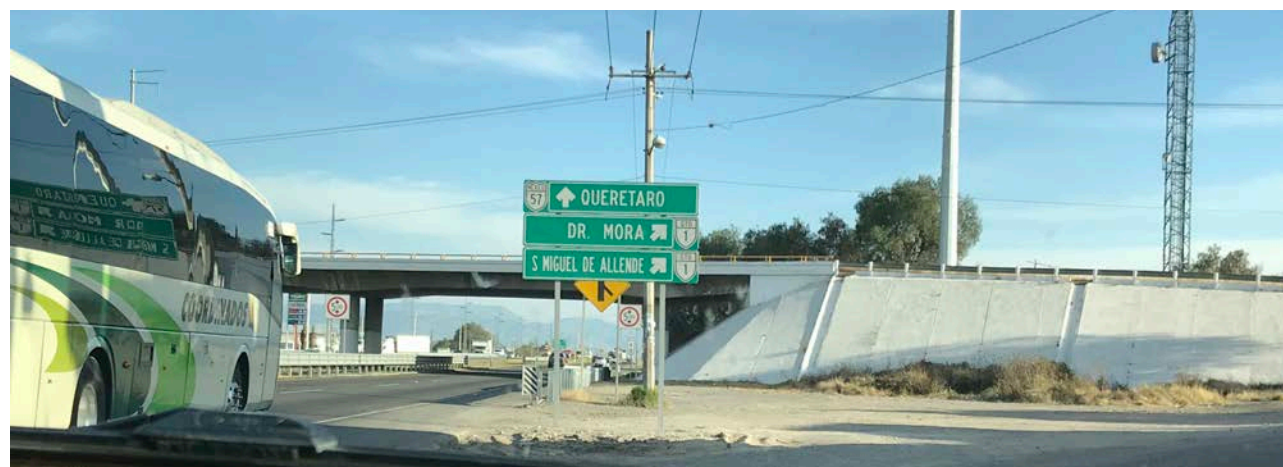
3:28PM: Beau pees under cherry blossoms at the gas station! We each renew our energy with an Eskimo pie.





4:06PM, 76 DEGREES: Wow! I found a nice shot with cow crossing signs! Cows, sheep, and goats often graze in the median or next to the highway with their herders keeping close watch.

It is 1610 miles to San Miguel. We are getting close; vendors in little stands offer Frescas con Crema, strawberries with cream.



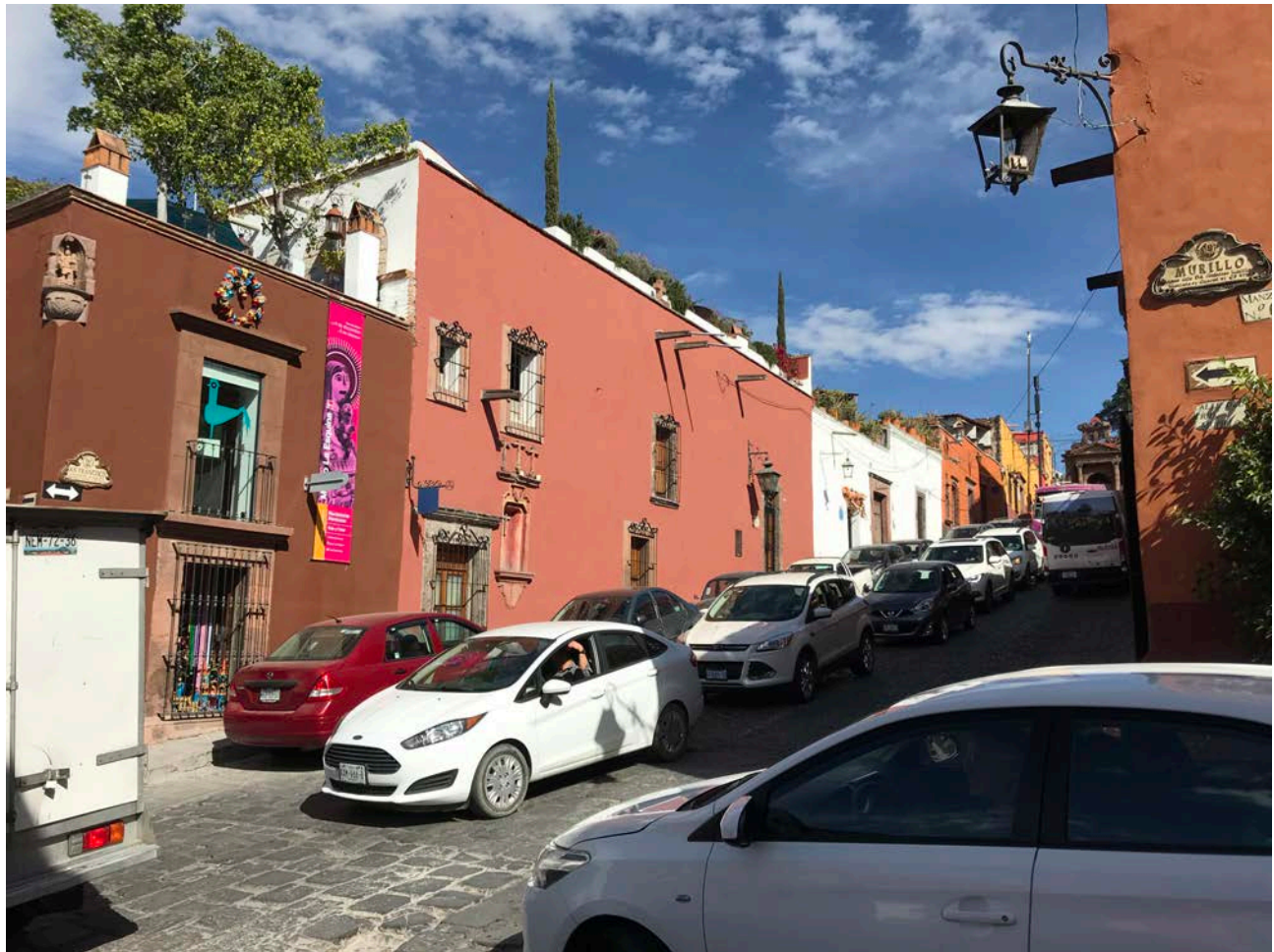
4:48PM, 71 SUNNY DEGREES: We turn west on narrow GTO-1 for the final 24 miles to San Miguel.



5:02PM: It's "Rush Minute" in tiny Los Rodriguez.



5:28PM: We enter this little alley to Calvario that turns left at the bottom of this hill. Then, we unpack. We are tired and grateful for leftovers from our dinner in Laredo. Buenas Noches.....



JAN. 3, 2019, 2:24PM: Traffic is as thick as the air. Our little street, Calvario, is at the top of this hill. Tourists are EVERYWHERE!



6:53PM: Cezar is our favorite waiter at our favorite nearby restaurant, El Pagaso. I love their Chiles en Nogada, green chiles filled with ground beef covered in crème sauce and sprinkled with pomegranate seeds. Yum!

JAN. 4, 2019, 11:05AM: A little girl swings in Parque Juarez as I walk across town to my Pilates Reformer class.

11:20AM: I arrive at my friend/Pilates Reformer teacher/collector's home. Sue Lawrence emailed yesterday that she has a spot for a duet at 11:30. I am ready after riding for three days to get to San Miguel de Allende. Class is HARD, especially now that I must acclimate to this altitude of 6363 feet!



JAN. 6, 2019: Brian and I investigate Smart TVs for our long time neighbor and friend Sharon who now is our landlady!

The Gasoline crisis...

Vehicles are lined up for blocks on both sides of the one big Pemex station on the Ancha de San Antonio. There is no gas at the Pemex at the Glorieta, roundabout, by La Comer'. Many persons with containers try to buy gas. Scary! But, with fewer cars on the streets, maybe the air quality will improve. Fortunately it seems most tourists have left town. Whew! Too many tourists over the New Year's weekend! Check the Rolling Stone article, Sept. 6, 2018, "Blood & Oil" by Seth Harp.



JAN. 7, 2019, 11:35AM: I walk to Solutions to set up our mail delivery. The cost is \$66US for two months.

12:26PM: Outside my Pilates Reformer teacher's home is this huge Century plant. How beautiful is this?

After class I walk to the little Pocket Theater at Mercado Sano. There, two movies are shown daily in two tiny theaters. Included are a beverage and a bag of popcorn. All of this costs \$120 pesos or \$6.19US.

4:44PM: We see “[Green Book](#).” Everyone should see this true story that took place in the late 50s. I hope all the good that happened between the black pianist, Don Shirley, and his Italian driver can happen between everyone. True story. WOW! I am a basket case after seeing this. It was sooooo good.

7:47PM: We had a delicious salad and a Margarita pizza at a new little rooftop restaurant at the corner of Correo and tiny one-way Chiquitas. It has a beautiful rooftop view of downtown San Miguel.



10:16PM: I have seen a familiar face around town and Brian identified him tonight: Robert Reich, the 22nd U.S. Secretary of Labor.



JAN. 8, 2019: Tonight we walk to Via Organica, an organic market that also has a restaurant with delicious food.

Two musicians, a violinist and a guitarist, surprise us with 4-5 tunes. They pass a hat and wander to the next restaurant. We take a taxi home. Locally it is just \$50 pesos, or about \$2.50US.

Gasoline shortages abound in San Miguel de Allende!

JANUARY 10, 2019, 11:30AM: I take a taxi all the way across town to meet with my friend and Mac Guru Nonnie Markeset to correct a few issues on my elderly MacBook Pro. This ride costs \$80 pesos or about \$4.00US. This is very reasonable, considering there is a huge gasoline shortage. There are long lines in both directions at the only station that is open in San Miguel.



After meeting with Nonnie, I taxi to Mercado Sano to meet Brian and we see the movie, *Georgia O'Keeffe*. Joan Allen and Jeremy Irons are GOOD!!

I am on Vacation!!!

Tonight we walk to El Pegaso where Brian enjoys Eggs Benedict and I indulge in Octopus Mexicana. Afterwards we share a magnificent carrot cake.



My Mom would have loved to see and taste the glorious baked meringue on personal pies at El Pegaso.



"Life's a Ball!" wire

4.75"L x 2.25"H x 1.5"D BRONZE, ED. 50 & 5AP ©2009

JAN. 11, 2019: Narissa Steel, president of The Miniature Painters, Sculptors Gravers Society of Washington, DC, writes that "Life's a Ball! Wire, 5/50, sold from their 85th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature! Thank you!



"A Good Life" wire

1:6 SCALE: 4.75"L x 1 3/8"H x 2.5"D, BRONZE ED. 50 & 5 AP ©2011

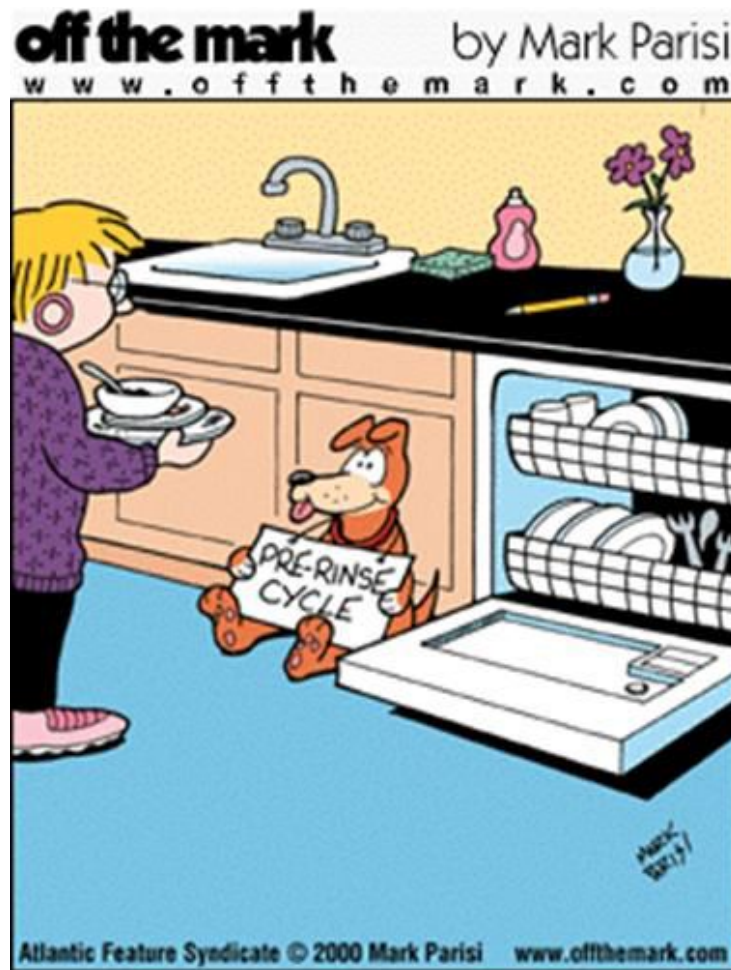
Red number 12/50 earned the Best Sculpture award in the 85th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature at The Miniature Painters, Sculptors Gravers Society of Washington, DC.

Order your award-winning wire now!

Adventures in living – Mexican style!



JAN. 15, 2019, 5PM: I need to wash my undies in bottled water! A big yogurt container works well for washing undies as do these kitchen objects for drying. The water has been turned off on our street. Supposedly there is a problem with the pump at the water well.



8:00PM: Beau Duke is THE BEST PRE-RINSE! We have no dishwasher here, nor do I use ours at home, but tonight, Beau's pre-rinse is especially appreciated. He likes the bits of quiche from Isabella at Mercado Sano, and my organic green salad. I hope we'll have water – and hot water – by tomorrow morning.



JAN. 16, 2019, 10:36: These holes and one inch pipes greet us just outside our wooden door.
Men work up the street, too.



Around 2:30PM: We arrive home after our haircuts. Water is on! I wash dishes while I finish a load of laundry from yesterday and wash two more loads! Yippee! Next, a shower! At 5:30 we get a taxi to meet a couple to share a ride to mutual friends' home for dinner. Gasoline is still scarce.

You don't know what you have ... until you don't!

I remember my grandparents' little farmhouse in Clinton County, Illinois. Grandma pumped water at her sink and heated it on her wood stove. Naturally, she and grandpa used an outhouse. WE ARE SO SPOILED!!!!



"Sunnyside up" Smooth

1:6 SCALE: 4.5"L x 2.5"W x 1.5"H, BRONZE, ED. 99 & 9 ARTIST'S PROOFS ©2007

JANUARY 18, 2019: While I work in a Pilates Reformer class and grocery shop afterwards, Brian picks up our first delivery of mail. I love Darlene, our mail lady, who put a check from Dog & Horse Fine Art right on top! It is for "Sunnyside Up" Smooth, 40/99. Thank you, Jaynie, and Thank You, Customer!!!

"What have I been working on?" you ask?

I have been sifting through roughly 10,000 emails! My inbox is now down to fewer than 3500. Nearly 8000 are still in my sent file and about 1500 are flagged. I do not want to transfer these old things into the new computer I plan to buy in March. Soon I will start "Cozy" Long.

JAN. 19, 2019: We awaken to live drone images on TV. A clandestine gasoline pipeline explosion in the state of Hidalgo, near Mexico City, occurred overnight. Sixty-six are dead and 76 are wounded.



I walk to meet Brian in the Jardin and, as we walk toward Parque Juarez to visit an art show, we discover this little girl stroking a donkey.



Later, we rest by a basketball court with the curving lines of a beautiful tree in front of our bench.



JAN. 21, 2019, MONDAY, 11:08AM: It is the 250th Anniversary of Ignacio Allende's birthday! Parades and events in his honor will take place all week. Many students march and drum! Military machines show off their might. Finally police on horseback conclude the parade.





A glorious draft horse and handsome wagon



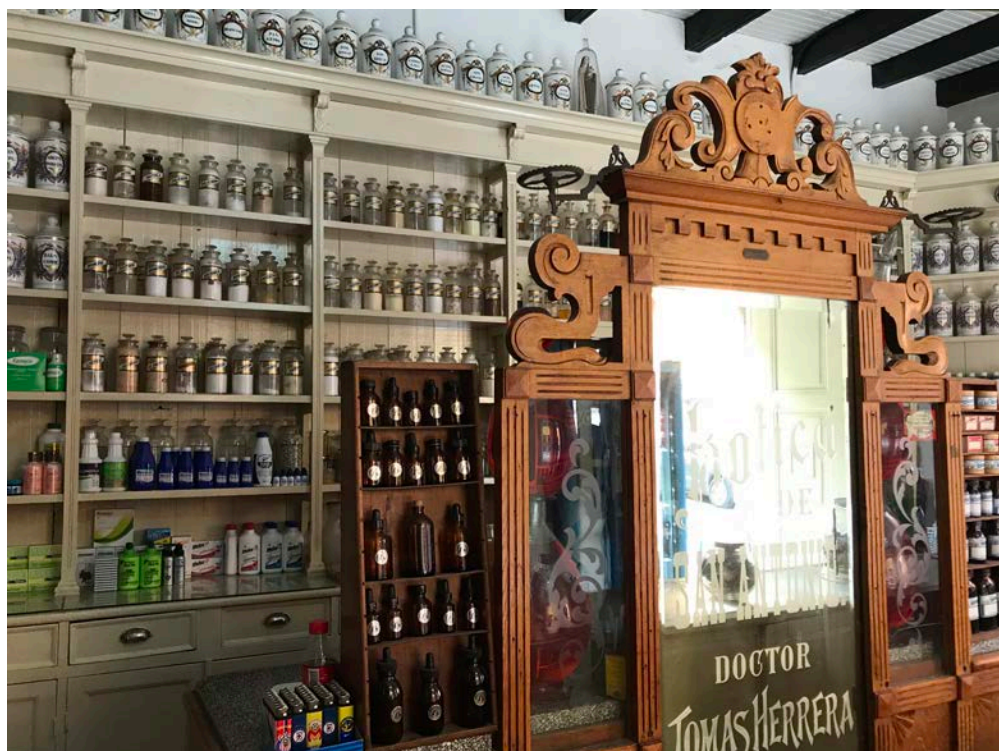




Wow! what a value!

JAN. 22, 2019, TUESDAY, 6:30PM: Brian and I walk toward the Jardin and turn right on Hidalgo. On a lark we try a new to us restaurant, Los Milagros, because Brian's buddies recommended it. Low and behold, there sit Aldo from Canada and Phil from Montana. They remind Brian that where they are sitting in the bar, every Tuesday is 2 for 1: 2 beers for \$40 pesos, or 2 glasses of wine for \$60 pesos. Mind you, you also get a choice of a small bowl of chile or an Enchilada Verde or an Enchilada Rojos too! How much is this in dollars? Today, 40 pesos = \$2.10US and 60 pesos = \$3.15US. WOW! Enjoy it while you can; Los Milagros will move soon due to a huge rent increase!

8:20PM: A multitude of backlit wires greets us as we walk toward our little one-way street, Calle del Calvario.



JAN. 23, 2019, WEDNESDAY: Men carry a large board just my side of Botica de Santo Teresita San Miguel de Allende at the corner of Relox and Mesones. This sixth-generation-owned pharmacy is a step back in time.



When one enters the Botica de San Miguel de Allende, one sees shelves full of porcelain jars called, botamenes, which contain the ingredients of the medicine formulas that only apothecaries know.

This dear old business is being encroached by high-end retail shops, 5-star hotels, and 4-star restaurants. I don't know how much longer they will continue to be in business, but let's hope, for a long time.



The famous Farmacia perro, pharmacy dog, greets customers from her perch on the counter top.



Thank you, Brian, for investigating the pharmacy and its latest beloved dog.



Chefs at Nicasio, a favorite little, hard-to-find, upstairs, restaurant, on Hidalgo.



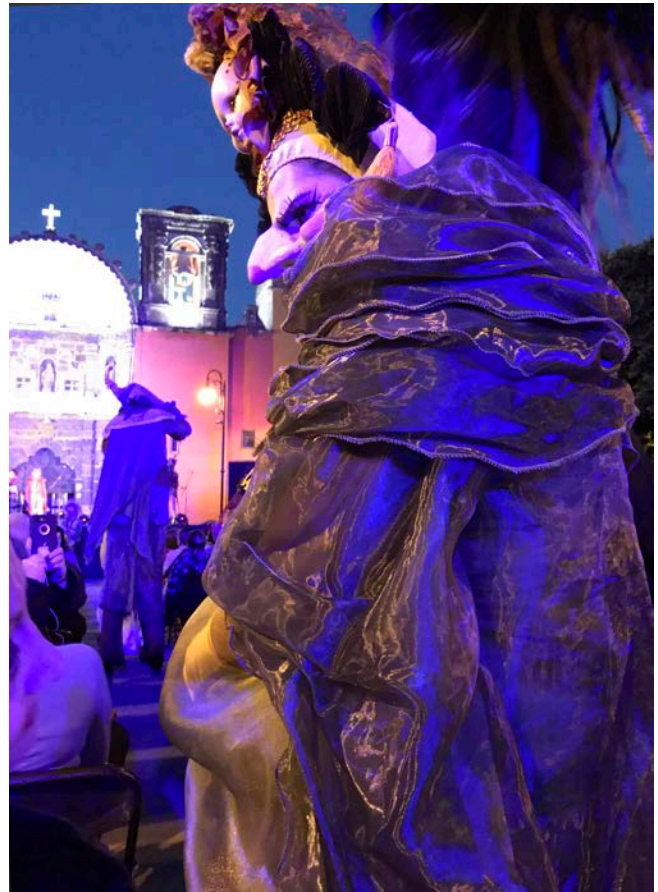
Sunset on Pila Seca



7:19PM: Dancers perform in front of the Parroquia as part of the 250th Anniversary of Ignacio Allende's birth!

JAN. 24, 2019, THURSDAY, 10:27AM: According to my Apple weather app, our weather will be sunny today, and, we actually have respectable air quality for the first time since we arrived! Until now, the app has said "Unhealthy Air Quality." The app says SMA is sunny and 56 degrees currently. Chesterfield's air quality is "moderate" and, it is 29 degrees. Check out this app: [AirVisual](#) to see what the air is like in your town.

Brian reports that seventy percent of gas stations in Guanajuato have no fuel! About a week after we arrived we noticed lines of cars that were blocks long when we had to pass that way.



6:42PM: An eleven-piece band enlivens Plaza Civica! As musicians entertain, giant paper mache' mojigangas parade on stilts! The band plays everything from "Jingle Bells" to "tango!" I retire early; a cold is trying to get me.



Danish collectors, Susanne and Finn, post on Facebook that they just received their "Cozy"! Thank you!!!

Now is the time to order your "Cozy" in Smooth, Long or Wire coat!



Neti-Pot

JAN. 26, 2019, SATURDAY, 2:56PM: After spending most of yesterday in bed, my cold is better. I cleanse my sinuses with Brian's Neti-Pot and go back to bed. Brian brings dinner from El Pagaso: 2 tortilla soups; tuna, rice and deep green leafy veggies for me, and beef kabobs for him. What a guy! Thank you, Brian!!!

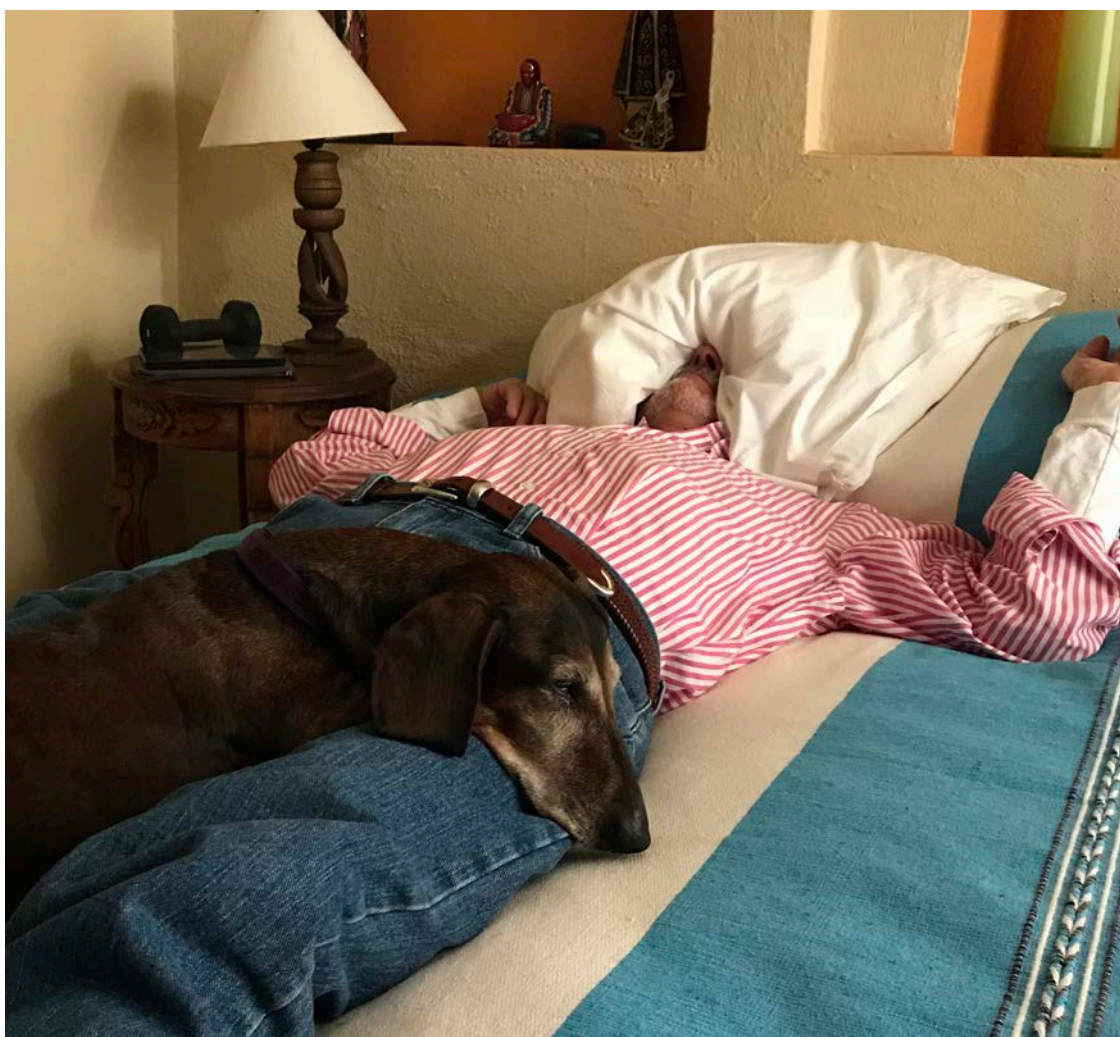
A great tutorial about using a Neti-pot is on Dr. Mercola's site:

<https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2009/05/26/nasal-irrigation-spring-cleaning-for-your-nose.aspx>

cheers to your clean nose!



JAN. 27, 2019, 1:10PM: Brian surprises me with a beautiful box of chocolates, just what the doctor ordered for a cold. ;-)) He means well. ;-))



1:24PM: It's naptime for the boys. Beau will be 14 in early March.

Beau's New Treats

JAN. 28, 2019: I purchase Cañada de la Virgen "Treats - Pet Jerky" for Beau at Via Organica, a small organic food market. I check out their website, www.canadadelavirgen.mx and find everything GOOD!

What does it cost? 150 grams of organic beef jerky is \$195 pesos. This equates to 1/3 pound for \$10.25US. The bag is bigger and fuller than the bag of freshly baked grain treats I have been giving. Plus, after about 18 years of feeding biologically appropriate raw food to our furry friends, it finally took my friend and dog guru Charlotte Peltz to suggest I feed jerky for treats! Thank you, Charlotte! I discover that Chewy's offers a Pet Jerky, but have not yet looked into the ingredient list.

To learn about biologically appropriate raw food, please read Charlotte's articles here: <http://www.joybeckner.com/In-Touch/charlotte-peltz-articles.htm>

JAN. 31, 2019, THURSDAY:

Day Seven: Adíos, COLD! Thank you, Netí-pot!!!



Tuck-pointing, Mexican style



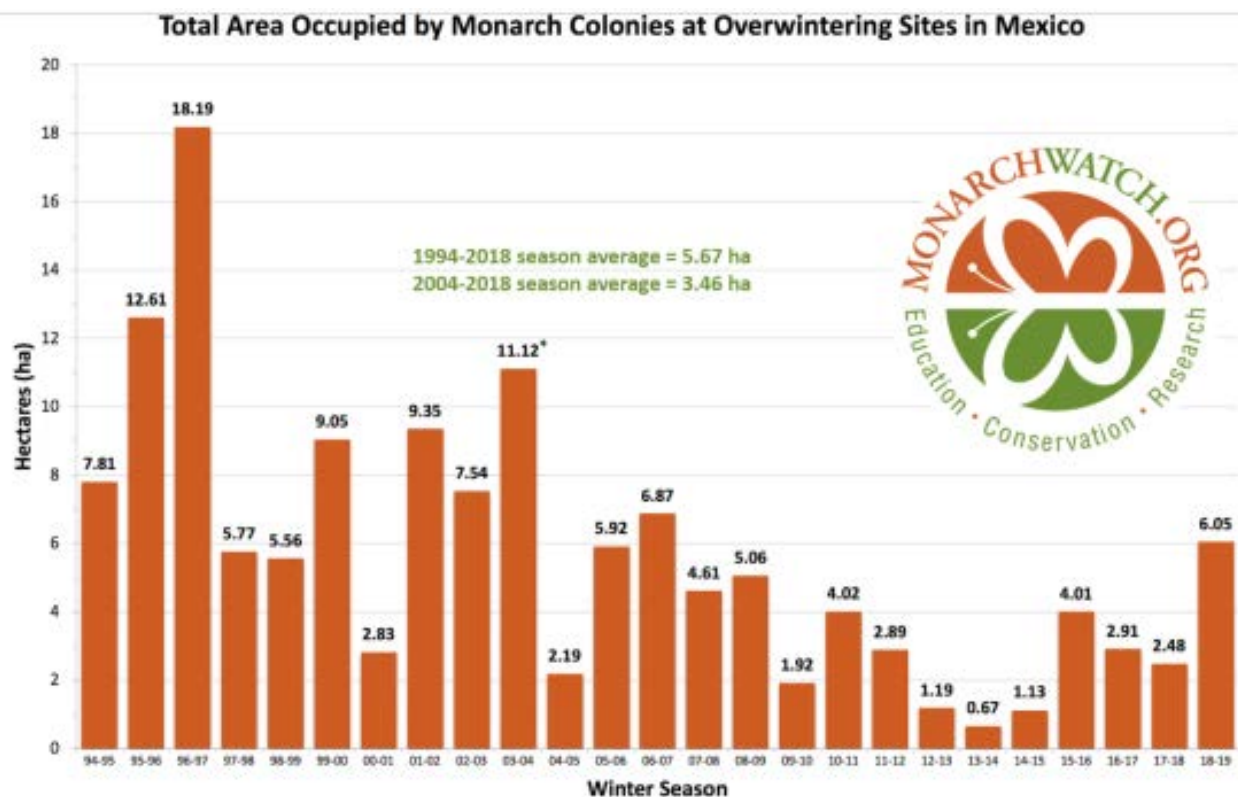


MEMBER UPDATE



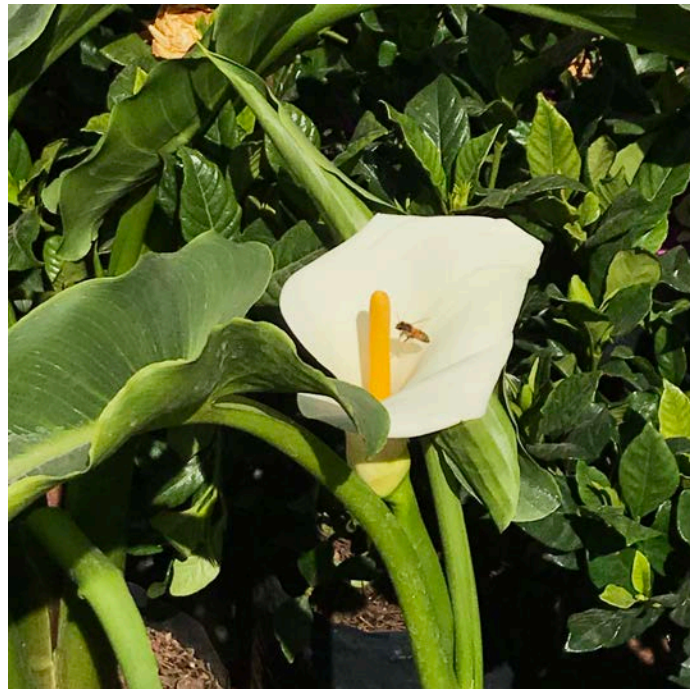
FEBRUARY 2, 2019: World Wildlife Federation reports Monarch butterflies are recovering! We have quite a way to get back to 1996-97 figures, but monarch populations are growing!

According to the latest survey, the area of forest occupied by hibernating monarch butterflies in Mexico has increased by 144% in relation to last year—the biggest increase in the past 12 years. While experts cheer the news, they also warn that it doesn't mean that monarch populations are stable. Monarch butterflies continue to face threats such as climate change, forest degradation in Mexico where monarchs hibernate, and milkweed depletion along their migratory route.



*Please, plant milkweed!
Help monarchs multiply back to their 1996-97 numbers!*

FEB. 3, 2019: It is laundry day – and – the day I set up my “studio” to start work on “Cozy” Long! My computer is clean of duplicates, so, I am ready to upgrade my 2010 MacBook Pro when we get home.





FEB. 6, 2019, 12:42PM: On my walk to Mercado Sano for salad goodies, I visit Candelaria, the annual weeklong plant sale in Parque Juarez. Growers from near and far offer everything from Bougambilia to Calla Lilies, to fresh herbs. This is a breath of fresh air!!!



1:03PM: I turn the corner from Grillo to Mesquite, and find six sleeping street dogs. These sweeties came up to me looking for love and oh, how I wish I could have taken them in. The black one walking toward me gently jumped and put his feet on my leg. "Down" and he was off! He knew. They drink water from the street. Mind you, this is on one of the nicer streets in one of San Miguel's nicest neighborhoods, Guadiana.

Three of the dogs walk to the sunny side of Mesquite to continue their naps. They settle too far apart for a good photo.

FEB. 8, 2019: Wilhelm Defoe is phenomenal in his role as Vincent Van Gogh in *At Eternities Gate*.

FEB. 12, 2019: I walk to El Pegaso for two days worth of soup. Brian now has a cold. Oh, was he good to me when I had my cold a couple of weeks ago! I believe these are the first colds either of us have endured in decades!

FEB. 13, 2019: Brian's brother writes that Hospice thinks their mother is shutting down. She will remain in bed for a while.





Happy Valentine's Day!



FEB. 16, 2019: Today the apartment temperature is up to 70 degrees and the outside temperature is 85! Summer is with us, at least temporarily!

Ewww! Beau has diarrhea. My dog guru, Charlotte Peltz recommended I give him water but no food for 24 hours to let his gut rest. Then, I should feed gently cooked chicken breast with white rice in small meals, four times a day until his stool is normal. Then, I should ease him into his regular diet. Okay...



4:32PM: This pet rooster is across the street as I walk down San Francisco to Canal to buy organic chicken breasts from Roque, owner of Polleria Canal. These are for Beau. The uphill climb is appreciably slower. ;-D

Happy 98th Birthday, Jeanne Beckner!

FEB. 19, 2019: I gather from Brian's brother Charles that Jeanne is hanging in, though she is not aware of much around her. Hospice cares for her basic needs. Jeanne's mom lived until three weeks before her 100th birthday.

Anti-biotics are MAGICO! Yesterday, Dr. Ricardo came to the apartment to examine Beau. He gave him two shots, at least one of which was an anti-biotic. Plus, we have six days of antibiotic tablets, all for \$800 pesos, which is \$41.55US. This morning, Beau's stool was 95% normal. He will get chicken breast, pumpkin and white rice for a couple more days and then I will gradually reintroduce his regular food. Yay, Beau!



upcoming Exhibitions

MARCH 29 – 31, 2019 - "Lord of the Couch" MW, has been accepted into "New Dimensions" a National Juried Art Three Dimensional Exhibition hosted by the Vero Beach Art Club. The show will be at Marsh Island Club House, 9091 Marsh Island Drive, Vero Beach, FL 32963.

MAY 2019 - Dachshund Club of America National Specialty, Purina Farms, Gray Summit, MO.

THRU MARCH 2020 - Sculptureworks, Inc., Watauga Public Library, Watauga, TX.

THRU MAY 2020 - Art on the Avenues, Wenatchee, WA.



"There is no medicine like hope,
no incentive so great,
and no tonic so powerful
as expectation of something tomorrow."
Orison Swett Marden

Thank you for being in my life.

please keep in touch.

stay healthy!
Joy

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