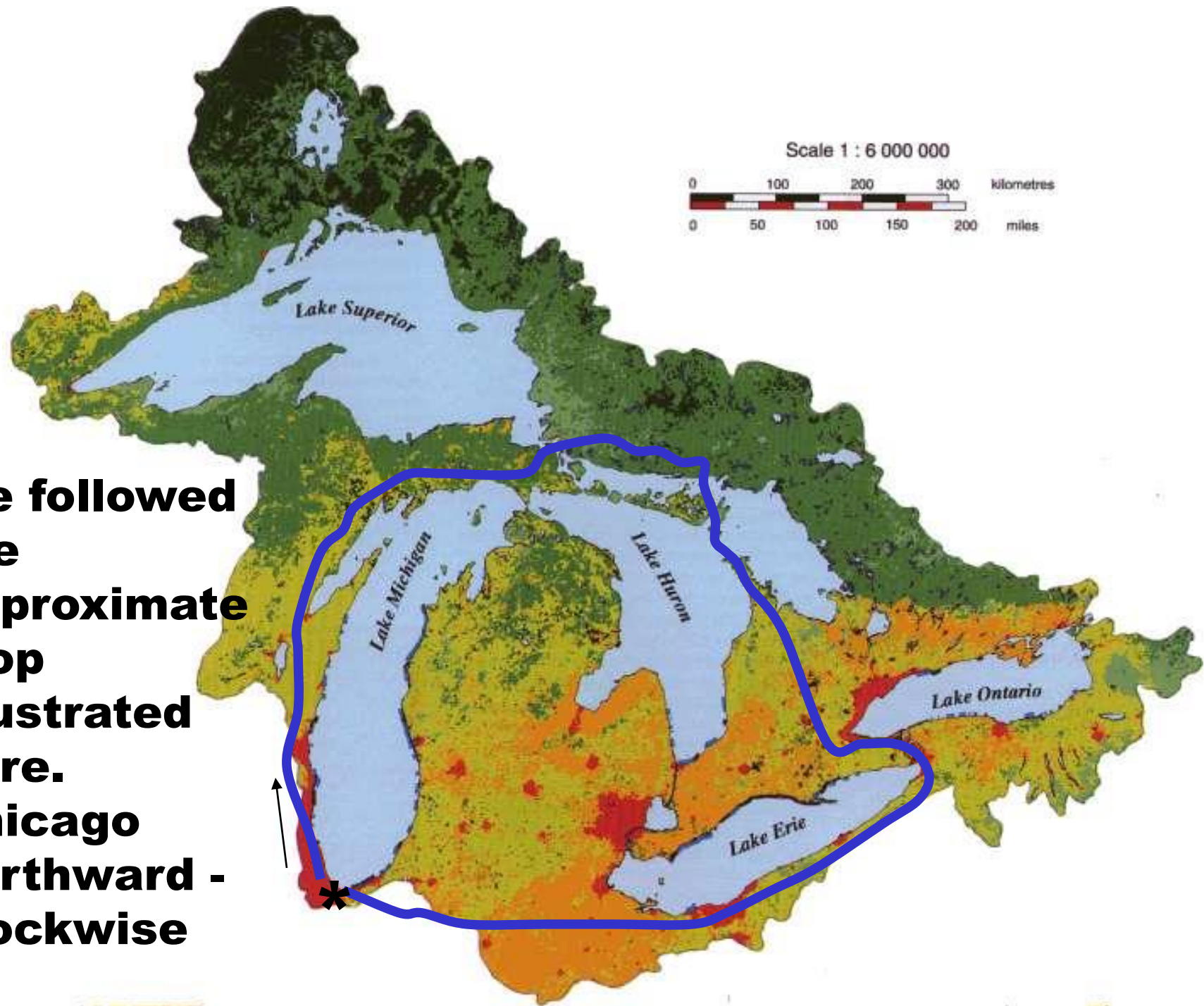




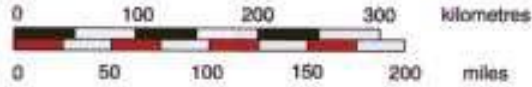
Ed & Rob's

Great Lakes Adventure

July 7-13, 2008



Scale 1 : 6 000 000



**We followed
the
approximate
loop
illustrated
here.
Chicago
northward -
clockwise**



**Heading to a train at
Chicago, O'Hare**



Day 1: 7/7/08

Our 6 a.m. flight from Austin to Chicago didn't allow us time for a pre-flight beer... but pre and post flight coffee. By 9 or so we were in "our element" – train riding with a good book. Here from O'Hare heading downtown.


**Catchin the bus
down to the
Museum of
Science &
Industry**



Museum of Science & Industry





A large submarine is displayed in a museum. The submarine is dark grey and has a conning tower at the front. It is positioned on a raised platform. In the foreground, there is a metal railing. To the left, a set of stairs leads up to the submarine. Several people are walking on the stairs and looking at the submarine. In the background, there are other museum exhibits, including a table with a chair and a large blue chair. The ceiling is high and has several spotlights. The overall lighting is dim, with the spotlights providing the main illumination.

This sub used to sit out on the east side of the museum. Now it's under ground in front of the museum

**Toys for
boys: planes,
trains, and
automobiles**





Again in our element: navigating the public transportation in Chicago this time looking for City Segway Tours. Grabbed lunch at Subway

**Getting
the
paper
work
done
before
segway
cruise**





Our next adventure of the day was a “City Segway Tour.” This company has several branches in other US cities and Europe. Our tour guide gave each person a brief lesson in negotiating one of these creatures before the 3-hour tour begins (strains of Gilligan’s Island, “A three hour tour...”)



Ed gets his lesson from tour guide (TG) across the street from the business on 400 E. Randolph in downtown Chicago



**Wooaaa
there, easy
boy**



The first leg of our journey



**First stop on
Michigan Ave. for
some historical facts**



This slide is dedicated to the fellow segway rider on our trip with NO butt, and a gorilla back. We were afraid to follow too closely in case we couldn't stop and slam our faces in that mess.







Art exhibit in Grant Park





We motored around Soldier Field before heading north along the pier. A heated contest happened to see who could go the fastest. 13.4 mph was the fastest speed by the one telling the truth



Soldier Field

**Fine HMC
specimens**



**These two
have traveled
by bus, by
rustic train in
the Czech
Republic, by
cab, by air,
and now –
segways.**





**We stopped
at the
Chicago River
before
turning in the
segways**

After ditching the segways and rating that experience a success, we set out on foot in Millennium Park in search of our first beer of the day.







**First beer of the day at
this place that had its
own putting greens**

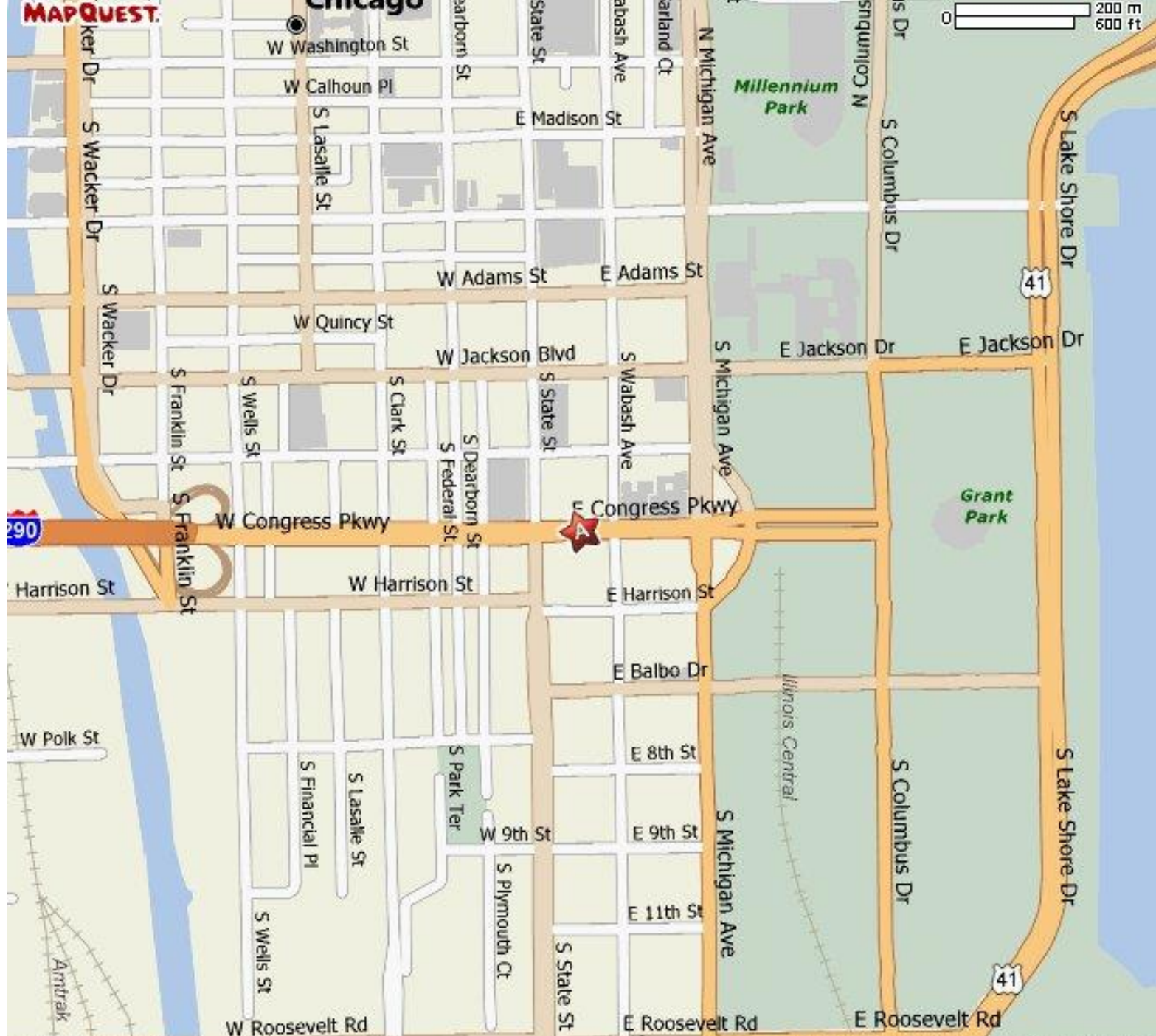


**And a right tasty beer
it was too**



▲ J. Ira & Nicki Harris Family Hostel

The next mission was to find our hostel and check in. No problem





**We were plumb tuckered out
after going nonstop since we
got up about 4 a.m.**

**Now to find
some grub
& beers.
Went
somewhere
up the
street**



**After some
dinner we
had beers
and listened
to a blues
band play at
BUDDY
GUY'S
LEGENDS 754
S. Wabash.
Very
enjoyable –
both the beer
and the
music**



**After this it was
back to the hostel
for some much-
needed sleep**



Day 2 - 7-8-08

Chicago to Manistique

**This was our
route on this
day**



Our day started with complimentary breakfast at the hostel before going back to O'Hare to get the rent car





through Wed, July 8.
Northbound Red Line trains

JACKSON 2155-2170
BLUE LINE TO O'HARE

J
Jackson
to O'Hare

KISS YOUR OLD REFRIGERATOR GOODBYE.
SWAP IT FOR NEW! MESSAGING LIFE.
Circuit

**Negotiating
public
transportation
in Chicago**

DRY
STANDPIPE
C.F.D.
ZONE 1

← Door 1

Hotel/Motel
Shuttle



**O'Hare eye
candy**



**Got rent
car and
headed
north.
Stopped for
lunch in
Milwaukee
with
SuAnne, R
& J's niece
and her son
Gus**



We were quickly running out of towns in Wisconsin to drink a beer – to add the state to our list... We found this cozy place in Peshtigo, WI. Ed asked for a “local” beer. We got Bud. The TV had John Wayne movies on.



Had to stop off the road to “pay rent” on Bob’s beer. Nice little park with Lake Michigan just beyond the trees. Decided to keep driving awhile.

Got to Manistique, MI where we found a cheap room and came back up the highway to this BIG BOY smorgasbord for a good dinner. Beer & laughs were still ahead

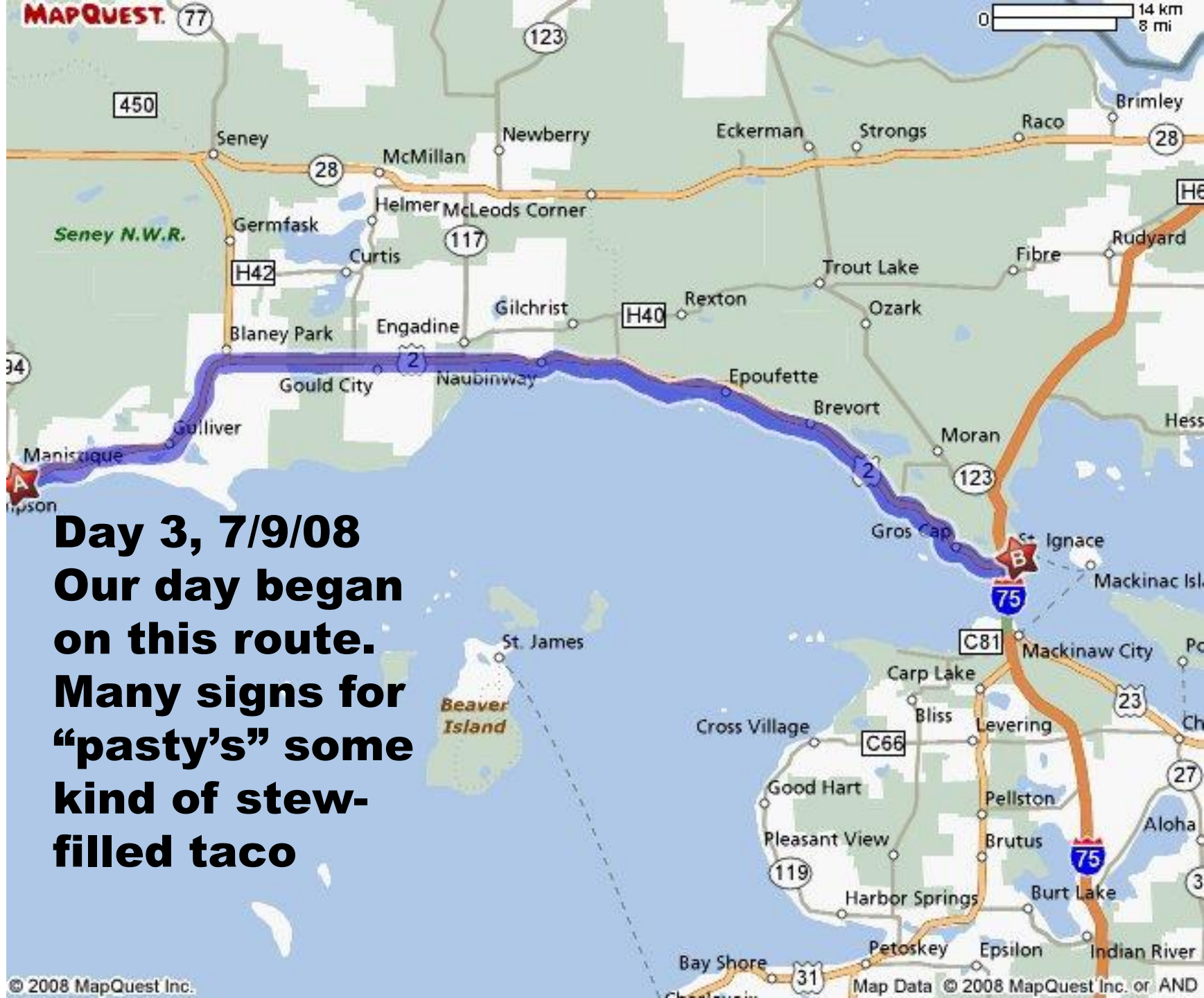


Beer at Marley's



Beer was cold, as was the air temp up here. A local guy sold us raffle tickets to benefit a sick person. While talking to him, Ed accidentally picks up the guy's beer which was near his own, and began drinking it. Had some laughs over that..





Day 3, 7/9/08
Our day began
on this route.
Many signs for
“pasty’s” some
kind of stew-
filled taco

Beautiful view along the lake on this leg of the trip

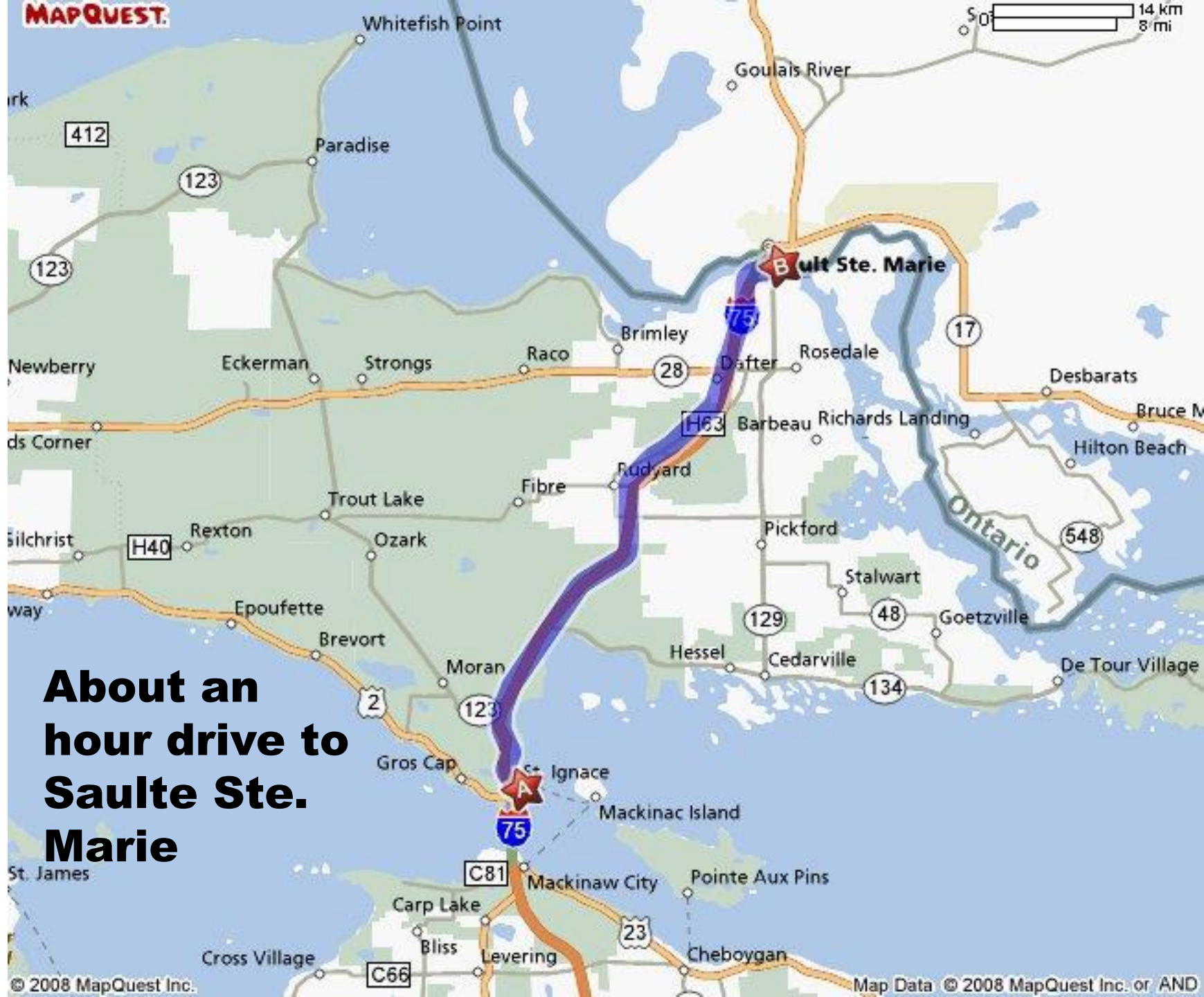


We considered driving on Mackinac Bridge to Mackinaw City, or Mackinac Island, but we had a ferry reservation and Soo locks before that. Time was short.



**St. Ignace, MI. We were
about to Canada**





**About an
hour drive to
Sault Ste.
Marie**

**The Soo
Locks in
Sault Ste.
Marie in
Michigan and
Ontario.
These locks
connect
Lake
Superior to
the lower
Great Lakes.**



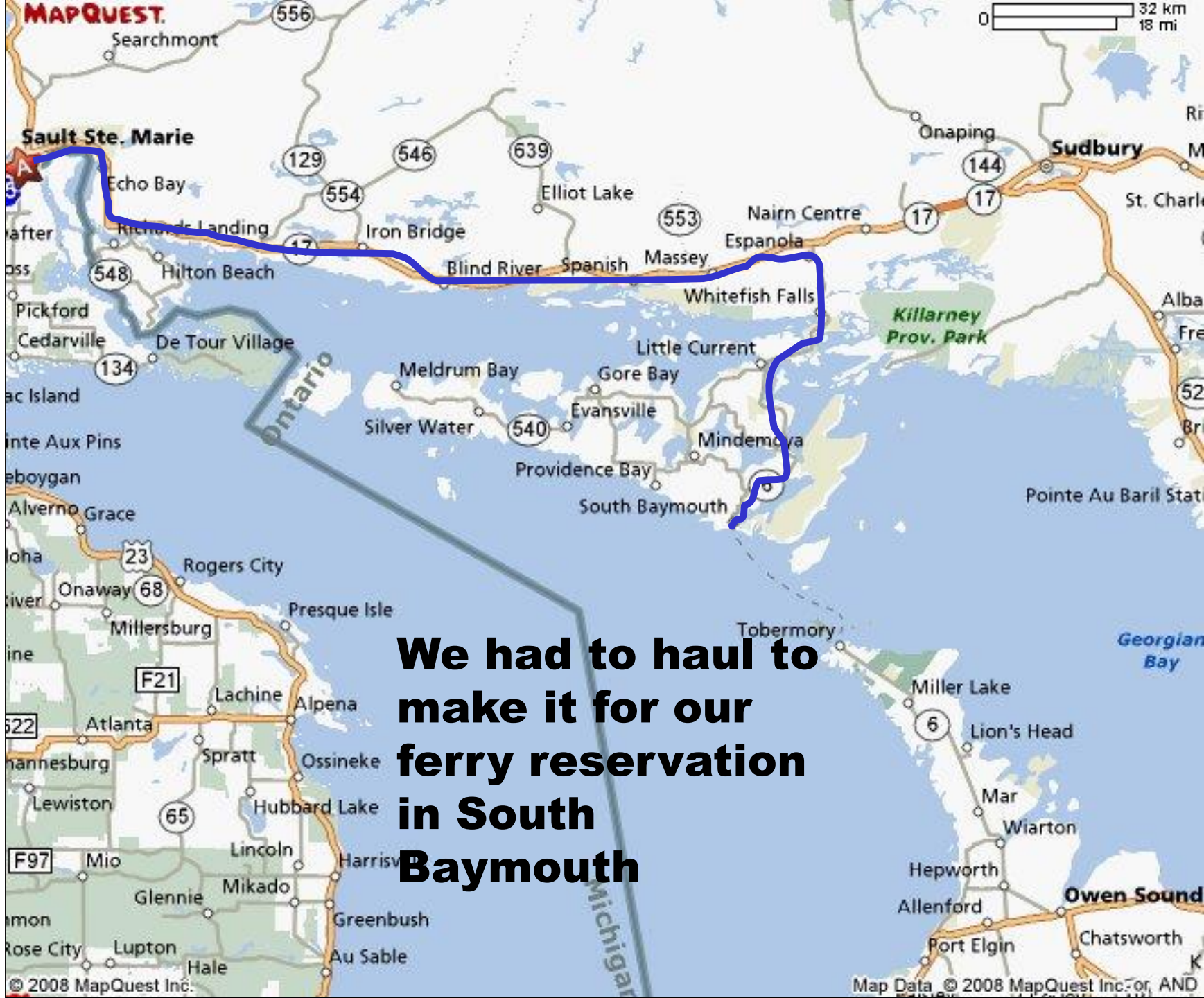





**Doing the
tourist thing
in Sault Ste.
Marie. Ate
lunch at a
Whataburger
before
moving on**

**We crossed the border into
Canada at exactly 1 p.m. on 7-
9-08. First time in our young
52-year histories.**

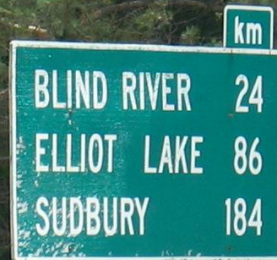




**We had to haul to
make it for our
ferry reservation
in South
Baymouth**

A dirt road winds through a dense forest. In the distance, a dark-colored truck is parked on the road. The foreground features a tree trunk with red markings and lush green foliage. The ground is covered in grass and dirt. The sky is visible through the trees in the background.

**First roadside
urination along
side Hwy 17 in
Canada**



A green road sign with white text and a 'km' marker, set against a background of dense green trees. The sign lists distances to three locations: Blind River (24 km), Elliot Lake (86 km), and Sudbury (184 km).

	km
BLIND RIVER	24
ELLIOT LAKE	86
SUDBURY	184

Had to make tracks.... And the speed limit was slower than we hoped.



**We raced down
Highway 6 south
of Espanola for
our 6 p.m. ferry
reservation**

With less than 3 minutes to spare we boarded last run of the day (6pm) for the hour and 45 minute ride on the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun (Big Canoe) at South Baymouth headed for Tobermory. This modern vessel has all the GPS navigation systems, unlike the early days of the ferry line when it said that fog bound captains would locate land by the smell of balsam fir and cedar trees.





**Travel by
ferry**

Michigan

Map Data © 2008 MapQuest Inc. or AND



RESTAURANT
FRESH WHITE FISH

ENCLOSURE

RESTAURANT









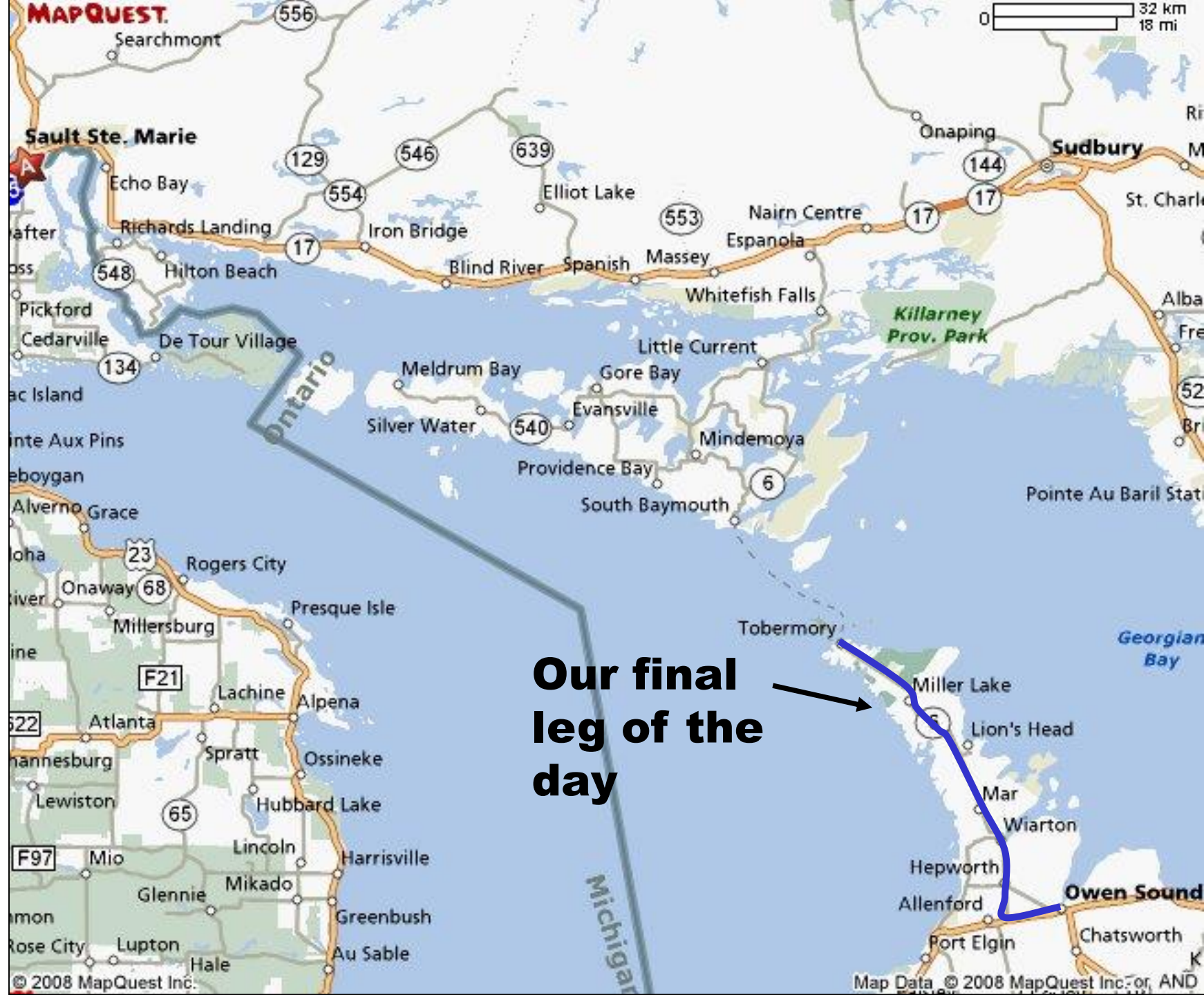




Down in the belly of the vessel by the car just before arriving at Tobermory



About to arrive



**Our final
leg of the
day**

We arrived in Owen Sound at about dusk, found a cheap hotel, then got directions to Shorty's for beer and a good, square meal.



**Our first
beer of the
day at
Shorty's
before our
meals
were
served**





We walked from Shorty's two blocks to Jason's for a "nachtbier" or two. This was going to be bizarre. When we arrived, the two barmaids were out on this step having a smoke. They started back in when we walked up. Not seeing us, they slammed the door on Rob, then apologized profusely. All was forgiven with a free beer.



These ladies were interesting, as were some of the other bar patrons. We added an American touch to the atmosphere.

**Contribute to their
annual office party –
the “beer bitch” fund**



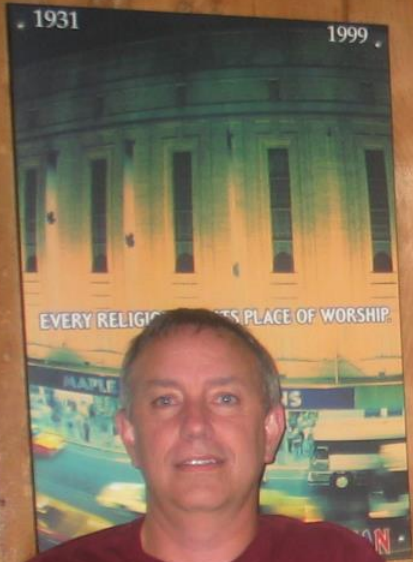


JASON'S

2nd annual
BEER
BITCH
FUND
\$2.00 A*
10/10

CANN

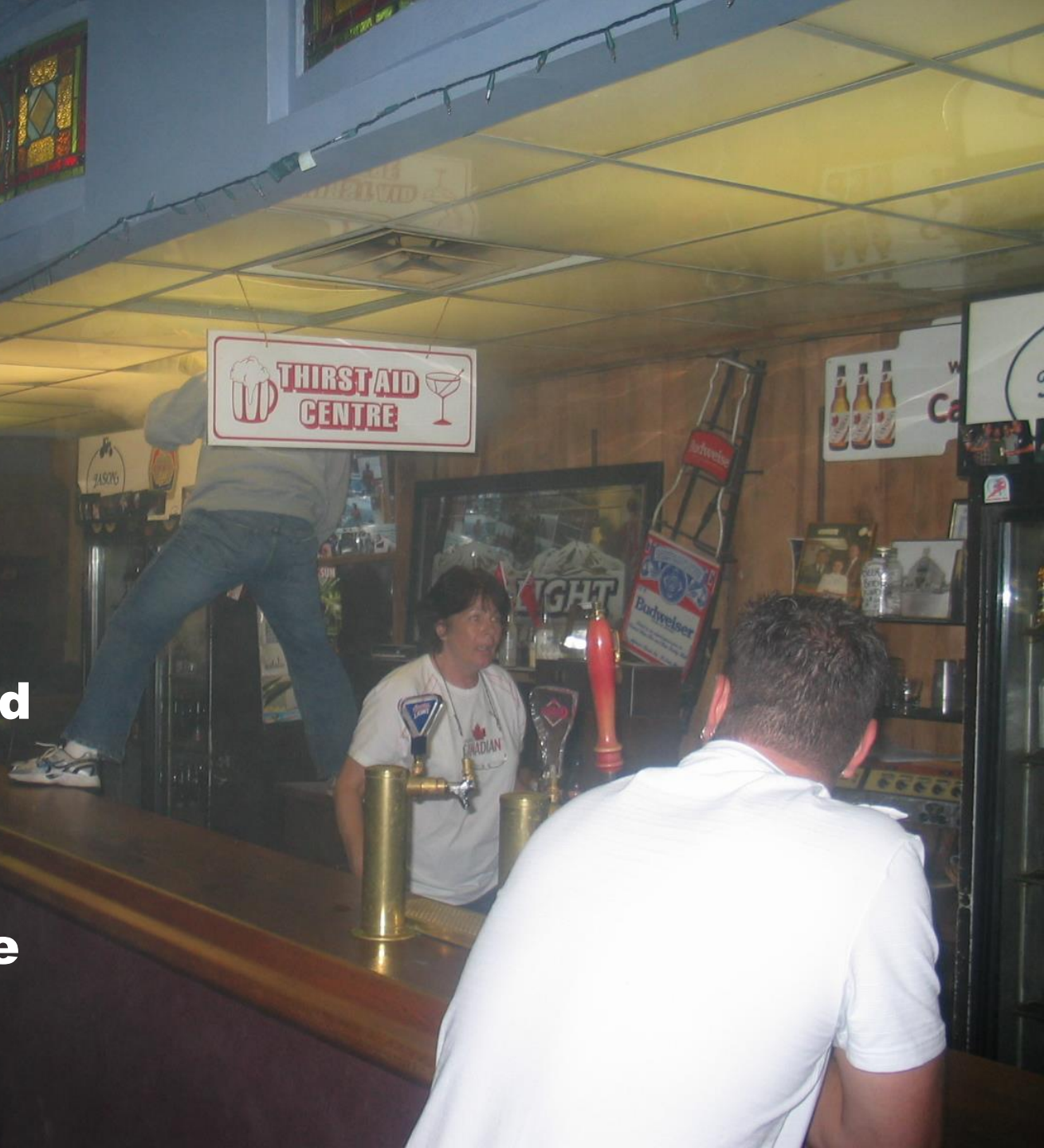




Kinda fun visiting with people you know you'll never see again. Some interesting folks out there



Then it happened. It began with a burning smell, then smoke began coming out of the light fixtures above the bar. We finished our beer and headed outside before the fire dept arrived and moved everyone to the patio outside





THIRST AID CENTRE

JAS

Proct & GAMMA

Budweiser



OWEN SOUND
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES



**OWEN SOUND
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**



We decided it was time to walk to the car and head to the room. We walked by the patio and bid farewell to the bar evacuees





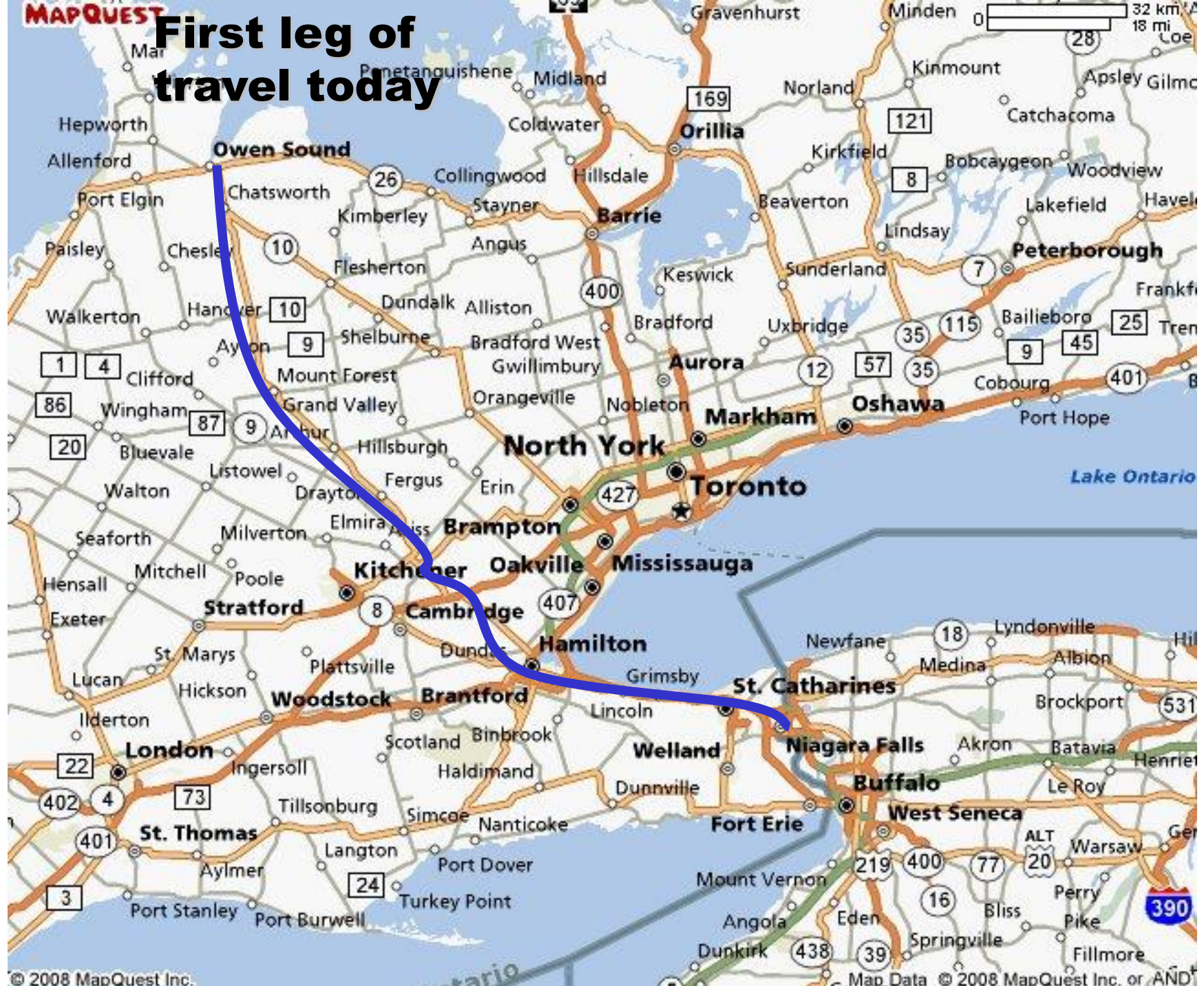
Quick picture of Shorty's where we ate dinner earlier. We had parked across the street. That ends day 3

Day 4, 7\10\08



We left the Pinecrest Motel and ate a hearty breakfast at a nearby café before continuing south.

First leg of travel today



**Fields of green &
yellow**





Everybody should see Niagara Falls at least once. The sheer force of the water is amazing.





THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

In 1885, the Province of Ontario established The Niagara Parks Commission as part of an international effort to preserve the natural scenery around Niagara Falls. Originally, the Commission included Colonel Casimir Gzowski, Chairman, John W. Langmuir and J. Grant Macdonald, and was responsible for making the park self-financing while keeping admission free to the public. The Commissioners acquired parkland along the river to create Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, which opened on May 24, 1888. Beginning with a 62.2-hectare park, the Commission has grown to administer a world famous, 1720-hectare park along the full length of the Niagara River, nationally and provincially significant historic sites, botanical gardens, a horticultural school and recreation areas, while remaining financially self-sufficient.

Ontario Heritage Trust, a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario

COMMISSION DES PARCS DU NIAGARA

En 1885, la province de l'Ontario créa la Commission des parcs du Niagara. Cette mesure s'inscrivait dans le cadre d'un effort international visant à protéger la beauté naturelle des environs des chutes Niagara. La Commission originale comptait comme membres le colonel Casimir Gzowski, président, John W. Langmuir et J. Grant Macdonald, et avait pour mission d'assurer l'autofinancement du parc tout en permettant au public d'y avoir accès gratuitement. La Commission acquit des terrains situés le long de la rivière Niagara pour constituer le Parc de la Reine Victoria aux Chutes de Niagara qui accueillit ses premiers visiteurs le 24 mai 1888. Sous la gouverne de la Commission, ce parc s'étendant au départ sur 62,2 hectares, est devenu un parc de renom mondial de 1 720 hectares longeant toute la rivière Niagara et comptant d'importants lieux historiques nationaux et provinciaux, des jardins botaniques, une école d'horticulture et des aires récréatives. Le parc continue encore aujourd'hui de s'autofinancer.

Fiduciaire du patrimoine ontarien, un organisme à but lucratif relevant du gouvernement de l'Ontario



**Eye bleach!
Quickly!!**

**Reminds
me of girl
we saw at
beergarden
in Munich.
See inset**



**Enjoying a
quick lunch:
Sushi &
green tea**











MAID OF THE MIST cruise was an up-close experience with Niagara Falls















**A short rest under
a shade tree
before heading to a
tourist shop area
for ice cream**



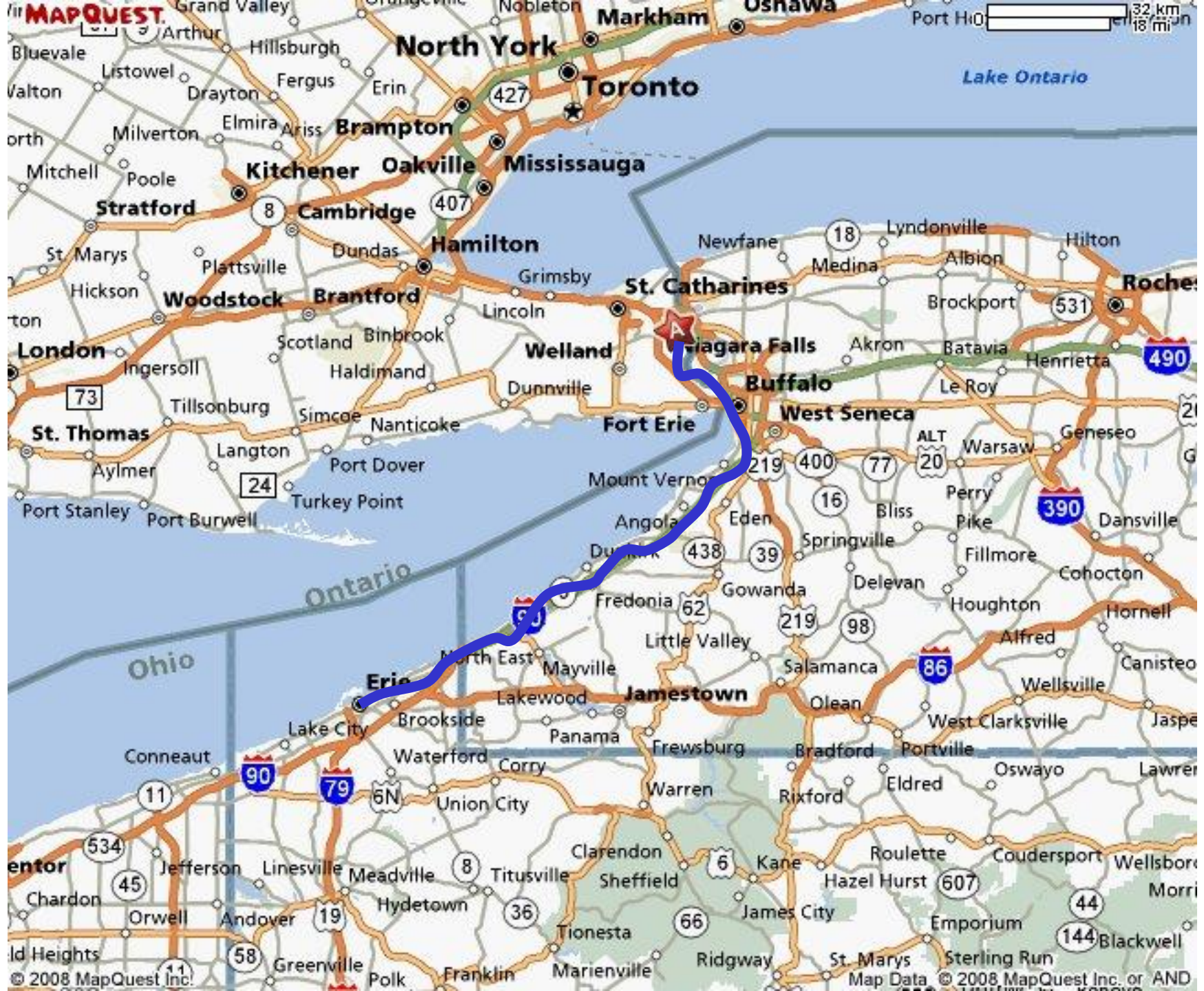


Enjoying a warm afternoon with some COWS ice cream and people-watching. Pretty interesting. Next stop, back in the USA!



Entry back into the USA at Buffalo, NY. Since we've had a beer in NY, we figured we'd stop where we hadn't had one: Pennsylvania. Erie looked as good a place as any.





**Just so happened
to be a street fair
in Erie**





LEUDE BEER
Aarssen & Pannas Prijs

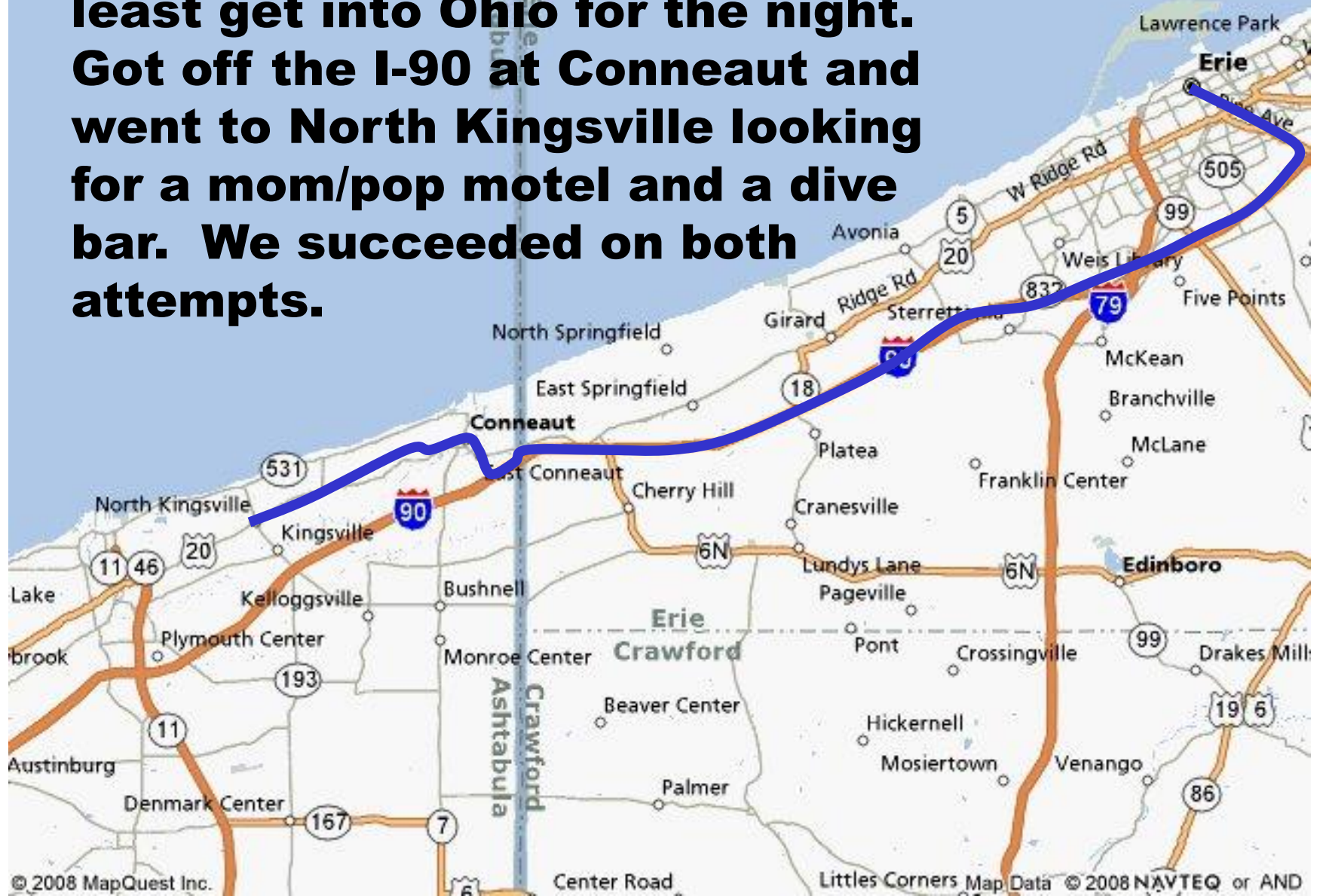


OB
M
4.7

 **ERIE**



It was dark by the time we left Erie. Got gas and decided to at least get into Ohio for the night. Got off the I-90 at Conneaut and went to North Kingsville looking for a mom/pop motel and a dive bar. We succeeded on both attempts.





So we arrive in North Kingsville about 10 pm. Check into the Hollywood Motel, then go down the road to the Breezy Inn – a hoppin dive bar that was pretty crowded. We sat at the bar. Someone’s keys were at the empty spot next to Rob. The guy came back and introduced himself to us. His name was “Bear” because he “almost” played for the Chicago Bears. This guy was a piece of work for sure. We drank a few and headed back to the room.

Day 5, 7/11/08



We checked out of the Hollywood and headed back to BREEZY INN for breakfast.



This place had a \$3.99 breakfast that would rival a \$10.99 one anywhere else. There were a couple guys at the bar drinking beer who had just gotten off the graveyard shift at a local plant.

The next leg of the trip took us to Cleveland – to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.



Rock & Roll Hall of Fame



OHIO

HISTORICAL
MARKER

BIRTHPLACE OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

When radio station WJW disc jockey Alan Freed (1921-1965) used the term "rock and roll" to describe the uptempo black rhythm and blues records he played beginning in 1951, he named a new genre of popular music that appealed to audiences on both sides of 1950s American racial boundaries—and dominated American culture for the rest of the 20th century. The popularity of Freed's nightly "Moon Dog House Rock and Roll Party" radio show encouraged him to organize the Moondog Coronation Ball—the first rock concert. Held at the Cleveland Arena on March 21, 1952, the oversold show was beset by a riot during the first set. Freed, a charter inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, moved to WINS in New York City in 1954 and continued to promote rock music through radio, television, movies, and live performances.

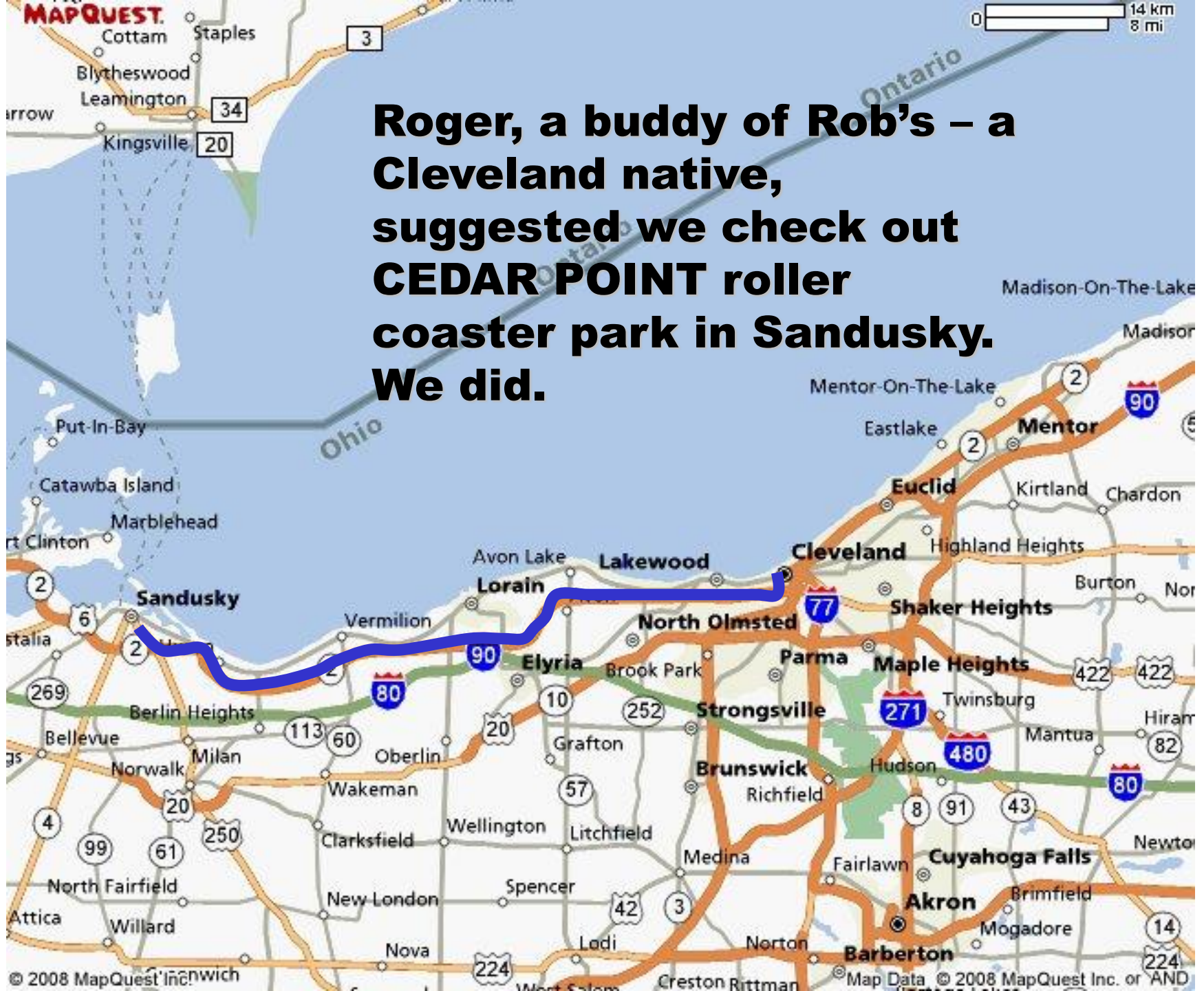


THE OHIO BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2003

46-18



Roger, a buddy of Rob's – a Cleveland native, suggested we check out CEDAR POINT roller coaster park in Sandusky. We did.



Cedar Point

Cedar Point is a 364-acre (1.47 km²) amusement park located in Sandusky, Ohio, on a narrow peninsula jutting into Lake Erie. It currently holds the world record for most roller coasters (17), one of which, *Top Thrill Dragster*, is the world's second tallest and second fastest roller coaster, reaching speeds of 120 mph (190 km/h) and a height of 420 feet (130 m). Cedar Point is also the only amusement park with four roller coasters that are taller than 200 feet (61 m). As of 2008, Cedar Point has more rides (75) than any other amusement park. It also has a mile-long white sand beach, an outdoor water park (Soak City), an indoor waterpark and hotel (Castaway Bay), two marinas, several hotels, and Challenge Park, which features attractions such as go-karts and miniature golf. Known as "America's Roller Coast", Cedar Point has been voted "Best Amusement Park in the World" by *Amusement Today* for the past eleven years.

Here is some of our dialogue after coming off a level “5” coaster:

Rob: That was awesome! How’d you like it?

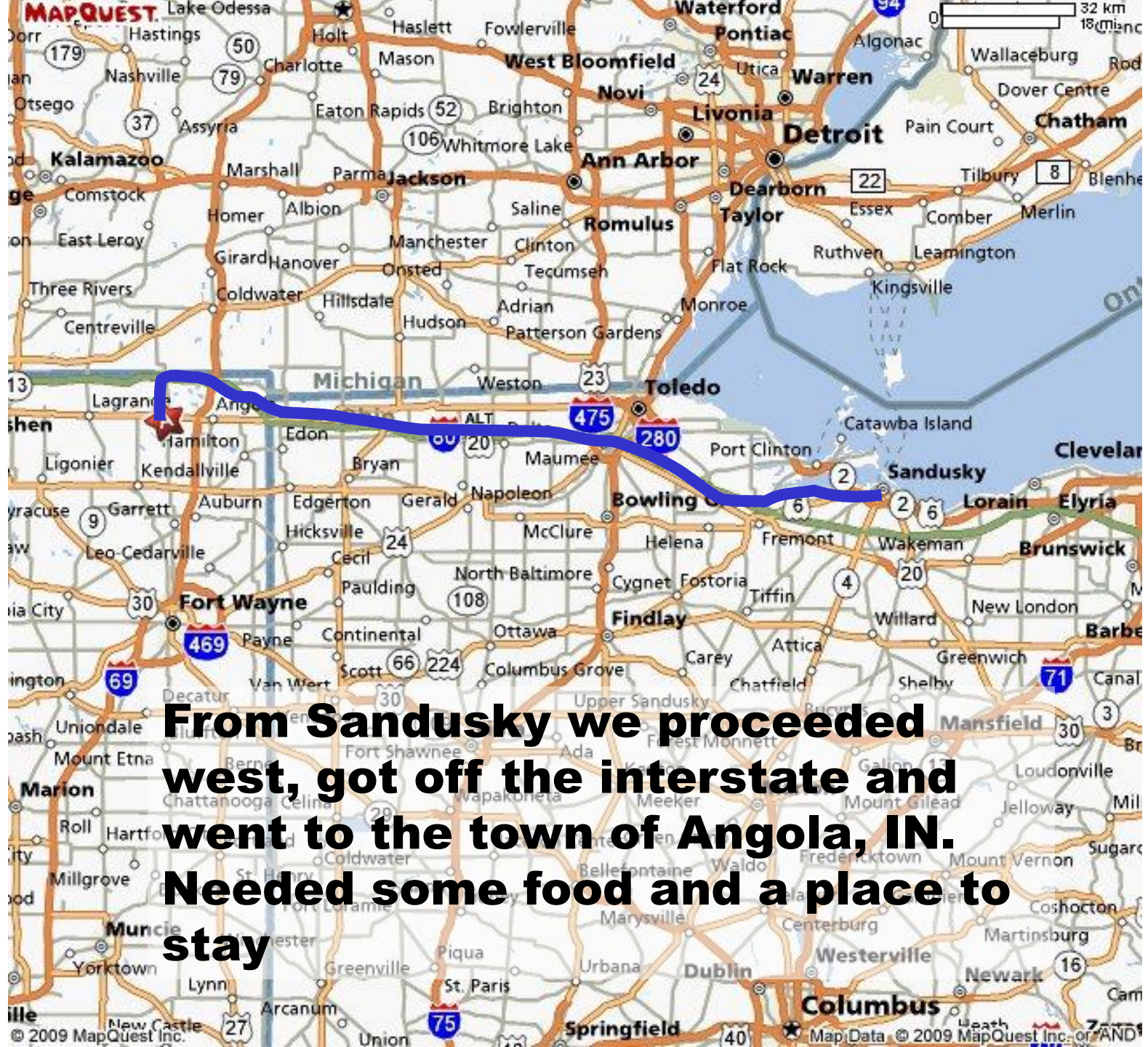
Ed: I’ll let you know tomorrow if there’s blood in my urine





By the time Rob worked up enough courage to do the Top Thrill Dragster the wait time was 1 hour, 45 minutes. This 37 second ride goes to 120 mph in 4 seconds, and is 420' tall. We opted to leave at 4 p.m. and get on into Indiana.





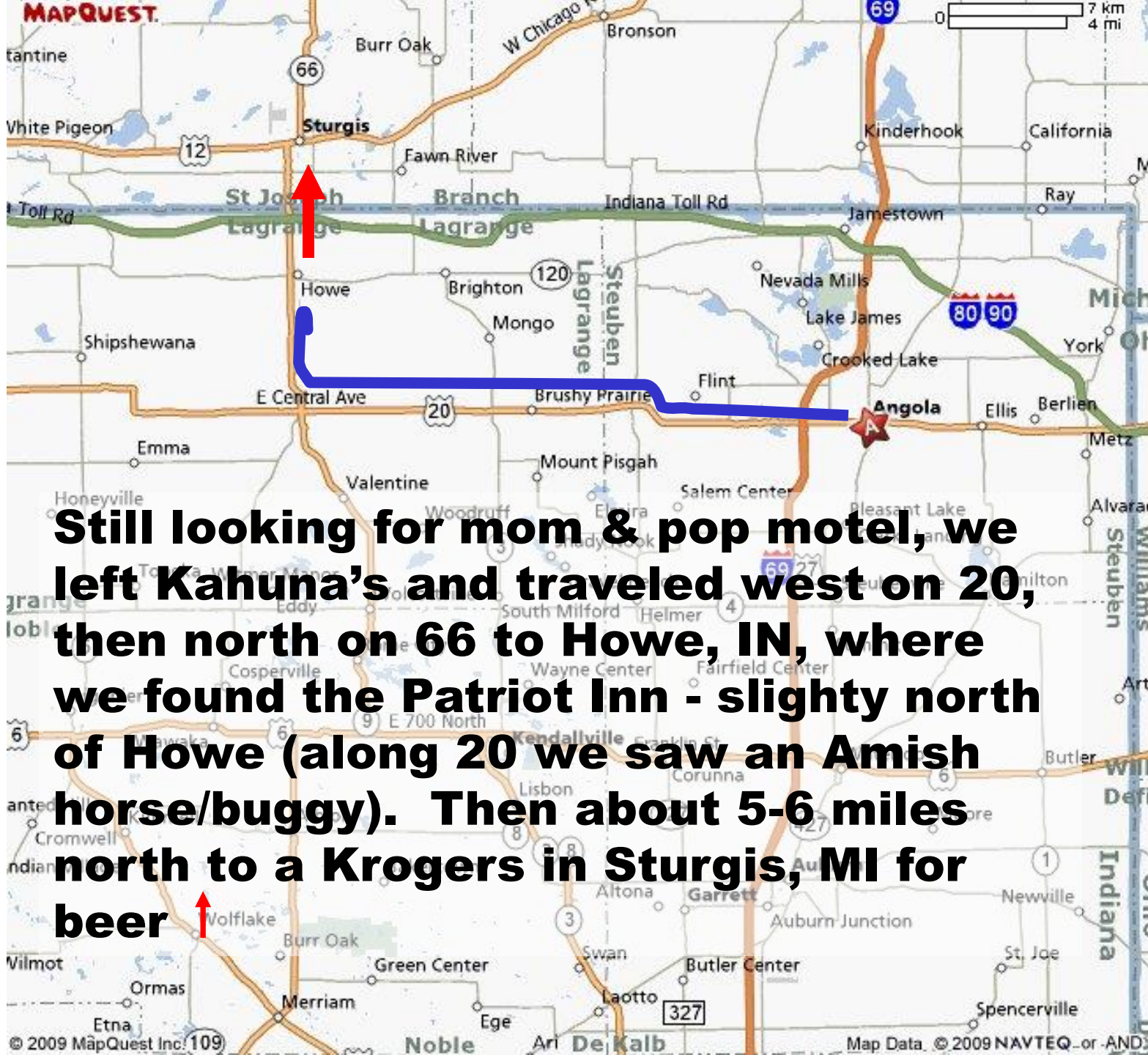
From Sandusky we proceeded west, got off the interstate and went to the town of Angola, IN. Needed some food and a place to stay

**Near the Ohio-Indiana
state line. Interesting
but blurry sunset as
we traveled 70 mph.**





We found this lovely place: 9725 US Hwy 20 W, Angola, IN. Hot pizza, cold beer. Was good. We sat at a table near the end of the bar where another “looney tunes” character like “Bear” was. Asked us if we were a “couple.” We assured him we were just friends. He also mumbled about his broken leg and not hurting any kids



Still looking for mom & pop motel, we left Kahuna's and traveled west on 20, then north on 66 to Howe, IN, where we found the Patriot Inn - slighty north of Howe (along 20 we saw an Amish horse/buggy). Then about 5-6 miles north to a Krogers in Sturgis, MI for beer

**Did the best we could.
Got a quart o' Bud and
watched Letterman &
O'Brian**



Everything in the room must have plugged into this extension cord. No, no fire hazard. It rained really hard here overnight.

Tanglwood



A map of the Chicago metropolitan area and surrounding regions in Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana. A blue line highlights a route starting from the northwest, passing through Chicago, Gary, Valparaiso, Mishawaka, and Goshen, and ending near Portage. Major highways like I-90, I-55, and I-65 are visible. The text is overlaid on the map.

Day 6 - 7/12/08. Had breakfast in Howe and did the last leg of the trip by car. Turned in the car an hour ahead of time. About 1,800 miles total, I believe.

Had the afternoon and evening in Chicago. Went to the pier, rode the big ferris wheel, just goofed around















**Had to make a token
stop at Wrigley Field.
A Cubs game
finished a few hours
before we got there.
Bars were packed,
the stench of urine
rolled from the allies**



WRI GLEY FIELD
HOME OF
CHICAGO CUBS

BANK OF AMERICA IS PROUD
TO SPONSOR THE CHICAGO CUBS

Longtime Cubs announcer, the late Harry Caray

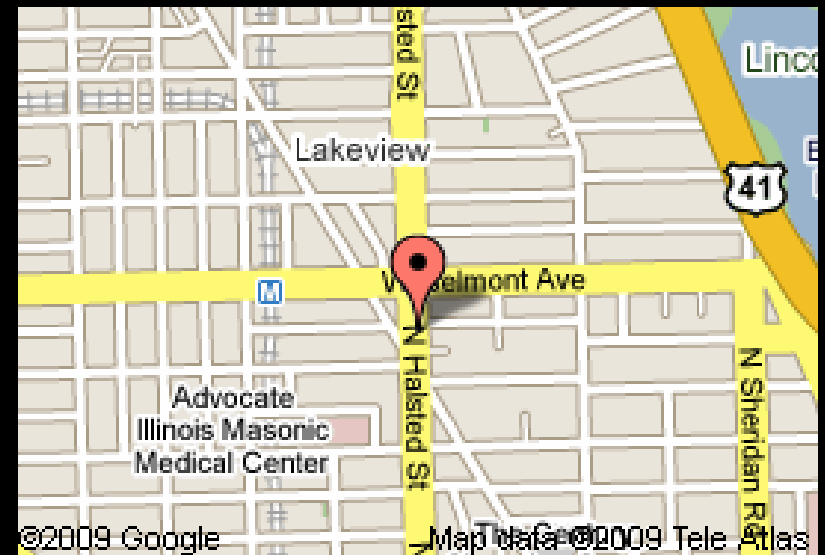


As a kid, Rob would listen to baseball on his transistor radio. At that time Harry was in his 25-year tenure in broadcasting for the Cardinals. Then he finished his career with the Cubs.



Following the Wrigley visit, we located the Briar Street Theater where we had tickets for the Blue Man Group performance. Before the show we ate and drank at Clark St. Bar

**Ecstatic is probably
an understatement.
BLUE MAN GROUP at
Briar St. Theater was
fantastic. Never a
dull moment.**



**"AN ABSOLUTELY
ECSTATIC EXPERIENCE"**
— USA Today



**Photo ops
with the
crowd**





**Final night of
the trip beers**



Night time in Chicago



HELLOVABORR



**Where
we went
for our
final beer
in
Chicago**



Casey's

We returned quite late to the hostel. We found that our room of 6 was suppose to be for guys, but they had accidentally booked some women in it. One lady in particular was not happy until we left. Rob got put in one room with other guys, Ed in a room with a German mother & son. Made for interesting story telling the next morning.



Ed's German room mates



Day 7 - 7/13/08



Not knowing when Ed was getting up and over to breakfast, Rob went on a Sunday morning walk and snapped a few final photos.



This hereby concludes GREAT LAKES 08 presentation. Again we thank our brides: Mary Kay and Joan for letting us go on these “mancations,” “guy excursions,” whatever.



Other trips these guys have made

