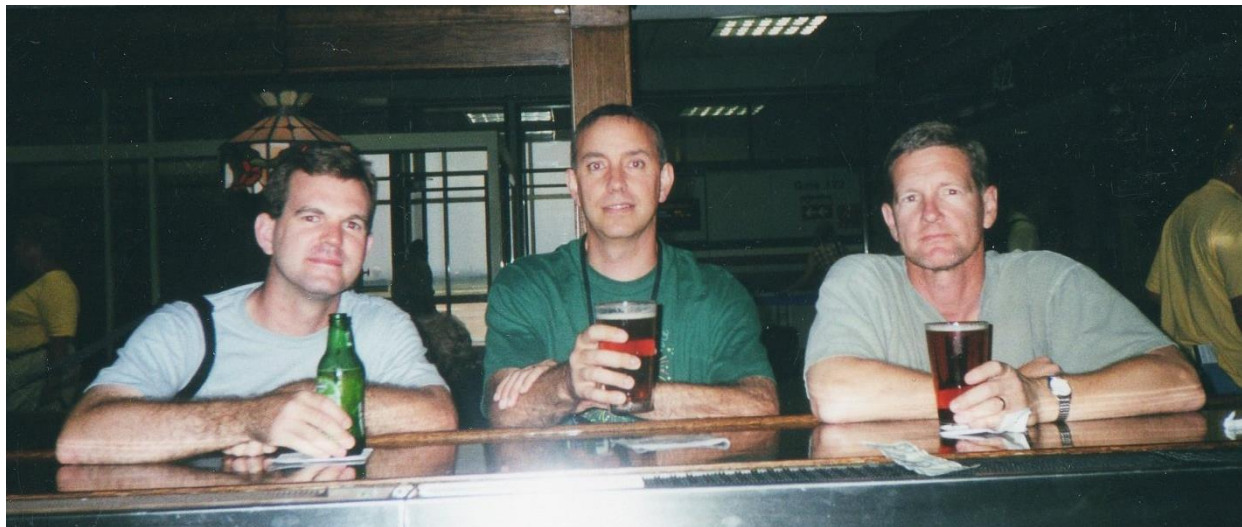
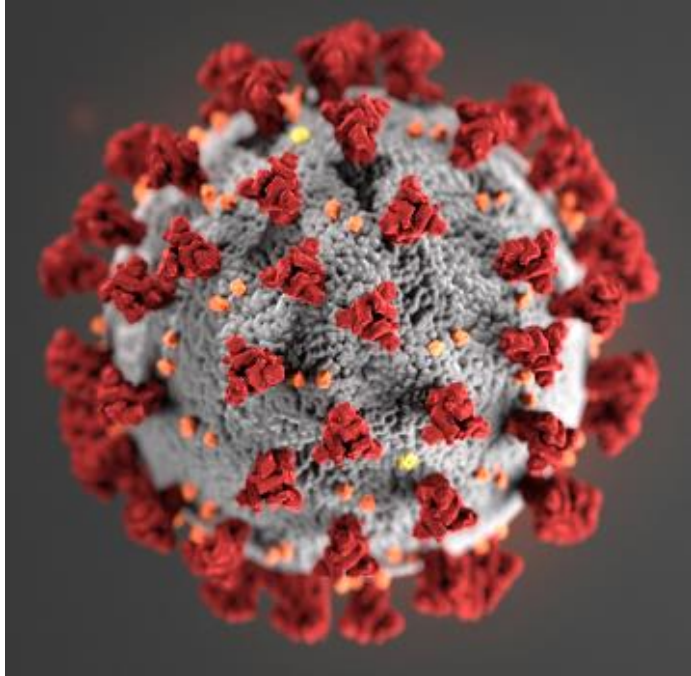


**Before we proceed to the 2020 trip, we must acknowledge the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our travels. Would have been fun to celebrate with a big European trip this year, but not in the cards. Prosit**





**Ed & Rob's  
2020  
Texas Gulf  
Coast  
Adventure  
August 4-7**



**When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the US in early 2020 we really didn't have any mancation destinations set yet. By July things looked marginally better. Not good enough to feel safe flying. Talked about driving to the World War I museum in Kansas City, MO, but then an uptick in numbers happened in that area. Then the topic of our own "back yard" the Texas Gulf came up. And that's how it happened.**



**Ed researched and found this 2 bedroom Airbnb in Ingleside, TX. 2302 Kenny Ln to be exact. Not far from the beach, but far less expensive than the high-dollar places right on the beach.**









**When Rob arrived at 5:21p, Ed greeted him with a cold beer. Now THAT'S a friend you can't be without!**

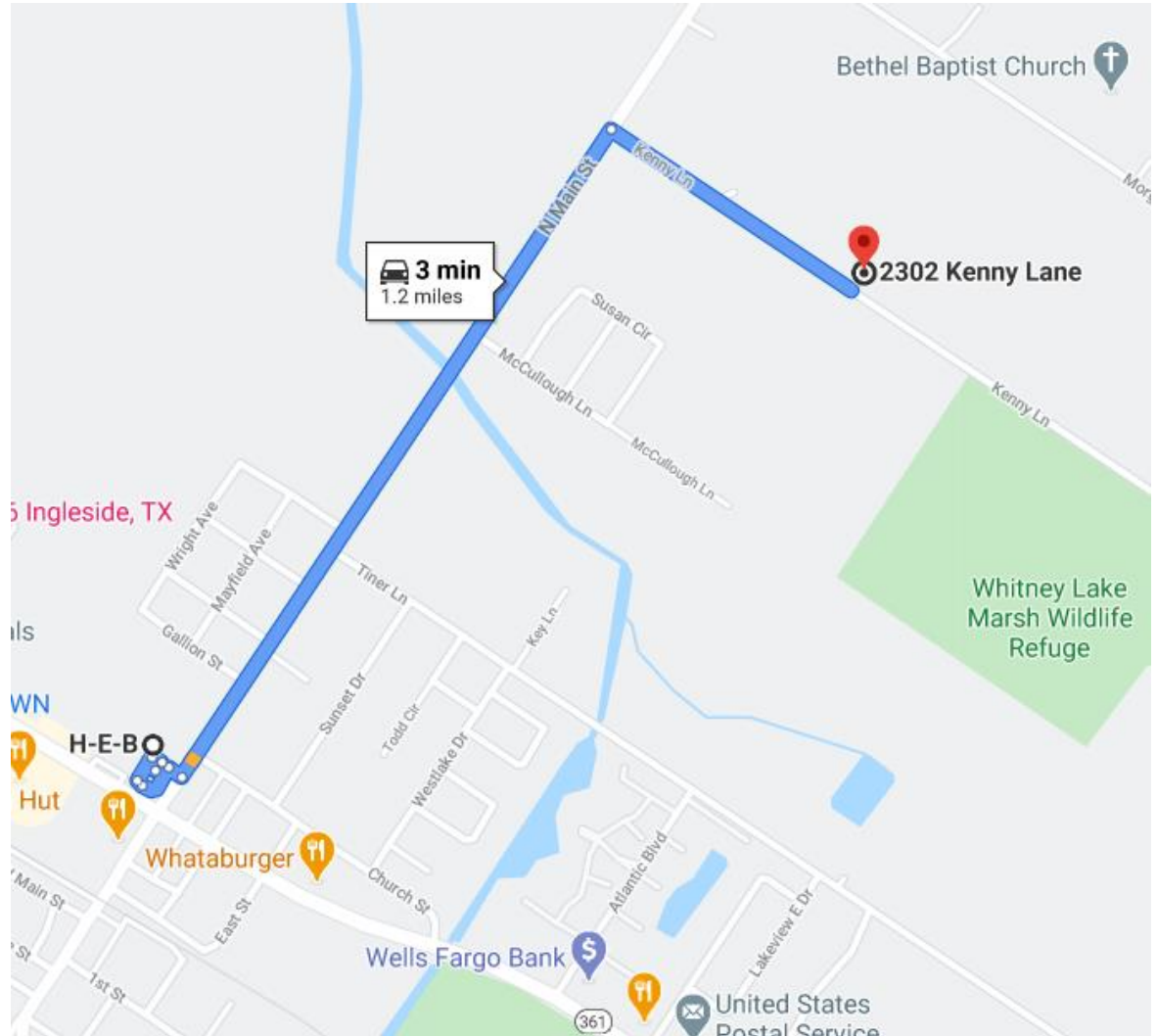




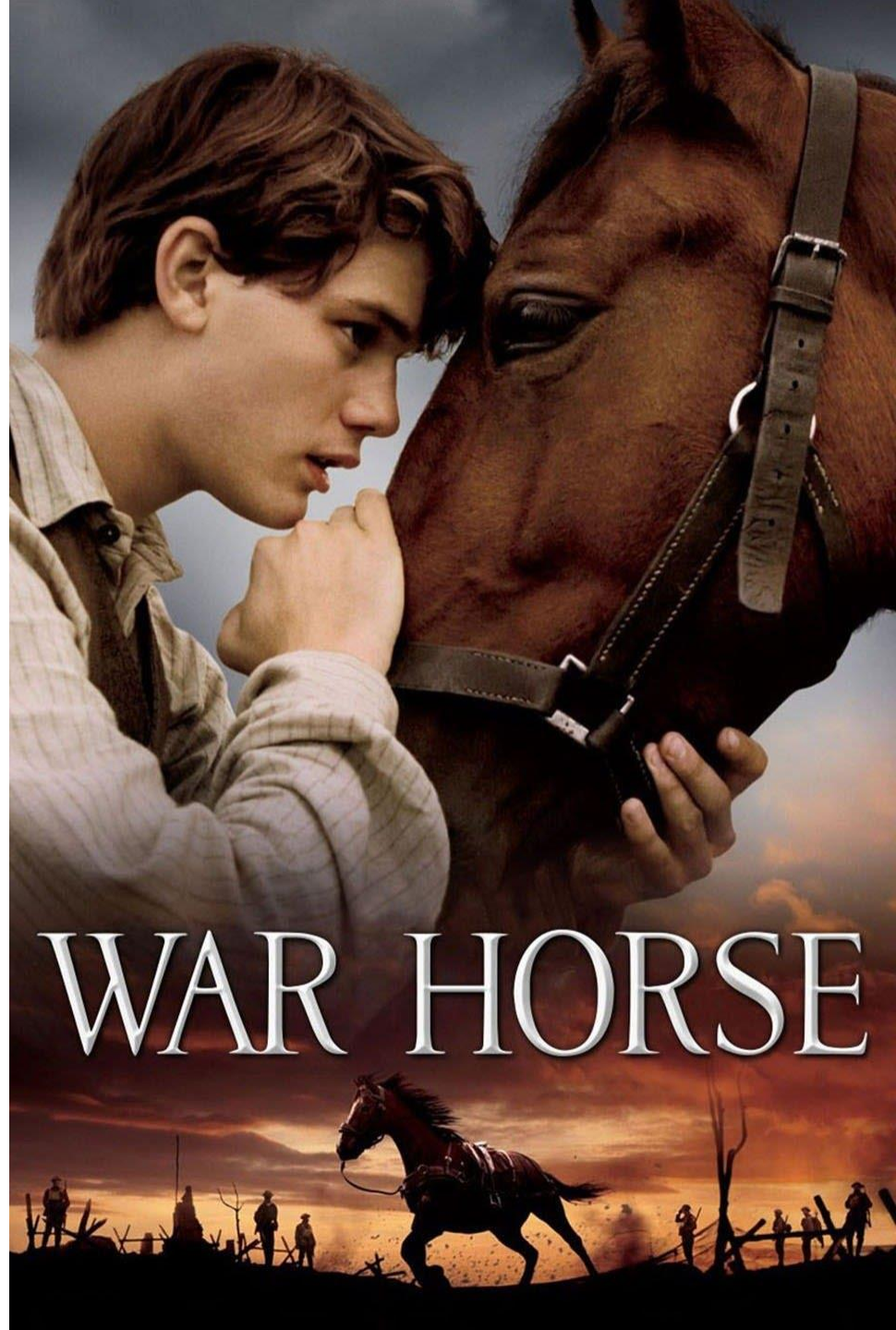
**While the view from the porch was hardly the Eiffel Tower, Brandenburg gate, Westminster Abbey, etc... We were on vacation with a cold beer in hand and thankful for it!**



**After that “unwind” beer on the porch, Rob went to a nearby HEB for some groceries. Beeville ham and a few sides would be our meal for the evening.**



**Our entertainment for the evening was Steven Spielberg's 2011 movie WAR HORSE. What we found particularly interesting was the World War I setting. A couple more beers concluded the evening after midnight.**



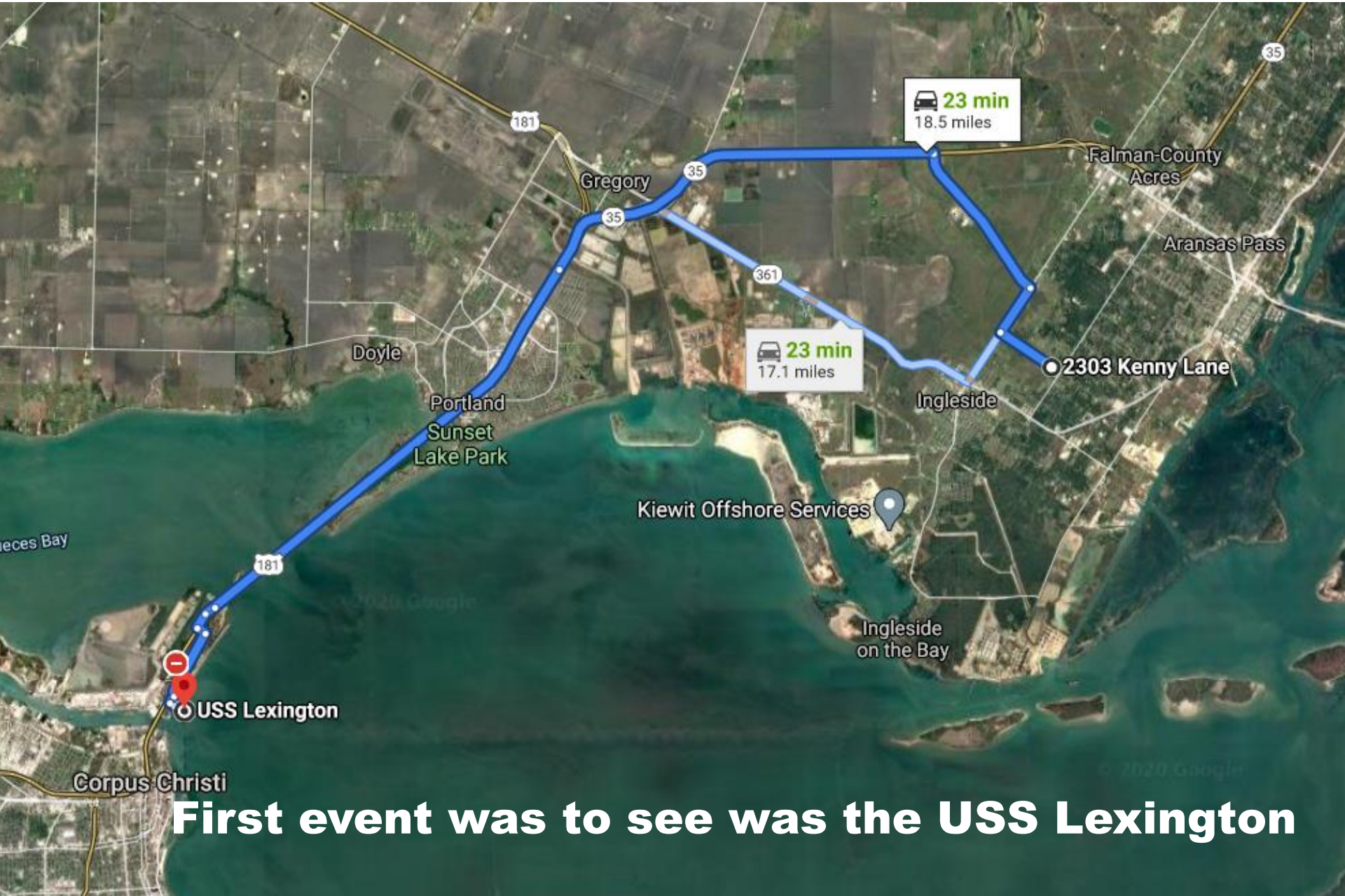




**Day #2: 05 August  
2020.**

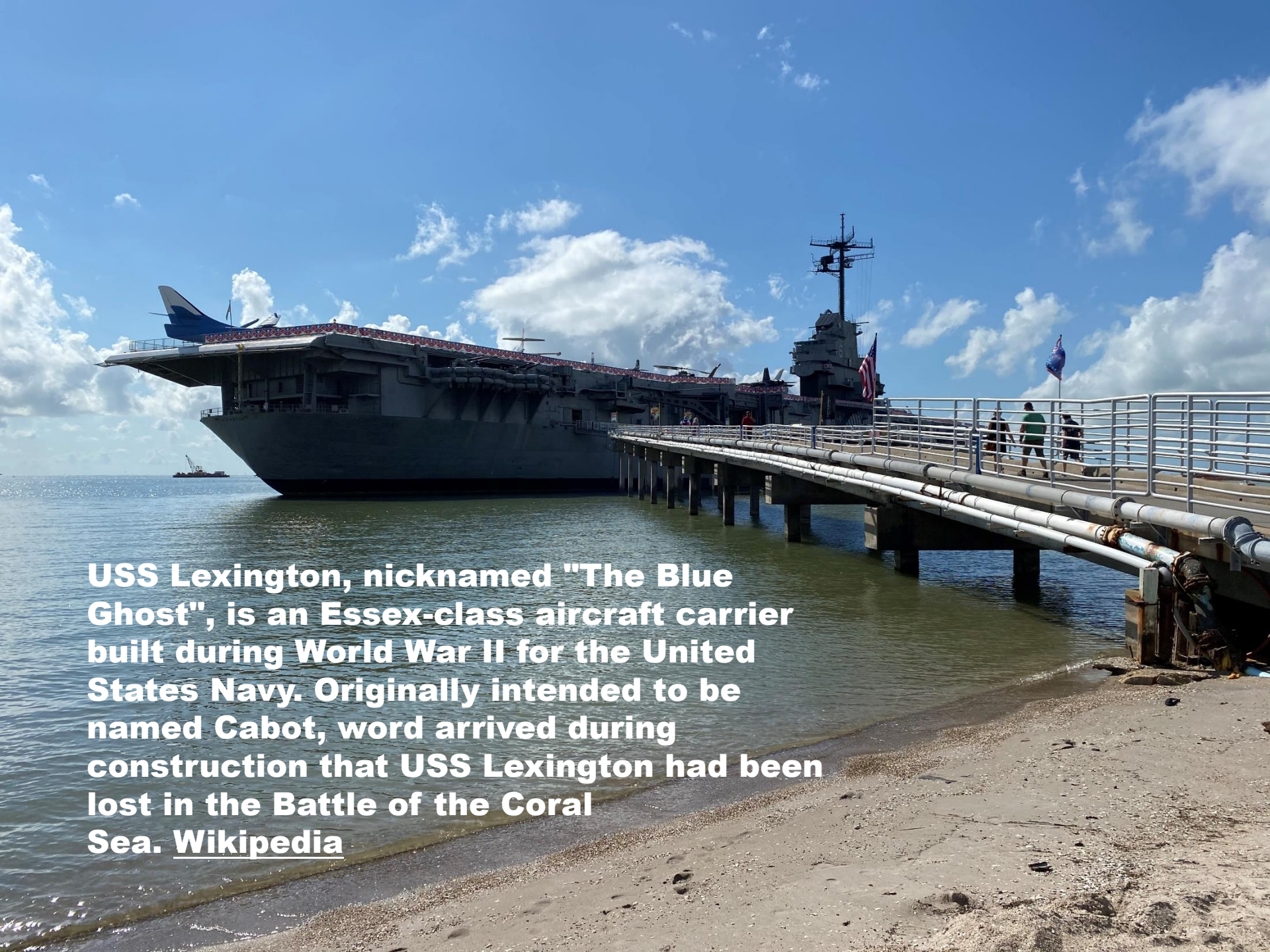
**Rob got up 7ish  
and fixed coffee.  
The birds at the  
feeder were  
entertaining. After  
Ed got rolling we  
fried eggs &  
bacon. Needed  
our strength for a  
full day of tourism.**





**First event was to see was the USS Lexington**



A large grey aircraft carrier, the USS Lexington, is docked at a long pier extending from a sandy beach into the ocean. The ship's deck is visible, with several aircraft on board. A blue and white aircraft is prominent on the left side of the deck. The pier has a metal railing and several pipes running along its length. In the background, the sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The water is a calm, light blue-green color. The beach in the foreground is sandy and shows some footprints.

**USS Lexington, nicknamed "The Blue Ghost", is an Essex-class aircraft carrier built during World War II for the United States Navy. Originally intended to be named Cabot, word arrived during construction that USS Lexington had been lost in the Battle of the Coral Sea. [Wikipedia](#)**



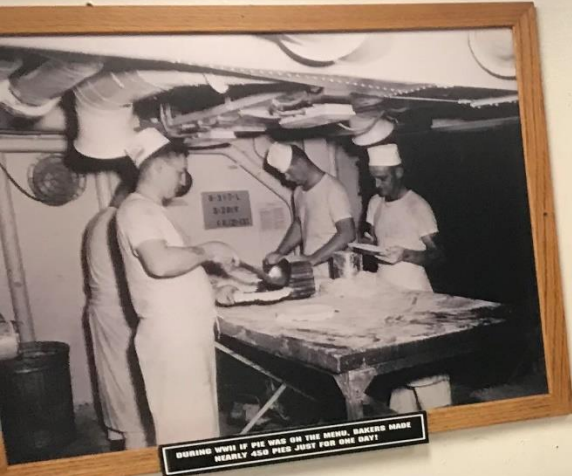
August 05, 2020



USS  
**LEXINGTON**  
★ ★ ★  
MUSEUM ON THE BAY | CORPUS CHRISTI, TX



134



USS LEXINGTON  
CV-16

**DENTAL  
CLINIC**



DRINKS NOT  
PERMITTED PAST  
THIS POINT

PLEASE RECYCLE HERE

133



132







**ENGINE ROOM**  
HEART OF EVERY SHIP



CAUTION

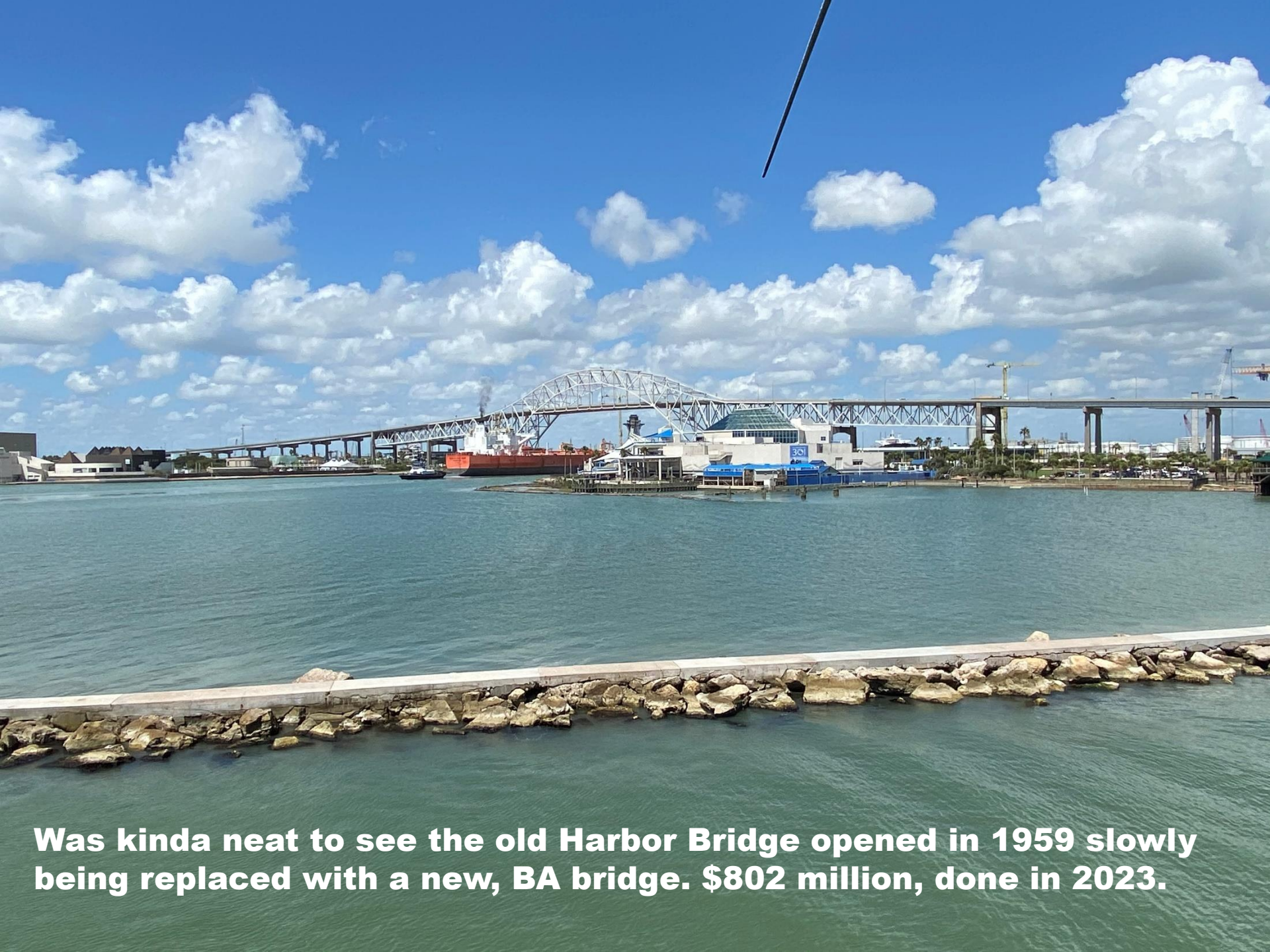


USS HORNET CV-12  
COMBAT OPERATIONS CENTER

EXERCISE OF SERVICE TO OUR  
TEAM  
The mission of the food service division is to  
provide you with clean, safe, nutritious, and  
palatable meals which assist the total com-  
bat effectiveness of our crew. We are committed to  
your health and safety in carrying out our  
mission. We have established:  
1. That we are provided a room which  
is sanitary and well-ventilated.  
2. That your food preferences are  
given priority consideration.  
3. That clean, dry, disposable ware is  
always available.







**Was kinda neat to see the old Harbor Bridge opened in 1959 slowly being replaced with a new, BA bridge. \$802 million, done in 2023.**





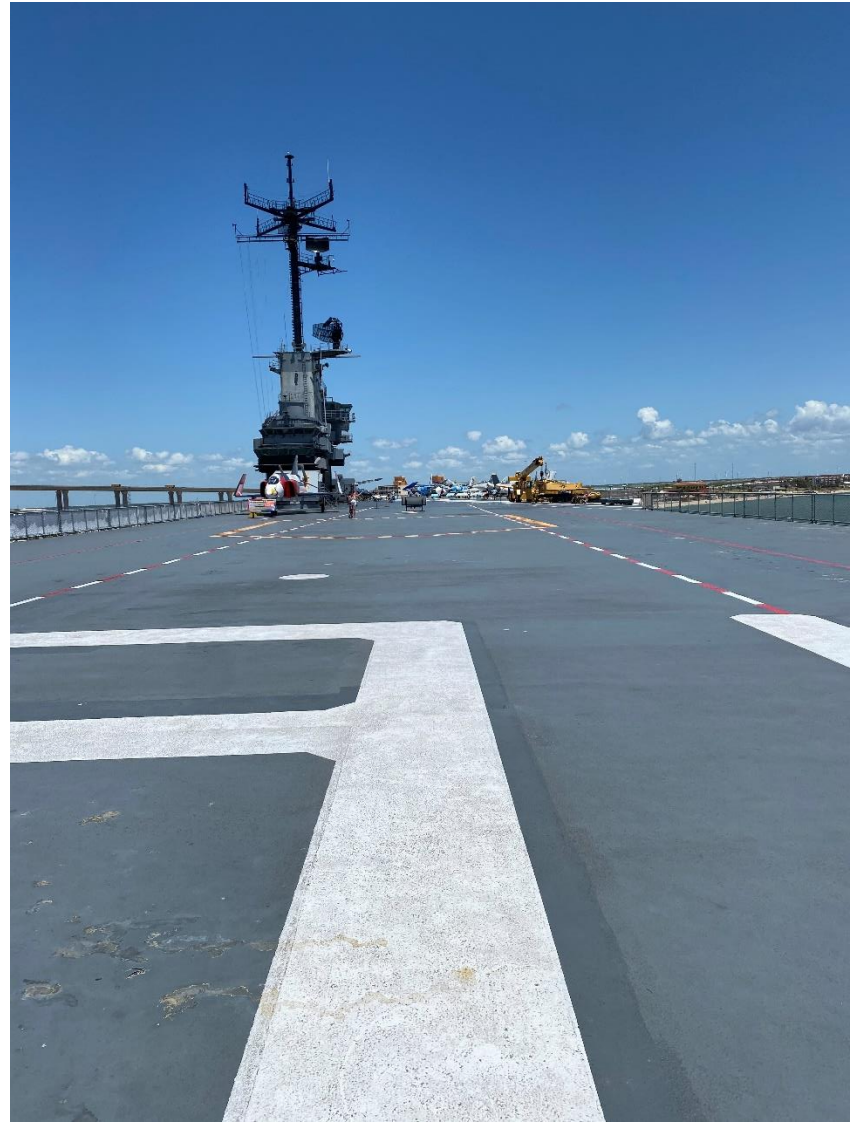
**Driver's seat on the Lex. Where's the clutch?**





**Flight deck from the driver's seat**

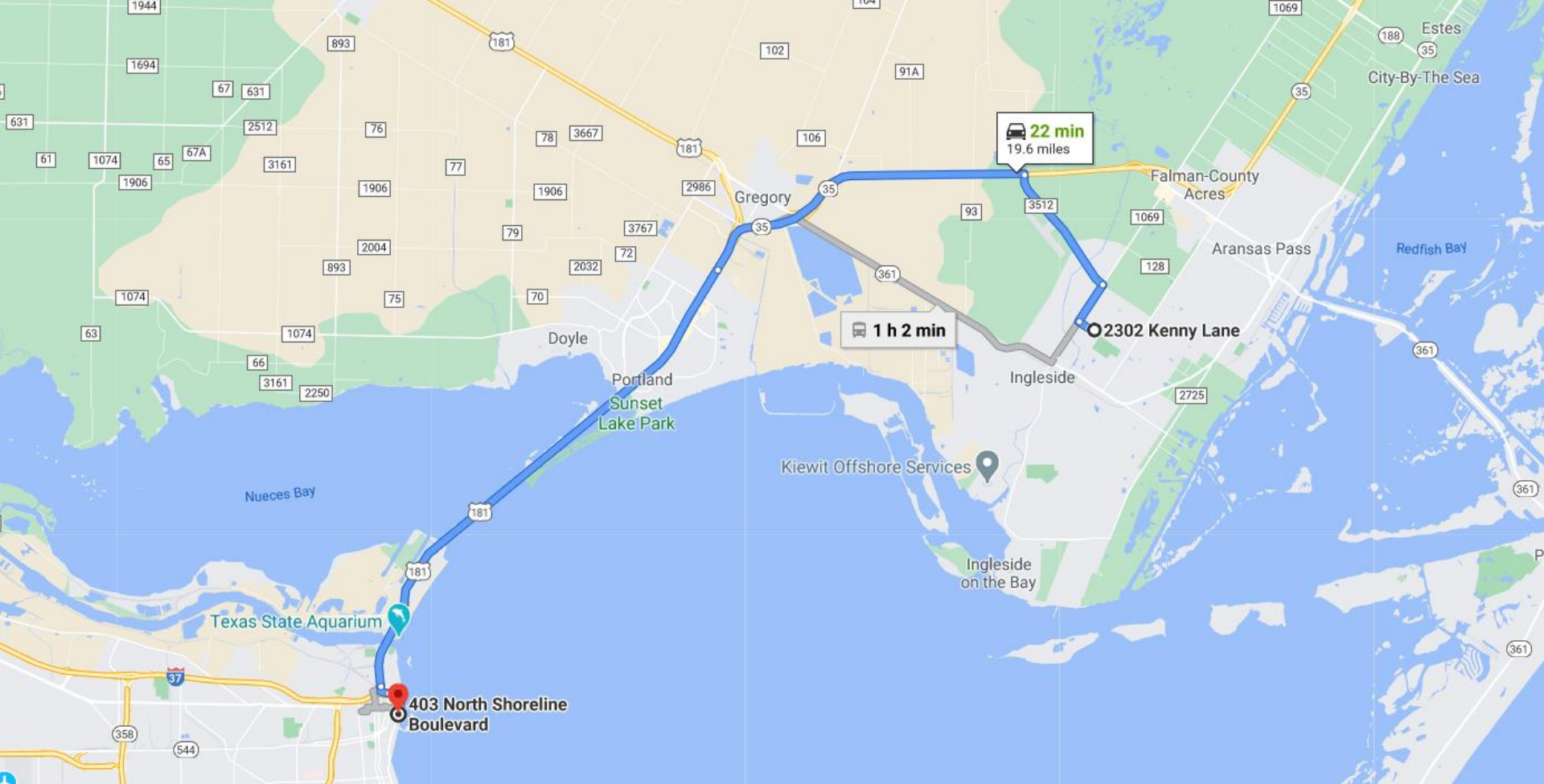




**We left the Lexington about 1:45p. Drove back to house for a ham samich. Made reservations for Segway ride in Corpus for 6:30p. Had time for naps after lunch. Oh yea, Darlene, house owner came to help us get wifi connection going again so we could watch our movies.**







**Sure'nuf it took us about 22 minutes to get to the Segway place where we were greeted by jack-of-all-trades tourguide, Rodney. We can just add him to the list of characters we've encountered in our travels.**





**Here's the spot:**

**403 N Shoreline Blvd,  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401**







**Even though we are seasoned Segway riders from 2008 and 2012, Rodney made us try them before taking us out on the open road. Fair enough.**



**Flashback to earlier Segway experiences. 2008 in Chicago below, a guided tour situation. On the right in Tallinn, Estonia, 2012. No guide, no helmets, just go have fun... and don't be a dumbass. (last part being older, wiser me talking to younger me)**



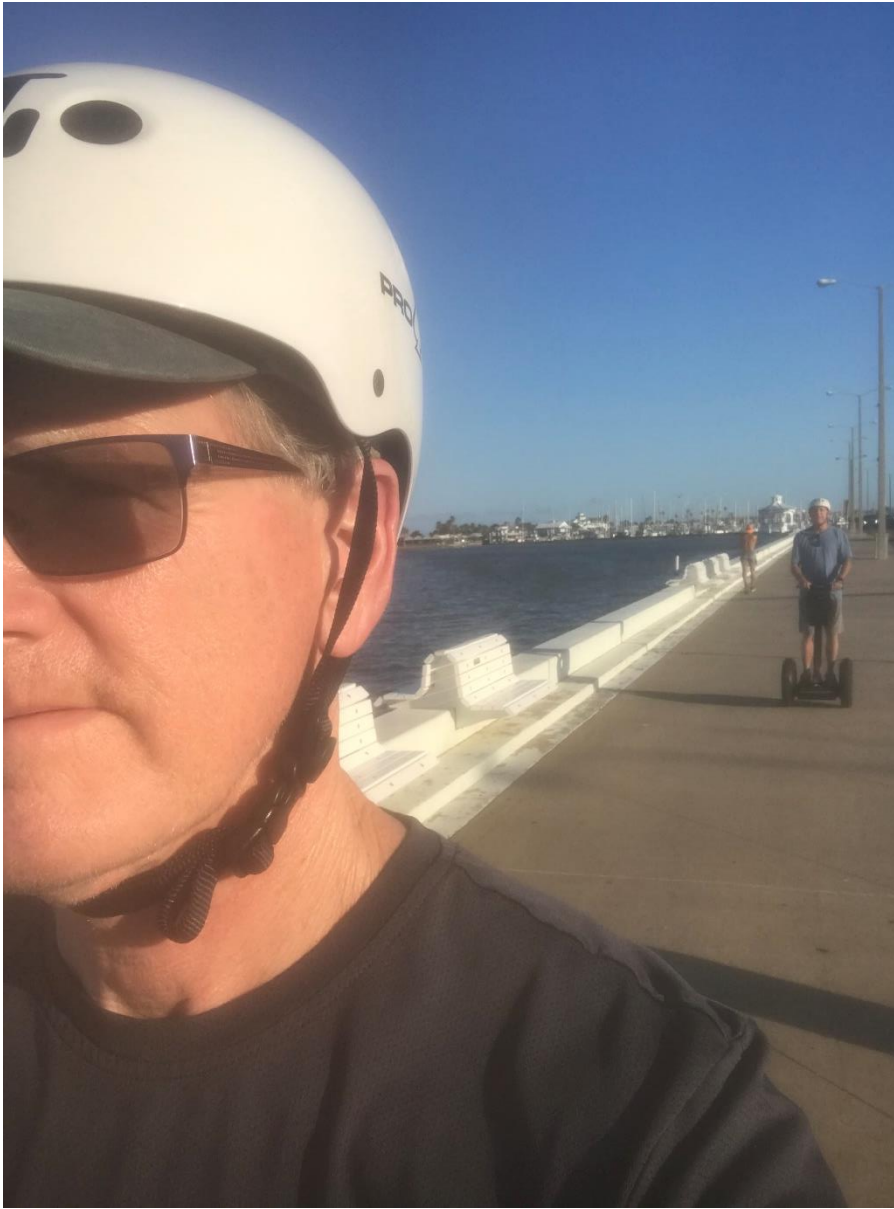


**I digress... Ahhh yes, did I mention Rodney? He started with his usual tour stuff with all the *Chamber of Commerce* stuff about Corpus Christi. We hadn't gotten too far along when he was talking about the planets, yadda, yadda, yadda... when Ed politely but firmly asked if we could move on and pass on all that useless information. He agreed and the tour continued.**











# Young and strong at 64







# Short break to hear Rodney's spiel





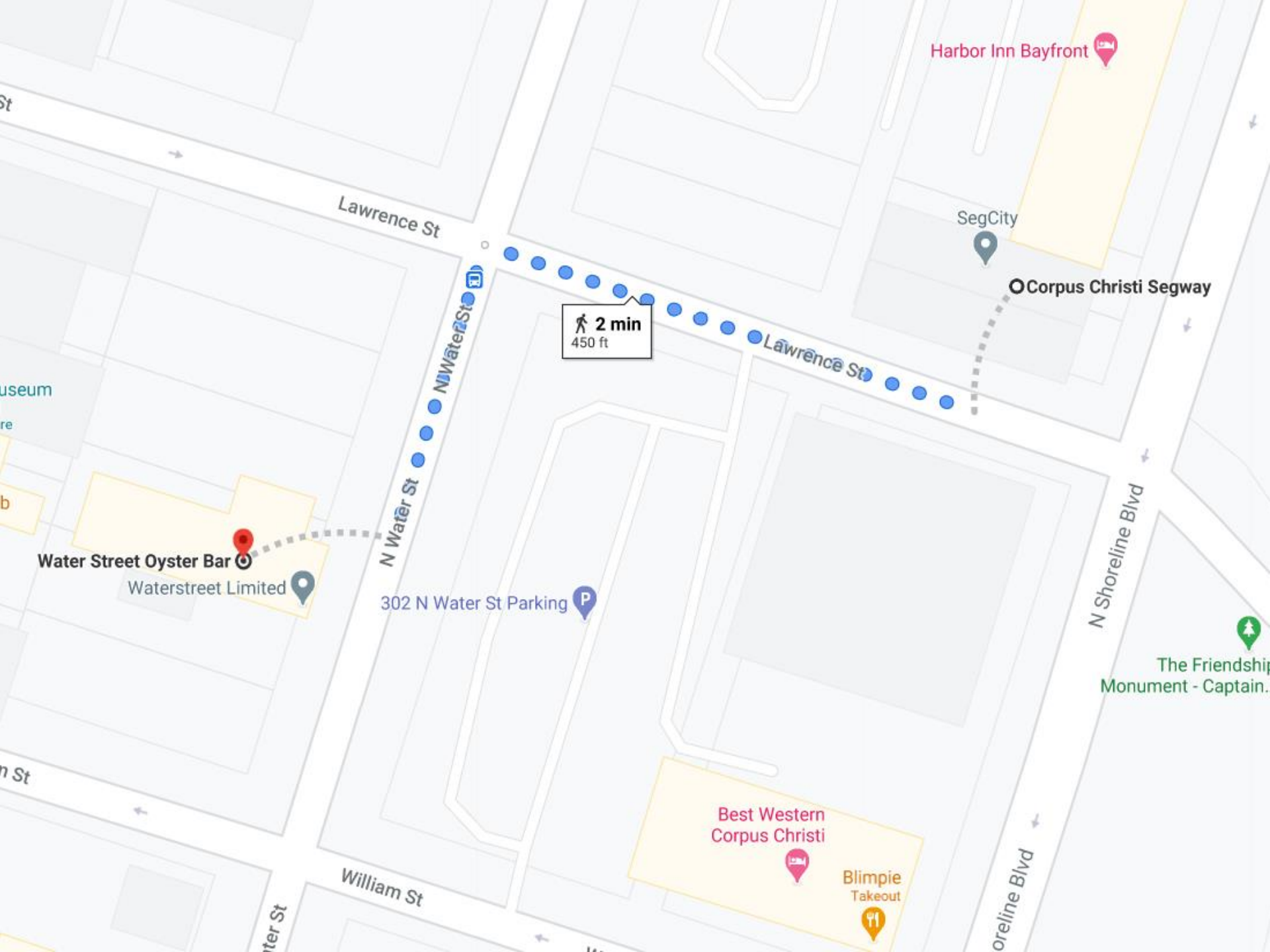
**An area on the tour where some 100+  
year-old homes have been brought.  
Historical signs tell their stories.**





**Our plan was to do our *surf & turf* meal at the house this evening. By the time we finished the Segway ride it was close to 8p. Decided to walk a short way to **WATER STREET OYSTER BAR** for beer and some dinner.**





Harbor Inn Bayfront

SegCity

Corpus Christi Segway

2 min  
450 ft

Water Street Oyster Bar

Waterstreet Limited

302 N Water St Parking

Best Western  
Corpus Christi

Blimpie  
Takeout

The Friendship  
Monument - Captain.

Lawrence St

N Water St

Lawrence St

N Shoreline Blvd

William St

Shoreline Blvd





**Good meal, good beer... back to the house for more beer and a movie.**





**Tonight's entertainment was THE HIGHWAYMEN, called a *period crime drama* from 2019 starring Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson. About two retired Texas Rangers, Ma Ferguson (Kathy Bates) going after Bonnie & Clyde in the 1930s. A few more beers during the movie then crashed out around 1a.**

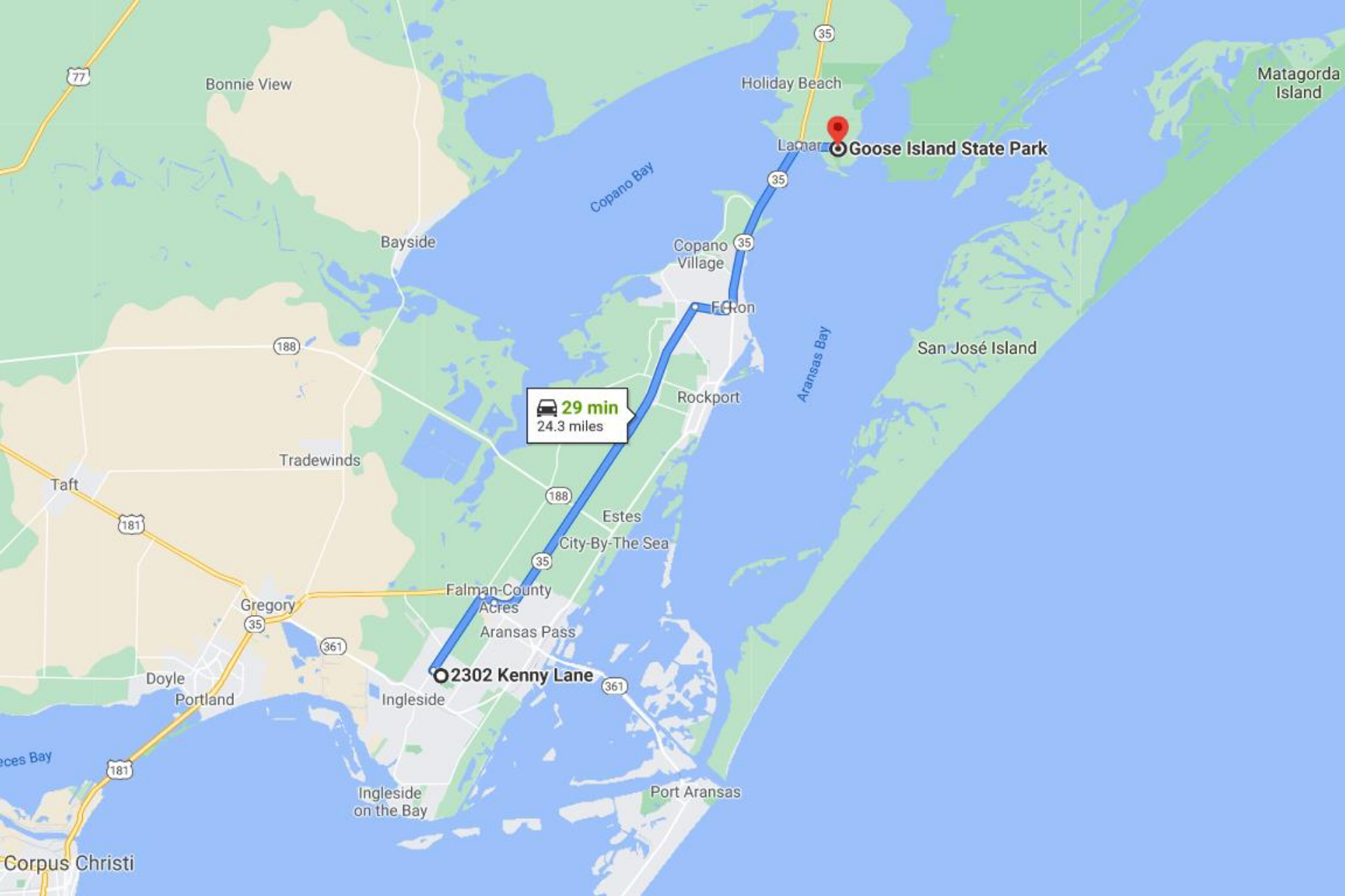
# THE HIGHWAYMEN





**Day #3: 06 August 2020. Got up and had boiled eggs along with bacon and toast. Decided to head up the coast a little to see *The Big Tree* in Rockport. Didn't really have anything else on the agenda for the day.**





**The Big Tree is located in Goose Island State Park, Rockport, TX**



**Before heading up to Goose Island Park, we stopped for fresh shrimp for our steak & shrimp dinner in Aransas Pass. 11:04a**





**Got here shortly after noon**

















# Keep It Growing

You can help Goose Island State Park staff keep the Big Tree healthy and growing.



Feel free to enjoy photo opportunities with other trees in the area.

## Respect the Fence

The Big Tree has survived for nearly 1,000 years! You can help park staff keep it healthy by staying on this side of the fence. Walking near the Big Tree compacts the roots and makes it hard for the tree to get water, so please take your pictures with other trees nearby.

## The Big Tree

— by Mary Hockstra

*I have gathered sun and rain to grow green leaves  
Swaying softly in spring, rustling like applause in fall.*

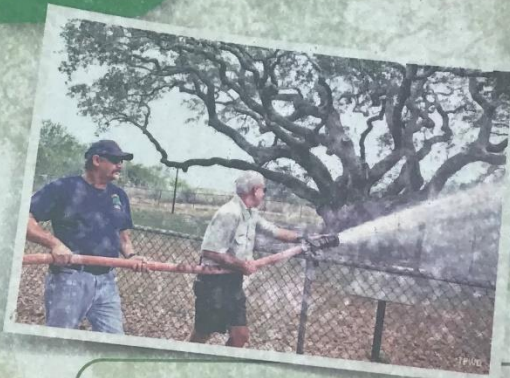
*My limbs have shaded generations;  
My roots have reached for centuries;  
My children and their children's children surround me,  
Here in this peaceful part of my land.*

*Golden sunlight diamonds have glinted on the ground around me  
Cold fingers of ice have touched my hardwood.  
Dust-dry days of sandstorms have scoured my skin  
Torrents of rain, driven by gales have rushed at me,  
And I have swayed, but stayed unbroken.  
Silver moonlight has kept me company many a night.*

*Yet through all the seasons, sorrows, bitterness and beauty  
All of the history I have withstood and witnessed,  
There has been one thing I could not do.*

*I could not grow green dollars, or silver or gold.*

*Will you help me, standing here before me?  
Then we may both grow old together,  
As old friends should.  
One of flesh, one of wood.*



In 2011 the park completed \$5000 worth of maintenance here, and they couldn't have done it without your donations.

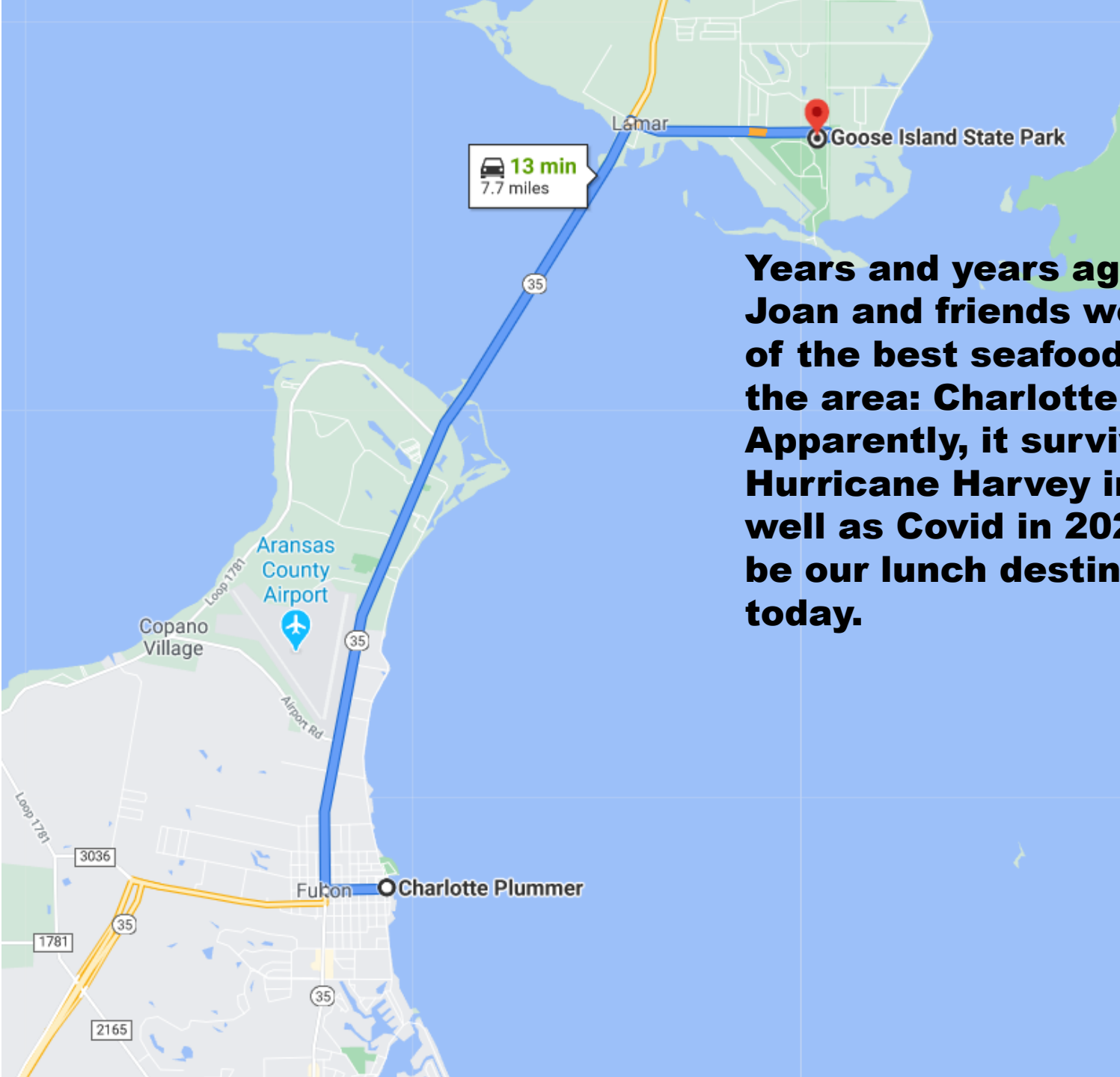
## Help Us Help the Big Tree

Goose Island State Park staff work very hard to keep the Big Tree healthy for you to enjoy. Park staff fertilize, trim branches, water, pull weeds and maintain the fence. If you'd like to help support these efforts, feel free to put a donation in an envelope into the "iron ranger" on the right of this sign.



**So what's the big deal about a BA oak tree in Rockport? Wikipedia says: *The "Big Tree", near the town of Rockport, Texas, is one of the most famous live oaks in the world after being named "Texas State Champion Virginia Live Oak" (Quercus virginiana) in 1969. The tree retained that title until 2003, when a larger oak was discovered in Brazoria County, Texas. The "Big Tree" is still thought to be one of the largest live oak specimens in the United States. Despite the widespread, historically significant devastation of the surrounding region, the "Big Tree" was relatively unscathed by Hurricane Harvey, a category 4 hurricane that hit Rockport on August 25, 2017.***





**Years and years ago Rob & Joan and friends went to one of the best seafood joints in the area: Charlotte Plummer's. Apparently, it survived Hurricane Harvey in 2017 as well as Covid in 2020. It would be our lunch destination today.**





**This is one of their stock photos, but it's pretty much taken from where we sat.**





**Nice view from the deck**

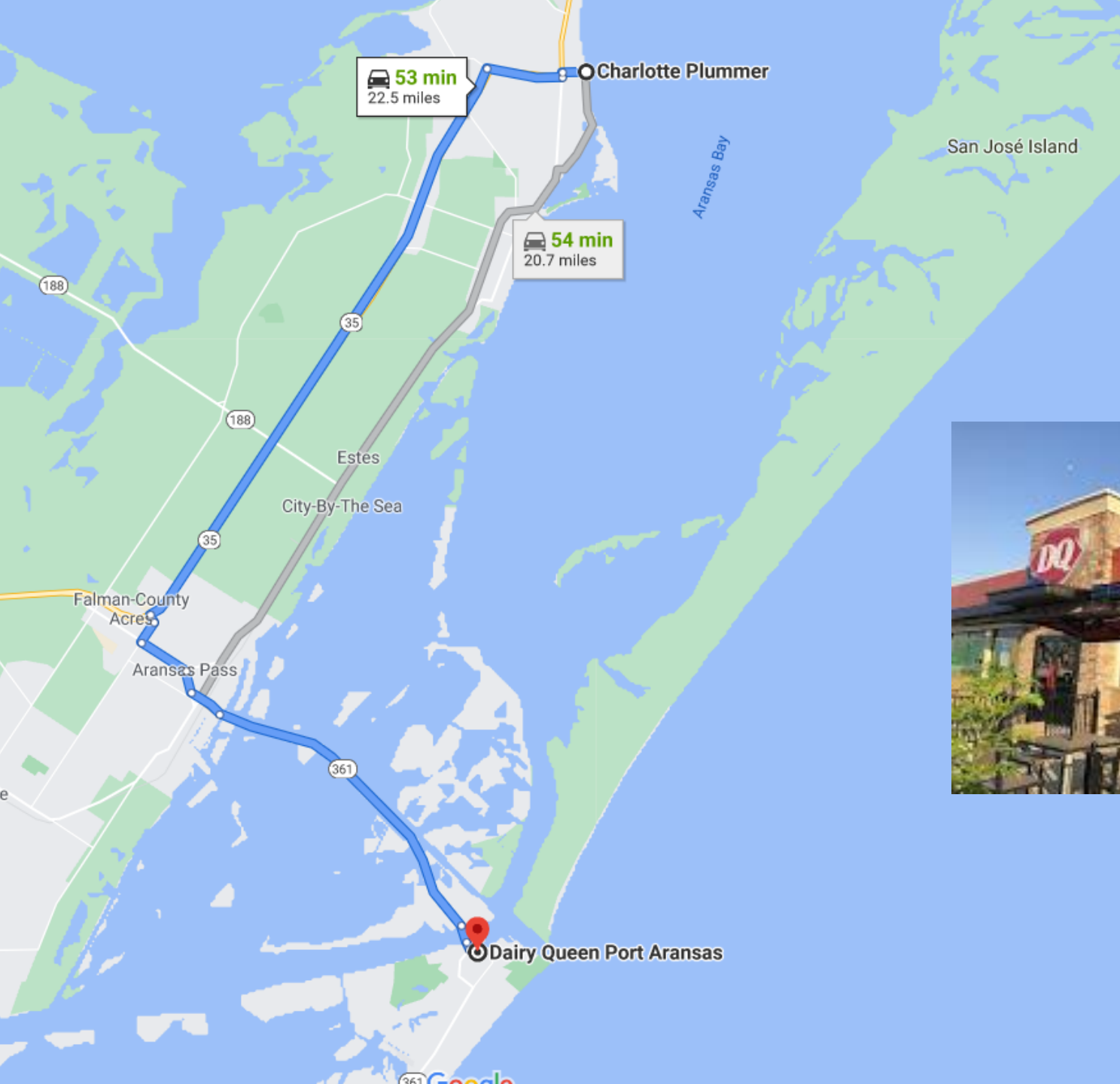




**We finished up and headed out at 1:45p.**







**Next stop was to see what was happening at Port Aransas. Stopped at DQ for ice cream.**







**Taking the  
ferry to Port A  
is kind of a  
vacation  
experience in  
itself.**



**While we waited in line for the ferry, we pondered what these structures were. Ed's later research finds these to be offshore drilling rigs in drydock in Port A. Huge, amazing structures.**





# About to board the ferry











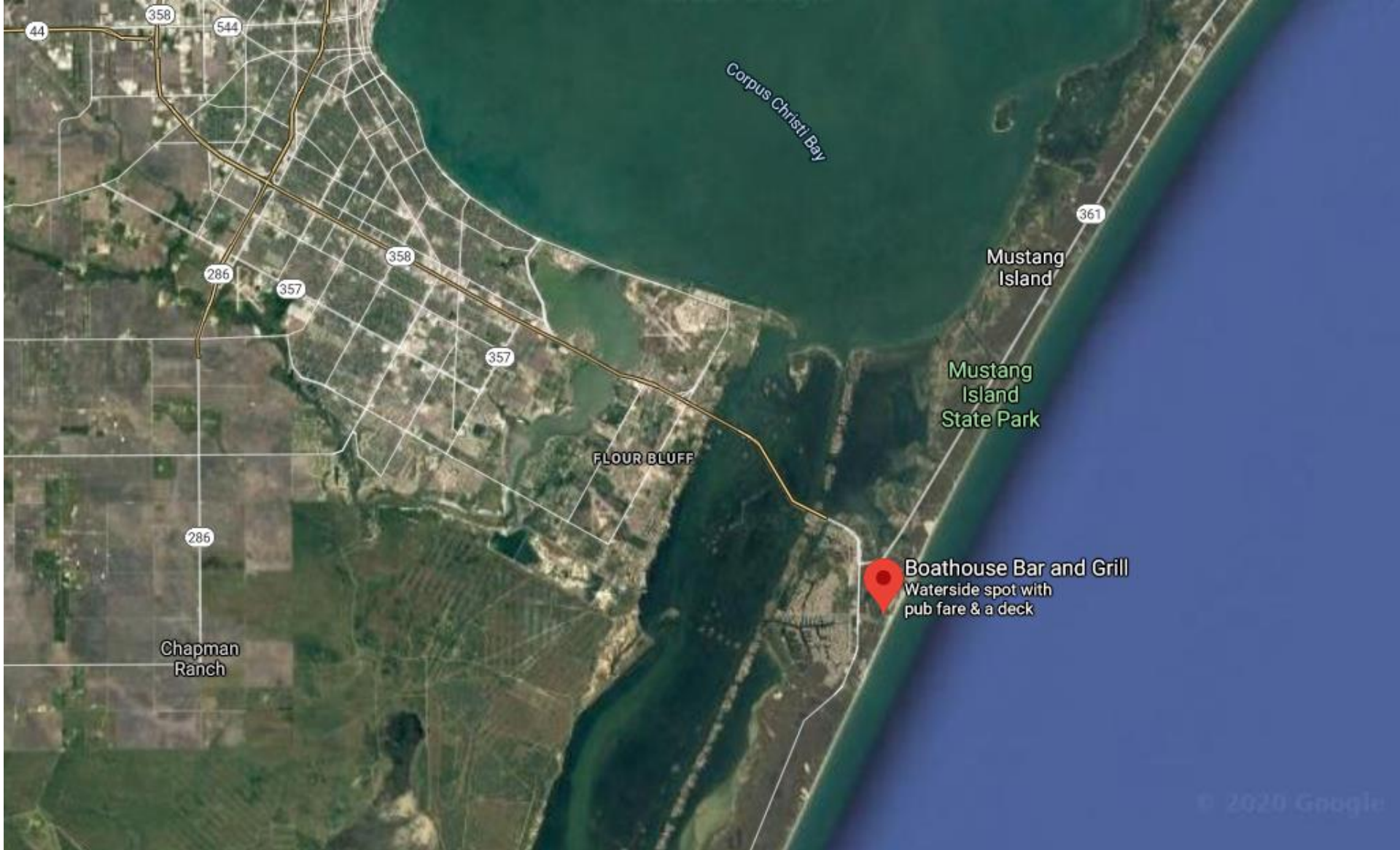
**The  
beaches  
are  
beautiful at  
Port A, but  
we weren't  
prepared to  
beach bum,  
even if we  
wanted to.  
No sun  
screen nor  
beer.**





**So we're heading down Mustang Island when we behold a sight we weren't sure was really happening. A guy was sitting on the skids of a helicopter working on something atop that pole. The pilot of the helicopter was keepin'er steady. 4:04p**





**So it's about 4:15, beer-thirty by anybody's standards. We located the Boathouse Bar & Grill, technically in Corpus Christi.**





**Oddly enough the only thing with a boat is this sunken vessel out from the deck of the joint. A couple of Dos Equis.**





**Who are these masked men?**





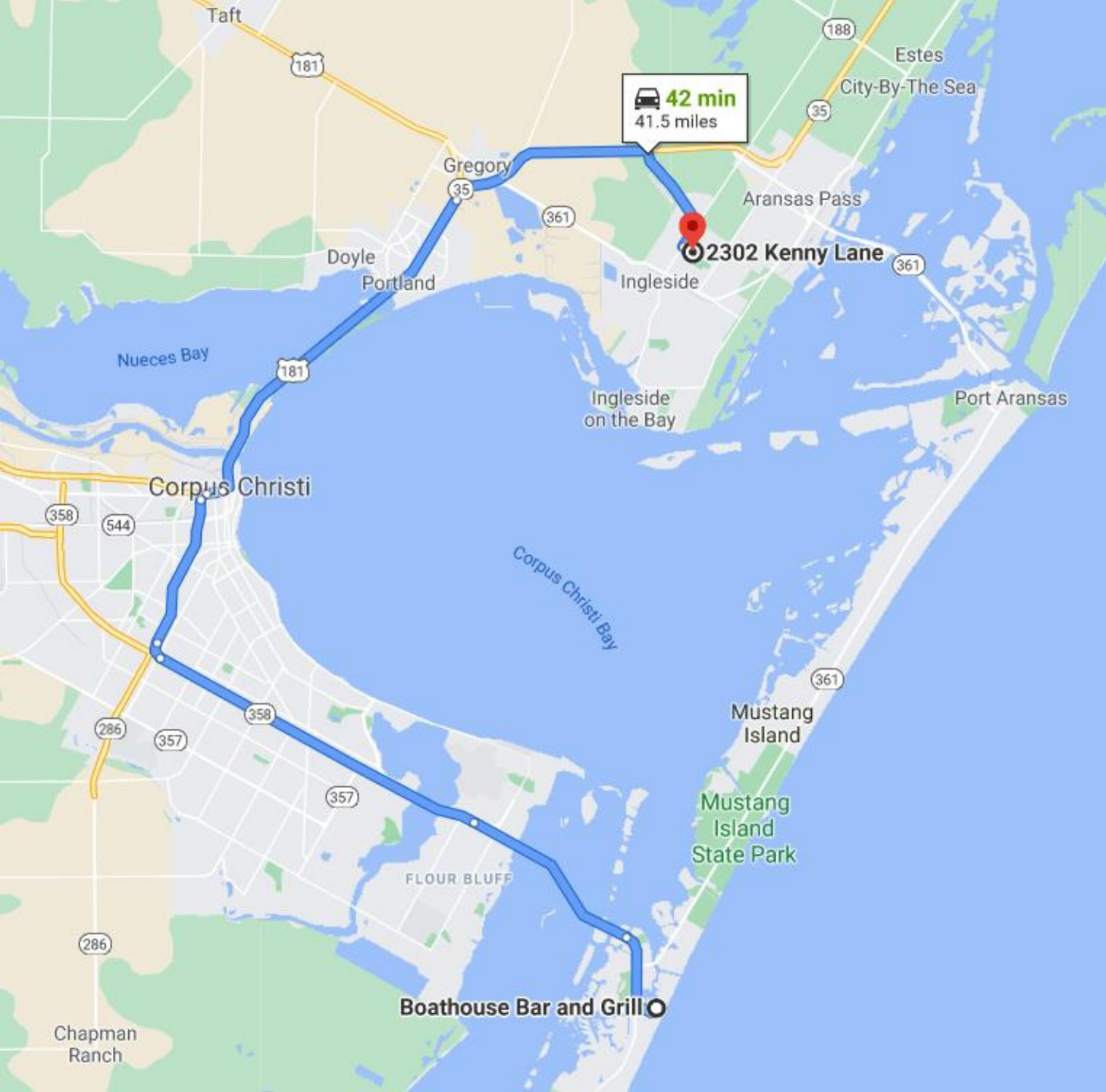
COOL

ROCK BOTTOM  
ALWAYS DRIPPING.

DOS EQUIS  
XX  
Lager Especial

DOS EQUIS  
XX  
Lager Especial





**So onward we go... back to the house to start our steak and shrimp dinner, along with tasty, cold beer, of course.**

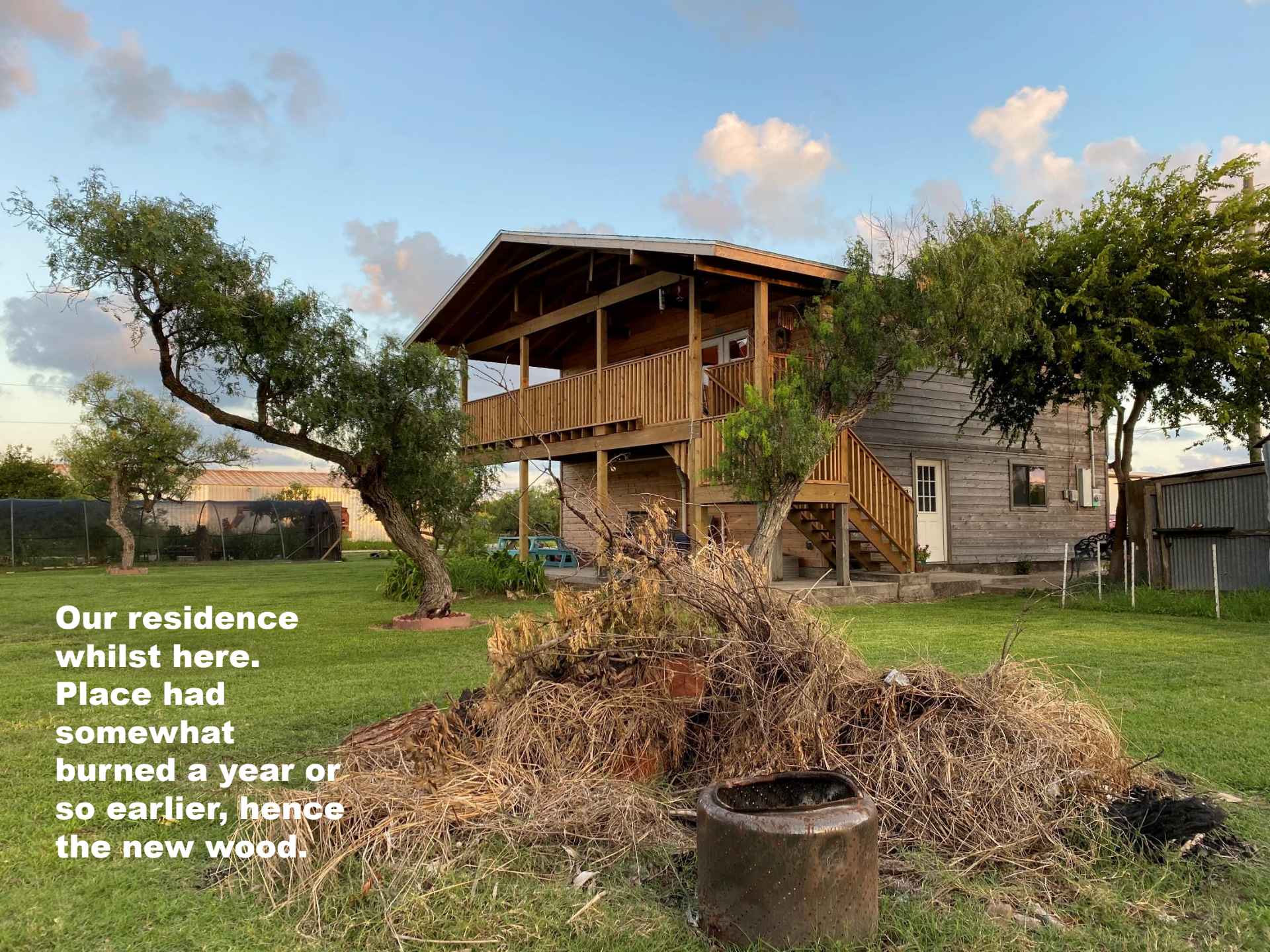




**By 7:45 the charcoal fire was getting hot.**

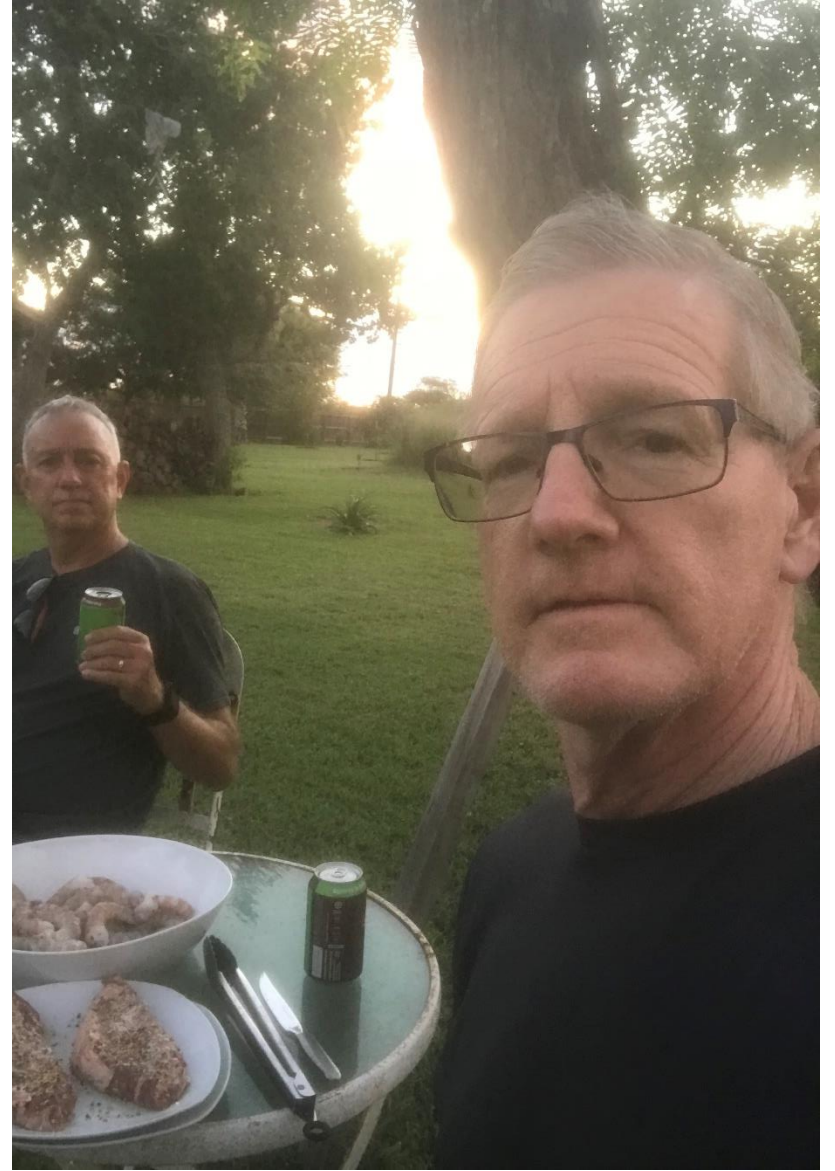






**Our residence  
whilst here.  
Place had  
somewhat  
burned a year or  
so earlier, hence  
the new wood.**









**Starting with Karbach IPA.  
Good beer, good steak & shrimp,  
good company.**





**Ed had read this book, so we decided to watch the 2018 movie set during World War II.**



**Day #4: 07 August 2020 Morning view of the house**





**Morning view of the porch. No breakfast plans so we were on our way back by 8:15a**





# *Other trips these guys have made*







**Great Lakes 2008**



**Euro 2010 (Little Circle)**



**Northeast 2009**



**Mid-Atlantic 2011**





**Scandinavia 2012 (Big Circle)**



**Out west road trip 2013**



**Oklahoma "trunk trip" Nov 2013**



**Check the box  
- a.k.a. Deep  
South 2014**





**50<sup>th</sup> state beer – Alaska 2014**



**San Diego 2015**



**Euro 2015**







**Euro 2016**



**Costa Rica 2017**



# Philadelphia 2018



**And of course, 2002 and 2004 the car-lined banks of the Little Flora Creek in Egypt Mills (north of Cape Girardeau, MO)**



**And our new Wednesday night hangout: Copper Top Tavern – Pre-covid**







**North-Central  
California 2019**





**Once again, thanks to our lovely wives for blessing our annual mancation adventures**





HMC PRODUCTIONS