

Ed & Rob's 2024 Mississippi River Crawl July 25-August 2



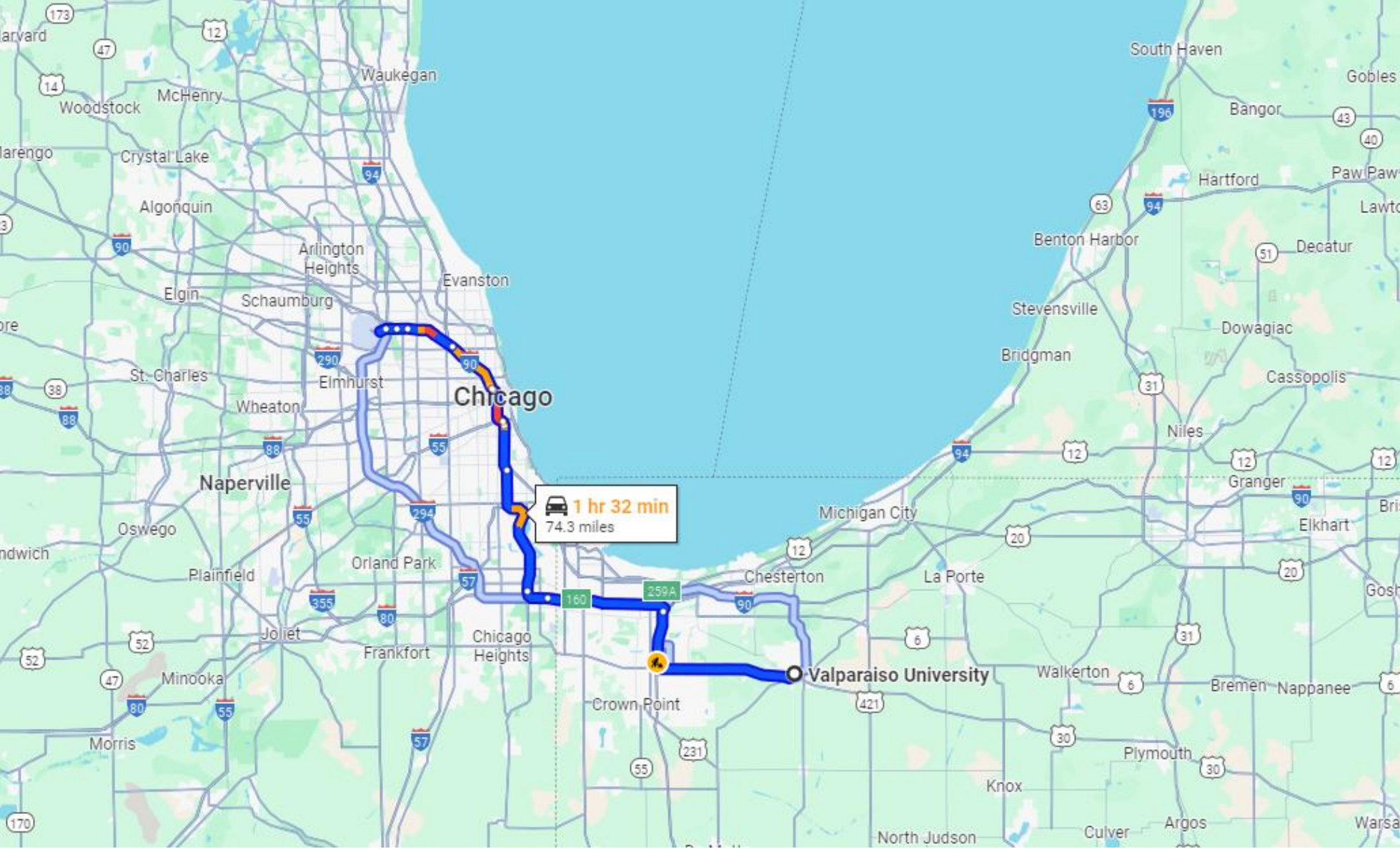
Julie Good
PIXGEEK PHOTOGRAPHY



**Association of
Lutheran
Church
Musicians**
ALCM

**Day #1, 25
July 2024**

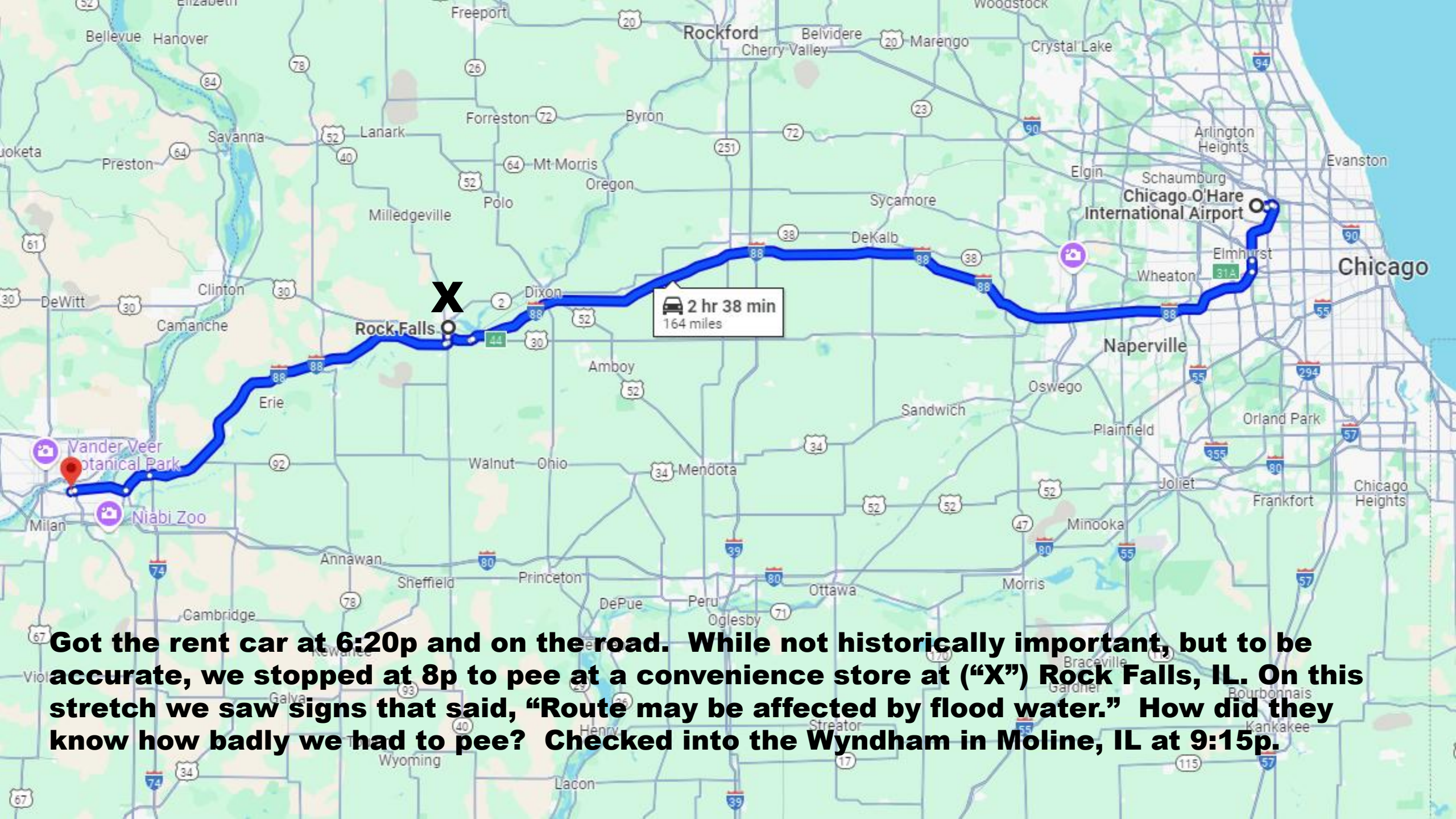
**For Rob this
trip began
Sunday,
7/21 with a
conference
at
Valparaiso
University
with its
beautiful
chapel
(pictured
here)**



Day #1, 25 July 2024
Rob rode with friends from O'Hare to Valpo, and after the conference ended at noon Thursday, the return trek began. Arrived at O'Hare at 3:31p.

Ed's flight from Albuquerque scheduled to land at 5:10p actually got in early. We connected and had the official mancation "let's get this trip started" handshake at 5:25p.

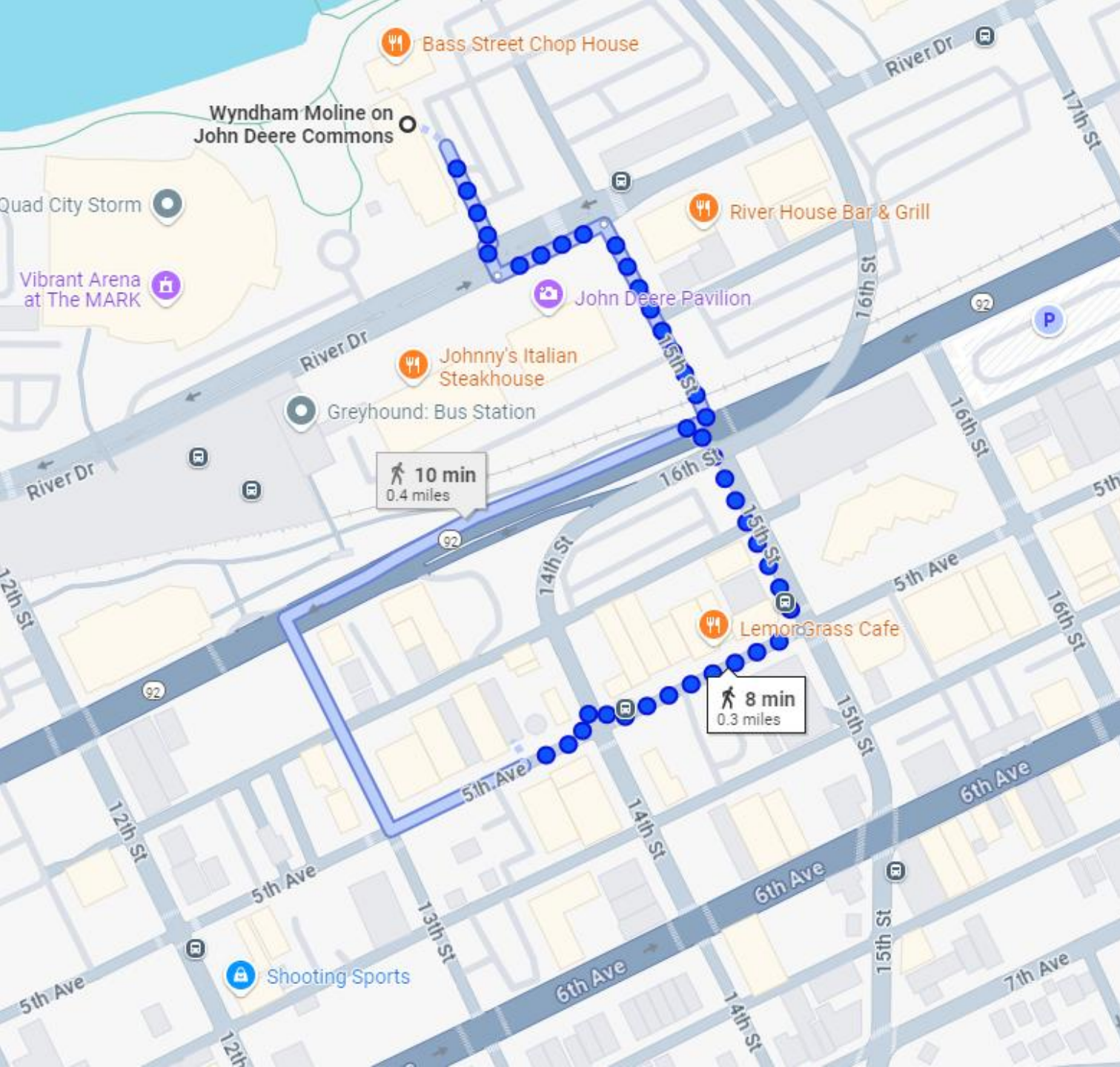
Off we go....



Got the rent car at 6:20p and on the road. While not historically important, but to be accurate, we stopped at 8p to pee at a convenience store at ("X") Rock Falls, IL. On this stretch we saw signs that said, "Route may be affected by flood water." How did they know how badly we had to pee? Checked into the Wyndham in Moline, IL at 9:15p.

The “Wyndham Moline on John Deere Square” was a good place to stay, especially since we intended to visit the John Deere Pavilion just across the street.





GET BENT!



BENT RIVER BREWING COMPANY MOLINE & ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

Our first order of business was to find some food, and of course, beer. Nearby was Bent River Brewing. By this time it was 9:40p and they closed at 10. Close by was *Tony's Chicago Style Pizzeria* so we grabbed a roast beef sandwich and a beer. Then Ed had a brilliant idea. Why not get a 6-pak from Bent River to take back to the room. He got it and returned to finish meal and *Tony's* beer. On the walk back a homeless guy hollered, "hey guy in the blue shirt!" (Ed). "Hey guy in the red shirt!" (Rob). Keep walking. Got back to room to enjoy Bent River 6.



Travel veterans indeed!

Tony's Chicago style pizzeria





Day #2, 26 July 2024. Hotel breakfast at 8:30 then a visit to the John Deere Pavilion.



JOHN DEERE

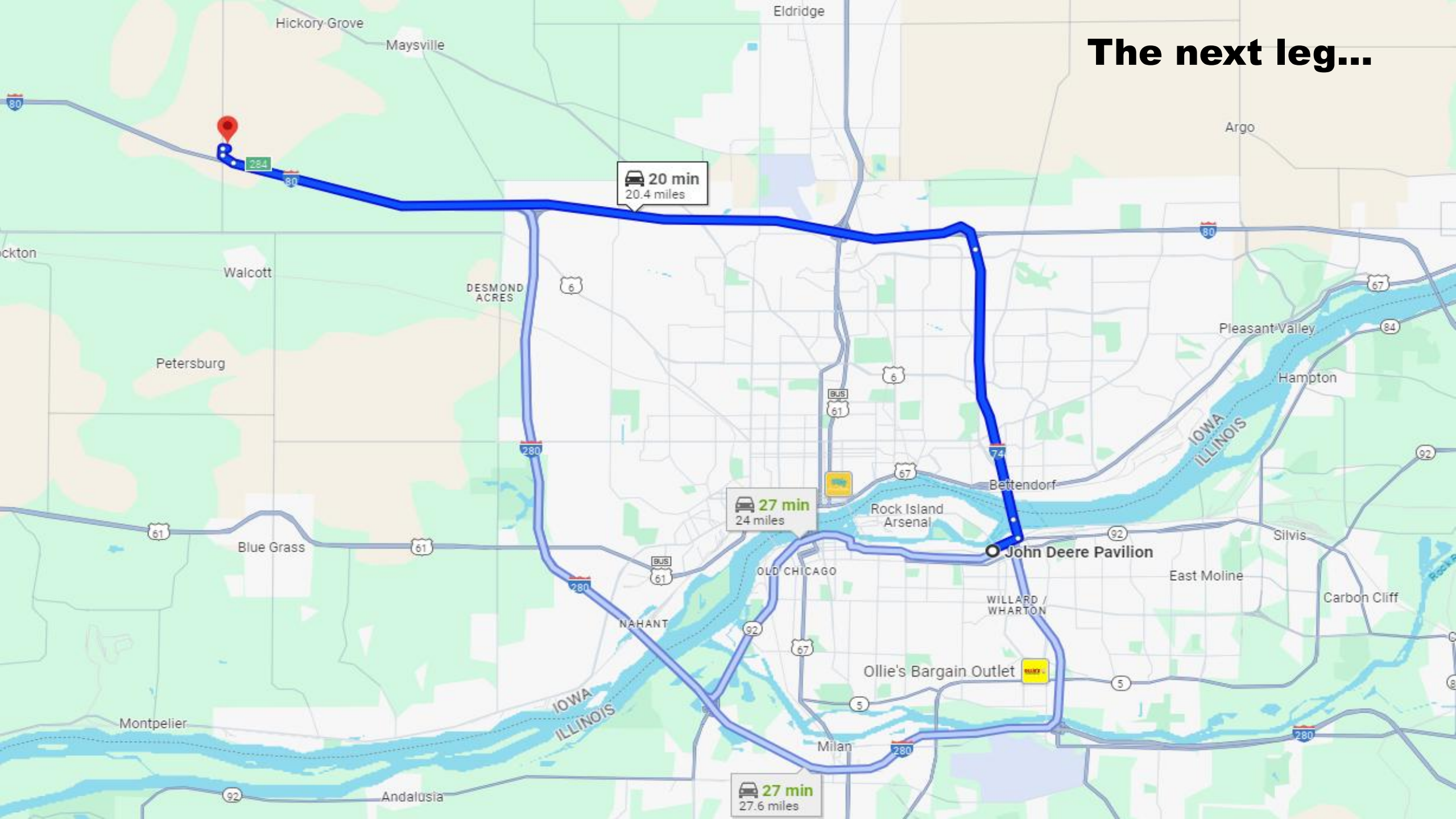
Can't ignore the importance of John Deere in our nation's history



**Price tag on this bad boy is \$1,087,000.
Attachments for it are about \$290K.**



The next leg...



**Illinois into
Iowa across
the Mississippi
on the Iowa-
Illinois
Memorial
Bridge**





Heading west on I-80, a major industrial highway when we stumbled upon this potentially interesting place, the Iowa 80 Trucking Museum

IOWA 80 TRUCKING MUSEUM

Visitor Center





Some very cool trucks from over the last 100+ years

1969 International Loadstar 1600

- Engine: V8 Gasoline, 343 Cubic Inch
- Transmission: 5 Speed with 2 Speed Rear Axle
- Top Speed: 60 MPH

Small text describing the truck's history and specifications follows.

Castrol
Mobil
Dodge

WE LOAD



1981 Kenworth K100 Aerodyne

Engine: Detroit Diesel 6V92 Turbo Charged 500 HP

Transmission: Eaton-Fuller RTLD-146 13 Double Overdrive

Top Speed: 100 MPH

Since Hank's Highway Hilton, this truck has traveled 1,300,000 miles, and has been featured in over 200 magazine articles, 100 TV shows, and 100 radio spots. Hank's Highway Hilton is a true American icon, and a true symbol of the American trucking industry.

Control by: Parry Trucking

1981 Kenworth K100 Aerodyne
"Hank's Highway Hilton"

Hank Good bought his first truck in May of 1976, when the name Hank Good was established. The dealer that sold him his first Kenworth had one on display and Hank fell in love with that model. Five years and more more Kenworth later and his birthday in 1981 he signed the purchase contract. Even then Hank wanted to customize, and a truck dealer about four weeks to get his truck ready. Finally on July 28, 1981 he picked up his brand new 1981 Kenworth K-100 VTT Aerodyne.

As for his truck, they also started in the early 1980s. There was a magazine article in a trucking magazine about an American trucker who went to Germany to drive a Kenworth K-100A on tour for Hans Caperton. Hank thought "Well, why couldn't that have been me?" He never forgot Germany with his wife to visit his mom. Hank wanted to get a supply of photos of his truck and passed them out to people, many of whom made to him afterwards. He then decided to take the truck to Germany.

This eventually led to a European tour Hank & family went to Germany, Switzerland, Finland, Poland, Denmark and Belgium. The European visit was successful due to a promotional way that was going on at the time.

In May of 1981 Hank took his truck to the Chicago, Illinois and Chicago, Illinois area. Hank's truck was featured in a magazine article in the Chicago Tribune. Hank's truck was featured in a magazine article in the Chicago Tribune. Hank's truck was featured in a magazine article in the Chicago Tribune.

In all, Hank's truck has been featured in over 200 magazine articles, 100 TV shows, and 100 radio spots. Hank's Highway Hilton is a true American icon, and a true symbol of the American trucking industry.

RYDER

They were with only 14 Payer trucks in one of the first years in 1973. Ryder System has grown to RYDER when it was Manufacturing Co. which had the volume specialty truck manufacturer.

The Ryder project was finally put down in a few years due to a combination of an outdated engine and the resulting revenues. A few more 1st generation trucks were made, apparently now were assembled in Oregon, and featured three seat design with design work that high interest rates in the early 1980s, leaving over 2000, made further production impossible.

Among the interesting features of the Payer "power module" that converted the engine to 5th wheel. This standard engine was a Detroit Diesel 6V92TT or Cummins 6V71T or Cummins 6V71T or Cummins 6V71T or Cummins 6V71T. The Detroit Diesel engines, which were of a 1970s design, were also featured air suspension all around and a...

DODGE
"Job Rated"
TRUCKS
SALES & SERVICE

Dayton
TIRES

Autocar
TRUCKS

A couple of 1956's with a 1956 Peterbilt 350 COE



1956 Peterbilt 350 COE

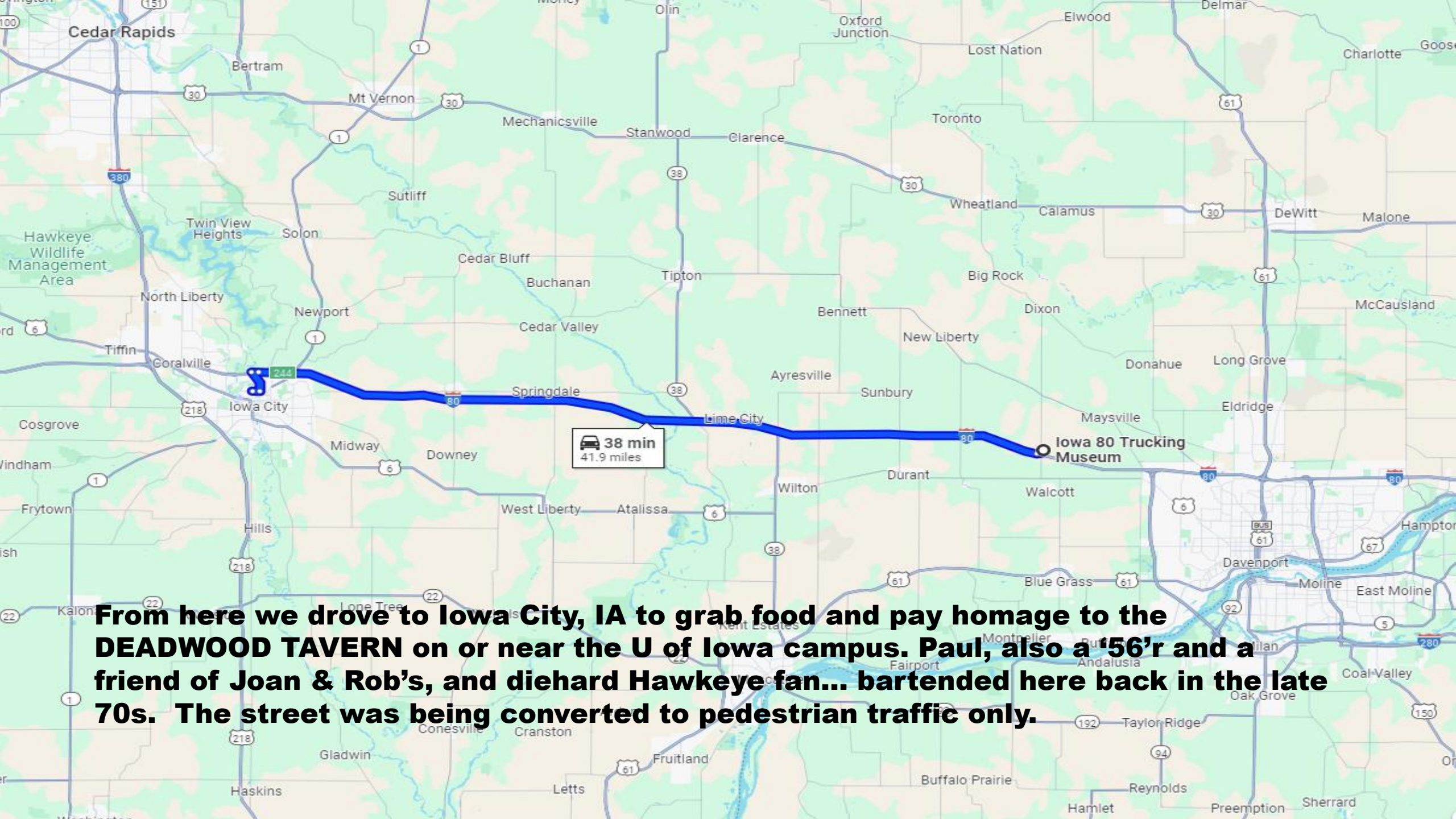
- ▶ Engine: 275HP Cummins
- ▶ Transmission: 10-Speed Transmission

The Peterbilt 350 was Peterbilt's first cabover model produced. During the '50s new laws were introduced that limited the length that a truck and trailer could be. Due to this, the COE or Cab-Over-Engine, became a popular choice because it maximized payload capacity. It also allowed drivers a clearer view of the road ahead and easier maneuverability. With the engine being directly underneath the cab though, a long journey could often get noisy and uncomfortable. The engine could also be difficult to get into as the entire cab had to be tilted forward instead of just sitting in the back. Cabover style trucks began to fall out of favor in the late '70s when length regulations increased. The Peterbilt 350s were only produced between 1950 and 1956, so this one is one of the last 350s ever built before the introduction of the 351 model.

Owned
by:



Robert,
Doreen



 38 min
41.9 miles

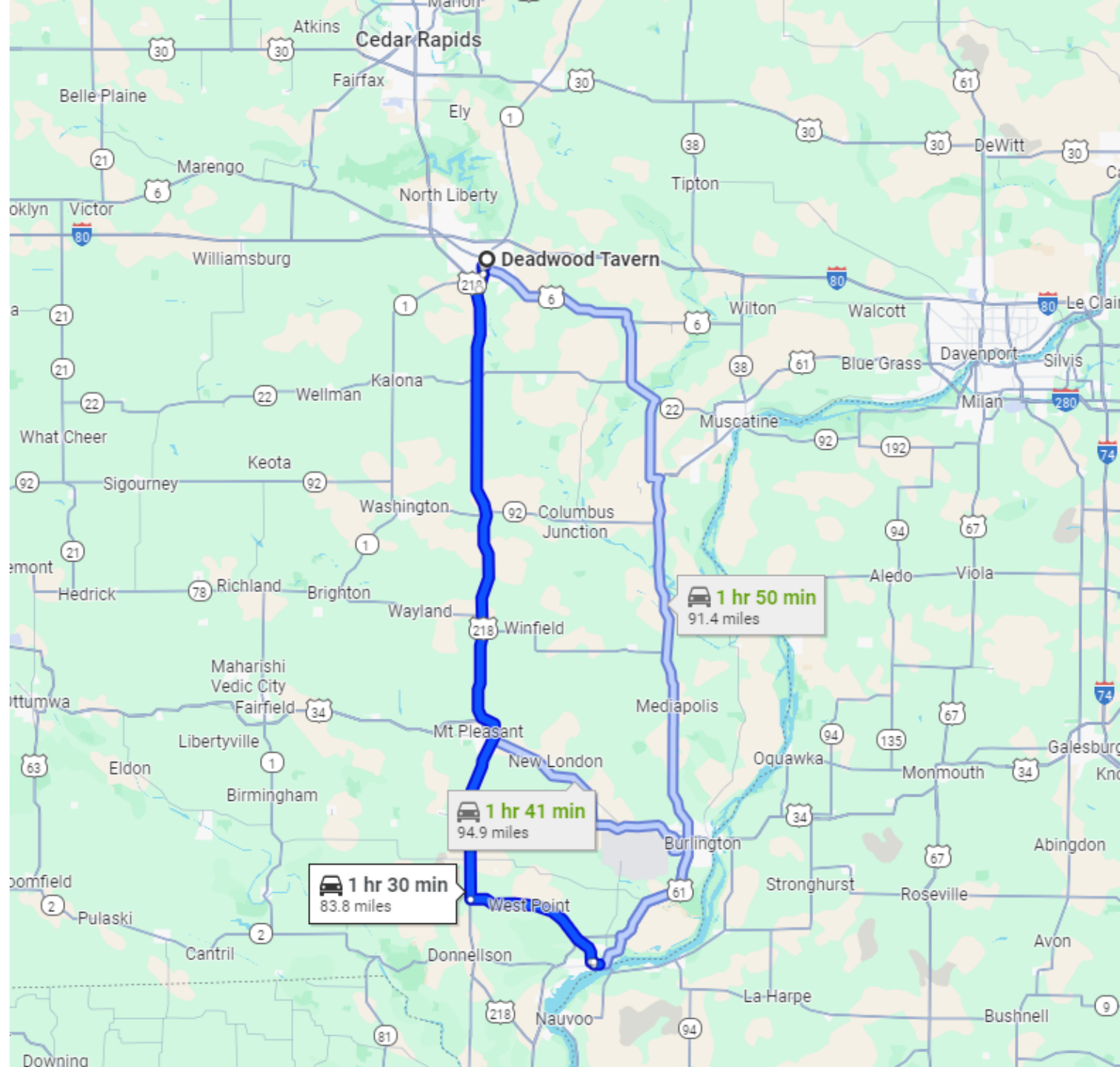
From here we drove to Iowa City, IA to grab food and pay homage to the DEADWOOD TAVERN on or near the U of Iowa campus. Paul, also a '56'r and a friend of Joan & Rob's, and diehard Hawkeye fan... bartended here back in the late 70s. The street was being converted to pedestrian traffic only.



The Deadwood Tavern and its bartender on duty. Can't recall his name

After driving around U of Iowa campus, we headed to historic Ft. Madison, IA on the Mississippi River. Got there around 3p.

Ft Madison is in the southeast corner of Iowa, not far from the Missouri border.





Why Ft Madison you ask? It was, in our opinions, nowhere near a 5-star place to visit. Wikipedia probably describes best why we went there, its historic significance:

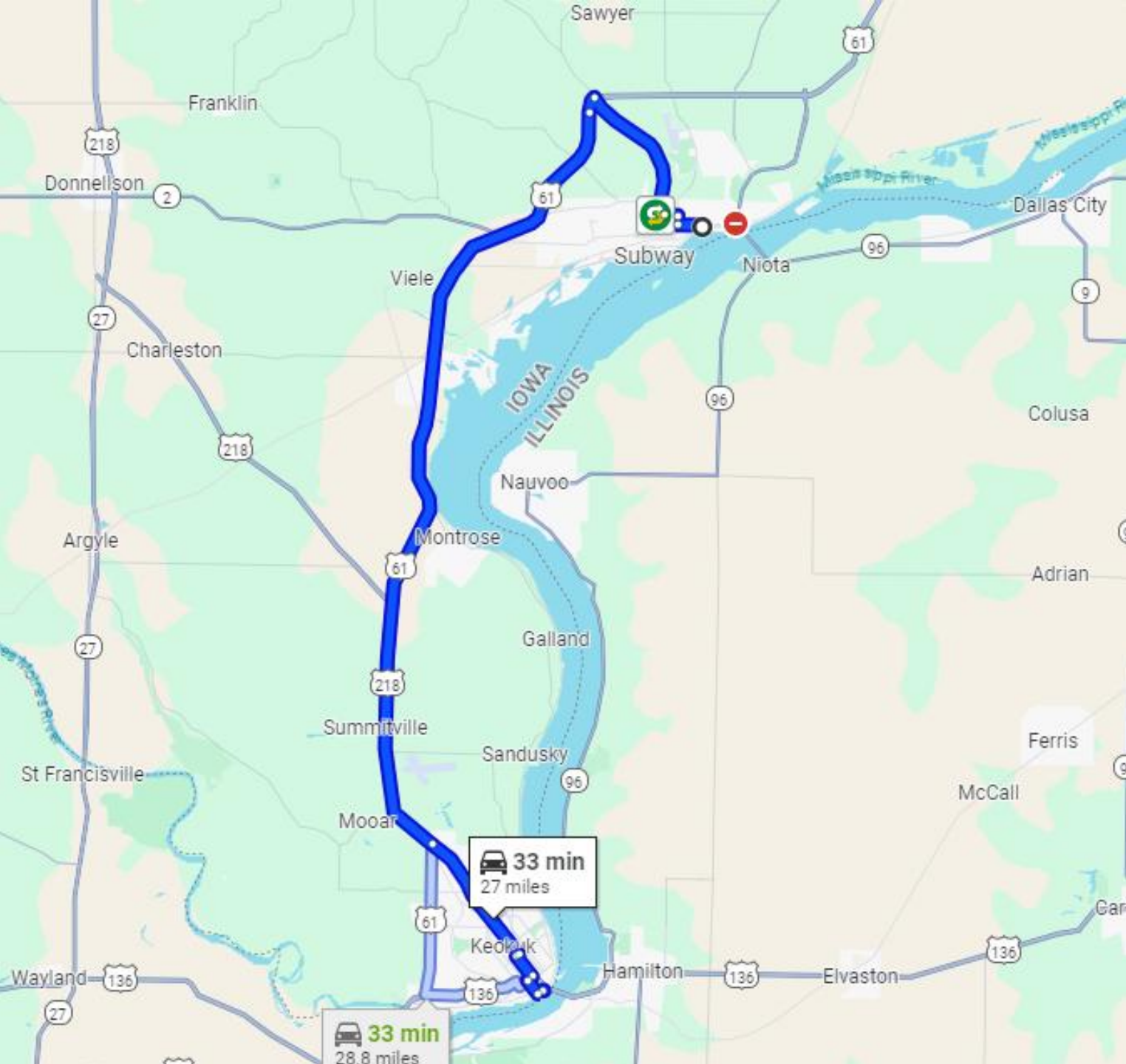
The city of Fort Madison was established around the site of the historic Fort Madison (1808–1813), which was the first permanent U.S. military fortification on the Upper Mississippi. Fort Madison was the site of Black Hawk's first battle against U.S. troops, the only real War of 1812 battle fought west of the Mississippi. It was also the location of the first U.S. military cemetery in the upper Midwest. The fort was named for James Madison, fourth President of the United States. Fort Madison was one of three posts established by the U.S. Army to establish control over the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase territories. Fort Madison was built to control trade and pacify Native Americans in the Upper Mississippi River region. The other two posts were Fort Belle Fontaine near St. Louis, which controlled the mouth of the Missouri, and Fort Osage, near what is now Kansas City, which controlled trade with western Native American tribes.



The Mighty "Mississip"







Our next stop was Keokuk, IA to see the Geo M. Verity paddleboat. This route is incorrect... as records show we crossed into Illinois at 4:01p.



GEO. M. VERITY

ARMCO STEEL CORPORATION

GEORGE M. VERITY
RIVER MUSEUM
ADMISSION: \$5.00
TICKETS: \$10.00
OPENING HOURS: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
CLOSING: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
LOCATION: 1000 N. 10th St., Little Rock, AR 72202
PHONE: (501) 661-1234
WEBSITE: www.veritymuseum.org

GEO. M. VERITY

V
IV

STR. GEO. M. V. RITY





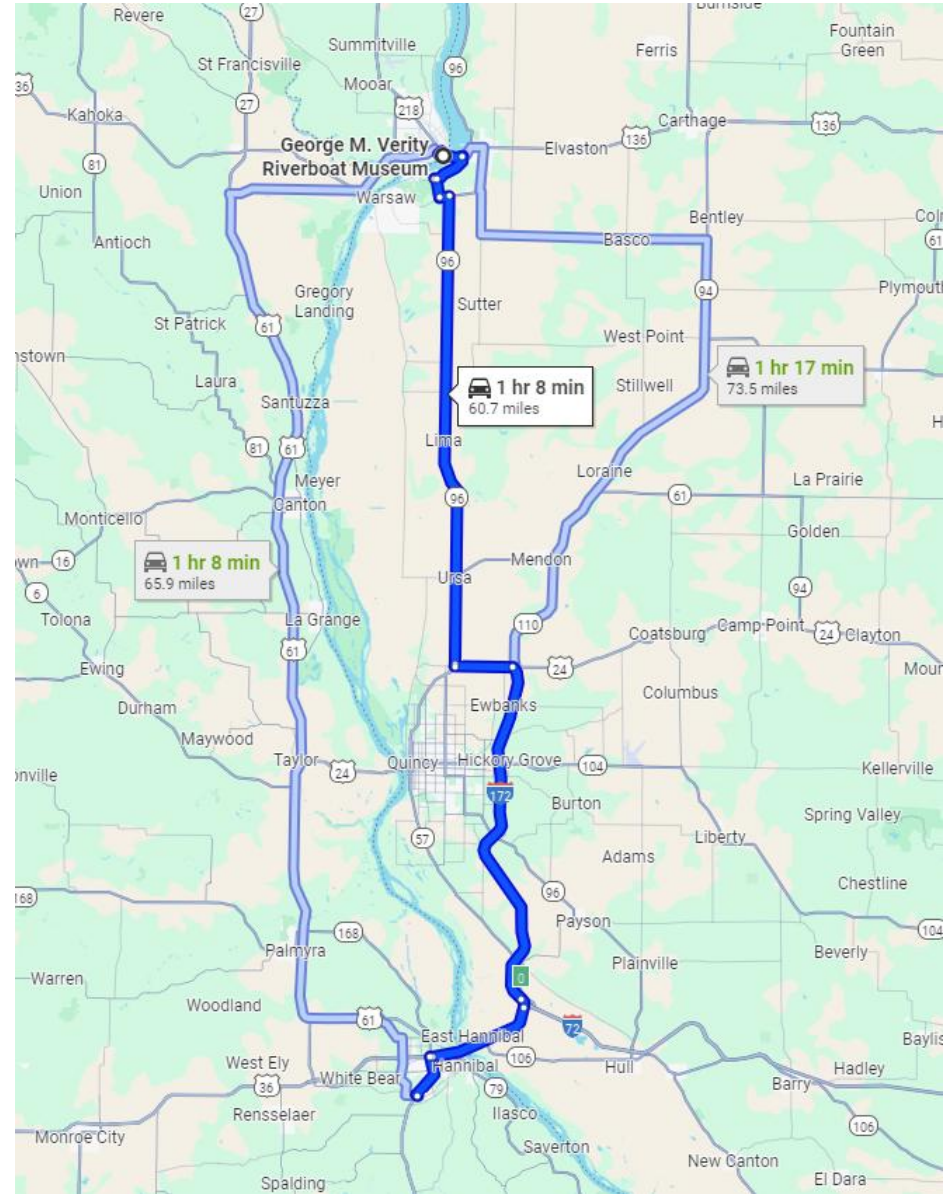
ARCO STEEL CORPORATION

GEO. M. VERITY

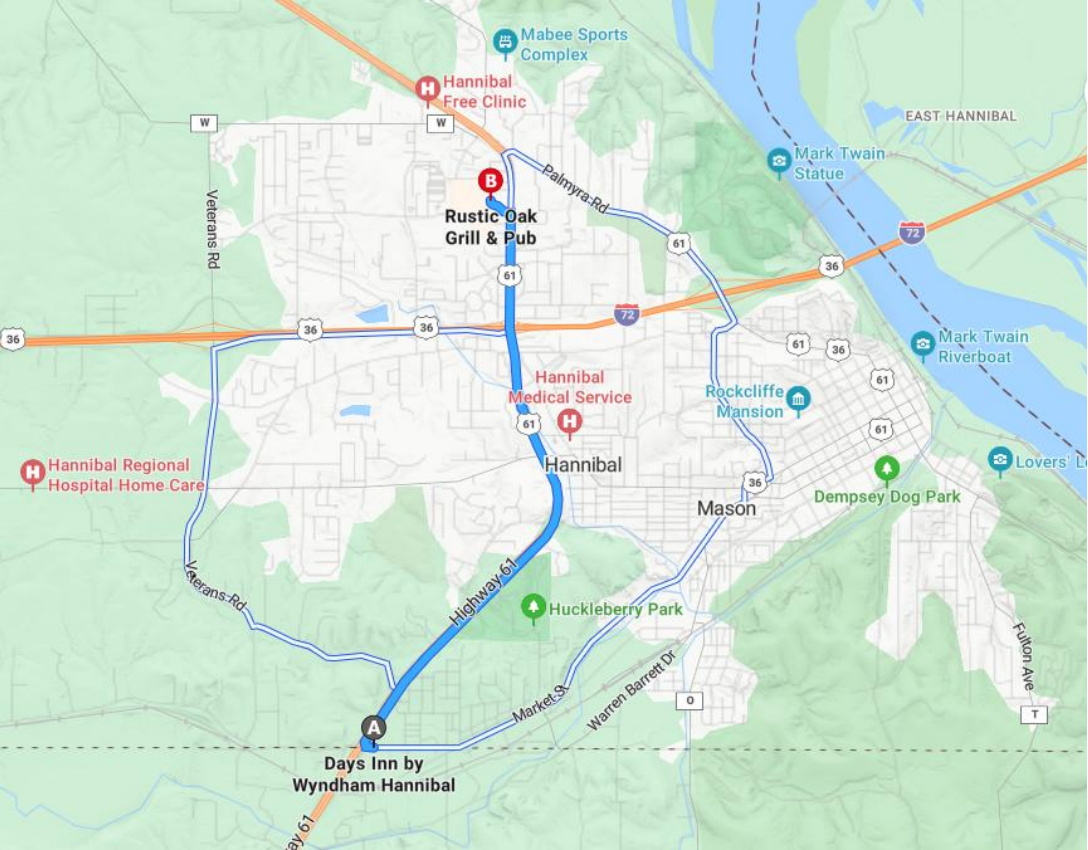
WE COMPLETE BY
C.C.S.
Commercial Contracting Services
319-313-9226
We serve the 511 Grand Area

- **The curator of this boat was closing up for the day when we got here a little after 5p. He stuck around and gave us a guided tour. Pretty interesting.**





This was quite the route. Gravel roads to the Great River Road in Illinois. Got to Hannibal about 6:30 to the Days Inn for the night.



Got here 7p or a little after. Nice meal at the Rustic Oak Grill & Pub. Grabbed beer to go at nearby liquor store and back to the room to watch Olympic opening ceremony on the River Seine in Paris. A location we have been to a few times. Pouring rain in Paris...

**Day #3 27 July
2024**

**A bucket list
day for Rob.
After growing
up on the
Mississippi
River just 218
miles south of
Hannibal, and
read Mark
Twain books...
but never made
it here before.
Very
interesting.
Check the box.**





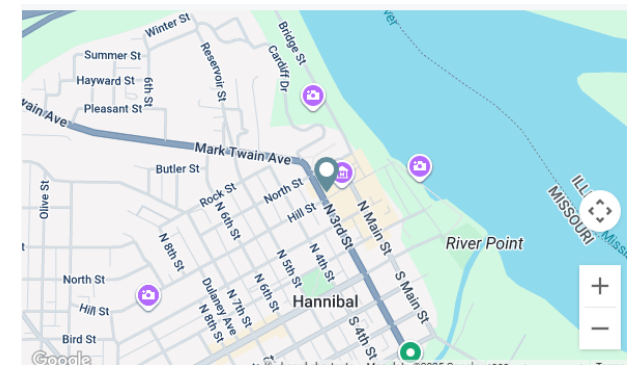
TOM SAWYER'S FENCE
HERE STOOD THE BOARD
FENCE WHICH TOM SAWYER
PERSUADED HIS GANG TO
PAY HIM FOR THE PRIVILEGE
OF WHITEWASHING. TOM
SAT BY AND SAW THAT IT
WAS WELL DONE.

**Mississippi
River in the
distance
from Twain
museum and
boyhood
home.**

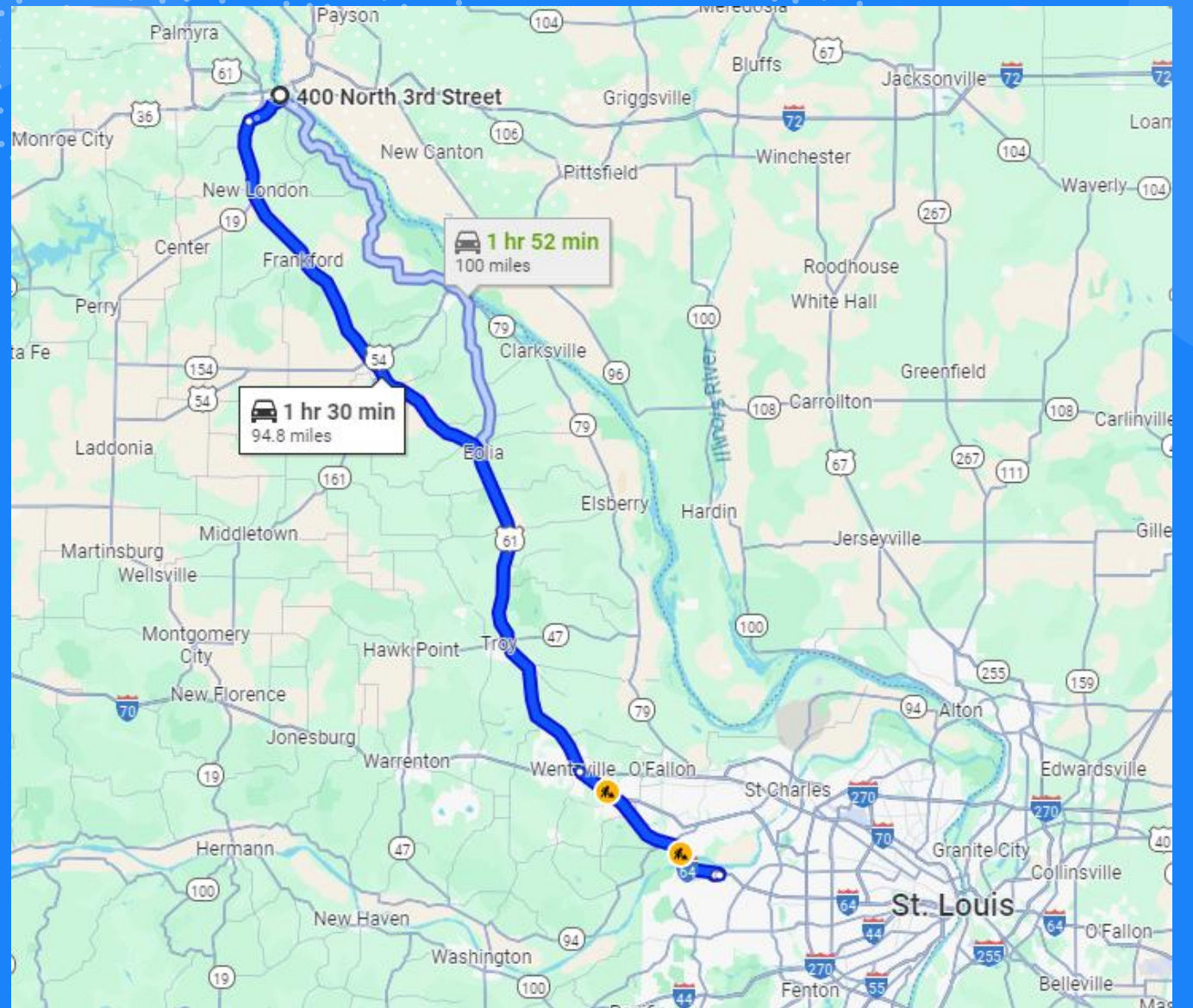




An adequate lunch at the Mark Twain Dinette.



- **The next leg went from Hannibal to Chesterfield, Mo, a suburb of St. Louis**



-
- **Highway 61 is a 1,400 mile road between New Orleans and Wyoming, MN. For obvious reasons this stretch of 61 between St Paul, MN and St. Louis, MO is called the Avenue of the Saints.**





- **Checked into the Holiday Inn Express in Chesterfield. We walked across the road to Bar Louie for a Sam Adams Summer Ale. On the walk back to the hotel it began pouring rain. We got pretty drenched. Back to the room, hung clothes up to dry, took naps.**



-
- **We went back to Bar Louie for dinner and beer with Ed's friend Karen (left) and her sisters Cheryl and Lori. Quite the lively visit.**



4 HANDS BREWING CO

A Pointe
LIVE + DINE
UNIQUE SPACE

RESTAURANT
LEASING

RESTAURANT
LEASING

***The District* is a place for all ages to play and socialize. These kind of places have caught on recently. This one includes 4 Hands Brewing Co. where we enjoyed a brew**

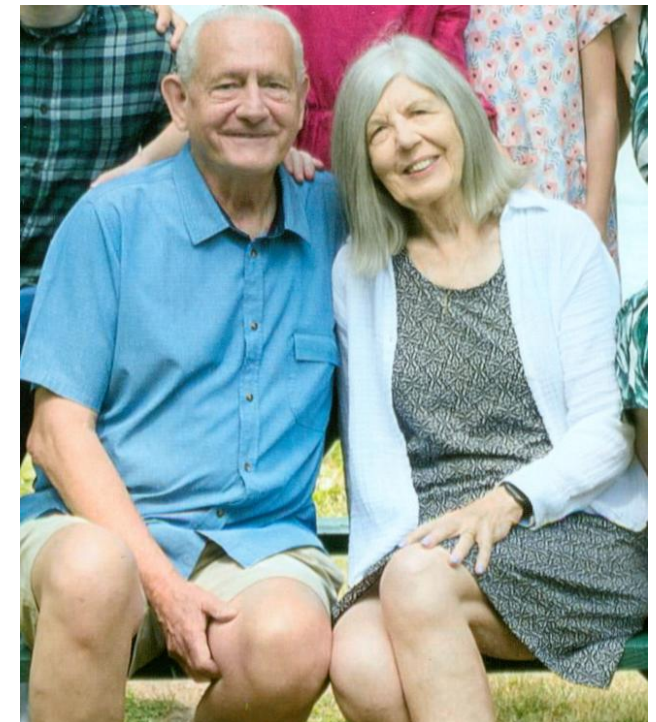
The District
THE HUB
TheDistrictLLC.com



- **We enjoyed a beer and watched men's Olympic volleyball. Then to a convenience store for more beer and back to the room to watch swimming.**



**Day #4, 28 July 2024
Had hotel breakfast
then to Laclede
Groves, a retirement
center, for coffee with
Rob's cousin Mary
and husband Bill**



VERIFIED

Laclede Groves

723 South Laclede Station Road, St. Louis, MO 63119 [Calculate travel time](#)
Assisted Living · Independent Living · Memory Care · Continuing Care Retirement Community ·
Nursing Home

Get pricing

Request tour

(855) 866-8719

Formerly a convent, this place is a very nice retirement center, complete with a cathedral-esque chapel. There we met organist "Fran the musician." Rob took the organ there for a quick spin while Ed chatted with Fran

- **From there it was off to the Florissant Diner for lunch with cousin Wanda as we did a few years ago. The topic of the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers came up with Mary & Bill as well as Wanda. Decided to check it out**

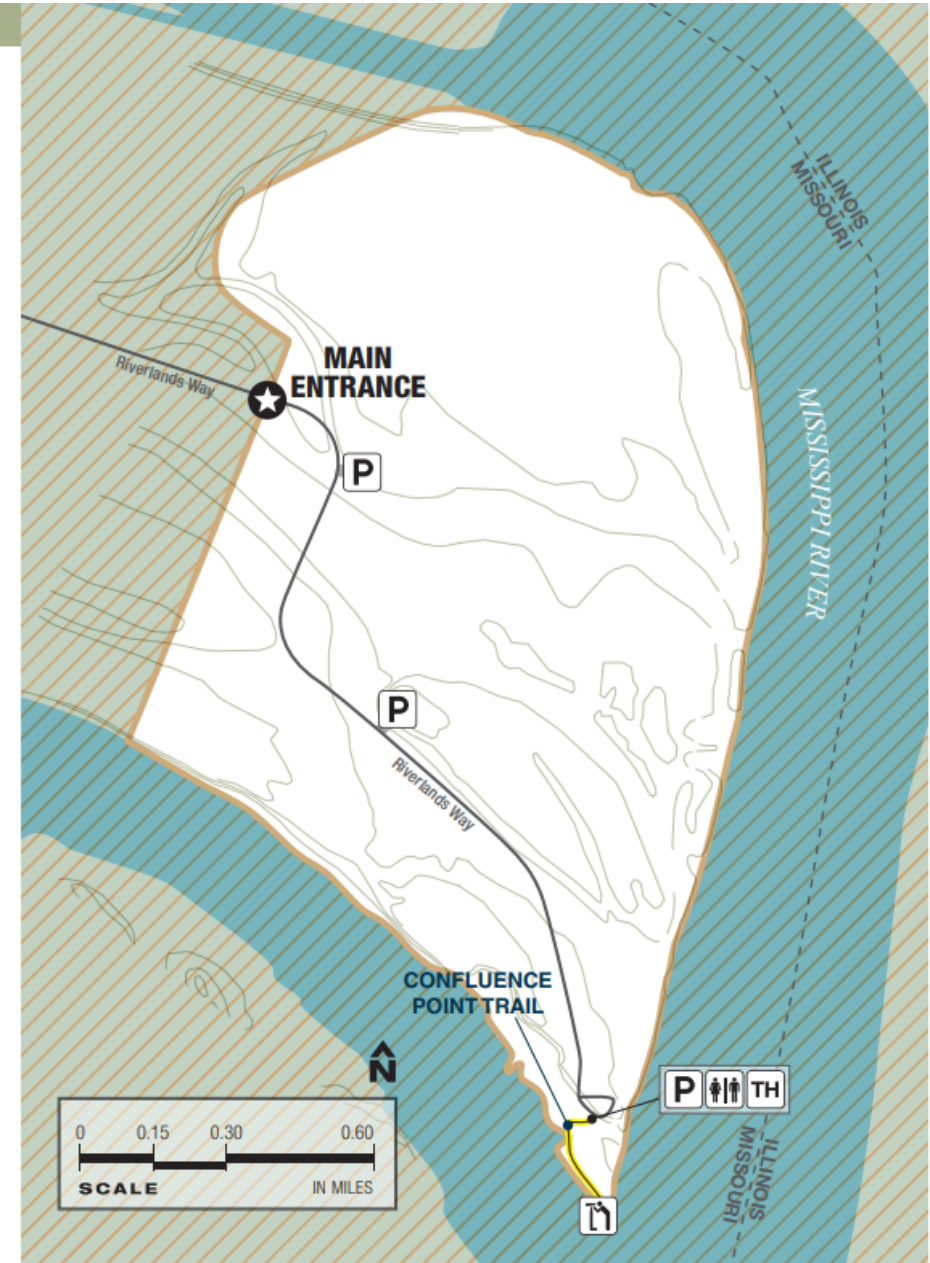


So, I guess the answer is yes, this is kind of a big deal. Even a state park here. “Confluence Point State Park.” Not gonna happen today. Recent flooding closed the park and kept us from seeing it.



LEGEND

- Main entrance
- State route
- Land contour
- Not state park property
- Park boundary
- Trail blazed in yellow
- Water
- Hiking trail
- Overlook
- Parking
- Restroom
- Trailhead



CONTACT INFORMATION

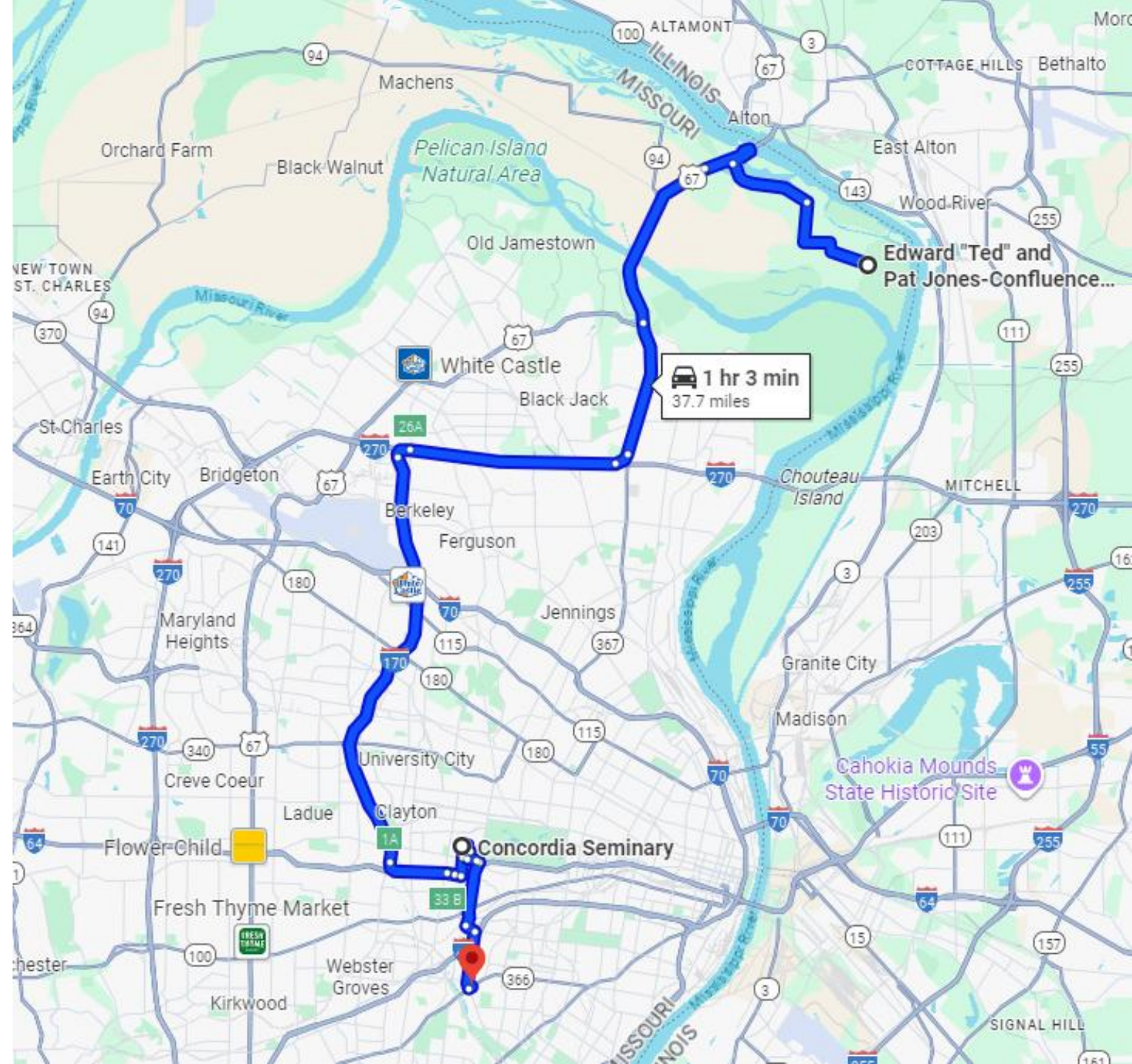
Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones -
 Confluence Point State Park
 1000 Riverlands Way
 West Alton MO 63386-0067
 636-899-1135
mostateparks.com

DISCLAIMER: This map is not a legal survey. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of the data or related materials and is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from its use.



- **We drove around on the gravel road and saw other Mississippi River sites.**

The plan was to end up in Rob's hometown, Cape Girardeau, MO, for the evening. But first, Ed had never experienced Ted Drews Frozen Custard, a St. Louis MUST. On the way we saw signs for Concordia Seminary, where Lutheran pastors are trained. Let's stop there and see if the chapel is open. It wasn't, but just as we were about to leave, a professor came by and let us in. Rob got to take the organ for a spin here too.

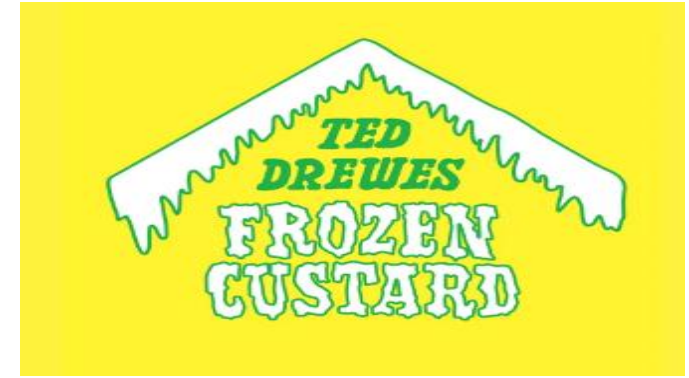




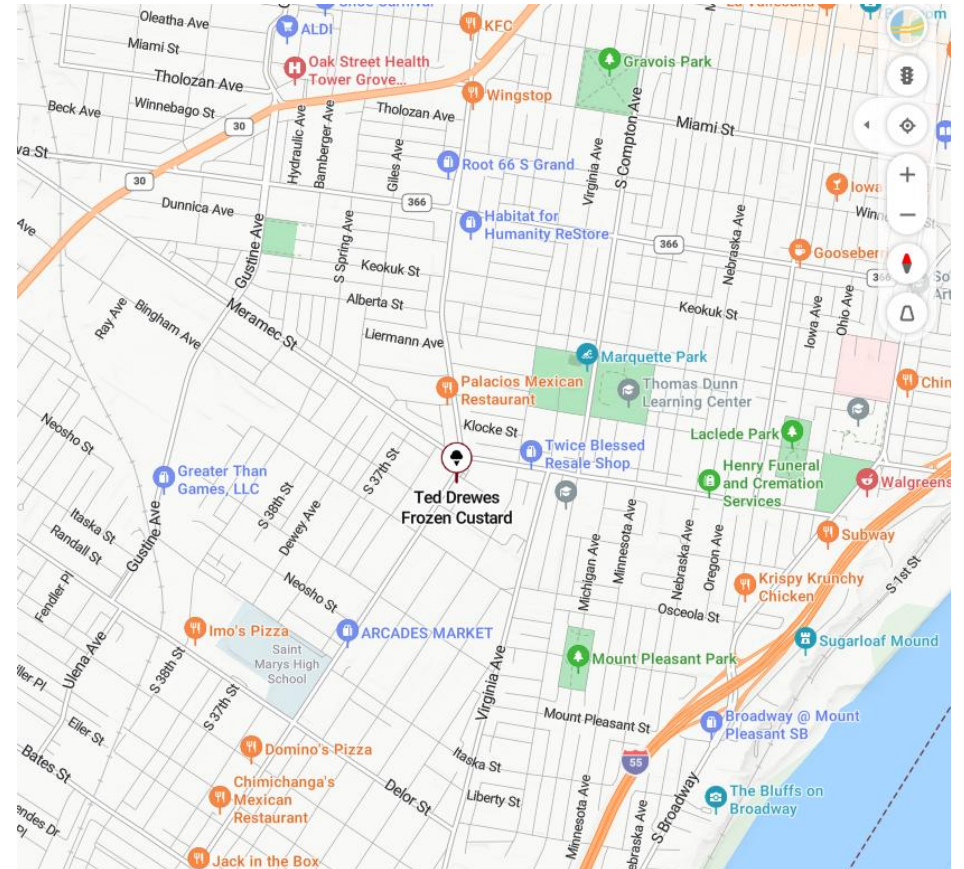
Concordia Seminary, founded in Altenburg, MO in 1839, then moved to St Louis in 1849.



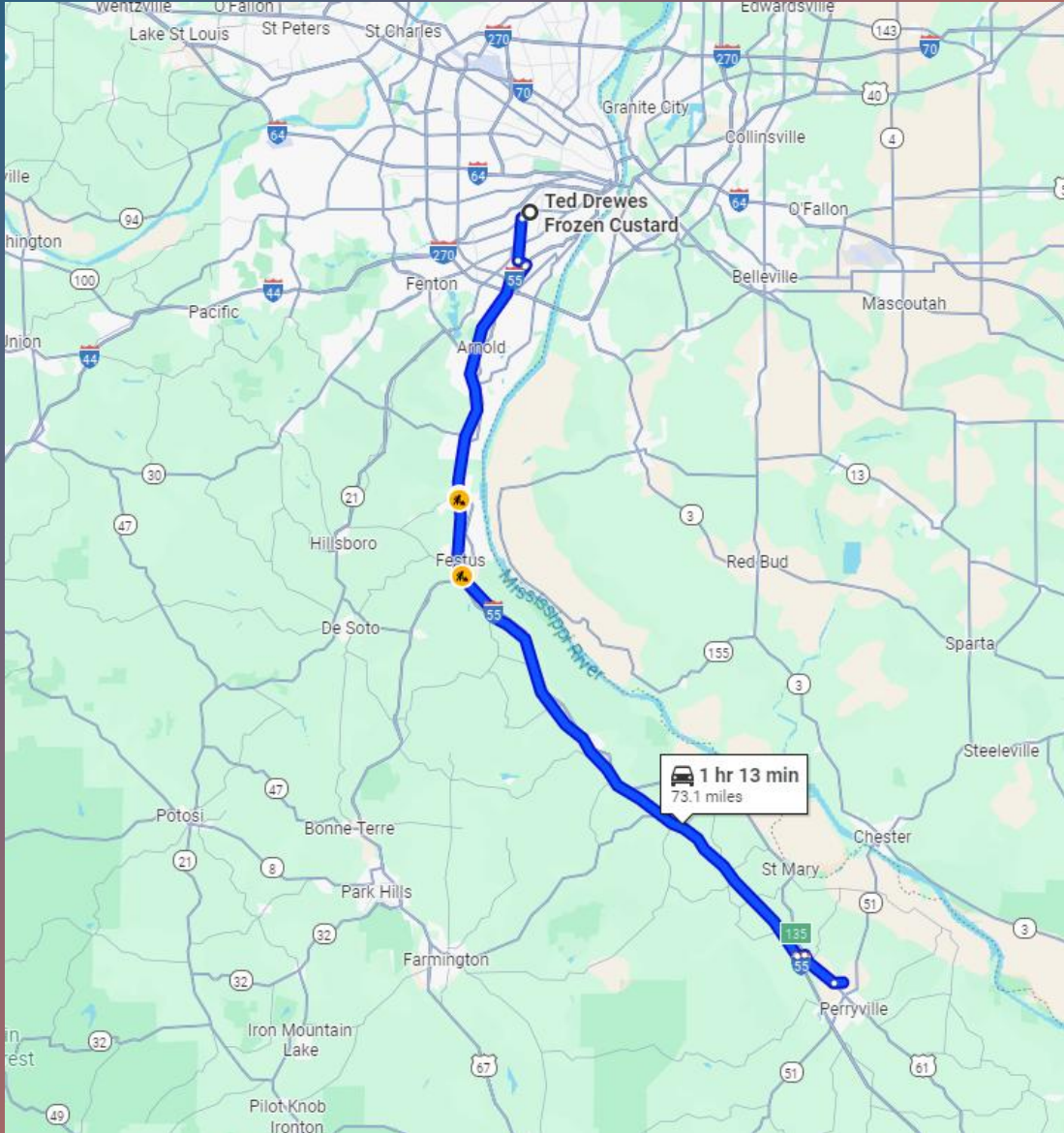
**The
Casavant
organ
beautifully
fills the
room with
sound.**



A St. Louis “thing” to do. Have some delicious frozen custard from Ted Drewes







- **Next destination – Perryville, MO**



1172 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.
Perryville, MO 63775

Missouri's National Veterans
Memorial is a 501(c)3 nonprofit

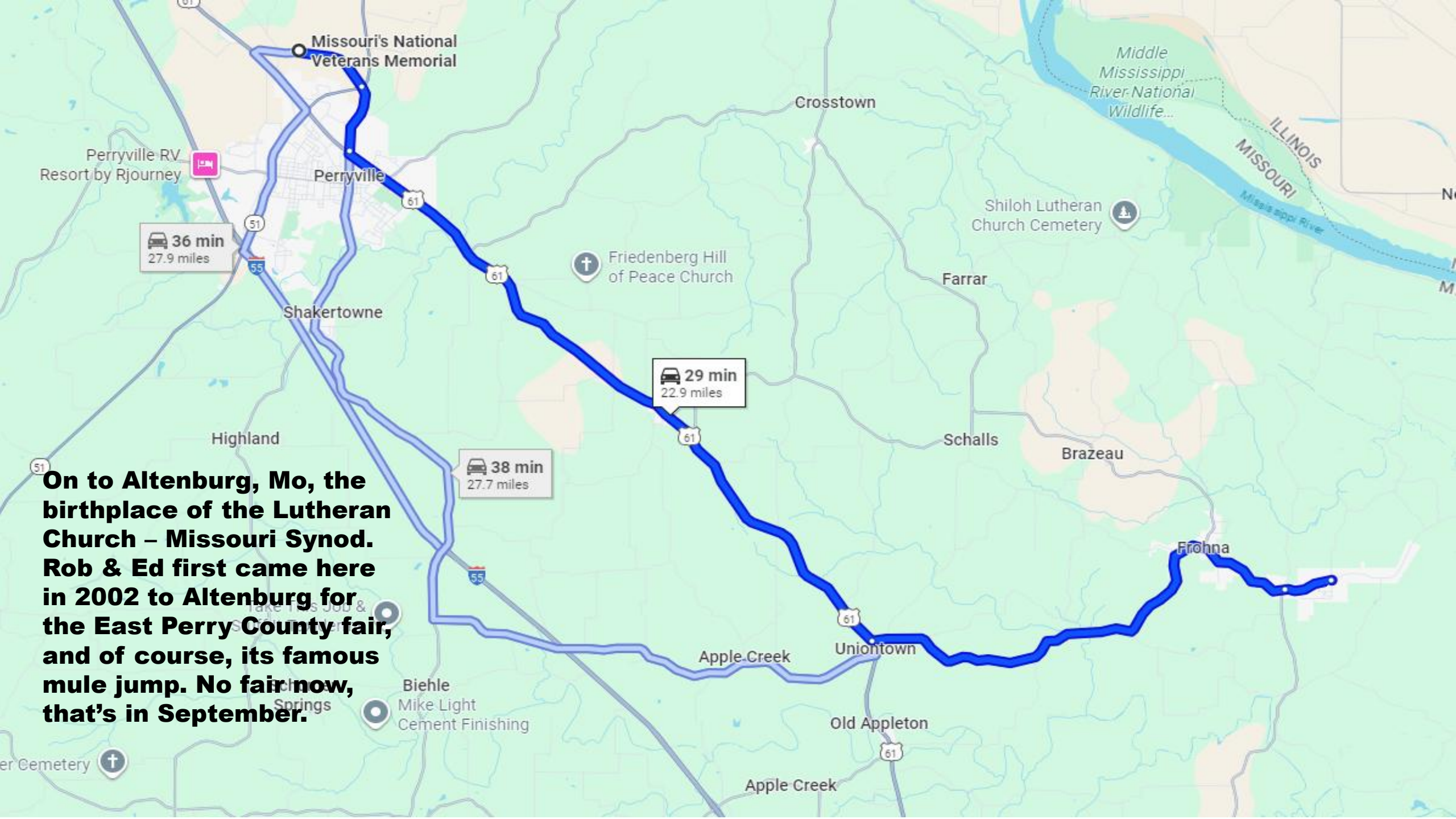


(573) 547-2035

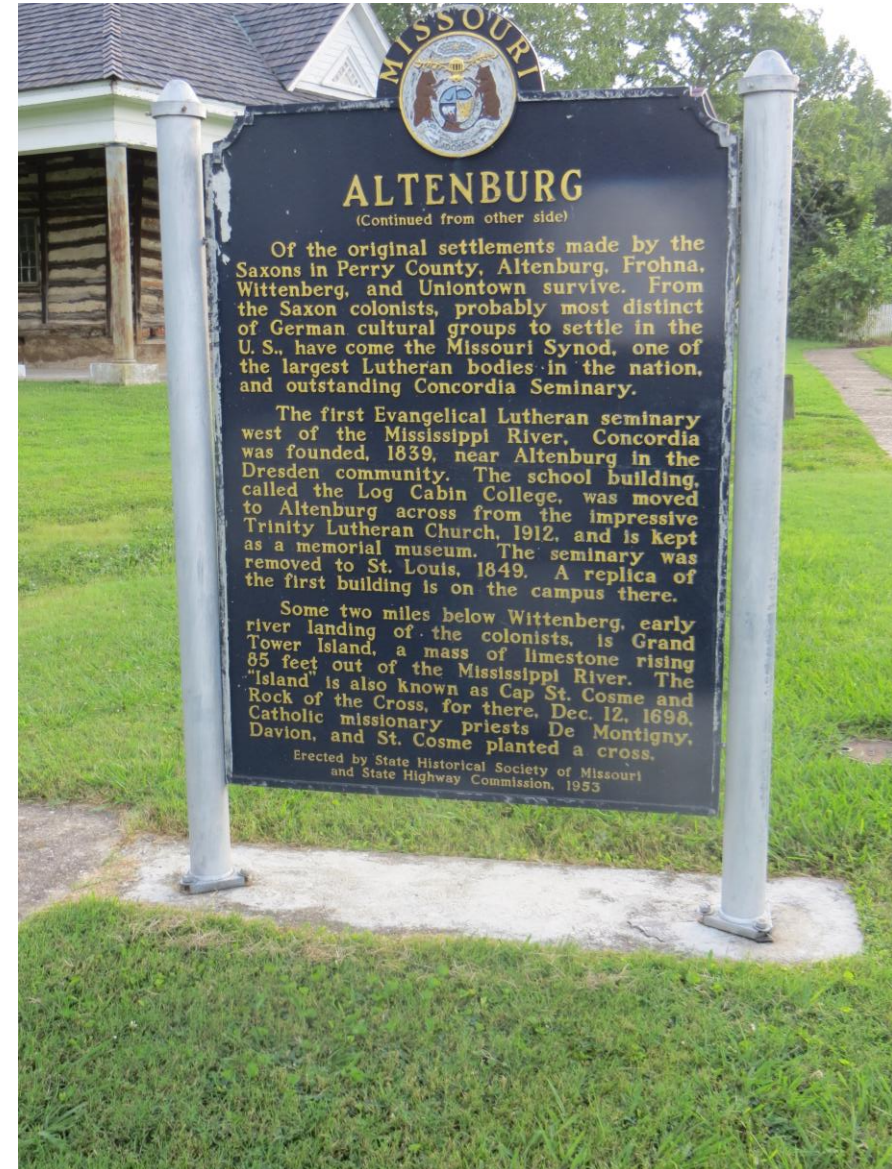
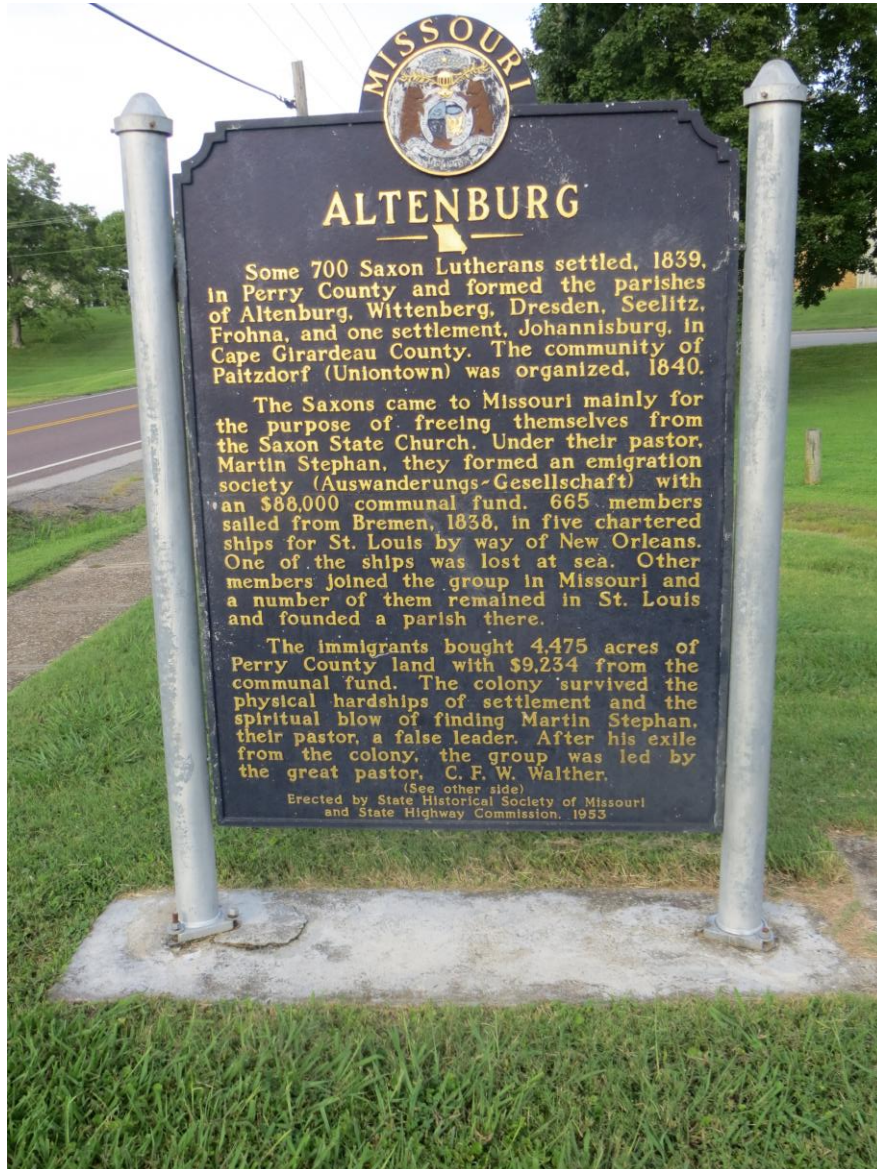
Welcome Center and Museum
open Sunday-Saturday 11-3

Mary & Bill suggested we check out the Vietnam Wall replica in Perryville, MO. It was on the way, why not? This was a great find! A guy bought the land and paid for an exact replica of the Vietnam Wall in DC. The visitor center/museum was closed by the time we arrived, but walking around the wall was very cool.





On to Altenburg, Mo, the birthplace of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Rob & Ed first came here in 2002 to Altenburg for the East Perry County fair, and of course, its famous mule jump. No fair now, that's in September.



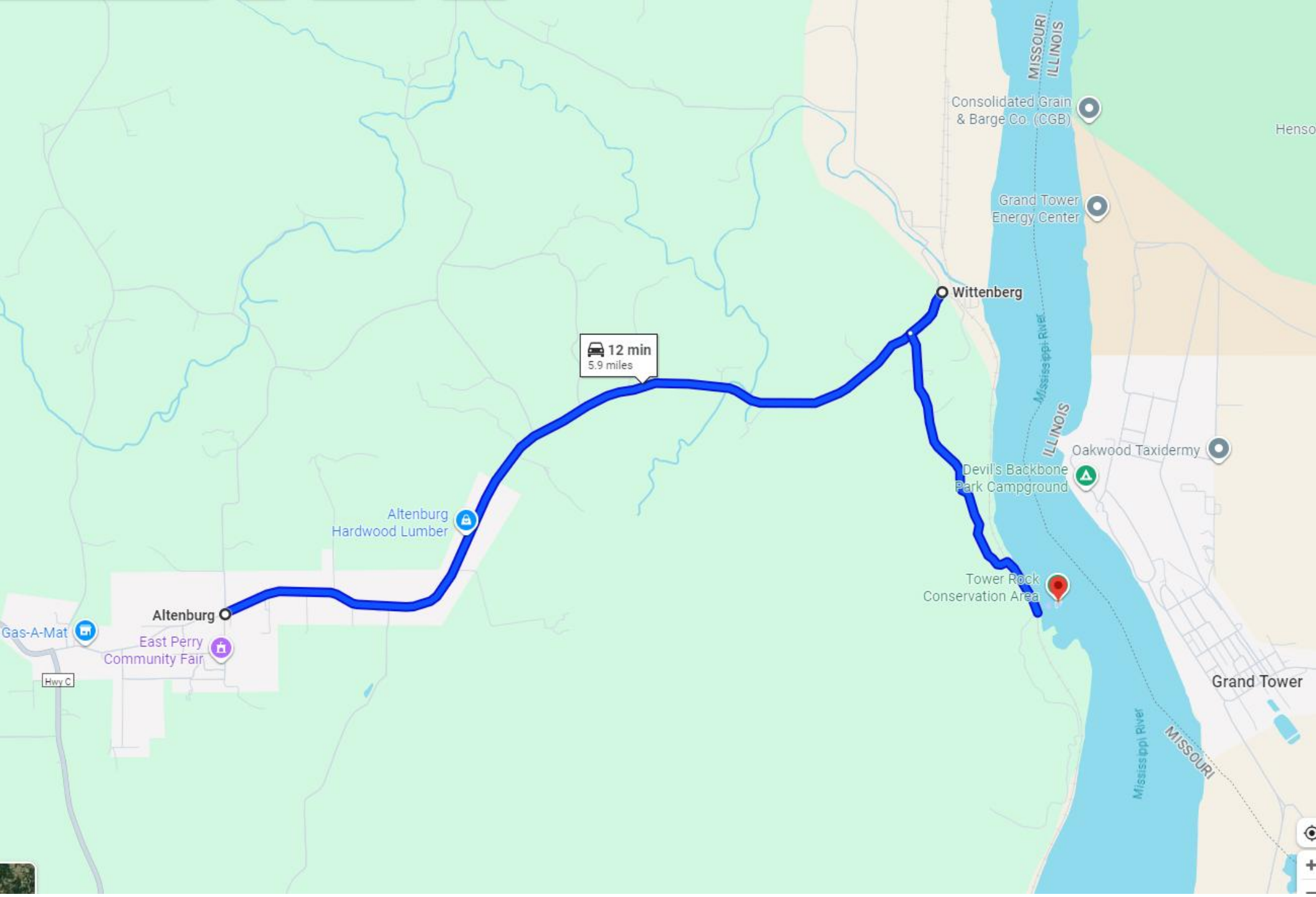
**Replica of 1839
seminary in
original location**



FIRST
COLLEGE BUILDING
of the Ev-Luth.
MISSOURI SYNOD
BUILT BY THE SAVED
INDIGENTS
A.D. 1839
WOOD PRESIDENT SITE
ENGINEER DIRECTED
A.C. WINE

FOUNDED
1839

Early
Evangelist
and Co-Editor
of the
Evangelist
and the
Evangelist
A.D. 1839
Editor of the
Evangelist
A.D. 1839
Berthel M. A. B.



From Altenburg we went about 6 miles to Wittenberg, MO where the original 1830s German Lutherans on the Mississippi landed. Then down the gravel road to Tower Rock.



Tower Rock

Look up Tower Rock Mississippi River on Wikipedia when you care. Some interesting tidbits of info. Mentioned in the writings of French missionary Jacques Marquette in 1673 and later Meriwether Lewis. To the early German Lutherans it was their “Plymouth Rock.” For some time it was an ambush spot for river pirates until the US Army dragoons put a stop to that in 1803. (see Wikipedia). You can walk out to it when the river is low enough. Rob remembers bringing out-of-town guests here throughout his childhood.



**Grand Tower
Pipeline Bridge
crosses at
Wittenberg.
Carries natural
gas.**

**While here some
questionable
characters drove
up. Time for us to
move on.**

THE JOURNEY OF LEWIS & CLARK: Tower Rock Conservation Area



THE GRAND TOWER

Novr. 26th, 1803

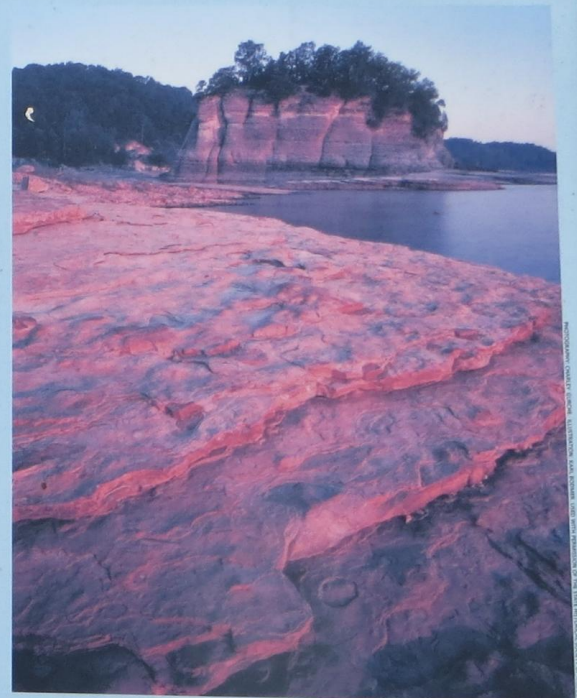
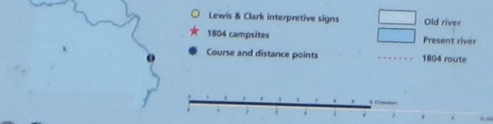
... There is a most beautifull and commanding view from the summit of the sugarloaf point; it commands the top of the grand Tower about 60 feet and overlooks the low surrounding country; the view of the river above is particularly beautifull...

Meriwether Lewis

Tower Rock is a grand vision. As Lewis and Clark passed through this area 200 years ago, Lewis found the rock so commanding that he wrote about it at length in his journal. Climbing to the top of a nearby summit, Lewis was impressed with the bold hills. Many other travelers and explorers before him had noted the landmark, including Jacques Marquette in 1673.

Tower Rock was, and is, more than just an impressive monument in the Mississippi River. The island was legendary to navigators. When the river flooded, a dangerous whirlpool would form as the violent current of the second channel forced its way between the rock and the base of the nearby formation. Those who passed for the first time would celebrate grandly or be dunked in the river.

Lewis and Clark were only 23 days into their long journey, but they were already sensing the beautiful landscapes yet to come. Take a moment to absorb the rugged countryside and view Tower Rock just as Lewis, Marquette and other explorers have.



A small limestone island carved by the waters of the Mississippi, Tower Rock is topped with a forest of oak, hickory, beech and pine. During periods of low water, the rock is approachable by land.

Tower Rock became a rite of passage for boatmen of the Mississippi, much as crossing the equator was for deepwater sailors.



VISIT MORE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE SIGNS ALONG THE RIVER OR ONLINE AT WWW.MISSOURICONSERVATION.ORG

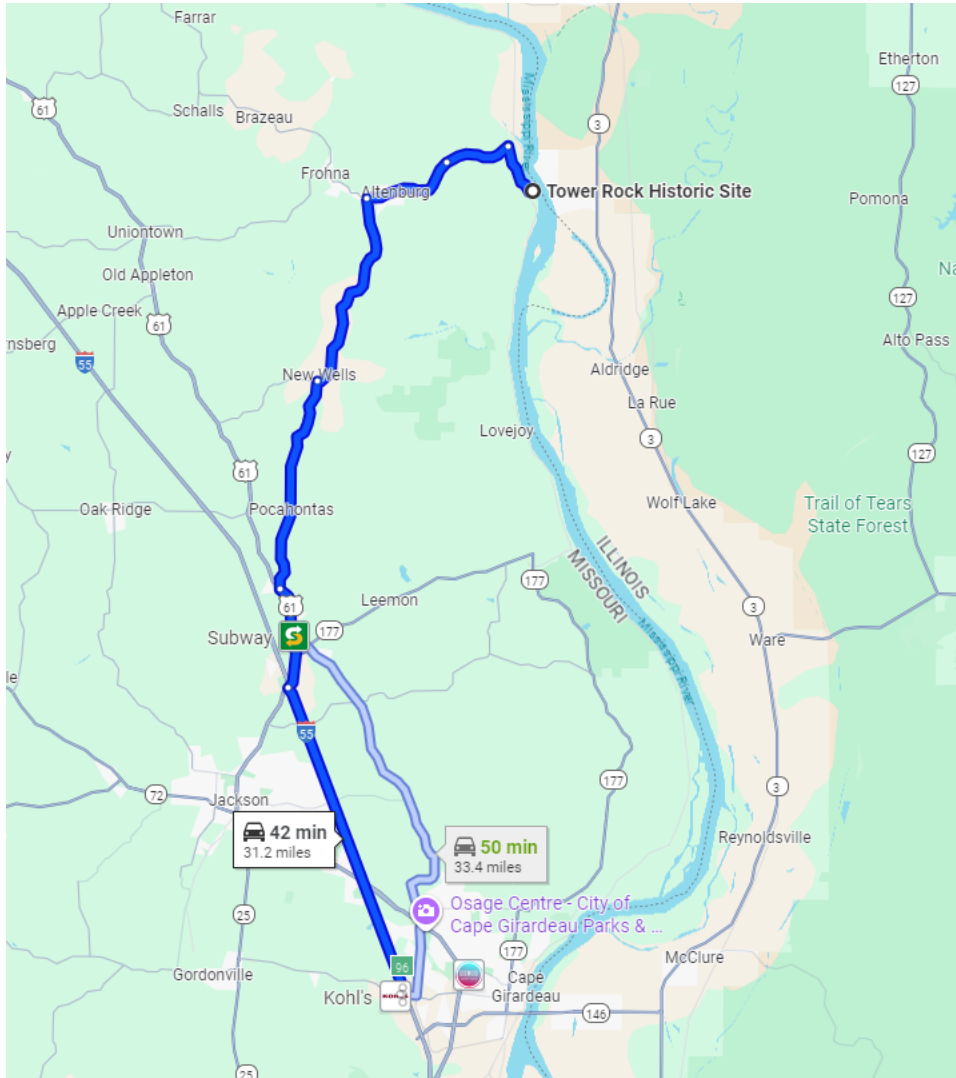


Up the tracks to the north...



Down the tracks to the south...

From Grand Tower we drove to Cape and checked into the Pear Tree Inn for the night. But first... we got a couple of Stag Beers to put on the steps of Rob's homeplace as a mysterious surprise to Rob's brother. We managed to actually drink *some* of this beer.



Closed out the evening at Minglewood Brewery in downtown Cape Girardeau, and to Applebee's for dinner. Watched Olympics – girls skateboarding, etc.

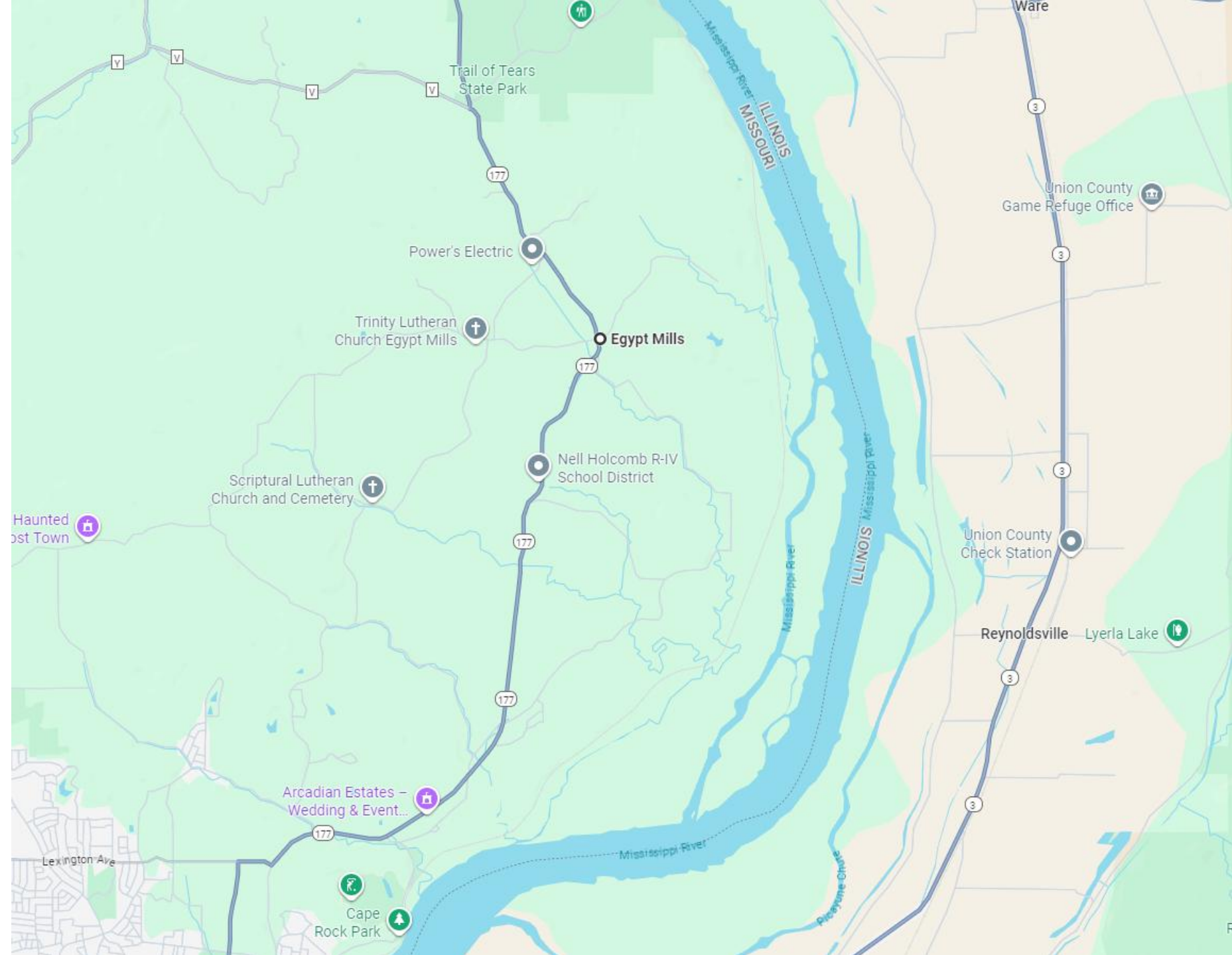


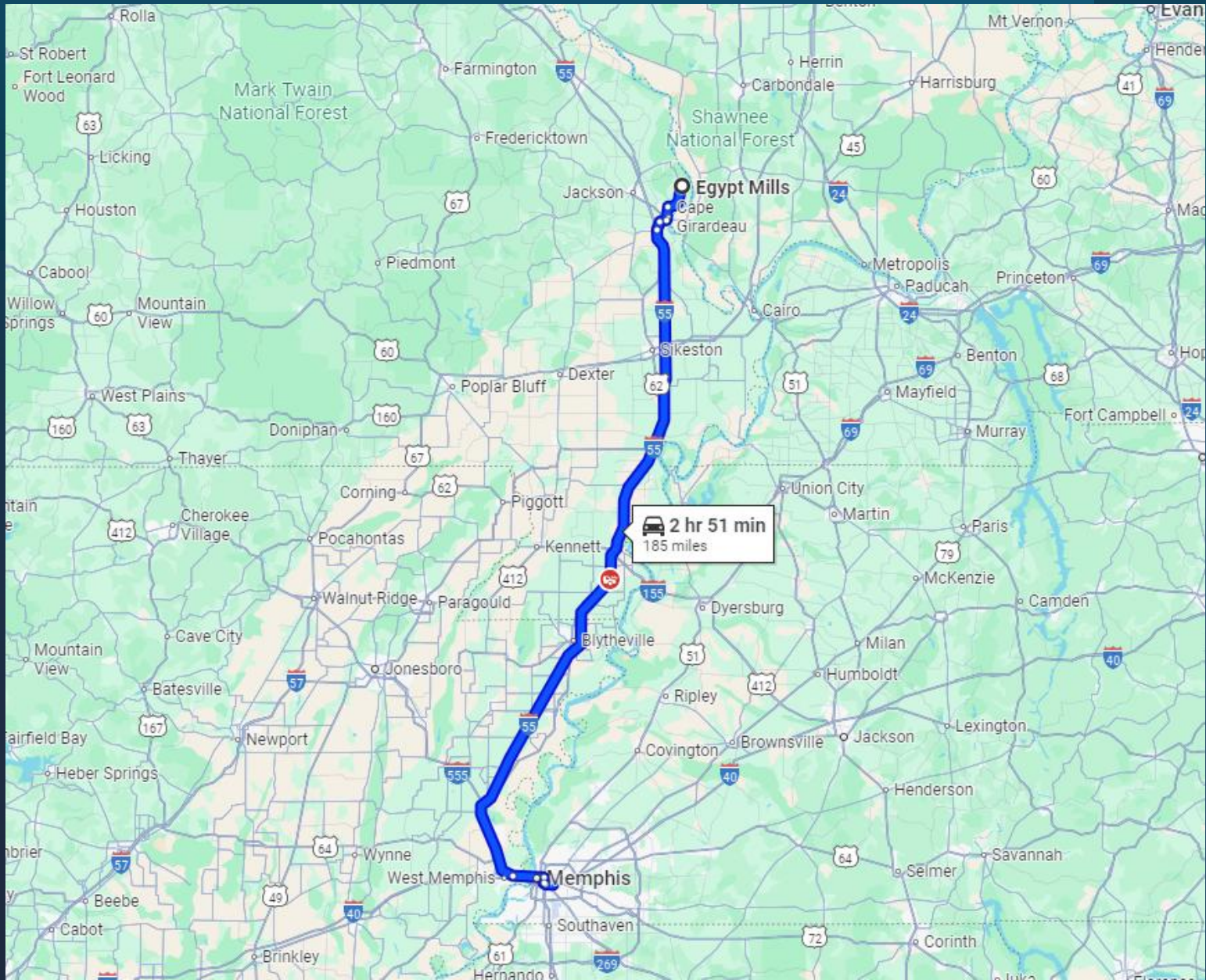
Some well-seasoned travelers there



Day #5, 29 July 2024

After the Pear Tree breakfast we went for a short visit to Rob's brother north of Cape G in the Egypt Mills area. After that we toured Egypt Mills where Rob's German ancestors settled in the 1830s & 40s. Many of them chartered Trinity Lutheran Church in Egypt Mills in 1867. After said tour, we started south on the ole double nickel as its called, I-55, toward Memphis, Tennessee.







**Got to
Memphis at
1:30 and had
lunch at a
significant bbq
place, Central
BBQ**

- 
- **We made a cameo visit to the Peabody Hotel to see the swimming ducks in the fountain. Everyday at 11 am the ducks are marched down from their rooftop abode to the fountain. 5p they march back. This tradition goes back to the 1930s.**



- **Next stop was Sun Studio. Their website summarizes the reason for the visit:**

- ***Sun Studio is known worldwide as “The Birthplace of Rock’n’roll”. It is the discovery location of musical legends and genres of the 50’s from B.B. King and Elvis Presley to Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis; from Blues and Gospel to Country and Rock’n’roll. Today our goal is to spread the story of Memphis’ history and culture through the music that put Memphis on the map.***

-



**The "Million
Dollar Quartet"**

**Jerry Lee Lewis
Carl Perkins
Johnny Cash
Elvis Presley**





Hanging on a wall in the restroom was a picture of a singing group: The Rhodes Family: Slim, Dusty, Dotty, and of course, Speck on the bass. They had a Saturday music show on KFVS in Cape Girardeau when Rob was a kid.

Not far from Sun Studio is the Lorraine Motel where MLK Jr was assassinated April 4, 1968. We drove by the location before heading north.



We still had a day or two before heading back to Chicago. Let's start in a northerly direction to Cape again and stay in the (comparatively) inexpensive Pear Tree Inn. We basically repeated last night: Beer at Minglewood, beer and Olympics back at room.



Somewhere on the road between Memphis and Cape a never-to-be-remembered phrase was uttered, "it's easier to hit the bullseye when you don't have a target."



A barge going up the Mississippi



Day #6 30 July 2024. Leisurely got up and rolling. Watched a nail-biter men's sand volleyball game at the Olympics. US vs. Morocco. Then to meet Rob's brother Terry & wife Kim at the Huddle House for breakfast. Pretty popular place for a reasonably priced breakfast. There are several of these, including one just to the north of Austin in Walburg, TX. Not quite the same as the one in Cape.





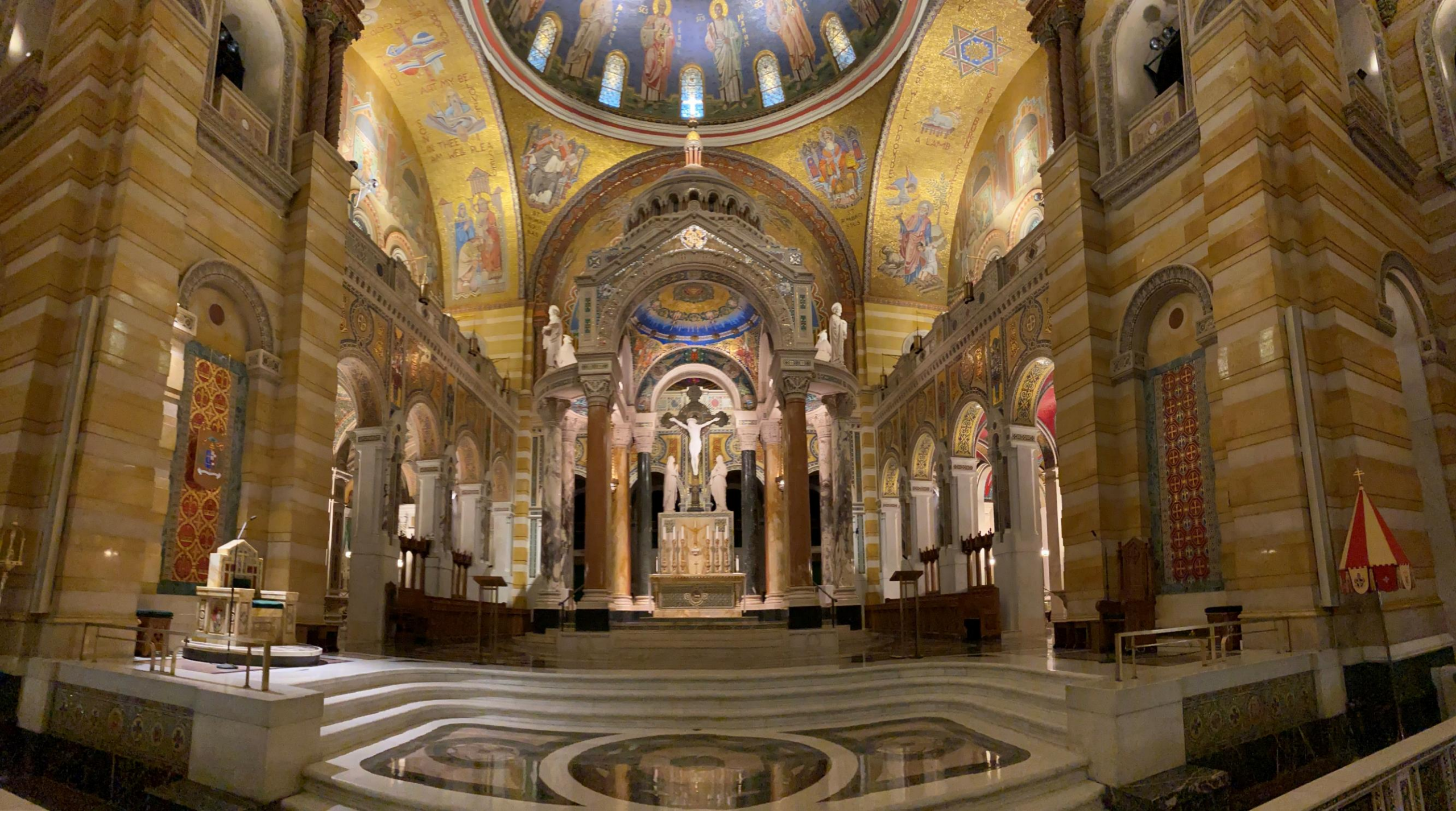
Then started trek back to STL and ultimately Springfield, IL. Stopped at this house on the way out of town. It was built and lived in by Laura Crews, a lady who owned the furniture store Rob worked at during high school and college years, and did chores at this house on weekends.

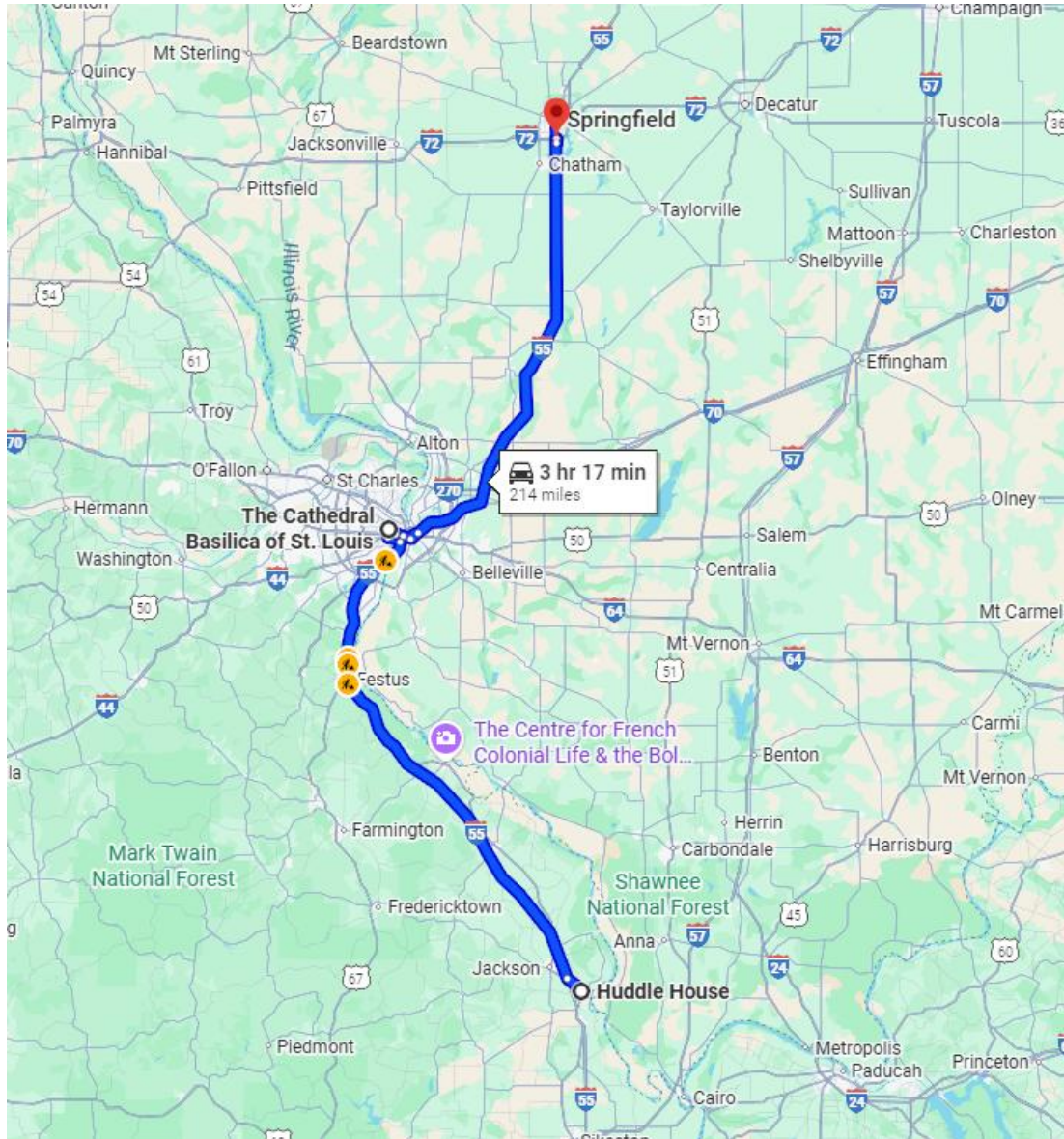
A neat place to visit is the ***Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis***. Quite reminiscent of the cathedrals we have visited in Europe. Construction began in 1907.



**Got here
about 1:30p.
Obviously
some
maintenance
going on here.**







- **Our driving route for the day**



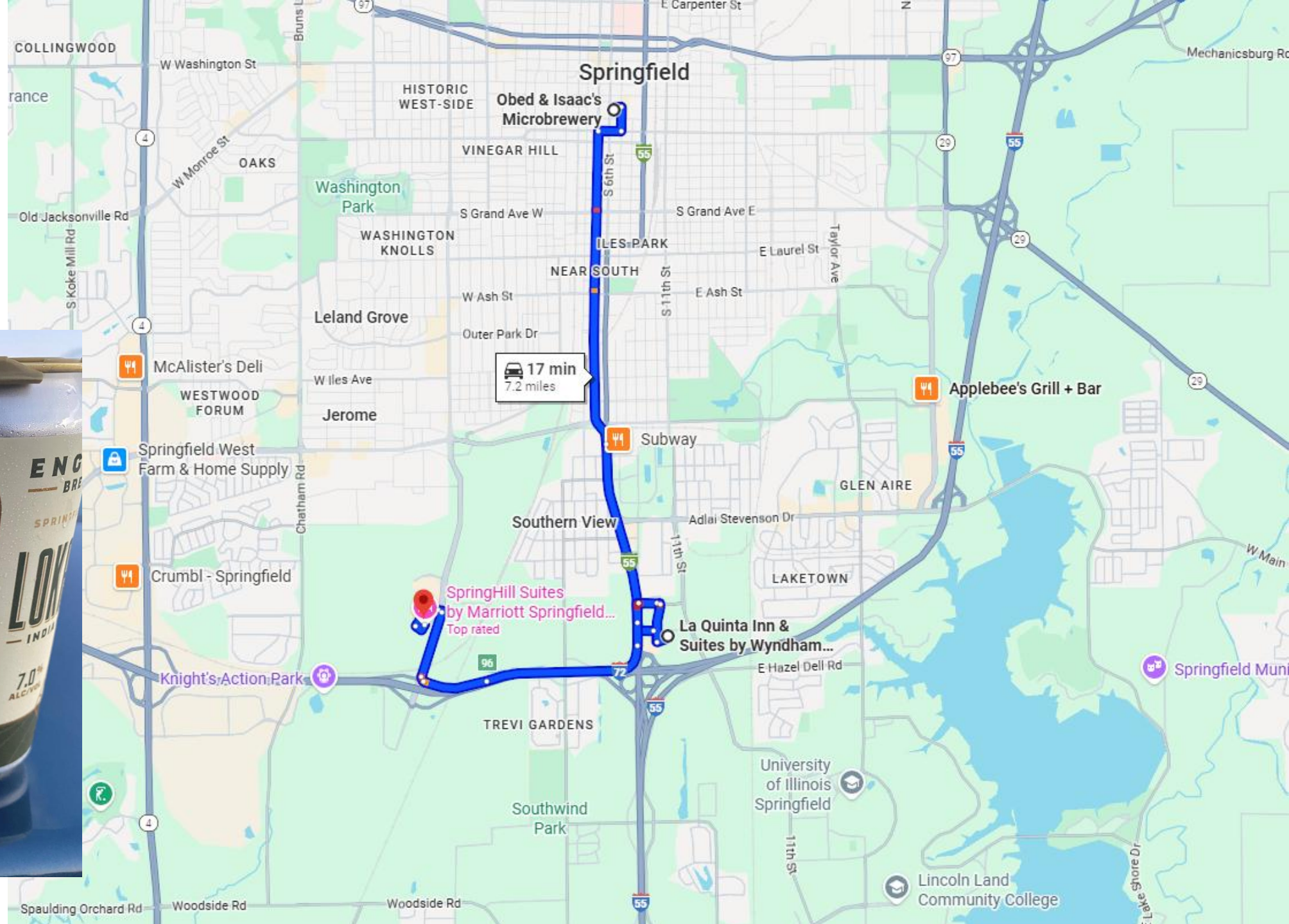
- **Got to Springfield 4:30p. Stopped by Lincoln Visitor Ctr. Too late for any tourist stuff today. Researched and found this place for a beer before checking in at a LaQuinta for the evening.**





**Got to
Engrained
Brewing Co.
at 7:30 for
some dinner
and beer.
Took a 4-pk
back to the
room to watch
more
Olympics.**

The route from Obed & Issac's to LaQuinta, to Engrained Brewery.



Day #7, 31 July 2024 After the hotel breakfast, we went to the Lincoln Visitor Ctr and started with a guided tour of the Lincoln home. The house was built in 1839 and purchased by the Lincolns in 1844. They lived there until moving to DC in 1861.



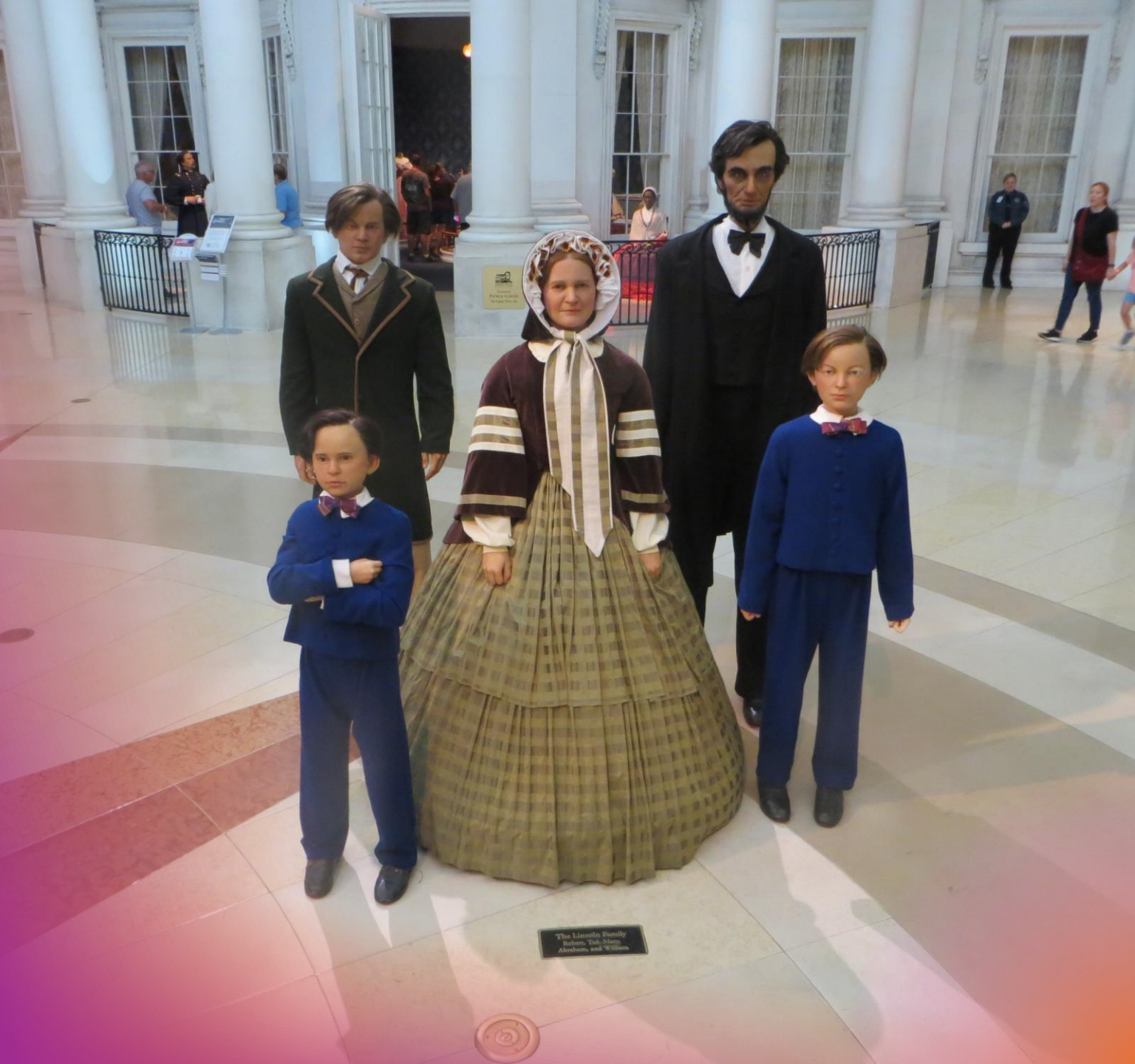


- **Awaiting us once we returned to the visitor center was good ole Abe and Mary themselves! We actually got to visit with him a bit and heard his story “becoming” Lincoln in college and finding out he could make a living doing this impersonation. His real name is Fritz Klein.**



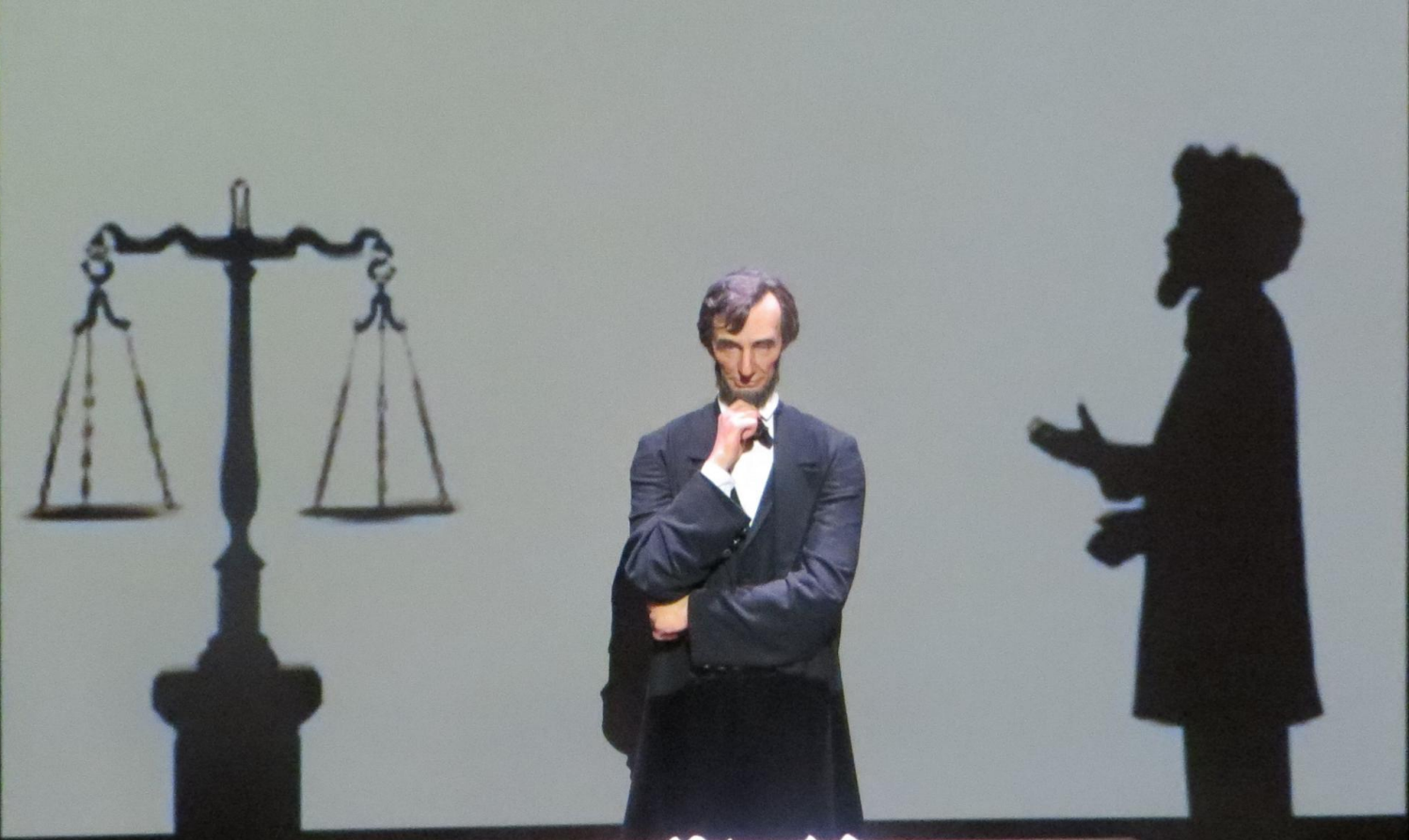
From there we drove up to the Lincoln Museum and Library. Parked in a parking garage and walked the block or two.





- **Planners of this museum did an excellent job of laying everything out depicting Lincoln's life from birth to death and that chunk of our nation's history.**



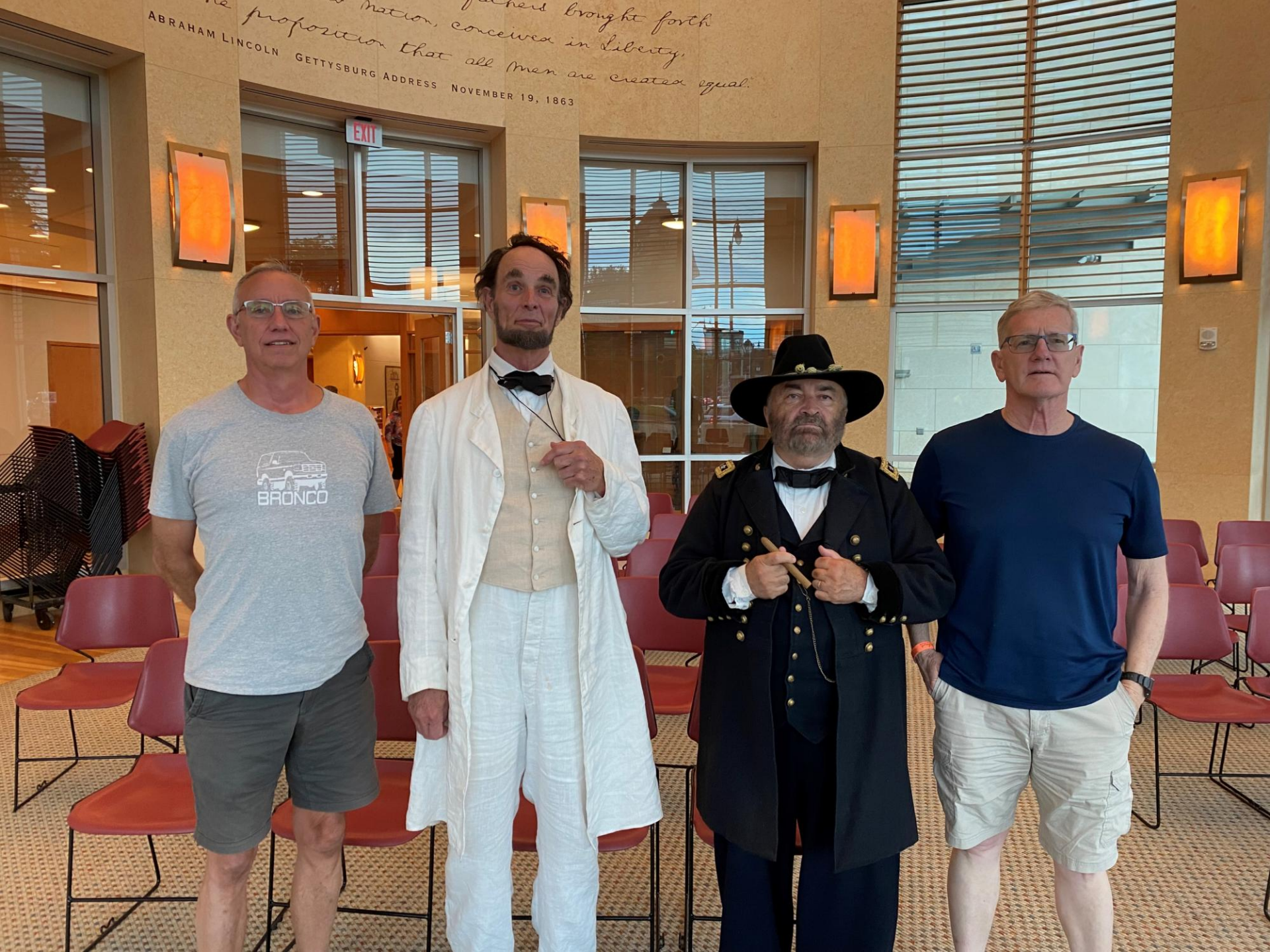




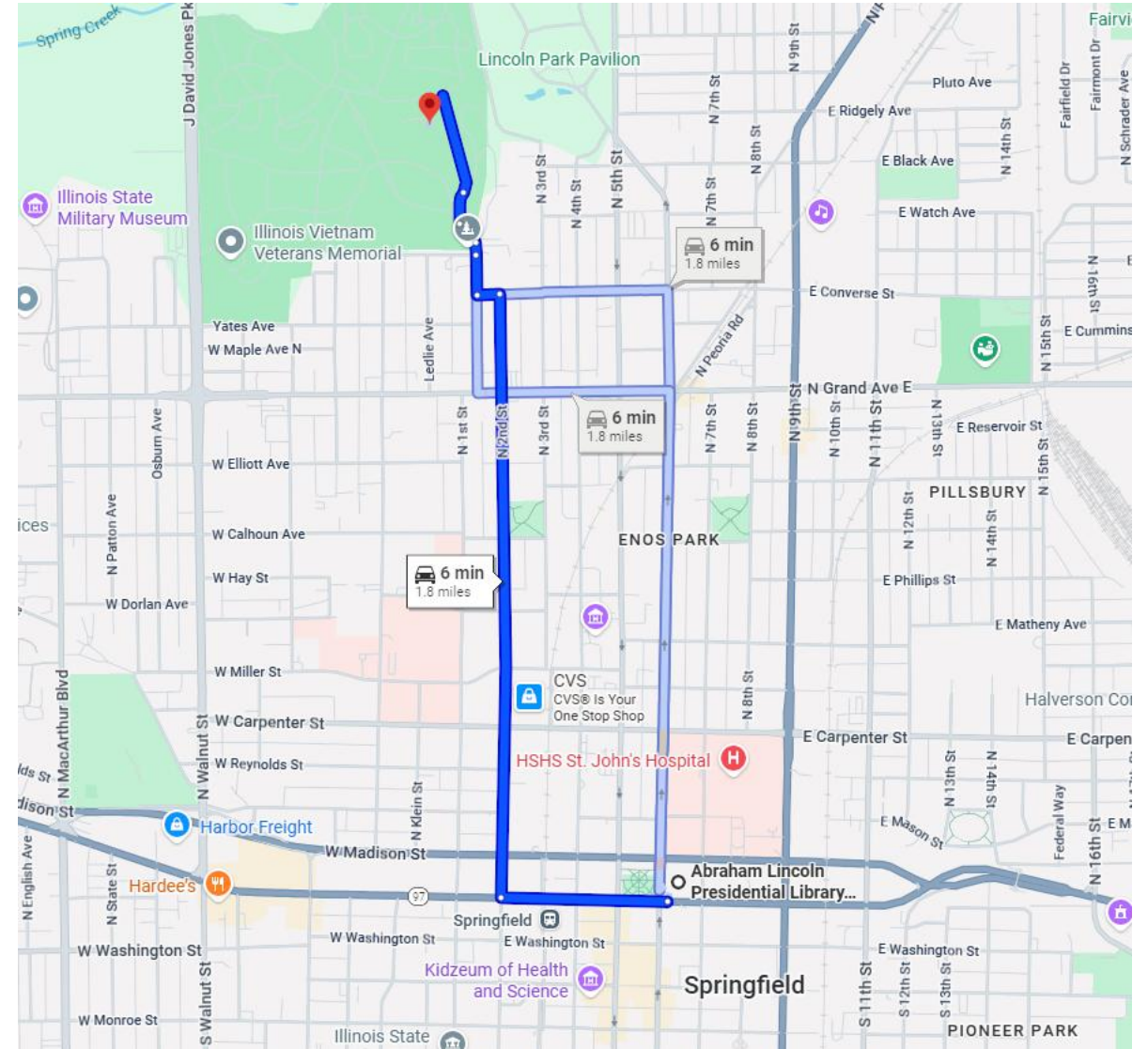
- **Walked a few blocks away for a bite of lunch, via the old state capitol**



- **Went to the Lincoln Library for speeches by Lincoln and General Ulysses S. Grant**

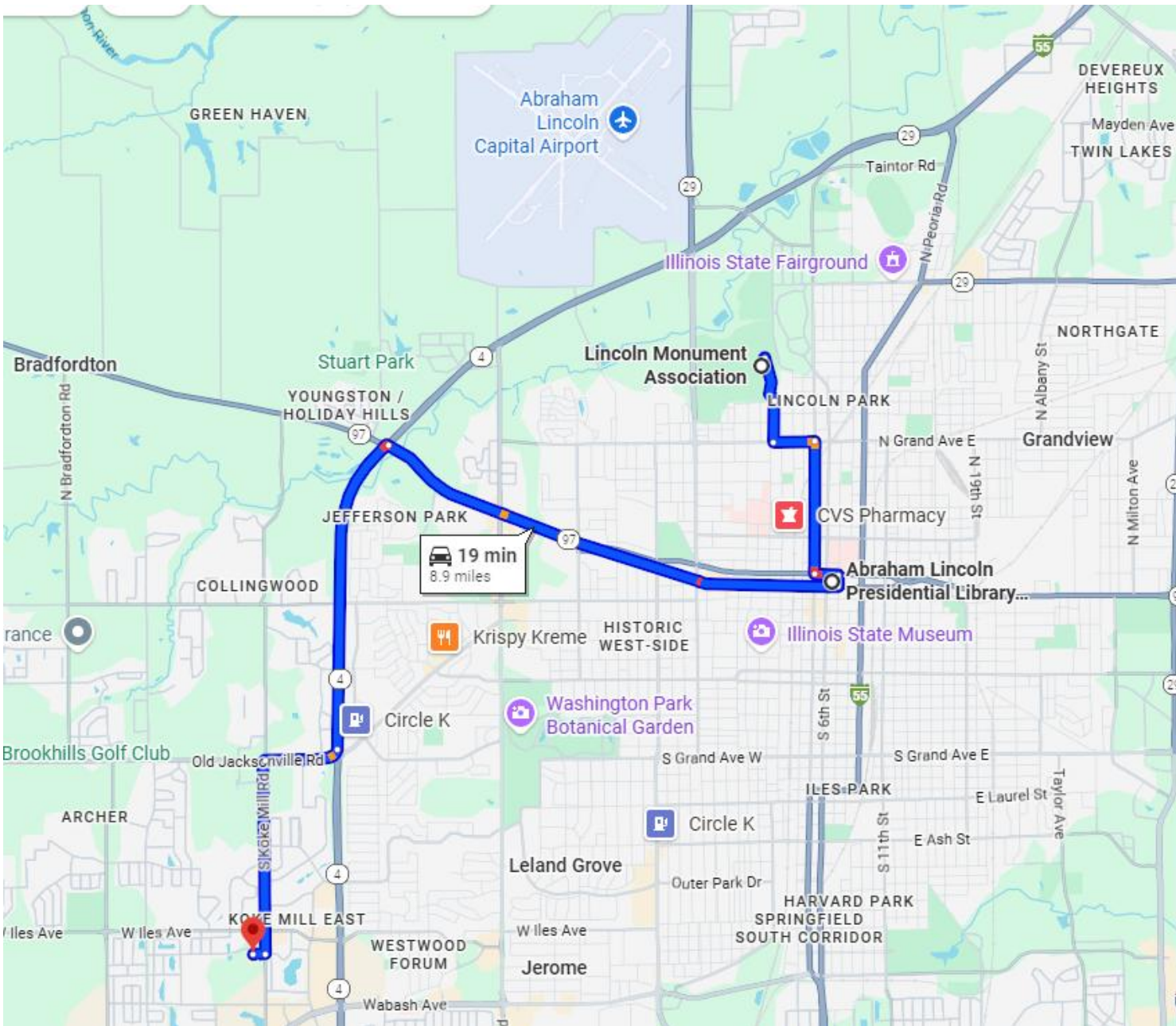


It must be a terrific honor for Lincoln and Grant to be pictured with us. 😊



Made it to the Lincoln tomb 4:20p





Time for a well-deserved beer at Finley's Tap House

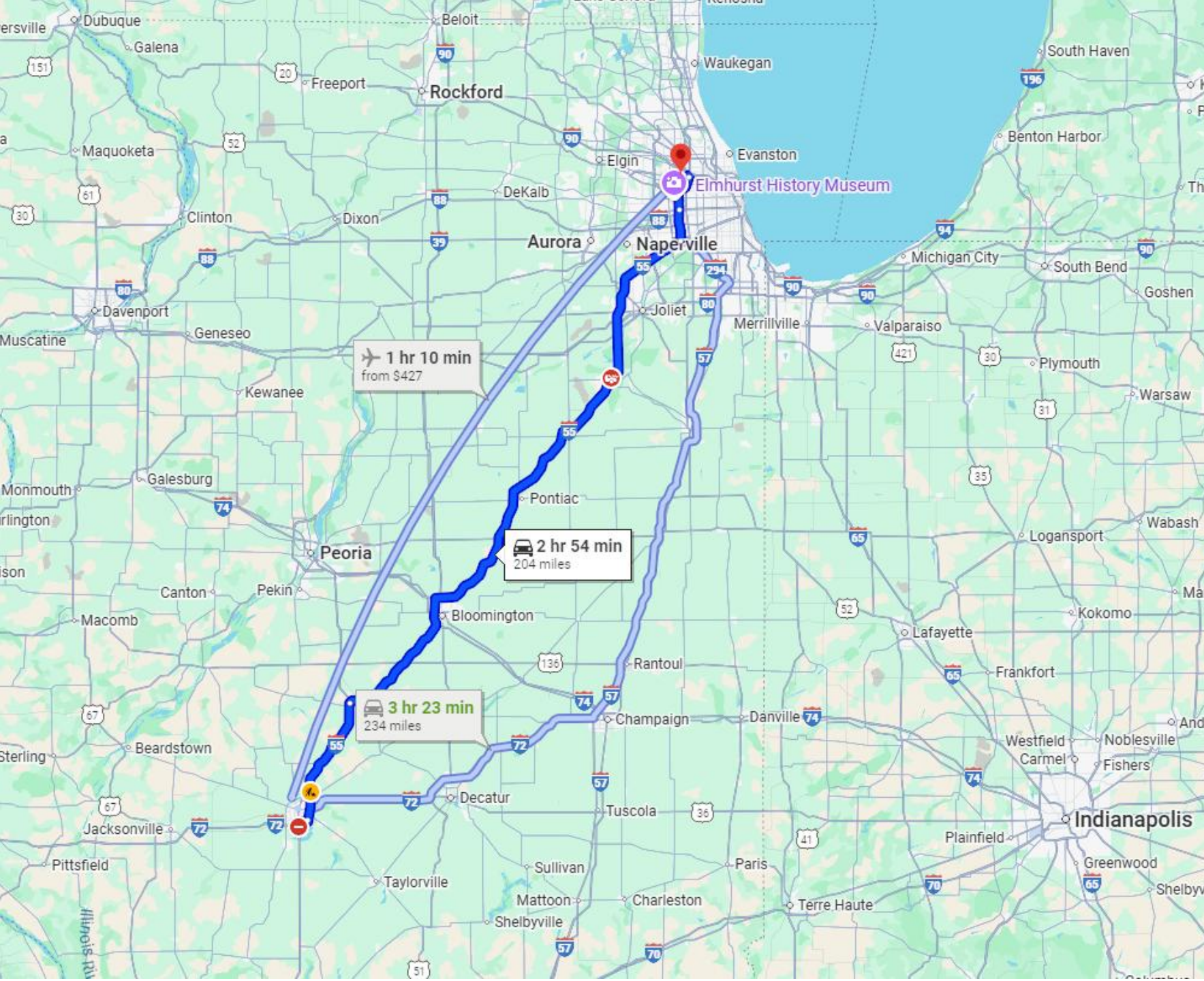




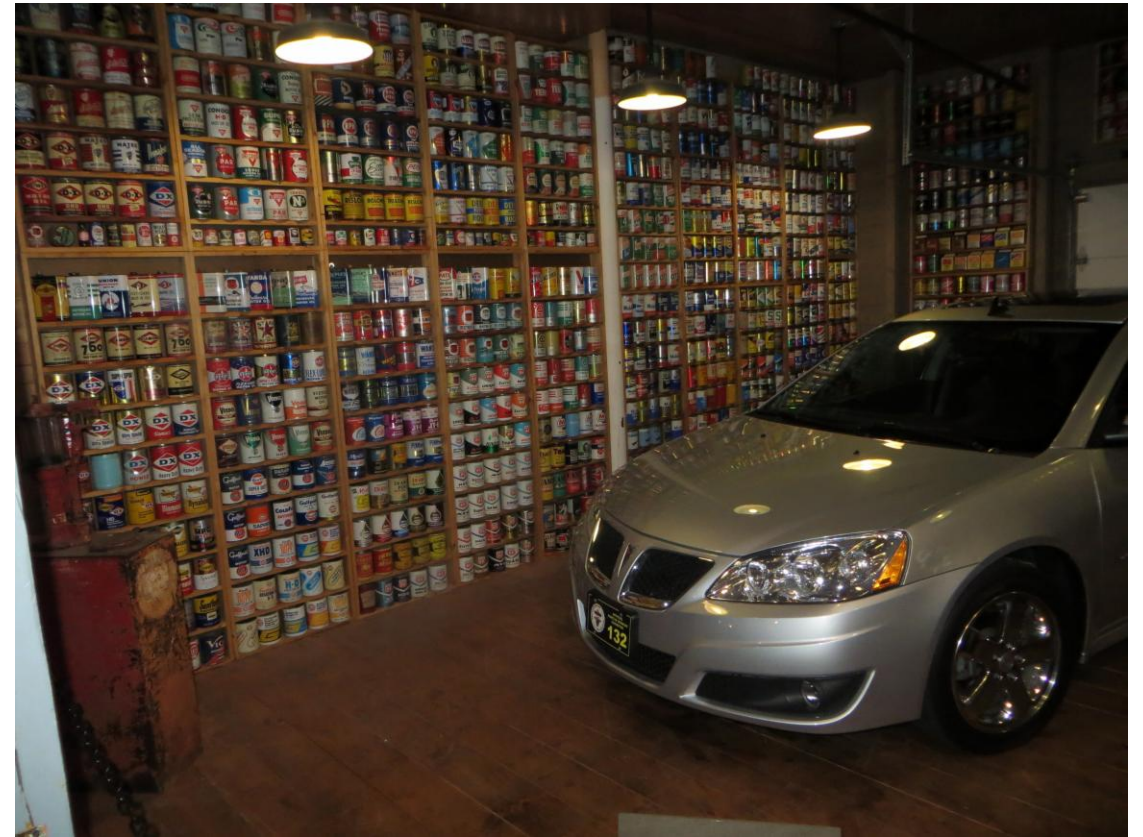
**Random pic from the Deadwood
in Iowa City 7/26.**

**We ended the day pretty much
as the previous one. To
Engrained for beer & dinner,
convenience store for beer and
M&Ms, then to the LaQuinta to
watch more Olympics...
particularly swimmer Katie
Ladecky**

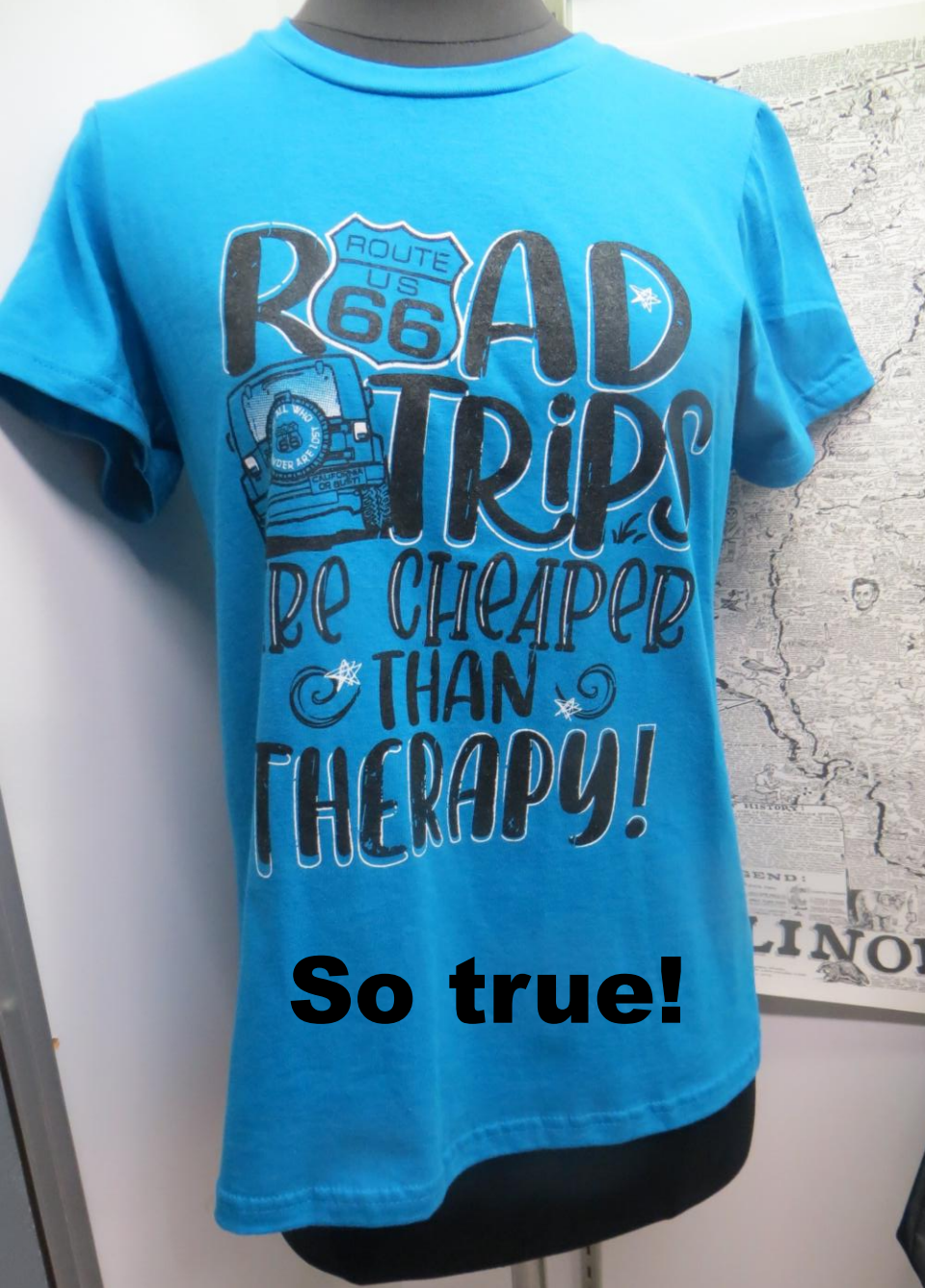




**Day #8 – 01
August 2024.
Had the LaQuinta
hotel breakfast
and was on the
road before 9a.
Researching...
looks like
Pontiac, IL might
have some
interesting
sights, especially
as they pertain to
Route 66**



Soon found ourselves enjoying this museum – all things Pontiac, the car.



So true!



Walked to Route 66 museum which included a war museum, Titanic, and the 1940s.



**Nice
murals on
the sides of
buildings**



Wish

MC

WE
TO

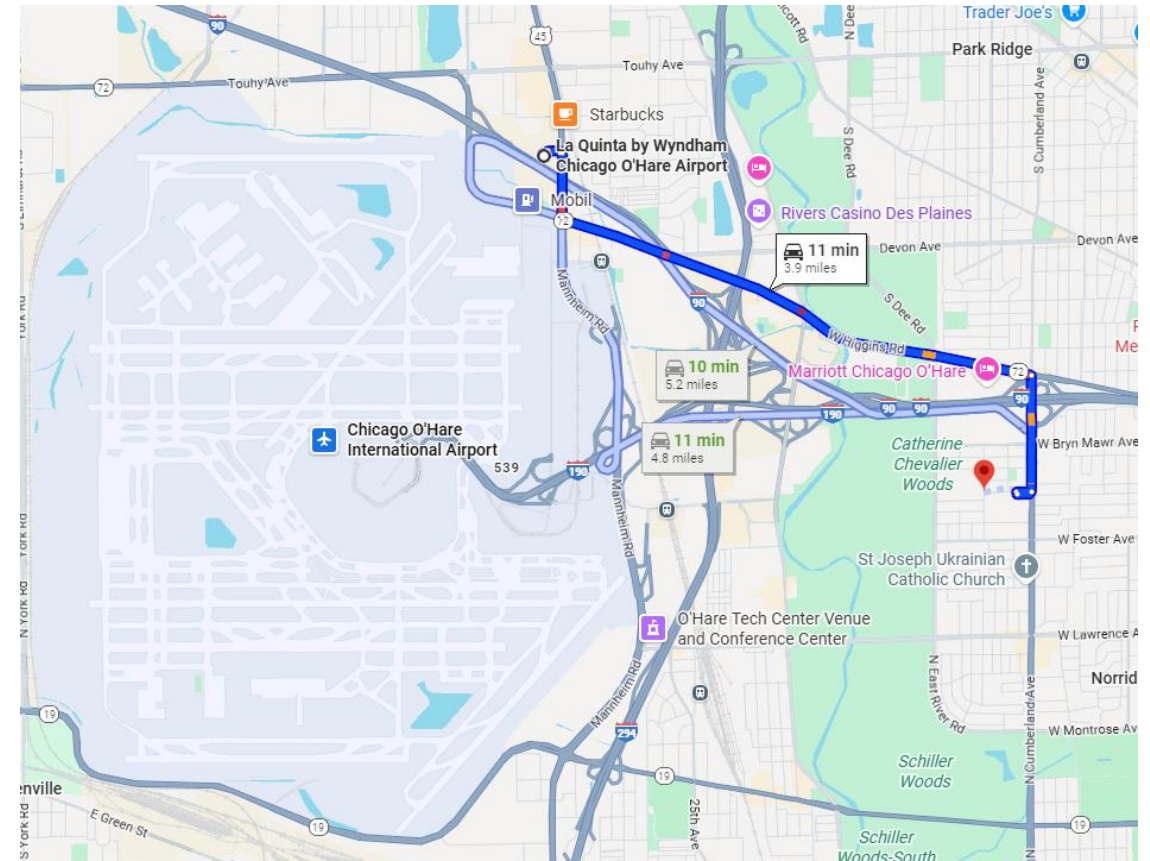


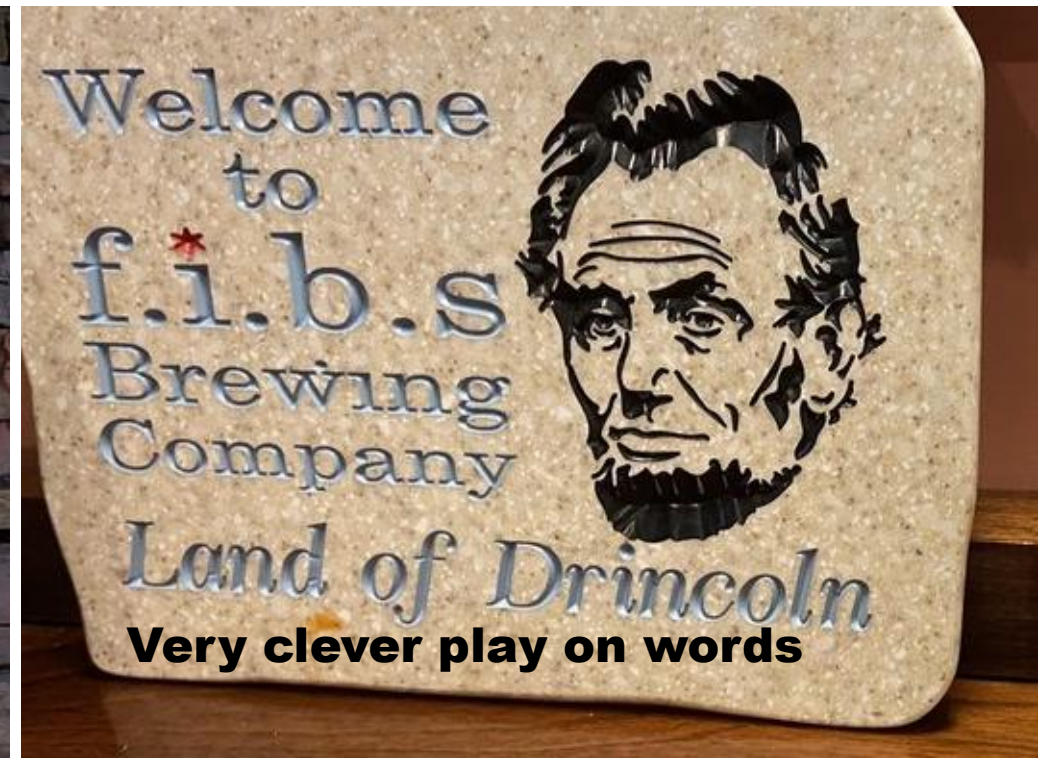
Lunch at Acres Inn
before hitting the
highway at 1:40p



Started toward O'Hare at 1:40p. Stopped in Downers Grove to gas up. Paid an outrageous \$4.11/gal. That certainly was a downer.

Dropped the car off at the airport at 4:15p and shuttled to the LaQuinta on Mannheim. Total of 1,650 miles on this trip.





What happened next is one of those moments that will live in infamy. In search of food and of course beer we found nearby FIBs Brewing Co. We Uber'd there and ordered beer & pizza. The owner, or manager, or some such authority figure began chatting with us. He asked if we knew what FIBs meant. It never occurred to us to ask. We just wanted hot pizza and cold beer. Apparently there is a great rivalry between Illinois and Wisconsin, especially with their beloved pro football teams. FIB is an acronym the Wisconsin folks use to refer to Illinois folks: F[^]*[^]ing Illinois Bastards, and these guys embraced it! Rob contacted his Wisconsin niece and found out this is most certainly true (said as a true Lutheran).



-
- **These were indeed some characters. One was Greg.**

One of these guys said, and I quote, "we humans can gallop." Profound





DONATE
LIFE
Texas

**Started with Kolsch
beers, then their IPA.
Sausage pizza**



We capped off the evening with shots of “Old Grandad 114.”

• **Back to the room to conclude this trip. Ed's flight left ORD at 10a, August 2, Rob's at 9:15. This hereby ends our Mississippi River Crawl 2024**



Other trips these guys have made



Don't forget the city dump (above) and numerous guy trips to Medina, TX





Great Lakes 2008



**Euro 2010 (Little Circle)
Bratislava, Slovakia, Croatia, etc**



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**



50th state beer – Alaska 2014



San Diego 2015



Euro 2015 – Ed's dad's WW2 route





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 current Wednesday night hangout: Copper Top Tavern





**North-Central
California 2019**



Texas Gulf Coast 2020 (in time of Covid)

**Lubbock, TX
October 2020**



Upper midwest 2021



Heartland 2022



**“Out East”
2023 – Philly,
NYC,
Syracuse,
Ottawa, etc**





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



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