



In Search of El dorado

A daily journal of my travels and adventures in my.....Search for Eldorado

Hello to Family & Friends

Saturday, January 30th 2021 Day 14



It turns out, unless you have four-wheel drive, enjoy looking for shells, or just sitting on the beach, there's not really much to do at Padre Island. I suppose you can hike pretty much wherever you want, but I don't have any interest in the first three and I prefer to hike where I might see something. I ate breakfast, did a little planning and left the beach for Bird Island Basin. Who knows, I might want to learn to windsurf. Right!

This guy, or maybe girl, was the only one on the water. I watched for about five minutes as they moved away and came back. I wanted to get a better picture. I raised the camera and clicked the shutter, just as the person fell over. They arose, started again, I snapped another picture, just as the person fell over. Figuring I must be bad luck, I left.



I have now been to Bird Water Basin on Padre Island National Seashore and Bad Water Basin in Death Valley National Park, within a twelve month period. Quite a difference between the two.

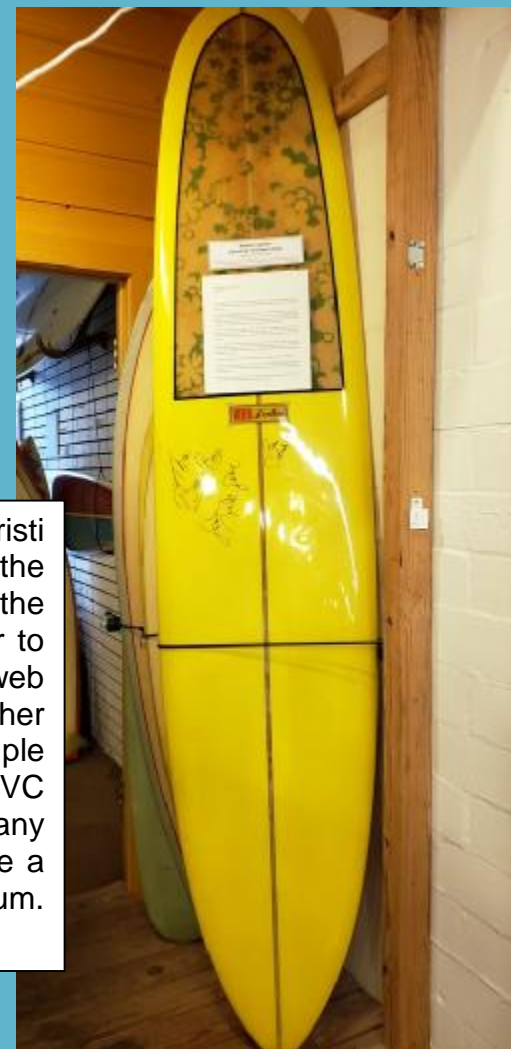
Grassland Nature Trail



As I said, not much to see here. No flowers, no butterflies, no kangaroo rats, no ground hogs, not even a rattlesnake. That dune must be 40-50 feet high though. It's on the far shore of the island.



Late 1960's Weber Feather
Length: 8'6"



For some odd reason I had the wrong address for the Corpus Christi Visitor Center on my itinerary, 1521 N Chaparral. I parked, found the building, noticed the big signs out front were blank, said "What the heck?" and gave Google a try. 309 N Water St. That's good. Better to have the wrong address than find out the hours of operation on the web are actually wrong. I was only four minutes away so I found another parking spot and walked over to a small open sort of mall with a couple restaurants, night clubs, shops and the VC. For a larger city, this VC sucked. I walked out with a map and a pamphlet. No brochures on any of the sights in town. I headed back to the RV then decided to take a look at the rest of the stores. What did I find? The Texas Surf Museum. Free. Cool.

Weber Feather signed by the Beach Boys

(On loan from Carey Locke)

This board was selected as a stage decoration by the Beach Boys for their August 2016 concert in Corpus Christi TX. Band members Mike Love and Bruce Johnston graciously signed this for us after the show.



The owner of the board (something) Locke purchased it in the late 60's. Learned to surf on it, sold it, bought it back, used it, taught two of his children to surf on it on the 90's, was advised to retire it, and did. Then, as seen above, the Beach Boys signed it in 2016.

Below are a couple of surfing dioramas, They were pretty well done and very detailed.



When I walked in I was told they were in the process of switching to a new theme. Surfing during the Vietnam War was on its way out and the Legend of Pat McGee is being set up.

"We are fighting a war with no front lines, since the enemy hides among the people, in the jungles and mountains, and uses covertly border areas of neutral countries. One cannot measure [our] progress by lines on a map."

— General William C. Westmoreland
Commander of all U.S. military forces in Vietnam

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. measures the price our Nation paid during the Vietnam War, nearly 60,000 American lives lost.

This exhibit represents the 3,414 Texans that made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

May we always remember FREEDOM is not FREE.

She told me to just go ahead and wander around. I think that's what made it so much fun. Going through stacks of surfing/movie posters; looking through piles of framed memorabilia for something interesting; I had to move stuff out of the way to get a photo of the dioramas above. I stepped over construction materials to find that signed surfboard. As if I was going through an old warehouse and discovering items for display. It was great.

She was in the process of removing this display as I made my way out. She told me it was going to be donated to the USS Lexington for display on the ship.



I bypassed the RV for a little walk on some interesting streets of downtown.

I assume there used to be a Woolworth's here.

Another funny story. As I checked the VC off my itinerary, right below it I saw The Texas Surf Museum at 309 Water St. Hmmmm...I guess I knew about it afterall.





I moved the RV to a sunny spot for solar reasons and took a walk down what is called the Peoples St T-Head. Basically, Peoples St ends at the shore, but there is a T-shaped piece of land jutting out into the bay which can be driven on, houses part of the marina, a park and restaurants. There are two more T-Heads along the shore. On recommendation of the young lady in the VC, I decided to try Harrison's Landing. The web menu listed an appetizer of two blue crab cakes for \$12. Sounds like a good lunch to me. Sitting at the bar and looking at the menu, I asked bartender Tristen (one of twelve siblings by the way) about the crab cakes on the web menu. Those were on the pre-Covid menu. It's hard to get crab meat right now, they don't have them anymore. Is there anything on the web that is actually true? Anyways the grilled fish sandwich was good and the information to the left makes it a historic venue to eat at.

The Story of Harrison's Landing & Taps

The haunting Taps bugle call was composed by Civil War General Daniel Butterfield at Harrison's Landing, at Berkeley Plantation on the James River in Virginia, in July, 1862.

Founder Bill Harrison was a 12th generation direct descendant of the Harrisons of Berkeley Plantation and Harrison's Landing. His wife Cathy and their two children own and operate this establishment.

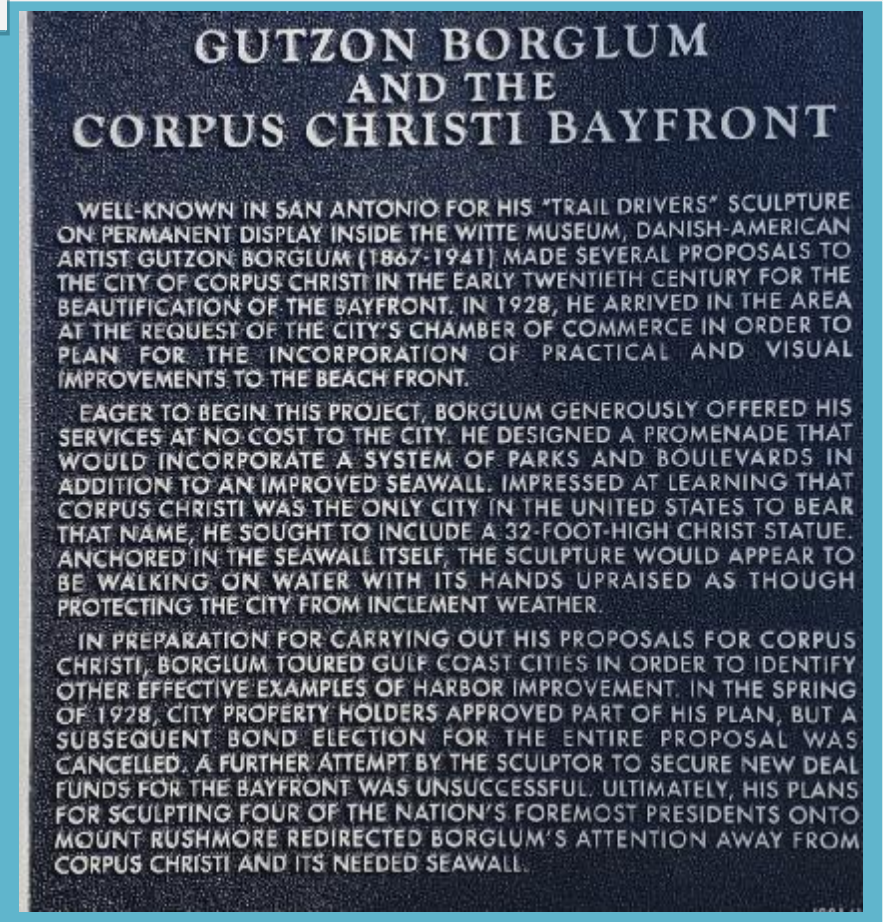
HARRISON'S  LANDING

Needing to walk off the big meal I decided to circle the T-Heads and take in some of the walk along the seawall. Remember in Galveston I biked the seawall. With the wind blowing a steady 20-30 MPH with gusts over 40, I thought it might be easier to walk. On the far right below is the USS Lexington and Texas Aquarium, center is the American Bank Center and Selena Auditorium, a hotel with the brown roof and a bank I think on the left.

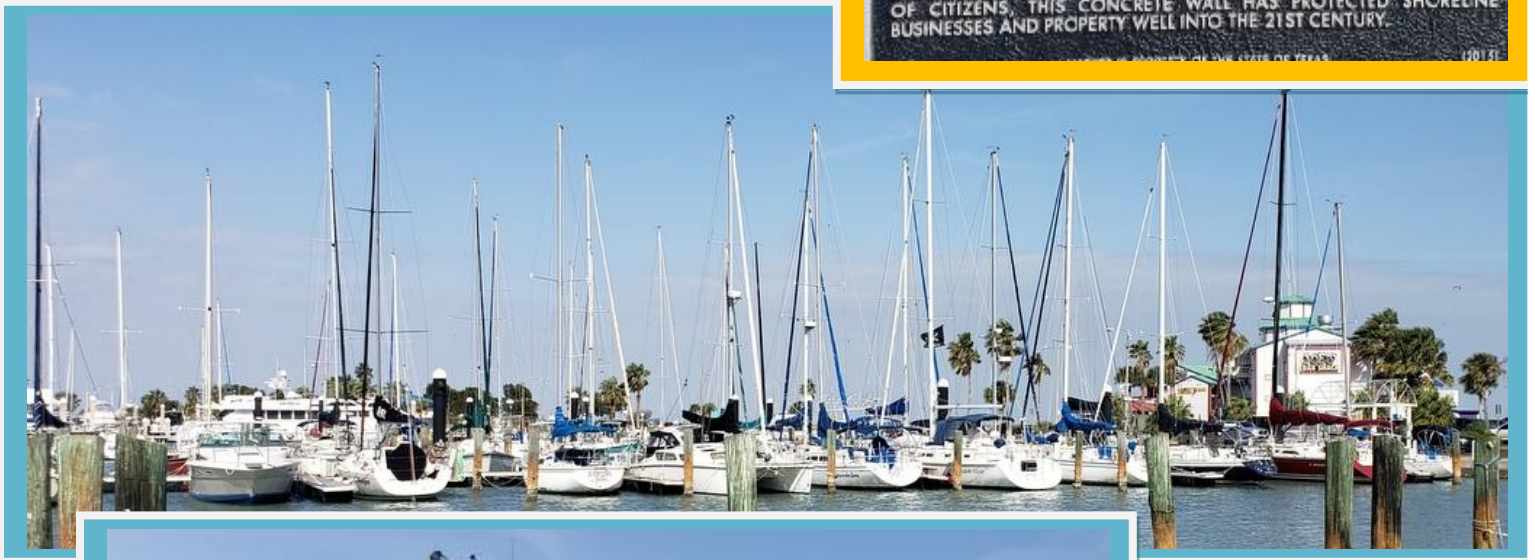
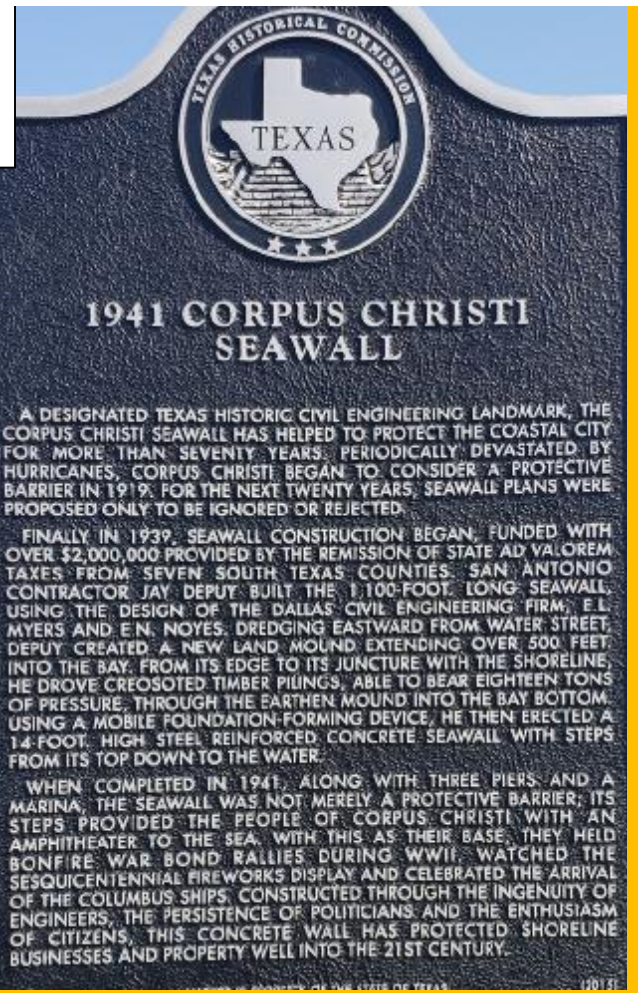




I had heard of Selena, but really knew nothing about her until I did my research for this trip. Not my type of music. I include it in case anyone is interested. If I remember correctly, she was gunned down at 23 by a good friend here in Corpus Christi in 1995, and is buried here also. She was born in Lake Jackson, but I don't recall any mention of that when I was there.



They keep making the print on those Texas Historic plaques smaller and smaller. Below is a good view of the seawall. It doubles as stadium seating for anything going on in the bay, such as boat parades and fireworks displays.



As I walked down the second T-Head I took the picture above of the pleasure boats. Only one hundred yards across the channel the working man's boats were moored.



The yacht *Contrarian Rose* is not available for charter right now. Too bad, I would have taken it for a cruise.



There are eight Miradores (gazebos) along the seawall, and each has a plaque with some history of Corpus Christi. This is one of the few I could read, they were very faded. The info is as follows – *The American flag first flew over Texas soil August 1, 1845, when General Zachary Taylor landed in Corpus Christi with United States soldiers prior to the war against Mexico. He began the invasion of Mexico from here, resulting in the treaty which moved the boundary of Mexico from the Nueces River at Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande. The area around Taylor's camp was incorporated as the city of Corpus Christi in 1851.*

I finished my walk, about five miles altogether, and took a drive towards the Lexington to check on parking for tomorrow. I snapped this photo of a high rise bridge under construction over the bay. They are doing some major interchange reconstruction here.

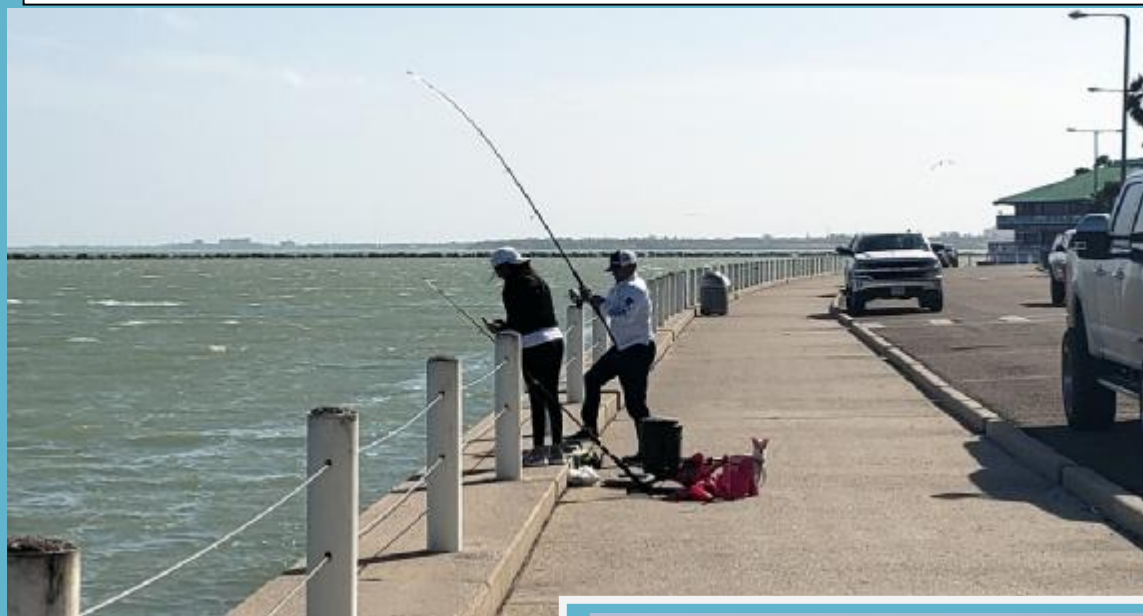




You can't eat at the original Whataburger stand (it was bulldozed years ago) but you can pose for photos outside a shed painted to look like it. The replica (currently a storage shed for the new building below) was painted to match an old photo of the original Whataburger. Thanks Roadside America



You are probably wondering why I said 'timing is everything' in my email. After lunch at Harrison's, during my walk around the People's St T-Head, I happened upon this couple. When I pulled the phone out of my pocket to get a picture the pole was bent almost double. A guy on one of those rentable scooters turned to me and said "I think he's got something big." I agreed, and then we both saw the fish break the surface of the bay. Holy Cow!.



We were asking if he needed help and where his net was. He told us he didn't bring a net today. I grabbed the pole so he could climb over the wires you see there and try to lift the fish out of the water by just the line. We finally wrestled it onto the concrete and he was able to remove the hook. He felt it was about a 40 pound drum. A minute or two earlier or later and I or someone else may not have been there to help him land it. It was pretty exciting, especially for someone like me who hasn't held a fishing pole for about 26 years.



It was a pretty interesting day overall. The Surf Museum, the fish, a five mile hike, I didn't have to cook. Oh yea, I stopped for a frozen yogurt too,

I am in a parking lot between Sam's Club and an Ashley Furniture store. I'm not really sure who the lot belongs to, but I think it's Ashley. There is a semi next to me so I feel pretty good about it for the night.

Some of you may be wondering why yesterdays email arrived rather late this morning? I mentioned about not being sure if I could raise the internet from the beach. The cell phone booster worked great. Things were a little slower than normal, but I've had worse reception within view of a cell tower. I think I was just so glad to be able to make the changes to the webpage, I had a senior moment and forgot to send the email. Most of us know what that is like.

I will be here in Corpus Christi for a couple days. I know, the USS Lexington, another aircraft carrier. It is supposed to be a pretty good tour and some reviewers even said it was better than the USS Midway in San Diego, which I toured last year. The Midway is rated number one in ship tours and has the Lexington around number seven. I'll try not to duplicate a lot of the stuff from the Midway. If a lot *is* the same, I will lose interest anyways and not take a photo.

I know I usually bypass art museums, my tastes in artwork are pretty selective, but the museum here is named the Art Museum of South Texas, and they have a sculpture of a bull out front. I am hoping that means there will be a western theme to the exhibits.

The Museum of Science and History has replicas of Christopher Columbus's ships that are supposed to be pretty realistic.

I am torn about the Aquarium. It looks like they have some nice programs that are included in the ticket cost, but is it really worth \$37 to feed some sting rays? Let me know if you want me to go or not.

Those are the main four. There is a Heritage Park near downtown with old homes you can tour and a museum; an Asian Culture Museum, it looks pretty small and I didn't think much of the one in San Diego, I will have to do some research; The Selena Museum? Very doubtful.

Until next time.....