



In Search of El dorado

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

Hello to Family & Friends

Friday, February 12th 2021 Day 26



Today's assignment, boys and girls, is to identify the dead artists on this mural. First one to get them all right will get...an attaboy! Or attagirl as the case may be.

This was actually the last picture I took today. I think it was on the side of a night club. Note the 4x8 sign on the left for size perspective.



Due to Covid-19, the Mission Historical Museum is temporarily closed to the public.



I was having a hard time this morning trying to decide what to do. The whole state of Texas is cold. Since the cold front is moving east I thought about going west, to Big Bend NP or even El Paso, but snow is expected in Big Bend and both have low's Monday night in the 20's. How about back east to the coast, maybe Brownsville, it should be warmer by the coast. Nope, low's in the 20's again. I even checked out Durango, Mexico, just for the heck of it since I didn't bring my passport, and they are expecting lows in the 30's. Here in McAllen the lowest is supposed to be 29. My concern is the water in the RV and the water heater. You remember the water heater issue I had a couple years ago in Vegas. My decision so far is to stay right here. What I'm going to do the next couple days I have no idea. But for today I decided to visit Mission, Texas. I was pretty sure the museum would be closed, but it was just a block walk to my next sight anyways.



(1924-2000) (for the young ones and non-Wisconsinites, Landry and Lombardi coached together in NY)

Tom Landry was the legendary professional football coach who served as the Dallas Cowboys' coach for 29 years. During his tenure, the Dallas Cowboys won 13 division titles and represented the NFC five times in the Super Bowl, Super Bowls V, VI, X, XII, and XIII. Coach Landry led the Cowboys to Super Bowl victories over the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl VI and the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XII.

Tom Landry was born on September 11, 1924 to Ray and Ruth Landry in Mission, Texas. As a child, Tom Landry was struck by a car and nearly killed. In 1938, Landry met Bob Martin, who would have a significant impact on Landry's football career. Landry began his football career as a center but became the starting quarterback for the Mission High School varsity football squad. In 1941, Landry led the Mission Eagles to a perfect record, beating Hondo 33-0 for the regional championship, which was the highest attainable title for a Class A football team at the time.

During his early years in Mission, Texas, Tom Landry "learned a sense of accountability accepting the fact that people were always watching — even if I wished they weren't." Tom Landry was recruited to play for the University of Texas Longhorns. As a freshman, Landry joined the military and served on a B-17 bombing crew during World War II; Landry flew more than 30 missions and survived a plane crash in Belgium. From 1949 to 1955, Landry played defensive back and punter for the AAFC's New York Yankees and the NFL's New York Giants. He became a player/coach for the New York Giants before returning to Texas to become the first coach of the Cowboys in 1960.



To honor Tom Landry's legacy in 1993, Mission residents Bill and Gen Long commissioned Manuel Hinojosa to create the Tom Landry Mural. The mural measures 95 x 18 feet and was dedicated on September 18, 1995 by legendary Coach Tom Landry himself.

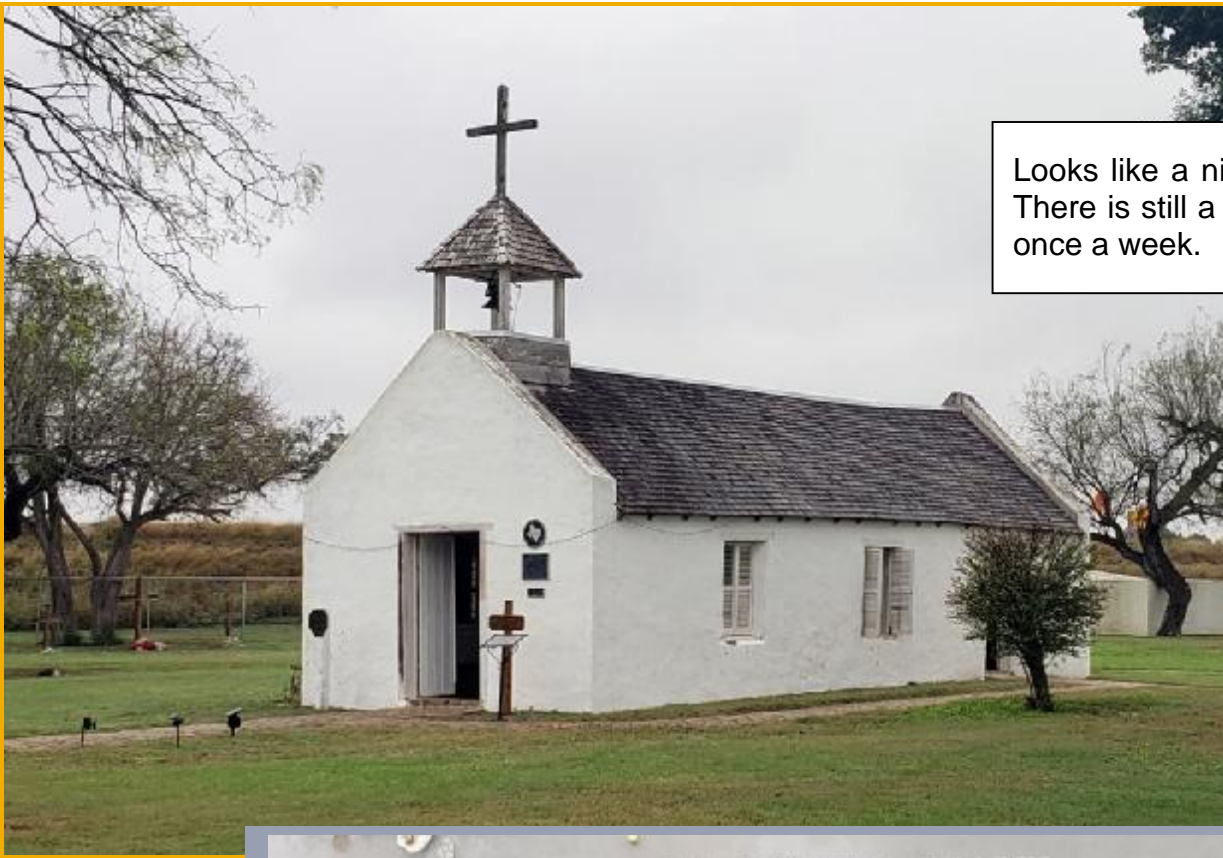
Thanks to - <https://missiontexas.us/about-mission/famous-people/tom-landry/>



I have not seen too many citrus groves down here, even though I know there are many, but this surprised me. I don't think it could be from last night alone, but there is an awful lot of fruit on the ground. I hope that's not normal.



I passed the citrus grove above on my way to this mission. It's not much, but it's something to do.



Looks like a nice little church. There is still a mass said here once a week.

I couldn't read any more of it in person than you can here.

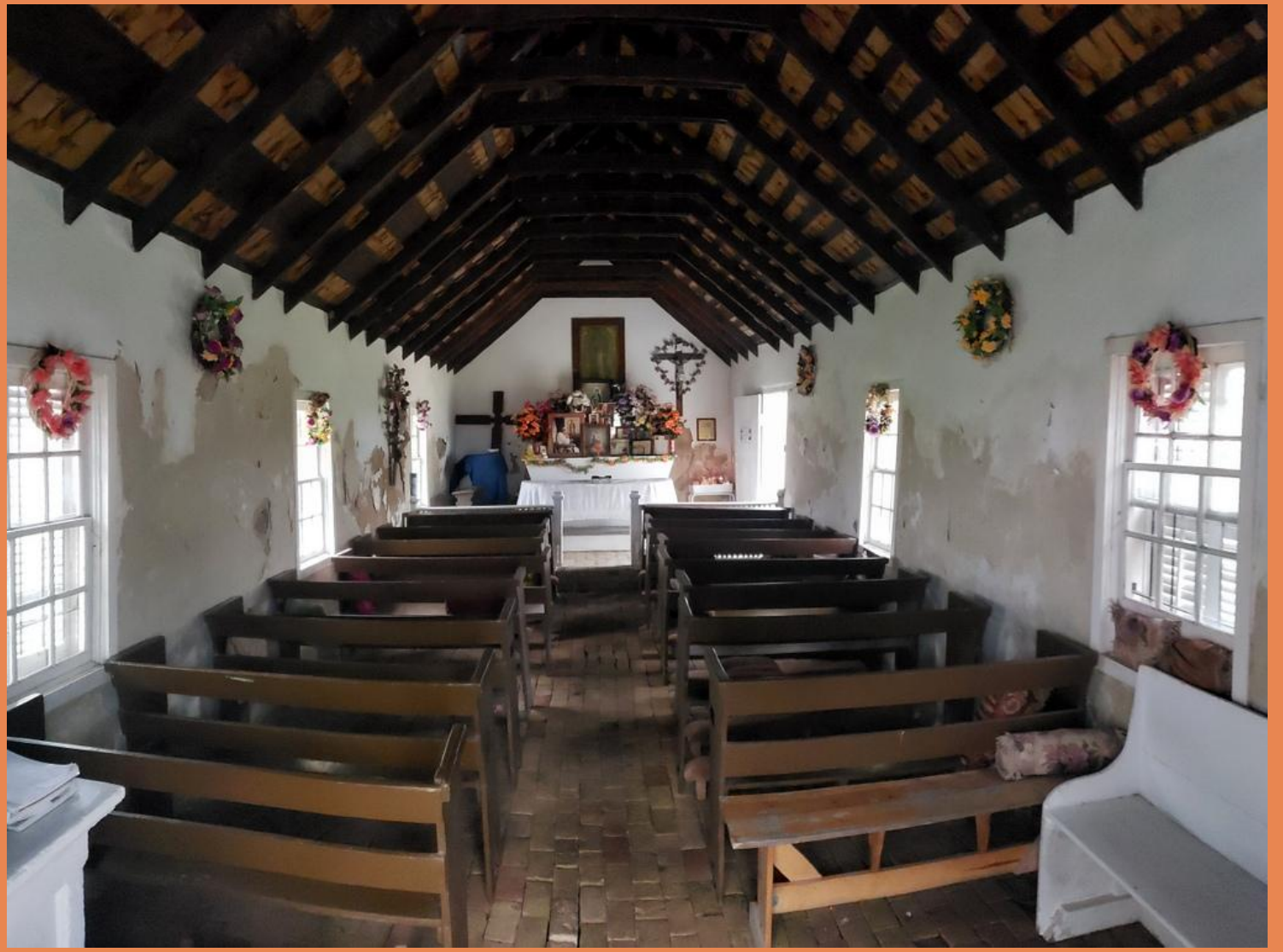
LA LOMITA CHAPEL

THE ORIGINAL CHAPEL AT RANCHO LA LOMITA IN 1865 WAS BUILT OF ADOBE BY THE FATHERS AND RANCH WORKERS. UPON THE DEATH OF MR. GUYARD IN 1871, THE RANCH WAS WILLED TO THE OBLATES. THIS FIRST CHAPEL WAS TORN DOWN IN 1885, AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL FOUR YEARS LATER, IN 1889, THAT THE PRESENT CAPILLA DE LA LOMITA WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE SAME SITE. THE WALLS WERE BUILT OF SANDSTONE TAKEN FROM THE NEARBY HILL AND HAVE NEVER NEEDED TO BE STRUCTURALLY REPAIRED. AFTER ITS ABANDONMENT IN 1911, A NEW DOOR WAS PUT ON THE BUILDING IN 1928. THE CHAPEL WAS BADLY DAMAGED BY A FIRE IN 1938 BUT IT WAS KEPT FROM RUIN BY THE CITY OF MISSION'S THROUGH THE YEARS.

LA LOMITA CHAPEL

LANDS FOR LA LOMITA ("THE LITTLE HILL") MISSION CAME FROM THE 1767 SPANISH GRANT OF JOSEPH A. CANTU, AND WERE DONATED IN 1861. USED AS FARMS AND RANCHES, THE LANDS SUPPORTED THE PRIESTS AND THEIR CHARITIES. THE ORIGINAL CHAPEL, BUILT IN 1865 AT A CAMPSITE ON BROWNSVILLE-ROMA TRAIL, HAS BEEN REBUILT OR RESTORED TWO OR MORE TIMES. IT WAS RELOCATED AT THIS PRESENT SITE IN 1899. THE CITY OF MISSION (5 MI. N), TEXAS, WAS NAMED FOR THIS SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1964





VIRGIN MARY

THE SMALL SHRINE TO THE VIRGIN MARY IS NOT AN ORIGINAL PART OF THE CAPILLA DE LA LOMITA GROUNDS. IT WAS ERECTED IN 1956 DURING THE "WORLD YEAR IN HONOR OF MARY IMMACULATE" BY THE OBLATES, WHOSE PATRONESS SHE IS. THE STATUE HONORED THE "FATHERS WHO WORKED AT LA LOMITA AND THROUGHOUT THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY UNDER THE TITLE "OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE."



There was no information for this oven, but I assume it was used by the keepers of the mission.

INTERNATIONAL FERRY LOS EBANOS, TX.

- PEDESTRIANS \$2.00
- BICYCLES \$2.00
- MOTORCYCLES \$3.00
- CARS & PICKUPS \$5.00

EFFECTIVE 3/08/2020

Next stop is the 900 year old Bald Cypress tree I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, where the visitor had Border Patrol sweep down on them while there. I started down the dirt, washboard road which became progressively worse as side roads filtered away traffic (there was no actual traffic), until I came to a T-junction. GPS told me another 1.3 miles. I began to ask myself if it was really worth the mud (it's been rainy/misty for two days), decided it wasn't, and turned around.

The last item on my list is the Los Ebanos Ferry across the Rio Grande. Supposedly it is the last hand-operated ferry operating on either border. Today it was closed. Below is the border inspection station. In order to get close enough to take a picture of the crossing you have to pay \$2. That was fine, but it wasn't open, so all I got was the station and the border patrol parked there. I had followed a 'historic marker this way' sign but never found it. I asked the officers and they didn't know where it was either.





The signage here looks like it has seen better days. But then, the buildings pretty well match the sign.



I made my way back to the highway and parked behind a gas station to eat lunch. Yup, lunchtime and I have exhausted my itinerary for the day. Let's see what else I can find. Since I was already headed back towards McAllen my search found the Museum below, with only one dollar admission instead of seven due to Covid. I have seen a couple places reduce their normal admission fee because of things not being available due to Covid, but most of them are still charging the same price.



Devil Icons: Devil Iconography

This gets a little weird

in Mexican Masks





MAX VITYK
WARRIORS OF LIGHT

“The people want to overthrow the regime,” the slogan used among protestors in the Arab Spring uprisings, captured the attention of artist Max Vityk who experienced these events first-hand while living in Cairo, Egypt. His experience brought back memories of the revolutionary times in his native Ukraine and gave rise to the *Warriors of Light*.





These were different for a couple reasons - There are 3D aspects to them with foam, I think; and the size as you can see below

That's a seven foot door with a one foot transom on top.



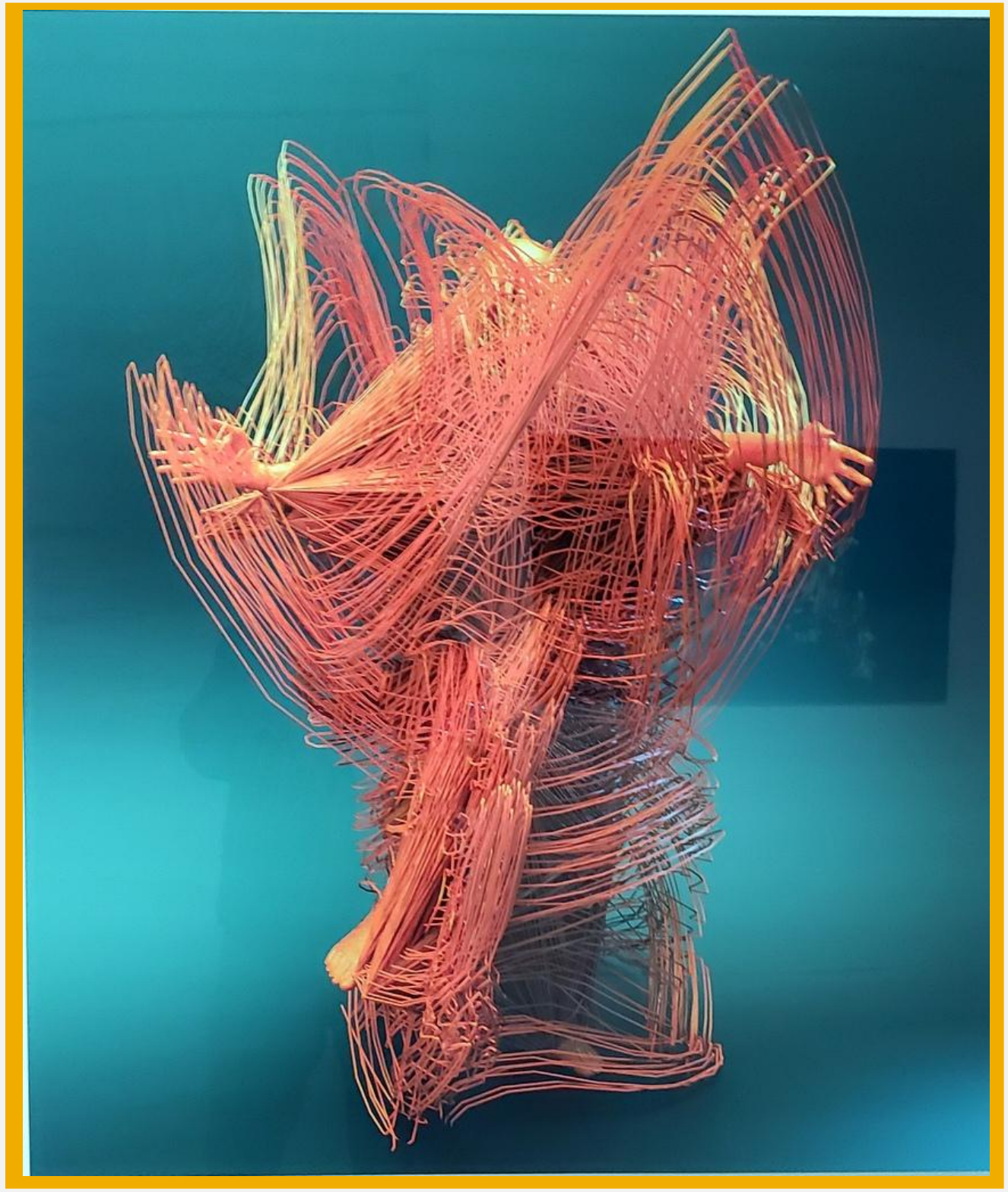
This group of masks were in a different gallery. The note said the museum has over 400 masks, so this is just a sampling. They are certainly not as gruesome as the first bunch.



As I entered the gallery below a gentleman informed me that they were just in the process of setting up this exhibition, that's why there are no info cards. But the subject matter, and there were about twenty of these prints, are based on the movements of autistic individuals using electrodes to monitor their brainwaves and body movements. I thought they were interesting so I looked it up and am providing the official description below from the website. I have included the one I found most interesting where you can actually follow the movement of the body. He also told me they are printed on aluminum.

Indiana University's Caleb Weintraub, Associate Professor, Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture, and Design, and Dr. Dan Kennedy, Associate Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Science, collaborated with staff and students at CIP Bloomington, Indiana, to complete a series of artworks entitled *Spectrum Dynamic*. CIP is an agency that assists young people on the Autism Spectrum. An initial body of work was part of (Re)imagining Science, an exhibition at the Grunwald Gallery of Art at Indiana University which featured collaborative projects by teams of researchers in the arts and sciences.

Spectrum Dynamic comprises a series of dye-sublimation prints and an accompanying video that presents visual interpretations of motor stereotypies, sometimes termed stimming.



As I mentioned, I am in the warmest place in Texas right now and it's freezing. I feel sorry for the rest of the country.

Not sure I will have much to report the next couple of days, Monday night is supposed to be the coldest.

Morgan informs me that icy roads caused a major pile-up in Fort Worth, and that Ice is expected in Corpus Christi. My only problem is having enough juice to keep the furnace running all night. My batteries were out by about 4:30 this morning, so it was only 52 in the RV when I woke up at 6:00. It's not a *big* deal, I just run the engine for 10 or fifteen minutes and the batteries are good to go, but it's a pain in the neck.

You know how much I enjoy art galleries, so I was a little apprehensive when I found today's. But it also included science so I gave it a whirl. I did not take any photos of the pottery or clothing exhibits at the museum, they were ok but not worth sharing.

Speaking of science, that portion of the museum included rocks (ok, geologic specimens), a couple lizards, a shy fish that doesn't show himself, a boa constrictor that I couldn't find, cockroaches which I couldn't find (maybe that's a good thing, right?), and a movie about the Earth's crust and deep sea, which kept skipping every now and then and in which I could not keep my head from nodding.

Being Friday, I might try a light industrial area for the night. The museum is right on the edge of it and I got lost on a couple dead ends with nicely kept businesses. I assume they won't be working on a Saturday and no one will be around in the morning.

Until next time.....