



# In Search of El dorado

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

Hello to Family & Friends

Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2021 Day 34



I finally made it to San Antonio, 52+ years after the first time I was here.

AREA WAS FIRST EXPLORED AND NAMED BY SPANIARDS IN 1691. COLONIAL SETTLEMENT BEGAN HERE MAY 1-5, 1718, WITH FOUNDING OF FRANCISCAN MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO (LATER KNOWN AS "THE ALAMO"). IN VICINITY OF THE MISSION WAS THE PRESIDIO SAN ANTONIO DE BÉXAR, NAMED FOR ONE OF THE GREAT HEROES OF SPAIN, THE DUC DE BÉXAR, BROTHER OF THE VICEROY OF NEW SPAIN.

THE PLACE WAS RENAMED SAN FERNANDO DE BÉXAR, 1731, WHEN IT BECAME A MUNICIPALITY — THE FIRST IN ALL OF TEXAS. BUT THE NAME "SAN ANTONIO" PERSISTED. TODAY IT IS SAN ANTONIO IN THE COUNTY OF BEXAR.

IN ITS LIFETIME IT HAS GIVEN ALLEGIANCE TO NINE GOVERNMENTS, AND FROM 1772 TO 1824 IT SERVED AS THE PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL CAPITAL OF TEXAS.



HEMISFAIR '68 — A WORLD'S FAIR HELD HERE APRIL 6 TO OCTOBER 6, 1968, ON THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO — HAD AS ITS THEME "THE CONFLUENCE OF CIVILIZATIONS IN THE AMERICAS". IT ORIGINATED AS A TRIBUTE TO THE DIVERSE PEOPLES WHO HAVE OCCUPIED THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE FROM PRE-COLUMBIAN TIMES: INDIANS WHO WERE THE FIRST KNOWN INHABITANTS; PROUD SPANISH CONQUERORS AND DEVOUT PADRES; THE PIONEERING AMERICAN SETTLERS; AND THE IMMIGRANTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT LANDS.

(1968)

I know one of the reasons we came to Texas in 1968 was to visit the Hemisfair, but I don't recall much about it. Maybe as I walk around the grounds later this week something will come back to me.



After spending a good hour trying to find a parking space that I didn't have to pay for, yes I'm cheap that way, I was on my way to a web recommended spot when I passed the Chamber of Commerce, with only one vehicle in the lot. Around the block I went and pulled in. All I needed was thirty minutes to walk to the visitor center, grab some brochures, ask some questions and walk back. Sixteen dollars for thirty minutes does not make sense to me.





Several of the tourist trap staples are here, Guinness Book of World Records, Ripley's Believe it or Not, Tussaud's Waxworks, etc., I'm not sure if I'll take advantage of those or not. Below – Across the street from the places above is The Alamo, which I do have memories of, most likely due to John Wayne's *The Alamo* movie from a few years before. I will get back to that later this week also.



It was not yet 5:00 so I decided to go for a little walk and give you a teaser of what's in store for the next several days.



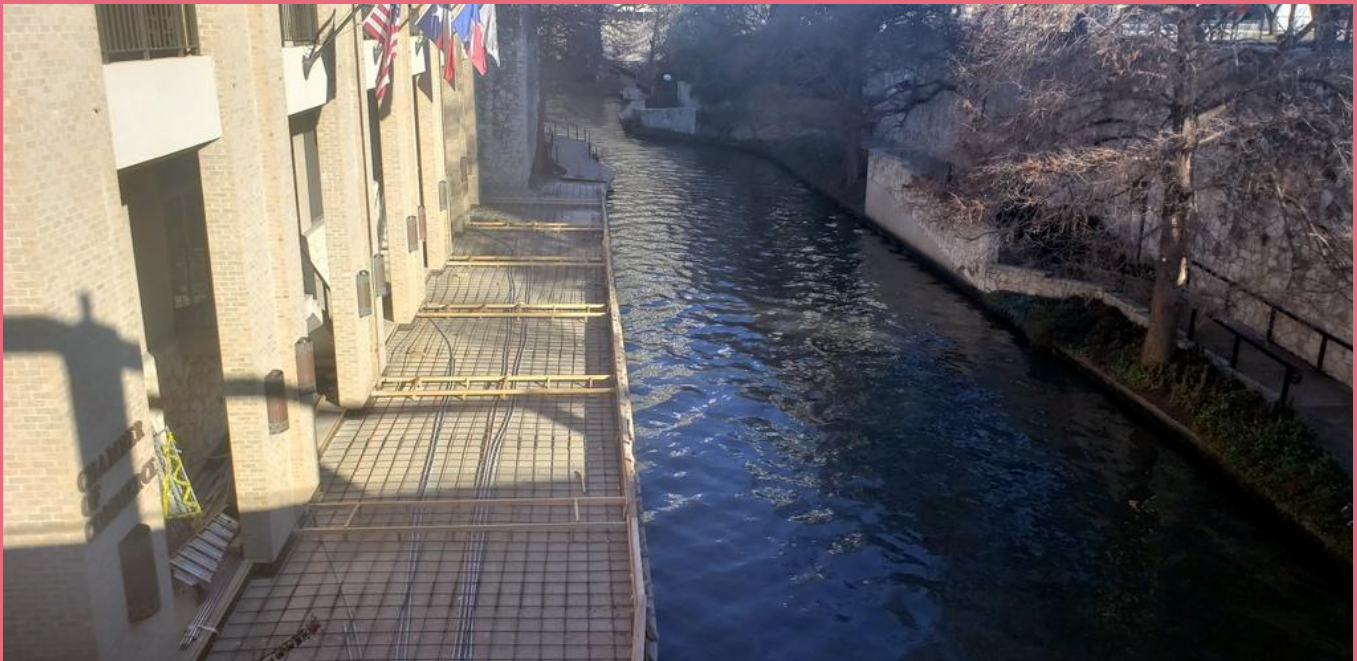
Take a close look at this horse's forehead.



I do somewhat remember the River Walk, as mentioned this is the number one tourist attraction in Texas. I will save that for during the week when it's even less crowded than it is now.



The portion of the River Walk below appears to be under construction. Some quick research finds that in 1968 there was about six miles of River Walk completed for the Hemisfair. As of today there is 15 miles of walkways along the San Antonio River.





Above is the Tower of the Americas, completed for the Hemisfair in 1968. I remember having one of those little souvenir booklets, maybe four inches by two inches, and I'm pretty sure this tower was on the front cover.

I am pretty excited about exploring San Antonio over the next week, walking all 15 miles of the River Walk, The Alamo (I do remember the Alamo – Ha ha), several museums, historic buildings, etc., etc., etc., as Yul Brenner would say. I picked up discount coupons for several of the sights.

Many events take place after dark such as the Haunted History Walk, a projection and light show on the San Fernando Cathedral, I am really looking forward to the River Walk being lit up at night, so some of the newsletters may be delayed.

I am not going to try and park overnight anywhere downtown which means heading to the suburbs and most likely a Sam's Club, of which there are five. That is where I am right now, Sam's Club on Goliad Rd. Well, actually Walmart next door right now. I will move before bedtime once they both close, but this is the noisiest parking lot I think I have ever been in.

I just found a Cracker Barrel nearby and there are some light industrial areas which work well on the weekends I might drive past first.

A little bit to whet your appetite. I hope you're looking forward to the next week or so as much as I am.

Until next time.....