



# In Search of El dorado

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

Hello to Family & Friends

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 Day 45



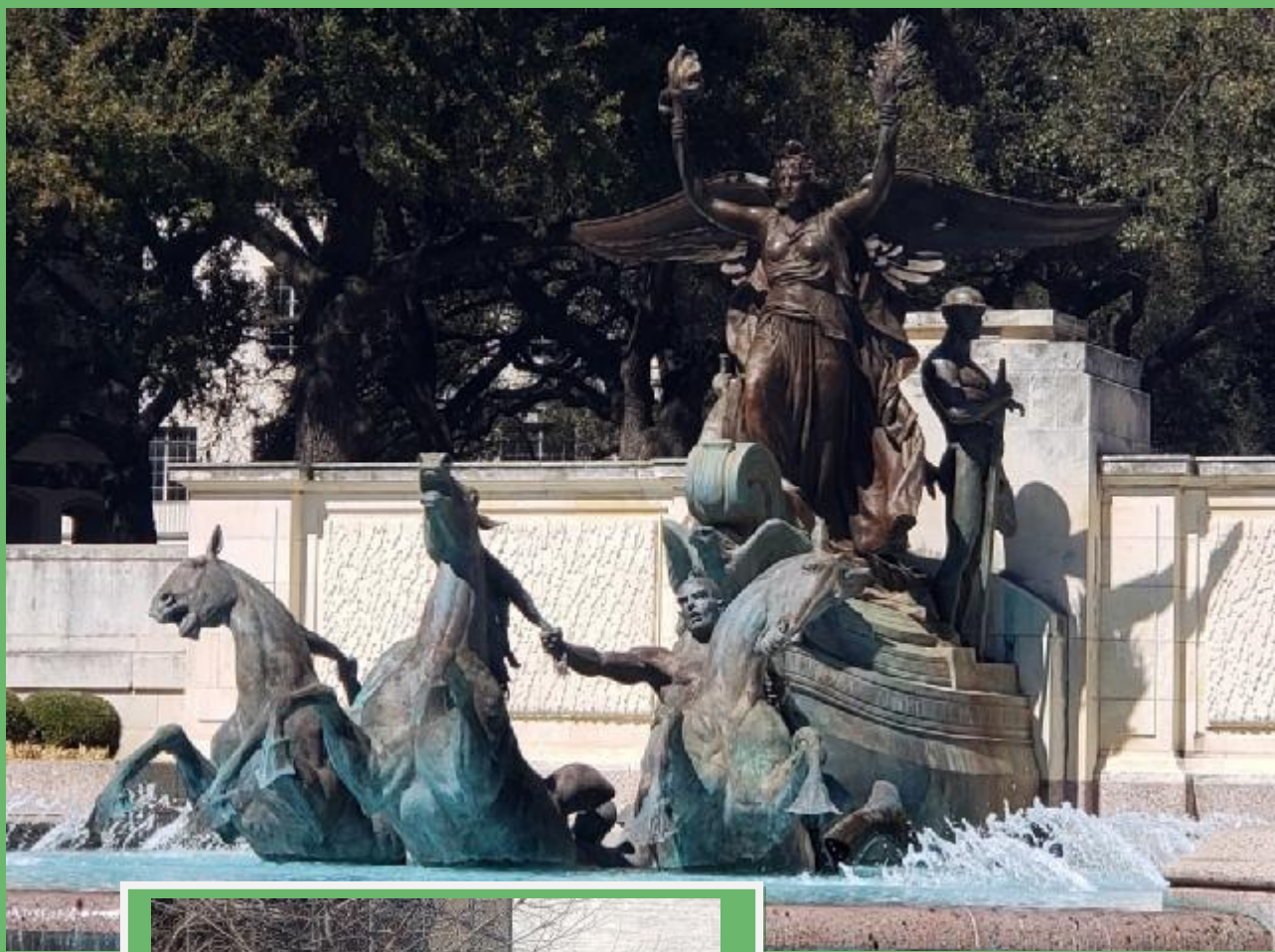
I moved to a new spot at Sam's for the night and had no issues. With all the homeless tents and paraphernalia under the highway overpasses I should be able to park right on the street without any issues. But that would prevent me from opening the slide.

It took me almost an hour of driving around downtown before I ended up back in front of the VC where I was yesterday. Late enough to eat lunch before I even took my bike off the rack. The parking spot is next to a cement wall which sides the handicapped ramp from road level to sidewalk. I have to pull forward so that I have access to the passenger side doors, get the bike set up, then back the RV up next to the ramp. There is a thirty minute limit, but I had no issues yesterday (I did not knock on wood, oops).

Taking Morgan's advice I headed over to the campus of the Longhorns, the University of Texas at Austin. My first stop was the visitor center which provided me with the only map available. It is sorely lacking in guide value, but it did come in handy. I planned my route and found the Littlefield Fountain on the South Mall. You can also see the Tower, that is the only name I can find, in the background. Twenty-seven stories I believe and all of them are closed to visiting tourists right now.

Below is a close-up of the statue from a much better angle.





**The Family Group  
by Charles Umlauf  
1962**

**The family is the foundation upon  
which the world of business is built,  
and it is a vital force in the  
local, state and national economy.**

There is an Umlauf Sculpture Garden in town here which I was planning to skip, maybe I will check it out. Only problem is I don't want you guys to get sick of artwork. Morgan also told me about a bunch of murals which were not in the travel guide and I had found no mention of in my research. This would necessitate hopping on the bike again since the traffic on the mural streets is crazy.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

WHEN MADE  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
OF THE AMERICAN ARMY  
OF THE REVOLUTION  
ON JULY 3, 1775



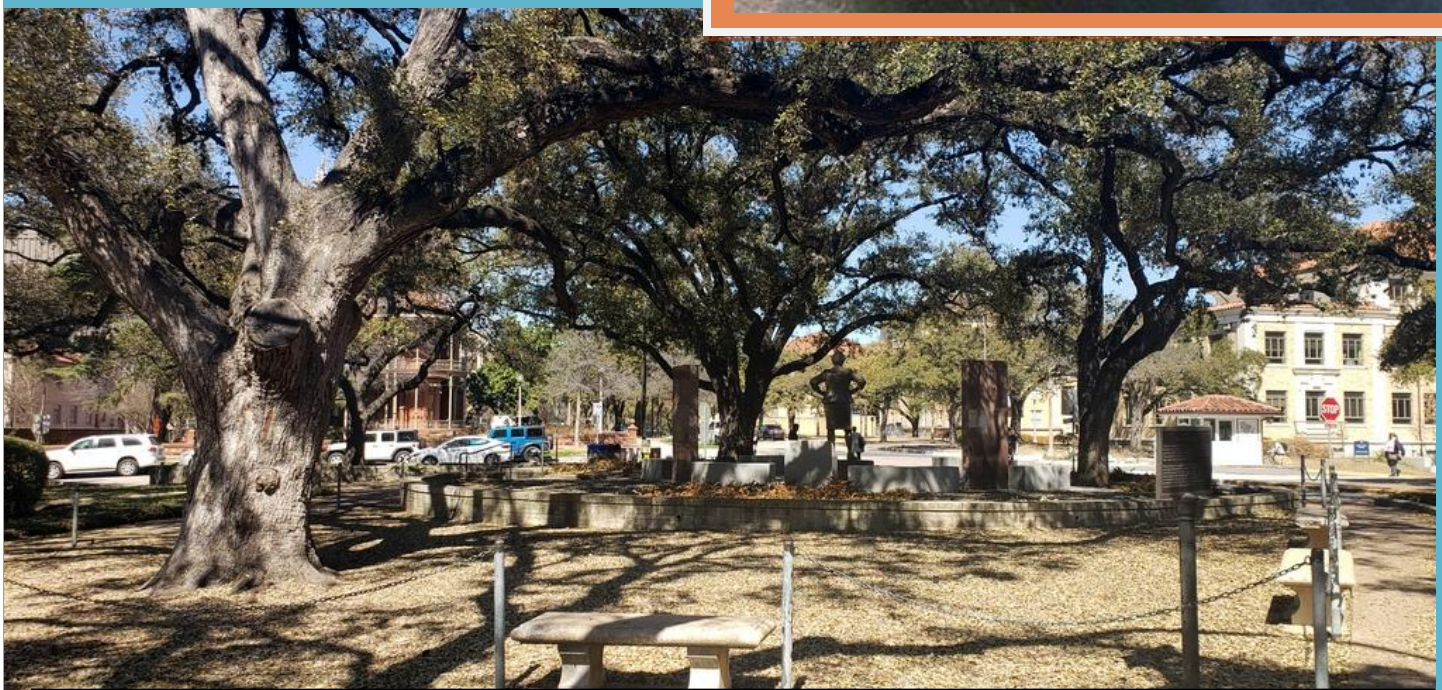
A little better view of the Tower







Still in the South Mall, but facing the other direction, you can see the previous fountain at the end of the lawn and the Capital in the distance.



*These three native Texas Live Oaks were on the grounds of the original “forty acres” when the University of Texas opened it opened on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1883. The largest tree is believed to antedate “The War Between The States”. The shadow across the plaque makes it hard for even me to read in the editing panel. The trees are named in honor of Dr William James Battle, Professor of Classics, who served as acting President of the University from 1914 to 1916 (did you know him personally Max?). A long time chairman of the faculty building committee, Dr Battle was among those who advocated nurturing the trees as a source of enjoyment for many generations.*



A pioneer of achievement during a time when she acknowledged society held "three strikes" against her for being poor, black, and a woman, Jordan accomplished many firsts. She was the first African American woman to be elected to the Texas Senate, the first African American Texan to be elected to the United States Congress, and the first African American and first woman to give the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention. Chosen to speak for her oratorical eloquence and firm stature.

There are too many shadows to get a good photo of this statue of Barbara Jordan.

On January 17, 1996, America lost this true public servant who had become an unwavering hero. Befitting her legacy, Barbara Jordan was eulogized by President of the United States William Jefferson Clinton and former Texas Governor Ann Richards. Consistent with her tradition of firsts, Jordan was buried on Republic Hill next to Stephen F. Austin in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas, a place reserved for Texas' greatest heroes. She was the first African American to be laid to rest there.



I'm not sure what this is, road construction prevented me from getting close enough to find a plaque, but this is no way to treat a canoe.







# MUSTANGS

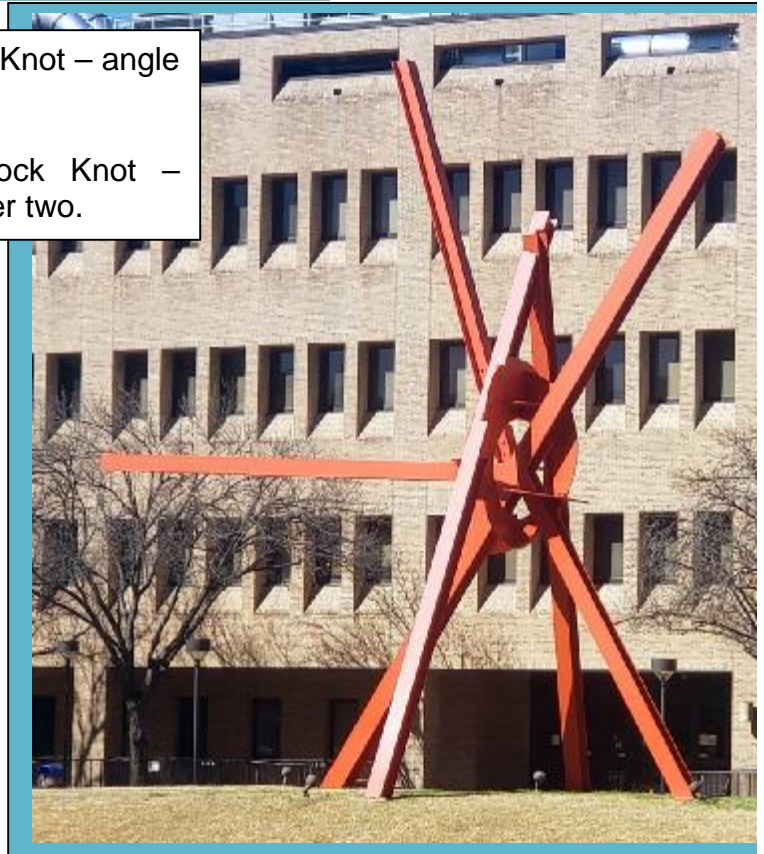
THEY CARRIED THE MEN  
WHO MADE TEXAS

*These horses bore Spanish explorers across two continents. They brought to the Plains Indians the age of horse culture. Texas cowboys rode them to extend the ranching occupation clear to the plains of Alberta. Spanish horse, Texas Cow Pony, and Mustang were all one in those times when, as the sayings went, A Man Was No Better Than His Horse, And A Man On Foot Was No Man At All. Like the Longhorn, the Mustang has been virtually bred out of existence. But Mustang horses will always symbolize Western Frontiers, long trails of Longhorn herds, seas of pristine grass, and men riding free in a free land.*

*J. Frank Dobie*

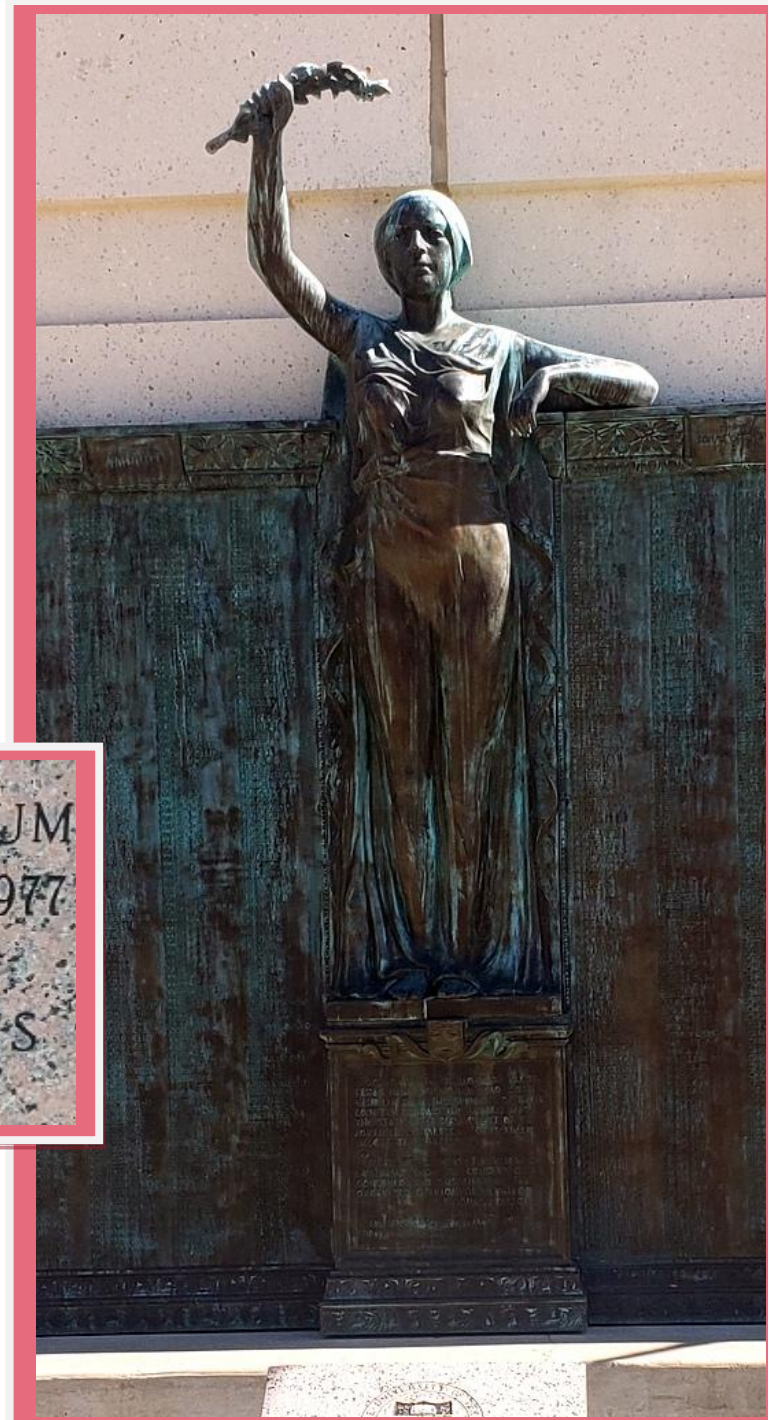
Left – Clock Knot – angle number one

Right – Clock Knot – angle number two.





IN GLORY AND WITH ETERNAL GRATITUDE  
TO ALL VETERANS  
WHOSE LEGACY IS OUR FREEDOM



TEXAS MEMORIAL STADIUM  
REDEDICATED NOVEMBER 17, 1977  
IN MEMORY OF  
ALL AMERICAN VETERANS  
OF ALL WARS

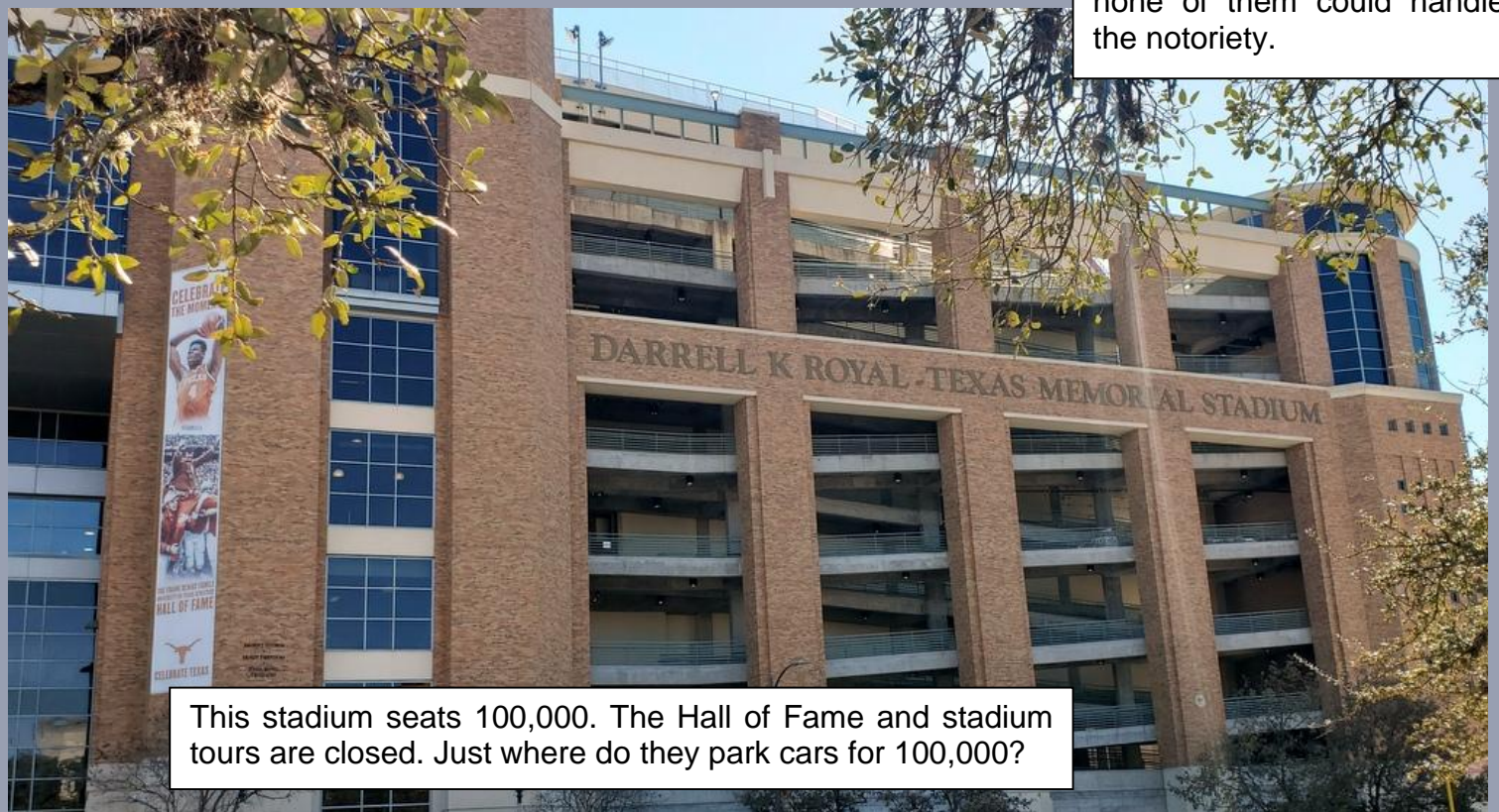


## Julius Whittier

*"He Came Before Us. He Left a Legacy."*

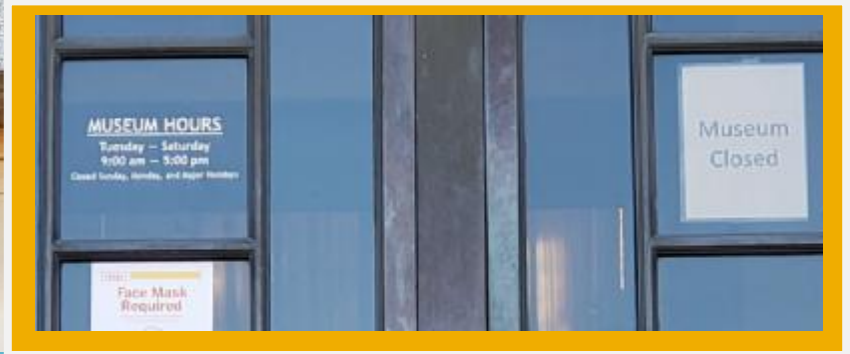


Never heard of him before today. I did not include a photo of the rest of the info because their description of Julius sounded like he was the first African-American to receive a full scholarship at Texas, only because they felt he was 'tough enough to handle' the publicity that would go along with the money. They made it sound like the only reason an African-American had never before received a scholarship was because none of them could handle the notoriety.



This stadium seats 100,000. The Hall of Fame and stadium tours are closed. Just where do they park cars for 100,000?



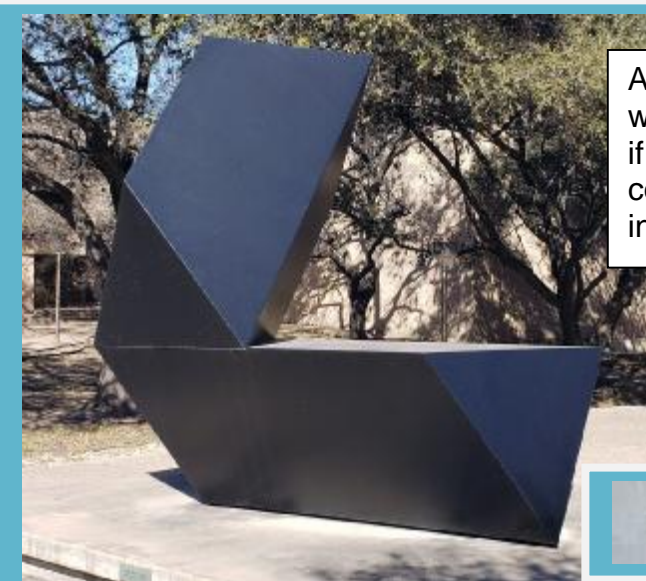


Right – A Saber-toothed Tiger. With the exception of the Clock Knot, today's sculptures have been readily recognizable – People, animals, canoes, you can even make some sense out of the Clock Knot. But as I turned around, the one below caught my eye.



**Tony Smith**  
American, 1912-1980

*Amaryllis*  
1965  
Painted steel



Amaryllis – Isn't that a flower? A flower with square flat sides. Hmm...I wonder if you can guess which building this lovely couple of geometric patterns was installed in front of.



# "THE FREEDOM MARE"

"The Freedom Mare" is the center piece from a monument of five horses entitled "The Day the Wall Came Down". The monument was inspired by the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Artists in all mediums have long chosen the horse's majestic image to portray freedom and victory. This proud, leaping mare evokes the power of the female spirit and its role in achieving victory without violence.



"The Freedom Mare" celebrates the life of Cecile Audrey Ham, whose gentle spirit, love of horses, deep affection for the University of Texas, lifelong pursuit of knowledge, and devotion to family and friends serve as an inspiration to us all.

THE TEXAS LONGHORN





With his fierce independence, courage, and stubborn endurance, the Longhorn embodies the frontier spirit of the Texan. Tall, tough, and full of fight, he is the worthy emblem of a free and noble State.

## Generations

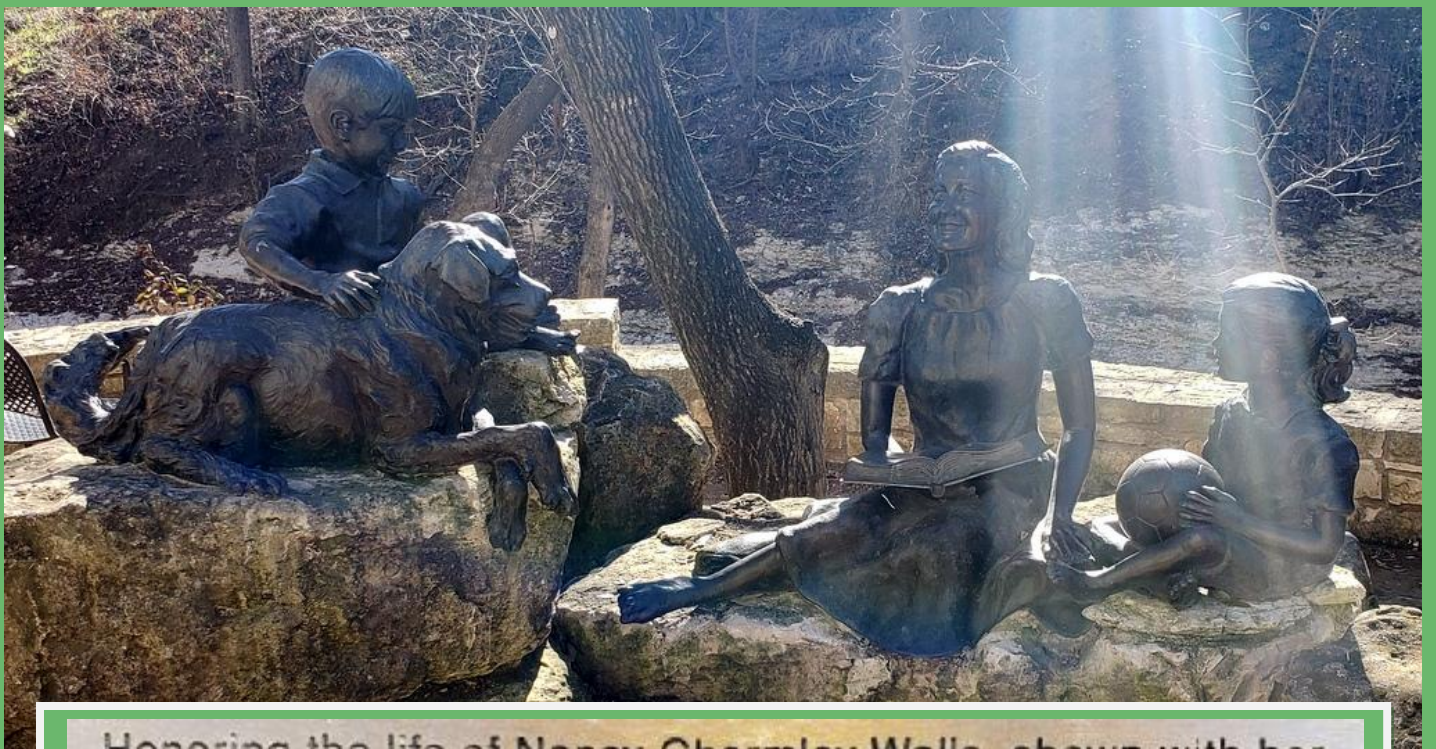




The rugged longhorn steer, mascot of the University, is depicted here as a new and curious calf. The old cowboy, representing wisdom and knowledge, is the link between the past, present and future. He is the facilitator to the new generation - calf and girl - who greet each other with excitement and wonder. The longhorn calf suggests that the University is a place of renewal, and that knowledge is passed from generation to generation. The grandfather/cowboy and the young girl/granddaughter convey the nurturing aspects of the University as a family. The horse and pony are symbols of part of our Southwest heritage. The entire sculpture group symbolizes the continuing efforts of Texas Exes and citizens to sustain a university of the highest quality.

Several of these in the alumni plaza had some form of description as to what the artist was trying to convey.

# HOPE



Honoring the life of Nancy Ghormley Walls, shown with her beloved children Emily and Robby, "Hope" points to the faith, joy and peace that characterized Nancy's entire life even during her final struggle with cancer. Hope shines through Nancy's life; death does not diminish its brightness. Nancy's family and many friends honor her and celebrate her faith, the true source of hope.



Timing is everything!

As I rode up to the RV I could see a State Trooper looking into the windshield. I pulled to a stop next to the driver's door and tilted my head to the right while saying "it's mine." He shook his head and asked for my license, then asked me what I had been doing – "riding around the campus taking pictures", and what I did for a living – "insurance adjuster". He proceeded to lecture me on leaving an RV near a Government facility; that this entire area was no parking (I think I may have had an argument on that one since there was no sign at this parking spot); but I told him I thought it was part of the VC parking right behind me. But when he asked how long I'd been here (30 minute limit) I told him a couple hours. He shook his head and told me I was not going to get towed, but that they had been discussing how to get a tow truck big enough to haul the RV away. He told me to get my bike racked up while he called in my license. He was done before I was, and when I hesitated to talk to him, he told me to go ahead and finish and then he would have some questions for me, but not to worry I was not getting a ticket. When I was done, he started asking me questions about traveling in the RV, "How long have you been in Texas? Where have you been? You mean you just travel around in this thing? You were here during the cold spell?" It was no longer business and became personal about my travels. I told him about visiting in Houston, coming down the coast, Padre Island, Brownsville, the cold week in McAllen and Laredo, a week in San Antonio, last year in SoCal and the year before in Arizona. It was kind of funny. When his curiosity was satisfied I hopped in and was on my way. If I had been fifteen minutes later, the RV might not have been there. Timing is everything!



In my research this morning of places to park I came across a page about parking trailers in backyards in Austin and renting them as Air BnB's. Oddly enough, as I was trying to turn around I noticed five airstreams parked in this back yard. It's a little hard to tell, but there are two on the left and three on the right. I am willing to bet these are Air BnB rentals.

Sunset was still too far away to get nice pictures of the neon light art gallery and I did not want to just park on the street for a couple hours, and finding a parking spot in that neighborhood at 4:30 in the afternoon would be difficult at best. I did pull over and make a reservation for the Austin City Limits stage tour tomorrow. Austin is known as Music City, so I cruised past the Moody Theater a couple times trying to determine where I can park tomorrow morning. It will not be fun.

Right now I am at an HEB to write the newsletter and eat my other steak, then a different Sam's than last night I think.

I mentioned on page one about the traffic. It can't just be Covid. San Antonio felt like a much smaller city than 2.4 million, and Austin feels like a much larger city than 950,000. At this point I would choose San Antonio over Austin.

Until next time.....