

CVA-64 2024 MIDLAND TX MINI REUNION

April 23-26, 2024

La Quinta Hotel Midland North
Hosts: Richard & Jeanette Swain



Historically, the Mini Reunions have been held in SE Texas, but some of the regular attendees asked about having it in West Texas. Some people think of West Texas only in relation to the oil business, but there are other things that make up the Midland/Odessa area. Notice the typical West Texas blue sky; it is very common when the wind isn't blowing

Midland hotels are expensive! Finding a reasonably priced hotel that was clean and comfortable was a primary concern. But La Quinta came through and was interested in having us as their guests. The location was convenient, on Loop 250, but also gave a view of congestion during the rush hour. I expected to hear the traffic, but found that the rooms closest to the Loop were quiet.

26 people gathered in Midland on Tuesday, most of them driving. They came from SE Texas, Kansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Between the distance traveled and the traffic caused by construction on I-20, and oilfield activities, everyone arrived exhausted. Breakfasts were the standard hot breakfast provided by the hotel...a time for gathering for the days' activities.



Planning the next day's trip...



Men's "Club" Breakfast. In Minnesota, it was know as the Romeo Club...Retired Old Men Eating Out...



Gathering to leave for the day's trip.

There isn't any bus, professional driver or professional guide for the mini reunions. The local hosts serve that purpose, and those in attendance carpool. To ensure that we did not lose some of the cars, and to highlight some of the places of interest, we connected via cell phone conference calls for this reunion.

Wednesday - Museum Day:



West Texas means oil in the Permian Basin. On Wednesday, we traveled through downtown Midland to spend the morning at the Petroleum Museum, with a local retired oil man, Roger Clark, guiding us through the history and current activities in the oil field.



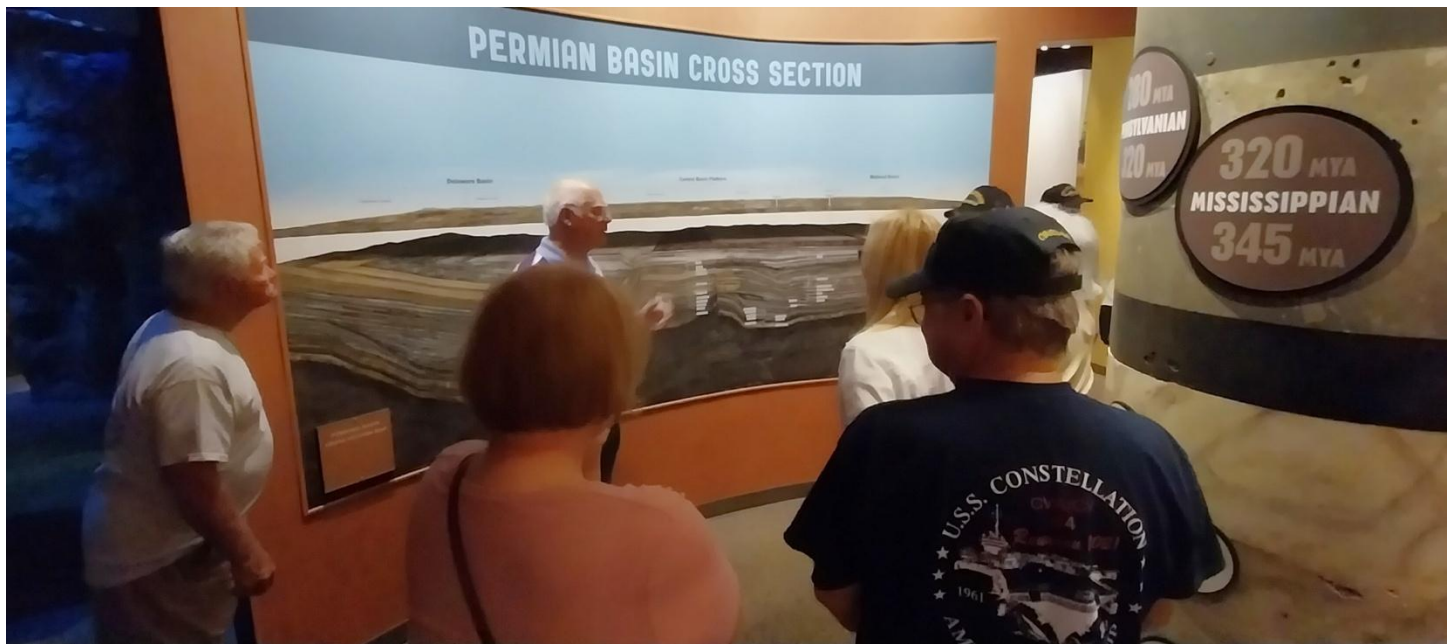
Outdoor Exhibit at the Petroleum Museum...one of several





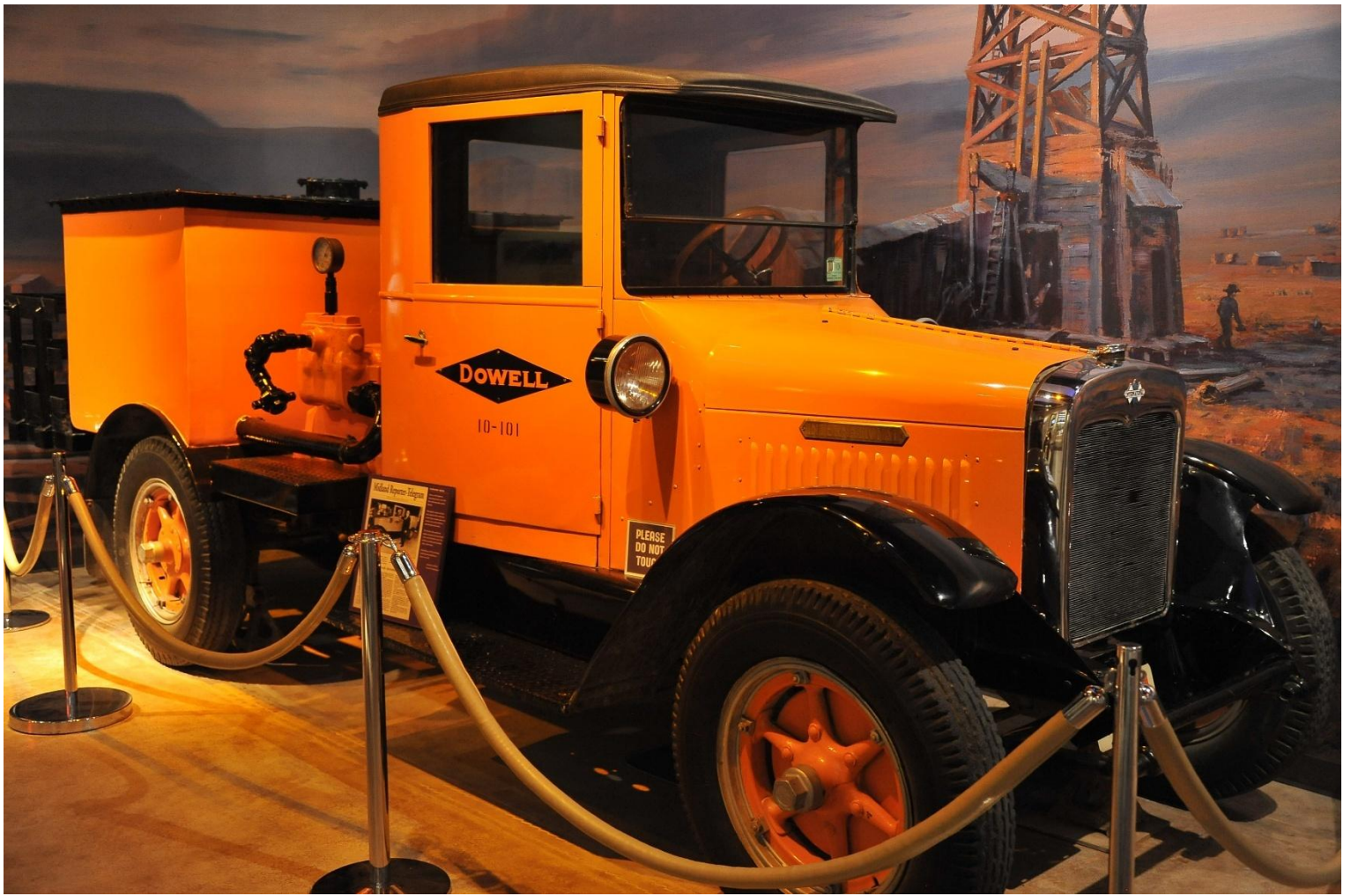
Roger Clark describing geological formations





Explosives used in early drilling







Historical pictures of oil fields



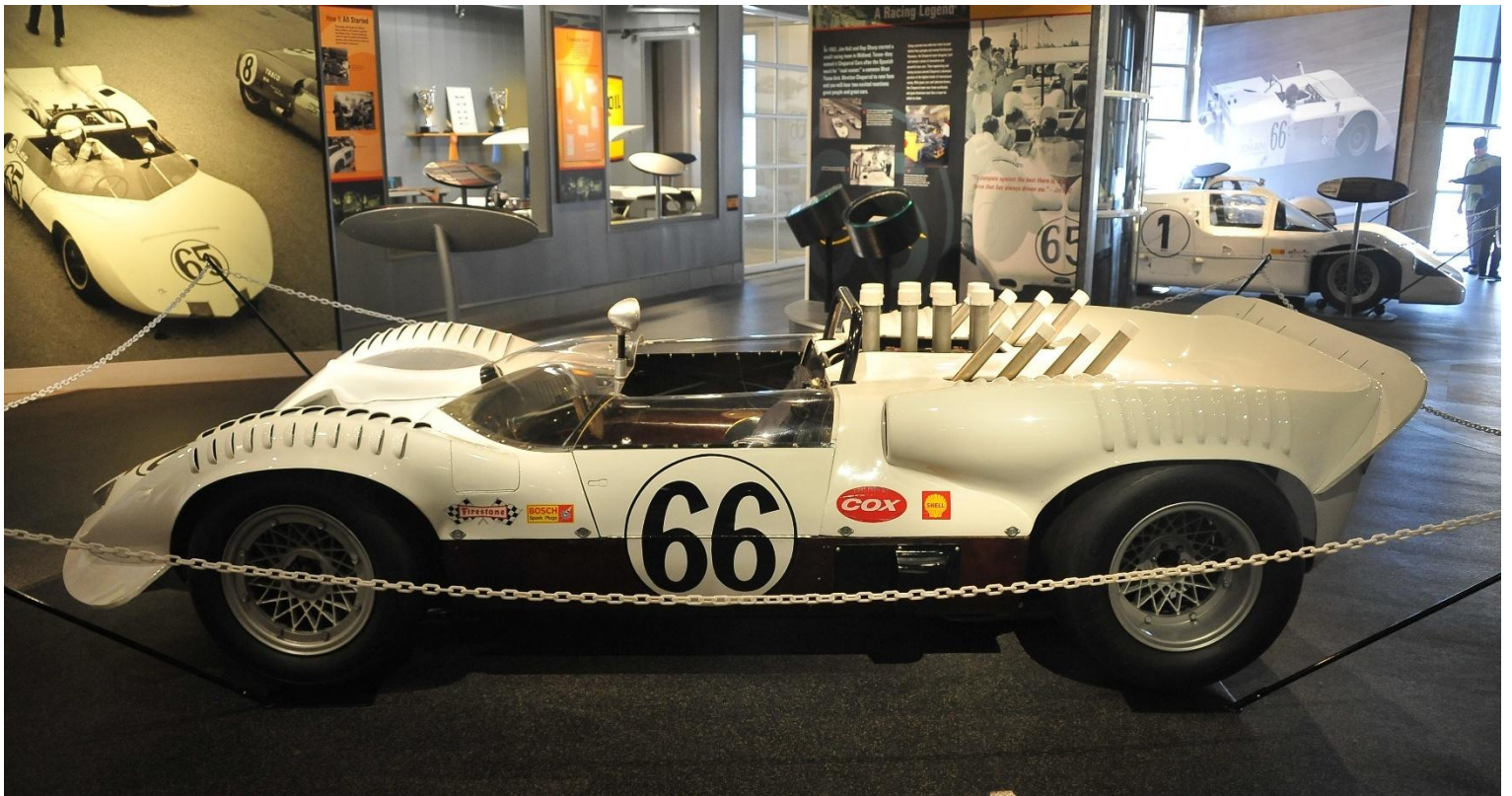
Watching video at the Petroleum Museum

Also at the Petroleum Museum were display rooms of large gemstones, better described as “minerals” from around the world on loan from other museums or directly from geologists. Many were in large chunks excavated by the geologists. Below is a sample of what is inside in a different form. This is the link to enjoy this area from your computer:

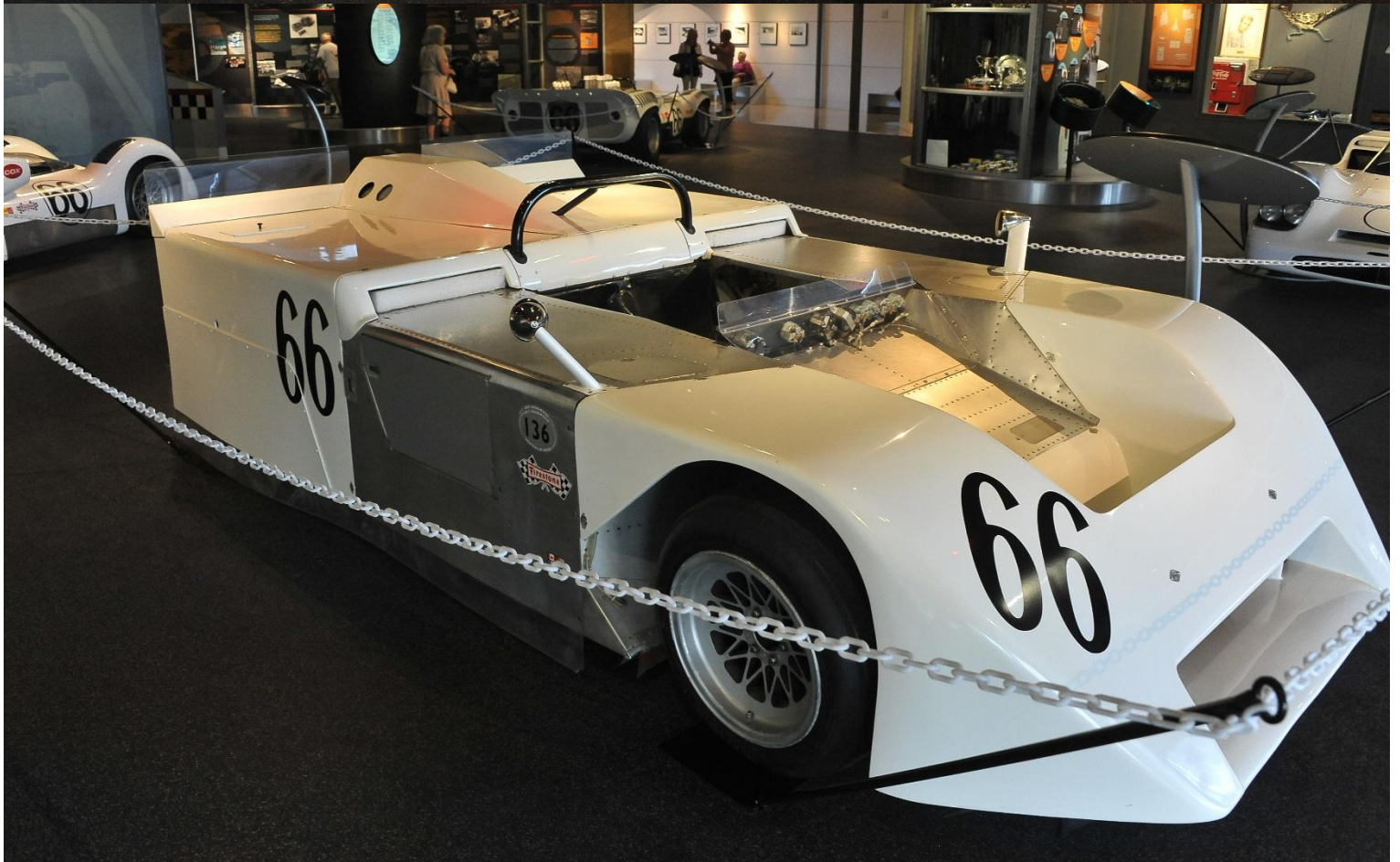
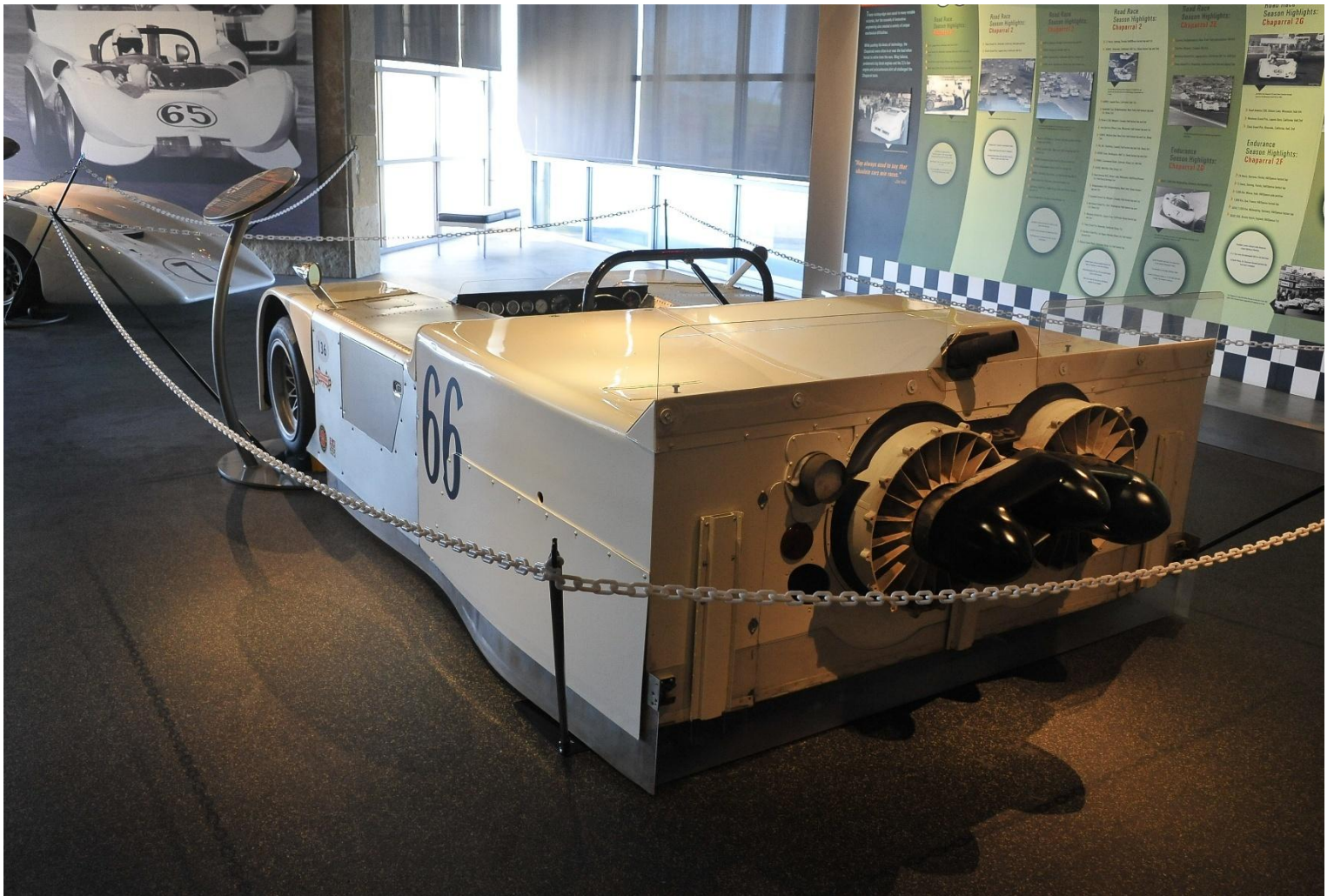
<https://petroleummuseum.org/mineral-gallery/>

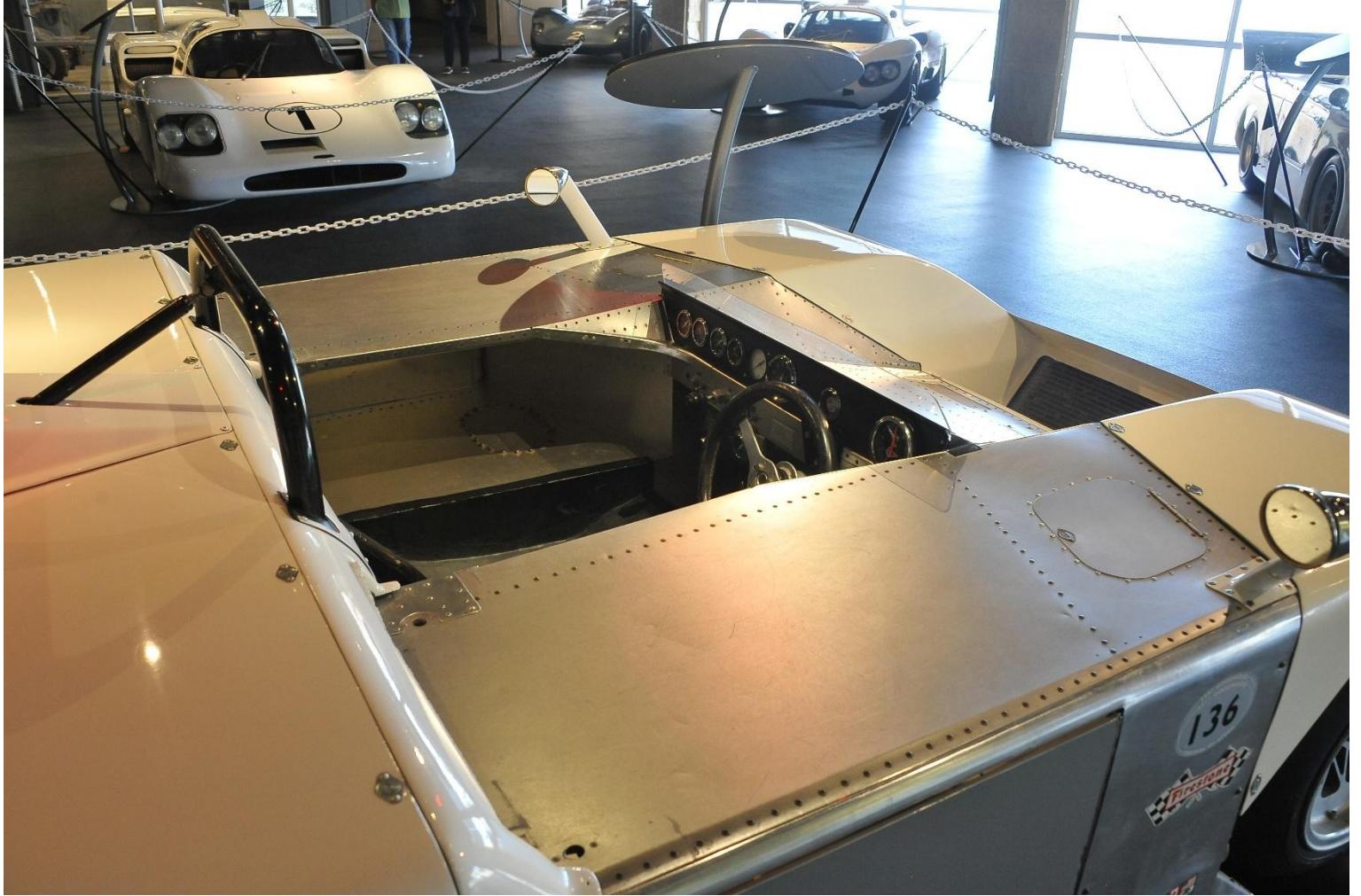


In addition to the precious gems, there are numerous Chaparral Racing Cars which were developed and built in the Chaparral Team's Midland. This is the link to the exhibits enjoyed mostly by the guys: <https://petroleummuseum.org/featured/exhibits/>



















After leaving the Petroleum Museum, we missed our I-20 construction detour and ended up taking a tour of the empty parking lot of the Midland County Horseshoe Event center, which allowed everyone a good view of Midland's skyline...and to enjoy a good laugh. Sure glad the parking lot was empty! The reconstruction of I-20

was needed because the oil field trucks carrying large tanks damaged the bridges above I-20 for the local roads to cross I-20. Several bridges were torn down and rebuilt so that I-20 would pass over the local roads.







After lunch at a new Mexican restaurant, El Capitan, in south downtown Midland, we toured the Museum of the Southwest and a show at its Planetarium. The grounds are used for weekly band concerts, bazaars and picnics during the summer. They also have a children's museum with special programs donated by Fredda Turner Durham.

This home was originally owned by the Turner family who donated it to the Museum after an intruder murdered Mrs. Turner when her husband, a prominent equestrian businessman in Midland, was out of town. Mr. Turner retreated to his ranch in western Texas and never returned. The daughters also left and did not want to return. The related Turner/Durham/Scharbauer families continue to be philanthropists for Midland. The art exhibits are loaned from other museums and directly from artists, and includes both contemporary and traditional artwork, pottery and items with unique design features.



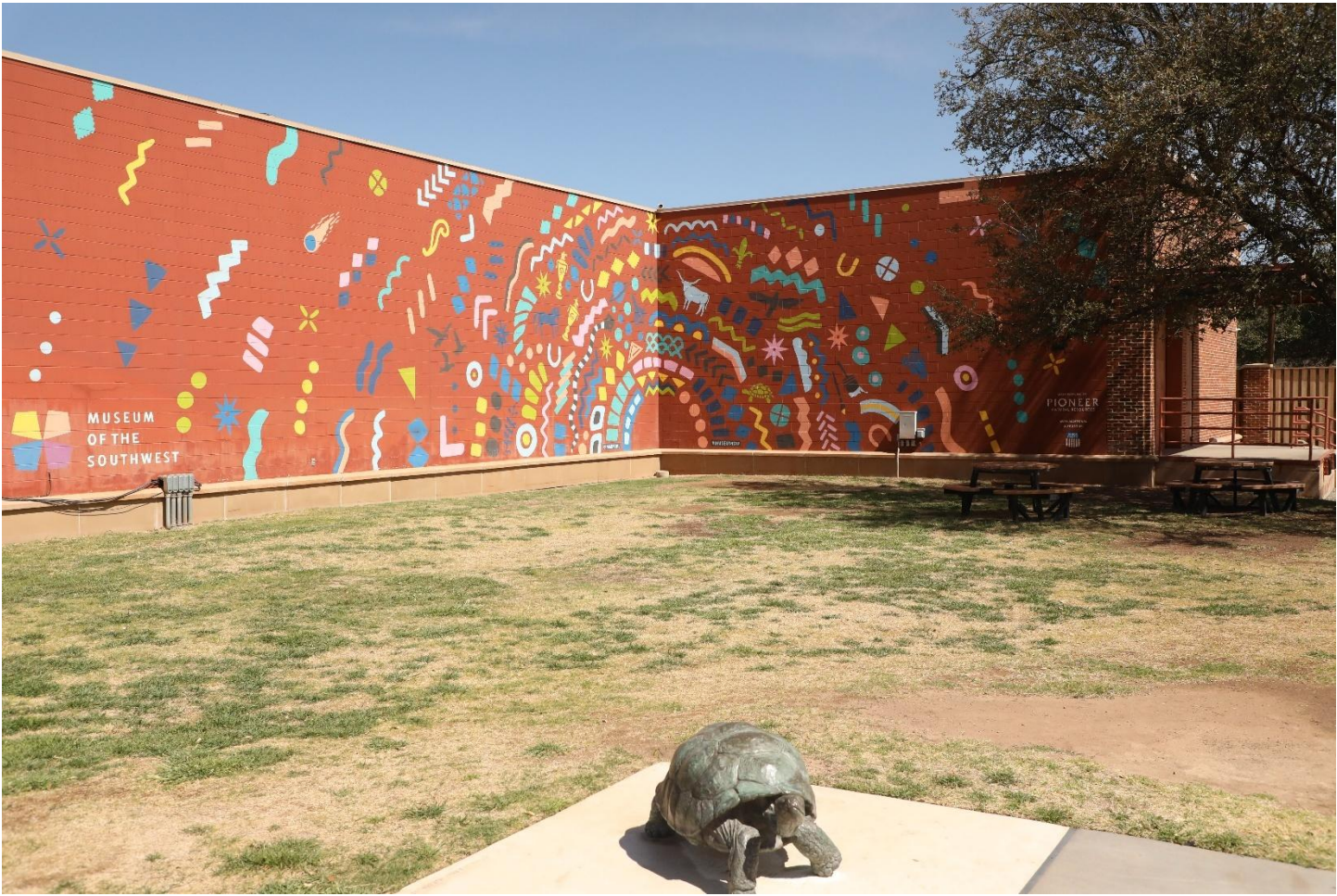




Below is the new gallery entrance to the original Turner home.



Other buildings added and statues are shown below.







How big is a longhorn?

Our Guide at the Museum:



The first room in the Museum is filled with pottery, all of which is unique and exquisitely designed. Glass creations are also included. Below is a sample with the names given by the artists:



F. Marie Hall Special Projects Gallery





Kelly Witmer
Solid Motion





Henry P. Jones
 1890-1960
 The Art Institute of Chicago
 1100 North Dearborn Street
 Chicago, IL 60602-7143
 Tel: 312.437.0900
 Fax: 312.437.0901
 www.artinstituteofchicago.org

Kelly Witmer

Talisman #10

Ceramic and Kiln Formed Glass
 2023

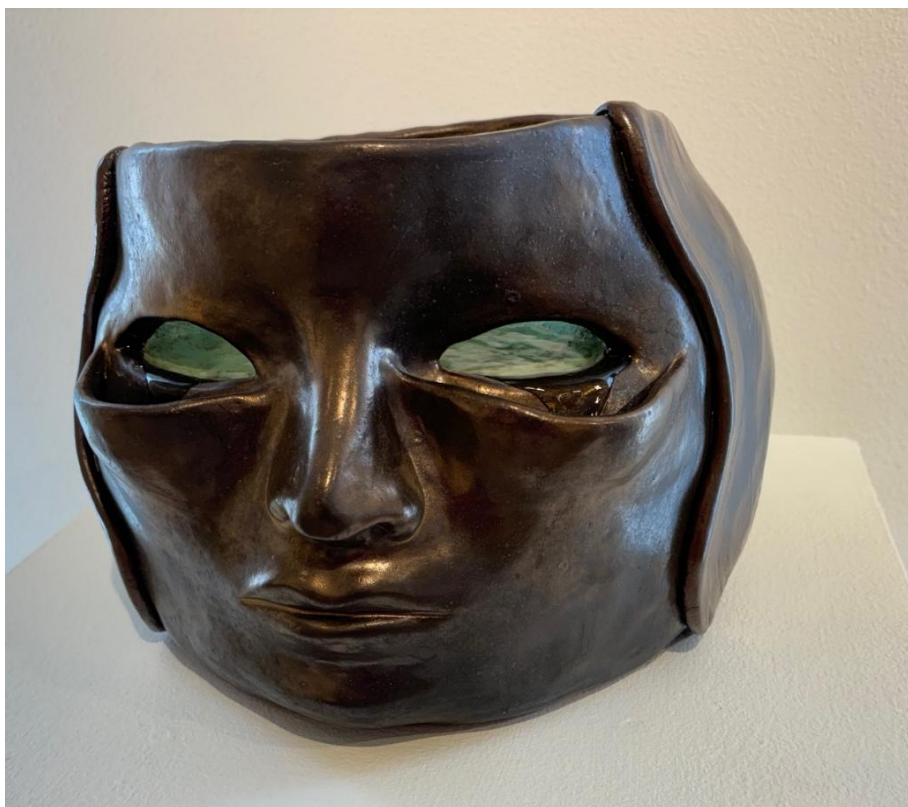
On Loan from the Artist

Kelly Witmer

Recycled Tears

Ceramic
 2023

On Loan from the Artist



Unique inflatable designs:

There are two rooms of these designs, which, when tapped with your fingers feel and sound like metal...but it is a special paint. One chair, which may be touched, is not as comfortable as it looks, but it is BEAUTIFUL!





William Cannings
Inflated





History of West Texas



Paintings

There were a few rooms with very realistic paintings from California artists, that appeared to be pictures but weren't. Below are a few examples.



Wendy Gray
Road to Nowhere
1980, oil on canvas
Gift of John Gray



Dick Mason
Two Blue Collars
1972
1972-1973
1973-1974
1974-1975

The Original Turner Home



The Original Turner Home





Our photographer as viewed by the mirror in the master bath



Horse race trophies

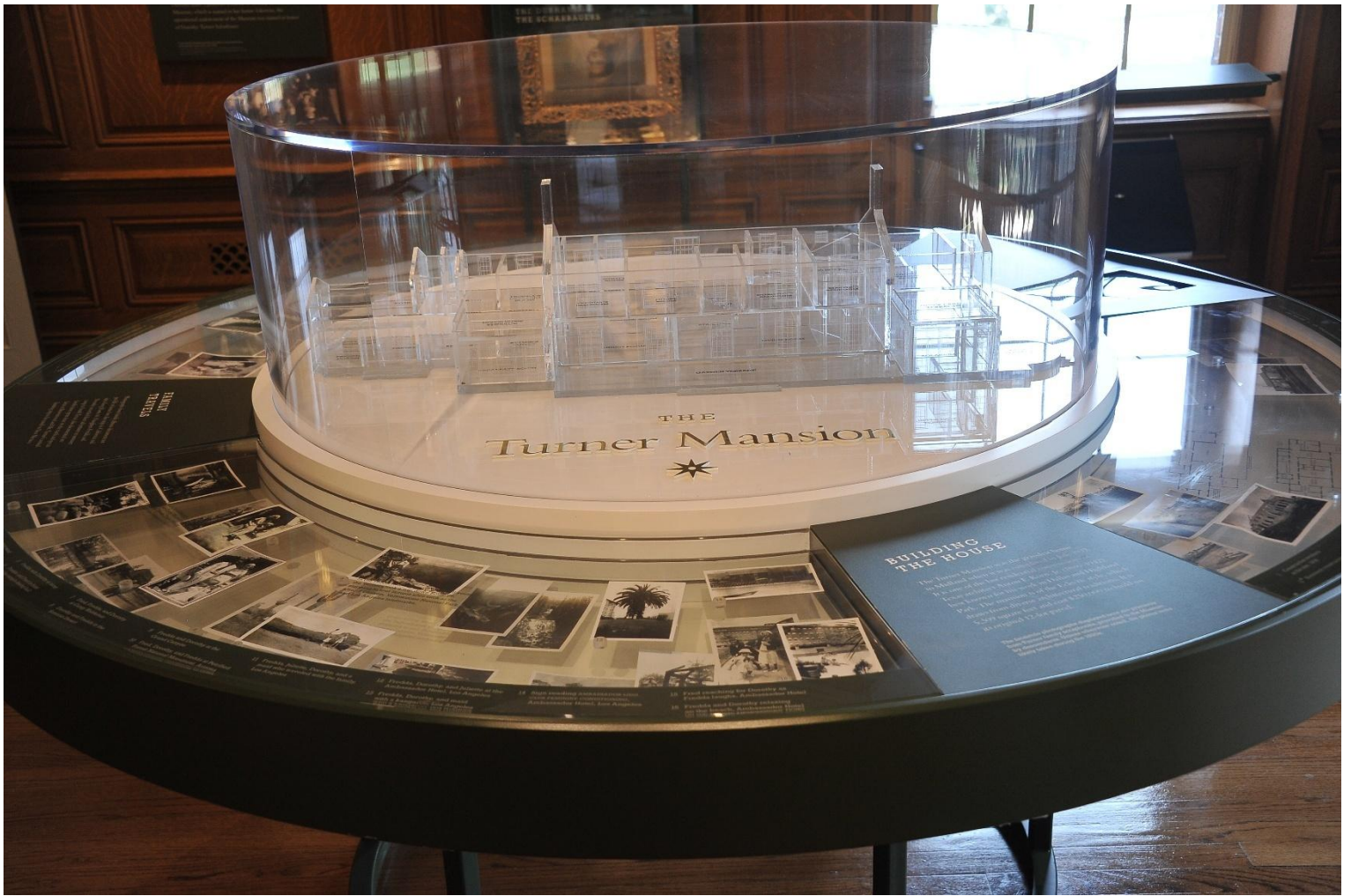


The full display



The winning horse at the Kentucky Derby





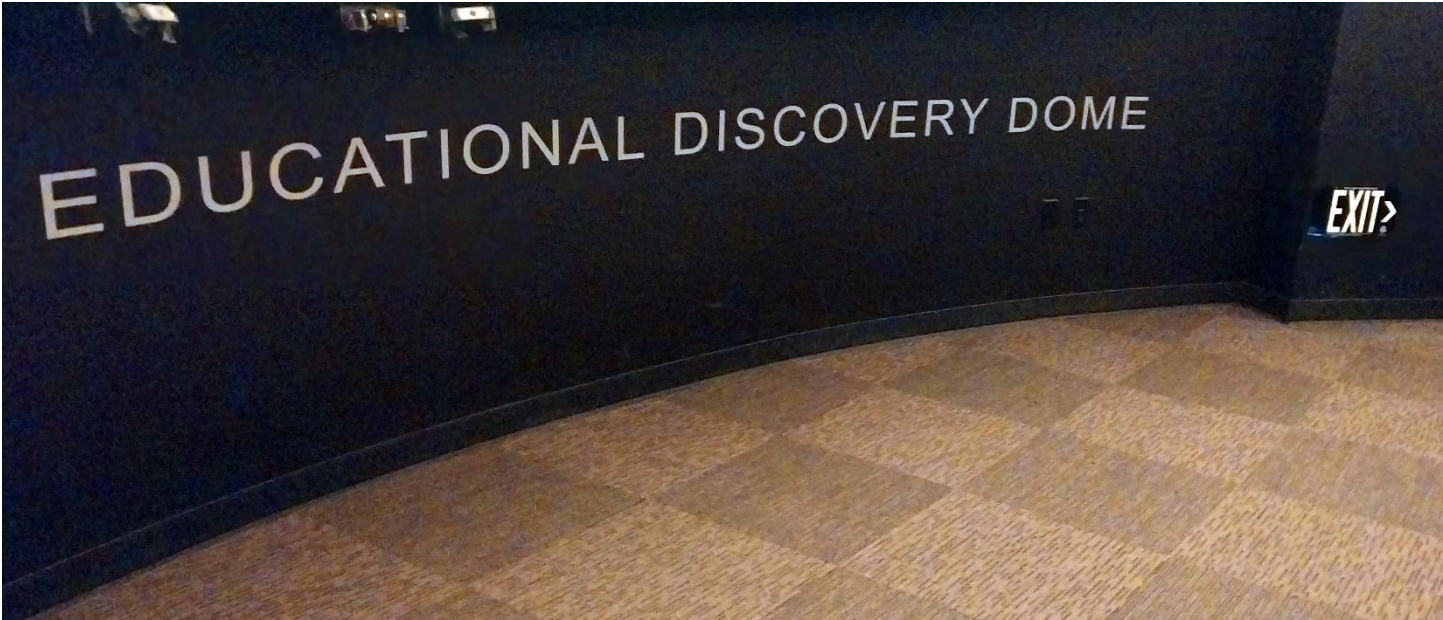


FAMILY TRAGEDY AND THE CREATION OF THE MUSEUM

In 1963, tragedy struck the Turner family when Juliette Turner was murdered during a burglary of the mansion. Her daughter Dorothy was also badly beaten and almost died. The assailant was arrested and convicted. Mr. Turner, who was away at the time, never entered the mansion again and passed away at his Brownwood ranch less than four months later. After their parents' deaths, Fredda and Dorothy and their families decided to make a gift of the mansion to the Museum of the Southwest as a public-private partnership with Midland County. In addition, in 1986, Fredda Turner Durham made a generous donation to develop the Children's Museum, which is named in her honor. Likewise, the operational endowment of the Museum was named in honor of Dorothy Turner Scharbauer.

Turner family Christmas portrait with children and grandchildren
in the mansion living room, early 1960s
Standing, from left: Juliette and Fred Turner, Jr., and Clarence Scharbauer, Jr.;
seated, at left: Lynn Durham, Sr.; on floor: Fredda (far left) and Dorothy (far right)
Museum of the Southwest Archives

The Planetarium show was a great time to sit back and relax while watching a current show on the universe. How many of you took a quick nap or rested your eyelids and listened?





Inside the Planetarium





The original Turner home after an addition on the right.



1 of 2 pictures showing the expanded property, with the left structure being the original Turner home.



2 of 2 pictures showing the expansion of the Museum property.



Waiting for our tables at Clear Springs Café



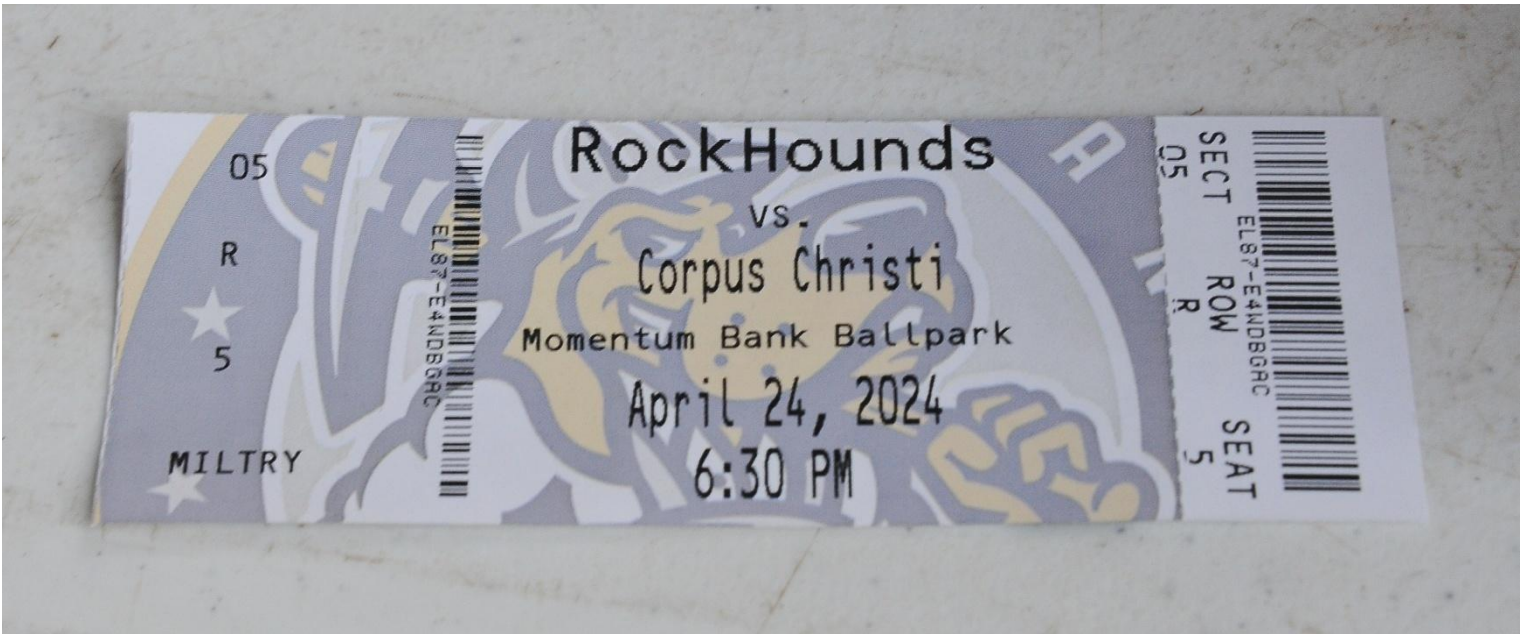
Friends and relatives of reunion attendees are always welcome.



Too much was planned for this day?



After a quick dinner at Clear Springs Cafe, some of us headed to the baseball game at the Momentum Bank Ballpark for a match between the Midland Rockhounds (A's Affiliate) and the Corpus Christi Hooks (Houston Astros Affiliate).





MOMENTUM BANK BALLPARK

BALL STRIKE OUT

2 2 1



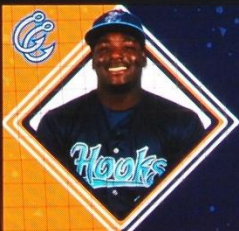
Haynie &
Company



ONEOK



WING-STOP



#27 LF
QUINCY
HAMILTON
AVG: .095
RBI: 2
R: 2
OPS: .364
HR: 0
SB: 1



TALLY
DUE UP:

LF Hamilton
CF Corona
RF Melton
C Correa

GUEST INN. HOME

0 6 3

ROGERS

rogersford.com

COTERRA



ENERGY

ESTRELLA JALISCO

Permian
Anchors

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
CC	0	0	0	0	0					0	2	0
MID	1	0	0	1	1					3	3	0



The scoring pitch for Corpus Christi...



Melba got to see Corpus Christi score!





Having more fun at the ball game.





A ball game without a hot dog isn't a ball game...







Eric was given a thank you gift for his service, something the children's mother was teaching her children to do...it was a good evening!





He found his beer...

Before retiring for the day, everyone driving on Thursday filled their vehicles with fuel for Thursday's drive through the oil fields.

Thursday - Oil Field Tour Day:

After connecting all the cell phones on the conference call, 23 headed east on Loop 250 and I-20. Larger oil field operations were identified enroute, including the fracking water pits, the electrical development, the use of solar panels for meter reporting, and of course, the lack of pumps for each well. Oil wells in this area frequently have sufficient gas pressure to push the oil into the pipes to separators to separate water, gas and oil without the need for pumps. There is a penalty in Texas if gas flaring rises above 2%, so we did not see much flaring on our tour.

After passing through the Big Spring Airport and Industrial Park, we passed near the Big Spring State Prison before we reached Hanger 25.



In Big Spring we stopped at the Hanger 25 Museum at the edge of the McMahon-Wrinkle Airport & Industrial Park, a training facility for the Korean War. In the mid 1990's, there was a restoration project to turn this facility into a museum. The ladies loved the small gift shop with its low prices, and the both guys and gals loved the airplanes. A B-52 nose section was set up for guests to try out the cockpit...only shorter people are allowed to enjoy this activity.







Entrance to Hangar 25, Big Spring, TX



In Memoriam: Jerry Worthy

A photo honoring Jerry Worthy's service in WWII is displayed in Hangar 25 Air Museum



A LITTLE HISTORY OF HANGER 25

Hangar 25 Air Museum has lost a friend, **Jerry Worthy**.

Jerry Worthy loved his family beyond everything. But secondarily he had other loves. He loved his Community and worked extremely hard to see that good things happened. In the middle of the 1990's there was a small group of people who had formed

a committee to see if preserving a World War II relic would be feasible. From the day Jerry found out that this was going on, he was hooked. He was at every event, meeting or social gathering that happened. He had a personal passion to see that one of the last standing WWII hangars was restored and transformed into a museum for memorabilia of that era - 1941. Much work was done by this group to get funding for such a project. Many hours of volunteering by them was spent to make this happen. One event in particular was an Air Fair with every conceivable activity for the public. Jerry brought a challenge to the committee, "If this event makes \$1200.00 after all expenses, I will kiss a pig". Where did this come from? - only from a man who had vision and knew how to quicken the minds of people - Jerry Worthy. Well the event happened, and Jerry won - or lost, depending on how you look at it. Either way, the planning for a pig kissing is in the works. A local farmer offered his show pig, and the media and City officials were notified. A date was set, and the day came.

It was a bright sunny day with a hog trailer and fenced area ready for the appearance of both Miss Piggy and Mr. Worthy. News Media were all ready for the event - Newspaper, Radio & TV all standing by. The audience was comfortable in seating available, all watching for the appearance. Miss Piggy emerged from the trailer - waiting for her visitor and suddenly appearing from the back of the trailer was a gentleman, dressed in a 3 piece suit carrying a beautifully bowed basket filled with carrots, cabbage leaves and other assorted foods desired by a pig. Yes, it was Jerry Worthy! Jerry addressed the crowd and gracefully entered the pen of Miss Piggy. After visiting a moment- he pulled a bottle out of his coat pocket and carefully splashed a bit of the best perfume that Wal-Mart made, on top of Miss Piggy. They danced around each other for a moment - and then it happened. THE KISS... (on top of the head of course).

This is a long story of one act Jerry was willing to do, and with such flare for the Museum he loved. There are many such stories. He was there for all of them and loved it. The next event was the formal ball for Hangar 25 Air Museum. It was batted around what should it be called? We cannot just keep calling it "The Ball", thus it was named "The Pig Ball". In a few years Jerry and other military members of the Hangar 25 Board of Directors thought that maybe something a little more appropriate should be chosen for a formal military event. So, the Silver Wings Ball name was adopted and stands today. Jerry's memory is in all of this and he did not miss more then 3 balls in 22 years, no matter what the name.

Jerry was very instrumental in all the workings of the Museum. If he were not there every week, he would call and check in and just visit with the staff. He always had an idea to share and most worked out. Jerry is now and will forever be missed by all who knew him.

Thank you, Louise Ann, Ann, Roy, Michelle, and Jeb, for letting us borrow him for a short while. His smile will be forever missed at Hangar 25 Air Museum. Thank you, Jerry, for being you!

Remembrance by: Gloria McDonald







Tour guide at Hanger 25











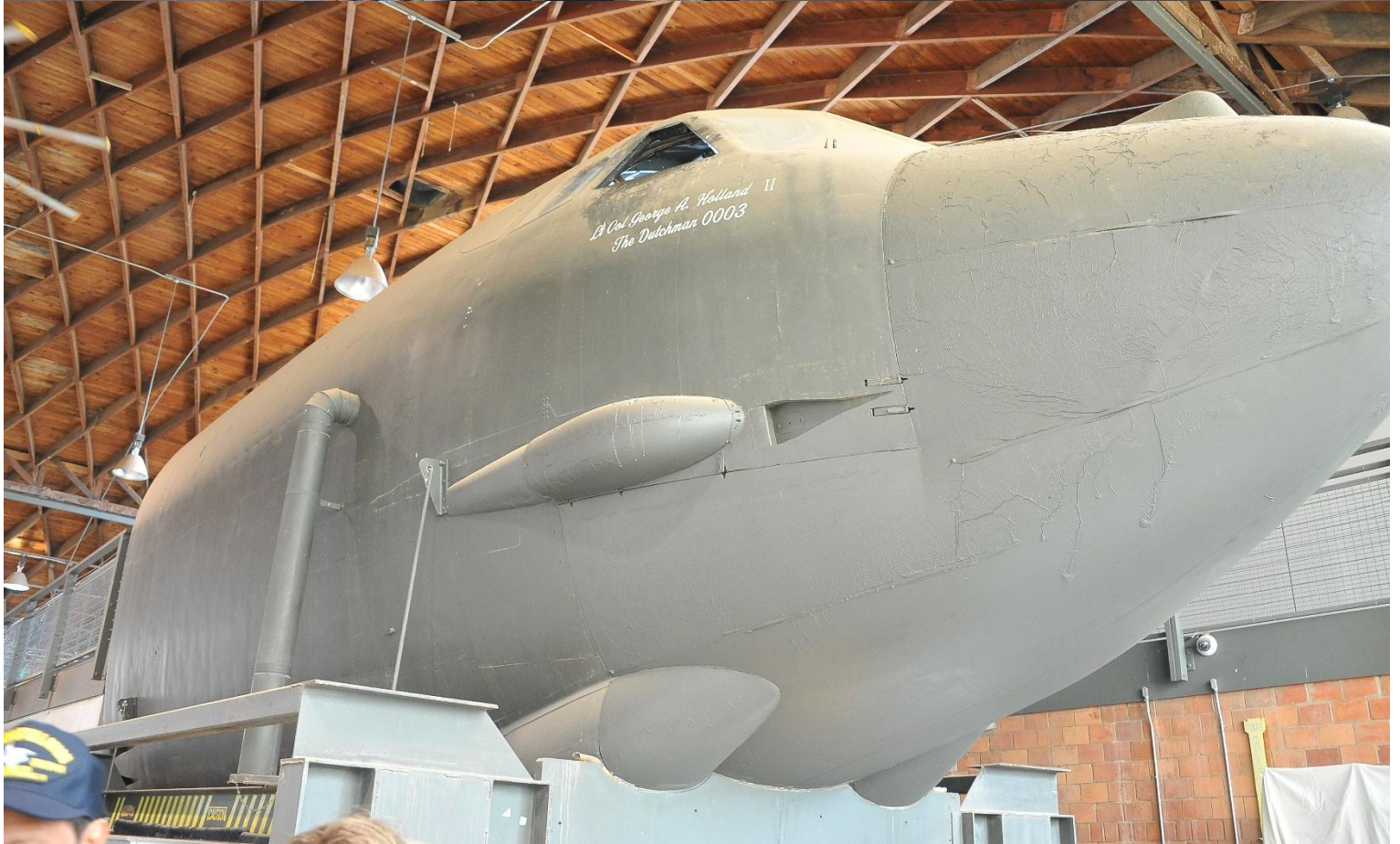


Simulator for fire training







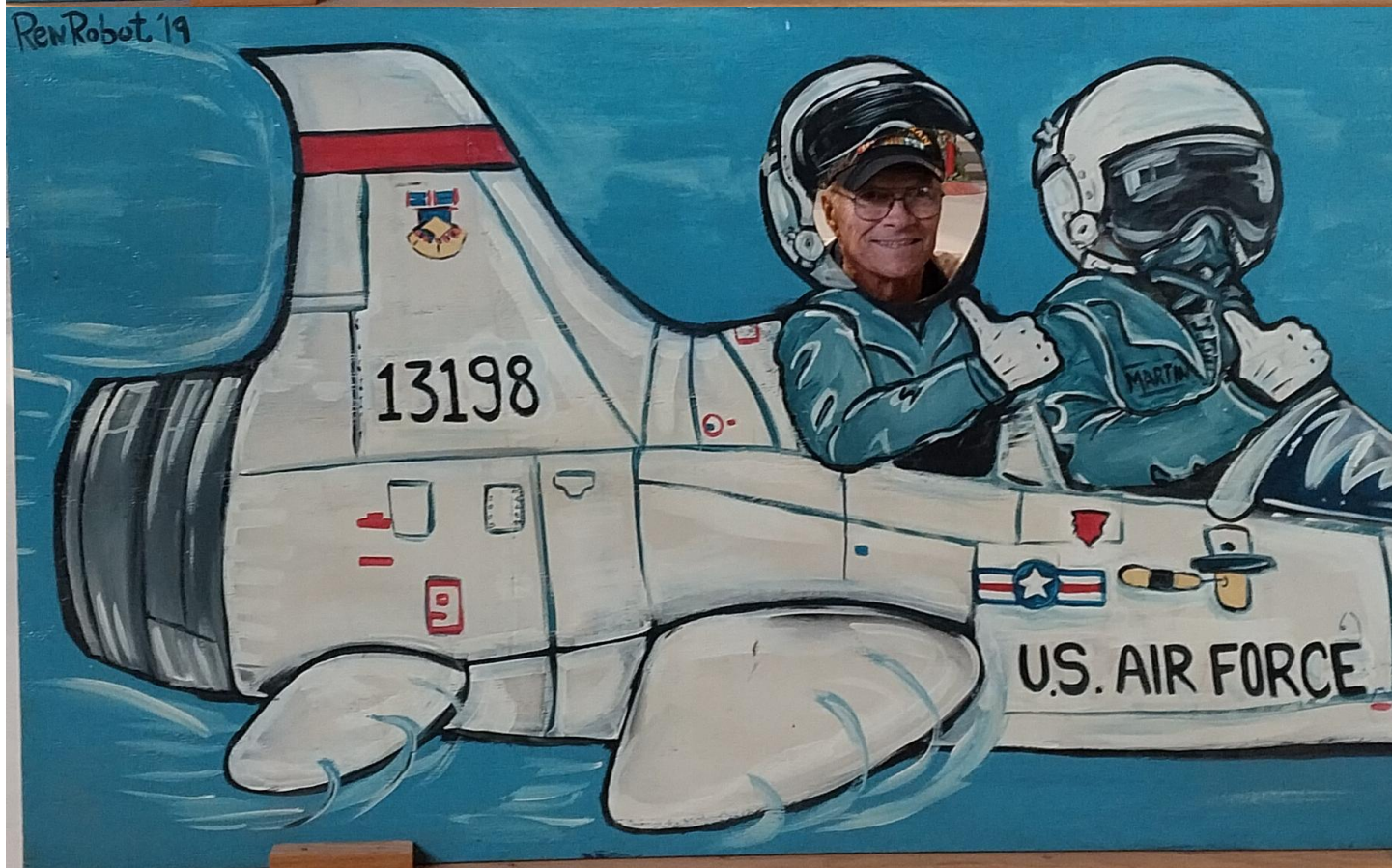




Robot '19



RenRobot '19







Before leaving Big Spring, we stopped at the Vietnam Memorial where Memorial Day services are held. Sometimes memorial services are held there for Vietnam veterans. It is a beautiful place with trees and places to sit.







Dedicated May 27, 1991

















After leaving the Vietnam Memorial, we headed west on Rte 176, through major oil field development which extends south to I-20 and north to ?? Major fracking began in 2010 and changed the landscape of this route. Previously dominated by brush and mesquite, there are now numerous lease developments...rigs, tank batteries, frac water pits, large cranes used in fracking, major electrical development, SWD's for salt water disposal, and gas processing plants...plus a gas station with a convenience store for the workers. No more mesquite, just recently leveled areas of loose dirt causing dust storms when the West Texas winds pick up. We saw a little of the dust, but for the most part, it was a good day for viewing the activities. I expected lots of truck traffic on this route; however, the traffic was minimal and tolerable.





This oil field development continued on Rte 349 toward Midland. We stopped on the north edge of Midland for lunch, at a locally owned restaurant, Half Acre. It has grown into a casual eating place for many of the oil field workers, for which Half Acre has developed a big carryout business for the field workers and service people for the oil fields. The Half Acre is owned by the Midland Meat Market which owns a ranch from where most of the meat is home grown. All meals are Texas size.



Gazing at the menu and ordering





Time to rest...

After lunch, we drove to past our Midland Hotel to Odessa via Rte 191. Prior to 2010, this area was one big open field that changed into numerous pump jacks, oil rigs, tank batteries, office buildings, car dealers, hotels, restaurants and housing developments, both single-family homes, huge apartment complexes, support service businesses...all for the oil field business. The Wagner-Noel Performing Arts Center with state-of-the-art acoustics and the new home of the West Texas Symphony, as well as the nearby UTPB Engineering Center, were built during this period.

Odessa is known as an oilfield city; however, it has other things unrelated to the oil fields. For example:

- University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB);
- On the UTBP campus is the Stonehenge Replica, built by local craftsmen;
- Odessa College, which has an excellent music program;
- Various art museums;
- Colorful 6' tall jackrabbits; and
- Good medical facilities

Stonehenge Replica at UTPB (University of Texas Permian Basin)

Our first stop in Odessa was at the Stonehenge Replica. The UT Permian Basin Stonehenge replica was built in 2004 by members of the Art Department...should say "planned". The original Stonehenge in England took about 1,500 years to build. The replica took about six weeks. The 30-to-40-thousand-pound stones were donated by TexaStone Quarries. Made of limestone slabs up to 19 feet tall and 20 tons apiece, Permian Basin Stonehenge is slightly shorter than the original, but it is exact in horizontal size and astronomically accurate. Although a plaque in front of the 'henge claims that the replica is "as it appears today in England," that's not exactly true. The slabs are blocky leftovers donated by a quarry, so they're approximations, not duplicates; the Stonehenge stands in a circle of reddish Texas gravel, not the green Salisbury Plain. It is believed the construction of the original Stonehenge began sometime after the last Ice Age, coinciding with the rise of the first civilizations around 10,000 B.C. The original Stonehenge is thought to have been a calendar, telling the sunrise and sunset at the summer and winter solstices. The stone pieces are an experience during the solstice that you would normally get only in England. The stones at UTPB are aligned exactly the same as in the real Stonehenge in England allowing one the same astronomical experience as in England.

The stones of Stonehenge are arranged in two concentric circles, an inner horseshoe and an outer circle, and a double arc of bluestones in between.

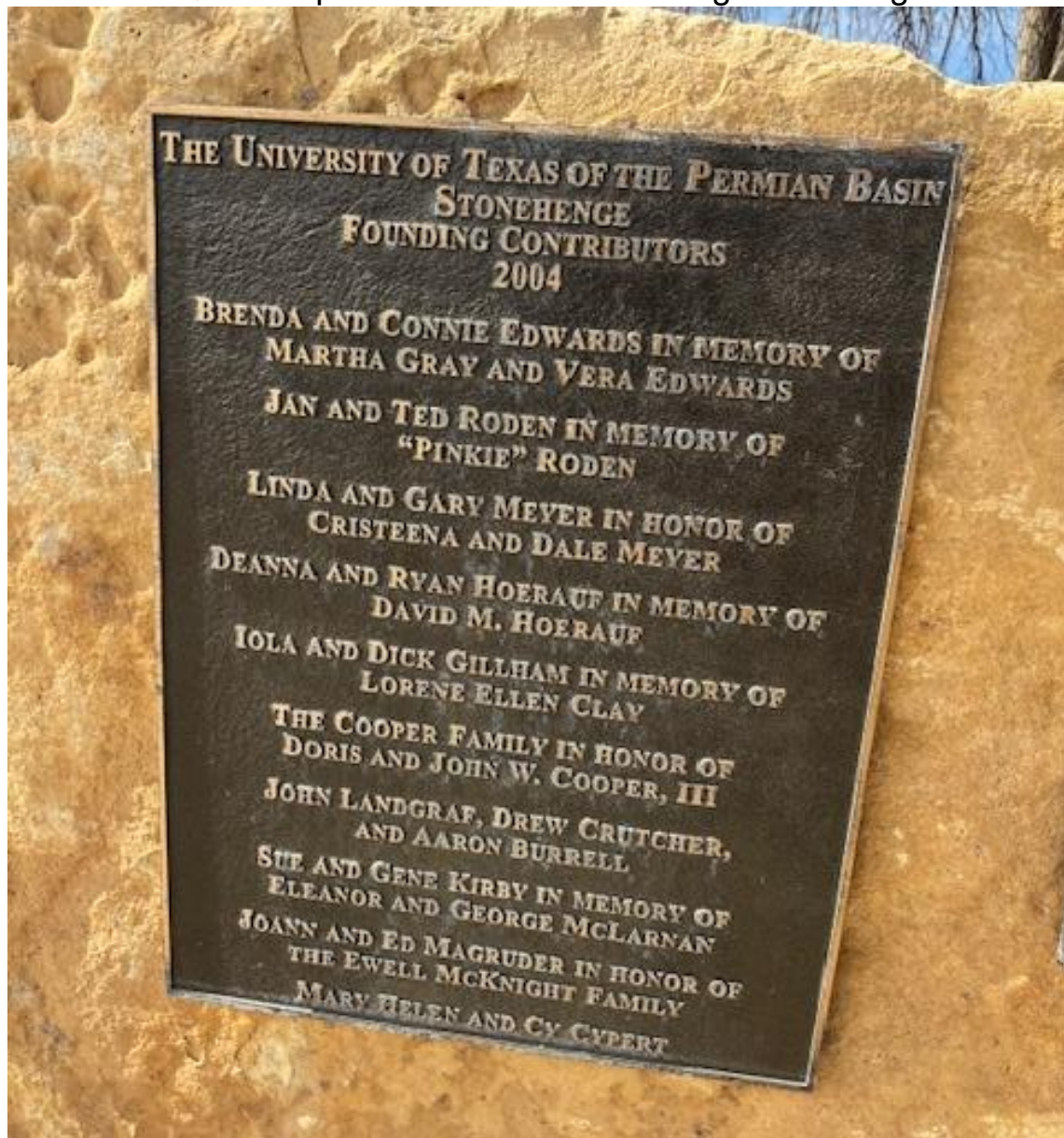




There are plaques at the entrance showing all the businesses in the Midland/Odessa area that contributed to the building of this Stonehenge...more of a community project than an art class project.



TexaStone Quarries planted the idea of building Stonehenge at UTPB.



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN
STONEHENGE
CONTRIBUTORS
2004**

ACE SPECIALTIES

ASCO EQUIPMENT & RENTAL

BARNCO

**BLAKELY CONSTRUCTION
Co., INC.**

CHAPARRAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

DESERT PAVING, INC.

HAWKINS CONSTRUCTION CO.

JOHNSON SEEFELDT ARCHITECTS

JONES BROS. DIRT AND

PAVING CONTRACTORS, INC.

KLEINFELDER

ODESSA CONCRETE SUPPLY

REF-CHEM, L.P.

TRIPP CONSTRUCTION, INC.

SONY ROETHEMEYER

RINNY JOHNSON

J. L. BARNETT

RANDY BLAKELY

**CHRIS JOHNSON AND
GENE SMITH**

ROGER CLAYTON

**TOMMY HAWKINS AND
KELLY EVANS**

LARRY JOHNSON

DANNY JONES

DAVID B. MAY, P.E.

MIKE BAKER

HARVEY PAGE

JOE YOUNG

**Construction and Engineering of
Stonehenge**

It may have literally taken two thousand years to complete construction of the original Stonehenge; however, this replica was erected in about six weeks. These stones weigh 15 to 20 tons each and were moved from the quarry two at a time on tractor trailers. Once the stones arrived, they were lifted into place within a few minutes and seated on cement footings made of reinforced concrete. The footings are 4' X 4' X 6'.

How the original builders of Stonehenge managed to erect such a monument without the heavy equipment and technology of today is still a mystery, yet awe-inspiring. They clearly knew where to mark the site for the Summer and Winter Solstices and built their structure to denote such astronomical events; thus, while their methods may have been crude, their expertise and skill in the undertaking is impressive.

This monument had to be set according to the longitude and latitude of this region in order to function as an observatory. During the Summer Solstice at sunrise, the Heel Stone, located across the street, will cast a shadow that penetrates directly into the center of the monument.

For more information, please contact the UTPB Art Department at 552-2280.





History of Stonehenge

Although the exact date is unknown, it is widely believed that construction of Stonehenge began sometime after the last Ice Age, coinciding with the rise of the first civilizations when people began domesticating animals and establishing agricultural production.

The construction time line of Stonehenge begins around 10,000 B.C. with the "Totem Poles" — large pine poles placed in the ground near the site. The construction of Stonehenge is usually considered to have undergone three separate phases:

Phase I — 3100 to 2700 B.C. — is marked by the construction of a large ditch (henge) or ring.

Phase II — 2700 to 2500 B.C. — includes the digging of 56 holes, the purpose for which is unknown. The Heel Stone was probably set during this period.

Phase III is divided into three distinct sections:

Phase III-A (2600 to 2500 B.C.): The "Blue Stone Horseshoe" (the inner ring) is constructed; construction begins on the "Sarsen Ring" (outer ring); and the four external lunar stones are set.

Phase III-B (2400 to 2300 B.C.): The "Sarsen Ring" is completed.

Phase III-C (2200 to 1800 B.C.): The entire structure is completed.

Over time, from 1800 B.C. to the present, various stones have fallen or been removed from the original Stonehenge; this is a replica of the structure as it appears today in England.

For more information, please contact the UTPB History Department at 552-2280.

#5

The numbers beneath the Stonehenge pictures represent the order from the entrance from the parking lot, and turning right on the circular sidewalk to view the installation from all angles when looking to the left of the circular sidewalk.



#5A



#7



#7A: #7above shows the true height of these stones compared to the couple.



#8



#9



#10 – This is the same “arch” from a more straight-ahead view



#11



#12 – East side – opposite the entrance on the west side – 1 of 3



#15



#17



#18



#19



#20



#21 – Notice how the open spaces on the “arches” “move” with the sun



#23



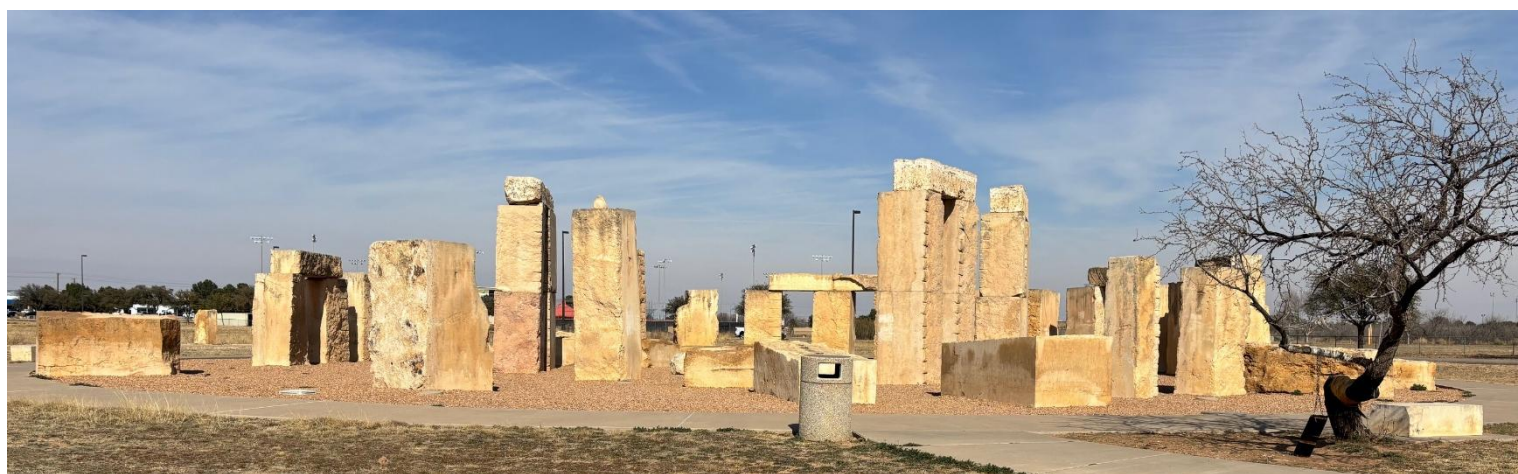
#25A



#26



#27



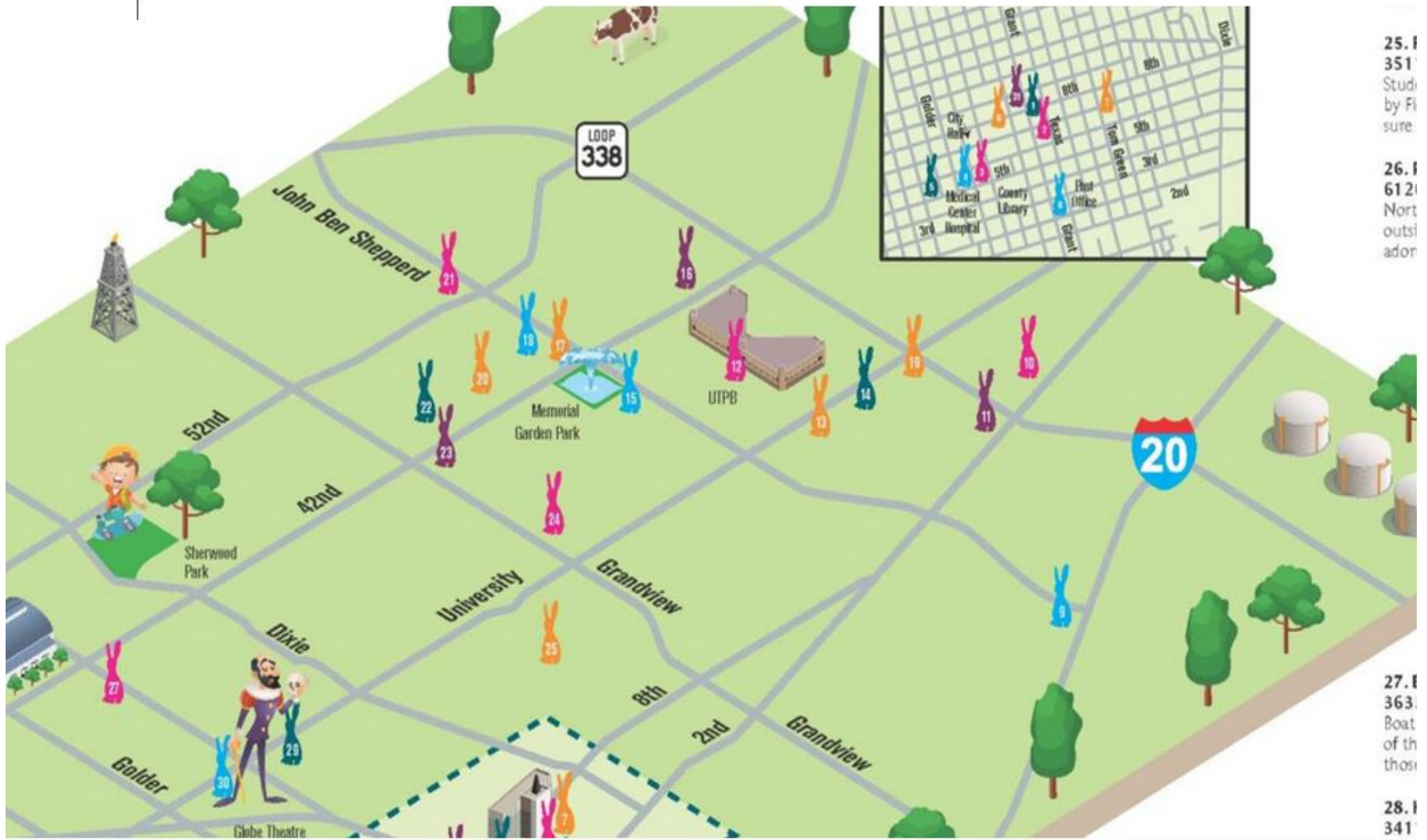
#32



One member of our group commented that we saved him a trip to Salisbury, England to see the real thing. A math professor at UTPB supervised the measuring of the UTPB Replica and found it to be a very good replica of the original in England, in spite of its planned slightly shorter version.

Jackrabbits

A tour of the 37 distinctive jackrabbits also provides a good tour of Odessa. “The Jackrabbit Jamboree, launched in 2004 by a large, collaborate group of civil servants, commissioned local artists to paint 37 distinctive jackrabbit sculptures 6’ tall that were then strategically placed around the city.” When we started the tour of Odessa, it was mid-afternoon, most of us were tired, and some did not want to experience the rush hour between Odessa and Midland after the encounter with it on Wednesday afternoon. Therefore, we skipped most of the Odessa tour. This is a link to a website that shows all of the Odessa jackrabbits with their names and locations: <https://idkmommy.com/the-rabbit-hunt-for-the-odessa-jackrabbits/>.



25. I
351'
Studi
by Fi
sure

26. I
612'
Nort
outs
adon

27. I
363'
Boat
of th
thos

28. I
341'



Rick & Jeanette at the Money Jackrabbit



Jackrabbit at the Chevrolet Car Dealer across from UTPB - Symphony Jackrabbit – Odessa College



Symphony Jackrabbit – Odessa College





WORLD'S FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP JACKRABBIT ROPING
CONTEST BEGAN AS "HARE-BRAINED" PUBLICITY STUNT DURING
1932 ANNUAL ODESSA RODEO, HELD AT 3RD AND GRANT STREET
SITE DESPITE OBJECTIONS FROM OUT-OF-TOWN DO-GOODERS.
LOCAL SHERIFF OPPOSED EVENT BUT MAYOR AND JUDGE RULED
NO VIOLATION OF TEXAS LAW. COWGIRL GRACE HENDRICKS ROPED
RABBIT FROM HOKESBACK IN FIVE SECONDS FLAT WINNING OVER
NUMEROUS MALE COMPETITORS. NOTORIOUS CONTEST REVIVED IN
1977 CAUSING COAST-TO-COAST OUTCRY. MIDLAND ANIMAL LOVER
DELAYED ACTION BY LIBERATING CAPTIVE JACKRABBITS. EVENT
PROCEEDED ON SCHEDULE WHEN FORMER PRISONERS RETURNED AT
FEEDING TIME. SEVEN ROPERS COMPETED ON FOOT. JACK TORIAN
PLACED FIRST WITH A SIX SECOND SCAMPER. IN 1978 HUMANE
SOCIETY BLOCKED ALL FUTURE ROPINGS WITH COURT ORDER.

NO. 12



1990



We took time to celebrate Carol's birthday, thanks to her daughter!





The evening dinner was at Luigi's Italian Restaurant, a small locally-owned long-time favorite restaurant in downtown Midland. Most restaurants in Midland don't take reservations, but Luigi's did. They gave us the center of the restaurant and plenty of attention.









Another birthday treat...Dennis's expression says it all...If you don't want that, I will take it.

Friday – Departure Day...waiting and good-byes









A BIG thank you to the photographers who shared their pictures for this Mini Reunion, especially Leslie.

We learned a few things from the pictures for this reunion:

- There are many things to learn about the Permian Basin; we missed at least half of them, but we tired much more quickly than when we have a bus. We missed:
 - West side and center of Odessa – medical facilities, post-secondary education facilities, all surrounded by oil field activities
 - The setting for the movie “Friday Night Lights”
 - The fabulous acoustics in the Wagner-Noel Concert Hall, as good as Dallas, maybe better
 - How oil companies and oil rich ranchers give back to the Permian Basin
- The Permian Basin has a lot of history, competition and changes as a result of the discovery of oil underneath the “worthless appearing land”.
- We ate too much.
- Shade areas and places to sit will be found even if they are not on the tour map.