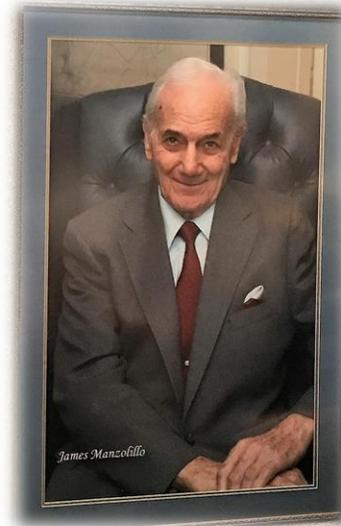


LEOH Trip

July 18, 2019

Houston Maritime Museum, St. Arnold's Brewing Company, Czech Center Museum

Our first stop: the **Maritime Museum**, founded by James L. Manzofillo, a marine architect and former merchant mariner



The museum is intended to preserve and display maritime history. Find out more at houstonmaritime.org



Our primary tour guide points out shipping routes from the distant past, when goods such as spices, grains, and olive oil were more precious than gold for trading purposes.

Note that ship models of the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria are to his right. The museum contains many hand-crafted replica ship models from past eras, including ships in bottles (see below).



Roman Amphora

Pottery

2007.5.1

Donated by George and Dee Love

Roman Amphora

Roman Amphorae come in dozens of different shapes and sizes depending on their year of construction and intended cargo. Many amphorae were built to specifically carry wine, olive oil or grains. During the height of the Roman Empire, the city of Rome imported at least 2 million gallons of olive oil each year. Amphorae, such as this one, are around 2000 years old.





The sextant above, one of many on display in the museum, was vital to early seafaring navigation.



Binnacle

Binnacle
2013.18.3
Donated by The Honorable and Mrs. Jacques E. Bouchez

Binnacle

Binnacles are enclosed fixtures designed to protect a compass and other navigational instruments from weather conditions and be easily viewable to the person steering the ship. The first binnacles were fitted aboard wooden ships in the 1700s but by the late 1800s more ships were built out of iron. The two spheres mounted to the sides of the binnacle were magnetic and made of “soft iron” to help recalibrate compasses affected by “hard iron” used in the ship’s construction. These spheres, also called “Kelvin’s Balls”, were normally painted black, but modern versions or replicas have them painted red for port and green for starboard.



Debbie and Ann check out the binnacle, while Olga and Ken have a chat.

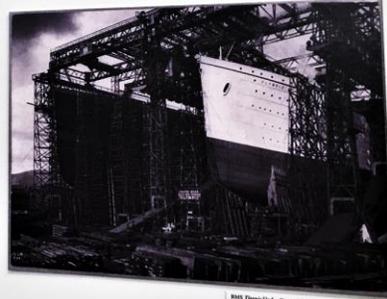
RMS TITANIC (1911 - 1912)



RMS Titanic at Southampton Harbor, April 10, 1912
View from the Pierhead Hotel in Southampton, England



RMS Titanic (Landed in Belfast, May 31, 1911)
View from the Harland and Wolff Shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland



RMS Titanic Under Construction
View from the Harland and Wolff Shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1911. Note the scale of the ship's hull.



“CQD CQD SOS *Titanic* Position 41.44 N 50.24 W.
Require immediate Assistance. Come at once.
We struck an iceberg. Sinking.”
RMS *Titanic* to any ship – 12:17 am – April 15, 1912



Pearl Harbor - October 30, 1941

The main targets of the Japanese warplanes were the battleships and aircraft carriers of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Fortunately for the Americans, all three carriers of the Pacific Fleet (USS *Enterprise*, USS *Saratoga*, and USS *Lexington*) were out of the harbor during the December 7 attack.

In this aerial image of Pearl Harbor, taken just over a month before the infamous surprise attack, five battleships and one aircraft carrier (likely USS *Enterprise*) are docked along Ford Island in the center of the photograph. Cruisers, oil storage facilities, and other smaller warships can be seen around the harbor.

80-G-182874 Courtesy of the Naval History & Heritage Command



The Surprise Attack on Pearl Harbor

As relations between Japan and the United States deteriorated, Japan, suffering under an oil and rubber embargo, planned military action to change their situation. Inspired by their surprise attack on the Russian fleet in the 1904 Russo-Japanese War, and a Royal Navy aerial attack on the Italian fleet in 1940, the Imperial Japanese Navy sought a similar devastating strike on the American ships in Pearl Harbor.

The attack that came on December 7, 1941, sank or damaged all eight battleships of the American Pacific Fleet. Of the four battleships sunk, only USS *Arizona* was not raised. Six of the eight battleships would undergo lengthy repairs and eventually return to service with the U.S. Navy.

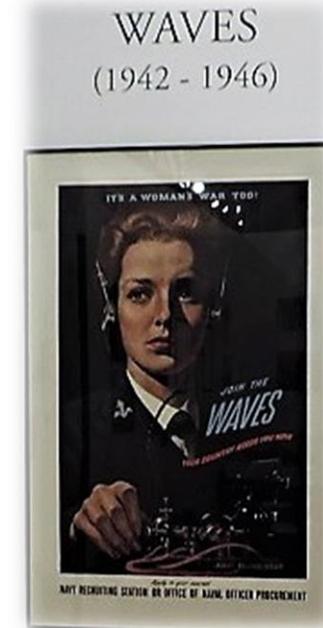
This photograph taken during the attack shows smoke from damaged ships and clouds of anti-aircraft fire. The source of the dark smoke at the center of the image is the burning USS *Arizona*.

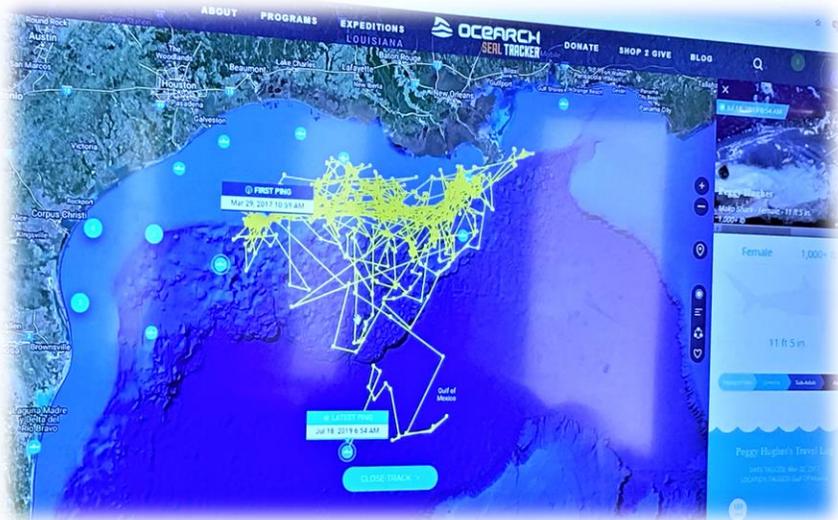
80-G-40056 Courtesy of the Naval History & Heritage Command

The museum also contains memorabilia from various ship disasters



Our guide discussed the many roles ships have played during history, including discovery of new lands, transport of goods, warfare, whaling, and pleasure cruising.

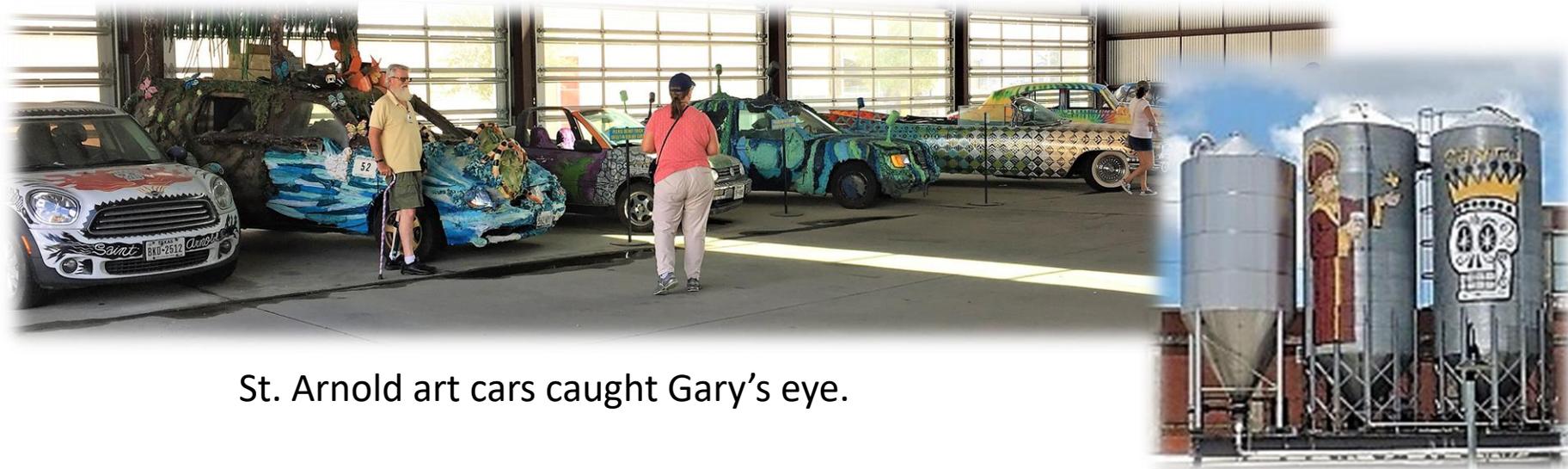




Our second guide showed us a variety of real-time ocean tracking tools on a big screen. One tracked tagged sea creatures, such as turtles and whales, while another tracked ships. This was fun and impressive!



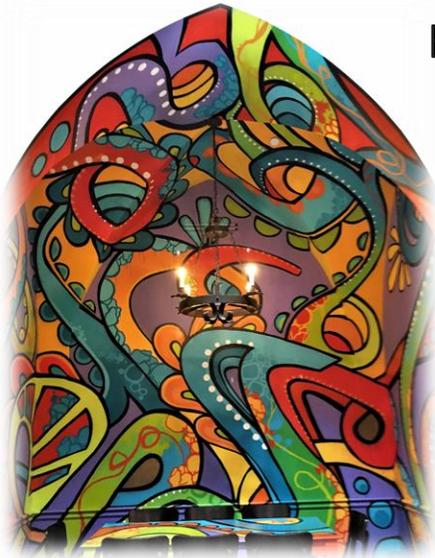
Next stop: lunch at **Saint Arnold's**. Lots of nice indoor and outdoor seating in a true beer garden style setting.



St. Arnold art cars caught Gary's eye.



Beautiful and interesting murals inside



We enjoyed a brief tour of the inner workings. Looking inside one of the containers, we see what looks like a giant swirling marshmallow volcano?!

Last stop: Czech Center Museum



TEXAS CZECHS
ROOTED IN TRADITION

CELEBRATING
DANCE
FOOD
LANGUAGE
MUSIC &
COMMUNITY




PRODUCED BY POLKAWOR




WELCOME vitáme vás

One hundred and sixty years after the first immigrants arrived from what are now the Czech and Slovak Republics, Texas Czechs still dance, sing, cook, speak Czech, and play music. They are fiercely proud of their heritage and enthusiastically maintain their Czech identity through cultural traditions and community activities.

Texas boasts America's largest population of people with Czech ancestry -- primarily Moravians, but also Bohemians, Slovaks, and Slovaks. Beginning in the 1850s and peaking in the 1880s, most immigrants entered Texas through the port of Galveston and joined other members of their community in rural areas throughout the state. The hard pioneer of Texas Czech immigration distinguishes it from other Czech settlements in the United States. Owing land was of utmost importance to these early Texas Czech farmers, who worked hard and lived frugally, hoping to earn enough to purchase a farm or an acreage, which in turn, would provide an inheritance for their children. They settled together in areas where they could live, worship, socialize, and do business with people who spoke their language and shared their customs. Their communities were insular, which helped many traditions survive into the 21st century.

Rural life in Texas in the late 18th and early 20th centuries was difficult. Czech immigrants supported each other by forming cooperatives through numerous fraternal organizations and clubs. Some of these organizations were established to provide economic security; others were more social in nature. Today, they remain the backbone of Texas Czech cultural life, supporting activities that range from genealogy to children's dance groups.

Religion -- Catholicism and the Unity of the Brethren in particular -- Czech services, social services, weddings, and religious holiday traditions provided opportunities to perpetuate music, folk songs, language, food, and other cultural traditions.

Some traditions have survived virtually intact since the 1850s, others were created after moving to America. Today, a time-traveling 18th-century Moravian would recognize sausage and folk songs from home and be able to hold conversations with some Texans. But as America advanced in time here in their adopted country, their traditions evolved. Now, the time traveler might be amazed by a modern Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen coronation or not recognize the local Texas regimens that are at the center of a noisier. What was Czech is now Texas Czech!





Above, our first guide gave us a historical perspective, as we admired the many beautiful pieces of art.



The museum opened in 2004, becoming one of 18 official Houston museums. It is a non-profit organization that “provides unique education experiences based on authentic objects, art, music, stories and lives of Czechs, Slovaks and people of all cultures who left their country to seek liberty and democracy in America”.



The gift shop had many beautiful items, including this table setting. Also on the first floor, a beautiful staircase and piano. There were many chandeliers throughout, similar to the one below, all crafted by Czech artisans.





Our second guide discussed the many beautiful paintings found in Prague Hall on the second floor of the museum. This floor serves as a ballroom and multipurpose room for large gatherings and celebrations.

To the right are two paintings by the acclaimed Czech painter Kamil Kubik.



The Brno Gallery on the 3rd floor contains 1,289 pieces in what is the largest collection of Czech art deco pottery, porcelain and glass.

All pieces were produced in the Znojmo region of Moravia between 1918-1938.

Check out the Czech museum website:

czechcenter.org

