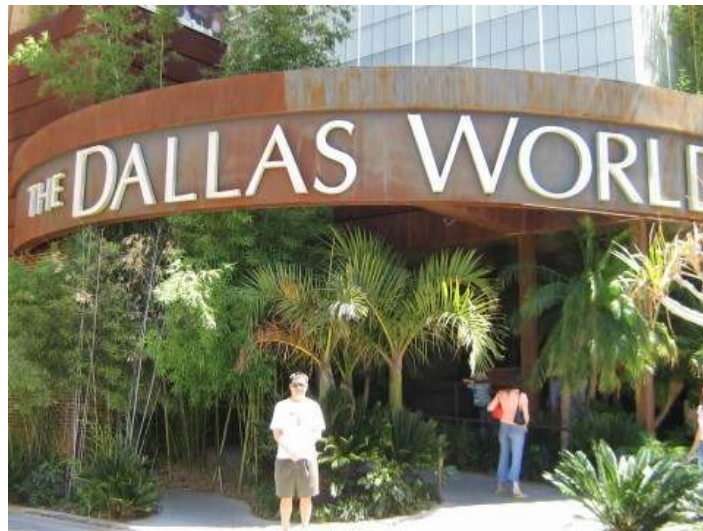


## April 07, 2006 – Dallas Aquarium, Sixth Floor Museum

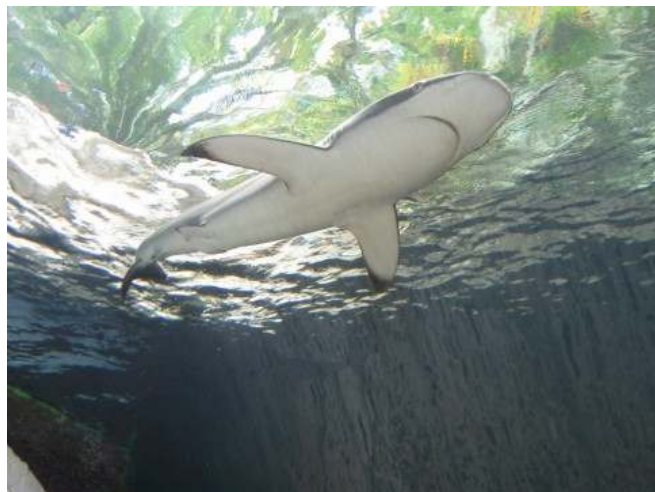
We woke up early and drove into town again for some sightseeing. First sight was the American Airlines Arena, where the Dallas Mavericks play. The arena was closed but we got good pictures of the outside. After that we drove to the Dallas World Aquarium. This private aquarium resides inside a big square building tucked behind some skyscrapers. Admission was \$16.00 per person, and we thought this was a better place to visit than Sea World.

**Figure 1: Front entrance of the Dallas World Aquarium**



**Figure 2: Sea dragons**

**Figure 3: Shark**



After that we went to the Sixth Floor museum on the corner of Elm and Houston Streets. This museum is on the sixth floor of the warehouse from which JFK was shot in 1963. The place was crowded, and we left after 2 hours.

**Figure 4: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Museum**



**Figure 5: JFK was shot on this street**



We then walked to the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial. This simple, concrete memorial to President Kennedy dominates a square in downtown Dallas 200 yards from where the president was assassinated. The memorial consists of a square open space 50 square feet in area. This space is surrounded by four white concrete walls, each 30 feet high. It is a space for contemplation, neither open nor closed. In the center of the open space is a black granite slab, deliberately too square to be a tomb, inscribed simply with the president's name. It is intended to be "not a memorial to the pain and sorrow of death," but a permanent tribute to the joy and excitement of one man's life."

**Figure 6: It's a space for contemplation, neither open nor closed. The 50 foot square enclosure with 30 foot high concrete walls would be oppressive, if not open in the center of two opposite walls and along almost the entire base**



We had a late lunch at the Iron Cactus Grill Mexican restaurant at Main Street. Our waitress was a vegetarian, and helped Casey order.

After this we drove to the Reunion Center, which is the city's old convention center and sports arena. The highlight of this center is the Reunion Tower. The tower opened April 1978 and consists of four levels. The base, or ground floor, is the convention center. Above the base is a concrete tube through which run several elevator shafts. It takes 68 seconds for the elevator to get to the upper three levels of the tower which are enclosed inside a huge ball of glass and metal. These three levels are Antares restaurant at the bottom of the ball, the Dome lounge in the middle, and the observation level on top. Reunion tower weigh 23,600 tons and the top of the tower stands 560 feet off the ground. At night, 260 lights around the dome as they shine bright.

**Figure 7: Reunion Tower at Hyatt Regency Dallas. Experience 3 levels : Antares Restaurant, The Dome Lounge and Observation Level / lookout room**



The observation level / lookout room captures a 360 degree view of Dallas, and an outdoor walkway circling the tower. Both the Antares restaurant and the Dome gently rotate, making one complete revolution every 55 minutes.

We had dessert in the Dome Lounge; strawberry cheesecake, tea and chocolate mints. The view from reunion tower included the following: The Bank of America Building is north. Standing 72 stories high, it is the tallest building in Dallas and is outlined in green at night. West of us is the Trinity River and Texas stadium in Irving, home of Dallas Cowboys football. Highway 30 is due west and leads to Arlington and Forth Worth. On a clear evening, the lights of “Cowtown” are visible after sunset. East of us are the Dallas Convention Center, the Dallas morning news building, and the Dallas Farmers Market. Reunion Arena is located toward the south, just below.

**Figure 8: Saw sunset from the Dome-cocktail lounge**



**Figure 9: Lookout room. Outdoor walkway circling the tower**

