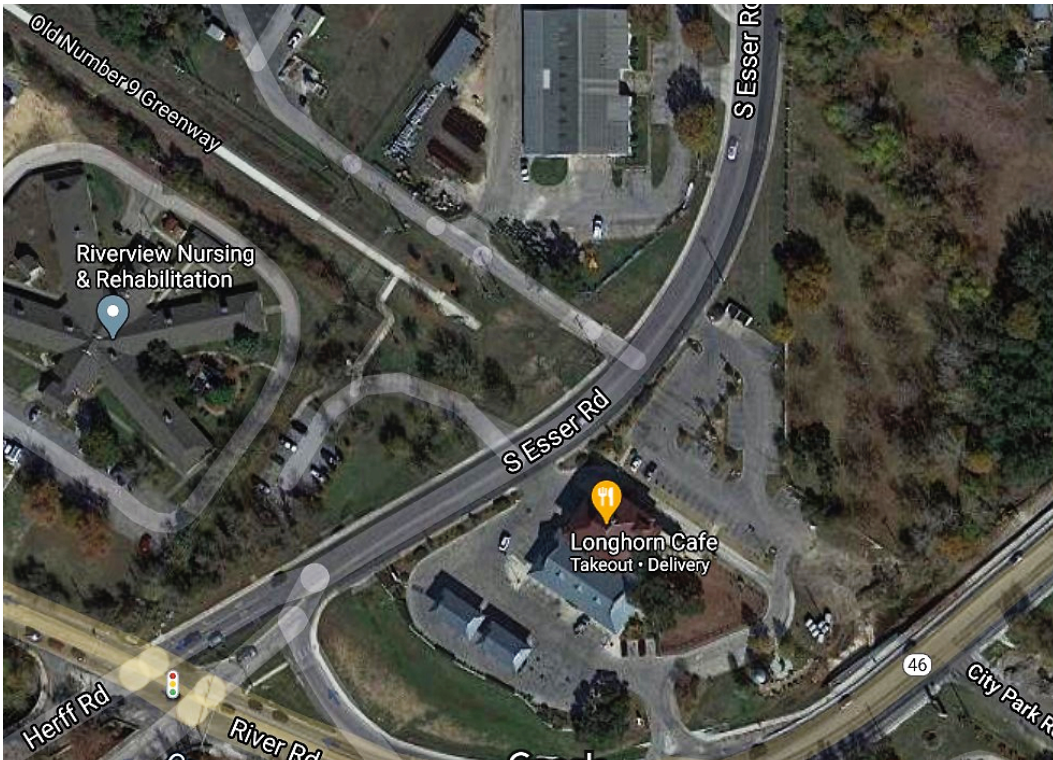


# Leon Springs Cafe



Google Street View 2021

The Old Number 9 Greenway was RR track that ran behind the Leon Springs Cafe , now in a new building and named “Longhorn Cafe”

During the mid 1980's, I made several trips to San Antonio, Texas. Some of those trips were as part of a team from the National Security Agency to install computer equipment, networks and do training at a military facility. Having been to Texas many times in the past, I had developed a taste for Chicken Fried Steak. The best that I had experienced was at a steakhouse named "Zentner's" in San Angelo. Searches for really good Chicken Fried Steak in Maryland met with nothing but dismal failures. So, on that first trip to San Antonio, I was again on the search. One of our team members had a sister who lived in San Antonio. He called her and asked her where we might find a good Chicken Fried Steak. She told us that, without a doubt, the best in the entire area could be found at a

place called "The Leon Springs Cafe" in Boerne, Texas, about 15 miles northwest of the 410 loop.

At the first opportunity, four of us piled in our rental car and headed to the Leon Springs Cafe. It was located at the end of a back road off of an I-10 exit. Although it was over 30 years ago, I can still picture the place as though it was yesterday. There was a gas station and the cafe was behind the gas station. Behind the cafe was a railroad track. The building was weather worn with no paint, looking like a building from a old western movie. The waitress looked like a hippie or flower girl from the late 60's. All of us ordered Chicken Fried Steak. It was served on a large platter along with a Texas-size baked potato loaded with all the fixings. There was also a bowl of crisp salad made from local produce and a long neck Lonestar beer. Total? \$4.50. The steak was the best I'd ever had, even better than Zentner's. It was cooked perfectly with nary a hint of gristle, cut easily with a fork and melted in my mouth. Of course there was the coating of white pepper gravy on top. The baked potato and salad were also delicious.

Shelia came with me on the next trip to San Antonio and I took her to the Leon Springs Cafe. While we were eating dinner, a train pulled up and stopped behind the cafe. The entire crew of the train got off and came into the cafe to eat, chicken fried steak, of course. After the meal, they climbed back on the train and pulled out. This was the 2d of several trips to the cafe. Sometimes there was live music on the patio behind the cafe.

I regret not taking any photos, wishing I had pictures of the building and of the plates. This evening, January 30th 2021, I looked for the place via Google maps and think I found it, but the old buildings are gone and have been completely replaced with new structures. Even the railroad track has been taken up and is no longer there. Amazingly, there is a cafe in the new building but it is named the "Longhorn Cafe."

As a postscript, another favorite eating spot in San Antonio also disappeared. It was "The Catfish Parlor" located not far west of the

International Airport. There was all the catfish and hush puppies you could eat for a very reasonable price. When you entered the parlor, there was a big sign on the wall that read, "WARNING! The Sturgeon General warns that eating too much catfish may cause you to swim up stream and spawn."



Google Street View January 2021  
Gas pumps on right, Longhorn Cafe on left in new building

~~~\*~~~