

March 2008

Saturday March 22, 2008



We left Timber Lodge under sunny skies. Travelling east through Texas towards Louisiana, we noted that the countryside was turning greener.



And swampier



When we were close to the border, Mike noticed a low clearance sign so we made a detour to save the top of our rig from possible destruction.

Finally, we made it into Louisiana but as we had lost almost an hour and decided to stop at the Shady Lake campground rather than going on to our original destination in Alexandria.



Shady Lake is a pleasant place on the side of a very little lake. The sites are quite small and not very level, but we found a pull through and settled in for the night.



Sunday March 23, 2008

Easter morning. We were up bright and early and made our way to Natchez.



Our tour book suggested that Fat Mamas Tamales Restaurant was not to be missed, so we stopped at the Welcome Center and asked for directions. As it was only six blocks away, we decided to walk. Unfortunately, the Welcome Lady forgot to mention that Fat Mama's was closed, as they are building a new one down the street.



She also declined to mention that all the other restaurants are closed on Sunday, so we had a nice walk but did not find any food. Good thing we carry lots of lunch stuff in the rig.



The Spanish Governor used to call this home.





The mighty Mississippi was looking rather muddy as this barge floated by





After lunch we followed the directions that the Welcome Lady gave us and turned onto the Natchez Trace.

(Check the Lessons Learned section for advice re Welcome Centers)



This two-lane highway parallels the route that pioneers took in the 1800s as they made their way up the Mississippi Valley. The highway itself is a reminder of gentler times before the superhighways but the stops along the way remind us that



of the many hardships along the way before the automobile made travelling relatively easy.

Commercial vehicles are not allowed on the Natchez Trace, the speed limit is 50 miles an hour, access points are very limited and there are no billboards. This makes for a very peaceful and stress free drive. The scenery along the way was beautiful as spring is just starting in this neck of the woods. We noticed many red buds and dogwood trees in bloom.

We stopped for the next two nights at the Rocky Springs Campground. This is a free campground with no facilities but plenty of scenery. All the large campsites were already taken, but Hal and Gay from Michigan offered to share their site, with us so we settled in for the night.



About 4:30 in the morning Percy jumped up on our bed (something he has never done before). This startled us, but when we discovered that the Propane Detector was beeping and he was alerting us to the danger we were thankful that he woke us.

Upon investigation Mike discovered that the batteries were almost dead, no propane worries, but there was not enough juice to run the furnace.

Monday March 24, 2008

In the morning we rode our bikes up to the Rocky Springs Church. More than 2,000 people lived there in the 1800,s but now it is a ghost town. The Church is the only remaining building where services are still held every Sunday.







We checked out the cemetery and the surrounding land.



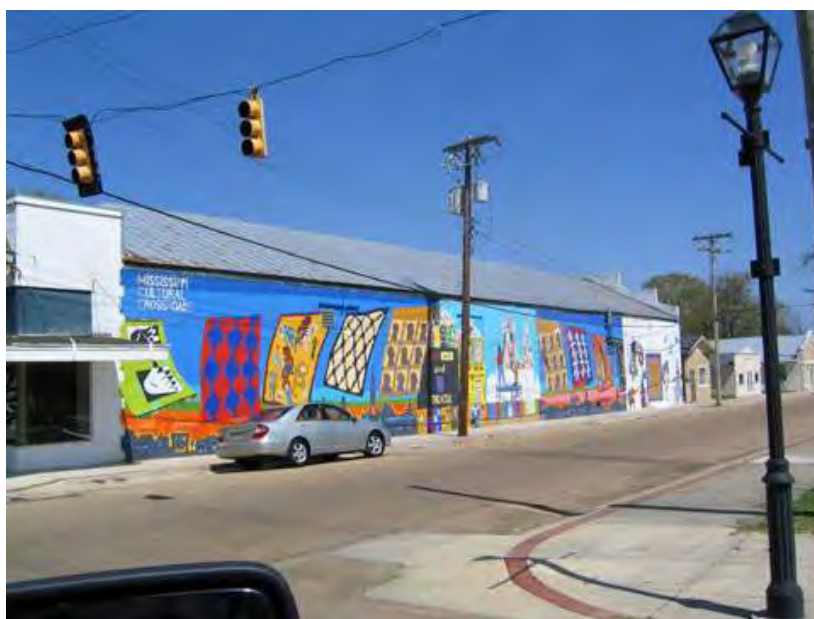
Also investigated the sunken trace and imagined what it was like to travel on horseback or on foot for miles and miles without the comforts that we take for granted today.



After the bike ride, we drove into Port Gibson. Dogwood trees and blooming shrubs were around every corner.



This mural depicted the many cultures in Mississippi.





There were churches on every other corner - not surprising as we are in the "Bible Belt".



This church featured a hand pointing to the heavens on the top of the spire.

Back at the campsite, we enjoyed the peace and quiet.





Tuesday March 25, 2008



Back on the Trace we again appreciated the restful scenery and the unhurried pace. As we went through Jackson the traffic increased a bit. The road is rather narrow but there are plenty of

circular turn-offs so we pulled over to let the cars go by.

Jeff Busby Park was our destination for today. It is another "no fees" Natchez Trace park. Even though we arrived early, the park was quite full. We found a spot on a long circular pull-through that had two sites on it. Our neighbours, John and Jeanette were from Wallaceburg Ontario.



John helped Mike to troubleshoot and fix our battery problem and then we spent a pleasant time sitting around their campfire discussing the joys of RVing.

This was our view from the rig.



Percy and Maureen (Mike too) had a great time walking in the woods



Wednesday March 26, 2008



Maureen's Birthday (39th) and our last day on the Beautiful Natchez Trace.





Signs of a recent fire near Monroe

At Tupelo Mississippi (Elvis's birthplace) we left the calm and re-entered the real world with trucks, crazy drivers and billboards everywhere.



After a very bumpy drive up Highway 78 through Memphis, we arrived at the Meenan-Shelby State Park.

After setting up and a quick shower, we drove to Millington for a Celebration dinner at Chilis' with Cousin Mary's daughter, Carrie and her Fiancé Chris.



Just as the dinner was served, the cell phone rang. It was Charlie and CJ singing Happy Birthday to Nana.

Matt called too!

Thanks for the call boys!

Thursday March 27, 2008

Drove to Covington to see Carries apartment
and enjoy some of Chris's baked goods.
Then it was off to Wolf Chase Mall for some shopping.





Carrie helped Maureen to find a dress to wear to the A15 Convention in April. Mike found an off the ground fire container for those places that don't allow ground fires.

Had lunch at the Food Court under this interesting Sculpture.



Friday March 28, 2008



Just hung around the campsite today, and caught up on our sleep after all the travelling and shopping.

Unfortunately, the weather has turned cool and rainy, but we were able to have a campfire at

night. The locals say that this park is a "best kept" secret. It has very tall oak trees and the sites in our loop are quite spacious. The trees are just beginning to green up and there are lots of birds and squirrels around. This is our favourite kind of spot, even when the weather does not co-operate.

