

Saturday March 29, 2008

It was a cool and rainy day as we headed into Memphis to visit



Graceland. Elvis purchased the property when he was 22 years old and lived there with his parents, wife and daughter. Despite the poor weather, there were lots of other Elvis fans and we had to wait

about half an hour before boarding the mini bus that took us across the street to the Mansion. Each tourist was given a small recorder and headphones so that we could hear the narration as we went from room to room. We were told that we could stay as long as we wished but due to the large number of people, we felt rather rushed. Flash photography was forbidden, so our pictures did not turn out as well as they might have.

Maureen liked the kitchen. It was one of the few rooms that was not garishly decorated.





The TV room was Black and Yellow with lots of chrome and mirrors.

The pool room walls and ceilings were covered in a wild red, blue and gold fabric that matched the lights.



We were able to see all of the rooms on the main floor as well as the basement.



It was still raining when we viewed the backyard on our way to the Racquetball court which is now the Trophy Building.

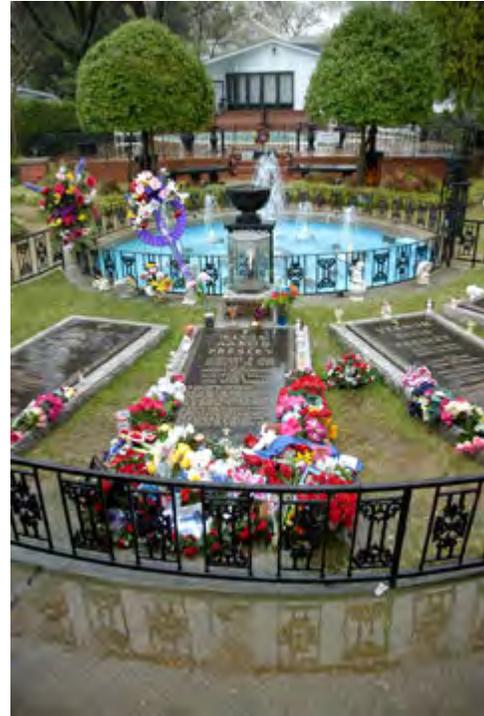


Inside we were amazed at the number of Gold and Platinum recordings lining the walls and the many costumes including the famous jumpsuits that Elvis wore onstage





Behind the house, there is a Meditation Garden where Elvis is buried alongside of his parents.



Another building showcased many of the cars that Elvis owned.



Also on view are 2 of his Airplanes.





When we got back to the park we took a ride down to the Mississippi river but could not get there, as the water was over the road.



Back at the campsite, it was a muddy mess.



This is the view from the rig and the mud right outside of our door.

Sunday March 30, 2008

The park did not have a Laundromat, so we drove into Millington and had a difficult time finding one that looked safe enough to set foot in.



On the way back we took pictures of the mailboxes that line many of the roads in this neighbourhood. They are encased with brick and are precariously close to the side of the road. Makes driving a dually truck rather difficult.

Also admired the spring flowers that are blooming. This Forsythia bush is close to the park.



**Monday March 31,
2008**



Left at 1030 am under overcast skies (19C) and drove north to Tennessee. Along the way noted several fields and forests that were badly flooded. Good thing it is not snow or we

would not be moving at all.



Arrived in beautiful Paris Tennessee around 3 pm and received a warm welcome from cousin Mary and her hubby Arthur. They had made arrangements for us to park in a neighbour's circular driveway, but it was not big enough but after seeing our dilemma, Dan and Betty next door graciously offered their driveway, which was very long and straight. We settled in and then went down the street to the house where Mary had cooked up a wonderful dinner for us and our new neighbours.

Tuesday April 1, 2008

In the afternoon Mary and Karen took us to Nashville. Our first stop was at the Parthenon, a replica of the original in Athens Greece.



Mike does not remember seeing a sign like this when he visited the original



Nashville was very beautiful with spring flowers blooming everywhere



The Tennessee Performing Arts Center was announcing the shows that will be coming to Nashville next year and Mary took us along to see the skits, the videos and enjoy all of the food samples supplied by Nashville restaurants.



Mary and Karen spent a long time standing in line to procure seats for the busloads of people that will come from Paris to see some to the shows.



Afterwards we met the President of TPAC



Mike got a great tour of the theatre
and lots of "neat" information from the House Manager,
Rebecca



Wednesday April 2, 2008



Mary took us to see the sights in
Paris. The Eiffel Tower was one
of the many highlights along the
way.

The city is well known for its appreciation for the arts. Mary is the Executive Director of the Henry County Arts Council.

This is the school for the arts



The County Building



Thursday April 3, 2008

The weather turned wet again so we stayed close to home.



Mary and Maureen had lots of fun scrapbooking. Maureen tried out many of the stamps, cutters and tools that Mary has in her cupboards.

At 4 pm we went to the coffee shop for "Thirsty Thursday". Friends gathered there to chat and joke together. Maureen met the editor of the Paris Magazine and was asked to provide information on full-timing for a future article.

Mike helped Mary BBQ some steaks for dinner. Mary learned that it works better when there is propane in the tank.

Friday April 4, 2008

The sun was shining again so we drove out to Piney Lake Park and admired the great campsites, most of which are too small for our rig.



The bridge to Land Between the Lakes



Son Jonathan and friend Cayley joined us for dinner - Mary's Beef tips and noodles. For dessert there was Chess Pie - a southern specialty.

Saturday April 5, 2008

Mary made a southern style brunch, which included Ham, Biscuits and a Cheese and Grits casserole. All very Yummy!

More looking through family albums and scrapbooking fun!

Sunday April 6, 2008



Arthur was scheduled to preach at the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton so we piled into the car and drove south.



We were impressed with the southern hospitality. Everyone we met welcomed us warmly. Arthur's sermon was impressive, witty and thought provoking.



After Church we went out for lunch.
One of the wonderful Church Parishioners picked up the tab.
Many thanks to the generous and kind people
that we have met in Tennessee.

Monday April 7, 2008

Mary had to go back to work, but met us at the Come Back Cafe for lunch. The rig was packed up ready for our departure tomorrow.

Mike cooked Ribs for dinner.

**Tuesday April 8,
2008**

After tearful goodbyes to our Campground hosts and surrogate parents, Dan and Betty, and cousins Mary and Arthur, we hit the road again.



We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Paris, but with so many activities packed into one short week, we are looking forward to returning to a less hurried time on our own.



On the way we stopped, and saw some pink elephants in one of the towns. We imagine this must make for some concerned residents when they are travelling home after a night on the town.

Mike was surprised to see what looked like a cement mixer driving backwards down the highway.



Water swollen rivers were a reminder that the rainfall has been plentiful this year. The locals are not complaining however as they had droughts last summer.





Next stop on the way north was the Corvette Museum.

The first exhibit included examples of cars manufactured every 10 years since the first one rolled off the assembly line. This car is a 1953 (list price was under \$4000).



The museum was not busy at all so we enjoyed a peaceful stroll.



This Vet was taken from a drug dealer and is now used to fight crime.



About an hour down the road we arrived at the Diamond Cave Resort. The lady behind the counter gave us a warm welcome and invited us to pick out our own spot. This resort is

advertised as a Coast to Coast Five Star resort. It shows evidence of being a first class place in its day, but is showing it`s age.

We chose a site with lots of room and a nice view but with the garbage bins behind and the electrical panel in front, it has a few drawbacks.



Percy enjoyed a good romp in the woods after dinner.