

August 26, 2001

On the way from Florida to Tennessee, we camped at a large lake on the Tennessee River. It was Gunter'sville Lake and Dam. The dam has locks for the passage of large barges, which ply the lake.

Most of the barges carry coal and grains. The locks handle 34,000 barges a year. This is equivalent to taking 2 million trucks off of the road from New Orleans to Ohio! Lord knows that there are enough trucks on the road already, without this many more!

We had a wonderful visit in Huntsville AL with our friends the Mayes. From there we had just a short hop to Fayetteville and to Lewisburg TN and stayed a few days with Bonnie's cousins. From there we had an hours drive to Nashville and a visit with Bonnie's longtime friend June. All of these stops were the main thrust of the trip.

In Fayetteville, TN we stopped for a sandwich at lunchtime at a Southern BBQ place. It was so good we bought a couple of pounds of that good ole hickory smoked pork BBQ meat. There is nothing like it back home! The only trouble is that the freezer in the rig is small.



This time while we were in Nashville, we went to a performance of the Grand Ole Opry. It was 3 hours long and all the old favorites of yesteryears are gone, but the newcomers are passable. It is a live show that is video taped and also broadcast on the radio.

We also visited the Opryland Hotel, which is close by. The place is huge and has a large convention facility. It is \$6 to park anyplace.

While here in Nashville, we drove to Ridgetop, TN to see the places where Bonnie grew up. We proved that "you can't go back home". The house that

her folks built 65 years ago is still standing. It was so terribly run down that she wished she hadn't seen it. The whole town has changed, with a lot of beautiful new expensive homes. All the old fond memories were there but everyone was gone.

Dave and Bonnie