

## TENN-TOM, DO YOU KNOW IT?

I am really mad! I found out that they have built an entire navigational system for river travel and didn't tell me! When I left High School, my knowledge of barge travel on rivers was up and down the Mississippi River from New Orleans to the North.

Suddenly I find out that in 1985, they completed a system that starts in Mobile, Alabama and ties the Tombigbee River to the Tennessee River, creating a great shortcut. This project was dreamed of and surveyed in the 1870's but not acted upon or funded until the 1970's. To add insult to injury, this project moved more earth than was moved excavating the Panama Canal!

They also constructed 6 dams with locks to elevate and lower vessels some 414 feet from sea level to the Tennessee River.



Without traveling the Natchez Trace, I never would have found out about this.

Another find, was the gravesite and memorial to Meriwether Lewis, the leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He was prone to depression, and he took his life in a cabin, the remains of which are still visible at this site.

This afternoon, after visiting the headquarters for one of the dams on the river, our usual afternoon thunderstorms began as we left the door. There were about 18 drops that fell first, then about 6 seconds later it dumped on us like hurricane Bill! Never have we seen so much water come from the sky onto us before we reached the safety of the car! It was as if we went swimming in the river.

The following morning we set sail for Birmingham, AL and then on to Atlanta, GA.

The last time we came through Georgia, the fuel was so cheap! We sweat running out of gas until we reached the boarder and would you believe it, gas is more expensive than Alabama and it cost us more because we passed up all the cheaper gas! Can't win em all!

Dave & Bonnie  
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