

10/26/2008

## NOTHING COULD BE FINA THAN TO BE IN CAROLINA

It took almost four days to drive to Wilmington NC. We arrived in hot humidity, and the next day it cooled and rained all night and was cold the next day! Our only choice of RV parks was a Yogi Bear Jellystone Park, with 60,000 kids celebrating an early Halloween, in costume, collecting bags of candy. Memories!

We met Peter Toth at the Museum of Forestry, in Whiteville, and attended the dedication ceremonies on Sunday. There were about 50 people there. Leaving Monday to find the other two statues will take us 300 miles west across North Carolina and across the Great Smoky Mountains.

The cotton fields have been defoliated and the cotton balls stand out against a brown background, ready to harvest. The soybeans are harvested when the fields of plants turn yellow and brown. There are many acres of these. The fall colors are almost non-existent in these parts.

The ironies of life continue. We stopped at a Costco for gasoline, and the price was \$3.07/gal. We filled and went in to shop and eat a hot dog. When we left the store we saw that the price had dropped to \$2.99/gal while we ate!

While at the dedication, we got information and directions for the Indian statue at the abandoned Buffalo Ranch, near Concord, NC. Driving the distance we turned on the road to it. After 7 miles and entering the city of Charlotte, NC, we stopped to ask and find out we were going the wrong way! Retracing our steps, we drove the other direction, and found nothing. Arriving at a place we could turn around, we asked an old man where the old Buffalo Ranch and statue was. Again we had passed it by 4 miles!

Again retracing our steps, we finally found it, visible only from our direction, the hidden sign and statue were there. That only left an old man to crawl under a fence gate and hobble over to take the picture! Life is so tough anymore!

Dave, Bonnie & Marti

