

Tennessee/Kentucky
 Rolling Rally
 September 14 - October 3, 2021
 Planned by Bob and Candy Kooy



If you weren't able to join us on this rally, maybe you will feel as though you were there through this collection of memories of this trip. Thank you to those members



who shared their pictures. I have at least 600 pictures of this 2 ½ week trip that if I were to write a book it could be 80 pages or more.

Our 1st day in Memphis was a free day to explore the places that weren't on the schedule. Even



though the water wasn't flowing and it was in need of repair, the Mississippi River Walk was an impressive landmark to walk through.

One of my suggested places to see was a bit out of the ordinary (Bob thought I was crazy). It was the Crystal Shrine Grotto in the middle of Memorial Park Cemetery. "Beautifully Inspirational" was the consensus of those of us who explored this grotto.

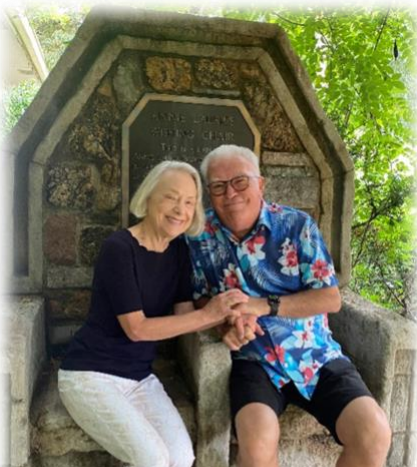


This was the view as we walked into the cave.



There were other inspiring items in the cemetery such as The Wishing Chair: In Scotland they say fairies have blessed this chair. Tradition tells us that good fortune will forever smile on the lad and lass who sit here hand and hand and repeat this quaint Scottish verse.

If your visit through this Sacred "Crystal Shrine Grotto" Featuring Christ's Journey on Earth from Birth to Resurrection, has elevated your spiritual thoughts stimulated a deeper Reverence for the Founder of Christianity and created a desire to be a "Good Samaritan" to your neighbor, you will be happier on the way to that Glorious Unending Life, and the Builder's efforts will be well served.



DRESSED IN OUR BEST AND ALL ALONE
 WE SIT WITHIN THE WISHING CHAIR,
 WHICH BODES SUCCESS FOR EVERY ONE,
 EXCHANGING FOND CARRASSES THERE.

You can't be in Tennessee and not get your picture with a guitar 😊.





A visit to the Stax Museum of American Soul Music.



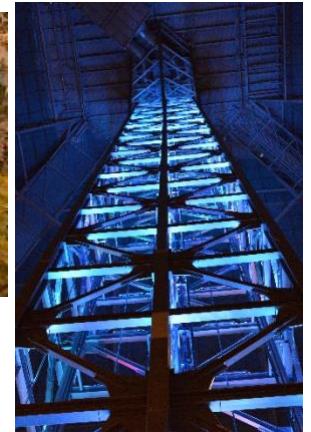
Lunch at Central BBQ then off to Sun Studio – Birthplace of Rock n’ Roll.



Who wouldn't want their picture with the microphone the great singers used? 😊



Pictured left to right: Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, and Johnny Cash in an impromptu jam session.



Sept. 16 day 2: We had a full schedule of activities starting with the Bass Pro tour at the pyramid, feeding of the fish in the huge aquarium, 300 ft. free standing glass elevator, and the observation deck with a glass bottom that looks out over Memphis. For those of us that have an issue with heights (me included), it was a little unnerving.

Lunch at the café/bowling alley that made you feel like you were in the aquarium with the fish completed our visit to Bass Pro.

Next stop was the Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel where Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and killed, which also included the building across the street where the shooter took aim.



Peabody Hotel was where we gathered to see the ducks parade through the lobby: they leave their fountain home in the centrum, walk along the red carpet (while flapping their wings to wave good bye to the bystanders) as they marched to the elevator to go up to their roof top home for the night. We then walked across the street to have some really good BBQ at Charlie Vergos’ Rendezvous.

Those of us who still had some energy or really wanted a cookie from Insomnia took a walk down Beale St. It was a lively night with a band getting ready to perform.



A day of travel (Sept. 17) brought us to Nashville where we spent the next 5 days. Campsites/campground were great with many amenities, but it rained every day.



Sept. 18 Day 4: We went back in time to the civil war era in Franklin, TN with plantation tours where we learned how the war affected three different families. Our tour guide at the Carter House did a fantastic job helping us see and feel the fear of those that lived there as we walked in the bullet ridden building that was the kitchen next to the house. We stood in the basement



where the family hid while bullets & cannon fire hit the home. Carnton Plantation was taken over by the confederate army and used as a hospital, with blood stains still on the wood floors where amputations took place. You didn't leave the tour without goose bumps at one point or another.



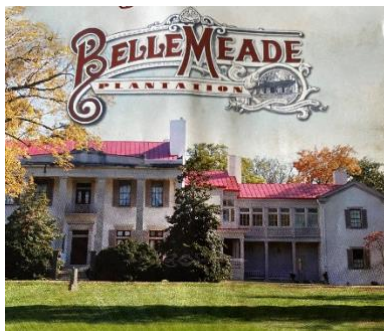
A resident of Carter House that is curious about the guests came out to say Hello.

Our guide at the Rippavilla Plantation was a history major and wow, he could tell a story. This home didn't have any furniture yet, but we listened intently in each room throughout



the home as he brought the lives of those that lived there and the battle to us.

We stopped and had a delightful Mexican lunch between our tours.



Sept. 19 Day 5: We were lucky the rain was light so we were able to continue our scheduled tours to the 1807 historic Belle Meade Plantation/winery, best-known thoroughbred breeding farm in the world, home of Secretariat - the 1973 triple crown winner of horse racing. Lunch at Sam's Place proved to be a good



decision on our way to Andrew Jackson's Hermitage/Winery, home of our 7th President.



Sept. 20 Day 6: A free morning let some sleep in while others took in more sites in Nashville. We met in the afternoon at the Grand Ole Opry for a backstage tour. They were setting up for a concert so we weren't able to get our pictures on stage in the famous circle with the microphone, but we still got some good pictures and the tour was fun and informative.





Bill and Pam had their picture taken in Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton's Dress room.



We walked to the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and admired



the fountains, waterfalls, shops and restaurants at the 9-acre garden atrium.

That evening we enjoyed a dinner show cruise up the Cumberland River on the General Jackson. Our tables couldn't have been any closer to the stage so we were



up close and personal with the performers (and the speakers). During intermission a walk around the deck proved to be very picturesque.

Above is the view from the deck of the General Jackson. All in all, good food, entertainment and views completed a great day.



At left is Miss Mary Bobo's Restaurant. (See next page)



Sept. 21 Day 7: Our next stop was Lynchburg, TN where we did a tour and tastings at the Jack Daniels Distillery. Even those in our group that were not whiskey fans seemed to enjoy the tour.

We enjoyed lunch at the historic Miss Mary Bobo's restaurant and boarding house. There were separate dining areas in each room of the house. The atmosphere and food lived up to the 5-star reviews.



We ended the afternoon with a walk through the shops in Lynchburg square including wine tasting at the winery, an ice cream parlor, and a small in-home candy store.



Sept. 22 day 8: A free day to rest or see some of the other sights in Nashville.

Sept. 23 day 9: We traveled to Pigeon Forge, TN, a destination similar to Branson, MO. An impromptu gathering at



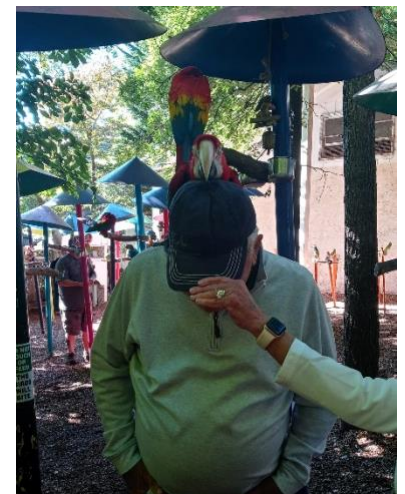
the campground is always fun.

Sept. 24 Day 10: We started the day at Parrot Mountain. They had a multitude of beautiful birds throughout the park with several areas where you could hold and feed them.

Pam Doyle conquered her fear and held one of the Macaws.



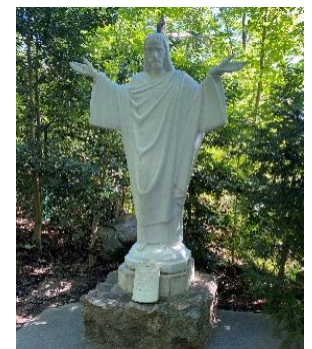
These little parrots were enjoying the nectar in Candy's hand.



This guy ate the button on top of Leonard's cap!



This path in the middle of the park included a spiritual journey of statues and scriptures.



The baby bird nursery was a special part of the park – so many babies squawking.



Below & at right: A scrumptious lunch at the Old Mill Restaurant.



Someone was caught napping after lunch while the rest of us shopped in the area. 😊



Gatlinburg Sky Bridge is the longest pedestrian cable bridge in North America spanning almost 700 ft long by 500 ft high



with 30 ft of glass floor in the middle. Most

conquered any fear of heights and made it across the bridge. The views from the top were incredible. After dinner we enjoyed Paula Deans Lumber Jack show where world class lumberjacks competed in several log-related contests. Very impressive talent at the show!



Sept. 25 day 11: Breakfast burritos were available before a free day to explore more of Pigeon Forge. Some of us walked around an area called The Island which reminded me of the Landing in Branson with shops and a few rides.



We gathered back together for Dolly Parton's Pirates dinner show, for a good meal, great service, and WOW entertainment.



The talent and acrobatics were impressive. Chuck Walker and Stan Summers were chosen for a race to carry buckets of water and fill the barrel on the teeter totter with water faster than the opposing team.



The guys were victorious!

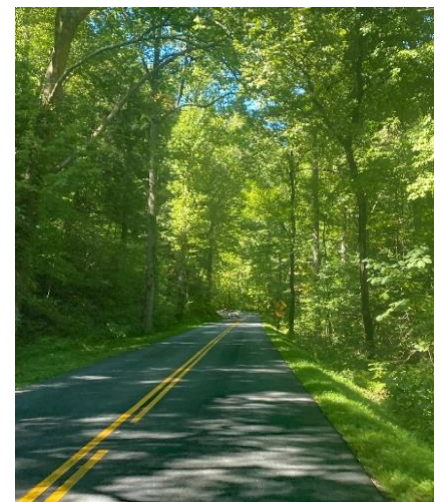


Sept. 26th day 12: Meeting up with our carpool buddies, we traveled the scenic byway through the Smoky Mountains for a day of tree lined roads, rivers, tunnels and amazing views everywhere you turned.



After a difficult time finding parking, we walked the paved steep ½ mile trail to the highest peak in the Smoky Mountains (6643 ft.) called Clingmans Dome. The dome rewarded us with a 360 degree, up to 100-mile view of the beautiful Smoky Mountains.

There was so much to choose from in this area that a couple of days really wasn't enough time. Frank and Vicki decided to opt out of the drive for a tour at Bush's Bean Factory.





A BBQ potluck/cocktails gathering completed our day. A potluck always provides fantastic food. Bill brought tasty smoked ribs to share.

Bob manned the grills with supervisors Stan, Chuck and John making sure all is well and ready to jump in as needed.



Sept. 27 day 13: Onward to our next stop at Elkhorn RV Park in Frankfort KY.



Another great day of trouble-free driving and everyone arrived safely. **Sept. 28 day 14:** We began our day early so we could get to Keeneland race track and see the jockeys exercising/training the yearlings. This was entertaining watching some of the jockeys trying to keep the young racers from going sideways on the track. We could

freely walk around Keeneland and explore the very clean and beautiful grounds.



We visited Megson Farms, home of white thoroughbred horses where we toured and learned about breeding these thoroughbreds. We got up close and fed the horses peppermint candies.



There was also a white shepherd dog that kept us thoroughly entertained. He had Stan trained to keep throwing the ball for him. He also enjoyed chasing the horses through the pastures.

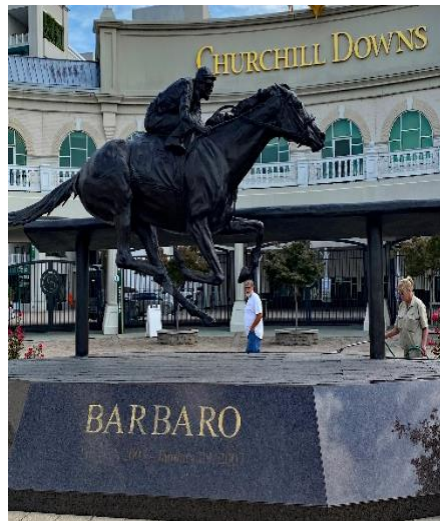
A free afternoon sent us in different directions, including a drive through the blue grass trail, a tour of the Henry Clay Estates, or a visit to the Kentucky Castle Hotel.



Sept. 30th day 16: A full schedule started our morning tour of the Woodford Reserve Distillery which is one of the most beautiful distilleries in the area, with of course a tasting to follow. We ate a quick lunch back at the campground, then packed up our coaches to drive to Lexington KY.



By 3:30 in the afternoon, we were at the Kentucky Derby Museum for a tour, then off to the races at Churchill Hill Downs next door. I don't think any of us had been to the horse races before, so it was an experience. Some actually bet a couple of times, but I personally had a good time just cheering on my horse of choice for each race. I think many people in the stands just came for \$1.00 beer and music in the common area.



October 1st day 17: Today's activity was the Louisville Slugger Museum. The bat company has a fascinating history. A German immigrant started his business as a woodworking shop in 1864. His 17-year-old son, Bud, skipped work one day in 1884 to attend a Louisville baseball game where megastar Pete Browning broke his bat. Bud offered to make Pete a new bat at the woodworking shop. According to the story, in the next game, Browning got three hits with the bat that Bud had made which grabbed the attention of other ball players. Luckily, Bud was able to convince his dad to go into the bat-making business rather than focus on the swinging butter churn that his dad thought was the future of the business. And the name of their bat-making venture? Pete Browning's nickname was "The Louisville Slugger" which became their registered trademark in 1894.

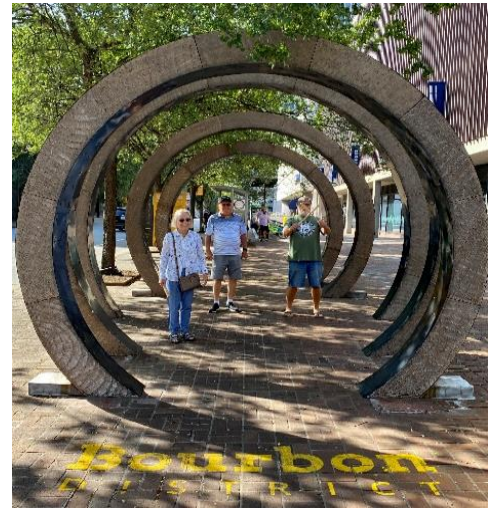
Fun photos with your favorite pro player's bat.



New members John & Lyn Parker



We admired the beautifully designed buildings during our walk in the downtown Louisville Bourbon District.





Our evening took us down the tracks on My Old Kentucky Dinner Train. We had our own private car which was a good thing with all the laughing and carrying on. We were so noisy that we didn't hear the narration of our tour during the trip, but our waiter took everything in stride and even joined right in while he also served our delicious meal.

Bob and Chuck were pleased that they had one of their favorite Blanton's bourbons at a very reasonable price. I took the bottle home.

Below: Frank played his video of the train going over a very high trestle. He stood between the train cars and hung over the edge to get the footage!



Barrel Houses along the route.



Jim Beam

October 2nd day 18: A farewell dinner at Parlour Pizza concluded an amazing trip - hope next time you'll be able to join us.



Six State here we come, Bob and Candy