

We are now back in Ohio after completing our 3400 mile driving trip through the Southern States with molly's brother, Robert.

We last posted from Charleston, South Carolina one week ago and since then have traveled across North Carolina to Asheville before spending Monday crossing the Smoky Mountains into Tennessee. Unlike our last visit to the Smokies four years ago, this time the weather was sunny and bright so we saw no evidence of the mist that gives the region its name. On the other hand we had some magnificent views from the highest point at over 6,400 feet and could see mountains over 70 miles distant.



After passing through Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge (it's difficult to think of a starker contrast to the National Park than these two sprawling "amusement parks") we spent a night in Knoxville before driving to Nashville. We spent two nights in Music City USA and a full day of sightseeing in the city. Unlike Memphis, this town seems to have maintained its mu-



sic roots and is the home to the Country Music hall of Fame (a surprisingly interesting museum in which to spend an hour or two) as well as the Grand Ole Opry.

Elvis's car in the Country Music Hall of Fame

The Grand Ole Opry is actually the name of a show rather than a location but it now has a permanent home on the outskirts of Nashville (close to our hotel) as well as performing at its original location in the Ryman Auditorium. This Auditorium was built originally as a church (with an interesting story) but expanded its use to host the Opry for about 40 years. It has been completely restored in recent years and contains many memorabilia pertaining to the performers who made this their “home”.



Nashville also is the state capital so we visited our fourth Capitol for this trip and spent an additional two hours strolling the downtown area of the city. Again the weather was perfect for sightseeing—sunny and warm, but with relatively low humidity. We have been extremely lucky in that regard for the entire three weeks of Robert’s stay and he must be wondering why we tried to persuade him (unsuccessfully, obviously) that late August and early September was not the time to visit the Deep South.



So, after a day long drive from Nashville we arrived home on Thursday which gave us a couple of days to relax before Robert returns to London later today (Saturday). We hope that you have enjoyed our posts and invite you to watch for us on our next trip in New Zealand.

Bob and Molly

