



First RV Trip - Fall 2018



Downtown Mayberry. Really it's Mt Airy, North Carolina

Hello to Family

Alright, I know I have been gone 6 days already, but there have really only been two days since I found out my deployment was canceled. Since I could not catch on with any other claims companies I decided, with Kali's advice, to make a loooong trip to Houston.

I think the insurance companies may be acting prematurely. There are still over 600 roads closed in North Carolina, and people still have not been able to get back to their homes. I think more claims may start coming in next week since some of the rivers are not expected to crest until this Thursday.

I also came to realize that I made a big mistake. I planned on doing a lot of overnights as a boondocker - no hookups - but I found out that my laptop needs 110v power which is not supplied by the house batteries.

OOPS!!!

So for now I will have to try and stay at campgrounds with power. I spent 2 nights at Hanging Rock with no water or electric. I had filled up the water tank before leaving Pleasant Garden, so I am good there. But my ice cubes in the freezer melted since there wasn't enough solar, ANY solar, as a matter of fact. You saw the pictures yesterday of the cloud cover.

This newsletter is a work in progress. Don't want to spend a lot of time on restructuring it, so most photos will just have a caption. I will add some descriptions of my days as I go along also.

Day 2
Tuesday
September 25th
From Hanging Rock
State Park to Raccoon
Holler Campground

Weather

Cool
Misty
Foggy

I almost forgot. I followed a backroads route from Hanging rock to My Airy. I stopped at a gas station along the way and met Cecil, a retired history professor. He introduced me to the owner of the store and his helper. We spent some time talking about America, bare feet, North Carolina, Wisconsin, the Vietnam War, insurance adjusting, hurricanes, and a few other items.

As I was driving down here last week I passed a sign that mentioned the Andy Griffith Parkway. I remembered the Andy Griffith Show was supposed to be set in North Carolina, so Saturday night I was cruising the web and found that Mt Airy, NC is the town where Andy Griffith grew up and that Mayberry was based on it also.

Low and behold, the annual Mayberry Days Festival started yesterday and runs through Sunday. I thought I might spend another night nearby and see some of the events, but after spending several hours there I felt as though I had seen everything I wanted to.

You girls probably don't remember the show too much, but you may have seen reruns. It ran from 1957 to 1971. You may remember Ron Howard as Opie. I always considered it a very 'clean' show. No violence, no sex, no cursing, just good wholesome, funny entertainment.

So the following photos are of my day spent in Mayberry.

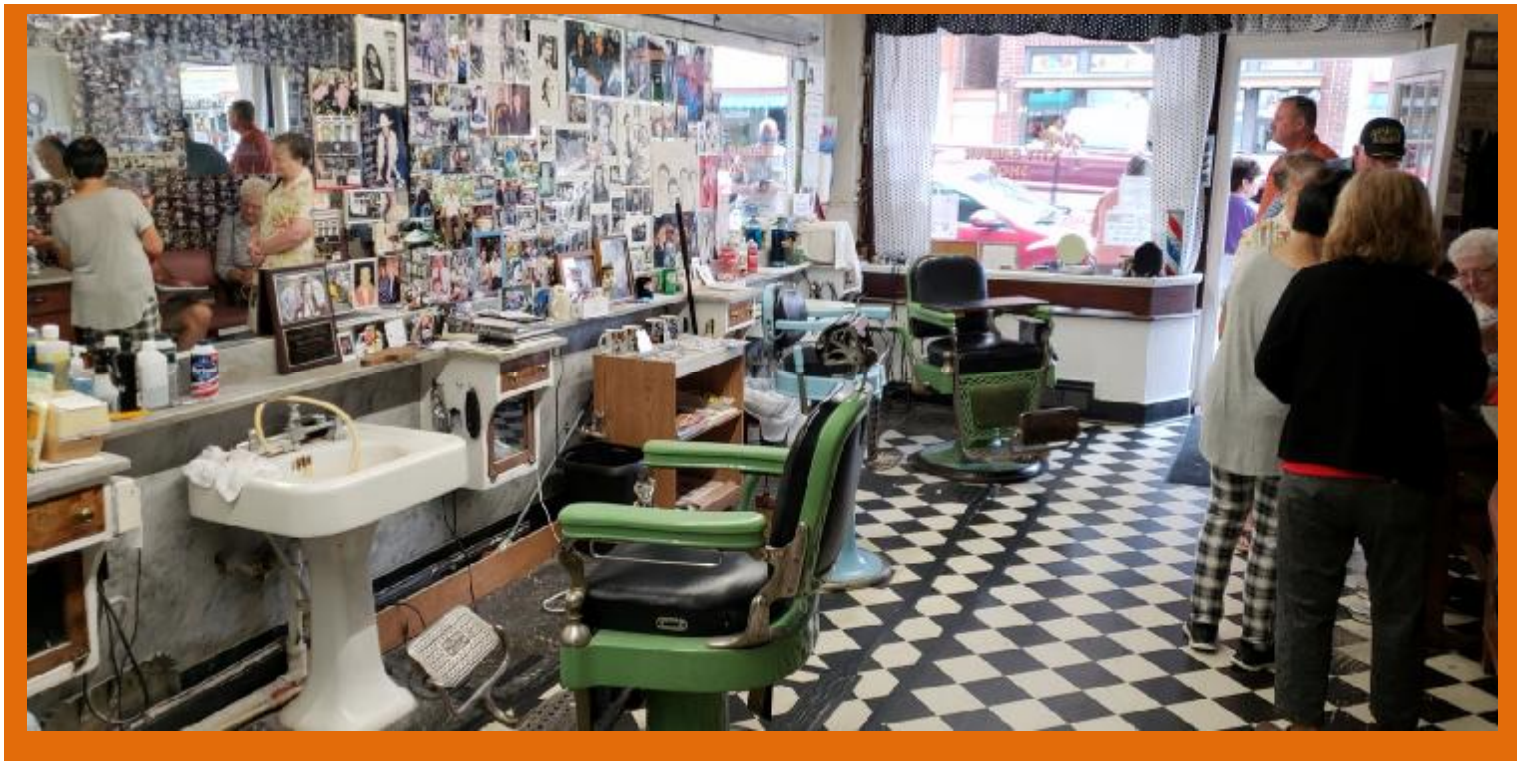


I bought some nonpareils here (that just reminded me that they are sitting in the fridge and I have a half glass of milk left from dinner), and had a Moose Tracks ice cream. This was after lunch which I will get to shortly.

Floyd's Barber Shop to the left.



Andy Griffith did get his hair cut here while growing up. The old Mr. Hiatt, in the photo below, died just a short time ago at 92. I met his son John in the shop and he told me about the original 1929 register, 1929 barber chairs, original strop (you girls don't even know what that is do you?), and the thousands of photos on the wall.





Below is Snappy Lunch. This place has been here since the 20's and is the only real place mentioned in the show. They are famous for their pork chop sandwich. So famous in fact, it has been named the state sandwich of North Carolina. They are cooked right in the front window as you can see below. That pork chop looked way too big for lunch, so I ordered a BLT, no T, extra bacon. Unfortunately the bacon was crispy and just fell apart.





Walker's is supposed to be the soda fountain shop that Ellie works at. Ellie is one of Sheriff Taylor's girlfriends on the show. Unfortunately, they are closed on Tuesday's. I was looking forward to sitting at the counter and having an ice cream soda.

Down the road a-piece is Wally's Garage. Goober worked there (George Lindsey. Did the voice of one of the vulture guards in ROBIN HOOD). Gomer worked there (Jim Nabors. Went on to make GOMER PYLE USMC a spinoff TV series). Wally was never seen.





Emmett himself was a fixture in many episodes



Most of the names and businesses below were mentioned on the show. To the far right is Howard Sprague's office. He was an accountant and a regular on the show.



Wally's is headquarters for a tour of Mayberry in a vintage Galaxie 500 police car, just like the one Andy and Barney used to drive. As a party of 1, the tour would have cost me \$40. I thought a picture could be worth a 1000 words.



I don't know if those are actual 1960's prices or not, but they are kinda interesting.



As I walked back to Main Street to get my ice cream at Opie's, I noticed this gentleman dressed and dancing like Michael Jackson.

My next stop was the Andy Griffith Museum. Only eight bucks and not bad. Some interesting stuff in there. I did not realize he made so many movies.



A replica of the Sheriff's Office exterior above.....

...and his desk from the interior. A lot of the pieces are the originals



Ok, you have to admit, below is one of the best shots of the day





From Mayberry I drove to the Blue Ridge Parkway. I felt it was a good way to head towards Houston, but also a way to really take my time. Plus, other than a few spots here and there with Erin, Gpops and Morgan during her school years, I had not driven the Parkway since 1997 with 7 females in the van.



Yup, still cloudy



A touch of sunshine





A fella on a Harley told me this was the best view from the Parkway anywhere in North Carolina





Ok, I admit, the sun and the mist make for some great shadows



Ok, that's it for today. My next stop was the Raccoon Holler Campground. Time to enjoy those nonpareils and watch the Brewers kick some more butt.