



First RV Trip - Fall 2018



Some sun shining on the golf course below

Hello to Family

Before I set up camp last night I took a successful dump. LOL

I mean I dumped the RV black water tank without any mishap this time.

Nice campground. I went back to the visitor center this morning because I wanted to go through the displays they have. It was interesting. Everywhere in the parks/parkway I go, they talk about the CCC - Civilian Conservation Corps. You have probably heard either me or Gpops talk about the CCC in the past. The CCC was young men employed by the government during the depression to build the bridges, roads, tunnels and trails. Uncle Jerry was in the CCC in northern Wisconsin.

My second stop was the Mingus Mill. Very interesting. Enjoy the photos below.

Day 6

Saturday

September 29th

*Great Smokey
Mountains
National
Park*

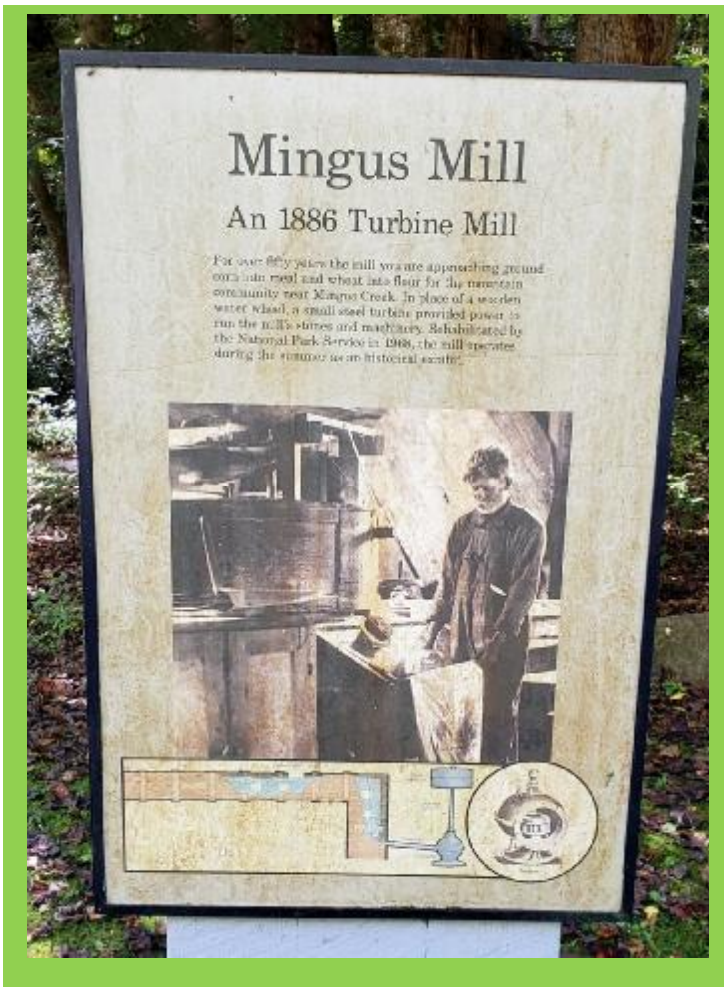
To

*Someplace in
Tennessee*

Weather

*75-80
Sunny*

So I am sending this out today because my campsite last night had no service. So you will actually, maybe, get two newsletters today. It depends how quickly I type. LOL





First Floor



Second Floor





Ok, I have learned a lesson. Great Smokey is the busiest National Park. I have two reasons for that 1) it's free – no charge to enter (I was disappointed I could not use Kali's pass), and 2) It is the closest park to the most populated area of the United States.

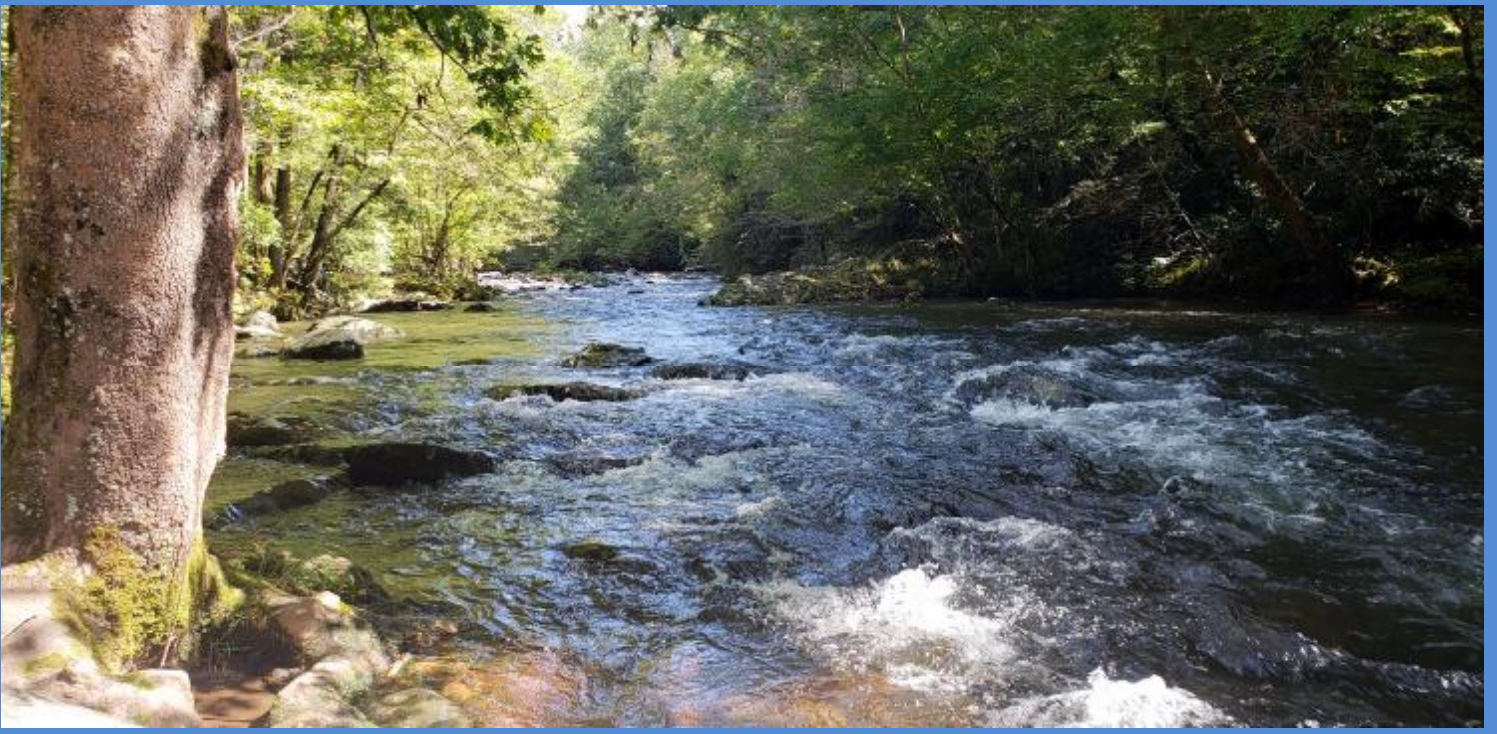
However, do not, DO NOT, go there on a weekend. Almost every pull out is full; every parking lot is full; even if there was room for a car, there is none for an RV. I was planning to spend Saturday and Sunday here, but right now? I can't wait to get out of here. Too many people. Car after car after car after car....





After driving to the west side and turning south towards Cades Cove, I found what I can truly say was the most quiet spot with the easiest access to the river. No other cars there.

I sat on that rock for awhile enjoying the music of the water, then decided it was a good place to eat lunch. As I drove the further 8 miles to Cades Cove, no pullout was closer to the water than mine.



My lunch on the rocks





Leaving Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

I have to tell you about Cades Cove. It is an 11 mile, single lane loop road through a cove, a flat valley between mountains, that could easily be farmed. It was home to as many as 190 families in the 1800's. There are original cabins, churches and other buildings. I bought a guidebook for a buck.

What a mistake. This was just an 11 mile, single lane, bumper to bumper traffic jam. No room at pullovers for an RV, if there was any room at all. Some low branches that were hard to avoid. I took the crossroad to cut off 4 miles and probably a good hour of misery. I called it quits. I can always go back some time, during the week, to visit again. A bike would be great here. I cannot imagine what it will be like in a week or two when the leaves are changing. Madness!

I have to say, I was also very disappointed with the signage, trail markings, mile posts, etc. I bought a trail map and downloaded an app. The app has a trail, the map does not, neither has the pullout labeled. Very disappointing.



You guys should remember the Foothills Parkway. We took that road from the south end when we were all here 20 years ago. Man, 20 years ago. How time flies. We stopped on top of a mountain and Clara called her parents in Spain on my cell phone.



Panoramic



I was undecided what to do next. If I head straight to Texas I will be there 4 days early, so that's out. Without the internet last night I could not research what to see along the way, and it's too late tonight so I will have to do that tomorrow morning. I don't recall spending any significant time in Chattanooga so I thought I would find a campsite nearby and spend the day. First two campgrounds are full. Next two campgrounds - no electric. Last RV Park does not answer the phone. So I just drove in. They had some spots open and I set up camp.

This was the first night I set up the tables, chair, rug and cooked on the grill. It was nice.

Well, we will see what tomorrow brings. Ruby Falls? Already been to Lookout Mountain. More research necessary.

Goodnight!!