

Trip to Portland and Georgia/South Carolina

19 March – 5 April 2001

19 March

We left Weenings at 5:15 am for a 6:50 flight to Salt Lake City, then on to Portland, where Howard and Margaret Spaan were awaiting us eagerly. Spent the afternoon talking, eating supper. More talking in the evening, mostly about family and church, plus a bit about politics (definitely anti-Bush)

20 March

A walk with Mandy, the dog, in the morning, a walk around De Waal's place (#2, near the entrance to Seminole Estates). We ride 'MAX' 40 minutes to downtown, for 50 cents each, have lunch at the House of Louie (Chinese, cheap, fair quality) and spend about two hours at the new Chinese garden. Very nice. Done in cooperation with Suzhou in China. Five hundred tons of materials were imported from China for the purpose, as were some Chinese craftsmen to do the work.

Back for a barbecued salmon supper at Spaans, and more talking. De Waals are out of town. A lot of talk about Scott (43), Curt (46?) and Beth, Randy and Betty (used to be Lynn), Harlo. Lots of unhappiness still among some of the sons. 'We don't have a family.'

21 March

Dixie and I prayed with the Spaans before we left for the airport,, at about 11 am. Our flight left at 12:50 pm, four hours to Atlanta, then about 45 minutes to Savannah, arriving 10:45 pm. Fair dinner on the Portland-Atlanta leg but nothing much the next leg, and we went to bed a bit hungry (especially Dixie). All restaurants near the motel (Days Inn Airport) were closed.

According to a local saying, 'If you die in Savannah, you have to go via Atlanta.'

22 March

I went to pick up the car at the airport at about 10 (Hertz, Mazda 626), and w had the lunch buffet at Days Inn. Not too expensive but starchy and only fair. Then to the visitor centre and Savannah Museum, a bit of lunch, and we drove around a bit, including the Shaver Bookstores (very nice). Fell into a cookie and cake reception at 5:30 pm for Christ Church (first church in Georgia) Homes and Gardens tour (a fund-raising effort), then a 30-minute service in Christ Church. We shared a club sandwich at the Hyatt restaurant and had enough for the day.

Trees are newly leafed out and the azaleas are in full bloom. Weather is great. Blue sky, temperature 65-75 F.

23 March

Late breakfast at Waffle House. Fair and reasonable. Rode the CAT shuttle part way, the walked around for a while, including a couple of galleries. After a 30-minute wait, had an elaborate meal at Mrs. Wilkes' place. Family style, four tables of ten at a time. Lots to eat, lots of different dishes. Then a 40-minute wait for the shuttle. The ride was rough, and the trolley was so full that we saw but little. On a sign on a local shop was written: 'On this site, in 1857, nothing happened.'

We bough a sandwich at Parker's Market, took some pictures at Colonial Park Cemetery (about 1740-1850) and at Forsyth Square. Bought tickets to 'My Fair Lady' (2x\$16) at Savannah Theatre. An excellent production.

24 March

Left about 9:30 for Beaufort, SC, ('BEW-fort'), about 30 miles away. Big lunch (no breakfast) at Ruby Tuesday in Beaufort. We wandered around Beaufort, looked at some art galleries, and at an amateur art show (some quite good stuff). Drove out to the end of the road at Hunter's Island, through salt marsh areas. State Park with large campground. Picked a bag of long pine needles (Georgia pine?) for Nel Vande Guchte, then back to Beaufort for the gallery walk and the goodies that go with it. Saw some beautiful sculptures of blacks by Taylor Nicole Turner. Quite expensive, at \$1600. No supper needed today. Eventually back to our Savannah motel at 8:30.

25 March

We got up late. Dixie's cold is still bothering her, and we decided not to go to church. Drove into Savannah about 11, then had breakfast at the Express Cafe and Bakery.. Walked over to the Telfair Museum (legacy of Mary Telfair), oldest (first) museum in the USA. A Albert Seidl (artist-sailor) gave an excellent guided tour on paintings of Frederick Carl Frieseke (1874-1939), America's foremost impressionist painter, though he lived in France all his life after about age 20.

Afterwards we looked at the City Market area, drove around all the squares in town, I took some more pictures at Forsyth Square, including part of a wedding party, and some azaleas, and a piece of an old wisteria twisted stem, supposedly pulled down on St. Patrick's Day. Ate a grouper supper (with excellent key-lime pie and pecan pie) at Tubby's Tankhouse in Thunderbolt just east of Savannah.

We canceled our reservation in Brunswick, and made some in Charleston instead (because rates in Charleston go up by \$30 or more for the weekend).

26 March

Checked out and left Savannah around 10, and drove the 100 or so miles to Charleston. Found the Comfort Inn at Mount Pleasant, then drove back to Charleston. Stopped at the Visitor Centre, drove and walked around town for some time, and had a nice shared meal at the Blossom Café. Charleston looks very different from Savannah and is quite a bit busier. Sunny and clear all day but a bit cooler, around 60.

27 March

We did not do much in the morning. Breakfast at the Inn was fair. Afterwards I went for a walk, and Dixie read her book. About 11, we drove towards Boone Plantation, stopped at Charles Pinckney Historic Site (Long Point Road). Quite interesting re US history. Back to Charleston around 1:30, some lunch, and then Gibbes Art Gallery. Only fair, unless you really like miniatures ('for memory and form mourning'). Then some more food and the #2 self-guided walking tour from the CAA book. Some interesting old buildings, including also a rough cobblestone street (stones from ships' ballast).

A young lady at an art gallery recommended some supper places, and we shared a meal at Bennett's: grilled shrimp and grilled salmon, both good.

Back at the motel, Dixie watched 'Wit' on TV, and I sort of watched and read. I still have sore arm and shoulder muscles.

28 March

Visited the Boone Plantation today, on Long Point Road, a few miles northeast of Charleston. The mansion was rebuilt in 1934, and 9 of an original 27 slave houses (6

to 9 people in each) are still standing. The difference between the two is huge, of course. Live oak trees along the driveway are about 250 years old. The tour guide in the mansion had a pasted-on smile and did an appalling job of reciting her script, with lots of seemingly irrelevant facts in it.

But the visit provided at least some idea of how things might have been in slavery days.

It was cool for the walking tour #1 in Charleston (we did #2 yesterday), but it was interesting. I took pictures of some doorways. Lots of big old houses that seem to need a lot of maintenance. Small but elaborate interior or side gardens with many of the houses.

29 March

After a bagel, biscuit, and coffee breakfast we checked out, drove to Patriot's Point, and gazed at the aircraft carrier Yorktown. We could have taken a tour of the ship, plus a destroyer and a submarine, but decided not to. Had a very nice lunch at East End Café and Bakery at Crickentree Village in Mount Pleasant.

An accident on I-26 north caused a bit of delay, but by about 2:30 we were in Summerville. It had rained a bit but stopped again. We stopped at an antique (junk?) place, the Visitor Centre, Art Central (where I unloaded my loose bowels – from yesterday's supper?), and had a nice simple supper at Perkins Restaurant. A big woman in an expensive truck sat near the restaurant entrance asking for donations towards a meal. The story was that she had left her purse in a bathroom somewhere. It did not seem very plausible, and I declined.

30 March

We left Summerville and drove back towards Charleston along the 'historic' route, #61, along the Ashley river (which we never saw). Earlier we stopped at the azalea garden in Summerville, which was beautiful. Also nice pansies and wisteria. Stopped briefly at the Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, took some pictures of trees in the swamp and of a couple of iris flowers, but we did not take the tour. Then off across to Aikem just outside Georgia, and not far from Augusta.. The motel was nice, with fridge and microwave. Bought some take-out food and Acropolis Pizza, along with some beer from Lion's, and ate it at the table in the motel.

31 March

Decided to leave and go to Macon (about 130 miles). Made a reservation at Quality Inn. Nice peaceful drive, part along the freeway, part other highway.

Found the visitor centre in the old train station, and went to the Tubman Afro-American Museum. Focus on African culture and on accomplishments by blacks in North America.

Then a 1.5-hour tour of Hay House (six storeys, 20,000 square feet). Built around 1850, took about six years, and about \$100,000. Hot and cold running water, indoor plumbing, part central heating and cooling, and some sort of piped communication system. The tour was excellent, contrary to the Boone tour three days earlier.

After a bit of a search, found the motel, and went to Applebee's for supper. Met Terry and Nadine (retired Northwest pilot, about 65) from Minneapolis, on their way home from Florida. Traffic had been almost bumper to bumper from Sarasota on I-75. They were Evangelical Free. Had a nice conversation. I had to go to K-mart for a corkscrew to open our wine bottle (none to be had in the motel).

1 April

We went to Northminster Presbyterian Church at 11 (in Macon). Nice service, good singing, good sermon by an interim retired minister on 'What brought Christ to the cross?' Talked to an 'elderly' couple for a while. Ex-military who teaches statistics in the engineering at Mercer University (Baptist). He was 34 years in the military (New York, France, Germany), then 15 years in Macon.

We drove to Andersonville and Plains (about 190 miles round trip) and visited the prisoner-of-war museum and prison site.. Some 30,000 Union prisoners on a 20-acre site from February 1864 to May 1865. Of 45,000 who passed through the prison camp, some 13,000 died. Very bad conditions.

We met Jim and Grace Van Dyk (Grand Rapids), retired school superintendent, brother-in-law of Jules De Jager in Edmonton Jules' wife is Jim's sister). Fairly garrulous couple, on their way to Florida. He used to teach history years ago, and she is a Carter fan.

We had about 15 minutes at the Jimmy Carter historical center in Plains (formerly a high school), enough to get a sense of the place. It was a nice drive, and the weather was great. Picked up some red soil near Jimmy Carter's home farm just outside Plains.

Later, Dixie talked to Herman, Jean, and Mom.

2 April

After a brief stop at the AAA office, we went to the Art Gallery and Museum. Quite a lot of nice paintings, and fine lot of water colours. Excellent children's section on how things work (also nice for adults). Good museum, especially on a free day.

After brief stop at the Colonial Mall and lunch at the Piccadilly Express (fair price and taste but only lukewarm) we were on our way to Brunswick (about 140 miles) where we arrived about 6.

A nice big room at the Comfort Inn. Drove our to St. Simon Island via the causeway and had a quick look at the waterfront area. Lots of tourists, with spring break kids. Back at Brunswick, we had the soup and salad bar at Captain Joe's next door. Lots to eat.

3 April

Drove to Jekyll Island, about 10 miles. The island is owned by the state, has lots of nice beaches, and was once owned by a group of wealthy people who bought it for \$125,000 in 1886 and called themselves the Jekyll Island Club. Very nice and warm this morning. We walked the beach, met up with an Amish singing group, partly from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who were having a picnic lunch. Saw part of a small alligator in the swamp, a snowy egret in the water at the picnic area at the tip of the island.

Had lunch at Crane Cottage, part of the Jekyll Island Club Hotel) and saw the old catholic church built in 1904. Stopped at some antique shops and art galleries, including the Galeria at the Port, Glenda Cason Gallery, and Side Street Gallery (Charles Fournier, photographer). He seems to be making a living selling photographs, also from his gallery. Originally from Seattle. Some nice stuff, much of it matted in wide-bordered black, and mounted on foam. Some of his printing is done by Pro-Lab in Seattle, also some by a lab in Colorado. Most of his stuff is done from negative film rather than from slides. He sells an 8x10, mounted but not framed, for \$79, larger prints for about \$350.

In the meantime, it has started to rain gently. We stopped for a quick look at a 23-foot model of a Liberty ship, of which 99 were built in Brunswick's shipyards in 1944-45, at the rate of at least four per month.

Made a reservation at La Quinta in Savannah for Wednesday night, our last night here.

Every place we have stayed at has been better and cheaper than our first four nights at Days Inn at Savannah.

4 April

We went back to St. Simons Island but did not find the 'snowies' (snowy egrets).

Had a nice visit at Fort Frederica, a garrison town about 1736-50, against the Spanish who then owned Florida. The Spanish were beaten back at the Battle of Gully Hole Creek and the Battle of Bloody Marsh, and they did not return. 'Tabby' is oyster shell, lime and sand, mixed to be used as a form of concrete..

At the church (not original) we met an English couple (Lancashire, Manchester) whose son had moved to Atlanta four years ago. Quite talkative. Lunch at Barbara Jean's was she-crab soup and pecan-coated chicken fingers.

We climbed the 129 steps to the top of the lighthouse, and later stopped at a couple of galleries and a framing place.

Bought a couple of T-shirts at the mall, and headed for Savannah. Tomorrow we have to be up at 5:30 to get to the airport in time for a 7:20 flight (on stand-by). So we got everything packed up and ready to go.

5 April

We got to the airport in good time and had no trouble getting on the flight. Seats were at the back of the plane, of course. Same thing out of Atlanta. Not a lot of food on these flights, so we had a bit to eat in Salt Lake City. There it was not so certain that we would get on the flight, but we did, and arrived in Calgary about 5. Karen met us at the airport, and we had supper with her and Elaine at Earl's. Elaine had made an appointment for a massage for Dixie at 4:30 the next day, so we stayed the night and drove home after the massage. It was good to be home again.