

Tallahassee, FL and Tifton, GA
Jan. 19-22, 2023
By Faye Williamson

In January we went by chartered motor coach to Marianna, FL. There we had a wonderful and filling lunch at the Oaks Restaurant on Hwy 90 which was a farm-to-table dining place. The food was wonderful! We then traveled to the Florida Caverns State Park. We toured the caverns and were surprised at the men of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) of 1938 - they dug out the opening and preserved the caverns to become the only state park in Florida that has caverns.

From there we traveled to Tallahassee, FL and on Friday we toured the old Capitol building and the adjacent 22-story tower overlooking all of Tallahassee. It was fascinating to find out how Tallahassee became the capital: a long time ago, transportation was a serious problem and South Florida was nothing more than swamp land, so the delegations alternated each year between Pensacola and St. Augustine for their Congressional sessions. (Albeit with a lot of arguments, as it was always hard on one representative or another the following year.) One year one of the representatives was lost at sea and the Congressional people decided enough was enough and picked the farmland of Tallahassee in the middle of the disputed locations to set up the new capital.

We also went to the Goodwood Plantation, home of a wealthy industrialist heir and daughter. The home was lovely as the pictures attest to. The pool was 15 feet deep, the tennis courts were for her guests, as were the dance and roller skating floors. Individual cottages were also set up for her guests as she entertained a lot.

On Saturday we traveled to a very unique 18th century agriculture museum. Georgia has set it up on 92 acres of land off I-75. It has so many exhibits I cannot begin to describe them. Interpreters are located throughout the whole 92 acres and give demonstrations as to how to make fudge, how to make horseshoes, how to make a doll, how to quilt, how to take rags and weave them into beautiful art pieces, how to make shoes, how people butchered their animals, and lots of smaller exhibits with an antique steam engine-driven train.

From there we traveled to Thomasville, GA and viewed the biggest oak tree in the US that is 337 years old, and then on to the gorgeous Pebblehill Plantation. We were not allowed to take any pictures but let me assure you the place was very beautiful.

The next day we came down Hwy 98 all the way back to Pensacola after stopping to eat in Destin. It was for the most part a wonderful trip and all seemed to especially enjoy the restaurant selections.