

Chapter X Visitation to Louisiana Rally 2022



We had an enjoyable time in Morgan City, Louisiana for the District Rally. We left on Monday as heavy thunderstorms and tornado watches were issued in Caddo County. We headed east down I-40 to outrun them but they stayed on our tail. Each gas stop the storms caught us as we were filling up with gas. We finally turned south to Hot Springs, AR where we ran into the rain for about 10 miles. The Hudgins stopped in Mount Ida to get a picture for the Diamond tour. Vicki and I spent the night in Hot Springs where we met up with David and Cindi Hudgins.



We left for Morgan City Tuesday morning as David set his GPS to motorcycle routes. We went sightseeing and ended up in Mississippi. Then on to Louisiana by way of Vicksburg, Natchez, Baton Rouge, and Morgan City. We enjoyed the ride as we were not in a hurry.



Wednesday morning, we set off for a tour of New Orleans. We rode down the famous St. Charles Street and gawked at the beautiful homes and Live Oak trees. Our lunch stop was at a famous poor boy sandwich shop call Parkway Bakery and Tavern. The sandwiches were larger than Subway's, we shared a half poor boy. Our next destination was Greenwood cemetery where our guide, Mike Stevenson, told us some pretty interesting facts about the cemetery and the vaults.



Lake Pontchartrain was our next stop for the day then on to the City Park where we bought beignets (French donuts that were square) and rested in the AC as the temps were climbing into the upper 80's. The park had a zoo, and amusement park. There was also a film production company filming a movie some-

where around there. David and I finally got time to hand wash our bikes that evening. They were pretty dirty from the rainy ride down.



Thursday was opening ceremonies where they passed out Moon Pies. Originally moon pies were thrown at Mardi Gras, which was started in Alabama. We attended the enjoyable COY reunion and were served beignets. There were 7 International COY's in attendance.



We traveled to Houma to the Honda Dealer where they were serving lunch. We were told that we were having a BBQ but that did not happen. Then it was hamburgers and hot dogs but to our surprise it was a shrimp boil. Guaranteed to fill you up. They cooked over 100# of shrimp which was freshly caught that morning.



And of course, you have to have your dessert, a snowball with ice cream, when you get back to the rally! That evening we all rode in the light parade and stopped at an ice cream shop at the end.



Friday, we traveled to Franklin, LA to tour Shadowlawn. The tour guide was very knowledgeable about the large Greek mansion. It had a shade-covered lawn filled with Live Oaks, "the Smith Oak, is over 6 feet in diameter and one of the earliest registered with the Louisiana Live Oak Society." Afterwards we ate at The Yellow Bowl and then enjoyed the sugar cane fields and our ride back to Morgan City.



That evening was the Mardi Gras Ball and the crowning of king and queen. The party was great with many people wearing costumes. We even got to set with royalty. This was his first rally, his birthday, crowned king of the ball and won \$500.00 at closing. He will return to more rallies but with less expectation.



Saturday morning Vicki and Cindi attended a craft class. They made Voodoo dolls and Dammit dolls. While they were busy David and I decided to help Bumper Custom Lites.



After closing ceremonies David and Cindi took off for Shreveport. We stayed the night and left the next morning for Texas.



Louisiana always puts on a good rally and everyone enjoys it.

By Jim Cook and Cindi Hudgins