

Fallingwater, Pennsylvania, DC, Annapolis, Rehoboth 10-17 June 2007

Sunday 10 June 2007. Started off around 9 or so heading to Washington Crossing, PA. Through Keene to Brattleboro and on to the Interstate, south to Northampton. Got on to Rt 9 going west, eventually to Pittsfield. Must go back there one day and spend some time—some interesting architecture. From Pittsfield southwest, partially along Rt 66 to Hudson, NY. Heard it was an antique center. Every other shop seems to be antiques. A large town with some nice buildings. Didn't stop: again, will leave to another time. Headed south paralleling the Hudson, which I pass over near Kingston and then head along Rt 209 until eventually I'm in the Delaware Water Gap area at Port Jervis. A nice drive through the National Recreational Area, back on a major highway or too until I reach Easton, then on Rts 611 and 32 along the west bank of the Delaware River all the way to Washington Crossing, through or by Frenchtown and New Hope. This is a lovely drive, narrow and picturesque, with many sometimes quaint, sometimes extensive properties. Arrived at Carl Lindbloom's in Washington Crossing around 6:30 or so. 352 miles.

Carl now lives in a adult community at the edge of Washington Crossing. Nice large expensive unit with all the folk art that Dorian (who died earlier in the year) collected. All the houses—some freestanding, most duplexes—are pretty much alike. Once some trees get established it probably won't be too bad. Unfortunately, it's gated.

After a few drinks we heated up some chili for dinner, watched some TV and hit the hay.

Monday 11 June 2007. Another nice day. Most everything we thought we might visit is closed on Monday. We drove around a bit, through the Washington Crossing park, through Lambertville and New Hope, to some of the former Lindbloom houses. We went to Doylestown hoping to see the James Michener Museum, but it too was closed. His study is recreated in the foyer which was open. We went across the road to the Mercer Museum which was open; a very eclectic collection of tools, transport, etc. Had lunch at the Farm House Tavern in Doylestown. Carl's daughter Nel came out from Philadelphia and we cooked up something, lasagna I think. To bed.

Tuesday 12 June 2007. Warm and sunny. We set off from Carl's eventually getting on to the Pennsylvania Turnpike. We got off near Ephrata to have a look at the Ephrata Cloister, something I had never heard about. It was a religious community founded in the 1740s by German immigrants. They were celibate and the men and women lived apart. Very Spartan. Slept on narrow wood shelves with a woodblock as a pillow. They went under after a while and the German Baptist Church took over. In the 1930s the Comm of Pa bought it. A lovely site with very interesting buildings. Walked around and then had a picnic lunch on the grounds. We continued along Rt 222 and then Rt 30 around Lancaster and York to Gettysburg where we went to the Visitor Center, got maps, and did the self-driving tour of the battlefields. Monuments and memorials everywhere. We probably spent an hour or so but some could spend days here.

We continued west of Rt 30, the countryside improving: more rural and less developed. Through Chambersburg and on to Bedford at an exit of the Pa Turnpike. Here we got a Best Western motel for the night. Mileage since leaving home: 614. Had dinner at Ed's Steakhouse.

Wednesday 13 June 2007. After breakfast we headed into Bedford which is a pretty nice town with some good architecture. The two things we liked best were the Gulf Station, an art deco, highly decorated, tiled gas station still owned by the original owners, and the Coffee Pot, a large coffee pot that had once been a coffee shop. Built in 1925, it was moved and restored in 2004. Both had very clever informational signs in front on which you could activate an audio recording by placing a key across two terminals.

Before going west we made a detour of a few miles through beautiful rural countryside to Gravity Hill, a stretch of narrow country road on which when stopped and in neutral you're supposed to appear to be rolling uphill. It was inconclusive: I thought we were rolling downhill (nothing surprising) but Carl thought just the opposite.

From Gravity Hill we proceeded to Mill Run over via Rt 31 to Somerset and then pretty much the back roads to Normalville then south to Bear Run. We were perfectly on time arriving at Fallingwater just before our reservation. Fallingwater is often described as the greatest house in America. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright it stands beside the brook Mill Run. Quite dramatic. \$18 to enter, a real tourist destination. The tour took a bit over one hour. We had lunch in the café afterwards, then drove to Kentuck Knob, another Wright house a few miles away. This is owned by Lord Peter Palumbo, a British real estate developer. It's surrounded by woods but only a hundred yards or so away, still on the site, is a lovely hillside meadow with marvelous panoramic views. Why wasn't the house sited here? we wondered.

From Kentuck Knob we drove southwesterly to Rt 40 and headed eastward, eventually joining Interstates 68 and 70 (quite a nice ride with little in the way of development) eventually to Hagerstown, MD, where we stayed the night in a Sleep Inn. Had dinner at a nearby Longhorn Steakhouse. Oddly, the motel had no soap in any of the rooms—appear to have run out. Mileage since leaving New Hampshire: 840.

Thursday 14 June 2007. Headed towards Washington, D.C., some of the time in thunderstorms. On to the Beltway and exiting in Bethesda, going in on Wisconsin then Connecticut Avenues. Parked not far from the White House and took pictures of the Dolly Madison house (Wilkes lived there too) and then dropped into the Army-Navy Club as I had heard there was Antarctic stuff there (there wasn't). Walked up to the National Geographic building to see if the Byrd statue was on display (it's in storage), then back to the car. Carl went to have a look at the new WWII memorial while I sat in the car, then to the Navy Memorial opposite the Archives where I took some photos. We then went to the Navy Museum which took a bit to get into but we managed it. Had a sandwich at a Subway in the Navy Yard afterwards.

We then headed toward Annapolis arriving sometime after 4. We found Chip and Myrna's house and were welcomed by Chip. Soon had a drink and relaxed. Eventually Myrna arrived from D.C. and later we went to Rockfish for a nice seafood meal (Cioppino). That night we stayed over at Chip and Myrna's. Mileage since leaving New Hampshire: 958.

Friday 15 June 2007. After breakfast we walked over to the Naval Academy and had a walk around the campus. Looked in at John Paul Jones tomb in the crypt of the chapel. Then to the Naval Academy Museum. Back to Chip and Myrna's, retrieved the car, and headed for Rehoboth, Delaware, arriving around 2 or so. Found David Fogle's house and after a sandwich, Dave gave us a driving tour of Rehoboth. That evening we went to a popular seafood restaurant in Rehoboth, "Fins." Had crab cakes. Stayed overnight at David's. Mileage since leaving New Hampshire: 1068.

Saturday 16 June 2007. After breakfast we drove to Lewes and had a look around and then to a glassblower that David knows and where he discussed having her do a vase for him. Then we visited a new retirement community (Quaker; somewhat akin to Kendal in Hanover) that David had a vague interest in. Not a bad model unit. We returned to David's and then went on our way back to Lewes to take the ferry to Cape May. Lovely calm passage. Drove around Cape May a bit looking at architecture, then to Villas where Carl's relatives were having a family reunion. Stayed there for a couple of hours, had dinner, and then continued on to Carl's house in Washington Crossing via Rt 55, arriving around 11 or so. Mileage since leaving New Hampshire: 1225.

Sunday 17 June 2007. I left Carl's for home after breakfast and went mostly on somewhat back roads: Into NJ to Ringoes, up Rt 202 to Interstate 287, into NY at Suffern, the Thruway to I-84 to the Taconic to the Mass Pike, then Rt 22 north to Rt 9, through Bennington to Brattleboro to Keene to Jaffrey. Arrived at the end of the day. Mileage since leaving New Hampshire: 1561.