

# Touring the Country - Memphis

By Cierra Tomaso

Memphis, Tennessee, has to be one of the greatest cities on earth. It has such a unique flavor and stood apart from all the other cities my family and I visited on our recent RV trip out west. We stayed there twice, on the way to Vegas and on the way back. It is perhaps best known as Elvis's town and the birthplace of rock and roll, but it has many other awesome qualities.

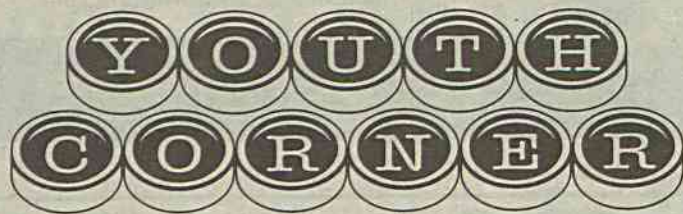
The city seems to move at a slower pace than other cities of a similar size I have seen. There are still operating trolleys, and cars are not allowed in some sections of the city. The people were extremely friendly, and it was perhaps one of the most tourist friendly cities, while not being "touristy" that we visited.

The food was amazing. There was a little restaurant called Blues City Café, and we ate there once and loved it. I had what has to be the best chicken and fries. I also tried their ice cream, which was great. My mom offered me some of her chocolate cake. It proved to be too rich for everyone at the table except me. It was some delicious chocolate cake, that's for sure. I also tried barbeque in a place called Marlowe's where they pick you up in a big pink limousine. They had phenomenal macaroni and cheese and food in general, but I still preferred the Blues City Café.

We visited a number of historical landmarks. The Rock 'n' Soul Museum, Sun Studios, Graceland and a replica of the Mississippi were all things we were able to see while staying in Memphis. Sun Studios would perhaps be boring to someone who wasn't interested in music, but it contains a wealth of history within its hallowed walls. Elvis recorded there as well as Johnny Cash and many other remarkable musicians. I was able to stand in the same place these famous artists had once stood. Our guide was great, and we even had background music (I have always thought life should have a soundtrack. Apparently the guide held the same view). We listened to numerous different tracks while our guide told us fascinating facts about them.

The model of the Mississippi is something I really liked. I've wanted to see the Mississippi ever since I read *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* many years ago. I walked through the model, and there was even a big pool where you could go wading safely in the Mississippi without venturing into its fast moving waters.

I also took a walking tour. There are many fascinating things about Memphis, things one would not even think about. Memphis is famous for its landmarks, but it has many stories to tell beyond that. Memphis is a great place, a place infused with history and music. If we were to take another cross-country trip, Memphis would be one of the top places I would want to visit again.



## Calling All Budding Young Writers!

We would like to have a "Youth Corner" as a regular feature and invite children or teens to submit articles. Cierra Tomaso, who is starting the "Youth Corner" for us this month, has been writing for the *The Shoreline* for six years. We welcome other young writers—residents or visitors. Tell us about an activity, a new experience or something of interest to you. Please send articles as e-mail attachments to [shoreline@townofpks.com](mailto:shoreline@townofpks.com).

# Flags Over Hatteras

Leading experts on the Civil War and its impact on the United States and the world will take part in the Flags Over Hatteras Sesquicentennial Commemoration held August 25-27. The event, sponsored by the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum [www.ncmaritimemuseums.com](http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.com), features a powerful cadre of keynote speakers: authors James McPherson, Craig Symonds and Ed Bearss.

"It is unprecedented for us to have such a distinguished group together. This event offers the very best," said Joseph Schwarzer, Director of the North Carolina Maritime Museums. "McPherson is known for his Pulitzer-winning book, *Battle Cry of Freedom*. As a former history professor of the U.S. Naval Academy, Symonds has published multiple works on Civil War naval battles. And, Bearss is a former National Park Service Chief Historian." For more information on speakers, go to [www.neh.gov/whowere/mcpherson/meet.html](http://www.neh.gov/whowere/mcpherson/meet.html).

The significant Civil War battles on the Outer Banks took place in August 1861, when two Federal expeditions were sent to Hatteras Inlet. The Union attack signified many firsts in the war: the first combined Army and Navy operation, the first amphibious assault, and the first African American gun crew to fire on Confederates.

While space is limited for the conference event, the museum will also offer many free programs and a new Civil War exhibit called *Flags Over Hatteras*. The exhibit will be open Aug. 22 of this year through July 31, 2012.

The exhibit will showcase items and documents spanning from across our country that are related to Eastern North Carolina activities and actions during 1861, with the primary focus being the Battle of Fort Hatteras and Fort Clark, Aug. 28-29, 1861.

Free living history demonstrations will be held at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on Saturday August 27, from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday August 28, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Additionally, bargain hunters can have some fun with an old-fashioned "Ole Time Civil War Auction," on Saturday August 27, at 5 p.m. at the Hatteras Village Civic Center. For a complete listing of auction items, visit [www.flagsoverhatteras.com](http://www.flagsoverhatteras.com).

Registration for the Flags Over Hatteras Conference is \$175 per person. Pre-registration is required and includes light refreshments, three evening events and three dinners. Thirty spaces are reserved for students at \$75 per person. For more information or to register, go to [www.flagsoverhatteras.com](http://www.flagsoverhatteras.com).

For more Civil War stories, timelines and documents, visit the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources website on "Freedom, Sacrifice and Memory" and the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration, [www.nccivilwar150.com](http://www.nccivilwar150.com). The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is located at 59200 Museum Drive in Hatteras. The three North Carolina Maritime Museums are the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum located in Hatteras, the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort and the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport. All three Museums are part of the Division of State History Museums in the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the state agency with the mission to enrich lives and communities and the vision to harness the state's cultural resources to build North Carolina's social, cultural and economic future. Information on Cultural Resources is available at [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com).

