

Trip 2 – Episode #58: Asheville & A Visit with Andy, Barney & Opie!

After our visit to Tallulah Falls, Georgia, we continued north toward Asheville, North Carolina.



It was a gray, rainy day and we didn't really have time to stop. As a result, I had to shoot a lot of these photos through the window, so some of the quality isn't the best. But I managed to snap some shots of this interesting and artsy city.











It was nice to see spring green leaves and buds throughout the town and along the roads.





Unfortunately, time prevented us from exploring Asheville as much as it deserves to be explored. And before everyone asks, no, we didn't get to the Biltmore Estate, which we know is the most impressive site in Asheville. Hopefully next time. And if you go to Asheville, don't miss it!

But we had another North Carolina destination up the road.



We were heading for Mount Airy.



Why, you ask? Well, a few months before we left on our trip, we saw an item on CBS Sunday Morning (aka My Church) about Mount Airy, and learned that it was the hometown of Andy Griffith. Although The Andy Griffith Show, featuring Griffith, Don Knotts and a very young Ronnie Howard, wasn't shot there, the fictitious town of Mayberry was modelled on life in Mount Airy. And so, a couple of decades ago, when businesses started closing down in town, some smart folks decided to capitalize on the connection and built the Andy Griffith Museum. They created an entire tourism industry, attracting thousands of visitors each year. Of course, we had to go.



I expect everybody of a certain age to start whistling that theme music now.

(And for those who don't know it, Jim cleverly took a photo of the sheet music – signed by Earl Hagen!)



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The Theme from the Andy Griffith Show
(The Fishin' Hole)

Lyrics by
EVERETT ROAGNE

Earle Hagen

Moderato with a beat

REFRAIN

1. Well now, take down your fishin' pole and meet me at Ten o' How, We may
2. (Chorus) have no need to call the roll, when we get to Ten o' How, The time

not get a bite all day, but don't you rush a - way. What a
you and Old Dog Tray, but don't you rush a - way. If we

fine day to take a stroll and wash down your fish - I catch
take down your fish - I pull and meet me at Ten o' How, I catch

great place to rest your line and sleep and snore in dew - y grass, Or else
ditch back a perch or bass, will need our line in dew - y grass, Or else

think of a bet or way to pass the time of day... I. Well have
think of a bet or way to pass the time of day... I. Well have

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The Piano Book 2



Always helpful,
Jim points the
way to the
museum.

The museum was bigger and more sophisticated than the Kermit the Frog Museum (sorry, Kermit), and brought back lots of memories of a favourite TV show from our youth.





They even have an old police car from the show that you can get a ride in (we didn't), and throughout the town there are other references to the show – whether planned....



Or not...



(Andy's last name in the series was Taylor.)

It was good fun, and was even more interesting to us because we'd seen the Sunday Morning story. If you have a few moments, it's a fascinating piece, about the town, the TV series and the nostalgia for a time that may or may not ever have existed. You can watch at:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/a-trip-to-the-original-mayberry-the-andy-griffith-show/>

Next stop Harpers Ferry!